



Making our
environment, society
and businesses
more sustainable
through **ESG**

INNOVATION IS THE FUTURE



TUESDAY
JUNE 21, 2022



TIME
9:00 AM



VENUE
ONLINE & EINPARK

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF



PREMIUM



MAIN



PARTNERS



STARTUP/SME



IN-KIND



MEDIA



INNOVATION IS THE FUTURE

Considering the current top challenges for businesses around the world, the climate change risk together with the supply chain and cybersecurity risk share the unfortunate top tier. Following the business logic, it should therefore be among each company's top priorities to enrich its strategies and the overall governance with measures that contribute to minimizing this risk.

For this reason, AmCham Slovakia has decided to organize its first ever “green” conference devoted to one specific strategy that touches upon two out of the three top challenges businesses nowadays face: **environmental social governance (ESG)**.

The term was coined in 2005 in the conference report “Who Cares, Wins” and yet, even after 17 years since its creation many firms neither understand its benefits nor its necessity. Thus, the main goal of this conference is to inform and educate the business community about both the necessity as well as the benefits of incorporating the ESG strategy into their business plan.



> AGENDA

9:00 OPENING

 **Ronald Blaško**,
Executive Director AmCham Slovakia

9:05 KEYNOTE SPEECH

 **Michal Kiča**, State secretary, Ministry of the
Environment of the Slovak Republic

9:15 THE WHAT, THE WHY
AND THE HOW OF ESG

PANEL DISCUSSION I

 **Martin Hojsík**,
Member of the European Parliament

 **Katarina Svatíková**, Policy Analyst Circular
Economy, OECD

 **Marián Hlavačka**,
CEO, CORWIN

 **Claudia Tran**,
Head of Operations, CB Espri

10:10 TRANSITION TO NET ZERO- KEY
OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

FIRESIDE CHAT

 **Zara Ahsanuddin**, Director in the
Sustainability and Corporate Transitions, Citi

10:25 COFFEE BREAK

10:40 INVESTING AND ASSET VALUATION
WITHIN THE ESG FRAMEWORK

FIRESIDE CHAT

 **Martin Vicen**, Team Leader MO Portfolio
Monitoring, Group Asset Management,
Swiss Re

10:55 **NEW APPROACHES FOR THE GREENER FUTURE: INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES IN PRACTICE**

PANEL DISCUSSION II



Norbert Kurilla, Advisor to the President, Office of the President of the Slovak Republic



Veronika Repiská, Coordinator/Project Manager Upracme Slovensko o.z.



Tara Lindstedt, Chairperson, Avanea – investment arm of IPM Group



Mária Kostická, Product Manager for Digital Services, Innovation Team, City of Bratislava

11:50 **LUNCH**

12:35 **QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS AS A DECISION-MAKING TOOL FOR COMPANY INVESTMENT**

FIRESIDE CHAT



Reid Steadman, Managing Director and Global Head of ESG & Innovation, S&P Dow Jones Indices

12:50 **IMPACT OF THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS ON THE ESG GOALS**

PANEL DISCUSSION III



Andrej Juris, Chairman, Office for the Regulation of Network Industries



Jakub Hrbáň, Co-founder, Klíma ťa potrebuje initiative



Kristián Takáč, Consultant in Energy and IT



Michal Chudý, CoFounder & CCO, PowereX

13:45 **NETWORKING**



Roman Juraško,
Moderator of the event

> SPEAKERS



/ WELCOME

**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.



/ KEYNOTE SPEECH

**MICHAL
KIČA**

State secretary, Ministry
of the Environment of the
Slovak Republic

Michal Kiča is a graduate of law at Comenius University in Bratislava. He still works on an academic basis as an external doctoral student at the Department of Administrative Law and Environmental Law. He passed the bar exam in 2014. He is the co-author of the first commentary on the Nature and Landscape Protection Act and several professional papers focused on environmental law. Throughout his career, he has worked intensively on environments. For example, he provided legal advice in proceedings for non-governmental organizations that focus on environmental protection, including the Bratislava Regional Conservation Association, the civic initiative to save Celtic-Roman finds at Bratislava Castle, or the PKO conservation initiative or the Stop Gambling initiative.



