



2019 ACTIVITY REPORT

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Our Team



Amb. Michael Brodsky, Chief Executive Officer

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 Attache 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, Chief Strategic Officer

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, Russia, Latvia 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.



Tetiana Voitovych, Project Manager

She began her career as Team Assistant at Business Sweden (The Swedish Trade and Invest Council by the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine). Ms. Voitovych also served as a Team Assistant at Ukrainian NGO EasyBusiness and as an Executive Assistant at private equity fund Diligent Capital Partners, where she honed her skills in projects coordination and event-management.

Tetiana graduated from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (BA Law).



Lidia Shavlo, Chief Analyst

Lidia's experience includes over a decade in communications and public relations in both private and public sector. Before joining StrategEast, Ms. Shavlo has worked in PRP PR agency, a Weber Shandwick affiliate company, implementing award-winning PR strategies for international clients, including Coca-Cola, MasterCard, Microsoft, USAID, and others. Ms. Shavlo has worked within communications team of a Ukrainian tech startup, Sayenko Kharenko law firm, Investment and Trade Facilitation Center, Ukrainian MP and political party.

Lidia studied English philology in Kyiv National Linguistic University (MA), and Public Governance and Policy Analysis in Kyiv School of Economics.



Iryna Shyrokova, Project Manager

Her professional experience includes a position of the Project Manager at NGO 'Internews-Ukraine', where Ms. Shyrokova headed the information campaign of the EU Delegation to Ukraine supporting the UA-EU Association Agreement implementation, and coordination of the Georgy Gongadze Award for Ukrainian journalists by NGO 'Ukraine PEN'. The experience of developing training programs and the work as a trainer in the scope of international projects in Ukraine (e.g. for Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH) and abroad (e.g. within Erasmus+ program) are among other her professional achievements.

Ms. Shyrokova graduated from National University of 'Kyiv-Mohyla academy' in Ukraine (BA, MA in History) and Central European University in Hungary (MA in Central European History).



During the time that has passed since our previous report, StrategEast has managed to achieve one of its primary objectives. That objective was to convey and impress upon a significant number of Western policymakers the understanding that the key to success of US and European policies in the Eurasian and Baltic region is to facilitate economic transformation.

The transition of Eurasian and Baltic countries from natural resources-based economies to knowledge-driven ones is exactly what will lead to the value transformation that the West is so interested in - reinforcing the values of the rule of law and intellectual property protection in the region's countries.

StrategEast intends that its contribution to this transformation will be its flagship program, Global Minds Initiative, which we have presented during the reporting period to many key stakeholders whose assistance is critically important for the successful implementation of the program's projects. Among those stakeholders are the World Bank, USAID, EBRD, Chatham House, BCIU, representatives of relevant ministries in Eurasian and Baltic countries, a number of major IT companies operating in the region, and heads of local IT clusters. The first specific steps towards the implementation of Global Minds Initiative were the result of such meetings and discussions:

- In the countries of Central Asia and Transcaucasia StrategEast is in talks

with U.S.-based donor organizations regarding the financing of the project to create a network of IT HUBs - educational centers of a new type. This project was developed jointly with EPAM, the largest American engineering company operating in the Eurasian region. Thanks to this IT HUB system being created by StrategEast in collaboration with EPAM, the local youth will be able to not only acquire modern, market-driven IT skills, but also find their first jobs or the first investments into their start-ups;

- In Ukraine, StrategEast has initiated international support for the adoption of the law "on the taxation of the IT industry." The aim of this law, which is sponsored by the Ukrainian Parliament's relevant committee and the IT Association in Support of Bill 10094, is to make the local IT industry completely transparent for government agencies, while maintaining excellent prospects for its further development;

- We have commenced the preparations for the first StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum, where we will bring together all institutions interested in developing the IT industry in Eurasia. The invitees will include representatives of Western institutions, governments of Eurasian countries, and the global and local IT industries. The forum will take place in Kyiv in early November of this year and will be dedicated primarily to discussing the special aspects of legislation governing the IT industry;

- A separate event, which we at StrategEast are preparing together with the USTR, will be devoted to the problem that stands in the way of cooperation between Western companies and the Eurasian IT industry - the problem of intellectual property rights protection.

Since StrategEast's Global Minds Initiative program has a pronounced technical emphasis and its implementation requires the assistance of world-class experts in this field, we have deemed it necessary to form a separate Advisory Board for

this program. Among the esteemed specialists who have agreed to be on this Board are Arkady Dobkin, President of EPAM Systems, Talmon Marco, co-founder of Viber and Juno, and Dr. Gregory Asmolov, Fellow at King's College London. StrategEast is in talks with several other influential representatives of the IT industry and Western institutions interested in the development of IT in Eurasia regarding joining the Advisory Board.

We have continued to popularize in our media publications the idea of transforming society through the development of a knowledge-driven economy. For instance, the Atlantic Council has published in their blog my article on the new prospects of developing the knowledge-driven economy in Ukraine; as such prospects have opened up following the recent change of power in the country. (As a result of this power change, an industrialist president was superseded by a president who is well acquainted with the issues of intellectual property rights protection.)

