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**STRATEGEAST
WESTERNIZATION
INDEX
2018**
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2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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Our Team



Amb. Michael Brodsky
CEO

Amb. Michael Brodsky is Chief Executive Officer of StrategEast.

In this role, Mr. Brodsky is responsible for developing, communicating and implementing the organization's strategy, its overall operations and performance, and for developing the strategic partnerships with various partners and donors.

Between 2015-2018, Mr. Brodsky served as the Ambassador of Israel in Kazakhstan, and as a non-resident Ambassador in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Brodsky's diplomatic career includes working as Deputy Director of Eurasia department at the Israeli MFA, as the Director of Public Affairs at the Israeli embassy in London, and as Press Attaché and Political Counselor at the embassy of Israel in Moscow.

Michael studied Political Science (BA) and Diplomacy and National Security (MA), both in Tel-Aviv University.



Michael Sheitelman
CSO

Michael Sheitelman is the Chief Strategic Officer of StrategEast.

As CSO, Mr. Sheitelman is responsible for defining the organization's vision and strategy, as well as for the creative development of various projects and programs initiated by StrategEast and in cooperation with other organizations.

Mr. Sheitelman's extensive and varied experience includes over 20 years of activity as a strategic consultant and senior manager in various international projects, including political campaigns, media management, social and environmental initiatives. Mr. Sheitelman has advised election campaigns in Israel, Latvia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, as well as non-governmental organizations.

Michael studied physics, mathematics and aerodynamics in St. Petersburg's Polytechnic University and in Bar Ilan University in Israel.



Tatiana Slynko
Chief Analyst

Tatiana Slynko is the Chief Analyst of StrategEast.

Ms. Slynko is responsible for coordinating StrategEast research projects, as well as for prioritizing Center's information needs.

She began her career as a communications manager of the Visa-free Europe Coalition which brought together 45 organisations under the leadership of the civic organisation «Europe without Barriers». Ms. Slynko also served as a program assistant at the Canadian non-governmental organisation «Stabilization Support Services», contributing to the implementation of Radnyk on IDPs program.

Tatiana graduated with honours from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (BA in Political Science).



StrategEast sees its mission in assisting the countries, which proclaimed or restored their independence after the collapse of the USSR, to become a part of the Western world. We aim to connect those countries with the United States and Western Europe by reorienting, guiding, and assisting them to develop closer working relationships with the West. Today I would like to tell you about the practical steps we have undertaken to make our mission a reality. In March 2018, we launched our StrategEast Westernization Index. This fundamental work, prepared by dozens of experts on the post-Soviet region, was presented by StrategEast at the German Marshall Fund's Brussels Forum. The Westernization Index 2018 attracted unprecedented attention: articles about the Index have now been published in more than 350 media sources, both in the post-Soviet countries and the West. Since its publication, the Index has become a measure of the region's westernization, and is being used by thousands of organizations around the world that are aiming to foster and advance Western values in the countries that proclaimed or restored their independence after the collapse of the USSR. Their activities can also be evaluated at our StrategEast Center. In his introduction to the Index, the former President of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski, wrote the following: "For members of the international community and leaders within the region, this index is a must-read

for considering how to move all the transition markers forward in the coming year." When visiting any of these countries, meeting with their representatives, I certainly refer to this Index and check how can we help, in which sphere of the country's life can our efforts to westernize it be the most effective? The main findings of the index helped us to design one of the flagship programs of our Center – the Global Minds Initiative.

With the help of the Index we have learned that even authoritarian countries, ones with the most conservative views on political reforms, do demonstrate a significant interest in economic westernization. With the Global Minds Initiative, we followed exactly this path – to help the countries of the Post-Soviet, Non-Russian region to build modern, innovative economies, starting with the development of IT clusters. We dedicated a report titled "Changing Economy, Changing Society," that was published by StrategEast in May 2018 to the prospects of this approach. My Op-Ed published this July in *The Financial Times* also focused on this topic.

At the same time, we did not dwell on the theoretical studies of the issues. In recent months, our report was presented to the leaderships of several countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, and we are now launching the Global Minds Initiative, which will result in a significant growth of the IT sector's share in the GDP's of those countries.

All of us at StrategEast - whose objective is to expand cooperation between the West and the countries of the Post-Soviet, Non-Russian region - we continue to insist that countries, which have proclaimed or restored their independence after the collapse of the USSR, should be considered as coalescing around and facing common geopolitical challenges. We are strongly convinced that the rapprochement of the post-Soviet elites with American and West European government institutions and civil society serves the interests of

global security, and it could gradually lead to the westernization of the entire region.

