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THE RAZUMKOV CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT A COURT?

The inability of the Constitutional Court to choose the new Chairman of the CCU in a closed meeting held recently is just the outside sign of existing problems accumulated inside and around this important state institution.

Before the introduction of amendments to the Constitution on 2 June 2016, the legal constitutional doctrine was based on the perception of the Constitutional Court as the constitutional proceedings body. Jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court was to ensure – as its main task – the constitutional control over compliance with the Constitution by the government (the ruling political elite). For some time, this was the case. However, gradually, the Constitutional Court gained an unofficial status of a political body with political expediency as the basis of its activity. A kind of climax of its scandalous rulings in 2007-2010, was the anti-constitutional ruling on 30.09.2010, which befouled the constitutional order. The reinstatement of the 1996 Constitution

did not bring any drastic alterations to the nature of Constitutional Court's activity. Starting from the second half of 2014, its judges finally recomposed themselves and continued their activity, which is hardly any different from their previous work aimed at fulfilling government's requests.

Razumkov Centre Scientific Consultant on Legal Issues, Viktor MUSIIAKA, tells about the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court, its status, influence of

Constitutional Amendments and the so far draft law "On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine".

Full [text](#)

*Razumkov Centre Scientific
Consultant on Legal Issues
Viktor MUSIIAKA*



DUE TO RECENT EVENTS, UKRAINIANS HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THEIR SEPARATENESS

Considering the fact that we are in a state of armed conflict, which has already caused huge losses – territorial and economic, the attitude to Russian citizens, has greatly changed. This is confirmed by the results of our sociological research. 80% of citizens in total define relations between Russia and Ukraine as bad or hostile. Another indicator – most people do not see any prospects for improvement of these relations either in short-term or midterm perspective, even in 50 years' perspective. There is a popular opinion among citizens that in the nearest future the relations will either remain unchanged or will deteriorate – this is over 70% of the population. Those who are optimistic – name the timeframe of 5–10 years. At the moment, we can say that there are no prospects for restoring the former attitude of Ukrainian citizens to Russia.



There are also myths – a thing that is extremely hard to destroy. Talking, for instance, about the myth of "one people", over 60% of Ukrainians believe that Ukrainians and Russians – are different people. However, a quarter of the population says that it is one people.

As for the "fraternal people", over a half of our citizens believe that Ukrainians and Russians are fraternal people. Although, compared to 2016, this number has dropped: it used to be 62%. But the question is, what do people mean by these concepts? It is one thing to be talking about common historical heritage, originating from the same Slavic roots, and quite the other – about the nature of relations. It is hard to define the ratio of argumentation in these 50%.

But it is clear, that Ukrainians have become greatly aware of their separateness as a result of recent years' events. At least because over 60% support the opinion that the Ukrainian state has its own history that is not linked to any other country's history. This is an indicator of the fact that Ukrainians perceive themselves as a separate, a different nation. Changes have started in 2014. And we are documenting them now, in the recent years.

Full [text](#)

*Deputy Director General for Analytics,
Director of Political
and Legal Programmes
Yurii YAKYMENKO*



SUPPLY ISSUE. DOES UKRAINE NEED NEW POLITICAL PARTIES AND LEADERS?

Our society has rather low level of trust in politicians and political parties. Surveys of public opinion and presidential rankings of Ukrainian politicians demonstrate that Ukrainians need new leaders.

According to our latest polls, the answer of most Ukrainians to the question of whether Ukraine needs new faces, new parties and new leaders is “yes, it does”. This gives us reason to say that there is a demand for new faces in Ukrainian politics. This demand is also confirmed by the low level of trust and low rankings of politicians currently expected to become presidential candidates – as even the highest number is just about 10%.

Despite the presence of the demand, there is no supply. Looking at our research, over 50% of citizens did not choose any of the proposed candidates: the votes went to the “other politicians” category (10%), “would not take part in the elections” (20%), “hard to say” (19%). I.e., half of respondents do not know, who they will vote for, or do not see the point of voting in this situation.

Where could the new faces come from? First of all, they should be coming from the same political class, i.e. the political elite, MPs, Government members, who are at the top of our political system. Also, possibly, from the leaders of parties outside the

parliament, yet famous, recognisable, and leading public activity.

However, our society, despite the demand for new politicians, has rather serious mistrust for politics as the area of activity, for people that work there and political institutes, in particular, political parties. This general mistrust is in the way of emerging of new leaders.

Besides, media also play their role in this situation. How should people find out about new politicians, if the media keep talking about the former ones. The primary source of political news and information for the majority of population are the leading TV channels of the country. Politicians seen on screen will be considered as candidates in the elections. If there are no new people on screen, it is very hard for them to reach the society through other channels of communication.

In this situation, there is, firstly, lack of supply, secondly, overall lack of trust in politicians, and thirdly, the closed nature of communication channels, – and, thus, we keep “sorting through” the same people over and over.

[Full text](#)

Deputy Director General for Analytics, Director of Political and Legal Programmes Yurii YAKYMENKO

ON THE DROP OF PRESIDENTIAL RANKINGS

Three years ago Petro Poroshenko took the post of the President of Ukraine. In the elections, he won the trust of almost 55% of voters, and by the end of May 2017, his credibility rating dropped to 22%.

