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European Investment Bank invests over EUR 1 bln in Ukraine in 2020

The European Investment Bank (EIB) invested over EUR 1 billion in Ukraine in 2020 alone. This represents an increase of more than 50% compared to 2019, the press service of the bank has reported.

"We delivered record investment of over EUR 1 billion in Ukraine in 2020, focusing our operations on support for conflict-affected regions of eastern Ukraine, sustainable and green infrastructure, digitalization, innovation and business recovery after COVID-19," the press service said, citing EIB Vice-President Teresa Czerwińska, who is responsible for operations in Ukraine.

She said that Ukraine is the main recipient country of EIB investments in the Eastern Neighbourhood, accounting for more than 60% of the EIB's lending activity in the region and supporting the European Union's policies in its neighbourhood.

According to the report, total EIB investment in Ukraine has now reached EUR 7.5 billion.

The EIB financed small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to ensure they can survive the crisis and continue to provide jobs. It also invested in infrastructure rehabilitation and development, innovation and improvements in public transport and key public services such as education and the postal service.

In 2020, the EIB supported 75 SMEs and mid-caps and helped sustain close to 18,500 jobs in Ukraine.

HEADLINES



CORUM GROUP PLANS TO SUPPLY COMPONENTS TO LARGEST MINING COMPANY IN EUROPE



VOLUME OF INVESTMENTS IN UKRAINIAN HOUSEHOLD SOLAR POWER PLANTS REACHES EUR 600 MLN



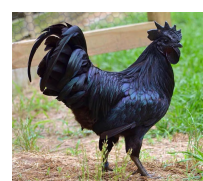
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHES PUBLISH STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF DRUG AMIZON IN COVID TREATMENT



UKRAINE BECOMES SECOND LARGEST EXPORTER OF GRAIN



KERNEL INCREASES SALES OF SUNFLOWER OIL BY 23%



UKRAINIAN MHP RAISES POULTRY SALES BY 10% IN Q4 2020

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development invests EUR 812 mln in Ukraine in 2020

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in 2020 reduced investments in Ukraine to EUR 812 million in 34 projects compared to 2019, when the Bank invested 51 projects for EUR 1.1 billion. "In terms of annual investment, Ukraine ranked third among the Bank's countries of operation after Turkey and Egypt," the EBRD said in a press release.

According to it, new investments included support for projects to improve corporate governance (as a pilot transformation program for Ukravtodor), as well as a project for transforming Ukrposhta, improving transport infrastructure in Ukrainian cities, introducing energy efficient technologies in heavy industry, etc.



European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Ukrainian ministry for strategic industries lists as priorities for 2021 increase in exports

Over 14,000 Ukrainian companies annually export their products to the European Union, said Minister of Economy Ihor Petrashko.

"Over 14,000 companies annually export their products to the EU. And as of mid-January, 362 companies producing animal products have the right to export their products to the EU, which is subject to the most stringent requirements from the EU," the press service of the ministry quoted Petrashko as saying in the release. Reforms in technical regulation, public procurement, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, as well as improving the product safety control system, customs, intellectual property protection system will allow to remove barriers to trade and provide more free access to the EU internal market for Ukrainian companies, the minister said.



