

**MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT
CENTRAL EUROPE
Slovenia**

Snapshots Section

Country Name:

Republic of Slovenia

Local—Republika Slovenija

Country Founded in:

June 25, 1991 (Independence from Yugoslavia)

Population:

2,010,347

Government Type: (national, regional and local)

Parliamentary Democratic Republic

Geography/location in the world:

Central Europe

Located between Austria and Croatia, with its Eastern Alps bordering the Adriatic Sea

Number of people groups:

17

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population:

Christianity—Catholic: 57.8%

All religions and % for each:

Orthodox—2.3%

Other Christian—0.9%

Muslim—2.4%

Unaffiliated—3.5%

Unspecified—23%

None—10.1%

Government interaction with religion:

The constitution provides for freedom of religion.

Slovenia Country Profile

Name: Republic of Slovenia
Local—Republika Slovenija

Demographics

The Slovenian population was estimated at 2,010,347 for July 2006. The growth rate is estimated at -0.05%.

- 8.98 births/1000 population
- 10.31 deaths/1000 population

The median age is 40.6 years

Age Structure:

- 0-14 years—13.8%
- 15-64 years—70.5%
- 65+—15.7%

Net Migration Rate—0.88 migrants/1000 population

Sex Ratio—0.95 males/females of total population

Life Expectancy—76.33 years

- (72.63 male/80.29 female)

Total Fertility Rate—1.25 children born/woman

Major Ethnicities:

- Slovene—83.1%
- Serb—2.0%
- Croat—1.8%
- Bosnian—1.1%
- Italian—0.11%
- Hungarian—0.32%
- Unspecified—11.57%

There are thought to be approximately 4,000 persons in the county with no legal status. The situation arose in 1991, when Yugoslavia dissembled, and 18,000 permanent Slovenian residents who were citizens of other Yugoslav republics, did not apply for Slovenian residency, but at the same time the government withdrew their residency status without their awareness. This group has become known as the *erased*.

All Statistical information taken from the CIA Factbook—

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

And Wikipedia—http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Slovenia

Language –

Slovene (Slovenian) became the official language of Slovenia in 1991, upon its independence from Yugoslavia. It is spoken by approximately 2 million people.

Slovene, like *Slovak*, literally means “Slavic.” Slovene is a southern Slavic language; other southern Slavic languages include Serbo-Croatian, Macedonian, and Bulgarian. While Slovene is most closely related to the Serbo-Croatian language, the two are not mutually intelligible.

Slovene is written in the Roman alphabet with *č*, *š*, and *ž* as added letters, and without *q*, *w*, *x*, and *y*. One notable feature of Slovene is its use of the dual grammatical number form, which is a rare linguistic phenomenon.

Linguists classify Slovene into 48 separate dialects. The dialects are apparently so distinct, that speakers of different regional dialects often have trouble understanding one another.

Hungarian and Italian are also recognized official languages in regions with high Italian or Hungarian populations. English, German, French and Spanish are frequently used in business communication throughout the country.

Croat and Serb are typically easily understood.

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/slovenian_language

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, 10th edition, Volume 5

www.culturalprofiles.org.uk/slovenia

Society/Culture

Art and culture have played a significant role in Slovene history, as in many other Central European nations. While many of the nations suffered politically, or where denied individual political recognition, a rich cultural life developed. As a result, Slovenia is full of libraries, art galleries, museums, and theatres. Slovenes frequent theatrical performances, musical performances, and art galleries regularly.

Skiing has made up a large part of Slovene culture for centuries. Slovene tradition holds that skis have been used in the areas since the Slavs inhabited the land in the 600s. Originally skiing was a necessary means of transportation in the long, winter months. They soon began to be used also however, for fun and games. Today, winter sports, such as skiing, are a national passion.

