



2024 ACTIVITY REPORT

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OUR TEAM



Natalia Petrova

Chief Executive Officer

Natalia has spent the last seventeen years of her professional career working for the U.S. Mission in Ukraine.

Prior to joining StrategEast, she served as the Portfolio Manager (SME development, trade, competitiveness, investment) in the Office of Economic Growth of USAID Ukraine. In her role at USAID, she managed complex technical assistance projects since 2016, overseeing technical implementation of contracts to strengthen SME competitiveness in Ukraine, including a dynamic tech sector, by improving the business enabling environment, implementing activities to support higher value-added sectors, increasing efficient trade, promoting Ukraine investment potential. Natalia was responsible for coordinating development work with the internal Agency stakeholders, Ukraine government counterparts, donor organizations and IFIs, private sector, and business support organizations.

From 2010-2016, Natalia managed in-country implementation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture technical assistance programs to help Ukrainian farmers, scientists and academia to embrace best international practices.



Olena Koltsova

Chief Operating Officer

Mrs. Koltsova oversees all operational aspects, ensuring the smooth functioning of programs and initiatives.

Mrs. Koltsova has an extensive IT, Telecommunications, and game development background, with over 15 years of experience in these industries. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Economic Relations from Ukraine State University of Kyiv International University and a Master's degree in International Law from Ukraine State University of Finance and International Trade. She has a wealth of knowledge and expertise as a Chief Executive Officer.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Koltsova has worked for some of the most prestigious companies in the industry, including Ericsson and Vodafone. She has achieved great success in her roles, leading teams to develop innovative products and services that have been adopted by millions of customers around the world.

Mrs. Koltsova is an expert in strategic planning, business development, and operations management. She is passionate about creating a positive work environment and inspiring her team to reach their full potential. Her leadership style is focused on collaboration and communication, and she is committed to helping her team members grow and develop their skills.



Aisuluu Kozhomkulova

Regional Director for Central Asia

Aisuluu Kozhomkulova is the Regional Director for Central Asia at StrategEast, overseeing projects and initiatives across all Central Asian countries. With a decade of experience in international development, she excels in project management, policy development, communication, and stakeholder engagement. Aisuluu's extensive work in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia, combined with fluency in Kyrgyz, Russian, and English, allows her to navigate complex projects and consistently deliver impactful results.

She has collaborated with international development organizations such as USAID, the World Bank, Mercy Corps, UN agencies, DAI, Abt Associates, and the Aga Khan Foundation. Aisuluu has created strategic initiatives for various governmental bodies, including the Ministries of Health and Transportation and Telecommunication of the Kyrgyz Republic. She was recognized with letters of appreciation from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Culture for her efforts in public health.

OUR TEAM

Aisuluu holds an MPA in Development, Technology, and Innovation Policy from University College London and a Specialist Degree in International Relations from Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University. She is a recipient of the “El Umutu” presidential scholarship and a graduate of the TechWomen program, a prestigious U.S. Government exchange program empowering women leaders in STEM fields.

Passionate about AI ethics and climate, Aisuluu has led several training sessions on green economy, climate, AI ethics, and technology. As a consultant, she specializes in green economy, climate, ICT, and innovation. She has spearheaded numerous national and regional campaigns addressing gender and women empowerment and public health. Additionally, she founded the Bishkek Toastmasters club and served as its first president. Aisuluu has also led international dialogues and conducted numerous large-scale forums on critical development issues.



Lika Merabishvili Regional Director for Caucasus

Ms Merabishvili is responsible for the extension and implementation of educational projects and IT industry advocacy in Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.

She is a Co-Founder of the non-governmental organization Space for Education and Development. She has more than 10 years' experience in project planning and management.

Ms Merabishvili is holding a Ph.D. Degree in Psychology. She acquired her doctoral qualification from both Georgian (Ivane Javakshvili Tbilisi State University) and Spanish (Universidade da Coruña) institutions. Along with her civic initiatives, Ms Merabishvili holds academic positions as an Associate Professor and a Supervisor of Bachelor's Program in Psychology at the Alte University, a Guest Lecturer at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and Caucasus University.

Lika Merabishvili is a Fellow of Fellowship program of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility.

Ms Merabishvili aims to contribute to the development of young people, women, NEET, and society as a whole in social, educational and professional terms through the formal and informal education; raising public awareness; civil society development; citizen mobilization, and civic engagement that increases the European integration in Georgia.



Hanna Myshko Regional Director for the Gulf States, Ukraine, and Moldova

With over seven years of expertise in public affairs and program management, Hanna excels in navigating complex political landscapes and policy dynamics. She is dedicated to fostering digital economies and strategic partnerships, cultivating high-level relationships with government officials, industry leaders, and international organizations.

Previously, Hanna served as an Independent Consultant and Program Manager, focusing on sustainability and social impact projects for start-ups and NGOs. At Hill+Knowlton Strategies in Brussels, she guided international companies through EU policy developments, building impactful relationships with EU institutions and policymakers.

In her role at Procter & Gamble in Kyiv, Hanna advanced sustainability initiatives and facilitated key stakeholder engagements. Her tenure at PBN Hill+Knowlton Strategies in Ukraine involved managing high-profile clients as an advisor on government relations and crafting effective communication strategies.

Hanna holds a Master's degree in East European Studies and English/Ukrainian Interpreting from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. She has also completed courses on Sustainability Development Goals and Advocacy. Originally from Ukraine, Hanna is a native Ukrainian speaker and is proficient in English and Russian, with basic proficiency in Polish and French.

OUR TEAM



Lidia Shavlo Chief Analyst

Ms. Shavlo is responsible for coordinating StrategEast research projects, overseeing and managing various analytical functions, and prioritizing the Center's information requirements.

With a career spanning over 15 years, Ms. Shavlo has garnered extensive experience in solving complex problems, developing data-driven solutions, and managing projects, specifically in communications and public relations across the public and private sectors. Prior to her tenure at StrategEast, she made significant contributions while working at the PRP PR agency, an affiliate of Weber Shandwick, where she successfully planned and executed award-winning PR strategies for an array of international clients, including prominent entities such as Avon, Coca-Cola, Jacobs, Johnson & Johnson, Mastercard, Microsoft, Richter Gedeon, USAID, and others.

Furthermore, Ms. Shavlo has held various managerial positions at diverse organizations, including a Ukrainian tech startup, Sayenko Kharenko law firm, which boasts a clientele including Fortune-500 companies, as well as the Investment and Trade Facilitation Center, a Ukrainian Member of Parliament, and a political party.

Her academic pursuits include a Master's degree in English philology from Kyiv National Linguistic University and certification programs in Public Governance and Policy Analysis at Kyiv School of Economics.



Alexander Yazepchik Global Education Manager

Alexander Yazepchik is a seasoned Global Education Lead with over eight years of experience in talent development and engagement. Currently, Alexander leads education initiatives at StrategEast, partnering with global technology companies and academic institutions to deliver top-notch learning and development programs for young professionals across multiple geographies. His experience covers the entire talent lifecycle – from program development to successful employment of young professionals in leading IT companies.

Alexander is actively involved in training students of universities and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), helping them to go through the processes of digital transformation and improve their competitiveness with the help of specially designed educational programs.

