



ANNUAL STATISTICAL SURVEYS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE IN 2017 - MAIN RESULTS

Statistical surveys in the field of culture conducted by the National Statistical Institute have provided information on activities of museums, theatres, libraries, cinemas, radio and television programmes activities and film productions. Main indicators and coverage are designed in accordance with methodological requirements of UNESCO.

1. Cultural institutions

In the coverage of cultural institutions are included museums, theatres and music groups (performing arts) and libraries.

1.1. Museums

As of 31.12.2017 in the country there were functioning 191 museums registered according to the Cultural Heritage Act. Museums by thematic scope were divided in 93 general museums and 98 specialized museums (incl. art galleries).

Movable cultural values in 2017 formed the National Museum Stock were 7 406 thousand stock units and in comparison with 2016 their number increased by 46 thousand (0.6%). Of them 343 thousand stock units were digitized which is 10 thousand more in comparison with the previous year.

Visits to museums in 2017 were 5 109 thousand and in comparison with 2016 their number decreased by 2.3% (Figure 1). Approximately 1/4 of all visits (1 221 thousand) were carried out during the free entry days. The number of visits of foreigners to museums increased with 104 thousand or 10.3% in comparison to the previous year.

Figure 1. Visits in museums





In 2017 the total museum revenues were 61 973 thousand BGN and of them the share of budget subsidy was 47 424 thousand BGN (76.5%), revenues from visits were 8 729 thousand BGN (14.1%) and by European programs and projects were 972 thousand BGN (1.6%).

In 2017 the total number of personnel in museums was 3 224 employees and in comparison with 2016 it increased by 2.3%.

In 2017, 1 457 computers were used for administrative purposes, 607 computers - for storing databases and 209 computers - for provision of information to visitors.

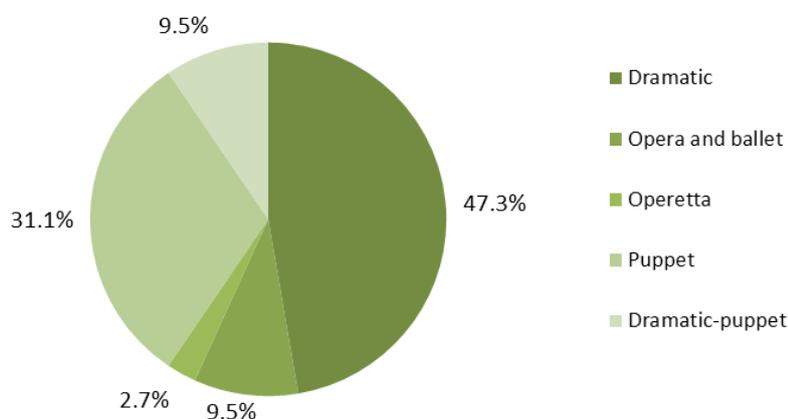
1.2. Performing arts

In 2017 in the operating 74 theatres were organized 15 333 performances, visited by 2 222 thousand viewers and in comparison with 2016 the number of performances increased by 1.1% while the number of visits decreased by 3.2%. The average number of visitors per one performance also decreased from 151 in 2016 to 145 in 2017.

The distribution of theatres by type (Figure 2) and presented staging in 2017 was as follow:

- 35 dramatic theatres with 6 146 performances;
- 23 puppet theatres with 5 774 performances;
- 7 dramatic-puppet theatres with 1 926 performances;
- 7 opera and ballet theatres with 1 122 performances;
- 2 operetta theatres with 365 performances.

Figure 2. Structure of theatres by type





In 2017 there were 54 *music formations* operated in the country - 5 philharmonic orchestras, 25 professional ensembles for folk songs and dances and 24 orchestras. In comparison with 2016 the number of performances increased by 0.3% and the number of visits by 3.4%.

In 2017 *Societies, associations and music companies* were organized the following events:

- Variety shows (Pop, Rock, Folk and other) - 522 concerts visited by 229.0 thousand visitors;
- Folklore - 131 concerts visited by 59.9 thousand visitors;
- Chamber and symphony - 113 concerts visited by 27.3 thousand visitors.

1.3. Libraries

In 2017 libraries with library collection over 200 thousand library units were 47 and their number remains the same compared to the previous year. The collection contained 34 054 thousand units (Figure 3) - books, continued editions - newspapers, magazines, bulletins and other. With the highest share of the total library collection in the observed libraries were books - 55.5% (18 895 thousand), followed by other library documents (audio-visual, electronic, graphic and cartographic editions, micro-forms, patents and standards) - 29.6% (10 082 thousand) and continued editions - 14.9% (5 077 thousand).