Following these beliefs, we decided to launch the StrategEast Young Leadership Program. As its first activity, in June 2018, in cooperation with the Open World Leadership Center and the Eurasia Foundation we organized a week-long traineeship for a group of nine young English-speaking deputy ministers from Post-Soviet, Non-Russian countries which took place in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Richmond. These young officials from PSNR countries have gained new knowledge, made new acquaintances at American state institutions and non-governmental organizations, and obtained a clear-cut understanding of the ecosystem of power in the U.S.A., which will enable them, upon their return home, to implement in their work the best practices. In the near future, StrategEast will continue working on promoting westernization in the Post-Soviet, Non-Russian countries. We are planning to produce a Westernization Report analyzing the developments which have taken place in the Post-Soviet, Non-Russian region over the previous year. Please visit our regularly updated official website: www.StrategEast.com to read about those developments, which have affect the degree of westernization of the region's member countries, as well as about implementation of the Global Minds Initiative in some countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, view regularly published reports based on the work of our analysts, and many other activities of StrategEast. In conclusion, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all our partners, participants of our programs, and employees of our center. Thank you for maintaining your continuous faith in us, our ideas, and our deeds. Stay with us - this is just the beginning!

Sincerely,
Anatoly Motkin
Founder and President, StrategEast

StrategEast Westernization Index 2018

In March of 2018, StrategEast presented its Westernization Index 2018, which analyzed the degree of westernization of the fourteen PSNR countries. StrategEast created the Westernization Index 2018 with two goals in mind.

First, we seek to help the nations of the PSNR region to better address the shared challenges that they are facing while rebuilding their states and institutions after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Second, we seek to draw attention to an important but geopolitically fragile region in a way that assists the international community in providing better support to its development.

By focusing on all the post-Soviet countries except Russia, the StrategEast Westernization Index 2018 intends to aid in generating a more balanced and multifaceted approach to the region.

By excluding Russia, we do not assume that Russia is more or less Westernized than the other post-Soviet states and societies; rather, the objective is to draw attention to all the other former Soviet countries and examine the development they have undergone since the collapse of the USSR.

The index is based on a series of elements and benchmarks that helped us evaluate the adoption and implementation of the Western model, by looking at five key areas:

- Political Westernization
- Economic Westernization
- Legal Westernization
- Language and Cultural Westernization
- Westernization of lifestyle

The StrategEast Westernization Index 2018 is a useful tool for any Western politician, think tank, and/or public institution, whose sphere of interest includes the countries of the former USSR.

Westernization Index 2018

1	Estonia	93
2	Lithuania	85
3	Latvia	82
4	Georgia	62
5	Moldova	56
6	Ukraine	54
7	Armenia	48.5
8	Kazakhstan	39.5
9	Azerbaijan	37
10	Kyrgyzstan	37
11	Belarus	31.5
12	Uzbekistan	29.5
13	Tajikistan	19.5
14	Turkmenistan	17.5



THE STRATEG EAST WESTERNIZATION INDEX IS THE FIRST REPORT OF ITS KIND IN THREE WAYS:

It is the only report that has analyzed the 14 countries of the Post-Soviet, Non-Russian region (PSNR) as a whole.

Identifying the PSNR as a single region means acknowledging the fact that the post-Soviet transition has not been easy for all these countries. It also means asking Western powers to tailor their foreign policy approaches by basing them on the foundation of a more comprehensive understanding of the region's unique and shared challenges.

It measures each country's wholesale integration into the Western world across many sectors.

Other research projects tend to measure one specific issue, such as economic inequality or freedom of the press. We are interested in looking at the whole picture, to see how these countries have handled the transition away from the opaque, centrally-controlled institutions of the Soviet era and towards the democratic, market-oriented, and accountable institutions of today's world.

It is prepared for the West by experts from the region.

The analysis and methodology were identified and applied by local experts in each country. Unlike the attempts at research of this region made by foreign experts, this is a true product of the region itself.

STRATEG EAST PRESENTED ITS WESTERNIZATION INDEX 2018 BOTH IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES :



Panel discussion dedicated to the launch of the StrategEast Westernization Index at the German Marshall Fund's Brussels Forum, March 9, 2018

Johnatan Katz, Senior Fellow and Moderator, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) .
Vivian Loonela, member of the Cabinet of Andrus Ansip, the European Commission's Vice-President for the Digital Single Market
Victor Kipiani, Mgaloblishvili Kipiani Dzidziguri Law Firm (Tbilisi, Georgia)
Gretchen Birkle, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia at the USAID.

The StrategEast Westernization Index launch followed by the panel discussion of experts at the National Press Club in Washington, D. C., May 2, 2018.

Andras Simonyi, Ambassador of Hungary to the United States (2002-2007)
Philip Shishkin, former *Wall Street Journal* reporter and author.



The StrategEast Westernization Index presentation at the CATO Institute in Washington, D.C., June 22, 2018

Andrei Illarionov, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity (discussion moderator)
Eric Hontz, Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) Program Officer for Europe & Eurasia
Temur Iakobashvili, former State Minister for Reintegration of Georgia
Daniel Schneider, Professor at the American University
Matthew Murray, APCO Worldwide Senior Advisor and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Europe, Middle East and Africa
Mary Burce Warlick, the United States Ambassador to Serbia (2010-2012)



“This index fills a critical gap, helping us to understand how a shared past can lead to so many variations of the Present.”

