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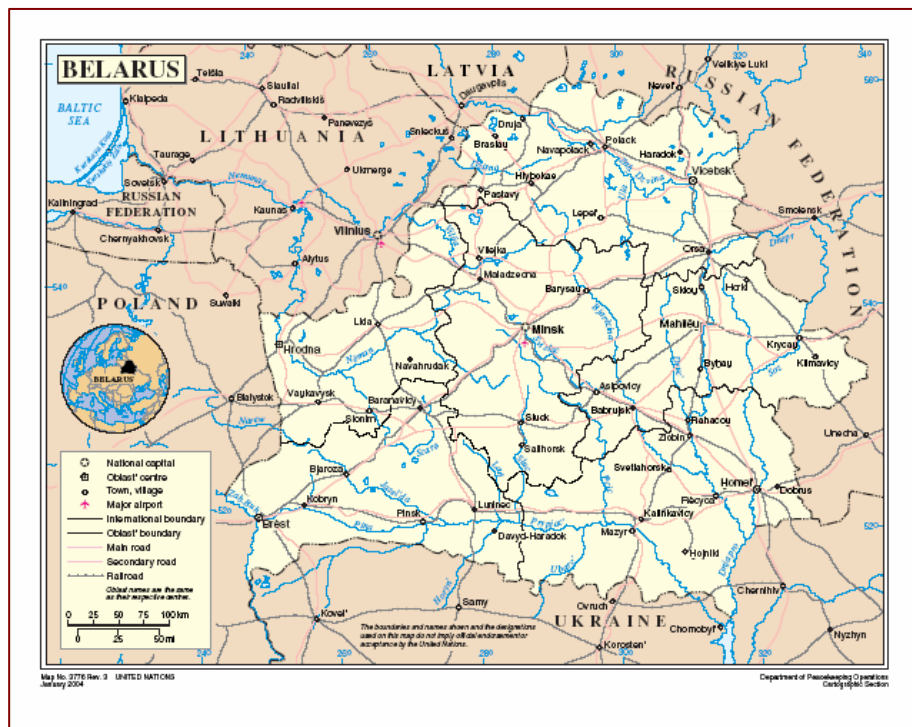
BSR INTERREG III B project

“Promoting Spatial Development by Creating COMon MINdscapes”



Republic of Belarus

I. Constitution, government, and administration of Belarus



Historically, the country was referred to in English as "White Russia" (translating the Latin Ruthenia Alba); the practice continues to this day in other languages.

The first known use of "White Russia" to refer to Belarus was in the late 16th century by Englishman Jerome Horsey. He used the term to describe the areas of Ivan the Terrible's empire.

During the 17th century the Russian tsars used "White Rus", asserting that they were trying to recapture their heritage from the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. After the Commonwealth broke up, the lands that now make up Belarus were officially referred to as "Belarus" and "Belarusi", instead of the then-banned terms of "Litwa" and "Licwiny".

Nowadays, the Republic of Belarus is situated in the centre of Europe. The area of the country is 207,6 ths.km², population – 9,849 mln.inh. (01.01.2004). The population of the capital of Belarus - Minsk City is about one fifth of the country population.

The state languages are Belarusian and Russian.

II. Constitution, government, and administration of Belarus

1. Constitutional System

1.1. General description and key data of the constitutional system

Republic of Belarus is an independent state since 1991. In 1994 Belarus became a presidential republic. The Republic of Belarus is a unitary, democratic, social state based on the rule of law. The Republic of Belarus is bound by the principle of supremacy of law.

Belarus admits the priority of generally acknowledged principles of international law and assure the conformity of legislation with them.

The State and all the bodies and officials thereof operate within the confines of the Constitution and the laws enacted in accordance therewith.

The Republic exercises supreme control and absolute authority over the whole of its territory, and implements an independent internal and foreign policy.

The Republic of Belarus defends its independence and territorial integrity, its constitutional system, and safeguard legality and law and order.

The only source of state power and bearer of sovereignty in Belarus is the people. The people can exercise their power directly, through elected representatives and other institutions within limits defined by the Constitution.

The individual, his rights, freedoms and guarantees for their implementation is the supreme value and objective of the society and state. The state is responsible to its citizens for providing opportunities for free development. The citizen is responsible to the state for adequately performing his constitutional duties.

Any actions to change the constitutional order and achieve power by forceful means, or by otherwise violating the laws of the Republic of Belarus is punishable by law.

Protecting the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Belarus is the ultimate goal of the state. Everybody has the right to a decent standard of living, including the right to adequate nutrition, clothing, housing and the right to the constant improvement of conditions necessary for the provision of such rights.

The state guarantees the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Belarus, stated by the constitution, laws and other international commitments of the state.

Everyone is equal before the law, and has the right to equal protection of their legitimate rights and interests, with no exemption or discrimination.

1.2. History of the constitutional system

On the territory of the modern Belarus existed several legal documents which could be considered as a constitution. Particularly, since 1588 had been acted "Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania". It was a standard for many foreign countries.

The Statute of the Grand of Lithuania underwent three editions.

The third revision of Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was a well known European legal code. It has been studied in most European countries as a fine example of legal technique of that time. The above mentioned document pretended to be the "first Constitution in Europe". It was acting up to the moment of Belarus' adjunction to Russia in 1795.

After the soviet governance setting and proclamation of Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic (BSSR) in 1919 the first Constitution of BSSR was enacted. Its main features were: allocation of the power for the Councils, workers as the dictatorship of the proletariat; disfranchisement of some particular groups, etc.

In 1922 Belarus joined the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR).

Since that time several amendments of the Constitution were made in 1927, 1937, 1978. All of them were based on the relevant Constitutions of USSR.

Until the moment of secession from the USSR the Constitution of BSSR enacted in 1978 had the power. It confirmed the building of the "developed socialism". The articles on referendum and the sovereignty were stated there for the first time. However, the priority was given to the Supreme Council as the highest body of legislature which is considered over the other state organs. However, the first attempts towards division of powers between the legislature, executive and judiciary and principles formation of constitutional state and sovereignty of Belarus were made.

The Republic of Belarus emerged as a sovereign and independent state as a result of the break-up of the Soviet Union. In 1990, the Supreme Council of BSSR adopted a Declaration of Independence. Following the failed military coup in Moscow in August 1991, the Declaration received the status of a Constitutional Law, which, from a legal prospective, made Belarus an independent state, while still part of the USSR. Only after the signing the declaration on creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in 1991, which legally recognized the demise of the Soviet Union, Belarus become an independent state de facto.

In 1994, the Parliament of Belarus enacted a new Constitution, which proclaimed Belarus a sovereign, democratic, socially oriented and law abiding state. This constitutional definition incorporated to the fullest the principle of sovereignty, manifesting in the ability and responsibility of the state to conduct its own domestic and foreign policies and protect its independence and territorial integrity.

The Constitution of Belarus confirms the orientation of the state for key global values. The state considers the rights and freedoms of every individual its ultimate value and securing those rights its ultimate objective. This applies mainly to the basic rights, such as the right to live and the protection of life, the right to a decent standard of living and level of social support, the right to medical assistance, the right to work, housing, social support, property and personal safety, along with the right to participate in elections and in making decisions on matters of the state. All citizens of Belarus have equal rights to run for Parliament and local legislatures and to participate in elections, all are declared equal before the law and have the right to the protection of their legitimate right or interests with no exemption or discrimination.

