ACTIVITY REPORT 2008

THE LITHUANIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

I. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO ACTIVITIES

In 2008 Lithuania continued its active participation in UNESCO activities. Elected in autumn 2005 Lithuania followed up its membership of four-year term of office in the UNESCO Executive Board – one of the main bodies of UNESCO ensuring the activities of the Organization between General Conferences. Permanent Delegate of Lithuania to UNESCO Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė is Vice President of the UNESCO Executive Board and member of the Office of the Executive Board.

Lithuania followed up its membership in the following intergovernmental bodies: Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), Headquarters Committee (Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė was elected Chair of the Committee), Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubian Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo, Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1999 Second Protocol) and Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė was elected Vice President of the Committee thereby member of the Board).

Chairman of the Lithuanian Bioethics Committee Assoc. Prof. Eugenijus Gefenas followed up his membership (from 2002) in the International Bioethics Committee. In 2006 UNESCO Director General approved his candidature for the second term of office.

Lithuania is member of the second electoral group together with Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

In the end of 2008 Lithuania has announced the intention to submit the candidature of Ambassador, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Ina Marčiulionytė to the post of UNESCO Director General.

I.1. International experts’ visits to Lithuania

From 13 to 14 March Coordinator of the Network of Networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue among Cultures in the European and Mediterranean Sea Region Gianluca Solera paid a visit to Lithuania. On 13 March by the initiative of the Lithuanian Institute, in charge of coordination of the National Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation, a meeting of network

1 In this report the name “National Commission” comprises the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO and their activities.
members, including the National Commission, was organized aimed to discuss on the development and strengthening of the Network.

From 6 to 8 November Representative of an independent group of researchers and pedagogues of Japan Hideki Maruyama paid a visit to Vilnius. The research team carried out an independent comparative analysis, financed by the Japan Community for the Promotion of Science, aimed to explore aspects of cooperation by networking in the area of education for sustainable development in the East Asia. Hideki Maruyama attended the Meeting of National and Programme Coordinators of the Baltic Sea Project held in 6-8 November in Vilnius.

I. 1. UNESCO Executive Board sessions

In 2008 two sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board were held: 179th (1-17 April) and 180th (30 September – 21 October).

The Lithuanian delegation was composed of Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Relations Oskaras Jusys (attended the 180th session), Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė (attended the 179th and 180th sessions), First Secretary of the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO Danguolė Vinciūnienė (179th session), First Secretary of the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO Nida Liubertienė (180th session), Senior Specialist of the Global Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mindaugas Simonaïtis (180th session), Secretary General of the National Commission Asta Dirmaitė (179th and 180th sessions), Programme Coordinator Ruta Ambrasūnienė (179th and 180th sessions). Lithuania actively contributed to the proceedings of the Committee of Conventions and Recommendations, the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations and the Programme and External Relations Commission. Lithuania is not member of the Special Committee and the Finance and Administrative Commission, though Lithuanian delegates participated in the sessions on an observers’ status.

I. 2. Exhibition The Tree of Life. Lithuanian Crosscrafting and Its Symbolism – a Masterpiece of Human Heritage

From 9 to 13 of June UNESCO Headquarters in Paris hosted the exhibition The Tree of Life. Lithuanian Crosscrafting and Its Symbolism – a Masterpiece of Human Heritage. The official opening of the exhibition was attended by Assistant Director General for Culture Françoise Rivière, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania Jonas Jučas, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Oskaras Jusys, Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė, other high officers of UNESCO, ambassadors of foreign states, guests. The exhibition was prepared by the Secretariat of the National Commission for UNESCO, Permanent Delegation of Lithuania to UNESCO and the Lithuanian National Museum. Partners of the project were the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Culture Support Foundation and the Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre.

I. 3. Other activity

On 22 September the National Commission filled out and submitted to UNESCO the questionnaire for the survey on the distribution of UNESCO publications making notice to the fact that in general UNESCO does not have a common policy on publications and their distribution. In few recent years this has been one of the most holding issues for Member States
and the organization itself. The survey was initiated with the aim to search ways out of the situation, improve the UNESCO publishing and distribution policy and adapt it to modern realities. The Executive Board at its 179th session considered the draft resolution prepared by a working group led by Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė.

UNESCO Bureau for Public Information, taking into account needs expressed by National Commissions to create a unified system to signify UNESCO programmes, has started drafting a Guidebook on the use of UNESCO logo and name to signify UNESCO related activities. The National Commission has actively cooperated on the task by submitting recommendations and comments for a successful elaboration of the project.

II. LITHUANIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

In 2008 term of office of four members of the National Commission - Virginija Būdienė, Faustas Latėnas, Aušrinė Marija Pavilionienė and Roma Žakaitienė - was terminated. Member of the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Parliament of Lithuania Asta Baukutė, Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania Loreta Zakarevičienė, Head of Rare Books and Manuscripts Division of the National Library of Martynas Mažvydas Jolita Steponaitienė, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Science Dainius Numgaudis have become new members of the National Commission.

Since September Office Administrator of the Secretariat of the National Commission is Gintarė Tamašauskaitė. She has substituted Liuda Kiaunienė.

In 2008 the National Commission has closely co-operated with the UNESCO Secretariat: Sectors for Culture, Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Information and Communication, other departments according to other activity and the projects implemented. Its successful and active participation was determined by a close cooperation with the Permanent Delegation of Lithuania to UNESCO. The National Commission pursued its active cooperation with ministries, public institutions, non-governmental organizations in Lithuania.

III. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF UNESCO

III.1. UNESCO Participation Programme

Every two years UNESCO member states may participate in the UNESCO Participation Programme by way of proposing for funding projects selected by National Commissions. For 2008-2009 UNESCO Participation Programme Lithuania has submitted six projects numbered in order of priority following the decision of the Executive Board of the National Commission: (1) Interregional Youth Summer Camps on Intangible Heritage (submitted by the National Commission), (2) Free Learning Experience (submitted by Youth Centre Babilonas), (3) On Heritage in Our Language (submitted by the Kaunas’ Educational Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing), (4) Ecological Sustainability of Lithuania (ECOSLIT – 2) (submitted by the National MAB Committee), (5) Active Civil Initiative for Safeguarding of National Heritage 2008-2009 (submitted by the M. K. Čiurlionis Foundation for Culture and Heritage) and (6) Free Man – Responsible Man (submitted by the Lithuanian Union of Journalists).
By the end of 2008 UNESCO has approved financial support for the following four projects: (1) *Interregional Youth Summer Camps on Intangible Heritage* (allocation of 20 thousand USD), (2) *On Heritage in Our Language* (allocation of 15 thousand USD), (3) *Free Learning Experience* (allocation of 22 thousand USD), (4) *Active Civil Initiative for Safeguarding of National Heritage 2008-2009* (allocation of 10.5 thousand USD).

On 17 October 2007 UNESCO informed on the decision to financially support three more projects submitted in the framework of 2006-2007 UNESCO Participation Programme: *Publication Lithuanian Ethnic Culture Folk Graphic Arts* (allocation of 10 thousand USD), *Linen Times: Revival of Lithuanian Women Polyphonic Songs (DVD)* (allocation of 10 thousand USD), *Building the Self-confidence of Rural Women through Self-expression* (allocation of 10 thousand USD). All projects were successfully finalized.

**III. 2. Scholarships and fellowships**

UNESCO Fellowship in support of Priority Programme Areas (2008-2009) was granted to Nerijus Kriauciūnas allowing him to deepen his knowledge in education spending a 2008-2009 autumn semester in the University of Zurich (Switzerland).

