



East Innovation Conference

RESPONSIBILITY IN BUSINESS

#eastinnovation 

TUESDAY
November 23, 2021

TIME
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

VENUE
digital conference

UNDER
THE AUSPICES OF



CO-ORGANIZER



PREMIUM PARTNER



MAIN PARTNER



DEUTSCHE TELEKOM IT SOLUTIONS

PARTNER



COMMUNICATION PARTNERS



IN-KIND





The 2020s are showing us that compounding economic, health, and social challenges of these years have exposed and further exacerbated inequalities in society. Leading responsibly and by example is crucial to realizing equity and creating shared success for all stakeholders. This is both a human and business imperative – according to Accenture’s 2020 study, 67% say that the COVID-19 pandemic has strengthened the need for greater business responsibility to improve societal and environmental outcomes. Even more striking is that it’s also personal: roughly one in two workers agree that the ethical, sustainable, and moral values that businesses hold will become more important to them after the COVID-19 pandemic passes.

The East Innovation Conference is proud to be a part of the 2021’s Art & Tech Days, which aim to point out the impact of man and technology on the environment and the world.

This year’s EIC will focus on topics of:



**SUSTAINABILITY
& THE NEED FOR
RESPONSIBLE
LEADERSHIP**



**RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE FUTURE
OF KOŠICE TECH
INDUSTRY**



**THE IMPACT OF
AUTOMATION AND THE
FUTURE OF DIGITAL
WORK FORCE**

> AGENDA

13:00 OFFICIAL WELCOME



Gabriel Galgóci, President,
AmCham Slovakia

13:05 OPENING KEYNOTE / INTERVIEW



Matúš Vallo,
Mayor, City of Bratislava

13:25 KEYNOTE / INTERVIEW



Dušan Velič, State Secretary, Ministry of
Investment, Regional Development and
Informatization of the Slovak Republic

13:45 PANEL 1:



**SUSTAINABILITY & THE
NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE
LEADERSHIP**



Martina Kolesárová, Managing Director,
Pontis



Barbora Rusiňáková,
Director, PKO Prešov



Jaroslav Grygar,
Senior HR Manager, Whirlpool



Martin Mudrák, Director - Košice Office,
AmCham Slovakia (Moderator)

14:35 TED TALKS



Anna-Greta Tsahkna,
CEO, Timbeter



Riivo Anton, Founding Partner, United
Angels VC

15:15 PANEL 2:



**RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
FUTURE OF KOŠICE TECH
INDUSTRY**



Peter Balík, Director General, Innovations, Strategic Investments and Analyses (HUB) Section, Ministry of investment, Regional Development and Informatization of SR



Andreas Truls, Managing Director, DT ITSO SK



Michal Kardoš, Executive Director, SAPIE



Tomáš Bel, Partner, Vision Ventures



Peter Kolesár, Partner, Civitta (Moderator)

16:00 PRESENTATION



Juraj Sabol, General Manager for Strategy, U. S. Steel Košice

16:10 PANEL 3:



**THE IMPACT OF AUTOMATION
AND THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL
WORK FORCE**



Michal Vašečka, Sociologist and Pedagogist, Bratislava Policy Institute



Juraj Sabol, General Manager for Strategy, U. S. Steel Košice



Ľudmila Majláthová, Advisor, European Commission Representation in Bratislava



Ronald Blaško, Executive Director, AmCham Slovakia (Moderator)

16:55 CLOSING



Ronald Blaško, Executive Director, AmCham Slovakia

> SPEAKERS



/ OFFICIAL WELCOME

**GABRIEL
GALGÓCI**

President, AmCham
Slovakia

As Director of Client Network Operations Management in Global Managed Services Gabriel is responsible for service delivery for AT&T's clients in the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region. In the area of Customer Care and Service Delivery, he is managing teams located in several countries supporting service delivery activities for commercial clients. As Slovakia Country General Manager, Gabriel leads a cross-functional management forum to assure consistent implementation of local management practices within Shared Service Centers, focusing on cost optimization initiatives, and interfacing with global "Shared Services" functions across AT&T worldwide. Before joining AT&T in 1999, Gabriel worked at IBM and DHL. Gabriel serves as BSCF Chair.



