



# FRH Inform

AN OVERVIEW  
ON THE STATE  
OF RELIGIOUS  
HERITAGE IN  
EUROPE

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## AUSTRIA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**8,884,864**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

There are currently 16 legally recognised religious communities in Austria. Among these recognised religions, the Catholic Church is the religion followed by the majority of Austrians (57%). (2018 est.).

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**8,000**

Catholic

**283**

Protestant

**47**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**205**

Mosques 4



Synagogues

**5**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**8,500**

 **AUSTRIA** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



**Monuments<sup>a</sup>**

**8,700**  
Places of  
worship

**600**  
Abbeys



**Cultural Properties<sup>a,b</sup>**

**>100**  
Churches

**37**  
Abbeys

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**1**  
Synagogue

**14**  
Chapels



**International (UNESCO)<sup>c</sup>**

**10**  
Churches

**1**  
Abbey

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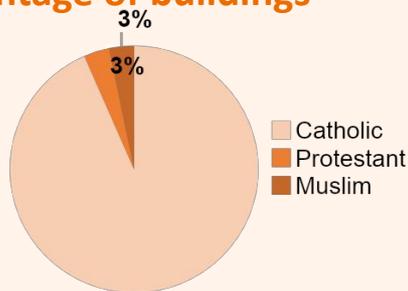
**1**  
Synagogue

<sup>a</sup> It is the **Bundesdenkmalamt (BDA)** that keeps lists of both monuments and cultural properties at the federal level (<https://bda.gv.at/denkmalverzeichnis/>)

<sup>b</sup> Includes religious buildings contained in architectural ensembles (castles, historic city centre, etc.)

<sup>c</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (City of Graz, Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg, Historic Centre of Vienna)

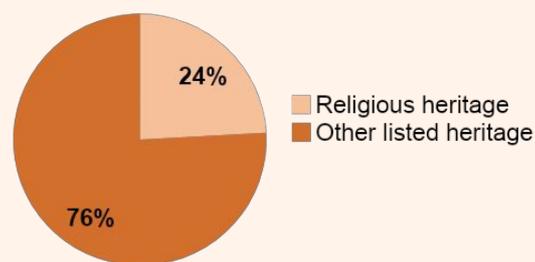
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the monuments\*\***



\*\*List of monuments according to § 3 DMSG (Monument Protection Act)



## AUSTRIA

### Ownership

As autonomous entities, religious organisations own the places of worship. The Catholic church is one of the biggest landowners of Austria, just behind public institutions. It owns about a quarter of a million hectares of land in the country. Half of the listed buildings in Austria belong to the Catholic church<sup>1</sup>.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

In Austria, the protection of cultural heritage rests on a two-tier structure: the Federal Office of Monuments (*Bundesdenkmalamt* or BDA), under the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture, and the Provincial Conservators (*Landeskonservatoren*) charged with the practical implementation of the policy on monument protection, attached to the provincial governments.

#### Cultural heritage

Protected buildings include :

- Cultural properties (*Kulturgüterschutzliste*)
- Monuments (*Denkmalliste*)

The sites under protection according to the Austrian Monument Protection Act (DMSG) are listed in the list of monuments. The list of protected cultural property refers to the Hague Convention of 1954. This international agreement, which Austria ratified in 1964, regulates the international protection of cultural property in the case of armed conflicts between states. In Austria, the BDA is in charge of selecting these objects (§13 DMSG).

Monuments and Cultural properties enjoy the same level of protection in Austria. Following the guidelines of The Hague convention, the Cultural properties have to be listed as monuments. The BDA is in charge of the protection of these two categories of buildings (in cooperation with the Ministry of defence in the case of the Cultural properties).

In Austria, monument status automatically comes into force if the sole or predominant owner of a building is a legally recognised church (through a contractual arrangement) or religious community.

Within the framework of monument protection there is an obligation to maintain the monument in good condition, but construction or restoration measures cannot be ordered by the BDA. However, the BDA can encourage preliminary investigations as well as works and measures in the sense of monument preservation. It is also important to note that the protection of monuments does not limit prior use, and its owner is not obliged to make the monument accessible to the public<sup>2</sup>.

#### Financing

At the federal level, responsibility for the preservation of monuments, and funds for maintaining it are accessible through the BDA<sup>3</sup>, the specialised federal authority that studies, maintains and protect Austria's cultural heritage.

The Provinces of Austria have responsibility over 'matters of regional planning and development, conservation of nature and landscape protection', and therefore heritage. Each Province has its own cultural strategy, and funds for its implementation. The culture department of each administration provides detailed information on the matter of monument preservation (*Denkmalpflege*) or cultural heritage (*Baukulturelle Erbe*): Burgenland<sup>4</sup>, Carinthia<sup>5</sup>, Lower Austria<sup>6</sup>, Upper Austria<sup>7</sup>, Salzburg<sup>8</sup>, Styria<sup>9</sup>, Tyrol<sup>10</sup>, Vorarlberg<sup>11</sup>, Vienna<sup>12</sup>.

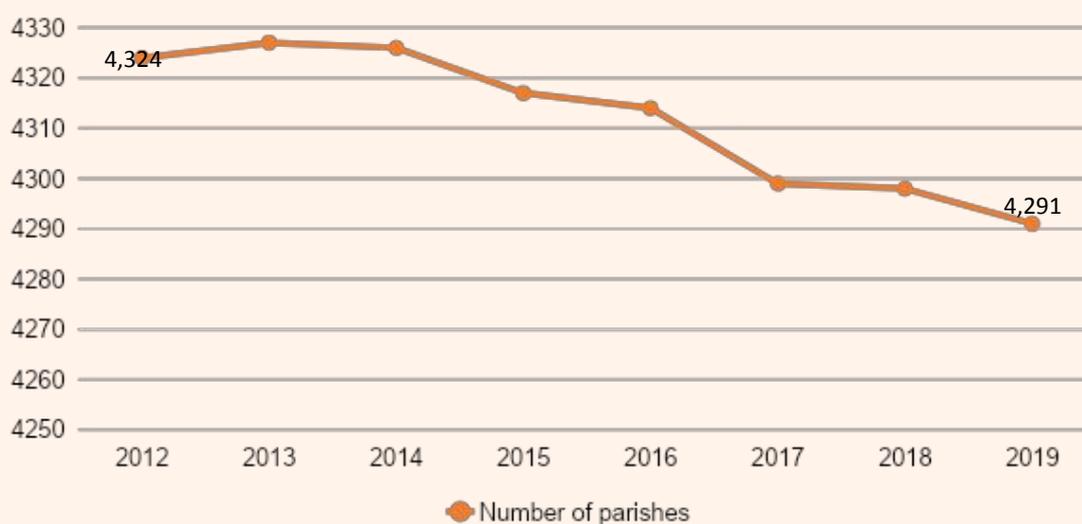


**AUSTRIA**

### Threats to the sector

Austria does not face massive church closures. 30% of the population still attends church on a monthly basis; one of the highest rates among western European countries. Nevertheless, the Catholic Church is trying to initiate reforms that would merge parishes, in order to meet the number of members required for a parish to exist.

### Decrease in the number of Catholic parishes



Source: Katholische Kirche Österreich, 'Kirchliche Statistik'



## AUSTRIA

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Ordensgemeinschaften Österreich, Die Ordensgemeinschaften Österreichs tragen wesentlich zum Erhalt von Kulturgütern bei (<https://www.ordensgemeinschaften.at/artikel/4353-dieordensgemeinschaften-oesterreichs-tragen-wesentlich-zum-erhalt-von-kulturguetern-bei>)

<sup>2</sup> Bundesdenkmalamt Österreich, Welche Konsequenzen hat der Denkmalschutz? (<https://bda.gv.at/service/haeufige-fragen/#welche-konsequenzen-hat-der-denkmalschutz>)

<sup>3</sup> Bundesdenkmalamt Österreich, Förderungen (<https://bda.gv.at/foerderungen/>)

<sup>4</sup> BURGENLAND.AT, Förderungen Land Burgenland - Abteilung 7

(<https://www.burgenland.at/themen/kultur/kulturfoerderungen/foerderungen-landburgenland-abteilung-7/>)

<sup>5</sup> Kulturchannel.at, Förderungen (<https://www.kulturchannel.at/foerderungen/>)

<sup>6</sup> Land Niederösterreich, Denkmalpflege – Förderung ([http://www.noel.gv.at/noe/KunstKultur/Foerd\\_Denkmalpflege.html](http://www.noel.gv.at/noe/KunstKultur/Foerd_Denkmalpflege.html))

<sup>7</sup> Land Oberösterreich, Denkmalpflege (<https://www.landoberoesterreich.gv.at/196230.htm>)

<sup>8</sup> Land Salzburg (<https://www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/kultur/kulturfoerderungen/foerderstatistik-likus/>)

<sup>9</sup> Land Steiermark, Kultur- und Kunstförderungen (<http://www.kultur.steiermark.at/cms/beitrag/10084699/44834960/>)

<sup>10</sup> Land Tirol, Baukulturelles Erbe – Denkmalschutz (<https://www.tirol.gv.at/kunstkultur/kulturfoerderungen/foerderung/>)

<sup>11</sup> Vorarlberg, Baukulturelles Erbe – Denkmalschutz Förderung ([https://vorarlberg.at/web/landvorarlberg/contentdetailseite/-/asset\\_publisher/qA6AJ38txu0k/content/baukulturelles-erbedenkmalschutz-foerderung?article\\_id=151322](https://vorarlberg.at/web/landvorarlberg/contentdetailseite/-/asset_publisher/qA6AJ38txu0k/content/baukulturelles-erbedenkmalschutz-foerderung?article_id=151322))

<sup>12</sup> Stadt Wien, Wiener Altstadterhaltungsfonds – Förderungsantrag (<https://www.wien.gv.at/amtshelfer/kultur/projekte/subventionen/altstadterhaltungsfonds.html>)

### Articles

Theodosios TSIVOLA (2014) 'Law and Religious Cultural Heritage in Europe', Springer Verlag, p. 126 f.

### Webpages

Austria-Forum, Klöster (<https://austria-forum.org/af/AEIOU/KI%C3%B6ster>)

Bundesdenkmalamt Österreich (<https://bda.gv.at/>)

Evangelische Kirche in Österreich, Kartenansicht mit allen Pfarrgemeinden (<https://evang.at/service/adressen/pfarrgemeinden/kartenansicht/>)

Katholische Kirche Österreich, Diözesen (<https://www.katholisch.at/dioezesen>)

Ordensgemeinschaften Österreich, Die Ordensgemeinschaften Österreichs tragen wesentlich zum Erhalt von Kulturgütern bei (<https://www.ordensgemeinschaften.at/artikel/4353-dieordensgemeinschaften-oesterreichs-tragen-wesentlich-zum-erhalt-von-kulturguetern-bei>)

Orthodoxe Kirche in Österreich, Orthodoxe Kirchen, Pfarren und Verantwortliche in Österreich ([http://www.orthodoxekirche.at/site/orthodoxedioezesen/griechisch\\_orthodoxekirche](http://www.orthodoxekirche.at/site/orthodoxedioezesen/griechisch_orthodoxekirche))

Statista, Anzahl der islamischen Vereine und Moscheen in Österreich nach Bundesländern mit Stand Februar 2019 (<https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/297196/umfrage/moscheen-und-islamische-gebetsraeume-in-oesterreich-nach-bundeslaendern/>)

Wirtschaftskammer, Denkmalschutz (<https://www.wko.at/service/wirtschaftsrechtgewerberecht/Denkmalschutz.html>)



## BELGIUM Country profile in graphs

### Population



**11,778,842**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

At present, six religious groups have the status of “recognised denomination” under Belgian law: Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, Anglicanism, Judaism, the Orthodox faith and Islam. Traditionally a Catholic country, Belgium has seen a significant decline in this religion in recent decades. However, Catholicism is still the religion followed by 50% of Belgians. (2009 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**4,300**

Catholic

**780**

Protestant

**48**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**264**

Mosques 81



Synagogues

**14**

### Estimated number of places of worship

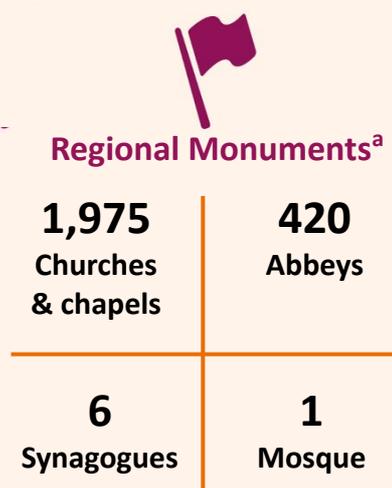


**5,400**



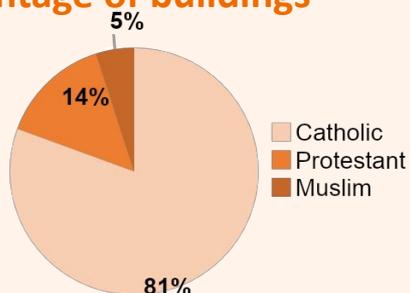
## BELGIUM Country profile in graphs

### Protected religious sites



<sup>a</sup> Belgium does not have a national database. **Architectural Heritage Inventory** for Brussels (<https://monument.heritage.brussels/index.php?lg=fr>)/**Heritage Inventory** for Flanders (<https://inventaris.onroerendergoed.be/>)/ **Inventory of Immovable Cultural Heritage (IPIC)** for Wallonia ([http://lampspw.wallonie.be/dgo4/site\\_ipic/index.php](http://lampspw.wallonie.be/dgo4/site_ipic/index.php))

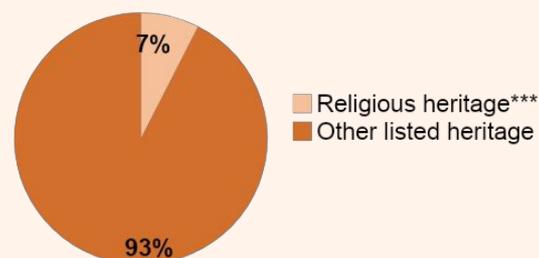
### How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

### Share of religious heritage among the listed buildings\*\*



\*\*Buildings listed on the respective inventories of the regions (Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia)

\*\*\* All buildings included in the category "Religious & Philosophical Heritage" were included as religious heritage in Wallonia. In Brussels: "Religious and philosophical heritage". In Flanders: "Religious buildings and complexes" as well as "chapels".





## BELGIUM

### Ownership

Places of worship have not belonged to their religious communities since the French Revolution of 1789, however the Concordat of 1801 grants public subsidies as compensation. As public property, churches belong to municipalities, but are taken over by 'church fabrics' (assemblies of clerics and laity in charge of the administration of the properties of a parish community).

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

Belgium is a federal state in which regions (Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia) have full and exclusive competence for the definition of the policy relating to built heritage within their territory. Each region has its own institutional framework for the management of cultural heritage: Brussels has a minister for heritage policy and a Monuments and Sites Directorate. Flanders has a Minister for Immovable Heritage, a Flemish commission on the same topic and the Flanders Heritage Agency. In 2018, Wallonia created in 2018 its own Heritage Agency from two former departments.

#### Cultural heritage

- The **Brussels** Town and Country Planning Code defines two types of legal and permanent heritage protection measures:

- Classification
- inscription on the safeguard list

The classification ensures effective and rigorous protection of the properties that the Regional Government intends to highlight. A much more flexible measure, inscription on the safeguard list makes it easier to integrate the protected properties into contemporary life. It may, for example, authorise certain transformations aimed at giving the property a new use, if they preserve its heritage interest.

- In **Wallonia**, the protection conferred by classification may go as far as imposing management conditions and even restrictions on the right of ownership. There are four categories of protected property:

- Monuments
- Archaeological Sites
- Architectural Complexes
- Sites

Sometimes a property of heritage interest may need urgent protection. This is the case when the property is threatened with destruction or temporary or permanent alteration. In this case, a procedure for inscription on the safeguard list can be put in place.

- In **Flanders**, there are three different statuses, each with its own legal consequences:

- Inventoried Heritage
- Recognised Heritage
- Protected Heritage

When the property is inventoried, this only means that it is well described and documented. There are no rights or obligations: the inventoried heritage has no legal consequences. If the property is recognised, certain legal consequences apply. These are less far-reaching than those of protection. The conservation and management of the established heritage can also receive financial support from the Flemish government under certain conditions. If the property is protected, various legal consequences apply to ensure its preservation. The protection procedure consists of two stages: provisional protection and definitive protection.

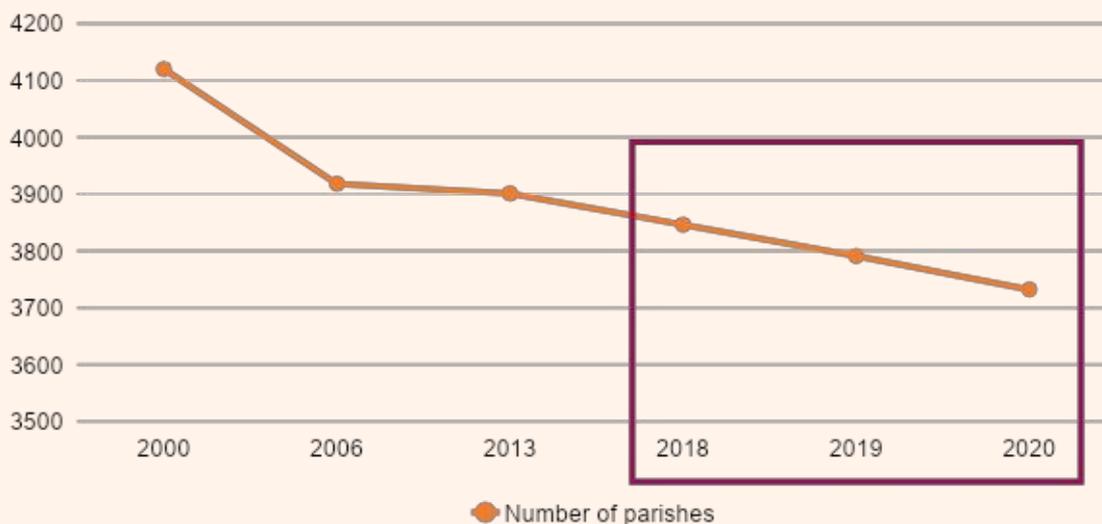


## BELGIUM

### Threats to the sector

In Belgium, despite the maintenance carried out by 'church fabrics', individual towns are closing churches due to the shortage of municipal funds - Charleroi has already closed 10 churches; between 2012 and 2016, a total of 75 church buildings throughout the country were withdrawn from worship. In 2018 alone, 39 parishes have been abolished and 31 churches have gone unused. This trend also applies to monasteries: in 2019, the monastery of Ermeton was closed. In Flanders in particular, the problem of "slapende kerkgebouwen" (dormant church buildings)<sup>1</sup> has triggered a reaction from the government, which in 2011 published a concept note: "A future for the Flemish parish church" asking municipalities to examine for which parish churches demolition is the most desirable option<sup>5</sup>.

### Decline in parish units in recent years



**Sources** : annual reports of the Belgian catholic church (2018-2020), ORELA Report 2015 (Caroline SÄGESSER, Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER, Cécile VANDERPELEN-DIAGRE (2016) 'Les Religions et la Laïcité en Belgique. Rapport 2015' Université libre de Bruxelles, Observatoire des Religions et de la Laïcité (ORELA))



## BELGIUM

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Nathalie DELLAERT (2018) 'Aandachtspunten bij het ontwijden van kerken en de herbestemming ervan', Universiteit Gent.

### Articles

Thomas COOMANS (2014) 'Églises désaffectées, patrimonialisation et usages alternatifs' Bruxelles Patrimoine, n°13

Nathalie DELLAERT (2018) 'Aandachtspunten bij het ontwijden van kerken en de herbestemming ervan', Universiteit Gent

Patrick DERDE (2016) 'Toekomstige bestemmingen van kerkgebouwen in Vlaanderen: een pastorale uitdaging', Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Caroline SÄGESSER, Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER, Cécile VANDERPELEN-DIAGRE (2016) 'Les Religions et la Laïcité en Belgique. Rapport 2015' Université libre de Bruxelles, Observatoire des Religions et de la Laïcité (ORELA)

CRKC-PARCUM (2014) 'Atlas van het religieus erfgoed in Vlaanderen'

CRKC-PARCUM (2019) 'Leven in de kerk. Valorisatie, medegebruik, nevenbestemming en herbestemming van onroerend religieus erfgoed in Vlaanderen', Brugge 2018, 112 pagina's Uitgeverij Vanden Broele

L'Église Catholique en Belgique (2018) Rapport annuel

L'Église Catholique en Belgique (2019) Rapport annuel

L'Église Catholique en Belgique (2020) Rapport annuel

### Webpages

Exécutif des Musulmans de Belgique (<https://www.embnet.be/>)

Holy Trinity Brussels, Comité Central du Culte Anglican en Belgique (<https://www.holytrinity.be/central-committee/>)

Inventaire du patrimoine culturel immobilier ([http://lampspw.wallonie.be/dgo4/site\\_ipic/index.php](http://lampspw.wallonie.be/dgo4/site_ipic/index.php))

Orthodox World, Belgium (<https://orthodox-world.org/en/c/21/belgium>)

Patriarcat Œcuménique archevêché de Belgique, Présences Orthodoxes (<https://orthodoxia.be/fr/paroisses/presences-orthodoxes/>)

Région de Bruxelles-Capitale, Inventaire du Patrimoine Architectural (<http://www.irismonument.be/index.php>)

Service public général Justice, Cultes et laïcité organisée ([https://justice.belgium.be/fr/themes\\_et\\_dossiers/cultes\\_et\\_laicite/cultes\\_et\\_laicite\\_organisee](https://justice.belgium.be/fr/themes_et_dossiers/cultes_et_laicite/cultes_et_laicite_organisee))

Site officiel du culte protestant et évangélique en Belgique, Lieux de culte (<http://cacpe.be/annuaire/lieux-de-culte/>)

Vlaanderen - Onroerend Erfgoed, Inventaris (<https://inventaris.onroerenderfgoed.be/>)



## BULGARIA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**6,919,180**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

In Bulgaria, the Eastern Orthodox Church, followed by a large majority of the population (59.4%), is recognised as the country's traditional denomination by the constitution. In addition to this denomination, there is a significant minority of Muslims in the country (7.8%).

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**2,430**

Orthodox

**5**

Catholic

**5**

Protestant



Muslim places of worship

**1,200**

Including prayer rooms and  
mosques



Synagogues

**2**

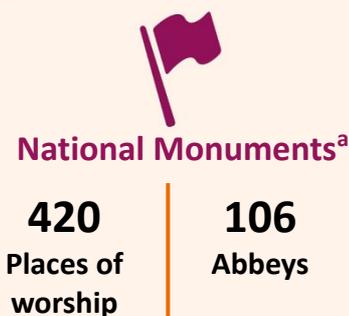
### Estimated number of places of worship



**3,700**

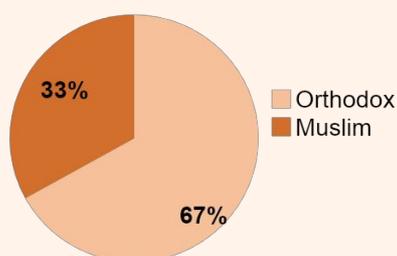
 **BULGARIA** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> The actors involved in the classification of cultural heritage in Bulgaria are the **Ministry of Culture**, the **Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church** and central managements of other registered religions, and the dedicated institute: **National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage**

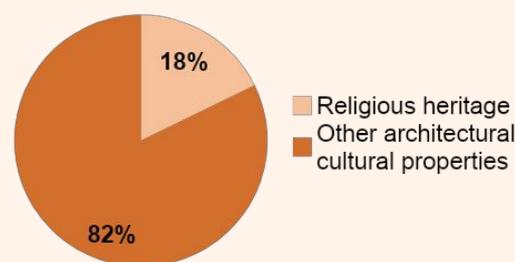
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among architectural cultural properties\*\***



\*\*2019 number of declared architectural cultural property (Court of Audit of the Republic of Bulgaria: <https://www.bulnao.government.bg/bg/articles/arhitekturnoto-kulturno-nasledstvo-e-v-opasnost-2073>)



## BULGARIA

### Ownership

All Synagogues, mosques, and church buildings are owned by their respective recognised religious organisations. Much of the historic property had to be returned to the respective religious communities after the democratic reform in the 1990s. This caused some problems in the past, most notably with the restitution of property to the Jewish community. The management of cultural sites in Bulgaria are chiefly headed by the Ministry of Culture in Bulgaria, and it is under them that sites owned by the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox church are managed. The Bulgarian Orthodox church is recognised as the “traditional religion of Bulgaria”, which gives it privileges, but does not designate it as a government body.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

State policy in the field of cultural heritage is directed and implemented by the Council of Ministers. The Minister of Culture, in conjunction with the competent State and municipal authorities, the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, other registered religions and civil society are responsible for the implementation of State policy in this field. In its task, the Ministry of Culture is assisted by two institutes in the field of immovable cultural heritage, the Inspectorate for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and the National Institute for Immoveable Cultural Heritage (NIICH).

#### Cultural heritage

According to Art. 2 of the Cultural Heritage Act<sup>1</sup>, the cultural heritage of Bulgaria covers intangible and tangible, immovable and movable heritage. As far as religious buildings are concerned, they belong to the class of tangible cultural heritage whose importance is classified as follows:

- ‘World importance’ - inclusion in the World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee at UNESCO, upon proposal of the Minister of Culture
- ‘National significance’ – declared so by order of the Minister of Culture or authorised by him Deputy Minister after coordination with the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works
- ‘Local significance’ - by order of the Minister of culture or a deputy minister authorised by him

- ‘Ensemble significance’ – cultural heritage supporting the spatial characteristic and the architectural typology of the group value to which they belong, declared by order of the Minister of culture or a deputy minister authorised by him

Regardless of these different categories, the Cultural Heritage Act guarantees:

- Equality of the different types of cultural heritage in the implementation of its protection
- Decentralization of the management and financing of the activities for protection of the cultural heritage
- Publicity and transparency in the management of the activities for protection of the cultural heritage.

Benefits to owners of cultural heritage are numerous: they have access to expert council, can apply to support programs and can collect incomes from their property. However, public access to the building must be ensured, as well as its good condition and effective protection.

#### Financing

The state ratified the religious denominations act, which took effect in 2019 and allowed the Grand Mufti’s office of the Islamic community to be allocated an annual 3 million euros from the state budget<sup>2</sup>. This makes the Islamic community the second recognised religion to be subsidised by the government.

As the most significant religion, the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church receives 20 million euros annually from the state budget. For cultural heritage sites, the government allocates 3% of its budget to the protection of cultural heritage, which includes religious sites.



## BULGARIA

### Threats to the sector

The biggest threat to the sector is the lack of necessary funds or the implementation of necessary laws on the preservation of cultural sites. In addition to this, there are few laws in place governing how the private owners of these sites should manage them, resulting in poor care and even demolition of some sites. While some laws are in place, they are poorly implemented and there are few incentives for private owners of these sites to maintain them. According to the news organisation Novinite, there are still no defined regimes for the protection of 93 per cent of the sites with a status of immovable cultural property. The same applies to 98 per cent of the declared sites, which have not been evaluated and the properties of cultural property are valued. In order to alleviate this, Bulgaria has launched a national strategy for the development of the arts and cultural heritage, which has emphasised the importance of cultural heritage sites to a sustainable economy. With this new initiative, it will increase the involvement of local authorities to take care of cultural sites, and it will increase the public-private partnership of the management of these sites.



## BULGARIA

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Cultural Heritage Act (2009) (<https://www.lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135623662>)

<sup>2</sup> Jeyhun ALIYE (2018) 'Bulgaria adopts religious denominations act amendments' Anadolu Agency (<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/bulgaria-adopts-religious-denominations-actamendments/1345571#>)

### Articles

Jeyhun ALIYE (2018) 'Bulgaria adopts religious denominations act amendments' Anadolu Agency

Nonovite.com (2012) 'Bulgaria 1st in Europe by Mosques Per Capita'

United States Department of State - Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (2018) 'International Religious Freedom Report for 2018'

### Webpages

BOC - Bulgarian Patriarchate (<http://bg-patriarshia.bg/index.php?file=index.xml>)

Council of Europe, Bulgaria (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/herein-system/bulgaria>)

EUrope - RELigion (<http://www.eurel.info/spip.php?rubrique786>)

Foundation for Jewish Heritage (<https://www.foundationforjewishheritage.com/>)



## CROATIA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**4,208,973**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

Croatia recognises six “traditional religions”: the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, the Evangelical Church, the Christian Reformed Church, the Islamic community and the Jewish community. Among these, Catholicism largely predominates in terms of followers, being the religion of 86.3% of the Croatian population. (2011 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**1,200**

Catholic

**> 200**

Orthodox

**> 10**

Protestant



Muslim places of worship

**5**



Synagogues

**4**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**1,900**

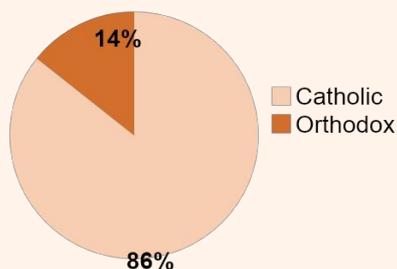
 **CROATIA** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> Register of cultural properties (<https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/>)

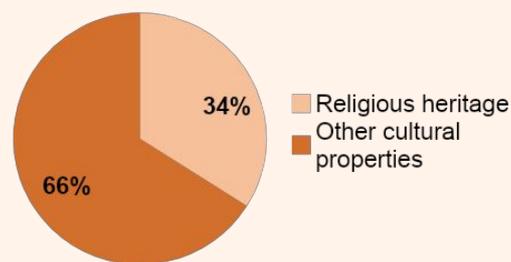
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the cultural properties\*\***



\*\*All buildings listed on the Register of cultural properties (<https://registar.kulturnadobra.hr/>)

 **CROATIA**

## Ownership

About 23 religious organisations have an agreement with the Croatian State, allowing them to operate freely in the country and enjoy property rights. However, the Catholic Church is distinguished by the fact that it owns a great deal of cultural property on which it does not pay taxes<sup>1</sup>. Much of what has been confiscated from the Church during the socialist period has been returned to it: the process of restitution has not been easy in the case of land and buildings that have changed ownership several times, which has led to disputes over compensation<sup>2</sup>.

## Protection of the cultural heritage

### Institutional framework

The Ministry of Culture of Croatia maintains the Register of Cultural Properties of the Republic of Croatia, the content of which is defined by the Act on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Property (*Zakon o zaštiti i očuvanju kulturnih dobara*)<sup>1</sup>. Within the Ministry, the Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage is the body responsible for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage. Finally, tasks related to the restoration, conservation and renovation of cultural property are carried out by the Croatian Restoration Institute, a public institution belonging to the state of Croatia. Municipalities, cities and counties may act independently in decision-making within their autonomous scope of action, they may also declare cultural property of local significance.

### Cultural heritage

Among their “cultural properties”, Croatia differentiates the:

- “protected cultural properties” (*zaštićenih kulturnih dobara*)
- “cultural properties of national significance” (*kulturnih dobara nacionalnog značenja*)
- “preventively protected properties” (*preventivno zaštićenih dobara*)

Cultural properties of national importance are made so by experts designated by the ministry of Culture. The preventive protection is a temporary one (maximum 4 years, non-renewable), decided by the City Institute for the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage of the City of Zagreb (*Gradski zavod za zaštitu spomenika kulture i prirode*)<sup>3</sup>.

The latter institution is also the one that issues permits for the restoration of cultural property. The protection of cultural property involves a number of steps to be taken, particularly when restoring a building. Before starting construction or repair works that could change the integrity and character of the historical building concerned, it is necessary to obtain permits from the competent conservation service or the City Institute for the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage of the City of Zagreb.

### Financing

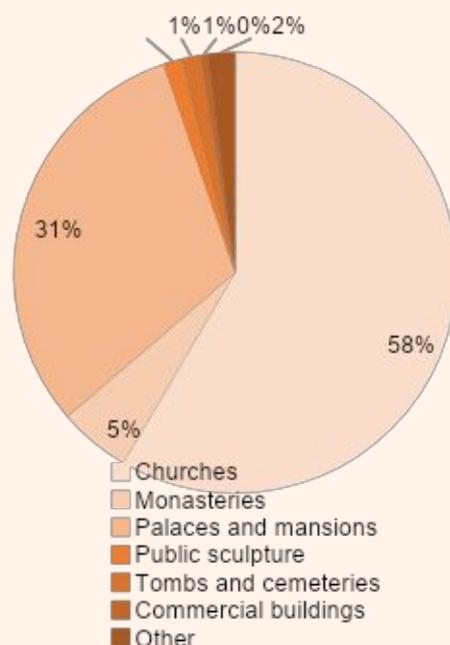
The Croatian State finances the maintenance of cultural estate through exemptions that are granted to owners of listed properties, but it also directly finances heritage through heritage protection programmes<sup>4</sup>. The Ministry of Culture annually publishes calls for the financing of public needs in culture, which funds programs for the protection, preservation, restoration, presentation and maintenance of cultural heritage<sup>1</sup>. In addition to the state budget, funds for the reconstruction of historic buildings are also provided by local and regional governments. The proposal for financing of the programme is made on the basis of the judgement of the Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage<sup>5</sup>, and the proposal is examined and verified by the Croatian Council for Cultural Property and approved by the Minister of Culture. In 2019, 670 programmes for a total amount of HRK 77,869,300 (approximately 10,500,000 euros) were subsidised<sup>3</sup>. Under the treaties signed by the Croatian State with the Vatican between 1996 and 1998, the Croatian State must financially ensure the protection of cultural property belonging to the Catholic Church<sup>6</sup>, a contribution which amounted to HRK 60 million in 2017, i.e. more than €8,000,000. The State also provides compensation for property confiscated during the Yugoslav socialist period<sup>2</sup>.

 **CROATIA**

**Threats to the sector**

The Croatian War of Independence from 1991 to 1995 endangered many of Croatia's cultural heritage sites. According to the results of the report of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, about 35% of them were damaged and about 6% were destroyed. At the same time, a Council of Europe report of 17 July 1993 stated that 468 churches and 42 monasteries had been destroyed in the war<sup>7</sup>. It is now known that the destruction of sacral buildings was part of a planned war strategy implemented from the beginning to the end of the war<sup>8,9</sup>.

