

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHER'S GUIDE TO SLOVAKIA

EURAXESS SLOVAKIA



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**International
Researcher's
Guide to
Slovakia**

**EURAXESS
SLOVAKIA**

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EURAXESS SLOVAKIA
The International Researcher's Guide to Slovakia

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1. EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion	4
1.1 About the initiative	4
1.2 EURAXESS Slovakia	5
2. Welcome to Slovakia!	7
2.1 Basic Facts & Figures	7
2.2 Geography	8
2.3 History	9
2.4 Political system and state bodies	11
2.5 Economy	12
2.6 Significant scientists born in Slovakia	13
3. Research in Slovakia	18
3.1 Legislative framework of research and development in Slovakia	18
3.2 Research institutions	18
3.2.1 Higher education sector	19
3.2.2 State research and development sector	20
3.2.3 Private research and development sector	25
3.2.4 Non-profit sector of research & development	25
3.3 New research infrastructures	25
4. R&D funding	28
4.1 R&D funding at national level	28
4.1.1 State research funding agencies	28
4.1.2 Incentives for research and development	30
4.1.3 EU structural funds	30
4.1.4 National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic	31
4.1.5 Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic awarded for the entire doctoral study within Official Development Assistance	32
4.2 Funding for bilateral cooperation	33
4.2.1 Bilateral scientific and technological cooperation based on intergovernmental agreements	33
4.2.2 Bilateral intergovernmental agreements on educational, research and cultural cooperation ..	35
4.2.3 Action Austria – Slovakia, Cooperation in Science and Education	41
4.2.4 Fulbright Program – J. W. Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic ..	41
4.3 Funding by the European Union	43
4.3.1 Horizon 2020 – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation	43
4.3.2 Erasmus+ – the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport	48
4.3.3 COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology	50
4.3.4 EUREKA	51
4.4 Funding by multilateral/international programmes or international organisations	53
4.4.1 CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies	53
4.4.2 International Visegrad Fund	54
4.4.3 NATO – Science for Peace and Security Programme ..	57
5. Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities	59
5.1 Entry & stay	59
5.1.1 Navigation	59
5.1.2 Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals coming to Slovakia	64
5.1.3 Duties of third country nationals coming to Slovakia	66
5.1.4 Bringing family members with you	87
5.1.5 Graphical overview of entry and stay procedures ..	92
5.1.6 Other practical information	94
5.2 Employment	96
5.2.1 Employment of foreigners	96
5.2.2 Graphical overview of employment procedures ..	102
5.2.3 Employment conditions and job seeking	103
5.3 Document authentication	106
5.4 Social security and health insurance	108
5.4.1 Health insurance in Slovakia	108
5.4.2 Health insurance of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals	110
5.4.3 Social security system in Slovakia (excluding health insurance)	111
5.4.4 Other regulations regarding social security	117
5.4.5 Information on social security and health coverage for students (including PhD students) ..	119
5.4.6 Information on social security and health coverage for employees with regular or irregular income ..	121
5.4.7 Information on social security and health coverage for researchers and university teachers without employment contract	123
5.5 Taxation	124
5.5.1 Direct taxes	125
5.5.2 Indirect taxes	127
5.6 Recognition of education	128
5.6.1 Recognition of primary and secondary education ..	128
5.6.2 Recognition of diplomas (tertiary education)	129
5.7 Import of goods	132
6. Daily life in Slovakia	133
6.1 Accommodation and housing	133
6.2 Banks and currency	134
6.3 Communications and post offices	135
6.4 Cuisine	137
6.5 Culture and media	138
6.6 Day care for children	142
6.7 Education system	143
6.7.1 School education	143
6.7.2 Higher education	149
6.8 Electrical appliances and computers	152
6.9 Hiking and tourism	152
6.10 Language	157
6.11 Libraries	158
6.12 Living costs	159
6.13 Healthcare	160
6.14 Other services	162
6.15 Public holidays	162
6.16 Regional and local administration	163
6.17 Religion	163
6.18 Shopping	164
6.19 Sport 164	164
6.20 Transport	165
6.21 Veterinary care	171
7. Glossary	172
Graphical timeline checklist	176

1. EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion

1.1 About the initiative

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is a unique pan-European initiative delivering information and support services to professional researchers regardless of their career stage. Backed by the European Union and its Member States, it is the largest European network supporting researcher mobility and career development and enhancing scientific collaboration between Europe and the world. Services provided to researchers as well as to their employers are offered free of charge in more than 500 EURAXESS Centres across Europe. In addition to the personal assistance provided by the staff, the EURAXESS portal (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>) is a source of up-to-date practical information on researcher's careers and mobility in 40 countries.



Activities of the EURAXESS Network cover several areas:

EURAXESS Jobs & Funding Databases include thousands of vacancies, fellowships and hosting opportunities in all research fields in Europe. Completing a user profile and submitting a CV will enable you to be informed about the positions which best match your experience and interests and help recruiters find you. Companies or research institutes can post their vacancies free of charge and search among the CVs of international top-notch researchers.

Partnering Tool is a database of individual researchers and entrepreneurs as well research organisations, universities, and businesses that are looking for project partners or collaborators. If you are planning a project or have a good idea,

EURAXESS can help you find that piece of the puzzle you are missing.

Information & Assistance – knowing how challenging the relocation to a new country can be, EURAXESS Centres in 40 European countries are ready to assist you and your family with planning and organising your move abroad. A free of charge and personalised assistance will help you tackle issues related to your life and work in Europe, such as:

- visas,
- work permits,
- accommodation,
- social security, medical care and taxes,
- family support, schools for your children, language courses, etc.

The network of EURAXESS Centres is comprised of teams of well-informed and experienced staff. They are also a valuable resource of information for employers of researchers, as they can assist in the process of hiring researchers from abroad.

In Slovakia, SAIA, n. o. has been the EURAXESS Centre since 2004.

Better working conditions for researchers – EURAXESS actively contributes to the improvement of working conditions for researchers through assisting research institutions in implementing the HR Strategy for Researchers and confirming the alignment of their HR policies with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter & Code).

To date, more than 900 organisations have endorsed the principles of the Charter & Code. A full list of signatories and the complete text of the document

can be found on the EURAXESS website (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter>). In Slovakia, the principles have been endorsed by the Slovak Rector's Conference, by the Slovak Academy of Sciences as well as by two universities – the University of Žilina and the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica.

The organisations' commitment to the implementation of the Charter & Code principles is evaluated by the European Commission experts. Their thorough analysis of the institutional HR policies can lead to the granting of the 'HR Excellence in Research' award to those institutions that are identified as providers and supporters of a stimulating and favourable working environment for researchers. To date, more than 400 institutions from 31 countries acquired the award.



EURAXESS Worldwide is a networking tool for European researchers, scientists and scholars working outside Europe and non-European ones wishing to collaborate or pursue a research career in Europe. EURAXESS Worldwide is established in six hubs – in the ASEAN region, China, India, Japan, Latin America and Caribbean States and North America. EURAXESS Worldwide officers keep researchers in these regions fully informed on the EU research policies, career and collaboration opportunities in Europe, organising regular events and disseminating a quarterly electronic newsletter, among other activities.

1.2 EURAXESS Slovakia

EURAXESS Centres in Slovakia

In Slovakia, the national network has been coordinated by SAIA, n. o., since 2004 based on the mandate from the then Ministry of Education. The Slovak network consists of 5 SAIA offices spread across the country – in the towns of Bratislava, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica and Košice. The Bratislava office acts as a national coordinator towards regional offices and collaborates with Centres in other partner countries, European institutions, and national authorities.

The employees of EURAXESS Centres are well-informed staff who work with mobility issues on an everyday basis, and who will gladly share their knowledge and experience with you. Not only will they provide you with the information, but if possible, they will also help you with the formalities and paperwork.

Slovak EURAXESS Portal

Slovak EURAXESS Portal (www.euraxess.sk) is your source of information when it comes to moving to Slovakia as a researcher. Just like the portals of other European countries involved in the EURAXESS initiative, it is interlinked with the main EURAXESS Portal. Overall, they contain a wealth of information about life in Europe.

The portal is running in two separate language versions – a Slovak and an English one. The latter brings information about Slovakia relevant for international researchers interested in carrying out their research here. The Slovak version addresses issues important for Slovak researchers preparing for the mobility abroad, but also to Slovak research organisations that want to bring international colleagues to their teams.

The portal content is split into following sections:

News

The News section provides information about open calls, relevant grants & scholarship opportunities, upcoming events (training sessions, workshops, seminars, conferences and networking events), as well as recent publications and other news from the field of research.

Jobs & Funding

This section is almost exclusively linked to the main EURAXESS Portal. It leads to the Jobs and Funding databases and informs about grant and scholarship opportunities. Moreover, it contains information on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers and other relevant initiatives. It also provides career development training resources and a database of EURAXESS Career Development Centres.

Given the fact that the availability of funding opportunities is among the most frequent queries we receive, an overview of options is also included in Chapter 4 of this publication.

Tip: You can access a selection of research vacancies in Slovakia directly from the homepage of the Slovak Portal.

Information & Assistance

The EURAXESS initiative is not confined to research funding issues only, but goes even further and serves the needs of researchers in all the aspects related to mobility from one country to another. It aims to facilitate the mobility in the smoothest possible way and ease the burden of red-tape that is associated with the relocation. This section gathers information related to specific real-life situations that occur when moving between countries. These include issues of entry conditions and residence permits, employment, social security, health insurance and medical care, taxation, but also childcare or public transport. Information is organised clearly in three thematic areas – Living in, Working in & Leaving Slovakia.

Practical advice can also be found in this publication; instructions & tips how to deal with formalities in Chapter 5 and information on daily life in Chapter 6.

Contact us

Are you looking for specific advice? Stop by in our office, call us or write us a message. Our contact details are published at www.euraxess.sk/en/main/contact-us and you can also find us on Facebook: @euraxess.sk.

2. Welcome to Slovakia!

2.1 Basic Facts & Figures

Official name:

Slovak Republic

Independence:

1 January 1993

Political system:

Parliamentary democracy



Membership in international groupings/ organisations: UN (January 1993), NATO (March 2004), EU (May 2004), Schengen area (December 2007), Council of Europe, INTERPOL, OECD, OSCE, the Visegrád Group, WHO, WTO etc.

Geography

Area: 49,035 km²

Perimeter: 1,652.2 km

Neighbouring countries and border lengths:

Hungary 654.8 km; Poland 541.1 km;

the Czech Republic 251.8 km;

Austria 106.7 km; Ukraine 97.8 km

Terrain: Landlocked with high mountains in the north, low mountains in the centre, hills to the west, Danube ('Dunaj') River basin in the south

Elevation: Lowest point – Bodrog River – 94 metres above sea level; highest point – Gerlachovský štít (Peak) – 2,654 metres above sea level

People

Population (December 2017): 5 435 343

Largest towns – by population

(December 2017): Capital – Bratislava

(429,564); Other towns – Košice

(239,095), Prešov (89,138), Žilina (80,978),

Banská Bystrica (78,484), Nitra (77,048),

Trnava (65,382), Trenčín (55,537), Martin (54,978), Poprad (51,486)

Ethnic groups (December 2016): Slovak

(81.3 %), Hungarian (8.4 %), Romani (2 %),

Czech and Moravian (0.7 %), Ruthenian

(0.6 %), Ukrainian (0.2 %), German (0.1 %),

Polish (0.1 %), other and unknown (6.5 %)

Internationals living in Slovakia

(December 2017): 104 451 (54 056 EU

nationals) – Ukrainians (15.4 %), Czechs

(10.2 %), Serbians (10.1 %), Hungarians

(7.7 %), Romanians (6.8 %) Poles (5.5 %),

Germans (4.4 %), Russians (4.1 %), Italians

(2.8 %)

Religions (December 2011): Roman Catholics

(62 %), Evangelical Lutherans of Augsburg

Confession (5.9 %), Greek Catholics (3.8 %),

Reformed Christians (1.8 %), Orthodox

(0.9 %), Jehovah's Witnesses (0.3 %),

Methodists (0.2 %), without denomination

(13.4 %) and unknown (10.6 %)

Language Spoken at Home: Slovak

(official language, 73.3 %), Hungarian

(8.7 %), Romani (2.4 %), Ruthenian (0.9 %),

Czech (0.3 %)

Health: Life expectancy at birth

(2015): 79.73 yrs. women; 73.03 yrs. men



Economy

Currency: euro (since 1 January 2009)

GDP (2017): 84.9 billion €

Real GDP growth rate (2017): 3.4 %

GDP per capita in PPS (2017): 77 % of EU 28

Unemployment (2017): 8.1 %

Natural resources: bentonite, brown coal, crude oil, dimension and crushed stone, gold, gypsum and anhydrite, kaolin, limestone, magnesite, natural gas, perlite, talc, zeolite

Agriculture crops: corn, hops, oat, potatoes, rapeseed, rye, sugar beet, wheat

Breeding: cattle, goats, pigs, poultry, sheep

Industry: chemical, electro-chemical, automotive, light industry, food processing, back-office support, engineering, building materials, paper and cellulose, wood, mining, metallurgical

Major trading partners (2017):

Imports: Germany – 16.5 %, Czech Republic – 10.2 %, China – 7.3 %, South Korea – 5.7 %, Russia – 4.7 %

Exports: Germany – 20.6 %, Czech Republic – 11.5 %, Austria, (6 %), Italy (6 %), Poland 7.6 %

General information about Slovakia

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic: www.mzv.sk

National tourism portal of Slovakia: www.slovakia.travel

2.2 Geography

Slovakia is situated in Central Europe, sharing borders with Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine. Mountains, lowlands, valleys, lakes, cave formations, forests, and meadows provide many examples of Slovakia's year-round

natural beauty. The Carpathian Arc, a range of mountains stretching across the North, takes up almost a half of the country. The South and East of the country lie in the lowlands, an important agricultural area of Slovakia.

The highest point: Gerlachovský štít (Peak) in the High Tatras ("Vysoké Tatry") – 2,654 m above sea level

The lowest point: River Bodrog – 94 m above sea level

Maximum length: 428 km (Záhorská Ves [W] – Nová Sedlica [E])

Maximum breadth: 195 km (Štúrovo [S] – Skalité [N])

The longest river: River Váh (378 km)

Time

GMT+1; GMT+2 from last Sunday in March to last Saturday in October

Weather

Slovakia has a continental climate with four seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter). Summers are usually quite hot; while winters are cold, cloudy and humid.

The average winter daily temperature is -2 °C but can plummet to -15 °C.

The average daily temperature in summer is 21 °C but can be as warm as over 30 °C.

The coldest month is January and the hottest one is July. The period from May to July is often considered the best season.

Weather in southern regions is generally more pleasant than in the north and in mountainous regions where it tends to be much colder.

During winter, the sun rises approximately at 7:30 am and sets around 4 pm. During summer, the sunrise is before 5 am and the sunset around 9 pm.

The 2017 weather statistics:

Month	Average Temperatures in Bratislava (°C)	Average Precipitation in Slovakia (mm)	Average Rainy Days in Bratislava
Jan	-4	27	13
Feb	3	36	11
March	9	36	11
April	10	87	12
May	17	63	12
June	22	65	11
July	22	92	12
Aug	23	66	10
Sept	15	126	10
Oct	12	84	12
Nov	6	76	13
Dec	3	69	15

2.3 History

Stone Age

The first recorded tribes settled in the territory of modern Slovakia were **Celts** (from around 450 B. C.), whose culture represented the pinnacle of barbarian civilisation. The remains of Celtic oppida (elevated, fortified settlements) can be found, for example, in Bratislava, Devín and on Havránok Hill near the Liptovská Mara reservoir.

The Celts were forced out by the **Germanic tribes** (Marcomanni) which fought with the Roman Emperors Marcus Aurelius and Commodus (A. D. 166–180). Remains of the Limes Romanus (the fortifications on the Roman Empire's northern border) are preserved in Slovakia (in Rusovce, Trenčín or Iža). The German tribes were driven out by **Huns** led by Attila.



Tribes of **Western Slavs** arrived in the territory of modern Slovakia at the end of the 5th and beginning of the 6th century. Soon they had to defend themselves against nomadic Avars and created a tribal union under the rule of the Frankish merchant Samo, known as **Samo's Empire** (A. D. 623–658).

Middle Ages

After the break-up of Samo's Empire, **Slavonic tribes** experienced a loss of political unity. Only Duke Pribina succeeded in establishing a larger state-like entity and built the first church in this area between 824 and 828. He fought and was defeated by Mojmir, the Duke of Moravia, and had to flee. Duke Mojmir I established a united state called

Great Moravia (830–908).

His successor Rastislav invited missionaries

Ss. Cyril and Methodius to Great Moravia.



They established an independent church province, developed the first Slavic alphabet (Glagolitic alphabet) using Greek symbols, and used it to translate the Bible into vernacular. The most important ruler of Great Moravia was Svätopluk who fought with East Francia (Kingdom of the East Franks). Great Moravia disintegrated after its invasion by Magyar tribes and the successes of East Francia. Sites dating back to the time of Great Moravia may be found, for example, at Devín, Nitra, and Ducové.

The Magyar tribes established a **Hungarian Empire** in the Danube area, and the territory of present-day Slovakia was absorbed in it around A. D. 1000. The history of Slovakia was thus interwoven with that of the Hungarian state until 1918.

The development of the Hungarian Empire was interrupted by the **Tatar invasion**

(1240–1242). After the Tatars left, Belo IV invited Saxons to come and live in Hungary, which significantly strengthened urban civilisation. After the male line of the Árpád dynasty died out in 1301, Charles Robert of Anjou became king in 1308 and established the Anjou dynasty, which was followed by the Jagiellonian dynasty in 1440.

The period of humanism and renaissance in the Hungarian Empire is represented by its ruler, **Matthias Corvinus** (1458–1490). The first university in the territory of present-day Slovakia, **Academia Istropolitana** (1465–1491), was established in Bratislava during his rule.

Modern Times

In 1526, King Louis II of the Jagiellonian dynasty was defeated and killed by **Turks** in the battle near Mohács. This battle started the period of Turkish occupation of the region including a significant part of the territory of the Hungarian Empire. The territory of present-day Slovakia became the administrative and economic centre of the rest of the Hungarian Empire, and Bratislava was the coronation site of many Hungarian kings from 1563 to 1830 (including Maria Theresa from the Habsburg family in 1741).

In 1635, Péter Pázmány established **Trnava University** in Trnava (which was relocated to Budapest in 1777). The Jesuits founded **Košice University** in Košice in 1657.

The numerous anti-Habsburg uprisings organised by Hungarian nobility were curtailed by the 1711 Peace of Szatmár. However, it did not stop unrest amongst the House's subjects, a fact that was reflected in the high levels of emigration and banditry. At this time, the legend of the most famous of Slovak outlaw, who was stealing from the rich to give the loot to the poor, **Juraj Jánošík**, was born.

The 18th century saw the development of manufacturing and the modernisation of mining technology. In 1762, the enlightened absolutist ruler Maria Theresa established the **Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica – the first school of mining in the world**. In 1774, she also introduced compulsory school attendance. Her son, the Emperor Joseph II, abolished serfdom in the Hungarian Empire in 1785.



Slovak national consciousness rekindled in the 18th and 19th centuries, and Slovak civil society began to emerge. The first written form of Slovak language was codified in 1847, and the first political programme was proclaimed in 1848. In 1861, the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation was published, and in 1863, “Matica slovenská”, a scientific and cultural institution focusing on topics related to the Slovak nation, was established. The late 19th and early 20th centuries were marked by the struggle against Hungarian nationalist tendencies, culminating in the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Present times

Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia was established with the end of World War I and the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in 1918. The period of prosperity of the newly established republic followed until the world's economic crisis and the later advent of the Nazism. In 1939, Slovakia was proclaimed *de iure* autonomous. However, its sovereignty was extremely limited due to strong economic, military and political dependency on Germany.

The Slovak National Uprising during World War II, in 1944, was a clear indication of the country's opposition to Nazism. In 1945, the Czech and Slovak states joined again.

Communism

In 1948, a communistic putsch took place – the so-called February Revolution. The 1950's in Czechoslovakia were a period of political oppression, characterised by the victimisation of prominent political, cultural and religious individuals, and even of ordinary people. In 1968, Alexander Dubček (the then leader of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia) introduced the policy known as socialism with a human face. The period of liberalisation of the Communist regime (known as the Prague Spring) ended with the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968.

A period of “normalisation” (restoration of the conditions prevailing before the reform period), which plunged Czechoslovakia into the economic, political and moral decline, lasted until the 1980 s. Nevertheless, the opposition towards the regime grew and during the late 1980 s, it became more intense and organised. The overthrow of the communist government in November 1989 is referred to as the Velvet Revolution.

Slovak Republic today

On 1 January 1993, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic has peacefully divided into two independent states – the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Slovakia immediately joined the United Nations as a fully-fledged member. In October 1993, the European Parliament ratified the association agreement between the Slovak Republic and the European Union. In March 2004, Slovakia joined NATO, and on 1 May 2004, the European Union. In December 2007, Slovakia became part of the Schengen Area, and in 2009 joined the euro area and adopted euro as its currency.

2.4 Political system and state bodies

The Slovak Republic was established on 1 January 1993 as one of the successors to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. It is a parliamentary democracy and its Constitution guarantees equal rights to everyone regardless of gender, race, skin colour, language, creed, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, nationality or ethnic origin, property, descent or any other status.

State bodies

The National Council of the Slovak Republic is a unicameral parliament and the country's main legislative body. The National Council has 150 members elected for 4-year terms in a direct election. The electoral system is proportional representation. Parties are allocated seats in the Parliament according to the percentage share of the votes they get in parliamentary elections. Only a party with at least 5 % of votes can obtain seats in the Parliament. The next parliamentary election is scheduled for March 2020.

The President of the Slovak Republic is the Head of State elected for a 5-year term in a direct election. The same person can be elected President for a maximum of two consecutive terms. The current President of the Slovak Republic is Mr. Andrej Kiska (since June 2014). The next presidential elections are scheduled to be held in March 2019.

The Government of the Slovak Republic is the highest tier of executive power. The Cabinet consists of the Prime Minister, his deputies, and ministers. The Prime Minister is nominated by the President and is usually the leader of the majority party after the parliamentary election. Upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister,

the President appoints and dismisses other members of the Cabinet. The Government is collectively responsible for the exercise of governmental powers to the Parliament, which may hold a vote of no confidence at any time. The Parliament can also hold a vote of no confidence against a single member of the Cabinet. The current Prime Minister is Mr. Peter Pellegrini (appointed in March 2018).

2.5 Economy

The current state of Slovak economy is a result of long-term development. In the past, agriculture represented its most important component.

The first manufactures in the territory of present-day Slovakia were established in the 18th century, while modern industry such as wood processing industry, papermaking industry, and chiefly flour-milling industry started to develop in the 19th century.

After the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918, Slovakia suffered from being a less developed part of the newly established republic. In Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, 39 % of the population was employed in industry, and 31 % in agriculture and forestry. In Slovakia, only 17.1 % of the population was employed in industry, and 60.4 % worked in agriculture and forestry. After the world economic crisis, armament companies, chemical works and footwear works were built. During the interwar period, Czech capital predominated in Slovak industry, taking advantage of cheap raw materials and low wages, which resulted in the growth of Slovak capital investment.

After the WWII and the communist takeover in 1948, industry, transport and banks were nationalised and agriculture collectivised. In that period, the armaments industry, metal and heavy industry developed at the expense of traditional strengths in light and craft-based industries, such as textiles, clothing, glass, and ceramics. The proportion of employment in industry and agriculture had gradually changed. While in 1948 agriculture in Slovakia employed 60 % of workers, at the beginning of 1980 it amounted to approx. 18 % of the economically active population.

In 1991, privatisation became a part of extensive changes in the economic environment. It was related to the liberalisation of prices; the achievement of the internal convertibility of the currency; the liberalisation of foreign trade; and the opening up of the country to foreign investors. The bulk of the industrial economy has been transferred to the private sector, including the key areas of machinery, chemical works, textiles, leather, shoes, glass, electronics, and car manufacturing. In 1999, Slovak state banks were privatised.

The agricultural sector, almost all of which is now privately owned, produces wheat and barley, corn, sugar beet, potatoes, fruit, vegetables, sunflower and livestock (cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, and goats). However, its relative economic contribution (lower than 5 % of GDP) is not substantial.

Since 1998, the government has focused on macroeconomic stabilisation and structural reforms to build a base for long-term prosperity. In addition, it has integrated the Slovak Republic with European and international organisations, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which the country joined in 2000.

Fundamental tax reform was one of the most important initiatives of the Slovak government in the period 2002 – 2006. The reform introduced a flat rate to income taxation in 2004. A unified 19 % VAT rate was applied to all goods and services, although, since 1 January 2011, the VAT has been raised to 20 %.

The tax system faced a fundamental redesign with having progressive taxation introduced as of 2013. Currently, the 19 % tax rate is applied to private individual's income not exceeding 176.8 times the current amount of subsistence minimum (including), and 25 % rate to income exceeding 176.8 times the current amount of subsistence minimum (equal to 36,256.38 € in 2018 with the subsistence minimum equal to 205.07 €/month since 1 July 2018. For legal entities, the rate is 21 % of the tax base net of tax loss. The volume of the Slovak gross domestic product amounted to 84.9 billion € in 2016.

Export revenues in Slovakia are increasing, mainly because of export to other EU countries. There is a sustained tendency toward growth in foreign direct investments and Slovakia offers many opportunities for domestic and foreign investors. The strongest position is currently held by the automobile industry and its subcontractors (Volkswagen, Peugeot-Citroën, Kia Motors, Jaguar Land Rover). Export of motor vehicles (cars), electronic equipment or petroleum oils is dominant.