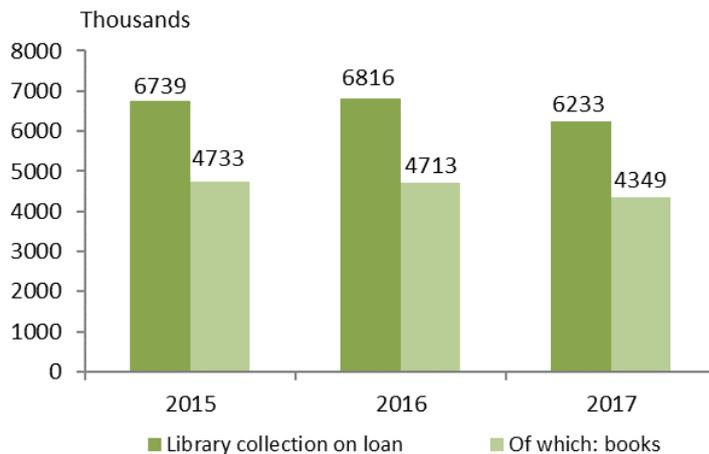
Figure 3. Library collection



The registered readers (library users) were 248 thousand, which was 3.7% more in comparison with the previous year while the visitors to libraries decreased by 0.9% and reached 4 277 thousand. The total library loan collection was 6 233 thousand library units (Figure 4).

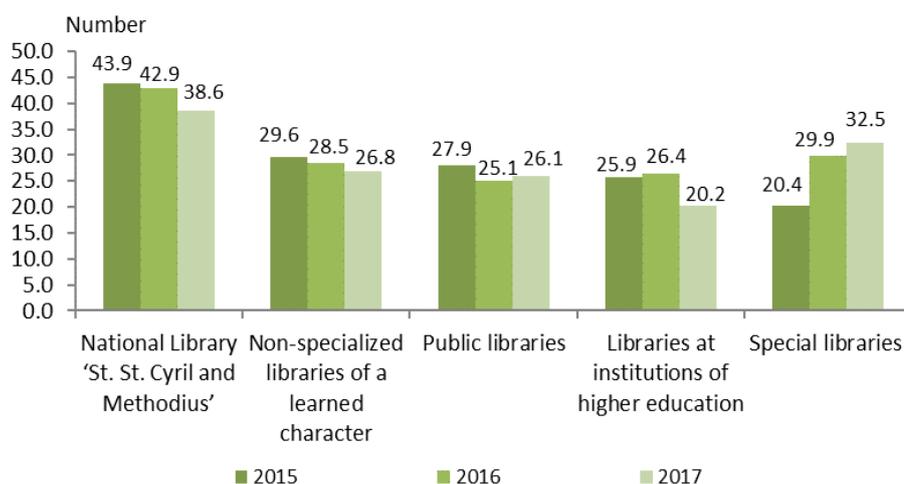


Figure 4. Library loan collection



In 2017 in the National Library ‘St. St. Cyril and Methodius’ were registered 8 121 thousand library documents, which were 80 thousand more in comparison with the previous year. In the Regional libraries (26) in the district centres there were a library collection of 11 819 thousand units and the library loan collection decreased by 161 thousand (4.3%) in comparison with 2016 year (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Library loan collection per reader by kind of the libraries





2. Audio-visual activities

Audio-visual activities cover the activities of film production, cinemas, and radio and television programmes activities.

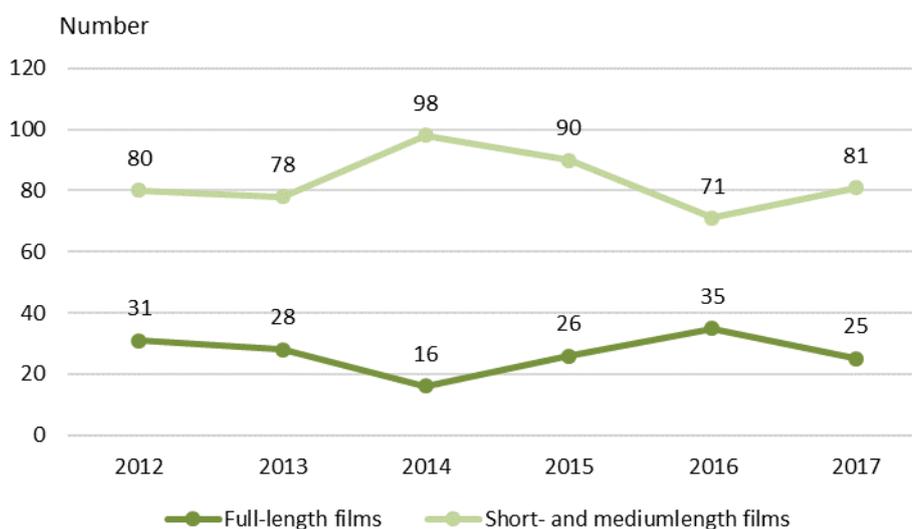
2.1. Film production

In 2017 were produced 106 full-length, short-length and medium-length films, of which 55 for the cinema network, 51 for the television, of which 3 series with total of 146 episodes.