Previously, Alexander worked at EPAM Systems, where he played a key role in managing resource development in Central and West Asia and CEE through EPAM Campus. He was involved in organizing Zero to Hero trainings for students and switchers, talent acquisition and development, focusing on integrated training, internships and placement of students in IT positions across disciplines.

Under his leadership, thousands of students have received high quality education and career opportunities, and hundreds of them have been successfully employed in the IT industry.



As we present this year's Activity Report, I am pleased to reflect on the transformative journey StrategEast has undertaken throughout 2024. This year has been a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering digital transformation and knowledge economies across Eurasia and beyond.

Over the past twelve months, StrategEast has continued to expand its presence in key regions, building bridges between the Gulf, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe. Our initiatives have catalyzed the creation of robust IT ecosystems, fostered startup acceleration, and supported the development of knowledge-driven economies.

Among our many achievements, 2024 marked significant progress in advancing regional IT industries. Our IT Hub projects, launched in Azerbaijan and Central Asia, provided thousands of young talents with essential skills in cutting-edge technologies. These efforts not only

empowered individuals but also laid the foundation for sustainable growth in their respective regions.

StrategEast has also strengthened partnerships with global tech leaders, financial institutions, and development agencies. Collaborations with Google, Microsoft, and Oracle have resulted in impactful training programs, equipping over 2,000 students with expertise in modern IT disciplines. Our partnerships with USAID and EBRD have further extended support for startups and IT industry development in emerging markets.

In a world increasingly defined by digitalization, we believe in the power of cooperation to overcome challenges and unlock new opportunities. The 2024 StrategEast Eurasian Forum in Chişinău exemplified this vision, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and innovators to discuss the transformative potential of artificial intelligence. The forum's theme, "Trustworthy AI for Sustainable Economy," underscored the importance of responsible AI development in ensuring economic resilience and long-term sustainability.

In 2024, StrategEast continued its efforts to enhance Ukraine's digital resilience and support its recovery from Russian aggression. As part of this mission, we facilitated a landmark visit of Ukrainian IT leaders to Washington, D.C., where they engaged with U.S. institutions and businesses to forge

strategic partnerships and integrate Ukraine's tech sector into the global market. Additionally, in collaboration with Ukraine's Ministry of Digital Transformation, we organized high-level meetings in the Gulf region to establish a "digital bridge" between Ukraine and key markets in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Oman. These initiatives not only highlighted Ukraine's technological potential but also created new pathways for international collaboration. StrategEast remains committed to empowering Ukraine's digital ecosystem as a cornerstone of its economic recovery and long-term development.

As we look ahead, StrategEast remains dedicated to bridging regions, fostering innovation, and empowering future generations. Together, we are shaping a connected, knowledge-based economy that transcends borders.

I invite you to explore the 2024 Activity Report, which details our milestones, initiatives, and the profound impact of our work. I am confident that the partnerships we have built and the progress we have made will continue to yield lasting benefits for Eurasia and the global digital community.

Sincerely,
Anatoly Motkin
President of StrategEast

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anatoly Motkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ADVISORY BOARD



Horton Beebe-Center

President Emeritus of the Eurasia Foundation

As head of the Eurasia Foundation, Mr. Beebe-Center made a great contribution to the development of small and medium-sized businesses in post-Soviet countries, always with a focus on good governance and involving civil society in political life. Mr. Beebe-Center is fluent in Russian and holds a BA in Soviet Studies from Brown University and a MA in Russian Studies from Harvard University.



Debra Cagan

Former Official at the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense

Debra L. Cagan worked as a career diplomat at the Department of State and as an official at the Department of Defense 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 Advisor for Strategic and Nuclear Policy for Europe; and Senior Advisor 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 postgraduate work at the University of Chicago towards her doctorate, where she was named the first female fellow for the prestigious Armed Forces and Society Consortium.



Michael Haltzel

Senior fellow, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

Mr. Haltzel has made great contributions to the establishment of peace and security in Eastern Europe after the fall of many communist regimes. He is the recipient of awards from many Eastern European states, served as an OSCE monitor for the first postwar elections in Bosnia, and is the author or editor of 10 books on European history and international relations. Mr. Haltzel holds a PhD in International Studies history from Harvard University.



David Tkeshelashvili

Head of Administration (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 the local self-government reform process, first as a State Minister for Regional Issues, and later, under his leadership, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure was created. He served as a minister in that agency until 2010. Mr. Tkeshelashvili holds an MA in legal studies from Tbilisi State University and an LLM degree from Emory University in Atlanta.



Daniel A. Witt

President, International Tax and Investment Center

Mr. Witt has worked on the drafts of tax codes in many countries of the former USSR, always following the principles of good practices. Thanks to his contribution, the economies of these countries have gained a new chance for sustainable development and earned confidence around the world. Mr. Witt received a BBA (magna cum laude) in public administration and an MBA in finance from Western Michigan University.

WESTERNIZATION REPORT 2024



The StrategEast Westernization Report 2024 offers a comprehensive snapshot of the progress of Westernization in post-Soviet Eurasia. The report features analysis from experts across Eurasian and Baltic countries, detailing significant political and economic events of the past year that have shaped the region. Over the past four years, the report has become an essential resource for international financial institutions, development agencies, governments, and think tanks in Eurasia and the

West. This report identifies the key events and trends impacting the degree of Westernization in the countries that gained or restored their independence after the Soviet Union's collapse. Last year, the paradoxical leader in Westernization process was Ukraine, which, despite facing severe trials, has emerged as a beacon of Westernization. In the midst of war, Ukraine has seen unprecedented Western support, including its nomination as a candidate for EU membership. Meanwhile, Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022 has turned Eurasia into a geopolitical and economic battleground, pitting Russia and China against Western efforts. The United States and the European Union have focused on two primary objectives in the region. First, protecting nations from Moscow's influence by enhancing political and economic cooperation. And second, preventing Russia from exploiting the region as a gray zone to bypass sanctions, acquire military components, or evade banking restrictions. In 2023, Western powers largely adopted policies of encouragement, fostering cooperation rather than imposing punitive measures. However, in 2024, the US began targeting specific companies in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan with sanctions for alleged involvement in gray supply chains supporting Russia's military-industrial complex. Central Asia is navigating a complex geopolitical landscape, balancing growing economic ties with China while exploring multifaceted partnerships with the West. Formats like the "C5+1" with the US and the "EU-Central Asia" summit signal promising avenues for regional cooperation. These initiatives aim to offer an alternative to over-dependence on China, which has been providing loans, investments, and even military guarantees.

The report also highlights countries with less visible consequences of recent global events, noting that the impact on their Westernization will become clearer in the 2025 edition of the report. The StrategEast Westernization Report 2024 remains a critical tool for understanding the shifting dynamics in Eurasia as the region grapples with the forces of Westernization, Russian influence, and rising Chinese engagement.

PRESENTATIONS OF THE WESTERNIZATION REPORT 2024



On July 9th, 2024 Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, presented the key trends unfolding in the Eurasian space based

on the results of the StrategEast Westernization Report 2024 to the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) with participation of Sam Greene is Director for Democratic Resilience at the Center for European Policy Analysis and his team.

StrategEast Westernization Report 2024 presentation was held in Kyiv, Ukraine for the representatives from leading think tanks, political consultancies, and international development programs. Following the presentation, a roundtable discussion titled "Ukraine's Role in the Transforming Eurasian Landscape Post-2022" was held with the following speakers: Stephan Jensen, Country Director to Ukraine at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change; Elena Davlikanova, Democracy Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis; Peter Dickinson, Editor of the UkraineAlert blog at the Atlantic Council; Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast.

