

BELARUS'S EDUCATION SYSTEM IN MARCH 2026

In February 2026, previously established trends in Belarus's education system remained. First, the Belarusian authorities announced plans to introduce mandatory licensing for all institutions providing supplementary education to children and youth, which is a continuation of the policy aimed at eliminating the non-state sector in the education system. Licensing of educational activities was introduced for universities and colleges quite some time ago, and starting in 2022, all kindergartens and schools in Belarus must obtain licenses. In all of the examples cited, the introduction of licensing resulted in widespread problems for private educational institutions, while the public sector navigated the process without any setbacks. The most telling example was the introduction of licensing for kindergartens and schools in 2022, when, out of dozens of non-state institutions, only 6 private schools, which also operate 3 kindergartens, were able to obtain a license. In our view, the introduction of licensing for supplementary education for children and youth will lead to the mass closure of private studios, clubs, and circles, and the non-public sector in the education system will shrink even further. Second, a notable event in February was the government's decision to create unified databases in the education sector. This measure can be viewed as another step toward the digitization of administrative and educational processes. It is expected that in the long term, this will improve the efficiency of managing the education system and simplify citizens' access to a range of services and information related to the learning process. Third, a monitoring study based on February's results indicates that the international presence in Belarus's education system remains extremely limited. In particular, the annual "Education and Career" exhibition once again featured only institutions from Belarus and Russia, whereas prior to 2020, educational organizations from a much wider range of regions around the world participated in the event.

As for the processes of ideologization and militarization of Belarusian education, two completely opposite trends were observed in February. On the one hand, the level of ideologization of the educational process was at a minimum during the current academic year: traditional ideological events were primarily held with students, and the only notable events in February were the large number of meetings between young people and veterans of the Soviet-Afghan War. A negative trend of the month was a noticeable increase in the number of events aimed at intimidating students with various forms of administrative and criminal liability, and a particularly large number of such events were held at the college level. On the other hand, throughout February there was a significant surge in militarized activities at all levels of education. Propaganda events aimed at fostering a positive image of law enforcement agencies and recruiting new recruits from among current students were constantly held with children, teenagers, and young people. At the college level, there was a mass opening of military-patriotic clubs, and various militarized games and tournaments were held throughout Belarusian schools. The results of monitoring studies of the Belarusian education system in previous years suggest that the ideological component of the educational process may intensify in March, linked to the celebration of several key dates – Constitution Day and the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Khatyn Tragedy. At the same time, the level of militarized activity may decrease, as its sharp rise in February is typically temporary and tied to the celebration of Defenders of the Fatherland Day and Armed Forces Day. At the same time, traditional monitoring of the Ministry of Education's official resources shows that major ideological dates in March had no impact on the level of ideologization of the Ministry of Education's news agenda. In March 2026, the Ministry's official website¹ published 28 news items, of which 8 (about 29%) were ideologically oriented. During the same period, the Ministry

¹ <https://edu.gov.by/>

of Education's Telegram channel² posted 238 publications, of which 48 (approximately 20%) were devoted to ideological topics. The overall share of ideologically oriented news on the Ministry of Education's resources was 21%, a figure virtually unchanged from February. Thus, based on the results of the first three months of 2026, the level of ideological content in the Ministry of Education's news agenda was noticeably lower compared to the same periods in 2023-2025. At the same time, despite this trend, the overall presence of pro-government ideology in the ministry's information policy remains significant.

When examining the state of the Belarusian education system, the following key trends, events, and phenomena recorded in March 2026 can be identified:

1. The 2026 admissions campaign as a new step toward subordinating the education system to the needs of the state

Since 2023, the organization of student admissions to higher education institutions has been based on the idea of meeting the state's economic needs. The admissions campaign is largely oriented not so much toward applicants' educational preferences as toward a state quota aimed at addressing labor shortages in specific sectors. This policy is implemented through a number of mechanisms, including reducing the share of fee-paying spots, increasing the share of quota-based admission spots, and enhancing the role of regional universities in the student recruitment system. In March, most higher education institutions published their enrollment targets for 2026, and regional universities announced the results of university academic competitions. Also during the month, government authorities adopted decisions defining the parameters of the upcoming admissions campaign. Analysis of this data suggests that the 2026 admissions campaign will proceed within the framework of the existing model, which is based on subordinating the education system to state priorities in the sphere of economic development:

- *Reduction in the number of fee-paying spots in higher education institutions.* In 2026, Belarusian universities plan to admit approximately 49,100 applicants, of whom 33,100 spots are allocated for state-funded education.³ At the time of preparing this monitoring study, some institutions had not published complete data on their admission targets (in particular, the Mahiliou Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the military faculties of several universities). Nevertheless, a comparison of the available information generally confirms the accuracy of the figures previously reported in the media. Compared to 2025, the total enrollment plan has increased by approximately 1,000 students. This growth is primarily due to an expansion in the number of spots for full-time state-funded programs. At the same time, the number of fee-paying spots for full-time programs at Belarusian universities has decreased by nearly 800 compared to last year's enrollment. This trend is apparently due to the fact that fee-paying full-time education does not serve the state's interests: although students pay for their education, they are not required to complete a compulsory job by distribution after finishing university, which limits their contribution to addressing the labor shortage in certain sectors of the economy. The most notable change in the 2026 admissions campaign was the complete cessation of enrollment for full-time fee-paying spots at medical universities. In the previous year, more than 250 applicants were admitted to such programs, and competition was quite high. Despite the obvious potential to increase the number of fee-paying spots given the demand from young people, medical universities made the opposite decision, driven by the need to fulfill the state's quota. The state needs personnel for the healthcare system, and the cancellation of full-time tuition-based programs means that all students admitted in 2026

² <https://t.me/MinobrofBelarus>

³ <https://belta.by/society/view/vuzy-belarusi-v-etom-godu-primut-okolo-491-tys-abiturientov-770963-2026/>

will be required to complete at least two years of mandatory service, with the vast majority being assigned to public healthcare institutions. In addition, a reduction in the number of paid full-time spots is also observed at agricultural universities: in 2026, these institutions plan to admit only 19 applicants, which is nearly 4.5 times fewer than in the previous year. At the same time, the decrease in the number of full-time paid spots may be linked not only to the state's need for personnel but also to applicants' relatively low interest in agricultural specialties. Enrollment targets for full-time paid spots have also decreased at all technical universities across the country. Further evidence of the government's deliberate policy to reduce the number of full-time tuition-paying spots is preliminary information indicating that all universities in Mahiliou region will not be enrolling students for such spots in 2026. The trend toward reducing the number of full-time tuition-paying spots in universities is likely to continue in the coming years. This reduction is likely to affect engineering and education majors most significantly, while for agricultural majors, a scenario similar to that of medical universities, with the complete elimination of enrollment for full-time paid spots, may unfold as early as 2027. This approach also creates additional benefits for government agencies, as reducing the number of full-time tuition-paying spots avoids the need to implement an extremely unpopular measure: compulsory job by distribution for students enrolled in tuition-paying programs. Thus, the likelihood of widespread public discontent among young people is reduced as the government gradually achieves its economic goals.

- *The growing importance of quota-based admissions and their increased focus on the personnel needs of the public sector.* Further evidence of the education system's increasing focus on the state's economic needs came with the government's amendments to the Regulations on Quota-based Education of Specialists, Workers, and Employees.⁴ According to the updated version of the document, the primary clients for quota-based education programs are government agencies and enterprises, as well as organizations with at least 50% state ownership. The possibility for non-state entities to participate in this system formally remains, but their activities are becoming more regulated: to enter into quota-based education agreements, they must demonstrate a contribution to regional development and obtain approval from local authorities. And in the case of training specialists in medical fields, additional approval from the Ministry of Health is required. Thus, the updated regulations entrench inequality in access to quota-based education for state and non-state organizations: state entities can interact with applicants directly, whereas private-sector participation is not only subject to additional administrative procedures but also dependent on state entities. The new version of the Regulation clearly demonstrates a desire to strengthen the state's role in the allocation of human resources, particularly given that the compulsory job by distribution in the designated field lasts for five years. Under these conditions, quota-based education of specialists takes on particular significance as a tool for addressing long-term personnel shortages. At the same time, competition from the private sector in this area is viewed by the state as undesirable, a fact reflected in the stricter conditions for its participation in quota-based education recruitment mechanisms. It should also be noted that the new version of the Regulation provides for a stricter selection process for candidates for quota-based education, a more complex process for their admission to universities, as well as the introduction of additional penalties in the event of early termination of the quota-based education agreement. First and foremost, the new version of the Regulation may have a significant impact on the course of the admissions campaign at medical universities. As early as 2025, a situation arose in which a significant portion of state-funded spots were filled by applicants entering through quota-based

⁴ <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=C22600123>

admission, which led to an increase in cutoff scores for both the remaining state-funded and fee-paying spots. With the cancellation of enrollment for full-time paid spots, the quota-based admission track effectively becomes one of the main admission options for applicants with lower scores on centralized exams and tests. Although medical universities reduced the number of quota-based admission spots in 2026 (by approximately 100), the share of such spots remains significant, accounting for about 59-62% of the total number of state-funded spots. Thus, a certain transformation of the model of interaction between the state and students can be observed in Belarus's medical education system. Whereas previously applicants with high entrance exam scores received a kind of bonus in the form of free tuition, under current conditions the reward for talented young people will be a two-year compulsory job by distribution instead of the five years required for quota-based education. Given current trends, we may assume a further expansion of the share of quota-based enrollment in medical, agricultural, technical, and pedagogical universities to ensure the long-term supply of necessary specialists to the economy. At the same time, such a model may have a number of negative effects. In particular, the compulsory nature of the job by distribution may affect the level of professional motivation among graduates. Furthermore, the reduction in fee-paying spots and the increased role of quota-based enrollment could potentially encourage some applicants to choose to study at Russian universities in order to gain greater flexibility in their future employment. At the same time, there remains a risk that some of the most talented graduates, having received their education abroad, may not return to the national labor market, which would seriously affect Belarus's long-term human resource potential.

