

ACTIVITY REPORT 2004

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

1. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO ACTIVITIES

In 2004 Lithuania was an active participant in UNESCO activities. During the 32nd session of the General Conference held in autumn 2003 the Republic of Lithuania was elected member of the following complementary managing bodies of UNESCO: the World Heritage Committee and Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation. Lithuania follow up its participation in the activities of Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation in Cairo and International Bureau of Education. Moreover, for a second time in a row our country held chairmanship of 2nd electoral group in the second half of 2004.

The Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO (hereinafter – the National Commission) has closely co-operated with the UNESCO Secretariat. Its successful and active participation was determined by a close cooperation between the National Commission and the Permanent Delegation of Lithuania to UNESCO. This cooperation is best reflected in the joint visit of ambassadors of the UNESCO member states to Lithuania from 21 to 26 May 2004 and the exhibition titled Lithuanian Word in the Crossroad of History in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 19 to 29 October.

1.1. Visits of UNESCO official authorities to Lithuania.

In 2004 Lithuania was paid visits by a significant number of UNESCO officials or specialists.

The Digitizing Intangible Cultural Heritage Intensive training session that was organised by the Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre from 16 to 20 March 2004 was conducted by UNESCO experts: research fellow of the Department of Linguistics and Phonetics of Lund University M.Uneson and Technical Director of Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics P.Wittenburg.

The *Regional Seminar on Training in Research Ethics* that was organised by the Lithuanian Bioethics Committee and the Council of Europe from 24 to 25 May 2004 drew the participation and intervention made by the Head of UNESCO Division of Ethics of Science and Technology Prof. H. Ten Have.

From 28 June to 1 July 2004 Lithuania was paid a visit by UNESCO Good Will Ambassador C. Owen-Jones and UNESCO Chair in Communication and Information A.Bousquillon de Jenlis as well as French journalists E.Collomb and G.Bassignac. The purpose of the visit was to gain insights into the HIV/AIDS situation in Lithuania and to draft proposals to UNESCO on HIV/AIDS policy in the region of Eastern and Central Europe. During the visit the guests met President of the Republic, UNESCO Good Will Ambassador Valdas Adamkus.

On 18 August 2004 Lithuania was paid a visit by ICOMOS expert Prof. W. J.H. Willems and Mr. Tatila, leader of the working group preparing Struvė Geodetic Arc for inscription on the World Heritage List. During the visit the guests assessed the conformity of geodetic marks of Struvė Geodetic Arc nominated by Lithuania to the standards applicable to the World Heritage List.

From 24 to 27 August 2004 Lithuania was paid a visit by ICOMOS expert V.Dvoržakova who came on UNESCO request for a fact-finding mission to Trakai Historical National Park to learn about its management and preservation plans. The Trakai Historical National Park has been nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List.

From 11 to 17 September 2004 Vilnius was visited by programme specialist of the UNESCO Intangible Heritage Division A.Minasian. She took part in the first meeting of the supervisory committee for the safeguard and revitalisation of cross-crafting tradition to discuss the issues of establishing an inventory of intangible cultural heritage and an action plan for safeguarding and revitalization of cross-crafting tradition.

On 13 September 2004 the opening ceremony of UNESCO-supported Regional Bioethics Information Centre at the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University and national discussions on the draft Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics was attended by UNESCO Assistant Director General for Social and Humanitarian Sciences P.Sané, Head of UNESCO Division of Ethics of Science and Technology Prof. H.Ten Have, UNESCO Programme Specialist of the Bioethics Section of the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology Sabina Colombo, UNESCO Communication Officer at Communication, Information and Publications Executive Office of the Sector of Social and Human Sciences J.Blom, UNESCO Assistant Director for the Regional Office in Moscow E.Saliagina, member of UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (IBC) M.Jean, member of COMEST (Ethics of Science and Technology Commission) J.E.Fenstad.

From 15 to 19 September 2004 Lithuania was paid a visit by UNESCO Programme Specialist in Primary Education of the Education Sector M.Dada. He participated in Vilnius conference *Europe and HIV/AIDS: New Challenges, New Opportunities*.

From 24 to 26 November 2004, at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture, Vilnius was visited by ICOMOS members M.Ehrström and H.-J. Roald. From 5 to 7 December – ICOMOS member R.Bondin also paid a visit to Lithuania. The experts visited the Old Town of Vilnius and assessed the draft detailed plan of Vilnius Old Town.

1.2. Other activities

Lithuanian representatives are actively involved in the elaboration of UNESCO legal acts. In 2004 the central focus was given to the elaboration of draft Convention on Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Content and Artistic Expression (hereinafter – cultural diversity) and draft International Convention Against Doping in Sport. These conventions are planned for adoption during the 33rd session of UNESCO General Conference scheduled in autumn 2005.

The National Commission was an active contributor to the organisation of the visit of ambassadors of the UNESCO member states to Lithuania from 21 to 26 May 2004. For Ambassadors from eighteen countries of the world this visit was a first acquaintance with Lithuania, which made this visit an important opportunity to present the possibilities of cultural tourism of our country, one of the new entrants into the European Union. Lithuania was visited by Ambassadors of the Dominican Republic, the Ivory Coast, the Philippines Republic, Jamaica, Japan, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Kuwait, the Order of Malta, Oman, Portugal, France and Switzerland, staff of permanent delegations to UNESCO from Brazil, Eritrea, Peru and the Sudan, and UNESCO Director of the Division of Arts and Cultural Enterprise T.Fernández de Toledo. During the visit the guests gained insights into the items of the World Heritage – Vilnius Old Town, the Curonian Spit, Kernavė Archeological Site and the cross-crafting tradition which has been recognised as a masterpiece of human oral and intangible cultural heritage (an exhibition in the M.K.Čiurlionis National Museum of Art in Kaunas was also visited). In addition, the guests paid a visit to Trakai (Lithuania has nominated Trakai for inscription on the World Heritage List), the open-air ethnographical museum in Rumšiškės, old towns of Kaunas and Klaipėda, and had a lengthy visit of Panemunė Regional Park. The guests met President of the Republic, UNESCO Good Will Ambassador Valdas Adamkus, as well as other competent public officials of the Republic of Lithuania and mayors of Lithuanian towns.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF UNESCO

2.1. UNESCO Participation Programme

Lithuania participates in the UNESCO Participation Programme by way of proposing for funding projects selected by the National Commission. Lithuania falls within a group of countries which are allocated around 100 thousand USD for biannual projects.

