# EURAXESS SLOVAKIA

**The International Researcher’s Guide to Slovakia**

**Published by:**
SAIA, n. o.
Námestie slobody 23
812 20 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

**Prepared by:**
Eva Balažováčková, Katarína Koščálová and SAIA, n. o. staff

**Graphic design and press:**
MIKO-GRAF, s. r. o., Bratislava

© SAIA, n. o., 2011


---

### 1. About EURAXESS

#### 1.1 National Portal EURAXESS SLOVAKIA

#### 2. About Slovakia

#### 2.1 Profile

#### 2.2 Geography

#### 2.3 History

#### 2.4 Political system and state bodies

#### 2.5 Economy

#### 2.6 Significant scientists born in Slovakia

---

### 3. Research in Slovakia

#### 3.1 Legislative framework of research and development in Slovakia

#### 3.2 Research institutions

1. Higher education sector
2. State research and development sector
3. Private research and development sector
4. Non-profit sector of research & development

#### 3.3 R&D funding on national level

1. State research funding agencies
2. State programmes for research & development support
3. EU structural funds
4. The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic
5. Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic awarded for the entire doctoral study
6. Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
7. Modernization Program Slovakia 21 – Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

#### 3.4 Funding for bilateral cooperation

1. Bilateral scientific and technological cooperation based on intergovernmental agreements
2. Bilateral intergovernmental agreements on educational, research and cultural cooperation
3. Action Austria – Slovakia, Cooperation in Science and Education
4. Fulbright Programs for U.S. citizens

#### 3.5 Funding by multilateral/international programmes or international organisations

1. 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development (FP7)
2. Programmes for cooperation in education and vocational training funded from EU sources
3. European Science Foundation
4. COFIN – European Cooperation in Science and Technology
5. EUREKA
6. NATO – Science for Peace and Security Programme
7. UNESCO Programmes
8. CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Program for University Studies
9. International Visegrad Fund

---

### 4. Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

#### 4.1 Entry & stay permits

#### 4.2 Work permit

#### 4.3 Employment

#### 4.4 Social security & health insurance

1. Provision of social security for migrant workers
2. System of social security in Slovakia (excluding health insurance)
3. Health insurance
4. Social security (including health insurance) coordination within EU

#### 4.5 Taxation

1. Direct taxes
2. Indirect taxes

#### 4.6 Recognition of diplomas

#### 4.7 Import of goods

---

### 5. Daily life in Slovakia

#### 5.1 Accommodation and housing

#### 5.2 Banks and currency

#### 5.3 Communications and post offices

#### 5.4 Cuisine

#### 5.5 Culture and media

#### 5.6 Day care for children

#### 5.7 Education system

1. Higher education
2. School education
3. Additional education
4. Other programmes and schools

#### 5.8 Electrical appliances and computers

#### 5.9 Hiking and tourism

#### 5.10 Language

#### 5.11 Libraries

#### 5.12 Living costs

#### 5.13 Medical care

#### 5.14 Other services

#### 5.15 Public holidays

#### 5.16 Regional and local administration

#### 5.17 Religion

#### 5.18 Shopping

#### 5.19 Sport

#### 5.20 Transport

#### 5.21 Veterinary care

---

### 6. Glossary
1. About EURAXESS

**EURAXESS** – Researchers in Motion ([http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)) is an initiative launched by the European Commission, to promote research careers and facilitate the mobility of researchers across Europe. EURAXESS comprises a variety of services to help researchers find and secure their research position, no matter where he/she is from. It recognises the challenges researchers may face in getting the right position – visas, social services, family requirements, language barriers, CV visibility to the right target group, working terms and conditions, and many more. EURAXESS assists with formalities and helps researchers move between positions and countries more easily.

EURAXESS is composed of four specific initiatives for researchers:

- **EURAXESS Jobs** is a stress-free recruitment tool for researchers and research organisations in Europe. For more than five years, EURAXESS Jobs offers constantly updated information on research job vacancies, funding opportunities and fellowships throughout Europe. Researchers can post and edit their CV on-line and look for positions and funding opportunities advertised. Companies and research organisations can post job vacancies and search the database for potential candidates to recruit. Any employer, be it a research institute, a major company, an SME or a university can upload job vacancies. All positions are genuine, and the service is free of charge both for researchers and for employers. Funding organisations can equally advertise their fellowships and grants for free.

- **EURAXESS Services** is a network of over 200 centres located in 39 European countries. These centres assist researchers and their families when moving to, or living in another country. Free and personalised assistance is offered on the challenges faced by researchers and their families when relocating, such as:
  - visas,
  - work permits,
  - accommodation,
  - legal issues,
  - social security, medical care and taxes,
  - family support, language courses, etc.

The EURAXESS Services Centres network comprises a staff of more than 500, ready to assist researchers, their employers and funders free of charge. These Services Centres are typically located in universities in the 27 EU Member States and other participating countries ranging from Iceland to Israel. The EURAXESS Services Centres assist researchers and their families with every step of their move. They are also an invaluable resource for employers of researchers, as they can assist in the process of hiring researchers from abroad. The EURAXESS Service Centres are coordinated by the national bridgehead organisation(s) appointed by the relevant national authority.

- **EURAXESS Rights** provides comprehensive information on the [European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/). The Charter & Code set out the rights and obligations of researchers, research institutions and funding providers. Their aim is to ensure equitable treatment of all researchers in Europe and to increase transparency in their selection and recruitment. The two documents also address the right to social security coverage and access to pensions.

  To date, more than 260 organisations have individually endorsed the principles of the Charter & Code, representing more than 1000 institutions from 30 countries in Europe and beyond. A full list of signatories and the complete text of the Charter & Code can be viewed on the web site.

  By endorsing the Charter & Code the institutions join a truly pan-European network of researchers, research institutions and funders, and benefit from international visibility on the EURAXESS Rights website. In addition, the special ‘HR Excellence in Research’ logo is awarded by the European Commission to research institutions or funders actively implementing the Charter & Code.

- **EURAXESS Links** is a networking tool for European researchers, scientists and scholars working outside Europe. It is also an important contact point for researchers intending to move to Europe for a research position. EURAXESS Links was launched in the USA in 2005, in Japan in 2008, China in 2009, and since 2010 also includes Singapore and India.

EURAXESS Links keeps researchers in these regions fully informed on EU research policies, career opportunities in Europe and opportunities for collaboration with colleagues in Europe. EURAXESS Links provides interactive web services to European researchers working abroad in order to keep them linked among themselves and with Europe. The web forum, researchers’ database, e-mail alerts, and e-newsletter help in this regard, while networking events for members are organised regularly.

### 1.1 National Portal EURAXESS SLOVAKIA

European Portal EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion, is interlinked with the national EURAXESS portals of all partner countries that contain a wealth of additional information about their own country.

The first version of the Slovak EURAXESS Portal was created in 2004 in cooperation with SAIA, n. o. and the Technical University of Košice. In 2010, with support of the European Commission, all the national portals – including the Slovak one – were completely revamped, in terms of design and also structure.

**Slovak Portal** [www.euraxess.sk](http://www.euraxess.sk) has two separate language versions: English and Slovak. Slovak version is dedicated to Slovak researchers, who intend to go abroad, but also to Slovak research organisations that would like to welcome a foreign researcher in their team. The English version of the Portal provides information about Slovakia relevant for the foreign researchers interested in carrying out their research in Slovakia. The information here is structured in the following way: Jobs, Grants and Fellowships, Services – Practical Information, EURAXESS Rights, and EURAXESS Services Centres in Slovakia.

**EURAXESS Jobs**

The section Jobs of the national Portal leads you to up-to-date research job vacancies in the whole Europe, provides you the possibility to post your CV and so enable the research institutes to approach you in case you fit the profile of their opening.
If you represent a research organisation, either public or private, you have the possibility to publish your vacancy to a targeted audience free of charge and choose among the qualified candidates from the whole Europe.

**Grants and Fellowships**

Information on funding of research mobility and research projects is available in the section Grants and Fellowships. You can find here information on funding based on the National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers (www.scholarships.sk); information on funding on the basis of bilateral cooperation published by Slovak Research and Development Agency (www.apvv.sk); and also information about research fellowship programmes offered by international, European and national research organisations from all over the world, and published on the European EURAXESS Jobs Portal.

As the funding opportunities are one of the most requested topics, overview of the possibilities available to foreign researchers who wish to come to Slovakia is provided also in this publication. You can find more information in the Chapter 3 Research in Slovakia (page 18).

**Services – Practical Information**

The objective of the EURAXESS initiative is not confined to research funding issues only, but goes even further and serves the needs of researchers in all the aspects related to mobility from one country to another. It aims to facilitate the mobility in the smoothest way possible and ease the burden of red-tape that is connected to mobility. Therefore, in the section Services – Practical Information, we gather information related to concrete real life situations that occur when moving between countries. These include issues of taxation, social security, entry conditions and residence permit, day-care for children or cultural events in a foreign country, etc. Information is clearly organised in thematic sections and also includes contact information for responsible institutions. Of course, it is always possible to contact the closest EURAXESS Services Centre that will help you to find the answer you’re looking for.

Practical information and tips can be also found in this publication; information related to formalities with national institutions in Chapter 4 (page 58) and information on daily life in Slovakia in Chapter 5 (page 98).

**EURAXESS Rights**

Good working conditions are crucial to the researchers’ career development. Definition of the rights and obligations on the side of researchers as well as research organisations is offered by the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

In Slovakia, the Charter & Code were endorsed in 2005 by two signatories: Slovak Rectors’ Conference on behalf of Slovak universities and the Presidency of Slovak Academy of Sciences on behalf of its institutes.

In this section of the EURAXESS Portal you can find more information on this important topic.

**EURAXESS Services Centres in Slovakia**

In Slovakia, the national network is coordinated by SAIA, n. o. The first Services Centres were established in 2004. A restructuring of the Slovak Services Centres network is in progress from 2011. Slovak EURAXESS Services Centres will soon be present in each regional SAIA office, in the towns of Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Košice, and Prešov. The Bratislava office is the national coordinator of the regional offices and also the Services Centres in other partner countries and European institutions, as well as national authorities.

Gradually, a network of Local Contact Points will be created in close cooperation with the international departments and science departments of the rectorates of Slovak universities and research institutes. This will ensure a constant flow of updated information directly to the researcher.

In the Services Centres you will find informed staff who work with mobility issues on an everyday basis and who will gladly share their knowledge and experience with you. Not only will they provide you with the information, but, if possible, they will help you with the formalities and paperwork and will provide you with information about their contacts. Just find the contact details in this section of the Portal and turn to the closest Services Centre.

**Map of Slovakia**

![Map of Slovakia](image-url)
2. About Slovakia

2.1 Profile

**Official name:** Slovak Republic

**Geography**

Area: 48,845 sq. km.
Land boundaries (total): 1,524 km.
Austria 91 km.; Czech Republic 215 km;
Hungary 677 km; Poland 444 km;
Ukraine 97 km.

Cities: Capital – Bratislava (428,672).
Other cities – Košice (236,093), Nitra (163,540), Prešov (161,782), Žilina (156,361), Banska Bystrica (111,984).

Terrain: Landlocked with high mountains in the north, low mountains in the centre, hills to the west, Danube (Dunaj) River basin in the south.

Elevation: Lowest point – Bodrog River 94 m.
Highest point – Gerlachovský štít (Peak) 2,655 m.

**People**

Nationality: Slovak(s) – noun and adjective.
Population: 5,424,925 (2009), out of it 51.4  % women.

Ethnic groups: Slovaks 85.8 %, Hungarians 9.7 %, Roman 1.7 %, Czechs 0.8 %, Ruthenians 0.4 %, Ukrainians 0.2 %, other 1.4 %. Unofficial estimates place the Roma population between 6 % – 10 %.

Religions: Roman Catholic 69 %, Protestant 9 %, Greek Catholic 4 %, Orthodox 0.9 %, other 0.6 %, unknown 3.5 %, 13 % report no affiliation.

Languages: Slovak (official), Hungarian, Ruthenian, Roman, and Ukrainian.

Health: Life expectancy (2006) – 78.2 yrs. females; 70.4 yrs. males.

**Government**

Type: Parliamentary democracy.

Independence: The Slovak Republic was established on January 1, 1993 (former Czechoslovak Republic established in 1918).

Constitution: Approved on September 1, 1992.

Branches: Executive – President (head of state), Prime Minister (head of government), Cabinet. Legislative – National Council of the Slovak Republic (150 seats). Judicial-Supreme Court, Constitutional Court.

Political parties: Distribution of the 150 parliamentary seats is Direction-Social Democracy (Smer-SD) 62 seats; Slovak Democratic and Christian Union (SDKU) 27 seats; Freedom and Solidarity (SaS) 22 seats; Christian-Democratic Movement (KDH) 15 seats; Slovak National Party (SNS) 9 seats. Other parties outside the Parliament include Hungarian Coalition Party (SMK), People’s Party – Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (LS-HZDS), Party of the Democratic Left (SDL).

Suffrage: Universal at 18 years.

Administrative divisions: Eight self-governing regions, 79 districts.

Membership in international groupings/organisations: EU (May 2004), NATO (March 2004), UN (January 1993), OECD, Council of Europe, OSCE, WHO, INTERPOL etc.

**Economy**

Currency: euro (since 1 January 2009).


GDP growth rate (2010): 4.1 %.

Nominal GDP per capita (2010): 72 % of EU-27.

Unemployment (2010): 13.5 %.

Consumer price inflation (2009): 1.6 %.

Public deficit (2009): 7.9 % GDP.

Natural resources: Antimony, mercury, iron, copper, lead, zinc, magnesite, limestone, lignite.

Agriculture crops: grains, potatoes, poultry, cattle, hogs, sugar, beets, hops, fruit, forest products.

Breeding: cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, goats.

Industry: iron and steel, chemicals, electro-chemical, automobiles, light industry, food processing, back-office support, engineering, building materials.

**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 °C, but can plummet to –15 °C. The average daily temperature in summer is 21 °C, but can be as warm as over 30 °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 the SR (Source BBC Weather). 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Average Precipitation (mm)</th>
<th>Wet Days (&gt; 0.25 mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>min.</td>
<td>max.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>–3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>–2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 History

Stone Age

The first recorded tribes to settle on the territory of modern Slovakia were Celtic (from around 450 B.C.), whose culture represented the pinnacle of barbarian civilisation. The remains of Celtic oppida (elevated, fortified settlements) can be found, for example, in Bratislava, Devin, and on Havranok Hill near the Liptovska Mara reservoir.

The Celts were forced out by the Germanic tribes of Marcomans which fought with the Roman Emperors Marcus Aurelius and Commodus (166 – 180 A.D.). Remains of the Limes Romanus – the fortifications on the Roman Empire’s northern border – are preserved in Slovakia (for example at Rusovce, Trenčín, and Iača). The German tribes were driven out by Huns led by Attila.

Tribes of Western Slavs arrived on this territory at the end of the 5th and beginning of the 6th centuries. Soon they had to defend themselves against nomadic Avars and this activity led to the creation of a tribal union under the rule of the Frankish merchant Samo, known as “Samo’s Empire” (623 – 658 A.D.).

Middle Ages

After the break-up of “Samo’s Empire” Slavonic tribes experienced a loss of political unity. Only Duke Pribina succeeded in establishing a larger state-like entity and founded the first church in this area between 824 and 828. He fought and was defeated by Mojmir, the Duke of Moravia and had to flee. Duke Mojmir I established a united state called Great Moravia (830 – 908). His successor, Rastislav, invited the missionaries Sts. Cyril and Methodius to Great Moravia. They established an independent church province, developed the first Slavic alphabet (Glagol) using Greek symbols, and used it to translate the bible into vernacular. The most important ruler of Great Moravia was Svätopluk who fought with the East Frankish Empire. Great Moravia disintegrated after its invasion by Magyar tribes and the successes of the East Frankish Empire. Sites dating back to the time of Great Moravia may be found at Devin, Nitra, and Ducové, amongst others.

The Magyar tribes established a Hungarian Empire in the Danube area and the territory of present-day Slovakia was absorbed around 1000 A.D. The history of Slovakia was thus interwoven with that of the Hungarian state until 1918.

The development of the Hungarian Empire was interrupted by the Tatar invasion (1240 – 1242). After the Tatars left, Belo IV invited Saxons to come and live in Hungary, which significantly strengthened urban civilisation. After the male line of the Árpád dynasty died out in 1301, Charles Robert of Anjou became king in 1308 and established the Anjou dynasty, which was followed by the Jagello dynasty in 1440.

The period of humanism and renaissance in the Hungarian Empire is forever linked to the name of its ruler, Matthias Corvinus (1458 – 1490). The first university on the territory of present-day Slovakia, Academia Istropolitana (1485 – 1491), was established in Bratislava during his rule.

Modern Times

An important historic moment for the development of the country was the defeat and the killing of King Louis II of the Jagello dynasty by the Turks at the battle near Mohács in 1526. The battle of Mohács started the period of Turkish occupation of the region including significant part of the territory of the Hungarian Empire. The territory of present day Slovakia became the administrative and economic centre of the rest of the Hungarian Empire and Bratislava was the coronation site of many Hungarian kings from 1567 to 1830 (including Maria Theresa from the Habsburg family in 1741).

In 1635, Peter Pazmany established Trnava University (which was relocated to Budapest in 1777). The Jesuits founded Košice University in 1657.

The numerous anti-Habsburg uprisings by Hungarian nobility were curtailed by the 1711 Peace of Azatmar. However, it did not stop unrest amongst its subjects, a fact that was reflected in the high levels of emigration and banditry. At this time the legend was born of the most famous of Slovak outlaws, who was stealing from the rich to give to the poor, – the legend of Juraj Jánošík.

The 18th century saw the development of manufacturing and the modernisation of mining technology. In 1770, the enlightened, absolutist ruler, Maria Theresa, established the first school of mining in the world – the Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica. In 1774, she also introduced compulsory school attendance. Her son, the Emperor Joseph II abolished serfdom in the Hungarian Empire in 1785.

The Slovak national consciousness was rekindled in the 18th and 19th centuries and a Slovak civil society began to emerge. The first written form of the Slovak language was codified in 1847, and the first political programme was proclaimed in 1848. In 1861 the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation was published and in 1863 Matica slovenská (The Slovak Foundation) was established to promote the Slovak nation. In 1893 the Slovak Museum Society was established. The late 19th and early 20th centuries were marked by the struggle against Hungarian nationalist tendencies, culminating in the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Present times

Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia was established with the end of World War I and the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in 1918. The period of prosperity of the newly established republic followed until the world’s economic crisis and the later advent of the Nazism. In 1939, Slovakia was de iure proclaimed autonomous. Its independence, however, was greatly limited by its strong economic, military and political dependence on Germany. The Slovak National Uprising during World War II, in 1944, was a clear indication of the country’s opposition to Nazism. In 1945 the Czech and Slovak states joined again.

Communism

In 1948 a communist putsch took place – the so called February Revolution. The 1950’s in Czechoslovakia were a period of political oppression, characterised by the victimisation of prominent political, cultural and religious individuals and even of ordinary people. In 1968, Alexander Dubček (the then leader of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia) introduced the policy known as “socialism with a human face”
that ended with the Prague Spring and the consequent crushing of the reformist movement by the Soviet army.

A period of “normalisation” lasted until the end of the 70’s. The normalisation regime plunged Czechoslovakia into an economic, political and moral decline. It was succeeded by the democratic socialism in 1980’s. Nevertheless, opposition towards the regime grew and during the late 80’s it became more intense and organised. It led to the overthrow of the communist government in November 1989 referred to as the “Velvet Revolution”.

Slovak Republic today

On January 1, 1993 the former Czech and Slovak Federal (Federative) Republic was peacefully divided into two independent Slovak and Czech states and the Slovak Republic joined the United Nations as a fully-fledged member.

In October 1993 the European Parliament ratified the association agreement between the Slovak Republic and the European Union. In spring 2004, the Slovak Republic joined NATO and on May 1, 2004 the Slovak Republic joined the United Nations. In spring 2004, the Slovak Republic and the European Union. In spring 2004, the Slovak Republic joined the European Union as a fully-fledged member.

2.4 Political system and state bodies

The Slovak Republic was established on January 1, 1993 as one of the successors to the Czech and Slovak Federal (Federative) Republic. It is a parliamentary democracy, and its Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender, religion, race, national origin, social status or political conviction.

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.

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 Ivan Gašparovič (elected for the second 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 in a single member of the Government, too. The current Prime Minister, Mrs. Iveta Radičová, was appointed in July 2010.

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

The state administration is mostly executed at a central level. The central bodies devolve to regional levels. If needed, local state administration authorities establish other authorities and offices in the regions.

2.5 Economy

The current economy of the Slovak Republic is a result of a long-term development. In the past agriculture presented the most important part of Slovak economy.

The first manufactures on the territory of present-day Slovakia were established in the 18th century, while modern industry such as wood processing industry, paper-making industry, and chiefly flour-milling industry started to develop in the 19th century.

After the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918, Slovakia suffered from being a less-developed part of the newly established republic. In Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, 39% of the population was employed in industry and 31% in agriculture and forestry. In Slovakia only 17.1% of the population was employed in industry, and 60.4% worked in agriculture and forestry. After the world economic crisis armaments companies, chemical works and footwear works were built. During the interwar period, Czech capital predominated in Slovak industry, taking advantage of cheap raw materials and low wages, which resulted in the growth of Slovak capital investment.

After the WW II and the communist takeover in 1948 industry, transport and banks were nationalised and agriculture collectivised. In that period the armament industry, and metal and heavy industry developed at the expense of traditional strengths in light and craft-based industries, such as textiles, clothing, glass and ceramics. The proportion of employment in industry and agriculture had gradually changed. While in 1948 agriculture in Slovakia employed 60% of workers, at the beginning of 1980 it amounted to app. 18% of the economically active population.

In 1991, privatisation became a part of the extensive changes in the economic environment. It was connected with the liberalisation of prices; the achievement of the internal convertibility of the currency; the liberalisation of foreign trade; and the opening up of the country to foreign investors. The bulk of the industrial economy has been transferred to the private sector, including the key areas of machinery, chemical works, textiles, leather, shoes, glass, electronics and car manufacturing. In 1999, Slovak state banks were privatised. At present, an estimated 85% of the economy is in private hands.

The agricultural sector, almost all of which is now privately owned, produces wheat and barley, corn, sugar beet, potatoes, fruit, vegetables, sunflower and livestock (cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep and goats). However, its relative economic contribution (lower than 5% of GDP) is not substantial.
Since 1998 the national government has focused on macroeconomic stabilisation and structural reforms to build a base for long-term prosperity. In addition it has integrated the Slovak Republic with European and international organisations, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which the country joined in 2000.

The fundamental tax reform was one of the most important initiatives of the Slovak government in the period 2002–2006. The tax reform has brought a flat rate in direct income taxation since 2004. There is one linear percentage rate of 19% for both individuals and corporations. Also since 2004 the unified 19% VAT rate has been applied for all goods and services, although since 1st January 2011, the VAT had to be temporarily raised to 20%. It should be brought back to 19% as soon as there is a decrease in the state deficit once the current global financial crisis has subsided.

In general, Slovak gross domestic product (GDP) is growing. In 2010, production of the gross domestic product on average, amounted to 65,905.5 mil. €. Compared with 2009, it increased by 4.5% at current prices. It rose by 4% at constant prices. (source Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic – www.statistics.sk). In 2010, economic growth was affected mostly by an increase of non-domestic demand. Inflation averaged 1.6% (CPI).

Export revenues of Slovakia are increasing, mainly because of export to other EU countries. There is a sustained tendency toward growth in foreign direct investments and Slovakia offers many investment opportunities for domestic and foreign investors. The strongest position is currently held by the automobile industry and its subcontractors (Volkswagen, Peugeot-Citroën, Kia Motors).

Slovakia’s largest exports include motor vehicles (cars), electronic equipment, chemicals, crude oil and petroleum products, iron and steel. Main imports include crude oil and natural gas, iron ore and concentrates, and liquid crystal products (source Spectacular Slovakia – http://travel.spectator.sk).

Slovakia is still trying to eliminate the insufficient employment opportunities. The unemployment rate was 12.1% in 2009 (source Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic – www.statistics.sk), but the tendency is decreasing as the country is overcoming economic downturn caused by the global crisis.

2.6 Significant scientists born in Slovakia

One of the world’s greatest radiologists and the founder of radiology in the Hungarian Kingdom. He described the development of tuberculosis and owned the first X-ray apparatus in Slovakia.

Bahýľ, Ján – engineer (1865 – 1916)
Inventor of the motor-powered helicopter (four years before Bréguet and Cornu). Ján Bahýľ was granted 7 patents for the invention of the tank pump, air balloons combined with an air turbine, the first car to run on petrol in Slovakia and a lift to Bratislava Castle.

Banič, Štefan – inventor (1870 – 1941)
Lived in the USA from 1907 to 1921. He constructed a prototype parachute in 1913 which was registered at the United States Patent Office. He was also involved in improving mining productivity and bridge construction. The parachute has, of course, become a vital part of modern aviation.

Bel, Matej – polyhistor (1684 – 1749)
Polymath, educationist, scientist, and evangelical priest. He was one of the greatest scientific figures of the 18th century, referred to as the Magnum decus Hungaricae – 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 co-author of a unique account of agriculture in the Hungarian Empire – the works Hungaria antiquae et novae prodromus (1723), Aparatus ad historiam Hungariae (1735 – 1736), and Notitia Hungariae novae historico-geographica. The University of Banská Bystrica bears his name.

Blaškovič, Dionýz – virologist (1913 – 1998)
Received international recognition for his research into pathogenesis, the properties of biological and biochemical bacteria, laboratory virus mutation and the ecology of the influenza virus and limpet encephalitis.

Gerster, Béla – engineer (1850 – 1923)
Widely respected expert on water constructions, designing the Panama and Corinth canal projects. He participated in the 1876 international expedition to identify the most suitable route for an inter-oceanic canal, and proposed the area between Panama and Colon. In 1881 he was asked to project the Corinth canal, the construction of which started a year later and ended in 1893. He also marked out a railway from Athens to Larissa.

Hell, Jozef Karol – mining engineer (1713 – 1789)
Inventor of the water-pillar pump machine, which pumps water from a depth of 212 meters and is still used for oil extraction.

Hell, Maximilián – astronomer (1720 – 1792)
One of the greatest astronomers of the 18th century and a director of the Imperial Observatory in Vienna, Austria. He correctly measured the distance between the Earth and the Sun in 1769 and calculated the Sun’s parallax.

Ilkovič, Dionýz – chemist and physicist (1907 – 1980)
A founder of Slovak physics. He played a distinguished part in elaborating the theory of polarography for which his teacher and collaborator Jaroslav Heyrovský was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1959.

Jedlík, Štefan Anián – physicist (1800 – 1895)
Constructed the electromagnetic rotor, a predecessor of the modern electromotor, three years before Farraday, and the unipolar dynamo six years before W. Siemens.

Jesenský Jessenius, Ján – physician (1566 – 1621)
Famous physician, anatomist and Rector of the Charles University. He carried out...
the first public dissection in Prague in 1600. He was also a Protestant activist, and was executed after the Battle of Bíla Hora at the beginning of the Thirty Years War.

**Kempelen, Ján Wolfgang – polytechnician and inventor** (1734 – 1804)

Invented first fountain and pressure water piping, and designed a chess machine, a talking machine and a typewriter for use by blind people.

**Lenard, Filip Anton Eduard – physicist** (1862 – 1947)

Born in Bratislava but later moved to Germany. Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1905 for his work on cathode rays.