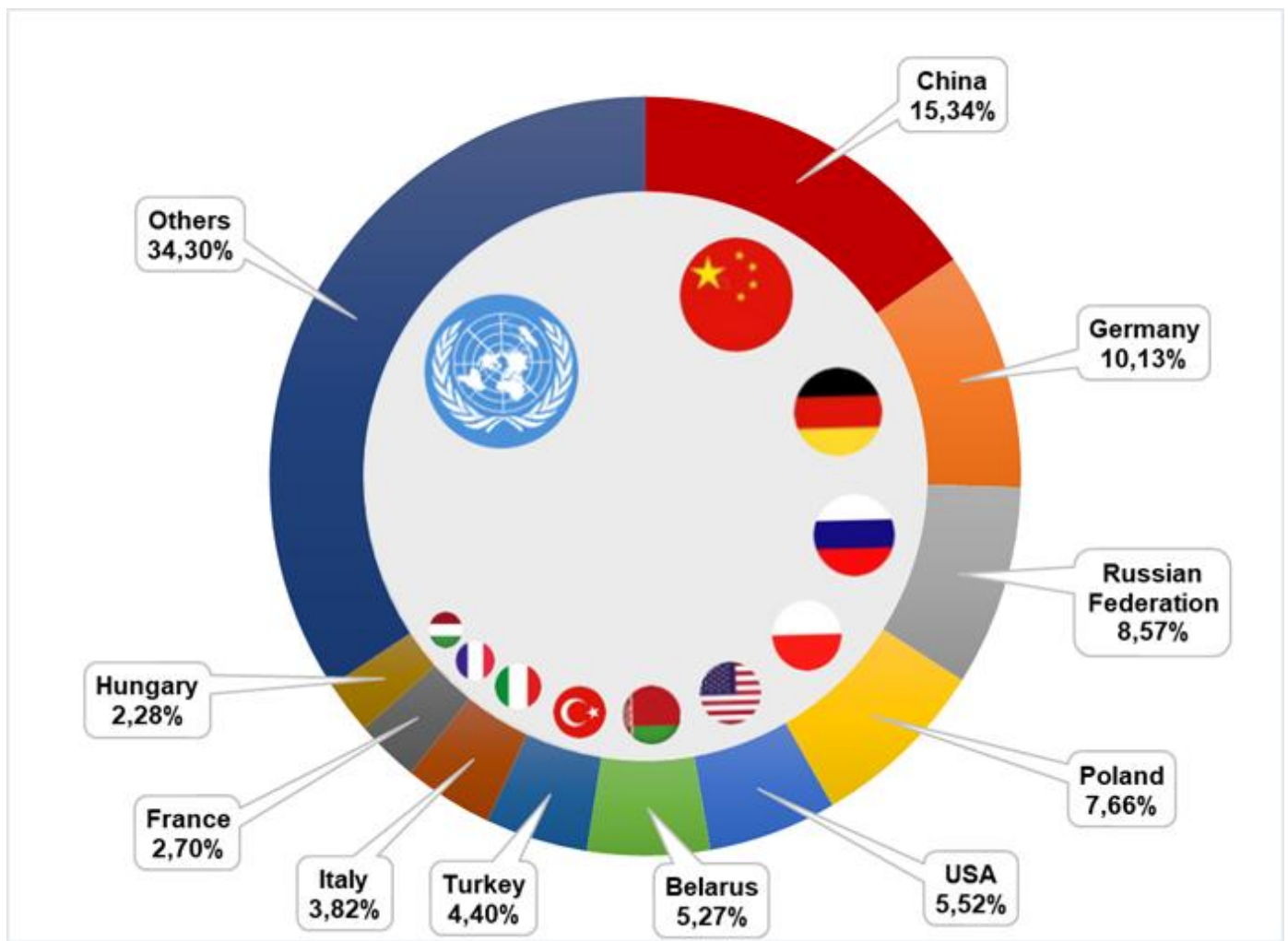
Ukrainian parliamentarians propose to allow Ukrainians to have dual citizenship

Ukrainian parliamentarians propose to amend the Ukrainian legislation, which will allow citizens to have dual citizenship.

Corresponding bill No. 4640 "On amendments to some laws of Ukraine regarding the legal provision of foreign citizenship (allegiance) to citizens of Ukraine" is registered in the Verkhovna Rada, the website of the parliament reports.

The authors of the bill are Servant of the People deputies Oleg Dunda, Alexander Aliksiychuk, Dmitry Mikisha. The authors of the bill propose to amend the Law of Ukraine "On Citizenship", which provide citizens of Ukraine with the right to obtain citizenship (nationality) of a foreign state without losing the citizenship of Ukraine. The proposed amendments also allow foreigners to obtain Ukrainian citizenship without renouncing the citizenship of their country.

Main trade partners of Ukraine in % from total volume (import from other countries to Ukraine) in Jan-Oct



