

## BOSNIAKS IN REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA WITH REFERENCE TO THE CITY OF MARIBOR

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*The paper deals with the Bosniak diaspora in the Republic of Slovenia, i.e. the city of Maribor. Special emphasis is placed on the number, status and organization of Bosniaks in Maribor, from 1921 to 2011. In the past, Maribor was known as a binational city (German, Slovenian), which began to change at the end of the 19th century when Slovenians and Bosniaks became citizens of one state, first the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and later the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes or socialist Yugoslavia. At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, due to the disintegration of socialist Yugoslavia, Bosniaks became a national minority in the Republic of Slovenia. In addition to Bosniaks who have lived in Slovenia before, they are joined by those Bosniaks who temporary or permanently emigrated from Bosnia and Herzegovina and settled in Slovenia during and after the last war. The poor political and economic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has significantly contributed to this. It is estimated that about 100,000 people of Bosnian origin live in the Republic of Slovenia.*

**Key words:** *city of Maribor, Bosniaks, population, emigration, ethnic community.*

### INTRODUCTION

During the war (1992-1995) and the post-war period, there was an exodus of part of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, both inside and outside its borders. The post-war emigration of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina to other countries is conditioned, above all, by the poor political and economic situation in this country. One of these countries was the Republic of Slovenia, i.e. its city, Maribor, the second largest Slovenian city. The geographical position of Maribor has had a positive effect on immigration flows since the middle Ages. During the 13th century, in addition to Germans and Slovenes, the town was inhabited by Jews who contributed to the development of trade in this medieval settlement.

At the end of the 15th century, due to the economic crisis and interfaith intolerance, the Jews had to leave the city of Maribor<sup>1</sup>. For many years, Germans represented the majority of the population of the city of Maribor, and Slovenes mostly lived in suburban and rural settlements. Until the second half of the 19th century, there were no significant interethnic conflicts between these two populations, and the beginnings of the first interethnic intolerance began after the establishment of the so-called dual, Austro-Hungarian monarchy, i.e., during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71. Disagreements culminated in

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sinagogamaribor.si/slo/dediscina/judi-v-mariboru/> (Pristupljeno 12.06.2020.)

1918, when General Rudolf Maister abolished the German City Council. Between the two World Wars the Germans became an ethnic minority in the city and were economically extremely powerful. Due to cooperation with Nazi Germany, the Yugoslav authorities nationalized their property in 1945, after which most Germans left the city (Destovnik, 2012).

Significant immigration of Bosniaks to the territory of the Republic of Slovenia began after the Second World War, although they were present earlier, especially after the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1878 by the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. During the First World War, within the Austro-Hungarian Armed Forces, soldiers of the Fourth Bosnian Infantry Regiment, military designations BH4 and BHIR4, were stationed on the territory of Slovenia. During their stay, from 1915 to 1917, soldiers of the said regiment, of the Islamic religion, built a religious facility, a mosque, to perform obligatory prayers. The mosque was built of stone and wood, and was demolished after the First World War (Mekanović, 2016). Soldiers killed in the Second World War were buried in the Dobrava Cemetery in Maribor, including citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Breže, 2016).

According to the 1921 census, there were 154 Bosniaks, then registered as Muslims - members of the Islamic faith. The number of Bosniaks was constantly increasing, and at the beginning of the 21st century that number was around 760 people.

For the last twenty years, Bosniaks in Slovenia have been trying to integrate as well as possible. They are connected to the Bosniak Cultural Association of Slovenia (BKZS<sup>2</sup>), which is the umbrella organization of Bosniaks in Slovenia. At the founding assembly on November 9, 1996, the cultural associations of Bosniaks in Slovenia adopted the status and elected the bodies of the association. BKZS was officially registered in 1997, and it consists of nine societies: the Association of Bosnian and Slovenian Friendship "Ljilja" from Ljubljana, the Cultural and Sports Association of Bosniaks "Biser" from Jesenice, the Cultural and Sports Association "Sandžak" from Ljubljana, the Association of Countrymen Plava and Gusinja "Izvor" from Kranj, Cultural and Artistic Society "Sevdah" from Ljubljana, Bosniak Youth Cultural Society Velenje, Cultural Art and Sports Society "Behar" from Koper, Cultural and Artistic Society "Zagorski biser" from Zagorje ob Savi and Society "Bosanski dijamant" from Maribor, with its headquarters in Ulica heroja Jevtiča 2. The main task of BKZS is to preserve and nurture the Bosniak tradition, culture and Bosnian language in Slovenia. The Association has its own magazine "Bošnjak", a radio show "Podalpski selam" on Radio Študent and websites "Bošnjak" and "Sokultura.si"<sup>3</sup>