/ PANEL I

**MARTIN
HOJSÍK**

Member of the European
Parliament

Martin Hojsík is one of the few Slovak politicians for whom the fight against the climate crisis is the highest priority. Since his election as a Member of the European Parliament in 2019, he has become one of the most prominent faces of Europe's climate effort, with the prestigious Politico portal in 2020 calling him one of the 20 MEPs worth watching. As the eleventh most active MEP in the European Parliament, it has been instrumental in pushing for pro-climate legislation packages such as Green New Deal and Fit for 55, which aim to achieve climate neutrality in Europe and Slovakia by 2050 at the latest, promote green energy and innovation while ensure a fair transition to a carbon-free economy. In Slovakia, he came up with a proposal to introduce a climate check, which directs money from polluters to protect the climate and cover the costs of a green and fair transition. At the same time, Martin is actively involved in the protection of animals, the regulation of dangerous toxic substances and the promotion of safe and healthy food.



/ PANEL I

KATARÍNA SVATÍKOVÁ

Policy Analyst Circular
Economy, OECD

Katarína Svátíková has more than 10 years of professional experience in environmental economics and policy. Katarína is currently working as Policy Analyst in the Environment and Economy Integration Division at the OECD Environment Directorate. In this capacity, Katarína works on projects related to resource efficiency, the circular economy and waste management, particularly leading and contributing to circular economy country studies. Prior to joining the OECD, Katarína worked as a senior consultant in international consulting companies Trinomics and Ecorys in the Netherlands and Belgium, where she specialised in providing analysis and advice on environmental policy issues. She started her career in DG Environment of the European Commission in the economic analysis and resource efficiency unit. Katarína received her PhD in the economics of environmental crime from Erasmus University Rotterdam.



/ PANEL I

MARIÁN HLAVAČKA

CEO, CORWIN

Marián Hlavačka has been active on the real estate market since 2004. He is the founder of CORWIN, a development company, which focuses on sustainable architecture. Since its inception in 2010, the company has delivered many placemaking projects. Among their well-known creations is the company's headquarters - Blumental, Einpark Offices – the greenest office building in Slovakia, or Vilharia - the largest commercial building in Ljubljana. As a part of their real estate activities, CORWIN has worked on the renewal of Kmeťovo Square, archaeological research in Devín, or the revitalization of multiple brownfields. Currently, they are finishing the construction of the Guthaus project and together with the urbanistic studio Gehl Architects, they are preparing a large-scale mixed-use development of the former industrial area Palma.



/ PANEL I

CLAUDIA TRAN

Head of Operations,
CB Espri

In 2012, Claudia represented Slovakia in the US, North Carolina through the US State Department Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship (BFTF) program. BFTF inspired her involvement in international projects concerning European and international affairs. She started her own initiative 'For Tomorrow's Europe' through which she has managed international conferences for young people from all over the world. Between 2015-2019, she worked as the Deputy Director of the corporate relations at GLOBSEC, a global think-tank which also organizes large international conferences through which it brings new recommendations to the foreign and security policy. Its largest projects include GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum or Tatra Summit, with GLOBSEC BA Forum being one of the world's top political-business conferences. She also worked as the Campaign Manager for the then coalition of two parties in Slovakia and led the team of 50 full-time staff until the 2020 parliamentary elections in Slovakia. After the elections, she returned back to GLOBSEC to assume a senior position, and she also started working as Head of Investor relations in an investment company Crowdberry. Currently, she is working as the Head of Operations of the first social impact fund in Slovakia, CB ESPRI.



/ FIRESIDE CHAT

ZARA AHSANUDDIN

Director in the Sustainability
and Corporate Transitions
team at Citi

Zara Ahsanuddin is a Director in the Sustainability and Corporate Transitions team at Citi. In this role, Zara leads sustainability engagement with corporate clients, supporting them with strategic and M&A advice, financing and capital markets solutions, and investor engagement, as they transition their businesses towards more sustainable models. Zara joined Citi in 2013 and has worked in various roles across the Investment Bank, including the Consumer & Retail and Oil & Gas Investment Banking Teams as well as the BCMA (Banking, Capital markets & Advisory) Client Strategy team. Prior to that, Zara worked with Acumen Fund as a Portfolio Associate, looking at impact investments made by the Company. Earlier, Zara spent three years working with KASB Investment Bank, a local affiliate of Merrill Lynch in Pakistan. Zara has an MBA from London Business School, and received her Bachelors Degree from Hamilton College in upstate NY.