**Among the 801 individual monuments damaged\* by the war were:**



\*Number of the Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments of the Ministry of Culture and Education of Croatia in 1993



## CROATIA

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> NN 90/2018, (1756), zakon, 10.10.2018 (<https://www.zakon.hr/z/340/Zakonoza%C5%A1titi-i-o%C4%8Duvanju-kulturnih-dobara>)
- <sup>2</sup> Radio Slobodna Evropa (2017) Crkva u Hrvatskoj i Srbiji – koja ima veće privilegije (<https://pescanik.net/crkva-u-hrvatskoj-i-srbiji-koja-ima-vece-privilegije/>)
- <sup>3</sup> Grad Zagreb, Gradski zavod za zaštitu spomenika kulture i prirode (<https://www.zagreb.hr/gradski-zavod-za-zastitu-spomenika-kulture-i-priro/833>)
- <sup>4</sup> Ministarstvo kulture Republike Hrvatske, Odobreni programi u 2019 (<https://www.minkulture.hr/default.aspx?id=21758>)
- <sup>5</sup> Ministarstvo kulture Republike Hrvatske, Uprava za zaštitu kulturne baštine (<https://www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=134>)
- <sup>6</sup> Tajana LUŠIĆ (2002) 'Ugovori Između Svete Stolice I Republike Hrvatske' Ministarstvo Vanjskih Poslova, Diplomatska Akademija, Zagreb ([http://www.mvep.hr/custompages/static/hrv/files/lusic\\_tajana.pdf](http://www.mvep.hr/custompages/static/hrv/files/lusic_tajana.pdf))
- <sup>7</sup> War damage to the cultural heritage in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina presented by the Committee on Culture and Education (1993) (<https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewHTML.asp?FileID=7222&lang=EN>)
- <sup>8</sup> Valerija MACAN LUKAVEČKI (2010) 'Obnova crkvenih građevina na području današnje Sisačke biskupije nakon Domovinskog rata' University of Zagreb ([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311716298\\_Obnova\\_crkvenih\\_građevina\\_na\\_području\\_danasnje\\_Sisacke\\_biskupije\\_nakon\\_Domovinskog\\_rata](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311716298_Obnova_crkvenih_građevina_na_području_danasnje_Sisacke_biskupije_nakon_Domovinskog_rata))
- <sup>9</sup> The destruction by war of the cultural heritage in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina presented by the Committee on Culture and Education (1993) (<http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewHTML.asp?FileID=6787&lang=en>)

### Articles

- Radio Slobodna Evropa (2017) Crkva u Hrvatskoj i Srbiji – koja ima veće privilegije (<https://pescanik.net/crkva-u-hrvatskoj-i-srbiji-koja-ima-vece-privilegije/>)
- Slobodna Dalmacija (2013) 'Crkva je najveći vlasnik nekretnina u Hrvatskoj' (<https://www.tportal.hr/vijesti/clanak/crkva-je-najveci-vlasnik-nekretnina-u-hrvatskoj20090525>)
- Tajana LUŠIĆ (2002) 'Ugovori Između Svete Stolice I Republike Hrvatske' Ministarstvo Vanjskih Poslova, Diplomatska Akademija, Zagreb ([http://www.mvep.hr/custompages/static/hrv/files/lusic\\_tajana.pdf](http://www.mvep.hr/custompages/static/hrv/files/lusic_tajana.pdf))
- Valerija MACAN LUKAVEČKI (2010) 'Obnova crkvenih građevina na području današnje Sisačke biskupije nakon Domovinskog rata' University of Zagreb ([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311716298\\_Obnova\\_crkvenih\\_građevina\\_na\\_području\\_danasnje\\_Sisacke\\_biskupije\\_nakon\\_Domovinskog\\_rata](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311716298_Obnova_crkvenih_građevina_na_području_danasnje_Sisacke_biskupije_nakon_Domovinskog_rata))
- Zakon o zaštiti i očuvanju kulturnih dobara - NN 90/2018, (1756), zakon, 10.10.2018 (<https://www.zakon.hr/z/340/Zakon-o-za%C5%A1titi-i-o%C4%8Duvanju-kulturnih-dobara>)

### Webpages

- Ministarstvo kulture Republike Hrvatske, Financiranje programa (<https://www.minkulture.hr/default.aspx?id=26>)
- Ministarstvo kulture Republike Hrvatske, Registar kulturnih dobara (<https://www.minkulture.hr/default.aspx?id=6212>)



## CYPRUS Country profile in graphs

### Population



**1,281,506**  
(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

There is no state church in the proper sense, but the Greek Orthodox Church is already very influential and dominant on the island (89.1% of the population). Unlike Muslims, Maronites, Armenians and Latins (Roman Catholics) are officially recognised, but not explicitly in the constitution. (2011 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**350**  
Orthodox

**37**  
Other christian\*



Muslim places of worship

**98**  
(8 functioning)



Synagogues

**1**

\*Maronites (12), Anglican (11), Armenian (6), Catholic (4), Protestant (4)

### Estimated number of places of worship



**550**



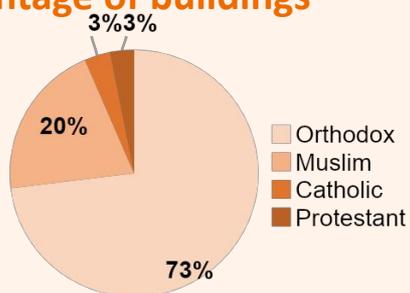
## CYPRUS Country profile in graphs

### Protected religious sites



<sup>a</sup> Register of cultural properties (<https://List of 'Ancient Monuments'> (here Table A and B/2019, comprising sites in Northern territory) of the Department of Antiquities/registar.kulturnadobra.hr/)

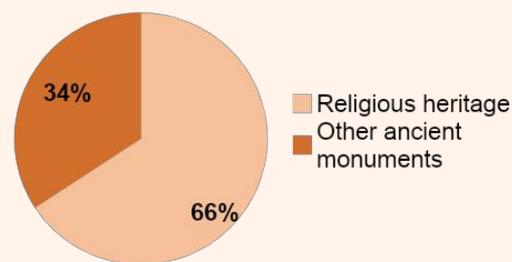
### How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

### Share of religious heritage among ancient monuments\*\*



\*\*The list of all "ancient monuments" is maintained by the Department of Antiquities



## CYPRUS

### Ownership

The Greek Orthodox Church, the country's main religious denomination, is the only religious group whose right of ownership is recognised in the Constitution. However, as 'religious groups', Maronites, Armenians and Latins (Catholics) also have property rights over their places of worship. Finally, the constitution recognises the Evkaf (Vakf), an Islamic institution, for the management of mosques and other properties dating back to the Ottoman rule of the island. The application of the rights of possession for the Greek Orthodox Church in the north of the island and for the Evkaf (Vakf) in the south of the island has been de facto very difficult if not impossible since the partition of the island in 1974. As 'Ancient Monuments', sacred building can fall under the 'first schedule' (state owned) or the 'second schedule' (privately owned). If a building belongs to a religious denomination (second schedule), national legislation requires that any work on the building must first go through the Department of Antiquities.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

Responsibility for cultural heritage lies with various departments and units of the Ministry of the Interior and the Department of Antiquities (Ministry of Communication and Public Works). The divisions in the Ministry of the Interior are responsible for issuing building preservation orders, rehabilitation of listed buildings and management of subsidies. It also administers the architectural heritage archives. The Department of Antiquities is responsible for the management of the archaeological heritage of Cyprus. The main areas of activity and responsibility of the Department include the conservation, restoration, protection and promotion of 'Ancient Monuments'.

#### Cultural heritage

The two types of protected buildings include:

- 'Ancient monuments', consisting of Greco-Roman, Venetian and medieval sites, considered as monuments as early as 1935 under the English occupation, and the
- 'Architectural and urban heritage', a larger and more diverse category that was created in 1972.

The protection and financing of "ancient monuments" is the responsibility of the Department of Antiquities, while the relevant departments in the Ministry of the Interior are responsible for the second category.

#### Financing

The government guarantees financial support for the rehabilitation of listed properties and privately-owned ancient monuments through grants, tax deductions and other incentives. This support, issued by the Department of Urban Planning and Housing, mainly comes in two categories: Direct aid for building conservation and Tax exemptions. For the complete maintenance of a listed building, a direct aid of a maximum of € 90,000, or a sum that doesn't exceed 50% of the recognised cost can be attributed. For the owner of a listed building that has maintained it in accordance with the Conservation Principles, tax exemptions can be granted.

Numerous NGOs are also involved in taking care for the religious heritage. For example the Religious Track for the Cyprus Peace Process and the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus are committed to the protection of religious heritage.



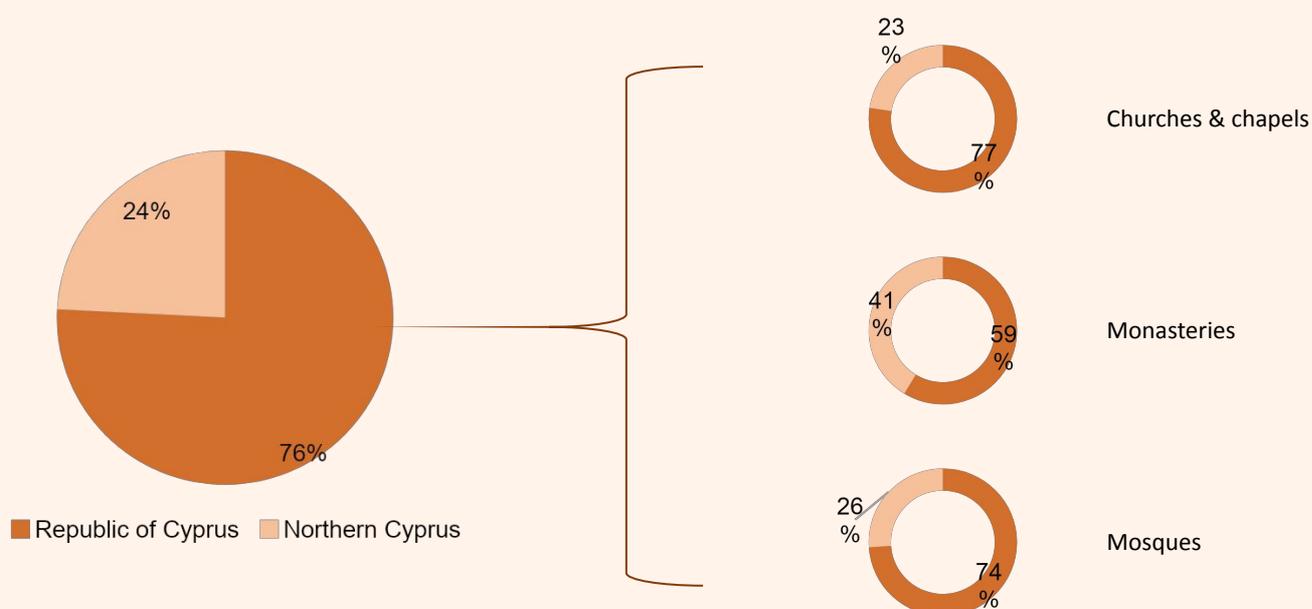
## CYPRUS

### Threats to the sector

The division of the island of Cyprus into two areas since 1974 has made it impossible to have a unified cultural heritage policy for the whole island. Once multicultural, the partition of the island has deepened the division between Muslim Turkish Cypriots in the north and Christian Greek Cypriots in the south. This has led to the abandonment of mosques in the south and churches in the north: more than 500 Greek Orthodox churches and chapels, as well as 17 monasteries in cities and villages in the north, have been looted, vandalised and, in some cases, demolished. Many artefacts from these sites have been illegally transferred to foreign countries around the world since 1974. In addition, some sacred buildings are situated in the 'green line', the buffer zone separating the island where the buildings have been abandoned.

Unfortunately, supranational organisations have not been able to propose solutions to this problem. UNESCO was not able to publish its Dalibard report (1975/76) produced right after the partition. Nor did the Council of Europe send a strong message with its 2002 report, which was instead marked by a divergence of views between the general rapporteur, Vlasta Stepová, and Josef Štulcas, the accompanying expert consultant, on the responsibility of the northern government for the loss of heritage<sup>1</sup>.

### Share of listed religious heritage located in Northern Cyprus





## CYPRUS

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>Thorsten KRUSE (2020) 'The fate of the religious heritage of Cyprus in the reports of international organisations: the northern part of Cyprus' in 'When the Cemetery Becomes Political', Schriften des Instituts für Interdisziplinäre Zypern-Studien, vol. 14

### Articles

Department of Urban Planning and Housing Ministry of Interior (2016) Policy for Regulation and Control of Development and Environmental Protection in Rural and Villages

United States Department of State International, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor 'Religious Freedom Report for 2018'

Susan BALDERSTONE (2010) 'Cultural heritage and human rights in divided Cyprus'

Thorsten KRUSE (2020) 'The fate of the religious heritage of Cyprus in the reports of international organisations: the northern part of Cyprus' in 'When the Cemetery Becomes Political', Schriften des Instituts für Interdisziplinäre Zypern-Studien, vol. 14

Τμήμα Αρχαιοτήτων (2019) Καταλογος Αρχαιων Μνημειων (Α' Και Β' Πινακα)

Yara SAIFI & Hülya YÜCEER (2013) 'Maintaining the absent other: the re-use of religious heritage sites in conflicts', International Journal of Heritage Studies, 19:7, 749-763, DOI:10.1080/13527258.2012.709192

### Webpages

Εκκλησίας της Κύπρου (<https://churchofcyprus.org.cy/>)

Greek Evangelical Church Cyprus (<http://www.geccy.org/>)

Πρεσβεία της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας στη Στοκχόλμη, Καταστροφή Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς  
([http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/embassies/embassy\\_stockholm.nsf/ecsw18\\_gr/ecsw18\\_gr?OpenDocument](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/embassies/embassy_stockholm.nsf/ecsw18_gr/ecsw18_gr?OpenDocument))

The Latin Catholic Church of Cyprus (<http://www.cypruscatholicchurch.org/>)

Τμήμα Πολεοδομίας και Οικήσεως, Διαχείριση Διατηρητέων Οικοδομών  
([http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/tph/tph.nsf/page40\\_gr/page40\\_gr?OpenDocument](http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/tph/tph.nsf/page40_gr/page40_gr?OpenDocument))

Τμήμα Πολεοδομίας και Οικήσεως, Σχέδιο Επιχορήγησης Διατηρητέων Οικοδομών  
([http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/tph/tph.nsf/page41\\_gr/page41\\_gr?OpenDocument](http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/tph/tph.nsf/page41_gr/page41_gr?OpenDocument))

## CZECHIA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**10,702,596**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

There are no less than 41 registered religions in the Czech Republic. This abundance in fact hides a strong decline in religion in this country, one of the most secular in the world. The country's most widely practised religion, Catholicism, now accounts for only 10.4% of the Czech population. (2011 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**7,500**

Catholic

**250**

Protestant

**120**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**8**

Mosques 2



Synagogues

**7**

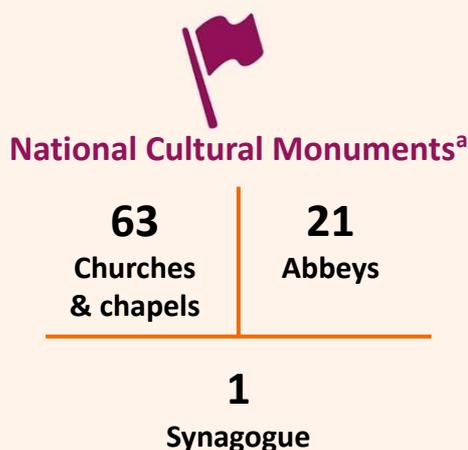
### Estimated number of places of worship



**8,000**

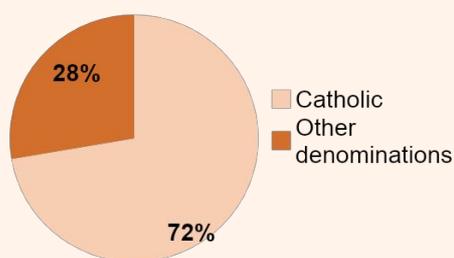
 **CZECHIA** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



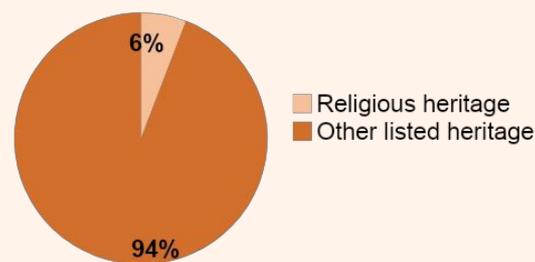
<sup>a</sup> The Inventory of the Cultural Heritage (<https://www.pamatkovykatalog.cz/>)

**How the main denominations compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the listed buildings\***



\*Buildings on the Inventory of the Cultural Heritage

 **CZECHIA**

## Ownership

The Czech Republic was the last postcommunist state in Central Europe to adopt a law comprehensively regulating the ownership of land and other real estate previously owned by churches. The restitution process was initiated by Act No. 480/1991 Coll. but is still ongoing. In 2012, an agreement between the State and religious communities set a deadline of 2043 for resolving the situation. For the 30 years prior to the deadline, the State must pay the churches, in kind but also by financing the salaries of the clergy and the operation of the religious buildings<sup>1,2</sup>.

## Protection of the cultural heritage

### Institutional framework

The Ministry of Culture, through its Monument Care Department, draws up the policy for the development of monument preservation. It is responsible for declaring properties as cultural monuments and financing this heritage. The National Heritage Institute (*Národní památkový ústav*), founded by the Ministry of Culture, organises and implements scientific research and maintains the central list of cultural monuments. It also directly administers and preserves 109 major monuments. Finally, the National System of Monument Preservation is based on consistent decentralisation and delegation of executive powers in the field of preservation of state monuments to approximately 205 municipalities with extensive competencies.

### Cultural heritage

Czechia distinguishes three types of monuments:

- National cultural monuments (*národní kulturní památka*)
- Cultural monuments (*kulturní památka*)
- Monuments of local significance (*památka místního významu*).

The first two labels are awarded by the Ministry of Culture itself, and they are supported by the regional authorities and the National Heritage Institute. The third category of monuments, "monuments of local importance", are declared as such by the municipalities by decree and represent mainly small monuments such as crosses, cemeteries or chapels.

### Financing

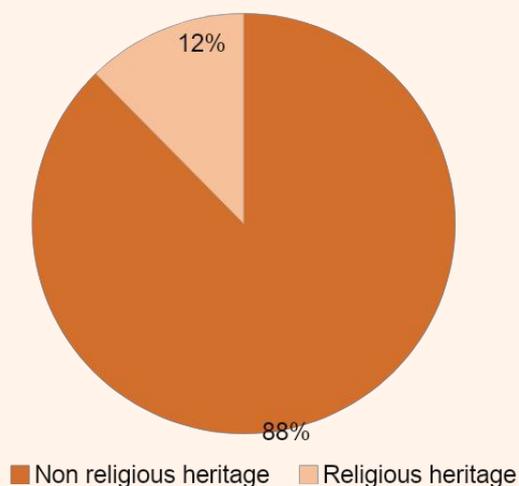
The right to receive funding for the preservation and restoration of a cultural monument is laid down in Section 16 (1) of the Act on State Preservation of Monuments<sup>3</sup>. The funds are paid to the owners of cultural monuments from municipal or state budgets. The municipal and regional bodies of the monument administration can make direct financial contributions, but the owner pays a significant part of the repair from his own resources. In more exceptional cases, the State makes financial contributions, directly or through the municipal office of the municipality. Among these state funds are the 'Architectural Heritage Conservation Program'<sup>4</sup>, the 'Emergency Program'<sup>5</sup>, the 'Program of regeneration of urban conservation areas and urban conservation areas'<sup>6</sup>, the 'Program of care for village conservation areas, village conservation zones and landscape conservation zones'<sup>7</sup>. Finally, the 'State Fund of Culture', established in 1992<sup>8</sup> and administered by the Ministry of Culture, can support restoration through specific artistic projects from various areas, such as: exhibitions, promotion of Czech cultural heritage abroad and more. Funds may be provided in the form of loans, special-purpose grants or repayable financial assistance. The state provides also help to the owners of cultural monuments in an indirect form. Indirect funding by the State may include various forms of benefits, tax relief or free professional assistance.

 **CZECHIA**

### Threats to the sector

More than in any other European country, traditional churches in the Czech Republic are in dramatic decline. The secularism of Czech society has led to a major restructuring of the country's main church, the Roman Catholic Church, in the direction of a gradual merging of parishes. The Archdiocese of Prague and other dioceses, which started a similar process, radically reduce the number of parishes in the 2000s: between 2004 and 2009, the number of parishes in the Archdiocese of Prague was reduced to one-third<sup>9</sup>.

### Religious buildings listed as Endangered Monuments



Národní památkový ústav, Seznam ohrožených nemovitých památek  
(<https://www.npu.cz/ohrozene-pamatky>)



## CZECHIA

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Katarína BIZNÁROVÁ (2017) 'Specifika pozemkového vlastnictví církví', Univerzita Karlova v Praze

<sup>2</sup> Kateřina ŠIMÁČKOVÁ (2006) 'K Problematice Vlastnictví Katolické Církve A Restitucí Církevního Majektu', Masarykova Univerzita

<sup>3</sup> Zákon č. 20/1987 Sb. (<https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/1987-20>)

<sup>4</sup> Ministerstvo Kultury, Program záchrany architektonického dědictví (<https://www.mkcr.cz/program-zachrany-architektonickeho-dedictvi-283.html>)

<sup>5</sup> Ministerstvo Kultury, Havarijní program (<https://www.mkcr.cz/havarijni-program-281.html>)

<sup>6</sup> Ministerstvo Kultury, Program regenerace městských památkových rezervací a městských památkových zón (<https://www.mkcr.cz/program-regenerace-mestskych-pamatkovych-rezervaci-a-mestskych-pamatkovych-zon-1178.html>)

<sup>7</sup> Ministerstvo Kultury, Program péče o vesnické památkové rezervace, vesnické památkové zóny a krajinné památkové zóny (<https://www.mkcr.cz/program-pece-o-vesnicke-pamatkoverezervace-vesnicke-pamatkove-zony-a-krajinne-pamatkove-zony-284.html>)

<sup>8</sup> Zákon č. 239/1992 Sb. (<https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/1992-241>)

<sup>9</sup> Radek TICHÝ (2011) 'Slabá církev? Jeden pokus o obnovu katolických farností v Čechách', Univerzita Karlova v Praze

### Articles

Stanislava BARTONÍKOVÁ (2019) 'Návrh projektu pro regeneraci kulturní památky na území okresu Přerov', Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně

Katarína BIZNÁROVÁ (2017) 'Specifika pozemkového vlastnictví církví', Univerzita Karlova v Praze

Kateřina ŠIMÁČKOVÁ (2006) 'K Problematice Vlastnictví Katolické Církve A Restitucí Církevního Majektu', Masarykova Univerzita

Radek TICHÝ (2011) 'Slabá církev? Jeden pokus o obnovu katolických farností v Čechách', Univerzita Karlova v Praze

### Webpages

Česká biskupská konference, Dioceses (<https://www.cirkev.cz/en/dioceses>)

Českobratrská církev evangelická (<https://www.e-cirkev.cz/>)

IslamDnes, Mešity a modlitebny v ČR a SR (<https://islam.cz/mesity-a-modlitebny-v-cr-a-sr/>)

Národní památkový ústav, Movité památky (<https://www.npu.cz/movite-pamatky>)

Pravoslavná Církev v Českých Zemích (<https://www.pp-eparchie.cz/>)





## DENMARK Country profile in graphs

### Population



**5,894,687**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

The Church of Denmark (Evangelical Lutheran) enjoys the status of a state religion and is the majority religion of the population (74.7%). In addition to this state church, over the past 15 years more than 99 religious communities and organisations have received official recognition from the Danish state. (2019 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**2,650\***

Protestant

**60**

Catholic

**12**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**170**

Including prayer rooms and  
mosques



Synagogues

**2**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**2,900**

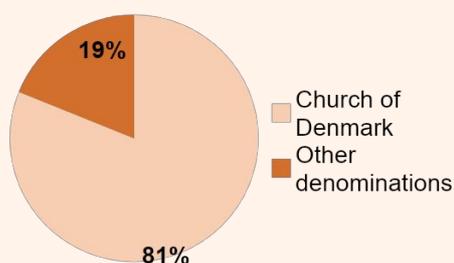
 **DENMARK** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**

Religious buildings are almost all under the supervision of the Ministry of Church Affairs and are protected by the Religious Buildings and Cemeteries Act Ordinance<sup>1</sup>. If, for some reason, a religious building does not belong to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, it is protected by the Heritage Buildings Act: according to this law, all buildings constructed before 1536 (the year of the Lutheran Reformation in Denmark) are automatically protected. Other buildings must be selected by the Ministry of Culture. A building can be protected if it is more than 50 years old. However, irrespective of age, buildings and independent works of landscape architecture may be preserved when their exceptional value justifies it or in other special circumstances.

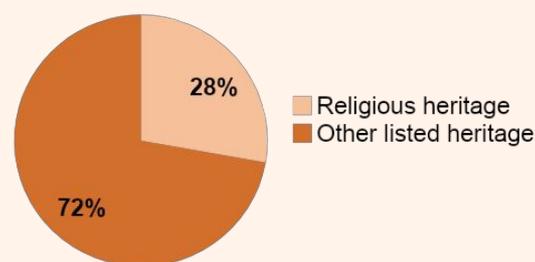
- Churches constructed before 1536
  - Church of Denmark: 1,740

**How the main denominations compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the listed buildings**



 **DENMARK**

### Ownership

The ownership and management of places of worship in Denmark owes its particularity to the constitution that made the Church of Denmark a public administrative body, a State Church, and the creation of parish councils (*Menighedsrådet*) in 1904, which included congregational religious governance elements in the management of churches. Responsibilities are shared as follows: The construction of churches and the demolition of churches must be approved by the Church Ministry. The expansion, conversion and modification of the church buildings must be approved by the diocese. Parish councils, as owners of churches, maintain the church, its furniture and decoration. The restoration of the frescoes can only be done on the proposal of the National Museum and with the agreement of the Diocesan Authority. The ministry of the Church may make provision for the insurance of church buildings, their installations and other movable property. The National Museum<sup>2</sup> and the Academy of Fine Arts<sup>3</sup> provide specialised assistance to the ministry of the Church and dioceses in matters relating to churches.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

In 2016, the Danish Agency for Culture and the Danish Agency for Castles and Cultural Properties merged to become the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces (*Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen*). This agency of the Ministry of Culture is responsible for the registration and protection of national heritage. However, its scope does not include religious heritage, which falls under the protection of the ministry of the Church, the higher administrative authority and the joint secretariat of the Church of Denmark (*Folkekirken*).

#### Financing

The Church Ministry, and therefore the Church of Denmark through it, is financed by the State. The State subsidy to the Church of Denmark amounts to DKK 786 million (105 million €) per year, of which 30% is used for church maintenance. In addition, churches and cemeteries are exempt from property taxes.

Religious communities outside the Church of Denmark and their members have the possibility of obtaining a significant indirect subsidy from the State as well.

 **DENMARK**

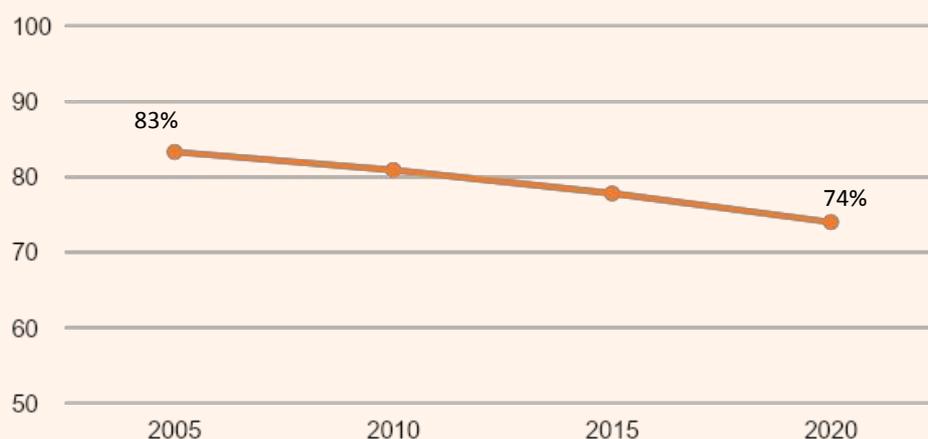
### Threats to the sector

By 2012, only 12 churches had been closed in Denmark, 10 of them between 2008 and 2012. This sudden rise of redundant churches was confirmed in April 2013 when the Bishop of Copenhagen, recommended to the Church Minister to close 12 churches in Copenhagen and 2 in Frederiksberg. Six parish councils averted the closing of their churches after opposing the bishop's recommendation, but the church minister announced a future evaluation and possible closure of 204 churches in Denmark which have fewer than 200 parishioners.

### Decline in the number of parishes in the Church of Denmark



### Percentage of the Danish population who are members of the Church of Denmark



 **DENMARK**

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> LBK nr 1156 af 01/09/2016 (<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=183757#id14fad0ed-9156-4889-8abd-d54d4c277936>)

<sup>2</sup> Nationalmuseet, Godkendelse af kirkestandsættelser  
(<https://natmus.dk/salg-og-ydelser/museumsfaglige-ydelser/kirker-og-kirkegaarde/godkendelse-af-kirkestandsattelser/>)

<sup>3</sup> The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts (<https://kadm.dk/en/>)

**Articles**

Kurt E. LARSEN (2013) 'Hvem ejer egentlig de danske kirker?' Kristeligt Dagblad' Kristeligt Dagblad

Nick HAYNES (2008) 'Research report on church-state relationships in selected European countries'

Tobias HEEDE NIEBUHR (2013) '22 østjyske kirker i fare for lukning' Aarhus Stiftstidende

**Webpages**

Den Katolske Kirke I Danmark, Uddrag af bispedømmets statistik (<https://www.katolsk.dk/bispedmmet/bispekontoret/statistik/>)

Kirkeministeriet (<http://www.km.dk/>)

Nationalmuseet (<https://natmus.dk/>)

Religion.dk (<https://www.religion.dk/>)

 **ESTONIA** Country profile in graphs

**Population**



**1,220,042**  
(July 2021 est.)

**Religions**

Traditionally Lutheran, Estonia has undergone a significant secularisation of its society, so that today the followers of the Lutheran religion represent only 9.9% of the population. The largest religion by number of followers (16% of the population) is the Orthodox Church. (2011 est.)

**Number and type of places of worship in use**



**Churches**

**180**  
Protestant

**109**  
Orthodox

**9**  
Catholic



**Muslim places of worship**

**1**



**Synagogues**

**1**

\*Includes the Church of Denmark (2,350) and Free churches (>300)

**Estimated number of places of worship**



**300**

 **ESTONIA** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



**242**  
Churches

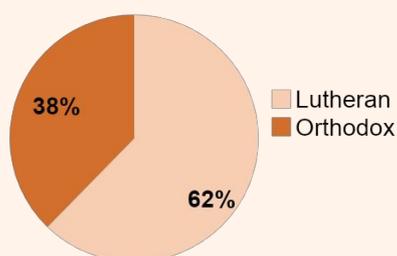


**International (UNESCO)**

**8** Churches | **1** Abbey

<sup>a</sup> National Register of Cultural Monuments (<https://register.muinas.ee/>)

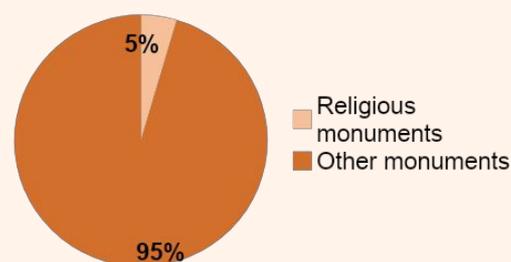
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the monuments\*\***



\*\* "Architectural or building monuments"

 **ESTONIA**

## Ownership

In Estonia, the restitution of religious heritage after the socialist period has been faster and more successful than in other countries in the same situation. Estonia has been effective in the restitution of Jewish heritage, making it the only country in Eastern Europe where the Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) does not need to submit claims for restitution. However, the process has not gone entirely unhindered, and the Estonian State has received claims for restitution and compensation (e.g. Pskov-Pechory Monastery)<sup>1</sup>. Places of worship in Estonia are now owned by religious associations. Although, as cultural monuments, most churches in Estonia have been listed by the state, the maintenance of churches is the responsibility of the owners, the religious association. In the event that a parish or monastery is dissolved, the buildings are transferred to the corresponding church or parish association<sup>2</sup>.

## Protection of the cultural heritage

### Institutional framework

The overall responsibility for heritage lies with the Ministry of Culture and the Heritage Conservation Council under its authority. Monuments and sites of historical and architectural value are protected by the 'Cultural Heritage Act' (2019), which guarantees their preservation in their traditional environment. Part of the Ministry, the National Heritage Board (*Muinsuskaitseamet*), represented in each county, is responsible for heritage legislation and protection and conservation activities. Its tasks include supervision, advice to monument owners, support for renovation and maintenance of the national cultural heritage registry.

### Cultural heritage

Buildings declared monuments, which means that they are under the protection of the State, fall in different classes:

- Historical monument
- Archaeological monument
- Architectural monument
- Art monument
- Historical natural sacred site
- Technical monument

Places of worship, if listed, are classified as architectural monuments under the sub-category "sacral architecture". They can benefit from double protection if they are located in one of the twelve protected areas (of which eleven are historic town centres) which generally include sacred buildings.

### Financing

Responsibility for the protection and conservation activities lies with the National Heritage Board (NHB), the body issuing state financing for Heritage. Grants awarded by the NHB can be requested for activities of all types of monuments and buildings; the amount of support varies according to the type of the monument. Grants for monuments are divided into the following calls for proposals<sup>3</sup>: 'Deadline for application': Applications may be submitted from 1 August to 30 September and the results will be known at the beginning of the following financial year. 'Current application round or reserve': The call for proposals is intended only for unforeseen and emergency work. Applications may be submitted on a rolling basis until the budget available for the call for proposals is exhausted. A list of grants can be consulted on the website of the National Register of Cultural Monuments<sup>4</sup>. In 2019, the NHB has released more than a million euros (1 215 598 €) for the restoration of monuments<sup>5</sup>.

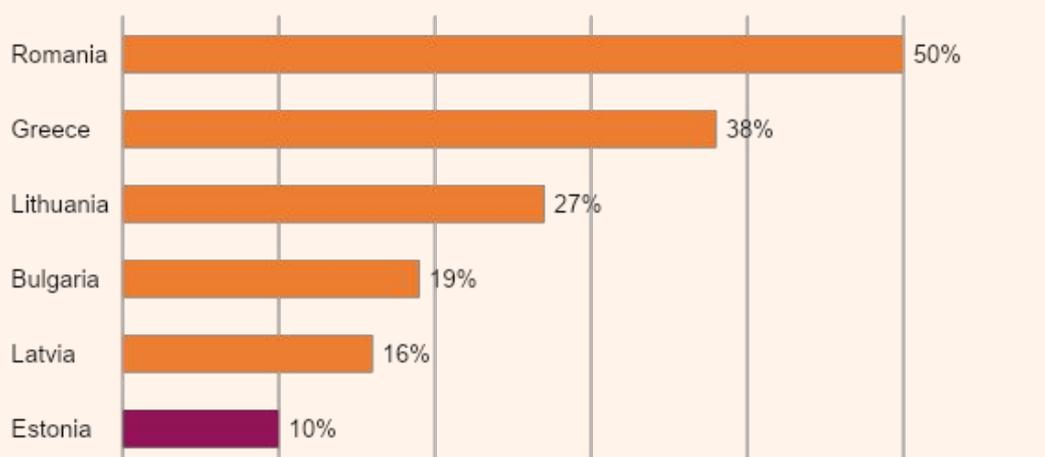


**ESTONIA**

### Threats to the sector

25% of Estonian churches were completely destroyed during the Second World War in Estonia<sup>6</sup>. Under Soviet occupation until 1991, the places of worship in Estonia were poorly repaired and many were returned to the congregations in an advanced state of disrepair. In order to remedy this situation, the Estonian state launched the programme "Preservation and Development of Places of Worship" in 2003 and extended it for 5 years in 2014. In the first ten years, this programme earned 9.23 million euros for the sector, and over the last five years has given 3.61 million euros to 118 churches<sup>7</sup>. However, the traditional use of these churches is in jeopardy. Estonia ranks among the least religious countries in Europe, and just 10% of its citizens attend worship services at least monthly<sup>8</sup>.

### Share of Eastern Europeans who say they attend religious services at least once a month



Source: Jonathan EVANS & Chris BARONAVSKI (2018) How do European countries differ in religious commitment? Pew Research Center (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/12/05/how-do-european-countries-differ-in-religious-commitment/>)

 **ESTONIA**

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> OMANDIREFORM 1991-2016 (2017) ([https://www.omanikud.ee/static/files/085/omandireform\\_1991-2016.pdf](https://www.omanikud.ee/static/files/085/omandireform_1991-2016.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> RT I, 30.12.2017, 16 (<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/KiKoS>)

<sup>3</sup> Muinsuskaitseamet, Toetused mälestistele  
(<https://www.muinsuskaitseamet.ee/et/teenused-toetused-ja-kooskolastamine/toetused/restaureerimistoetus>)

<sup>4</sup> Kultuurimälestiste riiklik register, Toetused (<https://register.muinas.ee/public.php?menuID=emergencysupport>)

<sup>5</sup> Muinsuskaitseamet, Eraldatud toetused (<https://www.muinsuskaitseamet.ee/et/jagatudtoetused>)

<sup>6</sup> Urmas VIILMA (2019) 'tegevusaruanne AD 2018', Eesti Kirik (<http://www.eestikirik.ee/eelktegevusaruanne-ad-2018/>)

<sup>7</sup> Muinsuskaitseamet, Pühakodade programmist on toetatud kirikuid ligi 13 miljoni euroga  
(<https://www.kul.ee/et/uudised/puhakodade-programmist-toetatud-kirikuid-ligi-13-miljonieuroga>)

<sup>8</sup> Jonathan EVANS & Chris BARONAVSKI (2018) 'How do European countries differ in religious commitment?', Pew Research Center  
(<https://www.pewresearch.org/facttank/2018/12/05/how-do-european-countries-differ-in-religious-commitment/>)

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Jonathan EVANS & Chris BARONAVSKI (2018) 'How do European countries differ in religious commitment?', Pew Research Center

Urmas VIILMA (2019) 'EELK tegevusaruanne AD 2018', Eesti Kirik

**Webpages**

Kultuurimälestiste riiklik register (<https://register.muinas.ee/>)

Muinsuskaitseamet (<https://www.muinsuskaitseamet.ee/et>)

## FINLAND Country profile in graphs

### Population



**5,587,442**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

The Freedom of Religion Act recognises the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (69.8% of the pop.), the Orthodox Church of Finland (1.1%) and the religious communities registered in accordance with the provisions of the Act: mainly Jehovah's Witnesses, the Evangelical Free Church of Finland and the Catholic Church in Finland. (2011 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**930**

Protestant

**280**

Orthodox

**8**

Catholic



Muslim places of worship

**80**

Including prayer rooms  
and mosques



Synagogues

**2**

\*Includes the Church of Finland (830) and Free churches (100)

### Estimated number of places of worship



**1,300**

 **FINLAND** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**

In accordance with the Church Act (1993)<sup>1</sup> and the Act on the Orthodox Church (2006)<sup>2</sup>, all Evangelical Lutheran and Orthodox church buildings and their surroundings, built before 1917, are protected. Churches that are younger than this can be protected on the initiative of the Chapter Assembly or the National Board of Antiquities. Currently, 45 Lutheran churches, built after 1917, are protected. Decisions about protection are taken by the church council. Both Evangelical Lutheran and Orthodox church buildings, churchyards and cemeteries have often been given protection markings and orders in land use plans created in accordance with the Land-Use and Building Act.



