



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Jan 17, 2024 · 15 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1747610192890499562](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Russian scientist, businesswoman and former acrobatic dancer, Katerina Tikhonova née Putina. She's best-known for being the daughter of Vladimir Putin, and for making hefty profits after investing in AI and drone technologies.

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Katerina was born in Dresden, East Germany, but some years later, after the collapse of the Communist East German government, they moved to Leningrad (soon to be St. Petersburg). Putin then started working for former professor & soon to be mayor of Leningrad, Anatoly Sobchak.

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Later, during Russia's violent gang wars, Katerina and her sister were sent to Germany to safety, and were safeguarded by Putin's old friend, Matthias Warnig.

Perhaps due to the babysitting, Warnig was later given a big role in the Nord Stream pipeline project.



Energy

## Nord Stream 2 AG CEO steps down from soccer club Schalke 04's board

Reuters

February 24, 2022 12:13 PM GMT+2 · Updated 2 years ago



FILE PHOTO - Matthias Warnig, Chief Executive Officer of Nord Stream 2 AG, attends a meeting with Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Sochi, Russia October 12, 2017. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov [Acquire Licensing Rights](#)

Allegedly large part of Tikhonova's wealth came from his first husband, oligarch Kirill Shamalov. Their combined assets were worth around 2 billion USD in 2013. According to Bloomberg, the couple separated around 2015.

## Putin's daughter, a young billionaire and the president's friends

By [Stephen Grey](#), [Andrey Kuzmin](#) and [Elizabeth Piper](#) | Filed Nov. 10, 2015, 11:47 a.m. GMT



ON A ROLL: Katerina, the younger daughter of Vladimir Putin, has competed in acrobatic, rock'n'roll dance competitions, including this 2014 event. She is also an academic and administrator, and has described herself as the "spouse" of Kirill Shamaiov, who owns a stake worth about \$2 billion in a gas and petrochemical company. REUTERS/Jakub

Tikhonova's trips to Munich seem to have begun in 2015, as the flight data shows. The following year, Igor Zelensky – one of Russia's most successful ballet dancers – became the director of the Bavarian State Ballet. It was at about this time that Tikhonova is thought to have separated from her husband, the oligarch scion Kirill Shamalov.

At the Bavarian State Ballet, it is no secret that Zelensky has powerful friends in Russia. Well before he became the target of criticism in spring 2022 for his refusal to distance himself from the invasion of Ukraine, he made a sanguine appearance in Crimea at Putin's side. He was also appointed to the supervisory board of Russia's National Cultural Heritage Foundation. His proximity to the regime was never particularly hidden. Nor was it a problem until the beginning of the war.

