

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 (⁴⁶⁷¹). Historically, Roma are discriminated in almost all spheres of public life (housing, labor, education, medical services), however, there are no limitations for political participation (⁴⁶⁷²).

⁴⁶⁷¹ [Freedom House, 2011]

⁴⁶⁷² [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” (⁴⁶⁷³). 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” (⁴⁶⁷⁴: 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.

⁴⁶⁷³ [United States State Department, 2009]

⁴⁶⁷⁴ [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 (⁴⁶⁷⁵).

⁴⁶⁷⁵ [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% (⁴⁶⁷⁶). Yet, the new multi-ethnic party Most-Híd 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.

⁴⁶⁷⁶ [Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic]

2013-2016

In the national elections in March 2012, the SMK-MKP again failed to enter the parliament, while Most-Híd succeeded (⁴⁶⁷⁷). However, Most-Híd 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.

⁴⁶⁷⁷ [Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic]

2017-2020

In the national elections of 2016, Most-Híd secured 6.5% of the votes and entered into national parliament (⁴⁶⁷⁸). While in the opposition in previous years, Most-Híd became part of the government coalition, further contributing to a trend of calming Slovak-Hungarian relations (⁴⁶⁷⁹). Thus, the Hungarians are coded as Junior Partner and the Slovaks as Senior Partners for the period until 2020.

⁴⁶⁷⁸ [Euractiv, 2016]

⁴⁶⁷⁹ [Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020]

2021-

Slovakia has witnessed a political turn in the past two years. First, in 2019 anti-corruption candidate Zuzana Caputova was elected as first female president, a largely ceremonial role (⁴⁶⁸⁰). Then, even more extraordinary, Slovakia's anti-corruption opposition wins the parliamentary elections in 2020 and ousts the coalition government around the incumbent Smer-SD party. The centre-right Ordinary People (OLaNO) party and its leader Igor Matovic won more than 25% of the votes (⁴⁶⁸¹; ⁴⁶⁸²). Matovic got appointed prime minister and formed a new coalition government together with the following parties: "Sme Rodina (We are Family), a socially conservative and eurosceptic party; SaS (Freedom and Solidarity), an economically liberal party; and Za ľudí (For the People), a mildly conservative party led by the former president Andrej Kiska" (⁴⁶⁸³). Whether the party of the Hungarian Community (SMK-MKP) nor the multi-ethnic Most-Híd are part of the coalition. Both parties did not pass the electoral threshold of 5% (⁴⁶⁸⁴). Thus, from 2021 onwards, the Hungarians are coded as powerless and the Slovaks as having a monopoly in the executive.

⁴⁶⁸⁰ [BBC, 2019]

⁴⁶⁸¹ [Euronews, 2020]

⁴⁶⁸² [Mortkowitz, 2020]

⁴⁶⁸³ [BBC, 2020]

⁴⁶⁸⁴ [Mortkowitz, 2020]

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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

From 2013 until 2016

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

From 2017 until 2020



Figure 920: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1993-1998.

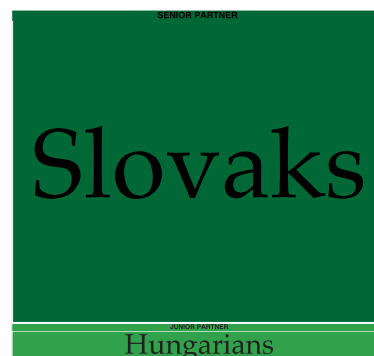


Figure 921: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1999-2006.

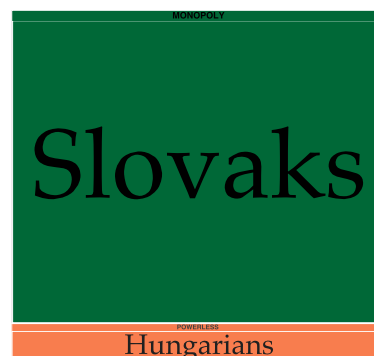


Figure 922: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 2007-2010.



Figure 923: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 2011-2012.

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

From 2021 until 2021

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



Figure 926: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 2021-2021.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Slovakia

From 1993 until 2021

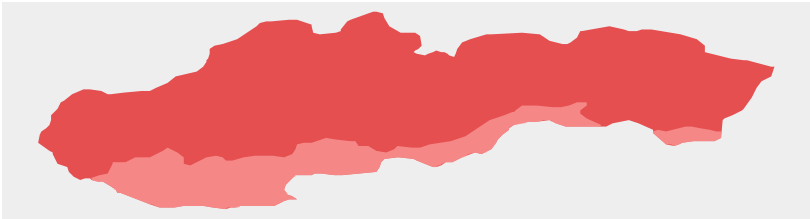


Figure 927: Map of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1993-2021.

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

Table 342: List of ethnic groups in Slovakia during 1993-2021.