

Austria

Ethnicity in Austria

Group selection

The law recognizes Croats, Czechs, Hungarians, Roma, Slovaks and Slovenes as national minorities ¹⁸⁷. The Turks are the fastest growing and, according to the 2001 census, the second most populous ethnic minority in Austria ¹⁸⁸. We identify only two politically relevant ethnic groups: **Austrians** and **Slovenes**, as none of the other minority groups is politically represented by an organization.

¹⁸⁷ [United States State Department, 2009]

¹⁸⁸ [Central Intelligence Agency, 2010]

Power relations

The Slovene minority lives in the southern parts of the Carinthia region whereby the groups status' is marked by an ambiguous relationship with the Austrian authority. Especially until 1955, before the Austrian State Treaty was signed, the Slovene minority faced forced assimilation concerning their language and culture by the Austrian government who wanted to germanize the region. After 1955 the Slovenes were granted some minority rights such as Slovenian primary schools, but the debates on how far the language policy should go remained unresolved with the Slovene minority demanding more concessions and acknowledgment of their culture and language such as road signs in both languages. From 1960 to 1970, conflict between Austrians and Slovenes was relatively intense with some acts of violence. In 1972, broad cultural rights were granted to the Slovenes and conflict has disappeared.^(189, 190, 231). However, since the EPR coding does not consider such indirect discrimination, but only within the political sphere, the ethnic group is not coded as discriminated for the entire period.

¹⁸⁹ [Tollefson, 1981]

¹⁹⁰ [Zupancic, 1993]

Slovenes are represented mainly through the two main organizations namely the left-wing Association of Slovenian Organizations in Carinthia (Zveza sloveskih organizacij), and the conservative National Council of Carinthian Slovenes (Narodni svet koroskih Slovencev)¹⁹¹. The regional political party associated with ethnic Slovenes, the Enotna Lista, has participated in national elections by partnering with the party "Liberale Forum" until 2008 (but not in 2013). The party still participates in local elections. They are coded as "powerless" throughout, with Austrians holding a monopoly on power. Since 2006 the party is a member of the European political coalition the European Free Alliance (EFA) ⁽¹⁹²⁾. Since 2009 they have their first Major. The main focus of the party are three

¹⁹¹ [?]

¹⁹² [Austria Forum, 2015]

policies, namely language, regional and neighborhood policy ⁽¹⁹³⁾. They advocate for language rights as one of the main concerns of the Slovenian minority in Austria since the Austrian and European law recognize the language but the implementation remains weak.

A major achievement regarding the ethnic Slovene's representation in the Austrian Parliament was recorded in 2013 following the election of the first ethnic Slovenian in the Austrian Parliament. Mrs. Angelika Mlinar. Mrs. Mlinar who belongs to the Carinthian Slovenes, also served as a member of the European Parliament from 2014 until 2019. She is part of the NEOS - New Austria political party⁽¹⁹⁴⁾. Nevertheless, the representation of Slovenes and other minorities who are not politically relevant in Austria, such as Roma, remains also limited at the local level ⁽¹⁹⁵⁾.

¹⁹³ [Enotna Lista, 2020]

¹⁹⁴ [Slovenia Times, 2013]

¹⁹⁵ [Freedom House, 2020]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Austria

From 1946 until 2021

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Austrians	0.93	MONOPOLY
Slovenes	0.003	POWERLESS



Figure 35: Political status of ethnic groups in Austria during 1946-2021.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Austria

From 1946 until 2021

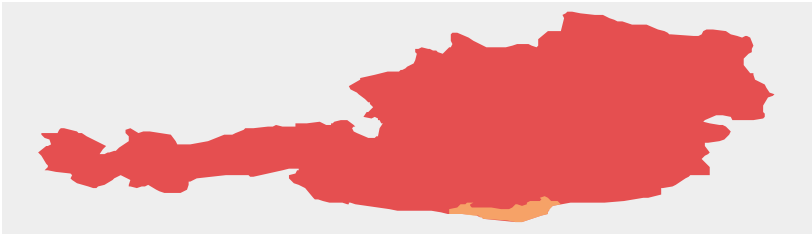


Figure 36: Map of ethnic groups in Austria during 1946-2021.

Group name		Area in km ²	Type
■	Austrians	83 931	Statewide
■	Slovenes	1478	Regional & urban

Table 15: List of ethnic groups in Austria during 1946-2021.