

**SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGICAL INSTITUTION
"NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION" OF
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ON THE
BELARUS EDUCATION MODERNIZATION PROJECT
WITH AUDITOR'S OPINION FOR THE PERIOD
FROM 1 JANUARY 2022 TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2022

THE PROJECT IS FINANCED UNDER THE LOAN 8943-BY DATED
26 APRIL 2019 GRANTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BANK
FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ON THE PROJECT WITH AUDITOR'S OPINION
FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 JANUARY 2022 TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2022
THE PROJECT IS FINANCED
UNDER THE ADDITIONAL LOAN 8943-BY DATED 26 APRIL 2019
GRANTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

THE PROJECT IS MANAGED BY
SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGICAL INSTITUTION "NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION"
OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

ALL AMOUNTS ARE IN EUROS

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Statement of Management's responsibility for the preparation and approval of the financial statements on the Project

The Management of the Scientific Methodological Institution "National Institute of Education" of the Ministry of Education (hereinafter - National Institute of Education) is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements on the Project "Belarus Education Modernization Project" (hereinafter - the Project) financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter - IBRD) under the loan agreement No. 8943-BY dated 26 April 2019 for the period from 01 January 2022 to 14 September 2022 which fairly reflect in all material respects the information on the sources and use of the Project funds, the financial position of the Project accounts for the specified period.

In the preparation of the financial statements on the Project, the Management is responsible for:

- The choice of the accounting policy and its consistent application;
- presentation of information in accordance with IBRD rules and the selected accounting policies.

Management is also responsible for:

- development, implementation and maintenance of an effective and reliable internal control system on the Project;
- maintenance of accounting in accordance with IBRD rules and the selected accounting policies;
- taking all possible reasonable steps to safeguard assets under the Project;
- preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

These financial statement on the Project for the period from 01 January 2022 to 14 September 2022 were approved by the Management on 14 September 2022.



Deputy Director -
Head of Investment Projects Managements
D.G. Shaloho



Head of Finance and Disbursement
Department
O.A. Dubrovina

14 September 2022
Minsk, Belarus

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON A SPECIAL PURPOSE AUDIT ENGAGEMENT

To the Management of the Belarus Education Modernization Project and to the Management of Scientific Methodological Institution "National Institution of Education" of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus

Ref. number: 04-05/83

Date: 14.09.2022

Information about the auditee:

Name: Scientific Methodological Institution "National Institution of Education" of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter - NIE)

Location: Republic of Belarus, 22004, Minsk, 16 Korolya str.

Payer's identification number: 190374888

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements on the Project "Belarus Education Modernization Project" (hereinafter - Project) financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter - IBRD) in accordance with the loan agreement No. 8943-BY dated 26 April 2019 for the period from 01 January 2022 to 14 September 2022 which comprise:

- ▶ Project Sources and Uses of Funds Statement;
- ▶ Uses of Funds Statement;
- ▶ Designated Account Statement;
- ▶ Transit Account Statement;
- ▶ SOE Withdrawal Schedule;
- ▶ Notes to the financial statements on the Project.

In our opinion, the financial statements on the Project fairly in all material respects present the objective information on the sources and use of the Project funds for the period from 01 January 2022 to 14 September 2022 in accordance with the IBRD rules and the applicable accounting policy.

In our opinion, the Designated account statement and the Transit account statement correctly and fairly present the financial position of the Project accounts for the period from 01 January 2022 to 14 September 2022 in accordance with the IBRD rules and applicable accounting policies.

In addition, adequate supporting documentation was maintained for statements of expenditures for the period from 01 January 2022 to 14 September 2022 to support claims submitted to IBRD for reimbursement of expenditures incurred and the expenditures claimed are subject to financing in accordance with IBRD rules and the loan agreement.



Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Belarus dated 12 July 2013 No. 56-Z "On Auditing Activities", the national rules of auditing activity approved by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Belarus and International Standards on Auditing (hereinafter - ISAs).

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit on a Special Purpose Audit Engagement section of our report.

We are independent of NIE in accordance with the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Belarus and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter. Accounting principles

The financial statements on the Project are prepared in accordance with IBRD rules. The accounting policy is to prepare financial statements on the Project on the basis of the cash method. In accordance with this method, income and expenses are recognized as cash is received or spent rather than on an accrual basis.

Responsibilities of the Auditee for the Preparation of the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements on the Project in accordance with IBRD rules.

