A group of diverse young people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are smiling and cheering with their arms raised. They are positioned in the lower half of the frame. The background is a light blue color, decorated with numerous colorful circles in shades of red, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Some circles are solid, while others are concentric. A large yellow circle in the upper left quadrant contains the title text.

International Student's Guide to Slovakia

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1. Slovakia in Brief

Official name: Slovak Republic

Capital: Bratislava (431,061 inhabitants)

Date of establishment: 1 January 1993 (after splitting of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic)

Political system: parliamentary democracy

Administrative organisation: 8 higher territorial units, 8 regions, 79 districts, 2,933 municipalities out of which are 138 cities and towns

Regional capitals: Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Trenčín, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov, Košice

Official language: Slovak

Neighbouring countries: the Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Austria

Area: 49,035 km²

Population: 5.4 million (out of them 51.5 % of women)

Density of population: 109/km²

Large towns: Košice (240,000), Prešov (91,498), Žilina (84,675), Nitra (82,661), Banská Bystrica (80,466), Trnava (65,950), Martin (59,449), Trenčín (55,808), Poprad (52,590), Prievidza (50,484), Zvolen (43,796)

Ethnic mix of population: Slovaks (85.8 %), Hungarians (9.7 %), Roma (1.7 %), Czechs (0.8 %), Ruthenians (0.4 %), Ukrainians (0.2 %), Germans (0.1 %), others (0.2 %), unknown (1.1 %)

Population and their religions: Roman Catholic (68.9 %), Evangelical Lutheran of Augsburg Confession (6.9 %), Greek Catholic (4.1 %), Reformed Christian (2.0 %), Orthodox (0.9 %), Jews (0.04 %), Others (4.1 %), without denomination (13.0 %)

Currency: euro (since 1 January 2009); 1 euro (1 €) = 100 cents (100 c), banknotes issued in 500 €, 200 €, 100 €, 50 €, 20 €, 10 € and 5 € denominations; coins in 2 € and 1 € and 50 c, 20 c, 10 c, 5 c, 2 c and 1 c denominations



Membership in international organisations: EU (from 1 May 2004), NATO (from 29 March 2004), UN, OECD, OSCE, WHO, INTERPOL etc.

Main agricultural crops: wheat, rye, corn, potatoes, sugar beets

Breeding: cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, goats

Main fields of industry: automotive industry, chemical industry, iron ore processing, fertilizers, plastics, mechanical and electrical engineering

Natural resources: iron ore, mercury, copper, lead, zinc



2. Geography

The Slovak Republic is situated in Central Europe, sharing borders with Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine and Hungary. Mountains, lowlands, valleys, lakes, cave formations, forests and meadows provide many examples of Slovakia's year-round natural beauty. The Carpathian Arc, a range of mountains stretching across the north, takes up almost a half of the country. The south and east of the country lie in the lowlands, an important agricultural area in Slovakia.

The highest point: Mount Gerlach in the High Tatras 2,655 m above sea level

The lowest point: River Bodrog 94 m above sea level
Maximum length: 428 km (Záhorská Ves [W]
– Nová Sedlica [E])

Maximum breadth: 195 km (Štúrovo [S] – Skalité [N])

The longest river: River Váh (378 km)

Did you know? The Tatra Chamois is a completely unique chamois, because after the end of the ice ages it evolved thousands of years totally isolated. At present there are only slightly more than 200 pieces.

Time

GMT + 1; GMT + 2 from last Sunday in March to last Saturday in October.

Weather

The Slovak Republic has a continental climate with 4 seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter). Summers are hot; winters are cold, cloudy and humid. The average winter daily temperature is $-2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, but can plummet to $-15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The average daily temperature in summer is $21\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, but can be as warm as over $30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The coldest month is January; the hottest month is July. The period from May to July is often considered the best season. Data concerns Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Weather in northern and mountainous regions could be much colder. During the winters the sun rises approximately at 7:30 and sets about 16:00. During the summer, sunrise is before 5:00 and sunset is about 21:00.

Did you know? The largest river island in Europe is the Rye Island in southern Slovakia (1,326 km²).

3. Political System and State Bodies

The Slovak Republic has been established on 1 January 1993 as one of the successors to the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. It is a parliamentary democracy, and its Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens regardless of sex, race, colour, language, faith, religion, political affiliation or conviction, national or social origin, nationality or ethnic origin, property, birth or any other status.

State Bodies

The National Council of the Slovak Republic is a unicameral parliament and the country's main legislative body. The National Council has 150 members elected for 4-year terms in direct elections. The electoral system is proportional representation. Parties are allocated seats in the Parliament according to the percentage share of the votes they get in parliamentary elections. Only a party with at least 5 % of votes can obtain seats in the Parliament.



Presidential
palace

The President is the Head of State elected for a five-year term in a direct two round election. The same person can be elected President for a maximum of two consecutive 5-year terms. The current Slovak President is Mr. Ivan Gašparovič (elected for the 2nd period in 2009).

The Government is the highest tier of executive power and consists of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers. The Government is formed on the basis of parliamentary elections (last one held in June 2010). The Prime Minister is appointed and can be dismissed by the President. Upon the advice of the Prime Minister, the President appoints and dismisses other members of the Government. The Government is collectively responsible for the exercise of governmental powers to the Parliament, which may hold a vote of no confidence at any time. The Parliament can hold a vote of no confidence to a single member of the Government, too. The current Prime Minister, Mrs. Iveta Radičová has been appointed in July 2010.

Other constitutional bodies are the **Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic** and the **Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic**.

The state administration power is mostly executed on central level. The central bodies have lower – regional levels. If needed, local state administration authorities establish other authorities and offices in regions.



4. Religion

The Slovak Republic is by tradition a religious country; the first Christian bishopric was established in the 9th century in Nitra. At present, several legal norms regulate the freedom of conscience and religion and provide a guarantee for general respect of these fundamental human rights and freedoms. According to the Slovak Constitution, *“Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief will be guaranteed. This right will include the right to change religion or belief.”*

Did you know? The world highest wooden gothic altar is to be admired in Levoča, in the St. James church. It is 18,6 m high and his author is Master Paul from Levoča. He carved it of lime wood at the beginning of the 16th century. It took him 10 years.

Religious Services

There are services available in foreign languages (notably in English, German and Hungarian) all over the country (for more information consult your church).

List of registered Churches:

- Roman Catholic Church
- Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession
- Greek (Byzantine) Catholic Church
- Reformed Christian Church



Wooden
church
Ladomirova

- Orthodox Church
- Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities
- Religious Society of Jehovah's Witnesses
- Apostolic Church
- Baptist Union
- Church of Seventh Day Adventists
- Brethren Church
- United Methodist Church
- Christian Corps
- New Apostolic Church
- Old Catholic Church
- Czechoslovak Hussite Church

5. Slovak UNESCO Natural and Cultural Heritage

Places included on the UNESCO list of the world cultural and natural heritage:

- The historic town of Banská Štiavnica www.banskastiavnica.sk and the Technical monuments in its vicinity - the old medieval mining centre that grew into a town with



Spiš
castle

Renaissance palaces, 16th century churches, elegant squares and castles.

- The village of Vlkolínec www.liptov.sk/vlkolinec (only in Slovak) - an intact settlement of 45 traditional log houses, often found in mountainous areas.
- Spišský hrad (castle) and its associated cultural monuments www.spisskyhrad.sk - one of the largest ensembles of 13th and 14th century military, political and religious buildings in Central Europe. The extended site features the addition of the historic town-centre of Levoča whc.unesco.org/en/list/620, founded in the 13th and 14th centuries within fortifications. It includes a remarkable collection of polychrome works in the Late Gothic style, including an 18.6 metre high alterpiece by completed around 1510 by Master Paul.
- The Bardejov town conservation reserve www.bardejov.sk – well-preserved example of a fortified medieval town;
- Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area whc.unesco.org/en/list/1273, consist of two Roman Catholic, three Protestant and three Greek Orthodox churches built between the 16th and 18th centuries.
- The area of Slovak Karst (Slovenský kras) www.gemer.sk/ciele/skras/skras.html, including Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa (Dobšinská Ice Cave) www.ssj.sk/jaskyne/najvyznamnejsie/svetove_dedicstvo/dobsinska_ladova/ - the greatest karst region in Central Europe displaying a rare combination of tropical and glacial climatic effects, making it possible to study geological history over tens of millions of years.
- Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133 – constitute a transnational serial property of ten separate components along a 185 km axis from the mountains in Ukraine to the Bukovské Vrchy and Vihorlat Mountains in Slovakia; an example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and ecological patterns.

More information: whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/sk

Did you know? Spišský hrad (castle) is the largest medieval castle complex in the middle Europe. It is more than 40,000 m² large.

6. Famous Slovaks

Art

Brunovský, Albín

(1935–1997) • *painter, graphic designer, and illustrator*

One of the most important modern Slovak painters. He employed imaginative, fantastic themes in his creative work. He was an adherent of fantastical realism (the second surrealist wave), based upon perfect drawing and a philosophical/ethical message. Works: Czechoslovak banknotes, paintings on wood at the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and paintings at the UN building in New York.

Cikker, Ján

(1911–1989) • *composer and pedagogue*

Continued in the tradition of late romanticism, often employing Slovak folk music. In the 1960s, he turned to modernisation and a rational style of composition. He encouraged the development of a Slovak national sentiment and its music, and his art traversed the borders of Slovakia. He became a UNESCO Music Prize Laureate in 1979. Works: The operas Juro Jánošík (1950–1953), Beg Bajazid (1957), and Mr. Scrooge (1963), as well as symphonic compositions and the arrangement of songs for folk groups.

Fleischmann, Arthur

(1896–1990) • *sculptor*

Worked in South Africa, Paris, London, Bali, Australia, and Spain. He was an adherent of kinetism and op art in sculpture. He created fountains, statues, and the “Crystal Crown” for Queen Elizabeth II. He also worked with George Lucas on the Star Wars sci-fi trilogy. (The Arthur Fleischmann Museum, Biela ulica 6, Bratislava).

Hložník, Vincent

(1919–1997) • *painter, graphic artist and illustrator*

The leading figure in the generation of artists that came of age during the Second World War. The prevailing ethos of his works is one of humanism and anti fascism. Typical hallmarks include expressive overstatement, masterly calligraphy and bold imagery. Graphics and illustrations loom large in his output. For his work in these fields he has been the recipient of numerous awards both at home and abroad. He was Rector of the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava from 1960 to 1964.

Popp, Lucia

(1939–1993) • *opera singer*

A world famous opera and concerto soprano. She graduated from the Bratislava School of Opera, emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1963, and worked primarily in Austria and Germany. An event entitled Hommage á Lucia Popp is held in Bratislava every year in her honour.

Sokol, Koloman

(1902–2003) • *painter and graphic designer*

One of the most famous Slovak artists in the world, and the founder of modern Slovak graphic art. His paintings involve the intersection of real experience, dreams, fantasy, personal knowledge, desires and belief. He worked in Prague, Mexico, the USA, and Bratislava. He lived in the USA from 1948, and received many state awards. (The Koloman Sokol Centre, Pongráčovská kúria, Liptovský Mikuláš).

Suchoň, Eugen

(1908–1993) • *composer*

Ranks among the most prominent representatives of contemporary Slovak music. From the very beginning the work of the artist has been a representative expression of the modern Slovak musical culture. It has acquainted the European musical scene with the typical psychological world of the Slovak man and his national ethics on the high artistic level, and in spirit of the fundamental tendencies of the European music of this century. The success of his first opera "Krútňava" ("Whirlpool") established modern Slovak opera, and drew international attention.

Warhol, Andy

(1928–1987) • *painter, graphic designer, and filmmaker*
Born into a Slovak Ruthenian family that had immigrated to the USA. Warhol was the founder of pop art and also its most important representative; he was involved in drawing, painting, graphic design, and film. He painted everyday objects and film stars, while his films were about time, boredom, and repetition. (The Warhol Family Museum of Modern Art, Medzilaborce).

Did you know? The Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art in Medzilaborce is today the only one of its type in Europe.

Science and Technology

Banič, Štefan

(1870–1941) • *inventor*

Lived in the USA from 1907–1921. He constructed a prototype parachute in 1913, which was patented at the United States Patent Office. He was also involved in the improvement of mining production and bridge construction. The parachute has, of course, become a vital part of modern aviation.

Bel, Matej

(1684–1749) • *polyhistor*

A polyhistor, a pedagogue, a scientific researcher, and an evangelical priest. He was one of the greatest scientific figures of the 18th century, and was referred to as the *Magnum decus Hungariae* – the Great Ornament of Hungary. He made an important contribution to pietism, was a pioneer in the field of collective research into the Hungarian nation, and carried out comprehensive scientific, historical and geographical research. He was the coauthor of a unique account of agriculture in the Hungarian Empire – the works *Hungaria antiquae et novae prodromus* (1723), *Adparatus ad historiam Hungariae* (1735–1736) and *Notitia Hungariae novae historico geographica*. The University of Banská Bystrica bears his name.

Murgaš, Jozef

(1864–1929) • *priest and electrical engineer*

Lived in the USA, where he worked as a priest. He was also

involved in electrical engineering, and registered 12 patents in the field of wireless telegraphy. He established different frequencies for the dots and dashes in Morse code, thus accelerating the transmission of messages. He is often referred to as the “Slovak Edison”.

Stodola, Aurel

(1859–1942) • *engineer, professor, and inventor*

Graduated in the field of mechanical engineering and worked as a professor at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland. He achieved his greatest successes in the area of steam turbines; his calculations and constructions formed a basis for this particular field of mechanical engineering. He received the highest engineering awards – the Grashof Medal and the James Watt Gold Medal. He was also a correspondent member to the French Academy of Sciences.

Politics

Beňovský, Matúš Móric

(1746–1786) • *nobleman and King of Madagascar*

Baron Beňovský began his career in the Seven Years War. He fled to Poland in 1768, where he fought against the Russian Tsar, was captured and was sent into exile in Kamchatka. He managed to escape by boat in 1770. He sailed across the North Pacific and arrived in France in 1772. King Louis XV appointed him the Governor of Madagascar and he was elected the country's King in 1776. He fought in the American War of Independence in 1779 and 1781, and was a friend of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Works: *Memoirs and Travels* (1783).

