



Country profile

LITHUANIA

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LITHUANIA*

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1. Cultural policy system

1.1 Objectives, main features and background

Cultural policy objectives

In 2012, the Lithuanian Parliament adopted the long-term national strategy *Lithuania 2030*. The strategy presents a national vision and priorities for the development of Lithuania as well as guidelines for their implementation by 2030. According to the strategy, Lithuania aims “*at a creative empowerment of each and every member of society, focusing on ideas that would help Lithuania to become a modern, energetic country, embracing differences, and with a strong sense of national identity*”.

To implement this strategy, the Government of Lithuania adopts long term development plans. The [National Development Plan of Lithuania for 2021-2030](#) sets ten strategic goals to be achieved over the next 10 years. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture is mostly involved in the realisation of the fourth goal of the Plan, which is “*to strengthen national and civic identity, increase the spread of culture and the creativity of society*”. For realisation of this goal, the Lithuanian Government adopted the [2021-2030 Culture and Creativity Development Programme](#), which is carried out by The [Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania](#) and entails 7 objectives: 1) to increase the capacity of cultural and creative industries (CCIs) and promote the development of new products and services based on creative content; 2) encourage the population to participate in cultural activities and contribute to the development of culture; 3) improve conditions needed for creation in Lithuania and increase the dissemination of Lithuanian culture abroad; 4) promote the integration of national minorities; 5) strengthen the relevance of historical memory in society; 6) revive the cultural and national heritage of public significance and increase its usage for the needs of society; and 7) increase the relevance of the Lithuanian language in the context of globalization and technology.

In general, these objectives are in line with the main European cultural policy principles represented in *A New European Agenda for Culture* of 2018 and the *Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022*, as they encompass social, economic and international dimensions of culture. The [2021-2030 Culture and Creativity Development Programme](#) formulates measures, indicators and financing projections for the implementation of the objectives.

Features of cultural policy system

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

Cultural policy implementation bodies in the fields of arts, cinema and media are the [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#), the [Film Centre](#) and the [Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#). These institutions allocate funding for arts, culture and media projects through calls for tender. They are relatively autonomous and make funding decisions on expert judgment. The activity of these institutions is regulated by special laws that define their functions and the sources of their funds (see chapter 4.1.2).

The cultural heritage protection policy is mainly implemented by the [Department of Cultural Heritage](#) under the Ministry of Culture. The functions of the Department include maintenance and management of cultural properties, maintenance of accounting and control of cultural heritage, as well as presentation of

cultural heritage to society. The Department also contributes to the formation and implementation of national policies in protection of cultural heritage.

In general, the Lithuanian cultural policy system is centred in the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, which performs the main functions of cultural policy formation, implementation and control. The establishment of the three above mentioned funding institutions was meant as a step towards horizontal decentralisation of the system, however, their influence is quite limited due to their small financial capacity. The Lithuanian Council for Culture distributes approximately 7-8 % of the total central government funding for culture, the Film Centre 2%, and the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation about 1%. Although by establishing these institutions the idea was to decentralise cultural policy and to create independent policy-making bodies of the "arm's length" type, they mainly act as projects' funding and administration bodies.

Background

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

Over the next five years, Lithuanian cultural policy discourse was marked by active discussions about the Lithuanian “model” of cultural policy, particularly about the relationship and division of power between the Ministry and the cultural community. In 1996, the 7th Lithuanian Government organised the Lithuanian Cultural Congress that had to find a consensus of the cultural community and formulate the main cultural policy principles. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture prepared the draft document of cultural policy principles for discussion in the Congress and the Council of the Congress prepared an alternative document on the same subject. None of these documents, however, were adopted during the Congress. The cultural community found the principles proposed by the Ministry too conservative, as they did not make any significant institutional changes in the cultural policy system. The principles proposed by the Council of Congress, in opposite, were too radical and did not gain the acceptance of the participants of the Congress. Both sides, however, agreed on the need to establish a foundation for the support of culture, which was implemented in the same year. The Lithuanian Parliament established The Press, Radio and Television Foundation and, two years later, the Culture and Sports Foundation was established, which in 2007 was reformed into two separate foundations, i. e. the Culture Foundation and the Sports Foundation. The budgets of the foundations, however, were very limited and therefore they did not play any significant role in the financing of culture. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture remained the most powerful and important institution in strategic and operational matters of cultural policy, so the overall system of cultural policy remained centralised.

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

mechanism. The institutional system of cultural policy remained the same, i. e. the Ministry of Culture remained the main body of cultural policy formation and implementation.

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

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

2011 – 2020. In autumn of 2012, the Parliament of Lithuania adopted the *Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture*. The Law defines the Council as a budget-financed institution under the Ministry of Culture that has these main functions: to finance culture and arts programmes, distribute grants and other types of support to culture and arts professionals, and monitor the culture and arts projects that are under implementation. The newly established Council took over the administration of the Culture Foundation. However, in 2021 this Foundation was abolished and since then the funds of the Council have consisted of the state budget finance allocated by government (see chapter 2.1). According to the *Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture*, the Council consists of 10 members and a chairperson. The chairperson of the Council is appointed by the Government. The members of the Council are elected in two rounds following the principle of proportional representation of all spheres of culture and arts, including all geographic regions. Both natural and legal bodies can delegate candidates to the first round of the elections. Of these candidates, 20 are selected to the second round by a secret ballot cast by the voters delegated by culture and arts organisations. Out of the selected 20 candidates, the Minister of Culture selects 10 candidates to form the Council that are submitted for the approval of the Government by following the principle of broad representation (for more about the activity of the Council for Culture see chapter 1.2.2).

The Lithuanian Council for Culture was established in 2013. One year earlier, in 2012, the 15th Lithuanian Government had established the Lithuanian Film Centre. The Film Centre replaced the Film Council that operated since 2002 as a collegial advisory body on film policy formation and film funding under the Ministry of Culture. The decisions of the Film Council on film funding were constantly criticised in the press because of the unclear assessment criteria and funding of projects that were related to the members of Council. The newly established Film Centre started to operate more transparently, with clear procedures and criteria, but its decisions were criticised anyway, particularly by the Lithuanian Cinematographers' Union because of the “overall direction of film policy”, since the Centre did not select some projects of eminent filmmakers for funding. At the end of 2013, the Minister of Culture re-established the Film Council as an advisory body under the Ministry. The Ministry and the newly

established Film Council took the function of film policy formation, and the Film Centre remained as a funder for film projects and an administrative body (more about the activity of Film Centre see chapter 1.2.2).

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

In 2018, being aware that the implementation of the plan did not lead to a necessary consolidation of culture and other areas of public policy and the establishment of its strategic role, the Ministry of Culture prepared a new *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy for 2020–2030* that was approved by the Lithuanian Government in 2019. The *Strategy* was the first comprehensive long-term cultural policy strategic document since the restoration of the independence of Lithuania. The strategy was based on empirical data, situation analysis and experts' evaluation of the current situation of culture.

In 2021, Lithuania adopted the *Law on Strategic Governance* that seeks to create and develop a results-oriented strategic management system integrating the processes of strategic planning, regional development and spatial planning, in order to ensure long-term and sustainable progress of the state, efficient planning and use of government finances. The Law classifies strategic planning documents into 4 levels. The top-level documents are the 3 state strategies - the *Progress Strategy*, the *National Security Strategy*, and the *Concept of the General Plan of the Territory*. All strategic plans and programmes for their implementation must be based on these strategies. Culture is the focus of the fourth goal of the *National Development Plan of Lithuania for 2021-2030*: “to strengthen national and civic identity, increase the spread of culture and the creativity of society”. The implementation of this goal and some other tasks of the Plan is carried out by the Ministry of Culture according to the *2021-2030 Culture and Creativity Development Programme* (see cultural policy objectives).

1.2 Domestic governance system

1.2.1 Organisational organigram

Figure 1. The organigram of Lithuanian cultural policy institutions

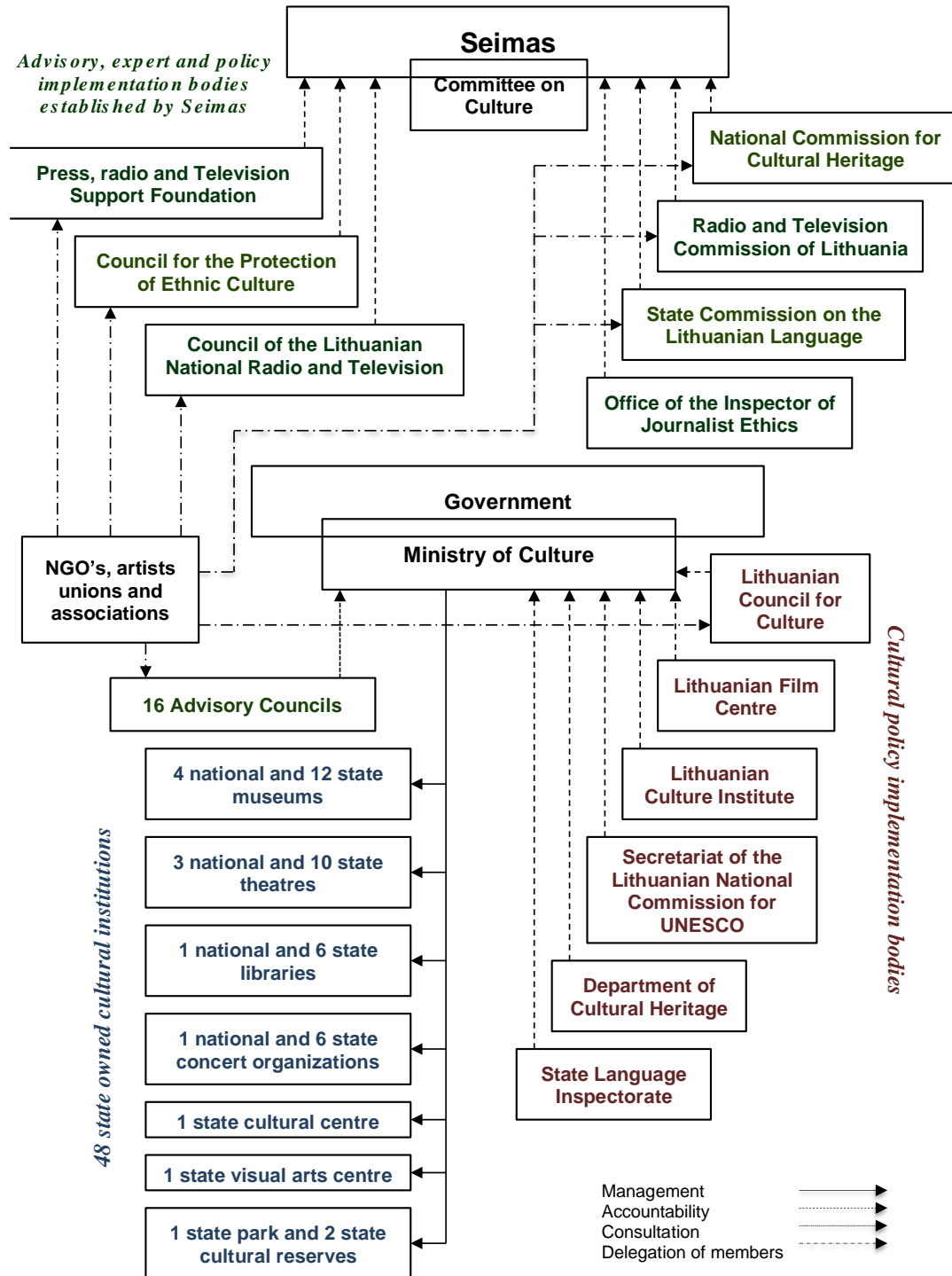
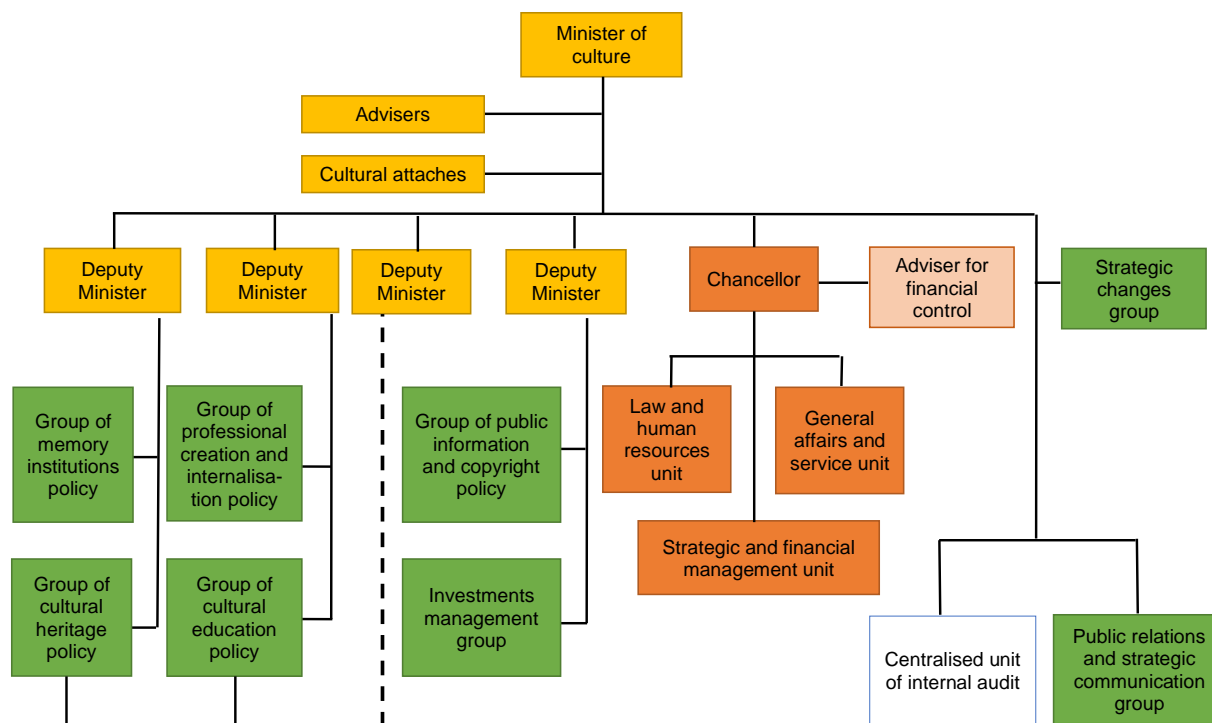


Figure 2. The organigram of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania



1.2.2 National authorities

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

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

Foundation publishes its annual activity report, while the Chairperson of the Council of the Foundation presents the annual report on the allocation and use of the budgetary appropriations each year at a plenary meeting of the Seimas.

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

The Ministry of Culture has 16 advisory councils that provide advice and consultations on current issues of interest in different fields: Media Council, Literature Council, Council on Ethnic Culture and Intangible Cultural Heritage, Council for Cultural Education, Lithuanian Culture and Art Council, Library Council, Film Council, Museum Council, Theatre and Concert Institution Council, Culture Centres Council, Council for Granting the Status of Art Creator and Organisation of Art Creators, Council for Digitisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Archives Council, Lithuanian Design Council, Song Festivals Council, and Patronage Council. All these advisory councils are composed of representatives of non-governmental organizations active in the relevant fields of culture and persons delegated by ministries. The councils meet approximately 1 to 5 times a year, as needed.

The Ministry of Culture also has four administrative institutions: Lithuanian Culture Institute, Secretariat of the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO, Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, State Inspectorate on Language, and the Department of Cultural Heritage.

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

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

The Lithuanian Film Centre is a budgetary institution under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania. The principal activity goals of the Centre are to promote the long-term development and competitiveness of Lithuanian cinema and to participate in the formation of efficient national film policy. The Centre coordinates national film production, administers state funds for the development of the film sector: organises film project tenders for state funding, consults applicants, administers partial funding of production and promotion, exercises control over the use and reporting of state funding, represents

Lithuania in foreign and international organisations, and organises the work of the Film Council that is a consulting body of the Centre. The activities of the Lithuanian Film Centre are organized according to the annual action plan approved by the Minister of Culture. The Director of the Centre is appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Culture for a four-year term and is directly subordinate and accountable to the Minister of Culture (see chapter 3.5.3 for more about the Film Centre).

1.2.3 Regional authorities

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

1.2.4 Local authorities

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

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

1.2.5 Main non-governmental actors

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania provides data on 19 artists' associations that have a special status of "artists' organisation" granted to them according to the *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists' Organisations* (1996): [Architects' Association of Lithuania](#), [Lithuanian Union of Journalists](#), [Lithuanian Theatre Union](#), [Professional Folk Artists' Association](#), [Lithuanian Writers' Union](#), [Lithuanian Musicians' Union](#), [The Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators](#), [Lithuanian Composers' Union](#), [Lithuanian Filmmakers' Union](#), [Union of Lithuanian Art Photographers](#), [Lithuanian Designers' Society](#), [Lithuanian Artists' Association](#), [Lithuanian Association of Landscape Architects](#), [Contemporary Dance Association](#), [Lithuanian Interdisciplinary Artists' Association](#), [Association of Performing Arts Critics](#), [Lithuanian Choral Union](#), [Association of Vilnius Region Folk Artists](#), and the [Lithuanian Association of Art Creators](#). The latter organisation is an umbrella association of twelve unions of artists, listed above. It was established in 1995 and aims to coordinate cooperation between artists and artists' organisations in Lithuania. The association represents interests of Lithuanian professional artists and writers abroad, organises public debates between artists and politicians on the issues of the development of culture and arts, organises conferences, submits proposals on draft laws and regulations, and awards Lithuanian artists for outstanding professional works created in the last two years.

Members of the above-mentioned organisations delegate members or take part in the activity of many cultural policy bodies, such as advisory Councils of the Ministry, the Lithuanian Council for Culture, the Council of the Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation, the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania, the National Commission for Cultural Heritage, the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture, the State Commission on the Lithuanian Language, and the Council of the Lithuanian Radio and Television Company (see chapter 1.2.1, the organigram of the Lithuanian cultural policy institutions).

1.2.6 Transversal co-operation

The basic principles of the inter-ministerial and inter-institutional co-operation in Lithuania are formulated in the Law on Strategic Governance (approved in 2020) and the Strategic Governance Methodology (2021). Transversal cooperation at the national and local levels is mainly based on special inter-institutional action plans. These plans are approved by the government and provide for the distribution of tasks and activities of the cooperating parties, and performance indicators. According to the Lithuanian Ministry of Finance, in 2022, 41 inter-institutional work plans are going to be implemented at the national level.

Another form of inter-institutional cooperation is working groups that are created to address specific issues. Working groups are defined as advisory expert bodies that carry out specific tasks assigned to them by the Minister of Culture within a specified time frame. In 2022, the Ministry of Culture coordinates 10 inter-institutional working groups and 18 commissions that dealt with various issues of cultural policy, such as the emergency during the Covid-19 quarantine, preparation of documents on the inclusion of Kaunas modernist architecture in the UNESCO World Heritage List, implementation of the Culture Pass programme, etc. The latter programme is a joint project of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. These two ministries are also cooperating on the Reading Promotion Programme.

1.3 Cultural institutions

1.3.1 Overview of cultural institutions

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

Almost all national and state cultural institutions have the legal status of budgetary institutions that is defined in the Law on Budgetary Institutions (1995, new edition 2022). According to the Law, the budgetary institution is a public legal entity with limited civil liability, which performs state or municipal functions and is maintained from the appropriations of the state or municipal budgets, as well as from the budgets of the State Social Insurance Fund, Compulsory Health Insurance Fund and other state monetary funds. Authorities exercising the rights and obligations of the owner approve the statutes of a budgetary institution, appoint and dismiss the head; decide on the reorganisation or liquidation of the budgetary institution; take a decision regarding the establishment of a branch of a budgetary institution and the termination of its activities; etc.

In 2022, there were 10 *national cultural institutions* in Lithuania: 3 theatres (the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, and National Kaunas Drama Theatre), 4 museums (National Museum of Lithuania, Lithuanian National Museum of Art, Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art), 1 library (Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania), 1 concert organisation (Lithuanian national Philharmonic Society), and 1 broadcasting company (Lithuanian National Radio and Television). National institutions themselves manage the appropriations that are allocated to them each year by government in accordance with the *Law on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets* that is adopted by the Seimas each year.

State cultural institutions are financed through the Ministry of Culture, i. e. the Ministry allocates their appropriations according to its budget plan of the respective year. In 2022, 39 state cultural institutions were in the purview of the Ministry: 12 museums, 10 theatres, 6 libraries, 6 concert organisations, 1 arts centre, 1 cultural centre, 1 park and 2 cultural reserves. Additionally, four state museums are financed by

other Ministries: the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of the Environment. Most of these state cultural institutions are concentrated in the three largest cities of Lithuania.

Local authorities are responsible for the financing and maintenance of local cultural institutions and cultural heritage. They have the right to establish or abolish cultural institutions of local importance and finance them through appropriations from the local budgets. Most local cultural organisations have a legal form of budget or public institution and their owner is the municipality. According to the data on municipalities of the Lithuanian Statistics, in 2020 there were 1221 municipal public libraries, 54 municipal museums, 11 municipal theatres, 6 concert organisations and 159 cultural centres with 475 structural subunits.

Data on *private* cultural institutions are not systematically registered. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture only provides data on some private museums and theatres. According to the Ministry's data, there were 10 private museums and 36 private professional theatres that have the status of professional performing arts' organisation granted by the Ministry. However, the Association of Lithuanian Museums provides data on 64 private museums, and the Register of Legal Entities provides information on 120 registered organisations with the word "theatre" in their name that have the legal form of NGO, individual enterprise etc. Data about private cultural institutions in other areas of culture can be gathered only from the registers of companies and is approximate as well.

In general, the Lithuanian system of national and state cultural institutions changed very little over the last years. In 2009, a new national cultural institution was established: the National Museum Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. In 2012, the state Kaunas Drama Theatre became the national theatre. Some national institutions renovated their buildings and opened new permanent exhibits, such as Vytautas Kasiulis Art Museum.

1.3.2 Data on selected public and private cultural institutions

Table 1: Cultural institutions, by sector and domain

Domain	Cultural institutions (subdomains)	Public sector		Private sector	
		Number (2020)	Trend last 5 years (In %)	Number (2020)	Trend last 5 years (In %)
Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage sites (recognised)*	8 175	+1.3	NA (not available)	NA
	Archaeological sites**	1229	NA	NA	NA
Museums	Museum institutions	96*	+1.0	64***	NA
Archives	Archive institutions*	9	0	NA	NA
Visual arts	Public art galleries / exhibition halls	9 / 194****	NA	NA	NA
Performing arts	Scenic and stable spaces for theatre	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Concert houses	5	NA	136*****	NA

	Theatre companies*****	24	0	109	NA
	Dance and ballet companies*****	4	NA	13	NA
	Symphonic orchestras	4	0	0	0
Libraries	Libraries*	2304	-8.0	NA	NA
Audiovisual	Cinemas*****	2	0	25	0
	Broadcasting organisations*****	1	0	69	NA
Interdisciplinary	Socio-cultural centres / cultural houses*	634	-1.7	NA	NA
Other (please explain)					

Sources:

*Data from [Statistics Lithuania](#)

**Data from the [Register of Cultural Values](#)

***Data from [Lithuanian Museums](#)

****8 galleries belong to national museums; Special exhibition halls have Contemporary Arts Centre; 194 exhibition halls are accommodated in cultural houses (data from the [National Cultural Centre](#))

****Concert halls in various organisations, data from the [Lithuanian Musicians' Union](#)

*****Data from the [Register of Legal Entities](#)

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

*****Data from the [Lithuanian Film Centre](#)

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

1.3.3 Public cultural institutions: trends and strategies

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

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

The lack of a unified, clear and comprehensive system of evaluation is one of the basic problems of the Ministry of Culture's management of the state cultural institutions' system. Quantitative data is collected only on state institutions; the municipal and private sectors are not reflected in this data, and qualitative data, even about state institutions, is collected in a very sporadic way. Without the qualitative evaluation criteria of the performance of institutions, the evaluation is incomplete, since the quantitative criteria do

not reflect changes in public attitudes, results of expert evaluations, etc. As a result, the Ministry of Culture does not have the data needed to measure the quality of the institutions' performance and cannot tie the funding of institutions with the quality of their performance.

The other problem of the state cultural institutions' network, stated in the *Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030*, is its unevenness in terms of accessibility. The strategy states that the existing network of institutions is uneven; it contributes little to the recovery and development of the regions and does not ensure the equal accessibility of culture to all residents of the regions of Lithuania. Culture is the least accessible in villages and small towns. As a solution to this problem, it is proposed in the strategy to define and create a basic package of cultural services, i.e. a basic infrastructure that would be shared and developed by municipalities and the central government. This model would also act as a mobility programme, open to all cultural service providers, regardless of their legal status, thus fostering synergies between cultural activities.

