

Current situation of Polish museums.

Situations of museums in Poland is very predictable – it seems that nothing has changed and nothing is going to be changed in closest future. This is very bitter, considering the traditional weaknesses which wasn't corrected or improved up to now. All this fault museum issues may be divided in two groups: political and statistical.

The first group is basically connected with growing concern of politicians in possibilities of using museum in their fight for popularity and reelection. Opening of new important (at least theoretically) museum seem to create very good PR. This brings growing number of political decisions, mostly to establish a new museum, as for instance museum of modern art, museum of history of Poland or museum of Polish Jews. Since the decision is purely political – no museum professional questions are considered. Mostly, no deciding person care what kind of collection will be presented in new museum and of what value or how new museum will influence overall museum structure in Poland – will there be unnecessary competition or not and who will benefit from a new situation. In the same time existing museums, having sometimes desperate problems, cannot achieve any help, whatever may be needed.

Second group of problems emerges from still not accessible data on museum budgets, staff qualifications or, for example, about number of visits in individual museums. Lack of these information makes more difficult and dangerous attempts to amend the museum law or launch some general regulations.

In statistics we may see – the diminishing number of local authority museum, growing number of private and...dramatic growing number of state museums (more than 40% during two years). Unclear and unreasonable promotions insufficiently qualified persons on positions of museum directors makes general situation even worse.

Museums by the types of the organizers 2002/2006/2008

	Museums	Items (in thousands)	Visitors (in thousands)	Among them school children (in thousands)	free visits (in thousands)
Total					
2002	661	13221	15259	5541	4659
2006	703	12452	18191	6058	6117
2008	743	13215	20727	6290	6084
Public					
2002	559	12908	13352	4798	4012
2006	580	12125	16133	5100	5203
2008	602	12258	17952	5506	5433
Among them					
State					
2002	59	2371	4050	1143	1182
2006	57	2250	5907	1467	2063
2008	80	2416	7290	2047	2479
Local Authorities:					
2002	466	8076	8023	3284	2455
2006	492	7418	9385	3378	3005
2008	487	7261	9834	3244	2750
Private					
2002	102	313	1908	743	647
2006	123	327	2058	958	914
2008	141	957	2775	784	651
Among them					
Organisations:					
2002	37	102	874	323	47
2006	40	84	707	240	74
2008	34	50	213	73	30
Church					
2002	25	55	554	241	465
2006	30	98	783	423	667
2008	34	110	1411	262	309
Others					
2002	40	157	480	179	135
2006	53	145	568	295	173
2008	73	797	1151	449	312

Museums by type

	1980	1990	1995	2000	2002	2005	2006	2008
Total:	427	563	589	632	661	690	703	743
Art	50	72	78	76	84	80	83	91
Archaeology	18	16	13	12	13	14	15	21
Ethnography	22	36	41	44	47	49	53	51
History	52	77	88	102	109	117	119	126
Biography	36	51	49	49	47	50	49	50
Martyrdom	16	18	18	19	19	20	20	20
Natural science	20	30	29	34	41	39	39	39
Technology	11	23	29	31	33	32	37	42
Regional	147	164	169	184	186	201	201	199
Others	...	...	...	81	82	88	87	104

Collections

Collections (Items in thousands)	1980	1990	1995	2000	2002	2005	2006	2008
Total	7678	12274	13838	13092	13221	12974	12452	13215
Art	1287	1621	1702	1828	1858	1897	1885	1976
Archaeology	1706	2582	3056	1374	1423	1529	1035	1209
Ethnography	495	693	690	614	628	496	478	397
History	867	1755	2064	1571	1389	1427	1350	1348
Biography	...	...	...	76	74	78	47	42
Martyrdom	...	...	...	213	203	208	197	200
Natural science	813	2820	3168	2644	3137	2855	2756	2728
Technology	67	93	106	134	141	140	129	132
Regional	...	...	...	1644	1673	1874	1836	1927
Others	...	...	...	2996	2696	2470	2712	3257

Exhibitions

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2005	2006	2008
Temporary in the museum	2317	2264	2543	2559	2787	2610	2883
Temporary abroad	94	107	133	121	134	151	129
Travelling from Polish museums	1065	1126	1185	1222	1364	1347	1521
Travelling from abroad	196	145	192	188	271	231	193

Visits

	1980	1990	1995	1998	2000	2002	2005	2006	2008
Visitors Total (in thousands)	20079	19282	17060	18576	16612	15259	18488	18191	20727
Among them school children	5190	7255	6547	6878	6537	5541	5830	6058	6290

Author used data published by GUS in Poland.