- Increasing the attractiveness of regional universities amid a reduction in the number of full-time paid spots and the growing role of quota-based admission programs. Over the past few years, the Ministry of Education has viewed increasing the attractiveness of regional universities among applicants as one of the priority tasks in organizing the admissions campaign. Although published figures show that the ratio of places at universities in Minsk (57%) to those at regional universities (43%) has remained at the previous academic year's level, the reduction in the number of full-time paid places and the increased emphasis on quota-based education may encourage applicants to consider regional educational institutions as a viable alternative when choosing a university. This could primarily be achieved through the winners of university academic competitions, whose results were published in March on the Ministry of Education's official website.⁵ It should be noted, however, that the Ministry's data partially differs from the statistics provided by the universities themselves, particularly regarding the distribution of winners by degree level. According to available data, 1,468 people won university academic competitions in 2026, which is 157 more than last year. The main advantage for winners is the opportunity for direct admission to the relevant regional universities without taking entrance exams. While previously some applicants viewed winning an Olympiad as a backup option in case of failure on centralized exams and tests, during the current admissions campaign this victory may take on special significance. This is especially true for medical universities, where the cancellation of enrollment for full-time paid spots and active quota-based admission are expected to result in extremely high cutoff scores for the remaining state-funded spots. In this situation, for some applicants, using their Olympiad victory to gain admission to one of the three regional medical universities may be a more reliable option than attempting to enroll at the capital's BSMU. About 110 Olympiad winners will be able to take advantage of this preferential admission pathway to VSMU, HSMU, and HrSMU, which will further intensify competition for the remaining state-funded spots after those allocated to

⁵ <https://t.me/MinobrofBelarus/39991>

Olympiad winners and quota-based enrollment candidates. Given the ongoing reduction in the number of fee-paying spots and the expansion of quota-based admission at other universities, winning a university academic competition offers applicants a guaranteed admission without the need to complete a five-year compulsory job by distribution. Furthermore, high admission thresholds at universities in the capital or the requirement for a long-term work commitment may, in the near future, become a decisive factor prompting applicants to choose regional educational institutions.

2. A sharp increase in the level of ideologization at all levels of Belarusian education

Although the level of ideological content in the Ministry of Education's news agenda in March remained roughly the same as in February, the total number of ideological events in the education system increased significantly. To a large extent, this was due to events held to mark Constitution Day and the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Khatyn Tragedy, in line with the practice of previous years. At the same time, a wide range of additional ideologically oriented events on various topics was organized for schoolchildren and students throughout the month. These included thematic sessions on electoral issues, as well as activities within the framework of the "Me. My Family. My Homeland," aimed at involving school students in the activities of pro-government children's and youth organizations. In a number of preschool institutions, events were held as part of the "Letter About Belarus" project, during which children presented creative performances on the themes of the Great Patriotic War and official symbols in the presence of prosecutors' office staff. An additional factor contributing to the rise in the level of ideologization was the resumption of the practice of mass mobilization of students to participate in community work days and other forms of public service. Upon closer examination, several main areas of ideological work implemented in the education system in March can be identified:

- *Widespread organization of ideological events in honor of Constitution Day.* In mid-March, ideological lessons on the theme of Constitution Day were held throughout the country, as evidenced by examples from state educational institutions in Homiel,⁶ Mahiliou, Brest, Vitsiebsk, Rahachou, Smaliavichy, Svislach, Vetka, Pastavy, Stoubtsy, Dokshytsy, and Ivatsevichy districts, as well as the private school "Eco-El"⁷ and the National Children's Educational and Health Center "Zubrenok".⁸ In some cases, events timed to coincide with Constitution Day were used to promote the cult of personality of Aliaksandr Lukashenka. This was evident in the use of his portrait and the book "Our President" alongside the Constitution of Belarus as part of educational activities. Examples of such practices can be seen in kindergartens in Minsk,⁹ Chachersk, and Homiel; schools in Minsk,¹⁰ Rechytsa, Lida, Maladzechna, Drahichyn, Navapolatsk, Dokshytsy, Pruzhany, Ashmiany, and Rahachou¹¹ districts. In kindergartens, Constitution Day was used as an opportunity to instill in children a positive attitude toward official symbols, as seen in examples from preschool institutions in Svetlahorsk,¹² Rahachou, Rechytsa, Dobrush, Krupki, Smarhon, Brahlin, Petrykau, Pukhavichy, Orsha, Ivanava, and Baranavichy districts. At the level of colleges and universities, officials, MPs, pro-government activists, and

⁶ <https://t.me/Gomelkadet/13029>

⁷ https://t.me/Eco_El/8749

⁸ https://t.me/ncc_zubronok/12075

⁹ <https://t.me/ZavObrazovanie/108601>

¹⁰ https://t.me/mosue_minsk/89935

¹¹ <https://t.me/oorogachev/115710>

¹² https://t.me/svetlogorsk_obrazovanie/72834

law enforcement personnel held mass meetings with students to discuss the importance of the Constitution. Similar meetings took place in Minsk,¹³ Brest,¹⁴ Mahiliou,¹⁵ Vitsiebsk,¹⁶ and many other regions of Belarus. In Lida district, children were photographed holding the Constitution to participate in the pro-government challenge “The Country’s Basic Law”.¹⁷ Students from educational institutions in Minsk,¹⁸ Hrodna, Homiel, Mahiliou, Brest, Baranavichy, Smarhon, Slutsk, Barysau.¹⁹ Vidzy, Zhlobin, Rechytsa,²⁰ and other regions of the country were enlisted to participate in other ideological campaigns and challenges. In the Petrykau district, a schoolgirl was dressed in a dress in the colors of the official flag to participate in one of the ideological contests in honor of Constitution Day.²¹ In educational institutions in Minsk,²² Homiel,²³ Hrodna,²⁴ Rechytsa,²⁵ Brahlin district,²⁶ and many other regions, young people were forced to sing the national anthem en masse in honor of Constitution Day as part of the “Let’s Sing the Anthem Together” campaign. A rather questionable ideological event in honor of Constitution Day took place at a school in the Pukhavichi district, where school students were forced to run a cross-country race carrying official flags.²⁷ Classes on the Constitution at the Hrodna College of Economics and Management²⁸ and the VSAVM²⁹ served as telling examples of the imposition of pro-government ideology on young people. One element of the classes was a presentation to young people on the evolution of Belarusian state symbols, and the speakers deliberately ignored the Belarusian national flag, which served as the state flag from 1991 to 1995. At HrSMU, the festive event marking Constitution Day was accompanied by a creative performance by students featuring prominent use of official symbols.³⁰ A traditional element of ideological work remains the education system’s participation in the “We Are Citizens of Belarus!” campaign, during which government officials present school students with their first passports on the eve of Constitution Day. In March, such ceremonies took place at the Central Election Commission,³¹ the Council of the Republic,³² the Ministry of Education,³³ St. Sophia Cathedral in Polatsk,³⁴ the Museum of

13 https://t.me/BSMU_official/60234

14 https://t.me/brsu_pushkina/22725

15 <https://t.me/MGUKULESHOV/23595>

16 <https://t.me/vsumasherov/24018>

17 https://t.me/obrazovanie_Lida/107878

18 <https://t.me/mcbbyy/9569>

19 <https://tinyurl.com/3mpc8z4z>

20 <https://t.me/rechitsaped/4935>

21 <https://t.me/petrikovoo/116121>

22 https://t.me/academy_by/2416

23 https://t.me/Novobelica_Obrazovanie/56034

24 <https://t.me/gumcol/8960>

25 <https://t.me/rlicei/10119>

26 https://t.me/krestyanskaya_14/45528

27 https://t.me/puhovich_i_uosit/34195

28 <https://gkeu.bks.by/kuratorskij-chas-na-temu-den-konstitucii-respubliki-belarus/>