The institution of the Presidency was established for the first time. The President became the Head of the state and the head of the executive power. The Government incurred double liability and obeyed to the President and the Parliament.

However, according to the Constitution the Supreme Council still was the highest representative continuing body and single legislative body of the state power in the Republic of Belarus. It has the right to pass laws, adopt and change the Constitution. It could determine, assign and change credentials of any other bodies. In fact it had unlimited authority on decision making on any issues.

Contradictory to the basic principle of division of powers and their independency the Supreme Council was considered as a body which had power over executive branch.

Thus, necessity of the constitutional reform was stipulated by impartial factors.

At the same time, in 1994, the institution of constitutional control was established.

Thus, the constitutional reform 1996 through the national referendum of 1996 enforced balance in authority between branches of power, assign the functions of the Head of the state on the President, establish two-chamber Parliament (House of Representatives and Council of the Republic) instead of the Supreme Council; strengthened the role of the Government – the Council of Ministers within the system of power branches and its responsibility for economic, social and cultural development to consolidate, its influence in administrative-political sphere. In that way the most essentially amendments were made to the chapter dedicated organization and responsibilities of the highest authorities – President, Parliament, Government and courts. Legislative power is not privileged any more. Restructurisation of the Supreme Council and establishment of the Belarusian Parliament – National Assembly signified a definitive rejection from the soviet model of the state structure towards avowed standards of parliamentarism. Adoption of the Constitution in 1996 laid the legal foundation for dynamic development of the society, efficient functioning of branches of power (legislative, executive and judicial).

Last amendment of the current Constitution was made in 2004 through the national referendum. The limitation for the Precedence terms was cancelled.

1.3. Main specifics of the constitutional system

The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus is the Fundamental Law of the state, having supreme legal force. Laws of the Republic of Belarus, decrees and ordinances of the President, and other acts of state bodies (officials) are adopted and enacted in compliance with the Constitution.

Where there is a discrepancy between a law, decree or ordinance and the Constitution, the Constitution applies. Where there is a discrepancy between a decree or ordinance and a law, the law applies when the powers for the promulgation of the decree or ordinance were provided by the law.

The issue of amending and supplementing the Constitution is to be considered by the chambers of the Parliament on the initiative of the President or of no fewer than 150,000 citizens of the Republic of Belarus who are eligible to vote.

A law on amending and supplementing the Constitution may be adopted after it has been debated and approved twice by both chambers of the Parliament with at least a three months' interval.

The Constitution can not be amended or supplemented by the Parliament during a state of emergency or the last six months of the term of the House of Representatives.

The Constitution, laws on amendments and addenda thereto, on the entry into force of the said laws and instruments on the interpretation of the Constitution is to be deemed to have been adopted where no less than two-thirds of the elected deputies of both chambers of the Parliament have voted in favour of them.

The Constitution may be amended or supplemented via a referendum. A decision to amend or supplement the Constitution by means of a referendum shall be deemed adopted where a majority of citizens on the electoral roll have voted in favour of it.

Democracy in the Republic of Belarus is to be exercised on the basis of diversity of political institutions, ideologies and views. The ideology of political parties, religious or other public associations, social groups may not be made mandatory for citizens.

Political parties and other public associations acting within the framework of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Belarus, contribute towards ascertaining and expressing the political will of the citizens and participate in elections.

According to the Constitution the system of the state power bodies include:

- President of the Republic of Belarus (the head of the state)
- Parliament - the National Assembly.
- The Government - the Council of Ministers.
- The Courts.
- The Procurator's office.
- The state supervisory committee.
- Local governments and self- governments.

1.4. Fundamental principles of the political and the administrative system

Fundamental principles of political and administrative systems are:

- subordination of the state to the law, e.g. supremacy of law;
- acknowledgment and secure citizens' rights;
- division of powers between the legislature, executive and judiciary;
- political pluralism;
- civil society existence.

There is also a principle of double liability of the Government to the President and to the Parliament. The President is empowered to abolish acts of the Government and to issue decrees and orders on the basis and in accordance with the Constitution which are mandatory in the territory of Belarus. In instances determined by the Constitution, the President can issue decrees which have the force of law.

The President has vast authorities to appoint and to dismiss key officials in the country, in particular to appoint the Prime minister; to determine the structure of the Government, to appoint and dismiss ministers and other members of the Government. The President also appoints the chairperson of Constitutional, Supreme and Economic Courts and the Procurator-General.

1.5. Division and interrelation of the political and the administrative system

State power in Belarus is exercised on the principle of division of powers between the legislature, executive and judiciary. State bodies within the confines of their powers, are independent: they co-operate among themselves acting on the principle of checks and balances.

The head of the state

President of the Republic of Belarus

The President holds his special place within the state mechanism and the system of power division because he is independent (elected by citizens), he does not belong to any of branches of power and does not incur political liability before them.

Representative and legislative power in the Republic of Belarus

National Assembly - Parliament

The Parliament consists of two chambers - the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic.

Executive power in the Republic of Belarus

- Government - the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus - the central body of state administration.
- Presidium of the Council of Ministers
- Ministries
- Committees
- State Committees

The main function of executive power is to facilitate an execution of laws, enacted by the legislative power.

The President and the Government govern the system of subordinated bodies of public administration and other bodies of executive power; assure execution of the Constitution and laws; fulfil other functions charged by the Constitution and laws.

Judicial power in the Republic of Belarus

Constitutional Court

Supreme Court

Supreme Economic Court

Judicial Power is a system of independent public courts which on behalf of the state execute justice and dispose of accrued disputes and conflicts in a way of judicial proceedings. The role of judicial power in the mechanism of powers' division is to control two others branches of power within the framework of constitution, first of all, in a way of constitutional supervision and juridical control.

In Belarus there are two levels of state governance: national and local. The local level has three sublevels: regional, basic and primary.

So, the first tier of local governance (Primary sublevel), can be considered as "*municipal level*", and includes villages, townships, towns of district subordination and municipal (city) districts.

The second tier (Basic sublevel), can be considered as "*district level*", includes administrative districts and cities of regional subordination, while the third tier (Regional sublevel) is composed of regions (oblasts) and Minsk, the capital city.

The Law "On the Administrative-territorial Division and Procedures for Resolving Issues of the Administrative-territorial Organization of the Republic of Belarus" (1998) refers to "administrative-territorial units" that have local councils, their own budget, et cetera. These include regions, districts, villages, cities and towns. Municipal districts are not distinguished as independent administrative-territorial units, as they do not elect councils or possess a budget; however, the city executive committee establishes a "local administration," whose competence is defined by the Law "On Local Government and Self-Governance" (The Law on Local Government).

Cities of regional or district subordination and towns may have the status of either an administrative-territorial or territorial unit.

"Territorial units" represent a third category, comprised of territories operating under a

special regime, such as reserves, national parks and other natural assets, or inhabited localities where subdivisions of the higher-level local government function instead of local councils or local executive and administrative bodies.

The Law "On Local Government and Self- Governance" also provides general economic and social criteria for the towns and cities of regional or district subordination.

A city of regional subordination is defined as an inhabited locality with a population greater than fifty thousand inhabitants which is also an administrative, economic and cultural center with a developed industrial and social infrastructure.

