



STRATEGIC PLAN

2008-2013

As adopted by the EHU Governing Board
on 16 October 2008

The European Humanities University (EHU) is a Belarusian university in exile, based in Vilnius, Lithuania. EHU was founded in Minsk in 1992 and closed by the authorities in 2004. It re-launched activities in Vilnius and was granted the status of a Lithuanian university in 2006.

The Strategic Plan guides the University community in five core areas: education, research, regional impact, international cooperation, and sustainability. In meeting the challenges ahead, the University builds upon its fundamental strengths and focuses development priorities in pursuit of its mission.

1. MISSION

EHU exists to facilitate and deepen the contribution that its students, graduates, and faculty can make to the quality and potential of their own lives and to their respective civil societies. By so doing, they contribute to Belarus and its integration into the European and global community.

2. VISION

EHU will be a European university of high distinction with a special emphasis on Belarus and a commitment to its integration into the global academic community. The University seeks to educate students through the traditions of a liberal education to be creative and humane contributors to and citizens of their respective civil societies.

In doing so, EHU offers high quality education and research based on the best liberal traditions worldwide in an environment free from repression or discrimination of any kind.

As a Belarusian university, EHU should be based in Minsk, as it was during the 12 years before its forced closure. While in Vilnius, the University will contribute to the development of international higher education in the neighboring region, as it pursues the integration of Belarusian academic life within the global university community.

Building on more than 20 years of innovation in higher education, the European Humanities University will, by 2013, be a leader among Central-eastern European institutions of higher learning in the delivery of high quality education and research to meet the changing needs of Belarusian society. EHU will advance the development of intellectual capital within the region and contribute to the maturation of a Belarusian and European identity. Its sustainability will be ensured, and its graduates will possess distinct competence in guiding the integration of Belarus and other societies within the European community.

3. JOURNEY

1992-2004: Building a model of international higher education for Belarus

The quality of its educational programs and the unprecedented structure of its European-oriented academic life enabled EHU to enrich higher education in Belarus long before the adoption of the Bologna Declaration on European Higher Education Reform in 1999.

The University consolidated a strong and eminently qualified faculty of prominent specialists and gifted young scholars, offering various undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral programs, pre-admissions courses and lifelong learning programs. Its library had a unique collection of contemporary and classical works in social sciences and humanities, including an extensive collection of literature in foreign languages.

With the aid of exceptional international cooperation, the University established unique research centers, institutes and academic programs. EHU joined the Luxembourg-based university consortium Campus Europae to speed up the realization of the Bologna Declaration through the harmonization of curricula, reciprocal recognition of degrees, and full-scale mobility of students.

2004-2008: Forced closure and rebirth in exile

Although EHU was the only private university in Belarus recognized by the government, it could not withstand increasing pressure from authorities. This was meant to isolate Belarusian higher education from outside influences and restore former Soviet-style control.

In 2004 the Belarusian authorities attempted to coerce the founders and academic community to dismiss the Rector. Rebuffed, they initiated endless inspections. The University license was ultimately suspended and EHU ordered to vacate its premises. Harassment continued against members of the EHU corporate body, as well as students and professors, who were transferred to state-run institutions upon the closure of the University. The EHU leadership refused to succumb and went into exile in Lithuania with tremendous support from the Lithuanian government and the international community. Students were given the opportunity to continue studies at other institutions in the region.

In 2006 EHU was granted the status of a Lithuanian university and so it became possible for students to receive internationally-recognized degrees. EHU continued to produce innovative research and publications in exile, while In Belarus authorities continued intermittent harassment against students, faculty, and staff.

In 2007 EHU inaugurated an international Governing Board and expanded the General Assembly of Part-Owners, which supported the re-establishment of the University in exile. In 2008 EHU became the only university for Belarusian youth to be awarded the Erasmus Charter. Nearly 1,000 Belarusian students studied in Vilnius and more than 800 pursued higher education part-time through low residence education in the 2008/2009 academic year.