The unemployment rate was 5.94 % in 2017.

2.6 Significant scientists born in Slovakia

Vojtech Alexander – radiologist (1857 – 1916)

One of the world's greatest radiologists and the founder of radiology in the Hungarian Kingdom. He described the development of tuberculosis and owned the first X-ray apparatus in Slovakia.



Ján Bahýľ – engineer and inventor (1865 – 1916)

Inventor of the motor-powered helicopter (four years before Bréguet and Cornu). He was granted 17 military and other technical patents for the invention of the tank pump, hot air balloon combined with an air turbine, the first petrol engine car in Slovakia, a lift to Bratislava Castle and other inventions.

Štefan Banič – inventor (1870 – 1941)

Lived in the USA from 1907 to 1921. He constructed a prototype parachute in 1913, which was registered at the United States Patent Office. He was also involved in improving mining production and bridge construction. The parachute has become a vital part of modern aviation.



Matej Bel – polyhistor (1684 – 1749)

Polymath, educationist, scientist and evangelical priest. He was one of the greatest scientific figures of the 18th century, referred to as the Magnum decus Hungariae – the Great Ornament of Hungary. He made an important

contribution to pietism, was a pioneer in the field of collective research into the Hungarian nation, and carried out comprehensive scientific, historical and geographical research. He was the co-author of a unique account of agriculture in the Hungarian Empire. Works: *Hungaria antiquae et novae prodromus* (1723), *Adparatus ad historiam Hungariae* (1735 – 1736) and *Notitia Hungariae novae historico-geographica* (1735 – 1742). The Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica bears his name.

Dionýz Blaškovič
– bacteriologist
and virologist
(1913 – 1998)

Received international recognition for his research of pathogenesis, biological and biochemical properties of bacteria, laboratory diagnosis of viral infections, and the ecology of influenza virus and tick-borne encephalitis.



Béla Gerster – engineer
(1850 – 1923)

Widely respected expert engineer and canal architect. He was the co-author of the Panama Canal and chief engineer of the Corinth Canal projects. In 1876, he participated in the international expedition to identify the most suitable route for an inter-oceanic canal, and proposed the area between Panama and Colon. In 1881, he was asked to project the Corinth Canal, the construction of which started a year later and ended in 1893. He also marked out a railway line from Athens to Larissa.

**Jozef Karol Hell – mining engineer
and inventor**
(1713 – 1789)

Inventor of the water-pillar pump machine, which was able to pump huge amounts of groundwater from mines from a depth of 212 meters and is still used for oil extraction. He also constructed an air-cleaning device used in mines and a device for pumping fresh air into underground depths.

Maximilián Hell
– astronomer
(1720 – 1792)

One of the greatest astronomers of the 18th century and a director of the Imperial Observatory in Vienna, Austria. In 1769, he correctly calculated the Sun's parallax and measured the distance between the Earth and the Sun. The crater Hell on the Moon bears his name.



**Dionýz Ilkovič – physicist and physical
chemist**
(1907 – 1980)

Founder of Slovak physics. He played a distinguished part in elaborating the theory of polarography for which his teacher and collaborator Jaroslav Heyrovský was awarded a Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1959. He is the author of Ilkovič's equation. The article, where the equation was derived, is the most quoted work of a Slovak physical chemist.

Štefan Anián Jedlík – physicist and inventor

(1800 – 1895)

Experimented with electromagnetic rotating devices which he called “lightning-magnetic self-rotors”, constructed a predecessor of the modern electromotor three years before M. Faraday, and the unipolar dynamo six years before W. Siemens. Discovered the possibility of voltage multiplication and demonstrated it with a “tubular voltage generator” (an early form of the impulse generators now applied in nuclear research).



Ján Jessenius – physician

(1566 – 1621)

Famous physician, anatomist and rector of the Charles University in Prague. In 1600, he carried out the first public dissection in the



Lands of the Bohemian Crown. He was also a Protestant activist and was executed after the Battle of White Mountain (“Bíla Hora”) at the beginning of the Thirty Years’ War. Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin of the Comenius University in Bratislava bears his name.

Ján Wolfgan Kempelen – polytechnician and inventor

(1734 – 1804)

Constructed a chess-playing automaton called the Turk, manually operated speaking machine, steam engines, water pump for Bratislava castle, steam turbine for



mills, typewriter for blind people, and built pontoon bridge in Bratislava, the famous fountains in the gardens of the Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna and a theatre house in Budapest, and reconstructed the castle in Budapest.

Filip Anton Eduard von Lenard – physicist

(1862 – 1947)

One of the most significant physicists of the 19th and 20th centuries. He was born in Bratislava, but later moved to Germany. He was engaged



in the research of cathode rays, photoelectric effect, spectral analysis, phosphorescence, luminescence, ultraviolet rays, magnetic and electric fields. He also co-operated with H. R. Hertz on the verification of Maxwell’s theory of electromagnetic waves. In 1905, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for his work on cathode rays.

Samuel Mikovíny – geodesist and cartographer

(1700 – 1750)

Invented an original cartographic method, where he surveyed and marked out the basic triangulation polygon from Bratislava Castle Tower via Zobor Hill to Sitno Hill and Banská Bystrica. The Emperor Charles VI commissioned him to produce a collection of maps of Hungary. He closely co-operated with Matej Bel (produced maps for some of his publications). He designed water (anti-flood works), mining, military (fortifications) and other constructions, and artificial water reservoirs near the mines in the region of Banská Štiavnica. He also surveyed caves. In 1735, he became head of the first mining high school in the Hungarian Kingdom.

Jozef Murgaš – geodesist and cartographer

(1864 – 1929)

Lived in the USA, where he worked as a priest. He was also involved in electrical engineering and registered 12 patents in the field of wireless telegraphy. He established different frequencies for the dots and dashes in the Morse code, thus accelerating the transmission of messages. His other patents include the spinning reel (for fishing), wave meter, electric transformer, magnetic detector and an engine producing electromagnetic waves. He is often referred to as the “Slovak Edison” or “Radio Priest”.



Ľudmila Pajdušáková – astronomer

(1916 – 1979)

The first Slovak woman astronomer, a specialist in solar astronomy. She made her name as the discoverer of 5 comets (1 period comet and 4 non-periodic comets). Other examples of her scientific research included the systematic observation of meteors (among them the Umid meteor shower in 1945) and observations of the Sun. Her facsimile collection published in 1946, which included more than 11,000 meteorites on 10,000 facsimiles, was, at that time, the second largest in the world after the Harvard collection. A minor planet 3,636 Pajdušáková, discovered in 1982, bears her name.



Jozef Maximilián Petzval – mathematician, physicist, inventor

(1807 – 1891)

One of the foremost European researchers in the 19th century; considered the founder of geometrical optics, modern photography and cinematography. He is best remembered for his work on optical lenses and lens aberration in early 1840's (the Petzval curvature is named after him) which made possible the construction of modern cameras. Petzval produced an achromatic portrait lens that was vastly superior to the simple meniscus lens used in that time. Among his inventions are also opera glasses. The crater Petzval on the far side of the Moon bears his name. (J. M. Petzval Museum, Petzvalova ul. 3, Spišská Belá)



Ján Andrej Segner – physician, astronomer, physicist and mathematician

(1704 – 1777)

One of the best-known scientists of his age. Designed a reactive water engine known as the Segner wheel, and invented the water turbine principle, which formed the basis for the functioning of modern space rockets. The crater Segner on the Moon bears his name, as does the minor planet 28 878 Segner (discovered in 2000).

Ján Selye – physician

(1907 – 1982)

Pioneer of endocrinology. Discovered the stress reaction and the adaptation syndrome; did research into the killer illness



of the 20th century, coronary thrombosis. Moved to Canada where he established the Institute of Experimental Medicine and Surgery at the Université de Montréal. J. Selye University in Komárno bears his name.

Aurel Stodola – engineer, physicist and inventor
(1859 – 1942)

Graduated in the field of mechanical engineering and worked as a professor at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland (one of his students was Albert Einstein). He achieved his greatest successes in the area of steam and gas turbines; his calculations and constructions forming the basis of this particular field of mechanical engineering. In 1915, he constructed a movable artificial arm, known as Stodola's arm. He was awarded the most prestigious engineering awards – the Grashof Medal (1908) and the James Watt Gold Medal (1940). He was also a corresponding member of the French Academy of Sciences.

Milan Rastislav Štefánik – politician, military pilot and officer, and astronomer
(1880 – 1919)

The most important Slovak politician participating in the negotiations leading to the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918.

Originally a scientist, he studied astronomy in Prague and Paris.

Štefánik specialised in astrophysics and especially in solar physics. The Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš bears his name.



Dionýz Štúr – geologist, palaeontologist and botanist
(1827 – 1893)

Outstanding and world-famous scientist. He carried out geological research throughout the entire Austro-Hungarian Kingdom and he compiled the first geological map of Monarchy. Those works were very important for Slovakia and became a milestone for a systematic geological research of the Western Carpathians. He was a director of the Imperial Geological Institute in Vienna (1885 – 1892). The State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr in Bratislava bears his name.

Ľudovít Štúr – politician, national activist and linguist
(1815 – 1856)

The leading figure of the Slovak National Revival in the 19th century. Together with Jozef Miloslav Hurban and Michal Hodža, he codified modern Slovak language in 1844. Ľudovít Štúr's "Standard Slovak" was published in 1846 in his "Náuka reči slovenskej" or "Theory of the Slovak language". Ľudovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava bears his name.



Thurzo, Viliam – physician
(1912 – 1984)

Founder of cancer research, research of oncogenic viruses and experimental oncology in Slovakia. He discovered a new type of virus called B77, which is still used as a model for research into the genesis of tumours.

3. Research in Slovakia

The Slovak research environment can be characterised by describing its research-related legislation, by identifying Slovak research institutions where you could find a job or collaboration, and by identifying funding opportunities (on national, bilateral, multilateral level) for your research in Slovakia.

3.1 Legislative framework of research and development in Slovakia

Research and development – its legal status

The basic law in the area of research and development (R&D) is the **Act No. 172/2005 on Arrangement of State Support for Research & Development**.

The Act defines the role of the Slovak Government, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport and other state administration bodies in the area of R&D. It prescribes the position and roles of the Slovak Research and Development Agency, conditions and forms of granting the state support, and the system of state R&D programmes.

R&D in Slovakia is carried out at universities, institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, legal entities established by state administration central bodies (state department research institutions) and in private research institutions.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (MESRS SR) is the central body that is responsible for creating conditions for scientific and technological development,

for cost-effective utilisation of state budget and coordination of activities of other state bodies, the Slovak Academy of Sciences and of universities, which are involved in the preparation and implementation of the S&T policy.

The R&D support is offered in the form of granting **funds from the state budget** as non-repayable subsidies. It can be a **purpose-oriented** form of support or an institutional form of support. The purpose-oriented form enables the implementation of R&D projects and infrastructure development projects through the Slovak Research and Development Agency, and projects within state programmes. Funds within the **institutional form** of support are granted for R&D activities at public and state universities, in Slovak Academy of Sciences and state department research institutes.

Public and state universities are educational, scientific and artistic institutions established by the Act No. 131/2002 on Higher Education Institutions. The Slovak Academy of Science is a self-governing scientific institution of the Slovak Republic established by the Act No. 133/2002 on Slovak Academy of Sciences.

3.2 Research institutions

Slovak R&D activities are integrated into several sectors: higher education sector, state sector, private sector and non-profit sector. Entities with a certificate of competence to carry out research and development are entitled to seek funding from the state budget. The certificates are issued and withdrawn by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

3.2.1 Higher education sector

The higher education sector consists of 20 public, three state and 12 private higher education institutions. According to the Act on Higher Education Institutions, these are third-level educational, scientific and art institutions. More information is available at the websites of the respective higher education institutions.

Public higher education institutions

- Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica (Akadémia umení v Banskej Bystrici) – www.aku.sk, in Slovak only
- Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava (Vysoká škola výtvarných umení v Bratislave) – www.vsvu.sk
- Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava (Vysoká škola múzických umení v Bratislave) – www.vsmu.sk
- Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín (Trenčianska univerzita Alexandra Dubčeka v Trenčíne) – www.tnuni.sk, in Slovak only
- Catholic University in Ružomberok (Katólicka univerzita v Ružomberku) – www.ku.sk
- Comenius University in Bratislava (Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave) – www.uniba.sk
- Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Univerzita Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre) – www.ukf.sk
- J. Selye University in Komárno (Univerzita J. Selyeho v Komárne) – www.ujs.sk
- Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (Univerzita Mateja Bela v Banskej Bystrici) – www.umb.sk
- Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach) – www.upjs.sk
- Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovenská poľnohospodárska univerzita v Nitre) – www.uniag.sk
- Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (Slovenská technická univerzita v Bratislave) – www.stuba.sk
- Technical University in Zvolen (Technická univerzita vo Zvolene) – www.tuzvo.sk
- Technical University of Košice (Technická univerzita v Košiciach) – www.tuke.sk
- Trnava University in Trnava (Trnavská univerzita v Trnave) – www.truni.sk
- University of Economics in Bratislava (Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave) – www.euba.sk
- University of Prešov in Prešov (Prešovská univerzita v Prešove) – www.unipo.sk
- University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (Univerzita sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Trnave) – www.ucm.sk
- University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice (Univerzita veterinárskeho lekárstva a farmácie v Košiciach) – www.uvlf.sk
- University of Žilina in Žilina (Žilinská univerzita v Žiline) – www.uniza.sk

State higher education institutions

- Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava (Akadémia Policajného zboru v Bratislave) – www.akademiapz.sk
- Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš (Akadémia ozbrojených síl gen. M. R. Štefánika v Liptovskom Mikuláši) – www.aos.sk
- Slovak Medical University in Bratislava (Slovenská zdravotnícka univerzita v Bratislave) – www.szu.sk

Private higher education institutions

- Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts in Bratislava (Bratislavská medzinárodná škola liberálnych štúdií v Bratislave) – www.bisla.sk
- College of International Business ISM Slovakia in Prešov (Vysoká škola medzinárodného podnikania ISM Slovakia v Prešove) – www.ismpo.sk

- Danubius University in Sládkovičovo (Vysoká škola Danubius) – www.vsdanubius.sk
 - DTI University in Dubnica nad Váhom (Vysoká škola DTI v Dubnici nad Váhom) – www.dti.sk
 - Ján Albrecht Music and Art Academy in Banská Štiavnica (Hudobná a umelecká akadémia Jána Albrechta v Banskej Štiavnici) – www.huaja.org
 - Media Academy, School of Media and Marketing Communication in Bratislava (Akadémia médií, Odborná vysoká škola mediálnej a marketingovej komunikácie v Bratislave) – www.akademiamedii.sk, in Slovak only
 - Pan-European University in Bratislava (Paneurópska vysoká škola v Bratislave) – www.paneurouni.com
 - School of Economics and Management in Public Administration in Bratislava (Vysoká škola ekonómie a manažmentu verejnej správy v Bratislave) – www.vsemvs.sk
 - School of Management in Trenčín (Vysoká škola manažmentu v Trenčíne) – www.vsm.sk
 - St. Elizabeth University of Health Care and Social Work in Bratislava (Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety v Bratislave) – www.vssvalzbety.sk, in Slovak only
 - University of Central Europe in Skalica (Stredo európska vysoká škola v Skalici) – www.sevs.sk
 - University of Security Management in Košice (Vysoká škola bezpečnostného manažérstva v Košiciach) – www.vsbm.sk
- headquarters in the Czech Republic (Vysoká škola medzinárodných a verejných vzťahů Praha v Bratislave – sídlo v Českej republike)
 - www.vip-vs.sk, in Slovak only
 - Fresenius University of Applied Sciences in Banská Bystrica – headquarters in Germany (Hochschule Fresenius v Banskej Bystrici – sídlo v Nemecku) – www.hs-fresenius.sk/, in Slovak only
 - MOD’SPE PARIS Fashion Business School of Marketing and Communication in Bratislava – headquarters in France (Ecole de Mode à Paris en Marketing et Communication) – www.modspeparisce.com

3.2.2 State research and development sector

The state R&D sector consists of research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) and state sector R&D organisations established by central state administration bodies. The SAS is a self-governing scientific organisation of the Slovak Republic, which focuses on the development of science, education, culture and economy. The SAS conducts its research activity by means of research institutes established based on either full or partial public funding. State sector R&D organisations are established by the relevant central administrative bodies.

Slovak Academy of Sciences
www.sav.sk

Section 1 – Physical, Space, Earth and Engineering Sciences

Earth and Space Sciences

- Astronomical Institute, Tatranská Lomnica (www.astro.sk)
- Earth Science Institute, Bratislava (www.geo.sav.sk)
- Institute of Geography, Bratislava (www.geography.sav.sk)

Foreign higher education institutions

Foreign higher education institutions provide higher education in Slovakia in accordance with the legislation of the state of their headquarters based on the permit issued by the MESRS SR.

- College of International and Public Relations Prague in Bratislava

- Institute of Hydrology, Bratislava (www.ih.savba.sk)

Mathematical and Physical Sciences

- Centre for Advanced Material Application, Bratislava
- Institute of Experimental Physics, Košice (www.uef.saske.sk)
- Institute of Physics, Bratislava (www.fu.sav.sk)
- Mathematical Institute, Bratislava (www.mat.savba.sk)

Engineering Sciences

- Institute of Construction and Architecture, Bratislava (www.ustarch.sav.sk)
- Institute of Electrical Engineering, Bratislava (www.elu.sav.sk)
- Institute of Geotechnics, Košice (<http://ugt.saske.sk>)
- Institute of Informatics, Bratislava (www.ui.sav.sk)
- Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics, Bratislava (www.umms.sav.sk)
- Institute of Materials Research, Košice (www.imr.saske.sk)
- Institute of Measurement Science, Bratislava (www.um.sav.sk)

Section 2 – Life, Chemical, Medical and Environmental Sciences

Medical Sciences

- Biomedical Research Centre, Bratislava (www.biomedcentrum.sav.sk)
- Centre of Experimental Medicine, Bratislava (www.cem.sav.sk)
- Institute of Neuroimmunology, Bratislava (www.niu.sav.sk)

Biological and Chemical Sciences

- Centre of Biosciences, Bratislava (www.cbv.sav.sk)
- Institute of Chemistry, Bratislava (<http://chem.sk>)
- Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Bratislava (www.uach.sav.sk)

- Institute of Molecular Biology, Bratislava (www.imb.savba.sk)
- Institute of Zoology, Bratislava (www.zoo.sav.sk)
- Polymer Institute, Bratislava (www.polymer.sav.sk)

Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences

- Institute of Forest Ecology, Zvolen (www.ife.sk)
- Institute of Landscape Ecology, Bratislava (www.uke.sav.sk)
- Institute of Parasitology, Košice (<http://pau.saske.sk/>)
- Institute of Plant Genetics and Biotechnology, Nitra (<http://cbrb.sav.sk>)

Section 3 – Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Culture

Historical Sciences

- Institute of Archaeology, Nitra (www.archeol.sav.sk)
- Institute of Ethnology, Bratislava (www.uet.sav.sk)
- Institute of History, Bratislava (www.history.sav.sk)

Humanities and Social Sciences

- Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences, Bratislava (www.cspv.sav.sk)
- Institute for Research in Social Communication, Bratislava (www.kvsbk.sav.sk)
- Institute for Sociology, Bratislava (www.sociologia.sav.sk)
- Institute of Economic Research, Bratislava (www.ekonom.sav.sk)
- Institute of Philosophy, Bratislava (www.klemens.sav.sk/fiusav)
- Institute of Political Sciences, Bratislava (www.upv.sav.sk)
- Institute of State and Law, Bratislava (www.usap.sav.sk)

Arts and Culture

- Art Research Centre, Bratislava

- Institute of Musicology, Bratislava (www.uhv.sav.sk)
- Institute of Oriental Studies, Bratislava (www.orient.sav.sk)
- Institute of Slovak Literature, Bratislava (www.uslit.sav.sk, in Slovak only)
- Institute of World Literature, Bratislava (www.usvl.sav.sk)
- Ján Stanislav Institute of Slavistics, Bratislava (www.slavu.sav.sk)
- Ľudovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics, Bratislava (www.juls.savba.sk)
- Observatory and Planetarium of Prešov, Prešov (www.astropresov.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak Central Observatory, Hurbanovo (www.suh.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak Design Centre, Bratislava (www.sdc.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak Film Institute, Bratislava (www.sfu.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava (www.sng.sk, primary activity other than R&D)

Other state research institutes

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (www.mpsr.sk)

- National Agricultural and Food Centre, Lužianky (www.nppc.sk)
- National Forest Centre, Zvolen (www.nlcsk.org)
- State Forests of the Tatra National Park, Tatranská Lomnica (www.lesytanap.sk, in Slovak only)
- State Veterinary and Food Institute, Bratislava (www.svuba.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic (www.culture.gov.sk)

- Central Slovakia Museum, Banská Bystrica (www.ssmuzeum.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- East Slovakia Museum, Košice (www.vsmuzeum.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (www.pamiatky.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Museum of the Slovak National Uprising, Banská Bystrica (www.muzeumsnp.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Museum of the Spiš Territory, Spišská Nová Ves (www.muzeumspisa.com, primary activity other than R&D)
- State Scientific Library, Prešov (www.svkpo.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Theatre Institute, Bratislava (www.theatre.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- University Library, Bratislava (www.ulib.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Vihorlat Observatory, Humenné (www.astrokolonica.sk, primary activity other than R&D)

Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic (www.mosr.sk)

- Central Military Hospital, Ružomberok (www.uvn.sk, primary activity other than R&D)

- Institute of Military History, Bratislava (www.vhu.sk)
- Training Centre, Lešť (www.lest.mil.sk, primary activity other than R&D)

Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic (www.mhsr.sk)

- Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, Bratislava (www.siea.sk, primary activity other than R&D)

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (www.minedu.sk)

- International Laser Centre, Bratislava (www.ilc.sk)
- IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute, Bratislava (www.iuventa.sk/sk/IUVENTA-home.alej), primary activity other than R&D)
- Methodology and Pedagogy Centre, Bratislava (<https://mpc-edu.sk/>, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- National Institute for Education, Bratislava (www.statpedu.sk)
- Observatory and Planetarium of Maximilián Hell, Žiar nad Hronom (www.planetarium.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Research Agency, Bratislava (www.vyskumnaagentura.sk)
- Research Institute for Children Psychology and Pathopsychology, Bratislava (www.vudpap.sk)
- Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Bratislava (www.cvtisr.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak Library of Pedagogy, Bratislava (www.spgk.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak Research and Development Agency, Bratislava (www.apvv.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- State Institute of Pedagogy, Bratislava (www.statpedu.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- State Institute of Professional Education, Bratislava (www.siov.sk,

in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (www.minzp.sk)

- National Nature Protection of the Slovak Republic, Banská Bystrica (www.sopsr.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr, Bratislava (www.geology.sk)
- Slovak Environment Agency, Banská Bystrica (www.sazp.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Bratislava (www.shmu.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak Museum of Nature Protection and Speleology, Liptovský Mikuláš (www.smopaj.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak Water Management Enterprise, Banská Štiavnica (www.svp.sk, in Slovak only)
- Water Research Institute, Bratislava (www.vuvh.sk)
- Water Management Construction, Bratislava (www.vvb.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)

Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (www.finance.gov.sk)

- Mint Kremnica, Kremnica (www.mint.sk)

Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (www.health.gov.sk)

- Centre for Drug Addiction Treatment, Bratislava (www.cpldz.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- East Slovak Cancer Institute, Košice (www.vou.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Children's University Hospital, Banská Bystrica (www.detskanemocnica.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Children's University Hospital, Bratislava (www.dfnsp.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)

- Children's University Hospital, Košice (www.dfnkosice.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Faculty Hospital, Trenčín (www.fntn.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Faculty Hospital, Žilina (www.fnspza.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Faculty Hospital of F. D. Roosevelt, Banská Bystrica (www.fnspbb.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Faculty Hospital of J. A. Reiman, Prešov (www.fnsppresov.sk, in Slovak only)
- National Cancer Institute, Bratislava, (www.nou.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Bratislava (www.nusch.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- National Institute of Rheumatic Diseases, Piešťany (www.nurch.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- National Transplant Organisation, Bratislava (www.nto.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (www.uvzsr.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Regional Authority of Public Health, Banská Bystrica (www.vzbb.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- University Hospital, Bratislava (www.unb.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- University Hospital, Martin (www.unm.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- University Hospital of L. Pasteur, Košice (www.unlp.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Institute of Criminalistics and Forensic Expertise of the Police Force, Bratislava (www.minv.sk/?keupz, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak National Archive, Bratislava (www.minv.sk/?slovensky-narodny-archiv-1, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Institute of Fire Technology and Expertise, Bratislava (www.minv.sk/?home_PTEU, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (www.justice.gov.sk)

- Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic, Pezinok (www.ja-sr.sk/node/1360, primary activity other than R&D)

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (www.employment.gov.sk)

- Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Bratislava (www.upsvar.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava (www.ceit.sk/IVPR)

Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (www.telecom.gov.sk)

- Research and Development Institute of Railways, Žilina (www.zsr.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)

Other state non-departmental research organisations

- Matica slovenská, Martin (Slovak Foundation), basic research, ethnography, literature, linguistics, Slovak history (www.matica.sk, in Slovak only)
- Nation's Memory Institute, Bratislava, collects and process all kinds of information related to the period of oppression in the years 1939–1989 (www.upn.gov.sk)

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (www.minv.sk)

- Hospital of St. Michael, Bratislava (www.nsmas.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)

- Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (www.uvzsr.sk, primary activity other than R&D)

Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava (www.skgeodesy.sk, in Slovak only)

- Research Institute of Geodesy and Cartography, Bratislava (www.vugk.sk)

Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing, Bratislava (www.unms.sk)

- Slovak Institute of Metrology, Bratislava (www.smu.sk, in Slovak only)
- Technical Testing Institute, Piešťany (www.tsu.sk, in Slovak only)

Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (<https://slovak.statistics.sk>)

- INFOSTAT – Institute of Informatics and Statistics, Bratislava (www.infostat.sk, in Slovak only)

3.2.3 Private research and development sector

The R&D sector also comprises private companies active in research. In order to be officially recognised as organisations eligible to participate in schemes of public funding for research, they must be approved by the MESRS SR and listed in the Information system on Science and Research – SK CRIS (Current Research Information System) at www.skcris.sk.

