

**QUADRENNIAL PERIODIC REPORT
ON MEASURES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL
EXPRESSIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 2005 UNESCO CONVENTION**

POLAND

CONTENTS

Summary...	3
1. General information.....	4
2. Measures intended for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions	
2.1. Cultural policy – directions, areas and methods of implementation	5
2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment for developing countries	11
2.3. Integration of culture with policy of sustainable development.....	16
2.4. Protection of endangered cultural expressions.....	17
3. Participation of civil society.....	18
4. Main achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions	20
Annex	

SUMMARY

This report provides the summary of measures initiated at the national level to protect and promote the cultural diversity in Poland in years 2008 – 2011. Its content applies particularly to activities of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and state authorities, for which the Ministry is the founding body.

The first section of this report is dedicated to the role of the cultural diversity within the cultural policy. The main focus was put on areas directly related to the subject of the UNESCO Convention. This includes also the protection of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, performed actively, among others, by the National Heritage Board of Poland. This report presents also projects aiming at the improvement of the operation quality of museums as the important element in the provision of cultural assets. Many of these projects were initiated during the Polish Culture Congress 2009. The consequence of the debate was the development of the Multiannual Programme CULTURE+. Projects aimed at the intercultural dialogue are of the key importance for the promotion of the cultural diversity. Celebrations of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 have significantly increased measures implemented in this area. Furthermore, the importance of the cultural sector for the economic development and the Social Capital building are being increasingly noticed. This modern approach to the culture is being promoted by the campaign “Culture counts”, initiated by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

However, the issue of protection and promotion of the cultural diversity transcends the scope of cultural policy. Culture is also an important feature of the foreign policy, the policy on national and ethnic minorities, as well as the development policy, which was noted in subsequent sections of this report. Discussing these issues, it is important to mention responsible ministries such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Administration and Digitalization. The priority of Polish authorities in the field of international cooperation are relations within the European Union and the Eastern Partnership. The schedule of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2011 was focused on relations with countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy. One of the Polish initiatives was the Eastern Dimension of Mobility Conference dedicated to the issue of the mobility in the culture, education, civil society, science and higher education, youth and sports.

Analysing measures related to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, we also highlighted the importance of the civil society. Initiatives related to the this issue are being implemented by numerous non-governmental organisations, frequently with the support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, which subsidises cultural projects through annually announced operational programmes.

The assessment of direct effects of the ratification of the Convention shall be possible in the long-term perspective. The development of this report is therefore the first attempt to observe measures related to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions within the framework of the Convention and outlining current needs in the field of the dissemination of assumptions of the UNESCO document. Preliminarily, three main areas, where the intensification of measures is required were identified.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 NAME OF PARTY: The Republic of Poland

1.2 DATE OF RATIFICATION: 19.07.2007

1.3 RATIFICATION PROCESS: President of the Republic of Poland signed the instrument of ratification on 19th of July 2007. The document was submitted to the Depository of the Convention on 17th of August 2007. The Convention entered into force in relation to Poland on 17th of November 2007.

1.4 TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY (TO DATE OF THE REPORT): 0 USD

1.5 ORGANISATION(S) OR ENTITY(IES) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT: the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

1.6 OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT: Joanna Cicha-Kuczyńska, Monuments Preservation Department, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Counsellor to the Minister, ul. Ksawerów 13, 02-656 Warsaw, phone: 00 48 22 646 05 04 extension: 204, jcicha@mkidn.gov.pl; fax: 00 48 22 848 53 53

1.7 DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT: Consultations related to the preparation of the report included all organizational units of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Ministry of Administration and Digitalization, Polish National Commission for UNESCO, national cultural institutions (list attached in the Annex) and selected non-governmental organisations competent in this area. The process was coordinated by the Monuments Preservation Department, in the structure of which there is the post responsible for issues related to the UNESCO.

1.8 NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF PARTICIPATING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION(S): Professor Dorota Ilczuk, Pro Cultura Foundation, Chairman

1.9 DATE THE REPORT WAS PREPARED: 29.03.2012

1.10 NAME OF DESIGNATED OFFICIAL(S) SIGNING THE REPORT: Piotr Żuchowski, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

2. MEASURES INTENDED FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

This chapter outlines directions, areas and methods for execution of the national policy supporting the implementation of assumptions of the UNESCO convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. Due to its scope, the Convention applies particularly to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (MKiDN), as the entity responsible within the governmental administration for issues related to the culture and the protection of the national heritage. Therefore, this report focuses mainly on activities of this Ministry. It includes also the role of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, acting as the consultative and advisory body for the Government of the Republic of Poland in matters related to the UNESCO. Then the reference was made to the activities of other ministries, responsible for the foreign policy and the policy on national and ethnic minorities. First of all the report examines systematic solutions (for example in the form of multiannual programmes), and then particular projects. The information included are general, more detailed data are included in the Annex attached by the authors in Section 3, “Additional information”.

2.1. THE CULTURAL POLICY – DIRECTIONS, AREAS AND MEASURES

The cultural diversity is an issue closely related to the implementation of the cultural policy in Poland. Therefore, it would be proper to present here the general picture of this policy including diversity of areas, subjects along with projects and programmes implemented by them¹. In this section we decided however to describe only these areas of the cultural policy, within which the issue of the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions are the priority. The information presented below are mainly related to activities of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage as well as national institutes and cultural entities supervised by the Ministry. Also measures aiming at the protection and promotion of both the historical and the modern cultural diversity of Poland were included. We presented operational, multiannual and interdisciplinary programmes implemented by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, which are directly related to the dissemination of the modern way of thinking about the culture. Finally, we decided to present schemes, which although are not direct elements of the cultural policy, support measures implemented at the national level.

PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage is defined as the common, superior value and the basic factor enabling creation of social cohesion and the development of both personal and group identity. The integral part of the national heritage of Poland is constituted by the heritage of various national, ethnic, ethnographic, religious and other groups.

¹ The annually updated profile of the Polish cultural policy is available at the “Compendium of Cultural Policies Facts and Trends” portal supervised by the ERICarts on behalf of the Council of Europe: <http://www.culturalpolicies.net/web/poland.php>.

