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

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INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period Council of Europe-Belarus interaction was marked by a “cautious engagement” approach. In September 2012, in its reply to PACE Recommendation 1992 (2012), the Committee of Ministers recalled that its strategic objective remains the integration of Belarus into the Council of Europe on the basis of the Organisation’s values and principles, pursuant to the Declaration of the May 2005 Warsaw Summit. The Committee of Ministers also reiterated its call on the Belarusian authorities to take full advantage of their participation in Council of Europe’s co-operation mechanisms as a stronger involvement of Belarus in the common European legal space through commitment to its standards can only be of benefit to the Belarusian people.

As reported to the Deputies on 10 October 2012, the Secretary General met in September 2012 with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Mr Vladimir Makei at the margins of the UN General Assembly session. A similar meeting took place in September 2013, which gave an opportunity to take stock of the developments since September 2012. The Deputies were informed by the Secretary General about this meeting on 9 October 2013.

During both meetings the Secretary General reaffirmed that the Council of Europe’s long term goal is to see Belarus becoming a full member of the Organisation and reiterated that no progress can be achieved until Belarus takes into account the different recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly, starting with the liberation of all political prisoners and a moratorium on the death penalty. The Minister confirmed that the Belarusian authorities intend to take steps to align itself with Council of Europe standards and expressed the intention of Belarus to improve and to strengthen its co-operation with the Organisation. Belarus has continued to express its interest in joining some of the CoE conventions.

At their 1161st meeting of 5 February 2013, the Ministers’ Deputies approved the programme of Council of Europe activities for Belarus for the period 2012-2013 (ODG Prog/INF(2012)13REV) and instructed the Secretariat to implement the programme of activities and to report back to their Rapporteurs Group on Democracy (GR DEM) in due course.

Further to the Committee of Ministers’ decision, the Council of Europe Secretariat prepared a “Progress Review Report” on the implementation of the Council of Europe activities for Belarus in 2012-2013 (ODGProg/INF(2013)19). The present Progress Report provides information on the major developments that have occurred during the evaluation period in relation to Belarus, as well as detailed information on the results and achievements of the co-operation activities and projects implemented by the Council of Europe during the period January 2012 – October 2013.

The review of the Council of Europe activities for Belarus is structured around the Organisation’s three operational pillars: Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Democracy, featuring statutory and convention-based activities, co-operation activities and projects implemented in the framework of the Council of Europe Eastern Partnership Facility. The report also reviews activities organised, implemented and supported by the Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk.

The assessment of the statutory and convention-based activities includes the participation of Belarus in different Council of Europe organs and conventions such as GRECO and the European Cultural Convention as well as Ad hoc and Steering Committees (such as CAHDI and CAHAMA) meetings.

The Progress Report includes a comprehensive assessment of the co-operation activities and their implementation results in the priority areas as outlined by the Committee of Ministers in the documents DPA/Inf(2011)08, DPA/(2012)06 and discussed during the GR-DEM meetings of 17 April and 5 July 2012. These are notably the abolition of the death penalty, independent media, civil society and human rights, culture and youth.

The activities are focused on raising awareness of CoE standards and practices, promoting and developing contacts between the CoE and Belarusian partners through a combination of expert advice, conference-type events, workshops, publications, and study visits.

With regard to the Council of Europe Eastern Partnership Facility (a CoE/EU Programme), the report provides an assessment of two Council of Europe Facility thematic projects the "Fight against corruption" and the "Fight against cybercrime" in which Belarus participates on a regular basis.

The activities organised, implemented and supported by the Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk are presented under the sub-chapter "CoE Information Point". It is important to note that most of the activities of the IP took place in Minsk after a long break. The most significant events such as the round table on "Religion and Death Penalty" touched upon a number of core issues for the CoE. Events organised through the IP involved participation of experts, officials and civil society, including youth.

Highlighted activities implemented during the course of 2012-2013 are presented below. A full list of events which took place during the reporting period is appended (Appendix 1).

Funding of co-operation activities included in the Council of Europe's activities for Belarus has been provided through a variety of financial sources, including the Council of Europe's Ordinary Budget, Council of Europe/European Union Joint Programmes and Voluntary Contributions (VCs). A summary financial table is provided in Appendix 2.

