



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

**Project ID:**  
**2012-1-LT1-GRU06-07163**

---

## **Report**

---

### **Fostering Cultural Heritage for bridging intergenerational dialogue (FOCAL) (2012-2014)**

### **Analysis of Cultural Heritage of Lithuania**

<b>Document type:</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Project partner responsible for the report:</b>	<b>Public institution „eMundus”, Lithuania</b>
<b>Authors:</b>	<b>V. Drašutė, I. Kubiliūnienė, S. Strelčiūnienė N. Kelpšaitė, S. Drašutis</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>(1.0 version: 30/01/2013, last version (1.4) 21/06/2013)</b>

## Copyrights

© Copyright by consortium of 2012 - 2014 FOCAL project consisting of the following institutions:

- VŠĮ (Public institution) „eMundus"
- Foundation for development of the cultural and business potential of civil society
- European Lab of Education Technology - Edumotiva

This document may not be copied, edited or replaced in whole or in part, or changed any part of it without the written permission of the consortium of FOCAL project. In addition, such written permission to copy, reproduce or change this document or part of it, should be took from authors of the document and all copyright holders. Submitting a written request to the desired changes should clearly described and specified reasons.

All Rights Reserved.

# Content

Summary .....	4
Introduction .....	5
Visual and audio materials listed by chapters .....	6
1. Presentation of Lithuania .....	7
2. Lithuania as historical land .....	8
2.1 History of Lithuania .....	8
2.2 Forming of nation and culture .....	12
2.3 Formating of Lithuanian language .....	12
2.4 Religions and customs .....	13
3. Architecture of Lithuania .....	15
3.1 Review of the old Lithuanian architecture .....	15
3.2 Reflections of modern architecture .....	19
4. Art of Lithuania .....	21
4.1 Traditional crafts .....	21
4.2 Traditional costumes .....	23
4.3 Traditional music .....	26
4.4 Traditional dances .....	27
4.5 Lithuanian literature .....	28
4.6 Visual art in Lithuania .....	30
4.6.1 Painting .....	30
4.6.2 Sculpture .....	33
4.6.3 Photography .....	35
4.7 Cultural art events in Lithuania .....	36
5. Lithuania as a land of beliefs .....	41
5.1 Beliefs related to weather .....	41
5.2 Beliefs related to medicine .....	42
5.3 Rituals and celebrations on Lithuania .....	43
6. Lithuania as the land of tastes .....	48
6.1 The main cultivation in Lithuania .....	48
6.2 Traditional dishes .....	48
6.3 Traditional drinks .....	50
6.4 Traditional desserts .....	51
6.5 Old recipes .....	52
7. Museums of Lithuania .....	54
8. UNESCO. World Heritage objects in Lithuania .....	58
9. Cultural heritage of Lithuania and fostering of it .....	64
9.1 Cultural heritage .....	64
9.2 Results of research "How well I know my culture?" .....	67
9.3 Dialog between generations .....	69
Concluding remarks .....	72

## SUMMARY

Project FOCAL (No. 2012-1-LT1-GRU06-07163) is organized according to EU Lifelong Learning Programme Grundtvig Partnership projects. The project aims to explore and reveal similarities and differences between countries, exchange of cultural experience, present the culture and maintain intergeneration dialogue between youth and seniors. The main strategy during the project is to collaborate and communicate between generations, also presentations of different countries in various forms, knowledge of most exciting cultural heritage, sharing experience and best moments. Cultural experience is tending to shift between generations and countries through the following components:

- Culture and cultural heritage,
- Traditional meals and customs,
- The old traditions associated with nature and its monitoring,
- The landscape and architecture: cultural heritage and the present values of the most beautiful areas of the country,
- Religion,
- Intellect and art,
- Each country in the world (as a state and its representation of what it is famous in the world)

To show this cultural aspects each country as a participants of this project (Lithuania, Bulgaria, Greece) prepared their cultural heritage analysis.

This report is analysis of cultural heritage of Lithuania. It consists of 9 chapters and begins with Lithuania's demographics data, historical facts and continues with architecture, art, beliefs, customs, cultural cuisine of Lithuania, also fostering historical and cultural heritage of countries and their appreciation in abroad. Last to chapters of this report are devoted to overview Lithuania's cultural heritage, briefly review results of study how well Lithuanians know their culture and dialog between generations.

NOTE: this report is interactive with links to visual, sound and additional material on internet. Links are marked out in blue background squares (**Error! Reference source not found.**) and are activated by clicking on [blue written text](#). Blue squares with links are in the end of almost all chapters of this report. Full list of these links are in the beginning of report.



▪ [Pristatymas apie Lietuvą](#)

**1 picture.** Links to visual, sound and additional material on internet

## INTRODUCTION

*„Person spiritually and ideologically getting poor, humanly and morally getting worse without his ethnic and historical roots, without his cultural memory“  
(Lithuania’s cultural magazine “Aidai”, 1990)*

Ethnic culture plays a significant role in the developing of nationally conscious, patriotic and spirited personality. At the same time ethnic culture, which accumulated time-tested values, successfully contribute to the general education goals - from an early age to develop values of humanity, morality, healthy lifestyle, creativity and other values that are common to all mankind, various capacities, helping to become a full-fledged independent person.

From generation to generation the nation passed a spiritual experience, full of different traditions and folk art forms. For centuries that have helped to educate the rising generation. Caring of ethnic culture is not only a nation’s matter of honour – it is essential for nation’s survival. Lithuania has a number of written, iconographic, audio materials, which are important for studies of ethnic culture. There are a number of published studies mature also.

But in modern society, we have to look for new ways to spread about our cultural heritage not only at our country but also in the world. One of the biggest drawbacks of ethnic culture researches is limited point of view. These researches are often just about one nation, there are no interests in what is around that nation, neighbours, countries, not to mention further afield. Native ethnic culture dramatized and it is considered as a higher level of culture than that of neighbouring countries culture. And we, like any other nations, are part of Europe and the world. The spiritual heritage awareness - this is our guarantee of the future. In order to remain yourself while spreading the national identity, it is important to know, protect and respect your own historical origins. We believe that one of the most important expressions of national identity is an ethnic or national culture. National culture depends on us. We can cherish it as a spiritual value, we can strive to be euthanized as a cosmopolitan modern world obsolete, or ignore destiny of national culture.

This report of cultural heritage is important part of FOCAL project. It consists of several main parts: culture and heritage research of Lithuania, aspects of heritage fostering and problems and necessity of dialog between generations.

## VISUAL AND AUDIO MATERIALS LISTED BY CHAPTERS

### 1. Presentation of Lithuania

- [Presentation about Lithuania](#) (in English)
- [Aerial photo project "Unseen Lithuania"](#)

### 2. Lithuania as historical land

- Travel Channel show about Lithuania "Essential Lithuania (in English) [1part](#) ir [2 part](#)
- Living chain of people who are seeking for independence – [Baltic way](#): Footage of the Baltic Way song lyrics - in three languages: Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian
- [Lithuanian language primer](#)
- [Basketball in Lithuania](#) – History and Successes (visual material) (in Lithuanian and in English)

### 3. Architecture of Lithuania

- Documentary "[Wooden manors of Lithuania](#)"
- One of the many estates in Lithuania – [Rokiškis estate](#)
- [About architecture and a little bit more about the Lithuanian capital](#)

### 4. Art of Lithuania

- [Lithuanian folk dances, games and music](#): the story of their purpose and composition, audio and visual material (in Lithuanian)
- [Lithuanian folk dance "Hay"](#)
- [Lithuanian Folk Dance "Greitpolkė"](#)
- [Song Festival](#): history and visual material (in English)
- [Dance with clogs](#)
- Movie "[Wall Painting in Lithuania](#)"

### 5. Lithuania as a land of beliefs (5.3. Rituals and celebrations on Lithuania)

- Some videos from 2013 Shrovetide events [in Rumšiškės](#), [in Vilnius](#)

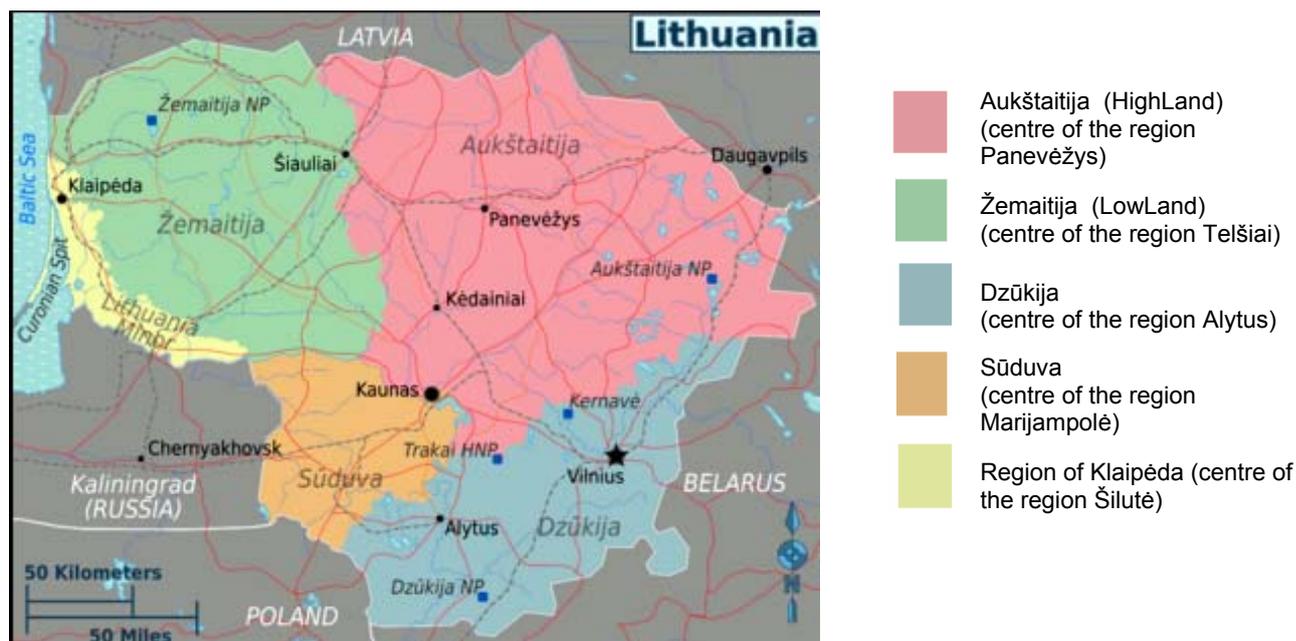
### 8. UNESCO. World Heritage objects in Lithuania

- [Presentation about Lithuania](#) (the views)
- [Story of a tourist about visit in Kernavė](#) (in English)
- BBC broadcast with travel guru M. Palin [about the Curonian Spit](#) (in English)
- [Cross Hill](#): Images, impressions of visitors, Cross craft specialist Steponavičius (in English)

# 1. PRESENTATION OF LITHUANIA

The Republic of Lithuania is a small country in east of Baltic Sea. Lithuania has four neighbours: Latvia, Belarus, Poland and Russia.

Since 13th century, when formed borders of Lithuania, in its territory prevailed and remained till now five ethnographic regions: Aukštaitija, Žemaitija, Dzūkija, Sūduva, region of Klaipėda (Lithuania Minor). All regions differ in dialects, lifestyle, habits and traditions, which are presented and described further in the relevant sections of this report. The official language – Lithuanian.



**2 picture.** Ethnographic regions of Lithuania

Lithuania has an estimated population of 3,2 million (as of 2012) with 115 different nationalities. Lithuanians account for 83,7 %, Poles – 6,6 %, Russians – 5,3 %, Belarusians – 1,3 %, other nationalities – 4,1 % of the country's population. The average life expectancy in Lithuania - 75 years, for men - 70, women - 80.

Currently, 77,2 % of Lithuanians belongs to Roman Catholic Church, 4,88 % - to Orthodox, 0,60 % - Evangelical Lutheran, 0,22 % Evangelical Reformed, 0,89 % - Judaism, Islam and other religions.

The administrative division of the territory of Lithuania is 10 counties. The county consists of 60 municipalities, which divided into 546 elderships. The largest city and capital of Lithuania - Vilnius (525 thousand citizens), followed by Kaunas (309 thousand citizens), Klaipėda (160 thousand citizens), Šiauliai (107 thousand citizens), and Panevėžys (98 thousand citizens).

Lithuania is country of plains. It covers an area of 65,200 km<sup>2</sup>: where 75 % of the land is plains, 33 % - forests, 1,37 % - lakes. The most of lakes in Lithuania are in the north-eastern side of the country, where rallies all biggest, deepest and longest lakes of Lithuania. There are also counted nearly 30,000 rivers and streams, most of which flow into the country's longest river - Nemunas.

In 1989 National geographic institute of France established that centre of Europe is in Lithuania (54° 54' north latitude and 25° 19' east longitude).

Lithuania's climate, which ranges between maritime and continental, is relatively mild. The average July temperature is +23°C, and in January -4.9°C. The country has excellent visibility of all four seasons, each of which on average lasts for three months per year.



**3 picture.** Four seasons in Lithuania

Lithuanian political system is a parliamentary democracy. The head of state is the President, the executive - the Government (appointed by the President), the legislative power – the parliamentary body, the Seimas (unicameral parliament is elected directly). Lithuanian national flag is the tricolour of three equal horizontal bands of colours (from top to bottom: yellow, green, red). Armorial Lithuanian flag (Chase), used since the times of the Battle of Grunwald – image of armoured knight on a white horse with boarding sword.



**4 picture.** Lithuania's national and armorial

The national currency of Lithuania - Litas (LTL) (3.4528 LTL = 1 EUR). Lithuania is preparing to adopt the euro soon.



- [Presentaion of Lithuania](#)
- [Photo project from bird's view „Unseen Lithuania“](#)

#### References:

- [1] BE International Culture Programme Center, „Trumpa informacija apie šalį“: [http://www.koperator.lt/lt/579861/trumpai\\_apie\\_lietuva/trumpai\\_apie\\_sali](http://www.koperator.lt/lt/579861/trumpai_apie_lietuva/trumpai_apie_sali)
- [2] Blog „Buržujaus rašinėliai“, „1000 kunigų katalikų su 100 procentų“: <http://www.kleckas.lt/blog/1000-kunigu-kataliku-su-100-procentu>
- [3] Photo „Keturi metų laikai“: <http://www.efoto.lt/node/803728>
- [4] Statistics Lithuania, data of Lithuania's population: <http://db1.stat.gov.lt/statbank/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?Maintable=M3010215&PLanguage=0>
- [5] Wikitravel, Lietuva: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Lithuania>

## 2. LITHUANIA AS HISTORICAL LAND

### 2.1 History of Lithuania

It was assumed that the first human traces in the Eastern Baltic appeared only in the middle Stone Age (8000-3000 BC), but there are already archaeological materials showing that people lived here in the old Stone Age

(14000-11000 BC). They came from the south and south-west of Europe, and brought with them almost 16 thousand years old traditions and skills.

Since the early Iron and Bronze age in Europe was spreading settlement building on stilts in water, But such settlements were in the Neolithic period also. Recently discovered such settlements in East Lithuania in the bottom of the lake (Lake Luokesa, Molėtai), which dates 2000 BC. Studies show that they have been built directly on the water, and the stakes minted winter when lakes freeze. Poles in peaty soil rot more slowly, so did not need often to rebuilt buildings. In the area of settlements and beyond them was moist and well thrived grass, so it was the great place for animals to grow and protect against wild beasts. Living by the water was convenient to the village to provide fish, contact with other tribes, and to defend. Dense tapered logs fence most settlements of poles were built for defending against attackers, keeping livestock. Since water cleans the environment, there has been the best place to waste, and avoid unsanitary conditions. Building the poles structure of buildings, people were able to adapt to the natural conditions.

It is much more obvious and more studied ancient settlements can be found along the great rivers of Lithuania. It is a large regular mountains with flat tops - mounds with wooden and later stone castles. Castles on the top of mounds defended the surrounding villages and the inhabitants of villages supplied all the necessary products for the castle crew. The castle was surrounded by a strong high fence around the mound and chiselled ditches and ramparts. It was convenient to monitor the environment, defend against enemy.

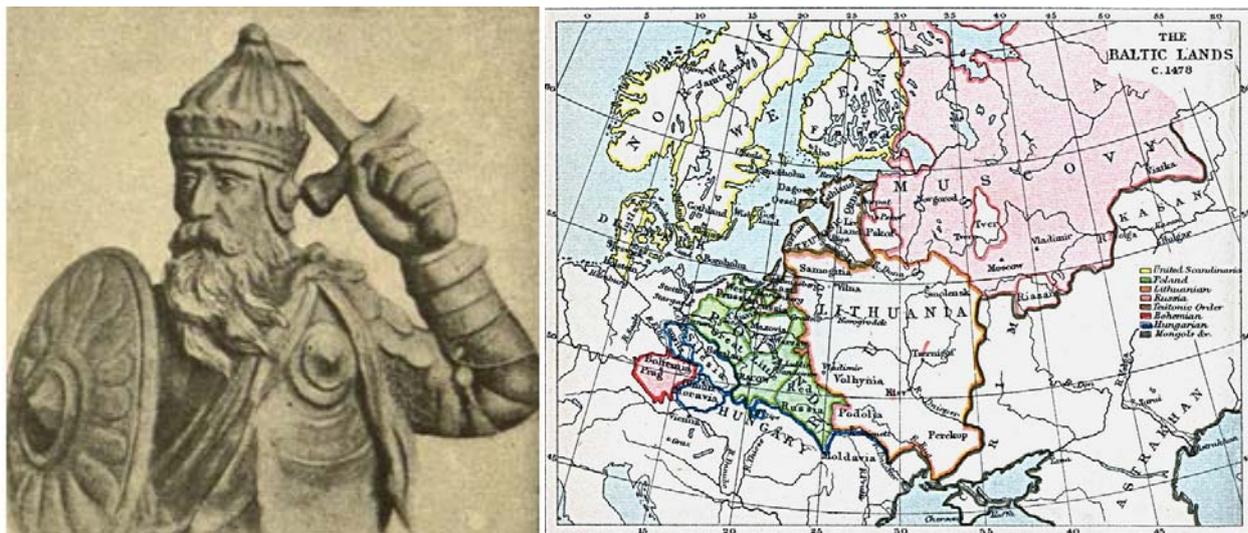


**5 picture.** Old villages in Lithuania (around 2000-300 BC)

The name of Lithuania (in Slavic form - *Litua*) was first mentioned in annals of Quedlinburg in Latin language on 1009. There were written about German missionary Archbishop Bruno's trip and his death in Lithuanian and Kievan Rus periphery.

In the Middle Ages, Lithuania was already created their state - the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Lithuanian state appeared on the map of the world on 1253 July 6th when there were crowned lord of united Lithuania Mindaugas (~1203-1263). He joined other dukes of Lithuania and strengthen his position in the larger part of country. According special document of Pope (Papal Bull) Lithuania got the highest title – the kingdom. This meant that all of Western Europe has accepted Lithuania and took it to his family as an equitable member of political system. In 1387 officially baptized Lithuania chose the western development path: more and more people learnt to write, there were set up of schools, Lithuanian students studied in European universities. The first and only Lithuanian King Mindaugas Coronation Day - July 6th - today is the feast of the Lithuanian state.

At that time Lithuania began to expand territory into Kievan Rus lands and also fiercely fought with The Teutonic Order in the eastern Baltic Sea coast. The Order began 200 years-long Crusade against pagan countries. On 14th century The Grand Duchy of Lithuania was one of the largest and most powerful countries in Europe. During this period, Vilnius became the capital of Lithuania.



**6 picture.** Only King of Lithuania Mindaugas and his tribesmen's conquests, when Lithuania territory reached Black Sea in 1478

One of the most important victories for Lithuania was in Battle of Grunwald on 1410 when joint forces with the Kingdom of Poland defeated the Teutonic Order. Then Lithuania reached the peak of its power – the Grand Duchy of Lithuania stretched from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and from Poland to Smolensk. It has become a significant political force in Eastern and Central Europe. Although in those days all foreigners with different religion were regarded as potential enemies, but the reason of successful development of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was the tolerance of other people's religions and local manners, customs.

Lithuanian Statutes made the background for old state system and legal framework, which shows that Lithuania became an integral part of Central Europe in 16th century. On 1791 Lithuania adopted its Constitution, which became the first in Europe and second in the world.

After Grand Duke Vytautas Magnus (1350 -1430) death because of wars with Russia, Lithuania began to wane. There were searching for help in Poland, with which Lithuania supported very good and close relations. Poland agreed to help only by combining states. Thus, in 1569 lords signed the Union of Lublin and created the Republic of Lithuania and Poland. Lithuania then lost autonomy and in country began to spread rapidly Polish language and culture.

The establishment of Vilnius University in 1579 was significant event in the cultural life and has political importance in 16th century. University became the first institution of higher education, not only in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, but also in Eastern Europe.

However, after the merging the Republic of Lithuania and Poland was silent in the international arena, and inside there were bickering and wars between the nobility.

At that time other countries began to dominate in the political map. Therefore, in 1795 Austria, Prussia and Russia shared lands, which were not strong. Lithuania were separated from Poland and went to Russia until 1914. The former territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania has been transformed by the Russian Empire structure, and the name of Lithuania was deleted. Lithuania than as a political than as a geographical entity did not exist in the map, and all the old Lithuanian statehood-like signs and symbols have been destroyed.

Against the Russian imperial policy there were two rebellions – on 1831 and 1863. The first rebellion had extremely dire consequences for Lithuania: shut down a number of Catholic churches, monasteries, schools, destroyed cultural and artistic values, closed Vilnius University, which have been the center of education and science for 250 years. After second rebellion there were banned Lithuanian press, persecuted Catholic Church in Lithuania, started to raise the Russian settlers, and a lot of Lithuanians emigrated to the United States and other countries.

Since 1864 until 1904 banned Lithuanian press were printed abroad, mostly in Prussia, Lithuania Minor, and America. And smugglers smuggled Lithuanian books across the border and distributed them in the country. Villages and manors were illegal Lithuanian language schools, thus was born the periodical Lithuanian press,

and in 1883 appeared the first Lithuanian newspaper “Aušra” (“Dawn”). This cultural movement is considered as a part of the Lithuanian national movement and laid the foundation for restoration of Lithuanian independence in 1918. And book smuggling is often referred to as the 19th century Lithuanian history phenomenon. On 2004 UNESCO Book smuggling appreciated as a unique and movement without any matches in the world.

In 1918 February 16th twenty brave and decisive nation's trustees signed Lithuanian Independence Act, which declared that Lithuania "restoring an independent, based on democratic foundations Lithuanian state, with its capital Vilnius and the termination of all relations which has happened with other nations." After defending the independence against the Poles and the Bolsheviks, Lithuania established a parliamentary democratic order, introduced a national currency – litas on 1920. In 1922 Lithuania adopted a permanent constitution.

On 1921 Lithuania became a member of the League of Nations. Most of the world's countries immediately recognized its independence, but only in 1922 United Kingdom, France, Italy, Japan, Germany, the Holy See, the United States of America has recognized Lithuania de jure. The symbol of country rising has become the feat of Lithuanian pilots S. Darius and S. Girėnas in 1933. They were among the first in the world crossed the Atlantic Ocean (from the U.S. to Europe). Lithuanian Republic era established civil society and cultural values which helped to survive the later Soviet occupation and became the ideological basis for the next restoration of independence.

Before World War II this time Germany and Russia (USSR) have agreed to share their desired lands. In 1940 The Soviet Union presented an ultimatum to Lithuania and requested to let in the troops of Soviet. Without receiving any Western democracies support Lithuania dared to resist. The very next day Lithuania, and after a few days the neighboring Baltic states Latvia and Estonia were occupied, converted to Soviet republics.

After occupation the Soviet Union launched massive repressions. Was arrested many intellectuals, the Lithuanian army was disbanded, many officers were shot, started mass deportations of Lithuanians to Siberia. In 1941 during war between Germany and the Soviet Union in Lithuania was imposed the German occupying authorities. There were organized the mass murder of Jews, Lithuanians were transported to Germany as labor power. After second time of occupation by the Soviet Union Lithuanians still believed that after the war will be restored independent Lithuania. Active resistance by Lithuanians was repressed, but there were passive civil resistance, established underground organizations, emerged illegal printing.

In 1988 was established the Lithuanian Reform Movement which steering group was inspired faith and hope for all Lithuanians. In 1989 August 23rd commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which annulled the independence of the Baltic countries, three Baltic capitals - Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn - were combined 650 kilometers long chain of people holding hands (2-2.5 million persons). Live Baltic Way symbolically separated the Baltic States from the Soviet Union.



**7 picture.** The Baltic Way – chain of people holding hands from Estonia till Lithuania

And already in 1990 March 11th has been restored an independent Lithuanian state. The Soviet Union resisted and opposed that and in 1991 January 13th sent to Vilnius specially prepared heavy military equipment paratroopers, armed groups. Soviet aggression Lithuanians passed peacefully - without weapons, just with songs and endless faith. Therefore, these events are often referred to as Lithuania Singing Revolution. It was the third time in the history of Lithuania when it began the era of independent living.