**IV. WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, EXPERT MEETINGS**

In 2008 a number of workshops, conferences, expert meetings fully or partly financed by UNESCO were held attended by Lithuanian representatives:

- The session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) held from 29 to 31 January at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris was attended by Director General of the Department of Physical Education and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Algirdas Raslanas.

- From 18 to 22 February Sofia (Bulgaria) hosted the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Members of the Committee discussed possible modalities for the participation of communities or their representatives, practitioners, experts, centers of expertise and research institutes in the implementation of the Convention, and have agreed on the periodic reporting by State Parties, presenting implementation means of the Convention. Lithuania was represented by Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė.

- From 24 to 26 February in Riga (Latvia) the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO together with the Ministry of Education and Science and the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) organized the Europe and North America Region Preparatory Conference *Inclusive Education: from Policy Dialogue towards Common Action*. The conference served to discuss tendencies and results of the implementation of inclusive education, the progress achieved and challenges confronted. The Lithuanian delegation was composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science: Director of Department of General Education Arūnas Plikšnys, Head of Special Education Division Regina Labinienė, Head of Pre-school and Primary Education Division Gražina Šeibokienė and Head of Children and Youth Socialization Division Algimantas Šimaitis.
• The 5th session of the Intergovernmental Council for the *Information for All* Programme held from 2 to 4 April at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris was observed by member of the National Commission, Deputy Director of the Information Society Development Committee Edmundas Žvirblis.

• From 27 to 29 May Wildbad Kreuth (Germany) hosted the European Symposium for Experts on Arts Education *UNESCO Road Map on Arts Education and its Impact on Europe* attended by Senior Specialist of Children and Youth Socialization Division of the Ministry of Education and Science Dr. Dalia Šiaulytienė and member of the National Commission, Advisor to the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Parliament of Lithuania Rūta Kačkutė.

• The UNESCO Secretariat in conjunction with three National Commissions of Flanders, Luxemburg and the Netherlands organized the 15th Quadrennial Conference of National Commissions of Europe and North America and the Director-General’s Consultation with National Commissions of the Europe and North America Region on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2010-2011 (35 C/5) held in the Hague (the Netherlands) and Antwerp (Belgium) from 31 May to 6 June. Both events were attended by Secretary General of the National Commission Asta Dirmaitė and Programme Coordinator Liliana Bugailiškytė. The Consultation has served to formulate shared recommendations by States of the region to the UNESCO Director General on priorities of the Organization’s activities for the upcoming biennium. The Regional Conference became a stage to exchange ideas and good practices, to involve in a closer cooperation among National Commissions. The Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO presented the results of the interregional project Bridges of Tales implemented with high success in 2007.

• From 4 to 6 June UNESCO convened the 3rd Meeting of the Committee of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict attended by Head of International, Public Relations and Education Division of the Cultural Heritage Department Alfredas Jomantas.

• From 12 to 15 June in Eisenstaedt (Austria) the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Austria and the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO convened the Sub-regional Expert Meeting on Multilingualism and Diversity of Languages attended by Director of the Institute of Lithuanian Language Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Jolanta Zabarskaitė and Deputy Director for Research Prof. Habil. Dr. Grasilda Blažienė. The event served to review and compare situations of multilingualism in different European States, challenges of promoting the diversity of languages brought by globalisation processes, actual and desirable trends of language policy.

• On 16 June UNESCO convened the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage attended by Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė. Members of the Committee selected seven finalists of the International Competition for the Creation of an Emblem for the Convention for the Safeguarding of the
Intangible Cultural Heritage. Among 1297 entries there were nine submitted by Lithuanian artists, though none of them was selected for the final.

- From 16 to 19 June UNESCO convened the 2nd session of the General Assembly of the State Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage attended by Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė.

- From 24 to 27 June UNESCO convened 1st Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions attended by Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė and Senior Specialist of International Relations and EU Affairs Division of the Ministry of Culture Gitana Šukaitytė.

- The 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Quebec (Canada) from 2 to 10 July was attended by State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture Diana Paknytė, Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė, Deputy Director of the Cultural Heritage Department, National Coordinator for Cultural Heritage Algimantas Degutis and Secretary General of the National Commission Asta Dirmaitė.

- The 10th UNESCO International Summer School on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage Sustainable Development in the Historical Environment: Didactic Ways held in Zamozc (Poland) from 9 to 18 September was attended by State Senior Inspectors of the Cultural Heritage Department Nijolė Vaitiekūnaitė and Ramunė Narbutaitė.

- From 12 to 16 September Kingston (Jamaica) hosted the UNESCO Congress Sport for Peace and Development and meetings of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) attended by Director General of the Department of Physical Education and Sport Algirdas Raslanas and member of the National Commission, Senior Specialist of the Department of Physical Education and Sports Sigitas Stasiulis.

- From 18 to 19 Warsaw (Poland) hosted the 2nd International Conference Safe Internet for Children and Youth attended by Advisor to the Children’s Rights Ombudsman Institution of Lithuania Eivilė Žemaitytė and Senior Specialist of Children and Youth Division of the Ministry of Social Security and Labor Asta Šidlauskienė. The Conference is part of the Programme Safe Internet Plus coordinated by the European Union. The Polish National Commission for UNESCO was among partners of the Conference.

- From 30 September to 4 October Quebec (Canada) hosted the 16th General Assembly of International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The ICOMOS National Committee was represented by Chair of the Committee Giedrė Miknevičienė, member of the Board Vaidas Petruulis and members of the Committee Jūratė Markevičienė, Giedrė Filipavičienė and Irena Kliobavičiūtė.

- From 27 to 28 October UNESCO convened the 50th session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), which was followed by the joint session of the International Bioethics
Committee and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) held from 29 to 30 October. The sessions were attended by member of the National Commission, member of the International Bioethics Committee, Head of the Lithuanian Bioethics Committee Prof. Eugenijus Gofenas. His membership in the Committee terminates in the end of 2009.

- From 4 to 8 November Istanbul (Turkey) hosted the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage attended by Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė.

- From 12 to 14 November UNESCO convened the 9th meeting of the Working Group of UNESCO Education for All programme aimed to formulate recommendations to be submitted to the High-level group meeting held in Oslo (Norway) on 16-18 December. The meeting was attended by Head of International Cooperation and European Integration Division of the Ministry of Education Jurga Strumskienė.

- From 25 to 28 November the UNESCO International Bureau of Education in Geneva convened the 48th session of the International Conference on Education on the theme Inclusive Education: the Way for the Future attended by Head of Basic and Secondary Education Division of the Ministry of Education and Science Dr. Loreta Žadeikaitė and Senior Specialist of Special Education Division Teresa Aidukienė.

- From 3 to 5 December Budapest (Hungary) hosted the CONFINTEA IV Regional Preparatory Conference Adult Education for Equity and Inclusion in the Context of Mobility and Competition attended by Secretary of the Ministry of Education Alvydas Puodžiukas and Head of Continuing Education Division Ričardas Totoraitis.

- From 8 to 12 December UNESCO convened the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions attended by Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė and Senior Specialist of International Relations and EU Affairs Division of the Ministry of Culture Gitana Šukaitytė.

V. CULTURE

V.1. 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee

From 2 to 10 July Quebec (Canada) hosted the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee. The Committee adopted decisions concerning the implementation of conservation of Vilnius Old Town and the Curonian Spit. The National Commission has forwarded the decisions to the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other institutions concerned.

