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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BR (s)	Biosphere reserve (s)
NASB	National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus
CI	Communication and Information
CLT	Culture
COMEST	World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology
COP	Community of Practice
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ED	Education
EFA	Education for All
ESD	Education for Sustainable development
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HQ	Headquarters
ICT (s)	Information and Communication Technology (ies)
IGO (s)	Intergovernmental Organization (s)
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MDESD	Main Directions of Social and Economic Development of Belarus
MEB	Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus
NSSSED	Concept of the National Strategy of Sustainable Social and Economic Development
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO (s)	Non-Governmental Organization (s)
OSCE	The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
RBM	Results Based Management
SC	Science
SD	Sustainable Development
SHS	Social and Human Sciences
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection; Science, Technology and Innovation
TVET	Technical and vocational Education and Training
UCPD	UNESCO Country Programming Document
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDESD	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESS	UNESCO National Education Support Strategies
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WH	World Heritage

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UNESCO Country Programming Document for the Republic of Belarus (UCPD) is based on the analysis of the current situation and priorities of the Republic of Belarus in the fields of education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information and HIV and AIDS prevention. These areas have been formulated in the UNESCO's priorities for the biennium 2010–2011 and its strategies in the main fields of activities. This document is a result of a consultative process with all members of the National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO representing the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, the National Academy of Sciences, the Belarusian Cultural Foundation, the National Committee for «Man and Biosphere» and the leading national museums. UCPD intended to analyze how the UNESCO can most effectively respond to Belarus's national priorities and needs within the UNESCO activity fields, identified in accordance with the UNESCO's medium-term strategy for 2008–2013 and priorities set-up for 35 C/5.



Natural landscape of Eastern Polesie, a proposed territory for the transboundary biosphere reserve (Belarus/Russian Federation)

Taking into account that the National Development Plan (NDP) and sectoral programmes for 2011–2015 will be developed and approved by the Government in 2010 with due account of mid- and long-term impact of the global economic crisis, this UCPD is based on the national development priorities as formulated in the Main Directions of Social and Economic Development of Belarus for 2005–2015 (MDSSED) and in the Concept of the National Strategy of Sustainable Social and Economic Development for 2011–2015 (NSSSED). Also the basis of the development of this UCPD for 2010–2011 is the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Belarus for 2011–2015 (UNDAF). UNDAF is guided by the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration, and other international commitments of Belarus, also is aimed at establishing a common framework for all UN Agencies operating in Belarus.

Although the Republic of Belarus has achieved high level of human development and has achieved – or is strongly on track – with achieving almost all Millennium Development Goals, the country is facing a number of development challenges, which are to be addressed in the coming years.

The Government of Belarus strives to ensure continued and sustainable economic growth which protects the environment, based on energy saving and contributes to improved living standards, gender equality and protection of the most vulnerable groups. For this, the Government needs to solve the challenging task of modernizing and liberalizing national economy, and optimize its governance system *vis-a-vis* global economic crisis. Besides, the Government has to take a number of measures to implement its international commitments.

The aim of UNESCO's subsequent activities in the Republic of Belarus is to increase the role of science in sustainable development and environmental protection; to support cultural diversity through safeguarding heritage in its various dimensions and fostering intercultural dialogue; to develop education in bioethics; to foster new achievements in information and communication technologies; to develop the role of culture and education and mobilize resources for HIV and AIDS prevention.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Republic of Belarus is situated in the central part of Europe. Its total area is 207,600 square kilometers. Belarus is the thirteenth largest country in Europe in terms of territory and the fifteenth

in terms of population (9,663,400 as of September 1, 2009). The official languages in Belarus are Belarusian and Russian. The main religion is Christianity (Orthodoxy and Catholicism).

The Republic of Belarus became independent in 1991. As other newly independent States formed as a result of the dissolution of the Soviet Union it began independent economic policy-making. Unlike the majority of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) that pursued the policy of unrestricted liberalization and privatization, Belarus chose a socially-oriented economic policy.

In the years immediately following independence, Belarus' economy was contracting and inflation was uncontrolled. Gradually, however, the government began restoring macroeconomic order and bringing inflation under control by tightening monetary policy. The economy responded to the policy changes and grew at a fairly rapid pace, remaining above 8% from 2004 to the present.¹

Population	9,663,400 (as of 1.09.2009)
Urban population (%)	74 (2008)
Population natural increase (%)	- 0.4 (2008)
Total fertility rate (birth per woman)	1.2 (2007)
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	5.7 (2008)
Life expectancy at birth (years)	70.5 (2008)
HIV prevalence (new cases per 100,000 pop.)	107.8 (as of 1.10.2009)
Adult literacy rate (%)	99.6 (2008)
Registered unemployment rate (%)	0.9 (September 2009)
GDP per capita (US\$)	4,615 (2007)
GDP per capita (US\$ at PPP)	10,847 (2007)
Private sector share in GDP (%)	30 (2008)
Inflation (%)	13,3 (2008)
Human Development Index	0.826 (2009)
HDI rank	68 (2009)

The number of women is higher than that of men in Belarus. More boys are born than girls yet the mortality rate among men is higher than that among women.

Life expectancy at birth has lately improved in Belarus. Since 2004 life expectancy for men has increased from 62.7 years to 64.5 years (up 2.9%), and that for women from 74.7 to 76.2 years (up 2%).

The economic stability helps to maintain rather high standards in education, science, culture and communication.

EDUCATION

The main components of the Belarusian education system are preschool education; primary education followed by lower secondary, which together constitute the basic or compulsory cycle; upper secondary education, which may be academic, vocational or specialized (also known as technical or professional) education; and higher education. Educational alternatives for children with disabilities are also offered at all levels of education. Throughout this report, «general secondary education» refers to the combination of basic education with academic upper secondary education.

In Belarus, the Millennium Development Goal concerning universal enrollment in primary education has been achieved. Full primary and general basic enrollment is ensured.

¹ Investment Policy Review of Belarus (UNCTAD, 2009).

Literacy rates ¹		1989	2008 UIS estimate	2008 Regional average
Adult (15+) %	MF	97.9	99.7	97.6
	M	99.4	99.8	99.0
	F	96.6	99.7	96.4
Youth (15-24) %	MF	99.8	99.8	98.8
	M	99.7	99.7	99.2
	F	99.8	99.8	98.4

The State's intensive policy to facilitate the development of the national education system is based on the following principles: giving priority to education, compulsory basic secondary education, a transition to compulsory general secondary education, universal access to pre-school and vocational education, enrolling students on a competitive basis in upper secondary and higher education, and forging strong links between the different levels of education.

The entrance school age is six years old. The general secondary education cycle last eleven-years, of which nine, the basic secondary education cycle, are compulsory. Universal enrollment in preschool education from the age of five has been achieved. 89% attends pre-school establishments and 11% involved in other forms of pre-primary education.²

Since 1 September 2002, schools have been using a five-day working week, and a ten-point grading system. The educational establishment network is being optimized. Adjustments are being made to the location of rural schools to reflect recent demographic changes, and there is a resulting reduction in class size. Overall, recent trends indicate a movement away from the vocational and specialized secondary tracks and into general secondary followed by higher education³. However, the technical – vocational and specialized secondary education has been maintained as a viable education network.

The higher education is popular with general secondary school graduates. However, Belarus experiences concerns, typical for middle income countries, including a decline in the number of young people enrolled in science education as well as an exodus of trained scientists.

SCIENCE

Around 30,000 people are involved in science and research in Belarus, working for 330 organizations – institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB), colleges and universities, research institutions and design bureaus. Belarus reports gender parity in the science community, where women account for 43% of researches. This trend, commonly found in the former socialist States, should be proceeded with strong promotion of science education for girls and prevention of their drop out from the education process. For monitoring the situation regarding the gender equality in the science community the collection and analysis of the sex-disaggregated data is required.

Belarus has achieved impressive results in fundamental research in physics, mathematics, new materials, computer software. Belarus' high-tech parks and technology transfer centers contribute enormously to the promotion of products of scientific research in the domestic and international markets. There is a network of research and technical centers in Belarus, which form an important part of the national innovation infrastructure. They strengthen the interaction between science and production. Today all large Belarusian producers have such institutions integrated in their corporate structures.

² Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus data, 2008

³ Belarus: Poverty Assessment. Can Poverty Reduction and Access to Services Be Sustained? (World Bank, November 2004).

NATURAL SCIENCES

Much attention is attached to maintaining potential in basic research. More emphasis is placed on activities that promote the linkage of scientific research and higher education as well as on promoting interdisciplinary fundamental research in emerging areas of science. UNESCO chairs combining education and research are considered to be pilots in line of activities. The proclamation of the International Year of Chemistry is expected to play a catalytic role in renewing interest in basic sciences among young people.



The basics of the ecological policy are secured in the laws on environmental protection; on specially protected wildlife areas, State ecological examination; hydro-meteorological activities, protection of ozone layer; waste; mineral wealth; on flora and fauna. Goals and principles of environmental sustainability of Belarus are laid down in the National Strategy of Sustainable Social and Economic Development for the period up to 2020. In June 2009, a Concept of the National Strategy of Sustainable Social and Economic Development for 2011–2015 was approved. The 1998 law «On Forecasting and Socio-economic Development Planning» mandates inclusion of environmental priorities in socio-economic development forecasts and programming.

Natural landscape of Eastern Polesie, a proposed territory for the transboundary biosphere reserve (Belarus/Russian Federation)

Land resources in Belarus total 200,759,900 hectares. 41% of them are property of agricultural companies, 8% that of citizens. The remaining land resources are nature protection, recuperation and recreational territories. Agricultural sector experiences decline in Belarus due to the tendency for urbanization. Therefore there is a need of promotion of the sustainable agriculture and natural resources management on the territory of Belarus (including territories of biosphere reserves), which will have a positive social and economic effect on livelihoods of rural men and women.

To reduce the negative anthropogenic impact on natural environment, Belarus has created specially protected wildlife areas which currently include the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve, Belovezhskaya Pushcha Biosphere Reserve, Pribuzhskoye Polesye Biosphere Reserve, and four national wildlife parks: Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Braslav Lakes, Pripjat and Naroch National Parks; 99 centrally administered wildlife preserves. The total area of the specially protected wildlife areas is 1,723,800 hectares, or 8.3% of Belarus' territory.

In 2009 the Braslav Lakes National Park was included into the pan-European ecological network and declared one of the most important botanic territories of Europe.

One-hundred and eighty nine species of fauna are under the protection of the State. Among rare species are badger, European mink, brown bear and European lynx. The Red Data Book protects seventy-two species of birds including erne, serpent eagle, the lesser and greater spotted eagles, egret, and aquatic warbler.

The priorities of the Republic of Belarus in the field of natural sciences derive from the strategic directions of activity in the field of science and innovation, which are reflected in a number of specific National Programmes and Strategies.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Recently bioethics has become one focal element in social and human sciences. The National Bioethics Committee of the Republic of Belarus was established in 2006 under the Ministry of Health with support from UNESCO. It deals with all issues related to observing the basic principles

of humanism, moral and biomedical ethics. These efforts are undertaken in methodical and methodological support of both continuous higher education and public awareness raising in the field of bioethics and environmental ethics.

HIV PREVENTION

As of January 1, 2010, the total number of reported HIV cases reached 10,690. National and UNAIDS estimations place the actual number of cases at 13,000 with low and high estimates varying from 10,000 to 19,000.

With growing annual incidence from 9.1 cases per 100,000 population in 2008 to 11.1 in 2009 resulting in 21.7% increase in the total number of new cases in 2009 (1,072) versus 2008 (881), Belarus faces one of the fastest epidemics in Europe. While overall reported prevalence does not exceed 0.1%, it is three times higher in the southern east region of Gomel which is home for over 53% of people living with HIV in Belarus. Within this region, the highest prevalence (2.5%) is found in the town of Svietlahorsk and surrounding rural district where the epidemic first erupted among injecting drug users in 1996.



During a team work. Participants of the project aimed at HIV and AIDS prevention based on "Forum-Theatre" methodology. June 2009, Minsk

More than half of all HIV-infections (52.7%) in Belarus are known to have occurred due to injecting drug use. However, sexual transmission is steadily on rise being responsible for 75–77.6% of all new cases in 2008–2009. Originally concentrated among most-at-risk populations with prevalence among IDUs as high as 27–33% (2007–2008), the epidemic is rapidly expanding among the whole population. Women account for 37.4% of all HIV cases, men – for 62.6%. By the end of 2009, HIV prevalence among pregnant women reached 0.19%. Feminization of the epidemic requires gender-sensitive approach in programming to reduce vulnerability to HIV infection and in enhancing the capabilities of individuals, households and communities to cope with the consequences of HIV/AIDS.

The epidemic increasingly affects children: by the end of 2009, a total of 1,521 children were born to HIV-positive mothers and nearly 15% of them were born in 2009 alone. By the end of 2009, 153 children were tested HIV-positive and another 445 children were waiting for their HIV-status to be established. Cumulatively, HIV has transmitted from mothers to 15% of children whose HIV status is already known. Thanks to priority given to PMTCT at national level, the annual transmission rate has recently dropped to 3–3.5%. As much as 4.5% of all children born to HIV-positive mothers have been abandoned to State care (2008). HIV has already progressed into AIDS in 66 (43%) out of 153 vertically infected children; 95 of them are receiving ARV-treatment; 8 children have died. Overall, the epidemic has claimed 1,881 lives – 17.6% of all 10,690 people infected with HIV have already died.

Young people are in the epicenter of the epidemic: nearly 70% of all cases of HIV are registered among 15–29 year olds (7,144). HIV incidence among all age groups keeps growing except the groups of 15–19 and 20–24 year-old people where the incidence dropped from 5.2 cases per 100,000 population in 2007 to 5 in 2009 and from 23.1 in 2007 to 18.9 in 2010 respectively.

The social impact of the epidemic goes much beyond the number of HIV cases registered in the country, as the epidemic challenges health care, social support and education sectors' capacity to provide adequate response in long-term which will require not only substantial resources to ensure universal access to testing, treatment, care, support and prevention, but foremost a major shift in

societal and professional attitudes towards the issue and people affected by living with HIV. Pervasive stigmatization and social exclusion of PLHIV including within education and residential care settings and health care facilities are still quite common in the country as well as across the entire region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

In this respect, the role of education sector in comprehensive response to the epidemic is becoming increasingly important as it provides comprehensive and holistic rights-based and gender-sensitive evidence-informed information and life skills building opportunities to young people.

TARGETS

The Government response to the epidemic is guided by the National HIV & AIDS Response Strategy and the State HIV Prevention Programme for 2006–2010 (a costed action plan) which are shaped in line with commitments taken by the Republic of Belarus to reach Millennium Development Goal on HIV and AIDS and UNGASS targets by ensure universal access to HIV prevention, care, treatment and support. Currently, another National HIV Prevention Programme for 2011–2015 is being developed.

Primary prevention of HIV among young people and from mother to child is the key national priority which received 63% of all funding for HIV response in Belarus in 2009 when the State and international donors including Global Fund and others spent USD 1.8 per capita or over USD 17 millions. The government contributed has made 64%.

Prevention among young people through in- and out of school programmes and activities as well as information campaigns with involvement of media are in the focus of the State HIV Prevention Programme. A «Concept paper on HIV prevention in education settings in the Republic of Belarus» was developed and adopted in 2008. A network of 1,500 school-based resource centers on life skills education and «healthy schools» has been developed.

In 2009, a total of 13.4% of all primary and secondary schools in Belarus delivered 30 session/hour (and more) life skills based training on HIV prevention and 85.5% of schools had training programmes with less than 30 session/hour. In more than half of the schools (58.7%) HIV prevention activities were carried out using peer education approach.

National survey of in-school HIV prevention programmes conducted in 2009 disclosed two main challenges: lack of teachers with sufficient knowledge and skills to deliver such programmes and lack of resources (training materials, guides with appropriate content).