/ FIRESIDE CHAT

MARTIN VICEN

Team Leader MO Portfolio
Monitoring, Group Asset
Management, Swiss Re

My name is Martin Vicen and I have been working at Swiss Re for 8 years. I am leading Portfolio Monitoring team located in Bratislava whose main goal is to ensure compliance across all Swiss Re investment universe. One of my main responsibilities together with Responsible Investment team is to oversee Swiss Re's investments when it comes to environmental, social and governance criteria (ESG). Through a well-defined approach and clear strategy, we set out what sustainability means for Swiss Re and ensure we take meaningful action. To live our commitment to sustainability, we pursue a clear strategy, have a suitable governance framework in place, determine relevant topics, set targets, report on our progress and monitor our performance.



/ PANEL II

NORBERT KURILLA

Advisor to the President,
Office of the President of
the Slovak Republic

He is economist and experienced diplomat with international expertise in policymaking on environment and climate change within UN, OECD or EU. Currently serves as personal adviser to the President of Slovakia on environment, energy, climate change and business. Co-founder of successful business-driven "Circular Slovakia" platform. Former Environment State Secretary and Management Board member at the European Environmental Agency. Nowadays he also acts as vice-chair of OECD Green Action Task Force.



/ PANEL II

VERONIKA REPISKÁ

Coordinator/Project
Manager Upracme
Slovensko o.z.

Veronika Repiská works as a data analyst in the banking industry. As she is a person of action who can't look at all the litter around, she co-created an NGO Upracme Slovensko 4 years ago. Besides working and volunteering, she also dances salsa and bachata in her limited free time.



/ PANEL II

TARA LINDSTEDT

Ma Chairperson, Avanea
– investment arm of IPM
Group

Tara is Chairman of IPM Group, bringing over 25 years of venture development and management experience in Europe, the USA, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. She is a Technologist, Strategist, Developer, and Financier of Projects focused on delivering high impact investments to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. Tara has worked with startups as well as major corporations, in IP commercialization, scale-up, restructuring and turnaround. She has a passion for transformational infrastructure and cleantech, in particular, distributed renewable energy solutions, smart grids, and carbon reducing mobility solutions and delivered nearly 300 MW of renewable projects into commercial operation. Tara is the majority owner of e-Strategy Advisors Ltd (ESAL), a UK based company, offering strategic and executive services as well as investing in and developing renewable energy assets. At present, Tara serves as a Director of DREAM EP Global Energy Ltd and a co-founder and investor in the DREAM Platform (Developing Renewables in Europe, Africa & Middle-east) where she is a director in Dream's Kenya companies.



/ PANEL II

MÁRIA KOSTICKÁ

Product Manager for Digital
Services, Innovation Team,
City of Bratislava

She studied managerial mathematics at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics. Already during her studies, she gained experience in the field of data analytics and project management and now uses the combination of analytical and managerial skills in her work for the Innovation Team. As a product manager, she is responsible for discovering the real needs and wants of the end users and designing products and services that take them into consideration in the process of co-creation. Currently she oversees the transformation of the city website and eGov electronic services. She recently launched an online ticketing system for city swimming pools for the second year in a row. She co-created Bratislava CityLab, which provides space for pilot projects and testing innovative technologies in cooperation with the relevant professional departments and external partners from the so-called "Quadruple helix" (i.e. business, academic sphere, civil society and public administration).



/ FIRESIDE CHAT

REID STEADMAN

Managing Director and
Global Head of ESG &
Innovation, S&P Dow Jones
Indices

Reid Steadman is Managing Director and Global Head of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) & Innovation at S&P Dow Jones Indices (S&P DJI). In addition to ESG and innovation indices, he oversees the research & design unit and product management for strategy indices and indices employing natural language processing and machine learning. Prior to his current position, Reid served in several key roles within S&P DJI, including Global Head of ESG, Deputy Head of Product Management, and Head of Global Equity Indices and ETF licensing. Before joining Standard & Poor's in 2003, Reid worked as an economist for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Reid holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Brigham Young University. He also holds an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University, with emphasis in finance and marketing.



