



INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL STUDIES **POLITICAL SPHERE**
INSTYTUT PALITYCZYCH DASLIEDAVANNIAŨ **PALITYČNAJA SFIERA**

Institute of Political Studies Political Sphere is an independent professional community of Belarusian scientists who study politics and related social fields. The Institute is rooted in the community that arose around the Journal of Political Studies Political Sphere founded in 2001. By the beginning of 2009, the activities of the community (in studies, publishing and other spheres) resulted in establishing of an independent, dynamic and professional Political Studies Institute.

THE INSTITUTE'S MISSION

1. Systematic studies of politics at national, regional and international levels.
2. Development of a professional community of political scientists and analysts in Belarus; improvement of essential infrastructure for professional activities.
3. Integration of Belarusian scientists and analysts into regional, European and international context.

PRINCIPLES

The Institute's priorities are academic studies, empirical research and publications. Community-building, by way of academic and analytical conferences, seminars and peer-review, is also important.

The Institute is a Belarusian research institution, thus we feel obliged to contribute to the development of Belarusian science and culture, including promotion of the use of Belarusian language in the academic sphere and education.

The Institute is open for cooperation with all individual researchers and institutions regardless of their political views and ideological standpoints. The Institute is also aimed at international cooperation and regards itself as a part of the international community of political scientists.

THE MAIN PROJECTS

Political Sphere Journal. The Institute is a founder and publisher of ***Political Sphere Journal*** – the leading specialised periodical in the field of political science in Belarus (founded in 2001). The Journal publishes research materials on all key topics and on all approaches of political sciences and related disciplines. The publication is included in a number of international social science

databases, in particular, in the Central and Eastern European On-line Library. It is also referenced in the International Political Science Association (IPSA) Abstracts.

Belarusian Political Science Review. The Institute is the founder and the main publishing institution of *Belarusian Political Science Review*, a peer-reviewed political science periodical in English that serves as an interdisciplinary publication for research papers from various subfields of political science. The publication aims to meet the needs of a broader academic community in scientific enquiry on Belarusian politics and politics of Eastern and Central Europe.

International Congress of Belarusian Studies. The Institute is the initiator and core organiser of the International Congress of Belarusian Studies. The Congress' mission is to promote a deeper understanding of Belarus in the academic and civil communities. The Congress is a place for the presentation of the outcomes of scholarly and expert activities throughout the year. In addition, the Congress is an excellent opportunity to develop new research and community projects, to exchange views and ideas and to establish informal contacts. The Congress provides an opportunity to make public presentations to 150-200 specialists annually.

Recent studies of the Institute:

1. Understanding of the Nation: Concepts of Belarusian Nation since Independence, 1990–2009 (2008–2010).
2. Belarusian Elite: Structure and Trends (2009–2010).
3. Continuing Struggle: Practices of Mass Protests in Belarus, 1988–2009 (2010).
4. Belarusian Elite and the First Years of Independence, 1990–1994 (2010).
5. Social Structure of the Belarusian Revival, Late 19th – Early 20th Century (2010–2011).
6. Saying Liberalisation: Public Speeches and Actual Policy of Belarusian Politicians, 2008–2010 (2011).
7. Oligarchy or Vertical? Regional Elite in Belarus: Evolution of the Regional Councils in 1999–2014 (2012–2013).
8. Belarus in the Region of Eastern Partnership Countries in 1992–2012 (2013).
9. Protest Activity in Belarus in 2013: Mass Actions, Political Performances, Social Conflicts (2013).

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