

BEYOND GREEN

INNOVATION CAPITAL
#innovativeSlovakia

NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

April 18 | 2024

Last year, AmCham Slovakia successfully launched its ESG Committee. Thanks to the dedication of its members and the huge interest in this topic, the first few meetings and discussions generated so many ideas that a dedicated conference began to take shape.



The solution to these problems is the best investment opportunity of our generation.

MARTIN HOJSIK



On April 18, the “Beyond Green: Navigating the Future of Responsible Business Practices” brought together experts and enthusiasts in Einpark, the only certified

carbon neutral building in Slovakia.

The opening speeches of the conference were delivered by Marián Hlavačka of Corwin, who stressed the importance of having the management as well as the community of employees on board when implementing ESG principles in your company. Martin Mašťalír, AmCham Slovakia's President, and Erika Vitálošová of PwC, as the Chair of AmCham ESG Committee, were next on stage to welcome the guests. They both talked about the unprecedented challenges the planet and humankind are facing, and their transformative potential. These topics will also be explored in detail at AmCham's upcoming Festival of the Future in September, where an entire day will be dedicated to the topic of ESG.

The conference program continued with two intriguing panel discussions. The first one dealt with Diversity and Inclusion in the Supply Chain. The panelists shared their own experience of introducing

these principles within their organizations and their supply chain, the main challenge being the complexity of supply chains in larger companies. They recommended adopting a complex outlook and described the process as a journey, which needs to start with hiring and then be transferred through all other stages of the company's operations.



The more diversity you bring into your company, the more creative you can be.

ASTRID MOZES



As Pavel Šubrt of the European LGBTIQ Chamber of Commerce



pointed out, the private sector also has to realize its responsibility and potential to introduce the ESG agenda: “When it comes to diversity and inclusion, the corporate segment needs to step in, especially if the government is not up to it.”

The second panel was focused on Green Finance, where our panelists covered the expert intricacies of this topic, as well as the overall mindset that the companies as well as banks should adopt. They also talked about the pros and cons of the growing amount of legislation in the EU, the banks' desire to introduce more standardization to eliminate greenwashing, as well as about what kind of ESG reporting data is relevant for the banks. Liz Curmi of Citi encouraged businesses not to be passive and reactive, but to be at the forefront of the ESG discussion to reap benefits.

Gaia Arzilli of AWorld took the stage between the panels to energize and inspire the audience with her personal story, as well as that of the sustainability platform Aworld. Her energy and passion for the cause were

contagious, and her main message was: “Unite your vision with your actions, as all changes rely on us as individuals!”

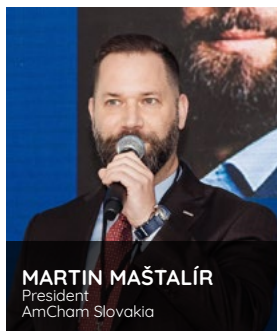


The world in the current state needs more passion.

GAIA ARZILLI



The guests also had the privilege to enjoy a presentation by Martin Hojsik, Vice-President of the European Parliament, who opened it by saying that we have surpassed the limits of our planet. However, his overall message was very positive, as he encouraged the Slovak business community to perceive this situation as the best investment opportunity of our generation. He sees the biggest potential in innovative companies, and Slovakia must try



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hard to attract them, as well as to motivate Slovak innovative companies by offering them support and opportunities.

Anna Michalková of Seesame added valuable data from a survey of consumers in Slovakia, which complemented many of the claims heard during the day. The outcomes clearly indicated that the Slovak public wants companies to inform about their ESG initiatives and that this information may impact their consumer decisions. Anna Michalková underlined the growing importance of ESG by adding: "ESG is becoming a new reputational index for companies."

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ANNA MICHALKOVA



During the entire day, the conference attendees were able to enjoy

delicious and healthy vegan refreshments and meals prepared exclusively by VegLife. After a tasty lunch, which didn't leave anyone sleepy and tired, it was time for the most interactive part of the program – the Ideation Sessions. Within these, the audience members could sign up for one of five available thematic brainstorming workshops, each focused on a specific ESG-related topic discussed during the conference. These topics were then explored in detail, in a small group and in the presence of experts and a facilitator. Eventually, each group presented the main outcomes of its discussion to the entire audience



during the final part of the program.

The active participation of audience members in the round-table discussions and the evident energy, passion, and interest throughout the day were the best proof that the topic of ESG is gaining more traction!

More information can be found on: www.amcham.sk