EHU's journey will not end until it returns to Minsk permanently as an independent international university with a European as well as Belarusian identity. Meanwhile, in the multicultural and historically diverse capital of Vilnius, EHU intends to contribute to the development of higher education in Belarus, Lithuania and throughout the region.

4. VALUES

EHU endorses the values inherent in a liberal education, such as individual dignity, tolerance, and free intellectual inquiry. For the students this entails critical thinking, openness, fairness and creativity. EHU seeks to sustain a community based on mutual respect, transparency, and high standards of social and personal integrity, diverse in nature and democratic in practice. EHU believes that only through considering many perspectives does the academic community gain a deeper understanding of itself, one another, and the world.

Academic freedom

Students and teachers have the right to seek truth and acquire knowledge through scholarship and research and the study of intellectually diverse traditions. Students should be encouraged to become creative individuals and constructive citizens and to study subjects of their own choosing. Students and teachers should not be discriminated against for their political or religious beliefs. Teachers are free to reflect critically, discuss a variety of sources viewpoints, and pursue their own research and publications accordingly. The entire university community is entitled to study and work in a secure environment which promotes academic freedom, responsibility, and mutual respect.

Leadership

The academic culture of EHU emphasizes the transformational impact of discovery, independent thinking, and collaboration. Integrity, trust, fairness, and respect are the personal attributes to which both students and teachers aspire. EHU is committed to effect a positive change in society through education and research, connecting and engaging compassionately with responsible citizens, whose aspirations for the future know no bounds.

5. GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The European Humanities University will continue to contribute to Belarus and beyond by working toward academic excellence, the integration of a global liberal education, and the establishment of a home for Belarusian history and culture. These goals reflect the highest priorities as the University strives to realize its vision through its core activities.

Education

EHU offers BA and MA education. Students may choose face-to-face or low residence modes of study. In meeting the changing needs of society, students must be able to reflect critically, think independently, and grow through confrontation with different social priorities and needs. They must be sufficiently prepared for the rigors of an international education and, as future leaders, must react constructively, compassionately, and sensitively to the world around them. Humanities and social sciences are crucial, if Belarusian society is to understand itself, its content and its direction in the post-Soviet transformation. EHU must therefore contribute responsibly to the rediscovery of traditions and the interpretation of cultural heritage. Students need a foundation in international education to prepare them to engage in society as responsible citizens and yet master the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed. This demands an emphasis on the delivery of MA programs so that students emerge better prepared for the challenges ahead.

Goal

To achieve excellence, by a broad education for outstandingly competent citizens in the liberal traditions. To contribute to the building of an open Belarusian society, by the rediscovery of tradition and its integration within the broader European community.

Strategies

- Concentrate the curriculum, diversify learning opportunities, and integrate both more fully inside and outside the classroom.
- Establish a university-wide, universal foundation program for students entering EHU.
- Maintain a balance in education content between general and specialized knowledge and transferable skills.
- Expand educational experiences in the study of societies, politics and law.
- Assure quality and maintain the highest standards both in face-to-face and low residence study.
- Expand course content in European languages.
- Broaden the range of professional experiences.
- Advance the development and use of information and communication technology and interactive instruction methods.
- Cultivate an environment where discovery, constructive debate and interaction flourish throughout the University community.

Performance Indicators

Performance will be measured by the proportion of students selected for admission to the University who are sufficiently prepared for academic study, receive their degrees in a timely manner, achieve academic merit in coursework and examination scores, demonstrate multilingual proficiency, complete internships satisfactorily, and engage in extracurricular activities connected to

their fields of study. A low drop-out rate and the establishment of a quality assurance system will indicate progress towards the University's goals, as will the affiliations and accomplishments of faculty.

