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Izvor:

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SUMMARY

INTRODUCING THE EURO IN CROATIA – THE INFLUENCE ON RECENT CROATIAN NUMISMATICS

On 1 January 2023, Croatia introduced a new currency – the euro. This made it the twentieth member state of the Eurozone, the territory made up of EU member states with a common currency. In addition to these states, four states that are not EU member states also officially use the euro as legal tender.

The euro as a common currency (coins and banknotes) became an official currency in 2002 in twelve EU member states. After that followed six extensions of the Eurozone, which included seven EU member states.

When the common currency began to be circulated, Eurozone coins consisted exclusively of euro and eurocent coins (8 denominations).

The common circulating coins have a common reverse, which was modified in 2007 in the case of 5 denominations, and a national obverse with designs selected by each Eurozone member state and the four states that officially use the euro. This form of currency is legal tender in the entire Eurozone and in the four states that officially use the euro. Experience gained in issuing the coins, and the needs of the states issuing them, resulted in the European Central Bank allowing in 2004 a change in the designs on the national side, on which commemorative designs could be used in the 2-euro denomination. After that, this denomination could be used as a commemorative coin, a new kind of coin that was legal tender just like a circulating coin. All the other features on this denomination are the same as in the case of 2-euro circulating coins.

Furthermore, the Eurozone states and the four states that officially use the euro continued their pre-euro practice of issuing national commemorative circulating coins and collectors coins, now in euros.

Circulating coins, commemorative circulating coins (common and national) and collectors coins make up the money mass (together with banknotes) of the Eurozone.

These circumstances connected with issuing circulating coins in the Eurozone also led to changes in recent Croatian numismatics.

Keywords: *euro, Croatia, numismatics*