

Free Belarus University

This is a unique educational initiative, launched in 2017 with the support of 59 outstanding representatives of Belarusian science, culture, media, and public life.

FBU educates a new elite — leaders of change and reform, who will contribute to the building of a democratic Belarus.

We offer modern online postgraduate programs designed especially for those who wish to gain knowledge and competences at a European level.



Ministry of Science and Higher Education
Republic of Poland



Co-funded by
the European Union



Uniwersytet
Wrocławski

Council of the Free Belarus University



Svetlana Alexievich,
Nobel Prize laureate in
literature



Aleś Bialacki,
Chair of the Human Rights
Centre "Viasna", Nobel Peace
Prize laureate, political prisoner



Andželika Borys,
Chairperson of the Union of
Poles in Belarus, former
political prisoner



Mikołaj Iwanow,
Professor, Doctor of History, former
Soviet dissident



Stanislaŭ Šuškievič (1934-2022),
Professor, Doctor of Physical and
Mathematical Sciences, first leader of
independent Belarus (1991-1994)

FBU Management

Chancellor of WUB **Alaksandr Milinkievič**

Associate professor, PhD in physics with a specialization in quantum electronics, laureate of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought awarded by the European Parliament, advisor to Šviatlana Tsikhanouskaya on European affairs.



Program Director **Aleś Lahviniec**

MA in political science, instructor, civic activist, translator.



The goal of the Free Belarus University is to foster a broad, pro-reform Belarusian elite in cooperation with Western universities, drawing on the reform experiences of Central and Eastern European countries and using modern educational technologies.

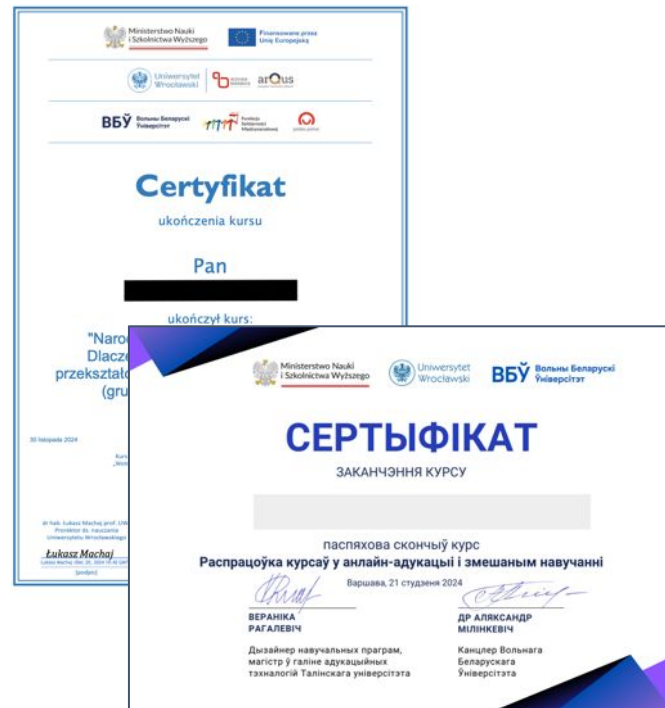
The strategic objective of the FBU is to create a Belarusian digital university.

The Free Belarus University operates as a provider of European distance education programs, adapting courses to the needs of Belarusian students based on systematic sociological research of the target group.

The primary language of instruction is Belarusian. Selected courses are also offered in Polish, English, French and Russian.

Participation in FBU programs is free of charge. The university's activities are funded through scholarship grants awarded to students as part of projects supported by the European Commission and the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

FBU graduates receive diplomas, certificates, and ECTS credits granted by partner Polish universities based on signed cooperation agreements.





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Academic Partners: University of Wrocław, University of Warsaw, University of Łódź, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Higher School of Management Personnel in Konin, Civitas University, as well as professors from Florida Atlantic University, Tallinn University, University of Bordeaux, Tallinn University of Technology, and Linköping University.



UNIwersytet
IM. ADAMA MICKIEWICZA
W POZNANIU



Civitas
University



TALLINN UNIVERSITY





Ministry of Science and Higher Education
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Project Partners: The FBU project has received support from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Berlin), Polish-American Freedom Foundation (Warsaw), Leaders of Change Foundation (Warsaw), European Endowment for Democracy (EED, Brussels), International Solidarity Foundation (Warsaw), School of Leadership Foundation, Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Poland and Estonia, British Embassy in Minsk, Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland, European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education, European Parliament Delegation for relations with Belarus and the European Commission.



