



Hungarians and Slovaks in border region of Slovakia

JUDr. Radovan Blažek, PhD.

**Comenius University, Faculty of Law
Bratislava**

Minorities in Slovakia (5 412 254 inhabitants)

Slovaks

4.613.000

85,4%



Minority:

Number of members 2007:

- Hungarians

513.700

9,5%

- Gypsies

102.000

1,9%

- Czechs

49.800

0,9%

- Rusyns

24.000

0,4%

- Ukrainians

11.600

0,2%

- Germans

7.000

0,1%

- Poles

4.200

0,1%

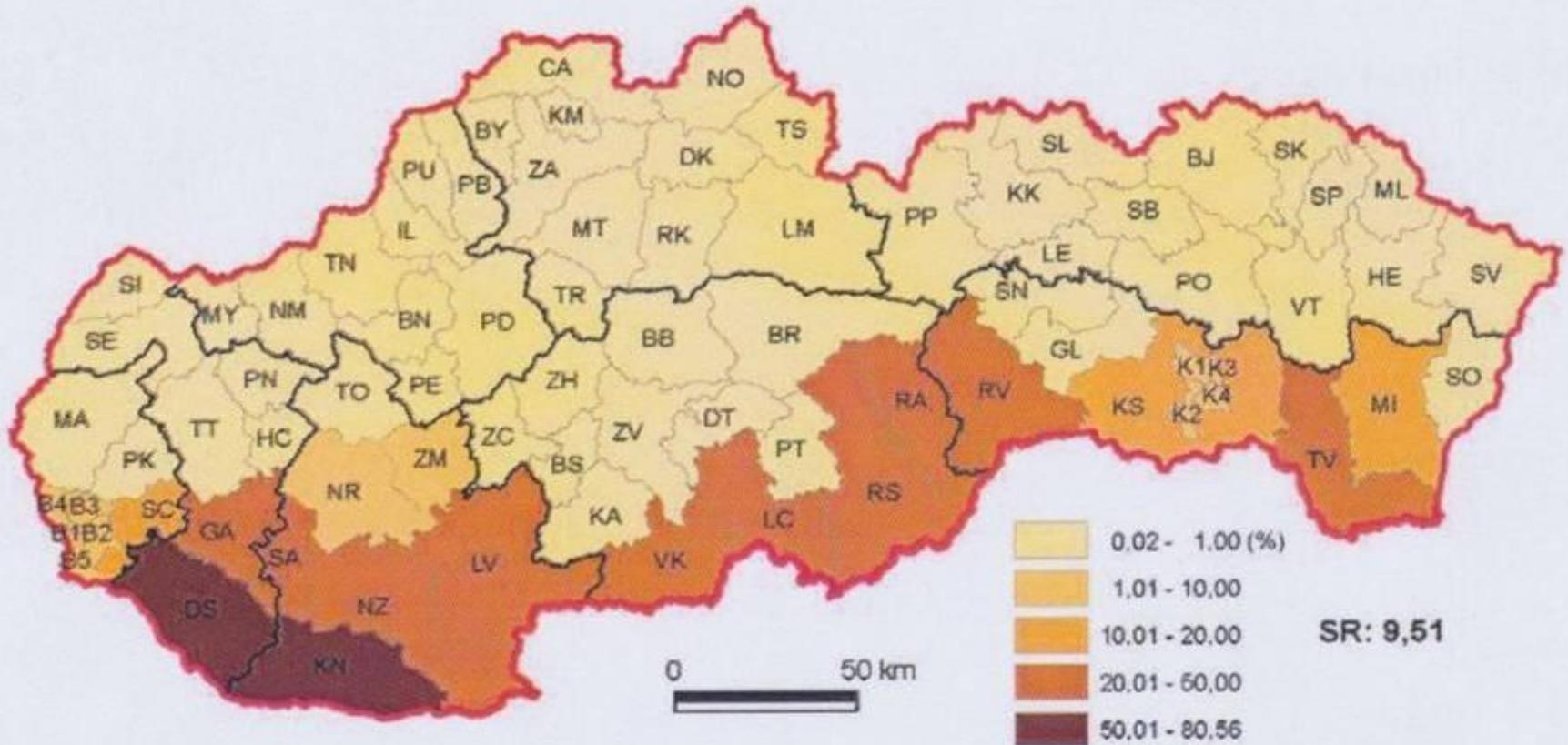
- others

74.900

1,4%

The percentage of Hungarians in Slovakia in 2007

Podiel obyvateľstva maďarskej národnosti v okresoch SR, rok 2007



Rights of minorities

(as mentioned in Art. 34 of Slovak constitution)



- to maintain their own culture individually or in groups
- to spread and receive information in own language
- to create own cultural or educational associations
- to get education in their own language
- to use their own language in official matters
- politically fight for the rights of the minority

Education



- more than 700 basic and secondary schools
 - one Hungarian university since January 1st, 2004 in Komarno (University of J. Selye) with 3 faculties:
 - a) Faculty of economy
 - b) Faculty of education
 - c) Faculty of theology of reformed church
- about 2.400 students, 140 employees

Media



- Hungarians can use the programs in Slovak television and Slovak broadcasting
- *Radio Patria* for minority languages
- there are newspapers in Hungarian language (Új szó, Vásarnáp, Szabad Ujság)
- Publishers: [Petit press](#), [Kalligram](#), [Lilium Aurum](#), [MADÁCH-POSONIUM](#), [NAP](#), [AB ART](#), Gabriel Méry-RATIO, Hernád, [PLECTRUM](#).