**Mikovín, Samuel – geodesist and cartographer** (1700 – 1750)

Invented an original cartographic method while working in Bratislava, where he surveyed and marked out the basic triangulation polygon from Bratislava Castle Tower via Zobor to Sitno and Banská Štiavnica. He also surveyed caves. Other examples of his scientific research included the systematic observation of meteors (among them the Umid meteor shower in 1945) and observations of the Sun. His facsimile collection published in 1946, which included more than 11,000 meteorites on 10,000 facsimiles, was at that time the second largest after the Harvard collection. A small planet (3636) Pajdušáková = 1982 UJ2, discovered in 1982, was named in memory of Ľudmila Pajdušáková by the International Astronomic Union.

**Murgáš, Jozef – electrical engineer** (1864 – 1929)

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 the Morse code, thus accelerating the transmission of messages. His other patents include the spinning reel (for fishing), the wave meter, the electric transformer, the magnetic detector, and an engine producing electromagnetic waves. He is often referred to as the “Slovak Edison”.

**Pajdušáková, Ľudmila – astronomer** (1916 – 1979)

The first Slovak woman astronomer, a specialist in solar astronomy. She made her name as the discoverer of 5 comets with her Starlit Sky Atlases and Discoveries of the Comets. Other examples of her scientific research included the systematic observation of meteors (among them the Umid meteor shower in 1945) and observations of the Sun. Her facsimile collection published in 1946, which included more than 11,000 meteorites on 10,000 facsimiles, was at that time the second largest after the Harvard collection. A small planet (3636) Pajdušáková = 1982 UJ2, discovered in 1982, was named in memory of Ľudmila Pajdušáková by the International Astronomic Union.

**Petzval, Jozef Maximilián – mathematician, optician, inventor** (1807 – 1891)

One of the foremost European researchers in the 19th century. He is best remembered for his work on optical lenses and lens aberration in early 1840’s (the Petzval curvature is named after him) which made possible the construction of modern cameras. Petzval produced an aplanatic portrait lens that was vastly superior to the simple meniscus lens used in that time. Petzval won many distinctions for his work. A crater on the far side of the Moon bears his name. (J. M. Petzval Museum, Petzvalova ul. 3, Spišská Belá)

**Segner, Ján Andrej – physicist and mathematician** (1704 – 1777)

Designed a reactive water engine known as the Segner wheel, and invented the water turbine principle which formed the basis for the functioning of modern space rockets.

**Selye, Ján – physician** (1907 – 1982)

Discovered the stress reaction and the adaptation syndrome; did research into the killer illness of the 20th century, coronary thrombosis. Moved to Canada where he established the “Institut de Medicine et de Chirurgie Experimentale”.

**Stodola, Aurel – engineer, professor and inventor** (1859 – 1942)

Graduated in mechanical engineering and worked as a professor at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland. He achieved his greatest successes in the area of steam and gas turbines, his calculations and constructions forming the basis of this particular field of mechanical engineering. He constructed a movable artificial arm, known as Stodola’s arm, in 1915. He was granted the most prestigious engineering awards – the Grashof Medal and the James Watt Gold Medal (1940). He was also a corresponding member of the French Academy of Sciences.

**Štefánik, Milan Rastislav – politician, soldier and astronomer** (1880 – 1919)

The most important Slovak politician participating in the negotiations leading to the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918. Originally a scientist, he studied astronomy in Prague and Paris. Štefánik specialised in astrophysics and especially in solar physics.

**Štúr, Dionýz – geologist and botanist** (1827 – 1893)

Very active in the field of geology and the founder of outstanding collections. A director of the Imperial Geological Institute.

**Štúr, Ľudovít – politicalician, national activist and linguist** (1815 – 1856)

The leading figure in the Slovak revelation period in the 19th century. Together with Jozef Miloslav Hurban and Michal Hodža, he codified modern Slovak in 1844. Ľudovít Štúr’s “Standard Slovak” was published in 1846 in his “Náuka reči slovenskej” or “Theory of the Slovak language”.

**Thurzo, Viliam – physician** (1912 – 1984)

Founder of oncological research and oncology in Slovakia. He discovered the tumorous virus B77, which is still used as a model for research into the genesis of tumours.
3. Research in Slovakia

The Slovak research environment can be characterised by describing its research related legislation, by identifying Slovak research institutions, where you could find a job or a collaboration, and finally by identifying funding opportunities (on national, bilateral, multilateral level) for your research in Slovakia.

3.1 Legislative framework of research and development in Slovakia

Research and development – its legal status

The basic act in the area of research and development (R&D) is the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on Organisation of State Support for Research & Development and on Amendment of the Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of the Activities of the Government and on the Organisation of the Central State Administration as amended by later regulations effective as of July 1, 2005. The Act defines among others the role of the Government, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of SR and other central bodies of state administration, position and roles of the Slovak Research and Development Agency, conditions and forms of granting state support, system of state programmes of R&D and the information support for R&D.

R&D in the Slovak Republic is carried out in particular at universities, institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and legal entities which have been established by state administration central bodies (state department research institutions) that are mostly financed from state budget, and in private research institutions financed by business sector.

Government of the SR approves in the area of R&D:
- long-term objective of state science & technology (S&T) policy;
- national programme of S&T development (budgetary programme);
- state programmes of R&D;
- state programmes of R&D infrastructure development;
- programmes of the Slovak Research and Development Agency.

Government of the SR:
- appoints and dismisses on the basis of proposal of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport members of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Science & Technology, members of the Board of the Slovak Research and Development Agency, members of state programmes councils;
- approves on the basis of proposal of the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport the Statute of the Slovak Research and Development Agency, the Statute of the Council for Science & Technology, statutes of state programmes councils; discusses annual report on situation of R&D in the Slovak Republic.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (MESRS SR) is the central body that is responsible for creating conditions for S&T development, for cost-effective utilisation of state budget funds and coordination of activities of other central bodies, the Slovak Academy of Science and of universities which are involved in the preparation and implementation of state S&T policy.

In 2007 two important documents dealing with further development and support of S&T were adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic. One of them is “The Long-Term Plan of the State Science and Technology Policy by the year 2015” that deals with the coordination of S&T, infrastructure of R&D, systemic priorities of S&T and substantive priorities of R&D, support for S&T, international scientific and technical cooperation, evaluation of R&D and popularisation of S&T.

The second document is the “Strategy for the Popularisation in Society of Science and Technology” which tries to find reasonable forms of popularisation of the researcher’s work, especially the beneficial results of their work in order to improve public awareness of the importance of developments in S&T.

The support of R&D is realised by granting funds from the state budget in the form of non-repayable subsidies. It can be a purpose-oriented form of support on the basis of public tender or an institutional form of support. Funds within purpose-oriented form of support are granted for solving R&D projects and infrastructure development projects through the Slovak Research and Development Agency and projects within state programmes. Funds within purpose-oriented form of support are granted to private enterprises and are considered as state support. Funds within institutional form of support are granted for support of R&D at public and state universities, in the Slovak Academy of Sciences and in state department research institutes. Public and state universities are top educational, science and artist institutions established by separate act (the Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Universities).


The applicant who requests grant aid from Slovak Research and Development Agency must have a qualification certificate for execution of R&D which is issued by MESRS SR for 6 years.
On 15 March 2011 the amendment No. 40/2011 Coll. of the Act No. 172/2005 came into force. It defines a grant for scientific-technical services and submission of an application for incentives for research and development. MESRS SR shall post on the Central Information Portal the list of members of the expert commission, an advisory body of the Provider of grant, the list of grants awarded and their amounts, the contracts on grant provision, the list of Applicants that have not been awarded grants, including reasons thereof, and the information indicating which applications for grants were approved on recommendation of the expert commission, and which were approved despite non-recommendation of the expert commission, and the justification of the decision thereof. MESRS SR shall receive applications for incentives for R&D to a legal entity that is an entrepreneur. For not granting and a list of contracts on the basis of a public call posted on the Central Information Portal the list of grants awarded and their amounts, the contracts on grant provision, the list of Applicants that have not been granted including the reason for not granting and a list of contracts on incentives provision.

On 1 August 2009 the Act No. 185/2009 Coll. of the Act No. 595/2003 Coll. on income tax as amended by later regulations came into force. On 15 March 2011 the amendment No. 40/2011 Coll. of the Act No. 172/2005 came into force. It defines a grant for scientific-technical services and submission of an application for incentives for research and development. MESRS SR shall post on the Central Information Portal the list of members of the expert commission, an advisory body of the Provider of grant, the list of grants awarded and their amounts, the contracts on grant provision, the list of Applicants that have not been awarded grants, including reasons thereof, and the information indicating which applications for grants were approved on recommendation of the expert commission, and which were approved despite non-recommendation of the expert commission, and the justification of the decision thereof. MESRS SR shall receive applications for incentives for R&D to a legal entity that is an entrepreneur. For not granting and a list of contracts on the basis of a public call posted on the Central Information Portal the list of grants awarded and their amounts, the contracts on grant provision, the list of Applicants that have not been granted including the reason for not granting and a list of contracts on incentives provision.

3.2 Research institutions

Legal and physical entities with offices in the Slovak Republic active in R&D are integrated in the following sectors: the higher education sector, the state sector, the private sector and the non-profit sector. According to Act No. 172/2005 Coll., on the basis of competence evaluation, legal or natural person acquires certificate of competence to carry out research and development, and thus is entitled to seek funding from the state budget. The certificate is issued and withdrawn by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic upon a proposal of an evaluation committee.

3.2.1 Higher education sector

The Higher education sector consists of 20 public higher education institutions, 3 state higher education institutions and 11 private higher education institutions. According to the Act on higher education institutions, these are third-level educational, scientific and arts institutions. More details are available at the websites of the appropriate higher education institutions.

Public higher education institutions:
- Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica (Akadémia umení v Banskej Bystриči) – www.aku.sk, in Slovak only
- Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava (Vysoká škola výtvarných umení v Bratislave) – www.vsvu.sk
- Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava (Vysoká škola múzických umení v Bratislave) – www.vsmu.sk, in Slovak only
- Alexander Dubček University in Trenčín (Trenčianska univerzita Alexandra Dubčeka v Trenčíne) – www.tuni.sk, in Slovak only
- Catholic University in Ružomberok (Katolícka univerzita v Ružomberku) – www.ku.sk
- Comenius University in Bratislava (Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave) – www.uniba.sk
- Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Univerzita Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre) – www.ukf.sk
- Selye University of Komárom (Univerzita J. Selyeho v Komárne) – www.selyeuuni.sk, in Slovak and Hungarian
- Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (Univerzita Mateja Bela v Banskej Bystrici) – www.umb.sk
- Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach) – www.upjs.sk
- Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovenská poľnohospodárska univerzita v Nitre) – www.uniag.sk
- Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (Slovenská technická univerzita v Bratislave) – www.stuba.sk
- Technical University of Košice (Technická univerzita v Košiciach) – www.tuke.sk
- Technical University in Zvolen (Technická univerzita vo Zvolene) – www.tuzvo.sk
- University of Economics in Bratislava (Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave) – www.euba.sk
- University of Prešov in Prešov (Prešovská univerzita v Prešove) – www.unipo.sk
- University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (Univerzita sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Trnave) – www.ucm.sk
- University of Trnava in Trnava (Trnavská univerzita v Trnave) – www.truni.sk
- University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice (Univerzita veterinárského lekárstva a farmácie v Košiciach) – www.uvm.sk
- University of Žilina in Žilina (Žilinská univerzita v Žiline) – www.uniza.sk

State higher education institutions:
- Police Academy in Bratislava (Akadémia Policajného zboru v Bratislave) – www.akademiapz.sk, in Slovak only
- Slovak Medical University in Bratislava (Slovenská zdravotnícka univerzita v Bratislave) – www.szu.sk
Private higher education institutions
- Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts in Bratislava (Bratislavská medzinárodná škola liberálnych štúdií v Bratislave) – www.bisla.sk
- Central European College in Skalica (Stredoeurópska vysoká škola v Skalici) – www.sevs.sk
- College of International Business ISM Slovakia in Prešov (Vysoká škola medzinárodného podnikania ISM Slovakia v Prešove) – www.ismpo.sk, in Slovak only
- College of Security Management in Košice (Vysoká škola bezpečnostného manažérstva v Košiciach) – www.vsbm.sk
- College of Management/City University in Trenčín (Vysoká škola manažmentu v Trenčíne) – www.vsm.sk
- College of Public Administration Economics and Management in Bratislava (Vysoká škola ekonomie a manažmentu verejnej správy v Bratislave) – www.vsevms.sk
- College in Sládkovičovo (Vysoká škola v Sládkovičove) – www.vssladkovicovo.sk, in Slovak only
- Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom (Dubnický technologický inštitút v Dubnici nad Váhom) – www.dti.sk, in Slovak only
- Jan Albrecht’s Music and Art Academy Banská Štiavnica (Hudobná a umelčacká akadémia Jana Albrechta Banská Štiavnica, s. r. o.) – www.huaj‑bs.eu
- Pan European University (Paneurópska vysoká škola) – www.uninova.sk
- St. Elisabeth University of Healthcare and Social Work in Bratislava (Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety v Bratislave) – www.vssvalzbety.sk, in Slovak only

Foreign higher education institutions
Foreign higher education institutions provide higher education in the territory of the Slovak Republic in accordance with legislation of the state of their headquarters on the basis of the permission issued by MESRS SR.
- Bank Institute Higher Education Institution, Inc. – headquarters in the Czech Republic (Bankovní institut v České republice) – www.bivs.cz
- The Institute of Hospitality Management, Ltd. – headquarters in the Czech Republic (Vysoká škola hotelová v Praze 8, spol. s r. o. – sídlo v České republice) – www.vsh.cz
- University College of International and Public Relations Prague – headquarters in the Czech Republic (Vysoká škola medzinárodných a veřejných vztahů Praha, o.p.s. – sídlo v České republice) – www.vip‑vs.cz, in Czech only
- Palacký University Olomouc – headquarters in the Czech Republic (Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci – sídlo v České republice) – www.upol.cz

3.2.2 State research and development sector
The state R&D sector consists of research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) and state sector R&D organisations established by central state administration bodies. The SAS is a self-governing scientific organisation of the Slovak Republic established by special Act, the activity of which is aimed at the development of science, education, culture, and the economy. The SAS conducts its research activity by means of research institutes established on the basis of either full or partial public funding. State sector R&D organisations funded in full or in part by the state are established by the appropriate central administrative bodies. More details can be found on the websites of the appropriate SAS research institutes and state sector research organisations.

The Slovak Academy of Sciences (www.sav.sk):
- Astronomical Institute, Vysoké Tatry (www.astro.sk)
- Geological Institute, Bratislava (www.geol.sav.sk)
- Geophysical Institute, Bratislava (http://gpi.savba.sk)
- Institute of Geography, Bratislava (www.geography.sav.sk)
- Institute of Hydrology, Bratislava (www.hl.savba.sk)

Mathematical and Physical Sciences and Information Sciences
- Institute of Experimental Physics, Košice (http://uef.savsk.sk)
- Institute of Informatics, Bratislava (www.ui.sav.sk)
- Institute of Physics SAS, Bratislava (www.fu.sav.sk)
- Mathematical Institute of SAS, Bratislava (www.mat.savba.sk)

Technical Sciences
- Institute of Construction and Architecture, Bratislava (www.ustarch.sav.sk)
- Institute of Electrical Engineering, Bratislava (www.elu.sav.sk)
- Institute of Geotechnics, Košice (www.saske.sk/UGT)
- Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics, Bratislava (www.umms.sav.sk)
- Institute of Materials Research, Košice (www.imnov.savsk.sk)
- Institute of Measurement Science, Bratislava (www.um.sav.sk)

Medical Sciences
- Cancer Research Institute, Bratislava (www.exon.sav.sk)
- Institute for Heart Research, Bratislava (www.usrd.sav.sk)

Biological and Chemical Sciences
- Institute of Botany, Bratislava (http://ibot.sav.sk), in Slovak only
- Institute of Chemistry, Bratislava (www.chem.sk)
- Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Bratislava (www.uach.sav.sk)
- Institute of Molecular Biology, Bratislava (http://imb.savba.sk)
- Institute of Plant Genetics and Biotechnology, Nitra (http://pribina.savba.sk/ugbr/index.php/home)
- Polymer Institute, Bratislava (www.polymer.sav.sk)
### Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences
- Institute of Animal Biochemistry and Genetics, Ivanka pri Dunaji (www.ubgz.sav.sk)
- Institute of Animal Physiology, Košice (http://iap.saske.sk)
- Institute of Forest Ecology, Zvolen (www.saske.sk)
- Institute of Landscape Ecology, Bratislava (http://ile.sav.sk)
- Institute of Zoology, Bratislava (www.zoo.sav.sk)
- Parasitological Institute, Košice (www.saske.sk/pau)

### Historical Sciences
- Archeological Institute, Nitra (www.archeol.sav.sk), in Slovak only
- Institute of Ethnology, Bratislava (www.iet.sav.sk)
- Institute of Historical Studies, Bratislava (http://ihistory.sav.sk), in Slovak only
- Institute of Social Sciences, Bratislava (www.saske.sk/SS), in Slovak only

### Human and social sciences
- Department of Social and Biological Communication, Bratislava (www.kvsvb.sk/sav.sk)
- Institute for Forecasting SAS, Bratislava (www.prog.sav.sk)
- Institute for Sociology of SAS, Bratislava (www.sociologia.sav.sk)
- Institute of Economic Research, Bratislava (www.ekonom.sav.sk)
- Institute of Experimental Psychology, Bratislava (www.psychologia.sav.sk)
- Institute of Philosophy, Bratislava (www.klemens.sav.sk/fiusav)
- Institute of Politology, Bratislava (www.upv.sav.sk)
- Institute of State and Law, Bratislava (www.usap.sav.sk), in Slovak only

### Culture and art sciences
- Institute of Art History, Bratislava (www.dejum.sav.sk)
- Institute of Musicology, Bratislava (www.uhv.sav.sk), temporarily locked for staff only
- Institute of Oriental Studies, Bratislava (http://orient.sav.sk)
- Institute of Slovak Literature, Bratislava (www.uslit.sav.sk), in Slovak only
- Institute of Theatre and Film Research, Bratislava (www.udfv.sav.sk)
- Institute of World Literature, Bratislava (www.usvl.sav.sk)
- Jan Stanislav Institute of Slavistics, Bratislava (www.slavu.sav.sk), in Slovak only
- Ludovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics, Bratislava (www.juls.sav.sk), in Slovak only

### Specialised organisations
- Arboretum Mlynany of SAS, Vieska nad Žitavou (www.arboretum.sav.sk)

### Other state research institutes:

#### Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic:
- Research Institute of Posts and Telecommunications, Banská Bystrica (www.vus.sk)

#### Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of SR:
- National Forest Centre, Zvolen (www.nlc.sk)
- Regional Research Institute of Agroecology, Michalovce (www.crvi.sk)
- Research Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics, Bratislava (www.vuepp.sk)
- Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute, Bratislava (www.vupop.sk)
- Food Research Institute, Bratislava (www.vup.sk)

#### Ministry of Environment of SR:
- State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr, Bratislava (www.sguds.sk), in Slovak only
- Water Research Institute, Bratislava (www.vuwh.sk)
- Slovak Institute of Hydrometeorology, Bratislava (www.shmu.sk), in Slovak only

#### Statistical Office of SR:
- INFOSTAT – Institute of Informatics and Statistics, Bratislava (www.infoistat.sk)
- Slovak Office of Geodesy, Cartography and Land Register:
  - Research Institute of Geodesy and Cartography, Bratislava (www.vugsk.sk)
- Slovak Office of Standards, and Testing Office:
  - Slovak Institute of Metrology, Bratislava (www.smu.sk)

#### Matica slovenská (Slovak Foundation, Martin)
- basic research, ethnography, literature, linguistics, Slovak history (www.matica.sk), in Slovak only

### 3.2.3 Private research and development sector

The private R&D sector comprises companies active in research. In order to be officially recognised as research organisation, these are approved and listed by the MESRS SR on www.vedatechnika.sk. Here you can find a list of approved companies that have research as their prevailing activity (more than 50% of their activities):
- ABE Projekt, s. r. o., Jaslovské Bohunice, engineering and technology
- Ardaco, a. s., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.ardaco.sk)
- Biomedox s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.biomedox.sk), in Slovak only
- Central European Institute of Technology, Žilina, engineering and technology (www.ceit.eu.sk)
- Danubia NanoTech s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.danubiananotech.com)
- Ecoland, s. r. o., Trnava, natural sciences (http://ecolandonline.com), in Slovak only
- Environmental Institute, s. r. o., Košice, engineering and technology (www.ei.sk)
3.2.4 Non-profit sector of research & development

Non-profit sector of R&D comprises of civic associations and non-profit organisations engaging in the area of R&D. These non-profit organisations have R&D as their prevailing activity:

- Building Testing and Research Institute, n. o., Bratislava
  (www.tsus.sk)
- EUROJURIS – European Legal Centre, a. s., Bratislava, research in the field of social sciences
  (www.eurojuris.sk)
- Institute for Public Affairs, Bratislava, center of public policy research and analyses
  (www.ivc.sk)
- The Young Physicists’ Tournament, Bratislava, natural sciences
  (www.ypt.sk)
- Welding Research Institute – Industrial Institute of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava, engineering and technology
  (www.wci.sk)

Support service in innovative processes development in SMEs and technology transfer is provided by the Business and Innovation Centre (BIC) Bratislava, www.bic.sk.

The complete database of R&D organisations can be found on the website www.vedatechnika.sk.

3.3 R&D funding on national level

In 2009, spending on R&D stood at 0.48 % of GDP. In total about 303 million of EUR was spent on R&D in 2009, 55 % came from public funds and 45 % from private sources. Basic research was in 2009 supported by 45.5 % of the R&D budget, applied research was financed by 24.5 % of R&D budget and 30 % went to development funding.

So far, institutional support of S&T of HEI sector and the Slovak Academy of Sciences from the state budget predominates over programme-based purpose-oriented form of support (61 % to 39 % in 2008). Research spending per capita was 58.47 EUR and per 1 employee of R&D was 13.3 thousand EUR in 2008.

The system of R&D funding on national level is governed by the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on Organisation of State Support for Research and Development. Subsidies for solving research tasks are granted to entitled applicants through grant agencies (in particular the Slovak Research and Development Agency) and state programmes for R&D support.

3.3.1 State research funding agencies

Slovak Research & Development Agency

Slovak Research and Development Agency (Agentúra na podporu výskumu a vývoja – SRDA) – is the major R&D grant agency in the Slovak Republic. It was established by the Act No. 172/2005 in July 2005 and it is a successor of the previous agency running since 2001.

The agency acts in compliance with the long-term objective of state S&T policy and its programmes are approved by the Government.

The Agency supports research

and development (basic and applied research and experimental development) by providing funds for the implementation of the following types of the projects:

- research and development projects in all fields of science and technology;
- within the Agency’s programmes;
• under international agreements on scientific and technological cooperation and projects within international programmes and initiatives in the field of research and development including costs of their preparations.

Projects can be submitted to the Agency within Agency’s Calls for Proposals. The agency usually supports projects with the period of solving not exceeding three years.

The Agency provides funding on the basis of a grant scheme. The Grant scheme represents a system for the support of research and development activities which specifies the fields of promotion of joint research and development programmes; the criteria for evaluating project proposals; the forms of providing funds.

Grant scheme comprises of:
• General Calls
• Bilateral Cooperation
• Multilateral Cooperation
• Agency programmes

General Calls – Research and development support in all scientific areas
The annually announced general call has no limitation relating to the subject orientation of projects. Specialisation, objectives and subject content of R&D project is defined by applicant. Projects in the following groups of disciplines are supported: natural sciences, technological sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

Bilateral scientific and technological cooperation
On the basis of international agreements concluded by the MESRS SR calls for submitting projects on bilateral research cooperation are regularly published.

The projects of bilateral cooperation are intended to have these objectives:
• preparation of joint international projects;
• preparation of joint publications and other outputs;
• common active participation at conferences as an output from joint R&D activities;
• mutual use of special laboratory equipment;
• research materials collection.

Maximum duration of projects is 24 months. The financial support is strictly limited to short-term participants mobility. More about bilateral S&T cooperation can be found on page 34.

Multilateral Cooperation – support of activities engaged in international cooperation:
• Call for submitting R&D projects induced by the international cooperation in EU Framework Programme.
• Call for submitting projects of R&D EUREKA.
• Call for submitting projects induced by international cooperation in R&D within COST.
• Call for European Science Foundation activities.

More about multilateral cooperation on page 44.

Agency programmes
The following programmes were approved for support in the period 2007 – 2010:
• Programme for Human Potential Support in R&D and Science Popularisation
• Support for R&D of SMEs
• Support for Creation and Activities of Research and Education Centers of Excellence
• Support for University and Academy cooperation with Entrepreneurship
• Support for Preparation of FP7 projects

These programmes were terminated on 31 December 2010. Presidium of SRDA prepares proposals of new programmes which are supposed to be approved by the end of 2011.

More information
www.apvv.sk

VEGA – Science Grant Agency
Science Grant Agency (VEGA) is a grant agency of the MESRS SR and the Board of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Researchers from universities in the SR, from the Slovak Academy of Sciences and from organisations directly controlled by the MESRS SR may apply for financial support within the agency. VEGA accepts applications for grants for scientific projects that solve problems of basic research. A project submitted to VEGA has to represent a proposal for a solution to an integral mono-topical scientific problem within a specific time frame. Projects are not thematically limited.

More information:

KEGA – Cultural and Education Grant Agency
The Cultural and Education Grant Agency (KEGA) is an internal grant agency of the MESRS SR focused on financial support of research projects in the field of education and creative art in defined thematic areas. Applicants from universities may apply for the financial support from KEGA. Thematic areas are as follows:
The programme of primary and secondary schools development (perspectives), New technologies, methods and forms in education, Content integration and diversification of higher education, Culture and arts development. Thematic priorities and calls for submitting projects for the forthcoming calendar year are published by MESRS SR in the second half of current year.

More information:
website of the MESRS SR: www.minedu.sk

3.3.3 EU structural funds
The support of R&D is implemented also by means of EU structural funds. The Operational Programme (OP) Research and Development, financed from the European...
Research in Slovakia

The managing entity for the operational programme is the MESRS SR. The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR has established an Agency for the Structural Funds of EU with the objective to provide assistance for the implementation process (the acceptance, assessment, financial management and monitoring of projects) of EU Structural Funds, in the programme period 2007 – 2013.


Other sources of R&D funding in Slovakia

Apart from public/state funding resources (including EU structural funds) R&D is also financed by the private sector and non-governmental non-profit organisations. In addition to national funding, R&D is also funded from international resources, e.g. from EU research and technological development framework programmes.

3.3.4 The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic

The National Scholarship Programme (NSP) is a flagship of Slovak mobility funding. Establishment of the NSP was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2005 and is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

The NSP supports incoming and outgoing mobility – the incoming scheme supports foreign students, PhD students, university teachers and researchers to stay at Slovak universities and Slovak research organisations; the outgoing scheme supports Slovak students, PhD students, university teachers and researchers to spend part of their studies or carry out their research at a foreign university or research institute.

The scholarship for the incoming applicants is provided for 1 – 12-month stay at a Slovak institution. The scholarship does not support pursuing the entire Master/PhD programme in Slovakia, nor does it for Slovak nationals studying abroad. The applicant cannot already be employed for lecturing/research activity in Slovakia or have a parallel funding from different source.

Citizens from following countries can apply for scholarship:

a) European Union Member States;
b) other countries participating in the Bologna process (listed are only countries that are not EU member states) – Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia (including Kosovo), Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine;
c) Belarus, Kazakhstan;
d) Canada, Central American countries, Latin American countries, Mexico, the United States of America;
e) Australia, China (including Taiwan), Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Vietnam.

The scholarship covers living costs during the study, research or teaching stay of foreign applicants. It does not cover the travel costs to and from Slovakia.

