

Finland

Report by

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Introduction - Key Issues

Compiled in the statistics on museums is information on all museums in Finland that are run on a full-time basis with at least one professional employee. It is a characteristic of museums in Finland that a museum as a single administrative whole will in fact often include several museum units, usually with no separate staff or budget. Therefore, in the statistics, data on finances and staff are treated under the administrative entities, while information on operations is given by museum unit.

Definition of Museum

The ICOM definition of museums is generally accepted in Finland. However, no official permission of any kind is required for establishing a museum or for using the term "museum". This means that, for example, a private individual who owns a collection that can be viewed by appointment can call his or her collection a "museum". The existing Museums Act, which stipulates the proportion of State aid to museums, does not define the concept of "museum" but rather the goals and objectives of the work carried out by the museums:

"The purpose of the work of museums is to maintain and increase the awareness of citizens of their culture, history and environment. Museums shall carry out and promote research, education activities and information in their respective fields by storing, preserving and displaying objects and other materials pertaining to man and his environment."

Existence of Museum-related Laws

The present Museums Act was passed in 1992 to regulate the State-aid system to museums managed on a full-time basis. The proportion of aid is based on the number of man-years; the number of approved man-years is laid down annually for each museum as the basis for State aid. The total number of man-years considered in this connection is laid down annually in the State budget. In addition to the goals and tasks of museums, the Museums Act also defines the conditions that a museum has to meet in order to receive state aid. These are: The museum is owned by a municipality, a federation of municipalities or a private corporation or a foundation whose statutory responsibilities include museum work or the upkeep of a museum. A private museum's work is governed by by-laws approved by the National Board of Antiquities. The by-laws of an association or foundation maintaining a museum contain provisions guaranteeing that the collection in question shall remain a museum collection after the dissolution of said association or foundation. At least one full-time post or position has been established for the museum and the holder of said post or position is required to be professionally involved with the work of said museum.

The Decree on Museums related to the Museums Act lays down the tasks and duties of provincial museums, regional art museums and national specialized museums. Owing to their national-level or regional duties, these museums receive a raised proportion of State aid. Other items of Finnish legislation solely concerning museums are the Act and Decree on the National Board of Antiquities and the Act and Decree on the Finnish National Gallery. The duties of the National Board of Antiquities include the supervision and development of museum work and activities in Finland. The National Museum of Finland is one of the departments of the Board. The National Museum of Finland and the Finnish National Gallery operate under the provisions of this legislation as national-level central museums, the former in the field of cultural history and the latter in the arts. The third national-level central museum is the Finnish Museum of Natural History, which is a separate department of the

University of Helsinki. All three are State museums, which means that the Museums Act does not concern them.

Categories used regarding Type of Collection

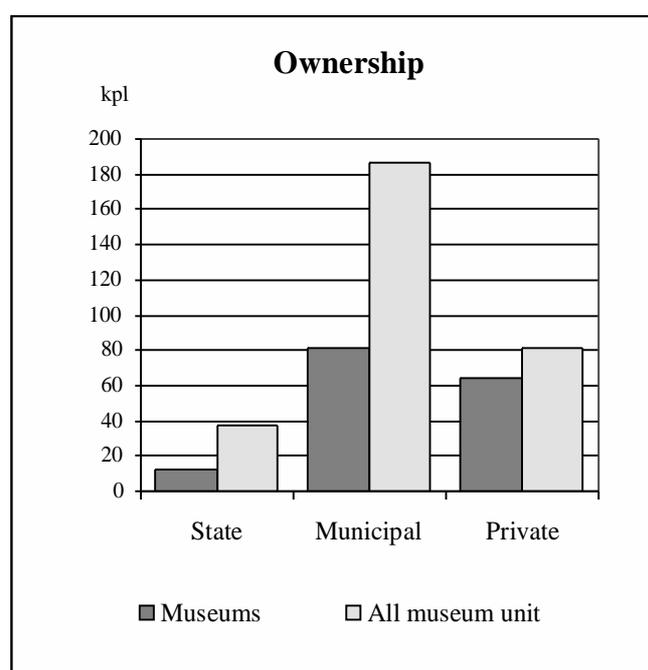
In Finland, museums have been classed as cultural-historical museums, art museums and museums of natural history. After 1993, when the Ministry of Education nominated the first national-level specialized museums on the basis of the Museum Act, specialized museums, previously listed among the cultural-historical museums, were added as a separate group. The UNESCO museum classification has never been applied in Finland.

