



## Country profile

# Slovakia

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# Slovak Republic

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## 1. Historical perspective: cultural policies and instruments

With the establishment of Czechoslovakia on 28 October 1918, Slovakia received international recognition of its borders and its capital city Bratislava for the first time. Slovak became an official language. This was also the beginning of strong development in the institutional base and value of Slovak culture, art and education – the first Slovak university, Comenius University in Bratislava, was established in 1919; the Slovak National Theatre was founded in 1920; there was also development in Slovak museums with the establishment of the Slovak Museum in Bratislava in 1924 and the flourishing of many societies for culture, the arts and public education. The largest Slovak cultural society, the *Matica Slovenská*, first established during the Slovak national revival in the nineteenth century (1863), renewed its cultural and education activities in 1919 and began the collection of a national library.

After the political re-drawing of Czechoslovakia's borders following the Munich Agreement, Slovakia declared its autonomy in October 1938. The Vienna Arbitration of 02 November 1938 further modified Slovakia's borders. Later, on 14 March 1939, the first independent Slovak Republic was established, albeit as a state heavily dependent on Nazi Germany. The cultural policy of the independent wartime state was closely linked to nationalistic ideology and state propaganda, which had a strong influence on the values of Slovak culture in this period. On 01 May 1941 the Slovak National Library was established as a part of the *Matica Slovenská*. On 2 July 1942, the Slovak parliament voted to establish the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Arts. *Slovenský Rozhlas* (Slovak Radio) was established as a separate broadcaster on 16 June 1939. The state supported the development of film production in Slovakia – the *Nástup* corporation was established to produce, distribute and develop films on 7 November 1939.

After the Second World War, Czechoslovakia fell under the Soviet sphere of influence. A new political regime gradually liquidated civil rights, political opposition and independent institutions. It was also the period when the basic organisational infrastructure of education and culture in Slovakia was completed. New national cultural institutions were established – the Slovak National Gallery (1948), the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra (1949) and the Slovak Monuments Board (1951). Film studios were gradually established in Bratislava from the 1950s onwards. Arts education also flourished – legislation was passed in 1949 to establish two arts academies in Bratislava (the Academy of Music and the Performing Arts, the Academy of Fine Arts), and a network of elementary art schools gradually developed.

During the socialist period, 1948-1989, cultural policy in Czechoslovakia was based mainly on the use of culture as an ideological instrument. The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Socialist Republic was established in 1969. The regime gave a special status to the audiovisual media (radio, television, film), traditional folk culture (with the establishment of many folklore groups and events) and public education and cultural activities (amateur organisations as an instrument for increasing the availability of culture to broad layers of the population).

The pressure of the ideological limitations led to the creation of various informal cultural associations and unofficial cultural activity. These unofficial "alternative" cultural, social and political activities were organised through associations for the protection of nature and landscape, cultural communities and independent art groups, or within Christian fellowships. The significance of such activities was mainly the preservation of contact between Slovak cultural and artistic activities and the international (especially Western) cultural context and the creation and presentation of alternative cultural and artistic values.

The fall of the communist dictatorship in 1989 introduced new principles to the functioning of society. The change with the largest effect on cultural policy was the lifting of censorship and ideological surveillance. In 1991, the state cultural fund Pro Slovakia was established as a new source of financing for cultural activities and projects under Act 95/1991. The fund was managed by the Ministry of Culture.

The main activity of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic at this time was the transformation of the system. The relationship between the state and churches and religious societies required special attention. The key issue of ownership of church real estate was addressed in the Act on the Freedom of Religious Belief, and the Act on the Registration of Churches and Religious Societies. State funding for the activities of churches and religious societies remained part of the budget of the Ministry of Culture.

After the reorganisation of local state administrative authorities (the former national committees), it was necessary to address the question of the financing of local cultural organisations. In 1999, 157 such organisations were brought under the control of the Ministry of Culture and by the start of 1992, 230 cultural organisations had come under the direct management of the ministry. This situation was intended to ensure the preservation of local and regional culture until the transformation of public administration was completed and the tax system had been reformed. One result of this temporary centralisation of financial and organisational management was that transformation processes in culture took place without a systematic framework and sometimes with destructive consequences for culture (for example, the collapse of film production, the deformation of the book market, the growth of political influence in public media). Cultural policy was directed towards quick solutions to individual problems; the ministry did not have a long-term development strategy or the necessary financial and human resources to transform the system.

A milestone in the development of Slovak culture was the adoption of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic (Act 490/1992). For the area of culture, the constitution primarily codified the Slovak language as the state language, guaranteed freedom of expression and the right to information, banned censorship, guaranteed the freedom of scientific research and the arts, gave legal protection to the products of creative intellectual activity and guaranteed the right of access to cultural heritage.

Politics in Czech and Slovakia developed in different directions and after the elections in 1992, which resulted in the break-up of Czechoslovakia and the establishment of two independent states from 1 January 1993. In contrast to the civic principle of the common state, in independent Slovakia the priority was the national principle and statehood. This gradually gave rise to increased administrative centralisation in the management of culture and the distribution of finances for cultural activities. The Ministry of Culture of the newly independent Slovak Republic established national methodological centres for various areas of culture (theatre, music, galleries, monuments, museums, the audiovisual arts, public education, the media) on the national level while culture on the local level was managed by a network of regional cultural centres. It strengthened the legislative framework on the state language and its use through the adoption of the Act on State Language and related legislation. The Matica Slovenská acquired an important status and was granted state funding under a special law that designated it a national public cultural institution. This placed it in a position where its activities increasingly overlapped with the sphere of politics. This weakened the original cultural traditions and values of this historic cultural and educational institution.

After the parliamentary elections in 1998 Slovak politics took a sharp change of direction. The new government set itself the goal of securing Slovakia's rapid accession to the European Union and NATO. The Strategy for the reform of public administration in the Slovak Republic called for changes in the structure of cultural organisations. The Ministry of Culture prepared special measures based on this strategy in 1999. The main change was the reorganisation of the state administration for the protection of monuments and decentralisation of the management of 152 cultural organisations under the ministry's management. The transfer of these powers to new territorial administrative authorities (self-governing regions - see Chapter 3.2) was completed in 2002.

In cultural policy, there began to be greater approximation of legislation and instruments of cultural policy with European documents and programmes (especially in the audiovisual arts and the media, copyright, the protection of cultural heritage and cultural diversity). In 2000, Slovakia joined the European Programme on National Cultural Policy Reviews. The Ministry of Culture prepared a National Report on Cultural Policy, which it officially submitted to the Council of Europe in February 2003.

On 14 May 2014 the government of the Slovak Republic approved a document Cultural Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic 2014–2020. The strategy is based on the recognition that culture now stands alongside the state and the economy as one of three interconnected strategic pillars of the development of the Slovak Republic whose common foundation is the knowledge and creativity that the nation has acquired in the course of its history. The aim of the project was to create a framework strategy for cultural development to 2020 setting out a vision of development and the target state of culture, redefining the social standing of culture, identifying key priorities for different areas of culture, providing an analysis of existing strategies in the cultural field and setting out a "road map" for use in the preparation of other cultural strategies and projects.

The Ministry of Culture has prepared an Action Plan for this document laying down specific measures for implementing the strategy (see also chapters 4.1, 4.2.3 and 9.1).

## **2. General objectives and principles of cultural policy**

### **2.1 Main features of the current cultural policy model**

The main principles of Slovak cultural policies are defined in the Programme Declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic and its detailing in the scope of the competence of the Ministry of Culture during the period 2016–2020.

The Programme Declaration emphasises that the actions of the government of the Slovak Republic in the cultural field and the implementation of its cultural policy will conform to three fundamental principles – continuity, communication and coordination: “continuity of all the good that has been done in this area in the previous period, communication with the cultural community and other stakeholders as a significant part in the adoption of fundamental decisions affecting culture and coordination to achieve positive synergies that permit the efficient use of resources for the protection, production and promotion of culture.”

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic has developed its own grant scheme covering its area of operation and competence. <http://www.culture.gov.sk/podpora-projektov-dotacie/dotacie-178.html/>

Act 516/2008 on the Audiovisual Fund entered effect on 1 January 2009, establishing the Audiovisual Fund (AVF) as a public institution for the support and development of audiovisual culture and industries (<http://avf.sk/home.aspx>). The purpose of the AVF is to support every part of the process for film preparation, production and distribution, film festivals, education, specialist research, publications and technological development, in particular cinema digitisation. The AVF's support activity under the act is divided into two separate areas – support for audiovisual culture (grants, scholarships and loans) and support for the audiovisual industry (a subsidy of 20% of non-state funds invested in the Slovak Republic for the production of film projects and works to be broadcast on TV). Support for audiovisual culture has operated in the AVF since its inception. In 2017 the AVF distributed EUR 7,566,088 in support for audiovisual culture, which was 1.78% more than in the previous year.

The **Slovak Arts Council** was established under Act 284/2014 on the Slovak Arts Council and amending Act 434/2010 on the provision of subsidies under the competence of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, as amended by Act 79/2013, which entered force on 12 September 2014. The fund is an independent public institution providing support for artistic activities, culture and creative industries. The fund's primary mission is to provide funding for the creation, circulation and presentation of works of art; support for international cooperation; education programmes related to the arts, culture and creative industries; and bursaries for individuals contributing to the arts or

culture through their creativity or research. The fund's activities replace a major part of the grant scheme of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and replaced the Pro Slovakia fund that operated previously under Act 95/1991 on the state cultural fund Pro Slovakia.

The **Cultural Support Fund for National Minorities** was established by Act 138/2017 effective from 1 July 2017. <http://www.kultminor.sk/sk/> This fund is an independent public institution whose mission is to support and stimulate the culture of national minorities in the area of cultural and scientific activities, particularly by creating support mechanisms for the creation and dissemination of cultural and scientific values. By carrying out this mission, the fund contributes the implementation of the cultural policy of the Slovak Republic and the European Union related to support for the development of national minorities.

## 2.2 National definition of culture

Culture is not defined per se in the law or the strategic or conceptual documents of the Slovak Republic but the currently applicable Cultural Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic 2014–2020 defines culture's function and status in society. The Constitution of the Slovak Republic guarantees the economic, social and cultural right of citizens (rights of access to cultural wealth) and the right of protection of cultural heritage (Article 44(2) – "*Every citizen is obliged to protect and improve the environmental and cultural heritage*").

The central state administrative authority for cultural matters in their full breadth and content is the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. Its areas of competence include stage arts, music, literature, the visual arts, tangible and intangible cultural heritage and related artistic and information-documentation organisations. Other bodies participating in ensuring care for tangible and intangible cultural heritage and traditional folk culture are two subcommittees of the Government Council for Culture, an advisory body of the government of the Slovak Republic: the Committee for Cultural Heritage and the Committee for Public Education and Culture. The Council for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage is an advisory body to the minister of culture.

Areas of competence of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic:

- Art
- The state language
- Media, audiovisual content and copyright
- Cultural heritage
- Intangible cultural heritage, public education and culture
- Culture for disadvantaged sections of the population
- Churches and religious societies
- Project support, grants
- International cooperation

- Creative industries

### **2.3 Cultural policy objectives**

Cultural policy objectives are currently formulated in the Cultural Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic 2014–2020 and its action plans and other strategic and conceptual materials prepared under supervision of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

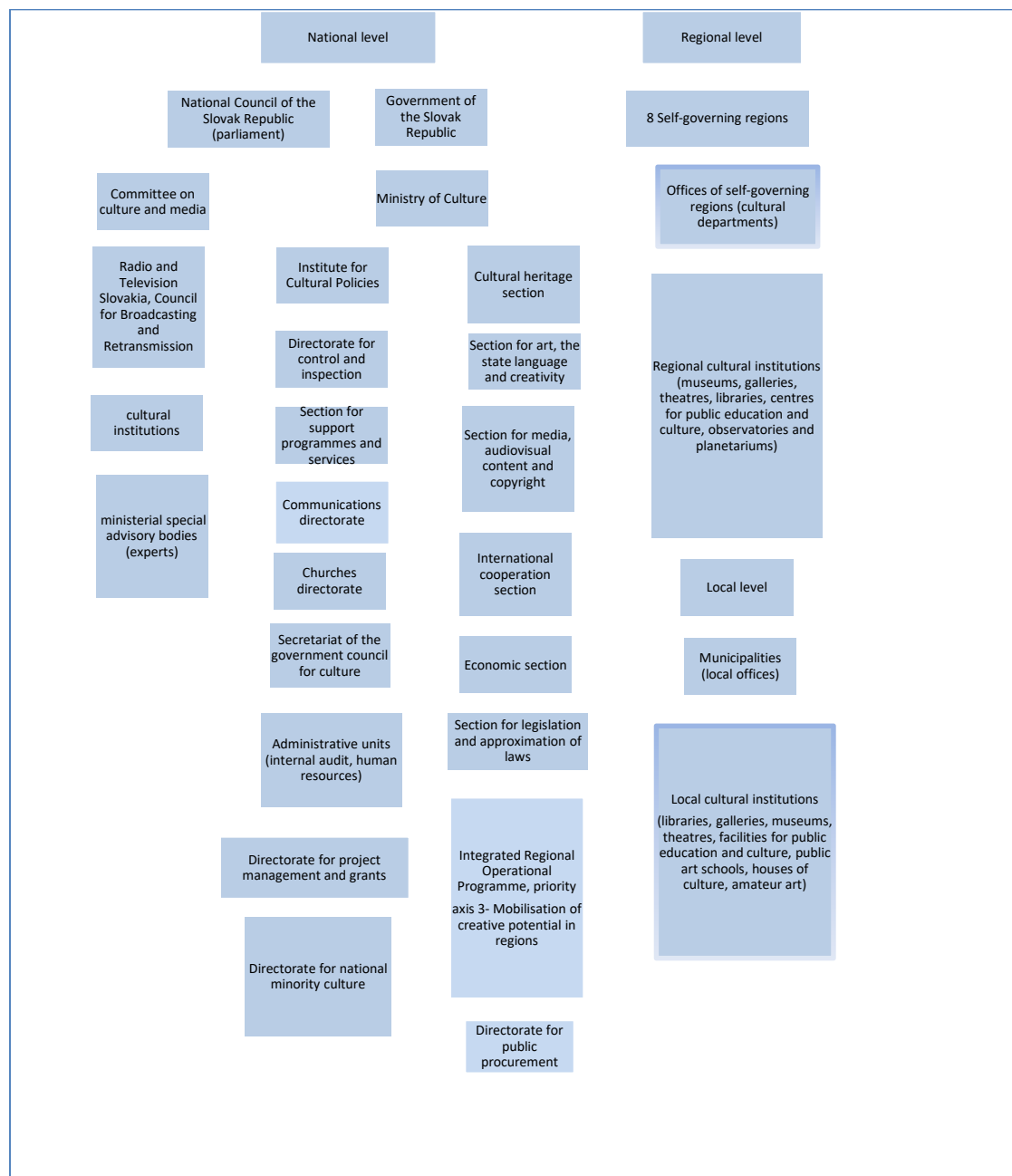
The Ministry of Culture prepared the main objectives relating to the ministry's area of competence in the Programme Declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic 2016–2020.

