



ANNUAL STATISTICAL SURVEYS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE IN 2018 - MAIN RESULTS

Statistical surveys in the field of culture conducted by the National Statistical Institute provide 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 the 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 31.12.2018 in the country there were functioning 174 museums registered according to the Cultural Heritage Act. Museums by thematic scope were divided into 93 general museums and 81 specialized museums (incl. art galleries).

Movable cultural values in 2018 forming the National Museum Stock were 7 419 thousand stock units and in comparison with 2017 their number increased by 13 thousand (0.2%). Of them 368 thousand stock units were digitized, which is 24 thousand more in comparison with the previous year.

Visits to museums in 2018 were 5 084 thousand and in comparison with 2017 their number decreased by 0.5% (Figure 1). Approximately 1/4 of all visits (1 025 thousand) were carried out during the free entry days. The number of visits of foreigners to museums increased with 147 thousand or 13.2% in comparison to the previous year.

Figure 1. Visits in museums





In 2018 the total museum revenues were 68 879 thousand BGN and of them the share of budget subsidy was 50 617 thousand BGN (73.5%), revenues from visits were 9 841 thousand BGN (14.3%) and by European programs and projects were 1 412 thousand BGN (2.0 %).

In 2018 the total number of personnel in museums was 3 296 employees and in comparison with 2017 it increased by 2.2%.

In 2018, 1 535 computers were used for administrative purposes, 670 computers - for storing databases and 228 computers - for provision of information to visitors.

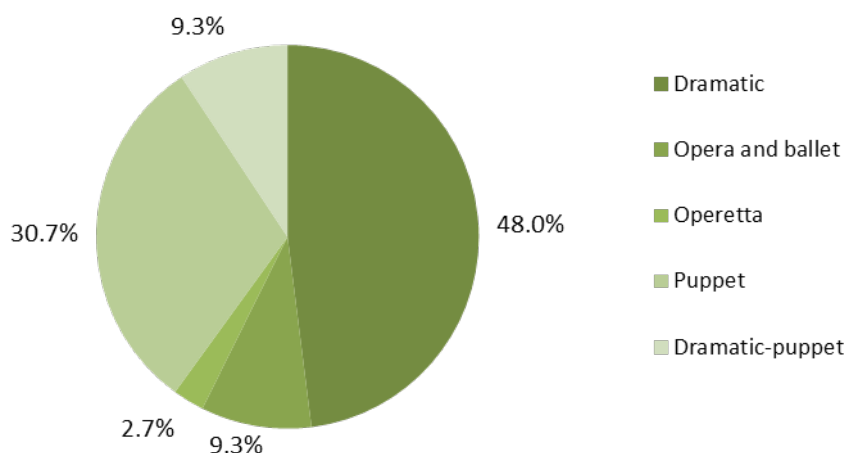
1.2. Performing arts

In 2018 in the currently operating 75 theatres were organized 15 155 performances, visited by 2 389 thousand visitors and in comparison with 2017 the number of performances decreased by 1.2% while the number of visits increased by 7.5%. The average number of visitors per one performance also increased from 145 in 2017 to 158 in 2018.

The distribution of theatres by type (Figure 2) and by presented stagings in 2018 was as follow:

- 36 dramatic theatres with 6 360 performances;
- 23 puppet theatres with 5 216 performances;
- 7 dramatic-puppet theatres with 2 194 performances;
- 7 opera and ballet theatres with 1 022 performances;
- 2 operetta theatres with 363 performances.

Figure 2. Structure of the theatres by type





In 2018 there were 51 *music formations* operating in the country - 5 philharmonic orchestras, 25 professional ensembles for folk songs and dances and 21 orchestras. In comparison with 2017 the number of their performances increased by 1.6 % and the number of visits decreased by 0.1 %.

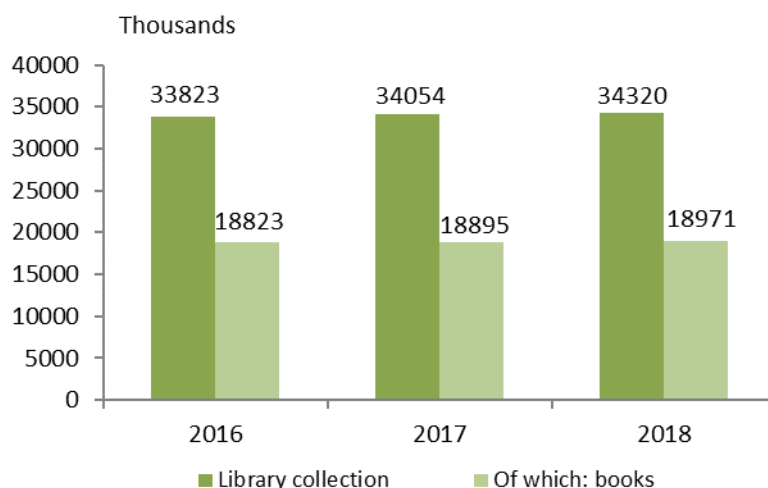
In 2018 *Societies, associations and music companies* were organized the following events:

