

Bulgaria

Report by
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Introduction – Key Issues

National Statistical Institute has conducted annual survey covering all museums registered in accordance to the Law on Cultural Heritage in force since 10.04.2009. The survey is realized by conducting an electronic questionnaire, which is sent to all museums. The questionnaire collects data for the following topics: general information on museums (name, address, phone, profile), organized events, stock units (movable cultural values), visits and of which: in the day for free entrance and visits of foreigners, staff, incomes and expenditures, as well as data for the material basis of museums, number of museums which use a computer and number of museums with at least one specialized educational programme.

Definition of Museum

Definition of Museum according to the Law on Cultural Heritage in force since 10.04.2009 is as follows: A museum shall be a cultural and research organisation that seeks out, studies, preserves and presents cultural values, and natural specimens and anthropological remains for cognitive, educational and aesthetic purposes.

Depending on their territorial scope of activity, museums are divided into the following categories:

1. Nationals operating on the territory of the whole country;
2. Regionals, operating on the territory of two or more municipalities;
3. Locals, operating on the territory of a municipality;

The stock units in museums are divided into the following categories:

1. The main stocks shall include the movable cultural values of outstanding scientific and cultural importance, which the museum has acquired or received for use free of charge, as well as those, which correspond to its thematic scope.
2. The exchange stocks shall include movable cultural values which do not correspond to its thematic scope, as well as recurrently repeated cultural values in the main stocks.
3. The auxiliary research stocks shall include objects and other materials of significance to the research, exhibition and educational activities of the museum.

The available stock units are indicated at the beginning and the end of the year and how many of them were acquired during the current year. In addition the survey of museums, conducted by National Statistical Institute is collected also information about this part of stock units which is digitized.

Existence of Museum-related Laws

Law on Cultural Heritage

/In force since 10.04.2009. Prom. SG. 19/13 Mar 2009, amend. SG. 80/9 Oct 2009, amend. SG. 92/20 Nov 2009, amend. SG. 93/24 Nov 2009, amend. SG. 101/28 Dec 2010, amend. SG. 54/15 Jul 2011, amend. SG. 15/21 Feb 2012, amend. SG. 38/18 May 2012, amend. SG. 45/15 Jun 2012, amend. SG. 77/9 Oct 2012, amend. SG. 82/26 Oct 2012, amend. SG. 15/15 Feb 2013, amend. SG. 66/26 Jul

2013, amend. SG. 98/28 Nov 2014, amend. and suppl. SG. 16/26 Feb 2016, amend. and suppl. SG. 52/8 Jul 2016, suppl. SG. 74/20 Sep 2016/.

The Law on Cultural Heritage regulates the preservation and protection of all cultural heritage of the Republic of Bulgaria, regardless of its location. The main aim of this law is to create conditions for sustainable development of its conservation policy and ensuring equal access for citizens to cultural values, in accordance with the following principles:

1. equality of the different cultural heritage in the implementation of its protection;
2. decentralization of the management and financing of cultural heritage conservation activities;
3. publicity and transparency in the management of cultural heritage conservation activities;

Other laws related with museums in Bulgaria:

- Law for the Protection and Development of Culture

/Prom., SG, no. 50 of 1.06.1999, amend. no 1 of 4.01.2000, issue no. 34 of 6.04.2001, amend. no 75 of 2.08.2002, in force since 2.08.2002, no. 55 of 25.06.2004, in force since 1.01.2005, no. 28 of 1.04.2005, in force since 1.04.2005, supplemented, no 74 of 13.09.2005, in force since 14.10.2005, amended. and supplements, no. 93 of 22.11.2005, amended, no. 99 of 9.12.2005, in force since 10.01.2006, no. 103 of 23.12.2005, no. 21 of 10.03.2006, no. 41 of 19.05.2006, amend. and supplements, no. 106 of 27.12.2006, amended, no. 84 of 19.10.2007, no. 19 of 13.03.2009, in force since 10.04.2009, supplemented, 42 of 5.06.2009, amended, no. 74 of 15.09.2009, in force since 15.09.2009, supplemented, 13 of 16.02.2010, amended, no. 50 of 2.07.2010, no. 97 of 10.12.2010, in force since 10.12.2010, no. 25 of 25.03.2011, in force since 25.03.2011, supplemented, no 54 of 15.07.2011, amend. and supplements, no. 77 of 9.10.2012, no. 102 of 21.12.2012, in force since 01.01.2013, amend. no 15 of 15.02.2013, in force since 01.01.2014, no. 68 of 2.08.2013, in force since 2.08.2013, supplemented, no 96 of 9.12.2015, in force since 1.01.2016, amended, no. 16 of 26.02.2016, in force since 26.02.2016. Library Laws - APIS, item. 4, p. 3, no. 350/.

