



# FUTURE READY SLOVAKIA

LET'S TALK COMPETITIVENESS

BRATI  
SLAVA

MAY  
22-23

CONFERENCE



TRUST  
IN  
INSTITUTIONS

#FUTUREREADY



GOOD  
BUSINESS  
ENVIRONMENT

#FUTUREREADY



SUSTAINABILITY

#FUTUREREADY



INNOVATIONS

#FUTUREREADY



# AGENDA

DAY I.

**MAY 22**

#FUTUREREADY

**9.00 AM**  
/240MIN.

MAIN EVENT HALL  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇ



MORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

BUSINESS MATTERS:  
SLOVAKIA'S  
COMPETITIVE FUTURE

**2.00 PM**  
/240MIN.

CONFERENCE HALL  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇ



MORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

TALENT RETENTION  
& WORKFORCE ATTRACTION

**3.00 PM**  
/90MIN.

SECOND FLOOR  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇ



MORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

MANUFACTURING:  
HOW TO STAY COMPETITIVE?

# AGENDA

DAY I.

**MAY 23**

#FUTUREREADY

**9.00 AM**  
/240MIN.

MAIN EVENT HALL  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇ



MORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

**SUSTAINABILITY  
& INNOVATION**

**9.30 PM**  
/150MIN.

CONFERENCE HALL  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇ



MORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

**TRUST  
IN INSTITUTIONS**

**1.00 PM**  
/180MIN.

SECOND FLOOR  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇ



MORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

**TRUST: A KEY ELEMENT  
OF EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION  
AND SOCIETAL PROSPERITY**

**9.00 AM**  
/240MIN.

MAIN EVENT HALL  
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MORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

## GOOD BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

The 2025 global economy faces uncertainty, with 3.1% projected growth amid inflation risks, geopolitical tensions, and trade policy shifts. US tariffs complicate trade, impacting the Euro Area's competitiveness despite wage and employment gains. For Slovakia, which is deeply tied to global supply chains,

these changes threaten its key automotive sector, potentially costing €3 billion and 20,000 jobs. On this first conference day, experts will discuss global and Euro Area trends, assessing their impact on Slovakia and exploring strategies to boost competitiveness and mitigate risks.

## AGENDA

- |       |   |       |  |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 9.00  | GRAND OPENING   | 11.35 | SLOVAK COMPETITIVENESS. WHAT IS AT STAKE?  |
| 9.15  | OPENING REMARKS   | 11.50 | BOOSTING INVESTMENT IN SLOVAKIA: BUSINESS PERSPECTIVES ON POLICY AND GROWTH                |
| 9.20  | EU COMPETITIVENESS: WHAT IT MEANS FOR SLOVAKIA  | 12.50 | SMART FISCAL CONSOLIDATION: OECD INSIGHTS ON EFFICIENT PUBLIC SPENDING AND ECONOMIC GROWTH |
| 9.35  | STRENGTHENING SLOVAKIA'S ECONOMY: INVESTMENT, INNOVATION, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPETITIVENESS | 13.00 | CONCLUDING REMARKS   |
| 10.35 | SLOVAK COMPETITIVENESS  |       |  |
| 11.05 | BRUNCH BREAK  |       |  |

## SPEAKERS



RADIM DVOŘÁK, RONIT GHOSE, ERIK FROHM, BRANISLAV REĽOVSKÝ, THEODOROS ANDRIOPOULOS, ANNA MICHÁLKOVÁ, ĽADISLAV KAMENICKÝ, PETER KMEC, VILIAM PÁLENÍK, JOZEF KISS, MARTIN ŠUSTER, MIRIAM GALANDOVÁ, MARTIN MEDVEĎ, RICHARD PANEK, MARTINA BÍLIKOVÁ, MARTINA SLABEJOVÁ

**2.00 PM**  
/240MIN.CONFERENCE HALL  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLAREŇMORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

## TALENT RETENTION & WORKFORCE ATTRACTION

### **Harnessing Foreign Talent: Slovakia's Path within Labor Market Transformation**

Slovakia faces a crucial challenge: ensuring a strong, competitive workforce amid demographic shifts and evolving economic conditions. During this session experts will discuss what steps are necessary to create an inclusive and future-ready labor market and what is already being done in this domain at national and municipal level.

