

Luxembourg

Report by

Guy Frank, Remo Bei, Philippe Robin

Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research

Luxembourg

Introduction - Key Issues

The Central service of statistics and economic studies (STATEC) is the main producer of statistical data in Luxembourg. The work of this institute, the result of a merger of the Bureau of General Statistics and the Service of economic studies and documentation in 1962, could be divided in four sections:

1. production and centralisation of statistical information of general interest concerning the structure and the activities of the country (census, surveys, centralization of statistical data from other bodies);
2. realisation of studies and economic predictions in short and medium term;
3. dissemination of statistical information and results of these studies;
4. coordination of the country's statistical systems, collaboration with foreign statistical institutes and international bodies and the integration in the European statistical system.

Cultural statistics were not taken seriously and generally considered as a nonrelevant field to explore. This approach changed when Luxembourg became the European city of culture in 1995. In order to get an evaluation of the impact of this important cultural year, the Ministry of Culture ordered a socioeconomic study. The aim of this research work was to analyse the economic, cultural and touristic impact of the different activities and projects organized during that exceptional year. John Myerscough, an internationally renowned expert in statistics, who had already evaluated the events of previous European cities of culture, underlined in his conclusions the need for cultural statistics and strongly recommended a regular collecting of cultural statistics for the future.

The Ministry of Culture quickly recognized the advantages and in a first move, established an inventory of all existing statistics in the cultural field. All available statistical information were centralised in the Ministry. Institutions that played a part in the cultural field were contacted, like, for example, the Ministry of Finances, the Ministry of Interior, the National Statistical Institute, different research centres, the cultural institutes, different cultural associations, cultural “foundations”, etc. as well as with the other entities being able to produce information about cultural statistics. Indeed, a first goal to reach was the creation of an infrastructure dealing mainly with cultural statistics.

From the beginning, Luxembourg was deeply involved in the European LEG project: “Harmonisation of European cultural statistics”. Therefore, the persons in charge of that project at the Ministry of Culture were able to bring in their experience acquired on European level. Thus, the first task force on methodology for the exploration of the domain of the museums had been taken in hand by the Luxembourg Ministry of Culture and the coordination of the task force on cultural participation had been divided between the Grand-Duchy and Italy. Referring to these experiences, the statistics team, together with a research centre, carried out their first survey on cultural participation in 1999 as well as a visitor survey in the biggest museums of the country. It was most important for the researchers to rely on the recommendations of the LEG-project in order to develop the methodologies and the questionnaires. Complementary to these studies, an institutional survey including the most relevant cultural actors, was launched and finalized in the year 2000. Furthermore a survey concerning people's reading habits had been realised in the socioeconomic panel of 2000. At present, the Ministry of Culture is in a good position concerning the statistics of the museums for 2002 and its statistical department is trying to improve there upon the studies focusing on statistical information over a longer period of time in order to produce more and more reliable tendencies on the subject. In cooperation with different research centres and on a yearly basis, the Ministry of Culture elaborates its institutional surveys by using standardised, but regularly improved questionnaires. The survey 2002 was conducted with 48 museums using the common questionnaire.

Definition of Museum

At present no “museum definition” exists. The Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research applies broadly, for statistical purposes, the definition given by the International Council of Museums (ICOM):

“a museum is a nonprofitmaking, permanent institution in the service of society and of its development, and open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates, and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, material evidence of man and his environment. Monuments and sites, zoological and botanical gardens, aquaria and nature reserves are excluded.”

Existence of Museum- related Laws

Actually no registration act defining museum-related criteria exists. The law of 28 December 1988 concerning the reorganisation of public cultural institutes defines the activities and the functioning of the two museums owned by the State and the law of 17 August 1960 concerning the organisation of State museums was abolished.

The law of 28 April 1998 providing the framework for the “Fondation Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean” laid down the missions of this new institute devised to prepare the opening of the future Museum of Modern Art. The title “national museum” was assigned to a few museums by different ministerial regulations: no basic requirements had to be met. One of the measures of the statistical informations about museums could be the preparation of the introduction of some “registration scheme” in this field in order to enhance the value of this cultural sector.

Categories used regarding Type of Collection

Museum-related surveys were only carried out during last year on a more important level and a first inventory could register some 36 cultural institutions. In a first approach, the persons in charge at the Ministry selected 20 of these establishments to be worked on. The department got back 16 completed questionnaires. A first analysis listed the museums according to the definition of the UNESCO, in general, and to the definition of the European LEG-project, in particular.

- Art museums
- Archaeology and History museums
- Natural history and Natural Science museums
- Science and Technology museums
- Ethnography and Anthropology museums
- Specialized museums
- Regional museums
- General museums
- Other museums

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

Museums can be listed as follows:

- State-owned museums;
- Other public museums;
- Private museums;

Existing Data - Basic Figures and Diagrams

Total museum number in the survey 2001: 54

Returned questionnaires (by July 2002): 16

Museums by typology	
Arts, archeology, history	7
Science, technology and ethnology	1
Other museums	8
Total	16
Statute of museums	
National museums	2
Other public museums	11
Private museums	3
Total	16
Property of the collections	
Public	5
Private	5
Mixed property:	
rather public	3
rather private	3
Total	16
Visitors	
Total	177,027
Staff	
Scientific staff	26
Administrative staff	29
Technical / security staff	122
Other staff	46
Total	223
Volunteers	
Total	206
Students	
Total	148

List of References

Ministère de la Culture, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche :

Service de la Comptabilité et des Statistiques culturelles (Costac)

20, Montée de la Pétrusse

L-2912 Luxembourg

Tél.: +352 / 478 - 6613, 6623

Fax: + 352 / 29 555 1