In 1991 The Republic of Lithuania adopted by the United Nations Organization (UNO). In 2004 Lithuania has acceded to NATO and accessed to the European Union (EU). Thus this small country returned to the

community of Europe. Becoming a member of the EU, Lithuania formally became a donor country and provide assistance to Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, South Caucasus, Afghanistan, Iraq, and by the EU format carries out multilateral aid commitments.



- “Travel Channel“ about Lithuania „Essential Lithuania“: [1st part](#) ir [2nd part](#)
- Chain of 2-2,5 million people holding hands and seeking for their independence - [The Baltic Way](#): video with song of this event (lyrics in three languages: Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian)

#### References:

- [1] Butkevičius A., „2011 08 22“: <http://www.lsdptaurage.lt/archyvas/0/401/rugpjucio-23-oji-juodojo-kaspino-ir-baltijos-kelio-diena>
- [2] Ilgūnas G., „Savąjį tūkstantmetį pasitinkanti Lietuva“: <http://ausis.gf.vu.lt/mg/nr/98/7/07ilgun.html>
- [3] Infomigracija.lt, „Reikšmingiausios Lietuvos istorijos datos“: [http://infomigracija.lt/lietuva/viewpage.php?page\\_id=32](http://infomigracija.lt/lietuva/viewpage.php?page_id=32)
- [4] Home of Lithuanians, „Liublino unija“: [http://www.lietuviunamai.vilnius.lm.lt/index\\_files/istpam7.pdf](http://www.lietuviunamai.vilnius.lm.lt/index_files/istpam7.pdf)
- [5] Lingis J., „Priešistorinė Lietuva“: [http://www.aidai.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4661&Itemid=334](http://www.aidai.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4661&Itemid=334)
- [6] Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society, „Lithuanian Map“: <http://www.lithuaniangenealogy.org/maps/index.html>
- [7] Motuzaitė G., „Ežerų polinės gyvenvietės pasaulyje ir Lietuvoje“: <http://ausis.gf.vu.lt/mg/nr/2002/10/10ez.html>
- [8] The Official Gateway of Lithuania, „Apie Lietuvą: istorija“: [http://www.lietuva.lt/apie\\_lietuva/istorija](http://www.lietuva.lt/apie_lietuva/istorija)
- [9] Lithuania in the Middle Ages, „Narkūnai“: <http://viduramziu.istorija.net/pilys/narkunai.htm>
- [10] Zabiela G., „Lietuvos piliakalniai“: [http://www.piliakalniai.lt/apie\\_piliakalnius.php](http://www.piliakalniai.lt/apie_piliakalnius.php)
- [11] Žilionis V., „Baltijos kelias 2007“: <http://www.zilionis.net/2007-05-05/baltijos-kelias-2007/>

## 2.2 Forming of nation and culture

According to archaeological findings since the end of the Stone Age (about 5 000 000 BC) Lithuanian ancestry lived in the same area as it is now. In those days it was obvious that Lithuanian culture made up of a separate trunk, its culture distinctive from other neighbors and its own rhythm of life do not overlap with those of other European nations cultural manifestations. Lithuanians lived and managed to resist to all kinds of influences.

Since when Lithuania was united in 13th century it just grew and flourished. The first signs of Lithuanian national revival movement has occurred in the 16th century and later developed in 19th century. The end turned into a political liberation movement. Much has been done for Lithuanian cultural consolidation in 16th century: gain Lithuanian written language statute, first written Lithuania book “Catechism” by M. Mažvydas, Statutes of Lithuania, opened Vilnius University.

In the end of 19th century attention was drawn to Lithuanian nation's past, folk culture, language as the language of Europe's oldest. This has led to increased Lithuanian national movement. Ideas of ethnic revival spread through periodicals, newspapers and intellectuals who were near these processes. National movement reached a basic Lithuanian layer - the peasantry, which mostly have contributed to the Lithuanian language and culture preservation and enhancement.

In cultural activities of national movement formed Lithuanian intellectuals: writers, artists, scientists, evolved literary Lithuanian language. Lithuanian national culture in 20th century already was able to satisfy the basic needs of a modern nation. Lithuanian people expressed not only as a live antion but also reaching its political - territorial existence, getting liberated from the Russian Empire.

The idea of the nation-state de jure, was implemented in 1918 February 16th.

## 2.3 Formating of Lithuanian language

Lithuanian language as a separate branch of the eastern Baltic language began to evolve from the 7th century. In the Middle Ages people were just speaking in Lithuanian language, but with Western Europe there were written communications in Latin, with the East – in the old Chancellery Slavonic language. Lithuanian

written language originated only in the 16th century and the basics of the standard Lithuanian language only in the end of 19th century.

Not once Lithuanian language and culture threatened with extinction due to the strong invasion of other nations: the merger with Poland (1569-1795), when noblemen took not only the Polish language but also the culture, and the occupation of Russia when after 1863 rebellion Lithuanian schools were closed, began a few decades of the ban of press in Latin characters. Also during the times when Lithuania was as a part of the Soviet Union, Russian language was the state language and Russification of public life was very strong.

Lithuanian language similarities found in Sanskrit (a classical Indian language), an ancient Latin and Greek languages. It is the oldest surviving Indo-European language from which evolved the majority of European languages features. Lithuanian language for foreigners' ears are often vocal and pleasing, but it may turn out to be difficult. Especially due to the fact that for the relations of words in sentences there is no articles. Instead, there is changing endings of words, and for foreigners it may seem as a difficult process.



- [The basics of Lithuanian language](#)

References:

- [1] Hilbig I., „Apie lietuvių kalbą...“: <http://www.lsk.fif.vu.lt/lt/katedra/lietuviu-kalbos-kursai/apie-lietuviu-kalba/>
- [2] Urbanavičius A., apie pasaulio kalbas: <http://ualgiman.dtiltas.lt/>

## 2.4 Religions and customs

Old Lithuanian religious rituals associated with the social distribution of people, and the rulers and the military caste rituals had to be different from farmers' rituals. Soldiers and nobility was baptized at the earliest, so data on their rituals remained the least, and the farmers rituals persisted until the 19th century but much decayed during the world wars and the Soviet period. At the moment rituals are switched to the ethnographic level and practiced by folk ensembles, as well as the old beliefs that support organizations.

Lithuanian customs and rituals have formed in pagan times and after coming of Christianity – came together and created new. Traditions - is well established actions that have become unwritten codes of conduct. So, knowing the Lithuanian customs, it is possible to know better Lithuanian people. Lithuanian old traditions linked mainly to farmers' practice where less than in many other European nations, were influenced by Christianity. From work habits Lithuania the most common assisting and the harvest-customs. Even today, Lithuanian village neighbors help each other in the works around farm – transporting hay, digging potatoes, cutting the pig. After work all volunteers who helped are invited to the dinner table - celebrate the end of work. Customs of calendar holidays is similar to customs of the work which are associated with the change of seasons, agricultural work. Some of these traditions merged into the Christian festivals (see 5.3 “Lithuanian rituals and celebrations”).

Living in a natural rhythm old Lithuanians each year felt the vital powers of nature change. Nature and vegetation change made the base for the old Lithuanian holidays. Similar critical periods of life the man has also. Basic human life events: birth – christenings, weddings, death – funerals. These events had their own rites and rituals associated with holidays calendar. Some of them are still alive to this day.

**Christening.** Born infant baptism is a custom holiday, which lasts for many centuries and is thought to having important implications for the child's future life. In old days Lithuanians babies christened a few days after birth. Because it was believed that unbaptized child take carries out only by the parents. And nowadays godfathers for the baby elected only reliable, well-meaning family and close people. It is great importance to christening candle – person have to save it all his life and may light again just during his First Communion or a wedding. Baptism candle is an eternal candle-light that illuminates the path of life, shows the correct direction.

**Wedding.** Lithuanian wedding can not be imagined without the matchmakers who is like all the wedding ceremony presenters: drinking toasts, begin the games, organize dances. It is also a very important part of the

wedding is the bridesmaids and groomsmen, which is usually three pairs, including a pair of chief-groomsman and chief-bridesmaid. Bridesmaid and groomsmen are typically young people and often a close friend or relatives (sister, brother, cousin, etc.). Chief-bridesmaid duties is probably similar in most countries - to organize bachelorette party, to help for the bride to dress up. Lithuanian wedding is large and convivial, they are full of laughter and a lot of people.

One of the unique characteristics of Lithuania is the fact that this country since ancient times was marked as a ethnic and religious tolerance country. Numerous Latin Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Lutheran and Uniate (Eastern Catholics) were living in Lithuania and in 14th century nobles of the state has housed and cared in Tartar and Karaites ethnic communities. Also particularly large Jewish community and their culture flourished in Lithuania before World War II. At that time Vilnius by Jews were called Jerusalem of the North. Mentioned religious left numerous sacred objects of cultural heritage - their houses of worship: Orthodox and Orthodox churches, Jewish synagogues, mosques of Tatars, Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Churches and the Karaites kenesa in Trakai, one of the three actors all over the world . Particularly impressive and extremely rare wooden synagogues of the Jews, but they remained just nine of them. There are 4 mosques in Lithuania and all are open.

The current Lithuanian "confesses" one non-traditional religion - **basketball**. While the world's most popular sport is soccer, Lithuanians are fans of basketball, it is - the second religion. A number of Lithuanian basketball players playing in the world's strongest league NBA, and the legendary team of Kaunas Zalgiris always goes to the list of best sixteen (of 24 teams) in the strongest league (Euroleague). Quite small country won a number of victories in the European and world basketball championships (external material in the video below).



8 picture. Second religion of Lithuania

Although Christianity had much impact on the Lithuanian worldview, culture and heritage, according 2009 study religion was essential for only one fifth of Lithuanian, much less of them constant prayers and participates in worships. Changing generations, people's outlook because of the accessibility to information and the development of opportunities. That is the evolution of the development of society.



▪ [Basketball in Lithuania](#) – history and victories

#### References:

- [1] Alfa.lt, „Lietuvos rinktinė be didesnio vargo susitvarkė su lenkais“: [http://www.alfa.lt/straipsnis/12317674/Lietuvos.rinktine.be.didesnio.vargo.susitvarke.su.lenkais=2011-09-01\\_20-30/](http://www.alfa.lt/straipsnis/12317674/Lietuvos.rinktine.be.didesnio.vargo.susitvarke.su.lenkais=2011-09-01_20-30/)
- [2] Apostatas, „Religija svarbi tik 19 proc. lietuvių“: [http://apostaze.blogspot.com/2009/11/religija-svarbi-tik-19-proc-lietuviu\\_22.html](http://apostaze.blogspot.com/2009/11/religija-svarbi-tik-19-proc-lietuviu_22.html)
- [3] Blog „Buržujaus rašinėliai“, „1000 kunigų katalikų su 100 procentų“: <http://www.kleckas.lt/blog/1000-kunigu-kataliku-su-100-procentu>

- [4] Infomigracija.lt, "Lietuvių religinės apeigos iki XX amžiaus": [http://infomigracija.lt/lietuva/viewpage.php?page\\_id=92](http://infomigracija.lt/lietuva/viewpage.php?page_id=92)
- [5] Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, „Kultūros paveldas Lietuvoje“: [http://www.lrkm.lt/go.php/lit/KULTUROS\\_PAVELDAS\\_LIETUVOJE/453/1](http://www.lrkm.lt/go.php/lit/KULTUROS_PAVELDAS_LIETUVOJE/453/1)
- [6] Zapolskaitė J., Jusevičiūtė L. Ir kt., „Lietuviški papročiai ir tradicijos“: <http://www.vug.lt/comenius-projektas/160-lietuviki-papročiai-ir-tradicijos>
- [7] 15min.lt, „Lietuvos krepšinio aštuoliai sukūrė malda šalies rinkinei“: <http://www.15min.lt/naujiena/eurobasket-2011/naujienos/lietuvos-krepšinio-aštuoliai-sukure-malda-salies-rinkinei-389-169010>

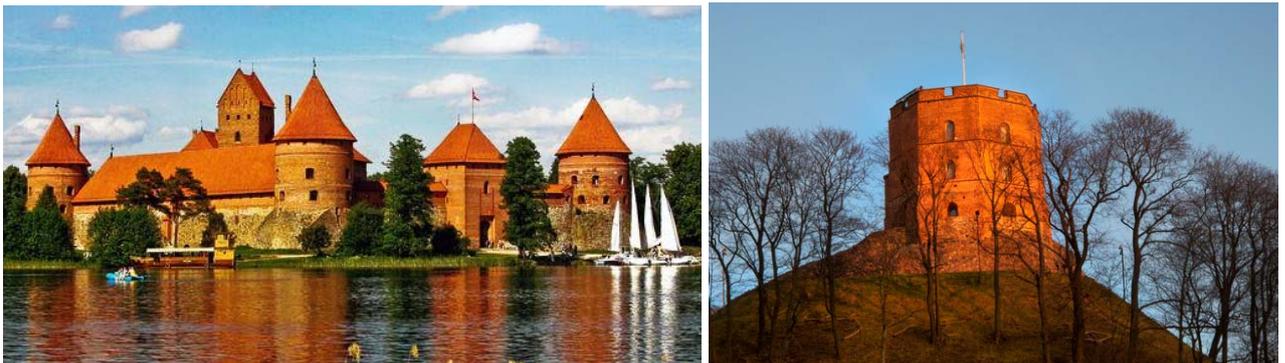
### 3. ARCHITECTURE OF LITHUANIA

Studies about Lithuanian architecture began only in the 19th century. Though number of remarkable and old architectural objects have survived till these days.

#### 3.1 Review of the old Lithuanian architecture

**Gothic** is first architectural style which reached Lithuania from Europe (14-16th century). During this period cities began to grow rapidly. Around the Market Square of the city richer urbans built gothic two-storied red-brick houses with a vaulted cellars.

Today remained a few castles and fragments thereof that are attributable to the Gothic style of architecture. They are restored and well-attended by tourists: Kaunas Castle, the Tower of Gediminas Castle, Trakai Castle. Lithuania seeks that the Trakai Castle would be included in the UNESCO list of World objects, as it is a beautiful and picturesque landscape and reflects the importance not only in Lithuania, but also in Eastern European history periods and events. It is the best preserved castle in Lithuania built in the 14th century.



**9 picture.** Trakai Castle (14th century) and Tower of Gediminas Castle (15th century)

The most significant Gothic monument is St. Anne's and Bernardine churches ensemble in Vilnius. Expressive towers, countless number of arches, hundreds of articles, neat metal gates, and many other embellishments, it is part of mentioned ensemble - St. Anne's Church (14th century). Is said that Napoleon Bonaparte had been fascinated its beauty: he wanted to bring it to Paris on his hand. Close to the church there is neo-Gothic bell tower designed in 19th century. Bernardine Church and Monastery (17-18th centuries) acquired Renaissance and Baroque features, but the number of observed are gothic elements also (10 picture, rightside). Other buildings in this style in Lithuania: St. Nicholas Church in Vilnius (14th century), Vytautas' the Great Church in Kaunas (15th century), Thunder House in Kaunas (15th century).



**10 picture.** St. Anne's and Bernardine churches ensemble

**Renaissance.** Ideas and culture of Renaissance in Lithuania manifested from the end of 15th century till the middle of 17th century. This was influenced by the nobility who studied in Prague, Krakow, Bologna, Leipzig, Munich and other universities. Renaissance intellectual atmosphere led to the emergence of the press in Lithuania. In 16th century in Lithuania prevailed both Gothic and Renaissance styles, which also mixed with the local architecture of castles, the works of local Lithuanian art masters. Thus Lithuania formed a distinctive Renaissance style which mostly manifested in the residential castles, city walls, bastion castles, educational, religious buildings, urban residents. The palace was rectangular, with high roofs: their bodies were grouped around closed (or semi-enclosed) courtyard. Castles in the center was a spacious courtyard surrounding by gardens and parks. Buildings of this architectural style: from the historic documents restored and in 2000-2009 built the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Panemunė Castle (16th century), Raudonė Castle (16th century), in which is now located in the school, Biržai Castle (16th century), Radvila Palace (17th century), the University of Vilnius (build up till 16th century), Gate of Dawn (16th century), which was one of the defensive wall parts in Vilnius.



**11 picture.** The Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania and Raudonė Castle

**Baroque.** Lithuanian Baroque architecture occupies a significant place in the north-east and central European Baroque architecture. Baroque art spread from the beginning of 17th century and there was associated with Renaissance art. It features bright folk, less splendor, refinement, exaltation and mysticism than in a typical Baroque art. Special features (volumes, proportions and plans for sustainability, avoidance of refinement, curves and intricate forms) formed Lithuanian Baroque school (also called Vilnius school of Baroque), which occurred not only in Lithuania, but also in Belarusian and Latvian architecture (a lot of buildings there was designed and built by Vilnius architects and craftsmen). The Baroque style was mostly prevalent in the cult and the architecture of the palaces (public buildings and urban houses are less ornate and magnificent). The most famous baroque buildings in Lithuania: Pažaislis Monastery (17-18th century), St. Peter and Paul's Church in Vilnius (17th century), All Saints' Church in Vilnius (17th century), St. Casimir's Church (17th century), wooden Palūšė Church (18th century). The peculiar architecture boasts and western part of the country. The towns of the Baltic Sea belonged to the Prussian, German, even French. Without a doubt, this region is really different from the rest of Lithuania.



**12 picture.** Pažaislis Monastery ensemble and St. Peter and Paul's Church

**Classicism.** The beginning of Classicism in Lithuania was in 1770. A number of known Lithuanian architects, creators of Classicism studied in Italian art schools. L. S. Gucevičius known as Lithuanian classicism architectural initiator, he infused a new and very close to the local composite architecture plan and facade solution. His buildings is characterized by the mass balance, plan clarity, deep structural logic. L. S. Gucevičiaus was the first Lithuanian architects used the art of sculpture to decorate public buildings. This architect created a number of important buildings in Vilnius: The Cathedral of Vilnius, Town Hall and the Episcopal Palace in Vilnius (now The Presidential Palace), Verkiai Ensemble (Vilnius county) Sudervė Church (near Vilnius). Other classical-style buildings in Lithuania: Paežeriai Palace (Vilkaviškio municipality), in the Old Town of Vilnius homes owned by nobilities (Palaces of Bžostovskiai, Tyzenhauzai, Lopacinskiai), Evangelical Reformed Church and others.



**13 picture.** The Presidential Palace and The Cathedral of Vilnius

During 19th century in Lithuanian art, like in the art and architecture of the world, was reflected various art trends: Classicism, Romanticism, Historicism, Eclecticism, Realism. Most of this century art trends manifested fragmentary in Lithuania, because the same artist often worked in several different styles.

**Modern** architecture was a little late in Vilnius - around 1900. It lasted until the World War I. Vilnius Modern architecture was not as radical as Viena or Brussels Modern, also here are not so many Modern buildings as in neighboring Riga and Lviv, Krakow. However, when traveling through the streets of Vilnius Old Town and the New Town, it is possible to detect about 40 interesting examples of this style, and the individual fragments, ornaments. Vilnius Art Modern buildings (especially in public) new-style forms are often intertwined with classical, baroque, wooden architectural motifs. Modern style is quite unlike Vilnius to Klaipeda buildings that have dominated the German Jugendstil trends.



**14 picture.** Lukiškės colony in Vilnius and Public library in Klaipėda

**Functionalism.** Lithuanian building condition was primitive until the end of the Russian occupation (1919). After the World War I independent Lithuania has made significant efforts to manage the constructions, buildings of the country. In 20th century Lithuania's also as in other countries architecture degraded into many different directions and never do not blend into a seamless style. In most of the work of architects manifested simplicity, moderation and seriousness, they avoided luxury or very low-cost and temporary things. That matches with the economic and technical feasibility, besides, people also were simple and had modest tastes. During the Soviet period, Lithuania's art was quite restricted because of ongoing management of processes and the Soviet repression (mass deportations of Lithuanian intellectuals, etc.).

One of the buildings of this period is the Christ's Resurrection Church in Kaunas. The church is on the hill, and the internal space of church is long, narrow and high, high-arches and thin pilasters in walls only emphasized the rise to the top. Church symbolize the resurrection of the nation. When Lithuania was occupied by the Germans, it turned into a paper storage, and the Russians - radios factory which later produced television sets also.



**15 picture.** Christ's Resurrection Church in Kaunas and Koncertų ir sporto rūmai Vilniuje

Other buildings in Kaunas from the Soviets period: Vytautas the Great Museum, the Bank of Lithuania, „Centre of Milk“ Palace (this project was awarded the Paris International Exhibition honorary diploma and now in this building is university), Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts. Vilnius: Art Exhibition Hall, huge Concert and Sports Hall struck up his folded roof, whose structure has been recognized as an invention.

So in the 19th century Lithuanian architecture recovered. The government has made great efforts to manage the construction of the country - there were working a lot of professionals and had been given a lot of money. In a relatively short period of time Lithuania has been made remarkable progress, even though the economic conditions were not favorable: rising construction quality, more modern buildings.



- Documentary ["Wooden manors of Lithuania"](#)
- One of Lithuania's manors – [Rokiškio manor](#)
- [Architecture of Vilnius and a lot more about Lithuania's capital](#)

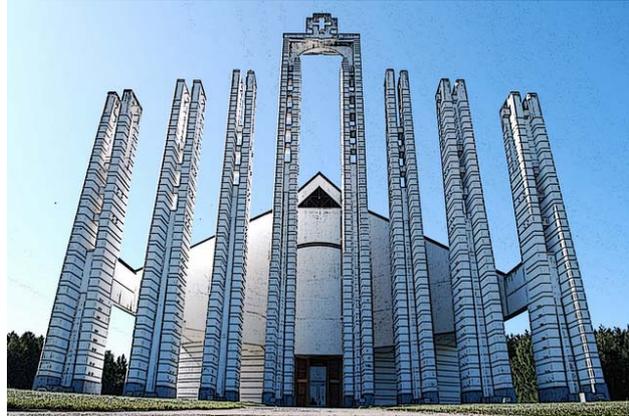
## References:

- [1] Baltų žinyčios vartai, „Valdovų rūmai – visuotinio pakilimo, vėliau dalies žmonių nusivylimo simbolis“: <http://www.baltai.lt/?p=2887>
- [2] Blog Arunas's space, „Lietuvos pilys, rūmai, dvarai“: <http://fkmlan.wordpress.com/2011/01/14/lietuvos-pilysrumaidvarai/>
- [3] Blog dgfotografija.lt, „Pažaislio Kamaldulių vienuolynas“: <http://www.dgfotografija.lt/blog/pazaislio-kamalduliu-vienuolynas>
- [4] Brazauskas A., „Lietuvos didžiųjų kunigaikščių rezidencija Vilniaus Žemutinėje pilyje ir jos atkūrimas“: [http://v1.valdovurumai.lt/Apie\\_mus/Brazauskas\\_Lietuvos\\_didziuju\\_kunigaiksciu\\_rezidencija\\_Vilniaus\\_Zemutineje\\_pilyje\\_ir\\_jos\\_atkurimas.lt.htm](http://v1.valdovurumai.lt/Apie_mus/Brazauskas_Lietuvos_didziuju_kunigaiksciu_rezidencija_Vilniaus_Zemutineje_pilyje_ir_jos_atkurimas.lt.htm)
- [5] Delfi.lt, „Trakai šiomet nebepretenduos tapti UNESCO saugoma vietoje“: <http://pramogos.delfi.lt/kultura/trakai-siomet-nebepretenduos-tapti-unesco-saugoma-vietove.d?id=7089307>
- [6] Efoto.lt, photo „Gedimino pilis“: <http://www.efoto.lt/user/13075/nuotraukos/tag/2011>
- [7] John Paul II's pilgrimage route. Lithuania, „Istorija“: <http://www.piligrimukelias.lt/index.php?id=181>
- [8] Kaunas Resurrection Parish, „Pirmosios nepriklausomybės laikotarpis 1922–1940 m.“: <http://www.prisikelimas.lt/index.php?id=29>
- [9] Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture, „Kultūros paveldo departamento filmai“: <http://www.kpd.lt/lt/node/2049>
- [10] The Institute of Lithuanian Grand Duchy, „Vilniaus Šv. Petro ir Pauliaus bažnyčia (XVII a. antroji pusė)“: [http://www.megasy.com/ticino2/view\\_objects.php?id=13](http://www.megasy.com/ticino2/view_objects.php?id=13)
- [11] Miestai.net, „Gražiausi moderno pastatai. Nominacijos“: <http://www.miestai.net/forumas/showthread.php?t=3639>
- [12] Miestai.net, „Gražiausi stalinistinės architektūros pastatai Lietuvoje“: <http://www.miestai.net/forumas/showthread.php?t=3302>
- [13] Miestai.net, „Gražiausi tarpukario laikotarpio architektūros pastatai Lietuvoje. Nominacijos“: <http://www.miestai.net/forumas/showthread.php?t=3303>
- [14] Miestai.net, „Kauno senamiestis nuo gotikos iki XXI a. pr.“: <http://www.miestai.net/forumas/showthread.php?t=5124>
- [15] Mokslo.lt, „Lietuvos architektūra XX a.“: <http://www.mokslo.lt/referatai/referatas/lietuvos-architektura-xx-a-puslapis3.html>
- [16] Panoramio, „Šv. Onos ir Bernardinų bažnyčių ansamblis“: <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/36450831>
- [17] Rutskienė G., „Radvilų rūmų muziejaus pastatas Vilniuje“: [http://www.ldm.lt/RRM/Rr\\_pastatas.htm](http://www.ldm.lt/RRM/Rr_pastatas.htm)
- [18] Lithuanian State Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Economy, project „Lithuania.travel“, „Šv. Onos ir Bernardinų bažnyčios“: <http://www.travel.lt/objektai/sv-onos-ir-bernardinu-baznycios/460>
- [19] Vilnius Gymnasium of Užupis, Comenius programme, „Garsieji ir moderniojo meno menininkai“: <http://www.vug.lt/comenius-projektas/240-garsieji-ir-moderniojo-meno-menininkai->
- [20] Virtual historical Vilnius, „10 gražiausių Vilniaus pastatų“: [http://www.viv.lt/vilniaus\\_top\\_10/10\\_graziausiu\\_vilniaus\\_pastatu](http://www.viv.lt/vilniaus_top_10/10_graziausiu_vilniaus_pastatu)
- [21] Wikimedia commons, photo „Vilniaus Šv. Pranciškaus ir Šv. Bernardinų bažnyčia“: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vilniaus\\_%C5%A0v.\\_Pranci%C5%A1kaus\\_ir\\_%C5%A0v.\\_Bernardin%C5%B3\\_ba%C5%BEny%C4%8Dia.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vilniaus_%C5%A0v._Pranci%C5%A1kaus_ir_%C5%A0v._Bernardin%C5%B3_ba%C5%BEny%C4%8Dia.jpg)
- [22] 15min.lt, „Trakų istorijos muziejus“: <http://www.15min.lt/zyme/traku-istorijos-muziejus>

### 3.2 Reflections of modern architecture

Modern architecture of Lithuania certainly is not resting, Lithuanian architects regularly participate in local and international competitions, projects. Several modern buildings below.