- Popular music shows (Pop, Rock, Folk and other) - 547 concerts visited by 229.9 thousand visitors;
- Folklore events - 139 concerts visited by 55.4 thousand visitors;
- Chamber and symphony performances - 122 concerts visited by 36.8 thousand visitors.

1.3. Libraries

In 2018 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 34 320 thousand units (Figure 3) - books, continued editions - newspapers, magazines, bulletins and others. With the highest share of the total library collection in the observed libraries were books - 55.3% (18 971 thousand), followed by other library documents (audio-visual, electronic, graphic and cartographic editions, micro-forms, patents and standards) - 29.7% (10 179 thousand) and continued editions - 15.1% (5 170 thousand).

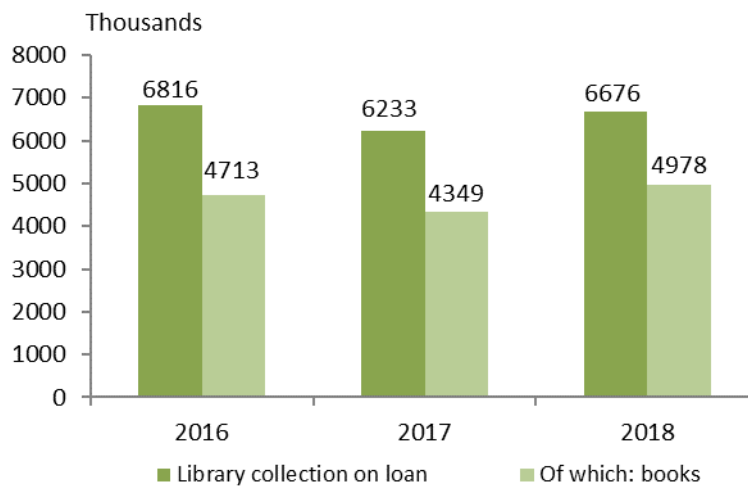
Figure 3. Library collection



The registered readers (library users) were 239 thousand, which is 3.6% less in comparison with the previous year while the visitors to libraries increased by 6.7% and reached 4 563 thousand. The total library loan collection was 6 676 thousand library units (Figure 4).

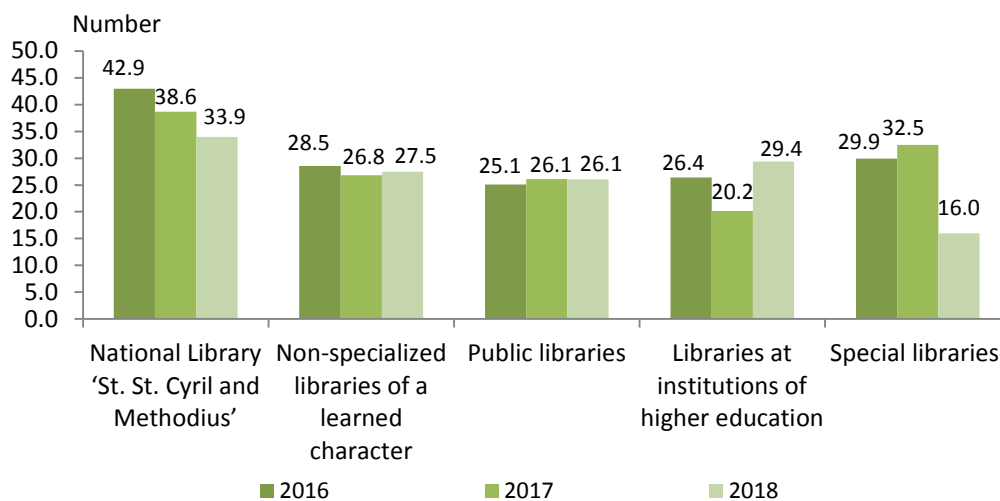


Figure 4. Library loan collection



In 2018 in the National Library ‘St. St. Cyril and Methodius’ were registered 8 193 thousand library documents, which is 72 thousand more in comparison with the previous year. In the Regional libraries (26) in the district centres there were a library collection of 11 899 thousand units and the library loan collection increased by 3 thousand (0.1%) in comparison with 2017 year (Figure 5).

