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**THE ORIGINS OF THE HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION IN BELARUS  
IN THE EARLY 1920s**

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***Introduction***

During 1795–1917, when Belarus was part of the Russian Empire, due to the restrictions imposed on the territory of the North-Western Region after the suppression of the national liberation uprisings of 1830–1831 and 1863, all higher educational institutions were liquidated. For almost 80 years such policy in the field of education had predetermined that doctors who practiced in Belarus received medical education not in the native country. After the October Revolution of 1917 the Soviet authorities paid great attention to the development of national education in soviet republics, but due to the German and Polish occupation of the territory of Belarus, the real process of establishing a university with medical faculty in Belarus was postponed until the summer of 1920.

***Objective***

To characterize the process of formation of the Medical faculty of the Belarusian State University (BSU) in the early 1920s.

***Materials and methods***

Archival, periodical and narrative sources processed with the scientific and special historical research methods.

***Results and discussion***

During the Polish-Soviet war of 1919–1921, due to the mobilization and high mortality of medical personnel caused by hostilities and epidemics, the Soviet medicine in Belarus felt an acute shortage of qualified doctors. Therefore, shortly after the occupation of Minsk by the Red Army units in the summer of 1920, the activity of the Minsk and Moscow preparatory commissions on the organization of the Belarusian State University in Minsk with the medical faculty in its composition was restored. On August 7, 1920 the mandate of the commissioner for the organization of the university in Minsk was received by the head of the Health Department of the Military Revolutionary Committee of the Socialist Soviet Republic of Belarus (SSRB) S. Kaminisky, who was supposed to oversee the creation of the medical faculty of BSU [1, p. 19].

The commissions selected the candidates of professors of the future university chairs (scientists from Moscow, Petrograd, Kiev, Smolensk, Kazan and other cities were invited to work at the medical faculty of BSU). The Government of the SSRB also called to scientists-natives of Belarus to take part in the organization of the university in Minsk. One of the first scientists who responded to the call was the future dean of the Medical faculty of BSU M. Krol. In January, 1921, in addition to M. Krol, neuropathologist Professor L. Minor, surgeon Professor V. Braitsev, anatomist Professor P. Karuzin were assigned to the Medical faculty. Thus, at the time of the beginning of classes of the first 1921/1922 academic year, there were 5 professors and 28 teachers only at the Medical faculty. Structurally, the faculty consisted of 7 chairs (anatomy, organic chemistry, botany, zoology, nervous diseases, pathological anatomy and histology, physics) [2, p. 27].

One of the most important basis of education in the future Medical faculty was curricula. At the meeting of the Moscow commission for the organization of BSU on March 22 and 29, 1921, the curricula of the medical faculty of BSU, developed by doctors and teachers M. Krol, L. Minor and P. Karuzin with the participation of

M. Davydov, was adopted. The first curricula of BSU was very simple — only the discipline and the total number of hours for its teaching in each trimester were indicated. The curriculum of the Medical faculty of BSU was designed for 5 years or 13 trimesters: 6 trimesters for the main (junior) department and 7 for the senior. An analysis of the academic disciplines taught at the Medical faculty showed, that the largest number of hours were devoted to surgery, chemistry and anatomy. Considerable attention was paid to propaedeutics, histology and embryology, as well as nervous diseases [3, p. 49].

However, the immediate opening of the medical faculty and the BSU was hindered by total shortages, poverty and destruction in post-war Belarus. Due to the economic devastation, even approved technical issues did not always mean a positive solution: during a business trip of the delegation of the provisional board of BSU from Moscow to Minsk (April 8–15, 1921), it was stated that the buildings planned for the medical faculty of BSU were already occupied by other institutions. The theological seminary, which was considered as the main building of the Medical faculty, was transferred to the military department, where a reception point for Polish prisoners of war was opened, and the building of the «Victoria» factory (the future anatomical theater) was occupied by a locksmith workshop [3, p. 49].

For the final solution of the issue, on April 17, 1921, a special joint meeting of representatives of the Council of People's Commissars and the Central Executive Committee of the SSRB, as well as all commissions and boards for the creation of the BSU, was convened, as a result of which all the previously mentioned buildings, including three hospitals and the former Minsk military hospital, were finally transferred to the bases of the Medical faculty [3, p. 49].

