

Slovenia



Population: 2,003,136 (July 2010 est.)
Population Growth Rate: -0.142% (2010 est.)
Birth Rate: 8.92 births/1,000 population (2010 est.)
Life Expectancy: total population: 77.12 years; male: 73.45 years; female: 81.03 years
Literacy Rate: total population: 99.7%; male: 99.7%; female: 99.6%
Net Migration Rate: 0.4 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2010 est.)
Unemployment Rate: 9.4% (2009 est.)
Gross Domestic Product per Capita: \$27,900 (2009 est.)
Religions: Catholic 57.8%, Muslim 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3%, other Christian 0.9%, unaffiliated 3.5%, other or unspecified 23%, none 10.1% (2002 census)
Languages: Slovenian 91.1%, Serbo-Croatian 4.5%, other or unspecified 4.4% (2002 census)
Ethnic Groups: Slovene 83.1%, Serb 2%, Croat 1.8%, Bosniak 1.1%, other or unspecified 12% (2002 census)
Capital: Ljubljana¹

Trafficking Routes

Slovenia is primarily a transit country for the purpose of human trafficking. Victims are typically trafficked through Slovenia via the “Balkan Route” (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia),² then into Italy, which serves as the gateway to Western Europe.³ Slovenia is less frequently a destination country, but there have been reports of an increase in internal trafficking for prostitution.⁴ Women are most often trafficked through Slovenia from countries such as Ukraine, Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria.⁵

¹ CIA, THE WORLD FACTBOOK (2010), <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/si.html>.

² ZONTA INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING MOBILIZATION FOR PREVENTION at 5 (2007), available at: <http://www.zonta.org/linkclick.aspx?fileticket=eIPO4rqbAdg%3d&tabid=129>.

³ GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, TRAINING OF BORDER GUARDS AND BORDER POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN IDENTIFYING OF AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING at 14 (2005), available at: http://www.vlada.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/si/projekti/IOM_izobrazevanje_policistov_carinikov_EN.pdf.

⁴ GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN 2008 (ANNUAL REPORT 2008) at 10 (2009), available at:

<http://www.vlada.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/si/projekti/trgovina/trgovina.porocilo.MDS08.an.pdf>.

⁵ *Id.* at 4, at 10.

Factors That Contribute to the Trafficking Infrastructure

The primary contributing factor to human trafficking in Slovenia is the location of the country, between the poorer areas of Eastern Europe and the richer areas of Western Europe, making it an ideal transit country.⁶

Forms of Trafficking

Slovenian police have reported that trafficking of Slovenian women internally is usually in the form of prostitution in nightclubs and bars.⁷ The most common form of trafficking into the country is through the issuance of legitimate work permits for laborers and dancers, who are then trafficked into prostitution.⁸ The Slovenian police have reported a few cases of children and disabled individuals being trafficked into the country for the purpose of forced begging.⁹

Government Responses

Article 387a of the Criminal Code of Slovenia pertains to the trafficking of persons. The purchase, transport, sale, delivery, brokerage, or disposal of a person for the purpose of prostitution or any other type of sexual exploitation, slavery, forced labor, servitude, or trafficking in organs, human tissues, or blood is punishable by imprisonment of one to 10 years.¹⁰ The penalty increases to a minimum sentence of three years if the same crime is committed against a minor or by force, threat, or kidnapping,¹¹ or if committed by a criminal organization.¹² Individuals who enslave another person for their own purposes, or for the purpose of sale or delivery, or who induce others to sell their own freedom or the freedom of a dependent are to be punished by imprisonment for one to 10 years.¹³ A sentence of imprisonment for six months to five years will be given to any person who transports anyone in the condition of slavery,¹⁴ and an increased sentence of a minimum of three years' imprisonment will be given to any offender who commits the same crime against a minor.¹⁵

⁶ Government of Slovenia *supra* at 3.

⁷ Government of Slovenia *supra* at 4, at 10.

⁸ GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, 2008-2009 ACTION PLAN OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP FOR COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS at 8 (2007), *available at*: http://www.vlada.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/si/projekti/trgovina/AN_an_2008-09.pdf.

⁹ EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, THEMATIC STUDY ON CHILD TRAFFICKING: SLOVENIA at 33 (2008), *available at*: <http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Child-trafficking-09-country-sl.pdf>.

¹⁰ Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia, 2005, art. 387a(1), *available at*: http://www.policija.si/portal_en/zakonodaja/pdf/PenalCode2007.pdf.

¹¹ *Id.* at 10, art. 387a(2).

¹² *Id.* at 10, art. 387a(3).

¹³ *Id.* at 10, art. 387(1).

¹⁴ *Id.* at 10, art. 387(2).

¹⁵ *Id.* at 10, art. 387(3).

