



Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States

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Denmark

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Estonia

National Heritage Board / Kalev Uustalu:

The National Heritage Board ensures that that all changes of the updated version of Heritage Conservation Act (June 2011) will be implemented in practice. There are two important points; illegal archaeology and underwater heritage.

Organizing the 5th Baltic Sea Region Cultural Heritage Forum is under work. Year 2013 will be the year of National Heritage in Estonia when the 20th anniversary of the National Heritage Board of Estonia is celebrated.

On relevant homepages, like those of the Estonian NHB and of national tourism agency, the “quick response code”-system is used. This project is going on, and will spread this technology to several monuments.

Finland

National Board of Antiquities, Maritime Center Wellamo / Tiina Mertanen:

The new NBA organization is active since 2011. Due to the government’s 3 M€ budget cuts in 2012 the NBA has lost in this year over 50 persons and the National Museum had to close down several museums and sites. Some of them were closed permanently and some have new local operators. At

the moment the NBA is making decisions what services it can provide with the personnel and budget that is now available.

There is also a new plan to form a foundation which will operate The Finnish National Gallery. The collections will stay as state's property. The foundation will get its annual budget from the national lottery funds instead of the Ministry of Education and Culture's budget.

Degree program in building conservator is under threat in Seinäjoki University in Applied Sciences, Bothnia area. One possible solution may be that the Metropolia University in Applied Sciences in Vantaa will take over and secure future for this specialized profession most important for protection of cultural heritage. Metropolia already provides all other degree programs in conservation in Finland.

Developments: Changes expected to take place in the near future are

- (a) to cut down the expenses of state and municipal administration
- (b) a revised public real estate strategy for non-profit and heritage buildings and environments

The Ancient monuments act (archaeological heritage, 1963) requires a total reform to meet the challenges of the modern civil society, development of archaeological research and practice plus various financial questions, especially the one of division between public and private responsibilities. The present government aims to carry this through.

A national strategy for the cultural environment is included in the government program for the years 2011 onwards. The basic idea behind this is to create a true bottom-up strategy relying on the Council of Europe conventions, especially the Faro framework convention and the European Landscape Convention.

Digitalization of heritage is a government priority with a special if temporary budget funding for various museum collections and knowledge projects, especially in the interest of civil society and participation.

Museum 2015 is a project led by the NBA together with the Finnish National Gallery and the Finnish Museums Association that will be implemented between 2011 and 2015. The main goal of the project is to unify the processes related to the museum's collection management, in order to come up with an enterprise architecture for collection management and an administration model for the enterprise architecture and to create a framework for the acquisition and implementation of a unified collection management system. In addition, the project aims to support museums in digitizing their materials for the National Digital Library (KDK) public interface and to assist museums in organization and decision-making in questions related to collections management and the availability of their collections. The Museum 2015 project is funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has appointed a committee to outline a policy and put forward proposals for the development of non-professional managed local and home district

museums and specialized museums and the ways to uphold local cultural heritage. There are altogether 730 local and home district museums with 10,000 volunteers working in them which do not receive government subsidies. Their collections contain a total of 2.4 million objects and they keep up over 3000 buildings.

In September 2012, a report was published on 16 national specialized museums (e.g. aviation, road traffic, arts and crafts) which have been appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture since 1992. These museums form a network of museums with over 200 employees, budgets of 24 M€ and collections with 820 000 objects and 6 million photographs. These museums reach appr. 680 000 visitors per year. According to the report also these museums must coordinate stronger their collections policies, carry out measures to have stable economies and in general have focused long term plans for their activities. It seems that the governmental funding will be more tightly linked to yearly planning and negotiations led by the ministry and the National Board of Antiquities. The report also lists minimum criteria for well managed national specialized museums and gives tools for quality work.