For 2004-2005 Lithuania has submitted six projects to be funded under this Programme, all of which have been granted funding. These are the following:

- (1) Access to Information and Knowledge for Youth with Disabilities. Odysseus (the aim of the project is to install a centre of competence in Vilnius University Library for students with disabilities and other library visitors). Implemented by Vilnius University Library. Allocation of 26 thousand USD;
- (2) Photo-Documentary Exhibition Lithuanian Word at the Crossroad of History (to commemorate 100 anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuanian Press in the Latin Alphabet) was displayed from 18 to 28 October 2004 in Paris. It was implemented by the National Commission and the Permanent Delegation of Lithuania to UNESCO. Allocation of 10 thousand USD;
- (3) Programme for Reviving Traditional Female Craft: Folk Textile. Implemented by the Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre. Allocation of 20 thousand USD;
- (4) Education for Sustainable Development. A Bio-Cultural Perspective. Implemented by Faculty of Nature of Vilnius University. Allocation of 20 thousand USD;
- (5) Development of the Lithuanian Network of UNESCO Associated Schools. Implemented by the National Commission. Allocation of 15 thousand USD.
- (6) Project of Inclusion of the Žuvintas Wetland into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves within the framework of UNESCO Programme Man and Biosphere (MAB). Implemented by the Lithuanian Nature Fund. Allocation of 20 thousand USD.

In total, UNESCO has allocated 111 thousand USD to finance the proposed Lithuanian projects under the Participation Programme for 2004-2005.

2.2. Other support by UNESCO

In 2004 UNESCO has additionally allocated financial support to the following Lithuanian projects:

1. Project World Heritage in Young Hands. Publication of Educational Resource Kit and Seminars for Lithuanian Teachers. 5 thousand USD;
2. Establishment of Regional Bioethics Information Centre was allocated 40 thousand USD;
3. Project Great Volga River Route – 1,6 thousand USD.

In total, the projects submitted by Lithuania have been allocated 46,6 thousand USD from the UNESCO Regular Budget of 2004.

On 27 February 2004, following the signature of Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the project on Safeguarding and Revitalization of Lithuanian Cross-Crafting and its Symbolism, the Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre received 45,8 thousand USD from the Japanese Trust Fund for project implementation.

2.3. Other financial support

Upon recommendation of the National Commission, the private foundation of Great Britain the Headley Trust has granted financial support to St. Francis of Assisi Church (Bernardines).

2.4. Workshops, seminars, expert meetings

- From 19 to 23 January 2004 employee of the Department of Physical Education and Sports K.Tiesnesytė and Director of the Anti-doping Agency under the Lithuanian Olympic Sports Centre I.Lukošiūtė participated in the first intergovernmental meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris to discuss the draft International Convention Against Doping in Sport.
- From 28 to 30 January 2004 the 55th session of the Board of UNESCO International Bureau for Education took place in Geneva, which drew participation of Under-secretary of the Ministry of Education and Science A.Puodžiukas and Adviser to the Minister of Education and Science V.Vėbraitė.
- On 26 and 27 February 2004, President of the Republic, UNESCO Good Will Ambassador Valdas Adamkus participated in the Annual Meeting of UNESCO Good Will Ambassadors in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
- From 1 to 7 March 2004 Secretary General of the National Commission A.Dirmaitė participated in the Tbilisi meeting of Secretaries General of the National Commissions for UNESCO of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia to discuss the UNESCO Programme Cooperation Between the South Caucasus and the Baltic States.
- From 10 to 14 March 2004 Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO A.Dirmaitė participated in the Prague meeting of Secretaries General of the National Commissions for UNESCO of the group of Central European countries;
- On 24 and 25 March 2004 Riga hosted a meeting of the Baltic Working Group responsible for the preparation of the file for the nomination of Song and Dance Celebration to discuss further actions and cooperation in order to safeguard the tradition of Song and Dance Celebration in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- On 1 April 2004 President of the Republic, UNESCO Good Will Ambassador Valdas Adamkus participated in a discussion session of the Intergovernmental Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) held in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on the promotion of pluralism and sound management through the development of mass media.
- From 6 to 9 May 2004 the meeting on European human rights and civil education in schools in Leyden was attended by R.Morkūnienė, Assistant Head Teacher of UNESCO Associated School – Šiauliai Didždvaris Gymnasium.
- From 9 to 14 May 2004 employee of the Department of Physical Education and Sports K.Tiesnesytė and Director of the Anti-doping Agency under the Lithuanian Olympic Sports Centre I.Lukošiūtė participated in the second intergovernmental meeting in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris to discuss the draft International Convention Against Doping in Sport.
- From 16 to 19 May 2004 Nantes hosted *World Forum on Human Rights* which was attended by UNESCO Chair on Culture of Peace and Democracy Prof. J.Morkūnienė.
- From 3 to 6 June 2004 Warsaw hosted European Congress on cultural diversity. In this congress Lithuania was represented by Adviser to the Minister of Culture R.Makselis and Programme Co-ordinator of the Secretariat of the National Commission M.Paškauskaitė.
- From 19 to 23 June 2004 the conference and consultations of the National Commissions for UNESCO of the European and North American region took place in Zurich to discuss UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2006–2007, which was attended by Secretary General of the National Commission A.Dirmaitė.
- From 28 June to 7 July 2004 the town of Suzhou (China) hosted the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee which was attended by Lithuanian Ambassador

I.Marčiulionytė, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Environment A.Spruogis, cultural heritage expert A.Bėkšta and natural heritage expert G.Raščius.

