

# THE EURO BANKNOTES AND COINS

The euro banknotes and coins are part of everyday life for over 329 million people in the euro area. This presentation depicts the seven euro banknotes and the eight euro coins.

The banknotes – inspired by the architectural styles of seven periods in Europe’s cultural history – are identical throughout the euro area. The coins have a ‘European’ side and a ‘national’ side, with images that vary from country to country. In addition to the countries in the euro area, the Principality of Monaco, the Republic of San Marino and the Vatican City also issue euro coins.

Furthermore, all of these countries can issue a €2 commemorative coin, with a special national design, once a year. These coins have the same European side and the same material properties as normal €2 coins. They are legal tender throughout the euro area, i.e. they can be used – and must be accepted – just like any other coin.

You can use any euro coin or banknote anywhere in the euro area.

# THE EURO BANKNOTES

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**€5**

**Size:** 120 x 62 mm

**Colour:** Grey

**Architectural period:** Classical

**€10**

**Size:** 127 x 67 mm

**Colour:** Red

**Architectural period:** Romanesque

**€20**

**Size:** 133 x 72 mm

**Colour:** Blue

**Architectural period:** Gothic

**€50**

**Size:** 140 x 77 mm

**Colour:** Orange

**Architectural period:** Renaissance

**€100**

**Size:** 147 x 82 mm

**Colour:** Green

**Architectural period:** Baroque and rococo

**€200**

**Size:** 153 x 82 mm

**Colour:** Yellow-brown

**Architectural period:** Iron and glass architecture

**€500**

**Size:** 160 x 82 mm

**Colour:** Purple

**Architectural period:** Modern 20th century

# THE EURO COINS

The coins range from €2 to 1 cent. Each one has a 'European' side and a 'national' side. The European sides show either the EU before its enlargement in May 2004 or a geographical image of Europe. The national sides show symbols or images from the countries that issue the coins. The countries comprise the members of the euro area, as well as the Principality of Monaco, the Republic of San Marino and the Vatican City. You can use any euro coin anywhere in the euro area.

## EUROPEAN SIDES

### €2

**Diameter:** 25.75 mm

**Height at edge:** 2.20 mm

**Weight:** 8.50 g

**Colour:**

Outer part: silver

Inner part: gold

**Composition:**

Outer part: copper-nickel

Inner part: three layers: nickel-brass, nickel, nickel-brass

**Edge:** Characters struck into finely-ridged edge

### €1

**Diameter:** 23.25 mm

**Height at edge:** 2.33 mm

**Weight:** 7.50 g

**Colour:**

Outer part: gold

Inner part: silver

**Composition:**

Outer part: nickel-brass

Inner part: three layers: copper-nickel, nickel, copper-nickel

**Edge:** Three finely-ridged and three smooth sections

### 50 CENT

**Diameter:** 24.25 mm

**Height at edge:** 2.38 mm

**Weight:** 7.80 g

**Colour:** Gold

**Composition:** Nordic gold

**Edge:** Fine scallops

### 20 CENT

**Diameter:** 22.25 mm

**Height at edge:** 2.14 mm

**Weight:** 5.74 g

**Colour:** Gold

**Composition:** Nordic gold

**Edge:** Smooth with seven indents ("Spanish Flower shape")

**10 CENT****Diameter:** 19.75 mm**Height at edge:** 1.93 mm**Weight:** 4.10 g**Colour:** Gold**Composition:** Nordic gold**Edge:** Fine scallops**5 CENT****Diameter:** 21.25 mm**Height at edge:** 1.67 mm**Weight:** 3.92 g**Colour:** Copper**Composition:** Copper-covered steel**Edge:** Smooth**2 CENT****Diameter:** 18.75 mm**Height at edge:** 1.67 mm**Weight:** 3.06 g**Colour:** Copper**Composition:** Copper-covered steel**Edge:** Smooth with a groove**1 CENT****Diameter:** 16.25 mm**Height at edge:** 1.67 mm**Weight:** 2.30 g**Colour:** Copper**Composition:** Copper-covered steel**Edge:** Smooth

## NATIONAL SIDES



### **BELGIUM (Belgique/België)**

The Belgian coins show King Albert II and his monogram – a capital “A” underneath a crown – set amid the 12 stars of the European Union.



### **GERMANY (Deutschland)**

The €2 and €1 coins feature the federal eagle, a traditional symbol of German sovereignty. The Brandenburg Gate, which symbolises the division and subsequent unification of Germany, appears on the 50, 20 and 10 cent coins. An oak twig, reminiscent of the design on the old German pfennig coins, is depicted on the 5, 2 and 1 cent coins.



### **IRELAND (Éire)**

All the Irish coins have the same national side showing a Celtic harp, a traditional symbol of Ireland. The word “Ireland” is shown in Irish (Éire).



### **GREECE (Ελλάδα)**

The €2 coin depicts a scene from a Spartan mosaic featuring Europa, the Greek mythical figure from whom our continent took its name. The €1 coin shows an owl motif taken from an ancient Athenian 4 drachma coin. The 50, 20 and 10 cent coins portray leading Greek figures from the early 20th, the 19th and 18th centuries, while a seagoing tanker, a corvette and an Athenian trireme are featured on the 5, 2 and 1 cent coins respectively.



