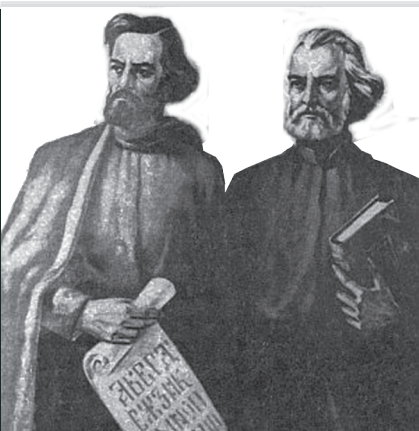




May 24 - the Day of Bulgarian Education and Culture and Slavonic Alphabet

On 24 May, Bulgaria celebrates the Day of Bulgarian education, culture and the creation of the Slavonic alphabet by St. Cyril and Methodius in the 9th century.

The first known testimonies of the celebration of the holiday are found in an Armenian chronicle from 1813, mentioning the celebration of the saints that took place in 1803 in Shoumen.

The first celebration of the brothers Cyril and Methodius, the creators of the Glagolitic script, took place for the first time in 1851 in the diocesan school of 'St. Cyril and Methodius' in the town of Plovdiv, on the initiative of Naiden Gerov.

In 1892, Stoyan Mihaylovski wrote the text of the school anthem 'Varvi narode vazrodeni'. Panayot Pipkov wrote the music for the anthem on 11 May 1900.

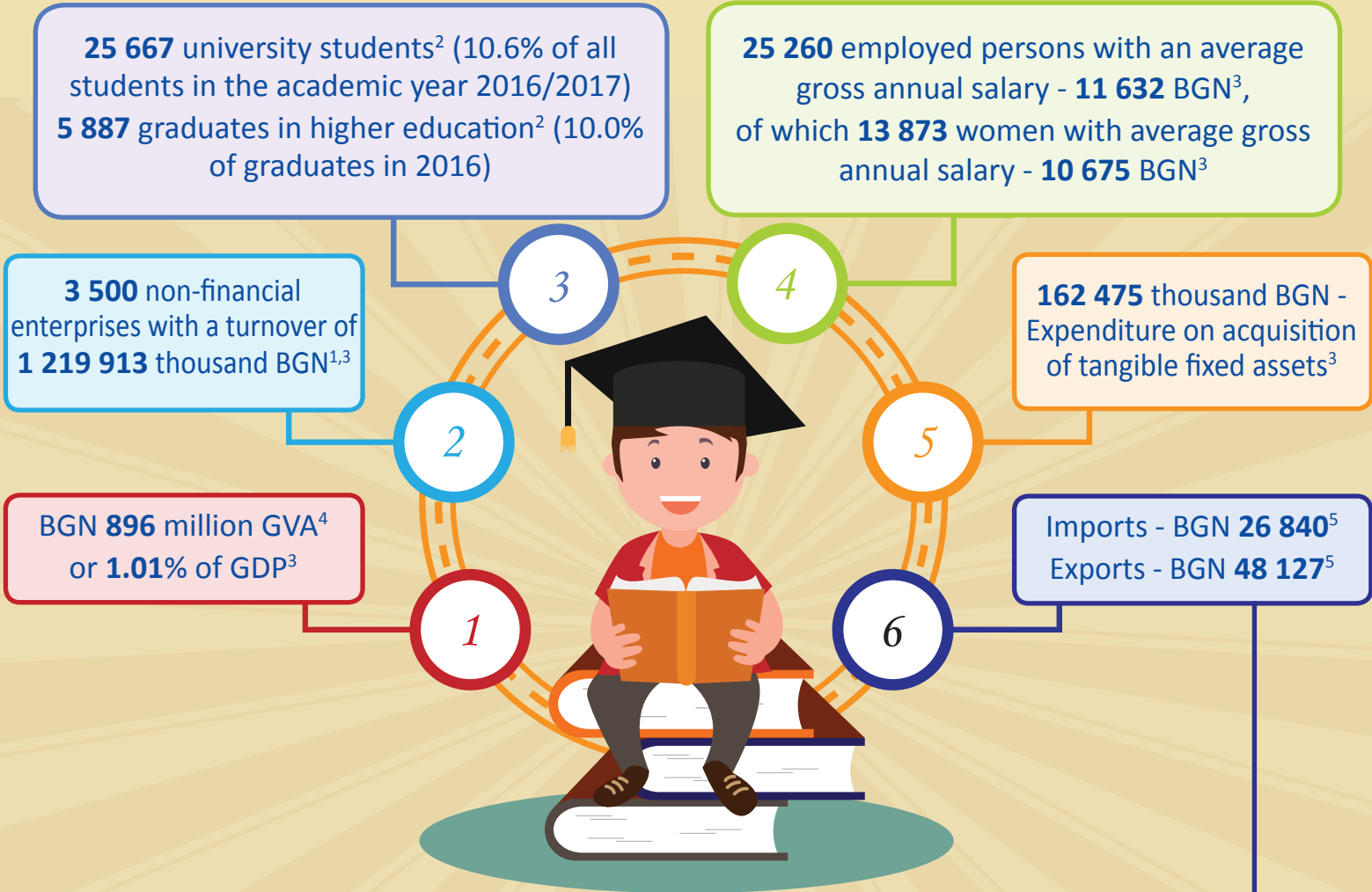
By the end of the 20th century, the creators of the Glagolitic script, St. Cyril and Methodius, were declared co-patron saints of Europe by the Pope. The Cyrillic alphabet, used by 12 countries in the world as the official alphabet, is a simple version of the Glagolitic script. Nowadays, the day of St. Cyril and Methodius is celebrated in many countries - the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, etc. In other words, for more than 300 million people, the Slavonic (Cyrillic) alphabet is a window to the world.