- From 1 to 4 July 2004 the Estonian Song and Dance Celebration took place in Tallinn. On this occasion a meeting took place of the Baltic Coordinating Committee on Safeguarding and Revitalization of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition and Baltic states experts of song and dance celebrations.
- From 10 to 27 July 2004 Suzdal (Russia) hosted international summer courses for young artists and musicians which were attended by alumni of the traditional Slavic musical school J.Morozova and G.Rudaitytė together with head teacher I.Zacharova.
- On 8 August 2004 Tallinn hosted the 22nd Nordic conference of hydrologists on *Management of Freshwater Resources* which was attended by Head of the Land Reclamation Department of the Lithuanian University of Agriculture Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. Povilaitis and employee of the hydrology laboratory of the Lithuanian Energy Institute Dr. J.Kriaučiūnienė.
- From 5 to 11 September 2004 the annual advisory committee meeting of ICOMOS in Bergen was attended by Chairperson of the Lithuanian National ICOMOS Committee G.Miknevičienė.
- On 6 September 2004 President of the Republic, UNESCO Good Will Ambassador Valdas Adamkus, and Ambassador I.Marčiulionytė participated in UNESCO Conference *New Ignorances, New Literacies – Learning to Live Together in a Globalising World* that was held in Barcelona at the same time as the *World Culture Forum Barcelona 2004*. President of the Republic made a speech during the conference.
- From 6 to 18 September 2004 traditional summer courses were organised by UNESCO, Polish National Commission for UNESCO and Zamocz Municipality in the town of Zamocz, having as its theme Cultural Tourism: Promotion and Management of Heritage Sites. These courses were attended by President of the Lithuanian Tourism Association Dr. K.Ambrozaitis.
- From 8 to 11 September 2004 the international conference organised by the International Bureau for Education took place in Geneva which was attended by Adviser to the President on Educational Matters V.Vėbraitė and Head of the Basic and Secondary Education Division of the Ministry of Education and Science Dr. L.Žadeikaitė.
- From 17 to 20 September 2004 Barcelona hosted the announcement ceremony of winners of MONDIALOGUE, the joint global project initiated by UNESCO and Daimler Chrysler, which was attended by teacher of Šilutė Vydūnas Gymnasium L.Kučinskienė and school student Ž.Gaidamauskas.
- From 20 to 25 September 2004 UNESCO Headquarters in Paris hosted the first meeting of intergovernmental experts on the draft UNESCO Convention on Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Content and Artistic Expression. The meeting was attended by Adviser to the Minister of Culture R.Makselis.
- On 18 October 2004 Minister of Culture R.Žakaitienė, State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture D.Paknytė and Under-secretary of the Ministry of Culture D.Numgaudis, Secretary General of the National Commission A.Dirmaitė and Programme Co-ordinator of the Secretariat of the National Commission M.Paškauskaitė paid an official visit to Paris.
- From 19 to 26 October 2004 a meeting of national coordinators of the project Great Volga River Route took place in Kazan. In Kazan Lithuania was represented by A.Mikalauskienė, teacher of Jonava basic school of R.Samulevičius, and teacher of Šiauliai Didždvaris Gymnasium D.Bukelytė.

- On 29 October 2004 a meeting of the Baltic Coordinating Committee on Safeguarding and Revitalization of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition took place in Riga, at the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO.
- On 5 and 6 November 2004 Riga hosted a preparatory meeting of the coordinating group for the 2005 International Forum *Transmitting Intangible Cultural Heritage: Youth, Education and Development*.
- On 29 and 30 November 2004 international seminar *Children and Forms of Abuse: Complex Strategies and Local Government in Europe* that was held in Paris was attended by senior adviser to the Law Department of the Office of the Seimas A.Jatkevičius.
- From 30 November to 3 December 2004 Vienna hosted international teacher proficiency seminar *Slavery – Yesterday and Today*, which was attended by A.Gailienė, Assistant Head Teacher of Jonava basic school of R.Samulevičius.
- From 6 to 8 December 2004 the 4th international conference at ministerial and high-level officers in charge of physical education and sports (MINEPS) that was held in Athens was attended by Deputy Director General of the Department of Physical Education and Sports A.Raslanas and chief specialist K.Tiesnesytė.

2.5. Research courses, fellowships

In 2004 Asta Mažeikaitė continued her studies at Bournemouth University, UK, under the UNESCO Fellowships Bank Programme.

E.Kačkutė, doctoral student of Vilnius University, Faculty of Philology, was awarded fellowship under UNESCO Fellowships Programme in Support of Priority Areas (2004–2005). E.Kačkutė is studying at Cambridge University (Great Britain).

Assoc. Professor of Vilnius University, Faculty of Philology, Dainora Pociūtė-Abukevičienė was awarded fellowship under UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Fellowships Bank (the sum of 7.500 USD). D.Pociūtė-Abukevičienė is studying in Piza University (Italy).

3. CULTURE

3.1. Intangible cultural heritage

At the outset of 2004, during the annual meeting of UNESCO Good Will Ambassadors which included President of the Republic, UNESCO Good Will Ambassador Valdas Adamkus, Good Will Ambassadors were requested to take under their personal patronage one or two nominated items of intangible cultural heritage. President of the Republic has chosen the Sanskrit theatre of India.

On 9 December 2004 the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania ratified the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

On 5 and 6 November 2004 in Riga, the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO hosted a preparatory meeting of the coordinating group for International Forum *Transmitting Intangible Cultural Heritage: Youth, Education and Development* scheduled to take place from 1 to 4 July 2005 in Riga.

Establishment of a National Inventory and Electronic Database of Lithuanian Intangible Cultural Heritage

From 16 to 20 March 2004 the Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre, in cooperation with UNESCO and the EU Commission's ECHO project (European Cultural Heritage Online), held Digitizing Intangible Cultural Heritage Intensive training session. This training session marked the third stage of the project titled Establishment of a National Inventory and Electronic Database of Lithuanian Intangible Cultural Heritage, launched in 2001.

Cross-crafting tradition

On 27 February 2004, following the signature of Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the project on Safeguarding and Revitalization of Lithuanian Cross-Crafting and its Symbolism, the Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre received 45,8 thousand USD from the Japanese Trust Fund for project implementation. The project funds were disbursed for the acquisition of necessary equipment and materials, expert consultations, set-up of a cross-crafting training centre, establishment of an electronic database of cross-crafting, etc.

The tradition of Song and Dance Celebrations of the Baltic States

In 2004 the meeting of the Baltic working group responsible for the preparation for nomination of the Song and Dance Celebration in Riga concluded in an agreement on the necessity of setting-up the Coordinating Committee on Safeguarding and Revitalization of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition which will replace the Baltic States working group which was preparing the nomination of the Song and Dance Celebration. In addition, it has also been decided to make a draft charter of the Song and Dance Celebration which would define the key features making the tradition of the Song and Dance Celebration so unique. It is intended to submit the draft charter of the Song and Dance Celebrations for approval to the Baltic Assembly.

As part of the commemoration of 80th anniversary of the Lithuanian Song Celebration, a memorial plaque was unveiled at the Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre in tribute of the inscription of the Baltic Song and Dance Celebrations and Cross-Crafting Traditions on the UNESCO List of Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The ceremony of unveiling the memorial plaque was attended by Minister of Culture, Chair of the National Commission R.Žakaitienė.

3.2. 28th session of the World Heritage Committee

From 28 June to 7 July 2004 the town of Suzhou (China) hosted the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee. Since 2003 Lithuania is member of this respectable Committee. With regard to Lithuania's proposal to host the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee in Vilnius in 2006, the decision will be made during the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee that will take place in July in Durban (South African Republic).

