

Poland

Report by

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Introduction - Key Issues

Polish statistics data are collected by the state statistical bureau - Main Statistics Office (Główny Urząd Statystyczny - GUS). This institution is the only official body, which is obliged and authorised to collect statistical data. Every year all the museums (institutions which are registered in the state or local authority registers as cultural institutions or are in the statutes of other institutions, as for instance Universities, church or other organisations, or registered in the tax offices as a private enterprises, but whose statutes are accepted by the Minister of Culture) are obliged to fill statistic forms, which includes several questions to be answered. The producing of false data in the forms is prosecuted by the law. Among all the data, which are collected this way there is no data describing the budgets of museums. GUS doesn't ask for any data concerning the museum finances therefore there is no official statistics concerning the museum budgets and the way they are set up. Respectively we have no information concerning the museum expenditures. We may find some data depicting general expenditures of state and local authorities for museums and conservation of historic monuments (including those of artistic values). Next information which is missing in Polish museum statistics are the data connected with the museum staff qualifications. We may have information on the number of younger or senior museum employees (for instance - curators) but there is no information what kind of academic degrees or professional certificates they have.

Although Polish museum categorisation is very similar to the UNESCO's one, such institutions as zoological and botanical gardens, theme parks or natural reserves are considered as „paramuseum institutions” and are not included to the museum statistics.

There is the law of the tax benefits for the museum donors but these concessions are very limited. In fact the regulation, which allowed to withdraw 15% of the value of the donation from the income before taxation, was changed from the beginning of this year and now any donations for museums gives no right for any concessions or tax reductions, unless museum is not registered as an institution of the public benefit. In this case the private sponsor may reduce they annual income before taxation by 350 zł (ca. 80 Euro) and the institutions may do the same by 10% of the total value of annual donation. It seems to be clear, that such a law doesn't encouraging the potential donors or sponsors.

Definition of Museum

Articles 1 and 2 of the Polish Museum Law define the museum as an institution and its objectives:

Article 1 outlines the fundamental purpose of a museum as a non-profit organisation. The issues of monument protection and provision of information on cultural assets are addressed as well as the dissemination of knowledge on the cultural and scientific significance of (world-wide) cultural assets.

Article 2: A museum is to meet the objectives outlined in article 1.1 in the following way:

1. acquisition in accordance with museum laws
2. documentation and scientific processing of collections
3. maintenance of collections with regard to restorative, scientific and security-technical aspects
4. protection and preservation of monuments and archaeological findings
5. organisation of exhibitions
6. organisation of execution of scientific research projects
7. education
8. making the collection available for scientific research and education
9. facilitation of visit to the museum
10. publication of materials.

Existence of Museum- related Laws

A museum law has been in force in Poland since January 1997.

This law establishes the legal basis for museums as well as their funding and their legally responsible agency. On the basis of this law, it is possible to set up a museum in Poland if the applicant has a set of museum statutes approved by the Ministry of Culture, and if sufficient long-term financing is guaranteed. The issue of financing has its difficulties in the fact that a guarantee for long-term funding cannot be assumed; moreover, while museums are able to accept donations and gifts, these are not entitled to tax benefits under Polish law. In addition, the state cannot directly finance museums that are run by regional authorities (Woywodships).

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Categories used regarding Type of Collection

The categorization of museums is in accordance with the UNESCO classification, except that memorial museums are treated separately because of their particular significance.

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

In Polish statistics there are two categories of museum ownership: public (state and local authorities of three different levels), and private (museums owned by co-operatives, social and political institutions, trade unions, churches, foundations, private persons and so on).

Existing Data - Basic Figures and Diagrams

Museums in Poland. 2002 - Museum statistics (compilation by M.B.)

Museums by types of the organisers 2000/2002

	Museums	Items	Visitors (in thousands)	Among them school children	free visits
Total	632/ 661	13092/ 13221	16612/ 15259	6534/ 5541	4792/ 4659
Public	541/ 559	12834/ 12908	14896/ 13352	5970/ 4798	4414/ 4012
Among them					
State:	90/ 59	4690/ 2371	6210/ 4050	1979/ 1143	1870/ 1182
Local					
Authorities:	451/ 466	8133/ 8076	8686/ 8023	3991/ 3284	2544/ 2455
Private	91/ 102	269/ 313	1716/ 1908	567/ 743	377/ 647
Among them					
Organisations:	37/ 37	80/ 102	683/ 874	209/ 323	55/ 47
Church	24/ 25	51/ 55	650/ 554	180/ 241	217/ 465
Others	30/ 40	137/ 157	384/ 480	178/ 179	104/ 135

Museums by type	1980	1990	1995	1998	2000	2002	2000/2002 Change
Total:	427	563	589	613	632	661	+29
Art	50	72	78	74	76	84	+8
Archaeology	18	16	13	14	12	13	+1
Ethnography	22	36	41	40	44	47	+3
History	52	77	88	99	102	109	+7
Biography	36	51	49	49	49	47	-2
Martyrdom	16	18	18	20	19	19	0
Natural science	20	30	29	34	34	41	+7
Technology	11	23	29	28	31	33	+2
Regional	147	164	169	177	184	186	+2
Others	...	...	...	78	81	82	+1
Collections (Items in thousands)	1980	1990	1995	1998	2000	2002	2000/2002 change
Total	7678	12274	13838	14663	13092	13221	+129
Art	1287	1621	1702	1695	1828	1858	+30
Archaeology	1706	2582	3056	3258	1374	1423	+49
Ethnography	495	693	690	803	614	628	+14
History	867	1755	2064	2285	1571	1389	-182
Biography	...	...	...	...	76	74	-2
Martyrdom	...	...	...	...	213	203	-10
Natural science	813	2820	3168	3240	2644	3137	+493
Technology	67	93	106	127	134	141	+7
Regional	...	...	...	...	1644	1673	+29
Others	...	...	...	...	2996	2696	-300

Exhibitions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2001/2002 Change
Temporary in the museum	2317	2264	2543	2559	+16
Temporary abroad	94	107	133	121	-12
Travelling from Polish museums	1065	1126	1185	1222	+37
Travelling from abroad	196	145	192	188	-4

Visits	1980	1990	1995	1998	2000	2002
Total (in thousands)	20079	19282	17060	18576	16612	15259
Among them school children	5190	7255	6547	6878	6537	5541