Data is cited from: UNAIDS Country Profiles (<http://www.unaids.org/en/CountryResponses/Countries/belarus.asp>) and 2010 Country Progress Report (http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2010/belarus_2010_country_progress_report_ru.pdf)



Mobilizing cultural resources for HIV and AIDS preventive education in the Republic of Belarus (2009). "Forum-Theatre" technology.

CULTURE

Over the centuries the Belarusians have created a rich and unique cultural heritage through park complexes, museum and book collections. There are over 15,000 historical monuments in Belarus. The architectural and cultural complex of the Radziwills in the town of Nesvizh, the Mir Castle complex, the Belovezhskaya Pushcha and the Struve Geodetic Arc have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List of cultural and natural properties. UNESCO experts are considering the inclusion of the Augustiow Canal and Polotsk monuments into the World Heritage List. Other five historical and cultural heritage sites are expected to be presented for inscription by 2012; these include the Rumyantsevs-Patskevichs palace and park ensemble in Gomel. Belarus regards preservation of its historical and cultural values as one of its priority missions. In 2009 around 500 sites were restored. However, as a result of numerous wars and political upheavals many cultural sites have been destroyed. Much attention is paid now to the conservation of the cultural heritage and to the introduction of educational and cultural tourism to foster economic and social development.

Belarus has rich intangible heritage which, however, is endangered by the process of globalization. Efforts are undertaken to avoid simplification, theatricalisation and unnecessary academic transformation of intangible heritage.

The strong political will to safeguard the cultural heritage has resulted in the ratification of UNESCO Conventions: the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (ratified in January 1989); the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (ratified in March 2007); the Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ratified in April 2006).

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

In the Republic of Belarus, the process of implementation of Informational and Communication Technology (ICT) in all areas of the social-economic life is carried out in compliance with the National Strategy of building an informational society «Electronic Belarus», adopted by the Government Decision in December, 2002, N 1819. In 2009 a team of Belarusian and Russian researches commenced the development of supercomputers will be capable of performing up to 500 trillion operations per second.

Issue of fine tuning different aspects of media regulation with the international standards remains an important undertaking for the Republic of Belarus. In the framework of these attempts UNESCO had participated as an observer in the numerous missions to investigate and offer means to improve legal framework with the aim of strengthening such legal norms, which would provide better access to information for the local media and widen freedom of expression possibilities for journalists and society.

PAST COOPERATION AND LESSONS LEARNT

In the course of the past ten years, UNESCO has contributed through its programme activities to the development of a number of crucial areas in the Republic of Belarus, including education, science, culture, communication and information, and human development.

EDUCATION

On April 2005 in Minsk an International Forum on *Education for Sustainable Development: to the Knowledge Society* was held, which provided excellent opportunities to discuss the development and improvement of quality of education in the CIS, involving all the interested stakeholders, including regional and international experts and institutions. The final resolution of the Forum noted the intention to develop networking between the UNESCO institutions and the CIS participating States, including a regular dialogue with the Conference of the Ministers of Education, the CIS Council for Cooperation in the Field of Education.

On the 14–16 May 2009, Minsk hosted the International Conference on *Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)* and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including the XVII Conference of the CIS Ministers of Education.

Accessible and quality technical – vocational education is a priority area within UNESCO's activities in the field of education. Recently UNESCO has been actively engaged in developing a new TVET strategy which emphasizes the increasing importance of research and policy in the sphere of TVET in addressing the issues of sustainable development in a wider context.

The event's aim was to enhance the role of TVET in meeting the educational, economic and social needs of the CIS Member States, through exchanging experiences and developing recommendations on how to support and develop TVET and ESD at the international and regional levels. The Conference in Minsk was a timely follow-up to the World Conference on ESD-«Moving into the Second Half of the Decade», organized under the auspices of UNESCO in Bonn (Germany) 31 March – 2 April 2009.

Alongside with the CIS Ministers of Education, the Conference was attended by heads of TVET departments and divisions within Ministries of Education, directors and rectors of vocational education institutes; educational policy makers, representatives of the CIS Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation (IFESCCO), experts from the World Bank, ILO, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), IBE, UNESCO-UNEVOC, National Coordinators of the CIS UNEVOC Network and other specialists.

The participants of Education Ministers in the Conference facilitated the adoption of important policy recommendations on further activities to develop TVET in the CIS and to strengthen cooperation in this field. Certain measures were agreed upon, such as the organization of joint sessions involving the CIS Council on Cooperation in Education, UNESCO Moscow Office, UNESCO-UNEVOC, UNESCO IITE, IBE, the European Training Foundation (ETF) and the national TVET institutes. Another outcome of the Conference is that a comprehensive study of the development of TVET in the CIS will be conducted, with the aim of harmonizing standards in the sphere of TVET in the CIS countries.

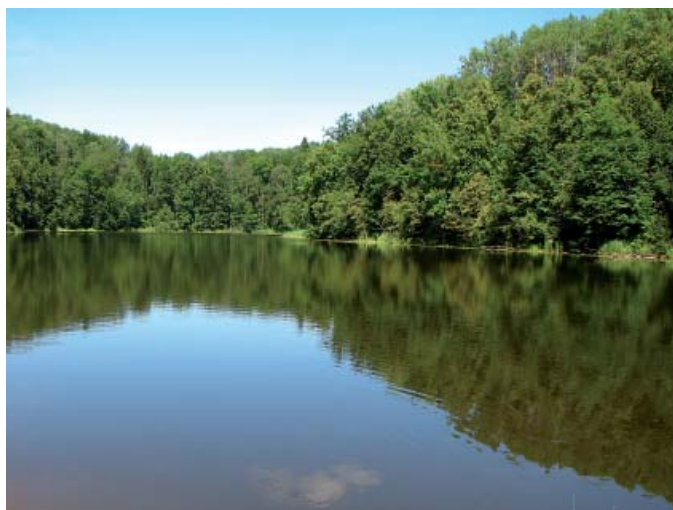
The Community of Practice (COP) in Curriculum Development in CIS countries is a platform where the issues of curriculum change can be jointly discussed and implemented within the framework of a holistic approach for determining and implementing the goals of Education for All (EFA). It was set up in July 2005 by the International Bureau of Education (IBE) in conjunction with curriculum specialists from different countries, especially from former Soviet Union. During 2007–2008 – through the COP and in close coordination with UNESCO Moscow Office – the IBE has co-organised four regional



Supporting the research on renewable energy at the Belarusian National Technical University (Minsk, 2005)

workshops and conferences on Inclusive Education in Minsk. These were entitled «Inclusive Education: the way of the future». These workshops and conferences have contributed to deepening the understanding of the content and scope of inclusive education from an inter-regional perspective, and to identifying common educational policy and curriculum concerns.

UNESCO Moscow Office supported a «Development of the legal instruments on the right to education and children rights in the Republic of Belarus» project aimed at the creation of specially adapted information environment which would allow children and teenagers including those with psychological and physical development needs to get the necessary systematized knowledge of legislation, lawful behaviour, their rights, freedoms and legal interests. The information data bank and the Children's Legal Site will allow disseminating the children-adapted legal information on the Internet.



Typical natural landscape

NATURAL SCIENCES

UNESCO provides assistance to the Republic of Belarus in the field of natural sciences to improve legal and regulatory framework and to build capacities to develop policies enabling the introduction of scientific achievements into the national economy. Special attention is also given to linking nature protection with socio-economic development in the field of activity and on setting up and development of national and transboundary biosphere reserves to be included into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Planning of UNESCO activities, in this particular case in Belarus, has been focused on an equal participation of women and men and the promotion of gender equity in the activities of the natural sciences programme.

The development of the transboundary (Belarusian/Russian) biosphere reserve (BR) in Eastern Polesye was put forward in the last years. As key results of transboundary workshops and local consultations, two floodplains were identified as potential transboundary areas, and further steps, such as the elaboration of management plans and coordinating mechanisms, have already been taken.