Amount of a monthly scholarship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) university student (master level)</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) PhD student</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) university teacher/researcher or artist:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– early-stage university teacher/researcher</td>
<td>670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or artist:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– with PhD or with less than 4 years experience</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– with PhD and more than 4 years experience</td>
<td>1 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applications for scholarships are submitted on-line on www.scholarships.sk. The on-line application system usually opens 6 weeks before the deadline. Some documents have to be sent in original by mail to the following address:

SAIA, n. o.
Námestie slobody 23
812 20 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

Applications deadline:
• 30 April until 16:00 CET – for winter and/or summer semester of the following academic year
• 31 October until 16:00 CET – for summer semester of the following academic year

More information:
www.scholarships.sk, www.saia.sk

3.3.5 Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic awarded for the entire doctoral study within Official Development Assistance

The Government of the Slovak Republic annually awards scholarships for 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 also
3.3.6 Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

The MESRS SR offers scholarships for study within accredited study/doctoral programmes or academic stays 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).

Scholarships for study stay of PhD students

The MESRS SR grants scholarships to candidates for PhD study stay in Slovak or English language in the public universities in the SR, depending on the acceptance by the university in the SR, or the specialised training workplace of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS).

Candidates applying for scholarship for PhD study stay within this offer must meet the following conditions:
- to complete higher education in a study programme of the second level (acquire degrees of “MSc.” at a foreign university, or “Mgr.”, “Ing.”, “MUDr.” or “MVDr.” at a university in the SR) and study at a foreign university in the selected doctoral study programme.
- submit a completed application form for the provision of a scholarship of the MESRS SR with a statement of the anticipated department or institute in the SR, as well as the respective appendices (the form is available electronically at www.studyin.sk),
- to be PhD students, aged 23 to 35 years.

For the approved duration of study stay in a selected course of study, determined by the decision of the MESRS SR, i.e. during the time when he/she is a scholarship holder, he/she shall be provided:
- a monthly scholarship in total amount of 330 €,
- accommodation in a student hall of residence and meals in student canteens for a fee equal with students that are SR nationals,
- education at a selected public university, under equal conditions with SR nationals during the approved period of exchange,
- mandatory public health insurance.

The MESRS SR cannot provide any financial sources to cover travel costs at commencement and completion of the study in the SR.

Scholarships for 3-month academic/research stays

The MESRS SR grants scholarships to candidates for the research stay at public universities in SR or at research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS).

Candidates applying for this scholarship must meet the following conditions:
- to complete a university study in a study programme of minimum second level (acquire academic degree of “MSc.” at a foreign university, or “Mgr.”, “Ing.”, “MUDr.” or “MVDr.” at a university in the SR) and work at a foreign university or a research institute,
- to submit a completed application form for the provision of a scholarship of the MESRS SR with a statement of the study department of the doctoral study according to the applicable list of study departments of doctoral study carried out in the SR with a preliminary acceptance of the anticipated department or institute in the SR, as well as the respective appendices (the form is available electronically at www.studyin.sk),
- to be graduates of universities, aged 30 to 50.

For the duration of the research stay, to be determined by the MESRS SR, the holders of the scholarship of the MESRS SR shall be provided:
- a monthly scholarship in total amount of 550 €,
- accommodation of campus-type and meals in canteens for employees of the receiving organisation at the same conditions as the Slovak citizens.

The MESRS SR does not provide any financial resources for travel expenses associated with the stay in the SR.

Address, to which the documents must be sent:
- The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic International Cooperation Division Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava Slovak Republic

Application deadline: 31st May

The delivery date to the Slovak Republic is decisive. Incomplete materials and applications delivered after this deadline will not be considered.

Decision of award/refusal of the scholarship of the MESRS SR will be announced in writing to contact address indicated in application by the 31st August. It will be also announced electronically at www.studyin.sk.

More information:
3.4.1 Bilateral scientific and technological cooperation based on intergovernmental agreements

The Government of the Slovak Republic has concluded bilateral agreements on scientific and technological cooperation to support the participation of scientists and experts in joint projects with several countries that are listed below. Institutions usually responsible for execution on the national level are also listed.

Calls for proposals are published on websites of the responsible institutions (usually once in two years). It is therefore advisable to visit their websites on a regular basis. Proposals for the S&T projects based on the concluded agreements can be submitted mostly by both physical and legal entities from both the public and private sectors active in R&D. Only jointly submitted proposals will be eligible for consideration. Both project partners have to submit their common proposal separately before the deadline to the addresses of respective coordinating institutions in their countries, which also provide the relevant application forms. The final selection of proposals is made by the Joint Committee, which takes into consideration the evaluation of both Parties.

Financial support for bilateral projects can be used exclusively to finance the mobility of scientists and experts.

As of 31st March 2011 the SR has concluded 20 bilateral intergovernmental agreements on scientific and technological cooperation with the following countries:

- **Austria**
  The Ministry of Science and Research
  [www.bmwf.gv.at](http://www.bmwf.gv.at)
  Austrian agency for international mobility and cooperation in education, science and research (OeAD-GmbH)
  [www.oead.at](http://www.oead.at)

- **Bulgaria**
  The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science
  [www.minedu.government.bg](http://www.minedu.government.bg)

- **Czech Republic**
  The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
  [www.msmt.cz](http://www.msmt.cz)
  The Association of Innovative Entrepreneurship (submission of applications)
  [www.aipcr.cz](http://www.aipcr.cz)

- **China**
  The Ministry of Science and Technology of P. R. C., International Cooperation Department
  [wwwMOST.gov.cn/eng](http://wwwMOST.gov.cn/eng)

- **Egypt**
  The Ministry of Scientific Research, Science and Technology
  [www.egy-mhe.gov.eg](http://www.egy-mhe.gov.eg)

- **France**
  The Ministry of Higher Education and Research
  [www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr)
  Égide – a non-profit association managing the French Government’s international cooperation initiatives
  [www.egide.asso.fr](http://www.egide.asso.fr)

- **Greece**
  The Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religion of the Hellenic Republic, General Secretariat for Research & Technology, Bilateral Relations Division
  [www.gsrte.gr](http://www.gsrte.gr) (in Greek only)

- **Germany**
  The Federal Ministry of Education and Research
  [www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)
  There is also a possibility of cooperation on joint R&D projects based on the agreement between the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR, The Slovak Academy of Sciences and DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst – German Academic Exchange Service) referred to as PPP – Projektbezogener Personenenaustausch (Exchange programme for researchers working on joint projects).
  Further information is available at [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

- **Hungary**
  The National Office for Research and Technology
  [www.nkth.gov.hu](http://www.nkth.gov.hu)

- **India**
  The Government of India, Department of Science & Technology, International S&T Cooperation Division
  [www.stic-dst.org](http://www.stic-dst.org)

- **Italy**
  The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Directorate for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation
  [www.esteri.it](http://www.esteri.it)

- **Lithuania**
  The Ministry of Education and Science
  [www.smm.lt](http://www.smm.lt)

- **Poland**
  The Ministry of Science and Higher Education
  [www.nauka.gov.pl](http://www.nauka.gov.pl)

- **Portugal**
  The Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education
  [www.mctes.pt](http://www.mctes.pt)
Research in Slovakia

3.4.2 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 (see the table) 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 the purpose of study, research or training. There is no general limitation regarding field of study. Applicants must be fluent in English or other language agreed/arranged with a Slovak host university or research institute. List of all Slovak universities and research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Candidates must be nominated by the appropriate counterpart institutions (see the table). PhD students and researchers wishing to study or conduct research in Slovakia should arrange in advance a contact with a Slovak host research institution. List of all Slovak higher education institutions and research institutes can be found above in this guide.

For further information (specific instructions, exact application deadlines) about funding for academic and research pursuits please consult websites of the appropriate counterpart institutions.

Scholarship disbursement

Sending party usually covers travel costs (based upon the distance between the location of the host university or research institute and the PhD student/researcher’s place of origin). Receiving party usually covers a living allowance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Counterpart institution &amp; URL</th>
<th>Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity</th>
<th>Target group (incoming researchers)</th>
<th>Special eligibility conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Action Austria – Slovakia, Cooperation in Science and Education</td>
<td>Research stay of PhD students (1 to 4 months)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>At the date of application finished at least one semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austrian agency for International Mobility and Cooperation in Education, science and research (ÖAD)</td>
<td>Research stay for postdocs (1 to 6 months)</td>
<td>PhD holder</td>
<td>PhD holder (excellent researcher) with no more than 10 years of research experience after having graduated from a PhD programme, not to be in the position of an Associate Professor (or “habilitation” yet)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short visits (up to 3 days)</td>
<td>PhD students</td>
<td>PhD students (PhD students, university teachers, researchers)</td>
<td>Age limit is 60 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>University student</td>
<td>University student</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium-Flanders</td>
<td>Flemish Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (Vlaamse Gemeenschap)</td>
<td>Advanced training (1 to 10 months)</td>
<td>University graduate</td>
<td>Up to 35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research stay (1 to 4 months)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>PhD student (PhD students, university teachers, teachers at higher education institution)</td>
<td>Up to 35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD Student Teacher at higher education institution</td>
<td>PhD Student Teacher at higher education institution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conferences, congresses, seminars (1 to 2 weeks)</td>
<td>Teacher of higher education institution</td>
<td>Teacher of higher education institution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Currently, the long-term scholarship (at least 1 month) pays 330 €/month for PhD students and 550 €/month for researchers. For short stays the receiving party shall provide the visiting student/teacher/researcher with per diems and free accommodation.

There are no grants for family members. Scholarship holders must be insured against illness and accident during the scholarship period.

For further information on terms and conditions of the insurance contact the appropriate counterpart institutions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Counterpart institution &amp; URL</th>
<th>Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity</th>
<th>Target group (Incoming researchers)</th>
<th>Special eligibility conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium-French Community</td>
<td>Ministry of French Community Education and Research (Ministère de l’Éducation et de la Recherche)</td>
<td>Specialisation and research stay (1 to 10 months)</td>
<td>University graduate PhD student Teacher at higher education institution Researcher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Art (in Bulgarian only)</td>
<td>Research stay (1 to 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD Student Researcher Teacher of higher education institution</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Art (in Bulgarian only)</td>
<td>Post graduate/research stay (1 to 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher Teacher of higher education institution</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Ministry of Science and Higher Education (Ministarstvo školstva i visokoobrazovanja)</td>
<td>Study fellowship (1 to 3 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Postgraduate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (<a href="http://www.moe.cz">www.moe.cz</a>)</td>
<td>Study stay (1 semester) (only at Slovak universities)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (<a href="http://www.minedu.gov.dk">www.minedu.gov.dk</a>)</td>
<td>Study/research stay (1 to 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Centre for International Mobility (SAS)</td>
<td>Study/research stay (3 months)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Centre for International Mobility (SAS)</td>
<td>Study/research stay (1 to 9 months)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Up to 35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)</td>
<td>Short-term study stay (max. 10 days)</td>
<td>Teacher of higher education institution Researcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Art (in Greek)</td>
<td>Long-term research stay (2 to 6 months)</td>
<td>Teacher of higher education institution Researcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (MŠMT)</td>
<td>Short-term study stay (1 to 3 months)</td>
<td>Teacher of higher education institution Researcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conference, seminars, lectures</td>
<td>Researcher Teacher of higher education institution</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Counterpart &amp; URL</td>
<td>Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity</td>
<td>Target group (Incoming researchers)</td>
<td>Special eligibility conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs <a href="http://www.mfa.gov.il">www.mfa.gov.il</a></td>
<td>Post graduate stay (max. 10 months)</td>
<td>University graduate PhD student</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>University graduate PhD student</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Study/research stay (10 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Researchers</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs <a href="http://www.mfa.it">www.mfa.it</a></td>
<td>Study/research stay (max. 10 months)</td>
<td>University graduate PhD student</td>
<td>Up to 40 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sports (in Macedonian only) <a href="http://www.edu.gov.mk/mk">www.edu.gov.mk/mk</a></td>
<td>Study/research stay (3 to 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Slovak or English language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research stay (up to 8 months)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Musical interpretation course</td>
<td>PhD student, musical interpreter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Study stay (7 days)</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Science, Culture, and Sports <a href="http://www.men.gov.ru">www.men.gov.ru</a></td>
<td>Research stay (1 to 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Researchers</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports <a href="http://www.men.gov.rs">www.men.gov.rs</a></td>
<td>Study/research stay (1 to 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology <a href="http://www.mdi.gov.si">www.mdi.gov.si</a></td>
<td>Study/research stay (1 to 3 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Researchers</td>
<td>Up to 35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Counterpart institution &amp; URL</td>
<td>Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity</td>
<td>Target group (incoming researchers)</td>
<td>Special eligibility conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>State Secretariat for Education and Research <a href="www.meb.gov.tr">link</a></td>
<td>Post graduate study stay (9 months)</td>
<td>University graduate PhD student</td>
<td>Up to 35 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Ministry of National Education <a href="www.cies.org">link</a></td>
<td>Research stay (8 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Teacher of higher education institution</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sport of the Slovak Republic <a href="www.oead.at">link</a></td>
<td>Study/research stay (1 to 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher Teacher of higher education institution</td>
<td>Students and researchers of Slovak language studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Fulbright Commission <a href="www.fulbright.sk">link</a></td>
<td>Lecturing/research stay (9 months) For more information consult: <a href="www.cies.org">www.cies.org</a></td>
<td>Teacher of higher education institution Researcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Study/research stay (9 months): for more information consult: <a href="www.iee.org">www.iee.org</a></td>
<td>University graduate Researcher Teacher of higher education institution</td>
<td>All fields of study Knowledge of the Slovak language at the level needed in fields: political science, history, anthropology (by the begin. of the grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English Teaching Assistantship (9 months), for more information consult: <a href="www.iee.org">www.iee.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specialist Program (2 to 6 weeks), for more information consult: <a href="www.cies.org">www.cies.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**3.4.3 Action Austria – Slovakia, Cooperation in Science and Education**

This is a bilateral programme the objective of which is 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. Since 2008 the Action Austria-Slovakia has been running on the basis of the new agreement on its continuation during the period 2008 – 2013.

The Programme is administered by SAIA, n. o. ([www.saia.sk](www.saia.sk)).

Via the Programme, the financial support is provided to PhD students and researchers in the form of individual scholarships and cooperation projects.

Following types of **individual scholarships** are offered for PhD students and researchers:

- **scholarships for research stay of PhD students (1 – 4 months):** scholarship of 940 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October
- **scholarships for research stays of post-docs (3 – 6 months):** scholarship of 1 500 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October
- **scholarships for short visits** (max. 3 days): scholarship of 90 €/day; application deadline; application possible throughout the year
- **scholarships for summer school of Slovak language** (for PhD students only); application deadline: 15 March

**Cooperation projects concerned with** the following areas can be supported:

- cooperation of young researchers (PhD students and post-docs),
- organisation of Slovak-Austrian PhD training on enhancement of communication skills and on project preparation,
- organisation of joint Slovak-Austrian language summer schools.

Electronic submission of project proposals: [http://projekt.aktion.saia.sk](http://projekt.aktion.saia.sk)

More information: [www.oead.at](www.oead.at), [www.aktion.saia.sk](www.aktion.saia.sk) (in Slovak and in German).

**3.4.4 Fulbright Programs for U. S. citizens**

The Fulbright Program of the Slovak Republic providing U. S. citizens with individual grants and awards, is administered by the J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange, based on bilateral agreement between the Governments of the U. S. A. and Slovak Republic. U. S. students, scholars, professionals, and teachers can obtain a financial support for their study, research, and teaching stays in the Slovak Republic.

General requirements for grants and awards are the U. S. citizenship at the time of application and high level of academic and professional achievements. The program is administered in the SR by the Fulbright office in Bratislava ([www.fulbright.sk](www.fulbright.sk)).

**Fulbright Program Mechanisms:**

Programs administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars ([www.cies.org](www.cies.org))

- Fulbright Scholar Program for U. S. Faculty and Professionals – to lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.
The Fulbright Specialists Program – designed to provide short-term academic opportunities (2 to 6 weeks) for U.S. faculty and professionals.

Programs administered by the Institute of International Education (www.iie.org)

Fulbright for Graduate Study and Research Abroad – for recent graduates, postgraduate candidates, and developing professionals and artists to conduct study and research in the Slovak Republic. Advanced graduate students capable of working independently are preferred.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship – for graduating seniors with degrees in English, History, American literature, TEFL/Applied Linguistics and/or experience in teaching and/or coursework in American studies. Grantees will be placed as teaching assistants corresponding to their project priorities throughout the country. Positions will require teaching at least 15 hours per week.

More information: www.fulbright.sk

3.5 Funding by multilateral/international programmes or international organisations

3.5.1 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development (FP7)

FP7 is the EU’s main instrument for funding research. It lasts from 2007 till 2013 and has a total budget of over 50 billion €.

It has two main strategic objectives:
1) to strengthen the scientific and technological base of European industry; and
2) to encourage its international competitiveness, while promoting research that supports EU policies. Participation in FP7 is open to a wide range of organisations and individuals from any country in the world. The procedure for participation and funding possibilities vary for different groups of countries.

The Specific Programmes constitute four major building blocks of FP7:
- Cooperation
- Ideas
- People
- Capacities

Cooperation
The specific programme on Cooperation supports all types of research activities carried out by different research bodies in trans-national cooperation and aims to gain or consolidate leadership in key scientific and technology areas.

FP7 allocates 32.4 billion €, representing two thirds of the overall FP7 budget, to the Cooperation programme. The budget will be devoted to supporting cooperation between universities, industry, research centres and public authorities throughout the EU and beyond.

The Cooperation programme is sub-divided into ten distinct themes:
- Health
- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including Climate Change)
- Transport (including Aeronautics)
- Socioeconomic Sciences and Humanities
- Space
- Security

Each theme is operationally autonomous but aims to maintain coherence within the Cooperation Programme and allowing for joint activities across different themes, through, for example, joint calls.

Across all these themes, support to trans-national cooperation will be implemented through:
- Collaborative research: European Excellence
- Coordination between national research programmes
- Joint Technology Initiatives
- Technology Platforms

Ideas
The Ideas programme supports “frontier research” solely on the basis of scientific excellence. The budget is more than 7.5 billion €. Research may be carried out in any area of science or technology, including engineering, socio-economic sciences and the humanities. There is no obligation for cross-border partnerships – projects are implemented by “individual teams” around a “principal investigator”.

In general, there are two types of grants:
1. ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant – aims to support up-and-coming research leaders who are about to establish or consolidate a proper research team and to start conducting independent research in Europe. The scheme targets promising researchers who have the proven potential of becoming independent research leaders.
2. ERC Advanced Investigators Grant – funding scheme that complements the ERC Starting Grant funding scheme by targeting researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right. ERC Advanced Grants allow exceptional established research leaders in any field of science, engineering and scholarship to pursue frontier research of their choice. It aims to encourage risk-taking and interdisciplinarity, and supports pioneering frontier research projects.

For the implementation of this programme a European Research Council (ERC) consisting of an independent Scientific Council and a dedicated implementation structure, has been established by the Commission. The ERC operates according to the principles of scientific excellence, autonomy, efficiency, transparency and accountability, and supports investigator-driven projects in ‘frontier research’, carried out by individual teams competing at the European level, within and across all fields of research. Find more detailed information on ERC website www.erc.europa.eu.

People
 Entirely dedicated to human resources in research, this Specific Programme has a significant overall budget of more than 4.7 billion € over a seven year period until 2013. The People programme provides support for researcher mobility and career development, both for researchers inside the EU and internationally. It addresses researchers at all stages of their careers, in both public and private sectors and is open to all domains of research and technological development addressed under the EC Treaty. Research fields are chosen freely by the applicants in a ‘bottom-up’ manner.

The ‘People’ Specific Programme is implemented through Marie Curie Actions under five headings:
• ‘Initial training’ of researchers to improve mostly young researchers’ career perspectives in both public and private sectors, by broadening their scientific and generic skills, including those related to technology transfer and entrepreneurship.

• ‘Life-long training’ to support experienced researchers in complementing or acquiring new skills and competencies or in enhancing inter/multidisciplinarity and/or intersectoral mobility, in resuming a research career after a break and in (re) integrating into a longer term research position in Europe after a trans-national mobility experience.

• ‘Industry-academia pathways and partnerships’ to stimulate intersectoral mobility and increase knowledge sharing through joint research partnerships in longer term cooperation programmes between organisations from academia and industry, in particular SMEs and including traditional manufacturing industries.

• ‘International dimension’, to contribute to the life-long training and career development of EU-researchers, to attract research talent from outside Europe and to foster mutually beneficial research collaboration with research actors from outside Europe.

• ‘Specific actions’ to support removing obstacles to mobility and enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe (e.g. Researchers’ Night).

Information on open calls for proposal under the People programme is available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people.

3.5.2 Programmes for cooperation in education and vocational training funded from EU sources

Since 2004 the Slovak Republic is a member of the EU. Therefore there is no limitation for institutions from Slovakia to participate in any EU programme designed to strengthen cooperations not only among EU member states but also with third (non-EU) countries.

Capacities

The Commission’s proposals for the FP7 Capacities programme aim to enhance research and innovation capacities throughout Europe and ensure their optimal use. The Capacities programme is provided with a budget of a 097 million € to operate in seven broad areas:

- Research infrastructures
- Research for the benefit of SMEs
- Regions of knowledge and support for regional research-driven clusters
- Research potential of Convergence Regions
- Science in society
- Support to the coherent development of research policies
- International cooperation

This specific programme also aims to:

- Support the coherent development of policies;
- Complement the Cooperation programme;
- Contribute to EU policies and initiatives to improve the coherence and impact of Member States policies;
- Find synergies with regional and cohesion policies, the Structural Funds, education and training programmes and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

Information on all financial instruments of FP7 as well as calls for proposals is available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/capacities.

Lifelong Learning Programme of EU

The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) enables individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe. It is an umbrella programme integrating various educational and training initiatives. LLP is divided in four sectoral sub programmes and four so called ‘transversal’ programmes.

With a budget of nearly 7 billion € for 2007 to 2013, the programme funds a range of actions including exchanges, study visits and networking activities. Projects are intended not only for individual students and learners, but also for teachers, trainers and all others involved in education and training.


The programme is open to:

- 27 EU Member States,
- Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland,
- Turkey, Croatia.

The Lifelong Learning Programme consists of: four sectoral sub-programmes focusing on school education (Comenius), higher education (Erasmus), vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci) and adult education (Grundtvig).

Comenius programme

Addresses the teaching and learning needs of those which is pre-school and school education up to the level of the end of upper secondary education, and the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training.

Erasmus programme

Addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in formal higher education and vocational education and training at tertiary level, whatever the length of their course or qualification may be and including doctoral studies, and the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training.

Leonardo da Vinci programme

Addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in vocational education and training, other than at tertiary level, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training.

Grundtvig programme

Addresses the teaching and learning needs of those in all forms of adult education, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education.

Four transversal programmes targeted on crosscutting areas:

- Policy cooperation and innovation
- Languages
- Information and communication technologies – ICT
- Dissemination and exploitation of results

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

More information:


SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation – www.saaic.sk

Erasmus Mundus

Erasmus Mundus aims to enhance quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world.
The programme offers financial support for institutions and scholarships for individuals.

The Erasmus Mundus Programme 2009 – 2013 is open to higher education institutions and to any organisation active in the field of higher education and research as well as to students, doctoral candidates, teachers, researchers and university staff (academic and/or administrative) from any part of the world.

The funding opportunities for different types of applicants:

Higher education institutions organised into consortia/partnerships
- Higher education institutions can participate in:
  - Consortia to develop and implement joint masters/doctoral programmes (Action 1);
  - Partnerships (Action 2);
  - Consortia to develop and implement promotion projects (Action 3).

Other bodies
1) Other bodies active in the field of higher education and research
- Other public or private bodies active in the field of education and research can participate in:
  - Consortia to develop and implement joint masters/doctoral programmes (Action 1);
  - Consortia to develop and implement promotion projects (Action 3).
- Enterprises and other employers can participate in:
  - Consortia to develop and implement joint doctoral programmes (Action 1).
- Erasmus Mundus National Structures can participate in:
  - Consortia to develop and implement promotion projects (Action 3).
2) Other bodies which could be particularly relevant for the objectives and activities of the programme
- Associates partners from the eligible countries can be involved in the Partnerships (Action 2). They play an active role in the action but they are not beneficiaries and may not receive funding from the grant.

Students and academics
- Students in higher education can receive scholarships for:
  - Undergraduate studies (Action 2);
  - Masters studies (Actions 1 and 2);
  - Doctoral candidates can receive fellowships for:
    - Doctoral studies (Actions 1 and 2);
    - Post-doctoral studies (Action 2);
- Teachers and researchers can receive fellowships for:
  - Teaching and research periods (Actions 1 and 2);
- Other academic staff can receive scholarships/fellowships under Actions 1 and 2

More information:
European Commission, DG Education and Culture
http://ec.europa.eu/education/eduction
The Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA)
SAAC – Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation
www.saaic.sk

Cooperation in education and training with industrialised countries
EU – Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the USA
The EU has set up joint study programmes with industrialised countries, particularly in North America and the Asia-Pacific region, that provide financial support for student mobility. Such cooperation enhances the quality of higher education and vocational training for both partners and promotes greater intercultural understanding.

The overall aims are to:
- Promote better relations between European and partner countries’ citizens, and improve understanding of cultures, languages and institutions.
- Facilitate the acquisition of skills needed for the global knowledge-based economy.

The main activities are:
- Joint/double degree projects, launched with the US in 2006, which support consortia of higher education institutions in creating integrated joint study programmes, with students from the two sides spending a substantial period of study in the partner country and receiving either a joint or a double degree;
- Joint mobility projects which are set up and run by a group of higher education and/or vocational education and training institutions from the EU and a partner country. Activities focus on short-term mobility of students (typically one semester) with recognition of study abroad periods, joint curriculum development, and exchange of trainees, teaching staff or administrators;
- Policy dialogue and projects which address strategic issues related to education and training systems and policies of the EU and its partner countries. Activities include studies, seminars, working groups and benchmarking exercises. Relevant issues include recognition of qualifications and accreditation.

Participants can include groups of higher education and training institutions from the EU and a given partner country, students and faculty belonging to these institutions. For policy-oriented projects (USA only), other organisations such as accreditation agencies, education agencies or organisations, private companies, industry and business groups, non-governmental organisations, research institutes and professional bodies can also participate.

More information:
EU-Canada: http://ec.europa.eu/education/eu-canada/doc1563_en.htm
EU-Australia: http://ec.europa.eu/education/eu-australia/doc1579_en.htm
EU-New Zealand: http://ec.europa.eu/education/eu-new-zealand/doc1595_en.htm
EU-Korea: http://ec.europa.eu/education/eu-korea/doc1603_en.htm

Tempus
Tempus is the European Union’s programme which supports the modernisation of higher education in the Partner Countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean region, mainly through university cooperation projects.

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is responsible for the management of Tempus IV (2007 – 2013), under the supervision of EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Office (DEVCO) and Directorate-General for Enlargement (DG ELARG of the European Commission).

The Tempus Programme 2007 – 2013 is composed of 3 different actions, all managed by the Executive Agency:
- Joint Projects foster partnerships between higher education institutions
in the EU and partner countries. They can develop, modernise and disseminate new curricula, teaching methods or materials, as well as boosting quality assurance and management of higher education institutions.
• **Structural Measures** aim to develop and reform higher education institutions and systems in partner countries; to enhance their quality and relevance, and to increase convergence with EU developments.
• **Accompanying Measures** comprise dissemination and information activities related to Tempus projects, such as conferences on various themes relevant to the programme, studies, consultation with stakeholders and activities aimed at identifying and making best use of ‘good practice’ on projects. This Action is also used to support the network of National Tempus Offices and Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs).


