

2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

1. IDENTIFICATION

- The Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO
- Chairperson: Prof. Jonas Ruškus
- Secretary-General: Mrs Asta Junevičienė
- lietuva@unesco.lt
- www.unesco.lt

2. ONE SUCCESS STORY

In 2019-2020, the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO in partnership with the Vilnius Ethnic Culture Centre has been implementing a pilot project “The Catalogue of Non-governmental Organisations of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Vilnius County”. It is financed by the Lithuanian Council for Culture. The project was initiated with the objective to encourage the sector of non-governmental organizations (professional unions, associations, folklore groups, local communities, charity and support foundations, other societal organizations and entities), active in the field of intangible cultural heritage, to share information, search for partnerships for national and international projects. An electronic database (<https://www.nematerialuspaveldasnvo.lt/>) provides information in Lithuanian and English languages on the NGOs in 8 municipalities of the Vilnius county. In 2019, during the first stage of the project 85 organizations joined the database, introduced themselves as well as listed some previously implemented projects or activities (educational activities or workshops, trainings, traditional festivities, celebrations, events, etc). The database provides the tool of NGO’s search according to the title, location and field of activity.

In 2020, during the second stage of the project it is foreseen to organize a meeting for both registered and not registered organizations with the purpose to encourage those, who are active in the field of intangible cultural heritage, to join the shared platform, create networks, associations uniting organizations of the same field and with similar objectives. After the final event the database will be further administrated by the Vilnius Ethnic Culture Centre which will take the responsibility to update the database and organize annual meetings of NGOs. It is expected that this pilot project will stimulate creating similar databases in other Lithuanian counties.

3. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2019

The Commission together with the National Memory of the World Committee organized the procedures of selecting and a ceremony for inscribing six new objects of national documentary heritage into the National Memory of the World Register. The official ceremony took place on the 20th of September on the occasion of the European Year of Cultural Heritage held at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library together with the opening of an exposition.

On the 6th of May, the Commission welcomed a new UNESCO Chair on Media and Information Literacy for Inclusive Knowledge Societies at the Vytautas Magnus University, Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy.

The Commission continued cooperation with the Lithuanian Association of Non-formal Learning on further introducing the Open Badge standard in new learning environments, as the Global Network of Learning Cities. In 2019, the Vilnius City of Learning was created and the model presented at the 4th Conference of the Global Network in Colombia.

The Commission was actively involved in the process of drawing the Guidelines for the Curricula Revision (published in 2019), which set the Lithuanian general education system on a way to curriculum reform. In a broader scope, the relevance of education to holistic, inclusive, just and sustainable development is promoted in line with Sustainable Development Goals and Education 2030 /SDG4 in particular.

The Commission continued taking an active role in the preparation of the nomination file of Kaunas modernism architecture and together with Kaunas city municipality organised a significant international modern cities forum „From Modern to Contemporary: Practices in Preserving Architectural Legacy of the 20th Century, based on Tel Aviv Document for the Modern Cities”, held on the 12-13th of September. It brought together modernism experts to stimulate discussions about protection, conservation and management of modern legacy inscribed on World Heritage list, referring the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, SDGs and New Urban Agenda.

4. FUTURE PRIORITIES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT WORK

In 2020, the Commission is planning to further the national ASPnet in cooperation with National Agency for Education by planning common activities and discussion on possible transmission of coordination. The Nordic-Baltic sub-regional conference on the quality of education in cooperation with the Nordic Council of Ministers is planned to be held in autumn, resulting in long-term expertise networks and reporting platforms.

It will also continue involvement in the L'Oréal-UNESCO Fellowship Programme by planning activities on science for society, lectures, discussions, workshops for pupils.

In order to celebrate the National Year of UNESCO Heritage in Lithuania the Commission will develop a unanimous publicity programme and coordinate its implementation. An interactive exhibition in cooperation with the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts is to be installed in the gallery of the Commission. An exhaustive programme of educational events will complement this exposition.

Also, the Commission is planning to renew the National Memory of the World Committee, elect its Chairperson and set its action guidelines for the next term of 4 years.