In its Decision N. 32 COM 7B.99 concerning the conservation of Vilnius Old Town the World Heritage Committee noted with concern that an integrated management plan for the property had not been produced as a means of ensuring adequate management and protection, thus it strongly urged the State Party to initiate development of a fully integrated management plan, to govern and co-ordinate all decisions affecting the Old Town development and conservation. By 1
February 2009 Lithuania was requested to submit to the World Heritage Centre a detailed report on the development of an integrated management plan for Vilnius Old Town and updated documentation on the development of high-rise buildings in the buffer zone for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 in Seville (Spain).

In its Decision N. 32 COM 7B.98 concerning the conservation of the Curonian Spit the World Heritage Committee requested Lithuania to take into account the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property when examining cases of possibly illegal constructions in Court, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on any progress on these issues. The Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation were requested to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2010, a detailed and updated report, on the issues mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

V. 2. Vilnius Historical Centre

On 1 February the Ministry of Culture submitted the report on activities of the Republic of Lithuania related to the legal and planning framework for the conservation of the property, and in particular the development of an integrated management plan of Vilnius Old Town. The report was examined at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee.

On 15 April the National Commission convened a meeting concerning the development of an integrated management plan of Vilnius Old Town. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Culture, the State Commission for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Urban Development Department of the Administration of Vilnius City Municipality, Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency and the National Commission for UNESCO. The meeting served to discuss concrete and practical steps towards the conservation of the uniqueness of Vilnius Old Town by each of the institutions concerned. Analogous meetings were subsequently held at the Cultural Heritage Department.

Vilnius City Mayor Juozas Imbrasas in his letter (22 May 2008) concerning the development of the management plan of Vilnius Old Town reassured that Vilnius City Municipality endorsed the proposal to prepare the management plan of Vilnius Old Town and is looking forward to the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and other institutions concerned in developing the plan and solving other issues related to the conservation of Vilnius Old Town.

In the end of October by request of the Minister of Culture Jonas Jučas a working group led by State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture Diana Paknytė was formed by the order of the Prime Minister of Lithuania. The inter-institutional working group was commissioned to prepare the draft of an integrated management plan of Vilnius Old Town and submit it to the consideration of the Government by 1 February. An expert recommended by the Cultural Heritage Department Paulius Kulikauskas was involved in the drafting process. Since legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania do not provide regulations regarding the development of such plans, this was the main task of the working group to draft the plan within existing legislation.

In 2008 the reconstruction project of the historical – architectural ensemble of the Bernadine’s Monastery and the conversion plan of the Užupis – Paplauja territory received wide resonance in the society. The reconstruction project of the Bernadine’s Monastery Ensemble involves plans of
its readjustment for public tourism needs. The Vilnius Territorial Division of the Cultural Heritage Department has licensed the reconstruction of the loft of the church and the choral premises together with the southwest, northwest and southeast towers, the loft of the administrational premises (the main building of Monastery), authentic parts and elements of the cellar and the gates of the church, restoration of decayed elements by applying methods of historical constructive equivalence of materials and their accomplishment. However the Cultural Heritage Department implied that the iconographic sources are not sufficient to allow the installation of lanterns provided in the reconstruction project. The Commission formed by the order of Director of the Cultural Heritage Department Diana Varnaitė having reviewed plans to readjust the Monastery Ensemble for public needs opposed the plans to install the so called Bernardine’s lanterns in the St. Francis of Assisi church, to set an elevator and a glass-roof over the inner yard.

The conversion plan of the Užupis – Paplauja territory being an inclusive part of the World heritage site – Vilnius Old Town – was widely discussed by representatives of the State Commission for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, the Ministry of Culture, the Cultural Heritage Department, the National Commission for UNESCO and other institutions.

The Užupis – Paplauja territory (almost 60 square meters) spans the environs of Aukštaicių and Paupio streets, being part of the Old Town of Vilnius (22.78 ha) and its buffer zone, and a part of Markučiai area. The Vilnius City Municipality has initiated a project of the Architectural Park in the territory, which is a valuable natural and cultural landscape. The valley of the river Vilnia is part of a circle of green hills surrounding the historic centre of Vilnius. It is a historically and naturally authentic territory. While accepting the plan to bring positive modifications to improve the condition of the territory in principle, there were discussions about extensive changes and developments, that are planned to be brought in by giving a priority to the construction of new buildings, complexes of buildings, without considering historical, urbanistic, architectural and archeological values, underestimating valuable features of this esthetical, historically consummated cultural landscape. No exploration of the Vilnia valley and its historical transformation were carried out, no integral parts of its geomorphologic and spatial composition were identified. The State Commission for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in its session of 12 December 2008 stated that the height and the density of planned constructions, the planning principle of the urbanist structure is inadmissible and infringes provisions of the effectual legal acts concerning the protection of cultural heritage.

In 2008 representatives of the Public Movement For Lithuania without Quotes and the Alternative Commission for the Protection of Cultural Heritage have applied Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė to express their concern about Vilnius Old Town that could be possibly threaten by plans to demolish the cinema theatre Lietuva and to start new constructions in this area. According to the Alternative Commission implementation of the project would cause the destruction of the urbanist structure of the city that had formed in the period of the Great Duchy of Lithuania and transform it to an urban quarter characteristic to the Tsarist period. Ambassador replied by reminding that Vilnius Old Town had deserved its international recognition for the unique distinctive structure of the network of streets, monuments of Gothic, Renaissance, Classicism, Baroque architecture. Vilnius as the capital city has made a significant influence for the architectural and artistic development of the region in 13-18th centuries. Ambassador also
reminded that Lithuania obliged to follow provisions of the Aarhus Convention and other conventions ratified.

V. 3. Draft Law on the Protection of World Heritage Sites in Lithuania

By the order of 31 October 2007 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania a working group was formed (its composition was approved by the Minister of Culture on 11 February 2008) commissioned to prepare a Draft Law on the Protection of World Heritage Sites in the Republic of Lithuania. A series of meetings of the working group were held in 2008.

In December 2008 the Ministry of Culture prepared and submitted to other institutions concerned a draft law and an explanatory note, stating that the Law was designed to regulate relations of all public stakeholders in the protection, management and use of natural and cultural heritage objects and sites inscribed in the World Heritage List and their buffer zones, and to settle provisions of the legal regulation of the sites. The text of the draft law is still being refined.

V. 4. Curonian Spit

On 1 February 2008 following the Decision adopted at the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee the Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted to the Committee the report on the protection of the Curonian Spit together with the report on the condition of the Curonian Spit and the common report of experts of the Republic of Lithuanian and the Russian Federation on the evaluation of the impact on environment caused by the oil-well D-6.

During 2005 - 2007 period 38 cases for defending the public interest were submitted for examination in courts of the Republic of Lithuania, seeking to abolish individual acts adopted by the Board and the Administration of the Neringa City Municipality concerning the detailed planning in the territory of the Curonian Spit National Park. By the end of 2008 24 cases out of 38 were examined. 11 judgments of courts stood up, 13 judgments of the first instance courts were appealed.

