



NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMME PARLEMENTAIRE CANADA-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM
CANADA-UKRAINE PROGRAMME PARLEMENTAIRE
ПАРЛАМЕНТСЬКА ПРОГРАМА КАНАДА-УКРАЇНА

Established in 1990, CUPP was Canada's First Program of Assistance to Ukraine

AUTUMN 2010 Issue 2

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Debate of U.S. scholars**

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CUPP Diary project (the first entries)

2010 CUPP NEWSLETTER

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CUPP interns in front of the Parliament of Canada. Photo credit: CUPP.

History of CUPP

On July 16th, 1990, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Declaration of Sovereignty which declared that Parliament recognized the need to build the Ukrainian state based on the Rule of Law. On August 24, 1991, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Declaration of Independence, which the citizens of Ukraine endorsed in the referendum of December 1, 1991. Also in 1991, Canadians celebrated the Centennial of Ukrainian group immigration to Canada. To mark the Centennial, organizations planned programs and projects to celebrate this milestone in Canada's history.

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation of Toronto decided to mark the Centennial by establishing the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program for university students from Ukraine. The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program gives Ukrainian

students an opportunity to work and study in the Canadian Parliament, and gain experience from which generations of Canadian, American and West European students have benefited. On the basis of academic excellence, knowledge of the English or French and Ukrainian languages, and on interest in the parliamentary system of government, university students from Ukraine can apply for a CUPP scholarship. It is hoped that CUPP will contribute to the education of future leaders of Ukraine.

In 2009, during the 19th year of CUPP's operation, 25 students arrived from Ukraine to complete a two-month internship with Members of Parliament, Ministers and Senators (please see Issue 1 of the Newsletter for complete list of CUPP Interns). In the course of the Program, the Interns meet with political and social opinion leaders of Canada.

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Front cover: Photo of Montmorency Falls which CUPP 2010 visited in October. Montmorency Falls / Chute Montmorency are a large waterfall on the Montmorency River north of Quebec City. The falls are 84 meters high and are 30 meters higher than Niagara Falls.

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*CUPP 2010 interns
in the Parliamentary
Library.*



How impartial is the Canadian Speaker of Parliament? CUPP interns tried to sort it out...

Valeria TRUSH

University of Kyiv

Intern to Borys Wrzesnewskyj, M.P.
2010 Senator Raynell Andreychuk Scholarship



On a rainy Thursday, September 30, 2010, I arrived at an MP's office a little earlier than usual to make several calls to the Lviv District Council to start working on my unique project assigned by my MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj. While talking with the deputy of the governor and checking our CUPP group calendar I found out that later in the day, we were to meet with Speaker of the House of Commons Peter Milliken. Fortunately, the meeting was to take place in Central Block of Parliament and I did not spend much time roaming the enigmatic gothic-style parliamentary corridors and joined my CUPP colleagues on time. Barely after entering the room I sensed a common excitement and curiosity among interns. No wonder, as it was an official meeting with the custodian of Parliament and Chairman of parliamentary proceedings.

The conversation was extremely constructive. Many of the CUPP Interns had an opportunity to ask various questions about the Senate, gender and immigration issues, noisy MPs during the daily Question Period and Speaker's attitude towards the Conservative government. Peter Milliken was quite judicious answering, especially about any future election. Even though I personally heard many opinions about the upcoming election, Mr. Milliken surprised me, as he tolerantly stated that it is likely to happen either next year or even in 2012. In any case, time will tell.

Mr. Milliken's tactful and even-handed approach suits his office as Speaker. As Mr. Milliken told us, the

Speaker never participates in a debate (and only votes in case of a tie). He presides over the legislature to maintain balance and facilitate the orderly functioning of the business of Parliament. He conducts Parliament so as to allow a fair representation of speakers from all parties, during debates. During the daily Question Period when the Government is held to account for its policies, the Speaker ensures that the debate is conducted in a civilized manner and that Members have a chance to participate.

I should underscore that Peter Milliken is a member of the Liberal Party, although as Speaker he must remain completely unbiased in conducting the business of Parliament.. He combines these two sides of the coin perfectly and succeeds in fulfilling his duties. This is how Parliament functions in Canada. This is how it should be

done!

I also would like to mention that Mr. Milliken has some connections with Ukraine which he has visited twice the last time in September 2009. Moreover, he is willing to contribute to the improvement of the legislative system and democratic development in Ukraine. That is why, that day following the meeting with CUPP interns the Chair of the Canada-Ukraine Business Association presented Mr. Milliken with a Ukrainian mace or "Bulava". It was great appreciation that Mr. Milliken received this symbol of authority as a sign of respect from the Ukrainian State. Such exchanges and meetings build friendly relations between Canada and Ukraine, and create a firm foundation for effective co-operation and mutual development between our two countries.



**CUPP
2010
interns
and Hon.
Peter
Milliken.
Photo
credit:
CUPP.**



Terry Fox: "Dreams are made possible if you try"

Volodymyr VENHER

Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Intern to Claude Gravelle, M.P.

2010 Vasyl Kereliuk Scholarship

Every nation has its own heroes. They often arise due to historical events that made those people go through extraordinary situations. In most cases it was Mrs. Fate's decision to give them a chance to become great. And only a small part of them made such a decision consciously by themselves. But these heroes were not simply looking for glory, their idea was to achieve socially significant results. Terry Fox belongs to the latter heroes.

He was an active Canadian teenager from British Columbia who was involved in many sports. Terry was only 18 years old, when he was diagnosed with bone cancer and forced to have his right leg amputated above the knee in 1977. While in hospital, Terry was so overcome by the suffering of other cancer patients that he decided to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. He decided to run for the *Marathon of Hope*. Terry started his run in St. John's, Newfoundland on April 12, 1980. He ran 42 kilometers a day. But on September 1st, after 143 days and 5,373 kilometers, cancer intensification in his body stopped him on his way to Thunder Bay, Ontario. Terry passed away a year later, at the age 22.

The whole Canadian nation was impressed by his great endeavor. Terry's dream of one dollar from every Canadian for cancer research was successfully realized. To date, close to \$500 million has been raised worldwide for cancer research in his name with the help of the annual Terry Fox Run, held across Canada and around the world.

I have never heard before about Terry Fox. I didn't know about his disease, operation and circumstances

which had given him a push to run. But I had a unique possibility to see results of his great deed. This year CUPP interns supported Ukrainian Embassy's initiative to participate in Terry Fox Run in Ottawa on September, 19th.

Ukrainian team was headed by Ukrainian Ambassador Ihor Ostash. We were the most active group among three other foreign diplomatic missions. It was not an ordinary gesture of international support for such an important event. CUPP 2010 interns ran almost the whole distance. Ukrainian representatives showed an open attitude to the problem of doing a proactive cancer research. This issue is acute for Ukraine, too. Every day around 400 Ukrainians get to know about their cancer disease and around 200 die. We were well aware of this and therefore ran not only for support Canadian people, but also with a strong hope to have this disastrous situation in our country resolved some day.

There were people who belonged to different social and age groups. All of them came to participate in the event not for Terry Fox as a man, al-

though his name had become a symbol of personal sacrifice. Someone came there for their son, daughter, sister, cousin or another relative who is stricken with this dreadful disease. Others came there in the memory of people who had died from cancer. And all the rest attended the event in order to help form awareness within society. There were two large tables where everyone could write about his or her own incentive to take part in the run.

This event started in the early morning and this was quite symbolic. Now, we are only at the beginning of our way to resolve a cancer problem, but we should rush to accomplish this goal as soon as possible. The Terry Fox Run was organized by state authorities and NGOs together and it was also a good example of coordination and integration of all available resources. And "running" the cancer track means do everything possible to find a solution. One can run very fast and work effectively in this way. Another can only walk and partly support all of such actions. Even by driving the wheelchair, someone can promote awareness to the cancer problem. And doesn't matter what level of "running"



**CUPP
interns in
front of the
Embassy of
Ukraine to
Canada
before
Terry Fox
Run. Photo
credit: CUPP.**

against cancer you'll choose, the main thing is moving in that direction while attracting more and more resources.

It was really important to run with a Ukrainian national flag on my shoulders among hundreds of people who cheered for the common cause. This event has showed how people can unite their strengths to resolve an issue. And this could be a perfect example for our country.

After the Chernobyl disaster had occurred, a few types of cancer became extremely acute in Ukraine. To

make things worse, of no less importance in our country are the issues of AIDS and tuberculosis spread. In addition to this, Ukraine lags behind other countries in terms of creating favourable conditions for the disabled. Consolidation in the fight against any of the outlined problems would definitely bring positive results in various aspects. First, it will foster finding a solution to the problem itself. Secondly, it will reinforce the view that Ukrainians are a one inseparable nation, united by common goals.

In this light, after the Terry Fox Run, His Excellency Mr. Ihor Ostash Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada shared with us his strategies to organize a similar event in Ukraine and CUPP interns expressed a strong interest to promote this. Of course, many social and political problems can hardly be resolved in one moment, but it is crucial to put efforts and never give up. Following Terry Fox's idea to run for our dreams.

**"If you think you can win, you can.
Faith is necessary to victory" – William Hazlitt**

Solomia BOBROVSKA

University of Lviv

Intern to Andrew Kania, M.P.

2010 Dr. Maria Fischer Slysh Scholarship



Його історія почалася у 1958. У той рік народився хлопець, який в подальшому стане взірцем для мільйонів людей в усьому світі і саме він покаже, що може зробити воля та сильний дух перемоги.

Мабуть, ніхто із рідних, власне, як і сам Террі, не міг уявити, що всього лише за 19 років в його життя ввірвуться карколомні зміни, влаштувавши небачене. Час невпинно ішов, а відлік нестерпно добігав до кінця.

Ми знаємо досить про цю Людину, щоб впевнено писати про неї з великої літери. Біжучи 6000 км він не просто збирав гроші для фонду, і не це було його ціллю. Те, що Террі прагнув донести до людей є значно важливішим і глибшим. Хлопець, якому було всього 22, показав, що таке Перемога над собою та як її здобути. Чи кожен з нас може зробити це сьогодні або ж просто стати подібним на нього хоча б на кілька хвилин?! Задумаймося..

Приємно, що українці цього року також долучилися до спільної ідеї та мети, яку Террі так і не втілював у життя уповні. Але ж початок – це тільки половина успіху, і тепер від

кожного з нас залежить, наскільки ми разом зможемо змінити світ. Велике досягнення цілі завжди починається з маленького і непомітного, але в міру того, як зростає результат, все навколо стає іншим. Це такі собі нескладні метаморфози. І вони під силу – кожному.