Elektrėnai Church rises in monotonous skyline of the city, already has become a symbol of Elektrėnai. It is halfway between Kaunas and Vilnius, and clearly visible from the highway. Church exterior accent – a semicircular arched portal, consisting of a rectangular arch with cross and six vertical crosses. The magnificent site represents the seventh century of Christianity in Lithuania.



**16 picture.** Elektrėnai Church

In 2008 were built unique building in Kaunas – Business Center "1000". This building is among the world's best office buildings and integrated into the most interesting buildings in the world list. For its external were used 4,500 various forms of glass tiles. The impressive 10-storey building decorated in 1,000 Lithuanian litas banknote, which was created in 1926.



**17 picture.** Business Center "1000" in Kaunas and panorama of Vilnius panorama with skyscraper „Europa“

In Lithuania's capital skyline appears more and more interesting new buildings. 33-story skyscraper “Europe” is included in the list of the world's skyscrapers (17 picture, rightside).

In 2013 there were opened new modern Library of Vilnius University (18 picture, leftside). Lithuanian Union of Architects appreciated this project as one of the top five two-year project in Lithuania (architect: G. Natkevičius). The building consists of three buildings connected by socle floor. Above the ground without ground floor encompassing all center housings are 3-4-tors and 5-storey buildings. In the underground of the building are located technical and storage floors.



**18 picture.** Projects of architect G. Natkevičius darbai: new Library of Vilnius University and dwelling house in Klaipėda county

This Library of Vilnius University is the largest full-hour library, which has a different fields of science reading and conference halls, exhibition, recreation, communication, discussion spaces. All enclosures are equipped with a remote recreation, recreational islands, in each floor is quite unusual library spaces: pouffes-loungers to relax or read in a horizontal position. Library of more than 2 million 110 thousand publications and only two underground floors can accommodate 1.8 million prints. At one time the library can handle more than 800 visitors.

Modern architecture in Lithuania is growing and developing, there are new, eye-catching multi-purpose buildings (houses, offices, public buildings, etc.) in cities' center and beyond them.

Šiuolaikinė architektūra Lietuvoje „auga“ ir tikrai gali pasigirti naujais, akį traukiančiais įvairios paskirties pastatais (gyvenamieji namai, biurai, sodybos, visuomeniniai pastatai ir kt.) miestuose ir už jų ribų.

#### References:

- [1] Parish records of Marija - Kankinių Karalienė of Elektrėnai, „Elektrėnų bažnyčia“:  
[http://elparapija.blogspot.com/p/elektrenu-baznyciai-15-metu\\_10.html](http://elparapija.blogspot.com/p/elektrenu-baznyciai-15-metu_10.html)
- [2] PI Focus Studio, „Pastatas - garsenybė Kaune“: [http://www.focusstudio.lt/page/lt/main\\_text/pub/pastatas-garsenybe-kaune](http://www.focusstudio.lt/page/lt/main_text/pub/pastatas-garsenybe-kaune)
- [3] Jarmalis S., „Garsus architektas G. Natkevičius kiekvienam namui rašo originalų scenarijų“:  
<http://www.lrytas.lt/sroves/sekmes-istorijos/garsus-architektas-g-natkevicius-kiekvienam-namui-raso-originalu-scenariju.htm>
- [4] Martynas, „Europa“: <http://vilniausbiurai.blogspot.com/>
- [5] Myliukauna.lt, „Kaune veikiantis verslo centras įtrauktas į neįprasčiausių Europos statinių sąrašą“:  
<http://www.myliukauna.lt/lt/naujienos/cia-ir-dabar/kaune-veikiantis-verslo-centras-itrauktas-i-neiprasciausiu-europos-statiniu-sarasa>
- [6] Umbrasaitė E., „Naujasis Vilniaus dangoraižis siūlo grožėtis panorama iš paukščio skrydžio“:  
<http://www.lietuvos.org/galerija/dangoraiziai/dangoraiziai.htm>
- [7] Urbonaitė-Vainienė I., „Naujosios VU bibliotekos knygų lentyna sieks 70 kilometrų – kaip nuo Vilniaus iki Molėtų“:  
<http://www.delfi.lt/news/daily/education/naujosios-vu-bibliotekos-knygu-lentyna-sieks-70-kilometru-kaip-nuo-vilniaus-iki-moletu.d?id=60513139#!/4672289/ifoto.delfi.lt>
- [7] Wikipedia, „Vilniaus universiteto biblioteka“: [http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilniaus\\_universiteto\\_biblioteka](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilniaus_universiteto_biblioteka)

## 4. ART OF LITHUANIA

### 4.1 Traditional crafts

In order to know the nation, it is necessary to know its basic activities and business, tools, buildings, dressing and customs. Every people in their life creates a certain age it is characterized by cultural forms, are less common in other nations. Traditional crafts require special training and skills. These economic activities are passed from generation to generation and provide a livelihood and leads to a distinctive way of life.

Linen towel hanging in wooden curving towel-horse, bed, covered by a checkered or striped bedspread, pottery bowls, pitcher, pot and wooden spoons on the wooden table, a wooden cross in the backyard. Such a picture you could see visiting Lithuanian countryside in XVIII-XIX century. Everything, what peasants needed, they were produced by themselves .

Woodworking craftsmen were carpenters, joiners, wheelwrights, coopers, clog makers, cross makers.

**Woodworking handicraft** has a long tradition. Artisans fully understood its functional significance. Their products do not contain unnecessary details and wanton ornateness. A perfect example is distaff. It's decoration is clearly visible. Shape and carved ornament is highly related. Crosses, woodenshrines and chapels has been an integral part of the landscape of Lithuania for a long time.

The custom to build a cross became after the adoption of Christianity, so artistic structure of the construction is blended with pre-Christian cultural elements and distinctively interpreted Christian sacred art styles. Within a few centuries of the existence of cross-making has experienced a variety of challenges. It had periods of the prohibition, destruction and admiration. Lithuania was a land of crosses for many foreign scholars of

nineteenth century. Traditional Lithuanian crosses are unique masterpieces of architecture, forging, carvings and paintings. Crosses with metaltops, ornaments, suns and different parts of wooden sculptures are valuable Lithuanian folk heritage. In 2001 the Lithuanian cross crafting and cross symbolism was included into UNESCO Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity List.



**19 picture.** Artisans works of wood: spindle, altars cross

The spread of **pottery** in Lithuania was during the first centuries of our era. Dishes from clay mostly were moulded for cooking and storage. Their form and decoration depends on the purpose of using them. Bowls, plates, jars were decorated with a modest line or floral motif. Some of the pots and jugs were twined round with birch bark for the strength.



**20 picture.** Lithuanian jars

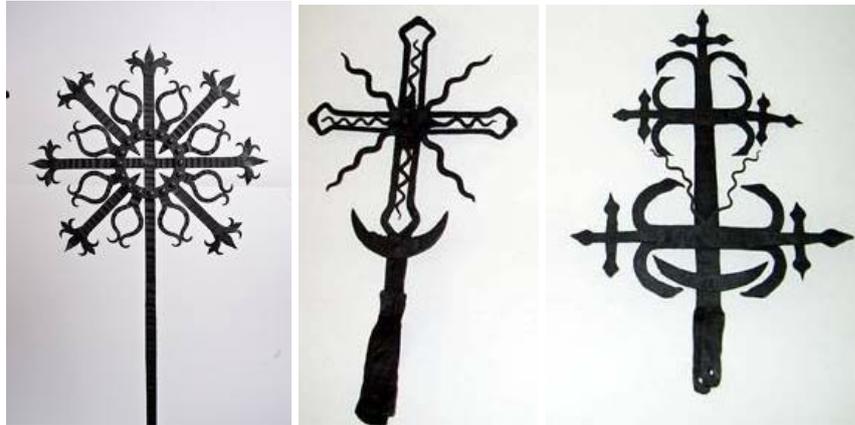
**Weaving** from its origin in II – IV century was mentioned in fairy tales, folk songs and riddles. Women were spinning thread from flax, hemp and wool. Yarns dyed well with plant leaves and blossoms, roots, tree bark, moss, swamp ore. Lithuanian folk fabric patterns are usually geometric or made to be geometric with vegetable forms; it is not overloaded with details and has a clear rhythm. Lithuanians have woven bedspreads, aprons, belts with neat patterns.



**21 picture.** Lithuanian weaving patterns and looms

**Artistic smithery** has deep ethnic traditions. Various metals (including nonferrous metals) have been used for decoration. Later, the smithed iron, due to its resilience, solidity and perfect plastic characteristics, had been used more and more often for the war tools, vehicles, traveling and dowry chests and for the decoration of memorial monuments. Some of the decoration traditions remained till today.

However now the smithed iron is applied far more widely. Its processing possibilities underwent changes as well: nowadays iron is not only smithed, flattened and stretched, but also variously flexed, twisted, riveted and welded.



22 picture. Crosses of metal

In XIII - XIV century crafts separated from agriculture and has become an independent branch of economy. Currently, Lithuanian popular crafts are textile, woodwork, jewelry, pottery, weaving, bread and cake baking, meat and milk processing, beekeeping, herbalist, natural goods gathering. There are almost 30 thousand inhabitants in Lithuanian regions capable of developing national heritage products.

#### References:

- [1] Auksarankių klubas, „Audimas“: <http://www.auksarankes.lt/straipsnis/rankdarbiai/audimas>
- [2] Diena.lt, „Pasaulyje pripažinta kryždirbystė yra daugiau nei tradicinis amatas“: <http://www.diena.lt/naujienos/vasara-2011/naujienos/pasaulyje-pripazinta-kryzdirbyste-yra-daugiau-nei-tradicinis-amatas-361980>
- [3] Lietuvos tautodailininkų sąjunga, „Audimas“: <http://www.lietuvostautodaile.lt/lt/zanrai/audimas>
- [4] Lietuvos tautodailininkų sąjunga, „Kalvystė“: <http://www.lietuvostautodaile.lt/lt/zanrai/kalvyste>
- [5] Lietuvos paminklai, „Objektai“: <http://www.lpaminklai.lt/objektai.php?nr=2&programa=12>
- [6] Ribašauskienė E., „Tradiciniai amatai Lietuvoje: situacija ir perspektyvos“: [http://vddb.laba.lt/fedora/get/LT-eLABa-0001:J.04~2008~ISSN\\_1392-6101.N\\_4\\_42.PG\\_91-98/DS.002.0.01.ARTIC](http://vddb.laba.lt/fedora/get/LT-eLABa-0001:J.04~2008~ISSN_1392-6101.N_4_42.PG_91-98/DS.002.0.01.ARTIC)
- [7] Rimkuvienė V., „Žemaitijos amatai ir amatininkai“: <http://samogitia.mch.mii.lt/KULTURA/amatai.lt.htm>
- [8] Selonija.lt, „Daiktas – praeities atspindys (IX dalis): Et, tas arklys tik puodams vežioti ...“: <http://www.selonija.lt/2011/08/22/daiktas-%E2%80%93-praeities-atspindys/>
- [9] Vikipedija, „Amatai“: <http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amatai>

## 4.2 Traditional costumes

The territory of Lithuania has five ethnographic regions - Aukštaitija, Žemaitija, Dzūkija, Suvalkija and Klaipėda Region (Lithuania Minor). They are different in dialects and ethnic aspects of culture - including the traditional clothing. The purpose of plain daily clothing - not only protection from the weather, but also a social indicator of human status in the society. Traditional clothes differ from everyday clothing by the intrinsic parts emphasizing their link with the defined part of people in regional society of a particular geographical area. Clothes were customized, diversified, because each country, area or region engaged in weaving and sewing by the grand grandparents' traditions.

By the XX century traditional clothing was sewn from a special linen or woolen tissue. Weaving was one of the most important jobs for the woman. Her reputation depended on ability to spinning and weaving cloth finer and more complex than the neighbors. All ethnographic regions had a tradition to tailor shirts from bleached linen. One shirt was made of three or even four kinds of material. Thin fabric was used for torso and other parts added of sackcloth or tow. Sleeves were woven of narrow linen. Collar and cuffs, sleeves and shoulder part were decorated with woven stripes of red thread and some collective patterns.

Aprons - one of the oldest parts of the female costume. Appearance without the apron was considered indecent. Bands – also one of the oldest Lithuanian folk textiles. They were used both by men and women. Women decorated their heads with the most beautiful ones. Girl was separated from woman only by head-covering.

Aukštaitija (Highlands). Highland villager's folk clothes are the most archaic in Lithuania. Shirt sleeves and aprons decorated with geometric ornaments were made from white linen. Wool checkered skirts with dominating colors: green, red, purple, yellow. Vests were sewn from more expensive material, decorated with fine patterns: stripes, circles or checks. Vests distinguishes by extended tails in front, silver lace trimmed jackets. Married women wore intricately tied fine linen veil, who wrapped around the face, covering the shoulders and neck.

Clothes of Žemaitija (Lowland) are different from other regions of colorful and the richness of costumes. Skirt with the stripes, combining five contrasting colors. A tunic-type shirt with stick-up was worn with raised trunk line jackets. Tied knot with abandoned stick up corners above the brow is the most common way to tie up the headscarves.

None of the ethnographic area is as diverse by the ethnic bands as Dzūkija. They are mainly exquisite woven, in very different patterns: rakers, trees, roses, birch leaves, stars, teddy bears, crayfish, with Lithuanian sayings and proverbs. Skirts in Dzūkija region are mostly checkered, woolen and linen. Characteristic colors: green, purple, burgundy, blue, yellow. Broad sectors of weaving stripes in bright colors are split in pairs of narrow streaks. Dzūkija region vests – made of linen or half wool in green, burgundy color. Women wore colored or white “kykus” on the head and a scarf above.



**23 picture.** Traditional Lithuanian clothing: in Highland (Aukštaitija), in Lowland (Žemaitija), in Dzūkija

Suvalkija. Women's shirts distinguished by a very wide sleeves, embroidered with white openwork. Skirts – with dark stripes along. The brightest and the most difficult part of the costume was apron: along the white linen ground were interwoven tapes of multicolour geometric and floral ornaments.

Klaipeda region (Lithuania Minor) was the only ethnographic region of Lithuania, which was dominated by the Lutheran faith. This fact led to regional peculiarity, occurring in traditional Klaipėda peasant clothing. At that time, women's suit was very colorful, with exotic antique elements. Shirts were made in specific way, unknown elsewhere in Lithuania. They wore checkered skirts in red, blue and green color combinations and white aprons with red plant ornaments. Dressy embroidered bag hung on the waist.



**24 picture.** Traditional Lithuanian clothing: Suvalkija Klaipeda region

Climatic conditions also led to the development of traditional footwear. “Naginės” - the oldest Lithuanian footwear. They were made from animal’s leg fur. Other ancient Lithuanian footwear - wooden clogs and “vyžos”, wickered from chips.



**25 picture.** Lithuanian People's Shoes: Nagina, Wysz, clogs

#### References:

- [1] Alkas.lt, „Vokietijoje skambės lietuviškos dainos“: <http://alkas.lt/2013/05/05/vokietijoje-skambes-lietuviskos-dainos/>
- [2] Augūnaitė D., „Viskas apie lietuvių tautinį kostiumą“: <http://gyvenimas.delfi.lt/stilius/viskas-apie-lietuviu-tautini-kostiuma-nuotrauku-albumas.d?id=9954611>
- [3] Baniulaitytė Z., „Žemaitiu vyru tautėne drabuže“: [http://samogitia.mch.mii.lt/KULTURA/vyriski\\_drabužiai.lt.htm](http://samogitia.mch.mii.lt/KULTURA/vyriski_drabužiai.lt.htm)
- [4] Gyvoji krašto enciklopedija grazitumano.lt, „Aukštaičių tautiniai drabužiai“: [http://www.grazitumano.lt/wiki/index.php/Auk%C5%A1tai%C4%8Di%C5%B3\\_tautiniai\\_drabu%C5%BEiai](http://www.grazitumano.lt/wiki/index.php/Auk%C5%A1tai%C4%8Di%C5%B3_tautiniai_drabu%C5%BEiai)
- [5] Gyvoji krašto enciklopedija grazitumano.lt, „Dzūkija: tautiniai drabužiai“: [http://www.grazitumano.lt/wiki/index.php/Dz%C5%ABkija:\\_tautiniai\\_drabu%C5%BEiai](http://www.grazitumano.lt/wiki/index.php/Dz%C5%ABkija:_tautiniai_drabu%C5%BEiai)
- [6] Gyvoji krašto enciklopedija grazitumano.lt, „Žemaičių tautiniai rūbai“: [http://www.grazitumano.lt/wiki/index.php/%C5%BDemai%C4%8Di%C5%B3\\_tautiniai\\_r%C5%ABbai](http://www.grazitumano.lt/wiki/index.php/%C5%BDemai%C4%8Di%C5%B3_tautiniai_r%C5%ABbai)
- [7] Hokušienė I., „Lietuvos tautinis kostiumas“: <http://hokusiene.wordpress.com/2012/09/05/lietuviu-tautinis-kostiumas-ibook-for-ipad/>
- [8] Lietuvių liaudies kultūros centras, „Tautinis kostiumas“: <http://www.lk.lt/index.php?1988652837>
- [9] Ltdrabuziai.weebly.lt, „Suvalkija“: <http://ltdrabuziai.weebly.com/suvalkie269i371-drabu382iai.html>
- [10] Marga krautuvėlė, naginių nuotrauka: <http://www.margakrautuvele.lt/lt/kita/803-nagines>
- [11] Petronytė J., „Nepriklausomybės 20-metis su tautiniu kostiumu“: <http://www.ve.lt/naujienos/kultura/kulturos-naujienos/nepriklausomybes-20-metis-su-tautiniu-kostiumu-70980/>
- [12] Rudzinskas J., „Lietuvių tautinių drabužių regioniniai ypatumai“: [http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w5\\_show?p\\_r=2231&p\\_d=21375&p\\_k=1](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w5_show?p_r=2231&p_d=21375&p_k=1)
- [13] Selonija.lt, „Daiktas – praeities atspindys (II dalis): Jaunavedžiams lovą paklojom, tik jon neguldysim...“: <http://www.selonija.lt/2011/03/page/19/>
- [14] Veliuonos kraštas.lt, „Ekspozicijos Veliuonos krašto istorijos muziejuje“: [http://veliuonoskrastas.lt/index.php?page=third\\_ekspozicijos&hl=lt\\_LT](http://veliuonoskrastas.lt/index.php?page=third_ekspozicijos&hl=lt_LT)
- [15] Vikipedija, „Naginės“: <http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagin%C4%97s>

### 4.3 Traditional music

The history of Lithuanian nation shows, the most important thing in our ancestors' life was agricultural work, a close connection with nature and human relationships. Pagans believed in power of nature, stones, animals, birds and trees. People were living in balance with nature and heavenly body, hoping help and favor. All this moulded the character and the spirit of the nation and the art at the same time.

Lithuanian folk music - songs, dances and instrumental music.

**SONGS.** Lithuanian folk songs, arising from a different historical period coming from generation to generation, kept some kind of cultural context. They are astonishing with a sensitive poetry and for a variety of melodies.

Lithuanian folk songs are classified into the following genres: children, marriage, work, military-historical, calendar songs, laments and sutartinės.

Children's songs - lullabies, games, teasing, wildlife imitation.

Wedding songs are the most valuable by artistic aspect. Singing about three wedding ceremonies cycles: matchmaking, wedding and homing.

The work songs are probably the richest part of folksongs. Lithuanians were singing while working outside and homework in order to facilitate the work monotony.

The military-historical songs perpetuates the specific historical events, conveys folk moods and attitudes to war and homeland defense, reveals experiences of a soldier and his family.

Singing calendar songs Lithuanians worshiped natural forces (sun, moon, wind, rain), which would help to produce a good harvest.

Laments. Funeral lament is one of the oldest Lithuanian folk poetic genres. Lamentation of the women not only expressed sadness, loss of a loved one, but lament tried to influence the fate of the deceased. Wedding laments were performed by the bride. The main theme of the lamentation – expressing sorrow for careless maiden days, rue crown, tearful farewell to homeland.

Sutartinės (from the word sutarti—to be in concordance, in agreement) are highly unique examples of folk music. Sutartinės are a localized phenomenon, found in the northwestern part of Lithuania. Leading feature - a few tunes with different lyrics twist next to each other. Lithuanians perform sutartinės by singing them, playing with wind instruments and dancing. At present the sutartinės have almost become extinct as a genre among the population, but they are fostered by many Lithuanian folklore ensembles, who take great pleasure in keeping them alive.]

Traditional vocal music is held in high esteem on a world scale: Lithuanian song fests and sutartinės multipart songs are on the UNESCO's representative list of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.** Folk songs are only a part of nation creation. The other part is the music for instruments. Lithuania remains relatively widespread kanklės (psaltery), birbynė (hornpipe), skudučiai, sralalai (wooden bells), stump, daudytė, lamzdelis (flute) and horns.



**26 picture.** Lithuanian folk instruments: string instrument (kanklės) and skudučiai

The kanklės is one of the oldest Lithuanian folk stringed instruments. Information about the kanklės can be found in Lithuanian folk songs, tales, legends often reaching the times when Lithuanians were pagans and believed that a man's soul can dwell in a tree or in a kanklės and speak or sob in a man's voice. Kanklės were

used for magical purposes and meditation. The body has the shape of a trapezoid. One end is narrower – here the strings are fastened. On the other-wider-end the pegs that stretch the strings are fixed. The slant narrows from right to left.

The skudučiai (a kind of panpipes) is an old field musical instrument that was quite popular as far back as the end of the 19th century. The skudučiai is a set of pipes of various size, each stopped at the bottom, tuned in a peculiar way and played by a group of performers. The skudučiai is made of young ash wood, some 2-3 cm. Thick and 7-15 cm. Long. In one end a cylindrical cavity is bored or burned out leaving 2-3 cm. Thick walls and a 2-3 quely – in this way the mouth-hole of the skudučiai is made. The skudučiai is blown keeping it in a vertical position. The mouth-hole is pressed to the lower lip. The skudučiai have ancient and original folk playing traditions. A set of the skudučiai pipes are not tied together and, as a rule, they are blown not by one player but by a group of them. In this way polyphonic music of original harmony of seconds can be produced. The ancient skudučiai music is exceptionally of the sutartinės type.

At the beginning of this century the instruments called daudytės were widely used. They were straight wooden tubes, 140 – 230 cm. long, on which two players used to perform sutartinės. Daudytės differ from horns because each of them can produce not one but 4 – 5 sounds. Like trumpets, daudytės were made of ash. Birbynė - the small horn – a wooden chalumeau with a cattle horn resonator.