How to secure museum services as part of the wellbeing services in a situation where the public economy is under increasing pressure? The Project Museums and Wellbeing (2011-2013) seeks to improve the service abilities of museums and the cultural heritage field from a customer-oriented perspective. The purpose of the project is to develop new kind of management, process thinking and collaboration models for the museum sector, as well as tools for customer-oriented service creation. It is governed by the NBA and one of partners is The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra.

Iceland

The National Architectural Heritage Board / Nikulás Úlfar Másson:

Last summer Parliament passed a new Heritage Law for Iceland which will come into effect on the 1st of January 2013. The most important factor is the fusion of the Architectural Heritage Board and the Archaeological Agency into one agency, the Heritage Agency of Iceland. Direction of this institution is still open.

Other important change to the current law on Building Heritage is that all buildings, hundred years old and older, will automatically be listed. Owners of buildings that were built before the year 1925 will have to have an opinion from the Heritage Agency before applying for building permit to change their buildings. This means that the number of listed buildings in Iceland will increase about tenfold overnight. Because of this the Architectural Heritage Board (AHB) has put great emphasis on building research in the last years in order to establish the age of buildings all over the country. The AHB has given municipalities grants to do this.

Latvia

State Inspection for Heritage Protection / Baiba Murniece and Katrina Kukaine:

The work on National Development Plan is proceeding in Latvia. There was no culture or heritage mentioned in the first draft of the plan. Thanks to the activity of State Inspection and other cultural bodies the heritage now is emphasised as one of the main assets for regional development. The national development plan will be the base and backbone for the planning of the state budget in future.

Work on planning of the next period of EU grants; the responsible body for culture field in Latvia is the Ministry of culture. The mission of Inspection is to convince that the grants must not be of great amount but smaller - to support more projects and to ensure the quality of restoration, guarantee more possibilities to provide the co-financing etc.

Latvia is involved in EEA and Norway grants programme on heritage conservation, where close and fruitful cooperation with Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Arts Council is present. During the elaboration of the program the close cooperation with state real estate is prioritize to involve them as managing all state owned buildings including heritage monuments.

Latvia stresses out the fruitful cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland, and expresses its gratitude concerning the return of unlawfully removed cultural objects during the World War II from the territory of Latvia; the "priedieu" (reading pulpit) made by the woodcarver Tobias Heintze (1589-1653), who lived in Jelgava (Mitau) in the 17th century, and after presented to the Jelgava St. Trinity church in 1617; and the bronze seven-light candelabra made by the master craftsman Hans Meier or Meyer from Riga to order of the Riga Town Council in 1596 and after presented to Riga's St. Peter church.

Main topics in Latvia now illegal excavations. There are proposals from State Inspection of amendments in the Cultural Heritage protection law concerning this case – every finding dated before 17th century belongs to the State.

Other important topic: UNESCO convention on the protection of underwater heritage. Latvia has not ratified it yet, but we are in process of discussions on responsibilities and new possible tasks.

Important International Project where Latvia is involved: Nomination "Viking age monuments and sites" preparation for the inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage list. Latvia is represented with Grobina settlements and burials. The State Inspection and municipality of Grobina is interested in experience exchange with Kernave archaeological site in Lithuania.

The work of ICOMOS Latvia is restarted and is open for different ways of cooperation.

An overview on the latest developments in the sector of cultural heritage protection:

The Cultural heritage management system of Lithuania is formulated by the Seimas by adopting laws and the Government by allocating funds from the budget for protection of cultural heritage, providing the Seimas with draft laws and overseeing the drafting of legislation. Ministry of Culture is responsible to develop a policy and to strategically coordinate the cultural heritage protection management.

A public administration authority – the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture (hereinafter referred to as the Department) – accounts to the Ministry for its activities, and is responsible for immovable cultural heritage protection.

One of the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Culture for 2011 was **enhance the system of cultural heritage protection in order to make it more integral and efficient.**

Considering this, during 2012:

Optimisation of operations

- The structure of the Ministry of Culture has been improved by establishing 3 new departments: Department of Cultural Policy, Department of Strategic Planning and Control, and Department of Policy of Arts and Creative Industries. The Department of Cultural Policy comprises the Division of Protected Areas and Heritage Protection, whose activities are managed by the Department.