STRATEG EAST STATE AND IT EURASIAN FORUM IN CHISINAU



The 6th StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum was held on September 17-18 in strategic collaboration with Tekwill, Moldova's premier networking facilitator in the tech ecosystem, along with Invest Moldova, Moldova Innovation Technology Park, and ABSL Moldova. Supported by USAID and Orange Moldova, this edition of the Forum was a key event within Moldova Business Week 2024.

With the lead topic on Trustworthy AI for Sustainable Economy, the event was organized with the support of USAID, DAAC Digital, EBRD, the World Bank, Tekwill, InvestMoldova, ABSL Moldova, Sigma Software, High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The event featured over 40 speakers including Dorin Recean, Prime Minister of Moldova; Dumitru Alaiba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization of Moldova; and the greatest tech minds and more than 150 participants, who delved into key topics like talent retention, trust in AI, and opportunities for global IT companies in the region.

Cezara Panait, Head of Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova:

"AI has tremendous potential to advance societal good, whether in education, work, healthcare, or climate action. We're now generally just scratching the surface of what this technology can achieve. But it's crucial to also understand its challenges and risks.

In Romania, we partnered with the Ministry of Environment to implement cloud AI solutions that monitor illegal deforestation. Foresters are required to take photos of logging activities and upload them for verification, but the manual review process was overwhelming for the Ministry. By using AI, we automated the verification, which allowed for faster, more accurate oversight, and prevented manipulation, such as submitting photos of old or unrelated logging. This initiative has resulted in fines of 700,000 euros and has protected a significant number of trees, showcasing how AI can be used effectively to combat illegal deforestation and promote sustainable practices."



Victor Sagaidac, Chief Information and Data Officer at Orange Moldova:

"We are still in the stage where AI acts as a copilot—assisting tasks but not yet autonomous. To really harness its potential, both private companies and governments need to collaborate, ensuring that AI doesn't just augment the world, but also preserves human agency.

The future of AI depends on cooperation between government, big tech, and civil society. This collaboration is essential to ensure AI is deployed responsibly and ethically, benefiting all sectors of society."

Irina Buzu, Advisor to the Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister for Economic Development and Digitalisation of Moldova:

"Trustworthiness in AI requires clear boundaries between human and machine. When we blur the line between what is human and what is technological, it becomes harder to build trust. We need to invest in people to enhance our human experiences and foster trust in AI.

Collaboration has made everything possible so far—from developing a widely accepted definition of AI to building Moldova's AI ecosystem. Networking, sharing experiences, and aligning with regional efforts have given me optimism that we're moving in the right direction."

Amir Hegazi, Managing Director of Capital Democracy:

"In emerging markets like Eurasia, you need a minimum viable ecosystem. This means removing regulatory bottlenecks that deter founders from starting or staying local and that prevent investors from entering the market. It's not just about capital; it's about creating the right environment with clear regulations, strong education, and community support to help startups thrive. In Saudi Arabia, simplifying processes, removing red tape—such as enabling company registration in a day or a few days not weeks or months—unlocked massive potential. Eurasia can achieve the same by eliminating regulatory hurdles."



Policy Recommendations based on Forum 2024

1. The successful implementation of AI in digital transformation will enable Eurasian governments to address complex challenges, such as improving healthcare, modernizing infrastructure, enhancing public safety, and driving innovation.
2. Each Eurasian country should develop a comprehensive AI strategy that aligns with its broader digital transformation goals.
3. Eurasian countries should establish ethical and legal standards: develop AI legislation based on international best practices, ensuring the protection of human rights, privacy, and security.
4. International financial institutions and development agencies should support small and medium-sized enterprises in adopting AI as part of their digital transformation by offering targeted training and financial assistance.
5. To combat brain drain and retain top talent, Eurasian countries must prioritize the development of their IT industry by creating a dynamic and innovative ecosystem that offers competitive opportunities for local professionals.
6. Central Asian countries have made significant strides in developing their legal frameworks and IT ecosystems, making them an attractive and trusted destination for the global tech industry.
7. Moldova has the potential to become a key hub for Eurasian countries, acting as a bridge between the West and Eurasia in the development of the IT industry, attracting investment, and integrating IT ecosystems.
8. Ukraine, with its strong IT foundation, has the potential to lead in AI development.
9. A key aspect of advancing AI across these countries is the exchange of knowledge.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVES

StrategEast facilitated trade mission connecting Eurasian tech companies to Qatari business community



In cooperation with the office of the Commercial Attaché of the State of Qatar in the US, StrategEast organized a trade mission to Doha, Qatar, on February 14-15, 2024 bringing together C-level executives from leading global engineering companies with substantial operations in Eurasia. Notable participants included AltexSoft, Computools, Eleks, EPAM, Global Logic, Intellias, Lineate, Nix, Sigma Software, and Tripmaker. The primary objective of the mission was to introduce these IT companies to Qatar's business community in order to explore collaboration opportunities, shedding light on Qatar's tax incentives, and fostering strategic matchmaking meetings with influential stakeholders. These series of events created multiple business opportunities for the participants on both sides.



Nasser Al-Kaabi (Investor Relations Officer, Invest Qatar), **H.E. Saleh Abdullah Al-Mana** (Director, International Cooperation & Trade Agreements Department, Ministry of Commerce and Industry), **Anatoly Motkin** (President, StrategEast), **Oleh Hudym** (Customer Relationship Director, Computools), **Olga Husarova** (Vice President of Operations, AltexSoft), **Oleksandr Blishun** (Director of Client Engagement, AltexSoft), **Giorgi Tsikolia** (VP of EMEA Region, Lineate), **Valery Krasovsky** (Chief Executive Officer, Co-founder, Sigma Software), **Mahboob Subuhani** (Business development director in GCC, Sigma Software), **Jason Harman** (SVP, Head of Middle East, EPAM), **Alexey Nikolayev** (Executive VP, Corporate Clients and Business Development, NIX), **Mike Tokar** (Co-Founder & CEO, Tripmaker), **Tetyana Skrypnyk** (Supervisory Board Member, responsible for commercial success in the GCC region, Eleks), **Anna Vorobiova** (VP, Business Development and Marketing, NIX).



Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, highlighted the unique win-win opportunity, stating, "Business entities in Qatar can now access the cutting edge technologies and digital services from Eurasian companies at one-tenth the cost of that in Silicon Valley."

H.E. Sheikh Nawaf Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Board member at the Qatari Businessmen Association, expressed his readiness to provide the platform for matchmaking between the Qatari business and Eurasian IT companies: "We are welcoming Eurasian tech companies to establish a presence in Qatar and encouraging them to do so."



Oleksandr Blishun (Director of Client Engagement, AltexSoft), **Olga Husarova** (Vice President of Operations, AltexSoft), **Tetyana Skrypnyk** (Supervisory Board Member, responsible for commercial success in the GCC region, Eleks), **Jason Harman** (SVP, Head of Middle East, EPAM), **Oleh Hudym** (Customer Relationship Director, Computools), **Anatoly Motkin** (President, StrategEast), **Alexey Nikolayev** (Executive VP, Corporate Clients and Business Development, NIX), **Valery Krasovsky** (Chief Executive Officer, Co-founder, Sigma Software), **Mahboob Subuhani** (Business development director in GCC, Sigma Software), **Giorgi Tsikolia** (VP of EMEA Region, Lineate), **Laila Al-Jefairi** (Vice President, Business Development, Qatar Financial Centre), **Muna Al-Thani** (Head of Professional Services Europe & America, Qatar Financial Centre).