**27 picture.** Lithuanian folk instruments: daudytė and birbynės



▪ [Lithuanian folk dances, games and music](#): the story of their purpose and composition, audio and visual material (in Lithuanian)

#### References:

- [1] Kaminskienė L., „Utenoje nuskambėjo pirmasis skudučių festivalis“: <http://www.lsdp.lt/lt/naujienos/1639-utenoje-nuskambejo-pirmasis-skuduciu-festivalis.html>
- [2] Steponavičienė D., „Liaudies muzika Lietuvoje XIII–XVIII a.“: [http://www.ethnicart.lt/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=84&Itemid=214](http://www.ethnicart.lt/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=84&Itemid=214)
- [3] Vaišvilienė J., „Muzikos istorijos įvadas“: [http://projektas-muzika.lmta.lt/media/vadoveliai2/Vadovelis\\_1/index.htm](http://projektas-muzika.lmta.lt/media/vadoveliai2/Vadovelis_1/index.htm)
- [4] Vikipedija, „Lietuvių liaudies muzika“: [http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvi%C5%B3\\_liaudies\\_muzika](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvi%C5%B3_liaudies_muzika)
- [5] Virbašius E., „Lietuvių liaudies instrumentai“: <http://www.folkinstruments.lt/>

#### 4.4 Traditional dances

Lithuanian dances so much fun to dance. Many Lithuanian dance consists of two parts: the first - a slower, second - faster. The first is characterized by a sophisticated, unique choreography, often associated with the dance title and the second most frequently performed in polka or waltz steps. The heritage of Lithuanian traditional choreographic is dances, round dances and games. The majority of them are for entertainment, but there are some interesting ritual round dances and dances associated with the calendar, work and wedding ceremonies. Many of them are common in Lithuania, but some ethnographic regions have their own

characteristics. Aukstatija distinguished for round dances abundance. They are simple, two-piece. Dancers go in a circle and then join for handy interlacing chain. Suvalkija has more linear dances and funny illustrative dances. Dzukija is rich of ancient ritual choreography. It is related to the Christmas period and wedding ceremonies. The most original dances were created in Žemaitija.



**28 picture.** Lithuanian folk performance

Song and Dance Celebration tradition - a hundred years process that grew up probably the largest Lithuanian culture phenomenon, which educates the public's creative powers, bring together for artistic activities and periodically brings in huge celebrations. Vilnius meets different art amateur groups and professional artists from Lithuania and all over the world every four years. Song festivals attract over 40 thousand participants. Song and Dance Festival is a cultural phenomenon that is particularly valuable in historical, cultural, aesthetic, social and unique perspectives. In 2003, the UNESCO inscribed the traditions and symbols of song festivals of the Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania – on the List of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Lithuanian folk music competitions, performances, concerts are abundant both within the country and abroad. It shows intergenerational dialogue and desire to continue, to uphold the traditions.



- [Song Festival](#): history and visual material (in English)
- [Dance with clogs](#)
- [Lithuanian folk dance "Hay"](#)
- [Lithuanian Folk Dance "Greitpolkė"](#)

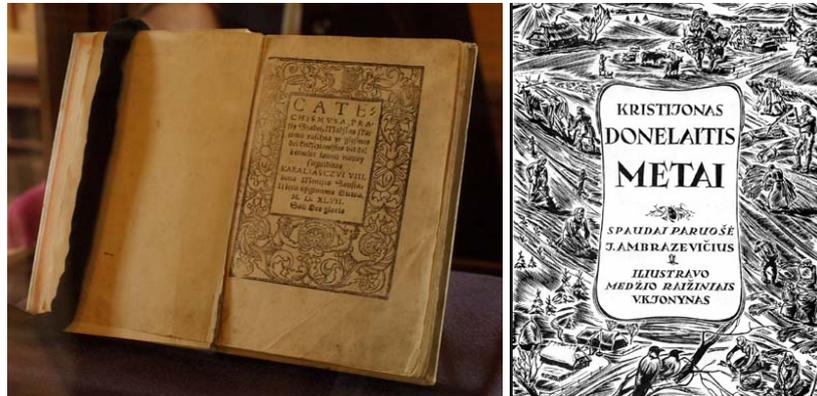
#### References:

- [1] Dainų ir šokių šventė [http://www.kpd.lt/lt/dainu\\_sventes\\_tradicija](http://www.kpd.lt/lt/dainu_sventes_tradicija)
- [2] 15min.lt, „Išėivijos lietuviai JAV prezidentą pakvietė į tautinių šokių šventę“: <http://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/pasaulis/iseivijos-lietuviai-jav-prezidenta-pakviete-i-tautiniu-soku-svente-57-193235>

#### 4.5 Lithuanian literature

The first Lithuanian literature monuments are letters from kings Mindaugas, Gediminas, Algirdas, legislations, written in German, Latin and Ruthenian (Belarusian and Ukrainian ancestry) languages. The first Lithuanian book was written by Martynas Mažvydas (about 1510-1563). "Catechism" (released in 1547) is also a primer - the key to reading script. In preface Mazvydas opens uncharacteristic values for the Lithuanian farming culture - the book, reading and science.

National works of fiction also has an originator - Kristijonas Donelaitis. His four-part poem "The Seasons" brings peasant's God closer to the ground and identifies with nature. Nature for ancient farmer is constantly regenerating power of life, which exists as an eternal wheel of time, turning through four cycles. Humans are part of nature and not separate from the ground and from their working community, simply because they deny God's arrangements. Thus, diligence, humility, simplicity of life, sense of community is basic ethical moral value for characters of K. Donelaitis' poem.



**29 picture.** The first Lithuanian book, "Catechism" and the first Lithuanian to artistic creation "The Seasons"

Maironis (1862-1932) is the most important representative of the Lithuanian romanticism. He combined ethnic Lithuanian culture (farming experience, folk art) and European (Christian culture) tradition, built a bridge between the past and present. Maironis' poems helped to form Lithuanian national consciousness, to promote freedom, independence aspirations. "Voices of Spring" - the most important Maironis' book, released in 1895. Figuratively spring means people's liberation from oppression. "Young Lithuania" is an important poem for its patriotic ideas, romantic attitude, a strong feeling of nature. Image of this historical authority is on a 20 litas banknote.



**30 picture.** Lithuanian literature representative of Romanticism and modernism Maironis and J. Biliūnas

Period of modern literature in Lithuania begins in XX century. Jonas Biliūnas (1879-1907) was the first Lithuanian writer, who modernized the story, formed it in European style. He focused on the unique human situations - harm, grievances, guilt and betrayal. Writer deliberately tried to portray not only external, but even internal events of the human's soul. That is why he called his own works "psychological pictures".

Neo-romanticism is the first trend of Lithuanian literature, where writers sought to promote ideas about invisible (internal experiences, visions, secret experiences), unavailable (the universe, the depths of space), unsolvable (faith, God issues). These ideas were close to A. Herbačiauskas (1876-1944), Šatrijos Ragana (1877-1930), B. Sruoga (1896-1947) and V. Mykolaitis-Putinas (1893-1967), V. Krėvė (1882-1954) and J. Tumas Vaižgantas (1869-1933). Poets of modern neo-romanticism - S. Nėris (1904-1945), B. Brazdžionis (1907-2002), A. Miškinis (1905-1983).

Historical and social changes at the beginning of the XX'th century influenced an intensive change and rapid development of literature.



**31 picture.** Neo-romanticism representatives Šatrijos Ragana, V. Mykolaitis-Putinas, V. Krėvė, S.Nėris

S. Neris was famous for her poetic lyrics, listening to the eternal rhythm of life. Her poetry focuses on the female part of folk art: the song, lament, lullaby. She brought feminine emotion, delicacy to the Lithuanian literature.

The current literature was influenced by M. K. Čiurlionis (1875-1911) art. This painter and composer connected Lithuanian realities with cosmic imagination and painted a lot of pictures having strong impression, allegorical imagery.

One of the most famous Lithuanian poets of the XX<sup>th</sup> century is H. Radauskas (1910-1970). His is an elite poet, a consistent mouthpiece of aestheticism ideas in Lithuanian literature, speaking not only in signs of poetry, but also in painting, music, sculpture symbols, hints and associations.

J. Marcinkevičius (1930-2011) occupies a unique place in Lithuanian literature. The most important topics of his works are: Lithuania, Lithuanian language, nature, responsibility. This poet is the successor to the classic tradition, seeking of clarity, readability, coherence, connection with nature and folk art. (Drama "Mazvydas", "Mindaugas", "Cathedral", publicist poem, "Donelaitis", "The Wall", story "Pine, who laughed).

Literature - a reflection of culture, living in fictional character's experience and everyday life. Lithuanian literature continues successful developing and presenting distinctive creations to the public.

References:

- [1] Bernardinai.lt, „Laisvės kryžkelės (XVIII).Krėvė prieš Kersteną“: <http://www.bernardinai.lt/straipsnis/2006-05-29-laisves-kryzkeles-xviii-kreve-pries-kerstena/5286>
- [2] Blogas Žmogutis, „Katekizmas“: <http://minciuterasa.blogspot.com/2010/04/katekizmas.html>
- [3] Daujotytė V., Tamošaitis R., Tuklytė R., Viliūnas G., „Literatūra XI-XII klasei“, I ir II knyga, Kaunas, „Šviesa“, 2004
- [4] Dzenuškaitė S., „Jungti žemę su dangumi“ Marijos Pečkauskaitės-Šatrijos Raganos 130-mečiui: [http://www.xxiamzius.lt/numeriai/2007/03/21/poez\\_01.html](http://www.xxiamzius.lt/numeriai/2007/03/21/poez_01.html)
- [5] Lankutis J., „Justino Marcinkevičiaus dramatinė trilogija“, Vilnius, „Vaga“, 1977
- [6] Račaitis M., „Jonas Mačiulis-Maironis“: <http://www.svietimocentras.prienai.lm.lt/Maironis.html>
- [7] Šalčiūtė A., „Jonas Biliūnas. Gyvenimo ir kūrybos apybraiža“, Kaunas, „Šviesa“

## 4.6 Visual art in Lithuania

### 4.6.1 Painting

Lithuania accepted Christianity in the period during Gothic art flourished in the world. The earliest churchworks have been imported to Lithuania from Central European countries (Poland, Germany). Foreign artists were invited to decorate churches and they introduced local artisans with a new Christian iconography and aesthetics. Lithuanian tradition of painting formed in the Baroque and Classical period. Super bright works of Čechovičius Simonas (1689 - 1775) are “St. Trinity” and “St. Joana Pranciška Šantalietė”.



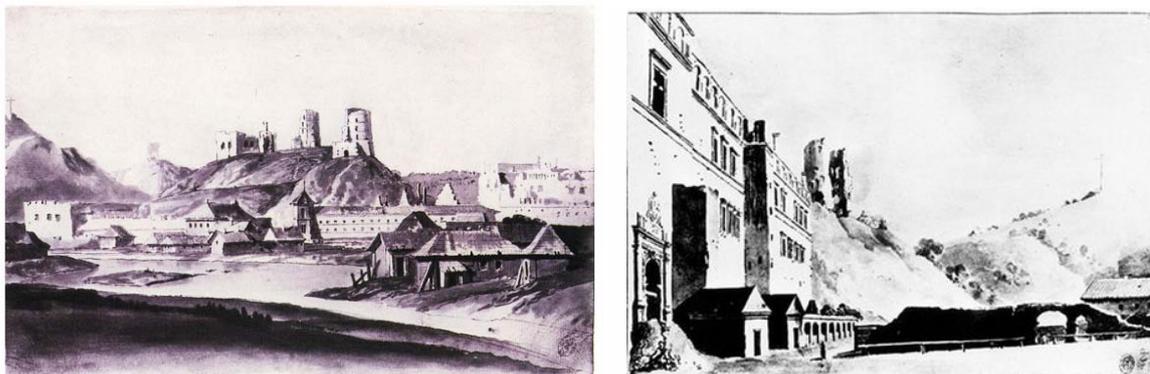
**32 picture.** Works of Čechovičius Simonas (1689 - 1775) are “St. Trinity” and “St. Joana Pranciška Šantalietė”

Exterior and interior of the buildings were decorated in the middle Ages. Most popular was false fresco (al secco) technique, painted on dry plaster. However, after only 50-100 years colours faded, so walls were plastered over and new stories were painted on top. During the restoration of the old Lithuanian architectural complexes in a wall or ceiling were found several (sometimes even 7-8) layers of different stylistic painting periods. The oldest surviving Fresco, found in Vilnius Cathedral crypt of the fourteenth century is painted epitaphic composition “The Crucifixion with the Virgin Mary and St. John the evangelist”. Bernardine church and monastery in Vilnius has frescoes on the walls, which are the largest surviving Gothic paintings in Lithuania. Iconography is extremely difficult, according to the German graphic examples.



**33 picture.** The oldest surviving Fresco in Lithuania „The Crucifixion with the Virgin Mary and St. John the evangelist” (XIV a.) and the largest Gothic paintings fragment of St. Francis of Assisi (XVI century. Ave.)

Pranas Smuglevičius (1745-1807) is neoclassical painter, author of frescoes, paintings of the landscapes in Vilnius. From the 1798 he was the head of the Department of Painting in Vilnius University. He painted compositions by antique and biblical themes, historical scenes, religious paintings, portraits. Painter dedicated his cycle of aquarell to vestigial ancient architectural monuments of Vilnius capture.



**34 picture.** P. Smuglevičius images of Vilnius Cycle (1785-1786): Castle Hill and Royal Palace

The most famous Lithuanian romantic painter, the creator of the first national romanticism program was Kanutas Ruseckas (1800-1860). He painted poetic, romantic landscapes. The most famous works are: "Lithuanian girl with palm", "Lithuanian girl Reaper" and "Fisherwoman."



**35 picture.** The most famous works: "Lithuanian girl with palm", "Lithuanian girl Reaper" and "Fisherwoman."

Under the intense oppression of tsarism in the end of 19 century, previous periods of art tradition almost disappeared. In addition, many artists had to join the other nations (Russian, Polish, French) cultural life, as in his native land, they could not find a job and were not able to publicly display their works. In 1907 Lithuanian artists and intellectuals at home and abroad, initiated and opened the first Lithuanian art exhibition in Vilnius. In the same year was established Lithuanian Art Society. It is a social-cultural organization, which consisted of not only artists, but also their supporters. The main purpose of the organization was to organize the annual art exhibition.

In the beginning of 20th century Realism, Romanticism (neo), Symbolism and Modernism was most visible in Lithuanian painter's works. These trends had links with the art of neighboring countries, but also had features, resulting from Lithuania living conditions and cultural traditions.

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1875-1911) has left the brightest sign in Lithuanian culture. This unique painter and composer was the originator of abstract painting and professional music. His versatility of creative explorations can be compared to the Renaissance masters. His works being exhibited abroad with the world famous symbolist artists.



**36 picture.** M. K. Čiurlionis and his works „Lietuviškos kapinės (Lithuanian cemetery)“, „Ramybė (Silence)“

By the end of 20th century fostering and development of cultural and artistic activities slowed down, because of the loss of Lithuania autonomy. But even under the oppression, Lithuania always had enlightened intelligent public character who found ways to "grow" the specific characteristics in art works. Currently, there are a lot of art exhibitions, workshops and a variety of projects in Lithuania for the artistic community.



- Movie "[Wall Painting in Lithuania](#)"

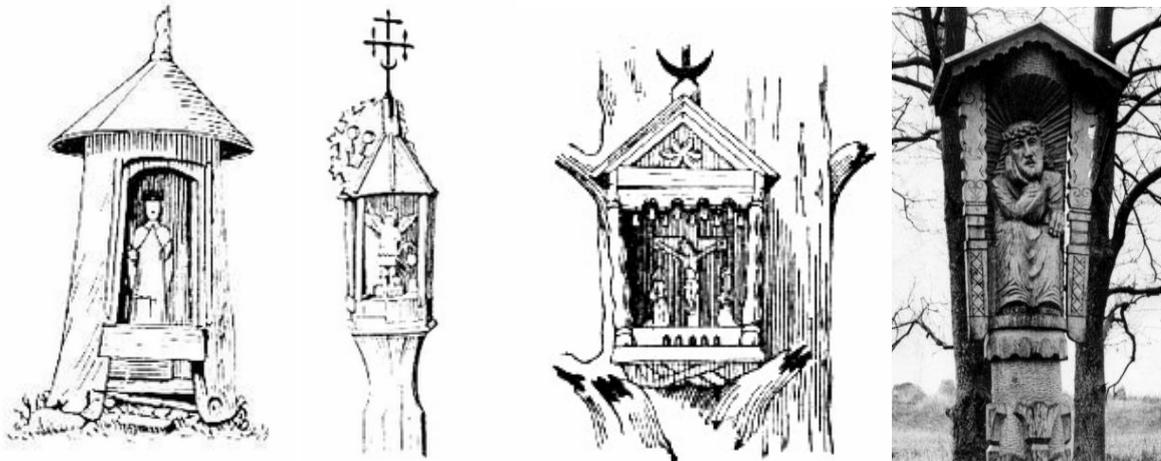
#### References:

- [1] Balsas.lt, „Dalelė M. K. Čiurlionio kūrybos eksponuojama Škotijos nacionalinėje galerijoje“: <http://www.balsas.lt/naujiena/613014/dalele-m-k-ciurlionio-kurybos-eksponuojama-skotijos-nacionalineje-galerijoje>
- [2] Bernardinai.lt, „LMA kviečia į paskaitą „Šv. Pranciškaus ikonografija XVI-XVIII a. Vilniaus Bernardinų bažnyčios tapyboje“: <http://www.bernardinai.lt/straipsnis/2012-12-03-kvieciame-i-paskaita-sv-pranciskaus-ikonografija-xvi-xviii-a-vilniaus-bernardinu-baznycios-tapyboje/91726>
- [3] Klajumienė D., „Sienų tapyba Lietuvoje“: [http://www.kpd.lt/epd2011/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=2&lang=lt](http://www.kpd.lt/epd2011/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=2&lang=lt)
- [4] Lietuvos dailės muziejus, S. Čechovičius "Šv. Trejybė": <http://ldmuziejus.mch.mii.lt/Naujausiosparodos/Skanas.htm>
- [5] Lietuvos nacionalinė Martyno Mažvydo biblioteka, „Kanutas Ruseckas (1800–1860)“, kompozicijos: <http://menas.inb.lt/kanutzanrai.htm>
- [6] Mokslai.lt, „Lietuvių tapyba 1900 - 1919 metais“: <http://www.mokslai.lt/referatai/referatas/lietuviu-tapyba-1900-1919-metais.html>
- [7] Vikipedija, „Pranciškus Smuglevičius“: [http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pranci%C5%A1kus\\_Smuglevi%C4%8Dius](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pranci%C5%A1kus_Smuglevi%C4%8Dius)
- [8] Vilniaus pilių valstybinio kultūrinio rezervato direkcija, „Europos paveldo dienos: Pasišėpti lobiai. Sienų tapyba.“: <http://www.vilniauspilys.lt/?cid=2581>
- [9] Virtuali Lietuvos kultūros skaitmeninto paveldo sistema (nuotraukos): <http://www.epaveldas.lt/vbspi/content/extendedSearch.jsp>
- [10] Zubovas R., „Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis“: <http://ciurlionis.eu/lt/>

#### 4.6.2 Sculpture

Folk sculpture is one of the most numerous branches of Lithuanian folk art. The oldest sculptures seek to Neolithic times (4000-3000 years BC.). Wooden sculptures are characterized by religious themes, folk type of character. A lot of sculptural elements have furniture, wood carvings, jewelry, soldier and horse clothing parts, household supplies. Crosses, shrines, Lithuanian wayside shrines, chapels reflect the old Lithuanian sculpture. About Woodworking craft described in section 4.1 "Traditional Crafts". The most expressive of sculptures are chapels. These are various monuments with figures of saints, standing in the fields, the woods,

by the rivers, streams, highways, cemeteries and churchyards. Chapels may stand directly on the ground, on a mast or tower, or suspended on trees. Chapel means thanksgiving from the ghost of a deceased family member to the Lord God for the fields provided with yields and so on. Chapels are stored with wooden statues and paintings, various decorations and things. One of the most popular Lithuanian folk art and fine art objects is Rūpintojėlis. This pensive old man in leaned Jesus Christ pose sits and his right hand rests on his chin. Rūpintojėlis is a Lithuanian nation's symbol. Not just Catholics, but diplomats on the international level make as a present the statues of the sad Christ in all sizes.



**37 picture.** Shrines: standing directly on the ground, on the stem-columns and display the tree and a symbol of Lithuanian nation Pensive (Rūpintojėlis)

West European dictated development of Lithuanian sculpture and architecture. Till now Lithuanian manors and peasants home have remained works of foreign and local sculptors. In 1803 was established the Department of Sculpture at Vilnius University. The most famous sculptors of the 20th century:

Zikaras J. (1881-1944) - one of the first professional Lithuanian sculptors, author of the statues "Freedom" and "Book Smugglers". In the "Book smuggler" sculpture is a man with bag on his shoulder full of prohibited Lithuanian books, gazing for the best and safest way.

Petras Rimša (1881-1961) - sculptor, graphic artist, medalist. The most famous works are "Ploughman", "Pain", and „Lithuanian School The last work is also known as the "Mother's school". Mother, sitting at the spinning wheel, teaches a child to read in Lithuanian. The sculpture created in just a few years after the abolition of the Lithuanian press ban. "Lithuanian school" and "Book Smugglers" statues are standing in Vytautas the Great War Museum garden and symbolizes the heavy period of Lithuanian language prohibition.



**38 picture.** The famous statues "Lithuanian school" and "Book Smugglers"

Great sculptures were made by Vincas Grybas (1890-1941), Bronius Pundzius (1907-1959). Jonas Mikėnas (1901-1964) - one of the most famous Lithuanian sculptors, an originator of modern sculpture. His goal was to create a unique individual Lithuanian art in modern art tools rising from the folk art tradition.

Traditional Lithuanian folk sculpture was inextricably connected with folk everyday life, its environment. It was spreading despite the various prohibitions and persecutions. Its abundance, plastic and emotional expression shows inexhaustible creative potency of Lithuanian folk sculptors.

References:

- [1] Blogas Aleksandras, „Evolucija pagal Dievą ar pagal Darviną...“, Skulptūra „Lietuvos mokykla“: [http://leksas-lr.blogspot.com/2011\\_01\\_30\\_archive.html](http://leksas-lr.blogspot.com/2011_01_30_archive.html)
- [2] Respublikos nacionalių vertybių rinkimai, „Skulptorius Juozas Zikaras“: <http://www.respublikosvertybes.lt/lt/articles-item/id.42>
- [3] Senoji lietuvių skulptūra, kryžiai ir koplytėlės, Aleknavičius A. virtuali paroda „Žemaičių rūpintojėliai“: [http://www.tradicija.lt/Siuozetai/Aleknaviciaus\\_c.htm](http://www.tradicija.lt/Siuozetai/Aleknaviciaus_c.htm)
- [4] Senoji lietuvių skulptūra, kryžiai ir koplytėlės, „Koplytėlės“: [http://www.tradicija.lt/Tyrinejimai/Galaunes\\_koplyteles.htm](http://www.tradicija.lt/Tyrinejimai/Galaunes_koplyteles.htm)
- [5] Senoji lietuvių skulptūra, kryžiai ir koplytėlės, „Lietuvių liaudies tradicinė skulptūra“: [http://www.tradicija.lt/Skulptura/A\\_Mikenait\\_c.htm](http://www.tradicija.lt/Skulptura/A_Mikenait_c.htm)
- [6] Vikipedija, „Rūpintojėlis“: <http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C5%ABpintoj%C4%97lis>
- [7] Vikipedija, „Skulptūra Lietuvoje“: [http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skulpt%C5%ABra\\_Lietuvoje](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skulpt%C5%ABra_Lietuvoje)

### 4.6.3 Photography

Origination of Lithuanian photography is in 1854, barely 15 years after the invention of photography. The first Lithuanian photographer was Juozas Čechavičius (1819-1888). He started drawing the “Vilnius image” albums with an image of Vilnius in 1871, 1873, 1880. Several of his authentic works albums stored at the Rare Book Department of Vilnius University Library.

Stanislawas Filibertas Fleury (1858-1915) took pictures of streets of Vilnius, building interiors, suburban nature and people in Vilnius markets. Nobody, but he colored portraits with pastel and started taking pictures of characters. In postcards of Vilnius views were used expressive and authentic photographs of S. F. Fleury.

Aleksandras Jarušaitis gave a gentle artistic value to photography and actively contributed to the cultural life of Lithuania. In 1864-1915 photography and science started to cooperate. It was beginning of differentiation of photography as a craft and photography as an art.

After death of A. Jarušaitis and S. F. Fleury, the only representative of the art of photography in Vilnius remained Jan Bulhak (1876-1950). Jan Bulhak's creativity had a great influence on the development of Lithuanian art photography. Practically all of Vilnius pictorialists adopted his views on art. He was one of the first who draw a distinction between creative photography and amateur pictures. He was able to capture the lyrical nature of Vilnius and the old architecture. J. Bulhak was an originator of art landscape photography in Lithuania. He wrote the first book of photographic technique and aesthetics and raised the first generation of professional photographers.