Знаєте, коли ідуть чи біжать маленькі діти, коли старші люди таки доходять до фінішу, коли дівчинка з ампутованою ногою, але в одному роликуні дістається останнього сантиметру всієї дистанції – ви починаєте вірити у чудо і зга-

дуєте, що нічого у світі не буває неможливим. Велике бажання, кропітка праця і наполегливість завжди розбивають каміння. Давайте не будемо про це забувати і у своїх вчинках та звершеннях згадувати, що якщо хтось зміг перебороти себе, то це підвладно кожному з нас.

Впевнена, 19 вересня ми ще раз підтвердили аксіому – тільки разом і великою дружньою командою можна подолати шлях до Перемоги.





Election Lottery or Forecast of Ukrainian Halloween

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An election local council campaign 2010 has officially started on September 11th. Under the blessing of Ukrainian legislators, it will be the shortest one in modern Ukrainian history culminating with a popular vote on October 31st. The first week of election races has not brought anything unexpected or new: the very same campaign tents of major political parties are on the main squares of the cities, the very same party colours, faces and promises seize practically all advertising space in regional and district centres. However, typical as this year's electoral campaign may appear to be in its first days, the election itself will contrast drastically with the elections of previous years.

The first and foremost reason of such a contrast lies in the changes of electoral legislation, adopted by Ukrainian MPs in July, 2010 with such lightning speed that no later than in September they had to amend the law again, still having failed to eliminate a number of its debatable provisions. Amendments to the law on elections are not something new under current Ukrainian political reality – sometimes it seems that electoral legislation is edited with the regularity of approving the state budget and that practically every election in Ukraine is held according to the new rules, which are adjusted in conformity with political situation and interests of key players. Nevertheless, this year's changes have all the chances to become the most fundamental in terms of their influence on political map at regional level, though subsequent distribution of powers will not always reflect political preferences

of population objectively.

First of all, in 2010, local councils election will be held under the so-called parallel system, when half of the deputies are elected by the party lists, whereas another half – in majority districts. The system of this kind was employed during parliamentary elections in 1998 and 2002 and its major advantage (for pro-government, but not the opposition parties) lies in the possibility for the parties that are not very popular in some regions to form a loyal majority locally with the help of recruiting the deputies who won in their constituencies. Besides, there is always an opportunity to seduce several deputies from the opponent party and create the coalition of "turncoats". If such tactics proved to be successful in the parliament, it may be applied at a regional level with just the same success.

It should be mentioned that the July draft law on local elections foresaw enacting restrictions in regards to the participants of electoral process that were of such well-thought and selective character that no one considered such a move to be fortuity or banal coincidence. Impossibility to nominate the candidates by the blocks forced the BYuT, Block of Lytvyn and NUNS to return to their party projects. Introduction of the condition that only local offices registered more than a year before the election day may participate in the local elections made newer political parties worry, as under this condition only 35.23% of "Strong Ukraine", 23.6% of "Front of change", 48.77% of "For Ukraine" and 61.62% of "Civil Position" local offices were

eligible to compete in local elections (data of memorandum prepared by International Republican Institute and National Democratic Institute (both – USA-based) in August 2010). In the amendments adopted in September, this provision was eliminated, but the reason for that was not as much the authorities' desire to "listen to" the appeals of the world and Ukrainian public, as it was a rather tactical move – after all, the majority of newer parties consider themselves to be oppositional ones and may weaken BYuT-Batkivshchyna positions in the west and centre of the country.

The codification of the norm of no self-nomination drew a wide reaction as well. Now local leaders who up to that date were able to position themselves as independent candidates and were accountable only to their electorate, and not the party, will have to search for loyalty at party offices. In its turn, this will limit the right of Ukrainians to be elected officials, as party affiliation was turned into an additionally obligatory condition of running for the election.

A significant impact on the election process, according to the new law, is also exerted by the procedure of creating territorial election commissions. Every parliamentary faction will delegate three representatives to the PEC (precinct election commission) and additional three seats will be distributed among the parties not represented in the parliament, which will be done through the lot drawing. However, three out of five parliamentary factions are blocks, which mean



Election commission members at a local PEC, round II of Presidential election in Ukraine 2010. Photo credit: Jacob Dinneen.

that the representatives to the PEC will be delegated not by the block as a whole, but by its constituent parties. The Committee of Voters of Ukraine stated that "the law does not provide any mechanism for selecting members of PEC from the parties which have formed the blocks. Central Election Commission decides whom to include at its own discretion, following the subjective criterion of "taking to account the experience of work in the commissions". Hence CEC gets additional leverage on the local elections while blocks weaken their political potential significantly.

Among the others, specific feature of local election 2010 will be a small number of observers who will mainly represent Ukrainian political parties. When a state invites international observers for the elections, it displays the level of the societal openness, transparency of electoral process, devotion to democratic values and its confidence in its own capability to prevent any falsifications. However, this year neither OSCE, nor other international institutions have been invited. Even participation of observers from all-Ukrainian NGOs may be under question, taking into account the necessity to provide a set of docu-

ments including a copy of the Statute certified by the Ministry of Justice, though "the period of fulfilling the procedure is not anyhow regulated" – as mentioned in the report of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine. Nevertheless, not only changes of electoral legislation may influence the election results – the general tendencies in Ukrainian society may also play a role. High level of disappointment among people, lack of faith in positive changes in political and economic situation in the country as well as the "local" status of elections have all the chances to become major reasons of the low turn-out on the e-day. Besides, more and more often one can hear the opinion that the local election is aimed at cementing the process of building up Yanukovich's power vertical, which was speedily realized in Ukraine and placed key branches of power under President's control. Regarding the fact the opposition is not united and the major opponent of Party of Region – BYuT-Batkivshchyna for a long time has been trying to solve in court the problems with changing the management in its regional offices in Kyiv, Lviv, Luhansk, Kharkiv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions, the chances for "sensational" results of the future elections are meager.

During several

previous elections a genuine charm of electoral process "a la Ukraine" lay in its resemblance of a lottery with its ever-present factor of unpredictability, thanks to which there was always a possibility of getting into the parliament or local council for the political force that had not even expected such a jack-pot. In 2007, the golden opportunity was given to Block of Lytvyn; then in 2009, the ultra-nationalist 'Svoboda' party scored unexpectedly high during the pre-term election to Ternopil regional council. No wonder, a year later, it came no surprise that Serhiy Tyhipko who came out of the political shade won the 3d place in the presidential race and now is back in politics. Such a trend proved that Ukrainian people do not always vote for "the least of the evil", notwithstanding, from time to time giving a chance for new political players. And this could be regarded as pluralism Ukrainian style.

To sum up, it is well-known that political forecasts are not the best thing to do. Even though the favorites of the election race seem to be already defined, it is only up to October 31st to show whether political experts' predictions regarding the results of elections will come true, or Ukrainian voter, regardless of all manipulations with electoral legislation and not always honest means of conducting political struggle, are going to surprise the politicians with his or her electoral choice in the umpteenth time.



One of the PECs in Kyiv, round II of Presidential election in Ukraine 2010. Photo credit: Jacob Dinneen.



"The politics is more like scratching the surface today and that causes lack of deeper knowledge about what different parties stand for"

Evhenia VIATCHANINOVA

CUPP'09 & '10; University of Kyiv

Intern to Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, the Hon. Jason Kenney, M.P.
2010 Senator David Tkachuk Scholarship

The concept of a minority government, which is rooted in Canadian politics, is becoming more and more commonly embraced by the EU member states. First, Belgium and the Netherlands, and since September 18th, it has been Sweden with its newly-elected Riksdag members, destined to seek consensus between centre-right alliance supporters and their far-right counterparts from Sweden Democrats, the party that broke the 4% threshold to enter the parliament for the first time in history.

Eager to learn more about peculiarities of Swedish politics from the elected officials themselves, I could not help but seize the opportunity to speak with Stig Hedlund, Haparanda City Council member whom I was lucky to have as a lecturer at Summer Svefi Academy on human rights. (The Interview was held in late August, 2010 prior to national election in Sweden.)

E.V. One of the features of Swedish politics, which stroke me right away, is the presence of the word 'communism' in the name of one political party up to 2000s. If we do not focus on the term 'Swedish socialism' and its intrinsic values, how can this be possible in a coun-

try, which has been promoting human rights for decades?

S.H. It has been a light version of communism during the last thirty years. Actually, in the 1970s, we had seven different parties on that extreme left side with different ideas of communism and extremism. So Vänsterpartiet has been more of a very good party with very necessary social consciousness, which some of the other parties have forgotten. Then, of course, within that party there are factions, which are more communist orientated in their ideas. But still I would say, it has nothing to do with communism today. It is definitely something, which is more socialist and more left orientated when the state takes care of more services than on the right side of the political scale. So I would say that you can't really count that this party is something, which stands for any communism ideas.

E.V. Now shifting from the far left to the far right. To what extent the ideology of Democratic

Swedens may influence country's foreign and immigration policy, if they get seats in the parliament?

S.H. If we get in a very bad situation that in Sweden, we have the left wing group and the right wing group and this party [DS] gets the role of choosing who is going to have the power, then it will be very sad and complicated regarding the immigration policy, because they are really against more generous immigration policy. And then we can also see the first cases when Sweden will have a different opinion, which is forced by that party, against what EU is thinking of it. And that's something which I see could cause a lot of problems in harmonization of these regulations and these policies. And it also concerns attitudes to people with disabilities, causes problems within ideas of supporting the third world in crisis and so on, because they have very negative attitudes and opinions about these things.

E.V. But how could a party with such an ideology rise in popularity in Sweden, a country known for its



Stig Hedlund and his trained Labrador.
Photo credit: Evhenia Viatchaninova.

tolerance towards people with disabilities, immigrants?

S.H. It is very much of this economic crisis I think. Due to the fact, that we have regions which have been suffering very much from the economic crisis. I mean it is industries, which have closed down plants with 2-3 thousands of people who lost their jobs.

Also, I see something, which worries me very much. I think most of the Swedish political parties put too much pressure on their ideas. The politics is more like scratching the surface today and that causes lack of deeper knowledge about what different parties stand for. So there has to be a better education politically and also more serious discussion about the ideas behind the politics.

E.V. Speaking about political education, there are talks in Ukraine considering the ultimate electoral model, which will not discredit itself in the short run, as the proportional

did in some 2-4 years. In Sweden, however, the proportional system of representation has worked for decades. How does your country manage to put up with shortcomings of this system, which, in Ukrainian situation, stands for corruption?