29 https://t.me/vsavm_official/34338

30 https://t.me/grsmu_by/20033

31 https://t.me/brsm_official/28933

32 https://t.me/brsm_official/28925

33 https://t.me/moladz_by_official/19794

34 https://t.me/polotsk_cadet/3390

Modern Belarusian Statehood,³⁵ the State Control Committee,³⁶ the Maladzechna District Library, the Baranavichy, Uzda, Barysau, and other district executive committees, as well as educational institutions in Rechytsa,³⁷ Vitsiebsk, Slutsk, and other regions of Belarus. A distinctive feature of the current academic year was the use of Constitution Day as an opportunity to actively involve children and youth in the activities of pro-government organizations and movements. This year, students of various age groups were involved in the ceremonies to demonstrate continuity and progression in the development of organizations such as the BRPO, BRSM, and Belaya Rus. In particular, large-scale ceremonies for the induction of children and youth into various pro-government organizations took place in Minsk,³⁸ Vitsiebsk, Homiel, Slonim, Orsha, Drahichyn, Aktsiabrski, Vetka, Stoubtsy, Svislach, Babruisk, Ivatsevichy, Minsk, Drybin, Khoiniki district, and other regions of the country. Once again, the ranks of the pro-government party “Belaya Rus” were bolstered at the expense of the education system. In particular, instances of recruiting adult students and teachers to join the party were documented in Mahiliou,³⁹ Babruisk, Rechytsa, Navahrudak, Pruzhany, and Minsk district. Another large-scale event in honor of Constitution Day was the widespread mobilization of school and university students to watch the new ideological film “The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus,” which calls for respect for and preservation of the political system in force in Belarus. Organized trips for young people to watch this film were recorded in Minsk,⁴⁰ Homiel, Brest, Vitsiebsk, Mahiliou, Baranavichy, Salihorsk, Shklou, Vetka, Asipovichy, Navapolatsk, Drahichyn, Brahlin, Pinsk, Zhodzina, Maladzechna, Vidzy, Kobryn, Krychau, Khoiniki, Mazyr, Beshankovichy, Pruzhany, Hantsavichy, and Svetlahorsk districts. Thus, the celebration of Constitution Day can be viewed as one of the key factors behind the sharp intensification of the ideological component in Belarusian education in March. Moreover, this trend will be long-term in nature, as in April and May, the Belarusian education system will face other significant ideological dates. Under these circumstances, we may assume that students will conclude the academic year amid the sustained presence of an ideological component in educational and upbringing activities.

- *A sharp increase in the prominence of the Great Patriotic War (WWII) amid events commemorating the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Khatyn Tragedy.* Another key element of the ideological agenda in the education system has been the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Khatyn Tragedy. Traditionally, this date is accompanied by increased attention to the topic of the Great Patriotic War at all levels of education, and the current academic year was no exception. Throughout the country in the second half of March, unified lessons dedicated to the Khatyn tragedy were held. Examples of such lessons can be seen in educational institutions in Minsk,⁴¹ Mahiliou,⁴² Babruisk, Homiel, Vileika, Ashmiany, Asipovichy, Navapolatsk, Barysau, Chachersk, Kalinkavichy, Navahrudak, Lida, Dziarzhynsk, Lyuban, Dokshytsy, Stolin, Ivanava, and Slutsk⁴³ districts. Other events related to the tragedy of Khatyn took place in educational

35 https://t.me/brsm_official/29016

36 https://t.me/brsm_official/28964

37 <https://t.me/rlicei/10161>

38 <https://t.me/uomoik/146232>

39 <https://t.me/MAYDAYMog/5729>

40 <https://t.me/obrazovaniepervomayskiy/174851>

41 https://t.me/litseyumd_by/15193

42 https://t.me/mgtk_Live/9101

43 <https://t.me/uomoik/146722>

institutions in Vitsiebsk,⁴⁴ Homiel, Polatsk, Orsha, Niasvizh, Kobryn, Horki, and Baranavichy and Pruzhany districts. Students from schools and colleges in Minsk,⁴⁵ Homiel,⁴⁶ Mahiliou,⁴⁷ Vitsiebsk, Vetka, Chyrvony Berah, Navapolatsk, Klimavichy, Babruisk, Kopyl, Uzda, Ivatsevichy, Hantsavichy, Chachersk, Kalinkavichy, Niasvizh,⁴⁸ and Lyuban⁴⁹ districts; Students in Mahiliou,⁵⁰ Hrodna, Homiel, Vitsiebsk, Polatsk, and Baranavichy were taken to memorial sites dedicated to the events of World War II to participate in commemorative rallies and ceremonies. In Svetlahorsk district, during a visit to the “Ola” memorial complex, children from one of the kindergartens were dressed in stylized Soviet military uniforms.⁵¹ In March, schoolchildren and students from Minsk,⁵² Kletsk,⁵³ Dziarzhynsk,⁵⁴ Zhodzina,⁵⁵ Valozhyn,⁵⁶ Navapolatsk,⁵⁷ Berazino,⁵⁸ Stoubtsy,⁵⁹ Niasvizh,⁶⁰ Maladzechna,⁶¹ Lyuban,⁶² Beshankovichy,⁶³ and Cherven⁶⁴ districts, as well as other regions of Belarus, were taken to the “Khatyn” memorial complex. The culmination of these events was the participation of a number of educational institutions in a large commemorative rally held on March 22 at the memorial complex. Many universities in Belarus sent delegations of students and faculty to the rally, as seen in the examples of BSUIR,⁶⁵ BSUPhC, BSEU, BSTU, BSUFL, and BSU. It is noteworthy that students from the BSU Lyceum also attended this rally, but as part of a delegation from the KGB of Belarus.⁶⁶ The Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Khatyn Tragedy was used as an opportunity to intensify the work of prosecutors within the education system. In Minsk,⁶⁷ Hrodna, Vitsiebsk, Baranavichy, Babruisk, Liakhavichy, Cherven, and Novaya Mysh, ideological lectures were held on the genocide of the Belarusian people during World War II, while in Chachersk,⁶⁸ Khoyniki, Pinsk, and Ashmiany district, prosecutors spoke to students about the Khatyn tragedy. It should be noted that a traditional element of such lectures is the comparison of participants in the 2020 protests with the activities of the Nazis on the territory of Belarus during World War II. According to the

44 https://vitgtk.belstu.by/2026/03/23/trag_pam/

45 <https://t.me/LyceumBSU/5237>

46 <https://t.me/gkfb2021/11943>

47 https://t.me/ASK_MOGILEV/5194

48 <https://t.me/nesvizhasveta/22559>

49 https://t.me/obrazovanie_lyuban/34885

50 https://t.me/Bru_Live/19121

51 <https://t.me/doshmir1/21255>

52 <https://t.me/bntuby/18463>

53 <https://tinyurl.com/mp6zj38t>

54 <https://t.me/uomoik/147559>

55 <https://t.me/uomoik/147691>

56 <https://t.me/uomoik/147396>

57 https://t.me/pro_education_np/49769

58 <https://t.me/educationberezino/73966>

59 <https://t.me/stolbtsyobrazovanie/33856>

60 <https://t.me/nesvizhasveta/22631>

61 <https://t.me/obrazovaniemolodechno/24162>

62 https://t.me/obrazovanie_lyuban/34677

63 https://t.me/roo_besh/9401

64 <https://tinyurl.com/3yk5kkbs>

65 https://t.me/bsuir_official/14111

66 <https://t.me/LyceumBSU/5275>

67 https://t.me/mosue_minsk/90568

68 <http://licey.by/about/news/2458-edinyj-urok-posvyashchennyj-pamyati-tragedii-v-khatyni>

results of monitoring observations from previous years, the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Khatyn Tragedy serves as a starting point for actively integrating the topic of World War II into the educational process at all levels. It is expected that in April, the Belarusian education system will be actively involved in preparations for Victory Day celebrations, and in May and June, the theme of the Second World War will be addressed through preparations for the upcoming anniversaries of the start of the Second World War and the liberation of Belarus from the Nazis. These processes are traditionally accompanied by a significant number of events and activities related to military themes. In this context, the heightened focus on the topic of the Great Patriotic War in Belarusian education will likely continue until the end of the academic year.