Dubček, Alexander

(1921–1992) • *politician*

The leading figure in the Prague Spring (1968 – 1969). In the 1960s, he endeavoured towards reforming the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and establishing ‘socialism with a human face’. He faded into the background after the invasion of Warsaw Pact forces in August 1968. During the period of ‘normalisation’ in the 1970s, he was expelled from the party and became a subject of persecution. As a symbol of efforts towards

reform, he returned to politics in 1989; he became the Speaker of the Federal Parliament and the leader of the Slovak Social Democratic Party.

Hodža, Milan

(1878–1944) • *politician, diplomat, and statesman*

Involved in the Agrarian Movement. He was a co founder of the most powerful party in the Czechoslovak Republic (1918–1939) – the Czechoslovak Agrarian Party. He was a Member of Parliament, a minister for the unification of laws, agriculture, education, and national edification, and finally the Prime Minister. He immigrated to France in 1939, and then to the USA in 1941. He was active in the foreign resistance movement during the World War II. He created the idea of a federal state in Central Europe, stretching from the Baltic to the Aegean, from Germany to Russia.

Štefánik, Milan Rastislav

(1880–1919) • *politician, soldier, and astronomer*

During his studies in Prague, he became acquainted with Tomáš G. Masaryk and Eduard Beneš, with whom he established an anti-Austrian resistance movement abroad for the creation of an independent Czecho Slovak state. He worked in France as an astronomer, became a French Air Force officer during the World War I and was one of the founders of the Czechoslovak Republic. He died in a tragic air accident.

Štúr, Ľudovít

(1815–1856) • *national activist and linguist*

The leader of the Slovak national revival in the 19th century, the author of the Slovak language standard eventually leading to the contemporary Slovak literary language, an organiser of the Slovak volunteer campaigns during the 1848 Revolution in the Kingdom of Hungary, a member of the Diet of the Kingdom of Hungary, politician, Slovak poet, journalist, publisher, teacher, philosopher and linguist.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN SLOVAKIA

II.

1. Oldest Slovak Universities

The first university on the territory of present-day Slovakia, **Academia Istropolitana** (1465–1491), was established in Bratislava during the rule of **Matthias Corvinus** (1458–1490). In 1635, Peter Pazmany established **Trnava University** (which was relocated to Budapest in 1777).



Did you know? Academia Istropolitana was the first university in the Kingdom of Hungary, and it was founded in 1465, even before America was discovered.

The Jesuits founded **Košice University** in 1657. In 1762, the enlightened, absolutist ruler, Maria Theresa, established the first school of mining in the world – **the Mining Academy** in Banská Štiavnica.

Did you know? The first technical university in the world was the Mining Academy founded by Maria Theresa in 1762. It was placed in Banská Štiavnica, which used to be the centre of mining science and technical development in Europe.

2. Higher Education Institutions

Higher education institutions (HEIs) are third-level educational, scientific and arts institutions. The major task of HEIs is the provision of higher education and creative scientific research or creative artistic activity.

Higher education institutions are classified **by nature and scope of their activities** into university type of HEIs and non-university type of HEIs.

- a) The university type of higher education institutions shall provide education in the study programmes of all the three levels with a significant portion of study programmes of the second level and study programmes of the third level. The study programmes shall be carried out in connection with activities of higher education institutions in the field of science, technology or art, and in compliance with the current state and development of such fields. The term of "university" may only be used in the name of a university type of higher education institution.
- b) The non-university type of higher education institutions shall provide higher education mostly in the study programmes of the first level.

Based on founding and funding there are 3 types of HEIs.

Public Higher Education Institutions

Public institutions of higher education are established by law. They are financed mostly by the government. They are statutory and self-governing institutions. At present, there are 20 public institutions of higher education, comprising 9 more or less traditional universities, 5 universities of technology, 3 higher education institutions of art and music, 1 university of economics, 1 university of veterinary medicine and 1 agricultural university.

State Higher Education Institutions

State institutions of higher education (3 HEIs) are military, police and medical schools. They are established by law and governed by state through the corresponding ministries of the government. The state HEIs are fully financed from the state budget.

Private Higher Education Institutions

Private institutions of higher education (10 HEIs) need to have the state approval issued by the Government of the Slovak Republic. They are established and financed by non governmental institutions or founders. Most of the private higher education institutions provide education on bachelor level only, specialised in the fields of economics, business, management, public administration, law, international relations, regional development, medical and social work.

All types of HEIs need to undergo the accreditation process to be authorized to open studies within a respective study programme.

List of Higher Education Institutions

Public Higher Education Institutions

The universities are listed in the alphabetical order according to the university cities:

BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

**Academy of Arts in
Banská Bystrica**
(www.aku.sk)

- Faculty of Dramatic Arts
- Faculty of Fine Arts
- Faculty of Music

**Matej Bel University in
Banská Bystrica**
(www.umb.sk)

- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Political Sciences
and International Relations



BRATISLAVA

Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava

(www.vsvu.sk)

Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava

(www.vsmu.sk)

- Faculty of Film and Television
- Faculty of Music and Dance
- Faculty of Theatre

Comenius University in Bratislava

(www.uniba.sk)

- Faculty of Evangelic Theology
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Management
- Faculty of Mathematics,
Physics and Informatics
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Pharmacy
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Faculty of Physical Education
and Sports
- Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences
- Jessenius Faculty of
Medicine in Martin
- Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

(www.stuba.sk)

- Faculty of Architecture
- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology
- Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology
- Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies
- Faculty of Material Sciences and Technology in Trnava
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

University of Economics in Bratislava

(www.euba.sk)

- Faculty of Business Economy in Košice
- Faculty of Business Management
- Faculty of Commerce



- Faculty of Business Informatics
- Faculty of International Relations
- Faculty of National Economy
- Faculty of Applied Languages

Did you know? The so called „Bratislava tapestries“ exhibited in the Primate Palace are the world most complete collection of tapestries made in English royal manufactory in Mortlake (part of London).

KOMÁRNO

J. Selye University in Komárno

(www.selyeuni.sk)

- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Reformed Theology

KOŠICE

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

(www.upjs.sk)

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Public Administration
- Faculty of Science

Technical University of Košice

(www.tuke.sk)

- Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies
- Faculty of Aeronautics
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
- Faculty of Metallurgy
- Faculty of Mining, Ecology,



Process Control and
Geotechnology
**University of Veterinary
Medicine and Pharmacy
in Košice**
(www.uvm.sk)

*Did you know? The gothic
St. Elisabeth Cathedral in
Košice is the most eastern
situated western-type
cathedral in Europe.
It is the largest church in
Slovakia at the same time.*



NITRA

**Constantine the Philosopher
University in Nitra**
(www.ukf.sk)

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Central European Studies
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Social Sciences and Health

**Slovak University of
Agriculture in Nitra**
(www.uniag.sk)

- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Agrobiology and Food Resources
- Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences
- Faculty of Economics and Management
- Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development
- Horticulture and Landscape Engineering Faculty



PREŠOV

University of Prešov

(www.unipo.sk)

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Greek Catholic Theology
- Faculty of Health Care
- Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Management
- Faculty of Orthodox Theology
- Faculty of Sports



RUŽOMBEROK

Catholic University in Ružomberok

(www.ku.sk)

- Faculty of Health Care
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Theology
- Faculty of Education

TRENČÍN

Alexander Dubček University in Trenčín

(www.tnuni.sk)

- Faculty of Industrial Technologies
in Púchov
- Faculty of Mechatronics
- Faculty of Social and Economic
Relations
- Faculty of Special Technologies
- Faculty of Health Care



Did you know? The most northern point in the middle Europe, where the Roman legions came to, was Laugaricio - today's town of Trenčín. There is a proof of their stay engraved in the castle rock dating back to 179.

TRNAVA

Trnava University in Trnava

(www.truni.sk)

- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Health Care and Social Work
- Faculty of Theology

University of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava

(www.ucm.sk)

- Faculty of Mass Media Communications
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Arts



ZVOLEN

Technical University in Zvolen

(www.tuzvo.sk)

- Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences
- Faculty of Environmental and Manufacturing Technology
- Faculty of Forestry
- Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology

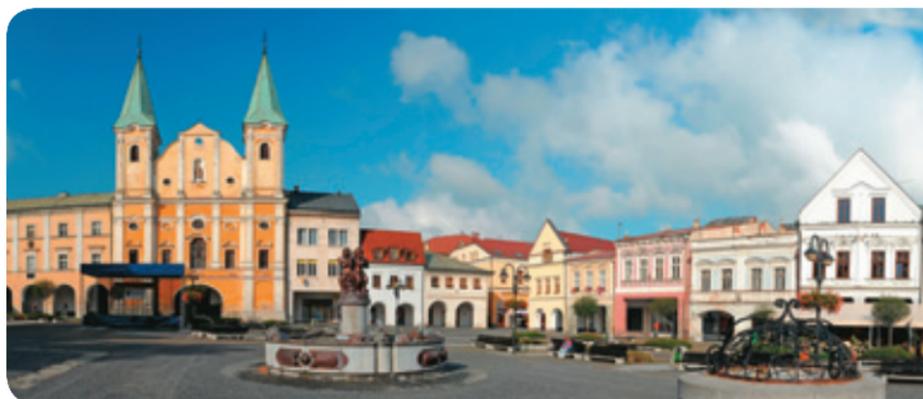


ŽILINA

University of Žilina

(www.uniza.sk)

- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering
- Faculty of Management Science and Informatics
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport and Communications
- Faculty of Special Engineering



State Higher Education Institutions

BRATISLAVA

Police Academy in Bratislava

(www.akademiapz.sk)

Slovak Medical University in Bratislava

(www.szu.sk)

- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Nursing and Health Care Professional Studies
- Faculty of Public Health
- Faculty of Health Care in Banská Bystrica



LIPTOVSKÝ MIKULÁŠ

Gen. Milan Rastislav Štefánik Academy of Military Forces in Liptovský Mikuláš
(www.aos.sk)

Private Higher Education Institutions

BRATISLAVA

Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts in Bratislava

(www.bisla.sk)

Pan European University

(www.uninova.sk)

- Faculty of Economy and Business
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Media
- Faculty of Informatics

School of Economics and Management in Public Administration in Bratislava

(www.vsemvs.sk)

St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work

(www.vssvalzbety.sk)

- Faculty of Mission Work and Public Health Administration of John Paul II
- Faculty of Health Care and Social Work of St. Ladislav

DUBNICA NAD VÁHOM

Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom

(www.dti.sk)

KOŠICE

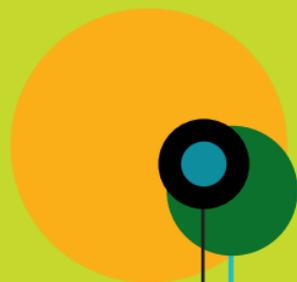
College of Security Management in Košice (www.vsbm.sk)

SKALICA

Central European College in Skalica (www.sevs.sk)

SLÁDKOVIČOVO

College in Sládkovičovo (www.vssladkovicovo.sk)



- Faculty of Social Studies
- Faculty of Public Politics and Public Administration
- Janko Jesenský Faculty of Law

TRENČÍN

College of Management in Trenčín

(www.vsm.sk)

PREŠOV

International School of Management Slovakia

(www.ismpo.sk)

Foreign Higher Education Institutions

Banking Institute – College of Banking

(www.bivs.sk)

Palacký University, Olomouc

(www.upol.cz)

The Institute of Hospitality Management in Prague

(www.vsh.cz)

**University College of International and Public Relations,
Prague**

(www.vip-vs.sk)

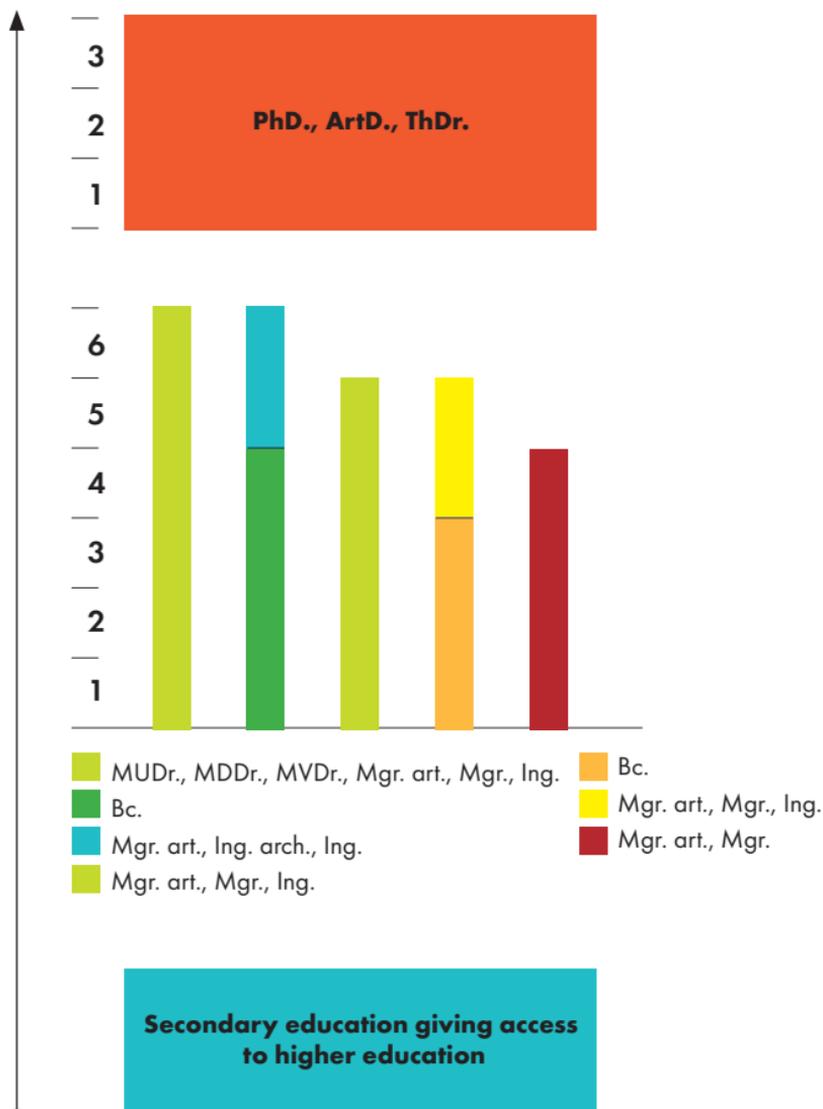
3. Organisation and Structure of Studies

Higher education system in Slovakia follows the principles of Bologna Declaration.