**Programme ALFA III – Latin America Academic Training**
ALFA (América Latina – Formación Académica) III is a programme of cooperation between higher education institutions of the European Union and Latin America. The programme has been implemented through networks of higher education institutions (HEI), adult education or continuing education centres; non-profit organisations; National Authorities and private enterprises.

Participant countries are the Member States of the European Union and the following 18 countries of Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.


### 3.5.3 European Science Foundation

The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an association of 78 member organisations devoted to scientific research (research funding organisations, research performing organisations, academies) in 30 European countries. It promotes high quality science at a European level. It acts as a catalyst for the development of science by bringing together leading scientists and funding agencies to debate, plan and implement pan-European initiatives. The ESF is committed to facilitating cooperation and collaboration in European science on behalf of its principal stakeholders (Member Organisations and Europe’s scientific community). This cross-border activity combines both ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-up’ approaches in the long-term development of science.

The ESF’s various instruments for promoting European science are open to all members of Europe’s scientific community.

ESF divides activities three pillars:

- **Science Strategy**
  - Within this pillar which aims to provide high level and high quality foresight and advice on science, research infrastructure and science policy issues, are activities such as Forward Looks, Science Policy Briefings, Member Organisation Fora and Exploratory Workshops.

More information: [www.esf.org](http://www.esf.org)

### 3.5.4 COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology

COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level. COST has a very specific mission and goal. It contributes to reducing the fragmentation in European research investments and opening the European Research Area to cooperation worldwide.

As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST plays a very important role in building a European Research Area (ERA). It anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Framework Programmes, constituting a “bridge” towards the scientific communities of emerging countries. It also increases the mobility of researchers across Europe and fosters the establishment of scientific excellence in the nine key domains:

- Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences
- Food and Agriculture
- Forests, their Products and Services
- Materials, Physics and Nanosciences
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies
- Earth System Science and Environmental Management
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Transport and Urban Development
- Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health Policies

In addition, Trans-Domain Proposals allow for broad, multidisciplinary proposals to strike across the nine scientific domains. COST is composed of 36 countries (35 member countries and one cooperating country) that also govern it: 27 EU Member State, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Iceland, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and Israel (cooperating country). COST does not fund research itself but provides a platform for European scientists to cooperate on a particular project and exchange expertise. These projects are called “Actions”. Each COST Action is a network centred around nationally-funded research projects in fields that are of interest to at least five COST countries. COST provides the COST Actions with financial support for joint activities such as conferences, short-term scientific exchanges and publications. Each COST Action has an objective, defined goals and clear deliverables. COST Actions have located their topic into one of COST’s scientific Domains.

More information: [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)

**National coordinator for Slovakia:**
Prof. Milan Dado, PhD
University of Žilina
Faculty of Electric Engineering
Univerzitná 8215/1, 01 026 Žilina
The Slovak Republic

e-mail: milan.dado@uniza.sk
**3.5.5 EUREKA**

EUREKA is a pan-European framework for research and development cooperation through which industry and research organisations from 35 European countries and the European Union develop and exploit the technologies crucial to global competitiveness and a better quality of life. The EUREKA programme is aimed at the companies and research institutes willing to co-operate on the particular projects at international level. It is the main instrument for market-oriented research. The Slovak Republic became a EUREKA member on June 28, 2001.

EUREKA comprises the following fields of technology:
- Electronics, IT & Telecomms Technology,
- Industrial Manufacturing,
- Material & Transport,
- Other Industrial Technologies,
- Energy Technology,
- Chemistry, Physical & Exact Sciences,
- Biological Sciences (incl. medical technology and genome research),
- Agriculture & Marine Resources,
- Agrofood Technology,
- Measurements & Standards,
- Technology for protecting humankind & the environment.

**Initiatives of EUREKA:**
- Individual projects – the most common EUREKA funding tool. It is used for high-technology market oriented R&D projects aiming at developing a cutting edge civilian product, process or service and must involve partners from at least two EUREKA member countries
- Eurostars – a European reasearch and development programme targeting small and medium enterprises. It can address any technological area but must have a civilian purpose and be aimed at the development of a new product, process or service.
- Clusters – longer term strategically significant industrial initiatives. They have a large number of participants, and aim to develop generic technologies of key importance for European competitiveness.
- Umbrellas – thematic networks focusing on a specific technology area or business sector. Their main goal is to facilitate the generation of EUREKA projects in its own target area.

Countries participate in EUREKA projects through a network of National Information Points (NIPs). The affiliation known as Associated Country Status was initiated as part of EUREKA’s strategy to enhance cooperation with countries outside of Europe judged to have scientific and research potential. The National Project Coordinators (NPC) are at operational level, running the National EUREKA Offices. They are the direct contact with project in each member country. NPCs facilitate the setting-up and running of a project and are responsible for project generation, national and international support and follow-up.

More information: www.eurekanetwork.org

**3.5.6 NATO – Science for Peace and Security Programme**

The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme supports practical scientific and technical cooperation among scientists and experts from NATO and its partners. This is on a broad range of security-related issues in the fields of defence against terrorist threats and countering other threats to security. The SPS programme consists of NATO-funded activities, as well as nationally-funded SPS activities. In the former case, the activities are either based on applications submitted by scientists or experts (i.e., bottom-up activities) or on proposals submitted by the Emerging Security Challenges Division/Science for Peace and Security Working Group (i.e., top-down activities), based on specific requests by NATO and partner nations.

**Activities Funded by NATO**

The SPS Programme supports collaboration between scientists from NATO member states and those from Partner countries associated with NATO. Grants are given for workshops, training, and multi-year projects which are focused on research topics relevant to NATO’s objectives. All activities funded under the Programme must address topics that are proposed in response to those Key Priorities. The SPS Key Priorities, which are in line with NATO’s Strategic Objectives and formally approved by the NATO Political and Partnerships Committee (PPC), are reviewed on a regular basis. Partner nations which have developed Individual Partnership Action Plans (IPAPs) or Individual Partnership Programmes (IPPs) identify their national and regional priorities in those documents.

Activities are based on applications submitted by individual experts/scientists (bottom-up activities) or are developed by the Emerging Security Challenges (ESC)/SPS Working Group (top-down activities).

Top-down activities are initiated in response to specific needs (pressing priorities identified by NATO divisions or Committees, requests from partner countries, important issues identified by Global Partner countries, etc.).

**Submission of Applications**

The application forms and notes for applicants may be found at www.nato.int/science/nato_funded_activities/grant_mechanisms.htm. Applications should be submitted electronically to the Emerging Security Challenges/SPS Staff at the following e-mail address: sps.applications@hq.nato.int. Applications may be submitted at any time. However, applicants need to be aware of the fact that the ISEG members only meet twice a year to review the applications. Information on the next meeting of the ISEG will be published on the home page of the SPS website.

**Activities funded by Nations – Nationally-Funded Activities (NFA)**

In addition to activities funded by NATO SPS, the Independent Scientific Evaluation Group (ISEG) also engages in activities funded directly by one or more nations. These consist of Pilot Studies, Short-term Projects and Topical Workshops which are aligned with NATO’s Strategic Objectives and are in the NATO SPS Key Priority areas. Proposals for nationally-funded activities are made by (Alliance or Partner) nations and can address any subject within areas which are outlined in the Key Priorities defined by the Political and Partnerships Committee (PPC). Nationally-Funded Activities (NFA) are included in the SPS Programme if they
The main activity of CEEPUS is university networks operating joint programmes ideally leading to Joint Degrees, esp. Joint Doctoral Programmes. CEEPUS covers mobility grants for students and teachers in this framework. Programme members are Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, FYR Macedonia, Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, University of Prishtina in Kosovo, and, from the academic year 2011/2012, Moldova.

The main objectives of CEEPUS are to:
- contribute to merging the European Higher Education Area and European Research Area,
- use regional academic mobility as a strategic tool to implement Bologna objectives,
- enable cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe, the Ukraine and Moldova.

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 are supported (related to PhD thesis elaboration) as well as stays for guest university lecturers (1 month, minimum 5 days and 6 lectures). Students and PhD students shall not be older than 35 years of age. All fields of study are welcome and there are no priority areas.

Universities collaborate within the framework of approved networks. Each network shall consist of at least 3 universities from 3 different member states involved in the Programme. Applications for university networking and for mobilities are submitted only on-line at www.ceepus.info. The deadline is January 15. In the first round, the decision on network membership is made by the National Selection Committee based on the assessment of submitted applications. In the second round, the decision is taken by the International Conference for the Selection of Coordinating Networks which comprises representatives of the CEEPUS Programme member countries. The list of approved networks is available at www.saia.sk.

Should a university not participate in the Programme, its students and PhD students may still apply for scholarship under the category “free mover”.

Scholarship rates for Slovakia:
- a) University students: 240 €/month (+ basic medical insurance where needed),
- b) PhD students and university lecturers: 470 €/month (+ basic medical insurance where needed).

The scholarships are paid off 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.

More information: www.ceepus.info

National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia:
SAIA, n. o.
Námestie slobody 23, 812 20 Bratislava 1
The Slovak Republic
Tel.: +421/2/54 41 14 26, +421/2/54 41 14 36
www.saia.sk

Scientific cooperation between NATO and Ukraine

Ukraine is, after Russia, the second most active Partner participant in the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. The NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Scientific and Environmental Cooperation, which meets once a year (alternating between NATO HQ, Brussels, and in Kyiv), ensures that mutually beneficial cooperation between NATO and Ukraine is continued according to the NATO-Ukraine Annual National Plan (ANP).

Grant Applications for cooperative activities between scientists from Ukraine and scientists from NATO countries may be submitted to the SPS Programme for support. All activities funded under the SPS Programme must contribute to SPS Key Priorities. The SPS Programme supports technical workshops, training courses and multi-year projects.

More information: www.nato.int/science

3-5-7 UNESCO Programmes

UNESCO funds and administers various types of fellowships, study and travel grants. Open calls are published at the website portal.unesco.org > Join us > Fellowships. Only applications submitted and endorsed by the National Commission of the candidate’s country are examined. The UNESCO Secretariat does not accept requests from individuals.


3-5-8 CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Program for University Studies

The main activity of CEEPUS is university networks operating joint programmes ideally leading to Joint Degrees, esp. Joint Doctoral Programmes. CEEPUS covers mobility grants for students and teachers in this framework.

Programme members are Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, FYR Macedonia, Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, University of Prishtina in Kosovo, and, from the academic year 2011/2012, Moldova.

The main objectives of CEEPUS are to:
- contribute to merging the European Higher Education Area and European Research Area,
- use regional academic mobility as a strategic tool to implement Bologna objectives,
- enable cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe, the Ukraine and Moldova.

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 are supported (related to PhD thesis elaboration) as well as stays for guest university lecturers (1 month, minimum 5 days and 6 lectures). Students and PhD students shall not be older than 35 years of age. All fields of study are welcome and there are no priority areas.

Universities collaborate within the framework of approved networks. Each network shall consist of at least 3 universities from 3 different member states involved in the Programme. Applications for university networking and for mobilities are submitted only on-line at www.ceepus.info. The deadline is January 15. In the first round, the decision on network membership is made by the National Selection Committee based on the assessment of submitted applications. In the second round, the decision is taken by the International Conference for the Selection of Coordinating Networks which comprises representatives of the CEEPUS Programme member countries. The list of approved networks is available at www.saia.sk.

Should a university not participate in the Programme, its students and PhD students may still apply for scholarship under the category “free mover”.

Scholarship rates for Slovakia:
- a) University students: 240 €/month (+ basic medical insurance where needed),
- b) PhD students and university lecturers: 470 €/month (+ basic medical insurance where needed).

The scholarships are paid off 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.

More information: www.ceepus.info

National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia:
SAIA, n. o.
Námestie slobody 23, 812 20 Bratislava 1
The Slovak Republic
Tel.: +421/2/54 41 14 26, +421/2/54 41 14 36
www.saia.sk

are approved by the PPC; on the condition that a sufficient number of nations (at least four) have expressed collective interest and that they are willing to commit the necessary resources.

The NATO-Russia scientific cooperation – the NRC Committee on Science and Security

A special programme of support for cooperation between scientists and experts from Russia and NATO countries has also been established within the Science for Peace and Security Programme. The NATO-Russia Council (NRC) SPS Committee (see section “Framework of the Programme”) has drawn up an Action Plan for 2010 – 2012 which provides for collaboration in the following security-related priority areas:

- Defence against terrorist threats
  - Explosives Detection
  - Information Technology-based Threats
  - Study of Human Factors in Defence Against Terrorism
- Countering other threats to security
  - Defence-related environmental security
  - Eco-terrorism
  - Disaster forecast and prevention of catastrophes
- Countering other threats to security – only nationally-funded projects
  - Modelling sustainable consumption
  - Food security in times of natural disaster or other non-CBRN events
  - Security-related regional studies
  - Biotechnology/bioscience

Russian scientists may also participate in the core collaboration programme described under “Activities funded in the core collaboration programme Russian scientists may also participate security-related priority areas:” of the Programme”) has drawn up an Action Plan for 2010 – 2012 which provides for collaboration in the following security-related priority areas:

- Defence against terrorist threats
  - Explosives Detection
  - Information Technology-based Threats
  - Study of Human Factors in Defence Against Terrorism
- Countering other threats to security
  - Defence-related environmental security
  - Eco-terrorism
  - Disaster forecast and prevention of catastrophes
- Countering other threats to security – only nationally-funded projects
  - Modelling sustainable consumption
  - Food security in times of natural disaster or other non-CBRN events
  - Security-related regional studies
  - Biotechnology/bioscience

Scientific cooperation between NATO and Ukraine

Ukraine is, after Russia, the second most active Partner participant in the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. The NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Scientific and Environmental Cooperation, which meets once a year (alternating between NATO HQ, Brussels, and in Kyiv), ensures that mutually beneficial cooperation between NATO and Ukraine is continued according to the NATO-Ukraine Annual National Plan (ANP).

Grant Applications for cooperative activities between scientists from Ukraine and scientists from NATO countries may be submitted to the SPS Programme for support. All activities funded under the SPS Programme must contribute to SPS Key Priorities. The SPS Programme supports technical workshops, training courses and multi-year projects.

More information: www.nato.int/science

3-5-7 UNESCO Programmes

UNESCO funds and administers various types of fellowships, study and travel grants. Open calls are published at the website portal.unesco.org > Join us > Fellowships. Only applications submitted and endorsed by the National Commission of the candidate’s country are examined. The UNESCO Secretariat does not accept requests from individuals.


3-5-8 CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Program for University Studies

The main activity of CEEPUS is university networks operating joint programmes ideally leading to Joint Degrees, esp. Joint Doctoral Programmes. CEEPUS covers mobility grants for students and teachers in this framework.

Programme members are Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, FYR Macedonia, Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, University of Prishtina in Kosovo, and, from the academic year 2011/2012, Moldova.

The main objectives of CEEPUS are to:
- contribute to merging the European Higher Education Area and European Research Area,
- use regional academic mobility as a strategic tool to implement Bologna objectives,
- enable cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe, the Ukraine and Moldova.

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 are supported (related to PhD thesis elaboration) as well as stays for guest university lecturers (1 month, minimum 5 days and 6 lectures). Students and PhD students shall not be older than 35 years of age. All fields of study are welcome and there are no priority areas.

Universities collaborate within the framework of approved networks. Each network shall consist of at least 3 universities from 3 different member states involved in the Programme. Applications for university networking and for mobilities are submitted only on-line at www.ceepus.info. The deadline is January 15. In the first round, the decision on network membership is made by the National Selection Committee based on the assessment of submitted applications. In the second round, the decision is taken by the International Conference for the Selection of Coordinating Networks which comprises representatives of the CEEPUS Programme member countries. The list of approved networks is available at www.saia.sk.

Should a university not participate in the Programme, its students and PhD students may still apply for scholarship under the category “free mover”.

Scholarship rates for Slovakia:
- a) University students: 240 €/month (+ basic medical insurance where needed),
- b) PhD students and university lecturers: 470 €/month (+ basic medical insurance where needed).

The scholarships are paid off 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.

More information: www.ceepus.info

National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia:
SAIA, n. o.
Námestie slobody 23, 812 20 Bratislava 1
The Slovak Republic
Tel.: +421/2/54 41 14 26, +421/2/54 41 14 36
www.saia.sk
The mission of the International Visegrad Fund is to promote development of closer cooperation among the Visegrad Group (V4) countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia – and to strengthen the ties among people in the region. The Fund provides funding for common cultural, scientific, research and educational projects, youth exchanges, promotion of tourism and cross-border cooperation. Most of the grant recipients are non-governmental organisations, municipalities and local governments, universities, schools and other public institutions and also individual citizens. The Fund also awards individual scholarships and artist residencies. By the end of 2010 the Fund had supported more than 3,000 grant projects and awarded almost 1,000 scholarships and over 100 artist residencies. The budget of the Fund (6 million € as of 2010) consists of equal contributions of the Visegrad Group’s governments.

The Fund runs:

- **four grant programmes:**
  - Small Grants (contribution up to 5,000 €),
  - Standard Grants (contribution more than 5,001 €),
  - Visegrad Strategic Programme (annual budget of the Programme 400,000 €)
  - Visegrad+ Programme (aimed at democratisation and transformation of the countries within the EU’s Eastern Partnership).

- **four scholarship schemes under the Visegrad Scholarship Programme:**
  - Intra-Visegrad Scholarships (for scholars coming from one of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries who plan to study in any V4 country other than that of their citizenship),
  - In-Coming Scholarships (for scholars* who wish to study at accredited public or private universities or institutes of the respective national academies of sciences in the Visegrad Group (V4) countries),
  - Out-Going Scholarships, (for current scholars or Master’s degree holders from V4 countries to study at accredited public or private universities or institutes of the respective national academies of sciences)
  - Visegrad Scholarships at OSA Archivum (in cooperation with Open Society Archives in Budapest).

- **an artist-in-residence programme,**
- **a curriculum-building programme for universities.**

* Citizens of the following countries can apply: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine. The same rules are applicable to Kosovar scholars.

More information: [http://visegradfund.org](http://visegradfund.org)
International Visegrad Fund
Kraľovské údolie 8, 811 02 Bratislava
The Slovak Republic

solutions for researchers
Changing jobs is easier when you have a pan-European network to back you up. Our website offers numerous opportunities for work, international collaboration and funding opportunities for researchers in Europe. Discover a world of opportunities at [http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)
4. Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

4.1 Entry & stay permits

The legal regulations are different for nationals of the European Union/European Economic Area/Switzerland and for third country nationals. The regulations governing the stay of foreigners in Slovakia are stated by the Act on Stay of Aliens (Act No. 48/2002).

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.

4.1.1 EU/EEA/Swiss nationals

Citizens of the European Union as well as the European Economic Area and Switzerland neither require an entry visa nor a permit for stays. These citizens only have to register within 10 working days upon their entering the SR at the Foreign Police Office, unless this responsibility lies with the provider of accommodation. Notification must be submitted on an official form, and in person. When planning to spend a longer period of time in Slovakia (more than three months), they may apply for registration of their permanent residence permit in person at the appropriate Foreign Police Office. They will need to submit an official application form, evidence of a valid travel document and proof of accommodation. The first permanent residence permit will be granted for a period of five years. Any subsequent application for a permit will be granted for an unlimited period.

4.1.2 Third country nationals

Visa

Since December 2007, the Slovak Republic is a part of the Schengen Area. Therefore the common Schengen rules apply. Nationals of third countries must in general apply for visa at the representative office/foreign mission of the Slovak Republic in his/her country, in person. Depending on the duration and purpose of the stay, either a Schengen visa (entry visa) or a National visa (long-stay visa; for stay lasting more than three months) is required.

The Schengen visa entitles its holder to enter and stay in the Schengen area for not more than a total of 90 days within a six-month period subsequent to the date of the first entry. This visa may be issued for one or several entries (single entry and multiple entry visa).

A national (long-stay) visa may be issued to someone with a residence permit or as part of Slovakia’s commitments under international treaties or for the benefit of the Slovak Republic. Long-stay visa holders will be allowed to travel to other member states (outside the frontier of the state who issued the visa), however the total of stay cannot exceed 90 days in any six month period.

The decision about the period of validity of both types of visa is made by the respective consulate of SR on the basis of the declared purpose of stay. The period of validity is stated in the issued visa sticker.

Obtaining visa

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 do not need visa, if they are holders of biometric passports.

When lodging the application, the applicant shall:

- present an application form (downloadable from www.mzv.sk/en; consular.info/visa);
- present a valid travel document (the travel document must be valid for at least three months longer than the expected validity of the visa requested and it must have been issued within the previous 10 years; the document shall contain at least 2 blank pages);
- present a full-face colour photo, with dimensions of 3 x 3.5 cm;
- 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);

- produce proof of possession of adequate and valid travel medical insurance.

- pay the visa fee (depends on type of visa and origin of applicant, see below and/or consult www.mzv.sk).

Travel medical insurance

When travelling to Slovakia, every foreigner can take out travel insurance in his/her home country. Travel insurance can often be arranged through the Internet, even if the foreign national is already in Slovakia. It will be necessary to pay the full amount for any health care provided. It is essential to keep all the documents about the health care provision and the payments made. He/she will be reimbursed for these costs by the insurance company within the extent of his/her travel insurance.

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

- Slovak Association of Insurance companies www.sas.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.
Visa fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa type</th>
<th>Fee charged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Schengen visa application</td>
<td>60 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Schengen visa application for children</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National (long-stay) visa granted in connection with a residence permit in the Slovak Republic</td>
<td>33 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National (long-stay) visa issued in connection with the performance of Slovakia’s commitments under international treaties or for the benefit of the Slovak Republic or along with a residence permit in the Slovak Republic</td>
<td>9.50 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Montenegro)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Macedonia)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Moldova)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Russian Federation)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Serbia)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Ukraine)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Moldova)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Russian Federation)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Serbia)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa application fee for nationals of third countries which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community (holders of non biometric passports – Ukraine)</td>
<td>35 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The fees are paid in a freely convertible currency or in a national currency of the third country, in which the application has been filed, converted using the applicable official exchange rate. No administrative fee is charged for visa application filed by a third country national who is a family member of an EU or EEA national and exercise their right of free movement.

Source: www.mzv.sk

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 3 days of their arrival, a competent police department of the commencement, place and anticipated length of their stay. EU/EEA/Swiss nationals or foreign nationals with a preferential status are required to do so within 10 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.

Visa is issued for free automatically when the residence permit is granted. In general, a researcher applies for the residence permit abroad at the official representation of the Slovak Republic, and when the Foreign Police Office grants it, it informs the representation, which subsequently issues the visa. The alien has to enter Slovakia within 180 days of the issue of the visa. Within 3 days of entering Slovakia the alien has to collect the residence permit from the Foreign Police Office, in person.

Temporary residence permit

The temporary residence permit may be granted to an alien for the following purpose:
- business activities,
- employment,
- studies,
- specific activities,
- family reunification,
- performing professional duties by civil component of armed forces.

The temporary residence permit is bound to one purpose only. In general, third country researchers (not EU/EEA/Switzerland citizens) coming to Slovakia for the purpose of carrying out research or to pursue PhD studies shall have temporary residence permit for the purpose of Specific activities, or for Employment: or for Study depending on the activity and labour conditions.

The temporary residence permit is granted for the time necessary for achieving its purpose, but for maximum of 2 years. Temporary residence permit for the purpose of Study can be granted for the anticipated duration of the study, but for maximum of 5 years. The residence permit may be renewed.

Purpose of Specific activities

According to the Act No. 48/2002 Coll. On Stay of Aliens as Specific activities are considered:
- lecturing activity,
- artistic activity,
- sport activity,
- study stay as a part of study carried out outside the Slovak Republic,
- activity arising from programmes of the Government of the Slovak Republic or from programmes of the European Economic Area, meeting the commitment of the Slovak Republic entailed from an international treaty, or research and development.

However, as stated in the Act, the alien falling under ‘Specific activities – research and development’ may enter employment relation for lecturing activity, but not for carrying out research and development. The researcher (who has been granted permit for ‘Specific activities – R&D’) can perform lecturing activity for maximum 50 calendar days in a calendar year without having been granted work permit. Moreover, a pedagogic employee, academic employee at a higher education institution, scientific, research or development worker participating in a professional scientific event can work in the territory of Slovakia without working permit if their employment does not exceed 7 consecutive calendar days or the total of 30 calendar days in a calendar year (Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment services).

Purpose of Employment

If a third country researcher coming to Slovakia is employed, he/she shall apply to be granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of Employment. Prior to his/her arrival in the territory of the Slovak Republic he/she must apply (in person, by mail or by means of the future employer) for a work permit at the Labour Office (see page 68).
Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

Purpose of Study

PhD students are considered to be 3rd level university students and hence they apply within the scope of the temporary residence permit for the purpose of Study. Foreign students (who have been granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of Study) are allowed to work a maximum 10 hours per week or the corresponding number of days or months per year (Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment services). In this situation the work permit is not required.

Purpose of Family reunification

The temporary residence permit may be granted to an alien by a police department for the purpose of Family reunification, which is:

- a spouse of an alien who holds a temporary residence permit or a permanent residence permit, if both of them are at least 18 years old;
- a minor (single) child not older than 18 years of age of aliens who hold a temporary residence permit or of an alien having a permit for temporary stay, or of his/her spouse or of an asylum holder or of a spouse of an asylum holder, who cares for the child based on the law or based on the decision of the respective authority;
- a dependent child older than 18 years of age of an alien having a temporary residence permit, or of his/her spouse;
- a single parent dependent on the care of an alien who holds a temporary residence permit for the purpose of Business activity or Employment (also having a work permit) or of an alien who holds a permanent residence permit;
- a dependent person according to the international treaty.

Obtaining temporary residence permit

Conditions governing the residence permit application procedure are specified in § 24 through § 45 of Act No. 48/2002 Coll.

Responsible authority at the national level is the Bureau of Border and Aliens Police of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic www.minv.sk/?ultcp (in Slovak only). The application within the framework of Specific activities or Study ensures the applicant easier, faster procedures and provides some more advantageous provisions. According to the Act No. 48/2002 Coll. on Stay of Aliens, temporary residence permit for the purpose of Specific activities (not Employment) – see page 61 – is not required, if the purpose of the stay is to carry out research and development and the stay of the alien (third-country national) in the territory of the Slovak Republic does not exceed 90 days in one half-year since crossing the outer Schengen border. The same applies for students. If the stay exceeds the 90-day period, the alien shall submit the application for granting temporary residence permit.

Where to apply

Under a general rule, applicants are required to file a residence permit application with a competent foreign mission of the Slovak Republic accredited for the respective country which has issued a travel document to the applicant or in which the applicant is resident (the list of Slovak foreign missions accredited for particular countries is available at www.mzv.sk). Only if such a foreign mission is non-existent, or in cases worth special attention and if not prevented by other circumstances, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic will specify, upon consultations with the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, another mission where the applicant should file his/her application.

The law permits the filing of certain categories of applications directly in the Slovak Republic – with a competent Foreign Police Office (based on the envisaged place of residence). In the case of temporary residence applications, this option is available, for example, to applicants who:

- do not need a visa in order to enter the Slovak Republic;
- will perform in Slovakia the activities defined as Specific activities;
- apply for a permit for the purpose of a Family reunification and is a minor (single) child not older than 18 years of age of a foreign national who was awarded temporary residence, is an asylum-seeker, or who is a foreign national awarded permanent residence in the Slovak Republic;
- come to Slovakia on the basis of an international treaty where this option is clearly specified.

What documents are needed

Here you can find information on documents you have to supply when applying for the temporary residence permit for the purposes of specific activities, study and employment. We provide here information on the basis of the Act on Stay of Aliens, with focus on researcher relevant information, and documents listed are examples of documents that might be requested. To see the full information for all the purposes and cases, please consult the Act on Stay of Aliens itself or contact the closest representation office of the Slovak Republic.