Within the transboundary natural ecological corridor in Polesye Belarusian-Ukrainian transboundary ecological corridors are being set up which will include Belarusian and Ukrainian bordering territories. The process is based on requirements of Pan-European Ecological Network and UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network. SC: The West Polesie transboundary Biosphere Reserve proposal between Belarus, Poland and Ukraine has benefited from support from the Japanese Funds in Trust. The designation is pending the signature of the trilateral agreement which is being finalized.



Catalyzing the establishment of the transboundary biosphere reserve in Eastern Polesie (Belarus/Russian Federation)

The future establishment of the Augustovskaya Pushcha Biosphere Reserve may result in the formation of a transboundary Belarusian-Lithuanian-Polish biosphere reserve and the creation of a model region with European reputation. The basis is being formed for setting up a transboundary biosphere reserve on the borders of Belarus, Russian Federation and Latvia.

These activities are undertaken under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. A further emphasis will be done on the application of research and scientific results for the protection of environment,

management of natural resources and for sustainable development. A synergic effect is to be reached when different sources are used in the activity, including UNESCO, UNDP, GEF.

The support of and cooperation with the UNESCO have also focused on basic sciences development, and on accelerating the application of engineering research findings towards sustainable development, including renewable energy utilization.

In 2006 the project «Support to development of a research and education centre for training of experts in the field of renewable energy sources» implemented in Belarus delivered teaching and training programmes of the course «Energy of Biomass». These materials are available for all educational institutions of Belarus and other Russian speaking countries.

The Scientific and Practical Workshop on the integrated forms of training in Basic Chemistry held in Belarus in 2009 adopted the final document containing a strategy of implementation and dissemination of experience of the Belarusian universities in Basic and Applied Chemistry training, addressing an involvement of the talented youth in the educational process in chemistry, setting up an operation of joint Chairs on the basis of Belarusian universities and institutions of the National Academy of Sciences, universities and industrial organizations.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

In the field of social and human sciences, UNESCO has focused on the development of educational projects in bioethics and environmental ethics. UNESCO Moscow Office supported the establishment of a National Bioethics Committee, whose purpose is to strengthen Belarus' capacities in the area of ethics education. The National Bioethics Committee of the Republic of Belarus was established in 2006 under the Ministry of Health with support from UNESCO.

The National Bioethics Committee can represent Belarus at the international level, put forward legislative initiatives on protecting human rights in the field of biomedicine, coordinate the efforts of local committees and elaborate the general direction of bioethics education for professionals and general public. The National Bioethics Committee deals with all issues related to observing the basic principles of humanism, moral and biomedical ethics. These activities include efforts in methodical and methodological support of both continuous higher education and public awareness raising in the field of bioethics and environmental ethics. While organizing and implementing bioethics education provides for the elaboration of university curricular and courses, educating the general public involves close collaboration with the media.



The International Conference on Activities of Bioethics Committees and Bioethics Education gathered international and national experts in bioethics, heads of National Bioethics Committees of CIS countries, members of local and regional bioethics committees from Belarus to address fundamental and topical issues related to bioethics in the context of contemporary social morals, to discuss issues related to organizing activities of National Bioethics Committees and Local Bioethics Committees as well as problems of bioethics education in Belarus and other CIS States: capacity-building of specialists and public awareness raising.



Ethics teachers Training Course (2008)

An ethics teacher training course was held in Minsk from 17 to 21 November 2008. The course has provided training to ethics teachers with the purpose to enhance their skills and abilities. It targeted on a younger generation of university teachers so that ethics teaching programs in the near future can expand and improve in all member States of UNESCO.

UNESCO supported promotion and adoption of multisectoral approach to HIV prevention in Belarus. In partnership with the Belarus Academy of Post-Graduate Education and the Ministry of Education, a «Concept paper on HIV prevention in education settings in the Republic of Belarus» was developed and officially endorsed in 2008. This document provides strategic guidance for development and implementation of life skills based HIV prevention education in the country. In 2008–2009, UNESCO continued to support the development of relevant training materials for different types of educational settings to operationalise HIV prevention education. In cooperation with the Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs cultural approach to HIV and AIDS prevention was introduced to the community of educators through development and production of a manual on using the technology of «Forum-Theatre» in school-based and out-of-school HIV prevention training programmes.

The UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Democracy at the Faculty of International Relations of the Belarussian State University, established in 1994, and the UNESCO Chair in Culture of Peace and Democracy at the National Institute of Higher Education of the Republic of Belarus, created in 1997, have been actively involved in the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights, in particular in establishing a dialogue between the research community and decision-makers on main challenges and obstacles to the implementation of human rights within UNESCO's fields of competence. The chairs represent a pool of information on human rights issues for the academic community of the country.

CULTURE

In the field of culture special attention was paid to the support of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promotion of the cultural diversity as an important factor of human development. A special emphasis was made on harmonization of national legislation with the UNESCO legislative documents through the ratification of UNESCO Conventions.

The International Conference «UNESCO Conventions in the Field of Protection and Development of Cultural Heritage in Relation to the National Legislation of the CIS Countries» was organized in March 2007 and facilitated the incorporation of UNESCO principles into national legislations. The Conference was dedicated to the issues of harmonization of national legislation in the field of culture and the protection of cultural heritage of the CIS countries with the fundamental principles of international UNESCO's standard-setting instruments for the protection of cultural heritage. The

Conference resulted in the Conference Final Resolution, being worked out and adopted, which included the International Conference Motions on improvement of the CIS model laws and legislation on cultural heritage protection, implementation of the UNESCO Conventions major provisions in cultural heritage protection and cultural diversity, and Conference Recommendations to be further considered by the CIS Members States' intergovernmental cooperation authorities.



Regional Conference of Museum Specialists of CIS countries «Running a Museum – XXI Century» (22–24 April 2010, Minsk)

With the aim to mobilize museum resources for education and intercultural dialogue the National Capacity-building Training on Museum Management based on the UNESCO/ICOM Museum Studies Training Package for the museum specialists of the Republic of Belarus was conducted in Minsk on 26–28 May 2009. The training was conducted within the framework of organization of a series of regional and national capacity-building trainings with the support of the UNESCO Moscow Office and the Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation (IFESCCO) and was based on the materials of the Regional Training-for-Trainers, conducted in 2008 for museum specialists from the CIS countries. The National Training was prepared in cooperation with the National Commission of Belarus for UNESCO, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus, the Belarusian Committee of ICOM and with participation of the National Art Museum of Belarus, the Yanka Kupala State Literary Museum and the State Museum of History of Theatrical and Musical Culture of Belarus. The Programme of the Training included the most vital and current issues of the museum field, such as: promoting the role of museums as places for access to knowledge, enhancing the protection of cultural objects and strengthening the capacity of the museum professionals in museum management and collection conservation. The Training brought together museum specialists from different areas of Belarus to share experiences, information and opinions on various issues, such as professional ethics, museum management and marketing, collecting and documenting information, exhibition planning and preservation. Due to increased number of women involved in implementation of the activity, special attention was paid to gender balance and youth involvement (considering that women in CIS countries prevail among museum professionals).

Fostering the ICT use by museums was encouraged by creation of a new informational-educational resource in Nesvizh Radziwill's Castle Museum in cooperation with the National Commission of Belarus for UNESCO.

Traditional arts and crafts were promoted within the *Beraginya* Fifth National Festival of Folklore, which took place on 19–22 June 2008 in Oktyabrskiy township of the Homel Region. The Festival gathered folk performers and traditional craftsmen from various regions of the country, representing the variety of cultural heritage of Belarus. Within the project special attention was paid to youth and women involvement. Besides the publication of the Jubilee Booklet and the Proceedings of the Festival, the studies on arts education were carried out and the analytical paper «Traditional Culture and Children: Problems of Ethnic Education» was prepared.

Protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions through the implementation of the 2005 Convention and the development of cultural and creative industries and focusing on the problems and prospects of arts education in Belarus, case studies were conducted in cooperation with the National Institute for Education. Within the framework of the Project «Arts Education in Belarus: Building Creative Capacities for 21st Century» all levels of formal and informal arts education system in the country were analyzed and full electronic database of arts education in Belarus is under creation.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

The use of information and communication technologies was one of the most visible areas of cooperation of Belarus with UNESCO.