The full text of the programme declaration can be found at:  
<http://www.culture.gov.sk/ministerstvo/dokumenty/programove-vyhlasenie-vlady-180.html>



### 3. Competence, decision-making and administration

#### 3.1 Organisational structure (organigram)



#### 3.2 Overall description of the system

- On the parliamentary level (the National Council of the Slovak Republic), culture is overseen by the Committee on culture and media established on 4 July 2006. This committee comprises 13 members of parliament (out of a total of 150).

The Committee on European affairs was established in April 2004. It is the successor to the Committee on European integration, which operated in parliament from 1996 onwards.

- The central state administrative body for culture in Slovakia is the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

The **powers of the National Council of the Slovak Republic** in the sphere of culture include the election of members of the management and supervisory boards of the public broadcaster. Parliament elects and recalls members of the board of Radio and Television Slovakia (RTVS) and the general director of RTVS. Additionally, parliament elects the members of the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission, which is a state administrative body for the areas of broadcasting, retransmission and the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services with competences on the national level defined by law.

The **powers of the National Council of the Slovak Republic** in the sphere of culture include the election of members of the management and supervisory boards of public media. Parliament elects members of the board of Slovak Television, the board of Slovak Radio, one member of the Supervisory committee of Slovak Television and the Supervisory committee of Slovak Radio and members of the regulatory body for television and radio broadcasting (Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission).

**The duties and responsibilities of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic** are defined by section 18 of Act 575/2001 on the organisation of activities of the government of the Slovak Republic and the organisation of the central state administration, as amended.

<https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2001/575/20020101.html>

Under this act, the Ministry of Culture is the central state administrative body of the Slovak Republic for:

- the state language;
- the protection of monuments and historic sites, cultural heritage and libraries;
- art;
- copyright and related rights;
- public education and culture and folk art and crafts;
- the presentation of Slovak culture abroad;
- relations with churches and religious societies;
- media and audiovisual content and
- support for the culture of national minorities.

The Ministry of Culture prepares draft laws and other acts of general application, makes them available to the public and, after their consultation in review proceedings, it submits them to the government; it also supervises compliance with the law in its areas of competence (see Section 37 of

Act 575/2001 on the organisation of the activities of the government and the organisation of the central state administration, as amended).

The Ministry of Culture provides for the implementation of cultural policies in the area of international cooperation (for more information see: <http://www.culture.gov.sk/posobnost-ministerstva/medzinarodna-spolupraca-ff.html>) through international organisations, multilateral groupings and bilateral communication. The ministry's activities in international relations are regulated by law (Act 575/2001 on the organisation of the activities of the government of the Slovak Republic and the organisation of the central state administration of the Slovak Republic), government declarations and the foreign policy objectives of the Slovak Republic, as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements and undertakings of the Slovak Republic.

The government's aims include the development of regional cooperation, primarily with the Visegrad group, with an emphasis on regional projects in infrastructure, energy, environment and culture of the EU as a whole. One of the priorities of Slovak foreign policy is support for Slovaks in other countries and the creation of conditions for supporting Slovak communities to preserve the linguistic, cultural and religious identity of Slovaks living abroad.

### **3.3 Inter-ministerial or intergovernmental co-operation**

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic is the central state administrative authority for the foreign policy and relations between the Slovak Republic and other states and international organisations.

<https://www.mzv.sk/zahranicna-politika/dokumenty-k-zahranicnej-politike>

The Ministry of Culture fulfils and coordinates tasks in the area of culture resulting from Slovakia's membership of the EU and other important international organisations; it prepares strategic plans in the area of international cultural cooperation on the bilateral and multilateral levels and coordinates the implementation of the ministry's international cultural policies on art, cultural heritage, media, audiovisual content and copyright; in ensuring the performance of these tasks it cooperates with other central state administrative bodies and self-governing bodies, the organisations under the ministry's establishing authority, professional organisations and persons operating in the cultural field.

### **3.4 International cultural cooperation**

In the performance of entrusted tasks in the area of culture, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic ensures cooperation and coordination with the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the European Union, the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the UN in Geneva, the Permanent Delegation of the Slovak Republic to UNESCO in Paris, the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the UN in New York, the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the

international organisations in Vienna, the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the OECD in Paris and the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

### **3.4.1 Overview of main structures and trends**

Organisations under the establishing authority of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and their competences are described in detail at: <http://www.culture.gov.sk/organizacie-ministerstva-c.html>

### **3.4.2 Public actors and cultural diplomacy**

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic coordinates the implementation of Slovakia's foreign policy and activities resulting its membership of international organisations; it manages certain forms of international cultural treaties, especially those with foreign Slovaks (through the Directorate for culture and Slovak émigrés, which is part of the Directorate general for external communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and it directly manages the activities of the Slovak institutes. The Slovak institutes are cultural information institutions whose main function is to represent Slovakia abroad. Their mission is to raise awareness of culture and art, education, science, tourism and industry, including the presentation of Slovak towns, villages and regions, as well as Slovak businesses and products. The Slovak institutes are attached to Slovak missions abroad. They operate in eight countries: Czechia (Prague), France (Paris), Hungary (Budapest), Germany (Berlin), Poland (Warsaw), Austria (Vienna), Russia (Moscow) and Italy (Rome).

The following foreign institutions operate in Slovakia for purposes of international cultural cooperation and the representation of their countries in Slovakia:

- British Council; (Great Britain)
- Bulgarian Cultural and Information Centre; (Bulgaria)
- Hungarian Cultural Institute; (Hungary)
- Czech Centre; (Czechia)
- Goethe Institute; (Germany)
- Austrian Cultural Forum; (Austria)
- Polish Institute; (Poland)
- Confucius Institute; (China)
- Italian Cultural Institute; (Italy)
- French Institute; (France)
- Fulbright Commission; (USA)

### 3.4.3 European / international actors and programmes

In accordance with the conception and priorities of international cooperation in the area of culture, the Slovak Republic maintains a permanent mission to the Council of Europe and in the cultural programmes of the European Union (see chapter 3.4.1). The provisions of Article 167(2) and (3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union are integrated into Slovakia's cultural policies as priorities, especially as regards international cooperation. Slovakia's participation in **UNESCO** and **EU** programmes such as **Creative Europe** (known as **Culture and MEDIA** until 2014), **Horizon 2020** and **Europe for Citizens** is a key element in the implementation of international cultural cooperation. The specific results of Slovak participation and cooperation in these programmes is regularly monitored and published on the website of the Ministry of Culture <http://www.culture.gov.sk> and the website of Creative Europe Desk Slovakia <http://www.cedslovakia.eu/kancelaria-creative-europe-desk>. In 2017 Slovak applicants for support under the Creative Europe programme received a total of EUR 1,221,524, of which EUR 884,909 was paid under the MEDIA sub-programme and EUR 336,615 was paid under the Culture sub-programme.

**Eurimages** is another important fund providing support on the European level. The Council of Europe's cinema support fund supports the co-production of feature films. It has operated since 1988 and Slovakia has been a member since 15 April 1996. At the end of 2017, the fund had 37 member countries, with Canada being an associate member from 13/03/2017.

**Visegrad Fund** The International Visegrad Fund was established on 9 June 2000 to implement priorities and support projects in all areas of interest of the V4 countries.  
<http://www.visegradfund.org>

Slovakia also participates in the **European Capital of Culture** project and under Decision No 1622/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Slovakia's eastern metropolis, Košice, served a term as European Capital of Culture.

#### **The Ministry of Culture provides for the implementation of UNESCO conventions and protocols in Slovakia.**

- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention, 1954)
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970)
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
- Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Cultural Diversity) (2005)

Council of Europe conventions on cultural matters ratified by the Slovak Republic:

- European Cultural Convention
- Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe
- Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe
- Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe
- Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production
- Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage
- Protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage, on the Protection of Television Productions
- European Convention on Transfrontier Television
- Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and Explanatory Report
- European Landscape Convention
- Framework Convention of the Council of Europe on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)
- Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

### **Implementation of bilateral treaties under the management of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in 2016 – 2017**

List of bilateral and multilateral treaties concluded in the years 2016 – 2017.

- Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of Romania 2016 –2020, signed in Bucharest on 10 October 2016,
- Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the State of Israel 2017 –2019 in the Areas of Education, Science, Culture, Youth and Sport, signed in Tel Aviv on 12 September 2016,
- Memorandum of Understanding and Programme of Cooperation in the Area of Culture between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance is the ministry of Culture of the Islamic Republic of Iran, signed in Tehran on 8 April 2017,
- Memorandum between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic on the Slovak-Czech Consultative Committee on Puppet Theatre as an Element of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, signed in Lednice on 4 September 2017,
- Agreement on Cooperation between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the United Mexican States in the Areas of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, signed in Mexico City on 21 November 2017.

**Documents that the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic is currently working on, whose signing is expected in 2018 – 2019 pending agreement by the parties**

- Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation 2018 –2022 (22 March 2018),
- Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Cuba for the years 2018– 2020.
- Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India for the years 2018 – 2020.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus for the years 2018 – 2021.
- Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary for the years 2018– 2022.
- Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Argentine Republic in the Area of Culture for the years 2018 – 2021.
- Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova for the years 2018 – 2022.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey for the years 2018 – 2022.
- Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia for the years 2019 – 2023.
- Action Plan for the Slovak-French Strategic Partnership for the Years 2019 – 2024, including Chapter XI. Cooperation in the Area of Culture.
- Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland for the years 2019 – 2021.

**Forward-looking information on the subject matter of treaties that are priorities of Slovakia's foreign policy for the years 2018 – 2019.**

1. Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities. The treaty introduces international rules designed to ensure that its beneficiaries – visually impaired persons and persons with print disabilities – can exercise the right to information and the right to research and education through better access to works and their reproduction in accessible formats.
2. Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances The treaty protects the rights of performers and deals with rights related to copyright.
3. European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production. The convention regulates relations between parties in matters concerning multilateral cinematographic co-productions made in the territory of the parties with the aim of supporting the development of European film co-production.

4. Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production (revised). The convention has been revised to keep pace with technological, economic and financial developments in film co-production and to ensure the continuing relevance of the convention.
5. European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage. The aim of this convention is to ensure the protection of the European audiovisual heritage by means of its collection, its preservation and the availability of moving image material for cultural, scientific and research purposes, in the public interest.
6. European Convention on Transfrontier Television. The purpose of this convention is to establish a legal framework for the free circulation of transfrontier television programmes in Europe.

#### **3.4.4 Direct professional cooperation**

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic contributes to support for direct professional cooperation through the partial or complete reimbursement of membership fees for cultural organisations participating in international professional or non-governmental organisations in the areas of art and culture.

An example is the membership fee for the fund of the Council of Europe supporting co-productions, EURIMAGES, which enables the Slovak film industry to obtain support and establish cooperation with co-producers with 37 countries in the Council of Europe that are members of EURIMAGES. The Ministry of Culture also reimburses membership fees for the Council of Europe's European Audiovisual Observatory, whose main function is to serve as centre for information and analysis of the audiovisual industries from a legal and economic point of view, and for Slovakia's participation in the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Slovakia became the 23rd state to accede to the EPA on 25 June 2014.

The Slovakia Film Institute (SFI) and the AVF play an important role in the presentation of Slovak audiovisual industries abroad. The activities of the SFI include organising and participating in the organisation of cultural events, tours and festivals in Slovakia and abroad and participation in the promotion of audiovisual culture, including the promotion of audiovisual heritage. The SFI's most important activity in this area is the operation of the National Cinematographic Centre. One of the AVF's activities is to provide financial support for the circulation and presentation of audiovisual works. An important factor for this area is support provided under sub-programme 2 to support audiovisual works' circulation and release to the public and particularly to support the distribution of audiovisual works, public cultural events featuring audiovisual works and the presentation of Slovak audiovisual works and audiovisual culture in Slovakia and abroad.

#### **3.4.5 Cross-border intercultural dialogue and co-operation**

Cross-border intercultural dialogue takes place in the governmental, non-governmental and private sectors.



In cooperation with international cooperation units, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic:

- Participates in the preparation and of materials for international bilateral and multilateral cultural agreements in the areas of media, audiovisual content and copyright and related rights.
- Participates in the work of interdepartmental working parties on digital broadcasting.
- Through the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, which is the central state administrative body for Slovakia's foreign policy, European affairs and international relations with other states, European institutions, international organisations and integration groupings, it is connected with EU and UN organisations and bodies.

The Ministry of Culture participates in the (EU-financed) projects of international organisations and domestic non-governmental organisations in the fields of culture, art and audiovisual production, support for the education of children and young people on individual articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, internet safety, the fight against bullying in schools and the family as well as a higher level of culture and creativity for children.

The Ministry of Culture also implements programmes through the directorate for national minority culture.

## **4. Current issues in cultural policy development and debate**

### **4.1 Main cultural policy issues and priorities**

Slovakia's current cultural policy priorities (to 2020) are set out in the document Cultural Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic 2014–2020, which the government approved on 14 May 2014 <http://www.strategiakultury.sk/> . The document focuses in detail on the following issues:

1. Formation of cultural needs and demand for culture in education
2. Preservation and making accessible of cultural heritage
3. Systematic support for original artistic creation
4. Establishment of a functional system of financing in the area of culture
5. A functional model of the use of creativity and culture in the economic development of Slovakia
6. Systematic support for cultural research
7. Cultural promotion of the country abroad

The Ministry of Culture has prepared an Action Plan for this document laying down specific measures to implement the strategy, which has become a new basis for state cultural policy that is acceptable for society as a whole. <http://www.culture.gov.sk/ministerstvo/dokumenty/strategicke-materialy-ministerstva-129.html>

## **4.2 Specific policy issues and debates**

Slovakia's first ever presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2016 (SK PRES) was a foreign policy priority for the country's government and raised Slovakia's profile in the European Union (EU) and broadened its involvement in the formation of EU policy. Under the 18-month trio programme for the Council of the European Union and the programme for the Slovak presidency of the Council of the European Union (SK PRES Programme), the main priorities of SK PRES were: an economically strong Europe, a modern single market, sustainable migration and asylum policy and a globally engaged Europe.

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic successfully completed all the tasks of SK PRES in its area of competence. In terms of the political priorities defined in SK PRES, it helped to advance current legislative and non-legislative EU processes concerning culture, audiovisual content and copyright. In the part of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council configuration related to culture and audiovisual content, the greatest success of SK PRES was the adoption of general guidelines on a proposed decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European year of Cultural Heritage, the approval of the progress report on the proposal for an updated Audiovisual Media Services Directive, and the conducting of talks on the proposed EU strategy for international cultural relations. On the question of copyright, SK PRES addressed legislative proposals for reforming copyright and legislative proposals for implementing the Marrakesh Treaty in EU law. The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic organised two international conferences attended by recognised Slovak and foreign experts to address current issues and priorities facing the EU regarding copyright and audiovisual content.