This February, StrategEast published the first Westernization Report - a continuation of our work on the systemic study of the processes of social transformation and the spread of Western values in Eurasian and Baltic countries. The report was a logical continuation of the Westernization Index, which was published last year. This time our experts did not calculate the level of Westernization of the subject countries, but instead brought to light the process trends.

I express the most heartfelt gratitude to the members of the StrategEast Advisory Board for your trust, valuable advice, and support for our initiatives. Stay with us!

Sincerely,
Anatoly Motkin
Founder and President, StrategEast

Anatoly Motkin

StrategEast Westernization Report 2019



In February of 2019, StrategEast presented its Westernization Report 2019, in which the experts from Eurasian and Baltic countries describe the most important political and economic events that occurred in the region in 2018.

The experts selected a wide variety of events, which will most likely affect the degree of westernization in their respective countries - from the transition to the Latin alphabet in Kazakhstan to blockchain innovations in Lithuania, and from tax reform in Uzbekistan to the peaceful revolution in Armenia. It is not easy to discern clearly defined tendencies in Eurasian and Baltic countries development from this vibrant variety; however, there are two critically important conclusions.

First, the region as a whole is demonstrating positive trends. In nine of the fourteen countries studied, events selected by our experts will undoubtedly facilitate further progression towards Western values. In two cases - the constitutional reform review in Georgia and measures to battle corruption in Kyrgyzstan - it would be premature to make any inferences about potential outcomes. In the process of implementing those legislative measures, much will depend not just on the authorities, but also in equal measure on the activeness of the civil society, which will need to "protect" the results of those reforms.

The second important tendency is that, in the majority of countries, events which had a positive effect on the degree of Westernization were initiated by the government. While it was logical to expect that from the obvious leaders of our rating - Estonia and Latvia, and to some degree from Ukraine - the actions of the governments of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Belarus once again proved that "top down westernization" was possible in countries with a wide variety of political systems.

STRATEG EAST PRESENTED ITS WESTERNIZATION REPORT 2019 THROUGHOUT EURASIAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS IN UK AND US:



Presentation of the StrategEast Westernization Report 2019 at the British Parliament. London (UK), February 28, 2019.

Amb. Michael Brodsky, StrategEast CEO
Anatoly Motkin, StrategEast President
James Gray, the Conservative MP for North Wiltshire
Jamila Mammadova, Research Assistant and ECLD Co-ordinator at the Henry Jackson Society

Presentation of the StrategEast Westernization Report 2019 at the Ukrainian Crisis Media Center, Kyiv (Ukraine), March 26, 2019

Anatoly Motkin, StrategEast President
Amb. Michael Brodsky, StrategEast CEO
Amb. Eduard Hoeks, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Ukraine



Presentation of StrategEast Westernization Report 2019 at the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD) in Tbilisi (Georgia), April 25, 2019.

Anatoly Motkin, StrategEast president
Ghia Nodia, CIPDD Chairman Member
Amb. Michael Brodsky, StrategEast CEO

Presentation of StrategEast Westernization Report 2019 in the U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C. (USA), May, 2019.

Amb. Michael Brodsky, StrategEast CEO
Michael Haltzel, Senior Fellow, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies
Anatoly Motkin, StrategEast President



StrategEast Westernization Award

NOMINEES IN 2018 WERE:

Economic Westernization - Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan

Mr. Mirziyoyev had transformed Uzbekistan by bringing equal opportunities and taking serious steps in terms of Uzbekistan economic development. He has changed Uzbekistan's decision-making processes, encouraged political competition and strengthened civil society.



StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin presented the Westernization Award for President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The Award was presented to Javlon Vakhabov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.S. in Washington on May 7, 2019.

Political Westernization - Ambassador Wolfgang Ishinger, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference

Ambassador Ishinger was awarded a Political Westernization Award for engaging Eurasian and Baltic countries in the process of building the global security and peace during Munich Security Conference.

Legal Westernization - Viktor Prokopenya, technology entrepreneur, venture investor

Mr. Prokopenya was awarded a Legal Westernization Award for his contribution to the development of

the legislation in the IT area in Belarus and for creation of one of the most beneficial legal frameworks for IT businesses in Eurasian and Baltic countries.



StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin and CEO Michael Brodsky presented the Legal Westernization Award to technology entrepreneur and venture investor Viktor Prokopenya during the presentation of StrategEast Westernization Report 2019 at the British Parliament on February 28, 2019.

Westernization of Lifestyle - Michael O'Leary, Ryanair CEO

Mr. Michael O'Leary was awarded a Lifestyle Westernization Award in recognition of his contribution to increasing connectivity between Ukraine and Europe. Ryanair flights to Ukraine are another bridge between Ukrainians and Europe and this step has made the attendance of European countries more accessible for Ukrainians.

