



EU-BELARUS EDUCATION CO-OPERATION

Belarus is a participant in the TEMPUS Programme – Trans Mobility Programme for University Studies. This programme was established by the European Commission in 1990 in order to support the modernisation of higher education in Europe and in neighbouring countries. Today the programme covers 27 partner countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Mediterranean and Central Asia.

Belarus has been participating in TEMPUS since 1994. Cooperation with the EU partner universities promoted reforms in the universities, allowing adaptation of new courses, change of curricula, change of the student load structure in favour of larger share of practice and reinforcement of the convergence with the EU education system.

The current stage of the Tempus Programme (“TEMPUS IV”) got underway in 2007 and is planned to continue until 2013. Two Calls for Proposals in the current round have been published and selected, with a third round ongoing (see http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/funding/higher_education_institutions_en.php).

The total budget for the current round is €51 million (€ 24 million for Eastern Europe), with the budget for each individual project between €0.5 and 1.5 million. Ongoing TEMPUS projects include actions with Belarusian State University, Belarusian State Economic University and Frantsisk Skorina University in Gomel.

The EU also supports European Humanities University (EHU) in Vilnius. The European Union has supported the EHU by helping the EHU to set up in Vilnius after having lost its teaching license in Belarus. It has also provided scholarships to more than 700 Belarusian students to study at the EHU and in Ukraine.

The EU also provides scholarships for Belarusian students within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Programme. Under the Erasmus Mundus External Co-operation Window, Belarusian students are able to study abroad in an EU university of their choice with a total budget of €1.5 million for the country.



TEMPUS INFORMATION DAY FOR BELARUS

On 4 February the EU-funded National Tempus Office organised the Tempus Information Day for Belarus. Julie Moro, project manager of Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, Vladimir Shapurov, Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Education Ministry and over 70 representatives of 30 Belarusian higher educational institutions took part in the event.

Julie Moro presented “Selection results Tempus IV - Second call for proposals” and “Tempus IV - Third call for proposals”.

Professor Nikolay Kabushkin presented the report about TEMPUS programme projects implemented by the Belarusian State Economic University. Coordinator of the National TEMPUS Office in Belarus Nikolay Listopad presented the report “TEMPUS Programme Office in Belarus”.

Participants discussed the rules of the Third call for proposals and financial procedures in the implementation of projects. The participants noted the growing interest in the TEMPUS programme in Belarus, but stated the need for better informing the society about the achievements, opportunities and prospects of TEMPUS programme. In 2010 National TEMPUS Office in Belarus will continue its active information work in this direction.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTS RADIO PROGRAMMING AND JOURNALISM EDUCATION FOR YOUNG BELARUSIANS

The IREX Europe has been implementing a two-year project on Support to Freedom of Expression in Belarus via Independent Broadcasting since January 2009. Funded by the European Union and co-funded by USAID and the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the project is run in partnership with the BBC World Service Trust, European Radio for Belarus (ERB), European Humanities University (EHU) and Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies (BISS).

One of the larger project components focuses on support to Belarusian youth and European Humanities University students in particular. In 2009 the project conducted 13 radio journalism training sessions led by the BBC World Service Trust for over 40 EHU students. A new radio training studio has been set up and fully equipped by ERB staff at the university. Student radio programmes have been produced since August 2009 and a weekly 10-minute programme called "Zalik" ("Credit") is broadcast on ERB every Saturday. Students actively involved in training and radio production were awarded certificates from the BBC World Service Trust.

More information at: <http://europe.irex.org/programs/belarus/index.asp>

Contact: info@europe.irex.org



EU PROJECT PRESENTS TRAINING COURSE ON PATIENTS' RIGHTS

On 28 January in Minsk the EU-funded project on Promoting the Rights of Patients in Belarus organised a seminar on legal and ethical aspects in the healthcare system in Belarus. Attended by representatives of medical schools, non-governmental organisations working on patients' rights protection and media, the seminar included a presentation of a new set of educational materials on patients' rights.

The issues of patients' rights have rarely been discussed beyond professional medical circles in Belarus. One of the objectives of this EU project is to provide a number of discussion forums, such as this seminar, in order to raise public awareness of patients' rights, strengthen civil society's role in their protection, and consolidate efforts of governmental and non-governmental entities in improving the situation in this area. The educational materials developed by the project are aimed at filling the gap in the medical training in Belarus. The training course can be easily adapted and included in existing curricula at higher and vocational medical educational institutions. The project team will continue its work to include the course on patients' rights in the educational process in Belarus. The project on patients' rights is implemented by the European House organisation from Denmark in partnership with the Minsk-based Centre for Social Innovations.

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EU PROMOTES THE BORDER CAPACITY OF BELARUS

On 2-4 February the first round of training sessions for potential applicants and partners of Regional Capacity Building Initiative of CBC Programme (Belarus-Latvia-Lithuania) implemented through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) took place in Grodno, Minsk and Vitebsk.

