

## Act on Cultural Activities in Local Government

(166/2019)

By decision of Parliament, the following is enacted:

### Section 1

#### Scope of application

This Act lays down provisions on the cultural activities in local government and on the related objectives, duties, cooperation, participation of residents, provision of information and evaluation of activities, responsibility for development and central government transfers to local government.

The Act on Cultural Activities in Local Government refers to activities through which local authorities promote the creation, pursuit and accessibility of the culture and arts, use of cultural and art services and cultural education and cultural heritage.

### Section 2

#### Objectives of the Act

The objectives of this Act are to:

- 1) support people's opportunities for engaging in creative expression and activity, and for producing and experiencing culture and art;
- 2) promote equal opportunities for all population groups, and further their participation in the culture, arts, and education;
- 3) strengthen people's health and wellbeing, as well as their inclusion and community engagement, through cultural and artistic means;
- 4) create conditions through artistic and cultural means for developing both local and regional vitality and for providing creative activities to support them.

The implementation of these objectives is based on democracy, residents' needs, equality, sustainable development, cultural diversity and dialogue.

### Section 3

#### Duties of local authorities

It is the duty of the local authorities to provide cultural activities. In order to fulfil this duty, local authorities shall:

- 1) promote equal access to and broad use of cultural and art services ;
- 2) create conditions for professional artistic work and activities;
- 3) promote active involvement in the arts and culture and related civic activities;

- 4) offer opportunities for goal-oriented artistic and cultural education covering different forms and fields of culture and art;
- 5) promote the preservation and use of cultural heritage, and activities that foster and develop local identities;
- 6) promote the arts and culture as part of residents' health and wellbeing, inclusion and community engagement, and local and regional vitality;
- 7) promote cultural interaction and international activities, and carry out other artistic and cultural activities.

In fulfilling the duties referred to in subsection 1 and in providing the related services, the local authorities shall take into account local circumstances and resources and the needs of the different population groups.

Local authorities may organise activities independently or in cooperation with other local authorities or in some other manner. Local authorities shall provide sufficient and diverse expertise for providing cultural activities.

In providing cultural activities, local authorities shall take into account any activities carried out under the Public Libraries Act (1492/2016), the Basic Art Education Act (633/1998), the Museums Act (729/1992), the Theatres and Orchestras Act (730/1992) and the Act on Liberal Adult Education (632/1998).

## Section 4

### Duties of government authorities

The Ministry of Education and Culture and other government authorities create the conditions which enable local authorities to provide cultural activities. In matters relating to culture and art, the competent ministry is the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The Finnish Heritage Agency, the Arts Promotion Centre and the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment are responsible for promoting culture and art in the regions in accordance with the relevant legislation.

## Section 5

### Participation of the residents of the municipalities

The residents of the municipalities shall have the opportunity to participate in and influence the municipality's cultural activities and the drafting of decisions concerning such activities. Provisions on the right of the residents of the municipalities to participate in and influence local government activities are laid down in section 22 of the Local Government Act (410/2015).

When providing cultural activities in local government in a bilingual municipality, the needs of both language groups shall be taken into consideration on equal grounds. In the municipalities located in the Sami homeland, the needs of the Sami and Finnish speaking population groups shall be taken into consideration on equal grounds.

In providing the activities, the needs of local language groups shall also be taken into consideration.

## Section 6

### Responsibility for development

To create opportunities for cultural activities in local government, the Ministry of Education and Culture may, upon application, assign a responsibility for development to local authorities or to another party. The quality and effectiveness of cultural activities in local government, skills of employees, equality of residents and mutual cooperation between local authorities are all supported by such a responsibility for development.

The responsibility for development is voluntary for both local authorities and for any other parties. The party fulfilling the responsibility for development shall have diverse national or regional knowledge of cultural activities and sufficient competence for performing the duties.

## Section 7

### Cooperation

In order to promote the objectives of this Act and to perform the duties of local authorities, the different functions of the local authorities shall cooperate with each other.

Taking into account local circumstances and resources, local authorities shall promote activities which comply with the objectives and duties provided in this Act in cooperation with other local authorities, other authorities and the region, and with parties both in the field of culture and art and in other fields.

## Section 8

### Information provision and evaluation of activities

Information is provided and activities are evaluated in order to implement the objectives and perform the duties provided in this Act, and to develop the cultural activities in local government.

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for overseeing the development of national information provision and evaluation of activities. Local authorities contribute to the evaluation of the basic public services and, where necessary, to the provision of other information.

Local authorities are responsible for providing information on and evaluating their cultural activities. Local authorities shall evaluate the realisation of cultural activities as part of the assessment and monitoring of their local government strategy laid down in section 37 of the Local Government Act (1326/2010) and as part of the promotion of health and wellbeing referred to in section 12 of the Health Care Act (1326/2010).

The key findings of the evaluations shall be published.

## Section 9

### Central government transfers to local government

Provisions on the allocation of central government transfers to local government for the operating costs of cultural services in local government are laid down in the Act on Central Government Transfers to Local Government for Basic Public Services (1704/2009).

Within the limits of the appropriation entered in the Budget, the local authorities and the corporation or foundation engaged in and promoting cultural activities in local government may be granted discretionary government transfers for cultural activities or for the performance of the responsibility for development referred to in section 6, as laid down in the Act on the Financing of Educational and Cultural Activities (1705/2009). In addition, discretionary government transfers may be granted to local authorities or a corporation controlled by local authorities for investment projects to establish the premises necessary for cultural activities, as provided in the above-mentioned Act.

## Section 10

### Entry into force

This Act enters into force on 1 March 2019.

This Act repeals the Municipal Cultural Activities Act (728/1992).