StrategEast organized visit of Ukrainian IT leaders to Washington



On April 16-18, 2024 StrategEast coordinated a visit by a Ukrainian business delegation to Washington, aimed at forging working relationships with state institutions, gaining insights into their operational principles and exploring avenues for collaboration with prominent US businesses.

The delegation included top managers from Ukraine’s leading IT companies, such as AltexSoft, Deus Robotics, Eleks, Exadel, Intellias, MacPaw, Roosh, Sigma Software Group and SoftServe.

The Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine joints efforts with StrategEast to develop digital bridge between Ukraine and the Gulf



From April 21 to May 1, 2024 Ukraine’s Ministry of Digital Transformation in collaboration with StrategEast held a series of high-level meetings to foster collaboration at both governmental and business levels within the Gulf region.

Headed by Mr. Oleksandr Boryakov, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, the delegation held a series of high-level discussions with key government officials and prominent business leaders in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Oman.

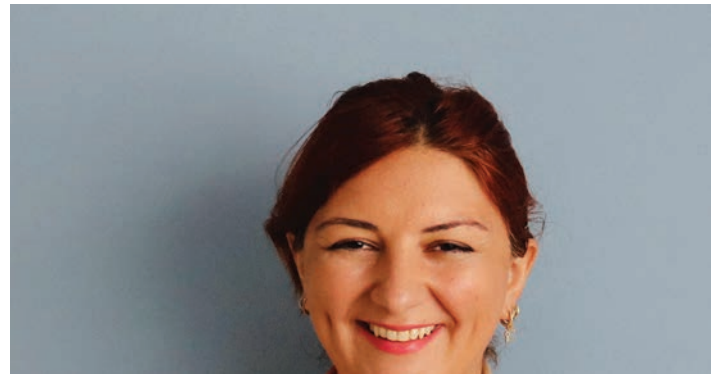
StrategEast and Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy host exclusive webinars for tech companies

on May 14 and May 16, 2024, StrategEast, in collaboration with the Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy, hosted a series of exclusive webinars titled “Why Dubai.” These events were



supported by USAID Future Growth Initiative and were specifically tailored for tech companies from the Caucasus and Central Asian regions, aiming to explore opportunities in Dubai’s burgeoning tech ecosystem.

StrategEast pioneers Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub Program in Caucasus



StrategEast and Microsoft have collaborated to launch the Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub Program in the Caucasus region. This significant milestone offers vital support and resources to boost innovation and growth in the local tech ecosystem.

The launch event took place on April 20, 2024 in Tbilisi, Georgia, with over 100 participants from startups, IT companies, universities, and other stakeholders from Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan in attendance.

The first IT Hub Georgia job fair facilitates opportunities for graduates



In April, the first IT Hub Job Fair took place at the Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency, hosting 30 esteemed companies and welcoming a cohort of 100 accomplished alumni. This event marked a significant milestone in bolstering employment prospects within the Georgian IT sector and related industries.

Eurasian countries showcase tech innovations at COMEX in Oman



StrategEast, in partnership with Oman International Trade and Exhibitions, organized the participation of Eurasian countries Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan at COMEX, a premier technology show held in Oman from May 27-30.

StrategEast hosted a webinar for Central Asian startups on attracting investments from the Gulf

Webinar for Central Asian Startups

How to Attract Investments from the Gulf?

OCT 19

Riyadh	13:00
Saudi Arabia	13:00
Astana	15:00
Dushanbe	15:00
Tashkent	15:00
Bishkek	16:00

APPLY NOW

SPEAKER
Meshari Alrajah
 Entrepreneurship Consultant and Angel Investor
 King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

StrategEast under the USAID’s Future Growth Initiative organized a webinar titled “How to Attract Investments from the Gulf for Central Asian Startups.” The session was led by Meshari Alrajah, an expert in entrepreneurship and angel investing from King Saud University, Saudi Arabia.

StrategEast facilitates Kyrgyzstan’s first-ever pavilion at GITEX Tech Show in Dubai



StrategEast, in collaboration with USAID’s FGI and the UK Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, facilitated the first-ever Kyrgyz pavilion at GITEX in Dubai, one of the world’s largest and most influential technology events. The participation of startups from Kyrgyzstan was secured and their products were showcased: Enji.ai; IProfi; UT, and Ukuk, among others. Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, held a series of meetings at the Kyrgyzstan pavilion, engaging with leading Kyrgyz IT companies and discussing opportunities for further development with the leadership of the High Technology Part. Kyrgyz IT Park. Key figures included Aziz Abakirov, CEO of High-Tech Park Kyrgyzstan, and Chubak Temirov, Deputy Director of the High-Tech Park.

StrategEast with USAID’s support helps Uzbek startups connect with global tech leaders in Silicon Valley and San Francisco



A delegation of Uzbekistan’s leading tech startups completed a productive week-long engagement in Silicon Valley and San Francisco from October 24-31, 2024. Organized by the USAID Business Support Project in partnership with StrategEast and IT Park Uzbekistan and Silk Road Innovation Hub, the program offered Uzbek startups an invaluable opportunity to participate in the esteemed TechCrunch Disrupt conference.

StrategEast leads delegation of startups from Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Tajikistan to Biban 2024 in Saudi Arabia



In collaboration with Monsha’at – StrategEast successfully organized a diverse and innovative delegation of startups from Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Tajikistan to participate in Biban 2024, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 5-9. Supported by Accelerate Prosperity, the Innovation and Digital Development Agency (IDDA), ATIC, and Tekwill, these startups showcased their groundbreaking solutions, connected with key ecosystem enablers, and pitched directly to investors.

VENTURE CAPITAL INITIATIVES



Anatoly Motkin shared the opportunities for Eurasian startups in the Gulf with the Central Eurasian Venture Forum in Kazakhstan

Anatoly Motkin took part at the panel “How to Successfully Scale in the MENA Region: Practical Cases” during the Central Eurasian Venture Forum held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on June 7th. Mr. Motkin shared successful case studies from various Eurasian countries where StrategEast has been actively operating, providing valuable insights into scaling businesses in the MENA region.

IT ECOSYSTEM ENABLING INITIATIVES

StrategEast President explores investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia



On January 31, during his working visit to Saudi Arabia, StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin engaged in constructive discussions with officials from the Ministry of Investment.

The meeting brought together key representatives, including Afnan A. Ababtain, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Fahad Mansour H Alhashem, Assistant Deputy for Services Sectors, Investment Development Deputyship. HE Assistant Minister of Investment, Ibrahim Almubarak, was leading this meeting with Mr. Motkin.

StrategEast hosted panel discussion on IT Prospects for Central Asia and the Caucasus at Web Summit in Qatar



StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin moderated a panel “The Emerging Tech Hub in Eurasia” at the Web Summit in Doha, Qatar. The panel discussion was enriched by the insights of notable participants, including Nuria Kutnaeva, the Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Jason Harman, Senior Vice President of EPAM and Representative for the Middle East, and Amy Peck, Founder of EndeavorXR.

