

**Statute
for National Participation
of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Venice Biennale of Art**

Introduction

The Venice Biennale (*La Biennale di Venezia*) was founded in 1895 and is one of the most prestigious cultural organizations with a leading role in the presentation, research and promotion of current trends in contemporary art.

The Venice Biennale organises international exhibitions and research in the following fields: art, architecture, cinema, dance and theatre.

**Section I
General provisions**

Art 1. This Statute regulates the national participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Venice Biennale of Art and is in accordance with the Procedure for National Participations adopted by the Venice Biennale, hereinafter referred to as “the Biennale”.

Art 2. The participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Biennale shall be approved by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Art 3. With the participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Biennale of Art, the Ministry of Culture aims to build a current image of Bulgaria in the field of contemporary visual art in dialogue with current world trends.

Art 4. The financing of the national participation in the Venice Biennale shall be provided by the state budget, donations and other sources.

**Section II
Rules for participation**

Art 5. (1) The decision referred to in Article 2 shall:

1. appoint the Ministry of Culture as the coordinator of the national participation, which determines the composition of the jury, announces and conducts the curatorial project competition and announces the results;

2. designate a state cultural institute to undertake the overall organisation of national participation;

3. delegate powers to the Minister of Culture to appoint a commissioner (commission agent) for the national participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Venice Biennale of Art, for which a contract of execution shall be concluded.

(2) The Commissioner referred to in paragraph 1, item 3 shall be a natural person and shall be appointed for each individual edition of the Biennale by order of the Minister of Culture.

(3) The Commissioner:

1. operationally manage the organizational process, preparation and implementation of the national participation;

2. is responsible for the Bulgarian exposition, in accordance with the requirements of the Biennale organizers and its exposition standards;

3. monitors and is responsible for the transparency of the procedures assigned to it to organise, related to the Bulgarian participation;

4. supervise the implementation of the project and, if necessary, coordinate the project with the organisers of the Biennale and submit it to the relevant local government representatives to obtain the necessary permits;

5. arrange for the timely submission of all materials and information required for the press release on the Bulgarian participation to the Biennale Press Office and the Visual Arts Department for approval;

6. organise publicity, be responsible for archiving the project and manage the process of raising additional funds if necessary.

7. participate in the jury of the national curatorial project competition with an advisory vote.

(4) The organizer of the national participation referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, item 2 shall have the right to appoint an advisory board, which may include representatives of the Ministry of Culture, creative unions, cultural institutes, non-profit legal entities in the field of contemporary art, artists, as well as representatives of organizations interested in supporting the realization of the national participation. The Advisory Board shall consist of an odd number of members and shall be convened by the Commissioner according to a pre-arranged agenda.

(5) The Advisory Board shall provide expert assistance in the conduct of the competition for the selection of a curatorial project and shall assist the Commissioner in the performance of his duties.

Art 6. The Ministry of Culture organizes and conducts a competition for a curatorial project in accordance with the conditions specified for the respective edition of the Biennale.

Art 7. (1) The competition for a curatorial project shall be announced by publishing an open call on the website of the Ministry of Culture.

(2) The invitation must state:

1. the terms and conditions of application;

2. the maximum amount of funding for the curatorial project;

3. the composition of the jury;

4. the criteria for evaluating projects;

5. plan/sketch, square footage and location of the exhibition space;

6. additional information and other requirements for the implementation of the curatorial project

(3) All conditions for participation in the competition shall be clearly and precisely described, ensuring full equality of treatment between candidates.

(4) The requirements set out in the open call are mandatory.

Art 8. (1) Bulgarian and foreign natural and/or legal persons, alone or in a team, may participate in the competition for a curatorial project.

(2) Each participant is required to:

1. have experience as a curator in the organization and realization of national and/or international art projects and exhibitions, confirmed by his/her professional CV.

2. to be fluent in English for the communication and promotional activities of the national participation.

Art 9. (1) Only one project may be submitted to the competition under the conditions set out in the open call referred to in Art. 7.

(2) The project shall be submitted in Bulgarian and English in two copies on paper and electronically (with formats such as pdf, doc, excel, jpg, mp3, mp4) and shall contain:

1. three names of the author(s) of the project, address, contact telephone number and e-mail;

2. an application for participation in accordance with Annex 1;

3. creative biography(s) of the curator and the author(s), which contains information about the experience in the organization and realization of national and/or international art projects and exhibitions and a list of creative projects, works and other author's works. A visual part presenting the artist's projects, works and publications in the form of a professional portfolio shall be attached to the artist's biography.

