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A brief outline of the linguistic landscape in Slovenia

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Map of Slovenia



- ◇ Independence: June 25, 1991
- ◇ EU Member: 2004
- ◇ Area and land: 20,273 m² Size of Shikoku
- ◇ Capital city: Ljubljana (population 330, 000)
- ◇ Population: 2,061,623 (1.7.2014)



23 official languages

Danish	French	Bulgarian	Finish
Dutch	Italian	Czech	Hungarian
English	Portuguese	Polish	Greek
German	Romanian	Slovak	Irish
Swedish	Spanish	Slovene	Latvian
Maltese		Estonian	Lithuanian

Slovene-speaking areas



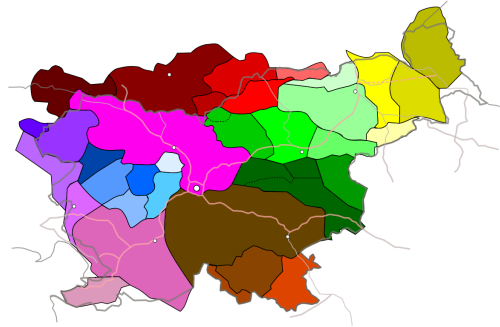
The Ethnic group of Austria-Hungary in 1910 According to *Distribution of Races in Austria-Hungary*



The first translation of the Bible into Slovenian language (1584)



A schematic map of Slovene dialects, based on the map



Current challenges of the social, political and linguistic environment in Slovenia

- How to preserve the vitality of the Slovenian language
- How to allow and support the metalinguistic skills of the Slovenian speaking community
- How to promote the use of the other languages spoken by the inhabitants in the territory of the Slovenian state

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Slovenian is a legally defined language of instruction in the Slovenian public school system. There are exceptions:

In the regions of Italian and Hungarian national communities

In the case of secondary education for the so-called international *matura* where English is the language of instruction in the two-year programme

In international schools intended mainly for children of foreigners temporarily residing in Slovenia

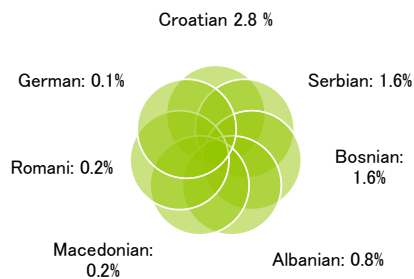
Current language landscape in Slovenia



SLOVENIAN - OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

- **Article 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia** stipulates that the official language in Slovenia is Slovenian. Hungarian and Italian are also considered official languages in the areas of Italian and Hungarian national communities. Slovenia signed (3 July 1997), ratified (4 October 2000) and enforced (1 January 2001) the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*.
- The knowledge of Slovenian is compulsory for certain professions, especially in education, healthcare, law, and other public services.

Newly immersed ethnic communities



EU membership and language proficiency

– The promotion of the multilingualism among the European citizens

– The development of the proficiency in at least three European languages

– To improve the mastery of basic skills in teaching at least 2 languages at very early stage (2002)

The use of foreign languages in Slovenia in private sphere - Požgaj, Hadži study 2009

- **32.2 %** of the respondents use no foreign languages
- **34.4%** use the languages of the former Yugoslavia
- **32.6%** use English, 24.6% German, 11% Italian
- EU Barometer :
89% can speak at least one foreign language

Aims

- ◆ to form a community of independent language users with highly developed language competence in Slovenian language
- ◆ with sufficient language competence in other languages
- ◆ with high degree of language confidence
- ◆ appropriate degree of readiness to accept linguistic and cultural diversity

Some priorities:

– In line with the national language policy and the two action plans, Slovene ministry of education has already started a big national reform of lowering the start age for learning foreign languages

– Using ICT in language learning (high priority)

– Introducing intercultural approach to language learning (high priority)