

ADDENDUM NO 1 TO GRANT CONTRACT NO [REDACTED]

The Central Project Management Agency
Public Institution, registration number 126125624
S. Konarskio str., 13, LT-03109, Vilnius Lithuania
(‘the Contracting authority’),

of the one part,

and

Czech National Agency for International Education and Research
State contributory organization of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
registration number 61386839
Na Porici 1035/4, CZ-110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic
(hereinafter the 'Beneficiary')

of the other part,

have agreed as follows:

The following provisions of the Grant contract No [REDACTED] concluded between the Contracting authority and the Beneficiary on 15th of December, 2021 (the ‘contract’) are hereby replaced/supplemented as follows:

Special Conditions:

Article 3 - Financing the Action

3.1. The total eligible costs are estimated at EUR 383 875, as set out in Annex III.

3.2. The Contracting Authority undertakes to finance a maximum amount of EUR 383 875.

The grant is further limited to 100 percentage of the total eligible cost of the Action specified in paragraph 1.

The final amount of the Contracting Authority’s contribution shall be determined in accordance with Articles 14 and 17 of Annex II.

Article 4 – Reporting and payment arrangements

4.1. Payments shall be made in accordance with Article 15 of Annex II option no. 2 as set out in Article 15.1

Initial pre-financing payment: EUR 75 000 (subject to the provisions of Annex II).

Further pre-financing payments(s): EUR 308 875 (subject to the provisions of Annex II).

Balance of the final amount of the grant: (subject to the provisions of Annex II): EUR 0.

Article 7 – Other specific conditions applying to the action

7.1.1 By derogation to Article 15.1 of Annex II the Beneficiary shall submit to the Contracting Authority the reports in accordance with the following requirements unless otherwise agreed with the Contracting Authority:

Type of a report and its number	Documents to be submitted	Reporting period	Deadline for submission to Organisation
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Narrative Interim Report 1	Narrative Interim report (Annex V)	01/09/2021-28/02/2022	30 March, 2022
Financial Interim Report 1	Financial Interim report (Annex V) Supporting documents Statement (Annex VI)	01/09/2021-28/02/2022	30 March, 2022
Narrative Interim Report 2	Narrative interim report (Annex V)	01/03/2022-31/07/2022	30 August, 2022
Financial Interim Report 2	Financial interim report (Annex V) Forecast and interim payment request (Annex IV) Supporting documents Statement (Annex VI)	01/03/2022-31/07/2022	30 August, 2022
Interim Report 3	Narrative interim report (Annex V) Financial interim report (Annex B) Forecast and interim payment request (Annex IV) Supporting documents Statement (Annex VI)	01/08/2022-31/07/2023	30 August, 2023
Interim Report 4	Narrative interim report (Annex V) Financial interim report (Annex V) Forecast and interim payment request (Annex IV) Supporting documents Statement (Annex VI)	01/08/2023-31/07/2024	30 August, 2024
Final Report 5	Narrative final report (Annex V) Financial final report (Annex V) Final payment request (Annex IV) Supporting documents Statement (Annex VI)	01/08/2024-31/07/2025	30 August, 2025

Annex I “Description of the Action”

The new version of Annex I “Description of the Action” is attached to this addendum.

Annex III “Budget of the Action”

The new version of Annex III “Budget for the action” is attached to this addendum.

All other terms and conditions of the contract remain unchanged. This addendum shall enter into force on the later date of signature by the parties

Done in English in two originals: one original being for the Contracting Authority and one original being for the Beneficiary.

For the Beneficiary ¹

Name Michal Uhl

For the Contracting authority

Name Lidija Kašubienė

¹ In accordance with the mandate conferred on the coordinator, (see application form), the coordinator signs this contract also on behalf of the other beneficiaries, who, therefore, do not need to individually sign this contract to become parties to it.

Title

Signature

Date

Title

Signature

Date

Director

Description of the Action

EU4BELARUS – SUPPORT TO ADVANCE LEARNING AND TRAINING

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Annex I to the Direct Grant Agreement

Contents

1	Background of the Action	7
2	Objective	8
3	Scholarship management scheme	8
4	Monitoring and Reporting	9
5	Communication and Visibility	9

List of Abbreviations

CPMA	Central Project Management Agency
DZS	Dum zahranični spolupráce (Czech National Agency for International Education and Research)
EU	European Union
HEI	Higher Education Institution
MEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Republic
MS	Member State

Background of the Action

The presidential elections of in 9 August 2020 Belarus were perceived by many voters and declared by independent external observers neither free nor fair. Electoral fraud coupled of the country's economic and social challenges, excessive violence against peaceful protesters has led to a significant social and political mobilisation of Belarusian society. Consequently, its results have not been recognised by the European Union. Urban middle class, creative communities, IT sector, healthcare and education professionals, labour and students held numerous actions of solidarity, while requesting the Belarusian authorities to stop violent actions against peaceful protesters, release detainees and political prisoners, nullify the election results.