The total number of the produced full-length films was 25 (22 films for the cinema network and 3 - for the television). Their number decreased by 10 (28.6%) in comparison to the previous year.

The number of the produced short- and medium-length films was 81 of which 13 feature films, 56 documentary and educational films and 12 cartoon films. In comparison with 2016 the production of this type of movies increased by 10 or 14.1% (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Produced films by kind





2.2. Cinemas

At the end of 2017 the number of cinemas in Bulgaria was 68, and the number of the screens - 226, and their number increased respectively with 9 and 6 more in comparison with the previous year. The multiplexes¹ were 12 and in them were performed 66.8% of all screenings and 71.1% of all cinema visits.

1. Cinemas, screens, screenings and visits

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cinemas - in numbers	40	49	55	59	68
Screens - in numbers	157	196	206	220	226
Screenings - in thousands	248	282	306	322	356
Visits - in thousands	4760	5097	5341	5548	5506

In 2017 in comparison with the previous year, screenings in cinemas increased by 10.7% and visits decreased by 0.8%. In 2017 were screened 9 437 films grouped by nationalities as follows: 912 Bulgarian, 2 570 European, 5 524 American (USA) and 431 from other countries.

The biggest number of cinemas was found in statistical region Yugozapaden - 21 cinemas with 181 thousand screenings, visited by 2.9 million viewers. In the capital there were functioning 16 cinemas with 102 screens and there were screened 3 354 films.

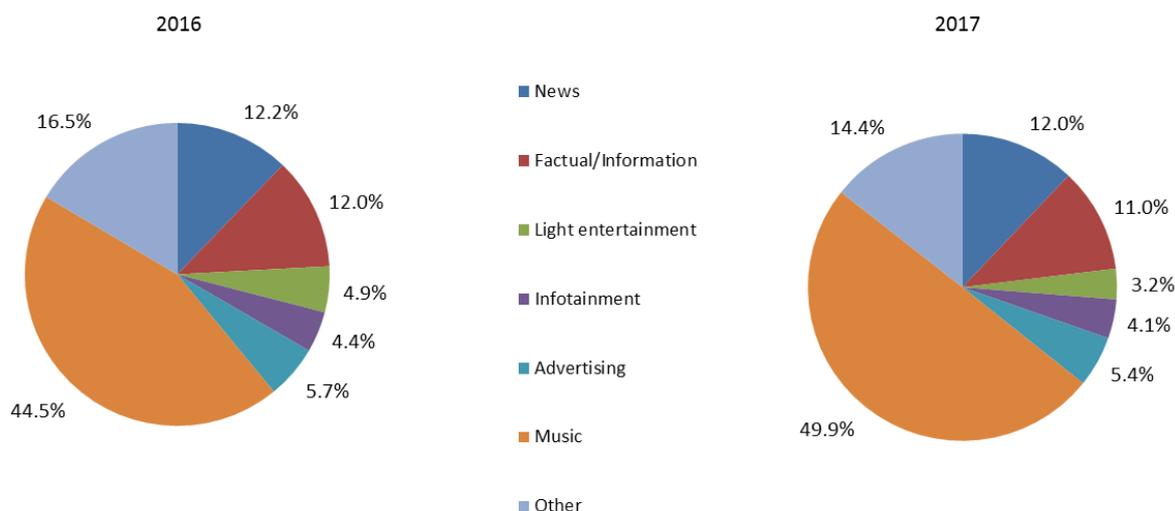
2.3. Radio programmes activities

In 2017 there were operating 85 registered and licensed radio operators in the country, which broadcast 723.6 thousand hours radio broadcasts, or 1.9% (13.3 thousand hours) more in comparison with 2016. The biggest share of radio broadcasts was those of the musical ones - 49.9%, followed by 'News' (bulletins, commentaries, sporting news and forecasts) with 12.0% (Figure 7).

¹ Static cinema with 8 or more screens.



