

Replies to the European Commission's questionnaire concerning the Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 November 2005 on film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial industries

1. Lithuania is interested in the drawing-up and application of European standards for the cataloguing and indexing of cinematographic works since this will help the country to integrate into the EU audiovisual-heritage information space and will facilitate domestic and international efforts regarding the storage, handling, conservation and use of audiovisual heritage.

Further to the European Commission's mandate M/365 to the European Standardisation Committee (CEN) on the harmonisation of cataloguing and indexing practices of cinematographic works and on the interoperability of film databases, the Government-authorized institutions responsible for protecting film heritage, the Lithuanian Archive Department under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Central State Archive, have begun working at European level to agree on practices relating to the cataloguing and indexing of cinematographic works. To this end, a specific working group has been set up (CEN/BT/TF 179 Cinematographic Works) to draw up the following draft standards:

CSH01001 - "Film identification – Minimum metadata set for cinematographic works";

CSH01002 – "Film identification – Common rules on cataloguing and indexation and comprehensive terminology".

In 2008 the Lithuanian Central State Archive will participate in the MIDAS international project as one of the partners of the main organiser (the German Film Institute). For this project it is intended to supply some 1 000 titles by way of data for a search facility for film documents. This is just part of what will be available on the internet under the "Lithuanian documentary cinema on the internet" project.

2. The implementation of the systematic selection, cataloguing, conservation, restoration and possibility of non-commercial use of the cinematographic works forming part of the Lithuanian audiovisual heritage is regulated by the Lithuanian Cinema Law (Official Gazette 2002, No 31-1107), the Lithuanian Documents and Archives Law (Official Gazette 1995, No 107-2389), the statutes of the Lithuanian Archive Department under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved by Resolution of the Lithuanian Government No 197 of 8 February 2002 and the Rules governing the allocation of State Budget appropriations and National Cinema Support Programme funds to cinema projects (hereinafter referred to as "the Rules") approved by Order of the

Lithuanian Minister for Culture No IV-615 of 10 November 2006 (Official Gazette 2006, No 125-4772).

5. The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, in implementing the measures of the Government programme for 2006-08 approved by point 201 of the Lithuanian Government by Resolution No 1020 of 17 October 2006 (Official Gazette 2006, No 112-4273), is coordinating the project to draw up the concept of the National Cinema Centre. Once it has been adopted and the National Cinema Centre has been set up to implement the national cinema policy, one of the Centre's functions will be to manage the film heritage protection programme.

6. The film documents stored at the Lithuanian Central State Archive are catalogued. An electronic database and search facility have been created. Digital copies of films are produced each year for the purposes of storage (mini DV format) and screening (DVD format). A total of 120 film titles have been digitalised. Specially constructed equipment is used to produce these copies. Newly created European standards will be tested and applied in the MIDAS (Moving Image Database for Access and Re-use of European film collections) project, the aim of which is to create a film database for the institutions of European countries centralising data concerning collections of European archive films of historical and cultural value so as to enable data obtained during the process of searching and communicating information to be used for both commercial and cultural purposes.

The restoration of old and all other damaged films through the acquisition of appropriate equipment is included in the project of the Lithuanian Central State Archive concerning the drawing-up of documentation necessary for aid under the "Lithuanian documentary cinema on the internet" project.

1. Collection

The systematic selection, cataloguing, conservation, restoration and possibility of non-commercial use of the cinematographic works forming part of the Lithuanian audiovisual heritage is regulated by the Lithuanian Cinema Law (Official Gazette 2002, No 31-1107), the Lithuanian Documents and Archives Law (Official Gazette 1995, No 107-2389), the statutes of the Lithuanian Archive Department under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved by Resolution of the Lithuanian Government No 197 of 8 February 2002, the Rules governing the allocation of State Budget appropriations and National Cinema Support Programme funds to cinema projects

(hereinafter referred to as "the Rules") approved by Order of the Lithuanian Minister for Culture No IV-615 of 10 November 2006 (Official Gazette 2006, No 125-4772), and the Agreement for project part-financing approved by Order of the Lithuanian Minister for Culture No IV-709 of 10 December 2007 (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement").