As a result, young people, faculty staff, academia and some employees of state-run enterprises have been a key target in the authorities' efforts to pacify the public. Due to ongoing protests and repressions from the authorities, it is expected that quite a few students have been and will be expelled. Ensuring that this will not affect their longer-term career opportunities will be important. In addition, the Belarusian education system restricts fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of association, freedom to elect and be elected, and freedom of movement. The right to participate in the management of universities is restricted. Thus, students and schoolchildren may easily be subject to pressure from the administration of educational institutions.

In response to the political crisis following the presidential elections in Belarus, the European Union adopted the special measure "EU4Belarus: Solidarity with the People of Belarus" in December 2020. Its overall objective is to contribute towards reinforcing resilience to achieve civic empowerment and sustainable economic growth in Belarus. As a part of the special measure, the separate programme "Support to Advanced Learning and Training" (hereinafter – EU4Belarus Programme) concerns the implementation one of components targeting youth and education. The EU funded – EU4Belarus Programme contribution agreement [REDACTED] was signed on June 18, 2021 between Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) and the European Union, represented by the European Commission. The Programme will specifically establish scholarship/stipend scheme for Belarusian students, pilot a mobility programme for lecturers, academics, scientists and young professionals, who have been affected or threatened by political regime.

The Belarusian students expelled from their higher education institutions and/or persecuted on political grounds have faced social and educational challenges, i.e. how to continue studies and/or find alternative ways for living. Several independent Belarusian non-governmental organisations stepped up with initiatives to provide support to those affected by the political repressions, launch fund-raising activities, and facilitate matching of needs and demands from the Belarusian students for alternative opportunities with the offers of places in universities or for specialised training courses coming from EU MS. Currently, the Educational Office under the Education Advisor to the former Presidential candidate Mrs Svetlana Tsikhanovskaya, based in Vilnius, directly provides such services to the Belarusian students, lecturers and teachers applying for support.

In October 2020, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) has launched a call for applications under the Education Policy Fund to support the study of Belarusian students in 2020 in a response to the political situation in Belarus caused by the presidential elections. This call was opened to all public higher education institutions (HEIs) and applied for academic year 2020/2021. In early 2021, MEYS launched following call to support Belarusian students in 2021.

The support is intended for students directly affected by the political situation, for instance students who are afraid to continue their studies in Belarus or for students who have been prevented from studying at universities in Belarus. It is a responsibility of the receiving universities to assess whether the intent and situation of the applicants match the purpose of the call, for example through cover letters or interviews with applicants.

Students of diploma mobilities are supported as well as short-term students. In case of diploma mobilities, the grant is 150 000 CZK per student per year. In case of short-term studies, the grant is 15 000 CZK and is granted for each month of study. Higher education institutions can use the grant, in addition to providing the study itself, for example to cover scholarships or other study-related services.

In 2020, 6 HEIs responded to the call and applied for the fund. MEYS provided funding to 5 HEIs (Czech Technical University in Prague, University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Masaryk University, Charles University, University of West Bohemia) which met the conditions of the call. As a result, 39 students of diploma mobilities and 46 students of short-term studies were supported to study in the Czech Republic. In total, MEYS provided HEIs with 4 245 000 CZK.

In 2021, 9 HEIs applied for funding under the call, of which 8 (Czech Technical University in Prague, University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Masaryk University, Charles University, University of West Bohemia, Technical University of Liberec, University of Pardubice, Janacek Academy of Music and Performing Arts Brno) met the conditions of the call and received the funding. As a result, 81 students of diploma mobilities and 7 students of short-term studies were supported to study in the Czech Republic. In total, MEYS provided successful applicants with 7 926 250 CZK.

Another 10 Belarusian students were supported by MEYS through the MEDEVAC programme.

Several Czech HEI, for example Charles University, Masaryk University, Palacky University in Olomouc, Technical University of Liberec, University of Pardubice or University of South Bohemia or Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, offered funding from their own financial resources already in quick reaction to political development in Belarus already in early Fall 2020.

Dum zahraniční spolupráce (DZS) in cooperation with Czech HEIs collected all scholarship offers for Belarusian students and the aggregated list was published at a special webpage www.studyin.cz/scholarships-for-belarusian-students/ of the website of the Study in the Czech Republic initiative in January 2021. The website was subsequently promoted in Belarus through the targeted social media campaign.

Objective

The objective of this Action is to help students affected by the current political crisis in Belarus to access Czech Republic universities and higher education institutions by providing scholarships/stipends to cover their studies.

