



CASE Ukraine
Center for Social and Economic Research

20 Years



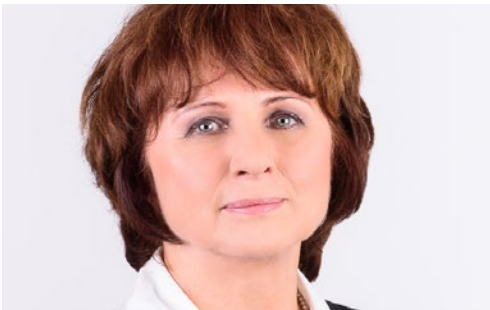
This Report has been published in the framework of the Think Tank Development Initiative for Ukraine implemented by the International Renaissance Foundation in partnership with the Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE) with financial support from the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine.

Opinions and positions presented in this Publication do not necessarily reflect the position of either the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine, the International Renaissance Foundation or the Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE).

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About CASE Ukraine



CASE Ukraine is one of Ukraine's oldest and most influential centers of public policy studies.

Starting in 1999 we have undertaken more than 50 research and educational projects commissioned by the US Agency for International Development, the European Commission, the Open Society Institute, the UN Development Program, the World Bank, the World Economic Forum, the Swedish International Development Agency, and others.



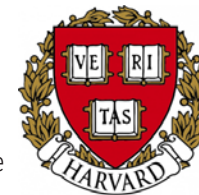
CASE Ukraine operated as the Ukrainian office of the Polish CASE Foundation until 2018. From that year on, the CASE Ukraine Public Association has been operating as a Ukrainian non-profit member of the CASE international network, which has research centers in Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Poland.



◀ CASE Ukraine Founders (top to bottom): Ewa Balcerowicz, Marek Dąbrowski and Janusz Schirmer

CASE Ukraine has its roots in the Harvard University Ukraine Project (1996-2000) that was funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

The project's primary objectives continue to be:



- To promote knowledge about the economy of Ukraine and other post-Soviet nations;
- To contribute to Ukraine's capacity-building for market reforms and economic growth;
- To respond to current policy measures with analytical monitoring and economic forecasting;
- To assist in establishing links between agencies in charge of economic policy-making in Ukraine and Western economists and academia.

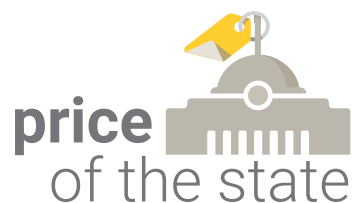
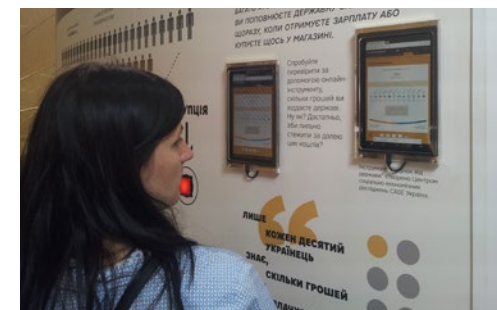


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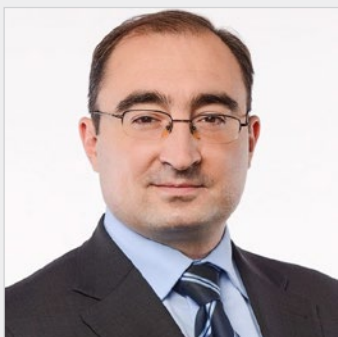
About the Price of the State

- In 2013 we developed the Price of the State site ([http:// cost.ua](http://cost.ua)), to nurture the feeling of ownership of public funds among Ukrainian voters, advocate for careful tax spending, explain the importance of reducing government involvement in economic activities, and promote respect for entrepreneurs.
- We use simple language to talk about economic policies via Facebook and other channels like:
- Receipt from the State, a tax calculator to let users know the cost of individual public services: retirement benefits, defense, education, and so on.
- Public awareness campaigns based on the Price of the State: last year we distributed more than 3 million paper 'Bills' among residents of 15 cities with almost 500,000 more handed out via the ATB, OKKO and Foxtrot chains.
- Translations of educational videos, some of which have made it into the school curriculum in economics.

Owing to the Price of the State, the phrase 'Our taxes' has been used 46% more frequently across Ukrainian media since 2013 (see p. 8).



CASE Ukraine Team



**Dmytro
Boyarchuk**

Executive Director

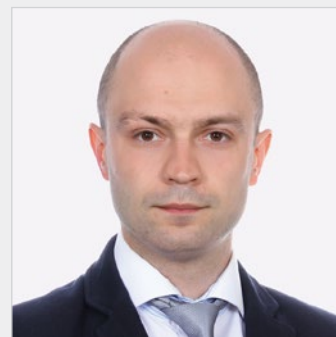
Specializing in macroeconomic forecasting and fiscal policy in Ukraine, Mr. Boyarchuk has extensive experience in managing projects in macroeconomic, fiscal, and social welfare reform. He holds a Master's degree in economics from the Kyiv School of Economics at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NAUKMA).



**Volodymyr
Dubrovskiy**

Senior Economist

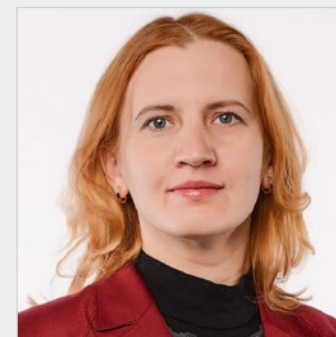
Mr. Dubrovskiy has focused his research on policy and institutional economics, especially issues related to privatization, corruption and economic reform. He has written a book on transformations in Ukraine and has been responsible for drafting a series of party platforms and government programs. He holds a degree in theoretical physics from Shevchenko National University in Kyiv.



**Kostiantyn
Latsyba**

Administrative Director

Mr. Latsyba specializes in the development of organizational management systems, as well as developing and instituting internal policies and procedures. He holds a Master's degree in economics and social geography from Shevchenko National University in Kyiv. He also completed the "Managing NGOs" program at the Institute for Leadership and Management at Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.



**Natalia
Leshchenko**

Economist

Ms. Leshchenko's experience includes being involved in the preparation of Ukraine's Tax and Budget Codes, and directing budget and socially oriented research projects on such topics as fiscal transparency, education, funding healthcare, energy and pension reforms, business support reforms, social welfare systems, and state and local budgets. She holds a Master's degree in economic theory from EERC, at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NAUKMA).

CASE Ukraine Team



Mykola Malukha

Director for Communications

After working as a journalist in the business press, Mr. Malukha was press secretary for Caritas Ukraine, an international charitable foundation, and managed the internet communication department at Metinvest, a Ukrainian mining and metallurgy conglomerate. He completed a degree at the Department of History and Philology at Murmansk State Pedagogical University and the "Journalism in the Digital Future" program at NAUKMA.



Victor Povoroznyk

Economist

Graduated with a master's degree in economic theory from Taras Shevchenko KNU with a Ph. D. Economics, Mr. Povoroznyk has worked in think tanks (ICPS, NISR, Democracy House), also as editor-in-chief for a range of publications. He has also taught economics at universities. His area of expertise includes institutional economics, macroeconomics, and public finance.



Andriy Savarets

Legal expert

Mr. Savarets graduated from the Customs Service Academy of Ukraine as a specialist in jurisprudence, and the Ukrainian University of Finance and International Trade as a specialist in international management. Previously, he worked in Customs offices and the Verkhovna Rada secretariat. He is responsible for legal support for reforms in international trade, customs policy and monetary regulation.



Yevhen Shulha

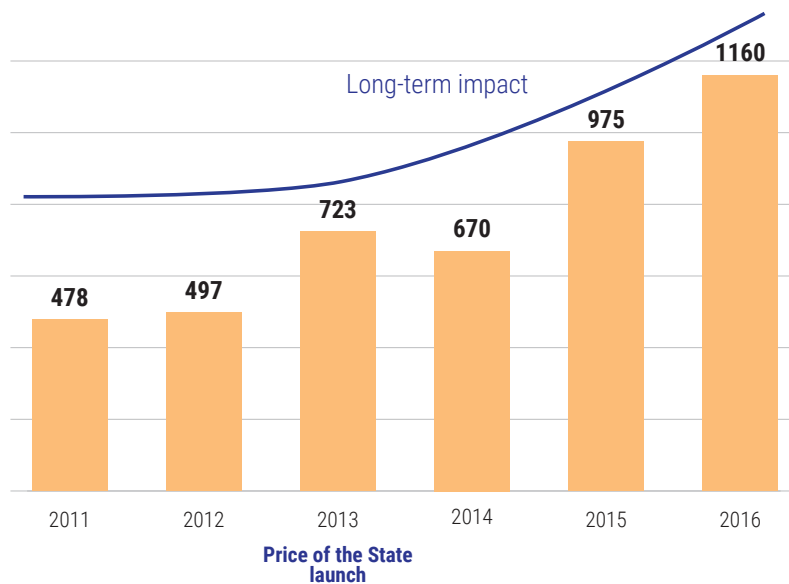
Director for Development

Mr. Shulha holds degrees from the George Washington University (US) in non-profit management and the International Science and Technology University (Ukraine) in business administration. Prior to his US studies, he worked in public communications and managed organizational development at the Razumkov Center.

Our Achievements

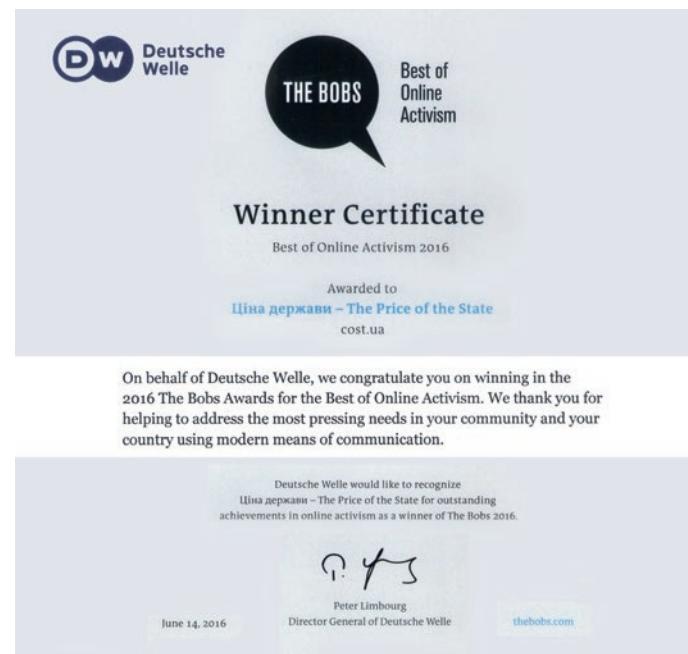
Mentions of the Phrase, “Our Taxes”

As the graph demonstrates, since the launch of the Price of the State Project in 2013, the incidence of phrases like “our taxes,” “your taxes” and “my taxes” in Ukrainian media grew 2.5 times. Even adjusting for media outlet growth during this period, the net impact of the Project on shaping a sense of ownership of public funds in the media is estimated at an increase of 46%.



The Price of the State Named Best Ukrainian-Language Website

In 2016, the Price of the State received acclaim as the best web site in Ukrainian in the scope of The Bobs – Best of Online Activism, the world's biggest international competition among bloggers, activists and journalists advocating for free expression and human rights on the Internet.



Our Achievements

CASE Ukraine Ranked Sixth by Information Impact

A rating launched by an Internet-based publication called Think Twice related to the presence of Ukrainian policy research centers in the media, academic publications and social media.

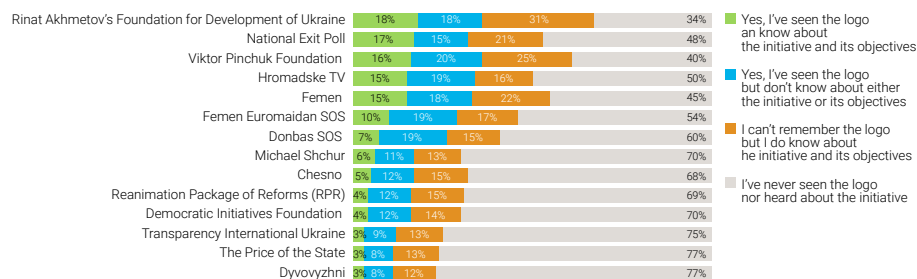
Information Capacity of Research Centers (2016)



Among most familiar civil society projects

Source: GfK, May 2018, 2000 respondents.

Have you ever seen these logos? If yes, do you know what they mean, what their organisations do, and what their objectives are?

