

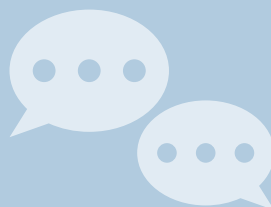


THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
«BELARUSIAN ASSOCIATION OF
ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES»



ANNUAL
REPORT

2016



Non-governmental organization "Belarusian association of assistance to children and young people with disabilities" (NGO "BelAPDiIMI") unites on a voluntary basis approximately 3000 families bringing up children and young people with disabilities.

Certificate of registration No 01438, registered by the decision No 254 of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus on May 31, 2006.

OUR MISSION

To create for children and young people with disabilities equal with other people opportunities to participate in every field of social life.

WHERE DO WE WORK?

The executive bureau of NGO "BelAPDiIMI" has been working since 1996 in Minsk.

The main aim of the executive bureau's activity is to improve the quality of life of families bringing up children and young people with multiple disabilities in Belarus through implementation of socially important projects aimed at widening of a range of educational and social services in the Republic of Belarus; to assert the rights and interests of people with disabilities and their families.

NGO "BelAPDiIMI" comprises 43 regional and 9 Minsk member organizations. These primary organizations can implement their own programmes and participate in the national ones.

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Our organization unites approximately 3000 families bringing up children and young people with disabilities. Every family has its own story: a happy or a sad one, a successful or in need of support, permanent support in some cases. We strive for seeing more happy families; we work for the sake of the present and the future of our children. I am always proud of any step forward our organization is making every single day; we not only lobby for the interests of our families, but also create conditions for life activity of children and young

people with disabilities. Despite a number of positive changes in Belarus, ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2016, in particular, profound stigma associated with people with intellectual and severe multiple disabilities still exists in the country. The aim of our activity is to change a stereotyped perception of people with disabilities within the society, to give every single person a right to participate in every field of social life. One must not divide the society into "they" and "we".

While implementing socially important projects, we realize how important the support of our partners is. As a result, our joint efforts are aimed at the welfare of families where children and young people with disabilities are brought up. I express sincere appreciation and gratitude for our joint fruitful work to our partners, sponsors, representatives of state bodies and departments, business partners, mass media, non-governmental organizations and to all the people who care and are always ready for cooperation. We can create an inclusive society, where every person with his peculiarities is of great value, only thanks to joint efforts.

Elena Titova

Chairperson of the Central Council
of NGO "BelAPDIiMI"

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Activities for members of NGO "BelAPDIiMI" and for population from all over Belarus were carried out within the framework of socially important projects and also thanks to attracted sponsorship.

The main aim of the activities carried out by NGO "BelAPDIiMI" is to overcome the stereotypes existing within the society, lower the level of stigmatization and form a positive attitude towards people with disabilities.



■ International inclusive festival of children and youth creativity "Colours of life" was carried out. Talented children and young people with and without disabilities from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine participated in the activity. Young poets, painters, masters, dancers, vocalists, photographers and musicians demonstrated their talents. The festival was attended by more than 300 people.



■ Children and their parents from 22 primary organizations of NGO "BelAPDIiMI" visited Minsk Zoo, Central Botanical Garden and its greenhouse, the Belarusian State Museum of the Great Patriotic War and a festival "Family festival – a city of happy people", which was organized in Central Children's Park named after Maxim Gorky. All the activities were timed to coincide with International Day of Families.



■ An excursion is always a never-to-be-forgotten journey which presents many new impressions and discoveries. An excursion "Caravan of adventures" was carried out for 45 children and parents from Stolbtsy, Smorgon, Molodechno and Minsk. Also, a trip "Palette of impressions" was organized for 38 children and parents from Zhodino, Dzerzhinsk and Minsk.

■ Many youngsters with disabilities have a dream – to serve in the army. However, they can't achieve their dreams because of their state of health. An excursion to the Centre for patriotic education of youth "Vektor" in Zhodino was organized for youngsters from Minsk. All the participants could dip into the real army life.



■ More than 80 children with and without disabilities and their parents participated in a bright holiday "Sunny day" which was held in the children's club "Marmeland". The inclusive festival was organized by Jule Kravitz, a singer, in cooperation with NGO "BelAPDIiMI". The activity was supported by many famous people of Belarus.



■ An inclusive master class "Treats for Easter" was carried out in the culinary school-studio "A matter of taste" in Minsk. Boys and girls were baking puffs, decorating eggs and painting author marks with chocolate topping on a plate.