Number of recovered coronavirus patients in Ukraine tops 1 million

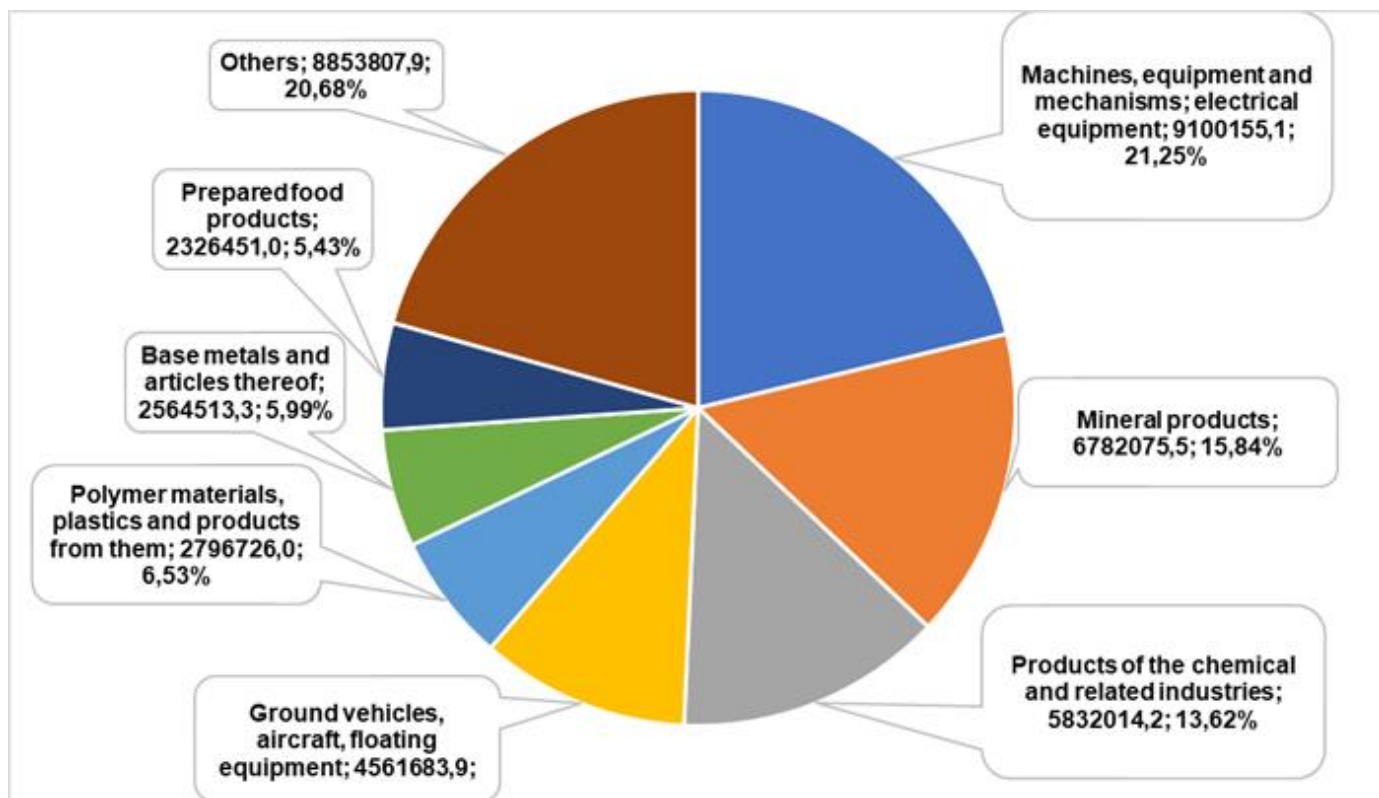
Ukraine has registered 5,181 new cases of COVID-19, 11,310 recoveries, and 128 deaths in the past 24 hours, Ukrainian Health Minister Maksym Stepanov said.

"Ukraine recorded 5,181 new COVID-19 cases on January 29, 2021. In particular, the virus was contracted by 218 children and 212 medical workers. Over the past day, 1,916 persons have been hospitalized, 128 have died, and 11,310 have recovered," Stepanov said on Facebook.

