

Slovenia

Ethnicity in Slovenia

Group selection

We identify the following politically relevant ethnic groups: **Slovenes, Hungarians, Italians and Roma**. Group sizes were taken from the 2002 census (⁴⁶⁸⁵).

⁴⁶⁸⁵ [Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, 2002]

Power relations

1992-2007

Slovenia declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. According to the Gleditsch & Ward list of countries, we code Slovenia as an independent country as of 1992. Slovenes are the politically dominant majority in Slovenia.

Hungarians and Italians have official minority status and participate in the government, but without relevant influence (⁴⁶⁸⁶, 738, 769). Both Hungarians and Italians have reserved seat in the National Assembly, whereas Roma are given seats in municipal councils. Italian and Hungarian minorities are directly elected in special constituencies by a simple majority vote (⁴⁶⁸⁷). Thus, members of Italian and Hungarian communities have a "double voting right", first, when they elect the representative of their minority in the parliament and second, when voting for the general parliamentary elections (⁴⁶⁸⁸). The law provides special rights and protections to indigenous Italian and Hungarian minorities, including the right to use their own national symbols and access to bilingual education (⁴⁶⁸⁹). In recent years, The Italian and Hungarian minorities remain powerless, with one seat each attained in the 2011 parliamentary elections; however, they were not represented in the cabinets of 2013, 2014 or 2018. (⁴⁶⁹⁰; ⁴⁶⁹¹).

⁴⁶⁸⁶ [Luksic, 2010]

⁴⁶⁸⁷ [Freedom House, 2019]

⁴⁶⁸⁸ [U.S. Department of State, 2019]

⁴⁶⁸⁹ [U.S. State Department, 1999-2009]

⁴⁶⁹⁰ [CIA, 2014]

⁴⁶⁹¹ [CIA, 2015]

Former Yugoslav ethnic groups (Serbs, Croats, Bosniaks) are not recognized as minorities. The government considers ethnic Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, and Albanians to be "new" minorities, and the special constitutional provisions for autochthonous minorities (Italians, Hungarians) do not apply to them. The new minorities face varying degrees of discrimination with respect to employment, housing, and education (⁴⁶⁹²; ⁴⁶⁹³). Human rights NGOs estimate that there are approximately 4,000 to 6,000 persons without legal status in the country as the result of the government's 1992 erasure of the names of approximately 18,000 persons from the register of permanent residents. These persons were mostly Yugoslav citizens (ethnic Serbs,

⁴⁶⁹² [U.S. State Department, 1999-2009]

⁴⁶⁹³ [Minority Rights Group International, 2005]

Bosniaks, Croats) residing in the country at the time of independence who did not apply for citizenship in 1991-1992. The deletion of records resulted in a loss of legal status and, as a consequence, the loss of housing, employment, health insurance, pension rights, and access to higher education for some (⁴⁶⁹⁴). According to the 2017 report by Amnesty International, the ethnic minorities of the previous Yugoslav states are still socially and politically discriminated and not officially recognized as minorities (⁴⁶⁹⁵; ⁴⁶⁹⁶; ⁴⁶⁹⁷). As the proportion of people without legal status is very small in comparison to the whole group, and as these minorities are not politically organized on the national level, they are politically irrelevant in Slovenia.

The Roma are recognized as a national minority within Slovenia, as the majority of the group has been settled on Slovenian ground for centuries. They are only politically active on the district level, but not on the national level. The Law on Local Autonomy ensures the Roma the right to a councillor on the district level. In almost all districts, thus, they are represented in the community council with a minority representative (⁴⁶⁹⁸; ⁴⁶⁹⁹). However, it cannot be said that these councils exert actual executive power on the district level, which is why the Roma have no regional autonomy.

2008-2021

On the national level, a Council of Roma Community has been formed in 2007 (⁴⁷⁰⁰). This shows that the Roma community is politically relevant since 2008. They have also asked for inclusion in the national parliament, but have not been successful so far.

⁴⁶⁹⁴ [U.S. State Department, 1999-2009]

⁴⁶⁹⁵ [Amnesty International, 2017]

⁴⁶⁹⁶ [Minority Rights Group International, 2017]

⁴⁶⁹⁷ [OVCA, 2016]

⁴⁶⁹⁸ [Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2017]

⁴⁶⁹⁹ [The Slovenia Times, 2003]

⁴⁷⁰⁰ [Rroma, 2017]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Slovenia

From 1992 until 2007

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Slovenes	0.831	DOMINANT
Hungarians	0.0032	POWERLESS
Italians	0.0011	POWERLESS

From 2008 until 2021

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Slovenes	0.831	DOMINANT
Hungarians	0.0032	POWERLESS
Italians	0.0011	POWERLESS
Roma	0.001	POWERLESS



Figure 928: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 1992-2007.



Figure 929: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 2008-2021.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Slovenia

From 1992 until 2007

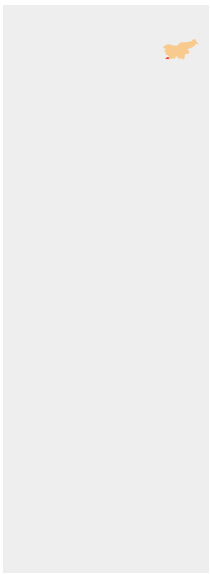


Figure 930: Map of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 1992-2007.

Group name		Area in km ²	Type
■	Slovenes	20 414	Statewide
■	Italians	306	Regionally based
■	Hungarians	0	Dispersed

Table 343: List of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 1992-2007.

From 2008 until 2021

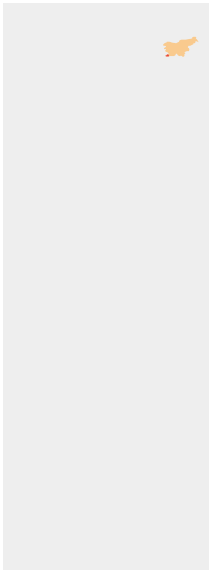


Figure 931: Map of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 2008-2021.

Group name		Area in km ²	Type
<div></div>	Slovenes	20 414	Statewide
<div></div>	Italians	306	Regionally based
<div></div>	Hungarians	0	Dispersed
<div></div>	Roma	0	Dispersed

Table 344: List of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 2008-2021.