

Original article

## Selected areas and results of the activities of the National Institute of Cultural Heritage for the protection and care of monuments in the years 2015-2019

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### INFORMATION

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### ABSTRACT

In the article, the subject of considerations is the effects of actions of the National Institute of Cultural Heritage in selected areas of monument protection and care in the years 2015-2019. The undertaken subject corresponds to the protection of cultural heritage in the context of strengthening the cultural security of the Republic of Poland.

The purpose of the considerations is to present the results of the activities of the National Institute of Cultural Heritage in the system of protection and care of monuments in Poland, in the years 2015-2019, taking into account selected areas of task implementation by the cultural institution under study. The analysis is based on statistical data published by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as NID) in periodic and annual reports on the activities of the institution, in additional reports, as well as on scientific literature on the protection and care of historical monuments.

In the article, it was established that NID has carried out numerous activities for the protection and care of monuments, and thus the protection of cultural heritage in the context of strengthening the cultural security of the Republic of Poland. The main areas of activities of NID concerned maintaining records and documentation of monuments, monitoring and counteracting threats to cultural heritage, as well as performance of training and information tasks. Opinions and expertise issued for public administration bodies and the implementation of programmes for the protection and care of monuments were important.

### KEYWORDS

National Institute of Cultural Heritage, protection of monuments, Poland, monument



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## Introduction

The results of the management of cultural heritage, including protection and care of monuments, have a lasting impact on the condition and process of creating cultural security. Due to the extensive study of the issue of cultural security in the scientific literature [1, p. 34-35; 2, p. 77-82; 3, p. 223-225; 4, p. 194-195], the author does not refer to its definition or conditions. It should be emphasised that the selected subject is closely related to the area of cultural security in Poland after the year 1989. The functioning of similar institutions, such as the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (NID) under study, contributes to ensuring the performance of appropriate activities for the protection of cultural heritage. Protection and care of monuments is one of the specific areas in the activities of public administration bodies for the systemic protection of cultural heritage [5, p. 574-575].

After 1989, far-reaching changes took place in Poland in the areas of organisation of the protection and care of monuments, and thus the strengthening of cultural heritage [6, p. 75-91]. Organisational transformations in the field of functioning of state and self-government cultural institutions as well as care and protection of monuments turned out to be necessary. The issue of protection of cultural heritage got included in the provisions of constitutional rank under the Constitution of 1997 [7, p. 148]. It should be emphasised that in creating new and amending the existing law, the authorities had to take into account the phenomena of international exchange of cultural goods [8, p. 489] and crime the target of which are monuments [9, p. 238-239]. In creating the institutional and legal framework, it proved necessary to adapt the national legal order in the field of protection of cultural heritage to the norms of international law [10, p. 12-17].

The purpose of the article is to present the results of the activities of the National Institute of Cultural Heritage in the system of protection and care of monuments in Poland, in the years 2015-2019, taking into account selected areas of task implementation by the cultural institution under study. The comparison of empirical data on the effects of the activity of state cultural institutions may prove useful in the context of the analysis of the level of protection and care for monuments, and thus cultural security in Poland in recent years.

The following research problems are adopted in the article:

1. What is the genesis, legal status, mission and tasks of NID in the system of protection of cultural heritage in Poland?
2. What activities for the protection and care of monuments were performed by NID in the years 2015-2019?
3. What were the outcomes of funding the protection and care of monuments at the initiative of NID in the period under review?

A research hypothesis of the following content was put forward in the article: NID was the central institution in the system of protection of cultural heritage in Poland in the period under study, it was responsible for the implementation of various tasks for the protection and care of monuments.

### 1. Genesis, legal status, mission and tasks of NID

The National Institute of Cultural Heritage is a state cultural institution that reports directly to the Minister of Culture and National Heritage (hereinafter: MKiDN). It is the legal successor of Ośrodek Dokumentacji Zabytków (monuments documentation centre), which was

established in the early 1960s. In 2002, in connection with the merger with Ośrodek Ochrony Zabytkowego Krajobrazu (historic landscape protection centre), Ośrodek Dokumentacji Zabytków changed its name to Krajowy Ośrodek Badań i Dokumentacji Zabytków, KOBiDZ (national centre for research and documentation of monuments). Another organisational change was the incorporation of Ośrodek Ochrony Dziedzictwa Archeologicznego (centre for the protection of archaeological heritage) into KOBiDZ in 2007. The name National Institute of Cultural Heritage was given to the institution on 1 January 2011. It is a state cultural institution specialised in providing substantive support to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the General Conservator of Monuments, as well as voivodeship conservators of monuments. NID is listed in the National Registry of Cultural Property kept by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and has legal personality [11, p. 169-182].

Important legal bases relating to the functioning of NID in the system of protection and care of monuments include the Act of 25 October 1991 on organising and running cultural activities [12], the Act of 23 July 2003 on the protection and care of monuments [13], as well as numerous regulations and ordinances of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. Under the current legal framework, the Statute issued by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage on 30 January 2020 [14] is of particular importance for the functioning of NID. The Statute includes the mission (the main justification for the functioning of the institution), the scope of activities and the basic tasks of the Institute. The mission of NID is to initiate and implement activities related to the sustainable protection of cultural heritage in the territory of Poland to preserve it for future generations [14].