Alexander KWASNIEWSKI
 President of Poland
 (1995-2005)

Although this is only the first year of our publication, we believe that our research data already offer some important findings that can improve international relations with the PSNR countries. For example, the Index demonstrates that out of the five key areas assessed, the PSNR countries have typically shown more progress in their pursuit of economic transition than in some other reforms. The degree of economic Westernization averaged 57% across the region, while political and cultural Westernization averaged 50%, and legal Westernization - which included the rule of law, judicial independence, and human rights protections - averaged only 42%.

This suggests that economic transition can offer a strong initial point of collaboration between the post-Soviet countries and the West and eventually serve as the bridge leading to greater levels of collaboration in the areas dealing with legal and political transition.

Publications that have covered and analyzed the results of the Index include:

Armenia is a Pragmatist, Balancing Between Russia and the West: StrategEast.
Rusarmino | 7 May 2018

Westernization Index-2018: In What Place Was Armenia Ranked? Yerkramas | 8 May 2018

Americans Declared Azerbaijan Pragmatist. Not Our Rating. Haqqin | 17 March 2018

Belarus Is Between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the Rating of "Westernization" of the Post-Soviet Countries. Svaboda | 7 May 2018

Estonia Was Recognized as the Most Westernized Country in the Former Soviet Space. YAM News | 7 May 2018

Estonia Rated as the Most "Westernized," Ahead of All Post-Soviet Countries NW.tv | 7 May 2018

Georgia Ranked 4th in StrategEast Westernization Index 2018. Georgia Today | 8 May 2018

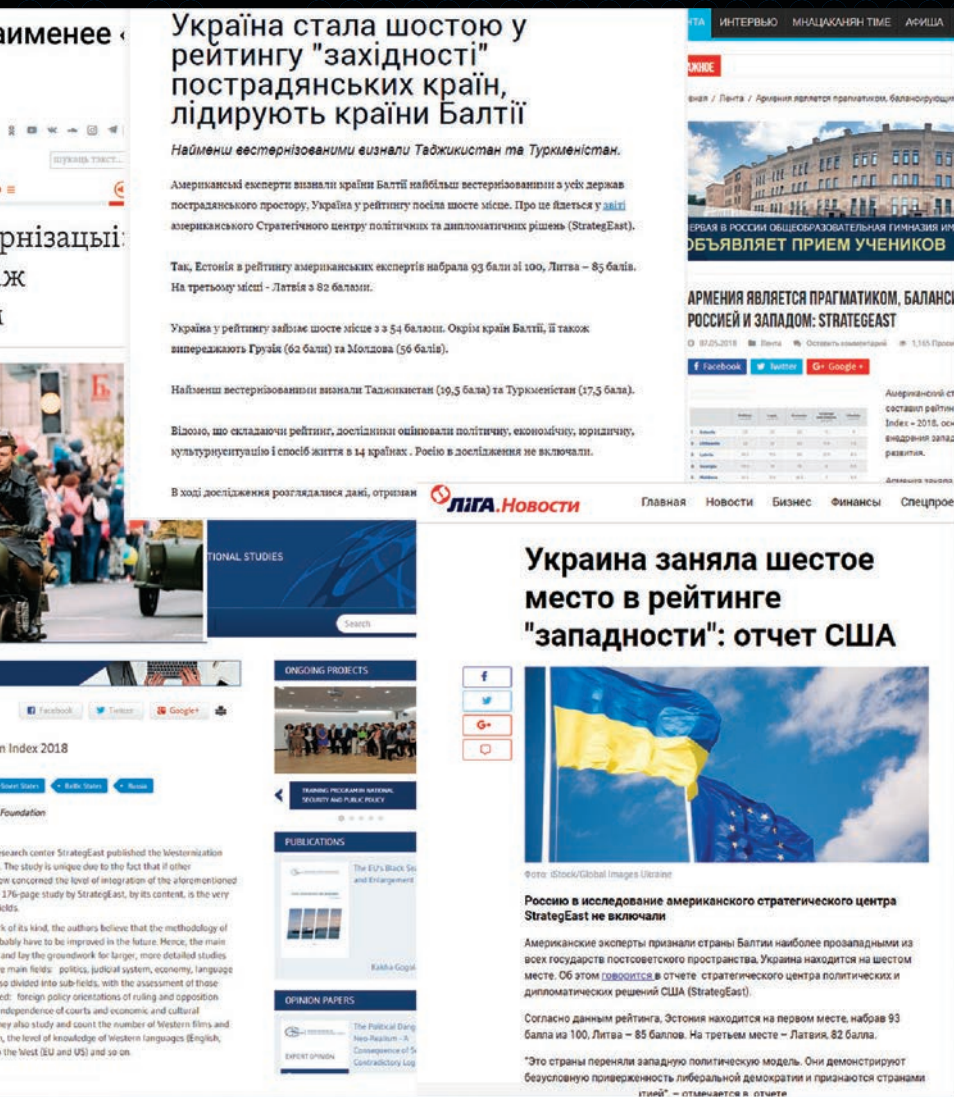
Georgia Is Fourth in the "Westernization Index-2018." Voice of America | 7 May 2018

Rating: The Most Pro-Western Countries of Central Asia. Rezonans.kz | 16 March 2018

In the StrategEast Westernization Index, Kyrgyzstan Scored 37 out of 100 Points. Radio Azattik | 19 March 2018



The presentation of the Index has evoked many responses and led to articles being published both in the Western press and the PSNR countries' mass media. In the wake of the GMF's Brussels Forum 2018 and the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., over 350 articles were written about StrategEast and its Index.