Despite the formal grand opening of the BSU on July 11, 1921 (it was timed to coincide with the anniversary of the occupation of Minsk by the Red Army on July 11, 1920), the actual start of classes at the medical faculty began only on October 31, 1921. During the summer and autumn of 1921, the management structure of the medical faculty was developed. The activity of the faculty was headed by the Dean's office, which was elected for a term of one year. The first Dean's office of the Faculty of Medicine included chemist B. Berkenheim (Dean), neurologist M. Krol (Deputy Dean), biologist A. Fedyushin (secretary). However, B. Berkenheim did not take his office and the faculty was temporarily headed by A. Fedyushin, and soon Professor M. Krol became dean, who actually built the medical faculty of BSU. There were three subject commissions under the Dean's Office: therapeutic, surgical and biomedical [2, p. 10].

At the beginning of the university's existence, its faculties were based on collegial and democratic principles of self-government. So, at the Medical faculty of BSU, the presidium of the faculty was created, which until July, 1921 gathered Dean M. Krol, his deputy Dr. Perelman and secretary A. Fedyushin. Later, representatives of the students were as well included in the presidium of the Medical faculty [4, p. 45].

It is important to show the features of the first admission campaign of Medical faculty of BSU. As part of the implementation of the cultural revolution, Soviet educational policy encouraged representatives of the proletariat (primarily workers) to receive higher education in order to create a «new intelligentsia». In 1921 the People's Commissar for Education of the SSRB V. Ignatovsky noted: «A new type of students is being formed, who have come out of the plough and the machine, for whom the interests of the proletariat and the peasantry will be their own interests» [5, p. 329]. It should also be noted the influence of elements of the class approach to education in the Soviet state, which was expressed in the provision of advantages in admission to the Medical faculty for graduates of working faculties, medical workers with at least a year's experience, red nurses and orderlies who worked at the front for at least a year, people of physical labor who worked for at least a year

in responsible party, professional and Soviet positions, as well as applicants of proletarian origin. However, the special criteria was also developed for the selection of applicants to the Medical faculty of BSU: age at least 17 years, education in a working faculty or a second-stage school, as well as passing a colloquium in mathematics, physics and natural sciences.

After the publication of the admission rules 1300 applications were accepted for 250 places at the medical faculty, which caused that the number of places at the Medical faculty was expanded to 400, but as a result, only 365 people were initially enrolled for the 1921/1922 academic year. After a number of re-registrations, the first set of students for all courses of the medical faculty finally amounted to only 239 students, of whom less than 200 later graduated from the faculty [4, pp. 45–46].

### **Conclusion**

The emergency of higher medical education in Belarus became possible only after the solid establishment of Soviet power on its territory. This also predetermined, that political and ideological components played a significant role in the selection of future doctors and their education, but at the same time, democratic elements of self-government were added into the management mechanism of the Medical faculty. Organizational difficulties had a hard impact on the further activities of the medical faculty of BSU, especially in the early years of its work: the first graduation of doctors in 1925 was only 21 people, but in 1927 the medical faculty of BSU produced only 400 young doctors. Nevertheless, despite material, personnel and organizational difficulties in post-war Belarus, it became possible to build its own system of training doctors, which was vital for the young Soviet healthcare system.

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## **ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ ИНОЯЗЫЧНОЙ КОММУНИКАТИВНОЙ КОМПЕТЕНЦИИ НА ЯЗЫКОВЫХ КУРСАХ**

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### **Введение**

Современное общество диктует определённые правила и требования к компетенциям в рамках профессиональной деятельности. Множество сфер экономики, политики, образования и здравоохранения ориентированы на увеличение экспорта услуг, в том числе международных, что предполагает активное использование иностранного языка (в частности, английского) в качестве основного средства осуществления коммуникации, как устной, так и письменной. Именно этот факт является стимулирующим и побуждающим фактором, который заставляет опытного специалиста в своей сфере деятельности вновь вернуться за парту в качестве обучающего, чтобы овладеть полноценными знаниями, умениями и навыками в иноязычной коммуникации. Языковые курсы