

Brief Guide to the Main Slovak Political Parties

Government:

Smer-sociálna demokracia: SMER-SD (Direction-Social Democracy): Robert Fico

- Main party in government, left-leaning

Slovenská národná strana: SNS (Slovak National Party): Ján Slota

- Xenophobic, nationalist

Ludová strana - Hnutie za demokratické Slovensko: ĽS-HZDS (People's Party – Movement for a Democratic Slovakia): Vladimír Mečiar

- Dominant party of 1990s, much more moderate in rhetoric and actions in 2000s

Opposition:

Slovenská demokratická a kresťanská únia- demokratická strana: SDKÚ-DS (Slovak Democratic and Christian Union): Mikuláš Dzurinda

- Forefront of neo-liberal agenda of 2002-6;

Kresťanskodemokratické hnutie: KDH (Christian Democratic Movement): Pavol Hrušovský

- a Catholic conservative party

Strana maďarskej koalície: SMK (Party of the Hungarian Coalition): Pal Csáky

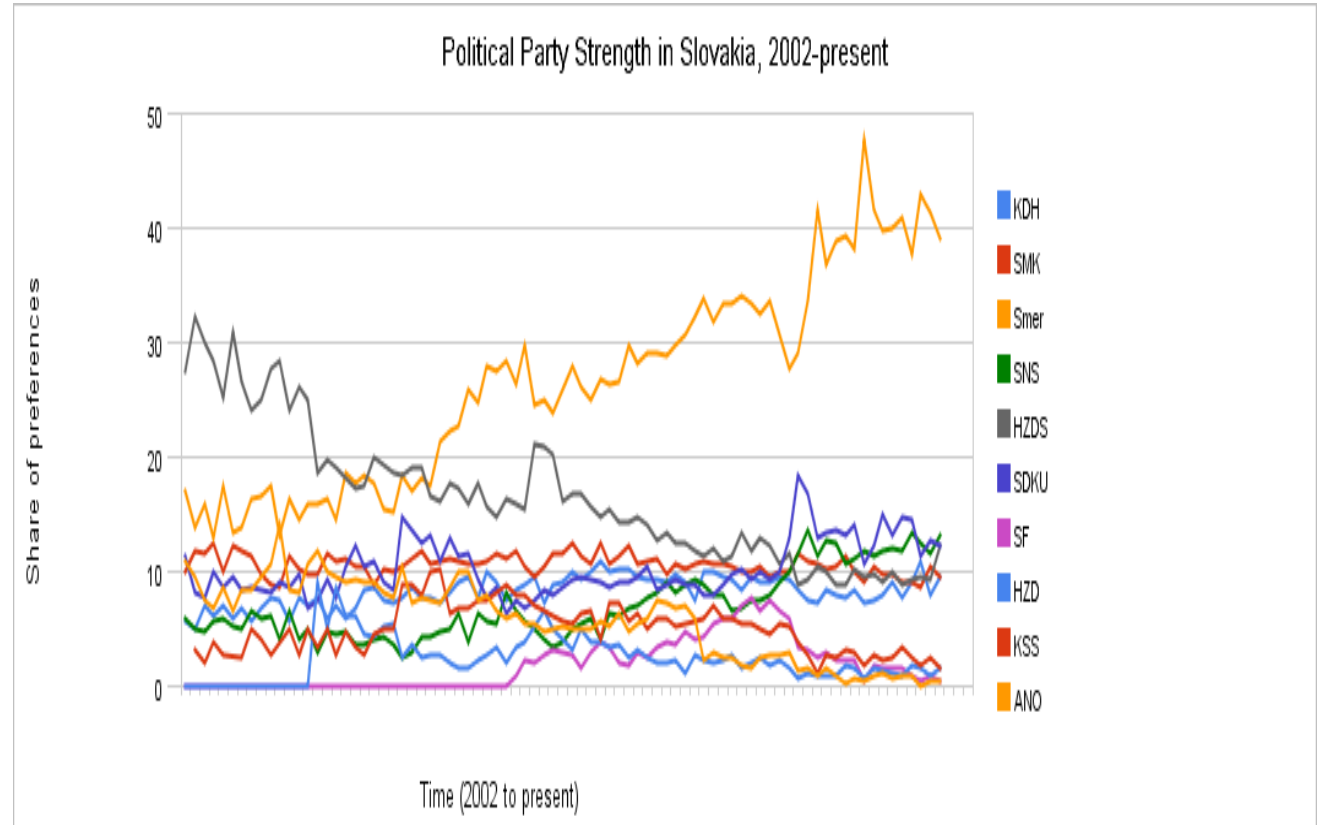


Table 1 Slovak Parliamentary Election Results 2006

Party	2006		Seats	Change from 2002	
	Votes	%		Votes	%
Smer-SD (Smer-Social Democracy)	671 185	29.14	50	+284 085	+15.68
SDKÚ-DS (Slovak Democratic and Christian Union)	422 815	18.35	31	-11 138	+3.26
SNS (Slovak National Party)	270 230	11.73	20	+69 513*	+4.76*
SMK (Party of the Hungarian Coalition)	269 111	11.68	20	-51 958	+0.52
ĽS-HZDS (People's Party – Movement for a Democratic Slovakia)	202 540	8.79	15	-358 151	-10.71
KDH (Christian Democratic Movement)	191 443	8.31	14	-45 759	+0.06
KSS (Communist Party of Slovakia)	89 418	3.88	0	-92 454	-2.44
SF (Free Forum)	79 963	3.47	0	-	-
ANO (Alliance of the New Citizen)	32 775	1.42	0	-197 534	-6.59
HZD (Movement for Democracy)	14 728	0.63	0	-79 569	-2.65
Others	58 931	2.60	0	-	-
Totals	2 303 139	100.00	150	-	-

Turnout: 54.67 per cent.

*calculated using the combined total for SNS (95 633) and PSNS (105 084) in the 2002 elections

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Table 2a Issue Dimensions in the Slovak Party System (based on Rohrschneider/Whitefield expert survey, 2004)

