

OPIC is Helping U.S. Investors to Return to Ukraine

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U.S. investors are returning to Ukraine through OPIC loans and insurance. US-Ukraine Business Council held its first investors training session in the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington Wednesday on how to make use of OPIC services.

OPIC - a U.S. Government Agency that grants loans and provides insurance coverage for U.S. investments overseas - has resumed its operations in Ukraine. OPIC loans may range from 15,000 USD for small-scale businesses to 300 - 400 million USD on big investment projects. The American and Ukrainian investors who were involved in the US-Ukraine Business Council workshop were especially encouraged by the news.

Ms. Irina Paliashvili, President of RULG-Ukrainian Legal Group law firm, said: "I think many of those investors who were disappointed by recent developments now have new expectations. This is not just moral support; they can contact OPIC to receive funds that are extremely difficult to find these days. I believe, therefore, these are excellent opportunities for both reputation and business development".

"OPIC's resumed operations in Ukraine open new investment horizons on the Ukrainian market," says Mr. Alex Gordin, Executive Director of Broad Street Capital Group.

"We believe the restarted OPIC operations in Ukraine, especially at this time of elections and economic crisis - signal to investors that Ukraine is a country where business is worthwhile. These steps will provide the tools - financing and insurance - that were beyond reach until now in the private sector. This is an important signal for investors to start considering Ukraine".

Besides loans, the U.S. companies that contemplate doing business in Ukraine may also have their investments insured, including against political risks.

Rod Morris, OPIC Vice-President, Insurance, said: "Having OPIC insurance means that any government, either the Government of Ukraine, or Venezuela, or the Dominican Republic, understands the investor in question is backed by the U.S. Government, so they tend not to interfere with the operations of such companies in the manner they could".

Although receiving OPIC loans and insurance is a time-consuming procedure that requires detailed documentation for a project, investors are convinced it opens long-term prospects for U.S. investments in Ukraine.