



BRC Call For Policy-Oriented Original Research

Purpose

[Belarus Research Council](#) (BRC) is announcing a call for concept papers for policy-oriented original research that focuses primarily on **actionable policy recommendations**. We understand under actionable policy recommendations the following:

Background: 1) a clear description of a current policy the applicants want to change, 2) identification of the shortfalls of the current policy (analysis); 3) specific recommendations designed to improve the shortfalls (status quo).

Solutions that are: 1) practical (policies, legislation, etc.); 2) cost-effective (including cost benefit calculations); 3) socially acceptable and executable (based on stakeholder-related research, engagement with and feedback from stakeholders and/or public opinion polling); 4) time bound (policy recommendations should explain how much time it may require to implement the recommendations, based on Belarusian legislative/decision-making system).

Moreover, bringing Belarus into key global surveys is among the priorities of the BRC. A number of global surveys, such as [the European Social Survey](#), [OECD Better Life Index](#) or [the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report](#) still lack data on Belarus. Thus, research projects aiming at including Belarus into such global surveys are welcome.

The call is open for Belarusian think tanks and NGOs which intend to conduct their policy-oriented original research in Belarus focusing on solutions - policy, legislative or other related.

The prime ambition behind this call is to map ideas, look for fresh concepts and faces as well as inputs (in form of research concept papers) from established groups as well as from individuals or ad hoc research groups and support only those that fall into the criteria above. BRC will help serious candidates with mentoring.

The deadline for submission of applications is **1st of February 2015**.

Background

BRC is a loose network of Belarusian polling agencies, think tanks and donors supporting social science research in Belarus. In early 2012, BRC was initiated by Pact as social science research is one of the sectors Pact supports in its work, aiming to increase the use of evidence-based research in civil society work.

Aiming to strengthen the sectors' capacity to meet the internal demand for research vital for the country's modernization and development, BRC encourages analytical centers as well as NGOs to produce policy-oriented

original research^{*}, which leads toward concrete and actionable policy recommendation. BRC also would be glad to support the researches, conducted using innovative methods[†].

How to apply

To apply please send us your concept paper (up to 3 pages) with an estimated cost of the research. The application can be written in Russian or Belarusian. Please, enclose CVs of the researchers involved in the project. The deadline for submission of applications is **1st of February 2015**. Please, note that evaluation of the concept papers will be implemented on the rolling basis. The applications should be submitted via e-mail dgarmasaite@pactworld.org.

The concept paper should include:

- **General information about the applicant (1 paragraph)**
Organization's name and legal status, contact person and contact details (webpage, email, phone number).
- **Description of the research idea (1-2 pages)**
*Name research sector and topic;
Present relevance of research idea for Belarus' development needs;
Shortly review the current policy (status quo) you aim to change and explain why.*
- **Description of the research methodology**
Shortly describe research methodology (data collection and analysis tools).
- **Research budget and duration**
*Indicate total research project cost (sum breaking down to human resources, overhead/institutional costs (if any) and external or technical assistance (if any) (in USD));
Indicate estimated duration (in months).*

Selected applicants will be asked to prepare a full proposal and budget.

Concept review procedures and criteria

Received concept papers will be evaluated by the evaluation board composed out of 8 representatives of donor organizations and Belarusian research community. All applications received will be treated on a confidential basis. BRC will consider the following criteria, when evaluating proposals:

- potential of a research to affect specific policy or behavior change;
- relevance of the research idea for Belarus' development needs;
- adequacy of the proposed research cost.

Evaluation of the concept notes will be implemented on the rolling basis. **Last concept note will be accepted on February 1st**. Only successful applicants will be informed about the results of the evaluation.

^{*} **Original research** is a research based on the primary collected data. It aims at production of a new knowledge, and not at presenting the well-known facts in the new form. Original research is not a summary, classification or synthesis of previous publications on the topic.

[†] **Innovative methods** are untraditional approach to the data analysis, which may refer to the use of (1) **technological innovations** (different kind of software, internet facilities, etc.) while conducting a research, (2) new methodological approaches that emerge as a result of **addressing research questions beyond disciplinary boundaries** (e.g. combination of theoretical and methodological approaches), or (3) interdisciplinary approach that refers to the **application of the traditional methods in unusual ways**, for disciplines which are unusual for a particular method.

Technical consultations:

BRC will be glad to provide technical consultations for the potential applicants. Should you need our assistance in elaborating your research idea and writing the proposal, please, feel free to contact dgarmasaite@pactworld.org. Technical consultations are available **since December 22nd till January 30th**.

If you have any questions, please contact dgarmasaite@pactworld.org.

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