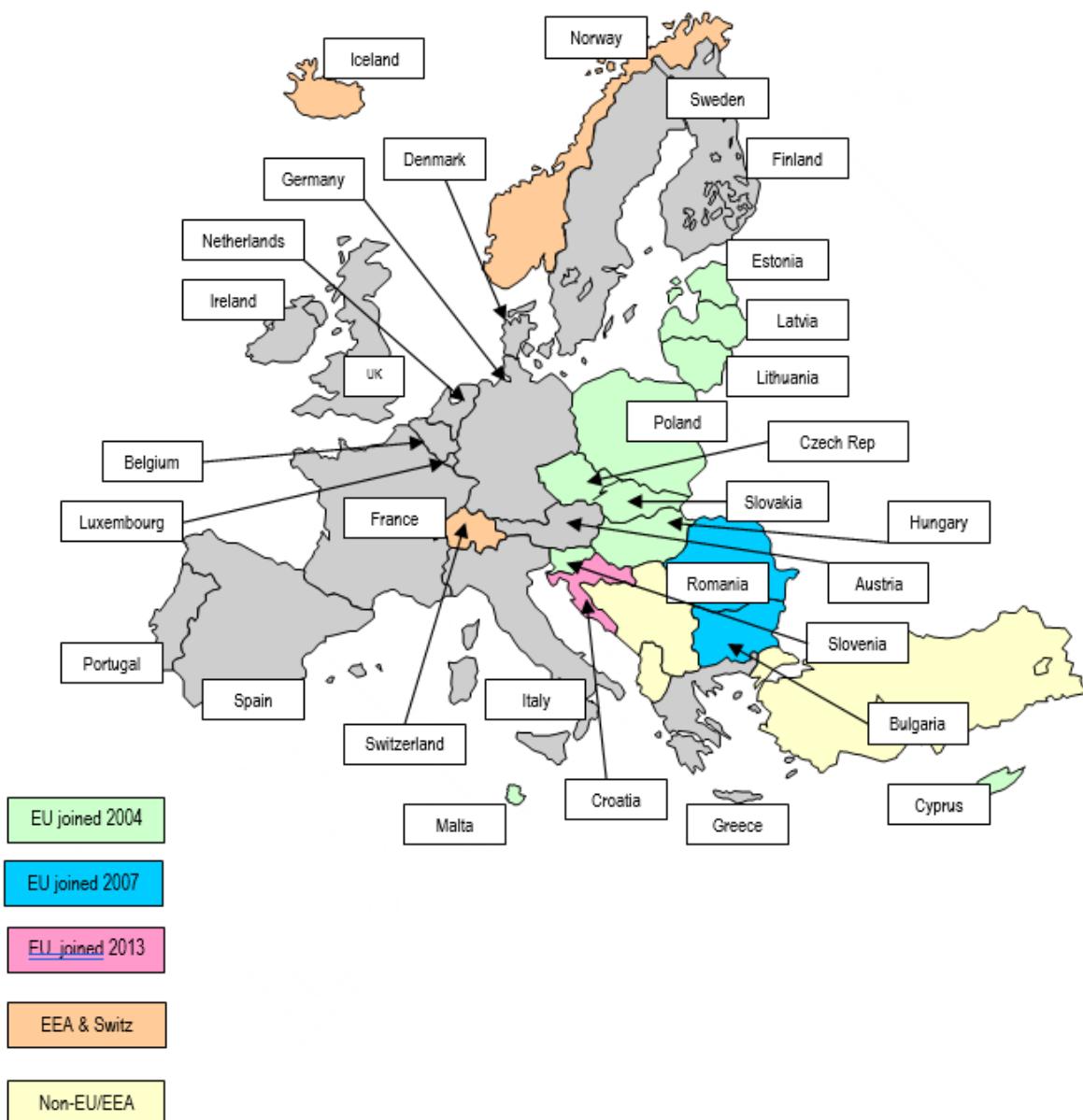


Council of European Dentists

MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

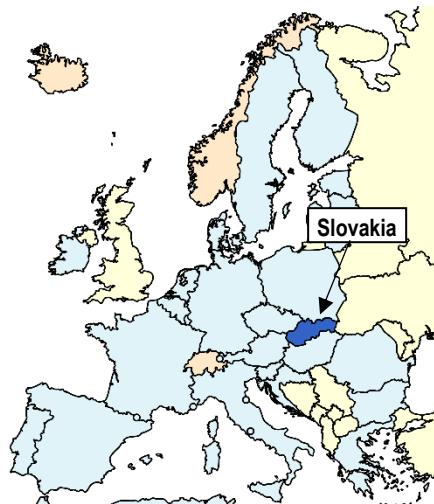
Slovakia

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2026





Slovakia



In the EU/EEA since	2004
Population (2025)	5 424 687
GDP PPP per capita (2025)	29 924
Currency	Euro € (EUR)
Official language	Slovak

All Slovak citizens are covered by compulsory health insurance, with benefits broadly guaranteed by the Constitution, although access to care depends on available financial and system resources. The system is delivered by three competing insurers (one public and two private insurers), that contract providers based on quality, price and volume.

