



# **Religion and politics in Slovakia**

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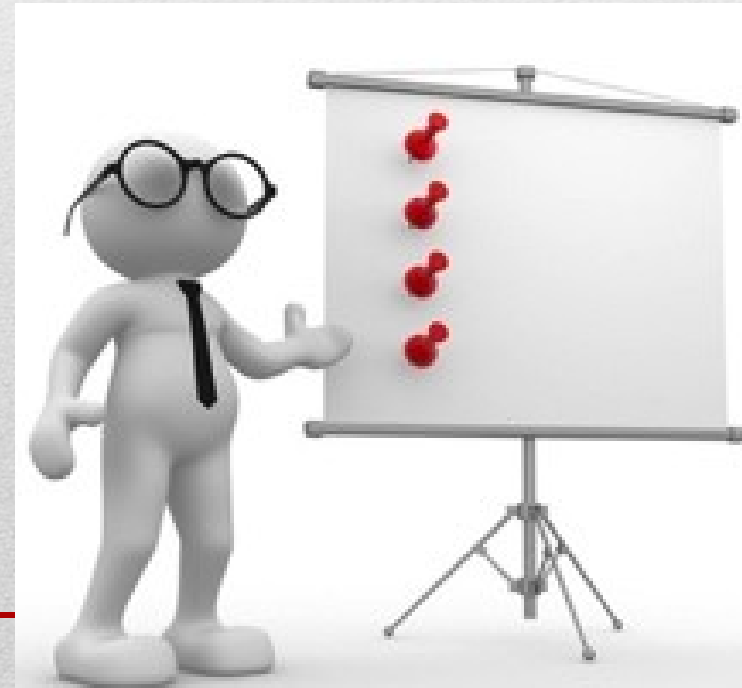
Lukáš Vetrák

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- 1. Historical backgrounds of religion
- 2. Relationship between religion and politics
- 3. Religion and its role in education
- 4. Current challenges towards religion
- 5. Resources

# **Main points of presentation**

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- Central European state
- Slovakia is recognized as a religious country with 75,5 % of believers ( Roman Christians – 62 %, Lutherans - 5,9 %, Greek Catholics - 3,8%, Reformed Christians– 1,8 %, the others – not believers, without confession)
- The majority of believers are made of Christians -> who practice their belief in everyday life, visit churches and participate in christian activities. There are 18 registered churches
- Slovakia guarantee its inhabitants the freedom of religion

# Basic notions about Slovakia

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- **1. Great Moravian Empire-** arrival of 2 apostoles – Cyril and Method – spreading of Christianity
- **2. Austro – Hungarian empire ( 906/7 -1918) –** Slovakia was part again just part of huge geographic unit where the religious majority was Christianity
- **3. Czechoslovakia First republic (1918-1938)**
- **4. Slovak state (1939-1945) –** authoritative régime, corporate division of society, clero-fascist ideology
- **Communist régime (1948-1989)** suppression of religion

# **Historical background of religion**

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- Since Slovakia's independence 5-6 relevant political parties in Parliament (National Council of Slovak republic)
- Christian oriented: KDH (Christian democratic movement), SDKU-DS (Slovak democratic and christian union), SNS (Slovak national Party)
- Others: SMER-SD (social democrats), SAS (Freedom and Solidarity), Most-Hid (hungarian minority party), Ordinary people

# Politics and religion

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- KDH: programme aimed on believers, traditional values, family, marriage, cultural roots, economic liberals
- SDKU-DS: up to 2012 family, children, integration to NATO EU, now loosing electorate
- Smer-SD: populists, strong state, state intervention, agreement with Cat. church not to open controversial themes