S.H. What happens in Sweden is that when you come close to the elections, you have to do a list of the candidates first within the party organization, and then they are elected in the party as functionaries. Then when you have done that list, it goes to the deciding meeting within the party like here in Haparanda, or Lulea for the regional and parliamentary thing [decisive of] who is going to be elected to the parliament from this area of Sweden. So you can never put yourself in any list or you can never come across a place high up on a list in Sweden without going through a very strict procedure, which is taking place within different parties.

Yurii Medentsii, CUPP 2010 intern, contributed to this interview.



Riksdag in the midst of election campaign. Photo credit: Evhenia Viatchaninova.



Montreal meeting with Sauvé scholars.

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'Yanukovych earned the benefit of our doubt in those areas where he has fallen short'

Adrian KARATNYCKY

Senior scholar with the Atlantic Council of the United States
the former President of U.S.-based Freedom House NGO

August 21, 2010

In his "rejoinder to my recent interest article, Orange Peels," my good friend Alexander Motyl claims he and other critics of Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovych gave him the benefit of the doubt.

For the record, Motyl's benefit of the doubt did not last long. Within five weeks of the inauguration Ukraine's new President, Motyl wrote that Yanukovych: "has committed a series of mistakes that could doom his presidency, scare off foreign investors and thwart the country's modernization. Yanukovych's misrule is courting a second Orange Revolution." So much for a honeymoon for the new president – and his then three-week-old government.

Motyl is correct that voters did give Yanukovych the benefit of the doubt. They continue to do so. He enjoys approval ratings of over 60 percent, an improvement over his 50 percent level of support in the presidential vote. That means that today, well over 20 percent of Yulia Tymoshenko voters are pleased with Yanukovych's performance.

I don't think much needs to be said about Motyl's comment comparing Yanukovych's moderate policies "with Hitler's Gleichschaltung in 1933." It merely confirms my thesis of the excessive rhetoric adopted by normally sober analysts of Ukraine's politics.

Motyl asserts that "Yanukovych

and his party have proceeded to dismantle democracy – violating the Constitution in order to acquire a parliamentary majority, transforming the Parliament into a rubber-stamp institution, encroaching on freedom of assembly and speech, passing a law on local elections that guarantees a Party of Regions monopoly of power, encroaching on academic autonomy, and activating both the Security Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

I believe we can agree that Ukraine's constitution and its court system are flawed. However, Yanukovych's alleged steps against the constitution were no less problematic than the reality that for well over a year the Tymoshenko government held on to power with the support of less than half the legislators in parliament. Moreover, on March 1, 243 legislators voted for the dismissal of the Tymoshenko government, a clear affirmation of the will of that sitting body.

More significantly, after the vote for a new government was taken, President Yanukovych told European Union representatives that "If the decision of the Constitutional Court will be that the coalition was formed illegally, then I will take a decision on a snap election, I will never go down the path of breaching the constitution that is in force."

Many critics of the decision assert that the Constitutional Court itself

is subject to political influence and pressures and, so, lacks legitimacy. But if one argues that Ukraine's entire legal system is illegitimate, one must also agree that the same "illegitimate" court system took the decision to hold a re-run of the tainted presidential election of 2004 that sparked the Orange Revolution.

The reality is that today no fewer than 260 out of 450 legislators support the current government. While imperfect, this clear majority is a better outcome than a situation in which a de facto minority Tymoshenko government held on for over a year despite the fact that well over half the deputies in the legislature supported its dismissal. Indeed, is it not more logical that Ukraine has a government which enjoys the support of 260 deputies than one that could have hung on with the support of a mere 115 deputies? Bear in mind, that under the interpretation of Ukraine's Constitution offered by the opposition, a government could remain in office if it retained the backing of a majority of deputies, whose fractions together account for a majority. That would have meant that a majority (78) of 155 deputies from the Tymoshenko bloc and a majority (37) of 72 deputies from the Our Ukraine bloc could have continued to claim they represent a legitimate majority of 227. Under such circumstances, we can agree that the Constitutional Court's

ruling was at the very least not a dilution of democracy as it existed prior to Yanukovych's election.

While I agree that a new election would have been preferable, I can also see why given the fact that Ukraine faced a growing economic crisis, President Yanukovych felt he could not delay moving forward without an effective government. A new election would likely have put off the creation of such a government for a further 4-5 months.

On other issues, Prof. Motyl is simply wrong. Academic freedom has not been infringed upon systematically. Under Yanukovych, not a single professor has lost his teaching post in Ukraine's universities. A widely publicized visit by a low level security service functionary to the rector of Ukraine's Catholic University contained no discussion of academic matters and was soon followed up by a contrite visit by the head of the Security Service to clear the air.

Demonstrations remain an inalienable right of Ukrainians, though the proposition has not yet been tested as most Ukrainians are for the moment tired of protesting. It is true there has been excesses by the Ministry of Interior in policing demonstrations (mostly keeping demonstrators at a distance from President Yanukovych for "safety" reasons), but these excesses resulted in the Minister of the Interior being called on the carpet by President Yanukovych and sternly rebuked for such actions.

On balance, while not a sterling record, Yanukovych's half year in office is hardly one of misrule. He has taken a reasonably effective set of steps in a variety of policy areas, while making some serious mistakes in the educational and cultural spheres.

And in the case of press freedom, there is plenty of it. Opposition forces are seen regularly on the major TV stations, and the news and information content of the major channels belong-

ing to billionaires Viktor Pinchuk and Rinat Akhmetov reveal a high degree of balance and professionalism in coverage.

While the most popular channel Inter has a pro-government bent, its tilt is no different from the partisan bent observed on the US's (conservative) Fox News channel and on (liberal) CNBC.

I don't think much needs to be said about Motyl's comment comparing Yanukovych's moderate policies "with Hitler's Gleichschaltung in 1933." It merely confirms my thesis of the excessive rhetoric adopted by normally sober analysts of Ukraine's politics.

On the matter of culture, I am in broad agreement with Motyl. We both disagree fundamentally with the Ukrainophobic policies of Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk and with the naming of a Stalin apologist as head of the Institute of National Memory, I still believe that these odious appointments can and will be reversed. Nevertheless, I think that Yanukovych is right in trying to ensure a hospitable environment for Ukraine's Russian-speakers. Such steps, in my view, are likely to deepen their support for Ukraine's statehood.

However, I do not agree with Motyl that Ukraine is threatened by the presence of a couple dozen Russian security services agents who are attached to the Russian Black Sea Fleet and have been allowed to be present on the peninsula.

And I fundamentally disagree with Motyl's assertion that Yanukovych is eroding Ukraine's sovereignty and independence.

Indeed, by stabilizing and normalizing relations with Russia, renewing sensible Russian investment in Ukraine (while at times blocking takeovers that are not in the national interest), securing a cheaper price for natural gas, and renewing and expanding cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, Yanukovych is creat-

ing a stronger Ukrainian economy better able to defend its sovereign interests. His planned September visits to Asia and the US (UN General Assembly) are also aimed at diversifying and increasing international investment in Ukraine's economy.

As for economic reform, the presidential team has developed a serious, sequenced plan of reform that is to be introduced gradually over the next couple years. It will include speeded up privatizations, investment promotion initiatives, and, most likely, land privatization. All that sounds like a serious agenda to me.

And on the matter of corruption, Yanukovych's government has already moved against high level corruption in the Kyiv mayoralty (which was controlled his political allies), and arrested his Deputy Environment Minister, his regional, and a mid-level Presidential Administration official all for alleged corruption.

On balance, while not a sterling record, Yanukovych's half year in office is hardly one of misrule. He has taken a reasonably effective set of steps in a variety of policy areas, while making some serious mistakes in the educational and cultural spheres.

On some matters, President Yanukovych has acted intelligently and erased doubts. He therefore has earned the benefit of our doubt in those areas where he has fallen short.

The original article can be accessed at: http://www.kyivpost.com/news/opinion/op_ed/detail/79315/.

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Motyl's response to Karatnycky: 'Would you buy a used car from Yanukovych?'

Alexander J. MOTYL

Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, USA
August 23, 2010

This ongoing discussion I am having with Adrian Karatnycky about Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych is beginning to resemble the kind of conversations I used to have with Soviets back in the days of the Cold War.

You say A, they say – A. You say B, they say – B. After a while, you begin to realize that you and they inhabit different worlds, have different values, see different things, and really can't agree on anything. At which point, you realize that the only thing to do is raise your glass of vodka and propose a toast to peace.

So, rather than prolong an endless spiral of incompatible views, let me just focus on a few general points – for the last time.

First, notice that Adrian Karatnycky's best-case argument in support of Yanukovych runs like this: The Orange governments were imperfectly democratic, corrupt, and inefficient – which is quite true – and Yanukovych's government is no better. That is to say, Yanukovych's main claim to fame, according to Karatnycky, is that he is no worse than his predecessor Yulia Tymoshenko.

So, for starters, let's agree that Karatnycky's very best defense of Yanukovych boils down to the claim that he's lousy, but, hey, so were the other guys.

Second, notice as well that Karatnycky avoids details about the dismantling of democracy. Sure, it's always more efficient to have a working majority in parliament – who would dispute that? – but that's not the issue.

The question is: how was that majority formed? And the answer is: by violating constitutional procedures. To which Karatnycky says: but, heck, they were being violated anyway! Perhaps – but never so openly, never so crudely, never so purposefully. Here, alas, is where the comparison with the Gleichschaltung really does merit some consideration.

Third, notice that Karatnycky really does trust the Party of Regions. They're, basically, OK guys who want nothing but the best for their country.

Now, were that indeed the case, discussions could focus on policy – and the Party of Regions and its critics could easily disagree for the good of Ukraine.

Unfortunately, the reality is rather different: the Party of Regions wants power for the sake of power. It wants to rule. Alone. Everything. All the time. Controlling the Parliament and the Cabinet and the Presidency is therefore not enough. The governors must be subordinated, the capital city Kyiv must be captured, university autonomy, freedom of assembly, and press freedoms must be curbed, and the secret police must be mandated to sniff out dissenters. Oh, and the city councils and the mayors must be subordi-

nated – as indeed they will be in forthcoming local elections in October.

Why? Because the Party of Regions has – surprise! – rigged the rules that permit only parties – and not blocs (like, er, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc) to run candidates.

Let me confess: to my mind, trusting the Party of Regions is like trusting the Communist Party of the Soviet Union – which, by the way, happens to have generated the vast majority of the voters, members, and functionaries of the Party of Regions. Now here's the kicker. Karatnycky says, There is reasonable diversity of views within the party of Regions and between the coalition members with pro-free market and more statist currents both represented. There is also a healthy rivalry for influence between factions in the Party of Regions that are jockeying for influence."

