

Country Profile

Lithuania

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1. Cultural policy system	4
1.1. Objectives, main features and background	4
1.2. Domestic governance system	7
1.2.1. Organisational organigram	7
1.2.2. National authorities	9
1.2.3. Regional authorities	11
1.2.4. Local authorities	11
1.2.5. Main non-governmental actors	12
1.2.6. Transversal co-operation	12
1.3. Cultural institutions	13
1.3.1. Overview of cultural institutions	13
1.3.2. Data on selected public and private cultural institutions	14
1.3.3. Public cultural institutions: trends and strategies	15
1.4. International cooperation	16
1.4.1. Public actors and cultural diplomacy	16
1.4.2. European / international actors and programmes	17
1.4.3. NGO's and direct professional cooperation	18
2. Current cultural affairs	21
2.1. Key developments	21
2.2. Cultural rights and ethics	22
2.3. Role of artists and cultural professionals	23
2.4. Digital policy and developments	24
2.5. Cultural diversity	26
2.5.1. National / international intercultural dialogue	26
2.5.2. Diversity education	27
2.5.3. Media pluralism and content diversity	28
2.5.4. Language	32
2.5.5. Gender	34
2.5.6. Disability	35
2.6. Culture and social inclusion	36
2.7. Societal impact of arts	37
2.8. Cultural sustainability	38
2.9. Other main cultural policy issues	38
3. Cultural and creative sectors	41
3.1. Heritage	41
3.2. Archives and libraries	44
3.3. Performing arts	48
3.4. Visual arts and crafts	50
3.5. Cultural arts and creative industries	52
3.5.1. General developments	52
3.5.2. Books and press	54
3.5.3. Audiovisual and interactive media	56
3.5.4. Music	59
3.5.5. Design and creative services	60
3.5.6. Cultural and creative tourism	63
4. Law and legislation	65
4.1. General legislation	65
4.1.1. Constitution	65
4.1.2. Allocation of public funds	66
4.1.3. Social security frameworks	67
4.1.4. Tax laws	68
4.1.5. Labour laws	69
4.1.6. Copyright provisions	70
4.1.7. Data protection laws	71
4.1.8. Language laws	71
4.1.9. Other areas of general legislation	72
4.2. Legislation on culture	73

4.2.1. General legislation on culture	73
4.2.2. Legislation on culture and natural heritage	75
4.2.3. Legislation on performance and celebration	77
4.2.4. Legislation on visual arts and crafts	78
4.2.5. Legislation on books and press	78
4.2.6. Legislation on audiovisual and interactive media	78
4.2.7. Legislation on design and creative services	79
5. Arts and cultural education	81
5.1. Policy and institutional overview	81
5.2. Arts in schools	83
5.3. Higher arts and cultural education	83
5.4. Out-of-school arts and cultural education	86
5.5. Vocational and professional training	88
6. Cultural participation and consumption	90
6.1. Policies and programmes	90
6.2. Trends and figures in cultural participation	91
6.3. Trends and figures in household expenditure	94
6.4. Culture and civil society	95
7. Financing and support	98
7.1. Public funding	98
7.1.1. Indicators	98
7.1.2. Expenditure on government level	99
7.1.3. Expenditure per sector	99
7.2. Support programmes	101
7.2.1. Strategies, programmes and other forms of support	101
7.2.2. Artist's funds	103
7.2.3. Grants, awards, scholarships	103
7.2.4. Support to professional artists' associations or unions	105
7.3. Private funding	105
Expert Authors	107

1. Cultural policy system

1.1. Objectives, main features and background

Objectives

The [Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030](#), adopted by the Lithuanian Government in 2019, sets the following four objectives of Lithuanian cultural policy: to strengthen the cooperation between the state, municipal and non-governmental sectors reducing cultural exclusion and inequalities; stimulate creation and participation in culture; develop critical thinking and citizenship of the society; create sustainable social and economic value of culture for national progress.

The first objective has to be achieved by accomplishing three tasks: to ensure leadership and proportionality of performed functions within the network of cultural institutions; improve the quality and efficiency of the performance of cultural and art institutions by optimally distributing services across their networks; to ensure the sustainability of cultural human resources and their equal distribution. The second objective also comprises three tasks: to develop and foster talents by providing the appropriate conditions for creation in different artistic fields; to promote the equal accessibility of high quality and various forms of culture for diverse social groups; to expand the participation in diverse creative activities by lifelong development of cultural competencies.

The third objective of the *Strategy* links the issue of cultural participation to the development of civil society and critical thinking of people. The tasks of the objective are the following: to strengthen the immunity of citizens and institutions to information threats and their civic activity and knowledge; strengthen people's critical thinking ability and understanding of cultural phenomena; develop national awareness and cognition of tangible and intangible heritage of modern society. The tasks of the fourth objective are to ensure the role of cultural policy while formulating and implementing national priorities; concentrate cultural resources on the development of social capital; stimulate entrepreneurship of the cultural and creative industries and their participation in the creation of innovation.

Features

The [Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania](#) is in charge of the following areas of culture: memory institutions (heritage, libraries, museums, archives), performing arts (theatre companies, concert halls, orchestras, etc.), visual arts (galleries, arts centres), media and information (press, radio, television), creative and cultural industries (design, architecture, publishing), copyright, and ethnic culture (cultural centres). The Ministry shapes, organises, coordinates and controls the policies in these areas, allocates appropriations to the state institutions, and implements several funding programmes. In its activities, the Minister relies on the advice of the Board of the Ministry of Culture and 16 Advisory Councils. To deal with individual current issues, the Minister forms temporary working groups and commissions.

Cultural policy implementation bodies are the [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#), [Film Centre](#) and [Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#). These institutions allocate funding for arts, culture and media projects through calls for tender. They are relatively autonomous and make funding decisions on expert judgment. The activity of these institutions is regulated by special laws that define their functions and the sources of state allocations to

their funds (see chapter 4.1.2).

The cultural heritage protection policy is mainly implemented by the [Department of Cultural Heritage](#) under the Ministry of Culture. The functions of the Department include maintenance and management of cultural properties, maintenance of accounting and control of cultural heritage, as well as presentation of cultural heritage to the society; the Department also contributes to the formation and implementation of national policies in the area of protection of cultural heritage.

In general, the Lithuanian cultural policy system is centred in the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, which performs the main functions of cultural policy formation, implementation and control. The establishment of the three above mentioned funding institutions was meant as a step towards horizontal decentralisation of the system, however, their influence is quite limited due to their small financial capacity. The Lithuanian Council for Culture distributes approximately 7 per cent of the total central government funding for culture, the Film Centre 2 per cent, and the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation about 1 per cent. Although by establishing these institutions the idea was to decentralise cultural policy and to create independent policy-making bodies of the "arm's length" type, they mainly act as projects funding and administration bodies.

Background

1990 – 2000. Lithuanian cultural policy has undergone profound transformations since 1990, as Lithuania declared Independence from the Soviet Union. In 1991, the 3rd Lithuanian Government declared in its programme the aim to reform cultural policy system and to base the new cultural policy “on the principles of freedom of expression, self-regulation of culture, openness of the national culture, modernity, democracy and decentralization”. Democracy was understood in the document as self-government of cultural community and freedom of expression. In practice, it meant the abolishing of the former regulation of artistic and cultural expression, support for the new self-emergent social structures of cultural community, division of the decision-making powers between government and arts experts. The Government’s programme also postulated that “State regulation is meaningful only in the areas of education and heritage. The State refuses to regulate the artistic and cultural expression, it will promote priority directions of cultural development and non-commercial art by financial means only”. The programme declared the necessity to establish an Arts Foundation and allocate financial support for culture on the basis of expert evaluations. In the same year, the Ministry of Culture established the Arts and Culture Council and some other expert councils and commissions. However, they did not have the real political power and acted as advisory bodies only.

The next five years, Lithuanian cultural policy discourse was marked by active discussions about the Lithuanian “model” of cultural policy, particularly about the relationship and division of power between the Ministry and cultural community. In 1996, the 7th Lithuanian Government organised the Lithuanian Cultural Congress that had to find a consensus of cultural community and formulate the main cultural policy principles. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture prepared the draft document of cultural policy principles for the discussion in the Congress and the Council of the Congress prepared an alternative document on the same subject. None of these documents, however, were adopted during the Congress. Cultural community found the principles proposed by the Ministry too conservative, as they did not make any significant institutional changes in the cultural policy system. The principles proposed by the Council of Congress, in opposite, were too radical and did not gain the acceptance of the participants of the Congress. Both sides, however, agreed on the need to establish a foundation for support of culture. That was implemented in the same year. The Lithuanian Parliament

established The Press, Radio and Television Foundation and, two years later, the Culture and Sports Foundation was established, which in 2007 was reformed into two separate foundations, i.e. the Culture Foundation and Sports Foundation. The budgets of the foundations, however, were very limited therefore they did not play any significant role in the financing of culture. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture remained the most powerful and important institution in strategic and operational matters of cultural policy, so the overall system of cultural policy remained centralised.

The next four Governments did not try to reform Lithuanian cultural policy model and attempted only to achieve consensus on the main cultural policy principles. In 2001, the 11th Government approved a programme document titled *Provisions on Lithuanian Cultural Policy*. The document defined goals and objectives of cultural policy but did not include any changes to the cultural policy implementation mechanism. The institutional system of cultural policy remained the same; the Ministry of Culture remained the main body of cultural policy formation and implementation.

2001 – 2010. In the decade after the adoption of the mentioned provisions in 2001, the need for changing the cultural policy implementation mechanism grew. Artists and professionals of different cultural spheres demonstrated their discontent with the existing centralised model and financing of culture. Like in other East European countries the traditional/governmental/centralised financing mechanism seemed to be “the obstacle” that, once removed, would allow cultural life and the arts to flourish, fostering new forms of creative expression, excellence and diversity. The situation became especially tense within the Lithuanian professional theatre community. During the first decade of Independence, a number of highly professional private theatres emerged in Lithuania. Compared to state-funded theatre, the quality of their performances was similar or even higher. Since the state theatres received direct funding from the Ministry of Culture and private theatres had to earn their own living, they were forced to operate and compete under extremely uneven conditions.

In 2010, the 15th Lithuanian Government returned to the reform of cultural policy system. The Ministry of Culture prepared the strategic document *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Change Guidelines*, which was approved by the Lithuanian Parliament. The Guidelines claimed that the “model of cultural policy implementation and its institutional character inherited from the soviet time was never essentially changed in Lithuania and cultural self-regulation was not ensured” and stated the need “to reform and democratise the governing of culture by further developing the self-regulation of the cultural sphere. ... [For that purpose] It is necessary to: 1) make the cultural policy model more democratic, i.e. to separate policy formation from policy implementation and to follow the example of the Science Council by establishing the Arts Council”.

2011 – 2020. In autumn of 2012, the Parliament of Lithuania adopted the *Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture*. The Law defines the Council as a budget-financed institution under the Ministry of Culture and its main functions: to finance culture and arts programmes, administer the Culture Foundation, distribute grants and other types of support to culture and arts professionals, and monitor the culture and arts projects that are under implementation. The Council consists of 10 members and a chairman. The chairman of the Council is appointed by the Government. The members of the Council are elected in two rounds following the principle of proportional representation of all spheres of culture and arts, including all geographic regions. Both natural and legal bodies can delegate candidates to the first round of the elections. Out of them, 20 candidates are selected to the second round by secret ballot cast by the voters delegated by culture and arts organisations. Out of the selected 20 candidates, the Minister of Culture selects 10 candidates to form the Council that are submitted for the approval of the Government by following the principle of broad representation (more about the activity of

Council for Culture see chapter 1.2.2).

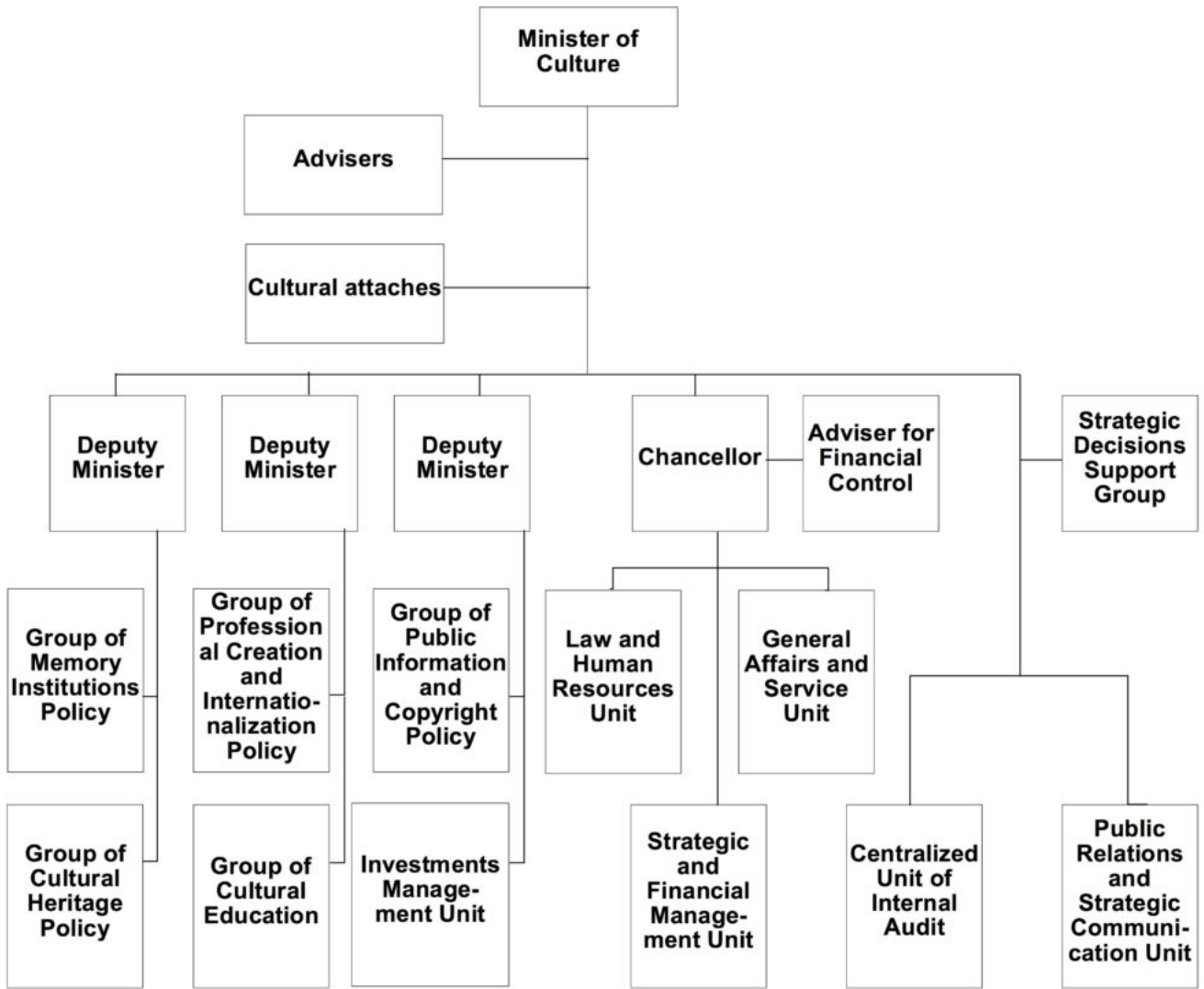
The Lithuanian Council for Culture was established in 2013. One year earlier, in 2012, the 15th Lithuanian Government had established the Lithuanian Film Centre. The Film Centre replaced the Film Council that operated since 2002 as a collegial advisory body on film policy formation and film funding under the Ministry of Culture. The decisions of the Film Council on film funding were constantly criticised in the press because of the unclear evaluation criteria and funding of projects that were related to the members of Council. The newly established Film Centre started to operate more transparent, with clear procedure and criteria, but its decisions were criticised anyway, particularly by the Lithuanian Cinematographers' Union because of the "overall direction of film policy", since the Centre did not select some projects of eminent filmmakers for funding. At the end of 2013, the Minister of Culture re-established the Film Council as advisory body under the Ministry. The Ministry and the Council took the function of film policy formation and the Film Centre remained as a funder for film projects and an administrative body (more about the activity of Film Centre see chapter 1.2.2).

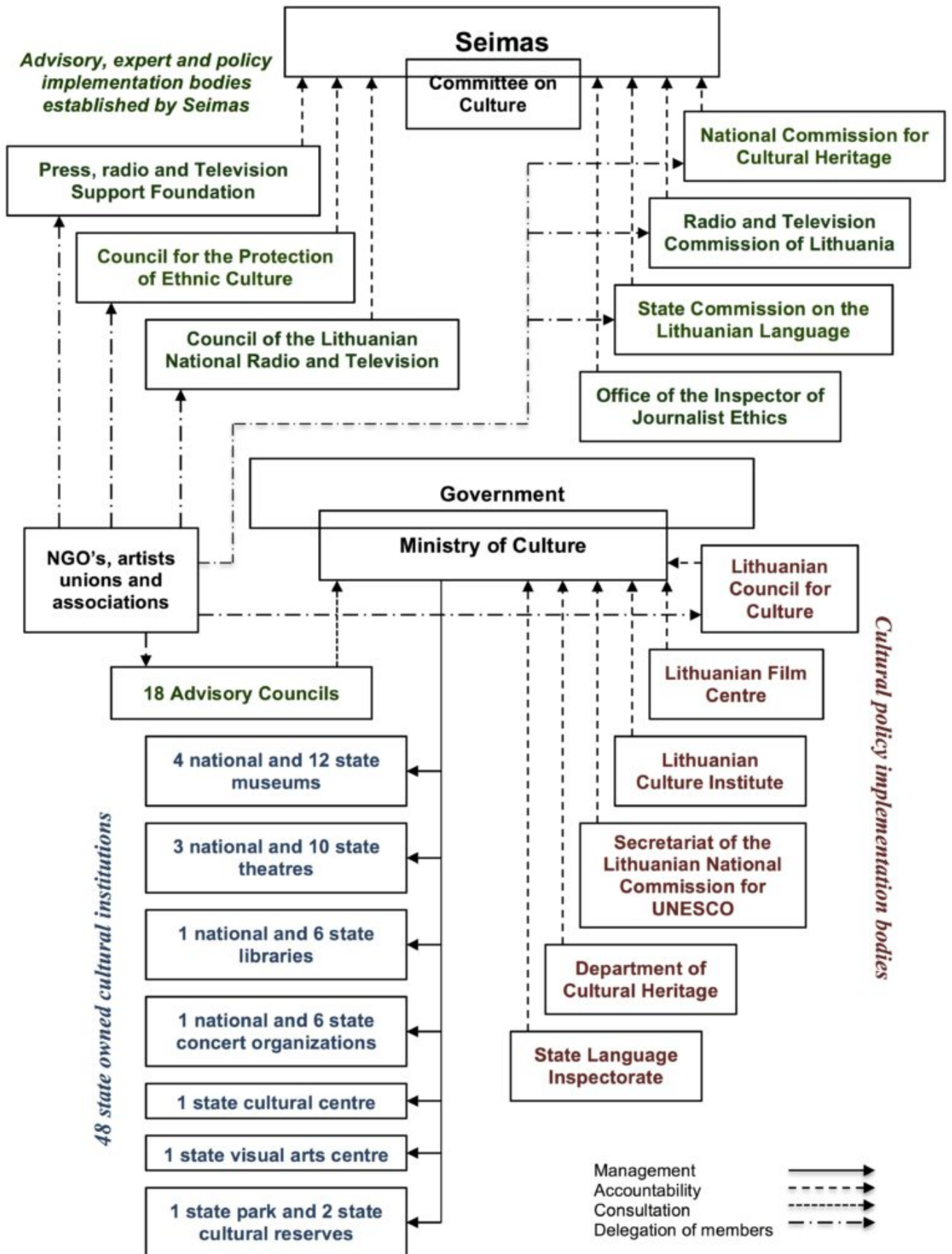
The *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Change Guidelines* is the most important strategic document on cultural policy for the next 5 years. The Government adopted the *Action Plan of the Implementation of Guidelines*. Besides the aim to establish culture as a strategic direction of the state development, giving priority to the cultural policy and the establishment of the Council of Culture, the Plan included other important tasks and measures: to establish a quality evaluation system of cultural and artistic institutions linking institution funding to the results of its evaluation; to conduct research about the accessibility of culture by social, economic, geographical and other indicators; to draft legislation establishing tax incentives enabling the development of the Lithuanian film industry; to improve the process of accounting of immovable cultural heritage by ensuring its transparency and efficiency; and more. Many of the planned measures, however, were not implemented. In 2012, the Lithuanian Parliament approved the state progress strategy *Lithuania 2030* and the Government passed *The National Advance Programme for the years 2014-2020*, which did not fully integrate the provisions of the *Action Plan of the Implementation of Guidelines*. In the new Programme, culture was treated as a horizontal priority that had to be implemented through the *Inter-institutional Action Plan of the Horizontal Priority Culture*. The *Action Plan*, however, was only partially successful, as not all implementing institutions were fully aware of the potential contribution of culture to other public policy objectives.

In 2018, being aware that the implementation of the plan did not lead to a needed consolidation of culture and other areas of public policy and the establishment of its strategic role, the Ministry of Culture prepared a new *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy for 2020-2030* that was approved by the Lithuanian Government in 2019. The *Strategy* is the first comprehensive long-term cultural policy strategy since the restoration of the independence of Lithuania. The strategy is based on empirical data, situation analysis and experts' evaluation of the current state of affairs. It formulates core values of cultural policy and sets its strategic directions, objectives and tasks for the next 10 years.

1.2. Domestic governance system

1.2.1. ORGANISATIONAL ORGANIGRAM





1.2.2. NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

In Lithuania, State power is executed by the Parliament (Lith. Seimas), the President of the Republic, the

Government, and the Judiciary. The Seimas is the national legislative body composed of 141 members elected for a four-year term on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. The Seimas Committee on Culture deals with various cultural development issues, discusses questions of current interest and adopts decisions, and analyses culture-related legislation. Advisory and expert bodies of Seimas are the [National Commission for Cultural Heritage](#), the [Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania](#), the [State Commission of the Lithuanian Language](#), and the [Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture](#). All these institutions also have several cultural policy implementation functions. Their governing bodies are composed of members delegated by the Seimas, the President and/or NGO's working in the relevant areas.

Three independent media policy institutions are established by and accountable to the Seimas: the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics, the [Council of Lithuanian National Radio and Television](#) and the [Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#). The latter institution was established in 1996 and was the first independent cultural policy implementation body of the "arm's length" type in Lithuania. The Foundation has the legal form of 'public institution' that ensures its greater autonomy and independence from political institutions, since Foundation is governed by the General Meeting of the Foundation's Stakeholders that are various media and culture associations and unions. The stakeholders delegate members to the Council of the Foundation and approve its final composition. The Foundation's main mission is to support the creation and dissemination of non-commercial cultural and educational content in the Lithuanian media. All projects submitted to the Foundation are evaluated by experts. Expert groups present their conclusions pertaining to project evaluation to the Council of the Foundation. Each year the Foundation publishes its annual activity report, while the chairman of the Council of the Foundation presents the annual report on the allocation and use of the budgetary appropriations each year at a plenary meeting of the Seimas.

The [Government of the Republic of Lithuania](#) exercises the executive power in Lithuania. The [Ministry of Culture](#) is an institution of the Government, which develops and implements state cultural policy. The main functions of the ministry of culture are to prepare draft laws and other legal acts; define concepts and programmes for the development of different artistic fields, and coordinate their implementation; finance museums, libraries, arts, cinema, concert and other organizations, important art and cultural projects; coordinate the implementation of the system of protection of copyright and related rights; co-ordinate the implementation of public policy in the field of public information; ensure the accounting and protection of cultural property; develop and implement transnational cultural programmes; and draft international treaties.

The Ministry of Culture has 18 advisory councils that provide advice and consultations on current issues of interests in different fields: [Media Council](#), [Literature Council](#), [Bilateral Council of Labour and Social Affairs of Lithuanian Cultural Sector](#), [Council on Ethnic Culture and Intangible Cultural Heritage](#), [Council for Cultural Education](#), [Lithuanian Culture and Art Council](#), [Library Council](#), [Film Council](#), [Museum Council](#), [Theatre and Concert Institution Council](#), [Culture Centres Council](#), [Council for Granting the Status of Art Creator and Organisation of Art Creators](#), [Council for Digitisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage](#), [Archive Council](#), [Lithuanian Design Council](#), [Song Festivals Council](#), and [Patronage Council](#).

The Ministry of Culture also have four administrative institutions: [Lithuanian Culture Institute](#), [Secretariat of the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO](#), [Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania](#), [State Inspectorate on Language](#), [Department of Cultural Heritage](#).

Cultural policy implementation bodies under the Ministry of Culture are the [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) and

the Lithuanian Film Centre. Functions of the Council, defined in the *Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture* are as follows: to finance culture and art programmes, projects and other measures; administer the Culture Support Foundation; award grants and provide other financial support to culture creators and artists; organise culture and art research and coordinate the implementation thereof; monitor culture and art projects being carried out; within its remit, prepare and submit conclusions concerning the awarding of prizes established by the Ministry of Culture; etc. The Council allocates state funding to cultural projects through calls for tender and makes financing decisions on the basis of expert judgements.

Activities of the Council are organised in accordance with a publicly announced annual operational plan approved by the order of the Minister of Culture. Priorities and objectives of Council's activities and financed fields of culture and art as well as result evaluation criteria are laid down by the Minister of Culture in an annual operational plan of the Council. Council's decisions are taken and executed by the Meeting of the Members of the Council and the Chair of the Council. The Chair of the Council heads the Council, the Meeting of the Members of the Council and the Administration of the Council. The Chair of the Council is appointed to the office for a term of four years and dismissed from it by the Government on the recommendation of the Minister of Culture. The Meeting of the Members of the Council comprises ten members, elected in accordance with the procedure laid down in the *Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture* (see chapter 1.1 for more about Council's members election).

The Lithuanian [Film Centre](#) is a budgetary institution under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania. The principal activity goals of the Centre are to promote long-term development and competitiveness of Lithuanian cinema and participate in the formation of efficient national film policy. The Centre coordinates national film production, administers state funds for the development of the cinema field: organises film project tenders for state funding, consults applicants, administers partial funding of production and promotion, exercises control over the use and reporting of state funding, represents Lithuania in foreign and international organisations, and organises the work of the Film Council that is a consulting body of the Centre. The activities of the Lithuanian Film Centre are organized according to the annual action plan approved by the Minister of Culture. The head of the Centre is director who is appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Culture for a four-year term and is directly subordinate and accountable to the Minister of Culture (see chapter 3.5.3 for more about the Film Centre).

1.2.3. REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

There are no regional authorities in Lithuania. Since 1994, 10 higher administrative units, i.e. counties (Lith. apskritys), functioned in Lithuania that had their own administration. In 2010, due to the administrative reform, counties were liquidated as administrative units and since then their territories function as geographical units only and do not have their own authorities.

1.2.4. LOCAL AUTHORITIES

In Lithuania, there are 60 municipalities (the local self-government). A municipality (Lith. savivaldybė) is a unit of the State territory, it is a community with a right to local (municipal) self-government guaranteed by the Constitution and exercised through the Municipal Council and through executive and other municipal institutions and bodies that are formed by the Municipal Council and are accountable to it. The Council is elected by residents of the administrative unit concerned. The municipality is a public legal entity headed by the

Mayor.

The local authorities have a right to establish committees (boards) to deal with cultural policy issues. Many municipalities have units or special staff responsible for culture management, financing and maintenance of local cultural institutions and cultural heritage. Many of these units, along with culture, are responsible for the management of tourism, youth affairs, and community leisure policy. Some municipalities provide online information about the activities of these units, but there is no common data system showing how many of such departments exist in Lithuanian municipalities and what functions they perform.

1.2.5. MAIN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS

There is no exact data on how many NGO's are working in the fields of arts and culture. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania provides data on 19 artists' associations that have a special status of "artists' organisation" granted them according to the *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists Organisations* (1996): [Architects' Association of Lithuania](#), [Lithuanian Union of Journalists](#), [Lithuanian Theatre Union](#), [Professional Folk Artists' Association](#), [Lithuanian Writers' Union](#), [Lithuanian Musicians' Union](#), [The Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators](#), [Lithuanian Composers' Union](#), [Lithuanian Filmmakers' Union](#), [Union of Lithuanian Art Photographers](#), [Lithuanian Designers' Society](#), [Lithuanian Painters' Association](#), [Lithuanian Association of Landscape Architects](#), [Contemporary Dance Association](#), [Lithuanian Interdisciplinary Artists' Association](#), [Association of Performing Arts Critics](#), [Lithuanian Association of Chores](#), [Association of Vilnius Region Folk Artists](#), [Lithuanian Association of Artists](#). The latter organisation is an umbrella association of twelve unions of artists. It was established in 1995. Its aim is to coordinate cooperation between artists and artists' organisations in Lithuania, represent interests of Lithuanian professional artists and writers abroad and organise public debates between artists and politicians on the development of culture and arts. The association organises conferences on culture and art, submits proposals on draft laws and regulations, participates in programmes for artists, reviews professional art programmes, and defends copyright.

Members of the above-mentioned organisations take part in many cultural policy bodies, such as advisory Councils of Ministry, Lithuanian Council for Culture, Council of Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation, Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania, National Commission for Cultural Heritage, Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture, State Commission on the Lithuanian Language and Council of the Lithuanian Radio and Television Company.

1.2.6. TRANSVERSAL CO-OPERATION

Realising the Strategy *Lithuania 2030*, the Government passed *The National Advance Programme for the years 2014-2020* in 2012. The Programme has culture as a horizontal priority, which covers cultural identity, creativity, and competitive cultural services for society. The implementation of the *Inter-institutional Action Plan of the Horizontal Priority Culture*, approved by the Lithuanian Government in 2014, is coordinated by the Ministry of Culture. Participating institutions are the Lithuanian Ministries of Education, Science and Sport, Social Security and Labour, Environment, Economy and Innovation, Transport and Communications, Interior, Agriculture, Energy and the Lithuanian Department of Statistics.

In Lithuania, there are no special inter-governmental bodies set up for facilitation of cooperation. Inter-ministerial and inter-institutional cooperation mainly functions through ad-hoc governmental commissions,

committees, working groups and the like, that are established for special issues. In 2017-2018, the Ministry of Culture initiated about 20 inter-institutional working groups that were responsible for various cultural policy issues: creation of the education measures based on arts and culture; elaboration of the improvement of the wage system of cultural workers; preparation of documents for the inscription of Kaunas Modernism Architecture in the UNESCO World Heritage List; preparation of guidelines for school library development etc. In 2018, about 10 temporary inter-institutional commissions worked at the Ministry of Culture.

The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport work in cooperation on arts education and common programmes such as Culture Pass and Reading Promotion Programme.

1.3. Cultural institutions

1.3.1. OVERVIEW OF CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

The Lithuanian cultural institutions system comprises 4 kinds of institutions: national, state, municipal and private, i.e. established by private persons or their organisations. These kinds of institutions are present in all main areas of culture: museums, theatres, libraries, cultural centres, etc.

Almost all national and state cultural institutions have the legal status of budgetary institutions that is defined in the *Law on Budgetary Institutions* (1995). According to the Law, the budgetary institution is a public legal entity with limited civil liability, which performs state or municipal functions and is maintained from the appropriations of the state or municipal budgets, as well as from the budgets of the State Social Insurance Fund, Compulsory Health Insurance Fund and other state monetary funds. Authorities exercising the rights and obligations of the owner approve the statutes of a budgetary institution, appoint and dismiss the head of the budgetary institution; decide on the reorganisation or liquidation of the budgetary institution; take a decision regarding the establishment of a branch of a budgetary institution and the termination of its activities; etc.

In 2019, there were 10 national institutions in Lithuania: 3 theatres (the [Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre](#), the [Lithuanian National Drama Theatre](#), and [National Kaunas Drama Theatre](#)), 4 museums ([National Museum of Lithuania](#), [Lithuanian Arts Museum](#), [Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania](#), [M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art](#)), 1 library ([Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania](#)), 1 concert organisation ([Lithuanian national Philharmonic Society](#)), and 1 broadcasting company ([Lithuanian National Radio and Television](#)). National institutions are financed directly by the Government, i.e. their appropriations are allocated by the *Law on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets* that is adopted by the Seimas each year.

State cultural institutions are financed through the Ministry of Culture, i.e. the Ministry allocates their appropriations according to its budget plan of the respective years. In 2019, there were 39 state cultural institutions: 12 museums, 10 theatres, 6 libraries, 6 concert organisations, 1 arts centre, 1 cultural centre, 1 park and 2 cultural reserves. Most of them are concentrated in the three largest cities of Lithuania.