- The Ministry began an evaluation of the functions performed by the Department in order to eliminate any duplication of functions with other institutions involved in cultural heritage protection.

- In 2012, a working group of the Ministry has prepared recommendations regarding the optimisation of functions performed by the Department and more efficient use of state funding allocated for their performance.

Programmes and legislation

- The Ministers of Culture and Agriculture have jointly approved an inter-institutional action plan for Preservation of Ethnographic Villages for 2011-2013. The plan is intended to create conditions to protect the rapidly eroding away ethnographic villages, and create a favourable environment for diverse economic and social development of ethnographic villages using their existing ethnic cultural heritage as well as social and economic resources. The relevance of this area was emphasised in the 2011 EHHF meeting 'Changes in Rural Heritage'.

- Monitoring rules of cultural heritage sites, establishing proper assessment criteria for the condition of cultural heritage sites (including villages), not just for objects, were approved.

- A Programme for the Maintenance of Monuments Commemorating the Graves of Lithuanian Expatriates and Political Prisoners as well as Places of Exile was approved. The measures of this programme will enable the inventory and marking of graves of expatriates and political prisoners, and bring together to all the institutions concerned to carry out the work.

- A draft law on The Search for the Remains of Dead Persons as well as Those Killed, Their Reburial and Commemoration was prepared. The aim of this law is to regulate the search for the remains of dead persons (mostly foreign troops), their reburial and commemoration, which are currently performed arbitrarily within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

International activities

- Considering recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, an inter-institutional draft action plan on The Preservation of Outstanding Universal Value and Sustainable Use of the Historic Centre of Vilnius, Included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, for 2013 - 2015 was prepared. It is currently being approved by the institutions concerned. This plan is part of the integrated management system.

- In the implementation of the Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict, the Kernavė archaeological site, with the advice of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Defence, was granted enhanced protection status by the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflicts. This status should ensure the Kernavė archaeological site is to be protected from harmful effects in the case of an armed conflict.

- In 2012, 40 cities and municipalities organised European Heritage Days events, 137 cultural objects were exhibited and more than 200 thematic public events were held.

Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture, Lithuania /
Alfredas Jomantas:

The section for functions of national register, public relations and education sector is preparing a register based on a new law on movable cultural heritage. This implies close collaboration with commissions which decide what to list.

Mr Jomantas will take over chairing of the EU level Reflection group on cultural heritage during the Lithuanian EU Presidency in 2013. He plans to organize an EU Presidency conference in the field of cultural heritage.

Norway

Arts Council / Liv Ramskajær:

New Norwegian Minister of Culture is a Pakistani-Norwegian lawyer, journalist and politician Hadia Tajik (b. 1983). The budget for 2013 is launched October 8th with expected growth. On October 11th Arts Council Norway and the Directorate for Cultural heritage will host a conference launching EEA-grant - programs with wide participation. On behalf of the Ministry of Culture, Arts Council Norway work on implementing the UNESCO convention on intangible heritage, especially on public awareness and procedures for international nomination. These will be launched at a conference in Trondheim on October 22. -23.

The Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Culture cooperates in developing a plan for development of culture, trade and tourism. The Directorate Group for Coastal Culture arranged a successful conference on food in coastal culture in Bergen in June with several interesting speakers on the intangible food culture among others. The museum section works on a competence program in collection management for the museums and is discussing the use of the British Spectrum standard in the future work on collection management.

Directorate for Cultural Heritage of Norway (DCH) / Jørgen Holten Jørgensen:

New minister of the Environment, Mr Bård Vegard Solhjell, was appointed late spring. He has announced increased focus on cultural heritage, including amendments to the priorities laid down in the upcoming White Paper on cultural heritage.

The white paper should reflect recent changes and new development patterns in the Norwegian society, and thereby how these affect our heritage and the heritage management. Questions like urbanisation, climate change and migration are central in these developments.

