

## The Changes in Museums' Administration between "Self" and "Other" Experiences

### *Summary*

The administration of museums and the formation of the structures and systems of the maintenance of museums network in 19th–21st centuries in Lithuania have organizational aspects of continuity and changes. It is determined by the ideology and policy, and by the goals of authority and society.

The administration of museums in occupation times in Lithuania is characteristic for an invader states. The administration of museums in independent times in Lithuania is characteristic by the tracking Western experience. However the administration of museums is always by the state authority. The public museums' organizations (The Lithuanian Museums' Association, the ICOM Lithuania, the Association of Local Government Museums and Museum Council at the Ministry of Culture) are assists for the state authority only after 1990. In 1919–1990 were the same structures of museums and heritage maintenance in Lithuania: The State Archaeology Commission (1919–1936), Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture (1937–1940), Institution of Cultural Monuments Preservations (1940–1945), The Department of Museums and Antiquity Monuments of the Ministry of Culture of Soviet Lithuania (1945–1963), The Board of Museums and Protection of Cultural Monuments (1963–1990). In 1990–2001 the museums in Lithuania was administrate

by the Department of Museums of the Ministry of Culture. The structural changes of the administration of museums in Lithuania from 2001 was determined by the formation of information society, and by the specification of strategically administration of heritage digitalization, and by the adaptation of the experience of museums', archives' and libraries' administration in UK and USA. In 2001 was constituted the Information Society Development Division of Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania and its main field of activity is to maintain museums in Lithuania.

The rights of museums administration were different in different times. In Russia Imperia wasn't a special law for museums. The Constitution of Vilnius Museum of Antiquities and Temporary Archaeology Commission (1855–1865) in which was declared the preservation of Lithuanian heritage and research of local history functioned just ten years as institutions itself. Similarly, the Law of the Vytautas the Great Museum (1936–1940) and the Statute of the Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture lasted shortly too. These laws provided the administration of museums and heritage in Lithuania by the State authority. In Soviet occupation time was adopted and published general for all Soviet Union Law of museums and the Instruction of the protection of museum objects. After 1990 was created its own specific right for

museums. In 1995 was proclaimed the Law of Museums of the Republic of Lithuania. However, in Lithuania were adopted soviet instructions for the protection of museum objects. The curators of the Information Society Development Division didn't create a new regulation for the protection of museum objects; despite proposals of experts to adopt a good practice of Spectrum standard.

The essential attributes of museums network – the type and number of museums are changing depends from policy and ideology, and from the interests of authority and society. From the second decade of 20th century the tradition of region / local history museum was consistently maintained. The ideologization of culture and giving importance to the aspect of historical identity from the 19th century determined character of museums network and increasing number of historical museums (e.g. there are 73 historical museums from 103 in 2011). After 1990 museums network characteristics is still remain typical for Lithuanian' occupation period, because predominate museums under state authority and there are just few non-public museums.

In Lithuania the strategy of “open” museum developing from the 21st century, seeking to develop accessibility of museums heritage and integration in European and

World heritage information. However, in 2012 the National Audit Office of Lithuania has recommended that the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania more effectively administer execution of strategically important programs: The Modernization of Museums 2007–2015 and Lithuanian Integral Museum Information System (LIMIS), which both are sponsored by the State and EU Structural Funds. Today are digitalized 543536 museum objects from 6677212 museum objects of 102 museums. There are evaluated 3 museums by the Museum Evaluation regulations. The Lithuanian Museums' Association suggest the Ministry of Culture more effectively manage state's museums.

Lithuania maintains the State authority nature of museums administration. The centralized supervision of museums network is referring that the Authority qualifying museums as convenient and controlled assistants for its strategies of policy, education and culture. The active participation of public professional organizations can help the liberalization of administration of museums under State authority and the expanding opportunities to meet public expectations and present identities in museums; also as changing principles of financial support of museums: support the results but not the expenses.

**Key words:** museums' network, museums' system, museums' administration.