- *The Ideologization of International Women's Day in Belarusian Educational Institutions.* A rather unexpected development in March was the change in the nature of the celebration of International Women's Day, which is traditionally widely observed in the education system. In previous years, this holiday was accompanied by congratulatory events and concert programs in honor of women. In 2026, the format of events across the country took on a more pronounced informational and ideological content. This is due to the fact that this year has been declared the "Year of the Belarusian Woman" in Belarus, and International Women's Day was used as an opportunity to inform students about this thematic initiative and its associated ideological emphases. Uniform ideological lessons were held across the country in early March, as evidenced by examples from educational institutions in Minsk,⁶⁹ Homiel, Hrodna, Mahiliou, Baranavichy, Zhodzina, Babruisk, Hlubokaye, Lyuban, Drahichyn, Hantsavichy, Svislach, Pinsk, Brest, Ullia, Vidzy, Orsha, Navahrudak, Vaukavysk, Dobrush, Lida, Maladzechna,⁷⁰ and Ashmiany⁷¹ districts. A distinctive feature of these lessons was a selective approach to presenting examples of prominent women from Belarus. The lessons focused on figures whose activities align with the official interpretation of the historical and socio-political context. In this regard, educational institutions completely ignored figures such as Nobel laureate Sviatlana Aleksiyevich, participant in the 1830-1831 uprising Emilia Plater, writer Larisa Geniush, and other historical and contemporary figures whose activities contradict the pro-government ideology. Furthermore, one of the key messages of the lessons was to promote among young people a traditional view of women's social role, including a particular emphasis on their role in the family and household. Finally, a single lesson on Belarusian women was used to promote the figure of Aliaksandr Lukashenka among young people: in the examples presented above, one can often see the use of the Belarusian leader's portrait and his quotes. Various ideological events as part of the "Year of the Belarusian Woman" continued even after International Women's Day, primarily affecting the higher education sector. Students from several universities in Minsk participated in meetings with government officials, including as part of the "Being a Mom Is Cool" project. In addition, some universities hosted discussion forums dedicated to the role of women in modern society. All such events promoted the idea that women's primary task is to start a family and have children. The particular emphasis on the traditional role of women is explained by the demographic challenges facing Belarus. Improving the country's demographic situation is one of the government's priorities for the coming years, so the holding of such ideological events with young people is expected to continue in the coming months.

⁶⁹ https://t.me/mosue_minsk/88584

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/obrazovaniemolodechno/22633>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/oshobr/35645>

- *The launch of ideological events in honor of the Day of Unity of the Peoples of Belarus and Russia.* Although this commemorative date is observed in Belarus in early April, related events began taking place in Belarusian schools as early as late March. For example, schoolchildren in Hantsavichy district were invited to participate in the recording of a video in which they hold the flags of Belarus and Russia and talk about the importance of friendship between the two countries.⁷² In Aktsiabrski district, schoolgirls had images of the Belarusian and Russian flags painted on their faces and were made to pose together as part of the “Two Sisters – Belarus and Russia” challenge.⁷³ Students at the Mahiliou Technological College were made to take photos with Belarusian and Russian flags in front of city landmarks.⁷⁴ Due to the approaching ideological holiday, students at PalesSU were invited to participate in the “Strength in Unity!” bike ride.⁷⁵ A student from VSU served as the narrator for a video dedicated to the ideological holiday. A notable detail was that his narration took place against the backdrop of the book “Our President”.⁷⁶ Ideological informational sessions and class discussions on the theme of Unity Day were held in educational institutions in Minsk,⁷⁷ Dziarzhynsk,⁷⁸ Svislach,⁷⁹ and Kalinkavichy⁸⁰ districts. At one school in Petrykau district, students were required to create a thematic display featuring, among other images, portraits of Aliaksandr Lukashenka and Vladimir Putin.⁸¹ In recent years, the Day of Unity of the Peoples of Belarus and Russia has become one of the key ideological dates in the Belarusian education system. The active launch of ideological events clearly indicates that this topic will occupy a prominent place on the educational agenda in April and will become one of the key factors in maintaining the high pace of the ideologization of Belarusian education.

- *The widespread use of intimidation and propaganda campaigns within the education system.* As noted in the February monitoring report, there has been an increase in the number of activities aimed at intimidating young people with threats of various forms of administrative and criminal liability. In March, not only did their number increase significantly, but they were also joined by activities involving the open dissemination of pro-government propaganda among school and college students. In schools in Vetka,⁸² Berazino, and Kalinkavichy district; in colleges in Minsk,⁸³ Cherykau, Hrodna, and Navahrudak; and at BNTU,⁸⁴ law enforcement officials intimidated students with the threat of liability for distributing so-called “extremist” materials. At the Mahiliou Technological College,⁸⁵ parents were intimidated with the topic of “extremism” during a parent-teacher meeting, and in Aktsiabrski, school students were forced during spring break to hand out leaflets to passersby containing information about liability for “extremism”.⁸⁶ At BSUFL, a law

⁷² <https://t.me/Gantsevihi/55149>

⁷³ <https://t.me/Oktobraz/85578>

⁷⁴ https://t.me/mgtk_Live/9164

⁷⁵ https://t.me/polessu_official/11387

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/vsumasherov/24749>

⁷⁷ https://t.me/mgk_tm/3584

⁷⁸ <https://t.me/dzrobr/48029>

⁷⁹ <https://t.me/obrazovanie2021/70879>

⁸⁰ https://t.me/kalin_roditeli/47563

⁸¹ <https://t.me/petrikovoo/119184>

⁸² <https://t.me/educatnews/32942>

⁸³ https://t.me/kolledg_kulinarii_Minsk/2781

⁸⁴ <https://t.me/bntuby/18315>

⁸⁵ https://t.me/mgtk_Live/9159

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/Oktobraz/85040>

enforcement official gave a lecture on liability for “extremism” to university’s professors.⁸⁷ It should be noted that the Belarusian authorities consider virtually all opposition media and initiatives to be “extremist,” and any significant opposition activity is classified as “extremist” in Belarus. A telling case of pressure was recorded at the Zhytkavichy College, where students inspected their peers’ personal belongings and warned them about liability for “extremism”.⁸⁸ The most high-profile example of intimidation regarding liability for “extremism” occurred at the BSUT dormitory, where international students were threatened with various forms of punishment for extremist and terrorist activities and even the death penalty for acts of terrorism.⁸⁹ In addition to the constant intimidation of young people with the threat of liability for “extremism,” other forms of so-called preventive measures were also practiced in Belarusian educational institutions. In Minsk,⁹⁰ Homiel, Hrodna, Svislach, Rechytsa, Buda-Kashaliova,⁹¹ Polatsk, Navapolatsk, Pinsk, Brest, Novaya Mysh, and Baranavichy,⁹² schoolchildren and students were brought to observe various court hearings. A notable feature of March was a significant increase in various events where pro-government propaganda was directly disseminated among students. For example, in colleges in Minsk,⁹³ Kobryn,⁹⁴ Klimavichy, as well as at the BSAA,⁹⁵ VSAVM, MSPU, the practice of showing propaganda films to students continued. A notable event was the resumption of the “Let’s Discuss” project, in which propagandists Ryhor Azaronak and Andrei Lazutkin meet with university students to promote a pro-government perspective on events in the world and in Belarus. Over the course of the month, such meetings were held with students from BSMU,⁹⁶ BSAA, BSAM, BSUCA, and BSTU.⁹⁷ Equally active at the higher education level were meetings between students and representatives of the pro-government analytical institute BISI. As part of these events, young people at BNTU,⁹⁸ BSEU, BrSU, BrSTU, MSU, and HrSU were not only introduced to the institute’s activities but also told about the bright prospects for youth in the future of Belarus, urging them to contribute to the country’s development. Regular meetings were held with students from educational institutions in Minsk⁹⁹ and Rechytsa¹⁰⁰ on the importance of the decisions of the All-Belarusian People’s Assembly. CEC Chairman Ihar Karpenka met with students at the National Children's Educational and Health Center “Zubrenok.” The meeting was also notable for the fact that the teenagers were symbolically dressed in T-shirts previously distributed in January 2025 among first-time voters.¹⁰¹ At the National Children’s Technopark, Liberal Democratic Party leader Aleh Haidukevich¹⁰² delivered a propaganda lecture to the

87 <https://bsufl.by/news/informatsionnaya-gigiena-i-pravo/>

88 <https://t.me/lizei/7695>

89 https://t.me/BGUT_university/20183

90 https://t.me/academy_by/2406

91 <https://bkatk.by/21841-2/#more-21841>

92 <https://bargks.by/240-put-k-spravedlivosti.html>

93 <https://tinyurl.com/y4dj5eyz>

94 <https://kgpk.by/index.php/ru/14-uncategorised/3604-prosmotr-filma-ubojnaya-posylka>