On 28 March Secretary General of the National Commission Asta Dirmaitė has called the attention of Minister of Environment Artūras Paulauskas towards public statements concerning the exclusion of the settlements (Juodkrantė, Preila, Pervalka and Nida) from the territory of the Curonian Spit National Park. Asta Dirmaitė reminded that the Curonian Spit, the site shared by two States was inscribed in the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape. The nomination file on the inclusion of the site in the World Heritage List states that the most significant and integral part of the cultural heritage of the site is ancient settlements of fishermen. There are no admissible reasons to eliminate the settlements, as it would change the borders of the world heritage site. Such intentions should be always and in advance provided to the World Heritage Committee. The opinion of the National Commission was endorsed by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment and the State Commission for the Protection of Cultural Heritage - all noting that settlements form an inseparable part of the cultural landscape.

On 13 June Secretary General of the National Commission Asta Dirmaitė applied the Minister of Environment Artūras Paulauskas regarding the concept of the General Plan of the Neringa City Municipality, which is contradictory to the Planning Scheme (General Plan) of the Curonian Spit
National Park and proposed to invite international ICOMOS and IUCN experts to evaluate draft projects of the General Plan of the Neringa City Municipality and the Management Plan of the Curonian Spit National Park. After the approval of the proposal by the State Commission for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Minister of Environment allotted 30 thousand litas for the realization of the mission.

In a letter of 27 October 2008 to the Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas and Minister of Environment Artūras Paulauskas Secretary General of the National Commission Asta Dirmaitė expressed her opinion on the proposition to broaden the national road N.167 Smiltynė – Nida. Doubts were expressed regarding the expedience of the project, as it would open a transit passage of heavy traffic to the Kaliningrad region and back, thus affecting the universal value of the world heritage site – the Curonian Spit. It was suggested to carry out an exhaustive examination of the expedience of the project and to coordinate the adoption of the Decision together with an on-going process of the elaboration of the General Plan of the Neringa Municipality and the Management Plan of the National Park. The project was disapproved by the State Agency for Protected Territories and the State Commission for the Protection of Cultural Heritage. In the meeting on 26 December the decision was taken to finalize discussions on the reconstruction of the road and plans to broaden it after the examination of the condition of the road in 2009. The examination will be carried out by the Lithuanian Road Administration under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

V. 5. State Cultural Reserve of Kernavė

In 2008 the Administration of State Cultural Reserve of Kernavė finalized drafting of the Management Plan (Planning Scheme) of Kernavė Cultural Reserve. The Management Plan was presented at the annual conference of the National Commission on 12 May 2008 and at the Ministry of Culture.

The plans to fence the State Cultural Reserve of Kernavė were opposed by the community of Kernavė predicating that this would separate the settlement from the territory of the Reserve. However an agreement that such means are indispensable for the protection of the site was reached. In the end of 2008 the Planning Scheme was submitted for the approval of the Government of Lithuania.

V. 6. Trakai Historical National Park

On 9 December the Administration of Trakai Historical National Park submitted to the National Commission a report on the use of financial support received from the Great Britain’s private foundation The Headley Trust for the implementation of the project Reconstruction of Užutrakis Manor. In 2003 the foundation allocated 25 thousand pounds that were used for the restoration of sculptures (Diana and Flora) and other decorative elements of the park. The restoration of the sculptures was possible thanks to the Museum of Louvre, where the originals of the sculptures are stored. Sculptors were allowed to examine and take sizes of the originals. The report on the works accomplished was submitted to The Headley Trust and the British Embassy in Lithuania. The Administration of Trakai Historical National Park has prepared a new project on the restoration of remaining sculptures of the park – Bach, Ariadne, Highland Flutist and 7 sculptured busts and has applied The Headley Trust for partial financial support.
The preparation of 7 technical projects for the reconstruction of Užutrakis Manor Ensemble was financed by funds (12 million litas) of the European Union and the Ministry of Culture. One of the projects – reconstruction and readjustment of Užutrakis Manor House - was partly implemented, whereas other two technical projects – the reconstruction of the garner and its transformation to a tourist information centre, cleaning of the pond and the watercourse in the park - were fully accomplished. During the course of the project cultural relations with French and Polish cultural institutions were affiliated, hence Lithuanian experts on cultural heritage and restorers have gained invaluable experience.

It is foreseen that intensive reconstruction works will continue by the end of 2013. The process will be supervised by a special Supervisory Commission formed by the order of the Administration of Trakai Historical National Park. Secretary General of the National Commission Asta Dirmaitė was invited to join the Supervisory Commission.

V. 7. Plans to nominate the Ensemble of the Camaldulense Monastery of Pažaislis for the inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List

On 14 July the Ministry of Economy convened the meeting of the Supervisory Commission to discuss plans on the creation of the John Paul II pilgrimage route and adaptation of the objects on the route for the needs of tourists and pilgrims in 2007-2013. Head of Division of Protected Areas and Heritage Protection of the Ministry of Culture Irma Grigaitienė presented on the analysis of valuable characteristics of the Pažaislis Ensemble and the cost-benefit study conducted following requirements of the World Heritage Centre and the Implementation Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention. The study was positively assessed by the Lithuanian National ICOMOS Committee. However in the opinion of the Cultural Heritage Department, the study did not present a thorough analysis on the universal value of the Ensemble of the Camaldulense Monastery of Pažaislis and the accordance of its cultural values to the criteria and aspects for evaluation of cultural heritage sites. Therefore there is no sufficient reason to nominate the site for the inscription in the World Heritage List.

In a letter of 29 September to the Ministry of Culture Secretary General of the National Commission Asta Dirmaitė proposed to further examine possibilities of the Ensemble of the Camaldulense Monastery of Pažaislis, taking into consideration authentic artistic heritage of the 17th century, the concave facade of the Church of the Monastery as an architectural detail that for the first time was used in Europe and a rare architectural detail - the hexagonal plan of the building. Asta Dirmaitė also suggested the Ministry to form a working group, which would further examine the possibility of a joint nomination file together with Polish colleagues on nominating a series of the Camaldulense Monastery Ensembles in Lithuania and Poland, including the Pažaislis Ensemble.

On 7 August under the assignment of the Prime Minister Chancellor of the Government Valdemaras Sarapinas requested to supplement the study on the Pažaislis Ensemble following provisions of the Implementation Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention within the first implementation phase of the creation of the John Paul II pilgrimage route and adaptation of the objects on the route for the needs of tourists and pilgrims in 2007-2013 and submit it to the Supervisory Commission by 1 October 2008.
V. 8. 10th International Summer School in Zamosc

The 10th UNESCO International Summer School on Preservation of Cultural Heritage Sustainable Development in the Historical Environment: Didactic Ways held from 9 to 18 September was attended by State Senior Inspectors of the Cultural Heritage Department Nijolė Vaitiekūnaitė and Ramunė Narbutaitė. The event was held in Poland, the world heritage site of Zamosc.

V. 9. Project World Heritage on Lithuanian TV

During 2008 the joint project of the National Commission and the Lithuanian Radio and TV World Heritage on Lithuanian TV was continued. By February 2008 twice a week the audience of LTV2 channel had a unique opportunity to see 36 episodes half-hour in length of documentary series The World Heritage produced by Japanese TV Channel TBS (Tokyo Broadcasting System, Inc.) In June and July the episodes were repeatedly broadcasted on LTV. Internationally recognized documentary series The World Heritage is the richest documentary selection of cultural and natural heritage sites inscribed in the World Heritage List.