**Monuments<sup>a</sup>**

**242**  
Churches



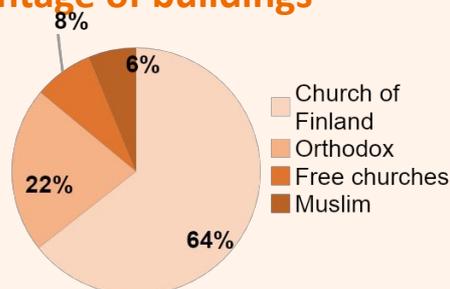
**International (UNESCO)<sup>b</sup>**

**2**  
Churches

<sup>a</sup> Protected under the Church Act and the Act on the Orthodox Church

<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Old Rauma)

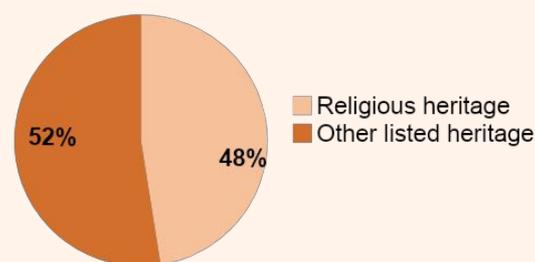
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the listed buildings\*\***



\*\* Building Heritage (Rakennusperintö), which includes heritage protected by the Architectural Heritage Protection Act (2010), the Regulation 480/85, the Church Act (1993), the Act on the Orthodox Church (2006) and the Railway agreement (1998)

 **FINLAND**

### Ownership

The parishes own their church buildings. Parish property ownership is heavily linked to church buildings, chapels, parish houses.

Since 2014, a statement from the Finnish Heritage Agency is required when parishes plan to modify, dismantle, or alter the use of a church building that has been taken into use at least 50 years ago<sup>3</sup>.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The protection of the cultural environment is based on cooperation between the Ministries of Environment and Culture and on the actions of municipalities and owners, as provided for in the Finnish Constitution. The Land Use Planning and Construction Act (1999) is the main instrument for land use planning and construction; it contains provisions for national inventories of cultural heritage and has strengthened the autonomy of municipalities in planning decisions on this subject. Buildings and built areas of cultural or historical importance may also be protected under the Protection of Buildings Act (2010) and the Antiquities Act (1963), both implemented under the supervision of the Finnish Heritage Agency. The Protection of Buildings Act applies to historically valuable buildings, not church buildings. The provision for church buildings is governed by church law.

#### Financing

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland pay church tax to the parish in their town of residence. This funding enables the congregations to fully cover the costs of routine church maintenance.

The Finnish State's contribution to the maintenance of the real estate assets has remained unchanged for 3 years and amounts to 850,000 euros. This credit may be paid in the form of grants to private owners and heritage conservation organisations for the maintenance of cultural sites; compensation for the implementation of protection; grants to municipalities; and support for the cost of restoration work: up to 50% of the cost of maintenance may be covered<sup>4</sup>.

The State provides the Evangelical Lutheran Church with about 114 million euros in government subsidies. Of this amount, 5 million is distributed to churches in the form of various construction grants. Lutheran Congregations can apply for a state grant for the construction and repair of church buildings and other parish offices. Starting in 2016, an emphasis has been put on financing only the renovation of protected church buildings.

The Central Church Fund has also allocated one million euros in grants for the restoration of churches.

Grants are applied for every year by the Church Board by electronic application and the closing date for applications is the last day of the year<sup>5</sup>.

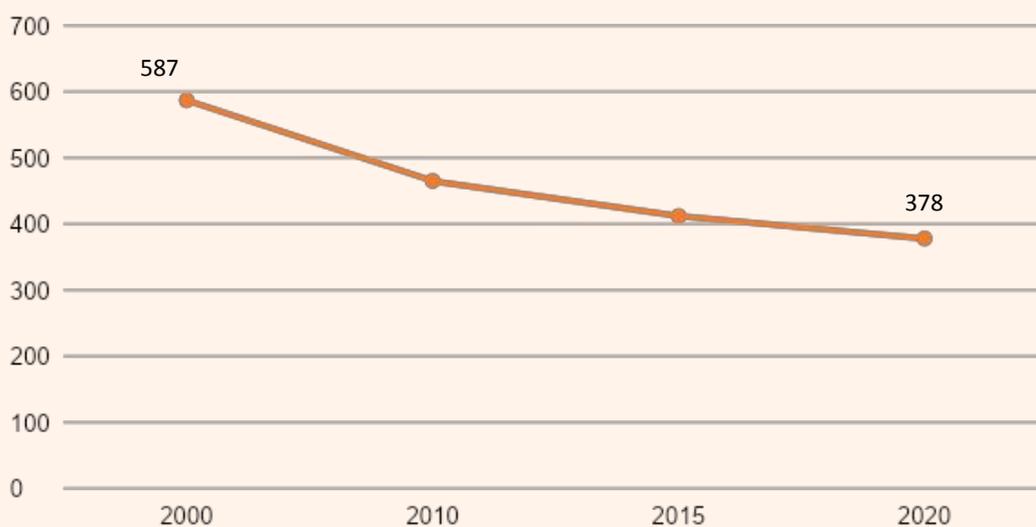
 **FINLAND**

### Threats to the sector

By 2014, only two religious buildings had been marketed across the country<sup>6</sup>. But changes in patterns of worship, attitudes towards religion might change the situation in Finland.

The low utilisation rate (only 10% of Finns identifying as Christians attend services monthly or more)<sup>7</sup> and high maintenance costs of church buildings lead to their abandonment. In a property plan to reduce church costs, the Orthodox Church of Finland announced in 2018 it wanted to dispose of 46 properties as soon as possible<sup>8</sup>.

### Significant drop in the number of Church of Finland congregations since 2000



 **FINLAND**

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Church Act (1993) (<https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/1993/19931054>)

<sup>2</sup> Act on the Orthodox Church (2006) (<https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2006/20060985#L11P116>)

<sup>3</sup> Museovirasto, Kirkolliset kulttuuriympäristöt (<https://www.museovirasto.fi/fi/kulttuuriymparisto/rakennettu-kulttuuriymparisto/kirkolliset-kulttuuriymparistot>)

<sup>4</sup> Valtiovarainministeriö, Valtion talousarvioesitykset (<https://budjetti.vm.fi/indox/sisalto.jsp;jsessionid>)

<sup>5</sup> Suomen Evankelis-Luterilainen Kirkko, Korjausten rahoitus  
(<https://evl.fi/plus/hallinto-ja-talous/kiinteistot/korjaushanke-seurakunnassa/korjausten-rahoitus>)

<sup>6</sup> Mirjam TAHKOKORPI (2014) 'Kirkkojen myynti on harvinaista Suomessa' Yleisradio Oy (<https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-7046060>)

<sup>7</sup> Jonathan EVANS & Chris BARONAVSKI (2018) 'How do European countries differ in religious commitment?' Pew Research Center (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/12/05/how-do-european-countries-differ-in-religious-commitment/>)

<sup>8</sup> Museovirasto, Ortodoksisesta rakennuskannasta luopuminen on suuri menetys kulttuuriperinnölle  
(<https://www.museovirasto.fi/fi/ajankohtaista/ortodoksisesta-rakennuskannasta-luopuminen-on-suuri-menetys-kulttuuriperinnoelle>)

**Articles**

Jonathan EVANS & Chris BARONAVSKI (2018) 'How do European countries differ in religious commitment?' Pew Research Center

Mirjam TAHKOKORPI (2014) 'Kirkkojen myynti on harvinaista Suomessa' Yleisradio Oy

**Webpages**

Katolinen Kirkko Suomessa (<https://katolinen.fi/>)

Museovirasto (<https://www.museovirasto.fi/fi/>)

Museovirasto, Valtakunnallisesti Merkittävät Rakennettut Kulttuuriympäristöt (RKY) ([http://www.rky.fi/read/asp/r\\_default.aspx](http://www.rky.fi/read/asp/r_default.aspx))

Museovirasto, Rakennusperintö ([https://www.kyppi.fi/palveluikkuna/rapea/read/asp/r\\_eihakuehtoa.aspx](https://www.kyppi.fi/palveluikkuna/rapea/read/asp/r_eihakuehtoa.aspx))

Suomen Evankelis-Luterilainen Kirkko (<https://evl.fi/etusivu>)

Suomen Ortodoksinen Kirkko (<https://ort.fi/>)

## FRANCE Country profile in graphs

### Population



**68,084,217**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

There are no official statistics on religious affiliation in France. Nevertheless, it is agreed that approximately 63-66% of French people are Christian (mainly Catholic), with a minority of French Muslims ranging from 7-9%. (2015 est.).

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**42,250**

Catholic

**2,550**

Protestant

**165**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**2,450**

Mosques 90



Synagogues

**108**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**60,000**

 **FRANCE** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



**National Monuments<sup>a</sup>**

<b>13</b> Churches & chapels	<b>10</b> Abbeys
------------------------------------	---------------------



**Historical Monuments<sup>b</sup>**

<b>&gt;12,000</b> Churches & chapels	<b>1,093</b> Abbeys
<b>203</b> Synagogues	<b>11</b> Mosques



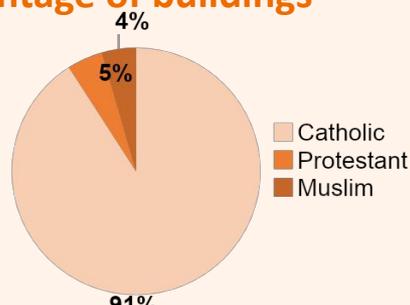
**International (UNESCO)**

<b>36</b> Churches & chapels	<b>6</b> Abbeys
------------------------------------	--------------------

<sup>a</sup> Centre des Monuments Nationaux  
(<https://www.monuments-nationaux.fr/Trouver-un-monument>)

<sup>b</sup> Open Heritage Platform – Mérimée list  
(<https://www.pop.culture.gouv.fr/search/list>)

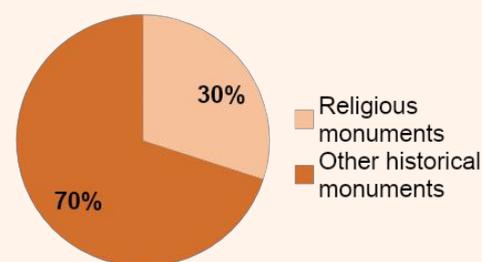
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the historical monuments\*\***



\*\*Historical monuments - numbers of 2015



**FRANCE**

## Ownership

Ownership of sites built before 1905 falls upon the commune or *départements* (local authority between region and commune), which are responsible for maintenance of the sites, this also counts for Synagogues and Mosques built before 1905. The State owns almost half of the cathedrals, the rest belong to the municipalities, are diocesan, or non-Catholic. The Church has exclusive rights to the use of buildings built after 1905, and the mayor cannot sell a church without agreement of the Church authorities. This can be demanded when either the building has not been used for over six months for worship or becomes dangerous.

However, there are many exceptions to this known model, primarily regional: for example, the overseas territories or even in Savoie, where the law of 1907 has been adapted, particularly for the presbyteries. Finally, the French regions of Alsace and Moselle may be subject to public funding for religious sites built after 1905 because they were not on French territory at the time. This plurality of ownership systems for buildings of worship has resulted in a multiplicity of rules applicable to their maintenance and conservation.

## Protection of the cultural heritage

### Institutional framework

The State is responsible for the national heritage policy. It carries out this task with the Ministry of Culture, which is specifically responsible for implementing the policy for the protection, preservation and restoration of heritage, mainly through the recently consolidated Regional Directorates for Cultural Affairs (DRAC) and territorial architectural and heritage services (STAP).

### Cultural heritage

In France, the main protection attributed to buildings is their classification as "historical monuments". There are two separate regimes for the protection of historic monuments:

- Classification (1/3 of the total protected heritage)
- Inscription (2/3 of the total protected heritage).

Classification is decided by the Minister of Culture and Communication, after favourable opinions from the Regional Commission for Heritage and Sites (CRPS), then from the National Commission for Historical Monuments (CNMH) and the owner's agreement.

Inscription is decreed by order of the Prefect of the Region after the judgement of the Regional Commission for Heritage and Sites (CRPS). The owner's agreement is not required.

The protection provides the following benefits:

- Mention in communication documents distributed by the Ministry of Culture ;
- Possibility of obtaining specific road signs bearing the logo;
- Authorisation to use the logo on all communication and signage documents;
- Obligation to take the logo into account in the definition of local urban plans (PLU);
- Possibility of tax benefits and aid for the work.

This assistance can come from the state but also through the *mécénat* system (sponsorship). Some foundations provide direct aid for protected heritage, while others, such as Fondation du patrimoine<sup>4</sup>, participate in actions to safeguard heritage elements, and support the action of the State and local authorities in this sector. For religious heritage, La Sauvegarde de l'Art Français<sup>5</sup> provides grants for churches. In France cultural sponsorship by companies and individuals represents 25% of the sponsorship.

### Finance

The Ministry of Culture, through its regional services and public institutions, is responsible for the maintenance and conservation of major historical monuments (*Monuments Nationaux*) such as cathedrals and the large national estates for which it is responsible.

Even if not classified nor inscribed as a historical monument, religious buildings can be eligible for public funding in two cases:

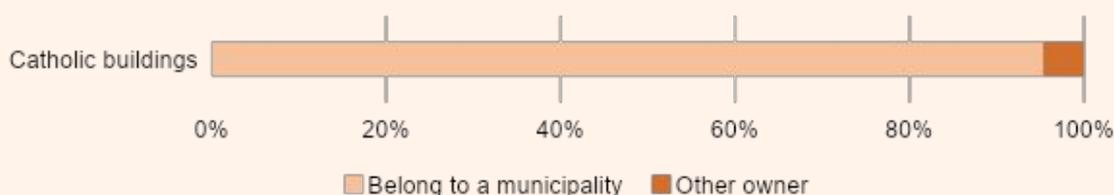
- to finance the maintenance and conservation of state-own buildings. Municipalities are compelled to maintain and repair the religious buildings they own.
- to finance repair work on buildings owned by religious associations (Law of 25 December 1942 amending Article 9 of the Law of 19052).

 **FRANCE**

**Threats to the sector**

Since 1905, municipalities have been responsible for the maintenance of places of worship on their territory, a task that has become increasingly difficult to carry out due to a lack of resources. The Observatory of Religious Heritage (OPR) notes that ‘small municipalities with less than 500 inhabitants are struggling to maintain their buildings and that, in the absence of routine maintenance, the building is deteriorating, subsequently requiring much more substantial work’. The financial question also arises for other religions.

**Percentage of Catholic buildings owned by a municipality\***



Each year, the Paris Consistory alone spends between one and two million euros on its buildings and the United Protestant Church of France (EpuF) reserves five to six million euros for major renovation work on its buildings. If these buildings are entitled to funds as ‘cultural properties’ or ‘historical monuments’, few municipalities would apply for this financial aid.

**Condition of a sample of religious buildings\*\***



\*According to the Conférence des Evêques de France (2016)

\*\*L'inventaire participatif du patrimoine religieux ([https://www.patrimoine-religieux.fr/annuaire\\_opr/com.bsw.directory.View/View.html?locale=fr](https://www.patrimoine-religieux.fr/annuaire_opr/com.bsw.directory.View/View.html?locale=fr)) – The figures of the inventory are based on 4 departments (Puy-de-Dôme, Calvados, Seine-Maritime, Manche) and include estimates for the remaining 92 metropolitan departments.



## FRANCE

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Loi du 9 décembre 1905 concernant la séparation des Eglises et de l'Etat (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000000508749/2020-09-28/>)

<sup>2</sup> Loi du 25 décembre 1942 MODIFIE L'ART. 19 (PARAGR. 4 ET 6) DE LA LOI DU 9 décembre 1905 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000000335755/>)

<sup>3</sup> Loi du 31 décembre 1913 sur les monuments historiques (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000000315319/2020-09-28/>)

<sup>4</sup> Fondation du Patrimoine (<https://www.fondation-patrimoine.org/>)

<sup>5</sup> Fondation La Sauvegarde de l'Art Français (<https://www.sauvegardeartfrancais.fr/>)

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Nick HAYNES (2008) 'Research Report on Church-State Relationships in Selected European Countries', MA (Hons), IHBC, Historic Buildings Consultant

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Observatoire du Patrimoine Religieux, *L'inventaire participatif du patrimoine religieux* ([https://www.patrimoinereligieux.fr/annuaire\\_opr/com.bsw.directory.View/View.html?locale=fr](https://www.patrimoinereligieux.fr/annuaire_opr/com.bsw.directory.View/View.html?locale=fr))

Site du Ministère de la Culture, *Monuments historiques & sites patrimoniaux* (<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Sites-thematiques/Monuments-Sites/Monuments-historiques-sitespatrimoniaux/Les-monuments-historiques>)

Site du Ministère de la Culture, *Le mécénat sur les monuments historiques* (<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Sites-thematiques/Monuments-historiques-Sites-patrimoniaux-remarquables/Acteurs-et-partenariats/Mecenes-et-Fondations/Le-mecenat-sur-les-monuments-historiques>)

Site du Ministère de la Culture, *Mécènes et Fondations* (<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Sites-thematiques/Monuments-historiques-Sites-patrimoniaux-remarquables/Acteurs-et-partenariats/Mecenes-et-Fondations>)

Statista, Répartition du nombre de lieux de culte en France en 2014, par confession religieuse (<https://fr.statista.com/statistiques/610160/nombre-lieux-de-culte-par-religion-france/>)



## GERMANY Country profile in graphs

### Population



**79,903,481**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

Germany's religious landscape is marked by bi-confessionalism. The Catholic Church (27.7%) and the Protestant Church (25.5%) share half of the German population, while there is also a large Muslim minority (5.1%). (2018 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**24,190**

Catholic

**20,416**

Protestant

**8**

Catholic



Muslim places of worship

**2,500**

Mosques 900



Synagogues

**133**

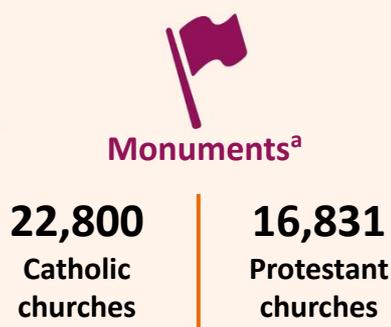
### Estimated number of places of worship



**50,000**

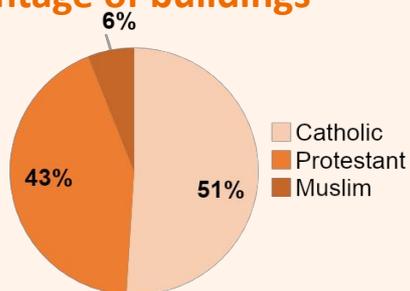
 **GERMANY** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> The highest authority responsible for heritage preservation in the Länder is a designated ministry (or department of the Senate). Those are usually called *Landesdenkmalamt*, *Denkmalschutzamt* or *Landesamt für Denkmalpflege*

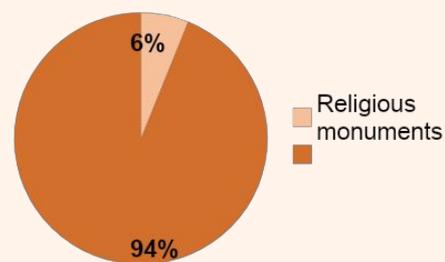
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the architectural monuments\*\***



\*\**Baudenkmäler* - numbers of 2018



## GERMANY

### Ownership

In 1803, all of the places of worship existing at that time were nationalised and, as compensation, the responsibility for their renovation was transferred to the state authorities. According to Article 140 GG and Article 138 (1-1) WRV, the renovation payments are to be replaced by a single lump sum payment. However, in the absence of a law governing the principles of this substitution, regular payments continue to be made to this day<sup>1</sup>. Ownership of the sacred buildings has also evolved since the nationalisation of 1803, and today the situations differ according to the *Land* (federated state). For example, most of Bavaria's cathedrals are owned by the dioceses.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The federal government and the sixteen states of Germany are responsible for their effective protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural heritage. The highest authority responsible for heritage preservation in *Länder* is a designated Ministry. It exercises supervisory control over a Regional Office for the Preservation of Monuments (*Landesdenkmalamt*), which exists in all *Länder* and whose role it is to advise local authorities on the preservation of historic monuments. Finally, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* (KMK) represents the common interest of the *Länder* to the federal government.

#### Cultural heritage

The fact that each state has its own cultural heritage legislation does not prevent many similarities in the definition of listed heritage and the way it is listed. In southern and eastern Germany and in Lower Saxony, buildings are automatically protected if they meet certain criteria laid down by law. In northern and western Germany, protected objects are those listed. Some states have a mixture of these systems<sup>2</sup>.

Within each state, as far as institutions in charge of cultural heritage are concerned, a distinction must be made between:

- Higher monument authorities (district governments)
- Lower monument authorities (districts, municipalities)

The higher authorities exercise technical supervision over the lower monument protection authorities subordinate to them. In some cases, they are also responsible for monuments and for keeping registers of monuments. Lower authorities generally ensure the protection and preservation of monuments. Smaller territorial states such as Saarland and city states such as Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen sometimes do without this administrative hierarchy.



## GERMANY

Ministry > Regional Office for each Land

- Baden-Württemberg: Ministry of Finance and Economics > State Office for Monument Preservation
- Bavaria: Ministry for Science and Art > State Office for Monument Preservation
- Berlin: Senate Department for Culture and Europe > State Monument Council
- Brandenburg: Ministry of Science, Research and Culture > State Office for the Preservation of Monuments and the State Archaeological Museum
- Bremen: Senator for Culture > State Office for Monument Preservation and State Archaeology
- Hamburg: Authority for Culture and Media > Hamburg Monument Protection Office
- Hessen: Ministry for Science and Art > State Office for Monument Preservation Hesse
- Lower Saxony: Ministry for Science and Culture > State Office for the Preservation of Monuments
- Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture > State Office for Culture and Monument Preservation
- North Rhine-Westphalia: Ministry for building, housing, urban development and transport > LVR office for monument conservation in the Rhineland
- Rhineland-Palatinate: Ministry of Education, Science, Further Education and Culture > State Office for the Preservation of Monuments in Rhineland-Palatinate
- Saarland: Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Transport > State Monument Office Saarland
- Saxony: Ministry of the Interior > State Office for Monument Preservation Saxony
- Saxony-Anhalt: State Chancellery and Ministry of Culture > State Office for Monument Preservation and Archaeology Saxony-Anhalt
- Schleswig-Holstein: Ministry of Culture > State Office for Monument Preservation Schleswig-Holstein
- Thuringia: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture > State Office for Monument Preservation and Archaeology

### Financing

In accordance with the division of competences between the Federation and the Länder, the Länder are responsible for the preservation of monuments. The Länder may close a contract (*Vertrag*) with a religious community concerning the burden it will bear. This agreement provides for all cooperation modalities (renovation, construction). Thus, for the renovation of places of worship, each Land has its own indirect and direct funding policy depending on the confession. Indirect financing is often undertaken as part of the heritage preservation policy of each *Land*. This also be the use of church property: in Baden-Württemberg, municipalities must pay for the maintenance of the places of worship they use.

Alternative funding is provided by both public and private institutions. Public institutions active in the financing of culture include the German Federal Cultural Foundation (*Kulturstiftung des Bundes*)<sup>3</sup> and the Cultural Foundation of the Länder (*Kulturstiftung der Länder*)<sup>4</sup>. Private institutions include the German Foundation for Monument Protection (*Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz*)<sup>5</sup> (Granting more than 20 million euros per year for the protection of monuments), Lottery funds and lottery foundations (such as *Lotterie Glücksspirale*), The Robert-Bosch-Stiftung<sup>6</sup>, The Volkswagen Stiftung<sup>7</sup>, The Dietmar-Hopp-Stiftung<sup>8</sup>, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt<sup>9</sup>, The Baden-Württemberg Stiftung<sup>10</sup>, The Mercator Stiftung<sup>11</sup>

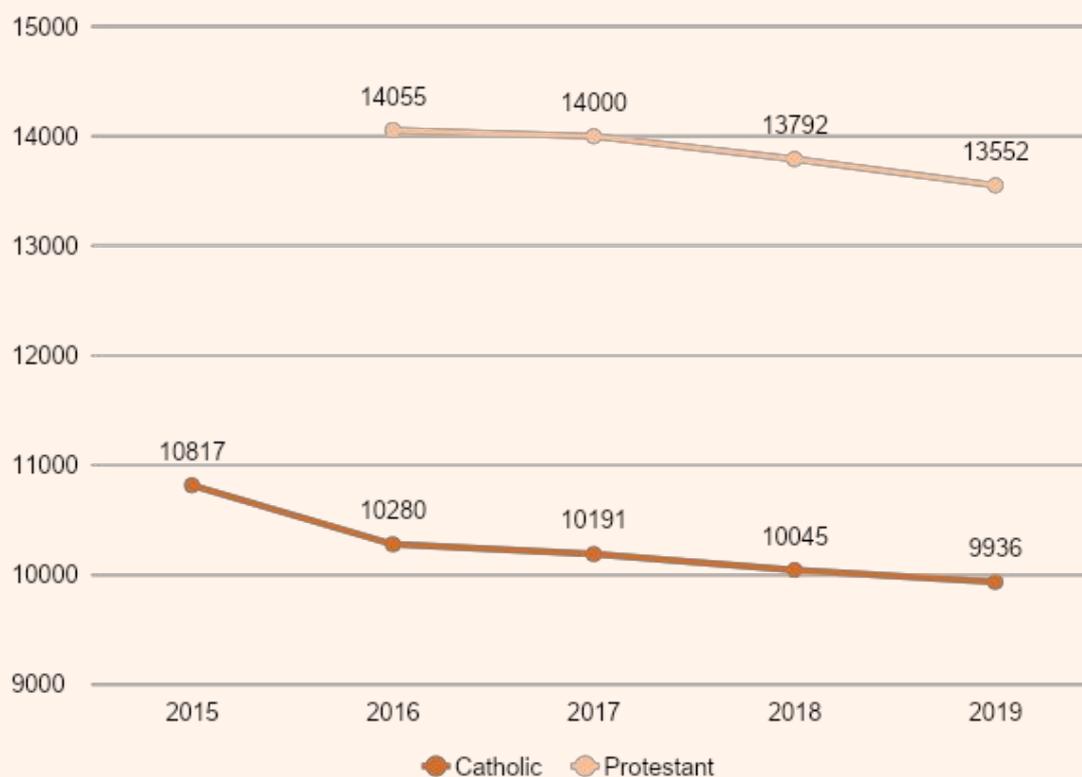


 **GERMANY**

### Threats to the sector

The significant decrease in the number of Christians leads to a decrease in church tax revenues for Christian denominations. This trend goes hand in hand with the abandonment of sacred buildings, which is quite significant in Germany. From 2000 to 2018, 540 catholic churches and chapels have been taken out of liturgical use. 538 churches and chapels have been deconsecrated, 160 demolished, and 142 sold<sup>12</sup>. On the protestant side, between 2000 and 2018, 710 Protestant churches have been taken out of liturgical use, 272 have been sold and 105 have been demolished<sup>12</sup>.

### Decline in the number of Protestant and Catholic parishes





## GERMANY

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Eurel, Financing of Churches (<http://eurel.info/spip.php?rubrique81>)

<sup>2</sup> Nick HAYNES (2008) 'Research report on church-state relationships in selected European countries'

<sup>3</sup> Kulturstiftung des Bundes (<https://www.kulturstiftung-des-bundes.de/de>)

<sup>4</sup> Kulturstiftung der Länder (<https://www.kulturstiftung.de/>)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.denkmalschutz.de/ueber-uns/die-deutsche-stiftung-denkmalschutz/aufgaben-ziele/denkmalfoerderung/foerderung-erhalten.html>

<sup>6</sup> Robert-Bosch-Stiftung (<https://www.bosch-stiftung.de/en>)

<sup>7</sup> Volkswagen Stiftung (<https://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/>)

<sup>8</sup> Dietmar Hopp Stiftung (<https://dietmar-hopp-stiftung.de/>)

<sup>9</sup> Die Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (<https://www.dbu.de/>)

<sup>10</sup> Die Baden-Württemberg Stiftung (<https://www.bwstiftung.de/startseite/>)

<sup>11</sup> Stiftung Mercator (<https://www.stiftung-mercator.de/en/>)

<sup>12</sup> Kim DE WILDT/ Martin RADERMACHER/ Volkhard KRECH/ Beate LÖFFLER/ Wolfgang SONNE (2019) 'Transformations of 'Sacredness in Stone': Religious Architecture in Urban Space in 21st Century Germany—New Perspectives in the Study of Religious Architecture'. In: Religions 10 (2019), no. 11: 602

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Nick HAYNES (2008), 'Research Report on Church-State Relationships in Selected European Countries', MA (Hons), IHBC, Historic Buildings Consultant Burkard KÄMPER & Hans-Werner THÖNNES (ed.) 'Kirche im Wandel – Rückbau, Umbau und Neubau kirchlicher Institutionen' (Essener Gespräche zum Thema Staat und Kirche, 44), Münster 2010.

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Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, 'Kirchen und Gottesdienststätten' (<https://www.ekd.de/berichte-zu-kirchen-und-gottesdienststaetten-in-der-ev-kirche-44484.htm>)

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Historic Synagogues of Europe: (<http://historicsynagogueurope.org/synagogue-search>)



## GREECE Country profile in graphs

### Population



**10,569,703**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

The Orthodox Church and the Jewish and Muslim communities in Thrace are recognised as legal personalities under public law, but the Orthodox Church, followed by between 81% and 90% of the population, is seen as the "dominant" religion. (2015 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



**Churches**

**> 9,000**

Orthodox

**95**

Catholic

**> 30**

Protestant



**Muslim places of worship**

**400**

Including prayer rooms  
and mosques



**Synagogues**

**14**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**10,000**

 **GREECE** Country profile in graphs

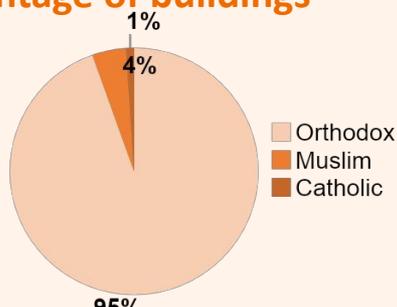
**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> Listed Monuments  
([http://listedmonuments.culture.gr/search\\_declarations.php](http://listedmonuments.culture.gr/search_declarations.php))

<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites comprised in protected sites ( Meteora, Mount Athos) and protected city areas (Medieval City of Rhodes, Old Town of Corfu)

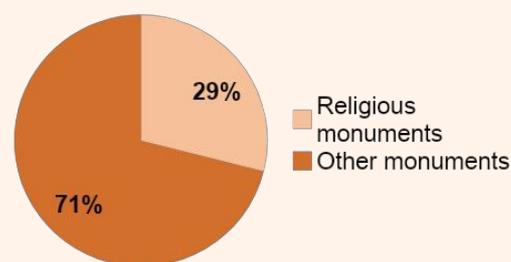
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among monuments\*\***



\*\*Numbers of the "Permanent list of the declared Archaeological sites and Monuments of Greece"  
(<http://listedmonuments.culture.gr/info.php>)

 **GREECE**

## Ownership

Religious communities are important property owners in Greece and enjoy an exception in the ownership of historical monuments. Religious entities may retain ownership of buildings belonging to the three categories of monuments: buildings built before 1453, building built between 1453 and 1830, which usually belong to the state, and new monuments, building built after 1831.

## Protection of the cultural heritage

### Institutional framework

The protection of cultural heritage became a State responsibility from very early on in the creation of the modern Greek State. The main legislation governing the protection of cultural heritage is Law 3028/2002<sup>1</sup>, “On the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general”, which develops a detailed system of protection regarding monuments. The main state agency for the protection of cultural heritage is the Ministry of Culture and Sports. The Central Services within it, directly related to the protection of cultural heritage are the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage and General Directorate of Restoration, Museums and Technical Works.

### Cultural heritage

Law 3028/2002<sup>1</sup> distinguishes between “Cultural Objects” and “Monuments”, the latter of which is subject to more concrete protection.

According to the same Law, Monuments, “cultural objects which constitute material testimonies belonging to the cultural heritage of the country and which deserve special protection”, are separated as follow:

- Ancient monuments or Antiquities - all cultural assets dating back to prehistoric, ancient, Byzantine and post-Byzantine times up to 1830
- Recent monuments - the cultural assets that are dating after 1830 and call for protection due to their historical, artistic or scientific significance
- Immovable monuments - monuments that also include installations, constructions and decorative and other elements which form an integral part of the monuments, as well as their immediate surroundings
- Movable monuments

Other types of classification exist, which no longer classify objects but places as a whole. It is ‘Archaeological sites’ or ‘Historic places’.

State ownership of monuments pre-dating 1453, or the classification of more recent monuments/artefacts considered to be important, are core principles and means of implementing this law.

### Financing

The Greek state funds archaeological and cultural heritage projects through the NSRF and individually through its own independent state funding.

The ‘National Strategic Reference Framework’ (NSRF) 2014-2020<sup>2</sup> is Greece’s main strategic plan for development with significant resources from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). The NSRF will be implemented through seven sectoral operational programmes and thirteen regional operational programmes. The NSRF 2014-2020 will contribute to the achievement of the national objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth<sup>3,4</sup>. The NSRF is managed by the ‘The NSRF Staff Structure of the Ministry of Culture and Sports’ (Η ΕΔΕΠΟΛ).

The independent state funding is provided via the Ministry of Culture and Sports at state level and the ephorates who manage the different regions of the country. But this aid represents less than one percent of the national budget.

Other sources of financing can include grants issued by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation<sup>5</sup> or the Marianna V. Vardinoyannis Foundation<sup>6</sup>.

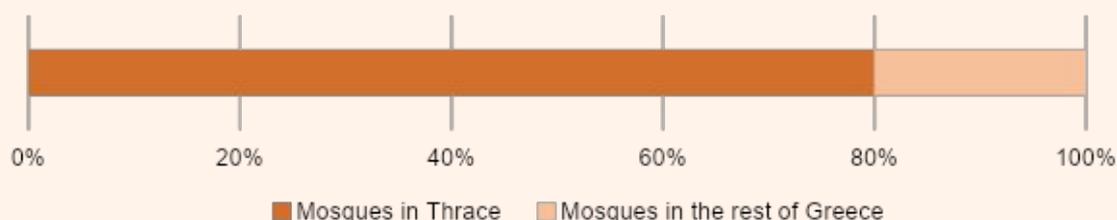
 **GREECE**

### Threats to the sector

Greece's strong religious homogeneity hides its Ottoman occupation for three centuries and the existence of an important Ottoman heritage. Among this heritage there are still about eighty historic Ottoman mosques. But this heritage is largely unused and endangered. The destruction of a large part of the Ottoman buildings can be attributed to the consequences of Greek independence (1821), but there were other causes such as the exchange of population with Turkey in the 1920s, and natural catastrophes such as earthquakes. As recently as 2017, the Defterdar İbrahim Efendi mosque on the island of Kos had been damaged.