Higher education institutions provide the study programmes at three levels:

1. Bachelor's study programme takes three years at least and four years at most (architecture, fine art and design).
2. Magister study programme takes one year at least and four years at most so the standard length of study according to the Bachelor study programme and the continuing programme of the second level in the same or relative field of study represents five years at least in total. It may be also carried out as a continuous study connecting the first and second level of higher education (in this case the standard length of study is four years at least and six years at most).

Higher Education System in the Slovak Republic in the Graph



3. Phd. study programme takes in full-time form three years at least and four years at most, in part-time five years.

All study programmes must be accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

The grading is on a scale of A – FX:

A	excellent = 1
B	very good (above-average achievements) = 1.5
C	good (average achievements) = 2
D	laudable (acceptable achievements) = 2.5
E	satisfactory (achievements fulfil only the minimum criteria) = 3
FX	unsatisfactory – fail (achievements do not fulfil even the minimum criteria) = 4

Academic Year

Academic year starts on 1 September of the current year and ends on 31 August of the following year. It is composed of 2 semesters (winter semester lasts from September to January and summer semester lasts from February to June). The organisation of academic year is set by the statute of the faculty or statute of the higher education institution.

Teaching Process and ECTS

The teaching process includes various forms of instruction such as lectures, seminars, exercises, laboratory work, projects, practical training, consultations, etc. The credit system following the rules of the European Credit and Accumulation Transfer System (ECTS) was introduced in 2002 for all levels and forms of higher education study. The student's standard load is expressed by the number of credits: 60 credits per academic year, 30 credits per semester and 20 credits for trimester. The institution of higher education determines the total number of credits required for the due completion of the study in its respective stages.

Degrees Awarded in the Slovak Republic

Higher education institutions award following academic degrees:

1st level (comprising app. 180 credits)

“bakalár” (abbr. “Bc.”).

2nd level (comprising app. 120 credits)

“magister” (abbr. “Mgr.”)

“magister umenia” (abbr. “Mgr. art.”), in the field of art

“inžinier” (abbr. “Ing.”) in technical, agricultural and economic fields of Engineer’s programmes, and in the field of architecture and town-planning the academic degree of “inžinier architekt” (abbr. “Ing. arch.”)

“doktor všeobecného lekárstva” (abbr. “MUDr.”)

in the field of general humane medicine

“doktor zubného lekárstva” (abbr. “MDDr.”)

– dentist humane medicine

“doktor veterinárneho lekárstva” (abbr. “MVDr.”)

in the field of veterinary medicine.

3rd level

“philosophiae doctor” (abbr. “PhD.”)

“artis doctor” (abbr. “ArtD.”) in the field of art.

4. Admission and Tuition Fee

General Principles

The general prerequisite for admission to bachelor study is a secondary school-leaving certificate and demonstration of skills required for the appropriate study in the higher education institution to be verified, as a rule, through admission examinations.

The entrance examinations are diverse, depending on the field of study. They may be written and oral, or just written (tests). In some fields of study, e.g., arts, the so-called talent examinations are also conducted. A decision about admission is usually made on the basis of the previous achievements (average marks from the secondary school certificates, sometimes only the final secondary school-leaving certificate, or only marks achieved in the so-called profile subjects) and the results of the entrance examinations. In some faculties, only the results of the entrance



examinations are taken into the consideration. The basic condition for admission to the second level study is graduation from bachelor study. The basic condition for the admission to the PhD study programme is graduation from second level university study.

International Students

Admission requirements for international students are the same as for Slovak nationals. In justified cases the academic senate of faculty may appropriately adapt them upon the proposal given by the dean. The holders of International Baccalaureate meet general requirements for admission to higher education institutions in Slovakia.

Foreign applicants who do not meet all the requirements for admission may be required to attend preparatory courses, including Slovak language courses. Such courses are offered by the Institute for Language and Academic Preparation of Foreign Students, an independent unit of the Comenius University in Bratislava. Courses of Slovak language are also organised by respective universities.

Every faculty determines its own criteria for students' admissions. The students should ask for information and apply for admission at the faculty of their choice. The information on the Slovak and English study programmes is available on the web pages or at the international offices of the individual higher education institutions/faculties. A list of study programmes offered in English by Slovak HEIs can be found also on the SAIA webpage www.saia.sk.



Tuition

Full time study at the state and public higher education institutions is available free of charge for citizens of the Slovak Republic. Citizens of the European Union can study under the same conditions as citizens of the Slovak Republic. For third country students the fees related to study programme at any level are determined by the higher education institution. Tuition fees and study-related fees for students studying under international agreements shall comply with the provisions of these agreements. The provisions are not applicable to foreign students with permanent residence at the territory of the Slovak Republic. Fees for a study in English or other foreign languages vary from 1,000€ to 10,000€ for one academic year. The exact amount is being determined by the respective institution. Information on fees can be obtained from the international office of individual institutions.

5. Recognition of Diplomas and Qualifications

The Slovak Republic has its own legal regulations governing the recognition of educational qualifications awarded abroad. It is also bound by international agreements (especially those of the European Union and European Economic Area) and bilateral agreements to which it has acceded or which it has concluded with regard to qualifications acquired in another state.



The term of recognition of diplomas means recognition of a diploma, issued by a foreign higher education institution or other authorised body according to the regulations of the respective state as equivalent to a diploma issued by a higher education institution in the Slovak Republic.

The key points when arranging recognition of a diploma are the type of activity to be carried out in the Slovak Republic (academic studies including PhD studies or employment purposes) and the state where the diploma was issued.

Academic Purposes — Study

The recognition of degrees of the 1st and the 2nd level (Bachelor and Master) issued by foreign higher education institutions (of Member States or other states except for the states with which there exist a bilateral treaty) falls within the competence of the appropriate higher education institution in Slovakia which provides the same or similar study programme. If the contents of the studies are only partly identical, the higher education institution may invite the applicant to take additional examinations or to complete and defend his/her Bachelor thesis, diploma thesis, examina rigorosa or dissertation thesis.

In case that there is no higher education institution to carry out the study programmes identical or related to those stated in the submitted certificate in Slovakia, the recognition of equivalence is issued by the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport.

The diplomas issued by a foreign higher education institution or other authorised bodies of the state that has concluded an agreement with the Slovak Republic on mutual recognition of diplomas are equivalent with those issued by a higher education institution in the Slovak Republic, provided that these credentials are covered by the agreement. Decisions on the equivalence of diplomas shall be issued by the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas. The decisions made under this Clause refer to the recognition for academic purposes only. The bilateral treaty has been concluded with the following states: Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

In all cases the application is submitted to the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas, which either decides on the recognition

of the equivalence itself or issues the recommendation/ assessment for the appropriate higher education institution in the Slovak Republic.

Postal address:

The Ministry of Education, Science,
Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

Centre for Recognition of Diplomas

Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava, The Slovak Republic

E-mail: eva.kaczova@minedu.sk

Tel.: +421/2/59 37 43 12

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 14:00

Further information is available on the website of the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas <http://www.minedu.sk>

Diploma Supplement

The Diploma Supplement is a document containing details on the completed study programme. Information to be included in the Diploma Supplement shall be provided for by regulations issued by the Ministry. The Diploma Supplement shall be issued by a higher education institution. The graduate shall receive the Diploma Supplement along with his/her diploma.



6. Slovak Language Courses for International Students



Slovak is the official language and belongs to the West Slavic subgroup of the Indo European language family, and uses the Roman script. It does not differ significantly from Czech, and comprehension in both languages is rather common. The majority of the population (86 %) speaks Slovak as their mother tongue. The second most widely spoken mother tongue is Hungarian. The most widely spoken foreign languages are English, German, Russian, Hungarian and French. The young urban population is generally considered to be the most linguistically proficient. Foreign languages are sometimes taught at kindergarten, usually at primary school in lower grades and always in the upper ones (5th till 9th) and at secondary schools. There are some primary and secondary schools that conduct classes in foreign languages such as Hungarian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. Private language schools offer many possibilities for children, young people and adults to learn foreign languages.

Foreigners can attend courses of Slovak language at several private language schools that provide instruction at all levels of language proficiency: beginner, intermediate, advanced. They offer group instruction or individual courses tailored to the clients' individual needs. The courses are aimed at mastering all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The courses are usually held twice a week, 2 standard lessons (90 min. in total) per day.

Some universities and research institutions organise Slovak language courses for their international students/researchers e.g. The Institute for Language and Academic Preparation for Foreign Students of the Comenius University (www.ujop.sk), Methodical Centre of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (www.umb.sk) or Centre for Language and Academic Preparation of Pan European University (www.uninova.sk/clap). For more information contact the International Relations Office of the respective higher education institution.

Slovak courses are offered by some private language schools, e.g. Academy of Education (www.aveducation.sk, only in Slovak), Eurolingua (www.eurolingua.sk) or Berlitz (www.berlitz.sk).

Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture – Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS)

Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture – Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS) is the oldest summer school of Slovak language and culture and has been taking place in Bratislava since 1965.

SAS is aimed at all those studying Slovak language and culture and towards all Slavists in general. This intensive programme is especially offered to university or college professors, experienced teachers, postgraduates and advanced undergraduates of Slovak and Slavonic studies, to writers, translators and all others interested in Slovak language and culture. The summer course lasts 3 weeks and takes place in August.

Further information available at <http://www.fphil.uniba.sk/sas>.

Language Courses for Erasmus Students



Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

National Agency of the Lifelong Learning Programme in the framework of the Erasmus programme organises Erasmus Intensive Language Course (EILC) for Erasmus students coming to the Slovak Republic. The EILCs, an initiative supported by the European Commission, are intended to enable Erasmus students to function socially and academically in a host country whose language is not widely spoken or taught abroad. The EILCs take place before the start of the winter or the summer term.

Detailed course information is available from university Erasmus coordinators and from the following web sites: www.saaic.sk or http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/lfp/erasmus/eilc/index_en.html.

Did you know? Gombasecká and Krásnohorská cave, which are part of the UNESCO world natural heritage. A rarity is the Silická ľadnica with a 12 m high icefall.

7. Student Organisations

In the Slovak Republic, there are several international student organisations associating students from equivalent study fields.

AIIESEC (Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) is an international association of students from the economic and business oriented fields of study. AIIESEC is functioning at the following universities: University of Economics in Bratislava (also at its Faculty of Business Economics situated in Košice), Faculty of Management of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, University of Žilina, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and Poprad (www.aiiesec.org/slovakia, www.aiiesec.org).

IAESTE Slovakia (The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) is an international association for exchange of students from technical fields of study for specialised experience, acting at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Technical Universities of Košice and Zvolen and at the University of Žilina (www.iaeste.sk, www.iaeste.org).

BEST (Board of European Students of Technology) is an international student organisation for students from technical universities. In the Slovak Republic, this organisation operates at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and at the Technical University of Košice (www.best.stuba.sk, www.best.tuke.sk, www.best.eu.org).

ELSA (The European Law Students' Association) is an international organisation associating law students and young lawyers. In the Slovak Republic, ELSA is functioning at the Faculties of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and University of Trnava (www.elsa.sk, www.elsa.org).

SloMSA (Slovak Medical Students' Association) is a member of International Medical Students Association (IFMSA). SloMSA is acting at the Medical Faculty of the Comenius University in

Bratislava and Martin and at the Medical Faculty of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (www.slomsa.sk, www.ifmsa.org).

IAAS (International Association of Students in Agriculture and related sciences) is an international association of agricultural students. In the Slovak Republic, the IAAS functions at the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (www.iaasworld.org).

IFSA (International Forestry Students' Association) is the world wide organisation of local and national association of forestry students. In the Slovak Republic, the IFSA functions at the Technical University in Zvolen (www.ifsa.net).

The Student Higher Education Council is a supreme representative body of Slovak higher education students (www.srvs.sk).

The Youth Council of Slovakia is the basic organisation associated with other children and youth institutions and is recognised as a reference to organisations established to provide various activities for youngsters (www.mladez.sk).

ESN (Erasmus Student Network) is a student organisation founded in 1990 for supporting and developing student exchange. In the Slovak Republic, the ESN operates at the University of Economics in Bratislava with aim to provide support to international students (www.esn.sk).

ADS (Slovak PhD Students' Association) is an organisation uniting PhD students and young scientists (up to the age of 35) in Slovakia (www.ads.sk). ADS is a member of the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers – EURODOC (www.eurodoc.net).

8. Student Cards

Several international cards can be used in the Slovak Republic. These cards enable students to be eligible for discounts on transport, accommodation, restaurants, cinemas, concerts, museums and exhibitions. For students, the most advantageous is the worldwide recognised ISIC (International Student Identity Card) and for teachers, the worldwide recognised teachers' card ITIC (International Teacher Identity Card). Anyone aged under 26 can get IYTC (International Youth Travel Card) or EURO<26 (European Youth Card) giving youth various discounts on anything from plane tickets to cinema tickets. The cardholders may buy also health insurance.

More information can be found at: www.istc.org and www.euro26.org

The cards can be bought in the offices of CKM 2000 TRAVEL (www.ckm.sk).



GRANTS

III.

AND

SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Funding Based on Slovak Sources

Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic Awarded for the Entire Master or Doctoral Study within Official Development Assistance

The Slovak Republic Government annually awards scholarships for master and doctoral study to students from the countries eligible for **Official Development Assistance (ODA)**. Scholarships offered in the framework of conditions set out by the OECD for realization of ODA includes also scholarships of the Government for Slovak nationals living abroad. The granting of these scholarships has become a component of the state support for Slovak nationals living abroad.

The study can be carried out only at public universities in Slovakia and is held in Slovak. The Slovak Government scholarship also includes a scholarship for a 1 year language preparation in case that the applicant has not completed the previous education in the Slovak Republic.

Citizens of following countries can apply for the scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic within the ODA:
Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Malawi, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Palestine, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Serbia,

Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen. This list of eligible countries may vary every year. The respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country concerned is notified via diplomatic channels of the approved conditions for realising master or doctoral study at Slovak universities in the Slovak Republic together with the number of scholarship slots. Respective sending party presents its selected applicants via its representative office in Slovakia, or the representative office of the Slovak Republic in the respective country to the address of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic until the end of May every year. Further information is available at: www.minedu.sk.