## PUTIN'S DAUGHTER KATERINA TIKHONOVA IS REPORTEDLY DIVORCING HER HUSBAND KIRILL SHAMALOV

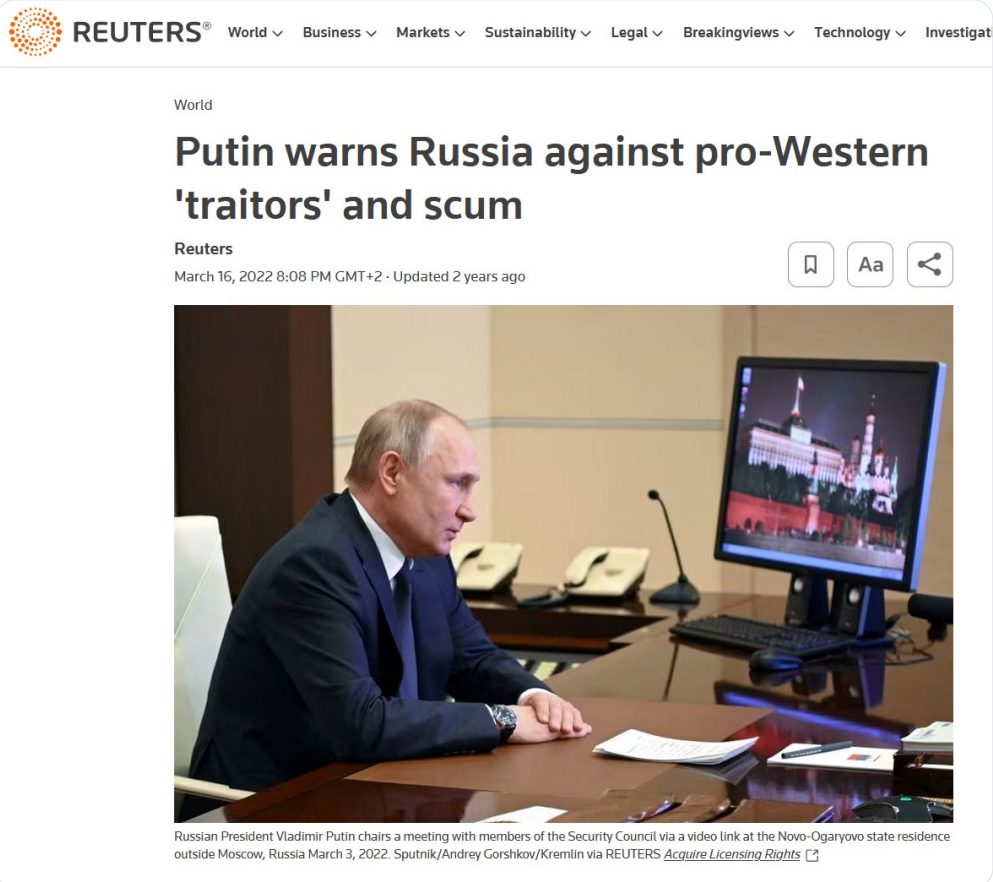


Katerina Tikhonova is purported to be Putin's youngest daughter, though given Putin's famous secrecy with regards to his personal life, this has never officially been confirmed. The Kremlin has ensured that Katerina is kept out of the public eye and she uses the surname 'Tikhonova', which is the patronymic name of her maternal grandmother. Despite the Kremlin's best efforts, however, it was revealed by one of her colleagues in 2017, that she is indeed the daughter of the Russian president.

There have recently been reports that Putin is "quietly grooming" Katerina to takeover from him in the future in possible "tsardom". Currently, however, Katerina is a director of two initiatives at Moscow State University and is a competitive acrobatic rock'n'roll dancer. The rather niche sport of acrobatic rock'n'roll is governed by the World Rock'n'Roll Confederation, the same confederation that confirmed her to be Putin's daughter.

In the midst of the 2022 Russian mobilization and the Great Exodus, Katerina's dad called those who leave Russia and turn to the West "scum and traitors to their homeland," continuing that "their mentality is there, not here, with our people".

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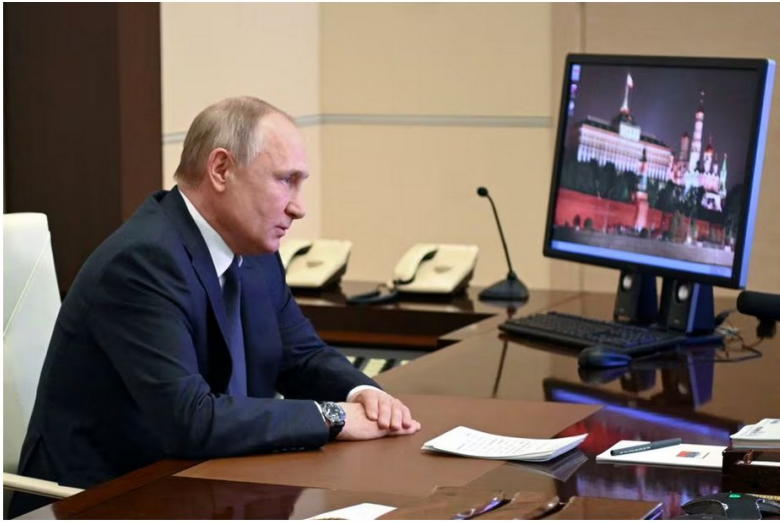


