



**ANNEX IV**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2016 in favour  
of the Republic of Belarus

**Action Document for Support to the European Humanities University**

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	Support to the European Humanities University CRIS number: ENI/2016/039-379 financed under European Neighbourhood Instrument			
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	Republic of Belarus The action shall be carried out at the following location: Vilnius, Lithuania			
<b>3. Programming document</b>	Multiannual Indicative Programme for EU support to Belarus (2014- 2017)			
<b>4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area</b>	Social Inclusion	DEV. Aid: YES		
<b>5. Amounts concerned</b>	Total estimated cost: EUR 2 million Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 2 million			
<b>6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)</b>	Project Modality Indirect management with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)			
<b>7 a) DAC code(s)</b>	11420 – Higher Education – 100%			
<b>b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	Public sector institutions - 10000			
<b>8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
	Aid to environment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Biological diversity	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>				

## SUMMARY

This action is a continuation of the financial contribution of the EU to the European Humanities University (EHU), a Belarusian university in exile in Vilnius, for the academic years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. The EU has been the biggest donor to the EHU since 2005 when the university moved into exile to Lithuania, thus expressing its commitment to long-term support for democracy and human rights in Belarus. The EHU is a political priority to the EU, as expressed by the Commission top hierarchy and Member States in many contexts. This is also demonstrated in the great interest that top officials from EU institutions and politicians in EU Member States have shown in the university. The EU commitment to supporting the EHU has been confirmed on various occasions, for instance at the international donors conference "Solidarity with Belarus" (Warsaw 2011), organised in the aftermath of the Belarusian presidential 2010 elections. The EU sees EHU as a tool to create a stock of Belarusians who have received Western education and can considerably contribute to the country's development. The overall objective of this action is to boost democratic development in Belarus by giving young Belarusians access to independent higher education. This will be done through enabling the EHU to provide high quality Western education and subsistence to Belarusian students deprived of a chance to acquire relevant higher education and through providing support to the EHU in pursuing the long-term sustainability of the university. The EU contribution of EUR 2 million for two academic years will give predictability of the EU commitment to supporting the EHU and a longer-term perspective on financial planning, which is essential for such a complex organisation as a university.

## 11 CONTEXT

### 11.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

Belarus faced one of the greatest challenges with the economic shocks in 2011. Although the government temporarily stabilized the economy in 2012, it demonstrated its reluctance to undertake serious structural reforms, and the problems that precipitated the 2011 crisis remain in place. The economy of Belarus remains to be characterised by the dominance of state-owned enterprises. The economy continues to depend on energy- and resource-intensive exports.

Real GDP grew by about 1,5% in 2014, while inflation was about 18%. In 2015, GDP growth slowed down sharply because of high uncertainty, reduction in real incomes, administrative measures, and declining trade with Russia. The IMF forecast for 2016 is for a recession. The Belarusian economy remains highly vulnerable to external shocks, having experienced three major exchange rate crises since 2008 (IMF, 2015).

Compared to the other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Belarus has a relatively high level of socioeconomic development. In UNDP's Human Development Index, Belarus was on the 50<sup>th</sup> place among the 188 countries ranked and classified as a country with a high human development. The 2011 economic crisis did cause some increase in poverty and narrowed inequality as the relatively rich were also hit hard by the crisis. According to a World Bank report, in 2013 the absolute poverty rate in Belarus improved to 5.5% compared to 7.3% in 2011. The level of exclusion of some social groups from the society is comparatively low. However, Belarus's highly developed welfare regime, one of the priorities of the country's social market economy model, is very cost-intensive.

According to official figures, the unemployment rate in Belarus in 2015 was about 1% of the economically active population. In reality the number is much higher because the official statistics only counts the number of people who are officially registered at employment bureaus.

