



**BULGARIAN
NATIONAL BANK**
EUROSYSTEM

APPROVED BY:

Radoslav Milenkov
for Deputy Governor
in charge of Issue Department

ISSUE DEPARTMENT
ISSUE AND CASH DIRECTORATE

**BULGARIAN NATIONAL BANK'S
CONDITIONS AND MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNS OF
'BULGARIAN ALPHABET' 2-EURO COMMEMORATIVE COIN,
ISSUE 2026**

The Bulgarian National Bank (BNB) announces as of 18.02.2026 an anonymous competition for an artistic design – one graphic and one plastic designs – for the national side of a 2-euro commemorative coin 'Bulgarian Alphabet', issue 2026. The coin will be a two-component coin consisting of a yellow inner circle and a white outer ring, analogous to the circulating coins of 2 euro.

The anonymous competition will be conducted in line with the 'BNB Internal Rules of Releasing into and Withdrawing from Circulation of Bulgarian Banknotes and Coins' (Chapter Four, Section Two).

**I. KEY PARAMETERS AND MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS
FOR CREATING AND PRESENTING DESIGNS**

Graphic Design

The participants in the competition should present one graphic design for the national side of the coin with images of relevance to the theme, featuring the following requisite elements:

- the inscription 'БЪЛГАРСКАТА АЗБУКА' in Cyrillic script;
- the name of the issuing country 'БЪЛГАРИЯ' in Cyrillic script;
- year of issue '2026',

all written only on the **inner circle** without going out on the outer ring.

The outer ring must bear only the 12 stars of the European flag, with all stars being upright (one point straight up), as required by Article 6 of Council Regulation (EU) No 729/2014 of 24 June 2014 on denominations and technical specifications of euro coins intended for circulation. The stars must be convex, flat and equally spaced, as on the 2-euro circulating coins with Bulgarian national side. There may be no inscriptions on the ring.

The design should have marked borders between the outer ring and the inner circle, observing the scale to the actual diameter of the coin. The outer ring should be marked in white and the inner circle in yellow.

If the participants have used in their design representations of a picture, an item of cultural value or an element thereof pursuant to art. 7 of the Cultural Heritage Law (CHL), they should indicate this circumstance when describing the design in the relevant declaration sample form (Appendix No 3).

Note: Where a participant uses a representation of a photo, an item of cultural value or an element thereof, he/she should possess the relevant rights for this.

The graphic design must be from 180 mm to 200 mm in diameter, observing the ratio in the actual diameter of a coin of the diameter of the inner circle and the outer ring. Presentation of accompanying miniature graphic design of the actual coin size, which will be 25.75 mm in diameter and 18.5 mm in diameter of the inner circle and of BU quality, is a must.

Graphic designs, prepared using a photo (in the form of collage), are not eligible for the competition. Only designs drawn up graphically, using black outlines and dotted lines for marking shades and half-tones, shall qualify.

Plastic Design

The participants in the competition must present one plastic design for the national side of the coin fully corresponding with the graphic design. The technical requirements for the plastic design include:

- diameter – from 180 mm to 200 mm (however fully corresponding with the diameter of the respective graphic design);
- maximum height of the plastic elements – 3 mm;
- minimum height of the plastic elements in the background of the coin – 0.8 mm;
- height of the letters in the text – 1.8 mm.

II. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Each of the two designs (graphic and plastic) must be glued separately to a plate measuring up to 30 x 45 cm and placed together in a solid, non-transparent packaging or wrapped in thick paper, without any markings, symbols or explanatory notes. The packaging should be sufficiently solid to ensure the integrity of the designs and keep them intact during storage/moving/transportation. Designs, which have not been packed as specified above, will not be admitted to the competition.

