

# Re-Imagining and Re-Evaluating the Totalitarian Past in Lithuania: New Approaches in the Era of Digitation of Archival Materials

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# Tasks

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- The Clash of Totalitarian regimes: Human losses
- From Political History to Multi-directional Politics of (post-)Memory
- Ongoing Projects of Digitation of Archives
- Case study. When the Secrets Became Public: New Ways of Re-evaluating the Past

“The light that illuminates processes of action, and therefore all historical processes, appears only at their end, frequently when all the participants are dead. Action reveals itself fully only to the storyteller, that is, to the backward glance of the historian, who indeed always knows better what it was all about than the participants. All accounts told by the actors themselves, though they may in rare cases give an entirely trustworthy statement of intentions, aims, and motives, become mere useful source material in the historian's hands and can never match his story in significance and truthfulness. What the storyteller narrates must necessarily be hidden from the actor himself, at least as long as he is in the act or caught in its consequences, because to him the meaningfulness of his act is not in the story that follows. Even though stories are the inevitable results of action, it is not the actor but the storyteller who perceives and "makes" the story.”

Hannah Arendt, *Human Condition* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), Chicago, 1998, p. 192.

~~“we have to recognize with regret that living witnesses are~~  
not most eloquent. The highest form of Evil, probably, has  
paralyzed the very possibility of testimony. We have take a  
distance of time in order to understand, to percept and to  
express *the way it happened* [reference to Ranke's “wie es  
eigentlich gewesen”].

Alain Besançon, 2002, c. 7.

# The Clash of Totalitarian Regimes

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- First Soviet Occupation (15 June 1940—22 June 1941): ~ 23 000 people imprisoned, killed or deported
- Occupation by Nazi Germany (22 June, 1941—July, 1944): 240 000 people killed 200 000 of them were Jews. 60 000 were transported for forced labor to Germany
- Re-Occupation by Soviet Union (1944—1953): 20 500 Freedom Fighters and their supporters were killed; 186 000 people arrested and imprisoned, and 118 000 deported. Since 1954, 1000 individuals arrested or imprisoned, and 23 persons were killed in 1991, during 13 January Events, massacres at Medininkai and Krakunai Customs
- 496 000 people were forced to flee or to repatriate (1940—1941; 1944—1947 and 1957—1960): Lithuanians, Poles, Germans and so called Memellanders

<http://genocid.lt/centras/en/513/c/>

## Phases of the re-evaluation of Lithuanian historical narratives

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- The reproduction of “anti-fascist” narrative regarding the myth of ‘the Great Patriotic War’ during Soviet occupation (1944--1984)
- The rise of anti-communist and anti-Soviet national narrative (1984--1990)
- Liberation and democratization processes of academia and institutions (Research Centre of Genocide and Resistance of Lithuania;The International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania 1990-2004)
- Re-thinking of national historiography and national narratives (Prague Declaration on European Conscience and Communism, 2008)
- A new rise of (entanglements) historical memory and memory culture (2008--)

# The International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania

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# KGB veikla Lietuvoje (KGB activity in Lithuania)

