

EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS IN OCTOBER 2024

Last year's monitoring research showed that October in Belarusian education is characterized by some decline in the process of ideologization after the celebration of the important for the authorities People's Unity Day in September. However, the current research demonstrates a completely different tendency, which was connected with the official start of the election campaign in Belarus. Throughout the whole month we recorded a huge number of propaganda and agitation activities in Belarusian education and at the end of the month the scale of such activities reached the total character. Our words are supported by the statistical data of the official resources of the Ministry of Education: on the official site¹ of the Ministry 8 out of 29 news (28%) had ideological coloring, and on the official Telegram channel² this figure amounted to 108 out of 287 (38%) news. Thus, for the second month in a row every third news on the official resources of the Ministry of Education had an ideological context, which testifies to the increasing pace of ideologization of Belarusian education. In general, according to the results of the research, we can single out the following features characterizing the development of the Belarusian education system in October:

1. Active propaganda activities of the authorities for the election campaign 2025. Mass campaigning started in the educational institutions already in early September, and in October the pace of pro-government campaigning intensified, which became especially noticeable at the end of the month after the official launch of the election campaign. The main directions of the authorities' campaign activities within the framework of the ongoing campaign were:

- *Intimidation of pupils, students and teachers with responsibility for dissemination of oppositional views and any protest activity.* The most common form of intimidation in educational institutions is constant meetings with representatives of law enforcement agencies, where they tell about administrative and criminal liability for various aspects of protest activity. It is important to note that uncontrolled opposition activity is equated in Belarus with "extremist" activity, which allows law enforcement agencies to prosecute citizens even for the most insignificant manifestations of opposition views: likes and reposts of opposition media, commenting on the news of opposition resources. For example, in BGTU³ district prosecutor Dmitry Lukyanov told students about responsibility for offenses related to "extremist" activities. At BSMU, in addition to responsibility for "extremism", deputy district prosecutor Pyotr Antonik also told students about the consequences of participation in unauthorized mass events⁴. A single curatorial hour was organized for students at the All-Union State University, where they were intimidated with liability for subscribing to and liking "extremist" channels⁵. In one of the gymnasiums of Minsk⁶ an officer of the district police department met with students. He told the students not only about the elections, but also about "*safe behavior in social networks and the Internet during the election campaign*". It is obvious that the enforcer intimidated young people with responsibility for any protest statements and appeals. We recorded similar meetings with pupils and students in October

¹ <https://edu.gov.by/news/index.php>

² <https://t.me/MinobrofBelarus>

³ <https://tinyurl.com/zrd7kiyk>

⁴ https://t.me/BSMU_official/41569

⁵ <https://vsu.by/sobytiya/novosti-universiteta/10720-edinyj-kuratorskij-chas-na-fmiit.html>

⁶ <https://t.me/obrazovaniepervomavskiy/119635>

in schools of Cherveni⁷ and Mazyr⁸ ; colleges of Brest⁹ and Minsk¹⁰ ; as well as in BrSTU¹¹ , Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies¹² , Belarusian State University¹³ , Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies¹⁴ , BSAM¹⁵ , BSAM¹⁶ , BNTU¹⁷ . It should be noted that often such meetings were held without the participation of law enforcers, which can be seen in the examples of colleges in Homiel¹⁸ , Navahrudak¹⁹ , Volkovysk²⁰ , Hrodna²¹ . We also recorded cases of intimidation not only of pupils and students, but also of teachers. In HrSMU a meeting of teachers with the head of the Internal Affairs Department of Hrodna Regional Executive Committee Dzmitry Rezenkov was organized, during which the law enforcer urged not to perceive the information of the opposition media, and also noted that the law enforcement agencies are actively pursuing the participants of political protests in 2020 in order to *"make everyone healthy, happy, happy about our common future"*²² . Another indicative case occurred at the All-Union State University, where Vadim Tolpinets, head of the department for countering "extremism" of the 7th department of the State Department for Combating Extremism, spoke to teachers²³ . It should be noted that the GUBOPiK is notorious in Belarus as a power structure, aimed at political repression, detention and violence against opposition activists. The news report says that Vadim Tolpinets showed the teachers video materials of the 7th Department of the GUBOPiK, and we quite admit that among these materials there could be the so-called "penitential" videos, which are actively posted by law enforcement agencies on their information resources when arresting activists. Another form of intimidation of young people is their involvement in watching various political trials, the purpose of which we see as demonstrating to young people the consequences of protest activity. In October, we recorded two examples of students being attracted to political court sessions. According to independent mass media, students were brought en masse to watch the trial of Yelena Borisyyuk, who was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison for comments on the Internet against officials, supporters of A. Lukashenka, law enforcers and Russian soldiers taking part in the aggressive war against Ukraine²⁴ . We recorded another case of attracting students to watch a political trial in Minsk branch of RGSU, where Zhanna Sharygina was tried for "insulting Aliaksandr Lukashenka."²⁵ Another form of intimidation of young people was the demonstrative informing by official resources of educational institutions of

⁷ <https://t.me/uomoik/100984>

⁸ https://t.me/krestyanskaya_14/21978

⁹ <https://tinyurl.com/3erfk9fw>

¹⁰ <https://mtk-bks.by/news/20241029>

¹¹ <http://bsac.by/events/profilaktika-ekstremizma-i-narkomanii-sredi-studentov>

¹² <https://www.bstu.by/news/109-universitet/2118-profilaktika-i-bezopasnost-vstrecha-studentov-brgtu-s-predstavitelnyami-pravookhranitelnykh-organov>

¹³ <https://t.me/ffsnbsu/1994>

¹⁴ <https://gsu.by/ru/node/8070>

¹⁵ <https://www.ggau.by/news/7009-v-uo-ggau-sostoyalas-razyasnitelnaya-beseda-o-protivodejstvii-korrupsii-i-ekstremizma>

¹⁶ <https://t.me/bgam2021/9462>

¹⁷ <https://t.me/bntuby/12875>

¹⁸ <https://t.me/ggptkk/6383>

¹⁹ <https://tinyurl.com/yc6n9dt2>

²⁰ https://vk.grsu.by/main_news.php?val=2291

²¹ <https://artcollege.by/news/vmeste-protiv-terrora-i-ekstremizma/>

²² <https://tinyurl.com/2x2896t9>

²³ <https://t.me/vsumasherov/12437>

²⁴ <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/81363.html>

²⁵ <https://tinyurl.com/4jkuynrc>

young people about cases of prosecution of minors for various actions of protest character. For example, the colleges of Homiel region actively disseminated messages of the Telegram channel of the Commission for Juvenile Affairs, which told about the detention of a girl for storing "extremist" material on her Instagram page²⁶ and the trial of a teenager for leaving an insulting comment on the Internet against a representative of the authorities²⁷. In our opinion, the purpose of intimidating young people and teachers is not only to suppress any opposition manifestations in education, but also to exclude young people from the information agenda of the opposition forces. The calculation of the authorities is that young people will fear persecution for reading opposition media and the source of information for them will be state information resources that promote exclusively the pro-government agenda.