The main reason for the drop in credibility of all presidents is their inability or lack of desire to solve the issues that concern regular people. People care about specific results, not political decisions, not the fact of adopting reformatory laws and issuing reformatory orders, but their practical application to each citizen. And this is the area, where our government is always struggling.

Also, there are other independent factors that influence presidential rankings. These are: GDP per capita, corruption level, average salary, prices. And as we can see, since 2008 all of these indicators have

been deteriorating in Ukraine. Thus, people’s personal opinions coincided with independent indicators.

At the same time, the discontent with the government is covert, not least because of the conflict in the East of Ukraine. War is one of the factors that hold back the intensification of protesting in society. People realise that Russia will use any mass protests to its advantage. That is, the existence of an external enemy promotes confidence in the government and holds back the protests.

[Full text](#)

*Director of the Sociological Service
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POLITICAL REFORM THE ITALIAN WAY: REFERENDUM ON 4 DECEMBER 2016 AND ITS BACKSTORY

Since the end of the cold war, one of the largest countries of the European Union – Italy – is being regularly shaken by the multidirectional actions to reform the basic institutional structure of the political system. First of all, this includes changes to the electoral law – at times, directly opposed, as well as attempts to implement a constitutional reform in the



part of the balance between the powers of the two parliamentary chambers, which have been in process for the past years.

The Italian political reform is interesting not only because it lasts for almost a quarter of a century, but also because prior to that, from the moment of abolishing the monarchy in 1946 and throughout the post-war period, neither the Italian constitution, nor the electoral system have had any major changes.

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*Lead Expert of Political and
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National Security and Defence

SITUATION ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN TRUMP AND PUTIN

Currently, the possibility of making the so-called “grand bargain” between the USA and Russia is close to zero.

The dominating factor influencing the atmosphere of the future meeting of the two presidents will be the consensus of the two parties in the U.S. Senate and the Congress on the inadmissibility of the “grand bargain” with Putin. In the beginning, the topic of illegal annexation of Crimea and resolving the conflict in the East of Ukraine were to become the main bargaining chip in exchange for lifting the sanctions.

However, in the past three months, a lot has changed in Washington D.C. There was yet another wave of scandalous exposures of presidential candidate Trump's

headquarters ties to Russia. There is clear evidence that the resigned advisor of Donald Trump, Michael Flynn, despite the written ban, was taking money from Russian private or state structures.

The US President, regardless of his personal traits and powers, does not have full discretion, and cannot do everything as he sees fit, without regard to American voters' opinion, politicians and the overall state “machine”.

One of the techniques that the Russian President can use at these negotiations is “selling fear” (escalation and intimidation). But, as we can see, with Trump this does not work the same way, as it used to with Barack Obama. I think that major escalation of conflict in the East of Ukraine triggered by Russia can drive the White House to make a decision to expand sanctions up to providing lethal defensive weapons to Ukraine. Given the likelihood of this scenario, it is hardly beneficial for Putin to escalate the conflict now. However, the analysis of Putin's decisions, starting from the annexation of Crimea, suggests that they do not always follow the reasonable logic.

Full [text](#)



*Co-director of Foreign Policy and
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Oleksii MELNYK*

USA CANCELS MILITARY AID. WHAT SHOULD UKRAINE DO?

Let us begin by saying that the decision to cancel US gratis military aid supplies to Ukraine and switch to loans is not final yet. This is the President's proposal, which is yet to be approved by the Congress. So it is premature to talk about this as an accomplished fact.

This military aid is provided in the framework of the US Department of State programme, which has two parts: economic and military aid. It should be noted, that on no occasion the allocated sums in the budget were exactly as per Department of State's request. So all the talks about the reduction of financial aid this year are disconnected with reality.

The previously announced amount of aid was \$175 mln for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. In 2016-2017, Ukraine received \$150 mln. When we received this \$150 mln, originally, it has been proposed to allocate \$350 mln. So no budget proposal is fulfilled 100%. This year, I believe, \$500 mln was requested, and 175 was allocated.

Trump's proposal on switching from aid to loans concerns several countries, including Ukraine. Key US partners remain “on the budget needle”. While seven other countries are to switch to loans as proposed by Trump. What does this mean for the global and regional situation? First of all, it will alienate allies from the United States.

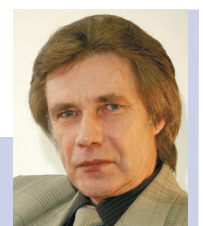
Many American politicians and representatives of the establishment will be unhappy with this decision. Firstly, this is deviation from earlier promises. Secondly, this in no way solves the problem of Ukraine's crisis stemming from Russia's open and insolent offensive against international law.

For the US, this change to loans would be beneficial, as instead of giving presents, they get orders with guaranteed loans. Roughly speaking, this is circular flow of money inside the US. This issue shows us Trump's core not as a politician, but as a manager and economist.