**39 picture.** J. Bulhak works: Vilnius University and Vilnius overall picture

Modernism swept in Europe and legitimized photography as an artistic trend an equivalent to fine arts, which can be exhibited in museums and galleries. In 1932, journalist Peter Babickas (1903-1991), organized the first one-man photography exhibition in Kaunas. In the same year was founded the Union of Lithuanian Amateur Photographers, which contributed to the fostering of artistic photography, printed books, published periodicals about photography and regularly organized exhibitions and contests. Lithuanian photographers actively

participated in overseas exhibitions. Naturally, after the state establishment people wanted to praise and raise moral of the region. Balyš Buračas (1897 -1972) - folk artists, ethnographer, writer and photographer - was hurry to capture the vanishing ethnography. He devoted his life to capture the Lithuanian national identity and culture characteristic features. Some ethnographic scenes were directed by the author, like it was returning to the 19th century Lithuanian countryside. Since 1952 Lithuanian magazines started printing color photographs. Foto-experiments were strictly forbidden for artists in Soviet regime. Only socialistic realism was dominated and to accentuate the negative side of Soviet reality was prohibited. Such gestures might be interpreted as a crime, anti-Soviet activity. Works of Lithuania photographers Antanas Sutkus, Aleksandras Macijauskas, Algimantas Kunčius, Romualdas Rakauskas reflected everyday reality of rural life and made a significant influence on all of the Soviet Union photography.



**40 picture.** B.Buračas works: cross, altars, cross peak of iron

In 1969 after hard struggle with soviet bureaucracy there was established the Association of Lithuanian Art Photographers. From the very beginning the organization was dynamic and active. Basically the association was occupied with arranging the photography exhibitions, seminars, supporting the photographers with equipment and technological materials. Special attention was always paid to young generation of photographers thus seeking to continue the tradition of Lithuanian photography. Lithuanian photography exhibitions began to travel abroad. In 1989 was founded the Union of Lithuanian Art Photographers. Active exhibiting activities in Lithuania and abroad are one of the most important tasks of the organization till now. Currently the organization has more than 300 professional photographers.

References:

- [1] A. Jankevičienės ir M. Kuodienės knyga „Lietuvos mūrinės koplytėlės“:  
[http://www.tradicija.lt/Koplyteles/Alge\\_Jankeviciene.htm](http://www.tradicija.lt/Koplyteles/Alge_Jankeviciene.htm)
- [2] Fotomenininkų sąjunga: <http://www.photography.lt/lt.php/Apie>
- [3] Lietuvos fotografija: [http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvos\\_fotografija](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvos_fotografija)
- [4] Lietuvos fotografija 1919-1950 m.:  
<http://www.bernardinai.lt/straipsnis/2008-04-01-monika-lipsic-is-lietuvos-fotografijos-istorijos-1919-1950/9683>
- [5] Lietuvos fotografija 1839-1920 m.:  
<http://www.bernardinai.lt/straipsnis/2008-03-12-monika-lipsic-is-lietuvos-fotografijos-istorijos-1839-1920/9705>
- [6] Senoji lietuvių skulptūra, kryžiai ir koplytėlės: [http://www.tradicija.lt/Tyrinejimai/Galaunes\\_koplyteles.htm](http://www.tradicija.lt/Tyrinejimai/Galaunes_koplyteles.htm)
- [7] Virtuali Lietuvos kultūros skaitmeninio paveldo sistema (nuotraukos):  
<http://www.epaveldas.lt/vbspi/content/extendedSearch.jsp>

#### 4.7 Cultural art events in Lithuania

Vilnius, the capital city, is a leader in Lithuania by the number and variety of festivals held every year, offering much pleasure to the eyes and ears of lovers of classical and modern music, theatre- and cinema-goers, and fans of modern dances. Other Lithuanian towns also have cultural activities to offer. Jazz, rock, blues, alternative, and electronic music lovers will surely find one to their taste.

## SONG CELEBRATION/FESTIVAL



The first song festival was held in 1924 in Kaunas. In nowadays huge festivities held every four years, bring together thousands of professional and amateur musicians, singers and dancers, from very young to old, from all over the world. The Festival has several layers: Folk Art Exhibition, Folklore Day, Ensemble Evening, Dance Day, and Song Day. The Folklore Day, which opens the Festival, brings together about 4,000 performers. It is traditionally held in the Sereikiškių Park. The Folk Art Exhibition features selected works of the best contemporary folk artists from all over Lithuania and items from the stocks of museums. The Ensemble Evening, an open-air concert of Lithuanian folk songs and dances to the music played with folk instruments, assembles about 3,000 performers on the stage in the Kalnų Park. Dance Days take place in the Žalgiris Stadium. This is a large-scale concert by dance groups of different ages, about 9,000 dancers in total. The final and the most impressive touch of the Festival is the Song Day, which is traditionally held in Vingis Park, on the open-air stage specially built for this purpose. About 15,000 singers in about 400 choirs – of children, youth, women, men and mixed – sing together on this day. In 2003, the UNESCO inscribed the traditions and symbols of song festivals of the Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania – on the List of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

## SEA FESTIVAL



The Sea Festival, held every year in the end of July in Klaipėda, is the largest summer festival in Lithuania. It continues three days and attracts over half a million of people, both local and from other countries – Germany, Estonia, Netherlands and many others. They listen to concerts, view exhibitions, watch and participate in colourful parades. The Festival shakes up the whole old town of Klaipėda and its central part – the Anikės Square, the Cruise Ship Terminal, the Jonas Hill. The events are often broadcast on the national and other Lithuanian TV stations and covered in foreign press. The first Sea Festival, also called the Day of the Sea, was celebrated on 12 August 1934 to popularise sea and promote seamanship and nautical professions. Today, the Sea Festival is also called the second or summer Christmas in Klaipėda.

## KAUNAS JAZZ



This international festival has been taking place since 1991 in Kaunas, the second largest town of Lithuania. Originally, it was held in spring, but today concerts are given also in autumn and before Christmas. Kaunas Jazz features different styles and genres of jazz. Jazz groups and performers (such as Kurt Elling, Victor Wooten, Jan Garbarek, Bobby McFerrin) from over 20 countries have participated in the festival altogether.

## KLAIPĖDA CASTLE JAZZ FESTIVAL



This international jazz festival is organised every summer for lovers of the so-called world music, jazz and light music, of different age and musical taste. The first Klaipėda Castle Jazz Festival was held in 1994. Its birth is associated with the Jazz Music Department of the Klaipėda University, which is a cradle of professional jazz and light music performers. This explains why this genre is so popular in Klaipėda and the whole Western Lithuania. Today, concerts are always given in open-air spaces and are free, and celebrated guests of the Festival give lessons of excellence to students of the Klaipėda University. Together they also develop one joint project every year.

## VILNIUS FESTIVALS



Vilnius Festivals is the alliance of ten largest and best festivals of culture and art held every year from early spring to late autumn. These are: Vilnius Festival (classical music), Sirens (theatre), Gaida (modern music), New Baltic Dance (modern dance), Christopher Summer Festival (classical music), Vilnius Mama Jazz (jazz music), Kino pavasaris (international film festival; literal translation – The Spring of Cinema), Banchetto Musicale (international festival of old music), Vilnius Jazz (international festival of modern jazz music), and Vilnius City Fiesta (a municipal open-air festival). All these festivals present the best performers and creators, orchestras, and theatre companies.

## BLUES NIGHTS



This is another festival with a name that tells a lot about it. Born in 1993, this international festival is always held on other first weekend of July and always in the same place – in Varniai by the Lūkštas Lake. The history of the Blues Nights started here, in a wooden shingle-roofed shed. Today, the shore of the Lūkštas Lake is transformed into a town of tents, reminding of the legendary rock festival in Woodstock, USA. During the Blues Nights, it is already customary to set up a firework show, to make the so-called “blues-soup” (fish soup), and arrange football, volleyball and basketball tournaments.

## STREET MUSIC DAY



On the first Saturday in May thousands of people, professional musicians and amateurs, go out to the streets, yards, parks and squares to play music. Street Music must unite all who speak the world's most universal language, the language of music – this was the idea of musician and actor Andrius Mamontovas, the initiator of the Festival. Armed with a variety of musical instruments, people play rock, classics, jazz, avant-garde and folklore and beat African rhythms. Lithuanians all over the world are invited to join in the festival.

## PAŽAISLIS MUSIC FESTIVAL



Pažaislis Music Festival that has been held every summer since 1996 in Kaunas and other regions of Lithuania is equated to the best music festivals in Europe. It is unique in that it combines classical and old music and jazz, blues and popular music by contemporary composers of different countries, which sounds in the Pažaislis Monastery considered one of the best pieces of middle Baroque and in other sites of architectural and heritage value. Pažaislis Music Festival is also famous as a venue of first-night performances, featuring latest works of Lithuanian composers every year. Moreover, the Festival welcomes projects combining drama, dance, visual and fine arts.

## EUROPEAN FILM FORUM "SCANORAMA"



This European Film Forum has evolved from the Nordic Film Forum held in 2003 and is associated with other major film festivals of Nordic countries organised in Europe. Connecting Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda every November, Scanorama is highly valued for the artistic value of the films selected, for refusing to cater to bad taste and to go after commercial success. This is a festival of interesting ideas and discoveries, a kind of film bang that shakes the audience. Every year, the Scanorama has a dozen of different programmes on schedule, with over 100 films of different genres, contents and duration. The filmmaking workshop „Go Young Generation“ brings together future film professionals, who compete for the best and most catching short-feature film in the contest „New Baltic Film“.

## VILNIUS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL "KINO PAVASARIS"



Lovers of good films say jokingly they take at least a week's leave every March to be able to see the films demonstrated at this Festival and meet participating Lithuanian and foreign celebrities, because off-work hours or weekends are not enough. The Festival is distinctive in that it has a large army of loyal fans who can hardly wait from one Festival to the next. The Festival's geography is not limited to Vilnius: this two-week film demonstration project expands to Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys and Šiauliai, attracting over 50,000 people and showing over 100 films every year.

## MĒNUO JUODARAGIS



This unique international festival, held every last summer weekend, is a tribute to the contemporary Baltic culture and alternative music. Literally translated as „Blackhorn Moon“, Mėnuo Juodaragis features pagan traditions, neo-folklore and post-modern avant-garde: here you will have a possibility to listen to music bands of Baltic and foreign countries, observe the old rituals, attend lectures and film demonstrations, watch performances, view exhibitions, learn traditional folk crafts, take part in interactive creative projects, dance, and play different games. And do it in the most beautiful natural setting! Since 1995, the Festival has been changing its venue every three years and lasts for three days. The Festival has a loyal horde of fans, who spread the infection of the Festival to their friends and family members.

## TEBŪNIE NAKTIS (LET THERE BE NIGHT)



This city culture tradition came to Vilnius from other European capitals in 2007. It is one night every June when our capital does not sleep: squares are converted into dance schools under the stars and parks into large cinema halls on the grass, the river is decorated with installations and shining mazes, churches sound with classical, rock and organ music, narrow streets turn into theatres, balconies sing love songs, the night goes bright by hand-made torches, the air vibrates with poetry-reading and lullaby-singing, and museums open through the night lure visitors with musicals and animation. In 2009, about 100,000 people joined for the no-sleep night downtown.

## VILNIUS FEJERIJA

### VILNIAUS FEJERIJA

This international festival of fireworks attracts crowds of people every September. The centrepiece of this exciting show is an ocean of fireworks dancing to the music. The Festival also involves a competition among teams of professional pyrotechnicians from different countries. Winners are selected by a jury and spectators with equal number of votes.

## SATTA OUTSIDE



Held every August since 2007, this festival of alternative music and art features ska, dub, funk, beats and dubstep genres. The Festival has chosen quite exciting venues – Smiltynė woods, lawns, beaches and the industrial shed of the local yacht club. Art workshops are installed next to the stages for music erected just for a few days. There, pre-defined ideas are realised and works of sculptors, painters and graffiti creators are presented.

## MADOS INFEKCIJA (FASHION INFECTION)



Lithuania has not only music, theatre, dance or film festivals to offer. There is something also for those who are interested in fashion – it's a fashion festival Mados Infekcija that has been staged every March since 1999 in Vilnius. The Festival brings together both professionals and start-ups in the business of fashion. It is a search for new talents and names – novice designers have a possibility to present their works on the same footing as professionals of the world of fashion. The festival was pioneered by designer Sandra Straukaitė.

### References:

- [1] Oficialūs Lietuvos interneto vartai, „Festivaliai“: <http://www.lietuva.lt/en/lifestyle/festivaliai>
- [2] Vilniaus turizmo informacijos centras, „Renginiai“: <http://www.vilnius-events.lt/>

## 5. LITHUANIA AS A LAND OF BELIEFS

### 5.1 Beliefs related to weather

In ancient times Lithuanians were much closer to nature, were able to watch and predict the weather for the near future or for the whole next year. After all, from these predictions depended entire year's harvest.

Lithuanians presumed upcoming year on the basis of observing weather during **Christmas and New Year**. It was believed that if snowed on day time during New Year's Day there would be bad weather all next year. But if the day was clear there would be a good harvest. If on New Year's Day trees covered with frost - will be a good year, if the this is cold - Easter will be warm, if a thick fog – a lot of people will die, will have a vast of diseases. And if the weather is fine on Christmas morning – good harvest of flax, if it rains - the next year cows will produce large quantities of milk, if it is icy – a lot of water on spring, if it is watery – spring will be icy, if there is cold and plenty of snow – spring will come soon and there will be green grass and warm weather on Easter. If stands a lot of snow on the roof edge on Christmas Eve - there will be many mushrooms on autumn.

What is the weather on **Easter Day** this will be the summer, what will be the next day this will be autumn. The third day of Easter called Ice Day and it was believed that if you do anything for land there will be hail on summer which will destroy the harvest. If it rains on John's Day – will rain several weeks, if it rains intermittently – good harvest. If it rains on first week of July – all summer will be rainy.

The weather was predicted also from expressions of atmosphere, celestial bodies, plants and even behavior of animals.

**Smokes.** If smokes from chimney are rising straight to the sky – there will be no clouds on the next day, if those are going down, distributes near the ground – there will be rain or snow. If smokes from chimney go to North there will be cold, to South – warm.

**Fog.** If after the rain rises fog there can be expected clear sky. If fog goes up - will rain, if goes down – will be clear. If there is foggy autumn morning – there can be not plentiful rain in the middle of the day. When the evening turns foggy – tomorrow will be clear and warm. If summer evening mist rises up from the ground or water, tomorrow will be a hot day. If mist fades early, the day will be beautiful. Heavy or thick fog in the evening promises plenty of rain the next day.

**Dew.** If the grass is dewy in the morning - there will be clear day, and if the dew is not - it will be rainy. Plentiful dew shows that clear days will long last. When windows dew on winter or spring – warm weather is on the way.

**Winds.** If the wind is getting stronger at the evening – the weather will become worse, strong winds at night and the next day, also there can be protracted precipitation or storm. If all day strong winds weakened in the evening – there will be rainy, if after that precipitation falls – it is a long way from over, and if strong winds were during clear day – there will be good weather soon. There is sign of bad weather whole day when there is heavy rain or snow and strong wind in the morning. If the wind does not change, then the weather will not change also.

**Animals** are some of the most notable forecasters in nature. About the upcoming cold notify bleated sheep, geese holding his head under a wing. Snakes go for a walk before the rain, and cats eat grass or lie next to the furnace with tail let down. Before strong winds cats torn bed, chair or table with claws.

**Insects and birds** predict weather changes also. High above the ground flying insects and birds, feeding on them, heralded a clear sky. However, if the swallows' wings almost touch the ground, and biting insects suddenly become very active, intruding in your eyes, bite - wait for the rain. If mosquito "crush peppers" (fly quickly down and up) in the evening, tomorrow will be sunny. Swarms of mosquitoes promise good weather as well as.

On a sunny day ants bring cocoons to the surface of nest and before rain they hurry up to hide their selves and cocoons deep in nest. Before rainstorm all bees, butterflies also hide, grasshoppers fall silent. Long

continuous cuckooing of cuckoo and oriole twittering heralded a long cloudless weather. Hard woodpecker percussion marks the approaching storm. If worms eat blossoms of apple-tree – coming winter will be deep. If in winter squatting crow looks in South – there will be a thaw, if it caws very loudly – will be a snowstorm soon. Frogs predict weather also: if they croaking in the evening – morning will be cloudless and if they in teams goes to the coast – there will be rainy.

**Plants** also sensitively react to changes of weather. Widely blown blossoms of wood sorrel approach signs of rain and in the evening collapsed blossoms – clear, rainless weather. But most of plants collapse their blossoms before rain. Thus they are saving pollen for bees. Pansies hide their blossoms under leaves, fern curls up slightly. Some plants cover with small water droplets before rain, for example strawberry leaves, juniper needles.

Much of the information about the upcoming weather can provide **watching the sky**. The impressive red sunsets are good weather sign, but the red sky in the morning promises not so clear day and strong wind. Bright yellow sunsets and sunrised red moon also heralded windy day. And if sky in the morning looks gray, flying light downy clouds – wait for a nice day.

#### References:

- [1] Delfi.lt, „Artėjančios šventės – su lietumi“: <http://www.delfi.lt/news/daily/lithuania/artejancios-sventes-su-lietumi.d?id=15207687>
- [2] Tree of ideas, „Kaip nuspėti orus iš gamtos reiškinių?“, <http://idejumedis.wordpress.com/2012/02/28/kaip-nuspėti-orus-is-gamtos-reiskiniu/>
- [3] Mokslai.lt, „Lietuvių liaudies išmintis prognozuojant orus“: <http://www.mokslai.lt/referatai/referatas/29208.html>
- [4] Editorial Office of Cultural Fellowship of Žemaitija, „Gyvuliai atspėja orą“: <http://samogitia.mch.mii.lt/AUTOSAKA/orai.lt.htm>

## 5.2 Beliefs related to medicine

Lithuanian folk medicine, which is related to magic rituals and superstitions, has been practiced for many thousands of years ago.

The ancient Lithuanians believed that a person falls ill lighted up by moon, that is not good for health the eclipse of moon and sun, wind brings diseases. There were widely known that diseases for persons came from the demons and stayed in body. Those various diseases: pneumonia, hectic, heart disease. From stories where known that demons could suck human blood and after that man reduces himself, become wan. It was thought that insomnia and diseases for children were brought by witches.

Lithuanian folk medicine ways of treatment: prayers, holy water, incense of holy herbs, palms of Easter. Diseases from the sick person were sucked out, put out by extrusion, shaken out, blowing out, wiping of, and washing out or even scaring. One of the most ancient ways of treatment was with smoke and fire. Sick child was lied on baker's peel and put into a hot furnace and then taken out. There were believed that the disease would remain there and burn down.

The special power was attributed to the mother's wedding ring. There were circumscribed with ring on sick part of body and treated warts, holy fire (Erysipelas), various moles. If you have mole that you cannot see – you will have happy life. If you have moles that do not see, then you will be happy in life. To prevent moles the baby was anointed by pigeon's blood before baptism. Redirected of evil plants were kept: nettle, absinth, buckbean. Before sunrise people in South of Lithuania (Dzūkija) exorcise against fever. Went out into the yard, turning to East, and said, "Early in the morning I am rising up to wash out with dew, talking to sun, worshiping God. Diseases past through, from me to dry trees, deep swamps, where people are not going, animals are not wading, birds are not flying". The oldest place of treatment was sauna. There were treated for severe patients, also there were massaging, occurring childbirth.

Sick person usually was treated by family, relatives, and when anybody could not help there were requested to wizards or herbalists. From ancient time people were treated by women, sometimes they were called witches. They knew healing power of many herbals, tried a variety of spells and magical tools, incantations. Amulets with sign of toad protected from diseases and death.

For a long time, before appeared chemical drugs, people were producing homemade medications. Often the basis of it was urine, manure, various herbs from forests and fields. Due to specific formulation usually patients were not informed about components. There were popular from various diseases to heal with dried and poured by vodka snake.

But mostly there were healing with herbs, which picked in the meadows, fields near forests. Then those were dried out and used on winter period. So far, the older generation knows and applies treatments with herbs. There are several recipes from various diseases.

**From cold** diseases were made tea of raspberry leaves and roots, flowers of Tilia, St. John's worts, black currants, chamomiles. Chamomiles had been used also for jaundice, kidneys, bladder, bowel diseases. Chamomile and St. John's wort had been considered as "cure of hundreds diseases". For ill persons were put hot brick to the feet, soaked feet in hot water with ash and salt. Sore throat was gargled with coltsfoot tea.

**Typhoid diseases** were treated with cumin tea.

**Insomnia** – a decoction of poppy, poppy seed milk or dill tea.

For treatment with teas was used blossoms of cherry, apple, red peony, leaves of birch, Christmas tree and other trees, dried blueberries, valerian, juniper.

#### References:

- [1] Balčiūnienė I., „Lietuvos stomatologijos istorija“, Vilnius, Infopolis, 1998, p. 15
- [2] Dundulienė, P., „Lietuvių etnografija: mokymo priemonė aukštųjų mokyklų istorijos ir filologijos specialybėms studentams“, Vilnius, Mokslas, 1982, p. 217
- [3] Lietuviais.lt, „Ragana – apšmeižta deivė“: <http://www.lietuviais.lt/straipsnis/Lietuvos-dievai-ir-deives/Ragana-apsmeizta-deive.php>
- [4] Straipsniai.org, „Liaudies medicina“: <http://straipsniai.org/liaudies-medicina-2/>

### 5.3 Rituals and celebrations on Lithuania

Rituals and celebrations are inseparable from the religion of nation. Customs and rituals in Lithuania formed in pagan times. That is why most of Lithuanian rituals are mainly associated with the calendar year transformation and agriculture, and adapted or coincide to the Christian holidays. For example, solstice of December coincided with the celebration of the birth of Christ (Christmas and Christmas Eve), the first spring thunderstorms and plants awakening called Jorė (celebration of the beginning of spring) – with the Easter holidays and St. George's Day cycle, the solstice of summer (Midsummer) – with name-day of St. John (called John's Day).

**Christmas Eve** is evening before Christmas. According to Lithuanian customs - it's a family day of peace. Everybody tries to pay back all debts, to make it up with everybody before Christmas Eve. Family members put efforts to come back home, sit down together at the table for special dinner. On the table are dishes which were specially made for this evening and have symbolic meaning. Those dishes are made from poppy seeds, wheat, beans, peas, herring and fish, cranberries, sweetened with honey bees. Main dish is small square biscuits served with poppy seeds milk (kūčiukai). There must be at least 12th dishes on the Christmas Eve table. That night is considered as a magical night, and after the dinner adults enjoy fortune telling about marriage, life, harvest, weather. It is believed that on Christmas Eve night at midnight animals speak in human language, water turns into wine. But this celebration is inseparable from Christian worship: saying a prayer before dinner, remembering all relatives who passed away or are far from home, also there are breaking holy patty (kalėdaitis). During the day of Christmas Eve there are avoiding eat meat and on dinner table there cannot be any dishes from meat. However, the period from Christmas Day (day after Christmas Eve) till Pancakes Day (Užgavėnės) everybody eats meat. In winter time there were a lot of weddings, so people were visiting each other.



**41 picture.** Inherent attributes of Christmas Eve - breaking of holy patty and biscuits with poppy seeds

**Pancakes Day (Užagavėnės)** is a movable feast, celebrated seven weeks before Easter. According to people's way of thinking it is the threshold between winter and upcoming spring, carnival of mummers. This holiday has no Christian rituals, but there are distinctive dishes, honoring of ancestors and ghosts, walking of mummers and other fun activities. The main accent of holiday is idol of women doll called Morė. It is a deity of fertility, which every year is burnt down due to rebirth. With her burning "is expelled" accumulated evil and weather of winter. On this date many Lithuanian regions (the biggest in Rumšiškės, Folk Museum of Lithuania) have programs with Pancakes Day play heroes, burning Morė, making and eating pancakes, various contests.

Mostly burnt ashes in old times were sprinkled in the fields, because it was believed that it will be more fertile. During Pancake Day there is eaten many times fat food due to become healthy and satisfied over this year. With particular words in the ritual dinner were invited dead souls, what left after dinner was divided for animals "as a cure for all diseases." Part of food was retained to protect home against disasters. After Pancakes Day is Lent, which last until Easter. During this period it is encouraged fasting.



**42 picture.** Pancakes Day (Užgavėnės)

**St. Casimir** is still the only Lithuanian who was declared a saint by Catholic Church in 1602. St. Casimir is common in Lithuanian iconography. In 1948 Pope published him as all over the world Lithuanian youth mentor. This day is celebrated in the church. From the old times on March 4th was held street fair called Little Casimir's Fair (Kaziukas Fair). It lasted several several days or even a week and there used to sell handmade products: various barrels, pots, tools, and others. Street fair was famous for its colorful Easter palms, which was made from bunches of dried flowers collected in summer, painted and weaved in various patterns bents. Those were bought and carried to church to sanctification on Palm Sunday.



43 picture. Kaziukas Fair

**Easter** celebration of Christian, symbolizing Christ's resurrection from the death after crucifixion. Easter is most important Christian festival, expressing the great joy of the final Son of God's victory over death. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. Thus, the date of Easter in different years may vary from March 22nd to April 25th. Some Easter traditions are habits formed by Christianity – early in the morning to go to church, go around it remembering path of suffering walked by Christ and others. But there are remaining traditions originated from the pagan celebration of spring revival of nature – decorating eggs, some songs, etc. During Easter people often goes to visit relatives and exchanged patterned eggs. Sitting around the judge Easter table there is a tradition at first beat the eggs and find out whose egg this year is the strongest. Another older tradition is eggs raolling, which is played mostly by children.