StrategEast jointly with Google hosted panel on Digital Transformation for Education



StrategEast and Google hosted a panel discussion on “Digital Transformation for Education” and celebrated the outstanding achievements of students who excelled in the Google Cloud / ML Learner program at Almaty Management University in Kazakhstan. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Google-StrategEast IT HUB program has been a resounding success.

StrategEast and KSSDA hosted Donors Coordination Meetings for Kyrgyz tech ecosystem development

StrategEast, in partnership with USAID and the Kyrgyz Software and Services Developers’ Association (KSSDA), successfully hosted three quarterly Donor Coordination Meetings in Bishkek throughout 2024. These meetings, held in collaboration with

key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Digital Development, focused on fostering partnerships and aligning efforts to advance Kyrgyzstan’s ICT industry and digital economy.



The meetings, held at the KSSDA office and in collaboration with USAID, emphasized increasing funding and exploring collaborative opportunities for the tech ecosystem’s growth. The June meeting at the Ministry of Digital Development further strengthened coordination among donors and stakeholders to drive sustainable development in Kyrgyzstan’s technology sector. These efforts highlight StrategEast’s role in uniting donors and local leaders to support the country’s digital transformation.

StrategEast hosted quarterly Donor Coordination Meetings in Dushanbe



On June 24, 2024 StrategEast held its quarterly donor coordination meeting at Technohub in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in collaboration with USAID’s Future Growth Initiative. The event gathered key stakeholders, including Mustafu Jonmamadov from EBRD, Tojiddin Najmedinov from USAID, Shodigul Mamadyorbekova from GIZ TJ, and representatives from the US Embassy, FCDO, and the UK Embassy. On December 16, StrategEast, in partnership with Techno Hub Dushanbe, and the State Unitary Enterprise Tajinvest, hosted a donor coordination meeting on “Digital Transformation: From Local to Global” at Techno Hub Dushanbe.

StrategEast and Business Support Project host Donor Coordination Meetings in Tashkent

StrategEast, in collaboration with USAID’s Business Support Project and key partners, successfully facilitated four quarterly Donor Coordination Meetings in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, throughout 2024. These meetings, held in March, June, September, and December brought together international financial institutions, development agencies, embassies, and government representatives to foster collaboration and align strategies for Uzbekistan’s ICT sector and broader economic development.



The discussions focused on advancing the tech ecosystem, FinTech, e-government solutions, and cybersecurity, emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts to drive digital growth in Uzbekistan. Key stakeholders included the World Bank, EBRD, GIZ, the EU, and the Ministry of Digital Technologies, among others. StrategEast’s role in moderating and shaping these discussions highlights its commitment to fostering innovation and enhancing the region’s digital transformation.

Anatoly Motkin highlighted importance of regional collaboration in Central Asia at the B5+1 Conference in Kazakhstan



On March 15, Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, took the stage at the panel: “Central Asian Markets and Investment Landscape: US and International Business Community Perspective”, a part of the B5+1 conference held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

StrategEast partners with Ukrainian Ministry of Digital Transformation to boost IT sector



Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine

StrategEast has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine. The primary objective of the memorandum is to synergize efforts and collaborate on various initiatives aimed at fostering direct mutually beneficial cooperation within the IT sector.

Anatoly Motkin moderated panel on Emerging Tech Hub in Eurasia at COMEX IT Show in Oman



On May 28, 2024 Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, moderated a panel discussion titled “The Emerging Tech Hub in Eurasia” at the COMEX IT show in Oman. The panel focused on the transformative potential of strategic partnerships between Central Asian and Caucasus nations and their counterparts in the Gulf, particularly Oman.

StrategEast Central Asia Director discussed digital development initiatives with Kyrgyz Prime Minister



Photo by Sultan Dosaliyev

On June 28, 2024 Aisuluu Kozhomkulova, Regional Director for Central Asia at StrategEast, met with Akylbek Japarov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Head of the Administration of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. The meeting took place during a business mission organized by the American-Kyrgyz Business Council, hosting US business representatives.

Anatoly Motkin moderated panel at CAMCA Forum in Bishkek



On June 12, 2024 Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, moderated a panel at CAMCA’s “Way Forward: Advancing Through Innovation and Strengthened Intra-regional Ties” forum held in Bishkek. The panel, titled “Cyber Bridges: Connecting CAMCA Through Digital Innovation,” was sponsored by the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic.

StrategEast president highlights IT sector growth at IT Forum in Bishkek



Anatoly Motkin delivered a speech at the KIT Forum 2024 in Bishkek, held on June 7-8. As the largest event focused on IT and digital innovation in Kyrgyzstan since 2010, the forum brought together key government officials and industry experts to discuss the region’s technological advancements, including the Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Nuriya Kutnaeva.

Anatoly Motkin moderated session on Innovations at GCC – Central Asia Investment Forum 2024



Anatoly Motkin moderated a panel on innovations and infrastructure at the GCC – Central Asia Investment Forum 2024 on May 29. This event, organized by the Ministry of Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, served as a platform for fostering collaboration and exploring investment opportunities between the Gulf and Central Asia.

Anatoly Motkin meets Ukraine’s Minister Fedorov to discuss further collaboration opportunities



On July 17, Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, met in Kyiv with Mykhailo Fedorov, Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine for Innovation, Education, Science, and Technology and Minister of Digital Transformation. The meeting focused on advancing Ukraine’s digital transformation efforts and creation of new opportunities for Ukrainian IT industry.

StrategEast and Tajikistan’s State Committee of Investments sign MoU to boost IT industry development



On June 15, StrategEast and the State Committee of Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at expanding bilateral cooperation and improving the business climate in the region.

StrategEast and Sabah Hub Sign MoU to Foster IT Development in Azerbaijan



On June 29, Lika Merabishvili, Regional Director for the Caucasus at StrategEast, and Nihat Majidov, Chief Director at High Tech Park signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between StrategEast and Sabah Hub.

StrategEast moderated a round table on Digitalization of Kyrgyzstan: Artificial Intelligence and Regional Leadership



On June 27, a round table was held in Bishkek featuring leading IT companies, international financial institutions, and the public sector of Kyrgyzstan. The event, co-organized by StrategEast jointly with the US-Kyrgyzstan Business Council, took place during a visit by major American companies to Kyrgyzstan.

StrategEast Director for Caucasus talks on the role of tech parks in transforming economies at the Baku Investment Day event



On June 27-28th, Lika Merabishvili, the Regional Director for the Caucasus at StrategEast, participated as a panelist at the Baku ID event held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

StrategEast joins efforts with Sigma Software to develop IT industry in Uzbekistan



Sigma Software, a leading global IT consulting company, is set to make its debut in the Central Asian market by entering Uzbekistan. This move signifies a major step forward in enhancing the region’s technological capabilities and creating new job opportunities. To formalize this significant step, StrategEast and Sigma Software have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

StrategEast Regional Director for Central Asia spoke at ICT Week in Tashkent



On September 17, 2024 Aisuluu Kozhomkulova, Regional Director for Central Asia at StrategEast, delivered a presentation at ICT Week in Tashkent, a key event that brought together tech innovators, startups, investors, and policymakers to discuss the future of technology in the region.