The implementation of tasks related to recording and defining standards for the protection of both tangible and intangible heritage on the territory of Poland is the responsibility of the National Heritage Board of Poland (NID)², the entity established by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. The task of the protection and promotion of the Polish multicultural heritage is implemented by the Board, among other, through: educational activities, coordination of the voluntary activities (within the framework of the “Volunteers for the Heritage” programme), establishing standards related to the heritage, the cooperation with professional non-governmental organisations³; and the organisation and participation in cultural events (i.e. “The list of passengers. The Armenians in Poland” implemented in 2011 together with the Ari Ari Foundation⁴). The National Heritage Board of Poland is responsible for the nationwide coordination of the European Heritage Days⁵, crucial assumption of which is the promotion of the cultural diversity and multiculturalism, with particular emphasis on: the regional cultural heritage, intercultural dialogue and the contribution of various cultures to the heritage of European countries. Under entrusted tasks, the National Heritage Board of Poland participates also in conferences (e.g. XI Poland – Germany Conference and the Study Travel “ANTIKON 2010. The half-timbered architecture – the common heritage”) and in working groups, subject of which is related to the promotion and management of the multicultural heritage (i.e. “The Children’s Cultural Heritage Education” and “Spiritual values of protected areas of Europe”). The Board organizes also thematic abroad exhibitions, aim of which is to familiarise both the Polish culture and cultures associated with the Republic of Poland.

Projects related to the protection of the cultural heritage are implemented also by other public entities, as well as numerous non-governmental organisations. The exhibition established in 2008 by the National Library on request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entitled “The Commonwealth of Diverse Cultures: Poland’s Heritage”⁶, presented at the example of resources of the National Library, the phenomena of co-existence of diverse nations, cultures, religions and traditions on historic territories of the Republic of Poland. Another method of developing and providing collections presenting the cultural, religious or ethnic diversity is establishing of the collection within the National Digital Library Polona⁷. The collection Kresy includes also various publications related to the issue of Polish Borderlands. The Yiddish Literature collection reveals the assortment of works by the most eminent authors of the Yiddish language before the World War II – poets, novelists, playwrights. Educational activities related to the protection of the national heritage lead are performed, inter alia, by the supervised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Jewish Historical Institute (e.g. “Under the common sky. Polish – Jewish relations in the background of the common history”) or the International Cultural Centre in Krakow (e.g. The Heritage Academy, summer school).

MUSEOLOGY

² The official web site of the National Heritage Board of Poland: <http://www.nid.pl/idm,45.html>.

³ More information about this issue could be found in Chapter 3 of this report.

⁴ The web site of the project: <http://spispodrozny.pl/>.

⁵ The web site of the European Heritage Days: <http://www.edd2012.pl/>.

⁶ More information available on the web site: <http://www.commonwealth.pl/>.

⁷ More information available on the web site:

<http://www.polona.pl/dlibra?action=ChangeLanguageAction&language=en>.

Objectives of Polish museums include gathering and protecting both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, promoting basic values of Polish and global cultures, creating cognitive and aesthetic sensibility, as well as facilitating benefiting from collected items (pursuant to the Act of 21st of November 1996 on museums). The issue of protection and promotion of specific and unique features of the Polish culture, and at the same time elements connecting it with other cultures and societies – particularly European – is evident in educational activities, exhibitions, researches, publishing and preservation works.

As the consequence of substantial change of the role of museums in the modern world and the transformation of museum institutions, the Ministry of Culture together with the museum community established in few recent years many initiatives dedicated to creation of the environment supporting the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. During the Polish Culture Congress 2009, recommendations for Polish museums, were developed, including the main postulate to implement systemic changes related to the museums, pursuant to the “Mobility of Collections” programme proposed by the expert group of the Council of the European Union⁸. During the Congress also the diagnosis of the status of the digitalization of museum collections was presented. As the result the Multiannual Programme CULTURE+ was developed. One of its priorities is the digitalization and the main objective of the programme is to expand and facilitate the access to digital resources of the Polish cultural heritage.

Tasks of the National Institute of Museology and Collections Protection (NIMOZ)⁹ established in 2011 with the decision of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage include gathering and disseminating the knowledge about museums and public collections, setting standards for museums and shaping the consciousness of the value and protection of the cultural heritage. Since 2012 the Institute shall replace the Wilanow Palace Museum in the role of the managing authority for the “Museum Management Academy”¹⁰. The programme is dedicated to institutions registered in the National Museum Register and its objective is to strengthen managerial and creative competences of its employees. At the same time, it is also the pilot for the programme “Modernisation of Museums”, implementation of which is planned for subsequent years.

It is also worth mentioning the involvement of Polish experts for the museology in activities of the Working Group on Mobility of Collections, established under the method of the open coordination pursuant to the “Work Plan for Culture 2008 – 2010” accepted by the Council of the European Union. The result of these works was the report containing a set of recommendations for increasing the mobility of museum collections in the European Union¹¹.

⁸ See: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/working-group-on-museum-activities_en.htm.

⁹ More information about activities of the Institute can be found on the web site: <http://www.nimoz.pl/en/>.

¹⁰ The information about the project are available on the web site: <http://www.nimoz.pl/en/our-activities/programs>.

¹¹ Available on the web site: http://www.lending-for-europe.eu/fileadmin/CM/internal/OMC/OMC_Mobility_of_Collections_Report_Rome_7_July10.pdf.

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

One of the key events related to the promotion of the cultural diversity in Poland were the celebrations of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008¹². The National Cultural Centre was responsible for organisation and conduct of national celebrations of this event. The objective of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue was first of all to introduce the Polish society to different contexts and ways of understanding the multiculturalism in Europe, including particularly the Polish tradition and historical experiences contributing to the cultural heritage of the continent. One of national priorities was to present the Polish multi-religious tradition and reveal local contexts of the multiculturalism supporting better mutual understanding of people and their future cooperation.

The implementation of celebrations of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Poland was based on the completion of 13 leading projects implemented together with partner institutions. These included: the Modern Art Gallery – Art Bunker (organisation of the scientific conference summarising the “Transkultura” series including the publication of conference materials); the Baltic Cultural Centre in Gdansk (IV Festival of World Culture “The Window on the World”) and the Citizen Education Centre Foundation (the “Common Past – Common Future” project). In addition, within the framework of the celebrations numerous cultural, educational and artistic events (e.g. “Brave Festival”), as well as seminars, debates and conferences dedicated to multiculturalism issues and trainings and workshops (e.g. “Let’s meet – different does not mean an alien”) were implemented. Furthermore, the research on foundations of the cultural diversity, entitled “The diagnosis of attitudes of youth in the Podlaskie Voivodeship towards the cultural diversity”¹³ was conducted.

CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

The vitality of national, regional as well as the European culture depends on the capacity of cultural industries to create and distribute cultural goods and services. Therefore, it is justified to introduce the state intervention aimed at the protection of the national identity, the care for the high cultural quality and diversity, as well as the strive to reduce the price barrier for the access of average consumers to goods of culture. It is possible to designate areas, where the public support is particularly evident: the publishing market and the cinematography. For the former, the crucial impact had the 0% VAT rate applicable until the end of 2010 for publications with the ISDN or ISSN number and publications in the Braille language. After the expiry of the EU derogation, enabling application the zero VAT rate in Poland for books and professional magazines, since 2011 the rate was raised up to 5%. In this context activities of the National Library which gathers, develops, provides and archives all domestic publications, including also publications of national and ethnic minorities or dedicated to them, are of significant importance. The development of the publishing market is also

¹² More information about the celebrations of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue can be found on the web site: <http://dialog2008.pl/>.

¹³ The report from the research in Polish language available on the web site: <http://dialog2008.pl/pliki/578.pdf>.

supported with direct grants. The Book Institute¹⁴ supervised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage awards grants for translations of the Polish literature into foreign languages. Operations of the Polish Film Institute is of the significant importance for the Polish cinematography¹⁵. Its main objectives include the support for the Polish film industry and the promotion of Polish film creativity abroad. The Polish Film Institute implements these objectives through, among others, four operational programmes: “Film Production”, “Education and Promotion of the Film Culture”, “The Development of the Cinema” and “The Promotion of the Polish Movies Abroad”. Pursuant to the Act on the cinematography of 30th of June 2005, entities contributing to the film market in Poland (cinemas, distributors, televisions broadcasters, including the public televisions, digital platforms operators and cable television operators) are required to transfer 1.5% of the annual revenue to the Institute. These contributions constitute the main feature of the co-financing mechanism for the film production in Poland.

CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC EDUCATION

One of the priorities of the Polish cultural policy dedicated to forming cultural competences, which enable both creation/production and the use of the cultural offer, is the cultural and artistic education and creation of the suitable infrastructural base dedicated to it. The cultural education is seen as one of tools used to create the social capacity building, focused on stimulating creativity and preparing to operate in the reality of the information society. Its aim is also to increase the level of participation in the culture of various social groups. These tasks are implemented through schools and other entities, including, among others: local and national cultural institutions, non-governmental organisations, churches and religious associations. The most active entities in this field are community centres and libraries, activities of which, particularly in small towns, are of crucial importance for the cultural development.

The important measure supporting the cultural education are subsidies held by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and programmes implemented due to these funds. The most important are the following:

- **The Programme of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage “Cultural Education and Diagnosis of Culture”**

One of operational programmes of the Minister is dedicated to local and national cultural institutions, local government units, non-governmental organisations, as well as churches and religious associations. Its objectives include the activation and inspiration of creative behaviour, development of artistic expression and creativity, as well as enrichment of the offer of extracurricular forms of the cultural education addressed to children and youth.

- **The “Education +” Programme**

This pilot programme “Education+” implemented in 2010 was addressed to national and partnership cultural institutions supervised directly by the Ministry. The programme was intended to develop education activities and creation of the so-called model projects, which may be an inspiration for other entities operating in the cultural education sector. Subsidised measures included initiatives developing the creativity in interactive creativity workshops,

¹⁴ More information about activities of the Institute can be found on the web site: <http://www.bookinstitute.pl/en.ik.site.42.87.php>.

¹⁵ The detailed information about the PISF can be found on the web site: <http://www.pisf.pl/en/>.

popularising in a nonstandard way the cultural heritage and dedicated to the increase of access to cultural institutions for people with disabilities.

- **Online culture for children**¹⁶

The campaign is addressed to parents of children aged 4 – 7 and shall indicate the necessity of incorporating culture and arts in the educational process. The project includes also forming of the cultural consciousness of the youngest group of Internet users, for example through: organizing the knowledge about Poland and the cultural heritage.

- **The school Musicoteca**¹⁷

The project was developed by the National Audio-visual Institute together with experts – pedagogues and musicologists. Its aim is to popularise the classical music and stimulating sensitivity of the young audience. The innovative learning platform dedicated to music education was launched in 2011. It allows users, inter alia, for the contact with archives and the European cultural heritage.

OPERATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMMES OF THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE

Operational programmes of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage are examples of systemic solutions enabling support from public funds within the form of projects various entities of the cultural sector. Every year, the list of grant programmes is dedicated to local and national cultural institutions, local governments units, non-governmental organisations, as well as churches and religious associations. The list of programmes announced in 2011 was included in section 3 of the Annex. In addition, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage execute multiannual programmes, that is the CULTURE+ Programme dedicated to the increase of the access to the culture and the participation of residents of rural and rural-urban areas in the cultural life. The programme is addressed to local and national cultural institutions, state archives and film institutions. The programme has been broadly described in the section 2.3.

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage also executes operations aimed at the popularisation of the modern way of thinking about the culture as the feature of the social and economic development. This belief is the base for the social campaign launched in 2010 “Culture Counts!”¹⁸. Its main task is the increase of the community awareness about the development potential of the culture and relations between the culture and other aspects of the social, economic and political life. Within the framework of the programme, many events were organised, including, inter alia, a debate titled “Who benefits from funding the culture?”, the seminar series “Culture and development” and the international conference “Cultural economics – from theory to culture”. One of objectives of the campaign is also to strengthen relations between the culture and the business, which resulted in the development of the study “Cultural Sponsorship Code” and works on proposals of legislative amendments related to the protection of the cultural heritage and the promotion of the culture.

¹⁶ The web site of the project: <http://www.kula.gov.pl/>.

¹⁷ The web site of the project: <http://www.muzykotekaszkolna.pl/>.

¹⁸ More information on the web site: <http://kulturasieliczy.pl/>.

INITIATIVES SUPPORTING OPERATIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The cultural policy of the state on the diversity and promotion of the modern way of thinking about the culture, as a factor of the economic and social development is being supported, inter alia, by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. The text of the Convention in Polish together with the information about activities of UNESCO and links to the www.unesco.org web site were published on the web site of this institution. The Polish National Commission for UNESCO actively participates, within the framework of organised conferences and publishing activities, in the popularisation of the message of the UNESCO Convention of 2005, and particularly focuses on highlighting the importance of culture for the sustainable development (this issue was extensively described in the section 2.3) and the role of education in the promotion of the cultural diversity. In the years 2008 – 2011 these operations included the organisation of domestic conferences – in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, under the honorary patronage of the Marshal of the Parliament – and related book publications¹⁹:

- „Culture and sustainable development. Environment, spatial order, heritage”(2009) – the conference related to the subject of the art. 13 of the UNESCO Convention was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and members of the Parliament, representatives of local governments and cultural and educational societies.
- „Education through culture. Creativity and Innovation” (2011) – the aim of the conference was to disseminate the knowledge about recommendations of the UNESCO World Conferences dedicated to the Arts Education and was related to the issue of the preparation to the life in the multicultural society. The conference was attended by representatives of the Ministry of National Education and members of the Parliament, representatives of local authorities, scientists and teachers.