Apart from core knowledge obtained during their studies, students are expected to have the appropriate command of transferable skills for their level of education: Intellectual Skills (e.g. critical, analytical, synthesizing, and problem-solving); Communication Skills (written and oral); Organizational Skills (e.g. working independently, taking initiative, time-management); Interpersonal Skills (e.g. ability to work with others, flexibility, adaptability); Research Skills (e.g. information integration, experimentation, objective analysis, collaboration); Quantitative Skills (e.g. statistics, data management); Information and Communication Technology Skills; and Foreign Language Skills.

Research

Research evolves from education, expression, and collaboration. The Soviet legacy presented difficulties for educated youth in reconciling information and perspectives gleaned from independent sources with those transmitted within higher education institutions. EHU must therefore continue to identify new research directions and build initiatives across disciplines to ensure that alternative viewpoints are given the fullest consideration. The University will encourage investment in its faculty to reach higher levels of achievement in their field of study. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, society confronted radically different priorities and needs. The development of professional communities became interrupted and specialists became isolated from one another. Mentoring and collaboration are key components in the rebuilding of research infrastructure and networks. EHU continues its commitment to provide an institutional base for distinguished programs of particular benefit to Belarusian faculty.

Goal

To encourage original research by faculty members, with a particular interest in ensuring collaborative, independent inquiry across disciplines thus promoting dialogue within and beyond Belarus.

Strategies

EHU should continue to seek resources through individual and institutional efforts to:

- Promote research within and between disciplines and with external partners to enhance the intellectual output of the University.
- Strengthen infrastructure and support for faculty to engage in collaborative research initiatives and produce new tools and intellectual outputs.
- Strengthen support for faculty teaching and research through training, exchange, development of multi-disciplinary curricula, and engagement in a transnational system of Doctoral dissertation defense for Belarusian lecturers in Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Enhance the role of EHU as an institutional base for distinguished international programs and participation in think tank networks.
- Incorporate mentoring activities into research programs.
- Expand intellectual resources in Belarusian, Russian, and foreign languages and make them widely accessible to students and researchers through electronic means.
- Invest in libraries, archives, information technology and collaborative efforts as both a source and focus for learning.
- Seek to extend the dissemination of research findings through publications and information and communication technologies and ensure a summary of those findings is accessible in several languages.
- Enhance research design, methodologies, and other means in support of regional processes of transformation to market economics and open society.

Performance Indicators

Performance will be measured by the levels of research activity, the breadth and depth of collaboration, innovation, and international recognition of research outcomes. The external links of faculty and the research awards they receive are also indicators of progress, along with the quantity and appropriateness of intellectual resources, such as library holdings.

Regional Impact

The University is tied inextricably to the transformational processes of the Central European region and the formation of identities and draws on these experiences for creative inquiry, curriculum development, and exchange. In developing societal capacity, regional cooperation aims to motivate students and teachers to work within the local context of the transformation process and draw upon comparative perspectives to understand and chart its progress. EHU contributes to the advancement of intellectual thought and the reform of higher education, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, through its cooperation with institutions in Belarus and Lithuania and scholarly communities in the Baltic Sea region and countries neighboring Belarus.

Goal

To foster closer ties to institutions and communities within the neighboring region, EHU thus extends the reach of its education and research capacity. In the process, scholarly and professional communities will be created to engage in policy making, develop culturally-informed structures for education and research, and facilitate dialogue.

Strategies

- To foster dynamic communication and interaction among regional institutional actors on issues important to societies in transition, by supporting scholarly and professional cooperation on programs developed locally and delivered in regional languages.
- Extend access to communities and research collections in the region.
- Integrate forms of tutoring for students and mentoring for teachers.
- Develop the resources, infrastructure, and networks for advanced studies or think tank activities in social sciences and humanities.
- Develop unique undergraduate and graduate degree programs in cooperation with neighboring partner universities.
- Contribute to higher education reform within Belarus and the neighboring region through modernization, innovation, and the development of methodologies and curricular content based on best practices.