- *Constant involvement of pupils, students and teachers in various campaign activities.* Compared to September, we recorded a significant increase in campaign activities in educational institutions, some of which had a nationwide character. The first such example is the massive involvement of almost all levels of education in the authorities' campaign "Unity Marathon". Throughout October, the "Unity Marathon" took place in Molodechno, Homiel and Zhlobin and actively involved pupils and students from local educational institutions. Pupils from schools in Homiel²⁸, Svetlogorsk²⁹, Petrykau district³⁰, Rahachou district³¹, Homiel district³² were involved in the drawing contest "We are together". Pupils of Svetlogorsk³³, Dobrush³⁴, Kalinkovichi³⁵, Molodechno³⁶ districts wrote essays on the theme "What is unity?". As for the main events of the action, they also actively involved young people. For example, Deputy Minister of Education Kateryna Petrutskaya held "Non-boring non-lectures" on the upcoming elections in Molodechno Polytechnic College³⁷, Homiel College of Design and Computer Graphics³⁸, Zhlobin Metallurgical College³⁹. In addition, young people in Homiel were sent to a meeting with propagandist Igor Tur and Minister of Information Marat Markov, who conveyed the pro-government propaganda agenda to the audience⁴⁰. Examples of the involvement of students in other activities of the "Marathon of Unity" propaganda campaign in October can be seen in our weekly monitoring research. The second example of campaign events that acquired a nationwide character was the organization of thematic informational hours in schools on the theme of elections. We told about the fact that such informational hours will be held in schools until the end of 2024 back in late August, as well as their holding was announced in September by the head of the CEC Igor Karpenko⁴¹. In October,

²⁶ <https://t.me/gqpatl/932>

²⁷ <https://t.me/gqptkk/6642>

²⁸ https://t.me/Novobelica_Obrazovanie/42239

²⁹ https://t.me/svetlogorsk_obrazovanie/43149

³⁰ <https://t.me/petrikovoo/54606>

³¹ <https://t.me/oorogachev/91854>

³² <https://t.me/obrazovaniegomelskiyrik/9626>

³³ https://t.me/svetlogorsk_obrazovanie/43134

³⁴ <https://t.me/dobrushLapitskajaVP/5197>

³⁵ https://t.me/kalin_roditeli/32613

³⁶ <https://t.me/uomoik/100895>

³⁷ <https://mgpk.by/index.php/news/3196-neskuchnaya-nelektsiya>

³⁸ https://t.me/krestyanskaya_14/22002

³⁹ <https://zmt.by/news/288-neskuchnaynelektsiya-v-zhlobinskom-metallurgicheskome-kolledzhe>

⁴⁰ https://t.me/GSMU_main/13312

⁴¹ <https://tinyurl.com/35x7ve85>

we recorded the holding of these events in schools in Smarhoni⁴² , Rahachou⁴³ , Vileika⁴⁴ , Dribi⁴⁵ , Petrykau district⁴⁶ , Homiel district⁴⁷ and other regions of the country. As can be seen, the information hours did not have a single scenario, which caused the difference in the formats of their realization. In our opinion, informational hours on electoral topics should create an illusion among young people of the democratic nature of elections in Belarus and ensure their trust in the electoral system. The most vivid example of nationwide participation of educational institutions in the election campaign is the flash mob "You should", which started in late October and was connected with the "support" of Aliaksandr Lukashenka's statement about participation in the elections. Teachers of the kindergarten in Pruzhany⁴⁸ attracted small children to participate in the action. College and university students were massively involved in the flash mob, which can be seen in Slutsk Medical College⁴⁹ , Vitebsk Medical College⁵⁰ , Goretsk Pedagogical College⁵¹ , Rechitsa Pedagogical College⁵² , Hrodna College of Arts⁵³ , Berastavitsa College⁵⁴ , Belarusian-Russian University⁵⁵ , BUTE⁵⁶ , MITSO⁵⁷ , Military Academy⁵⁸ , BSAA⁵⁹ , BSATU⁶⁰ , HrSMU⁶¹ , BSPU⁶² , BSTU⁶³ , BSU⁶⁴ , BSUIR⁶⁵ , BSU of Food and Chemical Technologies⁶⁶ , BSEU⁶⁷ , BNTU⁶⁸ , BrSU⁶⁹ , VSAVM⁷⁰ , VSAM⁷¹ , HSTU⁷² , PSAVM⁷³ , HSTU⁷⁴ , HrSMU⁷⁵ , MSU im.

42 https://t.me/obrazovanie_smorgon/41667

43 <https://t.me/oorogachev/91884>

44 https://t.me/vileyka_uosit/12191

45 <https://t.me/dribinobrazovanie/7250>

46 <https://t.me/petrikovoo/54714>

47 <https://t.me/obrazovaniegomelskiyrik/9676>

48 https://t.me/pruzhany_schools/11704

49 <https://t.me/slutskmedkol/3303>

50 <https://t.me/vitgmk/3290>

51 <https://t.me/leninogpk/570>

52 <https://rgpk.by/nov1538.html>

53 <https://artcollege.by/news/narodnyj-chellendzh/>

54 <https://tinyurl.com/3jm6xk8e>

55 https://t.me/OVRM_BRU/2497

56 <https://t.me/bteuofficial/4065>

57 https://t.me/univer_mitso/12644

58 https://t.me/VA_RB/18055

59 https://t.me/bqaa_minsk/4674

60 https://t.me/bsatu_orvm/12752

61 https://t.me/BSMU_official/41617

62 https://t.me/bspu_official/19461

63 https://t.me/TLGRM_belstuby/5744

64 https://t.me/official_bsu/16973

65 https://t.me/bsuir_official/9727

66 <https://t.me/bsupc/10608>

67 https://t.me/bseu_official/23472

68 <https://t.me/bntuby/12810>

69 https://t.me/brsu_pushkina/10871

70 https://t.me/vsavm_official/26540

71 https://t.me/mediacenter_vgmu/13172

72 https://t.me/VSTU_VITEBSK/11059

73 https://t.me/psu_by/9005

74 https://t.me/gstu_news/21467

75 https://t.me/grsmu_by/9797

A.A.Kuleshov⁷⁶. At Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies, students were not only made to star in a video⁷⁷, but also to take a picture with the words "You should"⁷⁸, and to line up in the words "You should" to record another video⁷⁹. We recorded similar photo taking of pupils and students with the words "You should" in Homiel Agrarian and Economic College⁸⁰ and MIUP⁸¹, and in Vitebsk Technical College⁸², BrSTU⁸³ and BGSHA⁸⁴ young people were also lined up in the words "You should". In BSUCA⁸⁵ the students' participation in the flash mob was accompanied by the pro-governmental song "We can do anything". At VSU students were gathered in the assembly hall to shoot a video in order to create maximum mass⁸⁶. At SDSU, students living in the dormitory were forced to turn on the lights in the windows in the evening so that the light from the windows would form the word "You should"⁸⁷. Absolutely at all levels of education the flash mob touched teachers, which can be observed at the National Children's Technopark⁸⁸, National Children's's Educational and Health Center "Zubrenok"⁸⁹; kindergartens in Stolin⁹⁰ and Homiel⁹¹; schools in Minsk⁹², Lyakhovichi⁹³, Hantsavichi⁹⁴, Stolin⁹⁵, Rahachou⁹⁶, Svetlahorsk⁹⁷, Rahachou⁹⁸, Babruisk⁹⁹, Lida¹⁰⁰, Brahlin¹⁰¹, Shchuchinsky¹⁰² district; Minsk College of Innovative Construction Technologies¹⁰³, Minsk College of Arts¹⁰⁴, Homiel College of Transport and Transport Communications¹⁰⁵, Buda-Koshelev Agrarian and Technical