3.2.4 Non-profit sector of research & development

Non-profit sector of R&D comprises civic associations and non-profit organisations engaged in the area of R&D. They are also listed in the Information system on Science and Research SK CRIS (www.skcris.sk).

Support service in innovative processes development in SMEs and technology transfer is provided by the Business

and Innovation Centre (BIC) Bratislava (www.bic.sk), which is a member of the European Enterprise Network (www.een.sk).

3.3 New research infrastructures

During the last decade, brand new research infrastructure has been established or upgraded in all key research institutions in Slovakia, and many research institutions now have the infrastructure comparable to that at the best R&D institutions in Europe. The following text introduces the most important integrated research capacities in three areas of research: Materials and Nanotechnologies, ICT and Industrial Technologies, and Biomedicine and Biotechnology.

Materials and Nanotechnologies

Centre of Applied Research of New Materials and Technology Transfer

The centre was established at the Slovak Academy of Sciences as a collaboration of the Institute of Physics, Institute of Electrical Engineering, Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics, Polymer Institute, Slovak University of Technology and Academy of Fine Arts and Design. The mission of the centre is to conduct excellent exploratory research focused on materials engineering, nanotechnology and process engineering. The newly constructed technological building contains high-tech laboratories and necessary support infrastructure. Five high-tech laboratories have been built in the centre: a laboratory of ceramic materials, laboratory of materials for electrical engineering, laboratory of metallic materials, laboratory of exploitation of nanomaterials and laboratory of structural analysis of materials.

More information at: www.sav.sk

University Research Park “Campus MTF STU” – CAMBO

The research park established at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava integrates high-end ion technologies into a single research facility focusing on materials engineering in the field of ion and plasma technologies, physics, astrophysics, chemistry, automation and ICT implementation in industrial processes. Research fields such as nanotechnology and nanostructures, sensorics, specific hardware & software development, bioengineering and health, big data, software engineering, calculations, simulation and modelling are also covered.

More information at: www.stuba.sk.

Research Centre for Progressive Materials and Technologies for Present and Future Application “PROMATECH”

The research centre was founded at the Slovak Academy of Sciences and is a result of collaboration between the Institute of Materials Research, Institute of Experimental Physics, Institute of Geotechnics and Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics. PROMATECH represents a modern research centre with top quality equipment and personal infrastructure with overcritical size, and contributes to increasing the effectiveness of research and development activities in four main areas: (1) research and development of modern steels, powder metallurgy products and hard coatings, (2) research and development of materials for biomedical and environmental technologies, (3) materials for ICT technologies and cryotechnologies and (4) research and development of new magnetic materials.

More information at: www.promatech.sk

Research Centre, University of Žilina

The centre was established by the University of Žilina in collaboration with the

Transport Research Institute. The Research Centre of the University of Žilina is a unique research and development facility aiming to perform research with impact on everyday life in three research areas: (1) monitoring and evaluation of transport infrastructure conditions, (2) progressive materials for transport infrastructure and vehicles and (3) production design and operation of smart buildings and renewable energy.

More information: www.researchcentre.sk

ICT and Industrial Technologies

University Science Park TECHNICOM for innovative applications supported by knowledge technologies (USP TECHNICOM)

The Science Park TECHNICOM was founded by the Technical University in Košice in collaboration with Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and the University of Prešov. The ambition of the science park founders is to turn it into the internationally recognised centre for R&D, innovations and technology transfer in five scientific areas: (1) information and communication technologies, (2) electrical engineering, automation and control systems, (3) mechanical engineering, (4) civil engineering (construction, transport, geodesy) and (5) environmental engineering (mining, metallurgy, water management).

More information at: www.technicom.tuke.sk

University Science Park of STU Bratislava

The science park is based at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. Research activities of the science park are oriented on the solution of issues with a high degree of innovation, added value and satisfaction of social needs with fast action and high impact. The University Science Park promotes new perspective industry areas with high value-added and

low need for raw materials and energy resources. The areas of research include applied research and development in ICT, electrical engineering, automation and control systems, industrial biotechnology, chemical engineering and civil engineering.

More information: www.uvp.stuba.sk

University Science Park of the University of Žilina

The science park was founded by the University of Žilina in collaboration with the Transport Research Institute. Research activities of the science park focus on the development of new materials and technology, mainly based on optical fibres and photonic components, research methods and applications in biomedical engineering as well as research of unconventional drives and their components. Apart from the institution's own research, the last area of interest – applied research of information and communication technologies – focuses on support of the main research goals.

More information at: www.uvp.uniza.sk

Biomedicine and Biotechnology

Comenius University Bratislava Science Park (CUSP)

The science park was founded by the Comenius University in Bratislava. The Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and the Institute of Zoology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences are involved as collaborating institutions. CUSP interconnects academic and scientific sphere with private and public spheres through its unique ecosystem. This cooperation is accelerating the development process of regional innovation capacities. The strategy is based on interactions and more effective use of accumulated potential in areas of research and development, financial

support opportunities offered by state and engagement of the Slovak and foreign companies in common activities. In terms of the technological orientation, CUSP primarily focuses on biomedicine, biotechnology, enviro-medicine, as well as on the related societal challenges of the 21st century.

More information at: www.cusp.uniba.sk

Martin's Biomedical Centre (BioMed Martin)

The centre is established at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin, which is a part of the Comenius University in Bratislava. BioMed Martin has a multidisciplinary approach to the biggest challenge of contemporary society – human health. It represents an intellectually stimulating modern platform with new approaches, technological processes and methodologies. Particularly unique are laboratories of the “open access”, namely: laboratory of visceral pain, laboratory for research of chronic cough, laboratory of pharmacokinetics and toxicology, laboratory of experimental physiology, psychophysiological laboratory, laboratory for research of the autonomic nervous system, genomics laboratory, laboratory of tissue culture and laboratory for proteomics and metabolomics.

More information at: www.biomedmartin.sk

More detailed information about the above mentioned integrated research capacities can be found in the publication “Contribution of the Slovak Republic to the ERA. New Research Infrastructure” which is available at http://slord.sk/sk/newresearchinfrastructure.html?page_id=2211

4. R&D funding

4.1 R&D funding at national level

In 2016, approximately 640 million € was spent on R&D in Slovakia (0.79 % of GDP). 46 % came from private sources, 41 % from public sources and 13 % from other sources.

The system of R&D funding at a national level is governed by the Act No. 172/2005 on Organisation of State Support for Research and Development. Subsidies for solving research tasks are granted to entitled applicants through grant agencies (in particular the Slovak Research and Development Agency) and state programmes for R&D support.

Since 2014, the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic for 2014 – 2020 is in force (RIS₃ SK). Its overall goal is to contribute to the strengthening of the key industry anchoring and to the diversification of the economy by a strong increase of research, innovation and creativity usage. Other aims and principles include strengthening of excellence and of internationalisation of science and technology, research and development capacity building, innovation capacity in economic practice building, and promoting a business environment favourable for innovation and its internationalisation. The RIS₃ SK strategy also defines priorities of research and development to be funded in the forthcoming years via national funding schemes but also via EU structural funds.

Research and Development priorities:

1. Material Research and Nanotechnology
2. Information and Communication Technologies
3. Biomedicine and Biotechnology

Technological priorities:

4. Industrial Technologies
5. Sustainable Energy
6. Environment and Agriculture

Social priorities:

7. Selected areas of social sciences (with respect to the most pressing problems of the Slovak society)

Research and development projections are included in national goals of the Slovak Republic arising from the Europe 2020 strategy. It is presumed that the overall level of public and private investments in research and development will increase to 1.2 % of the GDP by 2020.

4.1.1 State research funding agencies

Slovak Research & Development Agency

Slovak Research and Development



Agency (Agentúra na

podporu výskumu a vývoja – APVV) – is the major R&D grant agency in Slovakia.

It was established in July 2005 and it is a successor of the previous agency running since 2001. In 2014 – 2020, the expenditure on operations and programmes of APVV is planned for 316 million €.

The Agency acts in compliance with the long-term objective of the S&T policy and its programmes are approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic.

The Agency supports R&D (basic and applied research and experimental development) by providing funds for the implementation of the following types of the projects:

- research and development projects in all fields of science and technology;
- within the Agency's programmes;
- under international agreements on scientific and technological cooperation and projects within international programmes and initiatives in the field of research and development, including costs of their preparations.

Projects can be submitted to the Agency within Agency's Calls for Proposals. The project support usually does not exceed three years.

The Agency provides funding based on grant schemes. A grant scheme represents a system for the support of research and development activities, which specifies the fields of promotion of joint R&D programmes; the criteria for evaluating project proposals; the forms of providing funds.

Grant schemes are usually in the form of:

- General Calls
- Programmes
- Bilateral Cooperation

General Calls – Research and development support in all scientific areas

The general calls have no predefined thematic priorities; the bottom-up approach is applied. The applicant defines specialisation, objectives and subject content of the R&D project. Projects in the following groups of disciplines are supported: natural sciences, technical sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

Programmes

Agency's programmes support individual projects in areas defined by the Slovak government.

Bilateral scientific and technological cooperation

Based on international agreements concluded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. Calls for submitting projects on bilateral research cooperation are regularly published.

The projects of bilateral cooperation are intended to have these objectives:

- preparation of joint international projects;
- preparation of joint publications and other outputs;
- active participation in conferences and organisation of joint scientific events;
- mutual use of laboratory equipment;
- research materials gathering
- involvement of PhD students and/or young R&D staff (under 35).

The maximum duration of projects is 24 months. The financial support is strictly limited to short-term participants' mobility. More information about bilateral S&T cooperation can be found in the section 4.2.1.

More information: www.apvv.sk

VEGA – Science Grant Agency

Science Grant Agency (VEGA) is a grant agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (MESRS SR) and the Board of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Researchers from universities in the Slovak Republic, from the institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and from organisations directly controlled by the MESRS SR may apply for financial support from the agency. VEGA accepts applications for grants for scientific projects that solve problems of basic research. A project submitted to VEGA must represent a proposal for a solution to an integral mono-topical

scientific problem within a specific period. There are no predefined thematic priorities; the bottom-up approach is applied. Calls for submitting proposals are published annually by the MESRS SR, with the deadline usually in April of the calendar year prior to the year of implementation.

More information: website of the MESRS SR: www.minedu.sk (www.minedu.sk/vedecka-grantova-agentura-msvvas-sr-a-sav-vega/, in Slovak only)

KEGA – Cultural and Education Grant Agency

The Cultural and Education Grant Agency (KEGA) is an internal grant agency of the MESRS SR focused on financial support of projects of applied research in the field of education and creative art in defined thematic areas. Applicants from public universities may apply for the financial support from KEGA. Thematic priorities and calls for submitting proposals for the forthcoming calendar year are published annually by the MESRS SR, with the deadline usually in April of the calendar year prior to the year of implementation.

More information: website of the MESRS SR: www.minedu.sk (www.minedu.sk/kulturna-a-edukacna-grantova-agentura-msvvas-sr-kega/, in Slovak only)

4.1.2 Incentives for research and development

Enterprises which invests in fundamental research, industrial research and/or experimental development may qualify for R&D aid according to the act Act No. 185/2009 on Stimuli for Research and Development.

The R&D aid can have a form of:

- Financial subsidy (grants) provided to:
 - support basic research, applied research and experimental development,
 - develop feasibility studies.
- Tax relief

The maximum amount of incentives (grants + income tax benefit) depends on the size of the enterprise and might reach:

- up to 40 million € for fundamental research,
- up to 20 million € for industrial research,
- up to 15 million € for experimental development,
- up to 7.5 million € for feasibility studies.

The application for incentives shall be submitted to The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovak Republic. In case of financial subsidies, companies can only apply after the Ministry publishes a specific call. The call provides further details on conditions and is only applicable for a limited period.

More information on eligibility criteria and application process: www.vedatechnika.sk/SK/stimuly/Stranky/default.aspx (in Slovak only)

4.1.3 EU structural funds

In the period 2014 – 2020, the Operational Programme (OP) Research and Innovation focused on education, research and development is managed by the MESRS SR.

Operational Programme Research and Innovation

The Programme aims to enhance innovation activity and the competitiveness of enterprises, in particular SMEs, in order to increase their added value, stimulate growth and job creation and improve the performance of the research

and innovation (R&I) system. It will mobilise private investments in R&I and promote cooperation between research organisations, higher education and the business sector. The Programme covers all regions in Slovakia and is the main tool for implementing the country's R&I Strategy for Smart Specialisation.

The OP Research and Innovation is built upon four thematic priority axes and one priority axis aimed at technical assistance. The thematic priority axes are:

- Support of research, development and innovations
- Support of research, development and innovations in Bratislava region
- Enhancement of competitiveness and growth of SMEs
- Development of competitive SMEs in Bratislava region

Total allocation for OP R&I is almost 2,267 million € (EU contribution), of which 79,22 % is aimed at thematic goal 1 Support of research, technology development and innovations and 17,69 % is allocated to the thematic goal Enhancement of SMEs competitiveness.

The managing authority for OP R&I is the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR (MESRS) and the intermediate bodies are the Research Agency (www.vyskumnaagentura.sk) and the Ministry of Economy of the SR (Slovak Energy and Innovation Agency, <http://en.siea.sk>).

4.1.4 National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic



The National Scholarship Programme (NSP) is the flagship of Slovak mobility funding, established in 2005 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. The NSP is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

The NSP supports **incoming and outgoing mobility** – the incoming scheme **supports international university students, PhD students, university teachers, researchers and artists** to come and stay at higher education institutions and research organisations in Slovakia. The outgoing scheme supports students, PhD students and postdocs with a permanent residence in Slovakia to spend a part of their studies or conduct their research at a higher education institution or research organisation abroad (outside Slovakia).

The scholarship for the incoming applicants is provided for 1 – 10 month stays (or 1 – 2 semester stays in case of university students) at higher education institutions and research organisations in Slovakia. The scholarship does not support the pursuit of the entire Master/ PhD programme in Slovakia, nor Slovak nationals studying abroad.

Citizens of any country are eligible to apply for the NSP scholarship.

The scholarship covers living costs during the study/research/teaching/artistic stay of international applicants.

Amount of a monthly scholarship

a) university student	350 €
b) PhD student	580 €
c) university teacher/researcher or artist:	
– early-stage university teacher/researcher/artist (without PhD and less than 4 years of work experience)	
– experienced university teacher/researcher/artist:	580 €
– with PhD and less than 10 years of work experience	850 €
– with PhD and more than 10 years of work experience	1 000 €

Students and PhD students may apply for a travel allowance. Its amount depends on the (linear) distance between the applicant's place of residence and the place of his/her stay in Slovakia:

- up to 750 km – 0 €,
- from 751 km to 1,500 km – 100 €,
- from 1,501 km to 5,000 km – 300 €,
- more than 5,000 km – 700 €.

Scholarship applications are submitted on-line at www.scholarships.sk. The on-line application system is opened at least 6 weeks before the application deadline. Some documents must be sent as original hard copies by post to the following address:

SAIA, n. o.
Sasinkova 10
812 20 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

Application deadlines:

- 30 April by 16:00 CET – scholarship stays during the following academic year,
- 31 October by 16:00 CET – scholarship stays during the summer semester of the running academic year.

The Assessment Committee decides who will be awarded a scholarship in the framework of the NSP. The Committee is appointed by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and consists of university teachers and researchers from Slovak

universities and research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Decisions of the Committee are based on the documents attached to applicants' online application. List of scholarship holders is published at the website of the NSP within eight weeks after the application deadline.

More information: www.scholarships.sk, www.saia.sk

4.1.5 Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic awarded for the entire doctoral study within Official Development Assistance

The Government of the Slovak Republic annually awards scholarships for doctoral (PhD) degree programmes to students from the countries eligible for the Official Development Assistance (ODA). Scholarships offered under the OECD-defined terms and conditions for implementing the ODA also include scholarships for persons with status of Slovaks Living Abroad.

Studies can be carried out only at public higher education institutions in Slovakia and are held in the Slovak language. The support includes a scholarship for a 10-month language preparation course in case that the applicant has not completed his/her previous education in the Slovak Republic.

Citizens of the following countries can apply for a scholarship in the framework of the Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic within the ODA in 2018 (citizens from the highlighted countries can apply for PhD study, others for bachelor and master study): **Afghanistan, Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Moldova, Mongolia, Palestinian National**

Authority, **Sudan**, Syria, **Ukraine** and **Vietnam**. This list of eligible countries may vary every year.

Applications are submitted online at www.vladnestipendia.sk. The application deadline is 30 May. Scholarships are awarded by the Assessment Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

4.2 Funding for bilateral cooperation

4.2.1 Bilateral scientific and technological cooperation based on intergovernmental agreements

The Government of the Slovak Republic has concluded bilateral agreements on scientific and technological cooperation to support the participation of scientists and experts in joint projects with several countries that are listed below. Institutions usually responsible for the execution at the national level are also listed.

Bilateral projects are managed by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (Agentúra na podporu výskumu a vývoja/APVV). Calls for proposals are published on its website (www.apvv.sk). Proposals for the S&T projects based on the concluded agreements can be submitted by physical and legal entities from public and private sectors active in R&D. Only jointly submitted proposals of partners from both countries are eligible. Both project partners must submit their common proposal separately before the deadline to the respective coordinating institutions in their country, which also provide the relevant application forms. The final selection of proposals is made by the Joint Committee, which takes into consideration the evaluation of both parties.

The Slovak Republic has concluded 25 bilateral intergovernmental agreements on scientific and technological cooperation with the following countries:

- **Austria**
Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy www.bmwf.gv.at
Austrian Agency for International Mobility and Cooperation in Education, Science and Research (OeAD-GmbH) www.oead.at
- **Argentina**
Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation www.argentina.gob.ar/becar/en/institutions (in Spanish only)
- **Bulgaria**
Ministry of Education and Science www.mon.bg
- **Czech Republic**
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports www.msmt.cz
Association of Innovative Entrepreneurship (submission of applications) www.aipcr.cz
- **China**
Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of International Cooperation www.most.gov.cn/eng
- **Egypt**
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research www.egypt.gov.eg
- **France**
Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research www.fundit.fr/en/institutions/ministry-higher-education-and-research-france-menesr-o (in French only) Campus France – French national agency for the promotion of higher education, international student services, and international mobility www.campusfrance.org

- **Greece**
Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, General Secretariat for Research & Technology www.minedu.gov.gr (in Greek only)
- **Hungary**
Ministry of Human Capacities www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources
- **India**
Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Science & Technology www.dst.gov.in
- **Italy**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation www.esteri.it
- **Japan**
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology www.mext.go.jp
Japan Science and Technology Agency www.jst.go.jp
- **Kenya**
Ministry of Energy and Petroleum www.energy.go.ke
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology www.education.go.ke
- **Lithuania**
Ministry of Education and Science www.smm.lt
- **Poland**
Ministry of Science and Higher Education www.nauka.gov.pl
- **Portugal**
Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education www.portugal.gov.pt
- **Republic of Korea**
Ministry of Science, Technology and ICT <http://english.msip.go.kr>
- **Republic of South Africa**
Ministry of Science and Technology www.dst.gov.za National Research Foundation www.nrf.ac.za
- **Romania**
Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research www.edu.ro
- **Russia**
Ministry of Education and Science <http://минобрнауки.рф>
- **Serbia**
Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development www.mpn.gov.rs (in Serbian only)
- **Slovenia**
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Sport www.mizs.gov.si
- **Spain**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation www.exteriores.gob.es
- **Ukraine**
Ministry of Education and Science <https://mon.gov.ua> (in Ukrainian only)
- **USA**
The Slovak Republic has concluded several separate bilateral agreements, relating to specific areas of research.

A database of grant programmes can be found at www.grants.gov. These programmes are funded by the federal government and managed by 26 federal grant agencies. Examples of national agencies supporting research are the National Science Foundation (www.nsf.gov) and National Institute of Health (www.nih.gov).

4.2.2 Bilateral intergovernmental agreements on educational, research and cultural cooperation

The Government of the Slovak Republic has concluded bilateral agreements on educational, research and cultural cooperation with several countries (see the table) in order to support exchange programmes providing scholarships for students and researchers coming to Slovakia to study or conduct research at Slovak universities and research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Scholarships are awarded for the purpose of studies, research or training. There is no general limitation regarding the field of study. Applicants must be fluent in English or other language agreed/arranged with a Slovak host institution or proficient in Slovak.

Applicants must be nominated by counterpart institutions (see the table). PhD students and researchers, who would like to study or conduct research in Slovakia, should arrange contact with a Slovak host research institution in advance. List of all Slovak higher education institutions and research institutes can be found in section 3.2.

For further information (specific instructions, exact application deadlines, application forms or websites) about funding for academic and research pursuits, please, consult **websites of the respective counterpart institutions, and the database of scholarships and grants of SAIA**, available at www.grants.saia.sk.

Scholarship disbursement

A sending party usually covers travel costs (based upon the distance between the location of the host university or research institute and the PhD student's/researcher's home country). Receiving party usually covers a living allowance.

Currently, the scholarships are 330 €/month for PhD students and 550 €/month for researchers/university teachers. In case of short-term stays (less than a month, usually a couple of days or weeks), the receiving party shall provide the visiting PhD student/teacher/researcher with per diems and free accommodation.

There are no grants for family members. Scholarship holders must have health insurance in case of illness or accident during the period of the scholarship stay.

For further information on terms and conditions, please, contact the respective counterpart institutions.

Country	Counterpart institution & URL	Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity	Target group (Incoming researchers)	Special eligibility conditions
Austria	Austrian Agency for International Mobility and Cooperation in Education, Science and Research (OeAD-GmbH) www.oead.at	Research stay (3 – 6 months)	PhD student	When applying, completed at least one semester of PhD studies.
		Research stay (3 – 6 months)	PhD holder (postdoc)	PhD holder (excellent researcher) with no more than 10 years of research experience since being awarded a PhD, and, at the same time, not an Associate Professor (no “habilitation” yet)
		Short-term study/research visits (1 – 3 days)	PhD student Postdoc Researcher HEI teacher	
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Belgium-French Community	Ministry of French Community, General Department of Education and Scientific Research www.enseignement.be	Specialisation and research stay (1 – 10 months)	University graduate PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Belarus	Ministry of Education http://edu.gov.by/en-uk	Research stay (1 – 10 months)	PhD Student Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD Student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Bulgaria	Ministry of Education and Science www.mon.bg/en/	Post gradual/research stay (1 – 10 months)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages

Country	Counterpart institution & URL	Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity	Target group (Incoming researchers)	Special eligibility conditions
Croatia	Ministry of Science, Education and Sports http://public.mzso.hr	Study fellowship (min. 1 month)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Teaching stay (max. 30 days)	HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Czech Republic	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Centre for International Cooperation in Education www.dcsz.cz	Study/research stay (3 – 10 months; only at Slovak public universities)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Short-term research/lecture stay (max. 14 days)	Researcher HEI teacher	For PhD degree holders; application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Egypt	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research www.egypt.gov.eg	Full PhD studies (3 years)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Research stay (3 – 5 months)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Short-term research stay (max. 10 days)	Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Research stay (2 – 6 months)	Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers of Slavonic studies
Finland	Ministry of Education and Culture www.minedu.fi	Short-term research stay (max. 10 days)	Education specialists	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Long-term research stay (3 – 9 months)	PhD student HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers of Slavonic studies

Country	Counterpart institution & URL	Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity	Target group (Incoming researchers)	Special eligibility conditions
Germany	Federal Ministry of Education and Research www.bmbwf.de	Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Greece	Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs www.minedu.gov.gr	Study/research stay (5 – 10 months)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Teaching/research stay (10 days)	Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Hungary	Ministry of Human Capacities www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources Tempus Public Foundation https://tka.hu	Research stay (1 – 10 months)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Short-term research stay (1 – 3 months) /expert visit (5 – 20 days)	Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
China	Ministry of Education www.moe.edu.cn	Study stay (1 year)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Research stay (1 – 10 months)	Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Israel	Ministry of Foreign Affairs www.mfa.gov.il	Study/research stay (max. 8 months)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages

Country	Counterpart institution & URL	Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity	Target group (Incoming researchers)	Special eligibility conditions
Italy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation www.esteri.it	Study/research stay (max. 9 months)	University graduate PhD student Researcher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher Slovak language teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Kazakhstan	Ministry of Education and Science www.edu.gov.kz	Study/research stay (3 – 10 months)	PhD student	Slovak or English language; application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
Macedonia	Ministry of Education and Science www.mon.gov.mk	Study/research stay (3 – 10 months)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
Moldova	Ministry of Education, Culture and Research www.mec.gov.md	Study/research stay (3 – 10 months)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
Poland	Ministry of Science and Higher Education www.nauka.gov.pl Ministry of National Education www.men.gov.pl Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange https://naewa.gov.pl	Research stay (1 – 10 months)	Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Post graduate research stay (1 – 3 months; at Slovak public universities only)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Romania	Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research www.edu.ro	Research stay (3 – 10 months)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages

Country	Counterpart institution & URL	Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity	Target group (Incoming researchers)	Special eligibility conditions
Russia	Ministry of Science and Higher Education www.minobrazovauki.gov.ru	Research stay (1 – 10 months)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Slovak or English language; Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Serbia	Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development www.rnph.gov.rs	Study stay (3 – 9 months)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Slovenia	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport www.mizs.gov.si	Study/research stay (3 – 10 months)	PhD student	Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages
Ukraine	Ministry of Education and Science www.mon.gov.ua	Study/research stay (1 – 10 months)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Slovak or English language; application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments
		Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)	PhD student Researcher HEI teacher	Students and researchers of Slovak language studies
USA	Fulbright Commission www.fulbright.sk	Lecturing/research stay (9 months); for more information consult: www.cies.org	Researchers HEI teacher	
		Study/research stay (9 months); for more information consult: www.iie.org	University graduate Researcher HEI teacher	All fields of study; knowledge of the Slovak language at the level needed in fields; Slovak literature, political science, history, anthropology (by the begin. of the grant)
		English Teaching Assistantship (9 months); for more information consult: www.iie.org	Graduating seniors	Degree in English, History, American literature, TEFL/Applied Linguistics and/or experience in teaching
		Specialist Programme (2 – 6 weeks); for more information consult: www.cies.org	Researchers HEI teacher Highly experienced professionals	High level of expertise or professional experience in the respective field of study

4.2.3 Action Austria – Slovakia, Cooperation in Science and Education

A bilateral programme the objective of which is to intensify cooperation between Austria and Slovakia in the field of education and research. The Programme is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria on the basis of the agreement signed in 1992. Since 2014, the Action Austria – Slovakia has been running on the basis of the new agreement on its continuation during the period 2014 – 2019.