Anatoly Motkin moderated panel on Innovating the Ecosystem for Growth at inMerge Summit in Baku



On October 10, 2024 Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, moderated a high-profile panel on “Innovating the Ecosystem for Growth” at the inMerge Summit in Baku. The panel featured distinguished speakers including Renat Bekturov, Governor of AIFC; Myladié Stoumbou, Regional Director, CEMA at Microsoft; Sengmeng Koo, Head of Learn AI at AI Singapore; and Abdulakhad Kuchkarov, Executive Director of IT Park Uzbekistan.

StrategEast partners with Oracle to foster IT talent development in Eurasia



On September 18, 2024 StrategEast signed an MoU with Oracle University launching a new collaboration under the Skills Development Initiative (SDI). This collaboration opens new horizons for young professionals and students from Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, and Tajikistan, providing them with opportunities for learning and certification in leading global IT fields.

StrategEast, with the support of USAID’s FGI, has launched a collaboration with Oracle University to benefit students across Central Asia. The Oracle University initiative offers educational programs valued at up to \$5,000, allowing students to learn for free through StrategEast-Oracle University. The courses cover a wide range of critical topics, including Java (beginner and advanced levels), SQL, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and other in-demand fields. Oracle University provides courses ranging from 4 to over 160 hours, depending on the field and certification. The programs are conducted in English, with Oracle certification awarded upon successful completion.

StrategEast engages with the Ministries of Education and leading tech universities of Central Asia. In particular, with Salymbekov University; University of Central Asia, Ala-Too International University, Light Academy, etc.

StrategEast President moderated fireside chat on tech-driven entrepreneurship in Central Asia at GITEX



At GITEX Europe panel series, Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, moderated a fireside chat titled “Central Asian Spotlight: The Rise of Tech-Driven Entrepreneurship in the CIS Region.” The discussion featured distinguished speakers such as D. Irmuun, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Mongolia, and Pulod Amirbekov, Country Director of Public Fund Accelerate Prosperity from Tajikistan.

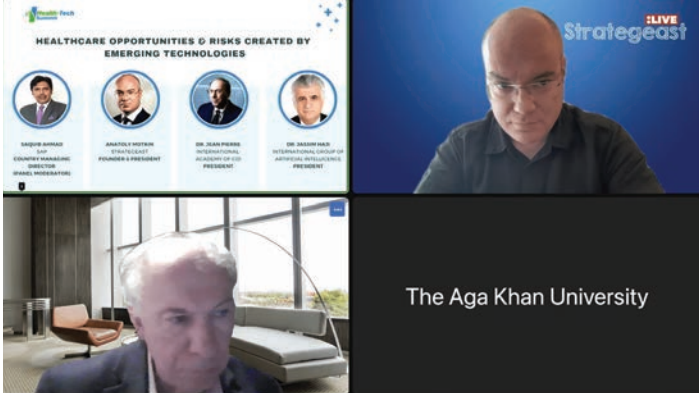
StrategEast hosts a panel at Web Summit Lisbon: Bridging Innovation Between East and West



On November 13, 2024 StrategEast, supported by USAID’s Future Growth Initiative (FGI), hosted a dynamic panel at Web Summit Lisbon, one of the world’s premier tech events, bringing together CEOs, founders, and investors from across the globe. The panel, titled “East to West: The Shifting Face of Innovation,” explored the emerging collaboration between the Gulf and Central Asia and its transformative impact on the global IT market.

SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL IMPACT INITIATIVES

Anatoly Motkin addressed Health-Tech Summit in Pakistan on balancing healthcare technology opportunities and risks



Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast delivered a speech at the Health-Tech Summit held at Aga Khan University in Karachi and online, discussing healthcare opportunities and risks posed by emerging technologies. Mr. Motkin emphasized the complex task of balancing the benefits of sharing patient data for research with the imperative to maintain privacy. He outlined strategies, including clear policies, informed consent, and secure data practices.

StrategEast President advocates innovative approach to job creation through tech education at LEAP Summit in Saudi Arabia



On March 7, 2024 Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast, delivered a speech at the LEAP Summit in Saudi Arabia, focusing on leveraging technology companies for job creation through education.

StrategEast and Business Technology University Tbilisi forge partnership to advance IT sector development in Georgia



StrategEast and Business Technology University (BTU) have signed a memorandum of understanding. The signing ceremony, held on March 20, 2024 at BTU, marked the beginning of a collaborative journey between the two entities.

StrategEast and ICT Association of Georgia enhance partnership to advance Georgia's digital economy



StrategEast and the ICT Association have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster collaboration and drive the growth of Georgia's digital economy. This milestone agreement, signed by Lika Merabishvili, StrategEast's Regional Director for the Caucasus, and Tornike Sulaberidze, Executive Director of the ICT Association, marks a new chapter in advancing Georgia's technological landscape.

Anatoly Motkin presented the unique role of IT in Central Asia and the Caucasus – in Oxford Diplomatic Society



On May 2nd, the Oxford Diplomatic Society hosted a panel discussion centered on the burgeoning realm of Digital Diplomacy. The event delved into the multifaceted applications and potential ramifications of digital diplomacy, a topic of growing significance in today’s interconnected world. Anatoly Motkin, President of StrategEast drawing on his expertise in Eurasian affairs, described the potential of digital diplomacy to shape diplomatic relations and foster regional cooperation.

StrategEast empowers women in tech: Lika Merabishvili opens ‘Coding for 1500 Women’ event



On April 22nd, Lika Merabishvili, Regional Director in the Caucasus at StrategEast, delivered opening remarks at the “Coding for 1500 Women” event in Tbilisi, hosted by the Business and Technology University (BTU) and funded by USAID. This initiative is a vital component of the USAID Industry-led Skills Development Program, aimed at increasing women’s participation in the IT sector.

AI PROGRAMS

StrategEast and Google accelerate AI acceptance at Google AI Academy Istanbul Summit



On January 24-25, 2024 StrategEast, in collaboration with Google, organized the Google AI Academy Istanbul Summit, a flagship capacity-building seminar. The Google AI Academy serves as a premier platform for discussions with regulators and policymakers who shape the future of AI and technology regulation.

The event convened around 100 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. This international closed-door event featured experts from Google and distinguished partners.

StrategEast organized a panel on AI in business at the Turkic States AI Forum in Bishkek



On October 10, 2024, StrategEast with support of USAID’s FGI organized a panel discussion titled “What’s Next in AI for Business and How AI Can Be Leveraged for Economic Growth” at the inaugural Turkic States AI Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. Panelists included Alexander Khanin, Founder and Director of Polynome.ai; Yuliia Malich, Head of Public Policy at Bolt; and Oleg Puzanov, Co-founder and CSPO of Mad Devs and Enji.ai.

StrategEast hosted a regional dialogue on ethics of Artificial Intelligence



On October 29, 2024, StrategEast and RECONOMY gathered leaders from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova for a roundtable discussion on the ethics of AI, focusing on developing responsible AI frameworks in the region. With insights from government representatives, tech leaders, and international organizations, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Union, and the Center for AI and Digital Policy, the dialogue highlighted the importance of aligning AI development with ethical principles, human rights, and global standards.

