



2018 PUBLIC REPORT



CONTENTS

Our mission and our values	2
Our team	3
Digital Freedoms Lab	7
Antidiscrimination and human rights education	12
Foreign nationals and stateless People	16
Counseling office	19
Within 2018 in Brest	22
Trainings and events	23
Human Camp 2018	26
Redesign	27
VolunTEAM	28

Our Mission

Promotion of public interest and joints actions in response to contemporary human rights challenges.

We adhere to the values established in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and act in the public interest.

We put a high value on the possibility of cooperating with everyone – the state, business, civil society and other groups – on equal terms.

We think that everyone's opinion and contribution are important and we create conditions for joint actions. Involvement of all the concerned parties helps us to work effectively and achieve sustainable results.

Contemporary challenges we work with are topical problems that cannot be resolved without a systemic human rights-based approach.

Our Values

1. Empowerment.

Inspire, encourage, engage, call for joint action.

2. Partnership.

Be open, be able to reach agreements. Promote ideas of respect and equality by our example. Be able to hear others.

3. Joint action.

We are ready to share our experience, be understandable, accessible and open.

4. To be changemakers.

See the result of our work and get feedback.

5. Innovativeness.

Be open to changes, use new instruments and forms of work.

6. Faith in what we do.

OUR TEAM



Aleksei Kozlyuk

Human rights advocate, lawyer and researcher. Before 2016, he was doing research and dealt with legal issues in Lawtrend Legal Transformation Centre. Expert in access to information of the state sector, freedom of information online, privacy and personal data protection. Aleksei did an internship in The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL, USA) in content access restrictions in various jurisdictions, participated in the International Visitor Leadership Programme 2014 (CLJA) and the John Smith Trust Fellowship 2017 (Great Britain).



Valdis Fugash

Human rights advocate, coach and expert in non-formal education and human rights advocacy, public interest and culture of peace. He is a co-founder of Pra nyja darektary educational initiative, a human rights group in Mogilyov (human rights protection and promotion initiative in the field of mental health in Belarus), participant of The International Youth Human Rights Movement (YHRM), the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network and international networks responding to challenges posed by far-right populism and extremism.



Nasta Loiko

Lawyer, coach and human rights advocate. She has Master's degree in International and European Law. From 2009 to 2010 she worked as a lawyer in Solidarnast Committee for Protection of the Repressed, from 2010 to 2018 – in the counseling office of Viasna Human Rights Center. Nasta takes part in international human rights Observer Missions, conducts workshops (human rights education and youth education) and is a participant of the International Youth Human Rights Movement (YHRM). Nasta is an expert in freedom of assembly, forced migration, legal assistance to refugees, as well as antidiscrimination and equality. She is the International Visitor Leadership Program 2014 (USA) participant. Nasta received the Rada Awards prize as The Eternal Engine in The Youth Sector.



Anna Baranovskaya

Lawyer and a human rights advocate. Anna has been working with human rights protection and promotion since 2003, including The Belarusian Human Rights House in Vilnius (2012-2013) and The Office for a Democratic Belarus (2014-2016). Now she works as an external expert of The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Warsaw). Also, Anna is a co-founder of Carbon-Free Travel initiative. She participated in a number of international internships and research projects. The domains of competence: international law, educational programs and human rights workshops, project activities and development of organization's potential. In 2016, she successfully completed Project Management Professional (PMP) course in Technion University (Israel).

OUR TEAM



Yana Goncharova

Human rights advocate and communications officer. In 2015, she joined Russian RosUznic volunteering project and became its coordinator. Yana specializes in assistance to Ukrainian political prisoners in Russia. She worked as a journalist and wrote for Russian and Ukrainian editions. Yana is a participant of The International Center for Journalist Programme 2016 (USA) and John Smith Trust Fellowship 2017 (Great Britain).



Enira Bronitskaya

Lawyer and a human rights advocate. She has been working with human rights in Belarus for 15 years. She was Deputy Head of Partnerstvo civic initiative that observed elections in Belarus. Then she took the same position in Solidarnast Committee for Protection of the Repressed. Since 2011 Enira has been the Director of The Office for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Enira is a co-founder and an active participant of Pravoashchitniki Protiv Pytok (Human Rights Advocates Against Tortures) initiative. Enira has been an expert of the OSCE/ODIHR in observation of elections for 10 years already and worked in 15 missions in different countries of the OSCE region.