In the difficult economic and social situation the Belarusian population is facing, more and more young people are recognising the need for obtaining quality education in order to be able to get a job and thereby sustain their livelihoods. The European Humanities University, a Belarusian university in exile in Lithuania, offers an education that is not influenced by the Belarusian state ideology. The EHU acts as a symbol of a Belarusian academic culture, and plays an important role as an actor not only in the academic field but also through its contribution to the development of the Belarusian society by promoting academic freedom and an effective forum for discussing developments in contemporary Belarus. A majority of students return to Belarus after their studies, thus contributing to the country's development, even though they have opportunities to get jobs in the state administration only if they also have a Belarusian degree or other degree recognised by the Belarusian Ministry of Education. EHU degrees are not recognised by the Belarusian authorities, but graduates without a recognised degree from the EHU can find jobs e.g. in the private sector, media or civil society organisations. According to the EHU survey, over 90% of graduates are employed, out of them about 50% find jobs in private companies which is considered a good indicator of the relevance of the EHU education to the expectations of Belarusian employers.

The EHU offers programmes in the areas which are underdeveloped in Belarusian higher education, and research conducted is in line with Belarusian development priorities. In this way the university programmes are focused towards the needs of Belarusian society. In addition, The EHU staff and students have been involved in various activities to support social and cultural developments in Belarus.

### ***11.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework***

The development priorities of the government of Belarus are outlined in a number of documents, including the Concept of the National Strategy of Sustainable Social and Economic Development for 2011-2025 and the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Belarus until 2020.

The main goals and objectives of the government are:

- Human capacity development based on improved education, health care, housing construction and other services sectors.
- Innovative development of the national economy.
- Building export potential through increased competitiveness, technological retooling, application of science, intensive resource saving, environmentally friendly productions.
- Boosting agro-industrial complex and social recovery of rural areas.

The strategic documents remain descriptive and vague in their recommendations and essentially promote the current policy of the government.

Education is one of the sectors in which sporadic reforms have been implemented in Belarus since its independence. New higher education standards, piloted since 1 September 2008, are based on a competence approach and contain the ECTS<sup>22</sup>-compatible system of educational credits as a necessary tool to support student mobility.

Out of the 55 officially recognised higher education institutions, 45 are public and 9 private, and the vast majority of students attend public universities.

Belarus applied for a membership in the Bologna Process, but received rejection in 2012 due to [doubts about its commitment to academic freedom](#), institutional autonomy and student democracy. Belarus applied for the Bologna Process again in 2015 and was granted the EHEA membership on 14 May 2015.

Education is one of the most important areas in laying the foundations for democracy, and the European Union fully acknowledges the key role of Belarusian young people in the democratisation process in Belarus. Since 2005, the European Union has given sustained support to Belarusian civil society in general and to the higher education sector in particular. The European Humanities University in exile plays an essential role in this regard, in particular given the political context prevailing since the presidential elections held in December 2010. It is currently the only independent Belarusian university that allows Belarusian students to study such disciplines as World politics and economics, communication and media, international and European law (including human rights law), public policy with a focus on the needs of modern society and future European integration, historical and cultural studies (including gender studies), democracy and civil society, social

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<sup>22</sup> European Credits Transfer System.

and political philosophy, modern art, etc., without political interference. The political value of the EHU is therefore evident so long as the current situation in Belarus prevails.

The education of youth in an academically free environment is one of the EU's core values and at the heart of major financial support. The Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for EU support to Belarus (2014-2017) foresees complimentary support to civil society in order to promote good democratic practices. In line with MIP, the EU support to the EHU will give young Belarusians access to independent higher education which provides graduates with skills and knowledge deemed necessary to exert an influence on the democratic development of Belarusian society.

### ***11.1.2 Stakeholder analysis***

The EHU currently serves approximately 1100 students (85% of whom are Belarusian), with about one-third of them studying face-to-face in Vilnius ("high residence students") and two-thirds enrolled in blending-learning, which entails both face-to-face and online instructions, or distance-learning programmes ("low-residence students"). The EHU offers four undergraduate programmes (Bachelor degree):

- 1) World politics and economics
- 2) Media and communication
- 3) Visual design and media
- 4) Cultural heritage

Six graduate programmes (Master degree) are offered currently by the EHU:

- 1) International law and European Union law
- 2) Business administration
- 3) Existential psychology
- 4) Historic and cultural heritage
- 5) Public policy
- 6) Cultural studies

In 2011, the EHU launched a PhD programme in Philosophy in partnership with the Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania).

