

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT
EUROPE
Slovakia

Snapshots Section

Country Name: Slovak Republic; short form: Slovakia
Local: *Slovenska Republika*

Country Founded in: January 1, 1993

Population: 5,439,448 (2006)

Government Type: (national, regional and local) Parliamentary democracy

Geography/location in the world: Central Europe—South of Poland
Slovakia is a primarily mountainous, landlocked nation.

Number of people groups: 18

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot:

Major Religion and % of population:
Roman Catholic 68.9%

All religions and % for each:

- Roman Catholic—68.9%
- Protestant—10.8%
- Greek Catholic—4.1%
- Unspecified—3.2%
- None or non religious—13%

Government interaction with religion: The Slovak constitution guarantees religious freedom.

Slovak Republic Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: Slovak Republic; short form: Slovakia
Local: *Slovenska Republika*

Demographics: Slovakia has a population of 5,439,448 with an annual growth rate of .15%.

Population breakdown by age:

0-14 years: 16.7%

15-64 years: 71.3%

65+ years: 12%

Median age: 35.8 years (Male—34.2/Female—37.6)

Birth rate: 10.65 births/1,000 population

Death rate: 9.45 deaths/1,000 population

Infant Mortality: 7.26 deaths/1,000 live births

Life expectancy: 74.73 years (Male—70.76/Female—78.89)

45% of Slovaks live in villages with a population below 5,000.

14% of Slovaks live in villages with a population below 1,000.

85% of the Slovak population is ethnically Slovak. In fact 9.7% of the population, which comes to more than 500,000, is ethnically Hungarian. In Western Slovakia, and particularly near the Hungarian border, some of the villages are more than 50% Hungarian.

There are also 1.7% Roma, 1% Ukrainian, and 1% other.

All statistical information from Wikipedia and the CIA World Fact Book 2005 figures.

Language

Slovak, which is of the Western Slavic language group is the official language of Slovakia. It has many similarities with the Czech language, and while there are clear distinctions between the two, for the most part they are mutually intelligible.

The Slovak language is written using Roman letters and has 43 letters in the alphabet.

Consonant clusters are common in Slovak, even to where some words contain no vowels at all.

Slovak has three major dialect groups: Eastern, Central, and Western.

Hungarian is also sometimes used in business transactions where there is a 20% minimum local population of Hungarians.

Slovak is the only official language and is spoken by 83.9% of the population. Hungarian is spoken by 10.7%, Roma 1.8%, Ukrainian 1%, and another 2.6% unspecified.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Volume 5, 2001.

Society/Culture

Slovakia has much to offer any willing traveler. The charm and culture is immediately captivating, while the country is inexpensive in western terms and small enough to thoroughly explore.

Slovaks are rich in music and art. Folk music is still very popular throughout Slovakia, keeping traditional culture alive through song and dance. Slovaks even have a saying that “wherever there is a Slovak, there is a song.” Traditional Slovakian music is one of the oldest and most original of Slavic folklore, originating in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Handicrafts are popular throughout Slovakia. From decorated eggs, to hand-knit sweaters, to woodcarvings, making crafts is popular and is typically passed down from generation to generation. Small booths and shops selling such crafts can be found in most villages.

Holidays:

- January 1—New Year’s Day; Independence Day (1993)
 - Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia
- January 6—Epiphany and Feast of the Three Kings
- March/April—Easter
- May 1—Labor Day
- May 8—Victory over Fascism (1945)
 - End of WWII in Europe
- July 5—St. Cyril and St. Methodius
- August 29—Slovak National Uprising (1944)
 - Remembrance of the Slovaks’ rise against Nazi Germany
- September 1—Constitution Day (1992)
- September 15—Our Lady of Sorrows
 - The Patron saint of Slovakia is the Blessed Virgin Mary
- November 1—All Saints’ Day
 - Cemeteries are visited
- November 17—Day of Fight for Democracy
 - Commemorating the student demonstration against Nazi occupation in 1939, as well as the demonstration marking the beginning of the Velvet Revolution in Prague in 1989.
- December 6—Saint Nicholas Day
 - This is a traditional day when Slovaks will exchange gifts with one another. Children will clean out their boots and place them in the window sill for Saint Nicholas to come and fill with candy and fruit. It is not a public holiday.
- December 24—Christmas Eve
 - The Slovak translation of Christmas Eve is “bountiful eve.” Traditionally 12 different dishes are served including garlic, honey, wafers, nuts, French beans, dried fruit, and cabbage soup with mushrooms. Fish is the traditional meat served