1.4 International cooperation

1.4.1 Public actors and cultural diplomacy

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

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

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

Culture attachés working in diplomatic missions of Lithuania also represent Lithuanian arts and culture abroad. Currently, 11 cultural attachés work in the European Union, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Sweden, USA, Ukraine, UK and China. The Lithuanian Culture Institute helps to carry out their activities. The Institute partly coordinates the programmes of representing Lithuania through the attachés, administrates the funding allocated to the projects of those programmes, and provides other support as well. The main purpose of attachés' activities is to help Lithuanian artists, cultural and creative institutions and companies to reach the international market, support professionals in the cultural and creative

sectors while seeking long-term international cooperation and on the basis of their activity to present Lithuania and Lithuanian culture in foreign countries.

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

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

1.4.2 European / international actors and programmes

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

Lithuania became a member of the Council of Europe on 14 March 1993. In 2022, Lithuania participated in the following cultural initiatives of the Council of Europe: EURIMAGES – European Cinema Support Fund, the national coordinator is the Lithuanian Film Centre; European Audiovisual Observatory, the national coordinator is the Lithuanian Film Centre; HEREIN: Observatory on policies and values of the European heritage, the national coordinator is the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture; European Heritage Days, the national coordinator is the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture; and European Cultural Routes, the national coordinator is the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture.

Lithuania became a member state of the European Union in 2004. Since then, Lithuania has participated in the EU programmes - European Capitals of Culture, Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens, Horizon and Horizon Europe. Currently, the Lithuanian Science Council and the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology coordinate the network of Horizon Europe national contact points in Lithuania. The participation of Lithuania in the Creative Europe Programme was coordinated by the Lithuanian Culture Institute that was responsible for the CULTURE sub-programme, and the Lithuanian Film Centre that was responsible for the MEDIA sub-programme.

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

In 1991, the Ministries of Culture of the Baltic Sea Region created the Ars Baltica network that was aimed at encouraging cultural collaboration. Ars Baltica supports cultural cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region and beyond, advocates for the significance of arts and culture on the political level and promotes

cultural life around the Baltic Sea. It is a cultural framework, gathering and offering information on different aspects within the arts and culture sector through network building and by supporting the implementation of multilateral cultural projects.

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

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

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

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

As of 2019, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture participates in the Baltic Culture Fund programme. The main goal of the Baltic Culture Fund, founded on 8 July 2018 on the basis of the *Agreement between the Ministries of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Estonia and Republic of Latvia on the Establishment of the Baltic Culture Fund*, is to promote cultural cooperation between the Baltic countries and strengthen the internationalisation of Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian culture through joint cultural projects and events. Grants are awarded annually. The Fund is administered by national cultural endowments on a three-year rotation basis. The Cultural Endowment of Estonia was the first to coordinate the Fund's activities from 2019 to 2021. In 2022, the coordinator of the Fund became the Latvian State Culture Capital Foundation. Each Baltic country contributes 100 000 EUR to the Fund annually. The Fund also accepts donations.

In February of 2022, the Lithuanian Minister of Culture, the Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine and the Polish Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Culture and National Heritage signed the declaration of intent on trilateral cooperation in the Lublin Triangle format. Lithuania, Ukraine and Poland will carry out a joint effort to promote common cultural heritage and history, to foster cooperation between cultural institutions and experts, and provide more opportunities for young culture professionals.

1.4.3 NGO's and direct professional cooperation

International professional cooperation in the non-governmental sector proceeds through professional networks, cooperation projects and participation in international events. All these activities can compete for funding by participating in the Lithuanian Council for Culture funding programmes aimed at promotion of international cooperation or culture dissemination, such as “Cultural and Creative Industries: Networking”, “Strategic Funding of International Events”, and in the Lithuanian Culture Institute a “Study Visit Programme”.

Some Lithuanian NGOs organise long-term international events that, among other functions, serve as a hub for maintenance of international cultural relations and cooperation. The Lithuanian Publishers association, together with the Lithuanian Culture Institute and the Lithuanian Exhibition and Congress Centre LITEXPO organise the Vilnius Book Fair, which is the largest annual book fair in the Baltic states and hosts an international forum and discussion club of publishers, writers and other artists. The NGO Vilnius Festivals organise an international theatre festival Sirenos that hosts a Lithuanian Theatre Showcase. Sirenos is a member of the international network of theatre organisations, IETM (Informal European Theatre Meeting). The Lithuanian Art Gallerists' Association organises ArtVilnius, which is the largest event of visual arts in Eastern Europe. Every year foreign galleries and museums take part in it and international projects of artists are presented.

Several of the main Lithuanian artists organisations and unions participate in international professional networks. The Lithuanian Association of Artists takes part in the International Association of Art (IAA) Europe. The IAA is a network of about 40 national member organisations within Europe, representing professional visual artists. The IAA supports international cooperation and artistic exchange, aims to improve the economic and social position of artists on a national and international level, cooperates with UNESCO and is engaged with other organisations concerned with the arts and culture.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Many Lithuanian NGOs cooperate with their partners abroad through joint events, festivals, masterclasses, etc. The Lithuanian Professional Folk Artists' Association cooperates with the Polish Folk Artists' Association (Stowarzyszenie tworców ludowych, STL), the Latvian Folk Artists' Association, the Lithuanian High School in Hüttenfeld, Germany, Białystok Crafts Centre (Poland), the Lithuanian Culture House in Puńsk (Poland), Saint-Egreve (France) Water-colourists' Club, and Boxholm (Sweden) organisation Friends to Friend. The Lithuanian Designers' Society maintains and develops international relations with the Latvian Designers' Society, the Estonian Association of Designers and the Shenzhen design cluster. Activities include improving designers' qualifications, strengthening community-based relations, building a network of national and international specialists, developing inter-institutional relations (professional development courses, conferences, seminars, creative workshops, residential activities and other events).

2. Current cultural affairs

2.1 Key developments

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

The aim of the reform of the cultural policy system was its horizontal decentralisation and democratisation by separating functions of policy development and implementation. The new model had to ensure that the Ministry of Culture, which previously was mostly engaged with the distribution and administration of funding, undertakes a more active role of strategic cultural policy development and the newly established institutions take over funding functions. In order to ensure the political independence of the Council for Culture, the Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture (2012) establishes certain principles for the election of the Council (see chapter 1.1) and its funding. Until 2021, the funding of the Council was carried out through the Culture Support Fund that was comprised of the following: 1) 3 per cent on the income received from the excise duty levied on alcoholic beverages and processed tobacco; 2) 10 per cent on the proceeds received from the lottery and gambling tax; 3) other lawfully acquired resources. This funding regulation increased the Council's independence since the amount of its finances could not be manipulated. A similar funding regulation is established for the Lithuanian National Broadcasting Company (LRT), which is calculated automatically as a fixed percentage of the state's tax revenue and cannot be revised by the government every year. The State allocates to LRT 1% of personal income tax and 1.3% of excise duties collected.

In 2020, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania asked the Constitutional Court to clarify whether these forming principles of the Culture Support Fund and budget of LRT do not contradict its constitutional right to propose a budget to the Parliament, taking into account the social and economic situation of the country. In the LRT case, the court stated that this legal regulation protects the institutional and editorial independence of the national broadcaster and is a way to shield it from political pressures. This argument, however, was not applied to the funding of the Lithuanian Council for Culture and in 2021, the Ministry abolished the Culture Support Fund and changed the Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture (2021) respectively. According to the new edition of the Law, the funds of the Council consist of the funds of the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania intended for financing the programmes implemented by the Council and administering its activities.

The Lithuanian Art Creators Union published a public appeal to the Culture Committee of the Parliament and the Ministry of Culture, arguing against this change as it removes regulatory safeguard that maintains the autonomy of the cultural field. According to the new edition of the Law, the possibilities for the field of culture and art to provide arguments regarding the budget of the Council are rather limited. The Council is not an appropriation manager and negotiations on its entire budget are ongoing in the Ministry. Non-governmental organizations in the field of culture have less opportunity to take part in these negotiations than the state cultural and artistic institutions. The Union have proposed to set up a working group in the Seimas to develop an alternative or improved funding model for the arts involving the community within a year.

2.2 Cultural rights and ethics

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

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

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

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

The official institution for supervision of journalist ethics established by the Seimas is the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics. The functions of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics are: investigate the

complaints (applications) of the persons concerned whose honour and dignity have been degraded in the media; examine the complaints (applications) of the persons concerned in relation to violation of their right to protection of privacy or processing of their personal data in the media; submit proposals to the Seimas and other state institutions for improving the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public* and other laws and legal acts regulating the information policy; etc.

Despite the activity of the above-mentioned institutions related to cultural rights and ethics, some cultural events during the last years raised wide public discussions and revealed a rather narrow understanding of freedom of expression in Lithuania (see Human Rights Monitoring Institute [report](#)). For example, in 2014, the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania upheld a fine imposed on the company of designer Robertas Kalinkinas for his advertisement campaign that had used the visual images of a young woman and man who were stylized like Jesus and Mary. The fine was imposed by the State Consumer Rights Protection Service deciding that the advertisement violated the provision of the Law on Advertising on public morality. In the same year, a pre-trial investigation was launched against the comedian Whydotas, who posted a song on his *YouTube* channel called “Devil, please” which contained a verse “*Devil, please take my soul, and let me bash children’s heads into the wall*”. The author was suspected of inciting violence against a social group – children. Despite the song being obviously intended to be humorous and no actual aim to incite violence being present, Whydotas and other creators of the song were only acquitted on appeal, after almost 2 years of investigation and litigation. In 2018, the Parliament’s Commission of Freedom Fighters appealed to the prosecutor’s office to open a pre-trial investigation against writer M. Ivaškevičius regarding his public support for international crimes committed by the USSR or Nazi Germany against the Republic of Lithuania or its inhabitants. According to the applicants, the writer had committed these crimes in the novel “Greens” while assessing Lithuania’s resistance to the occupation and depicting the partisan struggle, its main leader, and other partisans.

In general, these events show that even though freedom of expression and the importance of its protection are acknowledged at the highest level in Lithuania, more extreme forms of expression received disproportionate prohibitions and punishment-based responses from the authorities. Performers, designers, advertisers, writers, and social action initiators had to defend their freedom of expression in the courts and these cases demonstrated that law enforcement authorities are not always able to distinguish permissible self-expression, criticism, or black humour from hate speech, bullying or contempt.

2.3 Role of artists and cultural professionals

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

Article 11 of the Law determines state support for artists from the *Artists Social Security Programme*, approved by the government in 2011. The Programme guarantees the state financial obligation to cover social and health insurance of artists, and support to self-employed artists. One of the purposes of the Programme is to allocate creative idle time payments for artists. Creative idle time means a period of time when an artist of employable age, for objective reasons, temporarily has no conditions for the creation of art and (or) dissemination of its results. Creative idle time payment is a payment in the amount of a minimal monthly wage, which is paid to the artists from the Programme's budget. The new edition of the programme of 2022 establishes the rules for payments in an emergency or quarantine.

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

In 2022, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture provided information about 19 unions and associations that have the status of “artists’ organisation”. These organisations play an important role in cultural policy. According to many Laws that establish the procedure of formation of cultural policy institutions (councils, commissions, foundations), these organisations have the right to delegate their members to consulting or governing bodies. Thus, artists participate in cultural policy decision-making mainly through their unions and associations (see chapter 1.2.5 for more about the activity of artists organisations).

The state funding for individual artists’ creative activity and for the projects of artists organisations is mainly allocated through the Lithuania Council for Culture (see chapter 7.2). The Council awards grants not only to those artists who have a status of art creators, but also to all cultural or artistic creators who are citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, other European Union countries or third countries, if their activity is related to creation or dissemination of Lithuanian culture and art.

In 2021, the Lithuanian Council for Culture commissioned a *Study on the Social and Creative Condition of artists*. According to the study, there are 6976 artists in Lithuania, of which 52 % are women and 48 % are men. Only 20 % of all artists interviewed said they could make a living purely from creative activities. On average, 35 % of the monthly income of artists comes from creative activities, 37 % is earned from non-creative activities, and 28 % comes from activities partly related to creativity. Responding to questions on the artist's profession and society's attitude towards it, most of the artists agreed that “*artists contribute to the formation of social values*” and that it is “*important for them to contribute to the development of culture and the arts*”. At the same time, they believe that artists are underestimated by society and policymakers in Lithuania.

This view is confirmed by the recurring public debates in the media between artists, politicians, and the public about various works of art (see chapter 2.9). These discussions are mainly provoked by patriotic and religious NGOs expressing their negative attitude or dissatisfaction with the way artists treat certain ideas, personalities, or symbols. NGOs are usually supported by populist politicians seeking to use public debate to increase their popularity and visibility. Thus, Lithuanian artists must often defend their professional autonomy and the right to make their own aesthetic and artistic decisions and to tackle the challenges of a narrow understanding of the freedom of expression and low artistic literacy in society.

2.4 Digital policy and developments

In Lithuania, digital cultural policy is mainly implemented in the fields of libraries, museums, and heritage. The beginning of the digitisation process was a project of the Lithuanian Libraries Integral Information

System (LIBIS), which started in 1995. The project was implemented by the [Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania](#). The objectives of the project were to develop a library system that would enable automation of all library and reader service processes; create a union catalogue based on shared cataloguing; adapt integrated library information resources to customer service; extend the infrastructure created by LIBIS and develop the existing software tools. LIBIS was launched in 1998. In 2015 – 2021, the National Library implemented the LIBIS modernisation project that aimed to transfer the e-services provided by the LIBIS libraries to a centrally managed cloud infrastructure and to develop the [ibiblioteka.lt](#) portal by creating new electronic services or modernising existing ones.

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

Since 2005, policy for digitisation of cultural heritage in Lithuania is coordinated by the Ministry of Culture (Memory Institutions Policy Group) together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation (since September 2018) and the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania. [The Council for Digitisation of Lithuania's Cultural Heritage](#) provides expertise and consultations on issues in digitisation policy making, implementation, monitoring and reviewing.

Digitisation of cultural heritage activities in the national memory institutions is coordinated by the national network of 15 digitisation competence centres: Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Lithuanian National Museum of Art, Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, Lithuanian Central State Archives work at national level; M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, Lithuanian Sea Museum, Šiauliai Aušros Museum, and county public libraries work at regional level; Vilnius University Library, Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and the public institution Lithuanian National Radio and Television work on a sectoral level. Since the beginning of 2020, [the system of statistics on digitisation of cultural heritage](#) has been in place to consistently monitor and analyse the state and development of digitised and digital resources of cultural heritage and evaluate the impact of measures taken to achieve the strategic goals of the cultural heritage digitisation policy, and to initiate qualitative changes.

Digitised cultural heritage of cultural and scientific significance is available through several portals. [E-paveldas](#) is a virtual digital cultural heritage information system based on a database of digitised objects, which currently contains about 3 million pages of digitised objects (archive files, manuscripts, books, posters, paintings, graphics, photographs, and digitised images of other objects). [LIMIS](#) is the Lithuanian Integral Museum Information System. The Lithuanian Museums' Centre for Information, Digitisation and LIMIS is a specialised department of the Lithuanian National Museum of Art. Its purpose is to ensure that information on the cultural heritage accumulated in Lithuanian museums is integrated into the common digital space of the Lithuanian and European cultural heritage. The portal [www.limis.lt](#) became available for users in 2012. In 2022, the LIMIS system had 1.150.600 digital items, of which 680.337 were publicly available. [E-Kinas](#) is the virtual archive of Lithuanian documentary heritage. Its aim is to create conditions for the preservation and dissemination of the film heritage accumulated in the Lithuanian Central State Archives. On the initiative of the Lithuanian Film Centre, a total of 39 copies of fictional films of significance to Lithuanian film history and 6 documentary films stored in foreign repositories and archives have already been acquired. They have been transferred for permanent storage to the Lithuanian Central State Archives. Film heritage is also available on the website [sinematika.lt](#) that offers digitalized and restored documentary films and video art works. [EAIS](#) is the Electronic Archive Information System. The

system was developed in response to the constantly increasing amount of information stored in documents, registers and information systems, the cost of storing so-called “paper” documents and the need for a unified information search system of the National Document Fund (NDF). The [LRT Mediateka](#) is an audiovisual collection of Lithuanian National Radio and Television. Mediateka is open to the public since 2008. Videos and films converted into digital media are free of charge.

In 2008, to ensure targeted dissemination and promotion of the country’s cultural heritage within the European digital platform for cultural heritage, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania was entrusted with the representation of the country in the European digital library [Europeana](#). At the end of 2020, Europeana encompassed 227.286 digital objects provided by Lithuanian institutions.

In 2020–2022, due to the quarantine restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, many Lithuanian cultural and arts organisations developed digital content and created virtual tours and expositions, data bases, digital archives, mobile applications and exhibitions. This was paid in financed in part by the special programme of Lithuanian Council for Culture initiated in 2020 and aimed at the adaptation of cultural products and services to the digital environment. The budget of the programme was 10 million EUR that were allocated to 512 projects. [Links](#) to their results together with other digital initiatives are available on the website of the Ministry of Culture.

2.5 Cultural diversity

2.5.1 National / international intercultural dialogue

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

The main initiator of national intercultural dialogue at policy level is the [Department of National Minorities to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania](#), established in 2015. The Department funds cultural projects within the frame of the Integration of National Minorities in Society while Preserving Their Identity Programme. The programme funds three categories of project proposals: 1) the Dissemination of National Minorities’ Culture; 2) the Dissemination of National Minorities’ Culture and Cultural Cooperation in Southeast Lithuania; 3) the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue and the Dissemination of National Minorities’ Culture in the Mass Media.

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

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

Intercultural dialogue on an international level is coordinated by the [Lithuanian Culture Institute](#). For several years, the Lithuanian Culture Institute has been realising Lithuanian culture seasons in various countries. In 2015, the Lithuanian Culture Institute represented Lithuania in Krakow; in 2016, it organised Spring and Autumn Seasons in Ukraine; in 2017, Lithuania was a guest of honour at the international Leipzig Book Fair; in 2018, the institute realised two large-scale international events – the Baltic Countries Market Focus Programme at the London Book Fair and the Lithuanian art festival “Flux” in Rome. In 2019, Tel Aviv became a host to the largest to date presentation of contemporary Lithuanian culture: “Lithuanian Story. Culture Festival in Tel Aviv 2019”. The festival aimed to introduce Israel’s audiences to Lithuanian artists from the fields of poetry, classical and contemporary music, performance, dance, and film. In 2021, the Lithuanian Culture Institute organised the Lithuanian culture season in Bavaria *Without Distance: Lithuanian Culture in Bavaria 2021*. The cultural season held a varied programme of music, literature, visual arts, and performances by the most prominent Lithuanian artists and performers.

2.5.2 Education

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

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

According to the *Concept of Non-Traditional Education*, non-traditional education is the type of education implemented according to the formal (primary, basic and secondary), and (or) non-formal (pre-school, pre-primary and other non-formal) education curricula based on some unique pedagogical system (Maria Montessori, Waldorf, Shin'ichi Suzuki, etc.) or its separate elements. Non-traditional education is part of the education system that is consistent and equivalent to the traditional system of education and comprises formal (except for vocational training and higher education) and non-formal education of children. Non-traditional education is implemented in non-traditional schools and in traditional schools according to the curriculum of primary and (or) other non-formal education. Schools of non-traditional education may operate according to their own programmes, but the total number of subjects and the total number of hours allocated for each subject in forms 1-12 can only differ from those specified in the state general education plans by less than 25 per cent.

In 2022, [a range of non-traditional education schools](#) operated in Lithuania, for example: 1 school with special focus on ecology and environmental technologies, 4 schools with special focus on arts and

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

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

In Lithuania, there are also schools of national minorities. The schools with national minorities' language as the language of instruction operate in the areas inhabited by large national minorities' populations. According to the data of the [Education Management Information System](#), in 2021 there were 102 schools of general education in Lithuania with one or several national minority/foreign languages of instruction. Of those, 46 schools have Polish as the language of instruction, 27 schools have Russian language of instruction, and 29 schools have other languages of instruction. A total of 31502 children attended these schools, which is 9,6 % of the total number of Lithuanian schoolchildren.

National minorities' schools can work in Lithuania also as Saturday or Sunday schools. Their concept is defined, and activity regulated by the [Concept of the school of national minorities on Saturdays and Sundays](#). This form of education is used in areas where national minorities make up only a small group. According to the data of the [Department of National Minorities](#), in 2020, 46 Saturday/Sunday schools of national minorities were working in Lithuania. 4 were established by Armenians, 3 by Belarusians, 1 by Estonians, 1 by Greeks, 1 by Karaites, 2 by Latvians, 14 by Poles, 1 by Romanians, 4 by Russians, 5 by Tatars, 4 by Ukrainians, 1 by Uzbeks, 4 by Germans, and 3 by Jews residing in Lithuania. These schools were attended by 900 children.

2.5.3 Media pluralism and content diversity

Media regulations

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

The [Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania](#) is an independent body accountable to the Seimas, which regulates and supervises the activities of radio and television broadcasters, on-demand audiovisual media service providers falling under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Lithuania, re-broadcasters carrying their activities in the territory of Lithuania and other legal bodies providing distribution services of radio

and television programmes on the internet for the users in the territory of Lithuania. The Commission also participates in the formation of national audiovisual policy. It is an expert body for the Seimas and the Government on audiovisual issues. When performing its functions and taking decisions on issues within its remit, the Commission acts independently. The Commission consists of 11 members: 2 members are appointed by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, three members (one of them from the opposition political groups) are appointed by the Seimas on the recommendation of the Committee on Culture, three members are appointed by the Lithuanian Association of Artists, one member – by the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference, one member – by the Lithuanian Journalists' Union, and one member – by the Society of Lithuanian Journalists. The members of the Commission are appointed to serve for a period of four years and may not serve for more than two terms in succession. The chairman and deputy chairman of the Commission are appointed by the Seimas.

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

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

Lithuania has a national broadcasting company: Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT). LRT is a public body belonging to the State by the right of ownership. The *Law on Lithuanian National Radio and Television* regulates the procedure of establishing, managing, operating, reorganising and liquidating of LRT, its rights, duties, and liability. The activities of a public broadcaster are also based on the *Law on the Provision of Information to the Public*. Programming diversity is declared as one of the main aims of LRT that is realised through 7 media channels. Two of them – television *LRT Plus* and radio *LRT Klasika* deliver specialised content dedicated to culture. LRT's annual budget depends directly on the taxes collected in the year before the last. The State allocates 1% of personal income tax and 1.3% of excise duties collected. LRT is not allowed to air commercial advertising. This funding model, where the LRT's budget is automatically calculated as a fixed share of the taxes collected by the State, has been in place since 2015 and was introduced as a guarantee of independence from government institutions as well as commercial revenues and economic lobbying. The highest governing LRT body is the LRT Council. It is formed for a term of 6 years and consists of 12 members, public, scientific, and cultural figures. The Council forms the strategy of the LRT programming and LRT website, supervises the implementation of the LRT's mission, approves the annual income and spending by LRT administration, as well as deals with the other issues within the Council capacity as envisaged by LRT by-laws.

Radio broadcasting

According to the data of the Lithuanian Radio and Television Commission, in 2022, there were 42 radio broadcasters in Lithuania that broadcasted 55 radio programmes. The Lithuanian public broadcasting company broadcasts 3 radio programmes: "LRT radijas", "Opus", and "Klasika". The last one is dedicated

to cultural content. Other radio broadcasters are private companies; most of them are commercial organisations. There are two Polish radio programmes in Lithuania: “Znad Wilii”, and “RadioWilno” (streamed online only), and two Russian programmes: “Rusradio” and “Raduga”. The Lithuanian public broadcaster LRT airs information of different duration for national minorities (in Russian, Belarusian, Polish, Yiddish, and Ukrainian).

In 2020, the greatest variety of radio programmes was in the largest cities of Lithuania: in Vilnius 31 programmes, in Kaunas 25, in Klaipėda 24, in Šiauliai 22, and in Panevėžys 19. The four most popular national radio programmes account for 58 % of the total listening time.

According to the data of Lithuanian Statistics, in 2020, the share of domestic (original) radio programmes of the public broadcaster amounted to 92.6 % of the total volume and is by 2.5 – 3.0 % smaller than in the last 5 years. The share of domestic (original) radio programmes of private radio companies amounted to 91 % and is smaller by 5 % than in the last 5 years (see Table 2). The main content of radio programmes was entertainment (69.7 %), while educational programmes made up the smallest share (1.0 %). Cultural programmes made up 5.2% of the total content (see Table 3).