Language and Culture Westernization - Erden Kazhybek, Head of the Institute of Linguistics in Kazakhstan, one of the main developers of the new Kazakh alphabet

Mr. Kazhybek has a lead at the process of transition of Kazakh language for Latin alphabet which leads to a process of integration of

In February, 2019 StrategEast announced its Westernization Award 2018 nominees. The Westernization Award was established for significant contribution of politicians, business representatives and civil activists in creating closer ties between Eurasian and Baltic countries and the Western World. It was presented in 6 categories: **Economic Westernization, Political Westernization, Legal Westernization, Westernization of Lifestyle, Language and Culture Westernization, and Lifetime achievement.**



Kazakhstan into global economy, and thus he was awarded with Culture and Language Westernization Award.

StrategEast CEO Michael Brodsky presented the Language and Cultural Westernization Award to the Director of Akhmet Baitursynov Institute of Linguistics Erden Kazhybek on March 19 in Almaty.



Lifetime achievement - Toomas Hendrik Ilves, former President of Estonia

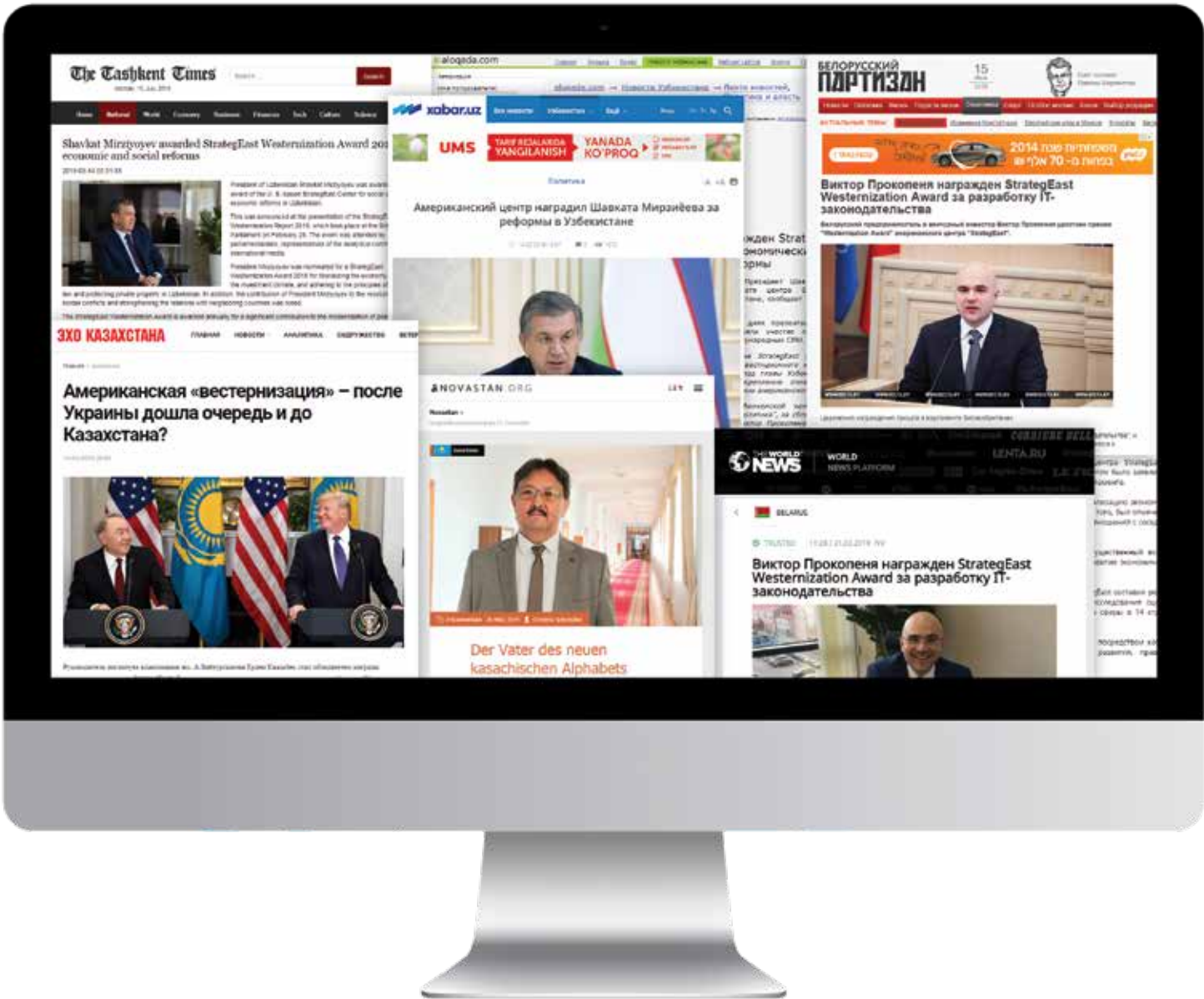
Mr. Ilves has developed the most digitally savvy country in the world. His belief in transformative power of technology has totally changed Estonia and rethought the interaction between government and citizens. Mr. Ilves has shown a very successful example of Estonia's transformation to the digital economy that reduced bureaucracy, increased transparency and boosted economic growth.

StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin presented Westernization Award in the category "Lifetime Achievement" to Mr. Ilves during Lennart Meri Conference 2019, which took place between May, 17 and May, 19 in Tallinn (Estonia).