I. CONVENTIONS, PARTIAL AGREEMENTS, STEERING COMMITTEES AND OTHER STATUTORY ACTIVITIES

Conventions

1. As a State Party to the Council of Europe's instruments against corruption, Belarus participates in the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO). Representatives of Belarus in GRECO – through their regular participation in plenary meetings - are familiarising themselves with GRECO's *modus operandi*, as well as its approach towards preventing and fighting corruption in connection with the four thematic Evaluation Rounds. The Joint First and Second Round Evaluation Report on Belarus was adopted by GRECO on 22 June 2012. By 31 December 2013, Belarus will have to submit a situation report on the measures taken in response to GRECO's recommendations.
2. Belarus is a signatory to the European Cultural Convention, and thus participates on a regular basis in Steering Committees and other actions in the fields of education, culture, heritage and youth.
3. As a party to the Anti-Doping Convention, Belarus participates in the ad hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA) and other actions in the field of sport.

4. Belarus became a contracting party to the Bern Convention in June 2013 and participated in setting-up the Emerald Network – an international network of areas of special conservation interest (ASCI) whose creation was agreed by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in 1989. According to the “Calendar for the Implementation of the Emerald Network 2011-2020”, adopted by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention in 2011, Belarus should complete Phase II of the Emerald Network process by 2015.

5. On 12 January 2012, Belarus was invited to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197) which was ratified by the Belarussian authorities on 26 November 2013.

6. In the letter dated 21 February 2011, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus informed the Secretary General of his country’s interest in joining the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (CETS No. 185), the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (CETS No. 121) and by the letter of 6 September 2012, the Treaty Office informed the Representation of the Republic of Belarus about the position of the Council of Europe member States regarding the possible accession of Belarus to these two Conventions. By the letter dated 14 March 2013, the Minister for Foreign affairs of Belarus informed the Secretary General of his country’s interest in joining the Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (CETS No. 211).

Intergovernmental Committees and Partial Agreements

7. Belarus participated in the Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE) and in the meetings of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, as a party to the Council of Europe/UNESCO Lisbon Recognition Convention (ETS 165), in addition to attending the ENIC Network (European Network of Information Centres) annual meeting.

8. Belarus attended the first meeting of the new Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), the European Steering Committee on Youth as well as the 2013 plenary session.

9. Belarus is at present an Observer to the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and its subordinate bodies as well as to the European Committee on legal co-operation (CDCJ) and attends the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMCI).

10. On 3 July 2013, the Committee of Ministers agreed to accede to the request by Belarus for observer status with the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI). Belarus attended the CAHDI session in September 2013.

11. Belarus continues to be an Associate member of the Venice Commission.

Statutory activities

12. In the field of local self-government, the Belarussian associations “The Lev Sapieha Foundation” (independent) and “The Council for co-operation among local authorities” (depending from the higher chamber of Parliament) hold the status of Observer with the Congress of Local and Regional authorities of the Council of Europe and regularly attend the plenary Sessions of the Congress.

13. The President of the Congress Chamber of Local Authorities and the President of the Chamber of Regions visited Minsk from the 24th to the 27th September 2013 in order to discuss the organisation of a roundtable on the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

II. CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

14. During the reporting period, the Council of Europe co-operation activities for Belarus were implemented in the priority co-operation areas as outlined by the Committee of Ministers in the documents DPA/Inf (2011) 08, DPA/(2012) 06 and defined in the document "Council of Europe activities for Belarus in 2012-2013" (ODG Prog/INF(2012)13REV), adopted by the Committee of Ministers on its 1161st meeting on 5 February 2013.

15. The activities focused on raising awareness of CoE standards and practices among, professional groups, public authorities, academia, youth and civil society. Involving a participatory approach to implementation, activities helped to further promote Council of Europe standards and to develop contacts between the CoE and Belarusian partners.