The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers



Establishment of the National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2005. The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic is intended to support mobility of foreign students, PhD students, university teachers and researchers to stay at Slovak universities and research institutions.

Citizens from following countries can apply for scholarships:

- a) European Union Member States;
- b) Other countries participating in the Bologna process (listed are only countries that are not stated in item a) – Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine;
- c) Belarus;
- d) Canada, Central American countries, Latin American countries, Mexico, the United States of America;

e) Australia, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.

The Government of the Slovak Republic at the meeting held on the 29 April 2009 approved the continuation of the National Scholarship Programme for the period of 2010/2011 – 2015/2016 in accordance with the terms set in the Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21. Therefore it is quite likely that NSP support will be to some extent modified. Details on the programme continuation, terms as well as deadlines will be updated on the websites www.stipendia.sk, www.scholarships.sk, and on the SAIA website www.saia.sk.

Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic offers scholarships for study stay within accredited study/doctoral programmes or academic stay at public universities or institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences for:

- foreign university students for 5 month stays (age between 18–26 years);
- foreign PhD students for 5 month stays (age between 23–35 years);
- foreign academics for 3 month stays (age between 30–50 years).

Holders of a scholarship of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic are exempt from administration fees for the granting of a permit and the extension of a permit for temporary stay in Slovakia pursuant to internal legal regulations of the Slovak Republic.

Application deadline: 31 May

Address, at which the documents must be received by the deadline:

Ministry of Education, Science,
Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
International Cooperation Division
Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava
The Slovak Republic

Further information is available at:
www.studyin.sk, www.minedu.sk

Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21 – Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

Within the Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic offers the possibility of study in the Slovak Republic to graduates from secondary schools in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldavia, Serbia, Macedonia, Ukraine, Montenegro and Croatia, namely within:

- free of charge 10-month language and academic preparation at the Institute of Language and Academic Preparation for Foreign Students of the Center of Further Education of the Comenius University in Bratislava (UJOP) with scholarship granted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in the amount of 280 EUR/month + single contribution in the amount of 70 EUR for the student to pay for accommodation, board and other expenses related to his/her study in the Slovak Republic.

The above mentioned study is focused on language and academic preparation of the students for entrance examination to the universities in the Slovak Republic for the purpose of their further university study in Slovak language within study programs with technical orientation. It is expected that the students from mentioned countries after finishing the language and academic preparation complete at least the 2nd degree of university study in the Slovak Republic, i.e. engineer/master study (note: the university students from mentioned countries study in the Slovak Republic pursuant to the internal legal regulations of the Slovak Republic under the same conditions as the Slovak students do).
Application deadline: 31 May
Further information is available at: www.minedu.sk,
www.studyin.sk

2. Funding for Bilateral Cooperation

Bilateral Intergovernmental Agreements on Educational, Research and Cultural Cooperation

The Government of the Slovak Republic has concluded bilateral agreements on educational, research and cultural cooperation with several countries in order to support exchange programmes providing scholarships for students and researchers coming to Slovakia to study or carry out research at Slovak universities and research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Scholarships are awarded for partial study and research stays, as well as language courses. There is no general limitation regarding field of study. Applicants must be nominated by the appropriate counterpart institutions. Applicants wishing to study or conduct research in Slovakia should arrange in advance a contact with his/her Slovak host institution.

Citizens of the following countries can apply: Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the USA.

For further information (specific instructions, exact application deadlines) a Ministry of Education or a Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country should be consulted.

Action Austria – Slovakia, Cooperation in Science and Education



This is a bilateral programme with the objective to intensify cooperation between Austria and Slovakia in the field of education and research.

The Programme has been funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry of Science and Research of the Republic of Austria on the basis of the agreement signed in 1992.

The Programme is administered by SAIA, n. o.

Via the Programme, financial support is provided to Austrian PhD students to support their study/research stays (scholarships) or

to create partnerships with other PhD students doing research in the same or closely related field (cooperation projects). Students from the 2nd level of university education (e.g. Master students) apply for scholarships for stays in Slovakia connected with their master thesis preparation. Students and PhD students can apply also for summer language courses in Slovakia.

Electronic submission of applications for scholarships:

www.scholarships.at

Further information is available at www.oead.at, www.grants.at or www.aktion.saia.sk.

Did you know? Slovakia is after Austria the second country in the middle Europe with the largest amount of forests? Almost 40 % of its territory is covered by forest, while in Austria it is only 6 % more.

Fulbright Program - J. W Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic

The Fulbright Commission is a bilateral organization for educational, research and cultural exchanges between the U. S. and the Slovak Republic. The Commission administers awards for study and research, and provides information and advising on study possibilities for citizens of both countries.

Programs for U.S. Citizen:

- **Fulbright Awards for Graduate Studies and research Abroad**

U. S. Student Program offers opportunities for recent graduates, postgraduate candidates, and developing professionals and artists to conduct study and research in the Slovak Republic.

- **Fulbright Awards for U. S. Faculty and Professionals (Lecturing and/or Research)**

U. S. scholars and professionals can propose projects in cooperation with a Slovak institution of higher education. Grantees can lecture and conduct research in academic and professional fields.

- **Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship**

Graduates with degrees in English, History, American literature, TEFL/Applied Linguistics and experience in teaching and coursework in American studies can assist in teaching English at Slovak institutions.

- **Fulbright Specialist Program**

The short-term program provides U.S. faculty and professionals with opportunities to collaborate with professional counterparts in the Slovak Republic on curriculum development, institutional planning, lecturing and other activities.

Programs for U. S. Institutions:

- **Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program (SIR)**

The program assists U. S. institutions underrepresented in international academic exchange to invite scholars outside the United States to gain experience in U.S. higher education.

The grants and awards are administered in accordance with worldwide regulations guided by principles of bi-national governance, open competition, academic excellence and professional promise.

Further information available at www.fulbright.sk.

3. Multilateral Programmes

Programmes Funded by the European Commission

European Commission is funding the programmes and other educational initiatives aimed at different educational institutions:

- For the cooperation among the EU countries and the countries as EFTA and pre-accession countries on the basis of the separate agreements.
- For the cooperation between the EU countries and third (non EU) countries.

Programmes for Cooperation in Education and Vocational Training among the EU Countries

Lifelong Learning Programme



Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) is the successor to the Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and eLearning programmes. The programme supports learning opportunities from childhood to old age in every single life situation.

The programme is open since 1 January 2007 for 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey and will run for 7 years (2007–2013). Since 2011 the programme is open also for Croatia and Switzerland.

The LLP is built on four sectoral sub programmes focusing on:

School education – Comenius programme for pupils, teachers, schools and related institutions/organisations (pre school and school education up to the level of the end of upper secondary education).

Higher education – Erasmus programme for students, scholars, professors, universities and related institutions/organisations in higher education, including trans national student placements in enterprise.

Vocational education – Leonardo da Vinci programme for apprentices, workers, employees and related institutions/organisations (vocational education and training).

Adult education – Grundtvig programme for adults, teachers and related institutions/organisations active in the field of adult education.

Transversal programme targeted on cross cutting areas: policy cooperation and innovation in lifelong learning, promotion of language learning, development of innovative ICT, dissemination and exploitation of results.

Jean Monnet programme supporting teaching, research and reflection around European integration and key European institutions and associations.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/index_en.html
(EC website)

Contact: Slovak National Agency for Lifelong Learning

Programme:

SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation

Svoradova 1, 811 03 Bratislava, The Slovak Republic

llp@saaic.sk, erasmus@saaic.sk, www.saaic.sk/llp

Programmes for Cooperation in Education and Vocational Training among the EU and Third Countries

The Tempus Programme

The Trans European mobility scheme for university studies funds projects between the higher education sector in the EU and its 27 partner countries to facilitate university modernization, mutual learning between regions and peoples and understanding between cultures.

The Tempus partner regions are the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

The Tempus programme, with its strong focus on institution-based university cooperation, will be continued over the period 2007 to 2013. Starting 2007, the calls for applications are published yearly.

Address of the Tempus National Contact Point:

SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation – Unit for Academic Programmes and Projects

Svoradova 1, 811 03 Bratislava, The Slovak Republic

tempus@saaic.sk, www.saaic.sk

Check also for updates at http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/tempus/index_en.html

Erasmus Mundus

The Erasmus Mundus programme is a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education. It aims to enhance quality in European higher education and to promote it to the students and professors from the third countries by opening the high quality European joint Masters and Doctorates courses in the different field and subject areas.

The European Commission offers the scholarship for the best students and professors from the "third countries" and EU as well who have to apply directly at the European consortia, which offer the European joint Masters or Doctorates courses in the frame of the selected projects proposals (Action 1).

The next funded activities are Partnerships with non-European higher education institutions and scholarships for students and academics (previous External Cooperation Window, now Action 2) and Projects to promote European higher education worldwide (Action 3).

Address of the Erasmus Mundus National Structure:
SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation – Unit for Academic Programmes and Projects
Svoradova 1, 811 03 Bratislava, The Slovak Republic
mundus@saaic.sk, www.saaic.sk

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html (EC website)

Countries involved in the programme:

European Countries:

The 27 EU Member States

The 3 EEA EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)

The yearly update of the participation of the candidate countries can be found on the web page of the EACEA.

Third countries: all around the world

The EU US Cooperation Programme in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training (2006–2013) – Atlantis

The programme is funded and managed jointly by the European

Commission and by the US Department of Education. It aims primarily at promoting understanding between the peoples of the European Union and the United States of America and improving the quality of their human resource development.

More information and current calls for proposals:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/eu-usa/doc1156_en.htm

The EU-Canada Cooperation Programme in Higher Education, Training and Youth (2006–2013)

The programme aims primarily at promoting understanding between the peoples of the European Union and Canada and improving the quality of their human resource development.

More information and current calls for proposals:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/eu-canada/doc1563_en.htm

Cooperation in Education and Culture between EU and Other Industrialised Countries (Asia-Pacific Region – Japan, Australia, New Zealand)

Check for changes and updates of currently running programmes in the following period at

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu_others/index_en.html

Regional Programmes

CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Program for University Studies



The Slovak Republic is engaged in CEEPUS together with the following countries:

Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. University of Prishtina in Kosovo participates in the programme, too.

University cooperation is focused on the preparation of joint programmes and joint diplomas, mobility of university students, PhD students and university teachers, student excursions, professional language courses and summer schools. As part

of mobility activities, in particular one-term stays for university students and short term stays (1–2 months, minimum 21 days) for PhD students (related to PhD thesis elaboration) are supported as well as stays for guest university lecturers (1 month, minimum 5 working days and 6 lectures). All fields of study are welcome and there are no priority areas.

If a higher education institution does not participate in the programme network, its students and PhD students may still apply for scholarship under the category “freemover”.

The scholarships are paid by the National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia. Travel costs can be reimbursed by the respective National CEEPUS Office of the scholarship holder’s country of origin.

Further information is available at www.ceepus.info

Application deadline:

- 31 October for the summer semester of respective academic year and 15 June for the winter semester of the following academic year – applicants within the CEEPUS network
- 30 November for the summer semester of respective academic year for freemovers

National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia:

SAIA, n. o.

Námestie slobody 23, 812 20 Bratislava 1, The Slovak Republic

E-mail: julia.karabova@saia.sk

International Visegrad Fund

International Visegrad Fund (IVF) provides support to promote regional cooperation among the **Visegrad countries** (Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary) in the field of:

- cultural cooperation;
- scientific exchanges and research;
- education;
- exchange between young people;
- cross-border cooperation;
- promotion of tourism.

A part of the support focuses also on cooperation of Visegrad countries with third countries (e.g., scholarships).

Further information available at: <http://visegradfund.org/grants/>

Visegrad Scholarship Programme (VSP)

Visegrad Scholarships are provided for study/research projects at master's and post-master's levels. The length of supported period of study/research project is 5 or 10 months (1 or 2 semesters). Successful applicants are eligible to apply for the VSP again; however, the Fund's maximum term of support is 4 semesters. All universities accredited by the governments (Ministries of Education) and Institutes of Academies of Sciences are eligible to be host as well as home institutions.

Intra-Visegrad scholarships—for scholars coming from one of the V4 countries who wish to pursue study/research in another V4 country.

Out-Going scholarships—for outstanding students/scholars from V4 countries to pursue study/research projects in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M), Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. The same rules are applicable to Kosovar universities.

In-Coming scholarships—for outstanding students/scholars coming from one of the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M.), Moldova, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine.

Note: It is possible to support an entire Master's study programme through one application. The same rules are applicable to Kosovar scholars.

Annual deadline for all scholarship applications is 31 January. Successful applicants receive scholarship of 2,300€/semester and the corresponding host universities/institutes receive 1,500€/semester/scholar. Scholars who will have to travel to the host institution more than 1,500 km are also eligible for one-time travel grant.

Further information available at: <http://visegradfund.org/scholarships/> and <http://visegradfund.org/scholarships/instructions/>

Visegrad Scholarships at the Open Society Archives

The International Visegrad Fund in cooperation with the Open Society Archives Budapest offers research fellowships at the Open Society Archives (OSA) at the Central European University in Budapest. As part of the joint project, 8 fellowships will be awarded annually to selected scholars, researchers or journalists from the Visegrad Group (V4) countries and 2 fellowships annually to non-V4 applicants. The fellowships in the value of 2,000 € are meant to provide access to the Archives for scholars, artists and journalists, cover travel costs and provide accommodation and modest subsistence in Budapest for a maximum research period of two months. Further information available at: <http://visegradfund.org/scholarships/osa/> and <http://www.osaarchivum.org/>



Visegrad Artist Residency Programme (VARP)

The programme is to facilitate art mobility and exchange for citizens of the Visegrad countries. The artist-in-residence projects must be implemented in a V4 country other than that of the applicant's residence. The length of supported period is 3 months.

Selected artists receive a residency scholarship of 750 €/month and the corresponding host organisation receives 750 €/month to cover expenses related to the residency (each residency project receives 4,500 € in total).

Annual deadline for applications is 10 September.

Further information is available at: <http://visegradfund.org/residencies/>

International Visegrad Fund

Kráľovské údolie 8, 811 02 Bratislava, The Slovak Republic

<http://visegradfund.org/>

E-mail: visegradfund@visegradfund.org

FORMALITIES,

IV.