Table 2: Volume of radio programmes, in hours, in 2016–2020

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
State broadcasting company	Total	27 944	27 883	27 888	27 845	28 439
	Original programmes	26 362	26 280	26 280	26 280	26 352
	Foreign programmes	122	122	122	122	122
	Coproduction programmes	1 460	1 481	1 486	1 443	1 965
Private companies	Total	262 325	253 571	220 896	239 579	260 729
	Original programmes	252 640	245 616	212 282	231 485	237 195
	Foreign programmes	9 685	7 955	8 614	8 094	23 534
	Coproduction programmes	-	-	-	-	-

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

Table 3: Structure of original radio programmes, in hours, in 2016–2020

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%
Total	279 002	100	271 896	100	238 562	100	257 765	100	263 547	100
Information programmes	30 116	10.8	25 603	9.4	25 857	10.8	26 840	10.4	26 281	10.0
Educational programmes	2 959	1.1	2 157	0.8	3 001	1.3	3 350	1.3	2 515	1.0
Culture programmes	10 245	3.7	8 873	3.3	10 429	4.4	12 168	4.7	13 782	5.2
Religious programmes	5 558	2.0	4 397	1.6	4 439	1.9	4 517	1.8	4 606	1.7
Advertising	14 307	5.1	33 953	12.5	11 898	5.0	16 920	6.6	24 078	9.1
Entertainment programmes	201 910	72.4	184 461	67.8	174 330	73.1	187 287	72.7	183 722	69.7
Not classified	13 907	5.0	12 452	4.6	8 608	3.6	6 683	2.6	8 563	3.2

Source: [Statistics Lithuania](#)

TV broadcasting

According to the data of the [Lithuanian Radio and Television Commission](#), in 2020, there were 29 TV broadcasting companies in Lithuania. 12 of them were also engaged in re-broadcasting programmes. 46 companies were engaged in rebroadcasting, 5 of them also take part in programme dissemination on the internet. There were 2 companies that broadcasted online only. Most of these organisations are private commercial organisations, except the Lithuanian public broadcaster and 4 public local broadcasting institutions. The Lithuanian public broadcasting company LRT broadcasts 3 TV programmes: “LRT televizija”, “LRT Lituanica”, and “LRT Plius”. The last one is dedicated to cultural content.

According to the data of [Statistics Lithuania](#), in 2020, the share of domestic (original) television programmes of public broadcasting amounted to 86% of the total volume, which is 4 % more than in 2019

and 2018 (see Table 4). The share of domestic (original) TV programmes of private television broadcasting companies was 67.8% and it is 3.8% more than in 2019, however, the total volume of hours is 35% less than in 2019. The content of TV programmes was entertainment (38%), while educational and religious programmes made up the smallest share (0.5% and 0.4 %). Cultural programmes made up 7.2% of total content (see Table 5).

Table 4: Volume of television programmes, in hours, in 2016–2020

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
State broadcasting company	Total	27 681	30 447	31 824	31703	30530
	Original programmes	23 514	26 280	26 280	26280	26352
	Foreign programmes	4 167	4 167	5 544	5423	4178
	Coproduction programmes	–	–	–	–	
Private companies	Total	119 837	168 220	194 305	223112	146891
	Original programmes	70 440	136 891	136 891	142891	99629
	Foreign programmes	33 907	21 079	56 752	73776	46868
	Coproduction programmes	15 490	10 250	662	6445	394

Source: [Statistics Lithuania](#)

Table 5: Structure of original television programmes, in hours, in 2016–2020

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%	Hours	%
Total	93 954	100	163 171	100	158 939	100	169 171	100	125 981	100
Information programmes	17 339	18.5	23 345	14.3	28 258	17.8	34 562	20.4	25 930	20.6
Educational programmes	900	1.0	756	0.5	686	0.4	374	0.2	579	0.5
Culture programmes	11 675	12.4	11 101	6.8	14 869	9.4	14 575	8.6	9 011	7.2
Religious programmes	360	0.4	404	0.2	423	0.3	448	0.3	475	0.4
Advertising	13 679	14.6	33 040	20.2	13 239	8.3	13 829	8.2	19 201	15.2
Entertainment programmes	31 091	33.1	69 577	42.6	67 055	42.2	64 233	38.0	47 819	38.0
Not classified	18 910	20.1	24 948	15.3	34 409	21.6	41 150	24.3	22 966	18.2

Source: [Statistics Lithuania](#)

Production and distribution of original domestic content broadcasted by TV and radio companies are supported through the [Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation](#) (see chapter 1.2.2). In 2019, the Foundation funded 152 projects of national and regional broadcasters and Internet media and allocated to them 1 025 070 EUR (see chapter 3.5.3 for more about support for media).

According to the authors of the [Lithuania Report](#) of the Media Pluralism Monitor 2021, Lithuania scores low risk in Fundamental Protection (28%), medium risk in Political Independence (34%) and Social Inclusiveness (43%), and high risk in Market Plurality (70%) area. Some of the persisting issues are political and business influence, lack of media ownership transparency, continuing audience fragmentation and social and political polarisation, declining overall institutional trust, and rising societal uncertainty and scepticism.

2.5.4 Language

According to the data of the population census in 2011, 84.2 per cent of the total population of the Republic of Lithuania were Lithuanians, 6.6 per cent Poles, 5.8 per cent Russians, 1.2 per cent Belarusians, 0.5 per cent Ukrainians, and 0.6 per cent other nationalities. Most residents of the largest ethnic groups indicated their language as their native language: Lithuanians 99.2 per cent, Poles 77.1 per cent, and Russians 87.2 per cent. Answers to the question about foreign languages showed that about 78.5 per cent of the population knew at least one foreign language. 41.6 per cent of the population spoke

one foreign language, 29 per cent spoke two languages, 6.6 per cent spoke three languages, and 1.3 per cent spoke four and more languages. The biggest share of the population spoke Russian (63 per cent), 30.4 per cent English, 8.5 per cent Polish, and 8.3 per cent German.

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

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

The policy of the state language is shaped by the State Language Commission. The tasks of the Commissions are to decide issues concerning the implementation of the Law on the State Language; submit to Seimas, the President of the Republic and the Government, proposals on language policy and implementation of the *Law on State Language* and submit to Seimas conclusions regarding the language of legal acts; establish the directions of regulating the Lithuanian language; decide the issues of standardisation and codification of the Lithuanian language; appraise and approve the most important standardising language works (dictionaries, reference books, guidebooks and textbooks); etc.

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

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

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

Several language promotion measures are funded by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The most popular of them is the annual National Dictation Competition that has been organised 13

times. Every year the State Language Inspectorate organises a Competition of the Most Beautiful Name of a Company. The State Language Commission gives awards for significant works in the field of Lithuanian terminology, promotion of the language of science and linguistic education of the public. The Society of Lithuanian Language organises the elections of the Word of the Year and the Saying of the Year that are also very popular among the residents of Lithuania.

In recent years, the main debate in the field of language policy has dealt with the “names spelling issue”. Article 7 of the Lithuanian *Law on the State Language* provides that personal names of the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania in official documents (e.g. ID documents, passports) shall have the forms prescribed by laws, i.e. have to be written in the Lithuanian alphabet. The Lithuanian alphabet is based on Latin and consists of 32 letters: the Latin characters with extra nasal letters (ą, ę, į, ū) and letters with diacritics (č, š, ž, è, ū). The alphabet does not contain the Latin letters “w”, “q” and “x” and this causes problems for the national minority group representatives willing to name their children in accordance with their culture, tradition or language. It also poses a difficulty for Lithuanian women when marrying foreigners and wishing for their surnames to be written in the same way as the surnames of their husbands on documents issued in Lithuania. According to the data, this problem concerns a substantial number of people annually, as many as 16% of marriages are of a mixed character. Furthermore, within ten years, the number of children born beyond the borders of the country has increased from 1% to 16% (2011). Such marriages and the resulting offspring want their family name to be written in its unchanged form in all documents issued within Lithuanian borders.

Discussions on the original spelling of non-Lithuanian names in documents have been taking place for decades. Politicians of the Polish community in Lithuania and their supporters in Poland have long been asking to be allowed to use Polish letters in the last names of Polish speakers, an issue that has been emerging in bilateral Lithuanian-Polish relations. Critics say that non-Lithuanian characters would undermine the status of the Lithuanian language as the official language and, furthermore, can cause trouble in reading non-Lithuanian last names.

In January of 2022, the Parliament adopted the *Law on the writing of personal names and surnames in documents*. The Law has allowed Lithuanian citizens to use the letters “q”, “x” and “w”, which do not exist in the Lithuanian alphabet, if they assume the surnames of their non-Lithuanian spouses. This will also apply if the surname of the parent is spelled in non-Lithuanian characters, as well as if the parents, grandparents or ancestors had or have the citizenship of another country and their first and last names were spelled in non-Lithuanian characters. The original spelling of names in Latin-based characters without diacritical marks will also be allowed if a Lithuanian citizen acquired their first and last names in a foreign country and the names are spelled in these characters in the source document.

2.5.5 Gender

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

In 2015, the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour approved the fourth *National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015–2021* and its Action Plan. The strategic goal of the Programme is the consistent, complex, and systematic promotion of equality between women and men and the elimination of discrimination between women and men in all areas. The objectives of the

programme are to promote equal opportunities for women and men in the field of employment and occupation; balance involvement of women and men in decision-making and holding top posts; and to improve the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of gender equality.

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

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

Table 6: Number of employees (in persons) and their average earnings (annual gross, EUR) in art, entertainment and the leisure organisation sector in 2016–2020

	Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Sex					
Number of employees (in persons) working in art, entertainment and leisure organisations sector	Females	17 200	17 400	15 700	14 300	13 900
	Males	7 800	7 500	8 700	7 300	6 600
Average earnings of women and men working in art, entertainment and leisure organisations sector	Females	7 228	7 862	8 430	11 935	13 062
	Males	8 434	8 858	9 913	14 035	14 583

Sources: Eurostat, Statistics Lithuania

Women and men are not evenly represented in top positions of national and state cultural organisations. In 2022, women headed 29 of 63 national and state cultural institutions (museums, theatres, libraries, commission, councils etc.). Considering that twice as many women as men work in the cultural sector, this distribution of leadership positions indicates unequal career opportunities for men and women.

Also, women are underrepresented in the pursuit of the National Award for Culture and the Arts. This award is the most prestigious award in Lithuania and artists receive it for their long-term creative contribution to the Lithuanian culture and art. Despite the fact of the greater percentage of women working in arts and culture sector, they are nominated for the award far less often than men. Since 1989, women accounted for only 20% of all creators who received the National Award. In 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 2002, 2012 and 2013, the national award in the fields of culture and arts were granted to men exceptionally. Only three times, in 2008, 2017 and 2019, more women than men received this award. In 2021, unions and associations of artists and other cultural organisations nominated 30 candidates for the National Prize – 9 women and 21 men. The award was granted to 2 women and 4 men.

According to the survey *Population participation in culture and satisfaction with cultural services (2020)* commissioned by the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, women and men are unevenly active in cultural and artistic activities: 41% men and 49% women participated in cultural activities. Significantly fewer men than women use libraries (30% and 47%), are interested in visual arts and architecture (46% and 57%).

2.5.6 Disability

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

The planning, organising and coordinating of measures for the social integration of people with disabilities, in order to create equal rights and opportunities for disabled people to participate in public life, are performed by the Department for the Affairs of Disabled People under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The *Action plan for the social integration of people with disabilities in 2021–2023*, approved by the Government in 2020, includes several objectives related to the equal opportunities of people with disabilities to take part in arts and culture. The second objective of the programme is to increase the

accessibility of physical and informative environments for people with disabilities. In the field of culture, the objective has to be achieved by the development of the titration of film and TV programmes, translations in sign language, promotion of publications for people who cannot read a normal printed text, and by modernisation of buildings of cultural institutions in order to make them more accessible for disabled. The third objective of the programme is to seek greater employment of people with disabilities in the labour market, and participation in culture, sport and leisure activities. Lithuanian Ministry of Culture and Council for Culture are responsible for implementing a number of measures to achieve these objectives.

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

2.6 Culture and social inclusion

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

According to the survey *Population participation in culture and satisfaction with cultural services (2020)* commissioned by the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, the inhabitants of villages and small towns (up to 3 000 residents) are less involved in cultural activities compared to residents of the three major cities (42 % and 48 % respectively). Residents of small towns and villages visit cultural heritage sites, participate in books and press related activities less often. As the main reason not to participate in cultural activities, small towns residents indicate the difficulty in travelling to the locations where cultural activities take place, the high price, and poor health.

In 2018, in order to improve the accessibility of culture in the regions and the development of diversity of local cultural expressions, the Lithuanian Council for Culture created the model of the support of Even Cultural Development. The main idea of the model is to create 10 Regional Councils for Culture, which decide independently on funding of cultural projects through local calls for tenders. The Regional Councils for Culture are formed of representatives of regional municipalities, representatives of regional arts and culture organisations and one delegate from the Lithuanian Council for Culture, who does not have voting rights. Each Regional Council forms its own funding priorities reflecting the situation of local cultural communities, infrastructure and potential. The aim of the model is to decentralise cultural funding decisions, enable regions to decide independently on the implementation of cultural and artistic projects that are important for them, and involve local communities, creators and municipalities in decision-making processes.

In 2019, the Lithuanian Council for Culture organised the first contest for funding according to the *Even Cultural Development* Programme. 487 regional projects were granted 2 981 780 EUR. In 2020, funding of 2 887 016 EUR was granted to 615 projects. However, the funding mechanism of the programme was criticised by the Lithuanian Art Creators' Association because of uneven competing conditions for private and municipal cultural organisations as the latter have guaranteed annual funding from municipal budgets and get the bigger share of finance in this contest as well. The Association proposed to separate the funding of NGO projects from the funding of municipal organisations' projects, arguing that separating this funding would create the conditions for the continued and sustainable operation of the NGO sector.

2.7 Societal impacts of arts

In Lithuania, the idea of a societal impact of art (understood as a capacity of art to engage people in common processes of creative activity, enhance their cooperation and strengthen collective identity) is widely exploited at cultural policy of municipal level. In recent years, there have been many initiatives and projects aimed at community building and cooperation through common artistic activities. These projects are funded by municipalities and by the Lithuanian Council for Culture under the "Creative Initiatives of Communities" programme that was initiated in 2018. In 2022, the Council for Culture is going to allocate 250 000 EUR for this programme.

Since 2017, the Lithuanian Council for Culture has been implementing the funding programme "Art for Human Wellbeing", that aims to promote access to culture and the arts for groups experiencing social and cultural exclusion and that make a positive impact on the personal well-being and health of the individual. The programme funds projects ensuring the accessibility of professional arts and culture for groups who have limited or no access to culture for objective reasons (e.g. health); projects ensuring cooperation with all categories of health and social care institutions and making professional art and culture accessible to users and services providers of these institutions; creative projects addressing issues of personal well-being or health determined by social and cultural exclusion. Up to 2022, the Council has allocated about half a million euros to the programme.

2.8 Cultural sustainability

According to the UN Sustainable Development Goals Index, in 2021 Lithuania's SDG Index score was 76.7 and it ranked 31st out of 165 countries, and last (8th out of 8) among the countries in the Northern European region. Lithuania has so far achieved the positive indicators set for the 15th goal (Life on land) only. The biggest challenges are related to the achievement of the 13th, 2nd, 9th, 10th, and 12th goals.

Figure 3. Lithuanian SDG trends in 2021



Source: [Sustainable development report, country profiles](#)

Taking this into account, the [National Development Plan of Lithuania for 2021-2030](#) declares sustainable development as a horizontal priority and sets the target for Lithuania to be in the top 20 countries in the Sustainable Development Index by 2030. The Plan also sets ten strategic goals to be achieved over the next 10 years that are linked to UN Sustainable Development Goals: 1) to progress the sustainable development of the economy based on scientific knowledge, advanced technologies and innovations and to increase the country's international competitiveness; 2) to increase the social well-being and inclusion of the population, to strengthen health and to improve the demographic situation in Lithuania; 3) to increase the inclusion and effectiveness of education in order to meet the needs of the individual and society; 4) to strengthen national and civic identity, increase the spread of culture and the creativity of society; 5) to improve transport, energy and digital internal and external connectivity; 6) to ensure good quality of the environment and sustainability of the use of natural resources, protect biological diversity, mitigate the impact of Lithuania on climate change and increase resilience to its impact; 7) to develop the territory of Lithuania in a sustainable and balanced manner and reduce regional exclusion; 8) to increase the efficiency of the legal system and public administration; 9) to strengthen global Lithuania's influence and relations with the diaspora; and 10) to strengthen national security. The *National Development Plan for 2021 – 2030* also encompasses objectives of each goal and their achievements indicators.

The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture is mostly involved in the realisation of the fourth goal of the Plan, which is “to strengthen national and civic identity, increase the spread of culture and the creativity of society”. This goal is linked to the 4th, 8th, 10th, and 11th SDG of the UN and entails 7 objectives: 4.1. encourage the population to participate in cultural activities and contribute to the development of culture; 4.2. improve the creation conditions in Lithuania and increase the dissemination of Lithuanian culture abroad; 4.3. promote the integration of national minorities; 4.4. aim to increase the highest achievements of Lithuanian sport; 4.5. strengthen the relevance of historical memory in society; 4.6. revive the cultural and national heritage of public significance and increase its usage for the needs of society; and 4.7. increase the relevance of the Lithuanian language in the context of globalization and technology.

In 2021, the National Audit Office of Lithuania prepared a report on [Lithuania's preparedness to implement sustainable development goals](#). The report has indicated some important aspects of SDG implementation that have to be improved. First, there is a lack of an effective inter-institutional coordination mechanism that results in insufficient coordination of the implementation of the SDGs, both between state institutions (horizontal coordination) and with municipalities and other institutions (vertical coordination). Also, there is no national coordination on publicising the SDGs, and no publicity plan to ensure targeted public communication involving state institutions and other stakeholders. According to [surveys \(2019\)](#), only 24% of Lithuanians have heard of the SDGs or are well aware of them. In three years, the proportion of the population who know what it is or who has heard of it has grown by 4% (from

20% in 2016 to 24% in 2019). Secondly, Lithuania has no effective mechanism to monitor data and assess progress towards SDG. Shortcomings in the localisation of indicators and data collection make it difficult to adequately monitor progress in the implementation of the targets and to react to possible negative trends in indicators in a timely manner.

Despite these shortcomings of sustainable development policy on the governmental level, the NGO sector is aware of SDG and participates actively in various sustainable development activities. According to the [Voluntary national review on the implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development in Lithuania](#) prepared by an inter-institutional workgroup in 2018, non-governmental organisations of Lithuania or a partner country implement the greater part of Lithuania's development cooperation projects: in 2017 only 22% of all projects were implemented by the public sector, and the rest were realised by NGOs and businesses. Cultural NGOs are mostly involved in the activities designed to introduce the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to the Lithuanian public. They organised documentary film festivals, photography exhibitions, interactive events, 'brain fights' and discussions, disseminate information on television and radio shows and social media, and look for innovative, attractive and accessible forms to present the information.

2.9 Other main cultural policy issues

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

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

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

The longest story related to the establishment of new public monument is about the monument of Lukiškės Square. The square is the largest square (about 4 ha) in Vilnius, located in the centre of the city. In the Soviet times, the square was renamed Lenin Square and a statue of Lenin was built in its centre in 1953. The statue was removed in 1991, after the restoration of independence of Lithuania. The discussions about the renovation of the square started immediately after the removal of the statue. In

1999, the Parliament of Lithuania adopted a resolution that *“the Lukiškės Square in Vilnius has to be formed as the main representative square of Lithuania with memorial recognition of the fights for freedom”*.

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

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

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

In 2017, the Ministry of Culture together with the Contemporary Arts Centre announced the third competition for the monument in Lukiškės Square. The artists submitted 32 monument projects. The commission selected 5 of them and proposed a public vote. Among these 5 selected projects was the statue of Vytis, which won the competition of the Vytis Support Fund previously. More than 11.000 people participated in the electronic voting. The statue of Vytis received 37.66 per cent of votes and 37.55 per cent voted for the project of a young artist representing a hillock with a partisan shelter. The latter project got the most votes of the commission – 7 out of 8. The votes of the public and commission amounted to 50% of the final result, so the second project was announced as the winner.

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

The draft law had not been considered in the Parliament that year, but it was remembered again and passed in 2020. The [3rd article](#) of this law states: *The monument Vytis depicting the symbol of the state together with the memorial to the victims of the freedom of Lithuania is the main focus of the representative square of the Lithuanian state.*

3. Cultural and creative sectors

3.1 Heritage

In 2022, the Lithuanian [Register of Cultural Property](#) contained information about 25 892 immovable cultural heritage objects (individual and complex objects and cultural heritage sites) and about 8 454 movable cultural properties. The register is constantly updated and revised. More than 8 000 cultural heritage objects are on the list of state protected cultural heritage objects approved by the Minister of Culture, and 2 422 cultural heritage objects are declared national cultural heritage objects by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Table 7: Number of state protected cultural heritage units and monuments of cultural heritage in 2017–2021

Number Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
State protected cultural heritage (units)	8 139	8 189	8 210	8 221	8 175
Monuments of cultural heritage	2 297	2 298	2 299	2 300	2 422

Source: [Statistics Lithuania](#)

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

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

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

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

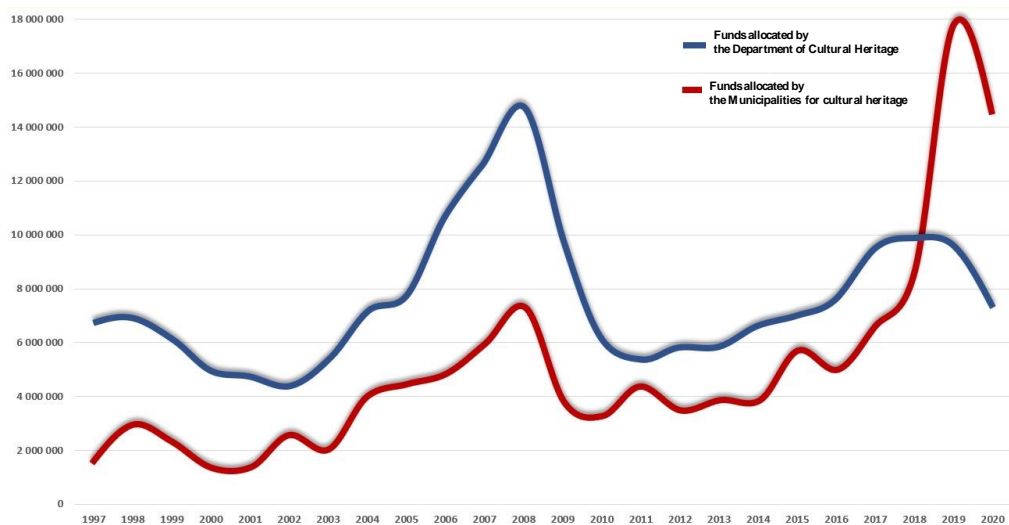
[Centre of Cultural Heritage](#), which collects and accumulates information on cultural heritage as well as conducts historical and physical research. Another state institution, the [Cultural Infrastructure Centre](#) acts as a commissioner of the reconstruction and modernisation works needed for the cultural objects and other institutions under the Ministry of Culture.

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

Despite this extensive institutional system for the protection and maintenance of heritage, heritage policy is the most challenging area of cultural policy in Lithuania due to insufficient state funding and frequent changes in legislation. For example, between 1997 and 2022, a total of 24 editions of the *Law on the Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage* were drafted. Such frequent changes to the Law make the implementation of this Law as well as its alignment with other laws very complicated. Funding for the [Heritage Maintenance Programme](#) performed by the Department of Cultural Heritage has decreased in recent years, although state budget revenues have increased. According to the National Commission of Cultural Heritage, in 2021, resources needed for reimbursement of the costs of cultural heritage maintenance works to the managers were 4-5 times higher than the allocated state appropriations for the *Heritage Maintenance Programme*.