Article 14 of the Cinema Law stipulates that the Government-authorized institution responsible for the protection of film heritage is entrusted with the storage of original media of national films as a national asset.

The Resolution of the Lithuanian Government No 1055 of 4 July 2002 on the granting of authorisations pursuant to the Lithuanian Cinema Law (Official Gazette 2002, No 70-2906) authorises the Lithuanian Archive Department under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to implement the protection of film heritage.

The Lithuanian Archive Department accepts for storage the original media of national films the production of which is wholly or partially financed from the State budget, restores them and uses them for research, creative or other purposes.

The Cinema Law lays down the rules governing the storage of the original media of such national films:

- 1) film producers are required to supply the original media of national films to the Government-authorized institution responsible for the protection of film heritage for storage;
- 2) original film media must be supplied for storage not later than 12 months after the completion of the final version;
- 3) it is prohibited to destroy original film media;
- 4) if the production of films was financed solely using the funds of private film producers, the rules governing the storage and use of original media are established by agreement between the producer and the Government-authorized institution responsible for the protection of film heritage.

The first and second of these provisions are not applicable to co-productions if the agreement states that original film media will be stored by the other party.

Point 40.23. of the Rules stipulates that applicants for funds from the State budget must submit to the Ministry a certificate from the Lithuanian Archive Department confirming that original film media have been supplied for storage where funds were allocated for the production of a film.

Point 2.2.7. of the Agreement states that a project promoter must supply the original film copy (the negative, optical sound negative, original soundtrack) to the Government-authorised institution responsible for the protection of film heritage for storage not later than 12 months after completion of a film production project.

According to point 47 of the Rules, a project promoter and the legal person set up and managed by him who has not correctly reported projects partly financed in the previous year with funds from the State budget and/or the National Cinema Support Programme or reports them late shall not be granted finance for the following two calendar years.

2. *Cataloguing and creation of databases*

The Lithuanian Central State Archive is the largest national store of audiovisual heritage. It stores the bulk of the national audiovisual heritage – more than 39 940 units and 7 612 titles of film documents (audio and visual negatives, intermediate media suitable for copying and demonstration copies). All film documents stored in the Archive are catalogued. An electronic database and search facility have been created.

Further to the European Commission's mandate M/365 to the European Standardisation Committee (CEN) on the harmonisation of cataloguing and indexing practices of cinematographic works and on the interoperability of film databases, work has begun at European level to agree on practices relating to the cataloguing and indexing of cinematographic works in May 2005. To this end, a specific working group has been set up (CEN/BT/TF 179 *Cinematographic Works*) to draw up the following draft standards:

CSH01001 - "Film identification – Minimum metadata set for cinematographic works";

CSH01002 – "Film identification – Common rules on cataloguing and indexation and comprehensive terminology".

The Lithuanian Standardisation Department has delegated Valerija Jusevičiūtė, the authorised representative for LST TK 47 *Information and documentation* and deputy director of the Lithuanian Central State Archive, to take part in the activities of CEN/BT/TF 179 and to represent Lithuanian interests.

A working group has been set up for LST TK 47 including representatives of Lithuanian Radio and Television (LRT) and UAB "Lietuvos kinas". This working group draws up proposals.

All participants in the European Commission's Cinema Expert Group, Archives Subgroup – the UK, Germany, France, Spain, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and Italy - agree that the creation and application of European standards will improve domestic and international activities relating to the identification and use of cinematographic works. Since France, the UK and Germany have the most practice in establishing standards for cinematographic works, the representatives of those three countries are carrying out the basis analytical work.

Lithuania is interested in the drawing-up and application of European standards for the cataloguing and indexing of cinematographic works since this will help the country to integrate into the EU audiovisual-heritage information space and will facilitate domestic and international efforts regarding the storage, handling, conservation and use of the audiovisual heritage. No specific European standards for cinematographic works have ever been used for the cataloguing and indexing of the Lithuanian national audiovisual heritage. The application of future standards would significantly reduce regional backwardness in this area.

