

BUILDRES Project

Project number: 2024-2-CY01-KA220-YOU-000295718

EU COUNTRIES DESK RESEARCH

Partner organisation: DANMAR COMPUTERS

Research on: SLOVAKIA

Country overview (statistical data- population, fertility percentages, indicators- cultural characteristics of the country around family building, e.g family vs. career oriented, average of mothers working full time, average number of children in new families, Fertility rate, average maternal age).

Based on the latest statistical data, Slovakia has a population of approximately 5.4 million people and is characterized by a declining population and an aging society. The nation's fertility rate stands at about 1.57 children per woman, well below the replacement level, a trend starkly illustrated by record-low birth numbers in recent years. Culturally, Slovakia maintains strong family-oriented values, heavily influenced by its Roman Catholic heritage. However, this is balanced against significant economic pressures, including concerns about the cost of living, job security, and housing affordability, which influence family planning decisions. While the state supports family building with policies like extended maternity leave, the reality is that Slovak families are having fewer children and starting families later in life. This creates a complex social landscape where traditional family values coexist with the economic realities that discourage larger families, contributing to the country's persistent demographic challenges.

Demographic trends in Slovakia reflect broader Central European patterns of postponed parenthood and rising maternal age, with women increasingly entering motherhood in their late twenties and early thirties. Educational attainment among women has increased substantially, and female labour force participation remains an important factor shaping reproductive timing. At the same time, regional disparities persist, with higher fertility traditionally observed in rural and eastern regions compared to urban centres such as Bratislava. Emigration of younger cohorts in past decades has further influenced the country's demographic structure, accelerating population ageing.

Pregnancy and maternal healthcare services in Slovakia are delivered through a mandatory public health insurance system that guarantees universal coverage for insured residents. Prenatal care includes regular gynaecological examinations, ultrasound screening, laboratory diagnostics and hospital-based childbirth, all covered under statutory insurance. Pregnant women are entitled to comprehensive monitoring throughout pregnancy, and childbirth typically occurs in public maternity hospitals. Postnatal care includes neonatal screening programmes, paediatric follow-ups and home visits by healthcare professionals. While access to maternity services is broadly available, rural-urban disparities and staffing shortages in certain regions remain policy concerns.



Slovakia offers comparatively long parental leave arrangements within the European context. Mothers are entitled to maternity leave (*materská dovolenka*) lasting 34 weeks (longer for single mothers or multiple births), compensated at approximately 75% of prior earnings, subject to insurance contributions. Following maternity leave, parents may access parental leave (*rodičovská dovolenka*), which can extend until the child reaches three years of age (or six years in the case of long-term health conditions). During this period, families receive a parental allowance paid at a flat-rate level. Fathers are also entitled to paternity leave benefits under social insurance rules, though maternal leave remains more commonly utilized. Employment protection during maternity and parental leave is legally guaranteed, supporting job security during early childcare years.

Financial support for families is administered through child allowances (*prídavok na dieťa*), tax bonuses for dependent children, and birth grants provided under certain eligibility conditions. Additional assistance may be available for low-income households through housing support and social assistance schemes. Childcare infrastructure, particularly for children under three, remains more limited than in some Western European countries, contributing to extended parental leave uptake, predominantly by mothers, and influencing female employment patterns.

Overall, Slovakia combines universal maternity healthcare, extended parental leave entitlements and child-related financial benefits within a socially conservative cultural framework. However, persistent low fertility, delayed family formation and economic uncertainty continue to challenge long-term demographic sustainability. Policymakers face the ongoing task of balancing traditional family policy instruments with modern labour market dynamics and gender equality objectives to create conditions more conducive to stable family formation.

Name of the organisation	Maternity Hospital Bory
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	A modern maternity ward offering comprehensive care, from antenatal classes and personalized birth plans to postpartum support. Features private delivery rooms and partner accommodation.
Country	Slovakia
Mail	
Phone	0950 105 510
Website	nemocnica-bory.sk
Address	Ivana Kadlečíka 2, Lamač, 841 03 Bratislava
Name of the organisation	Reprofit Bratislava
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Fertility clinic providing a range of assisted reproduction treatments, including IVF and IUI. Offers genetic testing, immunological exams, and a personal coordinator for each patient.
Country	Slovakia
Mail	bratislava@reprofit.sk
Phone	+421 907 533 993
Website	https://www.reprofit.cz/en
Address	Prievozska 4/A, 821 09 Bratislava, Slovakia
Name of the organisation	Klub Nezábudka – League for Mental Health
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Provides anonymous, free psychosocial assistance and crisis intervention. Offers dedicated hotline support in both Slovak and Ukrainian languages
Country	Slovakia
Mail	dusevnezdravie@dusevnezdravie.sk
Phone	0800 800 566
Website	https://dusevnezdravie.sk/
Address	Ševčenkova 21, 851 01 Bratislava, Slovakia
Name of the organisation	TENENET
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	More than 120 specialized consultants that provide direct field or outpatient assistance to thousands of children and adult clients at our 19 branches in western, central, and eastern Slovakia.
Country	Slovakia
Mail	info@tenenet.sk
Phone	+421 2 2020 1111
Website	https://tenenet.sk/
Address	Oravská 3083/4, 903 01 Senec, Slovakia
Name of the organisation	GYNCARE
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	GYNCARE is a leading network of reproductive health clinics in Slovakia with nearly 25 years of experience. Combining a holistic and individual approach, advanced diagnostics, and top modern equipment, GYNCARE helps couples achieve successful pregnancies.
Country	Slovakia



Mail	bratislava@gyncaresk
Phone	+421 220 829 115
Website	https://gyncaresk/en
Address	Galvani (GBC 4) 17/C, entrance via Galvaniho 17/A, Bratislava