Local authorities are responsible for the financing and maintenance of local cultural institutions and cultural heritage. They have the right to establish or abolish cultural institutions of local importance and finance them through appropriations of local budget. Most local cultural organisations have a legal form of budget or public institutions and their owner is the municipality. According to the data on municipalities of the Ministry of

Culture, in 2018 there were 1236 municipal public libraries, 56 museums, 10 theatres, and 6 concert organisations.

Data on private cultural institutions are not officially registered. The Lithuanian Ministry of culture provides data only on museums and theatres. According to the data, there were 8 private museums and 37 private theatres in Lithuania in 2018. However, this data is not exact, since private (non-state owned) cultural institutions are not obliged to provide reports to the Ministry about their activity, thus their number is likely to be higher. For example, the private museum of modern art [Mo museum](#) (established in 2018) is not displayed in the statistics of the Ministry of 2018. Data about private institutions in other areas of culture can be gathered only from the registers of companies, but it is also approximate and cannot be filtered by the form of ownership.

In general, the infrastructure of national and state cultural institutions changed very little over the last years. In 2009, a new national cultural institution was established: National Museum Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. In 2012, the state Kaunas Drama Theatre became the national theatre. Some national institutions renovated their buildings and opened new stable expositions, such as [Vytautas Kasiulis Art museum](#).

1.3.2. DATA ON SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Table 1: Cultural institutions, by sector and domain

Domain	Cultural institutions (subdomains)	Public sector		Private sector	
		Number (2018)	Trend last 5 years (ln %)	Number (2018)	Trend last 5 years (ln %)
Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage sites (recognised)*	8 189	+1.3	NA**	NA
	Archaeological sites*	1095	0	NA	NA
Museums	Museum institutions*	96	0	8	0
Archives	Archive institutions*	9	0	NA	NA
Visual arts	Public art galleries / exhibition halls	NA	NA	NA	NA
Performing arts	Scenic and stable spaces for theatre	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Concert houses****	8	0	NA	NA
	Theatre companies*	13	0	37***	NA
	Dance and ballet companies*****	5	0	11	NA
	Symphonic orchestras	3	0	0	0
Libraries	Libraries*	2402	-6.3	NA	NA
Audiovisual	Cinemas*	2	0	26	-7.2
	Broadcasting organisations*****	1	0	78	-7.0
Interdisciplinary	Socio-cultural centres / cultural houses*	654	+3.5	NA	NA

Sources:

*Data from Lithuanian Department of Statistics

**NA data not available

***In 2017, the Ministry of Culture changed the rules of granting the status of a professional performing arts institution and because of that the number of such institutions significantly increased in 2017. This number, however, does not display all companies, since part of them may operate without this status.

****Data is compiled on the basis of public register of companies rekvizitai.lt

*****Data from [Lithuanian Dance Information Centre](#)

*****Data from Lithuanian Department of Statistics and the [Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania](#)

1.3.3. PUBLIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: TRENDS AND STRATEGIES

The system of national and state cultural institutions remains unchanged over the last 20 to 25 years. Evaluation of its efficiency and relevance in providing the population with the necessary cultural services at state and municipal level was carried out several times by the National Audit Office of Lithuania and by experts who conducted special studies.

Many of these studies revealed that there is no clear difference between the national and state institutions, their activities and their performance evaluation. For example, the purpose of national theatres, defined by the *Law on Professional Performing Art*, is to present the most outstanding national and foreign achievements of opera, ballet, drama and music art; represent the creation of high artistic value; form the image of Lithuanian culture; develop international creative partnership; and ensure access to professional performing arts for all societal groups of the country. The purpose of state theatres is to develop a distinctive trend of professional performing arts; present classical and contemporary professional performing arts works of high artistic value in Lithuania and abroad; develop public demand for professional performing arts; and ensure the access to professional performing arts for all societal groups of the country. The evaluation of the achievement of these purposes, however, lacks clear methods and is mostly based on quantitative indicators that not necessarily show the artistic quality of the performances and of the overall creative programme of the institution.

The lack of a unified, clear and comprehensive system of evaluation is one of the basic problems of the Ministry of Culture's management of the state cultural institutions system. Quantitative data is collected only on state institutions; the municipal and private sectors are not reflected in this data, and qualitative data, even about state institutions, is collected in a very sporadic way. Without the qualitative evaluation criteria of the performance of institutions, the evaluation is incomplete, since the quantitative criteria do not reflect changes in public attitudes, results of expert evaluations, etc. As a result, the Ministry of Culture does not have the data needed to measure the quality of the institutions' performance and cannot relate the funding of institutions with quality of their performance.

The other problem of state cultural institutions network, stated in the *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030*, is its unevenness in terms of accessibility. The strategy states that the existing network of institutions is uneven; it contributes little to the recovery and development of the regions and does not ensure the equal accessibility of culture to all residents of the regions of Lithuania. Culture is the least accessible in villages and small towns. In rural areas in 2017, the share of culturally active people who used more than seven types of cultural services at least once a year was 14.6 per cent. In urban areas, the share was 30.6 per cent. As a solution to this problem, it is proposed in the strategy to define and create a basic package of cultural services, i.e. a basic infrastructure that would be shared and developed by municipalities and the central government. This model would also act as a mobility programme, open to all cultural service providers, regardless of their legal status, thus fostering synergies between cultural activities.

1.4. International cooperation

1.4.1. PUBLIC ACTORS AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania is the main coordinator of international cultural cooperation and culture internationalisation policy. In 2018, the Ministry of Culture adopted the [Concept of the Culture Internationalisation Policy](#) that defines the goal, objectives and evaluation indicators of the culture internationalisation policy. According to the Concept, the goal of the culture internationalisation policy is to advance the internationalisation of Lithuanian culture in pursuance of the diversity of cultural expressions, enhance the quality and competitiveness of creative products and cultural services, and contribute to the development of an open and dynamic society, that is able to perform in an ever-changing world.

The Ministry of Culture coordinates the interface of the culture internationalisation policy with the objectives of foreign and economic policy with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy and the Chancellery of the Government. The Minister of Culture also forms an Integrated Culture Internationalisation Policy Management Group that consists of 5-7 members.

The function of the representation of Lithuanian arts and culture abroad is performed by the Lithuanian Culture Institute. The institute organises and coordinates representational Lithuanian cultural programmes abroad; implements cooperative bilateral and multilateral exchanges as well as cultural programmes in Lithuania and abroad; works closely with and implements projects of the cultural attaches of the Republic of Lithuania in foreign countries; promotes Lithuanian literature abroad: consults and informs foreign publishers and translators on issues concerning Lithuanian literature; organises seminars for translators and publishers; organises presentations and creative sessions of Lithuanian writers abroad; administers a translation promotion programme; organises and administers the cultural events programme at the annual Vilnius Book Fair; coordinates Lithuania's participation in the Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens programmes of the European Union; prepares and disseminates information about Lithuanian culture, artists and creative works; and produces informational publications that promote Lithuania's art and culture.

[Culture attachés](#) working in diplomatic missions of Lithuania also represent Lithuanian arts and culture abroad. Currently, 13 cultural attachés work in the European Union, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Russia, Kaliningrad, Sweden, USA, Ukraine, UK and China. The Lithuanian Culture Institute helps to carry out their activities. The Institute partly coordinates the programmes of representing Lithuania through the attachés, administrates the funding allocated to the projects of those programmes, and provides other support as well. The main purpose of attaches' activities is to help Lithuanian artists, cultural and creative institutions and companies to reach the international market, support professionals in the cultural and creative sectors while seeking for long-term international cooperation and on the basis of their activity to present Lithuania and Lithuanian culture in foreign countries.

Several programmes of the [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) are directly aimed at the promotion of the internationalisation of culture, e.g. the programmes supporting international mobility of artists, dissemination of Lithuanian culture and art abroad, participation in important international events. Other programmes of the Council also fund a number of projects that are implemented abroad.

The [Lithuanian Film Centre](#) cooperates with Lithuanian and foreign film festival organisers, film industry fair

organisers, and presents Lithuanian national and co-production films and the potential of Lithuanian film industry in festivals, film industry fairs, and other events. The Centre also informs film professionals and organisations about the EU programme “Creative Europe” (Media sub-programme).

1.4.2. EUROPEAN / INTERNATIONAL ACTORS AND PROGRAMMES

Lithuania joined UNESCO in 1991. In 1992, the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO was established and the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Lithuania to UNESCO in 1993. The [Secretariat of the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO](#) serves the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO and supports implementation of its decisions. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania coordinates the implementation of the UNESCO conventions and decisions (see the list of UNESCO conventions ratified by Lithuania in chapter 4.2.1).

Lithuania became a member of the Council of Europe on 14 March 1993. In 2019, Lithuania participated in the following cultural initiatives of the Council of Europe: EURIMAGES – European Cinema Support Fund, national coordinator is Lithuanian Film Centre; European Audiovisual Observatory, national coordinator is Lithuanian Film Centre; HEREIN: Observatory on policies and values of the European heritage, national coordinator is Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture; European Heritage Days, national coordinator is Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture; and European Cultural Routes, national coordinator is Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture.

Lithuania became a member state of European Union in 2004. In 2019, Lithuania has participated in the Creative Europe (2014-2020) and Horizon 2020 Programmes. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (Technology and Innovation Division) coordinated the network of Horizon 2020 National Contact Points in Lithuania. The activity of the National Contact Points was carried out by Research Council of Lithuania (LMT), Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA), Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (LMA) and Lithuanian Innovation Centre (LIC). Participation of Lithuania in the Creative Europe Programme was coordinated by the Lithuanian Culture Institute that was responsible for CULTURE sub-programme, and the Lithuanian Film Centre that was responsible for MEDIA sub-programme.

Lithuania takes part in the [Council of the Baltic Sea States](#), established in 1992. The Council is an overall political forum for regional cooperation. It aims to develop and foster the concept of Baltic Sea Region identity and a sense of belonging to the Baltic Sea Region through engagement, dialogue, people-to-people contacts, macro-regional networks and multilevel governance. To this end, several activities, programmes and networks are operational within the priority. This includes the Baltic Sea Monitoring Group on Heritage Cooperation, focusing on preservation of the common heritage in the Baltic Sea States, and specifically on building preservation and maintenance in practice, underwater heritage, coastal culture and maritime heritage, and sustainable historic towns. The national coordinator of the project is the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of the Culture of the Republic of Lithuania.

In 1991, the Ministries of Culture of the Baltic Sea Region created the [Ars Baltica](#) network that was aimed at encouraging cultural collaboration. Ars Baltica supports cultural cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region and beyond, advocates for the significance of arts and culture on the political level and promotes cultural life around the Baltic Sea. It is a cultural framework, gathering and offering information on different aspects within the arts and culture sector through network building and by supporting the implementation of multilateral cultural

projects.

In 1991, the Baltic countries started to cooperate with the [Nordic Council of Ministers](#). The Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania was established in 1991. The Office promotes Nordic culture in Lithuania and encourages Nordic-Lithuanian cultural cooperation. Since 2009, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture participates in the Nordic-Baltic Cultural Mobility Programme, which is coordinated by the Nordic Council of Ministers and consists of 3 modules: networking, art residencies and artist mobility.

Lithuania also cooperates with the two other Baltic States. Cooperation between the three Baltic States is based on the trilateral Treaty on Concord and Cooperation, signed on September 12, 1934 in Geneva. The Declaration on Unity and Cooperation, signed on May 12, 1990 in Tallinn, in full scope restored the cooperation between Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Pursuant to the Geneva Treaty the Baltic Council was established in 1990. The Baltic Council of Ministers – the institution of trilateral intergovernmental cooperation was established at the meeting of Baltic Prime Ministers on the 13th of June 1994.

Within the framework of Baltic co-operation, active dialogue is on-going at the level of Presidents, Speakers of Parliaments, Heads of Government, Ministers and experts. Baltic Parliamentary Cooperation takes place in the [Baltic Assembly](#), which was established on November 8, 1991. While intergovernmental co-operation takes place in the [Baltic Council of Ministers](#), founded on 13 June 1994. The Baltic Assembly is a regional organisation that promotes intergovernmental cooperation between Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. It attempts to find a common position in relation to many international issues, including economic, political and cultural issues. Since 1993, the Baltic Assembly annually awards prize for achievements in literature, arts, and science.

Trilateral cooperation in the field of culture is coordinated by the Baltic Cultural Committee of senior officials, who meet annually to discuss cooperation issues. Cultural cooperation guidelines are provided by the Programme of Cultural Cooperation, signed between all three Ministries of Culture in 1994. The programme is regularly renewed. The current programme is designed for the period 2019-2022 and proposes to continue such long-term joint projects as [Baltic Museology Summer School](#) and the international chamber orchestra of three Baltic States [Kremerata Baltica](#), and to foster collaboration with Baltic Film and Media School, Baltic Drama Forum, Baltic Dance Platform, Baltic Architects' Unions Association etc.

As of 2019, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture participates in the [Baltic Culture Fund](#) programme. The main goal of the Baltic Culture Fund, founded on 8 July 2018 on the basis of *Agreement between the Ministries of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Estonia and Republic of Latvia on the Establishment of the Baltic Culture Fund*, is to promote cultural cooperation between the Baltic countries and strengthen the internationalisation of Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian culture through joint cultural projects and events. Grants are awarded annually. The Fund is administered by national cultural endowments on a three-year rotation basis; the Cultural Endowment of Estonia is the first to coordinate the Fund's activities from 2019 to 2021. Each Baltic country contributes 100 000 EUR to the Fund annually. The Fund also accepts donations.

1.4.3. NGO'S AND DIRECT PROFESSIONAL COOPERATION

Several of the main Lithuanian artists organisations and unions participate in international professional networks. The [Lithuanian Association of Artists](#) takes part in the International Association of Art (IAA) Europe. The IAA is a network of about 40 national member organisations within Europe, representing professional visual

artists. The IAA supports international cooperation and artistic exchange, aims to improve the economic and social position of artists on a national and international level, cooperates with the UNESCO and is engaged with other organisations concerned with the arts and culture.

The [Architects Association of Lithuania](#) is a member of the International Union of Architects, the Architects' Council of Europe and the Baltic Architects Unions Association (BAUA). The International Union of Architects is an international non-governmental organisation recognised by UNESCO as the only architectural union operating at an international level. The Architects' Council of Europe is a non-profit organisation founded in 1990 that aims to promote architecture in Europe, advance architectural quality in the built environment, ensuring high standards of qualification for architects, etc. The Baltic Architects Unions Association's mission is to promote growth of architectural practice in the Baltic States.

The [Lithuanian Journalists Union](#) is a member of International Federation of Journalists and European Federation of Journalists. The International Federation of Journalists organises collective action to support journalists' unions in their fight for fair pay, decent working conditions and in defence of their labour rights; promotes international action to defend press freedom and social justice through strong, free and independent trade unions of journalists; fights for gender equality in all its structures, policies and programmes; opposes discrimination of all kinds and condemns the use of media as propaganda or to promote intolerance and conflict; and believes in freedom of political and cultural expression.

The [Lithuanian Writers' Union](#) is a member of the Baltic Writers' Council (BWC) (seated in the island of Gotland, Visby, Sweden) which unites creative organisations of writers and translators from the Northern Europe. It is the most important organisation bringing together European writers' unions. The Lithuanian Writers' Union is also a member of the Three Seas Writers' and Translators' Council (seated in Rhodes, Greece).

The [Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators](#) is a member of the European Council of Associations of Literary Translators (CEATL), the International Federation of Translators (FIT), the Baltic Writers' Council (BWC) and Three Seas Writers' and Translators' Council (TSWTC).

The [Lithuanian Association of Cultural Centres](#) is a member of European Council of Artists that promotes co-operation between artists in safeguarding their political and cultural position within Europe, with special focus on the policies of the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other relevant organisations and on promoting the interests of professional artists in political, economic, judicial and social contexts.

The [Lithuanian Composers' Union](#) is a member of International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM). ISCM is a premier forum for the advancement, dissemination and interchange of new music from around the world. Through ISCM, our members promote contemporary music in all its varied forms, strengthening musical life in their local contexts and making their music and its creators known to world.

Other artists unions cooperate with their partners abroad through joint events, festivals, masterclasses, etc. The [Lithuanian Professional Folk Artists' Association](#) cooperates with the Polish Folk Artists' Association (Stowarzyszenie tworców ludowych, STL), the Latvian Folk Artists' Association, the Lithuanian High School in Hüttenfeld, Germany, Bialystok Crafts Centre (Poland), the Lithuanian Culture House in Puńsk (Poland), Saint-Egreve (France) Water-colourists' Club, Boxholm (Sweden) organisation Friends to Friend. The [Lithuanian Designers' Society](#) maintains and develops international relations with the Latvian Designers' Society, the

Estonian Association of Designers and the Shenzhen design cluster. Activities include improving designers' qualifications, strengthening community-based relations, building a network of national and international specialists, developing inter-institutional relations (professional development courses, conferences, seminars, creative workshops, residential activities, other events).

Lithuanian NGO's take part in many international projects organised in Lithuania and abroad. Participation in these projects or their organisation are funded by the Lithuanian Council for Culture that implements several funding programmes aimed at promotion of international cooperation or culture dissemination, e.g. "Cultural and Creative Industries: Networking", "Strategic Funding of International Events".

2. Current cultural affairs

2.1. Key developments

In recent years, the key developments of the Lithuanian cultural policy are related to the establishment of two cultural policy implementation institutions (Lithuanian Council for Culture and Film Centre) due to the cultural policy system reform in 2012–2013. Although these institutions distribute only a small part of public funds (about 7 and 2 per cent of overall central state funding respectively), they have brought into the cultural policy a new ethos of communication and management based on dialogue, openness and accountability to the public. Each year, the Lithuanian Council for Culture organises a public forum for the cultural community to discuss strategic directions of funding, prepares activity reports for the public, publishes council's decisions and lists of projects that got and did not get funding, collects and publishes statistics, etc.

The aim of the reform of the cultural policy system was its horizontal decentralisation and democratisation by separating functions of policy development and implementation. The new model had to ensure that the Ministry of Culture, which previously was mostly engaged with the distribution and administration of funding, undertakes a more active role of strategic cultural policy development. However, after the establishment of two above-mentioned institutions, the Ministry continued to finance programmes and projects by way of public tender and did not activate the strategic policy making.

Due to the much discussion in the public sphere about the Ministry's role in developing policies, in 2017 the National Audit Office of Lithuania performed the audit *How the Ministry of Culture Forms Culture Policy and Organises and Manages Its Implementation*. The goal of the audit was to assess the processes of the cultural policy development, organisation, coordination and control performed by the Ministry of Culture. The results of the audit showed that the Ministry's structure was not appropriate for the implementation of its functions; the Ministry lacked sufficient and comprehensive monitoring data necessary for the development of cultural policy; the organisation of the implementation of cultural policy was flawed because the planning documents approved by the Government and the Ministry of Culture were not coordinated; the inconsistent monitoring of subordinate cultural and arts-related establishments failed to ensure that their activities be oriented towards results.

In next years, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture implemented several recommendations of the National Audit Office. In 2018, the structure of the Ministry was reorganised: departments were abolished, 11 units were created instead of 18 structural divisions, the tasks and functions of the units were laid down in regulations which have been made publicly available on the Ministry's website. In 2017, the Ministry established the Unit of Monitoring and Data Analysis in the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The unit inventoried and analysed the data that was collected by the Ministry and its subordinate institutions, evaluated statistical information, data sources and cultural indicators collected by Eurostat and the Lithuanian Department of Statistics. By 2022, it is planned to develop a data information system. The Ministry also prepared important strategic documents (the *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030* and the *Law on Culture* 2019) which is currently under the consideration in the Seimas) and commissioned several important survey research and feasibility studies: *Outlining directions of cultural policies* (2018), *Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services (ESS-net Culture methodology)* (2017), *Feasibility Study Improving Policy Formation and Implementation of Lithuanian Culture Internationalization* (2017) and *Examination of the Legislation Governing the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the*

2.2. Cultural rights and ethics

Articles 25 and 44 of the Lithuanian Constitution protect the freedom of expression (see chapter 4.1.1). Article 37 of the Constitution protects rights of national minorities: "Citizens who belong to ethnic communities shall have the right to foster their language, culture, and customs."

In 2015, amendments to the *Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania*, which decriminalised the offense of private persons and public officials, came into force. According to the [Lithuanian Human Rights Monitoring Institute](#), this was a significant step in the field of the freedom of expression, because it ensures that exercising this freedom will not lead to disproportionately applied criminal liability. After the decriminalisation of the offense, persons still have the possibility to defend their honour and dignity in civil courts.

The self-regulating authorities of journalists, public relations specialists and advertisers supervise limits of freedom of expression and other ethic issues of public communication. The self-regulatory body of media is the [Association of Ethics in the Provision of Information to the Public](#). The stakeholders of the Association are public information producers, disseminators, journalists and other participants of the media sector, which seeks to ensure compliance with the provisions of the [Code of Ethics in Providing Information to the Public](#), foster principles of ethics in the provision of information to the public in public information activities and raise public awareness for the evaluation of public information processes and the use of public information.

In March 2005, the self-regulatory institution Lithuanian Advertising Bureau was founded on the initiative of Lithuanian advertising agencies, media and advertisers. The Bureau is responsible for the administration of a self-regulatory system and the application of the *National Code of Advertising Practice*, which is based on the Code of Advertising Practice of the International Chamber of Commerce. The main aim of this self-regulatory institution is to ensure a relevant and effective system of self-regulation, which could enable the advertising industry to regulate its social responsibilities by itself, employing respective fair-trade principles, actively promoting the highest ethical standards in commercial communications and protecting consumers' interests.

The official institution of supervision of journalist ethics established by the Seimas is the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics. The functions of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics are: investigate the complaints (applications) of the persons concerned whose honour and dignity have been degraded in the media; examine the complaints (applications) of the persons concerned in relation to violation of their right to protection of privacy or processing of their personal data in the media; submit proposals to the Seimas and other state institutions for improving the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public* and other laws and legal acts regulating the information policy; etc.

The civil right to participate in cultural life and the right to equally accessible and available culture, libraries and information, and leisure services are emphasised in the *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030*. The first objective of the strategy is to strengthen the cooperation between the state, municipal and non-governmental sectors, reducing cultural exclusion and inequalities. It is stated in the strategy that residents of different regions of Lithuania must have more equal opportunities to participate in cultural life and receive high quality public services. To this end, it is planned in the *Strategy* to create a basic set of cultural services that would be approved by Law and offered throughout the Republic of Lithuania.

Despite the activity of the above-mentioned institutions related to cultural rights and ethic, some cultural events during the last years raised wide public discussions and revealed a controversial understanding of freedom of expression in Lithuania. In autumn 2012, Romeo Castalucci's play "On the Concept of the Face, Regarding the Son of God" included in the international theatre festival Sirenos in Vilnius evoked extremely fervent debates among theatre audiences, art critics, cultural society, and the Church. Before the first performance in Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, the opponents of the play organised a protest campaign. Although nobody had seen this play in Lithuania before, the protest was prompted by rumours and controversial reviews in foreign press. Members of the Lithuanian Parliament joined the fight of the public against the play and prepared a resolution that urged Lithuanian society "to boycott the play that offends Christians, rises discord in society, instigates a religious dissent and potentially violates the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania". The Parliament of Lithuania discussed this resolution in three meetings, spent more than one hour for the issue, but did not adopt it, as one of the Parliament fractions requested a break till the next meeting that was scheduled after the play is presented to the public. When the Parliament did not adopt the resolution, 35 members of Parliament published it with their signatures. The Lithuanian arts news portal Menufaktura.lt published the records of the Parliament debates about the play "as the documents of a historical event that shows the attitude towards censorship and art".

Other prominent cases of freedom of expression restrictions in 2016–2019 demonstrated that the limits of the freedom are understood quite narrow in Lithuania and more extreme forms of expression received disproportionate prohibitions and punishment-based responses from the authorities. Performers, designers, advertisers, and social actions initiators had to defend their freedom of expression in courts and these cases demonstrated that law enforcement authorities are not always able to distinguish permissible self-expression, criticism or black humour from hate speech, bullying or contempt.

2.3. Role of artists and cultural professionals

The *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists' Organisations* (1996) establishes the basis and procedure for granting and abolishing the status of artist and artists' organisations. According to the Law, the status of an artist is granted to a person who creates professional art, and 1) a person's individual or collective creation of art has been positively evaluated as professional art in monographs, reviews or articles published by professional artistic assessors; 2) a person's creation of art is included in general education curricula, vocational training programmes and higher education study programmes approved in accordance with the procedure laid down by the law; 3) the creation of art by a person or a group of persons has been honoured with national or international art prize, other prizes and awards given by organisations of artists, or a laureate's diploma of an international competition of professional art creators and/or performers (except competitions of pupils and students); 4) the person's artworks have been acquired by national museums or galleries of Lithuania or foreign states; 5) the person has published art-assessment articles and reviews in Lithuanian or foreign publications for not less than five years; as well as the person who has been awarded the Doctor of Science degree or the Doctor of Arts degree for research activities in an appropriate art form; 6) the person who teaches subjects of the art study field and holds the position of professor or associate professor at a higher education institution which prepares professional artists according to art study programmes; or 7) the person has been, individually or with a group of artists, selected and represented Lithuania at internationally recognised events of professional art.

Article 11 of the Law determines state support for artists from the *Social Security Programme*, approved by the government in 2011. The Programme guarantees the state financial obligation to cover social and health

insurance of artists, and support to self-employed artists. One of the purposes of the Programme is to allocate creative idle time payments for artists. Creative idle time means a period of time when an artist of employable age, for objective reasons, temporarily has no conditions for the creation of art and (or) dissemination of its results. Creative idle time payment is a payment in the amount of a minimal monthly wage, which is paid to the artists from the Programme's budget.

The Law also defines the procedure of granting the status of “artists’ organisation” to an association. The status is granted if 1) not less than 25 artists have founded the association; 2) only artists or organisations holding the status of an artist and uniting not less than five members – organisations of artists – are members of the association; 3) the association promotes creation of art of high professional value, its diversity and dissemination; 4) the association sets conditions for the creation of art, creative work and professional development of its members; 5) the association arranges for art works to be accessible to the public; 6) the association represents artists of the whole country (not one of its regions).

In 2019, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture provided information about 19 unions and associations that have the status of “artists’ organisation”. These organisations play an important role in cultural policy. According to many Laws that establish the procedure of formation of cultural policy institutions (councils, commissions, foundations), these organisations have the right to delegate their members to consulting or governing bodies. Thus, artists participate in cultural policy decision-making mainly through their unions and associations (see chapter 1.2.5 for more about the activity of artists organisations).

The state funding for individual artists’ creative activity is mainly allocated through the Lithuania Council for Culture (see chapter 7.2).

2.4. Digital policy and developments

In Lithuania, digital policy is mainly implemented in the fields of libraries, museums and cultural heritage.

In 1995, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania started to implement the project of the Lithuanian Libraries Integral Information System (LIBIS). The objectives of the project were to develop a library system that would enable automation of all library and reader service processes; create a union catalogue based on shared cataloguing; adapt integrated library information resources to customer service; extend the infrastructure created by LIBIS and develop the existing software tools. LIBIS was launched in 1998. Till 2019, the LIBIS software has been installed in 5 county libraries, 60 public libraries, 1 academic library, Vilnius University Faculty of Communication, 7 other major and special libraries, and 10 Lithuanian museum libraries. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture allocated 8 627 780 EUR for the project.

In 2005, the Lithuanian Government approved the *Concept for the Digitisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage*. This policy paper defined the goals and objectives of digitisation of Lithuanian cultural heritage and established a special coordination body: the Board of Digitisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage. According to the Strategy, the goal of the digitisation of Lithuanian cultural heritage is to transfer unique and valuable pieces of cultural heritage into digital form. The objectives are the following: to create an integrated information system of Lithuanian cultural heritage based on uniform standards and information usage agreements, ensuring long-term preservation of digitised information and access to it; facilitate the long-term preservation and use of the cultural heritage by providing its digital copy and information on it; promote the actualisation and dissemination

of the Lithuanian heritage in the context of world cultural diversity; and contribute to the creation of an integrated information space on European cultural heritage.

By 2009, 80 000 objects of cultural heritage were digitised, but only 42 per cent of them were available through the Internet.

In 2009, the Lithuanian Museums' Centre for Information, Digitisation and LIMIS, department of the Lithuanian Art Museum, started to implement the project of the Lithuanian Integral Museum Information System (LIMIS). The aim of the project was to establish an integrated system for Lithuanian museums heritage digitalisation and to create common digital content of national cultural heritage by digitising information about unique and valuable cultural heritage objects, art and literary works, and information about the most significant historical and social phenomena. The portal www.limis.lt became available for users in 2012.

In 2009-2013, almost 70 million LT (about 20 million EUR) was allocated for cultural heritage digitisation initiatives. The result of these investments was a national infrastructure for the digitisation of cultural heritage, which provided a basis for further investment in this area.

In 2008, in order to ensure targeted dissemination and promotion of the country's cultural heritage within the European digital platform for cultural heritage, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania was entrusted with the representation of the country in the European digital library Europeana. At the end of 2015, Lithuania contributed over 159 000 digital cultural heritage objects to Europeana and was actively involved in initiatives organised by Europeana to publicise digital heritage, such as Europeana 1989, Europeana 280, Athena Plus, Europeana Space and Europeana Photography.

In 2015, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture approved the *2015-2020 Programme for Digital Cultural Heritage Actualisation and Preservation*. The Programme established the general principles for the development of virtual cultural heritage: consolidation of resources and capacities; cooperation and coordination of the digitalisation, digital content dissemination and access processes; the assurance of integrated access to Lithuanian digital cultural heritage according to the one stop-shop principle; orientation to the needs of society; and the reuse of digital cultural heritage.

Digitisation activities at national memory institutions are coordinated by national (the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Art Museum, the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Central State Archives), regional (the M. K. Čiurlionis National Art Museum, the Lithuanian Sea Museum, the Šiauliai Aušros Museum, county public libraries) and sectoral (Vilnius University Library, the Wroblewski Library, the National Radio and Television of Lithuania) competence centres in digitisation.

Digitised heritage with cultural and scientific significance is represented in the [Virtual Electronic Heritage System \(VEPS\)](#). The main tasks for the system are to integrate the digitised cultural heritage at all of the country's memory institutions, to create opportunities for seamless digital content search and access via a national portal, and to ensure effective dissemination of Lithuanian cultural heritage. The basis of the system is a database of digitised items which currently contains three million pages of digitised objects (archive files, manuscripts, books, posters, paintings, prints, photographs and digitised images of other items).

2.5. Cultural diversity

2.5.1. NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

The national intercultural dialog in Lithuania is mainly understood as a dialog between different national communities living in Lithuania, fostering their cultural identity and citizenship. According to the data of the Overall Population and Housing Census, in 2011 Lithuania was inhabited by people of 154 nationalities (in comparison with 2001, 115). People belonging to national minorities constituted approximately 16.5 per cent of the total population in Lithuania. Lithuanians made up 84.2 per cent (2 million 561 thousand), Poles – 6.6 per cent (200.3 thousand), Russians – 5.8 per cent (176.9 thousand), Belarusians – 1.2 per cent (36.2 thousand), Ukrainians – 0.5 per cent (16.4 thousand), people of other ethnicities – 0.6 per cent (19.3 thousand). The majority of the people of other than Lithuanian nationality reside in the municipalities of Eastern and South East Lithuania, in Vilnius, Klaipėda, Visaginas, and other cities and towns of Lithuania.

The main initiator of national intercultural dialog at policy level is the [Department of National Minorities to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania](#), established in 2015. The Department funds cultural projects within the frame of the Integration of the National Minorities in the Society while Preserving Their Identity Programme. The programme funds three categories of projects proposals: 1) the Dissemination of National Minorities Culture; 2) the Dissemination of National Minorities Culture and Cultural Cooperation in the South East Lithuania; 3) the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue and the Dissemination of the National Minorities' Culture in the Mass Media. In 2018, the Department allocated 70 000 EUR for 33 cultural projects of Lithuanian and national minorities organisations aimed at development of non-formal education, 25 000 EUR for 10 media projects, and 175 000 EUR for 132 projects of the development of culture of national minorities.

A consultative body of the Department of National Minorities is the [National Communities Board](#). The board represents national minorities and deals with the policy coordination issues related to Lithuanian national minorities and involves the representatives of the national minorities into the decision-making process. The members of the Board are selected from the national communities' representatives. The number of Board members from each national community depends upon the communities' population as presented in the Population and Housing Census 2011. If the national community's population is above 100 thousand, then 3 Board members from the community shall be selected into the Board; if the national community's population is from 10 thousand to 100 thousand – 2 representatives; small up to 10 thousand population national communities have one Board member.