95 <https://t.me/akadbgai/16042>

96 https://t.me/BSMU_official/60056

97 https://t.me/TLGRM_belstuby/10678

98 <https://t.me/bntuby/18407>

99 <http://mtk.minsk.edu.by/main.aspx?guid=167763>

100 <https://t.me/rrlicei/10191>

101 https://t.me/ncc_zubronok/12369

102 <https://t.me/ndtpmink/9218>

students, while at the Zhylichy Agricultural College, Communist Party leader Siarhei Syrankou¹⁰³ spoke to the students. At BSMU, Andrei Buhrou,¹⁰⁴ an activist with the Belaya Rus' party, and Andrei Kryvasheyeu,¹⁰⁵ a propagandist, spoke to students. At BSAU – propagandist Kiryl Kazakou,¹⁰⁶ at BNTU – MPs Vadzim Ipatau and Siarhei Klishchevich,¹⁰⁷ at MSU – MP Ihar Marzalyuk,¹⁰⁸ at BRU – official Uladzimir Piartsou.¹⁰⁹ Pro-government and pro-Russian activist Aliaksei Talai¹¹⁰ held another meeting with students at one of the capital's colleges. In Minsk, propagandist Ksenia Lebedzeva spoke to school students, emphasizing the importance of conveying the truth to people and maintaining objectivity when reporting information.¹¹¹ However, the speaker herself is known as the author of a number of overtly propagandistic stories and films. In Pinsk,¹¹² Polatsk,¹¹³ and Mahiliou,¹¹⁴ young people were encouraged to join the "Iskra" movement, which is the youth wing of the pro-government Belaya Rus' party. In mid-March, with the participation of propagandist Andrei Kryvasheyeu, a new project by the Belaya Rus' party called "Trend Battle"¹¹⁵ was launched at BSUT. A presentation of Ihar Marzalyuk's controversial book "Blood on a White Background"¹¹⁶ was held at the Mahiliou College of Architecture and Construction, while school¹¹⁷ and college¹¹⁸ staff in Babruisk were forced to attend another presentation of the book "Our President" about the life and work of Aliaksandr Lukashenka.

- *The active involvement of the Orthodox Church in ideological work with children and youth.* Another focus of ideological work in March was a noticeable strengthening of cooperation between the education system and the Orthodox Church (BOC). This collaboration took place in both traditional and new formats, with clergy members holding a record number of events in educational institutions, setting March apart from the rest of the current academic year. Traditional forms of interaction between the BOC and the education system continued to include meetings between representatives of the Orthodox clergy and pupils and students in educational institutions, as well as organized visits by pupils and students to Orthodox churches. In March, such activities took place in kindergartens in Drahichyn,¹¹⁹ Hrodna,¹²⁰ Ivanava, and Homiel districts; in schools in Minsk,¹²¹ Homiel, Mahiliou, Niasvizh, Lida, Shklou, Baranavichy, and Minsk, Maladzechna,

103 <https://zgs.edu.by/ru/main.aspx?guid=100913>

104 https://t.me/BSMU_official/60279

105 https://t.me/BSMU_official/59949

106 <https://bsac.by/events/belarus-moa-gordost-i-slava>

107 <https://t.me/bntuby/18519>

108 <https://t.me/MGUKULESHOV/23774>

109 https://t.me/Bru_Live/18807

110 https://t.me/kstmia_uo_ripo/15331

111 <https://t.me/sovedu/132712>

112 <https://t.me/pinskcollege/6838>

113 https://t.me/psu_by/16007

114 <https://t.me/MGUKULESHOV/24152>

115 https://t.me/BGUT_university/19925

116 https://t.me/ASK_MOGILEV/5124

117 https://t.me/obrazovanie_bobruiska/22582

118 <https://tinyurl.com/yxxcyau3>

119 <https://t.me/eduDrog/34426>

120 <https://t.me/vektorbrazovanie/6856>

121 <https://t.me/ZavObrazovanie/108558>

Svislach, Lida, Drahichyn, Pruzhany, and Hantsavichy districts; in colleges in Minsk,¹²² Homiel,¹²³ Hrodna, Brest, Zhlobin, Mahiliou, Navahrudak, Maladzechna, Polatsk, Kopyl, Polatsk, Luninets; at BSUT,¹²⁴ HSU, VSMU, BarSU, MITSO, IPS, BNTU,¹²⁵ BSUCA, and the branch of the Russian State University of Social Sciences¹²⁶ in Minsk. A series of meetings between children and youth and Orthodox priests also took place as part of the celebration of “Orthodox Book Day,” as seen in the examples of educational institutions in Kalinkavichy,¹²⁷ Zhlobin, Krupki, Berazino, Asipovichy, Babruisk, Homiel, Loyeu, Petrykau, Smaliavichy, Minsk, Hrodna, and Dokshytsy districts. In Korma,¹²⁸ Zhlobin,¹²⁹ Vetka,¹³⁰ and other districts, school students were invited to participate in an academic competition on the fundamentals of Orthodox culture, organized by representatives of the clergy. In Khoiniki¹³¹ and Pinsk,¹³² college students were sent to clean the grounds of Orthodox churches; in the case of Khoiniki College, this activity was conducted as part of elective classes. In Minsk, an Orthodox priest held a session for students of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Specialized Lyceum on the topic of Constitution Day, where he directly compared the document to God’s Law.¹³³ In Ivanava, a priest held a class hour titled “Holy Intercessors of the Belarusian Land” for students at a local gymnasium in honor of International Women’s Day.¹³⁴ There were also instances of priests participating in classes on the topic of World War II: in Homiel, students were told about the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War,¹³⁵ as well as about the Khatyn tragedy.¹³⁶ The participation of representatives of the Orthodox clergy in conducting ideological classes titled “School of the Active Citizen” at the end of March took place on a scale that was completely unprecedented. According to our data, such meetings took place in dozens of educational institutions, where clergy members held discussions with students, emphasizing the preservation of the so-called “traditional values” of Belarusian society. Examples of such sessions can be seen in educational institutions in Minsk,¹³⁷ Homiel,¹³⁸ Mahiliou, Cherven, Navapolatsk, Valozhyn, Kletsk, Berazino, Dokshytsy, Pruzhany, Ivanava, Dziarzhynsk, Hrodna district, Shchuchyn, Ashmiany, Petrykau district, and many other regions of Belarus. Over the course of the month, there were also isolated instances of unusual interaction between the Belarusian Orthodox Church and the education system. For example, in Minsk district, one of the schools invited a clergyman to perform a blessing ceremony for a school bus.¹³⁹ A number of cooperation agreements signed in March, both at the level of regional authorities and

122 <http://pedkol.minsk.edu.by/ru/main.aspx?guid=81553>

123 <https://t.me/ggpkgomel/16229>

124 https://t.me/BGUT_university/20123

125 <https://t.me/bntuby/18545>

126 <https://tinyurl.com/585j7umn>

127 <https://t.me/doshmir1/21223>

128 <https://t.me/kormaroo/14876>

129 <https://t.me/zhlobinedu/36443>

130 <https://t.me/educatnews/34161>

131 https://t.me/hgpl_by/8139

132 <https://t.me/pkbrestby/3545>

133 https://t.me/litseymvd_by/15070

134 <https://t.me/ivnobraz/18586>

135 <https://t.me/Gomelkadet/13014>

136 https://t.me/Novobelica_Obrazovanie/56161

137 https://t.me/cenue_minsk/67906

138 <https://t.me/Gomelkadet/13251>

139 https://t.me/stolitsa_education/51042

individual educational institutions, indicate the further expansion of the Belarusian Orthodox Church's interaction with the Belarusian education system. In particular, such agreements were signed with the Main Department of Education of the Mahiliou Regional Executive Committee,¹⁴⁰ as well as with individual schools,¹⁴¹ colleges,¹⁴² and universities¹⁴³ in Belarus. A defining feature of the interaction between the Belarusian Orthodox Church and the country's education system remains its monopoly position among religious organizations. Against the backdrop of the Orthodox clergy's regular participation in educational and upbringing activities, the interaction between educational institutions and representatives of other faiths in March was limited and sporadic. Ideological loyalty grants representatives of the Belarusian Orthodox Church broad access to various levels of the educational system, which directly contradicts its secular status. During the current academic year, there has been a trend toward expanding such participation, and this is expected to continue in the future due to the BOC's active efforts to disseminate a range of pro-government ideological narratives among children and youth.