The Programme is administered by SAIA, n. o. (www.saia.sk).

Financial support is provided to Austrian PhD students and researchers in the form of individual scholarships and cooperation projects.

The following types of **individual scholarships** are offered for PhD students and researchers:

- scholarships for research stays of PhD students (3–6 months): the scholarship of 1,050 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October
- scholarships for research stays of postdocs (3–6 months): the scholarship of 1,400 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October
- scholarships for short visits (max. 3 days) for researchers (including PhD students): the scholarship of 90 €/day; application deadline: application possible throughout the year

- scholarships for Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (for PhD students only); application deadline: 30 April

Following types of projects can be supported:

- Target projects – the organisation of Slovak-Austrian language summer schools, the organisation of Slovak-Austrian training, co-supervised doctoral studies; grant: max. 60,000 €/project, duration: max. 36 months; application deadline: 15 October
- Initiative projects – e.g. cooperation of young researchers, lecture series of excellent researchers; grant: max. 6,000 €/project, duration: max. 12 months; application deadline: 15 March, 15 May, 15 October

Applications for individual scholarships and co-operation projects are submitted online at www.scholarships.at.

More information: www.oead.at, www.grants.at, www.aktion.saia.sk (the last one in Slovak and German only)

4.2.4 Fulbright Program – J. W. Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic

The J. W. Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange



in the Slovak Republic is an autonomous, non-profit, non-partisan, binational organisation established by executive agreements between the United States and the Slovak Republic to promote educational, research and cultural exchanges between the United States and the Slovak Republic through the Fulbright Program. The Commission services include grant programmes and information

services. The Fulbright Program enables U. S. students, scholars, professionals and teachers to participate in study, research and teaching exchanges in the Slovak Republic.

General requirements for grants and awards are the U. S. citizenship at the time of application and high level of academic and professional achievements. In the Slovak Republic, the Program is administered by the J. W. Fulbright Commission in Bratislava (www.fulbright.sk).

Fulbright Program Mechanisms:

Programmes administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (www.cies.org)

- **Fulbright Scholar Program** – U. S. scholars with considerable academic experience can propose projects in cooperation with a Slovak institution (usually a university or post/secondary university level institution, research institution or other placement, if necessary). Grantees can lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields, although preference is given to subjects related to the United States and economic and social issues important for the Slovak Republic.
- **Fulbright Specialists Program** – The program pairs highly qualified U. S. academics and professionals with host institutions abroad to share their expertise, strengthen institutional linkages, hone their skills, gain international experience, and learn about other cultures while building capacity at their overseas host institutions providing short-term opportunities of two to six weeks in length.

- **Fulbright-Terra Foundation Award in the History of American Art** – two grants per year at any university in a European Union country (except France, Germany, and the UK, where the Foundation already has established teaching fellowships). The grants are for undergraduate and/or graduate teaching in history of American art prior to 1980 and for research. Scholars will be expected to aid host institutions in developing, modelling and adapting American art history curriculum. They can also give seminars, workshops, and public lectures, as well as advise graduate students on theses. The award is for early career scholars up to the Associate Professor level for one semester.

Programmes administered by the Institute of International Education (www.iie.org)

- **Fulbright U. S. Student Program** – for U. S. graduate students, young professionals and artists to study or conduct research in the Slovak Republic for 1 academic year (October – June). Advanced graduate students interested in studying or independent research are preferred. For independent research or study in fields such as Slovak history, literature, anthropology and political science there is substantial knowledge of Slovak language required. Applications in all fields will be considered.
- **Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship** – preference is given to candidates with degrees in English, History, American Literature, TEFL/ Applied Linguistics and/or experience in teaching. Grantees will be placed in secondary schools that correspond with their background; they are required to teach at least 15 hours per week.

More information: www.fulbright.sk

4.3 Funding by the European Union

Since 2004, the Slovak Republic is a member of the EU. Therefore, there is no limitation for institutions from Slovakia to participate in any EU programme designed to strengthen cooperation not only among the EU Member States but also with third (non-EU) countries.



4.3.1 Horizon 2020 – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

Horizon 2020 (H2020) is the financial instrument of the European Union to implement the flagship initiative “Innovation Union” of the Europe 2020 strategy, aimed at securing Europe’s global competitiveness. Horizon 2020 has been implemented in the period 2014 – 2020. The programme aims to contribute to solving the economic crisis by investing in future growth and jobs creating, to respond to people’s concerns about their standard of living, safety and the environment, and to strengthen Europe’s place in global research, innovation and technology.

An important priority of the programme is a strategic approach to strengthening and focusing EU’s international cooperation on the research and innovation. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the possibilities of the European Research Council are open also to researchers from third countries. Horizon 2020 is open to the involvement of participants from around the world. Strategic and coherent approach to international cooperation is secured by a document adopted by the EC on 14 September 2012: “Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: A strategic approach”.

Current open calls of the programme are published on the Participant Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>). It contains all the principal documents important for submission of the project – H2020 Work Programme for the current year, which describes the details of the individual schemes, Guides for Applicants, Rules for Participation, etc. The website allows you to join the database of independent experts. After approval, as an expert, you may be directly involved in the assessment and monitoring of submitted/approved projects. Experts have the opportunity to gain experience that may in the future increase the chances for submitting their own project without unnecessary errors.

H2020 puts a great emphasis on multidisciplinary and cross-cutting activities between scientific fields. The programme focuses on the following pillars:

1. Excellent Science;
2. Industrial Leadership;
3. Societal Challenges.

I. Pillar: Excellent Science

Excellent Science Pillar aims **to reinforce and extend the excellence of the Union’s science base and to consolidate the ERA in order to make the Union’s research and innovation system more competitive on a global scale**. Its overall budget represents 24.44 billion €.

It consists of four specific objectives:

- **The European Research Council (ERC)** – providing attractive and flexible funding to enable talented and creative individual researchers and their teams to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science;
- **Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)** – supporting collaborative research in order to extend Europe’s capacity for advanced

and paradigm-changing innovation; fostering scientific collaboration across disciplines on radically new, high-risk ideas and accelerate development of the most promising emerging areas of science and technology;

- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** – providing excellent and innovative research training, as well as attractive career and knowledge-exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers to prepare them to face current and future societal challenges;
- **European Research Infrastructures** – developing and supporting excellent European research infrastructures and help them to contribute to the ERA by fostering their innovation potential, attracting world-level researchers and training human capital, and complement this with the related Union policy and international cooperation.

II. Pillar: Industrial Leadership

The second pillar – Industrial Leadership – is implemented with a budget of 17.02 billion €. Its objective is to make Europe more attractive as a place to invest in research and innovation and to promote activities in which the industry has a leading role. This Pillar will enable significant investment in key industrial technologies, maximise the growth potential of European companies by providing them with the adequate level of funding, and help innovative SMEs to grow to the level of the world's leading companies.

It consists of three specific objectives:

- **Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies** (information and communications technology – ICT, nanotechnology, advanced materials, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and processing and space),

- **Access to risk finance** (overcoming deficits in the availability of debt and equity finance for R&D and innovation-driven companies and projects at all stages of development),
- **Innovation in SMEs** (SME-tailored support stimulating all forms of innovation in SMEs).

III. Pillar: Societal Challenges

The pillar focused on societal challenges is implemented with the budget of 29.68 billion €. This part responds directly to the policy priorities and societal challenges that are identified in the Europe 2020 strategy, and that aim to stimulate the critical mass of research and innovation efforts needed to achieve the Union's policy goals.

Funding is focused on the following specific objectives:

- Health, demographic change and wellbeing
- Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy
- Secure, clean and efficient energy
- Smart, green and integrated transport
- Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
- Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
- Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

Other specific objectives of H2020

- **Spreading excellence and widening participation** – full exploitation of the potential of Europe's talent pool (including access to COST),
- **Science with and for society** – building effective cooperation between science and society, recruiting new talent for science and pairing scientific excellence with social awareness and responsibility (including European initiative EURAXESS),

- **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** – bringing together excellent research, innovation and higher education primarily through the KICs (Knowledge and Innovation Communities),
- **Joint Research Centre (JRC)**
– nonnuclear direct actions of JRC.

Information on all financial instruments of H2020, as well as calls for proposals, is available at <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/h2020>, <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020>

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) ensure excellent and innovative research training, as well as attractive career and knowledge-exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers, to better prepare them for current and future societal challenges. MSCA are open to all domains of research and innovation addressed under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, from basic research up to market takeup and innovation services. Research and innovation fields, as well as sectors, are chosen freely by the applicants in a fully bottom-up manner. They are open to researchers and innovation staff at all stages of their career, as well as to universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, and other socioeconomic actors from all countries. The participation of industry, in particular SMEs is strongly encouraged for the successful implementation and impact of the MSCA.

The MSCA support researchers to establish themselves on a more stable career path and to ensure that they can achieve an appropriate work/life balance, taking into account their family situation.

The principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers promoting open recruitment and attractive working and employment conditions are recommended to be endorsed and applied by all the funded participants.

Mobility is a key requirement in the Actions. Researchers receive funding on the condition that they move from one country to another to broaden or deepen their competences. MSCA pay particular attention to gender balance. It consists of four actions: ITN, IF, RISE and COFUND. Within these four actions, the projects are submitted within calls for proposals (published on the Participant Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>).

As from 2014, the Research Executive Agency (REA), a funding body created by the European Commission, manages a large share of H2020, including MSCA. REA runs the support for independent experts evaluating project proposals, including the management of onsite evaluation facilities for most of H2020, and provides services for legal and financial validation of participants. The REA also conducts the Research Enquiry Service, which answers questions from applicants, participants and the broader public on EU research and innovation funding.

Action 1:

ITN – Innovative Training Networks

The ITN aim at the training of a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for the economic and social benefit. ITN will raise excellence and structure research and doctoral training, extending the traditional academic research training setting,

and equipping researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competencies. It will provide enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and nonacademic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mindset.

ITN supports competitively selected joint research training and/or doctoral programmes, implemented by partnerships of universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, SMEs, and other socioeconomic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

Partnerships take the form of:

- **European Training Networks (ETN),**
- **European Industrial Doctorates (EID),**
or
- **European Joint Doctorates (EJD).**

Action 2: IF – Individual Fellowships

The goal of the IF is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility. The IF provide opportunities to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research in a European context (the EU Member States and Associated Countries) or outside Europe. The scheme particularly supports the return and reintegration of researchers from outside Europe who have previously worked here. It also develops or helps to restart the careers of individual researchers that show great potential, considering their experience.

Support is provided for individual, transnational fellowships awarded to the best or most promising researchers for employment in the EU Member States

or Associated Countries, based on an application made jointly by the researcher and host organisation in the academic or non-academic sectors.

Two types of fellowships may be awarded:

- **European Fellowships (EF)** – held in the EU Member States or Associated Countries; open to researchers either coming to Europe or moving within Europe; the researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the EF is held;
- **Global Fellowships (GF)** – based on a secondment to a third country and a mandatory 12-month return period to a European host. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the GF secondment takes place.

Action 3: RISE – Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

The RISE scheme promotes international and intersectoral collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa) for the advancement of science and the development of innovation. RISE involves organisations from the academic and nonacademic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in Europe (the EU Member States and Associated Countries) and outside Europe (third countries). Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of joint research and innovation activities. Knowledge sharing is enabled via international as well as intersectoral mobility, based on secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an inbuilt return mechanism. The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to the implementation of the joint research and innovation activities by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members.

Activities can either focus on one dimension of mobility (intersectoral/international), or include a combination of both. Exchanges can be for both early-stage and experienced researchers' levels, and can also include administrative, managerial and technical staff supporting the research and innovation activities of the proposal. Support for the exchanges between institutions in the EU Member States and Associated Countries covers only intersectoral secondments. Exchanges with institutions from third countries can be intersectoral secondments, as well as secondments within the same sector. No secondments between institutions located in third countries or within the same EU Member State or Associated Country can be proposed.

Action 4: **COFUND – Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes**

The COFUND scheme aims at stimulating regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development, spreading the best practices of MSCA. This is achieved by co-funding new or existing regional, national and international programmes to open up to, and provide for, international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as transnational and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career. Each proposal funded under the COFUND scheme shall have a sole participant that will be responsible for the availability of the necessary matching funds to execute the proposal. Participants submit multi-annual proposals for new or existing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes that may be run at regional, national or international level.

The evaluation is organised in two different panels:

- **Doctoral programmes** address the development and broadening of research competencies of early-stage researchers. The training follows the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training. Collaboration with a wider set of partners, including from the non-academic sector, which may provide hosting or secondment opportunities or training in research or transferable skills, as well as innovative elements of the proposed programme, will be positively taken into account during the evaluations. Each researcher must be enrolled in a doctoral programme. Attention is paid to the quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements, as well as career guidance.
- **Fellowship programmes** fund individual research training and career development fellowships for experienced researchers. The supported programmes should have regular selection rounds following fixed deadlines or regular cut-off dates, allowing fair competition among the researchers applying. The selections should be based on open, widely advertised competition, with transparent international peer review and merit-based selection of candidates. On top of transnational mobility, applicants are encouraged to include elements of cross-sectoral mobility into their programmes.

More information on MSCA:

Website of the European Commission, DG for research and Innovation:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research>

Website of the MSCA: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

Information on open calls for proposals:
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

European Research Council

The European Research Council (ERC) is a part of the first pillar (Excellent Science) in H2020. As an important instrument for the support of excellence in research, the ERC works with a budget of over 13 billion €. The ERC is an autonomous body; its overall strategy is set up by the independent Scientific Council – ERC governing body which defines the scientific funding strategy and methodologies. The ERC aims to support the best and most creative scientists to identify and explore new opportunities and directions in any field of research. It awards long-term grants to individual researchers of any nationality and age from anywhere in the world who wish to carry out their research projects in a host organisation based in Europe. Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion.



- **ERC Advanced Grants** – grants for researchers who have a track record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years and have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right; sole evaluation criterion is the scientific excellence of researcher and research proposal; the grant is up to 2.5 – 3.5 mil. € for the period of 5 years;
- **ERC Proof of Concept** – only ERC grant holders can apply for this additional funding to establish the innovation potential of ideas arising from their ERC-funded frontier research projects; the grant is up to 150,000 € for the period of 18 months.

More information on the schemes and possibilities of financial support can be found on the website <http://erc.europa.eu>.

The ERC has four financial schemes that are open to top researchers of any nationality, age or research, who are interested to carry out frontier research in one of the 28 EU Member States or Associated Countries.

- **ERC Starting Grants** – grants for upcoming research leaders of any nationality with 2 – 7 years of work experience as researchers since the completion of PhD who are about to establish a proper research team and to start conducting independent research in Europe; the grant is up to 1.5 – 2 mil. € for the period of 5 years;
- **ERC Consolidator Grants** – grants designed to support researchers of any nationality with over 7 and up to 12 years of work experience as researchers since the completion of PhD and scientific track record showing great promise who are at the stage at which they are consolidating their own independent research team or programme; the grant is up to 2 – 2.75 mil. € for the period of 5 years;

4.3.2 Erasmus+ – the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme supporting activities in the field of education, training, youth and sport. During the period 2014 – 2020, the programme has been providing opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad. The total budget for this period is 14.7 billion €, representing a 40 % increase in EU funding in comparison with the previous programme period.



The main objective of the programme is to introduce a new EU approach to education and training with regard to the difficult economic period, changing world of labour market and imbalances in the available skills and market demand. The aim is to increase the quality and relevance of qualifications and skills of students,

teachers, apprentices, volunteers, youth leaders and people working in grassroots' sport. The single integrated programme is ambitious, easier to implement and strategically seeks for the cooperation of the education sector and work environment. The programme brings new features, such as a loan guarantee scheme for master's students, Knowledge Alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises and Sector Skills Alliances – partnerships between education and training establishments and business. Erasmus+ enables the higher education mobility to the non-EU countries and creating projects with higher education institutions in these countries.

In the field of education and training, the Programme pursues its objectives through the following types of actions:

1. Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals

- **Mobility of students and staff:** opportunities for students, trainees, young people and volunteers, as well as for lecturers, teachers, trainers, youth workers, the staff of educational institutions and civil society organisations to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in another country;
- **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees:** high-level integrated international study programmes delivered by consortia of higher education institutions that award scholarships for full master studies to excellent students worldwide;
- **Master Student Loan Guarantee:** university students from participating countries may apply for loans with favourable payback terms that will help them to fund their master studies in an Erasmus+ Programme country. To apply, students should contact participating national banks or student loan agencies.

2. Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices

- **Transnational Strategic Partnerships** are designed to develop initiatives in one or more fields of education, professional training and youth; they are designed to promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how among different types of organisations involved in education, professional training and youth, or in other relevant fields. Certain mobility activities are supported if they contribute to achieving the project objective;
- **Knowledge Alliances** between higher education institutions and enterprises designed to support innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange and/or multidisciplinary teaching and learning;
- **Sector Skills Alliances** aim at tackling skills gaps, enhancing the responsiveness of initial and continuing vocational education and training systems to sector-specific labour market needs and demand for new skills with regard to one or more occupational profiles;
- **Capacity Building** projects supporting cooperation with Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth; their aim is to support organisations/institutions and systems in their modernisation and internationalisation process. Certain mobility activities are supported if they will contribute to achieving the project objective;
- **IT support platforms**, such as **eTwinning**, **the European Platform for Adult Learning (EPALE)** and **the European Youth Portal**, offering virtual collaboration spaces, databases of opportunities, communities of practices and other

online services for teachers, trainers and professionals from practise in the field of school and adult education, as well as for young people, volunteers and youth workers across Europe and beyond.

3. Key Action 3: Support for Policy Reforms

- Knowledge in the field of education, professional training and youth;
- initiatives for innovative policy;
- support of European policy tools;
- cooperation with international organisations with highly recognised expertise and analytical capacity;
- stakeholders' dialogue, policy and Programme support.

4. Jean Monnet Activities

- Academic Modules, Chairs, Centres of Excellence in order to deepen teaching in European integration studies embodied in an official curriculum of a higher education institution;
- policy debate with academic world supported through Networks and Projects;
- support to institutions and associations to organise and carry out statutory activities of associations dealing with EU studies and EU issues;
- studies and conferences with the purpose of providing policymakers with new insights and concrete suggestions via critical independent academic views, and to reflect on current issues of the EU.

5. Sport

- Collaborative Partnerships supporting sport integrity;
- Non-profit European sports events.

More information:

Erasmus+ programme, European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus>

DG for Education and Culture of the European Commission website: https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/education-youth-sport-and-culture_en

SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation: www.saaic.sk, www.erasmusplus.sk (in Slovak only)

IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute – www.iuventa.sk

4-3-3 COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology

COST was established as an intergovernmental framework in 1971 for promoting cooperation among researchers across Europe. Within COST, research carried out at the national level is funded by the COST Member States, while the EU funds central administration and coordination. COST has a very specific mission and goal. It contributes to reducing the fragmentation in European research investments and opening the European Research Area to cooperation worldwide.



COST activities are funded under the H2020 specific objective “Spreading excellence and widening participation”. They are implemented through the implementation structure – COST Association – under the direct governance of the Committee of Senior Officials. During H2020, COST receives EU funding from two different lines managed in an integrated manner:

- a) Scientific and Technological Cooperation – COST reinforces its networking activities carried out by COST;

b) Widening Activities – COST contributes to fostering inclusive research and innovation policy by bringing together “pockets of excellence”, outstanding researchers, who are not yet well integrated into European and global research, also enhancing capacity building.

Moreover, COST includes a set of measures aimed at providing structural support to ERA, widening the European research base and promotes S&T cooperation with other countries, beyond COST current membership.

COST anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Framework Programmes, and also increases the mobility of researchers across Europe. It fosters the establishment of scientific excellence in the nine key domains:

- Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences;
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technology;
- Earth System Science and Environmental Management;
- Food and Agriculture;
- Forests, their Products and Services;
- Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health;
- Information and Communication Technologies;
- Materials, Physics and Nanosciences;
- Transport and Urban Development.

In addition, Trans-Domain Proposals allow for broad, multidisciplinary proposals to strike across the nine scientific domains.

COST is composed of 38 countries (37 Member States and one Cooperating State): 28 EU Member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and Israel (cooperating country). COST does not fund research itself but provides a platform for European

scientists to cooperate on a particular project and exchange expertise. These projects are called Actions. Each COST Action is a network centred around nationally-funded research projects in fields that are of interest to at least five COST countries. COST provides the COST Actions with financial support for joint activities such as conferences, short-term scientific exchanges and publications. Each COST Action has an objective, defined goals and clear deliverables. COST Actions have located their topic into one of the COST's scientific domains. In order to support science and technology networking across borders, COST is also working on enhancing international cooperation by involving researchers from Near Neighbour Countries and International Partner Countries in COST Actions on the basis of ascertained mutual benefit. In addition, COST signed Reciprocal Agreements to increase cooperation with New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina.

More information: www.cost.eu

National coordinator for Slovakia:

prof. Milan Dado, PhD.
University of Žilina
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Univerzitná 8 215/1, 01 026 Žilina
The Slovak Republic
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4.3-4 EUREKA

EUREKA, founded in 1985, is an intergovernmental organisation for market-driven industrial R&D. It is a decentralised network facilitating the coordination of national funding on innovation aiming to boost the productivity & competitiveness of European industries. The network integrates over 40 pan-European economies but also includes Israel, South Korea and Canada. The EUREKA Member



States in cooperation with the European Commission promote international, market-oriented research and innovation through the support they offer to small and medium-sized enterprises, large industry, universities and research institutes. Through EUREKA, these organisations are introducing new products, processes and services to market, helping make Europe economically strong and socially sound. The Slovak Republic became a EUREKA member on June 28, 2001.

EUREKA programmes:

- **EUREKA Network Projects**
 - transnational, market-driven innovative research and development projects can be supported via this programme. The “bottom-up” approach to project creation continues to be a characteristic that differentiates EUREKA from other similar initiatives. This approach allows the project consortia to define the nature of the technologies to be developed and how the project comes together. EUREKA Network Projects aim to develop marketable products, services or processes. At least two partners from two different EUREKA countries must participate in a project. Partners can be of any type: SMEs, large companies, research institutions and universities.
- **Eurostars Programme** – a joint programme between EUREKA and the European Commission and the first European funding and support programme to be specifically dedicated to research-performing SMEs. Eurostars stimulates them to lead international collaborative research and innovation projects by easing access to support and funding. It is co-funded by the European Communities and 36 EUREKA member countries. Eurostars projects are collaborative; they must involve at least two participants (legal entities) from two different Eurostars participating countries. In addition, the main participant must be a research-performing SME from one of these countries. The role of the SME participants in the project should be significant. At least 50 % of the project’s core activity should be carried out by SMEs. The consortium should be well balanced, which means that no participant or country will be required to invest more than 75 % of the total project costs. Eurostars project should be market-driven: it must have a maximum duration of three years, and within two years of project completion, the product of the research should be ready for launch onto the market. The exception to this rule applies to biomedical or medical projects, where clinical trials must be started within two years of project completion.
- **EUREKA Clusters** – long-term, strategically significant industrial initiatives that usually have a large number of participants, and aim to develop generic technologies of key importance for European competitiveness mainly in ICT, energy, communication, water and manufacturing. Through regular calls for projects, Clusters bring together large companies, often competitors, along with SMEs, research institutes and universities, sharing both the risk and benefits of innovation. They focus on developing and commercially exploiting new technologies. Their goal is to ensure that Europe retains its leading position in the world market.
- **EUREKA Umbrellas** – thematic networks, which focus on a specific technology area or business sector. The main goal of an Umbrella is to facilitate the generation of EUREKA projects in its own target area. Umbrella activities are coordinated and implemented by a working group consisting of EUREKA representatives

and industrial experts. Currently, EUREKA Umbrellas exist in the following technology areas: manufacturing, materials, tourism and agrifood.