Scholarship management scheme

In the framework of EU4Belarus Programme, the scholarship/stipend scheme has been designed to enhance the efforts and support of the EU member states by providing additional assistance to Belarusian students, in particular those affected by the political crisis or persecuted on political grounds and, thus, socially vulnerable. Complementing to offers by the EU member states to cover tuition costs, the scholarship/stipend scheme supports Belarusian students with the following:

- Monthly scholarship to a student in a fixed amount of 450 EUR to cover living costs in EU Member State. It is to be paid per academic year (the annual period of sessions at an educational institution beginning in September and ending in June, i.e. 10 monthly instalments per academic year);
- Annual travel allowance for a student in a fixed amount of 250 EUR. Paid once per academic year to cover costs associated with arrival/departure to a place of studies (only relevant for students who have been selected in 2021 to receive scholarships from 2021/2022 academic year)..

This specific action implemented by DZS as designated contact point (hereinafter – Contact point) institution having exclusive competence in relation to EU4Belarus Programme in Czech Republic in collaboration with CPMA, as implementing agency for EU4Belarus Programme, is to facilitate efficient delivery of the aid to Belarusian students studying in Czech Republic.

The action will particularly concentrate on the target group of Belarusian students who:

- Have a conditional or unconditional acceptance letter from a university in the selected EU member states, or have been already studying at a university in the EU MS and lives in EU Member State;
- Have been expelled from a university in Belarus, threatened or persecuted on political grounds, in other way politically oppressed and, thus, socially vulnerable;
- Have and demonstrate personal motivation and capacity to continue and complete their studies.

In the framework of the action, the Contact point will assume the following activities:

- Coordination with relevant authorities, universities and educational institutions in the EU MS offering study programmes to Belarusian students, including collecting and sharing information and communication;
- Contribution to evaluation of scholarship applications and selection of Belarusian students to be awarded the support;
- Contribution to monitoring of the students' academic progress and compliance with code of ethics.

In a spirit of Team Europe approach, the action will pull resources allocated by the EU member states individually and the EU in general together to ensure greater sustainable impact. The action will contain the operational steps as follows:

Student admission to universities in the EU member states proceeds independently from the action, following procedures set by the EU MS/university and in line with usual academic processes and schedules set in the country. In parallel, CPMA will organize publication of a call for scholarship application inviting Belarusian students. The Contact point is encouraged to distribute information about the opportunity through universities, relevant student networks and other information channels for better outreach to Belarusian students.

Evaluation of the scholarship applications received as well as selection and award of the funding is organized by CPMA. The Contact point will be approached for an advice and opinion or additional information on a student to assess his/her eligibility and compliance with priority selection criteria. At the time of selection of individual

students for the scholarship award, a priority may be given to students who receive no additional stipend or support in the EU member state.

The decision on the award means a long-term commitment to provide the selected Belarusian students with the support for a full length of their undergraduate or graduate studies (Bachelor's or Master's degree) in the EU member state. The commitment may be reviewed should a student fail academically and is struck off the student lists or breach the code of conduct set by university, or terminate studies due to personal reasons. Following information about the scholarship award, the Contact point will coordinate with universities as per internal procedures in the EU MS so that relevant contractual relations with the student awarded the scholarship under EU4Belarus Programme scheme are adjusted accordingly. The Contact point will also arrange for financial payments as appropriate so that delivery of the support to the student awarded the scholarship under EU4Belarus Programme scheme is ensured.

The Contact point and CPMA will further monitor the academic progress and adherence to the university code of conduct by the student awarded support under EU4Belarus Programme. This will be performed on a basis of regular reports and exchange of information. Contact Point will ensure timely communication to students about timing and delays if any of payment of scholarships.

The activities listed above are indicative and may be reviewed in consultations of the Contact point and CPMA in order to adjust management of the schemes in the most efficient and effective way possible as well as to take into consideration changing political, social or economic environment.

Monitoring and Reporting

During the implementation period of the action, the Contact point is requested to report to CPMA on academic progress of Belarusian students awarded scholarships under EU4Belarus Programme. The report (in a Narrative report form as presented in the Annex V of the Contract) is to be provided after each semester of academic year by 30 August.

After the first semester of each academic year, Contact point provides information to CPMA about academic progress of Belarusian students awarded scholarships under EU4Belarus Programme.

In case the student awarded scholarship under EU4Belarus Programme drop out of university before s/he completes the studies and obtains a Bachelor's or Master's degree due to personal or other reasons, the Contact point must inform CPMA within 30 calendar days since the fact occurs.

Communication and Visibility

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the action. The main communication objective in the action will be to bring together EU and all EU Member States' support for the people of Belarus under one visible common banner (using Team Europe approach); thus demonstrating EU solidarity with the people of Belarus. The EU's visibility requirements as set out in the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions will be followed, as appropriate. Communication and visibility measures will be coordinated between the Contact point and CPMA. As a minimum, they will indicatively include messages and information about the EU contribution published by the Contact point after the scholarships are awarded; provisions in the scholarship agreement signed with the student stipulating the EU funding.