# 2025 ADVOCACY TOUR

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ANDRII BEREZOVSKYI & COLONEL MYKOLA FEDKALOV

2 OCTOBER 2025











## AUSTRALIA 20 AUGUST-8 SEPTEMBER 2025

The 2025 Advocacy Tour united Australia's political leaders, industries, media, and communities – building momentum, mobilising support, and amplifying Ukraine's urgent call for military aid, humanitarian aid, and increased sanctions on russia.

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### AIMS

- Advocate for increased Australian government support for Ukraine, with a focus on military aid (Bushmasters, Hawkeis, M113s) and humanitarian aid (fire engines, demining equipment, rescue gear).
- Continue to raise awareness among stakeholders, including government, industry, media and the public about russia's ongoing genocidal war against Ukraine.

 Mobilise community fundraising to purchase essential equipment for Ukraine's military and humanitarian rescue operations.



Largest Ukrainian Flag in the World - Unfurling at Barangaroo, Sydney - 24 August 2025. Photo by Nicholas Buenk

### **GUESTS**

#### Lieutenant-Colonel Andrii Berezovskyi

Decorated Ukrainian commander, serving in the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He currently leads the planning and training analysis of the Assault Units tasked with executing the most challenging offensive and defensive missions on the frontline. He has played a key role in major military operations, including the liberation of Kherson region, the defence of Avdiivka, the Battle of Bakhmut, and the Kursk offensive.

#### **Colonel Mykola Fedkalov**

Head of the State Emergency
Services (ДСНС) for Odesa, which
is under daily russian missile and
drone attack. A career firefighter,
Colonel Fedkalov studied at the
Ukrainian Cherkasy Institute of
Fire Safety (2005-2010) and has
held senior leadership roles in
Odesa's fire safety and state
emergency services. Colonel
Fedkalov became head of the
Odesa State Emergency Service in
August 2022, following russia's
full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Lieutenant-Colonel Andrii Berezovskyi and Colonel Mykola Fedkalov's advocacy tour across Australia advanced Ukraine's urgent defence, emergency services and humanitarian needs through high-level political, industry, community, and media engagement.



UCNSW's Spirit in Colour - Independence Day. Photo by Marianna Sahradian

#### **Political Advocacy**

The delegation met with senior political leaders, including the Office of the Foreign Affairs Minister, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shadow Ministers, Members of Parliament (MP), Senators, the Chief of Army and key staff from Forces Command, Special Operations Command, and emergency services leaders, highlighting the importance of modern military equipment and Ukraine's need of surplus firefighter gear, as well as humanitarian support.

At the Ukrainian Embassy's Independence Day reception in Canberra, the delegation joined 400 distinguished guests, including Ministers, Assistant Ministers, MPs, Senators, the diplomatic corps, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Department of Defence representatives, business, media, think tanks, religious and community leaders, spotlighting Ukraine's frontline needs.

#### **Industry Meetings**

Meetings with companies including DroneShield, Codan/Minelab, and Thales focused on opportunities in electronic warfare, countermine technology, and equipment improvements. Philanthropists and investors, like the Roberts Pike Foundation and Chris Garnaut, expressed interest in continued humanitarian aid and reconstruction support.

#### **Community Engagement**

Lt-Colonel Andrii Berezovskyi and Colonel Mykola Fedkalov engaged actively with the local diaspora in Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra and Melbourne, participating in fundraising initiatives, conducting keynote speeches at Independence Day events, and attending community meetings and gatherings. The delegation led the world's largest Ukrainian flag unfurling event by Sydney Harbour, attracting significant national media coverage.

#### Media - TV, Print, Radio & Online

Lt-Col Berezovskyi and Col Fedkalov's visit received extensive media coverage, amplifying calls for urgent military, humanitarian and reconstruction aid. Highlights included coverage on Network 7's 6pm and Late News, Network 10 NEWs+, the Sydney Morning Herald (front page), The Age, Brisbane Times, WA Today, The Advertiser and in-depth reporting on ABC radio.