Newly created European standards will be tested and applied in the MIDAS (Moving Image Database for Access and Re-use of European film collections) project. In 2008 the Lithuanian Central State Archive will participate in the MIDAS international project as one of the partners of the main organiser (the German Film Institute). The MIDAS project is part of the EU Media Plus programme and is financed with Media Plus funds. The aim of the project is to create a film database for the institutions of European countries centralising data concerning collections of European archive films of historical and culture value so as to enable data obtained during the process of searching and communicating information can be used for both commercial and cultural purposes.

For the MIDAS project it is intended to supply some 1 000 titles by way of data for a search facility for film documents. This is just part of which will be supplied on the internet under the "Lithuanian documentary cinema on the internet" project. Under MIDAS, catalogue data is supplied only in the national language and English. Digital images are not supplied. Participation in the MIDAS project will be very useful from a technical point of view involving as it does preparation for the archive project by developing an appropriate data retrieval and search (including conversion and submission) model to which it is already possible to apply new common European standards still being create for the cataloguing of cinematographic works. Funds successfully used during implementation of the MIDAS project and the practice obtained would be

particularly valuable not only for the implementation of the archive project but also for all archive infrastructure, staff training and the renewal of IT equipment. This would also be the first stage in the integration of the data search facility not only for the Archive but also for all Lithuanian cinema into the European computerised audiovisual virtual space for cultural heritage since the data will be supplied in English. (The basic aim of the archive project is to develop content in Lithuanian (catalogues and images) on the internet). This would reduce the regional backwardness of Lithuania in this area.

The Lithuanian Central State Archive is participating in the UNESCO "Memory of the World" programme by developing a national register. In 2007 the cinematographic subjects proposed by the Archive (the third Lithuanian exhibition of agriculture and industry, the first all-Lithuania song festival and the funeral of Lithuanian Patriarch Dr Jonas Basanavičius) were recognised as documents of national importance and were included in the Lithuanian national Memory of the World Register.

3. Preservation

Legal instruments: The Cinema Law, the Lithuanian Documents and Archives Law and the statutes of the Lithuanian Archive Department under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Concrete activities: copying of film documents, creating analogue (previously) and digital (at present) copies for storage and use.

Digital copies of films are produced each year in the Archive for the purposes of storage (mini DV format) and screening (DVD format). A total of 120 film titles have been digitalised.

Specially constructed equipment is used to produce these copies. It is planned to purchase modern equipment on the basis of the project for the drawing-up of documentation necessary for aid under the "Lithuanian documentary cinema on the internet" project.

4. Restoration

It is possible to restore deposited cinematographic works under the Cinema Law and the Lithuanian Documents and Archives Law.

The restoration of old and all other damaged films through the acquisition of appropriate equipment is included in the State Archive's project concerning the drawing-up of documentation necessary for aid under the "Lithuanian documentary cinema on the internet" project.

5. *Making deposited cinematographic works accessible for educational, cultural, research or other non-commercial uses of similar nature*

The Cinema Law provides for the Lithuanian Archive Department to accept for storage the original media of national films the production of which is wholly or partially financed from the State budget, restore them and use them for research, creative or other purposes.

Deposited cinematographic works are used for educational, cultural, research and other similar non-commercial purposes in accordance with the requirements of the Lithuanian Law on Copyright and related rights and pursuant to the Lithuanian Documents and Archives Law and the Cinema Law. Under point 7.4 of the Statutes of the Lithuanian Central State Archive, the latter accepts for storage the original media of national films supplied in accordance with the rules of the Cinema Law and regulatory provisions.

When accepting film documents for permanent storage, an agreement is concluded with the supplier which clearly sets out the conditions for use. Film documents are used in accordance with those conditions. Each individual case of use is subject to a further specific agreement.

