



Newsletter

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SPOTLIGHT: SURVEY REVEALS SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OF THE SALT PROGRAMME ON BELARUSIANS FORCED TO FLEE THE REGIME


Imagine a situation in which one must leave home, work, and an ordinary way of life overnight. For thousands of Belarusians persecuted for political reasons, this became a reality after the events of 2020. During this difficult period, support came from the SALT programme, implemented by the Central Project Management Agency (CPVA), which aims to assist Belarusian students, lecturers, and researchers forced to flee the regime.

An independent survey conducted by RAIT Group shows that the programme has had a significant impact on the Belarusian community. Respondents evaluated the programme very positively — **the Net Promoter Score (NPS) reached 82** (on a scale from -100 to 100). Such a high score indicates strong trust in and support for the programme.

Spotlight 

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The survey involved 81 direct programme participants, 175 diaspora representatives and 45 members of Belarusian non-governmental organisations operating abroad. The quantitative findings were complemented by in-depth interviews that shed light on participants' experiences and the broader context. The results indicate that the **SALT** programme is particularly **important for Belarusian academic and civic communities** that have formed in Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany and Lithuania.

One of the programme's key elements is financial assistance, which enabled students to continue unaffordable university studies and helped displaced lecturers and researchers return to academic work and rebuild professional networks. Lecturers and researchers who lost their jobs or faced risks in their home country were able to return to academic work, resume research, and rebuild professional networks. Survey participants also emphasized the programme's emotional support, which restored self-confidence, provided stability, and reaffirmed that their knowledge and expertise are valued.

Belarusian organisations operating abroad emphasised that SALT is a strategically important initiative for preserving Belarus' intellectual potential in forced migration and highlighted the need to strengthen communication and decision-making to enhance the programme's impact.

The aggregated survey results show that the SALT programme provides assistance where it is needed most. It helps Belarusians forced to flee the regime continue their studies, pursue academic work and remain active members of civil society. For many, it has offered an opportunity to restore lost stability and begin a new chapter.

NEW PHASE LAUNCHED: ACTION IV "EDUCATION FOR BELARUSIANS"

In November 2025, the EU-funded programme entered a new phase: **Action IV "Education for Belarusians"**. Building on SALT I – III, it expands support to Belarusian scholars, students, teachers, non-formal educators, researchers, schoolchildren, and professionals.

Action IV focuses on two main goals: **improving academic engagement for Belarusian students and scholars, and enhancing EHU's academic performance, effectiveness, and sustainability.**



It aims to strengthen the long-term Belarusian education ecosystem and preserve Belarusian intellectual potential in exile.

The programme ensures continued educational opportunities for politically affected Belarusians both in exile and in Belarus, promotes gender equality and inclusion, supports community building among participants and alumni (including SALT I – III beneficiaries), and provides help-desk support for those at political risk.

Expected results:

- **~300 scholarships** for Belarusian students (cost-of-living scheme);
- **~40 academic fellowships** for Belarusian scholars (research, mobility, cooperation with EU universities);
- Support for up to **900 EHU students per year** via the EHU Multi - Donor Trust Fund;
- **2 major networking/community - building events, 8 innovation labs and educator meetings;**
- Improved **digital education platform** for schoolteachers, non-formal educators and students, integrated into the **SALT II EdTech ecosystem;**
- EHU designs and implements a **strategic reform package** to strengthen academic quality, financial sustainability and institutional autonomy;
- Establishment of a **Women in Tech (WiT) Hub** at EHU's Gender Studies Centre to support women's participation and employment in the IT sector.

EDTECH4BY: TURNING IDEAS INTO DIGITAL LEARNING TOOLS FOR BELARUSIANS



EdTech4BY is an EU-funded programme that helps Belarusian educators and EdTech creators living in the EU/EEA/Schengen area develop modern digital learning solutions.

It is run by the Lithuanian Innovation Centre (LIC) and the CPVA as part of the SALT II initiative.

The programme is hands-on: participants learn how to design courses, build digital products, test ideas with users, and turn them into sustainable solutions. They also receive mentoring, incubation support and financial assistance.

Two incubation tracks:

Educators: The programme will support **15** selected educators with training, workshops and funding to create innovative online courses.

Start-ups: This track funds and mentors early-stage edtech teams to develop five new e-learning products.

EdTech products:

Community

EdTech4BY will bring together about 30 organisations and creators through workshops, feedback sessions and networking — helping grow a strong Belarusian EdTech community.

Gateway to E-learning

A new secure platform where all courses, apps and learning tools created in the programme will be published and shared, along with resources for teachers and learners.

LIC is a non-profit organisation founded in 1996 to foster innovation in Lithuania. LIC provides free support services to enterprises, research institutions and educators, promotes a culture of innovation and contributes to the implementation of national innovation policies.

You can find more about LIC [HERE](#)

About the programme [HERE](#)



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Here are two personal stories from current scholarship recipients whose lives were changed by the programme.

Yauheni - “Education gave me a safe path forward”

Yauheni’s path to Europe began with a tough decision. Studying in Belarus no longer felt safe or meaningful amid the political climate and declining education standards, so he started looking abroad, guided by language, university reputation and overall stability. In Europe, he found a modern and respectful academic environment.

The language barrier proved his biggest challenge, but daily immersion gradually paid off. What impressed him most was the attitude toward students - a stark contrast to Belarus, where many felt overlooked. Thanks to a scholarship covering housing and basic needs, he could focus fully on his studies and career growth. Today, he balances university with work in his future profession and has learned a key lesson: **“No one will push you - it’s your choice how far you go.”**

Anna - “The scholarship meant stability, safety and new possibilities”

Anna first heard about the EU4Belarus scholarship from friends - the promise of financial stability and a supportive student community immediately stood out to her.

Leaving Belarus, however, was not a choice: two criminal cases were opened against her for her political views and artistic performances. Fearing imprisonment, she moved to Poland, where she discovered a passion for Project Management.



The scholarship eased daily anxiety and allowed her to fully focus on her studies; completing all academic sessions became a meaningful personal milestone.

Today, Anna aims to gain international work experience, pursue a Master’s degree and, eventually, contribute to rebuilding Belarus.

Her message to future applicants is clear: **“You won’t regret it — this programme gives you stability, community, and room to grow.”**

OPEN CALLS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Call for the **Education Service Providers Initiative (EdTech)** under SALT III: January 2026.
- Call for the **Cost of Living Scholarships** under Action IV: 2nd Quarter 2026.
- Call for the **Cost of Living Scholarships** for Master’s students under SALT III: 2nd Quarter 2026.
- Call for the **Academic Fellowships** under Action IV: 2nd Quarter 2026.

Information about open calls and upcoming events are available [HERE](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

The programme continues to evolve as the needs of Belarusian students, scholars, educators and repressed individuals grow. The launch of Action IV marks an important step towards building a self-sustaining educational ecosystem, strengthening networks in exile, and supporting the next generation of Belarusian professionals and democratic actors.

Education remains one of the powerful tools for resilience - and this programme ensures that Belarusians can access it regardless of political circumstances.

By supporting this programme, you help young Belarusians explore democratic values and prepare to become future leaders of a new Belarus.

Thank you for standing with EU values.



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