16. Through a combination of expert advice, conference-type events, workshops, publications, study visits, the CoE intervention achieved important results (see Appendix 1 for a detailed list), including the following highlights:

Human Rights

17. A Roundtable on "Religion and Death Penalty" was organised in Minsk in June 2013. The event gathered some 50 participants with a comprehensive participation of national actors involved in the discussion on the moratorium or abolition of the death penalty: representatives of religious authorities of the Republic of Belarus; representatives from bodies of the executive and juridical power of the Republic of Belarus and Parliament, academia and NGOs. Representatives of the international community, including ambassadors from EU and other States actively participated in the event. A strong call by Metropolitan Filaret of Belarus was made for the abolition of the death penalty. The Round table continued to advance further the discussion on the abolition of the death penalty in Belarus.

18. In the field of human rights, the CoE activities contributed to raising awareness among legal practitioners and civil society activists in Belarus on the ECHR standards regarding criminal procedure. The book, "Criminal Procedure under the European Convention on Human Rights", was published and presented to a large audience at a round table in Minsk in April 2013.

19. CoE co-operation with civil society in Belarus continued on a regular basis, e.g. through visits by Belarus NGO representatives to the CoE and seminars for civil society representatives. In this respect, the CoE organised visits of representatives of Belarusian NGOs during PACE sessions as well as the training of human rights defenders and civil society representatives on the promotion and protection of human rights and on the international mechanism available to protect human rights (notably the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights).

20. Thematic meetings of the Civil Society Communication Platform were organised on the state of the Belarusian civil society, the role of mass media and the internet, emigration of civil society activists and the participation of Belarusian civil society in European activities. The co-operation in the field of civil society contributed to creating a space for non-party NGOs to identify issues of common interest, develop new strategies and consolidate their actions.

21. A training course on basic ECHR standards was organised by the CoE for Belarusian students in co-operation with the European Humanities University. The training course helped to consolidate students' knowledge of the ECHR legal standards and mechanisms. The course curriculum included such topics as the introduction to the ECHR, admissibility criteria at the ECtHR, freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of assembly, and the right to a fair trial. The journal "Constitutionalism and Human Rights" was developed in co-operation with the European Humanities University.

22. A training programme for Belarusian lawyers and civil society, "Advocacy and Human Rights", implemented by Human Rights House Network, was held annually in the framework of the HELP Programme to sustain the capacity of Belarusian lawyers to use international human rights protection instruments in their work and to strengthen the lawyers' community in Belarus.

Democracy

23. Visits of Belarusian journalists to Strasbourg were organised by the CoE Secretariat on a regular basis during PACE sessions to disseminate information to Belarusian media on current developments and provide contacts with interlocutors at the Council of Europe.

24. The Council of Europe activities carried out in the field of education and culture contributed to ensuring compliance by Belarus with the provisions of the European Cultural Convention, to raise awareness on the current trends in the field of education, to equip education professionals from Belarus with European teaching methodologies and standards, and to improve access to the Council of Europe guidelines and materials for decision makers and education professionals.

25. In this context, the Minister of Education of Belarus, Mr Sergei Maskevich, participated in the 24th Session of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education on 26-27 April 2013 in Helsinki. The final Declaration adopted on that occasion constitutes a reference document to ensure access to an education of quality. The Belarusian Minister furthermore backed the creation of a Europe-wide platform to tackle corruption and fraud in education and an ethical code for teachers.

26. The Belarusian Ministry of Education participated in the Seminar on Youth Mobility (a CDEJ activity/Andorran CM Chairmanship) in Andorra on 27 February – 1 March 2013 and the Seminar on Youth Employability and Mobility (MFA representative) for the Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe organised in Strasbourg by the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card and the EYCA (European Youth Card Association).

27. The thematic seminars contributed to raising the Belarusian authorities' awareness of the services and opportunities the youth card provides, which prompted the application of a Belarusian organisation to join the European Youth Card Association. This step could be followed by an application to join the Partial Agreement.

28. Since 2012, teachers and teacher trainers from Belarus regularly participate in the training activities of the Pestalozzi Programme - the Council of Europe training programme for educational professionals. The training activities provided support to equip education professionals from Belarus with European teaching methodologies and standards.

