

Slovenia

Ethnicity in Slovenia

Power relations

1991-2009 Slovenia declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. Slovenes are the politically dominant majority in Slovenia. Hungarians and Italians have official minority status and participate in the government, but without relevant influence (³¹⁵⁷, 738, 769). 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 (³¹⁵⁸). Former Yugoslav ethnic groups (Serbs, Croats, Bosniaks) are not recognized and politically excluded. The government considers ethnic Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, and Kosovo 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 governmental and societal discrimination with respect to employment, housing, and education (³¹⁵⁹). Non-ethnic Slovenes from former Yugoslavia face discrimination in all spheres of life. They are not recognized as a minority by the authorities of Slovenia, and face problems with exercising their rights regarding, for example, language use, education in their mother tongue and participation in public affairs. They also face economic and social exclusion, partly because of widespread prejudice and hidden discrimination, and partly because some remain without residence papers, and as such have no access to basic services such as health care and pensions (³¹⁶⁰). 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, 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 (³¹⁶¹).

Group sizes from 2002 Census (³¹⁶²).

³¹⁵⁷ [Luksic, 2010]

³¹⁵⁸ [U.S. State Department, 1999-2009]

³¹⁵⁹ [U.S. State Department, 1999-2009]

³¹⁶⁰ [MRGI, 2005]

³¹⁶¹ [?]

³¹⁶² [Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, 2002]

2010-2013 No changes were evident in the power states of the ethnic groups in Slovenia. The Italian and Hungarian minorities remain powerless, with one seat each attained in the 2011 parliamentary elections. Ethnic minorities, particularly the Roma, continue to face discrimination. Unemployment among the Roma is considerably higher than among the general population, with widespread poverty prevalent and people living in appalling conditions without running water and electricity. Roma and other minorities also face problems with access to health care and social protection, including social assistance and pensions. Furthermore, the Roma face limited access to education and are prohibited from practicing Islam as there is no mosque in Ljubljana (³¹⁶³).

³¹⁶³ [MRGI, 2005]

Bibliography

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Political status of ethnic groups in Slovenia

From 1991 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Slovenes	0.831	DOMINANT
Serbs	0.02	DISCRIMINATED
Croats	0.018	DISCRIMINATED
Bosniaks	0.011	DISCRIMINATED
Hungarians	0.0032	POWERLESS
Albanians	0.0031	DISCRIMINATED
Italians	0.0011	POWERLESS
Roma	0.001	DISCRIMINATED



Figure 676: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 1991-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Slovenia

From 1991 until 2013

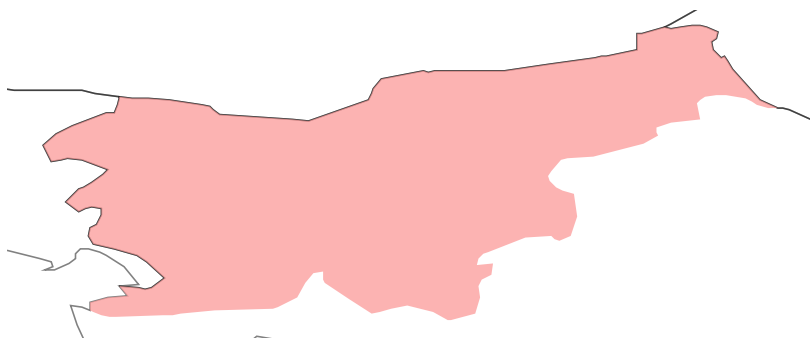


Figure 677: Map of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 1991-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Slovenes	20 370	Statewide
Serbs		Urban
Croats		Dispersed
Bosniaks		Urban
Hungarians		Dispersed
Italians		Dispersed
Albanians		Urban
Roma		Dispersed

Table 197: List of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 1991-2013.