Documents requested are:

- Completed application form (download at www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinca, in Slovak only);
- Valid passport (it has to be valid at least 3 months more after the permit expires);
- 2 identical colour photographs (3 x 3.5 cm);
- Documents not older than 90 days confirming purpose of stay:

 Specific activities

- confirmation from a school or any other education establishment on performing the lecturing activity by the applicant in the case of lecturing activities;
- confirmation from relevant ministry in the case of an activity arising from programmes of the government of the Slovak Republic or from programmes of the European Economic Area;
- hosting agreement 1 concluded with a research institute or a scientific workplace not older than 90 days if the purpose of the specific activities is research and development;

 Study (including PhD study)

- confirmation from a university or any other education establishment on enrolment/acceptance of the applicant;

 Employment

- work permit issued by the relevant labour office (according to the place of work);
- confirmation of the employer that the alien will perform work in case when the work permit is not requested.

---

1 Hosting agreement has been defined in the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on Organization of State Support of Research and Development. It has to be concluded with a hosting organization that has been approved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR and has been awarded permit to receive aliens.
Documents not older than 90 days confirming clear criminal registry of the alien:
- extract from the criminal registry of the Slovak Republic,
- extract from the criminal registry of the State of his/her nationality; and
- extract from the criminal registry of the State in which he/she resided for the last three years preceding the submission of application for the residence permit;

Document proving sufficient financial means not older than 90 days (sufficient means = minimum monthly resources is at the level of minimum monthly wage for each month of residence, which is 317 €/month as of January 2011). The document proving financial means is considered:
- a statement of personal account in the name of an alien held in a financial institution;
- the confirmation of the statutory authority of the legal person (e.g. university, research institute) of financial and material security of the alien during his stay;
- document confirming long-term residence in the case of an alien having long-term residence in a EEA-country;
- employment contract.

Researchers applying for residence permit for scientific research under Specific activities and Study at HEIs are not required to submit a document confirming their accommodation arrangements.

All documents submitted with the application must not be older than 90 days. Each foreign document must be sufficiently authenticated (either by an apostillation or a consular super legalisation) and must be translated into Slovak by an official translator certified by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic.

How to get your documents sufficiently authenticated
Documents issued by foreign courts and other foreign authorities, which have the validity of public documents in the country of their issue, are deemed to have evidentiary status of public documents in the Slovak Republic provided that the prescribed certificates have been attached. Exemptions are laid down in multilateral and bilateral agreements binding upon the Slovak Republic.

Apostille
The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement for Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents, the Apostille convention or the Apostille treaty is an international treaty drafted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law. It specifies the modalities through which a document issued in one of the signatory states can be certified for legal purposes in all the other signatory states. Such a certification is called an apostille (French: certification). It is an international certification comparable to a notarisation in domestic law.

If a State signatory to the Hague Convention certifies the document with an apostille, no further certification of that document is necessary (find more info on apostille at www.hcch.net); the document is submitted to a sworn translator (in Slovakia) in order to be translated into Slovak and is ready to be presented to Slovak authorities.

Updated list of countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention is at www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.status&cid=41.

Legalisation
In the case that the apostille is not applicable, foreign documents intended for use in the Slovak Republic are subject to legalisation by a Slovak foreign mission in the given state. Legalisation of public documents means certification of the authenticity of signatures and official seals or stamps which they bear against their specimens that are available to the foreign mission. The Slovak foreign missions verify the authenticity of a previous certificate issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the country of origin of the respective document.

In addition to legalisation of documents, Slovak foreign missions also certify the authenticity of signatures appearing on the documents, photocopies of documents and their translations into Slovak; if a translator is available at the foreign mission, the mission may also provide translations of certain documents. Honorary consulates have no authority to legalise documents – i.e., verify the authenticity of the stamp and signature of a Foreign Affairs Ministry consular department official. Slovak honorary consulates verify the authenticity of signatures duplicates and photocopies, which are then deemed valid in the Slovak Republic with no further authentication needed.

If no Slovak foreign mission exists in the country which has issued the document, further procedures may be as follows – the document has to be certified in the country of its origin, with the last stamp affixed to it being that of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the respective country.

The authenticity of the stamp is then certified by a competent foreign mission of that country, accredited for the Slovak Republic, and, subsequently, by the Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry. Documents executed in the Arabic, Indian, Chinese or Russian languages are translated into English before they are submitted to the Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The administrative fee for legalisation by the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs is paid in the form of a 16.50 € duty stamp. Clients are required to obtain duty stamps in advance (e.g. at the post office).

Contact details:
Document authentication department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Pražská 1, Bratislava

Post address:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Consular Section – legalisation
Híbká cesta 2
833 36 Bratislava
Slovak Republic

Telephone:
Document authentication department: +421/2/59 78 39 40
Foreign Affairs Ministry switchboard operator: +421/2/59 78 11 11
Fax: +421/2/59 78 39 29

Office hours:
Monday: 8:00 – 12:00
Tuesday: closed
Wednesday: 8:00 – 12:00
Thursday: 8:00 – 12:00
Friday: closed
Where to find an official translator
Slovak embassies may provide for translations, or translate a document intended for use in the Slovak Republic. No further verification is required in the case of documents translated by a Slovak embassy consular department.


Once authenticated properly (legalisation or Apostille certification), public documents translated into the Slovak language by a sworn translator may be presented to institutions in the Slovak Republic. Documents translated by a sworn translator in the Slovak Republic do not require any further verification.

What are the residence permits fees to be paid
Pursuant to Act No. 145/1995 Coll. on Administrative Fees as amended, application for temporary residence permit for the purpose of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>business</td>
<td>232 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employment</td>
<td>165.50 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seasonal employment</td>
<td>33 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>studies and special activities</td>
<td>99.50 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family reunion</td>
<td>132.50 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>performance of official duties by civilian units of armed forces</td>
<td>66 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exemptions granted under the aforementioned act:
- Persons under 16 years of age are exempt from the requirement to pay administrative fees for applications.
- An exemption from the requirement to pay administrative fees is granted to holders of a scholarship awarded by the Slovak Government.
- An exemption from the requirement to pay fees is granted on a reciprocity basis to 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.

Exemptions for the purpose of:
- application for temporary residence permit
- permits fees to be paid

Pursuant to Act No. 145/1995 Coll.

- Exemptions

How long does the decision process take
For an alien applying for a temporary residence permit for the purpose of Specific activities and Study, a decision to grant a permit for temporary stay or not, will be made within 90 days following the receipt of the application at the Foreign Police Office in the Slovak Republic. In general, the decision period is 90 days (including temporary residence permits for employment and family reunification purposes).

Procedures for family members
Family members of aliens have to submit the application for a permit for temporary stay for the purpose of family reunification in person, abroad, at the representative office/foreign mission of the Slovak Republic accredited for the state, which issued his/her passport, or at a representative office/foreign mission accredited for the state of his/her place of residence (unless otherwise provided by the Act) – see general rules (page 62).

A minor child not older than 18 years of age and a dependent person (eligibility criteria see page 62) according to the international treaty may apply for the granting of a permit for temporary stay for the purpose of family reunification also at the appropriate Foreign Police Office in the Slovak Republic.

It is necessary to provide documents proving the purpose of stay. In the case of family members, the following documents are required proving the relationship with the family member with whom they wish to be reunited:
- marriage certificate of the spouse;
- birth certificate of the child;
- photocopy of the granted residence permit of the residence permit holder;
- other documents proving specific circumstances of the relationship with the residence permit holder.

The police department decides on the application for the granting of a permit for temporary stay within 90 days following the receipt of the application; in extremely complicated cases this period may be extended by 90 days at the maximum. The police department may renew or cancel the permit for temporary stay, or it just expires according to the Act.

The alien, applying for the granting of a permit for temporary stay for the purpose of family reunification with an alien (researchers) who holds a temporary residence permit for carrying out research or development within the framework of specific activities (pursuant to § 22 section 2), will be granted the permit by the police department with the validity till the expiration of the validity of the permit of the researcher (alien pursuant to § 22 section 2).

“Favoured aliens”
A favoured alien, who is a family member of an EU/EEA/Swiss national, is not required to have a visa when entering the SR.

A family member is defined as follows:
- a spouse and his/her child no older than 21 years of age or a dependent child;
- a child no older than 21 years of age or a dependent child;
- a dependent family relative in the direct family line;
- a dependent family relative of the spouse in his/her direct family line;
- another dependent family member or a member of the EU/EEA/Swiss national’s household.

The police department shall grant a first permit (for permanent residence) to an alien (not an EU/EEA/Swiss national) who intends to stay on the territory of the SR for more than 3 months provided that he/she is a family member of the EU/EEA/Swiss national with permanent residence (first permit/authorisation) in Slovakia and that he/she will be no burden on the health and social security system of the Slovak Republic. The favoured alien shall submit the application for granting first permit in person, abroad, at the representative office/foreign mission of the Slovak Republic or in person at the appropriate Foreign Police Office in the Slovak Republic.

Along with the application, the alien shall submit the following documents:
- a valid travel document;
- two photographs measuring 3 x 3.5 cm;
- a document proving his family relation to the EU/EEA/Swiss national with residence on the territory of the SR;
- a document or statutory declaration confirming that he/she is a dependent family member or a member of the household (not necessary in case of a) and b) above);
- statutory declaration that he/she will not be a burden on the health and social security system of the Slovak Republic.

Contact information of the Foreign Police departments in various districts of Slovakia as well as information on entry and stay conditions (in Slovak language) can be
found on the website of the Ministry of Interior of the SR, Bureau of Border and Aliens Police: www.minv.sk/?ocp.

After the temporary residence permit is granted
When the temporary residence permit is granted, a fee of 4.50 € is to be paid for the issuance of the permit.

Within 30 days of being granted the temporary residence permit or after the entry to Slovakia, it is necessary to submit a proof of health insurance in Slovakia and a medical certificate proving that the foreign national does not suffer from any infectious disease which might endanger public health.

Proof of health insurance has to state that it is covering the territory of Slovak Republic and in the case that it is issued in a language different from Slovak, it has to be translated to Slovak by an official translator certified by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (see page 66).

The medical certificate can be obtained at 3 particular medical centres in SR only:
Exotic Diseases Clinic in Bratislava, Faculty Hospital in Martin, and Faculty Hospital of Louis Pasteur in Košice. Prices for the medical check vary and depend upon the medical centre (from 112 € in Martin up to 250 € in Bratislava).

Addresses and contacts:
Poliklinika cudzokrajných chorôb (Exotic diseases clinic), Americké námestie 3, Bratislava, tel. +421/2/52 92 56 88, +421/2/52 96 27 32
Univerzitná nemocnica L. Pasteura v Košiciach (University hospital of L. Pasteur in Košice), Rastislavova 43, Košice, tel. +421/55/615 22 04, +421/55/622 52 51–5.

4.2 Work permit

Since 1st May 2004, the Slovak legal system has distinguished between two groups of foreigners:
- EU/EEA/Swiss nationals;
- nationals of third countries (aliens).

4.2.1 EU/EEA/Swiss nationals
EU/EEA/Swiss nationals and their family members can be employed on the territory of the Slovak Republic on the same terms as Slovak nationals. An applicant has to meet an employer’s requirements, e.g., required education, language skills, required work experience etc.

For information related to all mobile workers from EU/EEA/Switzerland can consult the website of EURES (information network to facilitate mobility of workers within the countries of European Union and the European Free Trade Association) www.eures.sk and http://ec.europa.eu/eures.

In practice this means that EU/EEA/Swiss citizens are not required to apply for a work permit if they want to work legally in Slovakia.

According to the regulation of the Council (EEC) No. 317/76 on compilation of foreign workers statistics, the Slovak Republic as well as other member states, is obliged to monitor the movement of workers within the Community. In the Slovak Republic, the monitoring of labour mobility is carried out on the basis of an information card for the purpose of statistical records.

Information cards
The employer fulfills the obligation to notify foreign employees by means of an Information card on commencement/termination of labour relation or secondment/termination of secondment of the EU/EEA/Swiss citizen or his/her family member to the territory of the Slovak Republic. Such Information card must be submitted to the local Labour Office for each EU/EEA/Swiss employee within 7 days after the EU/EEA/Swiss employee started working.

An employer is obliged to notify the employment of an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen on an Information card, in writing.

Non-observance of this obligation is considered to be a breach of the legal regulations related to employment.

The official form is available from each Labour Office and it can be also downloaded from the website of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (www.employment.gov.sk/index.php?SMC=1&id=776, in Slovak).

4.2.2 Third country nationals (aliens) – general conditions
In general, if an alien wishes to be employed in the territory of the Slovak Republic, prior to his/her arrival to the territory of the Slovak Republic, he/she must apply (in person or by means of the future employer) for a work permit at the Labour Office according to the territorial competence where the foreigner is to perform the employment.

The form “Work Permit Application” that the Office provides to a foreigner shall also contain the written “Employer’s Promise to Employ a Foreigner”. The employer shall confirm by signature and stamp that after obtaining the work permit it shall employ the alien. The application is documented also by a verified copy of the certificate of the achieved education level translated into Slovak language. The application may be submitted in person or delivered by mail.

If the foreigner wishes the application to be submitted by the future employer, the application must be supplemented with the written consent to such a procedure, together with the verification of the authenticity of the foreigner’s signature under the legal regulations of the state where he/she is a citizen, or according to the generally binding legal regulations of the Slovak Republic.

Posted employees
If a foreigner is in labour-law relation with an employer or having an organisational component with labour-law status situated outside the territory of the Slovak Republic and such employer is sending a foreigner to perform work in the territory of the Slovak Republic on the basis of a contract concluded with the legal person or natural person, it is necessary that a work permit and a temporary residence permit for the purpose of employment be granted to such a foreigner.

The written “Work Permit Application” completed in duplicate shall be submitted by the foreigner to the Office in the territorial competence of which he/she is to perform the work. The application shall be submitted in person or by means of the legal person or natural person to whom the foreigner is to be sent to perform work in the territory of the Slovak Republic. The application needs to be submitted together
Intra-corporate transfer

If a foreigner is in a labour-law relationship with an employer situated or having an organisational component with labour-legal status outside the territory of the Slovak Republic and such a foreigner is being sent to perform work in the territory of the Slovak Republic on the basis of intra-corporate transfer according to the WTO Agreement, the written “Work Permit Application on the Basis of Intra-Corporate Transfer according to the WTO Agreement” completed in duplicate shall be submitted by the foreigner to the Office in the territorial competence of which he/she is to perform work. The application shall be submitted in person, or by means of the legal person or natural relevant person to whom the foreigner is to be sent to perform work in the territory of the Slovak Republic. The application is to be submitted together with a verified document on the intra-corporate transfer in the Slovak language outlining the basis on which the foreigner is being sent to perform work in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Pursuant to the WTO Agreement, this concerns an employee who will be sent in the context of an intra-corporate transfer to perform work in the territory of the Slovak Republic and who must have been employed by the sending legal person for at least one year prior to the such a transfer, and who is to perform work in the territory of the Slovak Republic as:

(a) an essential senior executive – a person working as the legal person who is highly or extraordinarily qualified and has knowledge essential for the company’s operation, research techniques or management;

(b) a specialist – a person working as the legal person who is highly or extraordinarily qualified and has knowledge essential for the company’s operation, research techniques or management;

(c) a person working in managerial positions of the legal person (a manager), who is responsible for setting up the commercial representative office of a service provider in the SR, and who does not perform the direct sale or provision of services in the case that the service provider is seated in the territory of a different member state of the WTO and does not have a representative office, branch or subsidiary in the Slovak Republic.


Granting the work permit

The work permit should be issued by the relevant district Labour Office within 30 days following the receipt of the application. The Office issues the work permit with a one-year validity at most. The work permit may be renewed. The application for renewal of a work permit shall be filed at latest 30 days prior to the expiry of the previous work permit; a work permit is granted again for the maximum of one year. The renewal of a work permit is conditional upon the alien’s continued employment by the same employer.

The application form must include the written confirmation of the employer’s intention to employ the applicant henceforth.

In general, the labour market situation is taken into account when deciding on the application. The work permit is granted on the condition that the job vacancy is not possible to be fulfilled by a worker registered in the database of employment seekers.

The relevant district Labour Office when granting a work permit, does not take into consideration the current situation on the Slovak labour market in the case of an alien who carries out a constant teaching or research activity (inter alia) as:

- a pedagogic employee or
- an academic employee at a higher education institution or
- a scientific, research or development worker.

If the Office grants the work permit, the foreigner shall submit the work permit obtained as a document supporting the application for a temporary residence permit for the purpose of employment. The work permit must not be older than 90 days.

Exceptions (as defined by Act No 5/2004Coll. on Employment Services)

The relevant district Labour office when granting a work permit, does not take into consideration the current situation on the Slovak labour market also in the case of an alien (inter alia) as:

- who is not older than 26 years of age and who is employed casually or on part-time basis within school exchanges or within a youth program, in which the SR participates;
- who carries out a constant teaching or research activity as a pedagogic employee or an academic employee at a higher education institution, or as a scientific, research or development worker.

A work permit is not required in the case of an alien (inter alia) as:

- who has permanent residence permit on the territory of the SR;
- who has been granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification;
- who has been granted the temporary residence permit for the purpose of Study and his/her employment on the territory of SR does not exceed 10 hours per week or the corresponding number of days or months per year;
- who has been granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of Specific activities, that is research and development, and he/she performs lecturing activity under an employment contract and this employment in the territory of the Slovak Republic does not exceed 50 calendar days in a calendar year;
- who is a Slovak living abroad;
- whose employment on the territory of the Slovak Republic does not exceed 7 consecutive calendar days and a total of 30 calendar days in a calendar year and who is a pedagogic employee, academic employee at a higher education institution, scientific, research or development worker participating in a professional scientific event or an artist participating in an artistic event;
- who is employed on the basis of the commitment of the Slovak Republic to an international treaty (published in the
4.3 Employment

The basic forms of employment include:

- employment for an indefinite period,
- employment for a temporary – defined period,
- part-time employment,
- working from home,
- teleworking, and
- employment as a student of a vocational school or institute.

Employment is for an indefinite period if the employment contract does not expressly specify the duration of the employment or where the legal requirements for signing an employment contract for a temporary period cannot be complied with. Employment is also for an indefinite period if there is no written employment contract.

An employment contract for a temporary period may only be signed for a maximum period of three years.

Part-time employment contract – an employer may specify a shorter working time than the statutory maximum working week (working time may not be allocated for each working day, the employee is paid a wage corresponding to this shorter working time arrangement).

Employment starts on the day specified in the employment contract as the day on which an employee is to start work. Probationary period: an employment contract may specify a probationary period which should not be more than 3 months; the probationary period may not be extended. The notice period is 2 months.

An employer may conclude different types of contracts with employees (natural persons) in order to fulfil special tasks that are out of the scope of employment (agreement for performance of work, contract for services, and contract for part-time work of students). If such work results in a specific outcome – agreement for performance of work – shall be concluded. The scope of cumulative work executed for a particular employer (based on all agreements for performance of work between the employee and the employer) must not exceed 350 hours in one calendar year.

If the work is carried out occasionally and is defined by the type of work – contract for services or contract for part-time work of students shall be applied. The maximum workload within the contract for services is 10 hours per week.

On the basis of a contract for part-time work of students the load must not exceed half of the working time per week (statutory maximum working week), on average. This restriction is considered with respect to the whole duration of the contract, at maximum during 12 months.

Special status of PhD students

Full-time PhD students receive a scholarship provided from the state budget. PhD students are not considered as employees, hence a university is not in the position of their employer in connection with the social and health insurance.

Levies into social insurance funds are not compulsory for doctoral students, although they may opt for voluntary insurance of defined percentage rates on the basis of assessment of their choice. Health insurance on behalf of doctoral students up to the age of 30 is paid by the state.

PhD scholarships are exempt from income tax.

Average income

An employee receives a wage in return for his/her work. The amount of an employee’s wage and its constituents (basic wage plus bonuses etc.) must be stipulated in advance within a contract of employment with the employee.

Net wage is the wage without contributions into compulsory insurance funds and income tax. (See also chapters: Social Security, Taxation, Health and Medical Care.)

The so-called “work cost” includes also the contributions to social and health insurance fund an employer pays on behalf of an employee.

Example: the average monthly gross wage in Slovakia in 2010 was 769 €. After being reduced by contributions to compulsory insurance funds (social insurance, health insurance), the rest of the income is taxed at 19 %. The monthly net wage then amounts to 595.79 €.

Working time

The standard working week for employees in the Slovak Republic is the maximum of 40 hours.

Annual leave

The basic leave entitlement is at least four weeks (20 days) in a calendar year; it can be even longer (usually one more week) provided it is set in the collective agreement, or on the basis of cumulative work experience that exceeds 15 years after the age of 18.

Maternity leave, family care

In connection with the birth and care of children, women are entitled to the maternity leave lasting 34 weeks. If a woman gives birth to two or more children at the same time or if she is a single parent, she is entitled to the maternity leave of 37 weeks. The date of commencing the maternity leave is set by the attending physician, usually 6 weeks before the expected date of childbirth (at earliest 8 weeks prior to the childbirth). This
Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

If your spouse accompanies you during your study or research stay in Slovakia, the process of employment is different for EU/EEA/Swiss nationals and nationals from third countries.

**A job for your spouse**

If your spouse accompanies you during your study or research stay in Slovakia and he/she wants to work in Slovakia, the employer must confirm that she/he is capable of fulfilling the requirements of work and the conditions of employment. The processing of the application for the work permit to be granted depends on the period of residence and on the nature of the work. Nationalities of third countries who are EU/EEA Member States and Switzerland are employed under the same conditions as Slovak nationals. They must satisfy the employer’s requirements, e.g., required education, language skills or required working experience in an appropriate professional area etc.

Third country nationals can be employed in Slovakia if they have been granted a permit for temporary stay for the purpose of family reuniﬁcation with an alien who is employed or carries out a business activity, or has a permanent residence permit in the territory of the SR after a period of 12 months of continuous stay (Act No 48/2002 Coll. on Stay of Aliens). Otherwise, they are required to obtain a temporary residence permit for the purpose of employment and to be granted a work permit.

**Maternity leave**

Maternity leave granted in connection with the birth must not be shorter than 14 weeks and may not be terminated or interrupted before the lapse of six weeks from the date of the birth.

An employer must excuse an employee from work on the grounds of incapacity for work due to illness or injury, quarantine, nursing a sick family member or taking care of a child under ten years of age that, for important reasons, cannot be left in the care of a childcare establishment or school that the child normally attends, or in case of sickness or quarantine of the person who otherwise takes care of the child, or if that person must be hospitalised due to the expected delivery.

**A job for your spouse**

If your spouse accompanies you during your study or research stay in Slovakia and he/she wants to work in Slovakia, the employer must confirm that she/he is capable of fulfilling the requirements of work and the conditions of employment. The processing of the application for the work permit to be granted depends on the period of residence and on the nature of the work. Nationalities of third countries who are EU/EEA Member States and Switzerland are employed under the same conditions as Slovak nationals. They must satisfy the employer’s requirements, e.g., required education, language skills or required working experience in an appropriate professional area etc.

Third country nationals can be employed in Slovakia if they have been granted a permit for temporary stay for the purpose of family reuniﬁcation with an alien who is employed or carries out a business activity, or has a permanent residence permit in the territory of the SR after a period of 12 months of continuous stay (Act No 48/2002 Coll. on Stay of Aliens). Otherwise, they are required to obtain a temporary residence permit for the purpose of employment and to be granted a work permit.

**Job seeking**

Information on job vacancies is available on the Internet, in daily newspapers, advertisement newspapers, regional and local newspapers.

When seeking a job you can also use the services of other legal or physical entities (e.g., agencies) which would arrange a job for a certain fee on the basis of the permit issued by the Centre for Labour, Social Affairs and Family. A list of job intermediaries is available at the website of the Centre: www.upsvar.sk (website only in Slovak).

**Useful links**

When looking for a job as a researcher, it is advisable to have a look at EURAXESS Jobs portal http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess, where also job opportunities in SR are displayed.

**www.profesia.sk** – search database of job vacancies (also in English and German), contact phone numbers and addresses of personnel agencies/recruitment agencies.

http://directory.spectator.sk – see the section “Personnel recruiters”.

**Slovak network of European Employment Service – EURES** – www.eures.sk.

Information on the labour market, living and working conditions and freedom of movement is available at http://ec.europa.eu/eures in all official languages of the EU.

**4.4 Social security & health insurance**

In Slovakia, the social security coverage is based on occupational activity, not residence.

The **Social security** system is made of three main components:

- social insurance,
- social assistance,
- state social support.

The social security system falls under the competence of the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (www.employment.gov.sk). The Social Insurance Agency (“Sociálna poisťovňa” www.socpoist.sk, most of the information in Slovak) and Centre Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family are the executive bodies.

Health insurance in Slovakia is not included in the scope of social insurance. The healthcare system in Slovakia falls under the competence of the Ministry of Health (www.health.gov.sk, in Slovak only). When a foreign national takes up employment with an employer who has permanent residence in the Slovak Republic, he/she becomes subject to statutory public health insurance in the SR. An insuree can choose from three health insurance companies.

The social and health contributions are paid both by the employee (4 % of gross wage for health insurance and 9.4 % of gross wage for social insurance) and the employer (10 % of gross wage for health insurance and 25.2 % of gross wage for social insurance). The contributions are deducted automatically.

The duty to register the foreigner with the Social Insurance Agency (SIA) and the duty to inform SIA about changes of foreigner’s situation lies upon the employer. The foreigner should have accompanying documents issued by his/her previous social insurance institution at his disposal.

**PhD students** are considered as students and not employees; their health insurance is paid by the state (if the PhD study is at maximum of standard duration in the daily form, the PhD student has not previously received PhD degree and is less than 30 years old). There is a possibility for voluntary social insurance.

**4.4.1 Provision of social security for migrant workers**

Foreigners working on the territory of the Slovak Republic are subject to the Slovak system of social welfare. Any worker who is employed on the basis of employment contract (according to the Act no. 461/2003 on social insurance) on the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period appointed by the employer must pay contributions to the compulsory insurance funds (social insurance company, health insurance company) as if he/she were a national of the Slovak Republic.

EURAXESS SLOVAKIA

The International Researcher’s Guide to Slovakia
The International Researcher’s Guide to Slovakia

Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

Each person is subject to the legislation of Member States of EU/EEA and Switzerland when living and working in different countries. Slovakia acknowledges the new rules within the two-year deadline, the Slovak Republic has already undertaken several steps.

Crucial for executing social security rights of a migrant worker is cross-border exchange of information between responsible institutions. Slovak Republic participates in the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESI) and supplied this database with the relevant Slovak institutions and branches. Three national Access Points for the exchange of social security information in their respective fields of competence were appointed: Slovak Insurance Agency; Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; and Healthcare Surveillance Authority.

Mutually accepted documents are an important part of smooth information exchange. Slovakia acknowledges the new Portable documents that should replace the E-forms. Issuing of such documents is the competency of the Social Insurance Agency, which continues to issue the E-forms. Issuing of such documents is important for facilitating the smooth exchange. Slovakia supports the new Portable documents that should replace the E-forms.

For more information on common EU/EEA/Switzerland provisions safeguarding social security when being mobile throughout the Member States, see:
- http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social

Major applicable legislation for EU/EEA/Switzerland

Member States:

Major legislation of SR:
- Act No. 467/2003 on social insurance
- Act No. 43/2004 on old-age pension saving
- Act No. 280/2002 on parental allowance
- Act No. 600/2003 on child benefit

Third country citizens

Provision of social security for third country citizens in the Slovak Republic is based on bilateral agreements on social security. Therefore the rules applied depend on the country of origin of the citizen. Currently, the Slovak Republic has signed and active bilateral agreements with: Croatia, Yugoslavia (succession to Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina), Canada, Quebec, Russian Federation, Ukraine and South Korea.