4. a concept for the project's participation in the competition, related to current trends in the field of contemporary visual art, of up to 5,000 characters, containing:

(a) name of the project;

b) a list of participating artists and the motivation for their selection in the context of the project;

(c) a list of the works, if already created, or a description of the expectations of the works and the motivation for their selection;

d) the relationship of the project to the exhibition space;

5. visual material - an exemplary exhibition plan and technical information for its realization and exposure, giving a more complete idea of the concept in the context of the already selected space (in a maximum of 5 A4 pages).

6 implementation plan-schedule for the project stages;

7. a detailed indicative budget by activity and the funds required for the implementation of the project within the amount indicated in the open call under Article 7;

8. an indicative plan for the promotion of the project and its implementation activities;

9. a declaration of copyright and consent to participate in the project by the authors, as well as to publish the project after the official announcement of the results of the competition, in accordance with the form in Annex 2.

10. additional applications may be audiovisual materials of up to 3 minutes in mp3 and mp4 format.

(3) Within 5 working days after the closing date for the submission of projects, a committee shall be appointed to evaluate the projects. The committee shall consist of employees of the Ministry of Culture.

(4) The Commission shall examine the drafts received and shall verify the content requirements under paragraph 2, items 1 to 10.

(5) In the event that a project does not contain a plan-schedule as referred to in paragraph 2, item 6 and a copyright declaration as referred to in paragraph 2, item 9, the applicant shall be informed by e-mail to rectify the deficiencies and shall be given a deadline. If the deficiencies are not remedied within the specified time limit, the project shall not be admitted to evaluation.

(6) In case the project does not contain the requisites referred to in paragraph 2, items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, or the budget referred to in item 7 does not meet the requirements in the invitation referred to in Article 7, paragraph 2, the project shall not be admitted to evaluation.

(7) The minutes of the meeting of the Eligibility Committee containing information on the projects admitted and not admitted to the evaluation shall be submitted to the jury at its first meeting.

(8) A list of the projects admitted and not admitted for evaluation and the reasons for their non-admission shall be published on the website of the Ministry of Culture. The decision of the Commission shall be final and not subject to review.

Art 10. (1) The projects referred to in Article 9, paragraph 2 shall be examined by a jury appointed by order of the Minister of Culture, composed of 6 experts with professional experience in the field of contemporary visual art, one representative of the Ministry of Culture and the Commissioner, who shall have an advisory vote. A chairman shall be appointed from the jury. International experts may also participate in the jury. The jury shall also include reserve members. The alternate members shall take part in the jury meetings in the absence of a regular member of the jury for valid reasons or when persons connected with the curators of the participating projects are present.

(2) For the composition of the jury, the Ministry of Culture may recruit/receive proposals from leading cultural organizations, institutes, creative unions and non-profit legal entities working in the field of visual arts. Proposals must be accompanied by the biographies of the candidates for the jury.

(3) The director of the specialised directorate or the relevant deputy minister shall submit to the Minister of Culture the proposals for members of the jury by means of a report.

(4) The composition of the jury shall be appointed for each national participation by an order of the Minister of Culture, which shall also designate its president.

(5) The composition of the jury, including certain alternates, shall be announced by publication of the open call.

Art 11. (1) The members of the jury shall sign a declaration in accordance with Annex No. 3 to this Statute for related parties with the curators of the projects - participants in the competition.

(2) The members of the jury shall sign a declaration in accordance with Annex 4 to this Statute for consent to the publication of the minutes of the meeting on the website of the Ministry of Culture.

(2) In the event of a finding of non-compliance with the requirement of subsection (1), the juror concerned shall be replaced by an alternate juror specified in the order under subsection (1) of section 10.

Art 12. (1) The meetings of the jury shall be convened and chaired by its chairman and shall be held online or in person at the Ministry of Culture and shall be organised by the relevant specialised directorate.

(2) At least 5 working days before the date of the first jury meeting, the specialised directorate shall provide the jury members with remote access to the scanned projects via Google Drive for consultation.

(3) The jury shall sit in full.

(4) The members of the jury shall sign the minutes with a Qualified digital signature, and in case of impossibility - on the spot in the building of the Ministry of Culture.

Art 13. (1) The evaluation procedure of a curatorial project shall be carried out in two stages:

1. First stage: each member of the jury shall rank the projects with a score from 0 to 10 according to the score card in Annex 5 and submit the result to the jury president within the time limit specified by him according to the following criteria:

1.1. evaluation of the applicant's professional experience;

1.2. evaluation of the project topic and concept;

1.3. evaluation of the artistic potential of the project;

1.4. evaluation of the project in the context of spatial opportunities;

- 1.5. evaluation of the indicative project promotion plan and its implementation activities;
- 1.6. budget evaluation.