## **Parties cooperating with Church (Catholic)**

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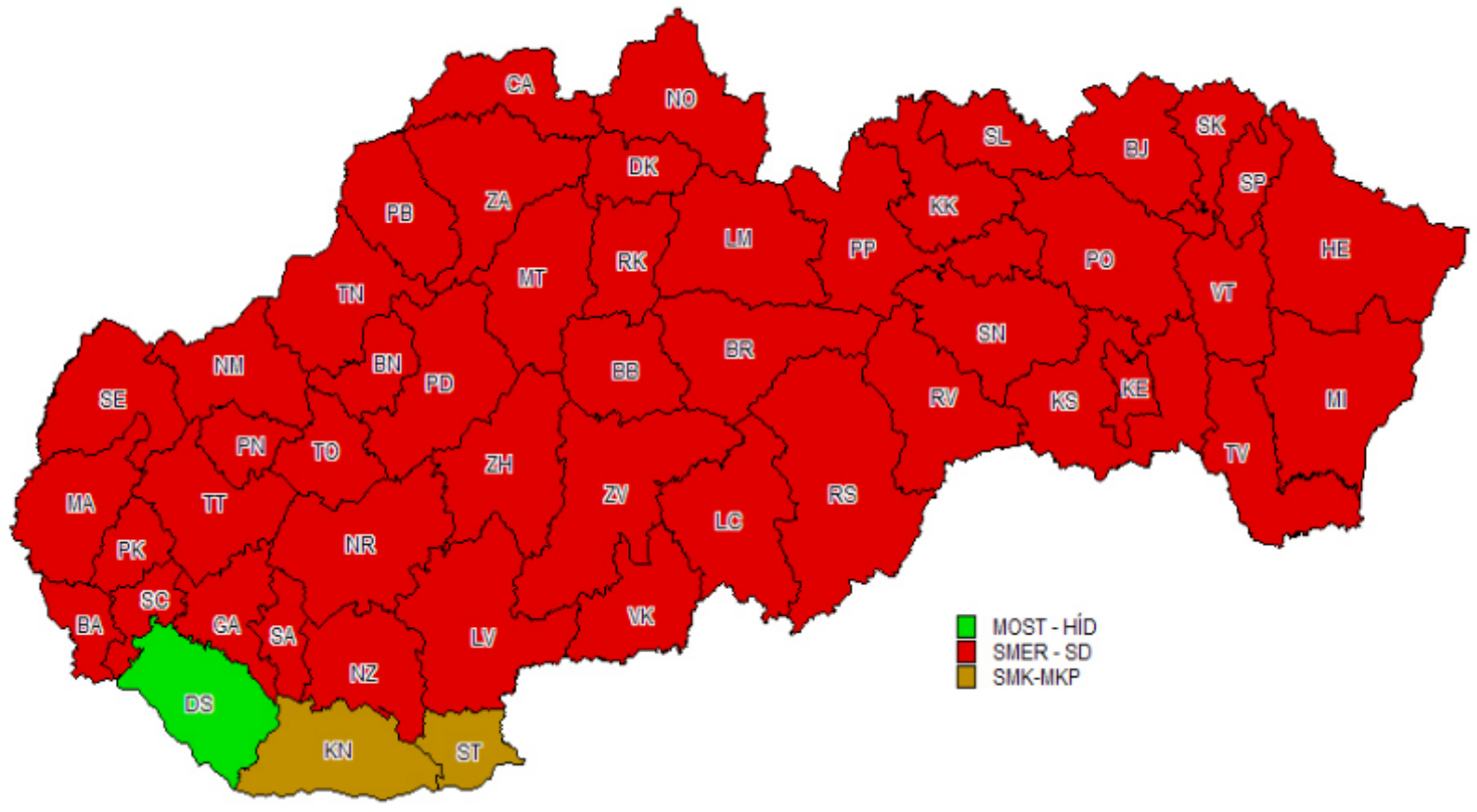
- 1. Weak political willingness- believers 75,5 % of slovak population
- 2. Strong position of Catholic Church- 62 % of slovak population
- 3. Different views on state-church relation
- Example: Constitutional amendment on Marriage pro Christian – an unique union of one man and one woman