In recent years the EHU frequently changed the portfolio of programmes in response to needs and what prospective students were looking for.

Student-centered learning is a strong feature of the EHU's approach to education, in particular in low-residence programmes. Students can follow individual study programmes, there are regular on-line meetings with teachers, and individual support is also available. The certification procedure with standardised requirements for distance learning courses is in place. The second accreditation review of the university carried out by the team of international experts in 2014 gave positive opinion about lifelong learning offered by the EHU.

The university is relying heavily on international donors for funding. Over 67 % of the EHU's total income comes from donors. The EU has been the biggest donor to the EHU since 2005 when the university moved into exile to Lithuania, thus expressing its commitment to long-term support for democracy and human rights in Belarus. In coordination with other donors, the European Union provided support to the EHU through a dedicated multi-donor trust fund, which was set up and is managed by the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM). In addition to the EU and 12 EU Member States, also the NCM, the United States, Norway and the MacArthur Foundation (a private US foundation) have given donations through the trust fund. The EHU also receives funds outside of the trust fund from donors and tuition fees. Since 2015, the Commission can no longer channel funds through the trust fund managed by the NCM for technical reasons. Therefore, the management of the EU contribution to the EHU under AAP 2014 was entrusted to SIDA. The donors have started discussions on the future of the trust fund as the NCM plans to withdraw from the management of the EHU trust fund after the current mandate expires by the end of 2016. There is a need to find a new mechanism of channelling support to the EHU, which would be attractive for all donors. SIDA is already managing the EU support to the EHU allocated under 2014 budget. Therefore, SIDA could become the main channel also for other donors. As an alternative option the Lithuanian government proposed to create a mechanism for channelling funds of the EU and other donors via the Lithuanian Central Project Management Agency (CPMA), should SIDA not be interested to continue and if this option would be the preferred by all donors.

The EHU's operations are overseen by the Governing Board consisting of committed higher education experts. It was set up at the initiative of the Nordic Council of Ministers and the McArthur Foundation in 2007 with the aim to provide strategic guidance and fiduciary oversight for the EHU. The Board supports the EHU's management and administration and works towards maximizing fundraising efforts. The Annual Donors' Assembly is convened once per year in Vilnius, which is complemented by bi-annual higher education meetings.

Recently, the EHU has been in the process of quite fundamental reform to decentralise the management and to ensure greater involvement of its departments, to make the decision-making more efficient and improve communication. The university made efforts to ensure greater involvement of students in the university management. Members of the Student Representation or Students' Union, a self-governance body, are involved in various working groups and committees. Students' representatives are members of the newly elected university Senate, and two students are present at the Governing Board meetings.

The EHU is considering various scenarios to improve its sustainability. The EHU and its Governing Board considers broadening the pool of donors and increasing the university income from tuition fees by opening up to non-Belarusian students. However, the EHU is cautious in diversification of its programmes and targeting non-Belarusian students as it might lose the Belarusian focus and it might invalidate the reason why donors are providing support to the university. The partnership agreement with the Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania) should also contribute to the EHU sustainability. Joint programmes are being developed with USA and German partners.

### *11.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis*

A continuous strengthening of the EHU and its capacities are prerequisite for the university to be able to offer high quality academic education for Belarusian students. Since the EHU went into exile in 2005, the international community has provided massive political and financial support. In recent years, the EHU has faced challenges and questions about the future of the university. Among issues that the EHU has to resolve is the sustainability of the university, which is threatened by a dwindling number of students. Evaluations carried out by international experts suggest that could be several reasons behind the fall in student enrolment numbers. Some studies suggest that the ongoing economic crisis in Belarus, including devaluation of the currency, might have an impact on students' ability to pay for fees and living expenses. The academic skills and preparedness of students to cope with the demands of the EHU programmes could be also a reason for a high number of the drop-out of enrolled students.

