

Phase 1

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
DESIGN CONTEST  
FOR THE FUTURE EURO BANKNOTES**

Design contest with prizes or payments to participants

**Tender ID: PRO-007891**



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

## **Important information for the use of the ECB's portal for the Design Contest**

This is an electronic tender procedure. Tenderers must submit their submissions electronically via the [ECB's design contest portal](https://a-talent.ecb.europa.eu/eurodesign) (link: <https://a-talent.ecb.europa.eu/eurodesign>):

### **> Technical support**

If you need any help when using the system, please contact the ECB technical support team at [dc@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:dc@ecb.europa.eu). Requests are handled on average within 1-3 working days.

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## I. Introduction

As announced in the contest notice of 15 July 2025 (ref. no. 461742-2025), through this Call for Applications (“CfA”), the European Central Bank (ECB) is seeking suitable applicants (Applicants) to participate in the design contest for the future euro banknotes series. Applicants may apply for one or both of the two themes proposed for the future euro banknotes series:

- Theme 1: “European culture” and associated stories and motifs
- Theme 2: “Rivers and birds” and associated stories and motifs

The design contest is organised in two phases, as further described in Section 2.1, and concludes with two lists of up to five winning design proposals (one list per theme).

The ECB will pay fixed amounts to all designers selected to participate in phase 2 (up to 20 designers per theme and up to 40 designers in total, for the two themes) who submit complete design proposals in phase 2. Each design proposal must comprise a series of six banknotes denominations per theme.

An additional amount per design will be paid to the designers of all winning design proposals (up to five per theme).

Afterwards, and outside of this design contest, the ECB will select one design from the lists of winning design proposals. After one design has been selected for the future euro banknotes series, the ECB will transform the selected design into the future banknotes, including all security elements.

## 1. Background

### 1.1 Information on the ECB

Established by the Treaty on European Union (EU), the ECB is one of the EU institutions and forms part of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB). In accordance with the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the ECB is entrusted with the primary objective of maintaining price stability. In carrying out its tasks, and independently from any instruction or influence by any external body, the ECB therefore defines and implements the monetary policy of the Union. By virtue of Council Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013, and in co-operation with the national competent authorities, the ECB was also tasked to form a Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) and has been entrusted with specific tasks concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions. The ECB has its seat in Frankfurt am Main, Germany and has representation offices in Brussels, Washington and London. The ECB enjoys privileges and immunities to ensure its independence and proper functioning. This means that the ECB is partially exempted from national German laws, e.g. German tax law and national employment and social welfare law.

### 1.2 Information on the future euro banknotes

Euro banknotes are a tangible, visible symbol of European unity and it is the ECB’s responsibility to keep them up to date. Two decades after the introduction of the first series of euro banknotes, the ECB is now in the process of developing the next series of euro banknotes, including their design. The ECB aims to develop future euro banknotes that European citizens can identify with and that are as sustainable and environmentally friendly as possible.

On 29 November 2023, the ECB's Governing Council<sup>1</sup> decided on two themes for the design of the future euro banknotes. The selected themes are "European culture" and "Rivers and birds" – and associated stories and motifs.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Design contest procedure; price

### 2.1 Information on the design contest

The design contest for the future euro banknotes is organised in two phases. The two phases cover both themes. Applicants may apply for one theme or both themes.

In phase 1, the ECB is seeking suitable Applicants that will, if selected, be invited to participate in the design phase (phase 2) of the design contest. In the first phase, the ECB will verify the eligibility of the Applicants and a selection team will then evaluate the applications against the selection criteria.

Per theme, the ECB envisages inviting up to 20 Applicants to participate in phase 2, provided that:

- they are eligible and with the highest overall scores for the selection criteria;
- they have proven their eligibility by submitting the relevant documents; and
- they have indicated, by ticking a box in the Application form, their **general willingness to assign** to the ECB, on a **perpetual, exclusive and irrevocable** basis, all intellectual property rights and all forms of usage rights (including but not limited to reproduction, distribution, communication to the public, adaptation, modification, and translation rights) in any designs they develop as part of the design contest, without any territorial or temporal limitation.