StrategEast Westernization Report and Westernization Award Media Coverage

StrategEast activities including the presentation of Westernization Report 2019 and Westernization Award gained extensive media coverage. There were above 50 newspaper articles and online publication from different countries, including but not limited to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine.

Majority of the publication was focused on the StrategEast Westernization Award nominees President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Director of Kazakhstani Institute of Linguistics Erden Kazhybek and technology entrepreneur and venture investor from Belarus Viktor Prokopenya.



Global Minds Initiative

During the reported period, StrategEast has further sought to enhance its flagship Global Minds Initiative program. The goal of the program is to help Eurasian and Baltic countries develop thriving IT sectors as a part of their economic transitions to a knowledge-driven model of economy in order to become better integrated into the free world's economy.



From left to right: Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine Yuriy Brovchenko, Member of Parliament of Ukraine Serhiy Taruta, Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom and Trade Envoy to Georgia and Armenia Mark Pritchard, StrategEast CEO, Amb. Michael Brodsky.

On November 16, StrategEast held the roundtable on the role of the state in the field of science and innovations, which took place at Hyatt Regency Kyiv.



On November 28, StrategEast Founder and President Anatoly Motkin attended Moldova Business Week 2018. Mr. Motkin presented Center's flagship Global Minds Initiative program and shared his views on strategy for building new economy in Eurasian and Baltic region.

On May 7, StrategEast presented the report "Changing economy, changing society" at the headquarters of the World Bank in Washington.



Meeting with Siddhartha Raja, Digital Development, and representatives of the World Bank Group at the Bank's Washington DC headquarters

StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin started a discussion on the role of the knowledge-driven economy in transforming society with the World Bank senior staff and its representatives from Eurasian countries.



On May 6 StrategEast initiated a discussion «Trends, opportunities and new government policies in the IT industry in Eurasian space». The event took place at BCIU (Business Council for International Understanding) in Washington, D.C.

The speakers were Anatoly Motkin, StrategEast President, Amb. Michael Brodsky, StrategEast CEO; John Piletich, Coordinator for South and Central Asia at International Communications and Information Policy U.S. Department of State and Cary Ingram, Senior International Trade Specialist at Telecommunications Technologies U.S. Department of Commerce. The event participants – Mr. Miguel Bates-Mendoza (Vice President Global Government Affairs at Citi), Mr. Chris Clement (Director, International Affairs at Siemens USA), Ms. Marleine Davis (Director, Government Affairs at Motorola Solutions), Ms. Meredith Golemon (Senior Director, Global Trade Policy at Oracle), Mr. Henry Homans (Research Analyst at Williams & Jensen, PLLC), Mr. Ertem Mutlu (Director, International Business Development

at Sierra Nevada Corporation), Mr. David Rosenblum (Senior Manager at Development Finance International, Inc), Mr. Scott Shefferman (Associate General Counsel at Verizon), Mr. Nicholas Fetchko (Head of International Government Affairs and Trade Policy at Verizon), Mr. Jeffrey Donald (Senior Vice President at BCIU).



On June 12-14, StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin presented StrategEast Global Minds Initiative during #CAMCA2019 annual conference in Tashkent, at a panel discussion dedicated to the Digital Transformation in Eurasia.

The Central Asia-Caucasus Institute - Regional Forum #CAMCA2019 was co-organized by Rumsfeld Foundation and took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



On July 24th Anatoly Motkin, StrategEast President, presented a report entitled "Changing Economy, Changing Society" at the Atlantic Council headquarters in Washington, D.C. Mr. Motkin outlined the current state of the IT sector in Eurasia and the Baltic states and highlighted the potential of the IT industry to facilitate further economic and social changes. Arkady Dobkin, principal founder, CEO and President of EPAM Systems, and Amb. John Herbst, Atlantic Council Eurasia Center Director spoke alongside Anatoly Motkin.

The report presentation was followed by a discussion on the potential nature and scale of the digital transformation and its influence on societies in the region.

As StrategEast Global Minds Initiative is gaining momentum in Eurasian and Baltic states, a need has arisen to create an Advisory Board specifically for this flagship program, which would comprise of experienced and prominent practitioners in the field of IT.

Two top level IT entrepreneurs have joined the Global Minds Initiative board - Arkady Dobkin, CEO, and President of EPAM Systems company, a global provider of software engineering and IT consulting services

headquartered in the United States; and Talmon Marco, a co-founder of Viber and Juno. They are joined by Dr. Gregory Asmolov from King’s College London, whose work focuses on how information technologies, specifically social media and crowdsourcing platforms, constitute the role of individual users and crowds in crisis situations.

Board members will contribute their professional expertise in the IT area and assist StrategEast in implementing the program in the Eurasian and Baltic region.

GLOBAL MINDS INITIATIVE ADVISORY BOARD



Arkady Dobkin

President of EPAM Systems company

Mr. Dobkin is the principal founder, CEO and President of EPAM Systems. Under his direction, EPAM has grown to become one of the leading software and product engineering services companies in the world.

