

COMPENDIUM

CULTURAL POLICIES AND TRENDS IN EUROPE

COUNTRY PROFILE

LITHUANIA

Last profile update: October 2014

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It is based on official and non-official sources addressing current cultural policy issues.

The opinions expressed in this profile are those of the author and are not official statements of the government or of the Compendium editors.

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Standard Reference: Council of Europe/ERICarts: "Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe", 15th edition 2014. Available from World Wide Web: <http://www.culturalpolicies.net>.

ISSN: 2222-7334.

LITHUANIAⁱ

1. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: CULTURAL POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS.....	2
2. GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF CULTURAL POLICY	4
2.1 Main features of the current cultural policy model	4
2.2 National definition of culture	5
2.3 Cultural policy objectives.....	5
3. COMPETENCE, DECISION-MAKING AND ADMINISTRATION.....	7
3.1 Organisational structure (organigram)	7
3.2 Overall description of the system	9
3.3 Inter-ministerial or intergovernmental co-operation	10
3.4 International cultural co-operation	11
4. CURRENT ISSUES IN CULTURAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DEBATE.....	17
4.1 Main cultural policy issues and priorities.....	17
4.2 Specific policy issues and recent debates	18
4.3 Other relevant issues and debates	29
5. MAIN LEGAL PROVISIONS IN THE CULTURAL FIELD.....	31
5.1 General legislation.....	31
5.2 Legislation on culture	34
5.3 Sector specific legislation.....	37
6. FINANCING OF CULTURE.....	41
6.1 Short overview	41
6.2 Public cultural expenditure.....	42
6.3 Trends and indicators for private cultural financing	43
7. PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE.....	45
7.1 Cultural infrastructure: tendencies & strategies	45
7.2 Basic data about selected public institutions in the cultural sector	45
7.3 Status and partnerships of public cultural institutions.....	46
8. PROMOTING CREATIVITY AND PARTICIPATION.....	48
8.1 Support to artists and other creative workers	48
8.2 Cultural consumption and participation	50
8.3 Arts and cultural education.....	51
8.4 Amateur arts, cultural associations and civil initiatives	54
9. SOURCES AND LINKS	57
9.1 Key documents on cultural policy	57
9.2 Key organisations and portals	57

ⁱ This profile was updated by Dr. Viktoras Liutkus, co-author and editor of the Lithuanian National Report *Cultural Policy in Lithuania* (1997, Strasbourg) with the assistance of the national contributor Ornela Ramašauskaitė. **Last profile update: October 2014**

1. Historical perspective: cultural policies and instruments

The Declaration of Lithuanian Independence in 1990 substantially changed all sectors of national culture. The main directions of state reforms were focused at creating a culture legislation system, enhancing the role of arts associations, elaborating national heritage protection, creating specific "arm's length" bodies for evaluation of culture and arts projects (expert commissions, arts councils, self-government organisations, etc). In 1990, the *Lithuanian Cultural Congress* set the guidelines for national culture and formulated strategic trends for cultural life. That year also marked the beginning of several organisational changes in the administration and management of culture. From 1990 to 1994, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education were merged into one ministry, which has responsibility for arts education at all levels of training (art academies, art schools, non-formal education). Art education remains under the remit of the Ministry of Education and Science.

The first years of independence were characterised by the privatisation of many previously state-run cultural institutions. In the 1990s many state-owned cultural institutions changed ownership and / or organisational form. Privatisation had the greatest impact on the press, book publishing, film production and broadcasting sectors. Most of the network of former public cinema theatres was privatised and many state-owned historical buildings were returned to their previous private owners. The new phenomena of NGO's in the culture sector took over much of the concerts, festivals, and theatre life. Censorship of the media ceased officially in 1990.

In the mid-1990s, discussions on cultural policy issues were related to the creation of the *Principles for Lithuanian Cultural Policy* – a legal document on long-term goals and tasks for Lithuanian cultural policy. Heated debates over cultural policy involved artists, philosophers, politicians, and cultural administrators. Discussions were focused on such issues as cultural democratisation, protection of the national cultural heritage, guaranteeing freedom and diversity of creative activity, cultural self-governance. The *Principles for Lithuanian Cultural Policy* was finally adopted by the government in May 2001 (see: <http://www.lrkm.lt/>).

One of the important tasks outlined in the government's and Ministry of Culture's legal documents was decentralisation of the cultural administration. There are 60 local self-governments in Lithuania, which, according to the *Law on Local Self-Government* (1994; amended in 2012) have a substantive right to develop the cultural activities of local museums, cultural centres, libraries, and theatres, and to take care of amateur art, ethnic culture and heritage. A challenge was posed by the process of decentralisation and the redistribution of financial and managerial responsibilities between different levels of government – state, counties and local self-governments. In 2002, the *Cultural Development Programme of the Regions* was adopted by the government to form the administrative, financial, legal and information basis for the development of regional (counties) culture. However, county administration units were abolished in July 2010 and a new programme for the regions was adopted in 2011. The Programme defines priorities for culture development in the regions, provides preconditions for access and consumption of culture in province municipalities, and underlines the role of regions in cultural tourism and capital investment.

The other type of decentralisation that took place was decentralisation of the "decision making process". In the 1990s, several important cultural bodies were established (*Culture and Sport Support Fund; Press, Radio and Television Support Fund*) in order to endow independent bodies to take decisions on cultural development and financing of art, culture and media projects. The Culture and Art Council, as well as a number of expert

commissions at the Ministry of Culture, state cultural institutions and various commissions at self-government level (municipalities) were established and still function as important "actors" in the cultural sector.

In the 1990s and 2000s, cultural policy issues became an important subject in government Programmes. The Government Action Plans include state finance, legal, administrative and cultural information measures for the implementation of the government Programmes. The main institutional cultural activities, programmes and projects are scheduled in the strategic plan of the Ministry of Culture. In March 2013, the strategic plan for the year 2013-2015 was passed by a ministerial order.

On 14 May 1993, Lithuania became a member of the Council of Europe. An important development in the history of this country was the entry to the European Union on 1 May 2004. Lithuania's entry date to the Euro zone is January 2015. Lithuania took a leadership role as President of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2013.

In 2012, the government passed the *Resolution on the Programme of National Advancement for the years 2014-2020*, which included the horizontal priority "Education of society, science and culture". Through this document, culture became an important sector for social life, science, the economy, technology, ecology, etc. issues.

2. General objectives and principles of cultural policy

2.1 Main features of the current cultural policy model

Lithuania's government programme of 1994 was the first legal document which underlined the task to "complete the model of Lithuanian cultural policy". In practice the "model" was understood at the time as a document, where cultural policy objectives, guidelines and tasks for particular cultural sectors and cultural development should be indicated. A longer-term objective was to decentralise art and cultural institutions under the jurisdiction and financial control of the state and municipalities. From a legal point of view, decentralisation has been facilitated by the passing of the *Law on Local Self-Government*, which grants local self-governments the legal and administrative capacities to shape and implement cultural policy in line with their communities' needs.

During the last years, Lithuania's culture policy principles were based on "preserving" culture against the negative impact of the financial crisis from 2008-2010. The maintenance of cultural institutions and state support to development of the cultural sector still remains the main purpose of the Ministry of Culture. The Ministry is the main institution formulating and co-ordinating state cultural policy.

In 2012, a significant step towards an "arm's-length" culture policy model was made by passing the *Law on the Culture Council of Lithuania*, by which the new administrative and decision making body *the Culture Council of Lithuania* was founded (see more in chapter 4.1 and chapter 5.1.4). The Law became an instrument to separate the role of the Ministry of Culture as a cultural policy forming institution from the cultural policy implementation functions, which fall under the Culture Council. The Culture Council was established with the view to reform cultural governance and develop cultural self - realisation.

The Council has the following key functions: providing co-financing to culture and arts projects, programmes and other measures on the grounds of competitive selection of projects, based on the cultural experts' recommendations; administering the Culture Support Fund; awarding grants, providing scholarships and other financial support to culture and arts creators; organising culture and arts research; monitoring and analysing culture and arts projects; participating in and implementing EU and other countries' financial support programmes and administering the financial support funds providing for the culture sector; cooperating with state and municipal agencies and institutions; performing other functions specified by legal acts, etc. The decisions are taken by a collegial management body - the Meeting of the Council Members, chaired by the Chairperson and executed by the Council's Administration. The Council comprises ten members elected for a four year period by the principle of diversity in terms of areas of culture and arts and territorial representation.

These processes of establishing a new form of culture administration and decision-making system has shaped the main implementation instruments for the state's cultural policy, i.e.:

- financing of cultural and art institutions by the central government and the municipalities; direct and indirect financial support for the arts, artists and artistic creativity;
- legal background for culture, heritage, creative industries and copyright;
- cultural infrastructure scheme covering national, state, municipal, NGO's, private institutions;
- basis of cultural information, including press, radio, TV, new technologies (digitisation), cultural statistics, surveys, etc; and
- network of international cultural co-operation, using state foreign policy priorities and cultural diplomacy.

New cultural development obstacles were defined in the culture policy document, the *Guidelines for Alteration of Lithuanian Cultural Policy* (June, 2010; see chapter 2.3 and chapter 4.1). The 16th Government Programme (December, 2012) underlined the task "to elaborate a culture policy model", taking into account Lithuania's membership of the EU and processes of globalisation (see: <http://www.lrvk.lt>).

In general, the state still plays a dominant and decisive role in most issues of culture administration, financing and legal sectors. The main state cultural institutions fall under the Ministry of Culture and their culture programmes are financed via the Ministry's budget. Up to the end of 2012, the Culture Support Fund was administered and financed as one of the programmes of the Ministry. On the other hand, during the last decades the cultural policy model assumed the features of a more flexible decision-making mechanism. The system of cultural administration was created along the principles of decentralisation and upon models for co-operation between different administrative levels.

2.2 National definition of culture

The term "culture" in Lithuania has a very broad meaning. Traditionally, it covers all fields of artistic expression, creation and presentation (art, architecture, music, performing arts, literature, etc.), as well as cultural heritage, amateur arts, participation in cultural life, products created by or thanks to culture and arts institutions, various forms of spiritual life, etc. The Lithuanian description of culture is close to that provided in the *UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies Declaration* (Mexico, 1982): "in its widest sense, culture may now be said to be the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterise a society or social group. It includes not only the arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs".

In the *Principles for Lithuanian Cultural Policy* (2001) Lithuania's culture is defined as an "expression of the creative powers of an individual and the nation, guarantee of their identity and persistence; it shapes and depicts spiritual values and tangible properties, helps to educate a democratic, free and open society, promotes social and economic development of the state and reinforces its security".

In the *State's Long-term Development Strategy* (2002) the role of national culture was defined "to preserve and promote common European cultural values and national identity, to warrant its prolongation, openness and competitiveness in contemporary Lithuanian, European and the World cultural context". The *Resolution on the Guidelines of Alteration of Lithuanian Culture Policy*, passed by the Seimas in June 2010, underlines culture and creativity as fundamental resources for the state's development.

2.3 Cultural policy objectives

The *Principles for Lithuanian Cultural Policy* (2001) set several cultural policy objectives:

- to preserve cultural heritage and cherish the identity of the national culture;
- to promote creativity and diversity of arts;
- to develop an information society;
- to stimulate openness of national culture and its presentation abroad; and
- to guarantee participation in culture life and consumption of culture.

These cultural policy objectives were included in *The Strategic Plans of the Ministry of Culture* till 2011 and corresponded to the Council of Europe's cultural objectives: "promotion of identity", "diversity", "support to creativity" and "participation in cultural

life". The affirmation of national identity was understood as a traditional cornerstone of national culture. Promotion of artistic creativity and diversity reflected the state's endeavors to support art and artists as an essential part of cultural life and to guarantee a professional level of the arts. On the other hand, participation in cultural life and consumption of culture coincided with the keeping of firm traditions of amateurs and folk culture in Lithuania. These objectives in the strategic plans of the Ministry are addressed in the new wording.

With a view to achieving a consistent cultural policy and taking into consideration that the situation of culture in Lithuania demands a critical approach, attention and positive changes, as well as the necessity to preserve society's cultural identity and to grant to culture the status of a state-supported priority area, on 30 June 2010, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania approved the *Guidelines for Alteration of the Lithuanian Cultural Policy*. The *Guidelines* is the key political document that provides for alterations in the planning and implementation of cultural policy, creating preconditions for changing the role of culture in the state. A few important culture policy objectives and development directions are underlined in the document as strategic:

- to reform the cultural administration and to ensure its self - regulation;
- to enhance financing of culture;
- to guarantee protection of copyright and neighbouring rights, and to enlarge their importance for the creative industries;
- to shape an integral cultural heritage protection policy by creating its coherence with urban development;
- to improve access to culture; and
- to propagate Lithuanian culture abroad.

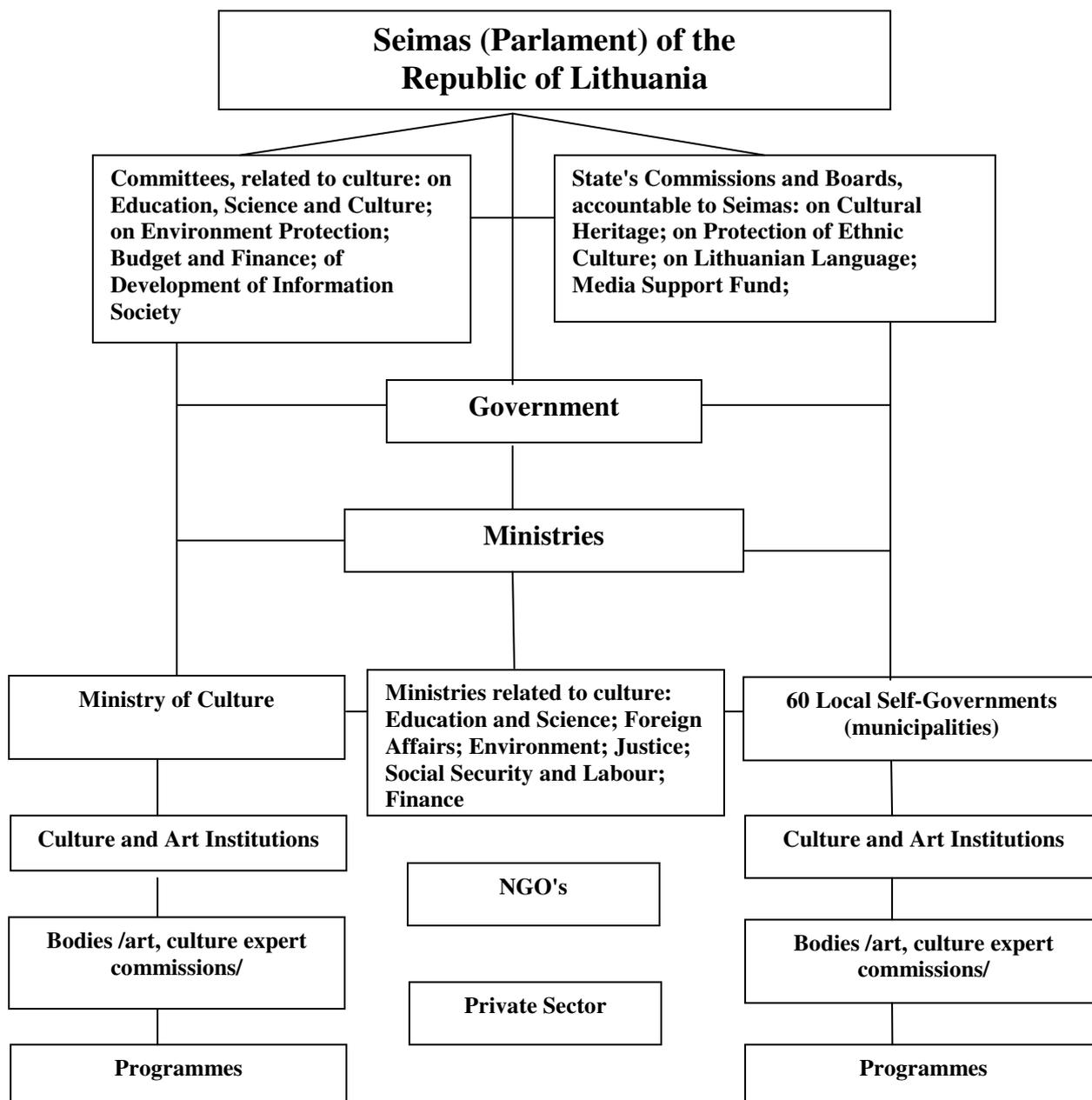
In practise, many of these new objectives reflected the basic principles of state culture policy of 2000s. In implementing this document, the government approved the Inter-Institutional Action Plan for 2012-2014 Implementing the Guidelines for Alteration of the Lithuanian Cultural Policy (see: <http://www.lrvk.lt>).