The financial crisis of 2007–2008 has also affected many heritage sites. The state had to resort to budget cuts for security at sites and museums and for maintenance (The Ministry of Culture budget has been cut by 50% between 2008 and 2011). The lack of constant care, security and surveillance at sites and monuments has resulted in deterioration due to illegal digging and looting<sup>7</sup>.

### Mosques in Greece



This region containing just over 3% of Greece's population is distinguished by the fact that it is home to a Muslim minority and approximately 80% of Greece's mosques.



**GREECE**

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Law 3028/2002, "On the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general" (<https://www.eui.eu/Projects/InternationalArtHeritageLaw/Documents/NationalLegislation/Greece/3028eng.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> espa.gr (<https://www.espa.gr/en/Pages/Default.aspx>)

<sup>3</sup> Maria ANDREADAKI – VLAZAKI (2016) 'Quadrennial Periodic report on policies and measures to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions', Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports ([https://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/periodic\\_reports/files/2016\\_greece\\_quadrennial\\_periodic\\_report\\_on\\_2005\\_unesco\\_convention\\_final.29.11.2016.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/periodic_reports/files/2016_greece_quadrennial_periodic_report_on_2005_unesco_convention_final.29.11.2016.pdf))

<sup>4</sup> Christos Erich MAIER TZIOTAS (2015) 'The Effects of the Economic Crisis on the Cultural Heritage of Greece: An Analysis of the EU Funding (National Strategic Reference Framework) Provided for the Region of Central Macedonia' Master thesis in Archaeology (<https://www.duo.uio.no/bitstream/handle/10852/45191/Tziotas---Master.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>)

<sup>5</sup> Stavros Niarchos Foundation (<https://www.snf.org/>)

<sup>6</sup> Marianna V. Vardinoyannis Foundation (<https://www.mvvfoundation.gr/en/>)

<sup>7</sup> Greek Culture Protection, Explanatory note: Global financial crisis: Culture's Achilles heel (<http://www.greekcultureprotection.com/>)

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Global Ministries, Evangelical Church of Greece ([https://www.globalministries.org/evangelical\\_church\\_of\\_greece](https://www.globalministries.org/evangelical_church_of_greece))

Greek Culture Protection, Explanatory note: Global financial crisis: Culture's Achilles heel (<http://www.greekcultureprotection.com/>)

## HUNGARY Country profile in graphs

### Population



**9,728,337**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

Hungary has a system of registration of religious groups. However, 14 denominations with a strong presence in Hungary are not obliged to renew their registration. Among them are the two main religions in Hungary: Catholicism (37.2% of the pop.) and Calvinism (11.6%). (2011 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**3,100**

Catholic

**1,700**

Protestant

**50**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**6**



Synagogues

**39**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**5,000**

 **HUNGARY** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



**National Monuments<sup>a</sup>**

**4**  
Churches

**2**  
Abbeys



**Historic Sites<sup>a</sup>**

**9**  
Churches

**2**  
Abbeys



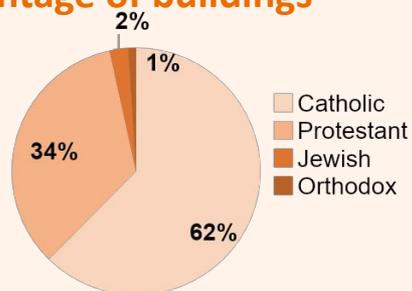
**International (UNESCO)**

**1**  
Church

**1**  
Abbey

<sup>a</sup> the list of National monuments and Historic sites can found on the website of the **National Heritage Institute** (<https://intezet.nori.gov.hu/>)

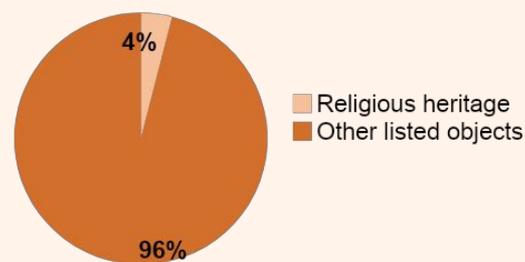
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the listed objects\*\***



\*\*Listed objects on the monument database registered by the former Cultural Heritage Protection Office (KÖH)



## HUNGARY

### Ownership

Hungarian places of worship belong to religious communities, with a few exceptions. Indeed, some properties have not yet been transferred after having been the property of the State during the communist regime (1949-1989). However, for these properties awaiting transfer, the State makes a payment to the religious communities amounting to approximately 28% of the annual subsidy it grants them<sup>1</sup>.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

Overall responsibility for the protection of cultural heritage lies with the Office of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's Office is helped in this task by the Cultural Heritage Protection Directorate of the Lechner Knowledge Centre. The public administration system for built heritage is managed by 21 District Offices of the Government Offices of Counties and the Capital Budapest. Their main role is to grant licences for works affecting cultural heritage.

#### Cultural heritage

The cultural heritage of Hungary, when tangible, can be comprised in three categories, all declared by a decree of the Minister:

- Archaeological heritage
- Monument – immovable heritage
  - Historic gardens
  - The Cemeteries and burial places
  - Monument areas places
- Cultural goods – movable heritage and intangible heritage

The protection of cultural heritage includes its scientific evaluation, maintenance and restoration, as well as education and information about its history and use.

Furthermore, a few sites, with a major importance in the history of Hungary, are considered national memorial sites. This independent category comprises:

- National monuments
- Highlighted national memorials
- Historic monuments

All these categories are declared by the National assembly. Preparative tasks related to the declaration as a national memorial site are performed by the National Heritage Institute (NÖRI), an organisation that assesses and continuously monitors the condition of memorial sites.

It is important to note that while prestigious, the status of national memorial site is primarily an honorary title, which does not provide as much protection for the sites as the conservation of monuments.

#### Financing

The Hungarian State participates in the restoration of religious cultural heritage and monuments to the same extent as the state-owned subsidies for similar cultural heritage. It also financially supports the operation of collections, archives, libraries and museum institutions owned by Church organisations and institutions. Each year the National Assembly decides the amount of financial resources allocated to churches. Within this amount, a little (about 1,7%)<sup>1</sup> is allocated to the protection of church-built heritage.

Churches listed as 'monument of folk architecture' (*népi építészeti emlék*) are eligible for grants under the *Népi Építészeti* programme. This aid can be specifically requested for the prevention, conservation and partial or complete restoration of monuments<sup>2</sup>.

Having had major border changes in the 20th century, Hungary also dedicates funds to "Hungarian" monuments outside Hungary. This task is carried out by the *Teleki László Alapítvány*<sup>3</sup>.



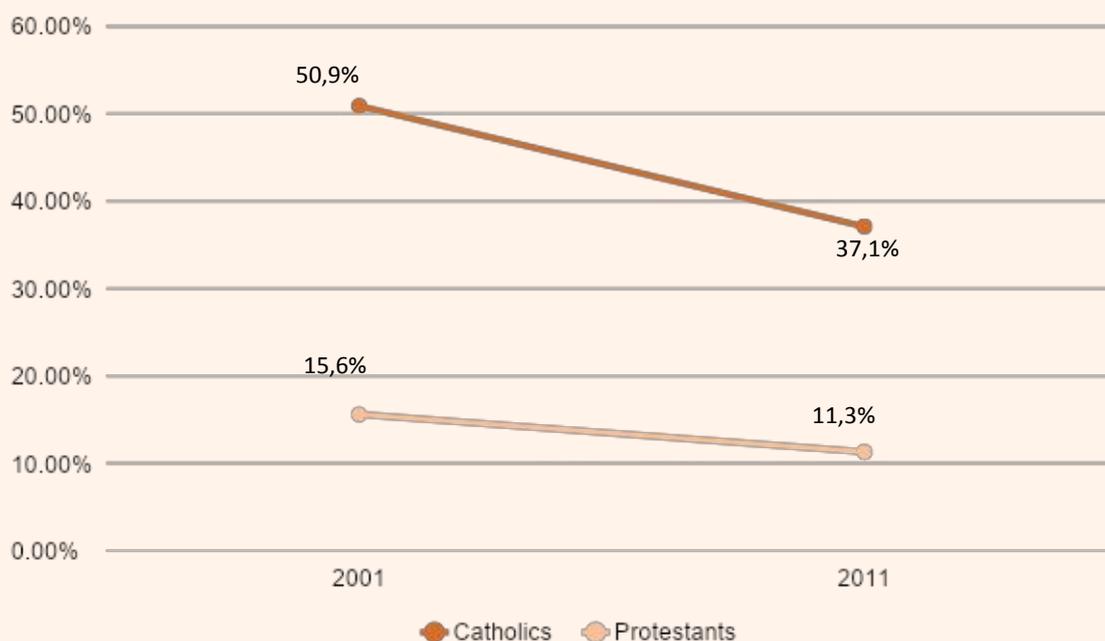
**HUNGARY**

### Threats to the sector

Hungary is going through important social changes<sup>4</sup> and its largest religious denomination, Catholicism, may soon face a problem of church redundancy: between 2006 and 2017, the number of priests decreased by 20%, heralding a certain decrease in the number of parishes<sup>5</sup>. Thus, in the diocese of Győr, half of the parishes could disappear in the near future, leaving dozens of churches out of regular use<sup>6</sup>.

In 2016, in order to reduce bureaucracy, it was decided that the Prime Minister's Office would take over the scientific responsibilities of the Gyula Forster National Office, hosting half a million photo galleries and tens of thousands of archives<sup>7</sup>. This institutional reshuffle involving the closure of a specialised body (created only four years earlier, in 2012) sows confusion about the future of cultural heritage in Hungary.

### Significant decrease in the number of the two main religions as a percentage of the total population of Hungary (2001-2011\*)



\*Date of the last official census



**HUNGARY**

**Notes**

- <sup>1</sup> Péter BUCSKY (2019) 'A tavalyi rekord 150 milliárdról felére esik idén az egyházak támogatása' (<https://g7.hu/kozelet/20190811/a-tavalyi-rekord-150-milliardrol-felere-esik-iden-az-egyhzak-tamogatasa/>)
- <sup>2</sup> Lechner Tudásközpont, Támogatás a Népi Építészeti Örökség Megőrzésére (<http://lechnerkozpont.hu/cikk/tamogatas-a-nepi-epiteszeti-orokseg-megorzesere>)
- <sup>3</sup> Teleki László Alapítvány (<http://www.telekialapitvany.hu/>)
- <sup>4</sup> Adam KOLOZSI (2017) 'A magyarok fele nem gondolkodik az élet értelmén' Index ([https://index.hu/tudomany/2017/05/19/vallasos\\_a\\_magyar/](https://index.hu/tudomany/2017/05/19/vallasos_a_magyar/))
- <sup>5</sup> Spirk JOZSEF (2017) 'A magyar katolikus egyház a végzetes zsugorodás felé halad' 24.hu (<https://24.hu/belfold/2017/06/10/a-magyar-katolikus-egyhazi-a-vezetes-zsugorodas-fele-halad/>)
- <sup>6</sup> Spirk JOZSEF (2017) 'Felszámolják a plébániák felét, akkora a paphiány' 24.hu (<https://24.hu/belfold/2017/01/30/felszamoljak-a-plebaniak-felet-akkora-a-paphiany/>)
- <sup>7</sup> Benedek FICSOR (2017) 'Darabokra hullott az örökségvédelmi rendszer' (<https://magyarnemzet.hu/archivum/kulturgrund/darabokra-hullott-az-oroksegvedelmi-rendszer-3874632/>) (threats to the sector)

**Articles**

- Annamária Eszter SZABÓ (2014) 'A kulturális igazgatás', National University of Public Service
- Adam KOLOZSI (2017) 'A magyarok fele nem gondolkodik az élet értelmén' Index
- Benedek FICSOR (2017) 'Darabokra hullott az örökségvédelmi rendszer'
- Péter BUCSKY (2019) 'A tavalyi rekord 150 milliárdról felére esik idén az egyházak támogatása'
- Spirk JOZSEF (2017) 'A magyar katolikus egyház a végzetes zsugorodás felé halad' 24.hu
- Spirk JOZSEF (2017) 'Felszámolják a plébániák felét, akkora a paphiány' 24.hu

**Webpages**

- Izlam.com, Mosques in Hungary (<http://iszlami.com/>)
- Szerzetesség a korai Magyarországon, Látogatható Kolostorok Magyarországon (<https://szerzetes.hypotheses.org/latogathato-kolostorok>)
- Lechner Tudásközpont, Támogatás a Népi Építészeti Örökség Megőrzésére (<http://lechnerkozpont.hu/cikk/tamogatas-a-nepi-epiteszeti-orokseg-megorzesere>)
- Magyarországi Evangélikus Egyház, Evangélikus templomok a Google térképén (<https://www.evangelikus.hu/node/13>)
- Magyarországi Református Egyház, Facts and Statistics (<https://reformatus.hu/english/our-church/facts-and-statistics/>)
- Műemlékem.com (<https://www.muemlekiem.hu/>)
- Pannonicon, Műemlékem van... (<http://www.pannonicon.hu/restaurator/muemlek.html>)
- Teleki László Alapítvány (<http://www.telekialapitvany.hu/>)

 **REPUBLIC OF IRELAND** Country profile in graphs

**Population**



**5,224,884**  
(July 2021 est.)

**Religions**

With 78.3% of the population, Catholicism is the majority religion in Ireland, far ahead of the local Anglican Church, or Church of Ireland (2.7%) which was the state church until 1871. (2016 est.)

**Number and type of places of worship in use**



**Churches**

**1,980**  
Catholic

**953**  
Protestant\*

**10**  
Orthodox



**Muslim places of worship**

**28**  
Including prayer rooms  
and mosques



**Synagogues**

**2**

\*Includes the Church of Ireland (750) and other protestant denominations (203)

**Estimated number of places of worship**



**3,000**

 **REPUBLIC OF IRELAND** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



**National Monuments<sup>a</sup>**

**140**  
Places of  
worship

**82**  
Abbeys



**Monuments<sup>a</sup>**

**3,750**  
Churches &  
chapels

**235**  
Abbeys

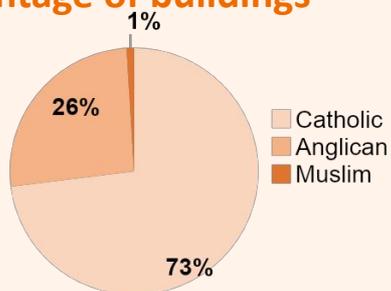


**International (UNESCO)**

**1**  
Abbey

<sup>a</sup> Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) – includes ruined buildings & sites

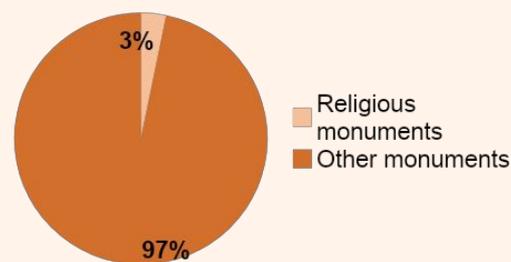
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the monuments\*\***



\*\*Listed on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)



## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

### Ownership

Religious communities own and manage their properties and are among the largest owners in Ireland. State subsidies for these communities depend on their activities as service providers through part of their heritage: hospitals, orphanages, and especially schools.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht oversees the protection of Irish heritage. Within the Department, the National Monuments Service (NMS) is responsible for the implementation of legislation and policy relating to the protection of Ireland's archaeological sites and monuments. Finally, the primary responsibility for the protection of architectural heritage lies with the 31 local authorities (municipal and county councils) in Ireland, each of which is required to identify and protect all structures of interest in their area by including them in a register of protected structures. Architectural conservation officers are employed by local authorities to perform functions related to the protection of architectural heritage.

#### Cultural heritage

In Ireland, a distinction is made between two categories:

- 'monuments'
- 'protected structures'

Monuments can be buildings:

- under state ownership
- under state guardianship
- the subject of a preservation order
- under the ownership of a local authority (e.g. Town Walls)

Structures classified as 'monuments' are no longer in use and are sometimes in a state of ruin. Thus, a church in use can be a 'Protected structure', but it cannot be considered a National Monument (i.e. it cannot receive money for repairs and maintenance).

In principle, buildings classified as monuments may not be returned to religious use. Only two buildings classified as 'monuments' have managed to return to their original use, at the cost of special legislative acts reversing the legislation: Holy Cross Abbey, restored from 1969, and Duiske Abbey, restored in the 1980s.

It is however possible for a 'monument' to be a 'protected structure': when a protected structure is of 'archaeological' interest, it generally means that it is ancient (older than 1700). There is therefore a legislative incentive for a planning authority to include all monuments in the Record of Protected Structures in the Development Plan.

A place of worship in use is protected only when it has been formally placed on the Record of Protected Structures in the Development Plan. There is no central Record of Protected Structures for Ireland, each 'Planning authority' holds one. These 88 local planning authorities include 29 County Councils, 5 City Councils and 49 Towns. It is up to each of them and their elected members, to decide what to include on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

#### Financing

The Constitution of Ireland forbids state endowment of religion. Religious buildings however, as architectural heritage, are eligible for funding.

In Ireland, grant aid to owners and occupants of protected structures for conservation and repair is made available from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht through the local authorities. One of the schemes is the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS), and 'aims to support a significant number of labour-intensive, small-scale conservation projects across the country and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons in the repair of the historic built environment' (€2.5 million allocated for 2020). Second, the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) concerning 'conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public' (€1.8 million allocated for 2020). These programmes are implemented by local authorities and all information concerning them is accessible by contacting the Architectural Conservation Officer in the Local Authority.

The Heritage Council, a statutory body advising the government also provides grant aid to historic buildings and structures<sup>1</sup>.

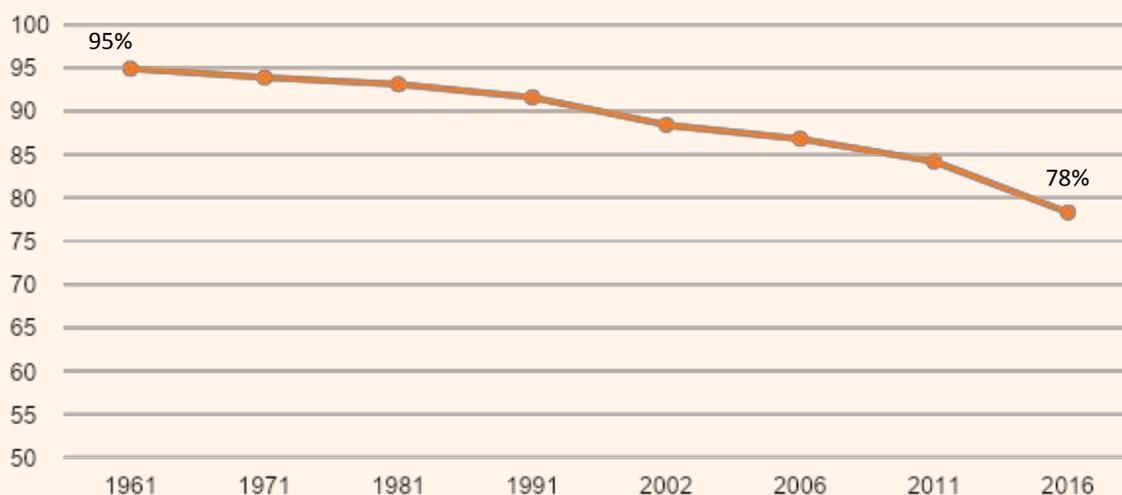
In addition, architectural heritage sites can benefit from "tax relief", for which the following application form<sup>2</sup> must be completed.

 **REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

### Threats to the sector

Desertion of the churches of the Church of Ireland has been ongoing since the Irish Church Act of 1869. Between 1891 and 1991, this denomination experienced a steady decline of 64% of its faithful. Grant-aid for the maintenance of these churches is available at local, national, and European levels. In order to benefit from this aid, however, local clerics must first acquire expertise in the maintenance and financing of historic architecture. The same problem is now affecting Catholic churches.

### Decline in the percentage of Roman Catholics in the Irish population





**REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> The Heritage Council, The Heritage Council supports a wide range of heritage projects throughout the country through our annual grants programme (<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding>)

<sup>2</sup> TAXES CONSOLIDATION ACT 1997 (<https://www.chg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2018/07/482-buildings-20-07-18.pdf>)

**Articles**

Martin MAGUIRE (2004) 'Churches and symbolic power in the Irish landscape', LANDSCAPES. 5(2)

**Webpages**

Historic Graves (<https://historicgraves.com/>)

Islamic Foundation of Ireland (<https://islamicfoundation.ie/>)

Church of Ireland, Find a church (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/find-a-church>)

Irish Catholic's Bishop Conference, Dioceses (<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/dioceses/>)

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>)

Heritage Ireland (<https://heritageireland.ie/>)

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Financial Assistance for Architectural Heritage (<https://www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/built-heritage/financial-assistance-for-architectural-heritage/>)

 **ITALY** Country profile in graphs

**Population**



**62,390,364**  
(July 2021 est.)

**Religions**

Being the religion of a large majority of Italians (more than 80%), the Catholic Church enjoys a number of privileges and specific advantages, as well as financial support guaranteed by treaties concluded with the Italian State.

**Number and type of places of worship in use**



**Churches**

**100,000**  
Catholic

**152**  
Protestant\*

**176**  
Orthodox



**Muslim places of worship**

**1,250-1,300**  
Mosques 9



**Synagogues**

**83**

\*Waldesian and Methodists

**Estimated number of places of worship**



**> 100,000**

 **ITALY** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**

Art. 10, Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape (2004)

Cultural Properties are defined as: ‘Immovable and movable property belonging to the State, to the Regions, and to other public territorial bodies, as well as to any other public body and institute and private non-profit legal persons, including civilly recognised ecclesiastical bodies, which are of artistic, historical, archaeological or ethno-anthropological interest’.



**International (UNESCO)<sup>a</sup>**

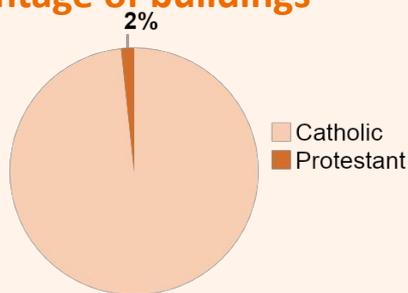
**124**  
Churches

**2**  
Abbeys

**14**  
Synagogues

<sup>a</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Mantua, Sabbionetta, Venice, Urbino, Roma, Siena, Naples, Florence, Ferrara, Pienza, San Gimignano, etc.)

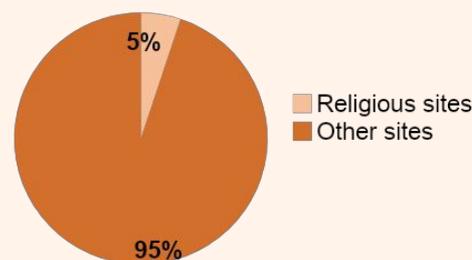
**How the main denominations compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the Places of Culture\***



\*The "luoghi della cultura" are some 6,600 sites that include archaeological areas and parks, monuments, monumental complexes and other permanent exhibition structures for public use. These sites are under the direct control of the Ministry of Heritage and Cultural Activities and Tourism.



## Ownership

65% of Italy's churches are parish churches and belong to ecclesiastical organisations depending from bishops' authority (dioceses, parishes), the rest have various owners: private individuals, the state, municipal governments, regional governments, religious orders and congregations<sup>1</sup>. The FEC, the Fund of Buildings of Worship at the Ministry of the Interior, is the owner of about 840 churches, including some of the most famous ones.

Regarding synagogues, the majority (75%) belong to the Jewish Community in charge of the area whereas the rest mostly belongs to local authorities<sup>2</sup>.

The Islamic places of worship that are established as 'cultural associations' are managed by a community member, but they are rarely owned by the community as a whole or by the cultural association, they are rented spaces that have the characteristics necessary for the preparation of the prayer room and other elements necessary for worship. Things change in the case of the few mosques that have obtained official recognition by the Italian state, for example the Great Mosque of Rome.

## Protection of the cultural heritage

### Institutional framework

In Italy, four levels of government share responsibilities in the cultural field. The protection of heritage (*tutela*) is one of the cultural responsibilities that the State must conserve. The regions, municipalities, metropolitan areas and provinces cooperate with the Ministry in carrying out its protective functions. According to the 'devolution laws' adopted in the late 1990s, the ordinary regions have 'concurrent legislative powers' with those of the State with regard to heritage development. Three of the twenty regions (Valle d'Aosta, Sicilia and Trentino-Alto Adige) have more extensive powers in the cultural field. At State level, two broadly representative advisory bodies assist the Ministry: The High Council for Heritage and Landscape and the "Consulta" for the Performing Arts.

### Cultural heritage

The cultural heritage of Italy, which consists of Cultural assets (*beni culturali*) and Landscape assets (*beni paesaggistici*), is unified at the state level and profit from:

- *Tutela* (protection), which is a prerogative of the State. However, the application of this principle is technical and relies on *Soprintendenze*, regional bodies of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism
- *Valorizzazione* (enhancement), which is done by regions and Regional heritage institutions

In the specific case where the cultural heritage belongs "to the entities and institutions of the Catholic Church or other religious denominations, the Ministry and, as far as it is concerned, the regions shall provide for it, according to the needs of worship, in agreement with the respective authorities" (Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape, 2004, Art. 9).

As a whole, denominations that have an agreement with the Italian State, considered as institutions of public utility, have their places of worship, assimilated to public property, automatically classified after 50 years of existence. This is not automatically the case for religious buildings belonging to foundations or any other private institution.

If a religious heritage does not belong to a religious denomination or body, the use of the heritage (*valorizzazione*) must be protected from "disrespectful" uses.



**ITALY**

**Financing**

The financing of restorations is at the heart of a disagreement between the two main church owners. The FEC would like to make access to churches paying in order to raise funds for their restoration, but this measure is rejected by the CEI (Italian Episcopal Conference<sup>3,4</sup>).

In the meantime, for the restoration of its buildings, a religious community may apply for a contribution to the cost of the work. Since 2018, the Italian State has been able to contribute around €10 million per year to the restoration of buildings that it does not own. From 2020 onwards, the funding will be €20 million per year. Grant applications must be submitted exclusively by electronic means (using the forms available on the regional superintendence portals) during the period from January 1 to May 31 of each year<sup>5</sup>.

The percentage that can be allocated to the individual is set at a maximum of 50% of the expenses, and will consider: the importance and urgency of the intervention, the more or less important use of the property, but also the presence of other public contributions and other possible private contributions for which tax benefits have been obtained.

In the specific case of Catholic buildings, architectural (non-artistic) restoration interventions on cultural heritage may benefit from contributions from the CEI related to the Otto per mille (name of the tax transfer existing in Italy) up to 70% of the estimated eligible cost, the remaining 30% being borne by the parish.

An alternative source of funding is provided by banking foundations such as the CRT Foundation<sup>6</sup>, the MPS Foundation<sup>7</sup>, the Compagnia San Paolo<sup>8</sup> or the Cariplo Foundation<sup>9</sup>, all issue funds for the cultural heritage.



**ITALY**

### Threats to the sector

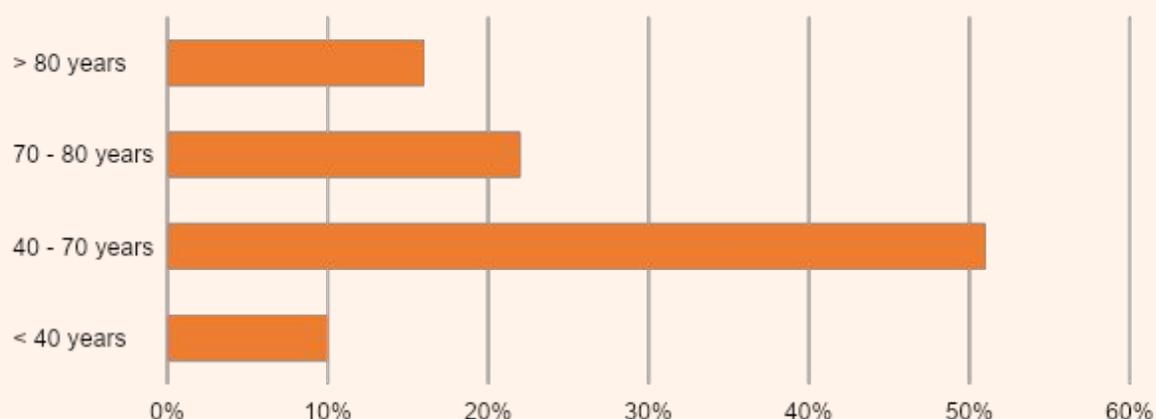
According to the Italian Episcopal Conference, the number of abandoned parish churches in Italy is between 600 and 700 and is on the rise<sup>10</sup>. This is linked to a fall, still contained, of about 16% of the clerical body in 30 years. However, this phenomenon is likely to worsen given the problem of generational renewal of Italian priests, a third of whom were over 70 years old in 2019.

Concerning the few churches financed by the Fund of Buildings of Worship, the annual budget of the state agency is approximately of 18 million euros, of which only one third is used each year for conservation and restorations. This budget is insufficient for the maintenance of the FEC's holdings, which include some of Italy's most emblematic monuments.

Regardless of ownership, neglected religious sites are particularly vulnerable to vandalism and theft. In order to protect the ecclesiastical heritage against these risks, a specially trained group of Arma dei Carabinieri is active in every area of Italy.

Concerning Islamic places of worship in Italy, the main problem concerns its visibility as these places are, in most cases, hidden. This is due to the fact that the 'official' procedure to obtain the legitimacy of the place of worship is very long and it is linked to national urban planning law (Law 380/2001, Consolidated text of the laws and regulations relating to construction), to various regional laws on the architectural and urban heritage and to regional law on places of worship and finally to municipal regulations. The delicate question of the right to worship is an urbanistic question and there are a lot of ways to make extremely difficult, almost impossible, to obtain an official place of worship. This problem, which seems to be purely legislative, actually affects the place of worship and the communities of the faithful.

### Italian priests age pyramid in 2019





#### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Maria Elena RIBEZZO (2018) 'Chiese, 100mila in Italia. Ma molti 'gioielli' appartengono allo Stato' CRONACHEdi (<https://cronachedi.it/2018/11/29/chiese-in-italia-ne-sono-100mila-ma-molti-gioielli-appartengono-allo-stato/>)
- <sup>2</sup> Orazio LA GRECA (2013) 'Le numerose sinagoghe romane: dove quando come', in Semestrare di Studi e Ricerche di Geografia, XXV, Fascicolo 1, gennaio-giugno 2013, Roma, pp. 137-168 (<http://www.semestrare-geografia.org/index.php/sdg/article/view/9>)
- <sup>3</sup> Andrea PEGORARO (2020) 'L'ipotesi per salvare le chiese: un ticket per visitarle', Il Giornale (<https://www.ilgiornale.it/news/politica/ticket-visitare-chiese-unipotesi-superare-loro-difficolt-1819580.html>)
- <sup>4</sup> Italian Episcopal Conference (<https://www.chiesacattolica.it/>)
- <sup>5</sup> Restauro & Conservazione, Tornano i contributi per gli interventi di restauro dei beni vincolati privati (<https://www.restauroconservazione.info/tornano-i-contributi-per-gli-interventi-di-restauro-dei-beni-vincolati-privati/>)
- <sup>6</sup> CRT Foundation (<http://www.fondazione.crt.it/en/fondazione-crt.html>)
- <sup>7</sup> MPS Foundation (<https://www.fondazionemps.it/en/>)
- <sup>8</sup> Compagnia San Paolo (<https://www.compagniadisanpaolo.it/>)
- <sup>9</sup> Cariplo Foundation (<http://www.fondazione.cariplo.it/en/index.html>)
- <sup>10</sup> Giusy STARO (2018) 'Chiese, 100mila in Italia. Ma molti 'gioielli' appartengono allo Stato', Cronachedi.it (<https://cronachedi.it/2018/11/29/chiese-in-italia-ne-sono-100mila-ma-molti-gioielli-appartengono-allo-stato/>)

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- Andrea PEGORARO (2020) 'L'ipotesi per salvare le chiese: un ticket per visitarle', Il Giornale
- Chiara BIAGIONI (2016) 'In Italia 1.251 luoghi di culto islamico. Un panorama fluido, ma privo di una normativa quadro', Sir Agenzia d'informazione
- Elisabetta JAHN (2018) 'Sinagoghe in Italia'
- Giusy STARO (2018) 'Chiese, 100mila in Italia. Ma molti 'gioielli' appartengono allo Stato', Cronachedi.it
- Maria Elena RIBEZZO (2018) 'Chiese, 100mila in Italia. Ma molti 'gioielli' appartengono allo Stato' CRONACHEdi
- Orazio LA GRECA (2013) 'Le numerose sinagoghe romane: dove quando come', in Semestrare di Studi e Ricerche di Geografia, XXV, Fascicolo 1, gennaio-giugno 2013, Roma, pp. 137-168

#### Webpages

- BeWeB - Online ecclesiastical heritage (<https://beweb.chiesacattolica.it/>)
- Catalogo Generale dei Beni Culturali ([http://www.catalogo.beniculturali.it/sigecSSU\\_FE/Home.action?timestamp=1521647516354](http://www.catalogo.beniculturali.it/sigecSSU_FE/Home.action?timestamp=1521647516354))
- Jerusalem (<https://www.jerusalem-lospazioltre.it/inventario-line-beni-immobili-della-chiesa-italiana/>)
- Le Chiese delle Diocesi Italiane (<http://www.chieseitaliane.chiesacattolica.it/chieseitaliane/>)
- MEF Dipartimento delle Finanze, Otto per mille [https://www1.finanze.gov.it/finanze3/pagina\\_dichiarazioni/ottoxmille.php](https://www1.finanze.gov.it/finanze3/pagina_dichiarazioni/ottoxmille.php)
- Ministero Dell'Interno, Fondo Edifici di Culto (<http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.inter-no.gov.it/it/fondo-edifici-culto>)
- Orthodox World, Italy (<https://orthodox-world.org/en/c/105/italy>)
- RadioSpin, Quante Moschee ci sono in Italia e quante in Germania? (<http://www.radiospin.it/quante-moschee-ci-sono-in-italia-e-quante-in-germania/>)
- Restauro & Conservazione (<https://www.restauroconservazione.info/>)

## LATVIA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**1,862,687**  
(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

There is no official religion in Latvia, but the country recognises eight "traditional churches": Lutherans (36.2% of the pop.), Catholics (19.5%), Orthodox (19.1%), Old Believers, Methodists, Baptists, Seventh-Day Adventist Church and the Jewish community. (2017 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**495**  
Protestant\*

**274**  
Catholic

**200**  
Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**2**



Synagogues

**5**

\*Lutheran (295), other protestants (200)

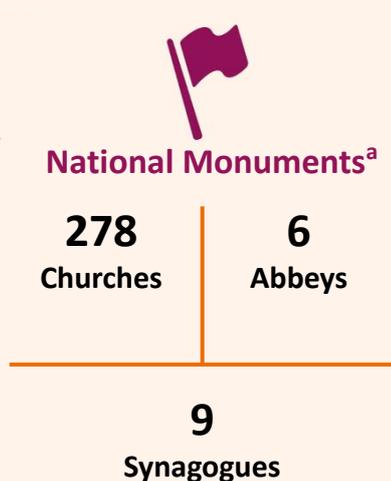
### Estimated number of places of worship



**1,000**

## LATVIA Country profile in graphs

### Protected religious sites

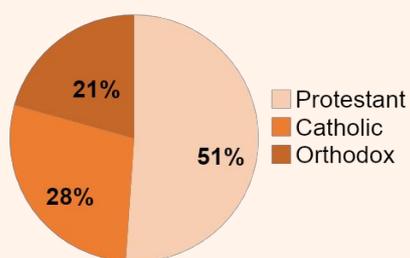


<sup>a</sup> Inventory of cultural monuments (<https://is.mantojums.lv/>)



<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Historic Centre of Riga)

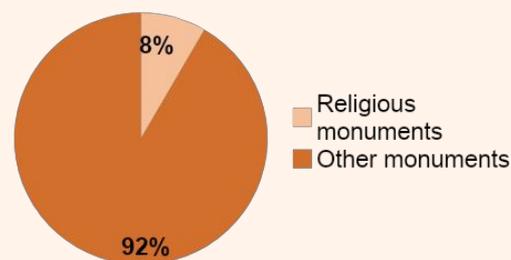
### How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

### Share of religious heritage among the monuments\*\*



\*\*Monuments of the typological group "Architecture"

## LATVIA

### Ownership

In Latvia, religious denominations own their places of worship.

