

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 (⁴⁰⁶⁴).

⁴⁰⁶⁴ [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 (⁴⁰⁶⁵, 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 (⁴⁰⁶⁶). 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 or 2014 (⁴⁰⁶⁷; ⁴⁰⁶⁸).

⁴⁰⁶⁵ [Lukšič, 2010]

⁴⁰⁶⁶ [U.S. State Department, 1999-2009]

⁴⁰⁶⁷ [CIA, 2014]

⁴⁰⁶⁸ [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 (⁴⁰⁶⁹; ⁴⁰⁷⁰). 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 (⁴⁰⁷¹). According to the 2017 report by Amnesty International, the ethnic minorities of the previous Yugoslav states are still socially and politically discrimi-

⁴⁰⁶⁹ [U.S. State Department, 1999-2009]

⁴⁰⁷⁰ [Minority Rights Group International, 2005]

⁴⁰⁷¹ [U.S. State Department, 1999-2009]

nated and not officially recognized as minorities (AI2017; MRGI2017; OVCA2016). 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 minority within Slovenia, as the majority of the group has been settled on Slovenian ground for centuries. They are 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 (⁴⁰⁷²; ⁴⁰⁷³). 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.

⁴⁰⁷² [Sustainable Governance Indicators, 2017]

⁴⁰⁷³ [The Slovenia Times, 2003]

2008-2017

On the national level, a Council of Roma Community has been formed in 2007 (⁴⁰⁷⁴). This shows that the Roma community is indeed politically relevant since 2007. They have also asked for inclusion in the national parliament, but have not been successful so far.

⁴⁰⁷⁴ [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
Roma	0.001	IRRELEVANT

From 2008 until 2017

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



Figure 815: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 1992-2007.



Figure 816: Political status of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 2008-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Slovenia

From 1992 until 2007

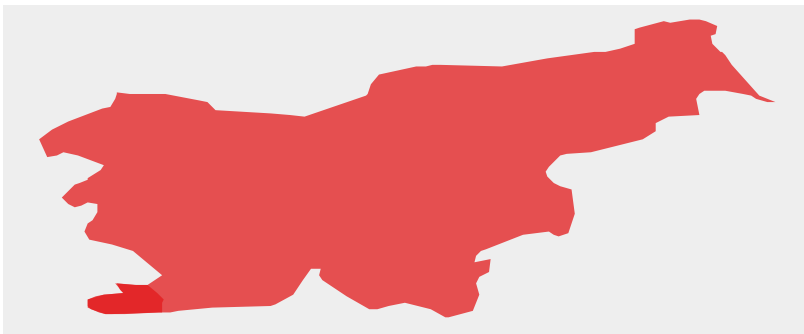


Figure 817: Map of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 1992-2007.

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

Table 279: List of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 1992-2007.

From 2008 until 2017



Figure 818: Map of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 2008-2017.

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

Table 280: List of ethnic groups in Slovenia during 2008-2017.