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





2. Audio-visual activities

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

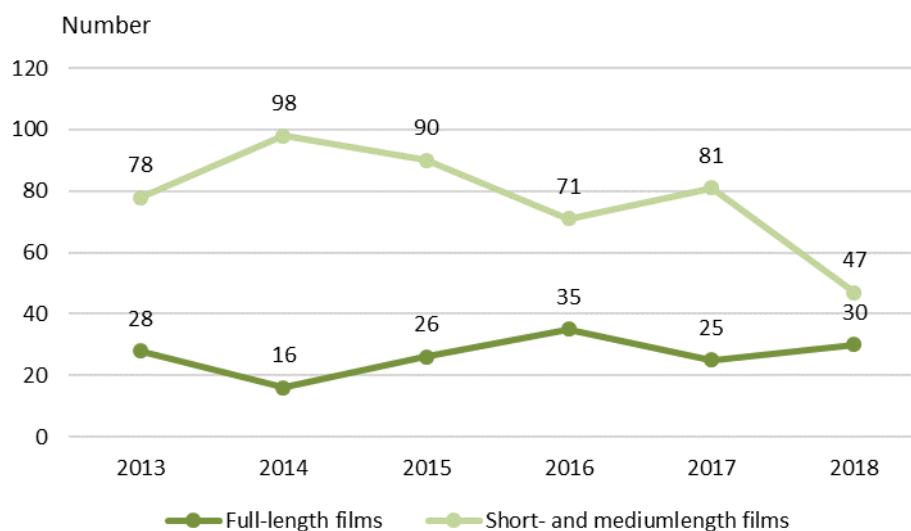
2.1. Film production

In 2018 were produced 77 full-length, short-length and medium-length films, of which 46 for the cinema network and 30 for the television, including 6 series with total of 331 episodes.

The total number of the produced full-length films was 30 (29 films for the cinema network and 1 - for the television). Their number increased by 5 (20.0%) in comparison to the previous year.

The number of the produced short- and medium-length films was 47 of which 13 feature films, 28 documentary and educational films and 6 cartoon films. In comparison with 2017 the production of this type of movies decreased by 34 or 42.0% (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Produced films by kind





2.2. Cinemas

At the end of 2018 the number of cinemas in Bulgaria was 69, and the number of screens - 226, and their number remains the same compared to the previous year. The multiplex cinemas¹ were 11 and in them were performed 61.6% of all screenings and were made 68.1% of all cinema visits.

1. Cinemas, screens, screenings and visits

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cinemas - in numbers	49	55	59	68	69
Screens - in numbers	196	206	220	226	226
Screenings - in thousands	282	306	322	356	349
Visits - in thousands	5097	5341	5548	5506	4885

In 2018 in comparison with the previous year, screenings in cinemas decreased by 2.1% and visits by 11.3%. In 2018 were screened 8 575 films grouped by nationalities as follows: 1 077 Bulgarian, 2 359 European, 4 463 American (USA) and 676 from other countries.

The biggest number of cinemas was found in Yugozapaden statistical region - 22 cinemas with 173 thousand screenings, visited by 2.7 million viewers. In the capital were functioning 16 cinemas with 101 screens and were screened 2 722 films.