<http://www.kgbveikla.lt/>

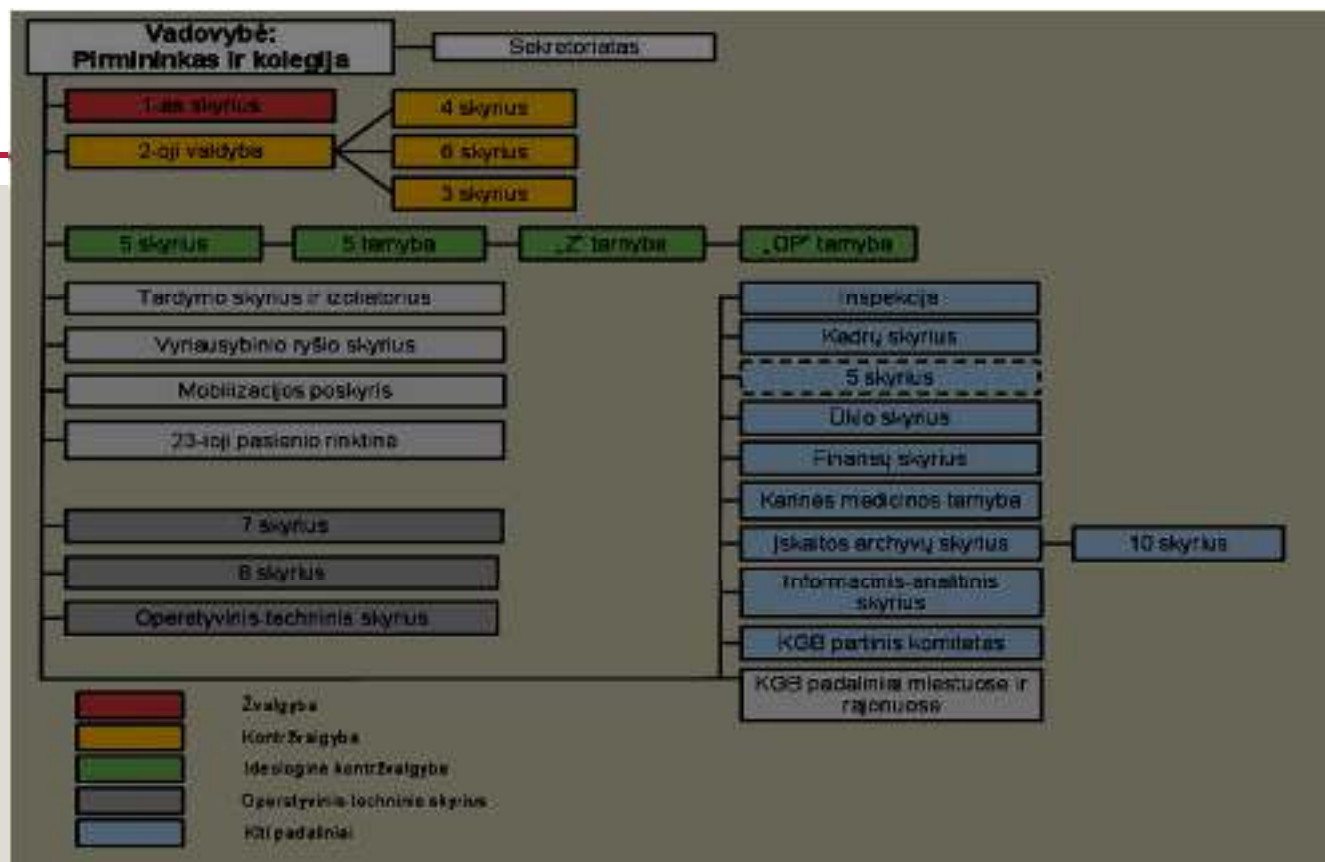
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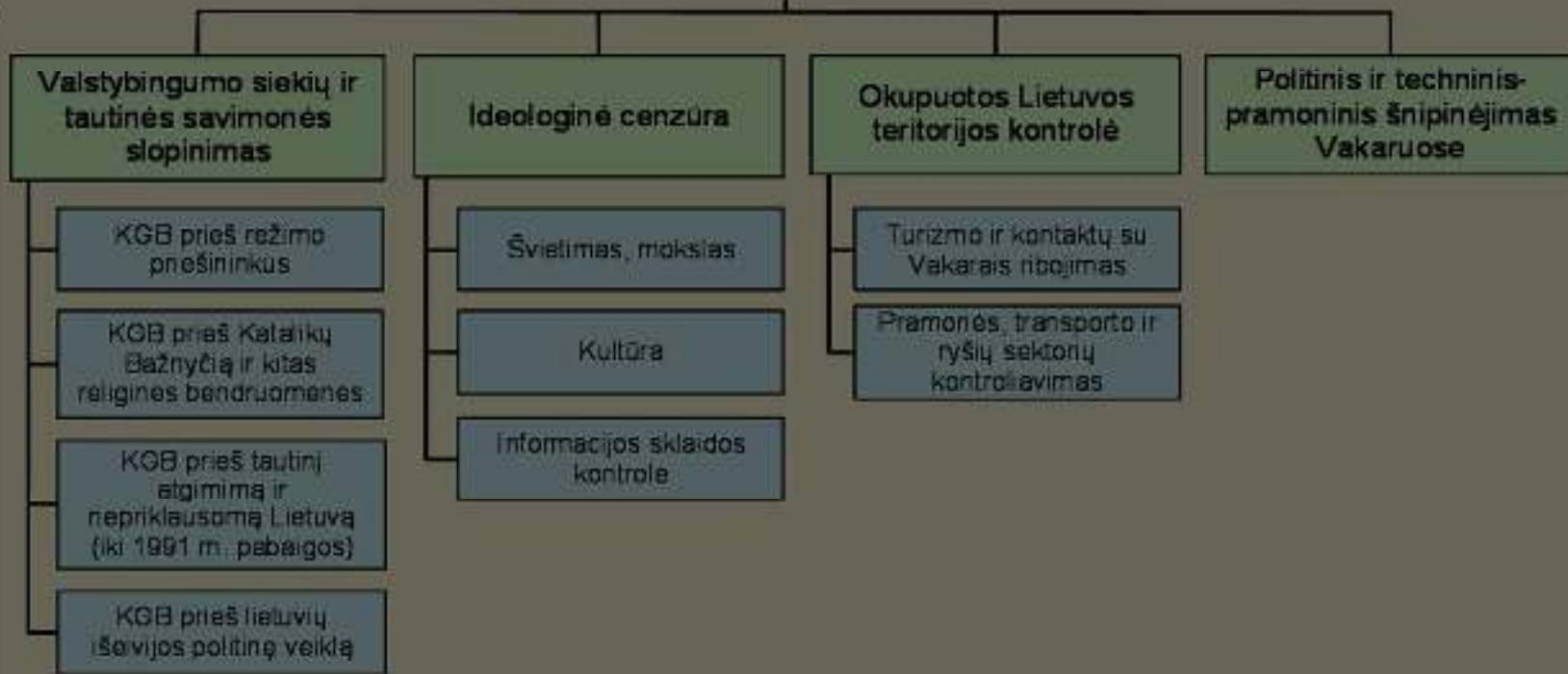
Launched in 2011 by the Research Centre of Genocide and Resistance of Lithuania in order to publish documents regarding (as a consequence of implementation of a law of the LR Parliament (1998))