/ OPENING KEYNOTE / INTERVIEW

**MATÚŠ
VALLO**

Mayor, City of Bratislava

Matúš Vallo is Mayor of Bratislava, an architect and city expert. He is the author of the most comprehensive publication on solutions for Bratislava - Plan Bratislava. To write this book he brought together 76 top city experts covering various expert fields. He is also a renowned architect and former co-founder of the Vallo Sadovsky Architects architectural studio. He studied in Rome, worked in London, and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship at Columbia University in New York. He was twice invited to the most prestigious international conference on urbanism, CityLab, organized by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Despite international opportunities, he devoted his energy to Bratislava. He stood behind the civic association We Are the City, the Alliance of the Old Market and the Alliance of 500 Flats. He also established the Urban Interventions project, which since 2008 generated more than 900 projects to improve public space in 20 cities. He was elected Mayor of Bratislava in the 2018 municipal elections.



/ KEYNOTE / INTERVIEW

DUŠAN VELIČ

State Secretary, Ministry
of Investment, Regional
Development and
Informatization of the
Slovak Republic

Mr Dušan Velič is State Secretary of the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR. He brings into his new position his experience from the previous work in academia and academic institutions abroad, including from his cooperation with the Nobel Prize winner for Physical Chemistry, Professor Gerhard Ertl. Associate Professor Velič is still active as a university teacher at Comenius University in Bratislava and as a scientist at the International Laser Centre, which he founded. He has devoted his entire life to the transfer of innovation. At the Ministry, he is currently responsible for the management of investments, creation of the right environment for the development of innovation in many areas, and regional development.



/ PANEL 1

MARTINA KOLESÁROVÁ

Managing Director, Pontis

Martina Kolesárová has worked for the Pontis Foundation for almost six years now. She was in charge of fundraising and developing cooperation with social innovators. She was involved in the birth of programs such as Open Future and This Is 21, which focus on developing entrepreneurial and soft skills in Slovak education. In 2019 she became one of the CEOs of the Foundation. She is in charge of education and social innovation stream within the foundation and also co-manages the foundation. She started her professional career after completing her studies of History and English Language at the University of Prešov and Political Science studies at the Central European University in Budapest. Before joining the Pontis team, she worked for the British Council and the Slovak Renewable Energy Agency. During her stay abroad, she worked for a corporate social responsibility consulting firm in Tel Aviv and as a senior volunteer for Ashoka Foundation in Washington, D.C.



/ PANEL 1

BARBORA RUSÍNÁKOVÁ

Director, PKO Prešov

Born in Prešov, Barbora studied Management of Innovation and Business Development at Copenhagen Business School, as part of which she completed a semester-long study at UNC in the USA. Already during her studies, she worked as a project manager for the Japanese pharmaceutical company Takeda in Copenhagen. Thanks to the Leaf organization, she returned to Slovakia and started working in the non-profit organization SAPIE (Slovak Alliance for Innovative Economy). In 2018, she launched educational project OpenLab, which enables high school students to acquire IT skills from IT professionals directly as part of their mandatory curriculum. More than 200 students in three cities in Slovakia were involved during the first 3 years of the project. Since April 2021, she has been the director of the city's contributory organization Center of Culture and Leisure in Prešov, with a mission to develop and drive culture and the creative industry in the city.



/ PANEL 1

JAROSLAV GRYGAR

Senior HR Manager,
Whirlpool

More than 16 years in the management of human resources in the Great Britain, Norway, Israel and the Slovak Republic, especially in manufacturing companies (Nera Networks / Ceragon Networks and Whirlpool Corporation). He is currently the Executive Director and Senior Human Resources Manager of Whirlpool Slovakia. Jaroslav leads the Whirlpool EMEA Employee Council (WEEC), where he represents the management of the Whirlpool Corporation and coordinates all trade unions in the EMEA region. He is also responsible for World Class Manufacturing (WCM) and the Whirlpool Corporation's Global Employee Development pillar. He is specialized in the area of corporate social responsibility (CSR), recognized by the significant awards of Via Bona Slovakia 2010 and 2019, as well as the former advisor of Business Leaders Forum (BLF). Jaroslav also leads the specialized platform HR Tatry and lectures at the University of Economics in Bratislava.



/ PANEL 1 - MODERATOR

MARTIN MUDRÁK

Director - Košice Office,
AmCham Slovakia

Martin graduated as a master in Translation and Interpretation for European Institutions and Economy at the P. J. Šafárik University in Košice in 2012. During his studies, he completed an Internship at the European parliament and worked as a Freelancer, offering translation, interpretation and teaching services for corporate clients such as U.S. Steel Košice, Getrag Ford and many others. After graduating, he worked as a Project Manager for Web Production Services at IBM in Bratislava. Since 2015, Martin is responsible for leading AmCham's Košice Office and focuses on representing Membership interests, Policy activities and Event Management in the region. His main priorities are supporting regional cross-sector collaboration efforts, bolstering the local innovation ecosystem and promoting innovative entrepreneurship.