in Catholic households, where Lutherans have smoked meat and sausage in their cabbage soup.

- Trees have traditionally been decorated with candles, fruit, homemade decorations, and baked goods in the form of religious symbols. The tree is often kept decorated until January 6, a time in which the children are then allowed to eat the sweets on the tree.
- Families often attend a mass at 11 PM.
- December 25—Christmas Day
 - Christmas day is a holiday for families. They typically attend mass together, but do no outside visiting and spend the day together at home as a family.
- December 26—Boxing Day/St. Stephen's Day
 - People begin visiting one another, and gifts are often presented to mailmen or other service workers.

Slovaks celebrate name days. Name day celebrations are typically more common than birthdays. They are celebrated at work, home, and among friends. Each day of the year represents one female and one male name. Typical name day gifts are candy, flowers, or small trinkets.

Slovaks live a much more agrarian lifestyle than their Czech neighbors.

WorldMark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, 1997.

<http://www.slovak.com>

www.slovakia.org/culture1.htm

Government

The current Slovakian government is a parliamentary democracy. The city of Bratislava is the country's capital. Slovakia is divided into eight regions or *kraje*—Banskobystricky, Bratislavsky, Kosicky, Nitriansky, Presovsky, Trenciansky, Trnavsky, and Zilinsky.

Slovakia operates on a civil law system which is based on Austro-Hungarian codes. The legal codes have been modified in order to comply with the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) requirements and to eliminate Marxist-Leninist legal theory.

There is universal suffrage at the age of 18.

The government is divided into three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

- Executive
 - President—chief of state, elected by popular vote for 5 year term.
 - Prime Minister—head of government, typically leader of majority party appointed by the president.
 - Cabinet—appointed by the president and recommended by the prime minister.
- Legislative
 - Unicameral National Council of the Slovak Republic
 - 150 seats—members elected for 4 year terms based on proportional representation.
- Judicial

- Supreme Court—elected by National Council
- Constitutional Court—appointed by president from nominees approved by the National Council
- Special Court—elected by council of judges and appointed by the president

The Association of Employers of Slovakia, the Association of Towns and Villages, the Confederation of Trade Unions, and Metal Workers Unions are all Slovakian political pressure groups.

International Disputes:

- Hungary recently amended a status law in regards to ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia. The law extends special social and cultural benefits to these ethnic Hungarians, despite Slovakia's protests.
- Hungary and Slovakia continue to consult and debate completion of Hungary's portion of the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros hydroelectric dam project along the Danube.
- Currently a member state of the EU's border, Slovakia is forced to implement strict Schengen border rules. Schengen border laws pertain to the borders of the EU, and basically were intended to be the end of border check points between these countries.

Slovakia is a transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin bound for Western Europe as well as a producer of synthetic drugs for the regional market.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lo.html>

Economy

Slovakia has recently made the transition from a centrally planned economy to a modern market economy. Slovakia exceeded its expected economic growth rate from 2001-2005, despite the European slowdown. They were able to join the European Union May 1, 2004. One of Slovakia's main economic weaknesses is their unemployment rate, which stood at 11.4% in 2005.