#### Outcomes

Lt-Col Berezovskyi and Col Fedkalov's advocacy tour has strengthened existing Australia-Ukraine relationships and opened up new areas of cooperation across defence, industry, community, and media engagement. These achievements would not have been possible without the dedicated support of our AFUO member state organisations, community organisers, volunteers, friends and partners, whose fundraising efforts and advocacy helped advance our call for Australia to provide increased military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

### **POLITICAL ADVOCACY**



Parliament House, Canberra

Lt-Colonel Berezovskyi and Colonel Fedkalov engaged extensively with federal and state political leaders to highlight the current situation in Ukraine and deliver a clear message regarding Ukraine's urgent needs.

Central to discussions were modern military equipment for the Armed Forces of Ukraine and humanitarian aid for the State Emergency Services of Ukraine.

#### **Political Advocacy - Highlights**

• Meeting with the Office of The Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs: The delegation provided an overview of the situation in Ukraine. Lt-Col Berezovskyi and Col Fedkalov stressed that the work of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and State Emergency Services is done strictly in line with the Geneva Convention, while the russian federation abuses Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) and systematically conducts "double-tap" strikes, targeting emergency services workers as they perform rescue missions. DFAT representatives stressed that Australia is the largest non-NATO contributor of military aid to Ukraine and that the Australian Government is seeking to provide further support to Ukraine.



 $O\!f\!fice\ of\ the\ Minister\ for\ Foreign\ Affairs\ and\ Trade$ 



Meeting with Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

• Meeting with Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. Col Fedkalov showed the Assistant Minister a short video of the work performed by SES Ukraine and described the scale and impact of russian attacks on civilians. Requested the Australian Government's assistance in providing humanitarian aid for SES Ukraine. Lt-Col Berezovskyi provided an overview of the situation on the frontline and articulated how modern military equipment saves lives and provides Ukraine an upper hand against the soviet era equipment used by the russian federation. Requested the Australian Government's assistance in providing military aid for the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

• High-level meetings with the Opposition, including Hon Angus Taylor MP, Shadow Minister for Defence and Senator Michaelia Cash, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs. Lt-Col Berezovskyi and Col Fedkalov provided an overview of the situation in Ukraine. The Shadow ministers were interested to learn about what specific military equipment is required by Ukraine and what military capability can the opposition support Ukraine with. Lt-Col Berezovskyi clearly articulated the need for armoured vehicles, weapons, and the opportunity for exchange of expertise. Col Fedkalov showed a video depicting SES Ukraine's rescue workers and the challenges they face everyday. Discussed the needs of the SES and agreed to provide a list of priorities.



Shadow Minister for Defence, the Hon Angus Taylor and Senator Michaelia Cash, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade



With Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott AC

- Meeting with the former Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott AC.
- Colonel Fedkalov provided an overview of the situation in Ukraine and described the current needs of Ukrainian firefighters and SES rescue workers as they deal with the aftermath of russian missile and drone attacks.
- As a former firefighter, Mr Abbott had a good grasp of the needs. Mr Abbott also expressed his support for Ukraine and agreed to assist with identifying surplus firefighting equipment.

- Political meetings were also held with Senator Jacqui Lambie, Andrew Wilkie MP, and Senator Deborah O'Neill.
- Kateryna Argyrou provided Senator Lambie with an overview of the top community asks – military aid and sanctions on refined russian crude oil.
- Colonel Fedkalov provided an overview of the situation in Ukraine and asked for Senator Lambie's support.
- Senator Lambie raised the issue of Australia's import of russian "blood oil" in Senate, calling on the Australian Government to close the sanctions loophole which allows the import of refined russian crude oil, thereby supporting the russian war machine.



With Senator Jacqui Lambie



With the Hon Andrew Wilkie MP

- Col Fedkalov provided an overview of the situation in Ukraine and described the challenges Ukraine's SES rescue workers face every day.
- Andrew Wilkie expresed sincere interest in the situation in Ukraine, in particular about the evolution of warfare and modern technologies – what can Australia learn for the benefit of its own national security and defence.
- Andrew has publicly expressed his support for Ukraine, calling on the Australian Government to close the sanctions loophole which allows the import of refined russian crude oil.

