

Obverse

The obverse design features a common otter in the upper part and a northern crested newt and round-leaved sundews in the lower right and left parts respectively. To the right of the otter is the Slovak coat of arms, positioned below the coin's denomination '20' and currency 'EURO', one above the other. The name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' and year of issuance '2022' are inscribed along the lower right edge. To the left of the sundews are the stylised initials 'KL', referring to the coin's designer Karol Ličko, and to their right are the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies.

Reverse

The reverse depicts two shingle-roofed wooden cottages typical of the Kysuce region, in this case from a settlement called Brízgalky. One of them is viewed from the front, and the other, on which a sledge is leaning, from the side. Behind the cottages are rolling hills, a feature of the Kysuce landscape, and in the distance are the distinctive peaks of Stoh and Veľký Rozsutec. In the lower left of the design is the inscription 'CHRÁNENÁ KRAJINNÁ OBLASŤ' (Protected Landscape Area) on three lines, and in the upper part is the inscription 'KYSUCE'.



Wooden cottage characteristic of the region

Coin details

Denomination:	€20
Composition:	.925 silver, .75 copper
Weight:	33.63 g
Diameter:	40 mm
Edge lettering:	OCHRANA PRÍRODY A KRAJINY (Nature and countryside conservation); a stylised flower separates the start and end of the text
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 11,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality
Designer:	Karol Ličko
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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Kysuce Protected Landscape Area

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

Kysuce has them all: bubbling streams, fragrant forests, meadow colours, charming wooden cottages, the howling of the wolf.

Like many mountain areas in Slovakia, the Kysuce and Upper Váh regions have been shaped by humans over the course of time. Vlach, Goral and Kopanice settlers left the greatest mark on the landscape. The pasturing of sheep and goats and the later cultivation of crops necessitated the extensive clearing and burning of forests. As a result, the balance between forested and unforested parts shifted significantly. Besides turning the use of the land towards agriculture, the human colonisations of the area left behind a unique landscape characterised by a mosaic of forests, pastures, terraced fields, and scattered homesteads with typical wooden cottages. Human agricultural activities enabled the secondary emergence of botanically interesting plant communities in non-forest habitats.

Violet coral

One of the geologically remarkable stone spheres found in part of the Kysuce PLA

Natural forest habitats are represented mainly by beech forests of various types, fir-beech forests, and, at higher elevations, subalpine beech-maple forests and blueberry spruce forests. There are also rare examples of lime-maple scree forests and fir and spruce-fir forests. Alder meadows and willows are typical in wetland habitats. Meadows and pastures are a common feature of non-forest habitats, as are fens, mires, tufa springs, bodies of water, and rare plant communities on rocks. As for inorganic features, the best-known are the stone spheres near Čadca and Klokočov, the Korňa oil spring, the 'Vychylovské prahy' flysch layers on the Vychylovka river, and the 'Vychylovské skálie' stone sea.

The Kysuce Protected Landscape Area (PLA) has marginal populations of the Carpathian arc's large predators, including the lynx, wolf and brown bear. Besides large carnivores, other protected fauna found here include the wildcat, the common otter, the Alpine shrew, the northern birch mouse, the peregrine falcon, the eagle owl, the Ural owl, the boreal owl, the western capercaillie, the golden eagle, the black stork, the northern crested newt, the Carpathian newt, the European green toad, the yellow-bellied toad, the smooth snake,

the Balkan spined loach, the huchen, and the dusky large blue butterfly.

The cool local climate and oceanic climatic effects have resulted in the presence of several rare subatlantic plants (at the easternmost fringe of their range), including the inundated club moss and the big trefoil. Kysuce is the only place in Slovakia where the inconspicuous water blinks occurs, while Kysuce and Záhorie are the only places where the pennywort is found. No less highly valued are the autumn lady's-tresses, the leathery grapefern, the tufted loosestrife, the heath rush, the bulbous rush, and the hard fern, which features in the logo of the Kysuce PLA. Among other notable flora found here are the small cranberry, the round-leaved sundew, the Transylvanian heath spotted-orchid, the orchid *Epipactis greuteri*, the burnt-tip orchid, and certain Sphagnum mosses. There are also some rare species of fungi, including, for example, the imperial mushroom and the violet coral.

Western capercaillie