Vs

- Slovakia is free democratic country , no ideology or state religion

## **Causes of close relation between parties and church**

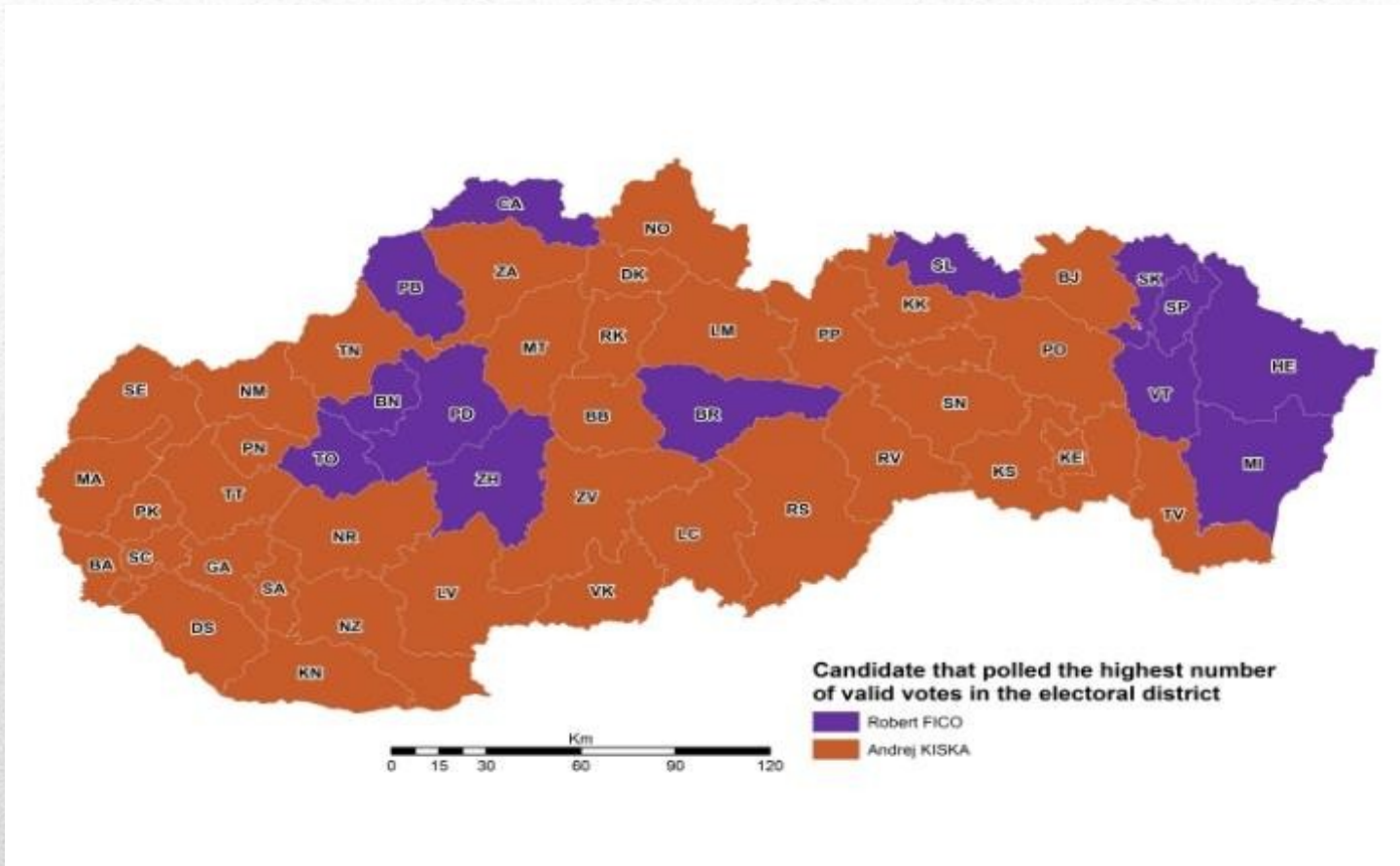
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**Political parties with the highest number of valid votes casted by wards**

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**Candidate that polled the highest number of valid voters in the electoral district**