The Ministry of Culture ensured the cultural and artistic presentation of Slovakia at home and abroad during SK PRES. Various cultural events such as concerts, exhibitions and theatrical performances were organised to introduce Slovak art and culture to foreign audiences and they significantly contributed a stronger awareness of Slovakia throughout the EU and in partner countries.

### **4.2.1 Conceptual issues of policies for the arts**

These issues are addressed in more detail in the document Cultural Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic 2014–2020.

[http://www.strategiakultury.sk/sites/default/files/STRATEGIA\\_ROZVOJA\\_KULTURY\\_SR\\_NA\\_ROKY\\_2014-2020.pdf](http://www.strategiakultury.sk/sites/default/files/STRATEGIA_ROZVOJA_KULTURY_SR_NA_ROKY_2014-2020.pdf)

### **4.2.2 Heritage issues and policies**

The main priorities of cultural policy concerning the protection, restoration, use and presentation of monuments and historic sites are:

- building a legislative environment implementing Act 49/2002 on the protection of monuments and historic sites and amending legislation on land-use planning and the Building Act;
- focussing the protection of monuments and historic sites on their potential contribution to economic development (tourism, services, accommodation etc.) and employment, especially in small and medium enterprises;
- changing the restrictive model for the protection of monuments and historic sites to a model that motivates development (a system of discounts provided to the owners of monuments, the grant scheme "*Obnovme si svoj dom'*" (Let's restore our home), the preparation of multisource financing for the protection and renovation of cultural heritage monuments);
- increasing the quality of vocational training and activity of the state administration in the protection of monuments and historic sites through activities of specialised state administrative bodies – the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic and Regional Monuments Boards;
- increasing quality in the identification, recording, documentation, protection and presentation of monuments and historic sites, with an emphasis on use of computer and information technology;
- intensive cooperation with foreign and international governmental and non-governmental organisations, with an emphasis on the activities of European institutions (Council of Europe, UNESCO, ICOMOS and so on), including the ratification of international documents and agreements covering the protection of monuments, historic sites and cultural heritage; and
- increasing the quality of in-school and out-of-school training and education; raising awareness; advertising and publication activities concerning the preservation and presentation of monuments, historic sites and cultural heritage.

**The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic** (whose legal predecessor, the Monuments Institute, was established on 1 January 1951) is a state budgetary organisation with responsibility for the protection of cultural heritage monuments. <https://www.pamiatky.sk/>

## **Museums and galleries**

Based on an analysis of the situation, the following priorities have been set for the development of museums and galleries in the near term:

- research activity of museums and galleries;
- specialised protection of collection items and improved protection and security of the buildings and premises in which collection items are deposited and preserved (including the treatment, security and permanent deposit of collection items in line with professional standards)
- acquisitions by museums and galleries;
- presentation activity – making available the results of the professional activity and research of museum and gallery staff;
- development of human resources – creation of conditions to improve training and continuing education for museum and gallery staff; and

- digitisation of collection items.

## **Audiovisual heritage**

As regards the protection and restoration of audiovisual heritage, on 17 May 2006 the government of the Slovak Republic approved the Project for the Systematic Restoration of the Audiovisual Heritage of the Slovak Republic, whose main aim is to protect films and other audiovisual works and make them available to the public. The project's goals are to create conditions in line with international standards and agreements for the protection and restoration of the audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Republic, its conservation for future generations and its systematic public distribution. The project will be implemented in stages to 2020. The project is overseen by the Slovak Film Institute.

The government approved a proposal to update the Project for the systematic restoration of the audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Republic for the years 2016–2018 on 13 January 2016. The main objective of the project is the protection and gradual restoration of audiovisual heritage and its systematic availability to the public.

In the area of the conservation and restoration of audiovisual heritage, the government approved a proposal to update the Project for the systematic restoration of the audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Republic for the years 2016–2018 on 13 January 2016. The main objective of the project is the protection and gradual restoration of audiovisual heritage and its systematic availability to the public.

## **Libraries**

The Development Strategy for Slovak Libraries 2015–2020 was approved by Government Resolution 620/2014 of 3 December 2014.

The strategy defines three main lines of development for professional library activities:

- formation of information needs, support for information literacy, the management and development of human resources ensuring the sustainability and development of libraries;
- construction, permanent preservation, development and protection of library information collections;
- optimisation and development of library information services and methods for managing knowledge and information.

The strategy takes the form of a medium-term framework plan, whose main objective is to establish staff requirements, the priorities for the professional activities of librarians and the financing for the defined strategic areas, and thereby to eliminate isolated and uncoordinated initiatives.

### 4.2.3 Cultural/creative industries: policies and programmes

The creative industries are those parts of the economy that create economic value based on individuals' creativity or artistic talent. This is a sector based on the valorisation of intellectual property which includes creative activities such as architecture, design, film, music alongside the production of computer games and advertising. (Strategic baseline for the development of the cultural industries in the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, 2014)

Government Resolution 32 of 21 January 2015 approved the Strategy for the development of creative industries in the Slovak Republic and instructed the competent ministers to develop an Action plan for implementation of the Strategy for the development of creative industries in the Slovak Republic. Implementation of the 37 specific tasks defined in the action plan commenced in 2016. The common factor in these tasks is to stimulate creativity, build a creative environment and focus on a systematic and cross-sectional view of the creative economy as an integral part of the national economy, one of whose premises is that culture establishes not only identity but also prosperity.

<http://www.culture.gov.sk/posobnost-ministerstva/kreativny-priemysel-165.html>

Some aspects of culture and the cultural industries are partially monitored by the National Cultural Centre (NOC) in Bratislava. Its research programme is primarily concerned with local and regional culture. <http://www.nocka.sk>

Slovakia has recently adopted a series of strategic documents on cultural and creative industries (CCIs) starting with the Report on the Situation and Potential of the Creative Industries in Slovakia followed by the Strategic Baseline for the Development of the Cultural Industries in the Slovak Republic and the Strategy for the Development of Creative Industries in the Slovak Republic, adopted by Government Resolution 32/2015 on 21/01/2015. As this issue is considered to be of relevance across a large number of areas, the strategy was developed through inter-ministerial cooperation involving principally the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The document defines the outlines of the cultural and creative industries as follows:

<b>Area (sector)</b>	<b>Creative activity/profession (creative area)</b> <i>main categories</i>	<b>Production</b> <i>main categories</i>	<b>Exploitation and distribution (commerce)</b> <i>main categories</i>
<b>Literature</b>	<i>writers, editors, translators</i>	<i>publishers of non-periodical publications including audiobooks</i>	<i>book market, including on-line platforms</i>
<b>Stage arts</b>	<i>dramatists, choreographers and</i>	<i>theatre operators</i>	<i>ticket sales</i>

	<i>other authors of stage and stage-musical works and other non-musical performing arts (actors, puppeteers, dancers, mimes, circus artists etc.)</i>		
<b>Music</b>	<i>composers and performers of music (singers, musicians) and lyricists</i>	<i>producers of audio recordings (phonograms) of musical works and music publishers</i>	<i>music market, including on-line services, public cultural events (concerts)</i>
<b>Audiovisual content</b>	<i>directors, scriptwriters, dramaturges, cinematographers, editors, costume designers, architects, composers and other film-making professions</i>	<i>producers of original audiovisual works, television broadcasters</i>	<i>television broadcasting, retransmission, distribution, cinemas, on-demand audiovisual media services</i>
<b>Visual arts</b>	<i>all forms of the visual arts, artistic photography and lighting design plus new forms of multimedia installation etc., related professions (e.g. restorers).</i>	<i>creation of individual works</i>	<i>visual arts and antique market, auction companies</i>
<b>Architecture</b>	<i>architects, interior designers and landscape architects</i>	<i>individual works (mainly done to order)</i>	<i>construction of buildings and other architectural works</i>
<b>Design</b>	<i>industrial and artistic design, including applied arts</i>	<i>industrial production (e.g. the automotive industry, furniture industry etc.)</i>	<i>retail</i>
<b>Fashion industry</b>	<i>fashion design, "haute couture" and perfumery, related design areas (e.g. nail design) and related occupations (stylist, arranger, florist etc.)</i>	<i>the clothing industry, made-to-measure clothing</i>	<i>retail</i>

<b>Crafts</b>	<i>craft workers (traditional folk and urban crafts, toymaking)</i>	<i>individual works, Centre for Folk Art Production (ÚĽUV), production of items modelled on traditional folk culture or inspired by traditional folk and urban culture</i>	<i>retail</i>
<b>New media</b>	<i>makers of multimedia works, computer and console games, mobile applications</i>	<i>the games industry, publishers of multimedia works and computer and console games</i>	<i>retail including on-line sales and services</i>
<b>Software</b>	<i>programmers – software developers (not including the development and production of computer and console games)</i>	<i>software production (information and communication technology (ICT) firms)</i>	<i>retail including on-line sales and services</i>
<b>Area (sector) / activity</b>	<b>the area also includes</b>		
<b>Advertising</b>	<i>advertising agencies and marketing</i>		
<b>Information and communication technologies</b>	<i>electronic communication and the provision of services for an information-based society as well as specific content services (retransmission, direct to home (DTH), multiplex on-demand audiovisual media services etc.)</i>		
<b>Communication media</b>	<i>radio and television broadcasting (including broadcasting via the internet), press agencies, the publication of periodicals and the provision of e-news, along with related occupations and activities (journalists, reporters, documentary and new photography etc.)</i>		
<b>Hardware and related services</b>	<i>development, production, import, export and sale of relevant hardware and media and provision of the related technological base (webhosting etc.)</i>		
<b>Auxiliary services</b>	<i>artists' agencies, events agencies, collective rights management societies etc.</i>		

Support for creative production is provided primarily by the Slovak Arts Council (established in 2015) and the Audio-visual Fund (established in 2009), which operate on the arm's length principle, supplemented by the Ministry's grant system, which is oriented towards support for cultural heritage and support for the culture of disadvantaged groups.

The main programme supporting conditions for creative activity, the production and reproduction of works, their promotion and distribution is Priority axis 3 of the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP), Mobilisation of creative potential in regions, which has been designed to synergise with OP Research and Innovation (OP R&I). The main focus of Priority axis 3 is financing for business development, access to tangible and intangible assets and monetisation of intellectual property to increase employment in CCIs. OP R&I focuses on support for internationalisation, cluster initiatives, increasing awareness of CCIs and support for SMEs in areas where new business models are emerging.

#### 4.2.4 Cultural diversity and inclusion policies

As at 26 March 2018, the population of the Slovak Republic was 5,443,120 according to the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

**Table 1: Population of the Slovak Republic according to nationality**

	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total</b>	5,426,252	5,435,343	5,443,120
Slovak	4,408,649	4,421,538	4,433,573
Hungarian	455,744	454,912	453,565
Roma	109,600	110,261	111,089
Ruthenian	31,500	31,081	30,603
Ukrainian	9,253	9,639	10,033
Czech	35,513	36,153	36,722
German	7,163	7,275	7,438
Polish	6,078	6,341	6,554
Russian	2,855	2,977	3,074
Jewish	609	606	607
Moravian	3,126	3,087	3,039
Bulgarian	2,357	2,499	2,578
Silesian	16	20	21
Greek	415	460	501
Romanian	4,495	4,983	5,247
Austrian	1,461	1,527	1,602
Vietnamese	2,556	2,642	2,724
Other or undetermined	344,862	339,342	334,150

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, updated as at 26/03/2018



The rights of national minorities are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, and citizens cannot be discriminated against for allegiance to any national minority or ethnic group. The Constitution of the Slovak Republic guarantees national minorities their development, in particular the right, together with other members of the minority or group, to disseminate their culture, the right to broadcast and receive information in their native language, to unite in national associations, to establish and maintain educational and cultural institutions. The Cultural Support Fund for National Minorities was established by Act 138/2017 effective from 1 July 2017. <http://www.kultminor.sk/sk/> (see also Chapter 2.1)

The Slovak constitution guarantees citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups the following rights:

- the right to master the national language;
- the right to education in the language of the minority;
- the right to use the minority language to conduct official business; and
- the right to participate in the resolution of matters affecting national minorities and ethnic groups.

These basic civil rights of citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups are further elaborated in the following legislation:

- Act 184/1999 on the use of the languages of national minorities; and
- Act 191/1994 on the designation of municipalities in the language of national minorities.

The application of minority rights and the implementation of minority policies in Slovakia are also governed by applicable international documents and agreements in this area on the level of UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the European Union.

In Slovakia there are not only many national cultural associations but also several cultural institutions of national minorities:

- Ifjú Szivek – Hungarian Dance Theatre;
- Jókai Theatre – Hungarian National Theatre in Komárno;
- Thália Theatre – Hungarian National Theatre in Košice;
- Alexander Duchnovič Theatre – Ruthenian National Theatre in Prešov;
- Romathan Theatre – Roma National Theatre in Košice;
- Slovak National Museum – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava;
- Museum of Czech Culture at the SNM in Martin;
- Slovak National Museum – Museum of the Culture of the Carpathian Germans in Bratislava;
- Slovak National Museum – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava;
- Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník;

- Slovak National Museum – Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava;
- Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov; and
- Museum of Roma Culture at the SNM in Martin.

National minorities also have regular programmes on public media.

Data for 2017:

**Number of hours of broadcasting for national minorities in the broadcasting of RTVS – Slovak Radio**

National minority broadcasting	in hours	in %
Hungarian	4,392	83.2
Ruthenian	342	6.5
Ukrainian	301	5.7
Roma	173	3.3
Czech	26	0.5
German	16	0.3
Polish	16	0.3
Croatian	5	0.1
Bulgarian	5	0.1
Serbian	5	0.1
TOTAL	5,281	100

Source: RTVS

**Number of hours of broadcasting for national minorities in the broadcasting of RTVS – Slovak Television**

National minority	Channel One		Channel Two		RTVS total	
	in hours	in %	in hours	in %	in hours	in %
Hungarian	0.47	0.01	104.6	1.35	105.07	0.64
National minorities and ethnic groups	0	0	42.28	0.55	42.28	0.26
Roma	1.3	0.01	36	0.46	37.32	0.23
Slovak (abroad)	0	0	12.03	0.16	12.03	0.07
Ukrainian	0	0	9.73	0.13	9.73	0.06
Ruthenian	0	0	7.92	0.1	7.92	0.05
Jewish	0	0	7.55	0.1	7.55	0.05
Czech	0	0	3.08	0.04	3.08	0.02
Others	0	0	2.23	0.03	2.03	0.01
German	0	0	1.38	0.02	1.38	0.01
Bulgarian	0	0	0.87	0.01	0.87	0.01
Polish	0	0	0.85	0.01	0.85	0.01
Croatian	0	0	0.85	0.01	0.85	0.01
Serbian	0	0	0.43	0.01	0.43	0.01
Moravian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russian	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL						

Source: RTVS

#### **4.2.5 Language issues and policies**

The state language in the territory of the Slovak Republic is Slovak. The question of the use of the state language and other languages is addressed in the Constitution. The use of Slovak is regulated by Act 270/1995 on the state language of the Slovak Republic. Other languages used in Slovakia are the languages of the national minorities – Hungarian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Roma, Croatian and possibly languages of other minorities. The use of the languages of national minorities is governed by special legislation (see Chapter 4.2.4).

If citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 20% of the population of a community according to the results of the last census, they can use the language of that minority to conduct official business.

The Central Language Council, established in 1996, acts as a consultative body on the state language for the Ministry of Culture. <http://www.culture.gov.sk/posobnost-ministerstva/statny-jazyk/ustredna-jazykova-rada-c4.html>

- monitoring compliance with the State Language Act;
- proposing measures for the preservation and scientific research of the Slovak national language;
- consideration of proposals for changes in the codified form of the state language and provision of expert opinions on conflict issues concerning its use; and
- coordinating the work of the terminology commissions of central state administrative bodies and initiating the publication of linguistic literature.

#### **4.2.6 Media pluralism and content diversity**

The media and the function that they perform in a democratic society are vitally important for ensuring the public are not limited to one source of information and have access to a wide range of perspectives and opinions reflecting the diversity of the population. The requirements for media pluralism include legislation preventing the concentration of media ownership, ensuring transparency and maintaining the dual system of media. An important role in this area is performed by the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission, established as an independent regulatory body by Act 308/2000 on broadcasting and retransmission and amending Act 195/2000 on telecommunications, as amended (hereinafter the "Act on Broadcasting and Retransmission"), and which is entitled under Sections 42 and 43 of this act to require broadcasters to provide for its inspection documents and data necessary to demonstrate compliance with broadcasters' duty to ensure plurality of information and transparency of ownership and personal relations in broadcasting.

Plurality of information and content in electronic media is guaranteed by the existing dual system of public and commercial television and radio programme services. Public media have a special duty to ensure their activities reflect and cover a broad spectrum of opinions and attitudes. This is reflected

in Act 532/2010 on Radio and Television Slovakia (*Rozhlas a Televízia Slovenska*) and amending certain acts, under which the Slovak public broadcaster is obliged to provide the public impartial, well-founded, current, comprehensible information with overall balance and pluralism.

#### **4.2.7 Social cohesion and cultural policies**

Meeting the cultural needs of disadvantaged sections of the population is a key area in Slovakia's cultural policy. The Ministry of Culture creates conditions for the financial support of the culture of disadvantaged social groups, provides space for equality of opportunity in the area of the culture of people with disabilities, disadvantaged children and youth, the equality of men and women, and senior citizens. It also creates the conditions for making culture accessible and supporting integration through cultural mechanisms for the marginalised Roma community, migrants, the homeless, and so on.

The concept of disadvantaged (vulnerable, socially excluded) sections of the population is an abstract and general one that covers all persons who find themselves in an unequal position vis-à-vis the majority where this unequal position is combined with a risk of discrimination – failure to uphold the principle of equal treatment (e.g. on grounds of sex, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, social status – e.g. people at risk of poverty and social exclusion including people who are homeless, victims of violence, foreigners and migrants, people living in marginalised Roma communities etc.).

Social policies related to socially disadvantaged groups include the establishment of a legal obligation for the public broadcaster to ensure multimodal access to its channels such that on every digitally broadcast television channel, at least 50% of the broadcast programmes have subtitles for people with hearing impairments, 3% are interpreted into sign language for the deaf or are in sign language for the deaf and 20% are accompanied by a voice commentary for the blind (Section 18(2) of the Act on Broadcasting and Retransmission). A licensed broadcaster is obliged to ensure multimodal access to channels such that on every digitally broadcast television channel, at least 10% of the broadcast programmes have subtitles for people with hearing impairments and 3% are accompanied by a voice commentary for the blind

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic also implements its cultural policy through government strategy documents on the protection and promotion of human rights and access to cultural rights for disadvantaged sections of the population.

<http://www.culture.gov.sk/ministerstvo/dokumenty/strategicke-materialy-ministerstva-129.html>

#### **4.2.8 Employment policies for the cultural sector**

The Slovak Republic does not yet have specific and detailed statistics on employment across the whole cultural sector. The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic collects information on employment that is categorised by SK NACE codes while the Ministry of Culture records data on selected cultural

institutions (e.g. galleries, museums, theatres, libraries...). A satellite account for culture and the creative industries is currently being prepared and tested with the aim of providing exact information on employment in various cultural industries. This means that within a few years there should be a detailed overview of employment in culture.

**Table 4:**

area	Employees	persons providing for activities
galleries	491	1221
museums	2133	4288
libraries	2338	4229
stage arts	3337	8431
music	1632	6856
broadcasting	2436	4113

Source: Report on the state survey of culture, 2017

#### 4.2.9 Gender equality and cultural policies

This information is currently in preparation.

#### 4.2.10 New technologies and digitalisation in the arts and culture

As the importance of information technologies in culture continues to increase, the Ministry of Culture has established a permanent advisory body, the Council of the Minister of Culture for the Informatisation of Culture.

In November 2015 the website [www.slovakiana.sk](http://www.slovakiana.sk) was launched as a central portal for digitalisation projects related to Slovakia's cultural heritage. Slovakiana was established as part of the national project Central Application Infrastructure and Registry (CAIR) and it now provides access to more than a million digitalised cultural objects.

The Slovak Film Institute in cooperation with RTVS implemented a national project in the audiovisual sector as part of the Operational Programme Informatisation of Society (Priority Axis 2: Development and renewal of the national infrastructure of repository institutions) under the title Digital Audio Vision (*Digitálna audiovizia*); the project was financed by the European Regional Development Fund and ran from 2011 to 2015. As part of the project, two digitalisation suites were constructed (one at the SFI and one at RTVS) and 61,650 cultural films, audio recordings and other audio-visual objects were digitalised, thus achieving the project's primary objective. The project is currently in its sustainability phase.

Another project for the use of new technologies was the Strategy for the digitalisation of cinemas in the Slovak Republic, which the government approved on 9 January 2013. Under this project the Audio-

Visual Fund supported the digitalisation of 75 cinemas and auditoriums with D-cinema technology and 21 cinemas with E-cinema technology.

The website [www.dusevnevlastnictvo.gov.sk](http://www.dusevnevlastnictvo.gov.sk) was relaunched in 2015 with a new design and new content. The site's copyright section is linked to Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/autorskepravo/>). The Ministry of Culture launched the site to provide guidance on copyright in connection with the adoption of the new Copyright Act that entered effect on 1 January 2016.

#### **4.3 Other relevant issues and debates**

Information is currently not available.

### **5. Main legal provisions in the cultural field**

#### **5.1 General legislation**

##### **5.1.1 Constitution**

The 1992 Constitution, as amended, refers to the political and cultural heritage of the Slovaks' ancestors and the spiritual heritage of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The preamble also sets out the basic principles for the application of a democratic form of public administration and guarantees of life in freedom with the development of spiritual, cultural and economic prosperity.

The Constitution states that the Slovak Republic supports the national awareness and cultural identity of Slovaks living abroad and will support institutions established to achieve the aforementioned objective and promote relations with their parent country.

Article 34 stipulates that citizens who form a national minority or ethnic group are guaranteed the right to develop their own culture and, together with other members of the national minority or ethnic group, the right to circulate and receive information in their mother tongue, to associate in national associations, and to establish and maintain educational and cultural institutions.

Article 43 guarantees the freedom of scientific research and art. The right to ownership of creative and intellectual property is protected by law. The right to have access to a cultural wealth is guaranteed under conditions laid down by law.

Article 44 guarantees the right to protection of the environment and cultural heritage – "Everybody is obliged to protect and enhance their environmental and cultural heritage."

### **5.1.2 Division of jurisdiction**

The National Council of the Slovak Republic is the supreme legislative body. The Ministry of Culture is the central state administrative body for culture. The responsibilities of the Ministry of Culture include the preparation of laws relating to culture, amendment procedures – consideration of draft laws submitted by other resorts and the assessment of those proposals from the point of view of culture and cultural policy. The Ministry of Culture issues ministerial regulations, directives and other secondary legislation under applicable primary legislation.

The Ministry of Culture is entitled to establish state organisations operating in the area of culture.

The decentralisation of state power and the transfer of some competences in the area of culture to autonomous regions, towns and villages (see Chapter 3.2) were stipulated in Act 302/2001 and other legislation concerning culture.

Lower state administrative bodies issue regulations of general application within their area of competence. These regulations must be approved by the self-governing bodies (representative bodies) and they apply only to the territory of the enacting self-governing region (or town/village).

The law does not specify any direct connection between legislation on the level of the Ministry of Culture and the regulations of general application issued by lower bodies of the public administration. Individual self-governing regions (and to some extent also towns and villages) create their own strategies for cultural development and cultural policy blueprints. Coordination of these blueprints and assessment of their conformity with the strategy and implementation of cultural policy on the level of the central state administration is not established by any law or agreement between the Ministry of Culture and the public administration bodies.

### **5.1.3 Allocation of public funds**

Public resources in the area of culture are distributed in accordance voting on the budgets of the Ministry of Culture and the budgets of the self-governing regions, towns and villages. The basic distribution of public funds at the central level is stipulated in the Act on the State Budget of the Slovak Republic for the relevant budget year, which is identical with the calendar year. At the level of public administrative bodies, the distribution of budgets for self-governing regions, towns and villages is predetermined by the decisions made by their self-governing bodies (representative bodies).

Funds allocated to the budget of the Ministry of Culture are divided between budgetary programmes in the following structure:

- Creation, propagation, protection and presentation of cultural values:
- Policy development and implementation

- Economic mobilisation
- Information technology financed by the state budget.

A more detailed breakdown of funding for the Ministry of Culture's budgetary expenditure is given in Chapter 6.2.3.

#### **5.1.4 Social security frameworks**

The national priorities for the development of social services in the years 2015 – 2020 have been prepared by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic:

<https://www.employment.gov.sk/files/slovensky/rodina-socialna-pomoc/socialne-sluzby/nprss-2015-2020.pdf>

#### **5.1.5 Tax laws**

The tax reform carried out in Slovakia between 2004 and 2006 introduced a unified rate for individual income tax, corporate income tax and VAT at 19% of the tax base. On 01/01/2011 this tax rate was raised to 20%.

With reference to the tax reform procedure, the Ministry of Finance rejected proposals to use tax instruments such as lower tax liability, items deductible from the tax base or tax incentives to increase the volume of private investment in culture. Non-profit non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the cultural heritage sector were included in the list of eligible beneficiaries of the direct allocation of 2% of individual and corporate income tax. These direct transfers are allocated on a voluntary basis and every taxpayer can specify one registered organisation as a beneficiary. The recipient of such funds must operate for at least one year in an area designated by law and must be entered in the central register by a notary's office.

To increase the availability of literature and to promote the reading of books, the goods item "books and music" was reclassified from 1 January 2008 with a decreased VAT rate of 10%. The reclassification includes school books and is in accordance with the European Directive on the common system of VAT. Publishers of books and music consider this tool to have been of great assistance to the book market, permitting slower growth in the prices of books and music.

#### **5.1.5 Labour laws**

This information is currently in preparation.



### 5.1.7 Copyright provisions

Slovak copyright law is formulated in line with European standards laid down in the European acquis and comprehensively incorporates the provisions of the European Union's basic directives on copyright.

The basic legal instrument regulating copyright and related rights in the Slovak Republic is Act 185/2015 the Copyright Act, as amended by Act 125/2016. The Copyright Act entered effect on 1 January 2016. The act regulates relations in the following areas:

- the creation and use of a copyright work;
- the creation and use of a performance;
- the production and use of audio recordings, audiovisual recordings and broadcasts;
- the creation or production and use of a computer program or database; and
- collective rights management.

The act's regulation of the above areas ensures protection for the rights and legitimate interests of authors, performers, the producers of audio recordings (phonograms), the producers of audio-visual recordings, radio and television broadcasters, the authors of computer programs, database authors and database makers. The act defines the personal and property rights of authors and performers and the property rights of the holders of rights related to copyright. It also regulates authors' contractual relations, the protection of rights and some special regimes for the creation and management of rights.

The implementation of rights management, especially collective rights management, is another area covered in the act. Organisations are granted authorisation to perform collective rights management by the Ministry of Culture. The following collective rights management organisations conduct collective management in accordance with the Copyright Act and the authorisation granted by the Ministry of Culture:

- **SOZA, Slovenský ochranný zväz autorský** – (Slovak Performing and Mechanical Rights Society) rights to musical works;
- **LITA**, copyright society – rights to literary, dramatic and musical-dramatic, choreographic, audiovisual and photographic works, works in the visual arts, architecture and applied arts;
- **SLOVGRAM**, an independent association of performers and producers of audio and audiovisual recordings – rights to performances and audio and audiovisual recordings;
- **OZIS, ochranné združenie interpretov Slovenska** – (Protective Association of Performers of Slovakia) rights to performances and audio recordings; and
- **SAPA, Slovenská asociácia producentov v audiovizíi** – (Slovak Audiovisual Producers' Association) rights to audiovisual works and audiovisual recordings.

### **5.1.8 Data protection laws**

In Slovakia, the protection of personal data is established by Act 122/2013 on the protection of personal data. This act regulates:

- protection of personal data of natural persons during their processing;
- rules governing the processing of personal data;
- security of personal data;
- protection of data subjects' rights;
- transfers of personal data across national borders;
- registration and records of information systems; and
- the establishment, status and operation of the Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic.

The Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic is the state executive, registration and supervisory body for personal data protection.

On January 30<sup>th</sup> 2018, the New Personal Data Protection Act (Act 18/2018) replaced Act 122/2013. For more information, please see: <https://www.konecna-zacha.com/en/new-slovak-data-protection-act-exceptions-to-the-gdpr/>.

### **5.1.9 Language laws**

See Chapter 4.2.5

### **5.1.10 Other areas of general legislation**

This information is currently in preparation.

## **5.2 Legislation on culture**

Act 81/1966 on periodicals and other public information media was repealed by Act 167/2008, the Press Act (for more information see Chapter 4.2.6).

An important role in providing for the free organisation of cultural and artistic life has been played by the Act on the Slovak Arts Council and the Act on the Association of Citizens, which permitted the creation of new arts and cultural groups. The organisation of public cultural events is regulated by Act 96/1991 on public cultural events.

Basic legislation is in place covering such areas of culture as cultural heritage, protection and care of historic monuments, libraries, museums and galleries, theatres, the official state and language and so on. Laws have also been passed for significant national cultural institutions – the Slovak National

Theatre, Slovak Philharmonic and the Matica Slovenská organisation. Since 2007 there have been significant changes in the legislation regulating the media and audiovisual content.