List of bilateral treaties can be found at: www.socpoist.sk/index/index.php?id=1550 (in Slovak only).

The social security issue is in general very complex as the cases are specific, and consultation with competent authorities and its branches is strongly encouraged. For this purpose, relevant information is published on the portals of the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family and of Social Insurance Agency. These portals also provide on-line consultations, contacts for phone help lines and contact points for personal enquiry. However, even though the English versions exist, most of the information is in Slovak only.

4.4.2 System of social security in Slovakia (excluding health insurance)

General structure of support

The social security system is made of three main components:
- social insurance,
- social assistance,
- state social support.

The basic role of the social insurance system in SR is the protection of the economically active population in the event of life contingencies. Social insurance is financed by contributions; it is administered by the Social Insurance Agency (SIA).

The system of social assistance allows citizens below the statutory subsistence minimum to receive substitute resources from the State in the form of benefits. The three main types of benefits are: health care allowance, protective allowance, activation allowance.

The system of state social support is devised to address particular life contingencies, including the birth of a child, child maintenance and education, death of a family member and others. These benefits are financed directly from the state budget. These include:
Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

Due to the same original system of birth number, this applies also to Czech nationals. It is the birth identification number (in case of Slovak nationals it assigns the insured person a social security identification number). SIA on part-time work of students. SIA on the performance of work, agreement of whether the relationship is in the performance of work, agreement on the performance of work, contract for services, contract for part-time work of students, except for permanent insurance, amounting to 0.8% of remuneration and guarantee insurance, 0.25% of remuneration, both paid by the employer.

Social insurance

Social insurance system in Slovakia comprises of:
• sickness insurance,
• pension insurance,
• accident insurance,
• unemployment insurance (with a current inclusion of the legal form of providing benefits out of this system),
• guarantee insurance (insurance in the case of a employer’s insolvency).

Levies into the compulsory social insurance funds of employees

Contributions are a percentage of the basis for the assessment which is usually the gross wage, while the minimum and maximum amounts of the basis of the assessment are set.

An employer is obliged to register an employee at the appropriate office of SIA at least a day before commencing the employment relationship (regardless of whether the relationship is in the form of an employment contract – full or part-time or in the form of an agreement on the performance of work, agreement on part-time work of students). SIA assigns the insured person a social security identification number (in case of Slovak nationals it is the birth identification number, this applies also to Czech nationals due to the same original system of birth identification number assignment).

Special status – Agreement on the performance of work, Contract for services, Contract for part time work of students

Neither employees nor employers pay any of the above mentioned contributions to social insurance if the labour relationship is based on agreement on the performance of work, contract for services, contract for part-time work of students, except for permanent insurance, amounting to 0.8% of remuneration and guarantee insurance, 0.25% of remuneration, both paid by the employer.

Sickness insurance

Sickness insurance is an insurance in the case of loss or decrease in income due to temporary incapacity to work, pregnancy, maternity. The following benefits are paid from the system of sickness insurance:
• sickness cash benefit,
• maternity benefit,
• benefit for nursing a sick relative,
• equalisation allowance.

Sickness cash benefit – income during sick leave

During sick leave an employee/insured person does not receive any salary, but he/she, after being certified as temporarily unfit to work due to illness or injury, or due to quarantine by an authorised doctor, is entitled to sick pay. It is at the rate of 25% of the employee’s basis of assessment for the first 3 days, then at the rate of 55% of the employee’s basis of assessment. During the period of first 10 days of the sick leave the benefits are paid by his/her employer; from the 11th day the sick pay is paid by the Social Insurance Agency (at the rate of 55% of the employee’s basis of assessment).

(The daily assessment base for the determination of sickness benefits is the quotient of the sum of the assessment bases, based on which the insured person paid sickness insurance in the relevant period, and the number of days in the relevant period.)

Conditions of entitlement:
• valid sickness insurance;
• after termination of sickness insurance – being in the period of entitlement to sickness benefits or within the duration of the protective period. The duration of the protective period is 7 days. If the period of sickness insurance was shorter than 7 days, the duration of the protective period is equal to the duration of sickness insurance. The duration of the protective period for a female insured person, whose sickness insurance terminated at the time of her pregnancy, is eight months;
• persons with voluntary sickness insurance are entitled to sickness benefits if, during the last two years preceding temporary incapacity to work, they were covered by sickness insurance for not less than 270 days;
• entitlement to sickness benefits ceases on the day following the last day of temporary incapacity to work, not later than with the lapse of the 52nd week from the beginning of temporary incapacity to work (support period);
• employees are entitled to sickness benefits if they do not receive income that may be considered as an assessment base.

Commercial insurance companies offer the possibility of additional health insurance during sickness leave as the income of an employee is being reduced.

Maternity benefits

Insured women are entitled to maternity benefits from the beginning of the sixth week preceding the expected date of delivery (childbirth) as determined by an attending practitioner, but not before the beginning of the eighth week preceding the expected date of birth, if it comes earlier than the aforesaid dates.

As a rule, 34 weeks are provided from the commencement of entitlement. In the case that a woman gives birth to two or more children at the same time, and takes care of at least two of these children, or if she is a single mother, her entitlement to maternity benefits terminates at the end of the 37th week from the commencement of entitlement to the maternity benefit.

If she is a single mother and she gives birth to two or more children at the
The period of entitlement to maternity benefits terminates at the end of the 43rd week from the commencement of entitlement to the maternity benefit.

If another insured person is taking care of a child, such a person shall be entitled to maternity benefits as from the date of assuming the care of the child for a period of 28 weeks from the commencement of entitlement to maternity benefit (or, if assuming care of two or more children, until the end of the 31st week from the commencement of the entitlement to maternity benefits).

The maternity benefits are at the rate of 60% of the daily assessment base, or of the probable daily assessment base, or placed under quarantine. In addition, the nursing benefit can be paid also when the child normally attends, are dissolved pre-school or school establishment, that the child has reached the age of 10 years of age. Nursing benefit is subject to an income threshold, the amount of which is determined by the Social Insurance Agency. The amount of the equalisation benefit is 55% of the difference between the monthly assessment basis and the assessment basis from which the female employee pays premium for the sickness insurance in separate calendar months after being transferred to another job. The equalisation benefit is provided for a calendar month, even if the female employee was transferred to another job or secondment was finished during the calendar month.

Pension insurance

An employee pays old-age insurance in the amount of 4% of the basis of assessment (usually equal to the gross wage). The employer on behalf of the employee pays the old-age insurance of 14% of the basis of assessment of the employer.

There are two “forms” of mandatory insurance scheme – 1st pillar/tier (contributions to the state Social insurance agency, concurrent regime) and 2nd pillar (old-age pension saving in pension management companies, capitalising regime). The total of 18% of old-age insurance is equally distributed to both the pillars. At the moment participation in the 2nd pillar is subject to one’s own choice within a limited time period after the commencement of first old-age insurance payments.

Moreover, there exists a 3rd pillar pension regime, which is completely voluntary and is meant as an additional old-age pension saving. Some employers might opt to partly contribute to these savings on behalf of an employee.

Pension insurance entitles the insured person to the following benefits:

- the old-age pension,
- the early old-age pension,
- the invalidity pension,
- survivors’ pensions (i.e. widow’s pension, widower’s pension, orphan’s pension).

Old-age pension

An insured person is entitled to an old-age pension if he/she has been insured for an old-age pension for at least 15 years and has reached the minimum age required for entitlement to an old-age pension (the so-called retirement age). The retirement age in the SR is at present 62 years both for men and women. In case of women the retirement age is also dependent on the number of children she has brought up.

If a mobile worker has contributed to insurance schemes of various Member States (EU, EEA, Switzerland) during his/her period of occupation all records of his/her contributions are held in each separate Member State. Upon reaching retirement age, the periods of insurance in individual States are aggregated and he/she is entitled to draw the appropriate proportion of old-age pension from each Member State in which he/she has worked for a period of more than 12 months.

The proportion is given by the ratio of years of insurance in the given state to the total insurance period of the worker before reaching the retirement age. An insurance period of less than 12 months will be taken over by his/her final country of employment.
Different legal framework applies to workers who have contributed to pension schemes of states with which there exists a bilateral agreement on social security. (Slovak Republic has concluded international agreement with the following states outside EEA: Canada, Croatia, Quebec, Soviet Union (as of 1960), Ukraine, Yugoslavian Republic (as of 1957). The principle of territoriality is exercised here, i.e. the old-age pension is paid off by the state, on the territory of which the insured person permanently resides. List of bilateral treaties can be found at [www.socpoist.sk/index/index.php?ids=1550](http://www.socpoist.sk/index/index.php?ids=1550), only in Slovak).

The application for drawing the old-age pension is submitted through the authorised social insurance body based on the permanent residence. (If having permanent residence in the SR, the application shall be submitted to the appropriate office of Social Insurance Agency to draw benefits also from other states of EEA and Switzerland and from those with which there exists a bilateral treaty). Hence usually only one application is required.

**Early old-age pension**

A new kind of benefit introduced by the Act on Social insurance is the early old-age pension. The qualifying condition is achievement of at least 15 years of pension insurance, lacking two years to reach the retirement age at most, and satisfying the condition of reaching the pension amount equal to 1.2 multiple of the subsistence minimum level for a natural person by the day of claiming the benefit.

**Invalidity pension**

An insured person is entitled to invalidity pension if he/she becomes disabled, has accumulated the correct number of years of the superannuation scheme and on the day on which the invalidity occurs does not qualify for entitlement to an old-age pension or early retirement pension.

For an insured person who has become disabled as a result of an occupational accident or disease, the condition regarding the number of years in the superannuation scheme is automatically deemed to have been satisfied.

An insured person is considered to be disabled if, due to long-term poor health, his or her capacity for work is reduced by more than 40 % in comparison with healthy natural persons; long-term poor health means the health condition that causes the reduction in work capacity and that, according to the knowledge of medical science, is expected to last longer than one year.

If a mobile worker is considered to be disabled by the legal regulations of the SR, but has not accumulated the correct number of years of the superannuation scheme to be entitled for the invalidity benefit in the SR, the periods of insurance in individual States (EU, EEA, Switzerland; states with which there exists a bilateral agreement on social security) are taken into consideration and are aggregated. The insurance periods are figured in only on the basis of an official confirmation by the relevant national authority (e.g. a social insurance company); where European coordination regulations apply, E205 form is required.

**Survivors’ pension**

Survivors’ pension insurance includes widow’s pension, widower’s pension and orphan’s pension.

Widow’s pension represents 60 % of the insured deceased person’s pension. Those entitled to this kind of benefit are the widow whose husband was receiving the old-age pension, the early old-age pension or the invalidity pension as of the day of his death, or satisfied conditions of the old-age pension entitlement as of the day of his death, or achieved the number of years of the pension insurance necessary to qualify to the invalidity pension as of the day of his death, or died due to the working injury or the occupational disease. The entitlement ceases:
- on contracting of marriage,
- on the day, validated by a court ruling, according to which the widow caused the death of her husband by a wilful criminal act.

Widower’s pension represents 60 % of the insured deceased person’s pension. Those entitled to this kind of benefit are the widower whose wife was receiving the old-age pension, the early old-age pension or the invalidity pension as of the day of her death, or satisfied conditions of the old-age pension entitlement as of the day of her death, or achieved the number of years of the pension insurance necessary to qualify to the invalidity pension as of the day of her death, or died due to the working injury or the occupational disease. The entitlement ceases:
- on contracting of marriage,
- on the day, validated by a court ruling, according to which the widower caused the death of her husband by a wilful criminal act.

The amount of orphan’s pension represents: 40 % of the insured deceased parent/adopter’s old-age or invalidity pension to which the deceased parent/adopter was entitled or would be entitled; or 40 % of the insured deceased parent/adopter’s early-old-age pension to which the deceased person was entitled by the day of his/her death.

The entitlement to orphan pension ceases on reaching the age of 26 years of the dependent child; or on the day, validated by a court, ruling according to which the dependent child caused the death of his/her parent or adopter.

**Accident insurance**

If an employee has suffered health damage or died during the performance of work or in direct connection therewith as a result of an accident (industrial accident), the liability for damage thus incurred lies with the employer with whom the employee had an employment relationship at the time of the industrial accident. The employer is obliged to compensate an employee who suffers harm at least to the extent to which he is liable for the harm.

An employee who, as a result of an industrial accident or occupational disease is acknowledged as being temporarily unfit for work, is entitled to an accident supplement (as a salary compensation) from the first day of temporary incapacity for work, if he or she receives sickness benefits under a sickness insurance scheme. The accident supplement is paid in respect of individual days.

The employee who sustains an injury is entitled to injury annuity payments if, as a result of industrial accident or
Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

The system of social insurance also includes the system of unemployment insurance. The insuree is entitled to unemployment benefit on condition he/she had unemployment insurance for at least two years (i.e. 730 days) within the past three years before being included into the registry of unemployed job seekers.

Those entitled to the unemployment benefit are those insurees who within the past four years before being included into the registry of unemployment job seekers achieved at least two years of insurance related to the labour relation concluded for a definite period, or two years of the voluntary insurance, and at the same time was not insured for the purposes of unemployment due to other activity as an employee.

The entitlement to start drawing compensation for occupational accidents and diseases shall be applied within three years of such entitlement or the entitlement will lapse.

Employers must take out compulsory injury insurance (as from the date on which they start employing at least one employee), but insurance benefits go to the employee concerned or an authorised person.


Unemployment insurance

The system of social insurance also includes the system of unemployment insurance. The insuree is entitled to unemployment benefit disbursement in the period when being granted: sickness benefit, nursing benefit, maternity benefit or parental allowance.

Guarantee insurance

This is the insurance applicable in the case of an employer’s insolvency. Entitled to this type of benefit is the employee whose employer has become insolvent and as a result cannot provide employees’ entitlements. The benefit is provided for a three-month period on condition of labour relationship duration for the past 18 months preceding the employer’s insolvency. The benefit is paid as a lump sum.

Social assistance

If you are in a difficult social situation, you may be eligible to use so called social services. Social services are governed by a new Act 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services that has replaced the former system of so-called social assistance.

The aim of provision of social services is prevention, solution, or mitigation of unwanted social situations of individuals; to support an individual to lead self-sufficient life and prevent social exclusion, and to secure the conditions for the satisfaction of an individuals’ basic life needs.

Social services include the following:
- social services to secure necessary conditions for satisfaction of basic life needs in accommodation facilities,
- social services to support families with children (especially help with child care),
- social services to resolve unwanted social situations arising due to heavy health impairment, unwanted medical state, or reaching pension age (caretaking service, transport service, guide service, reading service, interpretation service, arranging personal assistance, lending gadgets),
- social services with use of telecommunications technologies,
- support services.

Social services can be used by Slovak citizens, foreign nationals – EU/EEA citizens, and foreign nationals with permanent or temporary residence permit.

When using the social service, the beneficiaries should proceed as follows:
1. Slovak citizens or foreign nationals will ask for evaluation of being reliant on the specific social service,
2. municipality/region will complete medical and social evaluation procedures; issue a medical and social report, outlining reliance on the social service; and make a decision about being reliant on the social service,
3. Slovak citizens or foreign nationals who have been identified as being reliant on the social service will request the municipality/region to provide the social service.

State social support

State social support concerns mainly family benefits that are financed from the state budget, through which the state is directly involved in certain social situations (e.g. birth, nutrition and education of the child, death of family members and the like.) Entitlement to family benefits is not subject to the payment of contributions, or the financial situation of the authorised persons.

One-off state social benefits
- funeral contribution
- child birth contribution (for parents with permanent residence in Slovakia, currently 151.37 €)
- parental benefit – which can be paid out at the same time as the recurrent parental benefit to both parents or if one of the parents receives mother’s benefit (for parents with permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia, currently 156.67 €)
- a one-off allowance to cover the needs of a child in a foster care
- a child birth supplement – only with the first child (678.49 €)

Recurrent state social benefits
- child allowance
- recurrent parental allowance
- a contribution for the parents to whom three or more children were born and/or to whom twins were born repeatedly within two years
Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

Applying for parental allowance

Parental allowance is a state social benefit whereby the state makes a contribution towards enabling the parent to take proper care of a child of up to three years of age, or up to six years of age in case of a child with long-term poor health, or up to six years of a child placed in substitute parental care, not longer than three years from the date on which the decision of the court to place the child in substitute care became final. Those eligible to claim parental allowances are the parents of the child (i.e. his/her father or mother) or persons providing substitute parental care.

Entitlement criteria:
1. Proper care by the parent of at least one child;
2. Permanent or temporary residence of the eligible person in the Slovak Republic;
3. Permanent or temporary residence of the child in the Slovak Republic.

The amount of parental allowance is 190.10 € per calendar month (as of 1st January, 2011), in case of twins it is 237.60 €, in a case of triplets 285.10 €. If the parent is entitled to maternity/equivalent benefit, the amount is decreased by the amount of this benefit.

Eligible persons may claim child benefits by filing a written application with the office of the eligible person's place of permanent or temporary residence. Application form can be downloaded from www.employment.gov.sk/DIS/dis/index.php?SMC=1&id=328 (in Slovak only).

Child benefit

Child benefit is a state social benefit whereby the state contributes to the upbringing and maintenance of dependent children by eligible persons (e.g. parents, foster parents).

In general, a dependent child is defined as a child receiving compulsory education, at maximum up to the age of 25, on condition he/she is in continuous education for the future profession and until he/she has graduated from second level of higher education.

Only one adult person is entitled to the allowance for the same child.

Entitlement to child allowance arises upon the fulfilment of the following conditions:
- care of the child by the eligible person, permanent or temporary residence of the eligible person in the Slovak Republic, permanent or temporary residence of the dependent child in the Slovak Republic.
- The amount of allowance is 21,25 €/month.

Eligible persons may claim child benefits by filing a written application with the office of the eligible person's place of permanent or temporary residence. Application form can be downloaded from www.employment.gov.sk/DIS/dis/index.php?SMC=1&id=328 (in Slovak only).

Health insurance

The health insurance system in Slovakia is handled separately from other social security aspects and falls under the competence of the Ministry of Health (www.health.gov.sk, in Slovak only).

Major applicable legislation:
- Act No 580/2004 Coll. on Health insurance,
- Act No 577/2004 Coll. on the Scope of health care provided on the basis of public health insurance.

Obtaining health insurance is obligatory and proof of health insurance is required already when a foreigner is applying for the residence permit. Before you leave, make sure that you are covered by your current health insurance, or take out insurance in Slovakia. What you have to do will depend on your personal situation, the length of your stay and the terms of your current health insurance.

Depending on your situation, you will either continue to be covered by the health insurance of your home country, or you will fall under the regime of the Slovak Republic. In both cases, you will need to make specific arrangements for your continued health coverage.

Health insurance depends on your economic status – whether you are employed, self-employed, unemployed, a student, posted abroad, working across the border from where you live, and so on. You may not choose which country you will be covered by. The country responsible for your healthcare depends on your employment situation or your place of residence, not nationality.

There are two types of health insurance in Slovakia:
- mandatory public health insurance
- individual (commercial) health insurance

Mandatory health insurance

Holders of mandatory health insurance are entitled to health care provision and all related services in compliance with the Act on Health Care 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 dietic food. Spa treatment can be provided upon the recommendation of a doctor, where such care is an inevitable component of the treatment procedure.

Generally, every individual with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic must have mandatory public health insurance.

A third country national (outside EU/EEA/Switzerland) becomes mandatorily insured after obtaining permanent residence permit in Slovakia and fulfilling conditions stipulated by the Act on Health Insurance.

Mandatory public health insurance does not apply to an individual with permanent residence in Slovakia, if he/she:
- Is employed abroad and is covered by health insurance in the country of employment;
- Performs a self-employment activity abroad and is covered by health insurance abroad;
- Is staying abroad long-term (more than six months) and is covered by health insurance in this country.

An individual who does not have permanent residence in Slovakia must also have mandatory public health insurance (if he/she is not covered by health insurance in another EU/EEA member state or in Switzerland), if such person is:
- Employed with an employer whose seat or permanent establishment is in Slovakia;
- A self-employed person in Slovakia;
- A student from another EU member state or a foreign student studying in Slovakia according to an international treaty;
A dependent family member who was born to the insured person in another EU member state.

Obligation to have public health insurance in Slovakia according to the Act on Health Insurance does not always mean the insured person must also be the insurance payer. According to the Act on Health Insurance, the insurance payers are:

- Employee (partially participates on payments with the employer);
- Self-employed person (mostly pays the insurance alone, unless otherwise stipulated by law);
- Employer (partially participates on payments for the employee);
- The state (for PhD students under 30 years).

**Commercial health insurance**

Commercial health insurance holders are entitled to health care services stipulated in the agreement with the Health Insurance Authority. Commercial health insurance is provided in compliance with special legislation (Civil Code). The scope of the health services is stipulated individually either as basic health care available to foreigners who cannot have the public health insurance; or supplementary insurance (more than standard health care) or combination of both previously mentioned.

Commercial health insurance is compulsory for everyone, who doesn’t fall into the scope of the public health insurance. This concerns researchers who are not employed and they perform activities on a basis of stipend and students who are not EU/EEA/Swiss citizens, don’t have permanent residency in the Slovak Republic, and don’t study on the basis of international agreement binding for the Slovak Republic.

Commercial health insurance can be obtained from any provider, not necessarily a Slovak one. In case it is obtained from a foreign insurance provider, the contract has to stipulate its coverage on the territory of the Slovak Republic and it has to be translated to Slovak language by an official translator.

**Health insurance providers**

There are 3 health insurance companies providing public health insurance in Slovakia:

- Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa, a. s. ([www.vspz.sk](http://www.vspz.sk), in Slovak only)
- DÖVERA zdravotná poisťovňa, a. s. ([www.dovera.sk](http://www.dovera.sk), in Slovak only)
- Union zdravotná poisťovňa, a. s. ([www.union.sk](http://www.union.sk), in Slovak only)

You can find information for foreigners on mandatory public health insurance on the English version of Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa, a. s. website dedicated to foreigners ([www.vspz.sk/showdoc.do?docid=399](http://www.vspz.sk/showdoc.do?docid=399)) and Union zdravotná poisťovňa, a. s. section for foreigners ([www.union.sk/information-for-foreigners.html](http://www.union.sk/information-for-foreigners.html)).

Information about commercial insurance companies in Slovakia is available on the following websites (on these websites you can find a list of insurance companies with their contact data):

- Slovak Association of Insurance companies: ([www.slaspo.sk](http://www.slaspo.sk))
- Slovak Insurer’s Bureau: ([www.skp.sk](http://www.skp.sk))

**Health insurance card**

Every insured person proves participation in health insurance by the insurance card, the so-called “health insurance card”. The insurance card issued by any health insurance company providing public health insurance serves to identify the insured is in contact with individual branches of the insurance company or medical facilities in Slovakia.

Every health insurance company issues the insured a public health insurance card, which the insured presents when visiting a doctor. When changing the health insurance company, the insured has to return the insured’s card to the issuing insurance company within eight days.

However, the entitlement to health care itself, which stems from health insurance, is not dependent on presenting the insured person’s card but only on the existence of insurance. Therefore, if a foreign national needs to see a doctor and he/she has not yet been issued the card, it is sufficient to show a confirmation from the insurance company proving his/her insurance.

**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/Swiss 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/Swiss national will be covered by a Slovak health insurance company to the same amount as a Slovak national, provided the relevant physician has concluded a contract with at least one health insurance company. The European Health Insurance Card ensures necessary medical treatment within the system of public health care, including treatment related to chronic diseases, if such need arises, to enable the holder to continue his/her stay without having to return home for treatment. It covers all age groups, with a maximum unlimited financial amount. On the other hand it does not cover the individual contribution of the insured person to treatment, transport to the country of origin or repatriation. EHIC is mostly applied for short-term temporary stays such as e.g. in case of tourists, students, posted workers (see the section on Social security).

**Health insurance and employment in Slovakia**

When a foreign national takes up employment with an employer who has permanent residence in the Slovak Republic or commences to perform self-employment activities in the Slovak Republic, he/she becomes subject to statutory public health insurance in the SR. The Slovak health insurance company of his/her choice will issue a Slovak health insurance card after registering.

**Levies into statutory health insurance funds of employees**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insurance charge of an employee (%)</td>
<td>Insurance charge of employer on behalf of an employee (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>max. (for 2011)</td>
<td>max. (for 2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dependants of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals coming to stay in the Slovak Republic should also register in a Slovak health insurance company and have the Slovak health insurance card. However, each case is treated individually because the terms vary from case to case. For details it is highly recommended to contact your home health insurance company before arrival in the Slovak Republic.

EU/EEA nationals employed in the Slovak Republic who reside in another Member State are entitled (together with their dependant family members) to comprehensive health care (full coverage) (contrary to EHIC) in the country of residence as well as in the Slovak Republic. The entitlement is applied by means of
being insured in one of these countries, and their family members.
• Nationals of non-EU countries, legally residing in the territory of the EU, who have moved between these countries, and their family members.

The main principles:
1. A person is covered by the legislation of one country at a time so he/she only pays contributions in one country. The decision on which country’s legislation applies will be made by the social security institutions. You cannot choose.
2. A mobile person has the same rights and obligations as the nationals of the country where he/she is covered. This is known as the principle of equal treatment or non-discrimination.
3. When somebody claims a benefit, previous periods of insurance, work or residence in other countries are taken into account if necessary.
4. If a person is entitled to a cash benefit from one country, he/she may generally receive it even if he/she is living in a different country. This is known as the principle of exportability.

As from 1 May 2010, new Regulations on modernised coordination (Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009) apply. The essential changes are:
• More people can benefit from the coordination rules: it now covers not only workers and their families but also people who are currently out of work, not yet in work or no longer working.
• Its scope also extends to new benefits such as paternity and pre-retirement benefits, so as to adapt to developments in social security legislation at national level.

4.4.4 Social security (including health insurance) coordination within EU

Although there is no single European social security system, the EU has set common provisions in the field of social protection. This includes the coordination of national social security schemes without seeking to harmonise national regulations. EU law has laid down common rules and principles to be observed by national local authorities and social security institutions that do not replace, but complement, the social security provisions of Member States.

All countries are free to decide who is to be insured under their legislation, which benefits are granted and under what conditions. The EU provides common rules to protect your social security rights when moving within Europe (EU 27 + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).

These rules apply to:
• Nationals of the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland who are or have been insured in one of these countries, and their family members.
• Stateless persons or refugees residing in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, who are or have been insured in one of these countries, and their family members.

The tax authority in Slovakia is the Tax Directorate of the Slovak Republic (www.drsr.sk/drsr/english) and it has a network of 102 local Tax Offices.

Tax system in Slovakia:
• Direct taxes
  – Income tax (private individuals and legal entities): 19 %
  – Local tax (paid directly to municipal authorities)
• Indirect taxes
  – Value added tax (VAT): 20 %
  – Excise tax (e.g. on alcohol, tobacco, mineral oil)
### 4.5.1 Direct taxes

**Income tax**

The major Slovak legislation is the Act No. 595/2003 Coll. on income tax.

Usually the income is taxed in the country of occupation, unless otherwise provided. Hence if you are employed in the SR, the income tax is deducted from the wage according to the Slovak legislation, unless a bilateral agreement for avoiding double taxation states otherwise.

The tax period is one year. Income tax is paid monthly in the form of a tax advance – 19% from the tax base which is the gross wage minus all the contributions to compulsory insurance funds and a non-taxable sum (exempt from taxation). The non-taxable sum is applicable also to foreigners.

The tax base can be reduced by a spouse allowance (if he or she is without own income or the income is lower than the set limit and lives in the same household). The resulting tax can be reduced by a child allowance (dependent child, e.g. attending school). However, these conditions hold only for foreigners with unrestricted tax liability (see below).

