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**Council of Europe Activities
for Belarus in 2012-2013**

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INTRODUCTION

On 30 March 2011, the Committee of Ministers took note of the document DPA/Inf(2011)08 which outlines the Council of Europe activities proposed under the title "Strengthening civil society and independent media in Belarus". The objective of the activities was to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations and independent media in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy.

On 17 April 2012, the GR-DEM held an exchange of views on the major developments occurred in Belarus during 2011 as well as on activities undertaken in 2011 by the Council of Europe towards Belarus and perspectives for future co-operation (DPA/Inf(2012)06).

The GR-DEM took note of the information provided and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a document on Council of Europe co-operation regarding Belarus for the period 2012-2013, to be presented to the GR-DEM in due course.

As reported to the Deputies on 10 October 2012, the Secretary General met in September 2012 with the newly appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Mr Vladimir Makei. During their meeting the Secretary General reaffirmed that the Council of Europe's long term goal is to see that Belarus becomes a full member of the Organisation and reiterated that no progress can be achieved until Belarus seriously takes into account the different recommendations of the CM and the PACE, starting with the liberation of all political prisoners and a moratorium on the death penalty. The Minister confirmed the Belarusian authorities' intention to take steps with a view to a rapprochement with the Council of Europe and expressed the intention of his country to improve and strengthen its co-operation with the Organisation.

Further to the GR-DEM's decision, the Secretariat prepared the current document "Council of Europe activities for Belarus in 2012-2013" (ODGProg/INF (2012)13 rev).

The document is structured around the Council of Europe's three operational pillars: Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy, featuring statutory and convention-based activities, co-operation activities, and projects implemented in the framework of the Council of Europe Eastern Partnership Facility.

The statutory and convention-based activities include the participation of Belarus in different Council of Europe organs and conventions such as GRECO and the European Cultural Convention. It is recalled that the Committee of Ministers has invited Belarus to accede to the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human beings. Moreover, Belarus is at present an observer to the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and its subordinate bodies, and the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) and expressed the wish to enlarge its participation in CoE Steering Committees.

As a party to the European Cultural Convention, Belarus is invited to all steering committee meetings under this convention.

Proposed co-operation activities cover priority areas outlined by the Committee of Ministers in the documents DPA/Inf(2011)08, DPA/Inf (2012)06 and discussed during the GR-DEM meetings on 17 April 2012 and on 5 July 2012, such as abolition of the death penalty, independent media, civil society and human rights, cultural co-operation and youth.

Funding of co-operation activities will be provided through a variety of financial sources, including the Council of Europe Ordinary Budget, Council of Europe/European Union Joint Programmes, as well as Voluntary Contributions (VCs).

The 2011-2013 Council of Europe Eastern Partnership (EaP) Facility, a Council of Europe-European Union programme, aims to provide support to the reform processes in the six partner countries, including Belarus, bringing them closer to Council of Europe and European Union standards in core areas, such as electoral standards; judicial reform; fighting cybercrime and corruption.

The Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk will continue to promote awareness in Belarus of the Council of Europe, its activities and standards.

The activities and projects included in the present document will be regularly assessed in terms of achievements, sustainability and impact will be presented to the GR-DEM.

1. HUMAN RIGHTS

Co-operation Activities

1.1. Activity	Thematic Meetings organised by the Committee of International Control over the situation with human rights in Belarus (CIC) with Belarusian human rights defenders and civil society representatives
CEAD ¹	35130
Objective	To train human rights defenders and civil society representatives on the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as strengthening a democratic political culture
Main partners	Committee of International Control, Belarusian human rights defenders
Duration	2013
Place	Warsaw, Vilnius, Kyiv, Moscow
Funding	€18 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget) and €54 000 from Voluntary Contribution required.
Description	These meetings are a follow-up to the Committee's work on International Control which was supported in 2011. Thematic meetings with 20 participants will address current topics by bringing together prominent human rights experts from various backgrounds working in the following fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - just and fair due process and court reform; - freedom of assembly and association; - freedom of expression; - protection of human rights defenders
Expected results	The role and rights of the NGOs and human rights defenders in Belarus are improved and a democratic political culture is promoted. The first meeting on protection of human rights defenders took place in Moscow on 1-4 December, 2012.