Slovenia, as with a few other transition countries in central Europe and the Baltics, suffers from a peculiarly high suicide rate. The study revealed what seemed to be a connection between literacy rates and Gross Domestic Products. The higher the literacy rate and the lower the GDP, as is the case with the transitioning Baltic states, Hungary, and Slovenia, the suicide rates have skyrocketed. The theory holds that the better educated the citizens are the more likely they will be aware of and disturbed by the lower economy and social status of their nation, and thus more likely to take their own lives. Slovenia currently ranks 8th in the Nation Master worldwide suicide rates chart,

Slovenes are courteous guests, and when attending dinner invitations in a home will always bring small gifts—flowers for hostess, wine for the host, candy for the children.

Slovenes are typically friendly and helpful to foreigners and are quick to invite them into their homes to have a meal.

Slovenes value friendship and time together.

Working mothers are given a year long maternity leave, which is commonly called “paternal” leave and can actually be used by the fathers as well.

As with most of central Europe, there is a shortage on housing, so most families live in small and modest apartment style complexes. It is rare for anyone to ever have a private room. Most families however do have a small cottage located in the countryside to where they can escape and spend their weekends.

Families are often very close and spend much time together. On weekends, when shopping is scarcely available, families will often go to church together, go hiking, skiing, or hunt mushrooms together. During harvest seasons, family members in the urban areas will often go to the countryside to help relatives in the fields, orchards, and vineyards.

A national proverb reads: A true Slovenian must raise a child, write a book, and plant a tree.

Holidays:

- January 1—New Year’s Day
- February 8—Slovenian Culture day
 - Anniversary of Slovenian poet—France Preseren’s death. It’s been a national holiday since 1944, and a work free day since 1991.
- Easter—Sunday and Monday
- April 23—St. George’s Day
 - Welcoming of Spring Celebration
- April 27—Day of Resistance
 - Anniversary of the Liberation Front in 1941 to fight the German, Italian and Hungarian occupation in Slovenia.
- May 1-2—Labor Days
- June 25—Statehood Day
 - Commemorates Independence found in 1991.
- July 22—People’s Uprising Day
- August 15—Assumption Day
- October 31—Reformation Day
- November 1—Remembrance Day
 - The Day of the Dead
- December 6—Saint Nicholas Day
 - Children receive presents
- December 25—Christmas day
- December 26—Independence Day
 - Commemorates the independence proclamation results in 1990.

Pozun, Brian J., “Slovenia’s Suicidal Tendencies,” Central Europe Review. May 2002.

http://www.ce-review.org/authorarchives/pozun_archive/pozun_main.html

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

<http://www.uvi.si/sydney2000/eng/slovenia/culture/index.html>

<http://eslovenia.tapirus.net/ingoutrasmodalidades.html>

Government –

The Republic of Slovenia is a Parliamentary Democratic Republic, Ljubljana as its capital city.

Slovenes have universal suffrage at the age of 18, or at age 16 if they are employed.

The Legal System is based on the civil law system.

The government is divided into 3 Branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

- Executive
 - Chief of State—the President is elected by popular vote for five year terms.
 - Head of Government—The Prime Minister is typically the leader of either the majority party or the majority coalition, nominated by the President and elected by the National Assembly.
 - Cabinet—Council of Ministers are nominated by the prime minister and elected by the National Assembly.
- Legislative
 - Bicameral Parliament
 - National Assembly
 - 90 Seats—40 are directly elected, 50 are selected on proportional basis.
 - Elected by popular vote for 4 year terms.
 - National Council (advisory board)
 - 40 Seats—indirectly elected to 5 year terms by Electoral College.
 - Have limited legislative powers
 - Represent social, economic, professional, and local interests.
- Judicial
 - Supreme Court—judges elected by the National Assembly, recommended by Judicial Council
 - Constitutional Court—judges elected for 9 year terms by the National Assembly and nominated by the President.

