Against a backdrop of global turbulence

In March 2023, Belarus and China signed a Joint Declaration on the Further Development of the All-Weather, Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the New Era, which sets out a new path for the development of cooperation between Minsk and Beijing in various sectors, including trade, the economy and investment. In May 2026, our country adopted the Directive “On the Practical Implementation of the All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People’s Republic of China”, which sets out practical plans and objectives for strengthening cooperation between the two countries over a five-year period. Among the priorities for economic cooperation with China are the deepening of industrial and technological cooperation, and the development of trade, investment and innovation. In addition, some thirty provisions of this document provide for the implementation of specific measures, including in agriculture, energy, transport, healthcare, information and communication technologies, wood processing, the petrochemical and light industries, the development of the ‘Veliky Kamen’ industrial park, and the strengthening of inter-regional ties. How are these objectives being implemented today? This paper explores that very question.



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Against a backdrop of global turbulence

Priorities of the Belarus-China all-weather and all-round partnership

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CHAPTER 1

From a declaration to deeper cooperation between universities

In March 2023, the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China (PRC) signed a Joint Declaration on the Further Development of an All-Weather, Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the New Era, which sets out a new path for the development of cooperation between Minsk and Beijing in various sectors, including trade, the economy, investment, as well as the education sector. During 2023–2024, a number of landmark events took place in this context: two meetings of the Belarusian-Chinese Association of Universities, a forum of rectors from Belarus and China in Minsk, and the seventh meeting of the Commission on Cooperation in Education under the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation in Beijing and Dalian. Furthermore, 'over the past five years, the number of Chinese students studying in Belarus has tripled. At present, there are already more than 12,000 of them'[1] . More than a thousand Belarusian students are studying in China. Furthermore, higher education institutions in the two countries have signed more than 170 direct agreements during this period, under which bilateral scientific and educational projects and academic exchanges are already being implemented, and joint educational and scientific structures are being established; the number of these has increased in recent years from nine to twenty, including nine joint laboratories, nine joint centres and two institutes. Overall, there are currently more than 800 direct agreements in force between higher education institutions in Belarus and China.

The strong development of cooperation in the educational sphere between the two countries was also marked in 2025, when several landmark events took place, providing the necessary impetus for new breakthrough initiatives in joint work. Let us recall some of them. In May 2025, **the eighth meeting of the Sub-Commission on Educational Cooperation of the China–Belarus Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation** was held in Urumqi, at which 'discussions centred on cooperation in the fields of higher education, vocational education, digital education, and the teaching of the Belarusian and Chinese languages'[2] . At this meeting, a cooperation agreement was signed between **the Republican Institute of Vocational Education and the Centre for Vocational Education Development of the Chinese Ministry of Education.** At the same time, with the participation of representatives from Belarusian State University, Minsk State Linguistic University and Beijing Foreign Studies University, **the Sino-Belarusian Centre for Humanitarian Exchanges** was officially opened; it is already active in several areas: cultural interaction, academic exchange, professional training and the joint use of educational and intellectual resources. It is

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[1] The number of students from China in Belarus has tripled over the past five years [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/v-belarusi-za-poslednie-piat-let-v-tri-raza-vyroslo- chislo-studentov-iz-kitaja-669005-2024/

[2] Ivanets: We are implementing large-scale educational and scientific projects and programmes in cooperation with the PRC [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/ivanets-v-in-cooperation-with-the-PRC-we-are-implementing-large-scale-educational-and-scientific-projects-and-programmes- 714410-2025/

also 'envisaged that there will be interdisciplinary fundamental and applied research, the holding of scientific and educational competitions, the organisation of festivals and summer schools involving young people from both countries, the joint development of educational programmes, and the exchange of results from cooperation in the humanities'[3] . One of the centre's first collective initiatives will be to host the first International Forum on Humanitarian Exchange.

As we can see, **the Belarusian State University** (BSU) is among the founders of the new centre; it is one of the PRC's strategic partners in our country and, as of early November 2024, had already signed 133 cooperation agreements with 74 Chinese institutions, thereby developing scientific, expert and cultural ties. In the last three months of 2024 alone, BSU established new partnerships.

For example, in October, two new cooperation agreements were signed with **Chongqing University and the Chongqing Institute of International Business and Economics.** In the first case, the memorandum of understanding provides for academic exchanges of students and lecturers, the implementation of joint educational and research programmes and projects, the exchange of information, teaching materials and research reports, the organisation of conferences, seminars, workshops and courses, and the preparation of joint publications. In the second instance, the memorandum sets out the parties' intentions to develop an educational and scientific partnership and to devise joint programmes for the training of Chinese citizens. It is expected that 'the exchange of experience in the fields of international business, intellectual engineering, foreign languages and foreign trade, literature and the creative arts, management, mathematics and computer science, arts and design, television and integrated media will enable higher education institutions to utilise modern approaches and programmes in the training of students'[4] .

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In November 2024, BSU signed a memorandum with **Peking University** on the establishment of **the Belarusian-Chinese Centre for Fundamental Scientific Research,** which will become a key institution in bilateral cooperation in the field of fundamental sciences. Its operation will strengthen scientific cooperation between the two countries and attract leading and early-career scientists, research staff and teams to carry out joint projects in promising areas of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and medicine. "The centre's activities will result in multidisciplinary,
interdisciplinary fundamental and applied research and development. This will enhance the effectiveness of joint training for specialists at various levels of education, facilitate the exchange of educational and scientific resources, and improve the quality of training for scientific personnel"[5] .

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[3] China-Belarus Centre for Humanitarian Exchanges opened in Urumqi [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/kitaisko-belorusskii-tsentr-gumanitamyh-obmenov-otkryli-v- urumchi-714177-2025/

[4] BSU has signed cooperation agreements with leading Chinese universities [Online resource]. -
2024. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-zakliuchil-soglasheniia-o-sotrudnichestve-s-veduschimi- vuzami-kitaia-667159-2024/

[5] BSU and Peking University to establish a centre for fundamental scientific research [Online resource]. - 2024. -

In the same month of November, detailed discussions took place in the Chinese capital regarding the establishment of a joint research centre on humanitarian exchange between China and Belarus, involving Belarusian State University and **Beijing Foreign Studies University**. The parties have already finalised the organisational and legal arrangements for the centre's opening. "Its activities will create a unique platform for training linguists to work with artificial intelligence and for conducting research on topical issues in the humanities"[6] . In addition, negotiations were held with **the** Chinese **corporation Jing Yin** regarding the organisation of joint training for Chinese students on BSU's educational programmes, and the possibility of opening a joint preparatory education centre in **Hebei Province** was considered**,** where Chinese nationals could study Russian as a foreign language and undertake preparatory courses for admission to master's programmes at a Belarusian university.

Finally, in December 2024, BSU first signed an agreement with **Guangzhou University of Commerce and Industry** (GUC) on the implementation of a joint general higher education programme, which provides for comprehensive cooperation between the parties in the fields of education, science and cultural and educational activities. It is worth noting that this Chinese university has a total of around 27,000 students studying across 35 undergraduate programmes in the fields of economics, management, engineering, literature, the arts and education. The university's library collection comprises over three million books. The teaching at GTPU is delivered by more than two thousand lecturers, 98 per cent of whom hold a master's or doctoral degree. As for the signed agreement, 'the key provision of the document is the launch of a joint "1+3" educational programme in the specialisation of "management". The curriculum for this programme involves a four-year course taught in Russian, with first-year students studying at GTPU and second- to fourth-year students at BSU'[7] . Upon completion of the programme , graduates will receive a BSU higher education diploma, which is recognised by both parties.

Secondly, BSU has signed an agreement on joint student training with **the Institute of Innovative Education** (IIE) in Sanya, Hainan Province, which governs the implementation of joint educational programmes in the '1+3' format. It should be noted that the IIE is a Belarusian-Chinese institute established in March 2024 with the participation of BSU and **the Hainan Centre of Excellence in International Education** in Sanya. This joint initiative is aimed at fostering cooperation between the two countries in the field of education, developing the export of educational services and increasing the number of Chinese students at Belarusian universities. It is expected that 'this institute will become a hub for attracting other universities, including those

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URL: https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-pekinskii-universitet-sozdadut- tsentr-fundamentalnyh-nauchnyh-issledovanij-673112-2024/

[6] BSU's innovation and education centres to open in China [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/innovatsionnye-i-obrazovatelnye-tsentry-bgu-poiaviatsia-v-kitae-673790- 2024/

[7] BSU and Guangzhou University to launch a joint educational programme in management [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/special/society/view/bgu-i- guanchzhouskii-umversitet-otkroiut-sovmestnuiu-obrazovatelnuiu-programmu-po-menedzhmentu-680651- 2024/

from abroad. At present, Chinese citizens from Hainan Province are preparing for admission to BSU and attending Russian language courses at the institute'[8] . There are also plans to grant the IIO legal entity status and reorganise it as a branch of BSU in China, which will significantly improve international cooperation in the field of education and broaden the scope of collaboration. This is all the more relevant given the widespread interest currently being shown in the IIO's activities by Chinese regions. 'Since September [2024], the Institute has partnered with schools in Beijing, the provinces of Yunnan, Guangdong, Hebei, Shaanxi, Shandong, Henan and Fujian, the cities of Shanghai and Chongqing, and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region...'[9] . The opening of the branch will boost the implementation of joint programmes to teach Russian and English to Chinese students using information and communication technologies, the launch of academic exchanges, the organisation of joint educational forums and open lectures, and the development of business initiatives within the framework of joint Belarusian-Chinese economic and industrial relations.

Thirdly, BSU has also stepped up cooperation with other Chinese higher education institutions – **East China Normal University** (ECNU), **the Chongqing Institute of International Business and Economics**, and **the Hainan Institute of Software Technology.** In particular, cooperation with ECPU is developing thanks to a cooperation agreement signed in 2011 and is enshrined in a student exchange programme. "One of the main outcomes of the fruitful collaboration between the two universities was the opening of the Centre for the Study of Belarus at ECPU. Belarus's leading university has equipped the centre with the necessary literature, Belarusian state symbols and items relating to cultural and historical themes'[10] . The December negotiations with these universities resulted in a package of documents regulating cooperation between the parties in the fields of education, science and the joint implementation of projects. For example, with the Hainan Institute of Software Technology, there are plans for student and postgraduate exchanges, as well as invitations to lecturers and researchers to collaborate on research and educational projects. Furthermore, the signed document governs the exchange of information and teaching materials, the joint organisation of scientific and educational events, and the preparation of publications.