Due to numerous wars and political upheavals much of Belarus' documentary heritage and book collections have been destroyed or taken to other countries. Efforts are made to have access to them with communication and information technologies.

In 2006 an international conference on the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme was held in Minsk. It addressed issues related to activities of libraries, archives, museums

for safeguarding documentary heritage. In particular the participants discussed the international cooperation; intellectual property and copyright in digital media; digital technologies; documentary heritage and access to it. The conference played a catalytic role in launching a pilot project of international cooperation in safeguarding the documentary heritage of the Radziwill family.

By the decision taken at the 9th Session of the International Advisory Committee of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, the archives and the Radziwill family's library at Nesvizh have been inscribed on the UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. Their nomination had been initiated by Belarus, jointly with Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Finland – i. e. the countries that store some of the largest archival and book collections in Eastern and Central Europe. The National Historical Archives of Belarus alone stores 20 thousand (out of 90 thousand) items in the archive; several thousand books from the collection once stored in Nesvizh are now kept in Minsk libraries. An education terminal at the Architectural, Residential and Cultural Complex of the Radziwill Family at Nesvizh has been established as a first in setting up a centre for documentary heritage studies.

One of the major projects undertaken by Russian and Belarusian archivists and supported by the UNESCO Moscow Office concerns the works by the composer, musician, and political figure, Michal Kleofas Oginsky (1765-1833). The Russian State Archive of Ancient Documents produced an archival inventory of its collection, consisting of 5,930 pages of documents, letters, music manuscripts, drawings and literary works, and copied it onto microfilms. This was handed over to the Belarusian State Museum of Theatrical and Musical Culture for full digitalization.

The National Commission, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, the Archives and Records Management Department and leading national archives and libraries, takes an active part in the implementation of the Memory of the World Programme by undertaking a number of projects along this line of activities.

All these efforts supported by the UNESCO Moscow Office are intended to preserve the national documentary heritage, make it accessible and to raise public awareness about it.



International Conference on the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme (Minsk, 2006)



On 25–27 May 2009 an international summer school on media law was conducted in Minsk with the participation of leading Russian and Belarusian experts in the field of media law. The event, organized by the Belarusian State University with the support of the UNESCO Moscow Office, targeted media law experts and media educators from universities and other higher education institutions from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Russian Federation. The international summer school on media law addressed issues of teaching media law and self-regulation to journalism and communication students. The event's programme included international standards of freedom of expression, access to information, the protection of honour and dignity, authorial right in journalism and communication, self-regulation of the media, as well as approaches and methods for teaching media law to journalists and media professionals. A handbook has been developed and published on teaching methods in subjects connected to the regulation and self-regulation of the media, based on the summer school's results.

Handbook based on the results of the International Summer School on Media Law (Minsk, 2009)

The role of mass media in preventing technogenic accidents was discussed at a workshop conducted in the context of resumed cooperation with UNESCO on Chernobyl issues. It was aimed at referring to twenty years' experience of mass media coverage of

the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident and applying it to cover technogenic accidents in the future. The workshop was attended by representatives of mass media, experts from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine.

UNESCO supported software to convert text to speech in Belarusian, Russian and English is now freely available for visually handicapped students. The development of the software entitled Sakrament LibReader is particularly targeted towards educational and cultural purposes. The software provides the possibility to select any text to be read by a PC-based voice-system using Sakrament LibReader that converts texts to speech using the speech synthesis system Sakrament TTS (text-to-speech) Engine 3.0 including two Russian voices, two English voices and one Belarusian voice. The software package Sakrament LibReader supports RTF and TXT text formats.

Tasks

Virtual reconstruction of and facilitation access to documentary heritage and book collections.

Extension of knowledge of media law and self-regulation to journalists and journalism and communication students, with particular emphasis on access to internet.

Use of Communication and Information (CI) in education, environment protection and culture.

Extension of CI access for persons with special needs.



PROPOSED COOPERATION FRAMEWORK – COUNTRY PROGRAMME 2010–2011

The national priorities of the Republic of Belarus in the UNESCO fields of activity are evident in many policy documents. Some of these documents (National Development Plan, Concept of the National Strategy of Sustainable Social and Economic Development for 2011–2015, Main Directions of Social and Economic Development of Belarus) are based on the intersectoral approach to the issues faced by the country, whereas other (National Strategy «Education for All», National Action Plan for Rational Use of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus for 2006–2010, etc.) are oriented towards addressing issues in a specific sector. A synthesis of these priorities is presented below as they derive both from the intersectoral policy documents as well as from those orientated towards a specific sector.

EDUCATION

UNESCO will provide support to the Republic of Belarus in education in the following fields: development of educational programme on renewable energy; establishment of network of leading scientists from different scientific and educational centers; development and mobilizing cultural and educational resources for HIV and AIDS; development education on bioethics environmental ethics and integration of ICT into education.

Targets

Consistent with new national socio-economic development objectives and current global trends, national educational policies strive to achieve universal secondary education by 2015. The strategies to attain this objective include: ensuring universal access to general secondary education for all children of the relevant ages; preventing school drop-out, updating educational content and methods of instruction; improving the skill level of teaching staff; raising the social standing of teachers, promoting science education (especially for girls), encouraging trained scientists to stay in their native country.

Objectives to increase the nation's educational potential and its quality have been included in the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development up to 2020; the State Programme of the Socio-Economic Recovery and Development of Rural Areas for 2005–2010; the Main Directions of the National Education System's Development, as well as targeted State programmes for educational development⁴.

NATURAL SCIENCES

Support to the Republic of Belarus in the field of natural sciences will be provided through the development of research projects to strengthen the role of science in decision-making and ensure good science-informed participatory and collaborative management; establishment of network of leading scientists from different scientific and educational centers focused on renewable energy and initiation of a sub-regional clearing-house mechanism; catalyzing of establishment and strengthening of management of biosphere reserves to address current emerging challenges like accelerated climate change with consequences for societies and ecosystems SC: using biosphere reserves including transboundary ones as demonstration sites; accelerated loss of biological and cultural diversity with unexpected consequences that impact the ability of ecosystems to continue to provide services critical for human wellbeing; and rapid urbanization as a driver of environmental change.

Emphasis will be placed on activities that strengthen the linkage of scientific research and higher

⁴ MDGR-2005.



Unique Yelnia raised bog

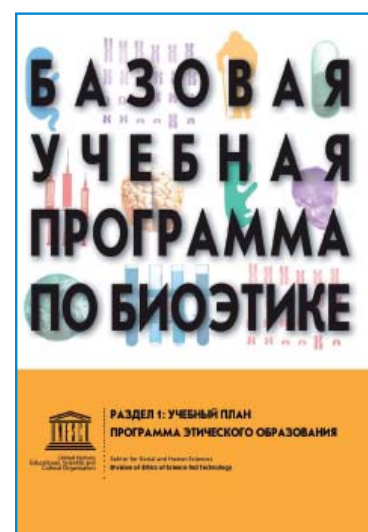
education as well as on promoting interdisciplinary fundamental research in emerging areas of science. There the gender parity will be promoted and supported throughout the planned activities.

Science education will also be promoted, and trained scientists will be encouraged to stay in Belarus through the establishment of network of research and technical centres.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

In the field of social and human sciences UNESCO assistance will be provided for policy development on ethical principles in relation to climate change, in the identification and settlement of issues on ethics of science and technology, environmental education for children and youth, sustainable socio-economic development, research and policy development in the field of migration and gender equality. Introduction into legislation provisions protecting human rights in the field of biomedicine, coordination of efforts of local committees and elaboration of the general direction of bioethics education for professionals and general public, including pilot introduction of the UNESCO Bioethics Core Curriculum into educational programme of universities (at least one), will be provided. A number of studies (seminars, trainings) on bioethics and environmental ethics for youth and mass media will be conducted.

The two UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy and Culture of Peace will be actively involved in the activities linked to further developing research-policy dialogues in the field of human rights within UNESCO's fields of competence.