Andrei Sushko

Human rights advocate, analyst. Andrei is an expert in the domain of access to information, public administration, e-government and online participation of citizens in decision-making. He got a specialized education in public administration in The Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus and The University of Warsaw. Andrei worked in The Belarusian Helsinki Committee, Solidarnasts Committee for Protection of the Repressed and Lawtrend Legal Transformation Centre. He is an external expert of SYMPA/BIPART, participant of The European Parliament's Sakharov Fellowship and a graduate of The Venice School of Human Rights.



Alyona Chekhovich

Lawyer and a human rights advocate. She has Master's degree in International and European Law. Since 2018 she has been working as a lawyer in the Human Constanta counseling office for foreign citizens and stateless persons in Minsk. Since 2016 she has been volunteering in Refugee Assistance Mission of Human Constanta in Brest and participated in writing reports of the organization on migration and rights of foreign nationals and stateless persons. Previously, Alyona was a volunteer in The Red Cross (2014), Action Group youth organization (2009-2011) and was a short-term observer of elections in Belarus, Ireland and Slovakia from Election Observation: theory and practice project (Lithuania).

OUR TEAM



Yuliya Stasuk

Bachelor of Social Science (Communication). She was involved in monitoring, qualitative and quantitative analysis of independent media content of Belarus. In 2016, she took a full coaching course and obtained Enneagram Expert qualification. She was a volunteer in Media Summit 2017. Since August, 2018 she became a Human Constanta volunteer in Brest. Yuliya is a participant of Human Camp 2018 creative human rights camp, a participant of My Perspective project within Expanding Cooperation with Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Countries and Russia program with the assistance of Ministry of External Affairs of Germany.



Kirill Kofanov

Lawyer. He is currently a student in the Master's programme of Yerevan State University (major in Human Rights and Democratization). Since August 2018 he has been a lawyer in The Refugee Assistance Mission of Human Constanta in Brest. Before that he was a volunteer of Viasna Human Rights Center (2014-2015). He was an observer on presidential elections in Belarus; participated in writing analytical materials on the topic of open and accessible courts in the Republic of Belarus.



Grigoriy Terentiev

Started working with protection of the rights to a healthy environment in 2015 and founded Vremya Zemli, a youth environmental public organization. He organizes workshops and seminars in environmental legislation, international ecological campaigns, regional forums, round table discussions, festivals, movie screenings, workshops and competitions. From September 2018 to September 2018 he was a coordinator of The Refugee Assistance Mission of Human Constanta in Brest. Grigoriy is a participant of Community Connections Program 2016 (USA, Chicago), SOIN SCHOOL Berlin school for social innovation 2017 (Berlin), and International Volunteer Exchange Baikal Calling 2018 (Baikal).



In October 2018, we celebrated our second birthday. During these two years, we have managed to do a lot: organized annual events, started volunteer work, held the first creative camp and much more. We believe that human rights should come first and we promote human rights-based approach in all our activities. Our aim is to make human rights accessible and fashionable. In this report, we want to tell you about the most important things we have managed to do from October 2017 to December 2018.

DIGITAL FREEDOMS LAB



Privacy Day — 2018

The matter of digital freedoms for us is, first of all, the matter of human rights. This year, issues related to personal data, privacy, laws and social networks have been very relevant. We were trying to keep up! In February 2018, we held the second Privacy Day in Belarus that transformed into a large forum of 160 people. We tried to make it interesting both for professionals and ordinary users and we succeeded.

Half of the participants was from either the IT-sector or legal services and we organized a special separate program for them. Personal data is an important area where people, business and state interact with one another and we will continue finding common topics for promoting importance of users' security.

