

CORPORATE BANKING FORUM 2025

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AmCham Slovakia's "Corporate Banking Forum 2025: Two Decades of Financial Evolution and Forward Momentum" focused on 20 years of developments in corporate finance and debt funding in Slovakia. Hosted in an atmosphere of shared expertise and open dialogue, the event brought together top professionals from banking, legal, private equity, and business sectors to discuss how corporate financing has evolved, and what lies ahead.

At the heart of the conversation was debt financing, a pillar of corporate strategy that enables companies to invest, grow, and innovate. Over the past two decades, Slovakia's financial landscape has matured significantly, shaped by economic shifts, new regulations, and global market pressures. Improved access to credit, stronger financial institutions, and a more sophisticated investment climate have been key outcomes of this progress.

The forum highlighted that access to capital remains a critical enabler of business competitiveness, especially in today's turbulent economic and geopolitical context. This message was echoed at the "FutureReady Slovakia" conference. As Slovakia positions itself within the broader European framework, ensuring companies can tap into adequate and well-structured funding

is more important than ever. The growing need to channel more capital into innovation is something Slovakia needs to address as soon as possible. In an increasingly knowledge-based economy, investments in technology, R&D, and startup ecosystems are essential to keeping Slovakia, and the EU at large, competitive on the global stage.

This year's forum offered a fresh format by presenting the evolution of loan financing from three complementary perspectives — those of banks, legal professionals, and corporate sponsors. Each panel provided valuable insights into the changing nature of corporate borrowing, evolving risk appetites, regulatory frameworks, and expectations for the future.

Panelists from the private equity sector offered practical reflections on cooperating with banks and shared their expectations about how corporate financing tools and roles will evolve. As Matúš Kudlák, legal advisor at A&O Shearman, noted:

"Corporate financing enables companies to invest in new projects, technologies, expand production, or pursue mergers and acquisitions. Getting this financing structure right is key to achieving strategic goals, maintaining liquidity, and optimizing capital costs."

The event concluded with a clear message: the future of corporate finance will be defined by strategic sectors — defense, infrastructure-linked construction, real estate, and energy. The ongoing challenge for both banks and businesses will be how to mobilize and allocate capital effectively, particularly in support of innovation. As AmCham looks to future editions, the ambition is clear: to delve deeper into specialized topics and continue fostering expert dialogue that strengthens Slovakia's financial ecosystem.



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



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