44 picture. Easter: colorful eggs, breaking and rolling them

**St. George's Day** in Lithuania has long been associated with livestock, with the first animal herding in pasture in spring. Many of the customs was associated with the promotion of crop harvest. Icon of St. George is very popular in Lithuanian folk wood carvings, engravings, sculpture. At this day there was visited by crops, going through the fields with a loaf of bread, and then burying it in the soil. It was also baked small loaf of bread called "animal" bread, which was brought to the church, given to beggars and asked them to pray for their livestock. The most beautiful loaf was put on altar of St. George. Before the first time after winter when animals go to the fields, their backs were stroked with branch due to animals were round, fat and healthy. It was believed that if you do something for land (like digging, etc.) there will be unsuccessful year in livestock. Until now, there is a tradition to celebrate indulgence of St. George in church on April 23rd.

**John's Day (Midsummer)** is one of the most important and perhaps the most miraculous ancient Lithuanian celebrations, inseparable from the lots. First time John's Day mentioned in 1262. Many historians, ethnographers from old times noticed that at this evening there was a lot of burning fires, where people dance, having fun. That night was known as one the most miraculous time of the year. Women were collecting herbs because then they acquire extraordinary powers of healing. Unmarried girls tonight clothed in white linen clothes and went to meadows singing and making garland of nine or twelve different flowering herbs. These garlands girls put on their heads and later from those were told about girls' future. If a girl and a guy jump fireplace together holding hands – they will get married this year. In the morning through those fireplaces shepherds goes with cows that they would produce more milk and above the gates, doors put nettles and other herbs against witches, for healthy animals, etc.

On John's Day night blooms fern. Lithuanians from old times always went to look for it at midnight. It was believed that who found the fern blossom becomes clairvoyant and that brings wealth and happiness. John's Day was the traditional farmers and youth celebration coincided with the longest day and the shortest night of the year. It is celebrated around the June 22-24th.



45 picture. John's Day

**The Assumption (Žolinė)** in farmers' calendar appeared on XIX-XXth century. It is associated with Catholic customs of The Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven, informally known as The Assumption. During celebration (August 15th) in church priestesses not only herbs, but also the baked bread of first harvest. In old times Balts' rituals were for deity of birth, there were made sacrifices of harvest to her.



46 picture. Indulgence of The Assumption

**All Souls' Day (Vėlinės)** is very important day for Lithuanians from ancient times. There were known that in 988 Pope Gregory IV announced All Souls' Day (November 2nd) as a celebration of all dead remembrance. There was already celebration of All Saints Day (November 1st). On that day people go to cemeteries, visit their relatives, close people graves, decorate them and participate in worship for the dead.



47 picture. All Souls' Day

Lithuanian celebrations are really unique due to assimilation of pagan and Christian customs. The intergenerational transmission from generation to generation rituals and customs of celebrations had remained until now.

References:

- [1] Anonsas.lt, „Joninės 2012 Jono kalne Klaipėdoje“:  
<http://www.anonsas.lt/portal/categories/81/1/0/1/article/32385/jonines-2012-jono-kalne-klaipedoje>
- [2] Archyvita, photo „Vasario 14 šventos Užgavėnės Rumšiškėse“: <http://www.archyvita.lt/uzgavenes/>
- [3] Blog Toks Visoks, „Man patinka Vėlinės“: <http://toksvisoks.blogspot.com/2010/11/man-patinka-velines.html>
- [4] Day.lt, „Joninės (Rasos)“:<http://day.lt/straipsniai/jonines>
- [5] Lrytas.lt, „Per Vėlines - keturios poilsio dienos“: <http://www.lrytas.lt/-13194485211317449711-per-v%C4%97lines-keturios-poilsio-dienos.htm>
- [6] Newspaper of Teacher, „Mėsėdis“: <http://mokytojolaikrastis.lt/mesedis.html>
- [7] Negatyvas, photo „Kūčios - Plotkelės laužymas“: <http://fotokudra.lt/img.php?img=382467>
- [8] Nevartok.lt, „Kaip išsirinkti tvirčiausią kiaušinį?“, <http://nevaartok.lt/1-naudinga-zinoti/2303/>
- [9] Prienai Progymnasium of „Ažuolas“, information from Comenius programme project, „Šventės/Holidays“:  
<http://www.azuolas.prienai.lm.lt/Comenius/index.php?page=sventes#main>
- [10] Straipsniai.lt, „Velykų tradicija“: <http://www.straipsniai.lt/religines-sventes/informacija/velykos/puslapis/5881>
- [11] Wikipedia, „Lietuvių tradicijos ir papročiai“:  
[http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvi%C5%B3\\_tradicijos\\_ir\\_papro%C4%8Diai](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvi%C5%B3_tradicijos_ir_papro%C4%8Diai)
- [12] Wikipedia, photo „Šv. Kazimieras“: [http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0v.\\_Kazimieras](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0v._Kazimieras)
- [13] Vyšniauskaitė A., „Apie šventes, papročių ir tradicijos sampratą bei švenčių apibūdinimas“:  
[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w5\\_show?p\\_r=7034&p\\_d=21303&p\\_k=1](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w5_show?p_r=7034&p_d=21303&p_k=1)
- [14] Voruta, „Trakų Žolinės atlydai apjuosė istorija“: <http://www.voruta.lt/traku-zolines-atlydai-apjuose-istorija/>

## 6. LITHUANIA AS THE LAND OF TASTES

### 6.1 The main cultivation in Lithuania

Although Lithuanian cuisine is similar to other countries' in East Europe food still it is unique. As a major source of fiber and carbohydrates Lithuanians usually eats rye bread and potatoes (just from 18th century). Protein sources mainly meat are and dairy products.

**Rye** in Lithuania is two kinds: annuals or winter crops. Rye bread (or black bread) - one of the oldest and most basic food, Lithuanians eat it every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are two traditional types of bread - plain fermented and scalded. Fermented bread is baked from ancient times, while scalded bread baked only from the early 20th century.



48 picture. From rye to rye bread

**Potatoes** are considered as the second bread for Lithuanians and eaten all year round. From what other product could you make more dishes, if not potatoes. Boiled, baked, roasted, eaten with milk, kefir, vegetables, meat or fish dishes. Even soup without potatoes is not real soup. The most popular potato dishes are big dumpings made of potato dough and minced meat (cepelinai), potato sausage (vėdarai), potato pancakes.

There is no possible to think about Lithuanian full of food tabel without black bread and potatoes. If there is meat for main dish for dinner potatoes are irreplaceable. And bread is suitable and often necessary while Lithuanian eats soup, hot or cold starter and even main course where could be potatoes also.

### 6.2 Traditional dishes

Food and eating culture of Lithuania as well as most of other Lithuanian's society expressions were definitely multicultural. Also that appertained on social makings like available food products and quality of it depended on incomes and status in society. There can be grouped several socially based Lithuanian cuisines: peasants, townsfolk, noblemen, lord's palaces and public catering institutions. There are noticed bright features of European cuisine (Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Enlightenment epochs) in lord's palace and nobility.

Lithuanians have relatively abundant **cold snack table**, which is inherent in all the Baltic countries. It serves a selection of cheeses, curd dairy products, smoked meat and fish products, meat in jelly and various lunch meats.



**49 picture.** Minced smoked meat (skilandis) and cottage cheese

In different regions of Lithuania there can be also found unique traditional dishes like goat cheese in Žemaitija, minced smoked meat (skilandis) in East Lithuania, in a bit different way cured ham and salted bacon in all country, etc.

Lithuanians have a huge range of **hot dishes**. In noble cuisine was very prevalent baked ham, stuffed poultry and beaten meat stuffed with vegetables, mushrooms or other and called zrazai (taken from the Polish cuisine). In peasants' cuisine has evolved meat with grits dishes (medleys). Culinary heritage also can be called Lithuanian hunters favorite dish - beaver stuffed with buckwheat porridge and pickled mushrooms, fried carp stuffed with apples, two days with calamus matured and cold smoked eel, fried pig ham which were for a week were hold in beer, etc.

Since 19th century spread cultivation of potatoes and appeared such dishes from those which are everyday and called traditional meal in Lithuania today. It is like big dumplings, pig bowels stuffed with potatoes (vėdarai), marmots served with cherries jam, potato pancakes, cooked and smashed potato pancakes stuffed with meat (Žemaičiai pancakes), boiled potatoes with dills and buttermilk or curd. Though most of these dishes are well known in other neighboring cuisines: Ukrainians, Belarusians, Poles, Czechs and others.



**50 picture.** Dumplings and ir vėdarai

And there are even much more traditional potatoes dishes in Lithuania. Cuisine can offer almost everything: potato buns with braised cabbage or mushroom stuffing, potato croissants, various potato bakes, rolls and even cake.

There is quite large of range of **paste dishes**. Most of these dishes in the Lithuanian cuisine came in 14-15th century when Mongols moved and stayed in Lithuania. These are mostly small various dumplings with various sauces (koldūnai, virtiniai, šaltanosiai, skryliai).



**51 picture.** Small dumplings stuffed meat (koldūnai) and dumplings with onions and bacon sauce (skryliai)

In Lithuanian folk tales and songs is mentioned bread Ragaišis which is assumed was baked from wheat, barley or buckwheat flour. Cultural Lithuanian cuisine heritage can be called ring-shaped roll (baranka) which first in the world were cooked in Lithuania.

### 6.3 Traditional drinks

The most important drink of peasants were milk, sour milk, buttermilk sometimes. In ancient Lithuania from alcoholic drinks were prevalent mead and later beer from the German brewing traditions.

Meanwhile noble cuisine had developed and very rich assortment of alcoholic beverages. After inventing vodka emerged new types of alcohol. Various tinctures, infusions, liqueurs, sweet vodka with honey (Krupnikas), matured vodka (starka) are rich culinary heritage legacy of nobility.

**Kvass** is a natural drink, almost like a beer, but weaker, with almost no alcohol. Kvass is very popular nowadays because it is tasty and refreshing, and even healthy, with vitamins. The recipe of kvass is very simple: pieces of old dried-out black bread put in hot oven till the bread become really dark, after that put those in water with some sugar, boil it a bit and put it to cool down. In already cool kvass put some yeast and storage somewhere calm and warm. The next day, if the yeast was good and fast growing, kavas is already available to drink, although still better to wait about 2 or 3 days - then bubbles increase.

**Beer** is produced in our country already from 11th century. True, a long time, Lithuanians did not know how to pickle it because there was undiscovered enhancement, promoting fermentation. However, honey has opened the way to the production of a well-balanced beer. The strongest beers tradition firmly established in Northern Lithuania (Pasvalys, Joniškis regions).

Lithuanian beer played an important role. Not for nothing there were saying: "Good host always has beer - for celebration and for a simple day." People were drinking beer not for entertainment purpose but it was considered as a ceremonial drink, people believed in his miraculous powers. Traditionally, this drink was used during religious holidays and other calendar celebrations (Easter, Christmas, **Assumption**, **Pentecost**, New Year, feasts, etc.). It was believed that drinking for the relevant pagan God would invite his blessing to receive an abundant harvest. Naturally a lot of rituals with beer were for blessing and inviting success for work. After all, for rural people success in agriculture occupies was extremely important because it was their life and a source of livelihood.

**Mead** is an alcoholic drink made from honey diluted with water, fermented with wine yeast. Some honey is sometimes replaced by sugar. To improve the taste put some of the fruits, berries or aromatic herbs. Mead is 10-12%, sometimes - up to 16% alcohol strength. In 17-18th lowering of beekeeping and rising prices of honey, mead actually disappeared.



**52 picture.** Beer, kvass and mead

Currently, the traditional mead is not produced, but its basis is created group of alcoholic beverages “Lithuanian mead” close to liqueurs and tinctures produced by “Stakliškės” factory.

Today people still make traditional drinks at home like beer, kvass and even mead which maybe it is not same as original but the appearance and taste is very similar.

#### **6.4 Traditional desserts**

The majority of Lithuanian desserts are the legacy of nobility.

**Šakotis** (branchy cake) is high branched hollow pastry baker. It is traditional Lithuanian dish, one of the most common wedding dispensing desserts. Šakotis came from Germany where is very similar cake called Baumkuchen. Šakotis is shaped like a Christmas tree, and his barbs looks like branches. This cake usually is quite high but there are different sizes of it.

**Žagarėliai** is from flour dough rolled pastries and it is another traditional dessert in Lithuanian cuisine. This dish is simply made from flour and eggs, boiled in oil and served with icing sugar on top.



**53 picture.** Šakotis and žagarėliai

However, in addition to these most common desserts there are widespread in Lithuania countless desserts brought in 19th century from the West.

Today, you probably cannot imagine desserts without the **ice cream**. It is believed that the first ice cream began to produce the Italians, and to manors of Lithuanian ice cream came around in 17th century. Their production technology was quite primitive and has remained unchanged for quite a while.

Already in Paleolithic times Lithuanians ate honey of wild bees, which then and later served as a sugar. In it sweetened dough baked cookies. At old times culinary masters used to say that only from the long-matured dough you are able to bake good cookies. Some writings claim that the dough was even considered to be matured for 10-20 years. There was the custom: after the birth of the daughter was kneaded the dough and it was matured as long as daughter would marry, and for the weddings from the dough was baked in special cookies.

With Lithuanian weddings customs there are mentioned special cake called karvojus which name are known till nowadays. In written sources (12th century) there are found information that everybody in weddings feast had to taste this special cake.

## 6.5 Old recipes

Lithuanian cuisine was formed by historically developed temperate weather conditions. That lead to sedentary farmers and livestock producers dishes. Similar dishes were eaten in other agricultured regions of this climate. Lithuanians are among the European nations who the majority of the population tolerating lactose (may use fresh milk products). In 10-12th century Lithuania's closer contacts with the Eastern Baltic (Bizantine) had been able to bring not only Christianity to the Lithuanian territory but also some of dishes specific to the Mediterranean region. Undoubtedly, this was during Grand Duke Vytautas Magnus times when Lithuania's occupied territories was till the Black Sea coast. Grand Duke Vytautas Magnus transferred some people that lived in the area (Tatars, Karaites) to Lithuania. Settlers brought new crops (cucumbers) and new food products. As the Tatars and Karaites were housed in various locations - the grown vegetables, culinary heritage has been spreading rapidly in Lithuania. Mediterranean influences can be attributed to dishes of flour and plant leaf dishes stuffed with meat (cabbage leaf stuffed with meat (balandėliai), various dumplings, etc.) and other hotter than the Lithuanian climate typical dishes (for example cold beetroot soup (šaltibarščiai)). Now these dished is called as traditional Lithuanian food.



54 picture. Balandėliai and cold beetroot soup (šaltibarščiai)

In 16th century Lithuania's nobility food and eating culture had substantial changes. It was forced by in the origin of the Italian noblewoman Bona Sforza, who became wife of Duke Sigismund the Old, the King of Poland. In 16th century Italy was the cultural center, and when Bona Sforza moved to this region it led major changes like starting use cutlery and influenced land reforms in the country. Italian "fashion" was supported by successive monarchs - Sigismund Augustus, the Vasa dynasty.

In 18-19th century big influence for cuisine of aristocracy and nobility had French cuisine. For peasants there were significant impact from Jewish cuisine, which spread over their pubs. Rural people took most of the potato dishes. The main is smashed baked potatoes (kugelis) which before potatoes was made of turnips.

Different traditional dishes are served during feasts and celebrations.

**Christmas Eve** - Christmas Eve cookies (kūčiukai) with poppy seed milk, dishes from herring, pap from berries. All dishes are low fat, not spicy and without meat.

**Christmas** - meat dishes: turkey, goose, duck or chicken, ham, sausages. Various cakes.

**Pancake Day (Užgavėnės)** - fat pork, medley, stewed cabbage, pancakes, donuts.

**Easter** - Easter eggs, yeast pancakes, cottage cheese, butter, bacon, ham, horseradish.

In every region of Lithuania there are private farmsteads, museum where are hold live performances of traditional Lithuanian food making, for example, how to bake traditional black bread, branchy cake šakotis, homemade butter, curd, cottage cheese. In old cafeteria in Trakai there is able to taste to participate in producing process of Karaites traditional dumplings with meat (kibinas) and Tartars' cake with hundred leaf

(šimtalapis). Only in Northern Lithuania still continuing homemade barley malt brewing tradition. Here, almost every homestead still has all the brewing equipment.

#### References:

- [1] Fotki.com, photo „Balandėliai“: <http://images12.fotki.com/v616/photos/1/1364027/6799900/054-vi.jpg>
- [2] Jurgaitienė A., „Deserto istorija“: <http://gyvenimas.delfi.lt/receptai/deserto-istorija.d?id=9946237>
- [3] Lithuania's Pupil Centre of nonformal education, Department of tourism and ethnocultural education, „Lietuvos kulinarinis paveldas“: <http://www.ljtc.lt/index.php/leidyba>
- [4] The Official Gateway of Lithuania, „Tradicinių patiekalų receptai“: [http://www.lietuva.lt/gyvenimo\\_budas/maistas\\_ir\\_gerimai/receptai](http://www.lietuva.lt/gyvenimo_budas/maistas_ir_gerimai/receptai)
- [5] Ore.lt, Milda P., Magda A., Evelina R., „Alus lietuvių kultūroje (I dalis)“: <http://www.ore.lt/2009/05/alus-lietuviu-kulturoje-i-dalis>
- [6] Sakas V., „Ar Lietuvos kulinarinis paveldas – tik badmečio bulviniai valgiai?“: <http://www.lrytas.lt/11744785571174043954-ar-lietuvos-kulinarinis-paveldas-tik-badme%C4%8Dio-bulviniai-valgiai.htm>
- [7] Sakas V., „Lietuvos kulinarinis paveldas“: <http://www.veidas.lt/lietuvos-kulinarinis-paveldas>
- [8] Lithuanian State Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Economy, project „Lithuania.travel“, „Objektai“: <http://www.travel.lt/turizmas/selectPage.do?docLocator=62B27E3BDF8C11D896C1746164617373>
- [9] Wikipedia, „Lietuviška virtuvė“: [http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvi%C5%A1ka\\_virtuv%C4%97](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvi%C5%A1ka_virtuv%C4%97)

## 7. MUSEUMS OF LITHUANIA

Since 16th century museum treasures of Lithuania was collected in Grand Duke Palace, manors of nobles, during 18-19th century in cabinets of numismatics, paintings and prints, botany, mineralogy in Vilnius University. The first specialized museum in Lithuania built by writer D. Poška in 1812 (Hallowed Trunks (Baubliai), Šilalė region).

Currently, Lithuania has 106 registered museums, including 4 national, 62 municipalities', 5 non-state. Museum collections stores 6,2 million exhibits, of which exhibited only a small part of treasures stored in museums (9 %). In addition to the permanent exhibits, museums organize exhibitions of Lithuanian and foreign museums.

In addition to main duty of museum - to acquire artifacts and preserve for future generations, museum also explores collections, uncovers new knowledge and disseminates them, collaborates with educational institutions and prepares education programs about museums for pupils, organizes expositions and exhibitions, cultural and scientific events related with museum's activities, takes part in expeditions. In most of Lithuanian municipalities there are regional museums, memorial museums in birthplaces of famous people. Also there are quite a lot of museums established by private sector, public agencies or schools, which are not included in main statistics of museums of Lithuania.

Museums are one of the most visited cultural institutions in Lithuania. Each year they welcome about 3 millions of visitors. Average was 26 thousand visitors in one museum per year. Most popular museum is Lithuanian Sea Museum. Every year, this museum is visited by more than 400 thousand visitors. The most popular non-state museums are The Grūtas Park (71 thousand visitors), The Park of Europe (Europos parkas) (36 thousand visitors). Some of the most important, the largest and most popular museums are described below.

**National Museum of Lithuania** is the largest storage of Lithuanian historical heritage in the country. It is the oldest museum in Lithuania. Its roots are Museum of Antiquities in Vilnius which was founded in 1855.



**55 picture.** Building of National Museum of Lithuania and the coin with the symbol of the Grand Duke of Lithuania Jogaila (the end of 14th century)

The aim of this museum is to collect, preserve, restore and make actual for society historical and cultural values of Lithuania. National Museum of Lithuania is open to anyone who wants to get to know and understand Lithuanian archeology, history and ethnic culture or simply admire articles of ancestors.

**Folk Museum of Lithuania** is open-air museum, opened in 1974 in Rumšiškės (middle of Lithuania). It is the largest and most famous of its kind museum in Lithuania, also one of the largest in terms of territory (195 ha) and in terms of exhibited number of buildings (138) museums in Europe.



**56 picture.** The moment of celebration and exposure in open air: windmill, folk houses and well, in Folk Museum of Lithuania

Exposures of museum show Lithuanian rural areas and small towns of 18-20th century period. There are items of architecture, culture, and household from various Lithuanian ethnographic regions. Like graners, barns, sheds, woodsheds, windmills, fences, wells, folk architecture and ancient farming implements. In 6 km road there are homesteads, solo buildings, various workshops, folk technical monuments of all five ethnographic regions of Lithuania. In the museum there are organized traditional Lithuanian celebrations, events (especially Pancake Day (Užgavėnės)).

**Art Museum of Lithuania** is based on Museum of Vilnius city, which was established in 1933. Art creations of this exposure inherited and transferred from Museum of Vilnius City, ramshackled Oginski Palace, Lithuanian Scientific Society, purchased from nationalized manors, collections of various institutions, bought from private individuals. During the World War II part of the exhibits were removed, destroyed, or damaged. In 1967 near Art Museum of Lithuania were built the current Center for Contemporary Art.



**57 picture.** Building of Art Museum of Lithuania and exposures fragments from Museums of Clocks and Amber

Now Art Museum of Lithuania has bunch of departments: Vilnius Picture Gallery, Museum of Applied Art, Radvila Palace Museum, National Art Gallery, Pranas Domšaitis Gallery, Clock Museum, Palanga Amber Museum, Museum of Miniature Arts. In these departments there are preserved most famous creations of Lithuanian artists (eg. K.Ruseckas "Lithuanian girl with Easter palms"), pieces of sacred art (paintings, metalworks), exposure of amber, clocks, there are exhibited interiors of various periods.

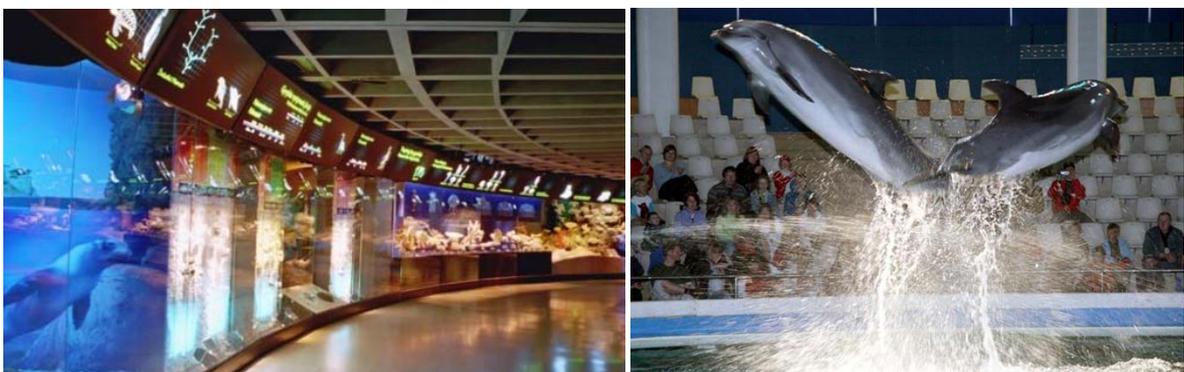
**M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art** was founded in 1921. In addition to the famous Lithuanian painter and composer M. K. Čiurlionis paintings there were exhibited works of past and current Lithuanian artists', works of folk art.



**58 picture.** Building of M. K. Čiurlionis Art Gallery, exhibits of Devils Museums (ashtray) and Ceramics Museum (jar of 15th century)

Over the years the museum expanded, was reorganized and now consists of 12 departments. Those are: M. K. Čiurlionis Art Gallery, M. Žilinskas Art Gallery, Kaunas Picture Gallery, Historical Presidential Palace of Lithuania, Devils Museum, Ceramics Museum, A. Žmuidzinaičius Memorial Museum, The Galaunė Family House, L. Truikys and M. Rakauskaitė Museum, J. Zikaras Museum, M. K. Čiurlionis Memorial Museum, V. K. Jonynas Gallery.

**Lithuanian Sea Museum** started in 1971 when this idea was matured and implemented by group of architects, engineers and people, who worked in museums. Since then the museum were expanding. At the moment the collections of museum include a variety of exhibits, from buttons of seamen's uniforms to ships, from postage stamps to sea charts, from tiny mollusc shells to a huge stuffed sea turtle. There are four divisions of the museum: maritime birds and mammals, marine fauna, exposure of maritime history, aquarium, dolphinarium and ethnographic fisherman's farmstead. The museum is engaged in breeding of maritime birds and mammals, demersal fishes of Lithuania, Baltic Sea and tropical marine, dolphins and California sea lions. Also the museum collects prepared maritime fauna, like corals, shells, echinoderms, crustaceans, reptiles, fish, birds, mammals. There are also show programs of dolphins and California sea lions.



