

## NATIONAL DIVERSITY AT UNIVERSITIES IN SLOVAKIA

Martina Žáková, Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>, Thorsten Eidenmüller, Ph.D.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Trnava University in Trnava, Faculty of Health Care and Social Work, Slovak Republic,  
martina.zakova@truni.sk

<sup>2</sup>American University Girne, Faculty of Law, Republic of Cyprus, eidenmueller@eu-edu.de

---

### Abstract

Slovakia is in its history and these days connected with emigration and also with immigration. It led to clashes and mutual influence of different cultures during amount of migration flows. Jewish, Hungarians, Roma people, Germans, Croats, Serbians and other nationalities gradually come to our area. These groups interacted with one another and together created what is now called „Slovak“ culture. Of course, migration to our country continues and they create so called „new“ minorities. (1)

However, we can not say with certainty how many foreigners/migrants are in our country. Police has only a number of foreigners/migrants who either applied for any type of residence or they were stopped as illegal immigrants. 68 405 foreigners/migrants with legal residence were in Slovakia till 30 June 2013, of who 42 876 (62,7%) were citizens from E. U. countries. (2) We can say that appropriate 0,5% from all citizens are residents who do not have our citizenship. (3) 19,3 % of our country population has another nationality as Slovak. (4)

Next part of our presentation is concerned on a description of study opportunities at universities in Slovakia and there also is the number of foreign students studying at these schools. (8) We also note some attitude of Slovak high students to migrants.

Ethnic diversity is a natural part of our of our history and therefore it is necessary to also reflect this.

We consider, it is necessary to pay attention to diversity management in schools in connection with the above information. In Slovakia, this issue hardly pays attention. In doing research for this presentation, we found that in Slovakia, there

was realized one research which was, however, focused only on primary schools pupils and an article titled „The Diversity of the School Environment from a teachers perspective“. Even at the website of Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, we did not find any information on this issue. We think this is due to a fact that in Slovakia there is still a small number of migrants and there are no serious problems in a coexistence of minorities. However, we should learn from good practice abroad, in order to avoid serious problems.

**JEL Classification:** I20, I30

**Keywords:** Social Work, Welfare, Education and Welfare

---

## Introduction

This article is divided into three parts. First part is about numbers of foreigners and migrants in Slovakia. Slovak legislation does not know a term „migrant“ only foreigners, in some of official data is complicated to identify how many of them are foreigners and how many are migrants. In this situation we are using both of terms. Second part of this article is focused on information about numbers of foreign students at Slovak universities and the last part is dedicated to the research, in which we have investigated, what is an opinion and attitude of Slovak university students to migrants in Slovakia.

## Foreigners/migrants in Slovakia

Slovakia is in its history and these days connected with emigration and also with immigration. It led to clashes and mutual influence of different cultures during amount of migration flows. Jewish, Hungarians, Roma people, Germans, Croats, Serbians and other nationalities gradually come to our area. These groups interacted with one another and together created what is now called „Slovak“ culture. Some groups assimilated over time, others will still retain some differences in term of belonging to the group. Therefore, today, it can not be said that Slovakia is a country of Slovaks.

Of course, migration to our country continues and they create so called „new“ minorities. (1)

However, we can not say with certainty how many foreigners/migrants are in our country. Police has only a number of foreigners/migrants who either applied for any type of residence or they were stopped as illegal immigrants. Statistics are published every six months.

68 405 foreigners/migrants with legal residence were in Slovakia till 30 June 2013, of who 42 876 (62,7%) were citizens from countries of European Economic Area. Citizens of third countries participated in the total number of foreigners/migrants 37.3%, which was 25 529. The highest number of third country nationals came from Ukraine (6472), Serbia (3766), Russia (2 485), Vietnam (2069), China (1868), Korea (1 574), etc. (2)

Country	Number
Ukraine	6472
Serbia	3 766
Russia	2 485
Vietnam	2 069
China	1 868
South Korea	1 574
U. S.	905
Macedonia	622
Croatia	504
Turkey	376