29. Representatives of Belarus participated in the activities related to the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7) which contributed to greater awareness of: current trends in the field of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education; Council of Europe standards ("the Charter"); Council of Europe guidelines and materials for decision makers and education professionals; and to on-going peer-to-peer learning among decision-makers and education professionals.

30. The manual "Compass" was translated in Belarusian language and will be soon made available to youth leaders and teachers in Belarus. The publication will support the promotion of CM Recommendation (2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Belarus.

31. The Belarus School of Political Studies (SPS) which opened in January 2008 continued its activities for Belarus, although the authorities still refuse official registration and thus recognition of the School. The SPS aims to foster a new generation of Belarusian leaders in the political, economic, social, cultural and environmental fields, to promote the values of pluralism, diversity and open dialogue, and to develop a modern political culture among the future Belarus leaders.

CoE/EU Eastern Partnership Facility 2011-2013

32. Belarus is a participating country of the CoE/EU Eastern Partnership Facility 2011-2013 which includes thematic projects in the fields of elections, judiciary, the fight against corruption and cybercrime. Belarus clearly indicated its interest to participate in two of the Facility's themes: the "Fight against corruption" and the "Fight against cybercrime" projects.

33. In the field of the fight against corruption, the activities, implemented at regional and country levels, including Belarus, contributed to enhancing good governance and to strengthening the capacities of the public administration and criminal justice sector to effectively prevent and fight corruption in line with Council of Europe standards, while also addressing specific needs of Belarus.

34. Representatives of Belarus were involved in the drafting a regional study on laundering the proceeds of corruption in the Eastern Partnership countries by providing information (on anonymous basis) on cases and trends in Belarus, and offered to host a regional conference to present the study to a wider public in Minsk on 22-23 November 2013.

35. A report on the risks of corruption in the Belarusian civil service is being prepared following the desk review of legislation and meetings with relevant government institutions and civil society representatives in Minsk. The report will be included in the regional risk assessment study on the underlying causes of corruption in the Eastern Partnership countries and will be presented at the Project's Closing Conference.

36. In the field of the fight against cybercrime, a report on criminal justice capabilities on cybercrime and electronic evidence in EAP countries, including Belarus, was completed. An assessment report on progress made in the field of fight against cybercrime was drafted and peer-to-peer visit took place in Belarus. The report is expected to be adopted by the end of 2013. As study on Article 15 safeguards (Convention on Cybercrime) covering also Belarus was completed. Advice was provided to EAP countries, including Belarus, on specialised cybercrime units. It should be noted that Belarus is the only EAP country not party to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

37. With regard to the projects on "Elections" and "Judicial reform", during the course of 2012 and 2013 the Belarusian authorities consistently nominated for participation in these projects persons appearing on the EU ban list, making *de facto* their participation in these activities impossible so far.

38. The CoE has pleaded in favour of the regular involvement of Belarusian NGOs in the activities of the CoE Eastern Partnership Facility, notably in the election and judicial components, and invited representatives of the Belarusian civil society to attend some activities organised in the framework of these projects.

III. COUNCIL OF EUROPE INFORMATION POINT

39. The CoE Information Point (IP) in Minsk organised and provided support to 33 CoE activities in Belarus. The following areas of CoE activities were covered, in particular: Council of Europe-Belarus co-operation, a moratorium on or the abolition of the death penalty, criminal law procedure and human rights, students' initiatives and student governance, co-operation against cybercrime, trafficking in human beings, intercultural dialogue, action against corruption, gender equality and human rights education. Approximately 1000 participants took part in those activities, in which active participation was encouraged (e.g. lectures, round tables, conferences). The IP distributed regularly CoE information material amongst students, participants of the activities and visitors.

40. The Information Point website (<http://www.en.coe.bsu.by/>) is operational and is regularly updated on the web platform of the Belarusian State University, main partner of the project.

OVERVIEW OF RESOURCE MOBILISATION

41. Funding of co-operation activities implemented during the period 2012-2013 was provided through a variety of financial sources (Council of Europe Ordinary Budget, Council of Europe/European Union Joint Programmes, as well as Voluntary Contributions).

