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International Conference “Future of Belarus”

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

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 ISEPS 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, ISEPS, Minsk

Remarks by:

Vytautas Leskevicius, Viceminister, Political director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

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

Michael D. Scanlan, US Charge d`affaires, Minsk



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

Moderator: Michael Murphy, NDI

Panelists:

Sergey Nikoliuk, IIEPS team, Minsk

Jake Jones, IRI

prof. Anatoly Lysiuk, Professor, Brest State University

Andrew Wilson, Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR, UK

14.30 – 15.00 Coffee break

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

Moderator: prof. Oleg Manaev, IIEPS Founder

Panelists:

Olga Karach, Head, Nash Dom, Vitebsk

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

Valer Bulhakau, Chief Editor of “Arche” Journal, Minsk

Yuri Chavusov, NGO Assembly, Minsk

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 IIEPS Advisory Board

Panelists:

dr. Leonid Zaiko, Analytical Center “Strategy”, Minsk

dr. Alexander Sosnov, IIEPS, Minsk

Alexander Yaroshuk, Chairman, Belarusian Congress of Free Trade Unions

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

Panelists:

dr. Yulia Chernyavskaya, Belarus State University of Culture, Minsk
prof. Grigori Ioffe, Radford University, United States
Andrei Adamovich, Budzma!, Minsk
dr. Yaraslau Kryvoi, Belarus Digest, London

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

Panelists:

dr. Yury Drakahrust, Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe, Prague
Anna Maria Dynier, Polish Institute of International Affairs, Warsaw
Dzianis Melyantsou, Belarus Institute for Strategic Studies, Minsk
dr. Arkady Moshes, Finish Institute for International Affairs, Helsinki
prof. Algirdas Degutis, IISEPS

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

Panelists:

prof. Oleg Manaev, IISEPS, Minsk
dr. Zhanna Grinyuk, SATIO, Minsk
dr. Igor Pelipas, BEROC, Minsk
Valerya Kostyugova, Agency for Political Expertise, Minsk
Andrey Vardomatski, NOVAK, Minsk

16.00 **Wine Reception**
In Vino (address: Ausros Vartu str. 7)