

REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

# Protection of Heritage in Estonia in Times of Crisis

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**Heritage Conservation Act**

**Legal Deposit Copy Act**

**Museums Act**

# Heritage Conservation Act

The objective of Heritage Conservation Act is the preservation and diversity of cultural heritage, which is ensured with the following activities:

- 1) preservation and protection of cultural monuments, heritage conservation areas and the environments of cultural value surrounding thereof;
- 2) protection of archaeological finds and protected archaeological sites;

- A **monument** is a movable or immovable property of cultural value, a part thereof, a set of things, an area or structural complex that has been placed under state protection.
- There are 26 507 (13.04.2022) National monuments in Estonia.
  1. historical monuments
  2. archaeological monuments
  3. architectural monuments
  4. art monuments
  5. historical natural sacred sites
  6. technical monuments
  7. heritage conservation areas

The Heritage Conservation Act does not set any specific framework for risk management outside the fact that the preservation of monuments is an undisputable imperative.

# Legal Deposit Copy Act

Legal Deposit Copy Act provides for:

1. Submission and accessibility of Deposit Copies
2. Preservation and statistic of legal deposit copy

# Museums Act

Museums Act provides for:

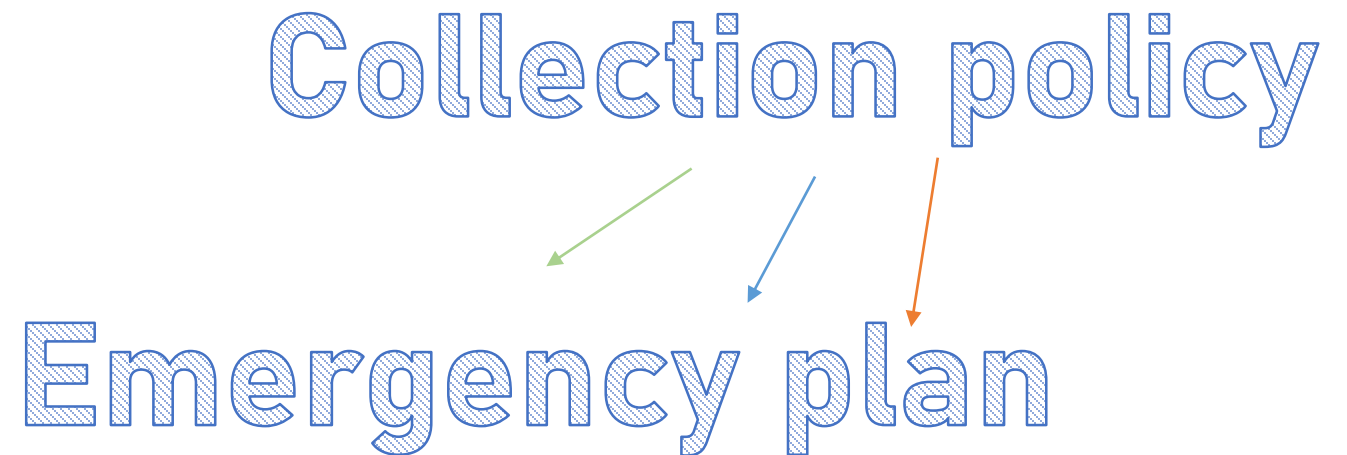
1. Definition of a museum
2. Bases for the management of the collections
3. Bases for the activities of the museum

# Procedure for Marking and Preservation of a Museum Object

§ 5. Principles of the Museum Collection Management (collection management policy)

(2) Among other, it is provided in the collection management policy:

7) the procedure for carrying out the risk analysis and the procedure for emergency planning and response





# Fire Safety Act

Requirements for fire safety self-inspection and fire safety report and mandatory criteria for preparation of fire safety report.

**Fire safety requirements for buildings and requirements for fire water supply.**

- Fire safety self-inspection report to the Rescue Board
- Operational chart for the Rescue Board

# Emergency plan

- Created in conjunction with the collection management policy, most museums will also possess a disaster preparedness and emergency response policy that outlines what procedures should be taken to prevent injury or loss of life for all personnel and building visitors, as well as how to minimize damages or loss to the collection.
- This plan often contains a section identifying potential risks for the collection
- The plan also outlines protocols for how to handle a disaster, starting with the chain of command within the emergency response team

# Improving the preparedness of heritage collections owners and holders I

Scenario-Based Learning – Annual National table-top exercise (TTX) for CH emergency in collaboration with the Estonian Rescue Board and the Estonian Police and Boarder Guard Board.

- Eye opener
- Overview of actual capacities, vulnerabilities, division of roles and coordination mechanisms in the organization
- Input for reviewed emergency plans
- Understanding cost and benefit of certain preventive or preparedness measures

# Improving the preparedness of heritage collections owners and holders II

## Scenario-Based Learning – Armed Conflict scenario

- Evacuation – limited or impossible
- If you are able to evacuate – what, how, and where will you take?
- Facility protection measures
- Self-sufficiency
- No guarantees

# Coordination with international conventions and collaboration with International organizations

- Protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict - UNESCO 1954 Hague Convention and its protocols
  - Since December 2019 Estonia is a member of the Subsidiary Committee
- Illicit trafficking of cultural property - The 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
- Active collaboration with ICCROM
- ICOM, ICOMOS

# Conclusion

- Inventories and documentation
- Priorities (national and institutional)
- Previous contacts and collaboration mechanisms (national and international)
- The basis for crises preparedness is preparedness for an isolated civil incident; preparedness for protection of cultural heritage in an armed conflict is built on that foundation.



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**Thank you!**