POLSKO-AMERYKAŃSKA
FUNDACJA WOLNOŚCI



FUNDACJA
LIDERZY
PRZEMIAN

EUROPEAN
ENDOWMENT OF DEMOCRACY



Fundacja
Solidarności
Międzynarodowej



SZKOŁA
LIDERÓW



Ministerstwo
Spraw Zagranicznych



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



British Embassy
Minsk



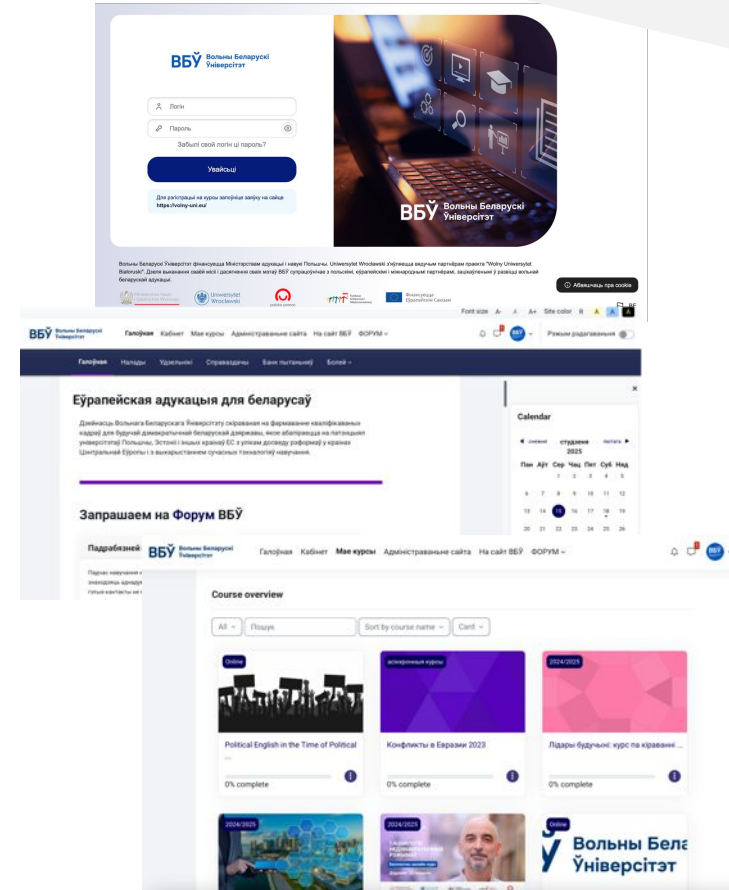
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polska pomoc

Free Belarus University today

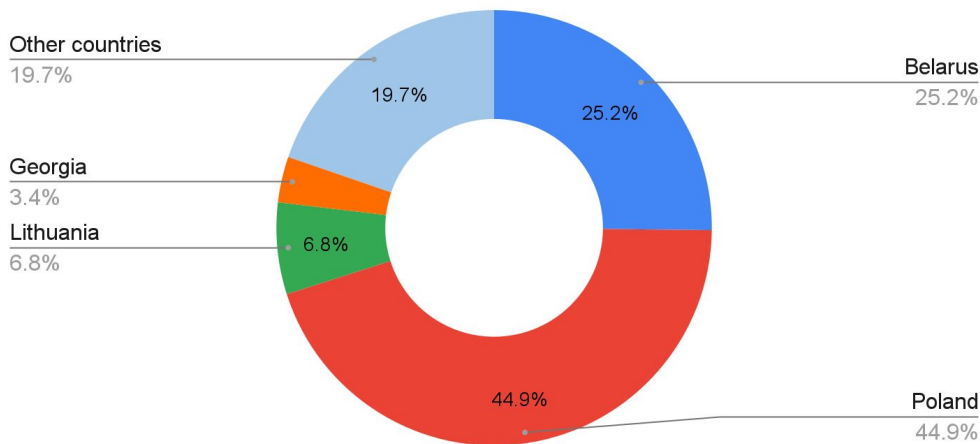
- **International team of instructors**
over 70 lecturers and 28 experts from 8 countries
- **Global learning community**
over 900 graduates and around 1,300 online course participants from 30 countries
- **Modern educational platform**
inclusive and cross-border LMS Moodle with over 60 postgraduate online learning modules



Participants of the FBU courses – where are they from?