2.2. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PREFERENTIAL CONDITIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

This section describes main directions and forms of the Polish international cooperation pursuant to provisions of the Convention (particularly, art. 12, 14 and 15). The emphasis was placed on the involvement of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and subordinated entities under the multilateral cooperation programmes, as well as initiatives implemented within the framework of the Polish Presidency on the Council of the EU. The section presents also terms and conditions of the cooperation with developing countries, pursuant to the art. 16 of the Convention. The quantitative data related to scholarship programmes strengthening the international cooperation are included in the Annex, table no. 16.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

¹⁹ Electronic versions of both publications are available on the web site: www.unesco.pl.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture and National Heritage together with subordinated entities (i.e. Adam Mickiewicz Institute, National Cultural Centre, International Cultural Centre²⁰) are main public authorities responsible for the Polish international cooperation²¹.

Poland implements assumptions of articles 12, 14 and 15 of the Convention mainly through operations under the multilateral cooperation programmes. The major programmes include:

- **Eastern Partnership**²²

Since 2009 Poland undertakes steps to strengthen the cultural exchange with countries included in the EU initiative, the Eastern Partnership. In 2009 and 2010 there were two editions of the conference “Go East!” dedicated to new possibilities of funding and creation of the cooperation related to the culture and the civil society together with countries of the Eastern Partnership. In 2011, during the Polish Presidency on the Council of the EU, Poland has organised the conference “Eastern Dimension of Mobility”²³ dedicated to the support of the mobility related to the culture, education, civil society, science and higher education, youth and sports.

- **ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting)**²⁴

The ASEM supports European – Asian relations and also serves as a complementary tool for other bilateral and multilateral platforms of the politic dialogue. The developing countries, such as Cambodia, Laos, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam, China, Malaysia and Thailand actively participate in the dialogue at the Europe – Asia platform ASEM. The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in 2010 hosted the IV Meeting of Ministers of Culture ASEM, titled “Heritage and the challenges of the present” which was held in Poznań. The Ministry of Culture organised also two preparatory meetings for officials responsible for the culture of the ASEM countries, followed by the meeting of Ministers (2007, 2009). Meetings on the ASEM cultural platform organised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage emphasised the special role of the joint considerations on the cultural heritage seen in many aspects. Polish meetings within the framework of the ASEM served emphasising the role of cultural exchanges between the European Union and countries of the South – Eastern Asia, as well as the activation of the intercultural dialogue between these two regions of the world.

Furthermore, Poland cooperates also with regional organisations, including the Visegrad Group or the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

- **The Visegrad Group (referred to as the V4)** is the informal initiative of Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia intended for support of the direct cooperation between countries. The V4 cooperation related to the culture and multiculturalism is based on common projects developed by Ministries of Culture of the member states. The Working Group on protection of the cultural heritage of the V4 established at the International Cultural Centre in Krakow, organises the annual summer school:

²⁰ Detailed data on operations of these institutions are available on their web sites: IAM – www.iam.pl/en, NCK – www.nck.pl/ (available only in Polish language), MCK – www.mck.krakow.pl/en.

²¹ Detailed data on operations of both these Ministries are available on their web sites: MSZ – www.ms.gov.pl, MKiDN – www.mkidn.gov.pl.

²² More on the web site: <http://www.eastern-partnership.pl/>

²³ More on the web site: www.eap-mobility.pl

²⁴ More on the web site: <http://www.aseminfoboard.org/>

“Management of UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Sites in Visegrad Countries”. By contrast in 2011, the Heritage Forum for Central Europe was launched as the platform for exchange of concepts related to the heritage management in particular countries. Furthermore, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage supports also projects related to the literature (Visegrad Antology – the set of selected literary works of the V4 countries translated and published in several languages) and theatre (East European Performing Arts Platform EEPAP).

- Within the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Poland and 9 other countries of the Baltic Sea region conduct the international cooperation at the **Ars Baltica** network and the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States.

The Ars Baltica is the non-governmental platform for the multilateral cooperation, intended to serve as a centre inspiring the rapprochement process between Baltic States through the culture²⁵. The Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States²⁶ (GM) was established in 1997 by the Ministers of Culture of the Baltic States. The Monitoring Group shall provide Ministers of Culture of the Baltic States with the current situation in the field of the cultural heritage protection, initiate and develop international projects, and every three years organise the Baltic Forum for Cultural Heritage (the first one was organised by the Central Maritime Museum in Gdańsk in 2003, and the next, fifth, will be held next year in Tallinn). The following working groups act within the Group:

- Working Group on the sustainable development of historic cities;
- Working Group on preservation practices for the protection of historic buildings;
- Working Group on the coast heritage;
- Working Group on the underwater heritage.

In the context of promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions measures undertaken by Poland within the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU²⁷ in the second half of 2011 were also of great significance. The emphasis was then placed on the cooperation with countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy (including countries of the Eastern Partnership). The priority was to enable the participation of entities from these countries in the EU programmes related to the education, culture and youth. In order to achieve this, numerous meetings and professional conferences were organised, the most important included: the EU Youth Conference “EU-Youth” in Warsaw, the conference of ministries of science and higher education “Go East, Erasmus!” in Białystok, or the seminar organised in the cooperation with the European Teaching Foundation ETF in Brussels. These measures of the Polish Presidency resulted in including by the European Commission in the draft programmes “Erasmus for Everyone” and “Creative Europe” provisions related to the participation of beneficiaries from the EPS countries.

