

Nitra Arena Design Competition - Abstract

The City of Nitra is announcing a design competition as a project-based, restricted competition open to an unspecified number of participants, the field of which will be narrowed down to 5 in the second stage, an architectural-urban planning-landscape design competition, conducted in two stages, in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, the relevant decree, and the Competition Rules of the Slovak Chamber of Architects.

The aim of the competition is to select a high-quality architectural design for Nitra Arena, which will become a new landmark for the city and the region.

Competition Schedule

- Date of sending the competition announcement April 1, 2026
- Deadline for submitting applications to participate in Stage 1 May 7, 2026, by 5:00 PM
In Stage 1, participants will submit an application for participation along with a portfolio
- Estimated date of the jury's evaluation meeting in Stage 1 May 22, 2026
- Estimated date for sending the evaluation results of Stage 1 May 29, 2026
In Stage 2, the organizer will invite the 5 selected participants to submit a proposal; their proposals will be evaluated anonymously.
- Organized site visit for Stage 2 participants June 19, 2026
- Deadline for submitting proposals in Stage 2 October 2, 2026, by 5:00 PM
- Estimated date of the jury's evaluation meeting in Stage 2 October 15 and 16, 2026
- Estimated date of announcement of results October 27, 2026
- Estimated date of publication of proposals November 6, 2026
- Estimated deadline for payment of prizes and awards November 20, 2026

Jury Members

- prof. Mgr. akad. arch. Roman Brychta, licensed architect (ČKA), jury chair
- Ing. Mojmír Vychodil, licensed architect (SKA)
- Ing. arch. Jitka Ressová, licensed architect (ČKA)
- Ing. arch. Katarína Bergerová, licensed architect (SKA)
- Ing. Branislav Becík, PhD., Chairman of the Nitra Self-Governing Region
- Ing. arch. Milan Csanda, Chief Architect of the City of Nitra, SKA-certified architect
- Marek Hattas, Mayor of Nitra

Jury Alternates

- Ing. arch. Peter Kuklica, licensed architect (SKA)
- Ing. Barbora Hrmová, landscape architect
- Ing. arch. Peter Mezei, Deputy Mayor of Nitra

In the second stage of the competition, jury experts will also participate in the meetings.

Prizes and awards:

- 1st prize: €60,000
- 2nd prize: €45,000
- 3rd prize: €35,000
- 1st special mention: €20,000
- 2nd special mention: €20,000

Contact Point:

Competition terms and conditions and other supporting documents can be found at:

<https://josephine.proebiz.com/sk/tender/76047/summary>

Communication between the organizers and participants will take place in Slovak or Czech, exclusively through the Josephine information system.

Competition Objective:

We are seeking a design that convincingly combines the primary use for ice hockey with maximum flexibility for indoor sports, cultural, conference, exhibition, and commercial activities—not only of local and national significance, but also of an international caliber—with comprehensive supporting facilities. An important component is the creation of an attractive and valuable public space that must reflect the development of a cohesive sports and recreational area and cultural-historical values in relation to Nitra Castle and the historic Upper Town. The design, through its urban and architectural solutions, must respond to the principles of mobility and a compact city in accordance with trends in modern planning and sustainable urban development. A key condition is a design concept that ensures the continuation of top-tier hockey even during the arena's construction.

A related objective is to obtain a comprehensive arena project that will serve as the basis for obtaining a building permit and for the successful completion of the construction.

The project must demonstrate minimization of the environmental footprint, integration of renewable energy sources, low energy consumption, and water management. At the same time, it must serve as the basis for creating a high-quality indoor environment and implementing smart building management systems. The facility must be comfortable and safe for spectators, with an emphasis on operational efficiency, durability, resilience, and universal design.

A high-quality "Nitra Arena" project must be more than just a building. It must be a sustainable, smart, and functional complex that contributes to the city's economic and social life in the long term.

- An accessible and open, integrated sports and recreation area with social potential.
- A modern and unique arena primarily designed for hockey.
- A versatile and flexible arena that can be used for indoor sports, cultural events, and other social gatherings.
- An economically sustainable and energy-efficient arena with a minimized environmental footprint.
- Comprehensive architecture that sensitively and tastefully respects the historical context of the city of Nitra.



The site in question with the existing hockey arena