

#UKRAINE HOUSE DAVOS

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Ukraine House Davos Reaches New Heights in 2020 – its 3rd Year



Ukraine House Davos Organizing Committee with Oleg Sentsov

Kyiv, Ukraine, Jan 28, 2020. The press conference of the *Ukraine House Davos Organizing Committee (UHOC)* was held at the Interfax-Ukraine Press Center today. The press conference focused on the achievements of Ukraine House Davos, held alongside the World Economic Forum's 50th Anniversary meeting last week in Davos, Switzerland, in promoting Ukraine's image globally and attractiveness as an investment destination. The Co-Organizers of Ukraine House Davos spoke, including *Olga Afanasyeva*, Executive Director of Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (UVCA); *Jaroslawa Johnson*, President and CEO of Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF); *Svitlana Grytsenko* of Victor Pinchuk Foundation; *Lenna Koszarny*, Founding Partner and CEO of Horizon Capital; and, *Alexa Chopivsky*, Executive Director of Ukraine House Davos.

Highlights of Ukraine House Davos included the visit of the *President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky* who acknowledged the UHOC for their efforts in promoting Ukraine. *Prime Minister of Ukraine Oleksii Honcharuk* chaired an invitation-only meeting of the National Investment Council of Ukraine, where the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine and Germany's largest railway operator, Deutsche Bahn signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation and development of Ukrzaliznytsia. Top government officials who spoke on panels during the week included *David Arakhamia*, Secretary of the National Investment Council of Ukraine, Member of Parliament; *Yuliya Kovaliv*, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine; *Vladyslav Kryklii*, Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine; *Oleksandr Bornyakov*, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine; *Dmytro Sennychenko*, Head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine; Members of Parliament *Kira Rudik* and *Solomiia Bobrovska*; *Olga Magaletska*, Head of the Office of the National Investment Council of Ukraine, and *Daniel Bilak*, Member of Supervisory Board, UkraineInvest. Finance Minister of Ukraine *Oksana Markarova*, Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture

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of Ukraine *Tymofii Mylovanov*, *Oksana Nechyporenko*, Chair of Supervisory Board, UkraineInvest, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ukraine, and many esteemed MPs participated in events.

Ukraine House Davos 2020 surpassed the success of last year's event, strengthening the image of Ukraine as a modern, European country offering a wealth of opportunities. Ukraine House Davos hosted sixteen engaging panels on investment, infrastructure, IT and education, as well as evening receptions and cultural diplomacy events featuring top Ukrainian CEOs and leaders, as well as notable international speakers including:

- *John M. Beck*, Founder and Chairman of Aecon Group Inc.
- *Amy Bernstein*, editor of Harvard Business Review
- *Dr Margareta Drzeniek*, Senior Fellow of The Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils
- *Sharon Easky*, Chairwoman, Supervisory Board of PrivatBank
- *Johan Eliasch*, Chairman and CEO of HEAD
- *Daniel Gilbert*, Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, Best-Selling Author
- *Cynthia Hansen*, Head of the Adecco Group Foundation
- *Tristan Harris*, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Center for Humane Technology
- *Ambassador John Herbst*, Director, Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center
- *Ian O. Ihnatowycz*, President & CEO of First Generation Capital, Inc.
- *Rashad Kaldany*, Partner, CIO and Founder of Blue like an Orange Sustainable Capital
- *Shannon Kalayanamitr*, Venture Partner of Gobi Partners
- *Fred Kempe*, President, Atlantic Council
- *Andriy Kobolyev*, CEO, Naftogaz of Ukraine
- *Janez Kopač*, Director of the Energy Community Secretariat
- *Yuriy Kosyuk*, Founder and CEO of MHP
- *Jean-Christophe Laloux*, Director General and Head of Lending Operations of EIB
- *Gideon Lichfield*, Editor-in-Chief, MIT Technology Review
- *Oksana Lyniv*, Chief Conductor of Graz Opera and Graz Philharmonic Orchestra
- *Andrew McAfee*, Co-Director and Co-Founder of MIT's Initiative on the Digital Economy and Principal Research Scientist at MIT
- *Alain Pilloux*, Vice President, Banking of EBRD
- *Gerard Seijts*, Executive Director of Ian O. Ihnatowycz Institute for Leadership, Ivey Business School
- *Noa Gafni Slaney*, Executive Director of Rutgers Institute for Corporate Social Innovation
- *Oleg Sentsov*
- *Roy Sosa*, Chairman, CEO and Co-Founder of Rev Worldwide Inc
- *Michael Yurkovich*, CEO of TIU Canada

