

Slovakia in these days:
contradictions and perspectives
in minority education

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Lifelong Learning

- Is a key to jobs and growth and a chance for everyone to participate fully in society
- Has 3 main objectives:
 - To improve the quality and effectiveness of education
 - To facilitate access to education
 - To open up EU education to the world



Five EU-level benchmarks set for 2010

- Average rate of early school leavers < 10%
- Total number of graduates in maths, science and technology should increase by min. 15%, gender imbalance in these subjects should be reduced
- 85% of 22 year olds should complete upper secondary education
- Number of low-achieving 15 year olds in reading, mathematics and science should half
- Average participation of working adults population in LLL should rise by at least 12,5%



Lifelong Learning Programme

- Integration of various educational and training programs
- Budget for 2007-2013 – 7 billion Euros
- 4 sub-programs:
 - Comenius for schools
 - Erasmus for higher education
 - Leonardo da Vinci for vocational education
 - Grundtvig for adult education



**“The more languages you know,
the more of a person you are,”**

Main findings of the EC study on the teaching of languages (November 2008):

- Teaching of foreign languages starts earlier, the teaching time is limited
- Trend toward teaching two foreign languages
- English taught to over 90% of pupils at some stage of their education
- Variety of the degree of specialization of teachers



SLOVAKIA



Constitution of the Slovak Republic

Article 33

Membership of any national minority or ethnic group must not be to anyone's detriment.


Article 34

- (1) The comprehensive development of citizens representing national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic is guaranteed, particularly the right to develop their own culture, together with other members of the minority or ethnic group, the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, the right to associate in national minority associations, and the right to set up and maintain educational and cultural institutions. Details will be set out in a law.



Constitution of the Slovak Republic (2)

- (2) In addition to the right to master the state language, **citizens** belonging to **national minorities** or ethnic groups also have, under conditions defined by law, a guaranteed
- a) **right to education in their own language,**
 - b) **right to use their language** in dealings with the authorities,
 - c) right to participate in the solution of affairs concerning national minorities and ethnic groups.
- (3) The enactment of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups that are guaranteed in this Constitution must not be conducive to jeopardizing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Slovak Republic or to discrimination against its other inhabitants.



Law on the System of Basic and Secondary Schools (1984)

Article 3

(1) The education is provided in Slovak language. For citizens of Czech, Hungarian, German, Polish and Ukrainian (Ruthenian) nationality is guaranteed the right to education in their (mother) tongue in **adequate proportion** to their **interest of national development**.



Law 245/2008 on Education

Article 3

Principles of Education

...

- c) Equal access to education having in mind the educational needs of individual and his/her responsibility for his/her own education
- d) Prohibition of all forms of discrimination and in particular segregation



Law 245/2008 on Education

Article 12


Language of Education

(3) For children and pupils of citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups is guaranteed **not only the right to learn the state language, but also the right to get education in their (mother) tongue** under the conditions laid down by this legislation. Part of the education on elementary and secondary schools with other education language than the state language is also the obligatory education of the Slovak grammar and literature in the extent needed for its acquirement.



Amendment to the Education law from 3. December 2008

(2) In accordance with the rights of children and pupils belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups in the education in their mother tongue set up in article 12, in textbooks, as well as in workbooks issued in the language of the national minority **the geographical names** are used as follows:

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- a) **geographical names**, that are naturalized and in use in the language of the national minority are indicated **in both languages**, first in the language of the national minority and than in brackets or after the slash in the state language in a way that was used in books that were approved between 2002-2006



Resident population in Slovakia by nationality (in %)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Slovak</i>	<i>Hungarian</i>	<i>Czech</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>Ukrainian and Russian</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>Other and unknown</i>
1970	85,3	12,4	1,1	0,1	0,8	0	0,2
1980	85,5	12,2	1	0,1	0,9	0	0,2
1991	85,7	10,8	1	0,1	0,6	0,1	1,8
2001	85,8	9,7	0,8	0,1	0,7	0	2,9

The proportion of the Hungarians and Slovaks in the field of education

<i>Highest achieved qualification</i>	<i>Hungarian</i>		<i>Slovak</i>	
	<i>1991</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>2001</i>
Basic	39,5	30,5	27,2	19,7
Vocational without leaving exam	19,4	23,2	19,3	19,8
Technical	1,9	2,7	2,1	3,9
Secondary with leaving exam	14,9	22,1	18,9	26,6
University	2,9	4,5	6,1	8,2
No education	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,2
Not specified	0,4	0,8	0,6	1,1
Children aged under 16	20,5	15,9	25,5	20,4



The proportion of the Hungarians and Slovaks aged 30-34 in the field of education

<i>Highest achieved qualification</i>	<i>Hungarian</i>	<i>Slovak</i>
Basic	14,0	6,7
Vocational and technical (without leaving exam)	41,3	37,0
Secondary with leaving exam	35,3	40,4
University	8,2	14,4
No education	0,3	0,3
Not specified	0,9	1,3
Together	100	100
- from this with leaving exam	43,5	54,8



Thank you for your attention!