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/MGUKULESHOV/9816>

⁷⁷ https://t.me/MGUP_university/14220

⁷⁸ https://t.me/MGUP_university/14221

⁷⁹ https://t.me/MGUP_university/14288

⁸⁰ <https://t.me/ggaekinf/2086>

⁸¹ <https://www.imb.by/detail/2231>

⁸² <https://t.me/brsmlive/16412>

⁸³ https://t.me/BrSTU_telegram/5230

⁸⁴ https://t.me/bsaa_by/10299

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/bguki/23864>

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/vsumasherov/12447>

⁸⁷ https://t.me/grsu_official/19040

⁸⁸ <https://t.me/ndtpmink/5281>

⁸⁹ https://t.me/NCC_ZUBRONOK/2083

⁹⁰ <https://t.me/Hpa3ZAOyHFU1ZDdi/15609>

⁹¹ https://t.me/Novobelica_Obrazovanie/42744

⁹² <https://t.me/frunzedu/79482>

⁹³ <https://t.me/obrazovanie1region/213>

⁹⁴ <https://t.me/Gantsevichi/38983>

⁹⁵ <https://t.me/Hpa3ZAOyHFU1ZDdi/15584>

⁹⁶ https://t.me/Novobelica_Obrazovanie/42736

⁹⁷ https://t.me/svetlogorsk_obrazovanie/44442

⁹⁸ https://t.me/krestyanskaya_14/22640

⁹⁹ https://t.me/obrazovanie_bobruiska/16267

¹⁰⁰ https://t.me/obrazovanie_Lida/81606

¹⁰¹ <https://t.me/otdelobrbragin/5666>

¹⁰² <https://t.me/schuhineducation/8271>

¹⁰³ https://t.me/mgk_ist/10193

¹⁰⁴ <https://t.me/mgki1975/11041>

¹⁰⁵ <https://t.me/ggpljt/6676>

College¹⁰⁶; Academy of Management, GSMU¹⁰⁷¹⁰⁸, BSAA¹⁰⁹, BSAM¹¹⁰, BSAM¹¹¹, PalesSU¹¹². As can be seen, the flash mob "You should" also testifies to the strengthening of the personality cult of Aliaksandr Lukashenka, which is one of the features of the current election campaign. Another vivid example of this tendency is the continuation of presentations of the propaganda book "Superposition. Parallel Worlds", which is fully devoted to the glorification of the 30-year rule of Aliaksandr Lukashenka. During October we recorded presentations of the book in schools of Leninski¹¹³, Central¹¹⁴ and Sovetski¹¹⁵ districts of Minsk, as well as in BSAA¹¹⁶. Among other notable events on the theme of praising Aliaksandr Lukashenka in education we can single out a photo exhibition at the All-Union State University, which is dedicated to Aliaksandr Lukashenka's visit to the university. As one can notice, almost all the photos are accompanied by quotes of the Belarusian ruler¹¹⁷. Chairman of the Constitutional Court Piotr Miklashevich addressed the students at VGTU and during the lecture told about how Aliaksandr Lukashenka in the first years of his rule saved the country from a systemic crisis thanks to changes in the Constitution¹¹⁸. In Belarusian-Russian University¹¹⁹ and BSMU dormitory¹²⁰ students were gathered to watch the movie "One for All", which is dedicated to praising Aliaksandr Lukashenka's rule. In Homiel College of Builders the deputy of the House of Representatives Vitaly Utkin told the teachers that the Belarusian opposition strives "to rewrite the history of the World War II under the cover of the struggle for freedom", Aliaksandr Lukashenka is an exceptional politician and personality, and the main task of the teachers is "to prevent the negative influence of the Western special services and the Belarusian opposition on the youth"¹²¹. The most vivid example of involving teachers in the promotion of the personality cult of Aliaksandr Lukashenkawas the start of the new project "Therefore People's" on the TV channel "Belarus 4 Mahiliou", where the host of the first issue was the vice-rector of Belarusian-Russian University Natalia Volologina¹²². During the whole issue not a single critical remark was said to Aliaksandr Lukashenka, and the whole program was filled with praise about the personality and decisions of the Belarusian ruler. Also during the month we recorded dozens of local promotional events, which touch upon the theme of the upcoming elections, but are not connected with the promotion of the personality cult of Aliaksandr Lukashenka. Examples of such propaganda events can be seen in Belarusian State University of

106 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h08kXQtd4_c&t=8s

107 <https://t.me/brsmlive/16426>

108 https://t.me/GSMU_main/13510

109 <https://t.me/akadbqai/8254>

110 <https://t.me/bgam2021/9449>

111 https://t.me/coordinationcouncil_barsu/9043

112 https://t.me/polessu_official/3936

113 <https://t.me/lenue/39826>

114 https://t.me/cenue_minsk/39142

115 <https://t.me/sovedu/91823>

116 <https://t.me/akadbqai/8094>

117 <https://vsu.by/sobytiya/novosti-universiteta/10626-v-vgu-proshla-konferentsiya-partii-belava-rus.html>

118 https://t.me/VSTU_VITEBSK/10632

119 https://t.me/OVRM_BRU/2487

120 https://t.me/BSMU_official/40795

121 <http://ggpls.by/component/content/article/3122>

122 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83uTxIMr3LI>

Food and Chemical Technologies¹²³ , VSAVM¹²⁴ , HrSMU¹²⁵ , BSU¹²⁶ , BSUCA¹²⁷ , BSUPhC¹²⁸

- *Creation of pro-government activists and unified information policy in educational institutions.*