The Polish Presidency constituted also the opportunity to establish the closer cooperation with artists from the Eastern Partnership States in the context of implementation of the National and Foreign Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency (NInA and IAM). In the Arsenal Gallery in Białystok the exhibition, presenting the modern art from the Eastern Partnership

²⁵ More on the web site: <http://www.ars-baltica.net/>

²⁶ More on the web site: www.baltic-heritage.net

²⁷ The web site of the Polish Presidency: <http://pl2011.eu/en>

States, “Journey to the East” was launched. The project was attended by nearly 50 artists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Poland. The exhibition was visited by over 300 thousand of people. On the other hand, the programme performed in Lublin included joint projects of artists, animators and non-governmental institutions representing local institutions, as well as partners from Lviv, Vilnius, Minsk, Kiev and Tbilisi. The cooperation to a large extent relied on the exchange of artists and its main theme was related to considerations on borders of Europe. The “Mindware. Technology Dialogue” Programme consisted of three parts: residential, public presentations of artistic works and theoretical part including lectures, seminars, meetings and discussions attended by artists and professionals, dedicated to the artistic reflection on the social communication in the public space.

In Lublin (21 – 23. 10.2011) was also held the Eastern Partnership Culture Congress²⁸ attended by over 300 participants: artists, culture managers and animators, representative of ministries, local authorities, non-governmental authorities and academic societies, as well as media from Eastern Partnership States, the European Union and from Russia and other European states (including 17 countries). One of suggestions of the Congress was to create the “Eastern Partnership Cultural Cooperation Network” (temporary name), which shall be an organisation open for all people of culture working both in Eastern Partnership States and outside them. Ultimately it shall become one of tools supporting the implementation of recommendations developed during the Congress.

During the Presidency, due to the initiative of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, also the I, CULTURE Orchestra was established. It is the first enterprise of this type within the Eastern Partnership. The Orchestra consists of 110 young musicians from Poland, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The attendance in the project allowed young people from the Eastern Partnership States for acknowledging the specific character of the multicultural orchestra, operations of crucial European cultural institutions, as well as developing their skills.

Another Polish venture was the set up by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, the Eastern European Performing Arts Platform established in Lublin. The Network is the international exchange platform for artists and curators from the Central and West Europe. One of first achievements of the Network is the report on the status of performing arts in states of the Central and Eastern Europe²⁹.

PREFERENTIAL CONDITIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Due to various approaches and names accepted for definitions of developing countries, the report is based on the DAC list, according to which the OECD qualifies beneficiaries of the official development support³⁰. The list of programmes related to these countries is attached in section 3 of the Annex (tables 13 – 15). Poland supports the development of countries listed on the DAC list through measures implemented under bilateral cooperation programmes, co-

²⁸ The web site of the Congress: <http://www.lublin.eu/Congress-1-1088.html?lng=1>

²⁹ The report is available on the web site of the Network: www.eepap.org.

³⁰ The list is available on the web site: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/50/48858205.pdf>.

organising cultural events, payments for international organisations and direct support for individual artists and authors.

Polish external assistance

In the years 2008 – 2011 the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage has made payments for the UNESCO World Heritage Fund and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) pursuant to financial recommendations of the OECD. In 2008 the Ministry also transferred funds for establishment of the trust fund by UNESCO in order to complete the report evaluating the status of the archaeological site Babylon (beneficiary: Iraq). Furthermore, in 2009 the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage supported numerous measures related to the protection of Polish cultural heritage abroad in beneficiary countries of the development countries – inter alia, the restoration of valuable monuments on the territory of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. These measures are implemented through grants for institutions and organisations established on the territory of the Republic of Poland. The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage implemented also measures related to the restoration of Afghanistan, i.e. prepared a study visit aimed at the assessment of possibilities to grant support for the cultural heritage or the evaluation of the conservation status of the historic fort – the FOB warrior base.

Exemplary cultural projects implemented in the cooperation with partners from developing countries

BANGLADESH

As the result of bilateral arrangements, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage has planned for 2012 granting the assistance through the secondment of two experts to Dhaka. The aim of the visit is to evaluate the status of collections after the flooding and development of the concept for rescue actions.

CHINA

Within the framework of the Chinese Culture Days organised in accordance with the protocol on the cultural cooperation between Ministries of Culture of Poland and China for the years 2007 – 2011, the Ministry of Culture and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute organised in 2009 the exhibition “Chinese Masters of Ink. Ink in Contemporary Art of the Middle Kingdom” at the Royal Castle in Warsaw and at the National Opera in Warsaw the concert of the Radio and Film Symphonic Orchestra conducted by maestro Fan Tao. In 2010 the Polish Filmmakers Association thanks to own funds and subsidies from the Polish Film Institute, organised in the Warsaw *Kultura* cinema the review of the contemporary Chinese cinematography. In 2011 the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute organised the concert Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra at the Concert Hall of the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music and the Karol Szymanowski Krakow Philharmonic. In addition the Polish party hosted the exhibition of Chinese lacquer art and folk paintings at the State Ethnographic Museum in Warsaw.

INDIA

Since the signing in September 2010 the “Cultural Cooperation Programme between the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Ministry of Culture of India for the years 2010 – 2013” the cultural exchange between these countries has significantly improved. The

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in accordance with provisions of the Programme implemented in February 2011 shows of the 10-person Bhojpuri Group. The exhibition “Generation of Transformation – New Art of India” at the Zachęta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw (03.09 – 06.11.2011) was almost completely financed by the Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (about 48.5 thousand of EUR³¹). In 2008 and 2011 the Adam Mickiewicz Institute organised study visits in Poland for Amal Allana – the President of the National Drama School in New Delhi and in 2011 for Ashoka Vajpeyi – the translator of the Polish literature, the Chairman of Lalit Kala Academy.

MONGOLIA

In 2010 the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage granted funds for the “Meditations. Dzanabadzar and His School Art” exhibition at the State Ethnographic Museum in Warsaw, which was one of events related to the celebrations of 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Poland and Mongolia.

UKRAINE

As a reply to the agreement on the cooperation between governments of Poland and Ukraine concluded in relation to the organisation of EURO 2012, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage initiated the Polish – Ukrainian cultural project “European Culture Stadium”. Main objectives of the project include: developing the image of Poland and Ukraine through the promotion of the cultural diversity of both countries, creation of the common social and cultural capital, promotion, overcoming stereotypes, building respect and tolerance for other cultures.

VIETNAM

The Department of Art and Culture Education of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage supports the development of the e-learning platform, established in the cooperation with the Warsaw Arts Academy and the Polish – Japanese Institute of Information Technology. The platform shall provide knowledge related to the field of arts. One of the first countries where the platform shall be launched is Vietnam.