Currency—Slovak Koruna
31.018 Koruna to \$1

GDP purchasing power parity—\$85.56 Billion
GDP Official exchange rate—\$42.74 Billion
GDP growth rate—5.5%
GDP per capita—\$15,800

GDP by Sector

- Agriculture—5.5%
- Industry—28.4%
- Services—66.1%

Labor Force—2.24 million
Inflation Rate—2.7%

Primary Agricultural Products

- Grains

- Potatoes
- Sugar beets
- Hops
- Fruit
- Pigs
- Cattle
- Poultry
- Forrest Products

Export Partners

- Germany (34.2%)
- Czech Republic (14.6%)
- Austria (8.2%)
- Italy (6%)
- Poland (5.3%)
- USA (4.5%)
- Hungary (4.3%)

Import Partners

- Germany (25.9%)
- Czech Republic (21.3%)
- Russia (9.1%)
- Austria (6.6%)
- Italy (5.1%)
- Poland (4.9%)

All statistical information from the CIA World Fact Book 2005 figures.

Literacy

Slovakia has a high literacy rate of 99.6%. Everyone over the age of 15 can read and write. Male—99.7%, Female—99.6%

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lo.html>

Land/Geography

Slovakia is a small landlocked nation located within the heart of Europe. Slovakia shares its borders with Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Ukraine.

Slovakia makes up a total land area of 48,845 km, and is roughly twice the size of New Hampshire. Most of the land is covered in rugged mountains and only 29.23% of the land is arable. Nevertheless, within the Tatra Mountains are located many scenic points of interest including beautiful lakes and valleys. The Tatras are the second highest mountain ranges in Europe, second only to the Alps.

Slovakia has a temperate climate, tending to have cold, severe winters, with warm, short summers.

The air pollution from metallurgical plants poses concern for human health. Acid rain damages forest land.



<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lo.html>

History

The Celts first occupied the land of current day Slovakia around 50 BC. They were pushed out by the first Slavic tribes who moved in and settled in the region in the 5th-6th centuries. A Frankish merchant named Samo led in creating the first unified state of Slavic tribes in 625 AD.

By the 9th century, the empire developed into the Moravian Empire, and soon the Moravian Empire expanded to incorporate Bohemia, Slovakia, Southern Poland, and Western Hungary. This area became known as the Great Moravian Empire.

By the close of the 9th century, the Hungarians (Magyars) began moving into the Slovakian lands, incorporating the territory as their own. Slovakia became a part of the Kingdom of Hungary, led by King Stephen I, in 1000 AD. For many centuries to come, the Magyars acted superior to the Slovaks, treating them as their subjects. This stifled Slovak growth and development, which lasted until the Tartar invasions of Hungary in the 13th century.

In the 16th century, after the Turkish victory, Hungary was divided into three parts, one of which was “Royal Hungary,” and included present day Slovakia. While most of the Hungarian lands endured Turkish occupation, Slovakia resisted, nevertheless, and was the primary battleground for the Turkish wars for nearly two hundred years.

Slovakia was rich in raw materials, being the biggest producer of silver and the second largest producer of gold in all of Europe, but during this time lost most of these resources to the Hapsburgs in asking them to come and defend them against the Turks. The empire was handed over to Hapsburg rule. During the Hapsburg reign, Slovakia was firmly under Catholic control. Bratislava was the capital of the Hapsburg lands for over a century, until the Turks were driven from the land at the end of the 17th century. At that time, Hungary moved its capital to Budapest.

In the late 18th century, as the Hapsburg rulers were attempting to Germanize the empire, the Hungarians displayed a rise in Hungarian nationalism, which as a result stimulated Slovaks to consider their own national identity. The Hungarians did their best to extinguish this Slovak nationalism. During the 1848 Revolution, there was a Slovak program entitled, “Demands of the Slovak Nation,” asking for Slovak to be used in schools, courts, and public settings. All the demands were denied. Then, in 1867 when the Austro-Hungarian Empire was formed, they experience an increased Hungarian nationalism under a program called Magyarization.

