

ARCTIC CENTRE'S EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES

The real estate company Kiinteistö Oy Arctic Centre owns the Arktikum building in Rovaniemi. From the start the building has housed two different exhibitions. One of these is produced by the University of Lapland's Arctic Centre. The other is produced by the Provincial Museum of Lapland, which is owned and mostly financed by the City of Rovaniemi. When the Arktikum building went into operation, a company called Arktikum-palvelu Oy was established. According to its original Articles of Association the object of the company was to produce and sell services especially to exhibition producers. Arktikum-palvelu Oy has the status of a private limited company.

Each exhibition producer is responsible for its own exhibition. To the public the exhibitions form a single attraction, however. There is no documented agreement between the Arctic Centre and the Provincial Museum of Lapland concerning cooperation in arranging exhibitions. Nor does either one have a documented agreement with Arktikum-palvelu Oy concerning the purchasing of services.

The absence of agreements has left the stage free for the service company's own activities. Instead of playing the role of service supplier, from the start the company has commercially exploited the exhibitions produced by the Arctic Centre and the Provincial Museum of Lapland. The company takes care of ticket sales and rather than crediting receipts to the exhibition producers it keeps the money for itself. With this money the company finances its own activities. In addition it pays each exhibition producer an equal sum annually for its exhibition, which the company exploits commercially without a proper agreement.

The exhibition activities do not produce a profit. The University of Lapland receives funds from the state and the Provincial Museum of Lapland receives funds from the City of Rovaniemi and the state to support activities. In the

model developed by Arktikum-palvelu Oy to exploit the exhibitions produced by the Arctic Centre and the Provincial Museum of Lapland, most of the costs of producing and maintaining exhibitions are covered with public funds while ticket receipts remain in the company's possession to be used as it sees fit.

This arrangement has become permanent. In spring 2001 Arktikum-palvelu Oy amended its Articles of Association to reflect the company's established practice.

The most problematic thing in the audit involves the way in which funds are handled, with ticket receipts going to a private company with discretion over how the money should be used, rather than to the Arctic Centre and the Provincial Museum of Lapland.

The State Audit Office considers it indispensable for the financial and operational relations between the University of Lapland's Arctic Centre, the Provincial Museum of Lapland, Kiinteistö Oy Arctic Centre and actors which produce services for them or engage in business activities on the premises to be arranged in accordance with good administrative behaviour.

The statements appended to the audit report suggest that the majority of those voicing opinions are prepared to reorganize activities.