All Statistical information taken from the CIA Factbook; 2005 Reports—
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/si.html>

Economy

Slovenia has recently transitioned to a market based economy. They actually are an economically stable nation and report a GDP per capita significantly higher than each of the other Central European transitioning economies. They were able to join the European Union in 2004, and plan to transition to the Euro by 2007. Slovenia has a sound and stable infrastructure, educated workers, and a central location. Slovenia actually became the first transition country to progress to becoming a donor rather than a borrower in the World Bank.

Nevertheless, most of the economy is in the state's hands, taxes are high, and foreign investment is low. These factors are expected to continually improve as the government's Committee for Economic Reforms program unfolds.

Currency—Tolar (SIT)

Exchange rate: 102.71 SIT—\$1 USD

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)—\$43.36 Billion

GDP (Official Exchange Rate)—\$35.21 Billion

GDP (Real Growth Rate)—3.9%

GDP (Per Capita)—\$21,600

GDP (Composition by Sector)

- Agriculture—2.8%
- Industry—36.9%
- Services—60.3%

Unemployment Rate—9.8%

Inflation Rate—2.4%

Budget:

- Revenues--\$16.02 Billion
- Expenditures--\$16.73 Billion

Agriculture Products

- Potatoes
- Hops
- Wheat
- Sugar Beets
- Corn
- Grapes
- Cattle Sheep
- Poultry

Industries

- Ferrous Metallurgy and Aluminum
- Lead and Zinc smelting
- Electronics
- Trucks
- Electric power equipment
- Wood products
- Textiles
- Chemicals
- Machine tools

Import Partners

- Germany—19.6%
- Italy—18.2%
- Austria—14.7%
- France—10%

Export Partners

- Germany—18.1%
- Italy—12.5%
- Austria—11.4%
- France—7.4%
- Croatia—7.3%
- Bosnia and Herzegovina—4.8%

All Statistical information taken from the CIA Factbook; 2005 reports—
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/si.html>

Literacy

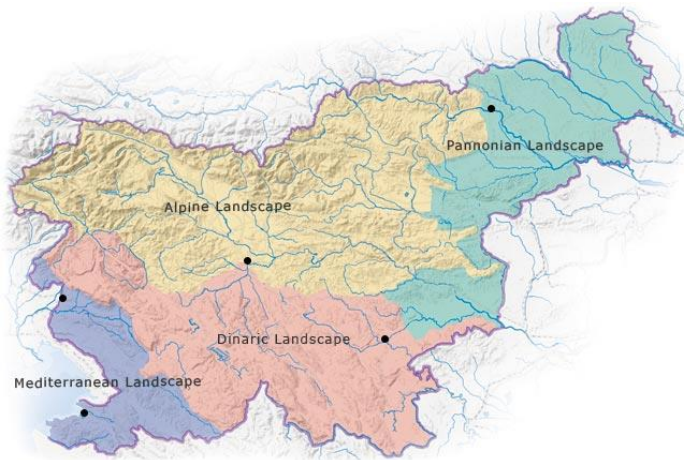
The Slovene population is 99.7% literate.

- 99.7% males
- 99.6% females

All Statistical information taken from the CIA Factbook; 2005 reports—
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/si.html>

Land/Geography

Slovenia is located in Central Europe, between Austria and Croatia. The country borders Austria, Croatia, Italy, and Hungary. The nation is a little smaller than the US State of New Jersey. Slovenian climate varies in each area, from Mediterranean in the west to continental in the east. There are coast lines, mountains, valleys, and plains. Half of the country in fact is covered by forests. Slovenia also is located in a strategic position and thus controls some of the major transit routes of Europe.



www.wikipedia.com , GIAM ZRC SAZU
<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/in-brief/>
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/si.html>

History

In Ancient times, the Celts and the Illyrians inhabited the land which is now makes up Slovenia. The Celts formed the first state, known as Noricum, around the 4th-3rd centuries BC. In the early part of the 1st century AD, after 200 years of fighting the local tribes, the Roman Empire was established in the area and annexed Noricum. Slovenia's territory was divided among the various provinces of Dalmatia, Italia, Noricum, and Pannonia.