This responsibility includes the development, implementation and maintenance of the auditee's internal control system necessary for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements package that do not contain material misstatements due to errors or fraud, the application of appropriate accounting policies and accounting estimates, which are reasonable under the conditions.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit on a Special Purpose Audit Engagement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements on the Project as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements. As part of an audit, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ▶ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements on the Project, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



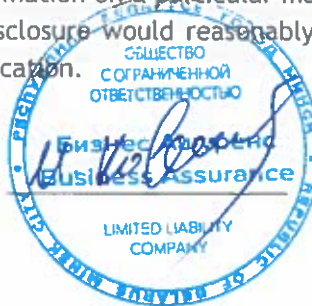
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit on a Special Purpose Audit Engagement (continued)

- ▶ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control of NIE in the implementation of the Project.
- ▶ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Management.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit. We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear influence on auditors' independence, and, where applicable, all related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine the matters that were most relevant to the audit of the financial statements on the Project for the current period and, therefore, are key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about these matters or, in very rare cases, when we determine that the information on a particular matter should not be disclosed since the adverse consequences of such disclosure would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Head of the engagement.
Deputy Director for
Advisory and other
Professional Services



Ivan Kovalenko
(qualification certificate of
the auditor No. 002117
dated 27 June 2013,
registration No. 1938)

Head of the audit group.
Audit Manager

Ekaterina Zhiznevskaya
(qualification certificate of
the auditor No. 0002418
dated 13 December 2017,
registration No. 2159)

Auditor's report date: 14 September 2022

Place of issue: Minsk, Republic of Belarus

Date of receipt by the auditee: 14 September 2022

Position, Full name

Signature

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUDITOR:

Name: Business Assurance LLC
Location: 103 Pobediteley ave., floor 8, office 7, Minsk, 220020, Republic of Belarus
Information on the state registration: Certificate on the state registration was issued by Minsk City Executive Committee dated 4 July 2022
Payer's identification number: 190241132

Project Sources and Uses of Funds Statement

	From 01.01.2022 to 14.09.2022	From the beginning of the project	Total
<i>Opening Cash Balances</i>			
Designated account - Project funds	413,868.67	0.00	0.00
Transit account - Project funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total opening cash balance	413,868.67	0.00	0.00
<i>Sources of funds</i>			
Designated account	3,000,000.00	22,360,000.00	22,360,000.00
Direct payments	3,489,239.27	3,489,239.27	3,489,239.27
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Front-end Fee	0.00	225,000.00	225,000.00
Total Financing	6,489,239.27	26,074,239.27	26,074,239.27
<i>Expenditures by Components</i>			
Component 1: Ensuring a quality learning environment in schools receiving students from closed/reorganized schools	6,440,536.24	24,498,547.99	24,498,547.99
Component 2: Modernization of system management in general secondary education	240,451.24	558,248.46	558,248.46
Component 3: Project implementation support (+Front-end Fee)	190,939.45	986,261.81	986,261.81
Total Expenditures	6,871,926.93	26,043,058.26	26,043,058.26

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 UNDER THE LOAN 8943-BY DATED 26 APRIL 2019 GRANTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
 THE PROJECT IS FINANCED

THE PROJECT IS MANAGED BY
 SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGICAL INSTITUTION "NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION"
 OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

ALL AMOUNTS ARE IN EUROS

	From 01.01.2022 to 14.09.2022	From the beginning of the project	Total
Interest earned	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Closing Cash Balances per Bank Statements</i>			
Designated account - Project funds	31,181.01	31,181.01	31,181.01
Transit account - Project funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
Funds in transit	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total closing Cash Balances	31,181.01	31,181.01	31,181.01
Calculated account closing balance	31,181.01	31,181.01	31,181.01