Since 1 January 2007, with the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union, the Cyrillic alphabet became one of the three official alphabets of the EU along with the Latin and Greek alphabets.

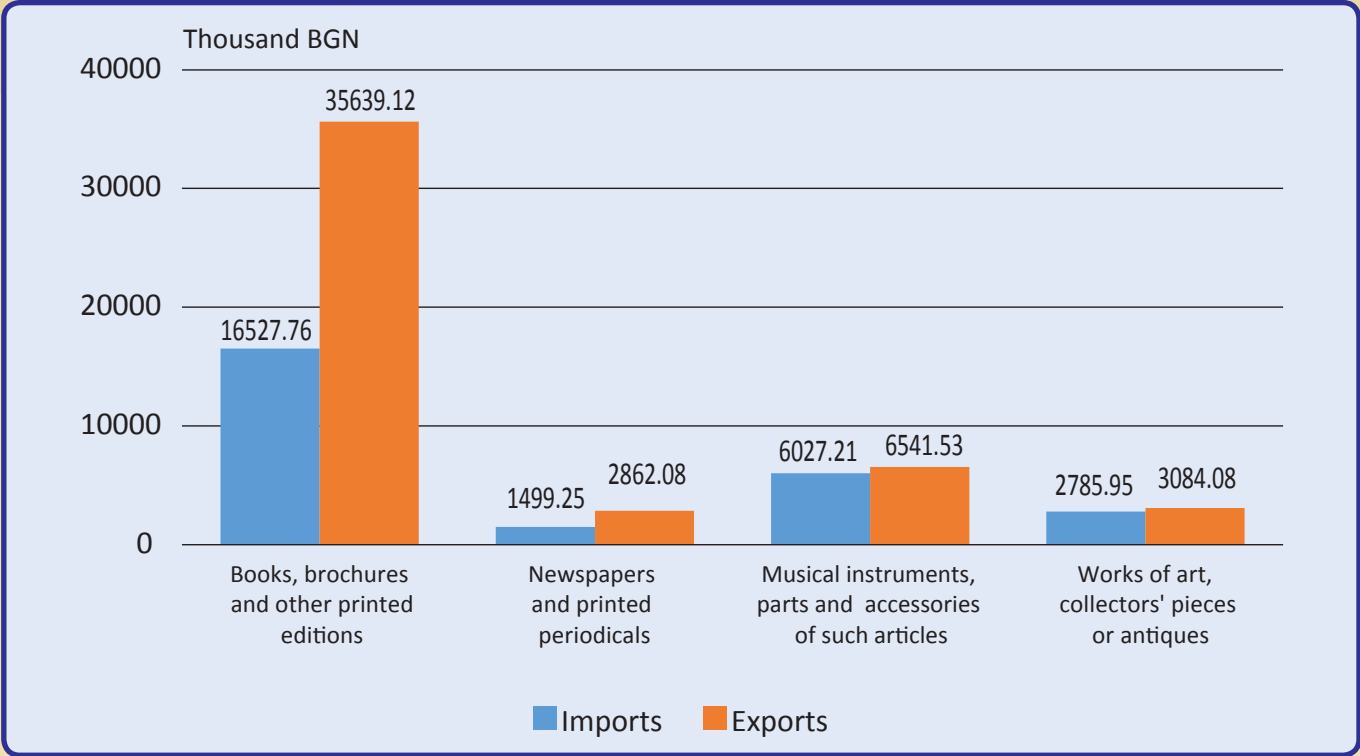




Culture as an economic sector¹



Imports and exports of goods for culture and art in 2016



¹ Data refer to economic activities with codes 58 'Publishing activities', 59 'Motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities', 60 'Radio and TV broadcasting and programming activities', 90 'Creative, arts and entertainment activities', 91 'Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities', NACE 2008.

² Students from the following narrow areas of education under COO 2008 Arts, Humanities, Journalism and Architecture are included.

³ Data refers to 2015.

⁴ Gross value added, expert assessment based on work tables.

⁵ Data are preliminary and concern the following CN codes: 4901 'Printed books, brochures, leaflets and similar printed matter, whether or not in single sheets'; 4902 'Newspapers, journals and periodicals, whether or not illustrated or containing advertising material'; 92 'Musical instruments; parts and accessories of such articles'; 97 'Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques'.

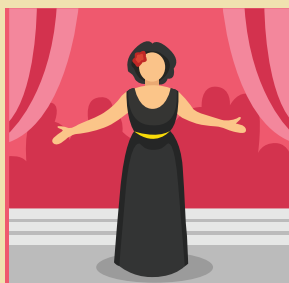


Average expenditure on culture¹ per household in 2016