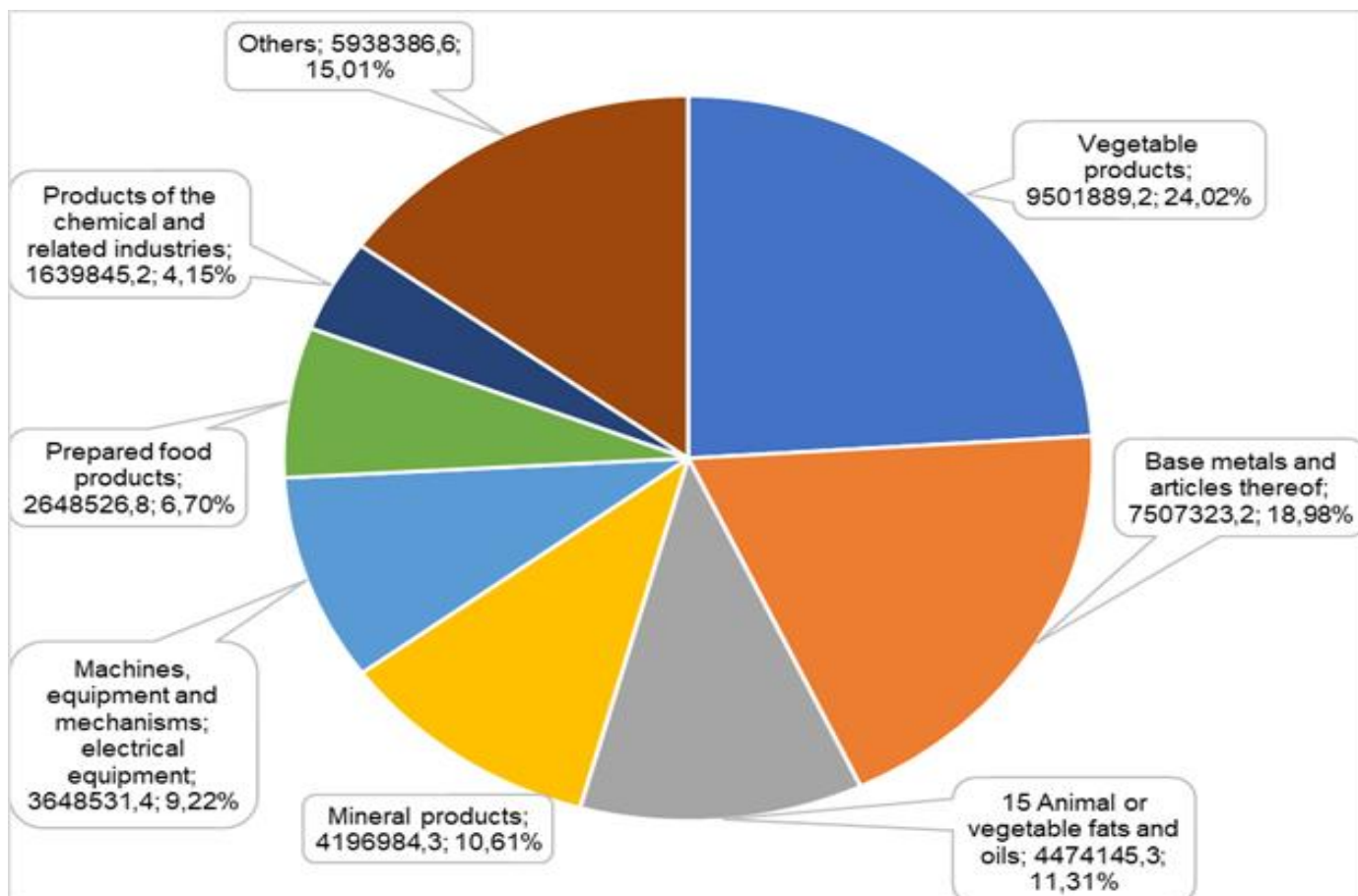
Since the beginning of the pandemic, 1,211,593 people have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in Ukraine; 22,479 of them have died and 1,003,341 have recovered to date.



Foreign trade turnover by the most important positions in Jan-Oct 2020 (import)



Foreign trade turnover by the most important positions in Jan-Oct 2020 (export)



Corum Group plans to supply components to largest mining company in Europe

Corum Group (DTEK) plans to complete the supply of 400 cast components for powered supports to the largest mining company in Europe Polska Grupa Górnicza SA (PGG) by the end of March this year, Corum wrote on Facebook.

According to the statement, the first batch under the contract, the cost of which was not disclosed, has already been supplied to the customer. Cast components are produced by Corum Svitlo Shakhtaria plant (Kharkiv). "These components will cover the Polish partner's need for missing components for the production of powered roof support sections," the statement said.

Corum recalls that it has been cooperating with PGG since 2018, and three mines of this company (Sośnica, Piast-Ziemowit and Myslowice-Wesoła) use more than 400 Corum support components.