The proportion of Slovak citizens in productive age is expected to decrease by 21.000 by 2030. Slovak companies are the most affected by brain-drain in the region and the least convinced of the

country's ability to attract international talent, limiting their ability to innovate. Despite recent legislative changes, the employers including universities are struggling to bring in foreign talent fast enough to fill their needs. On the other hand, the international talent pool in Slovakia has increased, mostly due to ongoing conflict in Ukraine, yet its potential remains underutilised.

With an aging population and lack of skilled workers, tapping into foreign workforce can support economic growth. Nevertheless, vision and effective cooperation between actors is essential to ensure that foreign workers can contribute positively to the economy and society.

## **SPEAKERS**

IVONA FRAŇOVÁ, VIKTÓRIA SKŘIVÁNKOVÁ, MARTINA SLABEJOVÁ



**3.00 PM**  
/90MIN.SECOND FLOOR  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇMORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

## MANUFACTURING: HOW TO STAY COMPETITIVE?

We are pleased to invite you to an exclusive closed-door session with EIB and OECD representatives tailored for manufacturing companies in Slovakia. This event will focus on the significant opportunities available in the current business climate, driven by technological advancements and strategic financial support. Manufacturing companies can leverage EIB financing for green technologies and combine it with insights from the OECD MAGIC database to optimize their financial strategies.

By understanding the types and levels of subsidies available, companies can better plan their investments and operations to align with government support and market trends. Both EIB and OECD initiatives emphasize the importance of innovation and sustainability, providing a comprehensive framework for companies to enhance their productivity and environmental impact. These opportunities can help manufacturing companies stay competitive and thrive in the evolving business landscape.

The European Investment Bank (EIB), the long-term lending institution of the European Union owned by its Member States, is providing substantial funding for projects aligned with the Green Deal Industrial Plan, focusing on net-zero technologies like solar, wind, battery storage, and carbon capture. Built around eight core priorities, the EIB finances investments that contribute to EU policy objectives by bolstering climate action and the environment, digitalisation and

technological innovation, security and defence, cohesion, agriculture and bioeconomy, social infrastructure, the capital markets union. The EIB Group, which also includes the European Investment Fund (EIF), signed nearly €89 billion in new financing for over 900 high-impact projects in 2024, boosting Europe's competitiveness and security. In 2023 alone, the EIB committed €293 million to support public and private investment across Slovakia, benefiting over 23,000 jobs.

The OECD is promoting industrial decarbonization and strategic industrial policies to enhance productivity and innovation. The OECD MAGIC database highlights government subsidies available for large manufacturing firms, which can help reduce costs and enhance competitiveness. Simplifying regulatory compliance can reduce costs and make it easier for firms to expand their business. The MAGIC database reveals that subsidies are common among major global firms across 14 key industrial sectors. These subsidies can include grants, corporate income tax concessions, and below-market borrowings. The platform shows how subsidies have impacted global market shares, with firms based in China often gaining market shares compared to OECD-based companies. The database covers 482 of the largest manufacturing firms globally, providing detailed financial and economic data, which can help companies understand the competitive landscape and government support patterns.

## SPEAKERS

THEODOROS ANDRIOPOULOS, SILVIA GAVORNIKOVÁ

**9.00 AM**  
/240MIN.

MAIN EVENT HALL  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇ

 **MORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION**

## SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION

Slovakia has the potential to become a regional leader in innovation, but unlocking this potential requires bold strategies, collaboration between key sectors, and the right policy framework. This panel will explore how cutting-edge advancements in areas like AI, life sciences or healthcare can position Slovakia for long-term competitiveness. Experts from the private sector,

healthcare, and technology industries will discuss the opportunities, challenges, and global best practices that can help Slovakia transition into a knowledge-driven economy. The conversation will also touch on AI regulations, healthcare innovation, and digital transformation, with insights from international leaders and Slovak pioneers.

