



EMEDUS
Europe Media Education

WP3. Formal Media Education

SLOVAKIA



1. Education System

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic is the institution that administers education, guaranteed by the state, municipalities and higher territorial units. This ministry is in charge of developing objectives, content and teaching methods.



Municipalities are in charge of administering local education and manage most of the pre-primary, primary and junior secondary education in the country.

Compulsory education begins at age six and lasts until the age of sixteen. The education system consists of preschool, primary school, secondary or grammar school, vocational school, music academies and conservatories, schools for students with special needs and schools of art and languages. Most are divided according to the type of education offered, the institution or the type of student to whom the schools are addressed.

2. Policies in Media Literacy

Inside the National Strategic Reference Framework for the period 2007-2013, the Operational Programme Education (OPE) proposed adapting the education system to the needs of the knowledge society.

In the *Program Declaration 2012* Slovakia aims to promote the computerization and digitization of the country's schools with an emphasis on the continuous development of the education system oriented at lifelong learning. In regards to media literacy, it is in its initial stage.

Initiatives from NGO's and universities in this area are:

- The TV series *Media Spies* (2010-2011), produced by PSM Slovak. This program promoted basic education in various aspects of communication in an entertaining, though not very didactic way.
- *eSlovenko Projects* is an NGO interested in information.
- www.sheeplive.eu is a portal with interactive games using videos from YouTube to raise awareness about the responsible use of the Internet.
- The semi - state news agency of the Slovak Republic, TASR. The "TASR for each school" project enabled schools to access the entire TASR news database. The program is designed for aspiring journalists.

- The Slovak Press Watch stands out among the actions of civil society in Slovakia. It is a blog founded in 2002 to monitor the INEKO think tank (Institute for Economic and Social Reforms).
- The Media Literacy Centre coordinates all activities in the field of media education, conducts research, provides various resources for teachers, makes suggestions on various projects within the system and cooperates on other relevant issues.

3. Media Literacy and National Curricula

In 2009 the Government adopted the “concept of media education in the Slovak Republic within the context of lifelong learning.”

According to *eSlovensko* in 2009 media education, or *mediálna výchova*, was incorporated into the curriculum as a non-compulsory and elective subject from preschool through to high school. It is now a compulsory, cross-curricular subject within the curriculum which is taught as part of other subjects in all schools or as an optional course or a specific subject in some schools. Whether in elementary schools or high schools, Media Education has become a "hot topic" of debate.

4. Tools to measure the Level of Competencies

In 2009 media literacy was assessed for the first time in Slovakia. In 2011 some improvements were made in certain media literacy skills but despite the action taken, Slovakia still lacks a system of evaluation and measurement of media literacy levels. However, it is worth noting that the Slovak Government has to present reports on the state of media education every three years and this will eventually be used to measure how the situation is in the field.



5. Teacher Media Training

In the document *New Competences in Slovak Teacher Training Programmes* in 2008, the need for a reform in higher education over the next decade was highlighted with the implementation of the program: *Further Development of Higher Education Policy in Slovakia for the 21st century – Millennium* (Rosa et al., 2000).

It started with changes in the objectives and content within the curriculum of teacher training in order to develop new attitudes, competences and skills. It emphasized that teachers should:

- Contribute to the education in citizenship of students.

- Promote students' skills to enable them to live in the knowledge society and give them access to lifelong learning (in communication, information processing, digital literacy and visual culture).
- Integrate ICT into formal education and all teaching practices.

Within the programs of teacher training colleges, the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra offers Visual Arts Education and Technology in its curriculum. The University of Zilina includes the subject of Traditional Media in its course of Mediamatics and Cultural Heritage within the field of Library and Information Studies as well as IT and Communication Skills in the English Language, Literature and Citizenship Education and Mathematics and Citizenship Education.

