



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

**RESOLUTION  
ON THE APPROVAL OF THE GUIDELINES ON THE LITHUANIAN  
CULTURAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

30 June 2010 No XI-977  
Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania taking into account the fact that culture is the foundation of the State, culture and creativity are the main resources of Lithuania, cultural situation in Lithuania requires a critical approach, focus on it and positive developments, as well as the necessity to preserve society's cultural identity and grant culture the priority area status in the State, *r e s o l v e s* :

**Article 1.**

To approve The Guidelines on the Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development (attached).

**Article 2.**

To recommend that the Government of the Republic of Lithuania should prepare and approve the action plan for the implementation of the Guidelines on the Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development by 1 December 2010.

**Article 3.**

The Resolution shall enter into force as of adoption thereof.

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS

IRENA DEGUTIENĖ

APPROVED BY  
Seimas of the Republic of  
Lithuania  
30 June 2010  
Resolution No XI-977

## **GUIDELINES ON THE LITHUANIAN CULTURAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

The goal of the Lithuanian cultural policy development shall be to update the Lithuanian cultural policy model, which would help to reveal, preserve, and develop cultural identity and creative potential.

For the purpose of implementing this goal the following guidelines of the Lithuanian cultural policy development shall be provided for:

- 1) to establish culture as a strategic direction of the state development, giving priority to the cultural policy;
- 2) to reform the cultural governance and make it more democratic by expanding cultural self-regulation;
- 3) to improve the current financing of the cultural system by ensuring the return of the money earned by the cultural sector to culture;
- 4) to ensure high level protection of the copyright and related rights, increase the intellectual capital of the Lithuanian artists and competitiveness of creative industries based on that capital;
- 5) to develop cultural competencies and creativity during the whole human life;
- 6) to shape common policy of integral protection of the heritage;
- 7) to ensure sustainable development in Lithuania by combining heritage and environmental protection objectives with the urban development and spatial planning;
- 8) to increase accessibility of culture all over Lithuania;
- 9) to expand the cultural space of Lithuania by uniting the representatives of Lithuania in the whole world;
- 10) to disseminate Lithuanian culture abroad by achieving conceptually oriented long-term goals.

**1. To establish culture as a strategic direction of the state development, giving priority to the cultural policy**

Creative abilities of the Lithuanian society shall be the key resources of its sustainability and competitiveness. Culture and creativity shall be the prerequisite of democracy and self-expression of a free personality. Creativity safeguards society's abilities to preserve and transmit the traditions, capacities to renew its institutions, implement innovations and adapt to new circumstances. Culture and art foster person's initiative, self-expression, self-confidence, synthetic thinking, and emotional intelligence from the early age. Culture and art form favourable environment for creativity, fosters civic consciousness, tolerance, good social relationships, development of creativity based on intellectual property and development of knowledge economy. Art and cultural heritage provide the public with valuable examples of art work, educate to appreciate them, develop artistic taste, encourage the public to lead a meaningful way of life, develop its positive emotions and increase the sense of satisfaction.

Currently, culture and art as well as culture-related aspects of economy, social cohesion, and sustainable environment are not a priority area of the state policy. Culture financing from the state and municipal budgets, poor role of culture in implementing cross-sector linking initiatives prove this. Institutions do not adequately cooperate in developing cultural education, creative industries, designing harmonious environment, increasing social cohesion. Cultural policy is separated from other areas as well.

It is necessary to:

- 1) consider culture a strategic direction of the state development when foreseeing long-term strategy of Lithuania;

- 2) relate cultural policy with other areas of state policy and design an effective model of cooperation between institutions. Grant wider powers to the Ministry of Culture in implementing cross-sector policy together with other ministries (education and culture, economy and culture, environment, urban development and heritage, financial and cultural, social and cultural affairs, international relations and culture).