At present the legal system of the Slovak Republic for the area of culture is made up of various legislative acts focussed on individual areas of culture. Slovakia has no general Act on Culture.

### **5.3 Sector specific legislation**

#### **5.3.1 Visual and applied arts**

Slovakia does not have special legislation on the visual and applied arts and creative industries. The area is covered in some related legislation (Act 206/2009 on Museums, Galleries and Cultural Heritage, Act on Artists Funds, the Copyright Act, the Act on the Slovak Arts Council).

#### **5.3.2 Performing arts and music**

This area is covered by Act 384/1997 on theatre activities, which regulates the establishment, merging, closure, status and operational activities of state professional theatres, professional theatres managed by bodies of territorial self-governments, other professional theatres and non-professional theatres, and the operational activities of state administration bodies, municipalities and self-governing regions. The act also regulates relations between stage performers and other employees in this area.

The act defines the powers of the Ministry of Culture, the self-governing regions, towns and villages for the establishment, financing and control of subjects engaging in theatre activities.

Act 385/1997 on the Slovak National Theatre regulates the activities, status and symbol of the Slovak National Theatre as a professional and representative national cultural institution. The act also addresses budgetary control and management of the Slovak National Theatre as a state subsidised organisation under the Ministry of Culture.

Act 114/2000 on the Slovak Philharmonic regulates the activities, status and basic administrative structure of the Slovak Philharmonic as a professional and representative national cultural institution. The Slovak Philharmonic is a state subsidised organisation under the Ministry of Culture.

#### **5.3.3 Cultural heritage**

The competences of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic relating to intangible cultural heritage, traditional folk culture, public education and cultural activities and local and regional culture are defined on the following web page:

<http://www.culture.gov.sk/posobnost-ministerstva/nehmotne-kulturne-dedicstvo-kulturno-osvetovacinost-111.html>

The aim of state cultural policy on the protection of intangible cultural heritage and traditional folk culture is to increase awareness of the significance of traditional folk culture and its conservation as an element of cultural heritage. In this context, the Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Council for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (an advisory body to the minister of culture) and specialists in the relevant area, prepared the Conception of Care of Traditional Folk Culture in 2007 and the Conception of Care of Traditional Folk Culture to 2020 in 2015 (see Documents). These documents address issues relating to the identification of traditional folk culture, its systematic documentation, upkeep and transmission to future generations, and how to make it accessible and how to present it to the public in Slovakia and abroad.

#### **5.3.4 Literature and libraries**

The basic legislation regulating the operation of the library system in Slovakia is Act 183/2000 of 12 May 2000 on libraries. Under this act, libraries are a part of the state information system comprising the Slovak National Library, scientific libraries, university libraries, public libraries, school libraries and specialised libraries.

Slovakia does not have any special legislation on literature, translations or the book market. The area is covered by the following laws:

- Act 32/2001 on legal deposits (which applies to periodicals and non-periodical publications and copies of audiovisual works);
- Copyright Act 185/2015;
- Act 13/1993 on artists funds; and
- *Act 212/1997 on legal deposits of periodicals, non-periodical publications and copies of audiovisual works, as amended.*

#### **5.3.5 Architecture and spatial planning**

Slovakia has no special legislation for this area from the perspective of culture. Architecture falls under the competence of the Ministry of Construction. The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic is concerned with the protection of monuments and historic sites. It is a legal entity and specialised state administrative body. The Monuments Board performs state administrative functions on the national level within the scope established by Act 49/2002 on the protection of monuments and historic sites.

<https://www.pamiatky.sk/>

#### **5.3.6 Film, video and photography**

The basic legislation for this area is Act 40/2015 on audiovisual content and amending certain acts, as amended by Act 278/2015, which entered effect on 1 July 2015. This act regulates:

- the rights and obligations of persons working in the audiovisual sector;
- records of Slovak audiovisual works, records of persons active in the audiovisual sector and records of independent producers;
- a uniform classification system;
- the status and scope of activities of the Slovak Film Institute; and
- the conditions for the professional preservation of original media with audiovisual works and audio-visual recordings constituting the audiovisual heritage of the Slovak Republic.

Details of the uniform classification system for audiovisual works, audio recordings of artistic performances, multimedia works, programmes and other components of a programme service and its method of application are regulated by Implementing Decree 589/2007 of the Ministry of Culture.

The Slovak Film Institute, a state subsidised organisation, performs the following functions in the audiovisual area:

- participation in the preservation, protection, restoration, improvement and making available of audiovisual heritage as an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Slovak Republic with the aim of preserving audiovisual works as forms of cultural expression;
- participation in the promotion and presentation of audiovisual content; and
- performing scientific and other research activities.

The aforementioned Audiovisual Fund represented a major step forward in the provision of funding for the promotion and development of audiovisual culture and industries. The current terms and conditions of this grant scheme are published in the *Obchodný vestník* (Commercial Bulletin) and on the website of the Audiovisual Fund (link <http://www.avf.sk/support/structure2017.aspx>). The Ministry of Culture issued Implementing Decree of 165/2014 on a film project under Section 22a(2) of the Act on the Audiovisual Fund (see Chapter 5.1.3 for more information)

### **5.3.7 Mass media**

Basic legislation applicable to the electronic media (television and radio broadcasting):

- Act 308/2000 on broadcasting and retransmission and amending Act 195/2000 on telecommunications, as amended;
- Act 532/2010 on Radio and Television Slovakia (*Rozhlas a Televízia Slovenska*) and amending certain acts, as amended by Act 340/2012 on payments for the public services provided by RTVS and amending certain acts, as amended;
- Act 220/2007 on the digital broadcasting of programme services and the digital provision of other content services and amending certain acts (the Digital Broadcasting Act), as amended;
- Implementing decree of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic 468/2013 on technical requirements for the sound component of a programme service; and

- Implementing decree of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic 12/2016 on subtitles for persons with hearing impairments.

Under the Act on RTVS, there has been only one broadcaster established by law in the Slovak Republic since 2011. The public broadcaster is Radio and Television Slovakia (RTVS), which is a public, national, independent, information, culture and education institution providing radio and television broadcasting services to the public.

Act 340/2012 on payments for the public services provided by RTVS and amending certain acts entered effect on 1 January 2013. The act regulates the payments, collection and enforcement of payments for public services that finance the radio and television broadcasting services that RTVS provides to the public. The payments are collected and received by RTVS.

The main duties of broadcaster in relation to the content of programme services are:

- to ensure diversity of information and plurality of opinion within a broadcast programme service
- to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of news programmes and political and current affairs programmes; opinions and appraisals must be kept separate from news,
- to ensure that in the broadcasting of programmes and other components of the programme service, the state language, the languages of national minorities and foreign languages are used in accordance with applicable legislation;
- to implement and apply the uniform classification system to programmes so that viewers/listeners are aware of which age groups a given programme is suitable for (7, 12, 15 or 18 years);
- to reserve the majority of broadcasting time for European works; broadcasting time dedicated to news, sports events, games for entertainment, teletext and supplementary broadcasting including advertising and teleshopping is not counted towards such broadcasting time;
- to reserve a share broadcasting time in every calendar quarter for European works by independent producers, which shall be at least 10% in the case of broadcaster under licence or an internet broadcaster and 15% in the case of a broadcaster established by law; broadcasting time dedicated to news, sports events, games for entertainment, teletext and supplementary broadcasting including advertising and teleshopping is not counted towards such broadcasting time; the obligation is deemed to be met if the broadcaster dedicates a share of their programming budget of at least 10% in the case of a licensed broadcaster and 15% in the case of a public broadcaster to cover the procurement or production of European works by independent producers;
- to reserve a share of broadcasting time each calendar month for Slovak musical works, which shall be at least 25% in the case of a licensed broadcaster and 35% in the case of broadcaster established by law, calculated for each radio channel individually; at least 20% of this

broadcasting time must be dedicated to new Slovak music, which is defined as works broadcast within 5 years from their first public release;

Providers of on-demand audiovisual media services must dedicate to European works at least 20% of total programming time of their programme catalogue in every calendar month and every audiovisual media service separately; news, sports events and games of entertainment are excluded from the total time.

Special obligations of broadcasters and providers of on-demand audiovisual media services in relation to multimodal access are described in Chapter 4.2.8.

In response to the European Commission's Communication COM(2005)204 on accelerating the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting, Slovakia adopted the document and incorporated it into law, as a result of which analogue broadcasting by large broadcasters ended on 30 September 2011 and the analogue broadcasts of regional and local television stations ended on 31 December 2012.

As regards radio broadcasting, the Slovak government passed a resolution in 2017 adopting the Strategy for the transition from analogue to digital terrestrial radio broadcasting, which reflects the latest knowledge on implementing digital broadcasting and whose aim is to map relevant areas for digitisation and define conditions and procedures for starting and completing the process. Since the digitalisation process is relatively complex, it was proposed that it should be divided into three main phases. The first, preparatory phase, is planned for the period 2017–2019, during which the baseline situation in analogue broadcasting will be mapped. The plan's second phase will commence in 2019 and continue to 2021 and will involve the issuing and implementation of legislation setting out the plan and conditions for the transition. A gradual transition from analogue to digital broadcasting should take place during the third phase, which is scheduled for 2022 to 2026.

Legislation regulating the field of print media:

- Act 167/2008 on the periodical press and news agencies and amending certain acts (the Pres Act), as amended,
- Act 212/1997 on legal deposits of periodicals, non-periodical publications and copies of audiovisual works, as amended.

The status and activities of the News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR) as a public, national, independent, information institution providing public news services is regulated by Act 385/2008 on the News Agency of the Slovak Republic and amending certain acts, as amended, effective from 1 January 2009.

### 5.3.8 Other areas of culture specific legislation

Act 4/1958 on folk art production and artistic crafts established the specialised organisation for art production, the Centre for Folk Art Production (ÚĽUV) based in Bratislava. At present, ÚĽUV is an organisation under the management of the Ministry of Culture that ensures the protection and promotion of folk art production as an integral part of cultural heritage.

Act 308/1991 on freedom of religious faith and on the status of churches and religious societies, as amended, defines churches and religious societies as legal entities that may associate, form communities, religious orders, societies and other similar organisations. The Ministry of Culture keeps records of churches and religious societies.

## 6. Financing of culture

### 6.1 Short overview

The key measure for determining actual support for culture is social reality: the slice (share) of the social cake (gross domestic product) that support for culture takes as a share of public funds (Novotný, 2012:21)<sup>1</sup>.

The public sector plays a key role in the financing of culture in Slovakia.

Culture is largely financed from public funds based on the state budget. The budget is set in the act on the state budget for the relevant calendar year.<sup>2</sup>

Public sector funding for the culture is provided through budgets on a) the national level, b) the regional level (budgets of self-governing regions) and c) the local level (budgets of towns and villages). State budgetary subsidies at all levels of state administration in 2016 made up 14.47% of the total state budget, which represents growth by 1.61% compared to 2010. Subsidies on the local/municipal level made up 4.57% of the state budget in 2016 (compared to 3.97% in 2010) while on the regional / higher territorial unit level they made up 2.66% in 2016 (compared to 2.46% in 2010).

The central state administrative body for culture, and therefore also its main source of public sector financing is the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the "ministry"). The ministry covers 7 cultural sectors and 36 subordinate institutions.<sup>3</sup> The ministry's approved budget for the year 2017 is 1.40% of the overall state budget. This is 0.15% higher than in 2016, when the ministry's budget

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<sup>1</sup> Novotný says that it is important to recognise the real factors determining this share and the justification of priorities based on a long-term perspective does not change the fact that public support for culture is based on a "residual" approach meaning that culture receives what is left for those at the back of the queue, which represents a logical ceiling for the real priority of culture as a matter of public interest (Novotný: 2012).

<sup>2</sup> The budget for the year 2017 is set by Act 357/2016 on the state budget for the year 2017.

<sup>3</sup> The ministry has the following sections: a) cultural heritage section, b) media and audiovisual section, c) art section, d) minority culture section, e) international relations section, f) economic section, g) churches directorate.



was 1.25% of the overall state budget and follows gradual, albeit fluctuating, growth from 2010 to 2017 that amounts to a 0.36% higher share of the state budget (0.21% up to 2016).

The Ministry of Culture has its own grant scheme for culture. Until 2009 the grant scheme distributed funds through grants and bursaries under 10 programmes.<sup>4</sup>

The Audiovisual Fund (AVF) was established in 2009<sup>5</sup>. In 2016 the AVF provided EUR 4 million of funding, which was 0.02% of the state budget, while current funding provision is EUR 9.49 million, 0.05% of the state budget.

The Slovak Arts Council (FPU) is a public institution providing support for artistic activities, culture and the creative industries which was established in 2016 under Act 284/2014.<sup>6</sup> The fund provides financial support for the production, circulation and presentation of artworks; support for international cooperation; for educational programmes in the field of art, culture and the creative industries; for bursaries for natural persons whose creative or research activities contribute to the development of art and culture. Financing from the Slovak Arts Council<sup>7</sup> in 2016 amounted to **EUR 15 million**, which was 0.09% of the state budget. The same volume of funding was allocated for 2017.

The system for financing culture also supplementary funds and development funds; these are financed from various EU funds (primarily from the structural funds) and the private and non-profit sector. The compilation of cultural statistics has never incorporated private and non-profit financing in a way permitting analysis of the conditions and opportunities associated with supporting the development of private and non-profit investment in culture. The Institute of Informatics and Statistics (INFOSTAT), an organisation for socio-economic analysis and forecasting, is developing a satellite account for culture. The role of the satellite account for culture will be to create conditions for an analysis of the private sector's role in culture, which is not currently available.

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<sup>4</sup> Programmes in the Ministry of Culture's grant scheme in 2010: a) art, b) cultural activities of national minorities, c) "*Obnovme si svoj dom*" (Let's restore our home), d) Pro Slovakia, e) Support for attendance at cultural events, f) culture for disadvantaged groups, g) intangible cultural heritage, h) cultural activities in the area of heritage institutions, i) extraordinary cultural activities within the scope of the grant scheme, j) European Capital of Culture

<sup>5</sup> [Act 516/2008 on the Audiovisual Fund, as amended.](#)

<sup>6</sup> The Act on the Slovak Arts Council and amending Act 434/2010 on the provision of subsidies in the competence of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, as amended by Act 79/2013, at: <http://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2014-284>

<sup>7</sup> within the state budget, funds for the Slovak Arts Council are divided into two categories: a) support for artistic activities, culture and the creative industries; b) special contribution to support artistic activities, culture and the creative industries

## 6.2 Public cultural expenditure

### 6.2.1 Aggregated indicators

#### a). State budget

/ expenditure on culture **from the state budget** increased by 73% overall in the period 1993 – 2010

/ between 2010 and 2016 there has been a gradual increase in expenditure on culture from the state budget. During this period, spending on culture under the administration of the Ministry of Culture increased by 21%.<sup>8</sup> Spending on culture under the administration of the Ministry of Culture was EUR 37.33 per person in 2016. It should be noted that this per capita calculation was based on the population of the Slovak Republic as at 31/12/2016.

