

# Public Administration Education in Belarus: What do we need to adopt?

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## Abstract

The Belarusian population is in-need of fundamental public administration educational. The research questions are raised in the light of the complete absence of comprehensive public administration education in Belarus. Before 2020 political and economic crises, the public administration education in its Western understanding and independent from the administrative regime of Aliaksandr Lukashenka, who run a PA academy named by himself, has been limited to some singular courses in some Lithuanian universities, or non-degree continuous education classes run by local Belarusian NGOs in cooperation with some foreign partners. The latter have been dissolved and closed after the elections 2022 and the following pressures on the civil society.

The paper aims to summarize the consequences of that long-lasting absence of proper education, as well as outline the main challenges of developing that area of education such as in the content of curriculum, the methods of teaching, the relationship with the students, the digital transformation, the new management requirements and internationalization. By presenting the paper at WG7 NISPACEE, I am looking to receive feedback with possible solutions and approaches to the ongoing challenges. For instance, one of possible solutions could be an online environment where participants learn the globally established rules and practices, and then look for the ways to implement them in the context of Belarus. The dynamic mix of lecturing by the core instructor and guest speakers would offer hands-on learning that prepares students to be effective problem-solvers in the public sector settings. When introducing PA education in Belarusian context, a special attention would be paid to the role of public ethics which serves as a foundation for any discussion throughout the course. The curriculum and teaching methods should be based on case study approach, active two-way engagement in real time and off-line, group problem solving, and lecture. Also, while the country educational system needs courses designed for the current public service managers of Belarus, the professional managerial education is needed for those who is working/ have worked for the public sector in almost any capacity, e.g. a doctor, a school teacher, a police officer, but would like to advance their careers in the public management direction.

Keywords: public ethics, Belarus, nontraditional education, educational challenges, benchmarking.