CULTURE INDEX OF MUNICIPALITIES

2022

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Kultūra^τ

Creative municipalities

Author of the concept and research for the Culture Index of Municipalities

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CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

This study presents the Culture Index of Municipalities for the year 2022. Notably, Kaunas held the title of European Capital of Culture, while Alytus claimed the designation of Lithuanian Capital of Culture. An exciting development is the ongoing construction of the Stasys Eidrigevičius Arts Centre in Panevėžys. It will be intriguing to observe how these initiatives influence the overall performance of the Culture Index of Municipalities.

The previous year's index underscored the relatively low level of funding for cultural services in major cities. It raises the question: Is funding increasing, remaining stable, or possibly decreasing? Additionally, the 2022 Index can be updated with new data on citizens' participation in culture and their satisfaction with cultural services (KOG institutas, 2024). Are people more inclined to engage in cultural activities and experience heightened creativity on an individual level? This study aims to address these questions.

The aim of the Municipal Culture Index is to objectively and comprehensively represent the cultural situation in each municipality, facilitating comparisons both between municipalities and over time. It is designed to enable the identification of the most problematic aspects that could be improved within each municipality.

However, I consider the motto 'Municipalities in the process of creating' to be the essence of the Municipal Culture Index. This notion has been previously discussed in the Municipal Culture Index 2021 research report (Mažeikaitė, 2023), emphasizing the need for a fully functioning ecosystem to foster culture. In this ecosystem, every participant plays a crucial role: cultural policymakers and implementers, mayors, municipal administration teams, cultural organisations, artists, and citizens.

In a fully functioning cultural ecosystem, all parties are active. Targeted funding supports the development of culture and the arts, making culture accessible to all. Artists and cultural organisations strive for the highest level of professionalism, ensuring that the works they present are interesting, contemporary, relevant, and meaningful. Citizens actively attend and find value in cultural events. How can we achieve all this? I believe that each of us, as participants in the cultural ecosystem, can ask ourselves: What more can I do to make the cultural environment more diverse, significant, interesting, and accessible? And then, take action.

Finally, I hope we can engage in discussions about culture using numbers and facts, showing interest and curiosity in its exploration. May a comprehensive assessment of the cultural situation guide us towards the best possible solutions. Let's create!

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12 data sources

40 indicators of culture

7 sub-indices

1. **Cultural organisations**

2. **Artists**

3. **Macroeconomics of culture**

4. **Funding for culture**

5. **Cultural participation and social capital**

6. **Cultural heritage**
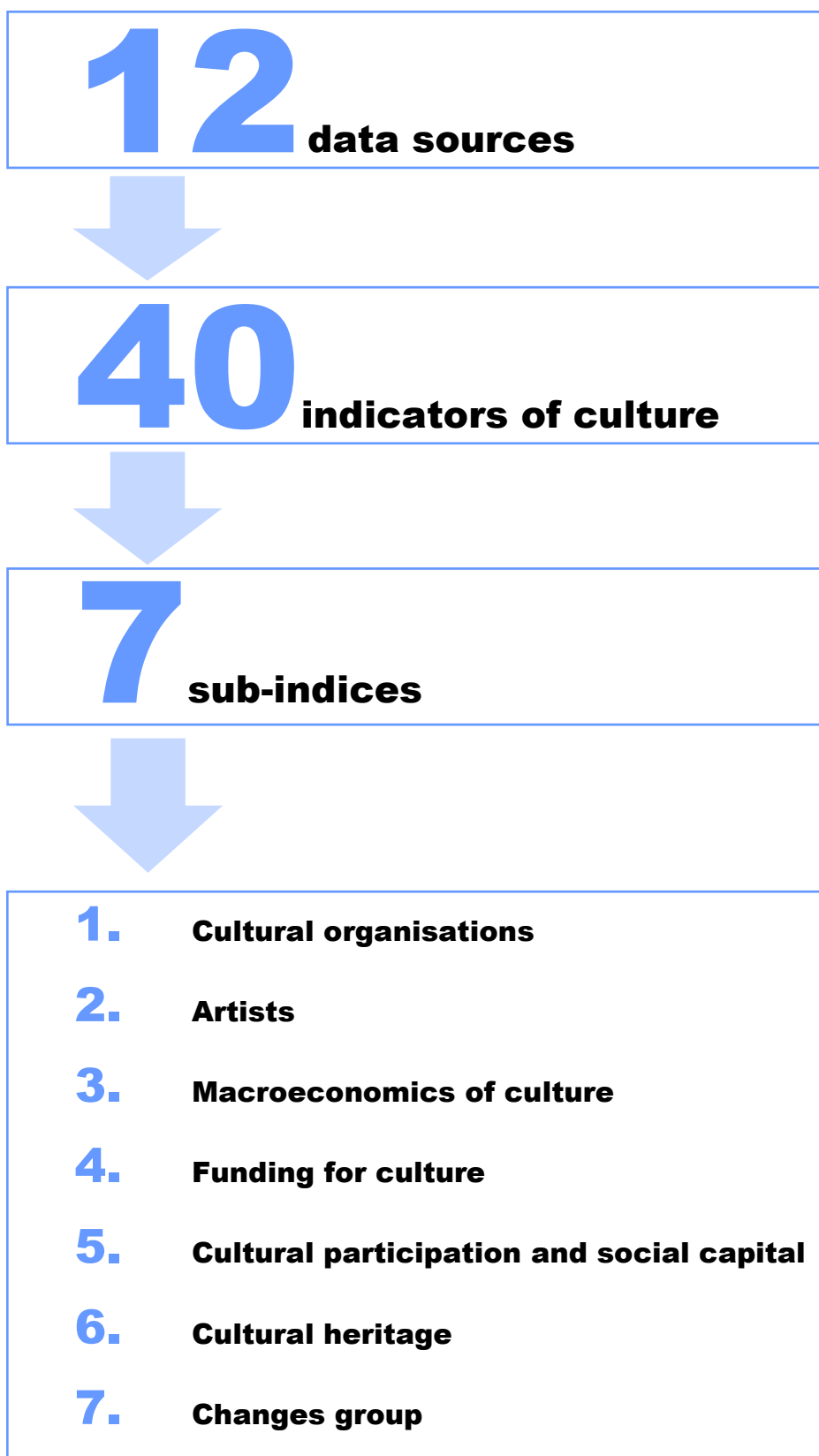
7. **Changes group**

Figure 1 Structure chart of the Culture Index of Municipalities 2022 (compiled by the author)

The Culture Index of Municipalities is derived from 12 carefully selected data sources. The primary criteria for choosing these sources were their reliability, representativeness, and timeliness. The data sources for the Culture Index of Municipalities indicators include:

1. State Data Agency (Statistics Lithuania);
2. Sodra (The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour);
3. Lithuanian Council for Culture;
4. Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania;
5. Lithuanian Artists Associations;
6. State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania;
7. Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania;
8. Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Kurk LT;
9. Survey of municipalities;
10. Citizens' participation in culture and satisfaction with cultural services (survey data);
11. Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture;
12. State Commission for Cultural Heritage.

A detailed list of indicators is given in Table 1.

Table 1 List of Municipal Culture Index (compiled by the author)

Sub-indices	N	Indicator
CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS	1	Number of cultural enterprises (by place of registration of the legal code) per 1,000 inhabitants
	2	Number of branches of cultural enterprises carrying out traditional cultural activities per 1,000 inhabitants
	3	Number of cultural enterprises engaged in new creative industries per 1,000 inhabitants
	4	Number of organisations in the non-budgetary sector per 1,000 inhabitants
	5	Number of libraries per 1,000 inhabitants
	6	Number of museums per 1,000 inhabitants
	7	Number of cultural centres per 1,000 inhabitants
ARTISTS	1	Number of professional artists per 1,000 inhabitants
	2	Number of amateur art collectives per 1,000 inhabitants

MACEROECONOMICS OF CULTURE	1	Turnover of cultural enterprises performing traditional cultural activities, Eur/capita
	2	Turnover of cultural enterprises performing new creative industries activities, Eur/capita
	3	Expenditure on wages and salaries of employees by place of activity (traditional cultural activities; excluding employer's social security contributions), Eur/employee
	4	Expenditure on wages and salaries by place of activity (new creative industries activities; excluding employer's social security contributions), Eur/employee
	5	Number of employees by place of activity (traditional cultural activities) per 1,000 inhabitants
	6	Number of employees by place of activity (new creative industries activities) per 1,000 inhabitants
	7	Value added at production cost by place of activity (traditional cultural activities), Eur/capita
	8	Value added at production cost by place of activity (new creative industries activities), Eur/capita
FUNDING FOR CULTURE	1	Artists received Lithuanian Council for Culture funding, Eur per capita
	2	Municipal budget expenditure on cultural services, Eur per capita
	3	Share of municipal budgets' expenditure on cultural services in total expenditure, %
	4	Organisations received Lithuanian Council for Culture funding, Eur per capita
	5	Share of municipal budget funding for artists, Eur per capita
PARTICIPATION IN CULTURE AND SOCIAL CAPITAL	1	Number of participants in cultural centres per 1,000 inhabitants
	2	Number of museum visitors per 1,000 inhabitants
	3	Number of library users per 1,000 inhabitants
	4	Number of library visitors (visits) per 1,000 inhabitants
	5	Percentage of the population (≥15 years) that consumed cultural products/used cultural services in the last 12 months.
	6	Percentage of the population that participates in events promoting historical memory and considers civic and national identity as a value, %
	7	Percentage of people who would certainly describe themselves as a creative person.
	8	Percentage of people who strongly agree that it is beneficial for a society to be culturally diverse.
	9	Percentage of the population satisfied with the availability of cultural services
CULTURAL HERITAGE	1	Number of cultural heritage monuments per 1,000 inhabitants
	2	Number of immovable cultural heritage objects per 1,000 inhabitants
	3	Number of immovable cultural heritage objects with valuable properties per 1,000 inhabitants
	4	Number of movable cultural objects per 1,000 inhabitants
	5	Funding for the maintenance of cultural heritage, Eur per capita
CHANGES GROUP	1	Percentage change in Lithuanian Council for Culture funding for organisations and artists, 2020–2021
	2	Percentage change in value-added of cultural enterprises' units performing traditional cultural activities, 2020–2021, Eur/capita
	3	Percentage change in value-added of cultural enterprises performing the new creative industries, 2020–2021, Eur/capita
	4	Percentage change in municipal budget expenditure on cultural services, 2020–2021
TOTAL:	40	

2. METHODOLOGY

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and t*he Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)* (Barbieri et al., 2017; Commission, 2008) have developed an internationally acknowledged 10-step methodology for constructing composite indices:

1. Developing a theoretical framework that defines and structures what is being measured, providing a basis for selecting and linking indicators into a meaningful index.
2. Selecting variables based on the analytical validity of the indicators, measurability, territorial coverage, and comparability between the territorial units under consideration.
3. Applying data interpolation: filling in missing data to obtain a complete dataset for all territorial units.
4. Conducting a multivariate analysis to investigate the overall structure of the dataset, assess its adequacy, and guide further methodological decisions.
5. Normalizing data, if necessary, to ensure comparability of variables.
6. Determining and summarizing the weights of the indicators, considering both theoretical assumptions and the results of the multivariate analysis.
7. Conducting uncertainty and sensitivity analysis to assess the robustness of the index, considering all possible sources of uncertainty associated with its construction.
8. Returning to the data to analyze which areas and indicators determine the results of the index.
9. Identifying possible linkages with other variables and existing known indicators.
10. Ensuring clear and accurate presentation and dissemination of the index results.

 The index was compiled, taking into account the findings from the analysis of existing indices and following international methodological guidelines for index construction (Barbieri et al., 2017; Commission, 2008). The main methodological aspects are discussed in more detail below.

Theoretical background

The design of the Culture Index of Municipalities and the selection of indicators broadly follow the methodology described for the construction of the indices. The initial step involves an analysis of strategic documents on cultural policy, as they provide the key components for a meaningful index content. This process also considers the concept of cultural statistics previously developed (Mažeikaitė et al., 2022), which is relevant due to its establishment aimed at providing a comprehensive representation of the cultural field.

Data selection and interpolation

One of the initial steps in compiling the index was to assess the availability and accessibility of cultural data and its potential inclusion in the Culture Index of Municipalities. The selection criteria were relevance/representativeness, analytical reliability, the availability of time series, and accessibility.

If significant gaps are identified during the review of data, they are excluded from the index. Additionally, indicators that could disproportionately penalize municipalities lacking relevant infrastructure are excluded. For instance, an indicator related to the number of museums is included, but detailed museum statistics, such as permanent exhibitions and museum staff, are not included. This exclusion prevents municipalities without museums from receiving zero index values, which would heavily impact their ranking. The selection of indicators also involves choosing those that most accurately represent the cultural situation. For example, when faced with indicators on municipal budget expenditure encompassing sport, culture, and religion, the chosen indicator is municipal spending on cultural services due to its narrower and more precise focus on the cultural situation.

Where feasible, data gaps were filled through interpolation, using the previous year's values. All indicators are standardized and normalized in the index.

Indicators are grouped based on the principle of clustering closely related indicators together, determined by the Pearson correlation coefficient, scatter plots, and distributions. This grouping facilitates the assessment of indicators' impact on the sub-index. In some cases, correlated indicators are included to strengthen their impact, but each choice is conceptually justified. In other words, an indicator is retained in the index, irrespective of its correlation with other indicators, if it provides a relevant cross-section of information.

Standardisation

The indicators are standardized by reference to the population or another specified measure, depending on the interpretability of the resulting numerical values. Indicators are recalculated on a per capita or per 1,000 inhabitants basis to ensure equal comparability between municipalities. Other standardization measures, such as per employee (e.g., expenditure on salaries and wages of

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employees by place of activity, in EUR/employee), or municipal budgets' expenditure on cultural services as a percentage of the total budget, are chosen on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, indicators within the same categories can be compared between municipalities.

While indicators can also be standardized by area, such as the number of cultural facilities per square meter, the choice was made, when creating the Municipal Culture Index, to primarily standardize indicators in relation to the population. This approach provides a more relevant picture of the cultural situation and the cultural supply available to society, indicating the number of institutions or artists per capita.

Normalisation

Standardized indicators are normalized on a 100-point scale. One option is to normalize so that the municipality with the highest value for the indicator receives a score of 100 points, while others receive a score proportional to their values. However, this method is not suitable for indicators with negative values, as it skews the scale negatively. Therefore, normalization is performed using the Min-Max function. This ensures a fair representation across indicators, accounting for both positive and negative values in individual municipalities (Commission, 2008). Normalisation is carried out using the following formula:

$$I_{i,s,t} = \frac{X_{i,s,t} - min(X_{i,t})}{max(X_{i,t}) - min(X_{i,t})}, \qquad (1)$$

kur:

$X_{i,s,t}$ – indicator value, where i – name of the indicator ($i = 1, ..., I$), s – municipality ($s = 1, ..., S$), t – year (t – the current year).

$I_{i,s,t}$ – normalised value of the indicator, where i – name of the indicator ($i = 1, ..., I$), s – municipality ($s = 1, ..., S$), t – year (t – the current year).

Normalised indicators are assigned to values between 0 and 100. The maximum value of an index or sub-index is therefore 100.

Weights

The Culture Index of Municipalities is compiled by including indicators without weights. The primary motivation is to detach the culture index from political influences and to maintain its objectivity as much as possible. Additionally, the selection of indicators reflects the strategic documents of cultural policy, which do not specify higher or lower priorities. Following a general rule, all aspects of culture are considered important, without neglecting the significance of other cultural components. This approach aligns with UNESCO's concept of culture, based on the cycle of creation, dissemination, and perception, where all elements are seen as important and complementary. As in the case of the Canadian Well-being Index (Michalos et al., 2011), the principle of Laplace's indifference is applied, indicating that, in the absence of objective reasons to distinguish particular indicators as more important, all indicators are treated as equal.

Furthermore, statistical analyses were conducted for each domain, and correlation matrices were created. These analyses revealed varying degrees of correlation among the indicators, including positive, negative, or no correlation. Assigning equal weights may pose a risk, as differences in the dispersion of values or high correlation between individual indicators could lead some elements to have a disproportionate impact on the final index value (Barbieri et al., 2017). Therefore, by including variables with a positive correlation, we obtain a statistical weight for the relevant group of indicators. It's important to note that indicators are included based on their conceptual content, representing the information they convey.

Aggregation

Sub-indices are calculated using arithmetic averaging, wherein indicators are standardized and normalized before being included in a sub-index. The overall sub-index is then aggregated by calculating the arithmetic average. This method allows for compensations between indicators. For instance, if a municipality has a low value for the number of professional artists but a high value for the number of amateur arts groups, averaging these indicators results in a balanced representation, as the low value of one indicator is compensated by the high value of the other. This practice aligns with other indices, such as the Gender Equality Index, which also utilizes the arithmetic mean for aggregating indicators into sub-indices, and the geometric mean for aggregating sub-indices into domains and the domains into the index, motivated by similar considerations (Barbieri et al., 2017).

$$SUB\_SKI_s = (\sum_{i=1}^{I} I_{i,s,t})/I, \tag{2}$$

kur:

SUB_SKI_s – sub-index of Culture Index of Municipalities,

$I_{i,s,t}$ – normalised value of the indicator, where i – name of the indicator ($i = 1, …, I$), s – municipality ($s = 1, …, S$), t – year (t – the current year).

However, the sub-indices are aggregated using the geometric mean to calculate the final index. This method reduces the compensation effect, ensuring that a deficiency in one aspect, such as cultural heritage sites or funds for their management, will not be fully offset by, for example, the number of artists. The Municipal Cultural Index is calculated as the geometric mean of the sub-indices, following the formula:

$$SKI_s = \sqrt[n]{SKI\_SUB_{1,s} \cdot SKI\_SUB_{2,s} \cdot … \cdot SKI\_SUB_{n,s}}, \tag{3}$$

kur:

SKI_s – Culture Index of Municipalities,

$SUB\_SKI_{1,s}$ – sub-index,

n – number of sub-indices,

s – municipality.

It's noteworthy that in Visaginas municipality, the cultural heritage sub-index was zero. When dealing with zero values, it is not possible to calculate the geometric mean. As a solution, Visaginas municipality has been assigned a value of one for this sub-index, representing the lowest value compared to other municipalities and the minimum value.
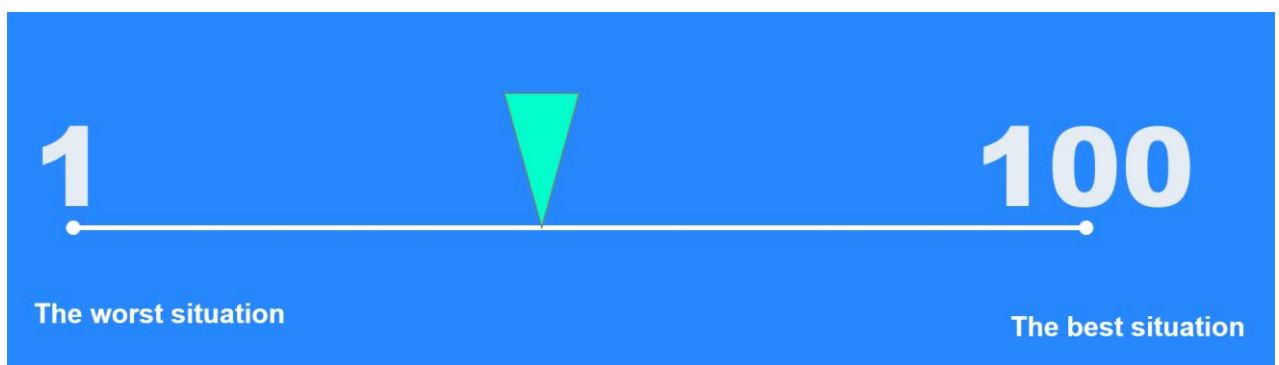
Figure 2 The scale of Culture Index of Municipalities 2022 (compiled by the author)

Sub-indices

For the Municipal Culture Index, 40 indicators were selected (41 in 2021) and grouped into 7 sub-indices. As mentioned earlier, the goal was to include indicators in each sub-index with the most similar focus. Each sub-index comprises between 2 and 9 different indicators, with an average of 5 to 6 indicators. This selection is considered optimal, as a larger number of indicators would complicate the meaning and interpretation of each sub-index. The following sub-indices are created:

1. Cultural Organisations (7 indicators);
2. Artists (2 indicators);
3. Macroeconomics of Culture (8 indicators);
4. Funding for Culture (5 indicators);
5. Cultural Participation and Social Capital (9 indicators);
6. Cultural Heritage (5 indicators);
7. Changes Grou[(4 indicators).