These loans will clearly be less advantageous than financial aid, but we have no choice. This assistance is being used to provide our armed forces with modern weapons. If Ukraine had enough money, it would be able to order weapons from its own Ukroboronprom (Ukrainian defence industry enterprises union). And thus ensure closed loop production of the necessary arms. We still have no tanks, as there is no money to purchase them. High-precision weapons are just being tested, but not supplied to the troops. Because there is no money to purchase them.

In addition, talks about US cancelling its military aid are already playing into Russia's hands. There have already been articles in the Nezavisimaya Gazeta and Voyennyi Kurier newspapers. The story that the US is betraying us is already being disseminated, and the pressure will only increase. We need to be ready for this.

Full [text](#)



*Director of Military Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre
Mykola SUNHUROVSKYI*

WHY RESERVE OFFICERS ARE BEING CALLED UP

Defence Minister Stepan Poltorak signed a decree on calling up the Officer's Reserve Corps for military service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The start date is in the next few weeks.

This problem came up as the result of significant understaffing of specifically this category of the armed forces. According to different data, the figure reaches 40%. Knowing the state of the armed forces before the

reforms, before 2010, this number was sometimes up to 50%. After 2010, the situation got even worse.

In order to resolve the issue in the best way, it must be addressed with a comprehensive approach. The thing is that with these drafts, we are taking people not from a random place, but from the only available source – Ukraine's labour market. It is necessary to create competitive conditions of military service both, in

terms of wages and the overall social security package. Then people would want to join in. Also, certain conditions must be created inside the armed forces themselves. The way they are currently trying to solve the housing issue – is also a half-baked solution, because increased opportunities to purchase an apartment is not everything an officer needs. During service, he has to be provided with service housing and logistical support 100%. A military man who serves in the armed forces and is engaged in combat training, and now – in combat operations, should not be thinking at all, how to

provide for his family, where to house them, and to which school his children go. This all has to be taken care of by the logistics support service. All healthy armies in the world work like this. There has to be a comprehensive approach, instead of attempts to plug the hole with one drafting and forget about it. This will not work, it will only cause deeper problems. Drafting people to the army, we also need to change the preparation system.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Military Programmes of the Razumkov Centre
Mykola SUNHUROVSKYI*

Economy

ACCORDING TO TRUMPONOMICS LAWS: WHAT SHOULD THE WORLD EXPECT FROM AMERICA

Among the factors of global influence, perhaps the most important role belongs to the new US economic policy. It is aimed at support and development of the national economy through increasing fiscal stimulus, as well as continued increase of the interest rate by the central bank (Federal Reserve).

Along with this, China is increasingly assuming the role of the global leader in world trade. However, so far, the Chinese economy is not stable and institutionally strong, it still falls into the emerging category, with restrictions on the free movement of capital, and so on.

So currently, the global economy is to a certain extent at the institutional crossroads (the US is reducing

its activity, China has not yet become an absolute leader), without clear coordinated signals regarding its development. In such conditions, the risks of further imbalances and uncertainties are exacerbated, which will negatively affect the development of the global economy as a whole.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes
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Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*



ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING GENERAL INCOME DECLARATION FOR CITIZENS

The Government approached the decision to oblige all citizens without exception to report on their property and income. Already by the end of this year, the Cabinet of Ministers will draft a law on the introduction of general declaration of income by citizens. This is documented in the priority action plan of the Government, approved by the resolution.

This may be aimed at increasing the overall taxpayers' discipline and at regulating the system of expenditures, in particular, related to benefits and subsidies.

It is considered appropriate for people to honestly pay taxes from all of their income. This is what provides the inflow of resources into state budget, which allows the country to have money for basic needs and develop. In theory. And in reality, we need to consider our circumstances. First of all, we need to wait for the declaration system for high-ranking officials to work properly: without technical

failures at the time of submitting declarations, so that everyone is finally thoroughly checked. And only after this, can we talk about moving to the next stage. In any case, it will not be an easy one.

In many civilised countries, in particular, in Europe and the USA, people do submit documents that certify their tax capacity once a year. There, these systems were introduced a long time ago. Besides, in the West it is not just the citizens who report on their income, the government at different levels also reports – on their expenditures. So, on the one hand, the government controls that citizens pay their taxes honestly, and on the other, – citizens control that the government uses this money properly.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of the Razumkov Centre
Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*

UKRAINIAN PRODUCERS ARE GRADUALLY SHIFTING TO NEW MARKETS

Ukrainian economy is gradually recovering from the crisis. Exports of goods and services grew in the 1st quarter of this year 34% compared to the 1st quarter of 2016, as reported by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, as well as the State Statistics Service. The main change is not just that our producers are shifting to new markets, they are also changing their range of products: the first place is firmly held by the agricultural sector, and not the heavy industry, as before, and the share of services exports is also growing. More than a third, or 36.4% of our supplies, are now directed to the EU, about 16% – to Asian countries and only 14% – to Russia (here, the drop almost doubled in a year).