The Magyarization is also referred to as Hungarian ethnic cleansing. This program was actually adopted as an official law and thus the ethnic Hungarians (Magyars) dominated all nationalities around them from 1867-1918 enforcing strict assimilation. The Magyarization motto was that a member of the Kingdom of Hungary could not be a patriot unless he was fully identifiable as Hungarian, meaning he spoke, felt, and thought as a native Magyar. Slovak institutions, including schools were closed and Slovak culture, language, and heritage was forbidden to be taught. The Hungarians reportedly even took away some young Slovak children in order to bring them up fully as Hungarian. Entire Slovak villages became fully Magyarized to the point of inability to speak the Slovak language or know of their actual heritage. The process tended to spark Slovak emigration, and many fled to the United States. The American immigration figures indicate there were 1300 immigrants in 1873, 4000 in 1880, and 15,000 in 1884.

(www.slovakia.org)

The Slovaks united with the Czechs as WWI began. The Czechs declared independence October 28, 1918, and the Slovaks seceded from the Hungarians October 30, creating the Czecho-Slovak Republic. Czechoslovakia was the only central eastern European country to remain a parliamentary democracy from 1918-1938. Nevertheless, the nation had struggles, particularly minority issues. As the Czechs were more economically and politically developed, they dominated the state, which led to Slovak discontent. A group of Slovak nationalist, particularly within Jozef Tiso's People's Party, sought complete independence.

As Adolf Hitler was demanding the highly German Sudetenland of the Czech region, Slovakia felt it was a good time to go ahead and secede from Czechoslovakia. Thus, immediately after Hitler gained control of Prague, Slovakia declared its independence as the "Slovakia of President Tiso." It was really only nominally independent and soon became a Nazi puppet state.

In 1943, a Slovak National Council was formed, with both democratic and communist participants. The Council was in opposition to the Tiso government. Upon the ending of the war, the Council took control of Slovakia. At this time, in 1945, Slovakia was again a part of Czechoslovakia. When they held elections in 1946, the Democratic Party won in Slovakia (63%), but the Czechoslovak Communist Party won in the Czech part, thus winning the overall vote in Czechoslovakia. The country soon became a satellite state of the USSR. There was a wave of executions, expulsions, and arrests throughout the republic that lasted until 1954. Tiso was executed in 1947.

The Communist Party formally seized power in February 1948, with Stalinist Klement Gottwald in power. Following the Stalinist pattern of the other eastern European states, the government sentenced 11 of its former leaders to death. Antonin Novotny came into power next and the Czechoslovak nation was under strict communist control for more than a decade.

In the 1960s discontent and dissatisfaction arose in the party and Alexander Dubcek, a Slovak, replaced Novotny as president in 1968. Dubcek led the nation towards political, social, and economic reform. This time period is known as the "Prague Spring." In April of 1968, a program was adopted setting guidelines for a more modern, humanistic, socialist democracy guaranteeing freedom of religion, press, assembly, speech, and travel. Dubcek hoped that it would give socialism "a human face."

These reforms caused concern among many of the other Warsaw Pact governments, and on August 20, 1968, Soviet, Hungarian, Bulgarian, East German, and Polish troops invaded and occupied Czechoslovakia. This invasion put an end to “socialism with a human face.” Dubcek and many of his party allies were removed from their positions. Dubcek was replaced by Gustav Husak, once a reformer but now a loyal socialist in April of 1969. Anti-Soviet demonstrations began in August 1969, ushering in an era of tyranny through the 1980s, known as “normalization.”

Again, liberalization in USSR sparked new political change in Czechoslovakia. Husak ignored and delayed implementing Gorbachev’s calls for perestroika and glasnost until 1987. The changes did not actually take affect until 1991, after Husak’s 1987 retirement. The Slovaks were more leery of political change than the Czechs, who led the “Velvet Revolution” in Prague’s Wenceslas Square in November 1989. Alexander Dubcek returned from exiled and attempted to again gain leadership, but the Czechs prevented a Slovak from winning the presidential election. Czech’s Vaclav Havel won the election, and Dubcek became leader of the National Assembly.