The groups of sub-indices in the Municipal Culture Index must be statistically independent of each other, and their relationships must be theoretically and empirically described (Commission, 2008). In this case, a statistically significant and strong positive correlation is found only between two sub-indices: the 'Funding for Culture' sub-index and the 'Cultural Organisations' sub-index. This correlation arises from the inclusion of information related to the number of organisations in both sub-indices. Typically, a higher number of organisations leads to a higher level of funding, especially from entities like the Lithuanian Council for Culture. Consequently, trends in these sub-indices are mutually reinforcing and carry more weight in the overall index. The statistically significant relationships between the other sub-indices are weak or not significant at all. Each sub-index, therefore, provides additional information to the index without duplicating the content of the other included sub-indices.

3. SUB-INDICES

The initial ranking in the study involves a comparison of the population by municipalities. It's crucial to note that nearly all indicators in the Culture Index of Municipalities are converted to size per 1,000 inhabitants, ensuring an objective comparison of municipalities. Despite higher absolute values, the size per capita is essential for a fair assessment. For instance, Neringa, the smallest municipality with just over 4,000 inhabitants, counts 29 professional artists, resulting in 7 artists per 1,000 inhabitants. In contrast, Alytus city municipality, with over 52,000 inhabitants, estimates 39 professional artists, resulting in slightly less than 1 artist per 1,000 inhabitants (0.74 professional artists per 1,000 inhabitants). This per capita perspective is what ultimately determines the differences between municipalities recorded in the index.

Figure 3 Population, thousands, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author on the basis of State Data Agency data)

3.1. CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS

CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS 2022 IN LITHUANIA

7 936 cultural organisations

> 6 cultural organisations per 1,000 habitants in Vilnius city

588 culture centres

110 museums

1 190 libraries

1 097 NGO

Considering seven different indicators: number of cultural enterprises, number of branches of cultural enterprises performing traditional cultural activities, number 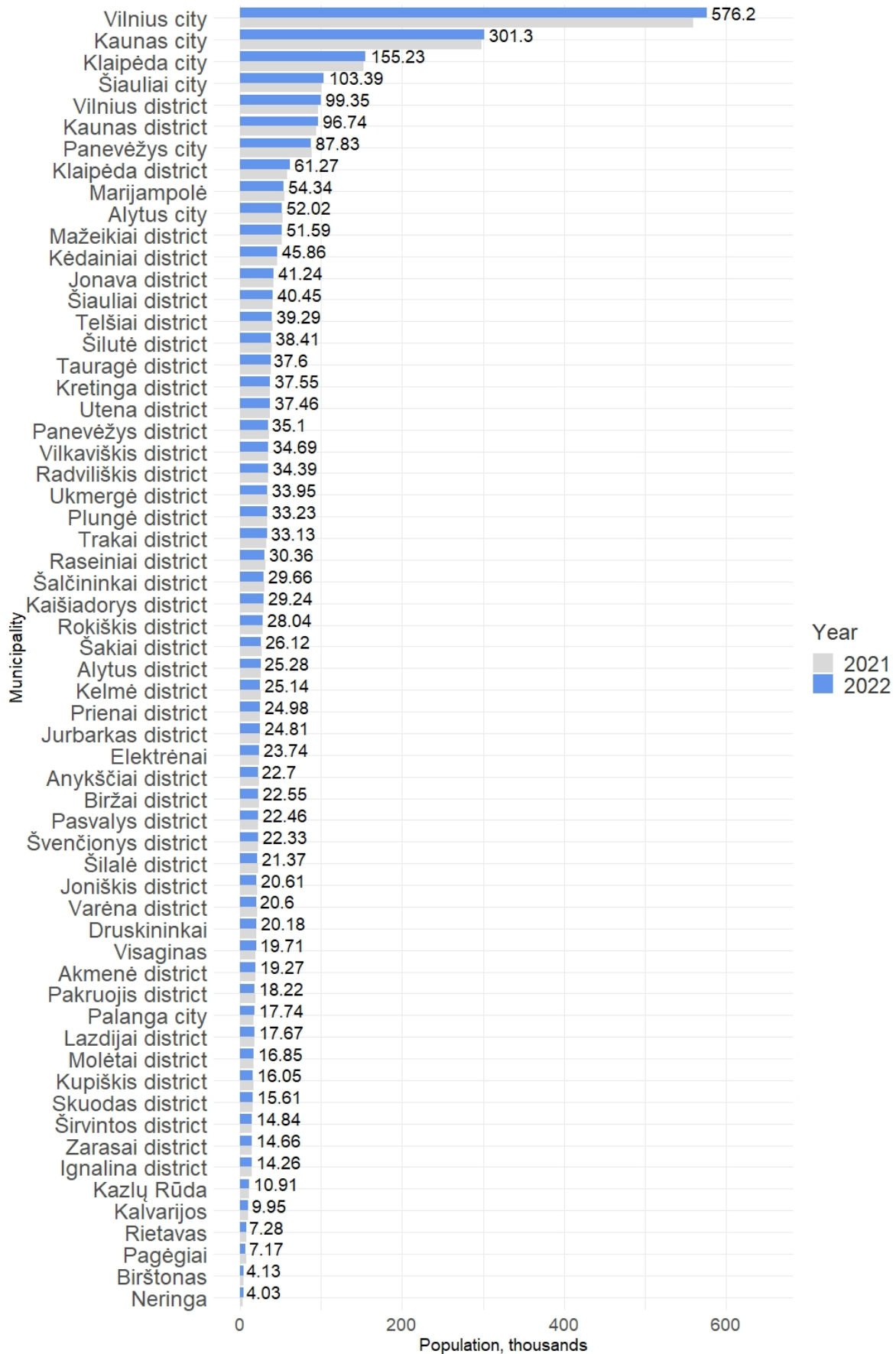of branches of cultural enterprises performing new creative industries activities, number of organisations in the non-budgetary sector, number of libraries, museums, and cultural centres per 1,000 inhabitants— and taking the arithmetic mean of the normalized values of these indicators, we obtain the sub-index of cultural organisations.

Table 2 Cultural organisations sub-index, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)

R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021		R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021
1	1	Neringa	84,79	81,93	- 2,86		31	31	Trakai district	22,62	22,85	0,23
2	2	Ignalina district	55,56	53,54	- 2,02		35	32	Joniškis district	22,36	22,34	- 0,02
3	3	Vilnius city	47,51	46,14	- 1,37		34	33	Vilnius district	22,37	22,23	- 0,14
4	4	Birštonas	42,07	42,02	- 0,05		37	34	Ukmergė district	21,48	21,45	- 0,03
7	5	Širvintos district	37,77	39,30	1,53		38	35	Prienai district	21,29	21,12	- 0,17
6	6	Anykščiai district	38,40	37,09	- 1,31		42	36	Kaunas district	19,50	20,79	1,29
5	7	Varėna district	39,86	36,64	- 3,22		39	37	Biržai district	20,79	20,66	- 0,13
8	8	Molėtai district	32,80	35,38	2,58		43	38	Akmenė district	18,90	20,34	1,44
9	9	Rietavas	32,73	35,31	2,58		30	39	Utena district	22,82	20,21	- 2,61
16	10	Zarasai district	29,76	31,65	1,89		41	40	Kėdainiai district	20,48	20,19	- 0,29
13	11	Lazdijai district	30,33	31,51	1,18		40	41	Klaipėda district	20,70	18,94	- 1,76
12	12	Panevėžys district	31,24	30,66	- 0,58		28	42	Šakiai district	23,35	18,94	- 4,41
11	13	Palanga city	31,68	29,29	- 2,39		44	43	Telšiai district	18,35	18,29	- 0,06
17	14	Skuodas district	28,27	29,13	0,86		36	44	Elektrėnai	21,64	17,30	- 4,34
10	15	Kazlų Rūda	32,60	28,57	- 4,03		50	45	Plungė district	16,86	16,85	- 0,01
15	16	Pasvalys district	29,91	28,53	- 1,38		48	46	Šilutė district	17,12	16,79	- 0,33
14	17	Pakruojis district	30,10	28,24	- 1,86		45	47	Šiauliai district	18,04	16,47	- 1,57
27	18	Rokiškis district	24,38	28,21	3,83		46	48	Vilkaviškis district	17,56	16,22	- 1,34
25	19	Pagėgiai	24,87	28,16	3,29		47	49	Marijampolė	17,13	16,18	- 0,95
19	20	Alytus district	25,55	26,37	0,82		49	50	Klaipėda city	16,99	15,46	- 1,53
24	21	Kelmė district	25,19	25,60	0,41		52	51	Šalčininkai district	15,16	15,31	0,15
22	22	Šilalė district	25,20	25,59	0,39		51	52	Radviliškis district	15,39	14,68	- 0,71
21	23	Druskininkai	25,28	25,24	- 0,04		53	53	Raseiniai district	14,92	14,50	- 0,42
18	24	Jurbarkas district	25,96	24,98	- 0,98		54	54	Kalvarijos	14,05	14,10	0,05
20	25	Kretinga district	25,33	24,26	- 1,07		55	55	Jonava district	14,02	13,43	- 0,59
26	26	Kaunas city	24,41	24,07	- 0,34		58	56	Šiauliai city	13,28	13,25	- 0,03
23	27	Kupiškis district	25,20	23,22	- 1,98		56	57	Mažeikiai district	13,42	12,56	- 0,86
33	28	Tauragė district	22,42	23,19	0,77		57	58	Alytus city	13,40	12,48	- 0,92
32	29	Švenčionys district	22,53	23,09	0,56		59	59	Panevėžys city	12,19	12,07	- 0,12
29	30	Kaišiadorys district	23,05	23,02	- 0,03		60	60	Visaginas	7,43	7,36	- 0,07

Note: *R 2021 and R 2022 refer to the sub-index ranking for 2021 and 2022 respectively.*

Municipality	Value
Neringa: 1	81.93
Ignalina district: 2	53.54
Vilnius city: 3	46.14
Birštonas: 4	42.02
Širvintos district: 5	39.3
Anykščiai district: 6	37.09
Varėna district: 7	36.64
Molėtai district: 8	35.38
Rietavas: 9	35.31
Zarasai district: 10	31.65
Lazdijai district: 11	31.51
Panevėžys district: 12	30.66
Palanga city: 13	29.29
Skuodas district: 14	29.13
Kazlų Rūda: 15	28.57
Pasvalys district: 16	28.53
Pakruojis district: 17	28.24
Rokiškis district: 18	28.21
Pagėgiai: 19	28.16
Alytus district: 20	26.37
Kelmė district: 21	25.6
Šilalė district: 22	25.59
Druskininkai: 23	25.24
Jurbarkas district: 24	24.98
Kretinga district: 25	24.26
Kaunas city: 26	24.07
Kupiškis district: 27	23.22
Tauragė district: 28	23.19
Švenčionys district: 29	23.09
Kaišiadorys district: 30	23.02
Trakai district: 31	22.85
Joniškis district: 32	22.34
Vilnius district: 33	22.23
Ukmergė district: 34	21.45
Prienai district: 35	21.12
Kaunas district: 36	20.79
Biržai district: 37	20.66
Akmenė district: 38	20.34
Utena district: 39	20.21
Kėdainiai district: 40	20.19
Klaipėda district: 41	18.94
Šakiai district: 42	18.94
Telšiai district: 43	18.29
Elektrėnai: 44	17.3
Plungė district: 45	16.85
Šilutė district: 46	16.79
Šiauliai district: 47	16.47
Vilkaviškis district: 48	16.22
Marijampolė: 49	16.18
Klaipėda city: 50	15.46
Šalčininkai district: 51	15.31
Radviliškis district: 52	14.68
Raseiniai district: 53	14.5
Kalvarijos: 54	14.1
Jonava district: 55	13.43
Šiauliai city: 56	13.25
Mažeikiai district: 57	12.56
Alytus city: 58	12.48
Panevėžys city: 59	12.07
Visaginas: 60	7.36

SUB-INDEX: CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS

Year
2021
2022

Figure 4 Ranking of municipalities by sub-index of cultural organisations, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)

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Figure 5 Ranking of municipalities by sub-index of cultural organisations, 2022 grouped results (compiled by the author)

The map visually illustrates the distribution of values for the 'Cultural Organisations' sub-index across Lithuanian municipalities. Darker shades of blue indicate higher sub-index values, while grey represents the lowest scores for the cultural organisations sub-index. The map clearly highlights a significant gap between Neringa municipality and the rest of Lithuania.

3.2. ARTISTS

ARTISTS 2022 IN LITHUANIA

11 089 professional artists

3 318 amateur art collectives

By calculating the arithmetic average of the normalized rates of the number of professional artists and amateur art collectives per 1,000 inhabitants, we obtain a sub-index representing artists in municipalities. Additionally, a comparison with the sub-index of the previous year is provided.

Table 3 Artists sub-index, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)

R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021	R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021
1	1	Panevėžys dis	54,33	54,83	0,50	29	31	Kaišiadorys dist	22,76	22,31	- 0,46
2	2	Vilnius city	51,28	51,24	- 0,04	31	32	Palanga city	21,65	21,81	0,16
3	3	Neringa	47,91	49,07	1,16	32	33	Plungė district	21,43	20,47	- 0,97
4	4	Birštonas	46,51	42,99	- 3,52	36	34	Kalvarijos	19,78	20,15	0,37
6	5	Kelmė district	35,48	35,77	0,29	33	35	Trakai district	21,27	19,90	- 1,37
7	6	Zarasai distric	33,85	35,53	1,68	40	36	Klaipėda city	19,31	19,35	0,04
5	7	Varėna distric	38,04	34,11	- 3,93	35	37	Mažeikiai distri	20,05	18,94	- 1,12
8	8	Lazdijai distric	33,03	33,34	0,31	38	38	Kėdainiai distric	19,60	18,93	- 0,68
19	9	Ignalina distric	27,24	30,78	3,55	42	39	Šakiai district	19,02	18,37	- 0,66
14	10	Pakruojis distr	29,84	29,61	- 0,23	45	40	Prienai district	18,07	18,37	0,30
21	11	Kupiškis distric	26,30	28,87	2,57	52	41	Skuodas district	15,82	17,56	1,75
11	12	Alytus district	30,36	28,71	- 1,65	44	42	Vilkaviškis distri	18,61	17,49	- 1,12
15	13	Šiauliai distric	28,61	28,43	- 0,18	49	43	Kazlų Rūda	16,28	17,10	0,81
16	14	Raseiniai distr	28,53	28,08	- 0,45	43	44	Visaginas	18,83	17,09	- 1,74
12	15	Biržai district	30,10	27,98	- 2,13	39	45	Tauragė district	19,41	16,48	- 2,93
9	16	Anykščiai distr	30,56	27,91	- 2,65	37	46	Druskininkai	19,64	16,45	- 3,19
25	17	Ukmergė distr	24,18	27,31	3,13	50	47	Jonava district	16,25	16,43	0,18
18	18	Kretinga distri	27,95	27,29	- 0,66	47	48	Utena district	17,06	16,43	- 0,63
17	19	Pasvalys distri	28,04	27,02	- 1,02	48	49	Vilnius district	16,96	16,26	- 0,71
10	20	Rietavas	30,51	26,22	- 4,29	51	50	Radviliškis distr	16,00	16,18	0,18
13	21	Akmenė distri	29,90	25,91	- 3,99	46	51	Klaipėda distric	17,10	15,74	- 1,36
20	22	Joniškis distric	26,81	25,48	- 1,33	41	52	Pagėgiai	19,31	15,43	- 3,88
24	23	Kaunas city	24,40	25,12	0,72	53	53	Rokiškis district	13,59	14,60	1,02
23	24	Švenčionys dis	25,43	24,41	- 1,02	54	54	Elektrėnai	13,00	12,45	- 0,55
26	25	Šilalė district	24,06	23,82	- 0,24	55	55	Šiauliai city	12,51	12,42	- 0,09
22	26	Širvintos distri	25,66	23,71	- 1,95	56	56	Šilutė district	10,92	11,50	0,57
28	27	Molėtai distric	22,81	23,19	0,39	59	57	Šalčininkai distr	9,35	11,12	1,77
30	28	Jurbarkas dist	22,61	23,08	0,47	57	58	Panevėžys city	10,29	10,82	0,54
34	29	Telšiai district	21,19	22,87	1,68	58	59	Marijampolė	10,19	10,37	0,18
27	30	Kaunas distric	22,87	22,64	- 0,22	60	60	Alytus city	3,72	4,28	0,57

Note: *R 2021 and R 2022 refer to the sub-index ranking for 2021 and 2022 respectively.*
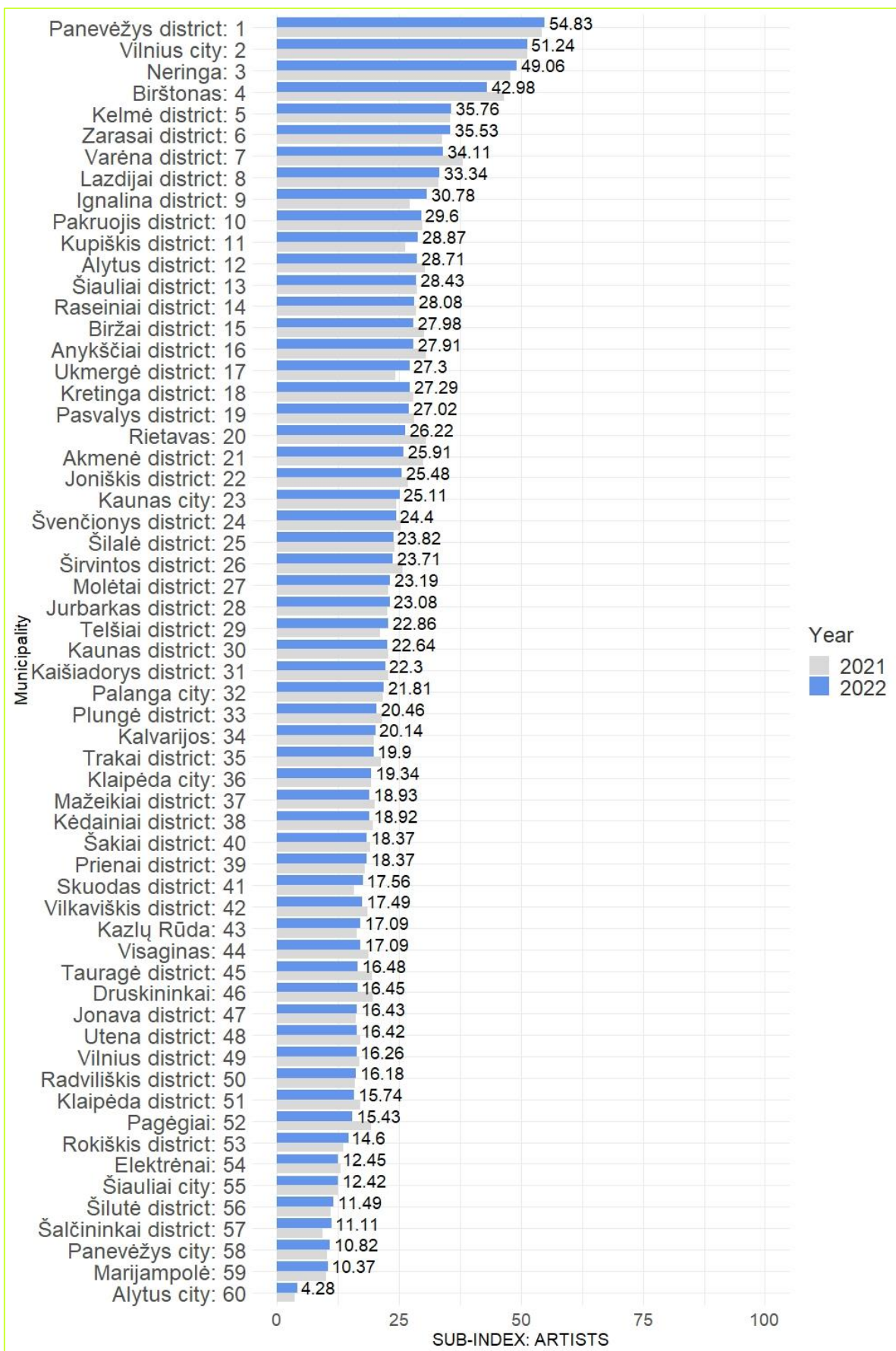
Figure 6 Ranking of municipalities by Artists sub-index, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)