This general declaration of willingness shall constitute a **precondition for entry into phase 2**. Upon invitation to participate in phase 2, this declaration shall be formalised in a **separate, duly signed agreement** between the Applicant and the ECB, ensuring the legal transfer of the relevant intellectual property and usage rights.

In phase 2, the ECB will send the Applicants an Invitation to Tender (ITT) containing information and documents including the specifications for preparing the design proposals.

A Design Contest Jury, composed of independent experts in visual arts and communication, will assess the submitted design proposals against the award criteria. Each design proposal must comprise a series of six banknotes denominations per theme (i.e. €5, €10, €20, €50, €100 and €200). All design proposals will be evaluated following a process of pseudonymisation. This will ensure that the Design Contest Jury and ECB staff involved cannot link proposals to specific designers during the assessment phase.

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<sup>1</sup> More information on the ECB's Governing Council:

<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/decisions/html/index.en.html>.

<sup>2</sup> More information on the design of the future euro banknotes is available on the ECB's intranet:

[https://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/future\\_banknotes/redesign/html/index.en.html#motifs](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/future_banknotes/redesign/html/index.en.html#motifs)

The identification of the winning design proposals (up to five per theme) will mark the conclusion of the design contest.

Thereafter, the ECB envisages conducting a public survey on the designs before the Governing Council selects the final design proposal for the future euro banknotes from the winning design proposals.

## 2.2 Information on the prize and other payments

The maximum overall amount for this design contest is estimated to amount to EUR 700,000.

The ECB will pay Applicants that are invited to phase 2 a lump sum of EUR 5,000 (for one theme) or EUR 10,000 (for two themes). A second instalment of EUR 10,000 (for one theme) or EUR 20,000 (for two themes) will be paid to Applicants who have been selected to participate in phase 2 and who have submitted in phase 2 a complete design proposal.

The ECB will pay the Applicants whose designs are selected as the winners of this design contest at the end of phase 2 an additional lump sum of EUR 10,000 for each winning design proposal.

Applicants that have not been invited to phase 2 shall not be entitled to any payment of a lump sum. No other expenses will be paid or reimbursed.

The ECB will pay these lump sums to the Applicants, or if applicable the representative of the team, by bank transfer. Payments will be made within a maximum of 30 days after the invitations for phase 2 have been sent (in case of the first instalment) and within a maximum of 30 days after the names of Applicants and the designs they submitted have been revealed (in the case of the second instalment).

An invoice will not be required. The lump sums shall cover the transfer of all intellectual property rights to the ECB for all design proposals submitted in phase 2.

## 3. Legal framework

This design contest shall be governed by Decision ECB/2016/2 of 9 February 2016 laying down the Rules on Procurement<sup>3</sup>, (hereafter referred to as “the ECB Procurement Decision”) the provisions of this CfA for phase 1 and the provisions of the ITT to be sent to the Applicants invited to phase 2.

## 4. Timetable

4.1 The ECB intends to run the design contest in accordance with the following timetable:

Milestone	Date
Publication of contest notice in the Official Journal	15 July 2025

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 45, 20.2.2016, p. 15-43, as amended by Decision ECB/2020/10 (OJ L 69, 6.3.2020, p.41-45) and Decision ECB/2020/10 (OJ L 69, 6.3.2020, p. 41-45), all published on <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/proc/tenders/html/index.en.html>.

<b>Phase 1 of design contest</b>	
<b>Time-limit for Applicants to submit questions</b>	<b>11 August 2025, 12:00</b>
Time-limit for the ECB to answer the questions	14 August 2025
<b>Time-limit for applying</b>	<b>18 August 2025, 12:00 (CET)</b>
Selection of Candidates	19 September 2025
Notification of Applicants/Candidates	17 October 2025
<b>Phase 2 of design contest</b>	
Briefing on design	end October / early November 2025
Time-limit for submitting questions	mid-March 2026
Time-limit to submit design proposals	end March 2026
Selection of winning designs	end May/June 2026
Notification of Candidates	June 2026

- 4.2 The above time limits for the submission of questions and applications (as shown in bold text) are binding. The ECB may extend these time limits prior to the expiry of the time limit for the submission of applications if it modifies the documentation or in other duly justified cases.
- 4.3 The other dates are tentative, and the ECB may depart from them. The dates relating to phase 2 will be specified further in the ITT.