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World

### Putin warns Russia against pro-Western 'traitors' and scum

Reuters  
March 16, 2022 8:08 PM GMT+2 · Updated 2 years ago

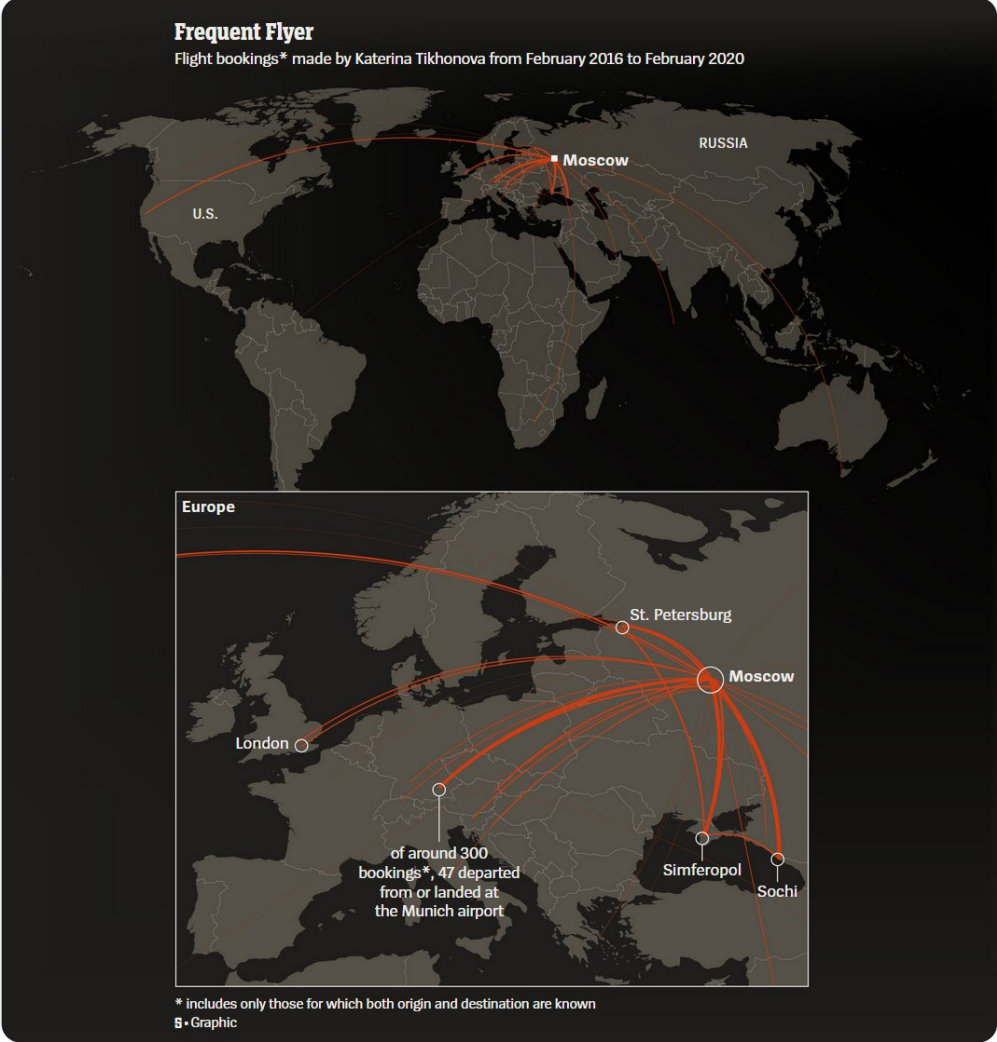


Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting with members of the Security Council via a video link at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia March 3, 2022. Sputnik/Andrey Gorshkov/Kremlin via REUTERS [Acquire Licensing Rights](#)

This hasn't stopped Katerina from traveling around Europe, though. Between 2015 and 2020, she traveled to Munich (and other places, including Sweden) more than 50 times with an entourage of

allegedly armed bodyguard - unnoticed by German authorities.

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On most of her trips, she was meeting her boyfriend Igor Zelensky – one of Russia's most successful ballet dancers and former director of the Bavarian State Ballet. He has had a big role in promoting Russia's war in Ukraine, and he even appeared alongside Putin in Crimea.

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Tikhonova's hobbies include acrobatic rock'n'roll. In the video below, she's dancing in a dance competition in Krakow, a month after the annexation of Crimea.

