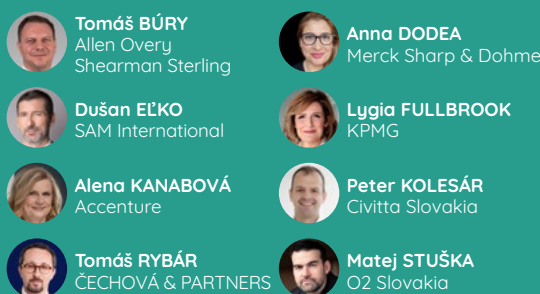
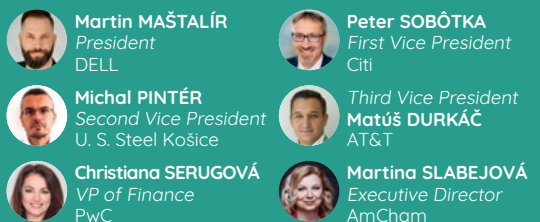


BOARD OF DIRECTORS

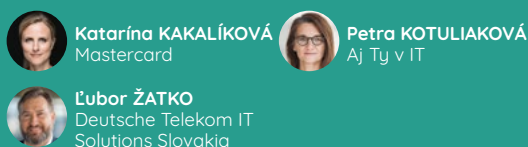
The AmCham Board of Directors is responsible for the strategic management of the Chamber. It consists of seventeen members elected by the AmCham membership. The General Assembly meets once a year and is open to

all AmCham Members. The AmCham Board is assisted by the AmCham staff, which coordinates the day-to-day operations of the Chamber and provides a hub for the flow of internal and external communication.

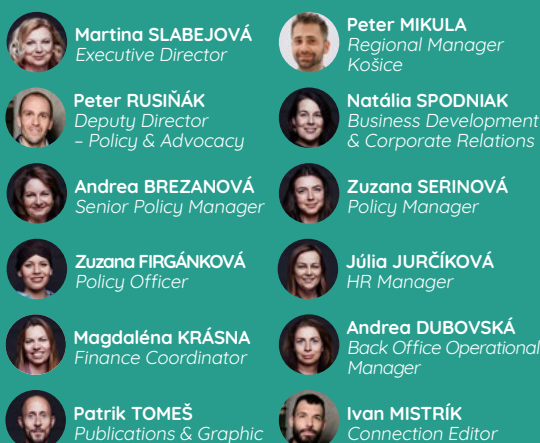
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



CO-OPTED MEMBERS



AMCHAM STAFF



BRIDGING GAPS:

TALENT, TRANSPORT, AND TECHNOLOGY

WRITTEN BY



PETER MIKULA
Regional Manager
AmCham Slovakia

A central element of AmCham Slovakia's regional strategy is the presence of our Košice office, which plays a crucial role in representing and advocating for our members across Eastern Slovakia. This regional presence allows us to actively shape development initiatives and effectively communicate regional needs at the national level.

The business landscape is evolving rapidly due to global logistics disruptions, geopolitical upheaval, intensifying competition, and the rise of new AI- and digitization-driven industries. In this volatile environment, the urgency for regional adaptation has never been greater. This is particularly emphasized in the report "Mapping the Potential of Eastern Slovakia," which presents 18 insightful solutions and recommendations tailored to address regional challenges.

Košice, as a major city in Eastern Slovakia, has emerged as a hub for IT and Shared Service Centers (SSC). Its strategic location, skilled workforce, quality university education, and pro-business environment have attracted numerous international multinationals and local companies. This transformation into a technology and innovation hub showcases the region's potential to be a cornerstone of Slovakia's digital economy.

However, the region faces significant labor market challenges, particularly due to an aging population and difficulties in attracting and retaining talent. To address these issues, it is crucial to develop inclusive strategies that improve educational pathways aligned with local economic demands and new technology skills. Supporting marginalized communities in accessing the labor market is also essential. Retaining talent in Eastern Slovakia is vital for building economic resilience.

Enhancing transport infrastructure is critical for promoting economic growth and regional competitiveness. Improving connections from Bratislava to Eastern Slovakia, integrating with the EU's North-South network, and establishing highway and rail links to Ukraine will create seamless transit corridors, connecting the region to broader European markets. A focus on local transport can significantly improve mobility and increase the availability of the workforce. Attracting new investments, leveraging the Ukraine recovery plan, and preparing industrial parks in the region's peripheries should be top priorities.

Promoting local innovation ecosystems is another driver for regional development. Supporting high-value industries, entrepreneurship, and startups will encourage

new industries to emerge and attract investment, establishing Eastern Slovakia as a dynamic center of innovation. Collaboration among businesses, educational institutions, research centers, and public bodies is crucial for nurturing talent, sparking new ideas, and driving economic growth and diversification.

The region's brand and identity play a vital role in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), skilled professionals, and tourists. By promoting Eastern Slovakia's competitive business environment, cultural heritage, and natural assets, the region can enhance its global attractiveness, establishing itself as a desirable destination for investment, talent, and tourism.

Successful public-private collaboration models are essential for unlocking Eastern Slovakia's full potential. Joint efforts in infrastructure projects and educational programs will advance regional growth and make collaboration a key enabler of sustainable development.

In this edition of Connection, we explore significant topics, highlighting the obstacles and opportunities ahead. We invite you to join the conversation as we work towards a balanced and prosperous future for Eastern Slovakia.