**Tab 1:** Third country nationals with lawfully residence in Slovakia on 30 June 2013

We must not forget the illegal immigration. For the first half of this year 507 illegal migrants were seized. The most illegal migrants were from from Ukraine (156), then from Somalia (46), Gruzia (31), Eritrea (30), Moldova (28), etc. (2)

Country	Numbers of illegal migrants
Ukraine	156
Somalia	46
Georgia	31
Eritrea	30
Moldova	28
Vietnam	20
Russia	19
Afganistan	14
Pakistan	14
Macedonia	9
Serbia	8
Croatia	7

Kuwait	7
Libya	7
Iraq	6
Kosovo	6
Syria	6
Belarus	5
...	...

**Tab 2:** Illegal migrants according their country of origin

More precise data on the number of migrants living in Slovakia were obtained from data collected during the 2011 Population and Housing Census. According to this census, there were 0.5% of the population another than Slovak nationality residents – representing 26 752 persons. We can say that appropriate 0,5% from all citizens are residents who do not have our citizenship. (3)

	Total resident population	SR - 5 397 036
<b>Citizenship</b>	SR – total	92,2 %
	SR - with <b>multiple citizenship</b>	0,2
	Others	26 752 - 0,5%
	No citizenship	0,0
	Not specified	7,3

**Tab. 3:** SR population by nationality (3)

In Slovakia, there are 14 recognized nationalities – 80, 7% of citizens are Slovaks. 19,3 % of our country population has another nationality - 8,5% are Hungarians, 2,0% - Roma people. (4) But in Slovakia, there are more Roma people, but only 2% of them written their nationality as Roma into a census form. 0,6% of citizens has Czech and Ruthenian nationality, etc. In next table you can see information about population by nationality according to last three census.

Nationality	2011 in %	2001 in %	1991 in %
Slovak	80,7	85,8	85,7
Hungarian	8,5	9,7	10,8
Roma	2,0	1,7	1,4
Czech	0,6	0,8	1,0
Ruthenian	0,6	0,4	0,3

Ukrainian	0,1	0,2	0,3
German	0,1	0,1	0,1
Polish	0,1	0,0	0,1
Croatian	0,0	0,0	x
Sebian	0,0	0,0	x
Russian	0,0	0,0	0,0
Jewish	0,0	0,0	0,0
Moravian	0,1	0,0	0,1
Bulgarian	0,0	0,0	0,0
Other	0,2	0,1	0,1
not specified	7,0	1,0	0,2

**Tab 4:** Population by nationality (4)

Here we also provide an information on the percentage of the population by their mother tongue.

Mother tongue	2011 in %	2001 in %
Slovak	78,6	83,9
Hungarian	9,4	10,7
Roma	2,3	1,8
Ruthenian	1,0	1,0
Ukrainian	0,1	1,0
Czech	0,7	0,2
German	0,1	0,9
Polish	0,1	0,1
Croatian	0,0	0,1
Yiddish	0,0	0,0
Bulgarian	0,0	0,0
Others	0,3	0,1
not specified	7,5	1,2

**Tab 5:** Population by mother tongue (5)

The number of migrants/foreigners in Slovakia is indeed a very low in comparison with traditional minorities, but their presence creates the potential for a whole new type of coexistence. In this way, we consider it is important to pay attention to

how cultural diversity is changing the structure of the company, which has implications for its function and what causes these changes.

However, migration now assumes the proportions, which has no history. It is also linked with globalization, through which the world is „shrinking“. There is a significant expansion of communication networks, the boundaries of nation-states gradually lose their importance, which is related to the weakening of the importance of national identity and the growth of cultural diversity. (1)

### **Foreigners/migrants at Slovak universities**

But we start with information about possibility to study at Slovak universities. According to the Constitution citizens of the Slovak Republic are entitled to free education at primary and secondary schools and “depending on abilities of the individual and potential of the society, also at universities”. (6) In Slovakia, there are 30 universities, studying in English is possible at 10 of them.