- Senator Deborah O'Neill will be appointed as the Chair of the Australia-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group (AUPFG).
- Lt-Col Berezovskyi and Col Fedkalov provided an overview of the situation in Ukraine, describing the critical needs, including demining equipment, metal detectors, protective clothing, ladders, and other firefighting equipment, transport.
- Senator O'Neill was particularly interested in the children abducted by russia and what she personally could do to assist their return home.



With Senator Deborah O'Neill



Parliament of New South Wales

- Meeting was held at the Parliament of NSW - discussed the critical needs of Ukrainian firefighters and SES rescue workers. Positive commitments were made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the NSW Emergency Services Minister, Charishma Kaliyanda MP regarding the review and possibility of providing decommissioned equipment and gear to Ukraine, and ways to exchange information and experience in the future.
- A meeting took place with members of the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Ukraine Group at the Parliament of VIC. Discussed the current needs of the SES. The members of parliament agreed to assist. Also discussed the possibility of establishing a sister city relationship with Melbourne.



Parliament of New South Wales



Parliament of Victoria



With members of the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Ukraine Group

- Lt-Col Berezovskyi and Col Fedkalov met with the Chief of Army, Lt Gen Simon Stuart, and senior Defence leaders to discuss lessons learnt from Ukraine's modern warfare; the changing nature of war and technology, lessons in civil defence and national mobilisation and how the war has evolved over the last three and a half years.
- Other military engagements included a lecture at Holsworthy Barracks to a large group of Special Forces officers, a meeting with the Australian Army's Battle Lab and a strategic session with Major General (ret.) Mick Ryan.



Australian Defence Force Headquarters



Australian Defence Force



Defence - Battle Lab



With Major General (ret.) Mick Ryan and His Excellency Vasyl Myroshnychenko



Fire Rescue Victoria

- Meeting with the Fire Rescue Commissioner Gavin Freeman AFSM, and Deputy Commissioners Costa Katsikis AFSM and Michael Morgan AFSM, Staff Officer, Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer Steve Morgan.
- Positive commitments were made from Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and Country Fire Victoria (CFV) regarding the possibility of providing surplus equipment and gear to Ukraine, and ways to exchange information and experience in the future. FRV Commissioners agreed to examine the list of surplus equipment and gear in their possession and consider it for donation to Ukraine.
- Meeting with Australian farmers in Tocumwal.



Narre Warren Fire Station



Tocumwal



Narre Warren Fire Station



Ukraine Independence Day 2025 Ukrainian Embassy Reception, Canberra

- Took part in the Embassy's Independence Day reception in Canberra alongside 400 leaders, including senior politicians, diplomats, think tanks, and community leaders.
- Broad support for Ukraine across government, civil society, and the international community.



With Senator Deborah O'Neill, Canberra



With Brendan Smyth, Ukrainian Embassy Reception, Canberra



With David Smith MP, Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Luke Gosling OAM MP



 ${\it Ukrainian Embassy Reception, Canberra}$ 

### INDUSTRY MEETINGS



Codan / Minelab

The delegation engaged with a broad scope of stakeholders, meeting with investors, equipment manufacturers and engineering labs, confirming strong industry interest in supporting Ukraine through local manufacturing, technology transfer, collaboration and training, and potential on-the-ground exchanges.

The tour strengthened ties with Australian industry, defence manufacturers, and investors to advance frontline and emergency response capabilities in Ukraine.

#### **Industry Meetings - Highlights**

- Visit to Codan/Minelab Electronics in Adelaide: toured production facilities, reviewed countermine and communications equipment, and discussed deeper training cooperation.
- Toured Thales Bendigo facility, where Bushmasters & Hawkeis are manufactured. Discussions on forming a working group to exchange operational feedback and improve vehicle adaptation for modern warfare.
- Meeting with DroneShield to explore provision of electronic warfare systems.
- Engagement with investor Chris Garnaut, reaffirming philanthropic support for Ukraine.
- During a meeting with Ukraine's Ambassador Vasyl Myroshnychenko, discussed companies which can manufacture products for Ukraine or provide assistance: Codan, Sypaq Systems, DroneShield, Thales, Carbonix, DefendTex, BlackSky Aerospace, Kord, Advance Navigation, Briton Marine, Minderoo.
- Sydney roundtable with the Roberts Pike Foundation and philanthropists on frontline needs, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.