The Islamic religious community in Slovenia, founded in 1967, was and remains part of the Islamic community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Later, through the institution, i.e. the body of the Meshihat, it was formally assigned to manage the Meshihat of the Islamic Community in Croatia and Slovenia, and in 1994, Muslims in Slovenia decided to organize their own administration. Also, religious life is organized through 14 „medžlis“/committees - municipalities, connected in a meshihat. The Board of the Islamic Community in Maribor is headed by Imam Zinaid, ef. Mahmutagić, and the president is Hilmo Avdić.

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<sup>2</sup> Bosanska kulturna zveza Slovenije.

<sup>3</sup> <https://sl-si.facebook.com/BKZS.BKSS/info> - dostupno, 3.10.2016.

## NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA IN THE PERIOD 1948-2002.

National affiliation is a social characteristic of every person, it is basically inherited from parents, and it is rarely acquired in later social processes to which each individual is exposed. There are several causes that cause changes in the national structure of the population. These are most often natural increase (positive or negative in a certain ethnic group), migration of the population (immigration and emigration of certain ethnic groups), changes conditioned by political measures (ethnic cleansing), etc. (Suljić, 2011).

The census data used and analysed in this chapter refer to the period from 1948 to 2002, and have been recalculated according to the 2002 census methodology. We note that the territory of the Republic of Slovenia did not change in the mentioned period, and that the tabular presentation of data was partially modified and adjusted to previous censuses. Namely, before the census, the term „diaspora“ was not used for temporarily (permanently) evicted citizens of the Republic of Slovenia, and the ethnic name for Bosniaks, formerly Muslims. In earlier censuses, persons who identified themselves as Bosnians were considered to be regional rather than ethnic. According to the methodology of the 1953 and 1961 censuses, Ukrainians and Rusyns are shown together, and there was also a section for persons who did not make a national choice - nationally undecided.<sup>4</sup>

Although the national structure of the population of the Republic of Slovenia is very heterogeneous, the share of Slovenes in the total population exceeds 83.0%. As for ethnic minorities, according to the 2002 census, the most numerous were members of the Serb ethnic group, which totaled 38,964 or 1.98%, followed by Croats with 35,642 or 1.81%, and Bosniaks with a total of 21,542. or 1.10% of the total population of the Republic of Slovenia. Also, in addition to the mentioned ethnic minorities from the territory of the former Yugoslavia, Bosnians with a total of 8,062 persons or 0.41%, Muslims with 10,467 persons or 0.53% and Yugoslavs with 527 persons or 0.03% also appear in the mentioned list of the total population of the Republic of Slovenia (Tables No. 1 and 2)

**Table 1. Population by nationality of the Republic of Slovenia, according to the censuses: 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2002.**

	1948	1953	1961	1971	1981	1991	2002
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.391.873</b>	<b>1.466.425</b>	<b>1.591.523</b>	<b>1.679.051</b>	<b>1.838.381</b>	<b>1.913.355</b>	<b>1.964.036</b>
<b>Nationally determined</b>							
Slovenians	1.350.149	1.415.448	1.522.248	1.578.963	1.668.623	1.689.657	1.631.363
Italians	1.458	854	3.072	2.987	2.138	2.959	2.258
Hungarians	10.579	11.019	10.498	8.943	8.777	8.000	6.243
Roms	...	1.663	158	951	1393	2.259	3.246
Albanians	216	169	282	1.266	1.933	3.534	6.186
Austrians	...	289	254	266	146	126	181
Bulgarians	...	49	180	138	103	168	138
Bosniaks	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.542
Czech	...	807	584	442	423	315	273
Montenegrins	521	1.356	1.384	1.950	3.175	4.339	2.667

<sup>4</sup> Statistički ured Republike Slovenije, Popis prebivalstva, gospodinjstev in stanovanj 2002.