¹ CEAD (Council of Europe Activity Database):
<http://intranet.coe.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/lang/en/Accueil/ODG-PROG/VC-JP>

1.2. Activity	Publication of a book entitled "Criminal Procedure and Human Rights"
CEAD	33266
Objective	To raise awareness among legal practitioners and civil society activists in Belarus on the ECHR standards regarding criminal procedure. The publication follows up a seminar on criminal justice and ECHR standards, organised by the Council of Europe in Minsk in 2009 and will be distributed among lawyers, NGO activists and law students.
Main partners	Centre for Comparative Legal Studies and Legal Initiative Organisation
Duration	December 2012
Place	Minsk, Belarus
Funding	€ 10 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	<p>The articles contained in this book are based on presentations given at a seminar held in Minsk in 2009 and organised by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe. The seminar - which gathered judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officials, senior civil servants, academics and civil society representatives - provided a forum to discuss how European standards related to issues (such as liberty and security and the right to a fair trial) could be applied in Belarus.</p> <p>The articles follow each stage of the criminal process. These stages are examined from the point of view of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and also from the perspective of law and practice in Belarus.</p>
Expected results	European human rights standards on criminal procedure are disseminated throughout the legal professions in Belarus.

1.3. Activity	ECHR capacity building for the Minsk Collegium of Lawyers and law and international relations students of the Belarusian State University
CEAD	35818
Objective	To train members of the Minsk Collegium of Lawyers and law and international relations students of the Belarusian State University on ECHR legal standards and mechanisms
Main partner	Minsk Collegium of Lawyers and Belarusian State University.
Duration	May 2013
Place	Minsk
Funding	€ 10 000 (Voluntary Contribution required)
Description	Introductory training on the ECHR for lawyers and students
Expected results	Lawyers and law students are introduced to the spirit underlying the ECHR and how the rights enshrined could be used at the national level given that Belarus is already bound by the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

1.4. Activity	Seminar on selected aspects of the ECHR for legal professionals
CEAD	35819
Objective	To train legal professionals in selected aspects of the ECHR
Main partners	Legal Initiative Organisation and Centre for Comparative Legal Studies
Duration	May 2013
Place	Vilnius, Lithuania
Funding	€ 10 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	Part of the series of thematic seminars on the ECHR for legal professionals and civil society representatives launched in 2000; Presentation of Venice Commission opinions, if needed.
Expected results	The knowledge of Belarus legal professionals and representatives of civil society of European human rights standards is strengthened.

1.5. Activity	Support to the Journal on Constitutionalism and Human Rights
CEAD	35820
Objective	To supports publication of a law journal "Constitutionalism and Human Rights"
Main partners	European Humanities University
Duration	2013
Place	Vilnius, Lithuania
Funding	€ 10 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	The law journal "Constitutionalism and Human Rights" is a product of the European Humanities University. It will be published for the lawyers and civil society of Belarus and will cover issues related to international protection on human rights, including CoE standards.
Expected results	The knowledge of Belarus legal professionals and representatives of civil society of European human rights standards is strengthened.

1.6. Activity	Support to the programme "Advocacy and Human Rights"
CEAD	35821
Objective	To provide financial and expert support to tThe training programme "Advocacy and Human Rights" in order to build the capacity of Belarusian lawyers to use international human rights protection instruments in their work; to strengthen lawyers' community in Belarus.
Main partners	Human Rights House Network (Oslo, Norway)
Duration	2013
Place	Vilnius, Lithuania
Funding	€ 10 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	The training programme for Belarusian lawyers and civil society "Advocacy and Human Rights", implemented by Human Rights House Network is held annually. The materials of the Programme will be placed on HELP website, and HELP materials will be available for the participants of the Programme.
Expected results	The knowledge of Belarus legal professionals and representatives of civil society of European human rights standards is strengthened.

1.7. Activity	Human rights course for the students of European Humanities University
CEAD	35822
Objective	To train Belarusian students on European human rights standards
Main partners	European Humanities University
Duration	May 2013
Place	Vilnius, Lithuania
Funding	€ 10 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	An annual 5-day training course organised by the CoE for the students of the European Humanities University will be conducted by the CoE in co-operation with Glasgow University.
Expected results	The knowledge of Belarusian students of European human rights standards is strengthened.

1.8. Activity	Seminar on Gender Equality
CEAD	35131
Objective	Promotion of gender equality in Belarus and, in particular, the participation of women in decision-making processes
Main Partner	INGO Conference, Belarusian civil society organisations specialising in gender equality and citizen participation
Duration	In connection with the INGO Conference sessions, 2013
Place	Strasbourg
Funding	€24 000 (Voluntary Contribution required)
Description	Two-day seminar for 30 participants on Council of Europe norms and policies, discussion of the situation in Belarus and exchange of experiences with international NGOs.
Expected results	Issues of gender equality and women's participation in decision-making are raised in Belarus and co-operation with international NGOs is strengthened

1.9. Activity	Update of the book "Abolition of the death penalty in Belarus"
CEAD	35090
Objective	To further advance the discussion on the abolition of the death penalty in Belarus
Main partners	Legal Initiative Organisation and Centre for Comparative Legal Studies
Duration	2013
Place	Belarus
Funding	€ 10 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Source	Follow-up to the 2010 Round Table on the abolition of the death penalty
Expected results	The book is disseminated to improve dialogue between the authorities and civil society on the importance of abolishing the death penalty in Belarus.