In Slovakia, there are public, private, and state universities. The public universities are established pursuant to the Act on Higher Education. Private universities are established by legal entities with registered office in Slovakia upon the state approval. All universities provide studies in accredited study programs.

An institution, which does not provide higher education, can, however, also participate in higher education (Slovenská akadémia vied - Slovak Academy of Sciences). (7)

Part-time studies and the study at private universities are paid. An university can also require a tuition fee from students, who take longer to finish their study than its normal length.

In case of foreigners, the school will set the tuition fees and other payments related to the studies. It may involve a fee for the entry examination, for dissertation, for the study documents, diploma in a foreign language or a fee for recognition of foreign educational documents. All above-mentioned fees form an income of the school. The Rector can lower or forgive the fees, or he can postpone the payments.

The language preparation for the studies can form a so-called Zero level, according to the rules, which apply to the specific school. The language courses are run by the Institute for Language and Academic Preparation” for foreign students.

It is possible to grant scholarships. The rules for granting scholarships are set in the Edict on Social Scholarships. This Edict applies to Slovak students as well as foreign students with a legal permanent residence in Slovakia. Based on this edict, the high student can apply for: a state social scholarship, a scholarship from the funds of the particular school. (7)

We also list an information on the number of full-time students with slovak citizenship by their nationality. The 31 October 2012 we have 134 747 full-time university students, the most of them studied at public universities. You can see that Hungarian students were the second largest group of students in our universities. This nationality is also the second largest nationality in Slovakia. At this time, here were only 9 Roma high school students.

University	Nationality of students of slovak citizenship in full-time study									
	Nationality									
	Together	Slovak	Czech Moraw, Silesian	Ukrainian	Rutha nian	Hunga rian	Polish	German	Roma	Other
Public	123283	117046	204	106	101	5615	14	34		163
Private	9749	9205	258	9	9	228	1	3	9	27
State	1715	1627	4			81				3

**Tab 6:** High schools – 31 October 2012 – full-time study

If we could know more about citizenship of university students in Slovak school, we can see it in next tables. Information is to 31 October 2012

Public universities	Students - foreigners by citizenship	
	together	permanent
		residence in Slovakia
<b>Study I and II degree</b>	4014	239
Afganistan	6	0
Albania	3	1
Angola	1	0
Azerbaijan	4	0
Bangladesh	1	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8	1
Brazil	6	0
Bulgary	5	2
Czech Republic	410	35
Montenegro	3	0
Čína	14	0
France	30	1
Greece	1051	5
Israel	106	0
Jordan	4	0
South Korea	1	0
Canada	6	0
Kazakhstan	11	3
Kenya	8	2
Kirghizia	3	0
Republic of Congo	1	0
Lithuania	12	0
Latvia	15	3
Macedonia	18	4
...		
<b>Ph. D. study</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>27</b>
Armenia	1	0
Benin	1	0

Private universities	Students - foreigners by citizenship	
	together	permanent
		residence in Slovakia
<b>Study I and II degree</b>	409	38
Armenia	1	0
Bahrain	1	0
Belarus	1	0
Bulgary	12	3
Finland	3	1
France	1	0
Georgia	1	1
Indonesia	1	0
Iraq	1	1
South Korea	1	0
Canada	1	0
Camerun	1	0
Namibia	1	1
...		
<b>Ph. D. study</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>
Armenia	1	0
Austria	4	0
Haiti	1	
Cambodia	5	0
Germany	25	0
Kenya	4	0
Malaysia	1	0
Russia	1	0
Somalia	4	0
Swiss	1	0
Ukraine	2	



Bosnia a Hercegovina	1	0
Brazil	1	1
Czech Republic	44	3
France	1	1
Georgia	4	0
Libya	15	2
Serbia	16	2
Sudan	7	0
Vietnam	1	0
....		