Municipalities of the Republic of Lithuania also take part in heritage policy. They have heritage protection divisions that perform certain functions for the protection of immovable cultural heritage provided for by law; they also issue the sets of conditions for designing protected structures and structures in the territories of protected objects as well as at protected sites, organise the approval of design documentation for the aforementioned structures as well as grant permits to build, reconstruct, repair or demolish the aforementioned structures in accordance with the procedure laid down by the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania. In 2020, the National Commission for Cultural Heritage performed an [Analysis of the Activities of Municipalities in the Field of Cultural Heritage Protection in 2020](#). According to the analysis, there is a consistent trend of increasing funding for cultural heritage in municipalities. It has been observed for many years and continued in 2020, as half of the municipalities allocated more funds for heritage than in previous years. Taken as a whole, the overall growth rates of the funds allocated to heritage by municipalities far exceed the growth rate of funding allocated by the Department of Cultural Heritage.

Figure 4. Funds allocated by the Department of Cultural Heritage and by the municipalities for the maintenance of heritage in 1997 – 2020



Source: [The National Commission for Cultural Heritage](#)

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

The recommendations of the study were included in the [Policy Concept for the Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage](#) and its [Action Plan](#), approved by the Lithuanian Government in 2020. The concept declares that in order to solve systemic problems of administration of tangible and intangible cultural heritage protection, it is necessary to create an effective, integrated and long-term policy action plan for cultural heritage conservation and promotion, improve cultural heritage protection management, ensure research, dissemination, systematization and preservation of cultural heritage, implement the sustainable development goals in the field of cultural heritage, train cultural heritage protection specialists and researchers, ensure dialogue with communities and investors, involve all social group in decisions on the relevancy of cultural heritage, develop the cultural education of the population, and strengthen financial and non-financial incentives for heritage managers.

In the last decade, the most discussed issue in the field of heritage policy is the legacy of the Soviet era. The main opposing sides in these discussions are members of the academic community and representatives of various political and patriotic NGOs. From the point of view of the latter, the Soviet legacy is a glorification of that era and should therefore be removed from the public spaces of Lithuanian towns and cities. The academic community, meanwhile, argues that heritage protection policy should be guided by the principle of the irreversibility of the past and protect the heritage as it is, and not as we would like it to be; cultural heritage must not serve political or ideological interests (see also the chapter 2.9).

Museums

The Lithuanian museum infrastructure consists of national, state, municipal, departmental and private or non-state-owned museums. According to the data of the Ministry of Culture, in 2021, there were 96 public museums in Lithuania that submitted reports to the Ministry of Culture: 4 national, 16 state, 54 municipal,

and 23 departmental. According to the data of Statistics Lithuania, in 2020, all these museums together stored 7 569 200 exhibits.

Table 8: Number of exhibits stored in museums in 2020

Type of museums	Number of exhibits
National museums	2 211 182
State museums	2 633 853
Municipal museums	2 069 704
Departmental museums	706 232

Source: [Lithuanian Museums Database](#)

During 2020, Lithuanian museums were visited by 2 837 798 visitors. Due to the quarantine and restrictions on visits, the number of visits almost halved compared to the previous year (5 588 766 visitors in 2019 and 5 026 217 in 2018).

Table 9: Number of museums visitors in 2016–2020

Number	Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of museums visitors (in thousands)		3 981	4 152	5 026	5 588	2 837
Average number of visitors per museum (in thousands)		38.7	41.5	50.3	52.2	26.8

Source: [Statistics Lithuania](#)

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

The Lithuanian Council for Culture provides funding for museums' educational and other projects. In 2021, the Council allocated 1 604 291 EUR for 133 projects of museums. Lithuanian Museums also participate in the heritage digitisation programme. According to the [Heritage Digitization Statistics](#) database, in 2020, 1 140 695 EUR was allocated to museums for heritage digitization activities.

3.2 Archives and libraries

Archives

Activity of archives is regulated in Lithuania by the [Law on Documents and Archives](#) (1995, last edition 2022). The Lithuanian state archives system consists of the [Office of the Chief Archivist](#) of Lithuania and 9 state archives. The state archives are divided into two groups: central archives and regional archives.

There are 5 central archives: the Lithuanian State Historical Archives, Lithuanian Central State Archives, Lithuanian State Modern Archives, Lithuanian Special Archives, and the Lithuanian Archives of Literature and Art.

The [Lithuanian State Historical Archives](#) is the main repository of records for Lithuanian history from the 13th century up to the declaration of the Independence of Lithuania in 1918 (civil registry and vital records up to today). The records of state institutions, religious communities, popular organisations and families that are maintained in these archives also reflect the history of Russia, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine, Latvia and other countries. [The Lithuanian Central State Archives](#) preserves records of state, local government, enterprises, religious communities, popular organisations, and other non-state institutions and individuals, dating from 1918 until 1990. The division of Sound and Image is the main repository of audiovisual heritage in Lithuania. It preserves moving pictures since 1919, photo negatives and positives since 1850s, sound recordings since 1950s, and videotapes since 1988 until the present day. The [Lithuanian State Modern Archives](#) exercises control over records management in major state institutions (the Parliament, Office of the President of Republic of Lithuania, Chancellery of Government, ministries and departments, etc.) It also accumulates and preserves documents of state institutions, popular organisations and individuals, dating from 1990; provides institutions with consultations on the organisation of records management, administration and preservation of documents. [The Lithuanian Special Archives](#) preserves records of the former Lithuanian SSR division of KGB, USSR, dating 1940-1991, records of the Lithuanian SSR Ministry of Interior dating 1944-1990 and records of communist and socialist organisations, dating from the 19th c. until 1991, that witnessed the genocide of the Lithuanian people. [The Lithuanian Archives of Literature and Art](#) preserves and accumulates records belonging to state institutions, popular organisations and private persons, reflecting the development of culture and art in Lithuania. Most records are from the 20th century. Several documents in the hands of private persons are dated from the 15th century.

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

Table 10: State Archives Activity Indicators for 2020

Indicator	Value (in units)
Number of state archives	9
Number of employees in the archives	410
Number of paper documents in archives	10 364 222
Number of film documents in archives	9 779
Number of photo documents in archives	438 233
Number of audio documents in archives	25 744
Number of video documents in archives	6427
Number of electronic documents in archives	300
Number of digitalised documents in archives (units per year)	36 222
Number of visits of document readers (per year)	19 521

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

According to the data of Statistics Lithuania, the number of written requests in archives remained relatively stable over the last 5 years and did not decline due to the quarantine in 2020.

Table 11: The number of written requests in archives in 2014–2020

Number Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of written requests in archives	31 100	29 500	30 100	25 900	31 300	32 500	30 900

Source: [Statistics Lithuania](#)

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

The Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania is a government agency, which participates in the shaping of national policy in the field of management and use of documents and archives and implements this policy and supports the Chief Archivist of Lithuania in carrying-out state administration of the field of documents and archives. The Council on Archives is an expert institution advising on the issues related to the implementation of the *Law On Documents And Archives* and assigned to the competence of the Minister of Culture. The council acts on a voluntary basis.

The archives system in Lithuania is funded from the state budget. The Lithuanian Council for Culture finances projects submitted by archives on a competitive basis. In 2021, the Council allocated 63 500 EUR for 7 projects of archives.

Libraries

The Lithuanian system of libraries is regulated by the Law on Libraries (1995). According to the law, the libraries operating in Lithuania are divided into county public libraries, municipal public libraries, libraries of academic and educational institutions, school libraries, special libraries, and other libraries, established by private enterprises, non-governmental organisations and natural persons. There is also 1 National Library which accumulates and stores the national archival fund of published documents, prepares and publishes the Lithuanian state current and national retrospective bibliography, bibliographic indexes of various fields of science, compiles summary catalogues and databases, performs international standard numbering of documents published in Lithuania (ISBN, ISSN, ISMN), collects libraries statistics etc.

In 2020, the network of public libraries consisted of 2 304 libraries.

Table 12: Number of libraries by type in 2020

Types of libraries	Number of libraries
National library – Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania	1
Special library – The Lithuanian Library for Blind People	1
County public libraries	5
Municipal public libraries	1 221
Libraries of museums and cultural institutions	17
Libraries of special literature (medical, technical, etc.)	16
Libraries of higher education institutions	36
Libraries of schools	1007
Total	2 304

Source: Lithuanian Department of Statistics

The National Library is financed directly from the state budget, i. e. budget appropriations for the library are indicated in the state budget on a separate line and the library manages appropriations. County public libraries are financed from the state budget through the Ministry of Culture and municipal libraries are

financed from municipal budgets. Libraries of special literature and higher education institutions get funding from the budget of the library owner (high school, science institute etc). As it is stated in the [Lithuanian Cultural Policy Strategy 2030](#), the network of libraries is the densest network of Lithuanian cultural institutions and the services of libraries are very popular in small towns and villages, where other cultural services are less accessible. However, according to the data of Statistics Lithuania, the number of libraries has been gradually decreasing over the last 5 years.

Table 13: The number of libraries in Lithuania in 2011–2020

Year		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of Libraries		2 694	2 633	2 585	2 563	2 549	2 505	2 453	2 402	2 365	2 304

Source: [Statistics Lithuania](#)

The services offered by Lithuanian libraries to the general public may be divided into three groups: 1) traditional services of which the main goal is to preserve written heritage and to promote reading, to create conditions for self-education and self-creation of society, and to develop creativity and imagination; 2) electronic library services which encompass the digitisation of cultural heritage, the creation of digital local information databases (organised by involving interested communities), the development of information competencies of residents, and other library services rendered by electronic means; 3) public area (community centre) services that encourage residents to communicate, participate in civil and educational events, initiate projects, and independently form opinions. Despite the variety of services provided, the number of registered users of libraries has been gradually decreasing over the last 10 years.

Table 14: Number of registered users of libraries in Lithuania in 2014–2020 (in thousands)

Year		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of registered users of libraries		1 398	1 360	1 312	1 274	1 249	1 213	1 206	1 162	1 133	1 038

Source: [Statistics Lithuania](#)

The policy of libraries in Lithuania is shaped and implemented by the Ministry of Culture, the Council of Libraries and the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The [Ministry of Culture](#) defines the strategy on the development of libraries founded by the state or municipalities; prepares and finances strategy implementing programmes; carries out administration of the provision of public services by libraries, etc. The Minister of Culture is consulted by [the Council of Libraries](#), which takes part as an expert and consulting institution in resolving matters of library policy formation and implementation. The Council is composed of 11 members – representatives of library practice and science who are delegated by the professional community of libraries and the Minister of Culture.

The [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) finances projects submitted by libraries on a competitive basis. In 2021, the Council allocated 713 975 EUR for 135 projects of libraries.

Currently, the policy of libraries is guided by the order of the Minister of Culture on [The Strategic Directions of Library Development 2016–2022](#). The document defines three directions for the development of libraries: 1) to strengthen the cultural and informational competencies developing services, which promote the creativity, social and economic activity of individuals and motivation to participate in the lifelong learning process; 2) strengthen library communities through the use of an improved library infrastructure and the development of new electronic services that promote socio-economic development based on knowledge, entrepreneurship and innovation 3) improve the

management of libraries by basing it on efficient implementation of activities, systematic improvement of staff competencies and evaluation of performance.

3.3 Performing arts

The Lithuanian performing arts institutions system is defined in the [Law on Professional Performing Arts](#) (2004, last edition 2022). The Law classifies Lithuanian performing arts institutions as national, state, municipal, and other (e. g. private) institutions. In 2022, there were Lithuania 3 national theatres ((the [Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre](#), the [Lithuanian National Drama Theatre](#), and [National Kaunas Drama Theatre](#)),) and 1 national concert organisation ([Lithuanian national Philharmonic Society](#)). The Law prescribes to these institutions the function “to implement state policy in the field of professional performing arts: present to the public the most outstanding national and foreign achievements in opera, ballet, drama and music; represent work of high artistic value; form the image of Lithuanian culture; consistently develop international creative partnerships; foster the receptiveness of society to the performing arts and ensure access to professional performing arts for all social groups”. National institutions are financed directly from the state budget, i.e. budget appropriations for the national performing arts institutions are indicated in the state budget in a separate line and the institutions are appropriations managers.

The group of state performing arts institutions includes 6 concert organisations and 10 state theatres, including 6 drama theatres, 2 puppet theatres and 2 musical theatres. The state theatres operate in all the larger Lithuanian towns and cities (Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, Šiauliai, Marijampolė, and Alytus). All state theatres have their own premises (buildings). They have the legal status of budget organisations (see chapter 4.1.9) and are financed by the Ministry of Culture and municipalities. The Lithuanian Council for Culture finances their educational projects on a competitive basis.

Municipal performing arts institutions are owned by municipalities and financed from municipal budgets. The [Law on Professional Performing Arts](#) prescribes to these institutions the functions of the presentation of classical and contemporary professional performing arts works to the public, creation of the conditions for authors and performers in the region to present their works to the public, development of public demand for professional performing arts and ensuring access to professional performing arts for all social groups.

The exact number of private performing arts organisations in Lithuania is not known. The Register of Legal Entities provides information on 120 registered organisations with the word “theatre” in their name that have the legal form of NGO, individual enterprise etc. The Ministry of Culture provides information on 36 performing arts organisations that have the status of professional performing arts organisation granted by the Ministry. Private or non-governmental performing arts organisations finance their activity from their own income; they can also apply for funding from the Lithuanian Council for Culture and to the municipalities. During the last two decades, some Lithuanian private theatres, e.g. the theatre company “Meno Fortas” founded by one of the most famous Lithuanian theatre directors Eimuntas Nekrošius, and the theatre of Oskaras Koršunovas, became well-known not only in Lithuania, but also abroad. Despite the uneven competition with state theatres, as the latter receive direct funding from the Ministry of Culture, Lithuanian private theatres became very popular and have doubled the number of their visitors over the last 10 years*. However, that number has more than halved in 2020, due to the pandemic-related restrictions.

Table 15: The number of theatres and their visitors in Lithuania in 2011–2020

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018	2019	2020
Number										
Number of national	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13

and state theatres										
Number of private theatres	26	26	26	26	24	24	39	37	38	36
Number of visitors of national and state theatres (in thousands)	594	625	645	659	719	753	767	709	765	305
Number of visitors of private theatres (in thousands)	256	233	407	564	735	526	628	643	698	256

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

*Data are available only about organisations that have the status of professional performing arts organisations granted by the Ministry. In 2017, the Ministry of Culture changed the rules for granting the status of a professional theatre and because of that the number of private theatres significantly increased in 2017. The largest number of visitors to private theatres, however, was achieved in 2015, i.e. before the change in the rules.

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

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

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

The role of the municipalities in the field of performing arts policy is also defined in the *Law on Professional Performing Arts* (2004). Municipalities plan and monitor the activities of municipal theatres and concert institutions, coordinate the participation of municipal theatres and concert institutions in international cultural programmes, and ensure participation of municipal theatres and concert institutions in non-formal education programmes.

All kinds of performing arts organisations can apply for funding to the [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#). In 2021, the Lithuanian Council for Culture allocated 2 359 310 EUR for 235 music projects, 1 184 405 EUR for 134 theatre projects, 623 529 EUR for 50 dance projects, and 176 320 EUR for 17 circus projects. Grants in each of the four areas of the performing arts were given for the following activities: 1) professional creation and its dissemination in Lithuania and abroad; 2) events; 3) accumulation of information (archiving, documentation) and its dissemination; 4) publishing; 5) professional criticism and analysis; 6) networking and mobility; 7) co-production; and 8) development of mastery and education.

The private and non-governmental professional performing arts organisations can also apply for funding to the special programme of the Ministry of Culture. The funds of this programme are used to finance the rent of the premises where the professional performing arts institution operates; maintain the

infrastructure of the premises and the bookkeeping services, and cover the wage costs, including taxes, of staff employed by a professional performing arts institution.

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

In light of these findings, the National Audit Office of Lithuania formulated a number of recommendations for improving the governance of performing arts institutions: to specify the requirements and functions of national, state and municipal theatres and concert organisations in accordance with their purpose; create a management model of these organisations, which would establish additional qualitative performance indicators; revise the procedure for evaluating annual performances; and to detail performance indicators and determine their values. It is also recommended to periodically evaluate the efficiency of the activities of the institutions and the compliance of their activity with the functions of a national or state professional performing arts organisations and link their funding to the annual performance results.

Since 2019, the recommendations have been put into practice. The Ministry of Culture approved a unified set of criteria for evaluating the activities of budgetary institutions in the areas of government of the Minister of Culture. The criteria are divided according to the areas / topics of performance evaluation and detailed by describing the purpose of the criterion, its components, and the method of calculation. However, practical application of the new evaluation method was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the Ministry of Culture prepared the *Draft Law on the Framework of Cultural Policy*. The law should substantiate the role of national cultural institutions. The project proposes to establish exclusive functions of national cultural institutions: they must participate in the implementation of strategic cultural policy goals; organize and implement major national and international projects; perform the function of cultural competence centres; provide methodological assistance to other state and municipal cultural institutions; participate in preparing and implementing qualification improvement programmes, etc.

3.4 Visual arts and crafts

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

The Lithuanian Art Museum has 10 divisions, 4 of which work as separate galleries: Vilnius Picture Gallery, National Gallery of Art, Pranas Domšaitis Gallery, Pamarys Gallery. Founded in 1933 as Vilnius City Museum, the Lithuanian Art Museum is currently the biggest national establishment that preserves, investigates and displays pieces of art of historical and artistic value. The exhibition halls of the museum display Lithuanian and foreign works of fine and applied art and feature temporary exhibitions of Lithuanian and foreign artists. The museum also has a collection of national folk art.

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

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

Visual arts and crafts are also featured in galleries and exhibition centres of creative unions. The Lithuanian Artists' Association (LAA) has established 8 galleries in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda and Panevėžys and set up 6 divisions of production: Ltd "Vilnius art" (Vilniaus dailė), and non-profit organisations LAA's Publishers "Arteria", the Centre of Sculpture and Stained Glass, the Centre of Vilnius Graphic Arts, the House of Artists ("Dailininkų namai") in Palanga and the Arts Fund. The Lithuanian Photographers' Association runs four galleries in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda. The professional Folk Artists' Association runs a gallery and antique shop in Vilnius.

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

Creative unions of visual arts and crafts, individual artists and their organisations can apply for funding to the [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#). The Council has special funding programmes for fine art, photography, and interdisciplinary arts. Funding in each of these programmes are given for the following activities: 1) professional creation and its dissemination in Lithuania and abroad; 2) events; 3) accumulation of information (archiving, documentation) and its dissemination; 4) publishing; 5) professional criticism and analysis; 6) networking and mobility; 7) co-production; and 8) Developing of mastery and education. In 2021, the Lithuanian Council for Culture allocated 901 369 EUR for 106 projects of the fine arts programme, 1 297 759 EUR for 162 projects of the combined arts programme, 1 097 829 EUR for 96 projects of the interdisciplinary arts programme, and 428 757 EUR for 32 projects of photography.

The Lithuanian Council for Culture also awards grants for individual artists. Educational grants (up to 3600 EUR) are allocated for the development of professional mastery. In 2019, 2020 and 2021, the Council also awarded individual grants (600 EUR per month) for promotion of creative activity during the COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions. In 2021, the Council awarded 98 grants to fine arts, 103 for interdisciplinary artists, 49 for photographers, and 53 for folk artists.

Municipalities fund visual arts through their programmes. The second largest Lithuanian city Kaunas implements a programme [Kaunas Highlights](#) that invites artists to submit projects in the fields of sculpture, design, fine art, and light installation. Participants can choose to decorate any place in Kaunas City with their works. The requirements for projects are uniqueness, individuality, originality, and overall harmony with the environment. Kaunas City Municipality funds up to 100 per cent of the implementation costs of the project. The programme started in 2016 and until 2022, 78 projects of visual arts have been funded. Regrettably, at the end of 2021, the great idea of the Kaunas Highlights programme was overshadowed by the news that the projects would no longer be evaluated by a commission of visual arts experts, but by municipal officials led by the mayor.

3.5 Cultural arts and creative industries

3.5.1 General developments

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

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

In 2008, the [National Association of Creative and Cultural Industries](#) was established. The association participates in culture and high education policy formation, offers recommendations concerning the Government and EU financial investment programmes and financial measures in support of the CCI sector; communicates the value of the CCI sector for the state economy and public welfare; collects CCI related information; communicates CCI related political news; promotes collaboration between science and entrepreneurship; stimulates innovation and creative partnerships; instigates research and conducts training.

In 2009-2013, the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy implemented the programme of the development of the network of arts incubators funded by the EU Structural Funds. During the programme, the Ministry invested 22.24 million EUR and a total of 12 incubators were established. However, the 2017 study [Ecosystem of Arts Incubators in Lithuania](#) revealed a range of obstacles preventing their effective activity.

In 2012, the Lithuanian Parliament adopted the long-term national strategy [Lithuania 2030](#). The strategy reflects a national vision and priorities for development as well as guidelines for their implementation by 2030 (see chapter 1.1). In 2020, the Lithuanian Government adopted the [National Development Plan of Lithuania for 2021-2030](#), which is the main planning document of state changes for the next 10 years. Innovativeness (creativity), together with sustainable development and equal opportunities, is considered the horizontal principle of the plan. Cultural and creative industries are mentioned in the 9th objective of the first goal: to increase the potential of cultural and creative industries and promote the development of new products and services based on creative content.

Table 16: Key indicators of Lithuanian Cultural Industries

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Key indicators								
Cultural employment (% of total employment)	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.7	4.0	3.9	4.0
Number of cultural enterprises	6 872	9 019	10 195	10 957	11 653	12 560	-	-
Value added at factor cost – million euro / percentage								
Printing and reproduction	63.5	69.1	74.8	71.8	74.7	79.3	-	-

of recorded media	0.51	0.48	0.48	0.43	0.4	0.38		
Retail sale of books in specialised stores	4.9 0.04	5.9 0.04	5.8 0.04	6.1 0.04	6.7 0.04	7.0 0.03	-	-
Retail sale of newspapers and stationery in specialised stores	11.7 0.09	13.0 0.09	10.4 0.07	12.4 0.07	14.6 0.08	13.4 0.06	-	-
Book publishing	14.2 0.11	10.5 0.07	11.7 0.07	12.2 0.07	11.6 0.06	13.1 0.06	-	-
Publishing of newspapers	18.1 0.14	19.3 0.13	20.2 0.13	19.9 0.12	19.3 0.1	17.9 0.09	-	-
Publishing of journals and periodicals	10.1 0.08	10.2 0.07	10.9 0.07	9.7 0.06	10.3 0.06	12.5 0.06		
Publishing of computer games	1.0 0.01	1.3 0.01	5.2 0.03	9.3 0.06	5.3 0.03	11.3 0.05		
Motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities	13.1 0.1	13.2 0.09	19.4 0.12	22.3 0.13	26.8 0.14	32.4 0.15	-	-
Programming and broadcasting activities	19.2 0.15	21.1 0.15	27.2 0.17	24.6 0.15	27.3 0.15	29.5 0.14	-	-
News agency activities	1.0 0.01	0.9 0.01	1.0 0.01	1.2 0.01	1.2 0.01	1.6 0.01		
Architectural activities	36.1 0.29	46.5 0.32	46.6 0.3	48.0 0.28	48.6 0.26	54.6 0.26	-	-
Specialised design activities	5.8 0.05	6.8 0.05	9.3 0.06	11.9 0.07	15.7 0.08	18.6 0.09	-	-
Photographic activities	6.9 0.06	8.0 0.06	9.7 0.06	11.2 0.07	12.4 0.07	14.8 0.07	-	-
Translation and interpretation activities	11.0 0.09	13.1 0.09	13.9 0.09	14.2 0.08	13.0 0.07	16.1 0.08	-	-
All cultural sectors	216.7	239	275	284	298.3	330.4	-	-
Exports of cultural goods as a percentage of total exports (all countries of the world)	0.39	0.56	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.47	0.38	0.39
Imports of cultural goods as a percentage of total imports (all countries of the world)	0.23	0.3	0.27	0.28	0.23	0.31	0.28	0.31

Source: Eurostat

3.5.2 Books and press

According to the data of Statistics Lithuania, in 2020 the number of publishers who have published at least one book, brochure or booklet was 532, although the number of publishing houses that actively operate in the Lithuanian publishing market is around 50. The [Lithuanian Publishers Association](#), established in 1989, currently unites 50 active publishing houses as well as NGO's mostly concentrating on specialised publishing.