Belarusians living in Poland – about 45%. Belarusians residing in Belarus – over 25%. The remaining participants – from the diaspora across more than 30 countries.

Distribution of FBU course students by location



Other countries:

Armenia	Italy
Austria	Kenya
Belgium	Latvia
Brazil	Mexico
Bulgaria	Montenegro
Canada	Portugal
Cyprus	Russia
Czech Republic	Spain
Estonia	Sweden
France	Switzerland
Germany	Ukraine
Greece	USA
Israel	Vietnam

FBU is built by Belarusians worldwide — beyond borders.

22 Online FBU Courses in 2024

Aimed at preparing future reformers of Belarus and supporting the integration of Belarusian emigrants.

→ **Economy and Entrepreneurship**

- Global Mini MBA – Small Business Management
- Business Presentations

→ **Public and NGO Management**

- Mini MPA – Introduction to Public Institution Management
- Future Leaders

→ **Project and Team Management**

- Project Management + IPMA Exam Preparation
- Team Management

22 Online FBU Courses in 2024

Aimed at preparing future reformers of Belarus and supporting the integration of Belarusian emigrants.

→ **Historical memory and national identity of Belarusians**

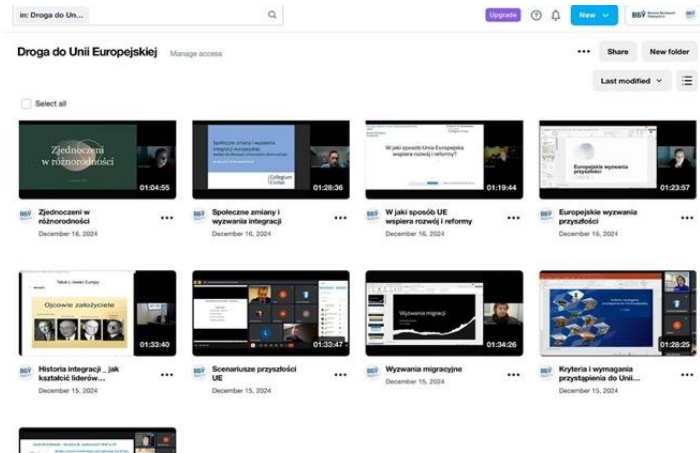
- The birth of the Belarusian Leviathan – why did parliamentary democracy turn into personalist dictatorship?
- Belarus: between democracy and totalitarianism – was the 20th century the last bloody one in human history?
- Foreign policy of Belarus
- Sociology of non-democratic regimes – an ethnographic approach
- Conflicts in the Eurasian space

22 Online FBU Courses in 2024

Aimed at preparing future reformers of Belarus and supporting the integration of Belarusian emigrants.

→ Courses on European integration and implementation of European standards

- Integration processes and institutions of the European Union
- Poland's path to the European Union
- The European system of human rights protection



FBU connects the past, the present, and the future — we educate to build a free Belarus.

FBU Forum – a space for exchanging ideas and inspiration

A meeting platform for students, alumni, lecturers, and experts.

Partner: Belsat TV – broadcasting and promoting Forum events.

21 online events in 2024

- 728 live participants
- tens of thousands of YouTube views
- highlights published on social



Special Guests of the FBU Forum

- Aleksander Kwaśniewski – former President of Poland
- Krzysztof Zanussi – film director, philosopher, cultural figure
- Leszek Balcerowicz – economist, architect of Poland's economic reforms
- Światłana Alexievich – writer, Nobel Prize laureate in literature
- along with many other prominent experts and intellectuals from Poland and across Europe

FBU Forum – a meeting place for those who think about a free and independent Belarus.



Free Belarus Journal – the new academic journal of FBU

Launched in 2024 as an innovative platform for scholarly publications focused on the analysis of the current situation, transformation processes, and visions for the future of Belarus.