The EHU is currently in the process of restructuring and defining new strategic goals to address challenges that the university is facing. In 2015 the Governing Board together with the newly elected Rector initiated a process of preparation of a strategic plan, which is expected to be finalised before the third quarter of 2016. The new strategic plan is expected to bring the EHU's mission and identity into focus thus enabling the university to move forward.

The EU seeks to provide support to the strategic and sustainable development of the EHU through:

- 1) provision of access to higher education to young Belarusians in an environment of academic and political freedom;
- 2) provision of education geared specifically to enabling the target group to develop democratic values in Belarus;
- 3) contribution to the education, housing and subsistence of Belarusian students throughout their studies (maximum 4 years);
- 4) provision of support to the EHU in pursuing the long-term sustainability in close coordination with the other donors.

## 12 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
<p>1) Reduced commitment of all donors (EU Member States, international organisations, other countries) to provide financial support to the EHU.</p> <p>2) The university fails to attract Belarusian students.</p> <p>3) The degrees awarded by the EHU are unlikely to be recognised in Belarus in the current political situation. Therefore, students might face difficulties finding a job related to their qualifications upon their return to Belarus.</p> <p>4) The project-funded students not coming back to their home country (Belarus) after they finish their studies.</p>	<p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>L</p>	<p>1) A clear strategic plan developed by the EHU which would make donors confident that the reform plan of the university is on track, it is aligned with the sound and transparent budget and that the university remains relevant for potential students.</p> <p>2) A clear strategic plan developed and implemented by the EHU which would ensure that the university remains relevant for potential students.</p> <p>3) This risk applies to state-run institutions. Other institutions might be keen on employing EHU graduates with up-to-date knowledge and skills. In addition, the distance learning section of the EHU allows for several EHU students to study in parallel at Belarusian state universities. Other students take a second degree with the EHU, following a degree with a state university and vice versa. The degrees from state universities can serve as the official degrees when these students apply for work in Belarusian state-run entities.</p> <p>4) Students study in a country neighbouring Belarus, with teaching specific to the Belarusian context and in an expatriate, but Belarusian, environment (staff, academics, etc.). The majority of resident EHU graduates return to Belarus.</p> <p>5) The Systems Audit carried out with support of SIDA at the beginning of 2016 will give an overview of the EHU administrative capacities and will help the</p>



<p>5) Administrative capacities of the university are insufficient to implement the strategic plan</p> <p>6) The creation of a new mechanism of channelling contribution of donors fails after the mandate of the trust fund expires in the end of 2016, and as a consequence contribution of donors substantially reduces.</p>	<p>M</p> <p>L</p>	<p>university to address weaknesses.</p> <p>6) A clear strategic plan developed by the EHU which would make donors confident that the reform plan of the university is on track, it is aligned with the sound and transparent budget and that the university remains relevant for potential students.</p>
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**Assumptions**

- Strong political support to the EHU by donor countries remains in place.
- Good co-operation within the donors' community.
- Commitment of the EHU Governing Board to provide strategic guidance for the university.
- Sound and transparent accounts of the EHU.
- Possibilities for teaching staff to improve professional skills.
- The issue of recognition of the EHU diplomas in Belarus is mainly linked to political considerations and the fact that Belarus has been lagging behind in terms of adapting to the Bologna process standards. It is expected that this gap will be bridged as Belarus moves towards more democratic openness and towards European standards in the long-term.

### **3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

#### **3.1 Lessons learnt**

In 2013, the Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP) carried out an evaluation of the EHU, with the aim of supporting the university in the development of its strategic management and internal quality culture. The IEP report emphasised the need for the EHU to elaborate an appropriate strategic plan with prioritisations, realistic timeframes and procedures for reviewing its implementation.

