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***RETURNING TO EUROPE: BELARUS' PAST AND FUTURE***

**Lazarski University**

**Institute of Civic Space and Public Policy**

**November 12-14, 2010**

**Warsaw, Poland**

**PROGRAM**

**Friday, November 12**

16:00 Registration and Reimbursement of travel expenses (Lazarski University, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room)

16:30 **Opening of Conference Book Fair** (Lazarski University, ul. Świeradowska 43, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor)

18:00 **Opening of Conference and Networking Reception** (Lazarski University, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor)

**Krzysztof Stanowski**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Juliusz Madej**, President, Lazarski University

**Daria Lipińska-Nałęcz**, Rector, Lazarski University

**The Honorable Jerzy Stępien**, Director, Institute of Civic Space and Public Policy

**Saturday, November 13**

9:30 **Introductory Remarks** (Lazarski University, Room 130, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**Rodger Potocki**, Director for Europe, National Endowment for Democracy, USA

**Andrei Dynko**, Editor in Chief, *Nasha Niva*, Belarus

9:45 **Panel #1: Through the Eyes of Others: Historical Perceptions of Belarusians**

• How have commentators written about Belarus and Belarusians over the centuries? What do these sources tell us about Belarusians and their place in Europe? What role can these historical descriptions play today in bringing Belarus closer to Europe?

**Moderator: Henadz Sahanovich** (European Humanities University, Lithuania)

**Speakers:**

**Adam Kożuchowski** (Polish Academy of Science, Poland) – “The Image of East-Central Europe in the American Textbooks”

**Ales Kraucevich** (Belarusian History Society, Belarus) – “Facing the West: Changes in the Orientation of Civilization on the Belarusian Lands, 1240-1385”

**Lubou Kozik** (Belarusian State University, Belarus) – “The Image of the History of Belarus in Modern Polish Historiography”

**Leanid Smilavitsky** (Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center, Tel Aviv University, Israel) – “Israeli Reflections on the History of Belarus: A Review of Archival Collections and Research Centers”

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Panel #2: The Belarusian Nation: History and Identity**

- Society in today’s Belarus is divided. One reason for this is that Belarusians are divided in how they perceive their history. Competing historical narratives have helped to create competing national identities and achieving a common approach has been difficult. Is it possible to come to a consensus on Belarusian history that could help shape a new identity and new policies?

**Moderator: Valer Bulhakau** (ARCHE, Belarus)

**Speakers:**

**David Marples** (University of Alberta, Canada) – “The Lukashenka Regime and the Great Patriotic War: Nation Building through Popular Culture”

**Oleg Latyszonek** (University of Bialystok, Poland) – “Hero’s Day and the Day of Belarusian Military Fame”

**Kiryl Kascian** (Bremen University, Germany) – “Elements of Nationalism in Belarus’ Constitutional Acts after 1918”

**Ales Smalianchuk** (European Humanities University, Lithuania) – “Problems of Modern Belarusian Historical Writing and Collective Identity”

13:00 Lunch (Lazarski University, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor)

14:00 **Book Presentations** (Room 130, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

14:45 **Panel #3: Historical Amnesia: Differing Views of Belarusian History**

- Despite Belarus’ long association with Europe, it is the Soviet version of the nation’s history that has been successful in gaining the public’s acceptance. Given the newness of this post-World War II narrative, why does it dominate the country’s historical consciousness? Why has the European narrative almost disappeared and what can be done to rehabilitate it?

**Moderator: David Marples** (University of Alberta, Canada)

**Speakers:**

**Jan Szumski** (Academy of Sciences, Poland) – “The Science Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Formation of Historical Consciousness of the “USSR Peoples”: The Case of Belarus”

**Nasta Ilina** (Academy of Sciences, Poland) – “Slavery through the Dictatorship of Memory”

**Iryna Kashtalian** (Free University of Berlin, Germany) – “Research on Soviet Repressions as an Indicator of the State of Historical Research in Belarus”

**Christian Ganzer** (Geschichtswerkstatt Europa, Germany) – “Remembering and Forgetting: Hero Veneration and the Brest Fortress”

16:15 Coffee Break

16:45 **Panel #4: Bringing Belarus Closer to Europe: Teaching History and Civic Education**

• How Belarusian history is taught, in terms of content and methodology, has important implications for shaping national consciousness and citizenship. This panel will look at the different ways in which textbooks and curricula, both those produced inside and outside Belarus, have portrayed the historical relationship between Belarus, Europe and Russia, and what lessons they have for educating citizens. In particular, the panel will discuss how teaching about Belarus’ European history can bring the country’s citizens closer to Europe.