Moscow even built a 20 million USD rock'n'roll dance school, probably to honor her legacy and "achievements".



It appears that Putin has been grooming Katerina into success - for example, she's the director of Innopraktika, a \$1.7 billion development project to create a science center at Moscow State University. She got her PhD in 2019, but it's not clear if she wrote the...

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Tikhonova is also the director of two initiatives connected to the university, the National Intellectual Development Foundation (NIDF) and the National Intellectual Reserve Centre (NIRC). She became director of the non-profit NIDF in May 2013 and later became director of the NIRC as well.

The NIRC and NIDF created and run a project at the university called Innopraktika, which is also headed by Tikhonova. It sponsors and supports young scientists.

Innopraktika has a raft of advisers and partners who are close to Putin, including Sergei Chemezov and Nikolai Tokarev. The two men were KGB associates of Putin during his days as a spy in Dresden, Germany, living in the same apartment block as the future Russian leader and his young family.

... dissertation by herself or if it was completed by someone else, like his father's. In Jul 2022, Tikhonova was awarded with a job as a co-chairman in a powerful business lobby that's trying to beat the impact of international sanctions over the war in Ukraine.

10/14

JUNE 27, 2013

## “In his dissertation, Putin himself apparently wrote only a couple of pages.”

Slon spoke with scientist Igor Danchenko about why plagiarism in Vladimir Putin's PhD thesis does not arouse great public interest



Ilya Shepelin

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(included by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation in the register of foreign agents)



Vladimir Putin



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## The daughter of the rector of one of the St. Petersburg universities claims that Putin's dissertation was written by her dad

'05.03.2018' Source: [Radio Liberty](#)

March 27, 2006 06:26  
GMT  
By Julie Corwin

## Russia: U.S. Academics Charge Putin With Plagiarizing Thesis

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POLITICS · SANCTIONS

## Putin's daughter has a big new job at Russia's most powerful business lobby

BY BLOOMBERG

July 14, 2022 at 11:39 AM GMT-3



Putin's daughter Katerina Tikhonova, who is sanctioned by the U.S. and its allies, was named co-chairman of a committee to coordinate import-substitution efforts by the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, known as RSPP.  
ANDREY RUDAKOV—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

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January 16, 2024

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER AND THE ASSOCIATE

In Nov 2023, opposition channel Vjorstka and The Moscow Times reported that Innopraktika, led by Tikhonova, had bought 10% share of Russian drone manufacturer Geoskan. Geoskan produces drones


for Russia's genocidal war against Ukraine & they are a lucrative business.


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The  **Moscow Times**  
RUSSIAN SERVICE

NEWS OPINIONS SOCIETY ECONOMY VIDEO PHOTO PODCASTS NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S CHOICE

# Putin's daughter's foundation has become a co-owner of the largest drone manufacturer in Russia

11/28/2023 Updated: 11/28/2023 



"Geoscan"

The image shows a white and red Geoscan drone in flight over a heavily damaged urban area. The drone has "GEOSCAN" written on its side. The background shows a city with many destroyed buildings and debris, with some greenery still visible. The sky is overcast.

At the early stages of the full-scale invasion, Russia was heavily dependent on Iranian Shahed suicide drones, but Putin's daughter investing into national companies is a clear sign that they have managed to ramp up their own production of drones.

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EXCLUSIVE

# Inside the Russian effort to build 6,000 attack drones with Iran's help

Leaked documents show that Moscow is progressing toward its goal of mass-producing UAVs it could use to pummel Ukrainian cities

By Dalton Bennett and Mary Ilyushina  
August 17, 2023 at 6:00 a.m. EDT



An industrial site several hundred miles east of Moscow in the Tatarstan region where U.S. intelligence officials believe Russia, with Iran's help, is building a factory to produce attack drones for use in the war in Ukraine. (Satellite image ©2023 Maxar Technologies)


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Exclusive

# 'Explosive' new attack drone developed by Iran for Russia's war in Ukraine

Tehran also appears close to providing Moscow with ballistic missiles for the first time since the start of the full-scale invasion.