## II. Preparation and submission of applications

### 1. Communication: queries regarding the design contest

- 1.1 While they are preparing their applications, Applicants may submit questions to the ECB on any aspect of the Call for Applications (CfA).
- 1.2 Applicants must address all queries regarding this design contest via e-mail ([dc@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:dc@ecb.europa.eu)). Any type of communication relating to the design contest procedure must be made via this channel. The ECB does not assume any responsibility for queries which are submitted via other means of contact.
- 1.3 The ECB shall endeavour to answer all queries as quickly as possible but cannot guarantee a response within a minimum time. The ECB shall not be bound to reply to queries received less than seven calendar days before the time-limit for the submission of applications but will try to do so. Queries will be treated as questions of general interest and will be answered on an anonymous basis, to the extent possible, by regular updates of an “FAQ” document, accessible on the procurement section of the ECB’s website:

<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/tenders/html/index.en.html>.

Applicants are advised to check the FAQs document regularly for any new updates of the FAQs document. Information of a commercially confidential nature shall not be disclosed.

- 1.4 During the design contest, Applicants shall not contact any other staff members of the ECB or the national central banks or organisations/persons working for the ECB with regard to the design contest. Any violation of this communication rule may lead to the exclusion of the Applicant in question.
- 1.5 Unless otherwise provided, all communication with the ECB must be in English.
- 1.6 In the event of a dysfunctionality of the ECB's design contest portal, the ECB may use a different means of communication or may request Applicants to use different means of submission and communication and set a new time-limit for the submission of applications.

## **2. Review of the design contest documentation**

If Applicants consider that the ECB's requirements laid down in the contest notice, the CfA or in the design contest portal are incomplete, inconsistent or illegal or that the ECB or another Applicant has infringed the applicable procurement rules, they shall notify their objections to the ECB via e-mail ([dc@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:dc@ecb.europa.eu)) within 15 calendar days (Article 28(2) of the ECB Procurement Decision). If the irregularities affect the CfA or other documents sent by the ECB, the time limit shall start to run from the date of receipt of the documentation. *In other cases*, the time limit shall start to run from the moment the Applicants become aware of the irregularity or could reasonably have become aware of it. The ECB may then either correct or supplement the requirements or remedy the irregularity as requested or reject the request indicating the reasons therefor. Objections which were not communicated to the ECB within the time limit may not be raised at a later stage, and Applicants shall be precluded from raising them in an appeal procedure (Article 39 of the ECB Procurement Decision) and in proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

## **3. Changes to Call for Application documentation**

The ECB may at any time change or supplement the requirements set out in the contest notice or the CfA. The ECB shall communicate, via the procurement section of the ECB's website, the changes or additions to all Applicants and may, if necessary, extend the time-limit for the submission of applications. If need be, the ECB will also publish a corrigendum to the contest notice.

## **4. Preparation of applications; expenses**

- 4.1 Applicants shall obtain at their own responsibility and expense all information necessary for the preparation of their applications. Applicants are solely responsible for the costs and expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of their applications and all other stages of the design contest. The ECB shall not be liable for any costs or expenses borne by Applicants or persons involved by them.
- 4.2 Applicants are solely responsible for obtaining the information which they consider is necessary in order to make decisions regarding the content of their applications and to undertake any

investigations they consider necessary in order to verify any information provided to them during the procurement process.

### III. Submission of applications

Applicants shall submit their applications in accordance with the requirements laid down in this Chapter III and include all documentation requested.

#### 1. Contact point, method and time limit for submission

Applicants must submit their application electronically via the ECB's design contest portal (link: <https://a-talent.ecb.europa.eu/eurodesign> ) before **12:00, Frankfurt local time, on 18 August 2025**. The ECB's design contest portal is also accessible via the procurement section of the ECB's website <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/tenders/html/index.en.html>

1.1 The contact point for this the contest is: [dc@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:dc@ecb.europa.eu)

1.2 The reference number for the contest is **PRO-007891 – Design Contest**.

#### 2. Format of the application

The application shall consist of the filled in Application form to be submitted via the ECB's design contest portal.

