



LEVER

Voluntary culture as leverage of cultural activities in sparsely populated areas with added value for democratic and community bonding

Belarusian National Non-Governmental Organization "United Way"

**Informational and Analytical Centre for Belarusian NGOs
since 1995**

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Status of the initiated project work

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During the first year of the project United Way Belarus carried out a number of activities under the slogan “Intangible cultural heritage is a factor of sustainable development of territories”.

НЕМАТЭРЫЯЛЬНАЯ КУЛЬТУРНАЯ СПАДЧЫНА ЯК ФАКТАР УСТОЙЛІВАГА РАЗВІЦЦЯ ТЭРЫТОРЫЙ



To ensure success of the project UWB has established partnership with the Institute of Culture of Belarus (ICB) – a state-owned institution which provides services of qualification upgrade for cultural workers, has comprehensive databases of different structures (museums, libraries, folklore groups, groups of arts and crafts, etc.) acting throughout the territory of this country.

Інстытут Культуры Беларусі
Institute of Culture of Belarus

Following ICB consultations and recommendations, and after establishing ties with local organizations, UWB selected several a number of organizations located in Mogilev, Nesvizh and Mir districts.

The following organizations were selected:

Nesvizh National Historical and Cultural Reserve

Mogilev Regional Methodological Center for Arts and Crafts and Popularization of Traditional Culture

The Yakub Kolas State Literary and Memorial Museum (Minsk)

Central District Library for Cherven district (Cherven, Minsk region)

Mir State Memorial Estate (Mir, Minsk region)

Turov Museum of Local Lore (Turov, Gomel region)

Cultural Institution “Central Club System for Osipovichy District” (Mogilev region)

“Belarusian Union of Craftsmen” non-Governmental Organization (Minsk)

“Belarusian School Partnership” Non-Governmental Organization (Minsk)

Institute of Culture of Belarus, Department of International Socio-Cultural Activity (Minsk)

Training courses were organized for the selected organizations in the mentioned districts.

Training 1. Mogilev (October 20). Topic: “Consolidation of local community and involvement of its most active members in regeneration of cultural traditions in their locality”.

State of the local community was analyzed, with focus on opportunities to consolidate people, attract volunteers.



Training 2. Nesvizh (November 10). Topic: “Study of best practices of regeneration of culture”.

Experience of cultural work in the district was shared. Fundraising opportunities for implementation of local projects were discussed.



Training 3. Mir (November 25). Topic: “Support of local initiatives in the field of culture and involvement of volunteers in regeneration of cultural traditions”



The selected organizations now act as focal points and provide wider coverage and closer ties with local organizations and activists working in the field of culture. Such focal points also serve for better coordination, enhancing efficiency of work, and form the network of focal points.



One-day training for the representatives of selected focal points was held on November 29 in Minsk at the premises of the Institute of Culture of Belarus



The participants made short presentations of their organizations, shared information on identified regions where it is preferable to start work.

They spoke about opportunities and difficulties of such activities, specified their needs for methodological and practical help for further work.

Representatives of Mir State Memorial Estate and Nesvizh National Historical and Cultural Reserve shared their success stories in order to give good examples and inspire the participants to their work.



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