Latvia Turned Out to Be the Least "Western" of the Baltic Countries. RuBaltic | 7 May 2018

An American Report: Latvia Came Out to Be the Least "Western." Delfi | 7 May 2018

Lithuania Ranks Second After Estonia in the Rating of Ex-Soviet Countries. Delfi | 7 May 2018

In the Ranking of Post-Soviet Countries, Lithuania Came Second After Estonia. ZW.it | 7 May 2018

Republic of Moldova Placed Fifth Among Ex-Soviet Republics in the Chapter on "Westernization." Impact tv | 8 May 2018

Moldova Is "Declaratively Pro-Western" In the Westernization Index of Post-Soviet Countries. Omg Media Grup | 13 March 2018

In the Westernization Index, Tajikistan Is Called a "Tough Nut." Asia Plus | 7 May 2018

"Westernization Index 2018": Turkmenistan Is the Country Furthest Removed from Western Values in the Post-Soviet Space. Hronikatm.com | 14 March 2018

Ukraine Took the Sixth Place in the Rating of "Westernization." LIGA News | 7 May 2018

Ukraine Scored Sixth in the "Westernization" Rating of Post-Soviet Countries; the Baltic States Are Leaders. Tyzhden | 7 May 2018

In addition, Zurab Batiashvili, a research fellow from the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, wrote an analytical article about the StrategEast Westernization Index 2018

Global Minds Initiative

The goal of the Global Minds Initiative is to help the post-Soviet countries develop a thriving IT sector as a part of their economic transition towards becoming better integrated into the West. Developing IT-oriented economic sectors in the post-Soviet countries will help nurture a new generation of young professionals whose ideas and values will contribute to the prosperity of the region.

The tech sector will aid the post-Soviet region in moving from consumption to creation, which is a vital transition in today's digital economy. A new generation of people, with a new mindset, will create new law-based institutions and more dynamic, efficient, and competitive markets in the region.

In May 2018, StrategEast published a report titled: "Changing Economy, Changing Society. The IT Industry in the Post-Soviet Countries." Its objective was to study trends and prospects for the development of the IT industry in the former Soviet countries, as well as the degree of influence this industry could have on the transformation of post-Soviet society into a modern society of the Western type.

In this report, we analyzed the level of development of the IT industry in the 14 countries of the PSNR (Post-Soviet, Non-Russian) region, including:

- the level of legislative development; the state of favorable conditions ensured by the state

- the creation of specialized high-technology parks
- the share of the IT sector in the gross national product, particularly in exports from the countries

We paid special attention to the development of the High Technologies Park in Belarus, a country with a low degree of Westernization and a great economic dependence on the old post-Soviet heavy industry. We analyzed both the results of the work of the High Technologies Park and its prospects, based on the Belarusian authorities' latest decisions targeted at further developing the IT field. We also considered the possibilities of implementing the Belarusian experience in the other countries studied by our team.

A successful and extensive development of the IT industry in the PSNR countries, and the subsequent emergence of a new generation of socially active and responsible citizens oriented towards Western values and capable of leading the country along the path of Westernization, could benefit to a large extent from the support of the Western IT industry leaders and governments. Our report is a step towards the encouragement of such vital support.

During his speech at the Astana Economic Forum's Global Challenges Summit 2018, StrategEast Founder and President Anatoly Motkin spoke of the role innovation plays in driving growth in all the PSNR countries.



THE STUDY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING MAIN FINDINGS:

In recent years, one of the most advanced legislative frameworks in the region encouraging the development of the IT industry was created in Belarus. Adoption of this legislation contributed to rapid growth of the Belarusian IT sector, its share in the exports of the country, and the number of employees in this field.

Despite the fact that most of the countries of the PSNR region do not have such advanced legislation in the IT area as Belarus, some of them – the Baltic countries, Ukraine, and Moldova – have made significant progress in the development of their IT industries. Exports of products from this industry have surpassed the exports of many traditional "old" industries for these countries.

In all countries of the PSNR region the local authorities are making efforts to develop the IT area and are creating special zones for high-tech parks, which have been progressing with a varying degree of success.

The development of IT technologies in the post-Soviet countries contributes significantly to the development of the civil society, and a responsible middle class fosters improvement of the legislation, as well as growth and advancement in other areas.