The ownership of places of worship by religious denominations contributes to their indirect funding, based on tax exemption. This tax exemption is due to the fact that religious organisations have no economic use of their properties, thus do not pay corporate tax.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The 'National Cultural Heritage Board' (*Nacionālā kultūras mantojuma pārvalde* or simply NKMP), is since 1989, the department of the Ministry of Culture in charge of the cultural heritage of Latvia. The administrative functions are carried out by nine structural units and five regional units. In 2017, the 'Law on the Financing of the Conservation of the Sacred Heritage' created the Sacred Heritage Council (*Sakrālā mantojuma padome*), that ensures co-operation and circulation of information between the Ministry of Culture, the NKMP and religious organisations.

#### Cultural heritage

According to its 'Provisions on the Registration, Protection, Use, Restoration and Granting of the Status of a Degrading Cultural Monument' (2003), Latvia recognises three types of monuments:

- sites in the list of World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites
- cultural monuments of national significance
- cultural monuments of local significance

Places of worship feature the two last categories as architectural monuments and to some extent as archaeological monuments. Once monuments, buildings are supervised by regional divisions of the National Cultural Heritage Board (along with municipalities for monuments of local significance), and they cannot be destroyed<sup>1,2</sup>.

#### Financing

The Sacred Heritage Financing Program (*Sakrālā mantojuma finansēšanas programma*)<sup>3</sup> makes a significant contribution to the preservation of the listed sacred cultural heritage. The NKMP is the deciding bodies on the inclusion of an object of sacred heritage in the financing program of the sacred heritage, and it determines the utilisation of program funds.

In the first year of the program, 2017, the National Heritage Board allocated € 1 million for the restoration of 28 churches<sup>3</sup>. Pursuant to the 'Law on the Financing of the Conservation of the Sacred Heritage', religious organisations that own cultural heritage monuments can submit applications for funding for restoration, conservation or restoration. In 2020, the funding provided for in the Sacred Heritage Financing Program is € 500,000<sup>3</sup>.

Other sources of financing can include grants issued by the *Baznīču Atjaunošanas Fonds* (Church Restoration Foundation)<sup>4</sup> which organises restoration projects for Latvian churches<sup>5</sup>.

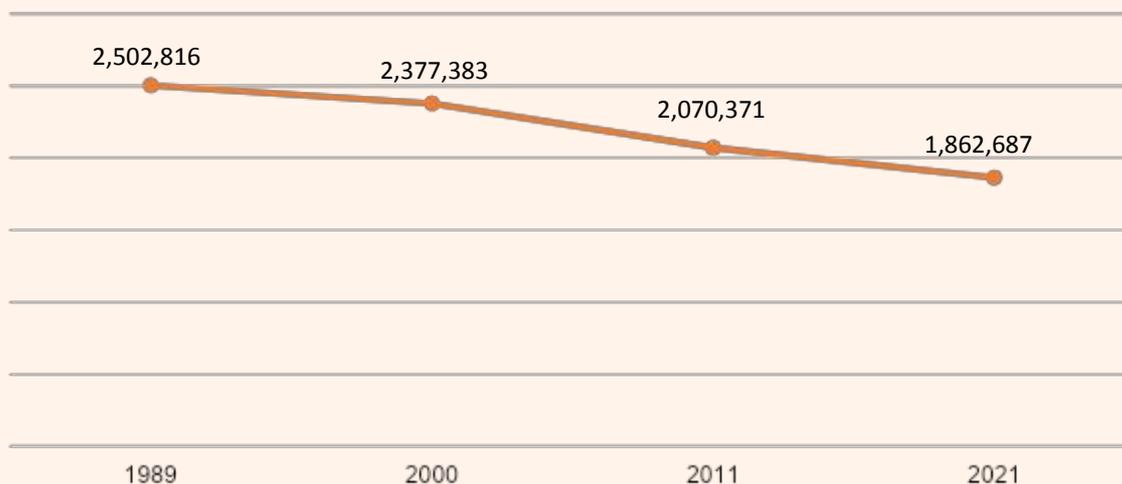
## LATVIA

### Threats to the sector

The Sacred Heritage Financing Program has revealed the extent of the restoration work needed on the churches. However, in 2019, the Program has exhausted its funds, bringing uncertainty to bear on the state of Latvian places of worship<sup>6</sup>.

Alongside the financing of the restoration, there is a more structural problem in Latvia. Since it joined the EU, Latvia has lost one-fifth of its population and is expected to lose another fifth by 2050. This dramatic depopulation puts many buildings out of use.

### Latvia's declining population



 **LATVIA**

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Law on the protection of cultural monuments (1992) (<https://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=72551>)

<sup>2</sup> Provisions on the Registration, Protection, Use, Restoration and Granting of the Status of a Degrading Cultural Monument (2003) (<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/78458-noteikumi-par-kulturas-piemineklu-uzskaiti-aizsardzibu-izmantosanu-restauraciju-un-vidi-degradejosa-objekta-statusa-pi-eskirsanu>)

<sup>3</sup> Nacionālā Kultūras Mantojuma Pārvalde, Sakrālā mantojuma saglabāšanas programma (<https://mantojums.lv/lv/sakrala-mantojuma-saglabasanas-programma/>)

<sup>4</sup> Baznīcēku Atjaunošanas Fonds (<http://www.baznicekas.lv/?s=1265116512&ln=lv>)

<sup>5</sup> Latvian Public Broadcasting (2019) 'Paucity of state funds for church renovation in Latvia' (<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/economy/economy/paucity-of-state-funds-for-church-renovation-in-latvia.a324145/>)

**Articles**

Gundega SKAGALE (2018) 'Fakti par katoļu baznīcu Latvijā: ticīgo un baznīcu skaits, svētvietas un klosteri' Latvijas Avīze  
Latvian Public Broadcasting (2019) 'Paucity of state funds for church renovation in Latvia'

**Webpages**

Baznīcēku Atjaunošanas Fonds (<http://www.baznicekas.lv/?s=1265116512&ln=lv>)

Latvijas Republikas Tieslietu ministrija, Public Reports for 2017 (<https://www.tm.gov.lv/lv/ministrija/gada-parskati/2017-gada-publiskie-parskati>)

Mantojums (<https://is.mantojums.lv/>)

Nacionālā enciklopēdija, Latvijas Evaņģēliski luteriskā baznīca  
(<https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/22210-Latvijas-Eva%C5%86%C4%A3%C4%93liski-luterisk%C4%81-bazn%C4%ABca>)

Nacionālā enciklopēdija, Pareizticīgā baznīca Latvijā  
(<https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/22176-Pareiztic%C4%ABg%C4%81-bazn%C4%ABca-Latvij%C4%81>)

Nacionālā enciklopēdija, musulmaņi Latvijā (<https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/22174>)



## LITHUANIA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**2,711,566**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

There are 9 “traditional religious communities” in Lithuania, this includes: Roman Catholics (77.2% of the pop.), Greek Catholics (Unitates), Evangelical Lutherans, Evangelical Reformed, Orthodox, Old Believers, Jews, Sunni Muslims, Karaites. (2011 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**495**  
Catholic

**108\***  
Orthodox

**> 70**  
Protestant



Muslim places of worship

**6**  
Mosques 4



Synagogues

**5**

\*Orthodox (55), Old Believers (53)

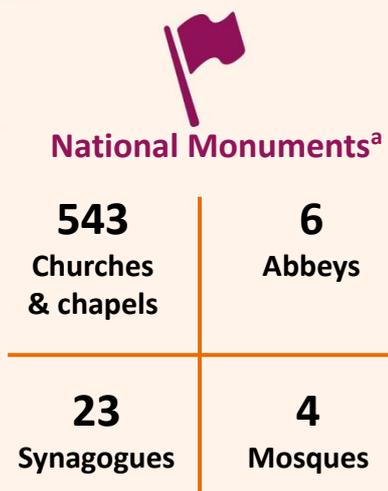
### Estimated number of places of worship



**1,300**

 **LITHUANIA** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**

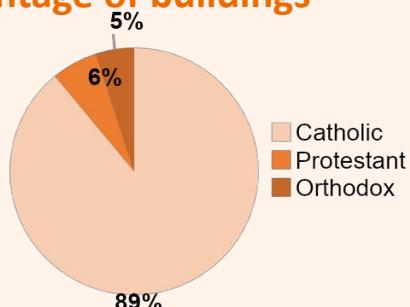


<sup>a</sup> Register of Cultural Property (<http://kvr.kpd.lt/heritage/>)



<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Vilnius Historic Centre)

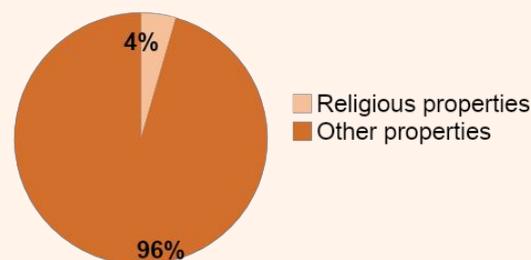
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the properties of significant value\*\***



\*\*Taking the summary by nature of goods of significant value (<http://www.bendrasiplanas.lt/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Nekilnojamosis-kulturos-paveldas.pdf>)



## LITHUANIA

### Ownership

A procedure for the restitution of property to religious communities was initiated in 1990, and since 1997 the laws of Lithuania have recognised the legal personage of religious communities. Restitution can be made in kind, or by sale with the purchase of the property by the state. Once they become the owners, religious communities benefit from tax exemption on their buildings.

However, restitution is a slow process and communities are being given buildings that have not been repaired for decades<sup>1,2</sup>.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The policy for the protection of immovable cultural heritage is formulated by the *Seimas* (Parliament of Lithuania), the government and the Ministry of Culture. The 'Department of Cultural Heritage' under the Ministry of Culture is responsible for the implementation of the specific functions of the State administration of immovable cultural heritage. The department is also the founder of the 'Centre of Cultural Heritage', which collects information on cultural heritage and conducts historical and physical research. Finally, 'Monuments of Lithuania', also subordinate to the department, is responsible for the conservation and restoration works.

#### Cultural heritage

At the national level, cultural monuments can be of two kinds:

- Movable
- Immovable
  - Within immovable monuments, places of worship are classified as 'sacred monuments', a category devoted to 'objects, places, their complexes and areas important for religious communities and centres'.

The protection of immovable cultural heritage is then performed by municipal institutions and guaranteed by the Law on the Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage<sup>3</sup>, the Law on Territorial Planning<sup>4</sup> and the Law on Protected Areas<sup>5</sup> to site a few. This last law establishes 'protected areas', which in some cases include sacral buildings (i.e. Vilnius Old Town).

#### Financing

Many programs are either funded or co-funded by the Department of Cultural Heritage: The Heritage Management Program (Paveldotvarkos programa)<sup>6</sup> allows managers of privately-owned cultural heritage sites to obtain reimbursement on preservation and restoration costs. State co-financing can also be sought for projects promoting the revitalisation, awareness and dissemination of the immovable cultural heritage at local, regional, and national levels<sup>7</sup>. But some of these programs are specifically aimed at sacred heritage, often concerning Christian sites:

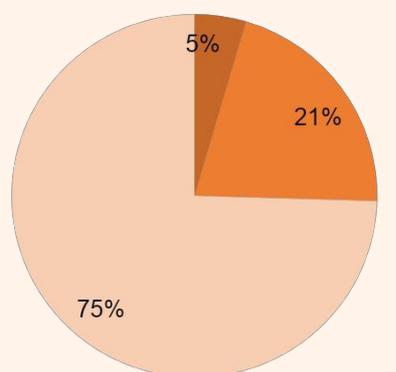
- The 'execution of initiatives to actualise sacred cultural heritage'<sup>8</sup> implements projects of national importance for the preservation of sacred heritage.
- The program aims at perpetuating the implementation of St. John Paul II's work on pilgrimage, preservation, and adaptation of its objects for pilgrimage and tourism purposes<sup>9</sup>.
- An 'agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the Holy See on cooperation in the field of education and culture' allows the Conference of Lithuanian Bishops to propose buildings to be restored<sup>10</sup>.

 **LITHUANIA**

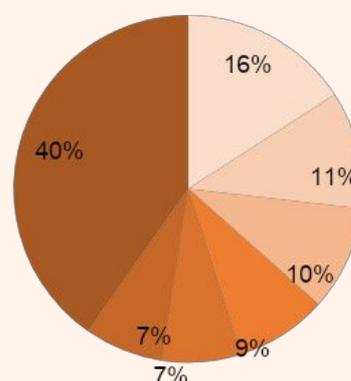
**Threats to the sector**

There remains an important Jewish heritage dating back to the time of the Duchy of Lithuania (1236-1795), a period which made the region a veritable centre of Jewish culture and made Vilnius the "Jerusalem of Europe" (the capital of Lithuania still has 21 synagogues). Estimated at around 250,000 in 1792, Lithuanian Jews today number about 5,000<sup>11</sup>, and their heritage, mostly disused, is in need of care.

**Percentage of synagogues in use<sup>10</sup>**



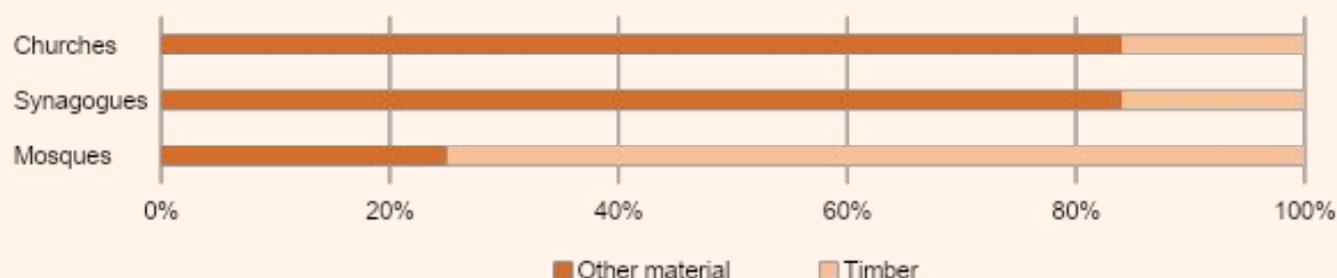
**Reuse of Lithuanian synagogues<sup>10</sup>**



- In use
- Abandoned
- Reused
- Habitation
- Shop
- Office building
- Educational institution

Another challenge facing Lithuania is the fragility of the structures of some of its religious monuments. Indeed, an important part of these buildings are made of wood and therefore are more subject to the effects of time but also to the fires that affect, on average, two wooden churches per year<sup>12</sup>.

**Percentage of wooden sacred building<sup>11</sup>**





## LITHUANIA

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Robertas PUKENIS (2011) 'Bažnyčios turtų administravimas Lietuvos Respublikoje' ateitis.net (<https://www.ateitis.net/lt/temos/585/>)
- <sup>2</sup> Žin., 1995, Nr. 27-600 ([https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.579F0B8C810D/TAIS\\_173488](https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.579F0B8C810D/TAIS_173488))
- <sup>3</sup> Lietuvos Respublikos nekilnojamojo kultūros paveldo apsaugos įstatymas (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.9BC8AEE9D9F8/XOicWxHMLS>)
- <sup>4</sup> Lietuvos Respublikos teritorijų planavimo įstatymas (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.26B563184529/naKHSDqVQb>)
- <sup>5</sup> Lietuvos Respublikos saugomų teritorijų įstatymas (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.FF1083B528B7/lygDaXKkxu>)
- <sup>6</sup> Kultūros paveldo departamentą prie Kultūros ministerijos, Paveldotvarkos programa/ Tvarkybos darbų finansavimas (<http://www.kpd.lt/paveldotvarkos-programa-tvarkybos-darbu-finansavimas/>)
- <sup>7</sup> Kultūros paveldo departamentą prie Kultūros ministerijos, Pažinimo sklaidos ir leidybos projektai (<http://www.kpd.lt/pazinimo-sklaidos-ir-leidybos-projektai/>)
- <sup>8</sup> Kultūros paveldo departamentą prie Kultūros ministerijos, Sakralinio kultūros paveldo aktualizavimo iniciatyvų vykdymas (<http://www.kpd.lt/sakralinio-kulturos-paveldo-aktualizavimo-iniciatyvu-vykdydas/>)
- <sup>9</sup> Kultūros paveldo departamentą prie Kultūros ministerijos, Priemonė „Vykdyti Jono Pauliaus II piligrimų kelio kūrimo ir jo objektų pritaikymo piligrimų ir turizmo turizmo reikmėms programą“ (<http://www.kpd.lt/priemone-vykdyti-jono-pauliaus-ii-piligrimu-kelio-kurimo-ir-jo-objektu-pritaikymo-piligrimu-ir-turizmo-reikmems-programa/>)
- <sup>10</sup> Kultūros paveldo departamentą prie Kultūros ministerijos, LR ir Šventojo Sosto sutarties dėl bendradarbiavimo švietimo ir kultūros srityje programa (<http://www.kpd.lt/lr-ir-sventojo-sosto-sutarties-del-bendradarbiavimo-svietimo-ir-kulturos-srityje-programa/>)
- <sup>11</sup> European Jewish Congress, Lithuania (<https://eurojewcong.org/communities/lithuania/>)
- <sup>12</sup> Raimonda MIKALCIUTE-URBONE (2017) 'gražiausių medinių bažnyčių Lietuvoje įamžinęs Raimundas Vaišvilas: „Ten sudėtas mūsų tautiškas“ 15min (<https://www.15min.lt/pasaulis-kiseneje/naujiena/per-lietuva/100-graziausiu-mediniu-baznyciu-lietuvoje-iamzines-ramundas-vaisvilas-ten-sudetas-musu-tautiskumas-642-862496>)
- Alkas.it, Seimas calls for protection of Lithuanian wooden sacral cultural heritage (<http://alkas.lt/2019/06/07/seimas-ragina-pasirupinti-lietuvos-medinio-sakralinio-kulturos-paveldo-apsauga/#more-391992>)
- <sup>13</sup> Historic Synagogues of Europe (<https://historicsynagoguesofeurope.org/synagogue-search>)
- <sup>14</sup> Sources Churches: Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija, lietuvių liaudies medinė sakralinė architektūra (<https://www.vle.lt/Straipsnis/lietuviu-liaudies-medine-sakraline-architektura-118022>)
- Sources Synagogues: Historic Synagogues of Europe (<https://cja.huji.ac.il/mhs/search.php>)
- Sources Mosques: Islamas Visiems, Mečetės, islamiški centrai, turstinė vieta (<http://islamavisiems.lt/mecetes-islamiski-centrai-turistine-vieta/>)

### Articles

- Raimonda MIKALCIUTE-URBONE (2017) 'gražiausių medinių bažnyčių Lietuvoje įamžinęs Raimundas Vaišvilas: „Ten sudėtas mūsų tautiškas“ 15min
- Rasa BERTAŠIŪTĖ (2009) 'Medinio paveldo puoselėjimas, Lietuvos liaudies buities muziejuje', Lietuvos liaudies buities muziejus
- Robertas PUKENIS (2011) 'Bažnyčios turtų administravimas Lietuvos Respublikoje' ateitis.net
- Simona BARAKAUSKAITĖ (2011) 'Medinio paveldo apsauga Lietuvoje: problemos ir praktika', Thesis, Šiauliai University
- Ugnius ANTANAVICIUS (2018) 'Katalikybė Lietuvoje skaičiais: kiek Lietuvoje yra kunigų ir kiek bažnyčių?', 15MIN

### Webpages

- European Jewish Congress, Lithuania (<https://eurojewcong.org/communities/lithuania/>)
- Islamavisiems, Mečetės, islamiški centrai, turstinė vieta (<http://islamavisiems.lt/mecetes-islamiski-centrai-turistine-vieta/>)
- Kaišiadorių vyskupija, Kodėl Bažnyčios nuosavybė dar neįteisinta? (<https://kaisiadorys.lcn.lt/naujienos/97>)
- Kultūros paveldo departamentą prie Kultūros ministerijos (<http://www.kpd.lt/>)
- Kultūros vertybių registras, Nekilnojamojo kultūros vertybių paieška (<https://kvr.kpd.lt/#/static-heritage-search>)
- Lietuvos evangelikų baptistų bendruomenių sąjunga, Bendruomenės (<http://www.baptist.lt/lt/bendruomenes.html>)
- Lietuvos evangelikų liuteronų bažnyčia, Parapijos (<http://www.liuteronai.lt/Parapijos>)
- Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija, Lietuvos Stačiatikių Bažnyčia (<https://www.vle.lt/Straipsnis/Lietuvos-Staciatikiu-Baznycia-117882>)

## LUXEMBOURG Country profile in graphs

### Population



**639,589**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

In Luxembourg, five denominations receive state funding: the Catholic Church, the Jewish community, the Anglican Church, the Orthodox Church and the Protestant Church and, since 2016, the Muslim community. The majority religion in this small state is Catholicism, which represents almost all of the 70.4% of Christians in the country. (2010 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**587**  
Catholic

**2**  
Protestant

**2**  
Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**11**



Synagogues

**2**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**600**



## LUXEMBOURG Country profile in graphs

### Protected religious sites



#### National Monuments<sup>a</sup>

<b>99</b> Churches & chapels	<b>14</b> Abbey
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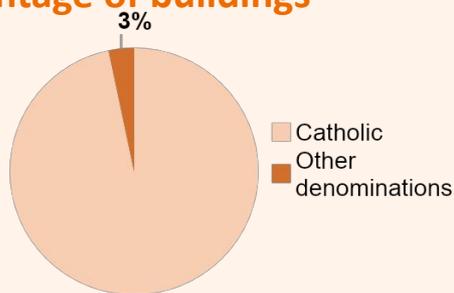
#### International (UNESCO)<sup>b</sup>

<b>6</b> Churches	<b>1</b> Synagogue
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<sup>a</sup> National Sites and Monuments Department of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (SSMN)  
(<https://ssmn.public.lu/fr/patrimoine.html>)

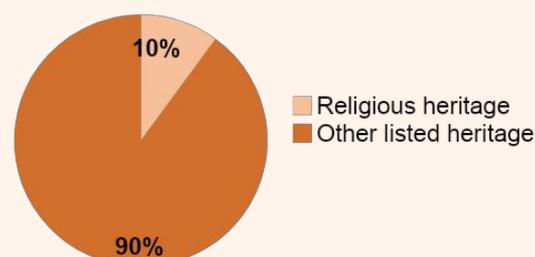
<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (City of Luxembourg: its Old Quarters and Fortifications)

### How the main denominations compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings



Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

### Share of religious heritage among the listed buildings\*



\*Total buildings and objects that are classified or listed in the supplementary inventory

 **LUXEMBOURG**

### Ownership

The 'Act of 13 February 2018'<sup>1</sup> has recently changed the ownership situation of many churches in Luxembourg. These laws created the Fund for the Management of Religious Buildings of the Catholic Faith (*Kierchefong*), a public body under the control of the Archbishopric of Luxembourg. The 285 'church fabrics', the public institutions that were previously responsible for the maintenance of the churches, have been dissolved. From then onward, ownership of church buildings was given either to the local authorities or to the *Kierchefong*<sup>2</sup>.

The management of the churches has been simplified with the law. The old 'church fabrics', numbering 285, were sometimes several per commune because it had the management of only one church. From now on, the *Kierchefong* ensures its local presence with only one new 'church fabric' (FE) per commune<sup>1</sup>.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The Directorate of National Sites and Monuments of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (SSMN) provides that the secretariat of the Minister of Culture, is responsible for the preservation, restoration and enhancement of heritage, with a specific department for religious heritage. The SSMN acts as the contracting authority for Crown-owned buildings. The Department also hosts the secretariat of the Commission on National Sites and Monuments, an advisory body to the Minister of Culture. Municipalities, as part of their general development plans, must identify and protect buildings of local importance.

#### Cultural heritage

Luxembourg distinguishes national and local heritage.

The State, through the SSMN, protects the architectural heritage at national level. At the communal level, communes declare their local architectural heritage, and are helped in this by the SSMN: By 31 December 2020, 58 municipalities had revised their respective general development plans (PAG), where they have identified some 18,833 buildings worthy of protection. The SSMN then identifies the buildings worthy of national protection<sup>3</sup>.

#### Financing

The six registered religions (the Catholic Church, the Jewish Community, the Anglican Church, the Orthodox Church, the Protestant Church and the Muslim Community) are funded by the State. In the case of the Catholic Church, the 'Act of 13 February 2018' relieved local authorities from financing the day-to-day maintenance of churches, most of which were entrusted to the *Kierchefong*. However, 'subsidies may be granted and accepted by the Fund (*Kierchefong*) to owners of religious buildings erected on the territory of the commune for the preservation or embellishment of buildings erected on the commune's territory'<sup>1</sup>.

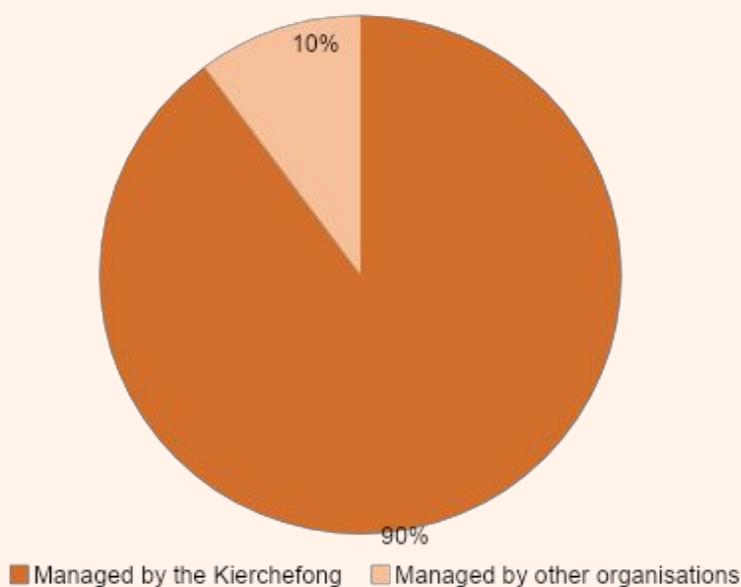
'National Sites and Monuments Service' (SSMN)<sup>4</sup> can support heritage belonging to individuals and local authorities, with restoration, enhancement projects and by ensuring that subsidies are paid by the state for these purposes.

 **LUXEMBOURG**

**Threats to the sector**

The creation of the Kierchefong and the dismantling of 'church fabrics' has raised fears for the future of Luxembourg's religious heritage. However, most churches in Luxembourg quickly adapted to the law and signed agreements with the local authorities, recognising them or the Kierchefong as owners.

**Percentage of churches managed by the Kierchefong**





## LUXEMBOURG

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Loi du 13 février 2018 (<http://data.legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/loi/2018/02/13/a142/jo>)

<sup>2</sup> Marc VANACKER (2016) 'Projet de loi sur la gestion des édifices religieux : A qui vont appartenir les églises ?', Luxemburger Wort (<https://www.wort.lu/fr/luxembourg/projet-de-loi-sur-la-gestion-des-edifices-religieux-a-qui-vont-appartenir-les-eglises-57a4c64fac730ff4e7f6495c>)

<sup>3</sup> Services des sites et monuments nationaux, 'Patrimoine à protéger' ([https://ssmn.public.lu/fr/patrimoine/patrimoine\\_bati\\_PAG.html](https://ssmn.public.lu/fr/patrimoine/patrimoine_bati_PAG.html))

<sup>4</sup> Service des Sites et Monuments Nationaux (<https://ssmn.public.lu/fr.html>)

### Articles

Maurice FICK (2019) 'Le « très dynamique » culte musulman au Luxembourg', Luxemburger Wort

Marc VANACKER (2016) 'Projet de loi sur la gestion des édifices religieux : A qui vont appartenir les églises ?', Luxemburger Wort

### Webpages

Jewish Community of Luxembourg in Esch-sur-Alzette (<http://www.jewish.lu/>)

Kathoulesch Kierch zu Lëtzebuerg (<https://www.cathol.lu/aerzdiozes-archidiocese/d-kierch-zu-letzebuerg-l-eglise-a-luxembourg/ou-est-ma-paroisse.html>)

Religion au Luxembourg, communautés religieuses et mouvements spirituels (<https://www.religion.lu/liste/orthodoxe>)

Services des Sites et Monuments Nationaux (<https://ssmn.public.lu/fr/patrimoine/religieux.html>)

## MALTA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**460,891**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

In Malta the majority religion is also the state religion. Catholicism is the religion of more than 90% of the island's inhabitants. (2006 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**350**  
Catholic

**14**  
Protestant



Muslim places of worship

**1**



Synagogues

**1**

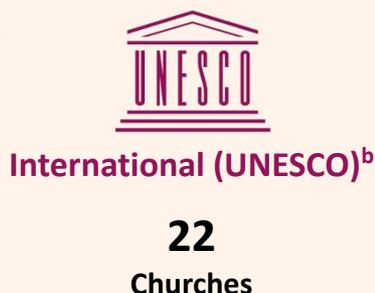
### Estimated number of places of worship



**400**

 **MALTA** Country profile in graphs

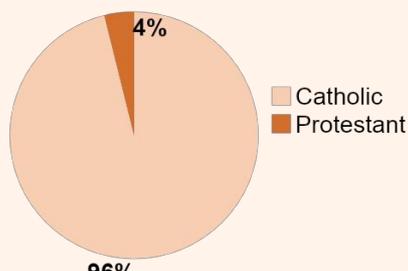
**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands (NICPMI)  
(<https://culture.gov.mt/en/culturalheritage/Pages/National%20Inventory.aspx>)

<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (City of Valletta)

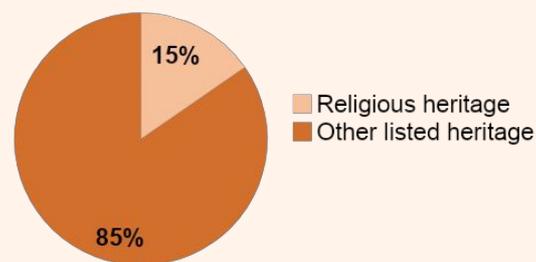
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the listed buildings**





## Ownership

In Malta, the responsibility for religious buildings (mostly Catholic) automatically falls on the religious entities using the building. In 1991, the Ecclesiastical Entities (Properties) Act legalised the transfer of disused ecclesiastical property to the state, 'to meet the country's most pressing social requirements, such as social housing and public utilities, as well as for humanitarian, educational and cultural purposes'<sup>1</sup>.

## Protection of the cultural heritage

### Institutional framework

Malta's cultural heritage is protected by the Cultural Heritage Act of 2002. This act creates several entities with direct or indirect responsibility for the protection and management of the cultural heritage sector. First, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (SCH) fulfils the duties of the state by ensuring the protection of Malta's cultural heritage. Heritage Malta is the agency created to ensure that the cultural heritage entrusted to it is protected and made accessible to the public. The Cultural Heritage Fund is the body that receives and manages the sums paid to it under the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act. Finally, the Guarantee Committee ensures and facilitates collaboration between the various agencies.

### Cultural heritage

Cultural property that belongs to a denomination and is used for religious purposes by that denomination is supervised by a Religious Heritage Commission. These Religious Heritage Commissions have the same authority over religious heritage as the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. Thus, there is a Catholic Cultural Heritage Commission, appointed every two years by the President of the Bishops' Conference of Malta and composed of at least five experts, one of whom is appointed by the Minister.

### Financing

In Malta, the Heritage Malta<sup>2</sup> agency and the Cultural Heritage Fund<sup>2</sup>, both established by the Cultural Heritage Act (2002)<sup>3</sup>, channel state financing for the preservation of cultural heritage. First, Heritage Malta has to ensure that cultural heritage sites and buildings are conserved and restored.

Second, the funds of the Cultural Heritage Fund are solely used for the purpose of research, conservation, or restoration of the cultural heritage.

Malta is one of the 15 states eligible for the EEA and Norway Grants<sup>4</sup>. In total, in 2019, these grants represented a contribution of 8 million euros for Malta, part of which went to support cultural tourism and general public access to culture.



## MALTA

### Threats to the sector

In Malta, where adherence to Catholicism stands at a high 98%, churches are still widely used for their primary purpose as places of worship. However, the archipelago has seen a sharp decrease of mass attendance. Between 1995 and 2005, attendance by Maltese residents decreased by 11.1%, from 61.7% to 50.6%. In 2017, it was found that only 36% were still going to Sunday mass on a monthly basis<sup>5</sup>.

 **MALTA**

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Ecclesiastical Entities (Properties) Act 1992, CAP. 358. (<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8828&l=1>)

<sup>2</sup> Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (<https://culture.gov.mt/en/culturalheritage/Pages/Default.aspx>)

<sup>3</sup> Cultural Heritage Act 2002, CAP. 445. (<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8911&l=1>)

<sup>4</sup> EEA GRANTS - NORWAY GRANTS, FINANCIAL MECHANISM OFFICE, Malta (<https://eeagrants.org/countries/malta>)

<sup>5</sup> Kurt Sansone (2019) 'Drop in Sunday Mass attendance hits parishes hard all across Malta' MaltaToday ([https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/92648/drop\\_in\\_sunday\\_mass\\_attendance\\_hits\\_parishes\\_hard\\_all\\_across\\_malta#.XfuRfmRKhPZ](https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/92648/drop_in_sunday_mass_attendance_hits_parishes_hard_all_across_malta#.XfuRfmRKhPZ))

**Articles**

Gerhard ROBBERS (2019) 'State and Church in the European Union', Nomos Verlag

Kurt SANSONE (2019) 'Drop in Sunday Mass attendance hits parishes hard all across Malta' MaltaToday

**Webpages**

Arts Council Malta (<https://www.artscouncilmalta.org>)

EEA GRANTS - NORWAY GRANTS, FINANCIAL MECHANISM OFFICE, Malta (<https://eeagrants.org/countries/malta>)

Land Registry (<https://www.landregistryplans.gov.mt/>)

Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government (<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt>)

Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (<https://culture.gov.mt/en/culturalheritage/Pages/Default.aspx>)

VisitMalta, Religious Sites (<https://www.visitmalta.com/en/religious-sites>)



## NETHERLANDS Country profile in graphs

### Population



**17,337,403**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

The breakdown of the population of the Netherlands by religion is fairly balanced between Roman Catholic 23.6%, Protestant 14.9% (includes Dutch Reformed 6.4%, Protestant Church of The Netherlands 5.6%, Calvinist 2.9%), Muslim 5.1%, other 5.6% (includes Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish). About 50.7% of the population doesn't adhere to any religion. (2017 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**1,700**

Catholic

**2,300**

Protestant



Muslim places of worship

**500**

Mosques 97



Synagogues

**45**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**7,700**



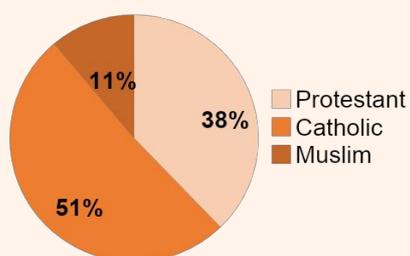
## NETHERLANDS Country profile in graphs

### Protected religious sites



<sup>a</sup> Register of monuments and historic buildings (<https://monumentenregister.cultureelerfgoed.nl/>)

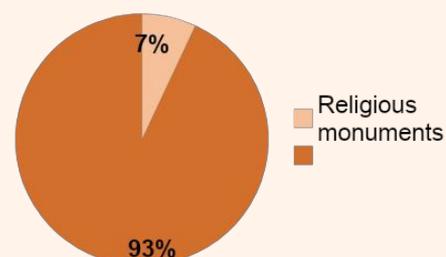
### How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

### Share of religious heritage among the National monuments\*\*



\*\*Listed in the National Monuments Register (<https://monumentenregister.cultureelerfgoed.nl/monumentenregister>)



## NETHERLANDS

### Ownership

Local church councils (*kerkbestuur*), also called parish councils (*parochiebestuur*) take care of the properties and commitment for the benefit of the parish. This board is formed by the parish priest as chairman together with members appointed for this purpose by the bishop. The local parish owns the building and is authorised to manage it. It must obtain the approval of the diocese for major changes. This approval extends to state authorities if the building is classified as a historical monument<sup>1</sup>.

However, due to state regulations dating from 1798 and 1801 (under French occupation), each church tower is the property of the civil authorities, because of their public character as watch posts<sup>2</sup>.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The Cultural Heritage Agency (*Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed*) is the executive body of the Ministry for Education, Culture and Science in charge of preserving and protecting buildings, sites and works of art. Furthermore, since the late twentieth century, provincial and local authorities play a leading role in the Dutch heritage management. The Cultural Heritage Agency helped local authorities in implementing their heritage policy and advises them on important and costly restoration projects.