Furthermore, in May 2025, BSU signed a package of documents with a number of Chinese universities, aimed at expanding international contacts in the fields of education and science, strengthening BSU's export potential, and developing effective inter-university cooperation between the two countries. In particular, a memorandum

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[8] An agreement on the joint training of students was signed by BSU and the Chinese Institute of Innovative Education [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/soglashenie-o-sovmestnoi-podgotovke-studentov-podpisali-bgu-i-kitaiskii- institut-innovatsionnogo-684104-2024/

[9] Belarus State University plans to open branches in China [Electronic resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/belgosuniversitet-planiruet-otkryt-filialy-v-kitae-683983-2024/

[10] BSU and East China Normal University step up their cooperation [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-vostochno-kitaiskij- pedagogicheskij -universitet-aktivizirujut-sotrudnichestvo-684461 -2024

of understanding was concluded with **Xinjiang University** to promote academic mobility, the exchange of best practice in training specialists, and the conduct of forward-looking research. It is worth noting that this Chinese university ranks among the top 100. BSU signed a second document with **Kashgar University.** This agreement provides for 'the exchange of undergraduates, postgraduates and lecturers for the purposes of teaching and participation in joint scientific and educational projects; it also regulates the exchange of information and teaching materials, the joint organisation of scientific and educational events and the preparation of publications, guest lectures, masterclasses, and the mutual participation of students in summer and winter schools'[11] **.** The third memorandum of understanding was signed with **Yanshan University** – concerning the implementation of joint training programmes for Chinese citizens. A few weeks later, BSU reached an agreement to organise, at the university's premises and in collaboration with the BSU Institute of Innovative Education (Sanya), a Russian language programme for Chinese applicants seeking subsequent admission to BSU.

In June 2025, a memorandum of understanding was signed in Minsk between BSU and **Shandong University of International Relations.** 'The parties agreed to step up

"established cooperation, identified priority areas for collaboration and agreed on a work plan"[12] . And in July last year, the **Belarusian-Chinese Centre for Fundamental Scientific Research** opened at in Minsk**.** This centre is a joint project between Belarusian State University and **Peking University** and will facilitate effective collaboration between scientists from both countries, as well as improve the quality of joint training for specialists and the preparation of scientific personnel. It is expected that the centre's activities will result in fundamental and applied research and development, including in the field of biology, as well as 'in a number of other sciences – namely mathematics, physics, chemistry and pharmaceuticals'[13] . In October 2025, BSU and **Dalian University of Technology** opened **a joint laboratory for industrial equipment and instruments,** the activities of which are aimed at long-term scientific and research collaboration between the universities in the fields of computational mechanics, the design of industrial equipment using engineering software, aerospace technologies, optoelectronic devices and systems, plasma physics, and transport systems design.

All these facts demonstrate that China is one of BSU's strategic partners. Suffice it to say that 'around 20 per cent of all BSU's international agreements have been

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[11] Expanding contacts in the fields of education and science. BSU signs a package of documents with Chinese universities [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/rasshirenie- kontaktov-v-sfere-obrazovanija-i-nauki-paket-dokumentov-podpisal-bgu-s-kitaiskimi-vuzami-714916-2025/

[12] Joint programmes, promotion of cultural values. BSU and Chinese universities step up cooperation [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/sovmestnye- joint-programmes-promotion-of-cultural-values-bgu-and-chinese-universities-step-up-cooperation-718450-2025/

[13] Belarusian-Chinese Centre for Fundamental Scientific Research opens at Belarusian State University [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/belorussko-kitaiskii -tsentr- fundamentalnyh-nauchnyh-issledovanij-otkrylsja-v-bgu-726562-2025/

concluded with Chinese partners'[14] . Currently, around 3,800 Chinese nationals are studying at the university. At the same time, effective work is being carried out to implement new joint educational programmes, research projects and conferences. Overall, in 2024–2025, BSU strengthened its presence in the global academic sphere and contributed to 'the development of international communications and the formation of a sustainable positive image of the university abroad'[15] .

It should be noted that a number of other Belarusian universities are also active participants in Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in the field of education, having distinguished themselves through interesting initiatives over the past year. In particular, in September 2025, **the Belarusian National Technical University** (BNTU) and **North-Eastern University** in Liaoning Province signed an agreement to establish a joint faculty of Chinese technologies, which 'will focus on training highly qualified specialists in the field of modern technologies, including information technology, artificial intelligence and automation"[16] . At the same time, BNTU concluded a cooperation agreement with **Harbin Institute of Technology,** ranked among the world's top 150 universities, to open up new avenues for joint scientific research, the exchange of experience between lecturers and students, and the implementation of projects in the fields of engineering, materials science and instrument engineering.

Y. Kupala Grodno State University (GrSU) currently cooperates actively with 41 educational institutions in China, including both technical and teacher-training institutions. This cooperation creates unique opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experience, and for strengthening international ties. In particular, in 2023, GrSU signed a cooperation agreement with **the Institute of Engineering Technology at Chengdu University of Technology.** And in November 2025, the two universities had already established a joint master's programme for Chinese students to promote academic mobility in the specialisations of 'materials processing', 'engineering equipment', <...> 'engineering robotics' and 'robotic technologies'[17] .

Meanwhile, **the M. Tank Belarusian State Pedagogical University** (BSPU) and **Huai'in Normal University** (HNU) in Jiangsu Province opened a joint educational institute last November, offering programmes in 'music education', 'art education' and 'physical education'. "142 students have been enrolled on the first year of the joint

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[14] BSU and Dalian University have opened a laboratory for industrial equipment and instruments [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-daljanskij-universitet-otkryli- laboratoriiu-promyshlennogo-oborudovanija-i-priborov-742938-2025/

[15] Results of international activities presented at BSU [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://bsu.bv/news/itogi-mezhdunarodnov-devatelnosti-predstavlenv-v-bgu-d/

[16] BITU and North-Eastern University to establish a joint faculty of Chinese technologies [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.bv/societv/view/bntu-i-severo-vostochnvj-universitet- sozdadut-sovmestnvj -fakultet-kitajskih-tehnologij-735743-2025/

[17] Joint Master's programme, student mobility. Grodno State University and Chengdu University of Technology have outlined joint plans [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/regions/view/sovmestnaia-magistratura-studencheskaia-mobilnost-grgu-i-tehnologicheskij-universitet-chendu-nametili-746739-2025/

institute's programme; upon successful completion of their studies and passing the final assessment, they will receive diplomas from both universities"[18] . It is interesting to note that this institute marks Huai'in Normal University's first international project under Jiangsu Province's educational cooperation with Belarus, where the implementation of joint educational programmes will serve as a bridge for the development of deeper cooperation between the two universities in the fields of education, science, technology and culture.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasise that in October 2025, Belarus and China signed **a Joint Declaration on Deepening Cooperation in the Development of Higher Education,** which primarily covers 'aspects of cooperation in the humanities, which are based on approaches shared by Belarus and China regarding the preservation of historical memory and the assessment of the role of the Soviet and Chinese peoples in the victory in the Second World War and in ensuring a peaceful world order'[19] . Furthermore, this document addresses a range of educational and academic relations, which are developing not only within the framework of bilateral inter-university relations but also through networked cooperation amongst universities in both countries. This was also discussed at **the third meeting of the Association of Belarusian and Chinese Universities,** the establishment of which two years ago marked a qualitatively new stage in Belarusian-Chinese relations at the inter-university level and within the framework of which 'key areas of work have already been identified, thematic clusters formed and joint initiatives developed'[20] . In 2026, this momentum will continue with a view to developing proposals that will find real practical application and contribute to further fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the field of education.

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[18] More than 140 students have been enrolled at the joint educational institute of Huai'in University and BSPU [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/bolee-140- studentov-zachisleny-v-sovmestnyj-obrazovatelnyj-institut-huaiinskogo-universiteta-i-bgpu-749319-2025/

[19] Belarus and China have signed a declaration on deepening cooperation in higher education [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-deklaratsiju- ob-uglublenii-sotrudnichestva-v-vysshem-obrazovanii-742869-2025/

[20] Over 170 direct agreements between universities in Belarus and China have been signed over the past two years [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/bolee-170-priamyh-dogovorov- mezhdu-vuzami-belarusi-i-kitaja-podpisano-za-poslednie-dva-goda-742934-2025/

CHAPTER 2

The aim is to deepen scientific, technical and innovation

In May 2026, our country adopted the Directive 'On the Practical Implementation of the All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China', which sets out highly practical plans and objectives for strengthening Belarusian-Chinese cooperation over the next five-year period. The focus of bilateral cooperation has been defined as strengthening political cooperation, preserving historical memory and fostering the values of friendship and mutual support, as well as participating in the implementation of China's global initiatives for the benefit of Belarus. Among the priorities for economic cooperation with China are the deepening of industrial and technological cooperation, and the development of trade, investment and innovation. In addition, some thirty provisions of the Directive envisage the implementation of specific measures in the fields of agriculture, energy, transport and logistics, healthcare, information and communication technologies, wood processing, the petrochemical and light industries, tourism, education, science and culture, the development of the flagship 'Great Stone' industrial park project, and the intensification of inter-regional cooperation.

The directive also identifies, among the priority tasks for the near future, the deepening of industrial and technological cooperation, the intensification of mutual technology transfer, and the improvement of the effectiveness of implementing the results of scientific and technical activities across key sectors of the economy. It should be recalled that the Belarus–China Years of Scientific and Technological Innovation, which took place in 2024–2025, were successfully concluded in early January. During this period, the parties conducted more than 60 scientific, technical and academic exchanges in fields such as artificial intelligence, information technology, biopharmaceuticals, laser technology, new materials and agriculture; implemented 47 intergovernmental scientific and technical projects; and 'jointly established 34 high-level cooperation platforms, including joint laboratories, technology innovation centres, industrial incubation centres and joint staff training centres'[21] . These include the 'Electromagnetic Environment' joint laboratory under the 'Belt and Road' initiative in the field of advanced materials production, where a number of technological breakthroughs have been achieved. Over the past two years, there have been other noteworthy examples of Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical innovation.