But it is too early to talk either about steady progress, or about the shifting of Ukrainian enterprises and business and conquering the European market. We need to understand that everything is happening against the background of a major decline of Ukraine's post-crisis volume of trade. Therefore, the current improvements should be treated with caution. The structure of exports remains low competition, semi-raw-material. The task to export spaghetti instead of wheat or even flour, is not achieved yet. But it is already a positive sign that despite the complications, the reorientation to new markets is still under way.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of the Razumkov Centre
Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*

Energy Sector

DECISION OF STOCKHOLM ARBITRATION IS UNEQUIVOCALLY POSITIVE FOR UKRAINE

The recent decision of Stockholm arbitration court is unequivocally positive for Ukraine, despite all Gazprom's statements. The crucial thing there is the elimination of the take or pay principle, as well as the issue of the re-export of Russian gas. It may be said that this lifted enormous financial risks not just from Naftogaz, but on the whole from Ukraine as a state. This is an extremely positive signal for investors. This decision opens up the possibility of reforming Naftogaz in terms of separating gas transportation from production and supply. In case of successful separation, Ukraine can increase the attractiveness of its GTS, which will lessen the attractiveness of the bypass project "Nord Stream-2" for European companies. This is an indirect, yet very important consequence of the court's decision. The decision on the transit contract is expected at the end of June.

The decision on price disputes, i.e. which price of Russian gas for Ukraine can be considered a European market price, is not expected till the end of June. The same situation is with the decision on the sum that Gazprom is to pay to Ukraine as compensation for gas supplies at an overvalued price. But even if the decision on returning the overpayment for gas is made, this does not mean that Gazprom will return this money. As we observed in the Yukos case, Russia has always been reluctant to abide by international decisions.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Energy Programmes of the
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Volodymyr OMELCHENKO*



ON ABANDONING ANTHRACITE AND RAISING TARIFFS

Coal reserves at Ukrainian TPPs amount to 425 thousand tonnes, which is not that much. However, the situation is not critical, as lately the use of anthracite coal has dropped from 20-25 thousand tonnes/day to 3-4 thousand tonnes. Such radical reduction shows that Ukraine will be able to gradually, if things are good – within two years, abandon the use of anthracite. In the first place, at the expense of gas coal mining and modernisation of thermal generation.

However, so far, we still have to import certain amounts of anthracite coal, in order to avoid depending on Russia. Mining company DTEK has already signed the first contract for purchasing coal from the Republic of South Africa. In Centrenergo the tender has failed so far. But overcoming the dependence on anthracite is the only way leading to Ukraine's independence in this sector.

In this context, the issue of rising energy tariffs will exacerbate. Currently, prices on the wholesale market cannot be raised any higher: our country has some of the highest coal prices in Europe. We are talking more about pricing policy deformation. The price of electricity for the population is much lower than for the industry. I.e., there is cross-subsidisation of the population by the industry. This is not very healthy, because raising the price of the product reduces its competitiveness. The deformation will be attempted to be dealt with by lowering prices for industry and increasing – for the population.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Energy Programmes of the Razumkov Centre
Volodymyr OMELCHENKO*

Foreign Policy

RUSSIA'S SCENARIOS FOR DONBAS: FROM ORDLO TAKEOVER TACTIC TO REFERENDUM

The negotiations on Donbas in the Normandy format, even with the arrival of Macron, are on pause. Meanwhile, Russia is using this to increase its presence in the East of Ukraine. There is an ongoing powerful latent integration of ORDLO territories into Russia. Just in the last quarter of the past year, there were over 60 visits of Russians to ORDLO with "cultural-humanitarian" missions (concerts, cultural activists' speeches). In the first quarter of 2017, this number already doubled. At the same time, there is a number of processes clearly indicating that the absorbing tendency will persist.

Along with this, one of the key aspects is that Russia's geopolitical expectations are being crushed.

Hopes vested in Trump and the "grand bargain" with him, as well as in the victory of Marine Le Pen in France have already failed. Obviously, Russia will have to adjust its policy in regard to ORDLO. While in the beginning, they were planning to "shove" these territories back into

Ukraine with a special status, currently the situation is changing. Kremlin realises that it has failed to re-integrate ORDLO into Ukraine. Willing or not, they will have to go on with latent "creeping" integration.

Ukraine can now find itself at the crossroads of several possible scenarios of further developments.

One of them – Trans-Dniester pattern: Donbas will remain in the state of smouldering, partly "frozen" conflict which could potentially escalate. Second option – Ossetia-Abkhazia pattern, with recognition of these territories as independent states.

[Full text](#)

*Co-director of Foreign Policy and
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Mykhailo PASHKOV*



ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT RATIFICATION: EUROPEAN REFORMS WITHOUT A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

The Netherlands became the last EU member state to sign the Association Agreement with Ukraine. There are formal procedures left: signing of the document by the king and sending of ratification instruments to

Brussels. After the final entry into force of the Association Agreement, both parties will be subject to provisions previously not applied within the framework of temporary application mechanism, and include EU-Ukraine

cooperation in the following areas: foreign and security policy, peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, disarmament, fight against terrorism, as well as migration, asylum and border management, treatment and mobility of workers, and joint action against organised crime and corruption.

