Belarus and Turkmenistan: Promoting International Education in Difficult Environments

**Presenters:**
- Ann M. Koenig, Southwest Regional Director, Credential Evaluation Services
  AACRAO International Education Services
  Email: koeniga@aacrao.org
  Web: http://ies.aacrao.org
- Kevin Reiling, Regional Coordinator, Belarus, American Councils for International Education
  American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS
  Email: kevin.reiling@ehu.lt
  Web: http://www.educationusa.info/VilniusBEL and http://en.ehu.lt/eac
- Tatyana Geldimammedova, EducationUSA Adviser
  EAC/American Councils for International Education in Turkmenistan
  E-mail: eacashgabat@inbox.ru
  Web: http://www.educationusa.info/Turkmenistan#.T0EtpHkXKyY and http://americancouncilstm.org/news.php

**Facilitator:**
- Chris Foley, Director of Undergraduate Admissions,
  Indiana University - Purdue University – Indianapolis
  Email: cfoley@iupui.edu
  Web: http://www.iupui.edu/

**AACRAO Conference Handouts Online:**
http://handouts.aacrao.org/am12/display.php

**Selected General Resources for International Admissions and Evaluation**

- AACRAO International Education Services: http://ies.aacrao.org
- AACRAO EDGE (Electronic Database for Global Education): http://aacraoedge.aacrao.org/
- AACRAO’s electronic database of country education profiles. Currently 237 countries available.
- EducationUSA Advising Center Network: http://www.educationusa.info/
  - EducationUSA advising offices promote study in the US, provide information on the country’s educational system, and help you link to institutions and applicants. Web site provides contact info for offices in the network.
- EducationUSA Country Fact Sheets - http://www.educationusa.info/countryfactsheets/ - provide a thumbnail sketch of statistics, trends and country information that inform and support your institution’s recruiting efforts.
- EAIE (European Association for International Education) ACE (Admissions Officers and Credential Evaluators)
- European Network of Information Centres (ENIC) / National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC):
  www.enic-naric.net – Links to the national information centers of member countries.
- NAFSA: Online Guide to Education Around the World, 2008-10:
  http://www.nafsa.org/publication.sec/epublications/online_guide_to/
- NUFFIC Country Modules, 2009:
  http://www.nuffic.nl/international-organizations/services/diploma-recognition/country-modules
- TEMPUS (Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies), for European institutions/students:
- UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE), World Data of Education 2010/11:
**Belarus**


**Centralized Authority for Education:** Ministry of Education: [http://edu.gov.by/](http://edu.gov.by/) (in Belarusian, Russian and English)

**Ministry of Education Resources for Information on Education in Belarus:**

**Structure of Educational System:** See attached Ministry of Education chart for current structure.

**Higher Education Credentials:**
- **специалист / specialist** (диплом о висшем образовании / diploma of higher education with квалификация / qualification): 4, 5 or 6 years, depending on field of study: social-humanities subjects; esthetics subjects; general and specialized subjects in the specialty field; electives in the specialty; practica; final paper or project; state examinations.
- **магистр / magister:** 1 or 2 years, depending on field of study. A professional qualification, or first year of аспирантура (graduate study) leading to the degree of кандидат наук (Candidate of Sciences), including qualifying examinations and research.
- **кандидат наук** (Candidate of Sciences) and доктор наук (Doctor of Sciences): research degrees based on Soviet model.

**диплом бакалавра** (diploma bakalavra): The bachelor has never been an official degree in Belarus. In 2002, a two-cycle bachelor + master structure was approved by Parliament, but revoked by presidential order in 2004. The resulting 2007 law on higher education reaffirmed Soviet-era norms and educational structure.


**Grading Systems:**

**Until 2002: Grades 5, 4, and 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Num.</th>
<th>Belarusian</th>
<th>Russian</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>US grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>выдатна / vydatna</td>
<td>отлично / otlichno</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>добра / dobra</td>
<td>хорошо / khorosho</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>здавалъняюча / zdavalnyayaucha</td>
<td>удовлетворительно / udovletvoritel’no</td>
<td>satisfactory</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>залік / zalik</td>
<td>зачет / zachet</td>
<td>credit/pass</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Since 2002: Grades 10 (highest) through 3 (lowest passing grade)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Num.</th>
<th>Belarusian</th>
<th>Russian</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>US grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9, 10</td>
<td>выдатна / vydatna</td>
<td>отлично / otlichno</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 7, 8</td>
<td>добра / dobra</td>
<td>хорошо / khorosho</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 4, 5</td>
<td>здавалъняюча / zdavalnyayaucha</td>
<td>удовлетворительно / udovletvoritel’no</td>
<td>satisfactory</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>залік / zalik</td>
<td>зачет / zachet</td>
<td>credit/pass</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Belarus Evaluation Resources:

EducationUSA Advising for Belarus: http://www.educationusa.info/VilniusBEL and http://en.ehu.lt/eac
Ministry of Education resources noted above, especially Higher Education in the Republic of Belarus, 2010:
http://www.bsu.by/ums/higher_eng.pdf
National Institute of Higher Education, Belarusian ENIC: http://www.nihe.bsu.by (In Russian only)
Ms. Ina Mitskevich, Head of Department, E-mail: mitskevich@nihe.by; enicbelarus@gmail.com
Belarus in World Data on Education, UNESCO International Bureau on Education, 2010-11:

Belarus Sample Documents:

Atestat ab agul'nai syarednyai adukatsyi [Belarusian language version] (Certificate of General Secondary Education), 2002
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Диплом о висшем образовании (Diploma of Higher Education) colloquially called “специалист (specialist)”
Квалификация архитектора (qualification of Architect), 2008

enrollment 1999-2008 at Belarusian State Polytechnic Academy / Belarusian Technical University
with приложение к диплому (addendum to the diploma), first and last pages
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Диплом бакалавра (Bachelor Diploma), Belarusian State University, 2004

Diploma of Higher Education in bilingual Russian-English format
Issued to non-Belarusian citizen for use outside of Belarus, 2004
TURKMENISTAN

Legal Foundations of Education: Laws on Education and on the Status of Scientists, August 2009

Centralized Authority for Education: Ministry of Education (Ministries: http://www.tacistm.org/Ministries/Tm_Ministries.htm)

Structure of educational system since independence from the Soviet Union:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Soviet Period</th>
<th>1996 to 2007</th>
<th>Starting 2007-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elem./Secondary Ed.</td>
<td>10 years (8 + 2)</td>
<td>Total of 9 years</td>
<td>10 years (5 + 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>5 years (most disciplines); 6 years (medicine, some arts fields)</td>
<td>2 yrs classroom + 2 yrs work requirement fulfilled</td>
<td>5 years (most disciplines); 6 years (medicine, some arts fields)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research degrees</td>
<td>Kandidat Nauk and Doktor Nauk</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Restored as of 2008-09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elementary/Secondary Education: Children start school at age 7
- Secondary completion document: Şahadatnama Orta Bilim Hakynda (Certificate of Secondary Education)
- No graduating class of 2007; instead, 9th-year graduates entered 10th year in fall 2007.
- May 2008: First class graduated from restored 10-year system

Higher Education: Restored to a 5-year program as of the 2007-08 academic year (6 years in medicine and some arts fields)
- May 2012: First class will graduate from 5-year higher education programs
- Completion document: Ўюкэрі bilim hakynda şahadatnama (Diploma of Higher Education), “specialist diploma”, issued in Soviet-style booklet format, with diploma addendum on paper that fits into the diploma booklet
- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs): universities (3), institutes (11), academies (3), conservatory (1); Police Academy, Military Academy, and Military Institute; branch of a Russian university; International Turkmen-Turkish University.
- 2009: Agreements with Russia; Certificate of Secondary Education acceptable for admission to higher education in Russia.
- TEMPUS (European Commission program) active in Turkmenistan

Grading system in Turkmenistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Russian</th>
<th>Turkmen 1</th>
<th>Turkmen 2</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5, отлично / otlichno</td>
<td>örän govy, örän yagşy</td>
<td>bàs</td>
<td>excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, хорошо / khorosho</td>
<td>yagşy</td>
<td>dürt</td>
<td>good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, удовлетворительно / udovletvoritel’no</td>
<td>kanagatlanarly</td>
<td>üç</td>
<td>satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>зачет / zachet (used only in higher ed.)</td>
<td>zaçyat</td>
<td>hasap</td>
<td>ungraded pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scale 1 used on school certificates and in higher education.
Scale 2 mostly used in secondary schools.

International Turkmen-Turkish University grade scale based on Turkish system:
- 85 - 100% (very good), 65 - 84% (good), 50 - 64% (satisfactory), below 50% (fail).

Turkmenistan Resources

- EducationUSA Advising Centers: http://www.educationusa.info/Turkmenistan#.T0Fqp3kXXyY
  Higher education institution list: http://www.tacistm.org/tempus/turkmen_universities.html
- Online news Turkmenistan.ru: http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/ (Russian) and http://www.turkmenistan.ru/en/ (in English)
- Several articles on education in Turkmenistan since President Niyazov’s death in Dec. 2006:
  Education System Proves Stubbornly Resistant to Reform, Eurasianet.org, 10/23/07: http://www.eurasianet.org/insights/articles/evav102307.shtml
  Turkmenistan: Doors Opening, Doors Slamming, Chalkboard, 05/20/08: http://chalkboard.tol.org/turkmenistan
  Turkmenistan: Fixing Decades of Damage, Boston College Center for International Higher Education, Summer 2009: http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/soe/cihe/newsletter/Number56/p23_Merrill.htm
- Turkish education in Turkmenistan: Turkish Schools Closed, August 2011: http://www.eurasianet.org/node/64079
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Turkmenistan Sample Documents:

Certificate of Secondary Education, 2003: Bilingual Turkmen-English booklet format