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

Books and brochures by purpose	Number of titles of books and brochures					Total by purpose
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Scientific literature	277	257	215	269	200	1218
Legal literature	21	12	11	12	1	57

Educational literature for schoolchildren	263	355	265	186	236	1305
Educational literature for students	145	113	97	94	56	505
Informative literature for children	106	110	109	120	102	547
Popular literature	830	778	832	1 009	897	4346
Fiction for adults	879	920	818	1 011	1 022	4650
Fiction for children	457	376	415	407	461	2116
Reference literature	137	131	160	192	141	761
Others	157	139	153	179	141	769
Total each year	3272	3191	3075	3479	3257	16 274

Source [Statistics Lithuanian](#)

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

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

Since 2014, the [Ministry of Culture](#) implements the *National Literature Programme* that has five strategic directions: to support the creators of literature; promote reading; strengthen the institutions operating in the field of literature and its dissemination, their cooperation and coordination; increase the awareness of Lithuanian literature in the world; and facilitate the development and dissemination of children's and young people's literature. In implementation of this programme, the Ministry is consulted by an advisory [Council of Literature](#). The Council of Literature was established in 2014 and acts as an expert and consultant in formulating and implementing the policy of literature and its dissemination.

The first literature policy direction – to support the creators of literature – is mainly implemented by the Lithuanian Council for Culture, through its educational and individual grants programmes. Since 2014, the Council has awarded 537 grants for writers, translators, and critics of literature. To encourage and appreciate the creators, translators and critics of literature, the Ministry of Culture has been awarding premiums annually for the best works: the Armchair of the Translator of the Year (in cooperation with the Lithuanian PEN Centre), St. Jerome's Prize (in cooperation with the Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators), as well as the Yotvingian Prize and the Young Yotvingian Prize (in cooperation with the Association "Druskininkai Poetic Fall"), Martynas Mažvydas Premium for merits to the Lithuanian language, history of writing and book art is awarded for the best research achievements in Lithuanian literature, language history, culture and book science.

The second literature policy direction – reading promotion – is implemented by the Ministry of Culture and state libraries. The first reading promotion programme was approved in 2006 and since then it has been constantly updated. The programme supports various reading promotion initiatives and projects. The most popular of them is the election of the "Book of the Year" (organised by Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania), the "Top 12 Most Creative Books" competition (organised by the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore), the summer reading action "Reading challenge", and the event "Lithuania Reads" (coordinated by the Lithuanian Publishers Association) organised on 7 May, the Press Recovery Day.

The [Lithuanian Culture Institute](#) implements the [Translation Grant Programme](#) that supports translations of Lithuanian literature into foreign languages. The programme has been ongoing in Lithuania since 2001.

The programme was first run by the public institution “Books from Lithuania”, but since 2010 the work has been continued by the Lithuanian Culture Institute. Over the 20 years since the establishment of the programme, it has supported the translation of 461 Lithuanian literary works into 38 languages. There are 3 grants available: The Books Translation Grant, Illustrated Books (Children’s Picture Books and Graphic Novels) Grant and The Sample Translation Grant. The Lithuanian Culture Institute also provides information about Lithuanian authors to foreign publishers, publishing and translation houses and organisations; organises presentations of creations of Lithuanian writers at international book fairs, creative symposiums, and other events.

The Lithuanian Council for Culture supports literature and publishing through its programmes for literature of the humanities and literature in general. The first programme funds the publishing of the Lithuanian literature of the humanities, the translation of foreign literature of humanities (culturology, philosophy, aesthetics, political literature etc.) and the translation and publishing of Lithuanian literature of the humanities in foreign languages. The general literature programme funds the following activities: 1) professional creation and its dissemination in Lithuania and abroad; 2) events; 3) accumulation of information (archiving, documentation) and its dissemination; 4) publishing; 5) professional criticism and analysis; 6) networking and mobility; 7) co-production; and 8) development of mastery and education. In 2021, the Council allocated 1 256 687 EUR for 216 projects of literature and publishing, and awarded 99 individual grants for translations, creative writing, and publishing.

Part of the Lithuanian publishing industry consists of the printed and electronic press. However, according to the data of Statistics Lithuania and the media research company KANTAR, there is a steady decline in publishing and reading of printed media over the last 5 years. According to the data of 2019, at least one issue of a periodical was read by 71 % of the 15-74 year age group, i. e. 3 per cent less than in 2018 and 2017.

Table 18: The statistics of the Lithuanian printed media industry in 2016–2020

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Indicators					
Number of newspaper titles (units)	216	207	188	184	168
Annual circulation of newspapers (thousand copies)	93.162	84.409	79.304	72.924	63.781
Number of periodicals titles (units)	566	541	527	538	491
Annual circulation of periodicals (thousand copies)	50.080	46.399	42.746	42.201	39.127

Source: Statistics Lithuania

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

Table 19: Results of the funding competition of the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation of 2017-2021

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Programme	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in EUR	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in EUR	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in EUR	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in

				EUR	EUR
Periodicals of culture and arts	30 / 565 000	33 / 545 000	32 / 653 034	30 / 641 407	28 / 654 098
National periodical press	33 / 221 120	34 / 212 800	35 / 247408	34 / 262 772,59	30 / 252 527
Regional periodical press	99 / 641 670	89 / 614 500	88 / 650116	84 / 644 986,95	77 / 643 545
Internet media	71 / 431 252	73 / 429 000	75 / 414090	79 / 413 500	81 / 417 100
Total	233 / 1 859 042	229 / 1 801 300	230 / 1 964 648	227 / 1 962 666,54	216 / 1 967 270

Source: [The Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation](#)

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

3.5.3 Audiovisual and interactive media

Film

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

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

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

The Lithuanian Film Centre is a state institution established in 2012 under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania. The functions of the Film Centre are defined by the amendment on the *Law on Film* (2002) of 2011. According to the law, the Film Centre: 1) participates in the formation of State film policy; 2) implements State film policy and exercises the functions entrusted thereto in accordance with the Law and other legal acts; 3) organises film project tenders for State funding; 4) awards grants to film creators;

5) carries out activities of cinema education and dissemination of film culture; 6) collects and publishes information and statistics on Lithuanian cinema; 7) performs indexation of films according to the age limit of the audience for films intended to be shown in cinemas; 8) supervises the compliance of legal and natural persons with the requirements for the public showing of cinema and the procedure for registration of films in the Film Register; and 9) collects film heritage and ensures its accessibility.

According to the data of the Lithuanian Film Centre, in 2021, in the Lithuanian film industry there have 57 film production companies operating, 4 film production service companies, 10 professional associations, 3 local film offices, 11 film distributors, 27 cinemas, and 17 other companies that provide services of post-production, film montage, casting, camera rental, search for filming locations, sound recording and subtitling. Lithuanian and foreign films are featured in 16 Lithuanian film festivals.

Table 20: Facts and figures of the Lithuanian film industry 2013–2021

Year Indicators	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average admissions per capita	1,05	1,11	1,13	1,29	1,44	1,53	1,48	0,55	0,48
Total number of admissions*	3 097 683	3 234 595	3 330 518	3 668 370	4 060 159	4 265 414	4 141 900	1 533 084	1 337 598
Gross Box Office (in EUR)	-	14 378 587	15 391 806	17 724 516	20 392 625	22 444 111	22 495 265	-	-
Lithuanian films gross box office (in EUR)	-	3 333 829	2 126 232	3 463 809	4 536 088	6 250 538	4 417 603	-	-
Average ticket price (in EUR)	4,04	4,29	4,62	4,83	5,00	5,26	5,43	5,53	5,80
Total number of cinemas	32	32	32	29	27	28	26	25	27
Domestic films market share, %	16,49	23,18	13,81	19,50	21,47	27,9	19,64	21,87	6,17
European films market share, %	13,22	13,90	17,80	8,50	14,00	11,8	15,77	23,73	11,85
US films market share, %	69,27	60,28	65,48	71,50	64,62	58,7	60,88	52,21	81,25
Other countries films market share, %	1,02	2,64	2,91	0,50	0,94	1,6	3,71	2,19	0,73
Total number of national premieres	15	14	10	13	11	21	23	13	12
Total number of national feature films produced	11	8	11	21	15	28	23	17	13
Total number of films distributed	197	261	290	291	309	351	379	271	251

Source: Lithuanian Film Centre

* Excluding festival admissions

After the restoration of independence in 1990, the Lithuanian film industry was one of the smallest in Europe. During the first decade of independence, only 25 domestic feature films were created, while this increased during the second and third decade to about 250 films. The situation changed in 2012 with the establishment of the Lithuanian Film Centre, which became the main cinema policy implementing institution.

Table 21: Total budget of the Lithuanian Film Centre in 2013–2021

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Budget of Lithuanian Film Centre (in EUR)	3 073 737	3 519 000	4 619 000	6 423 000	6 431 000	6 441 000	7 451 498	8 248 000

Source: [Lithuanian Film Centre](#)

A positive impact on the Lithuanian film industry was made by the Film Tax Incentive that came into effect in January 2014 as a new policy measure to foster local and foreign film production in Lithuania. The incentive is regulated by Article 17² of *the Lithuanian Law on Corporate Income Tax (2001)* which supplemented the Law with the provision on the reduction of taxable income due to funds granted free of charge for the production of a film or a part thereof (see chapter 4.1.4). Since 2014, 286 productions have benefited from the Lithuanian Film Tax Incentive by getting a total of EUR 50,77 million in investment for film production. Meanwhile, international production expenses in the country this year reached a total of 141 million. The scheme was used by 72 foreign films, 70 co-productions and 144 national films. Investments in film production were granted by 228 local companies in amounts ranging from 1000 to over 1.6 million euros. In 2021, Lithuanian business companies invested more than 15 million euros through this scheme.

After these two political steps – the establishment of the Lithuanian Film Centre in 2012 and the introduction of the tax incentive in 2014 – the production of domestic films increased in Lithuania by almost 50 per cent compared to the period of 2009–2011. However, in 2020 and 2021 the number of films made has decreased due to the constraints related to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Table 22: Domestic Films produced in 2009–2021

Year Genre	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Feature films	2	4	11	8	11	21	15	21	17	11	13
Documentaries	9	18	17	18	11	18	5	22	16	17	15
Short films	19	1	5	7	9	9	14	7	12	5	10
Animations	8	10	7	7	4	10	7	4	7	1	5
Total	38	33	40	40	35	58	41	54	52	34	43

Source: [Lithuanian Film Centre](#)

Radio and Television

According to the data of the [Lithuanian Radio and Television Commission](#), in 2022, there were 109 media companies in Lithuania. 29 of them broadcasted TV programmes, 6 broadcasted TV online, 34 re-broadcasted TV programmes, and 40 broadcasted or re-broadcasted radio programmes (see chapter 2.5.3 for more about media policy and content).

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

Table 23: Fund allocation of the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation in 2017–2021

Year Programme	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in EUR	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in EUR	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in EUR	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in EUR	Number of funded projects/ Amount allocated, in EUR
National radio and television broadcasting	34 / 403 081	33 / 394 740	37 / 406 980	41 / 411 000	43 / 404 500
Regional radio and television broadcasting	40 / 206 000	39 / 248 500	40 / 204 000	50 / 201 300	46 / 206 180
Internet media	71 / 431 252	73 / 429 000	75 / 414 090	79 / 413 500	81 / 417 100
Total	145 / 1 040 333	145 / 1 072 240	152 / 1 025 070	170 / 1 025 800	170 / 1 027 780

Source: [The Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation](#)

3.5.4 Music

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

In 2006, the Centre began to implement the project *Music Lithuania*, which was aimed to represent the Lithuanian music industry at international music expos. Since then, the Centre organises Lithuania's national stands at international music industry expos, disseminates and promotes compilations of music, coordinates concerts of music by Lithuanian composers and performers abroad, as well as presents information on various musical genres on its website.

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

The other public organisation of the Lithuanian music industry is the Lithuanian Music Business Association that was established in 2015. It unites several companies of management and event organisation from the music industry and seeks to encourage and support cooperation between their members in order to achieve common goals in the fields of education, export and lobbying. The main project of the Association is an international showcase festival and conference on innovations and new

opportunities in the music industry (What's Next in Music?), organised annually together with Arts Fabric "Loftas".

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

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

Table 24: Funding of music projects and individual grants for music performers and composers by the Lithuanian Council for Culture in 2016–2021

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Indicators						
Number of funded projects	247	270	242	273	332	235
Allocated amount (in EUR)	2 098 090	2 614 510	2 880 150	2 804 040	3 828 373	2 359 310
Number of individual grants	83	76	84	108	566	241
Allocated amount (in EUR)	132 240	186 190	197 100	243 100	1 107 167	619 200

Source: Statistics of Lithuanian Council for Culture

3.5.5 Design and creative services

Design

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

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

As the sector of design gets funding from various institutions and falls under several programmes, it is impossible to calculate the total amount of funding it receives. In 2021, the Lithuanian Council for Culture allocated 268 740 EUR for 28 projects of design and awarded 58 individual grants for designers.

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

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

In 2015, on the basis of the above-mentioned study, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture adopted the Guidelines for the Development of Architecture and Design. The document established five development guidelines: 1) to strengthen informal education in architecture and design, and to increase the knowledge of the general public and professionals on architecture and design; 2) to develop the science and knowledge transfer by promoting innovation in architecture and design; 3) to strengthen cooperation between different sectors of society; 4) to increase the visibility of design in society and to raise the awareness of the influence of design on the social and economic development of the country and its impact on innovation; and 5) to increase the visibility of architecture in society and to raise the awareness of the influence of architecture on sustainable urban development, quality of life, environmental protection and the economy. In 2022, the *Guidelines* were still in force.

In 2019, the Lithuanian Design Forum Association carried out a feasibility study on the establishment of the coordinating institution of the Lithuanian design sector. The study identified the main issues that hinder the development of an efficient ecosystem of design: under-representation of the sector at various levels; ill-matched functions of design institutions; miscommunication between different design sectors; and a lack of cooperation and coordination of activities. Also, as it is stated in the study, Lithuania did not have a consistent *Law on Design* that would be appropriate for contemporary design understanding and improvement of the design sector's performance. Although the Lithuanian Parliament had adopted the Law on Design in 2002, the Law dealt only with industrial design of products and lacked the definition of design in up-to-date terms consistent with contemporary models of design activities. The study proposed to establish a single central institution responsible for coordinating the design sector – the Lithuanian Design Office.

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

Architecture

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

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

The [Lithuanian Council for Culture](#) funds projects of architecture under its special programme. The Council provides funding for the following activities: 1) professional creation and its dissemination in Lithuania and abroad; 2) events; 3) accumulation of information (archiving, documentation) and its dissemination; 4) publishing; 5) professional criticism and analysis; 6) networking and mobility; 7) co-production; and 8) skills development and education. In 2021, the Council allocated 329 713 EUR for 35 projects of architecture and awarded 16 individual grants for architects.

The [Architects' Chamber](#) was founded in 2006. The objective of the Chamber's activities is to ensure the transparency and quality of architectural activities; to oversee architect certification, recognition of qualifications, professional qualification development and compliance with professional ethics standards; to carry out monitoring of professional activities; to represent architects in dealings with state and self-governance institutions and other legal and natural persons at both the national and international level; to act as an expert in courts and other institutions on issues concerning the professional activities of architects; to satisfy and defend public interest related to architecture; and to resolve other related issues. In 2022, the Architects chamber had 1 253 members and 12 440 architectural works registered in the [Chambers' database](#).

The [Architects Association of Lithuania](#) (AAL) (founded in 1924) is a voluntary NGO that unites the licensed architects of Lithuania. In 2022, AAL had 943 members, 695 of which have the status of artists. The organization has 5 sections in 5 different cities.

On 22 November of 2019, the Lithuanian Architects' Chamber, AAL, Architectural Fond and International Kaunas Architecture Festival published a public letter appealing to the President, Prime Minister and other leading figures to establish the Lithuanian Centre of Architecture as a necessary institution to implement Lithuanian national policy on architecture. The centre would document, collect, preserve, research and disseminate architectural works to the public and foreign visitors. In 2021, the Ministry of Culture carried out a [feasibility study](#) on the possibility to adapt the building of Kaunas Central Post Office to the needs of society. The building, designed by the famous architect Felix Vizbar, is one of the most prominent buildings of Kaunas modernism architecture of the interwar period. As of 2019, the building is no longer in use, as the Lithuanian Post has moved. The authors of the feasibility study recommended to establish an Architectural Centre in the building that could present Lithuanian architecture and design.

3.5.6 Cultural and creative tourism

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

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

and accommodation providers as well as for the representation of interests of tourists in the event of an insolvency or bankruptcy of the tour operator.

In 2016, the Lithuanian Government approved the [Lithuanian Tourism Development Programme 2014-2020](#) (in 2022, the programme was still in force, as targets set were not achieved due to the COVID 19 pandemic). The programme sets the goals, tasks and priorities of tourism development that are in line with the principles of sustainable tourism. The strategic goal of the programme is to increase the competitiveness of the Lithuanian tourism sector. The main tasks of the programme are to improve the development of the tourism infrastructure and quality of services, the awareness and image of Lithuania as a tourist country, and to reduce the seasonality of tourism services. Also, the programme identifies four priority types of tourism: cultural tourism, business tourism, health tourism and green (eco) tourism. Cultural tourism is defined in the programme as tourism aimed at exploring the cultural environment, landscapes, cultural and natural heritage, traditions, local lifestyles, seeing the works of visual and performing arts, attending cultural events, and participating in entertainment.

Table 25: Number of tourists in Lithuania in 2017–2021

	2017	2018	Change in 2017/18	2019	2020	Change in 2019/2020	2021
Total	3 253 200	3 620 400	+11.3 %	4 037 749	2 180 912	-45.99%	2 447 867
Citizens of Lithuania	1 669 400	1 875 700	+12.4%	2 099 777	1 659 641	-20.96%	1 943 302
Foreigners, total	1 583 800	1 744 700	+10.2%	1 937 972	521 271	-73.10%	504 565
EU member states	1 424 100	1 551 900	+9.0%	1 140 435	294 301	-74.19%	301 535
Non-EU states	933 600	1 043 100	+11.7%	797 537	226 970	-71.54%	203 030

Source: [Lithuania Travel](#)

Table 26: Number of overnight stays in 2017–2021

	2017	2018	Change in 2017/18	2019	2020	Change in 2019/2020	2021
Total	7 364 900	8 091 600	+9.9%	8 946 758	5 092 967	-43.07%	5 511 663
Citizens of Lithuania	3 933 700	4 354 800	+10.7%	4 804 232	3 947 449	-17.83%	4 331 653
Foreigners, total	3 431 200	3 736 900	+8.9%	4 142 526	1 145 518	-72.35%	1 180 010
EU member states	3 041 100	3 291 200	+8.2%	2 273 969	638 585	-71.92%	675 649
Non-EU states	1 895 100	2 102 500	+10.9%	1 868 557	506 933	-72.87%	504 361

Source: [Lithuania Travel](#)

The surveys of foreign tourists performed in 2019, 2020, and 2021, show that the main reason to visit Lithuania is the desire to get to know Lithuanian culture and nature, and to experience Lithuanian food and drink ([Lithuania Travel](#)).

4. Law and legislation

4.1 General legislation

4.1.1 Constitution

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

Article 14: Lithuanian shall be the State language.

Article 25: Individuals shall have the right to have their own convictions and freely express them. Individuals must not be hindered from seeking, obtaining, or disseminating information or ideas. Freedom to express convictions, as well as to obtain and disseminate information, may not be restricted in any way other than as established by law, when it is necessary for the safeguarding of the health, honour and dignity, private life, or morals of a person, or for the protection of constitutional order. Freedom to express convictions or impart information shall be incompatible with criminal actions - the instigation of national, racial, religious, or social hatred, violence, or discrimination, the dissemination of slander, or misinformation. Citizens shall have the right to obtain any available information which concerns them from State agencies in the manner established by law.

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

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

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

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

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

Article 54: The State shall concern itself with the protection of the natural environment, its fauna and flora, separate objects of nature and particularly valuable districts, and shall supervise the moderate utilization of natural resources as well as their restoration and augmentation. The exhaustion of land and entrails of the earth, the pollution of waters and air, the production of radioactive impact, as well as the impoverishment of fauna and flora, shall be prohibited by law.

4.1.2 Allocation of public funds

The [Law on the Budget Structure \(1990\)](#) (last edition in 2021) defines the contents of the state budget and municipal budgets of the Republic of Lithuania; establishes the legal grounds for the formation of revenue of these budgets and use of appropriations; also the basic provisions of and procedures for the drawing up, approving, implementing, assessing and controlling the budgets; and the duties, rights and responsibility of appropriation managers. According to the Law, 10 national cultural institutions (the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, the National

Kaunas Drama Theatre, the Lithuanian National Philharmonic Hall, the National Museum of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Art Museum, the Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis National Art Museum, the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, and the Lithuanian National Radio and Television are funded directly by the Seimas with a separate line in the state budget and they are appropriations managers. The following departments and organisations are financed in the same way: the Ministry of Culture, the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics, the Radio and Television Commission, the National Broadcasting Company, the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation, the National Commission for Cultural Heritage, the State Commission on the Lithuanian Language, and the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture (see Figure 1 in chapter 1.2.1). Other cultural institutions are funded through the Ministry of Culture, and/or municipalities.

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

Cultural programmes are funded by the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation, the Lithuanian Council for Culture, the Film Centre, and the Lithuanian Culture institute. Financial sources and mechanisms of these institutions are regulated by laws listed below.

The biggest share of public funds for cultural projects is distributed by the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The [Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture \(2012\)](#) (last edition in 2021) defines the status, financing, operational objectives, functions and organisation of activities of the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The functions of the Council are to finance culture and art programmes, projects, and other measures, award individual grants to artists, and to perform culture and arts research. The share of funds allocated for the implementation of cultural and artistic research, administration of the activities of the Council and other expenses related to the activities of the Council may not exceed 10 per cent of the budget of the Council for the current year (see chapters 1.1 and 1.2.2 for more about the Council).

The [Law on Cinema \(2002\)](#) (last edition in 2019) establishes the sources of funding for cinema. According to the Law, cinema shall be funded from the following sources: 1) State budget funds, taking into consideration the programmes prepared by the Lithuanian Film Centre; and 2) 60% of the actual income from value added tax for distribution and exhibition of films in cinema theatres of the previous year. The amount shall be calculated in accordance with the data published by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics; 3) income received by the state under licensing agreements for the granted copyright and related property rights of audiovisual works at the disposal of the Lithuanian Cinema Centre; 4) 10% per cent of the previous year's actual revenue from value added tax paid by Internet service providers; 5) targeted state funding for cinema, which is allocated by the Government for the performance of a state order; and 6) returned or recovered finance after the termination of the cinema state financing agreement concluded with the legal or natural person by the Lithuanian Film Centre.

The [Law on the Provision of Information to the Public \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2021) establishes the sources of funding of the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation: 1) state grants (subsidies); 2) funds contributed by legal or natural persons; 3) interest on the funds of the Foundation kept in banks; and 4) other lawfully acquired funds.

4.1.3 Social security frameworks

The [Law on State Social Insurance \(1991\)](#) (last edition in 2021) establishes the basis for state social insurance relations: types of state social insurance, categories of the persons covered by state social insurance, principles and structure of the state social insurance management system, and rights, duties and responsibility of entities thereof. The types of state social insurance are as follows: 1) pension social insurance; 2) sickness and maternity social insurance; 3) unemployment social insurance; and 4) social insurance of occupational accidents and occupational diseases. Social insurance contributions are calculated on the aggregate amount of remuneration as calculated for every insured person, which may

not be less than the minimum monthly wage, and on the compensatory or incentive benefits related to employment relations, the income received from sports activities, from performing activities and/or the income received under copyright agreements, regardless of the sources of payment. The rates of social insurance contributions and amounts (portions) thereof for different types of social insurance are approved each year by the *Law on the Approval of Indicators of the State Social Insurance Fund Budget*. In 2022, the contributions rates were as follows: 1) pension social insurance of 8.72, 10.52, or 11.72 per cents depending on the insurance form chosen, 2) sickness and maternity social insurance of 1.99 and 1.81 per cent respectively, 3) unemployment social insurance of 1.31 per cent (paid by insurer), and 4) social insurance of occupational accidents and occupational diseases of 0.14 (paid by insurer).

According to Article 6 of the *Law on State Social Insurance*, working age persons, who have the status of artists, are insured with the pension, health, and maternity social insurance from the minimum monthly salary approved by the Government if they do not have insured income. Persons of working age with the status of an artist whose insured income during a calendar year is less than the amount of the 12 minimum monthly salaries approved by the Government for the respective year are insured by paying the missing amount of social insurance contributions up to 12 minimum monthly salaries approved by the Government. When insuring with state funds, social insurance contributions are paid by the manager of state budget appropriations according to the approved rates of the policyholder and the insured. Article 10 of the Law provides that the base of social insurance contributions of insured persons having the status of artist shall consist of 50 per cent of the income received under copyright agreements.