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Greeks	...	24	50	24	15	21	54
Croats	16.069	17.978	31.429	41.556	53.882	52.876	35.642
Jews	...	15	21	72	9	37	28
Macedonians	366	640	1.009	1.572	3.227	4.371	3.972
Muslims	366	1.617	465	3.197	13.339	26.577	10.467
Germans	1.824	1.617	732	400	309	298	499
Poles	...	275	222	191	200	196	140
Romanians	...	41	48	41	93	115	122
Russians	...	593	295	297	189	167	451
Rusyns	...	46	384	66	54	57	40
Slovaks	...	60	71	75	139	139	216
Serbs	7.048	11.225	13.609	20.209	41.695	47.401	38.964
Turks	...	68	135	52	86	142	259
Ukrainians	...	...	...	138	190	210	470
Vlachs	...	9	6	4	16	37	13
Other	2.268	352	449	293	526	1021	1548
<b>Nationally undecided</b>							
Identified as Yugoslavs	...	...	2784	6.616	25.615	12.075	527
Identified as Bosnians	...	...	...	...	...	...	8062
Regionally identified	...	...	...	2.652	3.932	5.187	1467
Other	...	...	...	3.012	2.853	8.716	12.085
Without answer	...	...	...	...	...	...	48.588
Unknown	...	211	1.154	26.78	5.301	42.355	126.325

Source: Statistični urad Republike Slovenije, Popis prebivalstva, gospodinjstev in stanovanj, 2002

**Table 2. Population by nationality of the Republic of Slovenia, according to the censuses: 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2002 (in percentages)**

	1949	1953	1961	1971 <sup>2)</sup>	1981 <sup>2)</sup>	1991 <sup>2)</sup>	2002
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Structural share (%)</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Nationally determined</b>							
Slovenians	97,00	96,52	95,65	94,04	90,77	88,31	83,06
Italians	1,10	0,06	0,19	0,18	0,12	0,15	0,11
Hungarians	0,76	0,75	0,66	0,53	0,48	0,42	0,32
Roms	...	0,12	0,01	0,06	0,08	0,12	0,17
Albanians	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,08	0,11	0,18	0,31
Austrians	...	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01
Bulgarians	...	0,00	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01
Bosniaks	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,10
Czechs	...	0,06	0,04	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,01
Montenegrins	0,03	0,09	0,09	0,12	0,17	0,23	0,14
Greeks	...	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Croats	1,15	1,23	1,97	2,47	2,93	2,76	1,81

Jews	...	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Macedonians	0,02	0,04	0,06	0,09	0,18	0,23	0,20
Muslims	0,01	0,11	0,03	0,19	0,73	1,39	0,53
Germans	0,13	0,11	0,05	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,03
Poles	...	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01
Romanians	...	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,01	0,01	0,01
Russians	...	0,04	0,02	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,02
Rusyns	...	0,00	0,02	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Slovaks	...	0,01	0,00	0,00	0,01	0,01	0,01
Serbs	0,50	0,77	0,86	1,20	2,27	2,48	1,98
Turks	...	0,01	0,01	0,00	0,00	0,01	0,01
Ukrainians	...	...	...	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,02
Vlachs	...	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Other	0,16	0,02	0,03	0,02	0,03	0,05	0,08
<b>Nationally undecided</b>							
Identified as Yugoslavs	...	...	0,18	0,39	1,39	0,63	0,03
Identified as Bosnians	...	...	...	...	...	...	0,41
Identified regionally	...	...	...	0,16	0,21	0,27	0,07
Others	...	...	...	0,18	0,16	0,46	0,62
Without answers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,47
Unknown	...	0,01	0,07	0,16	0,29	2,21	6,43

Source: Statistični urad Republike Slovenije, *Popis prebivalstva, gospodinjstev in stanovanj, 2002*

### Religious structure of the Republic of Slovenia population in 1991 and 2002

Data on religions after World War II were listed only in the 1953 and 1991 censuses. According to the 1991 census, the largest number of the population of the Republic of Slovenia, by religion, declared themselves Roman Catholics, about 1.4 million people or 71.0% of the total population of Slovenia, then as members of the Orthodox faith, about 47,000 or 2.0% of the population Slovenia, and members of the Islamic faith 29,361 persons or 1.5% of the total population of Slovenia, and the least were members of the Protestant faith, about 19,000 or 1.0% of the total population. About 15.0% of the population of the Republic of Slovenia, which is over 294,000 people, did not want to declare themselves in terms of religious affiliation. According to the 2002 census, more than 2.4% of the total population of the Republic of Slovenia declared themselves to be members of the Islamic faith. So, in the period 1991-2002. the number of members of the Islamic religion increased by about 61.8% or 18,127 people. The largest number of members of the Islamic religion lived in urban settlements, about 88.4% or 29,326 people, according to the 1991 census, and about 87.0% or 47,488 people according to the 2002 census. About 11.6% or 3,410 persons lived in suburban settlements, according to the 1991 census, or about 11.0% or 6,183 persons according to the 2002 census (Table 3).