Countries participate in EUREKA projects through a network of National Information Points (NIPs). The affiliation known as Associated Country Status was initiated as part of EUREKA's strategy to enhance cooperation with countries outside of Europe judged to have scientific and research potential. The National Project Coordinators (NPCs) are at the operational level, running the National EUREKA Offices. NPCs facilitate the setting-up and running of a project and are responsible for project generation, national and international support and follow-up.

More information: www.eurekanetwork.org

National project coordinator for Slovakia:

Jana Stadtruckerova
Ministry of Education, Science,
Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
Higher Education, Science and Research
Division
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Slovak Republic
e-mail: jana.stadtruckerova@minedu.sk

4.4 Funding by multilateral/ international programmes or international organisations

4.4.1 CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies

The main activity of CEEPUS are university networks designed to stimulate academic mobility, in particular, regional

student mobility within Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, and to promote Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European university cooperation, as well as the development of joint programmes, ideally leading up to double or joint degrees and joint thesis supervision. CEEPUS covers mobility grants for students and teachers in this framework.



Programme members are Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and the universities in Kosovo.

The main objectives of CEEPUS are:

- to contribute to merging the European Higher Education Area and European Research Area;
- to use regional academic mobility as a strategic tool to implement Bologna objectives;
- to enable cooperation with Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

University cooperation is focused on the preparation of joint programmes and joint diplomas, the mobility of university students, PhD students and university teachers, student excursions and summer schools.

CEEPUS supports semester-stays for students and PhD students (3–10 months), short-term mobility (1–2 months, min. 21 days) for students and PhD students elaborating their final thesis, as well as stays for guest university lecturers (1 month, min. 5 days and 6 lectures). All fields of study are welcome and there are no priority areas.

Applications are submitted online at www.ceepus.info twice a year (15 June for stays during the winter semester of the following academic year; 31 October for stays during the summer semester of the running academic year).

Universities collaborate within the framework of approved networks. Each network must consist of at least three universities from three different Member States involved in the Programme. Applications for university networking are submitted online at www.ceepus.info, the annual deadline is 15 January. In the first round, the decision on network membership is made by the National Selection Committee based on the assessment of submitted applications. In the second round, the decision is taken by the International Commission for the Selection of Cooperating Networks which comprises representatives of the CEEPUS Programme member countries. The list of approved networks is available at www.ceepus.saia.sk.

Should a home university, a host university or both not participate in the network, its students, PhD students and teachers may still apply for a scholarship under

the category “freemover”. The deadline for freemover applications is 30 November.

Scholarship rates for Slovakia:

- a) students 280 €/month;
- b) PhD students and university teachers 470 €/month.

The scholarships are paid out by the National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia. Travel costs can be reimbursed by the respective National CEEPUS Office of the scholarship holder’s home country.

More information: www.ceepus.info

National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia:

SAIA, n. o.
Sasinkova 10, 812 20 Bratislava 1
Slovak Republic
www.saia.sk

4.4.2 International Visegrad Fund

The International Visegrad Fund is an international organisation based in Bratislava founded by the governments of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic – in 2000. The mission of the Fund is to facilitate and promote the development of closer cooperation among citizens and institutions of the V4 region, as well as between V4 region and other countries, especially the Central and Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and South Caucasus. The Fund does so through grant support of common cultural, scientific and educational projects, youth exchanges, cross-border projects and tourism promotion, and through individual mobility programmes (scholarships, residencies). Non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, municipalities and local or regional governments, schools and universities, but also private companies



or individual citizens are eligible for grant support provided that their projects deal with the region and further develop cooperation among project partners based in the region. The Fund's annual budget of 8 million € consists of equal contributions from the V4 governments.

The Fund operates following programmes:

- **Grant programmes:**

- **Visegrad Grants** – projects must develop meaningful co-operation and active participation of organisations from at least three V4 countries. Cross-border co-operation of at least two organisations from two neighbouring V4 countries also qualify for the support of projects taking place within a 40-km radius from the border. The maximum duration of the project implementation is 18 months. Projects must address at least one of the seven objectives: Culture and Common Identity; Education and Capacity Building; Innovation, R&D, Entrepreneurship; Democratic Values and the Media; Public Policy and Institutional Partnership; Regional Development, Environment and Tourism; Social Development. Annual application deadlines: 1 February, 1 June, 1 October, 1 December. More information: <http://visegradfund.org/apply/grants/visegrad-grants>
- **Visegrad+ Grants** – the programme supports projects that contribute to the democratisation and transformation processes in selected countries and regions, especially non-EU member states in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries. Projects must develop meaningful co-operation and ensure active involvement of least

three V4 countries and one entity from the EaP region or the Western Balkans countries at the minimum. The maximum duration of the project implementation is 18 months. Projects must address at least one of the seven objectives: Culture and Common Identity; Education and Capacity Building; Innovation, R&D, Entrepreneurship; Democratic Values and the Media; Public Policy and Institutional Partnership; Regional Development, Environment and Tourism; Social Development. Annual application deadlines: 1 February, 1 June, 1 October. More information:

www.visegradfund.org/apply/grants/visegrad-plus-grants

- **Strategic Grants** – the programme supports projects addressing annual strategic priorities of the Visegrad Group. Strategic priorities are announced annually by the V4 country holding the rotating presidency over the group. Projects must develop meaningful co-operation and ensure active participation of organisations from all V4 countries. The programme supports projects that last from 12 to 36 months. Annual application deadlines: 1 February, 1 June, 1 October. More information: <http://visegradfund.org/apply/grants/strategic-grants>

- **Mobility programmes:**

- **Visegrad Scholarship Programme**
 - Master and post-master scholars and researchers who are citizens of the Visegrad countries can apply for a scholarship to study at any accredited university/institute within V4 countries and in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan,

Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Ukraine.

- Master and post-master scholars and researchers who are citizens of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Ukraine can apply for a scholarship to study in the Visegrad countries.

Scholarship: 2,300 €/semester for the scholar and 1,500 €/semester for the host institution

Duration: 1 – 4 semesters in case of master students; 1 – 2 semesters in case of post-master scholars and researchers

Annual application deadline: 15 March
More information:

www.visegradfund.org/apply/mobilities/visegrad-scholarship

- **Visegrad Scholarships at Open Society Archives** – research fellowships at the Open Society Archives (OSA) in Budapest (Hungary). The fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis to scholars, artists or journalist from V4 and non-V4 countries who wish to conduct research at OSA, and whose current research projects are relevant to the holdings and the given research priorities of the Fund and OSA. It is possible to apply for max. 2-month research stays.

Scholarship: 2,000 € in case of a 2-month stay (scholarships for shorter periods are pro-rated)

Annual application deadline: 10 January, 15 March, 15 October.

More information:

www.visegradfund.org/apply/mobilities/fellowship-at-osa

- **Visual & Sound Arts Residency** – the programme facilitates mobility and artistic exchange of V4 citizens in the fields of visual and sound arts, including design, music, video and film, new media and mixed media. The residency must be implemented in a V4 country other than that of the applicant's citizenship/residence. The period of support is 3 months. Scholarship: 750 € for the artist and 75 € for the host institution. Annual application deadline: 15 February

More information:

www.visegradfund.org/apply/mobilities/visual-and-sound-arts-residency

- **Performing Arts Residency** – the programme supports contemporary theatre and dance in Central Europe by providing opportunities to host artists and companies from/ in V4 countries. The programme supports innovation, experiment and creativity in performing arts – new drama, contemporary dance, new circus, physical theatre, visual theatre, alternative theatre, performance art, etc. It is not suitable for stone theatres, already developed performances or theatre festivals. The place of residency must be different from the applicant's citizenship and residence. The length of support is three months projects with a minimum 2-week stay in the respective host institution. Scholarship: individual residency (1 – 2 artists) – 2,500 € for the artist and 1,500 € for the host institution; group residency (3 artists and more) – 5,500 € for the group and 2,500 € for the host institution. Annual application deadline: 15 February

More information:

www.visegradfund.org/apply/mobilities/performing-arts-residency

- **Literary Residency Program** – the programme is intended to develop and promote V4 literature by providing support to the work and mobility of talented writers of fiction and non-fiction, poets, essayists, critics, as well as literary translators, publicists and journalists from V4 countries by creating a platform for literary exchanges. The programme supports 6-week projects (1 May – 12 June; scholarship of 1,125 €/project) and 3-month projects (1 September – 30 November; scholarship of 2,250 €/project).

Annual application deadline:

31 January

More information:

www.visegradfund.org/apply/mobilities/literary-residency-program

- **Residencies in New York** – the programme supports artist mobility for visual artists from V4 countries in New York City. Applicants cannot be students. The residency period is approximately 3 months
Scholarship: 4,000 €
Annual application deadline: 15 March
More information:

www.visegradfund.org/apply/mobilities/residencies-in-new-york

More information:

www.visegradfund.org

International Visegrad Fund

Kráľovské údolie 8, 811 02 Bratislava

Slovak Republic

4.4.3 NATO – Science for Peace and Security Programme

The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme supports practical cooperation in science



and innovation through projects aimed at safety, environmental sustainability and other priorities identified by NATO partners. The programme has an annual budget of around 12 million €. The funds are intended for cooperation projects if scientific and research institutions, and training centres of NATO countries with similar institutions in the partner countries.

Funded activities

Projects may not be purely scientific.

Projects must have a clear connection with the key priorities of NATO, an added value of safety and benefits for the development of relations between NATO and partners. Preferably, the projects have a considerable added value of public diplomacy.

Activities funded under the programme must comply with the following key priorities:

1. Facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of common interest, including international efforts to meet emerging security challenges (counter-terrorism, energy security, cyber defence, defence against CBRN agents, environmental security);
2. Enhance support for NATO-led operations and missions;
3. Enhance awareness on security developments including through early warning, with a view to preventing crises (security-related advanced technology, border and port security, mine and unexploded ordnance detection and clearance, human and social aspects of security);

4. Any related project clearly linked to a threat to security not otherwise defined in these priorities may also be considered for funding under the SPS Programme. Such proposals will be examined for links to NATO's Strategic Objectives.

Full list of SPS Key priorities can be found at www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/85291.htm.

Support mechanisms for cooperation funding in the key priorities:

- **Multi-year research and development projects (Science for Peace Projects)** – with added value for safety, funding of cooperation in multi-annual (3–4 years) projects in applied research and development offering financial support to cover the costs of the project (e.g. research equipment, computers, software and training of people involved in the project);
- **Training courses** – training, practice and exchange of expertise between experts and specialists from member and partner countries (**Advanced Study Institutes, Advanced Training Course**) in order to mediate the latest knowledge and development trends in the areas relevant to NATO, lasting up to 7 working days;
- **Workshops – (Advanced Research Workshops)** – funding of expert workshops with the aim of sharing experiences, opinions and finding solutions to security issues relevant to NATO lasting 2–5 days.

Submission of applications

Detailed information on each scheme and application forms can be found at www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/87129.htm. Projects proposals may be submitted continuously through this website and are subject to international review. A final decision on the project's support is issued by the leaders of NATO Member States. Early consultation of the project intents is advised with the representatives and permanent delegations to NATO. Information about the programme is also available in the Scholarships and grants database of SAIA: <http://grants.saia.sk/Pages/ProgramDetail.aspx?Program=589>.

5. Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

The aim of this chapter is to give you – university students, PhD students, teachers and researchers coming to Slovakia – an overview of the formalities related to your stay in Slovakia.

The main parts cover the following issues:

- Entry and stay
- Employment
- Document authentication
- Social security and health insurance
- Taxation
- Degree recognition
- Import of goods

You can find a graphical overview of the duties regarding the mobility to Slovakia (a timeline) at the end of this publication or at www.euraxess.sk/_user/documents/Euraxess/checklist-timeline_incoming_researchers-final.pdf.

5.1 Entry & stay

This guide will help you identify the procedures and documents necessary in your specific situation. Please, follow the “Navigation” and find the tailor-made guidelines to get through the formalities smoothly. In order to get a customised information you can also access an on-line click-through navigation application at: www.euraxess.sk/en/main/info/living/guide-administrative-duties/.

Please note that this text is **only informative**. It was elaborated based on information available and valid for the year 2018; it does not contain exhaustive information about the stay of foreigners in Slovakia in general, and it gives no right for claims or legitimate expectations of any kind. You can find more information in the Act No. 404/2011 on the Residence of Foreigners. The legislation is available on the Legislative and Information Portal (www.slov-lex.sk/web/en) in Slovak only.

5.1.1 Navigation

Start with the question I. and proceed as advised in the instructions following your answer to the question.

- *Note: In case you are accompanied by your family members, consult also question V.*
- *Note: Regardless of whether or not you need a visa and/or a temporary residence to enter and stay in Slovakia, you must fulfil certain administrative duties upon arrival – you can find more information thereof in the section “Duties after arrival in Slovakia” (p. 87).*

I. Are you an EU/EEA/Swiss national?

- A. **No** – proceed with question II.
- B. **Yes** – proceed with section “Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals coming to Slovakia” (p. 64).

II. Is your planned stay in Slovakia a short-term one, i.e. shorter than 90 days?

- A. **No**. My planned stay is longer than 90 days. Proceed with question III.
- B. **Yes. What kind of activity do you plan to perform in Slovakia?**
 1. **Study at university** (irrespective of the study level, including PhD studies). **It is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.** Find out if you need a visa in the section “Visa requirement” (p. 60).
 2. **Carry out research and development based on a Hosting Agreement.** (See section “What is a Hosting Agreement?”, p. 76) **It is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.** Find out if you need a visa in the section “Visa requirement” (p. 60).
 3. **Undertake a traineeship as a part of your studies carried out outside the territory of Slovakia or within two years of termination of such studies** (based on a certificate of traineeship). **It is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.** Find out if you need a visa in the section “Visa requirement” (p. 60).
 4. **Perform lecturing or artistic activity** (based on a confirmation thereof, without an employment contract). **It is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.** Find out if you need a visa in the section “Visa requirement” (p. 60).
 5. **Perform an activity resulting from a programme approved by the Government of SR, an EU programme, or a programme arising from an international treaty binding on SR** (based on an invitation letter and/or a scholarship award letter, usually without an employment contract). **It is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.** Find out if you need a visa in the section “Visa requirement” (p. 60).
 6. **Work under an employment contract** (beyond conditions laid down in the points 1–5). In general, even in case of a stay shorter than 90 days, if you want to be employed in Slovakia, **you need to apply for a temporary residence.** The Act on the Residence of Foreigners lists a number of exceptional situations in which you do not have to be granted a temporary residence for a maximum of 90 days; however, these very specific cases are not relevant for this publication. Proceed in the navigation as if your stay was longer than 90 days (question IV.)

VISA REQUIREMENT

Do you need a visa to enter Slovakia (Schengen Area)? Check on the website of the European Commission whether your home country is among those whose nationals need visas: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply_for_a_visa_en. You can also use IOM's visa check application at: <http://mic.iom.sk/visacheck/en/home/>

No – in this case, you do not need to make any administrative steps before your arrival to Slovakia.

Yes – then apply for visa. For detailed information about visa procedures see section “Schengen visa”, (p. 66)

III. Do you have a valid residence permit from another EU Member State for the purpose of university studies or research and are you coming in Slovakia for a study/research mobility in the duration of up to 360 days (students) or 1 year (researchers)?

- A. **No** – you need to **apply for a temporary residence**. Proceed with question IV.
- B. **Yes** – if you fulfil the so-called **mobility conditions** (see p. 85), **you do not need to apply for a temporary residence**.

IV. You need to apply for a temporary residence permit. What kind of activity do you plan to perform during your stay in Slovakia longer than 90 days?

1. **Study at a university** (irrespective of the type of study – a full degree programme or academic mobility/exchange stay). You can apply for a temporary residence for the **purpose of studies**. See sections “**Visa requirement and application for a temporary residence**” (p. 63) and “**Temporary residence for the purpose of studies (university/PhD students)**” (p. 71).
2. **Carry out research and development.**
 - **Are you accepted by a Slovak university to pursue a PhD or invited for a doctoral research stay?**
 - a) **Yes** – if you have an invitation letter/letter of acceptance as a PhD student, follow instructions in point “IV. 1. Study at a university”.
 - b) **No** – Irrespective of whether you have an invitation from a university or other research organisation, proceed with the next question.
 - **Have you signed a Hosting Agreement with a university or a research/development institution in Slovakia?** (see the section “*What is a Hosting Agreement?*”, p. 76)
 - a) **Yes** – you can apply for a temporary residence for the **purpose of research and development**. See sections “**Visa requirement and application for a temporary residence**” (p. 63) and “**Temporary residence for the purpose of research and development (researchers with a Hosting Agreement)**” (p. 73).
 - b) **No. How is your stay arranged?**
 - i. I will carry out research within an **exchange/mobility programme** of the SR or the EU or a programme arising from an international treaty binding on Slovakia. You can apply for a temporary residence for the **purpose of special activity**. See sections “**Visa requirement and application for a temporary residence**” (p. 63) and “**Temporary residence for the purpose of a special activity**” (p. 77).
 - ii. I will be **employed** as a researcher under a standard employment contract, without a Hosting agreement:
 - Does your activity require higher qualification, will you be employed for at least one year and will your monthly salary be at least 1.5-times the average monthly salary in Slovakia in the given sector in the previous year?

- a. **Yes** – you can apply for an **EU Blue Card**. See sections “**Visa requirement and application for a temporary residence**” (p. 63) and “**Temporary residence for the purpose of employment requiring higher qualification – EU Blue Card**” (p. 82).
- b. **No** – you can apply for a temporary residence for the **purpose of employment**. See sections “**Visa requirement and application for a temporary residence**” (p. 63) and “**Temporary residence for the purpose of employment**” (p. 80).

3. Teach at a university. How is your stay arranged?

- i. I will perform **teaching activities as a lecturer** based on an invitation letter from a Slovak university or within an exchange/mobility programme of SR or the EU or a programme arising from an international treaty binding on Slovakia (without an employment contract). You can apply for a temporary residence for the **purpose of special activity**. See sections “**Visa requirement and application for a temporary residence**” (p. 63) and “**Temporary residence for the purpose of a special activity**” (p. 77).
- ii. I will be **employed** as a teacher under a standard employment contract:
 - Does your activity require higher qualification, will you be employed for at least one year and will your monthly salary be at least 1.5-times the average monthly salary in Slovakia in the given sector in the previous year?
 - a. **Yes** – you can apply for an **EU Blue Card**. See sections “**Visa requirement and application for a temporary residence**” (p. 63) and “**Temporary residence for the purpose of employment requiring higher qualification – EU Blue Card**” (p. 82).
 - b. **No** – you can apply for a temporary residence for the **purpose of employment**. See sections “**Visa requirement and application for a temporary residence**” (p. 63) and “**Temporary residence for the purpose of employment**” (p. 80).

4. Participate in a traineeship within the studies pursued outside Slovakia or 2 years after completing those studies

- on a basis of a certificate of traineeship – an applicant can apply for the temporary residence for the **purpose of special activity**. See sections “**Visa requirement and application for a temporary residence**”, (p. 63) and “**Temporary residence for the purpose of special activity**” (p. 77)

VISA REQUIREMENT AND APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

Administrative procedures related to the submission of your application for a temporary residence will differ depending on where you apply.

Do you need a visa to enter Slovakia (Schengen Area)? Check on the website of the European Commission whether your home country is among those whose nationals need visas: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply_for_a_visa_en. You can also use IOM's visa check application at: <http://mic.iom.sk/visacheck/en/home/>.

i. Yes. You can obtain a temporary residence in two ways:

- a. Essentially, you should **apply for a temporary residence abroad, before your arrival in Slovakia** (for more information about types of temporary residence, see question IV). After being granted a temporary residence and upon your application, the Slovak embassy/consulate will issue a **national visa** (type “D”) for you to enter Slovakia (for more information about the visa procedure, see section “**National visa**”, p. 69).

Note: When planning your stay, keep in mind that this process may take longer, due to the fact that documents are sent to Slovakia by diplomatic mail.

- b. In case it is impossible to obtain a temporary residence from abroad before the planned commencement of your activity in Slovakia, you can apply for a **national visa** (type “D”) abroad, come to Slovakia (for more information about the visa procedure, see section “**National visa**”, p. 69) and **apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia** (for more information about types of temporary residence, see question IV).

Note: Do not forget to bring all the documents necessary for the temporary residence application procedure with you; otherwise, you will have to leave Slovakia before your visa expires.

ii. No. You can obtain a temporary residence in two ways:

- a. You can **apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia**. For more information about types of temporary residence, proceed with question IV.

Note: If you do not need a visa to enter the Schengen Area, you can stay in Slovakia for a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period (unless you are granted a temporary residence). If you plan to apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia, do not forget to bring all the documents necessary for the application procedure with you. In case you are not granted the temporary residence within these 90 days, you will have to leave Slovakia (Schengen Area). The decision-making process about your application may take up to 30 or 90 days, depending on the type of your temporary residence.

- b. You can **apply for a temporary residence before your arrival in Slovakia** – at the Slovak embassy/consulate **abroad**. For more information about types of temporary residence, proceed with question IV.

Note: When planning your stay, keep in mind that this process may take longer, due to the fact that documents are sent to Slovakia by diplomatic mail.

V. If you intend to come to Slovakia with your family member(s), please answer the following question again: Are you an EU/EEA/Swiss national?

- A. **Yes. Is your accompanying family member an EU/EEA/Swiss national?**
- a) **Yes** – your family member can proceed in accordance with procedures described in the section “**Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals coming to Slovakia**” (p. 64).
 - b) **No** – you can find information about the relevant procedures for your family member in the section “**Right of residence of family members of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals who come from third countries**” (p. 87).
- B. **No. Is your accompanying family member an EU/EEA/Swiss national?**
- a) **Yes** – your family member can proceed in accordance with procedures described in the section “**Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals coming to Slovakia**” (p. 64).
 - b) **No. Does your family member have a valid residence permit for the purpose of family reunification from another EU Member State and is he/she accompanying you during your research mobility in the duration of up to one year?**
 - i. **Yes** – if he/she fulfils the so-called **mobility conditions** (see p. 85), he/she does not need to apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia.
 - ii. **No** – you can find information about the relevant procedures for your family member in the section “**Temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification in case of third country nationals’ families**” (p. 89).

- If you need more specific advice or personal assistance, you can contact us at euraxess@saia.sk.

A graphical overview of entry and stay procedures for both EU/EEA/Swiss nationals as well as for third country nationals can be found on page 92.

5.1.2 Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals coming to Slovakia

Residence of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals

An EU national, for the purposes of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners, is everyone who is a national of an EU member state, **except a national of the Slovak Republic**. **If an EU/EEA/Swiss national intends to stay in Slovakia for less than three months**, he/she is only obliged to **notify the beginning of his/her stay** to the foreign police office **within 10 working days** since his/her arrival. The accommodation provider usually makes this if the person stays in a hotel, hostel or dormitory. If accommodated in private accommodation (e.g. in a private rented flat or at a friends’ place), the EU/EEA/Swiss national is obliged to submit the notice of stay himself at the competent foreign police office. (List of foreign police offices can be found on page 94.)

If an EU/EEA/Swiss national intends to stay in Slovakia for more than 3 months, he/she is first obliged to **notify the beginning of his/her stay** to the foreign police office **within 10 working days** since his/her arrival (as mentioned in the paragraph above). He/she can stay in Slovakia without any further obligations for up to three months from the day of entry. **Once this period of three months is over**, the EU/EEA/Swiss national is obliged to apply for the **registration of residence** in Slovakia **within next 30 days**.

If an EU/EEA/Swiss national knows (or assumes) that he would reside here for more than three months, he/she may apply for the registration of residence immediately after arrival and thus fulfil the obligation to submit the notice of stay at the same time (of course only providing he/she does so within the period of 10 working days).

Notification of the beginning of a stay

If you are staying in private accommodation, you are obliged to deliver a form "Notice of the stay" to the competent foreign police office. (It is available in 6 languages at www.minv.sk/?hlasenie-pobytu-1, however, it must be completed in the Slovak language. The forms are also available at local foreign police offices.

Registration of residence of an EU/EEA/Swiss national

The EU/EEA/Swiss national is obliged to apply for the registration of his/her residence in person at the foreign police office and submit the following documents:

- completed form "Application for registration of the right of residence of Union Citizen" (available to download at www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinka, look for a document entitled "Žiadosť o obnovenie prechodného pobytu ... o registráciu práva občana Únie ...", must be completed in the Slovak language),
- valid **ID/passport**,
- document proving the **purpose of your stay** in Slovakia or **sufficient financial resources**:
 - in the case of employment in the territory of the Slovak Republic – a **commitment of the employer** or a **confirmation of employment**,
 - in the case of study in Slovakia – a **confirmation of study letter or an admission letter to a school in Slovakia** and an **affidavit** confirming you dispose of **sufficient financial resources for your stay**,
 - in case you assume to be employed in Slovakia – an **affidavit on a continuing job search in Slovakia**,
 - in case you are a family member of an EU citizen, you will accompany or join – a **confirmation of registration of the EU citizen**, and a **birth or marriage certificate**, or a proof of your permanent relationship,
 - document proving you dispose of **sufficient resources** for you and your family members not to become a burden on the social assistance system of the Slovak Republic and a **certificate of health insurance** in Slovakia (European Health Insurance Card is sufficient), or a certificate of insurance reimbursement for medical expenses in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

The confirmation of registration of the residence is issued immediately upon the submission of a complete application. If you wish to obtain a **Residence card of an EU citizen**, you are also required to submit the following:

- two recent photographs (3 × 3,5 cm),
- proof of **accommodation** (e. g. a confirmation from your accommodation provider or a lease agreement or an affidavit of the owner of the apartment, the document must be in Slovak and the signatures on agreement/affidavit must be notarized).