For old Sovietologists like me, this sounds like just the sort of unpersuasive argument that used to be made by the Soviets back in Brezhnev's days. Notice that all this "healthy" competition appears to be confined to the Party of Regions and its allies in Parliament. That these allies were acquired in violation of the Constitution – and usually for hefty bribes in the hundreds of thousands of dollars – goes unsaid in Karatnycky's account. That the bona fide opposition is being marginalized, ignored, and increasingly subject to judicial sanctions also goes unsaid.

Fourth, notice that Karatnycky provides no details of real economic reform. Not vague statements of intent – but real policies that really promote real economic reform. Surely a party and leader who have been preparing themselves for power for five years, who claim to be professionals par excellence, would have some idea of how to jumpstart the economy in the half year they've been in power?

But can Ukraine's president be trusted? His personal or political background provides no such grounds.

Surely free-marketeers would appreciate that entrepreneurship is the key to Ukraine's economic revival? Surely anybody with even a hint of capitalist convictions would appreciate that ruinous taxes will ruin the economy? Surely tough bargainers wouldn't have extended Russia's Black Sea Fleet basing rights in exchange for ephemeral gas price discounts?

Surely defenders of property rights wouldn't have permitted a Russian firm to acquire a major enterprise in Luhansk in a manifestly rigged auction?

And on and on and on...

Readers of this site should appreciate that this list of embarrassing questions really is endless. And Ukrainian democrats in Ukraine raise them all – sometimes heatedly, mostly coolly, but always fearfully. They know that Yanukovich can drive their country into the ground.

Even if he's the "good tsar," the sad reality is that he's surrounded – or, more exactly, surrounded himself – with reactionaries, troglodytes, corruptioneers, and incompetents.

Now, Karatnycky's response to all these qualms appears to be: but wait a second! Yanukovich is a regular guy. He can be trusted. He's got big plans. Don't worry: give him the benefit of the doubt and all will be well.

But can Ukraine's president be trusted?

His personal or political background provides no such grounds. A

twice-convicted felon as a youth, Yanukovich the mature politician then completed two degrees in two years while working full-time running Donetsk province. Either the guy's a genius, or running Donetsk is a piece of cake, or – wait – maybe the degrees aren't worth the paper they're printed on or – wait – maybe someone did his homework. But bygones are bygones, right? Surely what matters is Yanukovich's recent record: that must provide grounds for trust, right?

Let me remind readers that this is the man who conspired in the falsification of elections in 2004 that led to the Orange Revolution. This is the man who, still, cannot accept that popular upheaval as anything but a CIA-financed anti-Russian plot. Which is a bit like claiming that the civil rights movement in America was the product of "outside agitators."

But forget that, too. The bottom line is: What has Yanukovich done with all the power he's amassed in the last half year?

And the answer is: zilch.

But let's give Adrian Karatnycky the benefit of the doubt and agree that Yanukovich is a swell guy. So what? Even if he's the "good tsar," the sad reality is that he's surrounded – or, more exactly, surrounded himself – with reactionaries, troglodytes, corruptioneers, and incompetents.

Would you want him to be president of anything besides Ukraine – say, a firm or a regional organization or a country?

Or, more to the point: Would you buy a used car from Yanukovich?

Before you answer that: let's drink to peace!

Alexander J. Motyl, a professor of political science at Rutgers University, can be reached at ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

P.S. As luck would have it, the Razumkov Center in Kyiv, a respected think tank and reliable pollster, has just released survey data on political attitudes in Ukraine. They confirm the

view that Yanukovich's administration is failing.

Over 50 percent of Ukrainians today consider the country is moving in the wrong direction. That number was 33 percent in May. Twenty-six percent believe it's moving in the right direction – compared to 43 percent in May.

Back in May, 25 percent said the new government met their expectations; today that number is 16 percent. The number of Ukrainians who believe Yanukovich's government is better than its predecessor has dropped from 49 percent to 34 percent.

Finally, people's attitudes toward Yanukovich have also shifted. Today, 48 percent believe his actions are directed in support of his own interests and those of his political allies, and 33 percent believe he's acting primarily in defense of national interests. Just a few months ago, in May, those numbers were 30 percent and 50 percent. Moreover, the percentage of Ukrainians who fully support Yanukovich has fallen from 40 percent in May to 23 percent today, while those who fully support the government has fallen from 27 percent to a mere 14.

It looks like many of the Ukrainians who once gave Yanukovich the benefit of the doubt are no longer doing so.

The original article can be accessed at: http://www.kyivpost.com/news/opinion/op_ed/detail/79447/.



Can one really compare the EU and Russia as offering Ukraine similar opportunities and benefits?

Anatolii DZEMAN
CUPP 2011 applicant
University of Kyiv

Nowadays, every year, more and more countries strive to implement democratic principles and values within all spheres of state living. Countries that base their actions on democratic principles demonstrate more efficiency in solving different problems and greater overall development.

All of the countries that are members of the EU follow democratic principles. Also, the overwhelming majority of them have well-developed market economies. As a result, these countries have high standards of living and their residents have high salary levels.

Every country that wants to be a member of the EU should meet certain conditions and carry out reforms. The aim of these reforms should be to create possibilities to become more prosperous and powerful.

Membership in the EU gives many economic, social and political advantages. At the same time, all EU member countries can rely on support in different international contentions because the EU is a very influential and powerful union.

I think that nowadays Russia is not a country that can offer Ukraine strategic opportunities and benefits. The

reason lies with the imperial ambitions of the Russian Federation. Ukraine was under the authority of Russia for almost 4 centuries, and during that period Russia always was prejudicing the rights of the Ukrainian nation. I am persuaded that Ukraine should not join with Russia because it will bring us back and we again will be a colony of Russia. In my opinion, Ukraine needs to carry out all the steps that will bring us closest to the EU. In such a position we can obtain strategic opportunities and benefits that will make our country prosperous and strong.



Answer to Dmytro Tabachnyk's interpretation of Ukrainian nationalism

Vitaliy ALYEKPYEROV
CUPP 2011 applicant
Odessa Regional Institute of Public Administration of the
National Academy of Public Administration

I have a very negative reaction to displays of nationalism. The measured love for one's own nation is not compatible with hatred to another nation.

I live in Odessa, a multinational and bright city. Many different cultures, languages, religions and nationalities

closely co-exist here in harmony. And all inhabitants of Odessa live in a climate of mutual respect and tolerance. Therefore I consider nationalism as an unacceptable display of aggression, a feature that is unworthy of modern civilized man.

Nor do I welcome the blind equalization of patriotism with nationalism. It is often hard to draw a clear line between these sensibilities. Reading this and that Dmytro Tabachnyk's articles left the impression that he is not always able to distinguish between love

and respect for motherland and nationalism. Desire to protect one's own country, to develop it, to take pride from belonging to it, are these really evil sentiments? I also do not like the fact that it is not *fashionable* to be a patriot in modern Ukraine, some in fact call it shameful. But why is it so?

Attacking nationalists, Tabachnyk in a very devious and obfuscated style tries to insinuate that love for Ukrainian culture is nationalism, that desire to see Ukraine as a strong and independent country, is an objectionable sentiment.. It looks like hypnosis. In this way, conclusions that Ukrainians are a defective and handicapped na-

tion, can gain a foothold in human sub consciousness. These are very dangerous actions and trends. But history does not forgive such mockery of the hearts of millions. And it will judge Tabachnik's actions appropriately. His position is out of step with modern Ukrainian thinking. To those who interpret so-called "scientific" activity of Mr. Tabachnyk as a ray of truth in a world of lie, I want to remind the words of Hryhorii Skovoroda "That enemy is more dangerous which pretends to be your friend".

Summing up, I want to quote the words of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko "Зараз я

бачу на дорогах багато плакатів – не ті, що ви думаєте, червоне там, чорне – я маю на увазі ті плакати, котрі дають відповідь, що врятує Україну. Одні говорять, що Україну врятовують сильні, другі – освічені, треті говорять, що гарні, «модельки» врятовують Україну. Пам'ятайте, Україну врятує патріот".

P.S. I want to share with You an interesting picture that sets thinking.

Якщо росіянин любить свою країну – він Патріот. Якщо українець любить свою країну – він пихатий бандерівський націоналіст.

Якщо росіянин каже "хохол" – він по-дружньому іронізує над представником братського народу. Якщо українець каже "москаль" – цим він демонструє свою націоналістичну антиросійську сутність.

Якщо росіянин мітингує – він відстоює свої інтереси. Якщо українець мітингує – він відробляє американські гроші, виплачені йому у антироісійських цілях.

Якщо російський президент спілкується з американським президентом – він налагоджує відносини між двома країнами. Якщо український президент спілкується з американським президентом – вони обидва плетуть антиросійську змову.

Якщо росіянин спілкується російською мовою – він просто росіянин. Якщо українець спілкується українською мовою – він Петлюра недобитий.

Якщо президент Росії декларує проросійські гасла – він нормальний президент. Якщо президент України декларує проукраїнські гасла – він проамериканський та антиросійський президент.

Якщо російський уряд не погоджується з українським урядом – він відстоює національні інтереси. Якщо український уряд не погоджується з російським – він "обарзел ваче".



**"We deliberately isolate ourselves.
We get information processed by other
countries... "second hand"**

Aishe MEMETOVA

Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Intern to Borys Wrzesnewskyj, M.P.

2010 Walter Surma Tarnopolsky Scholarship

A junior student of one of the top Ukrainian universities elaborates why it should not come as a surprise that no Ukrainian university made it into the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities.

Taking into account that ranking criteria are quite specific, nonetheless this failure illuminates a number of problems facing the Ukrainian higher educational system.

To begin with, ARWU-2010 evaluated progress of university alumni (citations, significant awards etc.) As we know, Ukrainian universities are not scientific centers; government does not subsidize research work, young graduates do not see potential in doing research in Ukraine because it is

not well funded and is not prestigious. A very large number of Ukrainian scientists work in other countries, because more dynamic universities offer them work in their laboratories or research centres.