The Ministry of Culture set several priorities for the year 2014:

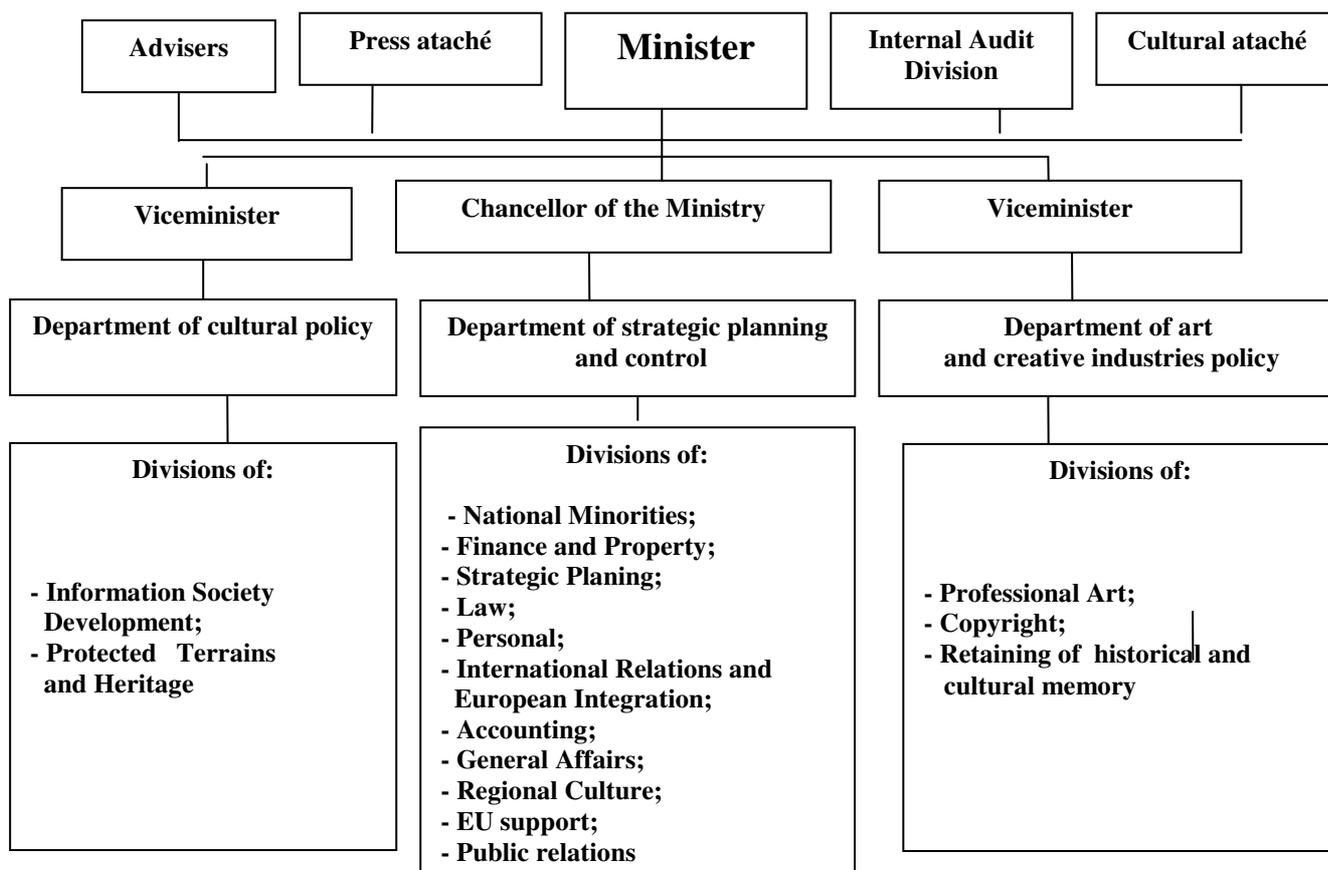
- access to culture for all groups in society;
- effectiveness of protection and relevance of cultural heritage;
- international competitiveness of Lithuanian culture and cultural products;
- enhancing tolerance and intercultural dialogue; and
- development of cultural services via the media.

3. Competence, decision-making and administration

3.1 Organisational structure (organigram)



Ministry of Culture of Lithuania*



Important institutions and bodies at the Ministry

Culture Council of Lithuania	State Language Inspectorate	Centre of Folk Culture
Department of Cultural Heritage	Lithuanian National UNESCO Commission	Ministry's Council of Culture and Art
Libraries' Council	Museums' Council	Self – Government Collegium
Film Centre	Culture Centres' Council	
Centre of International Culture Programmes	Copyright Council	Culture Heritage Digitise Council
Status for Art Creators Endow Council	Expert Commissions at the Ministry	Theatre and Concert Institutions Council

* situation on 12 09 2014

3.2 Overall description of the system

Lithuanian cultural policy is shaped and influenced by the central government (the state) and local / municipal authorities. The central government (Ministry of Culture) plays the most important role in forming general culture policy guidelines, while local authorities are responsible for culture development in municipalities. Up to July 2010, administrative units of county (*apskritis*) functioned at regional level.

The Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania plays the main role in framing the legal basis for culture. *The Committee of Education, Science, and Culture* of the Seimas deals with various cultural development issues, discusses questions of current interest and adopts decisions, it also analyses culture-related legislation. The main cultural bodies accountable to the Seimas are: *the State Commission for Protection of Cultural Heritage* established in 1995 (12 members); *the Council for Protection of Ethnic Culture* established in 2000 (21 members), and the *State Commission of the Lithuanian Language* established in 1993 (17 members). The *State Commission for Protection of Cultural Heritage* plays the role of expert and adviser to the Seimas, the President and the Government of Lithuania, and is responsible for shaping the state cultural heritage protection policy and strategy, for monitoring and control of its implementation. *The Council for Protection of Ethnic Culture* is a state advisory and expert institution on issues dealing with ethnic culture. The *State Commission of the Lithuanian Language* is an adviser to the Seimas, the President and the government on the state's language policy and provides proposals on implementation of the *Law on the State Language* (1995).

According to the *Principles for Lithuanian Cultural Policy* (2001), every year during the Seimas plenary session, the Minister of Culture must deliver an annual report on the state of Lithuania's culture. However, this tradition discontinued in the mid 2000s.

Each *Government of the Republic of Lithuania* draws up an activity programme outlining its main goals and tasks in the fields of culture, arts, and cultural heritage. A framework for the implementation of measures is laid down in a specific Action plan. In December 2012, the 16th Government's Programme was approved by the Seimas.

The Ministry of Culture is the centre for cultural policy formation, planning, co-ordination, monitoring, financing and legal issues. The Ministry is a founder of 13 theatres (3 national, 10 state), 17 museums (4 national, 13 state), 7 concert institutions (1 national), 7 libraries (1 national), 2 directorates of cultural reserves, Trakai Historical National Park, the State's Language Inspectorate, the Department of Cultural Heritage, and the Secretariat of the UNESCO national commission, 4 centres (data, 25 June 2014; see: <http://www.lrkm.lt>). There are 9 national cultural institutions, which function under the statutes, adopted by the Minister of Culture: Lithuanian National Philharmonic, National Drama Theatre, National Kaunas Drama Theatre, Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre, Lithuanian Art Museum, National M.K.Čiurlionis Art Museum, Lithuanian National Museum, National Museum – Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, and M.Mažvydas National Library. National cultural institutions have a separate budget line in the state budget. In 2012, the Lithuanian Film Centre was established as the governmental institution at the Ministry of Culture with the aim to form and implement state film policy.

The Ministry of Culture prepares the budget and drafts new legislation, monitors the financing and management of state cultural and art institutions, makes decisions on discretionary financing of arts and culture institutions, national minorities' cultural programmes, projects and scholarships to artists, annual national culture and art awards and it collects and disseminates information on artistic and cultural life and the effects of cultural policy measures. In addition, it bears responsibility for professional art and creative industries, copyright, heritage, ethnic and amateur culture and monitoring the functioning of the national cultural institutions. As of 1991, there are numerous expert

commissions and cultural bodies at the Ministry, providing advice to the Minister or ministerial departments and divisions (see organigram). The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the implementation of the provisions of EU documents in the field of culture, and the organisation and coordination of Lithuania's membership in the European Union cultural programmes. The Ministry allocate EU and EEA financial support for culture.

In 1991 the *Lithuanian Culture and Arts Council* was established at the Ministry. It was the first advisory institution at the Ministry with the right to provide proposals on cultural policy measures, recommendations to the Minister on various issues of culture life, legislation, allocate state scholarships for artists, etc. The functions of the Council also are to analyse the processes of cultural development. The Council comprises 15 members, elected for three years. However, the Council doesn't have influence over financing of culture and its role remains more consultative.

In September 2012 the Seimas passed the *Law on the Culture Council of Lithuania*, according to which implementation of culture policy is delegated to a separate budget institution at the Ministry of Culture, the *Culture Council*, established by the Government's Resolution in November 2012 (see: <http://www.lrs.lt>). The main objective of the Council is to evaluate and provide financing for culture and arts projects, and to monitor and control their implementation. The supreme governance body of the Council is the Meeting of Council's members (11), appointed by the government.

The *Collegium of Cultural Self-Government*, established in 1993 and functioning under the Ministry of Culture, provides advice and recommendations to the Minister on cultural policy issues with regard to municipalities and regions, legislation, financial support to cultural activities in regions and municipalities. Its members (13) are administrators and managers responsible for cultural affairs in municipalities and regions and are elected every year at an annual meeting of the Collegium.

There are 60 local governments (municipalities) in Lithuania. The local authorities have the right of self-governance granted to them under the *Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania* (1992) and the *Law on Local Self-Government* (1994; amended 2012). They have a right to establish committees (boards) to deal with cultural policy issues. Each municipality has units or special staff responsible for culture management. However, in practice many of these units, along with culture, are responsible for management of tourism, young people's affairs, and community leisure policy. Local authorities are responsible for the financing and maintenance of local cultural institutions and for cultural heritage. Local authorities are elected every four years (the last election was in 2011). In 1995, the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (ALAL) was established and is a non-profit non-governmental organisation, having the rights of a legal person, representing the common interests of its members - local authorities.

Since 1994, higher administrative units (10), i.e. counties (*apskritis*), functioned in Lithuania. Due to administrative reform these units were liquidated in July 2010.

In 2002, the Lithuanian currency Litas (LTL) was related to the Euro at a rate of 1 EUR = LTL 3.45. Lithuania's entry date to the Euro zone is January 2015, having already joined the EU in May 2004.

3.3 Inter-ministerial or intergovernmental co-operation

Inter-ministerial co-operation usually functions when ad-hoc governmental commissions, committees, working groups, etc. are established. There are no inter-governmental bodies in cultural policy-decision making and administration. The Ministry of Culture naturally

co-operates with other ministries (horizontal ties) in matters relating to copyright, heritage and terrains protection, local self-government, tourism, international cultural co-operation and representation of Lithuanian culture abroad, as well as in the fields of economy, social affairs, education in the arts, media, etc.

In 2013 the Ministry of Culture was responsible for co-ordination of 20 inter-ministerial programmes, action plans or strategies. Among the most important programmes are: *Inter-Institutional Action Plan* (2011) for implementation of the *Guidelines for Alteration of Lithuanian Cultural Policy* for the year 2012-2014; the *Programme of Modernisation of Culture Centres 2007–2020*; the *Programme of Modernisation of Museums 2007–2015*; the *Strategy of Development of Amateur Art 2010-2016*, etc. Alongside the Ministry of Culture, several ministries and state bodies are responsible for execution of these programmes: the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, Statistics Lithuania, and the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania (see: <http://www.lrkm.lt>). At the same time, the Ministry of Culture was a partner in 21 inter-ministerial programmes, co-ordinated by other ministries.

The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Science work in close co-operation on arts education, as the latter institution is responsible for maintenance of the higher art education infrastructure in the country. The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Science also co-operate by including cultural and art education in the general educational programmes. In 2008 the Ministry of Education and Science adopted the Prescript on the *Conception of Cultural Education of Children and Young People* and the *Plan* for its implementation.

In 2011 the *Creative Partnerships Programme* was launched on a national scale as an initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. The objectives of the *Creative Partnerships Programme* are to expand and enrich the conventional learning process; to develop the creativity of learners and teachers; and to develop a creative approach to teaching in Lithuanian schools. The Project is financed from the European Social Fund and the state budget. The total value of the Project is EUR 4.64 m. The implementation of the programme will continue until January 2015. The *Creative Partnerships Programme* is based on the experience of the UK *Creative Partnerships Programme*.

3.4 International cultural co-operation

3.4.1 Overview of main structures and trends

Lithuania's international cultural policy is oriented towards the implementation of bi-lateral or departmental cultural agreements and action plans. The main actors in the cultural foreign policy are the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, embassies and culture attachés. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of course, plays the first role in diplomacy's policy, and the Ministry of Culture shares with it the responsibility for cultural agreements and bilateral treaties. The Ministry of Culture has cooperation agreements with all the neighbouring countries. Since 1991 the government signed more than 40 cultural co-operation agreements with foreign countries. The main Lithuanian culture institutions, centres, artists' associations, higher art schools, and local self-governments as well have their own cultural co-operation relations / agreements and are the members of respective European or international culture and art networks (ICOM, ICOMOS, European Council of Arts, European Theatre Union, IFACCA, etc). The city of Vilnius was the European Capital of Culture in 2011.

International cultural cooperation projects are financed by the Lithuanian Culture Council and among the main areas and trends are dissemination of Lithuanian culture abroad; export of Lithuanian culture and creative industries, promoting artists' residencies, support for projects and participation in EU programmes, etc.

Focus has been placed on Lithuania's participation in the Council of Europe, the EU, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, UNESCO cultural programmes, and major European cultural events (Frankfurt and Göteborg book fairs, Venice Biennale, Berlin Film Festival etc.). In the second half of 2013, Lithuania assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time. A special cultural programme was drafted for this period and a number of impressive Lithuanian culture and art events were organised in Brussels, Gent, France, UK, Poland. Among the important culture issues considered within the Presidency were to reach a general approach in the Council regarding the recast of the Directive on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State; the development of Europeana, the public European digital library; the dissemination of digitised cultural heritage online; the transformation of the audio-visual media landscape affected by the latest technological developments, etc

Lithuania and the neighbouring Baltic States are linked by close relations, which are summarised in a constantly updated trilateral programme for cooperation in the field of culture. The field of international cultural co-operation became abundant with network opportunities and is established on various levels between Lithuanian and foreign authorities (ministries, departments), culture and arts institutions, artists' organisations, non-governmental organisations, foundations and private cultural bodies. Cooperation is also supported on the basis of agreements between ministries of culture and specific cooperation programmes in the field of culture. Currently, interdepartmental cooperation programmes have been signed with China (2012-2016), Israel (2012-2014), Russia (2012-2014), and Ukraine (2012-2015).

In 2001, the government passed the *Resolution on the Establishment of the Position of Culture Attachés of the Republic of Lithuania*, and has posted cultural attachés at Permanent Representation of the Republic of Lithuania to the EU in Brussels and in the Lithuanian embassies in the UK, Italy, Poland, the Russian Federation, France, Sweden, Austria, Ukraine, Israel, the USA, and Germany. Cultural attachés ensure promotion of Lithuania's culture and arts abroad, and promote cultural exchanges between the countries. (see more: <http://www.lrkmlt.lt/>).

3.4.2 Public actors and cultural diplomacy

The Ministry of Culture is the main coordinator and financial supporter of international cultural co-operation. A small share of the budget for international cultural co-operation is allocated by other Ministries (e.g., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science).

The Division of International Relations and European Affairs of the Department of Strategic Planning and Control of the Ministry of Culture is responsible for the implementation of the policies and promotion of national culture abroad: bilateral and multilateral cultural cooperation and membership in international organisations (UNESCO, the European Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, etc.), analysis and coordination of projects of cultural cooperation in order to coordinate EU and European Economic Area (EEA) financial support for culture and cultural heritage. The Division of EU support and positions for EEA financial mechanism programmes were established at the Ministry of Culture. In 2013, by order of the

government, the Ministry of Culture became responsible for supervision of EU financial structural support for culture in the period of 2014-2020.

In 2001 the Lithuanian Institute was established as a public institution in order to sustain representation of Lithuanian culture abroad. The institute was reorganised in 2008, establishing the International Cultural Programme Centre (ICP Centre). The Centre coordinates Lithuania's participation in the EU programmes "Creative Europe. 2014-2020", "[Media 2007](#)", "[MEDIA Mundus](#)" (till 2012) and "[Europe for Citizens](#)" (2014-2020). The Centre also supports translations and promotion of Lithuanian literature; implements major presentations of Lithuanian culture abroad; works as a contact point for EU programmes in the cultural and audiovisual sector. The ICP Centre coordinates implementation of the activities of the Lithuanian culture attaché abroad. The Centre is co-financed by the European Commission (see: <http://www.koperator.lt/en/>). In 2014, the decision to name the ICP Centre as the Lithuanian Culture Institute was enacted by the Ministry of Culture.

Several cultural institutions of foreign countries operate in Lithuania (e.g. Goethe Institute, Information Centre of Nordic Countries, Polish, Italian, French Institutes and cultural centres). Many of NGO are involved in various international cultural co-operation projects and initiatives. E.g., *Global Lithuanian Leaders* (GLL) is a non profit organisation, which aims to award Lithuanians and Lithuania-connected (by origin or other affiliation) professionals living overseas, who exhibit remarkable creative talent, exceptional vision, ambition and who are innovators in their chosen field: business, art and culture, science, economy etc. Among the partners of GLL are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, Vytautas Magnus University, World Lithuanian Economic Forum (see: <http://lithuanianleaders.org>). The Saulius Karosas Charity and Support Foundation was established in March 1998 (see: <http://www.skfoundation.com>) and provides financial support to young musicians, artists and other specialists participating in republican, international competitions, master-classes, and festivals.

In order to promote development of international cultural exchange, distribution and presentation of national culture as well as professional art in foreign countries, the Rules for Partial Funding for International Cultural Exchange have been prepared and verified by the Minister of Culture in the beginning of 2011. Since 2013, selection of the cultural exchange projects and their partial financing falls under the Lithuanian Culture Council. Applications for the European Economic Area (EEA) financial programmes "Preservation and Restoration of Cultural and Natural Heritage" and "Promotion of Cultural and Artistic Diversity in European Cultural Heritage" have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

Lithuanian experts participate in the activities of the committee of *MEDIA*, as well as in the European foundation *Eurimages*, which Lithuania joined in 2007. Within the range of five years co-productive project funding by *Eurimages* in Lithuania is as high as 94.4 %, the highest among the countries that may apply for funding by *Eurimages*.

3.4.3 European / international actors and programmes

Lithuanian cultural and arts institutions and non-governmental organisations participate in programmes initiated by the Council of Europe, the European Union, UNESCO, and other international organisations and foundations.

The Ministry of Culture is responsible for implementing and monitoring the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* (ratified by the Seimas in 2006). Lithuania as an observer participated in UNESCO's 6th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions on 10-14 December, 2012.

