

EaP | Eastern Partnership



STRONGER WOMEN — STRONGER BELARUS

#strongertogether



For sixty years, the European Union has worked tirelessly to defend women's rights and to empower them to realise their full potential. Gender equality is at the heart of the EU's Eastern Partnership initiative. It is vital to the individual lives of women as well as men, and essential for long-term democratic development. In its cooperation with Belarus, the EU is driving real change by strengthening women in business, providing opportunities for quality education and promoting a fair society.

WHAT IS BEING DONE

- **GENDER ACTION PLANS**
Taking account of gender issues across public policies
- **RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS**
Support for advocacy campaigns on gender equality and domestic violence issues
- **MORE WOMEN IN BUSINESS**
Making loans via local banks available for women-led enterprises
- **NEW STUDY AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**
Offering a wide range of exchange programmes across Europe with Erasmus+ and the MOST programme
- **YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS**
Enhancing the active participation of young women through the EU4Youth programme

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

The EU supports women entrepreneurs in Belarus through the **Women in Business** programme, which is implemented by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Support provided by the programme includes **business advice, training** and **mentoring** to women-led companies.

Woman-led paper manufacturer in Belarus, **Gofrobum** received assistance with marketing and corporate website development under the Women in Business project. As a result, their **productivity grew by 127%**, and their **customer base increased by 39%**.

Find out how you can take part:
www.ebrdwomeninbusiness.com

«With the project's support, we brought structure to many business processes, developed an effective promotion strategy and created a marketing service.»

Svetlana Siparova is director of Mark Formelle, a clothing manufacturer that received EU advisory support as well as finance.



Women entrepreneurs in Belarus also have access to a range of other funding and advisory services provided under the EU4Business initiative.

Find out more:
www.eu4business.eu/belarus

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Through its **Erasmus+** programme, the EU offers young women and men in Belarus a huge range of exchange opportunities across Europe.



«I can say without exaggeration that participation in Erasmus opened the world to me.»

Tamara Sakolchik was one of the first Belarusian participants in the Erasmus programme. Today Tamara is 30 years old, and is a successful lawyer in Minsk.

- **Belarus** was provided more than **€4 million in funding for student and staff exchanges** under Erasmus+ in 2015-17, with **987 students and staff** from Belarus benefitting from exchanges to EU universities.
- The EU has set a **75% target to support young women** under the **EU4Youth** programme that runs until 2020.

ERASMUS+ OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Scholarships to study in Europe
- Student exchanges
- Youth exchanges
- European Voluntary Service
- Opportunities for youth workers
- Youth involvement in reform dialogue

Find out more:

Erasmus+ website www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus
Erasmus+ National Office Belarus www.erasmus-plus.belarus.unibel.by/
Erasmus+ Youth Info Centre in Belarus www.facebook.com/EP.belarus/

EU4Youth www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/eu-in-action/projects/eu4youth

A FAIR SOCIETY

An EU-funded project – **SAFETY. Right to Live without Violence** – promotes the right of women and children to a safe family environment free from violence and abuse. The project seeks to provide shelter to victims of domestic violence and to create support services for them.

AS A RESULT OF WORK DONE SO FAR:

- **93 families with 238 children** have received integrated support with finding ways out from their difficult situations.
- A **shelter has been opened** in the village of Baraŭliany in the Minsk district for victims of domestic violence – **11 mothers and 19 children** have received assistance.
- **Three self-support groups** have been set up for joint decision making on complicated family issues.
- **Workshops on helping victims of domestic violence** have been held for professionals (psychologists, staff of social services, socio-pedagogical centres, specialised NGOs, etc.).
- **SOS hotlines** have been set up for women at risk.
- **Targeted awareness** raising for women at risk.



«The key thing is that the project really helps. We have not been able to deal with the violence problem ourselves. The centre offers comfortable accommodation for mothers with children for a time when they have to stay outside their homes, and the work with psychologists has brought positive results to both my children and to me.»

Valentina Bursh and her daughters **Angelina** and **Aleksandra** benefited from the project.

Find out more:

On the dedicated website for EU projects in Belarus: www.euprojects.by

Project implemented by SOS Children's Villages: www.sos-villages.by