■ The final of the inclusive project "EVERY CHILD HAS A TALENT – 2" organized by the Belarusian radio station "Culture" and NGO "BelAPDIiMI" was held in the studio "Radio house" on June 1, 2017, on International Day for Protection of Children. 15 youngsters from the organization participated in a series of interviews in the programme "Mary Poppins"; they told about themselves, about their hobbies, achievements and dreams.





■ NGO “BelAPDIiMI” in cooperation with the team “Angels’ Wings” organized a family race festival “Try to catch me!” A run “Fathers and children” became a key event of that festival. The family race festival was dedicated to International Father’s Day and had been carried out for the first time in Belarus. Anyone, irrespective of age or physical training, including people with disabilities, could participate in all the activities of the festival.



■ Sports and entertainment activities were organized in the shopping and entertainment centre “Titan” for children and young people with disabilities from primary organizations of Minsk and Dzerzhinsk. Boys and girls went bowling, played laser tag and saw a 5D film. All the youngsters got sweet gifts at the end of the activity.



■ An inclusive children’s fashion show within the framework of “Kids’ Fashion Days” was held for the first time in Minsk. The activity was organized within the Belarus Fashion Week. Children from NGO “BelAPDIiMI” and the Fashion Theatre “kid’s PODIUM” demonstrated a collection of children’s clothes designed by Tatiana Efremova, a Belarusian designer. The collection has a distinctive characteristic in the form of “easy language” elements, namely, pictograms (one of the forms of alternative communication).



■ Children and young people from Minsk primary organizations could visit a festival “Race of legends – the stars of biathlon for peace” thanks to close cooperation of NGO “BelAPDIiMI” and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The race was held in the sports complex “Raubichi”. Stands, interactive and play areas, transportation – everything was made taking into account the interests of people with disabilities. Youngsters with disabilities got postcards with autographs of their favourite sportsmen – well-known biathlon stars.

■ A theatrical performance “Silver wings” was organized and shown in Minsk, Osipovichy, Grodno and Soligorsk within the framework of the project “Art for inclusion of people with disabilities” aimed at formation of a positive attitude towards people with disabilities. The project was implemented with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The performance tells a story about relationship between people, about love and the meaning of life.

Scenario writer – Valeriy Alekseev.

Producer – Ekaterina Gavura.

Actors of the theatre “Zazerkalie”, the children’s folklore ensemble “Svyatki” and the dance group “IrisShow”.



■ A theatrical performance “The curious incident of the dog in the night-time” based on the novel of the British writer Mark Haddon became part of the project “Art for inclusion of people with disabilities” aimed at formation of a positive attitude towards people with disabilities. The project was implemented with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The performance tells a story of a 15-year old teenager and his inner world. This is a story about love and relationship between adults and children.

Producer – Andrey Savchenko.

Actors: fifths-year students (“Actors of drama theater and cinema”) of Belarusian State Academy of Arts (Workshop of a People’s Artist of Belarus Nikolai Kirichenko).

The Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre in Minsk had a full house 3 times.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

It is necessary for primary organizations of NGO “BelAPDIiMI” to share experience with each other as they are constantly on the move, they implement different activities in their local communities to improve the quality of life of children and young people with disabilities and their families.



■ Off-site working meetings to share the work experience were organized in Kalinkovichi (14 participants), Stolbtsy (14 participants) and Luninets (17 participants).



■ An educational seminar on NGO management was carried out in Gomel for heads, board members and activists of NGO “BelAPDIiMI”. Members of primary organizations from Gomel, Zhitkovichi and Osipovichi participated in the activity.



■ An off-site seminar “Sharing experience in training people with disabilities for their future labour activity” was held in the Children’s Rehabilitation and Recuperation Centre “Zhdanovichi”. Persons with disabilities and specialists from territorial centres of social services to population from 6 regions of Belarus (Gomel, Brest, Stolin, Pruzhany, Volozhin and Tsentralniy district of Minsk) participated in the seminar.

■ An off-site educational activity to share the work experience and learn a long-term planning was carried out in the Joint Limited Liability Company "Children's Rehabilitation and Recreation Centre Nadezhda" for employees and heads of the unitary enterprises of NGO "BelAPDIiMI" – "Way to life" (Stolin), "ArtIdea" (Minsk), "Baran Arabesques" (Baran) and "My perspective" (Luninets). Members of primary organizations from Molodechno, Gomel and Grodno could also participate in the activity.