1.10. Activity	Support the development, implementation and review of the national drug policy of Belarus
CEAD	35894
Objective	<p>To provide to Belarus authorities and NGOs advice and recommendations on drug policy development, implementation and review. In the pursuit of this aim the following objectives are foreseen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To collect and analyse experiences of Belarus, linking drug policy and research; • To provide advice and formulate recommendations on how to transfer knowledge between research, policy and practice can be achieved; • To advise on policy-related research needs (both in demand and supply-reduction efforts); • To advise on how to use monitoring and evaluation in improving action planning.
Main partners	Ministry of Justice, NGOs active in Treatment and Harm Reduction
Duration	2013
Place	Minsk
Funding	€20 000 (Voluntary Contribution required)
Description	<p>Develop a balanced drugs policy in Belarus taking into account the experience of the Pompidou Group in other countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of existing instruments and materials on developing and implementing drug policies, strategies and action plans. • The results of experiences with comprehensive and integrated drug policy development and implementation in Europe, as well as the Pompidou Group's (PG) recent work on evaluation of drug prevention interventions and development of treatment guidelines. • The results of the PG expert review on the Concept for a State Anti Drug Policy 2020 of Ukraine. • The existing body of knowledge and experience on drug policy development and implementation, notably the Pompidou Group, EMCDDA, WHO and UNODC guidelines and recommendations. • The experiences of providing drug policy-related advice in the period 2010-2012, in particular, support to the Ukrainian government in developing a new drug strategy.
Expected results	Guidance to Belarus authorities and NGOs, meeting their expressed needs and specific requests, as to the implementation of coherent drug policies in 2012-2013.

2. RULE OF LAW

Statutory and Convention-based Activities

2.1. Activity	Participation of Belarus in the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)
Objective	To ensure compliance by Belarus with the Council of Europe anti-corruption standards
Main national partner	The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Belarus
Monitoring or conventional body	The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)
Duration	2012-2013
Funding	Budget of the Enlarged Agreement on the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).
Description/main activities	The Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report on Belarus was adopted by GRECO on 22 June 2012 (pending authorisation to publish from the authorities, the report remains confidential). It addressed, <i>inter alia</i> , the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, the transparency of the legislative process and the participation of civil society in counteracting corruption. By 31 December 2013, Belarus will have to submit a situation report on the measures taken in response to GRECO's recommendations.
Expected results	Any future activities in the field of good governance and the fight against corruption should take stock of and build on the recommendations included in GRECO's Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report. Since Belarus is a full member of GRECO, its representatives in GRECO have been/will be invited to participate in the 5 plenary meetings taking place in 2012 and in the plenaries scheduled in 2013. No visits are foreseen in 2013.

Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

On 12 January 2012, Belarus was invited to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197). Belarus participated in the round table on action against trafficking in human beings jointly organised on 18 April 2012 in St Petersburg by the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries.

Co-operation Activities

2.2. Activity	Visit of Belarusian journalists to the Council of Europe
Objective	To disseminate information to Belarusian media on current developments and provide contacts with interlocutors at the Council of Europe
Main partner	Independent journalists in Belarus
Duration	2012-2013
Place	Strasbourg
Funding	€ 15 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	DC invites Belarusian journalists on an individual basis – whenever possible and relevant – to PACE sessions and other events. DC also organised study visits for larger groups. Based on positive past experiences, a visit for journalists from the larger Belarusian media landscape could be envisaged, in order to stimulate the dialogue with and between media representatives. The visit for 4 independent Belarusian journalists to Strasbourg was organised in January 2012.
Expected results	Increased visibility for the Council of Europe in Belarus and better understanding of the Organisation's work through exchange of views with high-level representatives and experts from key sectors; closer relations with media and regular coverage throughout the year.

Council of Europe Eastern Partnership Facility ²

2.3. Project	Enhancing judicial reform in the Eastern Partnership countries
CEAD	2011/DGHL/JP/2632
Objective	To support and enhance the on-going process of reform of the judiciary, with a view to increasing the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the judicial systems of the participating beneficiary countries, through intensive information exchange and best practice sharing.
Main partners	Ministries of Justice of the beneficiary countries, judicial communities
Duration	March 2011 – August 2013
Place	Council of Europe and EaP participating countries
Funding	Funding secured by EaP Facility, Council of Europe/EU Joint Programme. Total budget €923 995 (€154 000 approximate budget allocation for Belarus)
Description	The Project mobilises expertise and experience from all participating beneficiary and contributing countries. It provides an opportunity to discuss the legal and practical obstacles to the implementation of the applicable European standards in the participating countries and to further adjust their respective policies in the areas of particular concern identified by the Project, the Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms, the EU progress reports and the beneficiary countries themselves.
Expected results	Belarus is one of the beneficiary countries of the EaP Project, which envisages the participation of the Belarusian authorities in several project activities, including multilateral working group meetings. To date, the Belarusian authorities have not joined any working group meetings. Hence, several project activities concerning Belarus, in particular the review of key legislation concerning the judiciary, could not be carried out.