The EU Delegation carried out an overall evaluation of the EHU and EU funding in 2012 with a view to establish an exit strategy. Although the evaluation report fails to acknowledge that almost no European university is fully independent from external financing, it does however raise a number of very valid points with regards to the financial sustainability of the EHU.

The EHU received accreditation as a Lithuanian university in 2009. The second accreditation review of the EHU was organised by the Lithuanian Center for Quality Assessment in Higher Education and carried out by a team of international experts in 2014. The accreditation review revealed weaknesses in strategic management of the university and made several recommendations, including the need to develop a long-term strategic plan. In 2015 the EHU initiated the preparation of a strategic plan to set the goals of the university, define indicators for monitoring and to align the budget with strategic goals.

#### **3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination**

##### EU Programmes

- EU language courses for young Belarusians (EUR 2 million from the Special Measures budget): The specific objectives of this 2-year project are the enhancement of cross-cultural competences of young Belarusians through learning of EU languages in EU Member States, raising the awareness on the EU and European societies and values among representatives of Belarusian society and the establishment of professional and personal contacts of young Belarusians with counterparts in the EU. Implementation period: 2013-2014.
- Open Europe Scholarship Scheme – OESS (EUR 4 million) for young Belarusians to study BA and MA in European universities (implemented by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2011-2016). Under the OESS II (EUR 8 million) some 200 students are expected to study in the EU during the period 2014-2018.
- Mobility Scheme for Targeted People-to-People Contacts – MOST (EUR 5 million): This action is a mobility scheme designed to facilitate direct people-to-people contacts between representatives of three broad sectors such as culture, education & youth and science & technology in Belarus and their counterparts in Member States of the European Union. First activities started in 2015.
- Erasmus+ is the EU programme 2014-2020 for Education, Training, Youth, and Sport. It replaces Erasmus Mundus, Tempus and Youth in Action. Some Erasmus Mundus and Tempus multiannual projects selected during the last calls are ongoing in Belarus. Belarus is eligible to take part as a Partner country in higher education and youth actions of the programme. Following the Erasmus+ 2015 call, 327 students and staff from Belarus will

receive funding for international credit mobility in higher education. 766 young people and youth workers from Belarus received funding for mobility.

- Erasmus+ also provides funding for Capacity Building programmes in Belarus, which support the modernisation of higher education in the country (previous Tempus Programme). In 2015, four projects have been selected involving 11 Higher Education Institutions from Belarus as well as the Ministry of Education.
- Erasmus+ provides funding for Erasmus Mundus Joint Degrees of outstanding academic quality, including a scholarships scheme. Five Belarusian students received a full scholarship to participate in Erasmus Mundus Joint Degrees in 2014/15.
- Jean Monnet Activities are also funded by Erasmus+. These projects focus on European integration studies and fund teaching and research, policy debates with the academic world and give support to activities of institutions or associations. Belarus obtained funding for four Jean Monnet projects in 2014.

#### Other donors

- The Visegrad Group Scholarship Programme funded by the International Visegrad Fund, enabling studies in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia;
- Scholarships and financial support offered by individual EU Member States (mainly Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom, Poland, France and the Netherlands).

The European Commission and the European External Action Service organise regular implementers and donors meetings. EU Member States, international financial institutions (IFIs) and other donors such as the United States, Canada and Norway take part.

### **3.3. Cross-cutting issues**

Fundamental human rights and gender equality issues will be mainstreamed mainly through two centers which are established within the EHU.

The Center for Constitutionalism and Human Rights was established at the EHU in 2012. The center conducts research and methodological, practical and academic activities in constitutionalism and human rights. As part of the EHU academic programmes, the center participates in educating students about practical aspects of the international protection of human rights and securing the constitutional law. Also, the center assists lawyers of NGOs on human rights issues.

The Center of Gender Studies promotes gender-balanced curricula, encourages gender research, and supports and facilitates discussions on gender issues at the EHU.