At the press briefing, the UHOC unveiled its *Ukraine House Davos in Figures* statistics. In summary, Ukraine House Davos was open for 94 hours and hosted 16 engaging panels with speakers from 12 countries. The panels, together with evening receptions and cultural diplomacy events, welcomed over 8,000 registered guests. Ukraine House Davos livestreams on social media channels gathered nearly 400,000 views and posts received nearly 2.2 million impressions.

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“This year, the House exceeded our expectations and reached new heights” said Jaroslawa Johnson, President and CEO of WNISEF. *“From world-renowned speakers, such as Amy Bernstein of Harvard Business Review and Daniel Gilbert, Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, Best-Selling Author, to thousands of international guests, potential investors, and new friends of Ukraine, the House is now a landmark platform, and well-known brand in Davos.*

Evaluating the results and impact of Ukraine House Davos, Svitlana Grytsenko of Victor Pinchuk Foundation said: *“I truly believe that strong partnership is a key to success and long-lasting sustainability of every project. For the third consecutive year, UVCA, WNISEF, Victor Pinchuk Foundation, and Horizon Capital joined efforts, and the results speak for themselves. We managed to attract 13 sponsors, which is more than ever before; our venue this year was 10 times larger compared to the first year, allowing to host the largest number of guests to date. Moreover, we’ve already seen increased interest among new potential sponsors in joining this successful project.”*

Olga Afanasyeva, Executive Director of UVCA, underlined the goal of Ukraine House Davos: *“The House is an outstanding opportunity to showcase to global business leaders that Ukraine is a hub for IT, infrastructure, and agriculture. Today, the Ukrainian tech sector boasts the largest financial round in Ukraine’s history (Gitlab), topped by the emergence of a new unicorn (Grammarly), and the advances of other innovative startups and established product platforms, including Petcube, BetterMe and Ajax Systems. All that said, the best time to invest in Ukraine is Now.”*

“Ukraine’s President chose Davos to announce bold new initiatives to further attract foreign direct investment to Ukraine, including an international court of arbitration in Ukraine, tax and other incentives for investors and personal attention by dedicated personnel to guide investors through market entry to project execution. Based on the recently introduced concession law, two port concession tenders have been won - by Swiss-Georgian and Qatari investors. A window has opened that will be closed in the near term once the 30-35-year concessions are awarded, and marketing of assets slated for large-scale privatization has also begun. Many export-oriented companies, particularly in IT, food and agro, light manufacturing, e-commerce, pharma and healthcare are delivering 20-50% top-line growth per year,” – emphasized Lenna Koszarny, Founding Partner and CEO of Horizon Capital. *“Ukraine House Davos has put a spotlight on investment opportunities that are powered by the new generation, especially the \$4.5 billion IT industry, and much more”.*

Speaking about future plans, Alexa Chopivsky, Executive Director of Ukraine House Davos, said: *“Our ability to deliver at such a high level is only made possible by the commitment and financial support of our Gold Sponsors: Temerty Foundation, TIU Canada, MHP, Naftogaz/UFEOGI; and, of our dedicated Panel Sponsors: CEO Club Ukraine, EBS, First Generation Capital Inc, Hillmont Partners, IT Ukraine Association, UNIT.City, and Bohdan Hawrylyshyn Family Foundation. Thank you to Zirkova Vodka, Carlsberg and Oksana Karavanska for hospitality and cultural diplomacy support. Building on this year’s success, Ukraine House Davos will continue its mission of promoting Ukraine in 2021 and will surprise the world with even more opportunities that Ukraine has to offer!”*

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