Among the announced priorities in the white paper are:

- Urbanisation. Increased pressure on the cities, especially on the remaining green areas (parks, open squares, forests, etc.). This requires increased attention from the heritage authorities.

- Internationalisation. Immigrants change our society, but are of course part of our society.

Immigrants' heritage is Norway's heritage and should thus be treated accordingly by heritage authorities. Likewise, particular attention should be paid to the five recognised national minorities (Romani, Roma, Jews, Kvens and Forest Finns). The listing of religious buildings, including synagogues and mosques, is under consideration.

- Neglected areas. Among our listed buildings are, for example, many farms in Eastern Norway, but few coastal/fishing villages, few maritime vessels, and few technical and industrial monuments. Monuments (dwelling houses) of ordinary workers, workers unions' meeting places, workers' houses of culture, etc, are also underrepresented and should be priorities in order to improve the representativeness of the protected monuments.

Referring to the damaged buildings of 20th July 2011 -tragedy in Oslo, the DCH still considers the main Government building as being worthy of listing.

To meet (some of) the needs, an additional 40 Million NOK will be allocated annually starting from next year for supporting owners of protected monuments.

EEA grants: total amount of grants increased by 20 per cent compared with last period, and with an enhanced focus on bilateral relationships between the donor states (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and the beneficiary states. DCH is DPP (donor programme partner) in five countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, as well as Hungary and Romania) and project partner in three pre-defined projects (in Poland, Slovak and Czech republics).

Next European Heritage Heads forum to be held in Oslo, 23-24 May.

Under the auspices of ICCROM, DCH was host to the biannually International Course on Wood Conservation Technology in June, 2012. Twenty participants from as many countries from five continents, among them one participant each from Estonia and Latvia.

Poland

National Heritage Board of Poland /Paulina Florjanowicz:

2012 national priorities for heritage policy

Parliamentary elections in Poland were held in autumn of 2011. No change of government or coalition, no changes in the Ministry, however the supervision of museum and heritage sites falls under two different deputy ministers now. The heritage issues, including the supervision of the National Heritage Board (NHB) of Poland, are under the deputy minister from the Coalition Party. As it recently turned out, the entire national heritage policy in Poland is a sole competence of this party, based on the division on tasks between the two ruling parties.

A big audit of the culture and heritage sector (High Chamber of Audit) was carried out this year in Poland. One of the first institutions to be audited in great detail was NHB of Poland. It has proved that it operates very well, with no mistakes found. One thing worth noting is that the institution is overloaded with work, not able to execute its strategy since more than half of its tasks are actually the tasks of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The Heritage Board now waits for the final report for the whole sector that will be available on-line in a few months. In case of NHB it changed nothing.

Change in the Cultural Institutions Act: directors of all cultural institutions, including museums, theatres, opera houses and NHB as well, will have new contracts for a limited amount of time (3-5 years). It means that all directors active now will have their unlimited contracts terminated as of the end of this year. The list who stays and who goes is still top secret.

- The NHB celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. On December 12-13 NHB will hold a big conference in Warsaw, where MG will be presented by MG Chair von Carnap-Bornheim. Entire MG is invited. On this occasion the NHB will also publish a publication by Ochrona Zabytków dedicated to the history and achievements of the institution.
- This year the NHB has also published its report (for the 1st time in 50 years!).
- New IT tools for heritage management prepared by NHB of Poland to be launched soon. It includes a GIS database on heritage sites and smart-phone application and is now on testing phase.