Number of dentists (active)	3020
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab)	55,7
Members of Dental Association	3020

All healthcare employees are legally required to participate in continuing education. Auxiliaries may be employed full time or part time depending on whether they work in public or private settings, with employment arrangements governed by labour law. Four categories of dental auxiliaries practice in Slovakia.

Date of last revision: 03 February 2026

Government and healthcare in Slovakia

Slovakia is a small republic, established on 1 January 1993, in the geographical centre of Europe.

The ethnicity of the population is Slovak (83.8%), Hungarian (7.75%), Romany (1.2%), Czech (0.5%), Rusyn, Ukrainian, Russian, German, Polish and others (2%).

The Slovak Republic was established on 1 January 1993 as one of the successors to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. It is a parliamentary democracy with a unicameral parliament, the National Council of the Slovak Republic, which has 150 seats and whose members are elected by proportional representation for four-year terms. The President of Slovakia is elected by direct popular vote for a five-year term.

All citizens of the Slovak Republic are compulsorily insured. The insurance benefits do not depend on the level of income or salary. The Constitution guarantees access to healthcare services covered by health insurance, with broad coverage. However, in practice, the provision of care is subject to available financial and system resources.

Slovakia's compulsory health insurance system operates through three competing insurers, including one public and two private entities. These insurers contract healthcare providers based on quality, pricing and service volumes. By the end of 2024, 54% of the population was insured by the public state-owned insurer VšZP (ÚDZS, 2025).

In the early 2000s, reforms to the Slovak compulsory health insurance system, including changes to the catalogue of dental services, were associated with increased financial pressure and higher patient cost-sharing. Over time, the scope of coverage and reimbursement rules for dental care have been revised

	Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	7.4%	2024 OECD
% of this spent by government	79%	2023 OECD

several times, reflecting ongoing adjustments to financing priorities and available resources.

Patients may visit a dentist without a referral. Essential dental treatment is available free of charge when provided by a contracted dentist under the compulsory public health insurance system. However, services that fall outside the scope of essential treatment are generally not fully covered.

As a result, most dental services involve partial patient co-payments, or are fully paid by patient, even for individuals insured under the mandatory public health insurance scheme.

Health insurance companies can provide information on contracted dentists. The payment procedure is comparable to that applied in general medical practice. Free treatment covers only the use of basic materials.

Dentists are required to inform patients in advance if more expensive materials are proposed. In such cases, patients must pay the price difference between the basic and the higher-cost materials. Fees may vary between dental practices.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

To enter dental school, students must pass the state school-leaving examination and a university entrance examination in dental studies.

Dental medicine studies in Slovakia have historically been six years in duration. However, as part of recent curriculum reforms, the programme is being shortened to five years, starting from the 2025/26 academic year onwards and gradually introduced in all 4 medical faculties. The transition to 5 years has begun with the Faculty of Medicine of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice in 2025/2026.

The other 2 faculties of dentistry - the Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University Bratislava and the Slovak Medical University Bratislava are switching to a 5-year system starting from 2026/2027. A transitional period is expected, during which both five- and six-year cohorts may coexist.

Dental education is provided by medical faculties (lekárská fakulta) of public universities in Slovakia. Dentistry is offered at several state-owned and publicly funded medical faculties.

Year of data	2025
Number of schools ¹	4
Student intake	142
Number of graduates a year	120
Gender balance (% of female students)	70,1
Duration of studies*	5
<i>*(with a transitional period from 6 to 5 years for entering cohorts until 2027)</i>	

Registration

The Slovak Chamber of Dentists serves as the competent authority responsible for registering dentists to practice. Under §31(1)(e) of Act No. 578/2004 Coll., the Slovak Chamber of Dentists registers healthcare workers practising as dentists.

To register as a dentist in Slovakia, applicants must have their professional diploma formally recognised by the Ministry of Education with certified Slovak-language documentation. A Slovak language proficiency assessment is typically required for licence eligibility. Additional documentation, such as a medical fitness certificate and a certified criminal record certificate, is also normally submitted as part of the registration process with the Slovak Chamber of Dentists.

Cost of registration	13 €
Yearly membership fee	400€

Vocational Training (VT)

Dentists are not obliged to have any mandatory practical training after graduation in Slovakia. Slovak Chamber of Dentists reports

that after finishing the dental degree, dentists can practise right away without a required vocational training.