42. The Council of Europe/European Union Joint Programme – "the Council of Europe Eastern Partnership Facility" - provided financial support to the cooperation activities implemented for Belarus during the reporting period notably in the field of the fight against corruption and cybercrime.

43. During 2012-2013 voluntary contribution receipts amounted to €50,000 for activities specifically earmarked for Belarus in this same period (East European School of Political Studies €40,000 and Strengthening Civil Society €10,000).

APPENDIX 1 SUMMARY TABLE - COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTIVITIES FOR BELARUS 2012-2013

Activity	Place	Main partners	Objective	Results
1. HUMAN RIGHTS				
1.1. Thematic Meetings organised by the Committee of International Control over the situation with human rights in Belarus (CIC) with Belarusian human rights defenders and civil society representatives	Moscow	Committee of International Control, Belarusian human rights defenders	To train human rights defenders and civil society representatives on the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as strengthening a democratic political culture.	- 44 representatives from civil society from Belarus were trained and improved their knowledge on international and European human rights protection mechanisms (1-4 December 2012)
1.2. Publication of a book entitled "Criminal Procedure and Human Rights"	Minsk	Centre for Comparative Legal Studies and Legal Initiative Organisation	To raise awareness among legal practitioners and civil society activists in Belarus on the ECHR standards regarding criminal procedure.	- Publication of "Criminal Procedure under the European Convention on Human Rights" (Coe Publishing, February 2013); Contacts with the Institute for retraining and qualification upgrading of judges, prosecutors and legal professionals at the Belarusian State University were established; - A Round table was attended by legal professionals – lawyers and judges, representatives of the judiciary of Belarus, including the staff of the Registry of the Constitutional Court and the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (15 April 2013)

1.3. ECHR capacity building for the Minsk Collegium of Lawyers and law and international relations students of the Belarusian State University	Minsk	Minsk Collegium of Lawyers and Belarusian State University	To train members of the Minsk Collegium of Lawyers and law and international relations students of the Belarusian State University on ECHR legal standards and mechanisms.	- The activity (seminar) was postponed pending agreement with the Belarusian authorities
1.4. Seminar on selected aspects of the ECHR for legal professionals	Vilnius	Legal Initiative Organisation and Centre for Comparative Legal Studies	To train legal professionals in selected aspects of the ECHR.	- The seminar was postponed to 2014
1.5. Support to the Journal on Constitutionalism and Human Rights	Vilnius	European Humanities University	To support the publication of the law journal "Constitutionalism and Human Rights".	- The academic quarterly journal "Constitutionalism and Human Rights" was published with Council of Europe support. An administrative arrangement with the European Humanities University was signed in January 2013. Two issues of the quarterly journal "Constitutionalism and Human Rights" were published in 2013 (http://www.ehu.lt/en/news/show/first-issue-journal-of-constitutionalism-and-human-rights)
1.6. Support to the programme "Advocacy and Human Rights"	Vilnius	Human Rights House Network (Oslo, Norway)	To provide financial and expert support to the training programme "Advocacy and Human Rights" in order to build the capacity of Belarusian lawyers to use international human rights protection instruments in their work; to strengthen lawyers' community in Belarus.	- A study visit for the "Advocacy and Human Rights" training programme alumni was organised by the Human Rights House Network (HRHN), an Oslo-based NGO, in November 2012; Programme alumni attended a hearing at the ECtHR and met with representatives of major CoE entities; - The HELP distance learning courses was presented to a group of lawyers (including from Belarus) in the framework of the final conference of the HRHN training programme (Vilnius, April 2013)