Panel Discussion “Ecosystem of Innovation Support. How to Ensure Explosive Growth” at the Astana Economic Forum’s Global Challenges Summit 2018 (May 17-19, 2018)

In late May of 2018, the “Changing Economy, Changing Society” report and the “Global Minds Initiative” program were presented in another Central Asian country – Uzbekistan. The StrategEast delegation paid a working visit to Uzbekistan, with the goal of presenting the report

and the program. The visit laid the foundation for further dialogue between StrategEast and the authorities of Uzbekistan, which was initiated in September 2017 during the official visit of a state delegation of Uzbekistan to Washington, DC. Among the

StrategEast delegates were the Founder and President of StrategEast, Anatoly Motkin, Founders of Viber and Juno – Talmon Marco and Igor Magazinnik, and the regional representative of the International Tax and Investment Center, Mukhit Akhanov.



Visit of the StrategEast delegation to INHA University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. From left to right: Vice Chancellor of the Tashkent University of Information Technologies Botir Usmonov, former President of Viber Ofer Shabtai, Founders of Viber and Juno Talmon Marco and Igor Magazinnik, Vice Chancellor of Inha University of Tashkent Turdimurat Tursunmuratov, StrategEast Founder and President Anatoly Motkin, representative of Mirzo Ulugbek Innovation Center Sitora Saidkhodjaeva, Deputy Director for Business Development of Mirzo Ulugbek Innovation Center Bokhodir Ayupov



Today, when oil and gas prices have hit their record low points, and very likely will not rise again, most of the leaders of the post-Soviet countries are facing an unfamiliar challenge – how to fill the state budget and feed the population? This is why today we have a unique opportunity to accelerate the process of middle class growth and that of law-based institutions in the post-Soviet countries – first economically and then, ultimately, politically.”

Anatoly MOTKIN
President of StrategEast

The goal of this visit was the launch of StrategEast’s Global Minds Initiative Program in Uzbekistan. During the two-day visit, representatives of StrategEast held talks with representatives of the government, heads of the country’s leading universities, the largest telecommunications service provider Uztelecom, and residents of the Mirzo Ulugbek high-tech special zone.

In Tashkent, StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin held a series of discussions with Uzbek officials and representatives of state corporations in charge of the development of the IT sector in the country. The result of these talks was the joint decision of StrategEast and the Government of Uzbekistan representatives to launch the Global Minds Initiative Program in Uzbekistan.

The first steps include collaboration between StrategEast and the Uzbek government on introducing legislation and tax code that will contribute to the development of the IT industry, and providing StrategEast with the support it will need creating a training program for world-class IT specialists.

A visit of Uzbek IT entrepreneurs to Silicon Valley, as part of one of StrategEast training programs for IT entrepreneurs from the post-Soviet countries, is scheduled for the fall of 2018.



StrategEast Founder and President Anatoly Motkin and Chairman of the State Tax Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan Bekhzod Musayev



StrategEast Founder and President Anatoly Motkin and the CEO of Uzbektelecom Farkhod Roziev



StrategEast Founder and President Anatoly Motkin and Minister for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan Azim Akhmedkhadjaev

StrategEast Young Leadership Program

As a part of the StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018, a group of deputy ministers from nine countries, which have proclaimed or restored their independence after the collapse of the USSR, visited the United States on June 3-10, 2018. The deputy ministers participated in meetings and training seminars led by high-level U.S. officials and think tank representatives. The goal of the program was to educate the young

officials about how the U.S. government works internally, and the role that government authorities play in economic processes. The Young Leadership Program was organized in cooperation with the Open World Leadership Center and the Eurasia Foundation, and took place in Washington, D.C., Richmond, VA, and Philadelphia, PA. The nine participants of the StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 were

English speaking deputy ministers under the age of 40, representing their home governments of Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. A crucial part of the program was acquiring new knowledge and exchanging information about reforms and state management not just between the host and the participants, but also among the deputy ministers.



StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 delegation at the Thomas Jefferson Building, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

From left to right: First Deputy Minister of Information Technologies and Communications of Uzbekistan Olimjon Umarov, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova Tatiana Molcean, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Belarus Vadim Zakrevsky, Georgetown Professor of Studies on Federalism Sam Potolicchio, Founder and President of StrategEast Anatoly Motkin, Vice Minister of the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Lithuania Martynas Norbutas, Deputy Minister of Energy and Coal Industry on European Integration of Ukraine Nataliya Boyko, Head of International Relations at the President's office of the Republic of Tajikistan Manuchehr Hokimzoda, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection Ministry and Agriculture of Georgia Nino Tandilashvili, and Deputy Minister of Culture, Information, and Tourism of Kyrgyzstan Azamat Zhamankulov.



The Young Leadership Program offers rising officials from the Eurasia region an extraordinary opportunity to engage with their American counterparts in government, business and civil society. That engagement, coupled with home stays that will connect these young officials directly with American families, promises to enhance understanding between the United States and the countries represented by this delegation, as well as help in building bridges among the nations of Eurasia themselves."