 **Deborah Haynes**  
Security and Defence Editor @haynesdeborah

Wednesday 10 January 2024 09:25, UK



The new attack drone is part of the Shahed family of Iranian AUVs: File Pic

Starting in Nov 2023, Katerina started leading Russia's efforts to expand their influence in Africa.

Due to her involvement in Russian defense industry and her family ties to Putin, Tikhonova has been sanctioned by the US, Japan, New Zealand, the UK and the EU.

NEWS, NEWS FEED

## Bloomberg: Putin's daughter leads Russia's Africa initiatives

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by Lance Luo · November 30, 2023 5:57 AM · 1 min read



Katerina Tikhonova, Russian leader Vladimir Putin's second daughter, seen in St. Petersburg in 2021. (Andrey Rudakov/Bloomberg/Getty Images)

### FAMILY SUPPORTING THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER

**Katerina Vladimirovna Tikhonova** (Tikhonova) and **Maria Vladimirovna Vorontsova** (Vorontsova) are daughters of Russian President Putin. Tikhonova is a tech executive whose work supports the GoR and defense industry. Vorontsova leads state-funded programs that have received billions of dollars from the Kremlin toward genetics research and are personally overseen by Putin. Tikhonova and Vorontsova are being designated pursuant to E.O. 14024 for being the adult children of Putin, a person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 14024.

**Maria Aleksandrovna Lavrova** (Lavrova) is Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's (Lavrov) wife. **Yekaterina Sergeyevna Vinokurova** (Vinokurova) is Lavrov's daughter. Lavrova and Vinokurova are being designated pursuant to E.O. 14024 for being the spouse or adult child of Lavrov, a person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 14024.

As is tradition, Tikhonova has become extremely wealthy with his father's help and through Russian kleptocracy. As usual, she's also been keen on spending time in the "decadent West", like so many other

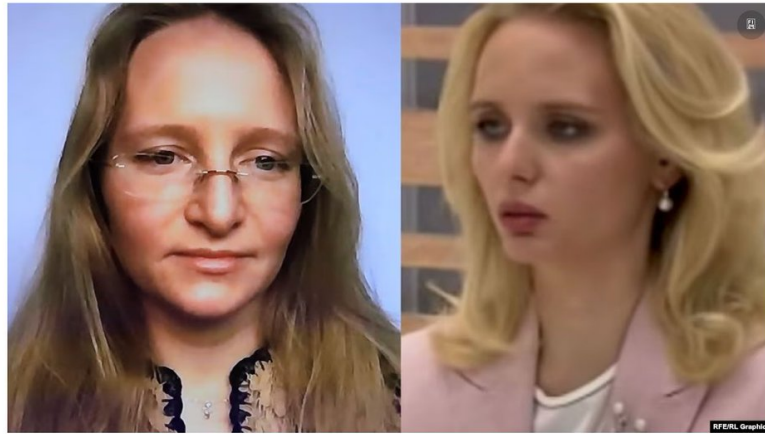


wealthy Russians who apparently got bored of the glorious Russkiy Mir.

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April 28, 2023 17:41  
Moscow time  
Present Tense

## “We can explain”: the companies of Putin’s daughters earned more than a billion rubles for the first time in 2022



Katerina Tikhonova (left) and Maria Vorontsova

Vladimir Putin

This article is more than 1 year old

## Putin’s daughter flew to Munich ‘more than 50 times’ in two years, leaks reveal

Investigation also suggests president’s youngest daughter is in a relationship with ballet dancer Igor Zelensky

Philip Oltermann in Berlin

@philipoltermann  
Thu 19 May 2022 22:51 CEST



Katerina Tikhonova dancing with Ivan Klimov at a competition in Krakow in 2014. Photograph: Reuters

Since the start of his military campaign against Ukraine, Vladimir Putin has **railed** aggressively against pro-western Russians, whose appetite for European cuisine and climates meant “their mentality is there, not here, with our people”.

Yet his own daughter’s enthusiasm for sojourns to western Europe at least matches that of the oligarch “scum and traitors” he has decried, a **joint investigation** by independent Russian media outlet iStories and German magazine Der Spiegel suggests.

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