National communities living in Lithuania develop cooperation and dialog through cultural centres and non-governmental organisations. There are 4 intercultural centres in Lithuania, financed by municipalities: the House of National Communities in Vilnius (established in 1991), the Kaunas Centre of Various Nations Culture (established in 2004), the Roma Community Centre (established in 2001), and the Folklore and Ethnography Centre of the Lithuanian National Minorities (established in 2007). These and others cultural centres initiate various arts, culture and interdisciplinary projects, organise cultural events, arts exhibitions, books presentations, and cooperate with non-governmental organisations of national communities. Approximately [300 non-governmental organisations](#) of national minorities are engaged in cultural activity in Lithuania. The Armenian, Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Chechen, Estonian, Greek, Karaits, Latvian, Polish, Roma, Romanian, Russian, Tatar, Ukrainian, Uzbek, Hungarian, German, Jewish, and other national communities have established their cultural, educational, professional, and other non-governmental organisations.

Intercultural dialog on an international level is coordinated by the Lithuanian Culture Institute. For several years, the Lithuanian Culture Institute has been realising Lithuanian culture seasons in various countries. In 2015, the Lithuanian Culture Institute represented Lithuania in Krakow; in 2016, it organised Spring and Autumn seasons in Ukraine; in 2017, Lithuania was a guest of honour at the international Leipzig book fair; in 2018, the institute realised two large-scale international events – Baltic Countries Market Focus programme at London Book Fair and the Lithuanian art festival “Flux” in Rome. In 2019, Tel Aviv became a host to the largest to date presentation of contemporary Lithuanian culture: “Lithuanian Story. Culture Festival in Tel Aviv 2019”. The festival aimed to introduce Israel’s audiences to Lithuanian artists from the fields of poetry, classical and contemporary music, performance, dance and film.

2.5.2. DIVERSITY EDUCATION

In Lithuania, diversity in education is mainly manifested through schools with different educational approaches that are called non-traditional education schools. Their activity is regulated by the *Concept of Non-Traditional Education*, approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports in 2010.

The aim of the non-traditional education in Lithuania is to provide opportunities to realise the right of both the parents and children to choose the type of education that corresponds to their values, worldviews and religions. The *Concept of Non-Traditional Education* states that establishment of educational institutions based on alternative education structures increases the range of choice, expands the institutional diversity of Lithuanian education, promotes modernisation of the educational process and the emergence of alternative teaching methods, as well as reflects and reinforces the democracy of the Lithuanian education system.

According to the *Concept of Non-Traditional Education*, non-traditional education is the type of education implemented according to the formal (primary, basic and secondary), and (or) non-formal (pre-school, pre-primary and other non-formal) education curricula based on some unique pedagogical system (Maria Montessori, Waldorf, Shin’ichi Suzuki, etc.) or its separate elements. Non-traditional education is part of the education system that is consistent and equivalent to the traditional system of education and comprises formal (except for vocational training and higher education) and non-formal education of children. Non-traditional education is implemented in non-traditional schools and in traditional schools according to the curriculum of primary and (or) other non-formal education. Schools of non-traditional education may operate according to their own programmes, but the total number of subjects and the total number of hours allocated for each subject in forms 1-12 can only differ from those specified in the state general education plans by not more than 25 per cent.

In 2019, a range of non-traditional education schools operated in Lithuania, for example: 1 school with special focus on ecology and environmental technologies, 4 schools with special focus on arts and humanistic culture, 3 schools based on the Ignatian pedagogical paradigm, 17 catholic schools, 1 school with classical curriculum, 2 Montessori schools, 1 Suzuki school and 4 schools of Waldorf education. In these schools, the duration of organising the education process (days, weeks or the entire school year) may differ from the duration of organising the education process in a traditional school. Alternative schools are free to choose teaching methods and strategies to help realise their goals of education. They can create a unique learning environment, develop and use specific teaching materials and school achievement assessment systems.

Four Lithuanian secondary schools of non-traditional education in the three largest cities focus their curriculum

on the education of humanistic culture and artistic abilities. Their aim is to combine general educational curriculum with the development of artistic competences and awareness of humanistic values, cultural heritage and cultural diversity. In the curricula of traditional education schools, diversity is not a particular focus of education. Arts education curricula in traditional schools are more focused on creative self-expression, development of artistic skills, and understanding of works of art. Schoolchildren's awareness of cultural and social diversity is mainly developed through subjects of history and citizenship that are compulsory in basic and secondary education.

In Lithuania, there are also schools of national minorities. The schools with national minorities' language as the language of instruction operate in the areas inhabited by large national minorities' population. According to the data estimates of 2016-2017, there were 108 schools in Lithuania with one or several national minority/foreign languages of instruction. Of those, 52 schools have Polish as the language of instruction, 30 schools have the Russian language of instruction, 9 Lithuanian and Polish, 12 Lithuanian and Russian, 7 Russian and Polish, 7 with Lithuanian, Russian and Polish languages of instruction and 1 Belarusian.

If the national minorities constitute a small minority group in the area, supplementary education may be organised and Saturday/Sunday schools can be established, with a view to enabling the people belonging to the national minorities to learn and improve their native language. Currently, there are approximately 42 Saturday/Sunday schools established by the Armenians, Azerbaijani, Belarusians, Estonians, Greeks, Karaites, Kazakhstani, Poles, Roma, Russian, Tatars, Ukrainians, Uzbek, Germans, and the Jews residing in Lithuania. People belonging to national minorities learn their native language and become familiar with their national culture and traditions, history and cultural heritage in these schools.

2.5.3. MEDIA PLURALISM AND CONTENT DIVERSITY

Media regulations

The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania prohibits censorship and monopolisation of the mass media (Article 44), guarantees freedom of expression and lays down the limits of exercising freedom of expression (Article 25). The principal law governing the activity of public information is the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public* (see chapter 4.2.1). The Ministry of Culture is one of the institutions responsible for the media policy and the implementation of the *Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information*. In implementing and coordinating national media policy, the Ministry of Culture cooperates with institutions operating in the field of public information and carrying out related supervision: the [Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania](#) and the [Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics](#) (see chapter 2.2 for more about the Office).

The [Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania](#) is an independent body accountable to the Seimas, which regulates and supervises the activities of radio and television broadcasters, on-demand audiovisual media service providers falling under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Lithuania, re-broadcasters carrying their activities in the territory of Lithuania and other legal bodies providing distribution services of radio and television programmes on internet for the users in the territory of Lithuania. The Commission participates in the formation of national audiovisual policy. It is an expert body for the Seimas and the Government on audiovisual issues. When performing its functions and taking decisions on issues within its remit, the Commission acts independently. The members of the Commission are appointed by the President of the Republic of Lithuania,

the Seimas, the Lithuanian Artists' Association, Lithuanian Bishops' Conference, Lithuanian Journalists' Association and Journalists' Society. The chairman and deputy chairman of the Commission are appointed by the Seimas.

In 2015, pursuant to Article 36(2) of the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public*, the Lithuanian Minister of Culture approved the *Description of the Procedure of Verification of Circulation of Local, Regional and National Newspapers and Magazines, Except for Those Whose Circulation Does Not Exceed 500 Copies and/or Which Contain No Advertising*. In accordance with the established procedure, publishers must provide data on the circulation of their published newspaper or magazine for the previous half-year to the Ministry of Culture twice a year, by filling in the approved form. The data on publication circulation (from the first half-year of 2012) and the participants of the media provided to the Ministry of Culture are made public in the [Database of Producers and Disseminators of Public Information](#), available on the website of the Ministry of Culture.

The Ministry of Culture also monitors the media ownership. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 24 of the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public*, all legal entities who are publishers of local, regional or national newspapers and magazines or managers of the public information media must submit to the Ministry of Culture the data on their participants who have the right of ownership to or control at least 10 per cent of all the shares or assets (where the assets are not share-based) and inform of the revised data if they change. The data specifies the following: media stakeholders; information about property relations and/or joint activity linking them with other producers and/or disseminators of public information and/or their participants. The Ministry publishes received data on its website in the [Database of Producers and Disseminators of Public Information](#).

The antitrust measures to prevent concentration of media and all other economic entities are set up by the *Lithuanian Law on Competition* (1999). The Law defines a dominant position as the position of one or more undertakings in a relevant market directly facing no competition or enabling to exert a unilateral decisive influence in a relevant market by effectively restricting competition. Unless proved otherwise, an undertaking (except retailers) with a market share of not less than 40 per cent is considered to enjoy a dominant position within the relevant market. Unless proved otherwise, each of a group of three or a smaller number of undertakings (except for retailers) with the largest shares of the relevant market, jointly holding 70 per cent or more of the relevant market is considered to enjoy a dominant position.

Broadcasting

Lithuania has a national broadcasting company: the [Lithuanian National Radio and Television](#) (LRT). LRT is a public body belonging to the State by the right of ownership. The *Law on the Lithuanian National Radio and Television* regulates the procedure of establishing, managing, operation, reorganisation and liquidation of LRT, its rights, duties and liability. The activities of a public broadcaster are also based on the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public*. LRT is financed from the state budget and has the right to earn commercial revenues from other legal activities. Advertising and audiovisual commercial communications have been prohibited in LRT radio and television programmes since 1 January 2015, except for communications of support of cultural and sports events and/or their broadcasting and cases when LRT must broadcast advertising and audiovisual commercial communications following its contractual obligations regarding acquisition or granting of rights of broadcasting of international events. The highest LRT body that represents public interests is the LRT Council. It is formed for a term of 6 years and consists of 12 members: public, scientific and cultural figures.

According to the data of [Lithuanian Radio and Television Commission](#), in 2018, there were 42 radio broadcasters in Lithuania that broadcasted 52 radio programmes. The greatest variety of radio programmes was in the largest cities of Lithuania: in Vilnius 30 programmes, in Kaunas 25, in Klaipėda 25, in Šiauliai 21, and in Panevėžys 19. According to the time listened, the four most popular radio programmes account for 56.7 per cent of the total listening time of audience.

The Lithuanian public broadcasting company broadcasts 3 radio programmes: “LRT radijas”, “Opus”, and “Klasika”. The last one is dedicated to cultural content. Other radio broadcasters are private companies; most of them are for-profit organisations.

There are two Polish radio programmes in Lithuania: “Znad Wilii”, and “RadioWilno” (streamed online only), and two Russian programmes: “Rusradio” and “Raduga”. The Lithuanian public broadcaster LRT airs information of different duration for national minorities (in Russian, Belarusian, Polish, Yiddish, and Ukrainian).

According to the data of Lithuanian Department of Statistics, in 2018, the share of domestic (original) radio programmes of public broadcaster amounted to 95 per cent of the total volume and it did not change over the last 5 years. The share of domestic (original) radio programmes of private radio companies amounted to 96 per cent and it also did not change significantly over the last five years. The main part of content of radio programmes was entertainment (73 per cent), while educational programmes made up the smallest share (1 per cent).

Table 2: Volume of radio programmes, in hours, in 2014–2018

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State broadcasting company	Total	25 112	25 562	27 944	27 883	27 888
	Original programmes	24 090	24 450	26 362	26 280	26 280
	Foreign programmes	122	122	122	122	122
	Coproduction programmes	900	990	1 460	1 481	1 486
Private companies	Total	321 912	270 548	262 325	253 571	220 896
	Original programmes	306 285	253 920	252 640	245 616	212 282
	Foreign programmes	15 253	16 503	9 685	7 955	8 614
	Coproduction programmes	374	125	-	-	-

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

Table 3: Structure of original radio programmes, in hours, in 2014–2018

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%
Total	330 375	100	278 370	100	279 002	100	271 896	100	238 562	100
Information programmes	31 069	9.4	30 722	11.0	30 116	10.8	25 603	9.4	25 857	10.8
Educational programmes	2 966	0.9	3 421	1.2	2 959	1.1	2 157	0.8	3 001	1.3
Culture programmes	9 550	2.9	9 979	3.6	10 245	3.7	8 873	3.3	10 429	4.4
Religious programmes	2 433	0.7	6 208	2.2	5 558	2.0	4 397	1.6	4 439	1.9
Advertising	30 458	9.2	13 356	4.8	14 307	5.1	33 953	12.5	11 898	5.0

Entertainment programmes	232 316	70.3	199 991	71.8	201 910	72.4	184 461	67.8	174 330	73.1
Not classified	21 583	6.5	14 693	5.3	13 907	5.0	12 452	4.6	8 608	3.6

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

According to the data of the Lithuanian Radio and Television Commission, in 2018, there were 26 TV broadcasting companies in Lithuania. Most of them were also engaged in re-broadcasting programmes and online broadcasting. There were 6 companies, which broadcasted online only, and 27 re-broadcasting companies. Most of them are private for-profit organisations, except the Lithuanian public broadcaster and 4 public local broadcasting institutions. Lithuanian public broadcasting company LRT broadcasts 3 TV programs: "LRT televizija", "LRT Lituanica", and "LRT Plius". The last one is dedicated to cultural content.

According to the data of Lithuanian Department of Statistics, in 2018, the share of domestic (original) television programmes of public broadcaster amounted to 82 per cent of the total volume, which is 4 per cent less than in 2014. The share of domestic (original) TV programmes of private television broadcasting companies was 70 per cent and it is 14 per cent more than in 2014. The main part of content of TV programmes was entertainment (42 per cent), while religious and educational programmes made up the smallest share (less than 1 per cent).

Table 4: Volume of television programmes, in hours, in 2014–2018

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State broadcasting company	Total	26 837	28 887	27 681	30 447	31 824
	Original programmes	23 109	24 099	23 514	26 280	26 280
	Foreign programmes	3 728	4 788	4 167	4 167	5 544
	Coproduction programmes	–	–	–	–	–
Private companies	Total	90 946	124 443	119 837	168 220	194 305
	Original programmes	51 725	83 945	70 440	136 891	136 891
	Foreign programmes	27 537	33 638	33 907	21 079	56 752
	Coproduction programmes	11 684	6 860	15 490	10 250	662

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

Table 5: Structure of original television programmes, in hours, in 2014–2018

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%
Total	74 834	100	108 044	100	93 954	100	163 171	100	158 939	100
Information programmes	12 016	16.1	17 834	16.5	17 339	18.5	23 345	14.3	28 258	17.8
Educational programmes	797	1.1	1 001	0.9	900	1.0	756	0.5	686	0.4
Culture programmes	7 312	9.8	9 581	8.9	11 675	12.4	11 101	6.8	14 869	9.4
Religious programmes	220	0.3	908	0.8	360	0.4	404	0.2	423	0.3
Advertising	9 302	12.4	31 249	28.9	13 679	14.6	33 040	20.2	13 239	8.3
Entertainment programmes	18 232	24.4	29 577	27.4	31 091	33.1	69 577	42.6	67 055	42.2
Not classified	26 955	36.0	17 894	16.6	18 910	20.1	24 948	15.3	34 409	21.6

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

Production and distribution of original domestic content broadcasted by TV and radio companies are supported through the Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation (see chapter 1.2.2). In 2018, the Foundation funded 144 projects of national and regional broadcasters and Internet media and allocated for them 1 072 240 EUR (see chapter 3.5.3 for more about support for media).

According to the authors of the [Lithuania Report](#) of Media Pluralism Monitor 2017, the MPM2017 for Lithuania shows low risk in the area of Basic Protection (23%), and medium risk in the remaining areas: Market Plurality (56%), Political Independence (48%) and Social Inclusiveness (48%). Among the most representative societal tendencies identified in the contemporary Lithuanian media marketplace are such deviations as enduring political and business influence, on-going media ownership concentration, continuing audience fragmentation and social and political polarisation, declining overall institutional trust, and rising societal uncertainty and scepticism.

2.5.4. LANGUAGE

According to the data of the population census in 2011, 84.2 per cent of the total population of the Republic of Lithuania were Lithuanians, 6.6 per cent Poles, 5.8 per cent Russians, 1.2 per cent Belarusians, 0.5 per cent Ukrainians, and 0.6 per cent other nationalities. Most residents of the largest ethnic groups indicated their language as their native language: Lithuanians 99.2 per cent, Poles 77.1 per cent, and Russians 87.2 per cent. Answers to the question about foreign languages showed that about 78.5 per cent of the population knew at least one foreign language. 41.6 per cent of population knew one foreign language, 29 per cent knew two languages, 6.6 per cent knew three languages, and 1.3 per cent knew four and more languages. The biggest share of population knew Russian language (63 per cent), 30.4 per cent English, 8.5 per cent Polish, and 8.3 per cent German.

The constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, approved in 1992, establishes Lithuanian as its state language (Article 14). Article 37 of the Constitution provides that citizens, who belong to ethnic communities, shall have the right to foster their language, culture, and customs.

The *Law on State Language* (1995) regulates the use of the state language in public life of Lithuania, protection and control of the state language, and the responsibility for violations of the *Law on State Language*. According to the Law, Laws of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts shall be adopted and promulgated in the state language; all institutions, establishments, enterprises and organisations which function in the Republic of Lithuania shall manage filing work, accounting, reporting, financial and technical documents in the state language; legal proceedings in the Republic of Lithuania shall be conducted in the state language; the State shall guarantee the residents of the Republic of Lithuania the right to acquire general, vocational, higher post-school and university education in the state language. The Law does not regulate unofficial communication of the population and the language of events of religious communities as well as persons, belonging to ethnic communities.

The policy of state language is shaped by the [State Language Commission](#). The tasks of the Commissions are to decide issues concerning the implementation of the Law on the State Language; submit to Seimas, President of the Republic and Government proposals on language policy and implementation of the *Law on State Language*, submit to Seimas conclusions regarding the language of legal acts; establish the directions of regulating the Lithuanian language; decide the issues of standardisation and codification of Lithuanian language; appraise and

approve the most important standardising language works (dictionaries, reference books, guidebooks and textbooks); etc.

The [State Language Inspectorate](#) is a policy implementation body whose objectives, functions, organisation and procedure of work are regulated by the *Law on the State Language Inspectorate* (2001). The main function of the Inspectorate is to control whether the activities of state, municipal and other institutions, companies and organisations operating in the Republic of Lithuania comply with the *Law on State Language*, resolutions of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language and other legal acts establishing requirements for the use and correctness of the State language the activity.

In 2018, the Seimas approved *State Language Policy Guidelines for 2018–2022*. The guidelines are mostly concerned with factors that exert a negative impact on the current condition of the State language, such as a competition between the Lithuanian language and other languages in the spheres of public life; inefficient linguistic education of society and its insufficiently active involvement (participation) in the initiatives on supporting and strengthening the Lithuanian language; insufficiently rapid codification of the norms of the standard language due to the fragmentation of research into the usage and supervision and a lack of research into the linguistic principles of society; a too slow localisation of computer programmes which does not always meet the society's needs; insufficient response of the institutions related to teaching the state language to intensified emigration, immigration and remigration processes and the increased need for teaching (learning) the Lithuanian language.

The *Plan of the Implementation Measures of State Language Policy Guidelines for 2018–2022*, adopted in 2019 by the Lithuanian Government, includes the following tasks: to ensure the flexibility and dynamics of language policy; strengthen the status of Lithuanian language in the context of multilingual Europe; ensure the modernity, renewal and increase of the resources of the standard language to meet the needs of the society; strengthen the prestige of the Lithuanian language; improve the quality of standard language in all areas of public use; promote the teaching and learning of the Lithuanian language abroad.

In 2019, the State Language Commission approved the *Strengthening Program of Lithuanian Language Prestige*. The aim of the programme is to strengthen the prestige of the Lithuanian language in Lithuania and the Lithuanian-speaking emigrants, develop the linguistic awareness of the society, its activity and confidence in language capacity. For the implementation of the programme in 2020–2024, it is planned to allocate 1 143 000 EUR from the state budget appropriations assigned to the Commission.

Several language promotion measures are funded by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The most popular of them is the annual National Dictation Competition that has been organised 12 times. Every year the State Language Inspectorate organises a Competition of the Most Beautiful Name of a Company. The State Language Commission gives awards for significant works in the field of Lithuanian terminology, promotion of the language of science and linguistic education of the public. The Society of Lithuanian Language organises the elections of the Word of the Year and the Saying of the Year that are also very popular among the residents of Lithuania.

In recent years, the main debate in the field of language policy has dealt with the “names spelling issue”. The Article 7 of the Lithuanian *Law on State Language* provides that personal names of the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania in official documents (e.g. passports) shall have the forms prescribed by laws, i.e. have to be written in

Lithuanian alphabet. Lithuanian alphabet is based on Latin and consists of 32 letters: the Latin characters with extra nasal letters (ą, ę, į, ū) and letters with diacritics (č, š, ž, è, ū). The alphabet does not contain the Latin letters "w", "q" and "x" and this causes problems to the national minority group representatives willing to name their children in accordance with their culture, tradition or language. It also poses a difficulty for the Lithuanian women marrying foreigners and wishing for their surnames to be written in the same way as the surnames of their husbands on documents issued in Lithuania. According to the data, this problem concerns a substantial number of people annually, as many as 16% of marriages are of a mixed character. Further, within ten years, the number of children born beyond the borders of the country has increased from 1% to 16% (2011). Such marriages and the resulting offspring want their family name to be written in its unchanged form in all documents issued within Lithuanian borders.

Two alternative name-spelling laws have been tabled to the parliament. One of the two bills proposed to allow using the letters "x", "w" and "q", which do not exist in the Lithuanian alphabet, on the main page of an identity document, and the other calls for such names to be spelt in their original form on an additional page of one's passport. Neither were adopted.

Politicians of the Polish community in Lithuania and their supporters in Poland have long been asking to allow Polish letters in the last names of Polish speakers, an issue that has been emerging in the bilateral Lithuanian-Polish relations. Critics say that non-Lithuanian characters would undermine the status of the Lithuanian language as the official language and, furthermore, can cause trouble in reading non-Lithuanian last names.

Meanwhile, the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language holds the position that the letters q, w and x could only be used for the spelling of names of Lithuanian citizens married to foreigners, their children and foreigners who gained Lithuanian citizenship.

2.5.5. GENDER

In Lithuania, equal rights and opportunities for women and men are enshrined in the *Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men* (1998). The Law forbids any discrimination – direct and indirect – on the grounds of sex, harassment on the grounds of sex, sexual harassment and an instruction to directly or indirectly discriminate against persons on the grounds of sex. The Law sets out preconditions for gender mainstreaming. All State and municipal institutions and agencies must ensure that equal rights for women and men are ensured in all the legal acts drafted and enacted by them; must draw up and implement programmes and measures aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for women and men and, in the manner prescribed by laws, must support the programmes of public establishments, associations and charitable foundations which assist in implementing equal opportunities for women and men.

In 2015, the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour approved the fourth *National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015–2021* and its Action Plan. The strategic goal of the Programme is the consistent, complex and systematic promotion of the equality between women and men and the elimination of discrimination between women and men in all areas. The objectives of the programme are to promote equal opportunities for women and men in the field of employment and occupation; balance involvement of women and men in decision-making and holding the top posts; improve effectiveness of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of gender equality.

All these objectives are relevant in the field of culture. However, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture does not have any specific measures (quota schemas or mainstreaming programmes) for ensuring equal opportunities for women and men in the field of culture.

According to the data of Eurostat, Lithuanian cultural sector employs more women than men, but women earn 10–12 per cent less than men.

Table 6: Number of women and men (in persons) and their average earnings (monthly, EUR) in art, entertainment and leisure organisations of public sector in 2014–2018

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of women and men working in art, entertainment and leisure organisations of public sector	Females	16 000	16 100	17 200	17 400	15 700
	Males	9 600	8 900	7 800	7 500	8 700
Average earnings of women and men working in art, entertainment and leisure organisations of public sector	Females	507.6	554.67	609.92	654.42	699.65
	Males	576.65	630.97	697.27	737.60	802.3

Sources: Eurostat, Lithuanian Department of Statistics

Women and men are quite evenly represented in top positions of national and state cultural organisations. In 2018, women headed 27 of 55 national and state cultural institutions (museums, theatres, libraries, etc.). However, women are underrepresented in the pursuit of National Award for Culture and Arts. Lithuanian artists receive the National Culture and Arts Awards for their long-term creative contribution to the Lithuanian culture and art. Despite the fact of the greater percentage of women working in arts and culture sector, they are nominated for the awards far less often than men. Since 1990, women accounted for only 21% of all creators who received the National Awards. In 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 2012 and 2013, the national awards in the field of culture were granted to men only. In 2019, unions and associations of artists and other cultural organisations nominated 42 candidates for the National Prize – 15 women and 27 men. For the first time since 1990, more women than men were granted with the Awards – 4 women and 2 men.

According to the survey *Population participation in culture and satisfaction with cultural services* (2014) commissioned by the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, women and men are unevenly active in the cultural and artistic activities. Significantly fewer men than women attend cultural activities: 41% men and 27% women have no intention to attend cultural events and initiatives. One of the reasons for such non-participation is a lack of male interest in culture. 36% of male respondents stated that they have interests other than in culture, 54% named personal reasons (shortage of time, health problems), while others named insufficient supply of cultural services and products and other obstacles. Men are less frequent visitors of museums, galleries or exhibitions than women, and they are less active in stage arts and crafts. Women tend to participate in volunteering more often than men (22% women and 6% men on average), as well as in cultural initiatives, non-governmental organisations and culture-related studies. Besides, women are more interested in books and press than men (71% women and 53% men read books for pleasure) and women have more books at home than men (47% women and 39% men have over 50 books at home).

2.5.6. DISABILITY

In Lithuania, the UN *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* has been in force since 2010. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania is responsible for the implementation of the

Convention.

The planning, organising and coordinating of measures for the social integration of people with disabilities, in order to create equal rights and opportunities for disabled people to participate in public life, are performed by the [Department for the Affairs of the Disabled](#) under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The *National Programme of the Social Integration of Disabled 2013–2019*, approved by the Government in 2012, includes several tasks related to the equal opportunities of people with disabilities to take part in arts and culture. The second objective of the programme is to increase the accessibility of physical and informative environments for people with disabilities. In the field of culture, the objective has to be achieved by the development of the titration of film and TV programmes, translations in sign language, and by modernisation of buildings of cultural institutions in order to make them more accessible for disabled. The third objective of the programme is to seek greater employment of people with disabilities in the labour market, and participation in culture, sport and leisure activities.

The cultural and artistic creation of people with disabilities is organised and coordinated by their associations. The [Lithuanian Union of People with Disabilities](#) unites 18 associations of disabled people, and 4 public institutions. Each year, the Union implements about 20 projects, many of which are related to arts and culture, such as “Tourism without barriers”, “Creative Bridges” (educational project designated to involve people with disabilities in creative activities), “The Young Film Creators” (creative project that aims to engage in dialog young people with disabilities and without them), “Creation of Social Interactions and Dissemination in Regions”, “Special Creation of Music and Education in Regions” and theatre festival “Begasas”. Funding for these projects is provided by the Lithuanian Council for Culture and international foundations. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture does not have any policy measures designated for people with disabilities.

2.6. Culture and social inclusion

In Lithuania, the issue of social inclusion and cohesion is mainly related in cultural policy to the equal opportunities of different social groups and inhabitants of different regions to participate in cultural life, i.e. cultural participation is considered to be an important factor of social inclusion and cohesion. The *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030* argues to be a positive correlation between the active participation in cultural life and higher quality of personal and social life: people engaged in cultural and creative activities have more trust in other people, they participate more actively in elections, have stronger and more conscious civic identity, feel happier and healthier. Hence, one of the tasks of the *Strategy* is “to promote the equal accessibility of high quality and various forms of culture for diverse social groups”.

According to the survey *Population participation in culture and satisfaction with cultural services* (2017) commissioned by the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, the inhabitants of villages and small towns are less involved in cultural activities. The share of culturally active people who used more than seven types of cultural services at least once a year was 14.6 per cent in rural areas, compared to 30.6 per cent in cities. Services of libraries are the only kind of services more actively used in rural areas than in cities. That could be explained by the fact that the network of libraries is the densest network of cultural institutions in Lithuania. Residents of small towns and villages visit cinemas, galleries and heritage sites much less often. As the main reason not to participate in cultural activities, one quarter of small towns residents indicate the difficulty to arrive at the locations, where cultural activities take place.

In 2018, in order to improve the accessibility of culture in regions and the development of diversity of local cultural expressions, the Lithuanian Council for Culture created the model of the support of Even Cultural Development. The aim of the model is to decentralise cultural funding decisions, enable regions to decide independently on the implementation of cultural and artistic projects that are important for them, and involving local communities, creators and municipalities in decision-making processes. The model also has to enhance investments of municipalities in cultural or artistic projects of regional importance.

The main idea of the model is to create 10 Regional Councils for Culture, which decide independently on funding of cultural projects through local calls for tenders. The Regional Councils for Culture are formed of representatives of regional municipalities, representatives of regional arts and culture organisations and one delegate of Lithuanian Council for Culture, who does not have voting right. Each Regional Council forms its own funding priorities reflecting the situation of local cultural communities, infrastructure and potential.

The model was approved by the Ministry of Culture in 2018. In 2019, the Lithuanian Council for Culture granted about 3 million EUR for 470 projects selected by the Regional Councils.

2.7. Societal impact of arts

In Lithuania, the idea of societal impact of art (understood as a capacity of art to engage people in common processes of creative activity, enhance their cooperation and strengthen collective identity) is widely exploited at cultural policy of municipal level. In recent years, there have been many initiatives and projects aimed at community building and cooperation through common artistic activities. These projects are funded by municipalities and by the Lithuanian Council for Culture under the "Creative Initiatives of Communities" programme.

In 2012, the pilot project under the Ministry of Culture "Art for Human Wellbeing" started as a social experimental project to ensure co-operation between culture, health care and the social sectors. The Project's aim was to pursue art activities, to complete the societal research study and to create an effective model of social partnership. Several hospitals and sheltered housing units were involved in the project as specific places for art education and social activities. The network of art health institutions was established, and the results of the project were published in a special report.

Since 2017, the [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) implements the funding programme "Arts for Human Wellbeing", aimed at strengthening the cooperation between cultural and artistic organisations and other sectors of society, and increasing cohesion between the fields of culture and health policy, culture and social policy. The programme funds pilot projects that focus on the availability of professional art in all categories of health and social service institutions, involve providers of services and users of services of these institutions in cultural activities, and develop new approaches and models of activity. Other activities funded by the programme are social innovations through creative projects (products, services and models) that create new models of social relationships and collaboration, apply new ideas and innovatively use existing mechanisms to solve social problems: population aging, social exclusion, etc. In 2019, the Council granted 70 000 EUR for 16 projects, in 2018 it granted 129 700 EUR for 29 projects, and in 2017, 129 700 EUR for 31 projects.

2.8. Cultural sustainability

Cultural sustainability is not a cultural policy issue in Lithuania. The main principles of sustainable activity are set by the *National Strategy of the Sustainable Development* approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in 2011. The *Strategy* does not address the sustainability of cultural activities, with the exception of tourism. In tourism, the long-term objectives are to implement the sustainable development principles by planning and performing territorial tourism development and carrying out tourism infrastructure projects at national and municipal levels. The main long-term tasks of sustainable development of tourism are as follows: to enhance the scope and variety of tourism services; to develop the infrastructure of tourism and recreation; to make better use of the distinctiveness of the nature and culture of the country's regions as well as of the valuable ethno cultural objects; to improve the national system of management, planning and support for tourism and recreation; to prioritise the development of cultural, ecological and active recreation as well as health tourism; to promote the aforementioned activities, giving preference to projects ensuring the preservation of the environmental quality as well as rational use of recreational resources; to promote and provide full support to the development of the public infrastructure of bicycle and water tourism; and to improve dissemination of information.

Awareness of cultural sustainability is manifested in some of cultural projects and activities, mainly in local cultural projects.

2.9. Other main cultural policy issues

The most fervent public discussions in the field of cultural politics in recent years have been on memory politics and art in public spaces. In cases, where these two issues merge together, e.g. establishment of new public historical monuments, debates have been ongoing for decades and even reach the courts.

Debates on art in public space were provoked during the programme Vilnius European Capital of Culture 2009. Within the framework of the public places humanisation programme aimed at a contemporary interpretation of the city's open space, the sculpture by Vladas Urbanavičius "*Embankment Arch*" was completed on river Neris embankment. The sculpture imitates a surfaced architectural-communicative construction. Soon it got the name "Vilnius pipe" and split the residents of Vilnius into two groups, one demanded to eliminate the sculpture as soon as possible, as it is a blot on the landscape, while other petitioned for its preservation and claimed that it is an excellent, ironic, and provocative work of art. Despite the criticism, the capital's authorities decided not to eliminate the "pipe", even though its exposition time had expired. In 2010, by the order of the director of Vilnius Municipality Administration, the Embankment Arch became a permanent art installation.