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

The annual statistics covering the professionally-run museums divide them into three classes: State, municipal and private museums. A private museum is understood here as a museum run by a foundation or association. The nation-wide 5-year statistics, which cover all museums, follow a four-part classification into state museums, municipal museums, foundation and association museums, and other museums. The latter group mainly contains church museums maintained by parishes and the museums of firms and companies. Museums maintained by private individuals or families are not included in any statistics.

Existing Data - Basic Figures and Diagrams

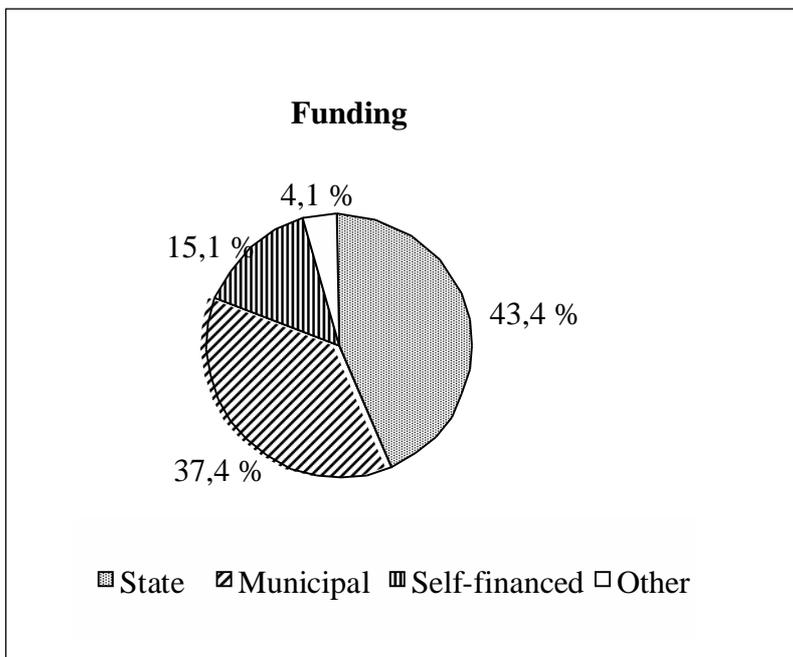
According to the annual museum statistics 2001, there are 157 museums responsible for a total of 305 museum sites and locations. Of the total number of museum units, 49 % are cultural-historical museums, 25 % are specialized museums, 20 % art museums and 6 % museums of natural history. Following the hierarchical classification of Finnish museums, there are three national central museums: The National Museum, The National Gallery and the Finnish Museum of Natural History. There are 13 national specialized museums. At the regional level, there are 20 provincial museums and 16 regional art museums. Fifty-two % of museums are maintained by the municipalities. 41 % of museums are private, i.e. run by foundations and associations, and State-run museums account for 8 %. According to the classification by museum unit, 61 % are municipal, 27 % are private and 12 % are State-run. The considerable differences in the distribution are caused by the fact that in most cases the large municipal museums - and the provincial museums in particular - contain several museum units. The increased proportion of State-run museums is accounted for by the large number of museums of the National Board of Antiquities.



The total expenditure of the museums was 130,5 million Euro. Average annual costs per museum were 836.394 EURO. The largest portion of expenditure were personnel (45 %) and costs related to premises (29 %).

The costs of museum activities are mostly met by public funding. The share of the State in the total funding of museums consists of the costs of State-run museums, State subsidies and grants to museums and amounted to 43 % of total expenditures. The share of the municipalities in overall expenditure was 37 %. This figure included grants for operations and specific projects awarded by municipalities to private museums. The museums' so-called "own income" amounted to 15 %. Forty-four % of revenue consisted of ticket sales.

There were 129 museums receiving legally prescribed State aid. 80 of these are municipal museums and 49 are maintained by foundations or associations. The basis for proportionate State aid is the number of man-years of the museums and an annually ratified unit price per man-year. The total sum of proportionate State aid was more than 15,2 million EURO, i.e. 118.141 EURO per museum. Proportionate State aid to provincial museums, regional art museums and national specialized museums is ten percentage points (47 % of the unit price) higher than for the other museums owing to the regional and national tasks of these museums. For the museums covered by the provisions of legislation, the municipalities are the most significant source of funding (54 %); State aid defrays 24 % of total museum expenses. Public funding per museum visitor, excluding costs for premises, amounted to 14 €