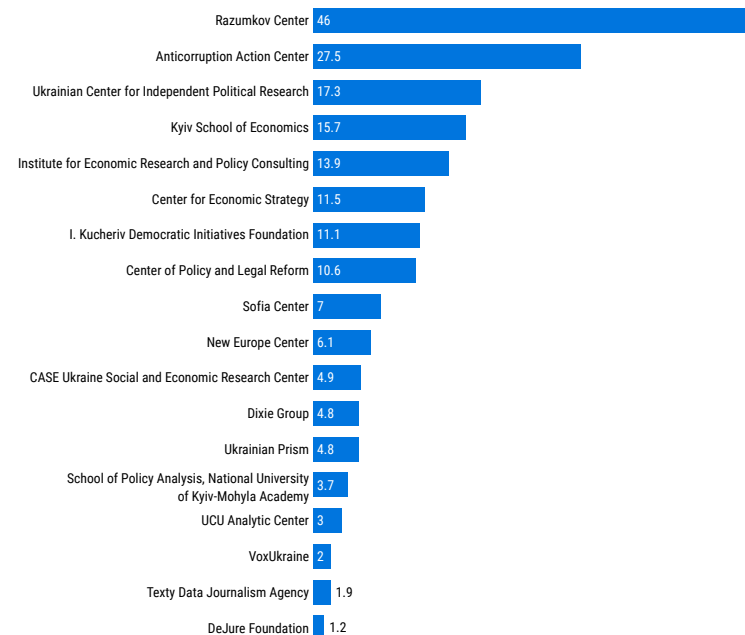


Source: GfK, May 2018, 2000 respondents.

One of Most Reputable Research Centers in Ukraine

Which of the independent think-tanks listed below have you heard about within the past year?

A survey by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation mentioned CASE Ukraine among the Top 20 most recognized independent policy think-tanks in 2020.



In Top Five Internet Projects

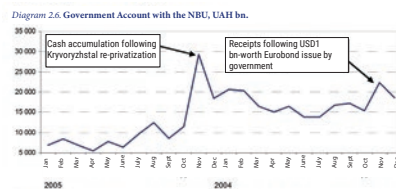
The Focus magazine included the *Price of the State* in its Top 5 most socially important Internet-based projects in Ukraine in 2014.

ФОКУС focus.ua/economics/317290

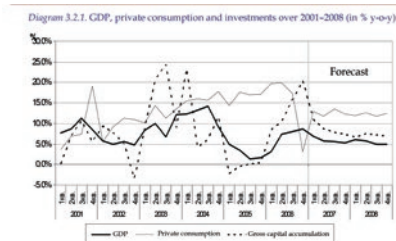
Economic Forecasting and Reforms

Ukrainian Economic Outlook. Tendencies, Estimates and Forecasts

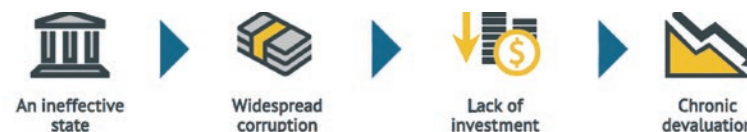
CASE Ukraine has been publishing its monthly (initially, quarterly) review of the Ukrainian economy since 2000. Reports offer overviews of current macroeconomic trends in Ukraine and forecasts of GDP, added value, inflation, FX rates, and other macroeconomic indicators. The independent analyses of the current economic situation in these reports are used by government officials, corporate managers, investors, politicians, and others interested in macroeconomic trends in Ukraine.



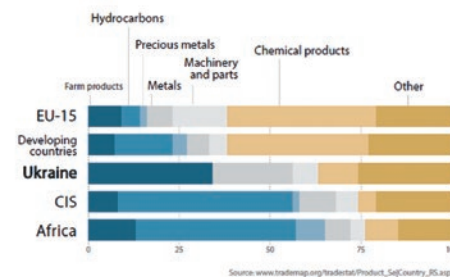
Source: NBU



Reasons Behind Hryvnia's Chronic Depreciation



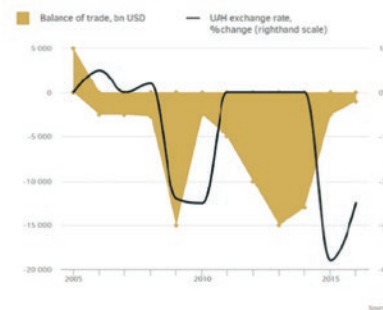
Breakdown of exports of goods in Ukraine and various regions



Although Ukrainians have learned to consume quality goods, we haven't established the conditions to produce such quality goods. The country's main source of hard currency is from the sale of metals and farm products.

More competitive countries get their export revenues from hightech goods and services that are not much affected by swings on commodities markets. This safeguards the stability of their currency against resource-based shocks.

Relation between the exchange rate and the balance of trade



Ukraine's balance of trade only improves when there's been a currency shock, when the devaluation of the hryvnia kills imports. The minute the economy starts to grow again, imports immediately also begin to climb, surpassing exports.

Nothing has changed today and we can already see the harbingers of further downward pressure on the hryvnia: non-energy imports have been growing sharply.

Economic Forecasting and Reforms

Blue Ribbon Commission

Shortly before the Orange Revolution in 2004, a Blue Ribbon Commission was launched in Ukraine on the initiative of the UN Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Kalman Mizsei. The first Commission report, with a description of key reforms necessary for Ukraine to grow was submitted to incoming President Viktor Yushchenko. Many ideas in the report were then included in the new Government's action plan.

In 2005 – 2006, CASE Ukraine provided analytical support to the Blue Ribbon Center established in Ukraine by the UNDP. CASE Ukraine took part in the development of recommendations on privatization, combating corruption and regulatory policy.



The Winds of Change. Globalization Impact on Europe and Asia Conference

In March 2007, CASE (Poland) and CASE Ukraine jointly held an international conference on global trade, investments, migration, international technical assistance, and economic development in a globalized world, and possible policy measures in response to new challenges. The event featured nearly 200 participants, among them lead research fellows, government executives and representatives of intergovernment and international financial institutions from more than 30 countries. The list of keynote speakers included Leszek Balcerowicz, Anders Åslund and other world-class economists.



Business Environment

We Simplify Life for Those Who Export Services

We played a key role under the USAID's "Leadership for Economic Development" (LEV) program, developing and promoting a bill that cancels export restrictions for programmers and others who export their services.

What's the benefit of the bill to remove red tape on the export of services?



How it was:

- ☹️ Contracts could only be in hard copy
- ☹️ All contracts had to have an ink seal and original signature
- ☹️ Every translated document had to be certified by a notary
- ☹️ Acts of Completed Works were mandatory

How it is:

- 😊 Contracts can be electronic
- 😊 Digital signatures are accepted
- 😊 Invoices are considered primary documents
- 😊 An invoice can also serve as a contract
- 😊 Documents in English need not be translated



Providing services across the border just got easier.

Nearly 40% of Ukraine's exporters have problems with currency controls when payments in hard currency come in. In 36% of these cases, banks refuse to accept invoices. The Verkhovna Rada could now make this a thing of the past.



ANDRIY SAVARETS
Legal expert, CASE
Ukraine

Global Competitiveness Index

The Global Competitiveness Report is the most comprehensive and thorough analysis of growth factors affecting the world economy. This annual study is carried out by the World Economic Forum among more than 140 countries.



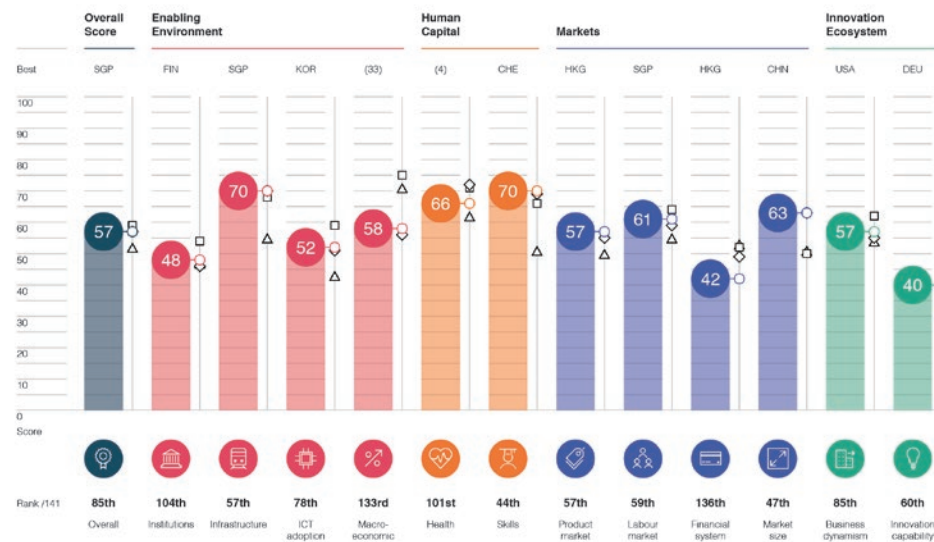
CASE Ukraine has been a WEF official research partner in Ukraine since 2000.

Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 2019 edition

Rank in 2018 edition: 83rd/140

Performance Overview 2019

Key ◇ Previous edition ▲ Lower-middle-income group average □ Eurasia average

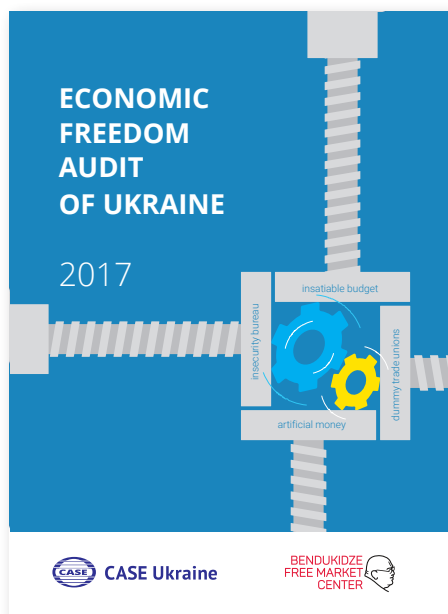


The analysis of Ukraine's position in the 2019 report.

Business Environment

Taking Stock of Economic Freedoms

CASE arranged a series of meetings with some leading Ukrainian business professionals to discuss their views of the biggest problems in the five areas of economic freedom: scope of the state, legal environment, international trade, financial system, and labor market.



"Our Labor Code, while seemingly intended to protect hired labor, in reality subjects employees to total injustice—because hiring someone full-time is the last thing any entrepreneur would think about."

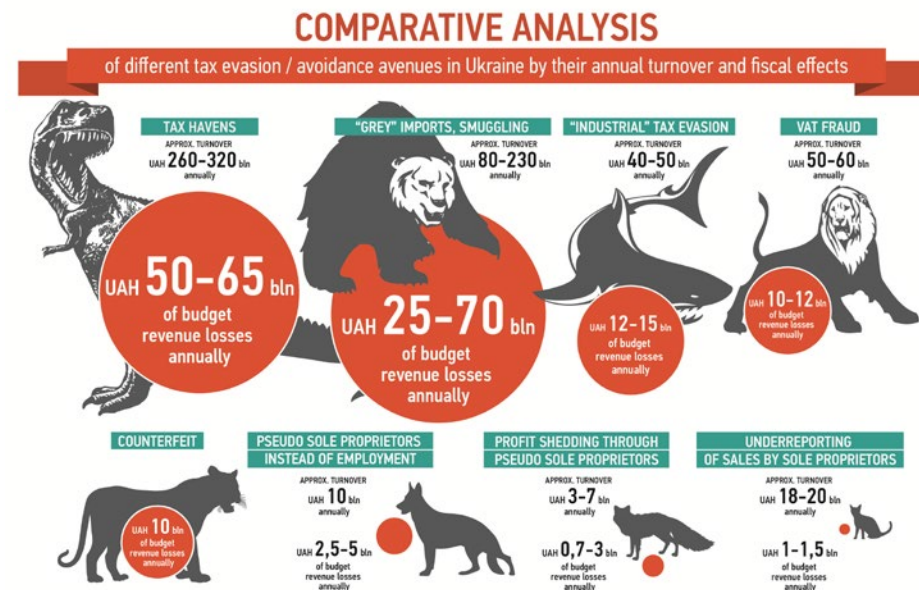
"[For doing business] California is cheaper than Kyiv. The per square meter prices for premises are considerably higher there but total cost-wise... in Kyiv, you're looking at bribes... kickbacks... all those taxes, extortion, and so on. So, when you start adding all this up... it's easier for me to do business in California where I'll have no clue where I never hear from the IRS."

"In Ukraine, a lender is often unable to collect collateral from borrowers who happen to be MPs, for instance. A standard Ukrainian situation... when an asset pledged as loan security, like a shopping mall, is no longer a collateral!"

"All state-owned banks have been black holes over the last few years... [The government] used one mechanism—refinancing and injections of capital—to pour money into those banks, only to drain it through another mechanism—financing companies affiliated with those in power."

Biggest Tax Avoidance Schemes

While the media and the society are focused on the abuse employers commit in their relationships with self-employed individuals, the most budget's biggest losses are caused by schemes inaccessible to ordinary people. The top two places continue to be occupied by offshore hidey-gheless and smuggling.