#### Cultural heritage

In the Netherlands, there is a scale of monuments, from local to national:

- National monuments
- Municipal monuments
- Provincial monuments (Of the twelve Dutch provinces, only Noord-Holland and Drenthe have created lists of monuments)

The protection of national monuments is regulated in the Heritage Act. The type of monument determines, among other things, which laws and regulations apply to you. Almost all monument owners have to deal with the environmental permit.

As with the modification of a national monument, the modification of a municipal monument requires an environmental permit, as well as consultation with the municipality where the monument is located.

Finally, a site can be protected if located in a protected village of view. More than 400 areas in the Netherlands with a special cultural-historical character are characterized as 'protected town or village views'. These areas fall under the so-called transitional law in the Heritage Act. Buildings in a protected area do not automatically have the status of protected monument.

#### Financing

In the Netherlands, places of worship can only receive state funding as national monuments<sup>3</sup>. The Dutch government uses resources in three different ways for heritage: grants, low-interest loans and tax deductions<sup>3</sup>.

Government grants, to which one can apply through De Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (RCE)<sup>4</sup>, only concern the preservation and reutilisation of buildings.

The restoration of buildings is eligible for provincial grants. The state grant for the preservation of national monuments with no residential function, such as churches, is the *Subsidieregeling instandhouding Monumenten*<sup>5</sup> (Grant for Monument Preservation). The state grant for the reutilisation of national monuments is the *Subsidieregeling stimulerende herbestemming Monumenten*<sup>6</sup> (Subsidy program to encourage the reuse of monuments). In 2018, of the 393 requests for this fund, 72 came from churches.

Other funds exist in the cultural sector and are provided by foundations. Among these are: Prins Bernhard Cultuur-fonds<sup>7</sup>, the Mondriaan Fonds<sup>8</sup>.



## NETHERLANDS

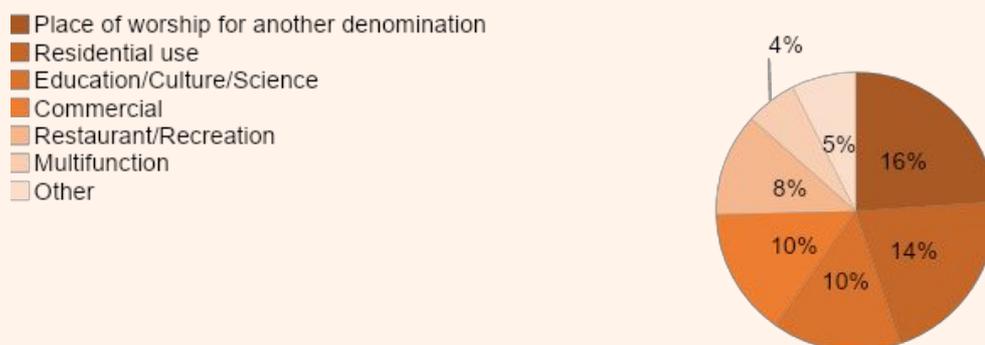
### Threats to the sector

The Netherlands has been experiencing church closures since the 1960s and 1970s. A study carried out in 2008 at the request of the dioceses of Haarlem and Rotterdam presented a list of 927 churches that have been abandoned since the 1970s. Of these 927 churches, about one third were demolished and two thirds converted. Of the converted churches, the largest proportion, 16%, was taken over by another denomination<sup>9</sup>.

This study confirms the hypothesis that the Roman Catholic Church prefers to demolish its churches (53%) rather than convert them. The Protestant churches, on the other hand, had only 10% of their churches demolished. The vast majority of demolished churches date from the Reconstruction period (46%). 28% of the demolished churches were built between 1900 and 1940. The third largest group is the neo-Gothic churches (built between 1850 and 1899). The trend in the treatment of religious buildings has shifted over time from demolition to conversion<sup>9</sup>.

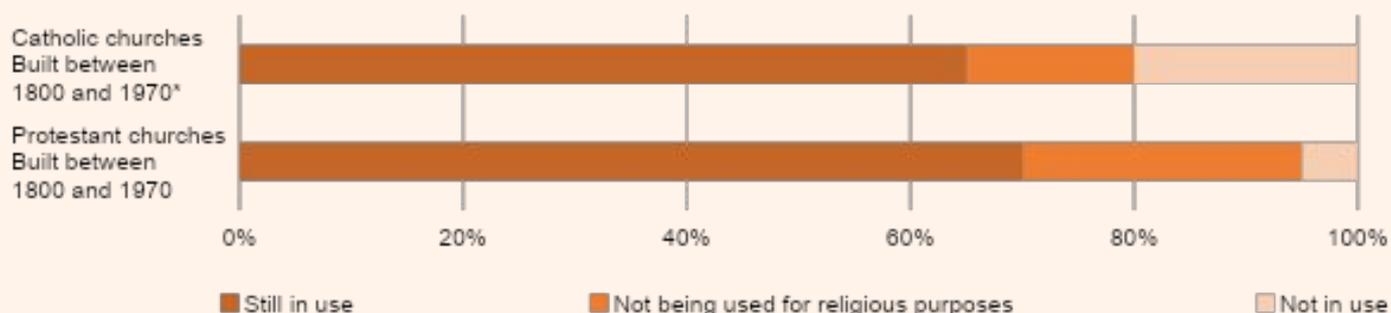
Despite funding arrangements initiated by the government, this trend does not change. Between 2011 and 2020, it is estimated that between 25% and 30% of both Catholic and Protestant churches have been closed, and thus, have lost their religious function. This averages at around 38 churches per year<sup>10,11</sup>.

### Current use of two-thirds of converted places of worship



Source: Kim DE WILDT & Robert J.J.M. PLUM (2019) 'Kirchenumnutzung'. In: Michael KLÖCKER & Udo TWORUSCHKA (eds.) 'Handbuch der Religionen. Kirchen und andere Glaubensgemeinschaften in Deutschland und im deutschsprachigen Raum', Vol 2. 60. EL. Hohenwarsleben: Westarp Science – Fachverlage, pp. 1-30

### Differences of reuse



\*more than 66% of the churches in the Netherlands were built during this period



## NETHERLANDS

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Vereniging Kleine Kernen Limburg (VKKL) 'De kerk is toch van de gemeenschap?' ([https://www.vkkl.nl/files/2876572040d8ca3891f9ae76971c17687eb40f70/VKKL\\_herbestemming\\_kerken\\_web.pdf](https://www.vkkl.nl/files/2876572040d8ca3891f9ae76971c17687eb40f70/VKKL_herbestemming_kerken_web.pdf))
- <sup>2</sup> HARM & LASCHE (2017) 'Kerktorens: ze blijven de aandacht vragen' Church management (<http://kerkrentmeester.nl/media/verwijzingen/kerkrentmeester2017/kennisbank/gebouwen/Kerktorens.pdf>)
- <sup>3</sup> Paul VAN SASSE VAN YSSELT (2013) 'Financiële verhoudingen tussen overheid, kerk en religieuze organisaties', Tijdschrift voor Religie, Recht en Beleid ([https://www.bjutijdschriften.nl/tijdschrift/religierechtenbeleid/2013/1/TvRRB\\_1879-7784\\_2013\\_004\\_001\\_006](https://www.bjutijdschriften.nl/tijdschrift/religierechtenbeleid/2013/1/TvRRB_1879-7784_2013_004_001_006))
- <sup>4</sup> De Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/>)
- <sup>5</sup> De Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, Subsidie instandhouding rijksmonumenten (<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/subsidie-instandhouding-rijksmonumenten>)
- <sup>6</sup> De Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, Subsidie herbestemming (<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/subsidie-herbestemming-monumenten>)
- <sup>7</sup> Prins Bernhard Cultuur-fonds ([https://www.cultuurfonds.nl/informatie/werkerreinen#content\\_block\\_29](https://www.cultuurfonds.nl/informatie/werkerreinen#content_block_29))
- <sup>8</sup> Mondriaan Fonds (<https://www.mondriaanfonds.nl/over-het-fonds/>)
- <sup>9</sup> Kim DE WILDT & Robert J.J.M. PLUM (2019) 'Kirchenumnutzung'. In: Michael KLÖCKER & Udo TWORUSCHKA (eds.) 'Handbuch der Religionen. Kirchen und andere Glaubensgemeinschaften in Deutschland und im deutschsprachigen Raum', Vol 2. 60. EL. Hohenwarsleben: Westarp Science – Fachverlage, pp. 1-30
- <sup>10</sup> Marinde VAN DER BREGGEN & Nico DE FIJTER (2019) 'Een op de vijf Nederlandse kerken is geen kerk meer', Trouw (<https://www.trouw.nl/religie-filosofie/een-op-de-vijf-nederlandse-kerken-is-geen-kerk-meer~b033cc0f/>)
- <sup>11</sup> Noodzak, Compleet overzicht aantal kerkgebouwen ontbreekt (<http://www.toekomstkerkgebouwen.nl/NL/content/3-1-31/cijfers.htm>)

### Articles

- Kim DE WILDT & Robert J.J.M. PLUM (2019) 'Kirchenumnutzung'. In: Michael KLÖCKER & Udo TWORUSCHKA (eds.) 'Handbuch der Religionen. Kirchen und andere Glaubensgemeinschaften in Deutschland und im deutschsprachigen Raum', Vol 2. 60. EL. Hohenwarsleben: Westarp Science – Fachverlage, pp. 1-30
- Marinde VAN DER BREGGEN & Nico DE FIJTER (2019) 'Een op de vijf Nederlandse kerken is geen kerk meer', Trouw
- Roemer VAN OORDT & Ewoud BUTTER (2015) 'Hoeveel moskeeën zijn er in Nederland?', Polderislam.nl
- Paul VAN SASSE VAN YSSELT (2013) 'Financiële verhoudingen tussen overheid, kerk en religieuze organisaties', Tijdschrift voor Religie, Recht en Beleid
- Harmke ZONNEBELD (2016) 'De kerk wordt te duur – en dan?', nederlandsdagblad

### Webpages

- National Agency for Cultural Heritage of the Netherlands (<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/>)
- Noodzak, Compleet overzicht aantal kerkgebouwen ontbreekt (<http://www.toekomstkerkgebouwen.nl/NL/content/3-1-31/cijfers.htm>)
- Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, Financiering door het Rijk (<https://erfgoedenruimte.nl/financiering-door-het-rijk>)
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Inventarisatie Kerkelijke Gebouwen in Nederland (<https://www.hdc.vu.nl/nl/online-informatie/ikgn/index.aspx>)



## NORTH MACEDONIA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**2,128,262**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

Almost the entire population of Northern Macedonia belongs to two religions: Macedonian Orthodox 64.8%, Islam 33.3%. (2002 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**1,533**

Orthodox

**28**

Protestant

**13**

Catholic



Muslim places of worship

**554**



Synagogues

**1**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**> 2,100**

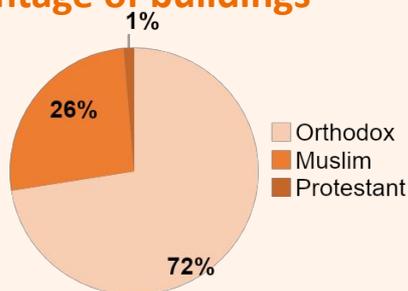
 **NORTH MACEDONIA** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> The **National Council for the Protection of Heritage** (*Управа за заштита на културното наследство*), part of the Ministry of culture, is responsible for the protection of cultural heritage

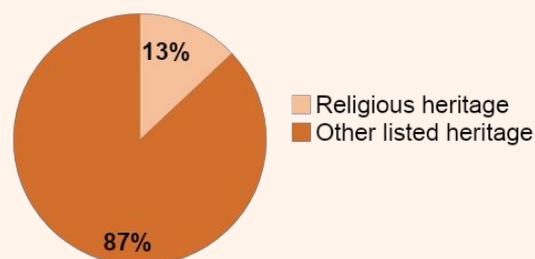
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the listed buildings**





## NORTH MACEDONIA

### Ownership

The Law on Denationalisation<sup>1</sup>, adopted in 1998 and amended in 2000, provides for the restitution of ownership or compensation for confiscated places of worship. By the end of 2006, 45.2% of the total number of applications submitted had been resolved<sup>2</sup>. The Macedonian Orthodox Church (MOC) still claims many properties that have been little affected by the restitution process, such as mountains, forests, pastures, buildings, schools, etc. The MOC is still claiming many properties that have been little affected by the restitution process<sup>3</sup>.

Today, in Northern Macedonia, 'religious communities, or religious groups, may, in accordance with the law, own and acquire real estate and other properties necessary for the performance of their activities' (article 22)<sup>4</sup>. This also applies to buildings registered as cultural heritage: 'The type of property, or its owner, may not be changed by registration, proclamation or any other form of protection, registration and marking of cultural heritage' (article 5, Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage)<sup>5</sup>.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

In Macedonia, the Law on the Protection of Cultural Authority establishes the Cultural Heritage Protection Office (Управата за заштита на културното наследство) as the main administration in charge of the legal protection of the immovable, movable and intangible cultural heritage. This body within the Ministry of Culture is also responsible for keeping the National Register of Cultural Heritage (Национален регистар на културно наследство).

### Financing

The Ministry of Culture subsidises the protection of cultural property through annual programmes, which are themselves part of a broader national strategy for the development of culture (over 4 years)<sup>6</sup>. In the field of protection of sacred and secular cultural monuments, a total of 120 projects were approved in 2018, in accordance with the annual programme<sup>7</sup>.



## NORTH MACEDONIA

### Threats to the sector

Although highly promoted as part of the country's tourism promotion, Macedonia's cultural heritage is in danger of being neglected. Thus in 2019, UNESCO has considered inscribing the city of Ohrid, famous for its religious heritage as evidenced by its nickname "Jerusalem of the Balkans", among the endangered world heritage sites<sup>8</sup>. The threat to this site, and others, is urbanisation, which does not take into account the millennial heritage of the town.



## NORTH MACEDONIA

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Законот за денационализација, Сл. весник на РМ" број 43/2000 (<http://www.minisel.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/denacionalizacija.pdf>)
- <sup>2</sup> Македонска Енциклопедија, ДЕНАЦИОНАЛИЗАЦИЈА ВО РМ (<https://macedonism.org/>)
- <sup>3</sup> Крсте Голабовски (2010) 'ПРОДОЛЖУВА БИТКАТА ЗА ВРАЌАЊЕ НА ЦРКОВНИТЕ ИМОТИ' Trgovsko radiodifuzno drustvo "TVM"
- <sup>4</sup> Закон за верските заедници и религиозните групи, Сл. Весник на Р.Македонија бр. 35/97 од 23.07.1997 година (<https://mk.wikisource.org/wiki/>)
- <sup>5</sup> Закон за заштита на културното наследство, Сл. весник на Р Македонија бр. 20/2004 од 02.04.2004 (<http://arhiva.kultura.gov.mk/index.php/legislativa/2011-03-04-10-39-07/288-zakon-za-zastita-na-kulturnoto-nasledstvo>)
- <sup>6</sup> Ministria e Kulturës, Национална стратегија за развој на култура (<http://kultura.gov.mk/nacionalna-strategija-za-razvoj-na-kultura/>)
- <sup>7</sup> СТРАТЕШКИ ПЛАН НА МИНИСТЕРСТВОТО ЗА КУЛТУРА 2019 – 2021
- <sup>8</sup> Катерина Богоева (2019) 'Во Охрид е загрошено светското културно наследство' НОВА МАКЕДОНИЈА (<https://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/zivot/kultura/>)

### Articles

- Катерина Богоева (2019) 'Во Охрид е загрошено светското културно наследство' НОВА МАКЕДОНИЈА
- Крсте Голабовски (2010) 'ПРОДОЛЖУВА БИТКАТА ЗА ВРАЌАЊЕ НА ЦРКОВНИТЕ ИМОТИ' Trgovsko radiodifuzno drustvo "TVM"

### Webpages

- Академик, Културното наследство – темелна вредност на Република Македонија (<https://akademik.mk/kulturnoto-nasledstvo-temelna-vrednost-na-republika-makedonija/>)
- Управа за заштита на културното наследство (<http://uzkn.gov.mk/mk/>)
- Македонска Енциклопедија, ДЕНАЦИОНАЛИЗАЦИЈА ВО РМ (<https://macedonism.org/>)
- Ministria e Kulturës, Национална стратегија за развој на култура (<http://kultura.gov.mk/nacionalna-strategija-za-razvoj-na-kultura/>)

 **NORWAY** Country profile in graphs

**Population**



**5,509,591**  
(July 2021 est.)

**Religions**

The Church of Norway was the state church from 1537 until 2012 when a constitutional amendment was introduced. Today, over 70% of the population still belong to the Church of Norway. Small minorities of Muslims (3.2%) and Catholics (3%) exist as well. (2016 est.)

**Number and type of places of worship in use**



**Churches**

**1,705**  
Protestant\*

**36**  
Catholic



**Muslim places of worship**

**126**  
Including prayer rooms  
and mosques



**Synagogues**

**1**

\*Church of Norway (1,623) and Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (82)

**Estimated number of places of worship**



**1,900**

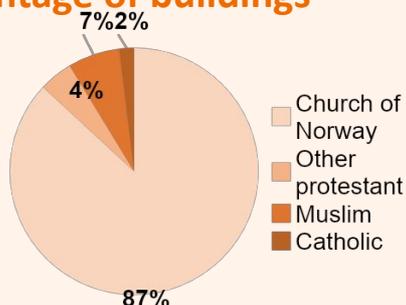
 **NORWAY** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> Listed (750), Protected (211)

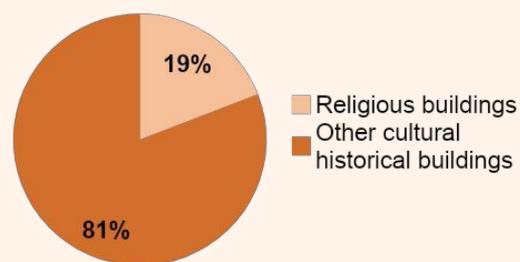
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the cultural historical buildings\*\***



\*\*Numbers from the 2009-2019 period



## Ownership

The responsibility for the Church is shared between the parish and the municipality. According to the Norwegian Church Act, churches are the property of the parish and the Church Council is responsible for the management of the churches, while the Parish Council is responsible for the activities of the Church. The state municipality is responsible for covering the costs of buildings, operation and maintenance on the basis of the church council's budget (Norwegian Church Act 2015). Central support for property management and matters relating to church buildings is exercised by the Church's Employers' and Interests' Organisation (KA), which is an organisation formed by and for church institutions and foundations.

## Protection of the cultural heritage

### Institutional framework

The Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage (*Riksantikvaren*) is the central state authority for heritage and is responsible to the Ministry of Climate and Environment for the implementation of cultural heritage policy. The Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage also declares churches to be protected and provides guidance for those that are listed. Local authorities, including county councils, have cultural heritage administrations that monitor protected cultural monuments.

### Financing

In Norway,

- All churches built before 1650 are protected by the Cultural Heritage Act, and a few churches built after 1650 that are protected by decision.
- All churches built between 1650 and 1850 are listed, as well as some built after 1850.

The listed churches shall be managed in accordance with the church circular. Churches and graveyards can also be protected by a special decision of the Directorate of Cultural Heritage.

Applications to carry out alterations on protected churches must be submitted through the bishop to the Cultural Heritage Directorate, which has responsibility for protected churches.

municipalities contribute to the financing of church maintenance and repair. Since 2017, changes have also been made to the state funding of the Church of Norway, while municipal funding is maintained. Previously direct state funding for the operation of churches is now provided in the form of a framework grant<sup>1</sup>. Thus, the draft state budget for 2020 included a framework grant of just over NOK 2.2 billion for the Church of Norway (approx. €215 million). As the number of congregations in each municipality varies, as does the municipal finance, there is a big difference in the amount of the municipalities' contribution to church aid activities. Other religious communities receive state aid, the size of which depends on the number of members.

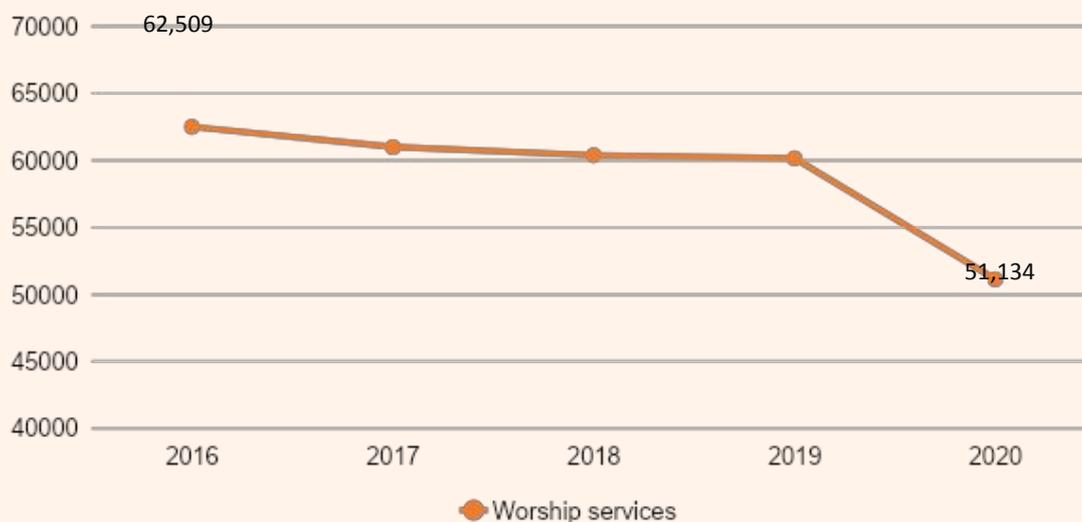
 **NORWAY**

### Threats to the sector

The Church of Norway is experiencing significant under-utilization of its churches, a phenomenon that promises to increase in the coming years. The first reason is because the church is experiencing an increasing number of departures: in 2019, there were just under 3.7 million members in the Church of Norway. There are 150,000 fewer members, or a decrease of almost 4 percent, since 2010. From 2018 to 2019, the number of members has decreased by almost 40,000<sup>2</sup>. The second reason is because the church, in reaction to this trend, is reducing the number of its parishes. In 2000, the Church of Norway was divided into more than 1310 parishes. Now the number has been reduced to 1204<sup>3</sup>.

Thus, in 2018, a survey conducted by KA, the Employers' Organization for Church Activities, showed that between 150 and 175 Norwegian churches are used less than once a month<sup>4</sup>.

### Number of worship services in the Norwegian church since 2016





## NORWAY

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Regjeringen.no, *Endringer i finansiering av Den norske kirke som følge av skille mellom stat og kirke fra 1. januar 2017* (<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/tro-og-livssyn/den-norske-kirke/innsiktsartikler/kirkens-okonomi/id2009472/>)

<sup>2</sup> Statistisk Sentralbyrå, *Den norske kirke* ([https://www.ssb.no/kirke\\_kostra](https://www.ssb.no/kirke_kostra))

<sup>3</sup> Den Norske Kirke, *Soknet - kirkens grunnenhet* (<https://kirken.no/nb-NO/om-kirken/bakgrunn/om-kirkestatistikk/antall-sokn/>)

<sup>4</sup> Torkel ANSTENSRUD SCHIBEVAAG & Anders NØKLING (2018) 'Over 150 norske kirker brukes nesten ikke' NRK (<https://www.nrk.no/rogaland/over-150-norske-kirker-brukes-nesten-ikke-1.14289174>)

### Articles

Henrik LINDBLAD & Eva LÖFGREN (2016) 'Religious buildings in transition. An international comparison'

Torkel ANSTENSRUD SCHIBEVAAG & Anders NØKLING (2018) 'Over 150 norske kirker brukes nesten ikke' NRK

Øyvind S. (2020) '150 000 færre medlemmer i Den norske kirke siste tiår' Statistisk Sentralbyrå

### Webpages

Den Norske Kirke (<https://kirken.no/nb-NO/>)

Frikirken, *Frikirkens menigheter* (<https://frikirken.no/menigheter>)

Kirkesøk (<https://kirkesok.no/>)

Riksantikvaren, *Kirker* (<https://www.riksantikvaren.no/arbeidsomrader/kirker/>)

Statistisk Sentralbyrå (<https://www.ssb.no/>)



## POLAND Country profile in graphs

### Population



**38,185,913**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

Although all the fifteen registered religions are equal in law, the Catholic Church prevails in terms of the percentage of believers in Polish society (85.6%). (2017 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**24,500**

Catholic

**> 800**

Protestant

**440**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**20**

Including prayer rooms  
and mosques



Synagogues

**24**

### Estimated number of places of worship



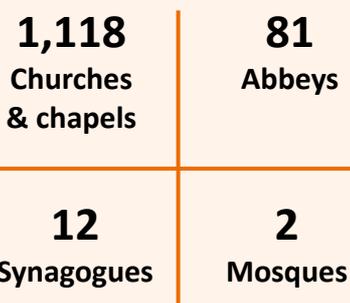
**26,000**

 **POLAND** Country profile in graphs

**Protected religious sites**



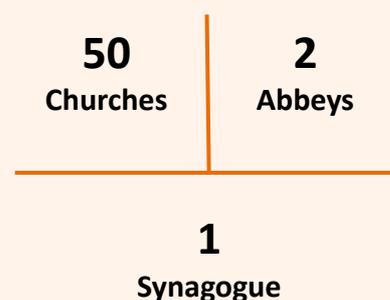
**National Monuments<sup>a</sup>**



**Historical Monuments<sup>a</sup>**



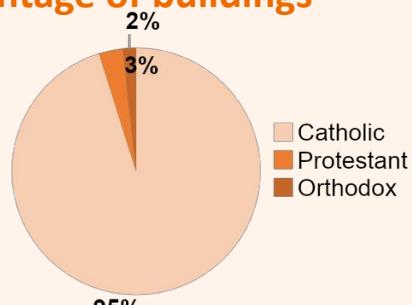
**International (UNESCO)<sup>b</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Registry of Objects of Cultural Heritage  
(<https://zabytek.pl/en/obiekty>)

<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Historic Centre of Kraków, Historic Centre of Warsaw, Medieval Town of Toruń, Old City of Zamość)

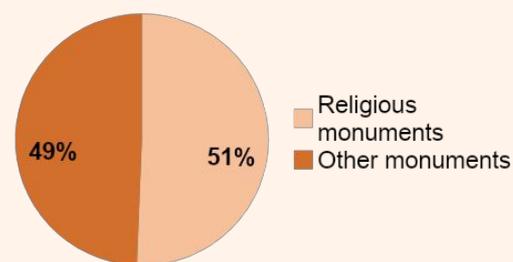
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the monuments\*\***



\*\*All "Immovable monuments" and "Historical monuments"  
(<https://zabytek.pl/pl/obiekty>)

 **POLAND**

### Ownership

Any religious denomination or worship site can register with the Ministry of Interior and Administration, who keeps a record of churches and other places of worship that can operate under separate Polish law. In a way, the ministry manages the places of worship from a national governmental sense. Individual management varies.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The Polish heritage management policy is promulgated by the Council of Ministers. The "National Programme for the Protection of Monuments and Maintenance of Monuments" programme is implemented under the supervision and direction of the General Inspector of Monuments (Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage) in close collaboration with the National Heritage Board of Poland and the National Institute for Museums and Public Collections. The authorities of the State administration are responsible for the protection of monuments and the owners of monuments are responsible for their maintenance, restoration and construction.

#### Cultural heritage

Polish heritage is the set of properties listed in the Registry of Objects of Cultural Heritage. Among them are

- Archaeological
- Movable and immovable property
  - The majority of sacred buildings are in this category.

The protection of these monuments is carried out by Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Board of Poland.

A registry of regional monuments exists parallel. They concern mainly small objects that are not registered in the Registry of Objects of Cultural Heritage. These objects are under regional authorities' (so called *Voievodship*) protection.

Finally, the President may grant the title of Historical Monument (*Pomnik Historii*) which includes the most valuable monuments (selected from the official register of immovable monuments). However, no additional privileges or other forms of protection are associated with it, apart from the fact that this list of 105 objects is often perceived as a waiting room on the UNESCO list.

#### Financing

Each year, under the program 'Cultural Heritage', the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage provides funds for the 'Protection of monuments' (*Ochrona zabytków*)<sup>1</sup>. This fund co-finances restoration, conservation and construction work carried out by cultural institutions or religious administrations on national heritage.

In the case of places of worship, since 1990, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration issues a Church Fund (*Fundusz Kościelny*)<sup>2</sup>, providing funding for the conservation and repair of sacral buildings of historic value. Similar funds exist at the level of Voivodeships<sup>3</sup>.

#### Alternative financing

Alternative financing includes grants from foundations such as the Fundacja Dziedzictwa Kulturowego<sup>4</sup>, the Fundacja Hereditas<sup>5</sup> or the Rural Development Foundation<sup>6</sup>...

Finally, organisations can turn to the EEA (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) for subsidies<sup>7</sup>.

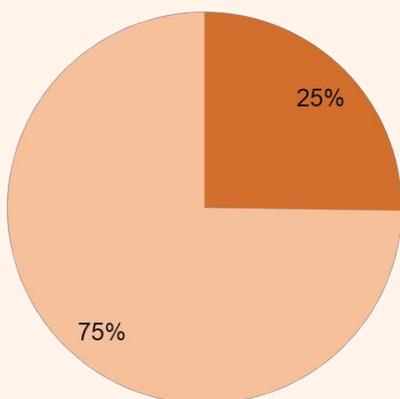
 **POLAND**

**Threats to the sector**

Poland has the highest rate throughout the EU of young people aged 16 to 29 who identify themselves as Christians (80%), and the highest rate of church attendance in this same age group (40% each week or more)<sup>8</sup>.

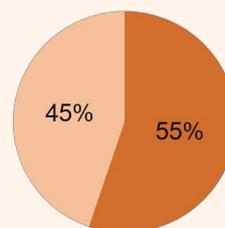
A significant part of Polish sacred architecture consists of wooden structures, which are more exposed to damage over time than stone buildings. The problem is particularly acute for the Orthodox wooden heritage found in south-eastern Poland. Indeed, a large part of these churches were abandoned after the Vistula operation (1947) which resettled Orthodox minorities from the south-eastern provinces of Poland in Ukraine.

**The wooden sacral heritage of Poland**



■ Wooden churches\*  
■ Churches made of other material

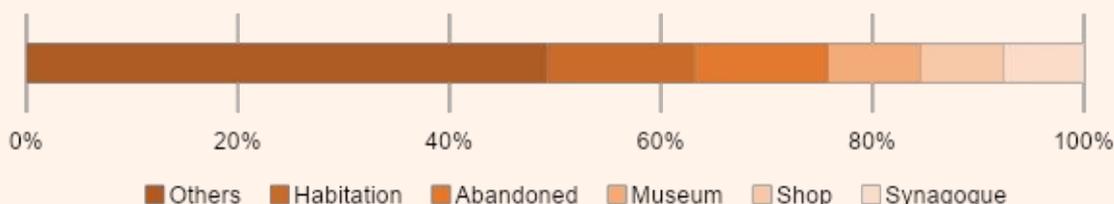
Although in the minority, wooden churches constitute more than half of the built World Heritage Sites of Poland.



■ Wooden churches  
■ Other sites

\*Churches, belfries and chapels

Poland, under the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1569–1795), was home of the largest Jewish community in the world. This community, mainly Ashkenazi Jews, erected monumental wooden synagogues as early as the 16th century. Unfortunately, much of this heritage was burned in the Pogroms and more recently during the Second World War. Among the remaining synagogues, few still serve as places of worship:





## POLAND

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego, Ochrona zabytków (<https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura/ochrona-zabytkow2>)

<sup>2</sup> Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji, Fundusz Kościelny (<https://www.gov.pl/web/mswia/fundusz-koscielny>)

<sup>3</sup> National Heritage Board of Poland, Finansowanie opieki nad zabytkami ([https://www.nid.pl/pl/Dla\\_wlasciocieli\\_i\\_zaradcow/finansowanie-opieki-nad-zabytkami/](https://www.nid.pl/pl/Dla_wlasciocieli_i_zaradcow/finansowanie-opieki-nad-zabytkami/))

<sup>4</sup> Fundacja Dziedzictwa Kulturowego (<https://www.dziedzictwo.org/?lang=en>)

<sup>5</sup> Fundacja Hereditas (<https://fundacja-hereditas.pl/fundacja.php?id=7>)

<sup>6</sup> Rural Development Foundation (<http://fundacjawspomaganiawsi.pl/activity/dziedzictwo-kulturowe/>)

<sup>7</sup> A8-0072 / 2017 ([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2017-0072\\_PL.html?redirect](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2017-0072_PL.html?redirect))

<sup>8</sup> Jonathan EVANS & Chris BARONAVSKI (2018) 'How do European countries differ in religious commitment?', Pew Research Center (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/12/05/how-do-european-countries-differ-in-religious-commitment/>)

### Articles

Annuario Statisticum Ecclesiae in Polonia (2019) Instytut Statystyki Kościoła Katolickiego SAC

Jonathan EVANS & Chris BARONAVSKI (2018) 'How do European countries differ in religious commitment?', Pew Research Center

Program Ochrony Drewnianych Kościołów (2005) Drewno.pl

Harriet SHERWOOD (2018) 'Christianity as default is gone: the rise of a non-Christian Europe', The Guardian

Wyznania religijne w Polsce w latach 2015–2018 (2020) Główny Urząd Statystyczny

### Webpages

Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego (<https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura>)

Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji (<https://www.gov.pl/web/mswia>)

Narodowy Instytut Dziedzictwa, Pomniki Historii ([https://www.nid.pl/pl/Informacje\\_ogolne/Zabytki\\_w\\_Polsce/Pomniki\\_historii/](https://www.nid.pl/pl/Informacje_ogolne/Zabytki_w_Polsce/Pomniki_historii/))

Narodowy Instytut Dziedzictwa, ZABYTEK.PL project (<https://zabytek.pl/pl>)



## PORTUGAL Country profile in graphs

### Population



**10,263,850**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

Portugal has a long tradition of Catholicism, which is reflected in the still very strong implantation of this religion in the population (81%). Other religions can register as such with the state. Portugal has several levels of religious registration, thus, churches and communities registered for at least 30 years in the country are considered as "religion settled in the country". (2011 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**6,088**

Catholic

**666**

Protestant

**2**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**52**

Including prayer rooms  
and mosques



Synagogues

**2**

### Estimated number of places of worship

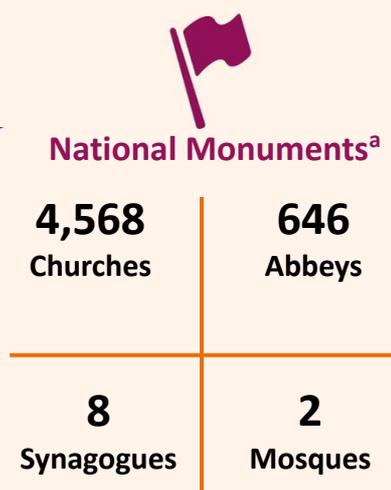


**7,000**



## PORTUGAL Country profile in graphs

### Protected religious sites

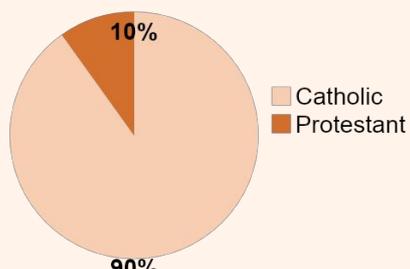


<sup>b</sup> Information System for the Architectural Heritage (SIPA)  
(<http://www.monumentos.gov.pt/site/>)



<sup>c</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Cultural Landscape of Sintra, Historic Centre of Évora, Historic Centre of Guimarães, Garrison Border Town of Elvas and its Fortifications)

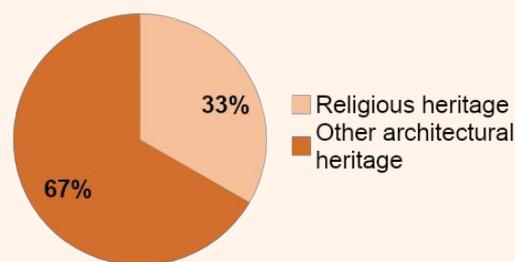
### How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

### Share of religious heritage among the architectural heritage\*\*



\*\*Listed in the Ulysses database  
(<http://www.patrimoniocultural.gov.pt/pt/patrimonio/patrimonio-i-movel/pesquisa-do-patrimonio/classificado-ou-em-vias-de-classificacao/geral/>)



## PORTUGAL

### Ownership

A law on religious freedom has been in force in Portugal since 2001<sup>1</sup> and gives every religious community the right to property. In the specific case of the Roman Catholic Church, the Concordat (1940)<sup>2</sup> allowed the Church to recover certain real estate that had been gradually nationalised with the advances of liberalism and republicanism between 1832 and 1910. It also guaranteed the Church exemption from taxes on property, remuneration of priests and the occupation of several positions in education and spiritual care (subsidised by the State). Most of these benefits were retained in a renewed version of the Concordat in 2004<sup>3</sup>.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

In Portugal, the 'Directorate General of Cultural Heritage', or DGPC for short, is the main administrative body for cultural heritage in Portugal. It is a central service of the direct administration of the State, with administrative autonomy. The mission of the DGPC is to ensure the management, safeguarding, enhancement, conservation, and restoration of properties integrating the country's immovable, movable and intangible cultural heritage, as well as to develop and implement the national museum policy. At a regional level, the 'Regional Directorates of Culture' (DRC) have responsibility over cultural heritage. There are four DRC in continental Portugal (Algarve, Alentejo, Centro, Norte) and two for the Portuguese Atlantic Islands (Madeira and Azores).