Performance Indicators

Performance will be measured by the input of EHU faculty to regional policy debate, the range of intellectual resources expanded as a result, and the networks developed and strengthened within the region.

International Cooperation

In advancing its mission, EHU has pursued a number of initiatives: international program development, faculty research collaborations, institutional partnerships and consortia, exchange programs, and distance learning. With fresh perspectives and practical experiences in increasing demand, however, the University must continue to reach out to other universities for constructive cooperation to ensure that students and teachers remain motivated and inspired and that a permanent foundation for education and research is secured.

Goal

To integrate EHU in the broader global community and expand access to a diversity of perspectives and exchanges.

Strategies

- Build partnerships with private and public institutions for the advancement of the University mission.
- Expand interdisciplinary, inter-university, international agreements for the harmonization of curricula, reciprocal recognition of degrees, full-scale mobility of students, language preparation, and transfer of credits in face-to-face education; as well as the enhancement of education content, instruction methods and technical capabilities.
- Broaden the reach of innovative programs for study, professional development, and exchanges of teachers and administrative staff.
- Enrich education content through the recruitment of European and North American lecturers.
- Promote dialogue and interaction based on comparative analyses of higher education and study of society, politics, and law.
- Broaden the participation of EHU in associations, networks, and international fora.
- Encourage the participation of alumni in University programs and initiatives.
- Overcome obstacles restricting access of Belarusian students and teachers to international exchange and fora and study via distance learning.

Performance Indicators

Performance will be measured by the number and quality of formal cooperation agreements, the range of institutional partnerships, and types of collaborations. The number of mutually-recognized degree programs and course credit transfers also indicate progress, as does the range of mobility for students and teachers.

Sustainability

EHU seeks to build an institution for independent, European liberal education that fulfills its mission. Wherever it is located, and however it is funded, EHU will preserve its core purpose as an independent liberal arts institution with Belarusian and European identity. Sustainability is therefore about effectively retaining the resources that make the University successful: financial, political, human, technical, and administrative. The complexities of relocating a Belarusian university to a European Union country are far too numerous and diverse to encapsulate. The challenge is to ensure that EHU increases its capacity to operate indefinitely in the face of new conditions and yet maintain the supportive structures essential for its eventual return to Minsk. In meeting the urgent needs of the present, however, EHU must not compromise the options for future administrations. More is at issue than financial security. The University must reinforce the integrity of its foundation, the substance upon which all else can progress. It will require the collective efforts of the whole EHU community to marshal the fullest range of human and material resources and intellectual contributions. Supporters must understand why it is so important to maintain this commitment to the University—and how to engage in building a prospective future.

Goal

To ensure the longevity of the institution and thereby secure the means for Belarusian youth to maintain access to an affordable, independent, international, liberal higher education.

Strategies

- Reinforce the effectiveness, efficiency, and viability of the University and ensure financial security.
- Strengthen management capacity to meet the challenges ahead.
- Foster the development of a community, in this particularly mobile University, in which students, teachers and staff become motivated and inspired; promote communication between and among the various constituencies of the University.
- Establish succession planning, promotion, advancement, and incentives to retain gifted teachers and talented staff.
- Establish the infrastructure and mechanisms for effective development.
- Diversify income sources.
- Develop revenue-generating programs that enable the University to introduce enterprise solutions, recruit talented lecturers, engage students in work-study opportunities, and renew curricula.
- Promote the engagement of the University community and alumni in resource mobilization.

Performance Indicators

Performance will be measured by the ability of EHU to retain qualified and talented personnel, instill a sense of University community and a supportive culture, meet fundraising targets, and consistently balance the budget. EHU will employ a logical, results-based framework, and regular self-assessment to chart progress toward the goal.

6. PROFILE

The academic profile of the University covers the social sciences and humanities. It does not exclude courses in other areas where such courses enrich the academic profile of the University and serve the needs of its students and of Belarusian society. EHU offers programs at the BA and MA levels, as well as support for courses leading to doctoral degrees at other universities. The current academic programs are listed in Annex A.