Applicants shall answer the questions on the Application form in the ECB's design contest portal in accordance with the instructions set out in the Application form. In particular, they shall fill in all mandatory fields of the Application form and tick the declaration at the end of the Application form.

Applicants that are considered for phase 2 will only be selected and invited to participate in phase 2 if they have submitted all the supporting documentation, specified in Chapter IV Section 3.6.

The ECB will send the additionally required declarations and forms to the Applicants concerned together with the notification that they are being considered for Phase 2:

- They, or an authorised representative of the Applicant if applicable, shall sign handwritten or in QES (Qualified Electronic Signature) all declarations and forms.
- If the application is submitted on behalf of a team, the Application form shall be co-signed by all members of the team,
- If Applicants list subcontractors in their Application forms, a separate Application form for each subcontractor shall be completed and submitted,
- Agreement duly signed by the Applicant, in the form provided by the ECB, formalising the transfer to the ECB of all intellectual property and usage rights in the designs to be developed in phase 2 (see Chapter 1, Section 2.1 of this CfA).

#### 3. Language

Applicants shall fill in the Application form and submit all documents and information in English. Legal, financial, ISO and other certificates that have not been issued in English may be submitted

in the original language. The ECB may request Applicants to provide a certified translation of the original document.

#### **IV. Evaluation of applications**

##### **1. Evaluation process**

1.1 The ECB envisages inviting up to 20 Applicants per theme to submit a design proposal, comprising a series of six banknotes denominations per theme, provided that a sufficient number of Applicants meet the selection criteria. The ECB shall invite the Applicants

- (a) whose applications comply with the formal requirements laid down in this CfA;
- (b) who meet the eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below; and
- (c) who meet the selection criteria set out in Section 4 below.

The evaluation of (a)-(c) will be carried out in no particular order. Only applications that meet all the mandatory/minimum requirements of each stage shall be considered in the final evaluation and ranked in order to establish which of the candidates will be invited to submit a design proposal to phase 2 of the design contest.

1.2 The ECB may request Applicants to supplement their application or to clarify specific points, which appear to be missing, incomplete or erroneous. The ECB's requests must comply with the principles of equal treatment of all Applicants and of transparency and shall not lead to the change of the terms of the applications. Applicants shall respond to such requests within the reasonable time limits set by the ECB. The ECB will not consider replies submitted after the expiry of those time limits.

1.3 For the purpose of the evaluation, the ECB may also take account of any other relevant information from public or specialist sources.

##### **2. Formal application requirements**

2.1 The ECB shall exclude applications that

- a) were not submitted via the ECB's design contest portal (or by other means if and as requested by the ECB according to Chapter II, Section 1.6);
- b) were received by the ECB after the expiry of the time limit;
- c) are substantially incomplete, namely a substantial part of the information is not provided;  
or
- d) were not submitted in English.

2.2 The ECB may, at its own discretion, exclude Applicants that do not comply with other substantial formal requirements laid down in this CfA.

