

CULTURE IN THE ESTIMATION OF LATVIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Edvins Vanags

Ilmars Vanags

Olgerts Krastins

Latvian Statistical Institute

Content of the presentation

- n The goal and methods used
- n The general information on Latvian self-evaluation survey of local governments
- n The analysis of the results of survey in part of culture development
- n Official quantitative statistics on culture in Latvia
- n A new research programme in the future on culture development

The goal of the paper

- n To clarify the present situation of culture in Latvia
- n Determine and analyse the past and future trends of culture development

Methods used

- n Monographical method
 - n Qualitative survey
 - n Interviews
 - n Statistical analysis
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- n The main data source of the research is the results of the local government self-evaluation survey conducted by the Latvian Statistical Institute (LSI)

Self-evaluation survey of local governments

- n Latvia - the second country in the Europe what organizes it
- n 14 years experience of the LSI in conducting business tendency surveys
- n First local government self-evaluation survey in 2005, second – 2007
- n Local government self-evaluation survey in Latvia – full survey
- n Response rate in 2005 – 100% (530 municipalities)
- n Response rate in 2007 – 99% (522 municipalities from 526 municipalities)

Peculiarities of the local government self-evaluation research

- n Includes several branches of the economy – such as education, **culture**, health care, social activities, public utilities, and administration
- n Includes also questions of sociological character on the problems that are important for the local governments
- n Complex analysis of the qualitative indicators of local governments
- n Inclusion of open-ended questions about problems and best practice

The main principles of the self-evaluation of local government

- n Concentration of information
- n Evaluation of retrospective forecasts and comparing with reality
- n Accumulation of data and comparison across the time series
- n Openness of the aggregated information and confidentiality of individual data
- n Continuing development of the research programme

Qualitative information

- n The conjuncture surveys are carried out with the aim to provide users with information for short-term analysis and forecasts. The surveys are simple. They do not require quantitative information.
- n The source of self-evaluation of local governments is the answers provided by the heads of local governments to qualitative questions on the socio-economic situation, its changes, present and future trends, as well as limiting factors.

Structure of questionnaire

- n Employment (6 questions)
- n Economy and finance (9 questions)
- n Quality of local government performance (12 questions)
- n Activity of population (3 questions)
- n Local government reform (5 questions)

Objects of sub-questions

- n Schools
- n Pre-school establishments
- n Health care institutions
- n Social care
- n Cultural institutions
- n Public utilities
- n Administration
- n Other sectors
- n Local government in general

Balance of answers

- n Balance of answers is used as indicator
- n The balance of answers with three options is calculated as the difference between the percentages of positive answers (increase, above normal, etc) and negative answers (decrease, below normal, etc)
- n The special formula is used for questions with more answers

Culture – the highest priority in the programme of the survey

- n Special role of culture in second survey
- n Special chapter in the questionnaire comprising the questions which are connected with culture both in broad and narrow sense
- n 38 qualitative indicators characterising the situation and trends of culture (of 110 indicators in total)
- n Traditional quantitative statistics are also used in analysis
- n Preparation of new research programme at present
- n The LSI has envisaged population survey that will include questions on cultural issues, too

Adequacy of employees' number in local government cultural institutions at the beginning of 2007 in per cent

Region	The employees' number is			Balance of answers
	too large	suffi- cient	too small	
Total in Latvia	1.3	80.3	15.1	-13.8
Riga planning region	1.3	78.7	18.7	-17.3
Riga city	-	100.0	-	-
Pieriga statistical region	1.4	78.4	18.9	-17.6
Vidzeme region	2.5	85.2	10.7	-8.2
Zemgale region	2.1	78.9	13.7	-11.6
Kurzeme region	-	82.5	13.4	-13.4
Latgale region	0.8	75.9	19.5	-18.8

Expected changes of employees' number in local government offices and commercial companies in 2007 in per cent

Branche	At the end of 2007 it could be			Balance of answers
	higher	about the same	lower	
1. In schools	10.0	76.2	5.6	4.4
2. In preschool establishments	10.7	59.8	2.7	8.0
3. In health care institutions	4.0	69.0	2.7	1.3
4. In the area of social care and aid	22.8	70.9	1.9	20.9
5. In cultural institutions	11.3	83.9	1.0	10.3
6. In public utilities	20.5	71.6	3.4	17.0
7. In administration	21.5	73.9	1.5	19.9
8. In other areas	4.6	37.2	1.7	2.9
9. Total	16.5	76.1	1.7	14.8