Horton BEEBE-CENTER
President of the Eurasia Foundation

Within the framework of the program, young leaders met with Members of the U.S. Congress and their staff. Those representatives included Michael Turner (R-OH), Steve Chabot (R-OH), Joe Barton (R-TX), Francis Rooney (D-FL), Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and Lois Frankel (D-FL). The delegation also participated in lively discussions with the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee Legislative Fellow Laura Carey and former Congressman Cliff Stearns.

The young leaders also enjoyed the opportunity to hear from leading U.S. organizations including Open World Leadership Center, Eurasia Foundation, German Marshall Fund of the U.S., Overseas Private Investment

Corporation, Center for International Private Enterprise, International Republican Institute, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, International Tax and Investment Center, World Bank, Newseum, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics, APCO Worldwide, Business Council for International Understanding, and the U.S. Department of Commerce.



Eurasia Foundation President Horton Beebe-Center and StrategEast Founder and President Anatoly Motkin opening the StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 welcoming reception, hosted by the Eurasia Foundation.



The StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 delegation at the opening round table with Executive Director of the Open World Leadership Center Ambassador John O'Keefe at the Thomas Jefferson Building, Library of Congress, in Washington, D.C.



Congressman Joe Barton (R-TX) and President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, former Congressman Cliff Stearns taking a group photo after an avid discussion with the StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 delegation.



Congresswoman Lois Frankel (D-FL) taking a group photo with the StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 delegates in her office at the U.S. Capitol.



Vice Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania Martynas Norbutas and State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova Tatiana Molcean on their way to one of their engaging Hill meetings, where they learned about the ins-and-outs of the U.S. government.



“Next Generation Leaders from the Eurasia Region” executive dinner organized by the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) with BCIU Senior Vice President Jeffrey Donald, Skypower Global Director for Global Intelligence and Integration Zul Kapadia, Anticorruption Center Specialist and Funding Director Erkaiym Mambetalieva, 3M Director of International Affairs Brittany Masalosalo, StrategEast Founder and President Anatoly Motkin, APCO Worldwide Senior Advisor and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Europe, Middle East and Africa Matthew Murray, Sierra Nevada Corporation Director for International Programs Ertem Mutlu, Tellurian Vice President Ambassador Albert Nahas, Shell Director for International Government Relations Eric Pelofsky, Skypower Global Director for International and Institutional Relations Shamini Selvaratnam, Oracle Senior Director for Global Development Prosser Stirling, APR Energy Managing Director for Government Relations Eric Toumayan, Medtronic Senior International Relations Specialist EMEA/MEACAT Chérine Yassien, and others.



Panel Discussion on the Western expectations with respect to economic engagement, trade, and investment at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

From left to right: StrategEast Founder and President Anatoly Motkin, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) Office of Investment Policy Vice President Merryl Burpoe, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) Senior Fellow Jonathan Katz, British Petroleum America Inc Head of International Affairs Robert M.Scher, and Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) Program Officer for Europe & Eurasia Eric Hontz.



Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Senior Fellow Paul Stronski meeting the StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 delegation.



StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 participants posing together in front of the U.S. Capitol between meetings and enjoying the views of Washington, D.C. Left to right: State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova Tatiana Molcean, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Nino Tandilashvili, and Deputy Minister of Energy and Coal Industry on European Integration of Ukraine Nataliya Boyko.



Newseum Vice Chair Shelby Coffey, speaking to the StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 participants about the role of the press, and the relationship between the press and the government at the Newseum, in Washington, D.C.



Congressman Michael Turner (R-OH) and Vice Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nataliya Pan shaking hands after a meeting with the Congressman.



Panel Discussion, organized by the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) with (from left to right) CIPE Program Officer for Europe & Eurasia Eric Hontz, Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Commerce International Attorney-Advisor with the CLDP Arezo Yazd, CIPE Director of Development and Partnerships and Regional Director for Europe, Eurasia and South Africa Marc Schleifer, CIPE Director of Knowledge Management Kim E. Betcher, U.S. Department of Commerce Desk officer Boris Chumak, and APCO Worldwide Senior Advisor and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Europe, Middle East, and Africa Matthew Murray, in Washington, D.C.



A group of StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 delegates during their visit to Philadelphia, PA, for the 2-day Open World Program, together with the local coordinator Lissa Morinsky from Citizen Diplomacy International of Philadelphia.



A group of StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 delegates during their visit to Richmond, VA, for the 2-day Open World Program, together with the hosting committee of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Local host coordinators: VCU Globe's Kill Blondin and Global Education Office's Elizabeth Hiatt.

“

Our Young Leadership Program is not only about obtaining new skills that will allow participants to collaborate more effectively with U.S. institutions, but also about demonstrating the benefits of a strong civil society working towards economic sustainability.”