- Structure of LSSR KGB
- Methods of LSSR KGB
- LSSR Communists Party and KGB
- Biographies of LSSR KGB employees and agents





## LSSR KGB veiklos sritys



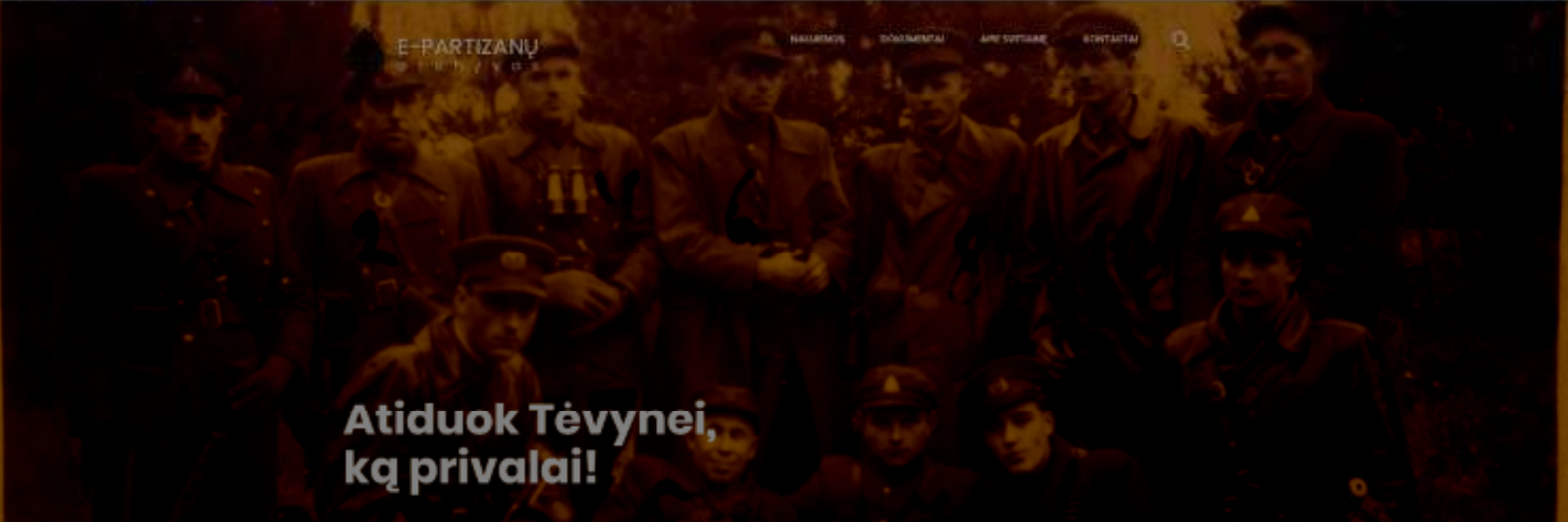


## E-Archives of Lithuanian Partisans <http://epartizanai.archyvai.lt/>

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- Works under supervision of Lithuanian Special Archives. The main aim is creation of the digitized archives' base devoted to Freedom Fights (1944-1953)
- Supported financially by Lithuanian Council for Culture and private donations
- Supported intellectually by different memory institutions and private subjects – “open-source model”.



E-PARTIZANŲ  
TINKLAVYBĖ

NAUJUMOS | DOKUMENTAI | APIE SITUACIJĄ | KONTAKTAI

Atiduok Tėvynei,  
ką privalai!

LIETUVOS PARTIZANŲ  
DOKUMENTAI IR  
NUOTRAUKOS

2019-05-27

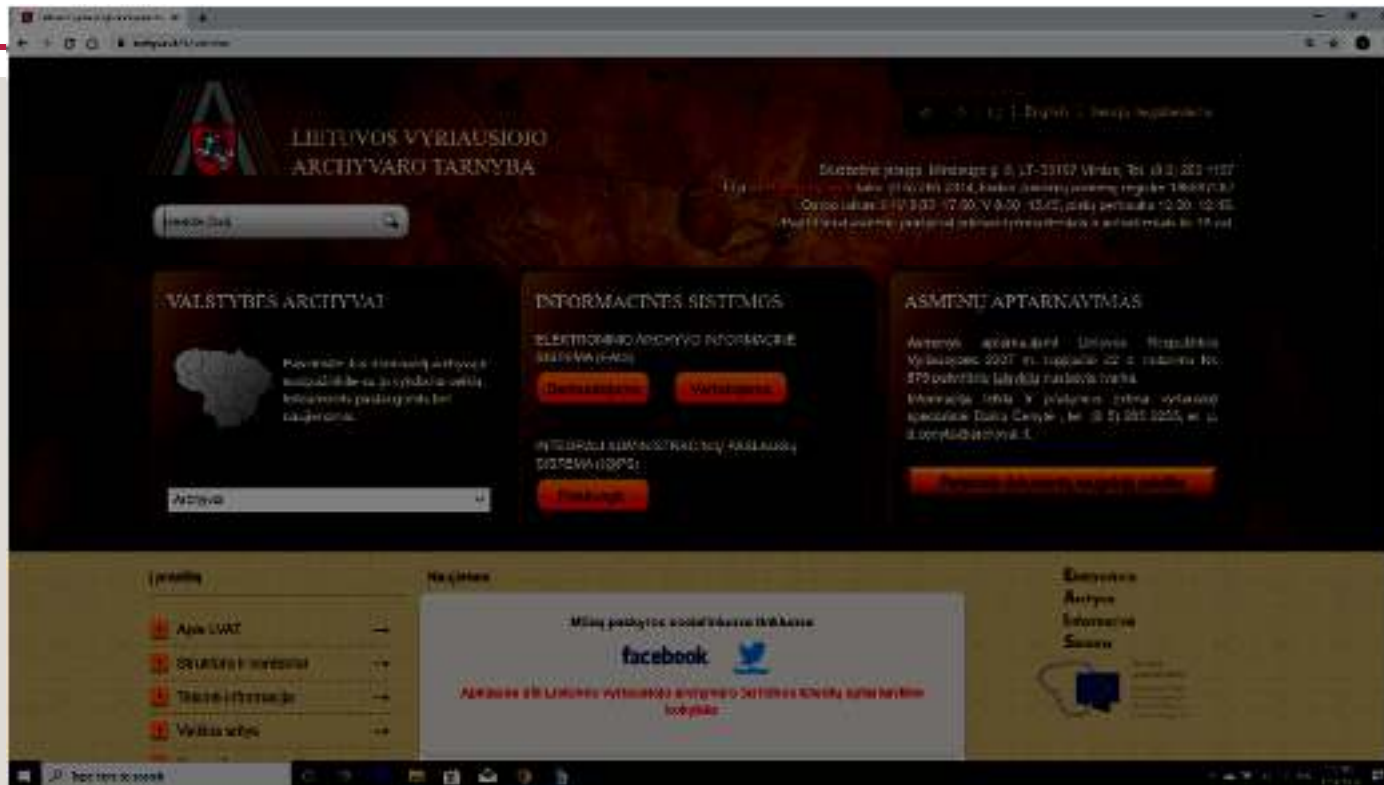
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2019-03-21