StrategEast hosted roundtable on exploring AI’s role in empowering women in Eastern Europe



On November 27, 2024 StrategEast hosted a roundtable titled “The Influence of AI on Women – Ethics, Vulnerabilities, and Bias.” The event explored how artificial intelligence is shaping the lives of women in Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, and Georgia, focusing on its potential to empower, transform the workforce, and address systemic challenges. This event is part of the AI Policy Dialogue initiative, supported by RECONOMY.

StrategEast and Google Conclude Build with AI for Sustainable Growth Project in Central Asia and Caucasus

StrategEast, in partnership with Google and supported by USAID’s Future Growth Initiative, successfully implemented the “Build with AI for Sustainable Growth” project, culminating in a final hackathon event in Astana. This initiative leveraged Google AI tools, including Gemini, to address sustainability challenges across Central Asia and the Caucasus, focusing on critical areas such as climate resilience, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable resource management.



The project engaged developers from seven countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia—through workshops led by experts from Google and StrategEast. The workshops covered AI technical skills, sustainability strategies, and startup growth, preparing participants for impactful innovation.

The final event featured 15 startups presenting AI-powered solutions to a jury of government officials, IT hub representatives, and startup enablers. Keynote remarks from Elizabeth Santucci, USAID Kazakhstan Country Coordinator, set the tone for a future of collaboration and innovation. The series demonstrated AI’s transformative potential in fostering sustainable development and resilience in the region.

StrategEast launched AI training for EBRD employees



Starting December 16, StrategEast has launched a special training program for employees of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), focused on the practical application of artificial intelligence. The program is tailored for leaders and managers without technical expertise. The first session has already taken place, introducing participants to key concepts of modern language models and the capabilities of the OpenAI ecosystem.

Future sessions will focus on enhancing model reasoning quality, using Retrieval Augmented Generation, creating custom agents and copilots, as well as tools for generating speech, images, and videos. Additionally, we will address ethical and regulatory aspects of AI, as well as its impact on business and society.

StrategEast is also prepared to adapt training programs for technical specialists—developers, testers, business analysts, and other professionals—customizing them to meet the specific needs of teams.

GLOBAL MINDS INITIATIVE

ADVISORY BOARD



Dr. Gregory Asmolov

Lecturer in Digital Entrepreneurship and Marketing Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London

Gregory Asmolov is a Lecturer on Digital Entrepreneurship and Marketing at the Department of Digital Humanities at King's College London. His work focuses on how information technologies, specifically social media and crowdsourcing platforms, constitute the role of individual users and crowds in crisis situations. His current research explores how digital platforms change the everyday lives of users who are located far away from a conflict zone, and how information technologies contribute to their users' participation 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).



Dastan Dogoev

Former Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic

Dastan Dogoev began his career as a functional specialist at Freebalance Inc., a Canadian Government ERP software company. Mr. Dogoev then began his career as a civil servant, working as the Deputy Chairman and later Chairman of the State Registration Agency, Digital Development Advisor to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Director of the "Digital Central Asia-South Asia" project funded by the World Bank, and Chairman of the State Committee of IT and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic. Prior to these appointments, he was the ICT Development Director of state-owned company Info-Systema under the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Mr. Dogoev earned an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School and holds a BA (Hons) in Corporate Strategic Management from Kingston University London.



Arkadiy Dobkin

President of EPAM Systems

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

For the past 20 years, Mr. Dobkin has been increasingly recognized as an instrumental force in bringing the vast software talent pool of the former Soviet Union 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 the Elite Entrepreneur of the Year Hall of Fame.

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



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 Civil Engineering software developer. In 1997, he co-founded Expand Networks, a privately held venture, and the current world leader in Application Traffic Management. Mr. Marco served as the President of Expand Networks until 2004.



Prosser Stirling

Prosser Stirling has over 30 years of experience in Government Affairs and International Relations with Oracle, DEC, and IBM.



Christopher Burry

Co-founder and Co-CEO, US Market Access Center Inc. Global Ambassador, UC Berkeley Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology

Christopher Burry has over 30 years of experience in the technology industry and as a serial entrepreneur. His background covers Enterprise Architecture, software development, infrastructure technologies, operating systems, methodology development, and IT operations. As an entrepreneur, Mr. Burry has founded multiple companies in the software and services sectors. He has served as a coach and mentor to entrepreneurs since 2005.

In addition to his work at UC Berkeley, Mr. Burry is currently the co-CEO at the US Market Access Center. Over the last 10 years, he has trained and mentored well over 2,500 startups in over 40 countries. USMAC's alumni have raised over \$2.5B in capital and collectively are worth in excess of \$8B USD.

While at USMAC, Mr. Burry has led the company's engagement with the Bangladeshi Ecosystem. In 1999, he co-founded Avanade (a Joint Venture between Accenture and Microsoft). During his first two years at Avanade, Mr. Burry led the team that opened offices in 15 cities in 12 countries. At the time of his departure in 2009, the company had reached almost USD \$1B in revenue. Today, Avanade is a wholly owned subsidiary of Accenture with revenue in excess of \$4B USD. Mr. Burry has personally led entrepreneurial training and market entry programs in more than 40 countries including Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Georgia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.



Sergey Tokarev

IT entrepreneur, Founding Partner of Roosh

Entrepreneurial talent and investor flair have helped Sergey create more than 30 companies and make more than 100 profitable investments in projects worldwide. His investment portfolio includes such well-known names as Reface, Oura, Deel, Facemoji, and many others. Twenty years of experience in technology also helped him achieve these results. Before switching to investing, Sergey tried many roles: from a call center operator to managing positions in large companies.

Sergey graduated from Moscow University for the Humanities with a degree in Management. He also studied at the University of Malta.