Figure 7. Structure of radio broadcasts by type



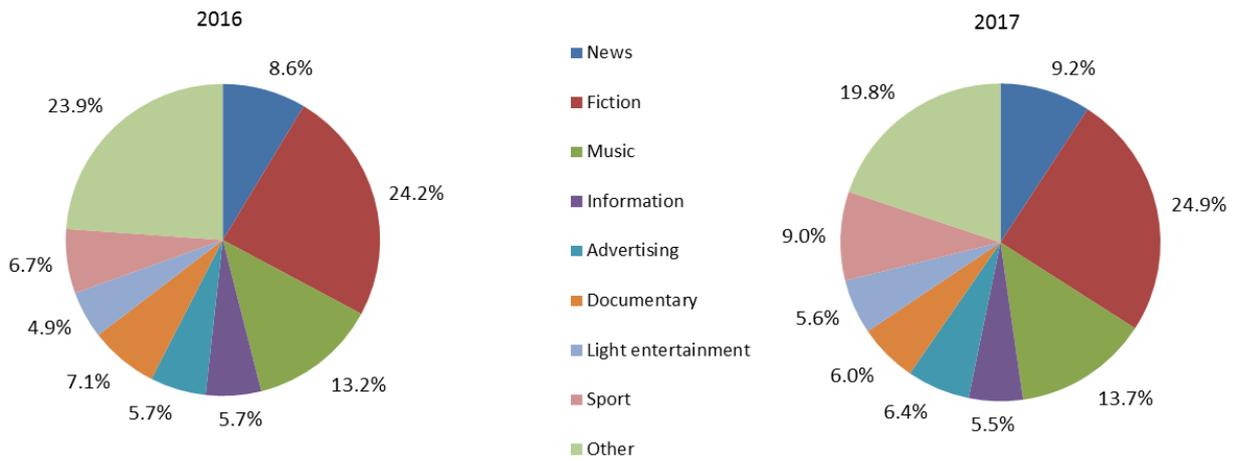
2.4. Television programmes activities

In 2017 in the country there were operating 117 registered and licensed Bulgarian TV operators, which was with 4 less than in the previous year. Terrestrial, cable and satellite televisions broadcasted totally 749.6 thousand hours of programmes or 4.3% less in comparison with 2016. The specialized programmes (Figure 8) were distributed in hours as follows:

- Fiction programmes (feature, television and video films) - 186.8 thousand hours;
- Music programmes - 102.3 thousand hours;
- News (bulletins, commentaries, sporting news and forecasts) - 68.8 thousand hours;
- Advertisements - 47.9 thousand hours;
- Education programmes - 9.6 thousand.



Figure 8. Structure of TV broadcasts by type





Methodological notes

Information on the activities of **museums** is a result of regularly conducted annual survey. Their activity is characterized by: museum stock units, visitors, cultural and educational activities of museums, personnel, revenues and expenditures and material-technical base of museums.

Activity of **performing arts** is object of a separate annual statistical survey. Units of observation are theatres, operas, operettas, circuses, musical formations, companies and associations which organize and hold recitals and concerts (pop music, folk, symphonic, chamber, choral, brass bands mixed and others). Their activity covers the following main characteristics: stages, seating capacity, performances, visitors, staging by nationality of the author, including new staging.

Activity of **libraries** with over 200 thousand library units is object of an annual statistical observation. Their activity has the following main breakdowns of characteristics: library collection (books, continued editions and other library documents), readers, visits, library loan collection, personnel, revenues and expenditures, computers, area of libraries.

Statistical data for the **film production** are collected annually by the National Film Centre and private producers. Their activity is mainly characterized by produced films, incl. videos, films for cinema network and television. The activity of **cinemas** includes the following main characteristics - cinema seats, screens, screenings, visitors, revenues from tickets. Moving film clubs and cinemas are not observed.

Activity of **radio and TV operators** includes the following main characteristics - the programs by type/genre in hours, incomes and expenditures.

More information and data on culture can be found on the NSI website, Statistical data Rubric, theme Culture (<http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4526/culture>) and Informaton System 'Infostat' (https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=36).



Annex

Table 1

Cultural institutions in the country

	2015		2016		2017	
	Number	Visits - in thousands	Number	Visits - in thousands	Number	Visits - in thousands
Libraries	48	4184	47	4315	47	4277
Museums	201	4763	195	5230	191	5109
Theatres	75	2169	75	2295	74	2222

Table 2

Film production in 2017

(Number)

	Total	Films produced by direction				
		For cinema network	For the television			
			Total	Television films	TV series	
					Total	Episodes
Total	106	55	51	48	3	146
Full-length films	25	22	3	3	-	-
Feature films	16	14	2	2	-	-
Documentary films	8	7	1	1	-	-
Cartoon films	1	1	-	-	-	-
Short- and medium-length films	81	33	48	45	3	146
Feature films	13	8	5	2	3	146
Documentary and educational films	56	13	43	43	-	-
Cartoon films	12	12	-	-	-	-