ENE-000946/2021Answer given by Mr Várhelyion behalf of the European Commission(14.4.2021)

In reaction to the developments in Belarus in the aftermath of the falsified elections of 9 August 2020, the EU has stepped up support to the people of Belarus, including through the adoption of a EUR 24 million assistance package[[1]](#footnote-1), which will benefit the Belarusian civil society, youth, small and medium-sized enterprises, and improve health capacities. In the framework of this support, an amount of EUR 8 million will be used to support youth, including through a scholarship programme for students and young professionals affected by the developments in the country. Commission services are currently preparing the operationalisation of the action to ensure funding of scholarships for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year.

An EU Member State agency, the Lithuanian Central Project Management Agency, has already been selected to implement this component, in line with the action document[[2]](#footnote-2). Together with the agency, we are currently developing the implementation details of the programme for its imminent launch. These include the selection criteria for students and professionals. The intention is also to ensure co-financing of relevant national scholarship and stipends programmes run by EU Member states in a Team Europe approach.

Preparatory and language courses for prospective students are effectively included in this support package.

1. <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2309> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/default/files/annexes/c_2020_8954_f1_annex_en_v1_p1_1117197.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)