■ A 7-day off-site seminar was carried out in the Joint Limited Liability Company "Children's Rehabilitation and Recreation Centre Nadezhda" for youngsters with disabilities, their parents and specialists from Minsk and Molodechno. The aim of the seminar was to broaden social and communication skills and prepare youngsters for independent life outside a family.



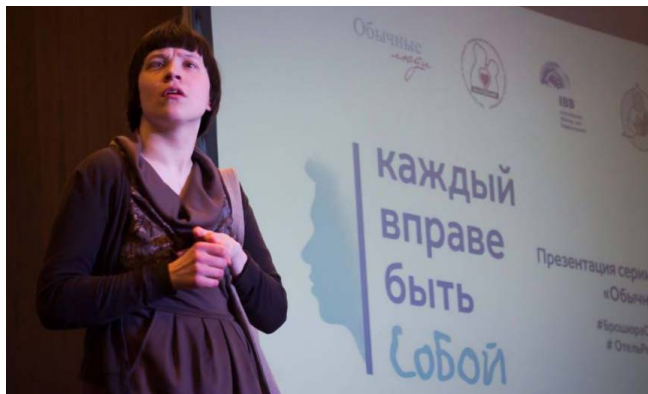
■ An off-site educational camp was organized in the hotel complex "Stayki" for activists of 15 primary organizations of NGO "BelAPDIiMI" in Belarus and Minsk and for their children. While adults were learning basics of project management, children were engaged in creativity with specialists (employees of NGO "BelAPDIiMI" and volunteers).



■ A working meeting to discuss formation of groups of mutual support for parents who look after children with disabilities was carried out. Heads and board members of primary organizations in Sovetskiy, Partizanskiy and Moskovskiy districts of Minsk and in Molodechno participated in the meeting.



DIALOGUE WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND MASS MEDIA



■ A presentation of brochures "Ordinary people" was held in the Renaissance Minsk Hotel to sum up the results of the year and reward authors and heroes of the articles. 11 nominations were announced. Young people with disabilities and well-known Belarusian singers participated in the concert.



■ A round table "Inclusion of people with disabilities: current situation and prospects for development" with participation of representatives of the Ministry of Culture, mass media, non-governmental and state organizations was carried out.



■ A final round table on the results of the project "Your chance" (assisted employment for people with disabilities, including people with intellectual disabilities, in the free labour market) was held. 57 persons from 25 regions of Belarus participated in the meeting: representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus, doctors from medical and rehabilitation expert commissions, employees from job centres, leaders of primary organizations of NGO "BelAPDiIMI" and representatives of mass media.



■ A seminar "Social networks – how to set long-term and interim goals" was organized for volunteers, young people with disabilities and activists of NGO "BelAPDiIMI".

■ Presentations of the brochure "Ordinary people" were held in Gomel, Grodno and Brest under the motto "Everyone has a right to be himself". Representatives of different fields participated in the activities – parents and young people with disabilities from primary organizations of NGO "BelAPDIiMI", heads of regional administrations in social and educational fields, heads and specialists of state bodies, employees of non-governmental and religious organizations, representatives of mass media and other interested people.



■ A 4-day inclusive course for more than 40 people was organized in cooperation with the specialists from the international cultural organization "Share Music Sweden". The activities of the course were aimed at support and strengthening of abilities of people with special needs through the usage of the elements of art.



■ A round table "Overcoming stereotypes on the way to inclusion" was held. Representatives of state bodies, Belarusian non-governmental and international organizations, creative intelligentsia, persons with disabilities, media persons and mass media participated in the round table.



■ PR-manager of NGO "BelAPDIiMI", as well as Nikita Trofimovich and Margo Shnip, who are trainers-consultants of the project "Art for inclusion of people with disabilities", participated in the training for journalists "Difficult topics for social journalism. Social interview". Young people gave journalists a number of recommendations on cooperation with people with disabilities: communication, pressing topics, interview and preparation of articles.



RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS



■ A photo exhibition “Life”, dedicated to people with disabilities, was held in the Museum of Modern Fine Art, at the faculty of social and cultural communications in Belarusian State University, in the gallery “Labyrinth” of Belarusian State Academy of Arts and also in the National Library of Belarus. The aim of the exhibition was to pay attention to the life of people whose abilities differ from others, to demonstrate the way they live, what dreams they have, and thus change a stereotyped, often negative attitude of the society for the better. You can be successful and feel happy even despite circumstances and diagnoses. The most important thing is the support of the society and the strength of character.