- *The introduction of an ideological component into neutral and everyday educational activities.*

The March surge in the ideologization of Belarusian education affected not only all areas of ideological work but also activities that originally did not involve an ideological component. For example, young children in Mazyr were taken to see the new city buses, but during the event they were forced to take photos with official Belarusian flags.¹⁴⁴ In Dokshitsy, school students from one of the schools were sent out onto the streets to hand out greeting cards to women in honor of International Women's Day, but the school students were dressed in costumes featuring the colors of the official Belarusian flag.¹⁴⁵ During spring break, children at a school camp in Oktyabrsky were forced to draw the official flags of Belarus with chalk on the asphalt.¹⁴⁶ At one of the schools in Minsk, a lesson on financial literacy was held for students, but during the class, the young people were shown an image of Aliaksandr Lukashenka with the slogan "We are the president's guard!".¹⁴⁷ In the second half of March, students and teachers from a number of educational institutions in Belarus visited the 33rd Minsk International Book Fair. A distinctive feature of many of these visits was the distribution of photographs featuring the book "Our President." This phenomenon was characteristic not only of schools¹⁴⁸ and colleges¹⁴⁹ in Minsk, but also of regional educational institutions.¹⁵⁰ In total, we recorded dozens of examples of such photos from various regions of Belarus, which may indicate the existence of a targeted ideological directive for organized groups issued by educational authorities. Another manifestation of the strengthening of the ideological component in Belarus's education system has been plans to introduce a new subject with a corresponding focus into the curriculum. According to independent media reports, the course "Journalism of Traditional Values"¹⁵¹ has appeared in the curriculum of the Institute of

140 <https://t.me/dribinobrazovanie/18895>

141 https://t.me/cenue_minsk/65644

142 <https://t.me/ggpkgomel/16248>

143 https://t.me/grsmu_by/20532

144 <https://t.me/doshkolsektor/18182>

145 <https://t.me/DoVOki/78377>

146 <https://t.me/Oktobraz/84750>

147 <https://t.me/ObrazovanieOkt/80806>

148 https://t.me/mosue_minsk/90156

149 <https://ptkhl.edu.by/ru/main.aspx?guid=47423>

150 <https://t.me/kormaroo/14607>

151 <https://euroradio.fm/ru/na-zhurfake-bgu-budut-prepodavat-zhurnalistiku-tradicionnykh-cennostey>

Journalism at Belarusian State University, which is clearly aimed at teaching students the mechanisms for promoting specific narratives of pro-government propaganda.

3. The continued rapid militarization of Belarusian education

As noted earlier, the results of the February monitoring study demonstrated a record level of militarization of Belarusian education in the current academic year. The main factor behind this was the celebration of Defenders of the Fatherland Day and Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Belarus, during which a significant number of militarized events are traditionally held at all levels of the Belarusian education system. However, the current monitoring study shows that the previously recorded increase in militarized activity in the education system was not short-lived. Despite a noticeable decrease in the number of militarized events compared to the previous period, their total number in March remained significant. These events spanned all levels of the Belarusian education system, and the following key areas can be identified among them:

- *Plans by law enforcement agencies to expand the network of law enforcement-oriented educational institutions.* In early March, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Dmitry Korzuk stated that the Ministry of Internal Affairs plans to open a third Specialized Lyceum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in one of Belarus's regions in the near future.¹⁵² The increase in the number of law enforcement-oriented educational institutions has become a common phenomenon in recent years, and when examining the education system by specialization, the law enforcement sector is the fastest-growing in terms of the number of institutions. In the past year alone, the Ministry of Internal Affairs College was opened in Minsk district, and plans were announced for the construction of a new cadet school in Minsk. Thus, in the coming years, the Belarusian education system is expected to see the emergence of several new law enforcement-oriented institutions, and this trend is likely to continue. Belarusian government agencies are interested in expanding the law enforcement sector and training personnel for service in the relevant agencies. While studying at security-oriented institutions, most young people choose a path leading to service in the security forces, and this is a key factor driving government agencies' active efforts to accelerate the creation of new institutions of this type. At the same time, the security forces carry out the most active career guidance work within the Belarusian education system. Against the backdrop of less pronounced activity by other agencies, law enforcement-oriented institutions remain in high demand among young people and prospective students, and there is a high probability that new law enforcement-oriented institutions will be filled with students in a relatively short time.

- *New efforts to revitalize military-patriotic activities at the preschool level.* A significant feature of March was the opening of several military-oriented groups at the preschool level. In Minsk district, a patriotic club called "Sokolyata" opened in one of the kindergartens.¹⁵³ A notable feature of this event was that the new group plans to collaborate with the nearby 50th Mixed Air Base and the 49th Radio-Technical Brigade. We may assume that the patriotic club will not be a mere formality, but that military-style activities will actually be conducted with the kindergarten children. Another initiative was implemented in Svetlahorsk district, where a historical research group was established at one of the kindergartens.¹⁵⁴ The group's main goal is to prepare children for future enrollment in a patriotic unit operating at the nearest school. It is important to note that even at the opening ceremony, young children were dressed in Soviet-style military uniforms, and representatives of law enforcement agencies were present at the event itself. Taken together, this

152 https://t.me/litseymvd_by/14546

153 <https://t.me/uomoik/147256>

154 <https://t.me/nastgaz/19503>

may indicate that the search group's activities in the kindergarten will also aim to incorporate elements of militarized training into the educational process. The emergence of military-patriotic organizations at the preschool level must be viewed in the context that this level remains the least involved in the militarization of Belarusian education. Despite the authorities' efforts to expand militarized activities to the preschool level, their implementation faces a number of constraints, due to which the process of militarization is proceeding much more slowly compared to schools and colleges. In this regard, the system of direct cooperation between kindergartens and military units, as well as the potential involvement of preschoolers in the activities of existing military-patriotic clubs based in schools, can be viewed as a model for strengthening the militarization of preschool education as a whole. It should be noted, however, that individual military-patriotic clubs and associations in preschool institutions were established in previous years as well, yet this did not lead to a significant expansion of military-patriotic activities at the kindergarten level.

- *Active recruitment of students for military service and employment in law enforcement agencies.*

In March, Belarus's law enforcement agencies continued to conduct the most active career guidance work within the country's education system. A traditional element of this work involves regular visits to schools, colleges, and universities by law enforcement personnel or students from law enforcement-oriented educational institutions, with the aim of encouraging young people to choose a career in law enforcement for their future professional activities. In March, these meetings took place at educational institutions in the districts of Brest,¹⁵⁵ Vitsiebsk,¹⁵⁶ Hrodna,¹⁵⁷ Baranavichy,¹⁵⁸ Maladzechna,¹⁵⁹ Kalinkavichy,¹⁶⁰ Svislach,¹⁶¹ Zhodzina,¹⁶² Orsha,¹⁶³ Cherven,¹⁶⁴ Valozhyn,¹⁶⁵ Klimavichy,¹⁶⁶ Aktsiabrski,¹⁶⁷ and Lida.¹⁶⁸ We would like to note a separate propaganda meeting held for students of the Homiel Agricultural and Technical College by Uladzimir Bukhautsou, a specialist from the Homiel Regional Military Commissariat.¹⁶⁹ During the event, the security official openly spread disinformation among the young people regarding the existence of the so-called "Dalles Plan," the alleged aim of which is the destruction by the United States of America of the cultural heritage and moral values of the inhabitants of the post-Soviet space. Such propaganda trips by security officials were often accompanied by open displays of weapons, as seen in educational institutions in Minsk,¹⁷⁰ Uzda, Mazyr, Asipovichy, and Maladzechna¹⁷¹ districts, as well as at the National Children's Educational and Health Center "Zubrenok." Organized visits by young people to law enforcement units have a similar propaganda

155 <https://tinyurl.com/55wz86ub>

156 <https://vgke.by/2026/03/12/agitacionnoe-meroprijatie-dlja-uchashhixsja-kolledzha/>

157 <https://gkeu.bks.by/vstrecha-uchashhixsya-s-predstavitelem-557-inzhenernoj-brigady/>

158 https://t.me/mamindnevnik_nk/67210

159 <https://t.me/obrazovaniemolodechno/22752>

160 <https://tinyurl.com/4edmrhp3>

161 <https://t.me/obrazovanie2021/69896>

162 <https://t.me/guozpk/3513>

163 <https://okvgu.vsu.by/indexNewsArticle.php?ID=652>

164 <https://chpsl.by/ru/main.aspx?guid=120783>

165 <http://vspl.minsk-region.edu.by/ru/main.aspx?guid=33043>

166 <https://kgak.by/?p=25191>

167 <https://t.me/Oktobraz/83002>

168 https://t.me/obrazovanie_Lida/109235

169 <https://t.me/ggpatl/2668>

170 https://t.me/VA_RB/28705

171 <https://t.me/obrazovaniemolodechno/22605>

effect. In March, such visits were recorded in Minsk,¹⁷² Hrodna, Dokshytsy, Shklou, Pinsk, Mazyr, Babruisk, Baranavichy, Kletsk, Lida, Cherven, and Pruzhany¹⁷³ districts. Students from schools in Asipovichy¹⁷⁴ and Babruisk¹⁷⁵ were specially transported to a military training ground to witness demonstration live-fire exercises involving artillery pieces and combat vehicles. A rather unusual field trip was organized for students of the Pinsk Agricultural and Technical College, during which police officers practiced responding to mass riots on the young people.¹⁷⁶ Regional unified career guidance events continued throughout the country, with students from local educational institutions being brought in en masse. In March, such events took place in Shchuchyn,¹⁷⁷ Kastsyukovichy,¹⁷⁸ Baranavichy,¹⁷⁹ Loyeu,¹⁸⁰ and Niasvizh.¹⁸¹ As can be seen, these meetings are accompanied not only by direct recruitment efforts to join law enforcement agencies or enroll in security-oriented educational institutions, but also by active demonstrations of weapons to young people. Campaigning for military service was also carried out by massing school and college students to watch the propaganda film “The Soul of a Defender” by Ryhor Azaronak. Organized screenings of the film were recorded in schools and colleges in Minsk,¹⁸² Hrodna,¹⁸³ Mahiliou, Navapolatsk, Chachersk, Zhlobin, Babruisk, Baranavichy,¹⁸⁴ Smarhon district,¹⁸⁵ as well as at MSU,¹⁸⁶ BRU, PSU,¹⁸⁷ BNTU, and BSPU.