### 3. Eligibility criteria

- 3.1 This design contest shall be open on equal terms to all natural or legal persons resident or established in the European Union. Other tenderers will not be admitted.
- 3.2 The ECB shall exclude Applicants that are in one of the situations described in Article 30(4) of the ECB Procurement Decision (e.g. conviction for fraud or corruption) or have been excluded from participation in any future tender procedure for a certain period of time in accordance with Article 30(8) of the ECB Procurement Decision.
- 3.3 The ECB may exclude Applicants that are in one of the situations described in Article 30(5) of the ECB Procurement Decision (e.g. insolvency; grave professional misconduct; misrepresentation).
- 3.4 The ECB shall exclude Applicants that are subject to EU restrictive measures adopted under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) or Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), such as Regulation (EU) No. 833/2014 and Regulation (EU) 269/2014, or Applicants that involve entities (see Chapter VI Section 1 and Chapter VI Section 2) subject to such measures. The prohibition to involve such entities applies throughout the whole performance of the contract. The sanctions that apply can be found in the Official Journal of the EU.
- 3.5 Applicants shall state in their Application form that they meet the eligibility criteria and shall inform the ECB without undue delay if any circumstances arise after the submission of their application that may affect their eligibility.
- 3.6 Prior to the invitation to provide a design proposal in phase 2 of the design contest, the ECB will request the best-ranked Applicants (up to 20 per theme) to submit the documents listed below including, if applicable, the documents concerning everyone involved in the team applying (see also Chapter III, Section 2 above). Upon the ECB's request, the Applicants shall submit these documents within three weeks. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to the exclusion of the Applicant from phase 2 of the design contest. Applicants shall inform the ECB without undue delay if any circumstances arise after the submission of their tender that may affect their eligibility.

Applicants shall submit the following information / documents as applicable:

Documents proving eligibility:

- Proof of signing power (e.g. commercial register/power of attorney).
- Official certificate proving that the Applicant/the Applicant's company has paid its social security contributions.
- Official certificate proving that the Applicant/the Applicant's company has paid its taxes.
- Extract from the judicial record (or equivalent document issued by a competent judicial or administrative authority) proving that the Applicant/the Applicant's company is not in one of the situations listed under item 1, 2 or 3 above.

- A duly signed Agreement, in the form provided by the ECB, formalising the transfer to the ECB of all intellectual property and usage rights in the designs to be developed in phase 2 (see Chapter 1, Section 2.1 of this CfA).
- Duly signed Application form (see instructions in Chapter III, Section 2 above).

In order to assess which documentation will be required from the Applicant/the Applicant's company, depending on their country of origin/registration, please refer to e-CERTIS (available at <https://ec.europa.eu/tools/ecertis/#/homePage>)

Documents proving capacity (selection criteria):

- Education: university certificates;
- Work experience: employment certificates or any document that can verify the position held including the duration of the contract;
- Awards: certificates, confirmation from the awarding authority/organisation;
- Shortlist placements: confirmation from the awarding authority/organisation alternatively printed material such as flyers, invitation cards, posters, public announcements or press articles;
- Participation in exhibitions etc.: personalized invitation letter, printed materials such as flyers, invitation cards, posters, public announcements or press articles;
- Illustration contributions: photocopies / printouts of the items in question, no samples or original copies, limited to one page per item;
- Relevant projects/projects in other relevant fields: Project description (images and text), maximum two pages per project.

#### **4. Selection criteria**

- 4.1 Applicants' capacity to provide a design proposal in phase 2 shall be assessed based on the selection criteria outlined below:

During the selection phase (phase 1), Applicants will be evaluated according to their education and relevant work experience (40%), as well as their proven track record of creative work (60%). Applications are assessed on the sole basis of the information relating to the individual Applicant (for natural persons) or of the lead designer (for a team of natural persons, a legal entity, a team of members with legal entity or a legal entity with subcontractor).

Selection criteria	Weighting
<p><b>1. Education and relevant work experience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- degree, diploma or similar qualification (bachelor’s degree or equivalent with relevant work experience<sup>4</sup>) in graphic design, communication design, visual communication, illustration, fine arts, or a closely related area; <u>and</u></li> <li>- at least one year of experience in a design-related position, preferably involving design of security printed products (e.g., banknotes, identity documents, secure packaging) or in visual design (e.g. branding, logos, communication campaigns, illustration).</li> </ul>	<p><b>40%</b></p>
<p><b>2. Proven track-record of creative work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- awards and shortlist placements in the domain of visual design in the present year (2025) and past five calendar years (2020-2024);</li> <li>- participation in curated exhibitions, shows and festivals etc., prominent illustration contributions to publications (digital and/or printed) in the present year (2025) and past five calendar years (2020-2024); and,</li> <li>- track record / relevant projects implemented by the Applicant in the present year (2025) and past ten calendar years (2015-2024).</li> </ul>	<p><b>60%</b></p> <p><b>20%</b></p> <p><b>20%</b></p> <p><b>20%</b></p>

4.2 The selection criteria and the weighted criteria are further specified in Annex 1 to this CfA

4.3 Number of Applicants to be invited to phase 2:

The ECB envisages inviting to tender up to 20 Applicants per theme. Those invited will be the Applicants with the highest overall scores.