Lietuvių tautos  
deklaracija. Projektas



# The Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania



Government Gateway

E-Government Gateway  
Administrative and public e-services portal

LI EN

Home Citizens Business Public sector E-signature e-procurement Certificates and e-procurement

Enter service and provider name

SEARCH

Services of important life events

- Birth of the child
- Leaving and finding a job
- Entering university or vocational school
- Applying for a driver's license
- Starting a business
- Registering a car

More life events

Service categories

- Data protection
- SRP services for public (SRP)
- Energy
- Taxes
- Trade and production
- Communication

Taskbar: Type here to search, 11:00 AM, 10/10/2019

# Online accessibility of KGB files

The screenshot displays the 'Elektroninio archyvo informacinė sistema' (Electronic Archive Information System) interface. At the top, there is a search bar with 'ADOC dokumentai' and 'Apie šią sistemą'. Below the header, the page title is 'Apie šiuos viešintus įrašius' (About these publicly accessible records). The main content area shows details for a specific document:

- Įrašas / 16.1. Lietuvos TSP valstybės saugoma informacija (0000) (LVA)
- Įrašymo / 69. Iš archyvo įrašų sąrašo Nr. 68
- 472000. Sveikatos Apieva (Lietuva), Amieno ir šilų (iš 2 žmonių) bendradarbių byla

Metadata fields include:

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- Originalai, kopijos, publikacijos / Dokumentai yra išdėstyti su kaitinamais
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At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'Mūsų adresas: LT-01100 Vilnius, pl. Tiesos 11, LT-01100 Vilnius, tel. +370 5 266 1111, el. p. info@archyvas.lt'. The footer also includes '© 2011 Lietuvos vyriausybės informacinė sistema' and '1.57.04.019'.



## Historical entanglements and the rise of mnemonic fragmentation

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- .Scarcity of totalitarianism's paradigm: how to re-remember the lost heritage of Jewish community
- .(Ethno)National memory as victims' (*Us*), but not as perpetrators' (*Them*): martyrology vs. empathy
- .Post-Stalinist era and communicative memory of generation of Late Socialism
- .Western discourse vs. Central and Central Eastern

# Memory regimes and actors

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- .Mnemonic warriors
- .Mnemonic pluralists
- .Mnemonic abnegators
- .Mnemonic prospectives

Kubik, Jan; Bernhard, Michael. *A Theory of the Politics of Memory*, In: "Twenty Years after Communism", New York: Oxford, 2014.

