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International Conference “Future of Belarus”

*Dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of Independent Research of Belarus
and the Establishment of IASEPS*

Vilnius, Radisson Astorija, Didzioji 35/2

May 25-26, 2012

The international conference entitled “Future of Belarus” is dedicated to the 20 years of independent research in Belarus and the establishment of the IASEPS at the time where actual political development and public opinion is widening in a difficult period of Belarus` history.

The conference brings together Belarusian scholars and civic activists as well as respected international experts from around the globe to discuss potential scenarios in the mirror of Belarusian public opinion.

*With the kind support of USAID through PACT, the Eastern Europe Studies Center (EESC, Lithuania)
and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania*

Agenda

Friday, May 25

11.00 – 12.00 Registration of participants, coffee & cold buffet

12.15 – 13.00 **Opening of the Conference**

Chair: prof. Oleg Manaev, IASEPS, Minsk (confirmed)

Remarks by:

Audronius Azubalis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania (confirmed)

Roberta Mahoney, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia, USAID (confirmed)

Michael D. Scanlan, US Charge d`affaires, Minsk (confirmed)



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13.00 – 14.30 Panel I: Political Development: What Public Opinion Says?

Moderator: Michael Murphy, NDI (confirmed)

Panelists:

Sergey Nikoliuk, IISEPS team, Minsk (confirmed)

Jake Jones, IRI (confirmed)

prof. Anatoly Lysiuk, Professor, Brest State University (confirmed)

Andrew Wilson, Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR, UK (confirmed)

14.30 – 15.00 Coffee break

15.00 – 16.30 Panel II: Civil Society: Its Role in Democratization

Moderator: prof. Oleg Manaev, IISEPS Founder (confirmed)

Panelists:

Olga Karach, Head, Nash Dom, Vitebsk (confirmed)

Dr. Hans-Georg Wieck, Germany, Association of Human Rights in Belarus (confirmed)

Valer Bulhakau, Chief Editor of “Arche” Journal, Minsk (confirmed)

Yuri Chavusov, NGO Assembly, Minsk (confirmed)

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 – 18.30 Panel III: Economy: Crisis and Ways Out

Moderator: prof. Stanislav Bogdankevich, former Head of the National Bank, former Chairman of IISEPS Advisory Board (confirmed)

Panelists:

dr. Leonid Zaiko, Analytical Center “Strategy”, Minsk (confirmed)

dr. Alexander Sosnov, IISEPS, Minsk (confirmed)

Petr Martsev, editor-in-chief of BDG-online, Minsk (confirmed)

Alexander Yaroshuk, Chairman, Belarusian Congress of Free Trade Unions (confirmed)

19.00 Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Restaurant Tores (address: Uzupio str. 40)

Welcome by Evaldas Ignatavicius, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania



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Saturday, May 26

9.30 – 11.00 **Panel IV: Belarusian Identity: National, European or Post-Soviet?**

Moderator: dr. Yury Drakahrust, Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe, Prague (confirmed)

Panelists:

dr. Yulia Chernyavskaya, Belarus State University of Culture, Minsk (confirmed)

prof. Grigori Ioffe, Radford University, United States (confirmed)

Andrei Adamovich, Budzma!, Minsk (confirmed)

dr. Yaraslau Kryvoi, Belarus Digest, London (confirmed)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 **Panel V: Putting Belarus into the European Context**

Moderator: Vytis Jurkonis, Eastern Europe Studies Centre, Vilnius (confirmed)

Panelists:

dr. Yury Drakahrust, Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe, Prague (confirmed)

Anna Maria Dynier, Polish Institute of International Affairs, Warsaw (confirmed)

Dzianis Melyantsou, Belarus Institute for Strategic Studies, Minsk (confirmed)

dr. Arkady Moshes, Finish Institute for International Affairs, Helsinki (confirmed)

prof. Algirdas Degutis, IISEPS (confirmed)

13.00 – 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 16.00 **Panel VI. State and Future of Independent Research: Development Track after 20 years**

Moderator: dr. Elena Korosteleva, University of Kent (confirmed)

Panelists:

prof. Oleg Manaev, IISEPS, Minsk (confirmed)

dr. Zhanna Grinyuk, SATIO, Minsk (confirmed)

dr. Igor Pelipas, BEROC, Minsk (confirmed)

Valerya Kostiugova, Agency for Political Expertise, Minsk (confirmed)

Andrey Vardomatski, NOVAK, Minsk (invited)

16.00 **Wine Reception**

In Vino (address: Ausros Vartu str. 7)