

2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

1. IDENTIFICATION

- The Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO
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2. HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

With the purpose to enhance society's comprehension of the World Heritage sites in Lithuania and in order to celebrate anniversaries of inscription of four properties on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania announced the year 2020 as the UNESCO World Heritage Year in Lithuania. Despite many restrictions related to the global pandemic, most of the important projects dedicated to this celebration were successfully converted into digital format and adjusted to online access. The Commission has conducted a wide communication campaign of this celebration on digital platforms and social media. An interactive exhibition *Lithuanian properties on UNESCO lists and registers* in cooperation with the students of Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts was installed in the gallery of the Commission. An exhaustive educational programme complemented this exposition, and two documentaries on the Curonian Spit and Kernavė Archaeological Site were produced. As one of the goals of the Year of UNESCO World Heritage in Lithuania was to increase interest in the properties, expand knowledge of the World Heritage Convention and its importance, the Commission together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the National Agency for Education developed a cycle of online lessons for upper secondary school children.

3. OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Despite the setbacks imposed by the unprecedented pandemic of Covid-19, the Commission managed to achieve most of its goals set the year before.

The Commission proceeded with the preparation of the nomination of Kaunas modernism architecture. Particularly relevant its contribution in this regard was organizing collaboration with the international experts.

The Commission continued its active involvement in the different processes related to the renewal of national legislation, strategies and programme to better align with the SDGs in the education field contributing to the process of enacting the renewed Guidelines for the Curricula Revision (2019), which set the Lithuanian general education system on a way to curriculum reform.

The Commission also took part in the model monitoring exercise of the Recommendation for Science and Scientific Researchers, which will set the line for the format of the worldwide periodic monitoring.

Also, the Commission renewed the composition of the National Memory of the World Committee after the ending of its previous term, elected its Chairperson and set its action guidelines for the next term of 4 years, as well as updated the Regulations of the National Memory of the World Register.

In 2019–2020 the Commission coordinated the work of the inter-institutional working group established by the Ministry of Culture. This group was responsible for the elaboration of the quadrennial periodic report on the implementation of the 2005 Convention. The report represents a wide scope of activities on cultural policies, partnerships with civil society, digital environment, mobility of artists, flow of cultural goods and services, sustainable development, preferential treatment, gender equality and artistic freedom implemented by governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Also, the Commission organized the online seminar *The intangible cultural heritage and NGO's in Lithuania and Sweden. What possibilities?* The aim of it was to exchange good practices of NGOs' functioning. A key presentation *From a story around the fire to UNESCO* was made by Meg Nömgård on the development of the Swedish NGO *Storytelling Network of Kronoberg*.

The Commission accomplished the elaboration of the database and website www.kryzdirbysteskelias.lt on the Lithuanian Cross-crafting, the element inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008.

In order to draw greater attention of scientific community to the issues of World Heritage, and to initiate discussions on climate change and sustainable development, an online international scientific conference *Common heritage – common knowledge: cultural landscape of the Curonian Spit in the past and at present* was organized together with the Kuršių Nerija National Park Directorate and other partners – Neringa Municipality and Neringa Museum.

4. FUTURE PRIORITIES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT WORK

The programme of the UNESCO World Heritage Year in Lithuania has prompted new initiatives for the fruitful inter-institutional collaboration to be continued next year in order to enhance management and safeguarding of the World Heritage properties, as well as widen the possibilities for their recognition.

In 2021, the Commission is planning reforms in the National Network of UNESCO ASPnet by recharging the network and transmitting the coordination.

Also, the Commission is planning to prepare a travelling exhibition on the Tatar minority living in Lithuania *Centuries-old marks in Celebrations and Memory of Lithuanian Tatars*.

It will also continue involvement in the drafting process of the UNESCO Recommendation on Ethical Aspects related to AI.

Activities on science for society, lectures, discussions, workshops for pupils in the frame of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Fellowship Programme are planned for the year to come.

The Commission is also planning to initiate a new cycle of inscribing new objects of documentary heritage on the Lithuanian National Memory of the World Register as this programme gains popular acclaim on the national scale. Also, there is a plan to issue a digital catalogue representing all the objects inscribed on the National MoW Register.