Since 2009, Lithuania participates in Nordic and Baltic States cultural mobility and residency programme, co-ordinated by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The *Programme for Artists' Residencies* was launched in 2012 and consists of three modules: network funding, artists' mobility funding and artists' residencies. Programme provides funding to invite international artists to stay and work in creative residencies in Lithuania. The National Co-funding Mechanism for European Cultural Cooperation Projects, which has the aim of encouraging the participation of cultural operators in EU cultural programmes, was launched in 2012.

The ICP Centre (the Lithuanian Institute) successfully developed the programme "*Europe for Citizens*": in 2011, 50 applications were submitted to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), which is administering the programme. Since 2011 the ICP Centre has been officially invited to take part in the activities of the EUNIC association. However, the number of Lithuanian culture organisations participating in the EU programme "*Culture*" is low: e.g, only 3 projects were supported by this programme in 2013.

Mobility Funding Guide for Lithuania (2014 edition) provides the list of organisations and institutions in Lithuania with funding opportunities for the international mobility of artists and culture professionals in Europe (see: <http://culture360.asef.org>).

Lithuanian state institutions, culture and art organisations, NGO's (especially from the regions), permanently promote the projects and ideas of Nordic art and culture in Lithuania aimed at developing Nordic-Lithuanian cultural cooperation. In this context, the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Vilnius plays a key role in co-ordinating and elaborating joint bilateral or multilateral projects. The Nordic Council of Ministers' co-operation with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is directed by guidelines agreed by the Nordic Ministers for Co-operation in July 2013 and adopted by the Nordic Council in October 2013. The Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for culture provides funding for network building in the long and the short term, artists-in-residencies and mobility for professional artists and in all areas of art and culture. The Nordic Culture Fund supports projects of Nordic-Baltic co-operation within the fields of art, theatre, music and media.

3.4.4 Direct professional co-operation

Since Declaration of Independence in 1990, one of the main features of Lithuania's international cultural co-operation policy was directed to Baltic and the Nordic countries. Nordic-Baltic co-operation in the past years was developed and created positive results in all sectors of art and culture. With the support of the Norway financial mechanism and the European Economic Area (EEA), the Art Colony in Nida was established in 2009-2010. A new institution functions as a unit of Vilnius Academy of Arts, and aims to develop artistic exchange and residential activities for design, architecture, visual and applied art students, professors, and researchers. In October 2014, *Res Artis Regional Meeting* was held in Vilnius and Nida which presented potential residency operators from Baltic countries, Central Asia, Eastern partnership countries, Nordic countries and the Russian Federation (see: http://www.resartis.org/en/meetings/regional_meetings/2014).

In 2004, the Culture Ministries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania launched the Baltic Training Programme for museum specialists, and annual workshops at the "Baltic Museology Summer School" are dedicated to improving professional and museum management skills. The workshops started in Latvia in 2004.

Three ministries have also signed a programme of cultural co-operation for the years 2012 – 2014, which aims to develop common projects in the fields of arts, film, theatre, libraries, museums, etc. Cultural heritage co-operation in the Baltic Sea States was initiated in the 1990s by the Ministers of Culture. The result was the creation of a network of institutions

and a longer term programme. Co-operation is focused on monitoring and implementing activities in the fields of underwater heritage, coastal culture and maritime heritage, building preservation and sustainable historic towns.

With the support of the MEDIA Training Programme of the European Community, the Lithuanian Theatre and Music Academy organises the International Summer Media Studios for film producers each year, since 2001. The "Summer MEDIA studio" (SMS) is an international film workshop and aims to train European Union film students: the two-week workshops include theoretical and practical elements. The project's pedagogical and financial partners are Helsinki Metropolia University, the Latvian Academy of Culture, Hogeschool voor de Kunsten, Utrecht, and the National Academy for Theatre & Film Arts (NAFTA, Bulgaria) (see: <http://www.summermediastudio.com/>).

Close links are maintained with Scandinavian and Baltic countries through programmes such as the festivals and symposiums organised by *Ars Baltica*. The first step towards an initiative aiming at the support and facilitation of cultural cooperation around the Baltic Sea was taken in 1989 / 1990 in Schleswig-Holstein, Northern Germany. The network advocates for the significance of arts and culture on the political level and promotes the cultural life around the Baltic Sea outside the own core region. In addition to public institutions, some Lithuanian NGO's take part in *Ars Baltica* projects as well such as the International Contemporary Baltic Dance Festival, Festival of Small Film Forms "Nets", etc. Other important cooperation platforms in this field include e.g. Baltic Films, an umbrella organisation that promotes films from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and represents their works at major film festivals and markets (see: <http://www.ars-baltica.net/>). ARS BALTICA maintains tight links with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

3.4.5 Cross-border intercultural dialogue and co-operation

The government does not have a special programme to support cross-border intercultural dialogue. However, the issue is included in the Government's Programme and Action Plan as well as in the Regulations and Strategic Plans of the Ministries. In practice, cross-border intercultural co-operation projects, initiated by regional or local authorities, twin cities, NGOs, neighbouring national communities are considered to be more flexible and dynamic.

In June 2005, the Steering Committee of the EU Baltic Sea Region Interreg III B Neighbourhood Programme agreed to finance the project "*Baltic Euroregional Network*" (BEN), with a budget of ca 1.4 million EUR. The project was launched in September 2006. The main goal of the project is to promote spatial development and territorial integration in the Baltic Sea Region by strengthening Euroregions as competent partners with national authorities and international institutions, and by building a network of Euroregions for continuous capacity-building and sharing of experience. The Lead Partner is the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania, and in total 35 partners from nine countries in the Baltic Sea Region take part in the project. During the period of 2007-2013 the INTERREG IIIA programmes are transforming into European Territorial Co-operation Objective cross-border co-operation programmes. One of the best examples of implementation of this programme is Lithuania and Poland cross-border co-operation. The overall strategic goal of the Programme is to foster the sustainable development of the border region through enhanced economic, social and territorial and cultural cohesion of the areas on both sides of the border.

The *South Baltic Programme 2007-2013* was launched in 2006/2007 and is a multilateral cross-border cooperation programme created on the maritime border between the southern Baltic Sea regions. In practical terms, the *South Baltic Programme* is a completely new cooperation area where cross-border cooperation structures have not yet been fully

established. Among the priority nr.2, "Sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage for regional development" of the Programme, cross-border strategies for preservation and use of natural and cultural heritage sites, areas, landscapes and traditions for regional development are planned.

In 2010, a call for proposals for actions within the Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus cross-border cooperation programme was issued by Lithuania's Interior Ministry, acting as the joint managing authority of the cooperation programme, which was a part of the European neighbourhood and partnership instrument 2007-2013 programme at the time. The Programme involved cooperation between the Latgale region in Latvia, Panevėžys, Utena, Vilnius, Alytus and Kaunas counties in Lithuania, Vitebsk, Mogilev, Minsk and Grodno oblasts and Minsk City. The project proposals had the aim to enhance the territorial cohesion of the Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarusian border regions, to help promote intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity, to secure a high level of environmental protection and provide economic and social welfare. The indicative total budget for the programme was EUR 8 million. Every action approved for funding is allocated no more than 90% of its total budget from EU funds.

3.4.6 Other relevant issues

In 2009, Vilnius was *the European Capital of Culture*. Around 100 projects and more than 1 500 culture and art events attracted 1.5 million visitors from Lithuania and foreign countries.

In 2008, following the "European Capital of Culture" as a prototype model, a new initiative to organise a "*Lithuanian Capital of Culture*" was launched. Each year, one city of Lithuania is selected by competition. The project's aim is to stimulate cultural development in municipalities, especially in regions and small cities, to involve local communities and institutions into cultural partnership projects, to stimulate international cooperation, etc. Panevėžys City, located in the North-East of the country, became the "*Lithuanian Capital of Culture*" in 2014. Deliberately taking the wishes of Panevėžys' residents into consideration, the project's initiators took the theme for the whole year, "*Panevėžys – Lithuanian Capital of Culture. The Crossroad of Culture*". The commitment is to boost the culture of different nations as a value encouraging a better knowledge of their own culture and to learn about less known ones, to open wider horizons of seeing and thinking. It also covers an active process of learning and showing that Panevėžys is a creative, friendly and tolerant European city (see: <http://kulturapanevezys.lt/en/apie-mus>).

Lithuania is *de facto* a country of emigration. Lithuania's emigration rate is among the highest in the European Union. Around 788 000 people or one fourth of the population have left the country since independence in 1990; the highest level was in 2010, when the number of emigrants was 83 200 people. A striking increase in emigration numbers in 2010 and 2011 was partly due to an introduced mandatory health insurance contribution applicable to all permanent residents of Lithuania. This encouraged those who had emigrated earlier to declare their departure in 2010 in order to avoid payments.

Lithuanian communities living abroad are registered in 35 countries. They are united in the World Lithuanian Community (WLC), a non-governmental organisation with the centre in Vilnius. Many of communities have developed educational, cultural, social infrastructures: schools, culture centres, archives, publishing houses, museums, churches, youth organisations, folk festivals, etc. Several websites of Lithuanian communities abroad have been established during recent years, which offers not only actual information on jobs or social issues, but also introduces cultural activities (see: in Great Britain (<http://www.labas.co.uk/blog/category/lietuviiai/>); Denmark (<http://www.lietuva.dk/>); Norway (<http://www.lietuviaiorvegijoj.com/>)). The main countries of emigration for Lithuanians are UK, Ireland, Norway, Germany, Spain.

4. Current issues in cultural policy development and debate

4.1 Main cultural policy issues and priorities

Recent years have brought principal changes in Lithuania's state cultural policy. In June 2010, the Seimas passed the Resolution on *the Guidelines for Alteration of the Lithuanian Cultural Policy*. According to the document, the Culture Council of Lithuania was indicated as a prospective institution in cultural policy implementation processes.

The *Guidelines* and the *Law on the Culture Council of Lithuania* (2012) raised great debates among artists, representatives of art and culture institutions, the press and politicians. The role of the Ministry of Culture in the processes of formation and implementation of cultural policy, the "arm's length" principle in financing culture, and the advantages of the Culture Council as an "instrument" of culture policy were discussed and resulted in rather controversial opinions. Opponents of the Culture Council argued about the composition and election procedure of the Council, about the Ministry's distance from responsibility in the culture budget control and the great risk of losing culture administration levers.

According to the Law, the Culture Council functions as an "arm's length" body with its own administration. The model of this body was elaborated to take into account the Scandinavian Arts Council system. The Council is a budgetary institution, established with the view to reform country cultural governance and develop culture self-realisation. Its core mission is to implement the state culture policy in the governance areas assigned to the Minister of Culture. The Council administers the Culture Support Fund, which is resourced from state budget allocations mainly, as well as other funds, and which is dedicated to financing culture and arts projects, programmes and other measures.

In October 2011, the government passed the Resolution on the Inter-Institutional Action Plan for implementation of the *Guidelines for Alteration of Lithuanian Cultural Policy* for the year 2012-2014 (see more under chapter 2.3).

The government programme for the year 2012-2016 (adopted in 2012) included many cultural policy issues, which were underlined in the *Guidelines*, such as:

- to implement the *Guidelines for Alteration of Lithuanian Cultural Policy*; to frame a long-term strategy for cultural development;
- to protect cultural heritage, to protect authors and neighbouring rights; to establish a Culture Council of Lithuania;
- to support art and artists, to strengthen regional cultural development;
- to increase investment and financing in the cultural sector; and
- to guarantee access to culture, etc.

The Ministry of Culture, considering the government's programme, set the following priorities in the Strategic plan of the Ministry for the year 2014, i.e.:

- to develop and disseminate culture and art in Lithuania and abroad; to enhance copyright and cultural industries;
- to preserve and popularise Lithuanian cultural heritage;
- to promote information measures for society, to disseminate public information;
- to improve access to culture and promote participation in cultural life;
- to exercise Culture Support Fund functions; and
- to expand the modernisation of the cultural infrastructure, to administer culture policy implementation processes.

By a Resolution of the Minister of Culture the "*Programme of Relevancy of Cultural Objects for the year 2014-2020*" was adopted. The document sets the guidelines for the state's and EU financial investments in the cultural sector, the criteria of selection of the projects with the aim to satisfy the cultural, social and economical needs of society, access and participation in culture. The Programme has two main guidelines: "the Means of Relevancy of Cultural Heritage" (300 million LTL) and "the Modernisation of Cultural Infrastructure" (352 million LTL).

Realising the Strategy "Lithuania 2030", in 2012 the government passed "*The National Advance Programme*" for the years 2014-2020. The Programme has a horizontal priority - "Culture", which covers cultural identity, creativity, and competitive cultural services for society.

4.2 Specific policy issues and recent debates

4.2.1 Conceptual issues of policies for the arts

The debates during the last period have been concentrated mostly on state tax policies and artists' social security. Artists were of the opinion that the state tax policy for the arts should be more focussed on alleviating the situation for artists in the period of economic crisis. However, reaching an agreement and mutual understanding wasn't an easy task during the years 2008-2011. In 2011 the government passed the resolution on "*The Programme of social security of Art Creators*", which aims to secure social guarantees for artists who have low and irregular incomes. A special fund was established to realise this Programme.

The 16th Government's Programme for the year 2012 – 2016 accentuates the following priorities in the professional arts sector:

- state support to arts projects;
- elaborate cultural policy model, taking into account Lithuania's membership of the EU and threats of globalisation;
- involvement of artists and their associations into processes of cultural policy formation;
- protection of copyright and neighbouring rights; and
- state support to professional art dissemination in regions and provincial municipalities.

See: <http://www.lrvk.lt/lt/veikla/vyriausybes-programa/>; chapter IX.

The Programme's issues are essential for artists and their organisations. Culture and arts policy still remains on the periphery during electoral campaigns.

In 2013-2014 the Lithuanian Association of Artists implemented the project *The Art Creator organisations information system for society*, which was based on the Lithuania – Switzerland co-operation programme for NGO's. The achievements of the project were: the Information System for the Lithuanian Association of Artists; a feasibility study on infrastructure and human resources development of the Association; training seminars on marketing for NGO's; evaluation of documents on the cultural and creative industries sector.

The Association is experienced in organising events and implementing national-level projects. The project "*High culture impulses for schools*" (AKIM) started in 2013 and provides direct communication between pupils and famous artists or cultural persons. Every month, meetings in schools that participate in the AKIM project are combined with theory sessions conducted by representatives of 11 fields of art (artists, musicians, performers, designers, etc). Over 500 lessons were held during the first quarter of the academic year.

4.2.2 Heritage issues and policies

The protection of cultural heritage is one of the priority areas and remains one of the pillars of the state's cultural policy. In 1996, the *Law on the Basic National Security of Lithuania* defined cultural heritage as a national security issue. Lithuanian cultural and natural heritage on the UNESCO List of World Heritage includes the Old City of Vilnius (1994), Curonian Peninsula (Kuršių Nerija, 2000), Archaeological terrain of Kernavė (2004), and Struve's Geodesic Bend (2005). Lithuanian cross-making (2001), Lithuanian polyphonic songs (*sutartinės*, in 2010) and the tradition of Song Festivals (together with Latvia and Estonia, 2003) are also included on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The protection of national cultural heritage is provided for by the following legal documents: the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (articles 42, 47, 54), *the Law on the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage* (1996, amended 2004), *the Law on the Protection of Immovable Culture Heritage* (2005), *the Law on Protected Territories* (2001) and *the Law on Planning of Protected Territories* (2004). In 2003 Lithuania signed the *UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage*. (More on heritage legislation in chapter 5.2 and chapter 5.3).

The *Department of Cultural Heritage* under the Ministry of Culture performs specific functions of the state administration for protection of immovable cultural heritage. It has responsibility for accounting, heritage management and control services as well as territorial divisions. The *State Cultural Heritage Commission* advises the Seimas, the President of the Republic and the government regarding national policy issues on the protection of immovable cultural heritage. The Commission's goals, administration, functions and financing are defined in the *Law on the State Cultural Heritage Commission* (2005).

The heritage protection divisions of municipalities perform certain functions for the protection of immovable cultural heritage, set conditions in the territories for protected objects, organise the approval of design documentation and grant the permits to build, reconstruct, repair or demolish the heritage objects in accordance with the procedure laid down by the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Ministry of Culture is the founder of important state protected territories, i.e. Trakai historical national park, the State Cultural Reserve of Vilnius Castle and the State Cultural Reserve in Kernavė. The Council of Cultural Heritage functions at the Ministry of Culture as the advisory body for the minister.

Cultural heritage policy comprises a number of interrelated elements: cultural heritage protection, accounting, research, promotion, administration and, legislation. In 2012 the Minister of Culture passed the Resolution on the *Guidelines of the National Culture Heritage Protection Policy*, which envisages priorities and directions for the planning and implementation of heritage policy. The document comprises relevant cultural heritage management, protection, tourism activities, and heritage specialist training issues.

Lithuanian Cultural Heritage Digitisation Policy is implemented in accordance with the *Lithuanian Cultural Heritage Digitisation Concept* and the *Strategy for Digitisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Preservation of and Access to Digital Content* (2005). The implementation of digitisation policy is coordinated by the Ministry together with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Information Society Development Committee under the Government and the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania. The Cultural Heritage Digitisation Council performs the functions of an expert and consultant in resolving the issues of formation, implementation and supervision of digitisation policy. In accordance with the Action Plan of the Strategy for Digitisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Preservation of and Access to Digital Content, in the period 2009-2012, a total of

8 major projects of digitisation and publicising of cultural heritage objects were planned in Lithuania. There are currently 3 million pages of digitised objects: archive files, manuscripts, books, posters, works of fine art, graphics, photography and digitised images of other objects. The web portal *www.epaveldas* (<http://www.eheritage.lt>) offers internet access to the cultural property preserved in the archives, libraries and museums of Lithuania. On the basis of the Strategy, digitisation activities are coordinated on a country level by digitisation centres – Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Art Museum and the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania. In accordance with the Order of the Minister of Culture (2008), the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania represents the state in the European Digital Library EUROPEANA, with a view to ensuring a consistent promotion of the country's cultural heritage and its dissemination in the area of European cultural heritage.