Ukrainian universities are very old-fashioned. Curriculum in most cases is a repetition of what existed in the Soviet era. Ukrainian libraries do not have the latest books and scholarly journals, even those printed in

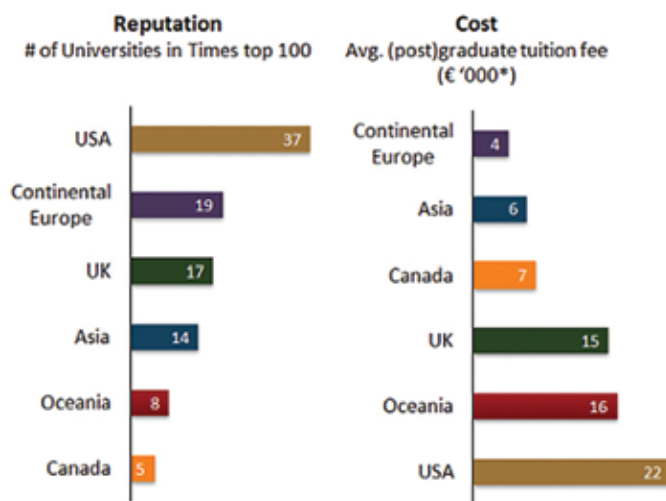


Photo credit: www.mastersportal.eu/students/why-europe/

Top 500 Universities Distribution by Country

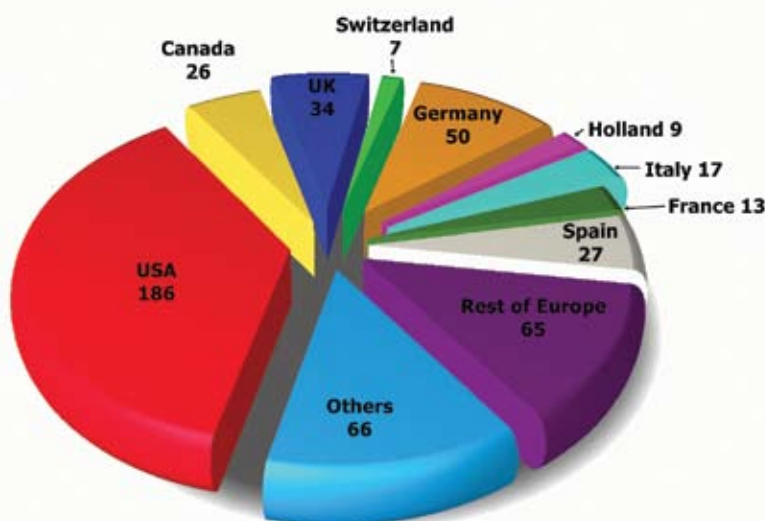


Photo credit: www.webometrics.info/graphics.html

learn English – the language that has become the of language of communication all over the world. We deliberately isolate ourselves. We get information processed by other countries, namely Russia, which regrettably is "second hand" and much less authoritative.. Our scholars publish their research in local journals, most of which do not have real value – they are too theoretical. Only people who want to earn academic grades read them, and cite these authors in their work. Finally, these mediocre authors evaluate the research of the new generation of scholars. An absolutely bizarre scenario, but it is what we have in modern Ukraine.

The other problem we have is that we do not know and sadly do not want to

learn English – the language that has become the of language of communication all over the world. We deliberately isolate ourselves. We get information processed by other countries, namely Russia, which regrettably is "second hand" and much less authoritative.. Our scholars publish their research in local journals, most of which do not have real value – they are too theoretical. Only people who want to earn academic grades read them, and cite these authors in their work. Finally, these mediocre authors evaluate the research of the new generation of scholars. An absolutely bizarre scenario, but it is what we have in modern Ukraine.

My next point is, and I hope it is not true, that our government is not interested in having an educated nation. It is a thousand time easier to govern people who are not educated to form

their own opinion without 'extra' guidance from the top. Because, in my opinion, the aim of education is not filling people with unnecessary memorized facts and statistics (or even necessary facts), it is teaching them to think for themselves and upbringing of independent people. From this perspective, higher education in Ukraine exists at a basic level. As a result, we have people, educated to serve our so-called "servants" – people, who like to refer to themselves as the financial and political elite. Yet, they do send

their children to study in the world's top-500 universities.

Taking into account these arguments, Ukraine will remain on the periphery of the world as long as education is perceived merely as a means of securing a high-paid job, and to a lesser extent as a means of cultural and personal development. Somebody said that we need a revolution in our minds. Can it happen without proper education? How could we become a self-sufficient nation if our educational system does not encourage

our people to achieve an independent educated status?

The most disappointing reality is that many Ukrainian students are gifted and talented people. Their potential is not inferior to those who live in Western countries. A significant number of young Ukrainians obtain their PhD, MA/MSc from prestigious European universities and afterwards pursue fascinating careers. This leads to the sad conclusion that Ukrainian conditions of higher education do not measure up to world standards.

Civil Society and Ukraine

Daniel BAZYLEWYCH

York University

2010 Anne Mazurenko Scholarship



Civil society is prevalent among all cultures and ubiquitous in all societies. Laurie Adin defines Civil society "as a sphere, or arena, of political and associational activity located between the state and the family" (Adin 204). In the Ukrainian context, Alexander Rahr trumpets that civil society has played a significant role in re-orienting itself with respect to international and domestic policies (Rahr 1). The purpose of this paper is to analyze the grounds and contemporary development of civil society in Ukraine while, simultaneously, giving special attention to the notion of civil society and its integral parts.

Before highlighting the integral parts of the CSOs in Ukraine, attention must be given to the conditions that are needed to propel civil society to influential action. Adin states that "rule of law, guarantees of individual rights and freedoms, separation of church and state, and political competition... [are] essential preconditions for the

existence of a strong, active, civil society" (Adin 205). Presently, Ukraine meets all of the aforementioned criteria. Once these preconditions have been met, CSOs can act to promote democracy, good governance, and sustainable development (205). One may even go as far as to articulate that CSOs are both a means and ends of politics, as well-organized and established CSOs have access to political bodies and can persuade politicians to be sympathetic to their causes – for leaders of CSOs can encourage their supporting constituencies to vote for them in elections.

Once these preconditions have been met, the CSOs become organized and develop roots in the regions they operate in. Usually their aims are to ensure corporations act responsibly and governments act in an accountable and transparent way. Susan Stewart trumpets that civil societies in Ukraine and international actors worked together to ameliorate some

pressing and substantial issues such as undemocratic and illegal activities that have been on-going in Ukraine's public and private spheres (Stewart 100). Stewart continues her analysis on Ukraine's development by noting that Ukraine is a prime example of how CSOs can radically change the direction of a nation state economically, politically, and socially. For example, the Orange Revolution came to fruition due to the fact that international actors sponsored, supported, and collaborated with a specific segment of Ukraine's CSOs, which was hitherto unprecedented. In other words, civil societies and western international actors have helped Ukrainian institutions and actors modernized themselves in many different dimensions that are progressive and positive in nature.

Yet, not all areas of Ukraine have experienced cooperation with international actors and progressive changes. Some areas in Ukraine have actually regressed in terms of social development. Other regions have remained static in their social and political development. The impetus for this regressive and static development is common in "regions [that] are highly opaque and also quite small" where the scale of violations and unethical practices are more difficult to investigate and harder to punish (101). Due to the fact that these regions have not met the preconditions necessary for CSOs to operate efficiently and effectively, there is little motivation for "international actors to invest resources into exploring [and remedying] the legality of political, economic and security nexus in these areas" (101). Unfortunately, in the case of Ukraine, much of its east regions are influenced by Russian media and ideologies. Russia has often meticulously made it a top priority, on its foreign policy agenda, to destabilize valuable countries which were once former USSR provinces.

Russian officials such as Putin and Medvedev do not recognize those countries as autonomous political states with their own unique cultures, languages, and traditions. Instead, their main concern is reasserting Russia to its previous superpower status on the international stage by controlling former Soviet provinces for international support.

In sum, civil society has largely increased accountability and transparency in Ukraine's political body. Transparency and accountability, before once the exception, has largely become the rule due to the fact that the political body of Ukraine has been influenced by western civil society organizations whose political ideological stance leans to a more democratic pro-west approach rather than an opaque pro-Russia approach. And, more importantly, civil society has led to more exposure of illegal activities and unethical practices in Ukraine's government, more dialogue and coordination between other country's civil societies and Ukraine's own civil societies, and fewer monologues among

the corrupt elite of Ukraine. Hopefully, this positive trend will continue to make Ukraine an even more transparent and democratic country, where NATO, the EU, and other political and civil society bodies will view Ukraine as a relevant, helpful, and useful ally rather than a suspicious and far too broken country that would cause more problems than solutions.

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An informal talk with Jeffrey Kuhner, The Washington Times, at McGill.

Grounds and contemporary development of civil society in Ukraine

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Civil society is regarded as a resource for values and orientation of life in a democracy. Civil society plays a crucially important role in strengthening the democracy and awareness of human dignity in countries, where the state and market dominate the sciences and public opinion. It is common for many industrialised countries. Professor Wolfgang Dietrich, UNESCO Chair holder for Peace Studies at the University of Innsbruck (Austria), defines civil society as "power that forms the democratic components in the social structure of the modernity" [1, 263]. Therefore civil society is involved into the development process of the country.

According to the latest statistics of the UN Human Development Report, Ukraine belongs to the middle developed countries ranking 85th [2] in the world. The goal of government is therefore to reach a higher standard as soon as possible. But development is not a linear process, which cannot alone be measured by degree of industrialisation and high degree of GDP, in comparison with the indexes of the leading world economies.. It is a much wider scale that includes social progress and civic liberties. Development demands sustainability, which needs civil society.

The analysis of many worldwide recently failed political development projects demonstrates that their "objectives, which are based on the sovereign and market-orientated context, [...] do not correspond with the imaginations of the civil society as a target group" [1, 267]. Hence it demonstrates once again the importance of civil so-

ciety for sustained development.

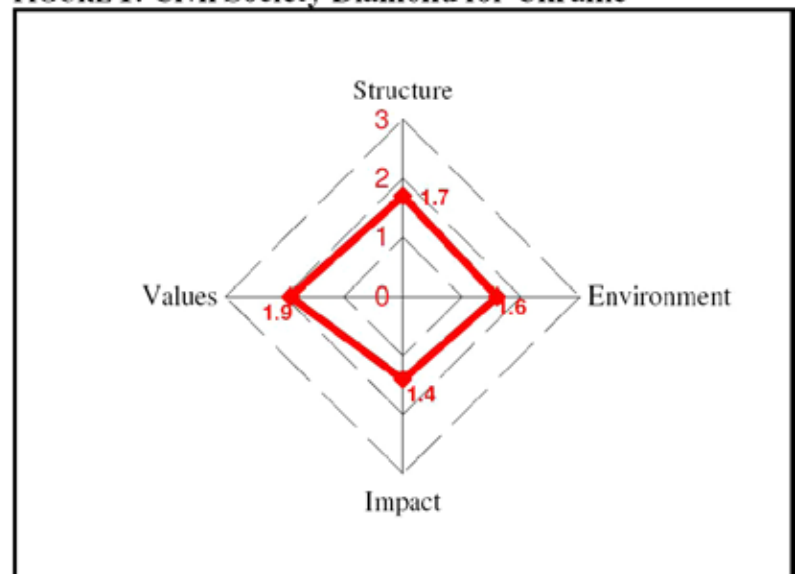
The present-day civil society in Ukraine can trace its roots some centuries back. Let's think about "kruzhky" from the late 19th century, which "contributed to the creation of a limited form of civil society through the establishment of small discussion groups" mainly in the East [3, 3] or Masonic lodges and organizations of intellectuals in the Western of Ukraine. The Soviet era brought "levelling" [3, 3], which contributed to the amalgamation of the civil society in Ukraine. In the recent history of Ukrainian NGOs it is possible to observe regional differences in approaches and activities throughout Ukraine, which can also be explained within historical developments of the Ukrainian state and territory. Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to perceive civil society as a homogeneous group. There are many civil societies that overlap each other. For instance someone

"can be a member in many civil societies" [1, 269]. On one hand, diversity among civil societies can be regarded optimistically as a competition, which leads to new ideas and possibi-

ties. On other hand, the plurality can be seen pessimistically as weakness compared with "powerful Homogeneity of the state and market" [1, 269].