10

speakers

164

participants



ИННОВАЦИОННАЯ
ЗАЩИТА ПЛАТЕЖНОЙ
ИНФРАСТРУКТУРЫ

Secure Bank
Secure Portal

IGF
BELARUS

powered by **hoster.by**

Internet Governance Forum — 2018

In 2017 and 2018, we also participated in the organization of a large event that was extremely important for Belarus: The Internet Governance Forum. The Forum is organized by business representatives of Hoster.by and is supported by the Ministry of Information and the Executive Analytical Center under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

This Forum is a platform for dialogue for those who are involved in the Internet governance in Belarus: business community, state and civil society. We are convinced that such dialogue is vital for development of Belarussian Internet and we try to engage civil society to more actively discuss things that are important for them. At the Forums, we managed to discuss open data in the Belarussian Internet sector, effectiveness of petitions as well as personal data security and privacy.

450
participants



6

seminars

95

participants

Over a period of 15 months, we travelled all across Belarus to hold express workshops on digital rights. Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Brest, Minsk – almost 100 people learnt what a “digital state” is and whether people have human rights on the Internet, reflected on whether there is balance between censorship and security and also got to know something new about Internet surveillance on us. Besides workshops in Belarus, our experts Aleksei Kozlyuk and Andrei Sushko educate government officials in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tadjikistan on digital rights: they have participated in Digital Rights Schools throughout the region for four times already.

We started consulting on digital rights. Our experts help to protect personal data, develop internal policies for organizations, appeal against blocking of websites and pages on social networks and make enquiries to the authorities. You may find more about this topic in the Consultations section.



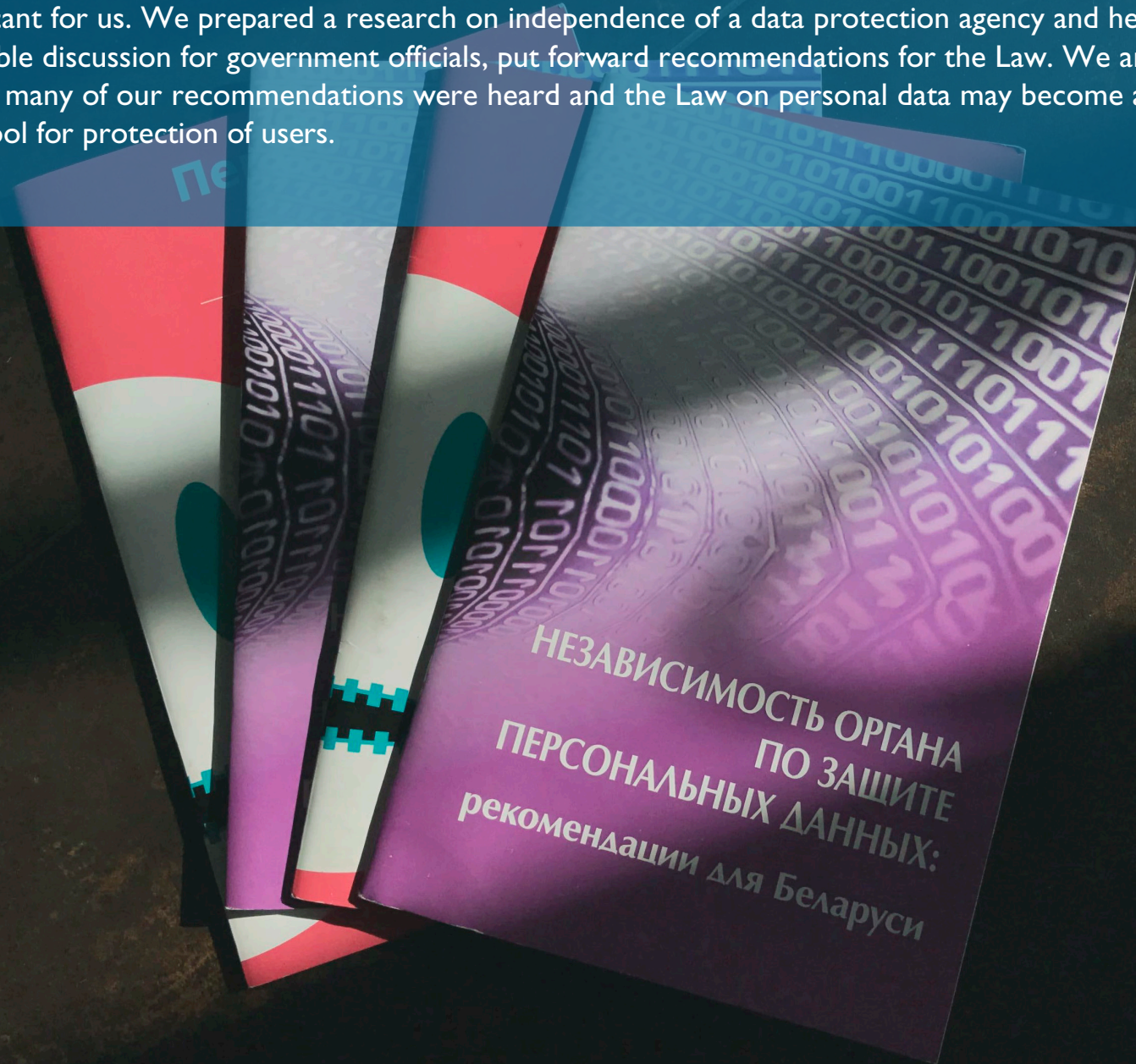
Together with Sergey Voronkevich (Data Privacy Office) we held the Digital Privacy School this summer. These were unusual combined courses: within several consecutive weeks our students came to study on weekends. They had three hours of theory and three hours of practice. They learned how to make infographics, write texts, got scribing skills, etc. Using this knowledge, students did their homework, revising the theory and making interesting products. We prepared six privacy professionals who got specialized certificates from our partners from Data Privacy Office.

