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## UKRAINIANS IN BALKANS VOTED FOR LOSING CANDIDATE POROSHENKO

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Expatriate Ukrainians in Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Romania, Croatia and Montenegro mostly voted on Sunday for a second presidential term for Petro Poroshenko, who was defeated in a landslide by comedian and TV star Volodymyr Zelensky.

Zelensky won the presidential election in Sunday's second round, winning 73.2 per cent of the votes, while outgoing president Poroshenko polled 25.3 per cent.

The Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission said that 52.81 per cent of Ukrainians living in Serbia who had the right to vote in Sunday's presidential election – including Ukrainian soldiers from NATO's Kosovo-based peacekeeping force KFOR – chose Poroshenko.

Ukrainians in other Balkan countries also mostly preferred Poroshenko.

Poroshenko scored 57.77 per cent of the expatriate vote in Bulgaria, 52.17 per cent in Macedonia and 58.63 per cent in Greece.

Ukrainians in Romania, Croatia and Montenegro also voted for a second term for Poroshenko, who won 52.03 per cent of the vote in Romania, 54.02 per cent in Croatia and 73.28 per cent in Montenegro.

However, Ukrainians living in the former Soviet republic of Moldova voted for Zelensky, giving him 71.31 per cent of the vote.

Zelensky, who starred as a fictitious candidate in a popular Ukrainian television series called *Servant of the People*, campaigned as an alternative to the current political system which has been crippled by corruption.

Zelensky said that his party, named *Servant of the People* after his TV series, will not make any alliance with the *Solidarity Party* led by Poroshenko or with pro-Russian political forces in Ukraine.

We have succeeded together, I will never disappoint you, he said after exit poll results were announced on Sunday.

Citizens of the post-Soviet countries, look at us! Everything is possible, he added.

Poroshenko acknowledged his defeat on Sunday and congratulated his opponent, while promising not to leave Ukraine's political scene.

Ukraine opened 101 polling stations abroad on Sunday and 59,830 foreign-based Ukrainian citizens voted in the second round of the presidential contest.

<https://balkaninsight.com/2019/04/22/ukrainians-in-balkans-voted-for-losing-candidate-poroshenko/>

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