The participants must complement their submissions with declarations as per sample form (Appendices Nos 1 to 4), including, where necessary, a protocol as per sample form (Appendix No 5), sealed in a white, non-transparent envelope (without any symbols, barcodes and/or other markings), **which should not be placed in the same package with the designs**. For team submissions the declarations must be filled in separately by each team member. Where a declaration is filled in and signed by more than one participant, the deposited design will not be considered. If the participants have used image(s) or element(s) of item(s) of cultural value in their designs, they should also enclose in their envelopes, using sample form (Appendix No 3), **a description of the incorporated elements, their origin, location and rationale** for including them in their compositions, and individualisation of the item(s) of cultural value pursuant to art. 7 of CHL. The envelope must also enclose a separate sheet of paper specifying the **name** and full set of letters and numbers of the font used in creating the graphic and plastic designs. All sample forms (Appendices Nos 1 to 5) completed and submitted by participants should be in an original, not in a photocopy (colour or black-and-white).

Note: Where in creating their graphic and plastic designs participants use graphic symbols and/or print fonts that have a valid industrial design registration or fall within the scope of protection under art. 18 of IDL, they should have the relevant rights for this and should indicate this circumstance when describing the design in the related declaration form (Appendix No 3).

The use of artificial intelligence tools in creating the projects, including any element of projects, must be declared (Appendix No 2), specifying in detail what artificial intelligence tool(s) has/have been used, in the design of which project (project element) artificial intelligence has/have been used and for what purpose(s).

The use or reproduction of copyright-protected works (photos including) is not allowed.

The use of photos or other materials from the Internet, without any information about the author being available, is not allowed.

The use of graphic symbols and/or print fonts of which another person has a valid industrial design registration or which fall within the scope of protection under art. 18 of the Industrial Design Law, without the author having appropriate permission for this, is not allowed.

The designs, deposited for participation in the competition, will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. degree of conformity with the technical requirements for the designs set out in the conditions of the competition and composition of the required design elements;
2. proper construction of the overall composition and relevance to the assigned theme;
3. technological feasibility of the design as a coin;
4. artistic merits of the design and how it fits into the Bulgarian coin minting traditions;
5. existence of maximum detailed description of the incorporated elements, their origin and rationale for their inclusion in the composition, and correctly and **exhaustively completed** documents for participation in the competition.

For team submissions, a protocol as per sample form (Appendix No 5) specifying the distribution of the remuneration among the team members, if their design is selected, must be enclosed with the documents. A distribution protocol will only be accepted by the BNB if it is signed by all team members and if it specifies the coin to which the design applies. If the set of documents fails to include or if the distribution protocol included is not exhaustively completed, the design will not be selected in the competition.

The selected designs will be remunerated for the creation of the graphic and plastic designs for the sides of the coin, respectively, as follows:

- Ist place – EUR 2300.81 (BGN 4500),
- IInd place – EUR 1150.41 (BGN 2250),
- IIIrd place – EUR 792.50 (BGN 1550).

The remunerations will be paid one-off, regardless of the volume of the coin issue.

Where a selected design, chosen for the coin issue, needs some modifications due to technical or composition inaccuracies and omissions, or if the BNB requests that a new feature, other than the mandatory elements, be added or an existing element in the composition of the selected design be re-worked/removed, including when the nominal value needs to be changed, the author or the team of authors will be paid 70% (seventy per cent) of the envisaged remuneration (via bank only) after entering into a relevant contract as per the sample form (Appendix No 6), and the remaining 30% (thirty per cent) – after submission to and approval by the BNB of the modified graphic and/or plastic designs, respectively, according to the BNB requirements and under the contract concluded between the parties

(Appendix No 6). The BNB shall not owe additional remuneration in the event the selected artistic design needs to be modified.

The author(s) of a selected design, chosen for the coin issue, should provide the original vector files of the graphic design (saved in pdf format and converted to curves) after concluding a corresponding contract according to the sample form, Appendix No 6, hereto attached.

Where the designs admitted to the competition have no artistic merits or if it is found out that copyright-protected works (photo(s) including), or image(s) of cultural value or elements thereof have been improperly used in violation of CHL and its implementing acts, the BNB will select none of the designs.