CORUM
GROUP



American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine asks President to take personal control over implementation of memo with 'green' investors

The American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine asks Volodymyr Zelensky to take personal control over Ukraine's fulfillment of the memorandum obligations between the country's government and renewable energy investors, which were legislatively enshrined in 2020.

Such a request is contained in a letter from President of the American Chamber of Commerce Andy Hunder to the head of the Ukrainian state dated January 26.

"We ask you to take personal control over the implementation of the provisions of Law No. 810-IX and the fulfillment of obligations under the current legislation and refrain from taking decisions that undermine earlier agreements between the state and investors," the text of the letter said.

As Hunder recalled, on August 1, 2020, the law on the amendments to certain laws of Ukraine on improving the conditions of support for electricity production from alternative energy sources (No. 810-IX) came into force.



Volume of investments in Ukrainian household solar power plants reaches EUR 600 mln

The volume of investments in household solar power plants reached EUR 600 million from 2015 by the end of 2020, the State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving has reported.

“As of the end of 2020, there are more than 29,900 families in Ukraine who have installed solar panels. Their total capacity reaches 780 MW,” the agency said.

According to the report, the top three in terms of the number of household solar plants are Dnipropetrovsk (4,184), Ternopil (2,512) and Kyiv (2,350) regions. The agency also indicated that from 2018 to 2020 inclusive, the number of households with solar plants increased fourfold – from 7,450 to 29,900. Taking into account the agency's data for the first three quarters of 2020, in its last quarter, the capacity of solar plants increased by 68 MW, and investments by EUR 40 million. The number of households that connected home solar generation facilities rose by almost 1,500.

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New supply of office premises located on left bank of Kyiv to amount to extra 20,000 sq m – experts



The new supply of office premises located on the left bank of Kyiv in 2021 will amount to only about 20,000 square meters, according to the international consulting company CBRE Ukraine (Kyiv).

According to the company's report presented during the webinar entitled “Retail Real Estate Market Analytics” on January 27, about 180,000 square meters of new office space are expected to be released on the capital market in 2021, of which only 20,000 square meters are located on the left bank of Kyiv. Among them are office buildings on Bazhana Avenue (11,000 square meters and 6,000 square meters) and the Piramida business center (2,600 square meters).

“A piece of advice to developers: you need to pay attention to the left bank, as 35% of people working in the center live there. The lack of premises on the left bank also affects the fact that people do not want to return to offices, as it takes a lot of time to go to the center. It would be good to develop the left bank as well, which is now happening gradually,” Head of Brokerage at CBRE Ukraine Anna Silvestrova said at the webinar. According to her, projects with an area of about 20,000 square meters, located near the metro, are optimal for the left bank.



French Decathlon to open third store in Ukraine

French sportswear brand Decathlon, part of the international Auchan Group, will open a new store in the Prospekt shopping and entertainment complex in the spring of 2021, expanding its network in Ukraine to three stores. "Another bright opening of a new tenant, the French brand Decathlon, is planned in Prospekt shopping mall scheduled for the spring of 2021. This will be the first Decathlon residence on the left bank of Kyiv," the Arricano company said in a press release.

According to the press release, the area of the new store will be about 2,000 square meters. The first Decathlon outlet with an area of 2,500 square meters was located in phase one of Retail Park Petrivka in March 2019. The construction of the store lasted four months, the investment amounted to EUR 1 million. The second store, with an area of 3,000 square meters, was opened in November 2019 near the Lavina Mall.



Mobile network operator Kyivstar expands 4G coverage in regions

Mobile network operator Kyivstar has expanded its 4G network coverage in Volyn and Zhytomyr regions and connected 402 more settlements to new mobile technologies.

The press service of the company said on Thursday that in particular, in Zhytomyr region, high-speed mobile Internet appeared in the settlements of Andriyivka, Bilkivtsi, Zamyslovychi, Kalynivka, Korostyshiv, Lebedivka, Nemyrivka and in Volyn region in the settlements of Borokhiv, Volodymyr-Volynsky, Horodysche, Domanove, Liubeshiv, and Ruzhyn.



The operator said that in order to improve coverage, LTE900 technology was activated at 98 base stations.

According to the data provided, a total of 14,000 base stations of the operator support 4G communication, which makes it possible to access new mobile technologies for 87% of the population of Ukraine.

