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## The policy on cultural events in the parliament

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To understand better the situation and the conditions for different events I kindly ask you to see those photos and show by web-camera at [http://web.riigikogu.ee/panoraam/panod/en\\_toompea\\_castle.html](http://web.riigikogu.ee/panoraam/panod/en_toompea_castle.html)

In Estonian Parliament building there are constant exhibitions at two places. The content of exhibition is changed in around every two months. The first exhibition is composed by the Estonian Artists Union that means there have been exhibitions of jewelry, furniture but most often, of course, paintings. The exhibition in the other hall is designed depending on the events in the society – for example at the moment there is children's drawings exhibition but before that there was the exhibition of the drawings of Tarass Shevtshenko (Ukrainian poet and national revival leader from the 19-th century).

The vestibule of the Parliament building is used sometimes for fairs – for example there has been the sale of the works of orphans or the sale of handicraft from Estonian villages. Sometimes there is a sale of books as well. See [http://web.riigikogu.ee/panoraam/panod/en\\_vaade7.html](http://web.riigikogu.ee/panoraam/panod/en_vaade7.html).

But these above mentioned things are available only for those who have passed the security gate to enter the Parliamentary building. For passing the security gate one needs an invitation from inside the Parliament.

It is possible for NGO-s for example to use the reception of conference facilities in the Parliament. For example the White Hall has been used for that purpose – see [http://web.riigikogu.ee/panoraam/panod/en\\_vaade5.html](http://web.riigikogu.ee/panoraam/panod/en_vaade5.html). But these have been rare cases, the NGO has to prove that the event has to do something with legislative process or has overall importance to Estonian nation.

There are twice a year so called open-door days, when the gates are opened to anyone, but there will be parliamentary staff that guides the visitors and leads the excursions. During these two days there will be some concerts, and tattoos by the military orchestra in the great courtyard of our castle. But of course the access to different parts of the building is restricted during the open-door days.

During the year the information service of the parliament does organize excursions for groups – you just have to call and reserve a time for the excursion. There are usually at least 6-7 groups in a day visiting the Riigikogu.

Since we have an inner courtyard that is totally unused we did have there one concert. Take a look to the courtyard at [http://web.riigikogu.ee/panoraam/panod/en\\_vaaade2.html](http://web.riigikogu.ee/panoraam/panod/en_vaaade2.html). But the concert was never followed by other events. Estonian Government building has also similar small courtyard and they have had now for several years the concerts of classical music that have been opened to all people.

One has to admit that the security demands do restrict to allow visitors from the street to enter the Parliament building. Individuals can enter the building by the invitation of a MP or a civil servant from the Parliament, but the groups have to reserve the time of visit and present the list of those people afore.

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