#### Cultural heritage

The immovable heritage of Portugal, 1/3 of which is Religious heritage, can be divided in two ways:

- Architectural heritage
  - Archaeological heritage
- Or
- National monument
  - Asset of public interest
  - Asset of municipal interest

The registration of a property is carried out by the DGPC in liaison with the cultural directorates. However, an individual or a community may submit an application for the listing of a property. The classification of cultural goods belonging to churches and other religious communities is the exclusive responsibility of the State and the Autonomous Regions<sup>4</sup>.

- For national monuments, registration of the property is the responsibility of the competent State authorities (the Council of Ministers).
- In the case of assets of public interest, the registration of the property is the responsibility of the competent authorities of the State or Autonomous Regions.
- For assets of municipal interest, the registration of the property is the responsibility of the municipalities, even if the DGPC has to issue a favourable report.

Finally, a building can be protected if it is located in a legally protected cultural heritage area, where no construction work is allowed without the prior consent of the competent cultural heritage authority.

#### Financing

The Ministry of Culture in Portugal manages two funds: the 'Cultural Development Fund' (Fundo de Fomento Cultural)<sup>5</sup>, and the 'Cultural Heritage Safeguard Fund' (Fundo de Salvaguarda do Património Cultural)<sup>6</sup> or 'Safeguard Fund'. The Cultural Development Fund includes grants for actions for the conservation and enhancement of cultural property, while the Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Fund is fully dedicated to it. The condition for obtaining these funds is that the property in question be classified.

Finally, patronage in the field of heritage is provided for in the so-called 'tax benefits law'<sup>7</sup>. Currently, the increase in donations granted to beneficiary entities is 130% and 140% in the case of donations under multi-annual contracts.



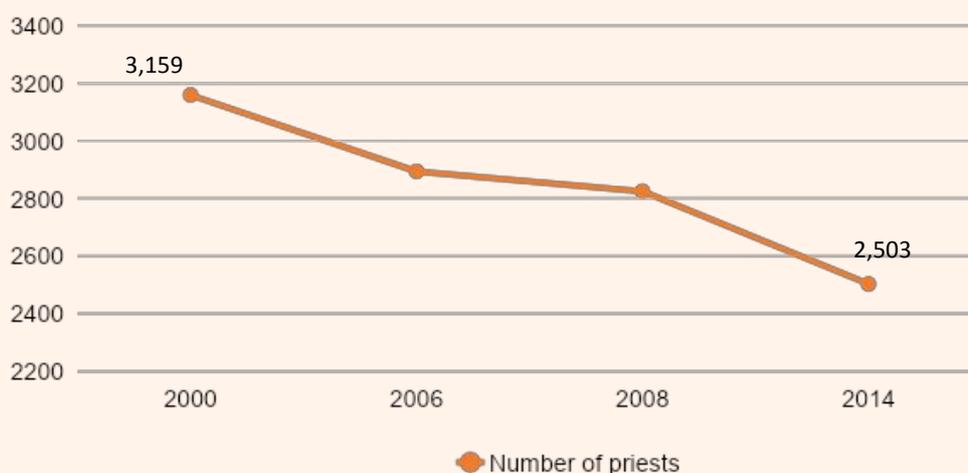
## PORTUGAL

### Threats to the sector

The increasing mobility of parishioners and the ageing of priests, whose number decreased by 20% between 2000 and 2014, have led the Portuguese Catholic Church to reorganise its parish structure. An example of this was given when in 2012 the Diocese of Bragança-Miranda saw its 320 parishes grouped into 40 pastoral units where priests work as a team.<sup>8</sup>

Few churches are out of use in Portugal, but the phenomenon is now illustrated by examples such as the São Julião in Lisbon, which the Bank of Portugal has turned into a money museum, the church of São Tiago in Óbidos, which has become a bookshop, the church of the former convent of Santo Alberto, which is part of the National Museum of Ancient Art, or the Church of Mercy in Leiria, which has become a centre for interreligious dialogue<sup>9</sup>.

### Decline in the number of priests in Portugal (2000-2014)





## PORTUGAL

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Lei n.º 16/2001, de 22 de Junho ([http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei\\_mostra\\_articulado.php?nid=806&tabela=leis&so\\_miolo=](http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_mostra_articulado.php?nid=806&tabela=leis&so_miolo=))

<sup>2</sup> Solemn Convention between the Holy See and the Portuguese Republic (<http://www.concordatwatch.eu/topic-38751.834>)

<sup>3</sup> Concordat with the Holy See and the Portuguese Republic (<http://www.concordatwatch.eu/topic-4131.843>)

<sup>4</sup> Lei n.o 107/2001 de 8 de Setembro 'Estabelece as bases da política e do regime de protecção e valorização do património cultural' (<https://dre.pt/application/dir/pdf1s/2001/09/209A00/58085829.pdf>)

<sup>5</sup> Gabinete de Estratégia, Planeamento e Avaliação Culturais, Fundo de Fomento Cultural (<http://www.gepac.gov.pt/fundos-culturais/fundo-de-fomento-cultural.aspx>)

<sup>6</sup> Gabinete de Estratégia, Planeamento e Avaliação Culturais, Candidaturas ([http://www.gepac.gov.pt/\\_gepac/fundo-de-salvaguarda-do-patrimonio-cultural/candidaturas.aspx](http://www.gepac.gov.pt/_gepac/fundo-de-salvaguarda-do-patrimonio-cultural/candidaturas.aspx))

<sup>7</sup> Decreto-Lei n.º 215/89 (<https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/620928/details/normal?!=1>)

<sup>8</sup> António Marujo NELSON GARRIDO (2012) 'Igreja reorganiza-se para enfrentar falta de clero e mobilidade dos crentes', Público (<https://www.publico.pt/2012/05/27/jornal/igreja-reorganizase-para-enfrentar-falta-de-clero-e-mobilidade-dos-crentes-24613626>)

<sup>9</sup> Isabel SALEMA (2018) 'Uma igreja não deixa de ser uma igreja mesmo sem Deus. Ou deixa?', Público (<https://www.publico.pt/2018/12/21/culturaipilon/noticia/igrejas-1855483>)

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Alvaro VIEIRA (2006) 'Recuperar património exige experiência, avisa o director da DGEMN' Público

Carlos MOURA-CARVALHO (2019) 'O financiamento da Cultura no século XXI' Público

Lucinda CANELAS (2017) 'Novo instituto para gerir museus e monumentos não é para esta legislatura' Público

Paulo CARVALHO (2012) 'Património cultural e estratégias de desenvolvimento em Portugal: balanço e novas perspectivas' Imprensa da Universidade de Coimbra

### Webpages

Gabinete de Estratégia, Planeamento e Avaliação Culturais (<http://www.gepac.gov.pt/pagina.aspx?ur=1>)

 **ROMANIA** Country profile in graphs

**Population**



**21,230,362**  
(July 2021 est.)

**Religions**

Eighteen religions are registered in Romania. Eastern Orthodox cults are by far the most followed among the population (81.9%). (2011 est.)

**Number and type of places of worship in use**



**Churches**

**16,500**  
Orthodox\*

**8,230**  
Protestant

**2,045**  
Catholic



**Muslim places of worship**

**81**  
Including prayer rooms  
and mosques



**Synagogues**

**66**

\*Romanian Orthodox (16, 400), Serbian Orthodox Episcopate of Timisoara (63), Lipovan Orthodox Old-Rite (67).

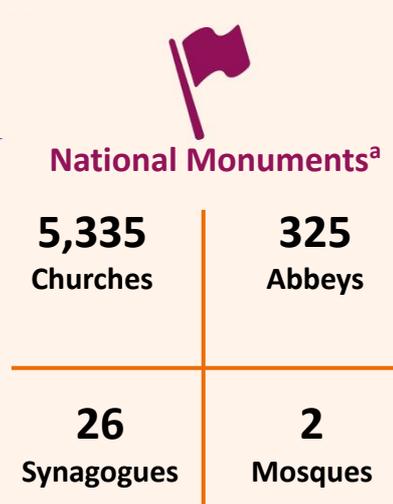
**Estimated number of places of worship**



**28,000**

 **ROMANIA** Country profile in graphs

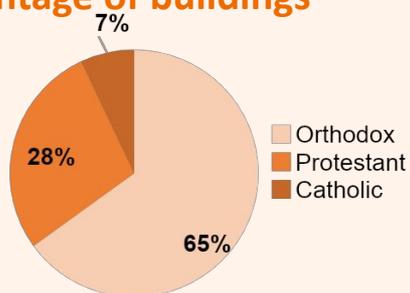
**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> Lista monumentelor istorice din România (LMI)  
(<http://www.cultura.ro/lista-monumentelor-istorice>)

<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Historic Centre of Sighișoara)

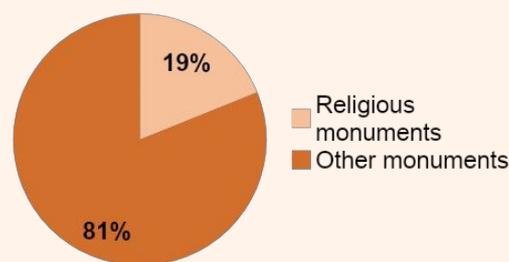
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the monuments\*\***



\*\*All the buildings included in the List of Historic Monuments (2015)



**ROMANIA**

### Ownership

According to the Law no. 489 of 28 December 2006 on 'Religious Freedom and the General Status of Religions', recognised religions and their units 'may own and acquire, as property or in administration, movable assets and real estate, of which they may dispose according to their own by-laws'. In the case of classified churches, 'Historical monuments are protected regardless of their ownership' by the Ministry of Culture<sup>1</sup>. The State Secretariat for Religious Communities, subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, is more specifically in charge of religious heritage, sharing with their owners the responsibility for its preservation and restoration.<sup>2</sup>

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The Romanian Ministry of Culture is the main governmental body responsible for cultural heritage. It is assisted by three advisory bodies: The National Commission for Historical Monuments, the National Commission for Archaeology and the National Commission for Museums and Collections. The National Heritage Institute, created in 2011, under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, is the main central body responsible for maintaining and updating the list of historic monuments. National, regional, and county museums play an important role in researching, protecting and promoting the cultural heritage in their region.

#### Cultural heritage

The historic monuments of Romania consist of four categories:

- Archaeology
- Built heritage
- Mobile heritage
- Intangible heritage

The built heritage includes buildings classified as historical monuments but also areas that are protected as cultural landscapes, being part of the protected areas. Built heritage may belong to natural or legal persons, such as religious organisations.

Concerning its relevance, built heritage is divided in two different groups:

- Group A, if it is of national and universal value
- Group B, if it is representative of local cultural heritage

Thus, for a religious building to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, it must be classified as a Group A historic monument.

The research, identification, conservation, restoration and presentation of historic monuments are undertaken by the Romanian State through the Archeology and Built Heritage Service, within the Cultural Heritage Department (Ministry of Culture).

#### Financing

The task of managing State funds for the restoration in the sector of heritage is the responsibility of two financing institutions, subordinated to the Ministry of Culture: the National Heritage Institute (Institutul Național al Patrimoniului)<sup>3</sup> and the Administration of the National Cultural Fund (Administrația Fondului Cultural Național)<sup>4</sup>. The National Heritage Institute is responsible for the development of the National Restoration Programme (NRP), the main financing instrument, based on the funds allocated by the State budget to the budget of the Ministry of Culture, historical monuments held by the State, regions and religious faiths. The Administration of the National Cultural Fund manages the National Fund for Culture, financing various cultural programmes, projects and actions in the country.

In 2007, the Ministry of Culture created a 'Project Management Unit' (Unitatea de Management a Proiectului)<sup>5</sup> for the financing of the project for the rehabilitation of historic monuments in Romania. This project comprises the RO-CULTURA program, the largest funding programme for the cultural sector in Romania, active until 2021.

Alternative financing is available through Foundations such as the Pro Patrimonio<sup>6</sup> Foundation, the Transylvania Trust<sup>7</sup>.



**ROMANIA**

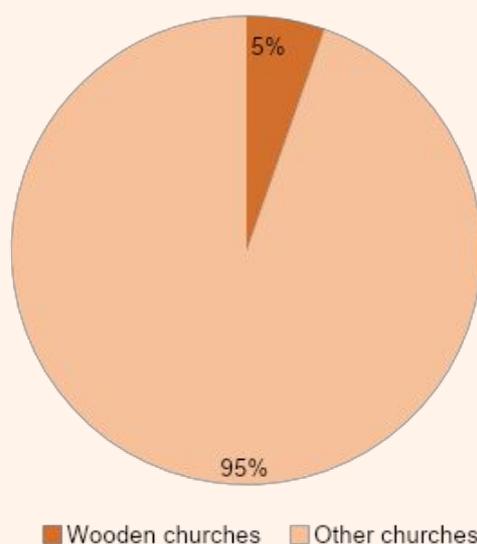
### Threats to the sector

The Romanian communist regime was particularly catastrophic towards religious heritage, as it was prone to monumental constructions under its leader Nicolae Ceaușescu. Romanians were recently reminded of this period when the exhibition "A dark decade (1977-1987): The Demolished Churches" opened at the Romanian Academy in Bucharest in 2019. The exhibition showed, among other things, archives on the 20 churches that were destroyed in Bucharest.

After the economic crisis of 2008, severe austerity policies and government instability had a negative impact on the protection of cultural heritage. As a result, the inventorying, monitoring, restoration, and preventive conservation of heritage is lagging behind. Concerning the state of conservation, it is estimated that around 60% of the historic monuments are in poor condition.

In addition, a significant part of Romania's religious heritage is made of wood, and therefore requires particularly thorough conservation. In the absence of preventive conservation, this fragile heritage has already been the subject of European aid. For example, the largely abandoned wooden churches of southern Transylvania and northern Oltenia were included in Europa Nostra's "7 Most Endangered" list in 2014.

### Share of wooden churches





## ROMANIA

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> LEGE nr. 422 din 18 iulie 2001 (<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/29761>)
- <sup>2</sup> Secretariatul De Stat Pentru Culte, Regulament De Organizare Şi Functionare ([http://culte.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/rof\\_ssc.pdf](http://culte.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/rof_ssc.pdf))
- <sup>3</sup> Institutul Naţional al Patrimoniului (<https://patrimoniu.ro/>)
- <sup>4</sup> Administraţia Fondului Cultural Naţional (<https://www.afcn.ro/>)
- <sup>5</sup> Unitatea de Management a Proiectului ([https://www.umpcultura.ro/despre-noi\\_doc\\_2\\_cine-suntem\\_pg\\_0.htm](https://www.umpcultura.ro/despre-noi_doc_2_cine-suntem_pg_0.htm))
- <sup>6</sup> Fundatia Pro Patrimonio (<https://www.propatrimonio.org/?lang=en>)
- <sup>7</sup> Transylvania Trust (<http://www.transylvaniatrust.ro/>)
- <sup>8</sup> Council of Europe, Romania (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/herein-system/romania>)

### Articles

Emil CATRINOIU (2012) 'Ghidul Manastirilor si Schiturilor din Romania'  
Iosef KOVACS (2018) 'ABC-ul Patrimoniului', Patrimoniul pentru următorul secol

### Webpages

Harta mănăstirilor din România (<https://ortodox.ro/harta>)  
Institutul Naţional al Patrimoniului, Lista monumentelor istorice din România (LMI) (<https://patrimoniu.ro/monumente-istorice/lista-monumentelor-istorice>)  
Ministerul Culturii, Instituţii de finanţare subordonate Ministerului Culturii (<http://www.cultura.ro/instituti-de-finantare-subordonate>)  
Secretariatul de Stat pentru Culte, Lăcaşuri de Cult ([http://culte.gov.ro/?page\\_id=130](http://culte.gov.ro/?page_id=130))



## SLOVAKIA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**5,436,066**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

The relationship between the churches and the state is one of parity and cooperation: Slovakia has a total of 15 registered religions, for which the main contact institution is the "Department of the Church" within the Ministry of Culture. Catholics are by far the most numerous in Slovakia (62%), which nevertheless has a substantial Protestant minority (8.2%). (2011 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**4,623**

Catholic\*

**> 500**

Protestant

**265**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**N/A**



Synagogues

**5**

\*Roman Catholic (4,348), Greek Catholic (275)

### Estimated number of places of worship



**6,000**

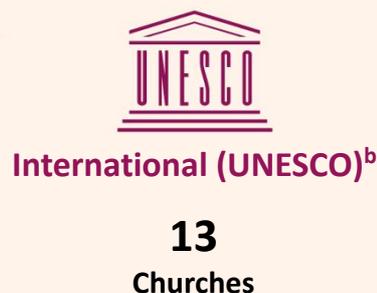


## SLOVAKIA Country profile in graphs

### Protected religious sites

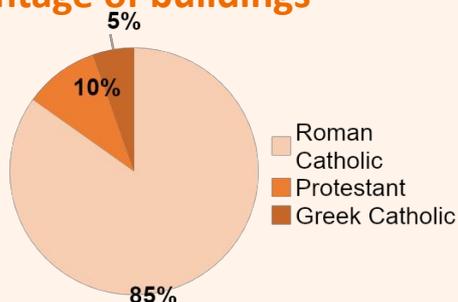


<sup>a</sup> Register of Cultural Monuments (Register NKP)  
(<http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/evidencia-narodnych-kulturnych-pamiatok-na-slovensku>)



<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica, Levoča, Spišský Hrad, Vlkolínec, Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve)

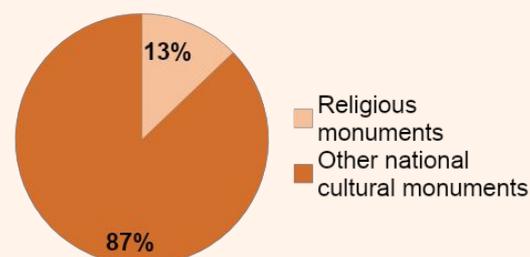
### How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

### Share of religious heritage among the national cultural monuments\*\*



\*\*Every immovable national cultural monuments (nehnutelných národných kultúrnych pamiatok)



## SLOVAKIA

### Ownership

The Slovak Republic was the first of the post-communist countries to deal with the restitution of churches. The first 'restitution law' was adopted immediately after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1993, and was later amended in 2002 and 2005, by which time the restitution process could be considered complete<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore, since 1993, religious communities recognised by the State have had the right of ownership of places of worship that have been confiscated from them since 1945 (1938 for synagogues).

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The institutional basis for heritage protection in the Slovak Republic is provided by the Ministry of Culture. It defines the approach to heritage protection, sets the priority directions, coordinates the implementation at lower levels of public administration and establishes the conditions for the system of grants and multi-resource funding. The Act on the Protection of Monuments and Monument Sites adopted in 2002 transformed the former Heritage Institute, which focused on research and advisory services, into the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic, which is a specialised public administration body with key powers in the field of heritage protection.

#### Cultural heritage

The cultural heritage of Slovakia, of which more than ¼ is the property of a church<sup>2</sup>, are protected only as an „national cultural monuments“ (*národné kultúrne pamiatky*) - that means, that concrete monuments are protected by law<sup>3</sup> individually and are listed in:

- The "Central list of monument fund" (*Ústredný zoznam pamiatkového fondu*)
- The "Register of immovable national cultural monuments" (*Register nehnuteľných národných kultúrnych pamiatok*)
- The "Register of movable national cultural monuments" (*Register hnutel'nych národných kultúrnych pamiatok*)

In addition to this individual listing, Slovak law recognises:

- Monument reservations – with 28 locations
- Conservation areas – with 82 locations

The Slovak Monuments Board also maintains the "List of National Cultural Monuments of Priority Preservation and Restoration", which contains the most important monuments (movable and immovable). These monuments are given priority if they are in poor condition and need restoration. However, this list serves only for the purposes of the Slovak Monuments Board in the process of awarding grants to owners of selected monuments, which need "financial support".

For the categories concerning buildings, basic protection is provided such as a ban on building in the immediate vicinity of the monument, and methodological assistance from the regional monument offices, the first contact of any monument owner with the municipalities.

#### Financing

The Ministry of Culture of Slovakia finances the restoration of national cultural monuments through its program 'Let's Renew Our House' (*Obnovme si svoj dom na rok*)<sup>4</sup>. Owners of national cultural monuments such as religious communities can also benefit from non-financial assistance in their right to request (from a competent regional office)<sup>5</sup> free professional and methodological assistance for the restoration of their monument. For private financing, funders of cultural heritage restoration initiatives include foundations such as the *Nadácia VÚB*<sup>6</sup> that operates a popular project that appeals to citizens to notify them of a monument to be restored<sup>7</sup>.



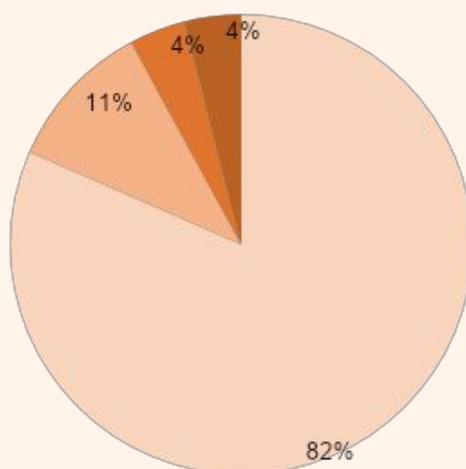
## SLOVAKIA

### Threats to the sector

Religious monuments are part of the heritage that suffered particularly from neglect and inappropriate use during the socialist period. In many cases, the process of decay has not yet stopped, and it threatens furniture and other parts of the interior as well. In many very large monasteries (such as the Gothic complexes of Leles, Šahy), the fundamental question of their proper use has not yet been resolved. Churches, often located outside the city centres, are left useless, although their interiors are often covered with precious medieval murals. Persistent efforts to rebuild and enlarge historic churches are part of the current problem and often lead to a preference for new construction over the maintenance and use of an old one. This problem also affects the Jewish heritage in Slovakia, which has been ignored and misused for years, and is largely unusable.

In this context, the wooden churches in eastern Slovakia, which represent about 1% of the country's churches (and of which 44 are listed), are a sensitive issue, as their fragile structure requires regular maintenance.

### State of Jewish Heritage in Slovakia



■ Repuposed ■ Abandoned ■ Converted into a church ■ Under reconstruction

Source: Historic synagogues of Europe (<https://historicsynagogueurope.org/synagogue-home>)



## SLOVAKIA

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Barbora BUBENKOVÁ (2014) 'Cirkevný Majetok a Financie', Masarykova univerzita

<sup>2</sup> Pamiatkový úrad SR, 'Pamiatkový fond – Štatistiky' (<http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/pamiatkovy-fond-statistiky>)

<sup>3</sup> Act no. 49/2002 Coll ([http://www.pamiatky.sk/Content/Data/File/sluz\\_predpis/zakon-49-2002.pdf](http://www.pamiatky.sk/Content/Data/File/sluz_predpis/zakon-49-2002.pdf))

<sup>4</sup> Ministerstvo Kultúry Slovenskej Republiky, 'Dotácie 2020' (<http://www.culture.gov.sk/vdoc/842/obnovme-si-svoj-dom-2020-34b.html>)

<sup>5</sup> Pamiatkový úrad Slovenskej Republiky, Krajské pamiatkové úrady (<http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/krajske-pamiatkove-urady>)

<sup>6</sup> NADACIA VÚB (<https://www.nadaciavub.sk/>)

<sup>7</sup> NADACIA VÚB, Poklady Slovenska (<https://www.nadaciavub.sk/poklady/>)

Eva KRÁL'OVÁ, Ivana LISICKÁ (2006) 'Rescuing the Hidden Slovakian Wooden Church Heritage from the Viewpoint of the Authentic Materials and Technologies' in Gennaro TAMPONE & Michela SEMPLICI 'Rescuing the Hidden European Churches Heritage' FLY Events and Alter Ego Ing Arch S.r.l. (123-141)

### Articles

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Barbora KALINOVA, Michal DURDOVANSKY (2014) 'Je ich dvetisíc a nepredávajú len kebaby. Moslimovia v Bratislave', Denník SME

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M. DOBESOVEJ (2013) '11. príkazanie: Nevydevelopuješ', TREND.sk

(2015) 'Hrajú mnísi futbal a pijú pivo? Chodia mníšky na dovolenku? Otvárajú sa kláštory'

### Webpages

Ministersvo Kultúry Slovenskej Republiky, Financovanie obnovy a reštaurovania národných kultúrnych pamiatok (<http://www.culture.gov.sk/posobnost-ministerstva/kulturne-dedicstvo-/ochrana-pamiatok/financovanie-pamiatok-dc.html>)

Ministersvo Kultúry Slovenskej Republiky, Registrované cirkvi a náboženské spoločnosti v SR (<http://www.mksr.sk/posobnost-ministerstva/cirkvi-a-nabozenske-spolocnosti-/registrovane-cirkvi-a-nabozenske-spolocnosti-f9.html>)

Pamiatkový úrad Slovenskej Republiky, Register NKP - tabuľkové zoznamy (<http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/register-nkp-tabulkove-zoznamy>)



## SLOVENIA Country profile in graphs

### Population



**2,102,106**

(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

Slovenia has more than 40 registered Churches and other religious communities, but the religious demography of the country is largely dominated by Catholicism (57.8% of the pop.) with small minorities of Muslims (2.4%), and Orthodox (2.3%). (2002 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**2,900**

Catholic

**21**

Protestant

**4**

Orthodox



Muslim places of worship

**1**



Synagogues

**1**

### Estimated number of places of worship



**3,000**



## SLOVENIA Country profile in graphs

### Protected religious sites



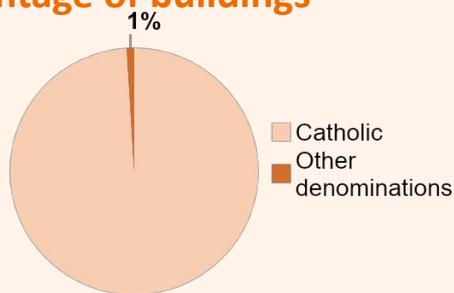
#### National Monuments<sup>a</sup>

**2,384**  
Places of  
worship

**80**  
Abbeys

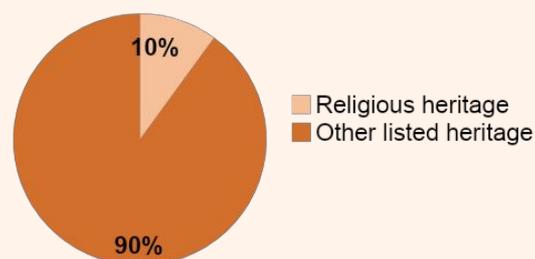
<sup>a</sup> RKD Cultural Heritage Register (<http://rkd.situla.org/>)

### How the main denominations compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings



Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

### Share of religious heritage among the cultural heritage\*



\*buildings listed in the inventory of the immovable cultural heritage of Slovenia (<http://rkd.situla.org/>)



## SLOVENIA

### Ownership

Since the 1991 denationalisation law, the Church has regained ownership of its buildings (more than 6,000 properties). The share of this heritage is enormous in the country's overall cultural heritage, with religious communities owning about 80%.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

In Slovenia, the Ministry of Culture is responsible for heritage protection, in cooperation with other ministries and municipalities. It is composed of the Directorate of Cultural Heritage, which is responsible for developing regulations and implementing heritage protection policies at the national level, and its two bodies: The Archives of the Republic of Slovenia and the Inspectorate of Culture and Media. In parallel, the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, a national public institute established by the government with 7 regional offices, is responsible for some of the administrative tasks related to the conservation of heritage.

#### Cultural heritage

The Register of Slovene Cultural Heritage consists of three units:

- the Registry of Immovable Cultural Heritage,
- the Registry of Movable Cultural Heritage,
- the Registry of Intangible Heritage.

The register also differentiates heritage of local importance and heritage of national importance.

A monument of national importance shall be declared by an act of the government, and as the country is not divided into regions, municipalities are responsible for designating monuments of local importance, subsidising restoration and other projects, managing municipal heritage and exercising pre-emption rights in the event of the sale of monuments of local importance.

#### Financing

The Ministry of Culture participates in the protection of immovable cultural monuments through three types of funding: Co-financing the 'owner's' monument protection projects or the managers of cultural monuments' in the framework of public tenders and public calls<sup>1</sup>, Co-financing of 'emergency measures for the protection of cultural heritage'<sup>2</sup>, which, due to damage and the risk of destruction or destruction, threatens the loss of protected properties, Financing the maintenance and restoration of monuments owned by the Republic of Slovenia and the management of the Ministry of Culture. In the protection of cultural heritage, the Ministry is assisted by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (ZVKDS)<sup>3</sup>. The participation of the Institute's experts is always free of charge for advisory services. Finally, a general State funding for sacred buildings comes under the form of tax exemption for real estate income, property, inheritance.

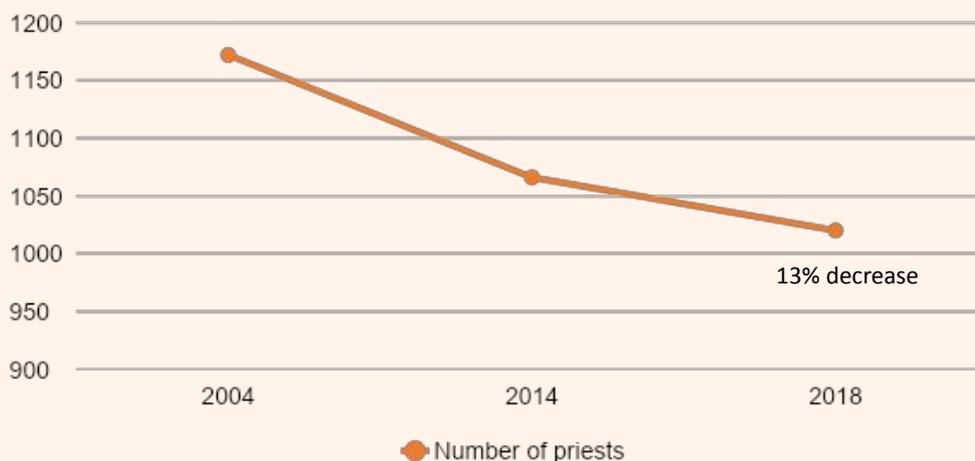


## SLOVENIA

### Threats to the sector

While in 2005, 70.3% of the Slovenian population declared themselves Catholics, this number decreased from 67.5% in 2009 to 63.1% in 2013. The Catholic Church has avoided selling its churches despite a lower attendance rate, by lending them to other (mainly Orthodox) Christian denominations<sup>4</sup>. Nevertheless, many Catholic parishes are merging due to the ageing and shrinking number of priests<sup>4,5</sup>. Of the 784 territorial parishes currently in Slovenia, more than 30% are co-governed from other parishes<sup>5</sup>. There are considerable differences between the dioceses. In the Diocese of Koper, half of the 189 parishes could be merged in the near future, since none of them is autonomous in its functioning<sup>4,5</sup>.

### Decline in the number of priests in Slovenia (2004-2018)



Source: Annual Reports of the Catholic Church in Slovenia



## SLOVENIA

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Barbora BUBENKOVÁ (2014) 'Cirkevný Majetok a Financie', Masarykova univerzita

<sup>2</sup> Pamiatkový úrad SR, 'Pamiatkový fond – Štatistiky' (<http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/pamiatkovy-fond-statistiky>)

<sup>3</sup> Act no. 49/2002 Coll ([http://www.pamiatky.sk/Content/Data/File/sluz\\_predpis/zakon-49-2002.pdf](http://www.pamiatky.sk/Content/Data/File/sluz_predpis/zakon-49-2002.pdf))

<sup>4</sup> Ministerstvo Kultúry Slovenskej Republiky, 'Dotácie 2020' (<http://www.culture.gov.sk/vdoc/842/obnovme-si-svoj-dom-2020-34b.html>)

<sup>5</sup> Pamiatkový úrad Slovenskej Republiky, Krajské pamiatkové úrady (<http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/krajske-pamiatkove-urady>)

<sup>6</sup> NADACIA VÚB (<https://www.nadaciavub.sk/>)

<sup>7</sup> NADACIA VÚB, Poklady Slovenska (<https://www.nadaciavub.sk/poklady/>)

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### Webpages

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Ministersvo Kultury Slovenskej Republiky, Registrované cirkvi a náboženské spoločnosti v SR (<http://www.mksr.sk/posobnost-ministerstva/cirkvi-a-nabozenske-spolocnosti-/registrovane-cirkvi-a-nabozenske-spolocnosti-f9.html>)

Pamiatkový úrad Slovenskej Republiky, Register NKP - tabuľkové zoznamy (<http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/register-nkp-tabulkove-zoznamy>)



## SPAIN Country profile in graphs

### Population



**47,260,584**  
(July 2021 est.)

### Religions

In addition to the Catholic Church, to which 68.9% of the Spaniards belong, certain religious minorities benefit from the recognition of their notorious presence (notorio arraigo) by the Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom of the Spanish Ministry of Justice: Protestants, Muslims, Jews, Mormons, Jehova Witnesses, Buddhists, Eastern Orthodox Christians. (2019 est.)

### Number and type of places of worship in use



Churches

**23,020**  
Catholic

**4,138**  
Protestant

**1,250**  
Other christians\*



Muslim places of worship

**1,694**  
Including prayer rooms and  
mosques



Synagogues

**5**

\*Among them 77 Orthodox churches

### Estimated number of places of worship



**31,000**



## SPAIN Country profile in graphs

### Protected religious sites



#### National Monuments<sup>a</sup>

**2,316**  
Places of  
worship

**581**  
Abbeys



#### International (UNESCO)<sup>b</sup>

**60**  
Churches

**13**  
Abbeys

**3**  
Mosques<sup>c</sup>

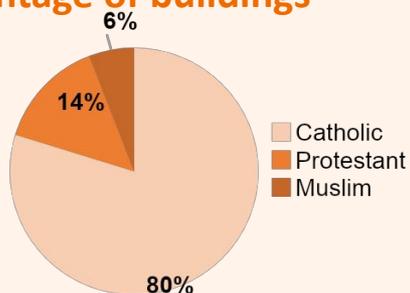
**3**  
Synagogues

<sup>a</sup> Register of Properties of Cultural Interest  
(<https://www.culturaydeporte.gob.es/bienes/cargarFiltroBienesInmuebles.do?layout=bienesInmuebles&cache=init&language=es>)

<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Historic Centre of Cordoba, Historic City of Toledo, Historic Walled Town of Cuenca, Old City of Salamanca, Old Town of Ávila, Old Town of Cáceres, Old Town of Segovia)

<sup>c</sup> Former mosques converted into churches have been counted as churches

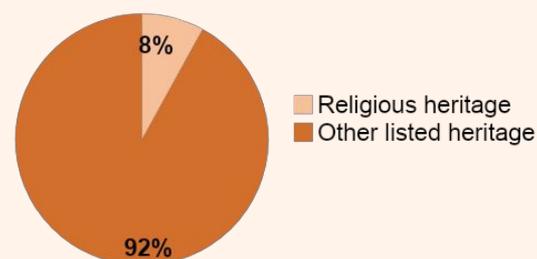
### How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

### Share of religious heritage among the listed buildings\*\*



\*\*All the objects listed included in the *bienes inmuebles* list



## SPAIN

### Ownership

In Spain, places of worship belong to the national federation of the denomination that uses them<sup>1</sup>. However, the case of the Catholic Church is an exception to this system. Part of the Catholic Church's property was nationalised in a classification process in 1931 (the majority of cathedrals are still public property)<sup>2</sup>. However, the Mortgage Act of 1946 and its revision in 1998, reversed this trend. The Act allows the Catholic Church to register all real estate, including churches, without documentation, simply with the signature of a bishop, who acts almost like a notary. As a result of this policy, in the last two decades, the Catholic Church has registered some 30,000 new properties, with major acquisitions such as the Córdoba Mosque<sup>3</sup>.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

The management of cultural heritage in Spain is governed by national and regional legislation. The central government mainly deals with protected properties belonging to the State and manages public authorities and delegated bodies, while the autonomous communities (regions) focus on the private, local and regional properties of their particular autonomous community. In the Ministry of Culture and in each of the regions, General Secretariats (SG) for the protection of historical and cultural heritage exist within the administrations. To coordinate these levels, the Historical Heritage Council brings together national and regional governments several times a year through the DGs of Cultural, Historical and Artistic Heritage.