The Soviet-style state began to be immediately dismantled and economic change slowly began. The tensions between the Czechs and the Slovaks, however, continued to elevate. Slovaks were opposed to many of the reform programs initiated by the Czechs in Prague. The struggles continued through 1992, when new federal elections were held. The Slovak National Council issued a declaration of sovereignty and adopted a new constitution to be effective in January of 1993. As 1992 drew to an end, it was apparent that separation was inevitable. The two Prime ministers, Klaus (Czech) and Meciar (Slovak) agreed to the separation referred to as the “velvet divorce.” The separation took effect January 1, 1993.

Rather than moving towards political and economic liberalization as the Czechs were doing, the new Slovak government chose to retain a socialist style government. The country experienced economic decline. Meciar was re-appointed as prime minister in 1994, and again was slow to introduce reform. Much of the legislation implemented by Meciar’s government was found unconstitutional and new election laws were written. Under the new laws, in 1997 the Slovak Democratic Coalition was formed by five small political groups, with Mikulas Dzurinda as leader.

In 1998, a coalition government was formed with Dzurinda as prime minister. The Dzurinda government implemented numerous reforms, both political and economic, enabling Slovakia to enter the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. This seemed to close nearly all areas of the negotiations with the EU (European Union), but made Slovakia a NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) candidate. Dzurinda was given a second term in 2002, when he made alliances with the Hungarian Coalition Part, the Christian Democrats, and the Alliance of New Citizens. The new government strongly supported both NATO and EU integration, continuing in the reforms towards a free market economy.

Slovakia joined NATO on March 29, 2004, and became a full member of the EU on May 1, 2004.

Christian History

The Slavic lands had an early Christian presence beginning with German missionaries who came with Roman Catholicism around the 7th century AD. Located in the heart of Europe, both the East and the West had claims to the lands and contributed to the development of the Christian community.

The 9th century brought early Christian missionaries Cyril and Methodius, to the Slavic lands, particularly to Moravia. They taught the people in the vernacular languages, contributing greatly to the development of the alphabets and written Slavic languages, rather than forcing Latin upon them. This contributed toward many people choosing to align with the Byzantine church, where they were allowed to use their own languages in corporate study and worship. Nevertheless, the western Slavs aligned, at least culturally, with the West and the Roman Catholics.

Once the Kingdom of Hungary was established under King Stephen 1 in 1000 AD, Slovakia was absorbed as a part of that Kingdom. Hungary was immediately Christianized and so, for the most part, the Catholic tradition continued in the Slovak lands.

Luther's activities and writings first made their way into Slovakia via merchants in 1519. Support of these ideas was quickly found, particularly in the German communities in central and eastern Slovakia. Around the same time, Anabaptists made their way into Slovakia. In 1547, numerous Anabaptists who were expelled from Bohemia fled to western Slovakia and soon the numbers were in the thousands. So, by 1570, the Protestant Reformation was widely supported by Slovakia and by the beginning of the 17th century, nearly three-fourths of the ethnic Slovak population was Protestant.

In the meantime, many political changes were taking place. In the 16th century, after the Turks had destroyed the Kingdom of Hungary, the Hapsburgs began to control Slovakia and the Hungarian Kingdom. The Hapsburgs were Catholics, and maliciously imposed the faith on the empire, forcing the Slovaks to return to the Catholic tradition. In fact, during this time, Protestants suffered a large-scale persecution and were forced into exile. From 1659-1681, 900 Slovak Protestant churches were seized, where the pastors agreed to exile or were tortured and imprisoned, and sometimes executed.

