

EURO

THE NUMISMATIC COLLECTION OF SENJ TOWN MUSEUM



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The euro is the common currency of more than 340 million people and is a powerful symbol of European unity. The name “euro” was chosen in 1995 at the European Council meeting in Madrid. The symbol “€” is based on the Greek letter epsilon (Ε) and the first letter in the word “Europe”, whilst the two parallel lines indicate stability. The design of euro banknotes is a symbol of European integration. The windows, doors and bridges symbolise openness and cooperation amongst Europeans. Euro banknotes are issued by national central banks of the euro area in quantities approved by the European Central Bank and are legal tender in all euro area countries. Euro banknotes are produced at 11 locations within the euro area.

There are two series of euro banknotes in circulation. The first series consists of seven denominations (5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros), and the second, which is also called the “Europa” series, has the same denominations, except for the 500 euro denomination. This denomination is no longer being printed, but it can still be used as a means of payment. Regardless of the series, each euro banknote denomination is visually recognisable by its dominant colour and architectural motif. The dimensions of the first and second series euro banknotes of 5, 10, 20 and 50 euros are identical, whilst the dimensions of the 100 and 200 euro banknotes of the first and second series are different.

Euro banknotes depict architectural motifs in styles from various periods of European history. The first series of euro banknotes was issued in 2002, whilst the euro banknotes of the “Europa” series were issued gradually in the period between 2013 and 2019. The euro banknote of 5 euros was issued in 2013, 10 euros in 2014, 20 euros in 2015, 50 euros in 2017, and 100 and 200 euros in 2019. The second series is called “Europa” because the banknotes feature a portrait of Europa, a character from Greek mythology.

Coins are also in use. They were used for the first time in 1999. They have a common reverse that depicts a map of Europe. There are eight denominations of euro coins, ranging from one cent to two euros (the euro is divided into hundred cents). Each country in the Eurozone has its own obverse design, which means that coins with different designs are in circulation.

On the first day of 2023, the euro became the official Croatian currency. Croatian euro coins have been in circulation since 1st January 2023. On the 2 euros, there is a map of Croatia, on the 1 euro, there is a European pine marten, whilst on the cents, Nikola Tesla and the Glagolitic alphabet are shown.