Since 2010, each year the Ministry of Culture, with a view to encouraging the memory institutions to disseminate and promote digitised cultural property, announces a Public Tender of Partial Funding from the State Budget of Projects for Dissemination of Digitised Cultural Heritage. It aims to ensure that the digitised heritage is used in educational processes, for development of the national identity and cultural uniqueness, the enrichment of society's leisure activities, as well as being accessible to a wider circle of the general public.

Lithuania is actively involved in the activities of ICOMOS, ICOM and the European Heritage Heads Forum as well as in the implementation of HEREIN (the European Heritage Network) programme. Moreover, Lithuania continuously develops cooperation with networks and associations specialising in the protection of cultural heritage. Following the decision of the European Parliament and Council to establish a European Union action for the European Heritage Label in 2011, it is also expected that Lithuania will continue its participation with one or two cultural heritage sites in these activities from 2014.

In 2014, there were 4 national and 13 state museums, 58 municipal, 18 departmental and 6 independent and NGO museums in Lithuania (see: <http://www.lrkm.lt>).

The administration of state museums is performed by the Ministry of Culture. The Museum Council has been established to provide expertise and consultancy services, creating policies and their implementation for Lithuanian museums. Lithuania has also founded the Lithuanian Museum Association and Lithuanian National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). In 2007, the government passed the *Museum Modernisation Programme* (2007-2015), which aims to create proper conditions for museums to collect, keep and promote objects of historical, literary, cultural, artistic, natural, scientific and technical heritage, as well as expanding possibilities for developing knowledge and creativity. The programme foresees modernisation of the present museum material resources, adding new exhibits to museum collections, restoration of museum items (treasures), using updated tools and technologies and ensuring public access to digitalised cultural heritage and information. In 2013 the Ministry of Culture allocated 1 438 000 LTL for modernisation projects of 32 museums. In 2014 the Ministry of Culture drafted *The Guidelines of Strategic Development of Museums for the year 2014-2020*. It may replace the former *Muzeums Modernisation Programme*.

The Ministry of Culture is a co-financer of the Lithuanian Integrated Museum Information System (LIMIS) designed for the registry and public presentation of collections kept in museums and prepared by the Lithuanian Art Museum in cooperation with the company AB Alna, as well as the Internet Web pages on Lithuanian museums. The LIMIS programme was completed in 2013.

During the last year new forms of cooperation between heritage institutions and other sectors (tourism agencies, higher schools, local communities, business centres, etc.) emerged. The public institution "Europos Parkas" ("Park of Europe") completed the project of restoration of Liubavas Manor Watermill, situated near Vilnius, and its adaptation to cultural and public needs. The project was supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Financial Mechanism and co-financed by the Republic of Lithuania. In 2012 Liubavas Manor Watermill Museum was awarded the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award as an excellent example of a fine and sophisticated restoration (see: <http://www.liubavas.lt/museum-today>). Vilnius Academy of Arts initiated and established in 2013 the Tourism and Culture Centre in Panemunė Castle in the Jurbarkas district. The Castle, dating from the XVII century, was restored by government, EU Structural Funds and the Academy's financial support and it caters for music festivals, art shows, conferences, students and local community meetings, tourism and leisure needs.

4.2.3 Cultural / creative industries: policies and programmes

The issue of cultural / creative industries in the Lithuanian cultural sector appeared in 2000s. The content 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 Arts Printing House (Menų spaustuvė) was established in Vilnius and became one of the famous centres for implementation of international theatrical, contemporary dance, new circus, interdisciplinary and educational projects (see more: <http://www.menuspaustuve.lt>). The processes of privatisation and free market formation also influenced the current understanding of creative industries as a wide field of culture, art, entertainment, cultural services, etc.

In 2007 (renewed in 2009), the *Strategy of Support and Development of the Creative Industries* was approved by the Minister of Culture. According to the Strategy, the creative industries include crafts, architecture, design, film and video production, publishing, visual and applied art, music, software and computer services, advertising, Radio and TV programmes and broadcasting, and the performing arts. In 2007, the National Association of Creative / Cultural Industries was established.

The government programme for the year 2008 – 2012 listed the following priorities: to increase the share of cultural industries in GDP; to elaborate the *Strategy of support and development of creative industries* by integration of art, science, training, business issues; to strengthen the infrastructure of the cultural industries sector; to stimulate financial investment in the cultural industries, including financial support of the Structural Funds; and to promote Lithuanian Film production. An Inter-Institutional Action Plan for implementation of the *Guidelines for Alteration of Lithuanian Cultural Policy* for the year 2012-2014 foresees the allocation of 800 000 LTL annually for Lithuania's participation in the Baltic and Northern countries network of creative industries. The Department of Arts and Cultural Industries Policy was established within the Ministry of Culture in 2013.

In 2010s several universities and colleges in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda launched the Training Programmes of Creative / Cultural industries with the aim to educate specialists in advertising, marketing, public relations, multimedia, TV, publishing and the communication sectors.

Over the past years, positive approaches to the creative industries were promoted in a series of international conferences and the publications of several research studies on the topic (e.g. "Creative industries in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania", 2010, 2011). In 2008, the study on "The Creative and Cultural Industries of Lithuania" revealed the situation and

tendencies of the creative industries development in Lithuania. An international conference on the cultural and creative industries "*Mainstreaming Culture*" took place on 1 October 2012 in Vilnius with the aim of promoting efforts to mainstream culture in a variety of policy areas and to highlight the relevance of culture in relation to innovation, education, social, economic and environmental policy on the local and national level.

The National Association of Creative and Cultural Industries was established to support cooperation between artists, culture and art organisations, NGOs, businesses, science and educational sectors, and support their participation in regional and international networks and workshops, and to stimulate the creative industries in Lithuania. The art incubators became a popular form to develop arts and business joint activities.

In 2009, the Art Fair ("ARTVILNIUS'09") started in Vilnius and became the greatest annual event dedicated to the contemporary visual arts in Lithuania. The organiser of the Art Fair is the Lithuanian Art Galleries Association. 36 galleries from Lithuania and 14 galleries from abroad participated in "ARTVILNIUS'13". The Art Fair contributes to the development of the art market in the Baltic Sea region and increases the flow of foreign art collectors, curators, and tourists to Lithuania. It also promotes the development of the creative industries and generates economic and cultural added value for the country.

The Pilot project "Urban creative poles" was a European project (2011-2013) that promoted the valorisation of creativity to advance innovation oriented development in the partner cities: Zielona Góra (Poland), Tartu (Estonia), Klaipėda (Lithuania), Linköping and Ostsam (Sweden), Brandenburg and Cottbus (Germany). The objective of the project was to create and apply good practice in the public sector, to promote the creative industries as a growing economic sector and basis for innovation (see more: <http://www.creativepoles.eu>). The similar project "Creative metropolises: public policies and instruments in Support of Creative industries" was launched by 11 European cities, including Vilnius, and has a three-year programme. The project is expected to result in a more focused and efficient public support system for the creative industries (see more: <http://www.creativemetropolises.eu>).

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 executed between May 2012 and August 2014. The partners and participants of the project were 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 National 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 options to strengthen their practical skills. 23 foreign conferences, 8 internships abroad, 19 training events, 17 creative workshops, and over 40 lecturers and over 200 researches from European countries and nearly 350 representatives and participants were involved in the project.

4.2.4 Cultural diversity and inclusion policies

The Lithuanian Constitution, adopted by a referendum in October 1992, accords ethnic communities the right to administer their affairs, including cultural, educational and charitable organisations and mutual assistance. It promises state support for ethnic communities and gives the right to citizens who belong to ethnic communities to foster their language, culture and customs.

According to the data of Statistics Lithuania, there were 2 943 472 people living in Lithuania at the beginning of 2014 (see: <http://www.stat.gov.lt/>). In comparison with 2013 the population decreased by more than 28 000.

Since the early 13th century, the Lithuanian state has been multinational, multilingual, multicultural and multireligious. According to the population census of 2011, there were 154 nationalities living in Lithuania: Lithuanians – 84.2%, Polish – 6.6%, Russian – 5.8%, Belarusian – 1.2%, Ukrainian – 0.5%, others – 1.7 %. In comparison with the population census in 2001, the national composition of the population of Lithuania has changed very little. Lithuania is the most ethnically homogeneous of the Baltic states. There are smaller populations of Armenians, Germans, Karaims (Karaites), Latvians, Moldovans, Roma, Tatars and Uzbeks. The capital of Lithuania, Vilnius, is the most multinational and multilingual city in Lithuania: in 2011 there were 128 nationalities living in the city.

According to population census, 59 religious communities lived in Lithuania in 2011. The main religious communities are: Roman Catholics (77.2%), Orthodox (4.1%), Old Believers (0.8%), Lutherans (0.6%), and Evangelical Reformers (0.2%), etc.

Specific minority rights were established by the Citizenship Law, adopted in November 1989 (amended in 1991), before the renewal of independence. Lithuania was the first country of Central and East Europe to pass the *Law on National Minorities*. This law gave most people in the republic the right to choose whether to become a Lithuanian citizen. The Law applied most directly to people who settled in Lithuania while it was annexed by the Soviet Union. More than 90 per cent of ethnic Poles, Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians residing in Lithuania in 1991 renounced their previous citizenship and were granted Lithuanian citizenship. By adopting the so-called *zero option*, which gave all people residing in the republic the right to choose, if they wish, to become a Lithuanian citizen, Lithuania has virtually eliminated the critical issue of citizenship that dominates interethnic relations in the other Baltic countries.

The Law guarantees the right of national minorities to receive state support for fostering of their national culture, access to information and press in their native language and to establish cultural and educational organisations. The *State Language Law* (1995) gives national minorities the right to publish information and organise events in their native language alongside the official language (Lithuanian). However other points of language policy raised discussions recently, such as the legality of Polish street names in the Polish-dominated municipalities. Inter-ethnic relations are generally good in Lithuania. Unlike in many European nations, Lithuania's largest ethnic minorities enjoy public schools where the language of instruction is their native one rather than the official Lithuanian language (see: <http://www.trueLithuania.com/topics/culture-of-lithuania/ethnicities-of-lithuania>).

In 2000, the Seimas of Lithuania ratified the *Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities* (1995).

The Lithuanian state television and radio programmes also broadcast programmes in languages other than Lithuanian and books and newspapers are available in the languages of the national minorities.

The state's legislation guarantees that everyone has the right to choose / or not to which national minority he / she belongs. Therefore, the terms "official" or "non-official status" of national minorities is not used in practice.

The *Law of Education* (1991, amended in 2003) states that educational institutions must incorporate information on ethnic cultures into their curricula and that national minorities should have access to pre-and post-grade schools funded by the state, including lessons in their own language. There is some evidence that national minority families are sending their children to primarily Lithuanian-medium schools, suggesting that social integration processes are advancing successfully.

In 2009 the *Department of National Minorities and Lithuanians Living Abroad*, under the government of Lithuania, was liquidated and its functions were delegated to the Ministry

of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science. The main reason to divide the functions of the Department was government's decision to reduce the number of institutions under the government. The Ministry of Culture became responsible for national minorities living in the country, the Ministry of Education and Science for schools and education of national minorities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Lithuanian community living abroad. The Division of National Minorities and the Expert Commission of National Minorities operates at the Ministry of Culture.

With a view to co-ordinating the state's policy in the field of national minorities, the Ministry of Culture is implementing the *Strategy for Development of National Minorities* and the *Action Plan for Integration* of the Roma community into Lithuanian society for the year 2012–2014.

The state provides financial support for institutions such as the Russian Drama Theatre of Lithuania and the Vilnius Gaon Jewish State Museum of Lithuania as well as for municipalities with a large number of national minorities e.g., in the South-East region of Lithuania where Polish and Russian minorities dominate. Nearly 300 non-governmental organisations of national minorities are engaged in active cultural activities in Lithuania. The non-governmental organisations have been established by Armenian, Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Chechen, Estonian, Greek, Caraites, Latvian, Polish, Roma, Romanian, Russian, Tatar, Ukrainian, Uzbek, Hungarian, German, Jewish and other persons belonging to national minorities. These are cultural, educational, professional and other organisations. Their educational and cultural projects are financed from the state budget.

Periodicals and magazines in the Russian, Polish, Yiddish and Tatar languages are published in Lithuania. Distribution of newspapers according to language is as follows: 91.8% Lithuanian; 6.9% Russian; 1.2% Polish; other 0.1%. There were 585 magazines and other periodicals published in 2013: 87.8% Lithuanian; 8.8% English; 1.3% Russian; 0.5% Polish, other 1.6% (data of 2013; see: <http://www.lnb.lt/leidiniai/elektroniniai-leidiniai/lietuvos-spaudos-statistika>). Lithuanian Radio and Television broadcasts information for national minorities in the Russian, Belarusian, Polish, Yiddish and Ukrainian languages. Since 2008 daily information in Russian is available via the internet (<http://ru.delfi.lt/>), and since 2012 in Polish (<http://pl.delfi.lt>).

With a view to meeting the cultural and educational needs of Lithuanian national minorities, several social activity centres of national minorities have been established: the House of National Communities in Vilnius (in 1991), the Kaunas Cultural Centre of Various Nations Culture (in 2004), the Roma Community Centre (in 2001), and the Folklore and Ethnography Centre of the Lithuanian National Minorities (in 2007; see: <http://www.lrkm.lt>).

4.2.5 Language issues and policies

According to the *State Language Law* (1995), Lithuanian is the official language of the country. The other most spoken languages are Russian (63%), English (30.4%) and Polish (8.5%) (data from 2012). The *Lithuanian Language State Commission* is responsible for setting objectives regarding the use of the official language including approving standards. It functions under and is responsible to the Seimas (Parliament). Control over the use of the state language is under the *State Language Inspectorate*, which functions under the Ministry of Culture. The *Law on State Language Inspectorate* was passed in 2001.

The Ministry of Culture programme "*Preservation, Actualisation and Popularisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Protection of the State Language*" comprises the protection of the state language from 2012-2014. The Seimas of Lithuania, accepting the EU position to keep local languages and dialects, declared 2013 as the *Year of Lithuanian dialects*.

4.2.6 Media pluralism and content diversity

Lithuanian National Radio and Television (Lietuvos Nacionalinis Radijas ir Televizija; LRT) is a non-profit public broadcasting company. LRT operates two national television channels (LTV, LTV2) and broadcasts three national public radio channels: *Lietuvos radijas* (LR), programmes *Klasika* (*Classics*) and *Opus 3* (started in 2006 and designed for young people). *Classics* and *Opus* broadcast culture, art and educational programmes. All national radio stations are available via the internet. In 2003, the LTV2 (second programme) was launched and is dedicated to the broadcasting of cultural, educational, regional, and information programmes.

The *Lithuanian Radio and Television Council* oversees the operations of LRT according to the *Law on Provision of Information to the Public and the Law on Lithuanian Radio and Television* (1996). The *Council* is the supreme management institution of LRT and is comprised of 12 members nominated for 6 years by the President of Lithuania, the Seimas, Lithuanian Science Council, Lithuanian Education Council, Lithuanian Art Creators' Association, and the Lithuanian Conference of Diocesans. The Council forms the state's strategy for LRT programmes, determines the scope and structure of the programmes, and the number of channels. The Council is accountable to the Seimas.

LRT receives about 70-75% of its funding from the state budget. However, the financing isn't sufficient to perform all objectives defined in the mission and the Statute of LRT. During the last years, state financing of national broadcasting has declined due to the economic crisis: 53.0 million LTL in 2008; 43.0 million LTL in 2009 and 35.0 million LTL in 2010. However, in 2011 state financing of LRT increased, and the total budget was 65.8 million LTL in 2011 (source: *Annual report of LRT*. 2011). In 2013 the total budget of LRT was 57.4 million LTL (source: *Annual report of LRT*. 2013).

In 2012, there were 27 private radio and 15 private television broadcasters in the country. The annual volume of private radio programmes totalled 313 300 hours; television programmes – 83 800 hours. In 2013, there were 55 radio and 32 television programmes in the country.

The Law on Provision of Information to the Public (1996, amended in 2000) sets forth procedures regarding the collection and preparation of public information for publication. It also outlines the rights, duties, and responsibilities of entities preparing and disseminating information (including journalists and institutions) as well as ownership regulations. The law stipulates state support for cultural and educational activities of public information providers such as radio and television broadcasters.

In 2006, the *Radio and Television Commission* signed an agreement on co-operation with the Institute of Journalism of Vilnius University. Both institutions agreed to take part in activities aimed at acquainting students with legislation regulating the audio-visual sector including its practical application. Training seminars and discussions on the media's mission in society were organised which addressed questions such as the professional role and contribution of journalists to television and radio.

In March 2005, a self-regulatory institution, named "*Lietuvos Reklamos biuras*" (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 safeguarding consumers' interests.

The share of foreign radio and television programmes dominates in non-public broadcaster programmes and has increased by volume in hours since 2011.

Table 1: Radio programmes, by volume in hours, 2013 (2011)

Programme	Lithuanian National Radio	Non-public radio
Original programmes	24 080 (21 860)	227 246 (312 400)
Foreign radio programmes	122 (92)	12 954 (7 061)
Joint programmes	917 (904)	10 387 (9 148)

Source: <http://www.stat.gov.lt/>.

Table 2: Television programmes, by volume in hours, 2013 (2011)

Programme	Lithuanian National Television	Non-public television
Original programmes	21 164 (19 105)	67 881 (71 392)
Foreign television programmes	2 440 (2 795)	35 771 (3 640)
Joint programmes	- (-)	11 518 (18 260)

Source: <http://www.stat.gov.lt/>.

4.2.7 Intercultural dialogue: actors, strategies, programmes

One of the main objectives outlined in the *Principles of Lithuanian Cultural Policy* (2001) and the *Guidelines for Alteration of Lithuanian Culture Policy* (2010) is to promote the openness of Lithuanian national culture and to improve access to culture for society. This is to be achieved through programmes to promote Lithuania's culture abroad as well as those to familiarise the local population with the culture of other nations.