In turn, the scope of activities of NID includes the formulation and promotion of standards for the protection and conservation of monuments, the creation of social awareness for the preservation of cultural heritage and the collection and dissemination of knowledge on cultural heritage in society [14]. To achieve each of the above-mentioned assumptions, specific tasks were formed. The tasks include the formulation and dissemination of standards for research, documentation, conservation and digitisation of monuments in relation to archaeological, movable and non-movable monuments, participation in the evaluation and improvement of the system of protection and care of monuments, monitoring and undertaking analyses of threats to cultural heritage, including counteracting such threats. NID issues expertise and opinions on activities related to the protection and care of monuments undertaken by public administration bodies, as well as implements specialist training and information programmes for conservation services and other environments involved in the protection of cultural heritage. The competence of the institution also includes publishing and disseminating publications on the protection of cultural heritage and cooperation with owners and administrators of historical monuments. Equally important tasks of the NID include the implementation of programmes and social campaigns in education on cultural heritage and coordination of the procedure of applying to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for the recognition of a non-movable monument as a historic landmark by the President of the Republic of Poland. Finally, NID is responsible for collecting and managing the documentation of the register of monuments and the National Registry of Cultural Property, including the recording of archaeological research in Poland [14]. It is difficult to disagree with the position expressed in the scientific literature, according to which NID is currently the most important institution in the field of collecting and managing of complete source material related to non-movable, movable and archaeological monuments [15, p. 117]. Documenting monuments remained one of the elementary areas of the activity of NID after the reform in 2011 [16, p. 49].

## 2. Results of activities in the area of collecting and managing documentation of the register of monuments and the National Registry of Cultural Property

The analysis of the results of activities undertaken by NID in the period from 2015 to 2019, should begin with the presentation of data related to the implementation of the task of collecting and managing the documentation of the register of monuments, including the National Registry of Cultural Property. Table 1 includes only newly adopted and developed documents for each subsequent year covered by the time horizon under assessment.

As can be seen in Table 1, in the analysed period, NID adopted and prepared new decisions on entry to the register of monuments at the level of 633 to 783 decisions per year, with a negative dynamics of less than 2% revealed for the whole time horizon. The number of decisions on removal from the register of monuments adopted and prepared for documentation purposes varied from 51 to 159 per year, with a negative dynamics of over 8%. There was a similar trend with regard to the adoption and preparation of refusals to remove from the register of monuments – their number ranged from 112 to 135 per year. In the period under assessment, apart from the year 2017, the number of refusals to remove from the register of monuments significantly exceeded the number of decisions related to the removal from this register. It was noted in the scientific literature that the head of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage was reluctant to issue decisions to remove a monument from the register due to the loss of historical value of such a monument [18, p. 22]. Consequently, this translated into a relatively similar workload for NID related to the implementation of the described task in the years 2015-2019. Moreover, the number of decisions, official information and other documents adopted and prepared by NID to support the process of maintaining the register of monuments has decreased by more than half.

**Table 1.** The number of newly adopted and developed documents within the framework of tasks of NID related to the collection and maintenance of documentation of the register of monuments in the years 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Amendment (%)
New decisions on entry in the register of monuments	645	642	783	644	633	-1.87
Decisions to remove from the register of monuments	62	71	159	51	57	-8.07
Refusal to remove from the register of monuments	128	114	135	112	117	-8.86
Provisions, official information and other documents related to the maintenance of the register of monuments	592	483	376	394	294	-50.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>-22.85</b>

Source: Own elaboration based on [17].

In the operation of NID, an activity became visible that consisted in the collection and management of the documentation of the National Registry of Cultural Property (Table 2).

As can be seen from Table 2, in the period under study, the number of new monument registration cards accepted by NID related to the collection and management of the documents of the National Registry of Cultural Property declined. While more than 16,100 registration cards were accepted in 2015, the number decreased to 13,200 in 2019, by approximately 18%. That trend was the result of a decline, in particular, the number of new registration cards of archaeological monuments (down by over 58%) and movable monuments (down by nearly 22%). The number of new registration cards for documenting architectural monuments in the National Registry of Cultural Property increased more than 2.2 times. There was a significant increase in the number of new registration cards for historic cemeteries, however, it should be remembered that cemeteries constituted a marginal share in the structure of all described monuments listed in the National Registry of Cultural Property (at the level of 0.2% in 2019). As a result of the described activities, NID was engaged in maintaining the archives of the registration cards [19, p. 38].

