

Future Slovakia Forum Publishes "The Danube Story"

Slovakia at the Crossroads of History: A Story of Courage, Truth, and the Fight for a Nation's Soul

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Future Slovakia Forum (FSF) today publishes *The Danube Story*, an analytical essay examining Slovakia's democratic crisis through three pivotal moments in history: 1968, 1989, and 2025. Authored by FSF founder Dávid Bořuta and sociologist Michal Vašečka, the document provides a comprehensive analysis of the country's steepest democratic decline since the fall of communism.

Context: The November Crisis

The essay was written in response to events of November 2025: the European Commission's infringement procedure against Slovakia over constitutional amendments placing national law above EU law, the government's expedited abolition of the Whistleblower Protection Office, and the emergence of the "Chalk Revolution" — student protests sparked when police questioned a teenager for writing chalk messages critical of the Prime Minister.

Key Findings

Democratic Decline: According to the V-Dem Democracy Report 2025, Slovakia lost nearly 20 percentage points on the liberal democracy index between 2022 and 2024 — the fastest decline in the EU since 1989.

Shifting Electoral Math: The ruling coalition has lost approximately 430,000 votes since taking office. The democratic opposition has gained more than 160,000 votes. Current models project 87 seats for democratic opposition parties versus 63 for the coalition (including the extra-parliamentary movement Republika).

Diaspora Potential: More than 300,000 Slovak citizens live in EU countries alone, with the total diaspora estimated at 1.5 million. In 2023, approximately 72,000 citizens abroad requested postal ballots — a record, but a fraction of the potential. The Brussels Agreement of the Slovak Diaspora, signed November 12, 2025, aims among other things at higher diaspora engagement and support for Slovakia, including through postal voting participation (in 2027).

Central Argument

"Nothing is inevitable. The Danube won't stop. Will you?"

The document argues that Slovakia has encountered the question of truth three times in half a century — and that the third test is happening now. It calls for civic mobilization, diaspora engagement, and focus on real policy solutions over culture wars.

About the Authors

Dávid Bořuta is the founder and director of Future Slovakia Forum, a think tank focused on democratic resilience and evidence-based public policy reform.

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Sources

V-Dem Institute Democracy Reports 2023, 2024, and 2025

European Commission — Infringement Procedure, November 21, 2025

AKO, FOCUS, NMS, IPSOS surveys (October–November 2025)

Brussels Agreement of the Slovak Diaspora, November 12, 2025

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