Language requirements

A foreign dentist must demonstrate proficiency in the Slovak language in order to practise. After passing the qualification exam, the dentist must take a language examination

administered by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Education issues the corresponding certificate, which is required for registration with the Slovak Chamber of Dentists.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

In Slovakia, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is mandatory for all registered dentists. CPD requirements are formulated nationally, and dentists must accumulate a minimum number of credits over a five-year cycle, which must be certified. The Slovak Chamber of Dentists, as a professional body with regulatory competence, is responsible for monitoring the fulfillment of the obligation of continuing education by registered dentists. There is a distinction between formal (verified) and informal (unverified) CPD activities, with an accreditation system in place for the formal activities.

Accredited CPD activities take into account compliance with EU and national policies, professional guidelines, duration of the activity, and non-commercial content. Formal CPD activities in Slovakia include clinical hands-on courses, lectures, conferences, symposia, national and international face-to-face events, and e-learning. The content of formal CPD encompasses clinical/practical training (caries treatment, prevention, endodontics, early oral cancer detection, infection control, radiography, radiation protection, and medical emergencies), scientific/theoretical courses, interdisciplinary health activities promoting integrated care, and other professional topics indirectly related to dental practice (practice management, legal, ethical, or environmental issues).

A system is in place to allow participants to provide feedback to both CPD providers and to the accreditation body. The costs of participating in educational activities are covered by the participant - the dentist or his employer.

Costs may be borne by the self-employed professional, salaried professional, employer, or competent authority, depending on the context.

The Slovak Chamber of Dentists does not grant credits to dentists for the completion of professional training in radiation protection as of 1 March 2020, as such professional training is not regarded, pursuant to Section 42(2) and (3) of Act No. 578/2004 Coll., as continuing professional education of a healthcare professional for which credits may be awarded.

Upon completion of professional training in radiation protection with a total duration of 8 hours, refresher professional training with a duration of 6 hours must be undertaken on a regular basis every five years.

Specialist Training Requirements

Slovakia has 2 specialties for dentists:

-  Orthodontics
-  Maxillo-facial Surgery

Orthodontics is a recognised dental specialty in Slovakia. The specialty training is provided as a full-time programme with a duration of three years. The curriculum, including its content and the required number of hours or credits, is structured by the Ministry of Health, while Higher Education Institutions are responsible for delivering the programme and awarding the title of Dental Specialist in Orthodontics. There is no alternative pathway for general dental practitioners to qualify as orthodontic specialists through the accumulation of clinical experience or a defined number of orthodontic procedures. Specialist status is granted only after successful completion of the programme and passing the examinations imposed by the universities.

National legislation restricts certain orthodontic competences exclusively to orthodontic specialists, thereby limiting the scope of orthodontic procedures that may be performed by general dental practitioners. At the same time, orthodontic specialists retain the right to practise general dentistry. Orthodontists work in both private clinics and public services or hospitals, on a full-time or part-time basis, and practise in both urban and rural areas.

Another recognized specialty in Slovakia is Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. The specialty training is provided as a full-time programme with a duration of five years. Higher Education Institutions are responsible for delivering the programme, structuring the curriculum, and awarding the specialist title.

There is no alternative pathway for general dental practitioners to qualify as oral and maxillofacial surgeons through practical experience alone. Specialist status is granted only after successful completion of the programme and passing the examinations imposed by the universities.

The specialist qualification does not restrict oral and maxillofacial surgeons from practising general dentistry. Oral and maxillofacial surgery specialists typically work on a full-time or part-time basis in private clinics and hospitals, with their distribution varying between larger cities and medium-sized or smaller towns.

Workforce

Dentists

Year of data	2025
Total Registered	3020
In active practice	
Dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab) *	55,7
Percentage female	60,1%
Foreign-trained dentists	
*Active dentists only	

Movement of dentists across borders

In 2025, the number of Certificates of Good Standing issued by the Slovak Chamber of Dentists, providing proof of the current registration status of the dental practitioner, and delivered to dentists planning on practising abroad, were of 15.

There were also 29 foreign-trained registered dentists.

Specialists

Year of data	2025
Maxillo-facial Surgery	60
Orthodontists	250

There is a specialist register held by the Chamber.

Patients do not go directly to specialists and are always referred.

Auxiliaries

Year of data	2025
Technicians	1000
Hygienists	810

There are several kinds of clinical auxiliaries in Slovakia – Dental Hygienists, Dental Technicians. Additionally, there are nurses and dental assistants.

Every medical employee has a lawful obligation to undertake continuing education.