 Deputy Director -

Head of Investment Projects Managements
 D.G. Shalaho


 Head of Finance and Disbursement

Department
 O.A. Dubrovina

14 September 2022
 Minsk, Belarus

Uses of Funds Statement

Project component/ Subcomponent/Activity	Total Amount per procurement plan	Reporting period (01.01.2022 - 14.09.2022)	Cumulative to date	Amount payable at the reporting date	Total payments still to be made
Component 1:					
Rehabilitation of selected General Secondary Education Institutions	54,140,000.00	4,204,473.54	13,003,988.30	0.00	41,136,011.70
Provision of, inter alia, educational equipment (including physics, chemistry, biology, and information technology) to the above mentioned selected General Secondary Education Institutions.	5,764,000.00	1,009,005.64	1,039,386.20	0.00	4,724,613.80
Piloting Secondary Education Institutions as centers providing social and cultural services to communities in the Borrower's Vitebsk oblast, including carrying out the Rehabilitation of such Institutions	11,939,000.00	1,193,953.36	10,375,206.73	0.00	1,563,793.27
Piloting centers of innovative teaching and learning in General Secondary Institutions in the Borrower's oblast of Mogilev, including carrying out the Rehabilitation of such Institutions	9,027,000.00	0.00	11,974.37	0.00	9,015,025.63
Carrying out of a study on quality of learning environments in selected General Secondary Education Institutions using OECD tools	400,000.00	33,103.70	67,992.39	0.00	332,007.61
Total Component 1	81,270,000.00	6,440,536.24	24,498,547.99	0.00	56,771,452.01
Component 2:					
Strengthening of the Borrower's national assessment system of students in General Secondary Education	1,300,000.00	0.00	17,943.84	0.00	1,282,056.16
Provision of support for the Borrower's participation in PISA, including 2018 and 2021 including the related studies to assess students computer and financial literacy in 2021	1,400,000.00	17,287.29	213,522.61	0.00	1,186,477.39
Carrying out of extended research on education quality based on the PISA 2018 and 2021 results. Developing recommendations to improve educational quality in the context of human capital development, including provision of support to analyze and interpret results of international comparative studies in education	450,000.00	0.00	63,459.17	0.00	386,540.83
Strengthening of the Borrower's education management information system	2,250,000.00	3,666.00	10,543.65	0.00	2,239,456.35

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THE PROJECT IS FINANCED

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Project component/ Subcomponent/Activity	Total Amount per procurement plan	Reporting period (01.01.2022 - 14.09.2022)	Cumulative to date	Amount payable at the reporting date	Total payments still to be made
Carrying out of Training of managerial staff and education professionals at rayon, oblast, and national levels of the General Secondary Education system on different topics of educational modernization, including international educational visits	1,300,000.00	219,497.95	252,779.19	0.00	1,047,220.81
Total Component 2	6,700,000.00	240,451.24	558,248.46	0.00	6,141,751.54
Component 3:					
Front-end Fee	225,000.00	0.00	225,000.00	0.00	0.00
The provision of support (including consultants' services and Training) for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Project, including the carrying out of the Project audits	1,805,000.00	190,939.45	761,261.81	0.00	1,043,738.19
Total Component 3	2,030,000.00	190,939.45	986,261.81	0.00	1,043,738.19
Total Project Expenditure	90,000,000.00	6,871,926.93	26,043,058.26	0.00	63,956,941.74



Deputy Director -

Head of Investment Projects Managements

D.G. Shaluh



Head of Finance and Disbursement

Department

O.A. Dubrovina

14 September 2022
Minsk, Belarus

Designated Account Statement

Opening balance at 01.01.2022	413,868.67	
Advance of Project funds during the period	3,000,000.00	
Amount of eligible expenditures paid during the present period	191,547.08	
Amount of funds transferred to the transit account	3,191,140.58	
Refund to IBRD from DA during the period	0.00	
Interest earned	0.00	
Service charges	0.00	
Differences arising in the reporting period	0.00	
Calculated DA closing balance		31,181.01
DA closing balance as at carried forward to next period - per bank statements	31,181.01	



Deputy Director -
Head of Investment Projects Managements
D.G. Shaluh

14 September 2022
Minsk, Belarus



Head of Finance and Disbursement
Department
O.A. Dubrovina

Transit Account Statement

Opening balance at the beginning of the reporting period, including	0.00
Project funds	0.00
Advance from DA during the period	3,191,140.58
Amount of eligible expenditures paid during the present period	3,191,140.58
Opening balance at the beginning of the reporting period, including	0.00
Refunds	0.00
Interest earned	0.00
Service charges	0.00
Differences arising in the reporting period	0.00
Calculated closing balance	0.00
DA closing balance as at carried forward to next period - per bank statements, including	0.00
Project funds	0.00
Interest earned	0.00



Deputy Director -
Head of Investment Projects Managements
D.G. Shalaho



Head of Finance and Disbursement
Department
O.A. Dubrovina

14 September 2022
Minsk, Belarus

SOE Withdrawal Schedule

No.	Application №	Component 1:	Component 2:	Component 3:	Total
1	22 (SOE 8)	2,483,374.02	48,397.18	45,850.79	2,577,621.99
2	48 (SOE 9)	467,922.95	192,054.06	83,863.19	743,840.20
3	49 (SOE 10)	0.00	0.00	15,506.60	15,506.60
4	50 (SOE 11)	0.00	0.00	45,718.87	45,718.87
Total		2,951,296.97	240,451.24	190,939.45	3,382,687.66



Deputy Director -
Head of Investment Projects Managements
D.G. Shaluho

14 September 2022
Minsk, Belarus



Head of Finance and Disbursement
Department
O.A. Dubrovina

Notes to the financial statements on the Project

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Project consists of three interrelated components.