#### Cultural heritage

In Spain, there are three levels of heritage protection:

- The Historical heritage status that identifies *Bien de Interés Cultural* (BIC)
- The General Inventory of Moveable Property
- The General Register of Property of Cultural Interest (moveable and immovable)

In addition to these categories covered by national law, the autonomous communities also have additional levels of protection under their own laws.

The seven Communities in Spain that have so far enacted their own general legal texts on Cultural Heritage (Andalusia, the Basque Country, Community of Madrid, Castilla la Mancha, Catalonia, Galicia, Valencian Community), have coincided in using the figure of the *Bien de Interés Cultural* (BIC), or a figure assimilated to it, to protect the most significant assets from the cultural perspective in the respective Community.

Among the Autonomous Communities that use their own legal category, we can distinguish the Autonomous Communities that use their own legal category (Andalusia, Catalonia, Galicia and Valencia), and the Autonomous Communities that use the category of the State BIC, with Autonomous Community normative development (Castilla la Mancha and the Community of Madrid).

The Basque Country does use its own legal category, but it is dissociated from the state model, unlike Andalusia, Catalonia, Galicia and Valencia. In the Basque country, the first legal category comprises the so-called *bienes culturales calificados*, the second category corresponds to *bienes inventariados*, which are included in an Inventory.



## SPAIN

### Financing

Religious communities, partly financed by the State, allocate funds to their buildings each year. The dioceses of Spain, for example, have dedicated 71,3 million euros to 373 projects of rehabilitation and conservation of buildings of heritage value in 2016<sup>4</sup>.

In the sharing of the cultural portfolio between the Spanish State and the Autonomous Communities, the State has inherited the 'Defense of Cultural Heritage'. The 1,5% cultural<sup>5</sup> programme is the main State tool to ensure the conservation of historical and cultural heritage. Among the 10 areas of action of this programme are 'Religious architecture' (improvement of cathedrals, abbeys, convents and monasteries of historical importance) and the Camino de Santiago (layout of the sections and buildings located on the Camino de Santiago).

At their level, almost all the autonomous communities have approved their own laws on historical or cultural heritage since 1990.

Representing 12% of GDP and 13% of employment in Spain, tourism is a sector that generates important income that can be used to maintain religious heritage. In the case of the Spanish Catholic Church, dioceses can choose to charge admission to their cathedrals, a choice that has been made by nearly 40 of them, the majority of which are located in the touristic region of Andalusia<sup>6</sup>.

Alternative financing can also be allocated by private or public foundations, including for example: Hispania Nostra<sup>7</sup>, Mecenalia<sup>8</sup>, Asociación Española de Fundraising<sup>9</sup>.

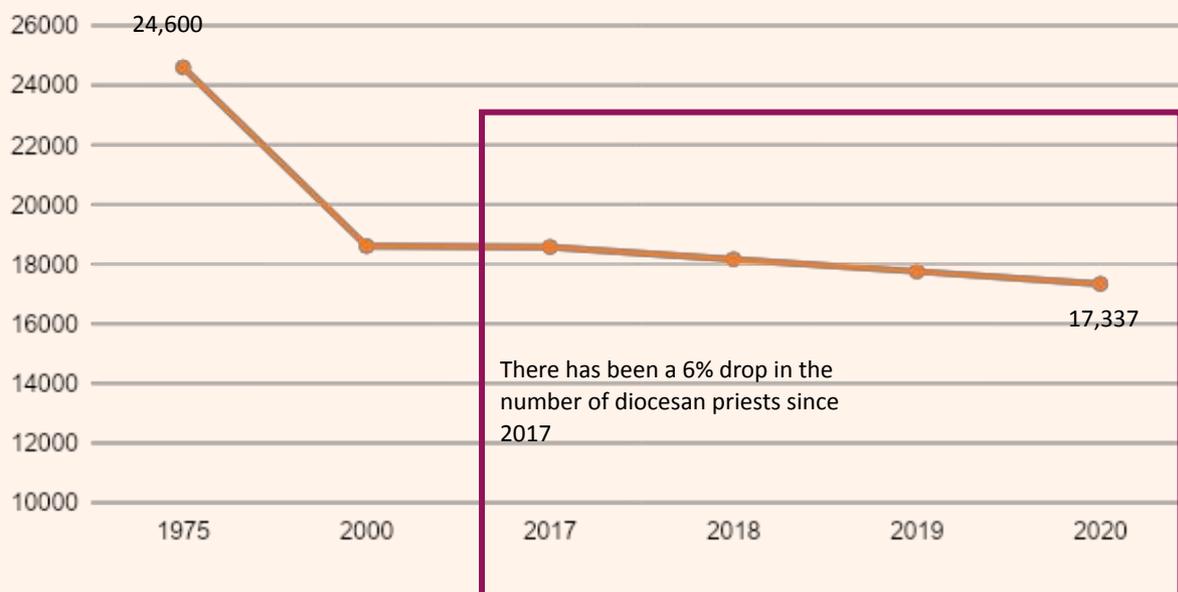


## SPAIN

### Threats to the sector

The biggest source of funding for the Catholic Church is still today the voluntary contribution of its followers through their taxes. Today, partly due to the ageing of the religious population, only a quarter of its followers contribute to the finances of the church through voluntary contributions; ten years ago, this rate was as high as 35%. Always with regard to the Catholic Church, a worrying gap is widening between the number of churches and the number of priests needed to manage them. From 19,121 priests for 22,689 churches in 2007, the numbers have changed to 18,813 priests for 23,071 churches in 2017. That same year, 4,200 parishes didn't have a priest<sup>10</sup>.

### A declining number of priests





## SPAIN

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Fundación Pluralismo y Convivencia, Lugar de Culto ([http://www.observatorioreligion.es/diccionario-confesiones-religiosas/glosario/lugar\\_de\\_culto.html](http://www.observatorioreligion.es/diccionario-confesiones-religiosas/glosario/lugar_de_culto.html))
- <sup>2</sup> Esther MIGUEL TRULA (2019) 'La rehabilitación de iglesias como Notre Dame es un problema en Francia. Así funciona en el resto de Europa' (<https://magnet.xataka.com/preguntas-no-tan-frecuentes/rehabilitacion-iglesias-como-notre-dame-problema-francia-asi-funciona-resto-europa>)
- <sup>3</sup> Elena G. SEVILLANO (2019) 'La Iglesia inscribió como propios 30.000 bienes en casi dos décadas' El País ([https://elpais.com/sociedad/2019/08/11/actualidad/1565552360\\_678366.html](https://elpais.com/sociedad/2019/08/11/actualidad/1565552360_678366.html))
- <sup>4</sup> Jesús BASTANTE (2019) 'La Iglesia española ha recibido más de dos mil millones de euros del Estado para restaurar sus catedrales', eldiario.es ([https://www.eldiario.es/sociedad/Iglesia-espanola-millones-restaurar-catedrales\\_0\\_889961433.html](https://www.eldiario.es/sociedad/Iglesia-espanola-millones-restaurar-catedrales_0_889961433.html))
- <sup>5</sup> Gobierno de España - Ministerio de Fomento, 1,5% Cultural (<https://www.fomento.gob.es/areas-de-actividad/arquitectura-vivienda-y-suelo/15-cultural>)
- <sup>6</sup> Marta DE DIOS (2019) 'Pagar por visitar la catedral, una moda cada vez más extendida', La Voz de Galicia ([https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/lugo/2019/08/24/pagar-visitar-catedral-moda-vez-extendida/0003\\_201908L24C1995.htm](https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/lugo/2019/08/24/pagar-visitar-catedral-moda-vez-extendida/0003_201908L24C1995.htm))
- <sup>7</sup> Hispania Nostra (<https://crowdfunding.hispanianostra.org/>)
- <sup>8</sup> Mecenalia (<https://mecenalia.com/>)
- <sup>9</sup> La Asociación Española de Fundraising (<http://www.aefundraising.org/>)
- <sup>10</sup> Eduardo BAYONA (2017) 'Crisis en la Iglesia: misas vacías, 4.200 parroquias sin cura y 7.000 frailes y monjas dejan de cotizar', Público (<https://www.publico.es/sociedad/crisis-iglesia-misas-vacias-200.html>)

### Articles

- Carlos LÓPEZ BRAVO (2019) 'Interrelación de las categorías legales de protección del Patrimonio Cultural en España'
- Elena G. SEVILLANO (2019) 'La Iglesia inscribió como propios 30.000 bienes en casi dos décadas' El País
- Esther MIGUEL TRULA (2019) 'La rehabilitación de iglesias como Notre Dame es un problema en Francia. Así funciona en el resto de Europa'
- Europapress (2016) 'Dos templos para 65.000 ortodoxos rusos en España'
- Jesús BASTANTE (2019) 'La Iglesia española ha recibido más de dos mil millones de euros del Estado para restaurar sus catedrales', eldiario.es
- Marta DE DIOS (2019) 'Pagar por visitar la catedral, una moda cada vez más extendida', La Voz de Galicia

### Webpages

- Conferencia Episcopal Española, La Iglesia Diocesana (<https://conferenciaepiscopal.es/datos-generales-la-iglesia-espana/>)
- Fundación Pluralismo y Convivencia, El Directorio de lugares de culto (<http://www.observatorioreligion.es/directorio-lugares-de-culto/index.php>)
- La Asociación Española de Fundraising (<http://www.aefundraising.org/>)
- Mecenalia (<https://mecenalia.com/>)
- Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte, Enlaces de interés (<https://culturaymecenazgo.culturay-deporte.gob.es/enlaces-interes.html>)
- Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte, Consulta a la base de datos de bienes inmuebles (<http://www.mcu.es/bienes/cargarFiltroBienesInmuebles.do?layout=bienesInmuebles&cache=init&language=es>)
- Orthodox World, Churches in Spain (<https://orthodox-world.org/en/ct/195/2/Spain/Church>)

 **SWEDEN** Country profile in graphs

**Population**



**10,261,767**  
(July 2021 est.)

**Religions**

Despite the semi-official status of the Church of Sweden, the Swedish state treats officially all religious communities equally. Other prominent religious communities include Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist. Notwithstanding a sharp decline in recent years, the Church of Sweden still encompasses a majority of the population (60.2%). (2017 est.)

**Number and type of places of worship in use**



**Churches**

**5,100**  
Protestant\*

**142**  
Catholic

**111**  
Orthodox



**Muslim places of worship**

**173**  
Mosques 9



**Synagogues**

**6**

\*Church of Sweden (3,400), Free churches - Pentecost, Evangelical Free Church, Salvation Army, Eumenia Church, Swedish Alliance mission, Vineyard Norden, Seventh-day Adventist Church, The faith movement, Quakers (1,700)

**Estimated number of places of worship**



**5,500**

 **SWEDEN** Country profile in graphs

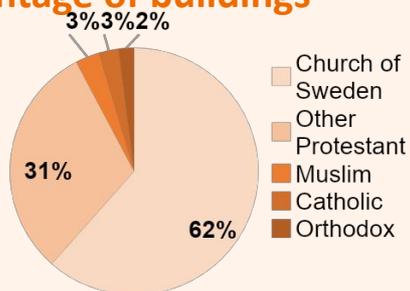
**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> protected under the Historic Environment Act

<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (Hanseatic Town of Visby, Naval Port of Karlskrona)

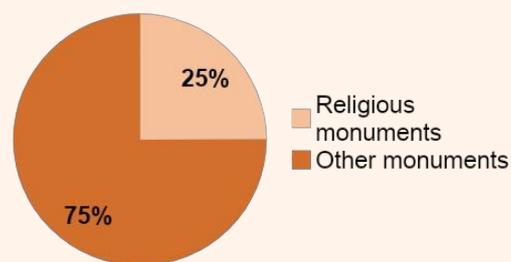
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the monuments\*\***



\*\*In October 2011, there were about 13,000 buildings listed as “national monuments”, “historic buildings” and “church monuments”

 **SWEDEN**

### Ownership

In Sweden, places of worship are cared for by congregations and belong to religious communities.

A very small portion of Sweden's sacred heritage belongs to the state, mainly former monasteries abandoned in the 16th century with the Reformation. This heritage is managed by the National Property Board.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

In Sweden, the Historic Environment Act (1988:950)<sup>1</sup> is the most fundamental legislation when it comes to ancient monuments, historic buildings, churches, and the Swedish National Heritage Board, dependant on the Ministry of Culture, is the central administrative agency in charge of its application. Other governmental authorities play an important part such as the National Property Board, the last of which, for example, manages state-owned listed historic buildings.

#### Cultural heritage

The Historic Environment Act<sup>1</sup>, which regulates the management of cultural heritage, defines three main types of monuments:

- Ancient monuments
- Architectural monuments
- Church cultural monuments

The latter category only concerns places of worship belonging to the Church of Sweden. Religious buildings, or any other religious heritage, belonging to other denominations than the Church of Sweden are not automatically covered by specific legislation, but may be designated as architectural monuments as stipulated in Chapter 3 of the Historic Environment Act.

#### Financing

Since 2000, the Church of Sweden is no longer a state church, but receives 46 million euros in state grants each year to cover conservation costs for the over 3,300 listed churches (system of *kyrkoantikvarisk ersättning*)<sup>1</sup>. For registered religious communities in general, project grants may be given in order to hold churches for religious activities (local grants)<sup>2</sup>.

Local grants may not be provided for churches for which state grants are paid in accordance with the Government Grants Ordinance (2016: 1367). Regulation (2018: 1534).

At the local and regional level, requests for funds can be addressed to the County Administrative Boards<sup>3</sup>, which are state authorities with regional responsibility for matters including cultural heritage management. These 21 boards are accountable to the Ministry of Finance and receive their assignments from the government.

The municipalities are also legally responsible for planning and building matters and have great influence through the municipal planning of the cultural heritage.



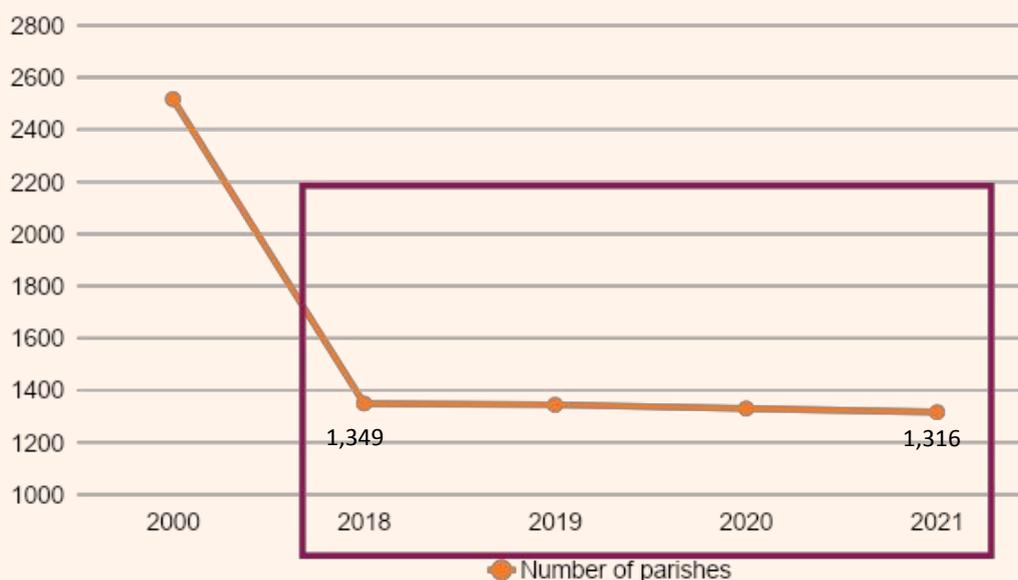
**SWEDEN**

### Threats to the sector

The Church of Sweden (Lutheran), which owns more than half of the country's places of worship, has seen a massive decline in its membership since its separation from the state in 2000, threatening the preservation of Sweden's sacred heritage. While the church comprised 82.9% of the Swedish population in 2000, this figure is currently around 57.7%. This fall has resulted in a process of reduction in the number of parishes: in 2000 the number of parishes was 2,517 and in 2020 it was 1,329, a decrease of almost 50%.

In the meantime, in the 2000s, more than a hundred churches have closed<sup>3</sup> (average about ten per year). The number of religious visits to the churches in Sweden has also decreased by one million. In 2014, the Church newspaper reported<sup>4</sup> that only one-fifth of the churches belonging to the former State-Church were used less than ten times a year.

### Decline in the number of parishes in Sweden (2000-2021)





## SWEDEN

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Cultural Environment Act (1988: 950)  
([https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/kulturmiljolaag-1988950\\_sfs-1988-950](https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/kulturmiljolaag-1988950_sfs-1988-950))
- <sup>2</sup> Ordinance (1999: 974) on state subsidies to religious communities  
([https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/forordning-1999974-om-statsbidrag-till\\_sfs-1999-974](https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/forordning-1999974-om-statsbidrag-till_sfs-1999-974))
- <sup>3</sup> Cecilia KLINTÖ (2019) 'Över 100 svenska kyrkor avvecklade' Svenska Dagbladet (<https://www.svd.se/over-100-svenska-kyrkor-avvecklade>)
- <sup>4</sup> Malin SIWE (2015) 'Vi borde riva fler kyrkor i Sverige' Ledare (<https://www.expressen.se/ledare/malin-siwe/vi-borde-riva-fler-kyrkor-i-sverige/>)

### Articles

Cecilia KLINTÖ (2019) 'Över 100 svenska kyrkor avvecklade' Svenska Dagbladet  
Malin SIWE (2015) 'Vi borde riva fler kyrkor i Sverige' Ledare  
Regulation on State Subsidies to Faith Communities (SFS 1999:974)

### Webpages

Council of Europe, Sweden (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/herein-system/sweden>)  
Stockholms Katolska Stift, Kapell (<https://www.katolskakyrkan.se/forsamlingsliv/http-www-katolskakyrkan-se-forsamlingar-kapell>)  
Svenska Kyrkan, Svenska kyrkan i siffror (<https://www.svenskakyrkan.se/statistik>)  
Swedish National Heritage Board, Bebyggelseregistret (BeBR) (<http://www.bebyggelseregistret.raa.se/bbr2/sok/searchResult.raa?ts=1574077674726>)  
Swedish National Heritage Board, Kyrkor (<https://www.raa.se/kulturav/byggnader/kyrkor/>)



 **UNITED KINGDOM** Country profile in graphs

**Population**



**66,052,076**  
(July 2021 est.)

**Religions**

The Church of England is a State Church, and its ecclesiastical law is regarded as part of English law. Churches have the same rights as any other free association to make contracts and hold real estate. Today the division of the population by religion is as follows: Christian 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, unspecified 7.2%, none 25.7%. (2019 est.)

**Number and type of places of worship in use**



**Churches**

**42,290**  
Protestant\*

**4,500**  
Catholic

**250**  
Orthodox



**Muslim places of worship**

**1,975**  
Including prayer rooms and  
mosques



**Synagogues**

**68**

\*Anglican (18,346), Non-conformist - Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, United Reform, Congregational... (23,940)

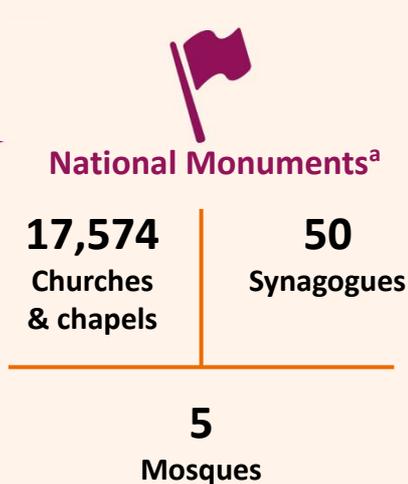
**Estimated number of places of worship**



**50,000**

 **UNITED KINGDOM** Country profile in graphs

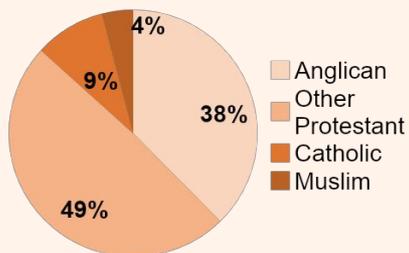
**Protected religious sites**



<sup>a</sup> The listing systems vary between England & Wales (I, II\* and II), Scotland (A, B, and C) and Northern Ireland (A, B+ and B)

<sup>b</sup> Including religious sites in protected city areas (City of Bath, Maritime Greenwich, Old and New Towns of Edinburgh, Saltair)

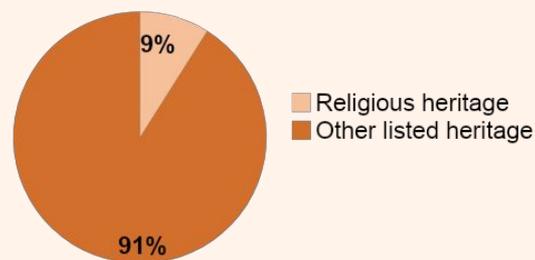
**How the main denominations\* compare to each other in terms of percentage of buildings**



\*Does not include denomination with less than 1% of sacred buildings

Sources: websites of the bodies representing the denominations

**Share of religious heritage among the listed buildings**



 **UNITED-KINGDOM**

### Ownership

For religious bodies other than the Church of England and the Church of Scotland, the applicable legal principles are those of the general law on charities, including charitable trusts. Non-established churches are largely organised as voluntary associations and their property is held by trustees (who may be registered societies) under ordinary secular law. When it comes to management of the buildings, Anglican churches are individually managed on a parochial basis by elected, unpaid, churchwardens who are responsible for all aspects of the building including arranging the five-yearly architectural inspection. Most other denominations manage their buildings on a more collective basis.

### Protection of the cultural heritage

#### Institutional framework

Each country within the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) has responsibility for its own historic environment, including historic monuments, built heritage and archaeology. England, which does not have its own devolved government, is covered by an agency of the United Kingdom government: English Heritage. For the other countries, the agencies in charge of cultural heritage are: Historic Environment Division of the Department for Communities (Northern Ireland), Historic Environment Scotland, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (Scotland), and Cadw, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (Wales).

#### Cultural heritage

Even though subject to different laws, every nation of the United-Kingdom classifies its buildings under two main categories of protected religious heritage; those specifically designated by the state as ancient monuments (archaeological sites) of national importance and buildings of special historical or architectural value:

- In England, buildings can be listed for their 'special architectural or historic interest'. This listing is almost automatic for buildings built before 1700 that survive in their original state, it also includes many buildings built between 1700 and 1850. Buildings less than 30 years old are not normally considered to be of special architectural or historic interest. Not all listed buildings have the same rank and are therefore assigned a grade (I, II\* and II).
- In Wales, a similar status for buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest' was created by the Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act of 2016<sup>1</sup>. This act also creates 'conservation areas' in which buildings are protected by restriction from destruction. Finally, the recently passed Historic Environment Act 2016 requires Welsh authorities to compile and maintain a statutory list of historic place names in Wales. It also requires Welsh authorities to compile and maintain a Historic Environment Register for each local authority area in Wales. As in England, Welsh listed monuments are ranked I, II\* or II according to their importance.
- In Northern Ireland, buildings can be listed as being of 'special architectural or historic interest' under the Planning Act 2011<sup>2</sup>. It currently covers almost 9,000 buildings. The buildings on the regulatory list are divided into different categories: A, B+, B, B1 and B2.
- Scotland also lists buildings for their 'special architectural or historic interest' under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1997<sup>3</sup>. Then, depending on their relative importance, buildings are classified into one of three categories of listing: Category A, Category B and Category C.

 **UNITED KINGDOM**

**Financing**

Subsidies for the maintenance of listed religious buildings and the only state support for religious communities. In the case of unlisted religious buildings, the State can grant subsidies to the Church Conservation Trust (CCT)<sup>4</sup> in accordance with the Redundant Churches and Other Religious Building Act of 1969. In recent years, state grants have increased to 70% of total funds. Since 1978, the State has also provided grants for the restoration of working churches through English Heritage, but the State's contribution remains small compared to that of church funds.

In addition to the aforementioned sources of financing, the National Churches Trust (NCT)<sup>5</sup> makes grants to churches of all Christian denominations throughout the British Isles. Most of the United Kingdom is now covered by around 40 Regional Church Trusts – voluntary organisations affiliated to the National Churches Trust. The Churches Conservation Trust Monies received by churches from individual UK taxpayers can benefit from a tax credit of 28%, which has to be recovered by the church. Higher rate taxpayers can claim back a further 25% in their annual tax declaration. There is no tax deductibility at source for donations from this class of taxpayer.

 **UNITED KINGDOM**

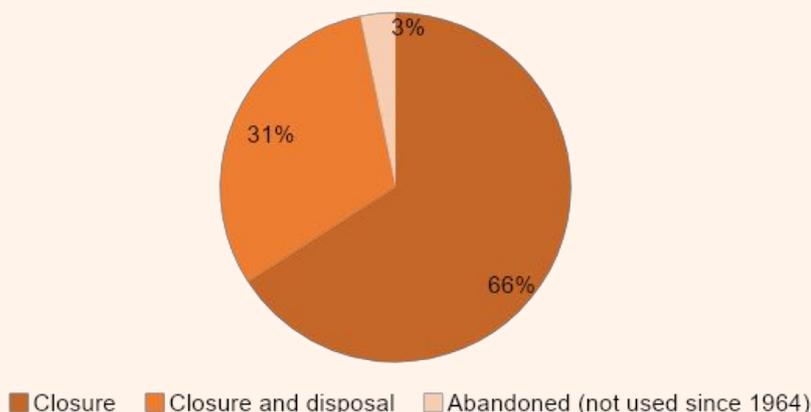
**Threats to the sector**

The United Kingdom is no stranger to the phenomenon of church disuse which has been affecting it since the 1960s. Between 2004 and 2018 alone, 340 Anglican churches have closed<sup>6</sup>. Nowadays, the rate of closure is of 20 to 25 churches a year<sup>7</sup>.

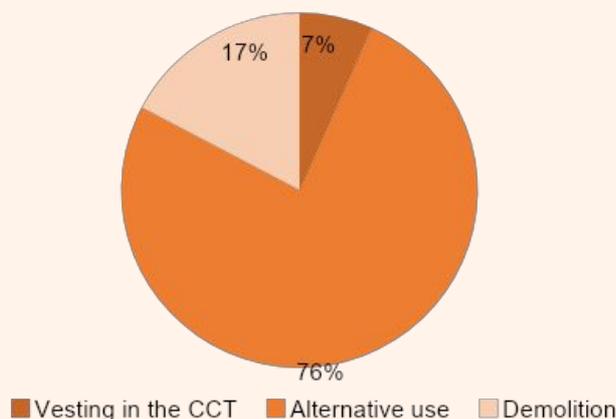
Most of these have been sold or demolished but 342 of the better architectural examples have been transferred to the Churches Conservation Trust, an NGO financed by the state and partly by the Anglican Church.

Other NGOs, financed uniquely by voluntary contribution, look after other redundant churches and chapels - the Friends of Friendless Churches<sup>8</sup>, 39 chapels in England and Wales; the Historic Chapels Trust<sup>9</sup>, 17 non-Anglican chapels in England; the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust<sup>10</sup>, 6 chapels; and the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust<sup>11</sup>.

**Anglican church closures 2004-18**



**Disposals 2004-18**



Source: Guy BRAITHWAITE (2020) ‘Struggling, Closed and Closing Churches’  
([https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Struggling\\_closed\\_and\\_closing\\_churches\\_report.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Struggling_closed_and_closing_churches_report.pdf))



## UNITED KINGDOM

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/4/contents>)

<sup>2</sup> Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/25/contents>)

<sup>3</sup> Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents>)

<sup>4</sup> Churches Conservation Trust (<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/>)

<sup>5</sup> National Churches Trust (<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/>)

<sup>6</sup> Guy BRAITHWAITE (2020) 'Struggling, Closed and Closing Churches'  
([https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Struggling\\_closed\\_and\\_closing\\_churches\\_report.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Struggling_closed_and_closing_churches_report.pdf))

<sup>7</sup> Church of England, Closed churches (<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/parish-reorganisation-and-closed-church-buildings/closed-churches>)

<sup>8</sup> Friends of Friendless Churches (<http://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/>)

<sup>9</sup> Historic Chapels Trust (<https://www.hct.org.uk/>)

<sup>10</sup> Welsh Religious Buildings Trust (<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/welsh-religious-buildings-trust>)

<sup>11</sup> Scottish Redundant Churches Trust (<http://www.srct.org.uk/>)

### Articles

Guy BRAITHWAITE (2020) 'Struggling, Closed and Closing Churches'

Mehmood NAQSHBANDI (2017) 'UK Mosque Statistics / Masjid Statistics' [www.MuslimsinBritain.org](http://www.MuslimsinBritain.org)

Simon JENKINS (2015) 'England's churches can survive – but the religion will have to go' *The Guardian*

### Webpages

Church of England, Research and Statistics (<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>)

Department for Communities (<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/>)

Historic England, National Heritage List for England (NHLE) (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>)

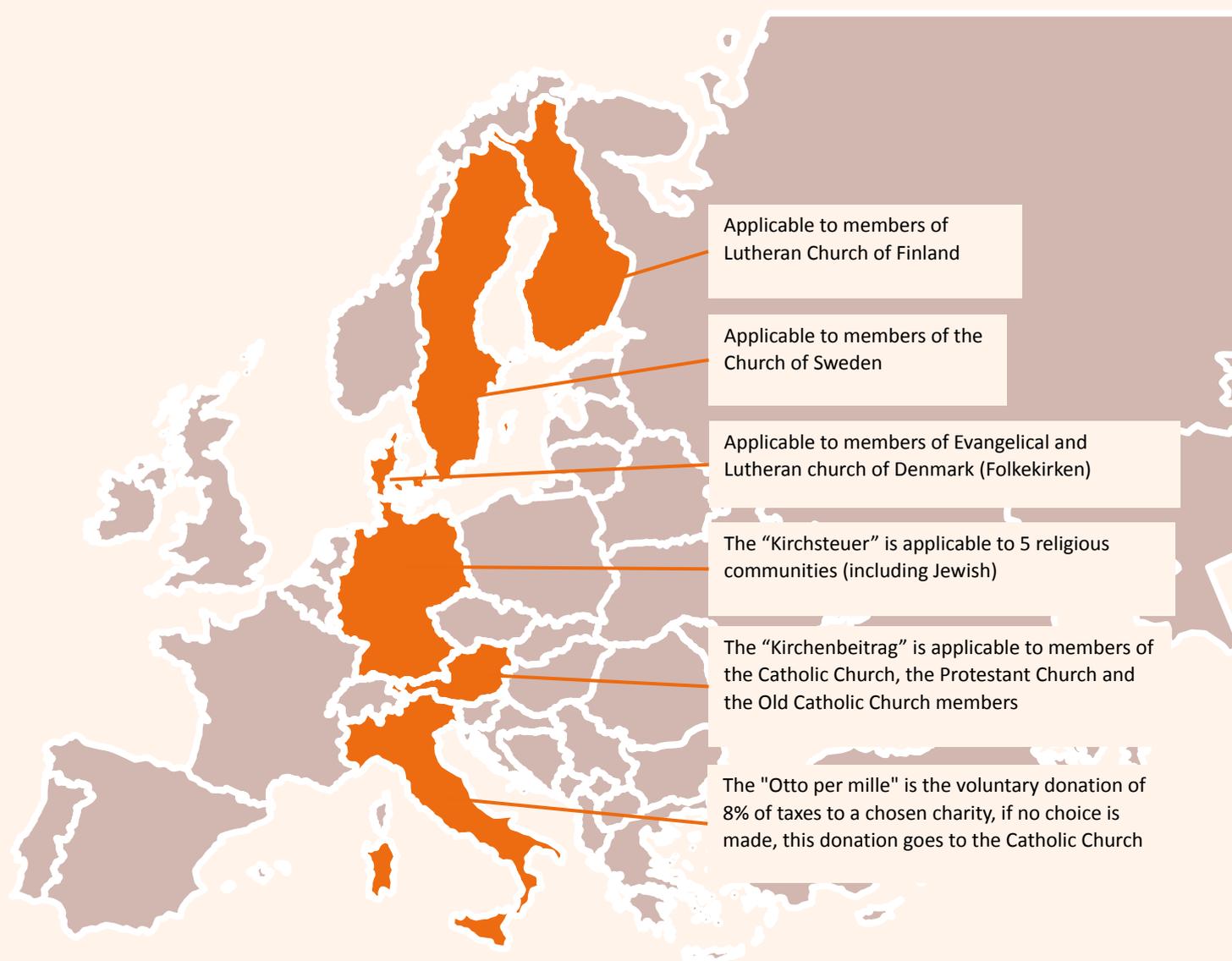
Historic Environment Scotland (<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/>)

Jewish Communities & Records, Jewish Heritage Sites (Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments) in the United Kingdom ([https://www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/Community/property\\_interest.htm#penzance](https://www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/Community/property_interest.htm#penzance))



## GLOSSARY

**Church tax:** A Church tax is a tax imposed by the state on members of certain religious congregations in order to provide financial support to the churches, such as salaries for its clergy and to pay the functioning costs of the church.



## GLOSSARY

### **Cultural heritage:**

- a) monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features which are of outstanding value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- b) groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings, which because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- c) sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites, which are of outstanding value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

Source: UNESCO ([https://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/cdis/heritage\\_dimension.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/cdis/heritage_dimension.pdf))

**Cultural heritage registry, list or inventory:** Refers to official data banks or lists of historically or culturally significant man-made immovable properties, landmark buildings, industrial facilities, memorial homes of notable people of the past, monuments, cemeteries and tombs, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes – man-made environments and natural habitats significantly altered by humans - present in the national territory, which have been recognised as having heritage value through an official selection process and separately identified and recorded.

Source: UNESCO ([https://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/cdis/heritage\\_dimension.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/cdis/heritage_dimension.pdf))

**Intangible heritage:** Refers to those practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage.

Source: UNESCO ([https://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/cdis/heritage\\_dimension.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/cdis/heritage_dimension.pdf))

**Monument:** architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science

Source: ICOMOS (<https://www.icomos.org/en/2016-11-10-13-53-13/icomos-and-the-world-heritage-convention-4>)

**Places of worship:** a building for religious services, such as a church, synagogue, mosque, temple, etc.

**Recognised religious denomination:** In an effort to normalise their relations with religious communities, secular European states have inscribed their relationships with some of them into law, resulting in the *de facto* creation of 'recognised religions'. The recognition of religious communities by a state can take many forms: the relationship between a state and a religion can be enshrined in the constitution of a state (i.e. Cyprus), or can be governed by common laws – as associations (i.e. France). It can be the subject of cooperation agreements (i.e. Croatia), but also of an international treaty (in the case of the Catholic Church with the Holy See). The relations of a state with its recognised religions may differ according to the religion, which does not exclude an equal status of the religions vis-à-vis the state, according to the principle of neutrality of the state. Once recognised, communities can expect to enjoy certain rights: the right to perform marriages, to benefit from certain tax deductions, to worship publicly, to freely regulate and administer their 'internal' affairs, to protect their institutions, foundations and funds, to establish private denominational schools and to provide religious education in public schools. This recognition may also open up a special regime of financial support for worship in some countries (i.e. Belgium).

**State religion:** States with a state religion are characterised by the existence of close ties between the state and a particular religious community. They usually confer official status on this religion in their constitution or basic law. These states do not necessarily give advantages to this religious group over others. Five countries in our selection have a state church: Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Greece and Malta\*.