**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**
(SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA)

### BACKGROUND AND LEGAL SYSTEM

**LEGAL SYSTEM**
Civil law system. The civil law system is premised on Austro-Hungarian codes. The legal code was altered to comply with the requirements of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and to remove any Marxist-Leninist legal theory.

**POLITICAL SYSTEM**
Parliamentary Democracy.

**HEAD OF STATE**
President, elected by direct, popular vote. The President serves a term of 5 years and is eligible for a second term.

**HEAD OF GOVERNMENT**
Prime Minister. Following National Council elections, the leader of the majority party or the leader of a majority coalition is usually appointed prime minister by the president.

**SUBNATIONAL ENTITIES**
The country is subdivided into 8 administrative regions (kraje): Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Trenčín, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov, and Košice.

As of 2002, Slovakia is divided into 8 samosprávne kraje (self-governing or autonomous regions), which are referred to as vyššie územné celky (upper-tier territorial units, abbreviated as VÚC) in the Constitution. The territory and borders of these autonomous regions are identical with the territory and borders of the kraje. The primary difference between the 125 and samosprávne kraje (or VÚC) is that the organs of samosprávne kraje are autonomous, with an elected chairperson and

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assembly, while the organs of kraje are appointed by the government.

**SUBLOCAL ENTITIES**
The 8 kraje are subdivided into 79 municipal districts (okresy).

**TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM**
None.

**LANGUAGES**
Slovak (official), Hungarian, Roma, and Ukrainian are the languages of the minorities.

**CONSTITUTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICIAL NAME</th>
<th>Ústava Slovenskej republiky</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENACTMENT</td>
<td>Ratified September 1, 1992 and effective as of January 1, 1993.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITATION FORMAT</td>
<td>ÚSTAVA SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY [Constitution] Ch. &lt;chapter&gt;, art. &lt;article&gt;, para. &lt;paragraph&gt; (Slovk.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>ÚSTAVA SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY [Constitution] Ch II, art. 1, para. 1 (Slovk.).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STATUTES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A unicameral national council (Národná rada Slovenskej republiky) containing 150 seats. Members are elected for a four-year term on the basis of proportional representation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEGISLATIVE PROCESS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft laws are introduced by committees of the National Council, members of parliament, and the government. The legislative process is carried out in three readings. In the first reading, after general debate, during which no amendments may be proposed, the Parliament either returns the bill to its sponsor for revision, or stops the debate on the bill, or passes the bill to the second reading.</td>
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<td>In the second reading, the National Council may start the debate after a minimum of 48 hours since the delivery of a joint report of committees or the information of a joint reporter. The filing of an amendment or of an addition to the bill is subject to the approval of at least 15 members of parliament.</td>
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<tr>
<td>During the third reading, only corrections of legislative mistakes of a technical character, corrections of grammatical mistakes and mistakes in writing or print may be proposed. Other amendments or additions to the bill must be submitted by a minimum of 30 members of parliament. Finally, in the third reading, bills are approved.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>REPORTER</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Zbierka zákonov</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CITATION FORMAT</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statute, No. &lt;number&gt;/&lt;Year&gt; Z.z.. on &lt;title of statute&gt;.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES

Administrative sources have both de facto and de jure legal significance. They are regular, i.e. generally relevant.

REPORTER

Currently unavailable.

CITATION FORMAT

Proclamation of <Issuing Ministry>, No. <number> [<year>] Z.z. on <title of regulation>.

Example

Proclamation of Finance of Health Care, No. 151 [2004] Z.z. on requirements on drinking water and control of quality of drinking water.

CODES

Obciansky zákoník (CIVIL CODE) In force in 1964.


CITATION FORMAT

Code, No. <number> / [<Year>] <title of code>.

Examples

Currently non available.
Slovak Republic

CASE LAW

JUDICIAL OVERVIEW

Slovakia has general and special jurisdiction courts. General jurisdiction courts deal with criminal, civil, administrative and commercial matters. These courts may also review decisions of public administrators and other public authorities if they are passed into law.

The Slovak state judicial system is structured on three levels. At the local level are District Courts (Okresné súdy). Next are the Regional Courts (Krajské súdy). Appeals of the Regional Courts are heard by Specialized Supreme Court Panels.

There are two high courts. The Supreme Court (Najvyšší súd) is the highest court of appeal in all nonconstitutional matters and has the power of statutory review. The Constitutional Court (Ústavný súd) has special competence to hear questions in constitutional matters, including constitutional review of statutes, decisions and official acts, as well as international agreements and other generally binding rules.

The Constitutional Court also adjudicates the constitutionality and legitimacy of presidential elections, parliamentary elections, elections to the self-government offices and elections to European parliament.

The Constitutional Court is responsible for upholding legislation, legal rules, and government decrees. This court has the final say on issues of constitutional interpretation.

REPORTER

Úradná sbierka obcianskych rozhodnutí and Úradná sbierka trestných rozhodnutí.

Zbierka rozhodnutí a sanovisk sudov slovenskej republiky (Supreme Court Reporter) or Zbierka nálezov a uznesení Ústavného súdu Slovenskej republiky (Supreme Court Reporter).*

*CITATION FORMAT

<parties if available> <Panel> ÚS. <case number>/<year to two digits>.

Examples

Pl. ÚS. 1/92.
I. ÚS. 663/01.

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CITATION FORMAT
HIGH COURT
<parties if available> <Panel> <agenda topic abbreviation>
<case number>/<year>.

Examples

SOURCES

The CIA Factbook:


Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic—Official Website,
http://www.concourt.sk/

National Council of the Slovak Republic—Official Website,
http://www.nrsr.sk/

Slovak Republic Government Office—Official Website,
http://www.government.gov.sk/

SPECIAL THANKS

Amitis Khojasteh – Staff Member. Oct. 2006
Jonathan Burky – ICM Committee Member. Oct. 2006