So, May 2017 became a fateful month in the history of Ukraine's European integration. In spite of numerous obstacles, Ukraine was eventually granted a visa-free regime, and the Netherlands completed the ratification of the Association Agreement. For its part, the European Union has demonstrated practical support of Ukraine's European integration course. After all, the EU could not have done otherwise, because it was the non-signing of this Agreement three and a half years ago, that caused Euromaidan, which with the deaths of over 100 Ukrainian patriots led to the change of power in the country. In

its turn, Kyiv has to demonstrate determination in the implementation of European reforms and the intention to modernise the country in accordance with the recently approved Association Agreement, which has undergone many trials on its way. However, this has to be done based solely on Ukraine's national interests. And Ukraine's national interest in Europe and the approved Agreement is precisely the modernisation of the country, increasing its competitiveness in global markets, and the establishment of resilient democratic institutions.

[Full text](#)

*Expert of Foreign Policy Programmes
Viacheslav HOLUB*



G7 SICILY SUMMIT: SOLIDARITY TEST FOR THE WEST

On 26-27 May 2017, the Italian town of Taormina, Sicily, hosted a G7 summit. It became the first event of this type for many world leaders. Based on results of the Sicily meeting, world leaders approved a joint Communiqué. Among other things, it contained a consensus on free trade with Ukraine and the Ukrainian conflict. As stated in the document, parties reaffirm their shared commitment to an open international trading system, resisting trade protectionism, achieving more efficiency in the work of WTO. At the same time they stressed the need to remove trade-distorting practices – including dumping, discriminatory non-tariff barriers, government subsidies for export support.

Parties agreed that a sustainable solution to the crisis in Ukraine can only be reached with the full implementation by all sides of their commitments under the Minsk Agreements. G7 leaders supported the endeavours of the Normandy group and commended the

multifaceted commitment of the OSCE in de-escalation of the crisis. They reiterated their condemnation of the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula, reaffirmed their policy of non-recognition, and full support of Ukraine's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. Global leaders recalled that the duration of sanctions against Russia is clearly linked to complete implementation of its commitments in the Minsk Agreements and respect for Ukraine's sovereignty. They stressed that the sanctions can be rolled back when Russia meets its commitments, or that further restrictive measures can be taken in order to increase costs on Russia should its actions so require. Along with this, G7 leaders noted that despite their differences with Russia, they are willing to engage with Russia to address regional crises.

[Full text](#)

Expert of Foreign Policy Programmes Viacheslav HOLUB

Social Policy

YOUNG PEOPLE TO STAY IN UKRAINE IN CASE OF POSITIVE CHANGES

According to different statistical data, every seventh Ukrainian is working abroad today, i.e. over 7 million of working age people. And in recent years, the age of Ukrainian emigrants has decreased, it is the young people who actively leave the territory of Ukraine.

Young people will remain in Ukraine on one condition: if there are positive changes. Currently, there is no indication of such, so young people will keep moving away from Ukraine. There is an explanation to this – there are no good jobs. This does not mean unemployment, because there are jobs in Ukraine. But a good job is a place with reasonable remuneration, possibility of career growth and development. Today, work is undervalued in Ukraine. And it is mostly qualified labour that is undervalued. Labour that requires education – doctors, teachers, scientists. A young person pursues education in Ukraine, invests time and effort in it, and then cannot find a good job. Social conditions are unacceptable for youth: salaries are small, pension prospects are minimal.

However, the migration of Ukrainian youth abroad can be both, a positive and a negative occurrence. It

is beneficial, only if young people go abroad, get good European education, work and life experience, and then return to Ukraine. Thus, these people bring back the truly necessary European experience and education, which benefits our country. Negative consequences come when our young people do not return. In this way, the educated, mobile and active youth is drained from Ukraine.

To prevent people from leaving abroad, we need to change our country's socio-economic policy: eradicate corruption, change the current economic model from deindustrial to innovative, and establish decent labour remuneration.

[Full text](#)

*Razumkov Centre Scientific Consultant
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Liudmyla SHANHINA*