© Institute of Social and Economic Transformation <http://iset-ua.org>

Joint research carried out by CASE Ukraine and the Institute for Social and Economic Transformation presents quantitative data on the real structure of the shadow economy in Ukraine, which differs quite substantially from the misleading subjective perception.

Receipt from the State

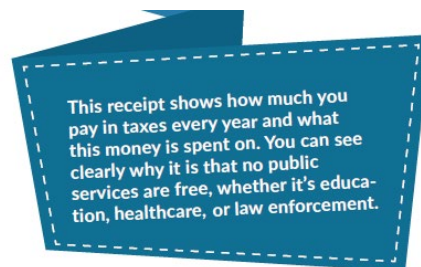
Open Your Eyes: There's No Such Thing as "Free" Public Services!

Every individual pays taxes, even though many have no idea that this is the case. Even if you never personally transferred money into the state budget, you still make a contribution every time you are paid or buy something in a store.

UKRAINE - 2017 GOVERNMENT BILL	
Pensions	24 985,05
Education	6 180,77
Social welfare	4 424,67
Interest on loans	4 025,16
Healthcare	3 277,43
Economic support	2 875,77
Law enforcement	2 861,57
Armed Forces	2 463,44
Government bureaucracy	1 959,65
Arts and sports	799,09
Housing & residential services	616,36
Environmental protection	273,19
TOTAL	54 742,15

Paid In the form of taxes.
Thanks for using
public services!

CASE Ukraine
The Price of the State



How did we come up
with this number?

My net salary (UAH/mo)

6000

☐ I get my pay under the table ☐ I don't work ☐ I'm a private entrepreneur

My spending on goods & services 6000 UAH/mo

Includes:

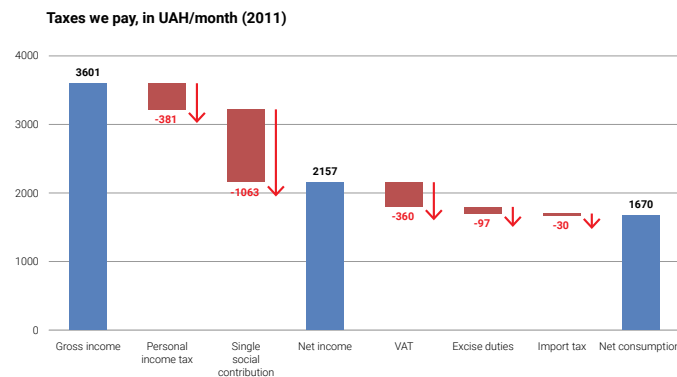
- gasoline 0 liters
- cigarettes 0 packs
- liquor 0 0.5 l bottles
- wine 0 0.7 l bottles
- beer 0 0.5 l bottles

Bank deposit 0 UAH

Interest on deposit 0 % p.a.

Report on How Much Does the State Cost, or What Am I Paying Taxes For?

The report published by CASE Ukraine in March 2013 marked the beginning of the Price of the State Project. It was widely distributed among the public and laid the groundwork for a future public awareness project that has continued ever since.



First attempt of showing the process of employee's income taxation.

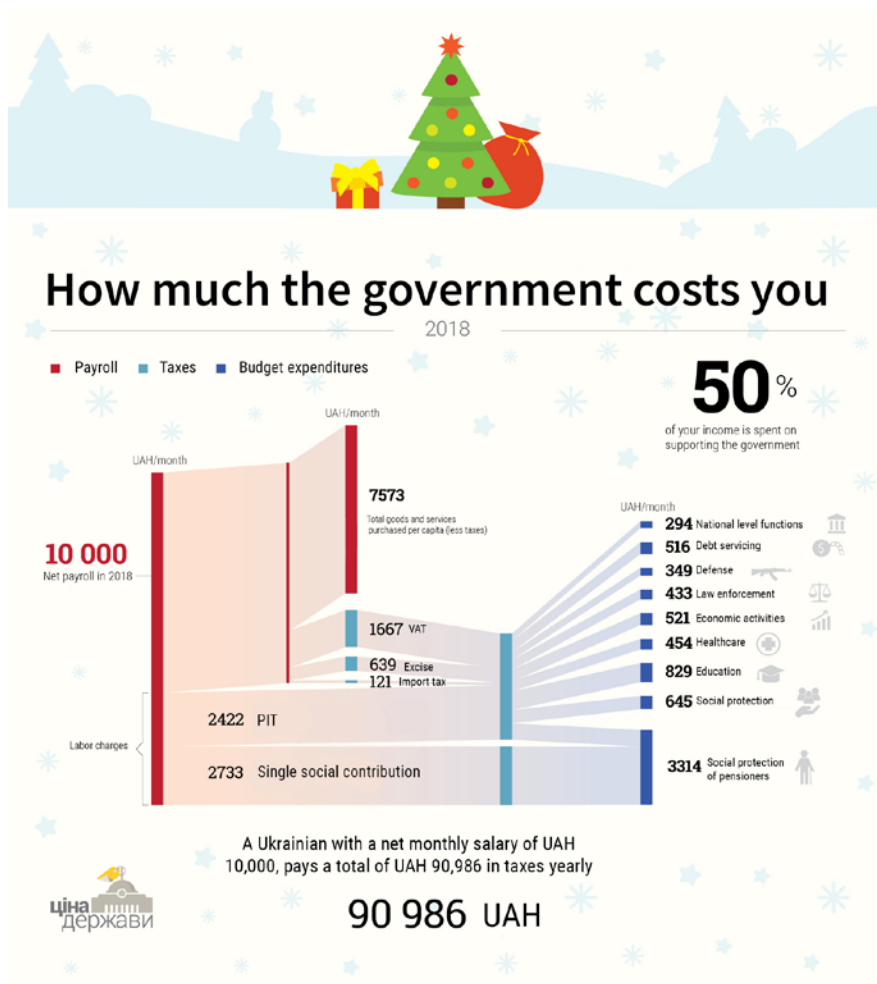
Key points in the Report:

- It is a rank-and-file Ukrainian, not industrial tycoons, oligarchs or someone else, who supports the huge governmental machinery, finances public procurement and foots bills of social obligations.
- The amount an average Ukrainian pays monthly to support the government is equivalent to wages they actually receive.
- Enterprises that are big taxpayers and are said to be the key earners for the budget are in reality withholding agents.
- An individual could, theoretically, use the amount they paid to the government to find decent alternatives to "free-of-charge" public education or healthcare.

Receipt from the State

Showing the Cost of “Free” Public Services

Every year we draw attention to changes in the budget and present it in an accessible format to demonstrate where taxpayer money come from and what it is spent on.



Promoting Receipt from the State far Beyond Facebook



Vitaliy Shabunin (ACC) and Mykola Malukha (CASE Ukraine) demonstrate the amount of taxes paid by the residents of a city in one day.



A retiree from Rivne burst into tears on camera after being told she was paying more than UAH 4,000 in taxes a year. Like most people, she thought pensioners don't pay any taxes.

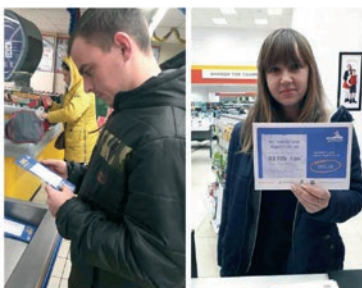


The Receipt from the State promo campaign earned the Piranha of the Year Prize at the Civil Society Organizational Development Forum.

Receipt from the State

Ukraine's Top Enterprises Join Public Awareness Campaign

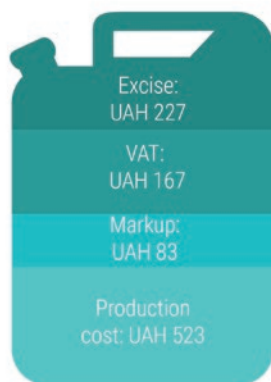
Our public awareness campaign has been supported by the four big retail chains: the ATB supermarket chain, OKKO gas stations, the Foxtrot consumer products chain, and Ukrposhta, the state postal service. Thanks to their involvement, more than 4.5 million Ukrainians now know how much they contribute to the delivery of public services.



A customer at ATB and one at Foxtrot obtain flyers with the Receipt from the State logo.



Post cards ready for sorting at Ukrposhta—just one half of the run!



How much does a full tank cost to you?

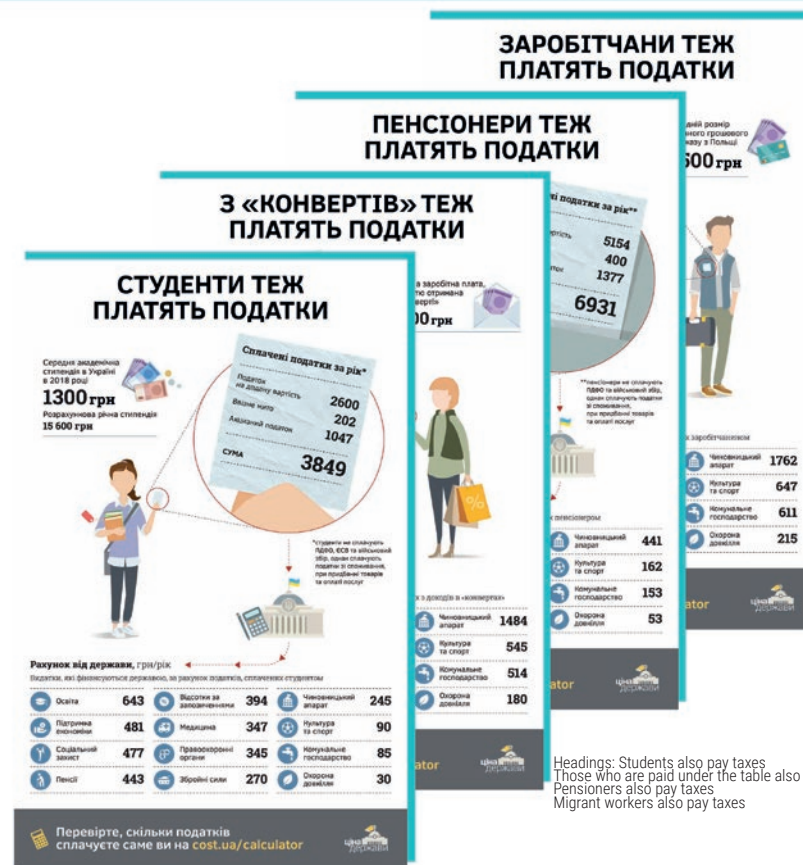
A95 1000 UAH

A fuel tax calculator designed jointly with the OKKO gas station chain

Taxes Are Not as Visible as Might Seem

When talking to people on the streets, we would often discover a lack of understanding that even those who receive wages “under the table” pay taxes—and this means that every conscious citizen has to be interested in how government officials spend their money.

We prepared an infographic series to debunk the widespread myth that taxes are only paid by those with officially declared incomes.



Headings: Students also pay taxes
Those who are paid under the table also pay taxes
Migrant workers also pay taxes

Receipt from the State

How Much Is a Vote?

Based on the Receipt from the State, we came to the conclusion that the price tag on a vote is about UAH 300,000. Every Ukrainian who votes needs to understand what a suitcase of cash they are about to entrust to their preferred candidate. Let everyone know the real price on their vote so that they never trade it for trifles and empty promises.



**Over the next five years,
you will pay**

**300,000*
in taxes**

Choose whom you will entrust with your money!

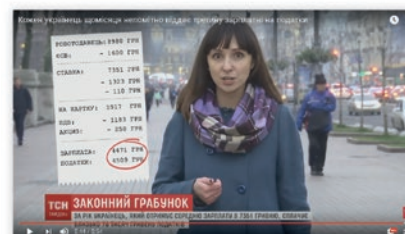
*The tax amount payable in five years by a Ukrainian earning the average salary

Check how much you actually pay in taxes at: cost.ua/calculator

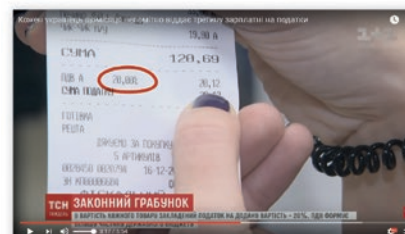
Ціна Грошей Держави

Receipt from the State on 1+1

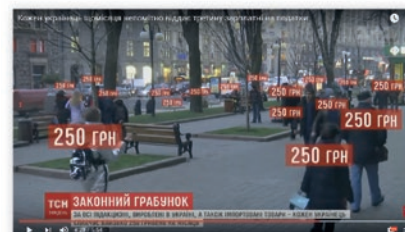
The Receipt from the State and a talk with CASE Ukraine Director Dmytro Boyarchuk inspired the production team of TSN, one of the most popular end-of-week programs on the 1+1 TV channel, to do a piece to show the considerable amounts consumers may not be aware they are paying in taxes. Presenter Iryna Prokofieva encouraged viewers to take note of the amounts paid and be more scrupulous about how officials spend these money.