Debates on memory policy are constantly provoked by the decisions of the authorities of the cities to eliminate or not to eliminate sculptures and monuments of Soviet times. The most prominent story of this kind relates to the Soviet sculpture composition over the river Neris bridge "Žalias tiltas" ("Green Bridge"). The composition of four sculptural monuments, including a group of soldiers, was listed on the heritage register as a representative example of the Soviet propaganda art of the 1950s. Part of the Vilnius residents saw the sculptures as authentic signs of a time that needs to have a place in the city's landscape. However, another part of the residents treated the sculptures as a symbol of communism ideology and a monument for Soviet times and argued for the removal of the sculptures. Discussions among the administration of the municipality of Vilnius, artists, heritage

specialists, and the local community about the removal of sculptures lasted for several years. Finally, sculptures were removed because of the need for restoration, by the order of the Department of Cultural Heritage.

The longest story related to the establishment of new public monument is about the monument of the Lukiškės Square. The square is the largest square (about 4 ha) in Vilnius, located in the centre of the city. In the Soviet times, the square was renamed Lenin Square and a statue of Lenin was built in its centre in 1953. The statue was removed in 1991, after the restoration of independence of Lithuania. The discussions about the renovation of the square started immediately after the removal of the statue. In 1999, the Parliament of Lithuania adopted a resolution that “the Lukiškės Square in Vilnius has to be formed as the main representative square of Lithuania with memorial accents of the fights for the freedom”.

Till 2019, three competitions were organised for the monument in the square. The first one was organised by the municipality of Vilnius in 2007–2009. After the first phase of the competition, the commission selected 7 works and presented them to the publics. The public joined the discussion actively and voiced very different opinions. The Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees, some historians, senior citizens wanted a traditional monument, while the younger people wanted an urban space adapted for recreation with a historically neutral art object. In 2009, the commission, feeling the pressure of public and failing to reconcile the interests of the two sides, postponed the decision of the second phase of the competition and none of the presented projects won.

The second competition was organised by the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture in 2012–2013. The artists submitted 28 projects to the Ministry of Culture, which were evaluated by 7 experts. The experts selected five projects and recommended to implement one of them – the sculpture “The Spirit of the Nation”. The competition provoked active public discussions again. 33 NGO’s submitted a petition to the Minister of Culture, where they expressed a negative opinion on the winning project and on the commission that elected it. Arguing against the decision of the commission, the NGO’s claimed that “the genre of abstract composition in the case of the Lukiškės Square is inappropriate in principle”, they also criticized the panel of the commission because “there were only two sculptors competent in the field of monument sculpture. Other commission members represented the so-called ‘trends of contemporary interpretive art’, unrelated to the traditional classical concept of sculpture”.

After the second competition, the NGO’s started an active promotion of the idea that the “classical” monument of Vytis should be erected in the Lukiškės Square (Vytis is an old Lithuanian symbol and figure on the Coat of arms of Lithuania that depicts an armour-clad knight on a horseback holding a sword and shield). The NGO’s created a Vytis Support Fund, which announced a competition for the Vytis sculptural model. The competition took place in 2016. [The sculpture that won this competition](#) was actively proposed for the Lithuanian Parliament and Vilnius municipality. However, the members of the Lithuanian Arts Critics Association, historians of arts and scholars of the Lithuanian Culture Research Institute were against the sculpture because of its insufficient artistic quality. They also published a petition, which criticized the aesthetic value of the sculpture selected by NGO’s.

In 2017, the Ministry of Culture together with the Contemporary Arts Centre announced the third competition for the monument in the Lukiškės Square. The artists submitted 32 monument projects. The commission selected 5 of them and proposed for the public to vote. Among these 5 selected projects was the statue of Vytis, which won the competition of the Vytis Support Fund previously. More than 11.000 people participated in the

electronic voting. The statue of Vytis received 37.66 per cent of votes and 37.55 per cent received the project of a young artist representing a hillock with a partisan shelter. The latter project got the most votes of the commission – 7 out of 8. The votes of the public and commission amounted to 50% of the final result, so the second project was announced as the winner.

The NGO's expressed their discontent with the competition and the result of it in several public petitions and a meeting. The meeting gathered about 500 people who proclaimed a statement with a requirement that the statue of Vytis should be erected in the Lukiškės Square. The Lithuanian Parliament members joined the fight for Vytis and registered a law project, which sets that a monument of Vytis, representing the historical symbol of Lithuanian fights for freedom, has to be erected in the Lukiškės Square. 41 members of Parliament supported this law project. This gave rise to the negative reaction of the cultural and academic community that spoke against the initiative of the Parliament members. 166 persons signed a public appeal to Lithuanian leaders, expressing their disagreement with the intention to regulate the square monument by a law and claimed that the opinion of experts should not be ignored when dealing with issues related to the art in public spaces.

The creators of Vytis monument went to the court and asked to declare the result of the competition as illegal. The trial took two years and ended in 2019. The court found that the winning work "met the requirements of the workshops" and rejected the applicants' claims that the competition was organised in a non-transparent way. The proponents of Vytis monument stated that the decision would be appealed to the Lithuanian Court of Appeal. Thus, the story continues, and the square still has no monument.

3. Cultural and creative sectors

3.1. Heritage

In 2018, the Lithuanian [Register of Cultural Property](#) contained information about 16 400 immovable cultural heritage objects (individual and complex objects and cultural heritage sites) and about 4 000 movable cultural properties. The register is constantly updated and revised. More than 8 000 cultural heritage objects are on the list of state protected cultural heritage objects approved by the Minister of Culture, and 2 298 cultural heritage objects are declared national cultural heritage objects by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (including 150 buildings).

Table 7: Number of state protected cultural heritage sites and national cultural heritage objects in 2015–2018

	2015	2016	2017	2018
State protected cultural heritage sites	8 085	8 117	8 139	8 189
National cultural heritage objects	2 297	2 297	2 297	2 298

Source: [Lithuanian Museums Database](#)

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the State is responsible for the protection of Lithuania's monuments of history and art as well as other cultural monuments and property. The purpose of protecting cultural heritage in the Republic of Lithuania is its preservation and transfer to future generations.

Legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania distinguish between immovable and movable cultural heritage. The protection of immovable cultural heritage is guaranteed by the [Law on Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage](#) (1994). This law defines cultural heritage as "the cultural property inherited, taken over, created and transmitted from generation to generation and significant from the ethnic, historical, aesthetical or scientific point of view".

The legal act regulating the protection of movable cultural property is the [Law on Protection of Movable Cultural Property](#) (1996). Movable cultural property is defined in this Law as "material creations and other objects which are movable based on their designation and nature, hold cultural value and are listed in the State inventories of movable cultural property". Immovable and movable cultural property is inscribed in the State Register of Cultural Property.

The heritage policy in Lithuania is shaped and implemented by the Ministry of Culture, the Department of Cultural Heritage, the National Commission for Cultural Heritage, and municipalities. The [Ministry of Culture](#) organises state administration for protection of movable and immovable cultural heritage and is in charge thereof. The [Department of Cultural Heritage](#) performs the functions of the protection of immovable cultural heritage and movable cultural properties assigned to it by laws and other legal acts; these functions include maintenance and management of cultural properties, maintenance of accounting and control of cultural heritage, as well as presentation of cultural heritage to the society; the Department also contributes to the formation and implementation of national policies in the area of protection of cultural heritage.

The Department is a founder of the state-funded institution the [Centre of Cultural Heritage](#), which collects and accumulates information on cultural heritage as well as conducts historical and physical research; another state

institution, [Monuments of Lithuania](#), responsible for maintenance of cultural heritage is also subordinated to the Department. In 2020, this institution will be reorganised in the Cultural Infrastructure Centre, a new institution that will perform the functions of the Monuments of Lithuania as well as act as a commissioner of the reconstruction and modernisation works needed for the cultural objects and other institutions under the Ministry of Culture. Currently, each institution commissions these works by itself. In general, the reorganisation aims to make the system of heritage protection more effective and transparent by the separation of the control of heritage protection from the function of heritage management, as well as to save budget appropriations and to reduce the cost of the contract works.

The [National Commission for Cultural Heritage](#) is the expert and adviser to the Parliament, the President of the Republic and the Government regarding national policy issues on the protection of immovable cultural heritage. The activities of the Heritage Commission are regulated by the *Law of the National Commission for Cultural Heritage* (2004). The main mission of the Heritage Commission is to participate in the formation of a policy and strategy for the protection of cultural heritage, to inform the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, the President of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania about the problems regarding heritage protection, and to prepare draft legal acts related to heritage protection.

Municipalities of the Republic of Lithuania also take part in the heritage policy. They have the heritage protection divisions that perform certain functions for the protection of immovable cultural heritage provided for by law; they also issue the sets of conditions for designing protected structures and structures in the territories of protected objects as well as at protected sites, organise the approval of design documentation for the aforementioned structures as well as grant permits to build, reconstruct, repair or demolish the aforementioned structures in accordance with the procedure laid down by the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania.

Despite this extensive institutional system for the protection and management of heritage, heritage policy is the most challenging area of cultural policy in Lithuania due to the insufficient funding and frequent changes in legislation. For example, between 2004 and 2014, the *Law on the Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage* was amended and supplemented 7 times and a total of 16 amendments and editions were drafted. Such frequent changes to the Law make the implementation of this Law as well as its alignment with other laws very complicated.

In 2019, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture commissioned a study on the cultural heritage protection processes and compatibility of heritage protection laws. The [report of the study](#) presents an analysis of laws regulating the protection of cultural heritage and the provision of services, analysis of international documents related to the protection of cultural heritage as well as an analysis of the functions of the institutions involved in the cultural heritage administration process. The findings of the study reveal the inconsistency between the concepts used in the main Lithuanian heritage protection Laws and duplications of functions performed by the Department of Cultural Heritage, municipalities and Directorates of Protected Areas. Thus, as a conclusion, the study recommends a range of legislative changes and the overall revision of the model of the Lithuanian cultural heritage protection.

The [Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030](#) states that Lithuanian cultural heritage policy has long been focused on regulation and control, and paid little attention to communication about the importance of heritage and traditions, and to the raise of awareness about it among heritage managers and the public. There are systemic issues in the administration of cultural heritage protection and a lack of state attention to effective heritage

management, measures of preservation of intangible cultural heritage, ethnic cultural phenomena, dialogue with communities and investors, involvement of all segments of society in heritage actualisation decisions.

Museums

Lithuanian museum infrastructure consists of national, state, municipal, departmental and private or non-state-owned museums. According to the data of the Ministry of Culture, in 2019, there were 104 museums in Lithuania that submitted reports to the Ministry of Culture: 4 national, 15 state, 56 municipal, 22 departmental, and 7 public institutions/non-state-owned museums. 16 museums, including 4 national and 12 state, fall within the purview of the Ministry of Culture. According to the data of the Lithuanian Department of Statistics, in 2018, all these museums together stored 7 569 200 exhibits.

Table 8: Number of exhibits stored in museums in 2018

Type of museums	Number of exhibits
Number of exhibits in national museums	2 167 577
Number of exhibits in state museums	2 686 334
Number of exhibits in municipal museums	2 177 372
Number of exhibits in departmental museums	484 091
Number of exhibits in non-state-owned museums	53 808

Source: [Lithuanian Museums Database](#)

During 2018, Lithuanian museums were visited by 5 026 217 visitors. Compared to 2017 (4 152 393 visitors), the number of museums visitors increased by 21 per cent and compared to 2016 (3 981 126 visitors) by 26 per cent.

Table 9: Number of museums visitors in 2014–2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of museums visitors (in thousands)	3 757	3 896	3 981	4 152	5 026
Average number of visitors per museum (in thousands)	36.1	37.5	38.7	41.5	50.3

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

The policy of museums in Lithuania are shaped and implemented by the Ministry of Culture, the Council of Museums and the Lithuanian Council for Culture. According to the *Law on Museums*, the [Ministry of Culture](#) outlines the strategy of the activity of national and state museums, prepares programmes for the implementation of the strategy and submits them to the Government or, at the Government's discretion, to the Minister of Culture for approval; prepares drafts of legal acts regulating the activity of museums and submits them to the Government or the Minister of Culture for adoption; coordinates the activity of Lithuanian museums, their participation in cross-border museological programmes; checks how objects stored at museums are accounted for and protected; provides funds for the key programmes of museum activity, restoration and scientific research; appoints, through a public competition, and dismisses the directors of national and state museums whose owner's rights and obligations are implemented by the Ministry of Culture; appoints, through a public competition, and dismisses the deputy directors – chief curators – of national and state museums whose owner's rights and obligations are implemented by the Ministry of Culture; arranges the professional development of museum curators and restorers; at the order of the Minister of Culture compiles

the list of paid services provided by museums within the competence of the Ministry of Culture. The [Council of Museums](#) acts as an expert and consultant on issues related to the formulation and implementation of museum policy.

The [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) provides funding for projects of museums. In 2018, the Council allocated 1 321 167 EUR for 138 projects of museums.

In 2015, the Minister of Culture approved the *Strategic Guidelines of Museum Development in 2015-2020*. The document was drafted by a working group comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Education Development Centre, the Faculty of Communication of Vilnius University and Lithuanian museums. The document includes five strategic orientations of museum development: 1) to develop contemporary museum exhibitions shaping historic awareness, encouraging participation of the society in the cognitive process as well as representing national history and heritage; 2) to strengthen educational activities of museums based on engaging, inclusive, creative teaching and learning principles with the synergy with formal, non-formal and in- formal education programmes, life-long learning and meeting the needs and expectations of different groups of the society; 3) to pursue more efficient collecting, accounting, storing and promotion to the public of museum collections; 4) to enhance accessibility, quality and marketing competitiveness of the services rendered and products provided by museums; 5) to encourage and consistently pursue the building of skills and enhancement of qualification of the museum staff.

The [Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030](#) states that museums, libraries, archives, i.e. “memory institutions”, can actively contribute, through traditional and modern means of communication, to the development of citizens' values and critical thinking, as well as to ensuring their meaningful leisure. Success factors of the activity of memory institutions are the quality of content and its communication. There are positive changes in the activity of Lithuanian museums during the last 3 years, as the number of museums visitors increased by 26 per cent. However, some of the museums' expositions are still static, they do not reflect changes and actual issues of the society, do not encourage active cognition and therefore do not meet the quality requirements set for a modern museum. In addition, this part of the cultural sector faces a specific challenge by developing its audience, since it is this part of the population who says that the main reason for not attending museums is the lack of interest.

3.2. Archives and libraries

Archives

The Lithuanian state archives system consists of the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania and 9 state archives. The state archives are divided into two groups: central archives and regional archives. There are 5 central archives: the Lithuanian State Historical Archives, Lithuanian Central State Archives, Lithuanian State Modern Archives, Lithuanian Special Archives, and the Lithuanian Archives of Literature and Art.

The Lithuanian State Historical Archives is the main repository of records for the Lithuanian history from the 13th century up to the declaration of the Independence of Lithuania in 1918 (civil registry and vital records up until to our days). The records of state institutions, religious communities, popular organisations and families that are maintained in these archives also reflect the history of Russia, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine, Latvia and other countries.

The Lithuanian Central State Archives preserves records of state, local government, enterprises, religious communities, popular organisations, other non-state institutions and individuals, dating from 1918 until 1990. The division of Sound and Image is the main repository of audiovisual heritage in Lithuania. It preserves moving pictures since 1919, photo negatives and positives since 1850s, sound recordings since 1950s, and videotapes since 1988 until the present day.

The Lithuanian State Modern Archives exercises control over records management in major state institutions (the Parliament, Office of the President of Republic of Lithuania, Chancellery of Government, ministries and departments, etc.) It also accumulates and preserves documents of state institutions, popular organisations and individuals, dating from 1990; provide institutions with consultations on the organisation of records management, administration and preservation of documents.

The Lithuanian Special Archives preserves records of the former Lithuanian SSR division of KGB, USSR, dating 1940-1991, records of the Lithuanian SSR Ministry of Interior dating 1944-1990 and records of communist and socialist organisations, dating from the 19th c. until 1991, that witnessed the genocide of the Lithuanian people.

The Lithuanian Archives of Literature and Art preserves and accumulates records belonging to state institutions, popular organisations and private persons, reflecting the development of culture and art in Lithuania. Most records are from the 20th century. Several documents in fonds of private persons are dated from 15th century.

The 4 regional archives preserve documents of regional state, municipal, non-state institutions and individuals of corresponding region.

Table 10: State Archives Activity Indicators for 2018

Indicator	Value (in units)
Number of state archives	9
Number of employees in archives	425
Number of paper documents in archives	1 0274 469
Number of film documents in archives	9 549
Number of photo documents in archives	417 229
Number of audio documents in archives	25 157
Number of video documents in archives	5 928
Number of electronic documents in archives	146
Number of digitalised documents in archives (units per year)	47 071
Number of visits of document readers (per year)	31 301

Source: [Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania](#)

According to the data of the Lithuanian Department of Statistic, the number of written requests in archives remained relatively stable over the last 5 years.

Table 11: The number of written requests in archives in 2014–2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

Number of requests in archives	31 100	29 500	30 100	25 900	31 300
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Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

The policy of archives is shaped and implemented by the Ministry of Culture, the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, the Council of Archives and the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The *Law On Documents And Archives* (1995) define the functions of the Ministry of Culture as follow: “the Ministry of Culture shall: 1) shape a national policy in the field of management and use of documents and archives; 2) shape a film heritage protection policy and coordinate the creation of a state film chronicle according to target appropriations of the state budget as well as to the description of the procedure for creation of a chronicle, set by the Minister of Culture; 3) participate in the shaping and implementation of national policy in the field of management and use of European Union documents and archives; 4) coordinate preparation and implementation of strategic planning documents in the field of management and use of documents and archives; 5) upon the instructions of the Government implement part of the rights and duties of the owner of the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania and of the state archives; 6) fulfil other functions related to state administration of documents and archives as set out by legal acts”.

The [Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania](#) is a government agency, which participates in the shaping of national policy in the field of management and use of documents and archives, and implements this policy and supports the Chief Archivist of Lithuania in carrying-out of state administration of the field of documents and archives.

The [Council on Archives](#) is an expert institution advising on the issues related to the implementation of the *Law On Documents And Archives* and assigned to the competence of the Minister of Culture. The council acts on a voluntary basis.

The [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) finances projects submitted by archives on the competitive basis. In 2018, the Council allocated 133 900 EUR for 18 projects of archives.

Libraries

The libraries operating in Lithuania are divided into State libraries, the founders of which are State institutions, municipalities and other organisations, and non-governmental libraries established by non-governmental enterprises, non-governmental organisations and natural persons.

In 2018, the network of Lithuanian libraries covered 2 402 libraries.

Table 12: Number of libraries by type in 2018

Types of libraries	Number of libraries
National library – Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania	1
Special library – The Lithuanian Library for the Blind	1
County public libraries	5
Municipal public libraries	1 236
Libraries of science institutions	4
Libraries of museums and other cultural institutions	17

Libraries of special literature (medical, technical, etc.)	25
Libraries of higher education institutions	40
Libraries of schools	1073
Total	2 402

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

According to the data of the Lithuanian Department of Statistic, the number of libraries has been gradually decreasing over the last 5 years.

Table 13: The number of libraries in Lithuania in 2014–2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of libraries	2 563	2 549	2 505	2 453	2 402

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

The services offered by Lithuanian libraries to the general public may be divided into three groups: 1) traditional services of which the main goal is to preserve written heritage and to promote reading, to create conditions for self-education and self-creation of the society, and to develop creativity and imagination; 2) electronic library services which encompass the digitisation of cultural heritage, the creation of digital local information databases (organisation by involving the interested communities), the development of information competencies of residents, and other library services rendered by electronic means; 3) public area (community centre) services which encourage residents to communicate, participate in civil and educational events, initiate projects, and independently form opinions.

Despite the variety of services provided, the number of registered users of libraries has been gradually decreasing over the last 5 years.

Table 14: Number of registered users of libraries in Lithuania in 2014–2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of registered users of libraries (in thousands)	1 274	1 249	1 213	1 206	1 162

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

The policy of libraries in Lithuania is shaped and implemented by the Ministry of Culture, the Council of Libraries and the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The [Ministry of Culture](#) defines the strategy on the development of libraries founded by the state or municipalities; prepares and finances strategy implementing programmes; carries out administration of the provision of public services by libraries, the rights and obligations of the owner whereof are implemented by the Ministry of Culture; draws up and coordinates documents governing library activities, as well as approves them in accordance with the procedure established by legislation; commissions and finances scientific research; coordinates the activities of libraries founded by the state or municipalities, as well as their involvement in cross-border programmes; finances acquisition of documents of county and municipal public libraries; etc.

The Minister of Culture is consulted by [the Council of Libraries](#), which takes part as an expert and consulting institution in resolving matters of library policy formation and implementation. The Council is composed of 11

members – representatives of library practice and science who are delegated by the professional community of libraries and the Minister of Culture.

The [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) finances projects submitted by libraries on the competitive basis. In 2018, the Council allocated 615 420 EUR for 121 projects of libraries.

As it is stated in the [Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030](#), the network of libraries is the densest network of Lithuanian cultural institutions and the services of libraries are very popular in small towns and villages, where other cultural services are less accessible. The strategy provides that, with their experience and competences, libraries can become coordinators of public media and information literacy education, active participants in teaching / learning, capable of combining its different forms, integrating media and information literacy education in formal and non-formal learning.

Furthermore, it is stated in the Strategy that archives and libraries have valuable experience of data collection and processing and can engage in strategic activities of the management of information resources. They can unite the activities of the business enterprises and science institutions, develop and provide advanced information analysis and research services. The main priority of the work of archives, according to the strategy, is to increase access to the National Archives' documents stored in the State Archives and to stimulate public interest in them.

In addition to that, the Strategy notes that archivists and librarians, as well as the vast majority of cultural workers in Lithuania, are subject to the highest standards of professional excellence, but average wage of Lithuanian cultural workers is the third lowest in the EU (after Romania and Bulgaria). Comparing the wages of the cultural workers with wages in other areas of public sector services, lower wages are paid only for care (non-medical services) specialists and postal couriers, i.e. in those sectors where the required qualification is minimal. Thus, one of the key challenges of the implementation of the strategy is to ensure the sustainability of human resources in public cultural sector.

3.3. Performing arts

The theatres in Lithuania are divided into state-owned, municipal, private or non-governmental, and amateur theatres. Lithuania has 13 state theatres, including 8 drama theatres, 2 puppet theatres and 3 musical theatres. Three theatres were granted the status of National Theatre, namely, the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre and Kaunas National Drama Theatre. According to the data of Lithuanian Department of Statistics, in 2018 there were 37 private theatres in Lithuania.

State-run theatres operate in all the larger Lithuanian towns and cities (Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, Šiauliai, Marijampolė, and Alytus). All state-owned theatres are provided with their own premises (buildings). They have the legal form of budget institutions (see chapter 4.1.9) and are financed by the Ministry of Culture and municipalities. The Lithuanian Council for Culture finances their educational projects.

Private or non-governmental theatres finance their activity from their own income; they can also apply for funding from Lithuanian Council for Culture and funds of municipalities. During the last two decades, some Lithuanian private theatres, e.g. theatre company "Meno Fortas" founded by one of the most famous Lithuanian theatre directors Eimuntas Nekrošius, and theatre of Oskaras Koršunovas, became well-known not only in

Lithuania, but also abroad. Despite the uneven competition with state theatres, as the latter receive direct funding from the Ministry of Culture, Lithuanian private theatres became very popular and have doubled the number of their visitors over the last 10 years*.

Table 15: The number of theatres and their visitors in Lithuania in 2009–2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018
Number of national and state theatres	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Number of private theatres	28	27	26	26	26	26	24	24	39	37
Number of visitors of national and state theatres (in thousands)	646	587	594	625	645	659	719	753	767	709
Number of visitors of private theatres (in thousands)	295	271	256	233	407	564	735	526	628	643

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

*In 2017, the Ministry of Culture changed the rules of granting the status of a professional theatre and because of that the number of private theatres significantly increased in 2017. The largest number of visitors of private theatres, however, was achieved in 2015, i.e. before the change of the rules.

Lithuania has three public musical theatres: the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre with a professional classical ballet troupe, the Kaunas State Music Theatre, and the Klaipėda State Music Theatre.

The function of distribution of professional musical culture in the country and abroad has been performed by 7 state concert performers and agencies. The National Philharmonic Society of Lithuania unites 5 musical performance groups: the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Lithuanian chamber orchestra, Vilnius String Quartet, Čiurlionis quartet, and The Ensemble Musica Humana. Other music organisations, established and financed by the state are the Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, the State Philharmonic Society in Kaunas, including the internationally renowned Kaunas State Choir, Lithuanian State Wind Instrument Orchestra “Trimitas”, the National Folk Song and Dance Ensemble “Lietuva”, the State Choir “Vilnius”, and the State Chamber Choir “Polifonija”. Besides their direct activities, these institutions, as well as the other non-governmental organisations are engaged in the organisation of international professional art festivals and different contests in Lithuania.

All mentioned theatre and music organisations are financed by the [Ministry of Culture](#), the main political actor in field of performing arts. According to the *Law on Professional Performing Arts (2004)*, the Ministry of Culture shapes policy of performing arts, drafts laws and other legal acts, promotes international cooperation between professional performing arts institutions and their participation in transnational cultural cooperation programmes, coordinates and controls the activities of state-owned theatres and concert organisations, etc.

The Minister of Culture is consulted by the [Council of Professional Performing Arts](#). The Council performs the functions of an expert and consultant on issues of policy development and implementation of Lithuanian professional performing arts. It is composed of representatives of the Association of Lithuanian Performing Arts Organisations and of professional organisations that work in the field of performing arts.

The role of the municipalities in the field of performing arts policy is also defined in the *Law on Professional Performing Arts (2004)*. Municipalities plan and monitor the activities of municipal theatres and concert

institutions, coordinate the participation of municipal theatres and concert institutions in international cultural programmes, and ensure participation of municipal theatres and concert institutions in non-formal education programmes.

Performing arts organisations can apply for funding at the [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#). In 2018, the Lithuanian Council for Culture allocated 2 880 150 EUR for 242 music projects, 1 481 566 EUR for 157 theatre projects, 742 156 EUR for 50 dance projects, 116 280 EUR for 11 circus projects. Grants in each of the four areas of performing arts were given for the following activities: 1) professional creation and its dissemination in Lithuania and abroad; 2) events; 3) accumulation of information (archiving, documentation) and its dissemination; 4) publishing; 5) professional criticism and analysis; 6) networking and mobility; 7) co-production.

The private and non-governmental performing arts organisations can also apply for funding from a special programme of the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture. The funds of this programme are used to finance the rent of the premises where the professional performing arts institution operates; the maintenance of the infrastructure of the premises; the bookkeeping services and to cover the wage costs, including taxes, of staff employed by a professional performing arts institution.

In 2018, the National Audit Office of Lithuania carried out the audit of the state theatres and concert organisations in order to evaluate the efficiency of their operation. The [audit report](#) states that professional theatres and concert establishments receive approximately 40 million EUR from the state budget each year. 97 per cent of these funds are allocated to 20 establishments which fall within the area managed by the Ministry of Culture, namely to national and state theatres and concert establishments. However, their funding is not tied to their performance, as the national theatres and concert establishments are not subject to any specific individual requirements. Audit results have also demonstrated that the network of professional performing arts establishments funded from the state budget has remained fundamentally unchanged for a great number of years, and that national cultural policy is currently being formulated without any crucial information on the performance of all of the relevant establishments. This leads to a lack of substantiated data on the pursuit of the goals of professional performing arts institutions, and whether the funds are being deployed in the most purposeful manner.

The [Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030](#) takes into account the audit findings and argues the need to formulate clear criteria for assessing the performance of state and national performing arts institutions that would be tied with their status. The status of the “national arts institution” implies not only the exclusive quality of the activity and leadership, but also a special role in the implementation of state priorities. The strategy also notes that the current Lithuanian system of national and state arts organisations can provide services of high quality but does not ensure effective dissemination of art and culture. Therefore, the system will have to be revised and changed in the coming years in line with the expectations of modern society and the possibilities of the country.

3.4. Visual arts and crafts

Lithuania has two national museums of fine arts, a network of galleries established by the State, municipalities, non-governmental organisations (creative unions and public organisations), higher education institutions, and galleries established at private initiative. According to the data of the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, there are currently over 50 galleries functioning in Lithuania, but the number is likely to be much higher.

The Lithuanian Art Museum has 9 divisions that work as separate galleries or museums in Vilnius: [Vilnius Picture Gallery](#), [National Gallery of Art](#), [Clock and Watch Museum](#), [Museum of the Radvilas Palace](#), [Vytautas Kasiulis Art Museum](#), [Pranas Domšaitis Gallery](#), [Museum of Applied Arts and Design](#), [Palanga Amber Museum](#), [Pamarys Gallery](#). Founded in 1933 as Vilnius City Museum, the Lithuanian Art Museum is currently the biggest national establishment that preserves, investigates and displays pieces of art of historical and artistic value. The exhibition halls of the museum display Lithuanian and foreign works of fine and applied art and feature temporary exhibitions of Lithuanian and foreign artists. The museum also has a collection of the national folk art.

Established in 1921, the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art has turned into one of the oldest and largest art museums in Lithuania. The Museum has 11 divisions that operates in Kaunas: [M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art](#), [M. Žilinskas Art Gallery](#), [Kaunas Picture Gallery](#), [A. Žmuidzinavičius Creations and Collections Museum](#), [Devils Museum](#), [Historical Presidential Palace of the Republic of Lithuania](#), [A. and P. Galaunė House](#), [L. Truikys and M. Rakauskaitė Memorial Museum](#), [J. Zikaras Memorial Museum](#), [V. K. Jonynas Gallery](#), [M. K. Čiurlionis Memorial Museum](#).

The main state institution of contemporary art in Lithuania is the [Contemporary Art Centre](#) established by the Ministry of Culture. The Centre is one of the largest contemporary art venues in the Baltic region, it hosts a diverse programme of exhibitions and events dedicated to contemporary art, aiming to enrich the cultural life of the city and the local and international discourse on contemporary art.

Visual arts and crafts are also featured in galleries and exhibition centres of creative unions. Lithuanian Artists' Association (LAA) has 1402 members that belong to the sections of Sculpture, Ceramics, Graphics, Watercolour, Textile, Painting, Applied Arts, Scenography, Monumental Art, etc. LAA has established 7 galleries in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda and Panevėžys and set up 5 divisions of production: Ltd "Vilnius art" (Vilniaus dailė), and non-profit organisations LAA's Publishers "Artseria", the Centre of Sculpture and Stained Glass, the Centre of Vilnius Graphic Arts, and the House of Artists ("Dailininkų namai") in Palanga.

Lithuanian Photographers Association has about 300 members. It runs four galleries in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda. The professional Folk Artists' Association has about 2000 members and runs a gallery and antique shop in Vilnius.

In 2009, Lithuanian Art Gallerists' Association organised the first visual arts fair – "ARTVILNIUS'09" – that became the greatest annual event dedicated to the contemporary visual arts in Lithuania. ArtVilnius takes place in the Exhibition and Congress Centre LITEXPO and every year has over 23 000 visitors, with about 65 art galleries from a dozen or so countries participating (Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, the Netherlands, Russia, Italy, and France). The applications of galleries wishing to participate in the art fair are reviewed and selected by a jury made up of art critics and art market experts, thereby ensuring the professionalism of the galleries at the fair.

Creative unions of visual arts and crafts, individual artists and their organisations can apply for funding to [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#). The Council has special funding programmes for visual arts, traditional arts and crafts, combined arts and interdisciplinary arts. Funding in each of these programmes are given for the following activities: 1) professional creation and its dissemination in Lithuania and abroad; 2) events; 3) accumulation of information (archiving, documentation) and its dissemination; 4) publishing; 5) professional criticism and

analysis; 6) networking and mobility; 7) co-production. In 2018, the Lithuanian Council for Culture allocated 1 357 437 EUR for 130 projects in the visual arts programme, 863 680 EUR for 146 projects in the traditional arts and crafts programme, 1 449 017 EUR for 157 projects in the combined arts programme, 838 405 EUR for 62 projects in the interdisciplinary arts programme.

The Lithuanian Council for Culture also awards grants for individual artists. Grants (up to 3600 EUR) of this programme are allocated for activities that improve professional skills. In 2018, the council awarded grants to 85 visual artists, 66 interdisciplinary artists, 21 photographers, and 23 folk artists.

Municipalities fund visual arts through their programmes. For example, the second large Lithuanian city Kaunas implements a programme “[Kaunas Highlights](#)” that invites artists to submit new ideas in sculpture, design object, work of fine art and light installation. Participants can choose to decorate any place in Kaunas City with their works. The requirements for projects are uniqueness, individuality, originality and overall harmony with the environment. Kaunas City Municipality funds up to 100 per cent of the implementation costs of the project. Submitted projects are assessed by a commission that chooses the winners of the contest. The programme started in 2016 and until 2019, 39 works of visual arts have been funded.