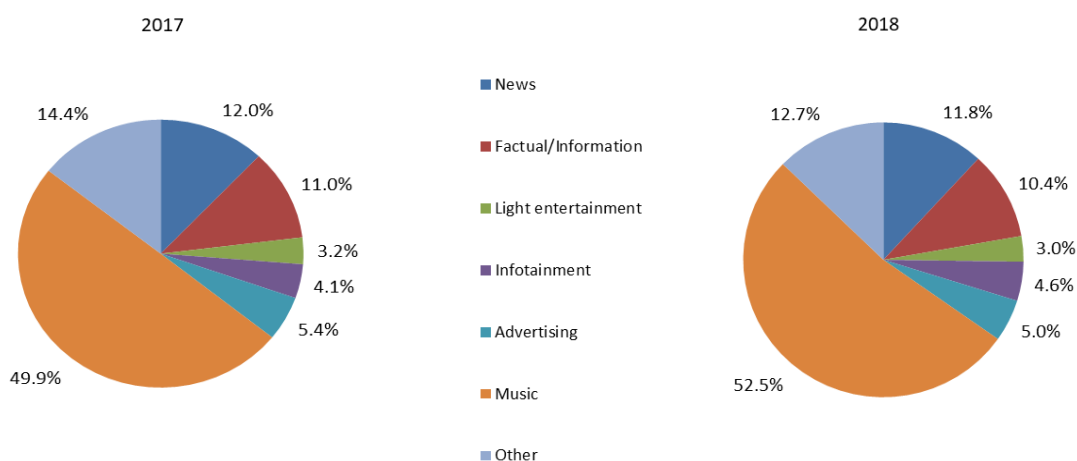
2.3. Radio programme activities

In 2018 were operating 83 registered and licensed radio operators in the country, which broadcasted 727.0 thousand hours radio broadcasts, or 0.5% (3.4 thousand hours) more in comparison with 2017. The biggest share of radio broadcasts was those of the musical ones - 52.5%, followed by 'News' (bulletins, commentaries, sporting news and forecasts) with 11.8% (Figure 7).

¹ Cinema complex with 8 or more screens.



Figure 7. Structure of radio broadcasts by type



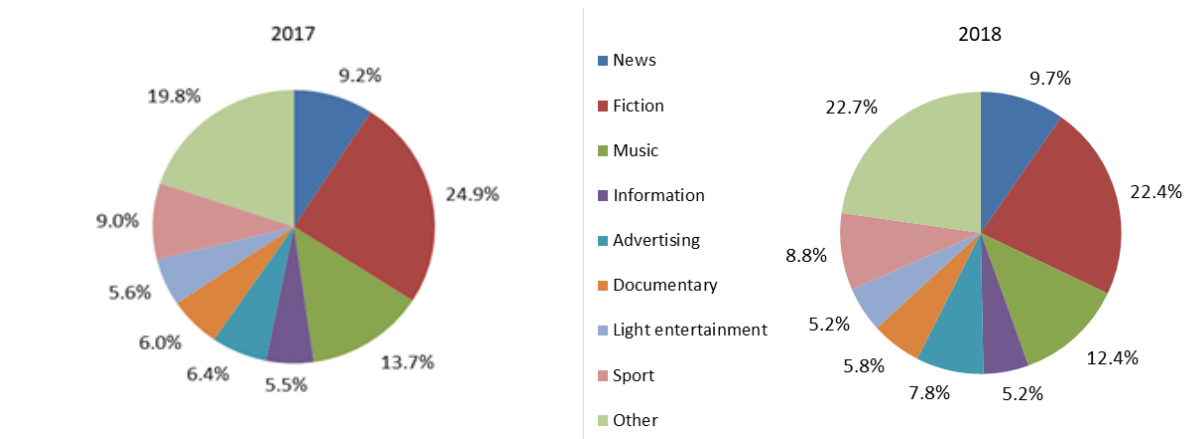
2.4. Television programme activities

In 2018 in the country were operating 116 registered and licensed Bulgarian TV operators, which was with 1 less than in the previous year. Terrestrial, cable and satellite televisions broadcasted totally 742.8 thousand hours of programmes or 0.9% less in comparison with 2017. The specialized programmes (Figure 8) were distributed in hours as follows:

- Fiction programmes (feature, television and video films) - 166.2 thousand hours;
- Music programmes - 92.2 thousand hours;
- News (bulletins, commentaries, sporting news and forecasts) - 72.1 thousand hours;
- Advertisements - 57.6 thousand hours;
- Educational programmes - 12.0 thousand.



Figure 8. Structure of TV broadcasts by type





Methodological notes

Data 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. The number of museums is in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Act (Prom. in the SG 19 / 13 March 2009). In 2018 there is a break in the time series of the data on the number of museums and they are not comparable to the previous years.

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

Activity of **libraries** with over 200 thousand library units is object of an annual statistical survey. 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, libraries area.

Statistical data on 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, tickets revenues. Film clubs and moving cinemas are not observed.

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

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



Annex

Table 1

Cultural institutions in the country

	2016		2017		2018	
	Number	Visits - in thousands	Number	Visits - in thousands	Number	Visits - in thousands
Libraries	47	4315	47	4277	47	4563
Museums	195	5230	191	5109	174	5084
Theatres	75	2295	74	2222	75	2389

Table 2

Film production in 2018

	Total	Films produced by direction					
		For cinema network	For the television				For other aims
			Total	Television films	TV series		
					Total	Episodes	
Total	77	46	30	24	6	331	1
Full-length films	30	29	1	-	1	6	-
Feature films	19	18	1	-	1	6	-
Documentary films	10	10	-	-	-	-	-
Cartoon films	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Short- and medium-length films	47	17	29	24	5	325	1
Feature films	13	8	5	-	5	325	-
Documentary and educational films	28	4	24	24	-	-	-
Cartoon films	6	5	-	-	-	-	1