Fee: 4.50 € for the issue of an EU national residence card

Although the Act on the Residence of Foreigners gives only a possibility (doesn't impose an obligation) to apply for the issue of an EU national residence card, you should know that this document makes a foreigner's life significantly easier, especially when dealing with authorities – banks, insurance companies etc.

5.1.3 Duties of third country nationals coming to Slovakia

Visa

Depending on your nationality, you might be obliged to apply for a visa before travelling to Slovakia. The type of visa you need depends on the purpose and planned length of your stay. Before submitting your application, we recommend you to **contact the territorially competent Slovak embassy/consulate general** (see page 95), which will provide you with detailed and up-to-date information regarding the visa requirements. Before visiting the embassy/consulate in person, contact them by telephone or e-mail and arrange an appointment beforehand if possible.

Note: A list of countries the citizens of which do not need visas to enter Slovakia (Schengen Area) is available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply_for_a_visa_en.

A. Application for a Schengen visa (Type C – short stay)

A Schengen visa is a **short-stay visa** issued by any country in the Schengen area. It enables you to **enter the 26 Schengen countries**¹⁾ for one or several visits, the duration of which **cannot exceed 90 days in any 180-day period**²⁾. Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania recognise Schengen visa (valid for two or multiple entries) as equal to their national visa for the purpose of transit or a planned stay not exceeding 90 days within any 180-day period.

The date of entry is the first day of stay in the territory of a Schengen Member State and the day of leaving is the last day of such stay. The duration of stay authorised by a temporary residence is **not included** in the duration of a visa stay. The term “any” (in the expression “any 180-day period”) implies the application of a “moving” 180-day period, looking backward at each day of the stay (the day of entry or the day of the inspection), in order to verify whether the condition of 90/180 days is observed. The absence from the Schengen area for a period of 90 consecutive days enables a new stay for the period of 90 days. In examining the compliance with the rule of 90/180 days under this visa, a stay in the countries that are not members of the Schengen area is disregarded (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom). On the contrary, stays in Schengen countries outside the EU – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are taken into account. In order to calculate the period of stay in the territory of Schengen countries and to check the compliance with the 90/180 rule, it is possible to use a Visa calculator³⁾.

¹⁾ A list of Schengen countries is available at the website of EC Directorate-General for Home Affairs: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/schengen_visa_en

²⁾ Regulation (EU) No 610/2013

³⁾ The calculator and a user manual are available at the website of the EC Directorate-General for Home Affairs: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/visa-calculator_en

You can apply for a visa **3 months prior to your planned trip at the earliest**⁴⁾. Under the applicable law, the visa application procedure shall not take longer than **15 days**, in exceptional cases the decision may take up to 60 days. The decision should be issued **within 10 calendar days** from the delivery of a completed visa application in case of nationals of those countries that have signed EU-level visa facilitation agreements (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine). Nationals of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine do not need visas if they are holders of biometric passports.

The validity of the granted visa or the duration of stay may be extended if the visa holder proves serious personal reasons. The applicant shall pay a fee of 30 € for the renewal. The visa is renewed for free if the holder has proven force majeure or humanitarian reasons, preventing him from leaving the country before the expiry of the visa or the authorised duration of stay. Extension of visas shall take the form of a visa sticker. Visa may not be extended to more than 90 days.

The territorial validity of the visa is specified on a visa sticker in the “Platné pre/Valid for:” line. The visa may be valid for all Schengen Member States. In that case, “Valid for: Schengen countries” is specified on the visa sticker entitling its holder to move freely within the entire Schengen area for the period of the visa validity and duration of stay. In the case of a visa with limited territorial validity, the limitation may be specified on the visa sticker: “Valid for: the Slovak Republic” (i.e. the visa is valid only for the Slovak Republic), or “Schengen countries – XY” (i.e. the visa is valid for all Schengen countries except country XY), or “Valid for: SK, XY” (i.e., the visa is valid only for the Slovak Republic and XY).

In general, when applying for a Schengen visa, foreign nationals have to submit the following:

- completed **form** “Application for Schengen Visa” (available at www.mzv.sk/cestovanie_a_konzularne.info/cestovne_doklady_a_viza-vizove_formulare)
- The application must be signed by the applicant; in case of minors or persons lacking legal capacity, their legal guardian, who is required to attach a copy of the document identifying him/her as the applicant's legal guardian, must sign the application,
- **recent full-face colour photograph** 3 × 3.5 cm,
- **valid travel document**; the travel document must be valid for at least three months longer than the expected validity of the visa requested and it must have been issued within the previous 10 years. The document shall contain at least two blank pages,
- **document demonstrating the purpose of the planned stay** (e.g. confirmation of acceptance for studies, invitation letter, letter of award, hosting agreement etc.),
- **proof of accommodation** (e.g. letter of award or hosting agreement in case they specify accommodation provided, voucher/reservation confirming hotel accommodation and services provided, personal letter of invitation confirming that the applicant will stay at the inviting person's place)

⁴⁾ Chapter II, Art. 9, parag. 1 of the Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009Ro810&from=EN>

- **documents confirming sufficient means of subsistence (e.g. cash in a freely convertible currency, travel cheques, bank account statement confirming that the applicant has had a regular income (salary, pension) in the previous 6 – 12 months etc.)** *(No general amount of funds to cover the costs of living is prescribed at the European level, but the funds must be sufficient for the length and purpose of stay and costs of living in the final country of destination or Schengen area countries. Currently, you might be requested to prove the financial resources in the amount of 56 €/person/day for the duration of your stay at the Slovak border.⁵⁾*
- **documents enabling the assessment of the applicant's intention to leave the Schengen territory** before the expiry of the visa applied for (e.g. a return (not open) air/bus/train ticket),
- **travel medical insurance** – the insurance must cover all costs that may arise in connection with the repatriation of the applicant to his/her home country due to health problems, urgent medical treatment, emergency hospital treatment or death. Travel insurance must be valid for all Schengen Member States and the entire length of the applicant's stay. The minimum insurance coverage of 30,000 € is required.
- **other documents** – for the purpose of the visa application procedure, the embassy or consulate general may ask foreign nationals to submit other documents in order to verify the declared purpose of the visit and applicant's intention to return to his/her home country or the country of his/her residence.

Visa application fees: 60 €

The application fee of **35 €** applies to the nationals of those third countries that have signed Visa Facilitation Agreements with the European Union:

- Albania (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Armenia,
- Azerbaijan,
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Cape Verde,
- Georgia (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Macedonia (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Moldova (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Montenegro (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Russia,
- Serbia (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Ukraine (holders of non-biometric passports).

The fees shall be paid in the freely convertible currency or in the national currency of the third country, in which the application has been filed, converted using the applicable official exchange rate. No administrative fee is charged for a visa application filed by a third country national who is a family member of an EU national and exercises his/her right of free movement.

⁵⁾ Regulation of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 499/2011 determining the amount of funds necessary to cover the costs of a third country national's stay on the territory of the Slovak Republic

B. Invitation

Foreigners may be asked to enclose an official **invitation validated by a police authority** to their Schengen visa application. It is necessary to verify this obligation with the Embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic in your home country. The invitation **can be replaced by the Hosting agreement in the case of a research stay** (see page 76).

Note: Invitation in the Schengen visa granting procedure IS NOT the same document as an invitation letter (acceptance letter), in which a hosting institution agrees with the realisation of a fellowship/research stay or an invitation to an education/research event.

The request to verify an invitation can be submitted by an inviting person:

- Slovak citizen with a permanent residence in Slovakia or a foreigner with a permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia,
- an organisation with the seat in Slovakia.

A request must be submitted using an official format at a foreign police department correspondent to the inviting person's place of residence or to the seat of the inviting legal person. The inviting person submits:

- completed form **"Application for verification of the invitation"** (available at www.minv.sk/?invitation-of-an-foreigner)
- **valid ID**
- document declaring the **purpose of the invitation** – being a relative of the invited person; business licence of the inviting person; business or other labour relationships; organisation of a cultural, sportive or scientific event (invitation from an organisation or an organiser, programme of the event), study or other form of education, provision of health care etc.,
- document proving the **ability of the inviting person to cover all expenses related to the stay and travel of the invited person**. A bank account balance statement of the inviting person, issued by a bank, can prove the financial capacity. The account balance must be at least 12-times the subsistence minimum (205.07 € for 2018) and 56 € for each day of the invited person's stay. If the inviting person invites more people, he/she shall demonstrate the ability to cover 12-times the subsistence minimum only once (only on behalf of himself/herself), and the amount of 56 € for each invited person.

An interview will be carried out with the inviting person concerning the relation with the invited person or the reason for the stay.

Fee: 33 € for the request for a verification of an invitation

A foreign police department decides on the verification of the invitation within 15 days of the receipt of the application. The verification is valid for 90 days.

C. Application for National visa (Type D – long stay)

National (**long-stay, type D**) visa may be issued:

- if it is necessary for **granting a residence in Slovakia**,

- for **language education** in a language school (the applicant must be at least 15 years old and the tuition must take at least 25 hours weekly),
- if it is required to fulfil **Slovakia's commitments under international treaties**, or
- if it is for the benefit of the Slovak Republic.

It is issued for **stays longer than 90 days**, for a maximum of one year. If it is issued for granting a residence in Slovakia, it is issued for 90 days. In case of the language education, its validity is limited to 31 July of the current academic year. If the foreigner is allowed to stay longer than for a year, the national visa will be replaced by a temporary residence before the day of its expiry. The long-term visa holders are allowed to travel to other Schengen member states (outside the border of the state which issued the visa); however, these stays cannot exceed 90 days in any 180-days period⁶⁾.

The possibility to apply for a National visa depends on the competence of the given embassy/consulate abroad (see the section “*Slovak embassies and consulates abroad*” (page 95)). Not all the embassies have visa centres, it is, therefore, necessary to contact the embassy/consulate beforehand and get the up-to-date information.

A complete application for a National visa consists of the following:

- completed **form** “*Application for National Visa*” (available at www.minv.sk/?application-for-national-visa),
- **recent full-face colour photograph** 3 × 3.5 cm,
- **valid travel document**,
- **document demonstrating the purpose of the planned stay** (e.g. confirmation of acceptance for language education, in case of applying for a national visa in order to apply for a residence in Slovakia, all the documents necessary for the residence application must be submitted),
- proof of **medical insurance**,
- **other documents** may be requested only in case the documents submitted are not sufficient for granting a national visa.

Visa application fee: 33 €

In case a National visa is issued in relation to already granted temporary residence in Slovakia, the fee is **9.50 €**.

The fee shall be paid in the freely convertible currency or in the national currency of the third country, in which the application has been filed, converted using the applicable official exchange rate.

No administrative fee is charged for a visa application filed by a third country national who is a family member of an EU or EEA national and exercises his/her right of free movement.

⁶⁾ Art. 1 par. 5(c) of the Regulation (EU) No 610/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

Temporary residence

As a foreigner carrying out an academic/research mobility in Slovakia, you might be eligible to apply for one of the several types of temporary residence in Slovakia. Depending on the activity you are going to pursue here, you can apply for a:

- temporary residence for the purpose of studies,
- temporary residence for the purpose of research and development,
- temporary residence for the purpose of special activity,
- temporary residence for the purpose of employment,
- temporary residence for the purpose of employment requiring higher qualification (Blue card of the EU).

To find out which type suits your situation best, please consult the “Navigation” (page 59).

You have to apply in person at the Slovak **embassy/consulate** competent for your country or at a **foreign police office in Slovakia**. Your application will be accepted at the foreign police office in Slovakia only if you are:

- granted an EU residence permit,
- granted a tolerated residence,
- holder of a national visa,
- third-country national who does not need a visa to enter, or
- Slovak living abroad.

Usually you have to submit a complete application, otherwise, it will not be accepted. If the embassy or the police department refuses to accept your application, they will notify you in writing of the documents you need to enclose so that it can be accepted. Once your temporary residence is granted, the police department will send you a written notice, stating the effective and the expiry date of your residence. The time validity of a travel document is not regarded when deciding on the duration of a granted temporary residence but it is taken into account when the residence card is issued. As for its validity, 90 days are deducted from your travel document's expiry date.

The application for the **renewal** of a temporary residence has to be filed by the applicant in person using an official form at the foreign police department no later than the last day of the current temporary residence validity. The temporary residence is deemed valid in the territory of Slovakia after its expiration until the decision on the application for the renewal of a temporary residence.

A. Temporary residence for the purpose of studies (university students/PhD students)

Students from third countries staying in Slovakia for longer than 90 days shall apply for a **temporary residence for the purpose of studies**. A complete application consists of the following documents:

- completed **application form** “Application for the temporary residence” (available at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2016.pdf; must be completed in the Slovak language),

- **2 recent full-face photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm,
- **valid passport,**
- **document proving the purpose of your stay** – a confirmation of studies letter from a state authority (respective ministry) or a host university, or a confirmation from an organisation which is administering a programme approved by the Slovak government or a European programme under a contract with the competent state authority (scholarship award letter),
- document **proving sufficient financial resources** for your stay – your bank account balance statement, a letter of award stating the amount of your scholarship, a confirmation of financial coverage, or an affidavit issued by another person about the provision of financial resources together with that person's bank account balance statement
- extract from your **criminal record with apostille or superlegalisation** from your country of origin **and** from every country where you have stayed for more than 90 days during six consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any).

Students do not have to enclose a confirmation of accommodation in Slovakia.

All foreign documents need to be translated to the Slovak language by an official translator. The list of official translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud-registre/-/isu-registre/zoznam/prekladatel>. In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak **embassy/consulate**. The documents issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak.

None of the documents proving the purpose of your stay, financial resources or no criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of submitting the application for a temporary residence.

The Slovak embassy that receives your application will interview you for the purpose of a preliminary assessment of your application. The interview will be conducted in Slovak or another language understandable to both parties. The embassy will prepare a written record of the interview and attach it to your application for a temporary residence. The record shall be written in the language in which the interview was held, and you will be asked to sign it. (If you do not speak Slovak and hire an interpreter, he/she must also sign the record.) The embassy will send its position on the granting of a temporary residence to the foreign police department along with the record and its translation (in case the interview was held in another language than Slovak).

In the case of applying for a **renewal** of a temporary residence, it is not necessary to submit a document proving no criminal record.

Fee: 4.50 € for the residence card

Within 30 days from the date of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall issue either a **negative decision** or a **notification of granting the temporary residence**. If applying for a temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, the officers will ask you to provide a mobile phone number (you can write the number on your application form). You will be notified by a text message in Slovak when

your residence card is ready (typically within 30 days). You can collect the residence card at the foreign police office in person or you can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for you. When applying for a temporary residence abroad at an embassy/consulate, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence.

If you apply for a temporary residence longer in advance and the foreign police office makes a decision on your application earlier than 30 days prior to starting your planned activity (the purpose of stay), the foreign police office sets the starting date of the temporary residence exactly 30 days before the starting date of your planned activity (the purpose of stay). If the time between the decision of the foreign police office on granting the temporary residence and the commencement of your planned activity (the purpose of stay) is shorter than 30 days, the date of the decision of the foreign police office will be the same as the day of commencement of the granted temporary residence.

Once you are granted a temporary residence, you are obliged to submit a **medical certificate** confirming that you do not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in **specific medical centres** only (see page 95) and you will be charged a fee.

The police department shall grant a temporary residence for the purpose of studies for the expected study duration, for a **maximum of six years**. The temporary residence for the purpose of studies remains valid for up to **30 days** after the **completion of university studies**. The university diploma and the state examination certificate serve as a proof of the completed studies.

Students who completed their **university education** in Slovakia (full degree studies) can apply for the renewal of their temporary residence for **job seeking or starting a business**. In this case, it will be prolonged for **nine additional months**.

Conditions under which students and PhD students can **work** alongside their studies are briefly explained in the section "*Employment of third country nationals*" (page 96).

B. Temporary residence for the purpose of research and development (researchers with a Hosting Agreement)

Researchers who signed a Hosting Agreement with a research institution or a university can apply for a **temporary residence for the purpose of research and development**. We recommend to researchers and receiving organisations to give priority to this type of temporary residence over the residence for the purpose of employment due to fewer administrative duties and faster decisionmaking procedure. In this case, researchers do not need a work permit or a confirmation of a possibility to fill a vacant position. Moreover, they can carry out their activities upon agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship (e.g. work performance agreement) or based on a granted scholarship.

A complete application consists of the following documents:

- completed **application form** “*Application for the temporary residence*” (available at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2016.pdf; must be completed in the Slovak language),
- **2 recent full-face photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm,
- **valid passport**,
- **Hosting Agreement** in the Slovak language (as a proof of the purpose of your stay),
- document proving **sufficient financial resources** for your stay (Hosting Agreement, your bank account balance statement or an affidavit of a statutory representative of a legal person on the provision of financial coverage),
- extract from your **criminal record with apostille or superlegalisation** from the country where you resided longest during last ten years.

Foreigners applying for a temporary residence for the purpose of research and development do not have to enclose a confirmation of accommodation.

All foreign documents need to be translated to the Slovak language by an official translator. The list of official translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud-registre/-/isu-registre/zoznam/prekladatel>. In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak **embassy/consulate**. The documents issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak.

None of the documents proving the purpose of your stay, financial resources or no criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of submitting the application for a temporary residence.

The Slovak embassy that receives your application will interview you for the purpose of a preliminary assessment of your application. The interview will be conducted in Slovak or another language understandable to both parties. The embassy will prepare a written record of the interview and attach it to your application for a temporary residence. The record shall be written in the language in which the interview was held, and you will be asked to sign it. (If you do not speak Slovak and hire an interpreter, he/she must also sign the record.) The embassy will send its position on the granting of a temporary residence to the foreign police department along with the record and its translation (in case the interview was held in another language than Slovak).

In the case of applying for a **renewal** of a temporary residence, it is not necessary to submit a document proving no criminal record. It is, however, necessary to file a **proof of health insurance** on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Fee: 4.50 € for the residence card

Within 30 days from the date of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall issue either a **negative decision** or a **notification of granting the temporary residence**. If applying for a temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, the officers will ask you to provide a mobile phone number (you can write the number on your application form). You will be notified by a text message in Slovak when your residence card is ready (typically within 30 days). You can collect the residence card at the foreign police office in person or you can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for you. When applying for a temporary residence abroad at an embassy/consulate, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence.

If you apply for a temporary residence longer in advance and the foreign police office makes a decision on your application earlier than 30 days prior to starting your planned activity (the purpose of stay), the foreign police office sets the starting date of the temporary residence exactly 30 days before the starting date of your planned activity (the purpose of stay). If the time between the decision of the foreign police office on granting the temporary residence and the commencement of your planned activity (the purpose of stay) is shorter than 30 days, the date of the decision of the foreign police office will be the same as the day of commencement of the granted temporary residence.

Once you are granted a temporary residence, you are obliged to submit a document proving your **health insurance** within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. In case you do not have **health insurance covering your stay in Slovakia**, you have to obtain it **within 3 working days after you collect your residence card**. The health insurance confirmations in another language than Slovak (except for Czech) must be translated to Slovak by an official translator. Moreover, you have to submit a **medical certificate** confirming that you do not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in **specific medical centres** only (see page 95) and you will be charged a fee.

The police department shall grant a temporary residence for the purpose of research and development for the period of validity of your hosting agreement, **for a maximum of two years**. Researchers who carried out their research in Slovakia can apply for the renewal of their temporary residence for **job seeking or starting a business**. In this case, it will be prolonged for **nine additional months**.

What is a Hosting agreement?

A Hosting agreement is a tool facilitating **faster and easier entry procedures related to the legal stay of third country researchers** who want to carry out research and development activities in the EU.

The Hosting agreement is the main supporting document representing a foundation for the temporary residence for the purpose of research and development, and its concept is built on the European legislation. The Hosting agreement is signed by a host research organisation in Slovakia (public or private) and by a third country researcher. Only research organisations authorised to hire the third country researchers (this authorisation is issued by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic) are eligible to issue a Hosting agreement.

The list of authorised research organisations is published at www.vedatechnika.sk (direct link to the list: <http://bit.ly/29QQzhk>, then click at “Zoznam právnických osôb vykonávajúcich výskum, vývoj, ktorým bolo povolené prijímať cudzincov”; in Slovak only), and in the register of organisations in the Information system for science and research SK CRIS www.skcris.sk (CRIS = Current Research Information System; in both English and Slovak). It is recommended to check both resources because of independent data updating.

If a **research organisation is not listed** among the authorised institutions it can **apply for the licence** at The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport. For information about the application procedure, see https://www.euraxess.sk/_user/documents/Euraxess/tlaciva/manual-ziadateľa-o-povolenie-vystavovať-dohodu-o-hostovania.pdf (in Slovak language) or the Slovak version of this brochure.

A Hosting agreement has to contain the following:

- name and surname of the third country researcher,
- identification of the host research organisation,
- specification of the researcher’s work classification and working conditions,
- purpose, duration and professional focus of the research project, and the availability of the necessary financial resources for it to be carried out,
- certified copy of the researcher’s qualification,
- declaration of the host research organisation stating that it will reimburse the costs related to the researcher’s stay and return incurred by public funds in case a researcher remains illegally in the territory of the Slovak republic,
- declaration about the sufficient financial coverage of researcher’s stay,
- declaration of researcher’s health insurance,
- information about foreseen carrying of a part of research in another state.

More information and a model Hosting agreements can be found at www.euraxess.sk/en/main/info/living/entry/third-countries/hosting-agreement

C. Temporary residence for the purpose of a special activity

(e.g. lecturers – university teachers without an employment contract, participants in a scholarship/fellowship programme approved by the Government of the SR, an EU programme or a programme arising from an international agreement) as well as trainees studying at higher education institutions outside Slovakia or within two years of completing such studies)

Teachers, lecturers and researchers from third countries coming to Slovakia within an official exchange or mobility programme approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic, an EU programme, a programme resulting from an international agreement binding on Slovakia or upon invitation from a university or other education institution to **give lectures/teach**, as well as trainees studying at higher education institutions outside Slovakia or within two years of completing such studies can apply for a **temporary residence for the purpose of a special activity**. These people are not employed in Slovakia under an employment contract. Conditions of employment are described in the section “Employment of third country nationals” (page 96).

A complete application consists of the following documents:

- completed **application form** “Application for the temporary residence” (available at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2016.pdf; must be completed in the Slovak language),
- **2 recent full-face photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm,
- **valid passport**,
- **document proving the purpose of your stay:**
 - **lecturers: a confirmation** from your host university/education institution that you will carry out the **activities of a university teacher/lecturer** (invitation letter for a lecture stay),
 - participants in **governmental/EU programmes: confirmation from a state authority** (the competent ministry) in charge of a programme **or a confirmation from an organisation** administering such a programme under a contract with a competent state authority (scholarship award letter/confirmation of participation in a programme),
 - participants in a **programme arising from an international agreement: international agreement** or a **confirmation from a state authority** (the competent ministry) in charge of a programme **or a confirmation from an organisation administering such a programme** under a contract with a competent state authority (e.g. scholarship award letter, confirmation of lecturing/research activity within an international programme),
 - **trainees: a certificate of traineeship** containing a description of the training program, including the training objective, the duration of the training, the conditions of placement and supervision of the traineeship, the internship working time and the legal relationship between the trainee and the receiving organisation,
- document proving **sufficient financial resources** for your stay – your bank account balance statement, a **scholarship award letter stating the amount of your scholarship**,
- extract from your **criminal record with apostille or superlegalisation** from your country of origin **and** from every country where you have stayed for more than 90 days during six consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any).

- trainees also: declaration of the receiving organisation to cover the costs associated with the potential administrative expulsion,
- trainees also: either a university diploma not older than two years at the time of applying for a temporary residence, together with a decision on a recognition of the diploma or a certificate of current studies issued by the higher education institution, whereby the traineeship must correspond to the achieved/current higher education,
- document proving your **accommodation** for at least six months of the temporary residence; in the case of a shorter stay it is necessary to provide a proof of accommodation for the whole stay – a confirmation from your accommodation provider, a rental agreement (with notarized signatures), or an affidavit on the provision of accommodation (with a notarized signature).

A proof of accommodation is not required in case the purpose of your stay is a participation in a governmental/EU programme, the fulfilment of a commitment of the Slovak Republic under an international treaty or a traineeship.

All foreign documents need to be translated to the Slovak language by an official translator. The list of official translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud-registre/-/isu-registre/zoznam/prekladatel>. In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak **embassy/consulate**. The documents issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak.

None of the documents proving the purpose of your stay, financial resources, accommodation or no criminal record **can be older than 90 days on the day** of submitting the application for a temporary residence.

The Slovak embassy that receives your application will interview you for the purpose of a preliminary assessment of your application. The interview will be conducted in Slovak or another language understandable to both parties. The embassy will prepare a written record of the interview and attach it to your application for a temporary residence. The record shall be written in the language in which the interview was held, and you will be asked to sign it. (If you do not speak Slovak and hire an interpreter, he/she must also sign the record.) The embassy will send its position on the granting of a temporary residence to the foreign police department along with the record and its translation (in case the interview was held in another language than Slovak).

In the case of applying for a **renewal** of a temporary residence, it is **not necessary to submit a document proving no criminal record**. It is, however, necessary to file a **proof of health insurance** on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Fees: **99.50 € for the application for a temporary residence for the purpose of a special activity** (100 € in case of an application submitted at the embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic)
33 € for the application for a renewal of the temporary residence
4.50 € for the residence card

- applicants for a temporary residence for the purpose of a special activity who are participating in a governmental/EU programme as well as those whose activity in Slovakia is resulting from an international agreement are exempted from the obligation to pay the application and the renewal fee
- trainees who are receiving a scholarship of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport or a scholarship under an international agreement, as well as the foreign language lecturers coming to Slovak schools within programmes arising from international agreements are also exempted from the obligation to pay the fee
- applicants who are pedagogic staff or university teachers are also exempted from the obligation to pay the application and the renewal fee.
- However, they shall pay for the issue of the residence card.

