

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LITHUANIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO 2017

1. IDENTIFICATION

- The Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO
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2. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN 2017

In 2017, the National Commission in cooperation with the Association of Non-formal Youth Education reorganized the national network of the Associated Schools and expanded the project “Integrating Open Badge Standard in ASPnet Schools in Lithuania” aimed at introducing the non-formal education achievement recognition system. The methodology was made available in English and distributed to the International Coordinator of the UNESCO ASPnet.

In 2017 Kaunas modernism architecture “Kaunas 1919-1939: The Capital Inspired by the Modern Movement” was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. The Commission together with the experts continuously proceeds its participation in preparation a nomination to the WHL. An international exhibition “Architecture of Optimism: Kaunas phenomenon, 1918-1940” is going to be displayed in Paris (UNESCO HQ), Rome, Tallinn, Wrocław, Brussels.

During 2017, the Commission coordinated an inter-institutional working group, which collected, shared and exchanged the data on the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. After the submission of the periodic report to UNESCO it is also foreseen to elaborate a set of recommendations to be addressed to the Ministry of Culture and other organizations concerned in 2018.

For the 20th anniversary of Lithuania’s participation in the Memory of the World Programme the Commission together with the National MoW Committee, Polish Institute in Vilnius and other state institutions organized a ceremony of inscribing 5 new objects to the National MoW Register and a seminar for Lithuanian and Polish representatives of memory institutions. The speakers and participants of the seminar have prepared the Recommendations concerning the cooperation between Lithuanian and Polish institutions.

This year also witnessed inscription of Polish-Lithuanian joint nomination „The Act of the Union of Lublin document (1569)“ on the International MoW Register.

3. ONE SUCCESS STORY



Capacity Building Seminar for World Heritage site managers

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The Commission with collaboration of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre implemented the sub-regional *Capacity Building Seminar for World Heritage site managers* held in Vilnius on 18–20th of October, 2017.

The seminar was led by international experts – Dr. Christopher Young, Dr. Britta Rudolff, Mr Steffan Wessman, Ms Burcu Özdemir and Mr Richard Veillon, and attended by site managers and representatives of the world heritage properties of Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania.

The idea of the seminar was to bring a particular attention of the importance of site manager's role in implementing the World Heritage Convention and to work on stronger consolidation between the procedural world heritage protection system and site managers, who safeguard outstanding universal value and constitute the World Heritage Convention *in situ*. Special focus of the seminar was on strengthening site managers' abilities to consolidate their institutional and social position, specifying determination of their functions, role, competences, responsibilities, and developing of their skills on cooperation, communication.

The final document of the seminar – Recommendations on the World Heritage Site Manager's Role, Functions and Competences was prepared and submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM for consideration towards better implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

4. FUTURE PRIORITIES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT WORK

After the successful organization of the sub-regional *Capacity Building Seminar for World Heritage site managers* held in Vilnius the Commission finds it highly meaningful to develop a regular regional partnership and cooperation in the field of conservation, management and sustainable development issues of the World Heritage, especially fostering a new approaches based on the 2011 Historic Urban Landscapes Recommendation into the national policies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage.

In 2018 the Commission is planning to organize an international conference “Modernism for future. Mapping early modernities (1919-1939): architecture of Central and Eastern Europe“ dedicated to Kaunas’ modernism architecture and its diversity, interactions, similarities and individual faces. The conference will discuss the experience of modernism interpretations in the context of European heritage. Particular attention will be paid to the determination of the universal value of Kaunas modernism, its comparative analysis.

In 2018 the National Commission is interested in sharing the experience on application of the non-formal education achievement recognition system based on open badges platform in other states and the worldwide ASpnet.

In 2018 the National Commission is going to organize the travelling exhibition dedicated to celebrate Józef Czechowicz’s the 200th birth anniversary associated with UNESCO (submitted by Lithuania, with the support of Belarus, Latvia, Poland and Ukraine). The exhibition will represent the works of an outstanding photographer of the 19th c., a member of the French Photographic Society, who documented the landscapes and cities in Lithuania, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. The exhibition will be held at the headquarters of UNESCO in 3-7 December 2018.