V. 10. Other information in the sphere of Cultural and Natural Heritage

On 8 April Chair of the Environment Protection Committee of the Parliament of Lithuania Bronius Bradauskas informed on the Decision to form an expert group for the improvement of the management of protected territories, which was commissioned to examine problems of legal regulation in this sphere, to review experiences of other states in the management of protected territories and submit to the Committee proposals on how to elaborate and modify existing legal acts, and requested to delegate a representative of the National Commission to take part in the working group. Two persons were delegated - Director of the State Agency of the Protected Areas Rūta Baškytė and Head of the Landscape Ecology Laboratory of the Botanical Institute Prof. Romas Pakalnis.

On 14 April by the order of the Minister of Culture Deputy Director of the Cultural Heritage Department Algimantas Degutis was designated the National Coordinator for Cultural Heritage.

In August 2008 the National Commission together with other institutions concerned with the protection of cultural and natural heritage distributed the UNESCO published Maps of World Heritage Sites inscribed in the List before 2008.


On 2 January 2009 the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage has finally come into force. Adopted by UNESCO in 2001 it was ratified by Lithuania on 30 March 2006. The institution responsible for the implementation of the Convention in Lithuania is the Ministry of Culture.


In 2008 two sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2nd session of the General Assembly of State Parties to the Convention were convened, all attended by Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė. The Committee selected and announced the Emblem for the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The author of the Emblem is Croatian Dragutin Dado Kovačević. Among 1297 entries to the competition there were nine submitted by Lithuanian artists.

In the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage held in November in Istanbul (Turkey) the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity has come into force. 90 masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity proclaimed in 2001, 2003 and 2005 were inscribed in the List, including also two Lithuanian traditions – Lithuanian Crosscrafting and its Symbolism and Song and Dance Celebrations in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. A decision was adopted to discontinue the use of the term Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Traditions included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity will be signified by new temporary logos until 2010 when the regulations on the use of the special emblem will be approved. The license to use the logos in Lithuania will be issued by the National Commission after signing a contract on each case.

V. 12. Song and Dance Celebration Tradition

On 8 June the Law of Song Celebrations (adopted on 20 November 2007) has come into force in Lithuania. On 5 June the regulations of the National Commission of the Song Celebrations provided in the Law were adopted.

V. 13. Lithuanian Crosscrafting and its Symbolism

From 9 to 13 June UNESCO Headquarters in Paris hosted the exhibition The Tree of Life. Lithuanian Crosscrafting and its Symbolism – a Masterpiece of the Heritage of Humanity. The exhibition was prepared by the National Commission together with the Permanent Delegation of Lithuania to UNESCO, the Lithuanian National Museum and partners of the project – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Culture Support Foundation, the Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre. The exhibition was designed by JSC Ekspobalta.

On 30 June a 50 litas collectors’ coin issued by the Bank of Lithuania, devoted for the Lithuanian Crosscrafting and its Symbolism, was publicly presented. The coin was issued in the framework of the programme of silver collectors’ coins Europe. European Cultural Heritage.
V. 14. Inventorying Intangible Cultural Heritage

On 8 April the National Commission initiated a discussion on the implementation of the Convention for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Lithuania. One of the main obligations of the State Party to the Convention is the creation of the National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The meeting aimed to consider possible inputs of particular institutions to the creation and maintaining of the Inventory. Suggestions for the implementation of the inter-institutional system were presented. The meeting was attended by Chair of the National Commission, Minister of Education and Science Roma Žakaitienė, representatives of Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Protected Territories, Lithuanian Institute of Literature and Folklore, Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre, Lithuanian Institute of History, Lithuanian Association of Municipalities and the National Commission.

By efforts of two responsible institutions – the Ministry of Culture and the Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre – the preparatory phase of the programme Inventorying Traditional Cultural Valuables was finalized. The Commission responsible for creating the National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was established, the concept of the Inventory was revised and updated, the methodology elaborated, the order of submitting and evaluating nominations files was set, the network of experts at municipalities (50) responsible for the formation of the Inventory, as well as consultants – representatives of scientific, academic, cultural institutions, researchers on intangible cultural heritage – was established. During 2008 27 nomination files were submitted, the programme on the creation of the digital database of the inventory was presented, workshops for consultants on preparing nominations were organized.

On 12 December Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre convened a workshop to discuss results of the preparatory phase of the programme Inventorying Traditional Cultural Valuable. The workshop served to present and examine the nomination files submitted, present suggestions on requirements for the nominations and the methodology. The event was attended by members of the Commission responsible for creating the National Inventory of the Cultural Heritage Traditions, authors of the nomination files – specialists on ethnic culture working at municipalities, representatives of museums, scientific and academic institutions. The National Commission was represented by Programme Coordinator Rūta Ambrasūnienė.

V.15. Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

In 2007 Lithuania was selected member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for 2007-2011 period. During the 1st Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions held in the end of 2007 Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė was elected Vice President of the Committee and has held the position during 2008.

Two sessions of the Committee held in 2008 were attended by Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė and Senior Specialist of Division of International Relations and European Affairs of the Ministry of Culture Gitana Šukaitytė.
V. 16. Linen Times: Revival of Lithuanian Women Polyphonic Songs (DVD).

With the support of the UNESCO Participation Programme the multimedia project Linen Times was implemented resulting in a syncretic video and sound artistic production. The project was aimed to present the archaic Lithuanian musical folklore by using contemporary forms of expression. In the DVD Linen Times the distinctive archaic intonations of ancient polyphonic songs sutartinės are entwined with elements of contemporary media art. The project could be treated as a tool for traditional art succession and penetration in a contemporary multi-cultural society. It is focused on intellectual audience; however, its modern coat attracts a wider range of listeners. The project stimulates the interest of young people in traditional Lithuanian culture, the old system of signs and symbols as well as other cultures. The project is easily adapted in educational programmes. The project was co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and the Directorate for the Commemoration of the Millennium of Lithuania.

V. 17. Series of publications Lithuanian Culture – Traditional Graphics

In 2008 with the support of 2006-2007 UNESCO Participation Programme the project Series of publications Lithuanian Culture – Traditional Graphics was implemented by the Lithuanian National Museum. The Lithuanian Traditional Graphics is the first publication of a series of publications of collections of Lithuanian ethnic culture. Publishing the systematized collections enables the integration of ethnic culture into the scientific and cultural circulation. The publications both fixate the existence of particular cultural facts and respond to a range of questions related to the mutual coexistence of cultures.

Lithuanian traditional graphicart represents the Lithuanian peasant culture of 17th-19th c. All pieces of art are made by woodcut techniques. All sheets of woodcuts and planks of impresses were registered, documented in detail and prepared for storage. The publication is 100 percents illustrated. It provides a systematized material that could be used also for scientific purposes.

VI. EDUCATION

VI. 1. Education for Sustainable Development

With the mid-point of the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development UNESCO has initiated several surveys to estimate the progress achieved in the first half of the Decade. On 29 February the National Commission together with responsible institutions filled out and submitted to UNESCO the questionnaire on ESD related educational materials published in Lithuania. For the integration of ESD topics in the educational programmes Lithuanian pedagogues take use of two publications: learning guides - Every beginning is small by Laima Galkutė, Kęstutis Navickas, Saulė Vingelienė and Agenda 21 at School by Laima Galkutė. Lithuania also submitted the information for the general monitoring report on the implementation of the Decade. The report on national progress in the implementation of the Decade was prepared by Senior Specialist of Children and Youth Division of the Ministry of Education and Science Dr. Dalia Šiaulytienė.