A city of district subordination is an inhabited locality with a population of over six thousand inhabitants which has industrial enterprises and a network of social, cultural and service facilities.

A town is a settlement with a population of at least two thousand people which has industrial and communal enterprises, social and cultural facilities, retail trading outlets, public catering and public service facilities.

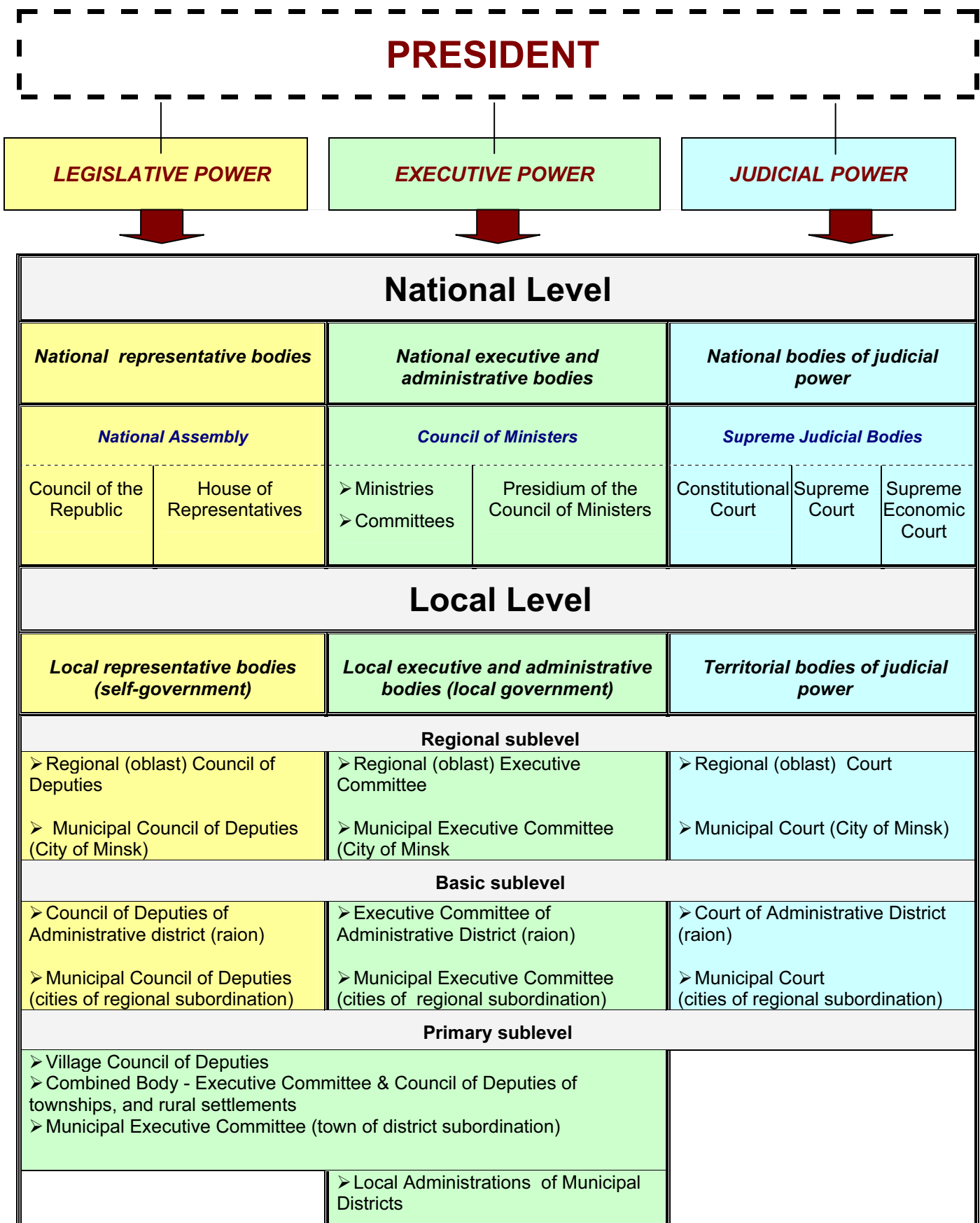


Figure 1. Structure of the State

2. Political system

2.1. General description, history and key data of the political system

Political system is a complex of state, political and public bodies and organizations participating in the political life of the country.

Political structure of Belarus mainly was formed during the USSR period. In 1917 the prevalence of the Soviet Power was proclaimed. In 1919 the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic (BSSR) was established. In 1922 it was affiliated to the USSR.

There was one-party system. The Communist party was the only one existed. Communist party of the USSR (CPSU) was the highest form of public-political organization, the core of the political system, governing the society. Theoretical base of CPSU was Marxism- Leninism.

After USSR collapse different actors like political parties, NGOs, public associations, movements of opposition had appeared. The procedure of establishment and work of political parties and NGOs, other civil society organizations and associations is regulated by the Law "On Political Parties" (1994), "On non-governmental organizations" (1994), others. In 1994 Belarus became a presidential republic according to the Constitution approved.

Now in Belarus 17 political parties, 2246 NGOs and public associations, 39 trade unions are officially registered (1.09.2006). According to the public opinion poll the highest rating is supposed to have Belarusian women's party, but only 9,2 % of respondents support this party, 6,3% has the Communist party of Belarus, agrarian party – 4,7%. The rating of other from 17 registered parties is within the range 0,7 - 3,5 %.

Political parties and other public associations acting within the framework of the Constitution and laws contribute towards ascertaining and expressing the political will of the citizens and participate in elections.

Only the citizens of Belarus can be founders of political parties. It is necessary to have 1000 members to establish a political party. They are organized according to the principle of territorial belonging in the same way as it is in other countries.

Judges; officers of prosecutor's office, KGB, the state supervisory committee; the military can not be members of political party. All parties must be officially registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus.

In fact, currently, political parties have no real impact upon local government activities and do not participate in the political process at the local level. This is due to the low profile role that self-government plays in the modern social, political and economic system as well as the system of public authority in Belarus.

Public associations and NGOs are established to express interests and requests of citizens which are not related to political sphere. They are non-profitable organizations and participation in the political life is not the main goal of their activity. The activity is focused on formation and expression of interests of some groups and layers of the population. Three groups of public associations are possible to be established in Belarus: international, republican and local. The state can render a financial assistance to public associations. At the same time state tax bodies control financial activity of public associations. Although some NGOs are involved in the development of self-government and local democracy, they are very few.

The creation and activities of political parties and other public associations that aim to change the constitutional system by force, or conduct a propaganda of war, social, ethnic, religious and racial hatred, is prohibited.

Public participation

According to the Constitution citizens of the Republic of Belarus have the right to participate in the solution of state matters, both directly and through freely elected representatives.

The direct participation of citizens in the administration of the affairs of society and the state is to be safeguarded by the holding of referenda, the discussion of draft laws and issues of national and local significance, and by other means specified by legislation.

Citizens have the right to vote freely and to be elected to state bodies on the basis of universal, equal, direct or indirect suffrage by secret ballot.

According to the Constitution, citizens exercise their right to local government and self-government through local councils, executive bodies, organizations of community self-government, local referenda, meetings and other forms of direct participation in public affairs.

