

INVESTING IN HEALTHCARE AND BIOTECH

January 23 | 2025

As healthcare and biotech continue to evolve at a rapid pace, investing in these sectors has never been more critical. This business breakfast brought together industry leaders to highlight key trends, opportunities, and challenges in the space. The discussion centered around three main issues: strengthening regional connections, attracting more capital, and reversing brain drain to draw in top international talent.

While the CEE region boasts highly skilled scientists, their expertise often doesn't translate into investable innovations. Funding remains limited, and Europe still lacks an

efficient capital market, facing more red tape compared to the U.S. and China. The conversation also covered regional success stories and alternative financing opportunities to bridge this gap.

There was widespread agreement on the need for strong collaboration between academia, the public sector, and private industry to secure long-term investments (spanning 15-20 years) in healthcare and biotech. With the sector in its early stages of development and an abundance of talent, there are significant opportunities for future growth.



■ Daniel Gašpar of Crowdberry



■ Radim Dvořák of the European Commission Representation in Slovakia



■ From left: Tomáš Jucha of AmCham Slovakia; Anna Michalková, Moderator; Emília Mamajová of ESPIRA Investments; Michal Nešpor of Crowdberry; Pavol Marcinko of Váš Lekár; and Martin Smatana, Analyst



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HEALTHY EMPLOYEES AS A PILLAR OF COMPANIES' GROWTH

January 22 | 2025

How can healthier employees drive greater productivity and success for your business? This was the focus of our "Healthy Employees as a Fundamental Pillar of Companies' Growth" business breakfast. Expert panelists shared alarming trends related to health issues and the lack of preventive healthcare habits in Slovakia, stressing why employee health should be a company priority and how it impacts competitiveness.

The key takeaway was clear: prevention and promoting healthy lifestyles are crucial, and these can be influenced by our own choices.

Panelists emphasized the importance of early prevention, personalized health strategies, and the need to normalize conversations around mental health and menopause in the workplace. They explained how employers can play a key role in supporting employee well-being, which in turn enhances productivity, strengthens company branding, boosts attractiveness to top talent, and reduces turnover and absenteeism costs.

Investing in employee health not only benefits individuals but also fuels overall business growth.



■ Tatiana Sýkorová, Únia zdravotná poisťovňa, Únia poisťovňa



■ From left: Leila Zajac of vsetkoomenopauze.sk; Miroslava Fövényes of liwi.org; Petra Bezáková of Swiss Re Slovakia; Boris Bajer of Váš Lekár; and Zuzana Javorová, Moderator



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