In particular, in May 2025, an agreement was signed to establish a joint laboratory for operations research and optimisation between Liaoning University of Technology and the Joint Institute for Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of

[21] Zhang Wenquan: Belarus and China have jointly established 34 high-level platforms for scientific cooperation [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/societv/view/chzhan-venchuan- belarus-i-kitai-sovmestno-sozdali-34-vvsokourovnevve-platformy-nauchnogo-762148-2026/

Belarus. This laboratory will focus on research in the fields of mathematical optimisation and operations research. 'This includes optimisation in manufacturing and computer scheduling, optimisation in logistics and supply chains, optimal design of production lines, optimal infrastructure, routing and charging planning for electric buses, and approximate algorithms for optimisation problems'[22] . Other priority topics for the laboratory include decision-making under uncertainty and computational complexity. The parties agreed on joint scientific work, the publication of research results, the training of postgraduate students, and the exchange of knowledge and scientific and methodological expertise.

Last September, the PRIP2025 International Scientific and Technical Conference – 'Pattern Recognition and Information Processing: Shaping the Future' – took place in Minsk, with its main areas of focus including machine learning and deep learning, computer vision, artificial intelligence, neural networks and intelligent systems, signal processing, bioinformatics, image recognition, information retrieval and data management, digital information processing and communications, intelligent analytical systems, embedded systems and software, expert systems and decision support systems, and cloud technologies and infrastructures. During this conference, an agreement was signed to establish a Sino-Belarusian joint laboratory for the implementation of artificial intelligence technologies, which was "founded by the Joint Institute for Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Zhejiang University of Technology, with the participation of Belarusian State University and the NGO 'Optics, Optoelectronics and Laser Technology' of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus"[23] . The new facility will become a key link in the development of scientific cooperation between the two countries and will enable joint efforts in the research and practical application of artificial intelligence technologies.

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And in December 2025, a whole package of documents on Belarusian-Chinese scientific cooperation was adopted. Firstly, an agreement on comprehensive scientific and technical cooperation was signed between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences. Secondly, on the same day, an opening ceremony was held for the following joint facilities: the Sino- - Belarusian joint laboratory 'Intelligent Sensing in Extreme Conditions' as part of the 'Belt and Road' initiative, as well as the cooperation network hub of the China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. As for the laboratory for the development of remote sensing technologies, it will provide the opportunity to peer deep underground, into the depths of the sea and far into space. This will enable the resolution of challenges facing the real sector of the

[22] Optimisation in manufacturing and logistics. Scientists from Belarus and China to establish a joint laboratory [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/optimizatsiia-v- proizvodstve-i-logistike-uchenve-belarusi-i-kitaja-sozdadut-sovmestnuju-laboratoriju-716414-2025/

[23] Scientific organisations in Belarus and China have established a joint laboratory for the implementation of AI technologies [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/nauchnye- organizatsii-belarusi-i-kitaia-sozdali-sovmestnuiu-laboratoriiu-po-vnedreniju-tehnologii-ii-737714-2025/

economy – the acquisition of new knowledge and the enhancement of safety standards. As for the Cooperation Network Hub, this is 'a new form of scientific and technical cooperation within the SCO, proposed by China. It opens up further opportunities for the exchange of scientific achievements and more'[24] . After all, scientists' laboratory developments must be turned into real industrial prototypes as quickly as possible and contribute to economic development. Collaboration will therefore help to achieve this.

Last December, agreements were also signed on laser technologies, microelectronics, heat and mass transfer, new materials and technical acoustics. For instance, the Institute of Technical Acoustics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of New Materials of the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences decided to establish an International Centre for Joint Research and Development. Meanwhile, the A.V. Lykov Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of New Materials of the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences signed an agreement on the joint establishment of an international laboratory. Other documents approved include agreements on cooperation in research and development and on a scientific and technical project between the B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Laser Technology of the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences. Furthermore, plans are in place to create an online platform for Sino-Belarusian technology transfer. A corresponding cooperation agreement was signed between the Republican Centre for Technology Transfer of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Qingdao Centre for Marine Science and Technology, and Aston Engineering Technology Transfer Co., Ltd. of Qingdao.

It should be noted that, to date, "the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus has concluded more than 80 cooperation agreements with Chinese partners"[25] . Nevertheless, as early as April this year, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus discussed the prospects for bilateral scientific and technical cooperation, including in the field of combined materials processing technologies, and the potential for synergy between laser technologies and magnetic pulse processing, which opens up new horizons for the creation of high-tech products, with the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Optics, Electronics and Informatics, and plans were made to "open a joint laboratory as part of the global 'Belt and Road' initiative"[26] . Discussions also covered joint participation in a competition for flagship Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects and in a major specialised exhibition in the field of optics and electronics, which is to be held in Wuhan in 2026.

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[24] Belarus and the Chinese province of Shandong have signed a package of documents on scientific cooperation [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaiskaia-provintsiia- shandun-podpisali-paket-dokumentov-o-nauchnom-sotrudnichestve-753206-2025/

[25] The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus is stepping up cooperation with the PRC in the fields of biotechnology and microelectronics [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/nan-belarusi-aktiviziruet- sotrudnichestvo-s-knr-v-oblasti-biotehnologii-i-mikroelektroniki-769235-2026/

[26] The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Institute of Optics and Electronic Information Technology plan to open a joint laboratory [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/nan-belarusi-i-institut-optiki-i-elektronnoi-informatiki-kitaia-planiruiut-otkryt-sovmestnuiu-774055-2026/

In April of this year, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus held discussions with a delegation from the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education and Nanjing University on the prospects for expanding bilateral scientific and technical cooperation, as well as specific areas for joint research in the fields of information and communication technologies, the development of functional materials and specialised technical solutions. The participants noted that 'deepening partnerships between Belarusian and Chinese scientific and educational institutions will undoubtedly give new impetus to the development of our cooperation, whilst the implementation of joint scientific projects will enable us to pool best practices and resources, thereby accelerating the pace of innovation'[27] .

In May 2026, a meeting was held at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus with the Xinjiang Entrepreneurs Association (EMBA) and Jiangsu Muhang International Information Technology, at which Belarusian scientists expressed their interest "in developing cooperation with Chinese partners in the field of innovation"[28] and discussed promising areas of collaboration between organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and these Chinese partners, including in the fields of mechanical engineering, unmanned vehicles, highly automated and robotic systems, laser technology, optics, and information and communication technologies.

Two weeks later, in the Belarusian capital, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Minsk City Clinical Oncology Centre and the Beijing-based medical technology company GoBroad signed a cooperation and partnership agreement, which "opens up new horizons for the development of medicine and science, laying a solid foundation for fruitful and long-term cooperation. Within the framework of this collaboration, particular attention is to be paid to improving the quality of medical care provided'[29] . The parties will actively exchange best practice and knowledge in the field of modern medical technologies, including their development, implementation and promotion. There are also plans to implement joint scientific, clinical and educational initiatives, as well as to organise joint scientific events such as forums, round-table discussions and conferences. It should be noted that the Beijing-based GoBroad Healthcare Group is a high-tech medical group founded in 2017. In fact, it is a network of leading research clinics and laboratories in China specialising in the complex diagnosis and treatment of critical cases, particularly in the fields of oncohaematology and cell therapy.

In May of this year, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus hosted a Belarusian-Chinese scientific and practical seminar entitled 'Modern Biotechnologies: Current

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[27] ICT sector, materials science. The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus discussed expanding cooperation with Jiangsu Province [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/sfera-ikt-materialovedenie-v-nan-belarusi-obsudili-rasshirenie-sotrudnichestva-s-provintsiei-tsziansu-775894-2026/

[28] The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Chinese companies have identified prospects for cooperation in the field of innovation [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/nan-belarusi-i-kitaiskie-kompanii- opredelili-perspektivy-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-innovatsii-779141-2026/

[29] Partners from Belarus and China have signed a new agreement in the field of medical technology [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/novoe-soglashenie-v-oblasti- medtehnologii-podpisali-partnery-iz-belarusi-i-kitaia-781549-2026/

Trends and Prospects for Development', which was attended by leading scientists and specialists in the field of biotechnology from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. They discussed promising areas for the development of the biotechnology sector and exchanged experiences and best practices covering a wide range of topics, from fundamental research to applied developments. During the seminar, it was noted that cooperation between the two academies of sciences had reached a qualitatively new level, particularly in fields such as 'biotechnology and medicine, optics and optoelectronics, materials science, information technology and artificial intelligence, space research…',[30] .

And finally, in June 2025, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation and an action plan to intensify cooperation for the period 2025–2030, which are aimed at strengthening the scientific and technical capabilities of Belarus and China, develop and expand relations between the two countries, and promote scientific and technical cooperation and the practical implementation of joint activities in areas of science and technology of mutual interest. These documents set out the main objectives of cooperation between scientists from the two countries: 'the creation of favourable conditions for organising joint research projects, the commercialisation of the results of joint activities in both countries, the exchange of ideas and information, and the shared use of scientific infrastructure in both countries'[31] . The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Sciences plan to establish joint centres and laboratories based at the academies of sciences of both countries and the Sino-Belarusian 'Great Stone' Industrial Park, to conduct joint research and scientific and technical activities across a wide range of fields, and to organise internships and training programmes at master's and postgraduate levels at the universities affiliated with the academies. The following areas have been identified as priorities: microelectronics and instrument engineering, mechanical engineering – including developments in the field of electric transport – space, optical and laser technologies, information technology and artificial intelligence. Scientists from both countries will collaborate in the fields of energy, nanomaterials and nanotechnologies, biotechnology and medicine, chemical technologies, ecology and environmental protection. Attention will also be paid to topics such as the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of both countries.

