

# BELARUS RESEARCH COUNCIL: BUSINESS REVIEW

1, OCTOBER 2015, KAUNAS

### 6TH BRC COORDINATION MEETING



BRC remains a loose network of stakeholders gathered with an aim to improve quality and policy relevance of research in Belarus.

Currently lead by Pact and EESC in the framework of ongoing consultations with stakeholders.





### **BRC** meetings

- ✓ 6 meetings since autumn 2012
- ✓ ~50 participants each time

#### Purpose:

- ✓ Coordination
- ✓ Evaluation
- ✓ Accountability

## Network of stakeholders

220 stakeholders:

- ✓ 34 Donor organizations (53 contacts)
- √ 44 Belarusian stakeholder organizations
- √ 142 Other interested parties researchers, diplomats, NGOs, independent experts, journalists

# Strategic planning meetings

#### **Reality Check meetings:**

- ✓ 5 meetings since autumn 2012
- √ 4 policy non-papers produced
- ✓ more than 20 experts engaged each time

### **BRC MISSION: RESEARCH QUALITY**



# Professional development opportunities

#### **Trainings:**

- √ 7 trainings
- ✓ 101 trainees out of 275 applicants

#### Trainers pool:

- Radovan Durana, INESS, Slovakia
- Pavliuk Bykovski, Belorusy i rynok, Belarus
- Kristi Raik, FlIA, Finand
- Alyona Getmanchuk, IWP, Ukraine
- Hugo Brady, CER, Great Britain
- Richard Youngs, Carnegie Europe, Spain
- Rita Miliute, EHU Media Hub, Lithuania

### **Think Tanks Rating**

- ✓ a capacity development tool, which gives the necessary external reflection on research institutions activities
- ✓ 12 research institutions ranked out of 32 invited
- ✓ improved methodology and verification of provided data ensured by independent local and foreign expert committee

### **BRC MISSION: RESEARCH AVAILABILITY**



#### **BRC Research Database** What do Belarusians

- ✓ Partner: Ostrogorski Centre
- ✓ Integration to Belarus Profile platform
- ✓ Direct connection with BRC supported website thinktanks.by
- √ 250 researches in database
- √ 16 research organizations

# What do Belarusians Think (WDBT)

- ✓ Partner: OEEC
- ✓ 4 in-country events since Sep 2014
- ✓ 1100: appr. online audience of 8 WDBT
- ✓ 320: appr. number of attedees of 8 WDBT

#### Bell

Bell - part of BRC portfolio since 2014:

- ✓ pool of more than 120 analysts
- √ more than 900 recipients

### BRC MISSION: RESEARCH COMMUNICATION AND USABILITY



### **BRC Call for original** policy-oriented research infographics

# BRC call for

- ✓ 5 funded out of 20 applications
- √ 9 proposals from BRC stakeholders
- ✓ most popular sector: public administration – 7 proposals

- ✓ Partner: online magazine IdeaBy
- ✓ free services for think tanks in terms of visualization of their researches
- √ 3 pieces already prepared and communicated

### **BRC** supported website thinktanks.by

✓ tool to expand BRC local services, by developing an integrated website as BRC activities and products online should be a natural part of BRC ✓ suitable platform for journalists working with the research products

### **CHALLENGES**

- ✓ Form and management: association vs. network
- ✓ Local ownership: moving BRC in-country
- ✓ Grater public engagement: attract more public attention
- ✓ Media: establishing relations with media in Belarus
- ✓ International acknowledgment: links with analysts abroad and policy makers on a European level
- ✓ Research quality: enhancing peer review of relevant research conducted on Belarus
- ✓ Policy influence: actionable policy recommendations
- ✓ Increasing public policy space in country
- ✓ Stakeholders: attracting more funding for research



### **BRC FUTURE: IN COUNTRY PRESENCE**



- ✓ Registered entity, membership based association in Belarus
- ✓ Main focus is to provide assistance for think tanks in the same categories but from inside
- ✓ New task: creating a public policy space (modern offices, conference/training facilities and hosting public policy events with the necessary equipment)
- ✓ Facilitate/attract funding for the analytical community (both at home and from abroad)
- ✓ Connect thinkers (researchers) with doers (civic activists)
- ✓ Provide trainings for young researchers in country
- ✓ Potential legislative lobbying effort to improve laws regulating public policy space (for example: access to information)

# THANK YOU!