The system of the local self-government introduced by the Law "On Local Government and Self-governance" includes several forms of public activity, in addition to government bodies. Citizen participation is promoted by involving existing entities as well as by creating new ones. In practice, Belarus has numerous forms of community self-government, such as committees established in neighborhoods, village committees, street and house committees, elders in the rural localities and even elders in apartment blocks. The above mentioned law stipulates procedures for the establishment and activities of community organizations of self-government in city neighborhoods and villages. These bodies are elected by assemblies of residents, which also approve the organizational charters to be registered with the local executive committee. Major provisions to be included in the charters are specified by the Law on the Local Government, primarily relating to their mandates, their territorial jurisdiction and participation by residents in the organization's activities. The term of office for these community organizations should not exceed that of the local council. Community organizations have the right to submit proposals on all activities by local authorities and participate in the subsequent discussion of those issues. (Developing New Rules in the Old Environment. Local Government in Belarus, M. Kobasa, A. Karamyshev, V. Dritz)

Citizen Legislative Initiatives

The Law on Local Government featured provision on legislative initiatives by citizens on issues of local importance. However, the law did not stipulate procedures for realizing this form of direct democracy, instead leaving this matter to local councils. Citizens may submit draft decisions to the local council on issues of local importance. These drafts must be reviewed in an open council session with representatives of the population present, and the results of the review are subsequently publicized in the local media.

To date, local councils have not defined procedures for exercising legislative initiatives and no such practices are in place. This situation reflects both conservatism and passivity on the part of local authorities and the lack of capacity among citizens for legislative work. (Developing New Rules in the Old Environment. Local Government in Belarus, M. Kobasa, A. Karamyshev, V. Dritz)

Forms of Public Participation

Other forms of participation in local affairs have also been legally established. For instance, local inhabitants may initiate proceedings to dismiss council members who have failed their trust or discredited their position. A special section of the Electoral Code

addresses this issue. Grounds for dismissing council members include the violation of the Constitution or legislation and actions which discredit their dignity and position. To begin the proceedings, an initiative group appeals to the council chairman and requests that a meeting of voters in the particular electoral district be convened to resolve the issue. While citizens may dispute the refusal to convene such a meeting in court, they do not possess the right to convene the meeting independently. Council members are guaranteed the right to be present and defend themselves at the meeting. In addition, this issue may not be raised more than two times in one year. Other than these, there are no guarantees. To date, no council members have been dismissed in this manner.

It must also be mentioned that the Law "On Citizens' Appeals" (1996) grants citizens the right to submit proposals to various government bodies. This method of citizen participation is actively in use. In general, however, citizen appeals are more concerned with issues of everyday life, such as the improvement of housing conditions and capital repairs for housing. Topics raised also include the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities, the construction and functioning of mini-markets, etc. Since local authorities do not always display an adequate level of understanding for these concerns, citizens often feel that the only way to seek redress is by directly appealing to the president. (Developing New Rules in the Old Environment. Local Government in Belarus; M. Kobasa, A. Karamyshev, V. Dritz)

Local Referenda

The first Law on Referenda in Belarus was passed in 1991. In this law, referenda were conceived as a method of adopting an obligatory decision or consulting public opinion on important issues of local life. Referenda were not deemed to be mandatory for any specific issue. Certain issues were excluded from consideration by referenda; these included emergency measures for protecting public order, taxes, the budget and the appointment of local government officials.

The right to conduct referenda was subsequently established in the Constitution. Currently, the Electoral Code regulates referendum procedures, replacing the previous law on referenda. The Electoral Code, however, does not stipulate for a consultative referendum

Decisions on conducting a referendum fall under the exclusive competence of the local council. The local council may initiate a referendum through a council decision, whereas previously the support of only one-third of local council members was required. An initiative group of at least twenty local members (or as established by law) may initiate a district referendum. The composition of the group and the issue to be considered by referendum are registered with the executive committee, after the court gives its approval. The denial of registration may be appealed in court. Whereas signatures from five percent of the referendum's original supporters were previously required for a court appeal, this requirement has now been increased to ten percent.

Issues of national importance may not be decided by referendum, nor may issues related to the appointment or dismissal of officials within the competence of the local executive committee or its head.

Not one local referendum has been held in Belarus. (Developing New Rules in the Old Environment. Local Government in Belarus; M. Kobasa, A. Karamyshev, V. Dritz)

2.2. National level of the political system

2.2.1. Organs at national level. Their functions and tasks

The President of the Republic of Belarus

The President of the Republic of Belarus is the Head of State, the guarantor of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the rights and liberties of man and citizen.

The President personifies the unity of the nation, the implementation of the main guidelines of the domestic and foreign policy, represents the State in the relations with other states and international organizations.

The President provides the protection of the sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus, its national security and territorial integrity, ensures its political and economic stability, continuity and interaction of bodies of state power, maintains the intermediation among the bodies of state power. He acts as an arbiter between different political forces, that facilitates resolution of disputes between them. The President does not belong to any of political parties.

The President can issue decrees and orders on the basis and in accordance with the Constitution which are mandatory in the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

In instances determined by the Constitution, the President can issue decrees which have the force of the law. The President ensures directly or through specially formed bodies the execution of the decrees, orders and instructions.

The President suspends his membership of political parties and other public associations that pursue political goals during the whole term in office.

The President is to be elected directly by the people of the Republic of Belarus for a term of office of 5 years by universal, free, equal, direct and secret ballot.

The President is to be deemed elected where over half the citizens of Belarus who took part in the poll voted for him.

Any citizen of the Republic of Belarus by birth at least 35 years of age who is eligible to vote and has been resident of the country for at least 10 years to the elections may be elected as President.

Parliament- the National Assembly

The Parliament - the National Assembly is representative and legislative body of the Republic of Belarus. The Parliament consists of two chambers - the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic.

The principal of self-organizing for National Assembly chambers is fixed in the Constitution. Each chamber defines the procedure of work within the framework of adopted order. Chambers have their sittings separately excluding special cases for joint sittings. There is no common body of Chambers. The only one temporary common body which can be created is conciliation commission formed on parity basis to negotiate controversion between chambers on bill disposed by the Council of the Republic.

The term of the Parliament is 4 years. The powers of the Parliament may be extended by law only in the event of a war.

The House of Representatives consists of 110 deputies. The election of deputies to the House of Representatives is to be carried out in accordance with the law on the basis of universal, equal, free, direct electoral suffrage and by secret ballot.

Any citizen of the Republic of Belarus who has reached the age of 21 may become a deputy of the House of Representatives.

A deputy of the House of Representatives exercise his/her power in the Parliament on a professional basis. A deputy of the House of Representatives may simultaneously be a member of the Government. (www.house.gov.by)

The *Council of the Republic* is a chamber of territorial representation. The Council of the Republic consists of 64 deputies. The procedure of forming the Council of the Republic combines elements of election and appointment. Eight members are appointed by the President and the remaining members are elected by secret vote: eight members are elected from each of the country's region and Minsk City at sessions of local Councils of Deputies of the basic level. Any citizen of Belarus who has reached the age of 30, and who has been resident on the territory of a corresponding region (oblast), or the city of Minsk no less than 5 years may become a member of the Council of the Republic. (www.sovrep.gov.by)

No person may be simultaneously a member of both chambers of the Parliament. A member of the House of Representatives may not be a member of a local Council of deputies. A member of the Council of the Republic may not be simultaneously a member of the Government. No person may exercise one's duties as a member of the House of Representatives, or member of the Council of the Republic and simultaneously hold the office of President or adjudge.