In May 2026, the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus (SCST) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology announced two calls for proposals: firstly, for flagship scientific and technical projects for the period 2027–2030;

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[30] The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Sciences discussed conducting joint research [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/societv/view/nan-belarusi-i-kitaiskaia-akademiia- nauk-obsudili-provedenie-sovmestnvh-issledovanij-782845-2026/

[31] The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Sciences signed a cooperation agreement [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/societv/view/nan-belarusi-i-kitaiskaia-akademiia-nauk-podpisali- cooperation-agreement-719187-2025/

secondly, for scientific and technical projects for the period 2027–2029. The first competition covers areas such as the intelligentisation of mechanical engineering and transport equipment; new materials with specified properties; plasma, optical and laser technologies and equipment; mathematical theories and methods, high-performance computing systems, digital models and digital twins. It also covers innovative technologies in the agro-industrial complex and the food industry; biological, chemical-pharmaceutical and medical technologies; biological and environmental safety; and space and aviation technologies. Following the competition, it is planned to select up to ten large-scale joint projects, the outcomes of which should lead to the creation of cutting-edge technologies and the establishment of joint ventures or industrial technology centres based on them. The duration of the projects is up to three years. The second competition will cover the following areas: 'the digital economy and artificial intelligence; innovative technologies in industry; biological and medical technologies; and innovative technologies in the agro-industrial complex and the food industry. The duration of the projects is up to two years'[32] . If the duration of a project is dictated by the technological specifics of the work and this is confirmed by the State Expert Council following a state scientific and technical expert review, the project duration may be extended by agreement with the State Committee for Science and Technology.

All this indicates that China is one of Belarus's key strategic partners in the fields of science, technology and high-tech manufacturing. Furthermore, cooperation with Chinese research centres and enterprises is one of the priority areas for the development of Belarusian scientists' international activities.

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[32] Calls for proposals for Belarusian-Chinese flagship and scientific and technical projects have been announced [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/obiiavleny-konkursy-belorussko- kitaiskih-flagmanskih-i-nauchno-tehnicheskih-proektov-779399-2026/

CHAPTER 3

Focus on the swift implementation of specific projects

The China-Belarus Industrial Park **"Great Stone"** occupies a central place in relations between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China. It currently has more than 170 residents. "Four core clusters are taking shape here: mechanical engineering, pharmaceuticals and medicine (including traditional Chinese medicine), electronics, and integrated logistics"[33] . Last year, a record number of residents – 34 – joined the park; they plan to implement initiatives in the fields of mechanical engineering, the manufacture of medical devices, research and development, healthcare, and e-commerce.

In May 2025 alone, four new participants were registered at "Great Stone". The 149th resident was **the** Belarusian **company OPENI LLC,** with a project to develop an innovative software and hardware platform for car head units, which will provide enhanced capabilities for vehicle control, technical condition monitoring and multimedia interaction. "One of the key components will be the creation of a universal T-BOX telematics module, enabling two-way communication between the vehicle and cloud services and a mobile app"[34] .

The 150th member of the park was **the** Belarusian **company 'MedStone'**, which 'will establish a multidisciplinary medical centre for the diagnosis of malignant tumours and the treatment of oncological diseases using innovative methods and technologies'[35] .

Also in May, the park's 151st and 152nd residents, with capital from Belarus, were established –

Kitgroup Plus LLC and **EKOTRADE LLC.** In the first case, there are plans to establish an engineering design centre within the park, which will produce production lines for flax processing. In the second case, the plans include "the production of ingredients for the food industry based on biologically active substances and elements"[36] , as well as the establishment of a research centre with a testing laboratory and the development of new product ranges.

At the end of May, a resident of the "Velikiy Kamen" industrial park – **BelAgroGen Research and Production Centre LLC** – opened a plant for the production of innovative veterinary medicines. This enterprise "specialises in the production of

[33] More than 150 enterprises are implementing projects in the 'Great Stone' industrial park [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/bolee-150-predprijatii-realizujut-proektv-v-industrialnom-parke-velikii-kamen-733790-2025/

[34] New park resident to develop a software platform for cars [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-parka-razrabotaet-programmnuiu-platformu-dlja-avtomobilej-713923-2025/

[35] During the celebrations marking the anniversary of the 'Great Stone', the park's 150th resident was registered [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/vo-vremia-prazdnovaniia-iubileia-velikogo-kamnja-v-parke-byl-zaregistrirovan-150-j-rezident-714546-2025/

[36] New residents of 'Veliky Kamen' will produce flax processing lines and ingredients for the food industry [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnia-budut-vypuskat-linii-po-pererabotke-lna-i-ingredienty-dlia-pischeproma-717204-2025/

innovative veterinary medicines for the treatment and prevention of diseases in animals and poultry"[37] . Many of the medicines are the company's own innovative developments and have no equivalents on the market in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Production at the industrial park holds a certificate of compliance with the Eurasian Economic Union's Good Manufacturing Practice regulations.

Meanwhile, the Turkish resident company – **BelTurMed LLC** – has acquired a plot of land in the industrial park as private property in order to implement an investment project for the production of medical consumables using innovative technologies and automated quality control systems. The project is aimed at import substitution, and the products will be supplied to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) market. It should be noted that "the signing of the contract for the sale of the plot of land into private ownership was made possible by the unique legal regime in force within the industrial park. This is the only area in Belarus where investors can acquire land for private ownership to build their own production facilities"[38] .

In July last year, "Velikiy Kamen" welcomed two new residents. A joint Russian-Chinese venture – **"Silk Road of the Future" LLC** – plans to set up an e-commerce platform here, which will offer consumer goods as well as industrial, agricultural and pharmaceutical products. "The company will also build its own infrastructure for warehousing, storage and the provision of services"[39] . Meanwhile, the Belarusian **company KBMotors LLC** will be implementing a project in the engineering sector relating to personal mobility solutions.

In early August 2025, three more new tenants joined the park. The Belarusian company **'Belosinzh'** intends to set up a full production cycle there for metal structures and pylons for overhead power lines, hull components and parts for shipbuilding, as well as assemblies and units for mechanical engineering. "The joint Belarusian-Russian venture **'Elastotek'** plans to set up production in the industrial park of a wide range of polymer products for the industrial and consumer sectors"[40] . The Chinese-owned resident **'Bel Denair'** will design and manufacture compressors and generators for industrial use.

And in the last ten days of the same month, three more new residents joined. **ABC Investment Ltd** plans to implement an investment project in the field of biotechnology. The company "will establish an export-oriented, high-tech production

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[37] A plant producing innovative veterinary preparations has opened in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/zavod-po-vypusku- innovatsionnyh-preparatov-dlia-veterinarii-otkryt-v-velikom-kamne-718202-2025/

[38] Turkish company acquires plot of land in "Veliky Kamen" [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/turetskaia-kompaniia-priobrela-zemelnyi-uchastok-v- velikom-kamne-717664-2025/

[39] E-commerce platform and mobility solutions. Two new residents at 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/elektronnaia-torgovaia-platforma- i-sredstva-mobilnosti-v-velikom-kamne-dva-novyh-rezidenta-724161-2025/

[40] Three new residents registered in "Veliky Kamen" [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovany-tri-novyx-rezidenta i 0000195499.html

facility for products of animal and plant origin for the pharmaceutical industry in China and other countries in the Asian region, as well as for traditional Chinese medicine"[41] . **Cosmos Technology Innovation** plans to establish a high-tech, import-substituting production facility for precision mechanical components using injection moulding. "The products will be intended for sectors such as such as electronics and telecommunications, medicine, automotive manufacturing"[42] . Meanwhile, **"Zhao Rui XEN-BW" LLC** will be implementing a project in the field of traditional Chinese medicine based at the Aden Hotel & Business Centre in "Veliky Kamen".

In the same month of August 2025, another significant event took place in the industrial park. **The Qi Huang Academy** opened at the 'Expert' Medical Centre of the Centre for Expertise and Testing in Healthcare under the Belarusian Ministry of Health; it will promote professional education in the field of traditional Chinese medicine. This 'medical centre will serve as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, the strengthening of professional ties and the implementation of joint projects'[43] .

Last autumn, a number of new tenants moved into the industrial park. In October – **Bel Lantian Supply Chain Technology LLC**, a Chinese-owned company, which will establish a "multi-functional complex utilising the most advanced technologies in the field of integrated logistics, meeting Class A+ standards" within the "Great Stone" territory[44] . It is planned that the new tenant will provide a wide range of logistics services, including meeting the warehousing needs of Chinese electrical engineering enterprises in Belarus.

In November, **the** Belarusian **company Urban Engineering LLC** joined the **park**; it will be engaged in the full cycle of 'research and development for vehicles, including electric and hydrogen-powered ones, with the implementation of innovative solutions in the fields of energy efficiency, environmental protection, safety and acoustics'[45] .

Another new resident joining in November is **'Innovative Centre for Roofing Systems' LLC** from Belarus, which plans to manufacture polyamide products for the construction industry and will become the country's first manufacturer to use this material in the production of drainage systems for flat roofs. 'In the future, the project's initiators, in collaboration with park resident Solidpipe System LLC, will

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[41] A new resident of 'Veliky Kamen' plans to implement a project in the field of biotechnology [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja- planiruet-realizovat-proekt-v-oblasti-biotehnologij-733156-2025/

[42] Two residents have been registered in the park [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://industrialpark.by/novosti/2025/v parke zaregistrirovany dva rezidenta/

[43] Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine opens in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://vdobrushe.by/akademija-tradicionnoj-kitajskoj-mediciny-otkrylas-v- velikom-kamne/

[44] A new tenant at 'The Great Stone' is to build a multi-purpose logistics complex [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo- kamnja-sozdast-mnogofunktsionalnyj-kompleks-v-oblasti-logistiki-742935-2025/

[45] A new tenant at 'Great Stone' will be implementing innovative transport solutions [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja- budet-vnedrjat-innovatsionnye-reshenija-dlja-transporta-749611-2025/

begin developing heating systems using innovative materials such as nanodispersed graphite (to enhance the electrical conductivity of products) and fluorosilane (to increase the hydrophobicity of products)'[46] . Furthermore, the company intends to develop additional areas of activity: the development of new fire-protection solutions, roofing systems not currently available on the market, and the creation of BIM models for use by design and contracting organisations.