1.7. Human rights course for the students of European Humanities University	Vilnius	European Humanities University	To train Belarusian students on European human rights standards.	- A 5-day training course on European human rights standards organised by the CoE for Belarusian students at the European Humanities University (Vilnius, 20-24 May 2013). The course was facilitated by a team from Glasgow University and included such topics as the introduction to the ECHR, admissibility criteria at the ECtHR, freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of assembly, right to a fair trial.
1.8. Seminar on Gender Equality	Strasbourg	INGO Conference, Belarusian civil society organisations	To promote gender equality in Belarus and, in particular, the participation of women in decision-making processes.	- The seminar was postponed to 2014
1.9. Update of the book "Abolition of the death penalty in Belarus"	Minsk	Legal Initiative Organisation and Centre for Comparative Legal Studies	To further advance the discussion on the abolition of the death penalty in Belarus.	- The activity was replaced with a roundtable on the abolition of the death penalty (Minsk, 21 June 2013) attended by some 50 participants, including representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Constitutional and Supreme Courts, academia and NGOs, as well as by religious leaders.
2. RULE OF LAW				
2.1. Participation of Belarus in the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)	Strasbourg	The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Belarus	To ensure compliance by Belarus with the Council of Europe anti-corruption standards.	- The Joint 1 st and 2 nd Round Evaluation Report on Belarus was adopted by GRECO on 22 June 2012 (pending authorisation to publish from the authorities, the report remains confidential).
2.2. Visit of Belarusian journalists to the Council of Europe	Strasbourg	Independent journalists in Belarus	To disseminate information to Belarusian media on current developments and provide contacts with interlocutors at the Council of Europe.	- 4 independent Belarusian journalists visited the CoE during the period January-October 2012. The visits contributed to disseminate information to Belarusian media on current developments and provide contacts with interlocutors at the Council of Europe.

2.3. Enhancing judicial reform in the Eastern Partnership countries (CoE Eastern Partnership Facility)	Council of Europe and EaP participating countries	Ministries of Justice of the beneficiary countries, judicial communities	To support and enhance the ongoing process of reform of the judiciary, with a view to increasing the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the judicial systems of the participating beneficiary countries, through intensive information exchange and best practice sharing.	<p>- The analysis of the Law on the Bar and the Practice of Advocacy in the Republic of Belarus was carried out; A report on "The Profession of Lawyer" was prepared and the analysis was appended to the main report. (for detailed information:</p> <p>http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/capacitybuilding/projects/aep_en.asp)</p>
2.4. Good governance and the fight against corruption (CoE Eastern Partnership Facility)	Council of Europe and EaP participating countries	Agencies or agency departments specialised on anti-corruption	To strengthen national capacities of Belarus (along with other members of the Eastern Partnership Initiative) to apply prevention and law enforcement measures in order to enhance their good governance and fight against corruption.	<p>- The participation of representatives from Belarus in the project's regional activities organised increased in the course of 2012-2013. The capacities of the public administration and criminal justice sector to effectively prevent and fight corruption in line with Council of Europe standards were strengthened;</p> <p>- The representatives from Belarus contributed to the drafting of a regional study on laundering the proceeds of corruption in Eastern Partnership countries by providing information on cases and trends of laundering the proceeds of corruption in Belarus;</p> <p>- The preparation of a report on corruption risks in the field of ethics in the civil service in Belarus was launched (for detailed information: http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/eap-facility/corruption_en.asp)</p>
2.5. Co-operation against cybercrime (CoE Eastern Partnership Facility)	Council of Europe and EaP participating countries	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs	To enhance the reform processes in the six partner countries through a multilateral approach and to bring them closer to Council of Europe and EU standards.	<p>- A situation report on criminal justice capabilities on cybercrime and electronic evidence in EaP countries, including Belarus, was completed. An assessment report on progress made was drafted, a peer-to-peer visit took place also in Belarus and the report and strategic priorities are expected to be adopted by the end of 2013. A study on Article 15 safeguards (Convention on Cybercrime) covering also Belarus was drafted. Advice was provided to EaP countries, including Belarus, on specialised cybercrime units. Belarus is familiar</p>