The powers of the House of Representatives or the Council of the Republic may be terminated prematurely to the order as determined by the Constitution. With the termination of the powers of the House of Representatives or the Council of the Republic, the President may take the decision to terminate the powers of the House of Representatives or the Council of the Republic consequently.

Courts

Constitutional Court of the Republic of Belarus

In Belarus institute of constitutional control has been established in 1994 on the grounds of the Constitution and the Law "On the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Belarus" (1994). Procedure of the activities of the Constitutional Court is specified by the Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Belarus adopted in 1997.

In accordance with Constitution the Constitutional Court is to be formed in composition of 12 judges from among high qualified specialists in the field of law who have, as a rule, scientific degree.

6 judges are to be appointed by the President and 6 judges are to be elected by the Council of the Republic of the Parliament. The Chairperson of the Constitutional Court is to be appointed from among the judges by the President with the consent of the Council of the Republic. The term of office of the judges - 11 years and under the law it is possible to be in office for a new term.

The key activities of the Constitutional Court are the issues concerning securing of the rights and freedoms of citizens enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and in international acts. Decisions of the Constitutional Court are directed to securing of the rights of citizens to judicial protection by way of appeal for the protection to the competent, independent and impartial court of law, the right to legal aid, equality of all forms of ownership, protection of the rights of subjects of entrepreneur activities as regards taxation, creation of equal conditions for legal entities of governmental and non-governmental forms of ownership, right to housing, freedom of movement and choice of place of residence, right to labour, right to education, right to public health protection etc.

The Constitutional Court exercises control over the constitutionality of the enforceable

enactments in the state. It institutes and examines cases on the recommendations of the President, and the Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Supreme Economic Court, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus. Moreover, in instances specified by the Constitution, the Constitutional Court with regard to the proposal of the President gives its conclusion on the presence of instances of systematic or flagrant violation of the Constitution by the Chambers of the Parliament.

Judgments and decisions of the Constitutional Court are final and subject to no appeal or protest. (www.ncpi.gov.by/ConstSud)

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus

The Supreme Court carries out justice and supervision of activity of general courts of the republic. It is the highest-tier court inside of Belarus and acts as the final "court of review." Its' general tasks include the oversight of lower-tier courts and can render justice in areas of general civil and criminal law. The judges to the Supreme Court are appointed by the president.

The law "About Court System and Judges Status in the Republic of Belarus" (1995) regulates activity of the Supreme Court and

- Regional Court
- Minsk Municipal Court
- Municipal District Court
- Court Martial

Court's powers:

- considering civil cases and sentencing;
- cases considering in cassation and surveillance order;
- re-considering of writs on newly opened circumstances;
- considering the questions connected with decrees execution;
- other.

The Supreme Economic Court of the Republic of Belarus. The Economic Courts of the Republic of Belarus

The Economic Courts in the Republic of Belarus are the bodies of court power and enforce justice in the field of economic relations.

The Economic Courts have been charged with the following tasks:

- protection of rights and law-guarded interests of organizations and citizens through enforcement of justice;
- correct and uniform application of legislation when enforcing justice;
- strengthening the law and prevention of offenses in the sphere of entrepreneurial and other economic activities.

The Economic Courts are state bodies and make a part of the court system of the Republic of Belarus. The Economic Courts are addressed by legal entities and individuals, including the foreign ones, and in certain cases by organizations who are not legal entities, for protection of their rights and law-guarded interests.

The Republic of Belarus has a united system of Economic Courts built on territorial principle. The system comprises 8 Economic Courts and is headed by the Supreme

Economic Court of the Republic of Belarus. The latter is responsible for fulfillment of tasks charged on Economic Courts, as well as for organization, status and improvement of operation of all Economic Courts of the Republic.(www.court.by).

2.3. Regional / Local level of the political system

2.3.1. Organs at regional level. Their functions and tasks

Local level of political system is represented by the system of the local self-governance, e.g. organizations of community self-government (councils of deputies and committees formed by neighborhoods, housing blocks, streets and villages, among others), local referenda, meetings and other forms of direct democracy.

As it was mentioned before the system of the local self-government introduced by the Law “On Local Government and Self-governance”. Local self-governance is implemented within the borders of administrative –territorial and territorial units.

The Law “On the Administrative-territorial Division and Procedures for Resolving Issues of the Administrative-territorial Organization of the Republic of Belarus” (1998), refers to “administrative-territorial units” that have local councils, their own budget, etc. These include regions (oblast), districts (raion), rural settlements, cities and towns. “

Local councils of deputies within the limits of their competence, resolve issues of local significance, proceeding from national interests and the interests of the people who reside in the relevant territory, and implement the decisions of higher state bodies.

Local councils of deputies and executive and administrative bodies, on the basis of existing laws, adopt decisions that have binding force in the relevant territory.

The following falls exclusively within the competence of the local councils of deputies:

- the approval of programmes of economic and social development, and local budgets and accounts;
- the setting of local taxes and dues in accordance with the law;
- the determination, within the limits specified by law, of the procedure governing the management and disposal of municipal property;
- the calling of local referenda.

Local councils also possess the authority to demand or organize additional environmental or other expert assessments of projects and technologies. They may establish exclusive standards of environmental safety in the area, following legally established procedures. According to this law, local councils may apply economic sanctions for the violation of the environmental safety standards that they have set.

Moreover, local governments have the right to establish special conditions or regimes for residential or economic activities in order to prevent and eliminate mass disease and contamination.

Local governments have been granted significant rights in the area of environmental protection and control over natural resources. The Law “On Local Government and Self-governance” stipulates that local council consent is required for the allocation of economic and social facilities, the use of resources on local territory and the resolution of other issues pertaining to economic, social and cultural activities which affect public interests. For instance, the Law “On Environmental Protection” (1992) establishes that areas used for waste storage or disposal must be identified by regional councils, with the approval of the lower-level council. According to the Code on Subsoil Assets, local councils decide upon the allocation of land for mining, construction or the utilization of subsoil structures. Similarly, the Water Code establishes that the planned location and construction designs of

projects affecting the local water supply must be coordinated with local councils or executive committees.

Local councils are subject to legal control by the president and Parliament, and may be dissolved by parliamentary decision. Higher level councils coordinate the activities of lower-level councils, regulate their budgets and abolish any of their decisions which contradict legislation.

Decisions of local councils of deputies and their executive and administrative bodies that restrict or violate civil rights and liberties and the legitimate interests of citizens, and in other instances specified in law, may be challenged in a court of law.

Where a local council of deputies systematically or flagrantly violates the requirements of the law, it may be dissolved by the Council of the Republic.

It is established a 4 year term of office for local councils. Furthermore, a local council may be dissolved before the end of its term on grounds of their brazen or systematic violation of legislation

The Law “On Local Government and Self-governance” also stipulates procedures for the establishment and activities of community organizations of self-government in city neighborhoods and villages. These bodies are elected by assemblies of residents, which also approve the organizational charters to be registered with the local executive committee. Major provisions to be included in the charters are specified by the Law on the Local Government, primarily relating to their mandates, their territorial jurisdiction and participation by residents in the organization’s activities. The term of office for these community organizations should not exceed that of the local council. Community organizations have the right to submit proposals on all activities by local authorities and participate in the subsequent discussion of those issues.