Examples of recurrent and multiannual projects

POLISH – UKRAINIAN YOUTH EXCHANGE³²

The programme is dedicated to children and youth aged 12 – 18. Grants may be applied by schools, local cultural institutions and non-governmental organisations. The aim of the programme is the mutual acquaintance of young people from Poland and Ukraine, and presentation of cultural similarities and differences. In 2010 the budget of the project amounted to 1.5 million of PLN (about 376 thousand of EUR³³). The programme included the implementation on the territory of Poland and Ukraine of projects, covering 1435 beneficiaries with Ukrainian citizenship.

NIEŚWIEŻ ACADEMY³⁴

³¹ According to average annual rates of the National Bank of Poland in 2011: 1 EUR = 4,12 PLN.

³² More information about the programme: <http://www.nck.pl/sub.pl,oprogramieplukr.html>.

³³ According to average annual rates of the National Bank of Poland in 2010: 1 EUR = 3,99 PLN.

³⁴ More information about the programme: <http://www.nid.pl/idm.372.miedzynarodowa-podyplomowa-letnia-szkola-akademia-nieswieska.html>.

The International Summer School „Nieśwież Academy” is the Polish – Belarusian project mission of which is to train conservators in the Central and Eastern Europe. Training courses are organised in two-year cycles. Each of them is dedicated to other subject related to the protection, preservation and utilisation of monuments. So far, fifteen courses were organised within the “Nieśwież Academy”. In 2011 trainings were organised in Minsk (Belarus), as well as in Warsaw and Krakow. Over 69.5 thousand of PLN (166.8 thousand of EUR³⁵) were spent on their organisation.

Scholarship programmes

- **“Gaude Polonia” programme implemented by the National Cultural Centre**

The scholarship programme of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage – “Gaude Polonia” is dedicated to young artists and translators of the Polish literature from Central and Eastern Europe States. Six-month scholarship aimed at enabling them to improve their creative skills in the custody of acknowledged Polish artists and institutes in largest and most important centres of the Polish culture.

- **Scholarship programme of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage “Thesaurus Poloniae”**

Thesaurus Poloniae is a three-month scholarship programme of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, implemented by the International Cultural Centre in Krakow, since the autumn 2009. The programme is addressed to foreign scientists conducting researches related to the culture, history and the multicultural heritage of the Republic of Poland.

- **Scholarship Fund of the Museum of Polish History**

The Scholarship Fund financed by the Museum of Polish History was established to support scientific researches dedicated to the Polish history, and ventures promoting knowledge about our country abroad. The scholarship offer is addressed to foreigners, who are, or would like to be, occupied with the Polish history.

2.3. INCLUSION OF CULTURE INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Caring for the sustainable economic and social development, to which particularly applies the article 13 of the convention, is one of rules included both in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland (art. 5), and treaties of the European Union. The rule is also reflected in strategic documents indicating objectives and priorities of the Polish development policy. The role of culture in this area is highlighted by, inter alia, authors of the “National Development Plan for years 2007 – 2013”³⁶ and the “Poland 2030”³⁷ report. Furthermore, sustaining the development of culture in regions is one of objectives of the “National Strategy for Cultural Development for 2004 – 2013”³⁸. Currently, at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

³⁵ According to average annual rates of the National Bank of Poland in 2011: 1 EUR = 4,12 PLN.

³⁶ Available in Polish language on the web site:

<http://www.funduszestrakturalne.gov.pl/informator/npr2/npr.htm>

³⁷ Available in Polish language on the web site: <http://www.polska2030.pl/>.

³⁸ Available in Polish language on the web site:

http://bip.mkidn.gov.pl/media/docs/Narodowa_Strategia_Rozwoju_Kultury.pdf

there are works being conducted on the new, interdisciplinary document, titled the “Social Capital Development Strategy”³⁹.

A national project, dedicated to the social capital building and improvement of the social cohesion through investments in the development of cultural institutions is implemented by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage the Multiannual Programme CULTURE+. It assumes the modernisation and development of the library infrastructure (priority “Library+ Library Infrastructure”) in the smallest towns, transformation of municipal libraries into modern centres providing access to knowledge and culture, and into centres of social life. On the other hand – development of the integrated network of digitalising centres and the mass digitalisation of cultural resources (priority “Digitalisation”). These measures are intended to increase access to the culture, overcome the cultural and digital exclusion and intensify the participation of residents of small towns and rural, as well as rural – urban areas, in the cultural life.

Maps of investments related to the development of cultural infrastructure and protection of the cultural heritage in Poland significantly improved through the EU funds dedicated to the equalisation of the level of development of particular regions. The total amount of funds for the implementation of the National Cohesion Strategy – the basic document describing priorities and the exploiting system for structural funds – in 2007 – 2013 will amount over 85 million of EUR. In 2010 the Ministry of Culture was a leader in spending the EU funds – over 34 contracts in the total amount of 2 billion of PLN were concluded (about 0.5 billion of EUR⁴⁰). It should be noted, that – at the initiative of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage – the cultural sector was included in the system of implementation of the European Union cohesion policy. Tasks related to strengthening the cultural infrastructure were directly inscribed in the Strategic Guidelines of the Community, and in the European Regional Development Fund new, tourism independent, intervention area, dedicated only to the culture was distinguished. Therefore, the possibility to implement investment projects related to the culture was opened, and the culture was recognised as the factor of the regional development.

2.4 PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

There is no official list of directly endangered cultural expressions at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. However, due to historical cultural context in Poland, the state intervention in the area of the protection of cultural and ethnic minorities is important. The Act of 6th of January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and the regional language (O. J. no. 17, item 141, as amended), obliges public authorities to support measures related to the protection, preservation and development of the cultural identity of minorities. The main administrator of funds allocated in the budget to this measure is at the moment the Minister of Administration and Digitalisation⁴¹ (previously the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration). Subsidies from the budget of the Ministry constitute basis for operations of most of national and ethnic minorities organisations. These funds serve to subsidise measures including: books publishing, support for radio broadcasts of 7 non-public broadcasters in

³⁹ Text of the strategy after public consultations:
http://ks.mkidn.gov.pl/media/download_gallery/20111014_SRKS_po_konsultacjach_spo%C5%82ecznych_tekst_glowny.pdf.

⁴⁰ According to average annual rates of the National Bank of Poland 2010 = 3,99 PLN.