Auxiliaries are employed in public or private establishments on a full-time or part-time basis or in other forms of employment established by law. The provisions of the Labor Code are binding.

In non-public establishments various forms of employment envisaged by the law occur. This means that whether work is full-time or part-time, there must be prior agreement on the execution of a work and the working activity.

Dental Technicians

To perform professional work activities, it is required to obtain: A) a university degree in the field of study of dental technology, which can be obtained in the Slovak Republic at:

St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work Bratislava, Jesseni Faculty of Medicine in Martin, Comenius University in Bratislava

B) a higher professional degree in the field of study of a certified dental technician

C) a complete secondary vocational education in the field of study of a dental technician, which can be obtained in the Slovak Republic at:

Secondary School of Health in Košice, Moyzesova 17. They register at the Slovak Chamber of Dental Technicians.

Technicians can work in commercial laboratories or be an employee of a clinic. In 2012 half of all registered dental technicians worked in independent dental laboratories and a quarter were employed by the public dental service.

Dental Hygienists

Dental hygienists in Slovakia are registered with the Association of Dental Hygienists and Slovak Chamber of Medical and Technical Workers. Previous education pathways are recognised, including graduates of secondary vocational schools who qualified as *diploma dental hygienists*.

Current education for dental hygienists is provided at higher education level, notably at the Faculty of Nursing in Prešov and at the Slovak medical university in Bratislava. The study programme has a duration of three years and leads to the qualification of Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Dental Hygiene.

Dental hygienists are authorised to operate an independent practice open to the public, exclusively for the provision of dental hygiene services, without the direct supervision of a dentist. Within the scope of their professional competence, they may perform diagnostic assessments related to oral hygiene and periodontal health. This includes the assessment of periodontal indices such as BPI and CPITN, evaluation of tooth mobility, and the level of gingival inflammation. However, dental hygienists are not authorised to make diagnoses or clinical decisions that fall within the exclusive competence of dentists, such as decisions regarding tooth extraction or other invasive dental treatments.

Dental hygienists are not permitted to administer local anaesthetics.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

National dental associations and information centres	
Slovenská komora zubných lekárov The Slovak Chamber of Dentists	Ministerstvo školstva, výskumu, vývoja a mládeže SR Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth
Fibichova 14 821 05 Bratislava 2 Slovakia Tel: +421 2 48 20 40 70 Email: dentskzl@skzl.sk Website: www.skzl.sk	Stromová 1 813 30 Bratislava Slovakia Tel. +421 2 593 74 923 E-mail: sudv@minedu.sk Website: www.minedu.sk
Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR Ministry of health	Národné centrum zdravotníckych informácií National Health Information Center
Limbová 2 837 52 Bratislava 37 Slovakia Tel: +421 2 593 73 111 E-mail: office@health.gov.sk Website: www.health.gov.sk	Lazaretská 26 811 09 Bratislava 1 Slovakia Phone : +421 2 5726 9111 Email: nczisk@nczisk.sk Website: www.nczisk.sk
Úrad pre dohľad nad zdravotnou starostlivosťou Health care surveillance authority	
Žellova 2, 829 24 Bratislava Slovakia Phone: +421-2-208 56 226 Email: web@udzs-sk.sk Website: https://www.udzs-sk.sk/en/welcome-at-the-hcsa-web-site/	

Main Professional Journals

Zubný lekár - The Dentist	Stomatológ - “The Stomatologist”
Tel: +421 2 48 20 40 76 Email: zubnylekjar@skzl.sk Website: www.skzl.sk	Email: strecha@medima.sk Website: www.skzl.sk

Dental Schools:

Universities	
Comenius University - Faculty of Medicine <i>Univerzita Komenského - Lekárska fakulta</i>	Pavol Jozef Šafárik University <i>Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika</i>
Špitálska 24 813 72 Bratislava Tel: +421 2 90119 111; +421 2 9011 9466 e-mail: dekan.sekretariat@fmed.uniba.sk Website: www.fmed.uniba.sk	Trieda SNP č.1 040 11 Košice Tel: +421 55 6428 141 e-mail: gdojin@central.medic.upjs.sk Website: www.medic.upjs.sk
Slovak Medical University <i>Slovenská Zdravotnícka Univerzita</i>	Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University <i>Jesseniova lekárska fakulta Univerzity Komenského</i>
Limbová 12 83303 Bratislava Tel: +421 2 59370 111; +421 2 59370 440 e-mail: kat.zl.lf@szu.sk Website: www.szu.sk	Malá Hora 10701/4A 03601 Martin-Slovenská republika Tel: +421 43 2633 121; +421 43 2633 197 e-mail: sdek@jfmed.uniba.sk Website: www.jfmed.uniba.sk