3.5. Cultural arts and creative industries

3.5.1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

The issue of cultural and creative industries appeared in the Lithuanian cultural sector in the 2000s. The definition and classification of the creative industries was discussed at a conference "Creative Industries: a European Opportunity" (2003) and during the forum "European Opportunity: Creative Industries for Regional Development" (2005), both held in Vilnius. In 2002, the Municipality of Vilnius City gave a right to use the old building complex of typography in the city centre to several performing arts NGO's as well as individual artists. The building was named the [Arts Printing House](#) (Menų spaustuvė) and became the first infrastructural complex for creative industries in Lithuania.

In 2007, the Minister of Culture approved the first *Strategy of Support and Development of the Creative Industries*. The strategy defined the creative industries as activities that are based on the individual's creative abilities and talents and whose purpose and outcome is intellectual property, and which can create material wealth and workplaces. According to the strategy, the creative industries included crafts, architecture, design, film and video production, publishing, visual and applied arts, music, software and computer services, advertising, radio and television programming and broadcasting, advertising, and performing arts.

In 2008, the National Association of Creative and Cultural Industries was established. Its aim is to support cooperation between artists, culture and art organisations, NGO's, businesses, science and educational sectors; support their participation in regional and international networks and workshops; and stimulate the creative and cultural industries in Lithuania. The association organises an international conference WHAT'S NEXT? that brings creative professionals and innovators together to share the latest ideas, methods and skills. The conference takes place in Vilnius, Arts Fabric “Loftas”.

In 2009-2013, the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy implemented the programme of the development of the network of arts incubators funded by the EU structural funds. During the programme, the Ministry invested

22.24 million EUR and a total of 12 incubators were established. However, the 2017 study *Ecosystem of Arts Incubators in Lithuania* revealed a range of obstacles preventing their effective activity.

In 2009–2011, the capital Vilnius participated in the EU INTERREG IVC project "[Creative Metropolises: Public Policies and Instruments in Support of Creative Industries](#)" that was implemented in 11 European cities. Through exchanging experience and good practices, this project aimed to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of public support to unlock and support the economic potential of the creative economy. In 2010–2013, the third largest Lithuanian city Klaipėda participated in the EU project "Development and Promotion of Creative Industry Potentials in Medium-Sized Cities of the Baltic Sea Region" that promoted the valorisation of creativity to advance innovation-oriented development in the partner cities. The objective of the project was to create and apply good practices in the public sector, to promote the creative industries as a growing economic sector and basis for innovation.

The other project "Development in the Transfer of Knowledge and Innovations and the Amplification of Researchers Competencies in the Domains of the Creative Industries and Design" was implemented between May 2012 and August 2014. The partners and participants of the project were the Vilnius Academy of Arts, the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, the National Association of Creative and Cultural industries and the Lithuanian Association of Graphic Design. The project was funded from the Lithuanian state budget and the EU structural assistance funds. The primary target of this project was to supply the professionals that work within the creative industries with the option to strengthen their practical skills. It resulted in 23 foreign conferences, 8 internships abroad, 19 training events, 17 creative workshops, and over 40 lecturers. More than 200 researchers from European countries and nearly 350 representatives and participants were involved in the project.

In 2012, the Lithuanian Parliament adopted the long-term national strategy *Lithuania 2030*. The strategy reflects a national vision and priorities for development as well as guidelines for their implementation by 2030. It is stated that the vision of Lithuania is a country with creatively empowered population, and its progress is in the hands of responsible, creative and open-minded people. The implementation of the vision is guided by progress-relevant values, like openness to different views, positive initiatives, dialogue, cooperation, and innovations; creation and implementation of new ideas, treating challenges as new possibilities of building success and responsibility for actions taken, morality, and active concern not only individually, but also regarding the environment, community and the country at large. In order to implement Lithuania's Progress Strategy *Lithuania 2030*, the Government adopted the National *Progress Programme 2014-2020*, one of the tasks of which is to promote the development of the cultural and creative industries, with arts and culture related innovations, cross-sectorial development of these innovations and cultural export.

In accord to this Programme, in 2015, the Minister of Culture approved the *Development Directions of the Policy of the Cultural and Creative Industries in 2015–2020*. The document changed the definition of cultural and creative industries, presented in the Strategy of 2007. It defined the cultural and creative industries as intersectoral economic activities based on creativity and intellectual capital, producing tangible products and intangible intellectual or artistic services that have creative, cultural or economic value. The sectors belonging to the CCI are classified according to the UNCTAD *Creative Economy Report 2008*. The document established four main directions of the development of the policy of cultural and creative industries: 1) promotion of creative abilities of all social groups of Lithuanian society; 2) use of the potential of CCI by creating an environment that enhances the quality of life, fosters creativity and citizenship; 3) stimulation of the growth of the economic value and export of CCI sectors; 4) promotion of the innovations in all CCI fields.

Table 16: Key indicators of Lithuanian Cultural Industries

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cultural employment (% of total employment)	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.7	4.0
Number of cultural enterprises	6 872	9 019	10 195	10 957	-	-
Persons employed per enterprise in culture and in total services (average number)	5.6 5.6	--	--	--	--	--
Value added at factor cost						
- Book publishing	0.11	0.07	0.07	0.07	-	-
- Motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities	0.1	0.09	0.12	0.13	-	-
- Programming and broadcasting activities / News agency activities	0.15	0.14	0.17	0.15	-	-
- Architectural activities	0.29	0.32	0.3	0.28	-	-
- Specialised design activities	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07	-	-
- All cultural sectors			1.75	1.68	-	-
Exports of cultural goods as a percentage of total exports (all countries of the world)	0.39	0.56	0.39	0.42	-	-
Imports of cultural goods as a percentage of total imports (all countries of the world)	0.23	0.3	0.27	0.28	-	-

Source: Eurostat

3.5.2. BOOKS AND PRESS

According to the data of the Lithuanian Department of Statistics, in 2018 the number of publishers who have published at least one book, brochure or booklet was 514, although the number of publishing houses that actually operate in the Lithuanian publishing market is around 50. The Lithuanian Publishers Association, established in 1989, unites currently 43 active publishing houses as well as NGO's mostly concentrating on specialised publishing.

Table 17: Number of titles of books and brochures by type and year

Books and brochures by purpose	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total by purpose
Scientific literature	311	352	277	257	215	1 412
Literature of law	20	20	21	12	11	84
Educational literature for pupils	200	321	263	355	265	1 404
Educational literature for students	176	175	145	113	97	706
Informative literature for children	78	66	106	110	109	469
Popular literature	858	800	830	778	832	4 098
Fiction for adults	926	919	879	920	818	4 462
Fiction for children	414	418	457	376	415	2 080
Informative literature	149	165	137	131	160	742
Others	160	339	157	139	153	948
Total each year	3 292	3 575	3 272	3 191	3 075	16 405

Source: Lithuanian Department of Statistics

The International [Vilnius Book Fair](#) is the major event of Lithuanian books publishing industry. The Fair has been organised since 1999 and during the twenty years of its existence became the biggest and most important book fair in the Baltic States. It gives a possibility to evaluate the whole publishing market of Lithuania and the neighbouring countries, and to get to know new names of the literary world. The Fair is also the main meeting place of publishers, authors and readers. Over 500 cultural events are held annually during the four opening days, the Fair attracts more than 60 000 visitors. The main accent of the Fair is on books and cultural events, as well as on the possibility for authors to interact with their readers.

The publishing industry is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Council of Culture, and the Lithuanian Culture Institute.

The [Ministry of Culture](#) implements the *National Literature Programme* that was approved by the Lithuanian Government in 2014. The programme seeks to promote the creation of fiction and literature of humanities, as well as its critical reflection and dissemination in Lithuania and abroad. One of the tasks of the programme was to form the Council of Literature, an advisory body operating under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, acting as an expert and consultant in formulating and implementing the policy of literature and its dissemination. The Council was established in 2014.

In 2018, the Ministry of Culture approved the *Reading Promotion Programme for 2018–2024*. The Programme supports various reading promotion initiatives and projects, the election of the “Book of the Year” (organised by Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania), the “Top 12 Most Creative Books” competition (organised by the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore), and the event “Lithuania Reads” (coordinated by the Lithuanian Publishers Association) organised on 7 May, the Press Recovery Day.

The [Lithuanian Culture Institute](#) implements [Translation Grant Programme](#) that supports the translations of the Lithuanian literature into foreign languages; provides information about Lithuanian authors to foreign publishers, publishing and translation houses and organisations; organises presentations of creations of Lithuanian writers at international book fairs, creative symposiums, and other events. The funds from the Ministry of Culture have been used for publishing about 30 books of Lithuanian authors in foreign publishing houses annually, and for the organisation of translation workshops and seminars for the translators of Lithuanian literature into foreign languages every two years.

The [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) supports literature and publishing through its programmes designated to fund the creation of literature and publishing of original and translated literature of humanities. In 2018, the Council allocated 1 206 208 EUR for 178 projects of literature and publishing, and awarded 43 individual grants for translations, creative writing and publishing.

Part of the Lithuanian publishing industry is the printed and electronic press. However, according to the data of the Lithuanian Department of Statistics and the media research company KANTAR, there is a steady decline in publishing and reading of printed media. According to the data of 2017, at least one issue of a periodical was read by 74 per cent of 15-74 years old Lithuania's population, i.e. 3 per cent less than in 2016. The share of loyal readers (average audience) also fell by 1 per cent and was 62 per cent in 2017, thus the overall readability of the press compared to 2016 decreased. In 2017, Lithuanian residents read newspapers for an average of 12 minutes and magazines for an average of 13 minutes a day, compared to 2016, these figures did not change. Weeklies remain the form of periodicals that reach the biggest share of audience, with an overall audience of 60

per cent in 2017. The audience of the dailies declined with 2 per cent, up to 33 per cent.

Table 18: The statistics of Lithuanian printed media industry in 2014–2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of newspaper titles	239	222	216	207	188
Annual circulation of newspapers	108 538	97 650	93 162	84 409	79 304
Number of periodicals titles	549	550	566	541	527
Annual circulation of periodicals	55 091	52 461	50 080	46 399	42 746

Source: Lithuanian Department of Statistics

The financial support for printed and electronic media is allocated by the [Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#). The Foundation implements 4 funding programmes related to the press industry 1) periodicals of culture and art; 2) national periodical press; 3) regional periodical press; 4) the internet media. The projects submitted for funding have to address the issues of art and culture, media literacy and public information security. The foundation also supports the subscription of the printed press of libraries.

Table 19: Results of the funding competition of the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation of 2018

Programme	Number of submitted projects	Number of supported projects	Amount allocated	Subscription funds	Amount allocated along with subscription
Periodicals of culture and arts	36	33	545 000	95 985	640 985
National periodical press	42	34	212 800	27 728	240 528
Regional periodical press	117	89	614 500	17 928	632 428
National radio and television broadcasting	48	33	394 740	0	394 740
Regional radio and television broadcasting	62	39	248 500	0	248 500
Internet media	121	73	429 000	0	429 000
Total	426	301	2 444 540	141 641	2 586 181

Source: *The Annual Report of Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation*, 2018, pp. 10.

In general, the Lithuanian publishing and press policy of the last 10 years is directed to the promotion of reading, creation of national literature and dissemination of Lithuanian literature abroad. From these three directions, the *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030* emphasises the promotion of reading. The Strategy states that it is necessarily to support a positive public attitude towards reading, to develop culture of reading and to strengthen pupils' reading abilities through creative promotion of literature and books.

3.5.3. AUDIOVISUAL AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA

Film

There are three main institutions that shape and implement Lithuanian film policy: the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Film Policy Council and the Lithuanian Film Centre.

While shaping and implementing the national cultural policy in the field of cinema, the [Ministry of Culture](#) of the Republic of Lithuania performs the following functions laid down in the *Law on Cinema*: 1) forms national film policy and prepares drafts of laws and other legal acts in the field of cinema; 2) analyses the trends of cinema development in the Republic of Lithuania and in foreign countries, initiates and drafts strategic planning documents in the field of cinema (concepts, strategies, programmes), and carries out the monitoring of implementation of these documents; 3) upon the assignment of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania or the Prime Minister, represents the Republic of Lithuania in foreign countries or international organisations; within its competence and in accordance with the established procedure maintains contacts with respective foreign institutions and international organisations and, in accordance with the procedure provided for by the Republic of Lithuania Law on International Treaties, concludes and implements the international treaties; 4) coordinates and controls the activities of the Lithuanian Film Centre under the Ministry of Culture.

The Ministry of Culture is consulted by the [Film Policy Council](#). The Council is a collegiate and advisory institution under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, functioning on a voluntary basis and dealing with the issues of the Lithuanian film policy. Its goal is to address the key film policy issues and provide the Minister of Culture with proposals and conclusions concerning the strategic planning and measures of strengthening the field of cinema, development programmes and their aims and reached outcomes, state funding, preservation of film heritage, the drafting and/or improvement of legal acts governing the field of cinema, as well as other film related issues pointed out by the Minister of Culture.

The [Lithuanian Film Centre](#) is a state institution established in 2012 under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania. The functions of the Film Centre are defined by the amendment on the *Law on Film* (2002) of 2011. According to the law, the Film Centre: 1) participates in the formation of State film policy; 2) implements State film policy and exercise the functions entrusted thereto in accordance with the Law and other legal acts; 3) organises film project tenders for State funding; 4) gives advice to film producers concerning the preparation of film projects; 5) allocates State funding for film projects; 6) exercises control over the use and reporting of State funding; etc.

According to [the data of Lithuanian Film Centre](#), in 2019, in the Lithuanian film industry there have been working 57 film production companies, 10 professional associations, 3 organisations that defend rights of the creators working in audiovisual sector and copyright in general, 1 incubator of audiovisual arts, 3 local film offices, 11 film distributors, 28 cinemas, and 17 other companies that provide services of post-production, film montage, casting, camera rental, search for filming locations, sound recording and subtitling. Lithuanian and foreign films are featured in 16 Lithuanian film festivals.

Table 20: Facts and figures of Lithuanian film industry 2014–2018

Indicators	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Average admissions per capita	1.11	1.13	1.29	1.44	1.53
Total number of admissions*	3 234 595	3 330 518	3 668 370	4 060 159	4 265 414
Gross Box Office (in EUR)	14 378 587	15 391 806	17 724 516	20 392 625	22 444 111
Lithuanian films gross box office (in EUR)	3 333 829	2 126 232	3 463 809	4 536 088	6 250 538
Average ticket price (in EUR)	4.29	4.62	4.83	5.00	5.26
Total number of cinemas	28	28	27	27	26

Domestic films market share, %	23.18	13.81	19.50	21.47	27.9
European films market share, %	13.90	17.80	8.50	14.00	11.8
US films market share, %	60.28	65.48	71.50	64.62	58.7
Other countries films market share, %	2.64	2.91	0.50	0.94	1.6
Total number of national premieres	14	10	13	11	21
Total number of national feature films produced	8	11	21	15	28
Total number of films distributed	261	290	291	309	351

Source: [Lithuanian Film Centre](#)

* *Excluding festival admissions*

After the restoration of independence in 1990, the Lithuanian film industry was one of the smallest in Europe. During the first decade of independence, only 20 domestic films were created, while during the second decade about 60 films. The situation changed with the establishment of the Lithuanian Film Centre in 2012 that became the main institution of the implementation of film policy.

Table 21: Total budget of Lithuanian Film centre in 2015–2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Budget of Lithuanian Film Centre (in EUR)	3 073 737	3 519 000	4 619 000	6 423 000	6 431 000

Source: [Lithuanian Film Centre](#)

Positive impact on the Lithuanian film industry was made by the Film Tax Incentive that came into effect in January 2014 as a new policy measure to foster local and foreign film production in Lithuania. The incentive is regulated by the Article 17² of *the Lithuanian Law on Corporate Income Tax* (2001) which supplemented the Law with the provision about the reduction of taxable income due to funds granted free of charge for the production of a film or a part thereof (see chapter 4.1.4). Due to the incentive, in the period between 2014 and the end of 2017, investors in Lithuania provided funds for the production of 68 films, including 22 national films, 23 co-production films and 23 foreign production films. In total, over 8.5 million EUR was invested in film production in Lithuania during this period, 1 million EUR (11.2%) for national films, almost 2.8 million EUR (32.8%) for co-productions, and almost 4.8 million EUR (56%) for foreign films.

After these two political steps – the establishment of the Lithuanian Film Centre in 2012 and the introduction of the tax incentive in 2014 – the production of domestic films increased in Lithuania by almost 50 per cent compared to the period of 2009–2011.

Table 22: Domestic films produced in 2009–2018

Genre	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Feature films	6	4	2	4	11	8	11	21	15	21
Documentary	10	11	9	18	17	18	11	18	5	22
Short films	9	13	19	1	5	7	9	9	14	7
Animations	6	4	8	10	7	7	4	10	7	4
Total	31	32	38	33	40	40	35	58	41	54

Source: [Lithuanian Film Centre](#)

Radio and Television

According to the data of the [Lithuanian Radio and Television Commission](#), in 2018, there were 107 media companies in Lithuania. 26 of them broadcasted TV programmes, 6 broadcasted TV online only, 27 re-broadcasted TV, and 41 broadcasted or re-broadcasted radio (see chapter 2.5.3 for more about media policy and content).

Domestic programmes of radio, television and other sectors of Lithuanian audiovisual industry are promoted through the [Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#). The Foundation implements three funding programmes related to the audiovisual industry: 1) national radio and television; 2) regional radio and television; 3) the Internet media (see chapter 1.2.2 for more about the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation).

Table 23: Fund allocation of the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation in 2016–2019

		National radio and television broadcasting	Regional radio and television broadcasting	Internet media	Total
2019	Number of projects	37	40	75	152
	Amount allocated (in EUR)	406 980	197 000	414 090	1 018 070
2018	Number of projects	33	39	72	144
	Amount allocated (in EUR)	394 740	248 500	429 000	1 072 240
2017	Number of projects	34	40	71	145
	Amount allocated (in EUR)	403 081	206 000	431 252	1 040 333
2016	Number of projects	33	43	60	136
	Amount allocated (in EUR)	408 269	210 000	421 537	1 039 806

Source: *The annual reports of Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation*

3.5.4. MUSIC

There is no systematic policy on the music industry in Lithuania. The Lithuanian Ministry for Culture shapes and supports only national or state music organisations that are seen as a part of the performing arts sector (see chapter 3.3 for more information). The popular music industry and its value chain are not analysed, shaped or supported by any state institution. Nevertheless, there are some important public initiatives that aim to systematise the information about the Lithuanian music industry and disseminate it abroad. One of them is [Music Information Centre Lithuania](#) (MICL). The Centre was set up in February 1996 as the information and publishing branch of the Lithuanian Composers' Union. In 1998, it became a member of the International Association of Music Information Centres. From 2001, the centre has been functioning as a public body (its founder being the Lithuanian Composers' Union) that realises recordings of Lithuanian composers and publishes the scores of their work, accumulates and updates information on them in a database, catalogues and archives their compositions.

In 2006, the Centre began to implement the project *Music Lithuania* that was aimed to represent the Lithuanian music industry at international music expos. Since then, the Centre organises Lithuania's national stands at international music industry expos, disseminates and promotes compilations of music, coordinates concerts of

music by Lithuanian composers and performers abroad, as well as presents information on various musical genres on its website.

The [online database of MICL](#) contains information on Lithuanian composers, songwriters, improvisers, sound artists and performers (with more than 400 profiles with catalogues of compositions and / or a discography). The Manuscripts Archive consists of the scores and individual instrument parts of orchestral, chamber and choral classical and contemporary works by Lithuanian composers (with almost 6 000 original manuscripts or copies of them). The Sound Archive consists of classical and contemporary music by Lithuanian composers (more than 7 600 unreleased recordings and about 2300 releases). The Library holds published scores (almost 5 000 works), as well as books, periodicals, photographs, etc.

The other public organisation of Lithuanian music industry is the Lithuanian Music Business Association that was established in 2015. It unites several companies of management and event organisation from the music industry and seeks to encourage and support cooperation between their members in order to achieve common goals in the fields of education, export and lobbying. The main project of the Association is an international showcase festival and conference on innovations and new opportunities in the music industry ("[What's Next in Music?](#)"), organised annually together with Arts Fabric "Loftas".

Despite the lack of the systematic policy of the music industry in Lithuania, there are a huge number of music composers and performers that take part in 45 regularly occurring music festivals. Lithuanian cities and villages regularly host about 15 classical music festivals, 10 jazz, 8 folk, 7 pop rock and 5 electronic music festivals. Some of them are partly funded by municipalities, the Lithuanian Council for Culture or private sponsors.

Lithuanian municipalities have orchestras, jazz bands and folk ensembles that are financed on regular basis. Music projects are regularly funded by the Lithuanian Council for Culture that also has a grant programme for individual music performers and composers.

Table 24: Funding of music projects and individual grants for music performers and composers by the Lithuanian Council for Culture in 2014–2019

Indicators	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of funded projects	334	268	247	270	241	273
Allocated amount (in EUR)	2 775 327	2 302 688	2 098 090	2 614 510	2 875 350	2 804 040
Number of individual grants	50	60	83	70	84	59
Allocated amount (in EUR)	114 000	127 300	132 240	181 070	197 100	185 800

Source: [Statistics of Lithuanian Council for Culture](#)

3.5.5. DESIGN AND CREATIVE SERVICES

Design

Design policy in Lithuania is shaped and implemented by two Ministries: the Ministry of Economy and Innovation and Ministry of Culture. The Ministry of Culture supervises various cultural initiatives of the design sector and copyright. The Ministry of Economy and Innovation is responsible for design export and the growth of small and medium sized enterprises.

The financial support for design sector is provided by several institutions. The Council for Culture provides funding for various projects of design and other design related initiatives, such as publications, events, education, and festivals. It also supports small and medium sized enterprises of design. The Ministry of Economy and Innovation funds design through its programmes and agencies, e.g. [Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology](#) (MITA). MITA is a national innovation agency and provides free of charge services for clients from business, science and public sectors, interested in possibilities to develop strong cooperation relations with international partners and get financial support for research and innovation projects. There are also other organisations that finance design projects, e.g. [Lithuanian Business Support Agency](#), public institution [Enterprise Lithuania](#) (“Versli Lietuva”), and financial institution [INVEGA](#).

As the sector of design gets funding from various institutions and falls under several programmes, it is impossible to calculate the total amount of funding. In 2018, the [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) allocated 240 396 EUR for 34 projects of design and awarded 23 individual grants for designers.

Despite various financing sources and two Ministries that are concerned with design, Lithuanian policy of design is not systematic and has been quite neglected for a long time. Until 2015, Lithuania had no strategy of design policy, although there were some “bottom up” initiatives aimed at preparing such a strategy. For example, in 2008, Vilnius Academy of Art commissioned the study *The Complex Development of Lithuanian Design* that was conducted by the international design research team Mollerup Designlab. The study provided the development plan of Lithuanian design sector for seven years that was presented to the Ministry of Education. However, the plan was not adopted.

In 2014, the [Design Innovation Centre of Vilnius Academy of Art](#) made the [feasibility study](#) of the development of Lithuanian design sector. One of the recommendations of the study was a proposal to establish national Design Council, whose long-term activities would include the maintenance of the communication between public authorities, business companies, design agencies, and educational institutions, as well as consultation about the design policy.

In 2015, on the basis of the above-mentioned study, Lithuanian Ministry of Culture adopted the [Guidelines of the Development of the Architecture and Design 2015-2020](#). The document establishes five development guidelines: 1) to strengthen informal education in architecture and design, and to increase literacy of the general public and professionals in architecture and design; 2) to develop the science and knowledge transfer by promoting innovation in architecture and design; 3) to strengthen cooperation between different sectors of society; 4) to increase the visibility of design in society and to raise the awareness of the influence of design on the social and economic development of the country and its impact on innovation; 5) to increase the visibility of architecture in society and to raise the awareness of the influence of architecture on the sustainable urban development, quality of life, environmental protection and the economy.

In 2019, [Lithuanian Design Forum Association](#) carried out the [feasibility study](#) about the establishment of the coordinating institution of Lithuanian design sector. The study identified the main issues that hinder the development of efficient ecosystem of design: under-representation of the sector at various levels; ill-matched functions of design institutions; miscommunication between different design sectors; lack of cooperation and coordination of activities. Also, as it is stated in the study, Lithuania did not have a consistent *Law on Design* that would be appropriate for contemporary design understanding and improvement of design sector’s performance. Although, Lithuanian Parliament had adopted the *Law on Design* in 2002, the Law dealt only with

industrial design of products and lacked the definition of design in up to date terms consistent with contemporary models of design activities. The study proposed to establish a single central institution responsible for coordinating the design sector – the Lithuanian Design Office.

In 2019, the first step towards the consistent design policy was taken - the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania established a joint unit - the [Design Council](#). The task of the Council is to contribute to the development of a long-term continuous design policy by submitting to the Minister of Culture and the Minister of Economy and Innovation proposals and recommendations on the issues concerning the strategic planning of design sector, programmes and measures of design development, priorities and sources of public funding for design, protection of design heritage, strengthening of international competitiveness of Lithuanian design industry, etc.

Architecture

In 2001, Lithuania became a member of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) and began the process of organising its activities in compliance with European legislation on architecture and building policy. The activity of architects is regulated by the *Law on Construction* (1996), *Law on Architects' Chamber* (2006) and the *Law on Architecture* (2017).

The policy of architecture is shaped and implemented in Lithuania by the [Ministry of Culture](#) and [Ministry of Environment](#). The Ministry of Environment develops spatial planning, urban planning, architecture and construction policy, organizes, coordinates and controls its implementation as well as makes recommendations to municipalities in the field of architecture in the territories of municipalities. The Ministry of Culture protects and develops the immovable architectural, urban and ethno-cultural heritage. The most important political document prepared by the Ministry of Culture for architecture is the *Guidelines of the Development of the Architecture and Design 2015-2020* (see above).

[Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) funds projects of architecture under its special programme. The Council provides funding for the following activities: 1) professional creation and its dissemination in Lithuania and abroad; 2) events; 3) accumulation of information (archiving, documentation) and its dissemination; 4) publishing; 5) professional criticism and analysis; 6) networking and mobility; 7) co-production. In 2018, the Council allocated 542 215 EUR for 33 projects of architecture and awarded 9 individual grants for architects.

The [Architects' Chamber](#) was founded in 2006. The objective of the Chamber's activities is to ensure the transparency and quality of architectural activities, to oversee architect certification, recognition of qualifications, professional qualification development and compliance with professional ethics standards, to carry out monitoring of professional activities, to represent architects in dealings with state and self-governance institutions and other legal and natural persons at both the national and international level, to act as an expert in courts and other institutions on issues concerning the professional activities of architects, to satisfy and defend public interest related to architecture, and to resolve other related issues. In 2019, the Architects chamber had 923 members and 7975 architectural works registered in the [Chambers' database](#).

The [Architects Association of Lithuania](#) (AAL) (founded in 1924) is a voluntary NGO that unites the licensed architects of Lithuania. In 2019, AAL had 1081 members. The organization has 6 sections in 6 different cities.

At 22 November of 2019, Lithuanian Architects' Chamber, AAL, Architectural Fond and International Kaunas

Architecture Festival published a public letter appealing to the President, Prime Minister and other leading figures to establish the Lithuanian Centre of Architecture that is a necessary institution to implement Lithuanian national policy of architecture. The centre would document, collect, preserve, research and disseminated architectural works to the public and foreign visitors.

3.5.6. CULTURAL AND CREATIVE TOURISM

The Lithuanian tourism industry is regulated by the *Law on Tourism* (1998). The [Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania](#) is responsible for the policy of the development of tourism, resort and resort area and the implementation of the functions of international cooperation in the field of tourism. The main objectives of the Ministry are as follows: to identify tourism development priorities, promote the development of competitive tourism products, reduce seasonality in tourism, and to increase the number of tourists visiting Lithuania. The Tourism Policy Division of the Ministry is responsible for international agreements in the field of tourism as well as for maintaining relations with diplomatic missions of foreign countries and the Republic Lithuania.

In 2018, the Lithuanian Government abolished the State Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Economy and Innovation and established a new public institution [Lithuania Travel](#) (VšĮ 'Keliauk Lietuvoje') that started to work on 1 January 2019. The reform was made with the aim to separate tourism marketing and control functions. The new institution Lithuania Travel carries out marketing and tourism promotion functions and is responsible for raising the awareness of Lithuania as a tourism destination and for the development of inbound and local tourism. Lithuania Travel is subordinated to the Ministry of Economy and Innovation. The function of the supervision of tourism service providers that was also performed by the Department of Tourism was transferred to the State Consumer Rights Protection Authority. The authority is responsible for the supervision of tour operators, retailers, tour package sellers and accommodation providers as well as for the representation of interests of tourists in the event of an insolvency or bankruptcy of the tour operator.

In 2016, the Lithuanian Government approved the *Lithuanian Tourism Development Programme 2014-2020*. The programme sets the goals, tasks and priorities of tourism development taking into account the principles of sustainable tourism. The strategic goal of the programme is to increase the competitiveness of the Lithuanian tourism sector. The programme emphasises that in order to maintain the flow of tourists, it is necessary to create competitive tourism products, expand tourism infrastructure, promote the export of tourism services to foreign countries, take effective marketing and communication measures, and raise awareness of Lithuania. The main tasks of the programme are to improve the development of tourism infrastructure and quality of services, the awareness and image of Lithuania as a tourist country, and to reduce the seasonality of tourism services.

The programme identifies four priority types of tourism: cultural tourism, business tourism, health tourism and green (eco) tourism. Cultural tourism is defined in the programme as tourism aimed at exploring the cultural environment, landscapes, cultural and natural heritage, traditions, local lifestyles, seeing the works of visual and performing arts, attending cultural events, and participating in entertainment.

Table 25: Number of tourists in Lithuania in 2017–2018

	2017	2018	Change, number of persons	Increase in 2017/18, %
Total	3 253 200	3 620 400	367 200	11.3

Citizens of Lithuania	1 669 400	1 875 700	206 300	12.4
Foreigners, total	1 583 800	1 744 700	160 900	10.2
EU member states	1 424 100	1 551 900	127 800	9.0
Non-EU states	933 600	1 043 100	109 500	11.7

Source: [Lithuania Travel](#)

Table 26: Number of overnight stays in 2017–2018

	2017	2018	Change, number of overnight stays	Increase in 2017/18, %
Total	7 364 900	8 091 600	7 267	9.9
Citizens of Lithuania	3 933 700	4 354 800	4 211	10.7
Foreigners, total	3 431 200	3 736 900	3 056	8.9
EU member states	3 041 100	3 291 200	2 501	8.2
Non-EU states	1 895 100	2 102 500	2 074	10.9

Source: [Lithuania Travel](#)

4. Law and legislation

4.1. General legislation

4.1.1. CONSTITUTION

Several articles of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (1992) are related to culture, cultural and natural heritage, rights of ethnic communities, the state language and freedom of expression.

Article 14: Lithuanian shall be the State language.

Article 25: Individuals shall have the right to have their own convictions and freely express them. Individuals must not be hindered from seeking, obtaining, or disseminating information or ideas.

Freedom to express convictions, as well as to obtain and disseminate information, may not be restricted in any way other than as established by law, when it is necessary for the safeguard of the health, honour and dignity, private life, or morals of a person, or for the protection of constitutional order.

Freedom to express convictions or impart information shall be incompatible with criminal actions the instigation of national, racial, religious, or social hatred, violence, or discrimination, the dissemination of slander, or misinformation.

Citizens shall have the right to obtain any available information which concerns them from State agencies in the manner established by law.

Article 37: Citizens who belong to ethnic communities shall have the right to foster their language, culture, and customs.

Article 42: Culture, science, research and teaching shall be unrestricted. The state shall support culture and science, and shall ensure protection of monuments of Lithuania's history and art as well as of other cultural monuments and treasures. The law shall safeguard and protect the spiritual and material interests of authors relating to scientific, technical, cultural, and artistic work.

Article 44: Censorship of mass media shall be prohibited. The State, political parties, political and public organisations, and other institutions or persons may not monopolise means of mass media.

Article 45: Ethnic communities of citizens shall independently manage the affairs of their ethnic culture, education, charity, and mutual assistance. Ethnic communities shall be provided support by the state.

Article 47: The right of ownership of entrails of the earth, as well as nationally significant internal waters, forests, parks, roads, and historical, archaeological and cultural facilities shall exclusively belong to the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 54: The State shall concern itself with the protection of the natural environment, its fauna and flora, separate objects of nature and particularly valuable districts, and shall supervise the moderate utilization of

natural resources as well as their restoration and augmentation. The exhaustion of land and entrails of the earth, the pollution of waters and air, the production of radioactive impact, as well as the impoverishment of fauna and flora, shall be prohibited by law.