Levels and specific aspects of the political system:

aspect level	institution(s)	authority/ function	tasks
NATIONAL LEVEL			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of the Republic of Belarus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling national referenda. • Calling regular and extraordinary elections to the Parliament and local representative bodies. • Forming, dissolving and reorganizing the Administration of the President, other bodies of state administration and bodies attached to the Presidency; • Appointing the Prime minister with the consent of the House of Representatives; • Determining the structure of the Government, appointing and dismissing the deputy Prime ministers, ministers and other members of the Government; • Appointing the Chairperson of the Constitutional, Supreme and Economic Courts; etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy of the Constitution; • To personify the unity of the nation, the implementation of the main guidelines of the domestic and foreign policy; • To provide the protection of the sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus, its national security and territorial integrity; • To ensure political and economic stability of the state, continuity and interaction of bodies of state power; • To maintain the intermediation among the bodies of state power; etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament - National Assembly (The House of Representatives and The Council of the Republic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law-making; • Adoption of the state budget; • Participation in the formation of the executive and judicial powers; • Exercise of control functions; • Foreign policy activities. 	<p><i>The House of Representatives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider draft laws, the guidelines of the domestic and foreign policy; the fundamental concept and principles of execution of rights, liberties and duties of its citizens; citizenship issues, etc. • To approve a state budget and the account on its implementation; • To introduce national taxes and dues; the principles of ownership; the basics of social security; the principles regulating labour and employment, education, upbringing, culture and public health; environmental protection and the rational utilisation of natural resources; determination of the procedure for resolving issues relating to the administrative-territorial structure of the State; • To call elections for the Presidency; etc. <p><i>The Council of the Republic:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve or reject draft laws adopted by the House of Representatives; • To give its consent for the appointment by the President of the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court, Chairperson and judges of the Supreme Court, other top officials. • To elect 6 judges of the Constitutional Court and 6 members of the Central Commission on Elections and National Referenda; • To reverse decisions of local Councils of deputies which do not conform to legislation; etc
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LOCAL LEVEL

<i>Regional sublevel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Council of Deputies • Council of Deputies of Minsk City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the approval of programs of economic and social development, and local budgets and accounts; • the setting of local taxes and dues in accordance with the law; • the determination, within the limits specified by law, of the procedure governing the management and disposal of municipal property; • the calling of local referenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To resolve issues of local significance, proceeding from national interests and the interests of the people who reside in the relevant territory, and implement the decisions of higher state bodies, within the limits of their competence, • To adopt decisions that have binding force in the relevant territory.
<i>Basic sublevel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council of Deputies of Administrative district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the approval of programs of economic and social development, and local budgets and accounts; • the setting of local taxes and dues in accordance with the law; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To resolve issues of local significance, proceeding from national interests and the interests of the people who reside in the relevant territory, and implement the decisions of higher state bodies, within the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Council of Deputies (cities of regional subordination) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the determination, within the limits specified by law, of the procedure governing the management and disposal of municipal property; • the calling of local referenda. 	<p>limits of their competence,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To adopt decisions that have binding force in the relevant territory.
Primary sublevel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Council of Deputies • Combined Body - Executive committee & Council of deputies of townships, and rural settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the approval of programs of economic and social development, and local budgets and accounts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To resolve issues of local significance, proceeding from national interests and the interests of the people who reside in the relevant territory, and implement the decisions of higher state bodies, within the limits of their competence, • To adopt decisions that have binding force in the relevant territory.

3. Administrative System

3.1. General description, history, and key data of the administrative system

In Belarus there are two levels of state governance: national and local. The local level has three sublevels: regional, basic and primary.

National level of administrative system is presented by the highest authority - Council of Ministers, as well as the number of ministries and state committees.

Local level of administrative system is presented by the system of local government which includes Executive Committees of relevant administrative-territorial units.

Thus, Executive Committees of primary sublevel (rural and urban settlements, towns of district subordination); of basic sublevel (cities of regional (oblast) subordination; district) and regional (oblast) sublevel are included into the system of executive power and they are determined as bodies of local governance.

3.2. National level of the administrative system

3.2.1. Institutions at national level. Their functions and tasks

Administrative system of Belarus is the complex of acting ministries, state committees and other national, regional and local authorities. The highest authority of the administrative system is the Council of Minister of the Republic of Belarus.

Structured according to functional and territorial principles, the government system includes 25 ministries, 7 state committees, ministerial committees, 6 regional executive committees, 47 city executive committees, 118 district executive committees, 81 township and 1449 rural executive committees. In addition, the state governance system incorporated economic management agencies (associations, corporations, concerns and state companies) and is supplemented by various non-governmental organizations (unions, funds, and societies), each managing the individual aspects of socio-economic relations.

The government institutions on the national level effectively took charge of a number of functions that had previously been the responsibility of the USSR government. The existing governance system encompasses the following key areas: economy and finance, production and technologies, social policies, the services sector, national security and foreign policy. This enables it to effectively manage the vital parts of social life and promote the reform and development of the national economy.

However, today's government system also has a number of inadequacies and imbalances in its organization, staffing and distribution of authority. Up until recently, some vital functions of state governance were duplicated, wholly or partially, by the legislature and the executive branch, and by various institutions within the executive branch itself. This trend was particularly obvious in the area of state control and current management of the economy. Not all of the existing ministries, state committees and government agencies have clear areas of authority, responsibility or functions.

The public administration system of Belarus is not static, but is in the process of continuous change. This is a fairly difficult process. On the one hand, the transformations in the governance system have to follow the socio-economic developments. On the other, the system has to remain in control of these developments. There is therefore a need to co-ordinate the changes in the governance system with the long- short- and midterm development programs and forecasts.

The main features of the current system of administration are retrieval and strengthening of administrative vertical and rising the level of controllability of main society' spheres, existence of structures and agencies making a reformation of the economy.

The key goal of the government reform now is to maintain a fair balance of power

between the central government and local administrations as a means of promoting the socio-economic development of the country.

Government – the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus

Executive power in the Republic of Belarus is exercised by the Government - the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus - the central body of state administration.

The Government in its activity is accountable to the President and responsible to the Parliament of the Republic of Belarus. The Government relinquishes powers to the President-elect of the Republic of Belarus.

The Government or any member therein is to be entitled to tender the resignation to the President, if he deems it impossible to discharge the duties entrusted to him. The Government tenders its resignation to the President if the House of Representatives has passed a vote of no confidence to the Government. If a non-confidence vote is passed by the House of Representatives, the President is entitled to accept the resignation of the Government, or dissolves the House of Representatives within ten days, and calls on holding new elections. If the resignation of the Government is rejected the latter continues to discharge its duties.

The President is entitled to take the decision on the resignation of the Government on his own initiative, and dismiss any member of the Government.