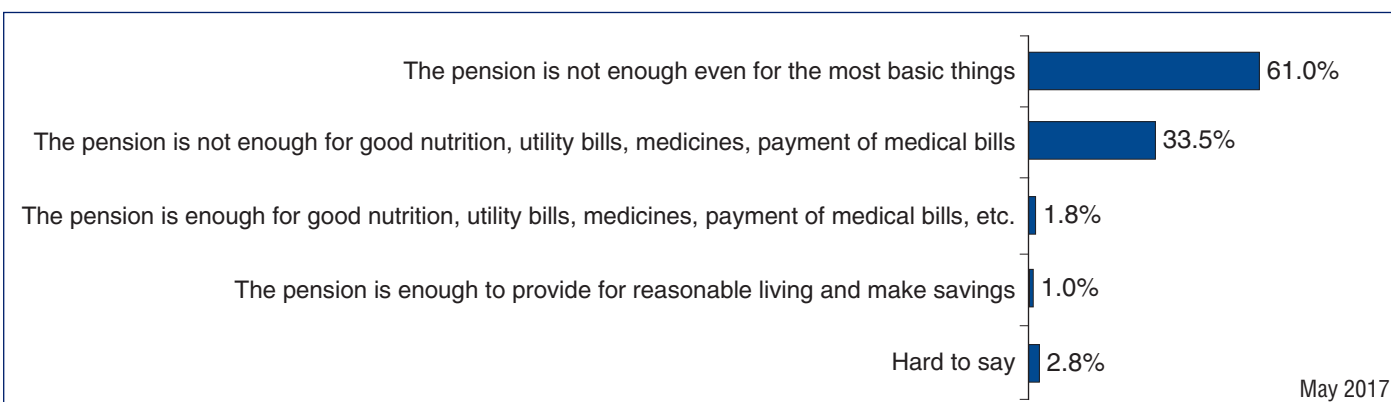


Sociology

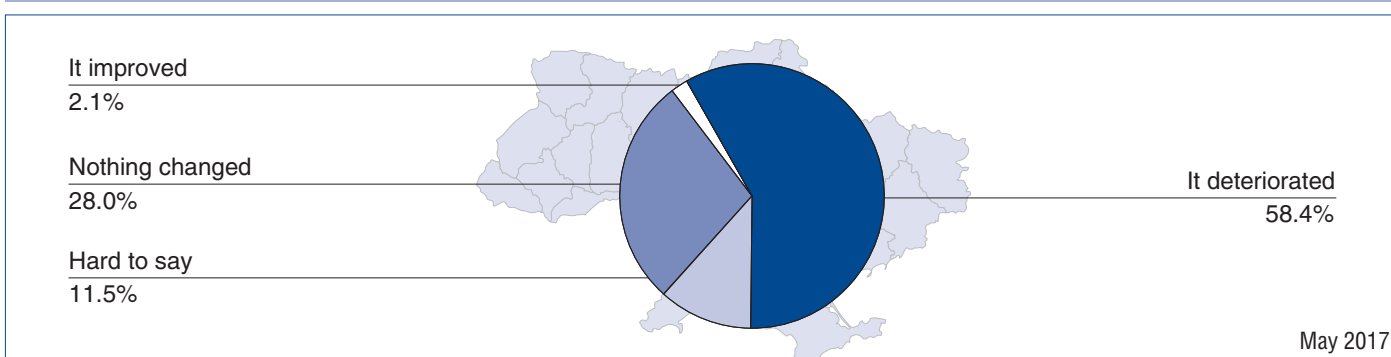
The study was conducted by the sociological service of the Razumkov Centre from 19 to 25 May 2017 in all regions of Ukraine except Crimea and the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, with the sample representative of adult population of Ukraine by main socio-demographic indicators. Number of respondents – 2024, age – from 18 y.o. Theoretical error of each sample does not exceed 2.3%.

For more details on the results of opinion polls conducted by the Razumkov Centre, go to our website at <http://www.razumkov.org.ua>.

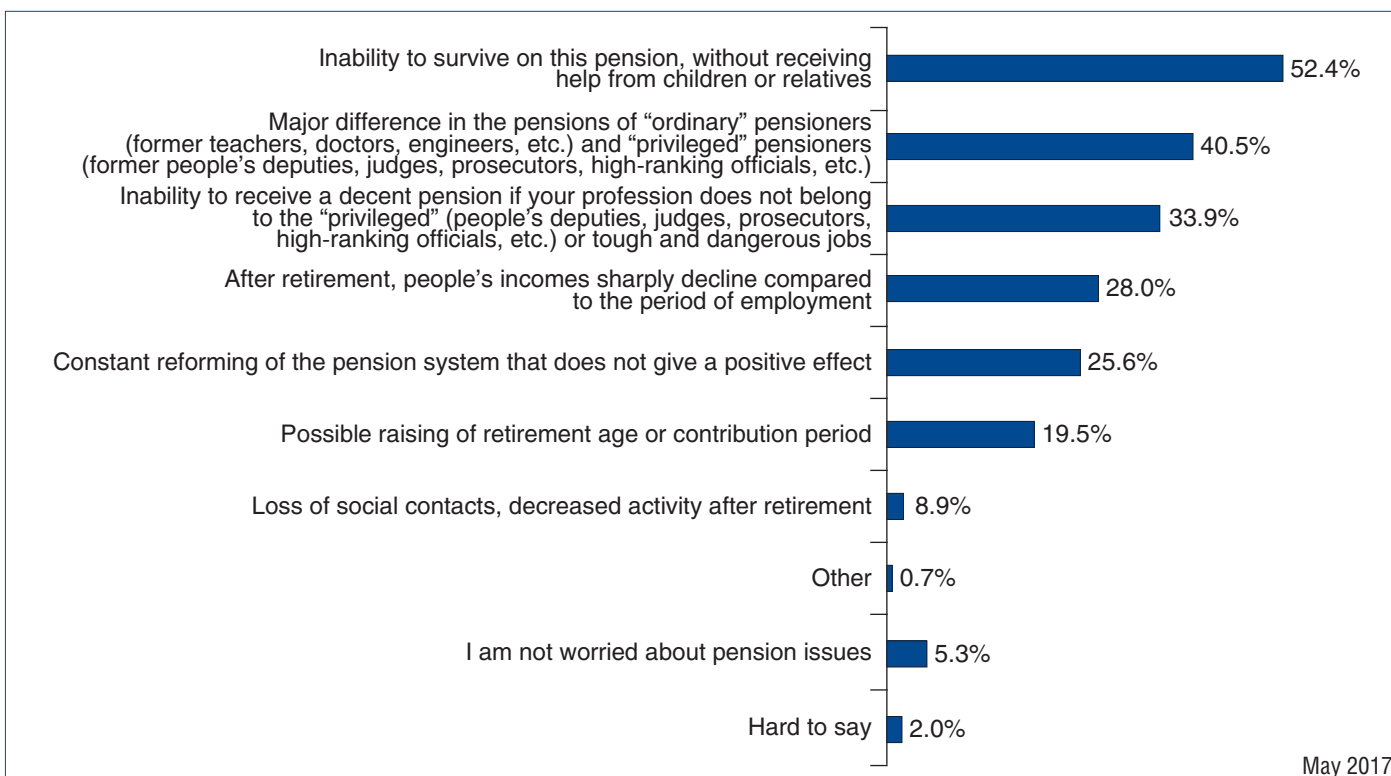
**Based on your personal experience or experience of your parents, relatives, friends.
how sufficient is the amount of pension?**
% of respondents