## **2. To reform the cultural governance and make it more democratic by expanding cultural self-regulation**

Over the past 20 years public administration institutions have been rapidly changing in Lithuania, but this has slightly affected the administrative structure of the Ministry of Culture, cultural policy development and implementation. The current structure of the Ministry of Culture impedes evaluation of the specific characteristics of different competence areas, in particular the interdisciplinary nature of some of them, individual relationship with the public and other state policy areas. Current cultural policy

development and implementation is ineffective, failing to adequately respond to the challenges and ensure continuity and renewal of cultural processes.

In Lithuania, the inherited Soviet model and its institutional type of culture realization has not been fundamentally changed and it does not ensure culture self-regulation. The increased opposition between the state culture realization policy and the public cultural interests has not created a safe and healthy competitive environment ensuring conditions for cultural initiatives, even contrary, it has weakened confidence in the State's role in fostering culture, raised many questions about efficiency and transparency of the use of state funds for implementing cultural policy.

Cultural processes lack analysis and monitoring, impact assessment; therefore, they are not managed effectively.

It is necessary to:

1) make a cultural policy model democratic, i.e. to separate policy formulation and implementation, by establishing a Council of Culture according to the example of the Council of Science;

2) optimize culture institution networks and modernize culture infrastructure, so that its financing would be more efficient;

3) create a permanent system of culture processes monitoring, analysis, impact assessment and strategic planning framework, encourage the research of cultural processes.

### **3. To improve the current financing of the cultural system by ensuring the return of the money earned by the cultural sector to culture**

So far, there is no detailed economic assessment of the Lithuanian creative work, however, statistic data show that Lithuanian creative sector accounts for about 5 percent of gross domestic product (hereinafter - GDP). This indicates that the current financing of culture is inadequate and unfair, because culture financing is not adequate to its created added value.

It is necessary to:

1) consider state budget funds allocated for culture a long-term investment into the country's social cohesion and culture-based economic development;

2) refuse the approach towards culture as a dependent area, and consider state budget funds allocated for culture a long-term investment;

3) create a methodology for calculation of culture economy contribution to the GDP;

4) seek that by the year 2020 the State would be investing into culture and creative economy adequately to the cultural contribution to the national progress and contribution of this area to the GDP.

**4. To ensure high level protection of the copyright and related rights, increase the intellectual capital of the Lithuanian artists and competitiveness of creative industries based on that capital**

The current cultural policy is primarily aimed at maintaining the existing institutional framework. In Lithuania a person engaged in creative work is not the main addressee of the cultural policy, and therefore, no effective mechanisms have been developed yet to ensure favourable conditions for professional activities of the artists and assert their status in the society. Copyright and related rights protection system operating in Lithuania does not guarantee adequate copyright and related rights protection, does not always prevent the illegal use of intellectual property, the society does not fully understand the importance of copyright protection. Only in the State where the appropriate protection of intellectual property is guaranteed, culture can prosper, persons engaged in creative work feel appreciated and have motivation to create, and the representatives of the creative industries can safely invest in artistic work development and compete in global markets. Copyright and related rights protection must become a basis for civilized relations among the artists and the society, only then the intellectual property will become a competition guarantee of creative industries in Lithuania. Therefore, high level protection of copyright and related rights should be ensured in Lithuania in compliance with the European Union legislation and the international agreements signed by the Republic of Lithuania.

The above described mechanisms and society's cultural competencies as well as development of creative skills through the whole life encourage continuous cultivation and renewal of public creativity.

Creativity is one of the most valuable personal skills. Art creation in many ways enriches life of an individual and the society; it is the essential part of the general cultural grounds of the whole of humanity. Creative freedom is one of the fundamental personal rights, and the dissemination of artistic works is the basis of culture diversity and openness. Creativity and innovation is a factor of modern society and national progress, the most important resource in the cultural economy.

Globalization is directly related to the ability of the Lithuanian creative industries to compete in the world markets, to win this competition, to wait for new investments to

come into different areas of creative industries. Therefore, cultural policy should not ignore the international economic relations.