However much you get it will always be only a half of what you might have in mind. The rest is collected by the State.



The VAT takes 20% out of each purchase you make, which means, you will be giving the government one loaf of bread, egg or sausage in every five you buy.



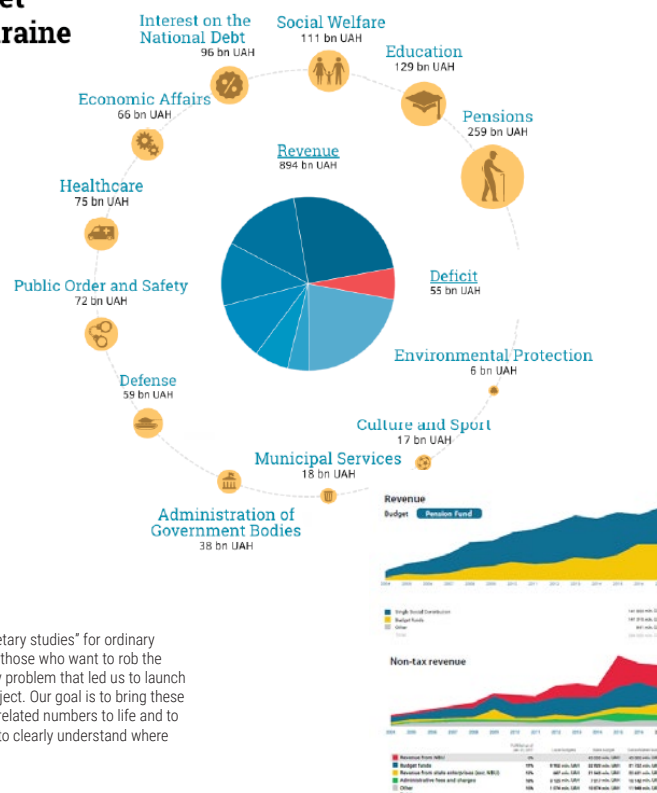
Add excise duty to the VAT. If it's split among all Ukrainians, it adds up to UAH 250/month.

Budget Analysis

We track important changes in the budget

CASE publishes a quarterly report about how state and local budgets are being implemented and about key events in the budget sphere

Budget of Ukraine



Why do we do this?

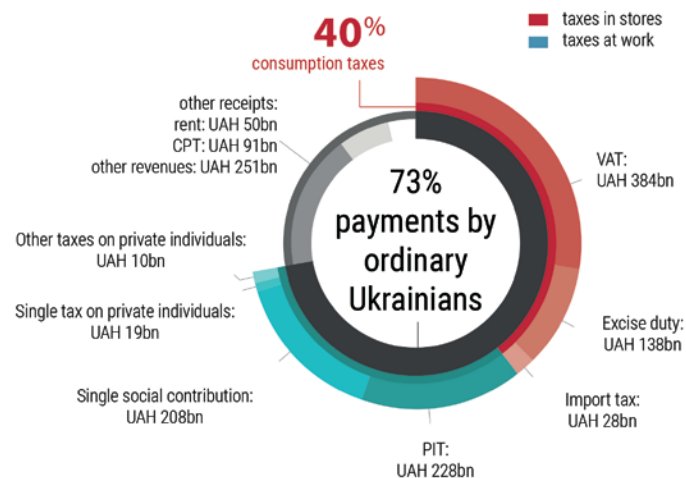
The complexity of "budgetary studies" for ordinary people is very helpful for those who want to rob the public purse. It's this very problem that led us to launch the Price of the State project. Our goal is to bring these boring and seemingly unrelated numbers to life and to offer everyone a chance to clearly understand where their taxes are going.

It Is Not Oligarchs or the IMF Who Fill Ukraine's Budget

Taxes collected from ordinary Ukrainians—not just the ones on the employed (SSC, PIT) but also on consumption (VAT, excise duty, customs duties)—make up for nearly 75% of consolidated budget receipts.

Taxes paid by ordinary Ukrainians make up 73% of budget receipts

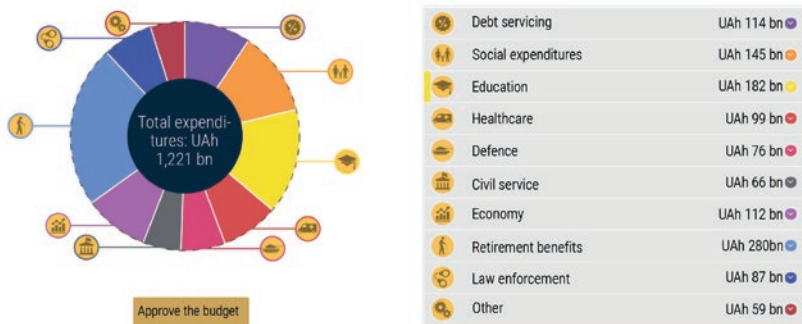
Extended budget revenues, UAH 1,408bn



Budget Analysis

National Budget Simulator

One of the misconceptions about public funds has been that these are limitless, and so the need to increase appropriations for a particular line item should not be too complicated a task. This online application allows Ukrainians without previous knowledge to assess the capacities of their government's budget and verify how realistic political promises are.



You can use the budget simulator, for example, to calculate that a motion to increase median retirement benefit amount to UAH 3,000 will cost the budget UAH 150bn more annually.



Interactive ATC Budget

We developed this online app to allow residents of an amalgamated territorial community to scrutinize the community budget in understandable terms, oversee cost-effectiveness and suggest new projects to enhance community well-being.



Customs

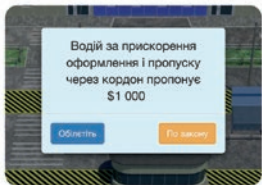
A Metre of Border Game Explains Why There Are No Reforms at Customs

'Why would you even design a game to show how to steal at Customs? Do you really want customs officers to know how to steal more!?' Nope. We want them to steal less; this is why we exposes their schemes. We are confident the least-known scheme earns the most so the more people understand it, the less money it will earn.



This is your work place

The corruption machine is on and it's hungry! The big red button opens the boom. To get a certain deal, press the button. Minibuses, long-haul trucks, buses and passenger cars all live on the Border planet.



Red or blue pill? Time to choose

You will be getting juicy offers that you can accept (Okay button) or decline to follow the letter of the law (The law rules! button). Click on Okay to start rolling in dough!



Keep the stash!

This is what you've earned sweating night and day. However, to keep your place, you will have to use your earnings wisely. It's all up to you to decide what to do with the money: whether it will make you a shift superintendent or the boss of all of Customs. It can also break you, though



Presentation of A Meter of Border Game Became Art Event in Kyiv

The Wild Theater Company launched a production based on the Contraband Pulp Fiction story to tell about the most widespread corrupt schemes at Customs. The audience featured some close friends and venerable invitees from the Finance Ministry. The Security Bureau of Ukraine (SBU) was, as always, represented by an unremarkable plainclothes snoop.



Customs

The Smuggling Pulp Fiction

We are confident the more people know how a criminal scheme works, the less profitable it becomes, until it eventually dies away. To see this happen, we decided to talk smuggling in the format of a picture story.

Regulars, ants or jackets



A truck of merchandise is unloaded on Polish territory and teams are formed with several 'ants' in each. Every 'ant' grabs merchandise worth no more than €500 and weighing no more than 50 kg and crosses on foot.

Broken links



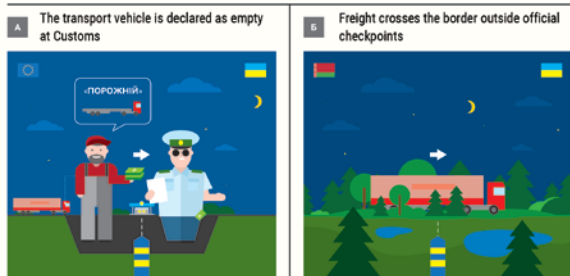
Goods imported into Ukraine are exported 'on paper.' In reality, they are unloaded and left on Ukrainian territory and no duty is paid.

Re-packaging



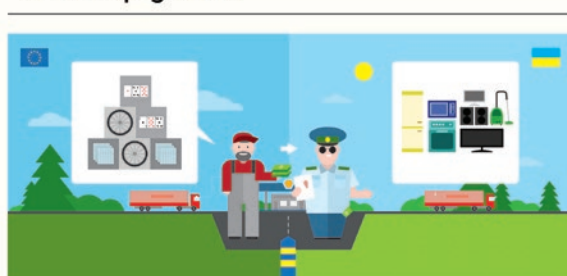
During the declaration of goods, names are changed within one commodity group: for instance, a container of footwear (T2-16 1) is declared as footwear, outsoles and insoles. It's not always easy to see which is which when it's dark, but this saves between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per shipment.

Black contraband



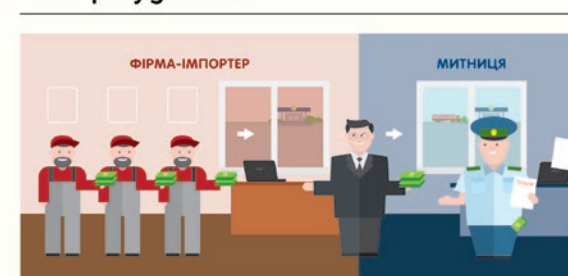
Goods are not officially imported into Ukraine at all and there is no paper trail.

Cover-up goods



More expensive goods are imported as cheaper stuff. Names are fully replaced, with highly marketable goods, like clothing, marked as cards, ceramic tiles and so on.

The playground



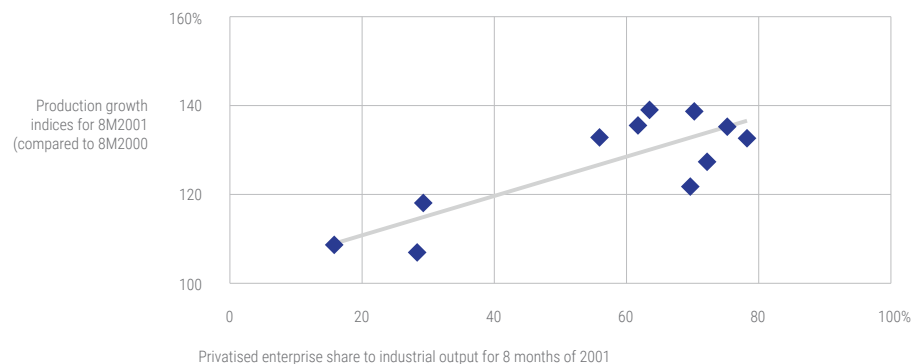
An importing company with links to Customs management is set up to "help" clear highly marketable goods on 'special terms'. Called 'playgrounds' (fashion firms' earlier, they are used to pass high volumes of merchandise imported by 'rank-and-file' importers.

Privatization

Over 2000-2007, CASE Ukraine carried out a series of studies commissioned by the State Property Fund

The economic downturn that lasted until the late 1990s contributed to a myth about the negative role played by privatization in Ukraine's economy. CASE Ukraine's studies demonstrated the beneficial effect of privatized enterprises on the country's economy, advocated further privatization, and suggested changes to national policies in this domain.

Dependence of production indices on privatization depth, by activity type



We keep pushing state enterprises to report their expenditures

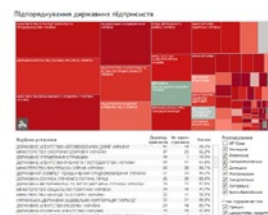
Of all entities that are funded by the government, state enterprises are the most resistant to the Law "On transparency in the use of public funds."

Go ahead—steal for 8 more years!

The publication of all state enterprise financials could be delayed until as late as 2024



IN JULY 2016,
OUR CAMPAIGN
FOR DONATIONS
TO SUPPORT THIS
WORK GARNERED
OVER UAH 120,000
FROM 174
BENEFACTORS.



The Price of the State site includes a section with an entire database of state enterprises in Ukraine. Information about the pace of registration of companies on the public funds usage portal is updated every month.

We joined forces with the Eidos Center for Political Studies and Analysis and the Hromadianske Suspilstvo Online NGO to speed up amendments to the Law "On transparency in the use of public funds."

Our Index is used by the Human Rights Ombudsman, whose duties include overseeing that the transparency law is upheld. Initially, violators are sent an explanation and a grace period to amend their actions.

Pension reform

We dispel hope for a comfortable old age

Our pension calculator makes it possible to calculate what kind of pension you can expect if the formula for determining it remains the same. This calculator has many features, but one way or another, it's pointless to rely on the state and people need to work on their own savings.