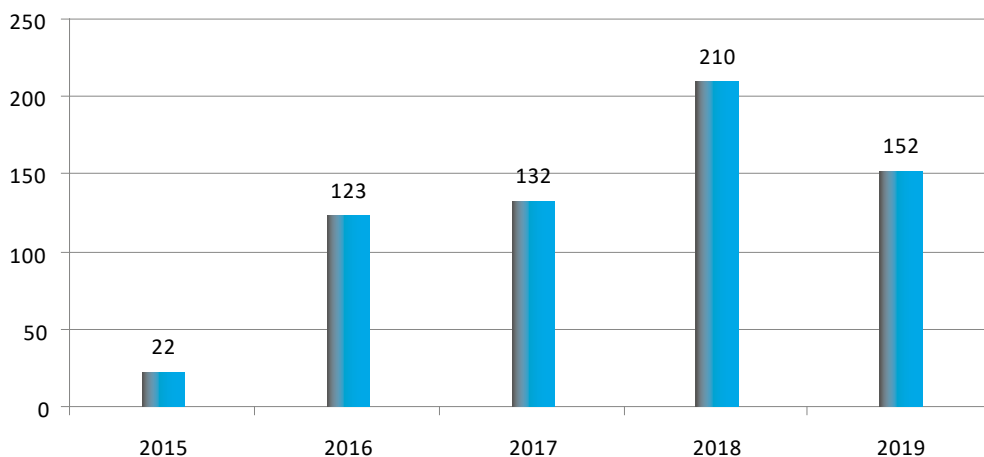
While performing its activities, NID supported the Voivodeship Offices of Monuments Preservation in terms of keeping records and managing documentation of historic resources in each of the voivodeships (Fig. 1).

Based on Figure 1, in the period from 2015 to 2019, there was a significant increase in the number of registration cards of historical objects prepared by the employees of NID as part of the support for the Voivodeship Offices of Monuments Preservation (hereinafter: WUOZ). While only 22 such registration cards were prepared in 2015, there were already 152 such cards prepared for the purpose of recording and documenting historical resources in 2019. It should be stated that, in the long term, the above-mentioned task could have contributed to the reduction of the number of errors and irregularities in the process of registration of historic resources in individual voivodeships. During the audit conducted by the Supreme Audit Office, it was revealed that such errors occurred in the case of 7 out of 50 entries in the register of monuments in 2015, at the same time, some negligence on the part of WUOZ in the field of counteracting the deteriorating condition of some monuments was noticed

**Table 2.** New registration cards of monuments adopted by NID in the period from 2015 to 2019, as part of the implementation of the task of the collection and management of the documentation of the National Registry of Cultural Property

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Amendment (%)
Architectural monuments	1,638	784	4,108	1,149	3,628	+221.48
Movable monuments	9,645	5,382	12,984	6,606	7,529	-21.94
Archaeological monuments	4,859	5,382	4,116	581	2,019	-58.45
Historical cemeteries	4	0	34	50	30	+750.00
Historical parks and gardens	8	0	42	0	9	+12.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,154</b>	<b>12,318</b>	<b>21,284</b>	<b>8,386</b>	<b>13,215</b>	<b>-18.20</b>

Source: Own elaboration based on [17].



**Fig. 1.** The number of registration cards of historic buildings prepared by the employees of NID as part of the support of the Voivodeship Offices of Monuments Preservation, in the years 2015-2019

*Source: Own elaboration based on [17].*

[20, p. 19]. Updating the records on the voivodeship historic resources could not have been related and thus could not have contributed to reducing other difficulties in the activities of WUOZ. One should mention, in particular, shortages of staff, insufficient financial resources for the protection of monuments, lack of a comprehensive procedure to be followed by WUOZ in the event of crisis situations related to monuments [21].

It should be remembered that in addition to the task discussed above, NID kept records of archaeological research carried out on the territory of Poland based on decisions issued by voivodeship conservators of monuments. The purpose of the described activity on the part of NID was to obtain information on the state of archaeological heritage in Poland, taking into account the perspective of more effective protection of such heritage in the future. Over the years under study, more than 34.4 thousand decisions of voivodeship conservators of monuments were adopted, with the number significantly increasing in each subsequent year (from 3,734 in 2015 to almost 10 thousand in 2019) [17]. In the literature on the subject, it was noted that the tasks of the employees of NID included the identification of “incomplete or defective administrative decisions, preventing the proper protection of positions” [22, p. 79]. The above-mentioned area of implementation of tasks by NID should be considered important for increasing the possibilities of protecting archaeological monuments in Poland.

### 3. Monitoring and counteracting threats to cultural heritage

In the period from 2015 to 2019, NID was involved in activities including monitoring and countering broadly-understood threats to cultural heritage on the territory of Poland. In particular, the above included counteracting the phenomenon of crime in the area of monuments as a serious threat to cultural heritage [9, p. 249]. Often, the target of such crime are archaeological monuments, and the protection and care of monuments requires the cooperation of conservation services, cultural institutions, law enforcement entities and the judicial system [23]. The main outcomes of the involvement of NID in the described area of task implementation are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Monitoring and analysis of threats, including crime, in the field of preservation of monuments performed by NID in the years 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Amendment (%)
Field inspections of monuments subject to the procedure of removal from the register of monuments	120	137	137	104	160	+33.33
The number of archived suspicious online auctions on the antique market	700	265	186	110	73	-89.58
The number of cases of suspected violation of heritage protection laws reported to the police	13	23	6	9	1	-66.67
The number of training courses for police officers on counteracting crime in the area of monuments	0	1	11	7	7	-

Source: Own elaboration based on [17].

