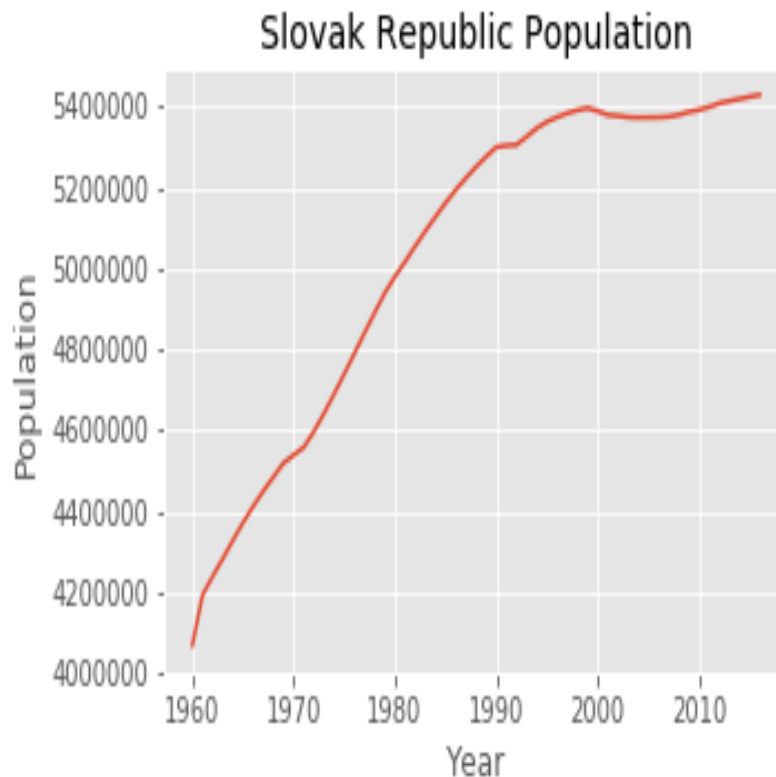


Slovak Republic



Coordinates: 48°40′N 19°30′E﻿ / ﻿48.667°N 19.500°E﻿ / 48.667; 19.500 – in Europe (green & dark grey) – in the European Union (green) – [Legend] Slovakia /sloˈvæki, slˈ-, -ˈvˌ-/ (listen); Slovak: Slovensko [ˈslɔʊ̯ɐnsko] (listen)), officially the Slovak Republic (Slovak: Slovenská republika, listen (help·info)), is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It is bordered by the Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east, the Czech Republic to the west, Hungary to the south, and Austria to the southwest. Slovakia's territory spans about 49,000 square kilometres (19,000 sq mi) and is mostly mountainous. The population is over 5 million and comprises mostly of Slovaks. The capital and largest city is Bratislava. The official language is Slovak. The Slavs arrived in the territory of present-day Slovakia in the 5th and 6th centuries. In the 7th century, they played a significant role in the creation of Samo's Empire and in the 9th century established the Principality of Nitra. In the 10th century, the territory was integrated into the Kingdom of Hungary. After World War I and the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Slovaks and Czechs established Czechoslovakia (1918–1939). A separate (First) Slovak Republic (1939–1945) existed in World War II as a client state of Nazi Germany. In 1945, Czechoslovakia was re-established and under Communist rule became a Soviet satellite. In 1989, the Velvet Revolution ended Communist rule in Czechoslovakia. Slovakia became an independent state on 1 January 1993 after the peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia, sometimes known as the Velvet Divorce.