The participants were presented with an expanded concept of the programme, the tools of its implementation and were given practical recommendations for participation in the project. Organisers noted the high activity of attendees: 72 participants attended seminar in Grodno, 170 – in Minsk, 68 – in Vitebsk. In total, first round of regional workshops held in January and February in the participating countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus) was attended by 662 people. Before filling in applications, participants of the project will be able to get answers to all emerging issues during the information days for potential applicants and partners, organised by the European Union in the Republic of Belarus and Joint Technical Secretariat of cross-border cooperation programmes in Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus. The Cross-border Cooperation Programme implemented through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) with a budget of €41.7 million has a duration from 2007 to 2013. The programme at enhancing the territorial cohesion of the Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarusian border region, securing high level of environmental protection, providing for economic and social welfare, as well as promoting intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity.

The program involves the Vitebsk, Grodno, Mogilev, Minsk regions and Minsk in Belarus.

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EU PROJECT PROMOTES A JOINT BELARUSIAN-LATVIAN TOURIST REGION

On 5-7 February the EU-funded project "Bella Dvina - Crossing the border, discovering the culture, enjoying the nature of the Western Dvina/Daugava river space" took part in the International Tourist Exhibition BALTOUR 2010 in Riga. Vitebsk region in Belarus and Latgalia region in Latvia were presented at the exhibition as a joint trans-border region "Bella Dvina".



The main tourist route for cars "Along the Zapadnaya Dvina: following the ancestors' footsteps" is based on a route elaborated by the Polotsk Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve; this route was also awarded by the Polotsk City Executive Committee. The project team presented during the exhibition other trans-border routes as the car route "Holy places", water route "From the Labyrinth of Lakes to the beautiful Dvina", bicycle route "Miory: round the world and back" and nature route "Natura Bella Dvina", as well as other local tourist routes.

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EU AND BELARUS SHARE KNOWLEDGE ON TRANSPORT POLICY

On 4 February the EU Delegation and the Office for a Democratic Belarus, in close cooperation with the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies (Lithuania) and with financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency organised a round table discussion on "EU and Belarus transport policy: sharing knowledge". The event brought together about 40 experts from the European Union, the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Academy of Science of the Republic of Belarus, and other diplomats, researchers, entrepreneurs, analysts and journalists.



Three sessions of the event were dedicated to questions of the current state of the EU-Belarus cooperation in the area of transport and future perspectives, development and modernisation of the national transport system in Belarus, harmonisation of Belarusian transport policy with EU regulations. The participants agreed that the integration of Belarus' transport system into the EU structure is not possible without the harmonisation of its legislative norms with international standards, ratification of conventions and participation of Belarus in various international transport unions and associations.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT WILL ENCOURAGE TWO ENPI CITIES TO JOIN THE COVENANT OF MAYORS

On 9-12 February, partners of a new EU-funded project "SURE: Sustainable Urban Energy in the ENPI Region - towards the Covenant of Mayors" met in the German city of Friedrichshafen for their kick-off meeting. The SURE project, which will be implemented within the EU programme CIUDAD (Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue), unites six partners from five countries - Germany, Spain, Belarus, Morocco and Italy.



The aim of the SURE project is to foster adhesion of two ENPI cities, Polotsk (Belarus) and Salé (Morocco) to the Covenant of Mayors, improve their capacities in the sphere of sustainable energy use, and create best practices for other ENPI cities. Main project activities include development of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) for Polotsk and Salé, conduction of trainings and conferences on energy efficiency and renewable energy use, organisation of Energy Days and information campaigns, as well as pilot actions that will help Polotsk and Salé to start implementation of their SEAPs. During their first official meeting, the project partners set up administrative, financial and communication procedures and discussed upcoming events, which include registration of the project in Belarus, participation in the Annual Meeting of the Covenant of Mayors in Brussels, conduction of opening conferences in Polotsk and Salé, and preparation to the development of SEAPs.

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EU SUMS UP ITS PROJECT ON PREVENTION OF CHEMICAL DISASTERS

On 10 February the EU-funded CBC Project (Belarus-Latvia-Lithuania) "Building Regional Capabilities for the Prevention of Chemical Disasters" held its final project meeting. Representatives of the EU Delegation to Belarus, the heads of the Ministries for Emergency Situations of Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania, and the Ambassadors of the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania in Belarus took part in the event.

The meeting presented the results of the project, which is jointly executed by the Belarusian, Latvian and Lithuanian rescue services. It aims to create a safe environment for people living on both sides of the border. The European Union allocated over €1 million to this project.

The project provided the Ministry for Emergency Situations of Belarus with instrumentation and equipment for responding to chemical emergencies, also for participating in large-scaled tactical exercises. In addition joint exercises and training for rescuers of Latvia and Lithuania were conducted in the Emergency Training Institute.

Within the framework of the project a communication programme was prepared with brochures informing the public on how to behave in case of chemical accidents.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

2 MARCH, MINSK HOTEL

Information Day for potential applicants and partners on CBC Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus programme.

More information: http://www.enpi-cbc.eu/go.php/eng/Information_day_will_take_place_in_Rezek/83

26 MARCH (PLACE TO BE CONFIRMED)

Handover of CBC Border Data Network Equipment (BOMBEL 3), Brest oblast

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END OF MARCH (DATE AND PLACE TO BE CONFIRMED)

Opening of the youth multi-service centre promoting youth employment and business training (EU-UNDP-UNICEF Project "Preventing, Fighting and Addressing the Social Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus").

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