14
certified
specialists

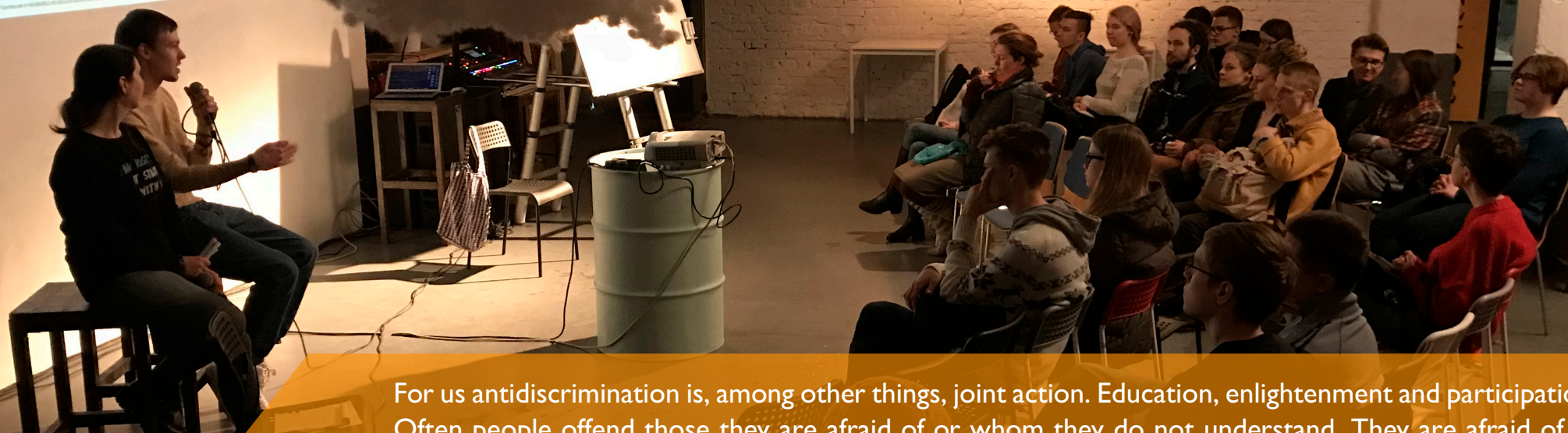
24
participants

2
months

The Law on personal data has been prepared this year in Belarus and participation in its development was significant for us. We prepared a research on independence of a data protection agency and held a round-table discussion for government officials, put forward recommendations for the Law. We are happy that many of our recommendations were heard and the Law on personal data may become an effective tool for protection of users.



ANTIDISCRIMINATION and human rights education



20

partners

28

events

more than 1100 offline and
5000 online participants

For us antidiscrimination is, among other things, joint action. Education, enlightenment and participation. Often people offend those they are afraid of or whom they do not understand. They are afraid of or don't understand those whom they do not know. We work on making discriminated groups visible. We want more people to engage into joint activities and understand that all people are equal by getting to know "others".