7. GOVERNANCE

For more than 15 years, EHU has been led by **Rector** Anatoli Mikhailov, a highly respected academician in the field of German philosophy. As one of the founders of EHU in Minsk in 1992, he sought to build an alternative to the system of education inherited from the Soviet Union. After the closure of the EHU in Minsk, Prof. Mikhailov has not returned to his home country.

Academic staff and students serve on the **Senate**, a self-governing academic body which ensures the quality of education and research. The Senate, *inter alia*, approves study and research programs; determines procedures for the assessment of teachers and researchers; initiates improvements in professional qualifications; awards titles and scientific degrees; and establishes ethical guidelines for students and faculty.

The EHU has an international **Governing Board** responsible for the strategic direction, finances, and effective functioning of the University. This includes, *inter alia*, the exclusive right to develop and approve the strategic plan and budget. Members of the 2007-2009 Governing Board are:

Mr. Per Unckel (Sweden), Chairman
Governor of Stockholm County

Dr. Dan Davidson (USA), Vice Chairman
President, American Councils for International Education

Dr. Leonidas Donskis (Lithuania)
Vytautas Magnus University

Dr. Aliaksandr Kalbaska (Belarus)
Chairman of the Senate; Dean of Arts and Cultural History Faculty

Ms. Anne Lonsdale, CBE (UK)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Cambridge University

Dr. Olli Loukola (Finland)
University of Helsinki

Dr. Anatoli Mikhailov (Belarus)
Rector, European Humanities University (*ex officio*)

Dr. Gregory Prince (USA)
President Emeritus, Hampshire College

Dr. Blair Ruble (USA)
Director, Kennan Institute of Advanced Russian Studies

Dr. Klaus Segbers (Germany)
Freie Universität Berlin

Dr. Edward M. Walsh (Ireland)
President Emeritus, University of Limerick

The annual General Assembly of Part Owners brings together the organizations that helped to re-establish the University in Vilnius. They, *inter alia*, take into consideration the recommendations of the Governing Board, Rector, and Senate to ensure organizational efficacy and viability. At present the part-owners are:

Institute for International Education (Lithuania)

Open Society Institute (USA)

Eurasia Foundation (USA)

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Annex A

2008/2009 Programs

1. DEGREE PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE

Graduates of BA programs will have the ability to combine creative thinking, critical analysis, and modern ICT skills and apply those in an interdisciplinary approach to their experience of the contemporary world. Courses feature contemporary instruction tools and methods and emphasize international perspectives and practices within respective fields. Students may choose to reside in Vilnius during the academic year or pursue their studies through low residence education. By their third year of study, students take part in internships hosted by European and North American institutions and participate in international competitions and exhibitions. The first class in exile will graduate in 2009.

Volume: 160 credits

Duration: 4 years

Instruction: Belarusian and Russian; ad-hoc courses in English, German and French

Class size: 15 – 30 students

Outside the classroom, students become active in self-government, community outreach, and numerous projects initiated within various fields of interest. They explore the visual arts through cinema and photography clubs, examine the role of key Belarusian figures in contemporary societies through the history club, report on current affairs through the student newspaper, or participate in a variety of societies. Students initiate conferences, competitions and cultural events connecting them to youth throughout the region as part of a common exploration of the world around them.

Belarusian Studies

This program provides systematic knowledge of historical, cultural, and social processes in Belarus, with particular attention to global trends. Students acquire not only theoretical knowledge and practical skills, but also communication skills requisite for building democracy and involving Belarus in a dialogue with Europe. The program includes three sub-programs:

History of Belarus and Cultural Anthropology focuses on the narrative and formation of Belarusian national identity. Students engage in a thorough analysis of the communication between cultures, identities and other socio-cultural phenomena affecting Belarus.

