

Slovakia

Ethnicity in Slovakia

Group selection

The **Slovaks and Hungarians** are politically relevant in Slovakia.

The **Roma** face marginalization owing to social discrimination, economic hardship and lack of political leadership (⁴⁰⁵⁸). Historically, Roma are discriminated in almost all spheres of public life (housing, labor, education, medical services), however, there are no limitations for political participation (⁴⁰⁵⁹).

⁴⁰⁵⁸ [Freedom House, 2011]

⁴⁰⁵⁹ [Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2010]

“Some ethnic Romani individuals and parties were successful at winning representation at the local and regional levels; however, Roma were consistently underrepresented in government service, and no Roma were in the National Council” (⁴⁰⁶⁰). Specific Romani political parties exist (e.g. the Party of the Slovak Roma Union (SRÚS) and the Party of the Roma Coalition (SRK)). Despite the existence of national political parties representing the interests of Roma, “Roma political participation on the national level has remained virtually non-existent” (⁴⁰⁶¹: 34). This is mainly because of lack of regional organization and missing systematic approaches to work with Roma communities, who in turn feel unrepresented. Hence, the Roma are politically irrelevant.

⁴⁰⁶⁰ [United States State Department, 2009]

⁴⁰⁶¹ [Degro, 2015]

Power relations

1993-1998

Since independence, Slovaks ruled alone in Slovakia while excluding all minorities from executive power.

1999-2006

In 1998, a Hungarian coalition joined the government. The Hungarian minority was well represented at the local and regional levels, as well as in the national parliament.

2007-2010

After parliamentary elections on June 17, 2006, a new Slovak only government was formed. Although the Party of the Hungarian Coalition received more than 11.68% of the votes (4th largest party in the parliament), it has not been invited into the newly formed government. In 2009, due to a split in the Party of the Hungarian Coalition, a new multi-ethnic party was founded (⁴⁰⁶²).

⁴⁰⁶² [Most Hid, 2014]

2011-2012

In the national elections in June 2010, the Party of the Hungarian Coalition (SMK-MKP) failed to pass the electoral threshold of 5%. Yet, the new multi-ethnic party Most-Hid which is representing the Hungarian interests as well, although occupying a more moderate platform than the SMK-MKP, managed to enter the parliament and was included in the new government.

2013-2016

In the national elections in March 2012, the SMK-MKP again failed to enter the parliament, while Most-Hid succeeded. However, Most-Hid descended into opposition. Therefore, the Hungarians are coded as powerless for the years 2013-2016 and the Slovaks as having a monopoly in the executive.

2017

In the national elections of 2016, Most-Hid secured 6.5% of the votes and entered into national parliament (⁴⁰⁶³). While in the opposition in previous years, Most-Hid is now again part of the government coalition. Therefore, the Hungarians are coded as Junior Partner and the Slovaks as Senior Partners for the year 2017.

⁴⁰⁶³ [Euractiv, 2016]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia

From 1993 until 1998

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Slovaks	0.806	MONOPOLY
Hungarians	0.101	POWERLESS

From 1999 until 2006

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Slovaks	0.806	SENIOR PARTNER
Hungarians	0.101	JUNIOR PARTNER

From 2007 until 2010

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Slovaks	0.806	MONOPOLY
Hungarians	0.101	POWERLESS

From 2011 until 2012

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Slovaks	0.806	SENIOR PARTNER
Hungarians	0.101	JUNIOR PARTNER

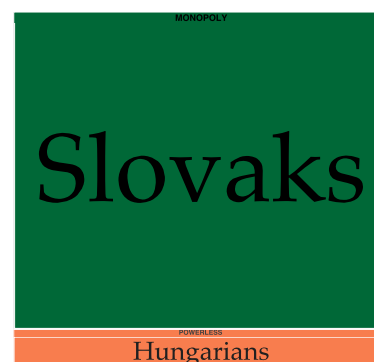


Figure 807: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1993-1998.

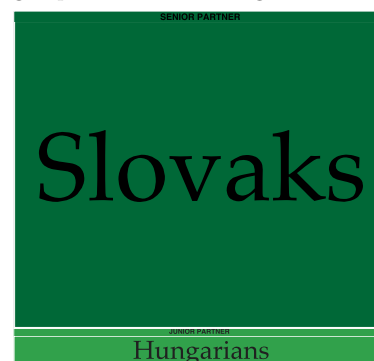
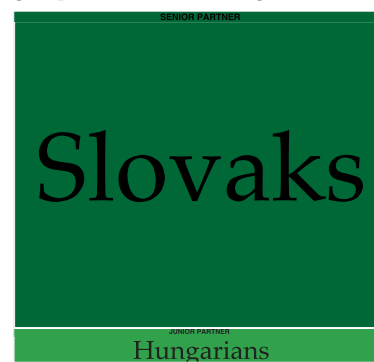


Figure 808: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1999-2006.



Figure 809: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 2007-2010.



From 2013 until 2016

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Slovaks	0.806	MONOPOLY
Hungarians	0.101	POWERLESS

From 2017 until 2017

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Slovaks	0.806	SENIOR PARTNER
Hungarians	0.101	JUNIOR PARTNER



Figure 811: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 2013-2016.



Figure 812: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 2017-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Slovakia

From 1993 until 2017

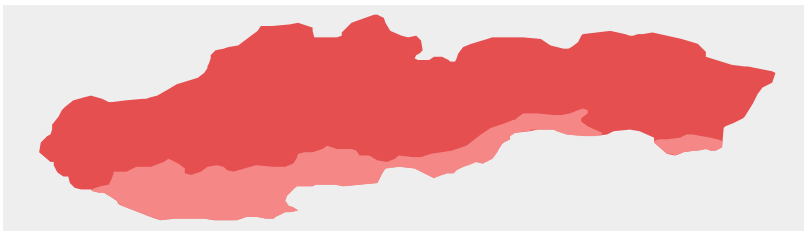


Figure 813: Map of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1993-2017.

	Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■	Slovaks	48 776	Statewide
■	Hungarians	9710	Regionally based

Table 277: List of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1993-2017.