■ It was the first time in Belarus when young people with disabilities, who work in the enterprise “ArtIdea” of NGO “BelAPDIiMI”, and members of the organization participated in a shooting of a 28-minute social drama “Dead souls”. The film won several awards at international film festivals.



■ A coordinator of the project “Art for inclusion of people with disabilities” as well as Angelina Wales, the first model with disabilities in Belarus, and her mother Olga, participated in the programme “We are all the same” in the talk show “Forum” (TV channel Belarus1). Destinies and people whose stories inspire, set a good example, make you reflect and move forward were in the spotlight of the programme.

■ Social billboards, short videos and audio recordings “Equal dreams – equal opportunities” appeared in Minsk and regional cities of Belarus thanks to support of the Ministry of Education within the framework of the project “Art for inclusion of people with disabilities”. Angelina Wales, the first model in Belarus who has infantile cerebral paralysis, as well as Yadviga Chaykovskaya and Ekaterina Kichigina, models from Belarus, are pictured on these billboards and in social advertisement.



■ Social videos and audio recordings “A touch as the first step on TouchDown.by” with participation of Angelina Wales and Andrey Gorbatenko were created within the project “Art for inclusion of people with disabilities” with the support of the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the advertising agency “SUP” (Minsk). Short videos and audio recordings are broadcasted on TV channels and radio stations in the Republic of Belarus. Also, billboards “A touch as the first step on TouchDown.by” appeared in Minsk and regional cities of Belarus.



Short video films were given prestigious national and international prizes, including Grand Prix for the short video “Equal dreams – equal opportunities” at International Internet Film Festival “Independent Star”.

■ Production and trade unitary enterprises “ArtIdea”, “Baran Arabesques” and “Way to life” participated in the fair of arts and crafts “Mlyn” which was held in the exhibition hall of the National Exhibition Centre “BelExpo” in Minsk. Young people with disabilities who work in these unitary enterprises could surprise visitors of the fair with their new handmade goods.





■ A brochure “Organization of lessons to teach grown-up people with intellectual disabilities the skills of self-advocacy and safe behavior” was published within the framework of the project “School of self-advocates”.



■ A brochure “Everyone has a right to be himself” within a series of brochures “Ordinary people” was published. The results of a 2-year work with partners from Germany, Russia, Lithuania and Ukraine, aimed at inclusion of people with disabilities in social life, were reflected in the brochure. Following topics are discussed there: state social order, “easy language”, alternative communication and real life stories of people with disabilities.

■ Specialists and young people from NGO “BelAPDIIMI” carried out a series of trainings organized by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Mogilev, Brest, Borisov and in the National Children’s Health Camp “Zubrenok”. Trainings were organized for representatives of children’s and youth parliaments from cities which joined the UNICEF initiative “Child friendly city”. More than 100 children from 25 cities of Belarus participated in the activities. The aim of the trainings was to change the attitude of schoolchildren and youth towards children with disabilities, to disseminate the ideas of inclusion, to get young people with disabilities to make their own decisions at the local level and engage them into public activities.



■ A short video “Everyone has a right to be himself” was made. Michael Bulich is the main hero of the video. He lives in the psycho-neurological residential institution for the elderly and disabled №3 in Minsk. He is a painter who set up his personal exhibition and participated in a few international festivals. Each exhibition Michael presents is a social act.
Videographer – Alexandra Titova.



WORK TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

Every day employees of NGO "BelAPDIiMI" render comprehensive support to families bringing up children with disabilities all around the Republic of Belarus. Families get answers to their legal questions, get information about rehabilitation institutions, receive literature and are provided with emotional, psychological and other support, including humanitarian aid.



■ Thanks to support of the Arken Church (Sweden) a family recreation and recuperation camp was organized in the Joint Limited Liability Company "Children's Recreation and Rehabilitation Centre Nadezhda" for 35 people from 16 districts of Brest, Mogilev, Minsk, Grodno and Gomel regions of Belarus.



■ Thanks to sponsorship, including support of the Swedish independent Christian organization "Star of Hope", 43 blenders, 18 inhalers, 16 gift sets for first-formers, sweet New Year gifts, stationery, soft toys etc. were given to families from different regions of Belarus.



■ 18 inhalers were purchased at the expense of the funds collected thanks to the sale of tickets to the "Kids' Fashion Days BFW". They were given to NGO "BelAPDIiMI" families looking after 2 children with disabilities.