Culture and religion



CSEMADOK – the biggest cultural organization with regional clubs

- student organizations Diákhálózat and JUGYIK
- Ifjú Szívek, Szöttes, Ilosvai Selymes Péter, – folklore-dance org.
- 2 theaters: Jókai (Komárno), Thália (Košice)
- museums (Komárno, Rim. Sobota, Lučenec, Dun. Streda)
- church services in Hungarian languages

Language in official matters

- since July 1st 2011 new legislation:

- towns and municipalities with 15% of minority must use minority language in official matters**
- all important documents (e.g. document of birth) also in minority languages**
- all communication with offices in own language and obligation to answer in minority language**
- use of minority language in city archivation and evidence (together with Slovak language)**
- streets and other names in minority language**
- use of minority language in deliberations in town representation (local parliaments)**



Politics

SMK – Magyar Koalíció Pártja



- created in 1998 from 3 smaller parties
- in government 1998 – 2006

Votes recieved in elections:	The leaders:
9,12% (1998)	1998 – 2007: Béla Bugár
11,16% (2002)	2007 – 2010: Pál Csáky
11,68% (2006)	2010 – József Berény
4,33% (2010)	

Politics

MOST – HÍD strana spolupráce

- created in 2009 by Béla Bugár
- in government since 2010



Votes recieved in elections:	The leaders:
8,12% (2010)	2009 – Béla Bugár

Minority issues as a political weapon



Politicians of both nationalities like to use any case as a tool for political campaign to reach their political goals.

They use the cases where Hungarian-Slovak relations are involved as a political weapon to launch the hatred between nationalities.

2 main cases:

Case „Hedviga Malinová“

Case „DAC“

Case „Hedviga Malinová“



- **August 25th, 2006** – 2 guys should have attacked student Hedviga Malinová in Nitra because of her Hungarian nationality
- **September 11th, 2006** – investigation stopped because „*the act didn't happen*“, the decision entered into effect on October 18th 2006
- **May 14th, 2007** – the police accused Hedviga of perjury and false testimony

Case „DAC“



- **November 1st, 2008** – on the soccer game DAC Dunajská Streda – Slovan Bratislava police fought against Hungarian fans, 35 people were arrested, 17 among them from Hungary
- **November 3rd, 2008** – 400 people demonstrated in Budapest, Hungarian government asked for investigation, which hasn't been finished yet

Mutual political provocations



Politicians of both nationalities like to provoke the other nationality with acts that are somehow connected with nationalism or patriotism, or to show the dominance in the territory.

Again the cases are used as a tool to create the idea of constant danger coming from the other nationality.

3 main cases:

Case „Sólyom“

Cases of „statue and plaque“

Case „Sólyom“



- **August 21st, 2009** – president of Hungary, László Sólyom was invited by the mayor of Komárno – Tibor Bastrnák – to participate on the cultural event by which the statue of st. Stephan should have been revealed.

Slovak government banned entering of Hungarian president because the Slovak president wasn't invited.

Cases „statue & plaque“



- **June 4th, 2010** – Ján Slota (leader of Slovak national party) revealed memorial plaque for Trianon treaty in Komárno
- **July 4th, 2010** – prime minister Róbert Fico together with Matica slovenská revealed the statue of st. Cyril and Method in Komárno, without consent of mayor of Komárno - Tibor Bastrnák.
- **December 19th, 2010** – statue in Komárno was damaged with yellow colour.

How do we live in everyday life?



It is true that the relations between our nationalities are affected by the historical or current mistakes.

It is true that sometimes the cooperation also at the lowest level between people is hard.

Long lasting political propaganda brings distrust in the mutual relations.

We live in the same territory but sometimes in separate worlds.

What to do?



- we won't be enemies unless we want it
- both nations should accept the situation that they live together in the same state
- both nations should understand that nationality and language doesn't create the obstacle for the mutual cooperation
- we need to show enough respect for the identity and culture of the other nation

Hope...



The events like „Visegrad summer school“ are good occasion to show the resemblance of our nations, cultures, history, to launch the mutual dialogue and cooperation.

Our mission is to promote the mutual understanding also in our home countries.

We are the new generation, we will shape our relations in the future...



**Thank you for your
attention!**