#### b) Budgets of municipalities and higher territorial units

**Table 5 Index of development of cultural expenditure in Slovakia in the years 2011–2016 (in current prices – 2011 = 100)**

year	state budget*	municipal cultural expenditure**	regional cultural expenditure**	self-government total (muni. + regions)	total public expenditure
2011	100	100	100	100	100
2012	108	102	109	103	105
2013	112	113	132	117	115
2014	109	106	118	108	109
2015	115	119	157	127	122
2016	121	119	143	124	123

Source: Internal calculation of the Institute for Cultural Policies (IKP) based on data from the Ministry of Finance <http://www.finance.gov.sk>

\* Budgetary funds spent by the Ministry of Culture (including church funding)

\*\* Budgetary expenditure of municipalities and higher territorial units under category 8 – leisure, culture and religion

Expenditure on culture has increased since 2011 from both the state budget and the budgets of self-governing authorities (municipalities and regions), with the fastest growth being on the regional level. An exception to this trend was 2014, which there was a year-on-year decrease but the trend of growth in expenditure returned the following year.

<sup>8</sup> Expenditure on culture from the state budget represents the Ministry of Culture's expenditure on a) the creation, circulation, presentation and protection of cultural values; the ministry's grant scheme; c) policy development and implementation; d) radio and television in the Slovak Republic; e) the system for the restoration of AV heritage run by the SFI; f) the Slovak Arts Council and special contributions from this fund (since 2016); g) media and audiovisual content

**Table 6 Public cultural expenditure as a share of Slovakia's gross domestic product in the years 2011–2016 (in %)**

year	Overall public cultural expenditure as share of GDP	State budget cultural expenditure as share of GDP**	Self-government budget cultural expenditure as share of GDP**
2011	0.58	0.24	0.35
2012	0.60	0.25	0.35
2013	0.64	0.25	0.38
2014	0.59	0.24	0.35
2015	0.64	0.24	0.39
2016	0.62	0.25	0.37

Source: Internal calculation of the Institute for Cultural Policies (IKP) based on data from the Ministry of

Finance <http://www.finance.gov.sk> and the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic <https://slovak.statistics.sk>

\* Budgetary funds spent by the Ministry of Culture (including church funding)

\*\* Budgetary expenditure of municipalities and higher territorial units under category 8 – leisure, culture and religion

During the reference period, cultural expenditure's share of GDP did not change significantly. Total public cultural expenditure amounted to 0.62% of GDP. Expenditure from the state budget was 0.25% of GDP and expenditure by self-governing authorities was 0.37% of GDP.

## 6.2.2 Public cultural expenditure broken down by level of government

The overall budget in relation to the budget of the Ministry of Culture for the period 2010 – 2016 is shown in Table 3.

**Table 7 State budget and budget of the Ministry of Culture in EUR, 2010 – 2017**

Year	Total state expenditure	Expenditure of the Ministry of Culture	Expenditure of the Ministry of Culture as % of the state budget
2017	17,383,366,567	243,687,741	1.40%
2016	16,247,201,237	202,899,553	1.25%
2015	17,478,557,825	191,919,911	1.10%
2014	17,391,917,385	182,473,214	1.05%
2013	17,001,504,832	187,246,958	1.10%
2012	17,299,979,558	181,173,995	1.05%
2011	16,957,772,812	167,192,123	0.99%
2010	16,276,999,960	169,772,522	1.04%

Source: Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic <http://www.finance.gov.sk>

\* Not including expenditure from the EU budget

\*\* Budgetary funds spent by the Ministry of Culture (including church funding).

Territorial self-governing authorities' share in financing for culture is approximately the same as the Ministry of Culture's expenditure. This equilibrium is the result of the transfer of competence for local and regional culture and public finances to the territorial self-governing authorities (see Chapter 3.2). Financing from the two channels – central state administration and self-governing authorities – temporarily became balanced in 2009. Cultural expenditure by higher territorial units grew by 49.3% in 2005, which meant that support for culture from public sources was practically balanced and from 2006 to the present (with the exception of 2009), it has continuously been larger than state budgetary expenditure.<sup>9</sup>

**Table 8 Structure of changes within public cultural financing in Slovakia in the years 2011 – 2016 (in %)**

\	From the state budget*	From self-governing authorities (regions and municipalities)**	Total expenditure from all public budgets
<b>2011</b>	40.6	59.4	100
<b>2012</b>	41.8	58.2	100
<b>2013</b>	39.6	60.4	100
<b>2014</b>	40.9	59.1	100
<b>2015</b>	38.2	61.8	100
<b>2016</b>	40.2	59.8	100

Source: Internal calculation of the Institute for Cultural Policies (IKP) based on data from the Ministry of Finance <http://www.finance.gov.sk>

\* Budgetary funds spent by the Ministry of Culture (including church funding)

\*\* Budgetary expenditure of municipalities and higher territorial units under category 8 – leisure, culture and religion

The structure of cultural expenditure remained stable in the reference period 2011 – 2016. Around 60% of expenditure comes from the budgets of self-governing authorities and 40% from the state budget.

### 6.2.3 Sector breakdown

In the Slovak Republic, there are no central, detailed statistics on the distribution of public finances broken down by the purpose of their use in individual sectors of culture, and types of cultural activities made at the level of regional and local self-government. The breakdown of public expenditure invested in culture is therefore based on the breakdown of the budget of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic by sector.

<sup>9</sup> Novotný, 2012, p. 21

**Table 9 Items of the budget of the Ministry of Culture by sector, in % terms**

<b>Programme / area of activities</b>	<b>2011-% of total</b>	<b>2012-% of total</b>	<b>2013-% of total</b>	<b>2014-% of total</b>	<b>2015-% of total</b>	<b>2016-% of total</b>
A. Creation, promotion, protection and presentation of cultural values – cultural organisation of the Ministry of Culture	58.11%	54.46%	54.62%	55.49%	54.94%	57.04%
B. Creation, promotion, protection and presentation of cultural values – grant scheme of the Ministry of Culture	8.38%	10.07%	8.77%	8.65%	8.23%	3.87%
C. Slovak Arts Council	x	x	x	x	x	5.80%
D. Support for broadcasting and the production of certain programmes by public radio and television broadcasters	6.95%	6.69%	11.65%	10.58%	12.33%	10.05%
E. Systematic restoration of audiovisual heritage (AVF)	0.74%	0.71%	0.62%	0.65%	0.61%	0.58%
F. Media and audiovisual content	0.99%	0.72%	1.02%	1.29%	1.34%	1.30%
G. Policy development and implementation	24.83%	27.35%	23.31%	23.33%	22.55%	21.36%
<b>Total A:G</b>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

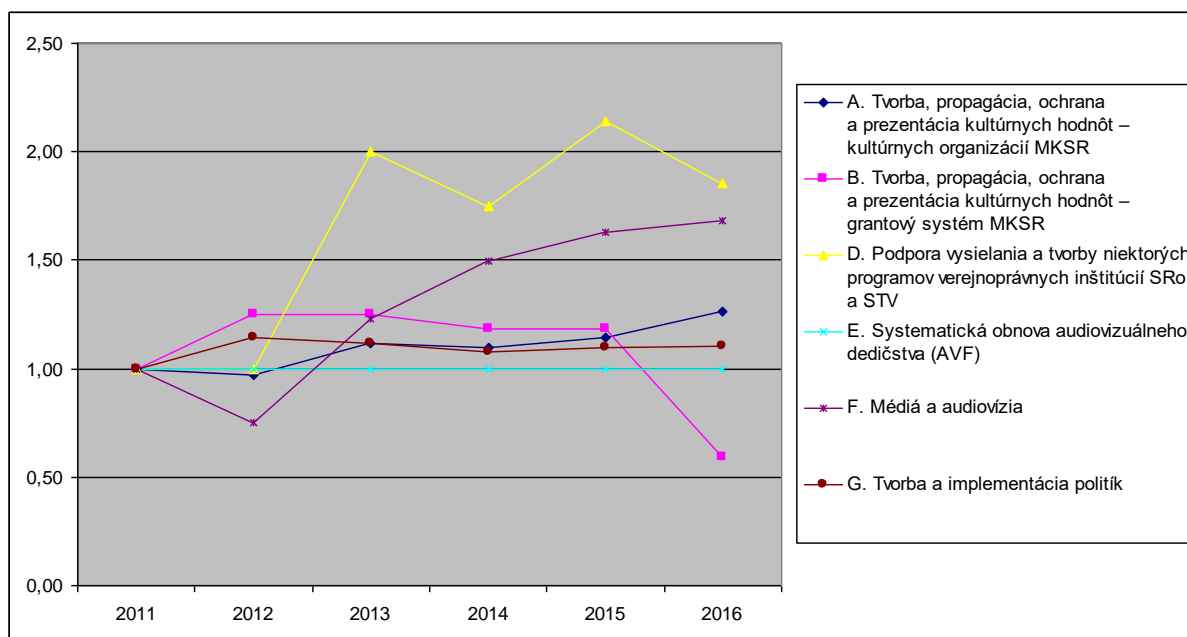
Source: budget of the Ministry of Culture for the given year – binding indicators The approved budget for the current year may not correspond to the actual situation at the end of the financial year. For comparability and accuracy of data, the table contains data on the approved budget of the Ministry of Culture under the Act on the State Budget for the relevant calendar year.

**Table 10 Index of development of the shares of individual areas of the Ministry of Culture's budget in the years 2011–2016 (index 2011 = 100)**

<b>Programme / areas of activity</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
A. Creation, promotion, protection and presentation of cultural values – cultural organisation of the Ministry of Culture	1.00	0.97	1.12	1.10	1.14	1.26
B. Creation, promotion, protection and presentation of cultural values – grant scheme of the Ministry of Culture	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.19	1.19	0.59
D. Support for broadcasting and the production of certain programmes by public radio and television broadcasters	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.75	2.14	1.86
E. Systematic restoration of audiovisual heritage (AVF)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
F. Media and audiovisual content	1.00	0.75	1.23	1.50	1.63	1.68
G. Policy development and implementation	1.00	1.14	1.12	1.08	1.10	1.10

Source: budget of the Ministry of Culture for the given year – binding indicators. The approved budget for the current year may not correspond to the actual situation at the end of the financial year. For comparability and accuracy of data, the table contains data on the approved budget of the Ministry of Culture under the Act on the State Budget for the relevant calendar year.

**Graph 1 Index of development of the shares of individual areas of the Ministry of Culture's budget in the years 2011–2016 (index 2011 = 100)**



Legend:

A. Creation, promotion, protection and presentation of cultural values – cultural organisation of the Ministry of Culture

B. Creation, promotion, protection and presentation of cultural values – grant scheme of the Ministry of Culture

D. Support for broadcasting and the production of certain programmes by public radio and television broadcasters

E. Systematic restoration of audiovisual heritage (AVF)

F. Media and audiovisual content

G. Policy development and implementation

### 6.3 Trends and indicators for private cultural financing

A satellite account for culture is currently in preparation (see above) which will provide (amongst other things) an analysis of the private sector's financing of culture. This information is not currently available.

Sources used: Novotný, Oskar (2012): Dlhodobé vývojové trendy na kultúru z verejných zdrojov súkromných domácností v SR na prelome storočí (do roku 2010 vrátane). National Cultural Centre, Bratislava. 174 pp. ISBN 978-80-7121-340-6.

[www.culture.gov.sk](http://www.culture.gov.sk)

[www.finance.gov.sk](http://www.finance.gov.sk)

[www.nocka.sk](http://www.nocka.sk)

<http://www.finance.gov.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=69588>

[http://statdat.statistics.sk/cognosext/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b\\_action=cognosViewer&ui.action=run&ui.object=storeID%28%22i362DCE4D88EC4E13A9EE8526B286D18B%22%29&ui.name=Po%28det%20obyvate%28beov%20pod%28bea%20pohlavia%20-%20SR%28oblasti%28kraje%28okresy%28mesto%28vidiek%28ro%28dne%29%205bom7102rr%28%29&run.outputFormat=&run.prompt=true&cv.header=false&ui.backURL=%2fcognosext%28cps4%28portlets%28common%28close.html&run.outputLocale=sk](http://statdat.statistics.sk/cognosext/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=cognosViewer&ui.action=run&ui.object=storeID%28%22i362DCE4D88EC4E13A9EE8526B286D18B%22%29&ui.name=Po%28det%20obyvate%28beov%20pod%28bea%20pohlavia%20-%20SR%28oblasti%28kraje%28okresy%28mesto%28vidiek%28ro%28dne%29%205bom7102rr%28%29&run.outputFormat=&run.prompt=true&cv.header=false&ui.backURL=%2fcognosext%28cps4%28portlets%28common%28close.html&run.outputLocale=sk)

## 7. Public institutions in cultural infrastructure

### 7.1 Cultural infrastructure: tendencies and strategies

**The competences of local territorial self-governing authorities relating to culture** are laid down in Act 369/1990.

**The competences of regional territorial self-governing authorities relating to culture** are laid down in Act 302/2001 on the self-government of higher territorial units (the Act on Self-governing Regions), as amended, Act 416/2001 on the transfer of certain competences from state administrative bodies to municipalities and higher territorial units, as amended, and other legislation on culture.

**The competences of the state administration and central state administrative bodies relating to culture** are laid down in Act 575/2001 on the organisation of the activities of the government and on the organisation of the central state administration

### 7.2 Basic data about selected public institutions in the cultural sector

**Table 11: Numbers of cultural institutions (2015 – 2017)**

Area of culture	number of institutions	number of institutions	number of institutions
	2015	2016	2017
galleries	35*	33	33
museums	111	287*	244
theatres	77	82	85
cinemas	123	135	139
libraries	1,906	1,857	1,797
astronomical facilities and workplaces	23	23	23
radio programme services	42	43	44
television programme services	129	130	154
periodicals published	1,803	1,817	1,840
non-periodical publications	11,448	10,736	10,396
churches and religious societies	32	34	34

\* Branches of galleries have been recorded as separate administrative units / galleries since 2015.

Branches of museums have been recorded as separate administrative units / museums since 2016

Source: Statistical survey Kult 2017



**Table 12: Cultural institutions – visits in the years 2015 – 2017**

Area of culture	visits	visits	visits
	2015	2016	2017
galleries	2,611,183*	594,309	644,217
museums	4,269,045	4,826,382	5,383,635
libraries	6,094,581	5,933,437	6,013,203
theatres	1,606,175	1,632,910	1,615,889
theatre festivals	117,595	116,927	103,755
cinemas	4,711,828	5,648,561	6,513,770
film festivals	238,777	180,530	271,899
astronomical facilities	198,973	181,254	168,921
concerts / musical performances	1,540,348	1,732,951	1,986,907
concerts of permanent music groups	404,303	630,568	359,009

The Andy Warhol Modern Art Museum reported 2,083,844 visitors thanks to the successful participation of their own project in the exhibition EXPO MILANO 2015.

