

In need of qualified personnel

Amendments to employment policy are planned. The country has plenty of jobs available



Despite tough times of crisis, Belarus manages to ensure employment and social protection for its citizens

By Yevgeny Kulirovich

At present, there are more advertisements on the metro promoting new jobs than goods and services! In fact, there are just 33,000 unemployed registered countrywide at the moment, compared to 48,000 vacancies. In many cases, employers are ready to pay good wages, offering social guarantees, pleasant

working conditions and a chance of a real career. Naturally, small towns and villages have fewer jobs available.

In the most complicated period of the crisis, Belarus managed to ensure employment and social protection for its population. At present, the level of unemployment among these eligible for work stands at 0.7 percent, compared to 7.5 percent in

Germany and 7.9 percent in the UK. In Russia, the figure stands at 9.2 percent, while being 9.4 percent in Poland and 13 percent in Lithuania. PM Mikhail Myasnikov recently stressed, at a governmental meeting, that no mass dismissals or raised unemployment are expected in Belarus in the coming days.

Naturally, it makes no sense to employ everyone in factories; it's

unprofitable for the state, society and employees. For the coming five years, the target is to raise labour productivity 1.6-fold, without reducing the number of staff. "While encouraging innovative modernisation, the state must ensure employment of its citizens and their involvement in highly productive labour," Mr. Myasnikov noted. "We are speaking of the creation of one mil-

lion jobs, with each person adding value of \$60,000 (under the parity of purchasing power). In Belarus, this figure is now 2.45 times lower than the EU average. We should reach Poland's level by 2015."

This year, 175,000 new jobs are to be created, with focus placed on raising the qualification and re-training of staff, supporting innovative development and remedying the current lack of highly qualified employees. The state is to aid the unemployed in setting up their own businesses, in the field of services, agro-ecotourism and crafts. Those who have lost jobs as a result of their company's modernisation and have been re-trained are to receive increased allowances. In turn, those firms organising training for their personnel (under threat of dismissal) will receive funding from the employment fund.

The changing labour market has brought new professions into demand, with integrated construction-related professions especially required. Meanwhile, 2.5 times fewer people are to be trained for jobs less in demand — such as secretaries.

In all, 27 small towns are receiving extra help, with the districts of Luninets, Stolin, Pinsk, Mozyr, Zhitkovichi, Petrikov and Narovlya receiving special attention from the 2011-2015 Programme for Prip'yat Polesie Development.

Branch launches new assembly line

By Eduard Pimenov

First Belkommunmash trolley bus assembled in Russian Kursk

Belarusian vehicles are being assembled in line with an agreement on trade-economic, sci-tech and cultural co-operation, signed between the Belarusian Government and the Administration of the Kursk Region. A corresponding contract was signed in 2010, between Belkommunmash and Kurskenergotrans enterprise, to develop the agreement.

The Belarusian trolley bus assembly line is being launched at Kurskenergotrans' trolley bus depot, with Belkommunmash supplying vehicle sets to Kursk. There, they are to be assembled, with several Russian-made components added. This year, around 40 Belarusian trolley buses should be assembled in Kursk, with vehicles then sold to other Russian cities.

At present, Belarusian trolley buses are seen on the streets of almost 50 CIS and non-CIS regions, with Minsk trolley buses operational throughout Russia: from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok. Belkommunmash's urban electric transport also enjoys popularity in Ukraine, Mongolia, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Moldova and Bulgaria.

Each site has its own address

Automated information system of addresses of state land cadastre created for Belarus

The register of addresses should promote the further development of efficient institutes of property management in the country, while enhancing the reliability of its markets and creating conditions necessary for efficient taxation. Moreover, legal guarantees relating to possession and use of

property, including housing, will be developed.

The system has been elaborated in line with the 2007-2010 state innovation development programme, launched in 2008 and now having undergone acceptance tests. The experience of 80 countries was analysed to design the system, integrating information resources of state importance, and ensuring transparency and efficiency of state services while minimising bureaucratic procedures.

The register contains the addresses of developed

land plots, permanent structures and isolated buildings, with over 2.7m addresses downloaded into the database; including their geographical location. The State Property Committee of Belarus explains that the address system was established in Belarus even before the implementation of this project, but lacked a unified list. The new system will be of great use to various state bodies.

Of course, some sites, located outside cities and towns, lack an exact address, having existed outside a particular state body responsible for addressing methodology. Now, even these sites will gain an address. Naturally, the register will be constantly updated.



Register of state land cadastre updated continually

Easy path for light oil

Belarusian Oil Company and Ukrtransnafta sign agreement on oil transportation services

The document, signed in Kiev, guarantees transportation of 4m tonnes of light oil annually to Mozyr Oil Refinery by Ukraine's oil-transportation system, via

the Odessa-Brody pipeline. The agreement is to run for two years, with the option of renewal by mutual agreement.

The signing follows a successful trial delivery of 80,000 tonnes of oil via the Odessa-Brody pipeline in November 2010.

The route is clearly economically feasible. Ukraine's trunk pipelines are ready to pump oil to Belarus, while preserving the reliable and fail-safe transit of Russian oil to the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary (in line with contractual obligations).

Impressive scale of intentions

China to allocate around \$300m for investment projects in Belarusian light industry

A memorandum has been signed between Bellegprom Concern and China Zhongyuan Engineering Corporation (CZEC) regarding the construction, reconstruction, equipment and launch of production capacities at four domestic enterprises. It envisages the construction of a new building at Kamvol JSC to manufacture worsted cloth at the highest technical level, meeting the world's best standards. This is set to cost \$114m.

Minsk's Luch JSC (a footwear factory) is to move to the capital's industrial zone, in line with the general development plan for the Belarusian capital. Footwear made under the famous trademark (around 3m pairs per annum) is to be produced in a new building, with the project costing \$41m. The Light Industry Centre of Belarus is also being constructed by the Chinese company on this site, requiring \$50m. Meanwhile, contemporary fur facilities are planned, with a fur farm built on the premises of Vitebsk's Fur Factory, costing around \$70m.

China's Zhongyuan Engineering Corporation is to act as the general contractor for each project, performing all necessary works and services. They will construct all buildings and find and select appropriate suppliers of equipment and technologies, while installing equipment, training personnel and giving 'turn-key' facilities to Bellegprom.