With His Excellency Vasyl Myroshnychenko at the Embassy of Ukraine



Thales - Bushmaster manufacturing facility



DroneShield



Roberts Pike Foundation

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



Sydney Airport Arrival

Lt-Colonel Andrii Berezovskyi and Colonel Mykola Fedkalov expressed their deep appreciation for the warm welcome and strong community engagement they experienced during their trip, where they attended gatherings and led successful fundraising initiatives.

Through these engagements, the delegation deepened ties with the diaspora, reinforced solidarity, and inspired renewed momentum in advocacy and fundraising.

#### **Community Engagement - Highlights**

- Keynote speeches and auctioning of signed brigade flags at UCNSW's Independence Day concert.
- Leading the world's largest Ukrainian flag unfurling by Sydney Harbour, covered by major national media.
- Keynote speeches at the Association of Ukrainians in SA's Independence Day concert.



Largest Ukrainian Flag in the World - Unfurling at Barangaroo, 24 August 2025. Photo by Nicholas Buenk



With the Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship



Spirit in Colour - Ukrainian Council of NSW's Independence Day



Meeting with Ukraine Crisis Appeal

- Meetings with church leaders including His Eminence Cardinal Mykola Bychok, Fr Michael Solomko and Fr Bohdan Vozniak.
- Attended a community meeting hosted by the Orthodox church in Melbourne and dinner hosted by Ridniy Krai.
- Visits to the Ukrainian Parish School (North Melbourne) and St Andrew's Ukrainian School (Sydney) where the delegation spoke to students about Ukrainian culture, the impacts of the fullscale russian invasion and what Ukrainian defenders are doing to protect their country.
- Attended the Ukrainian Women's Association NSW Annual General Meeting, thanking members for their cultural, fundraising, and advocacy contributions.
- A community fundraising meeting hosted by UCNSW, CYM Sydney and Defend Ukraine Appeal, which raised funds for electronic warfare systems. At the meeting, Lt-Col Berezovskyi and Col Fedkalov provided an overview of the situation in Ukraine and on the frontline, followed by a live Q&A session.

#### ADVOCACY TOUR 2025 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



 $Largest\ Ukrainian\ Flag\ in\ the\ World\ -\ with\ Alex\ Greenwich\ MP\ and\ Kobi\ Shetty\ MP$ 



Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Melbourne - community meeting



Association of Ukrainians in South Australia (AUSA) Independence Day



Canberra community meeting



Ukrainian Parish School, Melbourne



Speaking at Ridniy Krai dinner, Melbourne



Ukrainian Women's Association of New South Wales - Annual General Meeting



With Valentyna Domazar, Ukrainian Women's Association



St Andrew's Ukrainian School, Sydney



 $Sydney\ community\ meeting.\ Photo\ by\ Nicholas\ Buenk$ 

### **AWARDS**



Parliament House, Canberra. Photo by Marianna Sahradian

During the advocacy tour, Lieutenant-Colonel Andrii Berezovskyi recognised members of our community for their work and support of Ukraine. The "Honorary Award of the **Commander of the Operational** Command South" was a medal that traveled all the way from the frontline in Ukraine - as an order from Major General Mykhailo Sydorenko. It is a rare and special award to recognise significant contribution to Ukraine's fight for freedom and democracy.

