

Issue 4 of 2015 is dedicated to the development of civil society during the last 15 years. It is titled “Intentionally unequal: the authoritarian state and civil society” and was prepared in collaboration with East European Democratic Center (Warsaw).

The issue deals with various dimensions of civil activity, including culture activity, gender, political solidarity, local self-government, civil education, relationships among religious groups, youth subcultures, environmentalist movement, and the process of (de)consolidation and (de)politicization of civil sector. The issue also sheds light on different understandings of civil society in Belarusian mass-media, the practice of substitution of civil society for state-run non-governmental organizations. Daily life of civil sector is described and the specific of the provision of social services.

The issue opens with an analytical article by a sociologist and issue's co-editor **Aliaksei Lastouski** “Solidarity test: the reaction of Belarusian civil society to Ukrainian events in 2013—2014”.

A researcher from the Institute for Political Studies “Political Sphere” **Vadzim Smok** presents his article “The Struggling over “Belarusianness”: results of activity of cultural NGO”.

A researcher from the same institute **Vadzim Bylina** writes about “Football fans as an example of a group uncontrolled by the state under authoritarian government conditions”.

An article by **Aliaksei Kryvalap** is titled: “Astraviec, October, 9th, 2009: a case of public hearings on Belarusian nuclear power plant” A sociologist **Ihar Rasolka** reflects on “Politicization of civil society in an apolitical society: paternalism, deconsolidation and action strategies of social agents”.

The issue also features a study by a renowned political scientist **Vital Silicki** (1972—2011) “Belarusian civil sector — daily life and organizational processes”.

The issue contains another big study by **Natalla Vasilevich** titled “Intentionally unequal: Church and state in Belarus under a consolidated authoritarianism”.

A researcher from Manchester University **Iryna Clark** writes about «Mediation of the term ‘civil society’ in the Belarusian press (1991—2010)».

A political scientist from European Humanities University **Tatsiana Chulitskaya** presents her study «Socially-oriented Organizations in Belarus: in-between State and Society».

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Tatsiana Shchurko writes about “Gender sector” and civil society in post-soviet Belarus”.

A civil activist **Anastasiya Matchanka** shares her observations in the article: «Substitution of Civil Society in Belarus: Government-Organised Non-Governmental Organisations».

An analyst from Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies **Alena Artsiomenka** makes her contribution to exploration of the central topic of the issue with her article “The consolidation of civil society in Belarus”.

An expert from Lev Sapieha Foundation for Democratic Reforms, **Michal Pliska** in his article “Local self-government: a fifth wheel in the state power's cart” criticises the absence of reforms at the local administration level.

Viachaslau Babrovich critically assesses the effort directed at civil education of citizens in his article “Civil education in Belarus: concepts, standards and lack of demand from society”.

And finally, **Uladzimir Rouda** classifies data from international organizations on civil activity in the country in his article “An assessment of the state of civil society in Belarus in Freedom House and USAID reports (1999—2013)”.

The issue closes with a “List of reading on Belarusian civil society research (2000—2014)” prepared by **Aliaksei Lastouski**.