Source: Statistical survey Kult 2017

### 7.3 Status and partnerships of public cultural institutions

The Ministry of Culture directly manages 32 cultural institutions which have the status of state budgetary or subsidised organisations. In the case of some of these organisations, their status, functions, activities and management are regulated by law (see Chapters 5.2 and 5.3).

List of national cultural institutions under the establishing authority of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic:

- Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic;
- Slovak National Museum;
- Slovak Technical Museum in Košice;
- Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica;
- Slovak National Theatre;
- Nová scéna Theatre;
- State Theatre, Košice;
- State Opera in Banská Bystrica;
- Slovak Philharmonic;
- Slovak State Philharmonic, Košice;
- Slovak Sinfonietta Žilina;
- Slovak National Gallery;
- Slovak National Library;
- University Library in Bratislava;
- Matej Hrebenda Slovak Library for the Blind in Levoča;
- State Scientific Library in Košice;

- State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica;
- State Scientific Library in Prešov;
- Slovak Film Institute;
- National Cultural Centre;
- Theatre Institute;
- Music Centre Slovakia;
- Literary Information Centre;
- Slovak Design Centre;
- International House of Art for Children Bibiana
- Slovak State Traditional Dance Company (SĽUK);
- Arts Ensemble Lúčnica;
- Ifjú Szivek – Hungarian Dance Theatre;
- Centre for Folk Art Production (ÚĽUV);
- Slovak Central Observatory in Hurbanovo; and
- News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR).

## 8. Promoting creativity and participation

### 8.1 Support to artists and other creative workers

#### 8.1.1 Overview of strategies, programmes and direct or indirect forms of support

This information is currently in preparation.

#### 8.1.2 Special artists funds

In Slovak culture, artists funds represent a special instrument authors and performers. Act 13/1993 on artists funds defines artists funds as public, non-profit institutions with autonomous management. Funds were established to support creative literary, scientific and artistic activity in the following areas:

- **Literary Fund** for the areas of literary arts (original and translated literature, literary science and criticism), theatre, films, radio, TV and entertainment arts; [www.litfond.sk](http://www.litfond.sk)
- **Music Fund** for the areas of classical and popular music, as well as for musical sciences and criticism; <http://www.hf.sk>
- **Slovak Arts Council** for the creation, circulation and presentation of works of art; support for international cooperation; education programmes related to the arts, culture and creative industries; scholarships for individuals contributing to the arts or culture through their creativity or research; <http://www.fpu.sk>
- **Audiovisual Fund** for audiovisual culture and related industries in the Slovak Republic. The fund supports the cultural activities of operators in the audiovisual and cinematographic sectors, the presentation and promotion of Slovak audiovisual works, the circulation of periodicals and non-periodical publications on audiovisual and cinematographic matters;

technological development; education and professional research on the audiovisual and cinematographic arts; <http://www.avf.sk>

- **Cultural Support Fund for National Minorities** fund to support and stimulate the culture of national minorities in the area of cultural and scientific activities, particularly by creating support mechanisms for the creation and dissemination of cultural and scientific values. By carrying out this mission, the fund contributes the implementation of the cultural policy of the Slovak Republic and the European Union related to support for the development of national minorities. <http://www.kultminor.sk>

These funds are financed from the following sources:

- contributions from royalties for authors and performers (at a rate of 2%);
- contributions for the use of free artistic works in business activities;
- contributions from the users of artistic works; and
- contributions from the manufacturers and importers of blank media ("blank tape levy").
- The Slovak Arts Council receives a contribution from the state budget.

The funds pay for bursaries, production grants, awards, contributions to travel costs, loans to support creative activities and other forms of support (social assistance for pensioners etc.). The funds may establish and manage their own foundations in accordance with applicable legislation. The funds also manage facilities for the creative activity or recreation of artists, performers and other persons who are active in artistic circles.

### 8.1.3 Grants, awards, scholarships

There are awards and annual competitions with various categories in most areas of the arts in Slovakia. These activities are organised by professional artists associations, foundations, private sponsors as well as several state institutions and organisations managed by the regional public administrative authorities (*kraje*) Some awards are financial in nature. The best known awards include:

- Dosky – stage art awards organised by the Contemporary Theatre Association;
- National Design Award – organised by the Ministry of Culture and the Slovak Design Centre;
- Martin Benka Prize – visual arts prize organised by the Council of the Visual Arts Fund based on the recommendation of the committee for administration of the estate of Martin Benka at the Visual Arts Fund;
- Oskar Čepan Award – a competition for artists under 35 years of age in the visual arts;
- Emil Belluš Award – for lifetime achievement in architecture;
- Dušan Jurkovič Award – for contemporary architecture;
- CE ZA AR – annual architecture award;
- Tatra Banka Award for Art;
- Annual Literary Fund Award;

- Anasofa Litera – award for Slovak literature;
- Ján Hollý Award – for artistic translation;
- *Slnko v sieti* – award for audiovisual production; and
- Aurel Award – annual award for popular music and jazz.

The artists funds described in Chapter 8.1.2 provide bursaries for artists to take part in professional training or to create new artistic or scientific works or translations.

Awards and competitions form a part of many cultural events organised in Slovakia (see Chapter 3.4.4).

Some non-profit organisations also provide grants for the production of art and organise training / education programmes and related events. One of the most significant non-profit organisations in the arts is the foundation Centre for Contemporary Arts (formerly the Soros Centre for Contemporary Arts), which has been active since 1993.

#### **8.1.4 Support to professional artists associations or unions**

The art and culture non-profit sector can obtain grants for its activities from the Grant Scheme of the Ministry of Culture. <http://www.culture.gov.sk/podpora-projektov-dotacie/dotacie-178.html/> (See also point 6) Several European, international and private funds, foundations and organisations provide support for culture and art in Slovakia. No special grant schemes exist to cover the overhead costs of non-profit organisations in the arts and culture (capital grants).

## **8.2 Cultural consumption and participation**

### **8.2.1 Trends and figures**

In 2016 the National Center for Culture and Further Education (NOC) conducted an empirical, sociological survey of cultural consumption with a representative sample of the population and a sample of pupils in years 4 and 8 of elementary school. The aim of the research was to investigate how citizens of the Slovak Republic engage with various areas of culture, attend cultural institutions and events, use communications technology in cultural consumption and their expenditure on culture.

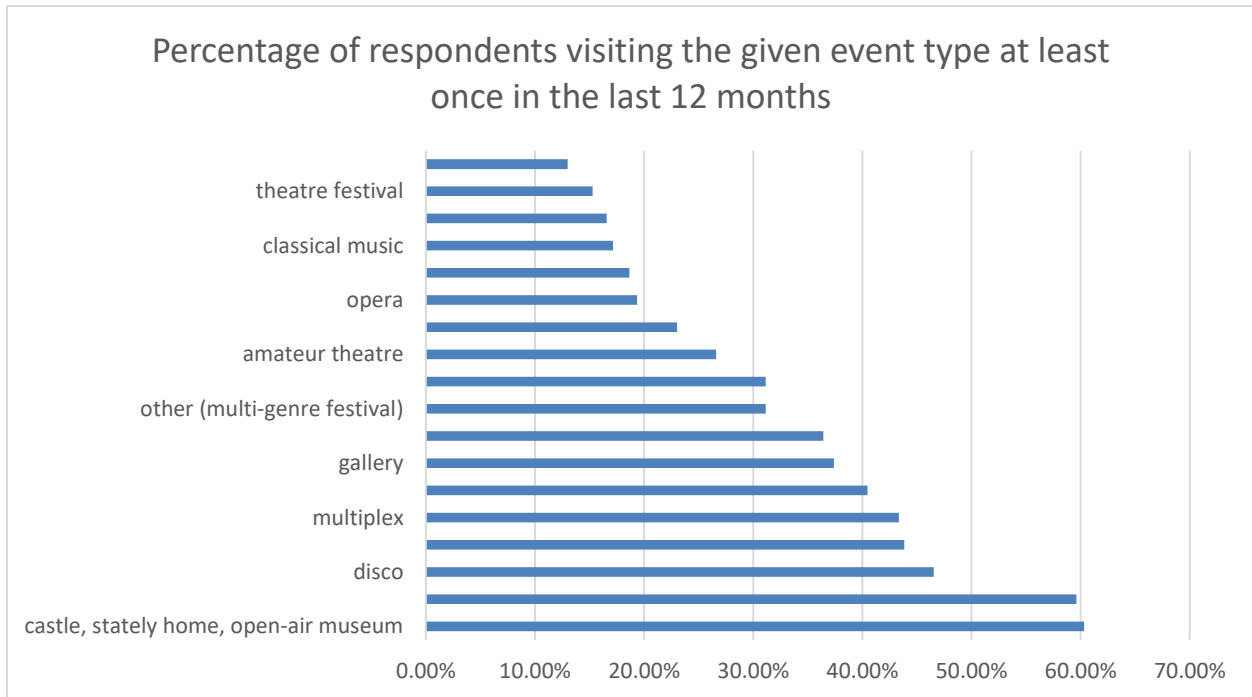
The research showed that mass media, especially television broadcasting, were highly popular among respondents. Of the cultural activities that respondents engage in "at home", the most widespread was watching television, with 75% of adults, 80% of year 4 pupils and 58% of year 8 pupils watching every day. News, entertainment and dramas are the programmes that adult respondents watch most often. The research indicated that watching films at home or at the cinema is very popular with adults (79.7%, with slightly higher popularity amongst men than amongst women). On the question of visits

to cultural institutions and events, visits to the cinema came second, with 65.2% of respondents having visited a cinema in the last 12 months. In the same period, 14% of respondents had visited a film festival.

Radio broadcasts were almost as popular as TV broadcasts, with 58.4% of adults listening every day. Periodicals in electronic or print form were read with varying frequency by 93% of respondents and despite the widespread availability of electronic magazines and daily newspapers, respondents said they preferred print versions. A daily paper was read every day by 27.2% of respondents and 60% of the adult population read a magazine at least once a month. The most likely sections of the population to read a newspaper every day were respondents in middle age who had completed secondary or higher education. A large number of respondents use the internet for contact with culture (listening to music or radio, reading the electronic editions of newspapers etc.).

The research of cultural consumption also included the mapping of the population's cultural expenditure. The results showed that the largest expenditure in this area was for the purchase of newspapers and magazines, and for cinema tickets, which could be expected given that the cinema was the most frequently visited cultural institution.

**Graph 2:** Share of adult respondents visiting a given cultural event or institution in Slovakia at least once in the last 12 months



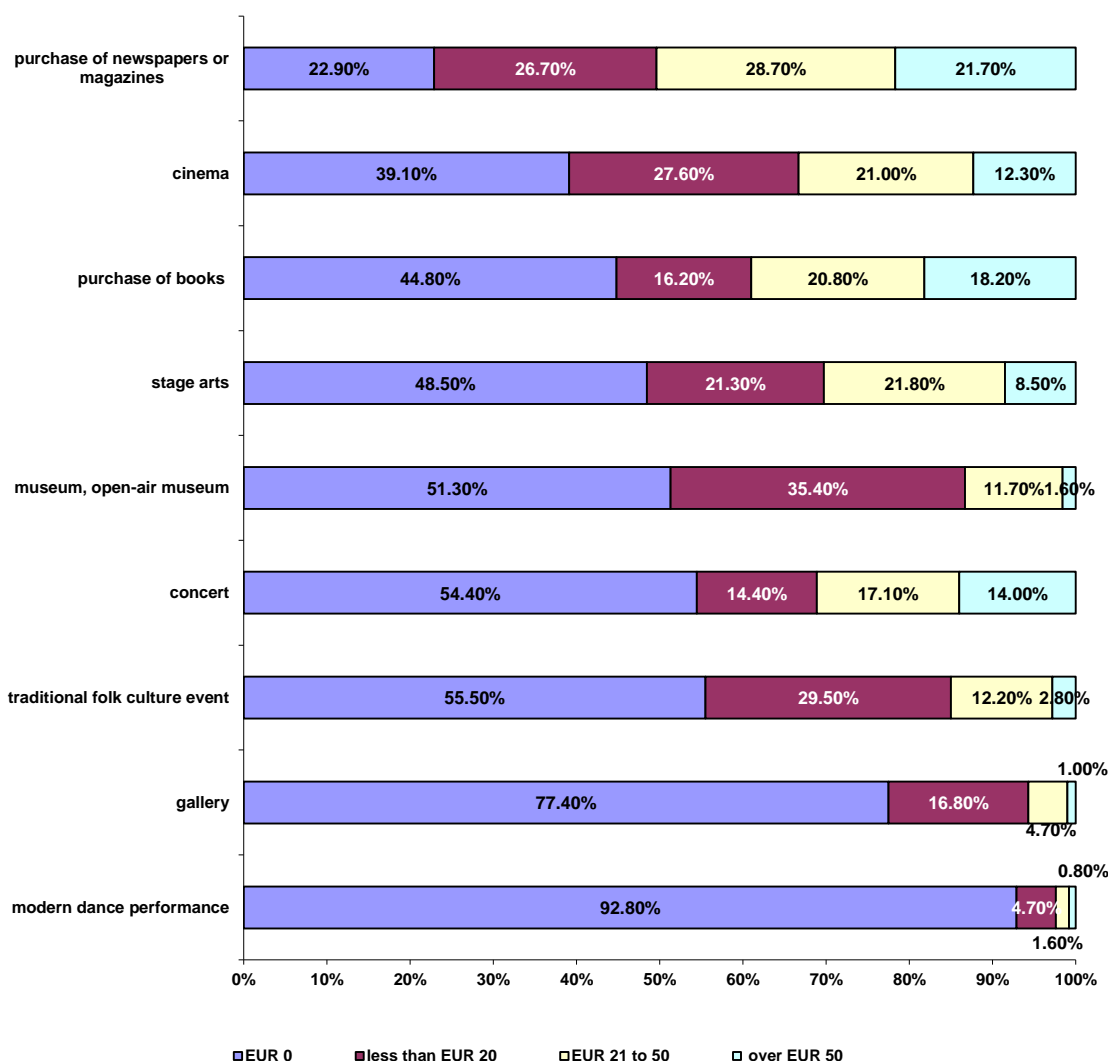
	number of visits	percentage
castle, stately home, open-air museum	608	60.32%
traditional folk culture event	601	59.62%
disco	469	46.53%
popular music	442	43.85%
multiplex	437	43.35%
museum	408	40.48%
gallery	377	37.40%
play	367	36.41%
other (multi-genre festival)	314	31.15%
brick and mortar cinema	314	31.15%
amateur theatre	268	26.59%
musical	232	23.02%
opera	195	19.35%
modern dance	188	18.65%
classical music	173	17.16%
film festival	167	16.57%
theatre festival	154	15.28%
ballet	131	13.00%

Source: National Cultural Centre. Culture and value orientation of the Slovak population, 2017

Further information on this research

<http://www.nocka.sk/uploads/f2/52/f252ea6a248dff69a96e055a2a75c971/sprava-noc9.pdf>

**Graph 3 Cultural expenditure**



Source: National Cultural Centre. Continuous sociological research of cultural consumption in the Slovak Republic. Available from: [http://nocka.sk/uploads/a2/4e/a24ea0cf4ee81b6868a8e5a5cb6e8d94/4-dokument\\_vyskum\\_spotreby\\_kultury.pdf](http://nocka.sk/uploads/a2/4e/a24ea0cf4ee81b6868a8e5a5cb6e8d94/4-dokument_vyskum_spotreby_kultury.pdf) .