⁴¹ The official web site of the Ministry: <http://mac.gov.pl/>.

minorities' languages and in the regional language, as well as television broadcast at the platform of digital TV – the CSBTV, support of projects implemented on the Internet, organisation of festivals, concerts, poetry and singing contests, activities of amateur artistic groups and folk bands, numerous seminars, plein-air painting and sculpturing promoting young artists. Grants are also transmitted for measures, which contribute to the cultural and educational development, for example through managing libraries, archives, cultural centres and memory chambers, as well as investments and repairs of key importance for the society using the regional language. In addition, the Ministry supports with annual grants the statutory operations of 50 organisations of national and ethnic minorities and the society using the regional language.

Tasks related to the culture of national and ethnic minorities, migrants and refugees are also supported by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, primarily through funds for projects granted under Programmes of the Minister. In 2009 – 2011 co-finance was achieved by 12 educational projects related to various religious groups (workshops, movie screenings, festivals, reviews) and 7 infrastructural projects (repairs and equipment for facilities dedicated to cultural tasks). The promotion of the culture of minorities includes also cultural institutions, which could be exemplified by the Polish Film Institute, which in 2008 – 2011 co-financed over 30 feature and documentary films concerning the broadly understood national and ethnic minorities' issues, including 10 feature films and over 20 documentary, 9 of them are international cooperatives.

A project, which is related to the protection of traditional culture is the „Brave Festival – Against Cultural Exile”. This cyclical, extremely important, also in the international context, initiative familiarises world and values endangered by time and the mass culture. Participants have a unique opportunity to meet artists of many cultures, from all continents. The Brave Festival helps particular cultures and people to save roots and their spirituality.

3. PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

This section presents activities of selected non-governmental organisations dedicated to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and measures used for support of these activities by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

A visible sign of strengthening of the civil society in Poland is the development of juridical social movements. One of them is the Citizens of Culture⁴² movement established in 2009. Its main task is to secure common and equal access to the culture for citizens in accordance with the Constitution. Postulates of the Citizens of Culture, included in the “Pact for Culture” (launched in 2011), are related to changes of funding and management schemes for culture in Poland. The most important objectives of the Pact include: increasing the access to the culture, particularly in smaller towns, raising cultural competences of citizens, increasing expenditures on culture up to 1% of the state budget, supporting critique and experimental arts and cultural activities targeted to citizens with various worldviews. In 2011 the document was signed by the Prime Minister. Therefore, the government obliged itself to cooperate with the society and scientists, as well as to establish proper legislative activities to enable implementation of provisions of the Pact. It is the first social contract since the Gdańsk

⁴² <http://obywatelekultury.pl/>

Agreement (1980) concluded between the government and citizens. Concluding the agreement resulted in establishing the Team for the Pact for Culture, which is an advisory body of the Prime Minister, aimed at developing methods of implementation of provisions of the document. The Citizens of Culture movement became an inspiration for local activists and the Pact – a model for similar agreements concluded with representatives of local governments – based on the national initiative, urban movements were launched, including: Warsaw and Bydgoszcz. Thus, the social movement acting for the development of culture not only at the national level, but also at the local one, expands.

The cooperation with non-governmental organisations at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage is performed by all substantial departments, particularly the Department of State Patronage is responsible for activities arising from provisions of the Act on public benefit and volunteer. The subject of the Convention was not directly discussed by the Council of Non-governmental Cultural Organisations at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, which is an advisory body of the Minister and is responsible for presenting proposals and opinions related to directions and forms of the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture with non-governmental organisations, providing opinions on draft legal acts, important for non-governmental organisations operating within the sector of culture. It needs to be noted, that in 2008-2011 the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage through annual Programmes of the Minister – through the competition procedure – co-financed numerous projects related to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions implemented by the NGOs⁴³.

Furthermore, numerous public entities operating in the area of culture also cooperate with NGOs. As an example, we can indicate the National Heritage Board of Poland, which supports non-governmental organisations aiming at dissemination and strengthening of the intercultural dialogue, through the promotion of various cultural expressions. Organisations which cooperate with the Board in relation to the implementation of cultural, educational and social programmes, include the following:

- The “Together” association – its aim is to integrate minorities groups (national, ethnic and refugees), prevention of marginalisation and discrimination.
- The Ari Ari Foundation – the task of this foundation is to serve people, regardless of their origin and status, extract the most precious of human activity and provide support over all kind of boundaries.
- Heritage of Carpathian Minorities Association – aims of this association include operations dedicated to promotion of multicultural society of the Eastern Carpathians in Poland.
- Semper Avanti Association – one of its main objectives is to promote the intercultural education and raising awareness of social issues.
- Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage – the foundation aims at protection of material relicts of the cultural heritage of Jews in Poland, particularly synagogues and commentaries. It operates in regions, where Jewish communities can hardly work.
- Cultural Community Association „Borussia” – the association promotes establishing and strengthening the culture of dialogue and tolerance between people of various nations, religions, traditions as well as the creation of the civil society.

⁴³ A list of Programmes of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage in 2008 – 2011 was attached in the Annex. More information on the web site of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage: www.mkidn.gov.pl.

More than 90 nongovernmental organisations, public entities and high schools are members of the Polish network of the Anna Lindh⁴⁴ Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, which is coordinated by the International Cultural Centre in Krakow. Objectives of the Foundation include support for the broadest possible cultural and intellectual exchange among journalists and young people representing the Mediterranean Sea States, patronage for selected events and promotion of achievements of the Barcelona Process. According to the statute, the Foundation acts as the “network of networks”, the platform for exchange of information between national networks of institutions operating in the field of the cultural cooperation. In 2011 at the office of the International Cultural Centre in Krakow, there was a 10th meeting of national coordinators of the Anna Lindh Foundation from 43 Union States for the Mediterranean – the first meeting of representatives of the civil society after events of the so-called “Arab Spring”. At the same time, at the office of the International Cultural Centre there was a meeting of Higher Rank Officials from the Union for the Mediterranean / the Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Foundation – representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the states of the European Union, the Balkans, the Middle East and North Africa. For the first time in the history of the Anna Lindh Foundation, the annual meeting of national coordinators was organised in the Central Europe State. The historic character of the meeting was ultimately confirmed by the presence at the meeting of a representative of Libya – also for the first time in the history of actions executed by the Foundation. During the meeting there was also the international debate titled “Culture for the social change” dedicated to the role of the culture in democratisation processes and social changes, which helped demonstrate similarities between Central European transition experiences and current transformation in the North Africa, and emphasised the autonomy of an artist and its role in the promotion of social changes.