It is necessary to:

1) in the cultural policy devote considerable attention to the intellectual property, ensuring high level of protection of copyright and related rights that complies with the requirements of the European Union legislation and international agreements signed by the Republic of Lithuania, and promoting development of the knowledge society and new technologies, expand and develop protection of copyright and neighbouring rights, and at the same time to facilitate public access to copyright works at the libraries.

2) when supporting creation and creativity:

- create appropriate conditions for professional artists' creation;
- support work of professional artists based on high-value knowledge, and creative skills;
- ensure proper dissemination of professional creation in Lithuania and abroad;
- strengthen the influence of art on the society, by creating models of cultural co-operation with other sectors;

3) when promoting diversity of artistic creation and independence of the cultural sector:

- grant priority to the quality of the content;
- to effectively develop activities of quality-oriented cultural institutions;

4) facilitate favourable conditions for the development of the Lithuanian creative industries at home and successful competition abroad.

## **5. To develop cultural competencies and creativity during the whole human life**

When understanding culture and creativity as resources, the importance of the person actively creating and involved in cultural life becomes more evident. Therefore, it is necessary not only to satisfy the cultural needs of society, but also from an early age to develop the person's capacity to take part in cultural life, critically evaluate, perceive information and use it creatively. On the other hand, when creating favourable conditions, it is necessary not only to develop these skills, but also to ensure the widest possible access to culture and the dissemination of it in public information space.

Knowledge society, as well as creation society, needs people with great imagination, developed critical thinking, intuition, logic and sense of aesthetics. In

addition, young people not feeling the links with their cultural traditions are at risk of losing their identity with the community, environment, nation, and even their own identity.

Public libraries allow people to develop meaningful and happier life perspectives, which are to renew knowledge, enjoy literature, follow history and innovations, seek a better career, get integrated into the community, make independent decisions and participate in public life. The library is the fundamental institution of an educated and creative society that provides members of the society free access to the diversity of scientific and artistic works, and new information technologies and acting as a counterweight to commercial supply and propaganda of consumer society values. Libraries expand and complement the activities of schools and education system.

Schools, libraries, museums and other life-long educational environment that surrounds every person in Lithuania should provide opportunities to disclose and take part in cultural life, to deepen their cultural knowledge, develop their creativity and apply it to everyday life. Culture and education, complementing one another, create favourable conditions for life-long education and development of a versatile, creative personality capable of successful adapting to ongoing changes.

One of the major functions of cultural and art institutions is to spread the culture, create an attractive, providing joy of knowledge environment, culturally educate the society, develop self-confidence of the Lithuanian population, promote pride in their country's cultural heritage and living tradition of ethnic culture and creation.

It is necessary to:

- 1) organize across the country a comprehensive and high quality formal and non-formal art education;
- 2) to devote an important place for cultural education in the formal education system, and promote creativity in all educational programs;
- 3) constantly prepare high quality cultural and arts educators, as well as professional culture managers;
- 4) collect and document the country's artistic works, granting access to them and facilitating their dissemination;
- 5) develop public cultural education and creativity and set that any state-supported cultural project must have an educational component as well;
- 6) foster children and youth culture;
- 7) enhance public cultural education in the mass media;

8) make public space and common cultural field more favourable for Lithuanian studies.

## **6. To shape common policy of integral protection of the heritage**

Cultural heritage - is an integral part of the identity of the country and its citizens, one of the most important guarantors of the state national security. Cultural heritage in the broad sense is understood as material one, which consists of movable and immovable property, and intangible one, the essence of which is traditions, knowledge and abilities conveyed from one generation to another, and cultural historical landscape that reflects human coexistence with the environment. Heritage preservation and use for modern society needs, academic research, revelation and appreciation of the heritage, its availability, identification of important Lithuanian heritage abroad - all of these make an integral part of the national cultural policy. Such policy ensures the national culture vitality, safety, mobilizes the society, grants it common values, common identity authentication features, defines the conditions of modern life, and encourages creativity. Heritage is an important, added-value generating part of the economy, which must be handled and used preserving all heritage values and leaving the rights of future generations intact.