The Romans brought in roads for trade and military purposes, connecting the lands of Slovenia from Italy to Pannonia. But due to the access roads, the land was prone to invasions by the Huns and Germanic tribes in the 5-6th centuries AD.

After the last Germanic tribe went to Italy in the 6th century, the Eastern Slavs began strengthening. In the early 7th century, as they were attempting to resist the Avars from the East, all of the Slavs were united into one kingdom by Samo. This federation existed as the first unified Slavic state, unifying western and southern Slavs.

However, the empire was soon dismantled in 658, after Samo's death, and the Slavs located in what is present day Carinthia, emerged as the Slavic Duchy of Karantania. In 745 AD, Karantania joined the Frankish kingdom, but as an independent country with its own working law and language—Slovenian.

By the 9th century, Bavarian dukes and the Republic of Venice had joint control of Karantania. Towards the end of the 9th century, the Magyar tribes began invading Pannonian land, and isolated the Karantania Slavs from the other western Slavs. This allowed the Karantanian Slavs to begin independently developing into the Slovene nation. Once the Turks defeated the Magyars in 955, the Slovene territory was divided into numerous border regions of the Holy Roman Empire. Karantania became important to the Empire and was elevated to be the duchy of Great Karantania in 976.

From the 14th century to 20th century, Slovenes in the Karantania provinces of Carinthia, Carniola, and Styria, were subjected to the ruling authority of the Hapsburgs. As the Hapsburgs took over the territory, the regions particularly among the elites, became Germanized, but the peasant regions resisted the German influence and maintained the Slavic language and culture unique to the Slovenes.

The colonization by the Germans which lasted until the 15th century reduced the Slovene lands to about the present day size of the nation. By the end of the Middle Ages, Turkish raids were frequent. And beginning in the 16th century and continuing through the 17th, were united Slovene-Croatian peasant revolts that typically ended in bloody defeats.

In the mid 16th century, the Reformation began to spread across Slovene lands. The Lutheranism and the spread of the Reformation spawned the Slovene literary language movement. The Protestants ended up producing and publishing the first Slovene language book as well as various other books including the Bible.

As the beginning of the 17th century, Protestantism was suppressed by the monarch and the Catholic Church's Counter-Reformation. This movement led to the new styles of Baroque

culture. Also, Central Europe's Enlightenment proved to be a progressive period for the Slovenes. Economic development increasingly improved and a middle class began to emerge. The Hapsburg ruler—Joseph II (1765-1790) brought on much change, including the establishment of new social infrastructures, land reforms, mandatory education in Slovene, and a modernized Church. The Slovenes began producing their own secular literature.

By the 19th century, Slovene was completely systematized into a literary language, which in turn sparked Slovene nationalism. Slovenes began to demand Slovene autonomy with the Hapsburg Monarchy. In 1848, Slovenia boldly emerged with Austria in “Spring of Nations,” a strong national freedom movement.

In 1867, the Germans and Hungarians agreed to reorganize the empire into the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, which was more of a dualist state more able to control and manage the minorities within. The Slovenes were not appeased by the changes, and began demanding for “United Slovenia.” Their motto was “We refuse to die!” and they moved organized together with the Croats and Serbs to bring about a more united defense against their rulers and the Germanization and Magyarization taking place throughout the lands.

The Slovenes were unsuccessful at reaching their goal, nevertheless, and the break of the 20th century they began making great efforts in areas such as education in the Slovenian language, organizing reading rooms in each town, upgrading their agricultural systems, and organizing cultural and political societies. World War I began the destruction of the bond between the Austro-Hungarians and the Slavs and Serbs.

After World War I and the collapse of the Austria-Hungarian monarchy, the Slovenes joined with other southern Slavs and formed the State of Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs in October 1918. In December, they became known as the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes under the rule of King Peter of Serbia. In 1929, it was renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

During World War II, Yugoslavia submitted to Axis powers. Germany, Italy, and Hungary all annexed parts of Slovenia. The Germans mobilized the fighting men, killed the Slovene leaders, and sent most of the civilian populations to labor camps. After the WWII ended, the Communists took control of Yugoslavia and Slovenia, enforcing a strict and violent dictatorship. Several thousands were tortured and massacred.