The Bulgarian National Bank shall not be obliged to rank a design to each of the three announced 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place and assign the envisaged remunerations, respectively.

The Bulgarian National Bank shall not be obliged to produce a collector coin using any of the selected designs in the competition or produce the commemorative coin using a higher ranking design in the competition.

The BNB Governing Council determines with a decision which of the selected designs will be used for the coin issue.

The Bulgarian National Bank will pay the remunerations to the authors of the top three ranked designs after their final ranking by the BNB Governing Council and upon signing a relevant contract as per the sample form, Appendix No 6 hereto. Upon payment of the remuneration, the BNB will withhold the payable tax and insurance as per the Personal Income Tax Law, the Social Security Code and the Health Insurance Law. The BNB will pay the remuneration via bank after the author(s) has (have) submitted a completed declaration on their security status and has (have) enclosed a remuneration distribution protocol as per sample form (Appendix No 5) for team submission.

Note: The conditions and requirements for participation in the anonymous competition, announced by the BNB for an artistic design of 2-euro commemorative coin, issue 2026, include clauses of a works contract regulated by the Law on Obligations and Contracts. The works contract, viewed within the context of copyright, is also regulated by art. 42 of the Copyright and Related Rights Law (CRRL). The remuneration for producing (creating) a piece of work, which is object of legal protection under CRRL, is an occupation and therefore implies an income from gainful activity which is subject to security deductions. The remunerations that the BNB pays for custom works, which are object of legal protection under CRRL, do not constitute remunerations for copyrights (there is no authorisation to use a piece of work).

By paying the remuneration to the author(s), the BNB will acquire any and all rights over the selected designs, including economic and moral rights, except for the unalienable rights as per art. 42, par. 1 of CRRL, as well as the right to use them without any restriction and as it may see fit, in compliance with the provisions of this law, of which the authors of the selected designs give their consent by signing a declaration as per sample form (Appendix No 1). By paying the remuneration to the author(s), the BNB also acquires the right of industrial design over the fonts used in the design pursuant to art. 17 of the Industrial Design Law (IDL).

The author(s) of a selected design will be obliged to submit to the BNB all designs, schemes and drawings, and other related materials, in any way connected with the selected design, either produced or received by them.

It is considered that by submitting and depositing their artistic design with the BNB, the author(s) agree to participate in, as well as with the conditions of, the anonymous competition.

The Bulgarian National Bank indicates in its periodicals, publications, and catalogues the names of the authors whose artistic design it has used for a coin issue. The BNB shall not be held responsible for potential misuse of authorship or infringement of intellectual economic right, a related right or any other right under the Copyright and Related Rights Law by the participants with regard to their designs in the competition, of which the authors of selected designs give their consent by signing a declaration as per sample form (Appendix No 2).

Submissions will be accepted on 2 April 2026 from 8:30h to 15:45h at the Bulgarian National Bank, 1, Knyaz Alexander I Sq., Sofia (Tel.: 029145-1505, 029145-1502 and 029145-1646 – for enquiries about acceptance of submissions and additional information on the competition).

Note: Submissions sent by post or courier shall not be admitted.

In case of a single submission, the competition will not be conducted and the accepted design will be returned to the author as received (without unpacking it) and against presenting the slip with the entry number for participation in the competition within 45 (forty-five) business days of the date of publishing the information on the BNB website and **only after a prior arrangement** on phones 029145-1502, 029145-1505, and 029145-1646. A submission unsought within the time limit will not be returned and will instead be destroyed by the BNB under the relevant procedure.

The BNB will store the designs not selected in the competition and will return them upon request to their authors within 45 business days from the date of announcement of the ranking in the competition on the BNB's website **only after prior arrangement** to this effect

on phones 029145-1502, 029145-1505 and 029145-1646. For the purpose of determining which deposited design belongs to which author, the author(s) should mandatorily present the slip with the number drawn for participation in the competition. Otherwise, the **designs will not be returned**.