Pension calculator

My actual net salary (UAH/mo)

7500

☐ ordinary pension
☐ military
☐ judge
☒ civil servant
☐ journalist
☐ academic
☐ deputy
☐ entrepreneur
☐ miner

☒ male ☐ female

I retire officially at

61

Your pension will be: 6 521, 74

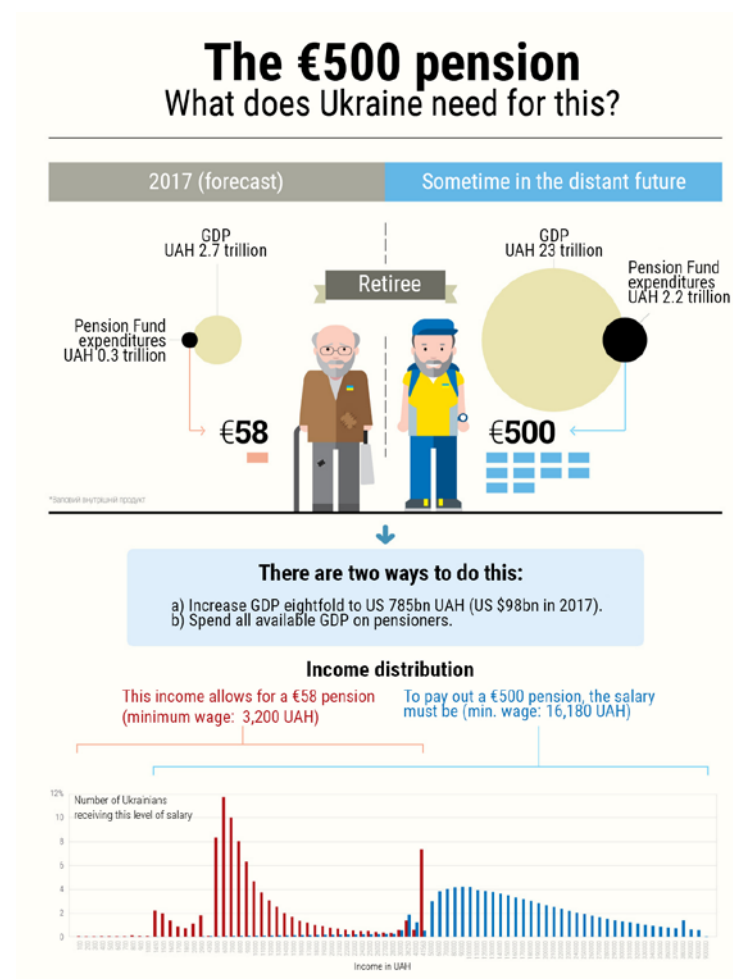
DID YOU KNOW THAT SUPPORTING THE PENSION SYSTEM IS THE SINGLE LARGEST EXPENDITURE IN THE STATE BUDGET?

If the pension system can't provide a decent level of income in my old age and I'm going to have to save on my own, why waste money to support the Pension Fund?

A CURIOUS READER

When Will Pension Benefits Reach EUR500?

According to our estimates, for the average retirement benefit to make €500 Ukraine would've set its minimum wage at UAH 16,810.00. However, a government decree won't be enough for this as only beneficial business environment can make it happen.



Reforming the Welfare System

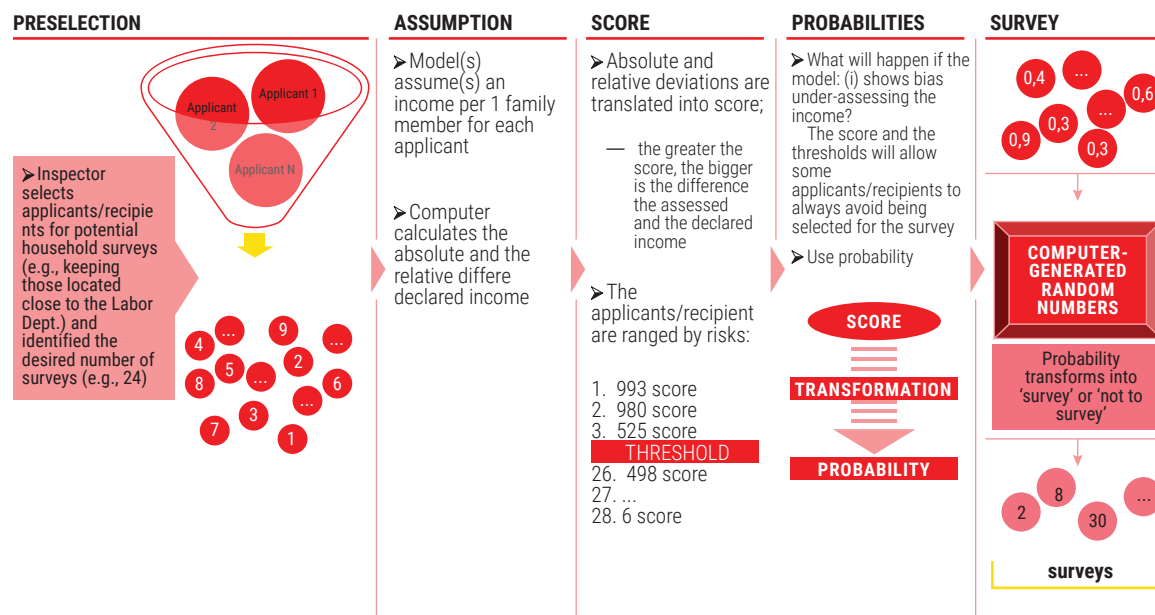
Benefits for the Impoverished

Over 2008–2010, CASE Ukraine implemented a range of projects commissioned by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

The projects aimed at:

- Improving the welfare system,
- Monetizing social benefits,
- Avoiding fraud during social benefit assessment, and designing measures to identify fraudulent applicants,
- Improving the applicant income assessment routine to include revenues from cash-in-hand jobs, homesteading and assets,
- Requiring recipients of unemployment benefits to return to the labor market.

Household survey applicant selection process



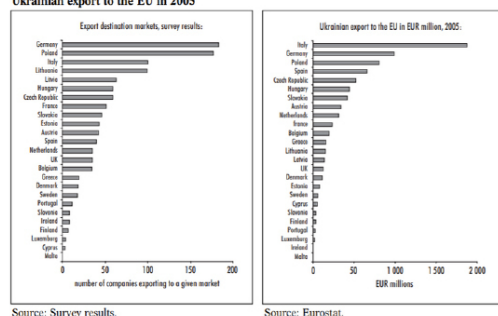
Foreign Trade

EU-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement

Negotiations to establish a free-trade area (FTA) in the framework of the Enhanced Cooperation Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union began in 2007. At that time, CASE Ukraine carried out a series of studies that were used by the two countries during negotiations:

- ECORYS Netherlands BV and CASE Ukraine won a EC's call for proposals for a survey of the options for enhanced trade relations between Ukraine and the EU.
- CASE Ukraine and CASE (Poland) researched non-tariff barriers to trade for Ukrainian exporters to EU markets.
- Mid-term policy options beyond the standard FTA, among them the agreement on a deep FTA agreement and broader access for Ukrainian manufacturers to the EU's internal market.

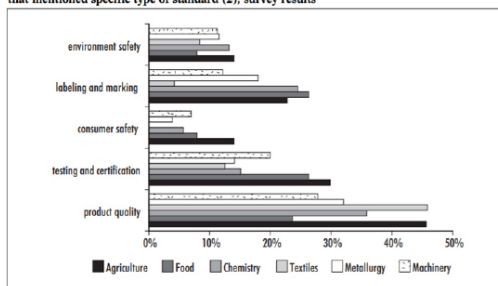
Figure 3. Export destination markets of surveyed companies vs. geographical breakdown of Ukrainian export to the EU in 2005



Source: Survey results.

Source: Eurostat.

Figure 17. Types of technical standard which impede exports to the EU market, % of companies that mentioned specific type of standard (2), survey results



Source: Survey results, own calculations.

Barriers to Importing Used Cars

Ukrainians Win from Abolition of Import Restrictions on Used Cars

1. Additional funds will be received by the budget

UAH **1*** billion/year

the state budget through the complete removal of the excise tax due to the reduction of prices for cars and increased demand

VAT and duty revenues will almost double, which will bring extra UAH **11.4 billion** to the state treasury (measured in prices of 2020), while the removal of the excise duty will result in a loss of UAH **10.3 billion**

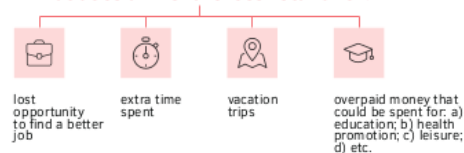
2. The restrictions on the import of used cars negatively affects the welfare of Ukrainians

USD **40** billion*

total welfare losses of Ukrainians since 1998 because of the introduction of protectionist restrictions on the import of used cars

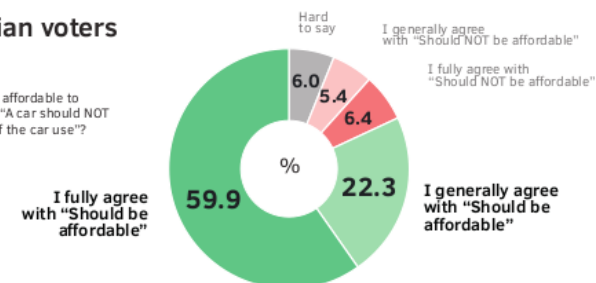
* calculations made by CASE Ukraine Centre for Socio-Economic Research

What does a "welfare loss" stand for?



3. More than 82 % of Ukrainian voters are for an affordable car

which statement do you agree with most: "A car should be affordable to every family so that everyone can take advantage of it" or "A car should NOT be affordable to every family to limit the negative effects of the car use?"

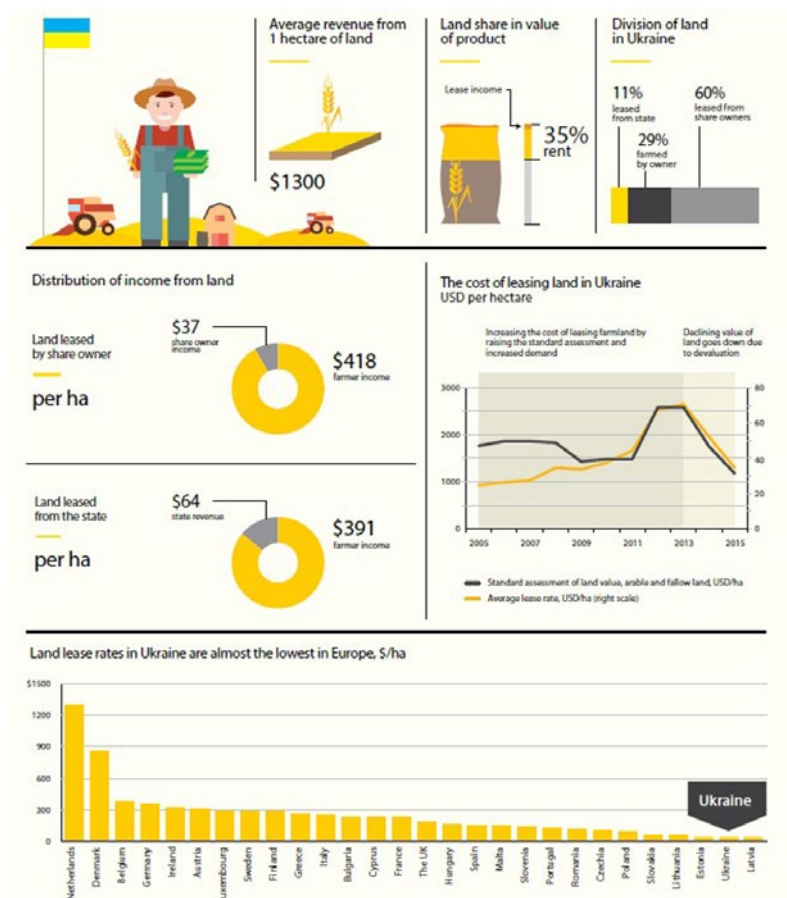


The survey was conducted by Kyiv International Institute of Sociology in May 2020 at the request of CASE Ukraine NGO. 2,000 telephone interviews were conducted with adult residents of Ukraine, except for Crimea and individual districts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Sampling error does not exceed 2.4 %

Land reform

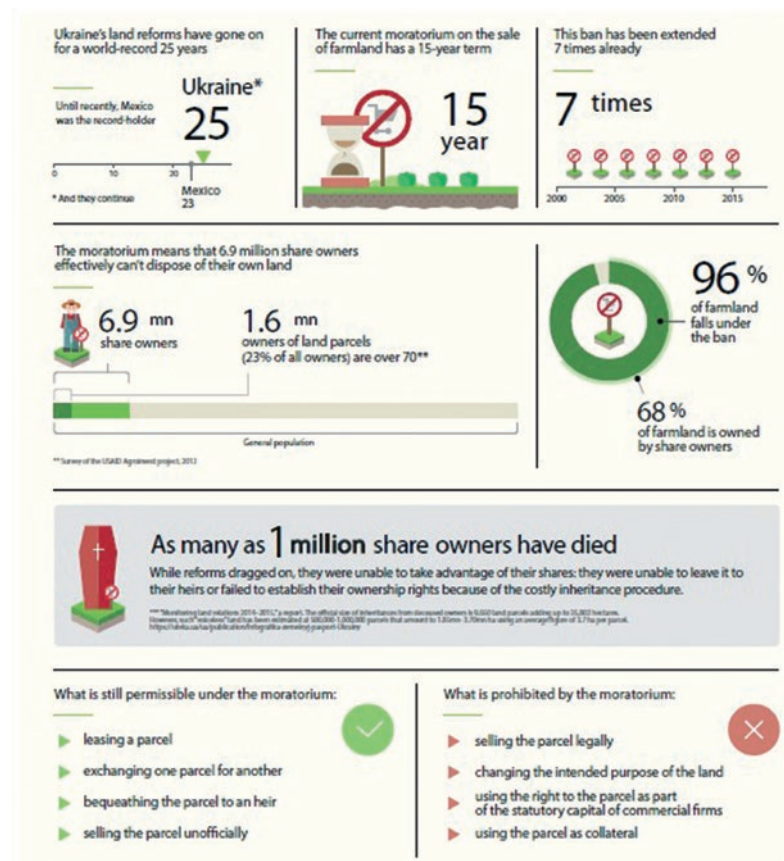
We explain why the moratorium on the sale of farmland is bad

Being able to sell land is not only good for those who sell it, but also for those who hang on to it. In order to take advantage of the opportunity this offers, the market for agricultural land must be opened up and access to capital for growers and breeders improved.