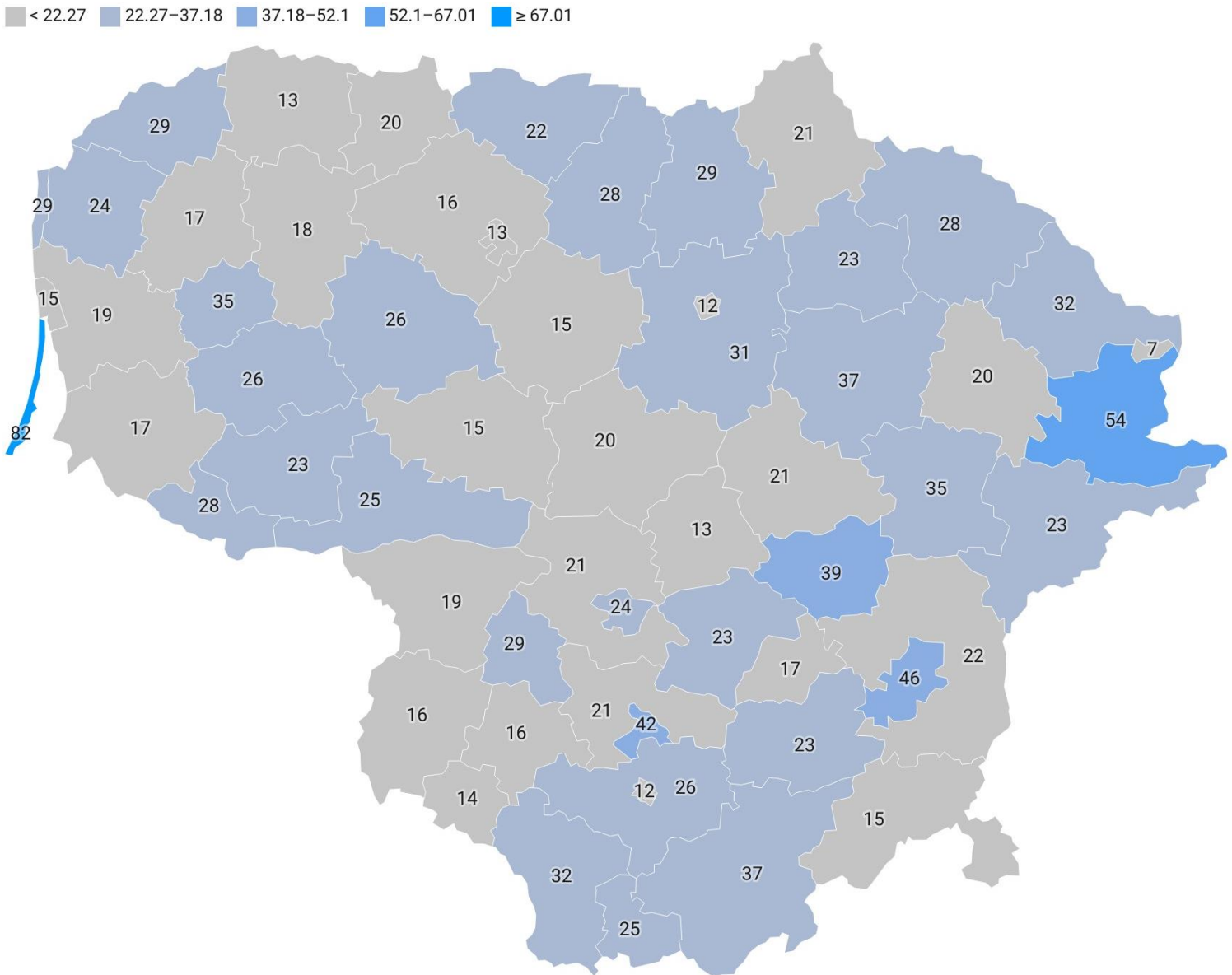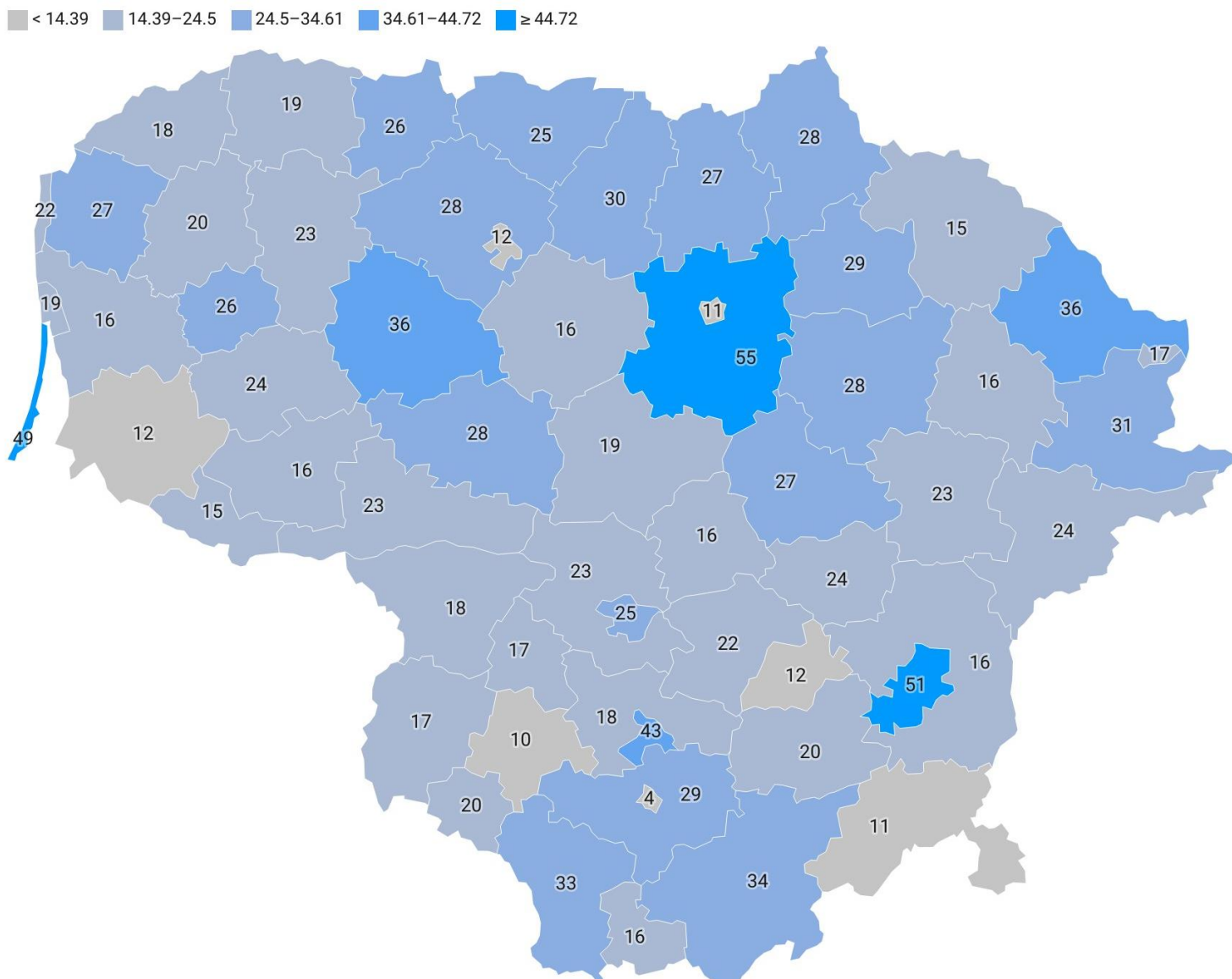*Figure 7 Ranking of municipalities by Artists sub-index, 2022. Grouped results (compiled by the author)*

The 'Artists' sub-index ranges from 4.28 (grey municipalities) to 54.83 (brighter blue). The map illustrates that the total number of artists (both professional and amateur) per 1,000 inhabitants in Lithuanian municipalities is generally low. Only the municipalities of Birštonas, Neringa, Vilnius, and Panevėžys show more positive values.

3.3. MACROECONOMICS OF CULTURE

MACROECONOMICS OF CULTURE 2022 IN LITHUANIA

~ 6, 1 billions Eur turnover of cultural enterprises

99 734 number of employees

1,6 billions Eur expenditure on salaries

2,5 billions Eur value added

By taking the 8 indicators related to turnover, employee expenditure, number of employees, and value added of cultural enterprises engaged in both traditional cultural activities and new creative industries activities, and calculating the arithmetic mean of these normalized averages, we derive the sub-index of the cultural macroeconomy.

Table 4 Macroeconomics of Culture Sub-Index, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)

R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021	R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021
1	1	Vilnius city	75,16	72,84	- 2,32	39	31	Molėtai district	9,67	10,48	0,81
2	2	Druskininkai	54,87	54,28	- 0,59	15	32	Lazdijai district	17,12	10,32	- 6,80
3	3	Kaunas city	43,41	40,88	- 2,53	34	33	Jurbarkas district	10,20	10,30	0,10
4	4	Neringa	37,80	29,55	- 8,25	31	34	Joniškis district	11,40	10,13	- 1,27
5	5	Kretinga district	25,74	23,96	- 1,78	36	35	Rokiškis district	9,87	9,97	0,10
6	6	Širvintos district	25,55	22,36	- 3,19	32	36	Kėdainiai district	11,31	9,90	- 1,41
7	7	Palanga city	25,41	21,38	- 4,03	41	37	Šakiai district	9,09	9,48	0,38
8	8	Klaipėda city	24,41	21,27	- 3,14	33	38	Telšiai district	11,08	9,43	- 1,65
12	9	Mažeikiai district	18,77	20,15	1,38	35	39	Raseiniai district	10,00	9,36	- 0,64
9	10	Prienai district	22,62	18,30	- 4,31	38	40	Trakai district	9,68	9,22	- 0,45
10	11	Vilnius district	20,47	17,92	- 2,55	45	41	Varėna district	8,72	9,04	0,32
11	12	Šiauliai city	20,31	17,89	- 2,43	55	42	Elektrėnai	5,80	9,03	3,23
13	13	Radviliškis district	17,77	17,58	- 0,19	48	43	Kupiškis district	8,02	8,79	0,77
18	14	Panevėžys city	16,26	16,10	- 0,15	57	44	Šalčininkai district	4,86	8,77	3,91
19	15	Anykščiai district	16,01	15,50	- 0,52	42	45	Plungė district	9,06	8,59	- 0,47
14	16	Rietavas	17,75	15,12	- 2,63	43	46	Akmenė district	8,86	8,50	- 0,36
20	17	Kaunas district	15,76	15,08	- 0,67	44	47	Jonava district	8,84	8,28	- 0,56
16	18	Šilutė district	16,80	14,13	- 2,68	52	48	Kaišiadorys district	6,96	8,16	1,20
25	19	Klaipėda district	14,24	13,80	- 0,43	49	49	Pasvalys district	7,90	7,96	0,07
26	20	Alytus district	13,60	13,02	- 0,58	37	50	Pakruojis district	9,81	7,74	- 2,07
22	21	Vilkaviškis district	14,89	12,94	- 1,95	47	51	Biržai district	8,28	7,34	- 0,94
24	22	Šiauliai district	14,65	12,65	- 2,01	50	52	Kelmė district	7,88	6,91	- 0,97
17	23	Visaginas	16,67	12,30	- 4,37	54	53	Ignalina district	6,24	6,75	0,51
21	24	Ukmergė district	15,72	11,83	- 3,89	46	54	Utena district	8,62	6,67	- 1,95
30	25	Skuodas district	12,44	11,46	- 0,98	53	55	Šilalė district	6,85	6,47	- 0,38
29	26	Alytus city	12,56	11,13	- 1,43	51	56	Birštonas	7,14	6,14	- 1,01
27	27	Tauragė district	12,89	10,96	- 1,94	58	57	Švenčionys district	4,40	4,52	0,11
40	28	Zarasai district	9,21	10,93	1,72	56	58	Kalvarijos	5,13	3,73	- 1,41
28	29	Marijampolė	12,70	10,78	- 1,91	59	59	Pagėgiai	2,77	3,04	0,27
23	30	Panevėžys district	14,87	10,48	- 4,39	60	60	Kazlų Rūda	2,18	2,85	0,67

Note: *R 2021 and R 2022 refer to the sub-index ranking for 2021 and 2022 respectively.*

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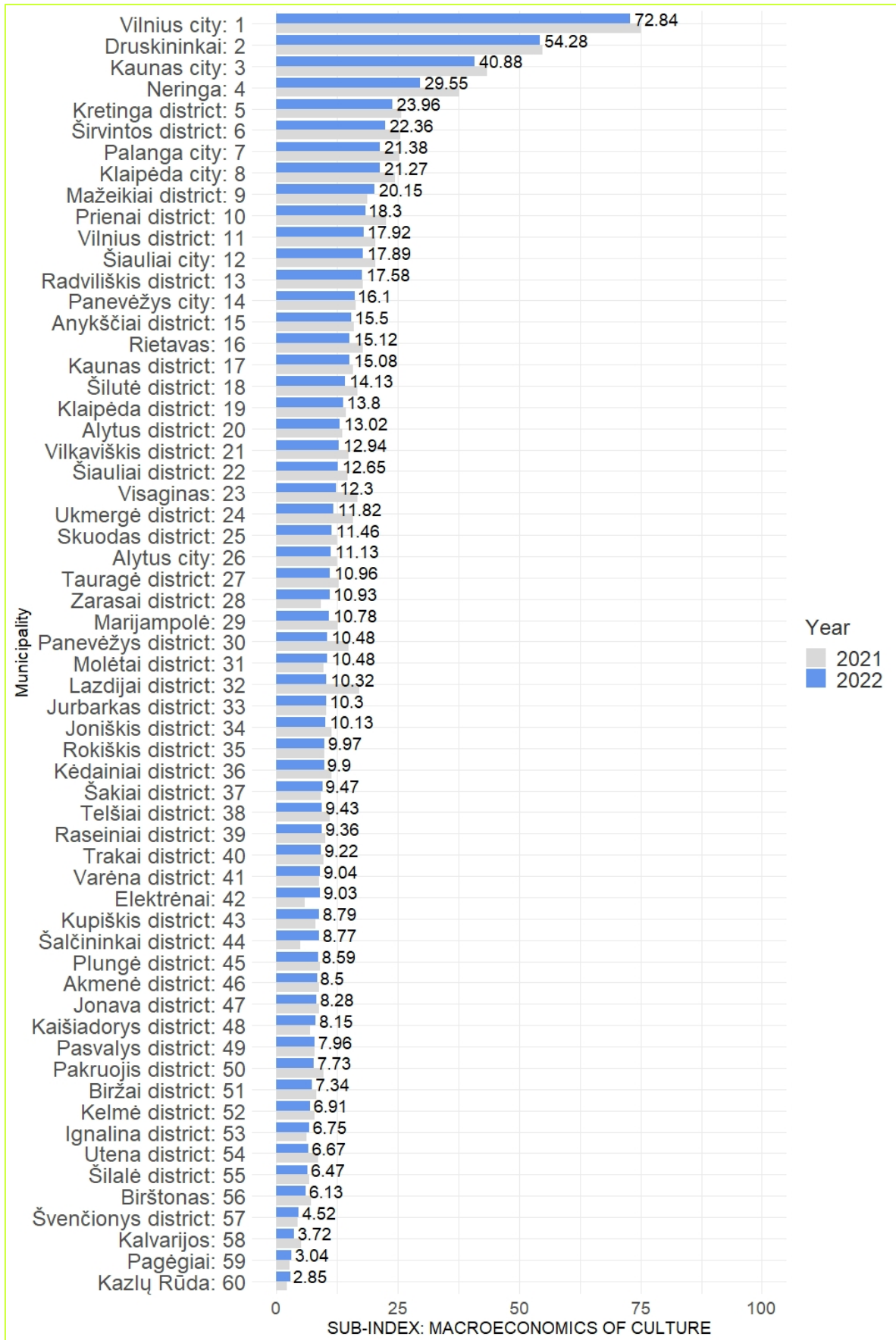
Figure 8 Ranking of municipalities according to the cultural macroeconomy sub-index, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)
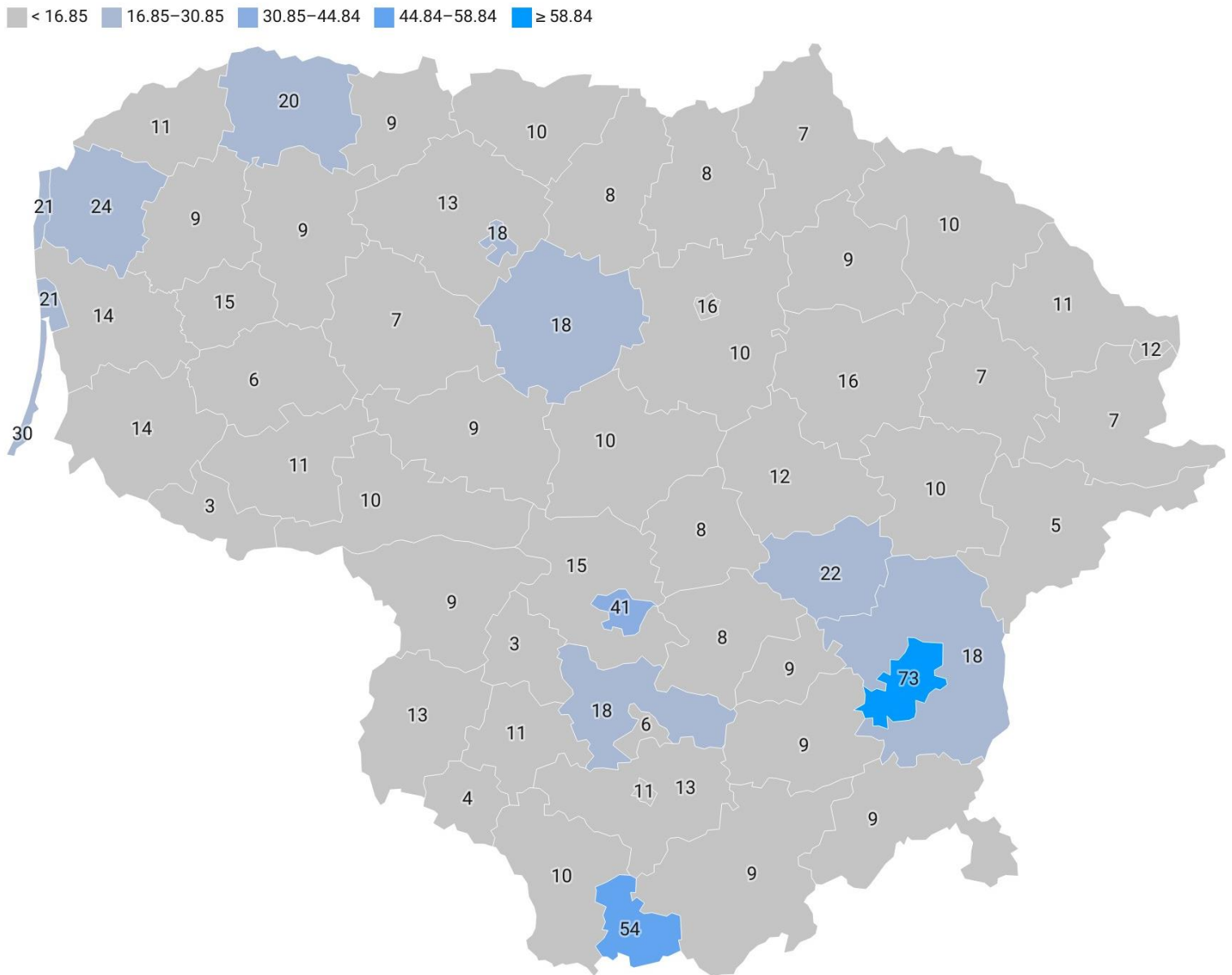
Figure 9 Ranking of municipalities by cultural macroeconomy sub-index, 2022, grouped results (compiled by the author)

The values of the sub-index of municipal culture macroeconomics range from 2.85 in Kazlų Rūda municipality to 72.84 in Vilnius municipality. However, the grey color dominates in most of Lithuania, indicating a significant gap between Vilnius municipality, which has the highest score, and the rest of Lithuania, most of which fall in the lowest score group (up to 16.85). The macroeconomics of culture sub-index assesses the cultural sector's economic performance, particularly within cultural and creative industries. The map reveals that the cultural and creative industries sector is primarily concentrated in Vilnius city municipality.

