



Meeting the Council Members: Mykola Stetsenko

Mykola is Managing Partner at Avellum in Ukraine. He heard about the European Regional Forum (ERF) from a friend E Anna Babych of Aequo. He then had a detailed discussion about the ERF with Slawomir Uss of SKS, who talked him through various initiatives within the ERF and invited Mykola to join.

Why did you want to get involved and what would you like to achieve with the ERF while in post as a Council Member?

With the ERF I would like to focus on bridging the gap between Ukrainian lawyers and the international legal community, as well as on the promotion of investments in Ukraine. I am qualified both in Ukraine and the state of New York and my dual legal background helps a lot in understanding both common law and the continental legal tradition. As a corporate lawyer I have been involved in numerous legislative initiatives in Ukraine in the past and achieved success in harmonising Ukrainian corporate legislation with best international practices. Now, I would like to take this experience to a different level with the ERF.

What are the key issues facing the legal profession in your jurisdiction?

Despite the war with Russia, Ukraine remains fully integrated in the common legal themes and faces the same global challenges, including generative artificial intelligence, automation, post-pandemic work organisation, etc. Apart from global trends, the legal profession in Ukraine also deals with its local challenges, such as the judiciary reform, access to legal profession, improvement of legal education to name a few.

What issues are you passionate about in your jurisdiction?

I am very much concerned about the image of Ukraine as a corrupt state, and I really would like to change it. Indeed, Ukraine has some homework to do in fighting corruption. However, what most people miss is the progress Ukraine achieved in the past decade. Ukraine simplified numerous bureaucratic processes and introduced a lot of transparency in the government. Ukraine is a leader in publicly accessible state registers and online governmental services. It is these steps that are eliminating corruption and the global community should know about it.

What is your passion away from the office?

I am a passionate gardener, growing a lot of varieties of cut flowers and perennials. I also started growing more vegetables in my garden and it is so much fun! I have attached a picture of myself this June with my homegrown foxgloves.



If you are interested in becoming a Council Member at the ERF, please contact stephen.goldie@brodies.com (Website Officer, European Regional Forum)