/ PANEL III

ANDREJ JURIS

Chairman, Office for the
Regulation of Network
Industries

Andrej Juris is the Chairman of the Office for the Regulation of Network Industries (ÚRSO), before that he worked for many years in managerial positions, especially in the field of energy in the international private sector. The role of ÚRSO under its leadership is to ensure that within the network industries in the Slovak Republic, i.e. - electricity, gas, thermal energy and water management – the end consumers are protected against abuse of the dominant position of monopoly energy and water suppliers. At the same time, within ÚRSO, Andrej Juris takes care of the return on investment for business entities and that the supply of energy and water in the Slovak Republic is fair, reliable and secure.



/ PANEL III

JAKUB HRBÁN

Co-founder, Klíma ťa
potrebuje initiative

Jakub Hrbán is one of the co-founders of the student climate movement Fridays For Future in Slovakia. In the autumn of 2020, he became one of the initiators of the most successful online petition in Slovakia # climate, which was signed by almost 130,000 people. As part of its activities, it seeks constructive climate communication and public engagement to create the necessary political pressure to adapt the necessary climate policies. Within the complex subjects of climate change he is mostly focused on building a grassroots movement, engaging citizens and advocacy for just climate policies.



/ PANEL III

KRISTJÁN TAKÁČ

Consultant in Energy and IT

Kristján Takáč has over 10 years' experience in the energy sector consultancy. Focusing on energy markets analysis and regulatory aspects, he has conducted numerous studies and carried out projects for public authorities as well as private utilities. He served as a policy officer at the Internal Energy Market Unit at the European Commission' DG ENER and then later as a State Secretary at the Slovak Ministry of Economy and an advisor to the minister. After few years at RWE Slovakia, Mr Takáč was tasked to coordinate an EU funded project in Kyiv on behalf of the the Slovak regulatory authority. Once implemented, he led additional two larger energy market related projects in Ukraine. In 2020 Mr. Takáč joined the board of ZSD, the largest Slovak DSO.



/ PANEL III

MICHAL CHUDÝ

CoFounder & CCO, PowereX

He graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of Comenius University - Department of Nuclear and Subnuclear Physics (2007) and also completed a bachelor's degree at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of Comenius University - Department of European Studies and International Relations (2007). In 2011, he defended the title of Dr. techn. at the Technical University of Vienna. He then worked as a post-doctoral student at the University of Cambridge and where he was awarded a fellowship and later a lifetime membership at Clare Hall College. He later worked as a senior researcher at the University of Pretoria in the field of intelligent energy and since 2016 also at the FEI STU in Bratislava. In 2018, he began to deal commercially with virtual power plants and the aggregation of flexibility in terms of algebraic models. He is a strong supporter of the decarbonisation of the energy sector. In 2020, he became a co-founder of PowereX, which acts as an aggregator and provider of energy solutions.



**MARIÁN
HLAVACKA**
CEO, CORWIN



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO INCORPORATE ESG INTO YOUR BUSINESS STRATEGY?

Corwin has during its years of existence become a trendsetter in terms of sustainability in the real estate segment - not only in our own country but also abroad. It is therefore not unusual that, in addition to our work, we also need to educate the market and explain why new methods, technologies and practices are beneficial for the city and its people. Sustainability is engrained deep in our DNA ever since the founding of our company. We therefore see it as a great positive that ESG comes with the necessity to take steps towards more ecological way of doing business for other companies as well and begins to create a unified framework of sustainable governance, which will be more transparent for everyone.

HOW CAN WE AVOID THE EVER-PRESENT GREENWASHING IN REAL ESTATE SECTOR?

It is very difficult to judge what is truly sustainable in real estate, especially for people who are not familiar with the field. There are no standardized rules and being “green” has become quite a popular claim. If I had to give an easy way to distinguish real

sustainability from marketing claims I would say people should look for green certification such as LEED. It is issued by an impartial third party – the US Green Building Council – and measures a complex set of factors, from water management, through energy efficiency to the quality of indoor environment.

WHAT IS THE BENCHMARK IN DEVELOPMENT YOU ASPIRE TO?

When we first started office development, we aimed for the highest LEED certifications on our buildings, even though nobody expected that from Slovak office projects. Today, even though carbon neutrality is only expected from EU companies by 2050, we are already in the process of creating the first fully certified LEED Zero Carbon office portfolio. We are also looking at LEED certifying all of our upcoming residential projects, including the large-scale neighbourhood developments. It is not a benchmark that was set for us, but rather one we are setting for the rest of the market. And that’s what we’ll always aim for.

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