ENTERING AND

STAYING IN SLOVAKIA

1. Entry Conditions – Visa, Registration Procedures and Working

The legal regulations are different for nationals of the European Union/European Economic Area/Switzerland and for third countries nationals. EU/EEA/Swiss nationals wishing to enter the Slovak Republic have a special legal status and are only required to have a valid passport (or a valid ID card). Other nationals must also comply with further requirements to enter the Slovak Republic which are specified in Act No 48/2002.

Nationals of the European Union, European Economic Area Member States and Switzerland

At present EU/EEA/Swiss nationals have the right to remain as permanent residents in the Slovak Republic. As of 1 May 2004, a temporary residence permit is not required for this category of nationals. During their permanent residency they can work, carry on a business or study.

Within 10 working days of entering the Slovak Republic, EU/EEA/Swiss nationals are required to register the date of entry, the place and the expected length of their residence with a police office, unless they are registered by an accommodation establishment where they are staying.

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals have the right to remain in the Slovak Republic for up to three months as tourists, as students taking



short-term courses or as persons in short-term employment. If they wish to remain for longer, they must register as residents.

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals intending to remain permanently in the Slovak Republic are required to register for permanent residency with the Foreign Police Office at their local police station. To register it is necessary to provide a passport, two photographs and a duty stamp to the value of 4.50 €.

The police unit issues EU/EEA/Swiss nationals with a permanent residency certificate in the form of an ID card with a photograph, which is then valid for five years. After this period this certificate can be extended for a further ten years.

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals intending to leave the Slovak Republic permanently are required to inform the police in writing that they are terminating their permanent residency.

Third Countries Nationals

Obtaining Visa

Since December 2007, the Slovak Republic is part of the Schengen Area. Therefore the common Schengen rules apply. Foreign nationals, who are subject to visa requirement and want to enter the Schengen Area, with Slovakia being their target destination, must file a visa application with the competent Slovak embassy or consulate general. Foreign nationals legally residing in a third country (i.e. other than the country of their citizenship) may apply for a visa at the embassy/consulate general competent for the country of their current residence.

Depending on the duration and purpose of the stay, either a Type C Schengen visa (stay lasting up to three months) or a National visa type D (stay lasting more than three months) is needed. List of countries with the visa duty and list of Slovak embassies and consulates general are available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic (www.mzv.sk).

The visa application procedure may be lengthy in some cases. Therefore, you should file your application well in advance, but

not sooner than 3 months prior to your planned trip. Under the applicable law, the visa application procedure shall not take longer than 15 days. Exemptions apply to the nationals of the third countries which have signed Community-level visa facilitation agreements. Such countries include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine. With respect to the nationals of the aforementioned countries, the decision must be delivered within 10 calendar days of the delivery of a completed visa application. Nationals of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia don't need visa, if they are holders of biometric passports.

When lodging the application, the applicant shall:

- (a) present an application form (downloadable from www.mzv.sk);
- (b) present a valid travel document;
- (c) present a full-face colour photo, with dimensions of 3x3.5 cm;
- (e) pay the visa fee (depends on type of visa and origin of applicant, see www.mzv.sk);
- (f) provide supporting documents:
 - documents demonstrating the purpose and conditions of the planned stay;
 - accommodation-related documents;
 - documents confirming sufficient financial resources;
 - documents enabling an assessment of the applicant's intention to leave the territory of the Member States (e.g. return ticket);
- (g) produce proof of possession of adequate and valid travel medical insurance.

A visa is issued in the form of a visa sticker. Visas are issued by Slovak embassies and consulates general abroad or, under extraordinary circumstances (e.g. humanitarian reasons), by the Slovak police at a border crossing point. The visa entitles the foreign national to transit through or to stay in the Schengen Area for the period of validity of the respective visa. The length of stay and expiry date of the visa is specified on the visa sticker. Within local Schengen cooperation the Schengen Member States issue a uniform visa valid for all Schengen countries.

Territorial validity of the visa is specified on a visa sticker in the

“Platné pre/Valid for” line. The visa may be valid for all Schengen Member States. In that case, “Valid for: Schengen countries” is specified on the visa sticker entitling its holder to move freely within the entire Schengen area for the period of the visa validity and duration of stay. In the case of a visa with limited territorial validity, the following may be specified on the visa sticker: “Valid for: the Slovak Republic” (i.e., the visa is valid only for the Slovak Republic), or “Schengen countries – GR” (i.e., the visa is valid for all Schengen countries except Greece), or “Valid for: SK, AT” (i.e., the visa is valid only for the Slovak Republic and Austria).

A short-stay Schengen visa can be issued for one or several entries. If you have been granted a single entry visa and you leave the Schengen Area, you cannot use the same visa for the re-entry. A multiple entry visa entitles you to repeatedly enter and leave the Schengen Area during the period of its validity and permitted duration of stay.

Foreign nationals who have been granted a short-stay or long-stay visa, or who are exempt from the visa requirement upon entry, are obliged to inform, within three days of their arrival, a competent police department of the commencement, place and anticipated length of their stay. EEA nationals or foreign nationals with a preferential status are required to do so within ten working days of their arrival. If you are staying in a hotel or other accommodation facility, the aforementioned obligation is performed by the respective accommodation provider.

Find more detailed information on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic www.mzv.sk and/or consult the Slovak embassy in your country.

The Temporary Residence Permit

Permit for temporary stay for the purpose of study is not required, if the stay on the territory of the Slovak Republic does not exceed 90 days in one half-year.

Third countries nationals who wish to study in Slovakia for

a longer period need a temporary residence permit for study purposes. The application has to be submitted in person, abroad, at the representative office of the Slovak Republic. If a visa is not required an alien may apply for a temporary residence permit also at the respective Foreign Police Office in Slovakia.

The application fee is 99.50 €. Exemptions from the requirement to pay administrative fees are persons under 16 years, holders of a scholarship awarded by the Slovak Government, students and scholarship holders who have been awarded a scholarship by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, or who have been awarded a scholarship arising from the obligations under international agreements, as well as to foreign language lecturers teaching at Slovak schools based on obligations arising from international agreements.

Another fee of 4.50 € has to be paid when the permit is granted.

Together with the application following documents have to be submitted:

- 2 full-face colour photos;
- Purpose of stay (e.g. acceptance letter of the university);
- Criminal record of the Slovak Republic, home country and state where the applicant resided over the last 3 years;
- Proof of sufficient financial resources (e.g. bank account statement);
- Proof of accommodation;
- Permanent residence permit in another EEA country, if applicable.

The police section decides on the application within 30 days following the receipt of the application. Temporary residence permit may be issued for the period necessary for achieving the purpose, but at maximum for two years. This may be extended prior to its termination on the basis of an application submitted to the police.

Within 30 days upon entering the Slovak Republic or upon the granting of the temporary residence permit, a confirmation on health insurance and a document confirming that he/she does not suffer from an infectious disease the spreading of which is punishable must be submitted to the Foreign Police Office in Slovakia.

The foreigner has to enter the territory of the Slovak Republic within 180 days since the granting of the temporary residence permit, otherwise it becomes void. Within 3 days since entering the Slovak Republic, the foreigner is obliged to show up in person at the Foreign Police Office and collect the residence permit from there.

Working While Studying

Citizens of the European Union/European Economic Area and Switzerland can work in Slovakia without restrictions (under the same conditions as citizens of the Slovak Republic). A work permit is not required in the case of nationals of third countries who have been granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of study and whose employment on the territory of the Slovak Republic does not exceed 10 hours in a week or the corresponding number of days or months in a year.

2. Health and Medical Care

The healthcare system in Slovakia falls under the competence of the Ministry of Health. In Slovakia there are state and private health care providers. An initial medical examination is provided by state or private general practitioners. Everybody can choose a general practitioner who usually provides basic health care and can refer a patient to an appropriate specialist for further medical examination.

There are two types of health insurance: public health insurance (statutory or voluntary) and individual health insurance. Public health insurance covers the following benefits in full or to a partial extent, depending on specific conditions: diagnostics, treatment and preventative care, outpatient and inpatient care including rehabilitation, compulsory vaccination, provision of drugs, medical aid and dietetic food, spa treatment can be provided upon the recommendation of a doctor, where such care is an inevitable component of the treatment procedure.

Health Insurance and Coverage

EU/EEA and Swiss nationals are entitled to health care under the

same conditions as the nationals of the Slovak Republic. Under the Slovak Constitution every individual - a citizen or a foreigner - staying in Slovakia has a right to be provided with the necessary health care. Everyone also has a right to choose their own health care provider.

European Health Insurance Card

For entitlement to medical treatment on the basis of **health insurance in another Member State** (EU, EEA, Switzerland), an EU/EEA national must present a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** to the health care provider. (EHIC shall be issued at your request by a health insurance company to which you pay health insurance premiums.) In such a case, the treatment of an EU/EEA national will be covered by a Slovak health insurance company in the same amount as to a Slovak national, provided the relevant physician has concluded a contract with at least one health insurance company.

International Students (also PhD Students)

An international student, coming to Slovakia to study within a programme arising from an international treaty that is binding for the Slovak Republic is subject to statutory health insurance, the Slovak Republic being the payer of such insurance. The student shall submit the necessary documents certifying his/her study at a higher education institution in the Slovak Republic, its international status – proved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. Other international students have to be insured privately.

Additional Individual Health Insurance

Foreigners who are not duly insured can take out contractual health insurance on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Health insurance providers:

www.vszp.sk, www.dovera.sk (in Slovak only)

www.union.sk/information-for-foreigners.html

Obtaining Health Care

Doctors

General practitioners and specialists have their consulting rooms in hospitals or in health centres. Upon your arrival you should ask for details of a local doctor, who will be able to provide information on the standards.

Dentists

In every town there is either a private or state dental practice ("zubár", "stomatológ" in Slovak language). Upon arrival you should ask for details of the chosen dentist.

Notice: It is usually essential to book an appointment with a dentist in advance.

Hospitals

In every university town there is a hospital ("nemocnica" in Slovak) with an Accident and Emergency department ("pohotovosť" in Slovak) and many specialised clinics.

More information:

Ministry of Health: www.health.gov.sk (in Slovak only)

List of health care providers: www.zzz.sk (in Slovak only)

List of dentists: www.zoznamzubarov.sk (in Slovak only)

Emergency

If you need emergency services ("pohotovosť" in Slovak), dial telephone number "112". Ambulances are well staffed and equipped with life-sustaining apparatus needed to safely transport patients to hospital. Hospitals provide 24 hour emergency services. Some emergency health care providers can be found at:

http://visit.bratislava.sk/en/vismo/dokumenty2.asp?id_org=700014&id=1183&p1=1565

(list of emergency medical care providers in Bratislava)

http://en.zlatestranky.sk/businesses/Slovakia/q_emergency%20medical%20services/1 (in Slovakia)

Pharmacies

You can buy medicaments only at pharmacies ("lekárň" in Slovak), located in every town and in some villages (they are

marked with a green cross). Every town has to have at least one emergency pharmacy (“pohotovostná lekáreň” in Slovak) open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – for further details consult the information posted on the door of every pharmacy. If you require treatment at night, look for the sign “nočná služba”. Pharmacies sell domestic and foreign medical products. Certain medicines are obtainable only with a prescription from a physician. For a list of pharmacies see: www.zzz.sk/?page=lekarne (only in Slovak).

Useful links for different types of insurance (e.g. life insurance, household insurance, car insurance, etc.):

Slovak Association of Insurance companies: www.slaspo.sk/en/

Slovak Insurer’s Bureau: www.skp.sk

Insurance agencies portal: www.poistovne.sk (in Slovak only)

On these websites you can find a list of insurance companies with their contact data.

3. Import of Goods

Import – General Information

Since 1 May 2004 the Slovak Republic has become a part of the common market without internal tax and customs borders among EU Member States. Free movement of persons, goods, services and capital is ensured. There are no limits on what you can buy and take with you when you travel between EU countries, as long as it is for personal use and not for resale.

Taxes (VAT and excise) are included in the price you pay and no further payment of tax can be due in any other EU country.

To determine whether tobacco and alcohol are for personal use, each country can set guide levels. In other words, if a person carries a larger quantity of these goods, he/she may be asked to prove that they are intended for personal use and to justify their purchase. The guide levels may not be lower than:

800 cigarettes, 200 cigars, 1 kg of tobacco, 10 litres of spirits, 20 litres of fortified wine (such as port or sherry), 90 litres of wine (of which, a maximum of 60 litres of sparkling wine), 110 litres of beer.

However, taxation of imported goods is applied towards non-EU

states. Import of goods that are not subject to excise or VAT are permitted to bring for personal use within the limits set out below.
Tobacco products:

There is a higher or lower limit depending on the country you are visiting and a country may choose to only apply the lower limits to land and sea travellers.

Higher limit: 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco.

Lower limit: 40 cigarettes or 20 cigarillos or 10 cigars or 50 grams of tobacco.

Alcoholic drinks: 1 litre of spirits over 22 % vol. or 2 litres of fortified wine or sparkling wine, 2 litres of still wine, 16 litres of beer.

Other goods (including perfumes): Up to a value of 300€ and up to value of 430€ for travellers by air or sea. However, some countries apply the limit of 150€ for travellers under 15 years old. Import of meat, meat products, milk and dairy products are forbidden unless provided with veterinary documentation. These rules were introduced to prevent the spread of serious animal diseases. You are, however, allowed to bring in powdered infant milk, infant food and foods required for medical reasons.

VAT Export Refund Scheme

Visitors from outside the EU are entitled to a VAT refund on goods they have bought during their stay in the EU if the goods are shown to customs on departure within three months of their purchase together with the VAT refund documents. These are normally prepared by the seller although, as the scheme is voluntary, not all merchants participate. Some countries set a minimum value of purchases to qualify for a refund.

Further information is available at: http://europa.eu/travel/shop/index_en.html

LIVING IN SLOVAKIA

V.

1. Transport

Did you know? The building of the first horse railway in The Kingdom of Hungary (connecting Bratislava with Svätý Jur) is one of the oldest railway buildings in the world.

Travel by Train

Trains in the Slovak Republic are safe and agreeable way to travel. There exist basically 5 different types of train:

Os	Regional train ("osobný vlak" in Slovak)
R	Fast train ("rýchlik" in Slovak)
Ex	Express
IC	Intercity
EC	Eurocity

How to Find a Connection and Buy a Ticket

The websites of the Slovak Railways www.slovakrail.sk or www.zsr.sk provide information on time schedule, prices, duration and whether you have to switch the trains at any point. The websites www.cp.sk and www.vlak-bus.sk provide a complex travel itinerary. Here you can choose the means of public transport (bus, train, airplane, town public transport) but also search for optimal combination of them to find the shortest journey.

