PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE RED CROSS EMBLEM AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN SLOVAKIA

Representative survey of 1,050 adults | 12–17 December 2025

KEY MESSAGE

The Red Cross emblem is widely recognized, but understanding of both the emblem and international humanitarian law (IHL) remains limited.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

BROAD RECOGNITION, BUT IMPORTANT GAPS REMAIN

68.3%
correctly identified the Red Cross emblem

64.4%
knew the emblem is protected by international law

23.0%
mistook the Swiss flag for the Red Cross emblem

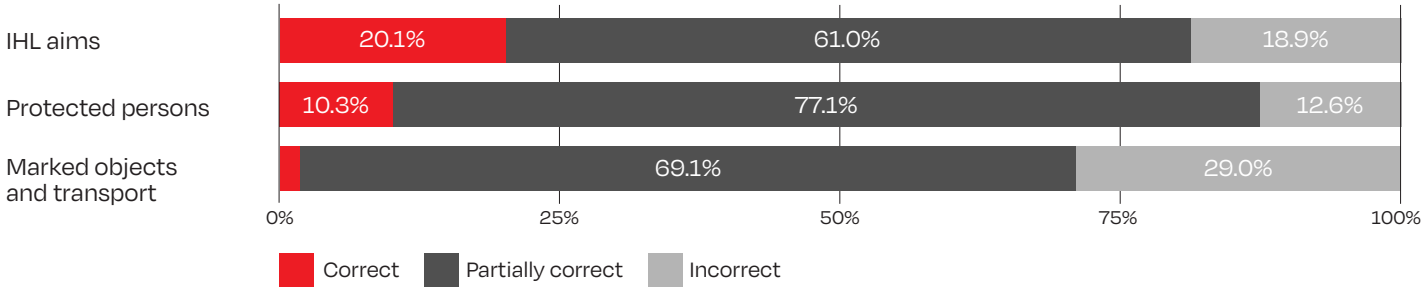
SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE DROPS SHARPLY

20.1%
fully correct on the aims of IHL
61.0% were partially correct

10.3%
fully correct on who is protected by the emblem
77.1% were partially correct

1.9%
fully correct on marked objects and transport
69.1% were partially correct

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE



The three knowledge indicators are based on four items each. A fully correct results requires all four items to be classified correctly.

WHAT THE RESULTS MEAN

Who shows higher knowledge?

- Higher education is consistently associated with better knowledge of both the emblem and IHL.
- Correct emblem identification tends to be higher in larger municipalities compared with municipalities of up to 1,000 inhabitants.
- Correct emblem identification is higher among men than women, while differences in IHL knowledge are smaller and less consistent.
- Age shows only small and inconsistent differences, while no clear adjusted differences are found between macro-regions.
- Previous awareness of IHL and use of related information sources are associated with better IHL knowledge.

Priority actions for communication and education

- Move beyond recognition: explain the emblem's legal meaning, protective and indicative role and correct use.
- Strengthen practical understanding of IHL: explain its main aims and who and what it protects.
- Use short, concrete and scenario-based learning materials
- Prioritize outreach to groups with lower education and municipalities where knowledge gaps are greater.

Source: Slovak Red Cross survey on public knowledge of the Red Cross emblem and international humanitarian law, conducted by Ipsos via Instant Research. The survey used a representative sample of the adult population of Slovakia by age, sex, education, region and municipality size.

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