For the past 20 years, Mr. Dobkin has been increasingly recognized as an instrumental force in opening the vast software talent pool of the former Soviet Union region and Central and Eastern Europe to the international business community. In 2015, Mr. Dobkin was inducted into the Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur of the Year Academy and to the elite Entrepreneur of the Year Hall of Fame.

Mr. Dobkin holds an MS in Electrical Engineering from the Belarusian National Technical University.



Dr. Gregory Asmolov

King’s College London

Gregory Asmolov is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at King’s College London.

His current research project explores how digital platforms change the everyday lives of users who are remote from a zone of conflict, and how information technologies contribute to the participation of their users in warfare. His additional research interests include disinformation and social polarization, and the role of digital networks in the emergence of alternative socio-political spaces.

He holds a BA in Communication and International Affairs from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, an MA in Global Communication from George Washington University, and PhD in Media and Communications from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



Talmon Marco

Co-founder of Viber and Juno

Talmon Marco is the founder of Viber, a proprietary cross-platform instant messaging VoIP application for smartphones with over 400 million users, and Juno, a ride-sharing service.

In 1995, Mr. Marco Co-Founded Nortex Software, a developer of Civil Engineering software. In 1997, he Co-founded Expand Networks, where he served as the President until 2004.

In 1998, Mr. Marco co-founded iMesh, where he was President until 2010.

In 2010 he co-founded Viber, which in 2014 has been acquired by Rakuten.

In 2016, he founded Juno, a ride-sharing app, which in 2017 has been acquired by Gett.

Mr. Marco holds a degree in Computer Science and Management from the Tel-Aviv University.

StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2019

StrategEast Young Leadership Program was held for the second time in 2019 in the United States. The Program is designed for young deputy ministers of Eurasian and Baltic states, in order to provide a deep insight into how internal processes in the U.S. government system works and what the role of governmental authorities is in economic processes.

The program took place over a week-long visit to the United States, including training events led by high-level US officials and analytical community representatives that provided deeper insight into the interaction between state and business.

The main goal of the program is to help the participants to gain new instruments and to broaden their networking

for the development of economic relations between their countries and the U.S. This year program was focused on innovations, knowledge-driven economy and tech development.

Open World Leadership Center and StrategEast were hosting the second Young Leadership Program between June 2-9, 2019.

During the program, the Deputy Ministers met government officials, and representatives of civil society and the private sector. The participants were also divided into two groups and spend several days in home stays – in Philadelphia, PA, and Richmond, VA. The purpose of this part of the program is to familiarize participants with the system of interaction between local and federal authorities.



Washington, D.C. welcomed the participants of StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2019.

From left to right: Tetiana Voitovych (Project Manager, StrategEast); Murod Saidzoda (Head of Department of European and American Countries, MFA Tajikistan); Edmunds Belskis (Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia); Carolina Perebinos (State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Moldova); Anatoly Motkin (Founder and President, StrategEast); Timur Toktabayev (Deputy Minister of Investment and Development, Kazakhstan); Farizshokh Usmanov (Deputy Chairman of Trade and Industry Chamber of Uzbekistan); Lasha Khutsishvili (Deputy Minister of Finance of Georgia); Daniyar Imanaliev (Head of Strategic development, economics and finance of the Administration of President, Kyrgyzstan).



The first day of StrategEast Young Leadership Program 2019 has started with a meeting with Georgetown University professor of federalism Sam Potolicchio. Professor Potolicchio has outlined the peculiarities of the U.S. federal system and its founding documents. *Left to right:* Daniar Imanaliev (Kyrgyzstan), Farizshokh Usmanov (Uzbekistan), Lasha Khutsishvili (Georgia); Edmunds Belskis (Latvia); Sam Potolicchio (Georgetown University Professor); Carolina Perebinos (Moldova); Anatoly Motkin (Founder and President, StrategEast); Timur Toktabayev (Kazakhstan); Murod Saidzoda (Tajikistan).



From left to right: Mr. Farizshokh Usmanov, Deputy Chairman Trade and Industry Chamber of Uzbekistan, Mr. Murod Saidzoda, Head of department of European and American countries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan and Mr. Edmunds Belskis, Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia.



Meeting at State Department with DAS George Kent and Cheryl L. Fernandes to discuss the U.S. foreign policy for the region. Mr. Kent serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the European and Eurasian Bureau at the U.S. Department of State, overseeing policy towards Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Ms. Fernandes is the Office Director for Caucasus Affairs and Regional Conflicts in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.



Meeting with Tara Blake, Director, International Project Finance at the Overseas Private Investment Company. Ms. Blake is responsible for the key liaison for agency with investors, U.S. government officials, foreign government officials, multilaterals, and other financial institutions.

From left to right: Murod Saidzoda (Tajikistan); Tetiana Voitovych (StrategEast); Edmunds Belskis (Latvia); Lasha Khutsishvili (Georgia); Timur Toktabayev (Kazakhstan); Anatoly Motkin (StrategEast); Tara Blake (OPIC); Carolina Perebinos (Moldova); Daniar Imanaliev (Kyrgyzstan); Farizshokh Usmanov (Uzbekistan).



