

Sport & Physical Activity - Slovenian Community

Basic Facts:

- Slovenia became an independent country in 1991 upon its independence from Yugoslavia.
- The capital city is Ljubljana.
- The 2003 Census showed it had a population of just under 2 million people.
- It is a fairly mountainous area with outdoor activities and skiing and mountaineering featuring as some of the most popular activities.
- Its climate is Mediterranean.

Demographics:

- The official language is Slovenian, which is a member of the South Slavic language group. Hungarian and Italian enjoy the status of official language in the nationally mixed regions along the Hungarian and Italian border. Slovenia's largest ethnic group is Slovenian followed by Croats, Serbs, Bosnians as well as ethnic Italian and Hungarian minorities.
- Slovenia's ethnic groups are: Slovenians (89%); Croats, Serbs, Bosniaks and other nationalities of the former Yugoslavia (10%); and the ethnic Hungarian and Italian minorities (0.5%).

Immigration:

- Since 2004, Worker Registration figures show that only **659** Slovenians have registered for work in England. A third of these are concentrated in Central London, the remainder scattered across the country in small numbers.

Health:

- In 2006, total health spending accounted for 8.5% of the GDP. Slightly lower than the OECD average of 8.9%.
- Life expectancy at birth based on WHO 2004 figures stood at 73 years for men and 81 for women.
- The daily smoking rate among adult men was 31.8% in 2005, and 21.1% amongst women. above the OECD average of 23.7%.
- Research on obesity has revealed that the rate of people with an excessive body weight was as high as 15%, and in children, 9% obesity rates were recorded. In adolescents, the proportion of those with excessive body weight amounted to 5%.



Religion:

- Although there are 43 religious groups that report their existence to the appropriate state authority, nearly 60% of the population is Roman Catholic according to 2002 figures. The remainder do not account for more than 5% of the population. The next largest recorded were Islam at 2.4% and (Serbian and Macedonian) Orthodox at 2.3%.

Physical Activity and Sport:

- According to the Ministry of Education and Sport, 50% of Slovenians participate in some sort of sports activity with 17% doing this on a regular basis.
- The Health Movement has existed for a long time in Slovenia. In 1999, the Sport Union of Slovenia introduced a joint label for a healthy way of movement "Slovenia in Movement - with Movement towards Health". Its purpose has been to encourage as many adults and elderly citizens of Slovenia as possible to engage in regular moderate physical activities.
- Linked to the above, they have also developed a quality label "**Healthy Club**" designed to demonstrate to the public that their offer of "healthy exercise programmes" is of a high quality.
- The most popular physical activities that Slovenians is those linked to the country's landscape such as skiing (cross country and alpine), mountain climbing, kayaking and canoeing.
- Football and basketball are also relatively popular sports.
- Due to the success of the ACH Volley, a volleyball club competing in European competition, the sport has seen a big rise in popularity.

For more information about partnership working with the Slovenian community please contact Sporting Equals on **0121 777 1375**.

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