Finally, in December, eight new tenants moved into 'Veliky Kamen'. Firstly, **Lian Shi Technology Bel LLC,** a Chinese-funded company, whose project involves setting up a modern automotive parts manufacturing facility geared towards assembly plants in EAEU countries. "The company intends to ensure competitive supply conditions, including efficient logistics and after-sales support within the park"[47] . Secondly, **the** Belarusian **company "RAZRAMAT" LLC**, which is organising high-tech production of aviation connectors. A distinctive feature of the project is its high degree of automation and stringent reliability requirements, including protection against all external influences – vibration, impact, corrosive chemical environments, temperature fluctuations and electromagnetic interference.

Thirdly, the Chinese-owned company **"Global Trade Alliance", ,** is planning to implement two high-tech import-substitution projects. "The first project will involve the production of customised server equipment aimed at domestic car manufacturers, with a view to producing industrial mini-computers for the development of data centres and cloud services"[48] . The second project involves setting up a full-cycle production facility for rim paper, with a view to eventually producing paper for the food and medical industries, which is in demand at a number of domestic enterprises.

Fourthly, **the** Chinese **company 'Eurasian Cross-Border Overseas Warehouse Management Company' LLC,** which will establish a smart logistics distribution centre within the park, equipped with a modern warehouse management system and automated sorting facilities.

Fifthly, **'Bel-RT Scientific and Technical Development Company' LLC**, which plans to carry out promising research and development and organise the production of modern X-ray equipment for heavy industry. Sixthly, **'Weishi International Company for the Scientific and Technical Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine LLC'** will open a centre in 'Great Stone' for the comprehensive prevention and treatment of diabetes using traditional Chinese medicine methods'[49] . Seventh, **'Luji Technology Europe Ltd'**, which will develop a new generation of electronic

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[46] A new tenant has been registered at 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovan-novyj-rezident-751305-2025/

[47] New tenants at 'Veliky Kamen' will set up production facilities for car parts and aviation connectors [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novve-rezidentv-velikogo-kamnia- sozdadut-proizvodstva-avtozapchastei-i-aviatsionnyh-razjemov-751796-2025/

[48] Two new residents have been registered in 'Great Stone' [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovany-dva-novvh-rezidenta-752737-2025/

[49] Three new Chinese-funded enterprises have been registered in 'Great Stone' [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/tri-novyh-rezidenta-s-kitaiskim-kapitalom- zaregistrirovany-v-velikom-kamne-754994-2025/

braking systems, as well as exhaust gas neutralisation systems.

Eighthly, **the company 'Promtekhinnovatsii'**, which is Belarusian-owned, plans to develop the production of numerically controlled machine tools at the industrial park, including laser cutting machines and machine tool beds, as well as to provide precision machining services for industrial equipment components. "The production process combines cutting-edge technologies in the field of machine tool manufacturing – mineral casting using high-strength concrete, single-set milling of machine bases, and high-speed finishing"[50] . The implementation of this project will help address import substitution objectives and provide Belarusian engineering enterprises with high-precision, automated and high-performance equipment, whilst also fostering the development of start-ups in the engineering sector.

It should be noted that in 2026, the industrial park has no plans to slow down its efforts to attract new residents. For example, in January**, the** Belarusian **company 'ISP Great Stone' LLC** was registered here **;** it plans to set up production of innovative, high-tech eco-friendly packaging for the food industry. It will be manufactured using advanced materials and modern engineering solutions. The project is being spearheaded by "Effective Packaging Systems" LLC – one of the leading manufacturers of such products in our country. "The project is expected to create 135 jobs. The company plans to supply its products both to the domestic market and for export"[51] . Meanwhile, in February, a new tenant – **"Bel Jinxin Hardmetal Tools" LLC**, backed by Chinese investment – plans to "set up high-tech production of industrial cutting tools, as well as hardmetal components for use in mechanical engineering"[52] . The products will be manufactured using innovative technology for the production of gradient materials, which will ensure their exceptional strength and durability. Overall, "Veliky Kamen" "plans to attract around a hundred new tenants during this five-year period"[53] .

A few more figures. To date, more than a third of the industrial park's tenants have commenced the core operations for which they were established. In 2026, "Veliky Kamen" has set itself the target of "moving as far as possible into the operational phase and reaching design capacity"[54] , in order to expand its export markets. And as

[50] New 'Great Stone' resident is implementing a project in the field of mechanical engineering [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-rezident-velikogo-kamnia-realizuet-proekt- v-oblasti-mashinostroeniia-756054-2025/

[51] A new tenant at 'Veliky Kamen' will produce innovative eco-friendly packaging for the food industry [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo- kamnja-budet-proizvodit-innovitsionnuiu-ekoupakovku-dlia-pischeproma-762016-2026/

[52] New resident at 'Veliky Kamen' to manufacture components for the engineering industry [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnia- budet-vypuskat-komplektuiuschie-dlia-mashinostroeniia-763191 -2026/

[53] 'Velikiy Kamen' plans to attract around 100 new tenants by 2030 [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/velikii-kamen-planiruet-privlech-okolo-sta-novyh- rezidentov-do-2030-goda-763650-2026/

[54] A new impetus and active digitalisation. Snopkov on the challenges facing the new head of the 'Great Stone' administration [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novvi-impuls- i-aktivnaia-tsifrovizatsiia-snopkov-o-zadachah-novogo-rukovoditelia-administratsii-763633-2026/

early as February, encouraging results were recorded in this regard. A resident of the industrial park – **Assomedica LLC** – has, for the first time in the history of the Belarusian medical sector, received certification from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and has begun supplying products to the US market. "The company has become the only medical enterprise in the Republic of Belarus to have undergone the FDA certification process. The first shipment of products to the US has already been made. FDA certification confirms that the production processes and the medical devices manufactured comply with strict international requirements in the areas of safety, quality and traceability"[55] . Obtaining this status opens up the opportunity for the company to officially market its products on the US market and significantly expands its supply network, including to Canada, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Africa. This certificate has been granted for 33 groups of disposable medical devices manufactured by the company.

Among the industrial park's other objectives for 2026 are the continuation of infrastructure construction and the creation of engineering and technical conditions to facilitate the arrival and development of its tenants. In particular, the launch of a rail terminal is planned for this year, with the aim of utilising it to handle freight flows from Belarus and China. "Initially, the capacity of the railway terminal in 'Veliky Kamen' will be 180,000 standard containers per year, rising to 500,000."[56] [57] . The project involves the laying of four railway tracks, each 1,050 metres long, the construction of container yards and warehouses, the fitting out of service areas for container repair and washing, and the installation of a modern optical recognition system and digital control of all processes. "The implementation of the project will be an important step towards strengthening the transport and logistics capacity of the park and its integration into international freight chains' [5] [7] .

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At the same time, construction has begun at 'Great Stone' on the first phase of the central section of the industrial park's engineering and transport infrastructure. As part of the project, work is continuing on the construction of Beijing Avenue and the installation of utility networks. All this will provide the container terminal and future tenants in the central part of the park with all the necessary utility support for the stable operation and development of their production facilities. Furthermore, in October 2025, construction began on a high-speed railway line to Minsk National Airport, with a stop at 'Veliky Kamen'. This railway will follow the existing route

[55] A resident of "Veliky Kamen" has received Belarus's first FDA certificate for medical devices and has begun to supply products to the US [Online resource]. – 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/rezident-velikogo-kamnia-poluchil-pervyi-v-belarusi-sertifikat-fda-na-medizdelija-i-pristupil-k-764099-2026/

[56] Not just words, but action. 'Veliky Kamen' reported on the utilisation of the railway terminal [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/ne-na-slovah-a-na-dele-o-zagruzke-zheleznodorozhnogo-terminala-rasskazali-v-velikom-kamne-763680-2026/

[57] Construction of a container terminal and engineering infrastructure is underway in "Veliky Kamen" [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-vedetsia-stroitelstvo-konteinernogo-terminala-i-inzhenernoj-infrastruktury-739388-2025/

from Minsk-Passenger station via Kolodishchi to Gorodishche station, "after which approximately 18 km of new railway track will be built towards the airport. The total length of the route will be 41.8 km, and the journey time will be less than 30 minutes"[58] . The infrastructure on this section will be built virtually from scratch, which is why the project is expected to take several years to complete. The project is due to be completed by 2028–2029, when the first trains will run. Thus, the high-speed rail project will create a modern transport link between the Belarusian capital, the industrial park and Minsk National Airport, contributing to the further development of the park as a key logistics and investment centre in the region.

And finally, in 2026, strategic decisions are expected regarding the development and capital increase of 'Veliky Kamen', with the aim of bringing its authorised capital to 250 million dollars. This indicates that this large-scale project continues to develop and is building up its financial strength, which will ultimately benefit the whole of Belarus.

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[58] High-speed railway to link Minsk with the airport and the 'Velikiy Kamen' industrial park [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/skorostnaia-zheleznaia- doroga-sviazhet-minsk-s-aeroportom-i-industrialnym-parkom-velikij-kamen-741303-2025/

CHAPTER 4

Regional Investment Forums as a mechanism for all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership

In May 2026, our country adopted the Directive "On the Practical Implementation of the All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China", in which inter-regional cooperation features prominently. In particular, this document refers to the implementation of the principle of mutually beneficial cooperation between the regions of the two countries and the organisation of practical inter-regional forums. The plan is for Belarus and China to hold one or two such forums annually with the aim of signing specific investment contracts to facilitate the active entry of Chinese enterprises into Belarus and the implementation of industrial development projects. The sequence of these events will be as follows: 'in 2026 – Grodno Region; in 2027 – Vitebsk and Mogilev Regions; in 2028 – Brest Region; in 2029 – Gomel Region; in 2030 – Minsk Region and the city of Minsk'[59] .

And as early as the beginning of July this year, the first Belarusian-Chinese Regional Forum took place in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the People's Government of Gansu Province. The theme of the forum was: "Uniting the strengths of the regions for joint development and prosperity". This large-scale event brought together over 350 participants – leaders and representatives of ministries and departments, major companies and higher education institutions from both countries – and served as an important platform for promoting the opportunities and achievements of the regions of Belarus and China, which are already actively transitioning from isolated exchanges to systematic cooperation. As emphasised at the forum, "the times themselves demand a shift in cooperation between Belarus and China from a 'centre-to-centre' model to a 'region-to-region' model"[60] . As a result, the meeting was attended by representatives of 23 Chinese regions and all the regions of Belarus, as well as the city of Minsk, who signed around forty bilateral documents in the fields of investment, trade, inter-regional, scientific and technical, and humanitarian cooperation.