Cross-Cultural Communication aims to train specialists able to work towards cross-cultural understanding in Belarus and elsewhere and, through individual creative projects, to define areas which are problematic in terms of political and personal freedom.

Protection and Uses of the Cultural Heritage aims to train professionals able to create and integrate projects taking account of Belarus' unique cultural heritage and its interconnections with that of neighboring countries, with particular emphasis on regional development perspectives, processes of European integration, and cross-border cooperation.

Theory and Practice of Modern Art

The program explores the history, theory and philosophy of the modern arts. The interconnections between cinema, design, and other forms of contemporary arts are given special emphasis. Students explore concepts such as structuralism, psychoanalysis, critical theory, and phenomenology through the use of the latest techniques and technologies (internet art, media art, photography and video) as well as classical techniques of visual arts (painting and drawing). The program promotes the creation, development, and implementation by the students of independent, socially-aware projects.

Cultural Heritage and Tourism

This program takes into account regional development perspectives and European integration from the point of view of cross-border tourism in the neighboring countries of Belarus. The specialists that graduate from this program will be adept in designing cultural tourism programs that emphasize the unique aspects of Belarusian heritage in the European context. Students acquire practical skills in the preparation of tourist programs, conduct excursions in several languages, design museum projects for interpreting cultural heritage, and create advertisements and information products (web-sites, tourist guides, information bulletins, tourist maps, etc.).

Media and Visual Design

Specialists graduated from this program will be able to integrate creative thinking, media technologies, and communications strategies in their understanding of contemporary visual culture. Through a combination of arts education and innovation, students follow ICT development trends and explore concepts behind contemporary processes, signs, and images. Students master conceptual analysis of the communicative structures of contemporary design and visual culture. They acquire skills in professional photography, 3-D modeling, web-design, and multimedia.

Political Science and European Studies

The program is aimed at training professionals in contemporary theories of political science and objective analytical skills as a means to enhance their ability to transmit European values to Belarusian society. The core of the program is the concept of the forms and patterns of democracy as a political system and all aspects of democratic transition. The program combines courses in: Political Science, Political Theory, the Belarusian Political System, Comparative Political Science, Public Policy and State Government, Democratic Theory, Political History of Belarus, History and Theory of European Integration, Political History of Europe, Nations and Nationalism in Europe, and European Identity. Students also become acquainted with the interconnections of the field of study with sociology, international relations, and economics.

Social and Political Philosophy

The program acquaints students with the fundamentals of classical philosophy, with particular emphasis on phenomenology and hermeneutics. They study contemporary tendencies in philosophy and their application to real social, political, and cultural issues. Students may take courses in Philosophy, Social Sciences, History of Political Ideas and Ethics, Social and Cultural Modernization, Culture and Identity, the Public Sphere and the Mass Media, and a Critique of Ideology. Students will be able to apply their acquired philosophical knowledge to various fields of humanities and social practices, enabling them to constantly re-evaluate experience in the context of new information and changing social practices. They will be expected to master classical languages at the level required for scholarly work with original texts.

Media and Communication

The goal of the program is to train a new generation of specialists with both the knowledge of contemporary concepts of culture and society, diverse models of communicative strategies, and visual text analysis and the ability to create contemporary mass-media products. The program's interdisciplinary approach presupposes a thorough study of contemporary social, cultural, and political theory, history and theory of the visual arts and philosophy, as well as specific knowledge in the fields of information and communications science. The program consists of two sub-programs created to complement each other and are based on fundamental concepts common to both:

Mass Communication and Journalism aims to train journalists in the print and electronic media as well as experts in media planning and management.

Visual and Cultural Studies aims to train researchers and faculty in the fields of contemporary culture and audiovisual communications.