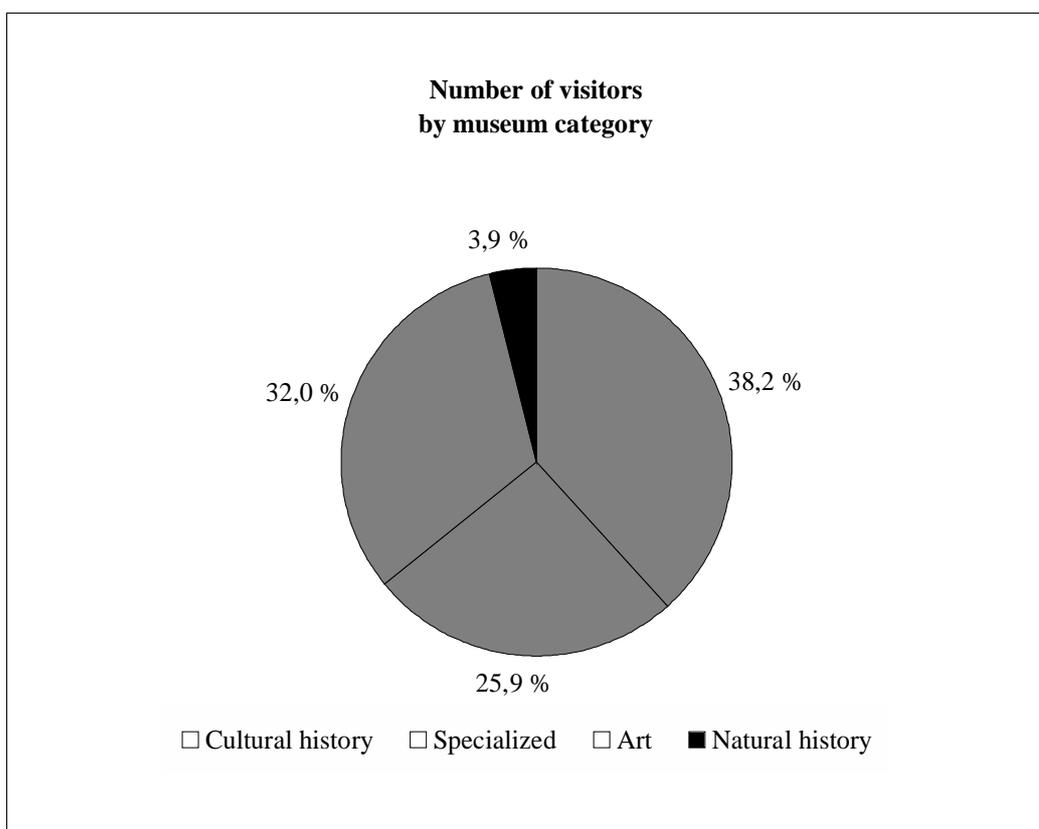
The museums had a total of 1.590 permanent full-time employees. Over half of these (856) were persons with specialist training (researchers, conservators, photographers etc.). On the average, museums had 10 permanent employees, five of whom had professional training. The specialized national museums, the provincial museums and the regional art museums had an average 15 permanent employees, eight of whom were professionally trained.

The museum collections of cultural-historical museums and specialized museums comprised of some 4,2 million objects. The art museums had 270 000 works of art. The pictorial archives of museums contained some 14,9 million photographs and other items. The museums of natural history had 19,9 million collection items. The museums spent about 3,2 million on collection acquisitions. Approximately 89 % of this sum went to purchases of artworks. During the year, 1.127 temporary exhibitions were displayed in the museums, in addition to which the museums produced 65 touring exhibitions. Of the total number of exhibitions, the museums of cultural-history accounted for 34 %, specialized museums were responsible for 21 %, art museums for 43 % and museums of natural history for 1,3 %.

Of the publications issued by museums, those with ISSN or ISBN numbers are listed in statistics. The museums published a total of 199 exhibition-related, research or other publications. The proportion of publications was 20 % for cultural-historical museums, 24 % for specialized museums, 38 % for art museums, and 19 % for museums of natural history.

The museums were open to the public for a total of 395.621 hours during the year, an average of 1.350 hours/year/museum unit. There was considerable variation among museums, as 29 % of the units were open only during the summer. There were 4.7 million museum visits, equivalent to 0.9 visits per inhabitant.

The average number of visits per museum was 15.924. The proportions of free visits of the total visitor count was 37 %. Ten museums had over 100,000 visitors. In terms of visitors, the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, a unit of the Finnish National Gallery, was in a class apart, with a total of 210 713 visitors.



List of References

Museotilasto 2001. Museovirasto/National Board of Antiquities 2002.