- *Widespread organization of military-style games and tournaments.* Throughout March, students across the country participated in various military-themed activities. Activities in military-patriotic clubs have become a standard feature of this initiative. The most striking examples of students’ military-style training can be seen in the activities of the Black Fox,¹⁸⁸ Zubr,¹⁸⁹ Berkut,¹⁹⁰ Tsirkon,¹⁹¹ Otvaga,¹⁹² Rys’,¹⁹³ and Vershina¹⁹⁴ clubs. At the Hrodna Medical College, security forces conducted a tactical medicine training session with members of the local military-patriotic club. It is reported that the young people were trained based on lessons learned from the Russia-Ukraine war.¹⁹⁵ In March, major tournaments among military-patriotic clubs were held in

172 <https://t.me/mgol2023/4485>

173 https://t.me/pruzhany_schools/24015

174 <https://t.me/osipobrazovanie/22581>

175 https://t.me/obrazovanie_bobruiska/22425

176 <https://pgatkk.by/8-novosti/2753-trenirovochnoe-zanyatie-organizovannoe-idn-pinskogo-govd-3>

177 <https://t.me/schuhineducation/15537>

178 https://t.me/VA_RB/28857

179 https://t.me/VA_RB/28816

180 https://t.me/VA_RB/28551

181 <https://t.me/uomoik/146062>

182 <https://t.me/mgpl9/1778>

183 <https://tinyurl.com/mw58tp55>

184 <https://bargks.by/234-dusha-zaschitnika.html>

185 https://t.me/obrazovanie_smorgon/90669

186 <https://t.me/MGUKULESHOV/23265>

187 https://t.me/psu_by/15941

188 https://t.me/puhovichi_uosit/33995

189 <https://t.me/vpkvvr/11822>

190 <https://t.me/vpkvvr/11849>

191 <https://t.me/vpkvvr/11792>

192 <https://t.me/vpkvvr/11612>

193 <https://t.me/vpkvvr/11296>

194 <https://t.me/bguki/34924>

195 <https://ggmk.by/novosti-kolledzha/552-interaktivnoe-voenno-patrioticheskoe-meroprijatie.html>

Vitsiebsk¹⁹⁶ and Hrodna.¹⁹⁷ But the most significant event for the military-patriotic clubs was a large-scale forced march organized near Minsk in honor of Constitution Day, for which members of military-patriotic clubs from across the country were brought to the capital.¹⁹⁸ Militarized events were also held for young people who are not involved in the activities of military-patriotic clubs. In Krupki district, students from nine schools were gathered during spring break to participate in a military-style tournament.¹⁹⁹ A major shooting tournament among 12 school teams was held at the Belarusian State Academy of Arts in mid-March.²⁰⁰ The next stage of the “Challenge” military-style tournament was held with students from Mahiliou and Shklou.²⁰¹ Other military-style tournaments involving school and college students took place in Minsk,²⁰² Shklou, Drahichyn, Mazyr, Hrodna, Navahrudak, and Novaya Mysh. Traditional military games “Zarnichka” and “Zarnitsa” continued to be held among school students in all regions of Belarus, as seen in the examples from Minsk²⁰³ and Hantsavichy.²⁰⁴ In Hrodna, there was a reported case of organized training for civilian-major students in the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles at military faculties.²⁰⁵ Additionally, several events occurred in March that indicate a continued push toward the militarization of higher education. In particular, the official resources of Belarusian-Russian University announced the imminent creation of an airsoft club based on the military-patriotic club BRUstver.²⁰⁶ The airsoft club will allow for the conduct of tactical and marksmanship training sessions in conditions approximating combat. Another notable development was the signing of a cooperation agreement between BrSTU and the Military Academy, which will allow the technical university to enhance the quality of its military-patriotic work with students.²⁰⁷ As with the process of ideologization, the imposition of a militarized component often occurred in contexts where it was not originally intended by the nature of the events. For example, a family festival was held at one of the schools in Baranavichy, which included various games, sports activities, and a food preparation station, but another station involved showing children models of weapons.²⁰⁸ Another telling case was recorded at the National Children’s Educational and Health Center “Zubrenok.” As part of a single event, the center’s students first attended a lecture on the tragic events of World War II at the “Stalag 342” memorial complex, and then the young people received mock weapons and participated in a session on tactical training elements.²⁰⁹

4. Minimal international educational contacts and intensified cooperation with the DPRK

In March, the Belarusian education system had international educational contacts with a minimal number of countries. During the month, joint events were recorded with organizations and institutions from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Yemen, Kazakhstan, China, the DPRK, Myanmar, the

196 <https://t.me/obraqw/13058>

197 <https://t.me/vpkvrb/11867>

198 <https://www.sb.by/articles/v-kolledzhe-mvd-proshel-patrioticheskiy-marsh-brosok-ko-dnyu-konstitutsii.html>

199 https://t.me/krupki_uost/16545

200 https://t.me/bgaa_minsk/8052

201 https://t.me/VA_RB/28722

202 <https://t.me/ptkdpi/13351>

203 https://t.me/cenue_minsk/66195

204 <https://t.me/Gantsevihi/55036>

205 <https://www.ggau.by/news/8047-studenty-agrarnogo-universiteta-proshli-obuchenie-po-upravleniyu-bpla>

206 https://t.me/Bru_Live/18844

207 https://t.me/BrSTU_telegram/10926

208 https://t.me/mamindnevnik_nk/67080

209 https://t.me/ncc_zubronok/11918

Palestinian Authority, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. It should be noted that about 75% of the recorded educational contacts involved events with Russian and Chinese partners. For the second month in a row, Uzbekistan has become the third most significant partner for the Belarusian education system in the field of international educational cooperation. In this context, the signing of an agreement on cooperation in the educational sphere between Belarus and the DPRK was quite notable news. According to Education Minister Andrei Ivanets, the agreement envisages intensifying cooperation in student exchange and training, as well as organizing internships for faculty members.²¹⁰ Currently, both the cooperation agreement and Andrei Ivanets' statement appear more like a declaration of intent against the backdrop of Aliaksandr Lukashenka's visit to the DPRK than a well-developed and realistic action plan. In previous years, separate agreements in the field of education had already been reached between Belarus and the DPRK, but no steps were taken to implement them. The DPRK's potential interest in the Belarusian education system may be linked to fields such as engineering, medicine, agriculture, and military education. At the same time, the practical benefits of academic mobility and teacher internships for the Belarusian education system are not currently apparent. In a broader context, the agreement between North Korea and Belarus in the field of education clearly reflects the limited circle of international partners with whom the Belarusian authorities are currently willing to cooperate and demonstrates the de facto isolation of the Belarusian education system.