2. Second stage:

- 2.1 the first 5 projects with the highest score after the ranking are admitted to the second stage. At this stage, a discussion of each of the projects shall be held and minutes kept.
- 2.2 The Chair invites the curators of the shortlisted projects to present them to the jury 3 days before the meeting.
- 2.3 The presentation by the curator takes place live or online within 25 minutes, of which 15 minutes are devoted to questions from the jury.
- 2.4 The members of the jury must summarise their statements on each of the submitted projects to be included in the minutes.
- 2.5 After the presentation and discussion under item 2.3 and item 2.1, each member of the jury shall rank the three projects, ranking them first, second and third, by completing a evaluation card as per Annex 6.
- 2.6 A project ranked in the evaluation card under item 2.5 receives:
 - 1st place - 3 points;
 - 2nd place - 2 points;
 - 3rd place - 1 point.

2.7 Not allowed:

- 2.7.1. ranking of only one project;
- 2.7.2. ranking by entering two projects for one position.

(2) In the cases referred to in clause 2.7, as well as in the case of the submission of a evaluation card which does not indicate the ranked projects, the evaluation card shall be considered invalid and shall not be included in the sum of the results.

(3) The results of the evaluation cards shall be recorded in a report. All summarised statements with reasons of the jury members shall be entered in the minutes.

(10) In case of equal number of points of two or more projects, they shall participate in a ballot, for this purpose again a evaluation card according to Annex No. 6 shall be filled in by each member of the jury. The procedure shall be repeated until a nomination is selected.

(11) The protocol with the results of the selection shall be signed by all members of the jury with a Qualified digital signature or on the spot at the Ministry of Culture.

(12) The protocol with the results of the ranking, together with the accompanying cards under Article 13, shall be submitted by the director of the relevant specialized directorate in the MC to the Minister of Culture for approval.

Art 14. (1) The results of the competition shall be announced within 3 days after the approval of the minutes at an official press conference. Within the same period, the minutes of the jury meeting and a link to all the projects that applied in the competition shall be published on the website of the Ministry of Culture.

(2) Each applicant shall have the right to examine the evaluation of the project submitted by him/her

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. For the purposes of this statute:

1. A “curatorial project” is a conceptual authorial presentation of an author, group of authors or a theme, as a result of an analysis of an exploration with formal and visual means of the exposed material through visualization and its activation in a specific space - a project proposal.

Annex No 1 to Article 9 paragraph 2 item 2: application form.

Annex No 2 to Article 9, paragraph 2, item 9: Declaration of copyright, consent to participation and publication of the project by all its participants;

Annex No 3 to Article 11 paragraph 1: Declaration of related parties;

Annex No 4 to Article 11, paragraph 2: Declaration of consent to the publication of the minutes of the meeting on the website of the Ministry of Culture;

Annex No 5 to Article 13 paragraph 1 item 1: Evaluation card - first stage;

Annex No 6 to Article 13, paragraph 1, item 2.5: Evaluation card - second stage.

APPLICATION

for participation in a competition for a curatorial project for national participation in the Venice Biennale of Art

I. I. For natural persons:

From - curator, address:
....., tel., e-mail:

and - authors

II. For legal entities:

by UIC/BULSTAT.....- curator, registered office/address:
....., tel., e-mail:

and - authors

I attach to the application in Bulgarian and English in 2 copies on paper and electronic media:

1. creative biographies of the curator and the author(s);
2. a concept under Article 9 para. 2 item 4 with annexes “a” to “d”;
3. visual material;
- 4 implementation plan-schedule for the project stages;
5. a detailed indicative budget;
6. an indicative plan for the promotion of the project and its implementation activities;
7. a declaration by the curator and authors in accordance with Annex 2;
8. additional audiovisual material - *if available*

Signature:

Names of the curator:

Date:

DECLARATION

of copyright, consent to participation in the project and to publish the project after the official announcement of the results of the competition

The undersigned:

.....

(first name, middle name, surname)

permanent address

....., citizenship

Identity document No....., issued on by the Ministry of

Interior -, in my capacity as participant in the competition for the

nomination of the national participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Venice Biennale of

Art, Italy:

I declare that:

1. I am the author of the work(s) to be entered in the competition;
2. I give my consent for my artwork to be included in the application project, to participate in the competition procedure and for the project to be published after the official announcement of the competition results.