As can be seen from Table 3, in the period from 2015 to 2019, 658 field inspections of monuments subjected to the administrative procedure of removal from the register of monuments was carried out on the initiative of NID. The purpose was to assess the historic value of the examined objects and to provide an expert opinion to the General Cultural Property Conservator. The number of performed field inspections increased steadily, not taking into account the short-term decline in the years 2017-2018. With regard to the analysed years, the positive dynamics was at the level of 33%.

On the initiative of the employees of NID, the online antique market was monitored to reveal illegal trade in antiques. Over the period from 2015 to 2019, 1,334 online auctions were archived for that purpose, while the importance of the described activities decreased steadily. While 700 online auctions were analysed in 2015, only 73 were analysed in 2019. This was a negative trend. It is emphasised that, in the period under study, the threat of supplying the antique market with illegal items that could be considered valuable antiques increased significantly [24, p. 151-152].

With regard to the activities of NID, there was a significant decrease in the number of cases of suspected violation of heritage protection laws reported to the police. The number of notifications changed unevenly – from 23 in 2016 to 1 in 2019. The results can be explained by the lack of grounds for determining the possibility of committing a crime in the case of the majority of the monitored auctions on the online antique market. A total of 52 cases were reported in the years under review. The decline in the interest in online auctions and the resulting decrease in the number of cases reported to law enforcement entities is a negative trend in the context of the possibility of more effective detection of prohibited acts against monuments. It is difficult to state whether the observed changes are due to the possible decrease in the significance of the described crime. According to the literature on the subject, that phenomenon is characterised by a rather constant or – in certain periods – increasing dynamics since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century [9, p. 244; 25, p. 158; 26, p. 85-86].

Moreover, the number of training courses for police officers on counteracting crime in the area of monuments varied unevenly. In the period from 2015 to 2019, NID conducted

26 training courses for the representatives of police services in the country, with the largest number of the courses, 11, in 2017. In 2017, 4 thematic training courses were conducted for the Supreme Audit Office and, in 2019, 4 training courses were organised for students of the Institute of Archeology at the University of Warsaw, including a series of meetings for the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways to discuss current issues in the field of road archaeology.

It is worth mentioning that NID coordinated the programme of preventing and combating crime against archaeological heritage, and had the right to act as one of the active parties contributing to the effective cooperation of the General Conservator of Monuments and the Chief of Police in the field of preventing and eliminating crime against monuments [27]. This was undoubtedly an important factor in the context of the involvement of NID in the process of preventing crime against monuments.

It should be remembered that NID was to provide, if required, assistance in the interventions of the police in criminal cases, and to prepare legal opinions on the protection of monuments for the purposes of criminal proceedings. An equally important area of operation of NID was the coordination of cooperation between museums, conservation services, police officers, Border Guards and the Customs (the National Revenue Administration since 2017) in preventing crime and combating threats to archaeological monuments. In the above-mentioned area, NID organised training for employees of museums and conservation entities. The scientific literature emphasises the special role of this institution in combating crime in the area of monument protection, mainly archaeological monuments [28, p. 196].

#### **4. Issuing opinions and expertise on activities related to monuments for public administration bodies, with particular emphasis on conservation entities**

In the period under study, another task performed by NID was issuing opinions and expertise for public administration bodies to improve the level of protection and care of monuments in Poland. The above included substantive support for conservation services. The results in the field of the described support are presented in Table 4.

Based on the data in Table 4, it can be established that in the years 2015-2019, NID issued 2,593 opinions, including expert opinions, to public administration bodies involved in the protection and care of monuments; the majority of the opinions were for to the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways (hereinafter: GDDKiA) (897), followed by opinions for voivodeship conservators of monuments (760) and the General Conservator of Monuments (760). 205 opinions and expertise were issued to conservators of monuments operating within local governments and 53 opinions to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage related to the award of prizes for the accidental discovery of an archaeological monument. In the period under review, a downward trend was observed in terms of the total number of issued opinions, as well as the number of opinions issued to each of the above-mentioned public administration bodies. Particularly noteworthy is the drop by almost half of the number of approved activities in the context of the functioning of conservators of monuments that operate within local governments.

In the analysed period, the share of opinions and expertise issued by NID for conservation bodies increased compared to the number of opinions and expertise issued for other public administration bodies (such as the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and GDDKiA). In



**Table 4.** Effects of NID support in the form of issuing opinions and expertise to public administration bodies within the framework of protection and care of monuments in the years 2015-2019