In the instance of the resignation of the Government or termination of its powers, the latter on the assignment of the President continue to hold office until a new Government have been formed.(www.government.by)

The Government of the Republic of Belarus:

- • administer the system of subordinate bodies of state administration and other executive organs;
- elaborate the basic guidelines of the domestic and foreign policy, and take measures to its implementation;
- elaborate and submit to the President for further parliamentary consideration the draft national budget and an account of its implementation;
- ensure the execution of a uniform economic, financial, credit and monetary policy, and state policy in the field of science, culture, education, health care, ecology, social security and remuneration for labour;
- take measures to secure the rights and liberties of citizens, safeguard the interests of the state, national security and defence, protection of property, maintain public order and eliminate crime;
- act on behalf of property owner with regard to assets which are the sole property of the Republic of Belarus, and exercise management of state property;
- ensure the implementation of the Constitution, the laws, decrees, edicts and instructions of the President;
- repeal acts of ministries and other central bodies of state administration; exercise other powers entrusted to him by the Constitution, laws and acts of the President.

The Government issues acts, that have binding force in the entire territory of the Republic of Belarus. The competence of the Government and the procedure governing its activities is determined on the basis of the Constitution and the Law “On the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus”.

The Government consists of the Prime minister, his deputies and ministers. The heads of other central bodies of state administration may be members of the Government.

The Prime minister manages the activities of the Government. The Prime minister is

appointed by the President with the consent of the House of Representatives. The decision to this order is taken by the House of Representatives within two weeks since the nomination of the candidacy of the Prime minister. If the House of Representatives rejects the submitted nomination of the Prime minister twice, the President appoints the acting Prime minister on his own, and dissolves the House of Representatives and calls new elections.

The Prime minister:

- manages directly the activities of the Government and hold personal responsibility for its activities;

- signs the acts of the Government;

- submits to Parliament a report on the program of the Government within two months after his appointment, and in the instance of its rejection submit the second report on the program of the Government within two months;

- informs the President on the basic guidelines of the activities of the Government, and on all the most important decisions;

- exercises other functions connected with the organization and activities of the Government.

The Prime minister may request from the House of Representatives a vote of confidence with regard to the governmental Program or any other issue submitted to the House.

The Prime minister issues orders which are under his jurisdiction.

3.3. Regional / Local level of the administrative system

3.3.1. Institutions at regional level. Their functions and tasks

The system of local government bodies consists of regional, district, city, town and village executive committees and city district administrations. The Law "On Local Government and Self-governance" stipulates centralized procedures for forming executive committees and appointing their chairmen, and assigns them the more powerful role in governing local territories. Thus, the heads of local executive and administrative bodies is appointed and dismissed by the President of the Republic of Belarus or to the order determined by the President, and their appointment is to be subject to the approval of the local councils of deputies.

Executive Committee.

Executive committees are established in a centralized manner. They are delegated a wide range of organizational and administrative powers. Responsibilities of the executive committees include drafting plans and programs for local economic and social development, local budgets and plans for managing community property They organize the collection and utilization of budgetary funds and make decisions on issuing local securities and conducting auctions. Executive committees manage local property and financial resources; decide upon the establishment, reorganization or closure of community enterprises, agencies and organizations; and conclude leases and other economic agreements with legal entities or individuals. In accordance with legally established procedures, they organize state control over the entire territory for the protection of air quality, water, forests, subsoil assets, animal and plant life, and may suspend economic activities or construction if environmental or other legislation is violated. The executive committees are also enjoined to take measures to ensure and protect the interests of the territory in court and to higher-level government bodies.

They make decisions within its competence through a simple majority of votes by committee members.

The Council of Deputies may assign the executive committee to resolve issues within the council's competence. As needed, but no less than once a year, the executive committee reports on its activities to the Council and reports to citizens at labor collective meetings and residential meetings.

Presidential Decree No. 89 (1995) approved the provisional structure for executive committees in regions, Minsk, cities of regional subordination and administrative districts. By law, the executive committee is composed of deputy heads, an executive officer, the executive committee secretary *ex officio* and committee members. All executive committee's members are appointed and dismissed by the head in coordination with the President or the higher-level executive committee.

Head of the Executive Committee. Heads of executive committees occupy the key position in the system of local government. *The heads of regional and Minsk city executive committees* are appointed by the President and approved in local council session, while the heads of other administrative-territorial units are appointed by the higher-level executive committee. Thus, heads of district and city executive committees are appointed by the head of the regional executive committee. At the same time approval of the President and relevant local council is required as well.

If the council fails to approve the proposed candidate, another candidate is nominated instead. If the council fails to approve this candidate as well, the President or regional head makes the final decision. The head of the executive committee is appointed for the same term of office as the council. Heads of the regional-level or district-level executive committee may be dismissed from office by the president or regional head, respectively, in case of legal violations, systematic failure to perform their duties, outrageous abuse of their position or other grounds prescribed by legislation.

Executive committee heads have a broad range of organizational, managing and controlling powers at their disposal. They are responsible for interactions between the executive committee and local council; define the structure and staff of the executive committee, including its secretariat; oversee the management of enterprises, agencies and organizations subordinated to the executive committee; and appoint or discharge their managers. Executive committee heads appoint government representatives to the managing bodies of joint-stock companies or other communally owned economic entities. In addition, heads also manage loans for budgetary expenditures. Heads of regional and Minsk city executive committees are accountable to the president and the central government, while the heads of district and city executive committees are accountable to the head of the regional executive committee. On issues related to council activities, they are accountable to the local council.

Local Administration in Municipal Districts.

The President abolished existed earlier municipal district councils and their executive bodies by Presidential Decree No. 383 on the Reform of Local Government and Self-government Bodies (1995). They were replaced by local administrations, which were government bodies of general competence. The same decree also approved the Provisional Regulation on Local Administration. The city executive committee appoints the head of local administration and his or her deputies. All other officials are directly appointed by the head of the city district administration. The city district administration ensures the execution of all government-related functions in the appropriate territory according to legislation, council decisions and decisions of executive committee commissions.

However, horizontal relations exist between councils and executive committees of the relevant administrative-territorial unit. The formal approval of local councils is required for the appointment of executive committee heads. Within legally established limits, councils define procedures for managing community property and resolving other issues of local importance for the executive bodies. However, these horizontal links in the structure of local government are insignificant.

Local Government Functions

The status of local government as part of public administration manifests itself in the distribution of responsibilities.

The Law on Local Government, together with other legislation, regulates the competencies of local authorities, in particular those of the executive bodies. Their powers are regulated by acts of the President, the central government and central agencies and primarily concern the performance of strictly public administration functions, such as registering commercial entities, issuing licenses or carrying out priority national programs (including distribution of food, import substitution and others).

Local governments have a wide range of powers, as follows:

- drafting programs for territorial development, housing, roads, social services and the environment;
- adopting the local budget, local taxes and duties;
- defining the legal regime for local property within legally established limits;
- approving the allocation of enterprises not in local ownership;
- managing and exercising control over the use of land, subsoil assets, forests and other natural resources;
- organizing construction and repairs of housing, public utilities, shops and service facilities;
- providing tax benefits;
- protecting civic rights and freedoms;
- registering acts of civil status;
- calling people or entities to account for administrative infractions.

Local governments in cities, districts and regions are also responsible for supervising local police and fire departments.