On the Belarusian side**, the Grodno Region** was particularly active in this inter-regional event**;** it was one of the organisers of this forum and has long been developing trade, economic and investment cooperation with China. Suffice it to say that the products exported by enterprises in the Grodno Region to the Chinese market 'include

[59] On the practical implementation of the all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://president.gov.by/fp/v1/029/document-thumb 74029 original/74029.1778660269.6678b3bd63.pdf

[60] Belarus and China are actively moving from isolated cultural exchanges to systematic cooperation – Snopkov [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/politics/view/belarus-i-kitai-aktivno- perehodiat-ot-tochechnyh-kulturnyh-obmenov-k-sistemnoi-rabote-snopkov-789133-2026/

polyamides in primary forms, timber, rapeseed oil for technical use, beef, dried whey, flax, dried milk, tinned beef products, tableware, crystal glassware, fruit juices and purées, and offal"[61] . The main import items from China are machinery and mechanical appliances, synthetic yarns, reaction initiators, sports equipment and apparatus, paper and cardboard, trimmings thread, colouring agents, polyethylene terephthalate, equipment for processing rubber and plastics, centrifuges, chains and parts thereof made of ferrous metals, and forklift trucks.

For many years, the Grodno Region has enjoyed strong partnerships with Chinese regions: the provinces **of Hainan, Fujian** and**,** in particular**, Gansu,** with which it has a long and rich history of cooperation. The foundations for this cooperation were laid in 2007, when the first joint document – an agreement on establishing sister-region ties – was signed. "Since then, more than a dozen inter-regional cooperation documents covering various fields have been signed between the two regions"[62] . Today, there are extensive opportunities for cooperation in industrial collaboration, the establishment of joint ventures, the exchange of technologies in agriculture and product processing, logistics, education and science, tourism and cultural exchange.

In particular, as part of the first Belarus-China Regional Forum, the Grodno Region alone adopted twenty documents on cooperation with Chinese partners in various fields. To be more precise, "eight agreements were signed in the field of investment, three documents in the field of inter-regional cooperation, six in the field of humanitarian cooperation, and three foreign economic contracts"[63] . Among the agreements concluded, it is worth noting the agreement establishing a sister-city relationship between Grodno and Lanzhou, which "opens up new horizons for cooperation in the economy, culture, education, tourism and the exchange of expertise in the field of urban management"[64] . A similar document was also signed at the forum between Grodno and the city of Suining, in **Sichuan** Province**.** This province is one of the three main centres for the production of energy equipment and one of the four main centres for the electronic information industry in China. It is the main province where lithium batteries are manufactured. As for the agreement signed, it "outlines three main areas of cooperation: manufacturing, education and tourism"[65] .

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[61] Karaev: The Belarus-China Forum will be an important step towards deepening the partnership [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/karaev-belorussko-kitajskij-forum- stanet-vazhnym-shagom-na-puti-uglublenija-partnerstva-781607-2026/

[62] More than a dozen cooperation agreements are in force between the Grodno Region and Gansu Province [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/bolee- desiatka-dokumentov-o-sotrudnichestve-deistvuiut-mezhdu-grodnenskoi-oblastiiu-i-provintsiei-gansu- 789053-2026/

[63] At the first Belarusian-Chinese Forum of Regions, the Grodno Region signed 20 cooperation agreements [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/na-pervom- belorussko-kitaiskom-forume-regionov-grodnenskaia-oblast-podpisala-20-dokumentov-o-789211-2026/

[64] Grodno and Lanzhou have signed a twinning agreement [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/grodno-i-lanchzhou-zakliuchili-soglashenie-o-pobratimskih-sviaziah-789025-2026/

[65] Grodno and Suining in China have signed a sister-city agreement [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/grodno-i-kitaiskii-suinin-zakliuchili-soglasheme-o- pobratimskih-sviazjah-789114-2026/

Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (GrSU) also played an active role at the first Belarusian-Chinese Regional Forum, signing a number of cooperation agreements with Chinese educational institutions. An agreement on the implementation of a project to establish the Sino-Belarusian educational centre "Bei Li Workshop" was concluded with Gansu Vocational and Technical College of Transport. A memorandum on deepening international cooperation was signed with Lanzhou Modern Vocational College, and a cooperation agreement was signed with Lanzhou University. Grodno State University has also signed a roadmap for 2026–2027 on the establishment of a Confucius Institute with Xinjiang Normal University and an agreement on international cooperation with Lanzhou University of Arts and Sciences. Further concrete steps have been planned. 'The agreement with Lanzhou University provides for the exchange of experience and information in the fields of research, teaching methodology and the organisation of the educational process. Joint scientific research, research programmes and projects are also planned"[66] . The universities have agreed on academic placements, professional development for teaching staff in areas of mutual interest, and exchanges of undergraduates, master's students and postgraduate students.

At the first Belarus-China Regional Forum in Lanzhou, a presentation was also given on the China-Belarus "Great Stone" Industrial Park, highlighting its advantages for implementing investment projects and the results achieved in terms of development, strengthening practical cooperation and establishing new contacts. As part of the forum's session on 'Production Integration, Investment and Joint Development', two new residents of the park with Chinese capital were registered. 'Biotechnology Innovations LLC will set up a production facility for functional biotechnological supplements. 'Medical Materials Research Centre LLC' will open a joint research centre for the development of medical materials'[67] . A memorandum of understanding regarding investment in the establishment of a production facility for blood and blood component containers was signed with Shanghai EDA Medical & Pharmaceutical Technology Co., Ltd. In addition, negotiations were held with resident companies regarding further investment plans in "Great Stone", and a memorandum of understanding was signed with a Chinese company in the medical devices sector regarding investment in the establishment of a joint venture within the park.

As we can see, the first Belarusian-Chinese regional forum demonstrated that inter-regional cooperation is the foundation for the joint development of Belarus and China. As noted by the Belarusian side in Lanzhou, cooperation with the regions of the People's Republic of China is not merely a matter of fraternal ties, but a strategic

[66] Grygoriy State University has agreed to launch joint projects with educational institutions in Gansu Province [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/societv/view/grgu-dogovorilsia-o-starte- sovmestnvh-proektov-s-uchrezhdeniiami-obrazovaniia-provintsii-gansu-789217-2026/

[67] New residents, biotechnology and medical materials. 'The Great Stone' successfully presented at the regional forum in Gansu [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rezidenty-biotehnologii-i-medmaterialy-velikii-kamen-uspeshno-prezentovan-na-forume-regionov-v-789275-2026/

alliance within the framework of the 'Belt and Road' initiative. And "our task is not merely transit, but the creation of shared value-added chains linking Chinese industrial clusters with European and Eurasian markets"[68] . All this suggests that the two countries are opening a new chapter in the history of their bilateral relations, not least with the help of the regions.

Now, regarding the prospects. In 2027, a similar forum will be held with the participation of **the Vitebsk Region,** which ranks among the leading Belarusian regions actively cooperating with the People's Republic of China. In recent years, the Vitebsk Region has developed particularly fruitful partnerships with Chinese provinces such as **Heilongjiang, Guizhou, Shandong** and **Jiangxi**. Let us take a closer look at these partners of Belarus's northern region.

Firstly, **Heilongjiang** Province**,** which was the first of all Chinese regions to establish contacts with the Vitebsk Region – more than twenty years ago, in 2005. Over the years, sister-city relationships have also been established between the cities of Vitebsk and Harbin, Novopolotsk and Weihai, and Polotsk and Mudanjiang. In 2025, the Vitebsk Region and Heilongjiang Province signed a new Exchange and Cooperation Plan for 2025–2027, which aims to 'expand contacts and enhance cooperation in the most relevant areas'[69] , including pharmaceuticals, wood processing, the food industry and chemical processing. The partners' key annual events are the 'Harbin Expo' and the 'Innovation, Investment, Prospects' International Investment Forum, which takes place in Vitebsk.

For example, at the 35th Harbin International Trade and Economic Fair in May 2026, which was attended by representatives from more than forty countries, the Vitebsk Region had a stand showcasing a wide range of goods from the Pridvinsk region: from meat, dairy and confectionery products to industrial goods. In particular, 'Vitella' LLC, 'VIK-Animal Health' PUP, 'Vitebsk Carpets' OJSC and 'Orsha Flax Mill' RUPTP demonstrated their export potential. An agreement was also signed there between the administration of the 'Vitebsk' Free Economic Zone and Suifenhe International Trading Company 'Wancai' LLC regarding intentions to implement an investment project. Furthermore, during talks with representatives of "Harbin Biovaccine Pharmaceutical Group" Ltd and the Harbin Veterinary Institute, discussions took place regarding the development of joint technology for the production of vaccines against poultry diseases. "The Harbin Veterinary Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (HVRI) plans to cooperate with the Vitebsk State Academy of Veterinary Medicine (VSAM) in the development

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[68] Inter-regional ties, cooperation and culture. Nikolai Snopkov speaks at a forum in Gansu on the priorities of the partnership with the PRC [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://pda.government.by/news/mezhregionalnye-svyazi-kooperaciya-i-kultura-nikolay-snopkov-na-forume- v-gansu-o-prioritetakh

[69] Drozdova, N. The Vitebsk Region and the Chinese province of Heilongjiang have signed an Exchange and Cooperation Plan for 2025–2027 / N. Drozdova // [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://www.vitbichi.by/news/obshchestvo/vitebskaya oblast i kitayskaya provintsiya kheyluntszyan pod pisali plan obmena i sotrudnichestva na /

of new vaccines for pets (companion animals), as well as for other economically important animals"[70] . Meanwhile, the Vitebsk Confectionery Factory has opened its first official shop on the Chinese e-commerce platform JD.com.