Meeting at Metropolitan Club with StrategEast Advisory Board member and International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC) president Daniel Witt and ITIC Vice President Blake Marshall. *From left to right:* Edmunds Belskis, Daniar Imanaliev, Lasha Khutsishvili, Anatoly Motkin, Timur Toktabayev, Carolina Perebinos, Daniel Witt, Farizshokh Usmanov, Tetiana Voitovych, Blake Marshall, Murod Saidzoda.



Mr. Prosser Stirling, Senior Director, International Relations and Government Affairs, Oracle; Mr. Anatoly Motkin, StrategEast President; Ms Carolina Perebinos, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Moldova at the reception held for StrategEast Young Leadership Program participants.



Capitol Tour (Tetiana Voitovych (StrategEast); Daniia Imanaliev (Kyrgyzstan); Farizshokh Usmanov (Uzbekistan); Matthew Tucker (Open World Leadership Center); Edmunds Belskis (Latvia); Carolina Perebinos (Moldova); Murod Saidzoda (Tajikistan); Lasha Khutsishvili (Georgia)).



Timur Toktabayev (Kazakhstan), Lasha Khutsishvili (Georgia), Daniia Imanaliev (Kyrgyzstan) during the meeting with Congressman Chabot.



Meeting with Stephen Nix, Regional Program Director for Eurasia at the International Republican Institute (IRI); Bakhtiyor Nishanov, Regional Deputy Director, for Eurasia at IRI; Motria Chaban, Program Officer, and IRI staff.



Discussion with Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia.
From left to right: Carolina Perebinos, Lasha Khutsishvili, Edmunds Belskis, Bob O'Donnell, Mitchell Orenstein, Marina Kats, Andrey Grashkin, Eli Gilman, Maia Otarashvili and Robert Hamilton.



Farizshokh Usmanov (Uzbekistan), Anatoly Motkin (StrategEast) and Murod Saidzoda (Tajikistan) in Virginia State Capitol



Murod Saidzoda (Tajikistan) at CBS6/WTVR Local News Station in Richmond, VA.



StrategEast Young Leadership program participants on their visit to Philadelphia.
From left to right: Edmunds Belskis, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia; Lasha Khutsishvili, Deputy Minister Finance of the Republic of Georgia; Kristen Ramsey, Program Officer at Citizen Diplomacy International Philadelphia; Carolina Perebinos, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova and StrategEast Project Manager Tetiana Voitovych.



“ Young Leadership Program is the best opportunity to learn directly from policy makers how the American political, economic and social systems are being created and developed.

As well as it gives a great possibility to establish contacts with public, private and NGO sectors for the effective future cooperation. Within the framework of the program it is of utmost importance to share the experience of different states and look over the implementation of the ongoing reforms and policy developments in our countries.

LASHA KHUTSISHVILI

Deputy Minister of Finance of Georgia



“ Participation in the StrategEast Young Leadership Program was a unique opportunity to study the world's best practices and modern governance structures, provided a deeper insight into many of the transformation processes taking place in the United States, and the possibility of the influence of many policy institutions on government performance.

Special thanks to the organizers for visiting a large number of interesting historical, architectural and cultural sites of the country. I was pleased to get acquainted with my foreign colleagues, the opportunity to exchange experience and warm communication with them.

TIMUR TOKTABAYEV

Deputy Minister of Investment and Development of Kazakhstan



“ The participation in StrategEast Young Leadership Program was a good opportunity for me to enrich the knowledge about the U.S. domestic and foreign policy, particularly with regards to the countries of the Central Asian region. Since I head the department which deals with the bilateral relations with the USA at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, it was very useful for me to learn from inside the decision making process and engage with counterparts across the ocean. Meeting with representatives of local governments and NGOs contributed to the overall perception of the main goals of the program. Another positive achievement was the possibility to meet colleagues from other countries with whom Tajikistan shares common history and to exchange experience gained in the period of transition. It's very important to establish personal contacts in order to ensure effective cooperation in different areas.

MUROD SAIDZODA

Head of Department of European and American countries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

In the Media

StrategEast continues to spread its program ideas through Op-Eds and interviews in various media outlets. In November, 2018 the Modern Diplomacy published StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin's Op-Ed "Developing the IT sector will make Central Asia more united and independent", in which, Mr. Motkin calls Central Asia the new "IT tiger". Yet, in his opinion, the region may be interesting to the world industry's giants only as a united region, and "they must view it as such already, by extending a certain credibility to the new economic initiatives originating in that region.

This means opening regional offices in the local IT clusters and entrusting them first with outsourcing and then with R&D, serving as evangelists of the new economy in contacts with representatives of the Central Asian countries' governments, and considering the possibilities of investing into local

startups jointly with governments."