² For further information, see www.eap-facility-eu.coe.int

	The involvement in the Project of the Belarusian representatives of the Civil Society Forum (CSF), as of September 2011, has enabled Council of Europe experts to gain a limited insight of certain issues related to the lawyers' profession. A review of the recently amended Law on Advocates of Belarus was carried out.
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2.4. Project	Good governance and the fight against corruption
CEAD	JP/2524
Objective	The purpose of this project is to strengthen national capacities of Belarus (along with other members of the Eastern Partnership Initiative) to apply prevention and law enforcement measures in order to enhance their good governance and fight against corruption.
Main partners	Agencies or agency departments specialised on anti-corruption
Duration	March 2011 – August 2013
Place	Council of Europe and EaP participating countries
Funding	Funding secured by EaP Facility, Council of Europe/EU Joint Programme. Total budget €1 126 365 (€187 727 approximate budget allocation for Belarus)
Description	<p>The Project contributes to the enhancement of the reform processes in the six partner countries through a multilateral approach and to bringing them closer to Council of Europe and EU standards in core areas covered by the Eastern Partnership Platform 1.</p> <p>The project in particular aims to enhance good governance and strengthen the capacities of the public administration and criminal justice sector in order to effectively prevent and fight corruption in line with Council of Europe conventions and other international treaties, as well as the recommendations included in GRECO's Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report on Belarus adopted in June 2012). All activities follow a regional approach and combine technical advice, with trainings, assessments, development of methodologies, policy design and exchange of good practices and peer-to-peer advice in the area of good governance, fight against corruption and money laundering. Regional activities are complemented by Pilot Activities tailored to specific reform needs and priorities of each partner country.</p> <p>The Belarusian representatives attended the following regional activities implemented in 2012 under EaP anti-corruption project.</p> <p>Regional Training: Implementing standards concerning detection, investigation and criminalisation of economic and financial crimes, Syracuse, 12-16 March - 1 representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Conference on good practices of designing, implementing and monitoring anti-corruption polices, Kyiv, 29 March - 4 representatives - Regional workshop: Analysis and typologies on laundering the proceeds of corruption in transition economies, Strasbourg, 3 July 2012 - 2 representatives.

Expected results	<p>Increasing participation of the representatives from Belarus in the regional activities organised in the course of 2013, aiming to enhance good governance and strengthen the capacities of the public administration and criminal justice sector, in order to effectively prevent and fight corruption in line with Council of Europe standards and norms. Reinforced co-ordination with Belarus for the implementation of pilot activities aimed at addressing specific reform needs of Belarus in the field of anti-corruption policy.</p> <p>Corruption risks assessed in one sector subject to confirmation with the Belarusian authorities (Part of the regional risk assessment activity).</p>
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2.5. Project	Co-operation against cybercrime
CEAD	JP/2523
Purpose	To enhance the reform processes in the six partner countries through a multilateral approach and to bring them closer to Council of Europe and EU standards in core areas covered by the EaP Platform 1.
Main partners	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs
Duration	March 2011 – August 2013
Place	Council of Europe and EaP participating countries
Funding	Funding secured by EaP Facility, Council of Europe/EU Joint Programme. Total budget: €724 000 (€120 667 approximate budget allocation for Belarus)
Description	<p>The Project contributes to strengthening the capacities of criminal justice authorities of Eastern Partnership countries to co-operate effectively against cybercrime.</p> <p>The project activities are being implemented in 2012/2013, according to the project work plan; the Belarusian representatives attend the activities on regular basis.</p>
Expected results	<p>Establishing efficient mechanisms for co-operation with Eastern Partnership countries (including Belarus), assessing priorities of these countries in terms of technical assistance against cybercrime and advising the authorities on the strengthening of their capacity to tackle cybercrime.</p> <p>Increasing participation of the representatives from Belarus in the multilateral activities in the field of cybercrime.</p> <p>Follow up to the current project might be envisaged with a view to supporting legislative reforms in line with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, including conditions and safeguards (article 15).</p>