State heritage protection, based on holistic, environmental protection, social integration and preventative heritage protection principles, must help to preserve the tangible heritage and properly convey to future generations the traditions, ways of self-expression, values, and become the guarantor of a harmonious environment and gradual development.

It is necessary to:

- 1) develop fundamental and applied research of tangible and intangible cultural heritage by integrating heritage protection, potential of institutions of science and studies;
- 2) conduct a comprehensive analysis of the system and having evaluated the efficiency and effectiveness of the cultural heritage preservation measures, reform the financing principles of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage sector, and improve the legal framework;
- 3) properly store, handle (conserve, restore, use other necessary tools) and use heritage by preserving and retaining it for future generations;
- 4) facilitate public participation in heritage protection processes and ensure proper dissemination of the information about heritage.



## **7. To ensure sustainable development by combining heritage and environment protection objectives with the urban development and spatial planning**

Sustainable development of Lithuania is understood in a too narrow way and does not create proper conditions for urban development and spatial planning coordinated with heritage and environment protection objectives. Sustainable development in Lithuania requires a rational and well-grounded dialogue between professionals of heritage, environment protection, and urban design. It is therefore necessary to increase the importance of culture and education in the policy of Lithuania's sustainable development.

## **8. To increase accessibility of culture all over Lithuania**

Still growing cultural gap between the urban and rural areas diminishes value of the Lithuanian culture, does not ensure quality of life, increases social exclusion. Different levels of culture access and population cultural activity is directly related to the lack of social cohesion and quality of life differences, and therefore, even dissemination of culture and its availability throughout the country, network type development of culture is an important precondition for quality of life in the whole country.

Modern human well-being depends on its ability to understand the processes and adapt to the changes of modern life. One of the essential purposes of culture is creation, nurturing, interpretation, and preservation of symbols giving sense to life. Education and culture develop the human sense of life, the field of meanings, stories, images, and sounds, without which the human life would be miserable, meaningless, and gloomy. Culture shapes and enriches the human personality. Purposefully designed and implemented cultural policy increases welfare and stimulates the sense of joie de vivre of the Lithuanian people.

By improving quality of life and changing a set of values of the Lithuanian people, culture makes the country more attractive, develops cultural awareness in people.

It is necessary to:

1) develop a common economic and cultural policy and implement it in the regions after preparation of the regional program of cultural development administered by the Council for Culture;

2) accelerate the smooth dissemination of culture and creativity in the regions, i.e. improve access to culture, expand diversity of modern cultural forms, and strengthen cultural demand through education;

3) promote culture-based economic development in the regions, strengthen the regional identity and creatively employ it;

4) create favourable conditions for local communities' artistic expression, promote the cultural life and new forms of human communication, and develop their social and civic competences;

5) create the right conditions for creativity and innovation to develop in the regions;

6) facilitate the development of all art branches and genres of amateur art as the means for preserving the national cultural heritage, developing song festivals and regional cultural traditions, seeking to involve more communities, groups, individuals.

### **9. To expand the cultural space of Lithuania by uniting the representatives of Lithuania in the whole world**

The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania embodies the innate right of the human being and the Nation to live and create freely in the land of their fathers and forefathers - in the independent State of Lithuania. Twenty years ago, seeking freedom for a person and the nation to live independently, the people of Lithuania peacefully re-established the Lithuanian State. The need to reform the cultural policy that became evident during the initial congress meetings of the Lithuanian culture was inseparable from the spiritual rebirth of Lithuania based on the ethnic identity of the nation relieved from many years of oppression, its long-lived cultural traditions of Lithuania, the core of cultural, spiritual and moral national identity.