The Orange Revolution in 2004 drew attention of the whole world to Ukrainian civil society and stimulated research of its activities. One of the reports, made by the Civicus Civil Society Index, which monitors civil societies worldwide, analyzes civil society developments according to four dimensions: structure, environment, impact and values (See Figure 1). The diamond visualizes Ukrainian civil society, based on the information gathered in 2003-2004. It shows that "civil society is rather well balanced and of medium size" [5]. According to the diagram, the lowest score has the impact dimension. Despite the events during the Orange revolution, it "seems that civil society's actions in the field of

FIGURE 1: Civil Society Diamond for Ukraine



public policy did not necessarily lead to greater impact on society at large and on the wellbeing of citizens" [5]. This fact also has a certain bearing to the low developed environment dimension, which remains without strong support among Ukrainians. It poses a difficulty for Ukrainian civil society organizations to survive under rampant corruption, disregard for the rule of law, lack of good governance, distrust and intolerance among people. The report indicates lack of citizen participation in activities of civil society organizations. Notwithstanding they have important "roles in preserving peace, non-violence, tolerance, gender balance and environmental sustainability in Ukrainian society" [5], which lead to better results in the dimension measuring civil society's values. The main problems of the Ukrainian civil society are "in the limited ability of Civil Society Organizations to pursue practices of democratic governance, tolerance and gender balance inside organisations as effectively as they advocate for such practices in society in general. There is clearly an imbalance between declared CSO values and actual practice, which needs to be addressed" [5].

According to the Civicus criteria Ukraine demonstrates rather good development results in the civil society compared even to the new EU-mem-

ber-states, which joined the EU in 2004-2007. "While lagging slightly behind with the regard of impact of civil society Ukraine is comparable [...] with regard to environment and values" [3, 7].

Dr. Susan Stewart from the University of Mannheim has summed up the developments of the civil society in Ukraine since the Orange revolution and concluded that there have been few changes since 2004. For instance, she indicates heavy financial dependence on foreign aid. Secondly, despite the Orange revolution, "the assessment of the influence of the NGO on the broader society is low [...]. Third, the dialog between the civil society and the government has not changed significantly" [3, 10]. Will there be any improvements in the relations between the government and civil societies after the Presidential election 2010? This answer will rely on the prospective research done by non-biased actors.

We should not forget about globalization, which also influences organizations in civil society and makes them cooperate more readily internationally, and encourages them to seek dialogue with institutions of global governance. A great example of such cooperation between the civil societies of Ukraine and the EU is the visit of representatives of the Ukrainian

NGOs to Brussels in February, 2009. Such intensification of the dialogue with the civil societies of the EU will provide Ukrainian NGOs with important experiences in acting more effectively internally and especially within a global political discourse.

To sum up, it is important to remember that the establishment of the civil society is a long-term process. As German professor Ralf Dahrendorf said, it takes "months for institutions of representative democracy; 6 years for a market economy; 6 decades for a civil society" [4].

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At the Peace Tower, Centre Block, House of Commons.

European Union: functioning, integration and experience – "European Forum Alpbach"

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Every year since 1945, the "European Forum Alpbach" has been held in the Austrian mountain village of Alpbach. Austria's most beautiful village lies in a picturesque location on a sunny plateau some 1,000 meters above the sea level. For two weeks annually Alpbach turns into a counterpart of Davos, a platform for exchanging ideas and experience of the EU experts. This year the Forum hosted more than 500 participants, having Ukrainians as the second largest group after the host country. Ukrainian delegation consisted of 38 persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences who took an active part in various activities throughout the forum. Topic of the Forum for this year was 'Construction and Reality', concentrating on the implications of the recent world's economic crisis on societal development.

Speakers and participants of the Forum represent all parts of the world and specialize in various subject areas, such as: science, economics and politics. Among the most prominent speakers at the Forum taking part in discussion and offering solutions to resolving global issues were Secretary-General of the UN Mr. Ban Ki-moon and Austrian President Mr. Heinz Fischer.

The programme of the European Forum Alpbach was divided into three main parts:

1) Seminar Week – Up to fourteen seminars dedicated to various scientific disciplines. One aspect of the theme is discussed with renowned scientists in each seminar over six half-days.

2) Alpbach Symposiums – These

two-three day conferences deal with Architecture, Technology, Politics, Health and Economy. To supplement these, special workshops are held on Banking.

3) Alpbach Summer School – dedicated to theme "European Law and European Integration" focusing on junior-senior students and recent graduates.

Youth participation in the Forum was ensured through a scholarship programme financed through donations from foundations, businesses and public spending. All participants are welcome to join the Alpbach Initiative Groups and Clubs, which embrace participants of the European Forum Alpbach and exist in numerous European countries. Kyiv Initiative Group is known to be as one of the most active ones having resources to hold its own summer forums targeting youth from different countries.

I had an honor to be one of the participants of this prestigious event participating in the Summer School on European Law and European Integration aimed at introducing students to the fundamentals of the EU functioning, enhancing analytical skills with respect to identifying so-



**Secretary-General of the UN
Mr. Ban Ki-moon giving a speech
at Alpbach Forum.
Photo credit: Bohdan Bolonny.**



**Panorama of the Alpbach village where the Forum
took place. Photo credit: Bohdan Bolonny.**

cial, economic and legal issues of the EU integration. This summer school is the only one of its kind in Austria and is run in English and German. Participants get a unique opportunity to immerse into a multicultural environment, learn from the international team of prominent scholars, politicians and civil servants.

Program of the Forum was also

accompanied by various cultural and entertaining activities. As it has already been turned into a tradition, every year on the 24th of August, Ukrainian delegation launches celebration of Ukraine's Independence day, which has become the best known cultural night in Alpbach. Other than that, participants had a chance to have a ride on electric motor bicycles and cars,

take part in various brainstorming activities and even a soccer tournament. Quoting one of the Ukrainian participants Roman Dusyk, who summed the conference experience quite to the point: 'European Forum Alpbach has become a great life challenging experience, which managed to combine studies, networking and leisure, so that even August snow couldn't overturn a positive spirit of the event!'



The CACTUS crop Ukrainian style

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It is rare that you become involved with a job or a project that combines everything you anticipated. One that pays well, that you personally like and that actually benefits others. If you do not know how that feels – welcome to the club, I have never come across such an opportunity, until recently. But for the last two summers or more precisely the last two years, I have been doing something which has absolutely

zero monetary payoff but has turned out to be more rewarding than I could have ever imagined.

It all started back in August 2008 in the city of Mykolaiv. A few friends of mine and I, who frequent different international social and youth programs, got together and developed an idea to create our own youth program that would make Ukrainian youth more socially active and conscious of the community issues. Since then a lot of people have joined the initiative, some got lost on the way, but the idea of a

program that took 3 hours to create on one rainy Mykolaiv morning stayed roughly the same.

What we had in mind was overall a general idea – to bring active youth who have leadership capabilities together at a summer forum, so they can develop them and become more socially minded

on the way. To target the program to prospective participants and use our international connections we decided that it would run in the English language with trainers from abroad, majority of whom joined us through our informal partnership with the U.S. Peace Corps. Eventually, we got international staff members from USA, as well as Kyrgyzstan, Poland and Nigeria, together 30 with Ukrainian student leaders. Although not many countries are on the list, all of them constitute four continents, which looks quite impressive on paper.

Our location to hold the program was chosen in the lovely city of Ternopil, which combines a convenient geographical location and a newly-renovated city center with reasonable prices and hospitable people. After some brainstorming and playing with different combinations of letters to the name the project, we came up with CACTUS – Community ACTION Ukrainian Style.

The CACTUS 2009 and 2010 engaged young community leaders (aged 15-20) who had to participate in obligatory Team Work and Project



Development workshops for 10 days in a row. Additionally, we worked out a detailed plan of social extracurricular events, the most memorable of them being a Game Night and the Talent Show. Also, we could not help but draw attention to the program's exotic name, and therefore, the whole program got a Hispanic theme with picatas, burritos and salsa. However, the most important element came at the end, when participants had designed their own projects in their regional groups and presented them for applause at the Project Fair.

Over the two years, our participants tackled such issues as HIV/AIDS, fight over intolerance and anorexia, eco-education, assistance to orphans and the disabled. In general, they started up 13 projects, all of which are being carried out up to this date. The majority of these initiatives are supported by us with Mentorship and Mini-grant programs.

But the most important thing about CACTUS is the impression it left on its young and active participants. In the two years of the program we have had merely positive feedback

and the participants seemed to enjoy it. Moreover, we could see how they grew as individuals, coming as students with a backpack and leaving as leaders with a social project. It was very inspiring to see how they were able to create these ideas and carry them out to help others. As one participant said, "CACTUS really opened my eyes and made me think about the world around me."

Of course there were many problems and setbacks on the long way as while CACTUS takes place for only 10 days, preparation last the whole year. There were some shortcomings, but looking back I have to say that it turned out better than we could have imagined. And while it was a volunteer project, the payoff in the form of connections, experience and fun on the way was priceless, and this is something I will cherish forever.

This year, in 2011, CACTUS will for the first time take place without any of the people, who founded it. We want the program to be sustain-



able and its time for a new generation of leaders to step up to direct it and who are, in fact, ready and excited to do so. I am glad they are doing it and I am very much confident that with their guidance they will make it even better. And while I will miss these great moments myself, I'm happy for them as they have one of the best jobs or projects I've ever had the pleasure of doing.



Meeting with Peter Stoffer, M.P., NDP.