6. *Professional training and media literacy*

Each year ever more visitors are taking an interest in the film documents stored by the Lithuanian Central State Archive and their use is widening in geographical terms. Increasing numbers of visitors come from more distant Lithuanian localities and from foreign countries. A clear trend has also been observed that every year the number of scientists and researchers from Lithuanian and foreign scientific institutions is growing. Each year, film documents are used in research by people coming from Poland, Germany, the United States and Israel. For students, scientists and researchers alike, film documents are an important source of information relating to modern history. Familiarisation with the archives is becoming part of the educational programme for students and schoolchildren.

The Archive's collection of film documents, which covers the full evolution of Lithuanian cinema from the 1920s to the present day, is also an important source of knowledge for filmmakers. Film documents are widely used when making new films. One very important project is G. Sviderskytė's documentary film cycle entitled "The secret archives of the 20th Century", for which a significant number of the film documents stored in the Archive are being used.

Since 2004, the new trend of using film documents has become more evident. More and more often, people are coming to the Archive simply to spend their leisure time and to use film documents for self-learning purposes. The Lithuanian Central State Archive is making a significant contribution to popularising film documents. Special evenings are organised at the Lithuanian National Museum on Thursdays on the theme "Lithuanian history in the cinema". The Lithuanian Central State Archive is implementing a joint educational project with the "Lyra" music school in Vilnius entitled "Lithuanian history and music on the screen". The aim of this project is to broaden the horizons of pupils by combining historical knowledge with the study of Lithuanian music, thereby making pupils aware of the treasure store that is the Lithuanian Central State Archive and the historical evolution of cinema, enriching pupil's knowledge of the most prominent Lithuanian music and musical events and fostering the creativity of pupils using an active teaching method.

The Lithuanian Central State Archive is constantly organising excursions for schoolchildren and students during which films stored in the Archive are also shown. 37 groups of schoolchildren and students with a total of more than 500 people visited the Archive in 2007.

Students of archive studies at Vilnius University increasingly choose various aspects of the Lithuanian Central State Archive and the documents stored there (including film heritage) as a subject for their studies and dissertations.

The Lithuanian State Archive also participates in joint projects of an educational/non-commercial nature with other institutions: a project with VšĮ "Meno projektų pristatymai" (a public institution) at the Vilnius Protestant Reform Church, where films from the Archive are shown, the education project "Jazz and the cinema" with the concert band "Kauno bigbendas", an exploratory non-commercial project organised by VšĮ "Jutempus" on the subject of "Reclaiming public space" using film documents relating to the public space (cinemas, sports venues, parks, plantations and similar endangered and evolving urban zones).

7. Deposit

All of the auxiliary and advertising-related media forming part of the national audio-visual heritage are stored at the Lithuanian Literary and Artistic Archive, the music and cinema museum and in other museums. Under the Lithuanian Documents and Archives Law, past cinematographic works must be deposited. Various institution and natural persons voluntarily transfer film documents in their possession to the Archive for permanent storage. Certificates of transfer and acceptance and the necessary agreements are drawn up. During various cultural events (seminars, exhibitions and other projects), the Lithuanian Central Archive reminds participants of the threat to the survival of

old cinematographic works (due to the physical and chemical fragility and short-lived nature of their media) and encourages them to transfer old film documents to the Archive so that they can be preserved for the future.

8. Cooperation between designated bodies

The Lithuanian Central Archive cooperates with the institutions responsible for storing film documents in other countries. Information and experience is exchanged with the Lithuanian national radio and television broadcasting company and UAB "Lietuvos kinas" and joint projects are organised.

The Lithuanian Central State Archive could release film documents on DVD or other formats but the existing technical equipment is not yet able to guarantee good-quality copies. This activity will be pursued more intensively when the project for the drawing-up of documentation necessary for aid under the "Lithuanian documentary cinema on the internet" project has been implemented. A European filmography will be created in the context of MIDAS activities and will be pursued further once the said project has been implemented.