3.4. FUNDING FOR CULTURE

FUNDING FOR CULTURE
2022 IN LITHUANIA

~ 235 millions Eur municipal budget expenditure on cultural services

20 496 705 Eur organisations received Lithuanian Council for Culture funding
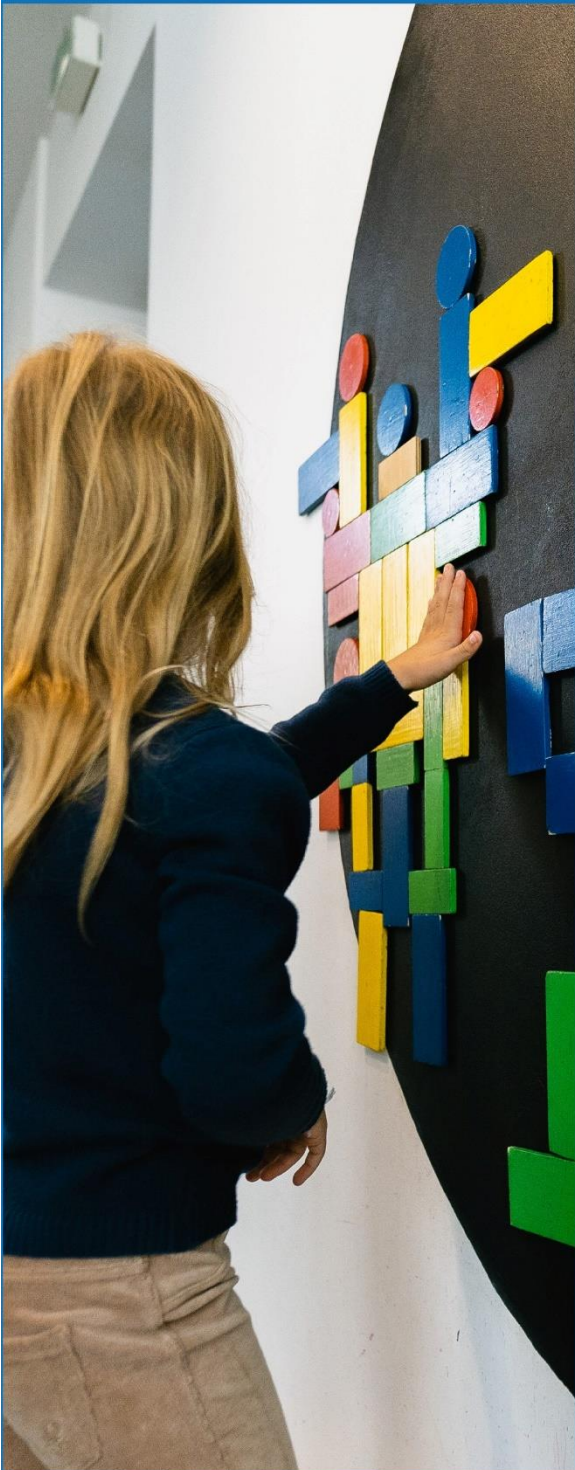
The sub-index on funding for culture is constructed by assessing the share of Lithuanian Council for Culture funding for artists and organisations, the share of municipal budgets' expenditure on cultural services per inhabitant, funding for artists, and finally, the share as a percentage of the total budget of the municipality. After calculating the arithmetic average of these normalized indices, the final value of the sub-index is obtained.

Table 5 Sub-index on funding for culture, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)

R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021		R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021
1	1	Neringa	86,55	73,68	- 12,87		19	31	Šiauliai city	9,64	8,99	- 0,65
3	2	Zarasai district	28,22	38,78	10,57		39	32	Lazdijai district	6,64	8,91	2,27
4	3	Vilnius city	26,05	26,39	0,34		37	33	Kretinga district	6,73	8,87	2,14
2	4	Druskininkai	33,94	21,11	- 12,83		28	34	Vilnius district	8,06	8,74	0,68
6	5	Anykščiai district	14,06	18,77	4,71		30	35	Kėdainiai district	7,69	8,70	1,01
9	6	Birštonas	11,99	15,17	3,18		14	36	Kaišiadorys district	11,01	8,34	- 2,67
23	7	Panevėžys city	8,73	15,09	6,36		46	37	Klaipėda district	5,94	8,18	2,24
7	8	Palanga city	12,73	14,99	2,26		31	38	Biržai district	7,64	8,10	0,47
16	9	Pasvalys district	10,20	14,72	4,52		18	39	Plungė district	9,65	8,00	- 1,66
22	10	Utena district	9,31	13,69	4,38		44	40	Švenčionys district	6,31	7,78	1,48
5	11	Trakai district	16,42	12,75	- 3,67		49	41	Pakruojis district	5,18	7,40	2,22
20	12	Kaunas city	9,58	12,63	3,04		33	42	Prienai district	7,48	7,34	- 0,14
27	13	Joniškis district	8,06	12,43	4,37		45	43	Rietavas	6,26	7,15	0,89
10	14	Panevėžys district	11,74	12,41	0,67		54	44	Visaginas	4,36	7,13	2,77
17	15	Kupiškis district	9,92	12,36	2,44		43	45	Elektrėnai	6,45	6,96	0,51
41	16	Molėtai district	6,50	12,32	5,81		26	46	Alytus city	8,43	6,94	- 1,49
13	17	Jurbarkas district	11,33	11,93	0,59		48	47	Tauragė district	5,78	6,88	1,09
36	18	Raseiniai district	6,81	11,19	4,38		47	48	Marijampolė	5,90	6,82	0,93
8	19	Šilutė district	12,02	10,56	- 1,46		35	49	Ukmergė district	7,40	6,51	- 0,89
11	20	Klaipėda city	11,63	10,55	- 1,08		53	50	Šalčininkai district	4,54	6,41	1,86
15	21	Varėna district	10,72	10,53	- 0,19		51	51	Kalvarijos	4,96	6,38	1,42
32	22	Rokiškis district	7,61	10,42	2,81		40	52	Telšiai district	6,60	6,05	- 0,55
12	23	Skuodas district	11,38	10,35	- 1,03		58	53	Kazlų Rūda	3,65	5,37	1,72
34	24	Šakiai district	7,42	10,30	2,88		56	54	Pagėgiai	3,98	5,28	1,30
38	25	Radviliškis district	6,68	10,16	3,47		52	55	Vilkaviškis district	4,92	5,27	0,34
29	26	Kelmė district	7,76	9,96	2,21		50	56	Jonava district	5,11	4,67	- 0,44
21	27	Ignalina district	9,33	9,91	0,57		57	57	Mažeikiai district	3,98	4,63	0,65
24	28	Šilalė district	8,70	9,73	1,03		55	58	Šiauliai district	4,31	4,31	- 0,00
42	29	Kaunas district	6,46	9,29	2,83		59	59	Akmenė district	3,21	3,94	0,73
25	30	Širvintos district	8,51	9,06	0,56		60	60	Alytus district	2,77	3,88	1,11

Note: R 2021 and R 2022 refer to the sub-index ranking for 2021 and 2022 respectively.
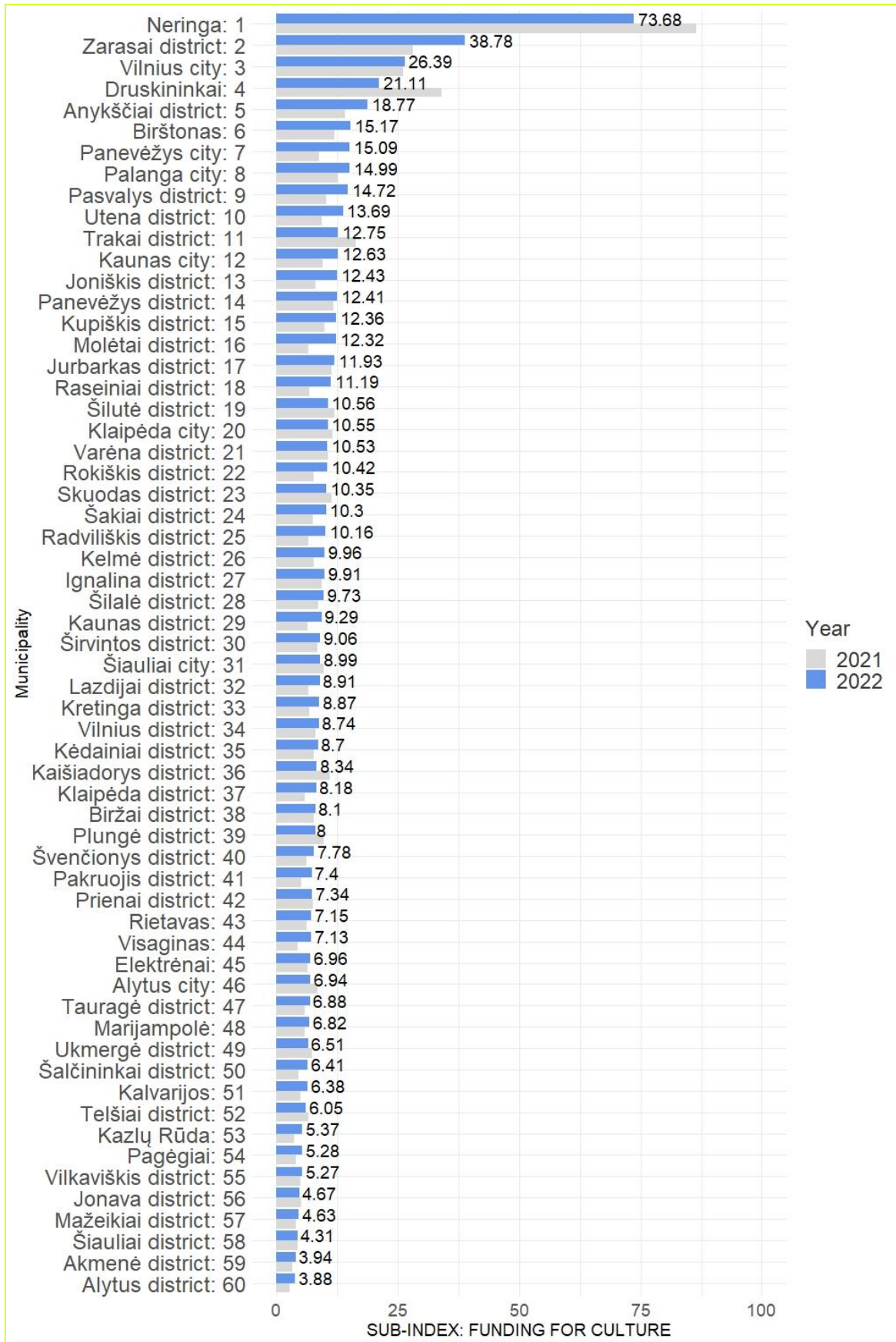
*Figure 10 Ranking of municipalities by sub-index of funding for culture, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)*
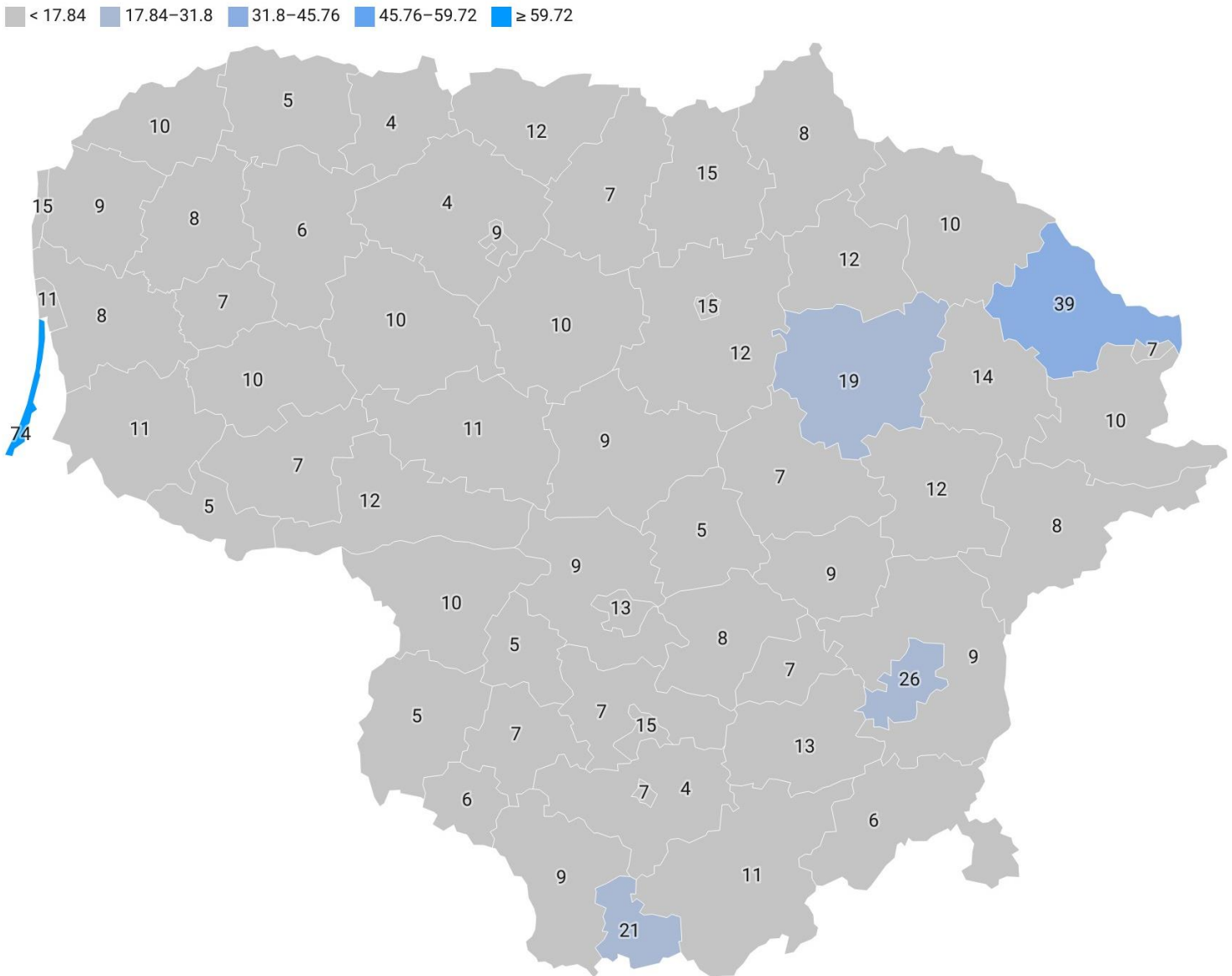
Figure 11 Ranking of municipalities by sub-index of funding for culture, 2022. Grouped results (compiled by the author)

The values of the culture funding sub-index are distributed across a wide range, from 3.88 (Alytus) to 73.68 (Neringa). However, the majority of values are extremely low, not even reaching 20 points. The sub-index on funding for culture reveals the most sensitive situation compared to other sub-indices. This is particularly evident in the map of grouped data, where almost the entire area of Lithuania is covered by the same grey color. Almost all municipalities in Lithuania fall within the first sub-index, scoring below 18 points.

3.5. CULTURAL PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

CULTURAL PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CAPITAL 2022 IN LITHUANIA

~ 4,9 million museum visitors

48 859 participants in cultural centres

450 869 library users

~ 7,5 million library visitors

10-27 % people who would certainly describe themselves as a creative person

The sub-index 'Cultural Participation and Social Capital' comprises 9 indicators: the number of participants in cultural centers, the number of museum visitors, the number of library users, the number of library visits, the percentage of the population (aged ≥ 15 years) that consumed cultural products/used cultural services in the last 12 months, the proportion of the population that participates in historical remembrance events and values civic and national identity, the proportion of the population that could certainly describe themselves as creative people, the proportion of the population that strongly agrees that it is beneficial for a society to be culturally diverse, and the population's satisfaction with the accessibility of cultural services. After normalizing these indicators, the arithmetic mean is calculated, and the final value of the sub-index is obtained.

Table 6 Cultural participation and social capital sub-index, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)

R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021		R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021
15	1	Birštonas	54,09	63,64	9,54		35	31	Radviliškis distri	38,94	38,88	- 0,06
3	2	Lazdijai district	62,87	60,33	- 2,54		21	32	Ignalina district	50,28	38,77	- 11,51
8	3	Neringa	59,18	55,11	- 4,08		9	33	Biržai district	58,76	37,71	21,05
7	4	Druskininkai	59,34	54,12	- 5,23		48	34	Kazlų Rūda	34,82	37,45	2,63
11	5	Varėna district	57,14	53,31	- 3,82		23	35	Šalčininkai distr	48,18	37,27	- 10,91
20	6	Alytus city	51,33	51,97	0,64		22	36	Kaunas city	49,49	36,14	- 13,35
14	7	Alytus district	54,94	49,88	- 5,06		55	37	Klaipėda city	30,20	36,12	5,92
32	8	Kaišiadorys dis	40,98	48,11	7,13		24	38	Elektrėnai	47,19	36,08	- 11,12
28	9	Kalvarijos	44,33	47,91	3,58		25	39	Skuodas district	46,29	36,04	- 10,25
6	10	Trakai district	60,28	47,03	- 13,25		29	40	Šilutė district	43,22	35,51	- 7,70
1	11	Rokiškis distric	67,48	46,02	21,46		30	41	Klaipėda distric	43,18	34,64	- 8,54
51	12	Kėdainiai distri	33,24	45,13	11,90		37	42	Šiauliai city	38,61	34,46	- 4,15
2	13	Pasvalys distric	65,03	45,12	- 19,91		53	43	Marijampolė	31,50	33,91	2,41
12	14	Molėtai distric	56,63	44,83	- 11,81		39	44	Šilalė district	37,75	33,80	- 3,94
41	15	Prienai district	37,28	44,31	7,04		45	45	Pagėgiai	35,68	33,27	- 2,41
40	16	Raseiniai distri	37,41	43,94	6,53		49	46	Pakruojis distric	34,17	32,97	- 1,20
13	17	Zarasai district	56,27	43,87	- 12,40		57	47	Plungė district	24,54	32,36	7,82
10	18	Širvintos distric	58,47	43,24	- 15,22		34	48	Jurbarkas distric	39,91	32,34	- 7,56
26	19	Vilnius city	46,16	42,71	- 3,45		44	49	Joniškis district	35,90	32,27	- 3,63
43	20	Jonava district	36,38	42,13	5,75		46	50	Tauragė district	34,95	31,11	- 3,84
18	21	Ukmergė distri	51,86	41,77	- 10,09		36	51	Utena district	38,81	29,98	- 8,83
4	22	Panevėžys dist	62,60	41,76	- 20,84		52	52	Kelmė district	32,38	29,94	- 2,43
16	23	Anykščiai distri	53,59	41,60	- 11,99		31	53	Vilnius district	42,37	29,93	- 12,44
19	24	Švenčionys dis	51,51	40,88	- 10,63		54	54	Akmenė district	30,25	28,52	- 1,73
17	25	Kretinga distric	52,21	40,26	- 11,94		58	55	Rietavas	18,35	27,22	8,87
47	26	Šakiai district	34,86	40,19	5,33		59	56	Telšiai district	18,12	26,82	8,70
5	27	Kupiškis distric	60,34	40,18	- 20,16		33	57	Visaginas	39,93	26,14	- 13,80
42	28	Vilkaviškis dist	36,68	39,60	2,92		60	58	Mažeikiai distric	16,43	24,74	8,31
27	29	Palanga city	46,11	39,41	- 6,70		56	59	Šiauliai district	27,57	24,49	- 3,09
50	30	Kaunas district	33,82	39,17	5,35		38	60	Panevėžys city	38,01	24,48	- 13,53

Note: *R 2021 and R 2022 refer to the sub-index ranking for 2021 and 2022 respectively.*