- Law on Measurement

/In force since 23.12.2005. Prom. SG. no. 103 of 23 December 2005, amend. SG. no. 30 of April 11, 2006, amend. SG. no 34 of 25 April 2006, amend. SG. no. 63 of 4 August 2006, amended. SG. no 109 of December 20, 2007, amend. SG. no 42 of 5 June, 2009, amend. and supplement SG. no. 20 of 9 March, 2012, Am. SG. no. 95 of 8 December 2015/.

- Law for the National Donation Fund "13 Centuries Bulgaria".

/Prom., SG, no. 12 of 9.02.2001, amend. and supplement, no. 32 of 12.04.2005, amended, no. 94 of 25.11.2005, in force since 25.11.2005, amended. and supplement, no. 113 of 28.12.2007, in force since 1.01.2008, supplemented, no. 42 of 5.06.2009, amended, no. 74 of 15.09.2009, in force since 15.09.2009, no. 97 of 10.12.2010, in force since 10.12.2010, no. 68 of 2.08.2013, in force since 2.08.2013. Collection of Laws - APIS, vol. 3/2001, p. 7; n. 5/2005, p. 81. Library Laws - APIS, item 4, p. 3, № 650/.

Categories used regarding Type of Collection

Depending on the type of their collection, museums are distributed into two categories in terms of their thematic scope:

1. General: whose activity thematically covers different fields of knowledge and art and it is based on different cultural values included in their basic fund;
2. Specialized: whose activity covers an area of knowledge or art, a distinct part of it or a separate theme of social development or nature and it is carried out on the basis of cultural values included in its basic fund, which according to their classification determine its thematic scope.

In terms of the research and cultural field to which they pertain, movable cultural values shall be:

1. Archaeological: movable objects discovered in the ground, on its surface or underwater, and testifying to epochs and civilisations studied by archaeology;
2. Ethnographic: movable objects testifying to the lifestyle and work, traditions, customs, rituals, beliefs and craftsmanship, which enable the study of the ethnic characteristics and changes in the tangible and intangible culture;
3. Historical: movable objects related to historic landmark events and personalities;
4. Artistic: works of fine arts in all their techniques and varieties, including philatelic specimens;
5. Natural: specimens of the flora, fauna, palaeontologic and mineral formations;
6. Technical: products of technical culture;
7. General;
8. Other: Archives: documents of cultural and scientific importance, regardless of the time, location, medium and technique of their execution; Script: manuscript cultural values dating before the end of the 18th century, old printed rare and valuable editions of scientific, cultural, polygraphic or bibliographic importance; Literary: documentary and physical cultural values related to the overall history of literature.

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

By form of ownership, museums can be state, municipal, private and mixed:

1. The state museums are established and carry out their activities on the basis of provided by country cultural values, building stock and annual state subsidy;
2. The municipal museums are established and carry out their activities on the basis of provided by the municipality cultural values, buildings and are financed by the municipal budget;
3. Private museums are created and financed by natural legal persons on the basis of legally acquired movable cultural values;
4. The country and municipalities may establish museums with mixed participation jointly or with natural or legal persons. These museums are cultural organizations within the meaning of the Law on Protection and Development of Culture, registered according the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act for carrying out activity in public benefit - museum activity;

Existing Data – Basic Figures and Diagrams

Every year, at the end of the survey NSI disseminate a press release related with the „Annual statistical surveys in the field of culture in Bulgaria”, which includes data on the museums (<http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4526/culture>).

The statistical data are published on the NSI website, information system „Infostat“ and general statistical publication „Book publishing and Press“. You can find metadata and methodology on the following link (<http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4526/culture>); the information system "Infostat": (https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=36) and the specialized publication „Book publishing and Press“: (<http://www.nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/publications/BookP2015.pdf>).

List of References

<http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4655/museums>
<http://mc.government.bg/page.php?p=289&s=0&sp=0&t=0&z=0>