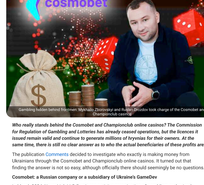
Gambling hidden behind frontmen: Mykhailo Zborovskyi and Ruslan Drozdov took charge of the Cosmobet and Championclub casinos

14 серпня 2026 р. 14:42 450



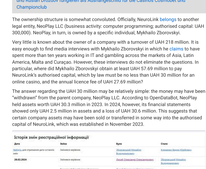
Gambling hidden behind frontmen: Mykhailo Zborovskyi and Ruslan Drozdov took charge of the Cosmobet and Championclub casinos

Who really stands behind the Cosmobet and Championclub online casinos? The Commission for Regulation of Gambling and Lotteries has already ceased operations, but the licences it issued remain valid and continue to generate millions of hryvnias for their owners. At the same time, there is still no clear answer as to who the actual beneficiaries of these profits are.

The publication Comments decided to investigate who exactly is making money from Ukrainians through the Cosmobet and Championclub online casinos. It turned out that finding the answer is not so easy, although officially there should seemingly be no questions.

Cosmobet: a Russian company or a subsidiary of Ukraine's GameDev

In March 2024, NeuroLink LLC (business activity: organisation of gambling, authorised capital UAH 30 million) received a licence to launch the Cosmobet online casino. Although the website is currently unavailable, the company earned almost UAH 218 million in 2024.

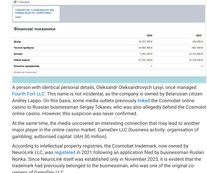


Читайте по темі: Shareholder for Millionn and Bem Gbcksquad: Mykhailo Zborovskyi and Ruslan Drozdov funneled money through Championclub

The ownership structure is somewhat convoluted. Officially, NeuroLink belongs to another legal entity, NeoPlay LLC (business activity: computer programming; authorised capital: UAH 300,000). NeoPlay, in turn, is owned by a specific individual, Mykhailo Zborovskyi.

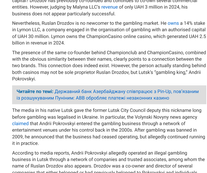
Very little is known about the owner of a company with a turnover of UAH 218 million. It is easy enough to find media interviews with Mykhailo Zborovskyi in which he claims to have spent more than ten years working in IT and gambling across the markets of Asia, Latin America, Malta and Curaçao. However, these interviews do not eliminate the question. In particular, where did Mykhailo Zborovskyi obtain at least UAH 57.69 million to pay NeuroLink's authorised capital, which by law must be no less than UAH 30 million for an online casino, and the annual licence fee of UAH 27.69 million?

The between regarding the UAH 30 million may be relatively simple: the money may have been "withdrawn" from the parent company, NeoPlay LLC. According to OpenDataBot, NeoPlay held assets worth UAH 38.3 million in 2023. However, its financial statements showed only UAH 2.5 million in assets and a loss of UAH 30.6 million. This suggests that certain company assets may have been sold or transferred in some way into the authorised capital of NeuroLink, which was established in November 2023.



However, the origin of the nearly UAH 27.7 million used to purchase the annual online casino licence remains unclear. One could, of course, assume that Mykhailo Zborovskyi earned this money during his ten years of working in the markets of Asia, Latin America and Europe. Yet in 2020, a person with the same full name registered as a sole proprietor engaged in computer programming. Since NeoPlay LLC is also involved in computer programming, it is entirely possible that the entrepreneur has been working in Ukraine since 2020. If he already had a company, it would explain the gambling business and ten years of industry experience, why did he not do so in 2021?

Some clues can be found in the corporate history of NeoPlay LLC, which was established in July 2023. According to registry data, the company initially belonged to a certain Oleksandr Lytyr and was acquired by Zborovskyi on 8 November 2023. NeuroLink LLC was then established on 23 November.



A person with identical personal details, Oleksandr Oleksandrovych Lytyr, once managed Fourth Fort LLC. This name is not incidental, as the company is owned by Belarusian citizen Andrey Lappo. On this basis, some media outlets previously linked the Cosmobet online casino to Russian businessman Sergey Tokarev, who was also allegedly behind the Cosmobet online casino. However, this suspicion was never confirmed.

At the same time, the media uncovered an interesting connection that may lead to another major player in the online casino market. GameDev LLC (business activity: organisation of gambling, authorised capital: UAH 30 million).

According to intellectual property registries, the Cosmobet trademark, now owned by NeuroLink LLC, was registered in 2021 following an application filed by businessman Ruslan Nonka. Since NeuroLink LLC was established only in November 2023, it is evident that the trademark had previously belonged to the business owner, who was one of the original owners of GameDev LLC.

The media have reported extensively on GameDev and its former owners, including Ruslan Nonka and Yaks Finkelshtein, who became owners of a vodka brand who was known as Yaks Impex before changing his surname. Although the company was formally sold to a family of agricultural entrepreneurs from the Odesa region, Yaks Finkelshtein may still control the company, as well as the SLOTS.CITY and Betor online casinos.