**Tax residence**

It is of great importance to determine the tax residence of the person in order to clarify the tax liability to the state of occupation and/or residence.

**Unrestricted tax liability** applies in case of a person with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic or when the person stays on the territory of the Slovak Republic at least 183 days (6 months) in a calendar year. Such a taxpayer pays tax from the income received in the Slovak Republic as well as from his or her income from abroad.

On the other hand, a **taxpayer with restricted tax liability** is a person who is not a taxpayer with an unrestricted tax liability, or who often stays in the SR only for the purpose of studies or enters Slovakia daily (or occasionally) only for the purpose of employment in SR. The taxpayer with a restricted tax liability pays tax only from income received in the Slovak Republic for his/her period of employment in Slovakia. As stated before, tax residence may be further specified in bilateral double taxation agreements.

**Tax exceptions**

The following incomes are exempt from taxation:

- financial resources from grants provided on the basis of international treaties, by which is the Slovak Republic bound,
- benefits from health and social insurance etc., including old-age savings,
- per diems up to the amount set by law,
- financial amount spent by the employer for training of an employee related to the employment,
- financial contribution of the employer to the board of an employee up to the amount set by law.

### Double taxation agreements

In order to make the taxing of migrant persons easier and to avoid double taxation, the Slovak Republic has concluded bilateral agreements with other countries. The Slovak Republic continuously extends the geographical area covered by taxation agreements, as of June 2010 there are taxation agreements with 62 countries. The list of countries with **double taxation agreements** with Slovakia is available on the website of the Ministry of Finance [www.finance.gov.sk](http://www.finance.gov.sk).

#### Countries, to which the double taxation agreements apply:

- Australia
- Austria
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- China
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Malta
- Mexico
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uzbekistan

#### Tax return (declaration of taxes)

After the **taxation period** (that is one calendar year) the annual clearing of taxes is made by filing the **tax return** (declaration of taxes), and only then the final level of non-taxable amount is calculated dependent on the whole-year wage.

The deadline for submission of the tax return is **31 March** every year (with the possibility of prolonging the period upon justified request). Only afterwards the tax overpayment or tax in arrears can be determined.

In the case of tax residents with unlimited liability who have income also from abroad, it is necessary to state all the incomes in the tax return form and provide documents proving the payment of the tax abroad. Authentic certificate(s) of taxation of income(s) must be submitted. When the taxpayer cannot obtain these documents within the deadline (31 March), he/she has to ask the Tax Office to prolong the period to file the tax return.

The tax return form and other tax related documents can be downloaded from the website of the Slovak Tax Directory [www.drsr.sk](http://www.drsr.sk), although in Slovak only.

However, it is always recommended to consult the appropriate tax authority with
any tax issues arising from a researcher’s state of permanent residence prior to commencing work in the SR.

Local tax
Local taxes are within the competence of municipal assemblies and are therefore different in every village and town. Local taxes include: real estate tax; dog tax; taxes for using public spaces; accommodation tax; vending machines tax; non-gambling slot machines tax; taxes to drive into and/or park a motor vehicle in the historical centre of a city; nuclear devices tax; local payments for communal waste and small quantities of construction waste; and motor vehicle tax.

4.5.2 Indirect taxes
Value added tax (VAT)
Standard VAT in Slovakia is 19 %. During the time period from 1 January 2011 until the last day of the calendar year in which the European Commission (Eurostat) publishes data stating that the Slovak Republic’s current Government Deficit is less than 3 %, the standard tax rate on goods and services represents 20 % of the tax base.

Only a very special category of products like medicaments, pharmaceutical products, medical and diagnostics aids and also books, brochures and similar printing products (music printing works) are subject to reduced VAT of 10 %. (complete list download at http://www.finance.gov.sk/en/Default.aspx?CatID=317).

Excise tax
Special terms apply to excise tax on beer, wine, alcohol, tobacco and tobacco products, and mineral oils.

Official information and also documents/forms to download are available on the websites of the Ministry of Finance (www.finance.gov.sk) and of the Tax Directorate (www.drsr.sk).

The information provided is available also in English, but most of the information and all the documents/forms are in Slovak only.

4.6 Recognition of diplomas

The Slovak Republic has its own rules, which are applied for recognition of education from abroad. It is within the scope of competence of Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. There is a Centre for Recognition of Diplomas, organisationally a part of the Ministry, and part of the international network of UNESCO, ENIC (European Network of Information Centres) and NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres).

The procedures of recognition differ according the purpose of recognition:

1. for the purpose of work
   (Act No. 293/2007 Coll. on recognition of professional qualification),

2. for the purpose of further education

Recognition for the purpose of work it is important if the profession to be performed is regulated or not. In the case of a non-regulated profession, the decision lies with the employer (The employer can ask for the opinion of the Ministry that should provide an answer within 30 days since the application was filed). In the case of a regulated profession, the decision lies with the Ministry. It is necessary to present, to the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas, the following documents:

- copy of ID or passport,
- copy of diploma, apostilled, officially translated into Slovak language verified by a notary,
- transcript of records officially translated into Slovak language verified by a notary,
- fee stamp of 99.50 € or fee stamp of 33 € (when the document has already been recognized by another EU Member State different from the State of origin of the document).

In this case the decision of the Ministry shall be issued within 60 days since the application was filed.

For academic purposes the decision lies upon the higher education institution that provides similar study programmes (if no such HEI exists, the decision is taken by the Ministry). There are bilateral agreements with the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, Poland, and Romania, providing that the recognition by the HEI is done automatically (without any additional examinations).

PhD degree from an EU/EEA/Swiss HEI is also recognised automatically for both purposes, an application has to be filed to the Ministry and it shall issue the decision within 30 days from when the application is filed (download form in Slovak at http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=869).

Contact:
The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
Centre for Recognition of Diplomas
Stromová 1, 833 30 Bratislava, 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 www.minedu.sk.

Recognition of primary and secondary education

According to the legislation in force, the foreign qualifications giving access to higher education are recognised by District Education Authorities as a part of the general State administration in Slovakia. At present, there are eight regional authorities. The regional school authority has competence to make the decision on the recognition of education and is given according to the place of residence.

The subject of nostrification is a document on education issued by the foreign school, which is comparable by its concentration and content of teaching to the primary school or corresponds to the study of an equal or similar subject in a secondary school.


The holder of a foreign certificate should attach to the application for nostrification:

a) a verified copy of certificate (notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak);

b) unless the certificate directly shows successful completion of the entire study, a verified list of subjects with the number of teaching hours in individual years of study (transcript of the curricula, notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak).
c) a document from the foreign school on the extent of practical training in the case of a profiling component of the education and training, and is not shown in curricula (notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak).

The Centre for recognition issues the recommendation to the applicant.

The applicant delivers the recommendation of the Centre together with the appropriate documents to the District Education Authority according to the applicant’s place of residence.

In the case that the study in the foreign school only partially corresponds to the curricula of secondary schools in Slovakia, or the graduate did not attach all the required documents mentioned above, the responsible authority could lay down the obligation to take a supplementary examination. The supplementary examination is meant to verify the knowledge and skills of the graduate in subjects, or in their parts, which were not studied by the applicant in a foreign school and which have a direct relation to the graduate’s profile or the field of study pursued. A graduate who is not a Slovak national does not have to take a supplementary examination in Slovak Language and Literature.

The District Education Authority determines the secondary school in which the graduate shall take the supplementary examination, the content and the date of examination.

A different procedure could apply when credentials were issued by a foreign school of the State with which an agreement has been concluded on the mutual recognition of documents on education by which the Slovak Republic is bound. In this case the recognition is necessary for academic purposes (continuing in higher education in the SR) the credentials are considered as equal without nostrification. The regional school authority shall issue within 15 days from delivery of the application a statement, in which it indicates the document on education with which the submitted document is equivalent.

**Contact:**
The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic Centre for Recognition of Diplomas Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava, 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 www.minedu.sk.

## 4.7 Import of goods

**Within the EU/EEA/Switzerland** import and export of goods is not limited in any way, which also applies to goods for private purposes. It is therefore possible to import an unlimited amount of goods for private purposes from other EU-member countries to Slovakia. There is no obligation to pay tax in Slovakia, as the VAT and excise tax on goods (where applicable) purchased for private purposes has already been included in the purchasing price in the respective country.

When certain goods that are subject to excise tax are purchased (alcohol, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products), it is the purchaser who has the obligation to transport the products purchased in another EU-member country. It is not allowed to have the goods shipped, and no other person is allowed to transport the goods. It is also forbidden to provide the goods for further sale. 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.

**Outside the EU/EEA** it is possible to import or export duty-free the following quantities:
- 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 gram tobacco;
- 1 litre of spirit/ alcohol over 22 % vol. or 2 litres of alcoholised wine or sparkling wine;
- 2 litres of non sparkling wine;
- Perfume – 50 grams;
- Eau de toilette – 250 ml;
- Other up to the value 175 € (the limitations are lowered to 90 € for travellers under 15 years of age).

Transport of pets is permitted only with the respective veterinary certificate.

Weapons can be exported only with firearms certificate.

For **exporting goods** basically the same limits are valid as for import. Art objects and objects of historical value underlie/are liable to licence and custom duty.

**Currency restrictions**

The import and export of local and foreign currency is permitted. When entering the SR (EU) from third countries or departing the SR (EU) to third countries, exported, imported money or other financial resources (bonds, cheques, trade drafts; precious metals and stones) above the equivalent of 10 000 € must be declared on an official form (Annex 1 of Act 199/2004 Coll. – Customs Act) at the corresponding customs office. Amounts in other currencies follow exchange rates given by the National Bank of Slovakia for the particular day.

Financial resources sent by mail to or from a third country (outside EU) in the amount exceeding 1000 € should also be declared.

**More information:** Customs Administration of the Slovak Republic http://www.colnasprava.sk/wps/portal/utf/p/_s.7_0_A/7.0.280
5. Daily life in Slovakia

In this chapter you can find useful information regarding your daily life in Slovakia. The topics are various and listed according to the alphabet. Information covers topics that may arise upon your arrival or during your stay in Slovakia and it should help you find your way through these situations – be it finding a flat or finding your way from the airport. Also approximate prices of different services are mentioned, so you can calculate the costs of your stay in advance. This chapter gives a picture of what life in Slovakia may be. For more information follow the links that are posted by each section or do not hesitate to contact local EURAXESS Services Centres.

5.1 Accommodation and housing

Ask your future employer or your host organisation if it is possible to provide you with accommodation. Some universities and research institutes have their own accommodation facilities for their employees. If your future employer/host cannot provide you with accommodation, ask them for other possibilities or recommendations.

You can find accommodation yourself, too – properties for rent are advertised in specialised advertising publications, daily newspapers, regional press and on the Internet. You can rent a flat directly from an owner or through a real estate agency.

When renting a flat, enquire whether the price covers just the rent or if it also includes utility costs (electricity, gas, heating, water, phone bills, etc.). Rents are normally paid monthly and deposits of a few months’ rent are common. It is, of course, necessary to sign a lease.

Rental prices depend on several factors:
- city/town (in the capital city and university towns rents are usually higher),
- locality within a city/town (centre/outskirts),
- type of flat/house (tower block, brick house, new building, flat/house that has or has not been renovated, etc.),
- furnishings,
- size of flat (number of bedrooms, surface area etc.).

Useful links

Long-term accommodation
- www.reality.sk – a nationwide search database (also in English), provides regularly updated rental offers from more than 400 real estate agencies, a list of real estate agencies with contact phone numbers, websites and E-mails
- www.realityserver.sk – search database (in Slovak only)
- www.greenpages.sk – a webportal "Green Pages" providing information and contact phone numbers, websites and E-mails of several firms and organisations in Slovakia, including sections like: Real estate agencies (Realitné kancelárie); Hotels in Bratislava (Hotely v Bratislave); Hotels outside Bratislava (Hotely mimo Bratislavy)
- www.slovakspectator.sk – see the advertising part of the newspaper also providing information in English on renting property.
- www.roommates.sk – individual advertising website for accommodation rentals (craig’s list style, in Slovak)

Short-term accommodation
- www.reality.sk – a nationwide search database (also in English), regularly updated rental offers by more than 400 real estate agencies, a list of real estate agencies with contact phone numbers, websites and E-mails
- www.realityserver.sk – search database (in Slovak only)
- www.greenpages.sk – a webportal "Green Pages" providing information and contact phone numbers, websites and E-mails of several firms and organisations in Slovakia, including sections like: Real estate agencies (Realitné kancelárie); Hotels in Bratislava (Hotely v Bratislave); Hotels outside Bratislava (Hotely mimo Bratislavy)
- www.slovakspectator.sk – see the advertising part of the newspaper also providing information in English on renting property.
- www.ambiente‑apartments.com – apartment rentals in Bratislava

5.2 Banks and currency

There are many banks, usually members of international corporations offering ordinary banking services such as current accounts and subaccounts, 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. List of banks is available at the website of Slovak Banking Association 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 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. Closing of the bank account is for free, but the bank can set a fixed amount account balance up to 7 €.

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
Daily life 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 at www.zlatestranky.sk).

General Phone Numbers: Emergency calls:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Emergency</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town police</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enquiry services (usually paid):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers in Slovakia</td>
<td>1181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers abroad</td>
<td>12 149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Info Assistant – Practical information for everyday use</td>
<td>12 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exact time</td>
<td>12 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakeup calls</td>
<td>12 125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National calls mediated by an operator</td>
<td>12 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International calls mediated by an operator</td>
<td>12 131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to make phone calls

International country code of the Slovak Republic: 00 421

Mobile operators on the area of the Slovak Republic: Orange, T-Mobile, Telefónica O2. Slovakia is well covered by mobile phone networks, which enable calls also from some peaks of Tatra. 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.

5.3 Communications and post offices

Currency and exchange rate

Currency in Slovakia is the euro (since 1 January 2009). Denominations: 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;

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

5.4 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 openair 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")

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 h. It is possible to buy post stamps for post cards and letters directly in the post offices or in some newspaper stands.

A 50 g 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 50 g 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 50 g 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); information 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.
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 “nonstop”.

Unless the menu states that service is included, tipping is expected. 5 – 10 % 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 %.


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 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 snaillike curls, “oštiepok” – smoked sheep cheese shaped in wooden moulds.

The most popular wines are those from the Tokaj, Small Carpathians, Nitra, Topoľčany and Žahorie 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 Speciál” (the Carpathian Brandy Special) are also highly rated. Typical Slovak liqueurs are Demánovka 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, Smádný mnich, Martiner, Topvar, Šariš, Gemer.

More information http://slovakia.eunet.sk/slovakia/cuisine/bonappetit/

5.5 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 a new building on the bank of the Danube became the home of SND in addition to the historic building.

Other state institutions are The State Theatre (“Štátne divadlo”) in Košice (www.sdke.sk), in Slovak only 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), in Slovak only.

Private theatre offering different types of performances is the Aréna theatre in Bratislava (www.divadloarena.sk).

Theatre performance usually begins at 7 p.m. (at 6 p.m. 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 Leoslov Bella, Viliam Figuš-Bystry who layed 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 Suchñoň (1st Slovak national opera “Krúžhava” (The Whirlpool)) and Ján Číker.
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 orchestr mesta Bratislavy”, www.filharm.sk) and Košice (“www.sf.k.sk”), The Symphonic Orchestra of Slovak Radio (“Symfonický orchestr Slovenského rozhlasu”, www.slovakradio.sk/symfonicky-orchester-sro) and The Bohdan Warchal Slovak Chamber Orchestra (“Slovenský komorný orchestr Bohdana Warchala”, www.filharm.sk).

Musical performances usually begin at 7 p.m. 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 online at www.ticketportal.sk.

Traditional folk music

The most impressive ensembles performing traditional dance and music are The Slovak Folk Ensemble (“Slovenský ludový umelcový kollektív” – SLUK, www.slu.k.sk, in Slovak only) and Lúčnica (www.lunica.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, updated information in Slovak only).

Modern Music
The Music Centre 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 (in Slovak only). 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.

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 ULUV – The Centre for Folk Art Production (www.uluv.sk/en). The Centre sells traditional products but also organise exhibitions, artistic workshops “The ULUV Craft school” 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). Mora’s ceramic tradition was heavily influenced by the influx of Haban craftsmen 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 – “Muzeum 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, Vikolínce, 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 denominations. 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

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 in Slovak only) 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.

A newsportal THE DAILY.sk (www.thedaily.sk) offers daily Slovak news in English for all foreigners living, working or just visiting Slovakia.

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.

Košice 2013 – European Capital of Culture

The city of Košice was awarded the title of the European Capital of Culture for 2013. You can find more information about this award and related events at www.kosice2013.sk/en.
5.6 Day care for children

In the Slovak Republic preschool education is provided until the beginning of compulsory school attendance. Preschool education in the Slovak Republic is both non-institutional and institutional. Non-institutional form of preschool education takes places in the family. Institutional form of preschool education is carried out in preschool establishments represented by kindergartens and special kindergartens. Preschool establishments admit children between the age of three and six years. Exceptionally, it is possible to admit children from the age of two years. (Preschool education in preschool establishments is also provided to children over six years of age, whose start of compulsory school attendance was postponed or whose fulfilment of compulsory schooling was additionally postponed.)

Preschool establishments are set up with varied lengths of operation such as half-day, full day, weekday and continuous operation. A prevailing number of kindergartens are operating full day, usually from 6:00 to 18:00 according the parents’ needs.

State kindergartens are the norm, however, church and private kindergartens are becoming quite common too. In most kindergartens education is provided in Slovak though there are several kindergartens (mostly state ones) with Hungarian and Ukrainian as communication languages aimed predominantly at children of those nationalities. There exist a few kindergartens providing education in English; they are private organisations.

In Bratislava they are:
- Babyland (www.babyland-centrum.sk)
- Brilliant Stars Intl. Kindergarten (www.brilliantstars.sk)
- British International School Bratislava (www.nordanglia.com/bratislava)
- Galileo School (www.galileoschool.sk)
- Fantasy Kindergarten (www.skolka-fantasy.sk)
- Forel International School (www.forel.sk)
- Little Angel Playschool (www.littleangel.sk)
- QSI International School of Bratislava (http://bratislava.qsischool.org)
- Unity House Montessori Kindergarten (www.unity-house.sk)
- Wonderland English-German Kindergarten (www.wonderland.sk)

In Košice:
- QSI International School of Košice (http://kosice.qsischool.org)

Some of these establishments also provide primary and even secondary education.

For the list of kindergartens see the database of the Institute for Educational Information and Prognosis (www.uips.sk, in Slovak only). Look for regional education (“Regionálne školstvo”) available databases (“Dostupné databázy”) list of school facilities (“Register škol a školských zariadení v Slovenskej republike”), search for “materské školy” in the field of “druh školy” – school type.

5.7 Education system

5.7.1 School education

Primary education lasts for nine years and is compulsory. It usually starts in the age of 6. It is divided into two stages of four and five years respectively:

1. First stage of primary education: age 6 to 10
   - Primary education is provided by the first stage of primary school (Grades 1 to 4). Enrolling in primary education enables pupils to continue to the second stage of primary school or to the initial four years of the 8-year secondary school.

2. Second stage of primary education: age 10 to 15
   - Second stage of primary education is provided by the second stage of primary school (Grades 5 to 9) or by the initial four years of the 8-year secondary schools. In most cases, it is necessary to pass an entrance test to be accepted to secondary education institution.

Secondary education:
- age 15 to 19

Secondary education is provided by the following types of schools:

1. Gymnasium (secondary grammar school): Provides general secondary education and prepares for further study at universities and other higher education institutions.
2. Specialised secondary school: Prepares students for vocational education and for study at higher education institutions.
3. Conservatories: Conservatories are a special type of professional school that provides courses in such fields as Singing, Music, Dancing and Dramatic Arts.
4. Vocational secondary school: Prepares students for occupations requiring higher level vocational education and a School Leaving Certificate. Students may continue their studies at higher education institutions.
5. Apprentice training centres: Prepare school-leavers for professional activities.
There is a general grading scale:
1 – excellent
2 – very good
3 – good
4 – satisfactory
5 – unsatisfactory (fail)

In the majority of schools, Slovak language is the language of instruction. However, there are also schools with instruction in other language than Slovak – Hungarian mostly, but also Ukrainian, Bulgarian, German, English. (See the list of schools at the website of The Institute for Educational Information and Prognosis – www.uips.sk – guidelines for the search are given below.)

There are also bilingual schools – certain subjects are taught in Slovak, others in a particular foreign language. In Slovakia there are bilingual secondary schools in which selected subjects are taught in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian or Russian language. There are about 30 bilingual schools.

### Bilingual secondary schools – English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium J. Hronca</td>
<td>Bratislava 2</td>
<td>Novohradská 3</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gjh.sk">www.gjh.sk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingválne gymnázium C. S. Lewisa</td>
<td>Bratislava 5</td>
<td>Beňadická 38</td>
<td><a href="http://www.blegym.sk">www.blegym.sk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Bratislava 5</td>
<td>Pankúchova 6</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymba.sk">www.gymba.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanjelické lúceum</td>
<td>Bratislava 5</td>
<td>Vranovská 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.evlyceum.sk">www.evlyceum.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium J. M. Hurbana</td>
<td>Čadca</td>
<td>17. novembra 1296</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymcadca.sk">www.gymcadca.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanjelické gymnázium J. A. Komenského</td>
<td>Košice</td>
<td>Pušťinova 3</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gjak.sk">www.gjak.sk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spojené evanjelické školy</td>
<td>Liptovský Mikuláš</td>
<td>Komenského 10</td>
<td><a href="http://esvm.sk">http://esvm.sk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium</td>
<td>Prešov</td>
<td>Solivarská 28</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sukromnauzokolskigo.sgo">www.sukromnauzokolskigo.sgo</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingválne gymnázium M. Hodžu</td>
<td>Sušany</td>
<td>Komenského 215</td>
<td><a href="http://gbiouzokolskigo.sgo">http://gbiouzokolskigo.sgo</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanjelické gymnázium</td>
<td>Tisovec</td>
<td>Jeseníkého 836</td>
<td><a href="http://www.egti.sk">www.egti.sk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium</td>
<td>Žilina</td>
<td>Dravská cesta 11</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ssgs.sk">www.ssgs.sk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia</td>
<td>Trnava</td>
<td>Kukočínova 2</td>
<td><a href="http://oakuktt.edupage.org">http://oakuktt.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bilingual secondary schools – German

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Bilíkova</td>
<td>Bratislava 42</td>
<td>Bilíkova 24</td>
<td><a href="http://bs.gymbilva.sk">http://bs.gymbilva.sk</a> (in German)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia I. Karvaša</td>
<td>Bratislava 5</td>
<td>Hrobiuková 11</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oakuktt.edupage.org">www.oakuktt.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spojená škola D. Tatarku</td>
<td>Poprad</td>
<td>D. Tatarku 14</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coopgsk-biling-sport">www.coopgsk-biling-sport</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium V. B. Nedžerského</td>
<td>Pневдза</td>
<td>Matice slovenskej 16</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymdp.sk">www.gymdp.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia</td>
<td>Trnava</td>
<td>Kukočínova 2</td>
<td><a href="http://oakuktt.edupage.org">http://oakuktt.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bilingual secondary schools – French

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spojená škola Metodova</td>
<td>Bratislava 2</td>
<td>Metodova 2</td>
<td><a href="http://gmet.edupage.org">http://gmet.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium M. R. Štefánka</td>
<td>Košice</td>
<td>Nám. L. Novomeského 4</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymrskesco.sk">www.gymrskesco.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium C. Štúra</td>
<td>Trenčín</td>
<td>1. mája 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gitsm.sk">www.gitsm.sk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium bilingválne v Žiline</td>
<td>Žilina</td>
<td>T. Ružička 3</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gbzea.edu.sk">www.gbzea.edu.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bilingual secondary schools – Spanish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium M. Kováča</td>
<td>Banská Bystrica</td>
<td>Mladežnícka 51</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymkkbs.sk">www.gymkkbs.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium F. G. Lorcu</td>
<td>Bratislava 214</td>
<td>Hronská 3</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymhron.sk">www.gymhron.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Košice</td>
<td>Park mládeže 5</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gym.eduopage.org">www.gym.eduopage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Nitra</td>
<td>Párovská 1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymparnn.es">www.gymparnn.es</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium M. Mattalov</td>
<td>Martinčík</td>
<td>Železniciarov 278</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymzmarsochskigo.sko">www.gymzmarsochskigo.sko</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information on studies in Spanish in Slovakia can be found at www.educacion.gob.es/exterior/sk/es/home/index.shtml (in Spanish only).

### Bilingual secondary schools – Italian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium L. Sáru</td>
<td>Bratislava 4</td>
<td>Ladislava Sáru 1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymlis.edu.sk">www.gymlis.edu.sk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bilingual secondary schools – Russian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium A. Einsteina</td>
<td>Bratislava 5</td>
<td>Einsteina 35</td>
<td><a href="http://www.einsteinova.sk">www.einsteinova.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingválne gymnázium Snina</td>
<td>Snina</td>
<td>ŽS Budovateľská 1992/9</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sguobtana.mes.sk">www.sguobtana.mes.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gymnázium, lúceum = secondary grammar school
Obchodná akadémia = secondary school of economics and administration
Spojená škola = merged school with two organisational units: secondary grammar school and primary school
There are also private international/foreign language/schools (primary, secondary), e.g.:
- British International School Bratislava (www.nordanglia.com/bratislava)
- Forel International School (www.forelsko.sk)
- Galileo English-Slovak Primary School (www.galileoschool.sk)
- QSI International School of Bratislava (http://bratislava.qsischool.org)
- QSI International School of Košice (http://kosice.qsischool.org)

Children of foreigners with residence (temporary, permanent or tolerated) in Slovakia can attend kindergartens, elementary or secondary school in their place of residence or according to their parents’ choice. Registration for a particular school is carried out after an arrangement with the headmaster of a selected school.

The list of schools and education establishments in Slovakia is available at the website of the Institute for Educational Information and Prognosis (www.uips.sk) – “PUBLIKÁCIE, ČASOPISY” (publications, magazines) > “Siete škôl, adresáre, prehľady” (School networks, databases, overviews). It is possible to search for information according to different criteria (but only in Slovak).

Contact phone numbers of kindergartens, elementary, secondary schools, and universities can be found on www.zlatestranky.sk. Many schools have their own websites. Contact details and phone numbers of private schools with instruction in a foreign language are also available at http://directory.spectator.sk.

After-school activity
Primary or secondary schools’ classes are usually held from 8:00 to 13:30. There are usually educational establishments where pupils of the first stage of primary schools can spend their free time after classes. Attendance is voluntary. Their activities are aimed at developing pupils’ talents, preparing for lessons on the next day and organising sports activities in general.

Students can attend after-school clubs run by schools themselves, devoted to various fields of interest, e.g. science, ecology, drama classes, music, sport, photography etc. Main enrolment/registration days for a particular after school activity/programme are usually held in September. For further information contact the appropriate school.

Apart from that, students can also attend language classes specially designed for their age and interests, leisure and hobby centres, or primary schools of art. (When looking for primary schools of art search for the term “základná umelčá skola” in a standard search engine).

There are so-called centres of free time (“Centrá vnútného času” – CVC) in all the regions of Slovakia. The list of them can be found on the webpage of Iuventa (www.iuventa.sk), under the section of Children and Youth (“Deti a Mládež” in Slovak), look for “CVC v SR” or use again the standard search engine.

Many children and youth organisations providing after-school activities are associated with the Youth Council of Slovakia (www.mladez.sk, in Slovak only).