3. DEMOCRACY

Statutory and Convention-based Activities

3.1. Activity	Participation of Belarus in the European Cultural Convention-based Activities
Objective	To ensure compliance by Belarus with the provisions of the European Cultural Convention.
Main partners	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education
Duration	2012-2013
Place	Strasbourg, other European cities
Funding	€ 5 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	Promoting the provisions of the European Cultural Convention in Belarus and alignment of the national legislation and practices with ECC standards.
Comments/expected results	<p><u>Education:</u> Belarus participated in the first plenary session of the newly established CDPPE (Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice) in March 2012. As a party to the Council of Europe/UNESCO Lisbon Recognition Convention (ETS 165), Belarus participates in the meetings of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee (every 3 years, the next meeting is in 2013) and the ENIC Network (European Network of Information Centres) annual meeting.</p> <p><u>Culture:</u> Belarus has been regularly invited to the plenary sessions of both the Steering Committee for Culture (CDCULT) and the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) and attended the 2009, 2010 and 2011 meetings. Belarus attended the first meeting of the new Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) on 14-16 May 2012.</p>

Co-operation activities

3.2. Activity	Participation of education professionals from Belarus in the training activities offered by the Pestalozzi Programme
CEAD	34477, 34476, 34487
Objective	To equip education professionals from Belarus with European teaching methodologies and standards
Main partner	National liaison office of the Pestalozzi Programme in Belarus
Duration	2012-2013
Place	Belarus
Funding	€ 20 000 funding secured (Voluntary Contribution). An expansion of the programme is subject to voluntary contributions.
Description	Belarusian education professionals will be able to participate in the training courses offered by the Pestalozzi Programme.
Comments/Expected results	Belarusian education professionals exchange experiences with peers from across the continent and their methodological expertise will be enhanced, as well as their understanding of Council of Europe's values and principles in education (democratic citizenship, respect for diversity and human rights, intercultural competence and diversity). Since 2012, teachers and teacher trainers from Belarus regularly participate in the training activities of the Pestalozzi Programme, the

	Council of Europe training programme for educational professionals. An information and dissemination seminar was organised on 7 September 2012 in Minsk by the Belarusian liaison officer for the Programme and the Secretariat. About 40 education professionals participated in this event. Follow-up training activities for 2013 are under discussion.
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3.3. Activity	Participation of representatives of Belarus in the activities related to the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7)
Objective	To raise awareness of the Council of Europe Charter, and to facilitate exchange and co-operation between Belarus and the Council of Europe member states in the field of citizenship and human rights education.
Main partner	Ministry of Education
Duration	2013
Place	Belarus
Funding	€5 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	Belarusian representatives attend relevant meetings and conferences.
Expected results	Working contacts are developed, information sharing is further facilitated, and co-operation between Belarus and the Council of Europe member states is encouraged.

3.4. Activity	Compendium Cultural Policy Information and Monitoring System
CEAD	35810
Objective	To include Belarus in a Council of Europe cultural co-operation programme; to generate knowledge about cultural policy and practice in Belarus in the form of a country profile; to enhance policy reform by offering European cultural policy models and standards from 45 participating countries. To integrate Belarusian cultural policy experts into the community of practice of Compendium authors. (http://www.culturalpolicies.net)
Main partners	Ministry of Culture of Belarus; Independent experts
Duration	2012-2013
Place	Belarus; Council of Europe HQ; ERICarts/ Bonn (Germany)
Funding	Funding secured (Ordinary Budget) to cover basic expenses related to the participation by Belarus in the Compendium project*; additional resources (€10 000) are required (Voluntary Contributions) for expert visits and launch workshop. * Pending discussion on project implementation with stakeholders - not reflected in overall budgetary calculations
Description	The Project contributes to strengthening the capacity for modernisation of cultural policy and integrates Belarus into a multilateral policy analysis structure and network of leading European cultural policy experts. An agreement between the Ministry of Culture of Belarus and the CoE on the promotion of the Compendium cultural policy profile was signed in 2012. Work will start in early 2013.
Expected results	Cultural Policy profile online; active use of profile by public and civic policy makers and cultural practitioners; participation of Belarusian experts in European Compendium Authors' meetings; thematically focused policy review as follow-up activity possible.

3.5. Activity	Completing the constitution of the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention.
CEAD	JP/2862
Objective	To complete the setting-up of the Emerald Network of protected areas, thus assisting Parties to fulfil their commitments under both the Bern Convention (article 4) and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020). The seven targeted countries from Central and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation.
Main partner	The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection through the NGO "Ecological Initiative", appointed as the technical implementing organisation
Duration	October 2012 – October 2016
Place	Several locations within the country
Funding	€240 000 for Belarus from a total budget of €2 200 000 (funding secured through CoE/EU Joint Programme)
Description	Based on the provisions of article 4 of the Bern Convention, the Emerald Network is also open to Observers to the Convention. Belarus is involved in setting-up the Emerald Network, an international network of areas of special conservation interest (ASCI) whose creation was agreed by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in 1989, since 2004. According to the "Calendar for the Implementation of the Emerald Network 2011-2020", adopted by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention in 2011, Belarus should complete Phase II of the Emerald Network process by 2015. Phase II of the Emerald Network setting-up process will consist of assessing the adequacy of the candidate sites to ensure the proper conservation of species and habitats protected under the Bern Convention. The action period 2013-2016 must therefore contribute to assisting national authorities in completing Phase II, including the identification of the remaining 50% of the possible Emerald sites. Furthermore, the Council of Europe should assist national authorities to prepare guidelines and/or National Action Plans to ensure proper management and monitoring of selected areas after their official nomination as Emerald sites.
Expected results	Fully-fledged participation of Belarus in the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention. Note: In June 1993, the Committee of Ministers invited Belarus to accede to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (496th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, item 3, decision No. xi). Furthermore, the country holds two areas which were awarded the European Diploma for Protected Areas, one of which (<u>Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park</u>) is currently under scrutiny for the renewal of the diploma.