However, a large wave of emigration accompanying successful integration into the European Union shows weakened cultural affinity of the Lithuanian people, weakened belonging to the Lithuanian cultural space, the growing desire to exercise their freedom of movement and seek personal material advantage, new experiences. Emigration also indirectly indicates the reduced prestige of the Lithuanian culture and decreased motivation to identify oneself with the culture of Lithuania. Human mobility which became the global phenomenon poses new challenges for the Lithuanian cultural policy, encourages to change attitude towards the identities of society, communities and individuals representing them, and to interpret the concept of the Lithuanian character differently by changing the understanding of the identity related to specific area to the dynamic, network identity open to modern society processes. Accordingly, the cultural policy should be linked not only with the current territory of Lithuania, but also cover the entire network of emigration by creating and maintaining the Lithuanian culture space integrating them all.

It is necessary to:

- 1) ensure the Lithuanian language vitality;
- 2) associate cultural policy not only with the current territory of Lithuania, but also cover the entire network of emigration, according to the possibilities enable them to create, and disseminate the results of cultural work and satisfy cultural needs;
- 3) create favourable conditions for the migrants to Lithuania to participate in the cultural processes;
- 4) take care of the Lithuanian cultural heritage abroad.

**10. To disseminate Lithuanian culture abroad by achieving conceptually oriented long-term goals.**

The current dissemination of Lithuanian culture abroad is fragmentary; it does not have clear directions and objectives to ensure a coordinated, priority-based, result-oriented dissemination of Lithuanian culture.

Intercultural dialogue shows the country's political, economic stability, allows to get to know its residents' values, lifestyle, creativity and literacy, promotes the exchange of ideas and information, and develops understanding of the uniqueness of other cultures. Direct cultural exchange and cooperation strengthen mutual understanding, openness, confidence in the country and its people.

Targeted dissemination of Lithuanian culture abroad is meant to achieve the desired long-term outcomes: increase the openness of culture, strengthen political and economic relations, and improve the image of Lithuania.

It is necessary to:

- 1) formulate clear long-term directions of cultural dissemination abroad;
- 2) create an effective coordination system of cultural dissemination abroad;
- 3) revitalize international cooperation of artists and cultural institutions, allowing it to continue to evolve;
- 4) enhance, monitor, and update the Lithuanian cultural policy links with the European and world cultural policy.

**11. Key Principles**

While developing Lithuanian culture, it is necessary to:

- 1) prepare a long-term progress strategy of the state;
- 2) foresee preparation of the program of cultural actions from the perspective of the EU Structural Support for Lithuania in 2014-2030;
- 3) develop an effective model of inter-institutional cooperation;

- 4) draft the legislation necessary to establish the Council of Culture by 1 January 2012;
- 5) draft the legislation promoting assistance for culture;
- 6) improve the model of copyright and related rights protection system seeking to achieve that the benefits of copyright and related right-holders reach the EU average;
- 7) seek that public participation in cultural activities reaches the EU average by the year 2015;
- 8) draft the National Cultural Heritage Protection Strategy;
- 9) prepare by 1 December 2011 regional programs for cultural development;
- 10) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science develop the regional cultural education and adult cultural occupation program;
- 11) draft the cultural industries development program for regions;
- 12) create the model of including emigrants into the Lithuanian cultural processes model and improve the legal framework;
- 13) establish the conservancy and surveillance program of the Lithuanian cultural heritage abroad;
- 14) formulate clear long-term directions and coordination system of the Lithuanian cultural dissemination abroad;
- 15) draft other legal acts necessary for the implementation of the Guidelines on the Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development.

## **12. Implementation of the Guidelines on the Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development**

1. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the basis of these Guidelines and in cooperation with public interest groups, prepares the implementation measures plan of the Guidelines on the Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development based on the financial obligations of the State, i.e. long-term financing of culture, a plan of investments into culture, a project on private capital and European Structural Funds raising and allocation to Lithuania culture.

2. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania, on the grounds of the Lithuanian Cultural Policy Guidelines and the objectives of cultural development, coordinates the implementation and monitoring of the action plan and, where appropriate, provides suggestions for improvement.

3. The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania performs general monitoring of the action plan on the implementation of the Guidelines on the Lithuanian Cultural Policy

Development. The Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania submits by 1 March every year to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania a report on the implementation of the action plan of the Guidelines on the Lithuanian Cultural Policy Development.