The data shows internet use for participation in culture alongside its traditional forms is especially common in younger age groups and it can therefore be expected that the internet's role in culture will continue to grow in the near future.

### 8.2.2 Policies and programmes

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic supports pupils' visits to cultural institutions using cultural vouchers. The cultural vouchers (each with a value of around EUR 6.40) are distributed to pupils of elementary and secondary schools and to the pedagogical staff of such schools. Vouchers can be used for visits to cultural events or cultural heritage institutions (museums, galleries, libraries) in organisations that are registered to receive vouchers. Eligible recipients of vouchers include cultural

institutions run by regional or local public authorities and non-governmental cultural institutions. The ministry issues around 750,000 sets of vouchers, each of which contains four cultural vouchers, for pupils and teachers. The refunds cultural organisations an amount corresponding to all the vouchers that the given organisation reports.

In 2016, a total of 668,789 pupils and 69,782 teachers took part in the project, making a total of 738,571 eligible recipients of vouchers. The project received registration applications from 360 cultural institutions. A total of 2,141,157 vouchers were used.

Some cultural institutions on the national or regional levels have their own programmes for communicating with the public and their own projects for increasing visits. Among the most frequently used tools are reduced entry prices for frequent visitors to cultural events or for other target groups (students, pensioners, persons with disabilities), group discounts, special seasonal offers or clubs of friends of individual cultural institutions.

## 8.3 Arts and cultural education

### 8.3.1 Institutional overview

The education system in Slovakia is governed by Act 131/2002 on higher education institutions and Implementing Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic 614/2002 on the credit system for study. The central state administrative body for the education system is the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, which is also the main political actor implementing the Bologna Process in Slovakia. The Slovak Republic has signed all documents related to the Bologna Process since 1999 and the objectives set out in these documents have been incorporated into Slovak law on higher education. The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport conducts regular monitoring of the status Bologna Process in Slovakia.

Specialised and comprehensive higher education in the arts is provided through three academies of arts in Slovakia:

- **Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava:** it has 3 faculties (Theatre Faculty, Faculty of Music and Dance, Faculty of Film and TV) and provides study courses in the arts and sciences in three degrees (bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programmes);
- **Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava:** it provides bachelor's and master's courses in the fine arts (visual arts), architecture, design and restoration, and doctoral study programmes in the theory and history of the fine arts and architecture;
- **Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica:** it has 3 faculties (Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Faculty of Performing Arts, Faculty of Visual Arts and Design) and it provides education in the area of arts in three degrees (bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programmes).



Other institutions of higher education in the Slovak Republic providing higher education in some areas of the arts and culture:

- Faculty of Arts of the Technical University in Košice (public institution of higher education: bachelor's and master's degree programmes in the area of architecture and urbanism, visual arts and design, visual arts and intermedia);
- Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (public institution of higher education: bachelor's and master's degree programmes in the area of architecture and design);
- Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava (public institution of higher education: bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programmes in cultural studies, languages, archaeology, history of art, musical sciences, literary sciences, library sciences and informatics);
- Pan-European University is a private higher education institution based in Bratislava offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in mass-media communication.
- Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (public institution of higher education: bachelor's, master's and doctoral study courses in languages, cultural studies and culture management);
- Faculty of Arts of the University of Prešov in Prešov (public institution of higher education: bachelor's and master's degree programmes in languages and mass-media communication);
- Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Trnava University in Trnava (public institution of higher education: bachelor's and master's degree programmes in the arts, archaeological theory and history); and
- The Faculty of Mass Media Communication of the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (public higher education institution; bachelor's and master's degrees in mass-media communications).
- Academy of Film and Multimedia in Bratislava (a nonaccredited and certified educational programme that does not lead to an academic title but is focussed on practical techniques of animation and graphic design for the film, advertising and design industries)

The higher education system for art and culture has an adequate range covering all areas of artistic production, cultural studies, art theory and history and cultural and media management. What it continues to lack is a scientific research centre focussed on the permanent development of culture in Slovakia and a specialised training centre for higher education on cultural policy and the public administration of culture.

Secondary-level education on art and culture is provided in secondary arts schools and conservatories. Slovakia has in total 5 conservatories and 8 specialised secondary schools. The establishing authorities of these secondary schools are the self-governing regions (*kraje*).

The network of public and private elementary arts schools plays a special role in the system of education for the arts and culture focussing on specialised basic education in specific areas of the

presentation and production of art – music, dance, the visual arts, literature and drama. The establishing authority for public elementary arts schools are the self-governing regions.

### **8.3.2 Arts in schools**

The state education programme related to art and culture was prepared by the Slovak National Institute for Education and approved by the central curriculum commission for art and cultural education in 2011.

[http://www.gymnaziumtrencin.sk/buxus/docs/dokumenty/skolsky\\_vzdelavaci\\_program\\_2/ucebne\\_os\\_novy\\_statny\\_vzdelavaci\\_program\\_isced\\_3/Umenie\\_a\\_kultura\\_ISCED\\_3A.pdf](http://www.gymnaziumtrencin.sk/buxus/docs/dokumenty/skolsky_vzdelavaci_program_2/ucebne_os_novy_statny_vzdelavaci_program_isced_3/Umenie_a_kultura_ISCED_3A.pdf)

### **8.3.3 Intercultural education**

This information is currently in preparation.

### **8.3.4 Higher arts education and professional training**

This information is currently in preparation.

### **8.3.5 Basic out-of-school arts and cultural education**

This information is currently in preparation.

## **8.4 Amateur arts, cultural associations and civil initiatives**

Amateur art can be defined as the voluntary, non-professional creative activity of youth and adults developed in a certain area of art. It gives participants a deeper and more intensive awareness of art and the process of artistic creation. Areas of amateur art include:

- Stage folklore performance
- Stage arts
- Film and video
- Photography
- Music
- Artistic recital
- Visual arts
- Slovak youth literature

### **8.4.1 Amateur arts and folk culture**

Slovakia has a long tradition of amateur art. The instruments to support this form of art production include amateur art clubs for various types of art (mainly theatre, visual arts, music, dance, folklore,

film and video, photography, literature, artistic recital), festivals, performances and workshops for amateur artists and hobby classes offered by leisure centres (school and non-school centres overseen by local self-governing authorities).

The National Center for Culture and Further Education (NOC) is a public education and culture institution that provides professional and methodological support for public education and culture on the national level.

Public education and cultural activities were carried out in 1,982 centres, of which 1,047 were in cultural houses, in municipalities with a population of over 500 in 2016; these centres had a combined staff of 2,347 employees.

In 2016, there were a total of more than 3,000 public education and cultural centres employing in total 3,172 employees.

The establishing authorities of the centres are the government (0.13%), regional and municipal self-governing authorities (73.37%), churches and religious societies (6.31%), the Matica slovenská organisation (2.4%), non-profit NGOs (14.26%) and various natural persons (3.53%).

**Table 13: Overview of competitions, exhibitions and festivals for amateur and hobby artists by area of artistic activity, 2017**

Field of activity		
Stage arts	967	contests and festivals
Recitation, spoken word	460	contests
Literary writing	188	contests
Music (non-folklore)	749	contests
Folklore	3,053	contests and festivals
Dance (non-folklore)	380	contests
The visual arts	697	contests
Photography, audiovisual work, video	410	photography, audiovisual work and video competitions
Singing (non-folklore)	747	contests
Multi-genre	381	contests
Other	1549	contests and festivals
<b>Total</b>	<b>9581</b>	

Source: National Cultural Centre, Statistics on public education and cultural activities 2017

**Table 14a: Overview of educational events broken down by area of activity  
Public education and cultural activities 2017**

<b>Public education and culture</b>	
arts hobbies	12,495
intangible cultural heritage	1,153
traditional crafts	2,474
non-art hobbies	3,453
professional education for public education and culture	741
civic education	1,279
prevention of negative social phenomena	782
support for equal opportunities and non-discrimination	132
other areas	5,972
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,481</b>

Source: National Cultural Centre 2017

## 8.4.2 Cultural houses and community cultural clubs

Slovakia has a network of public education and cultural centres covering non-professionals' artistic and cultural activities on the level of the *kraje* (Slovakia's 8 higher territorial units) or smaller areas. Cultural centres are under the administration of the self-governing authorities:

**Table 15: Number of centres of public education and culture covering regions or smaller territories in 2017**

Self-governing Region	Number
Bratislava	1
Trnava	4
Trenčín	4
Nitra	5
Žilina	5
Banská Bystrica	6
Prešov	7
Košice	7

Source: National Cultural Centre 2017

Film clubs play an active part in cultural life in Slovakia and they are organised in the Association of Slovak Film Clubs (ASFK), a civil association.

## 8.4.3 Associations of citizens, advocacy groups, NGOs and advisory panels

Information is currently not available.

## 9. Sources and Links

### 9.1 Key documents on cultural policy

Programme Declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic, 2018  
<http://www.vlada.gov.sk/data/files/7179.pdf>

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic: Strategy of state cultural policy 2014 – 2020  
<http://www.strategiakultury.sk/>

Action plan for the initial phase of its implementation. Bratislava: Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, 2015 - 2017 <http://www.culture.gov.sk/ministerstvo/dokumenty/strategicke-materialy-ministerstva-129.html>  
[http://www.rokovania.sk/appl/material.nsf/0/CBC3628C695A0BC2C1256F0400389185/\\$FILE/Zdroj.html](http://www.rokovania.sk/appl/material.nsf/0/CBC3628C695A0BC2C1256F0400389185/$FILE/Zdroj.html)

Programme declaration of the government of the Slovak Republic and its elaboration within the competence of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic 2006 -2010. Bratislava 2006  
[http://www.culture.gov.sk/uploads/Wb/v0/Wbv0bS5\\_VzRgYHhV\\_rPYjw/Rozpracovanieprogramovho-vyhlsenia-vldy-SR.pdf](http://www.culture.gov.sk/uploads/Wb/v0/Wbv0bS5_VzRgYHhV_rPYjw/Rozpracovanieprogramovho-vyhlsenia-vldy-SR.pdf)

Constitution of the Slovak Republic  
[http://www.nrsr.sk/sub/en-US/nrsr/nrsr\\_dokumenty/constitution.doc](http://www.nrsr.sk/sub/en-US/nrsr/nrsr_dokumenty/constitution.doc)

Declaration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on the protection of cultural heritage, 2001  
<http://www.culture.gov.sk/kulturne-dedicstvo/ochrana-pamiatok/vsledky/deklaracia-oochrane-pamiatok>

Legislation and strategic documents concerning media, audiovisual content and copyright  
<http://www.culture.gov.sk/posobnost-ministerstva/media-audiovizia-a-autorske-pravo-/media-a-audiovizia-6a.html>

Report on the Slovak audiovisual sector 2016 – published annually  
[http://www.cedslovakia.eu/uploads/ckeditor/attachments/323/SPR\\_VA\\_2016\\_SVK\\_FINAL\\_10\\_05\\_2017.pdf](http://www.cedslovakia.eu/uploads/ckeditor/attachments/323/SPR_VA_2016_SVK_FINAL_10_05_2017.pdf)

Reports on broadcasting and the activity of the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission – published annually  
[http://www.rvr.sk/sk/spravy/index.php?kategoried=205&rozbalitClanky=205#clanky\\_205](http://www.rvr.sk/sk/spravy/index.php?kategoried=205&rozbalitClanky=205#clanky_205)

## 9.2 Key organisations and portals

### Cultural policy making bodies

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic  
<http://www.culture.gov.sk/http://www.mksr.sk>

Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic  
<http://www.finance.gov.sk>

### Grant awarding bodies

Slovak Arts Council  
<http://www.fpu.sk>

Audio-Visual Fund  
<http://www.avf.sk>

Literary Fund  
<http://www.litfond.sk>

Music Fund  
<http://www.hf.sk>

Visual Art Funds  
<http://www.fvu.sk>

Foundation - Center for Contemporary Arts  
<http://www.ncsu.sk>

### Professional associations

Association of Slovak Writers' Organisations (AOSS)  
<http://www.aoss.sk>

Association of Slovak Film Clubs (ASFK)  
<http://www.asfk.sk>

Contemporary Dance Association  
<http://www.sucasnytanec.sk>

Slovak Chamber of Architects

<https://www.komarch.sk/>

Slovak Architects Society

[www.sasarch.sk](http://www.sasarch.sk)

Chamber of restorers

<http://www.restauro.sk>

Association of Slovak Libraries

<http://www.sakba.sk>

Slovak Audiovisual Producers' Association

<http://www.slovakproducers.com/>

Slovak Film and Television Academy

<http://www.sfta.sk>

Association of Independent Radio and Television Stations Slovakia

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

Union of Film Distributors of the Slovak Republic

[www.ufd.sk](http://www.ufd.sk)

Association of Slovak Cinema Operators

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

Slovak Music Union

<http://www.shu.szm.sk/shu.html>

Slovak Union of Visual Arts

<http://www.svu.sk>

Association of Slovak Concert Artists

<http://www.skumelcov.sk>

Slovak Writers' Society

<https://www.spolok-slovenskych-spisovatelov.sk/>

Association of Publishers and Booksellers of the Slovak Republic

<http://www.zvks.sk>



Association of Museums in Slovakia

<http://www.zms.sk>

Association of Slovak Photographers

<http://www.zsf.sk>

### **Cultural research and statistics**

Institute for Cultural Policy

<http://ikp.sk/>

National Cultural Centre

<http://www.noc.sk>

Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

<http://www.statistics.sk>

Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture

<http://www.cvek.sk>

Department of Culturology, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University

<http://www.kulturologia.sk>

### **Portals for Culture and Art**

Slovak Culture Profile

<http://profil.kultury.sk/en/>

Catalogue of works from the collections of Slovak galleries

<https://www.webumenia.sk>

Slovak Film Portal

<http://www.kinema.sk>

Slovak Film Institute

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

Digitalisation of the cultural heritage of Slovakia

[www.slovakiana.sk](http://www.slovakiana.sk)

Obnova.sk – Czech and Slovak portal on cultural heritage

<http://www.obnova.sk>

Audiovisual Information Centre

<http://www.aic.sk>

Theatre in Slovakia

[www.theatre.sk/sk/divadlo-na-slovensku/](http://www.theatre.sk/sk/divadlo-na-slovensku/)

Cultural Contact Point Slovakia

<http://www.ccp.sk>

Creative Europe Desk Slovakia

<http://www.cedslovakia.eu/>