3.3. Vilnius Old Town

The historic Vilnius centre (hereinafter – Vilnius Old Town) which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as of 1994 leaves neither experts of the Lithuanian cultural heritage, nor ordinary Lithuanian people, and Vilnius citizens, in particular, indifferent to its uniqueness.

In 2004 the National Commission for UNESCO initiated several meetings for a broad representation of cultural heritage experts, mass media, local communities and international heritage bodies to discuss issues caused by excessive traffic and pollution in Vilnius Old Town. In response to complaints from the Old Town community, a meeting was held on 14 September 2004 between heritage experts, local community representatives and Ambassador I.Marčiulionytė, resulting in an agreement on the necessity to seek consultation of international experts to assess the detailed design draft of Vilnius Old Town.

From 24 to 26 November 2004, at the invitation of the Minister of Culture, Vilnius was visited by ICOMOS members M.Ehrström and H.-J. Roald and from 5 to 7 December – by ICOMOS member R.Bondin. The experts met with cultural heritage experts, representatives of the National Commission for UNESCO, the Lithuanian National ICOMOS Committee, Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency, Vilnius Municipality, local community, and

Ambassador I.Marčiulionytė. The recommendations resulting from the meeting were incorporated in reports submitted to the Ministry of Culture.

In 2004 and 2005 it is necessary to draft a Periodic Report of North America and Europe on the world heritage sites. In December 2004 the first part of the Periodic Report was sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Director of Vilnius Old Town Agency G.Rutkauskas was appointed co-ordinator of the Lithuanian national cultural heritage and leader of the working group in charge of drafting the second part of the Periodic Report. Director of State Protected Area Service and member of the National Commission R.Baškytė retained her post of co-ordinator of the Lithuanian national nature heritage.

3.4. Curonian Spit

During 28th session of the World Heritage Committee a compromise agreement was reached with regard to the issue of operation and imminent hazards posed by D-6 oil platform to the Baltic seashore and Curonian Spit which has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee resolved that, on the basis of the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation had to sign an agreement on environmental impact assessment by 1 February 2005.

However, the National Commission receives regular complaints and expressions of concern from the Lithuanian public over reckless approach of Lithuanian public bodies and Neringa Municipality with regard to Curonian Spit, calling for preservation of unique natural and cultural heritage of Curonian Spit.

On 23 September 2004 the National Commission hosted a meeting to address the preservation issues of Curonian Spit which voiced the concern over threats posed by urbanisation plans. Towards the end of the meeting Film Director and cameraman A.Barysas showed documentary *Amidst 8 Winds [Tarp 8 vėju]* on an almost extinct Curonian language.

3.5. State Cultural Reserve of Kernavė

During the 28th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in July 2004, Kernavė Archaeological Site (Cultural Reserve of Kernavė) was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The official notification from UNESCO on the inscription of Kernavė on the World Heritage List will be submitted in May 2005, during the visit to Lithuania by representatives of the World Heritage Centre.

At the time of preparation of documents and contacts with UNESCO experts who have made the inspection of Kernavė Archaeological Site, the working group which prepared the nomination file as well as the National Commission had no available information on the plans to set-up a landfill in the neighbouring Kazokiškės settlement for handling domestic waste from eight municipalities of Vilnius county. global significance was discussed with President of the Republic Valdas Adamkus; this issue was also covered in other meetings and radio broadcasts.

ICOMOS expert Prof. W.J.H. Willems was briefed on the issue during his visit to Lithuania on 18 August 2004.

3.6. Trakai Historical National Park

In January 2004 the UNESCO World Heritage Centre was submitted the nomination file requesting the inscription of Trakai Historical National Park on the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS expert V.Dvoržakova paid a visit to Lithuania from 24 to 27 August 2004 to inspect the conformity of Trakai Historical National Park to the eligibility standards for inscription on the World Heritage List. V.Dvoržakova visited the territory of the historic

national park, was briefed on its management and regulatory framework aimed to ensure the conservation of the nominated territory. The expert met with representatives of the Ministry of Culture, members of the Lithuanian National ICOMOS Committee, other public officials, members of the Secretariat of the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO.

The ICOMOS expert underlined that, in view of the urbanistic heritage of the Soviet period, it is necessary to verify the boundaries of the nominated territory and to focus on the surviving northern part of Trakai Historic National Park which has preserved the highest authenticity and uniqueness of the cultural landscape, etc. The revised and modified nomination file was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2005, in which Trakai Historical National Park was proposed to be inscribed on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape.

3.7. Struvè Geodetic Arc

At the initiative of the Finnish National Finnish Service, the National Land Service and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University proposed memorialising three geodetic marks of Struvè, namely, Meškonys, Paliepiukai and Gireišiai. Out of the existing 18 geodetic marks in Lithuania, these three marks were selected for inscription on the World Heritage List as a joint nomination with other ten countries (Finland, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Moldova, Russian Federation, Sweden and Ukraine).

3.8. A hundred year anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian press in the Latin alphabet

Following the inclusion of the 100 year anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian press in the Latin alphabet into the 2004–2005 list of days commemorated by UNESCO, on 18 October 2004 UNESCO Headquarters in Paris displayed an exhibition Lithuanian Word at Historical Crossroads. Minister of Culture, Chair of the National Commission Roma Žakaitienė and UNESCO Assistant Director General A.Sayyad spoke at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

The exhibition was organised by the National Commission and the Permanent Delegation of Lithuania to UNESCO, in cooperation with Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Vilnius University Library, National Museum of Lithuania, other museums, libraries, archives and organisations. On this occasion the National Museum of Lithuania published a book in French titled Lithuanian Word at Historical Crossroads [*Lietuviško žodžio kelias istorijos kryžkelėje*].

A very important complementary component of the exhibition were authentic exhibits – books from collections of Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania published at a time when printing in Lithuanian was forbidden. Visitors of the exposition had an opportunity to list through photocopies of some of the publications displayed.

4. EDUCATION

4.1. Jan Amos Comenius Medal

One of the most prestigious UNESCO awards – the Jan Amos Comenius Medal – was awarded to pioneer of the Lithuanian educational reform Habil. Dr. Meilė Lukšienė. Doctor habilitatus of social and educational sciences Meilė Lukšienė is known to the Lithuanian public as one of the initiators and authors of the educational reform in Lithuania proclaiming the idea of a free responsible citizen of Lithuania defending humanistic values, supporting the cultural and humanistic direction of education. She is author of many scientific and pedagogical works and publications of high relevance, advocate of national and democratic schooling, member of the initiative group of Lithuania's revival *Sajūdis*.