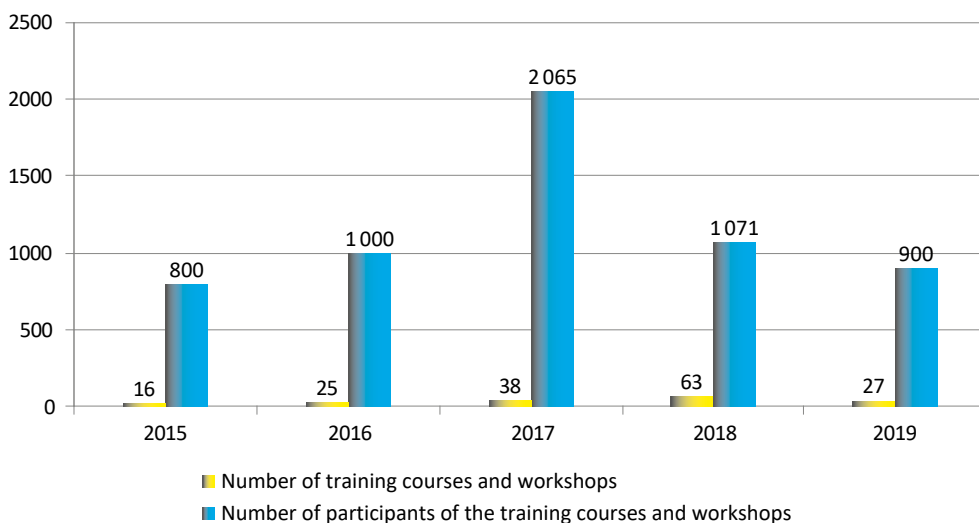
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Amendment (%)
The number of opinions issued for the General Conservator of Monuments	131	130	168	126	123	-6.11
The number of opinions issued for voivodeship conservators of monuments	169	149	157	145	140	-27.16
The number of opinions issued for conservators of monuments that operate within local governments	64	38	40	30	33	-48.44
The number of opinions issued for the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways	160	228	260	136	113	-29.38
The number of opinions issued for the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage on the award of prizes for the accidental discovery of an archaeological monument	8	27	18	0	0	-100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>-23.13</b>
Share of opinions issued to conservation authorities in the total number of issued opinions (in %)	68.42	55.41	56.76	68.87	72.37	-

Source: Own elaboration based on [17].

2015, opinions and expert opinions issued for conservation authorities accounted for more than 68%, in 2019 – it was less than 72.5% of all opinions and expert opinions issued by NID. A conclusion can be drawn that, taking into account activities of NID, expert opinions and support for public administration bodies mainly involved conservation bodies. This support was important as it was primarily provided for WUOZ, in the face of the aforementioned limitations in the functioning of voivodeship conservation services.

Figure 2 presents the results of training and information activities for conservation authorities carried out by NID over the period under assessment.

Based on Figure 2, in the years 2015-2019, on the initiative of NID, 169 specialist training courses and workshops were organised related to the implementation of training and information programmes developed by the cultural institution under study. The number of training courses and workshops varied unevenly, from 16 to 63 per year. The training courses and workshops were attended by a total of over 5,800 participants, who represented conservation bodies in Poland. The number of conducted training courses and workshops ranged from 800 in 2015 to over 2,000 in 2017. Training courses and workshops were another forms of manifestation of support for conservation services that operate within the state and, above all, local governments, with the possibility of participation of representatives of the society,



**Fig. 2.** Effects of implementation by NID of specialised training and information programmes for conservation authorities and entities involved in the protection of historic monuments in the years 2015-2019

*Source: Own elaboration based on [29, p. 33-34].*

such as non-governmental organisations involved in activities for the protection and care of monuments [30, p. 51-52].

## 5. Organisation of activities for the protection of cultural heritage in the form of financing programmes for the protection and care of historical monuments

In the years 2015-2019, the functioning of NID was largely related to the implementation of individual programmes for the protection and care of historical monuments. This was the result of the implementation of tasks commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the General Conservator of Monuments, as well as of own tasks. In the first of the above-mentioned areas, the activities of NID involved the implementation and co-ordination of the performance of tasks within the “National Programme for the Protection of Monuments and the Care of Monuments for 2014-2017”. The budget of the Programme was PLN 26,037,205 [31]. It is worth mentioning that starting from the second half of 2019, the above-mentioned Programme was continued in Poland in the form of the “National Programme for the Protection of Monuments and the Care of Monuments for 2019-2022”. Pursuant to the resolution of the Council of Ministers on the latter, it was to serve as a strategic document in the field of involvement of public administration, its subordinate institutions and services in monument protection and care. The budget of the Programme was 25,617,089 PLN, of which only 7.47% was going to be used as per the financial plan for the implementation of projects in 2019. The results of the Programme extended beyond the period under study.