In addition to the functions listed above, *district-level local governments* possess the following responsibilities:

- approving the allocation of mass media and enterprises with foreign capital investment;
- state registration of economic entities and branches of political parties, trade unions and other public associations;
- licensing wholesale trade, with the exception of alcohol and tobacco, pawnshops, casinos and bookmakers;
- allocating or resuming plots of land in areas around cities of district subordination, reserve lands or forests, in coordination with village executive committees; settling land disputes;
- protecting consumer rights;
- ensuring increased volume of industrial and agricultural production, improved quality and competitiveness and the increase in commodity turnover; adopting measures for reducing payment defaults by local economic entities;
- facilitating employment.

Regional governments, particularly regional executive committees, play the dominant

role in the system of local government. Although legally speaking, they do not possess administrative control over other local governments, in practice, regional governments issue mandatory instructions and control implementation of all aspects of local government activity at lower levels. In addition, regional governments are assigned the following functions:

- allotting land plots and settling land disputes;
- approving state registration of holding companies, economic associations and others, within the framework of anti-monopoly control;
- ensuring state registration of economic entities and local public associations;
- ensuring balanced local budgets by establishing limits on the permissible level of local deficit;
- submitting proposals to the government on amendments to regional boundaries, on establishing or merging districts and on defining the borders of towns or cities of district subordination;
- regulating pricing within their competence;
- issuing licenses for secondary schools, lyceums and gymnasiums or for wholesale trade in alcohol and tobacco;
- implementing programs and measures designed to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl accident;
- maintaining regional health facilities, such as clinics, hospitals and dispensaries;
- carrying out state control over the protection of air quality, water, forests, subsoil assets, plant and animal life;
- establishing administrative penalties for the violation of public order, if not otherwise regulated by law.

Regional legislative bodies may also be legally authorized to perform additional government functions.

Decisions of local executive and administrative authorities that are contrary to the law is to be reversed by the relevant councils of deputies, superior executive and administrative bodies and the President

Schematically, the functional structure of local government and self- government may be represented as follows.

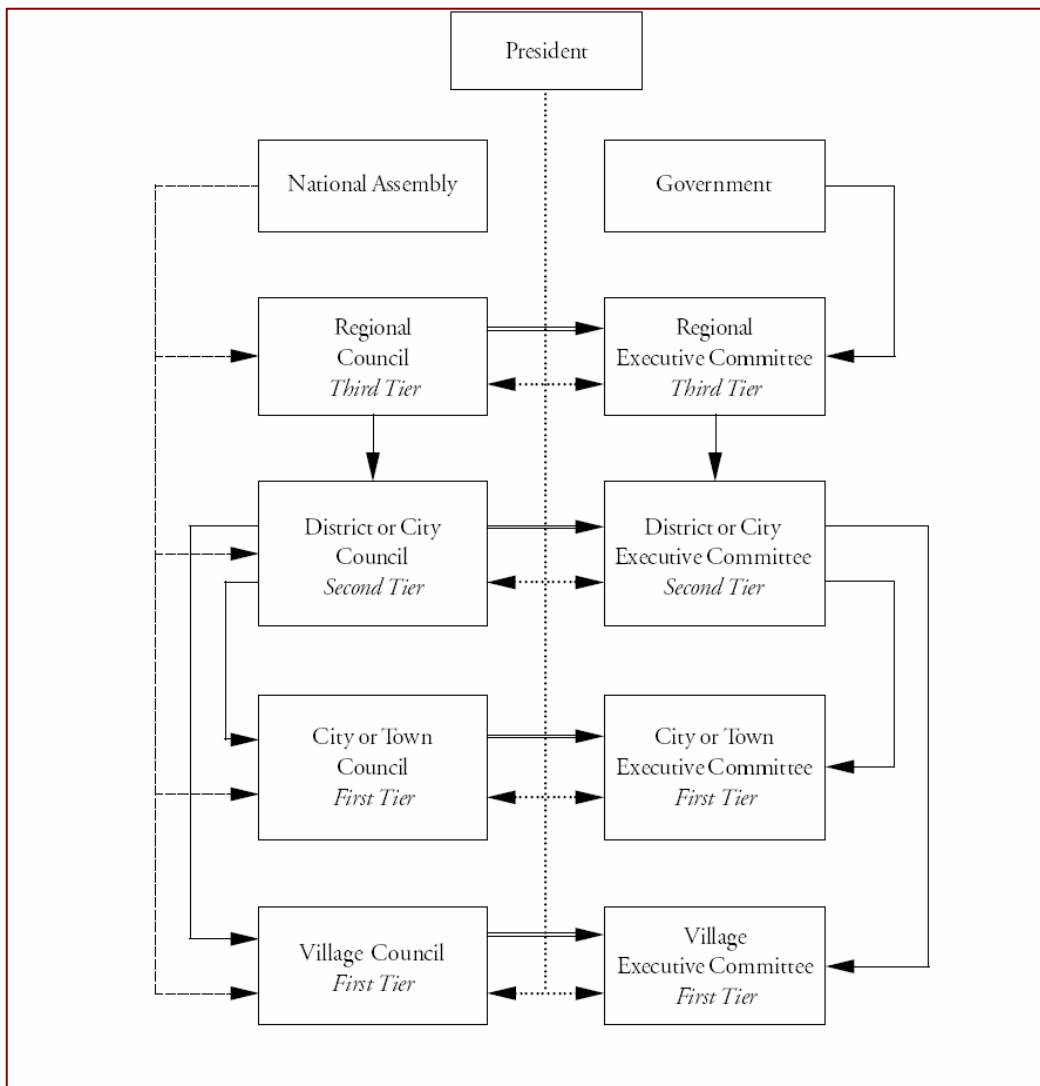


Figure 2. Structure of local government and self- government

Levels and specific aspects of the administrative system:

aspect level	institution(s)	authority/ function	tasks
NATIONAL LEVEL			
	Government - Council of Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Administration and governing the system of subordinate bodies of state administration and other executive organs. •Elaboration of the basic guidelines of the domestic and foreign policy. •Drafting of national budget and an account of its implementation; etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To ensure the implementation of the Constitution, the laws, decrees, edicts and instructions of the President; •To ensure the execution of a uniform economic, financial, credit and monetary policy, and state policy in the field of science, culture, education, health care, ecology, social security and remuneration for labour; To take measures to secure the rights and liberties of citizens, safeguard the interests of the state, national security and defense, protection of property, maintain public order and eliminate crime; etc.

	Ministries and State Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working out general strategy at sectors. • Elaboration of national cross-sectoral and sectoral programs. • Preparatory work of the government, directing and supervising institutions agencies and institutions within relating sector of administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement general strategy at activity sectors. • To report to the Government.
LOCAL LEVEL			
Regional sublevel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Executive Committees • Executive Committee of Minsk city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting programs for territorial development, housing, roads, social services and the environment; • Adopting the local budget, local taxes and duties; • Defining the legal regime for local property within legally established limits; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To resolve issues of local significance, proceeding from national interests and the interests of the people who reside in the relevant territory, and implement the decisions of higher state bodies, within the limits of their competence.
Basic sublevel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative District Executive Committees • Municipal Executive Committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approving the allocation of enterprises not in local ownership; • Managing and exercising control over the use of land, subsoil assets, forests and other natural resources; • Organizing construction and repairs of housing, public utilities, shops and service facilities; 	
Primary sublevel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Executive Committee (town of district subordination) • Combined Body - Executive Committee & Council of Deputies of townships, and rural settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing tax benefits; • Calling people or entities to account for administrative infractions 	