4.2 UNESCO Associated Schools Project

At the end of 2004 project Publication of the Teaching Manual World Heritage in Young Hands. Publication of Educational Resource Kit and Seminars for Lithuanian Teachers was allocated support from the Ministry of Culture, Foundation for Educational Change, United Nations Development Programme, and UNESCO. The teaching manual was translated into Lithuanian and is currently undergoing the process of revision and adaptation to the Lithuanian context. In 2005 the teaching manual will be published in 2.500 copies and distributed free of charge to all schools of general education of Lithuania. In addition, in 2005 seminars for teachers will be organised to train them in the new methodological approach.

On 4 March 2004 the first night show of the theatre play titled *Tu turi teisę* [You have the right] took place. The play was created under the joint project of two schools, namely Klaipėda's Business School of Sewing and other Services and Kuršėnai Gymnasium of L.Ivinskis, both of which participate in UNESCO Associated Schools Project (hereinafter – UNESCO ASP project).

Winner of the national selection process, Deputy Head Teacher of Šiauliai Didždvaris Gymnasium R.Morkūnienė participated in the meeting on European human rights and civil education schools in Leiden in which the most successful examples of civil educational programmes at schools were presented.

UNESCO ASP project and the International Olympic Truce Centre drafted methodological material for the work with school students on the subject of Olympic truce. The project was titled The Truce Story. 10 countries, UNESCO members and active participants of UNESCO ASP project, were approached in order to test this material. 5 Lithuanian schools were selected for testing this methodological material.

In June 2004 the Lithuanian Centre of Young Naturalists hosted the youth forum *Days of European Naturalists* organised by national co-ordinator of UNESCO-initiated Baltic Sea Project that was attended by school teams participating in the Baltic Sea Project. In BSP schools, stands and expositions displayed the ongoing BSP programmes and other project-related activity. Seminars and group-work activities took place, as well as additional events (outings, discussions and consultations with famous naturalists) aimed to build world outlook and provide insights into the profession of naturalists.

Lithuanian schools participating in UNESCO ASP project were given an opportunity to write a message to participants of *UNESCO International Conference on Education* which took place in Geneva from 8 to 11 September 2004. Five schools have responded to this call; messages written by school students on the conference theme of *Quality Education for All Young People: Challenges, Trends and Priorities* were sent to UNESCO International Bureau of Education.

In July 2004 Kelmė Gymnasium of Aukuras organised an international summer school, the English language course for school students titled United by UNESCO Ideas: Democracy, Peace, United by Culture, Arts and Sports. The English courses were delivered by professors and students of US schools of higher education.

In September 2004 documents in support of membership application of Kaunas Santara school for UNESCO ASP Project were sent to UNESCO. To support its membership of the network, the gymnasium elaborated a pilot project titled Manor Houses – Our Cultural Heritage which received positive evaluation of the National Commission.

From 8 to 10 September 2004 already a third annual conference of Lithuanian schools participating in UNESCO ASP Project was held in Klaipėda and Nida. The conference was organised by the National Commission together with Klaipėda Business School of Sewing and Other Services and secondary school of Nida. The conference was attended by representatives of 14 Lithuanian schools participating in ASP Project. The schools made presentations of their annual activities; excursions and meetings in local administrations of Klaipėda and Neringa

were organised, pupils worked in creative groups, a seminar was also organised for teachers titled Project Preparation and Management.

17 September 2004 marked the official conclusion of the initial stage of the first international project MONDIALOGUE initiated jointly by UNESCO and DaimlerChrysler and dedicated to intercultural dialogue, exchange, respect and tolerance among youth. Information was distributed to all ASP schools as well as all universities, high and higher schools majoring in exact sciences. The project drew participation of 17 Lithuanian school teams. The team of Šilutė gymnasium of Vydūnas came as one of the 12 finalists and gained the right to compete in the winner announcement ceremony which took place during the World Forum in Barcelona. The project was elaborated jointly by the school and its partners from Kazakhstan.

From 30 November to 3 December 2004 Austria hosted *Slavery – Yesterday and Today* seminar to commemorate 2004 as the year of international fight against slavery and abolition. The target audience of the seminar included teachers of history, as well as social and political sciences of UNESCO associated schools. The seminar was attended by A.Gailienė, Assistant Head Teacher of Jonava basic school of R.Samulevičius.

The National Commission, together with the Lithuanian Youth Association of Non-Formal Education elaborated and launched Intercultural Learning in Lithuanian Schools project. The project has as its primary aim plugging the gap between the system of formal education and inter-cultural skills as well as universal perspectives which are prerequisites of a modern intensive way of life and a growing need of the public for self-fulfilment. As such it is the first attempt to include this activity into the annual school curricula. The project is implemented in 16 Lithuanian schools, of which 5 are UNESCO associated schools, and the remainder are regional schools with a clearly ethnical diversity. The project is ongoing at several stages by means of organising weeklong seminars–trainings for pupils and teachers on how to put the intercultural teaching module at schools. This project draws on close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Department of National Minorities and Lithuanians Living Abroad. If the project proves a success story, it is intended to carry it on by means of involving new schools and drawing on the methodological material elaborated during the project implementation.

UNESCO ASP project initiated a new project titled the Great Volga River Route. Uniting Seas in favour of Heritage Education and Sustainable Development. With the help of information and communication technologies the project has as its aim the unification of youth by means of fostering their interest in the protection of world heritage, biosphere reserves and sustainable development. The project involves participation of UNESCO associated schools from eighteen countries of the Baltic Sea, Black Sea and the Caspian Sea region, having 8 Lithuanian schools among them.

At the end of 2004 the Secretariat of the National Commission took the decision to assess Lithuanian schools participating in UNESCO ASP project as regards their activity, participation in annual meetings, intensity and quality of project-related activity at schools, etc. Schools themselves were offered an opportunity to express their viewpoint concerning further activities under this project. At present, the Lithuanian network of UNESCO associated schools entails 22 Lithuanian schools that have signed cooperation agreements.

In cooperation with programmes of the Lithuanian telecom titled the Educational Path and Compass, 1 January 2005 saw the launch and activation of the website of the Lithuanian network of UNESCO associated schools www.aspnet.lt. The website provides detailed information on the Lithuanian network of UNESCO Associated Schools, school members, ongoing projects, and updated information of competitions. The section for teachers contains useful methodological information. The discussion section is planned to be launched in the future to help teachers and pupils to get acquainted as well as share experience and ideas.