International Law

The program aims to train a new generation of Belarusian lawyers, who are able to facilitate the integration of international commitments in the national legal system of Belarus, to serve as mediators in the dialogue of legal cultures, and to contribute to Belarus' progress towards a democratic constitution and an open civil society. The program allows for complementary study of the humanities to develop basic skills in applying European standards in legal education, along with courses in general legal studies such as the history and theory of law, branches of national law, comparative legal studies, an introduction to international and European law, and case studies in international and European law, with particular attention to the law and jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.

GRADUATE

MA programs provide for the training of Belarusian experts well versed in the application of European perspectives within the fields of law, political science, history, cultural heritage, cultural studies, and gender policy. Students participate in graduate programs at EHU often while they are engaged in practical training at other institutions, thus they are well prepared to pursue opportunities for continuing their education at the doctoral level, with a view toward defending a doctoral dissertation at a European University. MA programs include specialist training, practical training and a research component. The first graduating class of 2008 involved 48 students; the majority returned to Belarus to work within their respective fields of interest and others were awarded internships by EHU to pursue doctoral studies at other universities.

EHU is currently developing MA Programs in Business Administration and Public Policy for introduction in 2009.

Volume: 80 credits

Duration: 2 years

Instruction: Belarusian and Russian; courses and internships in English, German and French

Class size: 15

Outside the classroom, MA students become involved in a number of interests to pursue their professional, research or personal interests, with particular emphasis on internships at international institutions.

International Law and European Law

The program aims to enable researchers and professionals to contribute to the development of international cooperation in Belarus and to transmit their acquired competencies and their research results to a new generation of students. Students are offered theoretical courses providing a fundamental knowledge of international public and private law and European law. A wide range of electives will help students to pursue their academic aims and interests. A number of courses are taught in English by visiting professors, which allows students to absorb an understanding of cross-cultural legal contexts. Some courses focus on the research and teaching methodology of legal studies. Students may have internships in international organizations, EU institutions or state bodies.

Cultural Studies

This degree course consists of two specializations:

Gender Studies targets young researchers, who would like to acquire an interdisciplinary, systematic knowledge of gender theory and its applications. The program includes courses on gender sociology, contemporary psychoanalysis, gender representation in the visual arts, qualitative methods in social studies, the philosophy of M. Foucault, feminist political theory, gender technology in post-Soviet mass-media, feminist criticism of the concepts of human rights, and the sociology of gender in post-Soviet society. Research priorities include: gender and nation; feminist philosophy; gender and the visual arts; gender and mass communication; the history of gender; studies in masculinity; gender and contemporary information technologies; and gender relationships in post-Soviet society.

Visual and Cultural Studies is a new interdisciplinary area, which is emerging at the intersection of philosophy, cultural theory, sociology, and the arts. Its central theme is the study of the post-modern mass media. Visual culture today dominates the whole cultural sphere, encompassing such contrasting phenomena as cinema, design, television, photography, conceptual art, public art, and advertising. The multitude of visual practices determines the numerous artistic approaches to analysis, from semiotics and psychoanalysis to critical theory and post-structuralism. The course has no counterpart in Belarus or the entire post-Soviet region. In addition to fundamental theoretical knowledge, students acquire skills in working with cinematic and photographic equipment as well as the processing of images with computer applications.

Protection and Interpretation of Cultural Heritage

The program aims to train specialists in the sphere of cultural protection and the application of ideas of cultural heritage, who will go on to work in research and higher education institutions, NGOs, state-run organizations, governmental bodies, museums and national parks. They will need to resolve issues related to the reform of the existing system of protection and interpretation of the cultural heritage in Belarus. Core courses focus on research methodology and the resolution of practical problems. Electives offer two concentrations to meet students' research interests: protection of the cultural heritage and interpretation of the cultural heritage. The practical

research requirement will include an attachment to an organization dealing with the protection of the cultural heritage or research at an institution specializing in the study and interpretation of the cultural heritage of Belarus and Lithuania.