Within 30 days from the date of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall issue either a **negative decision** or a **notification of granting the temporary residence**. If applying for a temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, the officers will ask you to provide a mobile phone number (you can write the number on your application form). You will be notified by a text message in Slovak when your residence card is ready (typically within 30 days). You can collect the residence card at the foreign police office in person or you can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for you. When applying for a temporary residence abroad at an embassy/consulate, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence.

If you apply for a temporary residence longer in advance and the foreign police office makes a decision on your application earlier than 30 days prior to starting your planned activity (the purpose of stay), the foreign police office sets the starting date of the temporary residence exactly 30 days before the starting date of your planned activity (the purpose of stay). If the time between the decision of the foreign police office on granting the temporary residence and the commencement of your planned activity (the purpose of stay) is shorter than 30 days, the date of the decision of the foreign police office will be the same as the day of commencement of the granted temporary residence.

Once you are granted a temporary residence, you are obliged to submit a document proving your **health insurance** within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. In case you do not have **health insurance covering your stay in Slovakia**, you have to obtain it **within 3 working days after you collect your residence card**. The health insurance confirmations in another language than Slovak (except for Czech) must be translated to Slovak by an official translator. Moreover, you have to submit a **medical certificate** confirming that you do not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in **specific medical centres** only (see page 95) and you will be charged a fee.

The police department shall grant a temporary residence for the purpose of special activity for the time necessary to achieve its purpose, **but for a maximum of two years**.

D. Temporary residence for the purpose of employment

(e.g. in case of university teachers and researchers recruited under an employment contract if procedure using a Hosting agreement cannot be applied)

If you come to work to Slovakia and your activity cannot be performed on the basis of a Hosting agreement or as a special activity, and either the vacancy or you do not meet the criteria for highly qualified employment, you shall apply for a **temporary residence for the purpose of employment**. Usually, a complete application must be submitted but in case of applying for a temporary residence based on the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position, it is enough if you submit an application form and your passport.

The temporary residence for the purpose of employment can be granted:

- on the basis of a **confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position**, within the so-called **single residence and work permit procedure** (relevant for the majority of cases – see the section 5.2.1 B.),
- on the basis of a work permit (relevant for a few specific cases – see the section 5.2.1 D.), or
- if none of these two documents is required for the employment of a third country national (see the section 5.2.1 A.).

A complete application consists of the following documents:

- completed **application form** “*Application for the temporary residence*” (available at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2016.pdf; must be completed in the Slovak language),
- **2 recent full-face photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm,
- **valid passport**,
- document proving the **purpose of your stay**:
 - in case of an application based on a **confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position**: a **written promise** of the employer to employ the third country national (http://www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/MAJ_2018/Priloha_7.rtf) or an **employment contract**, and a **decision on recognition of qualification** or a superlegalised/apostilled document confirming the highest level of education achieved by the third country national,
 - in the case of other applications – a **work permit** (issued by the competent Labour Office according to the place of work), or a **confirmation** of the employer that the third country national will perform an activity for which a work permit or the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position **is not required**, or an **international agreement** binding on the Slovak Republic and stipulating that the work permit or the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position is not required,
- document proving **sufficient financial resources** for the stay (employer’s confirmation of the agreed wage amount or your bank account balance statement),
- extract from your **criminal record with apostille or superlegalisation** from your country of origin **and** from every country where you have stayed for more than 90 days during six consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any),
- document proving your **accommodation** for at least 6 months of the temporary residence; in the case of a shorter stay it is necessary to provide a proof of accommodation for the whole stay – a confirmation from your accommodation provider, a rental agreement (with notarized signatures), or an affidavit on the provision of accommodation (with a notarized signature).

All foreign documents need to be translated to the Slovak language by an official translator. The list of official translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud-registre/-/isu-registre/zoznam/prekladatel>. In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak **embassy/consulate**. The documents issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak.

None of the documents proving your financial resources, accommodation or no criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of submitting the application for a temporary residence. The documents that can be older than 90 days are: a written promise of the employer, an employment contract, a work permit or a confirmation of the employer that the third country national will perform an activity for which a work permit is not required; an international agreement; a decision on recognition of qualification or a document confirming the highest level of education achieved by the third country national; and a proof of accommodation in case of a third-country national representing or working for an important foreign investor.

In the case of applying for a **renewal** of a temporary residence, it is **not necessary** to submit a document **proving no criminal record**.

Fees: **165.50 € for the application for a temporary residence for the purpose of employment** (170 € in case of an application submitted at the embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic)
99.50 € for the application for a renewal of the temporary residence
4.50 € for the residence card

Please note that the vacancy applied for has to be **reported by your future employer at the labour office** competent according to your future place of work **at least 20 working days** before the submission of your application if it is based on the **confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position**. If the **work permit** procedure applies, the vacancy must be reported **at least 15 working days** before the submission of your application for a work permit. For conditions of employment, see also sections 5.2.1 B. or 5.2.1 D. respectively. You will not be allowed to submit your application for a temporary residence before this period has elapsed.

In case of **educational or scientific activities of a pedagogic employee, university teacher**, researcher or artist at a **higher education institution**, or research or development staff in research activities who will be employed without taking into account the labour market situation, the **employer does not have the duty to report a vacancy** and the foreigner can apply for the temporary residence **without delay**.

Following the receipt of your application for a temporary residence based on a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position, the police department shall complete a form “*Application for issuing the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position for the purpose of granting a single residence and work permit*” and send it together with a part of your application, documents proving the purpose of your stay as well as the position of the embassy/consulate to the corresponding Labour Office. The Labour Office will consequently issue the “*Confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position*” and send it to the police department. You will receive a document “*Additional data on employment*” together with your residence card.

The police officer in charge will confirm a receipt of your application (last page of the application form). **Within 90 days from the date of submitting** a complete application, the Foreign Police shall issue either a **negative decision** or a **notification of granting the temporary residence**. (In case you are representing or working for an important foreign investor, the decision shall be made within 30 days). If applying for a temporary residence directly at a Foreign Police in Slovakia, the officers will ask you to provide a mobile phone number (you can write the number on your application form). You will be notified by a text message in Slovak when your residence card is ready. You can collect the residence card at the Foreign Police in person or you can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for you. When applying for a temporary residence abroad at an embassy/consulate, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence.

If you apply for a temporary residence longer in advance and the Foreign Police decides on your application earlier than 30 days prior to starting your planned activity (the purpose of stay), the Foreign Police will set the starting date of your temporary residence exactly 30 days before the starting date of your planned activity (the purpose of stay). If the time between the decision of the Foreign Police on granting the temporary residence and the commencement of your planned activity (the purpose of stay) is shorter than 30 days, the day of commencement of the granted temporary residence will be the same as the date of the decision.

Once you are granted a temporary residence, you are obliged to submit a **medical certificate** confirming that you do not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in **specific medical centres** only (see page 95) and you will be charged a fee.

The police department shall grant a temporary residence for the purpose of employment for the expected time of employment, for a maximum of **five years**. The temporary residence for the purpose of employment remains valid for up to 60 days after the termination of employment (if the employment was terminated before the date of expiration of the permit).

Specific regulations and procedures connected to employment are briefly explained in the section “*Employment of third country nationals*” (page 96).

E. Temporary residence for the purpose of employment requiring higher qualification – EU Blue Card

A third country national may also be granted a temporary residence in the form of **the EU Blue Card**⁷⁾. Nationals of third countries with higher professional qualification can thus more easily enter the Slovak labour market and work in highly qualified jobs.

⁷⁾ Employment of third country national with the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position requiring higher qualification, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family: www.upsvar.sk/sluzby-zamestnanosti/zamestnavanie-cudzincov/2.-zamestnanie-statneho-prislusnika-tretej-krajiny-s-potvrdenim-o-moznosti-obsadenia-vpm-zodpovedajuceho-vysokokvalifikovanemu-zamestnaniu-k-ziadosti-o-modru-kartu.html?page_id=363520

Higher professional qualification is a qualification attested by a certificate of higher education. A person interested in obtaining the EU Blue Card must conclude an **employment contract** with a future employer in Slovakia or obtain a **written promise** of future employment from him (www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/MAJ_2018/Priloha_7.rtf).

Such an **employment contract** shall be concluded for a period of **at least one year** from the date of the EU Blue Card issuance, while the agreed salary must be at least **1.5 times the average monthly salary** in the economy of the Slovak Republic in the relevant sector as published by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic for the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the application for an EU Blue card was filed⁸⁾.

Employer willing to employ a third country national in a highly qualified job is obliged to report a **vacancy** at a Central labour office at least **15 working days** before the application for a Blue Card is submitted. More information on the procedure related to the employment requiring higher qualification can be found in the section 5.2.1 C.

You can apply for an EU Blue card in person at the Slovak **embassy/consulate** competent for your country or at a **foreign police office** in Slovakia. However, you cannot do so earlier than 15 working days after a vacancy is reported by your potential employer. Your application will be accepted at the foreign police office in Slovakia only if you are staying in Slovakia **legally**. A holder of an EU Blue Card issued by another EU Member State may apply for a Blue Card within 30 days after the entry into the territory of the Slovak Republic. Your application will be accepted if you submit at least a completed application form and your valid passport.

A complete application for an EU Blue Card in the Slovak Republic consists of the following documents:

- completed **application form** “Application for the temporary residence” (available at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2016.pdf; must be completed in the Slovak language. In the field no. 22 “Employment after arrival to the Slovak Republic, position, address of the company, organisation, school”, it is necessary to state the place of work and organisation’s identification number).
- **2 recent full-face photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm,
- **valid passport**,
- documents proving the **purpose** of your stay:
 - the **employment contract** for a position requiring higher qualification concluded for at least one year and offering a salary that is at least 1.5 times the average monthly salary in the relevant sector as published by the Statistical Office for the preceding calendar year, or **employer’s written promise** to employ the third country national in such job (http://www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/MAJ_2018/Priloha_7.rtf), and

⁸⁾ Statistical data on the amount of the average monthly salary is listed on the website of the Statistical Office of the SR <http://bit.ly/priemernamzda>.

- a **decision on recognition of higher professional qualification** to work in the job stipulated in the employment contract or in the employer's promise issued by the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. In the case of unregulated professions, a decision shall be made by a Slovak university which offers a programme in the same or related study field (www.minedu.sk/recognition-of-foreign-diplomas/),
- extract from your **criminal record with apostille or superlegalisation** from your country of origin **and** from every country where you have stayed for more than 90 days during six consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any).
- document proving your **accommodation** (in Slovak) for at least six months of the temporary residence; in the case of a shorter stay it is necessary to provide a proof of accommodation for the whole stay – a confirmation from your accommodation provider, a rental agreement (with notarized signatures), or an affidavit on the provision of accommodation (with a notarized signature).

All foreign documents need to be translated to the Slovak language by an official translator. The list of official translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud-registre/-/isu-registre/zoznam/prekladatel>. In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak **embassy/consulate**. The documents issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak.

None of the documents proving accommodation and no criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of submitting the application for the EU Blue Card. In case of applying for a **renewal** of the Blue Card, it is not necessary to submit the document proving no criminal record.

Fees: **165.50 € for the application for a temporary residence – EU Blue Card**
 (170 € in case of an application submitted at the embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic)
 99.50 € for the application for a renewal of the Blue Card
 4.50 € for the residence card

Upon the receipt of your application, the police department shall complete a form “*Application for issuing the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position requiring higher qualification*” and send it to the Central labour office. The Central labour office will consequently issue and send back the “*Confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position requiring higher qualification*”.

A decision on the application for a Blue Card is issued **within 30 days** from the date of submitting a complete application and is sent to the foreigner or an authorized representative. If applying for a temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, the officers will ask you to provide a mobile phone number (you can write the number on your application form). You will be notified by a text message in Slovak when your residence card is ready. You can collect the residence card at the foreign police office in person or you can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for you. When applying for a temporary residence abroad at an embassy/consulate, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence.

Once you are granted a temporary residence, you are obliged to submit a **medical certificate** confirming that you do not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in **specific medical centres** only (see page 95) and you will be charged a fee.

If you submitted a written employer's promise proving the purpose of your stay during the Blue card application procedure, you are obliged to **submit the employment contract** within 30 days after obtaining the residence card.

The Blue Card is issued for a maximum of **four years**. In case of a period of employment shorter than four years, the police department shall issue the Blue Card for that period extended for 90 days.

Mobility of third country nationals within EU

As of 25 May 2018, new simplified rules of mobility of third country nationals within EU are applicable in Slovakia. They enable students, researchers and researchers' family members with a residence permit in one of the EU member states to carry out short-term stays in Slovakia without the need to obtain a temporary residence in Slovakia.

A. Mobility of university students

Students who are holders of a residence permit for the purpose of **university studies** in one of the member states are allowed to carry out mobility (short-term stay) in Slovakia for a **maximum of 360 days** without the need to apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia, if:

- they will carry out a part of their studies in Slovakia within an EU programme (e.g. Erasmus+), Slovak governmental programme (e.g. National scholarship programme), a multilateral programme supporting mobility (e.g. CEEPUS) or within an agreement between higher education institutions, and
- the higher education institution in Slovakia, where they will carry out their studies, notifies the Ministry of Interior thereof in advance and submits:
 - proof of the fact, that a student will carry out a part of his/her studies in Slovakia **within an EU programme** (e.g. Erasmus+), **Slovak governmental programme** (e.g. National scholarship programme), a multilateral programme supporting mobility (e.g. CEEPUS) or within an agreement between two or among more higher education institutions,
 - proof of **admission to studies**,
 - copy of a **residence card** issued by a member state,
 - copy of a **passport**,
 - information about the **start and finish dates** of mobility, and
 - proof of **financial coverage of stay** in the amount of subsistence minimum for every month of stay or a confirmation of the higher education institution stating that the student will be provided with sufficient resources to cover the costs of living, study costs and travel costs for the return to the member state.

The higher education institution is obliged to report the Foreign Police in writing any **change** influencing the mobility in Slovakia, **within three working days** of learning about them.

B. Mobility of researchers

Researchers who are holders of a residence permit from the purpose of **research** in one of the member states are allowed to carry out research mobility (short-term stay) in Slovakia for a **maximum of one year** without the need to apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia, if:

- their host research organisation in Slovakia notifies the Ministry of Interior of the intention to host such a researcher and submits:
 - document proving that the researcher **carries out a part of his/her research activity in Slovakia**,
 - **Hosting Agreement** from a member state that granted him/her a residence permit,
 - copy of a **residence card** issued by a member state,
 - copy of a **passport**,
 - information about the **start and finish dates** of mobility, and
 - proof of **financial coverage of stay** in the amount of subsistence minimum for every month of stay or a confirmation of the research organisation stating that the researcher will be provided with sufficient resources to cover the costs of living and travel costs for the return to the member state.

The research organisation is obliged to report the Foreign Police in writing any **change** influencing the mobility in Slovakia, **within three working days** of learning about them.

C. Mobility of researchers' family members

Family members of researchers who are holders of a residence permit from the purpose of family reunification in one of the member states are allowed to accompany the researcher during his/her stay in Slovakia without the need to apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia, if:

- researcher's host research organisation in Slovakia notifies the Ministry of Interior of the intention of a family member to carry out mobility and submits:
 - document proving a **family relationship** with the researcher,
 - copy of a **residence card of a family member** issued by a member state,
 - copy of a **passport**,
 - information about the **start and finish dates** of mobility, and
 - proof of **financial coverage of stay** in the amount of subsistence minimum for every month of stay or a confirmation of the research organisation stating that the family member will be provided with sufficient resources to cover the costs of living and travel costs for the return to the member state.

The research organisation is obliged to report the Foreign Police in writing any **change** influencing the mobility in Slovakia, **within three working days** of learning about them.

D. Mobility-related notification duty of higher education institutions and research organisations

Besides the duty to notify the intention to **host** students/researchers who are residents of another member state during their mobility (see parts A – C), the higher education institutions and research organisations are obliged to notify information about the **outgoing** students/researchers.

They are obliged to notify the intention of third country students/researchers who are holders of temporary residence in Slovakia and want to carry out student/research mobility in another member state **within three working days** of learning thereof.

Duties after arrival in Slovakia

Besides duties connected to obtaining a visa and a temporary residence (for details consult the "Navigation", page 59), each third country national is obliged to **report their stay** to the foreign police **within 3 working days** since their arrival in Slovakia. The accommodation provider usually does this if you are staying in a hotel, hostel or dormitory. If you are staying in private accommodation (e.g. in a rented flat or at a friends' place), you have to submit the "Notice of the stay" form (www.minv.sk/?hlasenie-pobytu-1) directly at the competent foreign police office (see the list of foreign police offices on page 94).

As a third country national residing in Slovakia, you are obliged to report any change regarding the place of your residence, name, surname, personal status, nationality and data in your passport **within five working days** from the day when the change occurred.

You are also obliged to report to the police department that:

- you will stay away from the place of residence stated in the granted temporary residence for more than 30 days continuously,
- the purpose of stay, for which the temporary residence was granted has ceased to exist, within three working days since this occurred.

5.1.4 Bringing family members with you

Right of residence of family members of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals who come from third countries

Special rules for entry and residence apply to those third country nationals who are family members of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals. According to the current regulations, a family member of the EU/EEA/Swiss national is the third country national who is:

- a) his/her spouse,
- b) his/her child younger than 21 years of age, his/her dependent child and dependent children of his/her spouse,
- c) his/her dependent direct relative in descending or ascending line and such a person of his/her spouse,
- d) any other family member to whom paragraphs (a) to (c) do not apply and she/he is a dependent person in the country of his/her origin,
- e) any other family member to whom paragraphs (a) to (c) do not apply and she/he is the member of his/her household,
- f) any other family member to whom paragraphs (a) to (c) do not apply and she/he depends on his/her care due to serious health reasons,
- g) his/her partner with whom the EU/EEA/Swiss national is in a permanent, duly certified relationship,
- h) third country national with the right of residence of the family member of the EU/EEA/Swiss national in the member state, while the EU/EEA/Swiss national is the Slovak national with whom the third country national returns or joins him/her to reside back in the Slovak territory and fulfils any of the conditions specified in par. (a) to (g) in relation to the Slovak national.

If entering the Schengen Area from a third country, a family member may be obliged to obtain a visa. In this case, a family member can apply for a visa at a competent embassy or consulate (visa shall be issued free of charge within 15 days) or directly at the border, where the family member enters the Schengen Area. A clear proof of the family relationship with the EU/EEA/Swiss national is a basis for issuing the visa. For details about visa procedures, see the section “*Visa – Application for a Schengen Visa*” (page 66).

Once in the Schengen Area, the family member who is entering one member country from another does not need a visa if he/she is accompanying/joining the EU/EEA/Swiss national whose family member he/she is. The existence of a family relationship and the fact of accompanying/joining must be clearly manifest. If the family member travels alone, the visa may be required.

A family member of the EU/EEA/Swiss national who is a holder of a valid travel document can stay (without any further obligations) in Slovakia **for 3 months from the date of entry** if she/he accompanies or joins the EU/EEA/Swiss national whose family member she/he is. The beginning of his/her stay in Slovakia shall be reported by the family member of the EU/EEA/Swiss national at the competent foreign police office within 10 working days from the date of entry into the territory of the Slovak Republic.

If a family member plans to stay in Slovakia for a period **longer than 3 months**, he/she has to apply for the issuance of a document called “**Residence Card of EU Citizen Family Member**” at a foreign police office within 30 days after the 3-month period from the date of entry into the territory of the Slovak Republic.

A complete application consists of the following documents:

- completed **form** “*Application for issue of document residence of the family member with right for residence*”, available at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/obnovenie_prechodneho_pobytu.2013.pdf; must be completed in the Slovak language),
- **valid travel document**,
- **2 recent full-face photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm,
- **document proving your relationship with the EU national** (marriage certificate, birth certificate, etc.) This document has to be **apostilled or superlegalised** and **officially translated into Slovak** by an official translator (the list of official translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud-registre/-/isu-registre/zoznam/prekladatel>). In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak embassy/consulate. The documents issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak.
- **confirmation of the registration** of the residence of the **warrantor** (EU/EEA/Swiss national whose family member this person is).

Fees: 4.50 € for the residence card

Note: Different procedures apply to family members of Slovaks who are third country nationals.

Temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification in case of third country nationals' families

Family members of a third country national who are wishing to join him/her in Slovakia for the period **longer than 90 days** have to apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification. In accordance with the current regulations, the following persons are considered **family members** of a third country national:

- a) a spouse if the spouses are at least 18 years old;
- b) a common single child of the third country national and his/her spouse, younger than 18 years of age;
- c) his/her single child younger than 18 years of age;
- d) a single child of his/her spouse younger than 18 years of age;
- e) his/her dependent single child older than 18 years of age or dependent single child older than 18 years of age of his/her spouse who cannot take care of himself/herself due to the long term unfavourable health condition;
- f) his/her parent or a parent of his/her spouse who is dependent on his/her care and lacks appropriate family support in the country of origin.

Applicants have to apply in person at the Slovak embassy/consulate competent for their country of residence or at a foreign police office in Slovakia. The application may be submitted at the foreign police office in Slovakia only if the applicant is:

- granted an EU residence permit,
- granted a tolerated residence,
- holder of a national visa,
- third-country national who does not need a visa to enter, or
- Slovak living abroad.

It is necessary to submit a complete application; otherwise, it will not be accepted. If the embassy or the police department does not accept the application, they will notify the applicant in writing of the documents he/she needs to enclose so that it can be accepted. Once the temporary residence is granted, the police department will send the applicant a written notice, stating the effective and expiry date.

A complete application consists of the following documents:

- completed **application form** "*Application for the temporary residence*" (available at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziaadosti/pobyt/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu.2016.pdf; must be completed in the Slovak language),
- **2 recent full-face photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm,
- **valid passport**,
- **document proving the purpose of the stay – declaring the relationship with the third country national** (e.g. a marriage certificate, birth certificate, must be apostilled or superlegalised).
- **approval** of the parent who does not have custody of a single dependent child under 18 years of age but has the right to meet him/her,
- **document proving sufficient financial resources – an affidavit of the third country national to be joined that he/she will support the applicant and his/her employment contract or his/her bank account balance statement**,

- extract from applicant's **criminal record with apostille or superlegalisation** from the country of origin **and** every country where the applicant has stayed for more than 90 days during 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). Kids under the age of 14 are exempted from the duty to file extracts from their criminal records.
- document proving the **common accommodation** with the third country national to be joined for at least 6 months of the temporary residence; in case of a shorter stay it is necessary to provide a proof of accommodation for the whole stay (e. g. a confirmation from the accommodation provider, a rental agreement **with notarised signatures**, or an affidavit on the provision of accommodation signed by the owner with his/her notarised signature).

All foreign documents need to be translated to the Slovak language by an official translator. The list of official translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud-registre/-/isu-registre/zoznam/prekladatel>. In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak **embassy/consulate**. The documents issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak.

None of the documents proving approval, financial resources, no criminal record and accommodation **can be older than 90 days** on the day of submitting the application for a temporary residence. A proof of the purpose of the stay (marriage/birth certificate) can be older. In case of applying for a **renewal** of the temporary residence, it is not necessary to submit a document proving no criminal record. However, it is necessary to submit a **proof of health insurance** on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Fees: **132.50 € for the residence permit application** (135 € in case of an application submitted at the embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic)
 66 € for the application for a renewal of the temporary residence
 4.50 € for the residence card

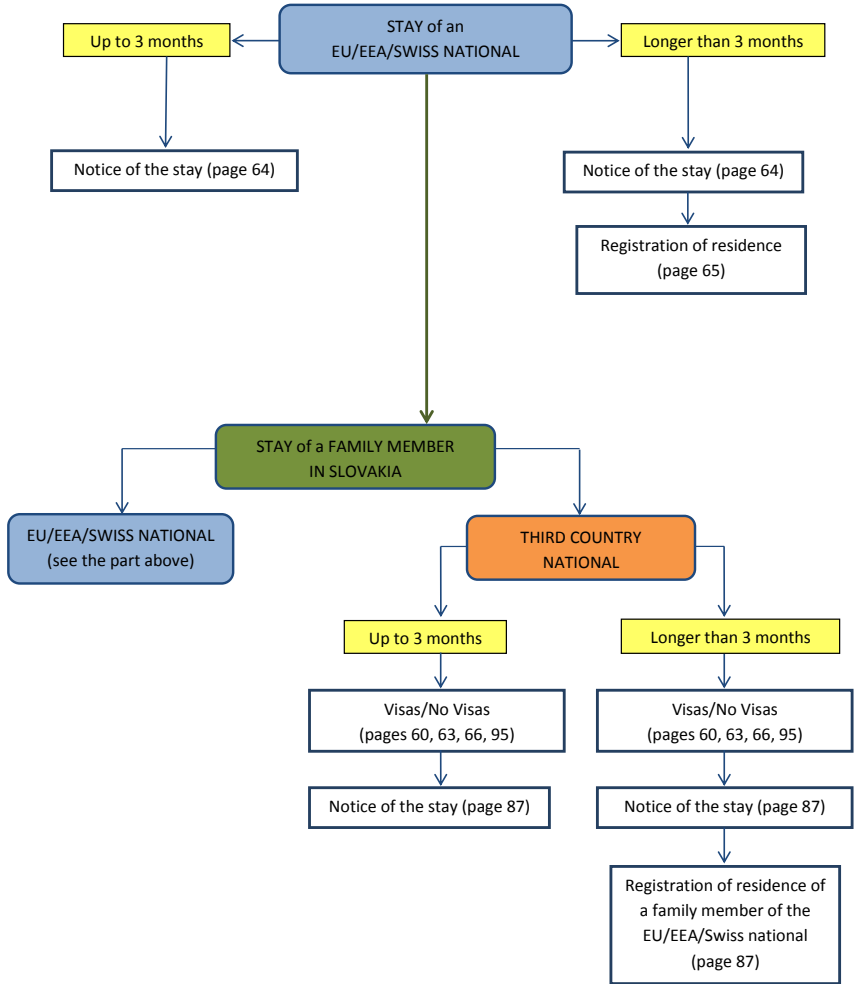
Within 90 days from the date of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall issue either a **negative decision** or a **notification of granting the temporary residence**. If applying for a temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, the officers will ask you to provide a mobile phone number (you can write the number on your application form). You will be notified by a text message in Slovak when your residence card is ready. You can collect the residence card at the foreign police office in person or you can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for you. When applying for a temporary residence abroad at an embassy/consulate, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence.