Au-pair service
If you need to babysit your child, you can use the services of one of the many agencies which arrange babysitting for a fee (for both healthy or sick children, whole-day or just afternoon babysitting – with the possibility of being prepared for classes or accompanied to children’s clubs, after-school activities, babysitting in the evenings and at weekends etc.)

A babysitting charge depends on a type of babysitting (regular, occasional, in a school facility or in the household), on a length of babysitting (short-time or long-time babysitting), as well as on a number of children. The price is approximately from 3 EUR to 5 EUR per hour.

For further information, contact directly particular agencies or consult their websites. A majority of agencies can also provide a babysitter who can also speak a foreign language (usually English, German or French).

For a few examples of these see http://directory.spectator.sk.

5.7.2 Higher education

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). The Jesuits founded Košice University in 1567. In 1770, the enlightened, absolutist ruler, Maria Theresa, established the first school of mining in the world – the Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica.

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 the 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 provides 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 are 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 provides 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 the 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 nongovernmental institutions or founders. Most of the private higher education institutions provide education on bachelor level only, specialising in the fields of economics, business, management, public administration, law, international relations, regional development, medical and social work.

Also foreign higher education institutions established and situated on the territory of another EU Member state or EEA State or Switzerland may provide higher education in accordance with the law of their country of origin on the territory of Slovakia once they have been granted official approval by the Ministry of Education of SR.

You can find the comprehensive list of HEIs in Slovakia with their websites under the section Research in Slovakia (page 21).

Higher education institutions will provide higher education within the framework of accredited study programmes. The study programmes will be at three levels. It is possible that an HEI will join the first two levels of higher education into a single whole.

The first level is the Bachelor study programme.

The study programmes of the second level and those of the first two levels of higher education joined into a single whole are:

- Master study programmes,
- Engineer study programmes,
- Doctoral study programmes.

The study programme of the third level is the PhD study programme and specialised training in medicine.

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

The academic year begins on September 1 of the current year and ends on August 31 of the following year. It is composed of 2 semesters (the winter semester lasts from September to January and the 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.

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 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 and 30 credits per semester. The institution of higher education determines the total number of credits required for the due completion of the study in its respective stages.

The grading is on a scale of A–FX:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>excellent = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>very good (above-average achievements) = 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>good (average achievements) = 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>laudable (acceptable achievements) = 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>satisfactory (achievements fulfil only the minimum criteria) = 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FX</td>
<td>unsatisfactory – fail (achievements do not fulfil even the minimum criteria) = 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Degrees awarded in the SR

Higher education institutions award following academic degrees:

1st level – Bachelor (comprising app. 180 credits)
- “bakalár” (abbr. “Bc.”).

2nd level – Master (comprising app. 120 credits)
- “magister” (abbr. “Mgr.”), in the field of art “magister umenia” (abbr. “Mgr. 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 medicíny” (abbr. “MUDr.”) in the field of human medicine,
- “doktor stomatológie” (abbr. “MDDr.”) – dentists,
- “doktor veterinárskej medicíny” (abbr. “MVDr.”) in the field of veterinary medicine.

3rd level – PhD (doctoral)
- “philosophiae doctor” (abbr. “PhD.”),
- “artist doctor” (abbr. “ArtD.”) in the field of art.

Examina rigorosa

The holders of the academic degree of “magister” may take examina rigorosa, which includes also the defence of a rigorosa thesis. After its successful completion the higher education institutions award the following academic degrees:

- “doktor prirodnych vied” (abbr. “RNDr.”) in natural science study programmes.
- “doktor farmácie” (abbr. “PharmDr.”) in pharmacy study programmes,
- “doktor filozofie” (abbr. “PhDr.”) in social science and art science study programmes.
- “doktor práv” (abbr. “JUDr.”) in law study programmes,
- “doktor pedagogiky” (abbr. “PaedDr.”) in teacher training and sports study programmes,
- “doktor teológie” (abbr. “ThDr.”) in theological study programmes except for the study programmes in the field of Catholic Theology.

5.8 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 above-mentioned frequency and voltage, and 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.
5.9 Hiking and tourism

With its varied terrain, the Slovak Republic is a hiker’s paradise. It is criss-crossed with valleys, basins, lowlands, and hills. It is a country full of natural beauty. The biggest and best-known mountains are Tatras ("Tatry") – a national symbol.

Mountains

The Tatras ("Tatry") contain the tallest peaks in the Carpathian Mountains. Tatras National Park (TANAP) in the northwestern part of Slovakia contains "Slavkovský štít" (2,452 m) and "Lomnický štít" (2,494 m), "Gerlachovský štít" (2,655 m), "Kriváň" (2,491 m), "Košická rozhlička" (2,364 m), "Dobšinský stit" (2,289 m) and "Stará planina" (2,231 m), amongst others. In the southern part of the park, you will find the city of Žilina.

The Tatra Mountains are divided into "Západné" (Western), "Vysoké" (High), "Belianske" and "Nízke" (Low). High Tatras "Vysoké Tatry" mountains are situated in the northern part of Slovakia, on the border with Poland. In 1949 it was declared to be the first Slovak national park (TANAP) and in 1993 it was, together with the polish part of the Tatras mountains, declared by the UNESCO to be the "Biospheric reservation of the Tatras". High Tatras include 25 peaks reaching the height of over 2,000 m. Some of the highest and most beautiful peaks in the range are "Kriváň" (2,494 m), "Gerlachovský štít" (2,655 m), "Slavkovský štít" (2,452 m) and "Lomnický štít" (2,632 m).

The Tatra National Park (TANAP) contains protected flora and fauna. The beauty of the National Park is enhanced by natural mountain lakes ("pleso") that formed during the ice age. The largest of these is "Veľké Hincovo pleso", while "Štrbské pleso", "Modře pleso", "Zamrznuté pleso" and "Zelene pleso" are amongst the most picturesque. Many waterfalls can also be found here, of which the most celebrated are "Obrovsky" and "Kmetov" waterfalls. 350 km of marked tourist trails are available for hikers. Different ski resorts with ski lifts, chair lifts, cableways and cable railway are on offer for downhill skiing. There are also several crosscountry skiing centres and official mountainneering skiing trails available.

If you are more interested in shorter strolls, we recommend that you visit the Picniny National Park (PIENAP), situated to the east of "Vysoke Tatry". The most popular attraction is a fork in the River Dunajec, where rafting in q km long Dunajec Canyon (Dunajec gorge) from the Red Monastery to Lešnica is on offer.

Hiking signs

In Slovakia there are numerous hiking routes, which are easy to follow thanks to colour symbols along the way. The hiking (trekking) routes are mostly marked by 3 horizontal stripes forming a square, 2 white stripes at borders to draw attention and a coloured one (red, blue, green, yellow) in the middle to indicate the route. If necessary the striped square takes the form of a striped arrow to show the change in the direction of the route. The lengths of the routes are given as average hiking times or as distance in kilometres at frequent signposts. To see the used hiking symbols visit the page of the Club of Slovak Tourists at www.kst.sk (in Slovak only, look for "Značenie", "O značkovaní").

Walks

- In Bratislava region (official website of the city of Bratislava – www.bratislava.sk, Bratislava Guide – www.bratislavaguide.com) you can use your free time for walks in the historical centre of the capital, its cobbled streets and squares, visit Bratislava or Devin Castle, St. Martin’s Cathedral, Clariens church, Trinitarians church, St. Elizabeth’s church (so called Blue church) or other churches, Michael’s Gate or Primatial Palace, Old Town Hall, Grassalkovich Palace – the seat of president. You can visit also surrounding towns and villages, make a trip to hills like "Malé Karpaty", cycling expeditions along the Small Carpathian Wine Route ("Malokarpatská vinna cesta" www.mvc.sk) or you can go cycling along the Morava and Danube Rivers. Don’t forget thermal spas and museums in this area.

- In Trnava region (www.trnava.sk) visit the historic town of Trnava and make a trip to the hills of the “Malé Karpaty” and the Driny cave – the only cave open to the public in western part of the country. You can also visit nearby castles of "Červený kameň“ (Red Stone), “Smolnice“ or castle ruins of “Dechtice“. In Trnava region, there is also the popular spa resort of Piešťany.

- In Nitra region (www.nitra.sk), in addition to Nitra’s historic treasures (Nitra castle, Franciscan Church and Monastery, The Small and Grand Seminary, Romanesque church of St. Michael Archangel in Dražovce from 12th century), visit nearby thermal spas in Diakovec.

- In Trenčín region (www.trencin.sk) use your stay for a walk around the town (Trenčín castle, Roman inscription from 2nd century) or a trip to such hills as the “Biele Karpaty”, as well as the “Štrážovské vrchy” and “Považský Inovec“. If you like spa resorts, you should definitely pay a visit to Trenčianske Teplice. In Trenčín region, near the town of Prievidza, lies an enchanting neogothic castle of Bojnice (www.bojnicecastle.sk).

- In Banská Bystrica region (http://eng.banskabystrica.sk) you can enjoy the town’s beauty (town castle complex, square of the Slovak National Uprising, Monument of the Slovak National Uprising), trips to hills and such ranges as “Starohorské vrchy”, the Low Tatras, "Súľovské skaly“ – rocky massif formed into shapes of towers, cones, needles, gates, a unique phenomenon in the territory of Western Carpathian Mountains, "Muránska planina“ – plateau with a unique flora and fauna, including wild horses.

More information:
- website of the municipality Vysoké Tatry – www.vysoketatry.sk (in Slovak only)
- website of the Slovak Tourist Board – www.slovakia.travel

Low Tatras “Nízke Tatry” is the second highest mountain range, and lies between the Váh and Hron valleys. The highest peaks there are "Dumbier" (2,043 m) and "Chopok" (2,042 m), from which there is an unmatched view of the surrounding landscape. The National park of Low Tatras has also been established there (NAPANT).

More information:
- website of the National park of Low Tatras (NAPANT) – www.napant.sk
- website of the Slovak Tourist Board – www.slovakia.travel

Other natural attractions are:
- Slovak Paradise “Slovensky raj”,
- "Slovensky kras“ – the largest karst region,
- “Malá“ and “Velká Fatra“ – mountains,
Daily life in Slovakia

In Zvolen area (http://eng.zvolen.eu) you can admire a stunning landscape of hills like “Kremnické vrchy”, “Štiavnické vrchy” and “Vtáčnik”. The spa resorts of Kovalčová and Sliač offer relaxation after a long hike. See also Zvolen castle and Castle Pustý hrad directly in Zvolen that belongs to the largest ones in Central Europe.

In Žilina region (www.zilina.sk) you can seize the day by walking in the town (long pedestrian zone, Square of Virgin Mary, church of St. Stephen in Rudiny from 13th century, Budatin castle), visiting small villages, or hike in the hills as “Malá Fatra”, “Súľovské vrchy” or relax in the spa resort of Rajecíke Teplice.

In Ružomberok area (www.ružomberok.eu) there are beautiful villages near Ružomberok offering hikes up the hills and the “Veľká Fatra”, Low Tatra (“Nízke Tatry”) and “chočské vrchy” ranges. The mineral springs of Kúpele Lúčky and Korytnica provide refreshment to everyone; an open thermal pool in Bešeňová offers a unique cold geyser and mineral springs to relax by. Excursions to the surrounding countryside are not complete without seeing the Žemplínska šírava region, while wine lovers should certainly pay a visit to the wine cellars of the Tokaj region, such as those in Malá Trňa or Veľká Trňa.

Caves

There are many karst regions in the Slovak Republic. 565 caves are currently registered, including ten stalactitic caves; two ice caves, and one aragonite cave that are open to the public. (Slovak Caves Administration – www.ssj.sk)

In Košice region (www.kosice.sk), visit the Košice town (St. Elizabeth’s Cathedral, St. Michael’s Chapel, Saint Urban’s tower), the second largest in Slovakia. The village of Herfany offers a unique cold geyser and mineral springs to relax by. Excursions to the surrounding countryside are not complete without seeing the Žemplínska šírava region, while wine lovers should certainly pay a visit to the wine cellars of the Tokaj region, such as those in Malá Trňa or Veľká Trňa.

In Košice region (www.kosice.sk), visit the Košice town (St. Elizabeth’s Cathedral, St. Michael’s Chapel, Saint Urban’s tower), the second largest in Slovakia. The village of Herfany offers a unique cold geyser and mineral springs to relax by. Excursions to the surrounding countryside are not complete without seeing the Žemplínska šírava region, while wine lovers should certainly pay a visit to the wine cellars of the Tokaj region, such as those in Malá Trňa or Veľká Trňa.

Castles

The country’s historic and architecturally precious buildings are also great tourist attractions. The first castles were built in the 10th century at the strategically important locations. In those times it was necessary to protect the border areas against attacks of invaders and to prevent their entering into the country. In addition to guarding services a system of castles was used also to guard the most important roads. A protecting system of castles in the Považie region protected crossings over the Váh river. The most extensive construction of stone castles in Slovakia started immediately after the Tartars invasion in the middle of the 13th century and lasted till the half of the 15th century. New stone forts were built in the place of original wooden castles or near them, but new castles were built as well. Most of the Slovak castles were built before the half of the 15th century. The nobility got the royal property step by step either as advance payment for a loan given to a monarch or for extraordinary and loyal services to the king. In the period of humanism and renaissance, the system of the castles gradually lost its military and strategic importance and aristocratic families started to move from castles to manor houses and to the towns. In this period a lot of castles were demolished, burned and others fell into disrepair after inhabitants moved out. At present many of the castles are reconstructed and are open for visitors.

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 village of Vlkolínec (www.vlkolinc.sk) – historical site of traditional folk architecture,
- Spišský hrád castle (http://spisskyhrad.com), in Slovak only – the most extensive fortress in Central Europe, and monuments in its surroundings,
- The spa town of Bardejov (www.ebardejov.sk, in Slovak only),
- The area of “Slovenský kráš” (www.ssj.sk/jaskyne/najvyznamnejsie/svetove‑dedicstvo/slovensky‑kras) – the greatest karst region in Central Europe,
- Dobšianská šľachtická jaskyňa (www.ssj.sk/jaskyne/spristupnenie/dobsinska‑ladova) – ice cave,
- The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathian.

Spas

Spa treatment has a long history thanks to the country’s large number of mineral springs. Some of them are mentioned under “Walks”.

More information:
website of the Slovak Tourist Board – www.slovakia.travel

More information:

Website of the Slovak Tourist Board – www.slovakia.travel
5.10 Language

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.

Slovak language courses

To foreign students, scholarship holders, host students and others, who are interested, courses of Slovak as a foreign language are offered by Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS) – The Centre for Slovak as a Foreign Language. In 2006 the SAS Centre acquired accreditation of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for providing education activities "Slovak as a Foreign Language – Language Course in Contact and Distance Form" for all levels of language development, i.e. beginners (A1, A2), intermediate and upper-intermediate (B1, B2) and advanced (C1, C2).

Bilateral agreements often offer scholarships for participation in summer courses of the Slovak language and culture organized by SAS. This intensive programme is especially offered to university professors, experienced teachers, postgraduates of Slovak and Slavonic studies, writers, translators and all others interested in Slovak language and culture. A summer course lasts 3 weeks and takes place in August.

More information: www.fphil.uniba.sk/sas

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.

Foreigners can attend courses in the 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.

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

5.11 Libraries

There are 12 state scientific libraries in Slovakia, 473 libraries affiliated with universities and institutions of higher education, and 2,600 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
- 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 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.spig.sk (in Slovak only)
- Technical University of Košice. www.lib.tuke.sk (in Slovak only)
- University Library of Bratislava. www.ullib.sk/english
- University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, Košice. www.uvm.sk/node/508 (in Slovak only)

5.12 Living costs

Examples of prices provided below give an idea of how much it costs to live in Slovakia. These costs are only approximate and they are subject to change.

**Rent**
- a guest room at a students’ dormitory: from 11.80 € per night
- 1 bedroom flat: from 200 € per month including utilities (in larger towns the prices are higher, especially in town centres)
- 2 bedroom flat: from 300 € 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 0.50 to 1.40 €
- Local transport, monthly ticket/travel pass: from 20 €
### 5.13 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.

If a foreign national has health insurance, the health care provided is paid for by the insurance company. Depending on the type of service provided, the health insurance company will pay for this service either in full or partially. If the health insurance company pays for the service only partially, the rest is paid by the foreigner directly to the health care provider. If a foreign national does not have health insurance, he/she has to pay the full amount for healthcare provided. More on health insurance see in the section “Social security & health insurance” (page 75).

#### 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 (“pohotovost” 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)

#### Pharmacies

You can buy medicines only at pharmacies (“lekáreň” 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 (in Slovak only).

#### Emergency

If you need emergency services (“pohotovost” 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=7000041&lid=163&pi=1565 (list of emergency medical care providers in Bratislava). http://en.zlatestranky.sk/businesses/Slovakia/q_emergency%20medical%20services/1 (list of emergency medical care providers in Slovakia)

#### Coaches:
- Bratislava – Košice, 445 km, from 21 €
- Bratislava – Žilina, 203 km, from 9.50 €
- Bratislava – Banská Bystrica, 230 km, from 10 €

#### Trains
- Bratislava – Košice: from 18.50 €
- Bratislava – Žilina: from 10 €
- Bratislava – Banská Bystrica: from 7.10 €
- Taxi within Bratislava: app. 0.60 € per km (minimum fare from 3.20 €)
- Petrol per litre: from 1.40 €
- Diesel per litre: from 1.10 €

#### Having fun

- Cinema 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

#### Hospitals

In every university town there is a hospital (“nemocnica” in Slovak) with an Accident and Emergency department (“pohotovost” 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)

### 5.14 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” (automobil – požičovne) and Green Pages www.greenpages.sk, section “car hire” (auto požičovne).

#### Laundry and dry cleaning service
At present, there are several launderettes in Slovakia (www.cent.sk, in Slovak only), www.pramako.sk/bezobsluzne.html (in Slovak only), 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.

### 5.15 Public holidays

The following days are official public holidays:
- 1 January (Slovak Republic Day)
- 6 January (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)
- 8 May (End of World War II)
- 5 July (St. Cyril and St. Methodius Day)
- 29 August (Slovak National Uprising Day)
- 1 September (Slovak Constitution Day)
5.16 Regional and local administration

Within the launch of decentralisation as of 1 January, 2002 a regional level of self-administration was established. The Slovak territory is divided into 8 higher territorial units/self-governing regions, and into municipalities (2,933). Between both levels of local self-administration (self-governing regions and municipalities) there is no hierarchy. Both levels have their own elected officials, distributed duties and liabilities. Some duties are divided between the state and self-administration.

Regional Administration

- Banská Bystrica higher territorial unit www.vucbb.sk
- Bratislava higher territorial unit www.region-bsk.sk
- Košice higher territorial unit www.vucke.sk (in Slovak only)
- Nitra higher territorial unit www.unsk.sk (in Slovak only)
- Prešov higher territorial unit www.po-kraj.sk
- Trnava higher territorial unit www.trnava-vuc.sk
- Žilina higher territorial unit www.zask.sk

Local Administration

Local administration in the Slovak Republic is directed by municipalities. Every town has its own town hall and administration headed by the mayor. Every village has a community office headed by a reeve. Many towns and villages have their own websites where you can find useful information e.g. about local sightseeing, seats of public bodies, accommodation or current weather. Here is a sample list of the biggest towns and their websites:

- Banská Bystrica www.banskabystrica.sk
- Bratislava www.bratislava.sk
- Komárno www.komarno.sk
- Košice www.kosice.sk
- Liptovský Mikuláš www.mikulas.sk
- Martin www.martin.sk
- Nitra www.nitra.sk
- Poprad www.poprad.sk
- Prešov www.presov.sk (in Slovak only)
- Ružomberok www.ruzomerok.sk
- Trnava www.trnava.sk
- Trenčín www.trencin.sk
- Zvolen www.zvolen.sk
- Žilina www.zilina.sk

5.17 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.”

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:

- Greek (Byzantine) Catholic Church in the Slovak Republic
- Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia
- Orthodox Church in Slovakia
- Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Slovak Republic
- Religious Society of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Slovak Republic
- Apostolic Church in Slovakia
- Baptist Union in the Slovak Republic
- Church of Seventh Day Adventists, Slovak Association
- Brethren Church in the Slovak Republic
- United Methodist Church, Slovak District
- Christian Corps in Slovakia
- New Apostolic Church in the Slovak Republic
- Old Catholic Church in Slovakia
- Czechoslovak Hussite Church in Slovakia

5.18 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 online shopping, too.

5.19 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 prieprava, Liptovská Mara, Sĺňava near Piešťany, Ružin at Hornád, and Domaša at the River Ondava along with artificial lakes like Slnečné jazerá 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.

**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.

**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](http://www.hzs.sk) (in Slovak only)
[www.ski.sk](http://www.ski.sk)
[www.holidayinfo.sk](http://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.

**How to find a connection and buy a ticket**

The websites of the Slovak Railways [www.slovakrail.sk](http://www.slovakrail.sk) or [www.zsr.sk](http://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](http://www.cp.sk) and [www.vlak-bus.sk](http://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.

**How to buy a ticket**

Tickets can be bought at the train station ticket office reading KVC (“Komplexné vybavenie cestujúcich” in Slovak).

If applicable, the seller may ask what type of train you would prefer: **EC – Eurocity train**, **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](http://www.slovakrail.sk).

**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](http://www.cp.sk) or [www.vlak-bus.sk](http://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](http://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](http://www.studentagency.sk)).
Transportation between international airports and principal Slovak towns

Vienna International Airport (Austria)
Thanks to the short distance of Vienna and Bratislava (50 kilometers) 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.

Košice International Airport
Košice international airport is located approximately 6 km south of the town. The airport is situated between the suburbs Košice-Barca and Košice-Pereš. The airport is located less than 2 km from the expressway from Košice to Rožňava. It is only 10 minutes from the town of Košice, 30 minutes from the town of Prešov and 20 minutes from Slovak-Hungarian boarder.

Košice city public transport company operates regular bus service No.23 which connects the airport of Košice with the downtown and at the same time offers a possibility of transport to/from the airport. The bus leaves the airport once per hour.

Taxi to the city centre costs about 7 €.

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 this on 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 x 3.5 cm), your ID card and a completed application form. It is always helpful to consult with local people.

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

There are 6 airports in Slovakia. The biggest is 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.airport-poprad.sk).

Transportation between international airports and principal Slovak towns

Vienna International Airport (Austria) is conveniently located only 24 kilometers from Bratislava. The brush only 30 minutes from Bratislava.

There are two airports in Košice: M. R. Štefánik International Airport (www.airportkosice.sk) and Košice International Airport (www.airport-poprad.sk).

The airport is situated between the suburbs Košice-Barca and Košice-Pereš. 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 price for a ride is valid for the day.)
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.

**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).

**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.

Everyone riding a moped 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. Everyone riding a motorcycle over 50 cm must be at least 17 years old and everyone driving a car or lorry at least 18 years old.

For any questions related to driving licences you may visit the website of the Ministry of Interior, section driving licences www.minv.sk/?vodicske‑preukazy (in Slovak only) or in person at the District transport inspectorate of the Police forces in the place of your residence (addresses and office hours to be found at http://www.minv.sk/?strankove‑dni‑a‑ hodiny‑na‑pracoviskach, in Slovak only).

**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 (55 mph)
- On an open road: 90 km/h (55 mph)
- In built‑up area: 50 km/h (30 mph)

**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 windscream 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.

**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, in Slovak only). 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.

**Breakdown service**

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

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.

**5.21 Veterinary care**

A list of veterinarians in Slovakia can be found at www.dog.sk/veterinari.html or at www.zzz.sk/?page=veterinari. The services of a veterinarian must be paid for in full at the point of use.

---

For more information, refer to the EURAXESS SLOVAKIA website: EURAXESS SLOVAKIA
## Glossary

### A
- ambulancia: outpatient room
- auto: car
- autobus: bus, coach
- autopožičovňa: car rental

### B
- balík: parcel
- benzín: petrol
- byt: flat, apartment

### C
- cena: price
- cestovná kancelária: travel agency
- cestovné náhrady: travel allowances
- cestovný poriadok: schedule
- clo, colnica: duty, customs standpoint
- cudzinec: foreigner, alien
- čaj: tea
- čas: time
- čerpacia stanica: petrol station, fuel station
- čistiareň: dry cleaning
- člen, členský štát: member, member state

### D
- daň z príjmu: income tax
- daň, daňovník: tax, taxpayer
- daňové priznanie: tax return, declaration of taxes

### E
- električka: tram
- električenka: a monthly pass

### F
- financovanie: funding
- finančný: financial

### G
- gymnázium: secondary grammar school

### H
- hory: mountains
- hrad: castle
- hraničný priechod: border crossing

### I
- internát: dormitory, student hostel
- izba: room

### J
- jaskyňa: cave
- jazyk: language
- jazykový kurz: language course

### K
- kaderníctvo: hairdresser
- kaviareň: coffee bar, café
- kino: cinema
- kniha: book
- knižnica: library
- kostol: church
- kúpele: spa

### L
- lekár: doctor, general practitioner, physician
- lekáreň: pharmacy
- letisko: airport
- list: letter
- lístok: ticket
- lyžovanie: skiing

### M
- manželka: spouse, wife
- materská škôlka: kindergarten
- medzinárodný: international
- medzivládny: intergovernmental
- mena: currency
- mesačník, predplatný cestovný lístok: local public transport
- miestenka: seat reservation
- mimoškolská činnosť: after-school activity
- mimovládne neziskové organizácie: non-governmental organisations
- mzda: income, wage, salary

### N
- nájomné: rent
- náklady: costs
- nápoj: drink
- národný: national
- nárok: entitlement
- nemocenské poistenie: sickness insurance
- nemocnica: hospital

### O
- občan: citizen, national
- obchod: shop
- oblečenie: clothes
- odborný lekár: specialist
- odchod: departure
- osobný vlak: passenger train
**P**
- personálna agentúra - personnel recruitment agency
- pivo - beer
- plat - wage, salary
- počasie, - weather
- predpoveď počasia - weather forecast
- počítač - computer
- podpis - signature
- podpora - support
- pohotovosť - emergency
- poistenie, - insurance
- počítač - computer
- počísť - registration number
- pokladňa - ticket office
- poplatok - fee
- poschodie - floor
- postihnutie - disability
- povinná školská dochádzka - compulsory education
- povinné odvody do fondov poistenia - compulsory funds
- povolenie na pobyt - residence permit
- práca - work
- pracovný čas - working time
- práce - employment contract
- pracovné povolenie - work permit
- praktický lekár - general practitioner
- prechodný pobyt - temporary stay
- priemerná mzda - average income
- priemysel - industry
- príchod - arrival
- prijem - income

**R**
- rámcový - framework
- reštaurácia - restaurant
- rezervácia - booking
- rodina - family
- rodné číslo - birth registration number
- rodný list - birth certificate
- rozvoj - development
- rýchlik - fast train
- rýchlosť - speed

**S**
- samošťastie - self-administration
- sanitka - ambulance
- služba - service
- sobášny list - marriage certificate
- spolupráca - cooperation
- súkromná škola - private school
- súkromný sviatok - holiday
- škola - school
- štátny - state
- štipendium - stipend, scholarship

**T**
- tretia krajina - third country
- trolejbus - trolleybus
- trvalý pobyt - permanent residence
- výťah - lift
- vyučovací jazyk - language of instruction
- vyučovanie - teaching-learning process
- vzdelávanie - education
- zahraničný, v zahraničí - foreign, abroad
- základná škola - primary school
- zákon - act, law
- zamestnanie - employment
- zamestnanec - employee
- zastávka - bus/tram stop
- zbraň - firearm
- zdravie - health
- zdravotná starostlivosť - health care
- zdravotná poisťovňa - health insurance company
- zdroj - source
- zmenáreň - exchange office
- zriaďovateľ - founder
- zubár - dentist
- železničná stanica - railway station
- žiadosť - application