Tickets can be bought at the train station ticket office reading KVC ("Komplexné vybavenie cestujúcich" in Slovak). If applicable, the ticket agent may ask what type of train you

would prefer: EC – Eurocity train (international), IC – Intercity train, fast train or passenger train. To guarantee a seat, it is possible to buy a seat reservation (“miestenka” in Slovak), since the trains may be crowded especially on Friday and Sunday, when students travel to and from schools.

International trains run several times a day from several train stations in the country and international tickets can be bought at the KVC window or at the international ticket office (“medzinárodná pokladňa” in Slovak).

For some trains it is also possible to buy tickets on-line at the website www.slovakrail.sk.

Did you know? It is only possible to travel by historic train on narrow gauge forest railway in the Museum of Kysuce village in Vychylovka. That is namely the only preserved and today still operating railway of this type in Europe.

Travel by Coach

While the trains are more comfortable, coaches are sometimes more direct, they connect most of the towns and villages, and are reliable and satisfactory. The first thing is to check out the website at www.cp.sk or www.vlak-bus.sk.

For international bus travel you can buy tickets at the ticket office or travel agency. Eurolines is the biggest provider operating 13 regular international lines together with its domestic branch Slovak Lines. For international lines operated by Eurolines it is possible to buy/book a ticket on line at www.eurolines.sk.

Student Agency also provides several international lines with special prices for students (tickets can be bought on-line at www.studentagency.sk).

How to Buy a Ticket

When travelling by coach within Slovakia, tickets can be bought when boarding. It is possible to buy a ticket with a seat reservation (“miestenka” in Slovak) for long distance coaches at the ticket office of any bus station.

Travel by Plane

Travel by plane within the country is also rather comfortable. There are airlines that provide connections within Slovakia and to foreign countries, such as Ryanair (www.ryanair.com), Czech Airlines (www.csa.cz), LOT (www.lot.com) and Danube Wings (www.danubewings.eu).

There are 3 airports in Slovakia, in Bratislava ("Letisko M. R. Štefánika" www.airportbratislava.sk), in Košice ("Medzinárodné letisko v Košiciach" www.airportkosice.sk) and in Poprad ("Medzinárodné letisko Poprad Tatry" www.airportpoprad.sk).

Transportation between International Airports and Principal Slovak Towns

Bratislava International Airport

M. R. Štefánik International Airport is located 15 km from the Bratislava Old Town. A taxi into town costs about 6 - 9 €, depending on where in the centre you want to go. By bus, take No. 61 to Hlavná železničná stanica (Main Railway Station).

Did you know? Bratislava and Vienna are two closest located capitals in Europe. There is only less than 60 km between them.

Vienna International Airport (Austria)

Thanks to the short distance of Vienna and Bratislava (60 kilometres) it is also possible to use Vienna's Schwechat International Airport (www.viennaairport.com) which is larger than Bratislava's M. R. Štefánik International Airport and then take a bus or a taxi to Bratislava. Just in front of arrival gate at Vienna airport you will find the platform for departure of buses leaving to Bratislava where you can change to bus/train to other Slovak principal towns, e.g., Košice, Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Žilina, Trenčín and Piešťany. Most of the buses terminate at Bratislava's Main Bus Station (Hlavná autobusová stanica) Mlynské Nivy.

For the bus schedule browse www.cp.sk or www.vlak-bus.sk. (The standard ticket from the Vienna Airport to Bratislava bus station costs 7.70 € plus 1 € per a piece of luggage.)

Moreover, there is a special bus connection between Bratislava M. R. Štefánik International Airport, Bratislava city centre (Nový Most) and Vienna's Schwechat International Airport, Vienna city operated by Blaguss Slovakia. For the time schedule and prices see the website www.blaguss.sk.

Local Transport

The public transport system in towns is quite reliable. A network of public transport - usually buses (in Bratislava and Košice also a network of trams and trolleybuses) covers most of the towns. Operating hours are from 5:00 to 23:00. After 23:00 there are a few night bus lines. Every town is responsible for running its own public transport ("mestská hromadná doprava" in Slovak, abbr. MHD).

Common Features

Public transport is the most widely used means of transportation in towns. Schedules can be found at every stop and in Public transport stands.

Tickets are usually not sold on buses. In such cases they can be bought at newsstands, automatic ticket dispensers, some bus stations or public transport kiosks. However, it is dependent on the particular town, check it upon arrival.

Tickets vary from town to town. There are time-tickets (you can change means of transport within a given period) or single-use tickets (every time you change means of transport, you use a new ticket). Fare depends also on tariff zones given by the town area. There are usually also tickets valid for several days upon validation after entering the vehicle. You must also have a ticket for large pieces of luggage and animals.

If you stay longer in a certain town and you are sure to use public transport more often than once a day, it is advisable to buy travel pass, for example 30, 90 or 365-day passes.

To get a pass (30, 60 or 365-day passes) you need a recent photograph (3 × 3.5 cm), your ID card and a completed application form. It is always helpful to consult with local people. Children and students travel for reduced fares (ask for details as conditions may vary from town to town).

Useful Glossary

Autobus – bus

Električka – tram

Trolejbus – trolleybus

Zastávka – stop

Cestovný poriadok – schedule

Cestovný lístok – single (one-time) ticket

Mesačník, predplatný cestovný lístok,
električenka – a monthly travel pass

Zastávka na znamenie – request stop

Information on the routes and schedules in Bratislava can be found at www.dpb.sk, www.imhd.sk. Information on public transport in Banská Bystrica, Košice, Nitra, Prešov, Žilina is at www.imhd.sk (in Slovak; look for “cestovné poriadky” – time schedule, “mapy a schémy” – maps and schemes of routes). Connection search for public transport of a larger number of principal towns is available at www.cp.sk (under MHD), though it is necessary to be familiar with names of stops.

Travel by Car

Driving Licence

A driving licence issued in another state authorises the holder, when in the Slovak Republic, to drive motor vehicles of the categories indicated in it, provided that the driving licence meets the conditions given in the International Convention on Road Traffic (Article 2, Article 41, and Appendix 6 of the Convention on Road Traffic, Vienna 1968). If a driving licence issued in another state does not meet these requirements, the foreign national may only drive a motor vehicle if he/she is the holder of a valid international driving licence.

All foreign national driving licences are recognised in Slovakia. Visitors riding mopeds must be at least 15 years old and must hold a driving licence even if such a licence is not required in their country of permanent residence. Visitors riding motorcycles over 50 cm must be at least 17 years old and visitors driving cars or lorries at least 18 years old.

Traffic regulations

The current traffic regulations are the same as in other European countries. Seat belts are compulsory. The use of a mobile phone is forbidden while driving. All accidents must be reported to the police. It is prohibited to drink any amount of alcohol before or while driving. No level of alcohol in blood is tolerated. A car must have the appropriate lights on during the whole year.

Speed limits

On a motorway: 130 km/h (80 mph)

On a motorway in built-up area: 90 km/h (49 mph)

On an open road: 90 km/h (55 mph)

In built-up area: 50 km/h (30 mph)

Did you know? The New Bridge across the Danube River in Bratislava is unique in Europe. Its steel construction hanging on one pylon weighs more than 7000 tons. The bridge was awarded the prize „The building of the 20th century“. However, the price for this success was destruction of a large part of historical extramural settlement.

Motorway stickers

For the motorways, your automobile must have a motorway sticker valid in the given calendar year. They are available at border crossings, petrol stations and post offices. The sticker must be placed on the right-hand side of windscreen and you must always have the second part of the sticker with you and show it to a police officer upon request. Any sticker not fixed is not valid. Motor-bikers do not need toll stickers on motorways. It is possible to buy motorway stickers for one calendar year or valid for 30 or 7 days.

Petrol stations

Petrol stations are located throughout the whole territory of Slovakia. They are usually open 24 hours daily, and easy to find except in the most remote areas. Most of these are operated by Europe's largest petroleum companies and are well-stocked. They sell diesel and non-leaded petrol, Super Plus 98, Super 95 Natural, Normal 21, Tempo Plus 98, Tempo Plus 95, V-Power, V-power Racing, EVO Benzin, etc. For older vehicles the

non-leaded petrol with special additives replacing lead are available, Super 98 VS, Super 95 VS, Tempo Plus 95 UNI are of this type. There is a network of petrol stations providing also LPG (http://www.doauta.sk/index.php?option=com_fabrik&Itemid=42&lang=sk (only in Slovak). Almost all petrol stations also sell drinks and snacks. Toilet facilities tend to be quite acceptable, and larger stations offer showers. In all big petrol stations you can pay with credit cards.

Parking

Parking in cities is well marked by international traffic signs. Parking in forbidden places can result in being fined, towed or wheel-clamped. In bigger cities, some parking places are specified for parking with a parking card, which can be bought from newspaper kiosks. Other parking places require the use of automatic parking meters.

It is necessary to use an appropriate area code in front of the phone number. The services are commercial and operate 24 hours a day.

Breakdown service

ASA – Autoklub Slovakia Assistance, s. r. o.	18 120, 18 112
NAMK (National automotive club of the SR) – section of road services	18 123, 18 154
SATC (Slovak automotive tourist club)	18 124

Taxi

There are many taxi companies, although cruising taxis are seldom available. Taxi stands are located throughout the towns. Taxis ordered by phone have cheaper fares (usually 50 % cheaper). The fare is flexible and varies from company to company. When taking a taxi, look for one with company's name on the car.

To find out contact numbers on taxi services in the particular town search Yellow pages at www.zlatestranky.sk (it is possible to enter free text, or select Yellow pages categories; Industry, Transport & Agriculture; Transportation).

2. Accommodation in the Dormitory

Most higher education institutions offer housing in dormitories. The standard of these may differ. Usually rooms housing 2 - 3 students are standard, but rooms for a single student are also available. The rooms are furnished with beds, tables, and wardrobes. Bathrooms are generally shared between two rooms, or between all the rooms on each floor. Each dormitory has its own dining hall or buffet, where meals are available for lower prices and generally provided throughout the academic year. Lunch or dinner generally costs around 1.60 €. Some halls have their own gymnasiums, swimming pools, fitness centres, etc. The price of accommodation in a dormitory varies from 67 € per month. Majority of rooms has an internet access.

There are lots of launderettes in dormitories in Slovakia (www.cent.sk (only in Slovak), www.pramako.sk/bezobsluzne.html (only in Slovak), www.flipperwash.sk).

Students who wish to study in the Slovak Republic outside the framework of bilateral agreements or exchange programmes cannot be guaranteed a place in a dormitory of residence, due to the limited capacity of individual dorms.

If the student is interested in living in a dormitory, he/she should contact the university at least 3 months before commencing his/her studies or before the start of the given academic year. Many universities provide information about their dormitories on their websites.

Other Possibilities of Housing

Easiest way (except for staying in a hotel) is to rent a private apartment. In such cases, it is recommended to sign a lease with your future landlord defining precisely the terms and conditions of the stay in the apartment. The apartments should be provided with basic pots, dishes, linens, etc. Most apartments have washing machines, but automatic dryers are not used.

3. Banks

There are many banks, usually members of international corporations offering ordinary banking services such as current accounts and sub accounts, domestic and foreign payments, electronic banking, debit and credit cards, cheques, deposit products, securities, private banking, unit trusts, mortgage financing, loans, exchange and even insurance services (www.sbaonline.sk/en/banking-sector/banks-in-slovakia/). Banks are usually open from Monday to Friday (from 8:00 to 17:00/18:00). Some branches remain open for longer, and some are open on Saturdays and in some cases on Sundays (only in shopping centres). You should consult the website of the appropriate bank.

How to Open an Account

To open a bank account you need ID or passport. The opening of the account is for free. The fee per month for the maintenance of the account could vary depending on whether it is in Euros or in foreign currency. Foreign students can open a student account for free (they are exempt of monthly fee for maintenance and they can get a debit card for free). Closing of the bank account is for free, but the bank can set a fixed amount account balance up to 7€.

Did you know? The Kremnica mint is the oldest enterprise in the world which operates without any break. The coins have been made here since 1328 and - for instance - the Slovak Euro-coins have been punched here as well.

Credit & Debit Cards

If you have a current account in Euros, a debit card is mostly issued within a service package. A credit card is issued independently of an account. Major credit cards (American Express, Diners' Club, Visa, Eurocard/MasterCard) and debit cards (Maestro, Cirrus, Eurocheque cards and Visa Electron, Eurocard/MasterCard) may be used for cash withdrawal from automatic dispensers (ATM) as well as for payments in hotels,



restaurants, shops and petrol stations. Credit cards can also be used to obtain currency. For further information on commercial acceptability and other services consult your card issuer.

Travellers' Cheques

Thomas Cook, American Express, Visa, Swiss Bankers, Citybank travellers' cheques are accepted in banks and at exchange offices. Exchange rate charges are at least one per cent of the nominal cheque value. To avoid additional charges, travellers are recommended to take travellers' cheques in Euros, US Dollars or Pounds Sterling.

You can also use the services of Western Union, operating in the Slovak Post Office throughout the Slovak Republic.

Exchange Rate

The National Bank of Slovakia website ("Národná banka Slovenska" www.nbs.sk) offers up dated information on exchange and interest rates, and other financial data. Note the exchange rate of a commercial bank may vary slightly.

Did you know: „Tatranská Madonna“ was the biggest mosaic in the world created from the circulating coins. This work of art was in order to remember the Slovak currency before Slovakia has entered the common European currency.

4. Shopping

Souvenirs include pottery, porcelain, wooden carvings, hand-embroidered clothing and straw figures and food items. There are a number of excellent shops specialising in glass and crystal, while various associations of regional artists and craftsmen run their own boutiques.

Most shops are open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 18:00, till noon on Saturdays and are closed on Sundays. However, there are no strict regulations and many shops are open longer and some for 7 days a week, esp. supermarkets, hypermarkets and shopping centres. There is a possibility of on-line shopping, too.