The [Law on Health Insurance \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2020) establishes different types of health insurance and a compulsory health insurance system. According to Article 17 of the Law, persons receiving income under copyright contracts and income from sports activities or performer activities, except for persons who engage in relevant individual activities, pay compulsory health insurance contributions in the amount of 6.98 per cent of the income on the basis of which social insurance contributions are calculated. For persons having the status of artist, who do not receive income under copyright contracts, compulsory health insurance contributions are paid by the state budget appropriations manager defined in the *Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets for an Appropriate Year* in the manner prescribed by the Government under the Programme of Social Protection of Arts Creators. Such contributions shall amount to 6.98 per cent of the minimum monthly earnings effective on the last day of the month for which the contribution is being paid.

The status of artists and the social security programme for artists as well as the administration procedure thereof are regulated by the [Law on the Status of Artists and Artists' Organisations \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2019), and the [Republic of Lithuania Government Resolution No. 316 of 16 March 2011 On the Social Security Programme for Artists](#). (last edited in 2022). The *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists' Organisations* regulates provisions to obtain the professional status of artists. Article 11 of the Law determines state support for artists from the Social Security Programme, approved by the government in 2011. One of the purposes of the *Social Security Programme for Artists* is to allocate creative idle time payments for artists. Creative idle time means a period of time when an artist of working age, for objective reasons beyond his/her control, temporarily has no conditions for the creation of art and (or) dissemination of results thereof and receives no income from creative, individual or labour-related activity. Creative idle time payment is a payment in the amount of a minimal monthly wage which is paid to the artist from the Programme budget during the period of creative idle time in accordance with the procedure provided for by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (see chapter 2.3 for more about the status of artists).

The [Law on Professional Performing Arts \(2004\)](#) (last edition in 2021) provides legal provisions for social security coverage for personnel working in state performing arts institutions (Article 15).

4.1.4 Tax laws

The [Law on Corporate Income Tax \(2001\)](#) (last edition 2021) establishes the procedure for imposing corporate income tax on profits earned and/or income received. According to the Law, the applied tax rate is 15 per cent of the taxable profits of Lithuanian entities and permanent establishments. The Law was amended in 2013 by adding Article 17² and in 2018 by extending the period relating to Article 17² until 2023. The Article states that in calculating corporate income tax, funds granted free of charge to a Lithuanian filmmaker during the period from 1 January 2019 until 31 December 2023 for the production of a film or a part thereof in the Republic of Lithuania may be deducted from taxable income where: 1) the film meets the criteria for a cultural content and production assessment established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania or an institution authorised by it, and 2) at least 80% of all the expenses of production of the film or a part thereof are incurred in the Republic of Lithuania and the expenses incurred in the Republic of Lithuania, regardless of the expenses specified in paragraph 3 of this Article, comprise at least EUR 43 000, and 3) the total amount of funds granted by all Lithuanian entities or foreign entities through their permanent establishment in the Republic of Lithuania does not exceed 30% of all the expenses of production of the film or a part thereof (more about this tax incentive see chapter 7.3).

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

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

The [Law on Charity and Sponsorship \(1993\)](#) (last edition 2020) establishes the framework for providing and receiving charity and sponsorship. According to Article 9 of the Law, natural persons can transfer an amount not exceeding 1.2% of the income tax payable on the basis of an annual income tax return to Lithuanian entities that are entitled to charitable donations and sponsorship. Recipients of sponsorship may be charitable and sponsorship funds; budget financed institutions; associations; public organisations; artists registered as beneficiaries in the Information System of Artist's and Artist's Organizations maintained by the Ministry of Culture.

The [Law on Personal Income Tax \(2002\)](#) (last edited in 2022) establishes the procedure for levying income tax on individuals. The tax rate of personal income received from an employment relationship is 20 per cent if individual income does not exceed the sum of 60 average wages. Income above that sum is taxed at 32 per cent rate. The tax rate of self-employed persons that have a certificate of self-employment is 15 per cent. Royalties are also taxed at 15 per cent. According to Article 34 of the Law, after the end of the tax period, the tax administrator must, at the request of a resident of Lithuania transfer to Lithuanian entities that are entitled to charitable donations and sponsorship under the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship* an amount not exceeding 1.2 per cent of the income tax payable on the basis of an annual income tax return.

The [Law on Value Added Tax \(2002\)](#) (last edition in 2021) establishes the guidelines for value added tax (VAT) and the obligations of taxable persons, VAT payers and other persons incidental to the payment of the tax. According to the law, the standard VAT rate is 21 per cent. Article 19 of the Law sets a reduced VAT rate of 9 per cent for books and non-periodical publications. The same reduced VAT rate is applied to accommodation in hotels and other special accommodation services supplied according to the procedure laid down in the legal acts regulating tourist activities. The reduced VAT of 5 per cent is applied to newspapers and periodicals, except for publications publicising eroticism and violence, which have

been recognised as such by an institution authorised by legal acts and for printed matter, 4/5 of which is devoted to paid advertising.

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

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

4.1.5 Labour laws

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

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

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

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

4.1.6 Copyright provisions

The protection of copyright and related rights is regulated by the [Law on Copyright and Related Rights \(1999\)](#) (last edition 2021). The Law is harmonised with International and European Union legal acts. The

Law defines authors' economic and moral rights, establishes the objects and subjects of copyright and related rights, terms of protection of copyright and related rights, and functions of collective administration association supervision by the Ministry of Culture. The liability for breach of copyright and related rights is established by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania, Article XXIX "Crimes against Intellectual and Industrial Property and the Administrative Code of the Republic of Lithuania", Article 214¹⁰.

In 2006, the Lithuanian Parliament adopted amendments to the *Law on Copyright and Related Rights*. These amendments were required for the regulation of copyright and related rights in the presentation of audiovisual works via new media services, e. g. mobile phones, internet, etc. The amendments were made with the aim of harmonising its provisions with EU requirements, namely 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 broadcast recordings. The new provision 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.

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

4.1.7 Data protection laws

The [Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data \(1996\)](#) (last edition 2021) aims to protect fundamental human rights and freedoms, in particular the right to the protection of personal data, and to ensure a high level of protection of personal data. The Law lays down the principles of personal data processing, the legal status and powers of the State Data Protection Inspectorate, the powers of the Inspector of Ethics of Journalists, the procedure of the investigation of the violations of personal data and privacy laws, and the imposition of administrative fines by the State Data Protection Inspectorate.

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

The fifth part of Article 20 of [the Law on Documents and Archives \(1995\)](#) (last edition in 2020) determines fixed restrictions on access to the documents which contain information on a person's private life, as well as to structured sets of personal data – 30 years after the person's death, and in the event of failure to determine the date of death – for a term of 100 years from her/his birth. If neither the date of birth nor the date of death of a person is determined, the access shall be limited for a term of 70 years, counting from the creation of the documents.

4.1.8 Language laws

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

The [Law on the State Language \(1995\)](#) (last edition in 2002) regulates the use of the state language in the public life of Lithuania, protection and control of the state language, and responsibility for violations of the *Law on the State Language*. The Law does not apply to the unofficial communication of the population and the language of events of religious communities as well as persons belonging to ethnic communities.

The [Law on the State Language Inspectorate \(2001\)](#) (last edition in 2016) establishes the objectives, functions, organisation and procedure of work of the State inspectorate of Language, as well as the rights, duties and responsibilities of the employees of the Inspectorate.

The [Law on the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language \(1993\)](#) (last edition in 2016) establishes the Commission as the state institution which shall be founded, reorganised and abolished by the Seimas. The Law also sets up the composition and procedure of formation of the Language Commission, as well as its tasks, operating principles and rights.

4.1.9 Other areas of general legislation

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

The [Law on Budgetary Institutions \(1995\)](#) (last edition in 2020) regulates the establishment, restructuring, liquidation, operation and management of budgetary institutions. A budgetary institution is defined in the Law as a public legal entity with limited civil liability, which performs state or municipal functions and is maintained from the appropriations of the state or municipal budgets, as well as from the budgets of the State Social Insurance Fund, Compulsory Health Insurance Fund and other state monetary funds. Many Lithuanian cultural organisations, such as theatres or museums owned by the state or municipalities, have the legal form of budgetary organisations.

The [Law on Associations \(2004\)](#) (last edition in 2021) regulates the formation, management, activities, specific features of restructuring and termination (reorganisation and liquidation) of legal persons whose legal form is an association. The association is defined in the Law as a public legal person of limited civil liability which has its name and whose purpose is to coordinate the activities of the association members, to represent interests of the association members and to defend them or to meet other public interests. An association may include one of the following words in its name: “association”, “public organisation”, “confederation”, “union”, “society” or other. Many professional organisations of Lithuanian artists have the legal form of association.

The [Law on Public Institutions \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2021) establishes the procedure of founding, management, operation, reorganisation, and liquidation of public institutions. A public institution is defined by the Law as a *non-profit organisation*, founded according to the procedure established by the Law from the assets of partners (owner) engaged in social, educational, scientific, cultural, sport or any other analogous activities that are accessible to the members of the community as regards the services it provides. A *non-profit organisation* is an entity possessing the rights of a legal person which has been set up in accordance with the procedure established by law and has a non-profit purpose of activities. Its profit cannot be distributed to its founders, members, or partners (owner).

The [Law on Charity and Sponsorship Funds \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2021) regulates the establishment, management, activities, reorganisation and liquidation of charity and sponsorship Funds. The Fund is defined by the Law as a *non-profit organisation* without a membership and with the purpose of activities related to the dispensing of charity or (and) sponsoring in the fields of science, culture, education, art, religion, sports, health care, social care and assistance, and environmental protection (and other areas specified in the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship*).

The [Law on Centres for Culture \(2004\)](#) (last edition in 2019) establishes the founding, reorganisation, liquidation, management, activities, classification, and financing, as well as other relations pertaining to activities of centres for culture.

4.2 Legislation on culture

4.2.1 General legislation on culture

Political documents setting out cultural policy frameworks or declarations of principle

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

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

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

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

The [Law on the Council for Lithuanian Culture \(2012\)](#) (last edited in 2021) establishes the status, goals and functions of the Council and its general operating principles. The Law defines the Council as being a budget-financed institution under the Ministry of Culture and its main function is to finance culture and art programmes, distribute grants and other types of support to culture and for professionals, and monitor culture and art projects that are under implementation. The law was changed in 2021, as the Government decided to abolish the Culture Support Fund that had been administered by the Lithuanian Council for Culture (see chapter 2.1).

The [Law on Cinema \(2002\)](#) (last edited in 2019) establishes the principles of state governance and funding of film, the procedures of the distribution, screening and presentation of movies through electronic communications channels and the regulation of the protection of cinematic heritage. In 2011, the amendments to the *Law on Cinema* included an article on the establishment of the Film Centre, a budget organisation under the Ministry of Culture. Since 2013, this institution implements Lithuanian film policy and provides funding for development and production of national films.

Laws relating to broadcasting and its regulation

The [Law on the Provision of Information to the Public \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2021) sets up the procedures for collecting, preparing, publishing and disseminating of public information and establishes the rights, obligations and responsibilities of producers, the media, journalists and institutions that regulate their activity, as well as the operating principles of the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation.

The [Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information \(2002\)](#) (last edition in 2021) establishes the criteria of the public information that has a detrimental effect on the physical, mental and moral development of minors, the procedure of its publication and dissemination, and the rights, duties and liability of the producers, disseminators and owners of such information, as well as journalists and the institutions which regulate their activities.

The [Law on National Radio and Television \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2021) establishes the procedures of governance, operation, funding, reorganisation and liquidation of the Lithuanian National Radio and Television broadcasting company as well as its duties, rights, and responsibilities. Article 19 of the law also establishes the principles of LRT financing by fixing its share from certain sources: “the amount of funds allocated to the LRT from the state budget each year is 1 per cent of the state budget and municipal budget revenue from personal income tax and 1.3 per cent from excise revenue actually received in the year before last”.

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

The [Law on the Status of Artists and Artists' Organisations \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2018) establishes the basis and procedure for granting and abolishing the status of artist and artists' organisations.

The [Law on Professional Performing Arts \(2004\)](#) (last edition in 2021) regulates the governance of professional performing arts, the system and operation of professional performing arts institutions, the financing of these institutions, the employment relations and social guarantees of employees of these institutions, as well as the management and use of the property of institutions.

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

Title of the act	Year of adoption
<u>UNESCO Conventions, ratified by Lithuania</u>	
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	Acceptance: 31/03/1992
Convention on Technical and Vocational Education	Accession: 28/01/1993
Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States	Acceptance: 10/03/1993
Protocol to amend articles 6 and 7 of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	Ratification: 20/08/1993
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	Accession: 20/08/1993
Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region	Accession: 16/11/1994
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention	Accession: 27/07/1998
Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	Accession: 27/07/1998

Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property	Ratification: 27/07/1998
Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, with Annexes A to E and Protocol annexed	Accession: 21/08/1998
Protocol to the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, with Annexes A to H	Accession: 21/08/1998
Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region	Ratification: 17/12/1998
International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations	Accession: 22/04/1999
Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms	Accession: 27/10/1999
Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	Accession: 13/03/2002
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage	Ratification: 21/01/2005
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage	Ratification: 12/06/2006
International Convention against Doping in Sport	Ratification: 02/08/2006
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions	Accession: 18/12/2006
<u>WIPO treaties signed by Lithuania</u>	
Berne Convention	Accession: 14/09/1994
Budapest Treaty	Accession: 9/02/1998
Hague Agreement	Accession: 26/06/2008
Madrid Protocol	Accession: 15/08/1997
Nairobi Treaty	Accession: February 9, 2021
Nice Agreement	Accession: 22/11/1996
Paris Convention	Accession: 21/02/1994
Patent Cooperation Treaty	Accession: 5/04/1994
Patent Law Treaty	Accession: 3/11/2011
Phonograms Convention	Accession: 27/10/1999
Rome Convention	Accession: 22/04/1999
Singapore Treaty	Ratification: 14/05/2013
Trademark Law Treaty	Ratification: 27/01/1998
UPOV Convention	Accession: 10/11/2003
WIPO Convention	Accession: 30/01/1992

WIPO Copyright Treaty	Accession: 18/06/2001
WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty	Accession: 26/01/2001
Council of Europe Treaties in the area of culture, signed and ratified by Lithuania	
European Cultural Convention	Entered into force: 7/5/1992
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe	Entered into force: 1/4/2000
European Convention on Transfrontier Television	Entered into force: 1/1/2001
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised)	Entered into force: 8/6/2000
European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production	Entered into force: 1/10/1999
Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	Entered into force: 1/7/2000
European Landscape Convention	Entered into force: 1/3/2004
European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage	Entered into force: 1/1/2008
Protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage, on the Protection of Television Productions	Entered into force: 1/4/2014

4.2.2 Legislation on culture and natural heritage

Protection of the national cultural heritage is guaranteed in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (Articles 42, 47, 54).

The objects of immovable cultural and natural heritage are protected under the [Law on Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage \(1994\)](#) (last edition in 2021), the [Law on Planning of Territories \(1995\)](#) and the [Law on Protected Territories \(1993\)](#) (last edition in 2022).

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

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

The [Law on Protected Areas \(1993\)](#) (last edition in 2021) regulates the system of protected areas, the legal bases for the designation and establishment of protected areas, changes to their borders and status, as well as the protection, management and control of these territories. In 2003, the Law was

amended in order to incorporate the regulations of territories of international importance, including the European ecological network *Natura 2000*.

The [Law on the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2021) establishes the administration of the protection of movable cultural heritage; the accounting and storage of movable cultural property; the principles of the change of ownership and control of cultural objects; the exportation of movable cultural property and antiques from and importation into the Republic of Lithuania; and the return of illegally exported cultural objects. The Law was amended in 2009 by changing the definition of “movable cultural property”. The new definition defines it as “material creations and other objects which are movable based on their designation and nature, hold cultural value and are listed in the State inventories of movable cultural property”. In 2016, the Law was amended by adding new terms of “Member State of the European Union”, “Return of cultural object”, “Cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, Member State of the European Union or a third country”, etc. The introduction of new terms is linked to the alignment of the Law with Directive 2014/60/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State.

The [Law of the National Commission for Cultural Heritage \(2004\)](#) (last edition in 2017) establishes the Heritage Commission, which is an expert and advisor to the Lithuanian Parliament, President and Government regarding the national policy of cultural heritage protection, its implementation, evaluation and improvement.

The [Law on Museums \(1995\)](#) (last edition in 2019) regulates the system, classification and types of museums, their establishment, operation, closure and reorganisation, the accounting and protection of museum property and other relations connected to the operation of museums. To enhance the efficiency and quality of museums’ activity and improve museum legislation, on 23 December 2013 the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania passed an Amendment to the Law on Museums by introducing a five-year term of office for the directors of national and state museums. On 3 May 2016, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania supplemented the Law with Article 7¹ by empowering a head of a national, state and municipal museum to confer the title of curator emeritus on museum workers with solid professional experience, who were actively involved in work and creative activity but terminated their employment contract with a national, state and municipal museum.

The [Law on the State Protection of Ethnic Culture \(1999\)](#) (last edition 2021) establishes the general principles of state protection of Lithuanian ethnic culture and measures and conditions for the protection and continuity, development and enrichment of ethnic culture. The law also regulates the protection of ethnic heritage.

The [Law on Documents and Archives \(1995\)](#) (last edition in 2020) aims to provide the legal basis for the effective management of documents in order to ensure transparency and accountability of the activities of legal entities and to safeguard the legitimate interests of the persons of concern. The law also regulates the accumulation and administration of the national Documentation Fund in order to preserve the state’s documentary heritage, memory and national identity.

4.2.3 Legislation on performance and celebration

The [Law on Professional Performing Arts \(2004\)](#) (last edition in 2021) regulates the governance of professional performing arts, the system and operation of professional performing arts institutions, the financing of these institutions, the employment relations and social guarantees of employees of these institutions, as well as the management and use of their property.

The rules and procedure for granting the status of a professional performing arts theatre are governed by Article 5(3) of the *Law on Professional Performing Arts (2004)* as well as *the Description of the Procedure for the Recognition of a Legal Person as a Professional Performing Arts Theatre or Concert Institution as*

well as the *Revocation of this Recognition* approved by Order No. ĮV-535 of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania of 5 April 2017.

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

The [Law on Song Festivals \(2007\)](#) (last edition in 2010) ensures the state protection, periodicity, continuity and development of Lithuania's song festival tradition; regulates the procedure of preparation and management of song festivals, the responsibility and competence of state and municipal institutions in organizing the festivals; and establishes the principles of the financing of the song festivals. The Song Festival (also called The Song Celebration) is a massive traditional song and dance festival. The first Song Day was held in 1924 in Kaunas. 86 choirs (around 3000 singers) participated in the festival and performed 36 songs (22 folk songs and 14 authentic songs by Lithuanian composers). Since Lithuania's independence in 1990, the event has gained the status of national celebration. On the 7th of November 2003, UNESCO has proclaimed the tradition of the Song and Dance Celebration in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity and in 2008 it has been inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

4.2.4 Legislation on visual arts and crafts

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

4.2.5 Legislation on books and press

The [Law on Libraries \(1995\)](#) (last edition in 2020) establishes the state governance of library activities, the system of libraries, the procedure of formation of the libraries fund, the structure of this fund and its protection. The Law was amended in 2013 in order to establish the protection of copyright and related rights in libraries and set the principles of the appointment of executives. In 2004, the Law was amended by adding a new article, which established the Council of Libraries. The Council was defined as an expert and consultative body of the Ministry of Culture.

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

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

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

Order No. ĮV-216 of 30 March 2015 by the Minister of Culture regulates the indication and verification of the circulation of the press. The order approved the *Procedure of Verification of Circulation of Local, Regional and National Newspapers and Magazines, Except for Those Whose Circulation Does Not Exceed 500 Copies and/or Which Contain No Advertising*. In accordance with the established procedure,

publishers must provide data on the circulation of their published newspaper or magazine for the previous half-year to the Ministry of Culture twice a year, i.e. by 10 January and by 10 July, by filling in the approved form.

The data on publication circulation (from the first half-year of 2021) and the participants of the media provided to the Ministry of Culture are made public in the [Database of Producers and Disseminators of Public Information](#), available on the website of the Ministry of Culture.

4.2.6 Legislation on audiovisual and interactive media

Regulations of audiovisual and interactive media are set in The [Law on the Provision of Information to the Public \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2021), the [Law on the National Radio and Television \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2021) and The [Law on Cinema \(2002\)](#) (last edited in 2019).

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

The *Law on the National Radio and Television* (1996) establishes the procedures of governance, operation, funding, reorganisation and liquidation of Lithuanian National Radio and Television broadcasting company as well as its duties, rights and responsibilities. Article 19 of the law also establishes the principles of LRT financing by fixing its share from certain sources: “*the amount of funds allocated to the LRT from the state budget each year is 1 per cent of the state budget and municipal budget revenue from personal income tax and 1.3 per cent from excise revenue actually received in the in the year before last*”.

The Ministry of Culture is one of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the [Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information \(2002\)](#) (last edition in 2021). This Law establishes the criteria of the public information that has a detrimental effect on minors’ physical, mental, and moral development, the procedure of its publication and dissemination, and the rights, duties and liability of the producers, disseminators and owners of such information, as well as journalists and the institutions that regulate their activities.

Several articles of The [Law on the State Language \(1995\)](#) (last edition in 2002) are related to the audiovisual and interactive media, e.g. Article 13 states that the audiovisual programmes and motion pictures publicly shown in Lithuania must be translated into the state language or shown with subtitles in Lithuanian; and Article 22 requires that the mass media of Lithuania (the press, television, radio, etc.) and all publishers of books and other publications must observe the norms of the correct Lithuanian language.

4.2.7 Legislation on design and creative service

The [Law on Construction \(1996\)](#) (last edition in 2021) establishes the essential requirements for all construction works that are being built, reconstructed and repaired within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, the procedure for technical regulation of construction, construction investigation, design of construction works, reconstruction, repair of new construction works, acceptance of them as fit for use, utilisation and maintenance, demolition of construction works, as well as the procedure of supervision over the above activities, the principles of activities of the participants in the construction, public administration entities, owners (or users) of engineering and utility networks and traffic routes, other legal and natural persons in this field. The Law also defines essential architectural requirements for construction works and foresees the certification of architects.

The [Law on Advertising \(2000\)](#) (last edition in 2020) aims to improve information to consumers about goods and services, protect consumers’ rights and legitimate interests, ensure fair competition, as well as

promote self-regulation of advertising and facilitate the development of advertising activities. The law also establishes the requirements for the use of advertising, the responsibilities of subjects of advertising and the legal basis for the supervision of the use of advertising in the Republic of Lithuania.

The [Law on Design \(2002\)](#) (last edition in 2020) determines the legal protection of industrial design, its registration rules and order of use in Lithuania and the administration of the national design register.

The [Law on Architects' Chamber \(2006\)](#) (last edition in 2021) regulates the establishment, functions, activities and management of the Architects' Chamber of the Republic of Lithuania.

In 2015, the Lithuanian government adopted the *Guidelines of the Development of Architecture and Design*. The guidelines define the main architectural policy objectives, implementation policy, and the role and importance of architecture in a social, educational, economic and cultural context (see also chapter 3.5.5). One of the results of these guidelines was the adoption of *the Law on Architecture (2017)* (last edition in 2017). The purpose of this law is to regulate public relations in the field of architecture in order to preserve the created environment and ensure its appropriate quality, harmonious with the uniqueness and culture of the country, reflecting public interests, and being of lasting value. This Law also establishes the requirements, conditions and procedures for the training of architects, the qualification of architects, the performance of the activities of architects, the rights and obligations of architects, and the quality requirements applicable to the activities and performance of architects.

The [Law on Tourism \(1998\)](#) (last edition in 2020) establishes the principles and priorities of the tourist industry and the organising of independent tourism, the requirements in supplying tourist services, the competence of state or municipal institutions supervising this industry and the conditions for utilising tourism resources.

5. Arts and cultural education

5.1 Policy and institutional overview

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

The principles of education in Lithuania are stated in the [Law on Education \(1991\)](#) (last edition in 2015). According to the Law, the education system of Lithuania comprises the following: 1) formal education (primary, basic, secondary education, formal vocational education and training and higher education studies); 2) non-formal education (pre-school, pre-primary, other non-formal education of children (as well as the teaching that supplements formal education) and of adults); 3) informal education; 4) educational assistance (vocational guidance, informational, psychological, socio-pedagogical, special pedagogical and special assistance of education, healthcare at school, consultation, in-service training of teachers and other assistance).