The Protestants found no relief until 1781, when Joseph II issued an Edict of Toleration allowing the Protestants limited freedom. In 1848, another edict was given, giving Protestants equal rights with the Catholics.

In the years shortly after WWII, from 1949 to 1954, the atheistic communist government placed powerful pressure upon the Church. Christians and members of the Church suffered much persecution and many ministers were arrested and imprisoned. In 1950, Slovakia was forced to dissolve religious orders. Many churches and institutions were closed and deemed as illegal, while the rest were under the heavy scrutiny of the government. Under the Dubcek regime and the "Prague Spring" in 1968, some of these institutions were allowed to reassemble. However, soon Dubcek was out of power, and the religious freedoms were once again heavily suppressed.

After the fall of communism, the church was free from governmental control and numerous churches and seminaries were reopened and again functional.

Slovakia's constitution guarantees freedom of religion. With new freedom to express and practice one's faith, there is an increasing need for ministers in Slovakia. Furthermore, there are only minimal theological books written in Slovak that exist today.

www.wikipedia.com

The World Christian Encyclopedia, Second Edition, Volume 1

Hinlicky, Paul R. "The Lutheran Church in Slovakia After Communism," [Lutheran Forum](#).

Religions

Non-Christian

- *Atheism-Non Religious*
 - Atheism is essentially an absence of belief in the existence of deities. This definition can include both those who claim there is no god, as well as those who make no claim as to if God even exists (sometimes referred to as agnostic).
 - Government reports show 10% of the Slovak population adheres to atheism.
 - Atheism was a significant force in Slovakian life prior to the fall of communism, but has since been on a decline.
 - The non-religious make up over 17 percent of the population or over 1,000,000 people. This group is increasing at + 4.8 percent annually

- *Judaism*
 - This monotheistic religion has a 4,000-year history. Jews devote themselves to the study and observance of spiritual and ethical principles provided through and embodied in the Hebrew Scriptures and Talmud. They are still awaiting the promised Messiah.
 - The Jews living in Slovakia are the smallest holocaust-surviving Jewish community throughout Europe. The population is currently around 4,000.
 - The Institute of Jewish Studies was established in Bratislava in 1996.
 - The Union of Jewish Youth is active in Slovakia, where there the young are rediscovering their Jewish origins.
 - There are 200 synagogues throughout Slovakia.

"Jews in Slovakia." www.slovakia.org

- *Islam*

Islam is a small but increasing group in Slovakia. Muslims compose only 0.02 percent of the people or around 1100 people.

Islam is, however, increasing at a rate over 15% annually

- *Jehovah's Witness*

- The Jehovah's Witnesses claimed 11,785 members in 2005, with 161 congregations. They reported 238 baptisms.
- The Memorial attendance report in 2005 reflects 20,727 attendees.
- *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*
 - The Mormons in Slovakia reported 3 units in 1997.
- *Roman Catholics*
 - The majority of the Slovak population adheres to Roman Catholicism.
 - Reports in 1998 show 3,300,000 adherents and 1,415 units, composing 60% of the Slovak population.
 - The Holy See has diplomatic relations with Slovakia, and in 2000 AD, Slovakia was represented to Catholic hierarchy through a nuncio dwelling in Bratislava.
- *Greek Catholic*
 - The Catholic Church of the Byzantine-Slavonic rite (Greek Catholic Church) is in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. They can interchangeably receive the sacraments at any of the services.
 - In 1998, the Greek Catholics of Slovakia officially claimed 165,000 adherents, comprising 3% of the population.
- *Eastern Orthodox*
 - The Eastern Orthodox faith is one of the three major doctrinal groups of Christianity. It is characterized by continuity with the apostolic church, its liturgy, and its territorial churches. Its adherents can primarily be identified as living in the Balkans, Middle East, and Russia. The mystery of God is the essence of the church. The mysteries, which enlighten and transform, and through which God acts through history, become realities by the power of the Spirit and are the center of Orthodox religious life.
 - The Eastern Orthodox tradition exists primarily in eastern Slovakia. There were 220,894 adherents reported in 1997, making up 4.10% of the Slovak population.