From October 2017 to December 2018, we held three thematic weeks against racism, discrimination, hatred, fascism and antisemitism. We develop a big program for these weeks and call on other civil organizations to join us. Overall, 20 partners from 7 Belarussian towns have joined us so far and together we held 28 events!

<https://readymag.com/u/3442466/tydzen2017>

<https://readymag.com/u/3442466/againstracism18>

<http://afwby.tilda.ws/about2018>

Besides educational events for activists, we try to engage other audiences. Together with Avtozak amateur football club, we run Raznye-ravnye (Different- Equal) campaign each year. Among important activities of the campaign are open football trainings/matches and photos with famous teams and clubs.

9

teams

63

participants



We invite everyone to play football without prejudices, create space and disseminate values of equality and non-discrimination through the game and collective sports activity. In 2017, representatives of BATE, the most renowned Belarussian football team, played with us. In 2018, a sponsor, Joma sports goods shop joined the campaign. Due to their support, we managed to present souvenirs to the participants. The significance of the Weeks was celebrated with nominations on a number of national awards in the field of non-governmental organization activities.





By making collective photos with the banner of the campaign, Dinamo Minsk, Gomel, BATE, Dnepr male professional football clubs and Nadezhda-Dnepr female professional football team, national combined freestyle and diving teams joined the campaign.




FOREIGN NATIONALS and stateless people

We also try to promote tolerance towards people we work with – foreign nationals and stateless persons. In May 2018, we organized a large festival in Brest, the Friendship Fest. This was a holiday for citizens of Brest and those people who are involuntarily staying in Brest – refugees in transit, mainly from Chechnya.

Our big idea was to make a platform for communication, where people could get acquainted, talk and get to know each other better in a safe and calm environment. Besides, we wanted to make a festival for children, as at their age stereotypes and prejudices make no difference and through collective games we were hoping to get across the idea of equality. We tried to show our participants that first and foremost we all are people.