In 2008 the National Commission has searched for possibilities, possible partners and funders for the translation and adaptation of the publication YouthXchange – sustainable consumption guide.
The UNESCO and UNEP prepared learning guide has an obvious relation to the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the Decade for the Education for Sustainable Development, thus the National Commission suggested that the translation of the publication and distribution to Lithuanian schools would become an expedient means in the implementation of the national ESD strategy.

UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development – Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade held in Bonn, Germany, from 31 March to 2 April 2009 was attended by Ambassador, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Ina Marčiulionytė, Senior Specialist of Children and Youth Division of the Ministry of Education and Science Dr. Dalia Šiaulytienė, Programme Coordinator of the National Commission Liliana Bugailiškytė.

VI. 2. UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (UNESCO ASPnet) and the Baltic Sea Project (BSP)

From 6 to 8 March Vilnius hosted the meeting of the coordination group on the preparation of the Baltic Sea Project learning guide N.8 Urban Ecology attended by BSP National and Programme Coordinators.

From 9 to 12 April Vilnius Žemyna Gymnasium convened the annual BSP International Conference for pupils and teachers Environmental Development attended by teams of pupils and teachers of Lithuanian, Latvian and Russian schools participating in the Baltic Sea Project.

The National Commission joined the initiative of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO to continue the framework programme Dialogue among Civilizations. Caucasus started in 2003 and to cooperate in the implementation of the new project Friends’ Tales to be co-organized with the Armenian, Azerbaijani, Estonian, Georgian, Latvian and Lithuanian National Commissions. The project aims to encourage children of participating states to write stories on their lives and their friends, which would be placed on a specially designed web-site and afterwards published.

ASPnet schools in Lithuania got actively involved in the programme to celebrate the International Year of the Planet Earth. The National Commission invited schools to join the initiative by organizing actions at schools, villages and towns aimed to clean the environment, organize campaigns on promoting recycling, reviews of films for stimulating ecological consciousness, discussions on topical environmental problems, meetings with local politicians etc. One of the nation-wide events of the campaign was the National Lesson on the Planet Earth organized on 22 September.

On the occasion of the beginning of the new school year the National Commission presented to all UNESCO associated schools in Lithuania the book by Eglė Aukštakalnytė-Hansen Mama Afrika about her travels to Kenya and Mozambique. Each book presented to the school bared a special dedication from the author.

The National Commission distributed the invitation to ASPnet schools to take part in the International Essay Contest A Sea of Words organized within the framework of the campaign.
1001 Actions for Dialogue initiated by the Anna Lindh Foundation to celebrate the 2008, the Euro-Mediterranean Year for Intercultural Dialogue. Two Lithuanian entries were submitted.

The National Commission distributed the invitation to ASPnet schools to take part in the International Workshop for teachers In the World of Islam being organized by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the Association ARABIA.pl. and aimed to present the teachers with the history and culture of Arab and Muslim States. Teacher of Šilutė Vyduņas Gymnasium Regina Diršienė participated in the workshop held from 2 to 4 April in Warsaw.

The UNESCO associated schools in Lithuania have responded to the invitation to submit their good practices to the First Collection of Good Practices for Quality Education. This first collection is a sample of twenty remarkable practices conducted by ASPnet schools at all levels: school level, national, regional, inter-regional and international levels. The first catalogue published in October 2008 contained an article on the project Youth for Transparency implemented by one of the schools – Anykščiai Antanas Baranauskas Secondary School.

The National Commission distributed the invitation for UNESCO associated schools to participate in the International Contest of Visual Arts Le geste en Liberte-2009. The contest is organized by UNESCO Louis Francois Centre with the support of UNESCO and the French National Commission for UNESCO. Two Lithuanian entries were submitted to the contest.

The National Commission invited UNESCO associated schools to join the campaign Lithuanian pupils knit scarves for Afghanistan children initiated by the National Defense Volunteer Forces.

On 5 November the National Commission convened the meeting of partners of the project School Culture: Two Views towards Ourselves. The meeting served to discuss results of the project and was attended by organizers - Contemporary School Centre, representatives of the National Commission, members of research group, partners from Finnish and Danish schools.

UNESCO associated schools in Lithuania actively joined the invitation of the National Commission to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights. Various public events, such as discussions, lectures, excursions to sites, meetings with interesting people, were organized on 10 November.

VI. 3. Project South Caucasus – a part of Europe

The National Commission has continued the partnership in the implementation of the International Project South Caucasus – a Part of Europe implemented by the Lithuanian Association of Non-formal Education in cooperation with Interkulturelles Zentrum (Austria) and EURAZIA Foundation Georgia. The project aims to raise awareness of young people in Lithuania and Austria about South Caucasian States, open possibilities for a better understanding of cultural diversity, daily life, ambitions and potential of young people in South Caucasus, create a space for communication of young people. The project started in 2007, its duration is three years. 5 UNESCO associated schools from Lithuania are actively participating in this project. On 30 October Anykščiai, Vilnius and Kaunas hosted presentations of artistic results (mobile exhibition of photographs, presentations of short films) of the project with participation of Armenian, Georgian, Azerbaijani and Lithuanian representatives. The project is financed by
the European Commission, the Ministry of Education and Science, Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labor.

VI. 4. Other activity in the sphere of Education

On 14 January UNESCO informed on the decision to present the UNEVOC Centre Award to the Lithuanian Methodological Centre for Vocational Education and Training, thus to note its active membership in the UNESCO - UNEVOC network and its contribution to fostering UNESCO goals in the sphere of technical and vocational training.

In response to the invitation to send a Lithuanian contribution to a joint video on Inclusive Education for the International Conference on Inclusive Education – Geneva, 25-28 November 2008, the National Commission submitted to UNESCO a short video presenting the activity of the public agency Rafaelis, member of the Lithuanian Federation of UNESCO Clubs, well known in Lithuania and abroad for its unique methodology and successful experience in non-formal inclusive education.

Minister of Education and Science Algirdas Monkevičius submitted to the International Conference of Education his personal message on inclusive education. The initiative of personal messages from ministers of education is continued since the ICE session in 2001. Messages are included in the special publication of the ICE proceedings and made available on the internet.

On 2 April the National Commission coordinated the submission of the annual report on technical and vocational training system in Lithuania. The report was prepared by Lithuanian Methodological Centre for Vocational Education and Training.

On 4 September the National Commission distributed the UNESCO prepared and released publication (CD) A World for Inclusion. The CD is one of the initiatives in the implementation programme of the Convention of the Right to Education of the Disabled People adopted in 2006. In 2007 the Convention was ratified by Lithuania. The initiative is aimed to stimulate discussions and raise awareness of the society on the Convention and the meaning of inclusive education.

On 16 October the National Commission coordinated the submission to UNESCO of the report on the national development of education in Lithuania – 2008. The report was prepared by the Educational Development Centre of Lithuania.

The National Commission coordinated the submission of a collection of learning materials on human rights, democratic participation, citizenship, tolerance, peace and culture of nonviolence prepared by Lithuanian authors to the Global Exhibition 60 Years for Human Rights Education, dedicated to the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and aimed to present a diversity of learning materials on human rights education. The exhibition was held at UNESCO, 8-20 December. On 15 October the collection of exhibits selected by the Ministry of Education and Science was sent to UNESCO.

On 16 December the National Commission informed the institutions concerned on UNESCO pursued monitoring on the implementation of the provisions of the Recommendation on Education for Intercultural Understanding, Cooperation, Peace and Education on Human Rights
and Fundamental Freedoms adopted in 1974. The monitoring of the Recommendation is part of a common monitoring process on UNESCO Conventions and Recommendations. At the 34th session of the General Conference the monitoring of the 1974 Recommendation was announced a priority issue. The survey is aimed to review the progress in human rights education policy in 2005-2008 period.

