



2013

Advocacy of the Year: [Perspektiva NGO](#)

Perspektiva, a small vendors association headed by Anatoly Shumchanka managed to postpone, until July 1, 2014, a complex procedure of certification to confirm the quality and safety of products in accordance with Customs Union regulation. Its advocacy efforts included series of appeals, [meetings with officials](#) as well as [mass strikes](#) due to which the voice of 230,000 small entrepreneurs was heard by the authorities.

“Belarusization” of the Year: [Mova ci Kava courses](#)

Organized at the beginning of 2013 by journalist Katerina Kibalchich first in Moscow, then picked up in Minsk, free educational courses *Mova ci Kava (Language or Coffee)* caused a real stir among the Minsk residents. Weekly classes designed for people who want to improve their Belarusian language are attended by [up to 120 students](#). The courses are conducted in an informal manner with inviting of well-known Belarusian culture figures.

Research of the Year: [BEROC and CASE Belarus](#)

Two researches are nominated in this category [Growth Factors of Economy of Belarus](#) by BEROC and [Influence of Migrants Money Transfers on Macroeconomic Indicators of Belarus](#) by CASE Belarus. Main reasons are proven methodology, concrete recommendations and communication/outreach efforts to policy-makers and general public. They collected respectively [128 thousands viewers/474 comments](#) and [193 thousands viewers/346 comments](#) on TUT.by.

Environmental Save of the Year: [In Defense of Belarusian wetlands campaign](#)

Implemented by a number of environmental CSOs, the campaign managed to stop peat mining in protected areas and save four wetlands. Using [a wide range of tools](#) (information campaign, support of other CSOs and unaffiliated people, creative actions, etc.), the campaign got a support even from institutions and people far from environmental issues.

Local Fundraising of the Year: [MaeSens project](#)

Second time in a row Pact sees the MaeSens project as a successful local fundraising initiative. There are two main reasons for this selection: i) reportedly about \$250 thousand of private donations were collected for charity; ii) a new initiative [Social Weekend](#) was introduced this year giving average people a voice to select and voting for the best grassroots initiative. Under Social Weekend more than 100 grassroots initiatives were competing for local sponsors' support based people's choice and public benefit criteria.

Grassroots of the Year: [European Perspective NGO](#)

The European Perspective NGO gave a voice to people against government-backed construction projects in Minsk affecting over 200,000 people. Seven local advocacy campaigns resulted in citizens' self-organizations in groups of interest able to act independently, protecting their yards from construction works and articulating their interests via a series of initiated public hearings. President Lukashenka [reacted with a recommendation](#) for authorities to conduct more balanced urban policy.

Innovation of the Year: [Kosht Urada](#)

Kosht Urada (Cost of the State) an interactive on-line resource was launched on December 10, 2013, by the Belarusian Institute of Public Administration Reform and Transformation ([BIPART](#)). Kosht Urada

serves to every citizen promoting accountability of the government and transparency of state spending as well as educating general public on how state budget is formed, how much taxes citizen spend on the state and where citizen's taxes go. In the first day of operating Kosht Urada was visited by more than 8000 visitors also the project received considerable media coverage ([here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

Art Project of the Year: [Must Act – Must Art street art project](#)

Paid for by local business and coordinated with the Budzma campaign and city administrations, street art community SIGNAL gathered street artists who painted the walls and courtyards in [Mogilev](#) and [Gomel](#). Thus, the project visually and brightly promotes civic practices aimed at creating a friendly and humane urban environment.

New Forum of the Year: [Kastrychnitski Ekanamichny Forum - KEF](#)

On November 5 Kastrychnitski Ekanamichny Forum (October Economic Forum, KEF) was launched by a consortium of leading Belarusian economic research institutions, IPM Research Center, BEROC and Case Belarus, with an inauguration conference entitled *New Opportunities or Old Challenges? Scenarios for Belarus Economy*. KEF is designed as a new platform for an open professional dialogue on sustainable development in Belarus in the context of the newest development of global economy.

And last but not least....

For something completely different of the Year

With Presidential elections coming up in 2015, the trophy for something completely different goes to the Green Party of Belarus, which suggested in October that [an octopus should pick a single candidate](#) from the opposition. The prospective candidates should all take a short swim in a small pool with an octopus, and whoever the octopus touches wins the primaries.

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