In 2004, the *Programme of Integration of National Minorities into Society for the years 2005 – 2010* had a goal to integrate national minorities into Lithuanian social, cultural, economic life, while at the same time, providing support for the preservation of the ethnic identity of minorities and the development of coherent relationships among minorities. Several Ministries were involved in the implementation of the Programme including: the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, at the time the Department of National Minorities and Lithuanians Living Abroad, National Radio and TV broadcasters. The Government Programme for the year 2012 – 2016 foresees drafting of a strategy for development of the culture of national minorities, and establishment of a Department of National Minorities. The programme accentuates state support for national minorities' heritage protection, their amateur traditions and tourism.

Regions with a large population of national minorities (e.g. the South-East region of Lithuania, Visaginas municipality) have special cultural programmes and education plans to activate intercultural dialogue among members of the local communities. For example, the National Minorities' Cultural Centre of Visaginas City. In this city with a population of 22 100 (in 2011), there are 38 national minorities, of whom the Russians are in a majority – 15 491 (55.68%); Lithuanians – 4 419 (15.88%); Belarussians – 2 863 (10.29%); Polish – 2 541 (9.13%), etc. Muslims make 0.46% of the total of population of Visaginas, and are the second largest muslim community in Lithuania. The ethnic composition of Visaginas was influenced by regional economic development as Visaginas maintained the Ignalina's Nuclear Power Plant (the Plant was closed on 31st December, 2009). Folk art and amateur groups of Russians, Byelorussians, Ukrainians, Tatars, and Polish national minorities operate in Visaginas Cultural Centre.

4.2.8 Social cohesion and cultural policies

Equal access to culture and participation in cultural life are emphasised in the Government's Programme for the year 2012 – 2016. Social cohesion was defined as one of the aims of the state's policy – "to reduce social disparity" and gives priority to investment in the political, economic, social, science and cultural sectors. The *Guidelines for Alteration of Lithuanian Cultural Policy* (2010) and the *Inter-ministerial Plan for their implementation* promotes access to art and cultural values for all Lithuanian social layers, ensures the drafting of regional programmes in order to minimise disparities in provinces and aims to ensure a close link between the development of local culture and regional social policy.

However, the research study "*Survey of Conditions of Regional Culture*" (2009) revealed that the majority of respondents consider Lithuania's regional cultural policy insufficient. The possibilities to supply cultural demands for residents of regions are less than in big municipalities. Only 2% of residents of Lithuania's regions participate in amateur arts activity. In 2011 the Minister of Culture passed the Order on the *Programme of Development of Regional Culture* for the year 2012-2020. The Programme aims to improve access to culture and its dissemination in regions and local municipalities, to increase the role of culture in the integrated policy of local development, to stimulate links among service, tourism, business, science and education sectors, and to expand social cohesion and cross - regional cooperation.

In 2012, the pilot project under the Ministry of Culture "*Art for Human Welfare*" started as a social experimental project to ensure co-operation between culture, health care and the social sectors. The Project's aim is 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 survey (see: "Menas žmogaus gerovei", 2012; <http://www.lrkmlt.lt>).

While the state is the main supporter of above mentioned social cohesion programmes and action plans, there are more and more initiatives originating from NGO's and the private sector. *Open Air Museum of the Centre of Europe* (Europos Park) is a private museum, located in the surroundings of Vilnius. The museum organises programmes for disabled people and participated in a *Culture 2000* project, *Artistic Parks in Nature: the Bridge for Teaching Contemporary Art in Schools*, 2005, which involved young people and professional artists from different countries. The founder of the Europos parkas Gintaras Karosas established Liubavas Manor Watermill Museum as well, which was awarded the European Union Prize in 2012 for *Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra* as an excellent example of a fine and sophisticated restoration (see chapter 4.2.2). The project, *Užupio Respublika* (Republic of Užupis) was started by a group of young artists in the 1990s and became an art incubator for art shows, festivals, performances, exhibitions, and artists' residences in the Old City of Vilnius.

4.2.9 Employment policies for the cultural sector

There were 3 108 employees in Lithuania's state and municipality museums (106), 808 professional librarians in libraries under the Ministry of Culture (7 libraries) and 2 516 in 60 municipalities (1 281 libraries), and 4 337 employees in municipal cultural centres (761) in 2013. These numbers of employees are "in total", as only part of the institutions' staff are qualified specialists e.g. about 25% of national, state and municipal museums' employees are qualified as specialists (i.e., restorers, guides, researchers, curators, custodians of collection, etc.).

According to labour force surveys conducted by *Lithuania Statistics*, the average monthly net wage of persons employed in the fields of arts, entertainment and recreation corresponded to 1 636 LTL in 2012 (around 474.5 EUR). In comparison, for those employed in professional, scientific and technical sectors, the average monthly wage was 2 691 LTL in 2012 (around 780 EUR; see: <http://www.stat.gov.lt/>). The average monthly net wage of culture employees was 700-800 LTL (around 200-250 EUR), least of all employees.

In order to increase the real (*net*) wage in the cultural sector, in 2008 the government approved the *Programme for Raising Wages in the Culture and Art sector for the year 2009 – 2011*. However, due to the economic crisis the increase in the level of wages has stopped.

In 2014 the Ministry of Culture prepared the new model of remuneration for actors of state drama and music theatres who have partial labour hours in permanent job institutions. According to data selected by the Ministry in 2013, more than a quarter of the permanent professional actors of these theatres were not very active in repertoire plays and only performed in, on average, two plays per month. The model proposes to reorganise national and state theatres and concert institutions into non-public institutions and to form theatre companies on temporary labour contracts.

Training and re-training programmes have been set up for employees working in the cultural sector including courses on culture management and theoretical / practical aspects of culture. Up to 2012, these programmes were implemented by the Lithuanian Cultural Administrators' Training Centre, which functioned under the Ministry of Culture. After the closure of the Training Centre, the Ministry of Culture launched a programme for specific training courses on culture and institutional management and education projects. During the last years, the training process had been managed by the National M.Mažvydas Library, as well as national and state museums. In 2009-2011 the Museums' Association of Lithuania, with the support of the EU Social Fund and the Lithuanian government, organised and implemented the project "Skills and Effectiveness Training for Museum Specialists in the XXI Century II phase", which involved staff from 15 Lithuanian museums.

4.2.10 Gender equality and cultural policies

There are no special state policies or programmes to promote women's participation in cultural life or to improve their access to cultural labour markets. However, it is evident that women hold leading positions in culture departments within towns and municipalities, in culture and arts establishments, including national, non-governmental cultural and arts organisations, artistic groups and the like. Women are included in a number of the Ministry's expert commissions, the Culture and Art Council and the Culture Support Foundation expert commissions; hold the positions of Directors of the main Lithuanian culture institutions (e.g., National Museum, National Art Gallery, Lithuanian National Philharmonic Society, etc).

According to the survey, which was performed in 2009 by JSC Baltic Surveys, the Lithuanian society's attitude towards female politicians improved: 16% of men and 30% of women found the necessity to provide by law the percentage of women in elective and governing bodies. Following the survey data, even 35% of men and 57% of women believed that the cultural and educational politics would ameliorate if women would take a major part in politics and governance (see: http://su.lt/bylos/mokslo_leidiniai/Ilyciu_studijos/2010_8/butkuviene.pdf).

According to Statistics Lithuania, women dominate in sector "Arts, entertainment and recreation activities": 17 200 (in 2009); 13 000 (in 2011) and 12 700 (in 2012), whereas men's number was accordingly 8 300; 8 400 and 8 500 (see: <http://www.stat.gov.lt>).

4.2.11 New technologies and digitalisation in the arts and culture

In 1995, by the order of the Minister of Culture, the *Lithuanian Libraries Integral Information System* (LIBIS) was launched. The main aim of the programme is to create national databases of bibliographies and to design library catalogues. The LIBIS programme has been introduced in the National Library, regional libraries, 60 municipal libraries, Vilnius university library and in special libraries.

In 2005, the *Conception of digitalisation of Lithuanian cultural heritage* was completed and approved by the government. The Conception incorporates the EU document on digitalisation of cultural heritage, the *Action Plan on Coordination of Digitisation Programmes and Policies: Implementation Framework for Digitalisation Coordination Actions in Europe*. By order of the Minister of Culture the Council on Digitalisation of Cultural Heritage was established at the Ministry. In 2009, the government approved the *Strategy of Digitalisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Protection of Digitalised Content and Approach 2009 - 2013* (see more in chapter 4.2.2).

In 2009, the *Lithuanian Museums Integral Information System* (LIMIS) was launched. The aim of the Project is to establish an integrated system for Lithuanian museums heritage digitalisation and to provide internet access to art and cultural objects. In 2010–2012, the LIMIS system was introduced into 4 national and 15 state museums and the possibility of joining the system was created for all Lithuanian museums.

4.3 Other relevant issues and debates

Public debates on cultural policy and cultural life have widened over the past years, and the most vivid debates were held concerning the programme *Vilnius – European Capital of Culture 2009*. At the very beginning, the controversial friction between the Ministry of Culture and the NGO *Vilnius – European Capital of Culture* (VEKS in Lithuanian) arose due to procedures in the financing of the programme and the projects included in the programme. For example, within the framework of the public places humanisation programme aimed at contemporary interpretation of the city's open space, the sculpture by Vladas Urbanavičius "Embankment Arch" was completed on Vilnius Neris embankment (author: can you please explain why this was controversial?). Since the start, contemporary monumental construction remains a key-issue in public debates regarding its artistic value, suitability to nature, communities' taste, and is considered a non-effective cultural policy decision (see: <http://www.delfi.lt/pilietis/voxpopuli/vilniaus-vamzdis-imkit-mane-ir-skaitykit.d?id=21013850>).

The recent debates also are linked with the monuments located in the open spaces of Vilnius. During Russia's aggression in Ukraine in 2014, a very strong public quarrel was held regarding the soviet sculpture composition over the river Neris bridge "Žalias tiltas" ("Green Bridge"). Many of respondents on the *Delfi* website argued for removal of the sculptures as a reference to soviet occupation and communism ideology at the time. The composition of four sculptural monuments, including a group of soldiers, is listed on the heritage register as a representative example of the soviet propaganda art of the 1950s (see: <http://www.delfi.lt/temos/zaliojo-tilto-skulpturos/>). Therefore, legal issues side with the history of the monuments and considerations on the contemporary political situation in Europe became an important part of debates among the administration of the municipality

of Vilnius, artists, heritage specialists, and the local community. The final decision to remove the sculptures for restoration was made by the Department of Cultural Heritage.

Some cultural events during the last years raised wide public discussions, which revealed a controversial understanding of freedom of artistic expression in Lithuania. In autumn 2012, Romeo Castalucci's play "*On the Concept of the Face, Regarding the Son of God*" (Sul concetto di volto nel Figlio di Dio) included in the international theatre festival "Sirenos" in Vilnius evoked extremely fervent debates among theatre audiences, members of Parliament, art critics, cultural society, and the Church. The reason was the author's interpretation of the face of God and the content. Special debates concerning the play were initiated in the Parliament and several members demonstrated a censorial attitude and insisted on the exclusion of the play from the festival's programme. A couple of protest demonstrations by the aggrieved audience were organised at the theatre building as well. Nevertheless, the play was performed and attained great success.

5. Main legal provisions in the cultural field

5.1 General legislation

5.1.1 Constitution

Several articles of the *Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania* (1992) are related to culture.

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 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.

5.1.2 Division of jurisdiction

Competence in the cultural sector is defined by legislation. The government's (Ministry of Culture, other ministries) functions, role, activities and responsibility are defined by the *Law of Government* (1994; amended 2011) and the *Regulation of the Ministry of Culture* (2010). The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the management of all of the state's cultural institutions (museums, libraries, theatres etc.), national cultural institutions (9), implementation of heritage policy, Lithuanian language protection policy, support for cultural activities of national minorities, etc. (see more in chapter 3.2). The Ministry of Culture, acting in accordance with the *Law on Budget Composition* (amended 2007) and taking into consideration the priorities established by the government, drafts a budget for culture and defines its strategic plan. Central government institutions play a key role in culture heritage protection at national, regional and municipal levels.

The *Law of Local Self-government* (1994; amended 2012) determines substantive rights of the self-governments to develop general cultural activities (ethnic culture, museums, libraries, theatres, cultural centres etc.). The culture sector in municipalities, according to the Law, has a "limited autonomous" status, i.e. not all municipal actions in culture may be carried out independently, and the state (Ministry of Culture) has a right to interfere. The *Law on Public Institutions* (1996, amended in 2004) provides provisions on establishing and functioning of public institutions, including cultural, tourism, heritage, educational and other sectors.

5.1.3 Allocation of public funds

The following two funds are responsible for allocating public money for culture. The *Press, Radio and Television Support Fund (Media Support Fund)* was established by the *Law on Public Information*, 1996, and is responsible to Seimas. The Fund has a separate budget line in the National budget. The major priorities of the *Press, Radio and Television Support Fund* are financial support for publishing, radio and TV projects, public websites, and dissemination of cultural and educational information. In 2012, 8 938 000 LTL were allocated in the state budget for the implementation of the Fund's programmes.

The *Culture Support Fund* was established by the *Law on Culture and Sport Support Fund*, 1998, and reorganised in 2008. Up to 2012 the Fund functioned as a separate Ministry programme with the budget included into the Ministry's budget plan. In 2012, according to the *Law on the Lithuanian Culture Council* and the amended *Law on the Culture Support*

Fund, administration of the Fund and its budget's allocations are under the Lithuanian Culture Council. The Culture Support Fund resources comprise state budget allocations mainly; other lawfully acquired funds are dedicated to financing culture and arts projects, programmes and other measures. Only legal entities registered in the Republic of Lithuania are eligible to submit applications to the Council for Culture Support Fund financing.

The Lithuanian Culture Council ("the Council") is a budgetary institution, established with a view to reform country cultural governance and develop culture self-realisation. Its core mission is to implement the state culture policy in the governance areas assigned to the Minister of Culture, except for the areas assigned to the Lithuanian Film Centre, which is a separate institution under the Ministry of Culture responsible for Lithuania's cinema policy implementation. The fields of activities supported by the Council include architecture, circus, fine arts, photography, cinema, museums, cultural heritage, literature, music, dance, interdisciplinary art, folk art, theatre art and amateur art projects. The Council allocates its budget on the basis of competitions only. In 2014 the Council administered around 50 million LTL for cultural projects and sectors.

5.1.4 Social security frameworks

Those working in the culture sector fall under the same social security or unemployment schemes as the rest of the population.

Additional support for artists is granted by the state for:

- scholarships and grants for artists;
- National, Government's and Ministry's of Culture awards for artists;
- 1st and 2nd rate state pensions; and
- annuity paid to artists who may not engage in their professional activity for an extended period of time e.g. for ballet dancers, musicians, dancers, and chorus singers.

The status of art creator and the Social security programme for art creators as well as the administration procedure thereof are regulated by the following legal acts: the Law amending the Law on the Status of Art Creators and their Organisations (1996; 2004; amended 2010), and the *Government's Resolution on the Social Security Programme for Artistic Creators* (2011). *The Law on the Status of Art Creator and Art Creators' Organisations* regulates provisions to obtain the professional status of "art creator". Article 11 of the Law determines state support for art creators from the Social Protection Programme, approved by the government in 2011. The Programme guarantees the state financial obligation to cover social and health insurance of art creators, 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 on Theatres and Concert Institutions (2004; new version 2010) provides legal provisions for social security coverage for personnel working in these institutions (article no. 13).

5.1.5 Tax laws

The Law on Charity and Support (2000, amended in 2004) addresses charities and their support to the development of programmes in science, culture and education, as well as programmes for the protection and restoration of cultural monuments. It has legalised the establishment of non-profit funding organisations. However, according to this law, VAT exemptions are applied only to government (state, municipalities) institutions.

The Law on Population Income Tax (2002) set a 15% royalty tax and gave the residents of Lithuania the right to transfer up to 2% of income-tax to legal recipients of support.

During the last four years, the state VAT policy was changed due to the economic crisis, and all exemptions for cultural services and goods were abolished or limited. Since September 2009, a standard VAT rate of 21% was applied. However, according to the *Law on Value Added Tax* (1993; amended in 2010), the VAT rate of 9% is applied to books and non-periodical editions of information (textbooks, dictionaries, lexicons, maps, schemes, children books, etc.). These changes have increased publishing, printing and circulation costs. New tax rates were introduced in the copyright sector in 2010 as well. A total tax rate of 38.7% is applied to authors who are freelancers and don't have social insurance.

5.1.6 Labour laws

See chapter 5.3.2.

5.1.7 Copyright provisions

The state policy in the field of copyright and related rights is implemented by the Ministry of Culture, which co-ordinates protection of the above rights in line with its competence. Copyright of Lithuanian and foreign authors is administered by the agency for Lithuanian Author's Copyright Protection Association (LATGA-A) founded in 1991. In 1999, the *Association of Rights Related to Copyright* (AGATA) was established with a view to administering the related rights of performers and producers of phonograms. The sale of blank audio and videotapes remains tax-free.

The *Law on Authors and Related Rights* was adopted in 1999 (amended 2003; 2006). It defines the system of protection and monitoring of authors and neighbouring rights and the responsibilities of respective institutions. The *Law on Authors and Related Rights* complies with the requirements of international law and ensures such protection of performers and producers of phonograms as are in effect in other European states.

In 2006, the Lithuanian Parliament adopted amendments to the *Law on Copyright and Related Rights*. These amendments were crucially important for Lithuania's audiovisual sector and are particularly 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.. There have been some instances in Lithuania, where an entire programme or a part of it was broadcast on the Internet in exchange for payment without the consent of, or agreement with, the broadcaster. 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 a 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.

For the purpose of protecting the author's interests, the Law provides that any action by a person, holding the author's economic rights, shall not violate the author's dignity and reputation.

In 2009, there were several copyright administration agencies in Lithuania:

- Author's Copyright Protection Association (LATGA-A);
- Lithuanian Agency of Related Rights (AGATA, established in 1999);
- Danish Association NCB Branch "NCB Lietuva" (Copyright Bureau of Nordic Countries, established in 2006; administers rights of reproduction on the internet and records);
- Association of Authors' of Audiovisual Production Copyright (AVAKA, established in 2008); and
- Association of Music Authors NATA (composers, arrangers, texts authors; established in 2012).

