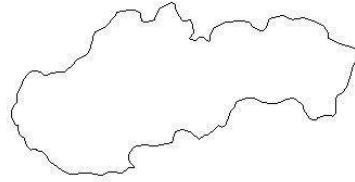


SLOVAK REPUBLIC

(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	<p>The country is subdivided into 8 administrative regions (<i>kraje</i>): Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Trenčín, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov, and Košice.</p> <p>As of 2002, Slovakia is divided into 8 <i>samosprávne kraje</i> (self-governing or autonomous regions), which are referred to as <i>vyššie územné celky</i> (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 <i>kraje</i>. The primary difference between the 125 and <i>samosprávne kraje</i> (or VÚC) is that the organs of <i>samosprávne kraje</i> are autonomous, with an elected chairperson and</p>

	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

OFFICIAL NAME	Ústava Slovenskej republiky
ENACTMENT	Ratified September 1, 1992 and effective as of January 1, 1993.
CITATION FORMAT	ÚSTAVA SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY [Constitution] Ch. <chapter>, art. >article>, para. <paragraph> (Slovk.).
<i>Example</i>	ÚSTAVA SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY [Constitution] Ch II, art. 1, para. 1 (Slovk.).

STATUTES

GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE

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.

LEGISLATIVE
PROCESS

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.

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.

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.

The method of law-making and the details of procedure of the drafting of laws, debate on them and their form is laid down in the Legislative Rules of Law-making, published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic as item no. 19/1997 Coll. In particular, the legislative process in the Parliament is regulated in detail in Part 10 of the Act No. 350/1996 Coll. on Rules of Procedure of the Slovak National Council, as amended (§67 to § 97).

REPORTER

Zbierka zákonov

CITATION FORMAT

Statute, No. <number>/<Year> Z.z. on <title of statute>.

Example

Statute, No. 1/1993 Z.z. on Statutes reporter.
Statute, No. 131/2002 Z.z. on Universities.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES	Administrative sources have both <i>de facto</i> and <i>de jure</i> 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>.
<i>Example</i>	Proclamation of Finance of Health Care, No. 151 [2004] Z.z. on requirements on drinking water and control of quality of drinking water.

CODES

<i>Občianský zákonník</i> (CIVIL CODE)	In force in 1964.
<i>Občianský sudný poriadok</i> (1963) (CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE)	In force in 1963.
<i>Obchodný zákonník</i> (1991) (COMMERCIAL CODE)	In force in 1991.
<i>Trestné kodexy</i> (2004) (CRIMINAL CODE) (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE)	In force in 2004.
CITATION FORMAT	Code, No. <number> / [<Year >] <title of code>.
<i>Examples</i>	Currently non available.

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 občianskych rozhodnutí and
Úradná sbierka trestných rozhodnutí.

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

*350 Both reporters are used, but it is not currently clear in what situation each publication is cited.

CITATION FORMAT CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

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

Examples

Pl. ÚS. 1/92.
I. ÚS. 663/01.

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

Examples 25 Cdo 2591/2003.
 7 Tdo 15/2004.

SOURCES

The CIA Factbook:

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lo.html>

IIIA FOREIGN LAW: CURRENT SOURCES OF CODES AND LEGISLATION IN
JURISDICTIONS OF THE WORLD, THOMAS REYNOLDS & ARTURO
FLORES, 1-9, 1994.

IV LEGAL SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD: A POLITICAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL
ENCYCLOPEDIA 1454-1458 (Herbert M. Kritzer, ed., 2002).

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/>

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