#### We sincerely congratulate all the recipients!

- Chris Garnaut, Executive Chairman, Garnaut Private Wealth
- Major-General (ret.) Mick Ryan
- His Excellency Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia
- Kateryna Argyrou, Chair, Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO)
- Nadia Mencinsky, Communications Manager, AFUO
- Anton Vitaly, Secretary, AFUO
- Jarema Polatajko, Director, Future
- Andrew Mencinsky, President, Ukrainian Council of NSW (UCNSW)
- Dan Wolody, Vice President, UCNSW
- Frank Fursenko, President, Association of Ukrainians in South Australia (AUSA)
- Marusya Jacyshyn, Friends of Ukraine, Canberra
- Dan Fallon, Australian journalist, editor, and saxophonist with The Bluesberries



With Chris Garnaut



With Frank Fursenko, President, AUSA



With Marusya Jacyshyn, Canberra



With Dan Fallon, Canberra



With Major General (ret.) Mick Ryan and His Excellency Vasyl Myroshnychenko

### **MEDIA ENGAGEMENT**



Sydney Morning Herald interview

The advocacy tour gained significant media coverage across national TV, radio, print and online, amplifying Ukraine's voice in Australia. This strong media presence ensured Ukraine's military and humanitarian needs remained front-of-mind for the Australian public, politicians, and decision-makers.

The advocacy tour received 27 mentions in Australian media, totalling an audience of more than 2,899,816 and **Advertising Space Rate of** \$516,272.

#### **Media Coverage - Highlights**

- Arrival at Sydney Airport featured on Network 7 6PM and Late News with Chris Reason, spotlighting the lack of new Australian military aid in 2025.
- In-depth Channel 10+ interview with Claudia Vrdoljak, focusing on Ukraine's military and humanitarian needs, and showcasing powerful footage from Ukraine and Sydney airport greeting.
- Two major ABC interviews for AM and World Today, syndicated across the ABC network, focusing on military aid and the delegation's high-level political meetings during the advocacy tour.
- Article published in The Advertiser (Adelaide).
- Front-page Sydney Morning Herald story by Matthew Knott, Foreign Affairs & National Security Correspondent at the Sydney Morning Herald/The Age, emphasising urgent calls for military aid and Australia's potential in the international demining coalition. The article was also published online in The Age, Brisbane Times and WA Today.









### Ukrainian soldiers' enjoy Adelaide stopover before back to war

Watching children sing and dance at Adelaide's Ukrainian Independence Day concert on Sunday, Lieutenant Colonel Andrii Berezovskyi "was sup-posed to smile" but instead had tears rolling down my

It was the 30-year-old's sec-ond visit to South Australia, but in a week's time he will be back on the frontline

Ukraine Armed Forces soldier, has spent almost four years in trenches surrounded by "dead friends and Russian soldiers".

"The worst thing for me was to lie in a trench together with a dead Russian soldier, he was there for about two to three

weeks," he said. "When I was lying there next to him I was asking, 'why did you come here?'. I told him, 'you're already dead, and I'm

Colonel Berezovskyi and Colonel Mykola Fedkalov travelled to Australia a week ago to update members of the government about the ongoing Ukrainian conflict. They have also visited

Ukrainian communities across Australia and joined in on Ad-elaide's Ukrainian Indepen-dence Day celebrations.

Colonel Fedkalov, 37, heads

service, and said it was positive" to see South Austra lia's Ukrainian community cel

"I like the fact that despite many generations, Ukrainian are upholding Ukrainian tradi tions here," he said.

"They're raising their child-ren, grandchildren and are passing on that love for Ukraine that they have," he





7 News interview with Chris Reason



Front cover of the Sydney Morning Herald



Sydney Morning Herald interview



ABC Radio interview



Channel 10 interview

### **FUNDRAISING**



UCNSW - Auction. Photo by Marianna Sahradian

The tour raised over \$130,000 during visits to Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra and Melbourne. This amount will go towards purchasing and delivering Electronic Warfare (EW) systems and other lifesaving equipment for the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the State Emergency Services (SES) of Odesa.

Lt-Colonel Andrii Berezovskyi & Colonel Mykola Fedkalov's advocacy tour garnered incredible financial support from our community and invaluable Australian supporters. Generous donations and fundraising initiatives raised over \$130,000 for the Defend Ukraine Appeal (DUA) and Future Ukraine. Additional pledges are expected to come through.