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

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

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

Secondary education is not compulsory and usually lasts two years (11th-12th forms of the secondary school (3rd-4th forms of the gymnasium)). The purpose of secondary education is to assist a person in the acquisition of general academic, sociocultural and technological literacy, moral, national and civic

maturity, and the basics of vocational competence. Secondary education is acquired upon completion of the secondary education curriculum and the passing of Matura examinations.

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

According to the *Law on Education*, higher education studies is provided to everyone who has acquired at least secondary education, has enrolled in a higher education institution and is capable of studying independently. Foundations of activities of higher education institutions and studies therein are set out by the [Law on Higher Education and Research \(2009\)](#) (last edition in 2022).

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

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

The issue of an ineffective network of schools exists in higher education as well. Over the last 15 years, the number of graduates and entrants to universities decreased (-25 % over 4 years). The number of universities and study programmes, however, remains relatively stable. Because of that, university admissions demonstrate an ever-lower competition score; many programmes make no student selection whatsoever. In addition to that, similar study programmes are offered across many universities and colleges, and the scattering of scientific resources does not guarantee the quality of competencies and training. To meet these challenges, the Government seeks to optimise the network of universities and vocational education establishments.

5.2 Arts in schools

In Lithuania, the curricula of all three stages of state school education (primary, basic and secondary) are shaped by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports. According to the general descriptions of primary, basic and secondary education, the curricula of these stages have to encompass 6, 8 and 7

study fields. Primary education comprises 6 study fields: moral education (religion or ethics), languages (mother tongue and first foreign language), mathematics, natural and social sciences, arts and technologies, and physical and health education. The curriculum of basic education comprises the following study fields: moral education (religion or ethics), languages (mother tongue and literature, first and second foreign languages), mathematics (mathematics and informatics), natural sciences (biology, physics, chemistry, etc.), social sciences (history, geography, civil education, economics, entrepreneurship, citizenship), arts (fine arts, music, dance, theatre, and modern arts), technologies (nutrition, textiles, construction materials, electronics, product design and technology, etc.), and physical education. Some subjects can be studied at an intensified level. The third stage of education comprises the same study fields as basic education except technologies.

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

Pupils with artistic abilities can choose to enrol in special arts or music schools that combine general education with specialised artistic education. According to the [data](#) of the [Ministry of Education, Science and Sport](#) there are 9 specialised art schools in Lithuania, funded by the state and/or municipalities: 4 schools specialising in music, 1 specialising in fine arts, 3 schools combining fine arts and music, and 1 school combining fine arts, music and ballet.

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

5.3 Higher arts and cultural education

Higher education in Lithuania is regulated by the the [Law on Higher Education and Research \(2009\)](#) (last edition in 2022). According to Law, there are two types of higher education institutions in Lithuania: universities (Lith. universitetas) and colleges (Lith. kolegija). The university is an institution that carries out university studies, conducts research, experimental (social, cultural) development and/or develops high-level professional art. The name of a higher education institution of this type must contain a word “university” or “academy”, or “seminary”. Colleges carry out college studies, develop applied research and/or professional art. The name of a higher education institution that carries out such activities must contain a word “college” or “higher education institution”. Universities and colleges have autonomy, which covers academic, administrative, economic and financial management activities, and is based on the principle of self-governance and academic freedom.

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

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

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

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

Table 28: Study programmes in arts at universities in 2022

Field of studies	Number of programmes	Titles of the first cycle study programmes (Bachelor) 49	Titles of the second cycle study programmes (Master) 36
Architecture	6	Architecture (4 programmes)	Architecture (2 programmes)
Artworks restoration	3	Fine art works and interior restoration (2 programmes)	Fine art works and interior restoration (1 programme)
Dance	2	Dance, Subcultures of Dance	
Design	19	Visual Design and Media, Design, Graphic design, Interior design, Costume design, Fashion Design, Environmental Objects Design, Visual Design (12 programmes)	Design, Graphic design, Visual design, Visual Communication Design, Visual Plastic Art, Fashion design (7 programmes)
Film	4	Film Art, Screenwriting, Cinematography	Film Art
Fine Art	26	Graphic Art, Ceramics, Metal Art and Jewellery, Monumental arts, Scenography, Sculpture, 4D Objects of Art, Applied Graphics, Applied Ceramics, Textile Art Media, Painting, Textile Art and Design, Fine Art (13 programmes)	Graphic Art, Monumental arts, Scenography, Sculpture, Glass Art and Design, Applied graphics, Applied Ceramics, Textile Art Media, Painting, Textile Art and Design, Fine arts, Applied Arts (13 programmes)
Landscape architecture	1		Landscape architecture
Media Art	4	Animation, Photography and Media Arts, New Media Art (3 programmes)	Photography and Media Arts (1 programme)
Music	9	Composition, Music Studies, Musical Folklore, Music Performance, Music Technologies, Music Production, Performance Art, Sound Directing (5 programmes)	Composition, Music Performance, Electronic Composition and Performance, Performance Art, Sound Directing Musical Folklore (4 programmes)
Theatre	4	Theatre Art, History and Criticism of Performing and Film Arts,	Theatre Art (1 programme)

		Acting Puppet and Object Theatre Directing, Directing, Acting (3 programmes)	
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Source: [AIKOS](#)

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

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

The main high schools of arts education in Lithuania are the [Vilnius Academy of Arts \(VDA\)](#) and the [Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre \(LMTA\)](#). VDA has four faculties that are located in different cities of Lithuania – Vilnius, Kaunas, Telšiai and Klaipėda. Each faculty has its own undergraduate and graduate study programmes. According to the [data](#) of VDA, in 2022, more than 1550 students were studying at the Academy in 46 study programmes. The Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre has three faculties; two of them (Faculty of Music and Faculty of Theatre and Film) are located in Vilnius and one in Klaipėda. According to the [data](#) of LMTA, its three faculties currently host about 1,000 students in three study cycles – bachelors, masters and doctorates.

The Bologna Declaration, which Lithuania signed in 1999, became an important document for Lithuanian higher education. Until 2022, Lithuania implemented or created conditions for the implementation of several measures of the Bologna Declaration. In 2000, the Minister of Education and Science approved rules for the evaluation of higher education and research institutions. In 2002, the first evaluation of study programmes by international experts was carried out. In 2005, the *Law on Higher Education and Research* (2009) was amended to provide for joint study programmes. According to the law, higher education institutions may implement joint study programmes on completion of which a joint qualification degree is awarded, as well as programmes which, on completion, award a double qualification degree. A joint qualification degree is awarded when a study programme is implemented by at least two higher education institutions, usually from different countries. However, until 2022, only one joint study programme in arts was launched, i. e. the joint programme of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre ECMAster (European Chamber Music Master). In 2011, ECTS credits were approved as the Lithuanian national learning credits system. From 2012, the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture funds teaching visits of lecturers and professors from foreign universities to Lithuanian higher education institutions. The grant competition is organised, and the payment administered by the [Education Exchanges Support Foundation](#). The Foundation also administers other international exchange programmes and initiatives in the field of higher education and vocational training.

5.4 Out-of-school arts and cultural education

In 2005, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania passed the [Concept of Non-formal Education for Children](#). The Concept laid the basis for the policy of non-formal children's education, defined the principles of how it is organised and financed through the model of non-formal education vouchers. The model foresaw that the state and municipalities would allocate a certain amount of money for each pupil of primary, basic and secondary school for non-formal education activities.

In 2012, the *Concept of Non-formal Education of Children* was revised in order to improve the system of non-formal education, to create a new funding model and to promote the development of this type of education. The analysis of the situation revealed the insufficient participation of children in this kind of

education as only 20 per cent of schoolchildren took part in the activities of non-formal education in 2011. In addition to that, as the non-formal education of children was an autonomous function of municipalities, the network of providers of non-formal education and its financing was very uneven in individual municipalities. That determined unequal possibilities for children to participate in non-formal education programmes.

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

According to the elaborated financing model of non-formal education that was introduced in 2015, the recommended amount of funding for non-formal education is 15 EUR per month for each pupil. Municipalities can change this amount according to their priorities, but it may not be less than 10 EUR or more than 20 EUR per month for each pupil. The funding can be allocated only to accredited programmes of non-formal education that were registered in a special register and evaluated by the commissions of municipalities. Accredited programmes are announced on the website of municipalities along with an invitation for children and parents to register for programmes. The announcement of programmes are available in the open vocational information system *AIKOS*. According to this system, in 2022, there have been 1576 public and private institutions and individual persons which have been accredited to provide nonformal education services for children. They have been running 9 259 programmes of non-formal education. There were also 101 institutions of non-formal education for adults that provided 5 175 programmes. However, not all non-formal education providers are accredited and registered, so their number may be higher.

The registered programmes are divided in 16 groups. 7 groups are related to arts and culture (music, fine arts, choreography and dance, theatre and drama, tourism and regional studies, media, and ethno culture). The greatest number of programmes is in the group of music, with sport programmes in second place and choreography and dance programmes taking third place.

Table 29: Statistics of out-of-school education programmes for children in 2017-2022

Group of programmes	Number of out-of-school education programmes					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Music	2 340	2 500	2 644	2 707	2 754	2 718
Fine art	525	568	554	574	590	557
Choreography and dance	520	559	574	634	711	707
Theatre and drama	178	200	213	223	239	221
Sport	1 937	2 099	2 294	2 372	2 414	2 271
Technical creation	244	291	314	353	371	313
Tourism and regional studies	57	65	51	50	54	55
Nature, ecology	108	117	118	123	131	129
Road traffic safety	24	29	60	65	71	59
Information technology	238	285	360	376	424	420
Technologies	180	204	201	230	253	247
Media	51	53	60	64	72	63
Ethno culture	148	162	158	154	169	154
Languages	279	349	368	397	419	417
Citizenship	211	221	235	228	213	200
Other	566	661	707	763	773	728
Total number of	7 606	8 363	8 911	9 313	9 658	9 259

programmes						
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Source: AIKOS

According to the data of AIKOS, since 2015, the number of children who participated in non-formal education programmes has constantly increased. In 2020, a total of 336 942 children learned in Lithuanian primary, basic and secondary education schools and about 60% of them attended out-of-school education classes. The data covers only registered non-formal education providers and their programmes.

Table 30: The part of schoolchildren participating in non-formal education out of school in 2016 – 2020

Year Number	2016–2017	2017-2018	2018–2019	2019–2020	2020–2021
Number of schoolchildren in primary, basic and secondary schools	330 870	327 783	334 602	335 358	336 942
Number of schoolchildren participating in non-formal education activities	163 048	178 606	195 376	214 104	201 801
Per cent of schoolchildren participating in non-formal education activities	49.28 %	54.49 %	58.39%	63.84%	59.89%

Source: Education Management Information System

According to the data of Education Management Information System, art and culture education programmes are more interesting for girls than for boys. Boys prefer activities of sport, technical creation and information technology.

Table 31: Boys and girls in non-formal education out of school in 2020

Group of programmes	Number of non-formal education programmes in 2020	Number of boys and girls participating in non-formal education programmes		Per cent of boys and girls participating in non-formal education programmes*	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Total number of boys and girls in schools		166 187	160 835		
Music	2 707	10 234	18 486	6.16	11.49
Fine art	574	3 268	10 943	1.97	6.80
Choreography and dance	634	3 370	14 238	2.03	8.85
Theatre and drama	223	723	1 767	0.44	1.10
Sport	2 372	44 379	18 955	26.70	11.79
Technical creation	353	4 249	1 767	2.56	1.10
Tourism and regional studies	50	683	793	0.41	0.49
Nature, ecology	123	931	1 262	0.56	0.78
Road traffic safety	65	917	915	0.55	0.57
Information technology	376	3 149	947	1.89	0.59
Technologies	230	933	1 826	0.56	1.14
Media	64	210	579	0.13	0.36
Ethno culture	154	487	961	0.29	0.60
Languages	397	1 707	2 257	1.03	1.40
Citizenship	228	2 617	2 592	1.57	1.61
Other	763	4 653	5 542	2.80	3.45

*Per cent is counted from total number of boys and girls who attended general education schools in 2020

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

5.5 Vocational and professional training

The vocational education system is regulated by the [Law on Vocational Education and Training \(1997\)](#) (last edition in 2021). According to the Law, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is responsible for the vocational education system. The Ministry shapes and implements the vocational education policy, participates in the shaping of human resources development policy and implements it, approves the general plans for vocational education, etc. In 2018, the Ministry adopted the [Description of the Procedure for the Development and Registration of Vocational Training Programmes](#). The Description sets out the scope, structure and elements of the formal and non-formal vocational training programmes, and the procedure for the preparation, updating, evaluation and registration of the vocational training programmes or its modules.

According to the system [LAMAbpo](#), there are 56 state vocational education institutions, 4 statutory and 2 private institutions in Lithuania. Vocational schools provide both training leading to a qualification, as well as basic or secondary education. The duration of programmes can be either two or three years, depending on whether it is intended to provide basic or secondary education, or adapted to persons with special needs. The duration of studies for students who have already acquired secondary education is 1 to 2 years. Vocational education and training programmes are developed by VET providers in cooperation with employers.

In 2022, according to the open vocational information system AIKOS, there were 751 registered vocational education and training programmes in Lithuania, 79 which were in the field of the arts.

Table 32: Study programmes in arts and qualifications granted by vocational education establishments in 2022

Field of studies	Number of programmes	Qualifications granted
Audio-visual techniques and media production	29	Photographer, Animator, Visual advertisement producer, Audio and video equipment operator, Stage technical service employee, Layout editor, Graphics technician, Printing technician.
Handicrafts	31	Fine ceramics manufacturer, Handicraftsperson, Basketry handicraft's producer, Florist, Fine textile handicraft's producer, Ceramicist, Jeweller, Manufacturer of ware (glass, metal, wood, stone), Manufacturer of articles (textiles, leather).
Design	11	Interior decorator, Decorator, Stage decorator
Music and performing arts	8	Ballet artist, Contemporary dance performer, Make-up artist, Contemporary dancer

Source: [AIKOS](#)

6. Cultural participation and consumption

6.1 Policies and programmes

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

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

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

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

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

In 2015, another competitive project – "The Minor Lithuanian Capital of Culture" – was initiated and started by the Ministry of Culture and the community of Naisiai village. The Minor Lithuanian Capital of Culture competition is announced and organised by the Union of Rural Communities of Lithuania. It is a project that stimulates small towns and villages to be involved in cultural life and creative processes. The Lithuanian Council for Culture runs a special funding programme "The Minor Lithuanian Capital of Culture" which is dedicated to the projects of villages and small towns.

In 2006, in order to promote reading and help improve reading skills, The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture approved the Reading Promotion Programme. The Programme supports various reading promotion initiatives and projects; the election of the "[Book of the Year](#)" (organised by Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania); the "Top 12 Most Creative Books" competition (organised by the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore); the summer reading action "Reading Challenge"; and the event "[Lithuania Reads](#)" (coordinated by the Lithuanian Publishers Association) organised on 7 May, the Press Recovery Day. The [Reading Promotion Programme for 2019 – 2024](#) provides 8 measures (events, conferences, workshops) aimed at modernisation and accessibility of reading environments, development of reading promotion competences of cultural workers and educators, enhancement of reading abilities of schoolchildren and formation of a positive attitude towards reading.

6.2 Trends and figures in cultural participation

The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture commissions representative surveys of the Lithuanian population (15 years and over) about participation in culture and satisfaction with cultural services since 2013. The survey is carried out every 4 years. Currently, data from the surveys of 2014, 2017 and 2020 are available. The questionnaire used in the surveys has been prepared within the full scope of the cultural participation questionnaire of the ESS-net Culture. However, the scope of the questionnaire of 2020 is broader. According to the authors of the [survey report](#), it consisted of two phases: during the first phase, 1 200 residents were surveyed by way of face-to-face interview at their homes and during the second phase, 1 963 respondents were additionally surveyed. The questionnaire used in the second phase was expanded to include additional topics, which, according to the authors, allows the identification of links between involvement in culture and social capital and to start observing the trends of cultural consumption by residents from less favourable cultural backgrounds. The results of the survey of 2020 cover the period of 12 months before the introduction of the first quarantine on 16 March 2020; therefore, reference is normally made to the cultural activity, participation or cultural consumption by the population during the period from March 2019 to March 2020.

According to data from the surveys of 2014, 2017 and 2020, there was no significant increase in the figures of 2020 in the live consumption of culture, except for cultural heritage attendance – 2014 – 73%, 2017 – 71%, and 2020 – 78%. The biggest decrease in live consumption (-6.7%) was in the reading of newspapers. In virtual consumption, the biggest increase (+9.8%) occurred in accessing art exhibitions or museum expositions online or by other means. Cultural consumption in all other fields remains similar to the average for the three surveys.

Table 33: Persons (≥15 years) who have consumed cultural products during the last 12 months in Lithuania in 2014, 2017, and 2020, %.

Persons (≥15 years) who in the last 12 months..., %	2014	2017	2020	Difference 2017/2020
1. attended events of performing arts, watched or listened to programmes	89.7	85.0	84.9	-0.1
1.1 attended performing arts events	57.5	61.4	63.7	2.3
1.2. have watched live broadcasts of events while not at home (e. g. outdoors, at a cinema, public library or elsewhere)	32.7	31.2	36.6	5.4
1.3. have viewed or listened to recordings of	79.3	70.0	69.1	-0.9

<i>artistic performances</i>				
2. attended events of visual arts, architecture, crafts and design, watched/listened to programmes	47.9	50.4	51.9	1.5
2.1. attended exhibitions of painting, graphic art, photography, sculpture, or crafts	28.2	25.0	27.4	2.4
2.2. attended virtual exhibitions of painting, graphic art, photography, sculpture, or crafts	12.2	13.7	12.2	-1.5
2.3. watched or listened to programmes about visual arts or crafts (on the TV, radio, online or by other means)	37.7	39.7	33.2	-6.5
3. visited museums or cultural heritage sites, watched/listened to programmes	72.6	71.0	78.2	7.2
3.1. visited a museum	37.8	31.5	36.6	5.1
3.2. visited a gallery or exhibition	31.6	21.3	24.3	3.0
3.3. watched virtual art exhibitions or museum expositions online or by other means	7.3	8.6	18.4	9.8
3.4. watched or listened to programmes about museums on the TV, radio, online or by other means	29.2	34.5	32.8	-1.7
3.5. visited cultural monuments, historical sites or art locations, famous buildings, archaeological sites	50.0	53.0	60.4	7.4
3.6. watched cultural monuments, historical sites or art locations, buildings or areas online or by other means	21.2	28.9	32.4	3.5
3.7. watched or listened to programmes about cultural monuments, historical sites or art locations, buildings or areas on the TV, radio, online or by other means	41.4	41.3	42.6	1.3
3.8. visited archives	3.7	1.6	4.9	3.3
3.9. visited archives online	3.8	2.8	7.7	4.9
4. have read books and press	97.1	96.3	94.0	-2.3
4.1. read a book	63.1	66.3	69.4	3.1
4.2. read magazines and/or periodicals	88.2	86.7	80.3	-6.4
4.3. read newspapers	91.8	88.1	81.4	-6.7
5. have used library services	38.3	35.3	39.2	4.1
5.1. visited a library	36.7	31.2	34.7	3.5
5.2. visited a library online	13.4	11.9	17.2	5.3
6. have watched films and videos	89.0	91.4	95.5	4.1
6.1. went to a cinema or a film festival	35.1	40.8	36.2	-4.6
6.2. watched films on the TV	86.8	89.2	91.6	2.4
6.3. watched films online	45.9	49.5	48.6	0.9
7. have listened to the radio	80.4	81.3	80.1	-0.2

Source: [Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services \(ESS-net Culture methodology\), 2020](#)

The comparison of the data on the consumption of state funded cultural activities and activities without large public subsidies shows the latter to be more popular, and figures demonstrate a slight increase in their consumption in almost all categories except reading of periodic publications and watching TV. The largest increase (by 5.1 % and 7.4 %) in consumption in the group of state funded activities is in the categories of museum and monuments visiting (see the table below).

Table 34: Persons (≥15 years) who attended a certain cultural activity during the last 12 months in Lithuania (in % of the population, in 2014, 2017 and 2020)

	2014	2017	2020	Difference 2017/2020
Activities heavily subsidised by the state				
Theatre	31.0	34.0	36.0	+2.0
Opera performances	8.0	7.0	9.0	+2.0
Musicals	8.0	9.0	12.0	+3.0
Dance (ballet or modern dance)	8.0	8.0	9.0	+1.0
Concerts of classical music	12.0	14.0	15.0	+1.0
Libraries	36.7	31.2	34.7	+3.5
Archives	3.7	1.6	4.9	+3.3
Museums	37.8	31.5	36.6	+5.1
Monuments	50.0	53.0	60.4	+7.4
Activities without large public subsidies				
Cinema	35.1	40.8	36.2	-4.6
To read books not related to a profession or studies	63.1	66.3	69.4	+3.1
<i>In paper format (Usually use)</i>	62.0	63.0	66.0	+3.0
<i>In digital format (Usually use)</i>	15.0	21.0	23.0	+2.0
<i>Directly on the Internet (Usually use)</i>	-	-	-	
To listen to music (Usually listen)	-	-	-	
<i>In a computer or directly on the Internet</i>	-	-	-	
To read periodic publications (Usually read)	96.0	94.0	89.0	-5.0
<i>Directly on the Internet</i>	37.0	39.0	45.0	+6.0
To watch videos (Usually watch)	88.0	91.0	95.0	+4.0
<i>Directly on the Internet</i>	45.9	49.5	49.0	+0.5
To watch television (Usually watch)	97.7	96.6	94.0	-2.6
<i>Directly on the Internet</i>	20.0	30.1	25.0	-5.0
To listen to the radio (Usually watch)	80.4	81.3	80.0	-1.3
<i>Directly on the Internet</i>	18.7	22.2	25.0	+2.8
To play videogames (Usually play)	-	-	-	
To use a computer for entertainment or leisure (Usually use)	-	-	-	
Internet for entertainment or leisure (Usually use)	62.9	71.1	81.01	+10.0

Sources: [Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services \(ESS-net Culture methodology\), 2020](#)

According to the data of 2014, 2017, and 2020, the most popular cultural activity in Lithuania was making textile works. In 2020 the largest increase was in the number of residents engaged in photography. Painting and drawing as forms of cultural participation take the third place (see table 35).

Table 35: People who have carried out artistic activities in Lithuania in the last 12 months by type of activity, in % of total population, period 2014, 2017, 2020 pct.

Type of activity	2014	2017	2020
Creative Writing	6 %	4 %	6 %
Painting or drawing	8 %	10 %	11 %
Making textile works	11 %	12 %	12 %
Photography	5 %	8 %	12 %
Making videos	3 %	3 %	6 %
Designing web pages, games, blogs	3 %	4 %	6 %
Acting in theatres, directed a play	5 %	5 %	5 %
Dancing	4 %	4 %	6 %
Playing an instrument	6 %	6 %	6 %

Singing	5 %	7 %	6 %
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Sources: [Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services \(ESS-net Culture methodology\), 2020](#)

Regarding the causes preventing the population from participation in cultural life, the most common personal reasons mentioned are a lack of time (47%, 45% and 43 % of the respondents in 2014, 2017 and 2020 respectively indicated this as an obstacle), cost of cultural services (37%, 36% and 23% of the respondents in 2014, 2017, and 2020 respectively) and a lack of interest (25%, 28% and 34% of the respondents in 2014, 2017, and 2020 respectively). In the survey of 2020, the cost of cultural services was mentioned as a barrier to participating in cultural life less frequently, and a lack of interest increased by 6%.

About 40 % of the population of Lithuania has mentioned at least one problem in the supply and accessibility of cultural services. The most common problem indicated is poor accessibility of such services (“difficult to access” mentioned 16%, 16 % and 18 % of population in 2014, 2017 and 2020). In second place was a lack of information that was mentioned by 8 %, 10% and 15 % of population in 2014, 2017 and 2020. Limited choice was the third problem of cultural supply mentioned most frequently (by 11 %, 10 %, 13 % in 2014, 2017, and 2020). In general, the main reasons for not participating in cultural life are personal and the most alarming result is the growing lack of interest in cultural participation.

Table 36: Reasons of non-participation in culture in 2014, 2017, and 2020 pct.