Issue Dimension	Mean
Economy: re-distributional issues (for example, tax levels, welfare state spending)	1.44
Economy: state-run versus market economy	1.80
Nationalism and Internationalism (for example, views about the EU)	2.20
Democracy: strengthening democratic institutions	2.63
Ethnic rights (for example, minorities)	3.14
Religiosity (role of church)	3.50
Social rights (for example, lifestyle)	3.50
Views of the Communist past and its legacies	4.00

Respondents were asked: Could you please indicate how important each issue dimension is in the party system of Slovakia? Where a score of 1 is the most important issue, 2 is the second most important issue, 3 is the third most important issue and 4 is the fourth most important issue and 9 is insignificant as an issue. I am grateful to Stephen Whitefield for allowing me to use these data.

Table 2b The Importance of Themes for Political Parties (based on expert survey conducted by Marek Rybář, 2006. (See Tim Haughton and Marek Rybář, forthcoming, 'A Change of Direction: the 2006 Parliamentary and Party Politics in Slovakia, *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics*, June 2008).

	Smer–SD	SDKÚ–DS	SNS	SMK	ĽS–HZDS	KDH	ANO	KSS
European integration	3.6	1.9	5.1	2.4	3.8	2.4	3.1	5.4
Slovakia's NATO engagement	3.3	1.8	3.6	2.8	3.7	2.9	3.6	3.2
Entrepreneurship and free market	2.4	1.1	3.7	2.6	3.1	2.3	1.4	3.3
Traditional morality	5.3	4.2	2.6	3.3	3.6	1.0	3.3	5.6
Law and order	1.9	3.4	2.6	3.7	4.0	1.4	4.2	4.1
Multiculturalism	4.3	3.9	1.8	1.1	4.2	3.8	3.4	5.4
Social justice and welfare state	1.1	3.8	3.4	2.8	3.0	3.1	4.2	1.1
Decentralization	4.9	2.9	4.1	1.5	4.4	3.8	4.1	5.5
Democracy	3.8	2.4	5.3	2.3	4.7	2.5	2.7	5.1
Religious versus secular principles	4.1	3.9	3.1	3.7	4.1	1.0	1.8	3.4

Respondents were asked to rank the issues for each political party on a running scale from 1 to 7 where 1 was 'very important' to 7 representing 'not important at all'