Exploiting, obtaining, instructing, or encouraging another person for the purposes of prostitution is punishable by imprisonment for three months to five years.¹⁶ The sentence is increased to a minimum of one to 10 years' imprisonment if the crime is committed against a juvenile or as part of a criminal organization.¹⁷ If a minor is used to manufacture or act in pornography in the form of pictures, audiovisual, or other media, a sentence of up to three years' imprisonment will be given.¹⁸

An amendment to the Aliens Act has allowed for the issuance of a temporary residence permit to foreign victims of trafficking. Victims now have a three-month window of legal residency to make a decision concerning their future involvement in criminal proceedings against their traffickers.¹⁹ While victims are not required to be involved in criminal proceedings in order to stay in the country, if they do decide to become a witness in criminal proceedings, a temporary residency permit for an additional three months will be issued. This permit can then be extended until the conclusion of the trial. If victims do not cooperate in criminal proceedings, they will be subject to the general conditions of residency permits.²⁰

Furthermore, victims who decide to participate in criminal proceedings are then protected under the Witness Protection Act of 2005. Regulations and procedures are in place to not only protect victims in cooperation with the police from their traffickers, but also to provide medical, psychological, and legal assistance in conjunction with nongovernmental organizations. Other victim rights under this framework include the protection of privacy, protection while giving testimony, respect and recognition, and compensation for wages lost during the trial.²¹

In 2007 and 2008, there were a total of 28 cases filed under Slovenian laws against trafficking and prostitution (articles 387, 387a, and 185). There were 76 identified victims, and complaints were filed against 51 suspects.²² In response to the growing number of trafficking cases, the Ministry of Interior has been requiring police officers to complete procedural training in combating trafficking in persons at both the domestic and international level since 2002.²³ Training in issues pertaining to human trafficking is now a required part of the curriculum for both prosecutors and judges within the Justice Training Centre, and one-day seminars are frequently held within the Supreme State Prosecutors Office.²⁴

In 2009, Slovenia created the Interdepartmental Work Group (IWG) Action Plan for Countering Trafficking in Human Beings in 2010-2011.²⁵ This plan is centered on preventive activities, especially raising trafficking awareness of the general public and target groups,

¹⁶ *Id.* at 10, art. 185(1).

¹⁷ *Id.* at 10, art. 185(2).

¹⁸ *Id.* at 10, art. 187(2).

¹⁹ COUNCIL OF EUROPE, ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: MEASURES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS, PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL SEMINAR, at 71 (2007), available at: http://www.coe.int/t/DG2/TRAFFICKING/campaign/Source/eg-thb-sem7-2007_Proceedings.pdf.

²⁰ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights *supra* at 9, at 23.

²¹ *Id.* at 20, at 31.

²² Government of Slovenia *supra* at 4.

²³ COUNCIL OF EUROPE, FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON SLOVENIA (2003-2005) at 86 (2006), available at: <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=984025&Site=COE>.

²⁴ 2008 – 2009 Action Plan *supra* at 8, at 7.

²⁵ GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, 2010-2011 ACTION PLAN OF THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP FOR COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (2009), available at: http://www.vlada.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/si/projekti/trgovina/AN_2010_-_2011_angl.pdf.

and education and training of professional staff working in the counter-trafficking field, such as police officers, state prosecutors, pedagogical and social workers, and diplomatic-consular representatives in offices abroad.²⁶

Nongovernmental and International Organizations Responses

Successful cooperation with NGOs has played an integral role in the government's antitrafficking efforts. The two key NGOs operating in Slovenia, the Ključ Society and Caritas Slovenia, provide a wealth of programs dedicated to protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, as well as raising public awareness through activities focused on education and prevention.²⁷ The two NGOs launched a two-pronged project "Care for the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Slovenia" in 2008, with funding scheduled through 2009. The "Temporary Accommodation" prong, carried out by Caritas Slovenia, provides physical and psychological aid to victims sent to the NGO from the police immediately after rescue, including protection and accommodation.²⁸ The Ključ Society is responsible for the "Protected Accommodation" prong.²⁹ This part of the project also offers psychological and physical assistance, but its primary focus is the provision of legal counsel and protection during court proceedings against the victim's traffickers.³⁰ "Reintegration" is a follow-up project run by Ključ Society, in which victims who have gone through recovery begin a reintegration process into society, in an effort to avoid revictimization and to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.³¹

The media in Slovenia have provided a great deal of assistance in efforts to raise public awareness on the issue of trafficking in persons. Television and radio programs have covered 50 cases of trafficking, documentaries have been released in both print and television versions, and numerous articles have been published on the issues of trafficking and violence against women.³² Informational material on trafficking is being provided to migrants at Slovenian borders, as well as to applicants for work permits, in an effort to raise awareness.³³ Furthermore, the Ključ Society distributes FELIX cards under the umbrella of "Care for the Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings". Nineteen thousand cards were printed with information on how potential victims of trafficking could protect themselves and have been distributed in more than 130 locations throughout Slovenia.³⁴

The Ključ Society also focuses on educating children through lectures, workshops, letters, and posters on the dangers of trafficking. In 2008, "Project Violet—How to Avoid the Traps of Human Trafficking" was implemented in primary and secondary schools as a public awareness campaign.³⁵ Nineteen workshops were attended by 580 secondary school children. Eighty workshops attended by 2,400 secondary school students were carried out by the

²⁶ 2008-2009 Action Plan *supra* at 8, at 2.