**Table 3. Number and share of members of the Islamic religion by type of settlement in the Republic of Slovenia according to the 1991 and 2002 censuses**

Census year	Total		Cities		Rural settlements	
	1991 <sup>1)</sup>	2002	1991 <sup>1)</sup>	2002	1991 <sup>1)</sup>	2002
<b>Total population of Slovenia</b>	<b>1.913.355</b>	<b>1.964.036</b>	<b>971.502</b>	<b>997.772</b>	<b>941.853</b>	<b>966.264</b>
<b>The total number of members of the Islamic faith</b>	29.361	47.488	25.951	41.305	3.410	6.183
	<b>Structural share (%)</b>					
<b>Total population of Slovenia</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>The total number of members of the Islamic faith</b>	1,5	2,4	2,7	4,1	0,4	0,6

1) Data recalculated according to methodology of census 2002.

Source: Statistični urad Republike Slovenije, *Popis prebivalstva, gospodinjstev in stanovanj*, 2002

### Spatial distribution of Bosniaks in Slovenian municipalities in 1991.

According to the administrative division at the time of the 1991 census, the Republic of Slovenia was divided into 190 municipalities. Only 20 Slovenian municipalities were not inhabited by Bosniaks, which means that, in spatial terms, they were very dispersed in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. Thus, Bosniaks lived in 170 Slovenian municipalities,

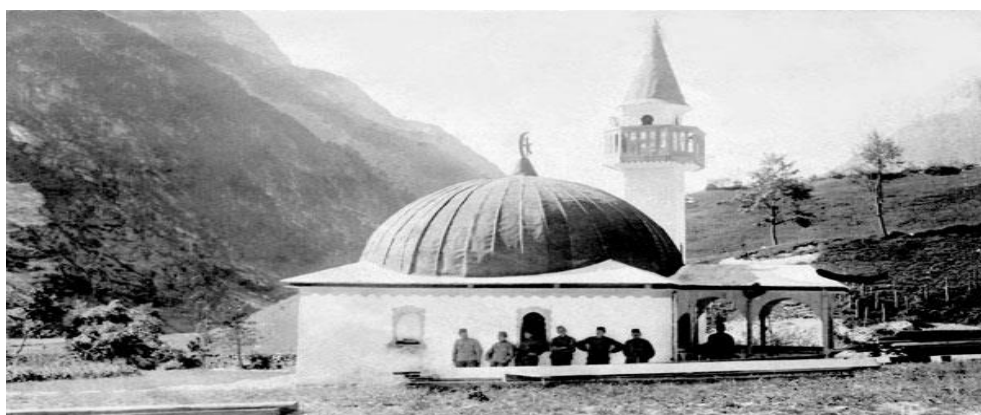


Fig. 1: The mosque in Log below Mangart

Source: Husein Sejko Mekanović – *bošnjak.si*, poseban prilog, br. 6.

but with a different number of persons in individual municipalities (Table 4). Bosniaks most often inhabited urbanized and industrialized areas of the Republic of Slovenia. In absolute terms, most Bosniaks live in Ljubljana, about 7,882 people, while in relative terms the largest share of Bosniaks is in the municipality of Jasenica, which is the 17th largest municipality in Slovenia, and in which Bosniaks make up about 14.5% (3,271 people) of the total population of this municipality. Only 760 Bosniaks or 0.63% of the total population of

this municipality live in the second largest Slovenian municipality, Maribor (Table 5). A total of 18,097 Bosniaks live in ten Slovenian municipalities, which represents about 37.8% of the total number of Bosniaks in the Republic of Slovenia.

**Table 4: Bosniaks in Slovenia by municipalities in 1991.**

Number of Bosniaks	Number of municipalities
Without Bosniaks	20
1 -100	131
101 - 200	14
201 - 300	6
301 - 400	7
401 - 500	2
501 - 1000	6
1001 - 2000	1
2001 - 3000	1
More than 3000	2
<b>Total number of municipalities</b>	<b>190</b>

*Source: Census 1991.*

**Table 5. Municipalities with more than 500 Bosniaks in 1991**

Municipality	Municipality population	number of Bosniaks	Share (%)
Ljubljana	272.650	7.882	2,89
Jesenice	22.548	3.271	14,5
Velenje	33.428	2.178	6,51
Koper/Capodistria	45.805	1.003	2,18
Kranj	50.863	804	1,58
<b>Maribor</b>	<b>119.828</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>0,63</b>
Trbovlje	19.337	645	3,33
Zagorje ob Savi	16.960	535	3,15
Kamnik	24.734	515	2,08
Celje	50.648	504	0,99
<b>Total</b>	<b>656.801</b>	<b>18.097</b>	<b>37,84</b>

*Source: Census 1991.*

### **National structure of Maribor in the period 1921-2002.**

According to the population censuses from 1921 to 2002, members of 32 nations have so far declared their ethnicity in Maribor, and according to the 1991 census, when national identity is the most diverse, as many as 24 nationalities were present. At that time, there were 10,460 persons belonging to ethnic minorities in the city, or 7.8% of the total population of the municipality of Maribor. Croats had the largest share in ethnic minorities with 5,282 people, followed by Serbs 3,090 people and Bosniaks (Muslims) 809 people.

According to the 2002 census, the share of these ethnic minorities in the total population of the municipality of Maribor decreased. There were 2,534 Croats, 2,049 Serbs, and 591 Bosniaks, who were able to declare themselves as Bosniaks for the first time (Table 6).

According to the 2002 census of the Republic of Slovenia, there were a total of 110,668 people living in Maribor, of which 97,184 people, or 87.81%, were national. More than 10.0% of the population of the municipality of Maribor did not make a national choice, or they did not know their ethnicity (8,924 people). More precisely, that number is 13,484 people, or 12.2% of the total population of this city. The absolute majority were Slovenes with over 81.0% and 89,650 persons, respectively, while the share of committed ethnic minorities was 6.8% or 7,534 persons. Based on the share of allochthonous (immigrant) population, the municipality of Maribor shows an average multiethnicity.

The typology of multiethnicity is defined according to the share of allochthonous (immigrant) population in the total population of an area (settlement), (Gosar, 1992):

- a) extreme multiethnicity (above 25% of the non-native population),
- b) average multiethnicity (from 5% to 25% of the non-indigenous population),
- c) below average multiethnicity (less than 5% of the non-indigenous population).

**Table 6. National structure of Maribor in period of 1921.-2002.**

Census year	1921	1931	1948	1953	1961	1971	1981	1991	2002
<b>Slovenians</b>	<b>30.739</b>	<b>46.251</b>	<b>60.940</b>	<b>72.315</b>	<b>145.511</b>	<b>160.365</b>	<b>168.149</b>	<b>133.791</b>	<b>89.650</b>
<b>Bosniaks</b>									<b>591</b>
<b>Muslims</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Bosnians</b>									<b>288</b>
<b>Yugoslavs</b>		<b>31.727</b>			<b>117</b>				<b>36</b>
Albanians			32		33	76	277	476	548
Austrians				80		102	48	39	26
Belgians		1							
Bulgarians					10	27	8	15	
Czechs			228		126	99	72	42	
Montenegrins			33	117	190	209	290	372	186
Czechoslovakian		429							
French		2							
Greeks						2		1	
Croats			2.337	2.681	4.643	6.508	6.714	5.282	2.534
Hungarians		10	50	65	88	100	99	98	70
Macedonians			62	94	147	214	322	377	258
Without answer									3.492
Germans		1.613	268	327		103	81	76	59
Other Slovenes				315					
Polaks		10				22	27	35	
Roms			1			12	117	402	613
Romanians		3	10		3	3	21	35	
Russians		86	128			47	30	14	
Rusyns/Ukrainians			22			11	4	4	
Slovaks			18		9	3	10	6	
Serbs			502	1.070	1.435	2.038	2.904	3.090	2.049
Swiss		1							
Italians		18	68	26	24	33	24	14	15



Turks					1	2	1	7	
Ukrainians		3				18	21	16	
Vlachos								1	
Jews		12				6	1	1	
Other nat. undecided	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	735
Other and unknown	...	...	...	...	590	27			8.924
Other/nat. determined	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	265
Other/ Undetermined	...	...	298	107	...	...	49	57	...
Reg. determined	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Source: Popisi stanovništva RS 1921. - 2011.