I undertake to notify you immediately of any change to the data provided.

Signature:

Date:

DECLARATION
of related parties

The undersigned:

.....
(first name, middle name, last name)

permanent address

....., citizenship

Identity document No....., issued on by the Ministry of

Interior -, in my capacity as a member of a jury appointed by Order

of the Minister of Culture No.,

I declare that:

1. I am not a related party according to Article 11 of the Statute for the National Participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Venice Biennale of Art, approved by Order No. of the Minister of Culture, as:

(a) spouse, relative by direct descent - without limitation, by consanguinity - up to and including the fourth degree, and relative by affinity - up to and including the third degree; person living in de facto conjugal cohabitation;

(b) employer or employee;

(c) a person who exercises control over another person/curator participating in the competition.

2. I undertake to notify you immediately of any change to the exported data, as well as of the occurrence of new connectivity.

Signature:

Date:

DECLARATION

of consent to publication of the minutes of the meeting on the website of the Ministry of Culture;

The undersigned:

.....

(first name, middle name, last name)

permanent address

....., citizenship

Identity document No....., issued on by the Ministry of

Interior -, in my capacity as a member of a jury appointed by Order

of the Minister of Culture No.,

I declare that I give my consent for the minutes of the jury meeting to be published on the website of the Ministry of Culture;

Signature:

Date:

Annex No 5 to Article 13, paragraph 1, item 1:

<p align="center">EVALUATION CARD - FIRST STAGE FROM THE PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION OF THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION OF THE VENICE BIENNALE OF ART, ITALY</p>	<p align="center">Number of points</p>	<p align="center">Evaluati on grade</p>
<p>1. Evaluation of the applicant's professional experience <i>Realised author exhibitions and/or publications, their places of realisation; the number and authority of the participants; the reaction of the professional community, critics and media; participation in the cultural life of the country, working with Bulgarian artists and themes (in and outside the country); Competence to implement and manage the project in the actual conditions and time of the Biennale (7 months); understanding of the legal framework in Bulgaria and the rules of the Venice Biennale.</i></p>	<p align="center">from 1 to 10</p>	
<p>2. Evaluation of the project topic and concept <i>Understanding of the objectives and priorities of the national participation in the Venice Biennale (under Article 3 of the Statute) - international representation of the Bulgarian scene and contemporary art; awareness of the strategies of the Venice Biennale; clarity of project formulation and objectives; professional language; openness to a large international audience; the relevance of the issues and the artistic means in the context of Bulgarian, European and world society; linking individual activities and the implementation approach to the objectives and expected results; realistic for the implementation of the project plan-schedule.</i></p>	<p align="center">from 1 to 10</p>	
<p>3. Evaluation of the artistic potential of the project <i>The logic of the exhibition narrative/narrative; whether it is the result of analysis and/or research; the relationship between the works, other artifacts and the concept; Coherence; originality of the cultural product; integration of additional elements in the exposition; increasing the visibility and sustainability of the Bulgarian art scene in the international context</i></p>	<p align="center">from 1 to 10</p>	
<p>4. Evaluation of the project in the context of spatial opportunities <i>consideration of space; logic of exposure; Compliance of installation needs with the conditions of the immovable cultural property.</i></p>		
<p>5. Evaluation of the indicative project promotion plan and implementation activities <i>Awareness of the communication potential of the Venice Biennale;</i></p>	<p align="center">from 1 to 10</p>	

<i>realism of planned activities and communication at all stages of its implementation;</i> <i>approach to engaging professional and general audiences in Bulgaria;</i> <i>approach to engaging professional and general audiences abroad;</i> <i>evaluation of title, slogans, motto, quotes, if available.</i>		
6. Budget estimation <i>Understanding the budget framework;</i> <i>justification and realism of planned expenditure;</i> <i>Feasibility and compliance with the budget (implementation, communication and additional activities) including for the entire exhibition period;</i> <i>the potential for securing funding from other sources (if necessary).</i>	from 1 to 10	
TOTAL:		

Full name:

Signature:

Date:

Annex No 6 to Article 13, paragraph 1, item 2.5:

EVALUATION CARD - SECOND STAGE

**VOTE TO SELECT THE BULGARIAN PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL
PARTICIPATION IN THE VENICE ART BIENNALE, ITALY**

RANKING	PROJECT TITLE	POINTS
1.		3
2.		2
3.		1

Full name:

Signature:

Date: