

MUNICIPALITY OF BRATISLAVA - RAČA

BASIC INFORMATION

According to the data from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, the city district of Bratislava – Rača had 21, 384 inhabitants as of December 2016.

Rača is situated at the southeastern foot of the Little Carpathians at an elevation of 174 metres above sea level. It is 8 kilometres away from the centre of the capital, Bratislava. Rača is trying hard to preserve the character of its traditional winemaking community, and a village atmosphere can still be observed. Thanks to the extensive and intensive settlement of the capital, new inhabitants come to Rača each year. The combination of a modern community with a provincial air, and surrounding forests and vineyards is a decided plus for those who make it their home.

Rača, an autonomous village in the past, is mentioned in written sources originating from the first half of the 13th century. In the second half of the 16th century, Rača received several privileges and was promoted to a town. After the Second World War, Rača was administratively associated with Bratislava. At present, the city district of Rača is one of 17 districts of the capital city, Bratislava, and is headed by the mayor of the city district. The district office and its individual departments are coordinated by the superintendent of the office. Within the framework of self-government activities, the advisory, initiating and controlling bodies of the local parliament are made up of expert committees. The local parliament consists of 15 elected deputies. Local parliament meetings are held approximately every five weeks, and deputies decide on important issues related to the city district. Another body in the structure of the city district is the Local Council, which is the initiating, executive and controlling advisory body of the mayor. Self-government of the city district involves managing issues of local importance.

There are seven kindergartens and two elementary schools in the area of the city district. Apart from these, there is a religious elementary school In Rača, a secondary school and five vocational secondary schools focused on media studies, information technology, software engineering, hotel hospitality and commerce, and electro technology. There is also a police college – the Police Corps Academy.

Compared to other city districts in Bratislava, Rača is not dominated by industry or administration as in Podunajské Biskupice, for example, where the industrial giant Slovnaft is located, or in Devínska Nová Ves with its Volkswagen manufacturing plant.

From a regional perspective, Rača is best described as a marginal city district with the characteristics of a vineyard area. In the 50s of the last century, the first housing estates were constructed in what was then, a village environment. The sprawling housing estates began to alter significantly the rural character of Rača, and urban life began making inroads on village traditions. This was an important step in its transformation into a modern city. The inhabitants of the newly built housing estates came mostly from other parts of Bratislava or other Slovak towns and villages, and the resulting population growth put pressure on the city district to modernize urban public transport. Nowadays, the direct and relatively rapid road system connecting nearly all city districts of Bratislava, makes Rača a good place to live, even for those who travel to work.

One of the foremost sectors of the economy in the municipality is agriculture – viticulture and winery. A favorable geographical location predisposes the land for this purpose. The winemaking community is currently enjoying a period of rejuvenation, and the number of winemakers and viticulturists who actively devote themselves to this tradition is only increasing. The city district is keen to support them; moreover, it appreciates their efforts to enlarge agricultural land through the leasing of abandoned vineyards that are subsequently restored. In addition to winemaking, there are many smaller private companies of different types in Rača.

Educational facilities in Rača are wide-ranging, including pre-school facilities (kindergartens, nurseries), elementary schools, high schools, secondary vocational schools of various kinds, and even a college. Of these, their founder - the local municipal office of Rača, only manages kindergartens and nurseries. The city district of Rača is involved in the development of various educational projects, and the municipality actively supports the mutual cooperation of schools in Rača with schools located in partner cities abroad (Priverno in Italy, Gols in Austria, Morawica in Poland). As regards Morawica, Rača cooperates in organizing cultural stays, summer schools and language courses. Each year, students from a local vocational school of hotel management and tourism have the opportunity to use their skills in social and cultural events organized by the city district within the framework of their education.