### **SPAIN (España)**

The effigy of King Juan Carlos I de Borbón y Borbón is reproduced on the €2 and €1 coins. Miguel de Cervantes, the father of Spanish literature, is shown on the 50, 20 and 10 cent coins, reflecting the universality of the man and his work. The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, one of the most famous pilgrimage destinations in the world, is depicted on the 5, 2 and 1 cent coins.



### **FRANCE**

A tree, symbolising life, continuity and growth, appears on the €2 and €1 coins. It is surrounded by the Republican motto “liberté, égalité, fraternité”. The classical theme of the sower is illustrated on the 50, 20 and 10 cent coins, while a young and feminine Marianne, a symbol of the French Republic, adorns the 5, 2 and 1 cent coins.



### **ITALY (Italia)**

The €2 coin features a portrait of Dante Alighieri by Raphael. The €1 coin shows Leonardo da Vinci’s drawing illustrating the ideal proportions of the human body. The 50, 20 and 10 cent coins depict the statue of Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, a sculpture by Umberto Boccioni and “The Birth of Venus” by Botticelli respectively. The other coins feature the Colosseum (5 cent), the Mole Antonelliana (2 cent) and the Castel del Monte (1 cent).



### **CYPRUS (Κύπρος/Kıbrıs)**

The €2 and €1 coins depict a cross-shaped idol from the Chalcolithic period (3000 BC). This example of the island’s prehistoric art reflects Cyprus’s place at the heart of civilisation and antiquity. The 50, 20 and 10 cent coins show the Kyrenia ship, a trading vessel which dates back to the fourth century BC. It symbolises the island’s seafaring history and its importance as a centre of trade. The 5, 2 and 1 cent coins show the moufflon, a species of wild sheep found on Cyprus and representative of its wildlife.



### **LUXEMBOURG (Lëtzebuerg)**

The coins show the effigy of His Royal Highness the Grand Duke Henri. The word “Luxembourg” is written in Luxembourgish (Lëtzebuerg).



### **MALTA**

The €2 and €1 coins show the eight-pointed Maltese Cross. The 50, 20 and 10 cent coins feature the Emblem of Malta, a shield displaying a heraldic representation of the Maltese national flag. The 5, 2 and 1 cent coins depict the altar at the prehistoric temple of Mnajdra, built around 3600 BC on a low elevation overlooking the sea.



### **THE NETHERLANDS (Nederland)**

Two different designs – both of Queen Beatrix in profile – are used. On the €2 and €1 coins, the words “Beatrix, Queen of the Netherlands” in Dutch appear to the right of the profile. On the 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent coins, the same wording encircles the profile.



### **AUSTRIA (Österreich)**

The €2 coin shows a portrait of the pacifist Bertha von Suttner. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the famous Austrian composer, is depicted on the €1 coin. Some of Vienna’s most famous buildings adorn the 50 cent (Secession Building), 20 cent (Belvedere Palace) and 10 cent (St. Stephen’s Cathedral) coins. The 5, 2 and 1 cent coins show an Alpine primrose, an edelweiss and a gentian flower respectively.



### **PORTUGAL**

Royal seals of the first king of Portugal, Dom Afonso Henriques, together with the word “Portugal” are shown in the centre of the coins. The seals date back to 1144 on the €2 and €1 coins, to 1142 on the 50, 20 and 10 cent coins, and to 1134 on the 5, 2 and 1 cent coins. They are encircled by castles and coats of arms, which in turn are surrounded by the 12 stars of the European Union.



### **SLOVENIA (Slovenija)**

The €2 coin shows the poet France Prešeren. The €1 coin features Primož Trubar, author of the first book printed in Slovene. The 50 and 20 cent coins depict the Triglav mountain and Lipizzaner horses respectively. The 10 cent coin features architect Jože Plečnik’s unrealised plan for the Slovenian Parliament. The 5 cent coin depicts a sower. The other coins show the Sovereign Enthronement Stone (2 cent) and a stork (1 cent).



### **SLOVAKIA (Slovenská republika)**

The €2 and €1 coins depict a double cross on three hills, as featured in the national emblem of Slovakia. The 50, 20 and 10 cent coins show Bratislava castle and the national emblem of Slovakia. The 5, 2 and 1 cent coins feature the Tatra Mountains’ peak Kriváň, a symbol of the sovereignty of the Slovak nation, and the national emblem of Slovakia.



### **FINLAND (Suomi/Finland)**

Cloudberry and cloudberry flowers appear on the €2 coin, while the motif of two flying swans features on the €1 coin. The heraldic lion is depicted on the 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cent coins.



## **MONACO**

The €2 and €1 coins depict HSH Prince Albert II. HSH Prince Albert's monogram is featured on the 50, 20 and 10 cent coins. The 5, 2 and 1 cent coins show the coat of arms of the Sovereign Princes of Monaco.



## **SAN MARINO**

The Government building (Palazzo Pubblico) is depicted on the €2 coin, while the €1 coin shows the Republic's official coat of arms. The three towers, Guaita, Cesta and Montale, appear on the 50 cent coin. The 20 cent coin features the Saint Marino, based on a canvas of the Guercino school, while the 10 cent coin depicts the Basilica of Saint Marino. The 5, 2 and 1 cent coins show the first tower, the Statue of Liberty and third tower respectively.



## **VATICAN CITY (Città del Vaticano)**

All the coins show His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and the legend "CITTÀ DEL VATICANO".