4.1.2. ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The *Law on the Budget Structure* (1990) defines the contents of the state budget and municipal budgets of the Republic of Lithuania, establishes the legal grounds for the formation of revenue of these budgets and use of appropriations, also the basic provisions of and procedures for the drawing up, approving, implementing, assessing and controlling the budgets, the duties, rights and responsibility of appropriation managers. According to the Law, 10 national cultural institutions (the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, the National Kaunas Drama Theatre, the Lithuanian National Philharmonic Hall, the National Museum of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Art Museum, the Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis National Art Museum, the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, the Lithuanian National Radio and Television) are funded directly by the Seimas, as well as the Ministry of Culture, 3 commissions, the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics, and the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture. Other cultural institutions are funded through the Ministry of Culture, and/or municipalities.

The *Law on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets* is adopted every year, defining the distribution of the state budget and transfers to municipal budgets for the corresponding year.

Cultural programmes are funded by the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation, Lithuanian Council for Culture, Film Centre and the Lithuanian Culture institute.

The biggest share of public funds for cultural projects is distributed by the Lithuanian Council for Culture through the programmes of Culture Support Fund. The *Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture* (2012) defines the status, operational objectives, functions and organisation of activities of the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The functions of the Council are to finance culture and art programmes, projects and other measures, administer the Culture Support Fund, award grants and provide other financial support to culture creators and artists, etc. (see chapters 1.1 and 1.2.2 for more about the Council).

The *Law on the Culture Support Fund* (2007) establishes the sources of the fund financing. The fund is comprised of the following: 1) 3 per cent on the income received from the excise duty levied on alcoholic beverages and processed tobacco; 2) 10 per cent on the proceeds received from the lottery and gambling tax; 3) other lawfully acquired resources.

The *Law on Cinema* (2002), amended in 2011, establishes the sources of funding of cinema. According to the Law, cinema shall be funded from the following sources: 1) State budget funds, taking into consideration the programmes prepared by the Lithuanian Film Centre; 2) 60 per cent of actual income from value added tax for distribution and exhibition of films in cinema theatres of the previous year. The amount shall be calculated in accordance with the data published by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics; 3) municipality budget funds; 4) other funds obtained in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts.

The *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public* (1996) establishes the sources of funding of the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation. Sources of funding of the Foundation shall be: 1) state grants (subsidies); 2)

funds contributed by legal or natural persons; 3) interest on the funds of the Foundation kept in banks; 4) other lawfully acquired funds.

4.1.3. SOCIAL SECURITY FRAMEWORKS

The *Law on State Social Insurance* (1991) establishes the basis for state social insurance relations: types of state social insurance, categories of the persons covered by state social insurance, principles and structure of the state social insurance management system, and rights, duties and responsibility of entities thereof. The types of state social insurance are as follows: 1) pension social insurance; 2) sickness and maternity social insurance; 3) unemployment social insurance; 4) social insurance of occupational accidents and occupational diseases. Social insurance contributions are calculated on the aggregate amount of remuneration as calculated for every insured persons, which may not be less than the minimum monthly wage, and on the compensatory or incentive benefits related to employment relations, the income received from sports activities, from performing activities and/or the income received under copyright agreements, regardless of the sources of payment. The rates of social insurance contributions and amounts (portions) thereof for different types of social insurance are approved each year by the *Law on the Approval of Indicators of the State Social Insurance Fund Budget*. In 2019, the contributions rates were as follows: 1) pension social insurance 8.72, 10.52, or 11.72 per cents depending of insurance form chosen, 2) sickness and maternity social insurance were 2.09 and 1.71 per cents respectively, 3) unemployment social insurance 1.31 per cent (paid by insurer), 4) social insurance of occupational accidents and occupational diseases 0.14 (paid by insurer).

According to the Article 6 of the *Law on State Social Insurance*, working age persons, who have the status of artists, are insured by the state if they have no income. Article 10 of the Law provides that the base of social insurance contributions of insured persons having the status of artist shall consist of 50 per cent of the income received under copyright agreements.

The *Law on Health Insurance* (1996) establishes different types of health insurance and a compulsory health insurance system. According to the Article 17 of the Law, persons receiving income under copyright contracts and income from sports activities or performer activities, with the exception of persons who engage in relevant individual activities, pay compulsory health insurance contributions in the amount of 6.98 per cent of the income, on the basis of which social insurance contributions are calculated. For persons having the status of artist, who do not receive income under copyright contracts, compulsory health insurance contributions are paid by the state budget appropriations manager defined in the *Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets for an Appropriate Year* in the manner prescribed by the Government under the Programme of Social Protection of Artistic Creators. Such contribution shall amount to 6.98 per cent of the minimum monthly earnings effective on the last day of the month for which the contribution is being paid.

The status of artists and the social security programme for artists as well as the administration procedure thereof are regulated by the *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists' Organisations* (1996), the Law amending the *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists' Organisations* (2011), and *Republic of Lithuania Government Resolution No. 316 of 16 March 2011 On the Social Security Programme for Artists* .

The *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists' Organisations* regulates provisions to obtain the professional status of artists. Article 11 of the Law determines state support for artists from the Social Security Programme, approved

by the government in 2011. One of the purposes of the *Social Security Programme for Artists* is to allocate creative idle time payments for artists. Creative idle time means a period of time when an artist of working age, for objective reasons beyond his/her control, temporarily has no conditions for the creation of art and (or) dissemination of results thereof and receives no income from creative, individual or labour-related activity. Creative idle time payment is a payment in the amount of minimal monthly wage which is paid to the artist from the Programme budget during the period of creative idle time in accordance with the procedure provided for by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (see chapter 2.3 for more about the status of artists).

The *Law on Professional Performing Arts* (2004) provides legal provisions for social security coverage for personnel working in these institutions (Article 13).

4.1.4. TAX LAWS

The *Law on Corporate Income Tax* (2001) establishes the procedure for imposing corporate income tax on profits earned and/or income received. According to the Law, the applied tax rate is 15 per cent of the taxable profits of Lithuanian entities and permanent establishments. The Law was amended in 2013 by adding Article 17² and in 2018 by extending the period of the Article 17² till 2023. The Article states, that in calculating corporate income tax, funds granted free of charge to a Lithuanian filmmaker during the period from 1 January 2019 until 31 December 2023 for the production of a film or a part thereof in the Republic of Lithuania may be deducted from the taxable income where: 1) the film meets the criteria for cultural content and production assessment established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania or an institution authorised by it, and 2) at least 80% of all the expenses of production of the film or a part thereof are incurred in the Republic of Lithuania and the expenses incurred in the Republic of Lithuania, regardless of the expenses specified in paragraph 3 of this Article, comprise at least EUR 43 000, and 3) the total amount of funds granted by all Lithuanian entities or foreign entities through their permanent establishments in the Republic of Lithuania does not exceed 30% of all the expenses of production of the film or a part thereof.

The *Law on Corporate Income Tax* also foresees the corporate income tax relief for non-profit organisations. For non-profit units whose taxable income from economic commercial activities does not exceed EUR 300 000, the taxable income corresponding to the amount of EUR 7 250 is taxed at the 0 per cent tax rate and the remainder at the 15 per cent tax rate. Income from the economic activities of a non-profit unit, which is directly awarded to the financing of activities in the public interest, shall be excluded.

The Article 28 of the *Law on Corporate Income Tax* provides regulations of sponsorship. According to the article, taxpayers who are entitled to provide sponsorship under the *Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Charity and Sponsorship* shall be allowed to deduct from their income two times the payments made, including assets transferred and services rendered, which are intended for sponsorship in accordance with the procedure laid down in the *Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Charity and Sponsorship*.

The *Law on Charity and Sponsorship* (1993) establishes the framework for providing and receiving charity and sponsorship. According to the Article 9 of the Law, natural persons can transfer an amount not exceeding 2% of the income tax payable on the basis of an annual income tax return to Lithuanian entities that are entitled to charity and sponsorship. Recipients of sponsorship may be charity and sponsorship funds; budget financed institutions; associations; public organisations; artists registered as beneficiaries in the Information System of Artist's and Artist's Organizations maintained by the Ministry of Culture. The Article 9 was amended in 2019 and

according to it, since 1st January of 2020, the residents of Lithuania have the right to transfer to Lithuanian entities that are entitled to charity and sponsorship an amount not exceeding 1.2 per cent of the personal income tax payable on the basis of an annual income tax.

The *Law on Personal Income Tax* (2002) establish the procedure for levying income tax on individuals. The tax rate of personal income is 20 per cent if individual income does not exceed sum of 120 average wages. Income above that sum is taxed at 27 per cent rate. The tax rate of self-employed persons that have the certificate of self-employment is 15 per cent. Royalties is also taxed at 15 per cent rate. According to the Article 34 of the Law, after the end of the tax period, the tax administrator must, at the request of a resident of Lithuania transfer to Lithuanian entities that are entitled to charity and sponsorship under the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship* an amount not exceeding 2% (since 2020 – 1.2 per cent) of the income tax payable on the basis of an annual income tax return.

The *Law on Value Added Tax* (2002) establishes the imposition of the value added tax (VAT) and the obligations of taxable persons, VAT payers and other persons incidental to the payment of the tax. According to the law, the standard VAT rate is 21 per cent. The Article 19 of the Law sets a reduced VAT rate of 9 per cent to books and non-periodical publications. The same reduced VAT rate is applied to accommodation at hotels and other special accommodation services supplied according to the procedure laid down in the legal acts regulating tourist activities. The reduced VAT of 5 per cent are applied to newspapers and periodicals, except for publications publicising eroticism and violence, which have been recognised as such by an institution authorised by legal acts and for printed matter 4/5 of which is devoted to paid advertising.

The Article 23 of the Law states that cultural services supplied by non-profit making legal persons shall be exempt from VAT. As cultural services are defined the following activities: 1) activities of museums, zoological and botanical gardens, circus; 2) various cultural events (theatre performances, choreographic performances, cultural events for children and young people, art exhibitions and exhibitions of folk art, etc.), film production (including ancillary activities - dubbing, subtitling, etc.), film rent and demonstration; 3) services in the field of bibliography and information supplied by libraries. The Article 26 states that supply to the public of public information services by non-profit making legal persons - radio and/or television broadcasters shall be exempt from VAT. However, this provision is not applicable to the sale of broadcasts, advertising services and other commercial activities.

The *Law on Patronage* (2018) lays down requirements for national patrons, municipal patrons, criteria and essential conditions for patronage projects, areas where these projects can be carried out, recognition of the project as subject to patronage, award of the title of the national and municipal patron, award of the sign of the national and municipal patron, and the procedure of the memorialisation and the loss of the name of the patron.

4.1.5. LABOUR LAWS

The main labour law in Lithuania is the *Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania* that entered into force on 1 July 2017. This Code replaced the previous one that was in force from 2002 to 2017. The *Labour Code* regulates the individual employment relations that arise upon concluding an employment contract in accordance with the procedure established by the Code. The Code shall also regulate social relations related to individual employment relations (relations prior to conclusion and after termination of an employment contract, collective

labour relations, relations which arise in settling disputes between participants in labour relations, relations related to observation and supervision of the law, etc.).

Many artists in Lithuania are self-employed. There are two types of self-employment: with a business certificate or a certificate of self-employment. The rules of these activities and their taxes are set up by the *Republic of Lithuania Law on Personal Income Tax* (2002).

A business certificate is a document certifying that a person has paid a fixed fee for a business certificate and has the right to perform the activities indicated in the business certificate for a certain period of time. Business certificates are issued only for certain types of activities. By acquiring a business certificate an advance payment of a fixed income tax is required.

A self-employment certificate is a document certifying that a person has registered his activities at the local State Tax Inspectorate and is entitled to perform the activities indicated in the certificate. When independent activities are performed under a self-employment certificate, the income tax is paid from the actual annual income from individual activities. When calculating the taxable income from the earned revenues, it is possible to deduct allowable deductions (costs incurred for earning revenues). When a simplified procedure is applied, a fixed amount can be considered as allowable deductions, for example 30% from all the revenues gained from independent activities. At the end of the year, persons declare their revenues and pay the established taxes. A person performing individual activities under a self-employment certificate must fill in the Income and Expenditure Accounting Register and issue one of the accounting documents: a receipt for the goods (services) bought or sold, an invoice, a VAT invoice, or a cash register receipt. Detailed information is specified in the Rules of Accounting of Residents' Individual Activities (except for residents holding business certificates).

4.1.6. COPYRIGHT PROVISIONS

The protection of copyright and related rights is regulated by the *Law on Copyright and Related Rights* (1999) of the Republic of Lithuania. The Law is harmonised with the International and the European Union legal acts. The Law defines the authors' economic and moral rights, establishes the objects and subjects of copyright and related rights, terms of protection of copyright and related rights, functions of collective administration association supervision by the Ministry of Culture. The liability for the breach of the copyright and related rights is established by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania, Article XXIX "Crimes against Intellectual and Industrial Property and the Administrative Code of the Republic of Lithuania", Article 214¹⁰.

In 2006, the Lithuanian Parliament adopted amendments to the *Law on Copyright and Related Rights*. These amendments were required for the regulation of copyright and related rights in the presentation of the audiovisual works via new media services, e.g. mobile phones, internet, etc. The amendments were made with the aim of harmonising its provisions with EU requirements, namely the Directive 2001/84/EC on resale rights and Directive 2004/48/EC on enforcement of intellectual property rights. The new amendments lay down the rules for the distribution of recordings of broadcasts after the first sale or other kinds of transfer of the ownership rights of the broadcast recordings. The new provisions of the Law foresees that the exclusive right to distribute recordings of broadcasts or their copies is exhausted in the territory of the European Economic Area in respect of those recordings or copies, which are sold by the broadcaster or its successor in title, or under the authorisation of any of these, and which are lawfully released into circulation in the territory of the European Economic Area. The Law was also supplemented with the new provision regarding an author's non-property

rights to computer programmes and electronic data. The provision provides that the above-mentioned rights may not be used in such a way as to unreasonably constrain a holder's property rights to computer programmes and data, including the right to adapt, change and distribute these works.

A major role in copyright and related rights protection is played by the collective administration of these rights, performed by the subjects of the copyright and related rights on the basis of voluntary membership in non-profit organisations. The Lithuanian and foreign copyright in Lithuanian is collectively administered by the Association [LATGA](#) established in 1991 and the music copyright association NATA established in 2012. The collective administration of the performers and phonogram producers' rights is performed by the Lithuanian Related Rights Association [AGATA](#) that was established in 1999. At the initiative of the performers and phonogram producers, the related rights association [GRETA](#) was established in 2013. The rights of the owners of audiovisual works are administered by the Association of Audiovisual Works Copyright [AVAKA](#) established in 2008.

4.1.7. DATA PROTECTION LAWS

The Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data (1996) aims to protect fundamental human rights and freedoms, in particular the right to the protection of personal data, and to ensure a high level of protection of personal data. The Law lays down the principles of personal data processing, the legal status and powers of the State Data Protection Inspectorate, the powers of the Inspector of Ethics of Journalists, the procedure of the investigation of the violations of personal data and privacy laws, and the imposition of administrative fines by the State Data Protection Inspectorate.

The new edition of the Law was passed in 2018. It was brought into line with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

The fifth part of Article 20 of *the Law on Documents and Archives of the Republic of Lithuania* (1995) determines fixed restrictions on access to the documents which contain information on a person's private life, as well as to structured sets of personal data – 30 years after the person's death, and in the event of failure to determine the date of death – for a term of 100 years from her/his birth. If neither the date of birth nor the date of death of a person is determined, the access shall be limited for a term of 70 years, counting from the creation of the documents.

4.1.8. LANGUAGE LAWS

The Article 14 of the *Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania* establishes Lithuanian as the state language.

The *Law on the State Language* (1995) regulates the use of the state language in public life of Lithuania, protection and control of the state language, and the responsibility for violations of the *Law on the State Language*. The Law does not apply to the unofficial communication of the population and the language of events of religious communities as well as persons, belonging to ethnic communities.

The *Law on the State Language Inspectorate* (2001) establishes the objectives, functions, organisation and

procedure of work of the State inspectorate of Language, as well as the rights, duties and responsibilities of the employees of the Inspectorate.

The *Law on the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language* (1993) establishes the Commission as the state institution which shall be founded, reorganised and abolished by the Seimas. The Law also sets up the composition and procedure of formation of the Language Commission, as well as its tasks, operating principles and rights.

4.1.9. OTHER AREAS OF GENERAL LEGISLATION

In Lithuania, most cultural organisations have the legal forms of budgetary institution, public institution or association and their activities are regulated by the respective laws.

The *Law on Budgetary Institutions* (1995) regulates the establishment, restructuring, liquidation, operation and management of budgetary institutions. The budgetary institution is defined in the Law as a public legal entity with limited civil liability, which performs state or municipal functions and is maintained from the appropriations of the state or municipal budgets, as well as from the budgets of the State Social Insurance Fund, Compulsory Health Insurance Fund and other state monetary funds. Many of Lithuanian cultural organisations, such as theatres or museums owned by the state or municipalities have the legal form of budgetary organisations.

The *Law on Associations* (2004) regulates the formation, management, activities, specific features of restructuring, termination (reorganisation and liquidation) of legal persons whose legal form is an association. The association is defined in the Law as a public legal person of limited civil liability who has its name and whose purpose is to coordinate activities of the association members, to represent interests of the association members and to defend them or to meet other public interests. An association may include one of the following words in its name: "association", "public organisation", "confederation", "union", "society" or other. Many professional organisations of Lithuanian artists have the legal form of association.

The *Law on Public Institutions* (1996) establishes the procedure of founding, management, operation, reorganisation and liquidation of public institutions. The public institution is defined by the Law as a *non-profit organisation*, founded according to the procedure established by the Law from the assets of partners (owner) engaged in social, educational, scientific, cultural, sport or any other analogous activities and public to the members of the community as regards to the services it provides. A *non-profit organisation* means an entity possessing the rights of legal person which has been set up in accordance with the procedure established by law and has a non-profit purpose of activities. Its profit cannot be distributed to its founders, members, or partners (owner).

The *Law on Charity and Sponsorship Funds* (1996) regulate the establishment, management, activities, reorganisation and liquidation of charity and sponsorship Funds. The Fund is defined by the Law as a *non-profit organisation* without a membership and with the purpose of activities related to the dispensing of charity or (and) sponsoring science, culture, education, art, religion, sports, health care, social care and assistance, environmental protection (and other areas specified in the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship*).

The *Law on Centres for Culture* (2004) establishes the founding, reorganisation, liquidation, management, activities, classification, and financing, as well as other relations pertaining to activities of centres for culture.

4.2. Legislation on culture

4.2.1. GENERAL LEGISLATION ON CULTURE

Political documents setting out cultural policy frameworks or declarations of principle

In 2019, the Lithuanian Government adopted the *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy (Lietuvos kultūros politikos strategija)* for a period of 10 years. This is the first long term comprehensive strategy adopted since the restoration of the independence of Lithuania in 1990. The strategy is based on the empirical data, situation analysis and experts' evaluation of the current state of affairs. It formulates core values and sets strategic directions, goals and tasks of cultural policy (see chapter 1.1 for more information).

In 2019, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture prepared a draft of a new *Law on Culture (Kultūros pagrindų įstatymas)* that aims "to establish the general principles of cultural policy, the competence of the main cultural policy making and implementing institutions, the principles of cultural financing, the system of state cultural institutions, the status of national cultural institutions and centres of excellence, the status of artists and cultural workers, the principles of awarding of state cultural and artistic prizes, and the relationship between state and municipal institutions in implementation of cultural policy". The draft law is currently under the consideration in Seimas.

Until the adoption of the above-mentioned strategy, the main strategic documents of Lithuanian cultural policy were *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Change Guidelines* adopted in 2010 by Lithuanian Parliament and *Provisions on Lithuanian Cultural Policy (Lietuvos kultūros politikos nuostatos)* adopted in 2001 by the Lithuanian Government (see chapter 1.1 for more information).

Laws establishing the scope, operation(s), governing structure(s) and procedures for funding cultural institutions

The *Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture (2012)* establishes the status, goals and functions of the Council and its general operating principles. The Law defines the Council as being a budget-financed institution under the Ministry of Culture and its main function is to finance culture and art programmes, administer the Culture Foundation, distribute grants and other types of support to culture and professionals of art, and monitor culture and art projects that are under implementation.

The *Law on Culture Support Fund (2007)* establishes the status of Fund, sources of funding and funding distribution principles. A new edition of the law was passed in 2013. According to it, the Fund is administered by the newly established institution, the Lithuanian Council for Culture.

The *Law on Cinema (2002)* establishes the principles of state governance and funding of film, the procedures of the distribution, screening and making public of movies through electronic communications channels and the regulation of the protection of cinematic heritage. In 2011, the amendments to the *Law on Cinema* included an article on establishment of the Film Centre, a budget organisation under the Ministry of Culture. Since 2013, this institution implements Lithuanian film policy and provides funding for development and production of the national films.

Laws relating to broadcasting and its regulation

The *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public* (1996) sets up procedures of collecting, preparing, publishing and disseminating of public information, establishes the rights, obligations and responsibilities of producers, media, journalists and institutions that regulate their activity, as well as operating principles of Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation.

The *Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information* (2002) establishes the criteria of the public information that has detrimental effect on minors' physical, mental and moral development, the procedure of its publication and dissemination, and the rights, duties and liability of the producers, disseminators and owners of such information, as well as journalists and the institutions which regulate their activities.

The *Law on the National Radio and Television* (1996) establishes the procedures of governance, operation, funding, reorganisation and liquidation of the Lithuanian National Radio and Television broadcasting company as well as its duties, rights and responsibilities.

Laws referring to the "status of the artists" (employed or independent artists, media freelancers etc.)

The *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists' Organisations* (1996) establishes the basis and procedure for granting and abolishing the status of artist and artists' organisations.

The *Law on Professional Performing Arts* (2004) regulates the governance of professional performing arts, the system and operation of professional performing arts institutions, the financing of these institutions, the employment relations and social guarantees of employees of these institutions, as well as the management and use of their property.

Table 27: International legal instruments implemented by Lithuania in the cultural field

Title of the act	Year of adoption
UNESCO Conventions, ratified by Lithuania	
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	Acceptance: 31/03/1992
Convention on Technical and Vocational Education	Accession: 28/01/1993
Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States	Acceptance: 10/03/1993
Protocol to amend articles 6 and 7 of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	Ratification: 20/08/1993
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	Accession: 20/08/1993
Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region	Accession: 16/11/1994
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention	Accession: 27/07/1998
Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	Accession: 27/07/1998
Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property	Ratification: 27/07/1998
Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, with Annexes A to E and Protocol annexed	Accession: 21/08/1998
Protocol to the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, with Annexes A to H	Accession: 21/08/1998

Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region	Ratification: 17/12/1998
International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations	Accession: 22/04/1999
Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms	Accession: 27/10/1999
Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	Accession: 13/03/2002
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage	Ratification: 21/01/2005
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage	Ratification: 12/06/2006
International Convention against Doping in Sport	Ratification: 02/08/2006
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions	Accession: 18/12/2006
WIPO treaties signed by Lithuania	
Berne Convention	Accession: 14/09/1994
Budapest Treaty	Accession: 9/02/1998
Hague Agreement	Accession: 26/06/2008
Madrid Protocol	Accession: 15/08/1997
Nice Agreement	Accession: 22/11/1996
Paris Convention	Accession: 21/02/1994
Patent Cooperation Treaty	Accession: 5/04/1994
Patent Law Treaty	Accession: 3/11/2011
Phonograms Convention	Accession: 27/10/1999
Rome Convention	Accession: 22/04/1999
Singapore Treaty	Ratification: 14/05/2013
Trademark Law Treaty	Ratification: 27/01/1998
UPOV Convention	Accession: 10/11/2003
WIPO Convention	Accession: 30/01/1992
WIPO Copyright Treaty	Accession: 18/06/2001
WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty	Accession: 26/01/2001
Council of Europe Treaties in the area of culture, signed and ratified by Lithuania	
European Cultural Convention	Entered into force: 7/5/1992
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe	Entered into force: 1/4/2000
European Convention on Transfrontier Television	Entered into force: 1/1/2001
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised)	Entered into force: 8/6/2000
European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production	Entered into force: 1/10/1999
Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	Entered into force: 1/7/2000
European Landscape Convention	Entered into force: 1/3/2004
European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage	Entered into force: 1/1/2008
Protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage, on the Protection of Television Productions	Entered into force: 1/4/2014

4.2.2. LEGISLATION ON CULTURE AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Protection of the national cultural heritage is guaranteed in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (Articles

42, 47, 54).

The objects of immovable cultural and natural heritage are protected under the *Law on Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage* (1994), the *Law on Planning of Territories* (1995) and the *Law on Protected Territories* (1993).

The *Law on Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage* (1994) implements the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, International Treaties and the Laws of the National Security Framework in the field of protection of immovable cultural heritage. It also establishes the legal basis for accounting, preservation and management of immovable cultural heritage located in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania as well as principles of the monitoring of the condition of cultural heritage objects. The Law also protects sites and other property associated with immovable cultural heritage.

The *Law on Planning of Territories* (1995) regulates the planning of the territories of the Republic of Lithuania, the Continental Shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone in the Baltic Sea and establishes the rights and obligations of persons involved in this process. The purpose of this Law is to ensure the harmonious development of territories and the rational urbanisation by establishing requirements for systematic spatial planning, compatibility of documents of different levels, as well as to create conditions for harmony of natural and anthropogenic environment and urban quality while preserving valuable landscape, biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage.

The *Law on Protected Areas* (1993) regulates the system of protected areas, the legal bases for the designation and establishment of protected areas, change of their borders and status, as well as the protection, management and control of these territories. In 2003, the Law was amended in order to incorporate the regulations of territories of international importance, including the European ecological network *Natura 2000*.

The *Law on the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage* (1996) establishes the administration of the protection of movable cultural heritage; the accounting and storage of movable cultural property; the principles of the change of ownership and control of cultural objects; the exportation of movable cultural property and antiques from and importation into the Republic of Lithuania; and the return of illegally exported cultural objects. The Law was amended in 2009 by changing the definition of the "movable cultural property". The new definition defines it as "material creations and other objects which are movable based on their designation and nature, hold cultural value and are listed in the State inventories of movable cultural property". In 2016, the Law was amended by adding new terms of "Member State of the European Union", "Return of cultural object", "Cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, Member State of the European Union or a third country", etc. The introduction of new terms is linked to the alignment of the Law with the Directive 2014/60/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State.

The *Law of the National Commission for Cultural Heritage* (2004) establishes the Heritage Commission, which is an expert and advisor to the Lithuanian Parliament, President and Government regarding the national policy of cultural heritage protection, its implementation, evaluation and improvement.

The *Law on Museums* (1995) regulates the system, classification and types of museums, their establishment, operation, closure and reorganisation, the accounting and protection of museum property and other relations connected to the operation of museums. To enhance the efficiency and quality of museums' activity and

improve museum legislation, on 23 December 2013 the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania passed an Amendment to the Law on Museums by introducing a five-year term of office for the directors of national and state museums. On 3 May 2016, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania supplemented the Law with Article 7¹ by empowering a head of a national, state and municipal museum to confer the title of curator emeritus on museum workers with a solid professional experience, who were actively involved in work and creative activity but terminated their employment contract with a national, state and municipal museum.

The *Law on the State Protection of Ethnic Culture* (1999) establishes the general principles of state protection of the Lithuanian ethnic culture, measures and conditions for the protection and continuity, development and enrichment of ethnic culture. The law also regulates the protection of ethnic heritage.

The *Law on Documents and Archives* (1995) aims to provide the legal basis for the effective management of documents in order to ensure transparency and accountability of the activities of legal entities and to safeguard the legitimate interests of the persons in concern. The law also regulates the accumulation and administration of the national Documentation Fund in order to preserve the state's documentary heritage, memory and national identity.

4.2.3. LEGISLATION ON PERFORMANCE AND CELEBRATION

The *Law on Professional Performing Arts* (2004) regulates the governance of professional performing arts, the system and operation of professional performing arts institutions, the financing of these institutions, the employment relations and social guarantees of employees of these institutions, as well as the management and use of their property.

The rules and procedure for granting the status of a professional performing arts theatre are governed by Article 5(3) of the *Law on Professional Performing Arts* (2004) as well as *the Description of the Procedure for the Recognition of a Legal Person as a Professional Performing Arts Theatre or Concert Institution as well as the Revocation of this Recognition* approved by Order No. IV-535 of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania of 5 April 2017.

In accordance with the *Rules for Partial Compensation of the Cost of Dissemination (Venue Hire) of Professional Performing Arts Projects from State Budget Funds* approved by Order No. IV-95 of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania of 11 February 2015, theatres with the status of a professional performing arts theatre are partially compensated for costs related to the dissemination (venue hire) of professional performing arts projects.

The *Law on Song Festivals* (2007) ensures the state protection, periodicity, continuity and development of Lithuania's song festival tradition; regulates the procedure of preparation and management of song festivals, the responsibility and competence of state and municipal institutions in organizing the festivals; and establishes the principles of the financing of the song festivals. The Song Festival (also called The Song Celebration) is a massive traditional song and dance festival. The first Song Day was held in 1924 in Kaunas. 86 choirs (around 3000 singers) participated in the festival and performed 36 songs (22 folk songs and 14 authentic songs by Lithuanian composers). Since Lithuania's independence in 1990, the event has gained the status of national celebration. On the 7th of November 2003, UNESCO has proclaimed the tradition of the Song and Dance Celebration in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity

and in 2008 it has been inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

4.2.4. LEGISLATION ON VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

There are no specific laws for visual or applied arts in Lithuania. For information on laws regarding museums, see chapter 4.2.2.

4.2.5. LEGISLATION ON BOOKS AND PRESS

The *Law on Libraries* (1995) establishes the state governance of library activities, the system of libraries, the procedure of formation of the libraries fund, the structure of this fund and its protection. The Law was amended in 2013 in order to establish the protection of copyright and related rights in the libraries and set the principles of the appointment of executives. In 2004, the Law was amended by adding a new article, which established the Council of Libraries. The Council was defined as an expert and consultative body of the Ministry of Culture.

The document *Strategic Directions of Library Development 2016–2022* was approved by Order No. JV-344 of the Minister of Culture on 29 April 2016. The directions are aimed at the effective use of the potential of libraries as the efficient information infrastructure, ensuring the development of lifelong learning of society members and their social and economic welfare, as well as maximising the impact on national and regional development.

The *Regulations of Protection of the Library Stock* were approved by Order No. 499 of the Minister of Culture on 6 October 2010. The document regulates the accounting of the Lithuanian library stock, receipt of documents, transfer of the stock, verification of the stock, writing off of documents, stock protection, and staff liability.

The *Description of the Procedure of Certification of Librarians* was approved by Order No. JV-320 of the Minister of Culture on 4 June 2010. It regulates the goals, categories, assessment criteria, certification and appeal procedure related to the certification of library specialists working in libraries founded by the state and municipalities or their institutions.

The Order No JV-216 of 30 March 2015 by the Minister of Culture regulates the indication and verification of the circulation of the press. The order approved the *Procedure of Verification of Circulation of Local, Regional and National Newspapers and Magazines, Except for Those Whose Circulation Does Not Exceed 500 Copies and/or Which Contain No Advertising*. In accordance with the established procedure publishers must provide data on the circulation of their published newspaper or magazine for the previous half-year to the Ministry of Culture twice a year, i.e. by 10 January and by 10 July, by filling in the approved form.

The data on publication circulation (from the first half-year of 2012) and the participants of the media provided to the Ministry of Culture are made public in the [Database of Producers and Disseminators of Public Information](#), available on the website of the Ministry of Culture.

4.2.6. LEGISLATION ON AUDIOVISUAL AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA

Regulations of audiovisual and interactive media are set in the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public* (1996), the *Law of Lithuanian National Radio and Television* (1996) and the *Law on Film* (2002).

The principal law governing the audiovisual and interactive media is the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public*. This Law sets up procedures of collecting, preparing, publishing and disseminating public information, establishes the rights, obligations and responsibilities of producers, media, journalists and institutions that regulate their activity, as well as operating principles of Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation.

The *Law on the National Radio and Television* (1996) establishes the procedures of governance, operation, funding, reorganisation and liquidation of Lithuanian National Radio and Television broadcasting company as well as its duties, rights and responsibilities.

By Resolution No. 342 of 29 March 2001, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania assigned the Ministry of Culture to carry out the functions of an institution authorised by the Government in the field of provision of information to the public. The powers of the Ministry in this field are defined in Article 45 of the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public*.

The Ministry of Culture is one of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the *Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information* (2002). This Law establishes the criteria of the public information that has detrimental effect on minors' physical, mental and moral development, the procedure of its publication and dissemination, and the rights, duties and liability of the producers, disseminators and owners of such information, as well as journalists and the institutions which regulate their activities.

Several articles of the *Law on the State Language* (1995) are related to the audiovisual and interactive media, e.g. Article 13 states, that the audiovisual programmes, motion pictures publicly shown in Lithuania must be translated into the state language or shown with subtitles in Lithuanian; and the article 22 requires that the mass media of Lithuania (the press, television, radio, etc.), all publishers of books and other publications must observe the norms of the correct Lithuanian language.