VII. SCIENCE

VII. 1. International Year of the Planet Earth

Lithuania has actively responded to the initiative of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYEP). The National IYEP Committee consisting of representatives of eleven institutions was established. A special event to launch the International Year of the Planet Earth was held at the Parliament of Lithuania. The Committee has prepared and implemented a diverse programme of events aimed to engage and involve widest layers of society. The patron of the national events for the IYEP is H.E. President of Lithuania. The information on the initiative, as well as the programme of the events is periodically updated in the official website (www.zemesmetai.lt).

VII. 3. Other activity in the sphere of Science

The National Commission organized the national selection of the Lithuanian candidate to the UNESCO-L’Oreal Awards for Women in Life Sciences. On 1 May by the Decision of the National Commission the nomination file of the Director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astronomy Habil. Dr. Gražina Tautvaišienė was presented to the International Jury.

From 6 to 8 June the delegation of the Norwegian Directorate of the Environmental Protection paid a visit to Lithuania. On 6 June a meeting-discussion with officials of various departments of the Ministry of Environment was organized. The discussion was led by Secretary General of the National Commission Asta Dirmaitė.

VIII. SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

VIII. 1. Physical Education and Sport

At the session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport held from 29 to 31 January at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris Director General of the Department of Physical Education and Sport under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Algirdas Raslanas was elected Vice Chair of the Committee (for Eastern European region).

VIII. 2. International Convention Against Doping in Sport

On 30 June the National Commission informed the Department of Physical Education and Sport on the establishment of the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport. The Fund is designed to assist State Parties to the Convention to create and implement effective programmes for the elimination of the use of doping in sports.
On 23 July by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania the Lithuanian Anti-doping Commission for the Prevention of Doping in Sport was established. The Commission is composed of representatives of various institutions concerned. The term of office is four years.

On 17 November the Department of Physical Education and Sports informed the UNESCO Director General on its approval to recent amendments in the Prohibited List International Standard submitted in October. The full list which is periodically revised and amended due to advances of medicaments and unjustifiable sport methods will come into force on 1 January 2009. The List is an integral part of the International Convention against Doping in Sports. Commonly all State Parties to the Convention are informed on recent amendments and changes in the Convention and are obliged to submit their opinion to the UNESCO Secretariat in 45 days. The amendments in the list are disapproved only in that case if they are disapproved by two thirds of State Parties.

VIII. 3. Project Building the Self-confidence of Rural Women through Self-expression

In 2008 with the support of UNESCO Participation Programme Public Agency Baltic Partners for Change Management in cooperation with the National Commission implemented the project Building the Self-confidence of Rural Women through Self-expression. The project was designed to assist women in rural areas who are often disadvantaged in terms of education, employment, new opportunities, and access to information and innovations, therefore lacking self-confidence, personal freedom, knowledge and skills to take change their lives. The project was aimed to promote the social inclusion of rural women in Lithuanian society through non-formal adult education. The activities within the framework of the project were carried out in two regions of Lithuania namely – Elektrėnai and Alytus. In both regions women were selected who are either currently unemployed, engaged in various arts and crafts or women who are considering self-employment as an option.

The seminars were carried out in two sessions of two days duration. The first session was more dedicated to self-analysis of one’s current situation and defining of short-term and long-term goals, all with the underlying theme of developing self-confidence. The second seminar focused on how to be assertive and yet not aggressive. It also included sessions on how to say and accept criticism, how to say “no”, how to deal with being put down and how to present oneself – how to make your weaknesses your strengths. In the second session the women were taught how to present their handmade products and how to try to sell these products. This was done by way of video training with each participant presenting for an interview with the owner of a gallery where they want to display and sell their products. Following the training sessions each of the women received a training pack of the materials, a certificate of participation and a copy of their presentation in DVD format.

The project was a short-term project, but it is planned to work with the Lithuanian Labor Training Authority to further develop this training program and to include it in their activities in working with long-term unemployed persons and women who are wishing to re-enter the workforce after they have had a long break raising their children.

VIII. 4. Other activity in the sphere of Social and Human Sciences
The National Commission nominated the candidature of Vice Rector of Vilnius University Professor Juozas Rimantas Lazutka to take the membership in the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST).

IX. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

IX. 1. UNESCO programme Information for All

On 5 February Director of the Information Society Development Committee under the Government of Lithuania Aurimas Matulis and Deputy Director of the Committee Edmundas Žvirblis have informed UNESCO Sector for Communication and Information that the Lithuanian Information Society Development Committee has taken on the responsibility to become the National Committee for the UNESCO Information for All programme. Secretary of the Committee is Senior Specialist of Division for the Dissemination of Information and EU Affairs of the Information Society Development Committee Agnė Kavaliauskienė.

At the session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the UNESCO Information for All programme held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 2 to 4 April Deputy Director of the Information Society Development Committee Edmundas Žvirblis has presented comments in the name of Lithuanian Government concerning the UNESCO Information for All programme. The inactivity of the programme was conditioned by ineffective management structure and the lack of funding. The decision to strengthen the cooperation with National Committees and provide concretes objectives of the activity were adopted at the session.

IX. 2. UNESCO programme Memory of the World

On 16 January the Humanist Information centre of the Library of Vilnius University hosted the meeting of the National Memory of the World Committee aimed to discuss the preparation process of the nomination file *The Baltic Way* to be inscribed on the Memory of the World Register, the selection of documents manifesting the joint action of the Baltic States, as well as the proposal by the Belarus National Commission for UNESCO to submit the joint nomination of documents belonging to the noble family of Radvišs kept in Nesvizh.

In April on the initiative of Chair of the National Committee Jolita Steponaitienė members of the National Committee and preservers of the Lithuanian documentary heritage – representatives of archives, libraries and museums actively contributing to the creation of the National Memory of the World Register were invited to join the tour to Benelux states.

On 8 May the National Memory of the World Committee assembled to the meeting at the National Library of Martynas Mažvydas to discuss the new wording of regulations of the National Committee and examine nominations submitted to the National Register.

In 2008 123 institutions were invited to submit nominations to the National Memory of the World Register. 13 of them have submitted 19 nomination files. Considering the quality of the files prepared and most common errors it was decided to organize the workshop in 2009 to introduce specialists of the archives, libraries and museums with the UNESCO Memory of the World programme, to explain criteria for the evaluation of the documentary heritage, give
practical advices on how to fill out nomination files. The Culture Support Fund was applied for the financial support for the workshop. After being selected by the members of the Committee nominations were handed on to experts, which have recommended 16 documents of national and regional value to be included in the National Register. By the end of 2008 the National Memory of the World Register consisted of 39 documents of documentary heritage.

At the meeting on 10 November the National Committee has approved new wordings of regulations of the National Memory of the World Committee and the National Register.

**IX. 3. Submitting the nomination file The Baltic Way for the inscription in the Memory of the World Register**

On 6 February Coordinator of the UNESCO Memory of the World programme at the UNESCO Sector for Communication and Information Joie Springer was submitted the report on the activity of the National Memory of the World Committee in 2007. The report contained information on the new composition of the National Committee and the preparation process of the nomination file – documents manifesting the joint action of the Baltic States known as The Baltic Way – to be inscribed on the Memory of the World Register. The joint nomination is meant to reveal the peaceful action of protest of Baltic States’ citizens against the Soviet system on 23 August 1989. The title of the nomination is The Baltic Way – Human Chain Linking Three States in Their Drive for Freedom.