**V. Outcome of the Call for Applications (CfA)**

**1. Notification of outcome**

1.1 The ECB shall inform all Applicants in writing of the outcome of the evaluation. The successful Applicants will be invited to submit a design proposal under phase 2 of the design contest.

1.2 All Applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of the assessment of their application once phase 1 is concluded. Applicants who are not invited to participate in phase 2 of the design contest may request the reasons for the rejection of their application. Such requests must be submitted in writing to the ECB within 15 calendar days from the date of receipt of the rejection notification via e-mail ([dc@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:dc@ecb.europa.eu)). The ECB shall provide the reasons for rejection in

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/careers/before-you-apply/html/index.en.html>

accordance with Article 36(2) of the ECB Procurement Decision. The ECB may decide to withhold certain information where the release of such information would affect other suppliers' legitimate commercial interests, would hinder application of the law or would otherwise be contrary to the public interest.

## 2. Jurisdiction

The General Court of the European Union in Luxembourg (Rue du Fort Niedergrünwald L-2925 Luxembourg) shall have exclusive jurisdiction in any dispute between the ECB and an Applicant relating to this design contest. If an appeal procedure is available, Applicants are requested to await the ECB's decision on the appeal before bringing the matter to the General Court. The time limit for bringing proceedings under Article 263 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union shall begin to run two months from receipt of the appeal decision.

## 3. European Ombudsman

An Applicant may also lodge a complaint with the European Ombudsman (1 Avenue du Président Robert Schuman, CS 30403, FR - 67001 Strasbourg Cedex) in accordance with Article 228 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Statute of the European Ombudsman. A complaint must be made within two years from the date when the complainant becomes aware of the facts on which the complaint is based.

## VI. General rules

### 1. No separate application

Applicants shall submit only one application. The ECB may exclude from participation any Applicants that submit a separate application and who:

- (a) are members of the same group of affiliated undertakings as another Applicant; or
- (b) are members of a temporary grouping together with other Applicants; or
- (c) offer a substantial part of the Contract to another Applicant as subcontractor, if there are indications that they have received information regarding the application prepared by another Applicant or if the submission of separate applications distorts otherwise free competition among Applicants.

### 2. Confidentiality; professional secrecy

2.1 By submitting an application, Applicants confirm their adherence to the following Confidentiality rules which shall apply throughout the entire procurement procedure.

Applicants shall:

- (a) at all times treat the contents of the CfA, any related documents and information, and any other documents and information that may be subsequently shared by the ECB in relation to this procurement procedure (together the Information) as confidential;
- (b) not disclose, copy, reproduce, distribute or pass any of the Information to any other person at any time or allow any of these things to happen;

- (c) not use any of the Information for any purpose other than for the purposes of submitting (or deciding whether to submit) a tender;
  - (d) not disclose any information on being invited to phase 2 of the Contest, being invited to prepare designs, or any information that may enable the identification of Applicants and/or designs provided; and
  - (e) not undertake any publicity activity within any section of the media.
- 2.2 Applicants may disclose, distribute or pass Information to third parties provided that either:
- (a) the Information is already publicly available (other than through a breach of these confidentiality rules); or
  - (b) the Information is disclosed for the sole purpose of preparing an application and the person<sup>5</sup> receiving the Information undertakes in writing to keep the Information confidential on the same terms as if that person were the Applicant; or
  - (c) the Applicant obtains the prior written consent of the ECB in relation to such disclosure, distribution or passing of Information; or
  - (d) the Applicant is legally required to make such a disclosure.
- 2.3 The ECB is by law subject to the highest standards of professional secrecy and confidentiality<sup>6</sup>. The ECB may disclose detailed information relating to the applications:
- (a) to its staff and other organisations, companies or persons involved in the tender procedure;
  - (b) to other Applicants, if the information is materially relevant for all Applicants or if the ECB is required by law to disclose such information in both cases subject to the duty to protect the Applicant's commercial interests;
  - (c) to the general public to the extent the ECB is obliged to disclose the information in order to fulfil statutory transparency requirements.

