

Slovak euro coins

The double cross on three hills (coins in a nominal value of 1 euro and 2 euro). The double cross on three hills in the background consisting of a relief of rocks symbolises stability and strength of the State. The coin designer is academic sculptor Ivan Řehák from Bratislava.



Bratislava Castle (coins in a nominal value of 10, 20 and 50 cents). Bratislava Castle is a dominant feature of Bratislava, the capital of the Slovak Republic. It is a national monument. The coin designers are Ján Černaj and Pavel Károly from Kremnica.



Kriváň Peak (coins in a nominal value of 1 cent, 2 cents and 5 cents). The Tatra Mountains Kriváň Peak is connected with important historic events of the Slovak nation. It is the symbol of protection of its sovereignty and historical territory. The coin designer is Drahomír Zobek from Kremnica.



- € Slovakia will need approximately 188 million pieces of euro banknotes in a value of EUR 7 billion.
- € If the banknotes were put in a row, the row would be 25,000-kilometre long.
- € Banknotes placed next to each other would cover an area of 450 football grounds.
- € There will be 400 million Slovak euro coins in a value of more than EUR 140 million.
- € If the coins were put in a row, they would cover the railway network of Slovakia two and a half times.
- € If we wished to transport the coins in one shipment, we would need 79 trucks, each with a load of 24 tons.
- € These trucks arranged one after another would form a 1.5-kilometre-long row.

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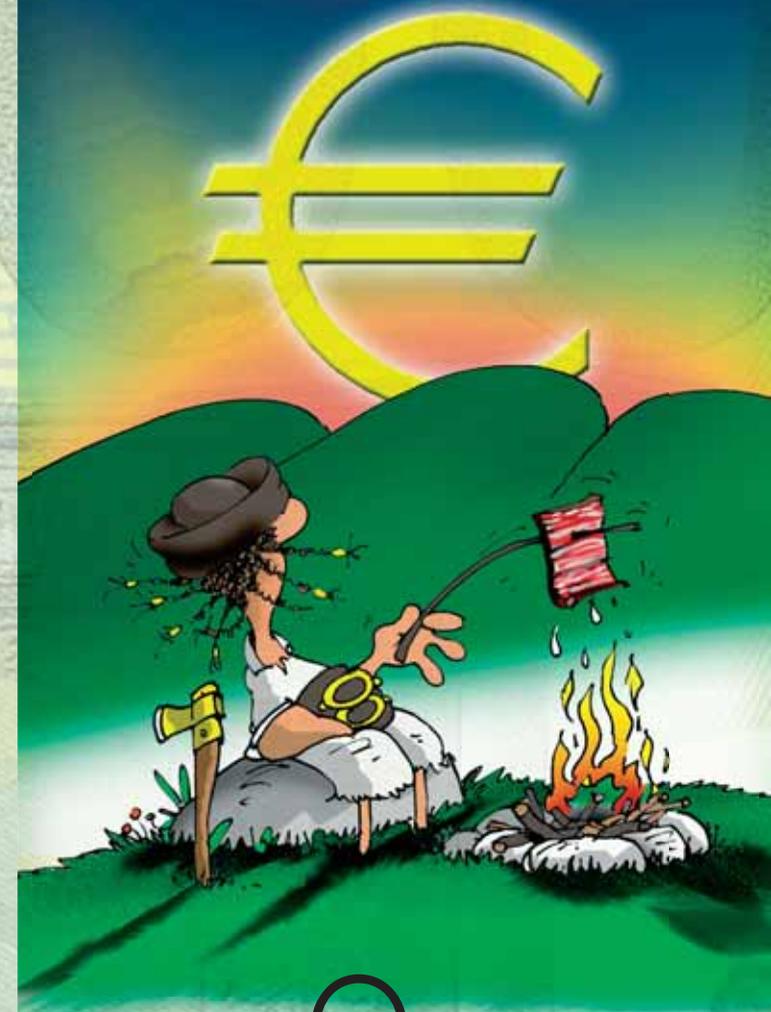
Toll-free telephone line: 0800 103 104

Published by: © Národná banka Slovenska, April 2008
Illustrations: © Alan Lesyk

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NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA



Our
euro

On 1 January 2009, Slovakia should adopt the euro, and thus become the sixteenth country of the euro area. The single European currency will become our national currency, which is used by more than 320 million Europeans.