**59 picture.** Lithuanian Sea Museum

**The Park of Europe** (Europos parkas) is an open-air modern art park near Vilnius. It is an example of tomorrow's heritage. Professionalism and passion for nature of museum developers turned into a cohesive whole in this museum. There are more than 100 sculptures. One of the most impressive exhibits - massive boulders „Area of Unknown Growth " by Polish sculptor M. Abakanowicz.



**60 picture.** Exhibits of open-air Park of Europe

**The Grūtas Park** in Druskininkai is another popular museum in Lithuania and mentioned as one of the world's weirdest museums. This ironic park is for visual describing of Soviet occupation of Lithuania. There are vast of Soviet sculptures, therefore also is called as "Stalin's World". Sculptures' garden of the former Soviet actors images are located in two kilometers long exposition, where are fragments of concentration camps (wooden guard towers, electric fence) and other details which resemble Siberia, where were deported a lot of intelligents of Lithuania in 1940-1941 and in the post-war period. The Grūtas Park occupies 20ha area, there are exhibiting 46 authors' 86 works. Such a large ideological content of monuments and sculptures is a rare and perhaps unique in the world.



**61 picture.** Exposures of The Grūtas Park

Government of Lithuania was published Year of museums in 2012. The main objective of the program was to draw public attention to the important mission of museums - protecting cultural and historical values and to educate the public.

#### References:

- [1] Delfi.lt, „Grūto parkas pateko į keisčiausių pasaulio muziejų dešimtuką“: <http://verslas.delfi.lt/verslas/gruto-parkas-pateko-i-keisciausiu-pasaulio-muziejju-desimtuka.d?id=35387131>
- [2] ETVA Travel, „Lietuvos jūrų muziejus“: <http://www.etvatravel.eu/pramogos/muziejai/pajuris/lietuvos-juru-muziejus/>
- [3] The Grūtas Park: <http://www.grutoparkas.lt/galerija.php>
- [4] Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture, Monitoring Group of Cultural Heritage of Baltic Sea region countries, „Kultūros paveldas ir turizmas“: <http://www.kpd.lt/failai/FORUMO%20KNYGA.pdf>
- [5] Folk Museum of Lithuania: <http://www.llbm.lt/>
- [6] Museums of Lithuania: <http://www.muziejai.lt/>
- [7] Treasures of Lithuanian museums, virtual exhibition: <http://www.muziejai.lt/lobiai/index.html>
- [8] National Museum of Lithuania, „Lietuvos nacionalinis muziejus“: <http://www.lnm.lt/informacija.html>
- [9] M. K. Čurlionis National Museum of Art: <http://www.ciurlionis.lt/>
- [10] Palanga Amber Museum: <http://www.idm.lt/PGM/index.htm>
- [11] Project of Seaport, „Delfinariumas uždaromas rekonstrukcijai“: [http://www.uostamiescioprojektas.lt/index.php?lang=lt&page=1/6&news\\_id=24&year=2010](http://www.uostamiescioprojektas.lt/index.php?lang=lt&page=1/6&news_id=24&year=2010)
- [12] Wikipedia, „Lietuvos dailės muziejus“: [https://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvos\\_dail%C4%97s\\_muziejus](https://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvos_dail%C4%97s_muziejus)
- [13] Wikipedia, „Muziejus“: <http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muziejus>
- [14] Wikipedia, „Nacionalinis Mikalojaus Konstantino Čiurlionio dailės muziejus“: [http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nacionalinis\\_Mikalojaus\\_Konstantino\\_%C4%8Ciurlionio\\_dail%C4%97s\\_muziejus](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nacionalinis_Mikalojaus_Konstantino_%C4%8Ciurlionio_dail%C4%97s_muziejus)

## 8. UNESCO. WORLD HERITAGE OBJECTS IN LITHUANIA

In 1945, UNESCO was created in order to respond to the firm belief of nations, forged by two world wars in less than a generation, that political and economic agreements are not enough to build a lasting peace. Peace must be established on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity.

Republic of Lithuania was initiated to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1991 and became a Member State of UNESCO on 7 October, 1991. Since then, it has been actively participating in the Organisation's activities. One of the spheres of activities of this organization – world tangible and intangible protection to future generations. In 1992 Lithuania joined UNESCO convention for World's cultural and natural heritage protection and in 2004 joined intangible cultural heritage protection convention.

Important UNESCO mission is to support the World Heritage List. This list includes important historical or natural areas where preservation is important to the whole world.

World heritage list objects in Lithuania are:

- Kernavės Archaeological Site,
- the Curonian Spit,
- Vilnius Historic Centre,
- the Struve Geodetic Arc,
- Baltic Song and Dance Celebrations,
- Lithuanian glees
- Cross-crafting and its symbolism in Lithuania.

**Kernavė** was the first Lithuanian capital, it is situated in the Southeast of Lithuania. It is exceptional town, because to these days it is witnessed as a unique extinct cultural tradition and civilization, the important stages of the history of mankind. That is why in 2004 this defense used five mounds complex added to the UNESCO World Heritage list of masterpieces. The town is known because of Kernavės mounds, which, due to its historical significance and impressiveness of the area has become knowable. There are about one thousand mounds in the territory of Lithuania; however, there is no other five-hill fort complex in the entire region of the Baltic Sea. The hill forts are the most expressive elements of Kernavė cultural reserve. They represent the heritage of the historic-natural processes (glacial drift) as well as enduring human activities. As a major ancient Lithuanian village type, these mounds existed since the end of Bronze Age till the XV century. Researches have shown that on the top of the Altar hill was a duke manor, the mounds named Mindaugas Throne, Lizdeikos, Kriveikiškis, Castle hill are foreworks which were guarding Duke's castle and the city.

It is also a unique complex of archaeological, historical and natural monuments, published as Kernavės Archaeological and Historical Reserve. Reserve currently has 36 archaeological, historical and cultural monuments. Along the way are visited Sudervės district, which is famous for its lake, classicist church also Dūkštų oak forest, where you will see the old Lithuanian forests - it is the natural and historical monument, where installed themed trails: Trail of the Serpent, Peace trail with pagan gods.



**62 picture.** Kernave's mounds and the church of Kernavė town

In the area of Cultural Reserve it is kept the whole complex of cultural heritage, which is currently known and validated 18 archaeological, historical and cultural values. The reserve was established in 1989 in order to preserve the priceless archaeological, historical and natural monuments in the complex. In 2004. In Suzhou (China) at the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee Kernavės archaeological site was involved into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

**The Curonian Spit** (Kuršių Nerija) is a brilliant creation of people and nature that was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000. The Curonian Spit is a 98km long and 0.4 to 4 km wide elongated peninsula outstretching through the territories of two states, the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation (Kaliningrad Region). Lithuania occupies 50 km of the northern part of the peninsula and this part will only be referred to.

According to a Baltic legend, Neringa, a local girl who grew into a giant goddess, built a sand spit to protect the fishermen from the winds from the sea, and this name remains on the Lithuanian part of the peninsula.

In the 15th century, the entire Curonian Spit was covered with forests. However, the area suffered ruthless deforestation that resulted in uncontrollable sandstorms. The sand travelled across the peninsula towards the Curonian Lagoon and even buried several fishermen's villages scattered on the Lagoon coast. Several centuries ago, it took great resourcefulness and patience for the inhabitants of the Spit to curb the elemental force. In 1825, Georgas Dovydas Kuvertas, a postmaster, was the first to begin planting trees on the dunes in the Curonian Spit. Several generations were shaping the protective dune crest of the seashore and the forest planted by them stopped the moving sand. The extent of firming up and foresting the dunes in the Curonian Spit is unique in the world. The process of the protection of the susceptible dunes and the nature of Curonian Spit continues to these days.

The most spectacular sites of the Curonian Spit are located near Nida, the centre of Neringa town that covers the entire Curonian Spit, where the forested dunes run into the wastes of the moving sand. Washed by the Baltic Sea on one side and the Curonian Lagoon on the other, the white dunes of moving sand show up among the pinewoods and represent a perfect masterpiece created by the nature. Magnificent panoramas of extensive space, changeable melodies of the winds and the sea create a unique atmosphere of the Curonian Lagoon. The sombre beauty of the Gray (Dead) Dunes looming up between Nida and Juodkrantė enchants their visitors.

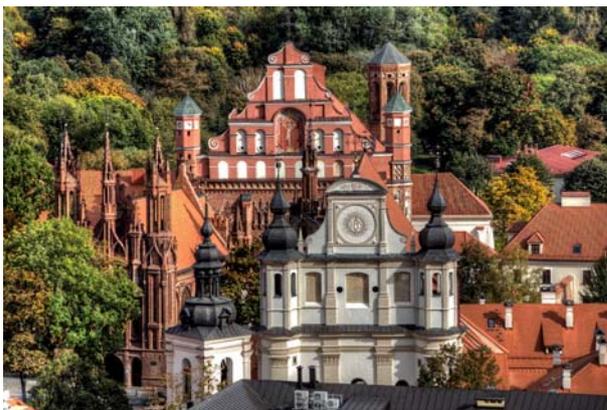
The architecture of all the four settlements of Neringa (Nida, Preila, Pervalka, and Juodkrantė) is absolutely fascinating. One can't help admiring the blue-window-paned ethnographic homesteads of fishermen, the contemporary cottages that have taken over the ethnographic style, and the old villas decorated with wooden tracery in Juodkrantė. The hotels and holiday-homes resting in the pinewoods represent the modern architecture and live in perfect harmony with the nature. The Curonian Spit boasts its fish, a genuine delicacy for gourmands, which is smoked according to the ancient recipes of the Curonian fishermen.



**63 picture.** The Dunes of Kursiu Nerija and typical architecture house of that region

In 1994, the primary motive for the inscription of **Vilnius Historic Centre** on the UNESCO World Heritage List said: "The political centre of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 13th through the 18th century, Vilnius had a considerable influence on the cultural and architectural development of the Eastern Europe. Despite invasions and partial destruction, it has preserved impressive complexes of gothic, renaissance, baroque, and classical buildings as well as its medieval layout and natural settings".

Vilnius, as the name of the capital of Lithuania, was first mentioned in 1323 in the letter of Gediminas, the Grand Duke of Lithuania. In his letter, Gediminas was inviting European merchants and craftsmen to come and settle and offering them every support. Since then Vilnius has been famous for its tolerance towards different nations and religions. The names of the Old Town streets (German, Jewish, Tartar, and Russian streets) and the temples of as many as nine religions exhibit the multinational composition of the population.



**64 picture.** Vilnius Old Town

Vilnius, the most northern capital of the Central and Eastern Europe, has adopted the old styles of the South and West European architecture and prides itself on its old town known as one of the largest (approximately 360 ha, more than 1500 buildings) and the most beautiful. Vilnius as a capital is included into the list of Twenty the most beautiful cities in the world to be visiting.

Near Vilnius Old Town, on the hill stands the Gediminas Castle, on the base it is repeatedly rebuilt Cathedral. Cathedral Square is a monument in Vilnius, the reputed founder Duke Gediminas. In addition, the capital of Lithuania is one of the greenest capitals in the world. There is a variety of cultural and forest parks, squares and green. The historic city center of the surrounding hills is a perfect site and offers a fascinating panorama of the Old Town.

**The Struve Geodetic Arc** is no doubt one of the most unusual sites ever to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The physical site is, in fact, composed of the small, durable traces of a chain of survey triangulations which, when completed, extended over 2,820 kilometres from Hammerfest in Norway to the Black Sea, crossing the territory of ten different countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russian Federation, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The original Arc consisted of 258 main triangles with 265 main station points - eight of which were determined in the Baltic countries.

The history tells that 190 years ago, in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, an unprecedented attempt to measure the Earth's size and the curvature of its surface was initiated. This was undertaken in an uncoordinated way and for unrelated motives by, on the one hand, scientists like Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve, Professor of mathematics and astronomy at Dorpat University in Tartu, Estonia along with two directors of the Vilnius Observatory, Jonas Sniadeckis and Petras Slavinskis and, on the other hand, military men like Carl Tenner, a man of Estonian descent serving at the time as an officer in the Tsarist army.

Work in the Vilnius district was initiated by Tenner in 1816 for the purpose of mapping, but that same year, Struve started working on a far more ambitious geodetic project in Livonia (an area covering the present territories of Estonia and Latvia). The entire project lasted from 1816 to 1855 and, making use of all the earlier work, extended over an unprecedented distance from north to south. It was dubbed the Struve Geodetic Arc in honour of the man who supervised the entire venture.

The Struve Geodetic Arc was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005 as a transnational site. The ten countries which shared the task of preparing the nomination now also share the responsibility for its management.

In 2003 the **Baltic Song and Dance Celebrations** – a common heritage of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – were listed by UNESCO among the masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

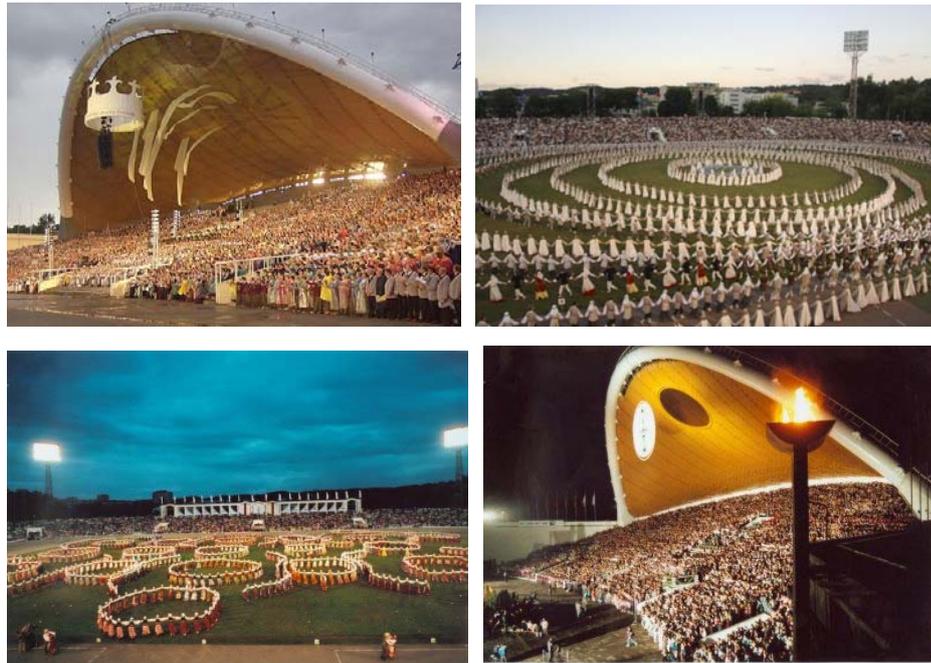
Tradition of Song festivals in the Baltic countries came from Western Europe across Scandinavia - particularly in Estonia and Latvia, and later - in Lithuania. Song festival in the world has found a suitable medium - cherished folk songs and other folk culture traditions. These traditions and people's national consciousness has this unique which has no equal in the world, and particularly valuable cultural phenomenon become rooted in the Baltic countries.

Lithuanians gathered in the first national Day of Songs in 1924. In the interwar period, the national Song Festivals were held every second year, while the festivals in the regions and settlements were organised every year. Even in the soviet times the Song Festivals continued with folk songs and patriotic songs included into the repertoires. As soon as the repertoire of a song festival is approved, the preparations in the regions start, i.e. the local song festivals are held. Only the best folk groups are invited to the Song Festival in the capital.

Two types of song festivals take place in Lithuania: the song festivals for adults, including youth folk groups with the adult repertoire, and song festivals for schoolchildren. The preparation for the schoolchildren song festivals is kind of a school teaching the young to love folk songs and to sing them. Schoolchildren song festival represents a youthful although somewhat reduced replica of the Song Festivals. Lithuanian emigrants as well as their posterity who cherish Lithuanian culture have also been celebrating the Song Festivals for many years in many countries, such as USA, Canada, and Australia.

The modern Song Festivals consist of three parts: the Day of Dance, the Afternoon of ethnographic and folk music groups, and the Day of Songs, which is the most spectacular of all. The Song Festivals are held every four years and occasionally they are contemporized with some events of national importance. The festivals embrace more than 30,000 performers, including over 400 choirs.

Song Festival is held every 4 years and occasionally responds to national importance dates. Last celebration of Song Festival was in 2010 and the closest expected in 2014 June 28. Will be celebrated the 90th year anniversary.



**65 picture.** Songs Festival Tradition in Lithuania

In 2010 **Lithuanian glees** (Lithuanian Polyphonic Songs) were included into representative UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Glees (the name is derived from the verb "agree", "harmony") - is a unique phenomenon in Lithuanian of traditional music, especially it is the old form of polyphony, reflective music's, text's and movement's connection. Glees sing mainly women, instrumental pieces are performed using skudučiai, daudytė, zither and other instruments and are performed by men. A characteristic feature of the glees is the simultaneous different melodies and different texts sound. Glees since the early twentieth century have become one of the most prominent Lithuanian cultural identity symbols. In Foreign countries glees for Lithuania have become as distinctive calling card.

Cross-crafting and its symbolism in Lithuania , a unique cultural tradition without analogues in the world, in 2001 was listed by UNESCO among the masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Traditional Lithuanian crosses represent original structures that combine the elements of architecture, sculpture, blacksmith art, and sometimes even primitive painting. Vegetative ornaments, the motives of the sun or the bird – the tree of life – which extend to the archaic times and represent the approach of the sacral space, are often apparent on the crosses. To plead for grace or to express gratitude, the crosses are built as memorials to the dead or as the signs of spiritual protection at certain places.

A very specific tradition of cross-crafting and its symbolism started to develop in the 15th century, when Lithuania, the last pagan country in Europe, officially and entirely became a catholic country. For a long time new ideas of Christianity and antique local pagan traditions were very closely related in the local mentality. This dualism obviously was reflected in the cross-crafting tradition, where symbols of both religions could be found. Later, with incorporation of Lithuania into the orthodox Russian Empire in the 19th century or under the Soviet regime in the 20th century, typical wooden Lithuanian crosses became a symbol of national and religious identity.

Particularly many crosses could be found near the roads and homesteads of Žemaitija, Aukštaitija, and Dzūkija. Some of them were slim and slender with decorating carvings that seemed like wooden laces; others had a thick trunk with numerous entwined figures that looked rather like sculptures than crosses. Lithuania Minor or the settlements on the coast of the Lagoon feature different types of crosses. Specific old wooden crosses of the Curonians, the grave-boards, display vivid natural motives, such as birds and plants. The crosses at the Evangelic cemeteries of that period are rich in metal ornaments. The Museum of Blacksmith Art in Klaipeda houses magnificent examples representing traditional metal-work motives.

The Lithuanian traditional crosses, pillar-type crosses, pillar shrines and shrines could be found not only in cemeteries and churchyards, but on the premises of almost every farmstead, along roadsides, in fields and villages, and even in forests. Cross-crafting, as a branch of traditional folk art, entails not only the making of the monument itself, but also the customs and rituals related to a particular monument

Cross craft, and in earlier times, and now is the only orally transmitted and the living example of folk art tradition, which has never and nowhere been taught. Cross and sculptures of saints was always created only self-taught folk artists for whom the occupation was often secondary activity.

**The Hill of Crosses** near Šiauliai, a unique historic place in the world, where the crosses have been discontinuously put up to plead for grace or to express gratitude almost since the beginning of the 20th century, is probably the only place of its kind in the world. Currently, it is known to hold more than 20,000 crosses, including both works of folk artists and simple wooden crosses. A cross made by a Lithuanian cross-maker during the visit of the Pope John Paul II to Lithuania in 1993 can also be found on the hill.

In the past as well as nowadays, cross-making has been a tradition of folk art that has always been communicated in a verbal form or through live examples only. It has never been taught. Crosses and figures of saints have always been carved by amateur folk artists involved in carving as a subordinate activity. In the second half of the 18th through the 19th century, the wood-carvers made artistic sculptures of the saints and ornamented the pulpits or the church pews, the numerous examples of which can be found in the churches of small towns. Such compilations of saints can be found at Utena Local Lore Museum, Telšiai Alka Museum, and many others.



**66 picture.** Lithuanian crosses and Cross Hill in Šiauliai

Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Education Change and the United Nations Development Program released a UNESCO World Heritage handbook suitable for educators "World Heritage Site in Youth Hands" (lit. "Pasaulio paveldas – jaunimo rankose". Was published Lithuanian certificated translation). From now on, Lithuanian school teachers have teaching tool for heritage custodians of education. Lithuanian schools have not yet been taught the cultural and natural heritage matters that's why the majority of young people are aware of the Heritage not enough.



- [Presentatuion about Lithuania](#) (video)
- [Story of a tourist about visit in Kernavė](#) (in English)
- BBC broadcast with travel guru M. Palin [about the Curonian Spit](#) (in English)
- [Cross Hill](#): Images, impressions of visitors, Cross craft specialist Steponavičius (in

Resources:

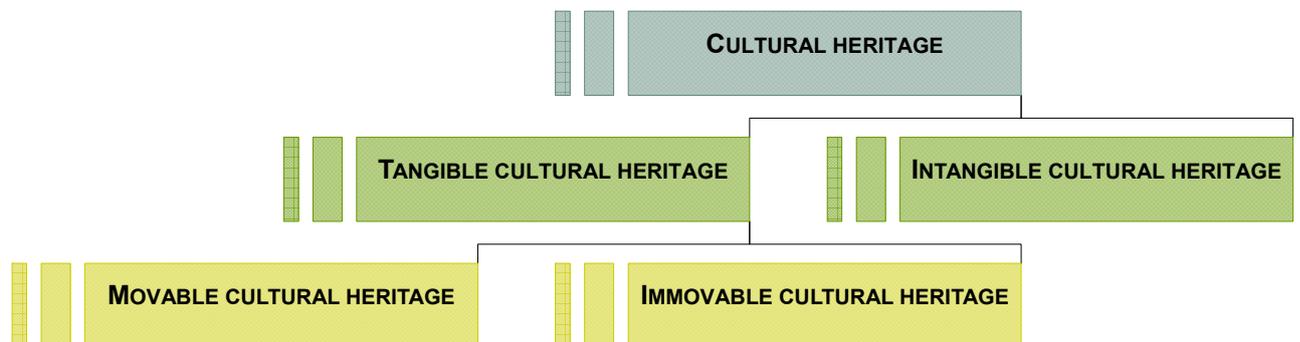
[1] FotoKūdra.lt, nuotrauka „Nida. Negyvoji kopa“: <http://fotokudra.lt/img.php?img=258144&nav=aut>

- [2] Delfi.lt, „Trakai šiemet nebepretenduos tapti UNESCO saugoma vietoje“: <http://pramogos.delfi.lt/kultura/trakai-siemet-nebepretenduos-tapti-unesco-saugoma-vietove.d?id=7089307>
- [3] Kryžių kalnas: <http://www.kryziukalnas.lt/>
- [4] Kultūros paveldo departamentas prie Kultūros ministerijos, „Pasaulio paveldo objektai Lietuvoje“: <http://www.kpd.lt/en/node/781>
- [5] Lietuvos kurortų asociacija, „Neringa – legenda, kuri įkvepia“: <http://www.kurortuasociacija.lt/neringa>
- [6] Mergul, „UNESCO saugomi objektai Lietuvoje“: <http://mergul.blogas.lt/unesco-saugomi-objektai-lietuvoje-3.html>
- [7] Neringos savivaldybė: <http://www.neringa.lt/>
- [8] Oficialūs Lietuvos interneto vartai, „Lankytinos vietos“: [http://www.lietuva.lt/turizmas/lankytinos\\_vietos/unesco\\_paveldas](http://www.lietuva.lt/turizmas/lankytinos_vietos/unesco_paveldas)
- [9] PrieJūros.lt, nuotrauka vila „Gija“: <http://www.priejuros.lt/lt/apgyvendinimas/apartamentu-nuoma-nidoje-pamario6/>
- [10] Valstybinis Kernavės kultūrinis rezervatas: <http://www.kernave.org/>
- [11] Vilniaus jaunųjų turistų centras, „UNESCO globojami pasaulio paveldo objektai Lietuvoje“: <http://www.vjtc.lt/lt/keliautojo-atmintin/unesco>
- [12] Zebra.lt, „Dainų šventė džiugins naujomis tradicijomis“: [http://zebra.15min.lt/lt/laisvalaikis/renginiu\\_naujienos/dainu-svente-dziugins-naujomis-tradicijomis-203434.html](http://zebra.15min.lt/lt/laisvalaikis/renginiu_naujienos/dainu-svente-dziugins-naujomis-tradicijomis-203434.html)
- [13] 15min.lt, „Lietuvių sutartinės – jau UNESCO nematerialaus paveldo sąrašė“: <http://www.15min.lt/naujiena/kultura/muzika/lietuviu-sutartines-jau-unesco-nematerialaus-paveldo-sarase-284-124647>
- [14] 2014 m. Lietuvos dainų šventė, „Čia mano namai“: <http://www.dainusvente.lt/lt/programa/>
- [15] UNESCO: <https://en.unesco.org/about-us/introducing-unesco>

## 9. CULTURAL HERITAGE OF LITHUANIA AND FOSTERING OF IT

### 9.1 Cultural heritage

Cultural heritage is in ethnic, historical, esthetic and scientific aspects important values taken through several generations. Cultural heritage is divided into two sections: tangible and intangible heritage. Intangible cultural heritage also called spiritual or verbal heritage. Tangible cultural values are divided into movable and immovable.