**Tab. 7:** Some countries of origin of university students in public and private universities in Slovakia

And students in state universities by their country of origin we can see in next table:

State universities	Students - foreigners by citizenship	
	Together	With permanent residence In Slovakia
Study I and II degree	7	3
Azerbaijan	1	0
Czech Republic	3	0
Greece	1	1
Serbia	1	1
Turkey	1	1

**Tab 8:** Numbers of foreign university students at state schools

Numbers of foreign part time students are 486 (59) at public universities I. and II. grade of study, 608 (28) at Ph. D. study. Situation at private universities was different – 4 075 (65) foreign students of I. and II. grade of study, foreign Ph. D. students were 109 (4). State universities, there were 231 (3) foreign students of I. and II. grade of study and 12 (1) foreign Ph. D. students. (8)

Third part of this presentation is focused on a next reaserch whiach I realized with my Ph.D. student. The main goal was to identify the views of the public on

migrants and their integration into our society. Integration of migrants into major society is important and it was precisely a reason why we decided to realize this research. For purposes of this presentation, we have chosen some of the question and answers of universities' students. It was a representative research. Authors evaluated 1120 questionnaires and universities' students were 83 (7,4%) from all of universities in Slovakia.

We gave statements to our respondents and we wanted to know if they agree or disagree with these statements. Answers are in next tab:

Statements	Definitely agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Definitely disagree	I do not no
<b>Migrants are mostly take jobs</b>	4,80%	28,90%	<b>47,00%</b>	15,70%	3,60%
<b>Migrants and their culture can enrich us, it is good that they come to Slovakia</b>	9,60%	<b>47,00%</b>	24,10%	6,00%	13,30%
<b>Migrants occupy jobs that are financially unattractive and that Slovaks do not want to carry</b>	6,00%	<b>36,10%</b>	20,50%	12,00%	25,30%
<b>It does not matter where migrants act, belongs to other cultures and it can bring chaos to Slovakia</b>	2,40%	9,60%	<b>48,20%</b>	31,30%	8,40%
<b>Migrants are involved in raising crimes in Slovakia</b>	2,40%	25,30%	<b>37,30%</b>	14,50%	20,50%

**Tab 9:** Agreement/Disagreement with statements

Universities' students agreed with the statement: „Migrants are mostly take jobs.“ at least. Whole population rather disagreed with this statement.

Migrants and their culture can enrich us, it is good that they come to Slovakia. Universities' students agreed the most with this statement. Whole population rather disagreed.

Migrants occupy jobs that are financially unattractive and that Slovaks do not want to carry – the most from whole population disagreed with this statement, while universities' students the most agreed with this statement.

It does not matter where migrants act, belongs to other cultures and it can bring chaos to Slovakia – the most from whole population rather disagreed with this statement and universities' students the most disagreed.

Migrants are involved in raising crimes in Slovakia – the most respondents rather disagreed, while universities' students the most disagreed with this statement.

<b>How do migrants integrate into our society?</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>They should take the culture and traditions of our country and they leave the original habits of their country</b>	9,60%
<b>They should carefully preserve the culture and traditions of country of their original and they geared to the culture of our country</b>	1,20%
<b>They should maintain the original culture and habits of their countries of origin and they also respect the culture and habits of our country</b>	89,20%

**Tab 10:** Opinions of universities' students for an integration of migrants

On this question, respondents were asked to choose one of three forms, as they should integrate migrants into our society. With that migrants should take the culture and traditions of our country and they leave the original habits of their country agreed 9,6% of students and 1,7% of whole respondents.

18,5% of all respondents and 1,2% of universities' students identified with the statement that migrants should carefully preserve the culture and traditions of country of their original and they geared to the culture of our country.

79,1% of all respondents and 89,2% of universities' students agreed with the statement that migrants should maintain the original culture and habits of their countries of origin and they also respect the culture and habits of our country.

<b>How do you personally perceive migrants who came to our country and they decided to live in Slovakia</b>	<b>In %</b>
<b>Positive</b>	8,40%
<b>Rather positive</b>	26,50%
<b>Neither positive nor negative</b>	56,60%
<b>Rather negative</b>	6,00%
<b>Negative</b>	2,40%

**Tab 11:** Perceptions of migrants by universities' students

Respondents perceive migrants who came to Slovakia and they decided to live in our country rather positive than negative while universities' students did not express a strong position, neutral answers prevailed.