What changed in the state of affairs in pension payments in the past 3 years?
% of respondents



What pension issues worry you the most?*
% of respondents



*Respondents were asked to choose three acceptable options.

Razumkov Centre Events

EXPERT DISCUSSION: “CHALLENGES AND RISKS OF CRISIS PROCESSES IN UKRAINE AND ECONOMIC POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR THEIR PREVENTION”

On 30 May 2017, took place expert discussion “Challenges and Risks of Crisis Processes in Ukraine and Economic Policy Directions for Their Prevention”, held as part of the Razumkov Centre project, with support of Hanns Seidel Foundation Office in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Participants included representatives of legislative and executive authorities, banking and finance, scientists, government and independent experts from Ukraine, as well as representatives of foreign embassies and international organisations.



We presented research results and discussed the following topics:

- modern global trends, global factors and components of the new economic environment,
- global economic risks and challenges and their impact on Ukraine,
- specificities of developing and implementing economic policy in Ukraine, foremost, in regard to strengthening its balance of payments and foreign debt position;
- conditions and directions of improving economic policies' content and efficiency to support the country's development.

[Research](#) presented at the discussion

[Download V. Yurchyshyn's presentation](#)

“Challenges and Risks of Crisis Processes in Ukraine and Economic Policy Directions for Their Prevention”

REGULAR MEETING OF THE STANDING ROUND TABLE “RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT IN UKRAINE: INTERACTION ISSUES”

On 24 May 2017, Razumkov Centre together with Konrad Adenauer Foundation Office in Ukraine and with support of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organisations conducted a regular meeting of the standing Round table “Religion and Government in Ukraine: Interaction Issues”.

The following topic was offered for discussion: “Domestic and foreign challenges and threats for Ukraine: the role and capabilities of the Church in overcoming them”.

The following issues were discussed:

- Church and religious organisations of Ukraine in overcoming the consequences of the military conflict on the territory of Ukraine.

- The role of the Church in preventing a decrease in the standard of living and the level of protection of citizens' rights and freedoms.

- Topical issues of inter-religion and state-and-religion relations in Ukraine: domestic and foreign plane.

- What interferes most with the fruitful cooperation of state and religious organisations of Ukraine in different areas of social life?

[Information materials](#)

PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL THINK TANK SUMMIT (THINK 20) “GLOBAL SOLUTIONS FOR G20”

On 29–30 May 2017, in Berlin, took place a global think tank summit, which was held in the framework of preparing for this year's G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany. The Think 20 Summit was attended by over 900 representatives of analytical institutions from dozens of countries of the world from all continents. Ukraine was represented by Razumkov Centre Scientific Consultant on Economic Issues Volodymyr Sidenko.

The event was conducted with support of the German Government, which was demonstrated by the presence and speeches of a number of high-ranking officials – Peter Altmaier (Head of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Minister for Special Tasks), heads of a number of federal ministries, and Lars-Hendrik Röllér (Chief Economic Policy Advisor to the German Chancellor).

The summit was attended by leaders of almost all major analytical centres of the world, a number of world-renowned scholars, including four Nobel Prize winners in economics (J. Stiglitz, G. Akerlof, M. Spence, E. Phelps), former World Bank and EBRD Chief Economist, and currently Professor at London School of Economics N. Stern, former Director-General of the World Trade Organization P. Lamy, Professor at Columbia University (USA) and United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser J. Sachs. We noted the particularly high level of representation of leading international organisations at the summit. Speeches were also given by executives or leading analysts of a number of well-known corporations.



Based on T20 Summit discussion results, a final document was adopted – “Global Solutions – 20 Solution Proposals for the G20”, which, proceeding from the necessity to form a new vision for the world's development, defines priority directions for the future global development.