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- **Two basic acts:**
- ACT 308/1991 ZB.
- Law of freedom of religion belief and placement of church and religious groups
- ACT 395/2004 Z.z.
- Agreement between Slovak republic and registered churches and religious groups about religious education

# **What the institution says about education and religion**

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- Education: state and church
- About 200 religious schools- elementary, secondary schools, Universities, other educational organization
- Education in religious schools are organized in accordance of studying plan approved by Ministry of education of Slovak republic
- Religious schools receive the same financial support in accordance with legal order as state schools
- Children can choose between religion and ethics, voluntary

# Religion as part of education

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- 1. From state budget – schools, in which education is seems as preparation for practicing work in that region
- 4 churches denied the financial support from state
- 2. From taxes of villages, upper regional unit
  - A, all types of schools( kindergardens, elementary, secondary schools) from 1.1. 2005
  - B, all types of schools ogranized by Church or private sector from 1.1.2007

# Finance in education

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Church	2000	2014	2015
Roman Catholic Church	9 935 006	22 144 957	22 357 404
Augsburg Lutheran Church	1 820 255	3 777 481	3 816 991
Greek Catholic Church	1 536 513	3 879 145	3 926 448

# Finance devoted to Churches from state budget ( in euros)

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## Schools

- For each student there is normative contribution – fix amount of money paid for one student
  - Normative finance is not sufficient enough for proper working of schools - > Taxes from villages supports schools with reconstructions and bigger investments ->schools receive finance from the state and church as well

# Finance in education

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- Village establishes the amount of contribution for each student – managing of state and non state money as well
- For a student of religious educational facilities there is 88 % of basic contribution for a student of state educational facilities

# Finance in education

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- **Slovak same-sex marriage referendum 2015**

- -founded by Alliance for family

- -huge debate between supporters and opponents – christian believers versus libertines

- Three basic questions:

- 1. Do you agree that marriage is the bond between man and woman, nobody else?
- 2. Do you agree that the couple of same sex are not allowed to adopt child and bring it up?
- 3. Do you agree that children do not have to participate in sexual education and euthanasia at school without permission of parents?

# **Current challenges for society**

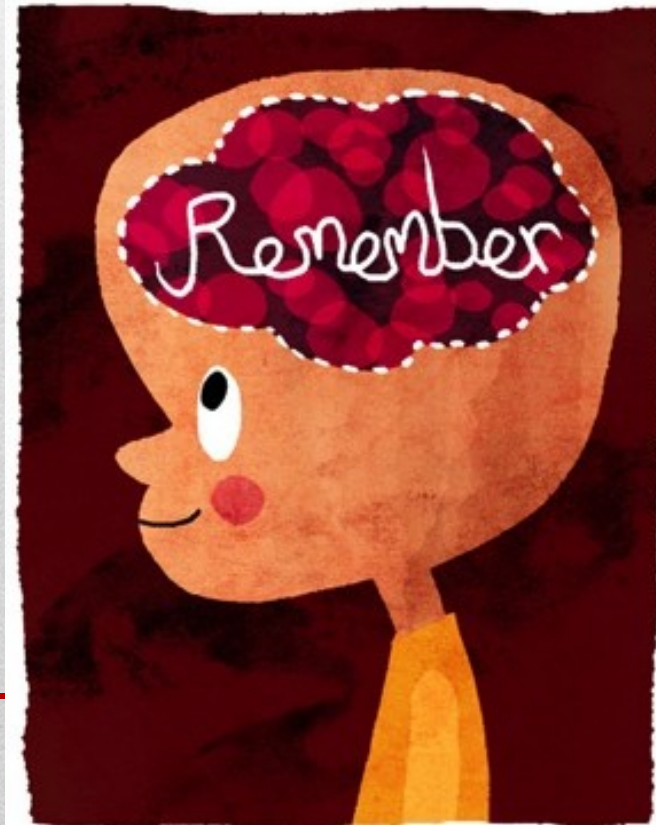
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- Strong bond between state and church
- Influence of church every sector - Church recognized as strong source of power
- Slovakia consists mostly of believers

**To remember:**

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# Resources