				with judicial and law enforcement training concepts and with financial investigations and law enforcement/Internet service provider cooperation. (for detailed information: http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/eap-facility/cybercrime_en.asp)
3. DEMOCRACY				
3.1. Participation of Belarus in the European Cultural Convention-based Activities	Strasbourg, other European cities	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry for Foreign Affairs	To ensure compliance by Belarus with the provisions of the European Cultural Convention.	- The Minister of Education of Belarus, Mr Sergei Maskevich, participated in the 24th Session of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education (Helsinki, 26-27 April 2013); - A Belorussian representative from the Ministry of Education participated in the Seminar on Youth Mobility (Andorra, 27 February – 1 March 2013).
3.2. Participation of education professionals from Belarus in the training activities offered by the Pestalozzi Programme	Minsk	National liaison office (NLO) of the Pestalozzi Programme in Belarus	To equip education professionals from Belarus with European teaching methodologies and standards.	- Belarusian representatives attended Pestalozzi training activities. Information on European teaching methodologies and standards was disseminated (seminar on 7 September 2013. NLO networking was reinforced (meeting in November 2012). - Cooperation with other countries was improved under the umbrella of the Pestalozzi Programme. A workshop in cooperation on inclusive schools and an international workshop in Belarus on the use of new media in education were organised (in the course of 2012-2013).
3.3. Participation of representatives of Belarus in the activities related to the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on	Belarus, Strasbourg	Ministry of Education	To raise awareness of the Council of Europe Charter, and to facilitate exchange and co-operation between Belarus and the Council of Europe member states in the field of citizenship and human rights education.	- The access to the Council of Europe guidelines and materials for decision makers and education professionals was improved. Awareness on the current trends in the field of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education, including the Council of Europe standards (the Charter) was raised (5 July 2013, 11-12 September)

education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7)				
3.4. Compendium Cultural Policy Information and Monitoring System	Belarus; Bonn (Germany), Strasbourg and Council of Europe member states	Ministry of Culture of Belarus; Independent experts	To include Belarus in a Council of Europe cultural co-operation programme; to generate knowledge about cultural policy and practice in Belarus in the form of a country profile; to enhance policy reform by offering European cultural policy models and standards from 45 participating countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An agreement between the Ministry of Culture of Belarus and the CoE on the promotion of the Compendium cultural policy profile was signed in 2012; - Participation of representatives from Belarus in the <u>regional activities</u> organised in the course of 2012-2013 was increased.
3.5. Completing the constitution of the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention	Belarus (the whole territory of the country)	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection through the NGO "Ecological Initiative", appointed as the technical implementing organisation	To complete the setting-up of the Emerald Network of protected areas, thus assisting Parties to fulfil their commitments under both the Bern Convention (article 4) and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A kick-off meeting gathered representatives of the Ministries of Environment, Emerald team members and NGOs from Belarus (Kyiv, 24-26 April 2013). The delegation from Belarus proposed to increase the number of areas joining the Emerald Network on their territory, including proposal on further improving trans-border cooperation in protected areas conservation with Ukraine; Belarus started the implementation of scientific work towards the identification of additional potential Emerald sites and is expected to submit a final Emerald sites' database by the end of 2013.

3.6. Civil society capacity building through small grants and technical advice	Belarus	NGOs outside Minsk	To support local NGOs in advancing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Belarus	- 8 pilot projects were implemented in Belarus in the course of 2012-2013 with the financial support of the European Youth Foundation. The projects contributed to supporting local NGOs in advancing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Belarus.
3.7. Training Course for Trainers and Multipliers in Human Rights Education with young people	Minsk, Belarus (and across Belarus territory during the follow-up phase)	VIT, the NGO responsible for translation of the "Compass" manual into Belarusian, Republican Youth Organisation "UNESCO Clubs"	To support local NGOs in developing and implementing Human Rights Education programmes, protection of human rights	- The course will be implemented in 2014.
3.8. Publication and launching of the Compass Manual in Belarusian language	Minsk and across Belarus	VIT – NGO responsible for the translation of Compass in Belarusian; Human Rights Education Youth Network	To publish the translation of the Compass Manual on Human Rights Education with young people, to distribute it among youth organisations in Belarus and to organise a launching event	- The Compass Manual on human rights education with young people is currently being translated and will be made available to youth leaders and teachers in Belarus; The publication will contribute to promoting CM Recommendation (2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.