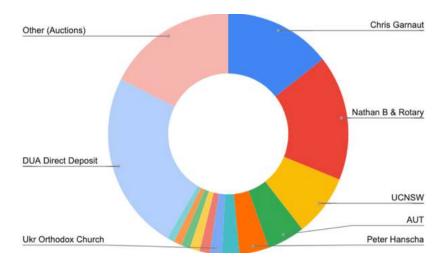
We sincerely thank every individual and organisation for their generous support and contribution.

In particular, we would like to acknowledge our top donors:

- Chris Garnaut
- Nathan Burraston & Rotary Club
- Ukrainian Council of NSW (UCNSW)
- Association of Ukrainians in Tasmania (AUT)
- Peter Hanscha
- Olena Shepetukhina
- Orysia Borec
- Ridnyi Krai
- Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church
- Canberra Stands With Ukraine
- Friends of Ukraine Canberra-Queanbeyan
- Larissa Krizanic
- Association of Ukrainians in SA (AUSA)
- Ukrainian Women's Association of NSW
- Ukrainian Women's Association, Olha Basarab - Lidcombe Branch
- Ukrainian Community of QLD (UCQ)
- Rostyslav Naumen
- Agnes Molnar
- Jeremy Goldberg
- Richard Pascoe



Unfurling of the largest Ukrainian flag in the World. Photo by Nicholas Buenk



### CONCLUSION

The advocacy tour by Lieutenant-Colonel Berezovskyi and Colonel Fedkalov successfully strengthened Australia–Ukraine relations across political, industry, community, and media spheres. By engaging with senior political leaders, industry innovators, and grassroots communities, the delegation elevated Ukraine's immediate needs for humanitarian aid, modern military support, and reconstruction assistance.

The tour demonstrated that Ukraine's fight for sovereignty resonates deeply in Australia – not only as a matter of international security, but also as a shared struggle for resilience, freedom, and democratic values.



Association of Ukrainians in South Australia (AUSA) - Independence Day . Photo by Diulia Sniatynskyi



Marble Foyer, Parliament House, Canberra

Moving forward, the foundations laid during this tour will enable stronger defence collaboration, industry partnerships, and community engagement, reinforcing Australia's role as a steadfast partner in Ukraine's survival and eventual victory.

#### **Advocacy Tour - Key Outcomes**

- Building political momentum across government and opposition to expand aid and consider surplus emergency equipment donations.
- Forging pathways with Australian defence and technology companies to deliver critical capabilities in electronic warfare, countermine systems, and vehicle adaptation.
- Mobilising the Ukrainian diaspora through cultural, educational, and fundraising initiatives that deepened solidarity and practical support.
- Securing widespread national media coverage, ensuring Ukraine's message reached policymakers and the Australian public.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We extend our deepest gratitude to all individuals, organisations, and community members who assisted the AFUO with organising the advocacy tour and supporting our guests while they were in Australia.

### In particular, we would like to acknowledge:

- Our main sponsor, Chris Garnaut, Executive Chairman of Garnaut Private Wealth, for generously funding the tour and for his steadfast support of Ukraine.
- The Ukrainian Council of NSW (UCNSW) as well as the Association of Ukrainians in SA (AUSA) for their sponsorship.
- The following individuals who helped facilitate meetings and host events including Major-General (ret.) Mick Ryan, Chris Garnaut, His Excellency Mr Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Nicholas Nelson and David Harding.
- The organising committee and community organisations for their support, including Kateryna Argyrou, Nadia Mencinsky, Anton Vitaly, Yuliia Lelliott, Jarema Polatajko, Lynne Minion, Olya Olkhovyk, UCNSW, AUSA, the Association of Ukrainians of Victoria (AUV), the Ukrainian Youth Association (Sydney) and the Defend Ukraine Appeal team.



Sydney Community meeting. Photo by Nicholas Buenk

This report was prepared by Isabelle Liddy, Nadia Mencinsky and Kateryna Argyrou. Design by Ksenia Lozbina and Anton Vitaly.





