

the 24th of September 2019



## Motion: nomination of Travel Destination 2019

**Dear board,**

On Tuesday the 24th during the second travel meeting UF members decided that the destination for the UF trip this semester will be Ukraine!

Several interesting topics were brought up during the discussion that could be further investigated, for example, the ongoing conflict with Russia, the annexation of Crimea and the recently elected politically inexperienced president Volodymyr Zelenskyj. Zelenskyj has redrawn the political landscape and appointed a young government and according to (western) news media, the direction of government is rather unclear. Furthermore, in September a prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine took place which has been classed as a diplomatic breakthrough. Questions are now rising if the tension between the two countries is diminishing. The recent information regarding Trump's conversations with Zelensky also to the timeliness of the destination!

Concerning cities, Kyiv is an obvious option but Chernobyl could also be interesting. The Swedish state department advice not to visit the regions near Crimea and these will, therefore, be off-limit. No visa is required for EU-citizens or American and Canadian citizens. Though for most countries in Africa, the Middle East, South America and South-East Asia visa is required. The general knowledge of English in Ukraine seems to be ok, which means we could get around quite easily. Within Ukraine train is a good option, which is also cheap. UF also has some contacts in Ukraine, which will help book meetings.

Furthermore, the general cost of living is 52% lower than in Sweden. We could investigate going by train, but it would be rather time-consuming I hence suggest that we go by flight. This would cost no more than 1000 SEK (two ways). Airbnb and hostel are options for affordable lodging. The estimated costs in total (flight 1000, lodging 1500, transport 500) I think could be around 3000-3500 SEK which is very affordable for a UF-trip.

In conclusion, I think this destination will be very rewarding and exciting for all UF members and contribute to a better knowledge of the region and the world in general!

### **Pleading**

May the board decide to

accept Ukraine as the destination for the UF Travel Group in the fall of 2019?

### **Författare**

Ebba Berg Gorgén, Resansvarig 2019/2020

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Utrikespolitiska  
föreningen i Uppsala

BOX 513  
Kyrkogårdsgatan 10  
751 20 Uppsala

Org. Nr. 817603-5221  
ufuppsala.se  
info@ufuppsala.se

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