Anatoly Motkin

President of StrategEast

The participants of the StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2018 visited Richmond and Philadelphia, where the Open World Leadership Center and hosting organizations – Citizen Diplomacy International of Philadelphia, Virginia Commonwealth

University, and FHI 360 – organized meetings with representatives of local governments and NGOs. An exciting part of the program included homestays at local communities. By living in average American families, the deputy

ministers had the chance to candidly discuss different topics over food with “real” people, and thus gain insights into authentic American culture, which they would never otherwise experience during a typical trip to the United States.



“

The most positive result of the program was perhaps the opportunity to represent our countries, to demonstrate the work carried out in our sectors, and to exchange experiences. This exchange allows us to establish effective cooperation with experts and organizations.”

Vadim ZAKREVSKY

Deputy Minister of Energy of Belarus



“

The StrategEast Young Leadership Program offered a targeted, well-structured program with excellent discussions and opportunities to gain insights into U.S. policy and decision-making processes. In addition, this was a great way to share best practices.”

Tatiana MOLCEAN

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova



“

The Young Leadership Program was a great opportunity for me to deeply understand the democratic processes in the U.S. society and its public service sector. I received the tools which I can use in challenging situations when trying to achieve justice in our countries. The diversity of the meetings helped us to find the right solutions for the issues that we must be able to resolve every day while we serve our government.”

Natalya PAN

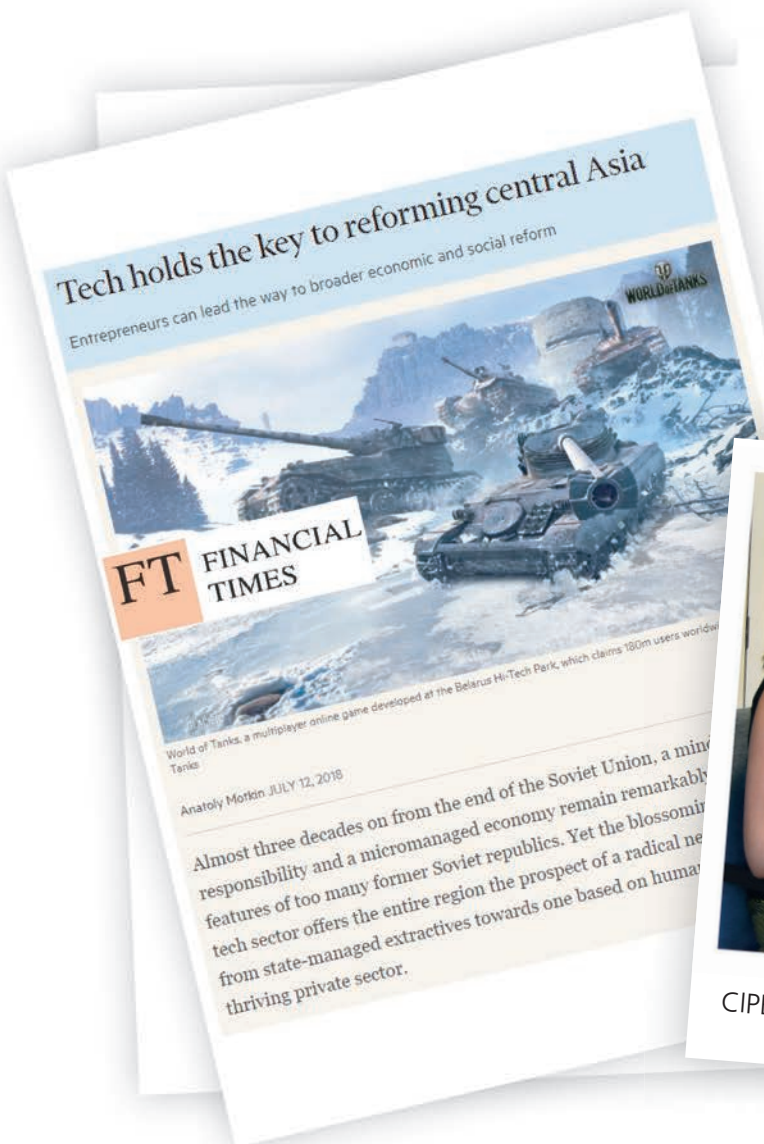
Deputy Minister of Justice of Kazakhstan

In the Media

StrategEast also reports on its program ideas through Op-Eds in various media venues. In 2017, the *Morning Consult* published StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin’s Op-Ed “Western Integration of Post-Soviet Countries and Russian Democratization,” in which, in particular, a fundamental message of StrategEast was stated: “‘All or nothing’ politics in the form of democratization in post-Soviet countries has proven to be ineffective. We see as much more effective a gradual development of independent institutes in these countries in exchange for the expansion of economic cooperation.”

In July 2018, the *Financial Times* published Mr. Motkin’s Op-Ed called “Tech Holds the Key to Reforming Central Asia,” in which the StrategEast President outlined the major ideas and principles for the implementation of the Global Minds Initiative program in the countries of Central Asia. “Young people are eager to prosper in a world where borders and distances are less significant than ever before. Now is the time for governments and the global tech sector to provide the framework and encouragement for them to work hard and drive real economic development across the post-Soviet region,” wrote Mr. Motkin.