Protestant/Evangelicals/Pentecostals

- *Baptist*
 - The first Baptist church in Slovakia was opened in August of 1890, with 63 members
 - Slovak Baptist Union was formed in February 1914 with four participating churches.
 - At the fall of Communism, there were 9 Baptist churches in Slovakia.

- In 1995 the Union signed a partnership with Southern Baptists of Virginia and the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.
- In 1998 the Baptist Union of the Slovak Republic reported 15 units and 1,984 adherents.
- The current Slovak Baptist website reports 22 Slovak Baptist congregations and 1 International Congregation.

“The History of Baptists in Slovakia: The Reformation and Persecution in Slovakia,” The Reformed Reader.

www.reformedreader.org
www.baptist.sk/english

- *Evangelical Lutheran Church*

- Lutherans have continually been the largest Protestant denomination in Slovak lands.
- The Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession was established in 1530. This is the largest Lutheran body in Slovakia, and reported 327 congregations in 1995, with 330,000 adherents.

- *Reformed*

- The Reformed Christian Church was established in 1918, upon Slovakia’s break from the Hungarian empire.
- In 1995, reports indicate there were 403 Reformed congregations, with 120,000 adherents.
- Those associated with the Reformed church are primarily of rural farmers of Hungarian origin.

Unless otherwise noted, statistics in this section came from www.adherents.com and The World Christian Encyclopedia, Second Edition, Volume 1.

People Groups

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British (500)

The British people living in Slovakia are English speakers. They are primarily Christian. Alternate names for this people group are Anglo-Pakistani, Euronesian, Scottish, White, and Anglophones. They are a Eurasian People of the Anglo Celt people cluster.

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Byelorussian (1,000)

The Byelorussian people, also known as Belarussian, are an Eastern Slav people cluster of the Eurasian Peoples. They primarily speak Belarusan. They are primarily non-religious.

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Croat (1,100)

The Croats are a Eurasian people of a Southern Slavic people cluster who speak Croatian. In Slovakia they are primarily non-religious. Their alternate people names include Bosnian, Serbian, and Muslimani.

970**Czech (59,000)**

The Czechs in Slovakia, also known as Bohemians, are a Western Slavic Eurasian People. They speak Czech and primarily are non-religious. Reports claim that few if any are believers, with less than 5% being Christian adherents.

974**Deaf (27,000)**

The Deaf in Slovakia primarily use Slovakian Sign Language. They are among the least-reached peoples and are less than .01% Evangelical\2% Christian Adherents.

000**French (1,600)**

The French, alternately referred to as Franco-Mauritian Mulatto, are a Eurasian people and natively speak the French language. They are primarily Christian.

000**German (5,300)**

The German people in Slovakia are a Eurasian people who speak the Standard German language. Alternate names for this group include Saxon, Volga German, High German, and Transylvanian. They are primarily Christian adherents.

000**Gypsy, Slovak (118,000)**

The Slovak Gypsies are a South Asian People. They speak the Slovak language and are primarily non-religious. The Slovak Gypsies and other Romani have been affected by high levels of poverty. They are discriminated against, to the extreme that it is near to impossible to work, own a home, or even live in areas with running water, electricity and sewers. The children are often malnourished.

<http://iwwaw.igc.org/publications/countries/slovakia.htm>

971**Hungarian (600,000)**

The Hungarians are a Eurasian people. Alternate names include Magyar, Szekely, and Siculi. They speak the Hungarian language and are primarily Christian—Roman Catholics specifically. The Hungarians make up the largest minority in Slovakia, composing nearly 10% of the population. They are nevertheless quickly losing their rights and language freedoms.