We recorded the first attempts of the authorities to create an asset in educational institutions, which would conduct pro-governmental agitation during the election period as early as in September. October was marked by the authorities' transition to instructional activities, which are designed to ensure a unified character of pro-governmental agitation and the fight against dissent in the sphere of education. An example of such events is the seminar-meeting "Formation of legal culture of youth", which was held in October for the country's teachers. At it the head of the CEC Igor Karpenko spoke about the necessity to educate young people¹²⁹ and the advantages of the Belarusian electoral system¹³⁰ . After the official start of the election campaign, we recorded a series of organizational meetings with YLEU members of a number of higher educational institutions: Academy of Management¹³¹ , BSSMU¹³² and BSATU¹³³ . In the latter case it is officially stated that the meeting was devoted to the upcoming elections. The special nature of the authorities' work with the YLEU is also evidenced by a regional seminar held at Mahiliou State University named after A.A.Kuleshov, where a riot police officer taught young people hand-to-hand combat techniques¹³⁴ . Another example of instructional activities was the seminar "Effective Communication Setting: Modern Tools for Working in the Educational and Media Spaces, Taking into Account Modern Challenges and Threats" held on the basis of the Ministry of Education. The seminar united more than 100 people who are engaged in content placement in social networks of universities, and its speakers were Tatsiana Kharlinskaya, a lecturer of the journalism faculty of Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies, and propagandist Andrei Lazutkin¹³⁵ . Finally, in late October, the pro-governmental trade union of education and science workers gathered about 140 participants from various educational institutions for a forum dedicated to the 30th anniversary of Aliaksandr Lukashenka's rule. Propagandist Ksenia Lebedeva addressed the forum participants¹³⁶ , deputies of the House of Representatives Siarhei Klishevich and Uladzimir Pavlouski spoke about the role of youth in the election campaign, and law enforcer Aliaksandr Ivanau dwelt on various forms of responsibility for "extremism" and ways to counteract it in the youth environment¹³⁷ . In our opinion, such events are aimed at solving both short-term and long-term tasks that the authorities set before Belarusian education. The short-term tasks include the authorities' aspiration to give instructions to the youth pro-governmental activists

123 <https://gsu.by/ru/node/8067>

124 <https://www.vsavm.by/2024/10/03/nauchno-metodicheskij-seminar-po-politologii/>

125 <https://tinyurl.com/34nufjvz>

126 <https://www.bsmu.by/novosti/obshcheuniversitetskie/innovatsii-v-izbiratelnom-zakonodatelstve-lektsiya-dlya-vrachej-i-studentov/>

127 https://www.buk.by/university/news/novosti/v_bguki_proshla_dialogovaya_ploshchadka_s_uchastiem_igorya_tura/

128 <https://t.me/bsupc/10525>

129 https://t.me/krestyanskaya_14/21895

130 https://t.me/krestyanskaya_14/21911

131 <https://www.pac.by/press-center/news/aktivisti-brsm-au-prinyali-uchastie-v-otkritom-dialoge-moop/>

132 https://t.me/BSMU_official/41586

133 https://t.me/bsatu_orvm/12639

134 <https://t.me/BRSMMSU/3291>

135 <https://t.me/MinobrofBelarus/35280>

136 <https://t.me/BTUESW/12930>

137 <https://mslu.by/news/respublikanskiy-forum-molodezh-v-tsentre-vnimanija/>

for the subsequent agitation in various educational institutions; to carry out a unified pro-governmental agitation policy on the official resources of higher education institutions; to involve students in policing at polling stations and in identifying opposition-minded peers. The long-term objectives of the authorities are to use teachers as agitators to form a distorted view of the electoral process in Belarus among students and to create the institute of pro-governmental electoral volunteers, who in the future will be members of election commissions, ensuring the result the authorities want at the elections and cutting off people without pro-governmental attitudes from the elections.

2. Continuation of the authorities' course to establish total control over the entire education sphere. This is evidenced by the problems of two notable organizations in the market of private educational services: language school "Streamline"¹³⁸ and educational center "Leader"¹³⁹. If earlier private institutions of both basic and additional education for children, non-state health camps fell under the state "sweep", this year the sphere of additional education for adults fell under the attention of state structures. Increased attention to them on the part of the structures of the Ministry of Education¹⁴⁰, which was previously noted by us in monitoring studies, also testified to possible problems of non-state educational centers. In our opinion, the state may seek to subordinate highly profitable areas of adult education by eliminating large non-state players and redirecting their clients to state structures. Another reason for the forced liquidation of the large language school "Streamline" may be the state's desire to control the lists of people who study foreign languages and thus may have intentions to go to study or work in other countries. In addition, we are sure that the creation of problems in non-state educational centers is aimed at pushing their managers to dismiss politically disloyal people who can no longer work in state structures, but could still work in the sphere of non-state additional education for adults. "Cleaning up" the sphere of additional education for adults means the completion of the process of establishing total control of the state over the entire education system, where now there are no areas of activity independent of the authorities. We assume that the next step of the state may be the "cleaning up" of the tutoring services market, where people who were fired from the state structures for their oppositional views are still working privately.

3. Implementation of the politicized historical course in educational institutions of Belarus. A number of events in October not only confirmed our assumptions about the nature of the authorities' new view of the history of Belarus, but also demonstrated that this course is already being actively implemented in educational institutions. The main indicator that the authorities' view of the history of Belarus is ideologized and politicized was the speech of Viktor Belazorovich, dean of the Faculty of History, Communication and Tourism of GrSU, during the plenary session of the congress "History science of Belarus: asobes, kantseptsy, dasyagenneni (to the 95th anniversary of the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus)"¹⁴¹. During his speech Viktor Belazorovich stated that the current concept of the history of Belarus is built on the interests of the common civilizational development of Russia and Belarus. The period when Belarus was a part of the Russian Empire is assessed by the term modernization, not Russification, and the period of the USSR is called the time of achievements. Victor Belazorovich's words, in fact, confirmed the fact that the whole modern conception of the history

138 <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/81539.html>

139 <https://news.zerkalo.io/life/81635.html>

140 https://t.me/DKKO_Belarus/44

141 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPk_hJMGMnE

of Belarus has a clear pro-Russian character, which seeks to maximally exalt the periods of coexistence of Belarus and Russia in one state and to criticize those pages of the history of Belarus, which were aimed at a vector of development different from the Russian one. Victor Belazorovich's speech makes it obvious that our assumptions and assessments of the authorities' view of the history of Belarus were correct, and the activity of official historians in Belarus will continue to be aimed at changing the assessments to suit the modern ideological agenda. The most striking example of the realization of the authorities' view on the history of Belarus was the opening of a new museum exposition in the gymnasium No. 1 of Svisloch. Previously, a significant part of the exposition was devoted to the life and activities of Kastus Kalinowski, the uprising of 1863-1864 in Svislochyna, and the central exhibit of the museum was a large bust of Kastus Kalinowski, who studied in this gymnasium¹⁴². Now the renewed exposition of the museum is devoted to the history of education in Svisloch district¹⁴³. As you can see on the photos¹⁴⁴, the museum mixes the history of the institution itself, the history of education in Svisloch district, information about the genocide of the Belarusian people during the World War II and much more. At the same time, there was no significant place for the personality of Kastus Kalinowski in the new museum, and we even admit that the historical personality was completely removed from the exposition. There is neither a bust of Kalinowski, nor a stand about his life and activities in the new museum. Thus, the Belarusian authorities continue the policy of selective attitude to history, which is aimed at the maximum "whitewashing" of the periods of coexistence with Russia in one state. Another example of the implementation of the authorities' politicized view of the history of Belarus was the lectures on the state symbols of Belarus held by Ihar Marzaliuk at the Lyceum of Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies¹⁴⁵ and BSMU¹⁴⁶. During his lectures the deputy of the House of Representatives praised the current official symbols and discredited Belarusian national symbols. In particular, Ihar Marzaliuk told the listeners that the white-red-white flag *"was originally used on a par with Nazi symbols and has no relation to the Belarusian history"*, and the coat of arms "Pogonya", which was the state emblem in Belarus in 1991-1995 *"is a substitution of the historical symbol, and is neither a repetition nor a replica of the historical coat of arms"*. The Belarusian authorities need to defame any symbols connected with the protest movement and, on the contrary, to show the historical continuity of the official symbols as much as possible, which also clearly demonstrates the politicized historical course of the Belarusian authorities. Finally, at the end of October various events glorifying the Soviet period of the history of Belarus started. History teachers in Minsk were massively gathered in Kupalau Theater to listen to the propaganda seminar "Reunification of Western Belarus and the BSSR as an act of historical justice". The seminar was officially dedicated to the anniversary of the People's Assembly of Western Belarus, but in reality history teachers were not only told about the events of 1939 and the accession of Western Belarus to the BSSR, but also imposed propaganda theses about attempts to falsify history by foreign states¹⁴⁷. On October 29th the Belarusian authorities celebrated the 106th anniversary of the Soviet Komsomol, which resulted in a large number of events in the educational institutions of Belarus. A large meeting of former