Anatoly Motkin also took part in the recording of the podcast named “Democracy that Delivers” for the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) in which the growth of digital economies in the former Soviet Union was discussed. He provided an in-depth explanation on how a recently introduced piece of legislation in Belarus – the Decree on Developing the Digital Economy – was designed to spur growth in the IT sector through various tax incentives. The StrategEast President also discussed how countries like Belarus are more advanced than others in the region in the sphere of growing their digital economies.



CIPE guest host Maiko Nakagaki and podcast guest Anatoly Motkin

Regional Monitoring



StrategEast continues to conduct regular monitoring of the PSNR region.

StrategEast Regional Monitoring is the leading source of economic, business, financial, and political information about the region, tracking and reporting on the adoption and implementation of the Western model in the PSNR countries.

StrategEast monitors the most important news relating to the PSNR region and presents its audience with an up-to-date and relevant review of the factors affecting the connection of those countries to the West.

StrategEast Regional Monitoring of PSNR countries includes systematic reviews of publications from major

media outlets of the 14 countries. Each month we publish about 150 selected news stories and articles on current affairs issues from across the Eastern Europe, the Baltic states, the Caucasus region, and Central Asia.

The news feed is updated on a daily basis and can be accessed on our website, Twitter, and newsletter.

StrategEast's Plans for the Near Future

StrategEast has passed the stages of formation and institutionalization, developed a mission and a strategy, created its flagship programs, earned a certain reputation both among decision-makers in the West and the leaders of PSNR countries.

StrategEast's plan for the near future is to continue expanding its activities to promote the westernization of the post-Soviet space.

According to the Westernization Index findings, the PSNR countries are much more open to economic rather than political reforms, and we will therefore act through the implementation of economic changes and creation of guarantee mechanisms for property rights and the rule of law:

- As the continuation to the Westernization Index 2018, StrategEast will develop and present a Westernization Report covering new trends in the PSNR countries that have a significant effect influencing changes to the degree of those countries' westernization
- The implementation of the Global Minds Initiative will focus on the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, where we are planning to provide technical cooperation in organizing the learning processes for the local IT specialists, and development of recommendations for improving the legislation in this field, which will result in the creation of a new, transparent sector of the economy in those countries
- A pool of experts will be fully formed to provide up-to-date analytics of the PSNR region
- We will diligently continue to inform all our partners about the most significant developments in the PSNR countries through our regional monitoring, and continue sharing new concepts and ideas about the westernization of the PSNR region in our Op-Eds.

Advisory Board

In the spring of 2018, StrategEast formed its Advisory Board for the purpose of further organizational institutionalization. The **Advisory Board** members provide assistance to the managerial team of StrategEast in developing the **Center's** strategy, contribute to the advancement of **StrategEast's** programs, and promote the general idea of westernization of post-Soviet countries in governmental and non-governmental organizations in the United States and Western Europe.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ARE:



**Horton
Beebe-Center**

President, the Eurasia Foundation and Chairman, Gazelle Finance

Heading Eurasia Foundation, Mr. Beebe-Center made a great contribution to the development of small and medium businesses in post-Soviet countries. The implementation of good governance and involvement of the civil society in political life are always at the center of his attention. Fluent in Russian, Mr. Beebe-Center holds a B.A. in Soviet Studies from Brown University and an M.A. in Russian studies from Harvard University.



Michael Haltzel

Senior Fellow, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

Mr. Haltzel has made a great contribution to the establishment of peace and security in the region of Eastern Europe after the fall of the communist regimes. He is a recipient of state decorations from many Eastern European States, has served as OSCE monitor for the first post-war elections in Bosnia, and is the author or editor of ten books on European History and International Relations. Mr. Haltzel holds a Ph.D. in History from Harvard University.



Daniel A. Witt

President, International Tax and Investment Center

Working on the drafts of tax codes of many countries of the former USSR, Mr. Witt always followed the principles of good practices. Thanks to the contribution of Mr. Witt, the economies of these countries have gained a new chance for sustainable development and confidence in the world. Mr. Witt received a BBA (Magna Cum Laude) in Public Administration and an MBA in finance from Western Michigan University.



About StrategEast

StrategEast is a strategic center whose goal is to create closer working ties between political and business leaders in the countries that proclaimed or restored their independence after the collapse of the USSR outside of Russia and their peers in the U.S. and Western Europe.

StrategEast believes the nations from the former Soviet Union share a heritage that has resulted in common obstacles to the formation of stable, efficient, market-oriented democracies. We hope to appeal to political, business, and academic leaders in post-Soviet countries and the West, helping them better understand one another, communicate across borders, and collaborate to support real change. StrategEast is a registered 501(c)3 organization based in the United States.

Our work is focused on the 14 countries, which proclaimed or restored their independence after the collapse of the USSR: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

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