HIV & AIDS PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES

Acknowledging the role and impact of peer-education in HIV prevention, UNESCO will support capacity building of peer activists through innovative web-based training seminars (WEBINARS). Young people, especially students, engaged in HIV prevention across the country will learn contemporary approaches to HIV prevention among youth with a special focus on most at risk populations and prevention of stigma and discrimination.

CULTURE

Main UNESCO priorities in Belarus will include preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage through fostering of the implementation of the 1972 and 2003 Conventions; promotion of cultural tourism; support and popularization of traditional arts and crafts; development of arts education system and mobilizing museum educational resources for intercultural dialogue and development. Within this framework a special emphasis will be put on assistance in creation of the national inventory of intangible heritage of Belarus and improvement of national legislation on

safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. UNESCO will support the Republic of Belarus in strengthening cultural policy for developing intercultural dialogue, increasing the role of culture in social and sustainable development. Case studies in the field of arts education will be conducted with the aim to elaborate new approaches and develop new strategies for improvement in this field, protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions through the implementation of the 2005 Convention and the development of cultural and creative industries.

Tasks

- The development of regional infrastructure, including culture, sport and leisure activities.
- The development of intercultural dialogue, harmonizing interethnic relations, supporting multilingualism and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions closely related to ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity.
- The promotion of activities, which address the integration of the international legislative-normative framework with national legislation.
- Creation of the national inventory of intangible cultural heritage of Belarus.
- The extension of knowledge of the international Conventions on safeguarding cultural heritage and the implementation of their provisions, using international expertise.



National capacity-building Training on Modern Museum Management for museum specialists of the Republic of Belarus (Minsk, 2009)

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Special attention will be paid to the extension of CI access for persons with special needs, use of Communication and Information (CI) in education, environment protection and culture. The project for the virtual reconstruction of the Sapiehas' archive and book collection is now being negotiated with the UNESCO Moscow Office. Assistance to strengthen mass media ethics and self regulation systems is also planned to be carried out in the 2010/11 biennium. Special actions in the framework of seminars for ethics are to be undertaken to ensure fair coverage of gender related issues in the media.

Support to programmes and events facilitating better understanding of the role of international standards in developing media law in the modern society should be continued. Media development efforts, especially at the local level, should be addressed through training and capacity building activities with the assistance of the International Programme for the Development of Communication.

Targets

Social and professional aspects of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) uses in mass media are to be delineated. The role of mass media in the development of human potential and intercultural dialogue is to be enhanced.

UNDAF OUTCOME 1: SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT IMPROVES LIVING STANDARDS IS SUPPORTED

National development priorities: ensuring sustainable economic development of the country and improving living standards of the population to bring it closer to the living standards of the economically developed European countries (Main Directions of Social and Economic Development for 2005–2015)

UNESCO Programme components for UNDAF outcome #1:

1) Energy efficiency of the national economy, social and housing sector is increased (SC)

Outcomes:

Capacities and institutional frameworks for STI enhanced

Activities:

- I. Development of Belarusian model of the national innovation system
- II. Consultative meetings, workshop and trainings

2) Effectiveness of cultural policies is increased (CLT)

Outcomes:

a) Tools for protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage elaborated

Activities:

- I. Assistance will be provided to the creation of the national inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of Belarus
- II. Special events, including trainings and conferences, will be organized with the aim to foster the implementation of the 1972, 2003 and 2005 Conventions

b) Norms of international legislations and principles of UNESCO Conventions integrated into national legislation

Activities:

- I. Studies conducted; conferences, trainings and expert meetings organized and recommendations elaborated with the aim to include them into national legislation regarding preservation and protection of cultural heritage

3) Effectiveness of social and cultural policies is increased (CI and CLT)

Outcomes:

a) Preservation of documentary heritage reinforced

Activities:

- I. Promotion of policies and practices in the field of preservation of documentary heritage access to archive and library collections (digitalization of collections of archive and library documents of international significance will be provided)

b) Assistance to the improvement of media regulation and self regulation systems to strengthen access to information provided

Activities:

I. Number of seminars on media ethics will be organized

c) Tools for protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage elaborated

Activities:

I. Assistance will be provided in creation of the national inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of Belarus

II. Special events, including trainings and conferences, will be organized with the aim to foster the implementation of the UNESCO Conventions in the field of culture

d) Norms of international legislations and principles of UNESCO Conventions integrated into national legislation

Activities:

I. Studies conducted; conferences, trainings and expert meetings organized and recommendations elaborated with the aim to include them into national legislation regarding preservation and protection of cultural heritage

UNDAF OUTCOME 2: PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS, ARE BETTER PROTECTED FROM THE RISKS DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR HEALTH

National development priorities: to promote self-preservation behavioral patterns and healthy life styles by decreasing morbidity, trauma, and disability (Main Directions of Social and Economic Development of Belarus for 2005–2015)

UNESCO Programme components for UNDAF outcome #2:

1) Population, especially vulnerable groups, has full access to HIV prevention services and information, and all people living with HIV have access to treatment, care and support (SHC and HIV/AIDS)

Outcomes:

Strengthening HIV responses targeting young people especially the most at risk populations with a particular aim of reducing stigma and discrimination

Activities:

I. Organizing a series of web based seminars (WEBINARs) for young people to raise their awareness of HIV and its prevention, promote risk-reducing behavior and reduce stigma and discrimination against PLHIV;

II. Organizing a series of capacity building seminars for youth peer educators and their instructors to equip them with innovative approaches to HIV prevention among most-at-risk populations and reduction of stigma and discrimination against them.

UNDAF OUTCOME 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IS INCREASED

National development priorities: improve quality of the environment, ensure sustainable economic growth within biosphere capacity and to develop new management strategies in the sphere of the use of natural resources and environment protection (Concept of the National Strategy of Sustainable Social and Economic Development for 2011–2015)

UNESCO Programme components for UNDAF outcome #3:

1) National capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change enhanced (SC)

Outcomes:

a) Improved energy efficiency

Activities:

- I. Preparation and development of the legal and regulatory framework;
- II. Training of Belarusian specialists;
- III. Pilot project;
- IV. Outreach and dissemination.
- V. Development of research projects to strengthen the role of science in decision-making and ensure good science-informed participatory and collaborative management

b) The use of renewable energy sources supported

Activities:

- I. Development of educational programmes on renewable energy; training materials and publications on renewable energy;
- II. Establishment of network of leading scientists from different scientific and educational centers focused on renewable energy and initiation of a sub-regional clearing-house mechanism

2) National capacity to protect and use the country's biological diversity in a sustainable way enhanced (SC, SHC, CI)

Outcomes:

Biodiversity concerns are integrated into the territorial planning policies and practices SC: using biosphere reserves as demonstration sites

Activities:

- I. Development of the legal and regulatory framework;
- II. Training of Belarusian specialists;
- III. Pilot projects;
- IV. Outreach and dissemination.
- V. Catalyzing of establishment and strengthening of management of biosphere reserves to address current emerging challenges like accelerated climate change with consequences for

societies and ecosystems; accelerated loss of biological and cultural diversity with unexpected consequences that impact the ability of ecosystems to continue to provide services critical for human well being; and rapid urbanization as a driver of environmental change.

Outcomes:

Bioethics and Environmental Ethics education improved.

Activities:

- I. Outreach and dissemination.
- II. Pilot introduction of the UNESCO Bioethics Core Curriculum into educational programmes in Universities (at least 1);
- III. Seminars/trainings and public awareness raising campaigns on bioethics and environmental ethics for youth and mass media;

Outcomes:

Building capacities of the media to report on the impact of climate change

Activities:

- I. Knowledge on climate change provided to media professionals; network of journalists reporting on the issues of climate change created, number of seminars will be conducted

Outcomes:

Capacity to establish and manage demonstration sites for sustainable development (SC: using biosphere reserves as demonstration sites) according to innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development enhanced.