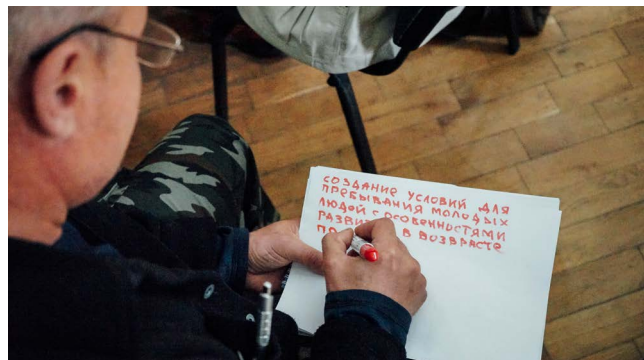
LOBBYING FOR THE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

■ The list of medical contraindications to render social services in social service institutions was shortened from January 1, 2016 thanks to an active position of NGO "BelAPDIiMI" and work with the state bodies.

■ Employees of NGO "BelAPDIiMI" participated in consultations on Interdepartmental plan on realization of recommendations for 2016-2019, which were accepted by the Republic of Belarus on the results of the 2d cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in the UN Human Rights Council. A separate thematic section was dedicated to the rights of persons with disabilities. More than 50 people participated in the consultations: representatives of almost 30 NGOs, state bodies, embassies and international organizations.

■ Representatives of NGO "BelAPDIiMI" participated in working meetings to work out and discuss the structure and activities of the National plan of actions to implement the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

■ NGO "BelAPDIiMI" continues its work aimed at lobbying for interests of people with disabilities and their family members. NGO "BelAPDIiMI" was sending appeals to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to amend the legislation in force. Some of the organization's proposals were as follows: to allow people permanently looking after persons with the 1st group of disability to work part-time; to give people looking after persons with disabilities a sick note and a certificate of temporary unfitness for work; to cancel an obligatory 5-year insurance contributions record which is necessary for getting an old-age pension for parents of children and young people with disabilities.



4 projects were completed in 2016:



■ **"Equal opportunities – way to success"** The project was implemented within the programme "Strengthening the potential of joint initiatives" with the support of Eurasia Foundation at the expense of the funds provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Aim of the project: to strengthen the organizational capacity of NGO "BelAPDiIMI" by making members of primary organizations (PO) more active, by planning activities in PO and preparing regional and republican project proposals with their further implementation.



■ **"School of self-advocates"** The project was implemented with the support of the Embassy Office of Switzerland in Minsk

Aim of the project: To promote protection of legitimate rights and interests of people with intellectual disabilities, maintenance of their social status, equal participation in every field of social life, acquisition of self-advocacy skills, making decisions about their personal necessities of life, preparation for independent living by means of carrying out of different educational activities.

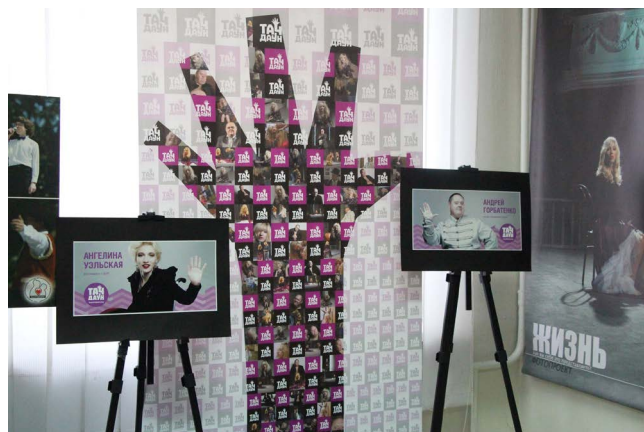


■ **"Your chance"** The project was financed by Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service

Aim of the project: to include people with disabilities into the society through widening of the opportunities for their employment and raising public awareness about the rights of people with disabilities for independent life.

■ **“Art for inclusion of people with disabilities”** The project was implemented with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Aim of the project: to form positive attitude towards people with disabilities through engaging youth aged 16-25 to cultural, educational and informational campaigns in the Republic of Belarus.



4 projects started in 2016:

■ **“Prospects of independent life of people with disabilities”** The project is being implemented with the support of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany “Renovabis” (“Action for mutual solidarity of German Catholics with people in Central and Eastern Europe”).

Aim of the project: to promote a model of assisted living of young people with disabilities and teach them skills necessary for realization of their rights to participate fully in social life.

