

Politics, protests and minorities: insights from Belarus

6 May 2025, 16:00–17:30 CET
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano
Universitätsplatz 1 – piazza Università, 1
39100 Bolzano/Bozen – Room D1.02



Belarus is a country still largely unknown to much of the world. But beyond its authoritarian regime and alliance with Russia, what lies beneath the surface? Did you know that 2020 marked a pivotal moment for Belarus? While the world grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, Belarus was engulfed in mass protests against fraudulent election results. These protests were met with severe police brutality and widespread violence to uphold the dictatorship. The brief period of liberalization was then swiftly crushed by the authoritarian regime, undoing any progress made by businesses, NGOs and civil society before 2020. The following persecutions and imprisonments led to a significant exodus. In her presentation, Dr. Vasilevich will provide insights on Belarus and its politics, exploring the consequences of these mass protests and the impact of the repressive regime on civil society and the fate of national minorities in particular.

Hanna Vasilevich (Ph.D. in International Relations and European Studies, Metropolitan University Prague) is currently a visiting scholar at the Eurac Research Institute for Minority Rights. Originally from Belarus, she was senior researcher at the International Centre for Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity Studies, Prague, Czechia, and taught at several Czech and German Universities. From 2012-2017, she worked at the European Centre for Minority Issues where she was responsible for the implementation of the ECMI Eastern Partnership Programme. She was a visiting research fellow at Queen's University Belfast and the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Since 2019, she has collaborated with the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology as a Member of the CURED project. She also provided her expertise within several projects commissioned, inter alia, by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Minority Rights Group Europe.



Hanna Vasilevich
Institute for Minority Rights
Eurac Research

Speaker

The event will be held in English without interpretation.

The event is organized by the Eurac Research Institute for Minority Rights in collaboration with the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano and Antenna, an association that promotes peaceful relations in majority/minority contexts.

Info and contact

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