¹⁴² https://grodnovisafree.by/media/k2/items/cache/ea1ac85f51cc5e87293419a97f658385_M.jpg

¹⁴³ <https://gimnazia1.svroo.by/document-16763.html>

¹⁴⁴ https://t.me/gymnasium1_svisloch/2245

¹⁴⁵ <https://t.me/LyceumBSU/2132>

¹⁴⁶ https://t.me/BSMU_official/40704

¹⁴⁷ <https://minsknews.by/bole-300-stolichnyh-uchitelej-istorii-sobral-seminar-spravedlivaya-istoriya/>

members of the Soviet Komsomol with students from Minsk branch of RGSU¹⁴⁸ , BSMU¹⁴⁹ , BSPU¹⁵⁰ and other universities took place in Minsk on the basis of the House of Moscow, where the activity of the main Soviet youth organization was praised in every possible way. Schoolchildren in Navapolatsk¹⁵¹ , Kalinkavichy¹⁵² , as well as students of Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies¹⁵³ and GSU¹⁵⁴ were involved in similar meetings, but on a local level. Events praising the Soviet Komsomol, but without the participation of veterans, were held with students of BSATU¹⁵⁵ and schoolchildren from Svetlogorsk¹⁵⁶ . In Minsk, students from various educational institutions gathered at the "Komsomolets" movie theater to listen to lectures about Komsomol by BRSM leaders Alexander Lukyanov and Roman Bondaruk and watch the film about the official symbols "Cultural Code"¹⁵⁷ . At the same time, various events in educational institutions of Belarus began to commemorate the upcoming anniversary of the October Revolution, which will be celebrated in Belarus on November 7. In Minsk schoolchildren on vacation were taken to the Palace of Children and Youth to listen to a propaganda lecture about the significance of the revolution for modern Belarus by Aleksei Dzermant¹⁵⁸ . It is indicative that on October 29 in Belarus they remembered another date, which is also connected with the USSR, but has a sad connotation: in the night from October 29 to October 30, 1937 in Minsk more than a hundred figures of Belarusian culture and science were shot. We have not recorded a single case of any events in memory of the victims of Stalin's terror in the educational institutions of Belarus, which clearly demonstrates the selective and ideologically motivated attitude of the authorities to history and the application of this approach in Belarusian education. The representatives of the present political regime are ready to praise the period of the USSR in every possible way, to emphasize the positive pages of the history of this state, while the negative moments of the Soviet history are either silenced or ignored, and it is obvious that this is one of the principles of the current state historical policy.

4. Preservation of high rates of ideologization in Belarusian education. As it has already been noted above, in recent years, October was characterized by some decrease in the rates of ideologization of Belarusian education, which is connected with the rest of the system after the maximum inclusion in the celebration of the ideological Day of National Unity. But this year, apart from a large number of various propaganda events connected with the election campaign, we recorded the preservation and, at some levels, the strengthening of ideologization of the educational process in October. The least ideologized level of education remains kindergartens, although even in them we observed a slight increase in the number of ideological events. Besides, the opening of several patriotic groups in preschool institutions in Zhitkovichi¹⁵⁹ and Minsk¹⁶⁰

148 <https://tinyurl.com/uxm6w3yx>

149 https://t.me/BSMU_official/41673

150 https://t.me/bspu_official/19487

151 https://t.me/pro_education_np/36129

152 https://t.me/kalin_roditeli/33441

153 https://t.me/MGUP_university/14252

154 <https://gp.by/novosti/obrazovanie/news293463.html>

155 https://t.me/bsatu_orvm/12790

156 https://t.me/svetlogorsk_obrazovanie/44451

157 <https://t.me/brsmilive/16340>

158 <https://t.me/melminsk/25365>

159 <https://t.me/doshmir1/14679>

160 <https://t.me/obrazovaniepervomayskiy/120911>

became an alarming signal. While in Homiel region this is the third recorded case of opening such groups, the opening of a group in Minsk is already an indicator that the project is beginning to acquire nationwide proportions. At other levels of education we observed the preservation of the September rates of ideologization in colleges and their strengthening in schools and universities. In total, in these educational institutions we recorded hundreds of events of ideological orientation among which we can single out the nationwide character of viewing the propaganda film "The Virus of Nazism". These screenings accompanied the educational process in schools, colleges and universities throughout the whole month, which can be seen in the examples of schools in Minsk¹⁶¹, Lida¹⁶², Smorgon¹⁶³, Svislochi¹⁶⁴, as well as in Driba¹⁶⁵, Oktyabrski¹⁶⁶, Petrykau district¹⁶⁷; colleges of Minsk¹⁶⁸, Dzerzhinsk¹⁶⁹, Maryina Gorka¹⁷⁰, Lyuban¹⁷¹, Homiel¹⁷², Loyev¹⁷³, Brest¹⁷⁴, Vitebsk¹⁷⁵, Novopolotsk¹⁷⁶; BSAA¹⁷⁷, BSPU¹⁷⁸, MITSO¹⁷⁹, HSTU¹⁸⁰, HSTU¹⁸¹, MSPU named after A.A.Kuleshov, Novopolotsk; BSAA, BSPU, MITSO, HSTU, HSTU, MSPU named after A.A.Kuleshov. A.A.Kuleshov¹⁸². In addition to the just condemnation of neo-Nazi groups that operated on the territory of Belarus, the movie contains a number of propaganda theses. In particular, the authors of the movie several times draw a connection between the activities of various neo-Nazi groups and Ukraine and emphasize the role of neo-Nazis in the events of Euromaidan. The film uses the propaganda thesis about the revival of "Nazi ideals" in the neighboring countries of Belarus in connection with the demolition of monuments to Soviet soldiers. Finally, the deputy of the House of Representatives Ihar Marzaliuk in the film openly equates with neo-Nazis and calls to severely prosecute people who use symbols, rhetoric and vocabulary of Belarusian collaborationist formations and units. Obviously, these words mean the national white-red-white flag, the coat of arms "Pogonya" and the slogan "Zhyve Belarus", which are used by supporters of the political opposition who have nothing to do with neo-Nazi ideology. A large number of ideological events in schools, colleges and universities were aimed at attracting schoolchildren and students to join the BRSM and promoting the activities of these pro-