In response to resistance of the Axis occupation and forces while fighting communism, Marshal Josip Broz Tito established the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1945, where Slovenia was a constituent republic. Slovenia proved to be the most advanced, developed, and flourishing Yugoslav republic during the communist era. As opposed to most of the other Yugoslav nations, such as Serbia and Croatia, Slovenia was 95% homogenous. They had the highest level of literacy, the most advanced and productive economy, and a standard of living more superior than most of the other Yugoslav areas.

The 1960s brought on a series of reforms. The Kosovo Albanians, Montenegrins, Slovenes, and Croats all began to assert their national rights over and above the Yugoslav Federation. In 1967-

68 there were a series of constitutional amendments limiting federal power and in turn giving it to the various republics and provinces.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, as the Cold War was ending and communism was losing its stronghold in Eastern Europe, Yugoslavia visibly began to dissolve. As nationalist ideologies were on a rise throughout the lands, nationalism even began to develop within the League of Communists, the ruling regime in Yugoslavia.

Slobodan Milosevic was the Yugoslav president at the time, and did not yield to the democratic demands of the people. The beginning of the end of Yugoslavia was considered being January 20, 1990, when the Croatian and Slovenian delegates left the League of Communist Congress after they failed to agree on the major issues of the Yugoslav federation.

Soon after, Slovenia began moving towards independence. The Croats and Slovenes, however, made one last attempt in October, presenting a proposal for a negotiated Yugoslavian confederation, but no ground was made. In the meantime, Slovenia also had drafted a constitution and proclaimed that "Slovenia will become an independent state." After defying Belgrade, and fully embracing democracy, Slovenia held elections in December of 1990, and declared their independence June 25, 1991. The Yugoslav Army engaged them in combat, and there was a mild 10-day war, from June 27 to July 6, but the Yugoslav soldiers quickly surrendered. They were reportedly treated well by the Slovenes, and were allowed to call their parents living all across Yugoslavia, to come and take their sons back home. There were 67 reported casualties, 39 of which were soldiers.

While the war was relatively mild, and casualties were low, Slovenia suffered \$3 billion of physical damage.

The new independent country was first recognized by Germany in 1991, from the European Community in January of 1992, and by the US in April of 1992. On December 6, 1992, Slovenia held general elections according to their new constitution. They had 22 participating parties and a coalition government was formed by the Liberal Democrats, Christian Democrats, and the United List Group of Leftist Parties. Dr. Milan Kucan was elected as president, with Dr. Janez Drnovsek as prime minister.

Slovenia joined the United Nations May 22, 1992, NATO March 2004, and the European Union May 1, 2004. The boundaries of Slovenia today are as they were as a Socialist Republic prior to independence, but a series of border disputes arose between Slovenia and its neighbor Croatia.

The Slovenian tolar became part of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism in 2004. Slovenia joined the European Monetary Union and adopted the Euro as its currency on the 1 January 2007 as the first of the new member countries

Slovenia Cultural Profile: http://www.culturalprofiles.org.uk/Slovenia/Directories/Slovenia_Cultural_Profile/-6792.html

Stane Granda, "A Brief History of Slovenia."

Christian History

In its historical development, Slovenia was consistently connected to the West and primarily the Catholics, never developing an indigenous Orthodox church. The modern Christianization of the Slovenes began in the 8th century, and the Church was organized in the 10-11th centuries. The Church was under the strong influence of Catholic Austria.

Christianity in the area is thought to have first stemmed from the Roman Empire, via the Roman city of Aquileia. It originally competed with Mithraism and Arianism, but overcame and outlasted them both. In fact the Christianity in Slovene lands was so strong that it influenced a migration, in which the Slavic peoples came and settled in the area in the 6th century.