²⁷ Government of Slovenia *supra* at 4, at 6.

²⁸ 2008-2009 Action Plan *supra* at 8, at 14.

²⁹ 2008-2009 Action Plan *supra* at 8, at 16.

³⁰ Ključ Society, <http://drustvo-kljuc.si/care.php> (last visited May 26, 2010).

³¹ *Id.* at 30.

³² Government of Slovenia *supra* at 4, at 5.

³³ 2008 – 2009 Action Plan *supra* at 8, at 6.

³⁴ Government of Slovenia *supra* at 4, at 7.

³⁵ Ključ Society, <http://drustvo-kljuc.si/vijolicaen.php> (last visited May 26, 2010).

Commitment to Non-Violence project in affiliation with four other Slovenian NGOs,³⁶ and an additional 312 students attended 10 workshops on the prevention of trafficking, sponsored by the “You Too Are Part of This World” project.³⁷

A border-monitoring mechanism is in effect, ensuring a regular presence of NGO representatives at the state borders with the task of monitoring the accessibility of asylum procedures as a part of the Project for Introducing Mechanisms for Detection and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and/or Sexual Violence in Asylum Procedures in Slovenia (PATS). The presence of NGOs at the borders has enhanced mutual trust between the police and NGOs. The main nongovernmental actor is the Ključ Society, which conducts informational interviews with minors and single women accommodated in the Asylum House as a part of the project.³⁸ These interviews provide information to potential victims about trafficking dangers, protection, and assistance programs, and also serve as a method to gather information on trafficking.³⁹

In light of the increasing number of victim service programs provided through NGOs, a new career as a “counselor from experience” is being advocated by the Interministerial Working Group on the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings (IWG). Providing counseling, assistance, and support throughout the legal process requires an experienced individual who is proficient in navigating the legal system as it applies to victims of trafficking. The IWG feels that creating a professional standard in this vocation is essential, and would also be useful in other victim service areas.⁴⁰

Multilateral Initiatives

Slovenia is a party to many multilateral treaties related to trafficking in persons. Slovenia has ratified the International Labor Organization’s (ILO) Convention 29 on Forced Labor (1992), Convention 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labor (1997), Convention 138 on Minimum Age (1992), and Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2001).⁴¹

Slovenia has also ratified many UN treaties. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1992),⁴² the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1992),⁴³ the CRC Optional Protocol on the

³⁶ Government of Slovenia *supra* at 4, at 7.

³⁷ *Id.* at 36, at 8.

³⁸ VITA HABJAN, THE PEACE INSTITUTE, REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BORDER MONITORING MECHANISM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA at 21 (2007), *available at*: [http://www.humanrightspoint.si/files/att/HR_Border%20Monitoring%20Situation%20Report%20\(Slovenia\).pdf](http://www.humanrightspoint.si/files/att/HR_Border%20Monitoring%20Situation%20Report%20(Slovenia).pdf)

³⁹ Ključ Society, <http://drustvo-kljuc.si/patsen.php> (last visited on May 26, 2010).

⁴⁰ 2008 – 2009 Action Plan *supra* at 8, at 2.

⁴¹ ILO, *ILOLEX: Database of International Labor Standards*, <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newwratframeE.htm> (last visited May 27, 2010).

⁴² United Nations Treaty Collection (UNTC), *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)- signatories*, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm> (last visited May 27, 2010).

⁴³ UNTC, *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)- signatories*, http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en (last visited May 27, 2010).

Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (2004),⁴⁴ and the CRC Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2004).⁴⁵ Slovenia has been a party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children since 2004.⁴⁶

In September 2009, Slovenia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ UNTC, *CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography-signatories*, http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11-c&chapter=4&lang=en (last visited May 27, 2010).

⁴⁵ UNTC, *CRC Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict-signatories*, http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11-b&chapter=4&lang=en (last visited May 27, 2010).

⁴⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children-signatories*, available at: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/countrylist-traffickingprotocol.html> (last visited May 27, 2010).

⁴⁷ Council of Europe, *Archives 2009 on changes concerning treaties*, http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Archives/News/V3News_2009.asp (last visited May 27, 2010).