

Белорусский экономический
исследовательско-образовательный центр

Belarusian Economic Research
and Outreach Center



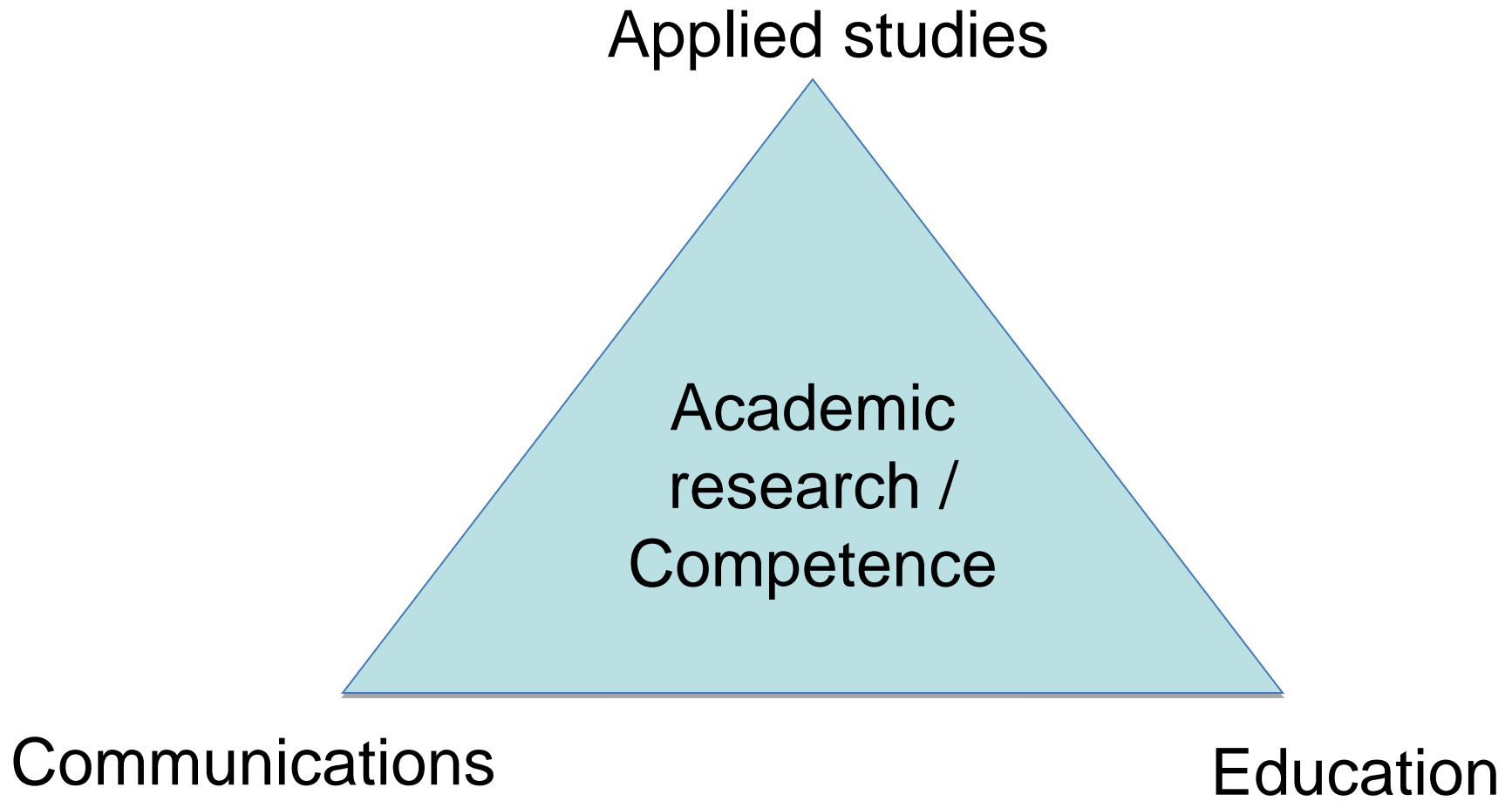
Belarusian Research and Outreach Center BEROC

Modern Economic Thinking for Belarus

What is BEROC?

- BEROC – independent academic think tank
- Created by SITE and EERC in 2008 with support from Sida; moved to Minsk in 2010
- Team: 11 researchers in Minsk (4 PhDs), 3 offsite/visiting researchers; 3 admins

What do we have in BEROC?



FREE Network

Network of Research Centers:

- [SITE](#) (Stockholm)
- [CEFIR](#) (Moscow)
- [CenEA](#) (Szczecin)
- [KSE](#) (Kyiv)
- [BICEPS](#) (Riga)
- [BEROC](#) (Minsk)
- [ISET](#) (Tbilisi)



Results in core activities

- Research (economic growth, monetary policy, social issues, gender, private sector)
 - Publications in refereed journals
 - Policy research impact
- Outreach
 - Engaged in policy dialogue
 - Policy forum KEF, book on Belarusian economy, etc..
 - Maintaining relationship with “diaspora” (conference, etc)
- Education
 - Summer school for undergrads
 - Postgraduate school jointly with BSU
 - Graduates are in high demand both from the private sector and the government
 - Educational events for policy-makers

Research

- Quarterly Economic Outlook
- Monetary Policy
 - Currently: FinTech and DSGE Modelling for the National Bank
- Real Sector, Economic Growth
 - Privatization, growth decomposition
- Social issues
 - Poverty, inequality, gender issues, pension system
- Business and SME development
 - Quarterly bulletin (forthcoming)
 - Female entrepreneurs
 - Global Entrepreneurship Monitor

New directions

- Promoting dialogue on reforms
 - Open Dialogue (MATRA)
 - Series of seminars with NBRB
- Green Economy component of the project
 - Research barriers to development of green economy projects
 - Outreach to remove barriers; educate local authorities
- Commissions on
 - commission on sustainable growth
 - WTO accession
 - Entrepreneurship
 - China - Belarus cooperation
 - NBRB expert council

Communication of New Ideas

- Identify precise problem
- Think why it has not been implemented yet
 - Public is “not ready”; politicians / interest groups are against; nobody cares
- Build awareness and understanding
 - Interviews in press / Public debates / Public and media lectures / roundtables with policymakers
- Be part of the wave

Issues with research-based policy

- Especially important when powerful interest groups are against
- Lack of research or evidence is not 100% conclusive
- Status quo fallacy