/ TED TALKS

ANNA-GRETA TSAHKNA

CEO, Timbeter

Anna-Greta Tshakna is the founder and CEO of Timbeter and Vice-President of the Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications. Timbeter is an innovative, global AI-based solution that enables quick, accurate and transparent digital measurement of timber and data management. Timbeter helps the forestry industry to save time and costs by making processes more objective and transparent, enabling better control and fair trade. Solution helps companies to manage their timber sustainably and governments with the fight against illegal logging. Timbeter as company started off from hackathon Garage48, an event that was specially dedicated to bring more women to IT. Before founding Timbeter, Anna-Greta worked in the field of IT, communications and politics.



/ TED TALKS

RIIVO ANTON

Founding Partner, United
Angels VC

Riivo started as an entrepreneur by founding a management consulting business that focused on attracting R&D funding for Estonian companies. The company, previously known as Innopolis, now as Civitta is the largest independent management consulting company in CEE. He is a founding partner at UnitedAngels VC and a founding investor/mentor at Startup Wise Guys. Investing in around 10 start-ups a year, Riivo has over 20 years of experience as an entrepreneur and 10 years as tech investor and advisor. He is also a passionate art collector.



/ PANEL 2

PETER BALÍK

Director General, Innovations,
Strategic Investments and
Analyses (HUB) Section,
Ministry of investment,
Regional Development and
Informatization of SR

Peter Balík is the Director General, Innovations, Strategic Investments and Analyses (HUB) Section at the Ministry of investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. He served as a Economic Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava and is the former Director of the Economy Ministry's Department for Innovation and Digital Economy, where he helped shape the Slovak innovation and startup strategy, dedicated to improving the Slovak business climate and supporting innovative entrepreneurship ideas by the government. Peter has experience as a political advisor at the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York, and subsequently worked with the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the UN during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union. He has also served as an assistant to a Member of the Slovak Parliament. Peter holds master's degrees from the University of Economics in Bratislava and the Central European University in Budapest, is fluent in five languages, and is a former competitive swimmer and tennis player.



/ PANEL 2

ANDREAS TRULS

Managing Director, DT ITSO
SK

Managing Director of Deutsche Telekom IT Solutions Slovakia (Kosice, Slovakia). As a Regional IT Executive, Andreas has extensive experience designing and implementing scalable growth strategies that deliver increased shareholder value in the outsourcing industry. Andreas carries 20 years' experience in leadership positions, both locally and regionally, and is directing large technical & service delivery teams of over 2000 seats with a proven record of accomplishment in Complex Infrastructure Services, Cloud Transformations and Data Centre Consolidation. Andreas holds a master in communication sciences with major in IT and a master in business administration.



/ PANEL 2

MICHAL KARDOŠ

Executive Director, SAPIE

Michal Kardoš has more than 10 years of experience working for business, state administration, NGOs but also from his own business. He has been long term dedicated to supporting Slovak companies in export activities, e.g. to the USA and Israel as head of exports at SARIO. He worked as an expert for government and interinstitutional relations in the American Chamber of Commerce, where he participated in topics such as the digital agenda, energy and others to improve the business environment through various legislative proposals and a number of projects in Slovakia and also at European level. He has been part of teams and co-organized many conferences, workshops and other events such as Globsec and Startup Awards. He has been long term involved in the support of startups and innovation and is the author and co-author of several analyzes and media articles, such as The Titans of Tomorrow, the first scaleup study in Slovakia. Michal studied international relations at the University of Economics in Bratislava, economics at the University of Oxford and completed study stays in Iceland and France.



/ PANEL 2

TOMÁŠ BEL

Partner, Vision Ventures

Tomáš is an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of 2010 in Slovakia. He is also a serial entrepreneur with many successful projects. His strength is orientation and experience in many different areas and business sectors. As a result, he has a synthetic view of things and their generalisation, which helps identify new business opportunities. During his career, he has gained hands-on experience in almost all areas of company management. Recently, he has been working on technology and digital innovation. Tomáš is also active in the startup community in Slovakia, both as a mentor and investor but also as an active participant in various startup competitions. He completed several study stays abroad, such as Harvard Business School, which gave him a strong global view of business and valuable networking, or study stays in investment and corporate finance at London Business School. He is a member of the Harvard Business Alumni Club.