According to the 2002 census, there were 2,337 people in the Maribor municipality who declared that they belonged to the Islamic religion. Out of a total of 110,668 inhabitants of Maribor, 51,493 of them chose Catholics, 364 people as Protestants, 2,420 people as Orthodox, 337 people profess another religion, while 4,799 people do not belong to any of the religious communities. 14,914 people declared themselves as atheists, 24,305 people did not want to answer the question whether they were believers/atheists, and 9,699 people did not know their religious affiliation (Table 8).

Table 7. Number of Bosniaks (Muslims) in Maribor 1921-2002.

Year	Maribor population	Bosniaks (Muslims)	Share	Slovenia population	No of Bosniaks (Muslims) in Slovenia	Share (%)
1890	19.898	...	...	...	...	...
1900	24.601	...	...	...	...	...
1910	27.994	...	...	...	...	...
1921	30.739	154	0,5	1.250.885	...	...
1931	46.251	217	0,46	...	...	...
1948	65.009	15	0,02	1.391.873	179	...
1953	70.815	117 <sup>5</sup>		1.466.425	1617	0,11
1961	82.560	11	0,01	1.591.523	465	0,03
1971	96.895	92	0,09	1.727.137	3231	0,19
1981	106.113	291	0,27	1.891.864	13.425	0,71
1991	103.961	809	0,77	1.965.986	26.842	1,36
2002	93.847	1198	1,27	1.948.250	40.071	2,06

Source: Popisi stanovništva: 1890, 1900, 1910, 1921, 1931, 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2002, 2011. Bučar, R. A., Migracije in kriminaliteta, pogled čez meje stereotipov in predsodkov, ZRC SAZU, 2014.

Table 8. Religion of the population of Maribor in 1991.

Religion	Religions in Maribor 1991	
	Total	Share (%)
Catholics	51.493	46,5

<sup>5</sup> Nationally undecided Yugoslavs - Muslims

Protestants	364	0,3
Orthodox	2.420	2,2
Islam	2.337	2,1
Other	337	0,3
Non-religious	14.914	13,5
Do not belong to any religion	4.799	4,3
Without answer	24.305	21,9
Unknown	9.699	8,7

### **Muslim cemetery in Maribor**

Since 1990, due to the significantly increased number of Muslims in Maribor and its surroundings, the desire to arrange a Muslim cemetery (cemetery) has been expressed, which is the first cemetery intended for this population in the Republic of Slovenia. The Assembly of the City of Maribor gave its consent for a Muslim cemetery to be formed at the Dobrava cemetery. The Islamic Community, headed by the Imam, participated in the preparation and construction of the cemetery. At the beginning of 2015, the cemetery was expanded. About 200 people have been buried in that cemetery to this day. Today, they perform burials (funerals) in cemeteries in Jesenice, Kranj and Krško. Due to religious and bureaucratic difficulties, members of the Muslim population still often decide to transport and bury their dead in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **CONCLUSION**

The analysis of the results according to the censuses in Slovenia and the number and status of the Bosniak/Muslim population is specific due to their own position on the choice of ethnicity. The national orientation of Bosniaks has often changed throughout history (Bosnians, Bosniaks, Muslims, undecided, Yugoslavs, etc.). According to the 2002 census, their territorial population is heterogeneous and dispersed throughout the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. They mostly live in urban areas. Most of them live in the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, and in some municipalities (due to mining and ironfactory) their share is up to 15.0% of the population of individual municipalities. In terms of the total number, the Bosniak/Muslim population in Maribor ranks sixth, and they have been present in the city for more than 100 years.

Both in the Republic of Slovenia and in the city of Maribor, by organizing cultural and religious life, they integrated well in the new environment of their residence. There are slightly more members of the Islamic religion in Maribor than the number of Bosniaks. After more than 105 years of living in Slovenia, members of the Islamic religion opened a mosque in Ljubljana in 2020, i.e the Muslim Cultural Center Ljubljana. Also, in Maribor and some cities they have their own facilities where they can perform religious rites.

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