**Moderator: Dzmitry Karpievich** (Educational Center “POST,” Belarus)

**Speakers:**

**Maria Paula Survilla** (Center for Belarusian Studies, Southwestern College, USA) – “The Center for Belarusian Studies Translation Initiative: Access to Global Discourse, Critical Thinking, and Belarusian Civil Society”

**Tamara Mackievich** (Nastaunik.info, Belarus) – “Links between History and Civic Education. The Role of a Teacher in Modern Belarusian School”

**Tatsiana Astrouskaya** (National Institute of Education, Belarus) – “The Genealogy of Historical Memory of Belarusians in the Context of Educational Practices”

**Zakhar Szybieka** (Belarusian Collegium, Belarus) – “History as a Means for the Patriotic Upbringing of Belarusian Youth”

19:30 Conference Dinner

**Sunday, November 14**

10:00 **Workshops: Presentations and Discussions**

**Workshops:**

**1. Which books on Central European history should be translated?** (Room 109, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

• Much of the historical scholarship focusing on Belarus that has been produced in Europe and the West is currently unavailable in Belarus. What are these works and where are they to be found? This workshop will discuss what key texts should be made accessible to Belarusian historians, students and public. It will also look at which history works produced in Belarus should be made accessible to Europeans.

**Moderator: Ales Pashkievich** (ARCHE, Belarus)

**Presenters:**

**Henadz Sahanovich** (European Humanities University, Lithuania)

**2. Civic campaigns and multimedia as tools for improving history education in Belarus** (Room 111, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

• Civil society has been carrying out a number of interesting independent initiatives that are teaching citizens about Belarus’ European heritage. This workshop will look at different civic campaigns and how they can contribute to educating Belarusians about their history.

**Moderator: Iryna Vidanava** (Lazarski University, Poland)

**Alena Makouskaya** (“Budzma” Campaign, Belarus)

**Ales Smalianchuk** (“Save Hrodna” Campaign, Belarus)

**Jaraslau Iwaniuk** (Belarusian Internet Library “Kamunikat,” Poland)

**Pavel Kotau** (Charles University, Czech Republic) – The Belarusian Map of Prague

**3. Educational institutions and civil society initiatives: Possibilities for cooperation** (Room 123, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

• Because of Belarus’ isolation, teachers in state institutions have had less exposure to modern curricula and methods of teaching being used in Europe. Due to their contacts with counterparts in Europe, some of these advances are being used by NGOs and civic initiatives whose activities focus on history. But until now, state educational institutions and educational NGOs have been prevented from working together. This workshop will look at different ways in which state and non-state organizations can cooperate in developing better ways to teach history in Belarus.

**Moderator: Christian Ganzer** (Geschichtswerkstatt Europa, Germany)

**Presenters:**

**Dzmitry Karpievich** (Educational Center “POST,” Belarus) – “Civic Education for Youth and Adults: Principles, Forms and Directions”

**Tamara Mackievich** (Nastaunik.info, Belarus) – “Practical Experiences of Cooperation between NGOs and State Educational Institutions: Outcomes of Joint Educational Projects”

**Zakhar Shybieka** (Belarusian Collegium, Belarus)

**4. European history and citizenship: How they related?** (Room 130, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

• Teaching history can include teaching values that are important for today’s citizens. An important part of Belarus’ European heritage is a history of rights and privileges. This workshop will examine how teaching about these rights and privileges can make a positive contribution to citizenship in today’s Belarus.

**Moderator: Rodger Potocki** (National Endowment for Democracy, USA)

**Presenters:**

**Aleh Dziarnovich** (Academy of Sciences, Belarus) – “Is there a Connection between Historical Traditions and Modern Times?”

**Barbara Pendzich** (Bente Kahan Foundation, Poland)

**5. Building Bridges between Belarusian and European historians** (Room 120, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

• For most of the period after gaining independence in 1991, Belarus has been isolated from Europe. Political isolation has meant that Belarus’ historians have had only limited contacts with their European counterparts. But since the start of the EU Belarus Dialogue Process and launch of the Eastern Partnership, Belarus’ isolation is receding. This workshop will examine different programs, activities and ideas that can improve contacts and cooperation between Belarusian and European historians.

**Moderator: Ales Lahviniets**, (“For Freedom” Movement, Belarus)

**Presenters:**

**Anna Grudzinska** (Lazarski University, Poland) – “Recovering Forgotten History”: Introducing Information about East Central Europe to American High School and University Textbooks

**Natallia Artsiomenka** (Lazarski University, Poland) – “Research and Doctoral Fellowships for Belarusian Scholars”

12:00 Coffee Break

12:30 **Workshops: Practical Recommendations**

13:30 Lunch (Lazarski University, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor)

14:30 **Book presentations** (Room 130, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

15:15 **Plenary Session: Reports from Workshops and Closing of Conference** (Room 130, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**Moderator: Stephan Malerius** (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Lithuania)

16:30 **Farewell:** Coffee and Snacks

21:00 Departure of Belarusian participants from Warsaw Central Station



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