	2014	2017	2020
Lack of time	47 %	45 %	43 %
Too expensive	37 %	36 %	23 %
Lack of interest	25 %	28 %	34 %
Poor health	20 %	17 %	17 %
Difficult to access	16 %	16 %	18 %
Lack of information	8 %	10 %	15 %
Limited choice	11 %	10 %	13 %
Poor quality of cultural activities in your area	6 %	6 %	8 %
Inconvenient opening hours of cultural institutions	4 %	5 %	7 %
Other	3 %	1 %	1 %
None	5 %	7 %	10 %

Sources: [Participation of the Population in Culture and Satisfaction with Cultural Services \(ESS-net Culture methodology\), 2020](#)

6.3 Trends and figures in household expenditure

Table 37: Household cultural expenditure by expenditure purpose, 2012, 2016

Items (Field/Domain)	Household expenditure (in million EUR and percentages) per month				Average per capita expenditure (EUR) per month	
	2012	%	2016	%	2012	2016
I. Books and Press (Newspapers, books and stationery)	202.1	-	198.3	-	1.57	2.44
Books	-	-	-	-	0.66	1.05
Press	-	-	-	-	0.91	1.20
II. Cultural Services (Recreational and cultural	454.2	-	781.6	-	0.49	3.57

services)						
Cinema, theatre and others	-	-	-	-	0.35	-
Museums, libraries, parks and similar	-	-	-	-	0.04	-
Photographic services and other	-	-	-	-	0.10	-
III. Audiovisual equipment and accessories	327.6	-	304.9	-	2.54	3.76
Support for recording image, sound and data	-	-	-	-	0.01	-
Audiovisual equipment and accessories	-	-	-	-	2.51	3.74
Musical instruments	-	-	-	-	0.02	0.02
IV. Subscriptions of television, information processing	-	-	-	-	1.66	-
Rental and subscriptions of radio and television	-	-	-	-	1.66	-
<i>Subscriptions of radio and television</i>	-	-	-	-	1.66	-
<i>Rental of cultural equipment and accessories</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Information Processing and Internet	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Material for information processing</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mobile devices</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mobile and Internet services</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL						

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

6.4 Culture and civil society

According to the data of the [Register of NGOs](#), there have 2 191 NGOs in Lithuania in 2022. 449 NGOs develop activities in the fields of democracy and citizenship, and 1153 have been working in the fields of culture and leisure (these two categories may overlap). Policy on NGOs is coordinated by the [Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour](#) according to the [Law on the Development of Nongovernmental Organisations \(2013\)](#) (last edition in 2022). The activities of NGOs are partially funded [through tenders](#) of the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour. In 2021, the Ministry allocated 26 894 124 EUR for the projects of NGOS.

In Lithuania, participation in culture and civic activism are also promoted by cultural centres. According to the [Lithuanian National Cultural Centre](#), in 2021, there were 160 cultural centres and 481 of their branches and subdivisions that are located in urban and rural territories of Lithuania, with 2 628 amateur art groups, 742 studios and clubs that have in total 43 544 participants. Children's and youth groups comprise 32 % of all amateur arts groups, and young participants comprise about 35 % of all participants.

Table 38: Number of cultural centres, amateur arts groups and participants in 2014–2021

Year Number	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of cultural centres	632	637	645	645	654	637	634	641
Number of amateur arts groups, clubs and studios	3908	3877	3863	3841	3798	3757	3520	3370
Number of participants	52823	56138	53106	52956	52819	52 671	47 307	43 544

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

The activity of state and municipal cultural centres is regulated by the [Law on Centres of Culture \(2004\)](#) (last edition in 2020). The Law distinguishes between state, municipal and other centres. State centres for culture have the legal form of a budget or public institution and are founded by the Ministry of Culture. Municipal centres for culture have the legal form of a budget or public institution and are founded by the municipal councils. Other centres for culture are established by private persons or social organisations and can have various legal forms. The name of each cultural centre, regardless of its legal form, must include the words “centre for culture”. According to the law, a legal person seeking recognition as a cultural centre must perform at least two of the following functions: to create conditions for dissemination of ethnic culture; organise activities of artistic collectives of amateurs, workshops, and hobby groups; take care of the preparation of artistic collectives of amateurs and their participation in song festivals, local, regional, national and international events; organise recreational, educational and other events; organise commemoration of national holidays, remembrance days, calendar feast days; take care of employment, artistic education of children and youth; organise events popularising ethnic culture, amateur art, to meet other cultural needs of the community; create conditions for dissemination of professional art; and satisfy the sociocultural needs of the population.

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

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

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

The [Lithuanian National Cultural Centre](#) is a state budgetary institution promoting the cultural and creative expressions of the society, development of ethnic culture and amateur art. It operates under the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania. The Centre plays an important role within the national cultural institution system, helping society and individuals acknowledge and preserve their cultural identity and representing Lithuanian ethnic and amateur culture abroad. This role is primarily realised through numerous events the Centre organizes, such as the [Lithuanian Song Celebration](#) (inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity), international folk festivals [Baltica](#) and [Griežynė](#), Baltic student song celebration Gaudeamus, [Lithuanian national costume](#) exhibitions and presentations, ethnic craft symposiums and seminars, folklore, children and adult choir festivals, folk dance competitions, wind orchestra championships, children and youth theatre festivals, and folk art exhibitions.

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

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

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

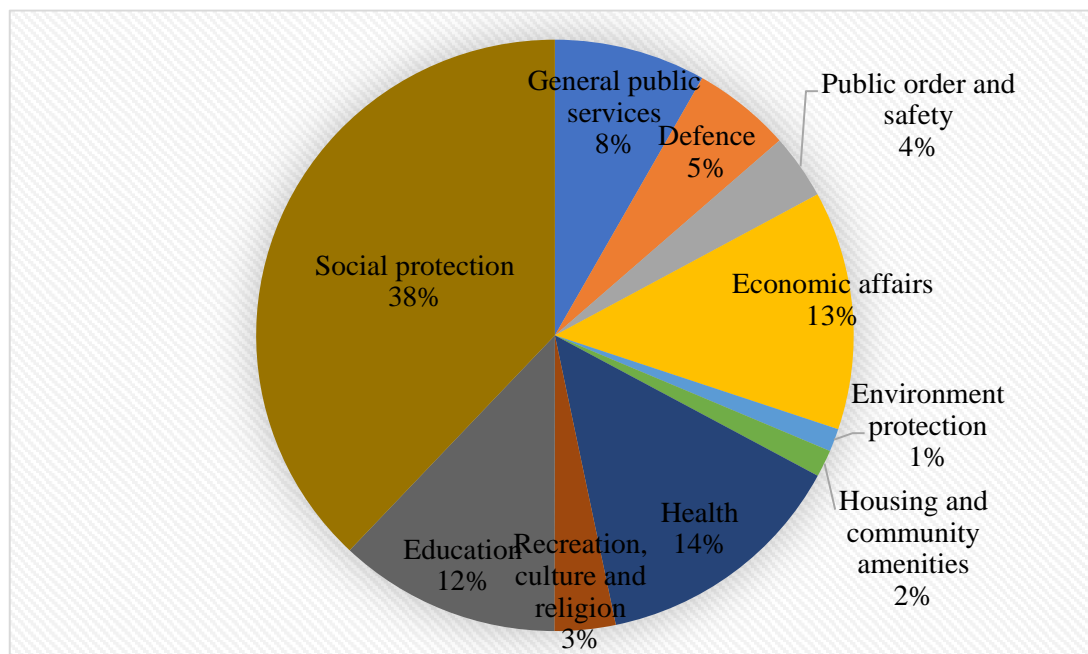
7. Financing and support

7.1 Public funding

7.1.1 Indicators

In 2020, Lithuania's GDP at current prices was 49 507 million EUR; GDP per capita at current prices was 17 710 EUR. Total general government expenditure was 21 233.8 million EUR. Public expenditure on recreation, culture and religion* at all levels of government was 701.9 million EUR. The central government's share of expenditure was 360.4 million EUR, and the share of local governments was 341.5 million EUR. Public expenditure on recreation, culture and religion in percentage of the total public expenditure was 3.3 %, and in percentage of GDP was 1.4 %. Public expenditure on recreation, culture and religion per capita was 250 EUR.

Figure 4. General government expenditure in Lithuania in 2020



Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

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

Over the last five years, the total public expenditure on recreation, culture and religion has been gradually increasing. Consequently, per capita cultural expenditure has also increased, both as a result of increasing appropriations for culture and population decline. The share in GDP of expenditure for culture has not changed substantially since 2015 until 2019 and was about 1 per cent of GDP. In 2020, it increased to 1.4 %.

Table 39: GDP and public expenditure on culture in 2015–2020

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
GDP at current prices, in millions EUR	37 345	38 889	42 276	45 514	48 859	49 507
GDP per capita at current prices, EUR	12 884	13 486	14 796	16 157	17 486	17 710
Public expenditure on culture (all levels), in millions EUR	351.7	397.4	453.8	499.9	570.8	701.9
Public expenditure on culture (all levels) in percentage of the total public expenditure in that year	2.7 %	3.0 %	3.2 %	3.2 %	3.3 %	3.3 %
Public expenditure on culture per capita, in EUR	121	139	158	178	204	250
Public expenditure on culture in percentage of the GDP	0.9 %	1.0 %	1.1 %	1.1 %	1.1 %	1.4 %

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

7.1.2 Expenditure on government level

Table 40. Public cultural expenditure by level of government, 2020

Level of government	Total expenditure on recreation, culture and religion in millions EUR	Share of total pct
State (central)	360.4	51.4 %
Local (municipal)	341.5	48.6 %
TOTAL	701.9	100 %

Source: [Lithuanian Department of Statistics](#)

7.1.3 Expenditure per sector

There is no detailed information on the direct government expenditure on culture by sector in Lithuania. The data can only be compiled approximately according to the *Annual Budget Reports* of the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, the *Law on the Approval of Financial Indicators of the State Budget and Municipal Budgets* for the corresponding year as well as the annual reports of the Lithuanian Council for Culture, the Film Centre, and the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation. The data shows that the largest share of state funding is allocated to the performing arts (24.78 %). Museums come in second place (17.15 %), and libraries in third (6.29 %). Various administrative bodies, e. g. Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics, State Commission on the Lithuanian Language, National Commission for Cultural Heritage, as well as administration of the Lithuanian Council for Culture and Ministry of Culture itself, takes up 38 % of total funding.

Table 41: Direct state cultural expenditure by sector, 2021, in 1000 of EUR

Field/Domain/Sub-domain	TOTAL	
	in 1000 EUR	in %
I. Cultural Heritage		
<i>Historical Monuments</i>	7 965.054	2.48
<i>Museums</i>	55 117.148	17.15
<i>Archives</i>	11 350.500	3.53
<i>Libraries</i>	20 212.180	6.29
<i>Intangible Heritage / Folk Culture</i>	3 330.567	1.04
II. Visual Arts		
<i>Fine Arts / Plastic Arts</i>	3 388.317	1.05
<i>Photography</i>	780.157	0.24
<i>Architecture***</i>	709.214	0.22
<i>Design / Applied Arts</i>	464.240	0.14
III. Performing Arts		
<i>Music</i>	21 111.798	6.57
<i>Theatre, Music Theatre, Dance</i>	58 398.033	18.17
<i>Multidisciplinary</i>	126.206	0.04
IV. Books and Press		
<i>Books</i>	1 711.887	0.53
<i>Press</i>	1 550.170	0.48
V. Audiovisual and Multimedia		
<i>Cinema</i>	7 240.509	2.25
<i>Television and radio</i>	2 139.624	0.67
<i>Sound recordings</i>	-	-
<i>Multimedia</i>	429.000	0.18
VI. Interdisciplinary	1 441.229	0.45
<i>Socio-culture</i>	1 723.255	0.54
<i>Cultural Relations Abroad</i>	1 158.471	0.36
<i>Administration</i>	12 1398.011	37.78
<i>Cultural Education</i>	25.000	0.01
VII. Not covered by domain I-VI	-	-
TOTAL	321 341.570	100%

Sources: data is compiled on the basis of [the Annual Budget Reports of the Ministry of Culture, 2021](#), [Reports of the Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#), the annual report of the Ministry of Finance [Law On Approval Of Financial Indicators Of The State Budget And Municipal Budgets For 2021](#) and statistics provided by the Lithuanian Council for Culture.

The Lithuanian Council for Culture provides data on the allocations of its funding by field in 2021. The Council implements two types of financing measures: funding of projects according to cultural programmes or arts fields, and funding of individual grants for artists. Data about funding are collected by the Division of Monitoring and Analysis of the Council and compiled according to the year of funding, arts fields, types of organisations, their geographical location etc.

Table 42: Allocation of funding by Lithuania Council for Culture by sector, 2021, in 1000 EUR

Field/Domain/Sub-domain	TOTAL				of which: <u>Transfers</u>	
	In 1000 EUR			in %	to budgetary institutions	to NGOs, companies, individuals
	Projects by art fields	Individual grants by field	Projects and grants together by field	Projects and grants together by field		
I. Cultural Heritage						
<i>Historical Monuments</i>	577.773	83.400	661.173	3.51 %	327.266	333.907
<i>Museums</i>	1615.291	16.200	1631.491	8.67 %	1 430.091	201.400
<i>Archives</i>	44.500		44.500	0.24 %	32.500	12.000
<i>Libraries</i>	677.975	9.600	687.575	3.65 %	661.765	25.810
<i>Intangible Heritage / Folk Culture</i>	831.647	112.200	943.847	5.01 %	476.404	467.443
II. Visual Arts						
<i>Fine Arts / Plastic Arts</i>	1 069.869	278.400	1 348.269	7.16 %	285.041	1 063.228
<i>Photography</i>	618.757	161.400	780.157	4.14 %	167.837	612.320
<i>Architecture</i>	676.214	33.000	709.214	3.77 %	26.180	683.034
<i>Design / Applied Arts</i>	307.640	156.600	464.240	2.47 %	47.000	417.240
III. Performing Arts						
<i>Music</i>	3 217.910	619.200	3 837.110	20.39 %	696.180	3 140.931
<i>Theatre. Music Theatre. Dance</i>	2 316.454	327.000	2 643.454	14.04 %	555.424	2 088.030
<i>Multidisciplinary</i>	1 262.060	-	1 262.060	6.71 %	444.699	817.360
IV. Books and Press						
<i>Books</i>	1 447.287	264.600	1 711.887	9.09 %	139.650	1 572.237
<i>Press</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
V. Audiovisual and Multimedia						
<i>Cinema</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Television</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sound recordings</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Radio</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Multimedia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
VI. Interdisciplinary	1 147.829	293.400	1 441.229	7.66 %	308.886	1 132.343
<i>Socio-culture</i>	406.255	-	406.255	2.16 %	110.220	296.035

<i>Cultural Relations Abroad</i>	0.000	-	-		0.000	0
<i>Administration</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cultural Education</i>	250.000	-	250.000	1.33 %	71.400	178.600
VII. Not covered by domain I-VI						
TOTAL	16 467.461	2 355.000	18 822.461	100%	5 780.543	13 041.917

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

According to the data, in 2021, the Council for Culture allocated the largest share of funding to music projects (20.39 %). Theatre projects come in second place (14.04 %), and publication and translation of literature and humanities are in third place (9.09 %). Organisations funded from state or municipal budgets got about one third of the total funding.

7.2 Support programmes

7.2.1 Strategies, programmes and other forms of support

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

The Ministry of Culture allocates the biggest share of state financing for culture through direct institutional funding. It also implements a range of special programmes designated to support the various fields of culture: the [Reading Promotion Programme](#), the [Lithuanian Capital of Culture Programme](#), [Programme of Lithuanistics Traditions and Heritage](#), [Funding Programme of Projects Implementing Initiatives to Preserve Historical Memory](#), several heritage protection programmes, [Programme of Partial Compensation of the Cost of Dissemination \(Venue Hire\) of Professional Performing Arts Projects](#), [Programme for the Partial Funding from the State Budget of Professional Performing Arts Institutions that Are not National](#), and the [State or Municipal Theatre or Concert Institution](#) (see chapter 3.3 for more about the last two programmes). The Ministry, in cooperation with the Lithuanian Film Centre and Lithuanian Culture Institute, also coordinates the participation of Lithuania in the EU funding programmes [Creative Europe](#) and [Europe for Citizens](#).

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

The [Lithuanian Culture Institute](#) implements the [Translation Grant Programme](#). The Translation Grant Programme encourages the translation of Lithuanian literature into foreign languages and it has been operating in Lithuania since 2001. The programme was first run by the public institution “Books from Lithuania”, but since 2010 the work has been continued by the Lithuanian Culture Institute. Over the 20 years since the establishment of the programme, it has supported the translation of 461 Lithuanian literary works into 38 languages. The [Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation](#) implements 6 funding programmes: 1) periodicals of culture and art; 2) national periodical press; 3) regional periodical press; 4) national radio and television broadcasting, 5) regional radio and television broadcasting; and 6) Internet media. The [Lithuanian Film Centre](#) allocates subsidies for the development, production and distribution of Lithuanian films and international co-productions.

The Lithuanian Council for Culture implements the greatest number of funding programmes and allocates the biggest share of programme financing. The Council implements two types of financing measures: funding of projects by cultural programmes or arts fields, and funding of individual grants for artists. Financing of arts fields includes projects of architecture, circus, design, visual arts, photography, literature, music, dance, interdisciplinary arts, and theatre. Projects funded by the arts fields programme are targeted at the following activities: 1) professional creation and its dissemination in Lithuania and abroad; 2) events; 3) accumulation of information (archiving, documentation) and its dissemination; 4) publishing; 5) professional criticism and analysis; 6) networking and mobility; 7) co-production; and 8) mastery development and education. Cultural programmes financed by the Council in 2021 were the following: Memory institutions: creation of innovative services; Memory institutions: dissemination of culture and art; Memory institutions: restoration and research of cultural properties; Memory institutions: projects for the acquisition of movable cultural property important for the history of Lithuania and its culture, Ethnic culture and immaterial heritage of culture; Memory institutions: acquisition projects of contemporary visual art or design by Lithuanian artists created after 1990; Culture and creative industries: networking; Culture and creative industries: cultural start-ups; Art for human wellbeing; Protection of copyright and related rights; Creative initiatives of communities; Cultural heritage projects; Education through culture: children's and youth culture; Periodic amateur art events; Creative community initiatives: small Lithuanian capitals of culture; Events of national importance; Publishing of humanities literature; Strategic funding of artists' organisations; Strategic funding of cultural organisations; Strategic funding of international events; and Funding of international music performance competitions organized in Lithuania.

Table 43: Budgets of the Lithuanian Council for Culture, the Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation, the Film Centre, and the Lithuanian Culture Institute in 2021

Institution	Allocated amount, in EUR
Lithuanian Council for Culture	24 868 650
Film Centre	7 240 509
Press, Radio, and Television Support Foundation	2 736 000
Lithuanian Culture Institute	1 158 471

Sources: data is compiled on the basis of [the Annual Budget Reports of Ministry of Culture, 2021](#) and [Law On Approval Of Financial Indicators Of The State Budget And Municipal Budgets For 2021](#)

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

7.2.2 Artists' funds

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

The [Lithuanian Writers Union Foundation](#) aims to give beneficence to the members of LWU and support programmes that correspond to the aims of the Foundation or its subdivisions. In accordance with the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship Funds of the Republic of Lithuania*, the Literary Foundation supports the publishing of fiction, especially of an original type, management and publishing of the literary heritage of

the members of LWU; literary events: conferences, literary evenings, commemoration of anniversaries, literary competitions, etc.; activities of the subdivisions of LWU, such as periodicals, publishing and bookshops; care of the memorials to writers and other remembrance programmes; and social and cultural programmes announced by Government.

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

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

7.2.3 Grants, awards, scholarships

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

Table 44: Individual grants for artists by field of arts, distributed by the Lithuanian Council of Culture in 2014–2022

Forms of art	Number of grants distributed	Amount allocated in EUR
Circus	82	164 747
Architecture	126	276 191
Museums	143	210 470
Film	106	253 421
Libraries	174	244 995
Traditional Arts	272	621 344
Dance	293	598 965
Cultural Heritage	290	676 225
Design	344	876 783
Photography	294	879 435
Literature	695	1 993 430
Theatre	809	1 615 887
Interdisciplinary Arts	668	1 892 549
Visual Arts	1 048	2 843 276
Music	1 372	3 070 697
Total	6 716	16 218 415

Source: Lithuanian Council for Culture

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania gives annual awards and prizes for outstanding achievements in arts and culture. The most important award is the *Lithuanian National Award for Culture*

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

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

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

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

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

The Balys Buračas photography award is annually granted to Lithuanian photographers for the most significant work or series of works that analyse, document or interpret Lithuanian culture.

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

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

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

7.2.4 Support to professional artists' associations or unions

There are 19 artists' associations in Lithuania that have a special status of "artists' organisation" granted them according to the *Law on the Status of Artists and Artists Organisations* (1996): [Architects' Association of Lithuania](#), [Lithuanian Union of Journalists](#), [Lithuanian Theatre Union](#), [Professional Folk Artists' Association](#), [Lithuanian Writers' Union](#), [Lithuanian Musicians' Union](#), [The Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators](#), [Lithuanian Composers' Union](#), [Lithuanian Filmmakers' Union](#), [Union of Lithuanian Art Photographers](#), [Lithuanian Designers' Society](#), [Lithuanian Artists' Association](#), [Lithuanian Association of Landscape Architects](#), [Contemporary Dance Association](#), [Lithuanian Interdisciplinary Artists' Association](#), [Association of Performing Arts Critics](#), [Lithuanian Association of Chores](#), [Association of Vilnius Region Folk Artists](#), [Lithuanian Association of Art Creators](#). The latter organisation is an umbrella association of twelve artists unions.

Artists' unions and associations that have the status of “artists’ organisations” can apply for funding to the special programme “Strategic Programmes of Artists Organisations”, created by the Lithuanian Council for Culture to support these kinds of organisations. In 2021, the programme funded 18 projects of these organisations in the amount of 1 250 000 EUR.

7.3 Private funding

Private funding for culture is regulated in by the *Law on Charity and Sponsorship* (1993), the *Law on Patronage* (2018), the *Law on Personal Income Tax* (2002) and the *Law on Corporate Income Tax* (2001) (see chapter 4.1.4).

Data about the sponsorship provided and received by legal persons are collected by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics. According to this data, legal persons working in the fields of creative, arts and entertainment activities, libraries, archives, and museums received more than 4 million EUR sponsorship in 2020. Compared to other areas, these activities receive three times less support than education, and almost 8 times less than sport, amusement and recreation activities. The total amount provided by sponsors for culture did not change significantly over the last five years.

Table 45: Support received by legal persons in various fields in 2015–2020 (in EUR thousand)

Field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Creative, arts and entertainment activities Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities	4 768.9	4 316.3	4 908	5 179.7	4 407.3	4 049.1
Education	11 481.8	14 813.9	12 325.4	13 930.6	15 451.9	13 784.0
Sports, amusement and recreation activities	31 867.4	34 226.7	31 520.0	35 001.6	38 399.0	29 515.7

Source: [Statistics Lithuania](#)

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

The amendment to the *Law on Corporate Income Tax* in 2013 stimulated the private funding of Lithuanian cinema. Article 17² of the Law states that in calculating corporate income tax, funds granted free of charge to a Lithuanian filmmaker for the production of a film or a part thereof in the Republic of Lithuania may be deducted from taxable income (more about the Law see chapter 4.1.4). According to [the information](#) of the Lithuanian Film Centre, the Film Tax Incentive is increasing each year. In 2021, filmmakers received more than 15 mln Euro of gratuitous investments by taking advantage of the Incentive. Compared with the results of 2020 the sum of financial aid has grown by 26%. That is the highest sum received through the whole period since 2014, when the Incentive was started. By taking advantage of the Incentive, international filmmakers have spent as much as 37.9 mln Euro and have surpassed the spending of the previous years significantly. The number of financed films has grown as well. A total of 71 new films that took advantage of the Incentive were financed in 2021, of those – 40 were domestic, 19 foreign productions and 12 co-production film projects.

The *Law on Patronage*, adopted by the Seimas in 2018, has not yet made a significant impact on private funding for culture. The Law provides that the title of a national patron is awarded to a person who has provided at least one million EUR in support to the patronage project(s) at the state or more than one municipality level. A title of patron of a municipality is awarded to the person who has provided at least 150 000 EUR in support of a patronage project(s) in the municipality with a permanent population of 25 000 or less, and in the case of the municipalities with more than 25 000 permanent residents, the title of a municipal patron is awarded to a person who has provided at least 250 000 EUR support for the implementation of sponsored project(s) at municipal level. The Government assesses the compliance of the projects with the requirements of this Law, recognises the projects as appropriate to patronage, grants the title of the national patron and adopts decisions on the loss of the title of national patron on the proposal of the Patronage Council. In 2018, the Patronage Council awarded the first title of national patron for the one million EUR support for the Balbieriškis Church restoration project. During the 2019, 2020 and 2021 the Patronage Council awarded the titles of the patrons of municipality to 9 persons and enterprises.