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HERITAGE AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN POLAND. AN OVERVIEW

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The legal framework



- The Constitution of the Republic of Poland,
- the Law on the Protection and Care of Monuments,
- the Law on Public Benefit Activities and Volunteerism,
- the Law on Associations and
- the Law on Foundations,
- Law of higher education and science

Volunteerism and NGOs



Social guardians of monuments - individuals, legal entities or other organisations (appointed by districts' governors).

Some districts provide training for aspiring social guardians, including in co-operation with NGOs.

Social guardians of monuments

- reprimand anyone caught breaking the rules on the protection and care of monuments
- undertake tasks related to the preservation of monuments' value and to disseminate knowledge of monuments

Number – unknown. Examples:

- the city of Krakow - 30 guardians since 2005
- the city of Łodź - 48 guardians appointed since 2006.



Volunteerism and NGOs



117 000 NGOs in Poland

~11 000 list “culture and art” as at least one of their areas of activity

~7 000 of them declare to be active in the cultural heritage field:

- ✓ education and promotion of heritage (95%),
- ✓ protecting and maintaining intangible heritage (69%)
- ✓ compiling inventories and documenting intangible heritage (44%).
- ✓ conservation and maintenance of monuments (33%)
- ✓ compiling inventories and documenting monuments (31%)
- ✓ lobbying for legal recognition of monuments and engage in projects designed to adapt monuments to new functions (14%)



Almost half of all NGOs active in the cultural heritage field rely entirely on volunteers.

Volunteerism and NGOs



Sectoral social dialogue institutions (council, boards and committees) – national, regional and local level

- Cooperation of non-governmental arena and officials
- Advising, consulting and initiating projects
- Mediating mutually agreed solutions

WARSAW example (29 committees):

- co-authoring and assessing local draft legislation,
- participation in grant award panels and in working groups
- Committee dedicated to the protection of monuments: 13 NGOs among its members



Social economy

Co-operatives and NGOs (foundations, co-operatives of persons with disabilities, social co-operatives, associations) focused on employee welfare and solidarity, promotion of inclusion.

Principal actors are social enterprises:

- use profit for community benefits or the social and occupational inclusion of employees
- are managed in a participatory way and at least 30% of their employees are considered to be at risk of exclusion



1 235 social enterprises registered in the Ministry database

(some experts estimate ~3 000)

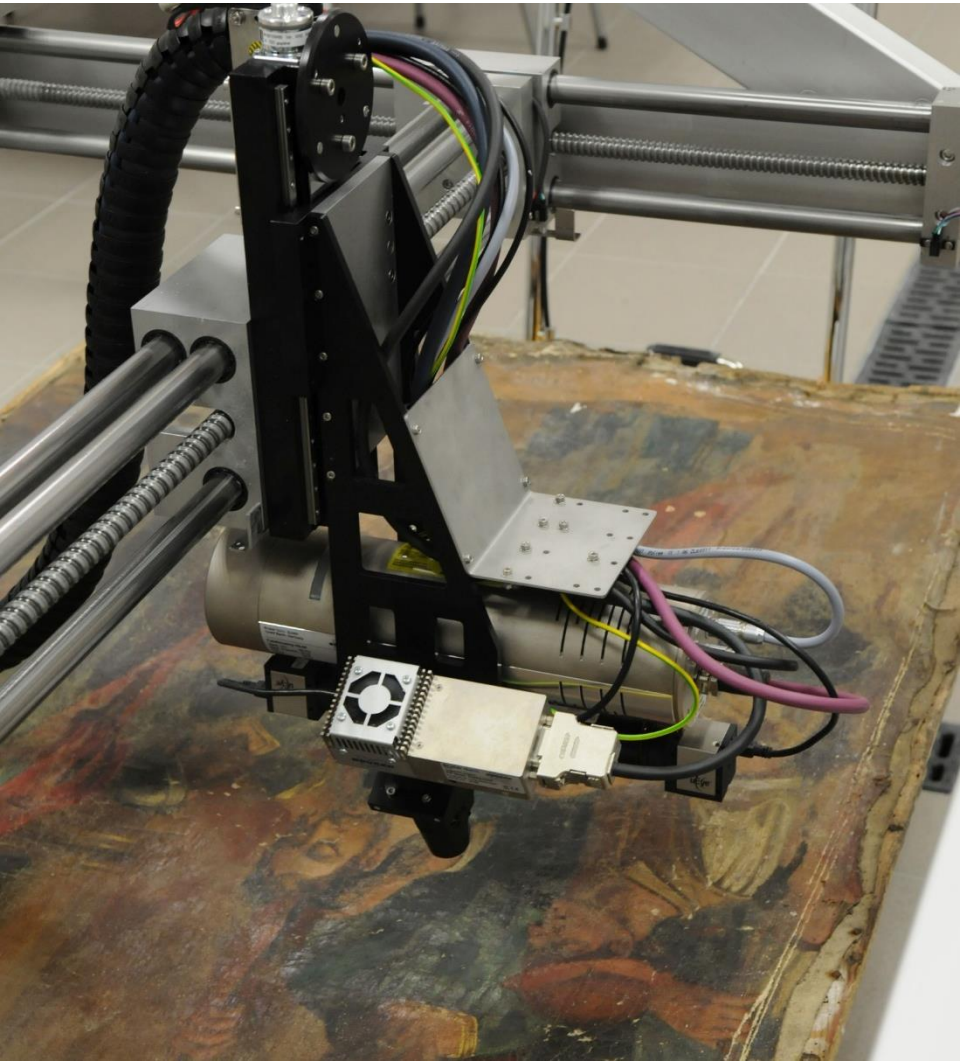
347 active in the field of **education and culture**.