67 picture. Scheme of cultural heritage

In Lithuania there are such **immovable cultural values**: buildings, ensembles, areas, mounds, embankments, defensive fortifications, the ancient residences and workshop spaces, ancient ruins and remains of buildings, places of worship, altars, stones with inscriptions and other markings, cobbled path below the marsh surface, tumuli, ancient burial sites and cemeteries.

**Movable cultural heritage** are mobile material creations by society and human, and other items created 50 years ago in the past or later which have a high cultural value. These are archaeological finds, fabric samples of ethnic culture, objects related to major historical events, history of society, culture, war, sports, lives of famous people, weapons, art values (fine and applied art, artistic photos, folk art works), music instruments, manuscript books, incunabula, prints, objects with numismatic, heraldic or philatelic value, orders and medals, objects of science, engineering and technology depicting the history, archival documents.

**Intangible cultural heritage** according to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage means steady activities, views, expression forms, knowledge, skills, as well as instruments related with those. Like objects, products of human activity and associated cultural areas by certain communities recognized as a cultural heritage. Specifically, intangible or spiritual cultural heritage considered as

copyrighted literary works, written in more than 50 years ago, as well as folk songs, tales, legends, customs, traditions and events. It is important for the community or group identity and continuity, shows the diversity of cultures. Intangible cultural heritage criteria:

- an exceptional masterpiece of human creativity;
- a tradition of particular community or historical tradition;
- an integral and extremely important cultural part of identity of particular community;
- distinguished by excellence of performing, producing;
- a property is threatened extinction due to the lack of safety measures, urbanization, rapid transformation of society.

Immovable and movable Lithuanian cultural property is inscribed in the Register of Cultural Property which is a state register. There are registered about 16 400 immovable cultural heritage (single and complex objects as well as cultural heritage sites) and about 4 000 movable cultural heritage objects. This register regularly is updated and supplemented by new objects. Over 6 000 cultural heritage sites are protected by the state Cultural Heritage List, approved by the Minister of Culture. 1 163 objects of cultural heritage are published as the national significance of cultural heritage objects – cultural monuments (of which 150 are buildings).

The largest part of Lithuanian immovable heritage is archeology, urban and architectural values. There are great varieties of *archaeological and mythological heritage objects* in Lithuania: mounds, ancient ramparts and defensive fortifications, ruins and remains of buildings, places of worship, etc. *Urban values* are historic old towns, historic parts of cities, ancient villages and similar places and areas. *Architectural objects* - buildings, parts of it, building complexes and ensembles.

Lithuanian architectural heritage has remained sparse and significantly altered due to wars, the Russian occupation, the World Wars I and II and the relatively late start of heritage protection (only in 1919). Therefore, the cultural specificity of Lithuanian regions expressively revealed in the remaining rural cultural heritage cluster places. Many of the old towns have maintained relics from the Gothic period. A special role accrued for mounds, many of which are inseparable from the towns and estates. In the past they played a defensive role and now mounds have scientific, educational, recreational value and enrich the landscape of Lithuania. All parts of landscape are closely linked - manor and towns often connect church, manor house is adjacent to the town or as if rooted to it. In Register of Cultural Property are registered over 800 archaeological sites, 754 mounds, 70 historic towns and villages, about 580 manors, are identified approximately 300 parks, 43 ethnographic villages. Wooden manors and ethnographic heritage of villages - is distinctive and special phenomenon not only in Lithuania, but also in Europe. Only in a few European countries there can be still find these unique ethnic cultural heritage.



**68 picture.** Kėdainiai Old Town and manor house of Veliuona

Important part of Lithuanian cultural heritage is movable cultural property: archaeological finds, monumental works of art, chapels, shrines, crosses and other treasured works of art (easel paintings, wall paintings, stained glass, metal plastic, ceramics, molding, sculpture, carving, altars, pulpit, confessional, organ, wooden furniture and equipment, or other fine and applied works of art). Most of them survived in Lithuanian churches and monasteries. Interiors of churches are rich of monumental and decorative painting samples (wall paintings, stained glass, mosaic), sculptural decoration (stucco molding, tombstones of founders), software elements (ornate altars, pulpit, organ prospectuses, baptistery, portable altars), works of metal and jeweler (mountings of paintings, lamps, bells, sarcophagi, grates, decorative crosses, sacred vessels, monstrance,

relics). Sculptural decoration masterpieces of Baroque are considered compositions in St. Peter and Paul and Pažaislis monastery churches.

A separate part of Lithuanian cultural and historical inheritance is taken up by historic cemeteries and memorial sites. Lithuania protects ancient burial sites, inactive cemeteries, soldiers' graves. One of the most distinctive art expressions in Europe is Lithuanian folk memorials (crosses, shrines). Most of the old cemetery in Lithuania is by the Catholics. But also there are remained and protected cemeteries of other religion: Jewish, Evangelical Lutheran, Reformed Evangelical, Orthodox, Muslims, Tatars, Karaites. There are remained also various other countries soldiers' graves and cemeteries (1812 Napoleonic troops, Russia, Germany, Poland and others) which mark devastating various wars.



**69 picture.** Jewish cemetery in Kaunas and cemetery of Rasos in Vilnius

Cultural landscape of Lithuania is not formly distributed due to historical conditions of distinctive regions of Lithuania and landscape diversity. Mostly of cultural landscape remained in scenic natural areas, where are a lot of lakes and hills – in East, Southeast and Northwest highlands of Lithuania, and also in valleys of largest rivers of Lithuania – Nemunas, Neris, Šventoji, Dubysa, etc. Most archaeological values and mythological places are preserved in Žemaitija and Aukštaitija regions of Lithuania where land where not useful for intensive agriculture.

Properly stored and maintained cultural heritage of Lithuania is the most important part of the cultural landscape which helps to form the image of Lithuania and contributes to the country's prosperity and development of cultural and cognitive tourism.

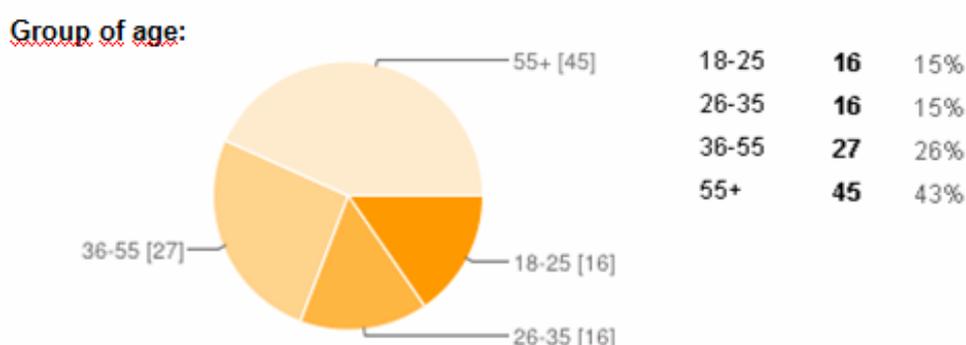
#### References:

- [1] Kligienė N., „Lietuvos kultūros paveldas: Lietuvos kultūros paveldas skaitmeninėje terpėje“: <http://www.epaveldas.lt/vbspi/content/docs/publications/3.pdf>
- [2] Centre for the Lithuanian Cultural Heritage: <http://www.kpc.lt/>
- [3] Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture, „Paveldas Lietuvoje. Kraštovaizdis“: <http://www.kpd.lt/lt/apie>
- [4] Database of Lithuanian manors, manor house of Veliuona: <http://www.heritage.lt/dvarai/foto.php?id=800>
- [5] A virtual exhibition of a Millennium of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage: <http://alka.mch.mii.lt/>
- [6] Lithuanian Culture Research Institute: <http://www.lkti.lt/>
- [7] Museums of Lithuania, „Lietuvos kultūros paveldo internetiniai leidiniai“: [http://www.muzejai.lt/Aktualijos/Internetiniai\\_leidiniai.htm](http://www.muzejai.lt/Aktualijos/Internetiniai_leidiniai.htm)
- [8] The Ministry of Culture of Republic of Lithuania, „Kultūros paveldas Lietuvoje“: [http://www.lrkmlt.lt/go.php/lt/KULTUROS\\_PAVELDAS\\_LIETUVOJE/453/1](http://www.lrkmlt.lt/go.php/lt/KULTUROS_PAVELDAS_LIETUVOJE/453/1)
- [9] Myliukauna.lt, „Kaune tvarkomos žydų kapinės“: <http://www.myliukauna.lt/lt/naujienu-kategorijos/cia-ir-dabar/kaune-tvarkomos-zydu-kapines>
- [10] Wikipedia, „Kultūros paveldas“: [http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kult%C5%ABros\\_paveldas](http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kult%C5%ABros_paveldas)
- [11] Youth tourists' centre of Vilnius, „UNESCO globojami pasaulio paveldo objektai Lietuvoje“: <http://www.vjtc.lt/lt/keliautojo-atmintin/unesco>
- [12] PI Monuments of Lithuania, „Apie mus“: <http://www.lpaminklai.lt/>
- [13] 15min.lt, „Nyksta istorinės Vilniaus kapinės“: <http://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/lietuva/nyksta-istorines-vilniaus-kapines-56-49417>

## 9.2 Results of research “How well I know my culture?“

The survey “How well I know my culture?“ is one of the multicultural project FOCAL parts. The questionnaire of survey was formed with project partners from Lithuania (PI “eMundus”), Bulgaria (Foundation for development of the cultural and business potential of civil society) and Greece (European Lab of Education Technology – Edumotiva). It was implemented in each partner country from 2012 December till 2013 January.

The project aims to exchange cultural experience between generations and countries through the following components: culture and cultural heritage, traditional meals and customs, the old traditions associated with nature and its monitoring, the landscape and architecture: cultural heritage and the present values of the most beautiful areas of the country, religion, intellect and art, each country in the world (as a state and its representation of what it is famous in the world). On the basis of these components there were drew up the questionnaire and survey respondents of all ages, especially involving the project target groups: youth (18-25 years old) and seniors (older then 55). The survey involved 104 respondents from different locations of Lithuania. One third of the respondents were male, and the rest - women.



Respondents divided up in different age groups. As shown in the pie chart the largest part (43 %) of respondents are elderly (over 55 years old). This is one of the target groups of the project. Two age groups (18-25 and 26-35 years old respondents) distributed equally (15 %). The age group of 36-55 years old respondents is the second largest age group of interviewed people. 98 % of respondents graduated university, middle or high school. The majority of respondents represented Aukštaitija region of Lithuania (East and Middle Lithuania).

With this project partners discussed and developed questionnaire which were linked to the particular country culture (Lithuania, Bulgaria or Greece). Questions of survey included aspects of adequate country, history, architecture, traditional crafts, clothing, cuisine and ancient customs, famous representatives of literature and art, folk music and also the UNESCO protected sites and objects in particular country and UNESCO mission.

In Lithuania most of the questions such as: the first mentioning of Lithuania name in written sources (Question 1), the foundation date of Lithuania (Question 2), architectural style of the most famous architectural building Vilnius Cathedral (Question 6), the most famous representatives of art and literature (Questions 19, 20, 21), were indicated correctly of almost absolute the majority of respondents. This could be related to the fact that these things are taught in high school.

Most parts of questionnaire were related to Lithuanian folk symbols, customs, traditional arts, cuisine, and crafts. Most of the respondents' answers were correctly - correct answers were by more than half of the respondents. These questions were about the Lithuanian national symbol Pensive, period while everybody eats meat, traditional clothing, the lyrics of folk songs, folk instruments, traditional dishes, desserts and drinks.

It is worth to notice that almost everybody knows main traditional Lithuanian dishes: 41 % of respondents indicated that they are aware of up to 3 and 39 % - from 4 to 7 dishes. Just 5 % checked that they know none of traditional dishes and others knows more then 7. Respondents correctly identified Lithuanian folk crafts also: smithery (88 % of respondents), weaving and knitting (84 %), making clay pots (73 %) and wood carving (78 %). 67 % of respondents also noted pottery and 52 % - making Easter palms (verbos) for Palm Sunday (the feast a week before Easter). But firstly 4 mentioned crafts are more closely associated with the country's culture, history and are called as traditional Lithuanian crafts.

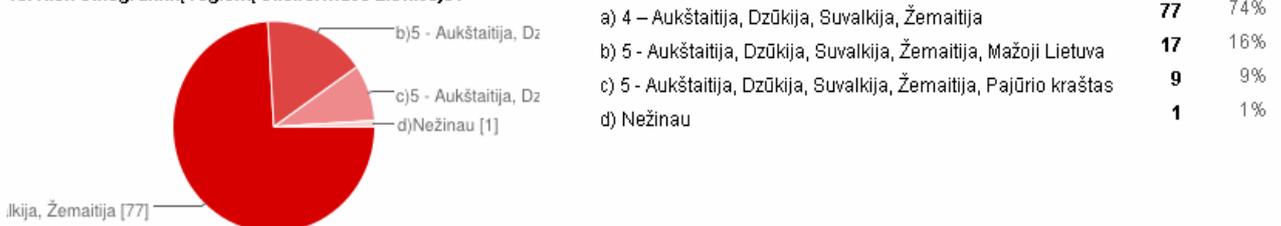
18. Kurie iš išvardintų amatų yra tradiciniai Lietuvos amatai ir siejami su Lietuvos kultūra bei istorija?



In question 7 respondents were asked to identify the cultural and famous places in the region, in which he/she lives. The majority of respondents from different regions of Lithuania mentioned various castles (Gediminas Tower in Vilnius, Kaunas Castle, Trakai Castle, Biržai Castle). Comparing just with neighbor countries Lithuania cannot be called as a land of castles. But Lithuanians emphasize those monuments as very fascinating and big because there are just few castles and ruins of it. Also among the prominent places were named such places as: Old Town of Vilnius, Pažaislis Monastery in Kaunas, mounds of Kernavė and the Hill of Crosses.

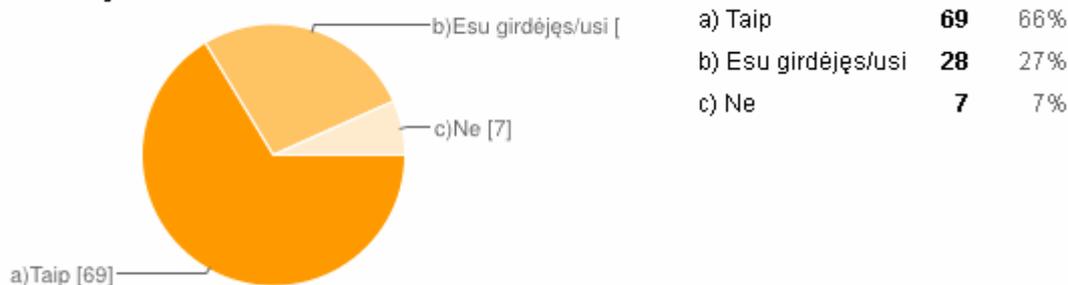
However, there have been different respondents' opinions but only in 2 aspects: the name of oldest Lithuanian footwear and ethnographic regions of Lithuania. 59 % of respondents identified bast shoes (vyžos) as the oldest Lithuanian footwear. While there is considered that the oldest footwear is from leather called naginės (this answer was chosen only by 21 % of respondents). And the majority of respondents (74 %) thinks that there are 4 instead of 5 ethnographic regions in Lithuania. Into this question correctly answered only 16 % of respondents. There were not selected in the region of Lithuania Minor, known as the Klaipeda region. This is the lowest ethnographic region, often counts as Žemaitija.

16. Kiek etnografinių regionų susiformavo Lietuvoje?



Assessing the knowledge of respondents about the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) shows that 66 % of respondents are aware of the UNESCO and 27 % - have heard, but it is assumed that those 27 % do not know exactly the aim of this organization. However, this did not prevent to name correctly Lithuanian objects protected by UNESCO: The Curonian Spit (Kuršių nerija) – 52 % of respondents, The Cultural Reserve of Kernavė mounds – 29 %, Vilnius Old Town - 24 %, cross-crafting – 9, The Song and Dance Festival - 8. Those are protected cultural objects best known for respondents, but Geodetic Arc of Struvė was known to nobody. The first mentioned places are known more because of attractive landscape and are extremely popular among residents as tourists.

### 8. Ar žinote kas yra UNESCO?



A very large part of the correct answers to the quite long survey about Lithuanian culture shows that knowledge is passed down from generation to generation, also information is found freely and is available from various sources and finally shows Lithuanians' curiosity, interest in their own culture.



- [Full version of research "How well I know my culture?" results](#)
- [Survey „How well I know my culture?“](#)

### 9.3 Dialog between generations

In 2012 according Lithuanian Department of Statistics Lithuanian population was: the population under 20 years old – 21,5 %, early (20-39 years old) and average maturity (40-59 years old) population was a little more – respectively 27,8 % and 28,6 %, late maturity (60-79 years old) population - 18 % and the oldest (80 years old and older) – 4,1 %.

Since 2012 more than 390 schools across Europe involved in the development of the dialogue between generations in terms of meetings of mature people and pupils in their schools. This project is just one part of the event for older people activeness and solidarity between generations. This event invited schools to open their doors to seniors and experience how this dialog between these two different generations can be useful for pupils' education and understanding of each other.

Any two people communicating with each other face two major psychological difficulties - more or less different understanding of the world and different motivation to speak and - most importantly – to communicate. While each of these problems can significantly affect communication between generations, they really can be overcome if there is any good will. Differences in understanding of the world determines three key inter-related communication barriers - topics of conversation differences, differences in values and differences of the public perception functioning principles.

Today's younger generation is traveling much more and faces more different cultures, attitudes and different people comparing to their grandparents. Technologies, such as the internet and mobile telephony, provide new dimension of communication - a great distance is not an obstacle to interact and create relationships, you can often talk to people who you can see rarely, communicate and create relationships with people you never saw. These technological changes increases experiences' differences of generations and create additional communication barriers.

Events in schools, debates and discussions between elderly and pupils, didactic games and other artistic activities like painting, theater, music, crafts, etc. – those are just several ways of communication.

During the mentioned project children develop their personal qualities like responsibility, generosity and solidarity, and become much more tolerant to the elders. Through the co-learning and collective experimentation children got to know what does it mean mutual respect and helping others. Pupils develop their social and civil competences.

Affection and common topics between pupils and older people have positive impact on the approach of pupils to the school, their behavior and their involvement of work. Children are encouraged to develop their work group competencies. When pupils learn about the different stages of life and the realities of old age person, they begin to understand the time and learn about some of life points or guidelines which allow them to understand better the flow of time and history. Children, combining such moments with different historical and social aspects, can realize what it means to grow up and grow old, what the youth is and what old age is. Forming memories and historical links older people just confirm what a long life can be and show to youth how the past and the future should be evaluated in time terms. Experience of schools shows that such dialog between generations improves spoken and written language skills of pupils.

In order to promote inter-generational communication, it is important to emphasize similarities, not differences. Researches of social psychology suggest that as soon as people realize the difference between their selves and other members of the group, they will first ask "Who is better?". The answer into this question, of course, usually is "we" and then there is beginning to discriminate against the group and there is not matter what is the differentiating feature is - age, gender, ethnicity, education, political views, etc. What are the similarities between the generations? Teenagers, adults and elders - all are the people, everyone wants to be noticed, respected and needed to live in a safe, full and fun. Everyone does not like to be scared, confused, humiliated or ridiculed.

Perhaps the most important in positive exposure of generations is activities in job. For many people of different generations job is the most important activity, enabling them to earn money, gain and maintain their independence and to feel useful for society. Working together encourages seeing other person as a partner whose cooperation is useful and necessary, that we could achieve our goals. Working together provides important positive interdependence which develops skills of pleasant communication between generations, develop new and maintain old subject specific competencies. Another important activity of co-constructive collaboration is learning. Learning with other people for person of any generation provides multiple benefits - makes life more interesting and therefore satisfies the need for new stimulations, helps to acquire new knowledge and thus facilitates life, provides additional communication context and thus develops new and maintain previously acquired skills in communication, develops subject specific skills and in such way increases self-confidence. Due to rapid development of technologies today's young generation could a lot teach the older generations. Thus, learning and mutual learning - whether formal or informal - is an opportunity to learn important and useful things from each other and the younger generation and the older. It is therefore important to create an environment in which people of different generations could learn together.

In Lithuania there were investigated in details aspects of solidarity, involving frequency and number of interaction between generations, positive feelings for family members, degree of commonality values and beliefs, degree of exchanging services and the geographic proximity of generations.

According to the conducted study, about half of the Lithuania's adult children, who live separately from their parents, meet with them once or more times per week, about 40 % - 1-2 times per month. More often with parents meet daughters; adult children and parents who live in rural areas, small towns; married grown children who already have their own minor children. Expectations of all generations on mutual responsibilities are the same because statistically significant differences between them were not found. But responsibilities are better declared of the younger generation to senior: "Children should take responsibility for the care of parents when they need it" (77 % agreed with this status), "Children should assist parents financially if they have financial difficulties (66 %), "Children should take their parents to live together if the parents can no longer take care by themselves" (67 %). Meanwhile, opinion of all participants in this research (regardless of age) was not so strong, strict and solid on responsibilities of seniors to youth. Closeness of children and parents relationship is evaluated quite positively (on a ten point scale averages ranging from 5,8 to 8,7). Grown children evaluate their relationship with parents almost equally good either they are living in marriage

or in couple (8,2 to 8,7). But parents' divorce fact radically changes estimation of relationships - children's relationships with their parents, who left the family was evaluated only 5,8 points. More frequent meetings of children and parents, higher education level of adult children, better opinion on relationship between mother and father have positive impact for relationships between children and parents in divorced family. Almost one in five adult inhabitant of Lithuania (18 years and older) are living with their parents.

Communication between generations is a way to understand each other. The more people talk and want to communicate, the more are finding ways to convey to one another their experiences and vision of the world and thus easier to understand each other's point of view. However, the two sides enriching communication is possible just when both parties want to communicate. The main problem is that people (young and old) prefer to do things where they are succeeded in (where they can see a clear result of their efforts). Communication is not an exception: we like to interact with people with whom we can communicate easily, and we can easy communicate with those who are similar to us. Thus, the bigger difference in age between different generations – the less they have similarities, they have more difficulties to communicate and, unfortunately, makes them want to communicate less.

#### References:

- [1] Representative of the European Commission in Lithuania, „Kartų knyga“: [http://ec.europa.eu/lietuva/documents/leidiniai/kartu\\_knyga.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/lietuva/documents/leidiniai/kartu_knyga.pdf)
- [2] The European Commission, generations@school, “Darbo klasėje su įvairių kartų atstovais nauda”: [http://wawwd-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/historypin/ey/Resource\\_1%20LT.pdf](http://wawwd-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/historypin/ey/Resource_1%20LT.pdf)
- [3] Representative of the European Commission in Lithuania, conference „Kartų solidarumas Lietuvoje: dialogo paieškos“: [http://ec.europa.eu/lietuva/news\\_hp/news/13042012\\_kartu\\_solidarumo\\_konferencija\\_lt.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/lietuva/news_hp/news/13042012_kartu_solidarumo_konferencija_lt.htm)
- [4] Gedvilaitė-Kordušienė M., „Kartų solidarumas ir jį lemiantys veiksniai“, 2009
- [5] Stankūnienė V., Maslauskaitė A., „Lietuvos šeima: tarp tradicijos ir naujos realybės“, Socialinių tyrimų institutas, Vilnius, 2009

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Each nation has its own national culture, which is unique in its shape and unique in its content. Each country has its own cultural and historical heritage to be protected, nurtured and transmitted to the younger generation.

Lithuania is a small, north-eastern country of Europe, it has developed and harvested a lot of cultural heritage objects starting from the buildings, works of art and continuing with everyday language, which is one of the oldest in the world. "Lithuania was one of the last countries in Europe which adopted Christianity, but the first of the Soviet republics in 1990 declared its independence and in 2006 Eurovision sang the song that we are the winners of the Eurovision, despite the win, and even if till the victory was still far away" (M.Valančius "Lithuania is strange and interesting country, 2008.09.21, balsas.lt). Lithuania has always been famous because of this courage, determination, attitude, as well values maintenance. Having survived the prosperity of multiple oppression and occupation by long periods of Polonization and Sovietization, however, Lithuania gained a place under the sun on the political map, and retained its distinctive culture, language and historical heritage.

Seeking to transmit many times all of it what is guarding to the old Lithuanian generation, it is really needed dialogue between different generations.

In today's globalized and knowledge society a high potential for multiculturalism, cultural integration and dialogue is open. Access to the knowledge of culture, possibilities to learn from different cultures to know them is a great achievement for all mankind and wealth.