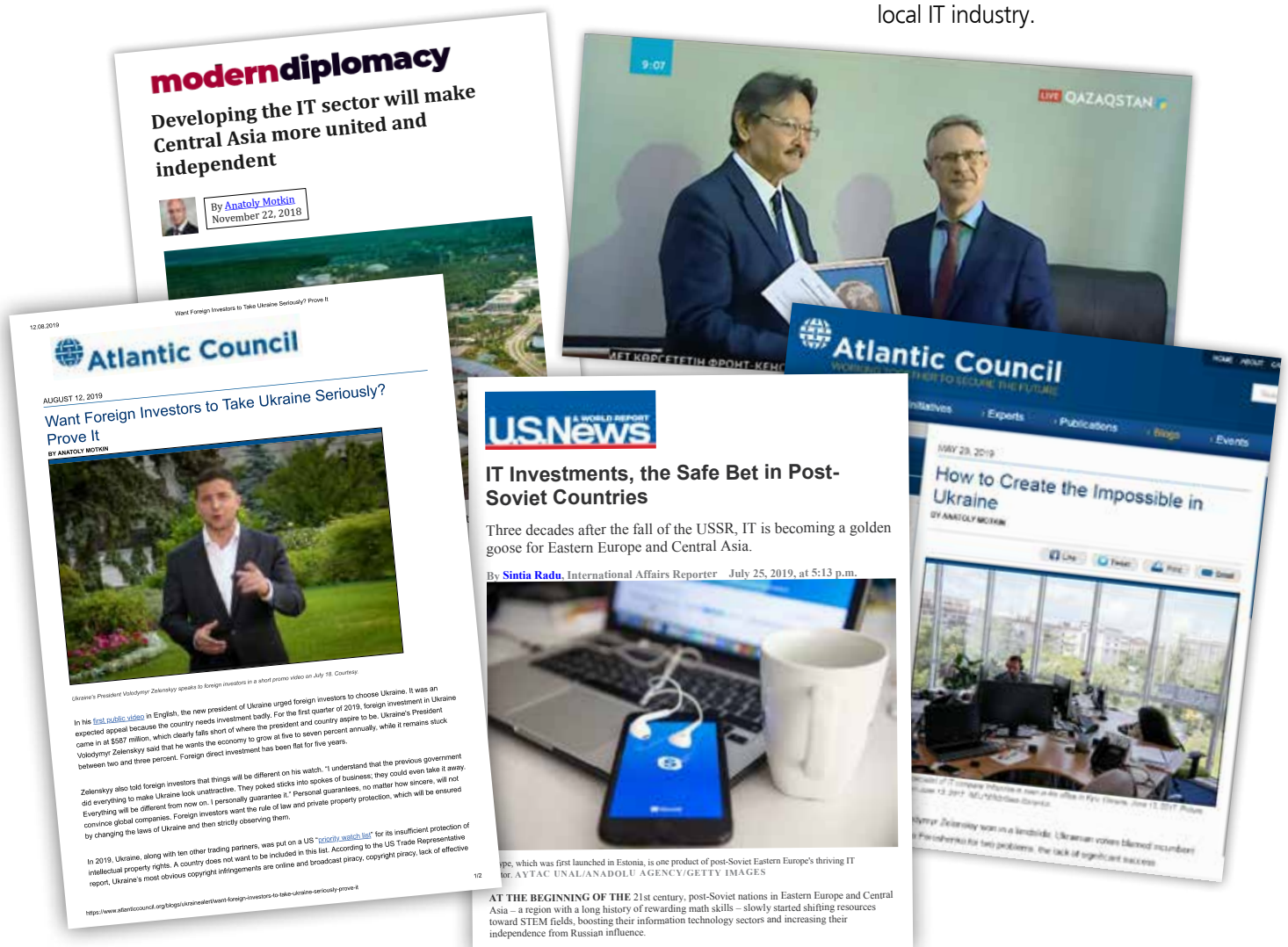
In March, 2019 the Qazaqstan TV-channel released an interview with Amb. Michael Brodsky, StrategEast CEO, in which the Language and Cultural Westernization Award to the Director of Akhmet Baitursynov Institute of Linguistics Erden Kazhybek was discussed. Mr. Kazhybek has been awarded for his significant contribution to the Latinization of the Kazakh alphabet.

In his piece for the Atlantic Council blog, published in May 2019, Mr. Motkin shared his thoughts on how the West can assist to transform the Ukrainian economy to a knowledge-driven model. He believes, the IT sector, along with other sectors of the knowledge-driven economy, "has a chance of becoming a "Western oasis" in the Ukrainian economy: corruption-free and ensuring significant economic growth throughout

the country, and creating jobs in related sectors."

In its article issued in July 2019, the US News and World Report underlined, that with corruption on the rise in post-Soviet Eastern Europe and Central Asia, information technology looks like the safest bet for foreign investors. It also covers the presentation of "Changing Economy, Changing Society" report at the Atlantic Council.

In his Op-Ed for the Atlantic Council blog, Anatoly Motkin explained the importance of IPR protection for economic growth in Ukraine. "Investors want predictability and protection. The lack of a system that protects intellectual property directly affects trade relations between Ukraine and the United States, but even more, it limits Ukraine's ability to attract foreign investment.", - Mr. Motkin writes. He adds that reforming the system of intellectual property rights will give Ukraine a real chance to attract investment into the local IT industry.



AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21st century, post-Soviet nations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia – a region with a long history of rewarding math skills – slowly started shifting resources toward STEM fields, boosting their information technology sectors and increasing their independence from Russian influence.

Advisory Board

Throughout 2018, StrategEast has expanded its Advisory Board, which provides strategic advice and guidance to the Center.

We are happy to introduce four new members of the StrategEast Advisory Board: former President of the Kyrgyz

Republic Roza Otunbayeva, former State Department official and Defense Department official Debra L. Cagan; member of the UK Parliament Mark Pritchard and former Head of Administration (Chief of Staff) to the President of Georgia David Tkeshelashvili.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ARE:



Horton Beebe-Center

Former President
of Eurasia Foundation

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.



Debra Cagan

Debra L. Cagan worked as a career State Department diplomat and Defense Department official from the Reagan to Trump administrations, including serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Coalition, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Disaster Relief; Senior Director for European, Russian and Eurasian security issues; Special Adviser for Strategic and Nuclear Policy for Europe; Senior Adviser to U.S. and NATO military officials. Ms. Cagan led negotiations for the Highly Enriched Uranium Agreement with Russia and headed coalition operations for Iraq and Afghanistan. Ms. Cagan, a native Chicagoan, has a BA and MA from the University of Iowa and completed additional post-graduate work at the University of Chicago towards her doctorate, where she was named the first woman fellow for the prestigious Armed Forces and Society Consortium.



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 Ph.D. in history from Harvard University.



Roza Otunbayeva

President of the Kyrgyz Republic (2010-2011)

Roza Otunbayeva has taken an active role in democratic changes in Kyrgyz Republic. Ms Otunbayeva has served as Vice-Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, the first Kyrgyz Ambassador to the United States and Canada (1992-1994), and later to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland (1997-2002). From July 2010 to December 2011, Roza Otunbayeva served as President of the Kyrgyz Republic. During 2002-2004 she worked as Deputy Head of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in peacekeeping mission to Georgia before returning to Kyrgyzstan. She holds a PhD in Philosophy from Moscow State University



Mark Pritchard

Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom, OSCE PA Special Representative for South East Europe

Mr. Pritchard has extensive international experience, being the first MP to serve consecutively, on the NATO, Council of Europe, and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assemblies.

Mark is a former Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party's International Office - and has advised political parties throughout Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

He has also monitored elections on behalf of the Council of Europe and the OSCE throughout Europe, North America, and post-Soviet countries. He holds two Masters Degrees in International Diplomacy and Management and International Marketing.



David Tkeshelashvili

Chief of Staff to the President of Georgia (2010-2013)

Mr. Tkeshelashvili instituted a series of structural and policy reforms for decentralization and sustainable regional development in Georgia.

Mr. Tkeshelashvili led regional development and local self-government reform process, first as a State Minister for Regional Issues, later under his leadership new office, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure was created. He served as a minister of the newly established agency till 2010.

He holds Master of Arts in Legal Studies from Tbilisi State University; and LL.M degree from Emory University in Atlanta.



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.

Regional Monitoring



StrategEast is continuously conducting media monitoring in Eurasian and Baltic states to facilitate access to the most recent economic, business, financial and political information about the region, as well as to ease tracking on the adoption and implementation of the Western model in Eurasian and Baltic states.

Conducting regional media monitoring, StrategEast expands the possibilities on keeping the audience up-to-date on recent developments, which have taken place in

Eurasian and Baltic countries and which affect the degree of westernization of the region.

We analyze major media outlets in 14 countries, publishing about 150 selected news 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.

Newsletters

StrategEast has launched monthly newsletters to inform all our partners about the most significant developments of the Center. Every month we send our supporters the most recent news stories to keep them up to date of what we are up to.

Our plans for the near future

StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum, Ukraine

StrategEast will host the first State and IT Eurasian Forum in Kyiv, Ukraine, in November 2019, jointly with Ukraine's government authorities.

The StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum will provide a unique platform for the dialogue between governments and local and global IT industry leaders. About 40 speakers and more than 150 guests are expected to take part in the forum.

The Project's Goals:

- To identify common opportunities and challenges of the IT sectors in the Eurasian and Baltic countries
- To propose practical solutions to existing challenges in the fields of legislation, taxation, and intellectual property rights (IPR)
- To attract international IT companies and venture capital funds into considering the opportunities in the IT industry in the region
- To share best practices, experience, and knowledge

Our plans for the near future

StrategEast IT Hubs in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Mariupol (Ukraine), and Tbilisi (Georgia)

The project is led by StrategEast jointly with EPAM Systems, Inc.

The Project's Goals

- To create new jobs and attract FDIs in the region
- To provide young educated youth with the opportunity to find positions for which they are qualified and prevent them from leaving the country
- To strengthen the region's economy while creating a new high-income population segment
- To promote non-IT job opportunities: the penetration of the IT industry into the area will have the "side effect" of creating jobs in support sectors

About StrategEast

StrategEast is a strategic center, whose goal is to reinforce the values of rule of law and private property protection in Eurasian and Baltic countries through the transition from natural resources-based to knowledge-driven economy.

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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