## Virtual exhibitions <http://virtualios-parodos.archyvai.lt/lt>

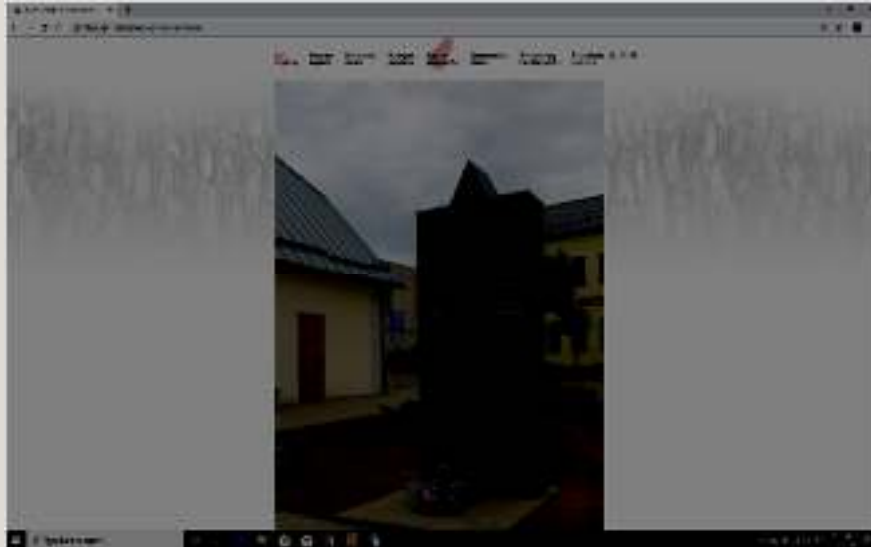
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- Under the supervision of the Office of Chief Archivist of Lithuania
- Thematic virtual exhibitions as mediators of cultural and communicative memory
- Digitized archival material (including video, audio), followed by academic and historical comments enables an expenditure and revision of national narrative

## Lost Shtetl: the Cultural Memory of Jewish Heritage

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- The restoration of the Old Jewish Cemetery in Šeduva
- The dedication of three monuments at the town's mass murder sites
- A monument in the center for the Jews of Šeduva
- The Šeduva Jewish Museum, "Lost Shtetl"
- A historical monograph of Šeduva Jews
- The documentary by Saulius Beržinis, Petrified Time

# Lost Shtetl: the Cultural Memory of Jewish Heritage

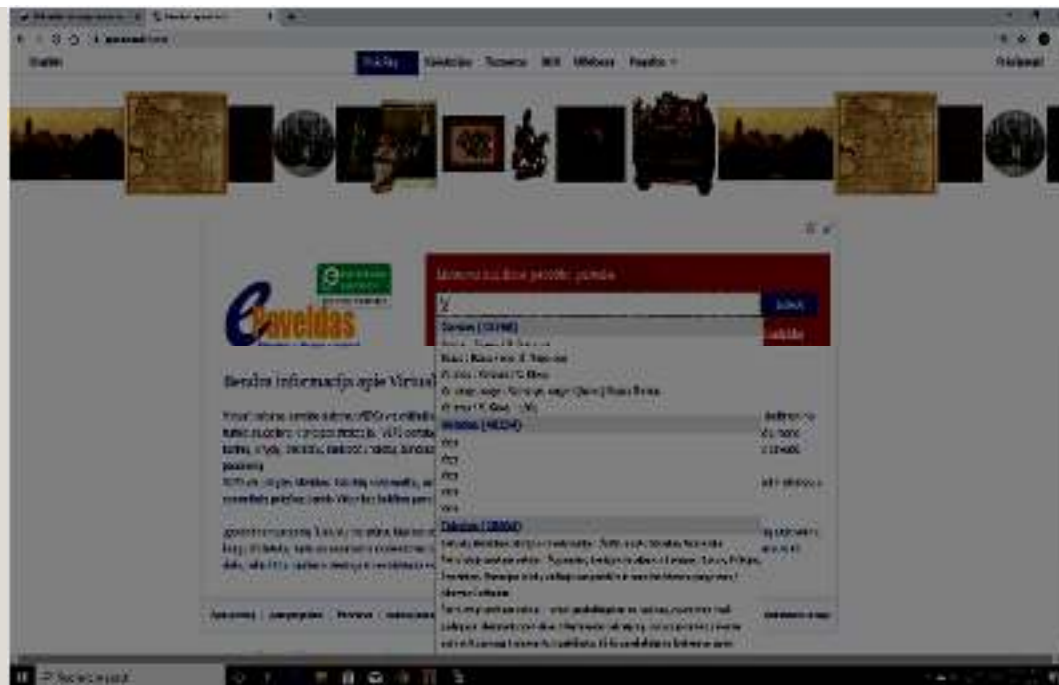
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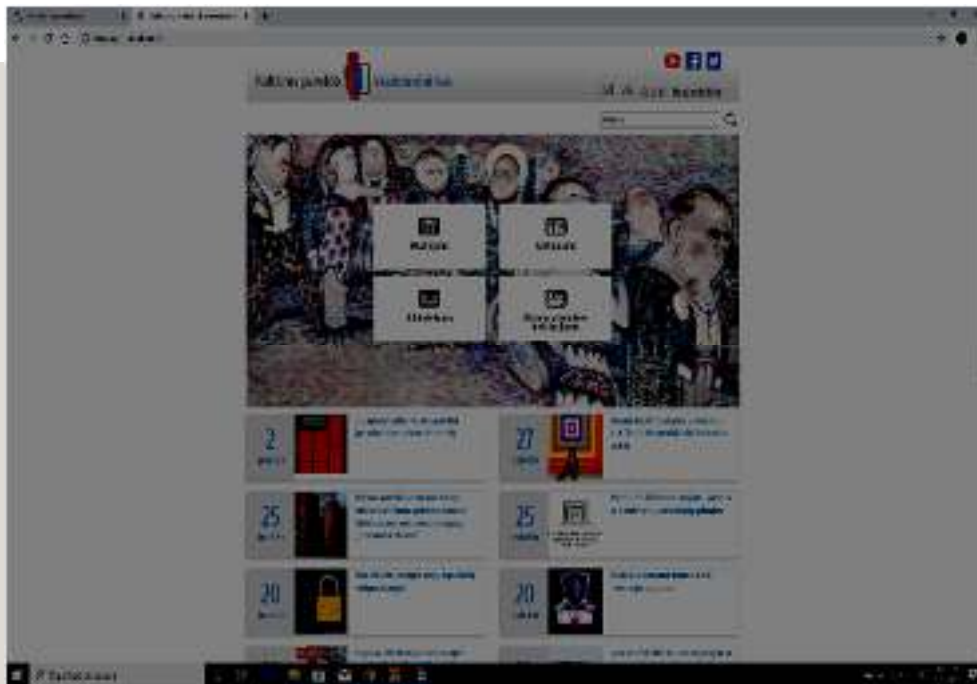
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## E-Paveldas (E-Heritage)