Another notable development that indirectly affected the field of international educational cooperation was the information war between pro-Russian and pro-government propagandists. In early March, Inna Grishuk, a staff member of the pro-Russian media outlet Sputnik, publicly addressed Aliaksandr Lukashenka. In her appeal, she stated that her son is a freshman at a Russian university and, for this reason, could face criminal prosecution in Belarus for evading military conscription.²¹¹ The pro-Russian media employee considers this situation unfair, cites the existence of the Union State of Belarus and Russia, and asks Aliaksandr Lukashenka to grant her son a deferment from military service. It should be noted that, starting in 2023, Belarus has abolished the possibility of obtaining a deferment from military service on the grounds of studying at foreign universities without a specific assignment from state agencies. This restriction applies to all foreign educational institutions, including Russian ones. It is likely that the Sputnik employee's appeal was intended to bring attention to the issue of deferrals for Belarusians studying at Russian universities and to draw the attention of government agencies not only in Belarus but also in Russia to this matter. As far back as 2023, Sputnik staff actively promoted the idea of granting deferrals to Belarusians enrolling in Russian universities, but at that time, the proposal did not receive support from the Belarusian authorities. Interestingly, this time as well, the pro-government propaganda outlet²¹² reacted quite quickly to Inna Grishuk's appeal and insisted in a sharp tone that studying at any foreign educational institution is not grounds for granting deferrals from military service. There is a high probability that if an exception is made for Russian educational institutions regarding the granting of deferrals from military service, this will lead to a mass exodus of young people to Russia, and such a prospect cannot be acceptable to Belarusian officials. Sustained attention to this topic could help bring it to the forefront at the level of Russian government agencies, which may in the future be able to secure changes from Belarus in the rules for granting deferrals and take another step toward integrating the educational systems

210 <https://belta.by/society/view/minobrazovanija-belarusi-rasschityvaet-raskryt-potentsial-sotrudnichestva-s-kndr-771997-2026/>

211 <https://dzh7f5h27xx9q.cloudfront.net/ru/2026/03/08/inna-grishuk-armia/>

212 <https://www.sb.by/articles/zloupotreblenie-slovom.html>

of the two countries. In this regard, we may assume that pro-Russian media and certain public actors will continue to periodically revisit the issue of deferrals for Belarusian students studying in Russia, with the aim of drawing attention to it at the decision-making level.

5. The trend of using film screenings as a means of spreading a pro-Russian perspective on Russia's war against Ukraine continues

In March, Russian Houses continued to be used as venues for screenings of films about Russia's war against Ukraine. As before, the screenings are often attended by schoolchildren, students, and the general adult population, particularly those of retirement age. On March 12, the Russian House in Minsk hosted a screening of the documentary "Daria Dugina: We Are Forever in This Summer..." The film is dedicated to the daughter of the famous ideologue and proponent of the "Russian World" theory. In the film's description, the filmmakers describe Daria Dugina as "a young woman who became a symbol of the Russian Spring and the embodiment of the female warrior."²¹³

On March 19, the Russian House in Minsk hosted a screening of another documentary titled "Reconstruction of the Donbas Soul."²¹⁴ The film deals with the "invincible spirit of Orthodoxy." A film with a new theme for such screenings was "The West's Bloody Puppets," shown at the Russian House in Minsk on March 26. The film focuses on leading female politicians from Western European countries: Ursula von der Leyen, Annalena Baerbock, Liz Truss, and Miroslava Nemtsova. The description of this film is particularly noteworthy: "A new breed of female politicians reigns in the West. Their common trait is a thirst for power that goes hand in hand with bloodthirstiness."²¹⁵ A film featuring precisely this kind of anti-Western rhetoric is being shown for the first time at Russian House venues. We can note that anti-Western rhetoric has now been added to the openly anti-Ukrainian rhetoric, promoted through such screenings and shaping a negative perception of female politicians from Western Europe. Screenings of films about Russia's war against Ukraine continued as usual at regional Russian House venues. The Russian House in Homiel hosted a screening of the documentary "The Quiet Rear." It tells the audience about women whose husbands are fighting in Ukraine on the side of the Russian Federation.²¹⁶ The film was shown to students at local universities. Analyzing the events of March, we can note a decrease in the number of screenings of propaganda films compared to February; however, the trend itself remains steady, and the process of spreading pro-Russian narratives about the war through such film screenings is well-established.

6. Events and celebrations marking the anniversary of the annexation of Crimea

In March, a series of events dedicated to the so-called "Day of Crimea's Reunification with Russia" took place at Russian House venues. It should be noted right away that 2026 has been the most active year in terms of events held and media coverage of the annexation of Crimea over the past four years.

On March 16, a roundtable discussion in the format of a video conference titled "Crimean Spring: Experience of Integration, Humanitarian, Cultural, Political, and Economic Aspects" took place at the Russian House in Minsk.²¹⁷ It should be noted that a number of state agencies and

²¹³ <https://t.me/naukaiculturaRossiivBelarusi/21753>

²¹⁴ <https://t.me/naukaiculturaRossiivBelarusi/21869>

²¹⁵ <https://t.me/naukaiculturaRossiivBelarusi/21968>

²¹⁶ <https://t.me/russiangomel/10407>

²¹⁷ https://ross-bel.ru/zhizn-organizaciy-rossijskih-sootec/news_post/krymskaya-vesna-telemost-v-russkom-dome-v-minske

organizations of the Republic of Belarus participated in this event.²¹⁸ Participants included: deputies of the Liberal Democratic Party of Belarus, government and public figures, representatives of youth associations, and students from both Belarusian and Russian universities.²¹⁹ Among the participants were: Petr Frolov, Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Belarus; Yuri Makushin, Head of the Rossotrudnichestvo Representative Office in Belarus; the Chairman of the Council of the Regional National-Cultural Autonomy “Belarusians of Crimea”; and the Head of the Social, Cultural, and Business Center “Crimean Community.”²²⁰ Events dedicated to the annexation of Crimea were also held in Hrodna²²¹ and Brest.²²² An exhibition titled “Crimea and Sevastopol: A Sense of Homeland” opened in Hrodna. In addition to the exhibition, a film screening took place as part of the joint project between Rossotrudnichestvo and the propaganda channel RT Documentary, “Days of Documentary Cinema.” Guests at the Russian House in Hrodna were shown the film “Crimea: Rebirth.” In Brest, a teleconference titled “Brest – Crimea – Tyumen – Leningrad region” took place at the Russian House venue. In addition to the teleconference, a screening of the documentary project “Crimea. Portal of Time” took place.²²³ The second event at the Russian House in Brest was a discussion titled “With Love for Crimea.” Residents of Brest participated in the event. Holding such events while Belarusian authorities officially do not recognize Crimea’s status effectively legitimizes the peninsula’s status as part of Russia. Through exhibitions, films, and discussions, the annexation is presented not as a political event. It is effectively normalized and legitimized through such events. The presence of public figures and representatives of civil society organizations from Belarus only reinforces this effect of legitimacy.

7. Distribution of Russian Literature by Pro-Russian Organizations

During our monitoring research, we have repeatedly noted instances of large-scale shipments and donations of Russian-language books to libraries in Belarusian schools as well as to the library system as a whole. These instances were largely selective in nature (for example, timed to coincide with commemorative dates, holidays, contests, etc.). In March, we observed several such donations.

On March 9, at the K. Simonov Library in Navapolatsk, with the support of the Russian House in Minsk, a grand opening was held for a book exhibition featuring a gift – a collection of three hundred books donated to the library by the A. Solzhenitsyn House of Russia Abroad with the support of the the Russian Diaspora Heritage Foundation.²²⁴ The ceremony was attended by officials from the local city executive committee, as well as representatives of pro-Russian organizations: Tatyana Irinarkhova, representative of the A. Solzhenitsyn House of Russian Emigrants, regional project coordinator of the Rossotrudnichestvo Representative Office in Belarus Irina Dobrovolskaya, and head of the culture department of the Navapolatsk City Executive Committee Alesya Sadovskaya.²²⁵ In addition to the opening of the exhibition itself, a lecture was held for young teachers of Russian language and literature titled “The Image of

218 <https://t.me/naukaiculturaRossiivBelarusi/21865>

219 <https://t.me/naukaiculturaRossiivBelarusi/21864>

220 <https://t.me/naukaiculturaRossiivBelarusi/21864>

221 <https://t.me/russkiydomvgorodno/6980>

222 <https://t.me/rcnkbrest/29696>

223 <https://t.me/rcnkbrest/29664>

224 <https://t.me/naukaiculturaRossiivBelarusi/21937>

225 <https://fnrz.ru/tpost/arym2jc2d1-programma-knizhnii-dar-sostoyalas-v-bela>

Pushkin in Foreign Literature”.²²⁶ A similar event took place at the Polatsk Cadet School.²²⁷ There, 300 books from the A. Solzhenitsyn House of Russian Abroad and the Russian Diaspora Heritage Foundation were presented as a gift to the cadet school’s library. The Russian House in Hrodna held a similar event at the library of the Sunday school of the Cathedral of All Belarusian Saints in Hrodna.²²⁸ Sets of children’s fiction were donated. A total of about 50 publications were donated. It should be noted that such deliveries of Russian-language literature are taking place against the backdrop of systemic problems with the availability and updating of book collections in the Belarusian language. This has the potential to further exacerbate the imbalance in favor of Russian cultural influence on Belarusian education as a whole. The handover process itself is accompanied by various exhibitions, joint events, ceremonies, contests, and other activities. All of this makes the handover process yet another means by which pro-Russian organizations exert public influence on the Belarusian education system.

²²⁶ <http://novopolotsk-lib.by/index.php/resursi/item/5587-otkrytie-vystavki-knizhnogo-dara>

²²⁷ <https://t.me/naukaiculturaRossiivBelarusi/21945>

²²⁸ <https://t.me/ruskiydomvgrodno/6976>