As the Bavarians gained control of the Karantania Duchy in the middle 8th to the 9th century, they began spreading Christianity throughout the region.

During the Reformation, around the mid 16th century, Lutheranism began spreading through the Slovene land. In fact, the Protestant movement sparked the Slovene literary movement, with the publishing of fifty plus books in the Slovene language, as well as translating and publishing the Bible in 1584.

But by the beginning of the 17th century, the Protestants in the empire were suppressed by strong Catholic Hapsburg monarch absolutism and the Counter-Reformation. Protestants mainly only existed, in the Prekmurje region, which was an area under Hungarian control until 1918, where it has strongly persisted through today. The Counter Reformation in the strongly Catholic Austria slowed down the Protestant development until the Napoleonic period.

When Maria Teresa and Joseph II came to the throne in the mid 18th century, they brought with them numerous reforms, including church reforms and the equality of religions. The reforms brought about enhanced organization including the eradication of the Aquileian patriarchate and the establishment of an archdiocese. The dioceses were reorganized and improved. The reforms nonetheless also carried with them negative repercussions, such as the abolition of numerous monasteries.

Christianity, predominately Catholicism continued through the years. However, Christianity noted a decline under the communist president Tito, while Slovenia was part of the communist republic of Yugoslavia. The atheistic Communist regime actually strictly encouraged the loss of religious beliefs and practices of all religion. Religion soon began to be more descriptive of cultural and national identity rather than personal faith. Nevertheless, once Slovenia gained its independence, the Catholic Church once again began to grow.

During the 1990s, there was a Pentecostal/Charismatic Renewal movement, which impacted and spread throughout the older churches of the country.

The Slovenian Constitution guarantees Freedom of Religion, and the Government is to respect this right in practice.

Foreign missionaries are allowed to operate freely without hindrance, according to this constitution.

Stane Granda, "A Brief History of Slovenia."

The World Christian Encyclopedia, Second Edition, Volume 1

Wikipedia

Slovenia Cultural Profile: http://www.culturalprofiles.org.uk/Slovenia/Directories/Slovenia_Cultural_Profile/-6792.html

www.cesnur.org/testi/irf/irf_slovenia99.html

Religions

Non-Christian

- *Islam*
 - The second largest religion recognized in Slovenia.
 - 2.5 % of the population, with approximately 50,276 adherents in 13 Muslim Communities. (2002)
 - The Muslim community was first registered in Slovenia in 1967, when it was a part of former Yugoslavia.
 - The first mosque was built in 2005, after much controversy from the predominately Catholic society. The mosque is located in the capital city, Ljubljana. Prior to that, practicing Muslims were required to use community buildings adapted for prayer and worship purposes.
 - The Muslims are mainly ethnic Bosnians or Albanians, who consider "Muslim" descriptive of their nationality rather than their religion. And in fact, only the Muslims from Bosnia participate in the Muslim communities in Slovenia; the Albanians Muslims from Kosovo do not.

- *ISKCON*
 - The International Society for Krishna Consciousness. (aka—Hare Krishna). The movement is based on Indian theology. They believe Krishna is the origin of Vishnu, and honor him as the highest form of God. They believe the individual soul is an eternal personal identity which does not ultimately merge into any formless light or void. They engage in weekly public chanting (at noon on Saturdays).

Ocvirk, Drago. "Islam: A New Religion in a Traditionally Catholic Slovenia." *Religion in Eastern Europe*.

<http://www.georgefox.edu/academics/undergrad/departments/soc-swk/ree/OCVIRK.html>

Pasic, Ahmed. "Muslims in Bosnia and Slovenia (1463-2005)."

<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/sem2005/050905.htm>

Christian Cults and Sects

- *Jehovah's Witness*
 - 1,901 Adherents in 29 units with 815 average Bible Studies (2005).
 - Memorial Attendance—3,031 (2005).

