

# Stamp for the defenders of the freedom of Ukraine

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On March 21, 2022, Lithuanian Post launched a general competition to create a stamp on the situation in Ukraine. Everyone was invited to submit their ideas for a stamp illustration. The ideas were to be submitted by March 31, 2022. The selected design was to adorn the special stamp planned for May. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the special stamp will be allocated to the public institution Vėly Mėlyna ir geltona (Blue/Yellow).

The Stamp Publishing Commission, established in 2014 by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, now had the task of selecting the winner from among approximately 2400 designs submitted.

The lucky winner was Ms Eglė Kirlytė from the creative agency "Autoriai". The embrace of two people is meant to represent the support of the Ukrainians.

## **Personalized stamp: The "Bayraktar" reconnaissance and combat drone**

The Lithuanian television station "Laisvės TV" called the Lithuanian population to a fundraising campaign for Ukraine. The campaign was a great success, five million euros were donated within three days. With this amount of money, a reconnaissance and combat drone of the type "Bayraktar TB2" (in English "flag bearer") was ordered in Turkey and delivered to Ukraine.

In the course of this campaign, the same TV station initiated the issue of a personalized stamp at the Lithuanian Post. The first day of sale was June 9, 2022. The special feature: In Lithuania, personalized stamps are usually issued only to customers directly; they are not available to other customers at the post office. In deviation from this, this stamp is also sold directly over the post office counters, it could be called "semi-official". The selling price of the stamp is 2.00 euros, half of which will be donated to the creative agency "Vėly Mėlyna ir gel-tona" (Blue/Yellow). The design was done by the "Digital Marketing Agency", the printing was done by the Estonian company "Vaba Maa", where the Estonian stamps are also produced.

The stamps were self-adhesive with die-cut perforation and printed in sheets of 20 (five rows of four stamps each) in an edition of 40,000. The upper edge of the sheet bears an imperforated decorative field with the motif and stamp value in the left corner; this could also fraudulently be used as a franking!

Fig. 1: Nominal value 1.00 Euro plus surcharge 1.00 Euro. The charge for a single letter (priority) to EU countries is 1.00 euro. The stamp will be issued in a souvenir sheet of four stamps with two decorative fields. First day: May 6, 2022 (no FDC)

Fig. 2: 2nd prize Kyjivo Aleksandr Nikitiuk Ukrainian tractor pulling a Russian warship

Fig. 3: 3rd prize Giedrė Svaldenytė national bird of Ukraine, the nightingale

Fig. 4: souvenir sheet issue

Fig 5: Postcard with first day cancel dated May 6, 2022. foreign rate at 1.00 euro - priority.

Figs. 6 and 7: Letter with the stamp on private order and sheet part ukrainos laisvės gynėiam - defender of Ukrainian freedoms