## **4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

### **4.1. Objectives/results**

The overall objective of EU support to the EHU is to boost democratic development in Belarus by giving young Belarusians access to independent higher education.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- To provide education and training for young Belarusians in an environment of academic and political freedom through the EHU;

- To provide education geared specifically to enabling the target group to develop democratic values in Belarus;
- To contribute to changing social norms and combating stereotypes in relation to gender equality in Belarusian society through education;
- To contribute to the education, housing and subsistence of Belarusian students throughout their studies (maximum 4 years);
- To provide support to the EHU in pursuing the long-term sustainability in close coordination with the other donors.

The project is expected to have the following results:

- The EHU is able to provide education in various academic disciplines at Bachelor, Master and PhD level for Belarusian students deprived of a chance to acquire relevant higher education;
- Gender-balanced curricula, gender research and discussions on gender issues implemented through the Center of Gender Studies at the EHU;
- The long-term sustainability of EHU is improved and new financial initiatives from the international donor community encouraged.

#### **4.2. Main activities**

The main activities of the project include running a range of BA and MA degree programmes (spring and autumn semesters in each calendar year) focused on the skills and knowledge necessary for developing democratic institutions, civil society and human rights in Belarus. BA programmes include the following disciplines: world politics and economics, media and communication, visual design and media, cultural heritage. MA programmes include the following disciplines: international law and European Union law, business administration, existential psychology, historic and cultural heritage, public policy, cultural studies. PhD programme includes philosophy. Activities necessary for the functioning of the university and for support of the Belarusian students will be also part of the action.

#### **4.3. Intervention logic**

The Action is aimed at supporting and developing the capacity of the EHU to implement its activities and creating the necessary conditions for giving young Belarusians access to independent higher education. It will be achieved through contributing to the university's running costs of BA, MA degree and PhD programmes and through contribution to housing and subsistence of Belarusian students.

Foreseeing EU's continued support until 2019 will improve the predictability of the university's funding, thus easing the mid-term planning of the university. It may also encourage other donors to make longer term funding commitments, considering that the Commission is EHU's biggest donor and its long-term commitment may serve as a positive sign to other donors.

The EU support to the EHU will also allow the university to finalise the development of its strategic plan in order to bring the EHU mission and identity into focus, and to align the

budget with strategic goals of the university. In this way the EHU will be able to move towards a more stable, longer-term plan of development.

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1. Financing agreement**

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

### **5.2. Indicative implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 40 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

### **5.3. Implementation modalities**

#### **5.3.1. Indirect management with a Member State agency**

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. This implementation entails management of EU contribution to the European Humanities University.

This implementation is justified because SIDA has a proven long-term commitment to supporting the EHU by being the biggest EU Member State donor to the university, and is very active in donor co-ordination on the EHU. As one of the most active donors, SIDA has also been very closely following up developments of the EHU in the past two years that led to a management reform of the university.

The entrusted entity would carry out the following budget-implementation tasks: manage the EU contribution to the European Humanities University by signing with the EHU an agreement that will specify the range of activities to be funded by the EU contribution; execute the related payments.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entrusted entity fail, this action may be implemented in indirect management with the Lithuanian Central Project Management Agency. The implementation by this alternative entrusted entity would be justified because the Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) has experience in implementation of EU financing instruments (PHARE, Schengen Facility, Structural Funds) in the role of the Contracting Authority since 2004, when the European Commission granted to the CPMA the Extended Decentralised Implementation System (EDIS) accreditation.

The implementation of this action in indirect management with a Lithuanian agency can be further justified by the fact that the EHU is registered as a fully-fledged higher education

institution in Lithuania and receives a strong political support from the government of Lithuania. Lithuania is also one of the biggest EU Member State donors to the university, and is very active in donor co-ordination on the EHU.

The alternative entrusted entity would carry out exactly the same budget-implementation tasks as mentioned for SIDA above.

The alternative entrusted entity CPMA will undergo the ex-ante assessment in accordance with Article 61(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 related to the grant pillar. The Commission’s authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the compliance with the ex-ante assessment based on Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and long-lasting problem-free cooperation, the CPMA can be entrusted with budget-implementation tasks under indirect management.

