



NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

PUBLIC AUDIT REPORT ON INSTITUTIONS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE SEIMAS WHICH ARE ENGAGED IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

17 May 2012, No. VA-P-50-2-6
Vilnius

SUMMARY

Audit started 30 May 2011
Audit completed 17 May 2012

Full audit report in Lithuanian is available on the website
of the National Audit Office: www.vkontrole.lt

At present, there are 24 institutions accountable to the Seimas [Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania]: foundation of three of these institutions is provided for in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and 21 institutions were founded by the Seimas at its own discretion. Seven institutions out of 24 are related to the governance areas delegated to the Minister of Culture, namely: Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania; Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania; Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation; State Commission for Cultural Heritage Protection; State Commission on the Lithuanian Language; Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture, and Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics. The number of institutions accountable to the Seimas which are related to the governance areas (e.g. education and science, health, human rights) delegated to other

The amount of funds allocated for the maintenance of the audited institutions in 2009–2011 totalled to around LTL 69 million.

Institutions	Comparative criteria	Legal status of the institution	Funding sources	Funds allocated to the institution		
				2009	2010	2011
Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania		Budgetary institution	State budget	6165	5296	5669
State Commission on the Lithuanian Language		Budgetary institution	State budget	3253	2815	2815
Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania		*	0.8 % of income of broadcasters and rebroadcasters from commercial activity	2328	2295	2019
Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics		Budgetary institution	State budget	1048	1004	1027
Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation		Public establishment	State budget	11 769	7500	9500
			Annual instalments for the licences of radio and/or TV programme broadcasters and rebroadcasters registered in the Republic of Lithuania	363	421	401
Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture		Budgetary institution	State budget	533	315	315
State Commission for Cultural Heritage Protection		Budgetary institution	State budget	863	575	735
Total				26 322	20 221	22 481

Source: National Audit Office

The material prepared by the Parliamentary Research Department of the Office of the Seimas shows that a number of institutions abroad, e.g., in Poland, Romania, France, Finland, which perform similar functions, are subordinate to the ministries acting in respective areas. Two institutions accountable to the Seimas which are engaged in cultural activities should be pointed out, namely, the Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania and Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, the equivalents of which in foreign countries are independent institutions accountable to the national parliaments. The number of countries which have equivalents of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre is going down. For instance, a similar institution in Latvia was liquidated after it had completed the functions delegated thereto. There are no institutions abroad corresponding to the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethic; instead, there are various press self-regulatory institutions.

The following issues were analysed with a view to assess activities of the institutions engaged in cultural activities and accountable to the Seimas:

- whether the foundation, legal status and control of these institutions have been subject to legal regulation;
- whether their positions in the public administration system ensures efficient distribution of state functions in the field of culture and whether the functions performed thereby overlap with and/or duplicate those of other public administration institutions or not;
- whether their functions can be attributed to the functions characteristic of executive bodies,
- whether the efficiency criteria values of general activities of the institutions are similar to the ones provided in the 2011 assessment of the efficiency of activities (general functions) of institutions and establishments accountable to the Government.

Audit conclusions

1. No criteria have been established which could be followed when founding institutions accountable to the Seimas and attributing institutions to those accountable to the Seimas, which has resulted in insufficient evaluation of expedience, purpose and accountability of the institutions as well as of the need to establish a permanent or temporary institution.

2. Accountability of the institutions accountable to the Seimas which are engaged in cultural activities lacks sufficient legal regulation, the legislation on the establishment of a number of the audited entities fails to specify their relationship with the Seimas, except for the obligation to submit the annual report, which results in failure to ensure continuous adequate control of their activity.

3. Functions of a number of the institutions accountable to the Seimas which are engaged in cultural activities overlap with other functions of public administration institutions engaged in the field of culture, part of them are more characteristic of executive bodies and should not be related to the powers granted to the Seimas by the Constitution, which may result in irrational use of state resources.

4. Possibilities to use outputs of activities of the institutions accountable to the Seimas which are engaged in the field of culture are exploited insufficiently, the scope of functions performed by certain audited institutions has been going down, which may result in inefficient use of the available resources.

5. The number of the commission / board members of the institutions accountable to the Seimas and engaged in the field of culture with management bodies which take collegial decisions (Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture; Radio and Television Commission of Lithuania; State Commission for Cultural Heritage Protection; Press, Radio and Television Support Foundation; State Commission on the Lithuanian Language), is too large (varying from 12 to 21), which leads to decreasing efficiency of the activities of these institutions and insufficiently rational use of funds.

Proposals

1. Criteria of foundation of institutions accountable to the Seimas should be provided for and functions of these institutions should be clarified by improving legislation, with a view to avoid overlapping of functions and attribution of functions which are not characteristic of an institution accountable to the Seimas and to ensure the status which would enable effective accountability and control of the institutions.

2. It is proposed to consider changing the status of a number of the institutions accountable to the Seimas which are engaged in cultural activities with a view to ensure an adequate place of the institution in question in the public administration system in accordance with the functions performed by that institution.

3. A decision should be taken on expediency of certain functions, also, activities of the institutions should be optimised accordingly aiming at efficient use of resources and taking into account the fact that functions of a few audited institutions have been shrinking and some functions have been performed ineffectively.

4. It is proposed to set and validate the optimal number of the members of the institutions accountable to the Seimas which have management bodies that take collegial decisions.

The Seimas Committee on Education, Science and Culture, obliged by the Board of the Seimas, informed that the conclusions and proposals received will be used to improve legislation and while performing parliamentary control.