

Lithuania

This report gives an overview of Lithuanian policy measures that comply with the provisions of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as the 'Convention'). Policy measures on both the national and local level are considered. As The Republic of Lithuania ratified the Convention on 14 December 2006, measures implemented from 2006 to 2011 are taken into account.

While drawing up the report, the Ministry of Culture was consulted by an interinstitutional working group which consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment, the department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, State Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Economy, the Lithuanian Statistics Department, the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO and the Association of Municipalities in Lithuania.

Chapter II.1.1 of the report looks at the measures for supporting dissemination of cultural expressions and participation in culture, especially in the different regions of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as 'regions'). Chapter II.1.2 refers to measures that support diversity in creating cultural expressions (for example, the support scheme for projects by young artists). Chapter II.1.3 describes measures taken to support the creation and dissemination of cultural expressions of national minorities.

Chapter II.2 presents international cultural cooperation measures applied in Lithuania: different aspects of the *International Cultural Cooperation Programme*, culture-related measures of Development cooperation policy and procedures, as well as achievements of the Lithuania and Poland Youth Exchange Fund.

Chapter II.3 outlines measures that integrate culture in sustainable development policies. There were many such measures during the reporting period and they were carried out with support from both State and European Union Structural Funds: the *Programme of Renovation and Modernisation of Libraries*, *Programme of Museum Modernisation*, and *Cultural Heritage Digitisation* policy measures were implemented; cultural heritage objects were adapted to cultural tourism needs, a policy for development of cultural industries was formulated and the establishment of Art Incubators was supported.

A survey of municipalities about Convention-related measures implemented on a regional and local level was conducted while drawing up the report. A summary of the findings of this survey is presented in Chapter II.4.

Some of the most visible cultural NGO initiatives, which comply with the provisions of the Convention and reinforce its implementation, are outlined in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 summarises the results achieved by Lithuania in the reporting period and sets the goals for the next reporting period based on the challenges experienced in this reporting period.