161 https://t.me/mosue_minsk/45253

162 https://t.me/obrazovanie_Lida/79504

163 https://t.me/obrazovanie_smorgon/41234

164 <https://t.me/obrazovanie2021/41380>

165 <https://t.me/dribinobrazovanie/7086>

166 <https://t.me/Oktobraz/53646>

167 <https://t.me/petrikovoo/54027>

168 <https://t.me/glinkacollege/6139>

169 https://t.me/oatpl_dzr/3246

170 <https://mqatk.by/virus-nacizma.html>

171 <https://tinyurl.com/2hvw7urr>

172 <https://t.me/ggpatl/765>

173 <http://lqpk.by/home/news/2388-prosmotr-i-obsuzhdenie-filma-rassledovaniya>

174 <https://medicalbrest.by/prosmotr-filma-rassledovaniya-virus/>

175 <https://college-lp.by/2024/10/03/14018/>

176 <https://ngmk.by/kolledzh/novosti-kolledzha/887-informatsionnaya-kampaniya>

177 <https://t.me/akadbqai/7623>

178 <https://bspu.by/news/universitet/v-bqpu-prohodit-prosmotr-filma-rassledovaniya-ont-virus-nacizma>

179 https://t.me/univer_mitso/12335

180 https://t.me/gstu_news/20609

181 https://t.me/mspu_by/14217

182 <https://www.msu.by/novosti/univernews/4996-2024-10-02-1>

governmental youth organizations. These events, as well as other cases of promotion of pro-government ideology in education will be presented in the fall monitoring study.

5. Strengthening of the pace of militarization of Belarusian education. If in September the process of militarization of Belarusian education moved to the background, during October we observed a considerable increase in the number of militarized activities almost at all levels of education. The only level where such activities were almost absent was kindergartens. Despite the fact that in schools during the whole October we recorded the opening of only one new military-patriotic club¹⁸³, the number of schoolchildren's visits to law enforcement agencies and paramilitary activities on the basis of educational institutions increased more than 3 times in comparison with September. We observed almost similar dynamics in colleges of the country, and at the level of higher education the number of paramilitary activities has also increased, although their total number is much lower than the pace of militarization of schools and colleges. A notable event in October was the information of independent mass media that DOSAAF started to open "drone racing sections", which, in fact, train schoolchildren as drone operators for the Armed Forces¹⁸⁴. We also found the fact of opening a section on UAV control on the basis of the Center for creativity of children and youth "Spectrum" in Hrodna¹⁸⁵, and in Minsk the leadership of the Ministry of Defense and rectors of universities considered the possibility of training drone operators from among students¹⁸⁶. In our opinion, much attention should be paid to the fact that the pro-Russian organization "Movement Union" is planning to assist DOSAAF in the implementation of training programs for UAV operators¹⁸⁷. All this indicates that the Belarusian authorities are placing a special emphasis on training drone operators from schoolchildren and students. And the participation of pro-Russian forces in this process may in the future develop into cooperation of DOSAAF and other structures with Russian army units, which are taking part in the aggressive war against Ukraine. Another notable phenomenon of the month was a tactical training session for members of the military-patriotic club "ZUBR" held in Svisloch District Department of Internal Affairs, where schoolchildren were dressed in full equipment, which is usually used by law enforcers when dispersing mass demonstrations. The news also states that the teenagers were taught how to "stand in formation with shields and carry out commands and tasks of the commander"¹⁸⁸. We stated above that YLEU students will be involved in assisting law enforcers during the elections. Such a training in Svisloch police department may also indicate that in some regions such assistance to law enforcers can be provided by members of military-patriotic clubs.

6. Active involvement of representatives of the Orthodox Church in the educational process.

Back in September, we noted a significant activization of the Orthodox Church in Belarusian education. As the results of the October monitoring research have shown, this tendency has only intensified and began to acquire a widespread character. Compared to September, we recorded almost threefold increase of joint activities with the BOC in schools and twofold increase of such activities in colleges and universities. We see the main reason for this increase as the huge number of Mother's Day and Father's Day events held in October. In all regions of the country we have

183 <https://t.me/nastgaz/14134>

184 <https://tinyurl.com/ycyk9792>

185 https://t.me/obrazovanievrodno_vipkanal/1597

186 <https://t.me/MinobrofBelarus/34994>

187 <https://t.me/souyzby/1830>

188 <https://t.me/obrazovanie2021/42114>

seen Orthodox priests involved in these events, promoting among schoolchildren and young people a traditional view of family life. At the end of October, classes were held in all schools and colleges throughout the country on the theme "Youth - a time of choice. Youth - for mercy" within the framework of the project "School of Active Citizen". As the results of our research showed, in a number of cases the speakers of such classes were also Orthodox priests, who encouraged students to take part in various charitable projects and actions of the BOC. Finally, the increasing influence of the BOC in education is evidenced by the meeting of the Coordinating Council on Cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Orthodox Church. It is reported that within the framework of the meeting its participants discussed the implementation of the program of cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Orthodox Church, the main directions and prospects of interaction between spiritual and secular institutions, conditions of spiritual and moral education of the young generation¹⁸⁹. Thus, the strengthening of the BOC's position in education is not a spontaneous process, but is promoted by state structures, which see the church as a potential conductor of pro-government ideology elements among young people. At the same time, the participation of the BOC in ideological work with young people, in our opinion, will also lead to the promotion of Russian propaganda theses, which we have already recorded during the monitoring studies of recent years.

7. Preservation of dependence of Belarusian education on Russia and China. In October, we recorded cases of international educational cooperation of Belarus with Azerbaijan, Brazil, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Iraq, Italy, China, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mali, UAE, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Only in the case of Russia, China, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Cuba are we talking about permanent educational contacts. For the second month in a row, we record a large number of various educational contacts only in relations with Russia and China, which testifies to the dependence of Belarusian education on these countries. If we consider significant events in the educational cooperation between Belarus and China, we can single out the arrival in Homiel of a teacher from China who will teach Chinese on the basis of one of the city gymnasiums¹⁹⁰. We believe that the example of Homiel region on the centralized attraction of Chinese teachers will spread to other regions of Belarus, which in the future may lead to the increase of Chinese language teaching in Belarusian schools and to the displacement of European languages from them. Another significant event in October was the opening of the Chinese-Belarusian center for the implementation of the project "Ban Mo (Ruben. Mozi) College" at Hrodna Humanities College. Reportedly, the establishment of the center involves Chinese funding for material and technical base, educational and methodological support for studying Chinese language and Chinese culture, as well as exchange of students and staff¹⁹¹. As for the Russian-Belarusian educational cooperation, the main event of October was the determination of universities on the basis of which it is planned to create the Union State University of High Technologies. They became BSTU and Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University¹⁹². The dependence of the Belarusian education system on Russia and China is especially noticeable in the absence of any contacts in the educational sphere with the countries of Europe and America.