Looking for Ukrainian spirit far away from Ukraine

Khrystyna HUDYMA

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CUPP 2009

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One of the longest trips in my life, 30 hours en route, 5 cities, 9 time zones and here I am – in Saskatoon, the biggest city of Saskatchewan province. Still a bit jet-legged I make my first journey around the city which is about to become my home for two years. The campus impresses by its magnificent beauty – almost all of the buildings resemble old English stone mansions with nice trees and blooming marigolds (so natural for a Ukrainian eye) all around. Saskatoon itself is very young, compared to my hometown with its almost 800-year history, however, it has its own charm created by beautiful landscapes of South Saskatchewan River, vibrant parks alongside it, modern business downtown, and artistic and trendy Broadway district.

I have been in Saskatoon for less than a month, and all that I have experienced so far is the atmosphere of being really welcome. My research

advisor, priest at a Ukrainian church, international students and people I meet every now and then are being really helpful and understanding. What strikes me most is the sense of caring. For students in Ukraine, especially when you are new to the city, it is quite common to feel indifference at their own universities, when you are on your own with your questions and doubts, and there is no one for you to give a valuable piece of advice. Here the attitude is nothing but a big difference! The first thing new international students were said during the orientation meeting was not to be afraid to ask for help. People from International Student Office do seem to understand what it's like to be new and far away from home because they all have been there too. And strange enough, you take this atmosphere for granted with the understanding that there is someone you can rely on.

Furthermore, here you do not feel as if your Ukrainian identity is about to suffer because of being too far from your motherland. To my great surprise, I found a monument to Lesia Ukrainka just in the heart of campus, and another one – to Saskatchewan-born Ramon Hnatyshyn in the downtown on the very first day of my stay in Saskatoon. Ukrainians

from the days of city's foundation were an essential part of its community. And so they remain now! Ukrainians are the sixth ethno-cultural group in metro Saskatoon, there are 6 Ukrainian churches, Ukrainian museum and a weekly radio-program, Ukrainians participate actively in annual folk-festivals and truly respect their roots. You are pretty sure to have someone with Ukrainian family name in your class or to hear a conversation in Ukrainian somewhere in a supermarket fruit section. Here in Saskatchewan, you start to realize like never before that you belong to a great nation. You become proud of the people who were not afraid to leave all they had and travel to the other part of the globe for a new life, of those who preserved their traditions and language throughout ages and generations. Here you are proud to say "I am Ukrainian!"

There are definitely lots of things I need to get used to: living without family, using English as a first language of communication, having "open-door" classes, surviving severe Saskatchewan winter, discussing soccer and hockey matches during church services, watching people jogging irrespective of the weather and then queuing long lines for the morning coffee, as well as enormous Canadian geese walking around university campus, and buses arriving on time – just to name a few. However, I am willing to! I know it might be hard, moreover I am quite sure sometimes it will be, but this kind of experience is more than worth it!



View of Saskatoon.
Photo credit: Khrystyna Hudyma.

On a life-changing conference experience

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2010 Dopomoha Ukraini Foundation Scholarship



Despite a great variety of different conferences and youth forums, it is a rare occasion that one event may have a profound life-changing effect on personality. International student week in Timisoara (ISWINT), Romania, which I attended this summer, is a good example of the latter.

The conference was founded by Liga AC – The Faculty of Automatic and Computer Science on behalf of "Politehnica" University from Timisoara Student's League, a non-governmental, non-profit and apolitical organization, aims at the multilateral development of technical, social and cultural student programs. In 2010, this forum brought together participants from all over the world. For instance, a team from Indonesia had to fly half way across the globe to reach Romania. International student week is a tradition that started 17 years ago and now the volunteer students keep the flame of ISWINT burning every year.

Some of the worst and best of the EU

However, at first, I felt I was thrown out of my comfort zone. Homeless Roma children roaming the central parts of the cities intensified the hideous image of mass poverty that could be observed yet at the boarding airport bridge. This shocked me as deeply as turmoil historical narration of Timisoara, the city known by its 1989 street protests. Recalling this time, one of my roommates Tibi revealed that his five family members could only have a small piece of bread from day to day. After Romanians had confronted the challenge of enormous deficit, they unanimously sentenced

Chaushesku and his wife to death. Since then it is believed that Romania has been on the right track adhering to the European standards.

Now, evaluating Romania's past and present, I cannot help but raise one question mark. If Romania was able to stand up from the knees after Chaushesku regime and join the European Union, how different can Ukraine be? This is the question I cannot stop thinking about up to this day. Indeed, Romania has made a challenging breakthrough since 1989; nevertheless the issues Romanian society is facing today are no less harsh than the Ukrainian ones. Yet, my country scraps the bottom of the barrel. Such meditation is one of the reasons I consider the following student week to be life-changing: my perception of the world, and world powerful political institutions, such as the EU, was shaken upside down.

Closed eyes, open mind

Each year International Student week has a different theme of the conference. This year it was "Closed eyes, Open mind". The aim was to discover our

potential thinking free of stereotypes, to see clear vision of our goals, to create bridges for better understanding of each other's culture. In this regard, one of the greatest events was a culture parade, when all participants had to dress in the national costumes, hold the flag of their country and go on a tour of the Timisoara. It is difficult to



Photo credit: Kyrylo Korzh.

express the feelings I have had during this parade. There were about 20 Ukrainians with a huge blue-yellow flag, singing national songs and at the same time striding together with other cultures in the very same column. As my fellow team mate Iryna Smachenko said: "In such moments you are really proud to be Ukrainian".

After the student week was over I also had a chance to travel all over Romania and visited Sibiu – the cultural capital of Europe in 2008. I was amazed by the architectural beauty of this city and its genuinely Romanian mystery evoking a well-known myth of Dracula.

All in all, Romanian International Student Week left an unforgettable impression on me transforming my outlook and broadening my personal horizons. Most importantly, it taught me to keep my mind open, even if my eyes may be closed.



Learning from the Grape Cluster or it is time to visit Moldova!

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Top political players on the European part of the 'grand chessboard' tend to overlook, if not neglect, the smaller states and their interests, and especially so if the latter are struck by the ongoing irresolvable political tensions magnified by poor economic growth and humanitarian problems. Nevertheless, with the 'reset' not only in U.S.-Russia, but also Ukraine-Russia relations it seems that the West had better turn its eye on Moldova whose 'frozen conflict' Yanukovych and Medvedev promise to settle in close collaboration. With the help, some analysts predict, of Transnistria's annexation to Ukraine in the nearest future.

In the meantime, Ukrainians fed with cheap thrill anecdotes disparaging Moldovians also have something to learn from its southern-west neighbour...even such a learning experience is one day long.

When asked by my American friend to accompany her to Chisinau for a day to settle the Ukrainian visa issue, I did not hesitate a moment. In

spite of socioeconomic rankings putting Moldova at the end of the list of 'the most prosperous and promising European states', I have always wanted to see the land of the 'grape cluster'¹, in part, to question those negative anecdotal perceptions about the people living just across the border.

The first surprise came when customs officials from both Transnistrian and a Moldavian border did not push us for bribe-taking: neither on our road to Chisinau, nor back to Ukraine. This 'omnipresent demand for bribe' narrative dispersed freely inside the travelers' communities years ago is backed up by real-life experiences and, certainly, stereotypes. One of such stories has to do with my university professor, a native Ukrainian, who was forced to pay \$50 to enter the neighboring country otherwise she would have waited at the border for the in-

definite amount of hours in a car line.

Although I personally was lucky to avoid such an unpleasant experience, it would be deeply false to say that corruption is non-existent in this former USSR state. According to Nations in Transit 2009 report by Freedom House, Moldova scores poorly, when it comes to evaluation of corruption level². At the same time, it is worth mentioning that Moldova remains the only country in the Commonwealth of Independent States without persons or public servants jailed for corruption.

Ukrainians losing hospitality to their neighbours?

The second pleasant thing about Moldova is its people. Even though it is roughly one third of the country that is illegally working abroad as Ostarbeiters³, the remaining two thirds are doing an extraordinary job keeping hos-

1 Such a nickname is based on the map of Moldova that resembles a grape cluster. Moreover, the main industry in this country is wine production.

2 <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher,FR EEHOU,,MDA,4a55bb4037,0.html>

3 <http://soderkoping.org.ua/page15493.html>

pitality alive.

Roaming the Chisinau streets looking for any café serving coffee at 8 am while we were awaiting the visa trial, my friend and I suddenly ran into a 3-star hotel. And the very moment we walked in, as if in a nice fairy-tale, two ladies jumped off their lobby sofa and smilingly offered us to enjoy their newly-built hotel service. With this on their minds, they would bring us coffee, candies and slices of cake (NB: the restaurant at that hotel was not operating at that hour) and ask for no payment whatsoever. Later on, one of them Nadezhda would drive us around the city and guide us to the sightseeing places. As my U.S. friend recalls: *'The adventure actually started on the bus. At the Ukraine-Transnistria border, I discovered I had left my immigration card in Kyiv. I do not speak Ukrainian so the border security guard summoned by friend, Zhenia. Zhenia was frightened. She was afraid we would be expelled from the bus right there in the middle of the night. I wasn't overly-concerned; I trust her capabilities. She returned after about 10 minutes beaming wearing a huge smile, "We can go!" she said. "And I didn't" have to pay a bribe!" Hours later in the lovely but bedraggled capital city of Chisinau, our fairy godmothers from the hotel recommended a visit to the Cricova winery. We sampled the wares and stocked up on splits and bottles to take home. Later we dined a fabulous traditional restaurant where the food was as wonderful and rich as the shtick.'* ...Prior to this visit I had claimed that it was Ukrainian people the most hospitable and welcoming on Earth. Alas, I must confess this title has moved to our southern-west neighbors...

Communication Moldovan Style

Because it was just a day-trip I can come up with merely three most striking observations, the third and the last dealing with the language issue. Since its independence there were 2

official languages adopted in Moldova: Romanian and Russian, the former being actually a dialect of Romanian. Before going to this country I was sure that no one actually speaks Romanian there – it seemed so obvious to me that being under Russian sphere of influence, the country will appear to be de-facto monolingual. Nevertheless, it was a great revelation that the majority of people in Chisinau, at least, are fluent in both languages (it also occurred to me that youth prefers Romanian to Russian), and this is not solely substantiated by two-language road signs or restaurant menus. In my view, such a peaceful co-existence of languages, one of which was given more prerogatives in the past, is possible merely due to the fact that Russian and Romanian belong to completely different language groups and therefore, liaison or merging of languages is less possible than in Ukrainian-Russian case that gave birth to notorious 'surzhyk⁴.'