The latter association was established as opposition to LATGA-A. The establishment of the Association accompanied intensive debates. Founders of NATA suspected that funding distribution is not transparent and administrative expenses of LATGA-A are exaggerated. The Association promised new members an increase in funding and committed to collectively administer musical authors' copyright.

In 2013 by the order of the Minister of Culture *the Schedule of Programmes for Protection of Creative Activity, Authors and Related Rights* was passed. The programme foresees the criteria of financing artistic activity, allowing 30% of the total Programme budget for creative projects and 70% for Authors and Related Rights protection projects.

5.1.8 Data protection laws

Data are protected by the *Law on Authors and Related Rights* (1999; new version 2003; 2006). Non-Profit organisation INFOBALT, founded in 1994, provides legal services to companies and organisations on the protection of intellectual property (copyright for computer and database authors and their assignees).

5.1.9 Language laws

The *State Language Law* (1995) determines the use of the Lithuanian language as the state language in public life, its protection, control and responsibility for violations of the Law. Under the Law, audiovisual programmes and films shown to the general public must be translated (dubbed) into Lithuanian or have Lithuanian subtitles. The Lithuanian state television and radio broadcasts programmes in other languages with translations into Lithuanian.

5.1.10 Other areas of general legislation

The *Law on Charity and Promotion* was passed in 1993 (amended in 2011) defines administrative procedures of promotion, the rights of donors and recipients, tax exemptions, control and accounting of donations and relief.

5.2 Legislation on culture

Since the 1990s, the process of drawing up and adopting laws and other legal acts has often been rather complicated and hasty due to changing economic conditions, privatisation processes, incompatibility of legal acts (in fields other than culture), unduly prolonged consideration of draft laws, etc. Despite these challenges, Lithuania's cultural legal framework is fairly well developed and operative for the time being. It currently regulates

culture administration and management, financing sources and bodies, the activities of culture and arts institutions, artists' organisations and sectors of specific fields (copyright, creative industries, "arm's length" cultural bodies, etc.).

Table 3: Laws and regulations classified according to the following categories:

Title of the legal act	Year of adoption
Cultural policy	
<i>Principles of Lithuanian Cultural Policy</i>	2001
<i>Guidelines for Alternation of Lithuanian Cultural Policy</i>	2010
<i>Culture Development Programme of the Regions</i>	2002; amended 2011
<i>State's Long-term Development Strategy</i>	2002;
<i>State Programme for the Development of Ethnic Culture</i>	2003; 2010
<i>Government Programme and Action Plan for the year 2012 – 2016</i>	2012
Governing structures and procedures	
<i>Law of Government</i>	1994; 1998
<i>Law of Culture Council of Lithuania</i>	2012
<i>Regulation of Lithuanian Culture and Art Council</i>	2001; 2009
<i>Law of Local Self-government</i>	2000, amended
<i>Law of Culture Support Fund</i>	1998; 2012, amended
<i>Government's Resolution on Regulation of the Ministry of Culture</i>	2010
<i>Law on Press, Radio and Television Support Fund (Media Support Fund)</i>	1996
Financing	
<i>Law on Budget Institutions</i>	1995
Arts	
<i>Law on Cinema</i>	2002; amended 2011
<i>Law on the Status of Art Creator and Art Creators' Organisations</i>	1996; amended 2011
<i>Law on Theatres and Concert Institutions</i>	2004
Heritage	
<i>Guidelines for National Protection of Cultural Heritage</i>	2012
<i>Law on Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage</i>	1994, amended 2005
<i>Law on the Protection of Movable Cultural Properties</i>	1996, amended 2010
<i>Government's Resolution on the Programme of Museums Modernisation.</i>	2007
<i>Law on Protected Territories</i>	2001
<i>Law on Planning of Territories</i>	1995; amended 2004
<i>Law on State Commission on Protection of Cultural Heritage</i>	2005
<i>Law on the Principles of the State Protection of Ethnic Culture</i>	1999
<i>Law on Museums</i>	1995, amended 2003
<i>Law on National Produce Heritage</i>	2007
<i>Law on Documents and Archives</i>	1995; amended 2004
<i>Regulation on State indemnity for temporary imported cultural goods to Lithuania</i>	2003
<i>Government Resolution on Strategy of Digitalisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage</i>	2009
Copyright	
<i>Law on Authors and Related Rights</i>	1999 (amended 2003; 2006)
<i>Copyright and Related Rights Protection Strategy</i>	2000

Table 4: Lithuania ratified several important international conventions

Title of the act	Year of ratification
Heritage	
<i>Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage</i>	1992
<i>UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict</i>	1998
<i>Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Protocol</i>	2001
<i>Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe</i>	1999
<i>European Convention on the Protection of Audiovisual Heritage</i>	2003
<i>UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects</i>	1997
<i>UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)</i>	2004
<i>Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)</i>	2006
<i>European Landscape Convention</i>	2002
<i>European Convention on the Protection of Archeological Heritage</i>	1999
<i>UNESCO Convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property</i>	1998
Copyright	
<i>Rome Convention on the protection of performers, phonogram producers and broadcasting organisations</i>	1998
<i>Convention on the Protection of Phonogram Producers against Illegal Copying of their Phonograms</i>	1999
<i>Bern Convention</i>	1996
<i>Rome Convention</i>	1998
<i>Geneva Convention</i>	1999
<i>The World Intellectual Property Organisation Copyright Treaty (WIPO Copyright Treaty)</i>	2000
Culture and Arts	
<i>Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions</i>	2006
<i>European Convention on Transfrontier Television</i>	2000
<i>European Cultural Convention</i>	2000
<i>European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production</i>	1999
National minorities	
<i>Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities</i>	2000

5.3 Sector specific legislation

5.3.1 Visual and applied arts

There is no general law for the visual or applied arts in Lithuania. The *Law on Design* (2002; amended in 2004) determines the legal protection of industrial design, its registration rules and order of use in Lithuania and the administration of the national design register.

5.3.2 Performing arts and music

The *Law on Theatres and Concert Institutions* (2004) provides legal provisions for social security coverage of personnel working in these institutions, state financing of these institutions as well as employment conditions. Labour contracts are to be negotiated between the creative personnel of the theatres and external concert organisations. Annuity is paid to artists who do not engage in their professional activity for an extended period of time e.g. for ballet dancers, musicians, dancers, and chorus singers. In 2012 the Council of Theatres and Concert institutions was established at the Ministry of Culture.

5.3.3 Cultural heritage

Since the restoration of independence in 1990, cultural heritage and its protection has been regarded as the most important priority of cultural policy in the programmes of all levels of government. The primary concern has been the development of a legal basis for the protection of monuments. During the 1990s and 2000s, a number of laws and other legal acts were adopted which regulate a vast number of cultural heritage sectors and institutions (see chapter 5.2).

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 heritage are protected under the *Law on Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage* (2005), the *Law on Protected Territories* (2001), and the *Law on Planning of Territories* (2004). The objects of movable cultural heritage are protected by the *Law on the Protection of Movable Cultural Properties* (2010). The Seimas, the government and the Ministry of Culture are the responsible institutions for the formation national policy for the protection of cultural heritage. The state's administration of immovable heritage protection falls under the remit of the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture.

By the *Order of the minister of Culture on the Guidelines for National Protection of Cultural Heritage* (2012) the priorities of planning of protection of cultural heritage and directions of its implementation were defined. The *Council of Cultural Heritage* functions at the Ministry of Culture as an advisory body for the minister in cultural heritage policy matters.

The Law on the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage (2004) was amended in order to harmonise its commitments under the UNIDROIT Convention. *The Law on the Protection of Immovable Culture Heritage* (2004) includes several important changes in the administration of national heritage and requires more cooperation among government institutions. The Minister of Culture, responsible for the heritage sector, is to delegate more heritage protection functions to local authorities. The content of the law corresponds to regulations and other legal acts of the EU.

Operations and procedures: *Regulation on State's indemnity for temporally imported cultural goods to Lithuania* (2003). The Regulation defines the state's commitment to compensate for the costs of damages, loss, theft and other accidents concerned with

temporary imported cultural goods on Lithuanian territory (art works, archives, movable heritage, etc).

Museums: the *Law on Museums* (1995, new version in 2003) defines the system of museums, their classification, stocktaking and other activities. *The Museums Council* was established in 2003 in accordance with the new law and acts as an advisory board to the Ministry on all issues related to museums. In 2007 the government adopted the "*Museums Modernisation Programme*" for the year 2007-2015, which foresees investments in museum modernisation, new technologies, restoration and digitalisation of collections, etc. However in 2014 the Programme was considered to be inadequate and the Ministry of Culture framed the draft *Guidelines of Strategic Development of Museums for the year 2014 – 2020*. The document underlines the main functions and methods for museums innovative management, new forms of communication with visitors and improvement of educational programmes, guidelines for consistent training of museums specialists, etc. However, the Guidelines were drafted without any financing basis for its implementation, therefore still remain under consideration.

5.3.4 Literature and libraries

The *Law on Libraries* was passed in 1995. A new edition of the law was passed in 2004, and determines libraries' administration, system of libraries in the country, structure and protection of funding to purchase books.

The state provides partial financing for book publishing, translation, publication of important national literature heritage editions through the Ministry of Culture, the Culture Support Fund and the Press, Radio and Television Support Fund. The Ministry of Culture supported 93 (in 2010) and 99 (in 2011) publishing projects. Due to state support for publishing, book prices are lower. In 2007 the Ministry of Culture, National M. Mažvydas Library and Bill&Melinda Gates Foundation signed trilateral agreement on the Project "Libraries for Progress", which was implemented in 2008-2012. The aim of the project was to guarantee Lithuania's residents free internet access, possibility to use computer and internet in everyday life, to improve libraries' services quality. During the period of the Programme, open access to the internet was established in 1276 public libraries in cities and rural territories. In terms of speed and access to the internet, Lithuania became one of the leaders in Europe in this area.

The main issue in the development of library activities is inadequate infrastructure to meet the demands of society. During the implementation of *the Programme of Modernisation of Libraries*, financial support for reconstruction and maintenance of buildings was allocated only for 44 premises from 150 scheduled in the plan.

However, according to the President of Lithuania's Publishers Association (LLA), Remigijus Jokubauskas, book publishing decreased in Lithuania during the last years, and the number of published books is dropping by 15-20% on average annually. In comparison to 2008, the number of fiction titles fell by a quarter in 2013. There are 170 publishing houses that specialise in book publishing (among 580 publishing houses in total; source: <http://www.lrytas.lt>; 2013-05-06).

Public lending rights were adopted by a government resolution passed in 2002, and the state budget annually allocates reimbursements to authors for the public use of published books.

5.3.5 Architecture and spatial planning

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 *Law on Building* (new wording 2004) foresees the

certification of architects and the establishment of the Lithuanian Architects' Chamber (2006). The Architects' Chamber is responsible for coordination of architects' activities, their certification, supervising a code of ethics, technology, architect service issues, etc. The *Law on Authors and Related Rights* (1999) defines architect authors rights on the creation of building projects, models, graphics, design, etc.

In 2001 the *Law on Protected Terrains* was adopted. It defines the establishment, administration and control of protected areas. Among other (natural, landscape) objects, it defines the terms to preserve cultural heritage monuments located in protected areas such as the 5 national and 30 regional parks in Lithuania. The *Law on Planning of Territories* (1995; amended 2004) includes important requirements for cultural, tourism, leisure objects in planning territories, state and self – government responsibilities.

In 2005, the government passed the *Resolution on the Inventory of Guidelines for Lithuanian Architecture*. 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.

5.3.6 Film, video and photography

In 1999, the Seimas ratified the *European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production*. In 2007 the government adopted the resolution on Lithuania's admission to the *Eurimage Fund*.

The *Cinema Law* was adopted by the Seimas in 2002 (amended in 2011) and sets forth the principles for managing the film system in Lithuania, film production and financing, regulating the activities of cinemas, protecting film heritage, disseminating cinema-related information to the public, and other issues. According to the law, the *Film Council* was established, which acts as an advisory board to the Ministry of Culture and is responsible for evaluating film projects receiving state support, and for providing advice on film policy, production and distribution in Lithuania. The amendments to the *Cinema Law* included an important article on establishment of the *Film Centre (Kino centras)*, a budget organisation under the Ministry of Culture. The Centre was established in 2012 and is responsible for the implementation of state policy in the film sector, evaluation and financing of national film projects, dissemination of Lithuanian film production, educational programmes, film heritage, film register etc.

Film Centre financial support to the film industry was 9 500 000 LTL in 2013 and (planned) 10 443 000 LTL in 2014 (<http://www.lkc.lt/statistika>).

The full length film production process in Lithuania usually takes more than 2-3 years, therefore the Table below indicates the films completed in the respective year.

Table 5: Number of state films produced, 2010-2012

Year	Full length	Short length	Animation	Documentaries	Total
2012	4	1	10	18	33
2011	2	19	8	9	38
2010	4	13	4	11	32

Source: <http://www.lkc.lt/statistika/>

Films produced in Lithuania represent only 0.1% of the film repertoire screened (in Latvia national films screen represents 4.3% and in Estonia it is 2% of the film repertoire). The Lithuanian Film Studio was privatised in 2003.

Over the last two decades, over 40 new film production companies emerged. Independent film company production output makes up most of the national film production. Producers

of Lithuanian films increasingly pursue co-production possibilities with foreign film companies, and the process increased after joining the EU.

In 2010 the European Commission presented the conclusions on Lithuania's state support to film production and accepted that it corresponds to the provisions of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.

5.3.7 Mass media

The Law on Advertising (2000), the *Law on Information to the Public* (1996, amended in 2010), and the *Convention on Television without Borders* (ratified in 2001) set out the guidelines on the use of advertising in television and radio programmes, cinemas and video-studios. According to the data of the Ministry of Culture, in 2012 there were 408 local, regional, and national agents of public information in Lithuania (journals, newspapers, websites).

The state and independent radio and TV stations are regulated by *the Law on Information to the Public* ((1996, amended in 2010). According to this law, radio and televisions broadcasting companies (except the National Radio and National Television) are subject to the licensing requirements of the *Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania* (RTCL), which is accountable to the Seimas. Licenses are granted by the Commission through a competition. Priority is given to broadcasters which pledge to provide original cultural, informative and educational programmes. Broadcasters are placed under restriction concerning programmes deemed erotic and / or violent. However, the situation in licensing of broadcasters is not satisfactory.

In 2008 the government passed the Resolution on endorsement of the *Programme of Development of Digital TV* in Lithuania, and on 29 October 2012 digital TV was launched. Digital TV broadcasting covers more than 95% of population of the country.

5.3.8 Other areas of culture specific legislation

The *Law on Cultural Centres* (2004) defines the establishment, reorganisation, financing, management and dismantling of cultural centres. There are three categories of culture centres: state, municipal and others (private, confessional community centres, agriculture company centres, etc.). According to the law, different categories of culture centres were adopted. The state is in charge of planning the strategy for cultural centres, to finance their main initiatives, to draft legal acts and to take responsibility for assessing the qualifications of personnel working in the cultural centres. In 2006 the government passed the Resolution on establishment of the *Cultural Centres Modernisation Programme* for the years 2007-2020. The Programme foresees capital investments in renovation and technical supply of cultural centres of Upper and I categories.

Folk, amateur art, ethnic traditions, regions: the *Law on the Principles of the State Protection of Ethnic Culture* (1999) and the Seimas Resolution on Validation of the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture and Regulations thereof (1999). In 2010, the Ministry of Culture passed the Programme on Development of Ethnic Culture for the year 2010-2016, however due to the economic crisis and the financing of the programme was stopped in 2011 and restarted in 2013. The *Strategy on Development of Amateur Art* for the year 2010-2016 was adopted by the Minister of Culture in 2010. The Strategy defines objectives, tasks and means of implementation of activities in amateur art sectors (dance, song festivals, art, participation and access, popularisation, etc.). In 2008, the Ministry of Education and Science adopted *the Concept of Cultural Education of Children and Young People* and the *Plan* for its implementation. The Programme of Cultural Development of the Regions for the year 2012-2020 was passed in 2011 by the order of the Minister of Culture.

6. Financing of culture

6.1 Short overview

Since 2008, the decrease in cultural expenditure has been related to the world economic crisis and recession. The economic crisis influenced the budget decline of the Ministry of Culture and determined the rise in prices of cultural goods and services. Within the period 2010-2012, many of the Ministry's programmes were closed or had limited financial resources. The influences on the fluctuation of cultural expenditure are due to annual capital investments, establishing of new programmes, changes in the network of cultural institutions, the scheduling of new important cultural events, etc. For example, in 2009 around 27% of the Ministry's budget was allocated to two projects: "Vilnius – European Capital of Culture" and the rebuild of the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, where the National Museum was founded in 2009. The main share of the Ministry's budget is allocated for professional arts development and dissemination, national heritage, and renovation of cultural institutions. The state's *Investment Programme* is the main source for renovation of cultural institutions.

Table 6: Fluctuation of the Ministry's budget, in LTL, 2011-2014

Year	Budget
2011	240 050 000
2012	266 992 000
2013	304 714 000
2014	366 294 000 (planned)

Source: <http://www3.lrs.lt>; <http://lrkm.lt>

According to the *Law on the State and Self-government's Budget* for 2014 (adopted by the Seimas in December 2013), the total planned budget for the cultural sector and institutions in 2014 is listed in table 7:

Table 7: Institutions and budget of the important culture sectors, in LTL, 2014

No.	Institutions	Budget
1	Ministry of Culture	366 294 000
2	National cultural institutions (9)	123 171 000
3	State Commission for Lithuanian Language	2 755 000
4	National Radio and TV	50 684 000
5	State commission of Radio and TV	2 500 000
6	Council for Protection of Ethnic Culture	519 000
7	State Commission for Protection of Cultural Heritage	824 000
8	Press, Radio and TV Fund	8 938 000
9	Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania	25 033 000
	TOTAL	580 718 000

Source: <http://www3.lrs.lt>

Since 2011 the budget of the Department of Cultural Heritage is included in the total budget of the Ministry of Culture. For preservation and protection of national cultural heritage, a budget of 36 851 000 LTL was planned for 2014. Heritage protection programmes are also financed by the support of the EEA countries (9 200 000 LTL in 2013).