Secondly, Guizhou Province**,** which established a partnership with the Vitebsk Region in 2015; in 2024, the parties signed an agreement on deepening sister-city exchanges and cooperation, as well as a roadmap for 2024–2026. At the same time, an agreement was signed to establish a sister-city relationship between the cities of Guiyang and Vitebsk. "In addition, the Guizhou Provincial Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the Vitebsk Regional Veterinary Laboratory signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation"[71] . A year later, the region and the province discussed promising areas for cooperation and the promotion of goods and services, with a view to investment cooperation, in order to establish partnerships in fields such as environmentally friendly technologies, new energy sources and big data technologies. In particular, "the Vitebsk-based baby food manufacturer 'BelFood Production' presented a wide range of products under its own brand, as well as those produced under licence agreements, and a new product – a snack for adults"[72] . The company has registered with a specialised Chinese system , which enables it to operate in the Chinese market. All these facts indicate that new opportunities are opening up for the parties to develop joint projects.

Thirdly, **Shandong** Province**,** which signed its first cooperation agreement with the Vitebsk Region in 2019. In May 2025, at the sister regions' forum held in that province, enterprises from Orsha, Polotsk, Braslav, Verkhnedvinsk and Vitebsk were represented, including producers of meat and dairy products, flax, and pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations. At that time, enterprises from the Vitebsk Region agreed to supply products to Shandong worth over one hundred million dollars. In particular, "the Orsha Flax Mill currently supplies cottonised fibre, and in future will export linen fabrics and linen garments. This represents a different level of processing and different revenue streams"[73] . Contracts were signed for a joint product, 'BelVitunifarm', with a major corporation – a world leader in the production of pharmaceutical and veterinary

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[70] The working visit to China by a delegation from the Vitebsk Region, led by Anzhelika Nikitina, Deputy Chair of the Regional Executive Committee, has concluded [Electronic resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://vitebsk-region.gov.by/news/novosti/zavershilsya-rabochiy-vizit-delegatsii-vitebskogo-regiona-vo-glave-s- zamestitelem-predsedatelya-obli/

[71] Trade, science. The Vitebsk Region has signed cooperation agreements with China [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://www.belarus.by/ru/government/events/torgovlia-nauka- vitebskaja-oblast-podpisala-dokumentv-o-sotrudnichestve-s-kitaem i 176828.html

[72] Kochetov, S. The Vitebsk Region and the Chinese province of Guizhou are ready to develop cultural tourism and strengthen trade and economic cooperation / S. Kochetov // [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://www.vitbiehi.by/news/obshehestvo/vitebshehina i kitayskaya provintsiya guyehzhou gotovy razvi vat kulturnyy turizm i narashehivat torg/

[73] Pushnyakova, A. Flax production, wood processing. In which sectors will the Vitebsk Region strengthen cooperation with China / A. Pushnyakova // [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/proizvodstvo-lna-derevoobrabotka-v-kakih-otrasliah-vitebskaia-oblast-usilit-sotrudniehestvo-s-kitaem-718113-2025/

preparations. OJSC 'Polotsk-Steklovolokno' also planned to implement a Belarusian-Chinese project. In addition, agreements were reached with two Chinese companies to establish greenhouse farms for growing vegetables under cover. And in March 2026, Shandong Lishengte Agrotechnology announced a project to establish a greenhouse complex in the Orsha District – within the "Bremino-Orsha" special economic zone – where tomatoes, cucumbers and strawberries will be grown in greenhouses. "An exhibition area will also be set up to showcase modern technologies for growing other crops. There are also plans for a small area dedicated to the experimental cultivation of high-yield seeds. The greenhouse complex is expected to cover an area of 25 hectares"[74] . It is anticipated that this project could be implemented within the next two to three years.

In May this year, another meeting was held in Vitebsk with representatives from Shandong Province, at which the results of cooperation between the Belarusian and Chinese regions in the first quarter of 2026 were summarised, with the Vitebsk Region recording a one-and-a-half-fold increase in exports. At the same time, the parties emphasised that 'the potential for cooperation between the Vitebsk Region and Shandong Province lies in joint activities between manufacturing enterprises, scientific organisations, and cultural, educational, sporting and tourism institutions, as well as in creating the most favourable conditions for attracting investors'[75] . Given its existing expertise, the northern region of Belarus has proposed cooperation in the field of agro-industrial production, including the exchange of technologies, agronomic practices and the breeding of agricultural crops. This is all the more relevant given that the Vitebsk Region possesses sufficient raw material resources – timber, peat and mineral waters. There is therefore scope for cooperation in the joint extraction, processing, manufacture and sale of finished products. Enterprises in the region are also prepared to consider options for setting up joint ventures in various sectors – mechanical engineering, light industry and the production of building materials. The exchange of expertise in the field of automation and modernisation of production processes is also important. Furthermore, discussions took place regarding the possibility of expanding exports of Belarusian goods to Shandong, including dairy products and machinery, as well as the import of goods produced in the province. All this indicates that the parties are actively seeking further opportunities for cooperation and are achieving positive results.

Fourthly, Jiangxi Province**,** with which the Vitebsk Region established a sister-city relationship in 2022. Orsha, Polotsk and Vitebsk have also established cooperation

[74] Pushnyakova, A. "They will grow tomatoes, cucumbers and strawberries". An investor from the PRC is to build a greenhouse complex in the Orsha District / A. Pushnyakova // [Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/society/view/budut-vyraschivat-pomidory-ogurtsy-klubniku-investor-iz-knr-postroit- teplichnyj -kompleks-v-orshanskom-770761-2026/

[75] Aniskovich, E. A delegation from the Chinese province of Shandong visits Vitebsk. What are the topics on the visit's agenda? / E. Aniskovich //[Online resource]. - 2026. - URL: https://belta.by/politics/view/delegatsiia-iz-kitaiskoi-provintsii-shandun-poseschaet-vitebsk-kakie-temy-v-povestke-vizita-780420-2026/

with partners from this province. And in October 2025, the parties signed a roadmap for exchange and cooperation for the years 2026–2028, which sets out specific measures for the development of the two regions. In effect, this document marks a new phase of cooperation, as it concerns collaboration "in the fields of education and skills development, including for the digitalisation and communications sectors, because the province is quite advanced in this regard: the digitalisation sector accounts for a third of the region's economy"[76] . The aim is to build expertise not only in the field of education, but also in technology parks and the digitalisation of enterprises. It is worth noting that, industrially speaking, Jiangxi Province is a multi-sector economy. The timber industry is actively developing there, with more than half of its territory covered by forests. But here is an interesting detail: all the timber for furniture production is imported, including from Belarus. In the roadmap signed last October, the parties agreed to establish a furniture hub, not only to manufacture furniture but also to export it to Georgia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and other countries further afield. Another sector that has attracted the interest of the Chinese partners is light industry. Linen fabrics, footwear and clothing will be supplied from the Vitebsk Region to Jiangxi Province. In return, the Vitebsk Region will receive innovative equipment for the pharmaceutical industry and the production of veterinary medicines, as well as machinery for modern food production. Finally, healthcare has emerged as another area of shared interest between the Vitebsk Region and Jiangxi. This Chinese province is considered one of the leaders in the production of medical equipment. For the Vitebsk Region, this presents an opportunity to study and master new technologies and expertise in this field. And as early as this year, the provisions of the roadmap for exchange and cooperation will be fully implemented.

And finally. As noted above, in 2027 the Vitebsk Region is due to host a regional investment forum with its Chinese sister regions and partners in China and ensure the signing of investment agreements for the implementation of projects within its territory. It seems likely that the Vitebsk Region will be able to fulfil this important mission with distinction, as the potential for cooperation between Belarus's northern region and the provinces of **Heilongjiang, Guizhou, Shandong** and **Jiangxi** – which we discussed above – is already being realised in concrete and successful terms.

[76] Pushnyakova, A. Furniture hub, education. Areas of cooperation between the Vitebsk Region and the Chinese province of Jiangxi / A. Pushnyakova // [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/mebelnyi-hab-obrazovanie-v-chem-budut-sotrudnichat-vitebskaia-oblast-i-kitaiskaia-provintsija-tszjansi-745859-2025/

CHAPTER 5

Brest Region: Moving towards an innovative level of cooperation with Chinese partners

In recent years, **the Brest Region's** cooperation with the People's Republic of China has yielded favourable results. In particular, China ranks among the top three trading partners of the south-western region of Belarus. "Foreign trade turnover at the end of 2024 exceeded $444 million. Furthermore, thanks to regular engagement with representatives of Chinese business, $18.8 million in foreign direct investment was received last year. This is 20.9 times more than in 2023"[77] . And in the first half of 2025, the volume of trade grew by a further 25 per cent. At the same time, exports from the Brest region to China grew at an even faster rate. Another interesting fact: the Brest region's exchange-traded commodity turnover with China more than tripled in 2025. Whilst in 2024 the value of transactions via the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange amounted to over two million dollars, last year it exceeded seven million dollars. "Enterprises in the Brest region are shipping meat products, sawn timber, dried milk and butter to China"[78] .

The Brest Region works closely with four Chinese provinces – Anhui, Liaoning, Hubei and Shanxi. In 2025, partnerships with some of these provinces developed most successfully. In particular, a sister-city relationship with **Anhui Province** was established as far back as September 2017. At that time, the first steps were taken in the field of education. In 2018, the Centre for Belarusian Studies was opened at Anhui University. Brest State University named after A.S. Pushkin acted as a partner. Two years later, a Confucius Institute was established at this university. Currently, around 500 students in 35 study groups are studying the Chinese language and culture there. At the same time, JAC Motors and OJSC "Brestmash" embarked on a joint project and made "a huge leap from the four cars produced in 2017 to 900 in 2024"[79] . Subsequently, the two regions – Belarus and China – signed an action plan for trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation for the period 2023–2025.

And in August last year, the parties decided to draw up a roadmap for cooperation up to 2030, with a view to deepening relations in various areas. In particular, to "organise the production of light-duty lorries with a load capacity of 3 to 8 tonnes, plus pick-up

[77] Trade, healthcare, tourism. The Brest Region and Liaoning Province will promote sister-city ties [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/torgovlia- medicine-tourism-brest-region-and-liaoning-province-will-promote-sister-city-ties-709155-2025/

[78] Exchange-traded commodity turnover between China and the Brest Region has more than tripled over the past year [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/birzhevoi-tovarooborot-mezhdu-kitaem-i-brestskoi-oblastiiu-za-god-vvros-bolee-chem-vtroe-752985-2025/

[79] Expanding twinning ties, joint projects. What Anhui Province offers to the Brest Region [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/rasshirenie- pobratimskih-sviazei-sovmestnye-proekty-chto-predlagaet-provintsiia-anhoi-brestskoi-oblasti-731526-2025/

trucks, at the 'Brestmash' plant"[80] . And as early as December 2025, the Brest-based company signed a contract with its Chinese partners for the supply of 200 vehicle kits this year for the assembly of these lorries. "Plans are currently being drawn up for investment and increased production volumes, and measures to develop localisation are being finalised. An order has been placed for the first components. Production of the first vehicles is scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2026"[81] . Furthermore, the Brest Region is interested in partnering with another company from Anhui Province. This concerns a project to establish production of lifting and transport equipment within the Belarusian region. The parties are already discussing "various options: from setting up a joint venture to establishing their own company offering a full range of services"[82] .

