

Slovak Football Association

Region: Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

World Cup appearances: None

Best World Cup finish: N/A **Current FIFA Ranking:** 34th

Continental titles: None

Country's population: 5,470,306 **GDP (per inhabitant):** \$21,200 **Life expectancy:** 75.62



Group F	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA
Italy						
Paraguay						
Slovakia						
New Zealand						

Name	Pos	No.	Club (league)	Caps	G
Jan Mucha	G	1	Legia Warszawa (Poland)	14	0
Dusan Pernis	G	12	Dundee United (Scotland)	2	0
Dusan Kuciak	G	23	Vaslui (Romania)	3	0
Name	Pos	No.	Club (league)	Caps	G
Peter Pekarik	D	2	Wolfsburg (Germany)	20	1
Martin Skrtel	D	3	Liverpool (England)	38	5
Marek Cech	D	4	West Bromwich Albion (Eng.)	39	5
Radoslav Zabavnik	D	5	Mainz (Germany)	43	1
Jan Durica	D	16	Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia)	36	1
Kornel Salata	D	21	Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia)	3	0
Martin Patras	D	22	Cesena (Italy)	28	1
Zdeno Strba	M	6	Skoda Xanthi (Greece)	20	0
Vladimir Weiss	M	7	Manchester City (England)	8	0
Jan Kozak	M	8	Timisoara (Romania)	23	2
Marek Sapara	M	10	Ankaragucu (Turkey)	24	2
Miroslav Stoch	M	15	Chelsea (England)	11	1
Marek Hamsik	M	17	Napoli (Italy)	31	8
Juraj Kucka	M	19	Sparta Praha (Czech Republic)	6	0
Kamil Kopunek	M	20	Spartak Trnava (Slovakia)	8	1
Stanislav Sestak	F	9	Bochum (Germany)	30	10
Robert Vittek	F	11	Lille (France)	69	18
Filip Holosko	F	13	Besiktas (Turkey)	37	5
Martin Jakubko	F	14	Saturn Moscow Oblast (Rus.)	22	4
Erik Jendrisek	F	18	Schalke (Germany)	14	2

TEAM NOTES

Top players:

Marek Hamsik is the best attacking player in this group, and with the Slovak plying his trade in the Serie A, the players across Italy's back line will know it. He could have his way against the New Zealand and Paraguay midfields.

Martin Skrtel will need to find his fitness after injuries shortened his Liverpool season, but central defense partner Jan Durica provides another quality option for Vladimir Weiss.

Miroslav Stoch had a strong year on loan and Dutch champions Twente and can provide another needed option if he can carry his club form to South Africa.

Keys to success:

Slovakia have the players to win this group. The question is whether they will realize it. This is their first major tournament, and they've been grouped with the defending champions. They also have a dangerous Paraguay team in their quartet. With a little belief, Slovakia can rise about both of them.

Outlook:

Slovakia's a good bet to get out of Group F, but unless they win the group, they're unlikely to get much farther, facing a potential match with the Netherlands in the Round of 16.