At the same time, the operator said that in 2021 it intends to continue developing the network to increase the population's access to 4G up to 90%.



Ukrainian transport companies reduce cargo transportation by 11% in 2020

Ukrainian transport companies, as well as part of the JFO zone) reduced the cargo transportation by 11.2% in 2020 compared to 2019, to 600 million tonnes, the State Statistics Service said.

According to it, in 2020, the cargo turnover of carriers decreased by 14.3%, to 290.3 billion tonne-kilometers. According to statistics, in 2020, some 305.5 million tonnes of cargo were transported by rail in domestic traffic and for export, which is 2.4% less than in 2019. Some 191.3 million tonnes (less by 21.7%) were transported by road, 5.6 million tonnes (less by 8.3%) by water transport, 97.5 million tonnes (less by 13.5%) by pipelines, and 100,000 tonnes (less by 6.7%) by air.



Norwegian company interested in development of Weigh-in-Motion projects in Ukraine

The State Agency for Infrastructure Projects (Ukrinfraproekt) and the Norwegian company Q-Free ASA have discussed the prospects for cooperation in 2021 regarding the installation of Weigh-in-Motion (WiM) complexes.

"Today we've met with representatives of the Norwegian company Q-Free ASA, who are interested in the development of a project for Weigh-in-Motion complexes in Ukraine. We discussed the prospects for cooperation in 2021 on the establishment of such complexes," Head of Ukrinfraproekt Kyrlo Khomiakov said on Facebook.

Q-Free ASA (Trondheim) is a Norwegian company founded in 1984. It has offices in 16 countries of the world, the number of employees is about 380. Since 2002, it has been listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange under the ticker QFR.



International researches publish study of effectiveness of Ukrainian drug Amizon in treatment of COVID

An international research group consisting of 19 scientists from Germany, the U.K., Italy, the United States and Ukraine has published the results of a study of the effectiveness of the drug Amizon (active compound enisamium iodide) in the treatment of COVID-19 disease. The trials were carried out in-vitro (in laboratory). Its results are published on the Medrxiv website, which belongs to the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (the United States) and it is the world's main resource providing open access to the results of research on COVID-19.

In their article, scientists from Institute of Medical Virology, University Hospital Frankfurt, Goethe University described for the first time the antiviral effect of Amizon against SARS-CoV-2. The co-authors of the article, scientists from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, have revealed the mechanism of action of the drug, which consists in inhibiting the viral RNA polymerase, under the influence of which the virus multiplies.



The results of the study made it possible to start the third stage of clinical trials of the drug in Ukraine. In May 2020, a multi-centre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of the efficacy and safety of Amizon Max was launched.



In the course of the study, the use of Amizon was combined with basic treatment of patients with moderate severity of COVID-19 infection.

The trials were carried out in parallel in several clinics in different cities of Ukraine. Specialists from Germany were involved in the study. Intermediate results of the third stage of clinical trials of Amizon demonstrated its effectiveness in patients requiring non-invasive oxygen support (without the use of a ventilator).

In particular, at this stage of the study, Amizon showed itself as a drug that accelerates the onset of a significant improvement in the condition of patients on average up to three days.

At the same time, to confirm or refute the positive trend, an additional recruitment of patients is currently being carried out to continue clinical trials. Final results are expected at the end of February.

Ukraine becomes second largest exporter of grain

Ukraine ranked second in the ranking of world grain exporters in terms of total exports in the past 2019/2020 agricultural year, including the second in barley supplies, fourth in maize supplies, and fifth for wheat, Deputy Minister of Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture, Trade Representative of Ukraine Taras Kachka has said, referring to the data announced at the 52nd session of the International Grains Council.



“According to the results of the 2019/2020 agri-year, in aggregate in terms of the volume of exports of all grain crops, Ukraine became second, leaving behind only the United States,” Kachka said, commenting on the results of the session, in a press release from the Economy Ministry on Monday.

According to him, Ukraine has the potential to further increase the production and export of grain.

According to the estimates of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which data were used to compile the rating, in the previous agri-year Ukraine exported 21.01 million tonnes of wheat with a harvest of 29.17 million tonnes, 28.93 million tonnes of corn with a harvest of 35.89 million tonnes, and in general, grain exports amounted to 55.09 million tonnes with a harvest of 75.72 million tonnes.