CASE disseminates the sad facts about the moratorium

The current moratorium on the sale of farmland is for 15 years. It effectively paralyzes the market for 96% of Ukraine's farmland. 68% of this land is owned by one-time collective farm members who have shares and who suffer the most from not being able to benefit properly from their ownership. In the meantime, a grey land market has been operating quite profitably: the "chosen" are free to buy and sell it.



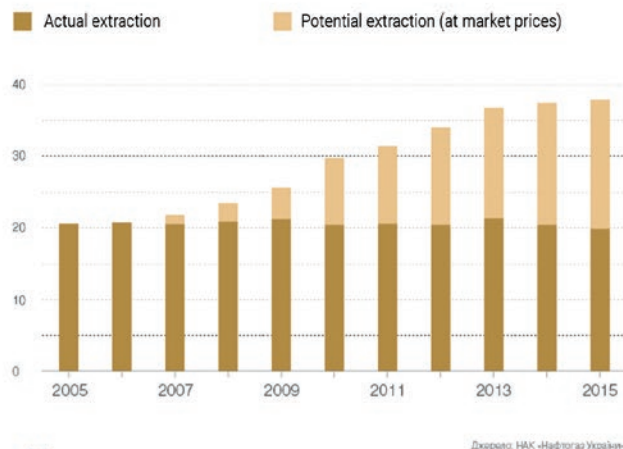
Energy Sector

We demonstrate the cost of populist policies

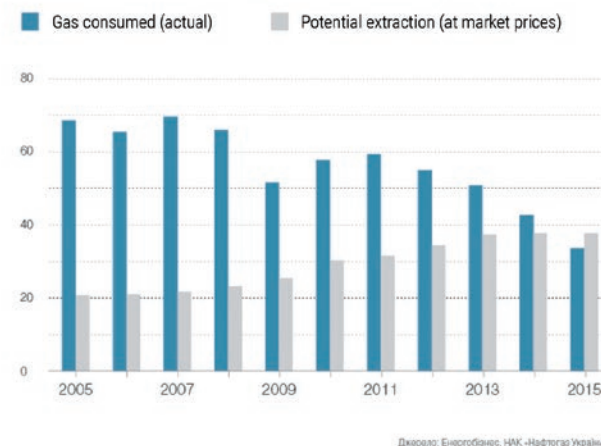
What would happen if natural gas were always sold at a market price? The hryvnia would be 25% stronger!

Importing natural gas involves huge costs in hard currency and puts enormous pressure on the hryvnia. Between 2006 and 2015, Ukraine spent US \$87.9bn on imported gas. What would happen with external accounts and the hryvnia exchange rate if market prices for natural gas had been instituted back in 2004?

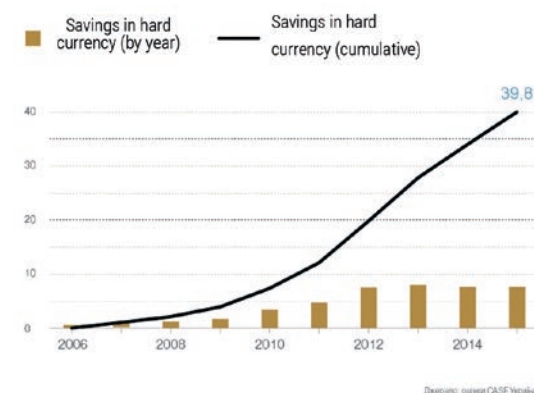
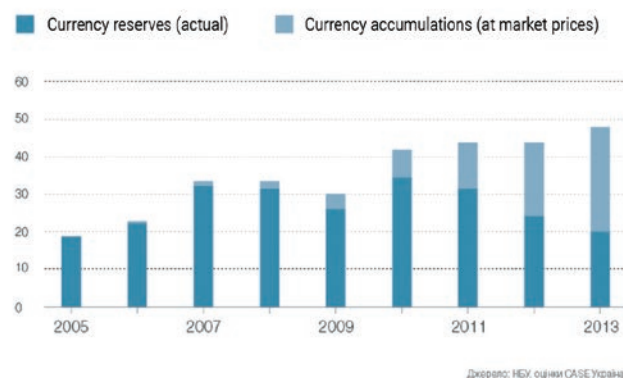
1 Growth in domestic gas extraction



2 Reduced gas consumption



3 Significant hard currency savings



THIS POST HAS BEEN SEEN BY MORE THAN 143,000 FACEBOOK USERS.

Energy Sector

We fight for reasonable electricity rates


State capture is when the authority of government agencies is illegally used for private gain. One such example is the work of the National Regulatory Commission for Electricity and Residential Services (NRC ERS), which sets rates that favor a narrow circle of producers at the expense of all other consumers.

September 29
at 19:00

Meet with
ANDRIY HERUS

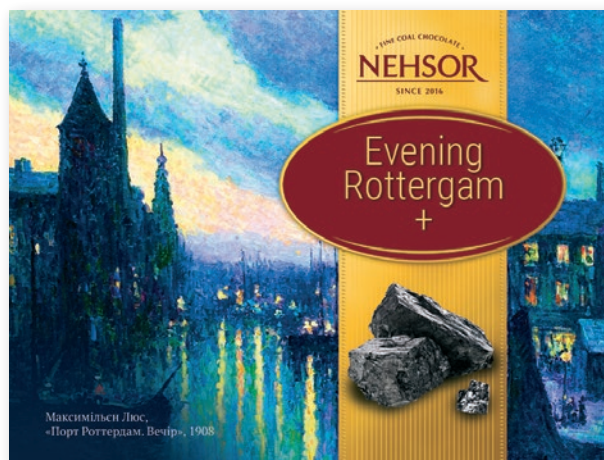
Topic :

“ The schemes that are being used to pump money out of the power industry to businesses”

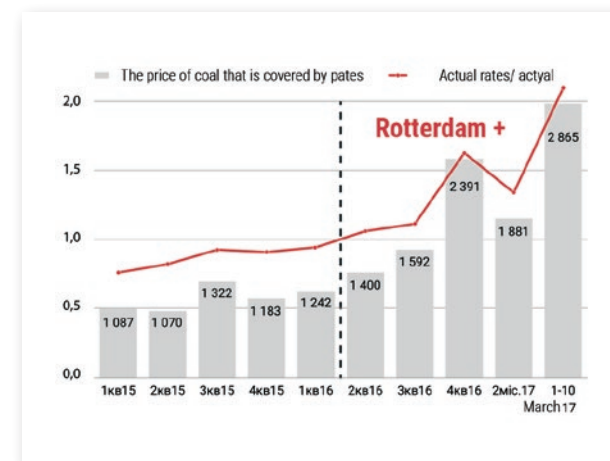


ціна шпигу держави

The Price of the State advocated the reduction of power rates for non-residential customers set on the basis of the Rotterdam+ formula.



After the Rotterdam+ formula was established, shares in DTEK, a power conglomerate owned by Rinat Akhmetov, went up by 40%. The press reported that close friends of President Poroshenko also benefited from this. That's why we made a box of chocolates called “Evening Rotterdam+,” which was distributed among investigative journalists, MPs, anti-corruption professionals and other interested individuals. The image on the box went viral in social media: the Price of the State Facebook page alone was seen by nearly 140,000 individuals.

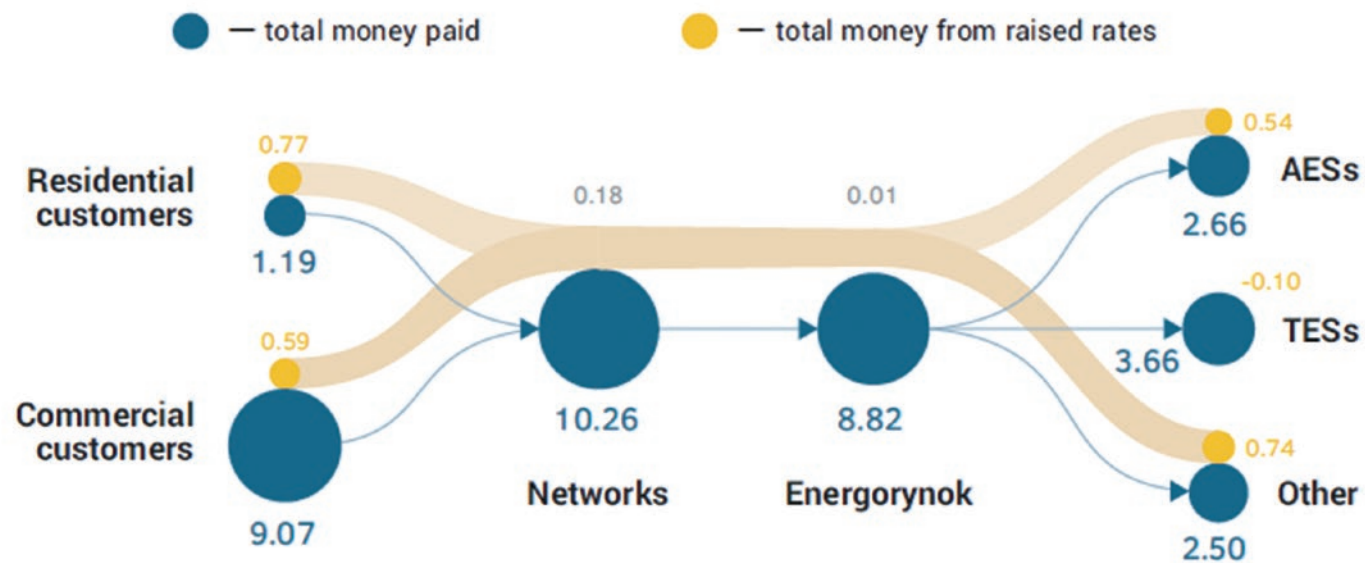


The essence of the Rotterdam+ scheme is that rates for electricity are calculated on the basis that supposedly power plants, 70% of which belong to Akhmetov, buy coal in Rotterdam and ship it to Ukraine at their own cost. In fact, this coal is bought in occupied Donbas and the difference in prices—UAH 10bn—goes into the pockets of the owners.

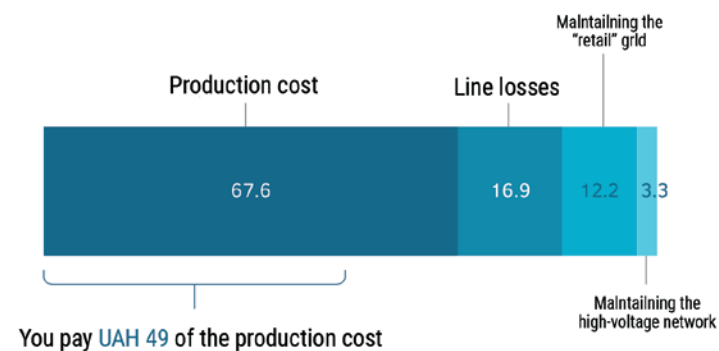
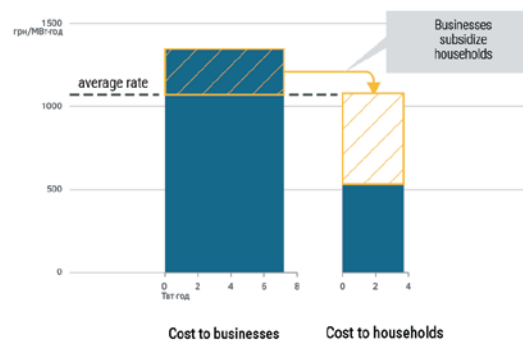
Energy Sector

We explain how bureaucrats profiteer on reforms

Rising electricity rates led to windfall profits in the industry. This income could be spent to modernize networks and equipment, or it can be “spread around.” In 2015, consumers paid UAH 154bn for electricity, which is more than NAK Naftogaz Ukrainy made in that same period! So where does the income from electricity go?