3.9. Meetings of the Civil Society Communication Platform on "The state of Civil Society in Belarus"	Vilnius, Warsaw, Kyiv and Belarus	National Civil Society Platform of the Eastern Partnership and other Belarusian NGOs, platforms and civil society networks	To create a space for non-party NGOs to identify issues of common interest, develop new strategies and consolidate their actions	- The project's activities, attended by over 165 participants contributed to creating a space for non-party NGOs to develop new strategies and consolidate actions, facilitating networking with representatives of civil society in the neighbouring countries and with INGOs (14-15 June and 26-27 October 2013 in Warsaw).
3.10. Developing a democratic political culture through seminars, conferences and the alumni network of the East European School of Political Studies	Warsaw, Kyiv, Lviv, Budapest and Strasbourg	East European School of Political Studies (EESPS)	To further develop a democratic political culture among young professionals and civil society activists in Belarus	- The activities during the period 2012-2013 contributed to fostering a new generation of Belarus leaders in the political, economic, social, cultural and environmental fields. The values of pluralism, diversity and open dialogue, developing a modern political culture among future Belarus leaders were promoted.
3.11. Participation of Belarusian civil society representatives at the PACE and INGO sessions, and major Council of Europe events	Strasbourg	Belarusian NGOs	To exchange first-hand information between Belarusian civil society representatives and the Council of Europe and to involve them in Council of Europe debates	- Civil society representatives from Belarus attended PACE sessions and the INGO Conference in 2012-2013, leading to a greater awareness of Council of Europe standards and activities providing the CoE with insight on the situation in Belarus and expectations of Belarusian civil society.

3.12. Local Democracy in Belarus	Strasbourg and other CoE member states	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Council for Co-operation of Local Self-Government Bodies in Belarus	To raise awareness of the European Charter of Local Self-Government among the national authorities, local authorities and civil society in Belarus; to share the European experience on the implementation of the Charter; to provide an assessment of the compliance of Belarus legislation and draft legislation with CoE standards in the field of local democracy	- The President of the Chamber of Local Authorities and the President of the Chamber of Regions visited Minsk in order to discuss the organization of a roundtable on the European Charter of Local Self-Government and further co-operation (Minsk, 24-27 September 2013)
3.13. Support free and fair elections	Council of Europe and EaP participating countries	Electoral administration, Civil society	To ensure the effective implementation of the principles of the European electoral heritage, relying notably on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, involving both competent authorities and civil society	- A handbook for domestic election observers from EAP countries was developed and serves as a guide on the modalities of application of international standards in daily work and during the election cycle. The handbook was officially presented at the final meeting of the NGO platform to be held in November 2013 in Vilnius; -A Report on women in politics in Belarus was drafted and officially presented at a high level Conference on women participation in politics in Chisinau on 10 December 2013; Belorussian NGOs attended project activities (Human Rights Centre "Viasna" and Belarussian Helsinki Committee 'RHRPA). (for detailed information: http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/eap-facility/elections_en.asp)

4. INFORMATION POINT				
4.1. Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk	Minsk	Belarus State University	To promote awareness in Belarus of the Council of Europe, its standards, mechanisms and activities	- The CoE Information Point (IP) in Minsk organised and provided support to 33 CoE activities in the country (as of 30 November 2013). The following areas of CoE activities have been covered in particular: Council of Europe-Belarus co-operation, moratorium or abolition of death penalty, criminal procedure and human rights, students' initiatives and student governance, co-operation against cybercrime, trafficking in human beings, intercultural dialogue, fight against corruption, gender equality and human rights education. An approximate total number of 1000 persons took part in those activities which were of a participatory character (e.g. lectures, round tables, conferences). The IP distributed regularly information material amongst students, participants of the activities and visitors of the Information Point. For the full of activities please see document DPA/Inf (2013) 8 and the Information Point website at: http://www.en.coe.bsu.by/

APPENDIX 2 FINANCIAL TABLES

Total number of activities/projects: 30

Total budget: € 1 751 877

Funding secured: € 1 094 877

Table 1

Type of Activity/ project	OB	EU/Council of Europe JPs	VC¹	Total funds secured
National	218 842		50 035	268 877
Regional/ Multilateral		826 000		826 000
TOTAL	218 842	826 000	50 035	1 094 877

Table 2

Pillars	Total funds secured
1. Human rights	78 000
2. Rule of law	476 000
3. Democracy	464 877
4. Information Point	76 000
	1 094 877

¹ Receipts in 2012 and 2013 for this same period.