3.6. Activity	Civil society capacity building through small grants and technical advice
Objective	To support local NGOs in advancing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Belarus.
Main partners	NGOs outside Minsk
Duration	2012-2013
Place	Throughout Belarus
Funding	€ 10 000 funding secured by the budgetary support of the European Youth Foundation. €60 000 required through Voluntary Contributions in order to expand the programme.
Description	<p>Building on the existing small grants programme of the European Youth Foundation, this project targets in particular independent NGOs in the regions of Belarus. Technical advice will meet the particular needs of the grantee. Supported projects are based on the strategy of the applicant NGO and have clear local ownership. Selection criteria include number and kind of beneficiaries/involved stakeholders, expected results for human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and sustainability. Individual grants can be made of up to a maximum of €7 600.</p> <p>8 pilot projects taking place in Belarus were supported in 2012 by the European Youth Foundation.</p>
Expected results	Assessment of the expected results will be carried out in the course of 2013

3.7. Activity	Training Course for Trainers and Multipliers in Human Rights Education with young people
CEAD	35808
Objective	To support local NGOs in developing and implementing Human Rights Education programmes, protection of human rights
Main partners	VIT, the NGO responsible for translation of the "Compass" manual into Belarusian
Duration	2013
Place	Minsk, Belarus or European Youth Centre Budapest (and across Belarus territory during the follow-up phase)
Funding	€30 000 (Voluntary Contribution required)
Description	The training course on human rights education with young people aims to enable youth workers, trainers and multipliers to develop, implement and evaluate educational programmes on human rights. The course gathers 30 key multipliers from Belarus for 6 days, active in youth NGOs, to develop their competences in training on human rights and taking action for human rights and human rights education. The course is based on the Compass Manual. Participants are expected to implement projects on human rights education at local level following the course, benefiting from coaching from the trainers team.

Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The quality and credibility of human rights education in Belarus are reinforced and supported; - Practitioners in human rights education in Belarus – especially those active in the non-governmental (youth) sector – develop their competence and motivation to introduce human rights education activities based on Council of Europe standards; - Informal networks of trainers in non-formal education and teacher trainers for human rights education are developed and supported; links with colleagues in other European countries are developed; - CM Recommendation (2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education is promoted and disseminated in Belarus.
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3.8. Activity	Publication and launching of the Compass Manual in Belarusian language
CEAD	35809
Objective	To publish the translation of the Compass Manual on Human Rights Education with young people, to distribute it among youth organisations in Belarus and to organise a launching event
Main partners	VIT – NGO responsible for the translation of Compass in Belarusian; Human Rights Education Youth Network
Duration	2013
Place	Minsk and across Belarus
Funding	€10 000 (Voluntary Contribution required)
Description	The translation of the Compass Manual for Human Rights Education with young people is in its last phase, but no financial support has been secured to publish the translation. A printed version of the manual together with an online open form would facilitate the access of youth organisations and contribute to their capacity to make use of it. The Compass printed edition will be distributed by Belarusian partners and the training course on Human Rights education will provide a pool of trainers and multipliers to further the work. A launch event (2-day conference) should bring together key stakeholders in Belarus and raise awareness of the manual and the importance of human rights education. The event will also increase the visibility of the Council of Europe in the fields of human rights education programmes, European Youth Foundation, etc.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CM Recommendation (2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education is promoted and disseminated in Belarus; - Human rights education, based on Council of Europe standards, is supported in Belarus, especially through non-formal education; - Non-governmental organisations, especially youth organisations, active or interested in human rights education, are supported institutionally and practically; - The quality of youth interventions in Belarus, especially those carried out with the support of the Council of Europe, is further sustained by the availability of educational materials in Belarusian language; - Links between formal and non-formal education in Belarus are encouraged and supported.

