All Polish collector coins feature:

- face value
- image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland
- inscription: Rzeczpospolita Polska
- year of issue



Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate important historic figures and anniversaries, as well as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture, science and tradition.

Information on the schedule of issue can be found at the <a href="https://nbp.pl/schedule-of-issue">nbp.pl/schedule-of-issue</a> website.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone number: +48 22 185 17 05.

Collector coins issued by NBP are sold at NBP regional branches and in the NBP online shop.



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Narodowy Bank Polski

We protect the value of Polish money



## The Slovak National Minority in Poland



## The Slovak National Minority in Poland

On 12 June 2024, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin "The Slovak National Minority in Poland", with a face value of 10 złoty.

The Slovak minority in Poland consists of two historically formed communities – members of the Slovak diaspora in Warsaw and part of the inhabitants of Upper Orava and Upper Spiš.

The Warsaw community was formed as a result of migration before World War I. The then migrants were mainly Slovak merchants and entrepreneurs. This community was integrated into Polish society. Its members were loyal to the Polish state, but at the same time retained a Slovak national consciousness. They considered Poland as their second homeland. During World War II, many of them stood in solidarity with the Polish resistance movement.

In 1942, the underground Slovak National Committee was established in Poland and cooperated with the Polish Underground State. This was possible thanks to the cooperation of the Polish and Czechoslovakian governments in exile in London. Upon the agreement with the Polish Home Army command, the "Slovak" 535th platoon of the Home Army was formed. It also included representatives of other nationalities. Second lieutenant Miroslaw Iringh was the commander of the platoon, which took part in the battles of the Warsaw Uprising.

The regions of Upper Orava and Upper Spiš were incorporated into Poland in 1920 pursuant to the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors, which thus settled the border disputes between Poland and Czechoslovakia. Some of the inhabitants of these regions still claim Slovak nationality.

The most important artist from the Slovak minority community in Poland was the academic sculptor



Face value: 10 zł

Metal: Ag 999/1,000 Finish: proof

Diameter: 32.00 mm

Weight: 14.14 g
Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 10,000 pcs



Designer: Dominika Karpińska-Kopiec Issuer: Narodowy Bank Polski

The coins, commissioned by Narodowy Bank Polski, were struck by Mennica Polska SA

Ludwik Korkoš (1928-1992), whose work is depicted on the reverse of the coin. Korkoš came from the village of Czarna Góra in the Polish Spiš region. He graduated from the School of Applied Arts in Prague and was a professor at the Secondary School of Arts and Crafts in Bratislava from 1953 to 1981. He transformed the motifs, originally inspired by the folk traditions of the Slovaks residing in Poland, into abstract art. Korkoš identified with this community to the end of his life, although he spent his artistic life in Slovakia.

The reverse of the coin features the image of Ludwik Korkoš's sculpture "Man and the Universe", against the background representing the tricolour flag of Slovakia.

The obverse features the view of Babia Góra as seen from the village of Jabłonka, which is one of the centres of the Slovak minority, and the armband used by "Slovak" 535th platoon soldiers in the Warsaw Uprising\*, as well as silhouettes of people symbolising the Slovak minority community.

Juraj Marušiak, PhD Institute of Political Science Slovak Academy of Sciences

<sup>\*</sup> The image of the armband used in the Warsaw Uprising by the soldiers of the Home Army's "Slovak" 535th platoon replicating the armband deposited in the Museum of Warsaw.