Expected changes of investment volume in local government cultural institutions

in 2007 in comparison with previous year in per cent

Region	Volume of investment will			Balance of answers
	increase	remain about the same	decrease	
Total in Latvia	47.5	31.0	3.6	43.9
Riga planning region	56.0	33.3	2.7	53.3
Riga city	-	100.0	-	-
Pieriga statistical region	56.8	32.4	2.7	54.1
Vidzeme region	50.0	33.6	4.1	45.9
Zemgale region	48.4	20.0	5.3	43.2
Kurzeme region	48.5	32.0	4.1	44.3
Latgale region	39.1	34.6	2.3	36.8

The quality of performance in local government cultural institutions in 2006 in per cent

Region	The quality was					Balance of answers
	very good	good	satisfactory	bad	very bad	
Total in Latvia	3.4	45.0	42.3	4.2	-	23.9
Riga planning region	2.7	49.3	37.3	5.3	-	24.7
Riga city	-	100.0	-	-	-	50.0
Pieriga statistical region	2.7	48.6	37.8	5.4	-	24.3
Vidzeme region	6.6	49.2	36.9	4.9	-	28.7
Zemgale region	4.2	46.3	37.9	3.2	-	25.8
Kurzeme region	1.0	42.3	48.5	4.1	-	20.1
Latgale region	2.3	39.8	48.9	3.8	-	20.3

Culture level in local governments

Culture level in broad meaning

at the beginning of 2007 in per cent

Kind of culture	Culture level at present is					Balance of answers
	very high	high	medium	low	very low	
1. Political culture	0.2	11.1	67.8	16.1	2.5	-4.8
2. Administrative culture	0.2	29.7	68.2	0.6	-	14.8
3. Work culture	-	27.8	68.0	2.9	0.2	12.3
4. Environmental culture	0.4	16.9	65.9	14.0	1.0	0.9
5. Media culture	0.2	16.5	69.7	8.6	1.0	3.2
6. Communication culture	-	19.7	73.2	5.2	-	7.3
7. Citizens' and social activities	0.2	7.9	56.5	31.6	1.3	-13.0
8. Public integration	1.3	19.2	64.2	10.9	1.0	4.5
T o t a l	0.3	18.6	66.7	11.2	0.9	3.1
<i>Average in all 14 answers about culture level</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>62.9</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>4.7</i>

Culture level in local governments

Culture level in broad meaning

in the next two years in per cent

Kind of culture	Culture level could be			Balance of answers
	higher	remain about the same	lower	
1. Political culture	26.2	69.0	1.9	24.3
2. Administrative culture	48.7	49.6	-	48.7
3. Work culture	46.2	51.5	0.6	45.6
4. Environmental culture	51.0	45.4	1.0	50.0
5. Media culture	36.2	58.2	1.1	35.1
6. Communication culture	41.8	54.8	0.6	41.2
7. Citizens' and social activities	37.0	58.6	1.3	35.6
8. Public integration	30.3	65.1	1.0	29.3
Total	39.7	56.5	0.9	38.7
<i>Average in all 14 answers about culture level</i>	38.0	57.4	1.6	36.4

Culture level in local governments

Culture level in narrow meaning

at the beginning of 2007 in per cent

Kind of culture	Culture level at present is					Balance of answers
	very high	high	medium	low	very low	
9. Attendance of culture institutions (libraries, museums, theatres, concerts, etc.)	1.1	16.7	63.6	17.0	0.2	0.8
10. Amateur performances	3.3	33.1	42.7	16.7	3.3	8.2
11. Love, regard to one's own city, rural municipality	2.1	27.8	58.8	9.0	0.8	10.7
12. Preservation of culture traditions	2.3	36.8	52.5	6.5	0.8	16.7
13. Healthy mode of life, sport	1.3	22.0	58.0	15.1	2.3	2.5
14. Strength of families, care of childrens upbringing	-	14.8	71.6	11.3	0.4	1.3
Total	1.7	25.2	57.9	12.6	1.3	6.7
<i>Average in all 14 answers about culture level</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>62.9</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>4.7</i>