Activities:

- I. Seminars and training workshops;
- II. Development of frameworks focused on education and awareness on sustainable development

3) Mechanisms for integration of environmental concerns into decision making in Belarus supported (SC)

Outcomes:

Mechanisms of cross-sectoral cooperation and partnerships towards sustainable development developed.

Activities:

- I. Consultative meetings and trainings;
- II. Development of recommendations to enhance initiatives leading to biodiversity protection and conservation and its sustainable use in order to contribute to global biodiversity agenda fulfillment.

UNESCO Programme activities not included in the UNDAF (ED):

Support to building effective education system, training of qualified teachers, skills development for

the world of work and integration of the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into education sector;

1) Support to teacher development policies and programmes including deployment of ODL and ICTs

Outcomes:

Capacities developed for the improvement of teacher development policies and programmes including innovative approaches and deployment of ODL and ICTs

Activities:

- I. CIS study conducted on innovative and successful policies and practices, including on e-learning/ODL for training of qualified teachers;
- II. Training of Belarusian experts;
- III. Outreach and dissemination.

2) Support to TVET system development for the world of work

Outcomes:

TVET system strengthened and capacity developed to equip youth and adults with knowledge, competences and skills for the world of work

Activities:

- I. A policy review and advice on the development of TVET policies according to national needs and priorities of the CIS member countries;
- II. Belarusian experts trained at the Regional TVET experts trainings;
- III. Outreach and dissemination.

3) Integration of the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into education sector

Outcomes:

The sector-wide education policy include the principles, values and practices of sustainable development

Activities:

- I. UNESS (UNESCO Education Sector Strategy) document developed for Belarus
- II. Best practices and programmes collected on ESD
- III. Belarusian experts trained;
- IV. Dissemination.

PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

With regard to the UNDAF and UNDP Country programme, there are three areas where it would be desirable to strengthen UNESCO involvement: sustainability of the social and economic development that improves living standards, people, especially vulnerable groups, are better protected from the risks detrimental to their health and assistance for environmental sustainability. These issues are planned to be implemented by UNESCO within two UNDAF objectives: (1) Assistance for ensuring

sustainable social and economic development that improves people's living standards; (2) Assistance for strengthening national health care system; (3) Assistance for ensuring environmental sustainability.

Partnering with international organizations and NGOs will be an important strategy of the UN helping to leverage the expertise and capacities of the national stakeholders thus maximizing the overall impact of UNDAF. The UN will collaborate with bilateral and multilateral donors to attract resources necessary for the attainment of UNDAF results. Partnerships with civil society organizations will be expanded and strengthened by making use of the knowledge and resources they can offer in attaining UNESCO outcomes and outputs.



Activities and projects will be implemented through tripartite social partnerships involving the Government, UN Agencies, civil society and when appropriate, the private sector. UNESCO MOS will work directly and in close collaboration with the Government (National Commission and relevant Ministries) and will implement projects through defined groups including community councils, local NGOs, scientific and academic institutions and specialized associations.

The proposed partnership strategy is a country wide multi-stakeholder collaboration with the main objectives of assisting UNESCO in supporting the UNDAF goal of reducing economic, social and political inequality within the activities of the UNESCO sectors that address capacity building, the creation of institutional frameworks, assistance in the development of policy and regulatory frameworks to promote accountable, transparent, and effective governing institutions; and the initiation of measures to support poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging extra-budgetary funds to implement UCPD beyond the regular UNESCO budget as well as in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms and UN coherent actions. The main objective of the Partnership strategy is to foster the implementation of the UCPD and to prepare the ground to ensure sustainability of the outcomes achieved within the course of the UCPD.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Country Programme Management. The UNESCO Cluster Office in Moscow and in partnership with the National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Belarus will be responsible for overall programme implementation including project identification, formulation, execution, and monitoring. Close consultations with relevant sectors will be held on a regular basis.

Resource Mobilization. Given UNESCO's very limited resources, the use of Sector-Wide Approaches in which UNESCO can use these resources at the upstream level in assisting the policy, planning, and national programme, will serve as one of the financial mechanisms.

Although the resource constraints facing UNESCO are well recognized, there are further areas where resources will be mobilized – such as:

- Mutual cooperation with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and UN Agencies working in the Republic of Belarus and involved in the UNDAF implementation process – see Partnership strategy and Annex I.

- Strengthened collaboration agreements with other donor partners, particularly financial partners – see Partnership strategy.
- Allocation of an appropriate proportion of UNESCO regular budget funds to country level support for PRS and MDG support activities and mobilization needs.



Group work. Participants of the project aimed at HIV and AIDS prevention based on “Forum-Theatre” methodology. June 2009, Minsk

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

To ensure that programme and projects are effectively implemented, the UCPD monitoring and evaluation system will be established with the aim of:

- using transparent and continuous mechanisms to help UNESCO assess the strength and weaknesses of the programmes and projects;
- identifying the target groups that should be supported through the UCPD and the policies and institutions that need to be improved or developed to ensure effective UCPD implementation;
- ensuring links to the UNDAF Monitoring and Evaluation Plan;
- strengthening the monitoring and evaluation capacities of national actors including concerning gender specific indicators.

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation will include a series of linked activities, including UNESCO monitoring & evaluation tools/RBM, reporting and evaluation according to UCPD Guidelines, and monitoring of the progress in executing the activities.

A biannual progress report of the UCPD will be prepared. A progress evaluation of given projects will be carried out through a mutual agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, in consultation with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). A review meeting will be held once per year to review the project.

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation will be done in a manner which is faithful to the objectively verifiable indicators (or benchmarks if applicable) and means of verification in the UCPD results and resources framework.

COMMITMENTS OF THE UNESCO

Amounts of regular budget resources as specified in Annex 1 shall be committed for 2010–2011 according to the current Workplan. The commitment of a specified amount of regular resources for 2012 will be subject to availability of funds for 36 C/5.

Other resources will be mobilized according to donors’ interest. A significant part of co-financing support shall be a subject of joint programmes and/or activities with relevant UN agencies. Further details are provided in Partnership Strategy.

EXPECTED UNDAF OUTCOME #1: SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT IMPROVES LIVING STANDARDS IS SUPPORTED

National development priorities: ensuring sustainable economic development of the country and improving living standards of the population to bring it closer to the living standards of the economically developed European countries (Main Directions of Social and Economic Development for 2005-2015)

UNESCO programme component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Output targets and indicators	Indicative Resources by programme component (per year, US\$)			
				2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
1.1. Energy efficiency of the national economy, social and housing sector is increased:	1.1.1. Capacities and institutional frameworks for STI enhanced	Belarusian model of the national innovation system	number of institutions and sectors participated in the model development; by 2010 outlines for model elaborated and agreed, by 2011 draft of model developed and discussed by sectors concerned; by 2012 model developed and incorporated into national policies	7 000 Co-financing /resource mobilization: 40000	17000 incl. HQ Co-financing /resource mobilization: 70000	17000 incl. HQ Co-financing /resource mobilization: 70000	41 000 Co-financing/resource mobilization: 180000
		Consultative meetings, workshop and trainings	number of meetings, gender parity of meetings' participants number of sectors involved, number of experts participated, number of final documents agreed				
1.2. Effectiveness of social and cultural policies is increased	1.2.1. Preservation of documentary heritage reinforced	International cooperation in the field of preservation of documentary heritage strengthened; access to archive and library documents enhanced	digitalization of collections of archive and library documents of international significance conducted; universal access ensured	15 000	15 000	5000	35 000
		1.2.2. Assistance to the improvement of media regulation and self regulation systems to strengthen access to information provided	Media sector's capacity to reinforce ethical approaches to journalism strengthened	number of seminars on media ethics organized; no less than 50% of participants should be women.		20 000	100 000