<http://iwwaw.igc.org/publications/countries/slovakia.htm>

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Italian (500)

The Italians are a Eurasian people who speak the Italian language. They are primarily Christian adherents, and are greater than 10% evangelical.

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Jew, Italian (600)

The Jews of Europe arrived on the continent at least 2,000 years ago during the early days of the Roman Empire. Since that time, they have been a significant influence in the history and culture of Europe. Much of what is considered "Jewish" today finds its roots among the European Jews. The Italian speaking Jews in Slovakia are among the least reached peoples. Few if any are known to be believers.

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Polish (5,400)

The Polish, also known as Poles or Silesians, are a Eurasian people of the Western Slavic people cluster. They primarily speak Polish and are reported to be non-religious.

46392

Romani, Carpathian (382,000)

The Carpathian Romani people are a South Asian people, of the Gypsy people cluster. Alternate names include Galicia, Karpachi Roma, Sarvika, and Ungrike. They speak Carpathian Romani. They are reported as being non-religious. They only have portions of the Bible in their mother language.

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Romani, Vlax, Kalderash (500)

Gypsies, often called Romani or Domari, are made up of two separate groups: the Ghorbati and the Nawari, originating from India. They speak the Vlax Romani. Alternate people names include Arhagar, Baltic Gypsy, Cingane, Gitano, Gypsy, Kalderash, Lovar, Lowara, Norwegian Gypsy, Cale, and Colombian Gypsy. The Romani are primarily non-religious. They do not have the complete Bible translated into their language.

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Russian (2,000)

The Russians of Slovakia, also known as Eluosi, Olossu, and Russ, are a Eurasian people, of an Eastern Slavic people group. They speak Russian and are primarily non-religious.

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Ruthene (16,000)

The Ruthene people are a Eurasian originated Gypsy people. Alternate names include Balkan Gypsies, Hungarian Gypsies, Jerides, Rusin, and Ruthenian. They are Eastern Slavic, and primarily speak Rusyn. They are non-religious and have no Bible in their language.

972

Slovak (4,181,000)

The Slovak people, with alternate names being Rusyn, Ruthene, and Ruthenian, are a Eurasian people, of the Western Slavic people cluster. They speak Slovak and are primarily Roman Catholic and are 1.5% evangelical.

975

Ukrainian (10,000)

The Ukrainians in Slovakia are an Eastern Slavic Eurasian people. They are actually the second largest ethnic group from the former Soviet Union. Their historic ties to Poland and Cossack tradition contribute to their colorful folk heritage. They primarily speak Ukrainian and are non religious.

www.peoplegroups.org

www.joshuaproject.org

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should be drawn into prayer and activity on behalf of the many non-religious people in Slovakia. Operation World suggests that over 17% of the people fall in the non-religious group (over million people) and that the group is growing at a rate of + 4.8% annually as compared to a growth rate of -0.7% for all Christian groups.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should pray for and seek to stimulate genuine revival and rekindling of spiritual power in the churches that have become traditional and lacking in outreach to the people. Growing materialism is evident in the country.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid local believers in reaching the vast numbers of Roman Catholics in Slovakia. Developing a method for sharing the Good News with Roman Catholics and training local believers in the use of the method would contribute to the conversion of some of these people.

4. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid the believers in Slovakia to reach the several groups of Gypsies in the region. Most of these peoples are in the non-religious groups.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid the believers in Slovakia in a spirit-led effort at church planting. Starting multitudes of reproducing congregations would greatly further the advance of the Gospel in this nation. *Operation World* points out that providing every community with a church would demand almost 6000 new congregations.
6. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid the believers in Slovakia in the areas of leadership training, small group dynamics, and Christian discipleship.
7. Evangelical Christians and churches should mount an effort to make greater use of the Jesus film that is available in all the languages of Slovakia.

Links:

www.slovakia.org

www.slovensko.com

www.slovak.com

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovakia>

<http://www.slovakspectator.sk/>