4.2. Other activities in the field of education

From 19 to 25 April 2004 the National Commission, in collaboration with the Lithuanian School Student Union, Lithuanian College of Democracy, Lithuanian School Student Parliament, Ministry of Education and Science, and National Educational Forum organised a universal action titled Global Week of Action 2004. At the initiative of UNESCO and the global educational campaign, such a week took place for the fourth time, but it was the first time it was organised in Lithuania. The Week of Action 2004 was targeted at children out of school. This event was aimed at fostering a direct cooperation between school students and educational officials. During this week discussions were held and meetings took place throughout Lithuania, which served as a forum for exploring the solutions to problems by school students themselves that were discussed with educational officials at a later stage. The final conference of the *Week of Action 2004* took place in Vilnius, at the Ministry of Education and Science which concluded in the adoption of the Resolution of the Week of Action 2004 that was submitted to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. It is intended to issue the Resolution as an individual publication to be presented to the President of the Republic, Government, Seimas and other competent institutions and participating schools.

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania organised a meeting to discuss the possibility of organising a conference on the elaboration of the national programme for promoting reading and language development skills in the beginning of 2005 within the framework of the Concept and Programme for Promoting Reading and Language Development Skills project.

The National Commission and managers of the Contemporary School Centre discussed the school's participation in UNESCO ASP project and international project School Microclimate. The aim of the project is to prepare and carry out a sociological survey to identify the specifics of microclimate and underlying factors thereof in selected schools (project partners), organise international cultural exchange between participating schools which could give birth to joint cultural projects, organise an international seminar on the role of school microclimate in educational process, and the role of artistic development school microclimate. The project is planned to be concluded with a set of recommendations for schools.

5. SCIENCE

On 23 and 24 July 2004 the Lithuanian Association of Ignotas Domeika and the National Commission have jointly organised a tour along the paths of famous geologist Prof. Ignotas Domeika, whose 200th birth anniversary was commemorated by UNESCO. The sites visited in Belarus were linked to the heritage of Vaclovas Domeika in the former manor house of Gervėčiai and the heritage of Aleksandras Domeika in the former manor house of Sitcai. The exact itinerary followed along the route of Vilnius – Varnionys - Gervėčiai – Rimdžiūnai - Mikailiškės – Svyriai – Sitcai – Vilnius.

At the end of 2004 the National Commission submitted two projects drafted by the Institute of Mathematics and Information Sciences under the UNESCO-initiated International Basic Sciences Programme titled Stimulating Humanities and Computational Intelligence Research Activities in Lithuania, Malaysia and Tunisia by Modelling the Economical, Social and Political Trends in Rapidly Changing World and The Navier–Stokes Equations in Domain with Noncompact Boundaries: Existence, Asymptotics and Approximations. The decision to set-up an International Basic Science Programme was made during the 32nd session of UNESCO General Conference. The programme aims at enhancing international cooperation at an intergovernmental level in the fields of basic sciences as well as science and education. This programme will focus on significant specific regional projects involving national, regional or international scientific research centres, with the purpose of increasing the national potential in basic sciences.

UNESCO informed about the newly launched programme in natural sciences titled International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). In principal, this programme is a fundamental remake of the earlier International Geological Correlation Programme launched 32 years ago. Of all United Nations institutions, UNESCO alone is implementing a programme specifically dedicated to natural sciences as well as areas linked to building up the potential with geosphere. This programme involves Lithuanian scientists.

6. SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

6.1. Bioethics

On 24 and 25 May 2004 Vilnius hosted the *Regional Seminar on Training in Research Ethics* that was organised by the Lithuanian Bioethics Committee together with the Council of Europe.

On 13 September 2004, the National Commission, in cooperation with the Lithuanian Bioethics Committee, Vilnius University and the Ministry of Education Science organised an opening ceremony of the UNESCO-supported Regional Bioethics Information Centre at the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University. The opening ceremony was attended by UNESCO Assistant Director General for Social and Humanitarian Sciences P.Sané, specialists of UNESCO and UNESCO bureau in Moscow on bioethics and human rights from Lithuania and abroad. The Regional Bioethics Information Centre received a word of welcome by Minister of Culture Roma Žakaitienė, Minister of Health Juozas Oleka, Vice Minister of Education and Science R.Vaitkus and other high-level public officials. In parallel to the opening of the Centre, Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University held a national discussion on the Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics being drafted by UNESCO with a view to learning the expert opinion on the concept and content, implementation and application possibilities of the document. Lithuania is one of twenty countries of the world to have been chosen to host such national discussions. Comments and proposals resulting during such discussions were submitted to UNESCO.

7. COMMUNICATION – INFORMATION

7.1. Activities of the National *Memory of the World* Committee

In 2004 the Lithuanian National *Memory of the World* Committee participating in UNESCO Memory of the World Programme drafted and translated into Lithuanian information and methodological material related to implementation of UNESCO *Memory of the World* Programme and preparation for submitting nominations to the National Register.

8. PROJECTS WHICH HAVE RECEIVED PATRONAGE OF THE LITHUANIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

A documentary on Vladislovas Starevičius

Vladislovas Starevičius (Ladislas Starewitch, 8 August 1882 – 26 February 1965) – pioneer of the Lithuanian cinematography, pioneer of Russian and world volume animation and the best known artist of pre-Revolution Russian cinema. In cinema history such epithets as “screen wizard”, “artist-magician” often go along with the name of L.Starevičius. However, to this day Vladislovas Starevičius remains one of least known and most mysterious figures in the cinema history. This may be explained by the fact that he was an immigrant or that he had an almost pathologically reserved personality. Producer of the documentary, with the working title of *Touches by Starewitch [Starewitch'iaus prisilietimai]*, is Rasa Miškinytė. The film was shot together with colleagues from Russia, Estonia, Germany, France, Finland, Denmark and Sweden.

Classical music festival Alternative

From 6 to 16 May 2004 the traditional Classical Music Festival Alternative took place which in 2004 was dedicated to Europe. During the festival performances were given by string quartet Fine Arts (US), J-M. Luisada and E. le Marquis (France), I.Mnatsakanov (Russia), V.Banfield (Germany), R.Kalnėnaitė, I.Armonaitė, M.Bačkus, A.Šikšniūtė, D.Kirilauskas,

R.Šervenikas, M.Švēgžda von Bekkeris (Lithuania), the selected symphonic orchestra of the Lithuanian Academy of Music, Kizito and Group (Burkina Faso, France, the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Egypt, Guadeloupe and Martinique), Harlem Gospel Choir N.Y.City (US). The festival was translated into reality by its art director M.Švēgžda von Bekker.