UNESCO programme component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Output targets and indicators	Indicative Resources by programme component (per year, US\$)			
				2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
	1.2.3. Assistance to the improvement of national legislation on safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage provided	Assistance to the improvement of national legislation on safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage provided; Tools for protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage elaborated Recommendations on improvement and development of national legislation in the field of protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage developed; Norms of international legislations and principles of UNESCO Conventions integrated into national legislation	number of case studies conducted; number of objects included; number of conferences and high level meetings with participation of the main stakeholders conducted; 50%/50% men and women, specialists in the field of culture/cultural legislation trained	30 000	10 000	20 000	60 000
<p>EXPECTED UNDAF OUTCOME #2: PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS, ARE BETTER PROTECTED FROM THE RISKS DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR HEALTH</p> <p>National development priorities: to promote self-preservation behavioral patterns and healthy life styles by decreasing morbidity, trauma, and disability (Main Directions of Social and Economic Development of Belarus for 2005–2015)</p>							
2.1. Population, especially vulnerable groups, has full access to HIV prevention services and information, and all people living with HIV have access to treatment, care and support	2.1.1. Strengthening HIV responses targeting young people especially the most at risk populations with a particular aim of reducing stigma and discrimination	Public awareness raising campaigns on combating HIV-related discrimination organised.	number of of WEBINARs (web based seminars) seminar/trainings for youth organized; Number of young men and women trained;	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000 Extra budgetary UBW

UNESCO programme component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Output targets and indicators	Indicative Resources by programme component (per year, US\$)			
				2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
EXPECTED UNDAF OUTCOME #3: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IS INCREASED							
National development priorities: improve quality of the environment, ensure sustainable economic growth within biosphere capacity and to develop new management strategies in the sphere of the use of natural resources and environment protection (Concept of the National Strategy of Sustainable Social and Economic Development for 2011–2015)							
3.1. National capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change enhanced	3.1.1. Improved energy efficiency	Legal and regulatory framework	number of institutions and sectors participated in the preparation and development of legal and regulatory framework, by 2010 outlines for framework elaborated and agreed, by 2011 draft of framework developed and discussed by sectors concerned; by 2012 legal and regulatory framework in place	7 000 Co-financing /resource mobiliza – tion: 70000	35 000 Co-financing /resource mobil.: 250000	30 000 Co-financing/res. mobil.: 150000	72 000 Co-financing / resource mobiliza – tion: 470000
		Training of Belarusian specialists	by 2010 training needs analyzed; by 2011 training modules developed and number of specialist trained, by 2012 number of persons trained and number of institutions involved; gender parity of trainings' participants				
		Pilot project	by 2010 pilot project and project site identified and developed proposal; by 2011 resources to implement mobilized and implementation started; by 2012 pilot project fully under implementation; gender parity of trainings' participants				
		Outreach and dissemination	by 2011 pilot activities launched; by 2012 lessons learnt and good practices developed and disseminated, number of target groups reached.				
		Research projects to strengthen the role of science in decision-making and ensure good science-informed participatory and collaborative management	by 2010 research projects identified and developed, number of experts participated, number of institutions involved; by 2011 collaborative mechanism in place, number of projects under implementation, by 2012 number of projects implemented, number of participatory interventions and cross-sectoral agreements set up. memorandum of cooperation.				

UNESCO programme component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Output targets and indicators	Indicative Resources by programme component (per year, US\$)			
				2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
	3.1.2. The use of renewable energy sources supported	Educational programmes on renewable energy; training materials and publications on renewable energy;	by 2010 educational needs analyzed and outlines of educational programme drafted and discussed; by 2011 number of training materials and publications available for dissemination, by 2012 number of materials developed and dissemination strategy set up	15 000 (incl. HQ) Co-financing /resource mobilizat.: 45000	15 000 (incl. HQ) Co-financing /resource mobil.: 700000	20 000 (incl. HQ) Co-financ. /resource mobiliz.: 50000	50 000 (incl. HQ) Co-financing /resource mobiliza – tion: 165000
		Network of leading scientists from different scientific and educational centers focused on renewable energy and initiation of a sub-regional clearing-house mechanism	by 2010 TOR for network developed, number of leading scientists invited to participate, number of centers identified and cooperative framework drafted; by 2011 work programmes for centers set-up and implemented, by 2012 clearing-house mechanism in place				
		Pilot project (s).	by 2010 pilot project and project site identified and developed proposal; by 2011 resources to implement mobilized and implementation started; by 2012 pilot project fully under implementation.				
3.2. National capacity to protect and use the country's biological diversity in a sustainable way enhanced	3.2.1. Biodiversity concerns are integrated into the territorial planning policies and practices	Legal and regulatory framework;	number of institutions and sectors participated in the preparation and development of legal and regulatory framework, by 2010 outlines for framework elaborated and agreed, by 2011 draft of framework developed and discussed by sectors concerned; by 2012 legal and regulatory framework in place.	20000 (incl. HQ) Co-financing/ resource mobilizat.: 20000	15000 (incl. HQ) Co-financing /resource mobilizat.: 250000	25000 (incl. HQ) Co- financing resource mobiliz.: 150000	60000 (incl. HQ) Co-financing/ resource mobiliza- tion: 420000
		Training of Belarusian specialists;	by 2010 training needs analyzed; by 2011 training modules developed and number of specialist trained, by 2012 number of persons trained and number of institutions involved; gender parity of trainings' participants				

UNESCO programme component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Output targets and indicators	Indicative Resources by programme component (per year, US\$)			
				2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
		Pilot projects;	by 2010 pilot project and project site identified and developed proposal; by 2011 resources to implement mobilized and implementation started; by 2012 pilot project fully under implementation.				
		Outreach and dissemination.	by 2011 pilot activities launched; by 2012 lessons learnt and good practices developed and disseminated, number of target groups reached.				
		Established biosphere reserves. to address current emerging	by 2010 at least of 75% of biosphere reserves proposed interventions and agreed actions to address those challenges; numbers of sectors and relevant decision makes involved in process, by 2011 number of consultative and participatory meetings done; number of proposals to cope with challenges developed and resources mobilized; by 2012 number of projects implemented, management plans and mechanisms fully in place).				
	3.2.2 Capacity to establish and manage demonstration sites for sustainable development (biosphere reserves) according to innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development enhanced.	Seminars and training workshops;	by 2010 training needs analyzed, number of thematic papers developed, outlines of training modules and programmes developed, innovative approaches identified, by 2011 a number of seminars and training workshops implemented; number of participants trained, number of sectors, institutions involved, by 2012 number of lessons learnt and best practices shared.	10 000 Co-financing/ resource mobilizat.: 50000	25000 (incl. HQ) Co-financing/ resource mobilizat.: 150000	25000 (inc. HQ Co-financ. / resour. mobiliz: 250000	60 000 Cofinancing / resource mobilization: 450000

UNESCO programme component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Output targets and indicators	Indicative Resources by programme component (per year, US\$)			
				2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
		Frameworks focused on education and awareness on sustainable development (by 2010 education and awareness needs analyzed, by 2011 programmes developed and agreed, target groups identified, resources mobilized, by 2012 frameworks for education and awareness modules in place).	by 2010 education and awareness needs analyzed, by 2011 programmes developed and agreed, target groups identified, resources mobilized, by 2012 frameworks for education and awareness modules in place.				
3.3. Mechanisms for integration of environmental concerns into decision making in Belarus supported	3.3.1. Mechanisms of cross-sectoral cooperation and partnerships towards sustainable development developed.	Consultative meetings and trainings	number of meetings, number of sectors involved, number of experts participated, gender parity of meetings' participants, number of final documents agreed	15000 (incl. HQ) Co-financing/ resource mobilizat.: 50000	25000 (incl. HQ) Co-financing/ resource mobilizat.: 300000	25000 (incl. HQ) Co-financ./ resour. mobiliz.: 350000	65 000 Co-financing/ resource mobilization: 700000
		Recommendations to enhance initiatives leading to biodiversity protection and conservation and its sustainable use in order to contribute to global biodiversity agenda fulfillment	by 2010 TOR for task force developing recommendations elaborated and agreed, task force established, number of discussions on preliminary recommendations, number of experts involved and topics identified; by 2011 number of interventions identified, number of studies elaborated, resources mobilized, by 2012 number of sectors agreed on recommendations, number of recommendations reflected in national polices, number of partnerships established.				

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