

The diploma thesis topic is the analysis of the French cultural policy model. It deals with the relation between state and culture, while asking a question if and what for is the French model exceptional. Although the history of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs dates only back to 1959, state intervention in the culture field has deep roots. In the continuation of the monarchy, the traditionally centralized state has kept an important role of patronage, protection and control. By linking together education and culture, the state devoted plenty of regulations to the latter, and favoured setting up of numerous organizations and institutions. The first public policy in the culture field was born in 1959 when the ministry entrusted to André Malraux was founded. This minister was giving direction to the French cultural policy for ten years. The 1970s were under the sign of ministerial instability. Despite a relative brevity of his term of office (1971 – 1973), Jacques Duhamel succeeded in giving the ministry a political course whose continuity was to be pursued until 1981. In 1981 Jack Lang was appointed as minister, whose ten years stay in office was marked by continuing and carrying out the policies of André Malraux and Jacques Duhamel, in spite of a noticeable change in his vocabulary and style. Since the beginning of the 1990s the ministry has been displaying its will to modernize its missions and functioning in response to the national and international background which is going through big changes. At the same time, the meaning, legibility and results of culture policies cause a lot of debate.