For books, newspapers and magazines - BGN 37

For cinema, live performance, museums, etc. - BGN 16

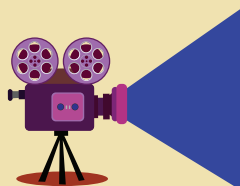


All persons using internet for personal purposes² in 2016:

- 68.0% read newspapers, magazines and news online
- 35.1% publish personal creativity on the internet
- 8.7% order books, magazines and newspapers online
- 6.4% order films and music online
- 14.5% buy tickets for different events online
- 20.0% use Internet for training



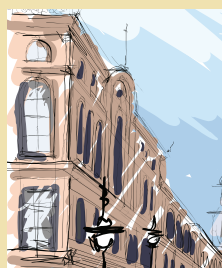
Participation in cultural events and activities³ during the last 12 months



Visits to film projections - 21.9% of persons aged 16 and over (1 331 thousand)



Visits to live performances (theatre, opera, ballet, concert, etc.) - 19.5% (1 183 thousand persons)



Visits to cultural sites, archaeological monuments, museums, art galleries, etc.) - 14.7% (893 thousand persons)

¹ Household Budget Survey.

² Survey on the ICT usage in households and by individuals in 2016.

³ Survey on Income and Living Conditions, Module 2015 'Social life and material deprivation'.



Most visited museums in Bulgaria in 2016



Regional Museum of History - Veliko Tarnovo
National Museum of History - Sofia
National Gallery - Sofia
Directorate of Museums - Koprivshitsa
Historical Museum - Kavarna

Cultural and historical sites in Bulgaria included in UNESCO's list of cultural and historical heritage