In 2015, Ukraine spent UAH 43.5bn on cross-subsidies, or 50% more than it spent on road repairs. This means that one group of consumers is paying for another. The consequence of such cross-subsidies is distorted incentives and a transfer of the cost of electricity to the cost of goods and services.



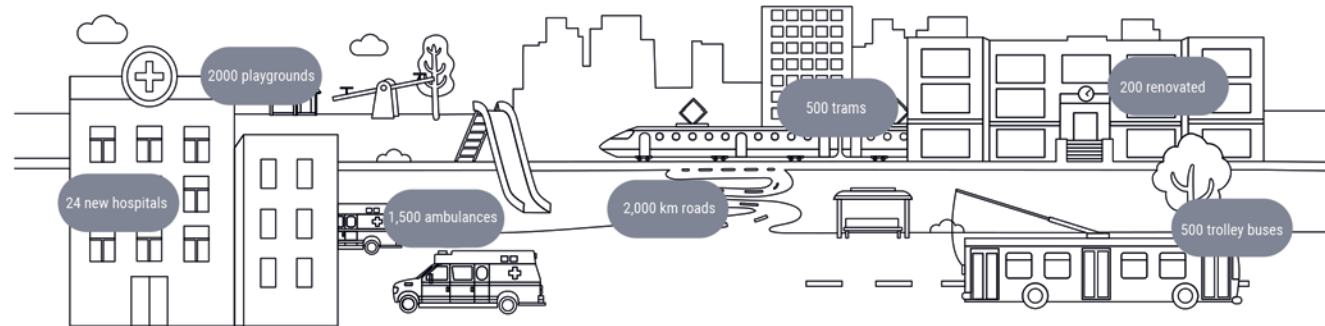
Energy Sector

Why Victory over Gazprom in Stockholm Matters

In February 2018, the Arbitration Court in Stockholm ordered Gazprom to compensate Naftogaz Ukrainy to the tune of US \$4.63bn. We designed a web site with a ticker to show Gazprom's current debt with accruing late payment penalties and a list of facilities and services that could be paid with the growing amount.

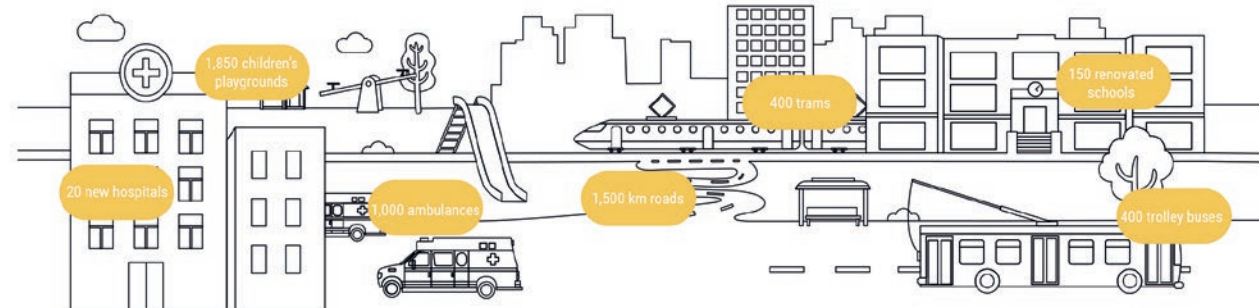
\$ 76,612,860,225

Could be spent on:



Ukraine has already taken from Gazprom
\$58,011,826,661

Enough to provide:

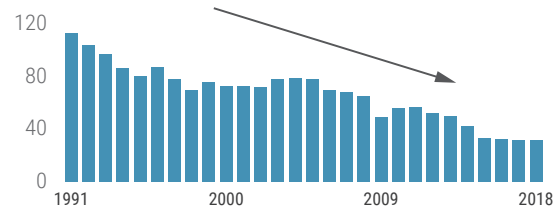


Energy Sector

Explaining How to Reduce Natural Gas Consumption

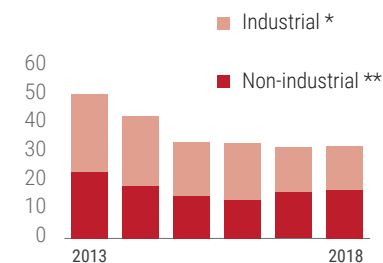
The key potential energy saving measure is about heat accounting (installing heat meters), thermal insulation of buildings, installation of temperature controllers, windows replacement with energy-efficient ones etc.

Total gas consumption, m3 bnn



Source: Enerdata Yearbook, Naftogaz Ukrainy, NJSC, own calculations

Breakdown of natural gas consumption. m3 bn

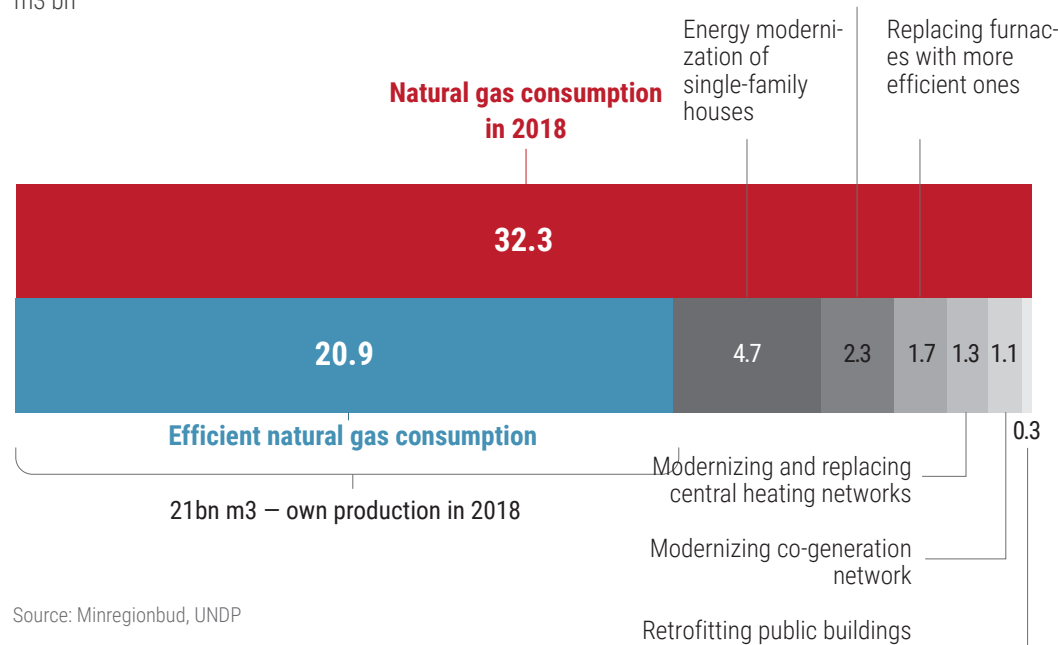


Source: Naftogaz Ukrainy, NJSC»

* – incl. gas transportation costs

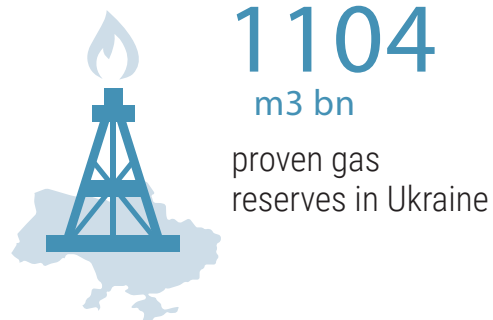
** – incl. public sector entities

Energy-saving potential m3 bn

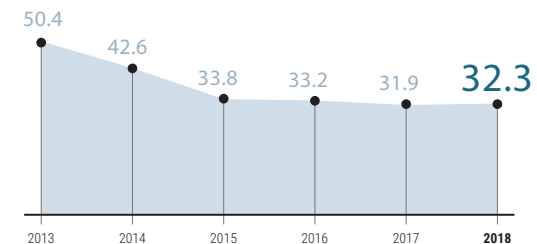


Source: Minregionbud, UNDP

Energy Sector



Gas consumption in Ukraine,
m 3 bn



Source: Naftogaz Ukrainy, NJSC

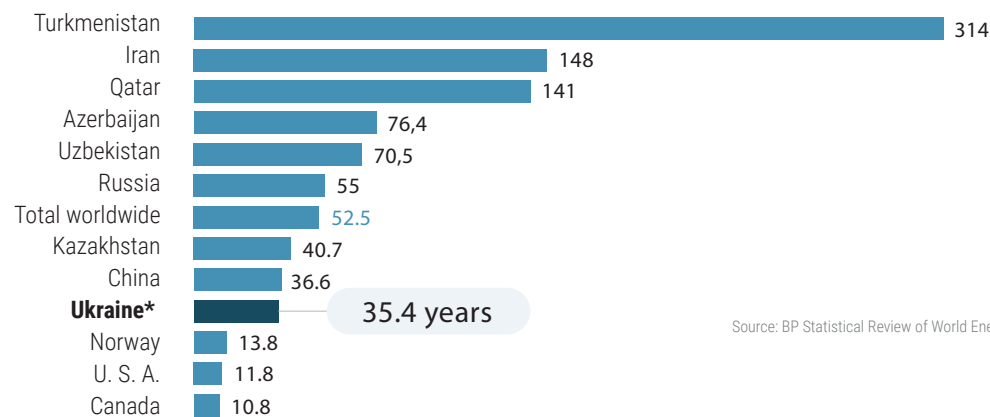
Determining How Long Ukraine's Own Gas Reserves Will Last

Based on current technologies, Ukraine can count on 35 years' worth of fully-fledged gas supply. Professionals and investors say that 35 years is a lot. Moreover, this could all change in 10–15 years with the discovery of new reserves, production and energy-saving methods.

until **2050**

this is how long the known gas reserves will last in Ukraine

How long known gas reserves will last
in gas-producing countries, in years



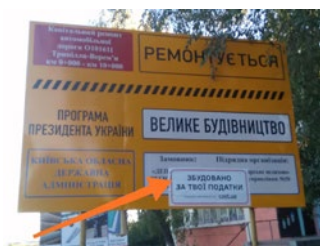
Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2018

* – provided Ukraine boosts production to cover domestic needs

Education

This Was Built with Your Tax Money

We decided to remind Ukrainians of this on the backdrop of pre-election reports that 73% of the national budget come from taxes of lay Ukrainians. No one should ever say things like “built by your MP”, “made by the Mayor” or “great construction initiated by the President.” We produced and distributed sticky notes with reminders about whose money was being used to build this or that infrastructure to be placed on sign boards, information stands and other outdoor advertising.



We Promote Titles by Classical Free Market Authors

In April 2016, the readers of the Price of the State voted for and paid with their own money for the translation of an abridged version of Friedrich Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*.



The “Planners” promise Utopias.
Many are elected to office.



But they can't agree on ONE Utopia



Confidence in “planners” fades.



The strong man is given power



Your profession is “planned”.



Your wages are “planned”

Education

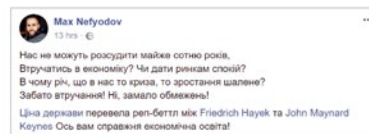
Rap Battle between Keynes and Hayek

Yet another creative attempt to promote various views of the economics. We not only translated but also voiced in Ukrainian the well-known rap battle.



Dmytro Boyarchuk, CASE Ukraine Executive Director, meets students at the Zhytomyr National Technology University with a viewing of the rap video

First Deputy Minister for Economic Development Maksim Nefyodov shares the video with our voice-over in Facebook



Keynes vs. Hayek: Part Two

In 2017, the Price of the State translated and voiced a rap version of the duel between the two renowned economists about the state's role in economics. It clocked more than 100,000 views on the Ukrainian Internet segment. The second part of the video will be translated next year.



Lots of people were involved in the translation. Sometimes one and the same piece would undergo several transformations:

Original	Version 1	Version 2	Final version
Jobs are the means, not the ends in themselves	Робота це засіб, не кінцева мета	Робота – це засіб, не кінцева мета	Робочі місця — не мета, лише засіб
People work to live better, to put food on the shelves	Кожен працює і копію якусь відклада	Людина хоче краще жити в селі та у містах	Мета — це добробут, складання запасів
Real growth means production of what people demand	Зростання це є створення того, на що є попит	Зростання реального сектору — це виробництво якого потребують люди	Центрального планування для цього не треба
That's entrepreneurship not your central plan	Це підприємництво, а твій центральний план – утопія	Це — підприємництво, але в твоєму плані цього не буде	Лише підприємництво надасть по потребах

Education

Educational Videos

Certain things are better explained in pictures rather than in words. So, besides sprawling texts, we also plan to create our own videos. In the meantime, we translate and dub foreign videos on market economics for a Ukrainian audience.