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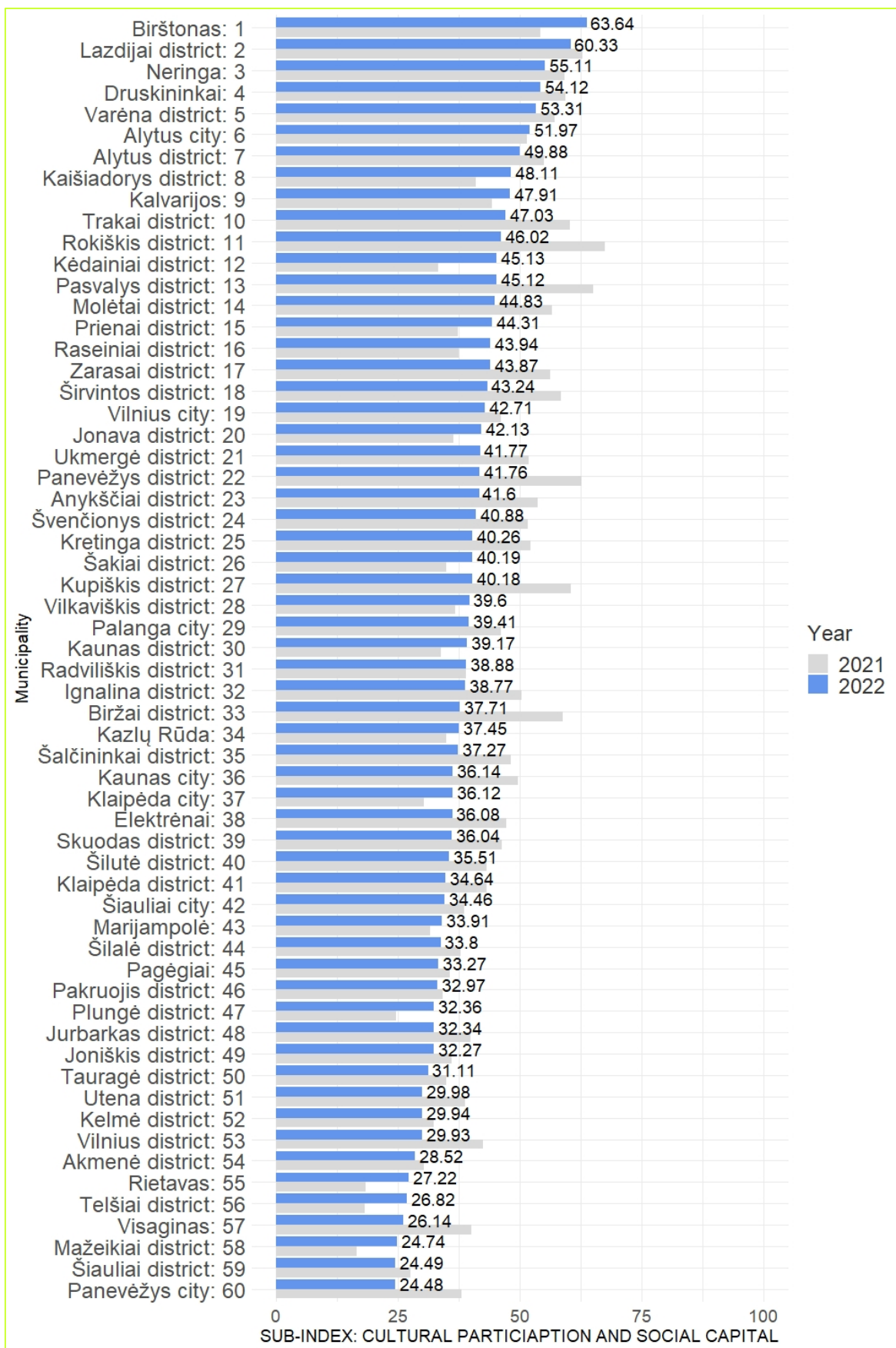
Figure 12 Ranking of municipalities according to the sub-index on cultural participation and social capital, 2021-2022
(compiled by the author)
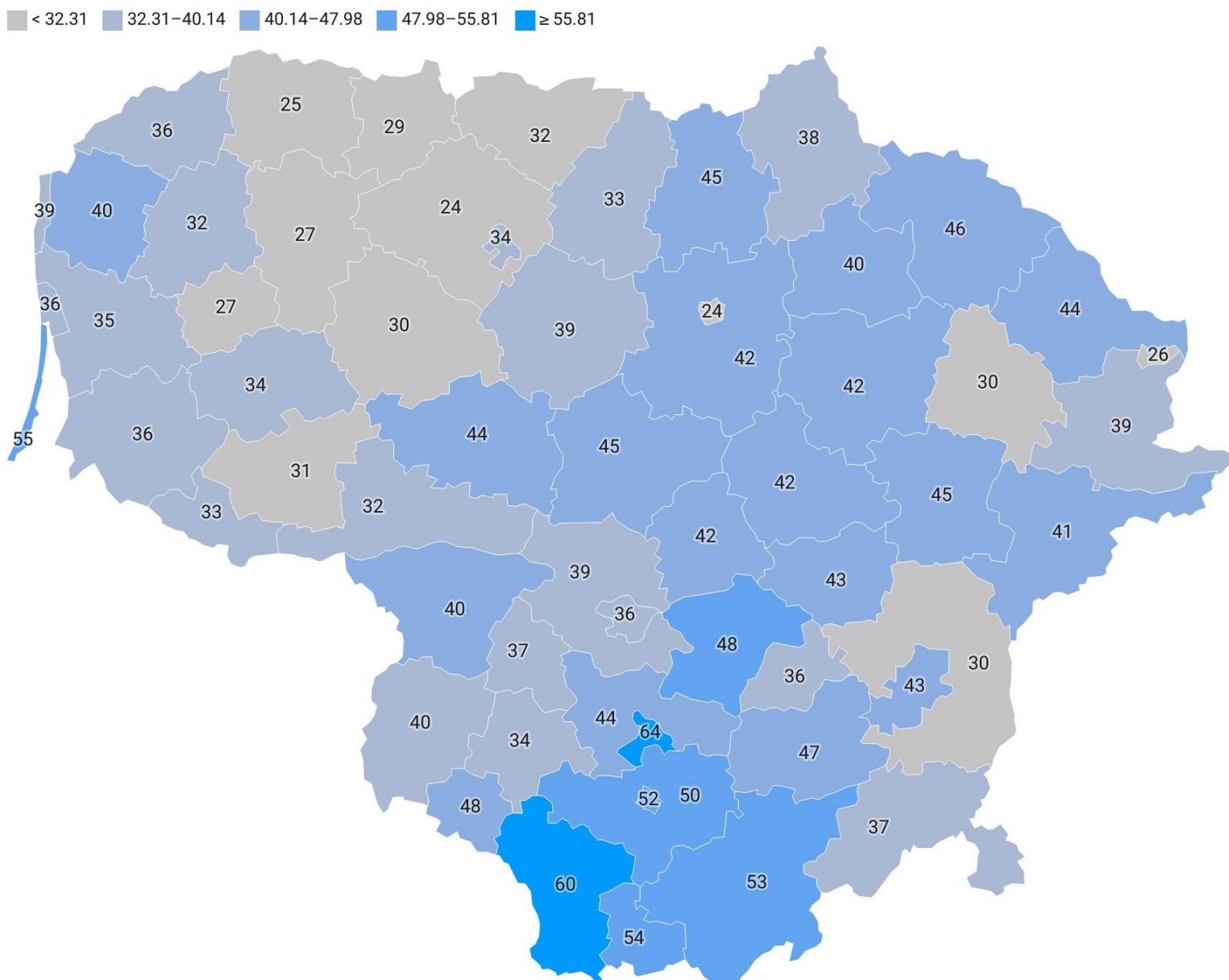
Figure 13 Ranking of municipalities according to the sub-index of participation in culture and social capital, 2022. Grouped results (compiled by the author)

The average score for the sub-index on cultural participation and social capital is 39.18. The values range from 63.64 in Birštonas municipality to 24.48 in Panevėžys municipality. Notably, the indicators for this sub-index are lower in Telšiai and Šiauliai districts. However, the gaps between the leading municipality and the others are not as large as, for example, in the sub-index on funding for culture. Additionally, all municipalities in major cities, except Panevėžys, scored at least slightly higher than their district municipalities. Panevėžys municipality lags almost twice as far behind its district municipality.

3.6. CULTURAL HERITAGE

CULTURAL HERITAGE
2022 IN LITHUANIA

2 333 cultural heritage monuments

26 008 immovable cultural heritage objects

9 131 movable cultural heritage

> 33 million Eur municipal funding for the maintenance of cultural heritage
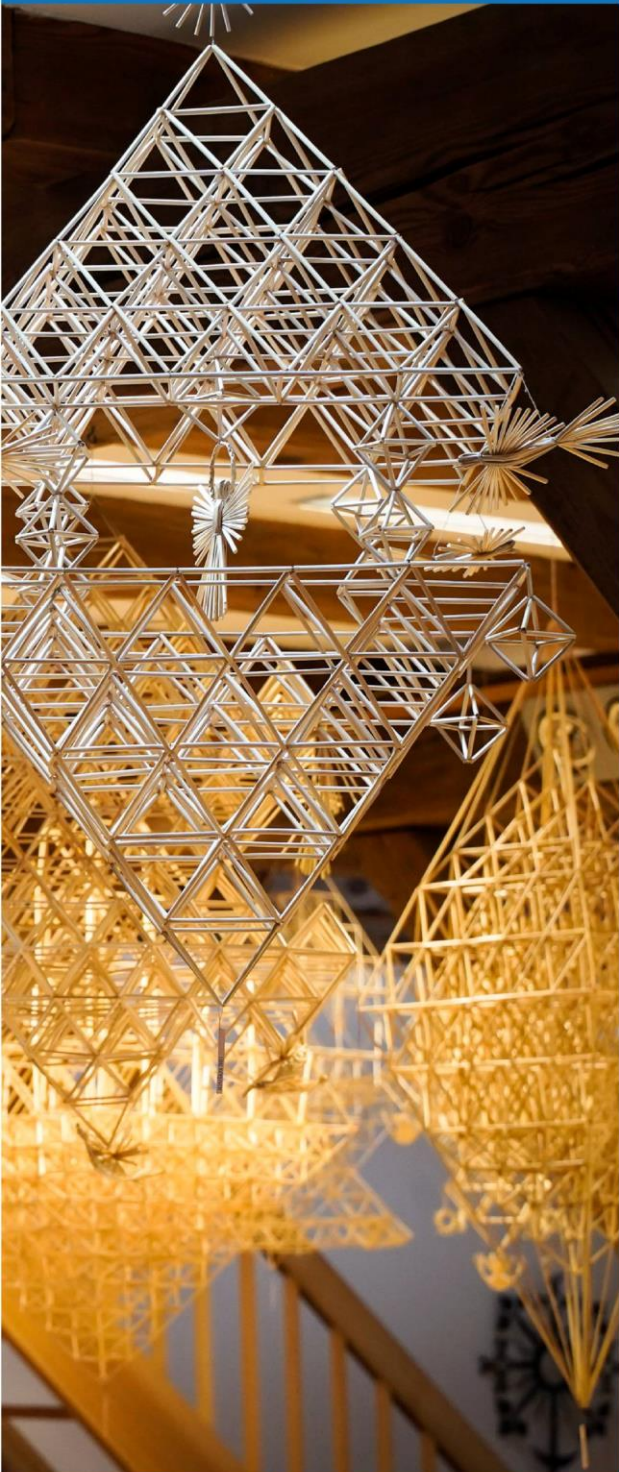
The Cultural Heritage sub-index consists of indicators on the number of cultural heritage monuments, the number of immovable cultural objects, the number of immovable cultural objects with valuable characteristics, the number of movable cultural objects, and the average 3-year funding for the maintenance of cultural heritage. All five indicators are normalized, and their arithmetic mean is calculated to derive the value of the Cultural Heritage sub-index.

Table 7 Cultural Heritage Sub-Index, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)

R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021
3	1	Pakruojis district	51,66	62,60	10,94
2	2	Molėtai district	54,46	56,17	1,71
1	3	Zarasai district	57,32	53,34	- 3,98
5	4	Neringa	44,12	52,81	8,69
4	5	Švenčionys district	48,16	50,60	2,44
9	6	Birštonas	36,93	40,13	3,20
6	7	Alytus district	43,30	39,59	- 3,71
7	8	Prienai district	42,48	39,15	- 3,33
8	9	Varėna district	37,80	38,89	1,08
11	10	Širvintos district	30,74	34,41	3,67
16	11	Rokiškis district	28,37	33,67	5,30
20	12	Kupiškis district	26,02	31,46	5,45
13	13	Šilalė district	30,37	30,87	0,50
10	14	Anykščiai district	31,58	30,68	- 0,90
37	15	Joniškis district	17,12	30,57	13,45
19	16	Pasvalys district	27,23	29,72	2,49
15	17	Pagėgiai	29,02	28,19	- 0,83
12	18	Kelmė district	30,54	27,14	- 3,40
29	19	Biržai district	20,77	27,04	6,27
21	20	Ignalina district	25,15	26,96	1,81
17	21	Plungė district	27,71	26,92	- 0,79
27	22	Šalčininkai district	22,72	26,18	3,47
18	23	Jurbarkas district	27,30	25,27	- 2,04
23	24	Lazdijai district	23,95	25,25	1,30
22	25	Rietavas	24,51	24,41	- 0,10
26	26	Raseiniai district	23,03	23,73	0,70
25	27	Telšiai district	23,43	23,58	0,15
14	28	Palanga city	29,05	22,65	- 6,40
30	29	Kaišiadorys district	20,38	21,83	1,45
24	30	Skuodas district	23,51	21,63	- 1,88

R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	2021	2022	Difference: 2022-2021
28	31	Kretinga district	21,48	21,24	- 0,24
33	32	Kėdainiai district	18,52	20,79	2,26
36	33	Utena district	17,58	20,28	2,69
32	34	Trakai district	19,47	19,09	- 0,38
34	35	Mažeikiai district	18,02	18,63	0,61
35	36	Vilkaviškis district	17,67	17,89	0,22
39	37	Šakiai district	16,96	17,65	0,69
31	38	Druskininkai	19,68	17,48	- 2,20
38	39	Kaunas city	17,00	17,11	0,11
44	40	Vilnius city	13,48	16,81	3,33
41	41	Elektrėnai	14,96	14,86	- 0,10
40	42	Šiauliai district	15,57	14,40	- 1,17
43	43	Akmenė district	13,61	14,34	0,72
46	44	Radviliškis district	13,05	13,74	0,69
47	45	Vilnius district	12,11	13,06	0,95
42	46	Šilutė district	14,21	13,04	- 1,17
45	47	Klaipėda district	13,10	12,20	- 0,90
49	48	Panevėžys district	11,13	11,83	0,70
48	49	Kalvarijos	12,05	11,75	- 0,30
50	50	Ukmergė district	9,77	11,58	1,82
56	51	Panevėžys city	5,70	9,64	3,94
51	52	Jonava district	9,12	9,52	0,40
52	53	Tauragė district	9,03	9,12	0,09
53	54	Kaunas district	8,61	9,10	0,49
57	55	Klaipėda city	5,47	8,10	2,63
54	56	Marijampolė	8,11	7,77	- 0,34
55	57	Kazlų Rūda	6,22	7,06	0,84
59	58	Šiauliai city	2,08	2,92	0,84
58	59	Alytus city	2,79	2,53	- 0,25
60	60	Visaginas	0,00	0,00	0,00

Note: *R 2021 and R 2022 refer to the sub-index ranking for 2021 and 2022 respectively.*

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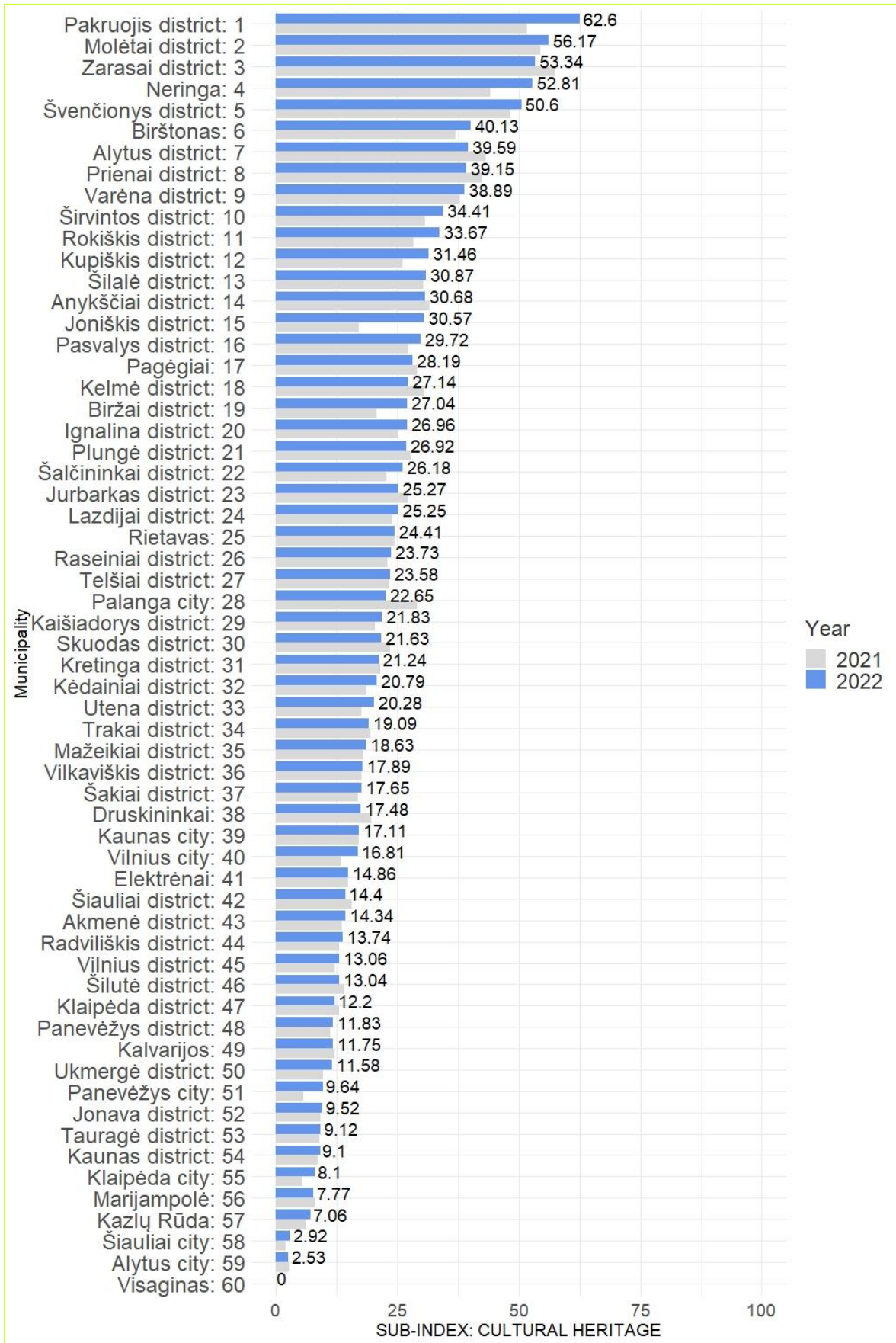
*Figure 14 Ranking of municipalities by cultural heritage sub-index, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)*
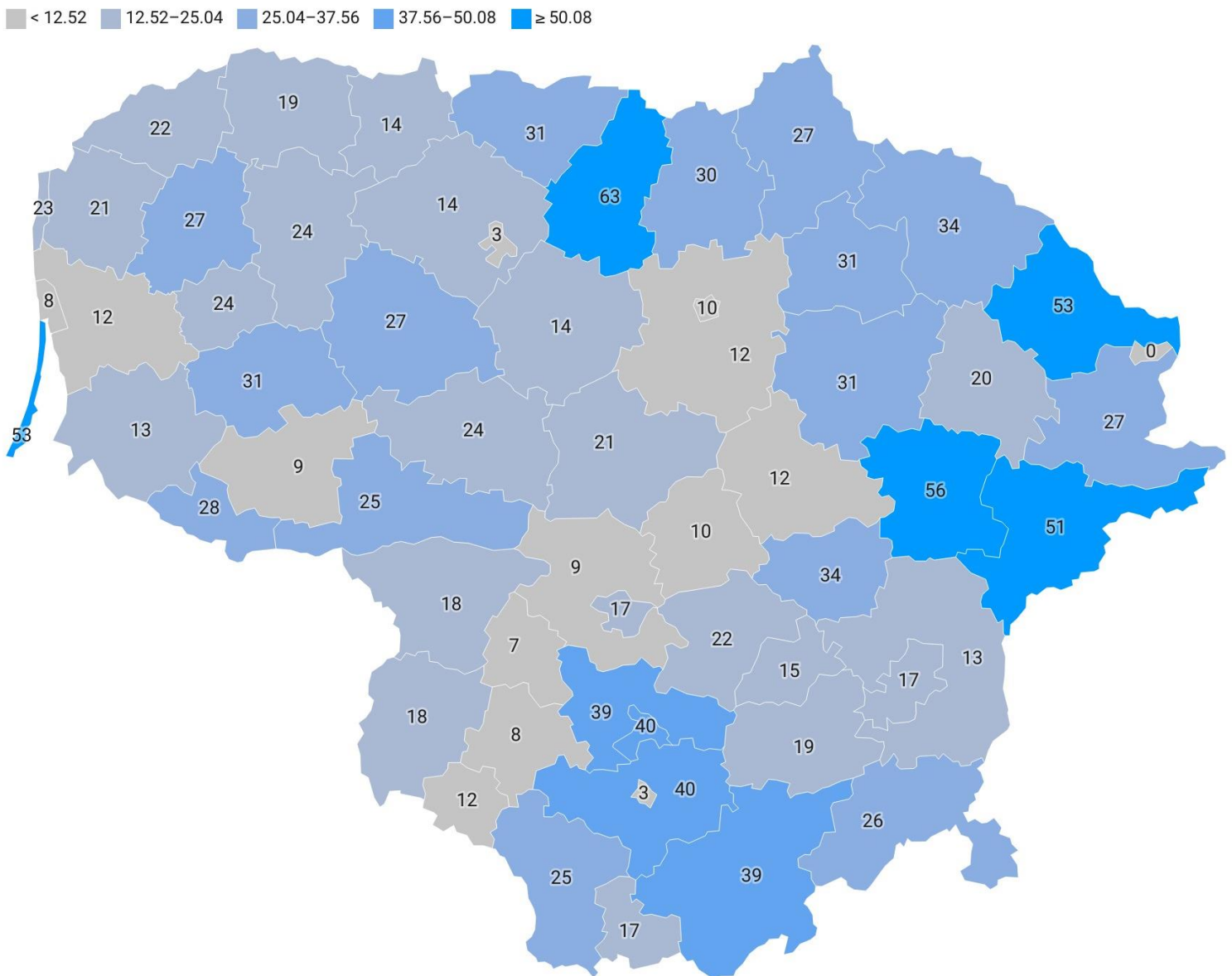
Figure 15 Ranking of municipalities by cultural heritage sub-index, 2022. Grouped results (compiled by the author)

The Cultural Heritage sub-index scores range from 0 (Visaginas municipality) to 62.6 in Pakruojis municipality. The average score for the Cultural Heritage sub-index is 23.15 (compared to 22.09 in 2021). Higher values of the sub-index score are notable in individual municipalities of Tauragė, Utena, Alytus, and Šiauliai regions. This suggests that the variables of the cultural heritage group are not concentrated in only a few municipalities or in one part of Lithuania, as was the case for other sub-indices.