Democracy and Civil Society

The program provides an opportunity to leaders and activists in the third sector to acquire theoretical knowledge in the field of political science and to master practical skills in the development of civil society, without losing contact with their organizations. The theoretical part of the program provides fundamental understanding of the structures of power and their workings in society, the interaction of the leading political agents, and current tendencies in the development of democracy and civil society. The course covers the role of the structures of civil society, the creation and management of public organizations, research on public opinion and on the relationships of the third sector with the state and with entrepreneurs.

Comparative History of North-eastern Europe

The program is delivered in cooperation with Södertön College, Sweden, and is unique in Belarus. Students acquire a thorough knowledge of the geographical, cultural and historical context responsible for the formation of European identities, as well as a comparative understanding of the historical dynamics of European civilization. The program combines professional training in contemporary paradigms and issues of history with an interdisciplinary approach (involving political science, cultural studies and the study of the cultural heritage) and an emphasis on the comparative history of North-eastern Europe (primarily Belarus and the Baltic countries), with their shared historical and cultural heritage. The program aims to develop academic research skills, while at the same time students learn specific analytical techniques for practical policy research, which will facilitate the resolution of difficulties in integrating Belarus with the contemporary European 'intellectual space' and ensuring social and political stability in the region.

European Studies

The program aims to train a new generation of Belarusian intellectuals, researchers, and education specialists, who can create in Belarusian society an adequate understanding of European integration processes, their legal and historical bases, and the opportunities for a common European perspective for Belarus and other post-Soviet countries. They will develop a modern civil society in Belarus and make an active contribution to the country's integration into the European and international community. The program offers Belarusian students a unique opportunity to acquire advanced knowledge of contemporary European integration processes, the main tendencies of global and European economic development, and the future development of the EU and other integrative structures at work within Europe. Students will acquire the ability to apply philosophical, theoretical, and conceptual knowledge critically and creatively to the analysis of complex phenomena in the current political life of Europe.

Public Policy

In 2009 the Democracy and Civil Society program will be transformed into an MA in Public Policy in cooperation with the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, and the Dutch Institute for Public Administration (ROI). The broadly-based program aims to develop public policy as a discipline. It emphasizes the theories and concepts of policy analysis needed to understand the workings of the policy process in contemporary societies. It is designed both for recent graduates hoping to make a career in public policy and those working in policy communities.

Business Administration

In cooperation with the renowned Kemmy Business School of the University of Limerick, Ireland, EHU will establish an MBA program in 2009 with an initial class of Belarusian entrepreneurs. The aim is to inspire students to think creatively in confronting the challenges of doing business in a competitive, single European market place. The MBA program will offer an innovative approach to those involved in business administration both in Belarus and in the EU. Its location in a thriving European capital, distinguished faculty, and advanced teaching methods ensure that students will attain the right balance of theory and practice to enable them to pursue a successful business career.

2. NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

PhD Support and Research Development Program

EHU conducts an annual competition for admission to doctoral and post-doctoral programs, which are carried out at other universities. This support project primarily targets the development of future faculty for EHU itself, through a program of lectures and seminars for doctoral students, research projects within doctoral and post-doctoral programs, and the publication of research papers. EHU encourages doctoral and post-doctoral students to take an active part in international conferences, seminars, and other scholarly engagements.

Lifelong and Distance Learning Program

While the university has a limited number of places within its full-time degree programs, it can admit a much larger number of Belarusians to non-degree courses. These are delivered within the framework of Lifelong Learning. Today, applications extend beyond the group of former students of the EHU and embrace a much broader geographical and age-range. Today, while the EHU operates as a University in exile, these programs also support those members of the Faculty who made their choice in favor of staying with the EHU after its closure in Belarus, thus losing other employment opportunities, and putting themselves at risk if they tried to pursue such opportunities in their home country.

Pre-Admission Program

EHU assists pupils preparing to take centralized tests for high school graduation and entrance examinations for EHU and other universities through courses covering foreign languages and core subject areas such as mathematics, physics, and biology, among others.