Other fields of economic activities: cuisine, tourism

and recreation, food production and processing, agriculture

⟶ **heritage related - ?**

Academic envolvement



Universities:

130 public

262 non-public

~1 200 000 students(73% attend public universities)

Heritage related studies

- ✓ Conservation and restoration faculties: 2 fine arts academies and 1 university
- ✓ History: 31 universities
- ✓ History of art and archaeology: 11
- ✓ Cultural heritage management (as part of the history faculty): 3

Academic involvement



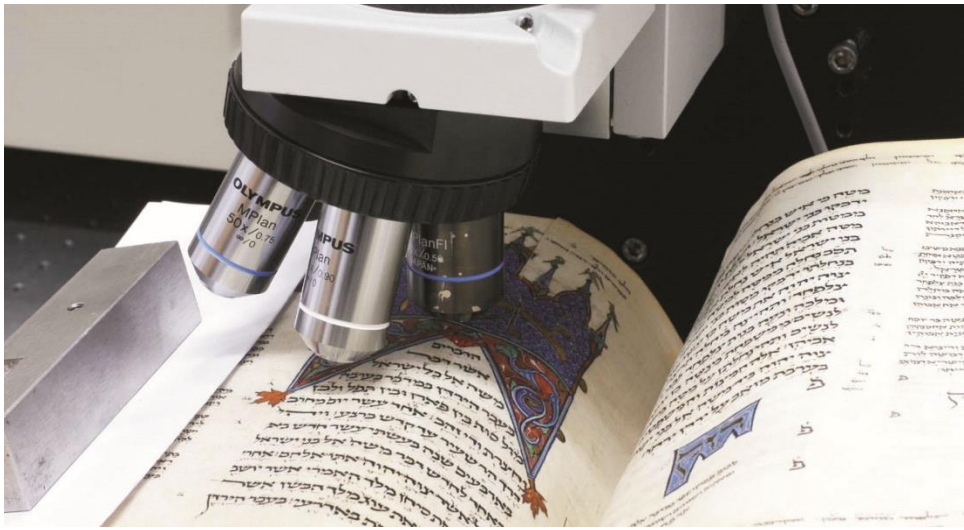
Economics, public management, sociology, and tourism faculties:

- no statistics available, but increase of cultural heritage research is being observed (course topics or an area of interest covered by a specific researcher)

Enhancing these areas: NICH cooperation (lacking data research, thesis contest, statistical research and publishing

Several associations active in academia:

- Scientific Association of Polish Archaeologists,
- Historical Monuments & Art Conservators Association Poland
- Scientific Club for the Legal Protection of Cultural Property at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow



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Thank you!

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