5. Electrical Appliances and Computers

In Slovakia 230 V/50 Hz electrical system is used and appliances are designed for a round pin plug and receptacle (socket) with male grounding pin. For safety and to avoid damage to electrical appliances, it is important to bring equipment designed for the mentioned frequency and voltage, use dual voltage equipment or voltage converters/transformers. Moreover, plug adapter will also be needed if your device is constructed for other standards. For those bringing US standard equipment, an earthed (grounded) step-down transformer is necessary for US computers, monitors and printers. Even with the most expensive transformers, one should always monitor the electrical supply. Most printers will need an adapter but not all adapters are recommended for printers.

6. Communications and Post Offices

Internet Connection

Slovakia currently has a large number of full-area ISP's that offer wired broadband internet connections, for example:

- Slovak Telekom (known under the business brand T-Com, www.t-com.sk) - the major telecommunication company
- Orange Slovensko (www.orange.sk),
- UPC (www.upc.sk), and others.

They offer a range of connections, from ADSL/ADSL2+ to "Fibernet". ADSL or ADSL2+ is available in almost every town in Slovakia.

Internet Cafes ("internetová kaviareň" in Slovak) are widespread and not confined to large towns. For more information you can either browse the Internet or check Yellow Pages ("Zlaté stránky" in Slovak www.zlatestranky.sk).

Did you know? The Ochtinská aragonitová jaskyňa cave is the only one of its type in Europe. Together with other caves of the Slovak Karst it was registered in the list of the UNESCO world natural heritage.

General Phone Numbers:

Emergency calls:

General Emergency	112
Ambulance	155
Fire	150
Police	158
Town police	159

Enquiry services (usually paid):

Directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers in Slovakia	1 181
International directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers abroad	12 149
Info Assistant – Practical information for everyday use	12 111
Exact time	12 110
Wake up calls	12 125
National calls mediated by an operator	12 102
International calls mediated by an operator	12 131

How to Make Phone Calls

International country code of the Slovak Republic: 00421

Mobile operators on the area of the Slovak Republic:

Orange, T-mobile, Telefónica O2

City codes in Slovakia:

Banská Bystrica	048
Bardejov	054
Bratislava	02
Dunajská Streda	031
Humenné	057
Košice	055
Levice	036
Liptovský Mikuláš	044
Lučenec	047
Martin	043
Michalovce	056
Nitra	037
Nové Zámky	035
Poprad	052
Považská Bystrica	042
Prešov	051
Prievidza	046
Rožňava	058
Senica	034
Spišská Nová Ves	053
Topoľčany	038
Trenčín	032
Trnava	033
Zvolen	045
Žilina	041

Slovakia is well covered by mobile phone networks, which enable calls also from some peaks of Tatras. Only very distant areas are without signal.

In towns it is possible to use **public phone cells/booths**, which accept coins or phone cards. The cards can be purchased in post offices or some newspaper stands.

Post Offices

Post offices are at your service in all villages and provide bank services (Poštová banka), too. The post offices are open from Monday to Friday 8:00 - 18:00 and on Saturday to 13:00. The main post offices in larger towns or shopping malls are open daily to 20:00. It is possible to buy post stamps for post cards and letters directly in the post offices or in some newspaper stands.

A 50g letter sent within Slovakia by 2nd class costs 0.33 €, sent by 1st class and registered ones cost 1.03 €. The postage for sending a 50g letter by 2nd class from Slovakia to a neighbouring country costs 0.73 €, while sending a letter of the same class to the rest of the EU-member countries costs 0.93 €. Sending a 50g letter to the rest of the world costs 1.13 €.

At the website of the Slovak post office www.posta.sk/en you can find ZIP codes of Slovak towns and information (including pricelists) about other services provided at the post office, e.g. you can pay your utility bills, receive cash on delivery consignments, buy lottery tickets, get film developed, receive payments, make phone calls, buy phone and mobile phone cards, and, of course, send telegrams, faxes and mail.

7. Sport

Summer Sports

In Slovakia there is a wide range of facilities for summer sports. The most popular are **cycling, water sports and hiking**. Large reservoirs such as Zemplínska šírava, Oravská priehrada, Liptovská Mara, Slňava near Piešťany, Ružín at Hornád, and Domaša at the River Ondava along with artificial lakes like Slnčnej jazera near Senec and Zlaté piesky in Bratislava offer

visitors a chance to enjoy water sports. Many Slovak rivers are navigable and canoeing is very popular amongst young people. **Horse riding** is becoming more popular, with stables for public existing in many towns. **Mountaineering, hill-walking, white water rafting, adrenaline sports, and paragliding** are only some of the ways to spend a weekend in the mountains. Another very popular activity is camping or renting cottages, and **hiking** (trekking) in the mountains. For those who prefer green lawns and white sport dress there are many possibilities to play tennis at **tennis** clubs, at public courts or **golf** in clubs.

More information:

www.holidayinfo.sk, <http://rivers.raft.cz/slovensko/>,

www.panorama.sk/index.asp?kam=/go/clanky/430.asp&lang=en&sv=2



Winter Sports

Thanks to its mountainous nature, the country offers great opportunities for **downhill and cross-country skiing, as well as snowboarding**. The mountains enjoy over 80 days of snow per year which often reaches a level of 2 m in the “Nízke” and “Vysoké Tatry”. In these high mountain regions, there is snow on the ground for 130 days each year. **Ice hockey and ice-skating** are very popular sports that can be practised in closed stadiums, as well as outdoors.



2011 IIHF World Championship Slovakia

Slovakia was chosen to organise the World Ice Hockey Championship in 2011 in the two biggest cities, the capital Bratislava and Košice www.iihf.com/channels-11/iihf-world-championship-wc11/home.html.



Did you know? In 2000, Slovak national team won the golden medal in the Ice-Hockey World Championship in Goeteborg, Sweden.

Mountain Rescue Service Insurance

As of July 1, 2006 tourists bear the cost of search and rescue operations they require the Mountain Rescue Service ("Horská záchranná služba" - HZS) to conduct, excluding the costs covered by health insurance. Insurance companies offer products that cover the potential risk. Please consult a commercial insurance company.

More information: www.hzs.sk - Mountain Rescue Service (only in Slovak), www.ski.sk, www.holidayinfo.sk

Indoor Sports

Sports centres offer opportunities for fitness, aerobics and sometimes squash. These centres are often equipped with saunas, solaria, and masseurs and many also offer body care services, such as cosmetic and pedicure facilities. Some towns also have indoor swimming pools that provide opportunities for swimming, saunas, and massages. You can also rent a gym-hall to play squash, indoor football, volleyball, basketball or handball etc. that is mostly associated with a primary, secondary school or a faculty.

More information: www.sportslovakia.sk

8. Culture and Media

Theatre, Opera, Ballet

The theatre network consists of 4 state funded professional theatres, 13 theatres under the competence of self-governing regions and municipalities, more than 40 independent theatres established by private owners/legal entities and 4 minority language theatres throughout in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Nitra, Komárno, Zvolen, Martin, Žilina, Košice, Prešov, Spišská Nová Ves and Rožňava. The list of theatres with addresses can be found at www.theatre.sk (website of the Theatre Institute).

The oldest professional theatre is **The Slovak National Theatre** ("Slovenské národné divadlo" – SND) in Bratislava (www.snd.sk). It comprises drama, opera and ballet sections, each with a permanent professional company, with a central theatrical stockist providing sets for all productions. The SND is a repertory company with a season running from the beginning of September to the end of June. Performances are staged every day except Sunday (opera and ballet) or Monday (drama). In April 2007 new building on the bank of the Danube became the seat of SND in addition to the historic building.

Other state institutions are **The State Theatre** ("Štátne divadlo") in Košice (www.sdke.sk) **The State Opera and Ballet** ("Štátna opera a balet") in Banská Bystrica (www.stateopera.sk) and **Nová scéna** (New Stage) in Bratislava specialising in musical repertory (www.novascena.sk).





The theatre also offering different types of performances during the summer break is the **Aréna** theatre in Bratislava (www.divadloarena.sk).

Theatre performance usually begins at 19:00 (at 18:00 on Sunday) and whilst tickets can be bought an hour before the start, it is advisable to reserve them several days before performance at the ticket office of the respective theatre or on line at www.ticketportal.sk. There is also the possibility to buy a season ticket.

Music

Classical Music

In the first half of the 19th century, a national musical tradition began to develop around Slovakia's impressive folk heritage. Romantic as well as modern Slovak music has drawn from both classical and traditional folk styles. Among romantic composers, the most important are the compositions of Ján Levoslav Bella, Viliam Figuš-Bystrý who laid the foundations of the first Slovak opera, and those of Mikuláš Schneider-Trnavský and Mikuláš Moyzes who had merit in lyric songs and ballads creation. Well-known works from the 20th century include the symphonic compositions of Alexander Moyzes, and the operas of Eugen Suchoň (1st Slovak national opera "Krútnava" (The Whirlpool)) and Ján Cikker.

Today, music is one of the most significant aspects of the Slovak culture. Some of the most renowned orchestras are

The Slovak Philharmonic

Orchestra of Bratislava

("Slovenský filharmonický orchester mesta Bratislavy",

www.filharm.sk) and

Košice (www.sfk.sk), **The**

Symphonic Orchestra of Bratislava Broadcast

("Symfonický orchester Slovenského rozhlasu", www.slovakradio.sk/sosr)

and **The Bohdan**

Warchal Slovak Chamber Orchestra

("Slovenský komorný orchester Bohdana Warchala", www.filharm.sk).

Musical performances usually begin at 19:00 and whilst tickets can be bought an hour before the beginning, it is advisable to reserve tickets several days before at the ticket office of the respective orchestra. Tickets may be also reserved on line at www.ticketportal.sk.



Traditional Folk Music

The most impressive ensembles performing traditional dance and music are **The Slovak Folk Ensemble** ("Slovenský ľudový umelecký kolektív" – SĽUK, www.sluk.sk) and **Lúčnica** (www.lucnica.sk). Most towns have their own folk festivals with dances, local costumes and food. These tend to be held throughout summer until the end of September. The biggest one takes place in Východná in July every year (www.nocka.sk/en).

Modern Music

The Music Center Slovakia

("Hudobné centrum", www.hc.sk) provides information on classical and modern music. A search for various music events can be run on website www.kulturne.sk (only in Slovak). At www.ticketportal.sk you can find information on concerts and buy tickets. If you prefer the club scene with live performances there are many options within different genres.



Traditional Folk Art

Folk art and crafts, which include woodcarving, fabric weaving, glass blowing and painting, pottery, ceramics production, blacksmithing, have a long tradition. The tradition of folk art and crafts has been handed down through the generations and is nowadays supported mainly by ÚĽUV -

Vlkolinec



The Centre for Folk Art Production (www.uluv.sk/en). The Centre sells traditional products but also organises exhibitions, artistic workshops “The ÚĽUV Craftschool” both for youth and adults, some of which are officially accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. Slovakia became famous for Majolic pottery (“majolika”) already in the 14th century (especially in the town of Modra). Modra’s ceramic tradition was heavily influenced by the influx of Haban craftsman in the 16th century. The Habans, also known as Anabaptists, were a religious sect that arose during the Reformation. The pottery is characterised by gentle curves and bright colours, particularly blue and yellow. Contemporary Modra’s Majolic factory is a direct descendant of this tradition. You can also order Majolic through website www.majolika.sk/indexenglish.html.

Examples of folk architecture, such as wooden churches and brightly painted houses, are to be found throughout the country. Interesting open air museums presenting folk architecture can be found in Martin (**The Museum of the Slovak Village** – “Múzeum slovenskej dediny”), Bardejov Spa, Zuberec, Vychylovka in Nová Bystrica, and Pribylina. If you are interested in “living museums” (folk architecture reservations), you should visit villages like Čičmany, Vlkolínec, Špania dolina, Ždiar, Podbiel, or Sebechleby.

Wooden church architecture is unique, especially by its construction and interior design. All parts had to be made of wood and no nails were allowed. In the north east of the country you may find mostly churches of Greek Catholic or Orthodox denomination. Most of them date back to the 17th and 18th Century. One of the oldest churches is the Roman-Catholic wooden church in Hervartovo near Bardejov dating back to the 15th century. Wooden churches and towers in the centre of the country were mostly of Roman-Catholic and Evangelical denominations.

More information: www.museum.sk, www.remesla.lawit.sk

Did you know? The largest Celtic oppidum in the middle Europe used to be located on the Bratislava castle hill and reached to the today's Old Town till the Liberty Square (Námestie Slobody). The medieval Bratislava would suit on this area 3 times.

Cinema

Cinemas ("kino" in Slovak) can be found in every town. Film clubs are popular and can be found in all university towns. In Bratislava, there are also multiplex cinemas in the Aupark, Eurovea and Polus shopping centres (Palace cinemas www.palacecinemas.sk). Most films bear the original soundtrack with subtitles; some films have Slovak dubbing. Cinema programmes are published on towns' websites (www.kamdomesta.sk, www.kulturne.sk both only in Slovak) and in newspapers.

Slovak Newspaper in English

The Slovak Spectator (www.slovakspectator.sk), an independent English language newspaper, is published every week. It includes information on politics, the economy, business, daily life, and cultural events, as well as advertisements. There are many varieties of local newspapers and journals. You can also buy or subscribe to foreign newspapers and journals or buy them at newsstands.

More information about Slovakia, its nature, holiday ideas, services and practical information you can find on the Slovakia travel, the official national tourism portal of Slovakia (www.slovakia.travel) operated by the Slovak Tourist Board. There are interactive maps, tourism destinations, UNESCO sites, city guides from all over Slovakia, travel and transport information, as well as accommodation facilities and lots of practical travel advice.

Did you know: In Slovak territory, the first newspaper was Prešporské Newspaper, at Prešporok (Bratislava) in July 1783.



Košice 2013

The city of Košice was awarded the title of European Capital of Culture for 2013 (<http://www.kosice2013.sk/en>).

9. Cuisine

Food

Slovak food is made using a variety of traditional and European products and ingredients. In shops, supermarkets or hypermarkets you can buy all kinds of vegetables and fruit in season, meat, milk products, pastry, bread, mineral and spring water, and sweets. You can also buy fresh home-grown fruit and vegetables and some other products at open air markets.



Cuisine

There are many restaurants in Slovakia ranging from cheap to expensive. For a drink it is more usual to go to a pub, where you can also have a meal. Larger cities usually have restaurants with national and international cuisine, the most common being



Italian, Chinese, Balkan and also Czech and Hungarian. Beer and wine (domestic and foreign) are good and usually consumed with both lunch and dinner.