4.2.7. LEGISLATION ON DESIGN AND CREATIVE SERVICES

The *Law on Construction* (1996) establish the essential requirements for all construction works which are being built, reconstructed and repaired within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, the procedure for technical regulation of construction, construction investigation, design of construction works, construction, reconstruction, repair of new construction works, acceptance of them as fit for use, utilisation and maintenance, demolition of construction works, as well as the procedure of supervision over the above activities, the principles of activities of the participants in the construction, public administration entities, owners (or users) of engineering and utility networks and traffic routes, other legal and natural persons in this field. The Law also defines essential architectural requirements for a construction works and foresees the certification of architects.

The *Law on Advertising* (2000) aims to improve the informing of consumers about the goods and services, protect consumers' rights and legitimate interests, ensure fair competition, as well as promote self-regulation of advertising and facilitate the development of advertising activities. The law also establishes the requirements for the use of advertising, the responsibilities of subjects of advertising and the legal basis for the supervision of the use of advertising in the Republic of Lithuania.

The *Law on Design* (2002) determines the legal protection of industrial design, its registration rules and order of use in Lithuania and the administration of the national design register.

The *Law on Architects' Chamber* (2006) regulates the establishment, functions, activities and management of the Architects' Chamber of the Republic of Lithuania.

In 2015, the Lithuanian government adopted the *Guidelines of the Development of Architecture and Design*. The guidelines define the main architectural policy objectives, implementation policy, and the role and importance of architecture in a social, educational, economic and cultural context (see also chapter 3.5.5). One of the results of these guidelines was the adoption of The *Law on Architecture* (2017) by the Lithuanian government. The Law sets the requirements, conditions and procedures for the training of architects and their qualifications, the conduct of the activities of architects as well as the rights and obligations of architects and the quality requirements applicable to their activity and its results.

The *Law on Tourism* (1998) establishes the principles and priorities of the tourist industry and organising of independent tourism, requirements in supplying tourist services, competence of state or municipal institutions supervising this industry and conditions of utilising tourism resources.

5. Arts and cultural education

5.1. Policy and institutional overview

The state institution responsible for education at all levels is the [Ministry of Education, Science and Sport](#). The Ministry develops one-year and long-term educational investment programmes; approves requirements for the regulations of state-run and municipal schools; approves the general curriculum content of formal education, and achievement levels; organises and coordinates the accreditation of the secondary education programme; approves the procedure of consecutive learning under general education programmes and the procedure for organisation and implementation of Matura exams; establishes, liquidates, and reorganises vocational schools; and approves general vocational education plans.

The principles of education in Lithuania are stated in the *Law on Education* (1991). According to the Law, the education system of Lithuania comprises the following: 1) formal education (primary, basic, secondary education, formal vocational education and training and higher education studies); 2) non-formal education (pre-school, pre-primary, other non-formal education of children (as well as the teaching supplementing the formal education) and of adults); 3) informal education; 4) educational assistance (vocational guidance, informational, psychological, socio-pedagogical, special pedagogical and special assistance of education, healthcare at school, consultation, in-service training of teachers and other assistance).

In Lithuania, school education is compulsory for pupils until they reach the age of sixteen. Compulsory education is usually provided up to the 10th form (2nd form of the gymnasium). After completion of the 10th form, pupils must take the basic education achievement test in the Lithuanian Language, Mathematics, and an elective basic education achievement test in Mother Tongue (Belarusian, Polish, Russian or German). After acquiring basic education and obtaining the basic education certificate, they may continue learning under the programmes for secondary education or vocational education and training or under the combined programme for secondary education and vocational education and training in order to acquire their first qualification.

Pre-primary education is compulsory from age 6 to 7. Its purpose is to help a child prepare for learning according to the primary education curriculum. Pre-primary education is carried out according to a one-year general pre-primary education curriculum approved by the Minister of Education and Science. Its content is focused on the development of the child's general competences – social and health care, knowledge and understanding of the world, communication and artistic expression – through integrated development activities. Private, state or municipal kindergartens, school-kindergartens, schools or other institutions, as well as freelance educators or other education providers can provide pre-primary education.

According to the *Law on Education*, children who have reached the age of seven must attend the first form. The duration of the primary education programme is four years. Compulsory primary education can be obtained in kindergarten-schools, in primary schools and, less commonly, in basic or secondary schools. After completion of their primary education, pupils begin the 6-year basic education. The purpose of basic education is to provide an individual with the basics of moral, sociocultural and civic maturity, general literacy, the basics of technological literacy, to cultivate national consciousness, to foster an intent and ability to make decisions and choices and to continue learning. Basic education is acquired upon completion of the basic education curriculum and testing the pupils' learning achievements.

Secondary education is not compulsory and usually lasts two years (11th-12th forms of the secondary school (3rd-4th forms of the gymnasium). The purpose of secondary education is to assist a person in the acquisition of general academic, sociocultural and technological literacy, moral, national and civic maturity, and the basics of vocational competence. Secondary education is acquired upon completion of the secondary education curriculum and the passing of Matura examinations.

Vocational schools provide both basic and secondary education training leading to a qualification. The duration of the programmes can be either two or three years depending on whether it is intended to provide basic or secondary education or whether it is adapted to persons with special needs. The duration of studies for students who have already acquired secondary education is one to two years. Requirements for vocational education programmes are set out by the General Requirements and Vocational Education and Training Standards of the Ministry of Education and Science. Vocational education programmes are developed by vocational education providers in cooperation with employers.

According to *Law on Education*, the higher education studies is provided to everyone who has acquired at least secondary education, has enrolled in a higher education institution and is capable to study independently. Foundations of activities of higher education institutions and studies therein are set out by the *Law on Higher Education and Research* (2009).

All levels of formal education are partly funded in Lithuania on the principal of pupil's or student's "voucher", i.e. pupils and students can choose a school and the school receives funding depending on the number of students. The student's voucher is a fixed subsidy of the state that is distributed through municipalities to schools and non-formal education institutions and through the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport to high schools. The size of the pupil's and student's voucher is set by the government. This model of funding was launched in 2002 and gradually introduced to all stages of education. The pupil's or student's voucher is provided to both state and private educational institutions. In state schools, the founder provides the remaining funds needed, and private schools can raise the money by charging tuition fees, receiving it through private sponsorship, etc. The money of the pupil's or student's voucher cannot be allocated to needs other than education.

In 2018, the 17th Lithuanian Government (counting from 1990 when Lithuanian regained independence) adopted the structural reform of the whole system of education. The reform addresses challenges of all levels of education; it encompasses measures and sets goals to be achieved till 2021. According to the concept of the reform, the main challenges in the field of general school education are an ineffective network of schools and the low prestige of the teaching profession. In Lithuania, the teaching profession is considered as unattractive due to the relatively low salaries for high qualifications, low workload for many teachers, which forces them look for additional sources of income, thus leaving little room for full focus on pedagogical activities. School network reform lags behind the declining number of pupils, one fifth of schools are very small, therefore the principle of a pupil's voucher does not give equal possibilities for all pupils to have access to the same quality of education. In order to meet these challenges, the Government seeks to introduce the class voucher, promote school mergers and create an optimum number of full-time teacher jobs.

The issue of an ineffective network of schools exist in higher education as well. Over the last 15 years, the number of graduates and entrants to universities decreased (-25 % over 4 years), the number of universities and study programmes, however, remains relatively stable. Because of that, university admissions demonstrate ever-lower competition score; many programmes make no students selection whatsoever. In addition to that,

similar study programmes are offered across many universities and colleges, and the scattering of scientific resources does not guarantee the quality of competencies and training. In order to meet these challenges, the Government seeks to optimise the network of universities and vocational education establishments.

5.2. Arts in schools

In Lithuania, the curricula of all three stages of state school education (primary, basic and secondary) are shaped by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports. According to the general descriptions of primary, basic and secondary education, the curricula of these stages have to encompass 6, 8 and 7 study fields. The primary education comprises 6 study fields: moral education (religion or ethics), languages (mother tongue and first foreign language), mathematics, natural and social sciences, arts and technologies, physical and health education. The curriculum of basic education comprises the following study fields: moral education (religion or ethics), languages (mother tongue and literature, first and second foreign languages), mathematics (mathematics and informatics), natural sciences (biology, physics, chemistry, etc.), social sciences (history, geography, civil education, economics, entrepreneurship, citizenship), arts (fine arts, music, dance, theatre, and modern arts), technologies (nutrition, textiles, construction materials, electronics, product design and technology, etc.), physical education. Some subjects could be studied at an intensified level. The third stage of education comprises the same study fields as basic education except technologies.

Subjects of arts, i.e. fine arts, music, dance, theatre, and modern arts are the compulsory part of education at all three stages. The aim of this part of curriculum is the development of general artistic competencies of pupils and their ability to express oneself creatively by means of art, to understand and value artistic creation. The developed artistic competencies should help pupils to make informed and independent decisions about further learning and participation in artistic creation and culture. However, according to the curriculum plans approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, compulsory subjects in the primary and basic stages of education are only fine arts and music. The schools may offer subjects of dance and theatre depending on their possibilities and the preferences of pupils.

Pupils with artistic abilities can choose to enrol in special arts or music schools that combine general education with specialised artistic education. There are 9 specialised art schools in Lithuania, funded by the state and municipalities: 4 schools specialising in music, 1 specialising in fine arts, 3 schools combining fine arts and music, 1 school combining fine arts, music and ballet.

In 2018, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, launched a cultural education measure for schoolchildren called Cultural Pass ([Kultūros pasas](#)). The aim of the measure is to improve access to cultural and educational projects and events, develop cultural awareness and experience of schoolchildren by providing appropriate cultural and artistic services (see chapter 6.1 for more about the measure).

5.3. Higher arts and cultural education

Higher education in Lithuania is regulated by the *Law on Higher Education and Research* (2009). According to Law, there are two types of higher education institutions in Lithuania: universities (Lith. universitetas) and colleges (Lith. kolegija). The university is an institution that carries out university studies, conducts research,

experimental (social, cultural) development and/or develops high-level professional art. The name of a higher education institution of this type must contain a word "university" or "academy", or "seminary". The college carries out college studies, develop applied research and/or professional art. The name of a higher education institution that carries out such activities must contain a word "college" or "higher education institution". Universities and colleges have autonomy, which covers academic, administrative, economic and financial management activities, and is based on the principle of self-governance and academic freedom.

The degree structure of higher education in Lithuania follows a three-cycle structure: the first cycle – professional bachelor's, bachelor's degree studies; the second cycle – master's degree studies; the third cycle – doctoral studies. Professional bachelor's study programmes of the first cycle may be carried out by colleges and bachelor's study programmes of the first cycle by universities. Study programmes awarding a degree of the second cycle may be carried out by universities. Doctoral studies may be carried out by universities or universities together with research institutes. The first cycle of studies (bachelor's) usually lasts 4 academic years, the second cycle (master's) 2 years and the third cycle (doctoral) 4 years.

Higher education institutions are financed in Lithuania from the state budget, funds of state investment programmes, income received as payment for studies, as well as income received from economic, research activities and rendered services, funds appropriated by international and foreign foundations and organizations, funds received as charity under the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship* and other funds received in legal ways.

Studies at universities and colleges are partly funded by the state. The Government establishes the distribution of funds for study areas according to the needs of the national economic, social and cultural development and financial possibilities of the State. State-funded student places are allocated to higher education institutions in accordance with the choice among higher education institutions made by enrolling persons who have completed the secondary education programme with the best results (student's voucher principle), without exceeding state funding established for each study area. Persons who do not get the state-funded student place have to pay a tuition fee. This fee may be reimbursed if a student has finished with the best results the first two academic years and the remaining academic years.

In 2019, there were in Lithuania 19 universities and 22 colleges. Universities conducted 85 study programmes in arts registered in the open vocational information system AIKOS, and colleges conducted 23.

Table 28: Study programmes in arts at universities in 2019

Field of studies	Number of programmes	Titles of the first cycle study programmes (Bachelor) 49	Titles of the second cycle study programmes (Master) 36
Architecture	7	Architecture (3 programmes)	Architecture (3 programmes), Building architecture
Artworks restoration	2	Art works restoration	The restoration of art and interior heritage
Dance	3	Dance, Subcultures of Dance	Choreography
Design	14	Visual Design and Media, Design, Graphic design, Interior design, Costume design, Fashion Design, Environmental Objects Design, Visual Design	Design, Graphic design, Costume design, Visual design, Visual Communication Design, Visual Plastic Art
Film	4	Film Art, Screenwriting, Cinematography	Film Art

Fine Art	25	Graphic Art, Ceramics, Metal Art and Jewellery, Monumental arts, Scenography, Sculpture, 4D Objects of Art, Applied graphics, Applied ceramics, Textile Art Media, Painting, Textile Art and Design, Fine Art	Graphic Art, Monumental arts, Scenography, Sculpture, Glass Art and Design, Applied graphics, Applied ceramics, Textile Art Media, Painting, Textile Art and Design, Fine arts, Applied Arts
Landscape architecture	1		Landscape architecture
Media Art	4	Animation, Photography and media arts, New Media Art	Photography and media arts
Music	16	Composition, Music Studies, Musical Folklore, Music Performance, Music technologies, Performance Art, Music Production, Performance Art, Sound Directing	Composition, Music Performance, Electronic composition and performance, Performance Art, Performance Art, Sound Directing Musical Folklore
Theatre	9	Theatre Art, History and Criticism of Performing and Film Arts, Acting Puppet and Object Theatre Directing, Directing, Acting (2 programmes)	Theatre Art, Drama directing

Source: [AIKOS](#)

Several universities and colleges also conduct programmes in the field of communication closely related to arts and culture, e.g. Media and Communication, Creative communication, Creative Industries, Creative and Culture Industries, Fashion Industry, Political Communication and Journalism, Entertainment and Tourism Industries, Entertainment industries, Integrated Creative Communication, Communication of Creative Society, and Communication and Creative Technologies.

There are also programmes in management and public administration, related to arts and culture, e.g. Art Management, Cultural and Creative Industries Management, Sports and Tourism Management, Culture and Tourism Management, and Culture Management and Culture Policy.

The main high schools of arts education in Lithuania are the [Vilnius Academy of Arts \(VDA\)](#) and the [Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre \(LMTA\)](#). VDA has four faculties that are located in different cities of Lithuania – Vilnius, Kaunas, Telšiai and Klaipėda. Each faculty has its own undergraduate and graduate study programmes. According to the data of VDA, in 2019, 1540 students were studying at the Academy in 45 study programmes. The Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre has three faculties; two of them (Faculty of Music and Faculty of Theatre and Film) are located in Vilnius and one in Klaipėda. According to the data of LMTA, its three faculties currently host about 1,000 students in three study cycles – bachelor's, master's and doctoral.

The Bologna Declaration, which Lithuania signed in 1999, became an important document for Lithuanian higher education. Until 2019, Lithuania implemented or created conditions for the implementation of several measures of Bologna Declaration. In 2000, the Minister of Education and Science approved rules of the evaluation of higher education and research institutions. In 2002, the first evaluation of study programmes by international experts was carried out. In 2005, the *Law on Higher Education and Research* (2009) was amended to provide for joint study programmes. According to it, higher education institutions may implement joint study programmes on completion of which a joint qualification degree is awarded, as well as programmes on completion of which a double qualification degree is awarded. A joint qualification degree is awarded when a study programme is implemented by at least two higher education institutions, usually from different countries. However, till 2019, only one joint study programme in arts was launched, i.e. the joint programme of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre ECMAster (European Chamber Music Master). In 2011, ECTS credits are approved as Lithuanian national learning credits system. From 2012, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture

funds teaching visits of lecturers and professors from foreign universities to Lithuanian higher education institutions. The grant competition is organised, and the payment administered by [Education Exchanges Support Foundation](#). The foundation also administers other international exchange programmes and initiatives in the field of higher education and vocational training.

5.4. Out-of-school arts and cultural education

According to the data of the open vocational information system [AIKOS](#), in 2019, there were in Lithuania 220 municipal and 155 private institutions that provided the out-of-school education for schoolchildren. There were also 98 private, 3 state and 4 municipal institutions of non-formal education for adults. However, many non-formal education activities are not registered, they are provided by individual persons, public or private organisations. There is also lack of data how many adults and children take part in non-formal education.

In 2005, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania passed the *Concept of Non-formal Education for Children*. The Concept laid the basis for the policy of the non-formal children's education, defined the principles of its organising and financing through the model of non-formal education voucher. The model foresaw that the state and municipalities would allocate a certain amount of money for each pupil of primary, basic and secondary school for non-formal education activities.

In order to encourage cultural institutions and creators of culture and evaluate their activities in the field of cultural education for children and youth, the Ministry of Culture has, since 2007, been awarding four prizes per year for the best education projects that were prepared and implemented for children and youth.

In 2012, the *Concept of Non-formal Education of Children* was revised in order to improve the system of non-formal education, create a new funding model and promote the development of this type of education. The analysis of the situation revealed the insufficient participation of children in this kind of education as only 20 per cent of schoolchildren took part in the activities of non-formal education in 2011. In addition to that, as the non-formal education of children was an autonomous function of municipalities, the network of providers of non-formal education and its financing was very uneven in individual municipalities. That determined unequal possibilities of children to participate in non-formal education programmes.

A plan for improving the funding of non-formal education of children was adopted in 2013. It encompassed three goals: to elaborate the financing model of non-formal children's education, to improve the infrastructure and environment of non-formal children's education, and to create the financing system of national projects of non-formal education.

According to the elaborated financing model of non-formal education that was introduced in 2015, the recommended amount of funding for non-formal education is 15 EUR per month for each pupil. Municipalities can change this amount according to their priorities, but it may not be less than 10 EUR and more than 20 EUR per month for each pupil. The funding can be allocated only to accredited programmes of non-formal education that were registered in a special register and evaluated by the commissions of municipalities. Accredited programmes are announced on the website of municipalities along with invitation for children and parents to register for programmes. The announcements of programmes are also available in [AIKOS](#).

According to the data of [AIKOS](#), since 2015, the number of children who participated in non-formal education

programmes has constantly increased. In 2018, a total of 324 295 children learned in Lithuanian primary, basic and secondary education schools and 60 per cent of them attended non-formal education classes at various non-formal education institutions. However, the data covers only registered non-formal education providers and their programmes.

Table 29: The part of schoolchildren participating in non-formal education in 2016 – 2019

	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019
Number of schoolchildren in primary, basic and secondary schools	330 870	327 783	324 295
Number of schoolchildren participating in non-formal education activities	163 035	178 599	195 370
Per cent of schoolchildren participating in non-formal education activities	49.27	54.49	60.24

Source: [Education Management Information System](#)

According to [AIKOS](#), in 2018 there were in Lithuania 6 145 programmes of non-formal education for children. The 6 145 registered programmes are divided in 16 groups. 7 groups of them are related to arts and culture (music, fine arts, choreography and dance, theatre and drama, tourism and regional studies, media, and ethno culture). The greatest number of programmes is in the group of music and they are attended by the 6.23 per cent of schoolboys and 12.11 per cent of schoolgirls. The sport programmes are in the second place and the fine arts programmes take the third place. However, the statistics covers only registered programmes and their participants, not all non-formal education programmes operating in Lithuania.

Table 30: Statistics of non-formal education for children in 2018

Group of programmes	Number of non-formal education programmes	Boys participating in non-formal education programmes	Girls participating in non-formal education programmes	Boys: per cent of schoolchildren participating in non-formal education programmes	Girls: per cent of schoolchildren participating in non-formal education programmes
Music	2 422	10 333	19 275	6.26	12.11
Fine art	413	3 340	10 365	2.02	6.51
Choreography and dance	300	3 255	13 330	1.97	8.38
Theatre and drama	124	756	1 816	0.46	1.14
Sport	1 494	44 875	19 069	27.17	11.98
Technical creation	212	3 994	980	2.42	0.62
Tourism and regional studies	25	919	1 114	0.56	0.70
Nature, ecology	61	854	1 263	0.52	0.79
Road traffic safety	21	1 099	1 371	0.67	0.86
Information technology	161	2 529	817	1.53	0.51
Technologies	100	886	1 901	0.54	1.19
Media	39	171	417	0.10	0.26
Ethno culture	79	808	1324	0.49	0.83
Languages	197	2 624	3 579	1.59	2.25
Citizenship	100	2 864	2 739	1.73	1.72
Other	397	4 478	5 675	2.71	3.57

Total number and per cent of schoolchildren participating in non-formal activities		83 785	85 035	50.73	53.43	
Total number of schoolchildren in primary, basic and secondary schools		165 150	159 145			

Source: AIKOS

In general, the financing model based on pupil's voucher increased the number of schoolchildren participating in non-formal education. The system, however, needs further improvements. The issue of the uneven development of the network of institutions of non-formal education in separate municipalities (especially in smaller towns and rural areas) still remains; thus, children do not have equal opportunities to participate in non-formal education. Furthermore, there is a lack of diversity of programmes since music and sport activities predominate. However, according to the Lithuanian Schoolchildren's Union, not everyone is able and willing to attend music and sports classes. Thus, it is important to increase the range of activities available. In addition to that, the allocated sum of money for each child only covers a small part of the amount needed to pay for participation in non-formal education and therefore informal learning remains too expensive for families that have more children or a lower income.

5.5. Vocational and professional training

The vocational education system is regulated by the *Law on Vocational Education and Training* (1997). According to the Law, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is responsible for the vocational education system. The Ministry shapes and implements the vocational education policy, participates in the shaping of human resources development policy and implements it, approves general plans of vocational education, etc.

The Ministry is also the stakeholder of the majority of vocational education establishments. There are in Lithuania 70 state vocational education institutions and 3 private. Most of the state establishments are state budgetary institutions and some (20) are self-governing institutions. The main governing body of public vocational education and training establishments is the general meeting of stakeholders in which each stakeholder has one vote. Municipalities, social partners, and other stakeholders may participate in governing a vocational education establishment on equal terms with the main stakeholder (the Ministry of Education and Science).

Vocational schools provide both training leading to a qualification, and basic or secondary education. The duration of the programmes can be either two or three years depending on whether it is intended to provide basic or secondary education or whether it is adapted to persons with special needs. The duration of studies for students who have already acquired secondary education is 1 to 2 years. Requirements for vocational education programmes are set out by the *General Requirements and Vocational Education and Training Standards* of the Ministry of Education and Science. Vocational education programmes are developed by vocational education providers in cooperation with employers.

In 2019, according to the open vocational information system AIKOS, there were in Lithuania 944 registered vocational education and training programmes, and 41 of them were in the field of arts.

Table 31: Study programmes in arts at vocational education establishments in 2019

Field of studies	Number of programmes	Titles of programmes
Audio-visual techniques and media production	11	Photographer training programme (4 programmes), Electronic publishing boarder's teaching programme, Audio and video equipment operator training programme (2 programmes), Stage technical service employee (4 programmes)
Handicrafts	22	Flower arranger man training programme, Ceramist training programme, Tanner training programme, Fine ceramics manufacturer training programme, Handicraftsman, Wickers artistic handicrafts producer training programme, Decorative handcraft producers training programme Handicraftsman of leather ware training programme, Florists training programme for disabled, Training programme for the florist assistant Training programme for the metal art worker, Florists training programme, Metal artistic handicrafts producer training programme, Fine ceramics manufacturer training programme, Florist modular vocational training programme, Fine textile handicrafts producer modular vocational training programme
Fashion, interior and industrial design	3	Interior decorator modular vocational training programme (3 programmes)
Music and performing arts	4	Ballet artist modular vocational training programme (2 programmes), Contemporary dancer modular vocational training programme (2 programmes)

Source: AIKOS

6. Cultural participation and consumption

6.1. Policies and programmes

Two of the four main objectives of the *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030*, adopted in 2019 by Lithuanian Government, are targeted to the accessibility of culture and cultural participation. The first objective is to strengthen the cooperation between the state, municipal and non-governmental sectors, reducing cultural exclusion and inequalities. The objective has to be achieved by accomplishing three tasks: to ensure leadership and proportionality of performed functions within the network of cultural institutions; improve the quality and efficiency of the performance of cultural and art institutions by optimally distributing services across their networks; and to ensure the sustainability of cultural human resources and their equal distribution. The second objective is to stimulate creation and participation in culture. It also comprises three tasks: to develop and foster talents by providing the appropriate conditions for creation in different artistic fields; promote the equal accessibility of high quality and various forms of culture for diverse social groups; and promote the participation in diverse creative activities by lifelong development of cultural competencies.

The third goal of the *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030* links the issue of cultural participation to the development of civil society and critical thinking of people. The tasks of the goal are the following: to strengthen the immunity of citizens and institutions to information threats and their civic activity and knowledge; strengthen people's critical thinking ability and understanding of cultural phenomena; and develop national awareness and cognition of tangible and intangible heritage of modern society.

Before the adoption of the strategy in 2019, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture already implemented some measures to increase the accessibility of culture and cultural participation. The newest measure is free admission to museums. Since the beginning of 2019, under the initiative of the Ministry of Culture, permanent exhibitions of national and state museums can be visited free of charge every last Sunday of the month. This regulation does not apply to private museums.

In 2018, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, launched a programme for schoolchildren called Cultural Pass (*Kultūros pasas*). The aim of the measure is to improve access to cultural and educational projects and events, develop cultural awareness and experience of schoolchildren by providing appropriate cultural and artistic services. The measure provides each pupil with a "cultural passport" worth 15 EUR per school year that could be used for visiting performances, concerts or exhibitions offered by various cultural organisations and selected by expert groups according to the needs of different age groups and other criteria. Depending on the age group, the pupil attends cultural and artistic events either with their class or individually. The range of services that can be chosen per year depends on the price of the service. In 2019, pupils of all age groups were involved in the project. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture allocated to the measure a total of 4.808 million EUR.

In 2011, the Ministry of Culture approved the "2012-2020 Programme for the Development of Regional Culture". The purpose of the Programme is to establish priority areas of regional cultural development and create conditions for cultural access and dissemination by making the regions more attractive for local communities, investors and tourism.

Since 2008, following the example of the contest of European Capital of Culture, the contest “[Lithuanian Capital of Culture](#)” has been organised. Under this programme, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture organises a contest and selects one Lithuanian town (with the exception of the capital Vilnius) each year as the Lithuanian capital of culture. The town is selected after experts evaluate the Capital of Culture projects submitted by the municipalities. The contest is organised every three years and cultural capitals for three consecutive years are announced as a result. Selected projects receive partial financial support from the Ministry of Culture. The programme seeks to promote the cultural activity and creativity of the residents of Lithuanian regions, develop culture, arts, and creative industries, and expand access to culture. Each nominated municipality implements cultural programmes, organises music, theatre festivals, exhibitions, provides educational workshops for children and young people. In general, the project has vitalized the activities of local communities, schools, arts and culture institutions, stimulated cultural participation and became an important factor for local and regional development.

In 2015, another competitive project – “The Minor Lithuanian Capital of Culture” – was initiated and started by the Ministry of Culture and the community of Naisiai village. The Minor Lithuanian Capital of Culture competition is announced and organised by the Union of Rural Communities of Lithuania. It is a project that stimulates small villages to be involved in cultural life and creative processes.

In 2006, in order to promote reading and help improve reading skills, The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture approved the Reading Promotion Programme. The Programme supports various reading promotion initiatives and projects, the election of the “[Book of the Year](#)” (organised by Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania), the “Top 12 Most Creative Books” competition (organised by the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore), and the event “[Lithuania Reads](#)” (coordinated by the Lithuanian Publishers Association) organised on 7 May, the Press Recovery Day. The [Reading Promotion Programme for 2019 – 2021](#) provides 8 measures (events, conferences, workshops) aimed at modernisation and accessibility of reading environments, development of reading promotion competences of cultural workers and educators, enhancement of reading abilities of schoolchildren and formation of a positive attitude towards reading.

6.2. Trends and figures in cultural participation

The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture commissions representative surveys of Lithuanian population (15 years and over) about the participation in culture and satisfaction with cultural services since 2013. The survey is carried out each 4 years. Currently, data of the surveys of 2014 and 2017 are available. The questionnaire used in the surveys has been prepared within the full scope of the cultural participation questionnaire of the ESS-net Culture.

There are publicly available data of the survey [Special Eurobarometer 278: European Cultural Values](#) of 2007 and [Special Eurobarometer 399: Cultural access and participation of 2013](#). The questionnaires of Lithuanian surveys of *Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services* of 2013 and 2017 involve questions about the causes of non-participation in culture from the questionnaire of *Eurobarometer Survey 2007* with additional questions relevant for the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture.

According to the cultural consumption data of the surveys of 2014 and 2017, there were no significant changes in figures of both years while comparing data on the level of culture and arts branches. The biggest decrease in consumption (-4.6) was in the branch of artistic performances. However, the attendance at live performing

events did not decrease, and the difference between the figures of both years was due to a decline in viewing or listening to recordings of artistic performances.

Table 32: Persons (≥15 years) who have consumed cultural products during the last 12 months in Lithuania in 2014 and 2017, pct.

Persons (≥15 years) who in the last 12 months..., pct.	2014	2017	Difference
1. have visited, viewed or listened to artistic performances	89.7	85.0	-4.6
1.1. have visited artistic events	57.5	61.4	3.9
1.2. have viewed direct broadcast outside home of artistic performances (for example, outdoors, at a cinema, public library or any other place)	32.7	31.2	-1.4
1.3. have viewed or listened to recordings of artistic performances	79.3	70.0	-9.4
2. have consumed products of visual arts and crafts	47.9	50.4	2.5
3. have visited cultural heritage sites (museums, galleries, exhibitions, cultural monuments, archives)	72.6	71.0	-1.6
4. have read books and press	97.1	96.3	-0.9
5. have used library services	38.3	35.3	-2.9
6. have viewed films and videos	89.0	91.4	2.3
7. have listened to the radio, watched television or used the Internet	99.7	99.8	0.1

Source: *Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services (ESS-net Culture methodology)*, 2017

The comparison of the data about the consumption of state founded cultural activities and activities without large public subsidies shows that the latter are more popular, and figures demonstrate a slight increase in their consumption in almost all categories except reading of periodic publications and watching TV. The biggest increase (by 3%) of the consumption in the group of state funded activities is in the categories of theatre attendance and monuments visiting.

Table 33: People who participated in or attended a certain cultural activity during the last 12 months in Lithuania (in % of the population, in 2007, 2014, 2017)

Activities heavily subsidised by the state	2007	2014	2017
Theatre	27.0	31.0	34.0
Opera performances	20.0	8.0	7.0
Musical	20.0	8.0	9.0
Dance (ballet or modern dance)	20.0	8.0	8.0
Concerts of classic music	-	12.0	14.0
Libraries	32.0	36.7	31.2
Archives	-	3.7	1.6
Museums	33.0	37.8	31.5
Monuments	51.0	50.0	53.0
Cultural centres	-	-	-
Activities without large public subsidies			
Cinema	33.0	35.1	40.8

To read books not related to the profession or studies	64.0	63.1	66.3
<i>In paper format (Usually use)</i>	-	62.0	64.0
<i>In digital format (Usually use)</i>	-	15.0	21.0
<i>Directly on the Internet (Usually use)</i>	-	-	-
To listen to music (Usually listen)	-	-	-
<i>In a computer or directly on the Internet</i>	-	-	-
To read periodic publications (Usually read)	-	88.2	86.7
<i>Directly on the Internet</i>	-	37.0	39.0
To watch videos (Usually watch)	-	88.0	91.0
<i>Directly on the Internet</i>	-	45.9	49.5
To watch television (Usually watch)	-	97.7	96.6
<i>Directly on the Internet</i>	-	25.0	30.1
To listen to the radio (Usually watch)	-	80.4	81.3
<i>Directly on the Internet</i>	-	18.7	22.2
To play videogames (Usually play)	-	-	-
To use computer for entertainment or leisure (Usually use)	-	-	-
Internet for entertainment or leisure (Usually use)	-	62.9	71.1

Sources: *Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services (ESS-net Culture methodology), 2017 full survey, LT, Special Eurobarometer 278: European Cultural Values* of 2007

Data about the participation of the population in cultural activities are available from the surveys commissioned by the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture in 2013 and 2017 and two special Eurobarometer Surveys of 2007 and 2013. However, questionnaires of the two Eurobarometer Surveys are slightly different, e.g. the questionnaire of 2007 did not include separate questions about the designing of webpages and playing an instrument, handicraft activities are put in one category with visual arts in the questionnaire of 2013 and distinguished in the one of 2007. Nevertheless, according to the data of 2013, 2014, and 2017, the most popular cultural activity in Lithuania was painting and drawing, and the percentage of people involved in this activity is close to the EU average of 2013.