## AGENDA

**9.00** OPENING

**9.10** ENERGY SECURITY & THE  
GREEN TRANSITION IN  
EUROPE

**10.00** FINANCING THE GREEN  
TRANSITION – CHALLENGES  
AND OPPORTUNITIES

**11.00** THE POWER OF AI IN  
UNDERSTANDING HUMAN  
BEHAVIOR AND INNOVATION

**11.15** INNOVATION AS A CATALYST  
FOR COMPETITIVENESS:  
SLOVAKIA'S NEXT BIG LEAP

**12.30** CONCLUDING REMARKS

## SPEAKERS



JULIÁN TÓTH, PAULA ŠINGLIAROVÁ,  
LÍVIA VAŠÁKOVÁ, RADOVAN POTOČÁR,  
VLADIMÍR ZUBEREC, ANNA MICHÁLKOVÁ,  
OTA MELCHER, ERIK FROHM, DANIEL  
GAŠPAR, MICHAL HÁBRMAN, GABRIEL  
DINA, PETER KOLESÁR, MARTINA  
SLABEJOVA



**9.30 PM**  
/150MIN.CONFERENCE HALL  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇMORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

## TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Building trust in institutions is a fundamental prerequisite for strengthening stability and entrepreneurial confidence—key drivers of Slovakia's and Europe's competitiveness. Low trust in public institutions undermines effective governance and weakens the business environment, limiting the country's ability to attract investment and foster innovation. Strengthening institutional reliability, regulatory stability, and cooperation between governments and

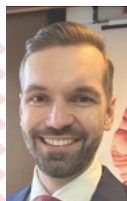
the private sector is essential to creating conditions where businesses can thrive. Addressing the root causes of distrust—such as inefficiency, unpredictability, and lack of accountability—can lead to more effective policymaking and long-term improvements in competitiveness. By building institutional confidence and delivering measurable outcomes, Slovakia can reinforce its governance framework and secure sustainable economic growth.

### AGENDA

- |       |   |       |  |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 9.30  | BEST PRACTICES FROM ABROAD  | 11.00 | BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR A COMPETITIVE SLOVAKIA |
| 9.45  | PRESENTATION AND OPENING  | 11.15 | CONCLUDING REMARKS                             |
| 10.00 | BUILDING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS: DRIVING STABILITY AND COMPETITIVENESS |       |  |

### SPEAKERS

ERIK FROHM, MAROŠ PAULINI, ALENA SABELOVÁ, JAROSLAV KMEŤ, MILAN MORÁVEK, MARTINA SLABEJOVÁ





**1.00 PM**  
/180MIN.SECOND FLOOR  
JURKOVIČOVA TEPLÁREŇMORE INFO  
/REGISTRATION

## TRUST: A KEY ELEMENT OF EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION AND SOCIETAL PROSPERITY

Trust is not just an abstract concept—it's a measurable and essential factor in cooperation between individuals, organizations, and institutions. Research in game theory, behavioral sciences, and evolutionary biology shows that the level of trust influences our ability to collaborate, use resources efficiently, reduce bureaucracy, and foster innovation, and even impacts public health and economic growth.

This workshop offers a practical and science-based framework for understanding how trust is built, how it breaks down, and why it is worth investing in—especially within the context of public administration. Participants will engage in experiential learning that connects everyday collaboration with insights from psychology, biology, and mathematics. Trust will emerge as one of the most critical yet often overlooked “invisible infrastructures” of our organizations and society as a whole.

## SPEAKERS

OLÍVIA HURBANOVÁ, MATEJ KUČEK





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