We wanted to know what is the most influenced their attitude to migrants living in Slovakia. Eight different options they were offered. These options are in next tab:

<b>What is the most influenced your attitude to migrants living in Slovakia</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>by culture of their country of origin</b>	26,20%
<b>by ignorance of the culture of their country of origin</b>	10%
<b>by personal experience with migrants</b>	15,00%
<b>by the number of migrants living in our country</b>	1,20%
<b>by media</b>	16,20%
<b>by public opinion</b>	1,20%
<b>by insufficient information</b>	27,50%
<b>other</b>	2,50%

**Tab 12:** Influence of universities' students attitude to migrants

An attitude of all respondents and also universities' students to migrants living in Slovakia was influenced by insufficient information the most and by the number of migrants living in our country and by public opinion at least.

<b>Would you agree if</b>	<b>No, I would not agree</b>	<b>Yes, I would agree</b>
<b>migrants lived in your city</b>	4,90%	95,10%
<b>migrants lived in your neighbourhood</b>	9,60%	90,40%
<b>migrants were your close colleagues</b>	3,70%	<b>96,30%</b>
<b>migrants became a part of your family</b>	<b>27,70%</b>	72,30%
<b>you received blood from migrants</b>	20,70%	79,30%

**Tab 13:** Agreement with

The most of all respondents and also universities' students would agree if migrants were their close colleagues or lived in their city. The most of all respondents and also universities' students would disagree if migrants became a part of their family and if they received blood from migrants.

The influx of migrants in Slovakia is associated not only with the increasing cultural diversity of the population, but it is also a challenge for public policy makers and the Professional discussion at universities.

We consider, it is necessary to pay attention to diversity management at universities in connection with the above information. In Slovakia, an attention is not devoted to this issue. In doing research for this presentation, we found that in Slovakia, there was realized one research which was, however, focused only on primary schools pupils and an article titled „The Diversity of the School Enviroment from a teachers perspective“. This article is also concentrated on a school enviroment diversity in primary or secondary schools. (9) Even at the website of Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, we did not find any information on this issue. We think this is due to a fact that in Slovakia there is still a small number of migrants and there is no serious problems in a coexistence of minorities. However, it does not mean, that some problems can be in future and we should learn from good practice abroad, in order to avoid serious problems.

### References:

1. Gallová, E. et al.: Kultúrna rozmanitosť a jej vnímanie žiakmi základných škôl na Slovensku. Bratislava : OSF, 2009
2. Štatistický prehľad legálnej a nelegálnej migrácie v Slovenskej republike. I. polrok 2013. Bratislava : Prezídium Policajného zboru, Úrad hraničnej a cudzineckej polície, 2013
3. Obyvateľstvo SR podľa štátnej príslušnosti. [online]. [cit. 2012-08-07]. Dostupné na: <http://portal.statistics.sk/files/tab-8.pdf>
4. Obyvateľstvo SR podľa národnosti. [online]. [cit. 2012-08-13]. Dostupné na: <http://portal.statistics.sk/files/tab-10.pdf>
5. Obyvateľstvo SR podľa materinského jazyka. [online]. [cit. 2012-07-31]. Dostupné na: <http://portal.statistics.sk/files/tab-11.pdf>
6. Vysoké školy na Slovensku – vzdelávanie cudzincov. [online]. [cit. 2013-09-03]. Dostupné na: <http://mic.iom.sk/en/social-issues/education/60-vysoke-skoly-na-slovensku-vzdelavanie-cudzincov.html>
7. Institution of Higher Education. [online]. [cit. 2012-08-24]. Dostupné na: <http://office.studyin.sk/>
8. Štatistická ročenka – vysoké školy. [online]. [cit. 2013-08-09]. Dostupné na: <http://www.uips.sk/prehlady-skol/statisticka-rocenka---vysoke-skoly>
9. Polakovičová, R.: Diverzita školského prostredia z aspektu učiteľov. In: Technológia vzdelávania, vol. 16, No.9, pp 8-11. ISSN 1335-003X