

# 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 (<sup>4058</sup>). Historically, Roma are discriminated in almost all spheres of public life (housing, labor, education, medical services), however, there are no limitations for political participation (<sup>4059</sup>).

<sup>4058</sup> [Freedom House, 2011]

<sup>4059</sup> [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” (<sup>4060</sup>). 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” (<sup>4061</sup>: 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.

<sup>4060</sup> [United States State Department, 2009]

<sup>4061</sup> [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 (<sup>4062</sup>).

<sup>4062</sup> [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 (<sup>4063</sup>). 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.

<sup>4063</sup> [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

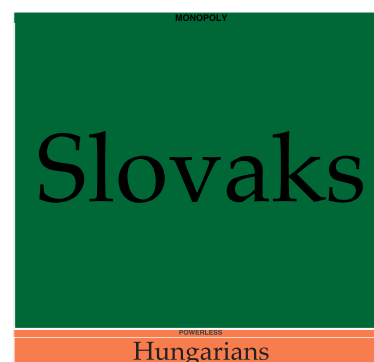


Figure 808: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1993-1998.

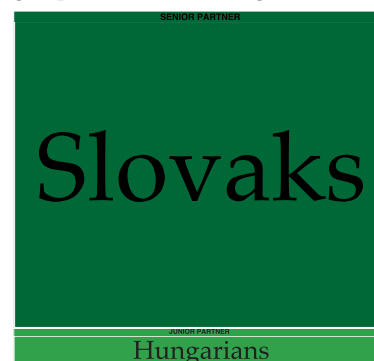


Figure 809: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1999-2006.

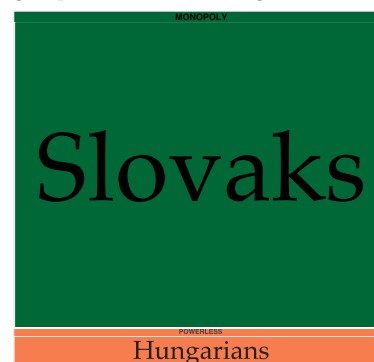
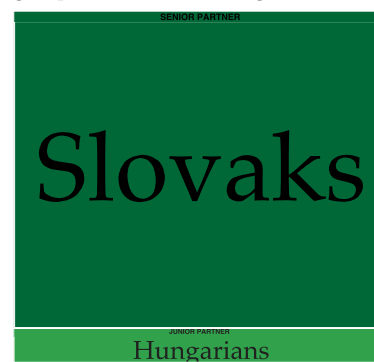


Figure 810: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 2007-2010.



*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 812: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 2013-2016.



Figure 813: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 2017-2017.

## *Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Slovakia*

*From 1993 until 2017*

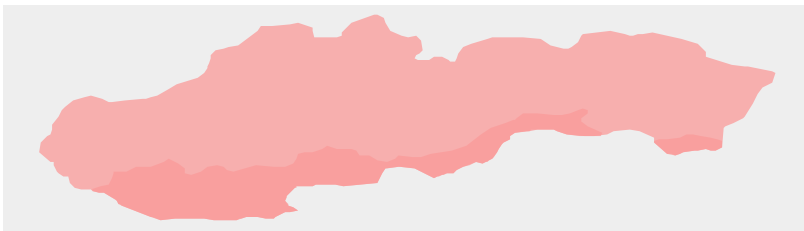


Figure 814: Map of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1993-2017.

	Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■	Slovaks	48 927	Statewide
■	Hungarians	9739	Regionally based

Table 278: List of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1993-2017.