Component 1. Ensuring a quality learning environment in schools receiving students from closed/reorganized schools (equivalent to 81.270 million Euros).

Subcomponent 1.1. Rehabilitation of selected General Secondary Education Institutions (equivalent to 54.140 million Euros).

Subcomponent 1.2. Provision of, inter alia, educational equipment (including physics, chemistry, biology, and information technology) to the above mentioned selected General Secondary Education Institutions (equivalent to 5,764 million Euros).

Subcomponent 1.3. Piloting Secondary Education Institutions as centers providing social and cultural services to communities in the Borrower's Vitebsk oblast, including carrying out the Rehabilitation of such Institutions (equivalent to 11.939 million Euros).

Subcomponent 1.4. Piloting centers of innovative teaching and learning in General Secondary Institutions in the Borrower's oblast of Mogilev, including carrying out the Rehabilitation of such Institutions (equivalent to 9.027 million Euros).

Subcomponent 1.5. Carrying out of a study on quality of learning environments in selected General Secondary Education Institutions using OECD tools (equivalent 0.4 million Euros).

Component 2. Modernization of system management in general secondary education (equivalent to 6.7 million Euros).

Subcomponent 2.1. Strengthening of the Borrower's national assessment system of students in General Secondary Education (equivalent to 1.3 million Euros).

Subcomponent 2.2. Provision of support for the Borrower's participation in PISA, including 2018 and 2021 including the related studies to assess students computer and financial literacy in 2021 (equivalent to 1.4 million Euros).

Subcomponent 2.3. Carrying out of extended research on education quality based on the PISA 2018 and 2021 results. Developing recommendations to improve educational quality in the context of human capital development, including provision of support to analyze and interpret results of international comparative studies in education (equivalent to 0.45 million Euros).

Subcomponent 2.4. Strengthening of the Borrower's education management information system (equivalent to 2.25 million Euros).

Subcomponent 2.5. Carrying out of Training of managerial staff and education professionals at rayon, oblast, and national levels of the General Secondary Education system on different topics of educational modernization, including international educational visits (equivalent to 1.3 million Euros).

Component 3. Project implementation support (equivalent to 2.03 million Euros).

Subcomponent 3.1. Front-end Fee (equivalent to 0.225 Euros).

Subcomponent 3.2. The provision of support (including consultants' services and Training) for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Project, including the carrying out of the Project audits (equivalent to 1.805 million Euros).

The total amount of payments for the period under review does not exceed 6.872 million Euros.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Fundamental accounting principles - these special-purpose financial statements on the Project are prepared under the cash method of accounting which complies with the requirements of International Accounting Standards developed by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board of the International Federation of Accountants.

The Project financing is deemed to be a source of the Project funds at the moment of receipt of funds. The Project costs are deemed to be an application of the Project's funds at the moment of payment.

Foreign currency transactions - these special-purpose financial statements are prepared in Euros. Transactions in other currencies are translated in Euros at the actual exchange rate for selling Euros for recording the expenditures.

The accounting records of Scientific Methodological Institution "National Institute of Education" of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus comprise the basis for preparation of the financial statements. Accounting of transactions on the Project is kept apart from accounting of funds from other sources of financing of the Scientific Methodological Institution "National Institute of Education" of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus.

PROJECT ACCOUNTS

Project accounts are opened in "Belinvestbank" JSC which complies with the requirements of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

a) Project account in foreign currency (specially designated account for loan):

Specially designated account of the Project BY79BLBB36200190374888001003 is opened in Euros.

Balance of the specially designated account as at the end of the reporting period amounts to 31,181.01 Euros.

b) Project account in BYN (transit account):

Project account in BYN BY52BLBB36200190374888001004 is opened for settlements with local consultants and suppliers of goods, works, services. It receives funds after US dollars conversion from specially designated account into BYN.

Balance of the transit account in BYN at the end of the reporting period amounts to 0.00 Euros.