3.7. CHANGES GROUP

The selected indicators of the Changes group indicate that both cultural organisations and artists should contribute to the cultural environment of the municipality, generating relevant and professional ideas for cultural projects and attracting funding from the Lithuanian Council for Culture. Additionally, they should add value through the activities of enterprises, and municipalities should financially stimulate the cultural sphere. The Change group ignores the former absolute values, allowing municipalities with very low initial values but positive changes to rank at the top. The indicators in the Changes group highlight positive trends that, if maintained, could lead to an increase in the overall cultural environment in the municipality in the long term.

The Changes group consists of four indicators that measure the percentage change between 2021 and 2022. It assesses the change in the amount of LCT funding attracted by municipalities, the change in value added (two types of enterprises and their units: those performing new CI activities and those performing traditional cultural activities), and the change in municipal budget spending on cultural services. Once the changes have been calculated, the indicators are normalized, and the arithmetic mean of the normalized indicators forms the sub-index values.

Municipality	Value
Kaunas city: 1	57.72
Kazlų Rūda: 2	56.7
Joniškis district: 3	56.26
Panevėžys city: 4	54.59
Švenčionys district: 5	52.28
Kaišiadorys district: 6	52.13
Molėtai district: 7	52.06
Šalčininkai district: 8	51.78
Mažeikiai district: 9	50
Elektrėnai: 10	48.98
Rokiškis district: 11	48.91
Kretinga district: 12	48.02
Raseiniai district: 13	47.97
Kupiškis district: 14	47.83
Kaunas district: 15	46.97
Varėna district: 16	46.77
Pakruojis district: 17	46.14
Akmenė district: 18	45.96
Šakiai district: 19	45.76
Kalvarijos: 20	45.6
Klaipėda district: 21	45.51
Kėdainiai district: 22	44.88
Radviliškis district: 23	44.84
Biržai district: 24	43.21
Šilalė district: 25	43.19
Vilnius city: 26	43.04
Zarasai district: 27	42.97
Kelmė district: 28	42.56
Palanga city: 29	42.51
Ignalina district: 30	42.48
Klaipėda city: 31	42.32
Lazdijai district: 32	42.15
Telšiai district: 33	42.03
Plungė district: 34	41.96
Alytus city: 35	40.99
Anykščiai district: 36	40.71
Marijampolė: 37	40.33
Jurbarkas district: 38	39.99
Jonava district: 39	39.92
Birštonas: 40	39.47
Tauragė district: 41	39.38
Pagėgiai: 42	39.09
Druskininkai: 43	38.46
Visaginas: 44	38.2
Vilkaviškis district: 45	37.68
Vilnius district: 46	37.49
Panevėžys district: 47	36.66
Širvintos district: 48	35.66
Šilutė district: 49	35.2
Šiauliai city: 50	34.77
Šiauliai district: 51	34.43
Pasvalys district: 52	33.94
Rietavas: 53	33.67
Alytus district: 54	33.23
Utena district: 55	31.94
Skuodas district: 56	31.67
Prienai district: 57	30.25
Trakai district: 58	28.15
Neringa: 59	28.13
Ukmergė district: 60	28.08

Year
2021
2022

SUB-INDEX: CHANGES GROUP

Figure 16 Ranking of municipalities according to the Changes Group sub-index (compiled by the author)
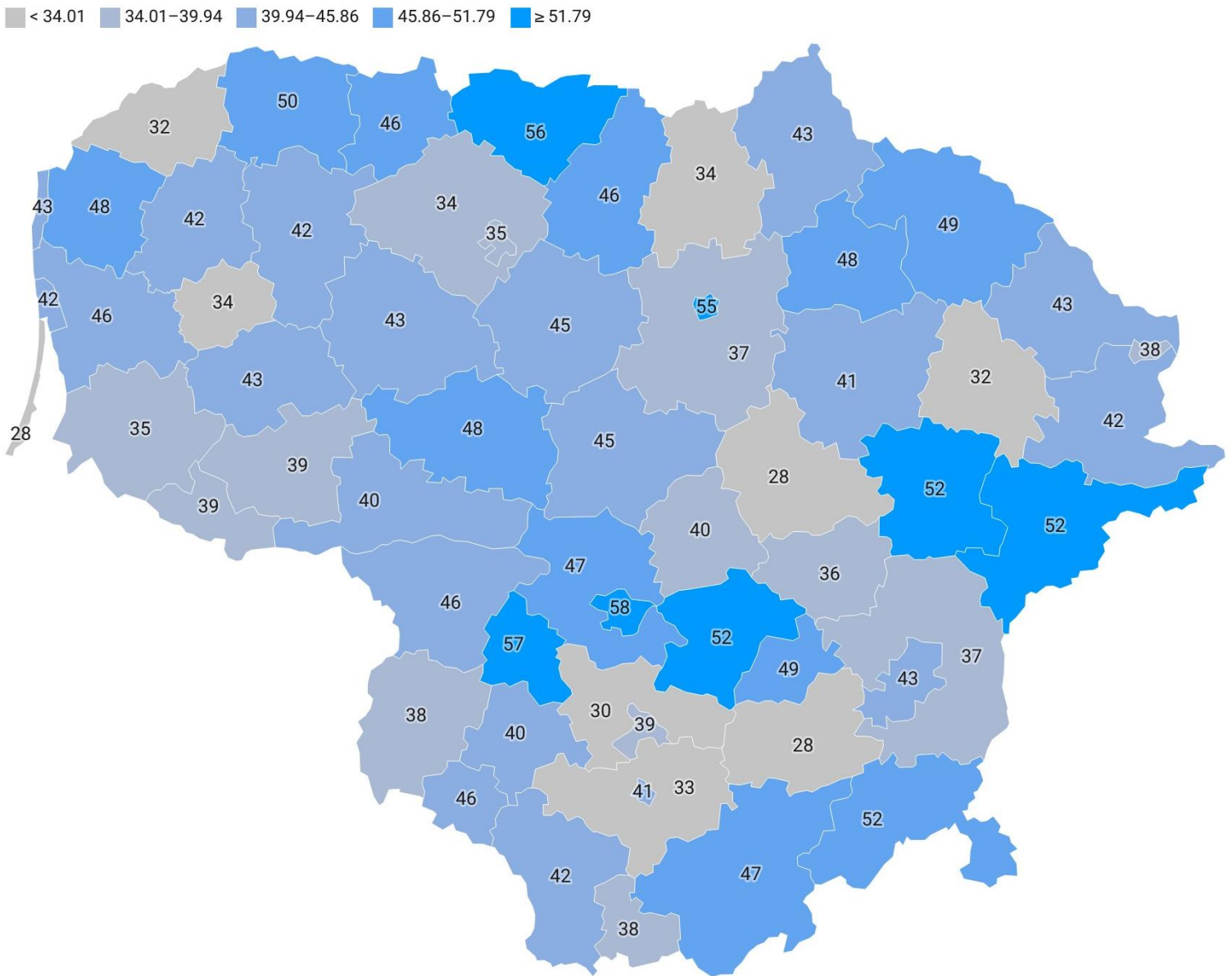
Figure 17 Ranking of municipalities by the Changes Group sub-index, 2022. Grouped results (compiled by the author)

In 2021, Western Lithuania showed a more positive trend in this sub-index, while in 2022, the opposite was observed. This essentially indicates that there is no consistent growth of the indicators in the municipalities. If municipalities have strongly increased funding for cultural services in one year, it is more likely that funding will not increase again or may even decrease in the following year. This is why this sub-index shows the most significant differences in municipal rankings when comparing 2021 and 2022.

3.8. SUMMARY OF SUB-INDICES

The sub-index on funding for culture revealed significant gaps between municipalities. Neringa municipality scored more than 73 out of a possible 100 points, while half of the municipalities were below the 9-point threshold. This also resulted in the lowest average score for the sub-index (11.25) compared to other sub-indices.

The average **for the sub-index on cultural macroeconomic** indicators was not much higher than for the sub-index on financing for culture. The average score for the cultural macroeconomics sub-index is 13.91. The maximum value of this sub-index in 2022 was reached by Vilnius municipality (72.48), while the remaining municipalities lagged far behind the capital. Half of Lithuania's municipalities were within 10.5 points in this sub-index. This basically shows that only Vilnius city is active in the cultural and creative industries sector.

Cultural supply is represented by **sub-indices of cultural organisations and artists**, and their averages are similar. The average for the cultural organisations sub-index is 24.7, with Neringa municipality dominating this sub-index with a score of almost 82, the highest among all sub-indices. Half of the Lithuanian municipalities scored less than 23 points in this sub-index. The average score for the artists sub-index is 23.33, and as in the case of the cultural organisations sub-index, half of the municipalities were below the 23-point threshold.

The average score for **the cultural participation and social capital sub-index** is slightly higher compared to the other sub-indices, reaching 39.18 in 2022. Among the municipalities, Birštonas had the highest score at 63.64, while Panevėžys municipality had the lowest score, almost three times behind Birštonas, with 24.48 points.

The average score for **the cultural heritage sub-index** in 2022 is 23.17. Pakruojis municipality achieved the highest score (62.6), while Visaginas municipality obtained the lowest value for the sub-index. Half of the Lithuanian municipalities did not score more than 21.4. Although there are gaps between municipalities, they are not as pronounced as in the sub-indices on funding for culture or cultural macroeconomics.

The changes group sub-index had the highest average score at 42.23. The gaps between municipalities are not as large, as indicated by the smaller variation in sub-index values, which range from 28 to 58 points. More than half of the municipalities scored above 42 points.

Table 8 Comparison of sub-indices and Culture Index scores of municipalities, 2022 (compiled by the author)

Municipality	Sub-index: Cultural Organisations	Sub-index: Artists	Sub-index: Macroeconomics of Culture	Sub-index: Funding for Culture	Sub-index: Cultural Participation and Social Capital	Sub-index: Cultural Heritage	Sub-index: Changes Group	Culture Index of Municipalities	Rank
Neringa	81,93	49,07	29,55	73,68	55,11	52,81	28,13	**49,39**	1
Vilnius city	46,14	51,24	72,84	26,39	42,71	16,81	43,04	**39,13**	2
Zarasai district	31,65	35,53	10,93	38,78	43,87	53,34	42,97	**33,56**	3
Druskininkai	25,24	16,45	54,28	21,11	54,12	17,48	38,46	**29,01**	4
Birštonas	42,02	42,99	6,14	15,17	63,64	40,13	39,47	**28,93**	5
Anykščiai district	37,09	27,91	15,50	18,77	41,60	30,68	40,71	**28,60**	6
Molėtai district	35,38	23,19	10,48	12,32	44,83	56,17	52,07	**28,11**	7
Varėna district	36,64	34,11	9,04	10,53	53,31	38,89	46,77	**27,38**	8
Kaunas city	24,07	25,12	40,88	12,63	36,14	17,11	57,72	**27,24**	9
Širvintos district	39,30	23,71	22,36	9,06	43,24	34,41	35,67	**26,83**	10
Palanga city	29,29	21,81	21,38	14,99	39,41	22,65	42,51	**25,88**	11
Lazdijai district	31,51	33,34	10,32	8,91	60,33	25,25	42,15	**25,06**	12
Kretinga district	24,26	27,29	23,96	8,87	40,26	21,24	48,02	**24,80**	13
Ignalina district	53,54	30,78	6,75	9,91	38,77	26,96	42,48	**24,22**	14
Pakruojis district	28,24	29,61	7,74	7,40	32,97	62,60	46,14	**23,98**	15
Kupiškis district	23,22	28,87	8,79	12,36	40,18	31,46	47,83	**23,86**	16
Pasvalys district	28,53	27,02	7,96	14,72	45,12	29,72	33,94	**23,63**	17
Joniškis district	22,34	25,48	10,13	12,43	32,27	30,57	56,26	**23,51**	18
Panevėžys district	30,66	54,83	10,48	12,41	41,76	11,83	36,66	**23,50**	19
Rokiškis district	28,21	14,60	9,97	10,42	46,02	33,67	48,91	**22,84**	20
Prienai district	21,12	18,37	18,30	7,34	44,31	39,15	30,25	**22,29**	21
Alytus district	26,37	28,71	13,02	3,88	49,88	39,59	33,23	**22,02**	22
Jurbarkas district	24,98	23,08	10,30	11,93	32,34	25,27	39,99	**21,77**	23
Rietavas	35,31	26,22	15,12	7,15	27,22	24,41	33,68	**21,67**	24
Kelmė district	25,60	35,77	6,91	9,96	29,94	27,14	42,56	**21,58**	25
Švenčionys district	23,09	24,41	4,52	7,78	40,88	50,60	52,28	**21,53**	26
Raseiniai district	14,50	28,08	9,36	11,19	43,94	23,73	47,97	**21,51**	27
Kaišiadoriai district	23,02	22,31	8,16	8,34	48,11	21,83	52,13	**21,18**	28
Šilalė district	25,59	23,82	6,47	9,73	33,80	30,87	43,19	**20,88**	29
Biržai district	20,66	27,98	7,34	8,10	37,71	27,04	43,21	**20,49**	30
Skuodas district	29,13	17,56	11,46	10,35	36,04	21,63	31,67	**20,45**	31
Kėdainiai district	20,19	18,93	9,90	8,70	45,13	20,79	44,89	**20,23**	32
Trakai district	22,85	19,90	9,22	12,75	47,03	19,09	28,15	**20,15**	33
Kaunas district	20,79	22,64	15,08	9,29	39,17	9,10	46,97	**19,58**	34
Šakiai district	18,94	18,37	9,48	10,30	40,19	17,65	45,76	**19,58**	35
Radviliškis district	14,68	16,18	17,58	10,16	38,88	13,74	44,84	**19,35**	36
Plungė district	16,85	20,47	8,59	8,00	32,36	26,92	41,96	**18,91**	37
Klaipėda city	15,46	19,35	21,27	10,55	36,12	8,10	42,32	**18,80**	38
Vilnius district	22,23	16,26	17,92	8,74	29,93	13,06	37,49	**18,80**	39
Klaipėda district	18,94	15,74	13,80	8,18	34,64	12,20	45,51	**18,14**	40
Telšiai district	18,29	22,87	9,43	6,05	26,82	23,58	42,03	**18,09**	41
Ukmergė district	21,45	27,31	11,83	6,51	41,77	11,58	28,08	**18,00**	42
Utena district	20,21	16,43	6,67	13,69	29,98	20,28	31,94	**17,90**	43
Vilkaviškis district	16,22	17,49	12,94	5,27	39,60	17,89	37,68	**17,57**	44
Mažeikiai district	12,56	18,94	20,15	4,63	24,74	18,63	50,00	**17,54**	45
Šalčininkai district	15,31	11,12	8,77	6,41	37,27	26,18	51,79	**17,40**	46
Šilutė district	16,79	11,50	14,13	10,56	35,51	13,04	35,20	**17,33**	47
Panevėžys city	12,07	10,82	16,10	15,09	24,48	9,64	54,59	**16,99**	48
Elektrėnai	17,30	12,45	9,03	6,96	36,08	14,86	48,99	**16,66**	49

Akmenė district	20,34	25,91	8,50	3,94	28,52	14,34	45,96	**16,49**	50
Tauragė district	23,19	16,48	10,96	6,88	31,11	9,12	39,38	**16,42**	51
Šiauliai district	16,47	28,43	12,65	4,31	24,49	14,40	34,43	**16,33**	52
Pagėgiai	28,16	15,43	3,04	5,28	33,27	28,19	39,09	**15,89**	53
Kalvarijos	14,10	20,15	3,73	6,38	47,91	11,75	45,60	**15,03**	54
Jonava district	13,43	16,43	8,28	4,67	42,13	9,52	39,92	**14,53**	55
Marijampolė	16,18	10,37	10,78	6,82	33,91	7,77	40,33	**14,44**	56
Kazlų Rūda	28,57	17,10	2,85	5,37	37,45	7,06	56,70	**14,12**	57
Šiauliai city	13,25	12,42	17,89	8,99	34,46	2,92	34,77	**13,74**	58
Alytus city	12,48	4,28	11,13	6,94	51,97	2,53	41,00	**11,21**	59
Visaginas	7,36	17,09	12,30	7,13	26,14	1,00	38,20	**10,14**	60
Average	**24,72**	**23,33**	**13,91**	**11,25**	**39,18**	**23,17**	**42,23**	**21,40**	
Median	**22,93**	**22,47**	**10,48**	**9,03**	**39,03**	**21,43**	**42,40**	**20,47**	
Max	**81,93**	**54,83**	**72,84**	**73,68**	**63,64**	**62,60**	**57,72**	**49,39**	
Min	**7,36**	**4,28**	**2,85**	**3,88**	**24,48**	**1,00**	**28,08**	**10,14**	

Note: Brighter blue indicates higher values.

The gaps between municipalities for each index are illustrated in the map comparisons.

