

Italy - 2012 Museum Census

ISTAT is currently (Nov.2012) carrying out, in collaboration with the Cultural heritage Ministry and the Regional administrations, a national census of museums and similar institutions in Italy. The study is conducted by the Servizio Struttura e dinamica sociale (SDS), Direzione centrale delle statistiche socio-demografiche e ambientali (DCSA).

The museum census aims at gathering extensive and detailed information on both State and non State-owned museums, picture galleries, archaeological sites, monuments and other permanent exhibits open to the public, covering such areas as their collections, organization, structural characteristics and activities, staff, costs and financial resources, the services they offer, admissions and public's level of participation.

The project is included in the nationally relevant statistical surveys of public interest, and is part of the National Statistical Programme 2011-2013.

Reference period

Data refer to 2011.

Collection units

Collection units are all museums and exhibits that acquire, keep, classify and expose to the public culturally relevant goods and/or collections. They include archaeological sites and parks, monuments and monument compounds and other permanent exhibits open to public visit.

Conversely, the survey does not cover:

- those institutes exclusively exposing living animal or plant specimens, such as botanic gardens, zoological gardens, aquaria, natural reserves, ecological parks, etc.;
- those institutes that organize exclusively temporary or non permanent exhibitions;

- commercial art galleries and institutions that are not open to the public.

Eligible for the census are therefore about 450 State and over 5.700 non-State Museums.

Data collection

Informations are collected via an online questionnaire, sent individually to all the respondent units.

The questionnaire

The Museum Census questionnaire, updated and enriched as compared to the last available edition (2007), is built starting from the framework of Egmus Standard (2008). It therefore covers the proposed key indicators:

- identification of museums,
- kind of museums,
- opening hours,
- legal status and ownership,
- exhibition and visits,
- expenditure and income,
- personnel,
- use of information and communication technology.

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