189 <https://t.me/MinobrofBelarus/35219>

190 https://t.me/krestyanskaya_14/21382

191 <https://edu-grodno.gov.by/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/document-133513.html>

192 https://t.me/TLGRM_belstuby/5524

8. High rates of promotion of the Russian influence in Belarusian education. As throughout the whole 2024, the Russian influence in Belarusian education was promoted by means of several directions of work:

- *Dissemination of Russian propaganda in Belarusian education.* During October, we recorded a number of cases when pupils and students of Belarusian educational institutions were taken to meetings and events that clearly promoted the Russian propaganda agenda. At the beginning of the month, students of colleges and universities in the capital were forcibly taken to screenings of films that participated in the Eurasia.DOC festival. Among the films screened as part of the festival was "Brothers," a film about Russian soldiers who are engaged in a war of aggression against Ukraine¹⁹³. The movie promotes the Russian view of the war and creates a heroic image of the soldiers. We have recorded the involvement of students of BSTU¹⁹⁴, as well as students of Minsk trade¹⁹⁵ and technological¹⁹⁶ colleges in watching this propaganda movie. On the example of the capital's technological college¹⁹⁷ it can be seen that young people were attracted to watch another movie with a pro-Russian plot - "Forget the Latvian sniper"¹⁹⁸. The message says that watching the movie helps young people to preserve historical memory. In fact, the film is directed against the Latvian authorities, with special emphasis on criticizing the government for supporting Ukraine after the start of the Russian invasion. The movie also uses blatantly Russian propaganda theses. For example, Ukraine is associated with "Nazism" and "Bandera", and the Latvian authorities are blamed for "ignoring the tragedy of Donbass for 8 years". Pinsk Medical College students were taken to the museum of the history of the 85th missile regiment of the Strategic Missile Forces, which is located at the local school No. 3. As can be seen from the official report, the young people were told that nuclear weapons *"allow us to "cool down" the bellicose rhetoric of the West regarding both the Russian Federation and our country, and with a great deal of probability, being in the hands of our far-sighted leaders of the brotherly countries, will not allow the third world war mentioned by our opponents more and more often on the territory of the Slavic states"*¹⁹⁹. At the end of the month, schoolchildren from Homiel were taken to the local "Russian House" where they were shown the propaganda film "Why I moved to Russia" where several Americans criticize life in the U.S., talk about the advantages of Russia and thank the authorities for granting them political asylum²⁰⁰. The Russian propaganda agenda was also promoted in Belarusian education through meetings of pupils and students with various Russian figures. Anna Artamonova, an actress of Et Cetera theater, who is already called "volunteer" in the description of the news²⁰¹. It is reported that she told young people about *"the theme of war and the inadmissibility of its outbreak, about the irreparable consequences that it brings"*. At the same time, Anna Artamonova herself visited the occupied territories of Ukraine and actively supports Russian aggression against Ukraine, calling Russian soldiers *"heroes of our time, heroes of the Russian land, its salt"*²⁰². Reportedly, at the end of the meeting, the actress recommended the

193 <https://dzen.ru/video/watch/640f31b848b6ea6adefab43a>

194 https://t.me/TLGRM_belstuby/5525

195 <https://t.me/bseumtc/7474>

196 <https://t.me/mgtkminsk/1159>

197 <https://t.me/mgtkminsk/1167>

198 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40iYzNFIfF8>

199 <https://pinski.med.by/strong-iz-istorii-raketno-yadernogo-shhita-nyneshnei-nacionalnoj-bezopasnosti-gosudarstva-strong/>

200 <https://t.me/russiangomel/5342>

201 <https://t.me/akadbqai/7629>

202 <https://et-cetera.ru/press/interview/anna-artamonova-s-gitaroy-i-stikhami-k-ranenym-za-lentochku/>

young people to watch the movie "Fagot", the plot of which is based around the Russian view of the war against Ukraine²⁰³. In Lyceum No. 1 in Lida, historian Alexander Gronski met with students and told them about "Historical Myths in the Modern World"²⁰⁴. Interestingly, Alexander Gronski is known for his openly Western-Russian position²⁰⁵. In particular, several recent works of the historian are devoted to a critical view of the image of Kastus Kalinowski²⁰⁶. We are sure that Aliaksandr Gronski's speech to the lyceum students was filled with pro-Russian theses on the history of Belarus. At the end of October in several Belarusian higher educational institutions there were meetings of students with the worker of the Russian propaganda media "RT" Daria Vaganova, who in French promotes the theses of Russian and anti-Ukrainian propaganda²⁰⁷. In particular, we recorded such meetings at the Faculty of Journalism of Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies²⁰⁸, at the Academy of Management²⁰⁹, at GrSU²¹⁰. At the meetings with students Daria Vaganova not only spoke about her life path and activities, but also encouraged young people to take part in the RT online school.²¹¹

- *Cooperation of educational institutions with Russian and pro-Russian structures.* Another way of penetration of the Russian influence into Belarusian education is the activation of cooperation of Belarusian institutions with various structures that are located in Belarus and promote the Russian agenda. Back in September, we noted the fact of the beginning of cooperation of the military-patriotic club "Eaglets! Heirs of Victory!" with the most prominent pro-Russian organization in Belarus "Movement Union". As the results of the current monitoring research showed, the cooperation between the pro-Russian organization and military-patriotic clubs of Partyzanski district was not a one-time action. In October, members of the clubs "Eaglets! Heirs of Victory!" and "Gistarychnaya Monument" from gymnasium #5 of Minsk visited the office of the pro-Russian organization and met with its leader Siarhei Lushch. As you can see, the walls of the office are hung with photos of trips to the occupied territories of Ukraine, which Sergei Lushch told the schoolchildren about. Besides, the schoolchildren handed over humanitarian aid to "the guys on the front line", which again testifies to the possible participation of schoolchildren in helping Russian soldiers²¹². The "Russian House" in Hrodna was noticeably active in Belarusian education during October. First, on the basis of the "Russian House" the opening ceremony of the historical club took place, and its first members were schoolchildren from the local secondary school No. 28²¹³. Secondly, the "Russian House" was visited by the students of HrSMU to participate in a conversation with the Consul General of Russia in Hrodna Feodosiy Vladyshevsky on the topic "The Union State of Belarus and Russia"²¹⁴. We are sure that the activity of the historical club on the basis of the "Russian House" will promote among Belarusian schoolchildren the Russian view both on the history of Belarus and on the modern political situation in the world,

203 <https://krymsk-region.ru/deyatelnost/hudozhestvennyj-film-fagot/>

204 https://t.me/obrazovanie_Lida/79523

205 <https://zapadrus.su/project-/authorsp/10-2010-06-21-11-12-41.html>

206 <https://www.imemo.ru/publications/publications-by-author?page=1&fio=1908>

207 https://t.me/daria_vaganova_rt

208 <https://tinyurl.com/4y6y8mxx>

209 <https://www.pac.by/press-center/news/v-kademii-sostoyalas-vstrecha-s-korrespondentom-telekanala-russia-today/>

210 https://t.me/grsu_official/18945

211 <https://grodnopustv.by/index.php/novosti/item/19834-zhurnalst-russia-today-darya-vaganova>