For the implementation of provisions of the Convention activities of the Borderland Foundation established in Sejny⁴⁵ are of crucial importance. The aim of the Foundation is to promote the ethos of the borderland and creation of bridges between people of various religions, nations and cultures. The Foundation obtains funds for its operations basically through grants from various institutions and organisations, as well as from individuals. The Foundation strictly cooperates with the “Borderland of arts, cultures, nations” Centre, under the contract on cooperation between them, which is based on joint statutory objectives of both institutions. Pursuant to the “Agreement on the joint execution and financing of operations of the “Borderland of arts, cultures, nations” Centre signed by the Mashall of the voivodeship and the Minister of Culture in 2000, the Centre is at the moment the institution financed jointly by the Podlaskie Voivodeship and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. In 2008 – 2011 the Foundation and the Centre implemented numerous actions related to the UNESCO Convention 2005, including the “Raft of Musicians – New Generation” programme (2010) dedicated to the Jewish tradition, the annual symposia “New Agora”, subject of which is associated with the multiculturalism and its modern issues in Europe and in the world, as well as several meetings “Regional Education Workshops” for primary schools in Sejny (2008 – 2011), aim of which was to present the cultural diversity of the region.

4. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

⁴⁴ More information about operations of the Foundation can be found on the web site: <http://www.alfpolska.org/>.

⁴⁵ More information on the web site of the Borderland Foundation: <http://pogranicze.sejny.pl/?lang=en>.

Almost five years have passed since the ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions in Poland. It is a very short time, even for preliminary assessment of achievements of the Convention and what still remains a challenge. Furthermore, to prepare such a summary, it is necessary to note the nature of the Convention, which, first of all is the legitimisation of the own culture protection and reflects the modern way of thinking about the role of culture in the sustainable social and economic development. It does not provide orders or sanctions due to disobedience, but is supposed to inspire actions dedicated to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions in particular states. The level of implementation of this assumption is difficult to assess, because we do not possess specific factors and the culture is an area hard to measure. Therefore, the method proposed in the report, based on the presentation of actions related to the cultural policy promoting the diversity, seems to be proper. Everyone can choose what he or she considers to be the most important from the perspective of the particular country. Completing general information with data directly related to the protection and promotion of the diversity, for example cultural rights of national minorities or the level of development of the civil society, which as the consequence gives a broad field for attempts of explorations of the presented issue. However, it is important to note, that this is more the recapitulation of the status, which exists in Poland in the area of concern for the cultural diversity in the first period after the adoption of the Convention, than activities directly arising from its ratification.

Poland, as the historically multicultural country has a very durable tradition of acceptance for the cultural diversity, which after the transformation is being practiced in many ways. The cultural policy of Poland particularly fosters the creation of interesting and diverse cultural life. Each year there are dozens of festivals dedicated to the promotion of music, theatre, arts and folk traditions of other nations and national minorities living in our country. Cultural institutions rarely use a simple didacticism in conveying difficult to clarify and complex ideas. But they are efficient in creating attitudes, stimulating interest of new social phenomena, triggering debates on issues, which emerges and have not been yet described by sociologists and social psychologists. This applies also to supra-local and trans-national issues covering the sphere common for all people, regardless the race, political convictions or religions – happiness, love, grief, concern for children, despair, but also curiosity of other people and cultures.

Art and educational institutions in their everyday practice cooperate with counterparts from Europe and other continents, organising guest performances, participating in domestic and international festivals, preparing joint exhibitions, performances co-produced with foreign partners. Theatres present dramas of authors from all over the world, at music institutions, the music of outstanding foreign composers and performers is often present. It has to be noted, however, that art of other nations is presented by cultural institutions due to its humanistic and artistic value – the national criterion is of secondary importance.

It is worth noting, that the economic convergence, unrestricted travel possibilities, common legal provisions in many areas in the EU States also foster the cooperation in the culture. The efficient way of reducing cultural barriers is the cross-border cooperation – of cities, institutions and individual artists – promoted by local authorities. The ease of communication, abolition of problems related to crossing borders and openness for changes of both sides give

enormous results. Many artistic events are dedicated to the issues of the equal treatment and combating the exclusion at the social level.

The modern way of thinking about the culture, which together with the whole cultural industry creates the sector important not only in cultural terms, but also in social and economic, draws particular attention⁴⁶. The coexistence of three sectors: public, private and non-profit became a fact in the process of creation and distribution of the cultural offer. It is a phenomenon which took place almost immediately after 1989. Even though we can indicate here some kind of petrification of structures and restraint in conducting the radical reform of the system dedicated to organising and financing cultural activities, the achieved change, moving away from the centralisation and monopolistic role of the state is enormous. In recent years, non-governmental organisations have become more and more important, forming the backbone of the civil society.

Projects presented in this report are of course only a fraction of all measures implemented at various levels and by different entities. However, we do hope, that to some extent they present what is most important in relation to the diversity of the Polish cultural life. Therefore, it is the starting point for reflection on possibilities of usage of such valuable tool, as the Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. In relation to this matter, we can distinguish as extremely desirable three, not necessarily dichotomous, directions for activities.

First, the fundamental task is to involve the civil society in the process of dissemination and implementing ideas arising from the Convention. So far, the awareness of the existence and importance of the Convention in the Polish society and among non-governmental organisations does not reach a satisfactory level. It is required to perform simulative actions, because getting to civil societies offers great opportunities for the multiplication of assumed results, that for the common knowledge about the Convention and implementation of its provisions.

Second, it is extremely important to continue the modernisation of the system dedicated to organising and financing cultural activities in Poland. Furthermore, the care for keeping legal provisions in contact with changing environment, which is reflected in the debate related to the protection of the intellectual property in the era of digitalization of the culture, is one, enormously creative and forming the incubator for innovations, but strongly diverse entity.

Third, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage believes, that providing the forum for exchange of good practices related to the cultural diversity at both the local and the national level, together with already existing practices concerning the cultural diversity, shall give extremely beneficial results, since it is important to indicate various aspects of the diversity and focus on the creation of durable mechanism for its promotion and protection, which in practice means the priority for overall programmes but not for individual projects.

⁴⁶ The Institute for Structural Research assesses the share of the cultural sector in the Polish GDP in 2008 to 1.6% and the creative sector – to 2.5%. In relation to the employment, it is respectively 1.9% and 2.7% of the employed. Source: the Institute for Structural Research, Economic contribution of the cultural sector – introduction to the analysis of the issue, Warsaw 2010, available on the web site: <http://ibs.org.pl/site/upload/publikacje/ObszernoscKultury/znaczenie%20gospodarcze%20sektora%20kultury%20-%20raport%20IBS.PDF>.