Designs not sought within this term will not be returned; they will be destroyed by the BNB according to an established procedure.

The Bulgarian National Bank shall not be held liable for the integrity of the designs deposited for participation in the competition or for any possible damages to them due to: hidden defects in the packaging, poor gluing and/or poor workmanship of the plastic designs, noncompliance with the technological time for drying of the designs.

The results of the anonymous competition will be published on the BNB website within 3 (three) business days from the date of conclusion of all contracts with the authors selected in the competition.

The Bulgarian National Bank will notify in writing by email the authors of the designs, ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the competition, about the ranking of their designs and about the remuneration they are to receive via bank, and of the time frame within which they should sign with the BNB the relevant contracts as per the sample form (Appendix No 6).

Note: Where an author(s) of a selected design refuse(s) to enter into a contract as per the sample form (Appendix No 6), the remuneration envisaged will not be paid and the design will be returned to the author(s).

III. INFORMATION UNDER ART. 13 OF REGULATION (EU) 2016/679 OF 27 APRIL 2016 ON THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL PERSONS WITH REGARD TO THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA AND ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF SUCH DATA, AND REPEALING DIRECTIVE 95/46/EC (GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION)

The Bulgarian National Bank (BNB) is a data controller under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (hereinafter referred to as 'the Regulation') and under the Law on Personal Data Protection (LPDP). In its capacity as a data controller, the BNB processes personal data for purposes and on grounds compliant with the requirements of the Regulation and LPDP.

The general provisions and principles according to which the BNB processes personal data are set out in the [Personal Data Processing Policy of the Bulgarian National Bank](#), which is publicly available on the bank's website, section 'About the BNB', subsection 'Personal Data Protection'.

The data controller's contact details in relation to processing of personal data are: Bulgarian National Bank, 1, 'Knyaz Alexander I' Sq., Sofia.

The personal data of the participants in this competition are processed with a view to conducting the anonymous competition announced by the BNB for artistic designs of a 2-euro commemorative coin 'BULGARIAN ALPHABET', issue 2026, including for the purposes of entering into a contract with the BNB (Appendix No 6), where this is applicable, as well as with a view to announcing publicly by the BNB of information of the participation in this competition, containing personal data (first name and surname) of the participants.

Access to personal data of the participants in the anonymous competitions is granted under a specific procedure to BNB officers duly authorised to do so in performing their official duties.

The Bulgarian National Bank does not provide the personal data of participants in anonymous competitions to third parties, except in specific cases provided for by a law.

Personal data provided in participants' declarations for participation in the anonymous competitions, as well as all documents related to conducting them, including entering into, performance and reporting of the contract (Appendix No 6), containing personal data, must be kept in accordance with the terms laid down in the existing Bulgarian legislation or in any internal documents of the BNB.

Every natural person has the right to demand: access to and rectification or erasure of personal data, and restrictions on their processing, in compliance with the requirements under Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation, and the right to data portability where the personal data are provided in a structured, commonly used, machine-readable and interoperable format and are processed automatically.

In connection with the exercise of the above rights, requests can be addressed to the BNB, specifically to the personal data protection officer whose contact details are given below.

Within 1 (one) month from receipt of a request, the BNB will inform the participants about the actions that have been taken to respond to the request. If necessary, this period may be extended by another two months. If no action is taken on the request, the BNB will inform the participant in writing.

Requests related to the exercise of these rights can be sent to e-mail address: personaldata@bnbank.org or by mail, or can be submitted in person at the BNB headquarters, at 1, 'Knyaz Alexander I' Sq., Sofia.

In connection with the personal data processing, any natural person (data subject) can contact the BNB through the personal data protection officer, Mr. Alexander Tonev, at e-

mail: personaldata@bnb.org, or in writing via the BNB's Records-keeping Division at postal address: Bulgarian National Bank, 1, 'Knyaz Alexander I' Sq., Sofia 1000.