212 https://t.me/partizan_obr/66673

213 <https://t.me/russkiydomvrodno/2240>

214 http://www.grsmu.by/ru/press_centr/news/produktivnyj-dialog-studenty-grsmu-posetili-russkij-dom.html

including the nature of Russia's war against Ukraine. The meeting with students of HrSMU was also devoted to the promotion of the Russian influence in education, where the aim to form a positive attitude of young people to the idea of Belarusian-Russian integration was clearly read. Finally, representatives of the Russian Embassy held a meeting on the basis of the capital's school No. 101, where they summarized the results of school exchanges, which were held during the year. According to the statements of the Russian side, more than 1000 Belarusian schoolchildren visited Russian regions in 2024 with the support of the Government of the Moscow Region, the Government of St. Petersburg, JSC "Russian Railways", the company "August-Bel" and the pro-Russian association "Movement Union"²¹⁵. Despite the fact that the figure of 1 thousand Belarusian schoolchildren looks rather modest, Russian structures managed to create a number of centers in Belarusian education to promote their influence for several years. We believe that in 2025, the Russian influence on education in Belarus will be even more noticeable and large-scale, and the contacts that have been established this year will be the basis for its scaling up.

- *Cooperation of Belarusian educational institutions with the occupied territories of Ukraine.* As throughout the whole year, October was filled with cases of direct cooperation with institutions from the occupied territories of Ukraine. Cases of cooperation in October look somewhat more modest against the background of the centralized removal of Belarusian students to Crimea in September, but all of them promoted the Russian agenda and sought to legitimize the Russian occupation of Ukrainian territories. BSAM students²¹⁶ and students of Minsk College of Technology²¹⁷ were involved in the organized viewing of the round table "Preserving the memory of the tragic events during the Great Patriotic War and crimes committed by the fascist regime against the peoples of the USSR. Neofascism and Russophobia in the Modern World", and Belarusian-Russian University employees were speakers at it²¹⁸. The round table itself was held at the Leningrad State University, and it was broadcasted at the Minsk Polytechnic College, where young people from other educational institutions were brought. The speakers of the round table were also representatives from the so-called "LNR" and "DNR" and once again the international status of the event was ensured by the participation of representatives from Belarus²¹⁹. The essence of the round table was reduced to the promotion of the traditional Russian propaganda thesis about equating Nazi atrocities during World War II and the actions of the Ukrainian authorities in relation to the Russian-occupied territories. It is also reported that Russian historian Nikolai Kozlov spoke about "the historical character of Russophobia and aggression against Russia by European states". Finally, participants of the round table, including those from the occupied territories of Ukraine, spoke about how historical education and educational work with young people should be improved. A teacher from MSPU took part in the forum "Volunteer of the Republic", which was held on the basis of Donetsk Pedagogical University. The forum was devoted to examples of involving young people in the activities of various pro-governmental organizations and the Belarusian teacher spoke about the activities of the military-historical club "Valor"²²⁰. On the basis of the Academy of Education, with the active participation of the BOC, a conference "Spiritual and moral and patriotic education as an integral component of youth

215 <https://t.me/rcnkbrest/24577>

216 <https://t.me/bgam2021/9303>

217 https://t.me/TLGRM_belstuby/5641

218 https://t.me/Bru_Live/11197

219 <https://tinyurl.com/mr28x69a>

220 https://t.me/mspu_by/14527

upbringing in modern conditions" was held in October. Its participant was Elena Levitskaya, a representative from occupied Donetsk, who spoke about the importance of patriotic education of the younger generation²²¹. National Children's Educational and Health Center "Zubrenok" held another online meeting with the Artek International Children's Center, which is located in occupied Crimea. The meeting had an ideological character aimed at promoting Belarusian-Russian projects in the field of patriotic education among young people²²². Pupils of the capital's school No. 41 were involved in the teleconference "My Obelisk: Memory is Alive", where, besides Belarusian teenagers, schoolchildren from Russian-occupied Yalta, Dzhankoy, Simferopol, Kerch and Sevastopol took part²²³. Very interesting looks the design of the classroom in school No. 41, which is dedicated to the peninsula and was opened in April this year²²⁴. As can be seen, in addition to the neutral theme of the events of World War II on the territory of Crimea, the design of the classroom uses images of the Crimean bridge with quotes that actually approve of the illegal actions of the Russian authorities on the occupied peninsula.

- *Promotion of education in Russia among Belarusian youth.* Finally, the last direction of promotion of Russian influence in Belarusian education in October was the start of the campaign for the next recruitment of future school graduates to study in Russian universities under quotas. The head of the Rossotrudnichestvo representative office in Belarus Yuri Makushin and consultant Darya Yakimova held a press conference, where they told that, as well as last year, a quota of 1300 free places was allocated for Belarusian graduates. At the same time, the speakers noted that they had already received about 900 preliminary questionnaires just a few weeks after the start of applications. The speakers separately emphasized the benefits that citizens of Belarus, admitted to Russian universities within the quota, receive. Finally, it was noted that the number of applications from Belarusian graduates during the last years exceeds the number of places allocated under the quota²²⁵. Already in October it became known that on November 16-17 an exhibition devoted to the possibilities of education of Belarusian citizens in Russia under the quotas of the Government of the Russian Federation would be held on the basis of the House of Moscow in Minsk. It is known that at least 20 leading universities from different regions of Russia will take part in the exhibition²²⁶. Despite the fact that this year Russia did not increase the quota for Belarusian citizens, the statements of Rossotrudnichestvo representatives demonstrate that graduates more and more often choose Russian universities to continue their studies. In our opinion, this is connected with several factors that have developed during the last years. First, talented schoolchildren try to avoid the compulsory job by distribution, which awaits them after graduation from a Belarusian university, and enrollment in Russia is a solution to this problem. Secondly, for several years the Belarusian authorities have introduced a number of restrictive measures which prevent Belarusian graduates from comfortably entering European universities. Thirdly, young people from Belarus may face problems with legalization in European countries, which is actively used by the pro-governmental propaganda, creating additional fears among young people. Fourthly, Russia offers very comfortable and clear conditions of admission to Russian universities for citizens of Belarus, which is also supported by the absence of the language barrier. Fifth,

221 <https://akademy.by/index.php/ru/glavnye-novosti/1270-2024-10-25-mezhdunarodnaya-nauchno-prakticheskaya-konferentsiya>

222 https://t.me/NCC_ZUBRONOK/1686

223 <https://t.me/frunzedu/77677>

224 <https://fondmira.by/minsk/druzhe-net-granits/>

225 <https://sputnik.by/20241024/rossiyskie-vuzy-zhdut-talantlivykh-belorusov-1090573493.html>

226 <https://t.me/naukaiculturaRossiivBelarusi/15340>

Russian universities have the opportunity to openly advertise their services in Belarus, while European universities are deprived of such an opportunity. We believe that the aggregate of all these factors will lead to the fact that in the coming years the flow of Belarusian students to Russian universities will grow. The potential results of the growth of this flow will be both the washing out of talented young people from Belarus and the formation of supporters of Russia among those young people who will return to Belarus after their studies.