Commemoration of the International Ethics Day

Vilnius Pedagogical University hosted the commemoration of the International Ethics Day organised jointly by professors and students of the Ethics Department. This UNESCO initiative was implemented in Lithuania for the fourth time. According to the tradition, on the occasion of the International Ethics Day a scientific conference was organised, complemented by the book fair, exhibition of posters as well as various other cultural events.

International Biodiversity Day

The National Commission for UNESCO sponsored the celebration of International Biodiversity Day organised by the Botanical Garden of Vilnius University in Kairėnai.

Conference series Development of Humanistic Ideas During Lithuania's Integration into the European Union

The National Commission awarded its patronage to the conference series Development of Humanistic Ideas During Lithuania's Integration into the European Union organised by a public organisation Consilia academica. The conference that was organised jointly with the Lithuanian Academy of Science and the Cultural Congress Council took place not for the first time and involved participation of famous figures of Lithuanian science and culture.

Project General History Atlas for Schools

The National Commission awarded its patronage to the publication project of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Vilnius University titled General History Atlas for Schools. For the first time ever a single publication contains all atlases of the secondary education curricula – 76 atlases in total. This atlas is also of interest to the general public. The National Commission donated a copy of this publication to each of the Lithuanian schools participating in UNESCO ASP Project.

Other Time [*Kitas laikas*]

Project Other Time was awarded patronage of the National Commission for a second time. In 2004 organisers of the Other Time project held a symposium in an ethnographical farmstead of Molėtai region museum, having as its aim raising national cultural awareness and promotion as well as fostering traditions. Participants of the symposium took part in lectures on the specifics of the Lithuanian cross-crafting tradition, ornaments of folk sculptures and their symbolic meanings. Theory was put into practice during workshops – the symposium participants made copies of crown pieces of distaffs using techniques of xylography on flax and engraving, and improvised with motives of decoration themes. The complexity of the programme revealed itself in a mixture of different regions and age groups as well as occupations: pupils assisted in making benches, alumni of Kaunas college – in the creation of a roofed cross and observed the transformation of an oak log into a sculpture.

International Festival of Latin Culture *Fundamentum Collegii*

Already becoming a tradition, in 2004 this festival presented two major events dedicated to present the baroque culture of 16-17th cent. of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and to raise European self-awareness in the Lithuanian public. From 15 to 28 August 2004 Kražiai hosted the summer academy of old music which provided an opportunity to study Gregorian chant, perform Italian sacral and secular pieces of music of 16-17th cent., listen to the best pieces of Samogitian poetry from 17-18th cent., watch the performance of liturgical play Three

Maries [*Trys Marijos*]. On 29 August Vilnius hosted the city forum *Vilnius – A City of Citizens: Tradition and the Present*, which was crowned by baroque mystery-play *Gratulatio Vilnae*. The festival that was organised by public association Archangelus, drew participation of an old music band of Toulouse Conservatory, Schola Gregorianna Vilmensis, choir of St. Casimir Church Brevis, and other performers.

8th international Thomas Mann Festival

From 10 to 17 July 2004 Nida hosted 8th International Thomas Mann Festival titled *We in Europe and Europe in Us* that traditionally combined several programmes on music, language, fine art and cinema all united under an umbrella motto: „The European spirit which we wish to cherish may exist only when each of us is oneself“. The festival which was attended by artists from Lithuania and abroad was honoured by the visit of President of the Republic Valdas Adamkus with spouse, German Ambassador Alexander von Rom, as well as other distinguished guests.

Conference *Family Policy Today*

This conference was organised in the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 29 September 2004 by UNESCO Club Rafaelis, Social Communication Institute of Vilnius Pedagogical University and UNICEF regional network forum. The conference that was aimed at revealing to the politicians the current situation concerning family policy discussed the possibility of having a uniform family policy concept, and the need to give high priority to a traditional family seen as the key cell of society. The conference was attended by representatives of the Catholic Church, political parties, public institutions, NGOs and public associations which were briefed on experience of the city of Vilnius in procuring social services for children socialisation.

Christmas miracles. Betleika Museum – Theatre – Studio from Myra Castle

In November 2004 visitors of the Lithuanian theatre, music and cinema museum were presented a two-part programme: exposition of Betleika museum and puppet theatre performances. Actors of Betleika theatre met with actors of Vilnius theatres, children groups, and representatives of Belarussian ethnic minority.

Myra Castle which is the seat of Betleika museum-theatre-studio, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000. From the middle of 16th century Myra Castle belonged to the Radvilos nobility family of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Betleika museum-theatre-studio was set up upon commencement of restoration and reconstruction works of the castle in order to revive and bring back from oblivion part of the cultural and artistic heritage of that time. Betleika museum deposits unique specimens of Belarussian Betleika, i.e. movable Christmas theatre, performance attributes, puppets, and copies of artistic values directly linked to the history of the life of the Radvilos family or the castle that were found during the restoration process of the castle. Betleika theatre continues the ancient tradition of puppet theatres from the times of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, namely it gives Christmas performances to children and adults. Quite a few plays are dedicated to the founders and patrons of the professional theatre of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the owners of Myra Castle – the Radvilos nobility family.

Project From Time Immemorial [*„Iš amžiu glūdumos“*]

The implementation of this long-term project a company of actors makes presentations in Lithuanian schools of a spectacular ethno-cultural series of lessons titled *From Time Immemorial*, perform ancient songs in Lithuanian regional dialects of Aukštaitija, Žemaitija (Samogitia), Suvalkija, Dzūkija, polyphonic songs and stories. In the 2004-2005 school year around 50 visits were made to Lithuanian schools, of them – to 11 UNESCO associated schools. The project consists of two parts: regional dialects of Lithuania, authentic old songs,

and polyphonic songs, one part, and mythical creatures of Lithuanian fairy stories, the second part. Spectacular narration in regional dialects were accompanied with ancient songs, rituals or dance. Special focus was given to the exceptional phenomenon of the Lithuanian musical culture – polyphonic songs. During these ethno-cultural lessons the most characteristic pieces of the national costume were also demonstrated. Plays used various traditional music instruments – bells, rattles, whistles, drums, etc.

Cycle of expeditions the Path of the Himalayas

The National Commission has granted its patronage to the cycle of expeditions titled the Path of the Himalayas to commemorate one thousand year anniversary from the first mentioning of the name of Lithuania which will run from 2004 to 2009. During this period several research expeditions are planned to the Himalayas and the neighbouring Asian region which have historical, cultural and other links with Lithuania and are significant from the cognitive point of view. The first expedition to Baltistan, Pakistan, Kashmir and Ladakh (India) took place from July to September 2004. The expedition had as its primary goal bringing back to Lithuania an authentic photo-, video- and other material on this unique region located at the junction of the five highest mountain ranges of the world (the Himalayas, Karakorum, Hindukush, Pamirs, Kunlun): nature, history, ethnography, culture, traces left by people who had some links with Lithuania

Informational leaflet on the ensemble of the Holy Trinity Church and the Basilian Monastery

The leaflet will be published in Lithuanian, English and Polish. The project is managed by Vilnius monastery of Basilian Order of St. Josaphat.