- *Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints (Mormon)*
 - 200 Members in 3 Units (1997).

www.watchtower.org

www.adherents.org

Catholics/Orthodox Churches

- Roman Catholic
 - 81.27% Slovene Population (2004).
 - 1,623,000 Adherents within 803 Parishes. (2004)
 - While the majority of the population claims to be Catholic, approximately 90% claim only to be nominal and rarely practice their beliefs.
- Orthodox
 - 3 Denominations (Predominately Serbian Orthodox, Slovenia has no indigenous Orthodox church.)
 - 44,000 Adherents, 27,500 Members, and 6 Congregations

www.catholicierarchy.org

<http://www.peopeteams.org/slovenepeople>

Operation World, 2001.

Protestant/Evangelicals/Pentecostals

Evangelical Population--0.03%—An estimated 700 born again believers in Slovenia.

- *Baptist*
 - Baptist Union of Slovenia/ Baptist World Alliance
 - 150 Members and 4 Congregations (2001).
 - Peopeteams.org reports 5 Baptist House Groups meeting throughout country (2000).
- *Lutheran*
 - 1% of Population in 2001—19,731 adherents, but only 7,600 regular *attending members*.
- *Pentecostal*
 - 1,521 Adherents, 700 Members, 16 Congregations.
- *Reformed*
 - 400 Adherents, 200 Members, 3 Congregations.
- *Seventh Day Adventist*
 - 700 Adherents, 498 Members, 13 Congregations.

www.adherents.com

www.peopeteams.org

Operation World, 2001.

People Groups –

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Albanian, Gheg

The Albanians are a Eurasian People primarily speaking Albanian Gheg. They are predominantly Muslim and among the least reached peoples. Alternate names for the Albanians are Gheg, Kosovar, Chamurian, Gheg Speaking, and Scutari.

Albanians are descendents of the original inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula. Before WWII and the Communist regime of the 1940's, Albanians maintained tribal life. As communism took over, the Albanians were forced into cities and into apartment style housing units. They had to leave behind the tribes, religion, and dress of their native way of life.

Albania experienced numerous changes at the fall of communism, and have struggled to re-establish their identity and pride. The Ottoman Turks brought Islam to the Albanians during the Ottoman Empire, but they practiced a folk Islam. Many Albanians claim Catholicism, but only in name. In 1967, Albania actually declared itself to be the first atheistic state and closed its borders to the outside world.

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Austrian (25,000)

The Austrians are a Eurasian People of the Germanic People Cluster. Alternate names include Bavarian Austrian, German Standard, and German. The Austrians in Slovenia predominately speak German and are 88% Christian adherents.

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Bosnian (30,000)

The Bosnian people are a Eurasian people of the Southern Slavic people cluster. Alternate names include Bosniac, Croatian, Muslmani, Croat, and Musselmani. They primarily speak Serbian and adhere to Islam. They are Sunni Muslims. They are among the least evangelized peoples of Europe.

The Bosnians are originally from the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was at one time a part of Yugoslavia.

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Czech (4,000)

The Czechs in Slovenia, also known as Bohemians, are a Western Slavic Eurasian People. They speak Czech and are reportedly 75% Christian adherents.

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Deaf

The Deaf in Slovenia primarily use Yugoslavian Sign Language. They are among the least reached people in the world.

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Friulian (10,000)

The Friulian people are of the Eurasian Affinity Block and of an Italian people cluster. They are also known as Priulian. They speak Friulian and are 83% Christian adherents. They lack having a full Bible translated in their language. Friulian is the native Romance language of Friuli (or Friûl), now part of the Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia. In the extreme northeast of the present territory of Italy, it shares political/administrative borders with the Veneto Region (Italy) to the west, Austria to the north, and Slovenia to the east, and linguistic borders with the Venetian dialect of North Italian, German and Slovene,. Friulian is spoken by perhaps half a million people, mainly in rural areas (including possibly 75% of Udine province), who are in most cases also able to speak Italian (and until recently, Venetian).