4 A mixed Russian-Ukrainian language widely spoken by Ukrainian people.

In wine there is wisdom

While showing us around Nadezhda, manager of the 3-star 'Eurohotel' and one of the most hospitable persons I have ever met, as mentioned earlier, shared that in Chisinau, there are wine cellars which are the biggest and one of the most exclusive in the world. The wine bottles stacked there date back to XVIII century and thus, the oldest wine in the world can be somehow found in Moldova. This is why, in her words, top politicians, such as Russian Prime-Minister Putin does not bother going to Italy or France, but Moldova, to have a sample from his own wine cellar. At some point I started to wonder may be this is exactly the reason why foreign politicians are interested in domestic affairs of this tiny European country? Maybe it is so according to the ancient saying that it is in wine there is wisdom, or be more precise, the hint at why the things are going the way they go?



Meeting with German Embassy diplomats was one of the first CUPP meetings.



History of the Ukrainian Cooperative Movement in Canada and the Return of the Idea of Credit Union to Ukraine by the Diaspora (Part I)

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2010 Marta Bielish Scholarship

With this issue of the newsletter, we launch a series of historical articles about establishment and development of the credit unions in Ukraine and Canada. For many donors of CUPP program happen to be affiliated with these organizations, we felt it would be vital for our audience to learn more about Ukrainian style cooperation and zeal that ensured first immigrants' to Canada survival.

Credit cooperation in Ukraine and Canada has a long history. The foundations for the domestic cooperative movement in the credit sphere were the ideas of German cooperation "Fathers" G. Schultze von Delitzsch and F. Raiffeisen. In 1860s, Schultze von Delitzsch's cooperation principles were incorporated into the statutes of country credit-savings societies of Tsarist Russia. By the end of 1870s, approximately 10 societies as such had begun operating in Ukrainian provinces, mostly concentrated in Poltava region. This became possible due to active financial support of Zemstvos (elective district councils). The state

bank also played a certain role in this. Through its branches, since 1872 it had begun giving out short-term loans for the credit-savings soci-

eties and it had positively influenced their financial state.

The first credit union in North America, Caisse populaire, in Lévis, Quebec, Canada, began working on January 23rd, 1901, with a loan of 10 cents. Its founder, Alphonse Desjardins, a reporter for the Canadian Parliament, was moved by the unprecedented court sentence in 1897, when a citizen of Montreal was to pay off 5 thousand of Canadian dollars to a creditor for a loan of 150 dollars. Making use of his rich European experience, Desjardins founded a unique model of a union in Quebec, an office of mutual assistance that united the parishioners of one church.

At the end of the 19th century, the credit-cooperation movement noticeably livened all around the world. That is by January 1, 1910, 867 credit unions and 360 credit-savings societies were functioning in Ukrainian provinces, most of which (around 80%) were concentrated in the agrarian sector of economics. And by September 1, 1919, more than 3300 credit cooperatives were operating in Ukraine.

Many leaders of the Ukrainian cooperative movement had to leave the native land for the West under conditions of communist terror. After the end of WWII, about 250 thousand of Ukrainians found themselves in Western Europe, after they had been forced to work in Germany as slave labour. According to I. Vytanovych, there were at least a thousand of experienced cooperators among them, who later on immigrated to Canada,

USA, Australia, Argentina and other countries. This is how M. Semchyshyn describes the process of establishment of a Ukrainian cooperation in the Diaspora: "The first Ukrainian credit cooperatives emerged in those walks of life of Ukrainian men who found themselves in a foreign land where actual and burning needs for credits existed that made it possible to arrange one's home or buy instruments of labour and so on."

Similar vital needs triggered the emergence of first credit unions in Canada in the beginning of 1940s, first of all in the life of Ukrainians and their need for massive immigration to trans-oceanic countries (the USA, Canada, Australia). Credit cooperatives appeared on the initiative of leading entities with economic interests or formerly acquired experience. Later a few more cooperatives were founded which afterwards were structurally united as the Ukrainian World Cooperative Council.

Living mostly in countries of classical capitalism, Ukrainian emigrants realized that only the existence and



F. Raiffeisen



Caisse populaire in Lévis, Quebec.

development of our own economics, in our case – our own cooperative system, may help them not only survive but also securely leading a good life.

This movement towards self-cooperation in the form of credit unions

was not separated from other forms of self-organization of the Ukrainian society in various fields of its postwar settlement. It went hand in hand with other forms of organization of a Ukrainian national and social, political and

all-cultural life, and the cooperative movement became its integral part and as important as native Church, native school, native culture or preservation of a Ukrainian identity.

A day in the life

Olesia KOMPANIETS

CUPP 2011 applicant
Petro Mohyla Black Sea University



Monday
September, 20
Mykolaiv, Ukraine

Monday is believed to be the most difficult day of the week. It is undesirable end of short holidays and the beginning of a long work (study) week. For me Monday is a very special day: it is a brand new opportunity to accomplish everything you have not yet done, moreover it brings fresh ideas to realize. Monday inspires me for the whole week. That's why I like Mondays.

The third Monday of September was full of pleasant, even magical things. Early in the morning I made a kind of plan for the whole day and had a thought "It will be just great if everything is according to my little plan".



During the day while doing my day-to-day activities I was sure I would manage to do everything planned. Now I am happy to admit that there is nothing left in my bucket list. Indeed, luck followed me all day long. I was smiling to people trying to cheer them up (they were hurrying to buses in the rain; apparently, the weather was not the best one), and some of them smiled at me back.

I did everything I wanted and enjoyed the day a lot. I found myself thinking that I got even more than I hoped to: Monday has brought me positive emotions and new strength.

Now I have come to realize that one's day is set by oneself. I would like to suggest you my formula for a joyous and successful day: (clear ideas of your perfect day organization + self-confidence + active and persistent work)* optimistic perception of the world in front of you.

May all your days be full of great events and good emotions!



A day in the life

Yurii MEDENTSII

University of Uzhorod

Intern to James Bezan, M.P.

2010 Josef and Maria Siecinsky Scholarship

Monday

September 20

Ottawa, Canada

First actual working day at the office of James Bezan, MP. Two more people working there – Dana and Eric, executive and legislative assistant respectively. Very nice and responsive people. Attire – business, we're working in a parliament after all. But when MPs are out of the office, frankly, rules get a little softer. One can loose the tie a little so to speak, or take it off completely.

As it was my first day, I was taught. Just like in a school, but with no theory, just practice. Now I know how to deal with the correspondence (letters, invitations etc.). I still need some practice, but I think this will come with experience. There is really a lot of mail coming to an MP's office, I could have never thought of such amounts (about 5 kilograms I guess, and that's just for 1 day!). Answering the invitations was also a part of my today's schedule. Of course, I did not choose which events Mr. Bezan would attend. I was given "rejected" invitations and had to notify the sender via email that MP will not attend this or that event. It sounded like "Thank you for the invitation to attend "bla bla bla" on (date), but unfortunately Mr. Bezan will not be able to attend". By the way, in the morning Dana treated me with a piece of banana bread. It was really tasty:).

We've also watched the Question Period on the television, though it is possible to attend it in person and sit in the actual room where the debate takes place. And it is much easier with the parliamentary passes CUPP interns have; now Parliament Hill is open for us. I write "Hill" because there is more than one building where members of parliament and their staff work, "a parliamentary campus" so to speak. This is the picture of the main building. I can email you other pictures of other buildings, or you can just Google them.

I think that's it for the first day. Hope you find this thing interesting. Feel free to contact me on any question.

Yours,
Yurii Medentsii.



*Interns meeting
with Paul Migus
and his wife Eva.*



CUPP 2010 Walking Tour of Parliament Hill in Ottawa

Kateryna LYSENKO

Sevastopol Technical University
Intern to Hon. Maria Minna, M.P.
2010 Michael Starr Scholarship



Mykhaylo PALAHITSKYI

University of Vienna, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
Intern to Gerald Keddy, M.P.
2010 Christina Bardyn Scholarship

The buildings on Parliament Hill are a mirror of past events in Canadian history. The architectural styles show Canadian linkages to Europe as Canada formed part of the British Empire for decades. We invite you to join our walking tour on Parliament Hill.

On September 19 all 23 CUPP Interns met Borys Gengalo for an afternoon walking tour of Parliament Hill. Borys Gengalo is a Canadian historian of Ukrainian origin and good friend of the CUPP Program. He is a member of the Ukrainian Canadian Profession-

al and Business Association of Ottawa and each year meets Ukrainian students in order to acquaint them with the past and present of life around Parliament. Parliament Hill is the seat of government and of the most important government buildings. There are other government buildings spread through the city of Ottawa. Parliament Hill is a symbolic place dominated by the Centre Block Tower and clock. Parliament Centre Block houses the Prime Minister's offices, and some MPs offices. Centre Block is surrounded

Halychyna.

Let's begin our excursion by walking along the Wellington Street. This street was named after the English Duke Wellington and member of the British Parliament, who initiated the construction of the Rideau Canal for military defense of Ottawa. On the both sides of this street there are monuments of two Canadian heroes, who lived in different eras and sacrificed their lives for others. The Galahads-monument is dedicated to a young Ca-



by the Supreme Court Building, East and West Blocks, the Royal Mint Building and other important structures and many historic monuments to historic Canadian heroes and citizens. The first Cabinet Minister of Ukrainian heritage whose office was in Centre Block was Michael Star (Starchevskyy), whose parents emigrated to Canada from



Photo credit: CUPP.



Photo credit: CUPP.

nadian journalist Albert Harperr, who before jumping into the Ottawa River to save a drowning called out Galahad's famous words "If I lose myself, I save myself". Albert Harper and the girl drowned in the river but the monuments reminds Canadians of his heroic action. Close to this monument there is another sculpture of a Canadi-

an hero – Terry Fox, who had one leg amputated due to cancer, who began a marathon run from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans to raise money for cancer-stricken people.

Walking ahead you will notice the grand building of Banque de Montreal, which was built at the beginning of the XX century during financial crisis. The

Beaux-Arts style of this Bank served to gain people's trust in the Canadian banking system. The facade makes an impression of stability, reliability and safety. A similar impression is created by the current Central Bank of Canada which was built in Art Deco style, and which combines modern and classical architectural styles. The same style is represented in the Supreme Court edifice, which is situated on the Ottawa riverside and completes the complex of Parliamentary buildings. Two statues in front of Supreme Court symbolize Veritas (Truth) and Justitia (Justice). It is worth to note that John Sopinka was the first Canadian puisne justice on the Supreme Court of Canada of Ukrainian ancestry. He was a patron of the CUPP Program in whose honour a Scholarship is named. Justice Sopinka died in 1997 and two years after his death a new courthouse in downtown Hamilton was named in his honour.

To make the long story shorter, we would like to admit that walking on this Parliament Hill with Borys Gengalo brought us deeper understanding of the Canadians history and politics. It was a great introduction into our internship and stay in Ottawa.



Photo credit: CUPP.



Photo credit: CUPP.



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