Financing for arts education, maintenance of higher art schools and supplementary art training is provided by the Ministry of Education and Science. Until July 2010, county administrations received financing for cultural activities in the regions. Additional financing for regions and cultural development programmes of the regions is included in

the budget of the Ministry of Culture, Culture Support Fund and the Press, Radio and Television (Media Support) Fund.

The lion's share of both the central government and local self-governments budgets goes to the maintenance of cultural institutions: libraries, cultural centres, theatres and museums. The share of the central government in financing these institutions (libraries, museums, theatres and concert organisations) is rather high.

Table 8: Financing of national cultural institutions, in LTL, 2014

No.	Institutions	2014
1	National Library	23 893 000
2	National Museum	13 147 000
3	Lithuanian Art Museum	15 233 000
4	National M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum	7 995 000
5	Opera and Ballet Theatre	27 510 000
6	National Drama Theatre	8 397 000
7	National Philharmonic Society	13 997 000
8	National Museum – Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania	7 045 000
9	National Kaunas Drama theatre*	5 954 000
	Total	123 171 000

Source: <http://www.finmin.lt>; <http://www3.lrs.lt>.

* National Kaunas Drama Theatre's status of "national" obtained in October, 2012.

The % share of expenditure for the national culture institutions in comparison with the budget of the Ministry of Culture is rather high: 42.6% in 2012 and 33.63% in 2014. All national cultural institutions have a separate line in the National budget.

6.2 Public cultural expenditure

6.2.1 Aggregated indicators

Lithuania's GDP at current prices was 126 100 000 LTL (or 36 483 045 EUR) in 2013. State expenditure for culture was 580 718 LTL (2014); culture as a share of total central government spending (except self-governments) was 2.14% in 2013. Government expenditure on culture per capita was 197.3 LTL in 2013 (ca. 57.1 EUR). The population of Lithuania was 2 943 000 at the beginning of 2014 (source: <http://www.osp.stat.gov.lt>).

6.2.2 Public cultural expenditure broken down by level of government

Information on cultural expenditure of local government (60 municipalities) is not available.

6.2.3 Sector breakdown

Table 9: State cultural expenditure: sector breakdown, in thousand LTL, 2014*

Field / Domain / Sub-domain	Direct expenditure	Transfers (to other levels of government)	Total	% of total
Cultural Goods				
Cultural Heritage				
<i>Historical Monuments</i>		23 019	23 019	5.5
<i>Museums</i>	34 819	43 420	78 239	18.5
Archives		25 033	25 033	5.9
Libraries	24 571	23 893	48 464	11.5
Arts				
Visual Arts	7 935		7 935	1.9
Performing Arts				
<i>Music</i>		13 997	13 997	3.3
<i>Theatre and Musical Theatre</i>	61 556	41 861	103 417	24.5
<i>Multidisciplinary</i>				
Media				
Books and Press				
<i>Books</i>	5 880		5 880	1.4
<i>Press</i>		8 938	8 938	2.1
Audio, Audiovisual and Multimedia				
<i>Cinema</i>		10 443	10 443	2.5
<i>Radio / TV</i>		50 684	50 684	12.0
Other				
Interdisciplinary				
<i>Socio-cultural</i>	5 032		5 032	1.2
<i>Cultural relations abroad</i>	4 991		4 991	1.2
<i>Administration</i>	35 858		35 858	8.5
<i>Educational Activities</i>				
Not allocable by domain				
Total			421 930	100

Source: <http://www.lrkm.lt>; the Plan of the Ministry of Culture for the year 2014.

* Only the institutions under the Ministry of Culture; State Archives; National Radio and TV; Press, Radio, TV Fund.

6.3 Trends and indicators for private cultural financing

The importance of private initiatives in the financing of culture and the arts increased during recent years. The Ministry of Culture introduced the award of "Maecenas of the Year" in 2010. Unfortunately, there are no clear indicators on private financial support for culture and art institutions. Scientific research studies on private support for culture are still insufficient. The *Law on Charities and Promotion* was passed in 1993 (amended in 2004), however it didn't make a tangible influence on private cultural financing. In 2006, the Ministry of Culture's "Study of the promotion of business support to culture" found that the "state financing of culture amounts to 97% of the total financing of culture". To estimate private financing for culture and arts is complicated due to the reluctance of sponsors or owners of private galleries, publishing houses, cinemas, film producers, managers of

theatre festivals, etc. to reveal additional (private) financial support. During the last decade, private financing was conspicuous first of all in purchases of works of art, and sponsorship of theatre, music, and opera festivals, e.g., on the private initiative of Danguolė Butkienė and Viktoras Butkus, in 2011 the Modern Art Centre Fund was established in Vilnius and started to accumulate a representative collection of Lithuanian visual arts from the 1960s onwards and to make it accessible to the wider public. These patrons allocated 30 million LTL for the project. In 2011 the Modern Art Centre started publishing activity with the aim to present modern and contemporary Lithuanian art (see: <http://www.mmc.lt>). The public institution "Europos Parkas" ("Park of Europe") was established by the private initiative of sculptor Gintaras Karosas in 1987. Since 1993 the park started international sculpture symposia, and today has on display more than 90 art works from 27 countries, including sculptures of Magdalena Abakanowicz, Dennis Oppenheim, Sol LeWitt, etc. (see: <http://www.europosparkas.lt>).

In 2012 the Seimas started to consider the *Draft Law on Culture Maecenas*. The aim of the law is to stimulate private support to culture and the arts, to allow private persons to get tax discounts on donations and to form the tradition of maecenas in Lithuania.

7. Public institutions in cultural infrastructure

7.1 Cultural infrastructure: tendencies & strategies

Since the government's culture programme of 1991, the state has been encouraging central government to harmonise the management of public cultural institutions. Cultural institutions were to be granted more autonomy, responsibilities were to be delegated to various levels of decision-making; opinions and proposals of art councils and other expert bodies were to be observed. During the last decades, the Ministry of Culture has been trying to steer financing in a new direction by favouring new programmes (e.g. support for regional culture, festivals, ethnic programmes, young artists' projects, etc.) and enhancing *third sector* participation.

Cultural financial and administrative responsibilities are divided between the state and the municipalities (60). The state takes care of all institutions established by the Ministry (see [⇒ chapter 3.2](#)). The state (Ministry of Culture) also bears the main responsibility for the construction or renovation of nationally significant institutions (e.g. National Museum – Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania (2009), Vytautas Kasiulis memorial museum etc.) and implements modernisation programmes of the culture centres and museums.

During the last years the infrastructure of national and state cultural institutions changed very little. The two recent national culture institutions - National Museum – Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania (2009) and the National Kaunas Drama Theatre (2012) – obtained the status of "national institutions" due to their historical, cultural, and heritage importance for the country. The network of cultural institutions under the Ministry of Culture remains more or less stable.

The cultural infrastructure in the municipalities is more changeable. The private cultural infrastructure most developed is in the book publishing and arts sectors. Private art galleries and antique shops dominate in the arts sector. Financing of the third sector (non-governmental institutions) has a variety of sources. State financial support for these institutions is decided on evaluation by experts of candidate projects or programmes submitted for competition.

7.2 Basic data about selected public institutions in the cultural sector

The information filled in Table 10 pertains only to state subsidised institutions:

Table 10: Cultural institutions financed by public authorities, by domain

Domain	Cultural institutions (subdomains)	Number (YEAR)	Trend – to +
Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage sites (recognised)	3 (2014)	
	Museums (organisations)	17 (2014)	+
	Archives (of public authorities)	15 (2014)	
Visual arts	Public art galleries / exhibition halls	1 (2014)	
	Art academies (or universities)	1 (2014)	
Performing arts	Symphonic orchestras	1 (2014)	
	Music schools	60 (2014)*	
	Music / theatre academies (or conservatories)	1 (2014)	
	Dramatic theatre	8 (2014)	
	Music theatres, opera houses	3 (2014)	
	Dance and ballet companies	1	
Libraries	Libraries	7 (2014)	
Audiovisual	Broadcasting organisations	1 (2014)	
Interdisciplinary	Socio-cultural centres / cultural houses	761 (2013)*	

Sources: <http://www.lrkmlt>

* under the self-governments (60).

7.3 Status and partnerships of public cultural institutions

There are 9 national institutions in Lithuania: the National Martynas Mažvydas Library, Lithuanian National Museum, Lithuanian Art Museum, National M.K.Čiurlionis Art Museum, National Museum – Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, National Opera and Ballet Theatre, Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, National Kaunas Drama Theatre and Lithuanian National Philharmonic.

The founder of these entities is the Ministry of Culture, while funds are provided from the budget of the Ministry of Finance. National institutions play a key role in promoting and fostering professional arts in Lithuania and abroad, by collecting and preserving cultural properties and providing methodological assistance to "lower-rank" state and municipal institutions.

If seen from the totality of priorities outlined in the government's cultural policy, the reality is that the role of the Ministry of Culture has been to manage national institutions.

During the last decade there has been an increasing importance placed on the activities of independent or non-governmental cultural and arts organisations including theatre and modern dance groups, cinema, audio and video record studios, museums, galleries, heritage protection organisations, etc. For example, theatre directors Eimuntas Nekrošius and Oskaras Koršunovas, of renown throughout Europe, are directors of independent theatres.

Partnership between state / regional / municipal cultural institutions and the private sector still needs to be encouraged. There has been a rather slow increase in the number of private sector cultural organisations mainly due to constraints of legal acts and procedures. On the other hand, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of privately established museums and galleries, e.g. the Open Air Sculpture Museum "Europos centras", Liubavas Manor and Water Mill were renovated and established as a museum under the initiative of

sculptor Gintaras Karosas; "Hesonos klubas" public agency located in Grūtas near Druskininkai was the winner of a competition held by the Ministry of Culture in 1998 for the establishment of an exhibition of dismantled ideological monumental sculptures from the Soviet period. Grūtas' Park was officially opened on 1 April 2001 (see: <http://www.grutoparkas.lt>). The last example of a significant private initiative is the Modern Art Centre (MAC), established in Vilnius by the Danguolė and Viktoras Butkus family in 2011 (see: <http://www.mmc.lt>).

8. Promoting creativity and participation

8.1 Support to artists and other creative workers

8.1.1 Overview of strategies, programmes and direct or indirect forms of support

Some of the most important challenges to be addressed in the future are devising additional special measures for artists, creating overall better conditions for creativity, improving the dissemination of arts productions, and establishing legal norms and social security for artists.

The state accounts for the lion's share in financing of artists and their organisations. Indirectly, artists are supported through tax exemptions to their organisations, for creative activities and on works of art. Support from private sponsors and the third sector has not succeeded in providing sufficient additional income. The Lithuanian arts market is rather limited and underdeveloped, and there is an imbalance between the quantity of arts productions on the market and society's buying power. The economic and social position of the artist, especially of freelance professionals, has naturally deteriorated.

The Ministry's of Culture finance policy took a new direction in the mid 2000s, when the system of financing of respective programmes was introduced. More than 40 culture and arts programmes were established with specific regulations and requirements in order to obtain state partial financial support. The system of the programmes was focused towards improvement of cultural services around the country and made a substantial impact on the situation regarding public access to culture and diversity of services (see: <http://www.lrkmlt>; financed programmes).

One such programme, "Development and Dissemination of Arts" launched by the Ministry, has partial project financing for professional theatres, support for young artists, dissemination of professional art in the regions, film production, support for art creators' associations, new music and drama production, international art events, etc. The Table below provides information on direct financing of the programme's subjects.

Table 11: Financing for the programme "Development and Dissemination of Arts", in LTL, 2013

No.	Subject of the Programme	In LTL
1	Maintenance of Theatres and Concert organisations	64 137 000
2	Support for rent of premises for non-public theatres and concert organisations	300 000
3	Maintenance of Lithuanian Film Centre	1 185 000
4	Film production and dissemination (including taxes for Eurimage, Audiovisual Observatory, experts and commissions, Film Council work, etc.).	8 416 000
5	National Culture and Art Award, the Government Award, Ministry of Culture Awards	1 520 000
6	Premium for young artists	15 000
7	Support for artists' social security programme	4 106 000
8	Maintenance of Contemporary Art Centre	2 104 000
9	Total:	81 783 000

Source: Ministry of Culture, <http://www.lrkmlt>.

Support for several activities, such as young artists, creative industries, performance, visual arts, grants, three year festivals, etc. of the programme are financed by the Culture Support Fund (12 165 000 LTL in 2013). The Ministry elaborated the list of significant international art projects (film, music, theatre, dance festivals, exhibitions, etc.) for the

period 2013-2015, according to which all selected projects will receive three year permanent state financing support.

8.1.2 Special artists' funds

Financing of artists' activities is provided mainly by the Ministry of Culture, the Lithuanian Culture Council (including the Culture Support Fund), and the Press, Radio and Television Support Fund. The Ministry supports artistic projects (festivals, performances, exhibitions, international cooperation, playwrights, etc.), provides scholarships, covers the rent for artists, and finances awards. The Awards include the annual National Culture and Art Awards, the Government's Culture and Art Awards and the Ministry's Awards, the Jonas Basanavičius Award, for which financing is included in the strategic plan of the Ministry. Municipalities have their own funds for financing local artistic programmes or activities, and establish the annual awards for performers, writers, artists, culture and art institutions (see chapter 5.1.3).

8.1.3 Grants, awards, scholarships

In 2001, the government approved a procedure for awarding grants to creators of art and culture. There are three types of state grants: a) individual grant b) grant for educational activities and c) memorial scholarship (2010). The amounts of the grants are determined by the *Resolution of the Government* (2010) and quotas are set by the Lithuanian Culture Council. In 2010 the government shortened the grant period for educational activities from 1 year to six months, and the memorial scholarships period from 5 years to 1 year. In January 2014, the government passed the Resolution on the new *Regulation of State Grants*. According to the Regulation, three types of grants have been established: individual grants for development of creativity; educational grants for participation in workshops, conferences, training seminars etc; and personal grants for remarkable artistic contribution to Lithuanian art. The individual grant amount is LTL 1 300 per month.

The state provides financing for annual National Culture and Art Awards, and supports the distribution of the award winners' work. The state allows not more than 6 awards per year, each awarded LTL 104 000. One award is nominated to an individual artist for his / her long-lived contribution to national culture and art. Awards have been nominated since 1989 by the Awards Council, which has 11 members.

In 2006, the government passed the Resolution on the Government's Culture and Art Award, which aims to promote art creators, performers, musicians, film makers etc. for their merits to Lithuanian art. According to the Regulation of the award, the state allows no more than 15 awards per year, each awarded LTL 44 200.

The Ministry of Culture provides annual awards for notable librarians, museum and culture centre specialists, culture publicists, and creators of educational programmes.

The total financing amount for the National Culture and Art Award, the Government Award, and the Ministry of Culture Awards is LTL 1 520 000 in 2013.

In 1992 the government established the Jonas Basanavičius annual Award for remarkable achievements in the research and upholding of ethnic culture traditions.

8.1.4 Support to professional artists associations or unions

The Lithuanian Association of Artists was founded in 1995. It aims to coordinate co-operation of the art creators and their organisations in Lithuania, to represent the interests of professional Lithuanian artists and writers in Europe. Members (12) of the Association are art, design, music, architecture, journalism etc. organisations in Lithuania. The activity of the Association is coordinated by the Council, which consists of the delegated members

from each organisation. The Association functions according to the *Law on Lithuanian Art Creators' and their Organisations* and is a member of the European Council of Artists (ECA).

The state finances various activities of the Association, providing money for specific art programmes / projects, which are submitted by the Association to Lithuanian Culture Council.

8.2 Cultural consumption and participation

8.2.1 Trends and figures

In the mid-1990s, attendance at theatres, cinemas, concerts, libraries, and museums went down significantly. By the end of the decade figures started to rise again as most of the institutions had managed to adapt to the free market and competition and their management and marketing techniques had improved.

A Ministry of Culture survey *Public participation in culture and content of cultural services* (2014) revealed the changes in quality of cultural services provided in municipalities. According to the survey, the positive evaluation of service quality was applied to all sectors of culture. The most positive service quality changes were estimated in libraries (59% of respondents) and access to archives via the internet (55%), film shows and visual arts.

The Eurobarometer survey on *Cultural access and participation* (2013) shows that since 2007 there has been a general decline in participation in most cultural activities in EU countries. The research revealed that only 49% of Lithuanians are interested in national culture and art whereas the average in Europe is 69%. In comparison with EU index (62%), a big number (71%) of Lithuanians don't participate in any individual or group cultural activity. In a significantly better position are Latvia (58%) and Estonia (50%).

Attendance (visitors, spectators, readership) ratios depend on a variety of factors: quality of services, ticket prices, financial capacity of the population, their cultural interests, leisure time priorities, specifics of the event itself (theatre performance, concert, exhibition, etc.), and the image of the institution. Surveys which monitor the participation of national minority groups in multi-cultural festivals have not yet been developed.

Table 12: Attendance rates for selected cultural institutions. 2007, 2011

Institutions	Number of institutions	Visitors, spectators, readers	Number of institutions	Visitors, spectators, readers
	2007	2007	2011	2011
Cinemas	44	3 300 000	33	3 047 300
Drama theatres*	13	1 000 000	13	890 000
Non-public theatres	21	295 000	26	296 000
Concert organisations	6	146 000	8	140 000
Museums	106	3 100 000	105	2 655 000
Libraries**	1 395	752 000	1 327	716 000
Public archives	15	33 749	16	36 400

Source: <http://www.stat.gov.lt>. Statistics Lithuania. Culture, Press and Sports. 2008; 2012.

* State-funded theatres only.

** Libraries under the Ministry of Culture.

Cinema attendance during the last years was impacted by tickets prices, film advertising and management failures, the real income level of the population and the processes of

emigration. In 2012, there were 32 cinemas operating in the country, with a total of 83 cinema halls and 1 250 showings per cinema hall on average.