■ **“Together for the quality of life”** The project is being implemented within the programme “Strengthening the potential of joint initiatives” with the support of Eurasia Foundation at the expense of the funds provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Aim of the project: to improve the quality of social services provided by NGO “BelAPDIiMI” to the target groups by means of development of interdepartmental cooperation and raising the level of skills of heads and members of primary organizations of NGO “BelAPDIiMI”.

■ **“Accessible work”** The project is being financed by Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service.

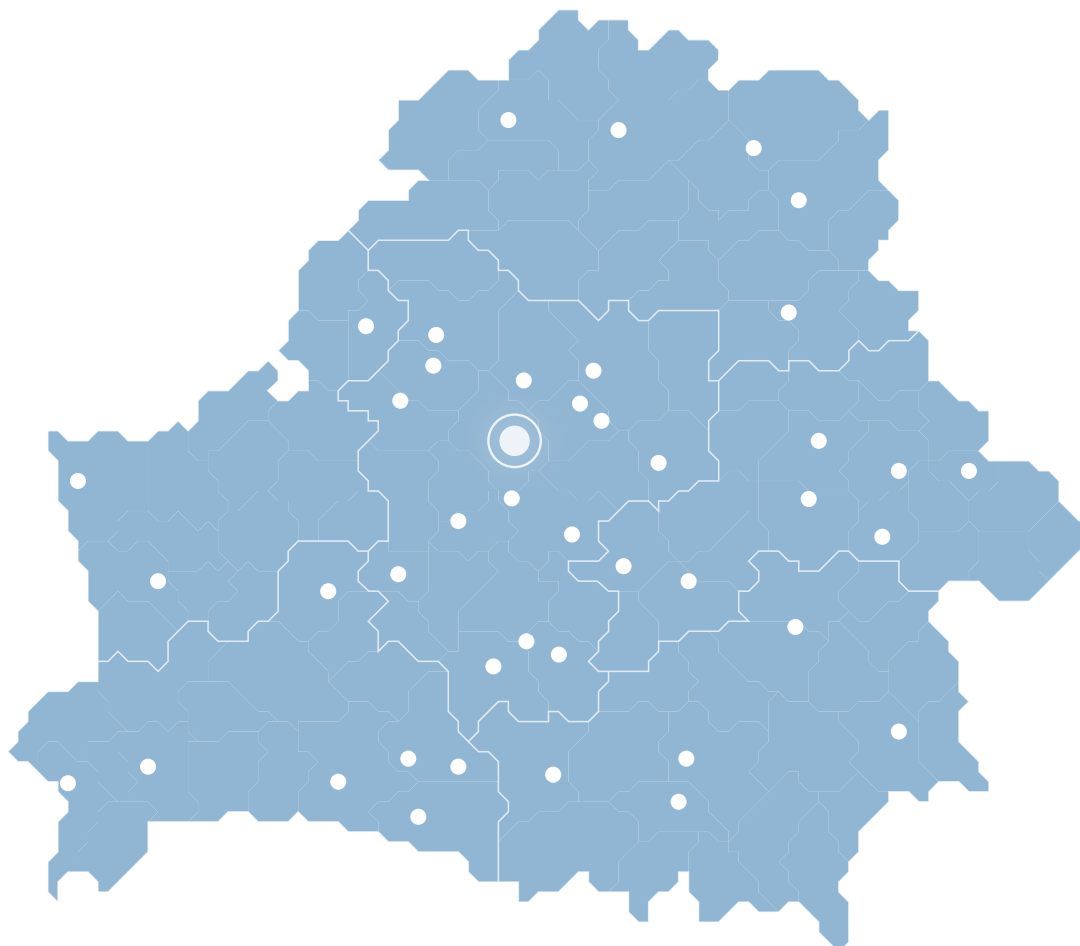
Aim of the project: to deepen labour integration of young people with disabilities by means of further introduction of innovative approaches in the field of employment.

■ **“Art for inclusion of people with disabilities (extension: improved social services for people with disabilities)”** The project is being implemented with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Aim of the project: to promote the inclusion and improve the quality of life of children and young people with disabilities, with intellectual disabilities, in particular, by means of strengthening the organizational capacity of the local disabled people’s organization and widening the range of services provided at the local level.

More detailed information about the activities of NGO “BelAPDIiMI” is available on the website <http://belapdi.org/>

The NGO «BelAPDiMI» is the non-governmental organization which brings together almost 3000 families which look after children and young people with disabilities



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