Culture level in local governments

Culture level in narrow meaning

in the two next years in per cent

Kind of culture	Culture level could be			Balance of answers
	higher	remain about the same	lower	
9. Attendance of culture institutions (libraries, museums, theatres, concerts, etc.)	40.6	55.2	1.3	39.3
10. Amateur performances	33.0	60.9	3.3	29.7
11. Love, regard to one's own city, rural municipality	34.5	61.1	1.7	32.8
12. Preservation of culture traditions	29.3	65.5	2.3	27.0
13. Healthy mode of life, sport	42.9	51.0	2.7	40.2
14. Strength of families, care of childrens upbringing	34.9	58.2	3.3	31.6
T o t a l	35.9	58.7	2.4	33.4
<i>Average in all 14 answers about culture level</i>	38.0	57.4	1.6	36.4

Culture level in local governments

Some negative issues

at the beginning of 2007 in per cent

Kind of culture	Their level at present is					Balance of answers
	very high	high	medium	low	very low	
15. Spread of alcoholism, narcotism*	2.7	22.6	55.6	16.3	1.1	4.7*
16. Antisocial and destructive actions*	0.4	8.2	49.0	30.8	6.9	-17.8*
Total*	1.5	15.4	52.3	23.6	4.0	-6.6*
Average in previous 14 answers about culture level	0.9	21.4	62.9	11.8	1.0	4.7
Average in all 16 answers about culture level	1.3	21.7	61.6	12.2	1.1	4.9**

Culture level in local governments

Some negative issues

In the next two years in per cent

Kind of culture	Their level could be			Balance of answers
	higher	remain about the same	lower	
15. Spread of alcoholism, narcotism*	6.9	67.6	21.3	-14.4*
16. Antisocial and destructive actions*	6.3	63.4	23.4	-17.0*
Total*	6.6	65.5	22.3	-15.7*
<i>Average in previous 14 answers about culture level</i>	38.0	57.4	1.6	36.4
<i>Average in all 16 answers about culture level</i>	36.0	58.5	2.2	33.8**

Official quantitative statistics on culture

- n The official statistics in Latvia provide the users with the main quantitative indicators of cultural institutions.
- n Information on culture includes:
 - n number of libraries, collections, the number of users and loans
 - n number of culture houses, amateur performing units and participants there
 - n number of museums and admissions (state, municipal and accredited private museums)
 - n number of theatres, performances and admissions
 - n number of cinemas, cinema shows, film production by kind of films
 - n TV and broadcasting companies, the number of programs broadcast

Libraries

- n The number of users of the National Library in 1990 was 19,9 thousands and in every next five years has increased about 10 thousands, reaching 52,4 thousands in 2005
- n The collection in the period 1990-2005 in the National Library decreased by 8%, loans increased by 13%
- n The number of public libraries decreased from 1317 in 1990 to 877 in 2005, the collection by 46%, number of urban users – by 51%, number of rural users – by 10%, number of loans in cities – decreased by 4,8 million units, in rural areas – increased by 2,0 million units

Other data on culture

- n There was sharp decrease in the number of culture houses, amateur performing units in culture houses and participants in amateur performing units in the period 1990-1995, but there are little improving of two latest indicators in the next 10 years till 2005
- n Although the number of museums stayed at the same place in the period 1990-1996, the admissions decreased 3,1 times. Beginning 1997 there is increase of both indicators, particularly the number of admissions
- n The tendency of development of production of magazines and other periodicals as well as newspapers, relating to number of titles and annual circulation in the period 1990-2005 is the same as production of books and brochures

Number of Admissions per 1,000 population

	1990	1991	1995	2000	2005
Museums	1 460	909	531	624	900
Theatres	585	465	265	319	330
Cinemas	7 415	4 391	411	614	725

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Latvia 2006, p.175, 176.