Table 34: People who have carried out artistic activities in Lithuania in the last 12 months by type of activity, in % of total population, period 2007, 2013, 2014, 2017

Type of activity	2007	2013	EU27 in 2013	2014	2017
Writing	7.0	3.0	5.0	7.0	6.0
Painting or drawing	8.0	7.0	10.0	8.0	10.0
Other visual arts	8.0	7.0	10.0	3.0	3.0
Photography	9.0	4.0	12.0	5.0	8.0
Making videos	9.0	4.0	12.0	2.0	3.0
Designing web pages	-	2.0	8.0	3.0	4.0
Acting	5.0	2.0	3.0	5.0	5.0
Dancing	10.0	5.0	13.0	4.0	4.0
Playing an instrument	-	4.0	8.0	6.0	6.0

Singing	10.0	7.00	11.0	6.0	6.0
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Sources: *Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services (ESS-net Culture methodology), 2017 full survey, LT, Special Eurobarometer 278: European Cultural Values of 2007, Special Eurobarometer 399: Cultural access and participation of 2013*

With regard to the causes preventing the population from participation in cultural life, the most common personal reasons mentioned are the lack of time (47% and 45% of the respondents in 2014 and 2017 respectively indicated this as an obstacle), lack of interest (25% and 28% of the respondents in 2014 and 2017 respectively) and poor health (20% and 17% of the respondents in 2014 and 2017 respectively).

More than a half of the population of Lithuania has mentioned at least one problem of the supply and accessibility of cultural services. The most common problems indicated include an overly high price (37% and 36% of the respondents in 2014 and 2017 respectively) and poor accessibility of such services (“difficult to arrive” mentioned 16% of population in 2014 and 2017). The third place took limited choice and lack of information that are mentioned by 10% of population in 2017. Only 6% of population blamed poor quality and 5% inconvenient opening hours of cultural institutions.

In general, the main reasons for not participating in cultural life are personal (lack of time and interest, poor health) and that they did not change over the last 10 years.

Table 35: *Reasons of non-participation in culture in 2007, 2014 and 2017, pct.*

	2007	2014	2017
Lack of time	47.0	47.0	45.0
Too expensive	27.0	37.0	36.0
Lack of interest	24.0	25.0	28.0
Poor health	-	20.0	17.0
Difficult to arrive	-	16.0	16.0
Lack of information	10.0	8.0	10.0
Limited choice	17.0	11.0	10.0
Poor quality of cultural activities in your area	17.0	6.0	6.0
Inconvenient opening hours of cultural institutions	-	4.0	5.0
Other	4.0	3.0	1.0
None	7.0	5.0	7.0

Sources: *Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services (ESS-net Culture methodology), 2017 full survey, LT, Special Eurobarometer 278: European Cultural Values of 2007.*

6.3. Trends and figures in household expenditure

Table 36: *Household cultural expenditure by expenditure purpose, 2012, 2016*

Items (Field/Domain)	Household expenditure (in million EUR and percentages) per month	Average per capita expenditure (EUR) per month

	2012	%	2016	%	2012	2016
I. Books and Press (Newspapers, books and stationery)	202.1	-	198.3	-	1.57	2.44
Books	-	-	-	-	0.66	1.05
Press	-	-	-	-	0.91	1.20
II. Cultural Services (Recreational and cultural services)	454.2	-	781.6	-	0.49	3.57
Cinema, theatre and others	-	-	-	-	0.35	-
Museums, libraries, parks and similar	-	-	-	-	0.04	-
Photographic services and other	-	-	-	-	0.10	-
III. Audiovisual equipment and accessories	327.6	-	304.9	-	2.54	3.76
Support for recording image, sound and data	-	-	-	-	0.01	-
Audiovisual equipment and accessories	-	-	-	-	2.51	3.74
Musical instruments	-	-	-	-	0.02	0.02
IV. Subscriptions of television, information processing	-	-	-	-	1.66	-
Rental and subscriptions of radio and television	-	-	-	-	1.66	-
<i>Subscriptions of radio and television</i>	-	-	-	-	1.66	-
<i>Rental of cultural equipment and accessories</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Information Processing and Internet	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Material for information processing</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mobile devices</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mobile and Internet services</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL						

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

6.4. Culture and civil society

According to the data of the [Lithuanian National Cultural Centre](#), in 2018, there were 158 cultural centres and about 500 of their branches and subdivisions that are located in urban and rural territories of Lithuania, with 2915 amateur art groups, 886 studios and clubs that have in total 52 819 participants. Children's and youth groups comprise 36 per cents of all amateur arts groups, and young participants comprise about 38 per cents of all participants.

Table 37: Number of cultural centres, amateur arts groups and participants in 2014–2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of cultural centres	632	637	645	645	654
Number of amateur arts groups, clubs and studios	3908	3877	3863	3841	3798
Number of participants	52823	56138	53106	52956	52819

Sources: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#) and [Lithuanian National Cultural Centre](#)

The activity of state and municipal cultural centres is regulated by the *Law on Centres of Culture* (2004). The Law distinguishes between state, municipal and other centres. State centres for culture have the legal form of a budget or public institution and are founded by the Ministry of Culture. Municipal centres for culture have the

legal form of a budget or public institution and are founded by the municipal council. Other centres for culture are established by private persons or social organisations and can have various legal forms. The name of each centre for culture as an institution, regardless of its legal form, must include the words “centre for culture”.

State and municipal centres for culture are financed from the state or municipal budgets respectively. Other centres for culture are financed with their own funds. Centres for culture may receive state and municipal budgetary appropriations by taking part, according to the procedure laid down by legal acts, in competitions announced by the Ministry of Culture, counties, municipal councils for the implementation of appropriate cultural activity programmes financed from the state or municipal budgets. The Ministry and municipalities may additionally finance with their budgetary funds the activities of centres for culture pertaining to the organisation of state events.

The main functions of the centres for culture are the following: to create conditions for dissemination of ethnic culture; organise activities of artistic collectives of amateurs, workshops, and hobby groups; take care of preparation of artistic collectives of amateurs and their participation in song festivals, local, regional, national and international events; organise recreational, educational and other events; organise commemoration of national holidays, remembrance days, calendar feast days; take care of employment, artistic education of children and youth; organise events popularising ethnic culture, amateur art, to meet other cultural needs of the community; and create conditions for dissemination of professional art. Many cultural centres in Lithuania are established to provide meaningful leisure activities for young people, ethnic minorities or other social groups.

The main political body shaping the policy of cultural centres is the [Ministry of Culture](#). The Ministry founds, reorganises and liquidates cultural institutions providing methodological assistance to cultural and art workers of centres for culture, helping to implement qualification improvement programmes for cultural workers; establishes a strategy of the development of centres for culture, finances cultural programmes and projects related to activities of centres for culture, which are important for the Lithuanian culture; draws up drafts of legal acts regulating activities of centres for culture and approves them in the prescribed manner; approves a list of positions of cultural and art workers of centres for culture; approves forms of statistical reports of centres for culture; organises qualification improvement of workers of centres for culture; approves regulations of assessment of cultural and art workers of state and municipal centres for culture, and supervises the assessment; approves criteria of granting of categories to centres for culture and lays down a procedure of accreditation of centres for culture, etc.

The [Council of the Centres for Culture](#) is an advisory body under the Ministry of Culture, which carries out the expert and consultant functions when resolving the issues concerning the shaping and implementation of a policy of Lithuanian centres for culture. The Council of Centres for Culture comprises 11 members. 8 members are appointed and recalled by the Association of Lithuanian Culture Centres and 3 members by the Ministry of Culture.

The [Association of Lithuanian Culture Centres](#) (ALCC) unites 96% of all Lithuanian culture centres. Its aim is to represent the interests of centres for culture and to ensure that their activities are accessible in Lithuania and abroad. ALCC is a member of the European Network for Cultural Centres. It also delegates 8 members to the Council of Cultural Centres under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania. Members of ALCC take part in working groups, expert groups, funding programmes of the Seimas, the Government, the Ministry of Culture, and prepares projects of various normative acts. Members of ALCC are members of committees of the

Lithuanian Association of Municipalities and take part in the election of the Lithuanian Council for Culture.

To encourage creativity among cultural centres and recognise the best achievements and work of cultural centres, the Ministry of Culture established three Prizes for the Best Cultural Centres of the Year. These prizes are awarded for active, creative and innovative activities over the past five years in fostering ethnic culture and amateur art, creating artistic programmes, expanding educational and recreational activities, meeting the cultural needs of the community and organising the spread of professional art.

In 2005, the Ministry of Culture established the Prize for Active, Creative Activities at Cultural Centres. The goal of the prize is to encourage professional activities among arts and culture employees at cultural centres and recognise their best achievements and work. Heads of cultural centres and arts and culture employees who work at cultural centres can be nominated for the prize.

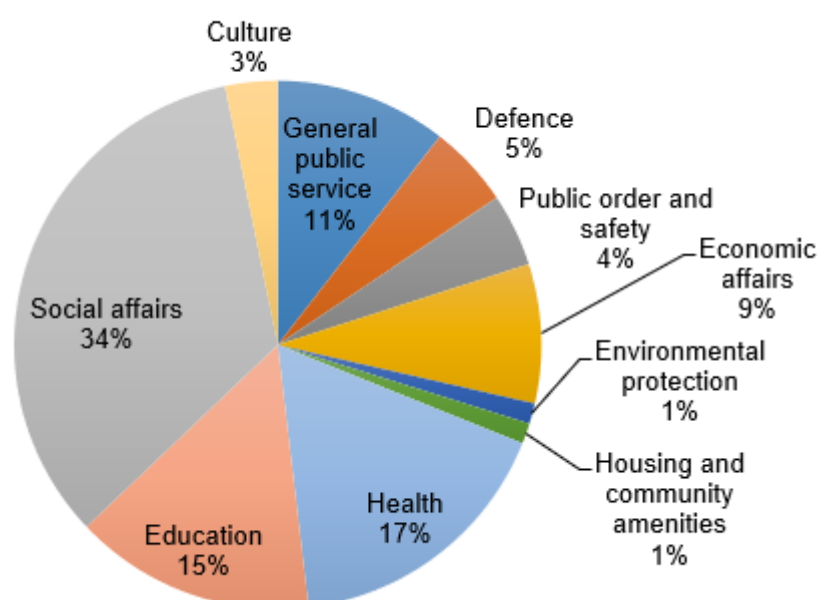
7. Financing and support

7.1. Public funding

7.1.1. INDICATORS

In 2018, Lithuania's GDP at current prices was 45 264 400 000 EUR, GDP per capita at current prices was 16 157 EUR. In 2017, public expenditure on culture* at all levels of government was 449 million EUR. The central government's share of expenditure was 243.2 million EUR, and the share of local governments was 205.8 million EUR. Public expenditure on culture in percentage of the total public expenditure was 3.2 per cent, and in percentage of GDP was 1.1 per cent. Public expenditure on culture per capita was 158 EUR.

Figure 1. General government expenditure in Lithuania in 2017



Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

*Public expenditure on culture (ESA 2010) comprises data of the indicator CG080 "recreation, culture and religion" as it is presented in database of Lithuanian Department of Statistics and Eurostat according to the COFOG 1999.

Over the last five years, the total public expenditure on culture has been gradually increasing. Consequently, per capita cultural expenditure has also increased, both as a result of increasing appropriations for culture and population decline. The share in GDP of expenditure for culture has not changed substantially over the last five years and it is about 1 per cent of GDP.

Table 38: GDP and public expenditure on culture in 2013–2018

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
GDP at current prices, in millions EUR	35 002	36 555	37 336	38 855	42 280	45 285

GDP per capita at current prices, EUR	11 828	12 462	12 884	13 486	14 796	16 157
Public expenditure on culture (all levels), in millions EUR	286.8	327.5	351.7	397.4	449.0	-
Public expenditure on culture (all levels) in percentage of the total public expenditure in that year	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.2	-
Public expenditure on culture per capita, in EUR	96	112	121	139	158	-
Public expenditure on culture in percentage of the GDP	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	-

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

7.1.2. EXPENDITURE ON GOVERNMENT LEVEL

Table 39. Public cultural expenditure by level of government, 2017

Level of government	Total expenditure on culture in EUR	% share of total
State (central)	243 200 000	54%
Local (municipal)	205 800 000	46%
TOTAL	449 000 000	100%

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

7.1.3. EXPENDITURE PER SECTOR

There is no detailed information on the direct government expenditure on culture by sector in Lithuania. The data can only be compiled approximately according to the *Annual Budget Reports* of the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, the *Law on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets* for the corresponding year as well as annual reports of the Lithuanian Council for Culture, Film Centre, and the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation.

Table 40: Direct state cultural expenditure by sector, 2018, in 1000 of EUR

Field/Domain/Sub-domain	Total in 1000 EUR	Total in %
I. Cultural Heritage		
<i>Historical Monuments</i>	9 331.461	3.82
<i>Museums</i>	43 612.504	17.85
<i>Archives</i>	7 438.200	3.04
<i>Libraries</i>	13 874.430	5.68
<i>Intangible Heritage / Folk Culture</i>	5 468.142	2.24
II. Visual Arts		
<i>Fine Arts / Plastic Arts</i>	2 258.374	0.92
<i>Photography</i>	625.113	0.26
<i>Architecture***</i>	561.515	0.23
<i>Design / Applied Arts</i>	341.196	0.14
III. Performing Arts		
<i>Music</i>	15 270.141	6.25
<i>Theatre, Music Theatre, Dance</i>	40 426.686	16.54

<i>Multidisciplinary</i>	1 016.017	0.42
IV. Books and Press		
<i>Books</i>	1 180.388	0.48
<i>Press</i>	1 513.941	0.62
V. Audiovisual and Multimedia		
<i>Cinema</i>	6 422.534	2.63
<i>Television and radio</i>	40 208.240	16.46
<i>Sound recordings</i>	-	-
<i>Multimedia</i>	429.000	0.18
VI. Interdisciplinary	1 012.005	0.41
<i>Socio-culture</i>	957.357	0.39
<i>Cultural Relations Abroad</i>	2 103.748	0.86
<i>Administration****</i>	48 521.380	19.86
<i>Cultural Education****</i>	679.500	0.28
VII. Not covered by domain I-VI	1 098.579	0.45
TOTAL	244 350.455	100%

Sources: data is compiled on the basis of the [Annual Budget Reports of Ministry of Culture, 2018](#), [Reports of Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#), annual report of the Ministry of Finance [2018 Appropriations Received by the State Budget Appropriations Managers](#), and [statistics](#) provided by the Lithuanian Council for Culture.

The Lithuanian Council for Culture provides data on the allocations of the Culture Support Fund by field in 2018. The Council implements two types of financing measures: funding of projects according to cultural programmes or arts fields, and funding of individual grants for artists. [Data about funding](#) are collected by the Division of Monitoring and Analysis of the Council and compiled according to the year of funding, arts fields, types of organisations, their geographical location etc.

Table 41: Allocation of funding by Lithuania Council for Culture by sector, 2018, in 1000 EUR

Field/Domain/Sub-domain	TOTAL			of which: Transfers	
	In 1000 EUR		in %	to budgetary institutions	to NGOs, companies, individuals
	Projects by field	Individual grants by field	Projects and grants together by field		
I. Cultural Heritage					
<i>Historical Monuments</i>	253.660	88.800	1.95	59.200	283.26
<i>Museums</i>	1 267.640	19.420	7.33	1 070.140	216.92
<i>Archives</i>	95.200		0.54	70.200	25
<i>Libraries</i>	455.400	43.300	2.84	399.200	99.5
<i>Intangible Heritage / Folk Culture</i>	776.550	47.200	4.69	418.450	405.3
II. Visual Arts					

<i>Fine Arts / Plastic Arts</i>	1 130.237	274.200	8.00	195.557	1 208.88
<i>Photography</i>	555.063	70.050	3.56	94.742	530.371
<i>Architecture</i>	538.715	22.800	3.20	12.000	549.515
<i>Design / Applied Arts</i>	240.396	100.800	1.94	12.200	328.996
III. Performing Arts					
<i>Music</i>	2 527.450	197.100	15.52	427.400	2 297.15
<i>Theatre. Music Theatre. Dance</i>	2 027.502	215.100	12.78	348.000	1 894.602
<i>Multidisciplinary</i>	1 016.017		5.79	137.900	878.117
IV. Books and Press					
<i>Books</i>	1 005.608	174.780	6.73	63.900	1 116.488
<i>Press</i>	-	-	-	-	-
V. Audiovisual and Multimedia					
<i>Cinema</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Television</i>					
<i>Sound recordings</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Radio</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Multimedia</i>	-	-	-	-	-
VI. Interdisciplinary	764.805	247.200	5.77	94.100	917.905
<i>Socio-culture</i>	957.357	-	5.46	381.427	575.93
<i>Cultural Relations Abroad</i>	659.300	-	3.76	203.300	456
<i>Administration</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cultural Education</i>	679.500	-	3.87	211.800	467.7
VII. Not covered by domain I-VI	1 098.579	-	6.26	82.00	1 015.679
TOTAL	16 048 979	1 500.750	100%	4 282.416	13 267.313

Source: Data for this table is provided by the [Division of Monitoring and Analysis](#) of the Lithuanian Council for Culture. With thanks to the team of the Division – Kristina Mažeikaitė, Martynas Tininis, and Martynas Darškus – who provided additional explanation about financing measures and data.

7.2. Support programmes

7.2.1. STRATEGIES, PROGRAMMES AND OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT

In Lithuania, several institutions provide financial support for artists and culture through funding programmes: the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Council for Culture, the Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation, the Film Centre, and the Lithuanian Culture Institute.

The Ministry of Culture allocates the biggest share of state financing for culture through direct institutional funding. It also implements a range of special programmes designated to support various fields of culture: the [Programme of Libraries Development](#), [Programme of Lithuanistics Traditions and Heritage](#), [Funding Programme of Projects Implementing Initiatives to Preserve Historical Memory](#), [Programme of Partial Compensation of the Cost of Dissemination \(Venue Hire\) of Professional Performing Arts Projects](#), [Programme for the Partial Funding from the State Budget of Professional Performing Arts Institutions that Are not National, State or Municipal](#)

[Theatre or Concert Institution](#) (see chapter 3.3 for more about the last two programmes). The Ministry, in cooperation with the Lithuanian Film Centre and Lithuanian Culture Institute, also coordinates the participation of Lithuania in EU funding programmes [Creative Europe](#) and [Europe for Citizens](#).

Other institutions – the Lithuanian Council for Culture, the Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation, the Film Centre, and the Lithuanian Culture Institute – implement financing programmes and allocate funding through calls for tender. Their budget consists of appropriations allocated by the Ministry of Culture.

The [Lithuanian Culture Institute](#) implements the [Translation Grant programme](#). The [Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#) implements 6 funding programmes: 1) periodicals of culture and art; 2) national periodical press; 3) regional periodical press; 4) national radio and television broadcasting, 5) regional radio and television broadcasting; 6) Internet media. The [Lithuanian Film Centre](#) allocates subsidies for the development, production and distribution of Lithuanian films and international co-productions.

The Lithuanian Council for Culture implements the greatest number of funding programmes and allocates the biggest share of programme financing. The Council implements two types of financing measures: funding of projects by cultural programmes or arts fields, and funding of individual grants for artists. Financing of arts fields includes projects of architecture, design, visual arts, photography, interdisciplinary arts, theatre, music, dance, circus, and literature. Projects funded by the arts fields programme have to be targeted at the following activities: 1) professional creation and its dissemination in Lithuania and abroad; 2) events; 3) accumulation of information (archiving, documentation) and its dissemination; 4) publishing; 5) professional criticism and analysis; 6) networking and mobility; 7) co-production. Cultural programmes financed by the Council in 2019 were the following: Periodical Events of Amateur Arts, Cultural Education, Artists' residences in Lithuania, Strategic Funding for Artistic Organisations, Memory Institutions, Civic Education, Cultural Heritage, Ethnic Culture, Strategic Funding of International Events, Cultural and Creative Industries, Protection of Copyright and Related Rights, and Creative Initiatives of Communities.

Table 42: Amount of programme funding allocated by the Lithuanian Council for Culture, the Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation, the Film Centre, and the Lithuanian Culture Institute in 2018

Institution	Allocated amount, in EUR
Lithuanian Council for Culture	17 896 581
Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation	2 741 000
Film Centre	6 423 000
Lithuanian Culture Institute	1 444 448

Sources: data is compiled on the basis of the [Annual Budget Reports of Ministry of Culture, 2018](#), [Reports of Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#), [statistics of Lithuanian Film Centre](#) and [statistics](#) provided by the Lithuanian Council for Culture.

Besides Lithuanian funding programmes, the artists can also apply for funding to international programmes, e.g. [Nordic-Baltic mobility programme for culture: support to artists' residencies](#). The Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Culture aims to strengthen artistic and cultural cooperation in the Nordic region and Baltic States. The programme focuses on increasing the exchange of knowledge, contacts, presence and interest in Nordic and Baltic art and culture. The Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme comprises three forms of funding: mobility, network and funding for artist residencies.

7.2.2. ARTIST'S FUNDS

There are not many special funds in Lithuania dedicated to supporting artists of various fields. The oldest one is the [Lithuanian Musicians Support Fund](#), established in 1992. The Fund is a public charity organisation and publishing house, which supports the development of Lithuanian musicians' creative activities, commemoration of musicians, promotion of music, patronizes talented musicians and music veterans. The Fund implements 12 programmes, such as various concourses, festivals and education programmes.

The [Lithuanian Writers Union Foundation](#) aims to give beneficence to the members of LWU and support programmes that correspond to aims of the Foundation or its subdivisions. In accordance to the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship Funds of the Republic of Lithuania*, the Literary Foundation supports publishing of fiction literature, especially the original type, management and publishing of the literary heritage of the members of LWU; literary events: conferences, literary evenings, commemoration of anniversaries, literary competitions, etc.; activities of the subdivisions of LWU, such as periodicals, publishing and bookshops; care of the memorials of the writers, other remembrance programmes; social and cultural programmes announced by Government.

The organisations of collective administration of copyright and related rights make payments for their members. National and international copyright is collectively administered by the Association [LATGA](#) established in 1991 and the Music Copyright Association NATA established in 2012. The collective administration of the performers and phonogram producers' rights are performed by the Lithuanian Related Rights Association [AGATA](#) that was established in 1999. At the initiative of the performers and phonogram producers, the related rights association [GRETA](#) was established in 2013. The Association of Audiovisual Works Copyright [AVAKA](#), established in 2008, administers the rights of the owners of audiovisual works. These organisations distribute royalties and make payments for represented right holders.

AVAKA has a Sociocultural Fund that is used to strengthen the audiovisual sector and encourage creativity through support of events, concourses, festivals, workshops, conferences and other activities, which enhance the professional competences of TV and film producers. The fund also can be used for special payments to AVAKA members in case of accidents, illness or death.

7.2.3. GRANTS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

The main institution allocating grants for Lithuanian artists is the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The Council awards two kinds of grants: [individual and educational grants](#). Individual grants are awarded to support individual artistic activities of culture or art creators, they amount to 600 EUR per month and may be awarded for a maximum of 2 years. Education grants are awarded for improving the professional skills of culture or art creators, in particular, for participating in traineeship programmes, courses, conferences, symposiums and other activities for building up professional skills. Education grants may also be used for covering the costs of creative residency or master classes. The grant amount to 3 600 EUR and may be awarded for a maximum of 6 months.

Table 43: Individual grants for artists by field of arts, distributed by the Lithuanian Council of Culture in 2014–2019

Forms of art	Number of grants distributed	Amount allocated in EUR
Visual arts	497	1 424 376

Music	455	994 810
Interdisciplinary arts	298	903 949
Theatre	322	651 427
Literature	208	794 380
Dance	162	311 645
Design	130	359 803
Libraries	156	213 205
Photography	102	368 835
Film	105	252 944
Cultural heritage	146	311 605
Traditional arts	99	232 794
Museums	110	141 170
Architecture	53	117 792
Circus	33	67 247

Source: [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#)

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania gives annual awards and prizes for outstanding achievements in arts and culture. The most important award is the *Lithuanian National Award for Culture and Arts*. The award was established in 1989. It is granted for outstanding achievements in culture and arts and has been awarded annually in six categories since 2006 (between 1989 and 2006 there were nine categories). The prize is formally bestowed on February 16, when the decorations and diplomas are presented to the laureates at Presidential Palace, commemorating the anniversary of the 1918 Act of Independence of Lithuania.

The *Lithuanian Government's Awards for Culture and Arts* were established in 2006 and aim to promote art creators, performers, musicians, film makers etc. for their merits to Lithuanian art. Up to 12 awards are granted by the Lithuanian Government annually to Lithuanian cultural and artistic creators and actors.

The most significant works of professional theatre creators and outstanding professional achievements in the fields of drama, opera, operetta and musical, ballet, dance, puppet and object theatre as well as children's and youth theatre are awarded with prizes conferred by the Ministry of Culture – the *Golden Stage Cross* and the *Borissas Dauguvietis Earring*. The award ceremony is held on World Theatre Day – 27 March.

In order to encourage and appreciate the creators, translators and critics of literature, the Ministry of Culture has been annually awarding premiums for the best works: the *Armchair of the Translator of the Year* (in cooperation with the Lithuanian PEN Centre), *St. Jerome's Prize* (in cooperation with the Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators), as well as the *Yotvingian Prize* and the *Young Yotvingian Prize* (in cooperation with the Association "Druskininkai Poetic Fall").

The Ministry of Culture organises the Dalia Tamulevičiūtė Competition for Lithuanian Authors of Performing Works of Art – a winner is selected from the sketches/extracts of performing works of art submitted to the Ministry of Culture from professional performing arts theatres according to the established procedure, to whom funding is allocated for the production of a play or one-person play.

Balys Buračas photography award is annually granted to Lithuanian photographers for the most significant work

or series of works that analyse, document or interpret Lithuanian culture.

Bronius Savukynas award was established in 2010 by the Ministry of Culture. The award is granted annually to authors of publications and chief editors of cultural publications for the purity and correctness of the Lithuanian language, and the dissemination of humanistic values, analytical thought and intellectual culture in periodical cultural publications.

Young Artist Prize is awarded annually by the Ministry of Culture. Nominees for the prize may be either young artists (14 to 35 years old) or teams of young artists.

Martynas Mažvydas Premium for merits to the Lithuanian language, history of writing and book art is awarded for the best research achievements in Lithuanian literature, language history, culture, and book science.

7.2.4. SUPPORT TO PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS' ASSOCIATIONS OR UNIONS

There are in Lithuania 19 artists' associations that have a special status of "artists' organisation" granted them according to the *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists Organisations* (1996): [Architects' Association of Lithuania](#), [Lithuanian Union of Journalists](#), [Lithuanian Theatre Union](#), [Professional Folk Artists' Association](#), [Lithuanian Writers' Union](#), [Lithuanian Musicians' Union](#), [The Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators](#), [Lithuanian Composers' Union](#), [Lithuanian Filmmakers' Union](#), [Union of Lithuanian Art Photographers](#), [Lithuanian Designers' Society](#), [Lithuanian Painters' Association](#), [Lithuanian Association of Landscape Architects](#), [Contemporary Dance Association](#), [Lithuanian Interdisciplinary Artists' Association](#), [Association of Performing Arts Critics](#), [Lithuanian Association of Chores](#), [Association of Vilnius Region Folk Artists](#), [Lithuanian Association of Artists](#). The latter organisation is an umbrella association of twelve artists unions. It was established in 1995. Its aim is to coordinate cooperation between artists and artists' organisations in Lithuania, represent interests of Lithuanian professional artists and writers abroad and organize public debates between artists and politicians on the development of culture and arts. The association organises conferences on culture and art, submits proposals on draft laws and regulations, participates in programmes for artists, reviews professional art programmes, and defends copyright.

Artists unions and associations that have the status of "artists' organisations" granted them according to the *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists Organisations* can apply for funding to the special programme "Implementation of Strategic Programmes of Artists Organisations", created by the Lithuanian Council for Culture in order to support these kind of organisations. Its budget for 2018–2021 is 721 000 EUR.

7.3. Private funding

Private funding for culture is regulated in by the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship* (1993), the *Law on Patronage* (2018), the *Law on Personal Income Tax* (2002) and the *Law on Corporate Income Tax* (2001).

According to Article 9 of the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship*, natural persons can transfer an amount not exceeding 2% of the income tax payable on the basis of an annual income tax return to Lithuanian entities that are entitled to sponsorship, i.e. charity and sponsorship funds; budget financed institutions; associations; public organisations; public agencies; religious communities, associations and religious centres; divisions (chapters) of international public organisations; other legal persons whose activities are regulated by special laws and which

participate in not-for-profit activity; artists registered as beneficiaries in the Information System of Artist's and Artist's Organisations maintained by the Ministry of Culture.

Data about the sponsorship provided and received by legal persons are collected by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics. According to this data, legal persons working in the field of culture received more than 13 million EUR sponsorship in 2018. Compared to other areas, culture receives nearly as much sponsorship as education, but almost three times less than sport. The total amount provided by sponsors for culture did not change significantly over the last five years.

Table 44: Sponsorship received by legal persons in various fields in 2014–2018 (in EUR)

Field	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Culture	12 763 000	11 326 700	11 406 900	11 721 500	13 273 200
Education	10 702 900	13 077 000	17 930 200	12 763 800	12 881 700
Sport	38 996 000	40 482 700	42 319 200	37 495 500	40 821 000
Religion	10 776 600	7 311 500	7 851 400	8 446 400	9 594 600

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

The Lithuanian Department of Statistics also provides some data about sponsors. According to the data, Lithuanian wholesale and retail trade and manufacturing enterprises provided the biggest share of sponsorship. Among foreign sponsors, companies of the USA, Germany and Switzerland were the most generous.

Table 45: Sponsorship for culture provided anonymously and by Lithuanian and foreign legal persons in 2014–2018 (in EUR)

Sponsors	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lithuanian legal persons	8 764 000	8 630 000	8 334 500	8 382 400	8 760 000
Foreign legal persons	2 702 800	1 481 300	1 406 500	1 351 000	1 628 700
Anonymous	1 296 200	1 215 400	1 665 900	1 988 100	2 884 500

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

According to the Article 34 of the *Law on Personal Income Tax*, after the end of the tax period, the tax administrator must, at the request of a resident of Lithuania and in accordance with the procedure established by the Government, transfer to Lithuanian entities that are entitled to sponsorship under the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship* an amount not exceeding 2% (since 2020 – 1.2 per cent) of the income tax payable on the basis of an annual income tax return. According to the data of [Lithuanian State Tax Inspectorate](#), in 2019, at the requests of the residents of Lithuania, the inspectorate transferred a total of 21 096 378 EUR to 23 492 organisations entitled to receive sponsorship. However, the data of how much of this amount of sponsorship went to artists and cultural organisations is lacking.

The *Law on Corporate Income Tax* of the Republic of Lithuania provides a regulation for sponsorship. Article 28 states that taxpayers who are entitled to provide sponsorship under the *Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Charity and Sponsorship* shall be allowed to deduct from their income two times the payments made, including assets transferred and services rendered, which are intended for sponsorship (see chapter 4.1.4 for more about the legal regulation of sponsorship).

The amendment of the *Law on Corporate Income Tax* in 2013 stimulated the private funding of Lithuanian cinema. Article 17² of the Law states, that in calculating corporate income tax, funds granted free of charge to a Lithuanian filmmaker for the production of a film or a part thereof in the Republic of Lithuania may be deducted from the taxable income. Due to the incentive, in the period between 2014 and the end of 2017, investors in Lithuania provided funds for the production of 68 films, including 22 national films, 23 co-production films and 23 foreign production films. In total, over 8.5 million EUR was invested in film production in Lithuania during this period, 1 million EUR (11.2%) for national films, almost 2.8 million EUR (32.8%) for co-productions, and almost 4.8 million EUR (56%) for foreign films. During the period of four years when the tax incentive was in force, the total expenditure of film production using the tax incentive scheme exceeded 43 million EUR, of which 24.4 million EUR was an investment by foreign film producers.

The *Law on Patronage*, adopted by the Seimas in 2018, has not yet made any significant impact on private funding for culture. The Law provides that the title of a national patron is awarded to a person who has provided at least one million EUR in support to the patronage project(s) at the state or more than one municipality level. A title of patron of a municipality is awarded to the person who has provided at least 150 000 EUR in support of the patronage project(s) in the municipality with a permanent population of 25 000 or less, and in case of the municipalities with more than 25 000 permanent residents, the title of a municipal patron is awarded to a person who has provided at least 250 000 EUR support for the implementation of the sponsored project(s) at municipal level. The Government assesses the compliance of the projects with the requirements of this Law, recognises the projects as appropriate to patronage, grants the title of the national patron and adopts decisions on the loss of the title of the national patron on the proposal of the Patronage Council. In 2018, the Patronage Council awarded the first title of national patron for the one million EUR support for the Balbieriškis Church restoration project.

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