

17. Slovakia – Transport

What role does transport play in the Slovak economy?

Nowadays it represents one of the main limits for regional development of Slovakia. The transport infrastructure is low developed but its quality increases now. Our homeland has significant, strategic location according to transport links connecting the East with the West and the North with the South. However, it seems to be very difficult to decide how and where to build a new motorway which would make life for most of the Slovaks easier. The mountainous relief puts strain on projecting the new corridors of significant lines comparable with West-European roads or railways. On the other hand, the density or total length of transportation links is good but the quality remains questionable. We can distinguish five main means of transport. They vary in suitability of what to transport and what means would carry certain type of items (goods, products).

Give examples of such corridors.

Do you know any saddlebacks in Slovakia? Name the mountains they pass through.

1. Road transport

- they realize 90% of transport, people and goods mostly
- lack of highways (it needs to connect wealthier western with relatively poorer eastern part of the state)
- important lines:
- main nodes:



Why is this means of transport the most dangerous one?

Which chemical elements released by the combustion engines pollute natural environment the most?

Locate and briefly describe the D1, D2, R1 motorways.

2. Railroad transport

- goods are transported more than people
- the sparsely network (not in every town) and too slowly
- main lines connect
- main junctions:

What group of people uses such transportation means?



3. Water transport

- it has low significance because the country does not reach a sea → river transport only
- the cheapest and the most ecological transport
- ship transport is realized only on the Danube river
- the biggest harbours:

What commodity was carried by the wooden rafts southwards off the northern regions?

Name 2 purposes of the river transport.

Give one disadvantage of the water transport.

Which rivers represent the major waterway with a canal connecting the North Sea and the Black Sea?



4. Air

- the fastest and the most expensive type
- the most common for people
- airports:

Have you ever flown? Give 2 examples of destinations directly linked with Slovakia.

Locate the main airports on the map of the Slovak Republic.



5. Pipeline

- What can we move by pipeline?
- gas pipeline *Bratstvo* (from))
- oil pipeline *Družba* (.....) and *Adria* (.....)

Locate the major pipelines on the map of Slovakia.

Keywords

strategy, line, transport, corridor, means, items, goods, 1-, 2-, 3-class roads, highways/motorways, railways, port/harbour, airport, pipeline, ship, train, truck, junction/node, crossroad, canal, river, sea, fuel, efficiency, (dis)advantage