### 3. Data protection

- 3.1 The ECB will process personal data received (such as names, contact details and other information provided in curriculum vitae) in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC.
- 3.2 The data subjects concerned may request access to their personal data, request the rectification of any data that is inaccurate or incomplete. They also have (with some limitations) the right to request the deletion of their personal data or to restrict or object to the processing of their personal data in line with the relevant provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

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<sup>5</sup> The term "person" as used herein refers to both natural and legal persons.

<sup>6</sup> See Article 37 of the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank and Article 26(4) of Decision ECB/2016/2 (OJ L 45, 20.2.2016, p. 15-43, as amended by Decision ECB/2020/10 (OJ L 69, 6.3.2020, p.41-45) and Decision ECB/2020/10 (OJ L 69, 6.3.2020, p. 41-45).

- 3.3 Data subjects can exercise their rights by contacting the ECB contact person for a specific procurement procedure using the contact details mentioned in the tender documentation, and specifying the nature of the request.

For all queries relating to personal data, they may contact the ECB's Data Protection Officer at [dpo@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:dpo@ecb.europa.eu).

They also have the right to lodge a complaint with the [European Data Protection Supervisor](#) at any time if they consider that their rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of their personal data.

Further details are contained in the 2019 Privacy Statement which can be accessed via the following link:

[https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/tenders/shared/pdf/2019\\_Privacy\\_statement\\_for\\_processing\\_personal\\_data\\_in\\_the\\_course\\_of\\_a\\_procurement\\_procedure.pdf](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/tenders/shared/pdf/2019_Privacy_statement_for_processing_personal_data_in_the_course_of_a_procurement_procedure.pdf)

- 3.4 If Applicants submit to the ECB personal data of third parties (e.g. their staff member or subcontractor), before submitting their tender they shall inform the data subjects that the ECB will process their data. They shall provide to the concerned data subjects the information as laid down in Article 16 (1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. In particular they shall make available to them the 2019 Privacy statement of the ECB.

#### **4. No obligation to award the Contract; cancellation**

- 4.1 The initiation of this design procedure imposes no obligation on the ECB to award the Contract.
- 4.2 The ECB may also decide to cancel the design contest before the design contest is concluded. If the ECB cancels the design contest in phase 2, the ECB will pay pro rata the relevant fixed amount set out in Chapter I Section 2.2.

Annex 1:

**Design Contest Phase 1 Selection Criteria**

During the selection phase (phase 1), the Applicants will be evaluated according to their education and relevant work experience (40%), as well as their proven track record of creative expression (60%). Applications are assessed solely based on the information of the individual Applicant (for Natural persons) or for the lead designer (for a team of natural persons, a legal entity, a team of members with legal entity, a legal entity with subcontractor).

**Weighted criteria**

Applicants' education and relevant work experience (40%), as well as proven track record of creative work (60%), will be evaluated against the selection criteria using a scoring system from one to five points corresponding to the below sub-criteria. "KO" means not eligible to participate in the design contest. The definitions of the terms used in the various tables are provided below.

• **Education<sup>7</sup> and relevant work experience**

Score		Education in the fields of graphic design, communication design, visual communication, illustration, fine arts, or closely related areas (details to be provided)		Work experience in a design-related position, preferably in design of security printed products (e.g., currency, passports, secure packaging) or visual design (e.g. branding, logos, communication campaigns, illustration)
5		Master or higher	AND	≥1year
	OR	Bachelor	AND	≥5 years
	OR	Vocational education	AND	≥9 years
4		Bachelor	AND	≥3 years
	OR	Vocational education	AND	≥7 years
3		Bachelor	AND	≥1 year
	OR	Vocational education	AND	≥5 years
KO		No formal education	OR	<1 years

<sup>7</sup> Informed by ECB's Equivalence of degrees <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/careers/before-you-apply/html/index.en.html>

**Proven track record of creative work**

**Awards in the domain of visual design in the present year (2025) and the past five calendar years (2020 to 2024)**

So that their reputation and success in design competitions can be assessed, Applicants are asked to provide information on any international, national and regional awards / international and national young talent awards (excluding university awards) they have received in the domain of visual design. Applicants are also asked to provide information on any national or international awards they have been shortlisted for, even if they did not win the award, as this will also be taken into account. Where an award was received, the shortlist placement for that award is not counted.

