



BELARUS *in/and* **EUROPE**

Annual pre-Christmas event
CONCEPT AND PROGRAM



Belarus in/and Europe

Concept

“Belarus in/and Europe” is an annual pre-Christmas event jointly organized by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Belarus and the European Humanities University with contributions from many partners. The idea is to provide a platform for opinion leaders, academics and Belarusian students to reflect on the multitude of connections between cultural, social and political Europe and Belarus - a country which is located at the geographical center of the continent but not (yet) a member of the European Union.

The **European Humanities University** is the perfect place to host this unique event: It is the biggest “Belarusian” institution outside of Belarus and yet called “European”. As a lighthouse for the freedom of thought and expression it has been a place to turn to for generations of young Belarusians based in Vilnius, a city of great European and also Belarusian history.

This year, **“Belarus in/and Europe”** will consist of three core parts, the synergy of which will allow participants to explore and express the(ir) European identity of Belarus from the different perspectives:

- **Launch of the student creative contest: “What makes me feel European?”**
- **Podium discussions: “Belarus in/and Europe”**
- **Advent Market & Reception**

Date:

December 6

Venue:

European Humanities University

Time:

14:00 - 20:00

Format:

Open event

Target audience:

EHU Students, Staff and Partners, Friends of EHU and democratic Belarus



Student Creative Contest: “What makes me feel European?”

The exclusive creative contest for belarusian students on the topic "What makes me feel European" aims to explore the nuanced relationship between Belarus and Europe as a concept, shedding light on the unique perspectives that Belarusian youth holds regarding their (country's) European identity.

The main goal of the competition is to demonstrate to the European general public that “Europeanness” is not an idea limited to the countries of the European Union and didn’t start with the political integration of the Western part of the continent after WW2. European heritage and culture stretch much further and Belarus has for centuries been an integral part of the “European realm”. Millions of Belarusians share “European values” with all of their hearts despite having grown up in an authoritarian system.

Belarusian students are encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings within the following framework of the contest:

Working language:

English

Art:

Visual arts, Literary arts

Prize and other details:

To be announced at the event



Advent Market & Reception

The **Advent Market** is aimed to provide Belarusian students, EHU staff, academics and guests with professional, educational and community life exchange with leading NGOs, businesses and embassies from the European Union and Western partners. Representatives of each organization will be able to present their programmes on Belarus, opportunities for cooperation or support, advertise their services and activities and get in touch with potential future interns, fellows, clients or employees.

At the core of the market there will be a **reception**, where everyone will be able to try traditional German Christmas meals and wash it all down with a glass of mulled wine or punch to the sounds of approaching Christmas.

The main goal of the market is to demonstrate the wide range of opportunities that the European world opens up for Belarusians and to help students understand that there is always a place for them in this world.

Partners:



Duration:
2,5 hours

Audience:
~300 people

Working languages:
**English, Russian,
Belarusian**



Podium discussion: “Belarus in/and Europe”

Panel#1: “Youth: What makes us feel European?”

Represented by the EHU students and alumni

The young generation of active citizens who grew up on European culture, values and traditions: Who are they? And who do they think they are?

Panel#2: “Belarusian society: Public opinion and perceptions of the European path”

Represented by researchers, academicians and leaders of Belarusian civil society focused on Belarusian politics and sociology

Active discussions about the European path of Belarus have been going on since 2006. How does the general public of Belarus look at this issue right now?

Panel#3: “Belarus in/and the EU?”

Represented by the EU and Belarusian stakeholders focused on Belarus-EU relations

Repressions, Russification and the war against Ukraine have created a need for geopolitical choice. How can the EU and Belarusian people bring Belarus closer to the European future?

Duration:
45 min each

Audience:
EHU community, EU institutions, Embassies, State institutions, NGOs, Civil initiatives, Think tanks



Belarus in/and Europe Program



13:00 - 14:00 - Arrival of guests and partners, welcome drinks and snacks

14:00 - 14:05 - Official launch of the Podium discussions and opening remarks

14:05 - 14:15 - Joint welcome speech by the EHU Rector **Prof. Krzysztof Rybiński** and the head of KAS Belarus **Jakob Wöllenstein**

14:15 - 15:00 - **Panel #1: "Youth: What makes us feel European?"** - Presentation and launch of the student creative contest

Moderator: **Tsimafei Misiukevich**, Project coordinator, KAS Belarus; Fmr President EHU SU

- **Ignatii Varenov**, President, EHU Students' Union
- **Sabina Aliyeva**, Former President, EHU Students' Union

15:00 - 15:15 - Coffee break

15:15 - 16:00 - **Panel #2: "Belarusian society: Public opinion and perceptions of the European path"** - Community leaders' discussion

Moderator: **Krzysztof Rybiński**, Rector, European Humanities University

- **Artsiom Schraibman**, Head, Sense Analytics
- **Victor Shadurski**, Former Dean, Faculty of the International Relations, Belarusian State University
- **Tatiana Shchytsova**, Professor of philosophy, European Humanities University
- **Andrei Vardomatski**, Head, Belarusian Analytical Workroom

16:00 - 16:15 - Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 **Panel #3: "Belarus in/and the EU?"** - Stakeholders panel discussion

Moderator: **Jakob Wöllenstein**, Head, KAS Belarus

- **Rasa Juknevičienė**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Christina Johannesson**, Special Envoy for relations with democratic Belarus, Sweden
- **Laimutė Pilukaitė**, Head of Political Reporting Team, EC Representation in Lithuania
- **Tatsiana Chulitskaya**, Researcher, Manchester Metropolitan University, Vilnius University

17:00 - 17:15 - Closing remarks

17:15 - 17:30 - Announcements and transition to reception venue

17:30 - 20:00 - Advent market & Reception

Registration form: [press here](#)