

# Introduction

This volume *Belarus Catching up with Europe* features a collection of texts offering an overview of the internal situation in Belarus and proposes political, economic and social reforms that would open prospects for European integration by initiating far-reaching reforms which would lead Belarus towards democracy and a functioning market economy. This volume also presents suggestions for EU policy regarding its relations with Belarus at the time of new neighborhood, based on an analysis of the effectiveness of methods for affecting transformations employed so far in this country.

The most important component of the publication is a summary of the volume *Belarus: Reform scenarios* – result of ‘European Choice for Belarus’ (2002/2003), a project by an interdisciplinary group of Belarusian and foreign experts organized by the Stefan Batory foundation. The publication also includes the project’s results as reviewed by independent experts and a transcript of a discussion ‘Can Belarus be Reformed? – Reform Scenarios’ which took place on 27 October 2003 in Warsaw at the presentation of the book.