Six stories about economics

Within minutes, viewers see a concise presentation of key economic theories, from the "invisible hand of the market" to the "impossible trinity."



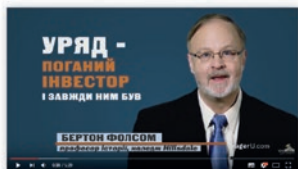
Must the State generate jobs?

While generating jobs is a simple task, things get much harder when you also want to raise the standard of living. Only a market economy with numerous entrepreneurs looking for optimal solutions through trial-and-error is able to do this.



What if there were no prices?

Prices play an extremely important role in society, offering information about which goods and services are in demand and compelling people to spend their most needed resources more economically.



Why does private investment work better than public investment?

Economic growth appears when private entrepreneurs risk their own money, not when politicians risk taxpayers' money.

We Assist Teachers of Economics to Develop Well-Informed Voters

Tenth-graders study economics as part of a Civic Education course. The majority of teachers have no economics background—and this is great! Because Ukrainian courses on market economy are being taught by former Marxists or their best disciples.



Seminars in six cities

Teachers from several oblasts gathered in L'viv, Chernivtsi, Poltava, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, and Kyiv to learn about modern economics teaching methods that the Price of the State Project offers. They joined workgroups to review a video, infographics or interactive presentation, and suggest their own version of how to implement this in school.



The \$1,500 Sandwich video explains the advantages of labor specialization and where wealth comes from.



"What if there were no prices" explains why do government officials lack enough knowledge to manage an economy.

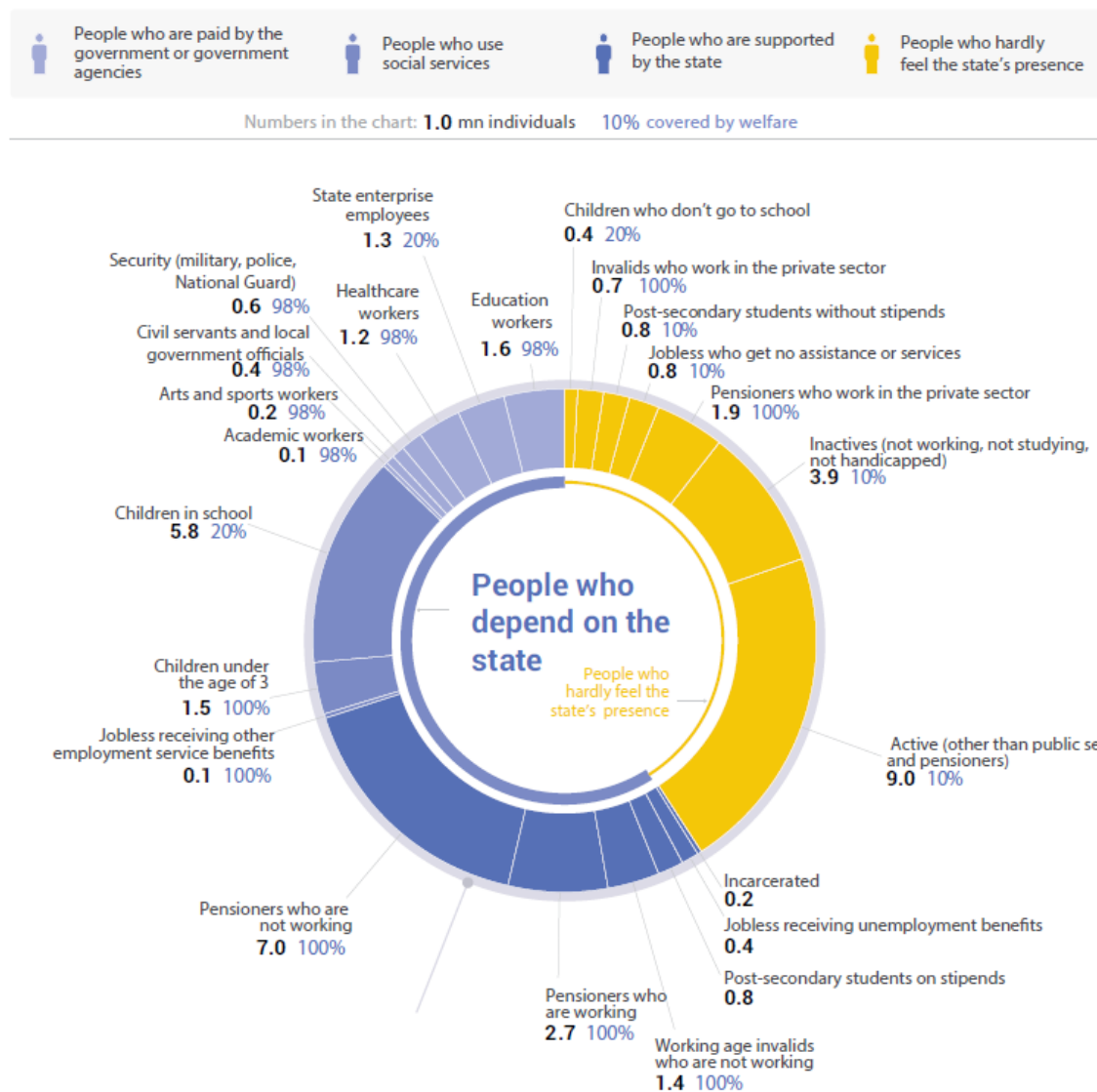


The Keynes-Hayek rap battle acquaints viewers with two outlooks (and hints at which is the wrong one).

Education

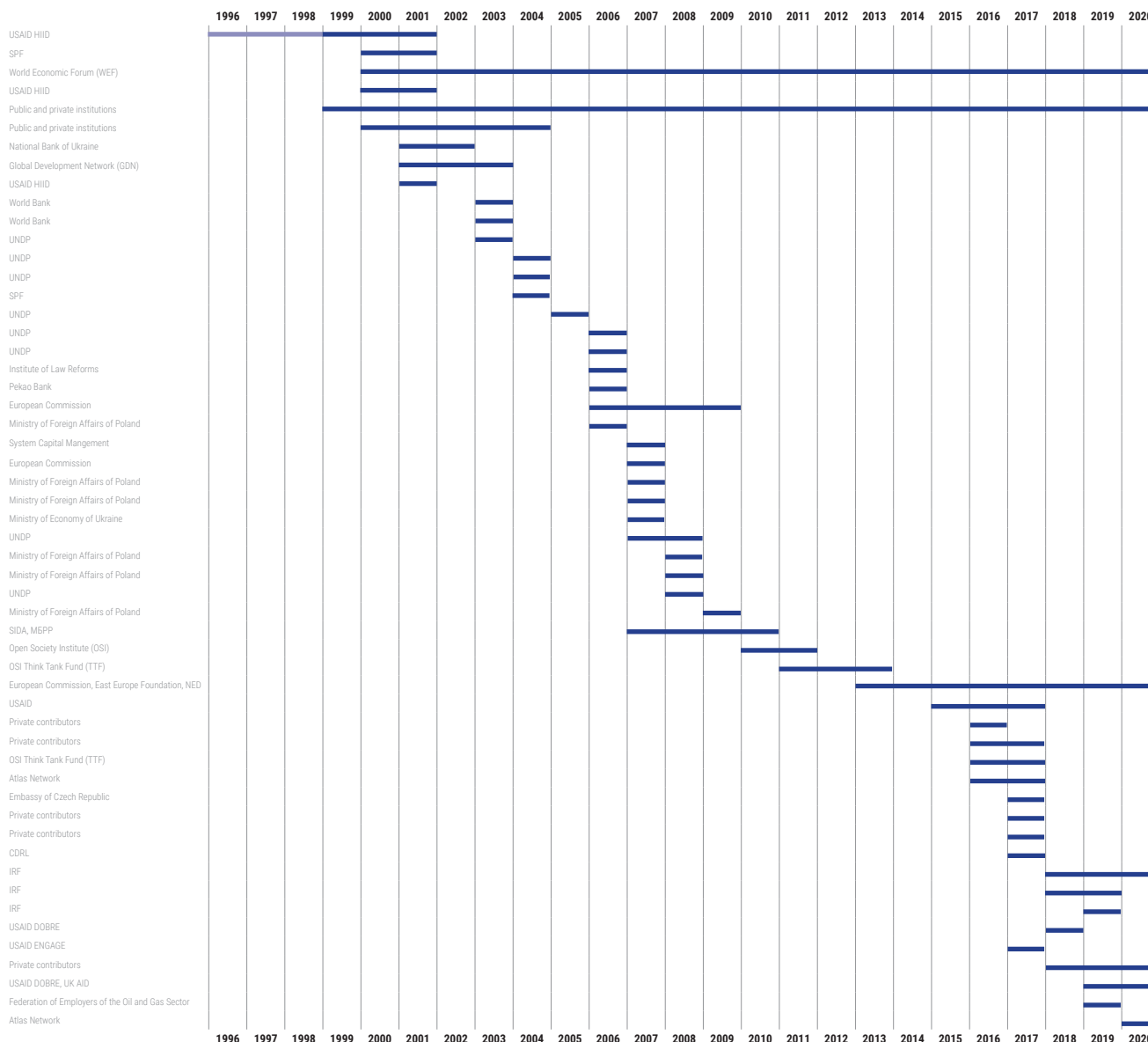
We focus on the excessive size of the government

The volume of taxes depends on the size of the government bureaucracy. In Ukraine, the state has taken on far too many functions and competes for very limited funds. Today, two thirds of the population depends on the government, in one way or another.



Project Map

1. Ukraine Macroeconomic Reform Project
2. Effects of Privatization on Behavior and Performance of Ukrainian Enterprises
3. Global Competitiveness Report
4. Ukrainian household surveys
5. Ukrainian Economic Observer: Trends, Analysis and Forecasts
6. Business Tendency Survey of Service Sector in Ukraine
7. National Bank of Ukraine's Role in the Context of Transition-Related Problems
8. Explaining Growth
9. Economic and Social Development Program
10. The Sources of Economic Growth in Ukraine after the 1998 Currency Crisis
11. Informal Labor Market Analysis
12. Ukraine's Economic Outlook: Tendencies, Analysis, Forecast
13. Regional Human Development Report for CIS region
14. Survey of Opportunities and Constraints for Entrepreneur/SME Development in Crimea
15. Social and Economic Effects of Privatization in Ukraine
16. Blue Ribbon Commission I
17. Blue Ribbon Commission II
18. Blue Ribbon Commission III
19. Situation in Ukraine's Energy Sector and Potential Ways of Improvement
20. Prospects of EU-Ukraine Economic Relations
21. EU Eastern Neighborhood: Economic Potential and Future Development
22. Overcoming Non-Tariff Barriers for Ukrainian Exports to the EU
23. International Forum Winds of Change: The Impact of Globalization on Europe and Asia
24. Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of the DCFTA between the EU and Ukraine
25. Research of Resource Potential and Production Capacity of Liquid Biofuels
26. Development of the Analytical Basis for Amending the State Privatization Program
27. Assessment of Impact of Government Decisions on Economic Agents and Markets
28. Assessment of Fiscal Stability in Ukraine
29. Preparation of the Strategy for Social Benefits Monetization in Ukraine
30. Development of the Early Warning Indicators of Macroeconomic Crises for Ukraine
31. Policy Recommendations on Institutional and Economic Reforms
32. Improving Social Assistance Mechanisms of the Country with High Shadow Economy
33. Ukrainian Social Assistance Reform Project (pilot projects in Oblasts)
34. The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Public Service Delivery in the Former USSR
35. Popular Economics: Monitoring Reform
36. Price of the State
37. Leadership in Economic Governance (USAID LEV)
38. Compelling Public Enterprises to Cost Transparency
39. Protection of Interests of Private Electricity Consumers
40. Institutional Support
41. Stock-taking of Economic Freedoms
42. Development of a Simulator of the National Budget of Ukraine
43. Reverse Mortgage
44. Property Tax Impact on Dwelling Choice
45. Judge Remuneration Reform
46. Institutional Support
47. 6 Years After Revolution of Dignity: What Has Changed?
48. Preparation of Strategy of Innovative Development of Ukraine
49. Developing an Amalgamated Territorial Community Budget Simulator
50. Clarification of the Costs of Public Services to Voters
51. Comparative Analysis of Tax Avoidance
52. Distribution of Interactive Community Budgets
53. Information Support of Energy Sector Reform
54. Protectionism and European License Plates



List of Publications

1. Dubrovskiy V., Ivashchenko O., Babanin O. Ukraine: A Lost Decade... and A Boom to Come? CASE Ukraine, 2002.
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