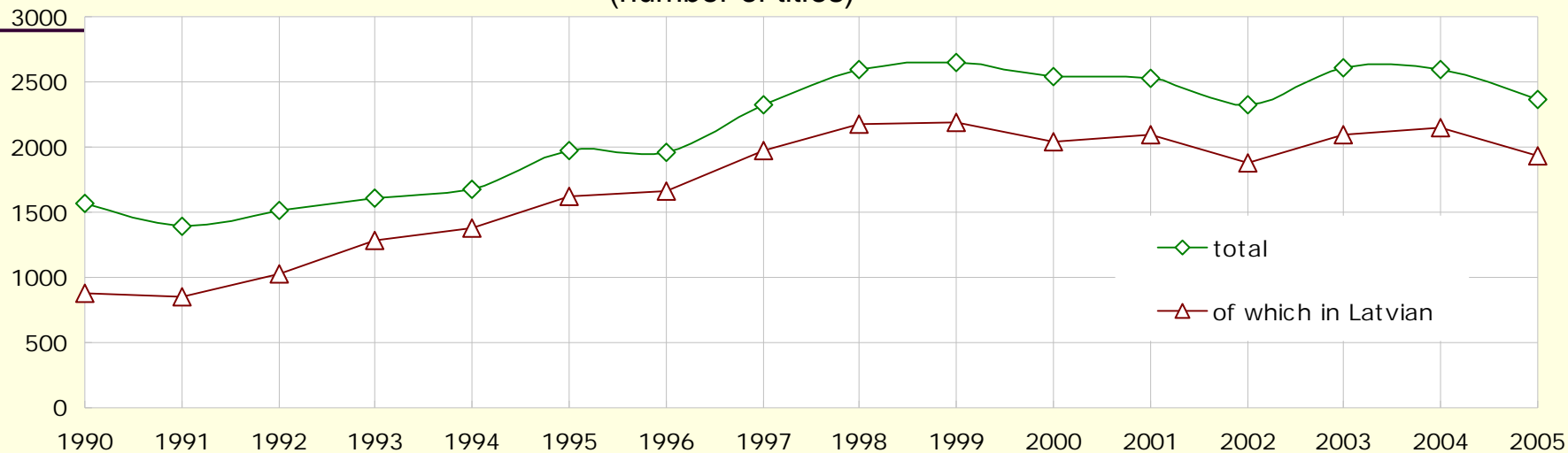
Cinema

	1990	1991	1995	2000	2005	1990 / 2005 times
Number of cinemas	90	86	52	30	17	5,3
Number of admissions in urban area, <i>thsd</i>	15 528	10 085	938	1 428	1 663	9,3
Number of admissions in rural area, <i>thsd</i>	4 220	1 554	82	29	4	1 055

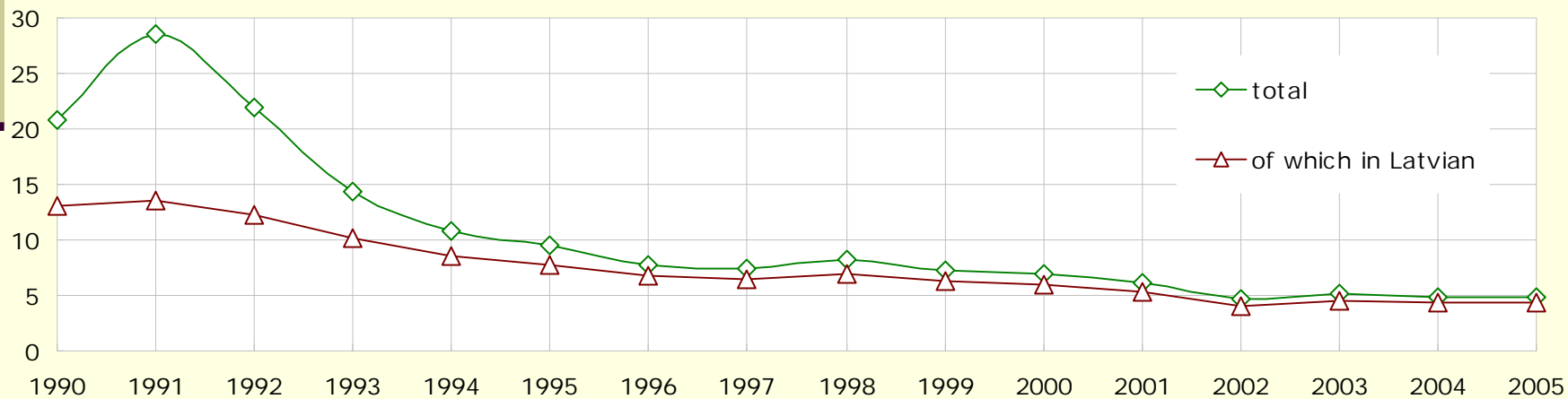
Source: Statistical Yearbook of Latvia 2006, p.175, 176.

Production of books and brochures 1990-2005

(number of titles)



(copies, mln)



Thank You for attention!