Table 3 Parties' Main Campaign Slogans in the 2006 Elections

	Main Campaign Slogans
Smer-SD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the direction of people • Go and decide
SDKÚ-DS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We'll finish the reforms already begun • So the reform efforts are not wasted • It's about sensitive and just solutions • It's about quality education and a strong economy • Education brings greater opportunities • Equal chances for all families • It's about a successful Slovakia • It's about a self-confident Slovakia in Europe
SNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let's return Slovakia into the hands of Slovaks! • We are Slovaks. Vote SNS • For the Slovaks a Slovak government. Let's not waste the chance! We are voting SNS
SMK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like decent people. Yes, I'm going to vote Bugar • I have my values. Yes, I'm going to vote for Bugar • I don't want to be disappointed, yes I'm going to vote for Bugar • We'll do what is necessary • You will decide the responsibility is with us • Use your opinion • Let's put everything into it
ES-HZDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When in the morning the town awakes, the factory is full of people, work, pay, satisfaction, that's how I see the future! • It is difficult to live fabulously with only 8000 crowns a month. A new car, flat and house? Decide with reason • Opportunity for all
KDH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Decent Life in Slovakia; • For real values, for the family, for you; • For the strength of truth, for justice, for you;
KSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Security and Respect for Citizens
SF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greens vote for Free Forum • Want a change? Vote for it • It doesn't matter what others tell you, what's important is what you say. Stop being silent • Your vote is important
ANO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She/Her? Yes • English for everybody • Stop the Vatican Treaty • For Civic Partnerships • Lower contributions [odvody]
HZD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the People and For the People • The President trusts us, vote for his programme • You trust in the president, trust in us

Table 4 Content Analysis of Party Manifestos in the 2006 Elections
 (number of paragraphs plus percentage of the total)

Party	Economic and financial policy	Social policy	Health	Education and Research	Religion/secular values	Nation/Ethnic minorities	Culture	Agriculture	Regional policy	Foreign and security (including defence)	Justice and interior	EU	Other	Total
Smer-SD	87 (27.3%)	61 (19.1%)	24 (7.5%)	28 (8.8%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (3.1%)	13 (4.1%)	7 (2.2%)	11 (3.4%)	2 (0.6%)	22 (6.9%)	8 (2.5%)	46 (14.4%)	319
SDKÚ-DS	42 (11.6%)	29 (8.0%)	36 (10.0%)	47 (13.0%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	17 (4.7%)	5 (1.4%)	37 (10.2%)	45 (12.5%)	40 (11.1%)	14 (3.9%)	47 (13.0%)	361
SNS	44 (7.8%)	39 (6.9%)	40 (7.1%)	40 (7.1%)	17 (3.0%)	75 (13.2%)	44 (7.8%)	55 (9.7%)	42 (7.4%)	69 (12.2%)	34 (6.0%)	7 (1.2%)	60 (10.6%)	566
SMK	58 (12.3%)	42 (8.9%)	20 (4.3%)	51 (10.9%)	4 (0.9%)	63 (13.4%)	8 (1.7%)	25 (5.3%)	67 (14.3%)	42 (8.9%)	23 (4.9%)	24 (5.1%)	43 (9.1%)	470
ES-HZDS	25 (11.3%)	20 (9.0%)	12 (5.4%)	29 (13.1%)	2 (0.9%)	4 (1.8%)	10 (4.5%)	11 (5.0%)	13 (5.9%)	41 (18.6%)	26 (11.8%)	4 (1.8%)	24 (10.9%)	221
KDH	8 (5.8%)	21 (15.2%)	17 (12.3%)	8 (5.8%)	4 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)	9 (6.5%)	4 (2.9%)	8 (5.8%)	18 (13.0%)	21 (15.2%)	7 (5.1%)	13 (9.4%)	138
SF	34 (13.3%)	21 (8.3%)	20 (7.9%)	29 (11.4%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (2.8%)	7 (2.8%)	11 (4.3%)	20 (7.9%)	23 (9.0%)	14 (5.5%)	67 (26.4%)	254
KSS	17 (15.0%)	29 (25.7%)	8 (7.1%)	15 (13.3%)	1 (0.9%)	2 (1.8%)	9 (8.0%)	2 (1.8%)	4 (3.5%)	5 (4.4%)	3 (2.7%)	3 (2.7%)	15 (13.3%)	113
HZD	23 (9.3%)	17 (6.9%)	18 (7.3%)	21 (8.5%)	0 (0.0%)	17 (6.9%)	12 (4.8%)	14 (5.6%)	9 (3.6%)	20 (8.1%)	40 (16.1%)	10 (4.0%)	47 (19.0%)	248
ANO	89 (18.2%)	38 (7.7%)	15 (3.1%)	31 (6.3%)	10 (2.0%)	6 (1.2%)	21 (4.3%)	21 (4.3%)	14 (2.9%)	21 (4.3%)	29 (5.9%)	10 (2.0%)	185 (37.8%)	490