Score	Awards					Shortlistings	
	Inter-national awards	National awards	Regional awards	international and national young talents awards	Inter-national competition	national competition	
5	≥3						
4	2	≥3					
	OR			≥3			
3	1	2					
	OR			2			
2		1	≥2				
	OR			1			
	OR				≥1	≥2	
1			1		AND	1	
0							

**Participation in curated exhibitions, shows and festivals etc., prominent illustration contributions to digital and/or printed publications in the present year (2025) and the past five calendar years (2020-2024)**

So that their practical experience and success in the field of visual design can be assessed, Applicants are asked to share the number of, and information on, curated solo shows and group exhibitions, festivals, biennials or similar presentation formats (both national and international), that they have participated in.

So that their practical experience in providing illustrations to digital and/or printed publications can be assessed, Applicants are asked to share the number of prominent illustrations they have created for such publications. These illustrations shall be limited to book, newspaper and magazine illustrations, and illustrations for comics, graphic novels, animations and games. Applicants are also required to provide related evidence to support these numbers.

Score	Participation in curated solo-shows and group exhibitions, festivals, biennials or similar formats (number of the above)				Prominent illustration contributions to publications (digital and/or printed) (excluding self published material) (number of the above)
	International solo shows	National solo-shows	International group exhibitions	National group exhibitions	
5		≥3			
	OR				≥5
4		2			
	OR		≥3		
	OR			≥5	
	OR				4
3		1			
	OR		2		
	OR			≥3	
	OR				≥5
	OR				3
2			1		
	OR			≥1	
	OR				≥3
	OR				2
1				≥1	
	OR				1
0					

**Track record / relevant projects implemented by the applicant.**

So that their practical experience in the field of security printed products (e.g. banknotes, identity documents, secure packaging) or in another relevant field can be assessed, Applicants are asked to share the number of projects implemented in the present year (2025) and the past ten calendar years (2015 to 2024), and to provide information on those projects.

Score	Relevant projects in the field of security printed products (e.g., banknotes, identity documents, secure packaging)		Relevant project(s) in another field (e.g. corporate design, brand design, infographic design, packaging, publication design)
5	≥2		
4	1	AND	≥1
3			≥2
2	1		
1			≥1
0			

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Definitions:

- Solo show: the Applicant is the sole exhibitor
  - International solo show: the Applicant is the sole exhibitor in a show taking place in a country other than the one in which the Applicant has their main residence.
  - National solo show: the Applicant is the sole exhibitor in a show taking place in the country in which the Applicant is resident.
- Group exhibition: the Applicant is one of several participants exhibiting
- Visual design: comprises graphic design, illustration and communication design
- Awards: if an award is a ranked award (e.g. gold-silver-bronze, 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd prize), no further differentiations are made: all rankings count as an “award”.
  - International award: applicants from more than one country are eligible.
  - National award: only applicants from a specific country are eligible.
  - Regional award: only applicants from a certain region are eligible.
  - International and national young talent awards: International and national awards that set up an upper age limit for applicants or stipulate that application is only possible within the first few years of professional work.
- Shortlist placement: the list of candidates from which the award winners are selected. A shortlist usually denotes the final stage of a selection / competition process
- Curated: the Applicant was chosen by a professional curator, a team / collective of curators or a selection committee / jury.
- Prominent illustration contributions: the Applicant is named as author, co-author or illustrator of a publication, or has created a recurring illustration feature / column for a magazine or newspaper.
- Relevant projects: these include banknote design, financial document design, security printing, anti-counterfeiting design, security document design and certificates.