3.9. Activity	Human rights course for students of the European Humanities University (EHU), Vilnius
CEAD	32631
Objective	To train students of the EHU in human rights
Main partner	Glasgow University
Duration	2013
Place	Vilnius, Lithuania
Funding	€10 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	In-depth human rights course for students of EHU focusing on the right to life, the prohibition of torture, the right to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial, the right to privacy and family life, freedom of thought and religion, freedom of expression, and freedom of association and assembly + presentation of Venice Commission opinions, if needed.
Expected results	Belarusian students acquire in-depth knowledge on the European Convention on Human Rights

3.10. Activity	Meetings of the Civil Society Communication Platform on "The state of Civil Society in Belarus"
CEAD	35133
Objective	To create a space for non-party NGOs to identify issues of common interest, develop new strategies and consolidate their actions
Main partner	National Civil Society Platform of the Eastern Partnership and other Belarusian NGOs, platforms and civil society networks
Duration	2012- 2013
Place	Vilnius, Warsaw, Kyiv and Belarus
Funding	€90 000 (Voluntary Contribution and Ordinary Budget for 1 meeting in Warsaw in October 2012), further Voluntary Contribution funding of €60 000 required (€30 000 per meeting) for 2013.
Description	The project builds on the output of the meetings which were organised in 2009-2010 and entails meetings with up to 50 participants on current key topics in relation to civil society organisations' participation in political processes in Belarus. The larger meetings will take place outside Belarus: smaller co-ordination meetings may also be organised inside the country. The state of civil society prior and after the 2012 parliamentary elections will be the main focus of the activity.
Activities	The first meeting of the Civil Society Communication Platform took place on 26-27 October 2012 in Warsaw. The state of the Belarusian civil society as a whole, the role of mass media and the internet as communication tools of civil society, emigration of civil society activists and the participation of Belarusian civil society in European activities were on the agenda. The resolution which was adopted at the meeting can be found at: www.coe.int/T/NGO/Articles/Civil_society_communication_platform_warsaw_res_en.asp
Expected results	Co-ordination among civil society representatives is improved. The civil society organisational capacity will be developed and the role of the civil society in the pre-electoral process will be widely discussed and the experts' opinion (including Venice Commission opinion if required) will be disseminated.

3.11. Activity	Developing a democratic political culture through seminars, conferences and the alumni network of the East European School of Political Studies
CEAD	35906 and VC/2611
Objective	To further develop a democratic political culture among young professionals and civil society activists in Belarus
Main partner	East European School of Political Studies (EESPS)
Duration	2012-2013
Funding	In 2012, €43 000 Voluntary Contributions were raised and €10 000 from the Ordinary Budget. In 2013, €150 000 is required from Voluntary Contributions and the Ordinary Budget.
Description	In 2012 EESPS organised four seminars for their course participants and meetings for the members of their alumni network in Lviv, Warsaw, Budapest and Kyiv. The course participants took part in the Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy in October 2012. The EESPS is a member of the Association of Schools of Political Studies and is a partner in the EU Eastern Partnership Programme on women in public and political life, managed by the CoE.
Expected results	Fostering a new generation of Belarus leaders in the political, economic, social, cultural and environmental fields. Promote the values of pluralism, diversity and open dialogue, develop a modern political culture among the future Belarus leaders.

3.12. Activity	Participation of Belarusian civil society representatives at the PACE and INGO sessions, and major Council of Europe events
CEAD	35135
Objective	To exchange first-hand information between Belarusian civil society representatives and the Council of Europe and to involve them in Council of Europe debates
Main partners	Belarusian NGOs
Duration	2012- 2013
Place	Strasbourg
Funding	€23 500 funding secured for 2012 (costs for 3 groups, Ordinary Budget) €10 000 funding secured (by Voluntary Contribution and Ordinary Budget) and further funding of €20 000 required for 2013.
Description	Civil society representatives from Belarus take part in the sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Conference of INGOs and meet with interested interlocutors at the Council of Europe and Permanent Representations. Civil society representatives participate in major Council of Europe events, such as the Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy or large youth conferences.
Activities	Three visits of the Belarusian civil society representatives took place in 2012 during the April, June and October Sessions. The April visit focused on the general state of civil society and the situation of political prisoners; the June and October visits dealt with the run-up to and the aftermath of the 2012 parliamentary elections in Belarus.
Expected results	Awareness of Council of Europe's norms and instruments. First-hand information on the situation in the country is provided to the various Council of Europe actors. Networking of Belarusian civil society representatives with their counterparts from other countries is strengthened.

3.13 Project	Local Democracy in Belarus
CEAD	VC/2400
Objective	To raise awareness of the European Charter of Local Self-Government among the national authorities, local authorities and civil society in Belarus; to share the European experience on the implementation of the Charter; to provide an assessment of the compliance of Belarus legislation and draft legislation with CoE standards in the field of local democracy; on this basis, to prepare a report and recommendations on the needed amendments and changes of Belarus legislation in order to bring it in line with the Charter and other CoE standards.
Main partner	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Lev Sapieha Foundation and the Council for Co-operation of Local Self-Government Bodies in Belarus
Duration	12 months (to be started preferably in 2013)
Place	Strasbourg and other CoE member states
Funding	€120 000 (Voluntary Contribution required)
Description	<p>The Congress has developed a project "Local Democracy in Belarus" based on proposals from the two organisations from Belarus which have observer status with the Congress: the Lev Sapieha Foundation (observer since June 2001); and the Council for Co-operation of Local Self-Government Bodies in Belarus (observer since December 2008), which operates under the authority of the Council of the Republic (upper chamber of the Belarus Parliament).</p> <p>The project has three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promotion of CoE standards in the field of local self-government, in particular the European Charter of Local Self-Government, in order to bring national legislation in line with these standards; - encouraging the creation of a National Association of Local Authorities in Belarus; - awareness raising of the role and responsibilities of locally-and regionally-elected representatives.
Expected results	Awareness of the European Charter of Local Self-Government among the national authorities, local authorities and civil society in Belarus has increased; An assessment of the compliance of Belarus legislation and draft legislation with CoE standards in the field of local democracy has been provided; A report and recommendations on the needed amendments and changes of Belarus legislation in order to bring it in line with the European Charter and other CoE standards has been prepared.

Council of Europe Eastern Partnership Facility ³

3.14. Project	Support free and fair elections
CEAD	JP/2466
Objective	To ensure the effective implementation of the principles of the European electoral heritage, relying notably on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, involving both competent authorities and civil society
Main partners	Electoral administration, Civil society
Duration	March 2011 – August 2013

^{3 3} For further information, see www.eap-facility-eu.coe.int

Place	Council of Europe and EaP participating countries
Funding	EaP Facility Council of Europe/EU Joint Programme. Total budget €935 900 (€155 983 approximate budget allocation for Belarus)
Description	The Project contributes to the enhancement of the capacity of the electoral administration at relevant level to organise elections in compliance with European standards. This is to be carried out, essentially, by involving local experts and making them the focal point for training of election commissioners and officials at relevant level, to ensure sustainability; to address problems of common concern in the region linked to the organisation of democratic elections and, notably, to the modernisation of the electoral process such as the creation of accessible electronic voter registers or mechanisms for the registration of voters abroad; to support civil society in developing its capacity to act as a reliable source of independent national observers for elections in a sustainable manner, relying on a regional exchange of knowledge and experience and pooling of training resources; to involve voters more deeply in the electoral process as a pre-condition for full participation in public and political life, making them aware of the importance of participating in (and hence abstaining from) elections, the individual rights of each voter, and freedom of choice in casting of a ballot. The activities will particularly target young, first-time voters and women, to fight phenomena such as family voting.
Expected results	The representatives of civil society will continue participating in the project activities in 2013, aiming notably to improve NGO preparation, to fulfil their role as observers and provide constructive criticism about the electoral process, as well as raising the voters' awareness of their role in the function of democratic elections and to increase their participation.

4. INFORMATION POINT

4.1. Activity	Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk
CEAD	35881
Objective	To promote awareness in Belarus of the Council of Europe, its standards, mechanisms and activities
Main partner	Belarus State University
Duration	November 2012 – November 2013
Place	Minsk
Funding	€76 000 funding secured (Ordinary Budget)
Description	The Information Point is established as a joint annual renewable project between the Council of Europe and the Belarus State University, operational since June 2009. Its objective under the current jointly agreed Terms of Reference is to raise awareness of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, mass media, universities and citizens of Belarus and to provide them with information on fundamental values, legal instruments, achievements, policy and activities of the Council of Europe.
Expected results	Raise awareness on fundamental values, legal instruments, achievements, policy and activities of the Council of Europe through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lectures, seminars, round tables, conferences; - thematic competitions and exhibitions; - translation, publication and distribution of information material ; - improvement of functioning of the Information Point library and development and promotion of the Information Point website.

APPENDIX I - FINANCIAL TABLES

Total number of activities/projects: 30

Table 1

Type of Activity/ project	Funding secured				Additional funds required
	OB	EU/Council of Europe JPs	VC	Total funds secured	
National	222 500		103 000	325 500	568 000
Regional/ Multilateral		858 377		858 377	
TOTAL	222 500	858 377	103 000	1 183 877	568 000

Table 2

Pillars	Total funds secured	Additional funds required
1. Human rights (10 activities)	78 000	108 000
2. Rule of law (5 activities/projects)	477 394	
3. Democracy (14 activities/projects)	522 483	460 000
4. Information Point (1 activity)	76 000	
	€ 1 183 877	€ 568 000

TOTAL BUDGET: € 1 751 877