#### **5.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants**

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

#### **5.5. Indicative budget**

The total amount of EU budget contribution is for an amount of EUR 2 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2016.

	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified</b>
5.3.1 – Indirect management with SIDA	2 million	N.A.
Totals	2 million	N.A.

#### **5.6. Organisational set-up and responsibilities**

The action will be implemented in indirect management with SIDA. The coordination meetings between SIDA, the EU and the EHU will be carried out on a regular basis. Coordination meetings with other donors will take place at least once per year.

## **5.7. Performance monitoring and reporting**

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

## **5.8. Evaluation**

Having regard to the nature of the action, no evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components.

Nevertheless, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation, if any, shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

## **5.9. Audit**

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

#### **5.10. Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation. The Communication and Visibility Plan will be an integral part of the Delegation Agreement, therefore the budget for visibility measures will be also integral part of the Agreement.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.



## APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Boost democratic development in Belarus by giving young Belarusians access to independent higher education.	Number EHU graduates participating in the civic life of Belarus through their work in NGOs, business, media, other universities, state institutions.	62% of EHU graduates live and work in Belarus.	At least 62% graduates live and work in Belarus.	Monitoring using a range of assessment tools and feedback from students, teachers/professors, the EHU Governing Board, media, NGOs, etc.	Strong political support to the EHU by donor countries remains in place.
		Number of students enrolled to EHU educational programmes per academic year.	About 1100 students	About 1100 students	Alumni survey  EHU reports	Good co-operation within the donors' community.

<b>Specific objective(s):</b> <b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p>To provide education and training for young Belarusians in an environment of academic and political freedom through the EHU.</p>	<p>Number of students enrolled at the EHU educational programmes.</p>	<p>About 1100 students</p>	<p>At least 1100 students</p>	<p>EHU reports</p>	<p>Sound and transparent management of donors' funds and transparent flow of information on each donor's contribution.</p> <p>Good co-operation within the donors' community.</p>
	<p>To provide education geared specifically to enabling the target group to develop democratic values in Belarus.</p>	<p>Number of academic programmes provided by the EHU geared towards the development of Belarusian society.</p>	<p>11 academic programmes</p>	<p>At least 11 academic programmes</p>	<p>EHU alumni survey</p> <p>Adopted academic programmes</p>	
	<p>To contribute to changing social norms and combating stereotypes in relation to gender equality in Belarusian society through education.</p>				<p>EHU strategic plan</p>	
	<p>To contribute to the education, housing and subsistence of Belarusian students throughout their studies (max. 4 years).</p>				<p>Financial and other reports of the EHU</p>	
	<p>Provide support to the EHU in pursuing the long-term sustainability in close co-operation with other donors.</p>					

<b>Outputs</b>	<p>The EHU is able to provide education in various academic disciplines at Bachelor, Master and PhD level for Belarusian students deprived of a chance to acquire relevant higher education.</p>	<p>Number of students enrolled to EHU educational programmes.</p>	<p>About 1100 students</p>	<p>At least 1100 students</p>	<p>Financial and other reports of EHU</p>	<p>Commitment of the EHU Governing Board to provide strategic guidance for the university.</p>
	<p>Gender-balanced curricula, gender research and discussions on gender issues implemented through the Center of Gender Studies at the EHU.</p>	<p>Number of academic programmes provided by the EHU.</p>	<p>11 academic programmes</p>	<p>At least 11 academic programmes</p>	<p>EHU strategic plan</p>	<p>Sound and transparent accounts of the EHU.</p>
	<p>The long-term sustainability of EHU is improved and new financial initiatives from the international donor community encouraged.</p>	<p>EHU's budget is in balance.</p>	<p>All prioritised activities of EHU's strategy can be implemented with adequate funding</p>	<p>All prioritised activities of EHU's strategy can be implemented with adequate funding</p>	<p>Adopted academic programmes</p> <p>Financial and other reports of the EHU</p>	<p>Continued donor support.</p>