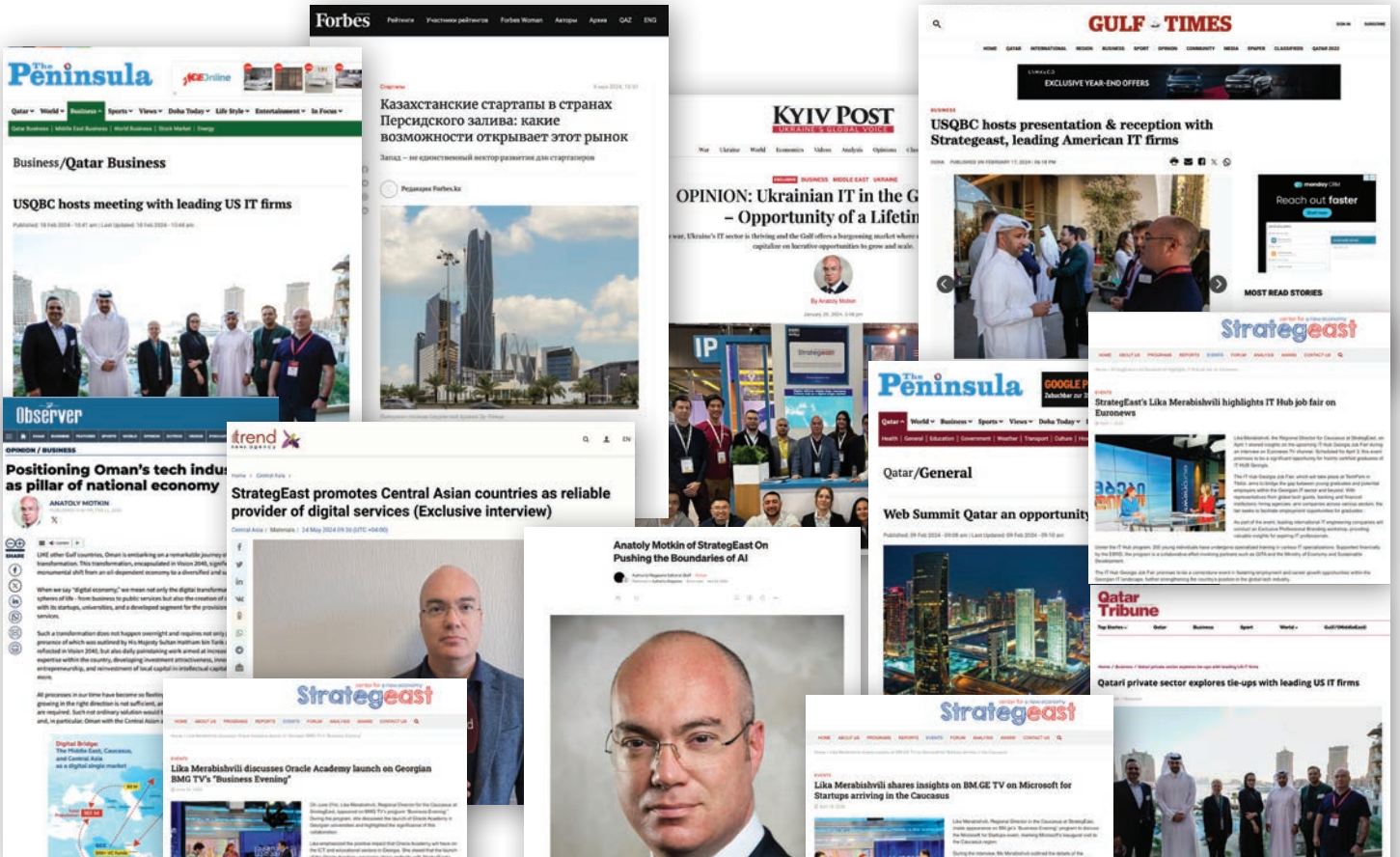
Valery Vavilov

Chief Vision Officer, founder and Chairman of the Bitfury Group

Valery Vavilov is the Chief Vision Officer, founder, and Chairman of the Bitfury Group – the world's leading emerging technologies company. Valery's entrepreneurial experience and passion for blockchain led him to found the company in 2011, when blockchain was just beginning to capture the world's attention and imagination. Under his leadership, the company has expanded its focus to provide custom-designed software and advanced hardware in cryptocurrency, blockchain, and artificial intelligence. Prior to founding Bitfury, Valery spent more than 15 years in a variety of technical and leadership positions.

He received his M.S. degree in Computer Science from Riga's Transport & Telecommunication University in Latvia and completed the Stanford Executive Program at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. Among other leadership initiatives, he is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Fourth Industrial Revolution Council on Blockchain.

MEDIA OUTREACH



StrategEast has significantly enhanced its visibility this year, positioning itself as a leading advocate for digital transformation and economic development across Eurasia. By securing extensive media coverage, StrategEast has fostered impactful dialogue on the future of technology in the region and reinforced its role as a thought leader in the global digital landscape.

StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin's interview on Medium highlighted the organization's pivotal role in advancing artificial intelligence in Eurasia, emphasizing the challenges and opportunities of integrating AI technologies across the region.

Global media outlets, including Qatari and Eurasian publications, widely covered StrategEast's trade mission to Qatar. This initiative was recognized for its potential to attract leading international IT companies and shape Qatar's rapidly growing digital ecosystem.

Forbes Kazakhstan featured an article by Mr. Motkin focusing on Kazakhstan's burgeoning startup ecosystem. The piece explored the factors driving growth in the region and emphasized the maturity of its entrepreneurial landscape.

Trend News Agency published insights from Mr. Motkin on Azerbaijan's digital transformation efforts and StrategEast's plans to enhance AI proficiency among public sector representatives in Central Asia.

Kyiv Post featured Mr. Motkin's op-ed, "Ukrainian IT: A Rising Force in the Gulf," shedding light on the expanding influence of Ukrainian tech companies and their strategic collaborations in the Gulf region.

The Oman Daily Observer showcased StrategEast's perspective on Oman's Vision 2040 initiative in an article titled "Positioning Oman's Tech Industry as a Pillar of National Economy." The piece highlighted the role of Oman's tech industry in driving economic diversification.

The Peninsula Qatar published "Web Summit Qatar: An Opportunity for Local Companies," an article by Mr. Motkin, emphasizing the event's significance for businesses exploring new markets and partnerships.

Speka Media, a leading Ukrainian tech outlet, featured "The Gulf Market for Ukrainian IT: What You Need to Know" by Mr. Motkin, offering a comprehensive roadmap for Ukrainian companies aiming to enter the Gulf region.

New Voice, a prime Ukrainian business media outlet, spotlighted Mr. Motkin's analysis of Ukrainian IT exports, exploring growth opportunities amidst economic challenges.

On BMG TV's *Business Evening*, Lika Merabishvili, Regional Director for the Caucasus, discussed the Oracle Academy's launch in Georgian universities, highlighting its transformative impact on educational innovation.

OUR PLANS



The initiative positions Ukrainian tech leaders as champions of innovation and good governance in Ukraine as well as key players in Ukraine’s reconstruction efforts, enhancing the association’s reputation and influence, while expanding its network of high-profile U.S. stakeholders. Engaging with IFIs and U.S. investors through strategic meetings to secure financial support and investments for the growth and expansion of the Ukrainian tech ecosystem.

To scale up the presence of American trusted technologies in the Eurasian region through collaboration with US tech leaders, we aim to organize strategic forums, facilitate public-private partnerships, provide training programs for local talent, and support the establishment of innovation hubs to drive adoption and integration of advanced solutions.



Innovation and Digital Development Agency

We are facilitating the participation of 100 Eurasian startups and IT companies in major tech events across the Gulf, including BIBAN, Web Summit Doha, LEAP, and COMEX. This initiative aims to showcase the region’s innovation potential, foster global connections, and attract investment opportunities. By creating opportunities for exposure at these prominent platforms, we aim to accelerate their growth, enhance collaboration with international stakeholders, and position Eurasian companies as key players in the global tech ecosystem.

We are bringing leading IT engineering companies to Azerbaijan to establish their operations and contribute to the growth of the local tech ecosystem. This initiative aims to position Azerbaijan as a regional hub for IT exports by fostering innovation, creating high-skilled jobs, and enhancing the country’s competitiveness in the global market. Through these efforts, we seek to strengthen the export potential of Azerbaijani IT services and solutions.



We are launching free training programs for students across dozens of universities in the Eurasian region in collaboration with Oracle and Microsoft. These programs aim to equip young talent with cutting-edge skills in technology and innovation, fostering a new generation of tech-savvy professionals.

About StrategEast

StrategEast is a leading independent institution working to develop the Eurasia's digital economy, in collaboration with international financial institutions, development agencies, global tech companies, and Eurasian governments.

StrategEast is a non profit organization with offices in the United States, Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

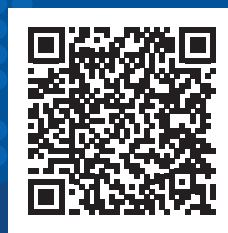


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