Table 12: Cinema attendance, 2011–2013

Year	Total admissions	Per capita	Population of Lithuania
2011	3 047 300	0.93	3 201 334
2012	3 020 332	1.009	3 007 758
2013	3 256 995	1.10	2 958 182

Source: <http://www.lkc.lt/statistika/>

8.2.2 Policies and programmes

The Ministry of Culture provides support for regional or municipal cultural projects and professional art performances outside the bigger cultural centres as well as those initiatives of ethnic cultural groups. In 2011, the Ministry of Culture passed the Resolution on the *Programme of Development of Culture in the Regions for the year 2012-2020*. Total financing by the Ministry of cultural activities in the regions and maintenance of institutions (Centre of Folk Culture) was 12 767 000 LTL in 2014. The Programme of Development of Ethnic Culture may be closed at the end of 2014 (launched in 2010). The Lithuanian Culture Council supports the programmes / projects which help to increase the cultural activities of municipalities and NGOs and to extend presentations of professional art performances beyond the bigger cultural centres.

Museums, theatres, concert organisations and other cultural establishments provide cultural services at special rates (ticket prices, season-tickets, open-door days for school children, etc.). Local, regional, or republican-level events, competitions, and festivals also promote participation in (amateur) cultural life, especially in rural areas.

Since 1995, Vilnius International Film Festival (Vilnius IFF) "Kino pavasaris" ("Cinema's Spring") became one of the most anticipated annual cultural events in Lithuania and is the largest cinematic event in the country. In March every year the festival provides a high quality independent film programme and presented more than 249 films in 2014. The public's interest in the independent international cinema festival has been increasing since 2005, and achieved 99 798 in 2014 (72 000 cinemagoers in 2013), which is a really impressive number in a country of 3 million people (see: <http://www.kinopavasaris.lt/>).

Since 2010, following the example of the European culture capital tradition, the competition "Culture Capital of Lithuania" has become an important factor for local and regional cultural and arts development. Each nominated municipality (Panevėžys City in 2014) implements special cultural programmes, organises music, theatre festivals, exhibitions, provides educational workshops for children and young people, and co-operates with partners in foreign countries. The project substantially accelerated the activities of local communities, schools, arts and culture institutions, and stimulated society's participation and the variety of cultural services.

8.3 Arts and cultural education

8.3.1 Institutional overview

The main schools of higher arts education are the Vilnius Academy of Arts and the Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy. Arts education is included in the training programmes of Klaipėda's University (Faculty of Arts), Šiauliai University (Faculty of Arts) and Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas (Faculty of Arts and Music Academy). These institutions provide BA, MA, and PhD study programmes.

The state institution responsible for culture and art education at all levels is the Ministry of Education and Science. It undertakes the role of administration of entrance examinations, financing, and legal issues. Autonomy and self-regulation of higher education institutions (universities, academies) are guaranteed by the Constitution and the *Law of Science and Studies* (2009). The Ministry of Culture supports projects of art schools, professional development of young artists, training courses via several programmes.

8.3.2 Arts in schools (curricula etc.)

Lithuania has a well-developed system of arts education consisting of several levels: supplementary artistic education, secondary art schools, professional colleges and higher art schools (see chapter 8.3.1). There are municipal and private arts schools and studios for fine arts, music, performance and dance.

8.3.3 Intercultural education

In 2006, the government passed the *Cultural Education Programme for Children and Young People* for the year 2006-2011. The aim of the Programme was to establish the system of cultural education on state, regional and local levels, to stimulate initiatives and co-operation of the state, self-governments, NGOs, and cultural and education institutions, to provide financing for educational long-term projects. The Ministry of Culture provided partial financial support for 369 projects in the period 2006-2009, with a budget of 1 655 000 LTL. However, in 2010 and 2011 state financing of the programme was closed, and was revived again in 2012 and 2013.

In 2008, the Ministry of Education and Science passed the *Concept on Cultural Education of Children and Young People*. One of the objectives of the Concept was to integrate arts and heritage issues into educational programmes, to share the experiences of European countries and to form cultural competencies of young people. The Concept's *Implementation Plan* for the year 2008-2012 covered measures to activate creativity, diversity of cultural expressions, communication competencies, international co-operation, dissemination of information on cultural heritage, etc. The Concept aimed to stimulate local authorities, culture and education institutions to support youth initiatives, creativity and educational projects, to include culture and heritage topics in a comprehensive school curriculum.

8.3.4 Higher arts education and professional training

Two main higher art schools are under the Ministry of Education and Science: the Vilnius Academy of Arts and the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre that specialises in music, theatre, film and dance.

The history of the Vilnius Academy of Arts began in 1793, when the Department of Architecture was established at Vilnius University. The Academy has faculties in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, and Telšiai and provides training in visual arts, applied art, media, architecture and design. The total number of students was 1814 in 2012/2013 (see: <http://www.vda.lt>). The Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre was established in 1933 on the basis of a reorganised Conservatoire of Kaunas. Both Academies provide BA, MA, PhD level studies and preparatory courses.

In 2006 Vilnius Academy of Arts, with financial support from the European Structural Funds and the government, established the Design Innovation Centre, which aims to promote collaboration between the Academy, businesses and education structures. The aim of the Centre is to create optimal conditions for young designers, to develop international collaboration between similar institutions, and to contribute to the formation of a Lithuanian design policy. The Centre is located in a renovated building (former printing

house of the soviet communist daily "Tiesa") and has contemporary technical equipment (see: <http://www.dic.lt>). The last new subdivision of the Academy is Nida's Art Colony (NAC), which was developed under the EEA and Norway Grants support and opened in March 2011. NAC became a meeting place for experienced and emerging artists, designers, architects, curators, art critics and researchers from around the world. NAC also runs an artist-in-residence programme, which offers curated and independent stays by invitation or selected by open calls for professional artists (see: <http://nidacolony.lt>).

The Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for financing and development of Arts Gymnasium / schools and conservatoires in Lithuania. According to a research study (2010), there were 5 arts gymnasiums and 4 conservatoires with music, arts and ballet curricula. 2511 students were enrolled in arts gymnasiums / schools and 726 in conservatoires in the 2009/2010 training year (source: <http://www.smm.lt/ugdymas/bendrasis/docs/konservatorijuproganalize.pdf>).

After Lithuania joined the European Union, spheres of life were challenged by the question how to become a competitive European country in the field of arts and how to better artists' integration into a common European art and job market. Above mentioned higher art institutions started to develop links with foreign partners and participate in student exchange programmes (Socrates / Erasmus). However, the number of Lithuanian students and professors, participating in these programmes, is not very high.

The Bologna Declaration, which Lithuania signed in 1999, became an important document for Lithuanian arts and culture education. Several conferences were organised in order to clarify the declaration's goals and stimulate rapid changes in training programmes. Lithuanian universities and art academies were one of the first in Eastern Europe to introduce BA and MA qualifications, however public financing for these training programmes in the use of new technologies in teaching processes and the availability of technical equipment still remains insufficient. Following the adoption of the Bologna Declaration, Lithuanian higher art schools joined several international networks in order to promote competitiveness of arts and links with the state's economy and business sector. For example, the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts became a member of the Nordic-Baltic Design School network. The Scandinavian and Baltic countries initiated the project *Design Innovations and Economics in the Countries of the Baltic Region*. The aim of the project is to help to create design products that would be commercially viable in the domestic and international market and that which would contribute to the establishment of new employment positions.

Due to the growing role of arts and culture management during the 1990s, they were included into the curricula of several higher education institutions. UNESCO supported the establishment of the Chair for Cultural Management and Cultural Policy at the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts in 1999. The Chair was the first educational institution in Lithuania and the Baltic Region to develop a specialised postgraduate programme (MA) in cultural management and cultural policy based on international standards. 26 students from the MA programme graduated in 2005.

8.3.5 Basic out-of school arts and cultural education

In 2005 the Ministry of Education and Science passed the *Concept of Non-formal Education* (amended in 2012). According to the Concept, there were 268 schools of non-formal training, with 91 000 pupils in Lithuania in 2011. The fields of non-formal education comprise leisure, culture clubs and centre activities, and youth organisations with curricula / programmes of art, music, dance, and sport etc. non-formal education. However, the Concept disclosed the gaps and shortcomings of cultural and art education curricula in comprehensive schools, and the low input of local municipalities in this field.

As non-formal education is a self-sustaining function of local authorities, the process revealed an imbalance in financing, gaps in curricula, and a lack of consistency in the approach to non-formal education. (<http://www.smm.lt/ugdymas/neformalusis/docs/KONCEPCIJA>). In all self-governments of Lithuania (60) there are non-formal music education schools, and several of these schools have curricula / programmes with visual arts or dance education. The total number of schools with non-formal education was 110 in 2014.

8.4 Amateur arts, cultural associations and civil initiatives

8.4.1 Amateur arts and folk culture

Amateur arts associations have traditionally played an important role in the cultural life of Lithuania. Amateur arts account for a significant share of the activity of the cultural centres. Data shows that voluntary participation in amateur activities (numbers of groups, participants, events, etc.) has fluctuated, mainly due to economic and social reasons, and administrative reforms in the regions and municipalities. Access to culture for the rural population remains restricted due to low household incomes.

Expanded international links in the field of amateur artistic activity have become more prominent. Lithuania hosts a variety of international amateur art events: theatres, orchestras, choirs, dance, folklore, etc (e.g., festival of the Northern Europe Amateur Theatre Alliance, NEATA; Baltic and North States Song Festivals; international folk festival "Baltica"; Baltic States student song and dance festival "Gaudeamus"). The World Lithuanian Song Festival, organised every four years, plays an important role in the development of amateur art in the country (the last one was held in 2014). On average, 30 000 participants are involved in the Song Festival programmes.

In 2006, the *Strategy for Development of Amateur Art in 2010-2016* was adopted by an order of the Minister of Culture.

The Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre started in 1941 and is the main state institution under the Ministry of Culture providing comprehensive methodical, administrative, management, and training support for local and regional cultural institutions, amateur art groups, festivals and international projects. The Centre is the headquarters of traditional Lithuanian Song festivals, a research centre for ethnic culture, and the initiator of annual art awards for amateur groups and performers.

8.4.2 Cultural houses and community cultural clubs

In 2013, there were 761 cultural centres and their branches located in urban and rural territories of Lithuania, with 3 985 amateur art groups and studios, and 53 216 participants organised in various groups of amateur arts. Children's and youth groups comprise 41% of participants (see: <http://www.llkc.lt>).

In 2006, the government passed the Resolution on the Programme of Modernisation of Culture Centres. The programme foresees renovation of culture centres, providing new technical equipment and improvement of cultural services. The Programme is financed annually from the Government's Investment Programme and is applied to cultural centres of the "Upper" and "First" categories in the classification of centres.

During the last year the activities of local rural communities was rather significant. Some multidisciplinary cultural centres were established, combining visual arts, performance, entertainment, education, media and the youth sectors. There are several rural art galleries, established by local communities (e.g., Panevėžys district), which combine visual and

performance art activities. Local communities are taking the initiative to establish intercultural centres.

8.4.3 Associations of citizens, advocacy groups, NGOs, and advisory panels

Since the 1990s, the number of registered non-profit organisations has grown. In Lithuania non-governmental organisations are founded under three laws: the law on associations, charity and sponsorship funds, and public establishments. According to data from the Lithuanian Centre of Registers the number of non-governmental organisations has grown 17-fold since 1994. In the first four years of independence there were 1 302 organisations registered, while in 2011 there were 22 246 registered non-governmental organisations. The majority of non-governmental organisations (67%) have the legal status of associations. The network of NGO organisations in Lithuania is sparse: the average number of NGOs is 2.7 per 1 000 people. Most NGOs are concentrated in the two biggest cities of Lithuania – Kaunas and Vilnius. The majority of NGOs are small / micro and are oriented towards social and educational or service spheres. Absence of a clear definition of a non-governmental body and lack of eligible support mechanisms impede healthy development of the NGO sector, including partnerships with public and private sectors.

Today, the Lithuanian NGO sector remains weak, fragmented and largely unexplored. An analysis of the development of the non-governmental sector in Lithuania reveals two trends: first of all, in the 20 years that have passed since democracy was institutionalised in the country the number of NGOs has grown significantly. Secondly, the number of citizens taking part in their activities remained stable or grew only within the boundaries of confidence.

On 6 February 2013 the *NGO Programme Lithuania* was opened. The Programme is funded by EEA Grants, and thematically is focused on human rights and aims to build the capacity of non-governmental organisations. The overall objective of the Programme is strengthening civil society development and enhancing the contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development. Strengthened bilateral relationship between Lithuania and the Donor States – Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein are also key tasks of the Programme. Among the projects are such "Religious diversity awareness and its dissemination in Lithuania", "All differen - All equal: Human rights, active participation and variety", etc., which include cultural sector as well. The end of the first call for proposals was at the end of 2014. Total funding throughout the Programme is EUR 4 640 664 (LTL 16 023 284) (see more: <http://nvoprograma.lt/en/projects>).

There are several important private culture and art institutions functioning as NGO's or having the other legal status of for example "Europos parkas" - Open Air Museum of the Centre of Europe in the outskirts of Vilnius. In 2001, the private museum - open air exhibition of *Former Soviet Monuments* in "Grūtas" park - was opened. During the last decade the institution, functioning as an NGO, became very popular among Lithuanian and foreign tourists and developed a complex of various cultural and tourism activities (art gallery, museum, zoo, entertainment industry, education, etc.; see: <http://www.grutoparkas.lt/istorija.htm>).

However, there is no elaborated audit and monitoring system within the third sector. In some cases, the state acts as a co-founder / establisher. Not all NGOs can be seen as promising and innovative, and their number has decreased in recent years. On the other hand, the potential development of NGOs will depend on partners and the co-operation of the state, private and independent institutions.

The *Centre of Civic Initiatives (Pilietiniu iniciatyvu centras)* was established in 1998 and functions as an NGO. It aims to stimulate society's participation in public and political life,

to inform, research, propose and discuss actual problems of communities, and to ensure the main principles of democracy and human rights.

Volunteering in Lithuania has also grown during the last decades. 1% of the GDP of Lithuania is generated by volunteering. There are around one thousand NGOs that involve volunteers in their activities. According to the Eurobarometer survey in 2011, 24% of Lithuanians were involved in a voluntary activity on a regular or occasional basis. The majority of Lithuanian volunteers (84%) prefer voluntary work in environmental protection (see: research study by Company "TNS Gallup" in 2008 (for more information see http://www.teo.lt/gallery/Dokumentai/Naujienu%20paveikslai/2009/Kas_kaip_kur.pdf)).

9. Sources and links

9.1 Key documents on cultural policy

Ministry of Culture of Lithuania: *Strategic plan for the year 2012 - 2014*.

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Resolution of Seimas on the *Guidelines of Alternation of Lithuanian Culture Policy*. 2010

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Annual Report of the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania. 2012

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

The Government's Programme for the year 2012 – 2016

<http://www.lrv.lt>

The Principles for Lithuanian Cultural Policy. 2001.

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Council of Europe: *Cultural Policy in Lithuania. National Report. European Programme of National Cultural Policy Reviews*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 1977.

9.2 Key organisations and portals

Cultural policy making bodies

Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

<http://www.lrs.lt>

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania

<http://www.lrv.lt>

Ministry of Culture

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Lithuanian Culture Council

<http://www.ltkt.lt/>

The Council of Patronage of Ethnic Culture

<http://www.lrs.lt>

The State Commission on Protection of Culture Heritage

<http://www.lrs.lt>

The State Commission of the Lithuanian Language

<http://www.vlkk.lt>

Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO

<http://www.unesco.lt>

Self – Government Collegium

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Professional associations

Lithuanian Museums Association

<http://www.muziejai.lt>

Lithuanian Librarians' Association

<http://www.lbd.lt>

Lithuanian Association of Culture Centres

<http://www.llkc.lt>

Lithuanian Association of Artists

<http://www.lmka.lt>

Lithuanian Association of Cinema Distributors

<http://www.bombafilms.lt>

Lithuanian Association of Restorers

<http://www.restauratoriusajunga.lt>

Grant-giving bodies

Ministry of Culture

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Lithuanian Culture Council

<http://www.ltkt.lt/>

Press, Radio and Television Support Fund (Media Support Fund)

<http://srtfondas.lt>

Open Society Fund Lithuania

<http://www.osf.lt>

International Cultural Programme Centre (ICP Centre)

<http://www.koperator.lt>

Cultural research, advice and statistics

Ministry of Culture

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

The Council of Culture and Art

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Lithuanian Central State Archive

<http://www.archyvai.lt>

Lithuanian Culture Research Institute

<http://www.kfmi.lt>

Open Society Fund Lithuania

<http://www.osf.lt>

Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania

<http://www.rtk.lt>

Statistics Lithuania: Culture, Press and Sports

<http://www.stat.gov.lt>

Annual review "Creative industries in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania" (2011)

<http://www.creativepoles.eu>

Feasibility study: "Lithuanian Cultural and Creative Industries" (2008)

<http://www.lmta.lt>

Feasibility study "Promotion of Business Support for Culture" (2006)

http://www.elibrary.lt/resursai/ES_fondai

Survey: "Public participation in culture and content with cultural services" (2012)

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Feasibility study "Infrastructure of Culture and Art Residencies" (2012)

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Survey "Cultural and creative industries services in self-government cultural institutions" (2012)

<http://www.lrkm.lt>

Culture / arts portals

Lithuanian culture and art institutions, press

<http://www.culture.lt>

Lithuanian Publishers

<http://www.lnb.lt>

Lithuanian Film Centre

<http://www.lfc.lt>

Daily on Contemporary Art

<http://www.artnews.lt>

Public, culture, social policy website "Bernardinai"

<http://www.bernardinai.lt>

Lithuanian Museums

<http://www.muziejai.lt>

Lithuanian Libraries

<http://www.lnb.lt>

National Art Gallery

<http://www.ndg.lt>

Professional Art portals

<http://arts.lt/>

<http://www.kamane.lt>;

<http://www.kulturpolis.lt>

<http://www.vilniusfestivals.lt>