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## E-Culture – Digitation of Cultural Heritage <http://ekultura.lt/>



An umbrella virtual project which provides memory institutions with:

- Legal and administrative information
- Informs on ongoing transnational projects (e. g. Europeana, 50s In Europe Kaleidoscope, PLUGGY, etc.)
- Initiates and coordinates multidisciplinary teachings and courses regarding problems and cultural policy of digitation
- A part of LIMIS – Lithuania Integral Museum Information System

# Lithuanian Integral Museum Information System

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# Case study of Freedom: Juozas Streikus

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.11 November, 2019 the remains of Streikus (sentenced to death in 1961) were found at abandoned Orphans' Cemetery in Vilnius

.MP, Conservative Party (former Head of Historical Department of Centre) published a 'last testimony' of Streikus at Supreme Court of Lithuania SSR

.PhD(c) from Vilnius University made a remark in social media, that 'testimony' is a belletristic reminiscence written by witnesses after 1990s'

.MP denied at first, then admit that he published not an original version of testimony from KGB file, but from memoir of Streikus sibling.

[Lithuanian Freedom Archives](#)  
online

# Official and Private: KBG file and documented lie by Liaudis (1958—1961)

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# Post-memory genre

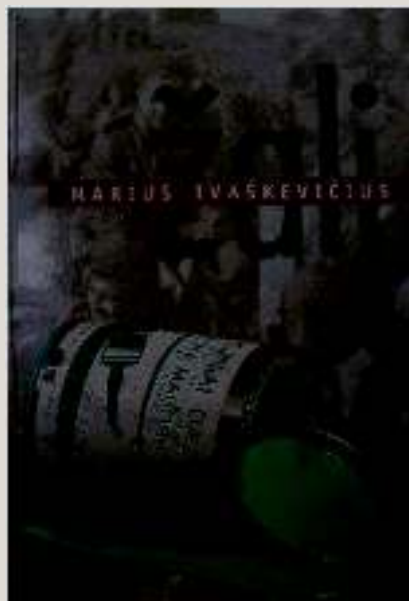
*Frog in the Bunker* by Vytautas V. Landsbergis

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# *Žali* by Marius Ivaškevičius

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# The Beginning of History

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