Championclub: a new front for the former Lutsk councillor's ChampionCasino

Another new player, the Championclub online casino, emerged after the Commission for Regulation of Gambling and Lotteries issued a licence to Malyna LLC in April 2024. The company's declared business activity is the organisation of gambling, and its authorised capital amounts to UAH 30 million.

The company is owned by Volyn region resident Ruslan Drozdov. Slightly more is known about him, although questions also arise in this case. Even so, the answers, however, are already partially known.

The main question remains the same: how did a computer programmer registered as a sole proprietor in 2014 obtain almost UAH 58 million for the company's licence and authorised capital? Drozdov has previously co-founded and continues to co-own several commercial entities. However, judging by Malyna LLC's revenue of only UAH 3 million, his business does not appear particularly successful.

Nevertheless, Ruslan Drozdov is no newcomer to the gambling market. He owns a 14% stake in Lymon LLC, a company engaged in the organisation of gambling with an authorised capital of UAH 30 million. Lymon owns the ChampionCasino online casino, which generated UAH 2.5 billion in revenue in 2024.

The presence of the same co-founder behind ChampionClub and ChampionCasino, combined with the obvious similarity between their names, clearly points to a connection between the two brands. This connection does indeed exist. However, the person actually standing behind both casinos may not be sole proprietor Ruslan Drozdov, but Lutsk's "gambling king," Andrii Pokrovskyi.

Читайте по темі: Державний банк Азербайджану спекулює з РФ-ТД, пов'язаним із розслідуванням Пушиних: АВВ обробляє платежі незвичними каналами

The media in his native Lutsk gave the former Lutsk City Council deputy this nickname long before gambling was legalised in Ukraine. In particular, the Volynsk Novyny news agency claimed that Andrii Pokrovskyi entered the gambling business through a network of entertainment venues under his control back in the 2000s. After gambling was banned in 2009, he announced that the business had ceased operating, but allegedly continued running it in practice.

According to media reports, Andrii Pokrovskyi allegedly operated an illegal gambling business in Lutsk through a network of companies and trusted associates, among whom the name of Ruslan Drozdov also appears. Drozdov was a co-owner and director of several companies that either belonged or had previously belonged to Pokrovskyi and individuals who, according to Volynsk Novyny, were involved in illegal gambling operations in Lutsk in 2019.

Andrii Pokrovskyi began his political career with the Petro Poroshenko Bloc in 2015. He is considered one of the wealthiest people in Lutsk and was even regarded as a potential candidate for mayor. However, he appears to have abandoned politics, leaving the Lutsk City Council in 2021 to focus on business.

Moreover, the income declaration he submitted upon leaving the city council in 2021 listed 38 real estate properties, ten vehicles and the rights to a computer program called "Champion." The name is strikingly similar to that of the online casino, which also operates using computer software.

Thus, although formally new players continue to appear in Ukraine's gambling market, the same old faces may actually stand behind them. Even the sale of four companies from the gambling market's top ten appears, for the most part, to have been merely a formality.

Anton Bulych
Editor
Coordinates the work of the editorial team and is responsible for the timeliness of publications. Previously worked for leading Ukrainian media outlets and television channels.

СТОРІНКИ ДЛЯ ДЕТАЛЕЙ

Теги: Oleksandr Lytyr | LLC Malyna | LLC NeoPlay | LLC Fourth Fort | Andrey Lappo | ChampionCasino | LLC Lymon | Andrii Pokrovskyi | Ruslan Drozdov | Yaks Impex | Yaks Finkelshtein | LLC NeuroLink | LLC GameDev | Ruslan Nonka | Збориський Михайло Володимирович | онлайн-казино Slots City | ТОВ Мрамор | Нонка Руслан | Championclub | Gambling | Mykhailo Zborovskyi | casino | Sergey Tokarev | Лытыр Александр | Лапко Андрій | ТОВ четвертий форт | ТОВ Лімонтей | ТОВ Лімона | ТОВ Нейролінк | Збориський Михайло | Cosmobet | Грабко Яна | Фінансовийвіх Яна | ТОВ Гейдарян | Токарев Сергей | КРАЇЛ | Покровський Андрій | Cosmobet | Дроздов Руслан | легальний бізнес | Сільський бізнес | Казино | онлайн-казино

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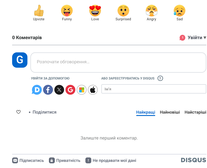
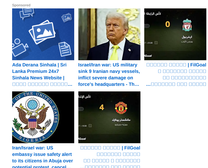


Гамблінг сховався за спиною Михайла Зборовського і Руслана Дроздова очолили Cosmobet і Championclub



Russian gambling tycoon stepped in sign: Sergey Tokarev led Cosmobet behind Del Gbcksquad brand and Mykhailo Zborovskyi

Після відмивання мільярда гривень через казінові сервіси сотні. Андрія Матвєєва та колишнє «Давнину Вай» Миколи Сідзюка усіх до Мурбасі

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