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KYIV SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Journal of
COMPARATIVE ECONOMICS



Press release

On April 24-16, 2015 the Symposium “Ukraine: Escape from Post-Soviet Legacy?” for a Special Issue of the Journal of Comparative Economics was held in Kyiv.

The Symposium was organized by VoxUkraine and the Kyiv School of Economics in partnership with the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Pittsburgh, Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, the USAID Program “Leadership in Economic Governance”, the Association for Comparative Economic Studies, the Western NIS Enterprise Fund and KyivStar. Media partners of the event were Espresso.tv, KyivPost, Ukrpravda, LIGABusinessInform, Novoe Vremya, Delo.ua, Hromadske.tv, ICTV.

The symposium was devoted to a special issue of the Journal of Comparative Economics on Ukraine, whose editors are co-founders and members of the VoxUkraine Editorial Board, Tymofiy Mylovanov, Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and Yuriy Gorodnichenko, Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. The event gathered world-class researchers and leading policymakers to provide an expert assessment of recent developments in Ukraine, generate global support to Ukraine, propose solutions to Ukraine’s pressing problems, facilitate dialogue between academics and policymakers and to connect Ukraine’s policymakers and scientists to the global network of experts.

The program included both academic and policy panels.

Academic panels:	Policy panels:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Political Economy after Euromaidan: New Perspective</i> • <i>Risk Attitudes and Recession in Eastern Europe</i> • <i>Mismatch in the Labour Market</i> • <i>Firms and Privatization</i> • <i>Social Movement in Ukraine</i> • <i>Macro allocation and property rights</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fiscal Policy: Public debt, deficit and austerity</i> • <i>How to solve corruption</i> • <i>Monetary policy: banking and currency crises</i> • <i>The SME Sector in Ukraine. How to position it at the top of the public policy agenda?</i> • <i>Energy security in the times of crisis</i> • <i>EU Integration</i> • <i>Building a World-Class Infrastructure</i> • <i>Keeping popular support of reforms</i>



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A number of prominent speakers participated in the event, including US Ambassador to Ukraine **Geoffrey Pyatt**, Ambassador of Sweden to Ukraine **Andreas von Beckerath**, EU Ambassador to Ukraine **Jan Tombiński**, Governor of the National Bank **Valeria Hontareva**, Minister of Finance **Natalie Jaresko**, Minister of Economic Development and Trade **Aivaras Abromavičius**, Minister of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine **Volodymyr Demchyshyn**, Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food **Oleksiy Pavlenko**, Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine **Andriy Pyvovarsky**, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine **Sasha Borovik**, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine **Inna Sovsun**, Deputy Head of the National Bank of Ukraine **Dmytro Sologoub**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine for the European Integration **Olena Zerkal**, Former US Ambassador to Ukraine **John Herbst**, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Bulgaria **Simeon Djankov**, James T. Shotwell Professor of Global Political Economy and Director of the Center on Global Economic Governance at Columbia University **Jan Svejnar**, Editor of the Journal of Comparative Economics and Professor of Economics and Political Science at the University of California-Berkeley **Gerard Roland**, President of the Kyiv School of Economics **George Logush**, Professor of Economics at Higher School of Economics **Konstantin Sonin**, Slovak former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance **Ivan Miklos** and former Prime Minister of Slovakia **Mikuláš Dzurinda**, and others.

Useful Links

Please see the agenda [here](#)

Video and presentations of the speakers can be found [here](#)

Please see the **photo report** of the Symposium [here](#)

Interesting statistics of the Symposium prepared is available [here](#).

Quotes from some of the speeches can be found below.:

Natalie Jaresko: “The situation in Ukraine is much more difficult that in any other country including Greece. Our Government is determined to fulfil its reform program and reduce the total public finance deficit in 2015 to 8.8%, from 11.6%.”



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Valeria Hontareva: “We truly believe our economy will start growing this year. In 2 months I hope we will announce that the 1st stage of reforms is completed. 25% of Ukrainian banks have disappeared, but don't regret about them, they were zombie banks.”

Geoffrey Pyatt: “Corruption is as much a threat to Ukraine as Russian tanks. Only Ukrainians can decide how their future will be.”

Jan Tombinski: “The big wisdom in politics is to go through pain of reforms and to absorb changes”

George Logush: “What encourages us all is the extremely active civil society that supports reforms that are underway. We have a difficult challenge in making sure that mass channels become effective instruments of communicating reforms.”

Gerard Roland: “Corruption chains reinforce each other and everyone keeps silent. No democracy is perfect, but other regimes are always worse in the long run. Democratic institutions cannot function without democratic culture.”

Erik Berglof: “Ukraine is not just any country. It's key for Russia's future and a "litmus test" for the EU. Systematic uncertainty where Ukraine moves affects key decisions. Ukraine needs energy, national identity and radicalised civil society.”

Oleksiy Pavlenko: “We have great potential. There are 4.2 mln individual farmers in Ukraine. 37% of export of Ukraine consists of agri products. Ukraine has a goal to be in top-50 exporters of agriculture by the end of year.”

Mikulas Dzurinda: “I am a peace keeper. But we need to be strong. We should provide Ukraine with military assistance. Everybody in Europe must do his best to help Ukraine. But the ownership of reforms should be Ukrainian. Speaking about FTA we should speak about the sustainable development of Ukraine”.

Aivaras Abromavičius: “ We need to educate entrepreneurship in children from an early age. In Sweden, children are buying shares or open online stores. The state owes 6 million hectares of agricultural land. With a rate of 50 \$ per hectare of land more than 300 million dollars a year can be assembled in the budget .“

Ivan Miklos: “Nowadays Ukraine should make a decision between radical reforms and hopeless changes.”



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