In the current agri-year (2020/2021), the USDA forecasts the export of grain from Ukraine 45.81 million tonnes with a harvest of 64.21 million tonnes, including 24 million tonnes of corn with a harvest of 29.5 million tonnes and 17.5 million tonnes of wheat with a harvest of 25.5 million tonnes.

Leading producer of eggs from Ukraine reduces sales in 2020

Ovostar Union, one of the leading producers of eggs and egg products in Ukraine, in 2020 reduced sales of eggs by 4% compared to 2019, to 1.104 billion pieces.

According to the group's report on the Warsaw Stock Exchange, the volume of exports fell more significantly, by 33.5%, to 349 million units, as a result of which the share of exports fell from 46% to 32%.

The average price of eggs in hryvnias increased by 2%, to UAH 1.634 per egg, while in dollar terms decreased by 2%, to \$ 0.061.

The company reported that egg production last year increased by 5%, to 1.672 billion pieces, while egg processing decreased by 4%, to 552 million pieces.

Production of liquid egg products decreased by 3%, to 13,504 tonnes, while dry egg products increased by 6%, to 3,161 tonnes.

The volume of sales of dry egg products increased by 17%, to 3,270 tonnes, in particular exports rose by 9.9%, to 2,268 tonnes, but its share decreased from 74% to 69%.



UGA considers unlikely real restriction of corn exports from Ukraine

The Ukrainian Grain Association (UGA) has agreed to limit the export of corn in the 2020/2021 MY to 24 million tonnes by the end of June in the grain memorandum, since given the association's export forecasts and the practice of such memorandums, the practical implementation of such a limitation is unlikely.

“*The introduction of the maximum corn export volume in the memorandum between the Ministry of Economy and business associations representing participants in the grain market is rather a symbolic step to ensure predictability and tranquility in the grain market,” the UGA said on its website.*

The association emphasized the absence of grounds for statements about the likelihood of a shortage of corn on the Ukrainian market. According to its estimates and official statistics, with a harvest of this MY of about 30 million tonnes and internal needs of about 5 million tonnes, exports by mid-January amounted to about 10 million tonnes, of which 2 million tonnes was corn from the previous MY. The UGA also recalled that this year corn exports in mid-January lagged behind last year by almost 3.5 million tonnes.



Ukrainian KSG to cooperate with Swiss Suisag

KSG Agro agricultural holding has agreed on possible cooperation with Swiss Suisag in terms of purchasing and using Suisag genetics sows and providing advice on pig breeding technologies, the holding said.



“The parties set indicative deadlines for signing relevant documents: memorandum and contracts. This should happen in the first half of 2021,” according to a press release following the visit of Suisag CFO Matteo Aepril and Chief Veterinarian Stefanie Klausmann to Ukraine.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of KSG Agro Serhiy Kasianov also said that the holding's pig farm in Nyva Trudova (Dnipropetrovsk region) has started the process of renewal and rejuvenation of the pig herd and about 1,000 sows of Danish Dunbred genetics will be purchased under the project in 2021.



Kernel increases sales of sunflower oil by 23%

Kernel, one of the largest Ukrainian agrarian holdings, in the second quarter of 2021 fiscal year (FY), which started in July 2020, increased sales of sunflower oil by 23% compared to the same period of the previous FY, to 425,340 tonnes.

According to a report published on the website on Thursday, sales of bottled sunflower oil for the period amounted to 9.1% of total sales (in the same period previous FY it was 8.4%).

In October-December this year, the holding's oil extraction plants processed 1 million tonnes of oilseeds, up 5% from the second quarter of 2020 FY. The company said that this is a record high indicator for the quarter.

The report said that grain exports from Ukraine in the first quarter of 2021 FY increased by 6%, to 2.4 million tonnes, of which 52% from external suppliers, the rest was produced by the company's agricultural divisions. Grain transshipment at export terminals in Ukraine in the specified period increased by 41%, to 2.38 million tonnes.



As the company said, this is due to the increase in transshipment volumes at the new Kernel export terminal in Chornomorsk seaport. The volume of grain received by the company's elevators increased by 17%, to 2.38 million tonnes, but in general for the first half of the year it decreased by 9%, to 3.63 million tonnes due to a decrease in the harvest this season.