- The NHB finalizes the big CARARE project that is managed by the Danish and has over 20 partners all over Europe. The project enhances new technology to document archaeological finds and will make its collections available on EUROPEANA.
- EU level Reflection group on cultural heritage: NHB Director Ms Florjanowicz chaired the group 2012, passing on to Lithuania.
- Two new UNESCO applications submitted by Poland: an extension of a salt mine, and together with Ukraine wooden vernacular orthodox churches. The ICOMOS missions were just completed.
- Poland is a candidate for the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO in 2013 – NHB coordinates most of the campaign.
- The Stop Heritage Crime project (NHB with the Directorate for Cultural Heritage of Norway (DCH), Norwegian Arts Council and the Polish Maritime Museum CMM) was very highly evaluated. Another one is under preparation now DCH on building heritage awareness on local communities (linked with the issues with the Faro Convention of the Council of Europe). It will also refer to spatial planning in a number of ways, since it is a quite crucial issue to the NHB.
- As part of the former project, the NHB also executed a social survey which is both qualitative and quantitative; what people think of heritage, how important, of its protection, and regulations. Quite interesting results; majority is for heritage but 11 % is ignorant.
- A lot of problems with metal detectors still. One of those archaeologists, who support black archaeology and promote free market of archaeological finds, became a MP (formerly convicted of crimes against heritage). He raises the issue so that it turns into a political one. The great majority of Polish archaeologists signed a memorandum on basic rules of archaeological heritage protection. They have sent it to the Minister of Culture and National Heritage but no one was even interested to meet with them.
- It seems that the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage is preparing a significant change in the Heritage Act. Unfortunately, the NHB is not consulted but asked to produce 100 list of most important heritage sites. From what is known the aim is to significantly limit the number of historic monuments protected by State and to pass on this responsibility to local authorities. The idea is most probably to save money because of the worsening situation of the Polish economy. It is assumed that the list will not include any movable heritage, and archaeological sites only in a very limited number. It seems it is all up to the Coalition Party and not in the focus of anyone else. And it seems that the NHB is left alone in this battle.

Polish Maritime Museum (CMM) /Jerzy Litwin:

A lot of investments going on, and thus there is not much resources to support activities in the Polish Maritime Museum in Gdansk. A new II WW museum is designed to be constructed 70 m under the ground level with a pyramid shape for offices, etc. Another idea is a Center of Solidarity

under construction with EU-, state and local financing. A Shakespeare-theatre in Gdansk is also under construction for performances of Shakespeare's plays. In Gdynia, preparation for a Emigration museum is supported by the local authorities. Mr Litwin presented also some photos on recently found underwater heritage projects.

CMM / Robert Domzal:

A creation of a permanent network of maritime museums is under way, including a publication. Hopefully it could be a future BSS flagship project. CMM has with Norway a small investment project; exchange project with Stavanger museum and the Directorate for Cultural Heritage.

On national level the structures for cultural and heritage management are to be demolished without consideration of consequences. The CMM is deeply concerned about what is going on.

Schleswig-Holstein; Germany

Archäologisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein / Claus von Carnap-Bornheim:

Schleswig-Holstein has a new government where the political direction has changed from the dominance of a conservative-liberal party to a coalition of a social democratic, a green and a party of the Danish minority. The Minister of Culture comes from the Danish minority. The process of changing the law of cultural heritage is under way. This process is connected with the economic crisis. The institution budget was cut heavily, about 20 %, and the cultural heritage infrastructure was no more functioning well. Now a little increase in the budget is promised.

Serial nominations of Viking sites in the area are under process since six year. Involved countries have been Iceland, Norway, Latvia, Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark and Sweden, which, however, stepped out of the project this summer. Now application is postponed one year more.

Sweden

National Heritage Board / Karin Arvastson

- The Swedish Government Official Report: "Culture Heritage in a new era". SoU-2012:13
The Official Report contents a review of the Heritage Conservation Act, renewed national goals for culture heritage work and revised regulation of the use of metal detectors.

The Swedish National Heritage Board has been given an opportunity to express the authorities view on the conclusions of the inquiry.

In 2013 the Swedish National Heritage Board will give priority to:

- renewed Strategy for Culture Heritage
- develop methods in culture heritage work for culture diversity and social inclusion
- cultural heritage and sustainable development
- Five of the six strategic projects are finalized during the autumn 2012. The strategic project Values and choice will continue 2013.