The nomination file was prepared and supplemented with documents rendered by National Archives, National Libraries, Ministries of Culture, National Memory of the World Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO of three Baltic States, Latvian People’s Front Museum, the Museum of Occupations of Estonia, Lithuanian History Institute, representatives of other institutions. The preparation process of the nomination and supporting documents was coordinated by National Commission of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The file contains written documents, photographs, audio and video materials manifesting the preparation for the peaceful action and its realization: the human chain linking three Baltic States from Tallinn through Riga to Vilnius.

The Decision on the inscription to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register will be adopted by the Advisory Committee meeting in July 2009.

In 2008 the national Commission created the official internet website presenting materials of the nomination of The Baltic Way. The website (www.balticway.net) was given publicity on 20 January 2009. The information on the website is available in English, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian.

**X. THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

In 2008 the following exhibitions were organized in the exhibition hall of the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO:

- Arūnas Maniušis photographs India. Verses of Silence (- 11 January);
• Angelė Joneliūnė drawings *Mandalas* (17 January - 11 February);
• Nurgül Saylıık photographs *The Arcs of Vilnius* (12 - 27 February);
• Audronė Vaškevičiūtė paintings and ceramics *Memories of China* (28 February – 18 March);
• Armen Babaian paintings *Come to my Paradise* (25 March - 11 April);
• Giedrius Abromavičius photographs *Emotions of Dance* (15 April - 16 May);
• Robertas Komža photographs and the presentation of the album *Salve* (20 - 23 May);
• Virginijus Kašinskas paintings *Lithuanian Mythology* (27 May - 13 June);
• Photographs and paintings from the plenary *Discover unrevealed treasures of Lithuania – three splendid E. F. André parks near Vilnius* by members of Eduard François André Club (17 June - 4 July);
• Photographs from the expedition devoted to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Konstantinas Tīškevičius’ expedition along the Neris (8 -25 July);
• Eglė Aukštikalnytė-Hansen photographs *Mama Africa* (29 July - 28 August);
• Ieva Šadzevičienė graphics *The Kingdom of Heaven* (24 September - 10 October);
• Loïc Salfati photographs *By passing* (14 - 24 October);
• Taira Milušauskaitė photographs *Lithuanian clothes fashion in la belle époque period* ( 28 October - 14 November);
• Jūratė Bučmytė and Albertas Krajinskas paintings and drawings *The Forgotten Curonian Lagoon* (18 November - 5 December);
• Photographs by the disabled and young volunteers *We have rights too!* (9 December - 21 January 2009).

In the end of December 2008 the National Commission adopted regulations on organizing events and exhibitions at the exhibition hall of the National Commission for UNESCO.

**XI. PROJECTS GRANTED THE PATRONAGE OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

In 2008 the National Commission granted patronage to the following events and projects:
XI. 1. Project *The Deeps of the Trakai Historical Landscape*

The implementation of the project *The Deeps of the Trakai Historical Landscape* will allow selecting and publishing old and newly traced toponyms and micro-toponyms from the lakes and the town of Trakai. The project is being implemented in two stages: in 2008 scientific research was carried out and materials were selected for publishing; in 2009 the publication will be finalized.

XI. 2. Thom Mann Festival *Cultural Landscapes. Mare Balticum*

From 12 to 19 July Nida hosted the traditional XII Thom Mann Festival *Cultural landscapes. Mare Balticum*. The festival is an international event, aiming not only on intellectual entertaining activities, but also on educational purposes: to raise topical issues in various cultural fields and consider them in discussions among the society and young, yet recognized historians, philosophers, artists. In the Music Programme of the Festival compositions of famous Lithuanian composers together with opuses by Scandinavian composers, specially selected for the Festival, were performed. The Word Programme was attended by outstanding Lithuanian, Polish, German politicians, public characters, critics. Art and Cinema Programmes were imbued with conceptually selected high quality art works.


The National Commission granted its patronage to the International Scientific Conference *Jesuits in Lithuania (1608-200): life, activity, heritage* dedicated to the 400th anniversary of founding of the Jesuits’ Province of Lithuania organized by the Jesuits’ Province of Lithuania and the Lithuanian National Museum, 9-10 October. The Conference and the Exhibition presenting the scientific and cultural activity of Lithuanian Jesuits were organized for the first time in Lithuania. Events have attracted a great number of visitors and encourage the interest in missionary, scientific, cultural and academic activity, architectural and artistic monuments, as well as documentary heritage, of Lithuanian Jesuits kept both in Lithuanian and foreign archives. The Conference served to highlight the influence of Jesuits’ tradition in the history of development of the Lithuanian state and culture.

XI. 4. Sacred music and charity festival *Pax et Bonum*

From 17 September to 25 October the 2nd International sacred music and charity project *Pax et Bonum* was held. The Festival presented five grand concerts and 15 charitable events. The Lithuanian audience had a chance to hear the best religious music choir of Ukraine – Kiev Pechersk Monastery Choir, Jerusalem Chamber Orchestra *The Israel Camerata Jerusalem*, vocal group from the Republic of South Africa *Ladysmith Black Mambazo*. The Festival presented musical and artistic compositions by a nun, visioner of the 12th century Hildegarda revived by efforts of Lithuanian artists. The Festival ended up with the Final Charity Concert *Peace and Kindness* with the participation of Lithuanian performers and guests of the Festival.

XI. 5. Publication *Liubomiras Kulviecas – outstanding science historian of the 20th century*
Donata Kulviecaitė and Kęstutis Arlauskas compiled and published a book *Liubomiras Kulviecas – outstanding science historian of the 20th century* dedicated to the celebration of the 80th birth anniversary of Professor of Vilnius Pedagogical University Habil. Dr. Liubomiras Kulviecas. Researches of classical mechanics and methodology in Lithuania are usually associated with the scientific activity of Liubomiras Kulviecas. The presentation of the publication was organized on 10 November – the International Day of Science for Peace and Development.

**XII. UNESCO CHAIRS, UNESCO CENTRES**

In 2008 there were three functioning UNESCO Chairs in Lithuania, namely, UNESCO Chair in Informatics for the Humanities (headed by Prof. L.Telksnys, http://www.unesco.mii.lt), UNESCO Chair of Cultural Management and Cultural Policy (headed by Dr. I.Kuizinienė, http://unesco.vda.lt), UNESCO Chair of Transdisciplinary Mechatronics at Kaunas Technological University (headed by Prof. R.Bansevičius).

There are also two functioning UNESCO Centres, namely, UNESCO Associated Centre of Excellence for Research and Training in Basic Sciences (headed by Prof. B.Juodka, Prof. A.Piskarskas and Dr. V.Kirvelienė, http://www.mif.vu.lt/unesco) and UNESCO supported Regional Bioethics Information Centre at the Medical Faculty of Vilnius University (headed by Assoc. Prof. E.Gefenas, http:// www.rbic.mf.vu.lt/).

**XIII. UNESCO CLUBS**

In 2008 there were four functioning UNESCO Clubs in Lithuania: UNESCO Club *PAIDEA: philosophical training of the civil society*, UNESCO Šiauliai Club, UNESCO Club *Blac Ceramics Centre* and UNESCO Club *Rafaëlis*. 

26