979

German (20,000)

The German people in Slovenia are a Eurasian people who speak the German language. Alternate names for this group include Saxon, Volga German, High German, and Transylvanian. They are 88% Protestant Christian adherents.

980

Hungarian (10,500)

The Hungarians are a Eurasian people. Alternate names include Magyar, Szekely, and Siculi. They speak the Hungarian language and are 76% Christian— specifically Roman Catholics.

981

Italian (3,000)

The Italians are a Eurasian people who speak the Italian language. In Slovenia they are primarily Christian adherents—84% Roman Catholic and 1% Evangelical.

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Macedonian (4,600)

The Macedonians are a Eurasian People of the Southern Slavic people cluster. They speak Macedonian and are primarily Christian adherents.

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Montenegrin (4,400)

Montenegrins are a Southern Slavic Eurasian People. They are also referred to as Montenegrin Muslims. They primarily speak Serbian. They are among the least reached peoples of the world.

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Polish (5,900)

The Polish, also known as Poles or Silesians, are a Eurasian people of the Western Slavic people cluster. They primarily speak Polish. The Poles living in Slovenia are 88% Christian.

39304

Romani (8,000)

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, Gurbeti, Gypsy, Kalderash, Lovar, Lowara, Norwegian Gypsy, Cale, and Colombian Gypsy. The Romani in Slovenia are 75% Christian and 1% Evangelical. They are yet to have a complete Bible translated into their language.

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Serbo-Croatian (115,000)

The Serbs are a Southern Slavic Eurasian People. Alternate names for this group are Bosniac, Muslimani, and Serbiac.

They primarily speak Serbian and adhere to Christianity. They are 80% Christian and .30% Evangelical.

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Slovak (2,000)

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 77% Christian.

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Slovene (2,000,000)

The Slovenes are a Southern Slavic people cluster of the Eurasian peoples. They primarily speak Slovenian and are also known as Prekmurian. They are 90% Christian adherents, of the Roman Catholic denomination. Almost one-third of the Slovene population of the world live outside Slovenia. They are less than 2% evangelical.

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Ukrainian (5,000)

The Ukrainians in Slovenia are an Eastern Slavic Eurasian people. They are actually the second largest ethnic group of the former Soviet Union. Their historic ties to Poland and Cossack tradition contribute to their colorful folk heritage. They primarily speak Ukrainian and are 70% Christian adherents.

www.peoplesgroups.com

www.joshuaproject.net

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should view the majority of the peoples in Slovenia as lost and in need of New Testament salvation. While a large majority of the Slovenians tend to be “religious,” and in particular claim Christianity, they are predominately nominal, if not merely national in their faith. The Slovenians, as most of the former Yugoslav republics, seem to view religion labels as more of a cultural/national description, as opposed to one of personal faith. While religion and so called Christianity is prevalent in the land, there is a desperate need for a personal relationship with Jesus and knowledge of the truth found in the Bible.
2. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek ways to enhance the Christian living and evangelistic efforts of the peoples of Slovenia. Being the most prosperous of the Yugoslav republics, and then quickly proving able for admittance into the EU, has greatly boosted Slovenia’s esteem. Much of this is due to being in a strategic cross roads location which has allowed much economic growth and westernization, but with that comes materialism. Slovenians need to understand the answer to life is not found in material wealth or in being Western.
3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek ways to train zealous Christians to live in Slovenia and by word and deed show the true gospel of Jesus Christ. These evangelists might be found among people from Slovenia who are living outside the country and could return as Ambassadors for Christ.
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek to introduce Christian literature and video materials into the country.

Links –

<http://www.culturalprofiles.org.uk/slovenia>

<http://www.matkurja.com/en/country-info/country-people/>

<http://www.ce-review.org>

<http://www.uvi.si/sydney2000/eng/slovenia/culture/index.html>

<http://www.worldsurface.com/browse/location-country.asp?locationid=207>

<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/audio-visual/video/>