Table 9 Comparison of sub-indices and Culture Index of Municipalities (compiled by the author)

Sub-index: **Cultural Organisations**	Sub-index: **Artists**
Max: 81,93 (Neringa)	Max: 54,83 (Panevėžys district)
Average: **24,72**	Average: **23,33**
Min: 7,36 (Visaginas)	Min: 4,28 (Alytus city)

Sub-index: **Macroeconomics of Culture**	Sub-index: **Funding for Culture**
Max: 72,84 (Vilnius city)	Max: 73,68 (Neringa)
Average: **13,91**	Average: **11,25**
Min: 2,85 (Kazlų Rda)	Min: 3,88 (Alytus district)
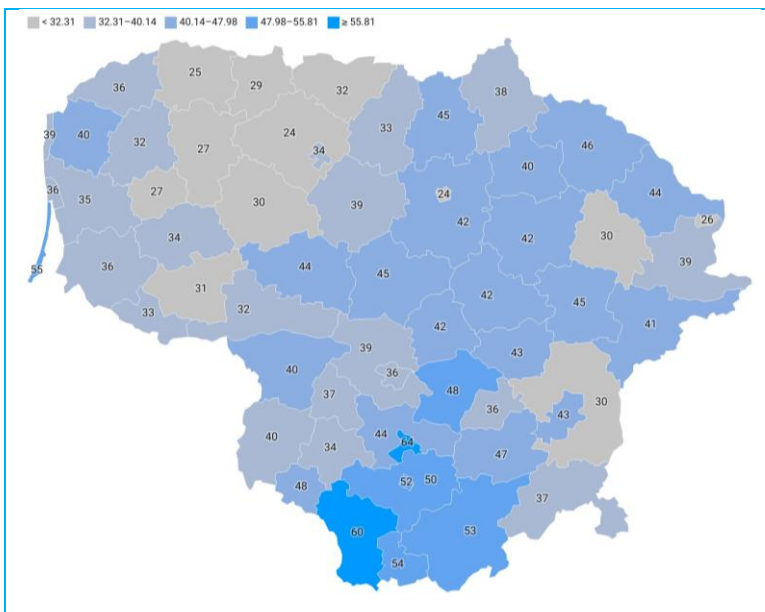
Sub-index: **Cultural Participation and Social Capital**

Max: 63,64 (Birštonas)

Average: **39,18**

Min: 24,48 (Panevėžys city)
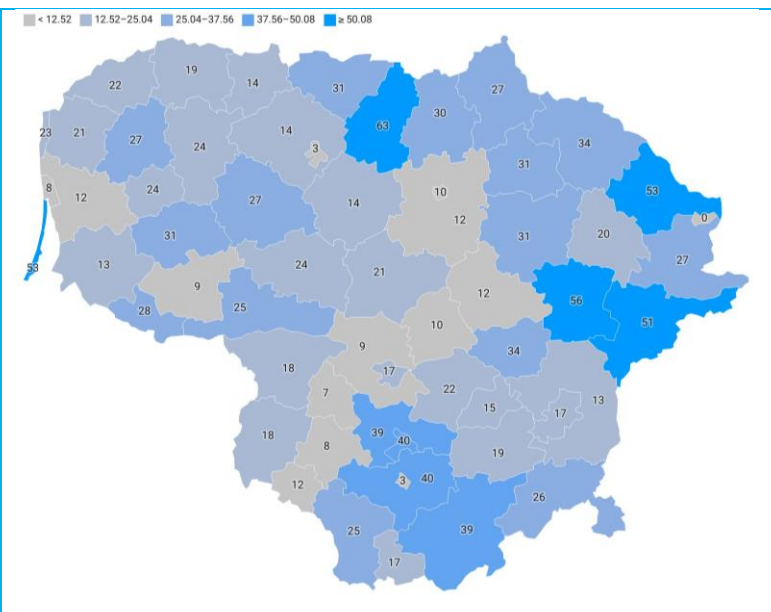
Sub-index: **Cultural Heritage**

Max: 62,6 (Pakruojis district)

Average: **23,17**

Min: 0 (Visaginas)
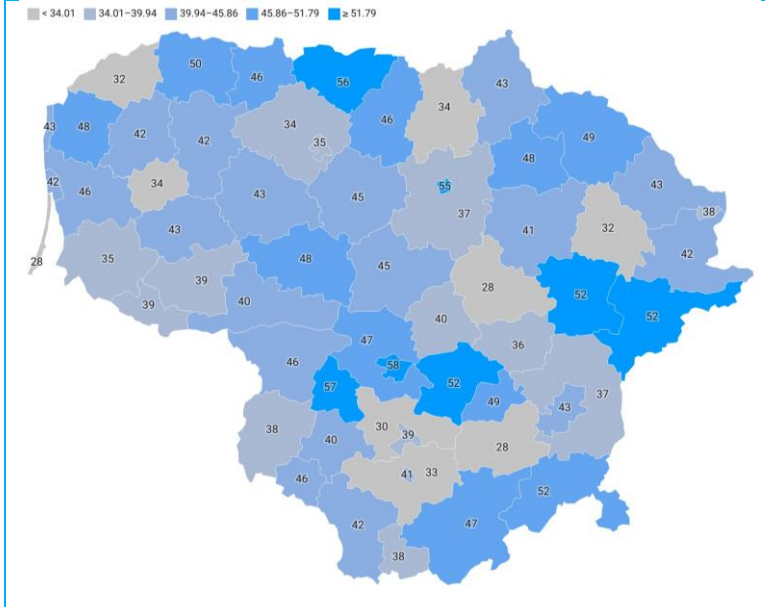
Sub-index: **Changes Group**

Max: 57,72 (Kaunas city)

Average: **42,23**

Min: 28,08 (Ukmergė district)
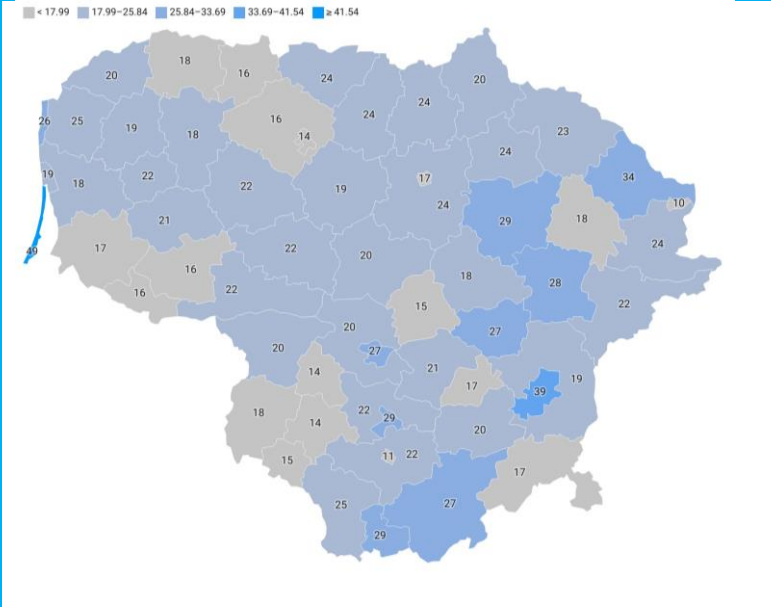
Culture Index of Municipalites

Max: 49,39 (Neringa)

Average: **21,4**

Min: 10,14 (Visaginas)

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A better understanding of the factors influencing a municipality's position in the Culture Index ranking can be gained by examining its rankings in each sub-index. For two consecutive years, Neringa, holding the top position in the Culture Index of Municipalities, consistently leads in most sub-indices, ranking 1-4 in all of them, except for the Changes group.

Table 10 Comparison of sub-indices and Culture Index of Municipalities rankings, 2022 (compiled by the author)

Municipality	Sub-index: Cultural Organisations	Sub-index: Artists	Sub-index: Macroeconomics of Culture	Sub-index: Funding for Culture	Sub-index: Cultural Participation and Social Capital	Sub-index: Cultural Heritage	Sub-index: Changes Group	Culture Index of Municipalities: score	Culture index of Municipalities: rank
Akmenė district	38	21	46	59	54	43	18	16,49	50
Alytus city	58	60	26	46	6	59	35	11,21	59
Alytus district	20	12	20	60	7	7	54	22,02	22
Anykščiai district	6	16	15	5	23	14	36	28,60	6
Birštonas district	4	4	56	6	1	6	40	28,93	5
Biržai district	37	15	51	38	33	19	24	20,49	30
Druskininkai	23	46	2	4	4	38	43	29,01	4
Elektrėnai	44	54	42	45	38	41	10	16,66	49
Ignalina district	2	9	53	27	32	20	30	24,22	14
Jonava district	55	47	47	56	20	52	39	14,53	55
Joniškis district	32	22	34	13	49	15	3	23,51	18
Jurbarkas district	24	28	33	17	48	23	38	21,77	23
Kaišiadoriai district	30	31	48	36	8	29	6	21,18	28
Kalvarijos	54	34	58	51	9	49	20	15,03	54
Kaunas city	26	23	3	12	36	39	1	27,24	9
Kaunas district	36	30	17	29	30	54	15	19,58	34
Kazlų Rūda	15	43	60	53	34	57	2	14,12	57
Kėdainiai district	40	38	36	35	12	32	22	20,23	32
Kelmė district	21	5	52	26	52	18	28	21,58	25
Klaipėda city	50	36	8	20	37	55	31	18,80	38
Klaipėda district	41	51	19	37	41	47	21	18,14	40
Kretinga district	25	18	5	33	25	31	12	24,80	13
Kupiškis district	27	11	43	15	27	12	14	23,86	16
Lazdijai district	11	8	32	32	2	24	32	25,06	12
Marijampolė	49	59	29	48	43	56	37	14,44	56
Mažeikiai district	57	37	9	57	58	35	9	17,54	45
Molėtai district	8	27	31	16	14	2	7	28,11	7
Neringa	1	3	4	1	3	4	59	49,39	1
Pagėgiai	19	52	59	54	45	17	42	15,89	53
Pakruojis district	17	10	50	41	46	1	17	23,98	15
Palanga city	13	32	7	8	29	28	29	25,88	11
Panevėžys city	59	58	14	7	60	51	4	16,99	48
Panevėžys district	12	1	30	14	22	48	47	23,50	19
Pasvalys district	16	19	49	9	13	16	52	23,63	17
Plungė district	45	33	45	39	47	21	34	18,91	37
Prienai district	35	39	10	42	15	8	57	22,29	21
Radviliškis district	52	50	13	25	31	44	23	19,35	36

Raseiniai district	53	14	39	18	16	26	13	**21,51**	**27**
Rietavas	9	20	16	43	55	25	53	**21,67**	**24**
Rokiškis district	18	53	35	22	11	11	11	**22,84**	**20**
Skuodas district	14	41	25	23	39	30	56	**20,45**	**31**
Šakiai district	42	40	37	24	26	37	19	**19,58**	**35**
Šalčininkai district	51	57	44	50	35	22	8	**17,40**	**46**
Šiauliai city	56	55	12	31	42	58	50	**13,74**	**58**
Šiauliai district	47	13	22	58	59	42	51	**16,33**	**52**
Šilalė district	22	25	55	28	44	13	25	**20,88**	**29**
Šilutė district	46	56	18	19	40	46	49	**17,33**	**47**
Širvintos district	5	26	6	30	18	10	48	**26,83**	**10**
Švenčionys district	29	24	57	40	24	5	5	**21,53**	**26**
Tauragė district	28	45	27	47	50	53	41	**16,42**	**51**
Telšiai district	43	29	38	52	56	27	33	**18,09**	**41**
Trakai district	31	35	40	11	10	34	58	**20,15**	**33**
Ukmergė district	34	17	24	49	21	50	60	**18,00**	**42**
Utena district	39	48	54	10	51	33	55	**17,90**	**43**
Varėna district	7	7	41	21	5	9	16	**27,38**	**8**
Vilkaviškis district	48	42	21	55	28	36	45	**17,57**	**44**
Vilnius city	3	2	1	3	19	40	26	**39,13**	**2**
Vilnius district	33	49	11	34	53	45	46	**18,80**	**39**
Visaginas	60	44	23	44	57	60	44	**10,14**	**60**
Zarasai district	10	6	28	2	17	3	27	**33,56**	**3**

Note: A brighter green colour indicates a higher ranking position.

4. CULTURE INDEX OF MUNICIPALITIES

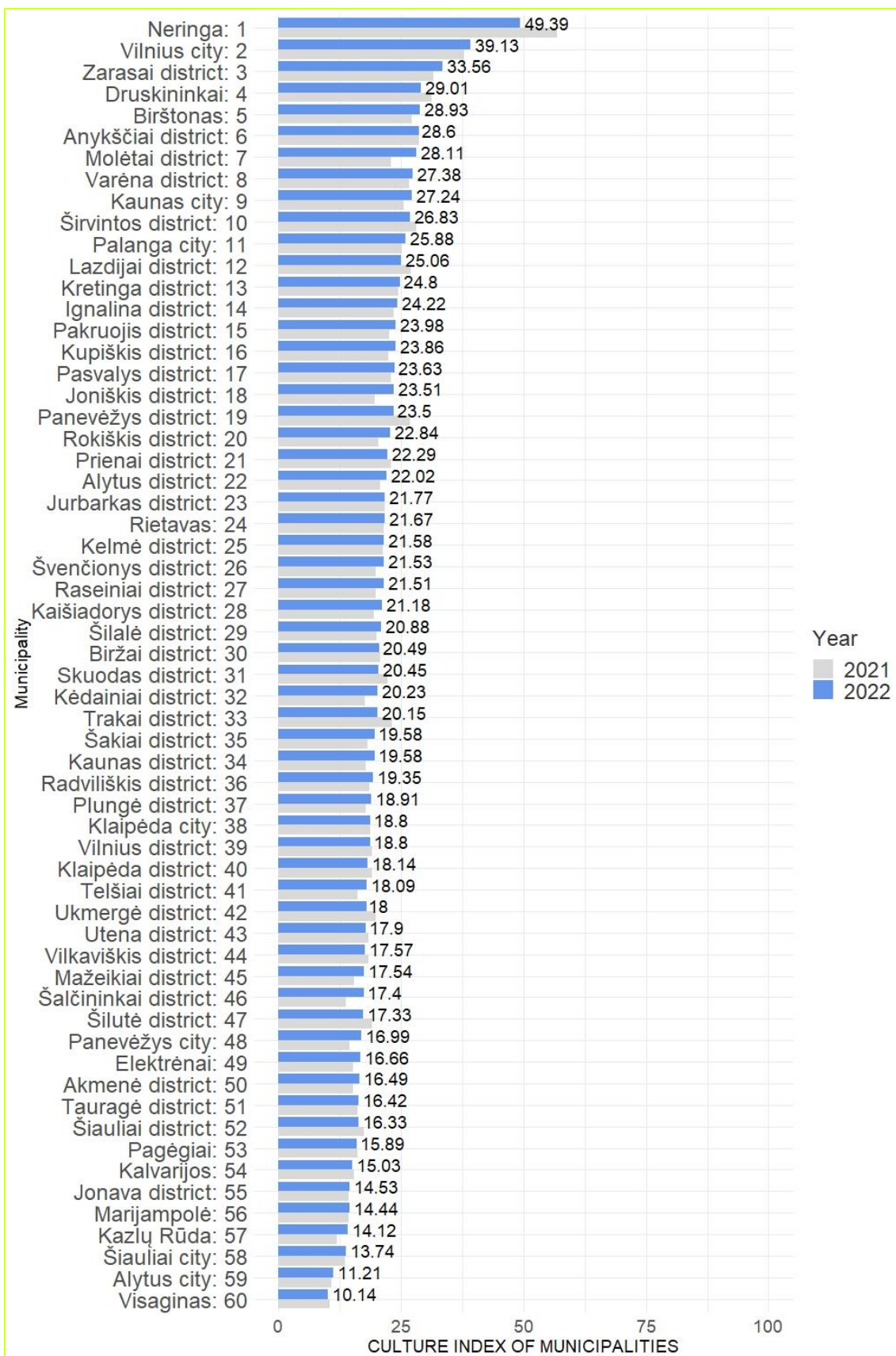| Municipality	Culture Index
Neringa: 1	49.39
Vilnius city: 2	39.13
Zarasai district: 3	33.56
Druskininkai: 4	29.01
Birštonas: 5	28.93
Anykščiai district: 6	28.6
Molėtai district: 7	28.11
Varėna district: 8	27.38
Kaunas city: 9	27.24
Širvintos district: 10	26.83
Palanga city: 11	25.88
Lazdijai district: 12	25.06
Kretinga district: 13	24.8
Ignalina district: 14	24.22
Pakruojis district: 15	23.98
Kupiškis district: 16	23.86
Pasvalys district: 17	23.63
Joniškis district: 18	23.51
Panevėžys district: 19	23.5
Rokiškis district: 20	22.84
Prienai district: 21	22.29
Alytus district: 22	22.02
Jurbarkas district: 23	21.77
Rietavas: 24	21.67
Kelmė district: 25	21.58
Švenčionys district: 26	21.53
Raseiniai district: 27	21.51
Kaišiadorys district: 28	21.18
Šilalė district: 29	20.88
Biržai district: 30	20.49
Skuodas district: 31	20.45
Kėdainiai district: 32	20.23
Trakai district: 33	20.15
Šakiai district: 35	19.58
Kaunas district: 34	19.58
Radviliškis district: 36	19.35
Plungė district: 37	18.91
Klaipėda city: 38	18.8
Vilnius district: 39	18.8
Klaipėda district: 40	18.14
Telšiai district: 41	18.09
Ukmergė district: 42	18
Utena district: 43	17.9
Vilkaviškis district: 44	17.57
Mažeikiai district: 45	17.54
Šalčininkai district: 46	17.4
Šilutė district: 47	17.33
Panevėžys city: 48	16.99
Elektrėnai: 49	16.66
Akmenė district: 50	16.49
Tauragė district: 51	16.42
Šiauliai district: 52	16.33
Pagėgiai: 53	15.89
Kalvarijos: 54	15.03
Jonava district: 55	14.53
Marijampolė: 56	14.44
Kazlų Rūda: 57	14.12
Šiauliai city: 58	13.74
Alytus city: 59	11.21
Visaginas: 60	10.14

Figure 18 Municipal Culture Index ranking, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author)

Table 11 Municipal Culture Index, 2021-2022 (compiled by the author) (overleaf)

R 2021	R 2022	Municipality	Culture Index of Municipalities, 2021	Culture Index of Municipalities, 2022	Scores' difference: 2022-2021	Rank's difference
1	1	Neringa	56,91	49,39	-7,52	0
2	2	Vilnius city	37,91	39,13	1,22	0
3	3	Zarasai district	31,54	33,56	2,02	0
4	4	Druskininkai	31,22	29,01	-2,21	0
7	5	Birštonas	27,12	28,93	1,81	2
5	6	Anykščiai district	28,77	28,6	-0,17	-1
18	7	Molėtai district	22,95	28,11	5,16	11
10	8	Varėna district	26,72	27,38	0,66	2
11	9	Kaunas city	25,5	27,24	1,74	2
6	10	Širvintos district	28,19	26,83	-1,36	-4
12	11	Palanga city	25,17	25,88	0,71	1
8	12	Lazdijai district	27,08	25,06	-2,02	-4
13	13	Kretinga district	24,47	24,8	0,33	0
14	14	Ignalina district	23,59	24,22	0,63	0
19	15	Pakruojis district	22,58	23,98	1,4	4
20	16	Kupiškis district	22,41	23,86	1,45	4
17	17	Pasvalys district	22,96	23,63	0,67	0
32	18	Joniškis district	19,65	23,51	3,86	14
9	19	Panevėžys district	26,83	23,5	-3,33	-10
27	20	Rokiškis district	20,35	22,84	2,49	7
16	21	Prienai district	22,99	22,29	-0,7	-5
26	22	Alytus district	20,73	22,02	1,29	4
22	23	Jurbarkas district	21,7	21,77	0,07	-1
23	24	Rietavas	21,59	21,67	0,08	-1
24	25	Kelmė district	21,34	21,58	0,24	-1
31	26	Švenčionys district	19,77	21,53	1,76	5
29	27	Raseiniai district	19,92	21,51	1,59	2
33	28	Kaišiadorys district	19,44	21,18	1,74	5
28	29	Šilalė district	20,12	20,88	0,76	-1
25	30	Biržai district	20,83	20,49	-0,34	-5
21	31	Skuodas district	22,21	20,45	-1,76	-10
43	32	Kėdainiai district	17,67	20,23	2,56	11
15	33	Trakai district	23,17	20,15	-3,02	-18
40	34	Šakiai district	18,16	19,58	1,42	6
42	35	Kaunas district	17,78	19,58	1,8	7
37	36	Radviliškis district	18,51	19,35	0,84	1
41	37	Plungė district	17,91	18,91	1	4
44	38	Klaipėda city	17,48	18,8	1,32	6
34	39	Vilnius district	19,06	18,8	-0,26	-5
35	40	Klaipėda district	19,03	18,14	-0,89	-5
48	41	Telšiai district	16,09	18,09	2	7
30	42	Ukmergė district	19,88	18	-1,88	-12
38	43	Utena district	18,46	17,9	-0,56	-5
39	44	Vilkaviškis district	18,35	17,57	-0,78	-5
49	45	Mažeikiai district	15,47	17,54	2,07	4
56	46	Šalčininkai district	13,86	17,4	3,54	10
36	47	Šilutė district	19,02	17,33	-1,69	-11
53	48	Panevėžys city	14,48	16,99	2,51	5
51	49	Elektrėnai	15,31	16,66	1,35	2
52	50	Akmenė district	15,24	16,49	1,25	2
47	51	Tauragė district	16,18	16,42	0,24	-4
45	52	Šiauliai district	17,48	16,33	-1,15	-7
46	53	Pagėgiai	16,22	15,89	-0,33	-7
50	54	Kalvarijos	15,36	15,03	-0,33	-4
54	55	Jonava district	14,41	14,53	0,12	-1
55	56	Marijampolė	14,39	14,44	0,05	-1
58	57	Kazlų Rūda	11,9	14,12	2,22	1
57	58	Šiauliai city	13,67	13,74	0,07	-1
59	59	Alytus city	10,91	11,21	0,3	0
60	60	Visaginas	10,48	10,14	-0,34	0

Neringa municipality tops the 2022 Municipal Culture Index with a score of 49.39 out of a possible 100 points. This marks the second consecutive year of Neringa securing the first position. However, in 2021, the Municipal Culture Index achieved a higher score of 56.91 points. While maintaining the top position, the gap from the maximum score indicates the potential for municipalities to enhance their cultural situation.