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and on behalf of NID, a programme “Protection of Archaeological Monuments” was implemented. The effects of the Programme are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Effects of the implementation of the Programme of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage “Protection of Archaeological Monuments” in the years 2015-2019

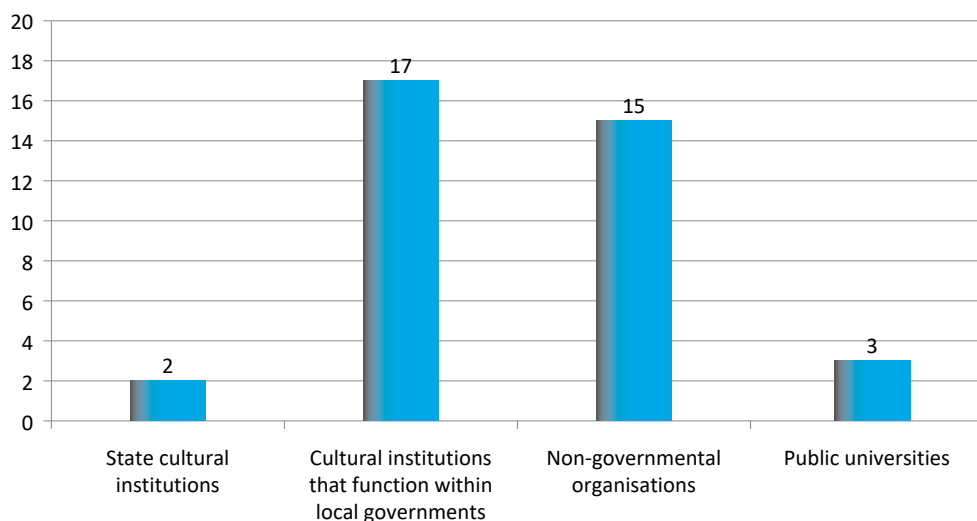
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Amendment (%)
The number of submitted applications	112	81	80	86	71	-36.71
The number of applications approved after an initial formal assessment	107	81	71	78	no data	-27.11
The number of applications, based on which funding was received (taking into account the results of the appeal procedure)	40	37	37	35	36	-10.00
Budget for the implementation of the programme (in PLN million)	2.171	2.209	2.3	2.3	2.3	+5.94

Source: Own elaboration based on [17].

As can be seen from Table 5, in the analysed years, a total of 430 applications were submitted under the programme “Protection of Archaeological Monuments”, 337 of which was approved after the formal assessment. In subsequent years, the number of submitted applications, including those that were approved after the formal assessment, generally declined. A similar number of projects received funding in each of the years under study – the number ranged from 35 in 2018 to 40 in 2015. The percentage of co-financed projects in relation to the total number of submitted applications was 35.7% in 2015, while that percentage was 50.7% in 2019. The effectiveness of individual institutions in obtaining funds from NID for the implementation of projects related to the protection and care of archaeological monuments was increasing. As part of its operation, NID managed to increase the budget allocated to the described activity – from PLN 2.1 million in 2015 to PLN 2.3 million in each subsequent year, starting from 2017. Figure 3 shows the legal and organisational forms of entities that managed to obtain funding from NID under the Programme. The situation in 2017 was taken as representative.

Based on the data in Figure 3, the Programme “Protection of Archaeological Monuments” was addressed mainly to cultural institutions that function within local governments (45.9% of entities) and non-governmental organisations (40.5% of entities). Also, public universities (8.2% of entities) and state cultural institutions (5.4% of entities) benefited from the financial resources.

Starting from 2016, on the initiative of NID, a proprietary programme was implemented under the name Together for Heritage (Wspólnie dla dziedzictwa). In the years 2016-2017, the programme operated under the name Volunteering for heritage (Wolontariat dla dziedzictwa). The beneficiaries of the programme could be organisations from the non-governmental sector, i.e. associations and foundations that implemented tasks that involved popularising and identification of Polish cultural heritage, including maintenance of documentation of cultural heritage. Projects that involved the performance of inventory works, keeping records and cleaning works related to the maintenance of monuments were co-financed. Equally important was support for educational projects that involved the promotion of knowledge about the cultural heritage of the Republic of Poland [33, p. 9]. The programme was a form of a manifestation of support for non-governmental organisations that were involved in the development of Polish national heritage after the year 2016 [34, p. 2]. Table 6 contains data on the effects of the Programme.



**Fig. 3.** Legal and organisational forms of beneficiaries of projects co-financed under the Programme “Protection of Archaeological Monuments” in 2017

Source: Own elaboration based on [29, p. 33-34].

Based on Table 6, in the period from 2016 to 2019, 531 applications were received under the Programme, of which 419 were approved after the formal assessment. In both categories, the number of submitted applications increased steadily (by over 264% and 356%, respectively). Ultimately, 134 projects included in the applications submitted by non-governmental organisations obtained financing, that is, 33 projects per year, on average. The percentage of co-financed projects in relation to the total number of submitted applications was 41.1% in 2016, while that percentage was 20.2% in 2019. The decline can be explained by a large increase of applications from non-governmental organisations, with the limited budget of the Programme at the same time. To keep up with the growing interest, NID increased funding from PLN 723,000 in 2016 to PLN 1 million in 2019.

**Table 6.** The effects of the implementation of the NID Programme “Together for Heritage” in the years 2016-2019

	2016	2017	2018	2019	Amendment (%)
The number of submitted applications	73	114	151	193	+264.38
The number of applications approved after an initial formal assessment	46	94	115	164	+356.52
The number of applications, based on which funding was received (taking into account the results of the appeal procedure)	30	39	35	30	0.00
Budget for the implementation of the programme (in PLN million)	0.723	0.921	1.0	1.0	+38.31

Source: own elaboration based on: [17].