6. ICT in Schools

The keys to the inclusion of ICT in schools in Slovakia can be summarized as follows:

- National strategies for partial ICT training in schools have been developed in areas such as e-learning, electronic skills and research projects in digital skills and media literacy.
- In primary and secondary schools ICT is a tool for working within the different subjects and for performing specific tasks in compulsory subjects, although it can also be an independent subject unto itself.
- In terms of equipment Slovak students have lower levels of access to broadband compared to other countries within the EU; but the use students and teacher's make of the Internet is higher than the average.
- Teacher training in ICT is quite uneven but educators have the support of a coordinator in this field that offers help in teaching and learning in and with the new technologies.

Annex. Country Key Features

| | | |
|-----|-----------------|--|
| (a) | Languages | Slovak (official) 83.9%, Hungarian 10.7%, Roma 1.8%, Ukrainian 1%, other or unspecified 2.6% (2001 census) |
| | Population | 5,488,339 (July 2013 est.) |
| | Major cities | BRATISLAVA (capital) 428,000 (2009) |
| | Government type | Parliamentary democracy |

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| | GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) | \$132.4 billion (2012 est.) |
| | GDP real growth rate | 2.6% (2012 est.) |
| | GDP per capita (PPP) | \$24,300 (2012 est.) |
| | GDP composition by sector | Agriculture: 3.8% Industry: 36.4% Services: 59.8% (2012 est.) |
| (b) | GDP per head (PPS) | 73.0 (year 2011) (Index, EU27=100) |
| | Year of EU entry | 2004 |
| (c) | Currency | Member of the Eurozone since 2009 (€) |
| | Schengen area | Member of the Schengen area since 2007 |
| (d) | Pupils and students (ISCED levels 1-6) (1 000) | 980,5 (year 2011) |
| | Pupils at ISCED level 1 (1 000) | 209,2 (year 2011) |
| | Pupils at ISCED level 2 (1 000) | 274,2 (year 2011) |
| | Pupils and students at ISCED level 3 (1 000) | 265,7 (year 2011) |
| | Students at ISCED level 4 (1 000) | 5,1 (year 2011) |

Source: Original authorship, using data from:

- (a) Central Intelligence Agency (2013). *The World Factbook 2013-14*. Washington, DC [Retrieved from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>]
- (b) European Commission (2012). *Country Fact Sheet: Slovakia*. Directorate-General Regional Policy. Analysis Unit C3. European Commission [Retrieved from: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index_en.cfm]
- (c) European Union (2013). Member states of the EU. European Union [Retrieved from: http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm]
- (d) Eurostat (2013). Education and training. Pupils and students (tps00051). File: educ_ilev.xls [Retrieved from: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/education/data/main_tables]

Sources

Constatine the Philosopher University in Nitra

http://www.en.ukf.sk/index.php?view=article&catid=14%3Adalsie&id=395%3Afaculty-of-education&option=com_content&Itemid=71

eSlovensko

http://www.eslovensko.sk/start_en.htm

European Schoolnet. (2012). *Survey of Schools: ICT in Education. Country Profile: Slovakia*. Brussels: European Commission.

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/sites/digital-agenda/files/Slovakia%20country%20profile.pdf>

Eurypedia. Slovakia. Initial Education for Teachers Working in Early Childhood and School Education.

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovakia:Initial_Education_for_Teachers_Working_in_Early_Childhood_and_School_Education

Media Education in Slovakia (Slideshare by eSlovensko)

<http://www.slideshare.net/fabiofrib/slovakia-13246695>

Media Literacy Centre

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

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

<https://www.minedu.sk/about-the-ministry/>

National Strategic Reference Framework

<http://www.nsrr.sk/en/narodny-strategicky-referencny-ramec-2007-2013/>

New Competences in Slovak Teacher Training Programmes

<http://www.pef.uni-lj.si/tepe2008/papers/Gadusova-Mala-Zelenicky.pdf>

Operational Programme Education

<http://www.asfeu.sk/en/agency/>

Slovakia. Concept of media education by Jana Markechova.

<http://merlin.obs.coe.int/iris/2010/5/article40.en.html>

Universidad de Zilina

<http://vzdelavanie.uniza.sk/vzdelavanie/plany.php?f=8&t=Z&m=2&r=1&o=1&z=1>