More information on the event can be found at:

<https://registration.global-solutions.international/>

<https://registration.global-solutions.international/videos>

PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN FORUM WACHAU: "A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS"

On 10-11 June 2017, Co-director of Foreign Policy and International Security Programmes Oleksii Melnyk took part in the European Forum Wachau: "A Europe Closer to Its Citizens" that was held in Krems, Austria.

The main goal of the Forum was to discuss the internal and external challenges faced by Europe and exchange ideas on the possible and necessary decisions to preserve and strengthen the EU as the most successful project in the history of Europe. The Forum's name defines one of the key issues that undermines the unity of modern Europe, generates Euroscepticism at the level of member states and citizens of the EU countries, namely, – the loss of connection between big politics and citizens' needs.

A separate session was dedicated to security issues, specifically, the discussion of the Global EU Strategy "A common vision, a joint action: a stronger Europe", adopted in June 2016.

PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF 2ND ENERGY CONGRESS

On 30 May 2017, 2nd Energy Congress took place in Kyiv. The draft of the "New Energy Strategy of Ukraine until 2035: Security, Energy Efficiency, Competitiveness" was in the focus of participants' attention.

Representatives of the global and Ukrainian energy community, leading market experts, investors, representatives of the European Commission and relevant ministries spoke about the reform of the electricity market, the possibility of increasing the share of renewable energy, as well as about the prospects for further use of oil and gas.

Director of Energy Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Volodymyr Omelchenko, who was the chief coordinator of the expert group working on the New Energy Strategy draft, spoke at the panel dedicated to the development of renewable energy (RES). In particular, he noted that the growing competition in the global energy markets and the rapid scientific and technological progress in the development of RES and alternative fuels expand Ukraine's possibilities for choosing the sources and supply routes of primary energy resources, optimisation of its energy mix and, in the long term, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Omelchenko believes that there are two major issues, resolution of which determines the success of widespread implementation of renewable technologies: creating affordable systems for accumulation of electricity to address the problem of manoeuvring "green" generation, and the current relatively high cost of some renewable technologies. "If these two issues are resolved, we can state that the fossil fuels era is coming to an end," concluded Razumkov Centre Energy Programmes Director.

<http://razumkov.org.ua/novyny-tsentru/uchast-u-roboti-ii-enerhetychnoho-konhresu>

PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSION "5TH UKRAINIAN REALITY CHECK"

On 24 May 2017, Expert of Foreign Policy and International Security Programmes Viacheslav Holub took part in the panel discussion "5th Ukrainian Reality Check" held at the Embassy of Lithuanian Republic to Ukraine.

The following issues were discussed: Ukraine's geopolitical conditions, ways of Donbas conflict

resolution, economic development and the process of implementing reforms.

The event was organised by the Eastern Europe Studies Centre with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia.

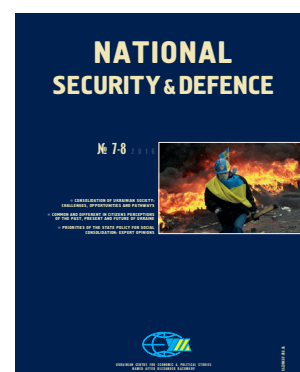
PARTICIPATION IN THE ROUND TABLE "EUROSCEPTICISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF HYBRID WARFARE. NEUTRALISATION MEANS"

On 23 May 2017, Expert of Razumkov Centre Foreign Policy and International Security Programmes Viacheslav Holub took part in the Round Table "Euroscepticism as an Instrument of Hybrid Warfare. Neutralisation Means". Round table participants discussed the role of Euroscepticism in Europe and its influence on the processes of European integration, the ways of reforming European institutions and the importance of the external factor. At the round table were presented results of public opinion survey on Ukrainian citizens' support for Ukraine's accession to the EU, NATO and the importance of introduction of visa-free regime with the EU, commissioned by the Government of Canada and the International Republican Institute (USA).

ISSUE 7-8 (2016) OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE JOURNAL "CONSOLIDATION OF UKRAINIAN SOCIETY: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, MEANS" CAME OUT IN PRINT.

We would like to inform you that Issue 7-8 (2016) of the National Security and Defence journal "Consolidation of Ukrainian Society: Challenges, Opportunities, Means" came out in print, prepared in the frame of the project "Building a Common Identity of Ukrainian Citizens in the New Environment: Special Aspects, Prospects and Challenges", implemented by the Razumkov Centre together with Matra European Partnership Programme and Konrad Adenauer Foundation Office in Ukraine.

The journal contains analytical materials based on results of sociological survey and focus group studies, which characterise citizens' perception of certain identity aspects, views on the grounds for consolidation and the dividing lines in the Ukrainian society, their attitude to possible approaches to state policy in the socio-cultural area.



The journal also presents opinions of participants of Expert discussion "Consolidation of Ukrainian Society: Means, Challenges, Prospects" (Kyiv, 16 December 2016).

We hope that this study is useful for everyone interested in the process of building the common national identity of Ukrainian society, Ukrainian political nation.

The electronic PDF version of the journal is published at: http://razumkov.org.ua/uploads/journal/eng/NSD165-166_2016_eng.pdf

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