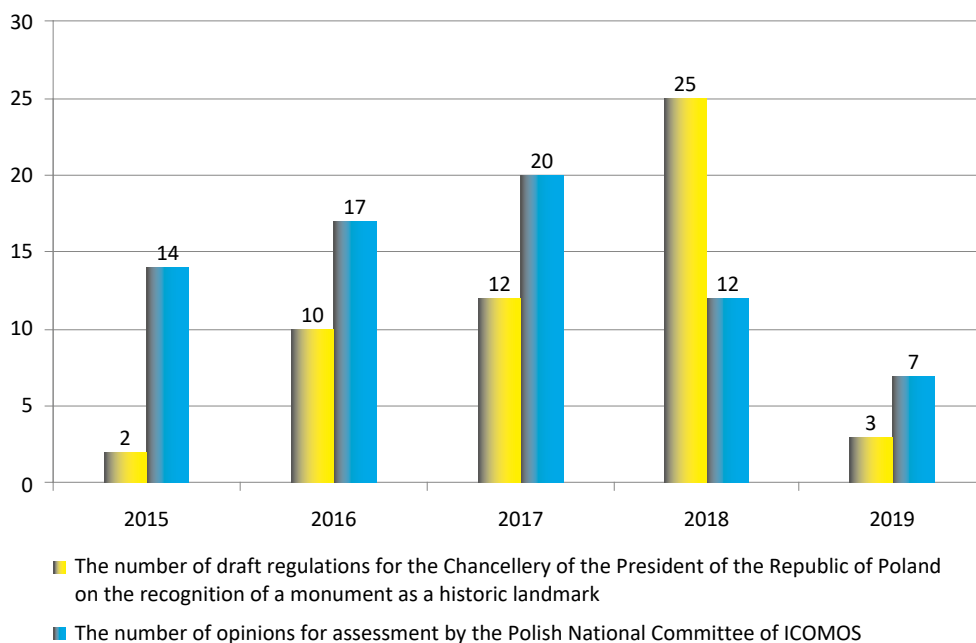
## 6. NID supports activities for the protection of monuments in the form of historic landmarks

In the period under study, on the initiative of NID the procedure of recognising a non-movable monument as a historic landmark was coordinated (Fig. 4).

Based on Figure 4, over the years 2015-2019, NID presented to the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland 52 draft regulations on the recognition of individual non-movable monuments as historic landmarks and 70 draft opinions to be assessed by the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS related to objects waiting to be granted the status of a historic landmark. In the period from 2015 to 2018, the number of draft regulations of the President of the Republic of Poland was systematically increasing (from 2 to 25), and in the period from 2015 to 2017, the number of opinions prepared for the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS (from 14 to 20) also increased. In 2019, much worse results were achieved in both of the above-mentioned areas – 3 draft regulations and 7 opinions to be assessed by the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS, respectively. The trend may have been influenced by external factors, independent of the activities of NID, for example, a lower number of applications from relevant entities to recognise a given monument as a historic landmark.

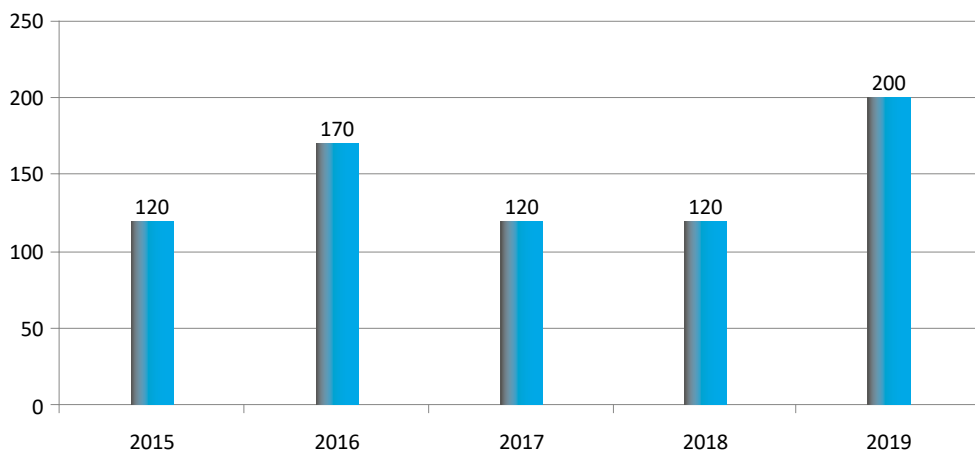
Under the patronage of the NID, periodical meetings of entities in charge of historical monuments were organised, with the goal to strengthen the role of the described form of monument protection [35, p. 24]. Figure 5 shows the data on the number of participants in such meetings.