Euro, our money

Euro banknotes are identical in all countries. They show windows, gateways and bridges that were built on the territory of Europe from the ancient times up to the present. Seven banknotes represent seven architectural styles with their typical elements and techniques. Thanks to our rich history, many structures corresponding to these representations are to be found in Slovakia as well. Therefore, though no specific works are depicted on the banknotes, when looking at them many Slovaks might feel that there are the windows and gateways from our cathedrals, castles or modern buildings, and that the bridges span over Slovak rivers.

Euro banknotes do not only have a beautiful design, but they also contain up-to-date security features, which ranks them among the banknotes best protected against counterfeiting.



July
2004

Announcement of an anonymous public tender for design proposals for the Slovak sides of the euro coins

For the introduction of the euro in Slovakia, approximately 188 million banknotes will be needed. Národná banka Slovenska will borrow the entire amount of banknotes from the Eurosystem, through the Central Bank of Austria.

November
2005

Public opinion poll on the selected designs

December
2005

Národná banka Slovenska approved the motifs for the Slovak sides of euro coins and their graphic designs

2008

Minting of Slovak euro coins in the Kremnica Mint

1 January
2009

Planned accession of Slovakia to the euro area – Slovak euro coins are valid in the entire euro area

United in diversity

Each country of the European Union has its cultural and historical particularities enriching united Europe and creating a unique European community. This fact is reflected as a principle in the appearance of euro coins, which have one common side and one national side.

The common side shows the denomination of the coin and one of three variations of the map of Europe, with stars from the European flag in the background. The map on 1-, 2- and 5-cent coins shows the position of Europe in the world; on 10-, 20- and 50-cent coins is the European Union, and on 1- and 2-euro coins is the map of Europe without borders.

Motifs for national sides are selected individually by each country entering the euro area. The number of motifs is discretionary, too. Some countries have the same motif on all eight coins, and others decided to use even eight different designs. Thus, in total, euro coins circulate with 78 national sides, and they are ready for three additional motifs selected by Slovakia. All euro coins are valid on the territory of the entire euro area, regardless of the issuing country.

The history of Slovak euro coins

A month after the accession of Slovakia to the European Union, Národná banka Slovenska announced a public tender for design proposals for Slovak euro coins. Designers with 658 bids were accepted for the tender. The citizens could express their opinion on 10 short-listed proposals in a public opinion poll, in which more than 140,000 votes were received. When selecting the national sides of Slovak euro coins, the Bank Board of Národná banka Slovenska took the results of the poll into account. Three design proposals that achieved the most votes in the poll became the official designs for the Slovak sides of euro coins.

To ensure a smooth changeover to the new euro currency, about 400 million Slovak euro coins will be needed. The coin production will start immediately upon the decision on the accession of Slovakia to the euro area. These coins will be produced by the Kremnica Mint, which is the oldest continuously producing mint in Europe.

Its history began in 1328, when the Hungarian King Charles Robert of Anjou promoted Kremnica to a free royal borough. Moreover, he granted it the privilege to operate a mint. All Kremnica ducats were typical of high and stable levels of purity, thanks to which they were considered the hardest currency in Central Europe in the Middle Ages. For the entire history, 21.5 million pieces were minted in Kremnica. At the present price of gold, their total value would represent one billion dollars.

At present, the Kremnica Mint is a modern mint complying with all technical requirements for the euro coinage. The one and two euro coins are of two colours, they are composed of two different metals, and their core is magnetic. Modern sandwich technology is used to produce them. 1-, 2- and 5-cent coins are made of copper coated steel and they are magnetic, too. 10-, 20- and 50-cent coins are made of a special metal, Nordic gold. It melts at high temperatures, and is exclusively used for coins. Apart from this, euro coins contain security features which can be reliably verified by all slot machines and coin processing machines.

