



**МІНІСТЭРСТВА АДУКАЦЫІ
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ**

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**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ**

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На № _____ от _____

Head of Bologna Secretariat
UEFISCDI,
Schitu Magureanu Nr. 1, et.3
Sector 5, Bucuresti, Romania
Postal code: 050025

Dear Minister!

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus presents its compliments to the Bologna Secretariat and has the honor to acknowledge our country's interest in the integration processes aimed at creating and further development of the European Higher Education Area.

Since 2002, our country has been consistently implementing the principles of the Bologna Declaration in the national higher education system. In recent years important decisions and positive steps were made: the two-cycle higher education system was established, the new generation educational standards were introduced, the development of higher education institutions systems of quality assurance management and their certification by international agencies are being completed, there is a wide social support of students, steps to expand academic mobility are taken, work on the implementation of a national credit system compatible with ECTS continues, the national Diploma Supplement model was developed according to European recommendations, the national qualification framework is being designed.

In its development higher education in the Republic of Belarus has guaranteed state support, ensures wide access of citizens to higher education with fair and objective competitive conditions for entering, provides university autonomy in organizing educational programs and many other things.

Modernization of higher education in our country is being systemically implemented on the basis of State and branch-wise programs. The State program of higher education development till the year 2015, the Program of the Government of the Republic of Belarus for 2011-2015 and the Program of social and economic development of the Republic of Belarus for 2011-2015 are oriented towards realization of the key principles of the Bologna Declaration.

The program approach will allow to complete by 2015 the introduction in the higher education system of the Republic of Belarus the key elements of the Bologna process, and to continue modernization of the national higher education as a direct participant of the European Higher Education Area.

Academic and student community of Belarus is aware that the accession to the European Higher Education Area is not a one-time action, but a long process, and supports the integration initiatives.

We believe that the Republic of Belarus is ready to take responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Bologna Declaration in the national system of education and propose to consider the inclusion of our country into the number of the Bologna process member states at the next conference of Ministers responsible for Higher Education in the countries participating in the Bologna Process to be held on April 26-27, 2012.

To proceed with the consideration of the Republic of Belarus as a candidate country for accession to the European Higher Education Area we send the completed questionnaire and would like to confirm the readiness for holding an expert workshop in the Republic of Belarus and to provide necessary additional information on the ongoing modernization of the national system of higher education upon request.

I take this opportunity to express you, Minister, the assurance of my highest consideration.

With kindest regards,
Minister



S.A. Maskevich