As shown in Figure 5, in the years 2015-2019, 730 persons took part in the meetings of entities in charge of historical monuments, the largest number of participants was recorded in



**Fig. 4.** The effects of coordination by NID of the implementation of the procedure to recognise a non-movable monument as a historic landmark in the years 2015-2019

*Source: Own elaboration based on [17].*



**Fig. 5.** Number of participants in cyclical meetings of entities in charge of historical monuments organised by NID in the years 2015-2019

*Source: Own elaboration based on [17].*

2019 – 200 persons. The meetings enjoyed relatively steady interest and attracted at least 120 persons each year. In the scientific literature, there are critical comments on the legal status of a historic landmark as a form of monument protection. The under-financing of that form of monument protection is emphasised, as well as the lack of appropriate measures that would guarantee the protection of historic landmarks and the ambiguity of the criteria for removal of a monument from the list of historic landmarks. The lack of a qualified form of the offence of destroying or damaging a monument in relation to a historic landmark was noticed and the relatively low requirements in terms of legal criteria for recognising a monument as a historic landmark, which affects the prestige of that legal status [36, p. 50-61]. During the meetings of entities in charge of historical monuments organised by NID, none of the above-mentioned issues were raised in the context of giving opinions on specific legislative changes and improvements. It is an argument in favour of maintaining a critical view on the legal status of a historic landmark and also the postulated direction of the discussion that should take place during the meetings of entities in charge of historical monuments in the future.

## Summary and conclusions

Based on the analysis included in the article, the following final conclusions can be listed:

1. In the period from 2015 to 2019, activities of NID for the protection and the care of monuments covered various areas important for strengthening the level of protection of cultural heritage on the territory of the Republic of Poland.
2. The most important tasks implemented by NID included the collection and management of documentation for the register of historical monuments and the National Registry of Cultural Property, providing support for WUOZ, monitoring and counteracting threats to cultural heritage, the implementation of training and information programmes for conservation authorities and entities involved in the care of historical monuments, and support of initiatives the purpose of which was to protect historical monuments in the form of historic landmarks.

3. Financing the protection and care of monuments by NID included the implementation and coordination of government programmes and own programmes prepared by the institution. NID coordinated two editions of the “National Programme for the Protection of Monuments and the Care of Monuments”, as well as the “Protection of Archaeological Monuments” Programme. In the analysed field of cultural security, an initiative of significant importance introduced by NID was the “Together for heritage” (“Volunteering for heritage”) programme.
4. Among the problem areas in terms of the effects of the implementation of tasks by NID, one should mention the decreasing activity of the institution in archiving suspicious online auctions on the antique market and reporting to the police cases of suspected violation of regulations related to the protection of monuments. An equally important factor that weakened the effects of activities of NID was the reduction of activity in the field of issuing opinions and expertise to public administration bodies on the protection and care of monuments.

The functioning of such cultural institutions as NID is essential for the implementation of diverse tasks in the field of protection and care for monuments. It is an element of the protection of cultural heritage in the context of strengthening the cultural security of the Republic of Poland. Activities of NID are not limited to the maintenance of, and providing access to, archived collections but are extended to many other areas. The strong position of NID in the system of protection of the national heritage of Poland in the period from 2015 to 2019 should be recognised.

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### **Conflict of interests**

The author declared no conflict of interests.

### **Author contributions**

The author contributed to the interpretation of results and writing of the paper. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

### **Ethical statement**

The research complies with all national and international ethical requirements.

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## Biographical note

**Tomasz Landmann** – doctor of humanities in the field of history. A museologist, a curator of the Museum of Land Forces in Wrocław in the years 1998-2006. His area of scientific interest includes issues related to national security, contemporary history, cultural security. An author of numerous publications on cultural security and protection of cultural assets.

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### Wybrane obszary i rezultaty działań Narodowego Instytutu Dziedzictwa na rzecz ochrony zabytków i opieki nad zabytkami w latach 2015-2019

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#### STRESZCZENIE

Przedmiotem rozważań w artykule jest problematyka efektów działań podjętych przez Narodowy Instytut Dziedzictwa w wybranych obszarach ochrony zabytków i opieki nad zabytkami w latach 2015-2019. Podejmowana tematyka koresponduje z ochroną dziedzictwa kulturowego w kontekście wzmocnienia bezpieczeństwa kulturowego RP. Celem rozważań jest przedstawienie rezultatów działań NID w systemie ochrony i opieki nad zabytkami w Polsce w latach 2015-2019, z uwzględnieniem wybranych dziedzin realizacji zadań przez opisywaną instytucję kultury.

Analizę oparto na danych statystycznych opublikowanych przez Narodowy Instytut Dziedzictwa w okresowych, rocznych sprawozdaniach z działalności instytucji, dodatkowych raportach, a ponadto na literaturze naukowej z problematyki ochrony i opieki nad zabytkami.

W artykule ustalono, że NID realizował liczne działania na rzecz ochrony i opieki nad zabytkami, a tym samym ochrony dziedzictwa kulturowego w kontekście wzmocnienia bezpieczeństwa kulturowego RP. Główne obszary działań NID dotyczyły ewidencjonowania i dokumentowania zabytków, monitorowania i przeciwdziałania zagrożeniom dla dziedzictwa kulturowego, a także realizowania zadań szkoleniowo-informacyjnych.

Ważne były wydawane opinie i ekspertyzy dla organów administracji publicznej i realizacja programów na rzecz ochrony i opieki nad zabytkami.

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