Lunch is the main meal and Slovaks are more used to eating out for lunch than for dinner. Most restaurants in town centres have special lunch offers ("denné menu" in Slovak, usually consisting of soup and a main course), which are cheaper than other meals served there.

Restaurants are open from Monday to Sunday from morning till night, and also in small towns restaurants usually stay open later. Stores and restaurants open 24 hours a day have a sign reading "non-stop".

Unless the menu states that service is included, tipping is expected. Five to ten percent is a standard tip in a restaurant with waiter service. Waiters usually give the customer the total of the bill and the customer, as he hands over the money, says how much he is paying inclusive of tip. In restaurants and bars it is usual to round up the price, the tip being roughly 10 %.

More information and lists of catering places can be found at www.menu.sk (only in Slovak), www.zlatestranky.sk, www.gurmania.sk (only in Slovak), www.obedovat.sk (only in Slovak), www.greenpages.sk.

Traditional Cuisine

The main ingredients that have shaped traditional Slovak cuisine are potatoes, sauerkraut, pork, poultry, "bryndza" (a cheese made from sheep's milk), and pulses. The number one national soup is sauerkraut soup (hearty cabbage soup with smoked pork



sausage that often contains mushrooms, and sometimes plums, especially at Christmastime). Another typical Slovak soup is made of beans and root vegetables such as carrots and parsley. Sometimes, smoked pork is added. Most traditional national dish served as main course is “bryndzové halušky”, i.e., gnocchi/dumplings topped with “bryndza” and fried bacon. It is usually the least expensive menu item and sometimes it is listed in the dessert section. Another traditional dish is “strapačky s kapustou”, dumplings with cabbage and sometimes bacon. As the most common dessert one can always have sweet pancakes with jam, farmers’ cheese and raisins and whipped cream or chocolate.

Cheese and cheese products are other typical Slovak specialties. Besides already mentioned “bryndza” the most popular are the “korbáčik” – cheese strings interwoven into fine braids, “parenica” – steamed cheese strips woven into snail like curls, “oštiepok” – smoked sheep cheese shaped in wooden moulds.

The most popular wines are those from the Tokaj, Small Carpathians, Nitra, Topoľčany and Záhorie regions. In winter, try the mulled wine. Young wine (“burčiak”), is available in the first half of September, and is usually the subject of harvest festivals. Hubert, the Slovak sparkling wine and “Karpatské Brandy Špeciál” (the Carpathian Brandy Special) are also highly rated. Typical Slovak liqueurs are Demänovka and Horec, from the region of the High Tatras. “Slivovica” (plum brandy) and “borovička” (the juniper berry brandy, gin) are popular Slovak

aperitifs. To the uninitiated, these drinks will appear quite strong. Let's not forget that Slovakia also produces excellent beer. The popular brands are Zlatý Bažant, Corgoň, Smädný mních, Martiner, Topvar, Šariš, Gemer.

More information:

<http://slovakia.eunet.sk/slovakia/cuisine/bonappetit/>

Did you know? The sweet speciality from Záhorie known as "Skalický trdelník" is the first to have won the protection of geographical indication for a Slovak product registered by the European Commission.

10. Libraries

There are 12 state scientific libraries in Slovakia, 473 libraries affiliated with universities and institutions of higher education, and 2600 public libraries. The University Library in Bratislava, founded in 1919, contains more than 2 million volumes and is the country's most important library. The Slovak National Library (1863), located in Martin, includes a collection of materials relating to Slovak culture.

Slovak libraries on the web:

- Comenius University Medical Faculty Library, Bratislava
www.fmed.uniba.sk/index.php?id=1764
- Mikuláš Kováč Public Library, Banská Bystrica
www.vkmk.sk/view.php?cisloclanku=2006030601
- National Library of Slovakia, Martin
www.snk.sk/?home
- Old City Library Bratislava
www.starlib.sk/en/
- Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice
www.upjs.sk/en/departments/university-library/
- Slovak Agricultural Library, Nitra
www.slpk.sk/english/index.html
- Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Bratislava
www.cvtisr.sk/index/go.php?id=33
- Slovak Medical Library, Bratislava
www.sllk.gov.sk/ (in Slovak only)



- Slovak Pedagogic Library, Bratislava
www.spgk.sk/?uvodna-stranka (in Slovak only)
- Technical University of Košice
www.lib.tuke.sk/ (in Slovak only)
- University Library of Bratislava
www.ulib.sk/english/
- University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, Košice
www.uvm.sk/node/508 (in Slovak only)

Did you know: In Slovak territory, the first printed book was the Latin textbook by Lucas Fabinus at Prešov in 1573.

11. Other Services

Car Rental

In Slovakia there are many car hire firms. Prices depend on the period over which the car is hired, and the type of car. Contact phone numbers are available on the website of the Yellow Pages www.zlatestranky.sk, section “automobiles – hire” (automobily – požičovne) and Green Pages www.greenpages.sk, section “car hire” (autopožičovne).

Laundry and Dry Cleaning Service

At present, there are several laundrettes in Slovakia (www.cent.sk (only in Slovak), www.pramako.sk/bezobsluzne.html (only in Slovak), www.flipperwash.sk). You can also use home laundry facilities or commercial laundries that wash and iron clothing and linen for their clients. However, there are many dry cleaning services or even fast dry cleaners (nearly in every shopping centre). Some of them also provide leather/suede/fur cleaning and dyeing.

Beauty Salons and Hairdressers'

There are many beauty salons providing high quality service at a good price using the modern techniques of cosmetology and skin care. Most of them provide also nail design. There is also a lot of hairdressers' providing hair expert advice upon request.

12. Public Holidays

National, public and religious holidays are days off in Slovakia.

1 January New Year's Day and Independence Day of the Slovak Republic

6 January Catholic Epiphany

March - April Good Friday, Easter Monday, set according to the Christian Calendar, check the concrete dates of the respective year after arrival

1 May Labour Day / May Day

8 May Liberation of the Republic

5 July Day of the Apostles St. Cyril and St. Methodius

29 August Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising

1 September Day of Constitution of the Slovak Republic

15 September Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows

1 November All Saints' Day

17 November Day of Freedom and Democracy of the Slovak Republic

24 December Christmas Eve

25 December Christmas Day

26 December St. Stephen's Day

People usually do not work on these days; banks, post offices, shops, ambulances are closed; some public transport offers a reduced service (esp. buses and trains).

13. Living Costs

Example prices provided bellow give an idea of how much living in Slovakia costs. These costs are just approximate and they are subject to change.

Example Prices

Rent

A guest room at a students' dormitory: from 11.80 € per night

1 bedroom flat: from 300 € per month including utilities (in larger towns the prices are higher, especially in town centres)

2 bedroom flat: from 400 € per month including utilities

Food

Lunch at a canteen: from 1.60 €
restaurant meal: from 5 €
a pizza in a pizzeria: from 4 €
1 litre of milk: 0.80 €
1 litre of mineral water: 0.40 €
a loaf of bread: 0.70 €
400 g spaghetti: 0.70 €
beer: 1 €



Transportation

Local transport, basic ticket (single): from 0.25 to 1.40 €
Local transport, monthly ticket/travel pass: from 7.80 €
Coaches:

Bratislava – Košice, 445 km: from 17.50 €
Bratislava – Žilina, 203 km: from 5.10 €
Bratislava – Banská Bystrica, 230 km: from 9.50 €

Trains

Bratislava – Košice: from 13 €
Bratislava – Žilina: from 6.50 €
Bratislava – Banská Bystrica, 230 km: from 7.10 €

Taxi within Bratislava: app. 0.60 € per km

Petrol per litre: from 1.20 €

Diesel per litre: from 1.10 €

Having Fun

Movie ticket: 3 - 8 €, **Museum ticket:** from 1 €

Theatre ticket: 2.50 - 20 € for drama, 4 - 35 € for opera and ballet

Fitness centre ticket: from 3 €

Swimming pool ticket: from 1.50 €

Rent a bike: from 8.80 € per day

Did you know? The Janko Král' Park (Sad Janka Kráľa) on the right side of the Danube in Petržalka (part of Bratislava) is the oldest public park in Europe. Founded in 1776 is still today a popular place to meet and relax.



High
Tatras



USEFUL

ADDRESSES

AND LINKS

International Visegrad Fund

Kraľovské údolie 8, 811 02 Bratislava

Tel: +421/2/59 20 38 11

Fax: +421/2/59 20 38 05

E-mail: visegradfund@visegradfund.org

URL: www.visegradfund.org

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava

Tel: +421/2/59 37 41 11

URL: www.minedu.sk, www.studyin.sk

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Hlboká cesta 2, 833 36 Bratislava 37

Tel: +421/2/59 78 11 11

Fax: +421/2/59 78 33 33

URL: www.mzv.sk, www.foreign.gov.sk

E-mail: info@mzv.sk

SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency)

Námestie slobody 23, 812 20 Bratislava 1

Tel.: +421/2/54 41 14 26, 54 41 14 46

Fax: +421/2/54 41 14 29

E-mail: saia@saia.sk,

URL: www.saia.sk, www.scholarships.sk, www.euraxess.sk

**Slovak Academic Association
for International Cooperation (SAAIC)**

Svoradova 1, 811 03 Bratislava
Tel.: +421/2/20 92 22 01
Fax: +421/2/ 20 92 22 09
E-mail: llp@saaic.sk, erasmus@saaic.sk
URL: www.saaic.sk

Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV, Presidium)

Štefánikova 49, 814 38 Bratislava 1
Tel: +421/2/57 51 01 11
Fax: +421/2/57 51 06 08
URL: www.sav.sk

Slovak Rectors' Conference (SRK)

Konventná 1, 811 02 Bratislava
Tel: +421/903 23 23 51
Fax: +421/2/54 13 12 38
E-mail: srk@srk.sk
URL: www.srk.sk

Student Higher Education Council (ŠRVŠ)

Ústav informácií a prognóz školstva
Staré grunty 52, 842 44 Bratislava 4
Tel.: +421/949 855 958
Fax: +421/2/65 41 18 80
URL: www.srvs.sk

The Fulbright Commission

Levická 3, 821 08 Bratislava
Tel: +421/2/55 42 56 06
Fax: +421/2/55 57 74 91
E-mail: office@fulbright.gov.sk
URL: www.fulbright.sk



Embassies

The contact addresses and phone numbers of the consulates and embassies of the Slovak Republic abroad as well as foreign embassies in Slovakia can be found at the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic (www.mzv.sk).



VII.

GLOSSARY

Some Words to Know in Slovak:

I don't speak Slovak	- Nehovorím po slovensky
I don't understand	- Nerozumiem.
Do you speak English (French, German)?	- Hovoríte po anglicky - (francúzsky, nemecky)?
My name is...	- Volám sa...
Yes/No	- Áno/Nie
Thank you!	- Ďakujem!
I am sorry!	- Prepáčte
Where is...	- Kde je...
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten	- jeden, dva, tri, štyri, päť, - šesť, sedem, osem, deväť, - desať
twenty, fifty, a hundred, a thousand	- dvadsať, päťdesiat, - sto, tisíc
Good morning	- dobré ráno
Good day	- dobrý deň
Good evening	- dobrý večer
Good night	- dobrú noc
Good bye	- dovidenia
Hi!	- ahoj, čau
Ambulance	- sanitka
Doctor	- lekár
Pharmacy	- lekáreň
Police	- polícia
Exit	- východ
Emergency exit	- únikový východ
Entrance	- vstup
Departure/arrival	- odchod/príchod
Open/closed	- otvorené/zatvorené
Restaurant	- reštaurácia
Café	- kaviareň
Meals	- jedlá
Drinks	- nápoje

Price	- cena
How much is it?	- Koľko to stojí?
I would like the bill, please.	- Účet, prosím.
Store	- obchod
Grocery	- potraviny
Water	- voda
Bread	- chlieb
Milk	- mlieko
Wine	- víno
Beer	- pivo
Vegetable	- zelenina
Fruit	- ovocie

On-line Dictionaries

Here are some useful links where you can find translation dictionaries from and to Slovak. Available languages for translation are stated in brackets.

<http://slovník.zoznam.sk>

(English, German, French, Spanish)

<http://korpus.juls.savba.sk/~garabik/slovník/>

(English, German, Russian, Hungarian)

<http://www.slovník.sk/>

(English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Spanish)

<http://dict.qnell.com/sk-hu/>

(Hungarian)

<http://www.slovník.org/>

(Russian)

<http://www.somvprahe.sk/slovník>

(Czech)



SLOVAKIA



SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency) is an NGO established in 1990 which through its programmes and services assists in enhancing of civil society in internationalisation of education and research in Slovakia.

SAIA provides information about studying and researching abroad and in Slovakia, organises selection of scholarship holders, seminars for Slovak HEIs, produces publications. SAIA administers the bilateral programme Action Austria – Slovakia, the multilateral programme CEEPUS.

From 2006 SAIA manages the National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers approved by the Slovak Government. Since 2007 is an intermediary of the NIL Fund Supporting Cooperation in the Field of Education supported by the Governments of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein within the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms and by the Government of the Slovak Republic and since 2010 it is a Coordination Body for the Sciex-NMSch - Scientific Exchange Programme funded from the Swiss contribution to the enlarged European Union.

SAIA has also a role of the EURAXESS Services Centre for researchers as part of the European EURAXESS Services Network represented in 37 countries of Europe.

Currently SAIA provides its services in 6 university towns (besides Bratislava in Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov).

SAAIC (Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation) is

- an independent corporate body registered at the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic as a non-governmental, non-profit organisation
- a voluntary association – the members are key higher education institutions in Slovakia
- a member of the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) that associates the institutions dealing with international education in the field of higher education in Europe, USA and Australia
- coordinating the Community programmes and initiatives at the national level (e.g. TEMPUS, the Lifelong Learning, and Erasmus Mundus programmes, Euroguidance, Eurydice, European Language Label Initiatives, Bologna experts project)
- holding the certificate EN ISO 9001:2000(2008) on the Quality Management System in the area of programme and project management awarded by TV Nord in Essen, Germany – since 2006.

The main tasks

- building up the information system about implementation of education and training programmes and initiatives at the national level
- providing information, consulting and advisory services in this field
- organizing national and international seminars and conferences, fairs and competitions in the area of education and training
- permanent update of the database of external experts
- participating in the national and transnational projects, surveys, analysis in the field of education and training in Slovakia
- financial services, monitoring and audits of the implemented projects



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