Goals of Free Belarus Journal

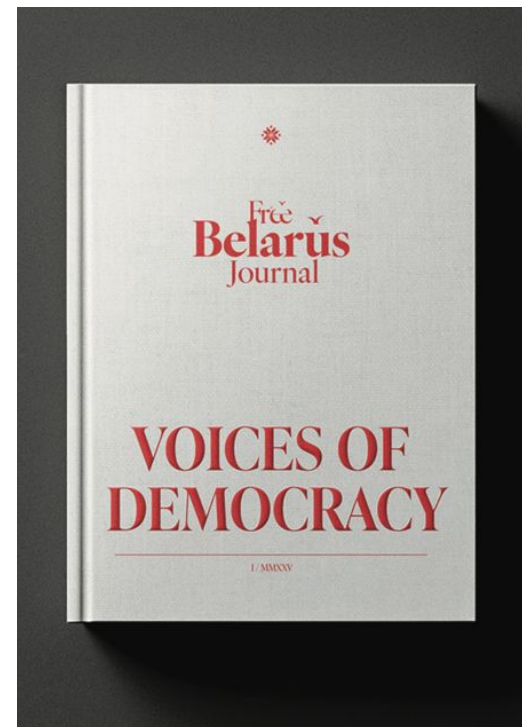
- To create a space for free academic thought, independent analysis, and scholarly reflection
- To support knowledge exchange between researchers from Belarus and abroad
- To build a foundation of knowledge for a democratic future of Belarus

The logo for the Free Belarus Journal is displayed in a red serif font. The word "Free" is positioned at the top in a smaller size, with a small white bird icon to its right. Below it, the word "Belarus" is written in a larger, bold font, and the word "Journal" is at the bottom in a medium-sized font.

Main thematic areas of the journal

- European perspectives for Belarus
- National, civic, and European identity of Belarusians
- Economy and governance – in a regional and European context
- Theoretical foundations for training and retraining public officials – in the context of a post-dictatorship country

Knowledge as a tool for change – for a free and European Belarus.



19th Polish-Belarusian Scientific and Practical Round Table

"Education and Science in Belarus Facing the Challenge of Democratic Transformation. The Polish Experience".

December 11, 2024. Institute of International and Security Studies,
University of Wrocław.

Objectives of the event

- To explore Poland's experience with higher education reform in the post-authoritarian period
- To foster integration between the Polish and Belarusian academic communities
- To exchange information on research areas and educational activities at home and abroad

Participants

- Over 30 scholars from Poland and Belarus
- Representatives of universities, research institutes, and expert communities

Post-conference publication

A scientific publication featuring selected papers presented during the Round Table is planned for 2025.



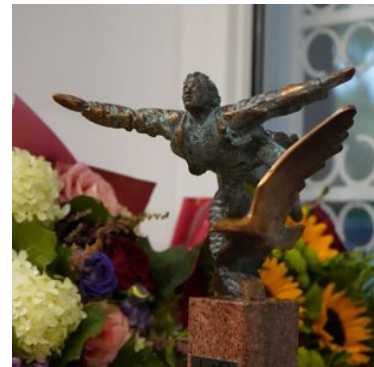
Vasil Bykau Award

“For Freedom of Thought”

Award Ceremony: October 3, 2024.

The award has been revived after a break.

- Established in 2008
- Inspired by the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought awarded by the European Parliament, which was granted to Alaksandr Milinkevič in 2006
- The goal of the award is to honour Belarusians who fight for freedom of speech, thought, and conscience



Award's Mission

- Strengthening the memory of civic and democratic values
- Promoting intellectual independence and civil courage
- Building a symbolic bridge between Belarus and Europe's heritage of freedom



The revival of the award in 2024 is a powerful signal of continued struggle for freedom and the need to honor independent voices in times of political repression.

New FBU Program for Repressed Scholars from Belarus

The program aims to support Belarusian scholars who were forced to relocate due to political repression in continuing their academic careers in Poland.

Key elements of the program

- Possibility to obtain a Polish academic degree (including in the Belarusian language)
- Individual academic and career advising
- Selection of the academic institution for thesis defence
- Competitive scholarships supporting the PhD or habilitation process

Program benefits

- Integration of relocated researchers into the Polish academic community
- Strengthening of Belarus's independent intellectual elite
- Facilitating formal recognition of academic achievements gained in exile

Science knows no borders – we support those who cannot work in their own country.



Thank you for your attention!



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YouTube: @VolnyUniversytet