Also, in December 2025, the Brest Regional Executive Committee signed memoranda with partners from Anhui Province "on the intention to expand the strategic partnership and establish a new expanded polystyrene production facility"[83] and on the establishment of a research and development centre. Finally, the Brest side proposed the possibility of implementing a joint pilot project to organise a direct flight between Brest and Hefei. All these proposals will be included in the plan for the development of cooperation between the Brest Region and Anhui Province for 2026–2027, which will incorporate initiatives in the humanitarian and socio-cultural spheres, as well as proposals in the field of economic and investment cooperation.

As for **Liaoning Province,** a twinning agreement with it was signed in the spring of 2023. And just one year later, these regions took their first steps towards establishing economic ties. The parties stated at the time that they were "aiming for comprehensive cooperation. Of particular interest is cooperation in the economy, industry, the automotive sector, agriculture, as well as in the fields of healthcare, education, sport, culture and tourism"[84] . And as early as the beginning of June 2024, Brest and the city of Dalian, located in Liaoning Province, signed a friendship and cooperation agreement and identified the first areas of common interest – ranging from tourism to the economy. Firstly, Dalian has a well-developed tourism sector and hotel industry. There is also considerable interest in attracting a Chinese investor to build a hotel in

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[80] The Brest Region and Anhui Province to develop a roadmap for cooperation up to 2030 [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/brestskai a-oblast-i -provintsii a-anhoi - razrabotaiut-dorozhnuiu-kartu-sotrudnichestva-po-2030-god-731511-2025/

[81] Brestmash plans to produce its first batch of light-duty lorries in 2026 [Online source]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/pervuiu-partiiu-malotonnazhnyh- gruzovikov-na-brestmashe-planiruiut-vypustit-v-2026-godu-753456-2025/

[82] Production of lifting and transport equipment may be established in the Brest Region in partnership with a company from the PRC [Online resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/in-the-Brest-region-production-of-lifting-and-handling-equipment-may-be-established-in-cooperation-with-a-company-from-the-PRC-753365-2025/

[83] Podgorny, O. Direct flights, super-greenhouses and new factories: The Brest region is building bridges with China / O. Podgorny // [Electronic resource]. - 2025. - URL: https://bvn.by/2025/12/12/priamoi -reis-superteplicv- i-novve-zavody-brestchina-stroit-mosty-s-kitaem/

[84] Economy, healthcare, tourism. The Brest Region and Liaoning Province aim to strengthen cooperation [Online resource]. - 2024. - URL: https://belta.by/regions/view/ekonomika- meditsina-turizm-brestskaia-oblast-i-provintsiia-liaonin-natseleny-ukrepliat-sotrudnichestvo-638402-2024/

Brest. The second area is education. Dalian has two universities and around ten state-run higher education institutions, which opens up wide-ranging opportunities for cooperation. Thirdly, 'the parties also see opportunities for collaboration in the field of medicine. Healthcare institutions are already establishing contacts'[85] . In particular, on the same day, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between Brest Central City Hospital and Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Brest is particularly interested in mechanical engineering, automotive manufacturing, electronics and a number of other sectors.

In April 2025, a delegation from the Brest Region visited this Chinese province, where it adopted a work plan for the further promotion of sister-region relations between the regions for 2025–2027, with a view to developing ties in various sectors – including the economy, trade, education, healthcare, culture, tourism and sport. In particular, during this visit, enterprises from the Brest region signed memoranda of cooperation with three Chinese corporations. OJSC "Savushkin Produkt" signed an agreement to extend its contract with its Chinese partners. The management company of the "Brestmyasomolprom Concern" holding extended two cooperation agreements. "These contracts, totalling 320 million yuan, ensure stable supplies of our meat and dairy products to the Chinese market, which is characterised by high quality standards"[86] , and open up further prospects.

In addition, a memorandum of understanding on investment has been signed between the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Transfusion Medicine and Medical Biotechnology and Chinese companies. The fact is that a plant for the production of albumin and immunoglobulin is being built in Gantsevichi, the first of its kind in the Commonwealth of Independent States. This is a unique enterprise. With the help of partners from China, the project is to be developed and "a whole cluster established there. This involves the processing of the alcohol that remains after the production of albumin and immunoglobulin, which will enable <...> savings of around $2 million annually on alcohol production. It also includes the manufacture of bags for plasma and blood in general"[87] .

During this visit by a delegation from the south-western region of Belarus to Liaoning Province, new areas of cooperation with the city of Dalian were identified in the industrial sector. Specifically, with the local machine tool factory. It should be noted that the industrial sector in the Brest Region is undergoing extensive modernisation, and therefore requires state-of-the-art equipment. And 'equipment from Chinese

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manufacturers meets all quality standards'[88] . As a result, agreements have been reached between the Pinsk Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Plant and shipyards located in the city of Dalian. It is planned that Chinese technical specialists will visit the Belarusian enterprise in the near future to assess the potential for shipbuilding in Pinsk.

One of the stops on the Brest Region delegation's itinerary was the Liaoning Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Common ground was found on several issues. Firstly, this concerns mushroom production. In the Brest region, oyster mushrooms and button mushrooms are grown, but the Chinese partners have a vast number of mushroom varieties that are beneficial and could be cultivated in Belarus. Secondly, flower production. In the Brest region, there is a farm called 'Nakhodka Polesya', which grows tulips. With the help of Chinese partners, new varieties of flowers may be introduced there, which will then be cultivated further, including in forestry enterprises. Thirdly, there is maize, which produces enormous cobs. This is of great interest for the fodder supply in the south-western region of Belarus. Fourthly, the possibility of attracting Chinese investors to modernise the 'Berestye' greenhouse complex is being explored; plans are in place to build additional greenhouses on the site using new technologies. In addition, the Brest Region is considering the possibility of establishing another greenhouse complex to increase the volume of vegetable and herb production.

Finally, with regard to the development of twinning partnerships, in addition to Brest, Baranovichi and Pinsk may also establish sister city relationships with Benxi and Laoyang in the Chinese province of Liaoning. In particular, 'Benxi, like Baranovichi, is an industrial town, which also opens up great prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation. This includes heavy engineering and machine tool manufacturing'[89] . Pinsk and Liaoyang, for example, are known for their light industry. As we can see, the Brest Region and the Chinese province of Liaoning are aiming to cooperate in many areas, including pharmacology, shipbuilding, machine tool manufacturing and crop production. And this, as they say, is just the beginning.

In 2025, contacts between the south-western region of Belarus and a number of other Chinese provinces were also stepped up. In particular, with **Guangdong Province.** The fact is that back in May, a factory producing household appliances opened in Baranovichi, housed within the local automated production lines plant. On the Chinese side, the project was undertaken by Midea, a company founded in 1968 in Guangdong Province, which manufactures household appliances, industrial ventilation and air-conditioning systems. In May 2024, this company registered 'Midea Refrigerator Manufacturing' as a resident of the 'Brest' Free Economic Zone, and it is this

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company that has taken charge of the project. "The implementation of this project in Belarus has attracted $28.8 million in foreign investment and led to the import of unique technological equipment"[90] . In the refurbished production facilities of the Baranovichi Automatic Lines Plant, covering more than 35,000 square metres, "over 350 units of new equipment have been installed"[91] . The business plan provides for financial investment in fixed assets over a five-year period. The plant's expected production capacity is up to one million refrigerators per year. Furthermore, 'the plant plans to manufacture not only refrigerators but also other household appliances'[92] . All this indicates that this innovative project has a high degree of localisation and makes a significant contribution to the economic development of the Brest Region. It is a successful example of cooperation in the fields of industry and investment, which serves to deepen and develop the comprehensive strategic partnership between Belarus and China.

Last August, a delegation of businesspeople from **Henan Province** also visited Brest; they travelled not only to the regional centre but also to Baranovichi, the Zhabinka, Lyakhovichy and Kamenets districts, where the Chinese side expressed a desire to establish cooperation in the peat industry, the production of electric transport, the supply of industrial equipment for various sectors, as well as to invest in projects and set up joint production facilities. "Following this trip, an agreement has already been signed between a company from our [Chinese] delegation and a peat briquette factory. There is also a preliminary agreement on cooperation in the field of electric transport"[93] . And these are just the first steps in establishing relations between the Brest Region and Henan Province.

And in December last year, in **Shanghai**, enterprises from the Brest region signed contracts worth seven million dollars with Chinese partners. "The Berezovo Meat Processing Plant and the Kobrin Butter and Cheese Factory will supply their products"[94] . An agreement was also signed between the Brest-based 'Belalko' spirits distillery and Chinese partners regarding the supply of these products to China. At the same event, the Brest Regional Executive Committee concluded an agreement with Shanghai-based partners – CHINA TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING

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CO., LTD and WEIFANG SAINPOLY GREENHOUSE EQUIPMENT CO., LTD – on joint investment in a project worth tens of millions of dollars to build greenhouse complexes for growing vegetable crops in the Brest Region. "The use of advanced Chinese technologies will enable an increase in vegetable production during the off-season. The first phase involves the construction of 1.75 hectares of super-greenhouses. The long-term goal is to build state-of-the-art complexes covering a much larger area"[95] . This production facility will be able to freely sell its produce to the vast market of the Eurasian Economic Union, which comprises more than 140 million consumers.

Let us summarise. All these facts show that by 2025, the Brest Region will have opened up new horizons for cooperation with Chinese partners, the essence of which lies in the development of technological and investment collaboration, in order to reach a new level of innovation in interregional partnerships between Belarus and China.

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