/ PANEL 2 - MODERATOR

PETER KOLESÁR

Partner, Civitta

Peter Kolesár is a Partner at CIVITTA Slovakia, an innovation advisory and startup hub helping companies in CEE innovate and grow. He previously served as a Trade and Innovation Counselor at Slovak embassies in Tel Aviv and Washington, D.C. His experience includes advising FT Global 500 clients in a boutique public policy and regulatory consulting firm out of the Bratislava office. Peter holds Master degrees from the Central European University in Budapest and Masaryk University in Brno and was a scholar at Bard College, New York. Peter has been a Board member at the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia since 2017.



/ PRESENTATION, PANEL 3

JURAJ SABOL

General Manager for
Strategy, U. S. Steel Košice

Juraj Sabol represents the new generation of steel makers at U.S. Steel Košice, where he works on strategic topics such decarbonization or scaleup of analytics and big data. Prior to joining U.S. Steel, Juraj worked as engagement manager in the Prague office of McKinsey&Company where he focused on transformations and strategy development for clients in manufacturing, energy and multiple other industries. Juraj has a degree in Mathematics from the University of St Andrews and an MBA from Oxford University's Saïd Business School.



/ PANEL 3

MICHAL VAŠEČKA

Sociologist and Pedagogist,
Bratislava Policy Institute

Doc. PhDr. Michal Vašečka, PhD. (1972) is sociologist by background and focuses his interests on issues of ethnicity, race, antisemitism, and migration studies. As an Associate Professor he operates at the Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (BISLA) since 2015, he is a director of Bratislava Policy Institute and also Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Media studies at the Paneuropean University in Bratislava. He operated at the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno in 2002-2017 and at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of the Comenius University in 2006-2009. As a visiting scholar he operated at the New School University in New York (1996-1997) and at the University of London (1998), in 2008-2009 he lectured at the Georgetown University in Washington, DC, in 2015 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, in 2016 he was a scholar-in-residence in the ISGAP at Oxford University, and in 2019 at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa College in Wisconsin. Michal Vašečka is a founder of the Center for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture, he served a director of the CVEK (2006-2012). In 1998-2005 he operated at the Slovak think-tank Institute of Public Affairs as a program director on expert analysis of the Slovak transformation process with a focus on national minorities and the state of civil society in Slovakia. He has been a consultant for the World Bank in 2000-2008 and in 2011-2012. Since 2012 Michal Vašečka serves as a representative of the Slovak republic in the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), human rights body of the Council of Europe. He is also a vice-chairman of the governmental committee VRAX tackling extremism and racism in Slovakia. Michal Vašečka serves as a non-resident research associate at the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg. In 2018 Michal became a laureate of the Award for special contribution in the field human rights of Minister of Justice of Slovakia.



/ PANEL 3

ĽUDMILA MAJLÁTHOVÁ

Advisor, European
Commission Representation
in Bratislava

Since mid-2020, she has joined the European Commission team (SG Recover) to work on the Slovak Recovery Plan following up primarily green, research and innovation, digital agendas as well as education and healthcare priorities. She joined the European Commission in 2007 and since then she has been working on different European Commission departments in areas of climate change, low-carbon technologies and energy efficiency policies. She spent five years (2010 – 2015) working on the cohesion policy and negotiated investment priorities for Slovakia to support research and innovation as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy for the 2014-2020 programming period. Since 2015, she is working at the European Commission Representation based in Bratislava as an adviser to the process of economic policy coordination (European Semester) - closely associated with the implementation of Recovery and Resilience Plans. Prior to her arrival at the European Commission, she had worked as a Counsellor for the electricity industry based in Brussels as well as for the non-governmental sector in Slovakia. She graduated from the Faculty of Science, Chemistry Department at the UPJŠ Košice and completed a postgraduate programme in environmental management (EPCEM) at the University of Amsterdam.



/ PANEL 3 - MODERATOR, CLOSING

RONALD BLASKO

Executive Director,
AmCham Slovakia

Ronald Blaško served as GLOBSEC Vice President for corporate and strategic relations until 31 May 2018. He spent 10 years in various capacities at Slovenské elektrárne, including executive director of an engineering subsidiary corporation. Ronald served as external affairs representative at Foratom in Brussels for two years. He holds a master's degree in aviation and transportation from the University of Žilina and has a postgraduate degree in international economics from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. Ronald Blaško has over 13 years of experience in public finances, management consultancy, insurance, European nuclear safety and energy sector risk management.

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