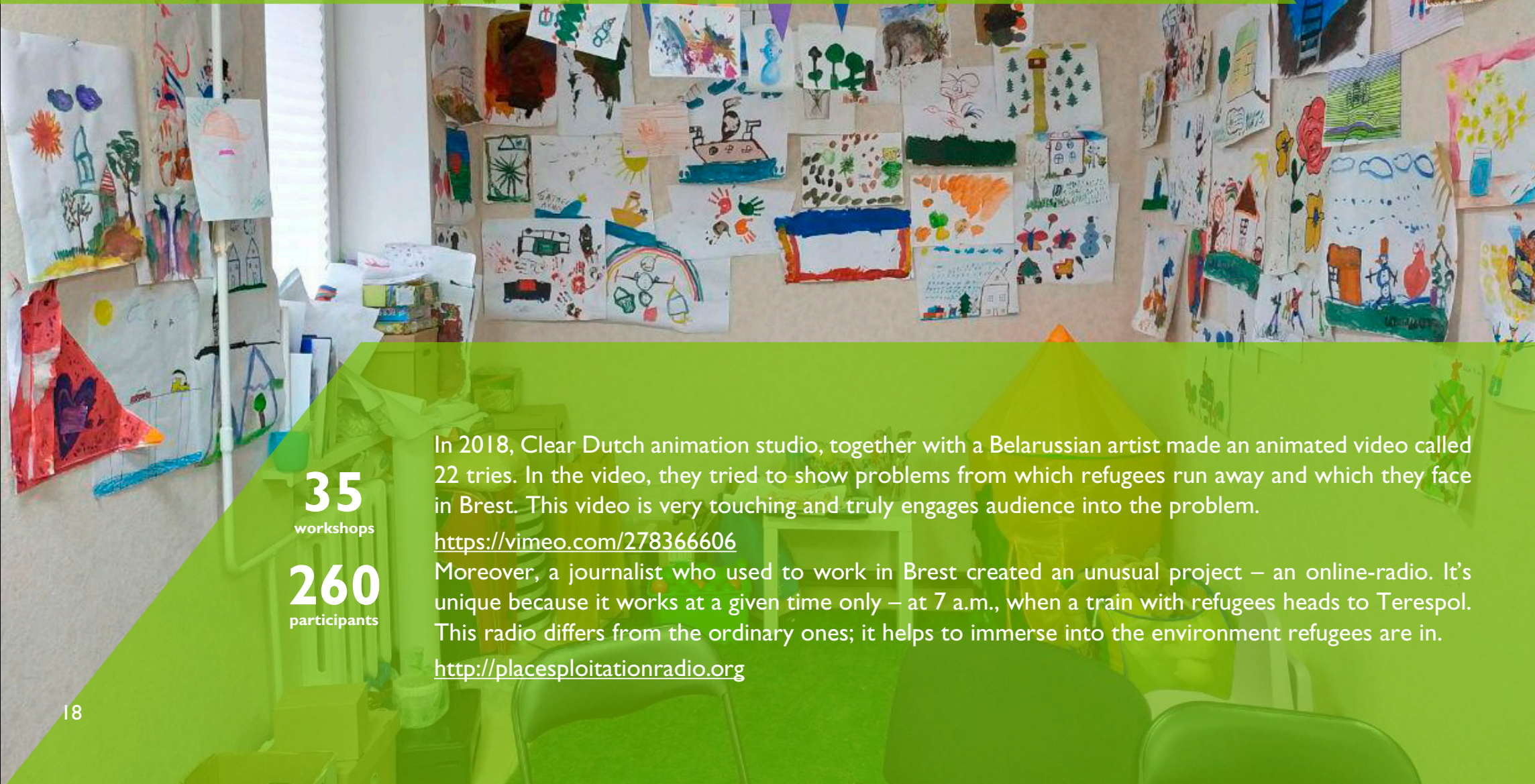
Thanks to Lena Shtyk-Bozhko and Aleksei Tolstov, not only we managed to make a cool fest, but also do a shadow performance for children about borders and hold an exposition of such photographers as Oksana Yushko and Sergei Lesket. The fest brought not only new experience, but new contacts: students from musical school №3 gave the shadow performance several times afterwards. In addition, Brest NGO Forum awarded us The Best Project of the Year in Brest for this event in the Tolerance nomination.

240
participants



СОВМЕСТНАЯ
ИСТОРИЯ

Working in Brest with refugees in transit we saw a serious problem – refugees do not have possibilities for socialization and are isolated from the local community. Children don't go to school, adults don't make friends. After the Friendship Festival, we decided to hold weekly workshops for children. Our volunteers regularly come to Brest and teach children to draw, read and do crafts. This helps them to learn to communicate and not to be afraid, it also develops their creative skills. Meanwhile, adults talk to one another, our lawyers help them to solve some legal problems.



35
workshops

260
participants

In 2018, Clear Dutch animation studio, together with a Belarussian artist made an animated video called 22 tries. In the video, they tried to show problems from which refugees run away and which they face in Brest. This video is very touching and truly engages audience into the problem.

<https://vimeo.com/278366606>

Moreover, a journalist who used to work in Brest created an unusual project – an online-radio. It's unique because it works at a given time only – at 7 a.m., when a train with refugees heads to Terespol. This radio differs from the ordinary ones; it helps to immerse into the environment refugees are in.

<http://placesploitationradio.org>

Human
constanta
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ОБЩЕСТВЕННАЯ ПРИЁМНАЯ

помогаем иностранным гражданам с защитой прав в Беларуси

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Besides working with refugees in transit in Brest, we work with all foreign nationals who face problems in Belarus. Our primary activity in this regard is consulting foreigners on their rights, court monitoring and work with international organizations. In 2017, we opened a counseling office for foreign nationals and stateless persons! We hold legal consultations for foreigners, including lodging appeals, communicating with consulates, working with the UNHCR and other international organizations that provide help.