CD Le son et la parole (Word and Sound).

This CD is a tribute to creative cooperation between Permanent Delegate of Lithuania to UNESCO, Ambassador Ugnė Karvelis and Martynas Švėgžda von Bekker. During the project a CD will be issued featuring the pieces created and performed by Martynas Švėgžda von Bekker. The CD will also contain visual and literal archival material.

Project Compilation and Issue of CD of Lithuanian Folk Catholic Canticles

The project is run by the Cultural Activity Centre of Eastern Lithuania. The CD with Lithuanian folk Catholic canticles will contain folk songs whose melody and the manner of performance dates back to the middle of 19th cent. Those songs that were recorded before 1940 are currently deposited in the archives of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore.

9. UNESCO Chairs and UNESCO Centres (material drafted on the basis of information provided by UNESCO Chairs)

In the beginning of 2004 there were four UNESCO Chairs: UNESCO Chair in Informatics for Humanities at the Institute of Mathematics and Information Science, UNESCO Chair in International Relations at the International Relations Political Science Institute of Vilnius University, UNESCO Chair in Culture of Peace and Democracy at the Lithuanian Mykolas Romeris University and UNESCO Chair in Cultural Management and Culture Policy at Vilnius Art Academy. At present three UNESCO Chairs and two UNESCO-supported centres at Vilnius University – UNESCO Associated Centre of Excellence for Research and Training in Basic Sciences and the Regional Bioethics Information Centre – are operational. The UNESCO Chair in International Relations has discontinued its activity.

UNESCO Chair in Informatics for Humanities www.unesco.mii.lt. The activities of the Chair are mainly focused on two areas: informatics for humanities and community

informatics. In the field of informatics for humanities specialists of humanities were consulted with the aim of accumulating and disseminating data on their activities with the help of information technologies. In the area of community informatics, research studies were carried out to enhance the capacity of rural communities in applying information technologies for the development of their activities.

UNESCO Chair in International Relations. In 2004 this Chair practically carried out no activity.

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Management and Culture Policy. The Chair trains specialists of cultural management under the MA curriculum of cultural administration in compliance with the international standards. From 23 to 25 April 2004 Vilnius hosted an international meeting of European Council of Artists titled A Portrait of the Artist in 2015 – Artistic Careers and Higher Arts Education in Europe. On 27 and 28 May 2004 the UNESCO Chair organised a scientific conference *Strategy and Development of Cultural Management Studies*, with the aim of presenting the cultural management curricula offered in Lithuania, focussing on their aims, sharing experience in developing and finalising cultural management studies and reviewing priorities for further development. In 2004 the Chair published several publications and articles as well as organised two exhibitions in the Hague. Students of the Chair are active participants of the cultural life of the country and capital Vilnius in terms of preparation and implementation of cultural projects. In 2004 students of the Chair implemented the following projects: International Film Festival for Children and Youth, festival of silent films titled Sounds of Silence, Along the Paths of Old Ceramics, cycle of non-conventional arts Welnuvos, which all attracted considerable attention and received positive response from art professionals.

UNESCO Chair in Culture of Peace and Democracy on 30 March 2004 organised a discussion in Mykolas Romeris University titled UNESCO Strategy and Long-term Objectives: Tendencies of UNESCO Chair in Culture of Peace and Democracy Activities. In addition, on 21 and 22 October 2004 it organised scientific conference *Learning to Live Together: Problems and Solutions for the 21st Century* to commemorate the United Nations Day, during which speeches were given by representatives from US, Czech Republic, Poland, Latvia, Russia and Hungary. The conference was focussed on the following issues: social cognition and cultural dialogue, philosophy as a tool for building civil society, issues of humanisation of globalisation, threats to the culture of peace, the interplay of localism and globalism, identity and cultural diversity, social destination of law, tolerance and globalisation, changing values in Central and Eastern Europe, and prospects of civilisation. The Chair commemorated the International Philosophy Day, prepared monograph titled Contemporary Philosophy: Age of Globalisation. The Chair plays the leading role in the scientific research conducted by the Mykolas Romeris University titled the Use of Innovation Potential of Contemporary Social Sciences and Humanities for the Development of Civic Society in Lithuania.

UNESCO Associated Centre of Excellence for Research and Training in Basic Sciences www.mif.vu.lt/unesco carries out fundamental research studies in the areas of biochemistry, cell biology, and physics. It develops contacts with counterpart centres in Europe, organises conferences, invites scientists from abroad.

UNESCO-supported Regional Bioethics Centre was opened on 13 September 2004. On the occasion of the opening, national discussions were launched on the Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics being drafted by UNESCO.

From October to December 2004, several meetings with the British Council DNR 50 project group took place at the initiative of the Regional Bioethics Information Centre to discuss possible cooperation. The British Council made a presentation of the database for promotion of sciences, including bioethics. The meetings resulted in an agreement to organise joint activity by means of initiating monthly Scientific Café project. During the first such monthly meeting the issue of cloning for medicinal purposes was discussed, including ethical

aspects and problems posed by contemporary biotechnologies. At the initiative of the Regional Bioethics Information Centre, the Bioethics Association was re-established on 23 November 2004. The Regional Bioethics Information Centre runs the UNESCO GEO (Global Ethics Observatory) project, i.e. is developing an on-line database. At present the website of the Centre is also under construction. It is expected that the Regional Bioethics Information Centre will provide Lithuanian and regional scientists with more opportunities to participate in scientific discussions and become more active in raising issues of bioethics.

On 19 January 2005 Director of International Relations and Political Sciences Institute of Vilnius University, prof. R.Lopata, informed that following the transfer of the Institute into the new premises and the launch of the Institute's structural reform, a decision was made to discontinue activities of UNESCO Chair in International Relations.

10. UNESCO Clubs

In 2004 there were five UNESCO Clubs: UNESCO Club PAIDEA, UNESCO Club Black Ceramics Centre, UNESCO Club Rafaelis, Šiauliai UNESCO Club, and UNESCO Club HUMAN.

At present four UNESCO Clubs are active; UNESCO Club HUMAN has discontinued its activity.