In general, in the first half of 2021 FY, the company increased oilseed processing by 5%, to 1.66 million tonnes, oil exports by 11%, to 721,580 tonnes, grain transshipment at export terminals by 47%, to 4.25 million tonnes and grain exports by 16%, to 4.52 million tonnes.

Grand Admiral Resort & SPA invites you to a SLIM weekend: for the perfect body

Forest SPA resort Grand Admiral Resort & SPA has announced a new program that everyone, who for a long time and persistently has been striving for a slim and fit body, dreamed of. The spa doctor said that a more effective method had not yet been invented.

The results are driven by two revolutionary technologies:

- **Ultrasonic liposuction UltraShape**, so that “problem” areas melt as if they were not there
- **Vela Shape apparatus to eliminate skin laxity and unevenness**

The SLIM Weekend program is based on a medical component and includes:

- Bioimpedansometry (determination of body composition)
- Non-contact blood test for 131 indicators
- Doctor’s consultation
- Ultrasonic liposuction UltraShape
- Vela Shape – elimination of sagging and uneven skin
- Pressotherapy (active lymphatic drainage)
- IV infusion Detox
- Fitness classes: water aerobics, Nordic walking, yoga, gym
- Walks in the pine forest
- Accommodation in a SPA hotel
- Meals on the Slim menu
- Drainage drinks, Fiuggi water, dietary supplements

Package price: UAH 20,400 *

- The cost of the package may change if during the UltraShape procedure more impulses were used, at the rate of UAH 10/impulse
- For additional procedures, a 10% discount for the stay at the hotel
- Recommended course is three UltraShape procedures with a frequency of 1 time in 2 weeks

More about UltraShape

Body shaping is sometimes called “liposculpture” (lipos translated from Greek – fat), and some methods of hardware cosmetology – “non-surgical liposuction.”

The UltraShape concept, developed by Israeli plastic surgeons and scientists for medical needs, is based on the innovative use of ultrasonic waves to selectively destroy fat cells without damaging adjacent tissues. Ultrasonic cavitation liposuction allows, in the shortest possible time (2-6 weeks), comfortably, without surgery, without the use of anesthesia, to achieve the perfection of the contours of your body in those areas that are usually called “problematic” and often uncorrected: on the waist, hips, abdomen, remove “saddlebags.”

Ultrasonic liposuction UltraShape reduces the volume of adipose tissue of those parts of the body that are not amenable to exercise, diet, traditional methods of physiotherapy, while the decrease in volume is noticeable after the first procedure (about 2 cm). After a course of procedures, the decrease in the body volume reaches 12 cm, depending on the individual characteristics of the organism. And most importantly – ultrasonic liposuction allows removing adipose tissue forever!

The technology is based on vacuum-roller massage, infrared heat and radiofrequency lifting.

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Ukrainian MHP raises poultry sales by 10% in Q4 2020

Myronivsky Hliboproduct (MHP) sold 174,260 tonnes of poultry in October-December 2020, which is 10% more than in the same period in 2019.

According to the company's report on the London Stock Exchange, poultry sales as a whole grew by 4% for the year, to 698,020 tonnes. MHP clarified that poultry exports in the fourth quarter rose by 8%, to 94,710 tonnes, and in general for the year by 5%, to 373,730 tonnes.



According to the report, the average price of one kg of poultry last year (excluding VAT) decreased by 5% in hryvnias from 2019, to UAH 36.11, and in dollars – by 9%, to \$ 1.34. In the fourth quarter, the average price was UAH 38.49, or \$ 1.36, which, respectively, is 11% more and 5% less than in the fourth quarter of 2019.

"The 12-month 2020 average chicken meat price was UAH 36.11 (\$ 1.34), which is 5% lower in hryvnia terms (9% less in dollars) compared to chicken price in 12 months of 2019, mainly driven by the product mix change in exports (significant decrease in sales of fillet to the EU and increased sales to MENA) and weaker prices on breast fillet in EU as many global competitors experienced reduced demand, which resulted in excess stocks," the report says.

This digest is a mutual project of the Interfax-Ukraine News Agency and the Open4business.com.ua. Maksim Urakin is a project director of the Biweekly news digest of Open4business.com.ua.

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The platform and related organizations provide a holistic set of services needed to successfully penetrate the Ukrainian starting from establishing foreign trade relations with local companies and up to establishing a subsidiary or acquiring a company in Ukraine.



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