The second position is held by Vilnius city municipality, scoring slightly over a third of the possible points, i.e., 39.13 (compared to 37.91 in 2021). Vilnius municipality also secured the second position in the previous year's Municipal Culture Index. However, the overall situation and the Municipal Culture Index score have remained relatively stable. It's noteworthy that the capital of Lithuania scores less than half of the possible Municipal Culture Index points.

The third position is once again secured by the same municipality as in 2021 – Zarasai municipality, achieving a score of 33.56 points (compared to 31.54 in 2021). In the previous year, Druskininkai municipality closely trailed Zarasai (31.22 in 2021). In 2022, Druskininkai municipality maintains the fourth position, but the gap has widened, scoring 29.01 points. Occupying positions 5–7 are three municipalities with closely aligned scores: Birštonas municipality (5th position, 28.93 points), Anykščiai municipality (6th position, 28.6 points), and Molėtai municipality (7th position, 28.11 points).

In 2021, the three largest municipalities found themselves at the bottom of the ranking. Panevėžys municipality occupied the 53rd position with only 14.48 points, Šiauliai municipality was in the 57th position with 13.67 points, and Alytus municipality ranked 59th with 10.91 points. In 2022, Panevėžys municipality improved its standing, moving up to the 48th position with 16.99 points. This positive trend suggests potential future advancements for Panevėžys municipality in the index ranking. However, a significant challenge remains, as public engagement in culture is currently passive compared to other municipalities.

On the other hand, Šiauliai and Alytus municipalities continued to struggle in 2022. Alytus municipality scored 11.21 points, retaining the 59th position, while Šiauliai municipality scored 13.74 points, staying at the 58th position. Given their population size, these cities lack a robust cultural offering, including cultural enterprises and artists. Municipal involvement in cultural funding is also a concern in these areas, impacting the diversity of cultural choices available to the population.

For the second consecutive year, Visaginas finds itself at the bottom of the ranking, scoring around 10 points (10.48 in 2021).

The average Municipal Culture Index score is 21.4. The Culture Index ranking of nine municipalities has remained unchanged, while 26 municipalities have improved their position in the Municipal Culture Index. Conversely, 25 municipalities have seen a decline in their ranking in the Municipal Culture Index.
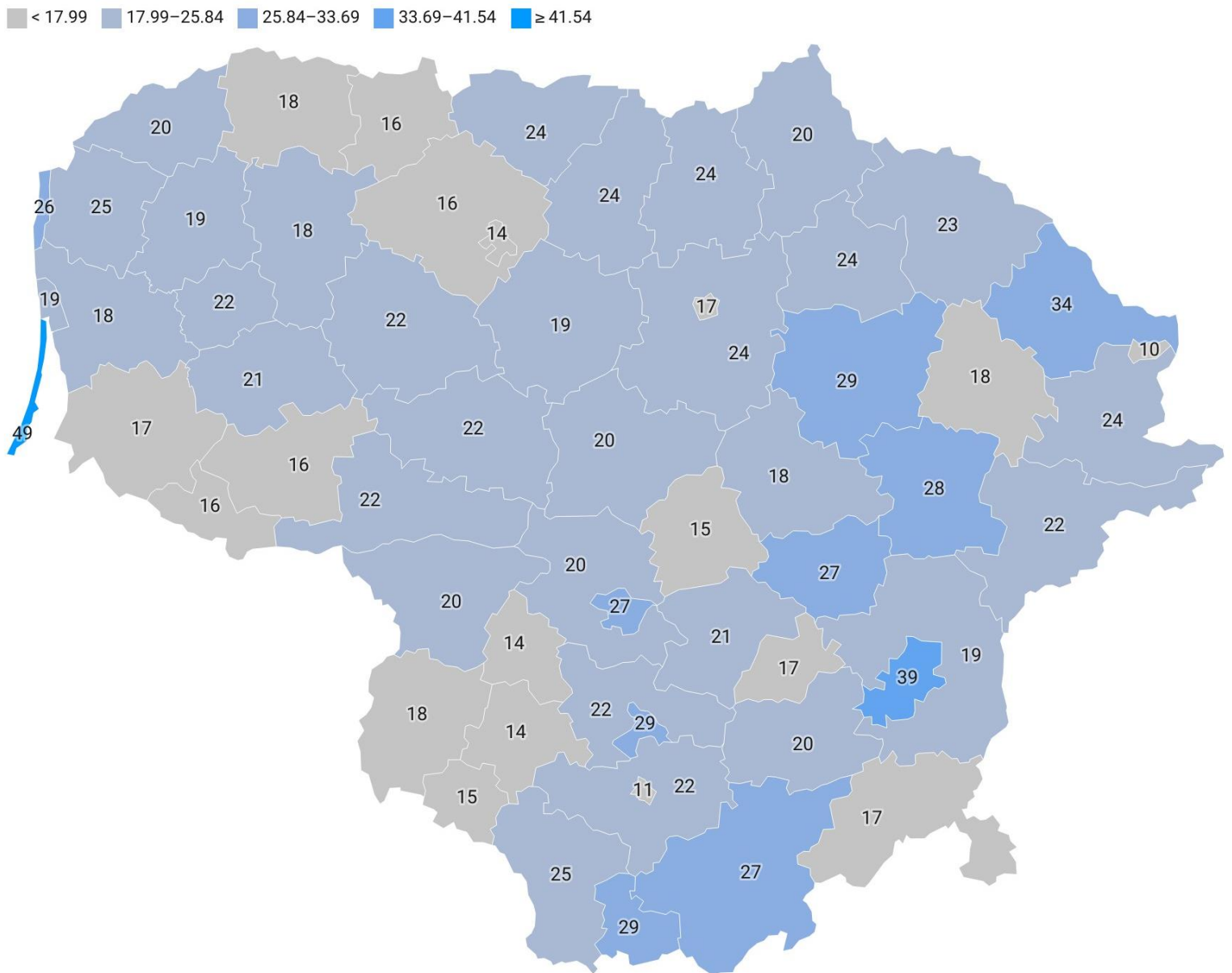

Figure 19 Municipal Culture Index Ranking, 2022 (compiled by the author)

Looking at the grouped results of the Municipal Culture Index, the map illustrates that the majority of Lithuania falls within the lower range of the Municipal Culture Index, dominated by municipalities scoring up to 26 out of a possible 100 points (depicted in grey and light blue). Notably, Lithuanian resorts stand out positively in terms of Municipal Culture Index values, including the municipalities of Neringa, Birštonas, Druskininkai, Palanga (all scoring over 25 points), and several resort areas like Zarasai and Anykščiai (scoring over 28 points). Širvintos municipality can also be highlighted, leading among all other municipalities in Vilnius county and trailing the capital by only about 12 points.

5.

CULTURE INDEX IN THE CLUSTERS OF MUNICIPALITIES
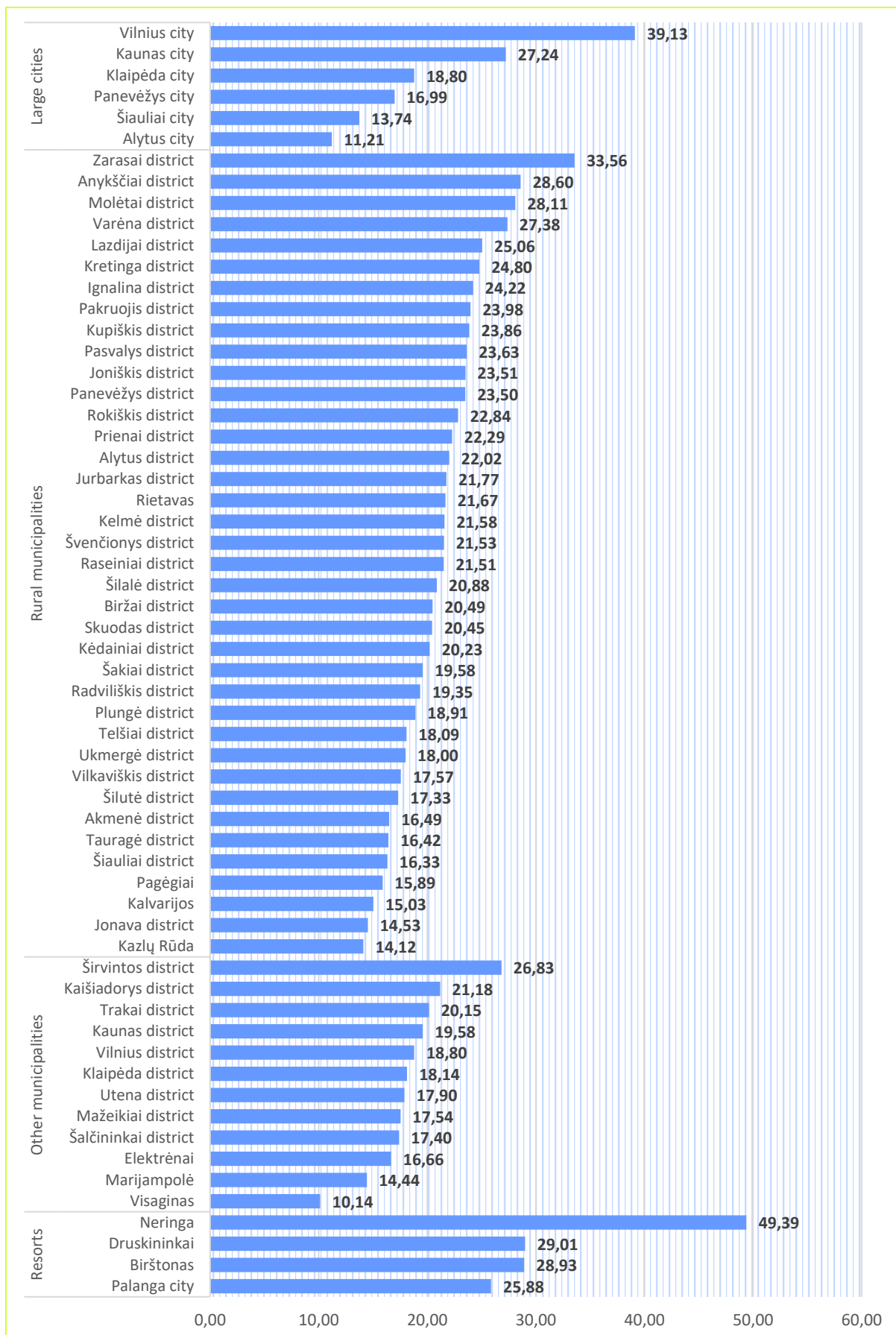
Figure 20 Culture Index of Municipalities ranking by municipal clusters, 2022 (compiled by the author)

Municipalities are further classified in the Municipal Culture Index into the following clusters: large city municipalities (6 municipalities), rural municipalities (38 municipalities), resort municipalities (4 municipalities), and other municipalities (12 municipalities). The clustering is based on the principle of minimizing differences within a cluster and maximizing differences between different clusters.

In both 2021 and 2022, the cultural situation in the clusters is dominated by resorts. Resort municipalities have, on average, the highest Municipal Culture Index value of 33.3 (35.11 in 2021), and Neringa municipality, a resort, has consistently achieved the highest Municipal Culture Index value for several years in a row (49.39 in 2022) when compared to all municipalities.

It is noteworthy that, when examining the average values of the Municipal Culture Index in the clusters, there are no significant differences between large cities and rural municipalities – the average value of the index in both clusters is 21.19 points. There are also no significant differences in the maximum and minimum values of the indexes scored in these clusters. The cluster of other municipalities has the lowest average index score (18.23) and the lowest maximum index score (26.83). However, the minimum index value is similar to those of large cities and rural municipalities. The cluster of resort municipalities stands out in terms of minimum index values, with the minimum index value for this cluster remaining above 25 points for two consecutive years.

Table 12 Culture Index values by municipal clusters, 2021–2022 (compiled by the author)

	Average		Maximum score		Minimum score	
	2022	**2021**	**2022**	**2021**	**2022**	**2021**
Large cities	**21,19**	19,99	**39,13**	37,91	**11,21**	10,91
Rural municipalities	**21,19**	20,62	**33,56**	31,54	**14,12**	11,9
Other municipalities	**18,23**	17,89	**26,83**	28,19	**10,14**	10,48
Resorts	**33,30**	35,11	**49,39**	56,91	**25,88**	25,17
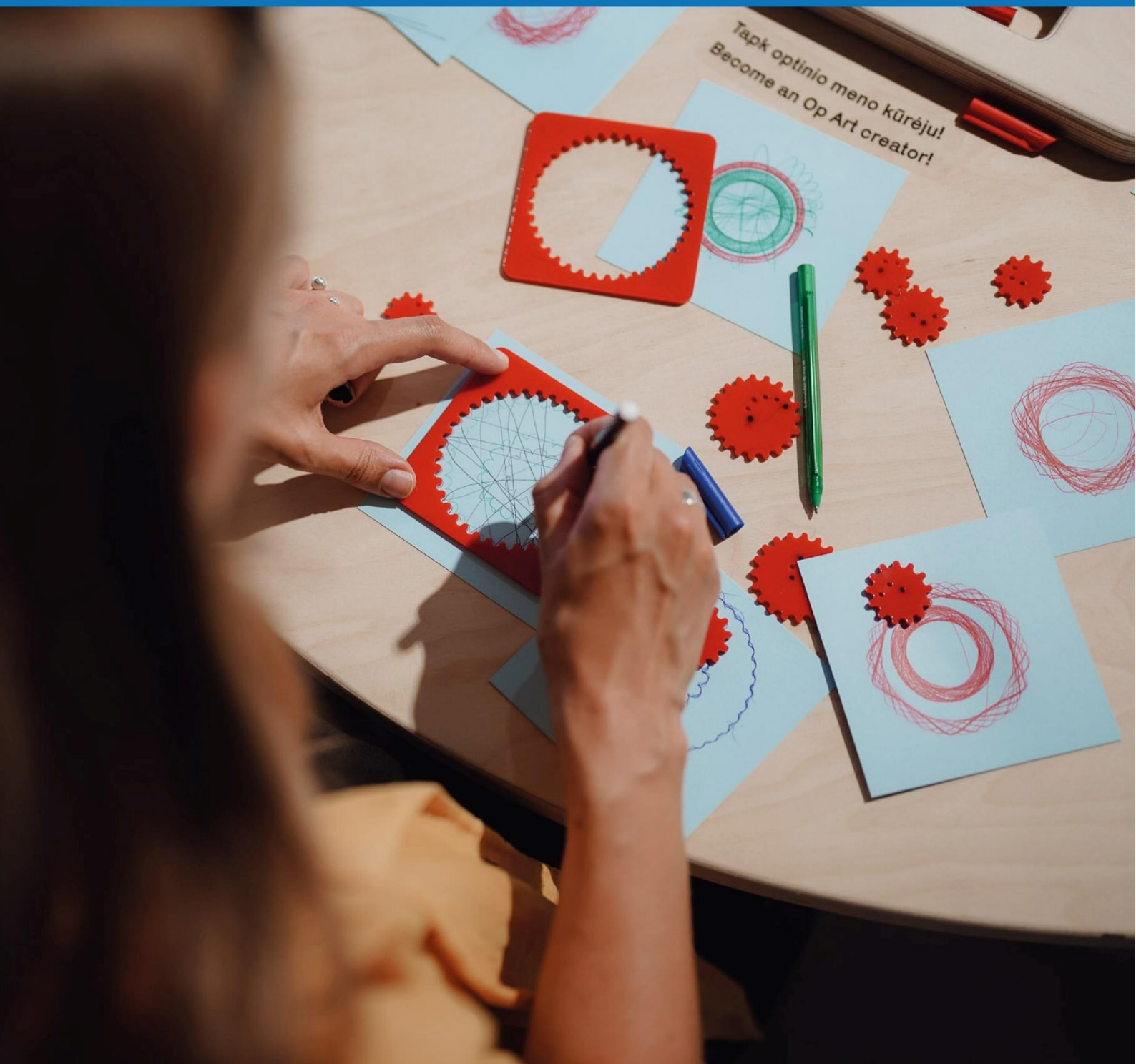
1. The Municipal Culture Index emphasizes the use of quantitative indicators, and there are several reasons for this choice. The decision to exclude qualitative assessments or expert opinions from the index is rooted in the desire for objectivity, reliability, and representativeness. The inclusion of qualitative assessments could introduce subjectivity and potential bias, as opinions may vary among different groups of experts, and opinions may change over time.

The quality of culture is indirectly reflected in the selected quantitative indicators. For example, the number of professional artists, funding decisions by the Lithuanian Council for Culture, and the activity of the NGO sector can all provide insights into the richness and diversity of the cultural scene. Additionally, indicators related to population participation in cultural activities, such as museum visits and cultural consumption, as well as satisfaction with the availability of cultural services, offer a perspective on the qualitative aspects of cultural life.

While the Municipal Culture Index is primarily composed of quantitative data, the overall index score does capture aspects of the qualitative parameters of the cultural situation. The emphasis on measurable and objective data helps ensure transparency and comparability across municipalities, contributing to the robustness of the index.

2. The average Municipal Culture Index score is 21.4 out of 100. The range of values across municipalities is quite diverse, spanning from 10.14 (Visaginas municipality) to 49.39 (Neringa municipality). This broad spectrum suggests significant variations in the cultural situations and performances of different municipalities.

Furthermore, the observation that no municipality demonstrates a strong score across all seven groups of the Municipal Culture Index emphasizes the multidimensional nature of cultural vitality. Each municipality has its strengths and weaknesses across various aspects of cultural life, such as the presence of cultural organisations, the engagement of artists, economic aspects related to culture, funding patterns, participation rates, social capital, cultural heritage, and changes over time.

3. For several consecutive years, resort municipalities have consistently performed well in the Municipal Culture Index rankings. On average, resort municipalities have the highest Municipal Culture Index value, reaching 33.3. Notably, Neringa municipality, classified as a resort municipality, has consistently secured the highest index value

overall, achieving 49.39 in 2022. This trend underscores the cultural vibrancy and performance of resort areas in comparison to other types of municipalities.

It is also noteworthy that the cluster of large cities does not surpass the results achieved by resort municipalities in the Municipal Culture Index rankings. This highlights the distinctive cultural strengths of resort areas in the overall municipal cultural landscape.

4. It's important to highlight the disparities among major cities. Only Vilnius and Kaunas municipalities scored above the average on the Municipal Culture Index. Klaipėda Municipality's Culture Index score is close to the average. However, other municipalities in major cities significantly lag behind the average municipal culture index score.

5. The Municipal Culture Index offers an objective, quantitative perspective on the cultural situation in municipalities. With 40 indicators covering 60 municipalities, there are 2,400 situations that could be further discussed and analyzed in depth. Given the extensive scope of this study, it wouldn't be feasible to address all potential issues comprehensively. However, the hope is that cultural experts in each municipality can enhance the quantitative results with contextual knowledge and qualitative insights. By bridging the expertise of local professionals with the Municipal Culture Index indicators, it becomes possible to chart future directions and objectives for cultural development in each municipality.

6. The Municipal Culture Index can be utilized to monitor the cultural situation in municipalities. The Index serves as a tool to measure the outcomes of cultural policies, investments in culture, and other interventions aimed at activating the cultural environment.

7. The long-term vision of Lithuania 'Lithuania 2050' underscores the challenge of inequality. To address the issue of inequality in the cultural sector, the Lithuanian Council for Culture has incorporated a model of sustainable cultural development that allocates a portion of the quota to districts with a weaker social climate. Given the political context and the progressive nature of this provision, it is advisable to uphold the existing principles and explore additional measures that would mitigate cultural disparities among municipalities, particularly in areas with weaker social climate. As demonstrated by the 'Lithuania 2050' Strategy, reducing inequality remains a key objective for the next 30 years. Regrettably, the Municipal Culture Index reveals a

cultural gap among municipalities, posing a hindrance to the nation's cultural development.

8. Collaboration and leveraging cultural resources from neighboring, more robust municipalities could enhance Municipal Culture Index values and improve the overall cultural situation. Visaginas, for example, might benefit from strengthening ties with municipalities in its own county, such as Zarasai, Anykščiai, or Molėtai. Vilnius district could explore better utilization of its proximity to the capital. Alytus municipality could seek more connections with the resort municipality of Druskininkai, among other possibilities. Collaborative efforts could lead to larger cultural projects targeting a broader audience and facilitate the presentation of new artistic forms.

Kultūra^τ

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