



Extract from the report to the
Public Accounts Committee on
the efforts made by the Danish
state-subsidised museums to
secure Denmark's cultural heritage

March
2014

revision
revision

revision

1. Introduction and conclusion

1.1. Purpose and main conclusion

1. This report concerns the efforts made by the Danish state-subsidised museums to secure Denmark's cultural heritage. Denmark has seven state-owned and 98 state-subsidised museums, several privately owned museums and a number of museums that are owned by various foundations.

Due to the limited scope of this examination, compared with Rigsrevisionen's other examinations, it is referred to as a narrow report.

The purpose of the report is to examine whether the state-subsidised museums secure Denmark's cultural heritage for the future and whether their efforts in this area are adequately supervised by the Ministry of Culture. The report answers the following questions:

- Do the state-subsidised museums secure Denmark's cultural heritage through collection, registration and preservation?
- Are the state subsidised-museums adequately supervised by the Ministry of Culture and the Danish Agency for Culture?

The audit approach and quality requirements to **narrow reports** are identical with those applying to Rigsrevisionen's other reports, but the scope of narrow reports is more limited.

MAIN CONCLUSION

Rigsrevisionen finds that the Ministry of Culture, the Danish Agency for Culture and the state-subsidised museums should increase their focus on preserving Denmark's cultural heritage.

Generally, the museums that receive state subsidies are facing significant challenges relating to collecting, registering and preserving the cultural heritage. It follows that the museums' efforts to secure the cultural heritage can be enhanced in respect to highlighting knowledge of the cultural heritage and making this knowledge accessible to the citizens. In particular the cultural heritage museums are challenged in this field.

The supervision of the state-subsidised museums carried out by the Ministry of Culture and the Danish Agency for Culture is not, in the opinion of Rigsrevisionen, effective; the supervision by the Danish Agency for Culture lacks a strategic and operational foundation that clarifies the agency's considerations and priorities in respect to the supervision; and the supervision of the Danish Agency for Culture carried out by the Ministry of Culture has not been based on a clear set of requirements and has therefore not led to a focused dialogue with the agency.

The Ministry of Culture has informed Rigsrevisionen that it will get an opportunity to clarify the governance relations between the Ministry of Culture and the Danish Agency for Culture when the ministry mid-2014, at the latest, adjusts the principles that govern the ministry's performance-based management of underlying institutions.