More than 200 people turned to our counseling office: nationals of 34 states and stateless persons. Issues we consulted on were diverse:

- **Getting a visa to the Republic of Belarus**
- **Extension of visas validity**
- **Issuing invitations for foreigners to come to Belarus**
- **Acquisition or restoration of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus**
- **Registration of marriages with foreign nationals in Belarus**
- **Employment of foreigners**
- **Getting a work permit for foreigners**
- **Procedure of getting pensions**
- **Medical insurance of foreigners**
- **Getting the first medical aid and elective care**



In 2018, we had several cases with satisfying results. For example, the case of Parviz Tursunov, a Tajik footballer who was persecuted by the authorities of Tajikistan for his religious beliefs. Tursunov was arrested in Minsk upon request of Tajikistan. We were working with him during the time of him being under the threat of expulsion, communicating with Belarusian authorities, his family and international organizations. We prepared an application for asylum and insisted that he can't be expelled to the country where he would be at risk. Citizenship and migration authorities considered reasons for expulsion provided by Tajikistan insufficient and decided not to return Parviz. Soon we managed to gather money to send Parviz to Kyiv where he can apply for asylum.

Another case concerned a family from Chechnya whom Lithuanian border guards didn't let into Lithuania. In 2017, our lawyer Nikita Matyushchenkov prepared complaints to the European Court of Human Rights for the family. In December 2018, the Court tried the case against Lithuania and held that the authorities violated the rights of the refugees prohibiting them to enter the country on no legal grounds. In the near future, Lithuania shall pay them a compensation. This important ECHR's decision may become a precedent and help other refugees who are not given the possibility to apply for asylum.

Within 2018 in Brest:

248

railway station monitorings

116

families received foodstuffs

16

families received medicaments

27

families received children goods

1

case was won in the European Court of Human Rights

1

person was released from custody

169

consultations were held

We continue working in Brest, rendering humanitarian assistance, consulting on the rights of refugees in transit in Belarus, monitoring the situation.



28
workshops

380
participants

And of course, we continue to hold Human Rights in Layman's Terms and Migration in Layman's Terms workshops. Brest, Vitebsk, Mogilyov, Baranovichi, Gomel – new people come to the workshops and we try to “infect” them with human rights. That is, to increase the number of people who understand and share values of human rights, who can defend them on their own, who are ready to help us and other human rights organizations with improvement of the human rights situation.

БЕЛАРУССКО-НЕМЕЦКИЙ НКО ФОРУМ

СЕКЦИЯ
ПРАВА
ЧЕЛОВЕКА

Besides events on our topics, we take part in and organize other events. For example, together with ODB-Brussels, we became co-organizers of a large Belarussian-German Forum in December 2017. Representatives of German organizations who are interested in working with Belarus came to the Forum. The Forum gathered some 300 people from all regions. The event enabled participants to establish new contacts and interesting partnerships.



We have participated in the Minsk semi-marathon for two years, while promoting our Raznye-Ravnye (Different-Equal) campaign. This year, our team consisted of as many as 15 people! Our colleagues, volunteers and friends joined us to support human rights.



In the summer of 2018, we held our first human rights creative camp and this was cool! We gathered 14 active boys and girls and during five days we were teaching them everything we know. Human rights and creative approach is a perfect mix! We want the approach based on human rights to become a norm in the Belarussian society. Youth drives changes that will make Belarus a better place. We are ready to help and share our knowledge – that’s why we organized the Human Camp.

<https://readymag.com/u/13442466/HumanCamp2018>



Besides working with the outer world, we were also concerned with our inner world. This year, we worked on the identity of the organization and gathered it in an understandable guideline. We modernized our logo a bit and left the main elements – the modulus signs around the letter H in the word Human. This means that for us a human is an absolute value, and human rights are the invariable we take as a basis. We added a few additional colors to the palette to make domains of our work recognizable – now we have green, orange and dark blue in our branded palette. Also, an essential element of our rebranding was our new website! Modern, fast and understandable – we tried to make it user-friendly and added an English version.

VolunTEAM



In 2018, we gathered a cool volunteer team and this is our favorite accomplishment. Boys and girls with different experience and skills became a part of our Human Constanta superheroes league. Every month we meet with volunteers, share our news and plans, engage them into our activities, teach and inspire them on their own achievements. Our volunteers help us to translate texts, make designs, move and gather things, organize and hold the best events and much more. They are our main support :)

30
in a permanent team

183
volunteers
on the mailing list



info@humanconstantaby.com



fb.com/humanconstantaby



humanconstantaby.com



vk.com/humanconstantaby



twitter.com/humanconstantaby



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