If you apply for a temporary residence longer in advance and the foreign police office makes a decision on your application earlier than 30 days prior to starting your planned activity (the purpose of stay), the foreign police office sets the starting date of the temporary residence exactly 30 days before the starting date of your planned activity (the purpose of stay). If the time between the decision of the foreign police office on granting the temporary residence and the commencement of your planned activity (the purpose of stay) is shorter than 30 days, the date of the decision of the foreign police office will be the same as the day of commencement of the granted temporary residence.

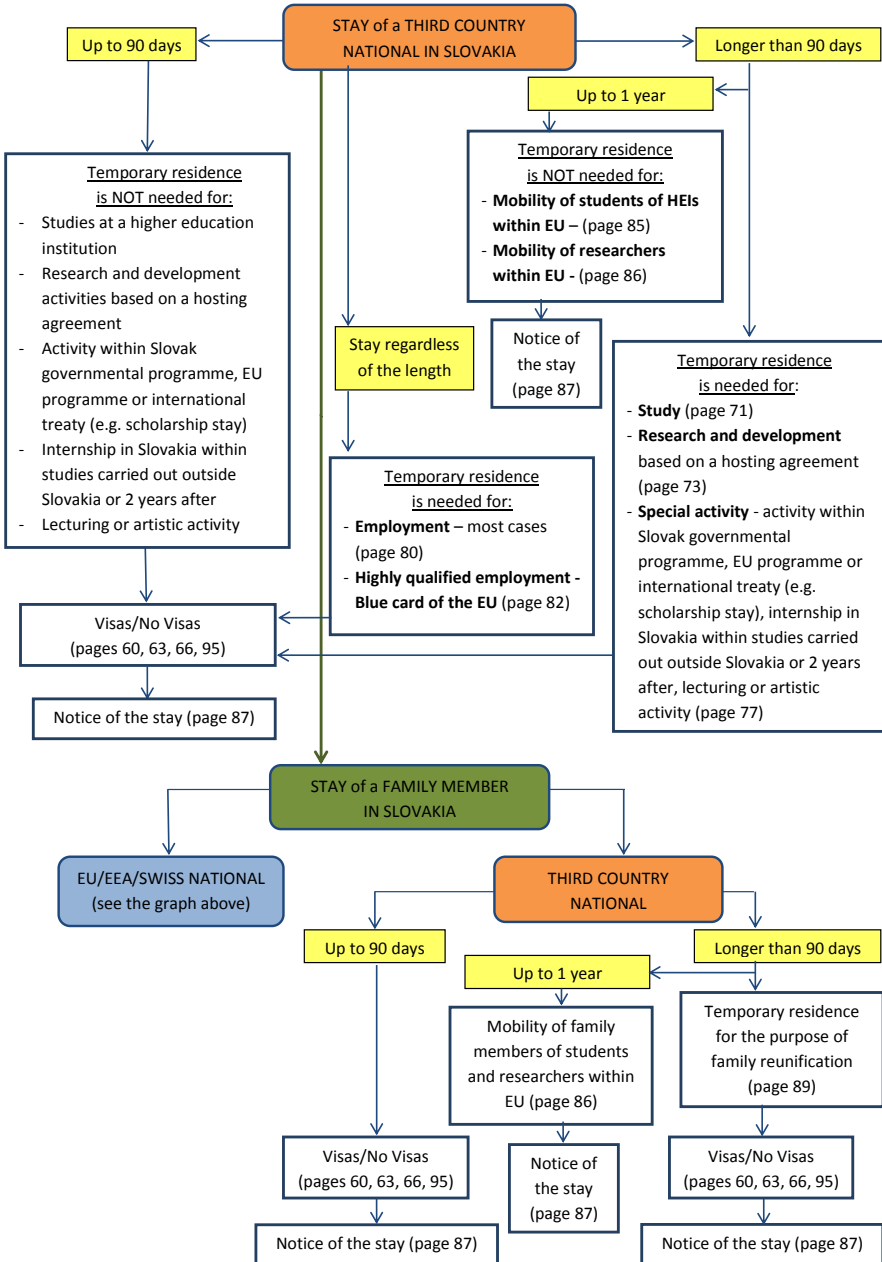
Once you are granted a temporary residence, you are obliged to submit a document proving your **health insurance** within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. In case you do not have **health insurance covering your stay in Slovakia**, you have to obtain it **within 3 working days after you collect your residence card**. The health insurance confirmations in another language than Slovak (except for Czech) must be translated to Slovak by an official translator. Moreover, you have to submit a **medical certificate** confirming that you do not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in **specific medical centres** only (see page 85) and you will be charged a fee.

The police department shall grant a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification for the period of validity of the temporary residence of the person to be joined, but **not more than for five years**. In general, the family member can undertake business activities in Slovakia. For employment conditions, see the section “*Employment of family members*”, page 101.

5.1.5 Graphical overview of entry and stay procedures



Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities



5.1.6 Other practical information

Foreign Police Offices in Slovakia and their territorial scope

Foreign Police Office contact	Territory covered (districts):	Foreign Police Office contact	Territory covered (districts):
Banská Bystrica Sládkovičova 4343/25, Banská Bystrica 974 05 ☎ +421-96160-3203 ocppzbb@minv.sk	Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Brezno, Detva, Krupina, Zvolen, Žarnovica, Žiar nad Hronom	Trenčín Jilemnického 2, Trenčín 911 01 ☎ +421-96120-3234 ocpptn@minv.sk	Trenčín, Bánovce nad Bebravou, Ilava, Myjava, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Považská Bystrica, Prievidza, Púchov
Bratislava Regrútska 4, Bratislava 831 07 ☎ +421-9610-36999 ocppzba@minv.sk	Bratislava I. – V.	Trnava Paulínska 13, Trnava 917 01 ☎ +421-96 110-6153 ocppz.trnava@minv.sk	Trnava, Malacky, Pezinok, Piešťany, Senica, Skalica
Dunajská Streda Adorská 34, Dunajská Streda 929 01 ☎ +421-96111-3200 ocppz.dunajskastreda@minv.sk	Dunajská Streda, Galanta, Senec	Žilina Bánovská cesta 8 111/1, 010 01 Žilina ☎ +421-96 144-3 205 ocpza@minv.sk	Žilina, Bytča, Čadca, Dolný Kubín, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Liptovský Mikuláš, Martin, Námestovo, Ružomberok, Turčianske Teplice, Tvrdošín
Office hours of the Foreign Police Office in Bratislava			
Monday	8.00 – 15.00		
Tuesday	8.00 – 15.00		
Wednesday	8.00 – 17.00		
Thursday	8.00 – 15.00		
Friday	8.00 – 14.00		
Office hours of the rest of the foreign police offices			
Monday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 15.00	
Wednesday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 17.30	
Friday	7.30 – 12.00		
Košice Trieda SNP 35, Košice 040 01 ☎ +421-9619-31208 kosicecc@minv.sk	Košice I. – IV., Košice – okolie, Gelnica, Rožňava, Spišská Nová Ves		
Michalovce Štúrova 1, Michalovce 071 01 ☎ +421-96172-3220 michaloc@minv.sk	Michalovce, Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina, Sobrance, Trebišov		
Nitra Kalvárska 2, Nitra 949 01 ☎ +421-96130-3230 ocp.nitra@minv.sk	Hlohovec, Nitra, Partizánske, Topoľčany, Zlaté Moravce		
Nové Zámky Bitúnková 8, Nové Zámky 949 36 ☎ +421-96133-3208 ocp.novezamky@minv.sk	Nové Zámky, Komárno, Levice, Šaľa		
Prešov Ľubochnianska 2, Prešov 080 01 ☎ +421-96180-3205 presovc@minv.sk	Prešov, Bardejov, Kežmarok, Levoča, Poprad, Sabinov, Stará Ľubovňa, Stropkov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou		
Rimavská Sobota Hviezdoslavova 35, Rimavská Sobota 979 01 ☎ +421-96168-3205 ocppzrs@minv.sk	Rimavská Sobota, Lučenec, Poltár, Revúca, Veľký Krtíš		

You can check for updates at
www.minv.sk/?ocp-1.

Note: Some foreign police staff communicates in Slovak only. If you think that you will not be able to communicate with them, you are strongly advised to ask somebody to accompany you. Also, the queuing time at the foreign police office can be very lengthy. People usually come early in the morning to take a numbered ticket which enables them to get to one of the counters that are processing the applications. It is possible that later during the day there will not be any more tickets available and those without one will have to come back another day.

Slovak embassies and consulates abroad

The list of Slovak embassies and consulates general abroad can be found at the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic: www.mzv.sk/ministerstvo/slovenske_zastupitelstva-vsetky_zastupitelstva.

Medical Centres relevant for the temporary residence

Once granted the temporary residence in Slovakia, a third country national has to submit a medical certificate confirming that he/she does not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health. Only the following medical centres can issue such a certificate accepted by Slovak foreign police offices:

Bratislava region

- Poliklinika cudzokrajných chorôb, ZAMA, s. r. o., Americké námestie 3, **Bratislava**, tel.: +421 2 52 92 56 88, fax: +421 2 52 96 27 32, info@czudzokrajne.sk, www.cudzokrajne.sk;
- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny, s. r. o., Teslova 33, **Bratislava**, tel.: +421 2 44 63 54 73, mobile: +421 915 88 90 54, bakos@inocem.sk, www.inocem.sk;

Nitra region

- Infekčná klinika, Ambulancia pre cudzokrajné choroby Fakultnej nemocnice Nitra, Špitálska 6, **Nitra**, tel.: +421 37 654 59 55, czudzokrajna.ambulancia@fnnitra.sk, www.fnnitra.sk/fnnitra/index.php/kliniky/infekcna-klinika/.

Trenčín region

- Ambulancia infektológie a tropickej medicíny Spoločnosti INF TROP-MED, s. r. o., Nábřežná 5, **Prievidza**, tel.: +421 465 11 33 11, jpetrickova@uniklinika.sk

Žilina region

- Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny Univerzitnej nemocnice Martin, Kollárova 2, **Martin**, tel.: +421 434 20 36 37, trtilkova@unm.sk, www.unm.sk/klinika-infektologie-cestovnej-mediciny#ambulance-311;
- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny, s. r. o., ŽILPO, s. r. o., Vysokoškolákov 31, **Žilina**, mobile: +421 915 88 90 54, bakos@inocem.sk, www.inocem.sk

Banská Bystrica region

- Ambulancia pre cestovnú medicínu, Oddelenie infektológie Fakultnej nemocnice s poliklinikou F. D. Roosevelta v Banskej Bystrici, Cesta k nemocnici 1, **Banská Bystrica**, tel.: 048/433 53 15, www.fnsfdr.sk/index.php/oddelenie-infektologie

Košice region

- Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny Univerzitnej nemocnice L. Pasteura, Rastislavova 43, **Košice**, tel.: +421 55 615 22 04, occh@unlp.sk, www.unlp.sk
- Stredisko cestovnej medicíny – Infektologická ambulancia, LV-Medical, s. r. o., Gemerská 3, **Košice**, tel.: +421 55 625 05 55, ladiavirag@lv-medical.sk, www.lv-medical.sk

You can check for updates at www.minv.sk/?cudzinecka-agenda

Note: The medical checks for the purpose of the temporary residence are a paid service. The costs of the examination vary depending on the medical centre. Contact the particular centre in advance for precise information (count with about 130 – 270 €). Be aware of the fact that the staff in the ambulance often communicates in Slovak only, so if you think that you will not be able to communicate with them, ask somebody to accompany you.

5.2 Employment

In this section, you will find basic information about employment rules and conditions. This can help you better understand the local situation and learn your basic rights if you are considering a job offer in Slovakia or are already negotiating the contract. The following information on Slovak employment law is by no means exhaustive and serves just for a better orientation during your first steps in order to work legally in Slovakia.

5.2.1 Employment of foreigners

Two pieces of legislation – the Labour Code (Act No 311/2001) and the Act on Employment Services (Act No 5/2004) regulate employment relations in Slovakia. Both can be found on the online legislative and information portal www.slov-lex.sk (the website is in Slovak only).

Employment of EU/EEA/SWISS nationals

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals can be employed in Slovakia under the same terms as Slovak nationals. In practice, this means that EU/EEA/Swiss citizens are **not required to obtain a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position** if they want to work legally in Slovakia.

They can conclude an employment contract or an agreement on work performed outside the employment relationship with their employer.

Employer's duties:

- to conclude an employment relationship in compliance with the Labour Code,
- to register the employee with a local branch of the Social Insurance Company (Sociálna poisťovňa) before the employment starts,
- to inform the local Labour Office (depending on the place of work) about the start of employment and

its termination within 7 working days thereof (using a form “*Informačná karta o vzniku/skončení pracovnoprávneho vzťahu alebo o vyslaní na výkon práce/skončení vyslania na výkon práce občana EÚ*”, in two copies: www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/MAJ_2018/Priloha_8.rtf),

- to register the employee with the health insurance company within 8 working days of the entry into employment,
- to deregister the employee from all the institutions after the termination of employment

Further information is available on the website of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (www.upsvar.sk/sluzby-zamestnanosti/zamestnavanie-cudzincov/zamestnavanie-obcanov-eu-ehp.html?page_id=272203) and the website of EURES (information network to facilitate mobility of workers within the countries of the European Union and the European Free Trade Association) www.eures.sk.

Employment of third country nationals

The Act on Employment Services regulates the **conditions of employment** of foreign nationals in Slovakia

Currently, there are **four forms of access to employment for third country nationals:**

- a) with a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position,
- b) with a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position corresponding to employment requiring higher qualification (associated with the application for an EU Blue Card),
- c) with a work permit,
- d) employment for which a work permit or confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position is not required.

An employer may only employ a third country national who:

- a) is a holder of an EU Blue Card,
- b) has been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of employment upon a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position,
- c) has been granted a work permit and a temporary residence for the purpose of employment,
- d) has been granted a work permit (during the first 12 months of being granted a temporary residence) and a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification,
- e) has been granted a work permit (during the first 12 months of being granted a temporary residence) and a temporary residence as a third country national with a long-term resident status in an EU Member State,
- f) is not required to obtain a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position or a work permit.

Third country nationals under the point a) to e) can only be employed in an employment relationship. In cases where neither a work permit nor a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position is required (point f), **working upon agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship is also possible** (e.g. work performance agreement, agreement on part-time job of students, agreement on work activity).

Foreigners with a granted temporary residence for the purpose of **studies, research and development, family reunification** or the temporary residence of Slovaks living abroad may be employed to some extent, in specific cases and under defined conditions. Check details and get more information in the section 5.2.1 A. to see examples of situations when **no confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position or a work permit is required.**

A foreigner who will be performing **educational or scientific activities as a pedagogic employee, university teacher, researcher or artist at a higher education institution**, or research or development staff engaged in research activities in Slovakia shall in general apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of employment based on confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position (if other relevant purposes of residence cannot be applied – e. g. research and development based on a Hosting Agreement, special activities, family reunification). In this case, the confirmation will be issued by the Labour Office **without taking into account the labour market situation.**

More information on employment of the abovementioned categories can be found at www.upsvar.sk/služby-zamestnanosti/zamestnavanie-cudzincov.html?page_id=272197 (in Slovak only).

Employer's duties:

- to request the third country national's residence card before the start of work and then keep a copy of it during the time of employment,
- to conclude an employment relationship in compliance with the Labour Code,
- to inform the Labour Office in writing about the start and termination of employment within seven working days thereof together with a copy of the employment contract,
- to inform the Labour Office in writing if the third country national who was granted a work permit or a temporary residence based on the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position did not start the job within seven working days of the day set as the day of starting the job,
- in case of employing a third country national who does not need a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position – to inform

the Labour Office about the start and termination of the employment within 7 working days thereof (using a form “Informačná karta o vzniku/skončení pracovnoprávneho vzťahu alebo o vyslaní na výkon práce/skončení vyslania na výkon práce štátneho príslušníka tretej krajiny uvedeného v § 23a ods. 1 zákona o službách zamestnanosti” (www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/Priloha_9.rtf), in two copies, together with a document proving that he/she does not need

- a permit or confirmation and a copy of the employment contract,
- to register the employee with a local branch of the Social Insurance Company (Sociálna poisťovňa) before the employment starts,
- to register the employee with the health insurance company within eight working days of the entry into employment,
- to deregister the employee from all the institutions after the termination of employment,
- to notify the police department of termination of the employment of a third country national within three working days,
- in case of employment of a third country national on the basis of a hosting agreement – to notify the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR within 2 months of the following facts:
 - early termination of a hosting agreement
 - facts that indicate the end of participation of the foreigner in a research and development project,
 - termination of the research and development project,
 - termination of the hosting agreement,
 - facts that prevent the implementation of the research and development project.

The list of local labour offices can be found at www.upsvar.sk/urady-psvr.html?page_id=215.

Further information is available at the websites of individual labour offices (e.g. www.upsvar.sk/zamestnavatel-1/cudzinci.html?page_id=260432&urad=239644) as well as at the EURES website (www.eures.sk/clanok-detail.php?id=531).

A. When is a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position not required?

With regard to the purpose of this booklet, we selected only the most important provisions from the complete list. A work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position for a third country national is not required in case:

- you have **successfully graduated from a high school or higher education institution** (university) in Slovakia,
- you are a university student with a granted a temporary residence for **the purpose of studies**, or you are studying in Slovakia as a part of your intra-EU mobility scheme and your employment will not exceed **20 hours per week**
- you have been granted a temporary residence for **the purpose of research and development** and will carry out research or development on the basis of a **Hosting agreement**,
- you have been granted a temporary residence for **the purpose of research and development** or you are carrying out research in Slovakia as a part of your intra-EU mobility and your employment related **to lecturing** will not exceed **50 days** in a calendar year,
- you are carrying out research and development in Slovakia on the basis of a Hosting Agreement as a part of your **intra-EU mobility**,
- you are younger than 26 years and you will be employed in occasional and time-limited jobs within exchanges between schools or within youth and education programmes, in which Slovakia participates,

- your employment in the territory of the SR will not exceed **30 days in a calendar year**, and you are a **pedagogic employee, an academic employee at a higher education institution, a scientific, research or development worker**, participating in a **professional scientific event** or an artist participating in an artistic event,
- you have been granted a temporary residence in Slovakia as a person with the long-term residency status in another EU member state, after 12 months from the start of your stay in Slovakia,
- you have been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification and you are a **family member of a researcher with a temporary residence for the purpose of research and development with a Hosting Agreement**, immediately after being granted a temporary residence,
- you have been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification and you are a family member of an EU Blue Card holder, immediately after being granted a temporary residence,
- a family member of a researcher carrying out research in Slovakia as a part of the intra-EU mobility,
- you are a family member of an EU national with the right to reside in Slovakia,
- you have been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification, after 12 months from the start of a continuous residence in Slovakia,
- you have been granted a permanent residence in Slovakia,
- you have been granted a temporary residence of a third country national who has a recognised status of a Slovak living abroad,
- you are to be employed upon a commitment of the Slovak Republic

under an **international treaty** defining that the work permit is not required for this type of employment (e.g. working holidays with Canada and New Zealand).

Employer's duties:

In case of employing a third country national who does not need a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position, the employer has an obligation to inform the local Labour Office (depending on the place of work) about the beginning and the termination of his/her employment using the form "*Informačná karta o vzniku/skončení pracovnoprávneho vzťahu alebo o vyslaní na výkon práce/skončení vyslania na výkon práce štátneho príslušníka tretej krajiny uvedeného v § 23a ods. 1 zákona o službách zamestnanosti*" – see the section 5.2.1.

Other important provisions:

- In case a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position are not required, the employees can be employed not only in an employment relationship but also **upon agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship (e.g. work performance agreement, agreement on the part-time job of students, agreement on work activity)**.

B. Confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position

In case a third country national does not fall into the categories with easier employment conditions (without the work permit or the confirmation from the Labour Office), the labour market situation will be taken into account. The vacancy for which he/she should be hired must be reported to the Labour Office and the temporary residence for the purpose of employment can be granted only upon a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position issued by the Labour Office.

Employer's duties:

The employer planning to employ a third country national has to report a vacancy to the Labour Office in writing. The job vacancy must be reported **at least 20 working days** prior to filing the application for a temporary residence for the purpose of employment. In case the job vacancy cannot be filled by a registered jobseeker (from Slovakia or EU Member State), the employer can conclude an employment contract with the third country national or issue a written promise to employ him/her, which are to be enclosed along with the application for a temporary residence. The job vacancy shall be cancelled only after the third country national has been granted the residence permit. You can apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of employment **20 working days after the notification of a vacancy** at the Labour Office, at the earliest.

In the case of employing a third country national as a **pedagogic employee, university lecturer, member of the research or artistic university staff, or a research or development employee** in a development activity, the employer does not have the duty to report a vacancy. A potential employee can **apply for a temporary residence immediately**. The labour office will issue a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position without taking into account the labour market situation.

More information regarding the procedure related to the temporary residence for the purpose of employment can be found in the chapter 5.1.3 *Duties of third country nationals coming to Slovakia*, in the section Temporary residence – D. (page 80).

C. Confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position in case of employment requiring higher qualification (EU Blue Card)

In the case of the employment requiring higher qualification, a third-country national can apply for a temporary residence in the form of the EU Blue Card. The required qualification needs to be attested by the third-country national's diploma of higher education.

The **employment contract** concluded in this situation (or an employer's written promise to employ the third country national to such employment) must stipulate a commitment to employ a foreigner for a period of **at least one year** from the date of the Blue Card issuance, while the agreed salary must be at least **1.5 times the average monthly salary** in the economy of the Slovak Republic in the relevant sector as published by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic for the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the application for a Blue card was filed.

Employer's duties:

The employer willing to employ a third country national for the employment requiring higher qualification is obliged to report a **vacancy** to the Central labour office at least **15 working days** before the third country national submits the application for a temporary residence.

Third country national's duties:

You can submit an **application for a Blue Card** (i.e. **for a temporary residence**) in person at the Slovak embassy/consulate or at a foreign police office **in Slovakia**, no earlier than **15 working days after** the vacancy has been reported by the employer. A holder of a Blue Card issued by another EU Member State may apply for a Blue Card within 30 days of entry in Slovakia.

More information on the procedure related to the temporary residence issued in the form of a Blue Card can be found in the chapter 5.1.3 *Duties of third country nationals coming to Slovakia*, in the section *Temporary residence – E*. (page 82).

D. Work permit

A work permit is required for the employment of a third country national in the case

- a) of seasonal employment for a maximum of 90 days in 12 consecutive months,
- b) the foreigner has been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of **family reunification, during the period of first 12 months since being granted a temporary residence** (except for cases when no work permit is needed and family members can start working right after obtaining their temporary residence – see the section 5.2.1 A.),
- c) the foreigner has been granted a temporary residence as a third country national with the long-term resident status in an EU Member State, **during the period of first 12 months since being granted a temporary residence,**
- d) it is stipulated in an international treaty binding on Slovakia.

Employer's duties:

The **employer who wants to employ a third country national who needs a work permit is obliged to report a vacancy** at the Labour Office competent according to the place of work, at least **15 working days before** the application of the third country national for a work permit is submitted. Reporting of a vacancy is not required in case of persons stated under d).

Third country national's duties:

An **application for a work permit** can be submitted at the Labour Office competent according to the place of work, **no earlier**

than 15 working days after the employer has reported a vacancy. You may apply for the work permit yourself or you can appoint your future employer with the power of attorney to apply on your behalf (your signature on the power of attorney has to be officially verified by a Slovak notary). The decision on your application for a work permit should be issued within **20 working days** from the submission of your application.

The work permit is valid for a maximum of 2 years or for 5 years if so stipulated in an international treaty binding on the SR. No administrative fees for filing the application for the work permit are charged in Slovakia. The work permit **validity can be extended**, even repeatedly, but only **for a maximum of 2 years**. The possibility of extension is subject to the fact that the work will be carried out at the same position and for the same employer. The vacancy must be reported to the Labour Office at least **15 working days before** the submission of the application for the renewal. It is necessary to file a written application for the extension of the work permit at the local labour office 30 days before the end of validity of the granted work permit at the latest and 90 days at the earliest.

Employment of family members

If your spouse accompanies you during your study or research stay in Slovakia and he/she wants to work here, the employment procedures will be different depending on whether he/she is an EU/EEA/Swiss nationals or a national of the third country.

Nationals of EU/EEA Member States and Switzerland can be employed under the same conditions as Slovak nationals. They must fulfil the employer's requirements, e.g. level of education, language skills or working experience in their professional area, etc.

The third country nationals who have been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification usually need to obtain a work permit in order to work legally during the first 12 months of their stay.

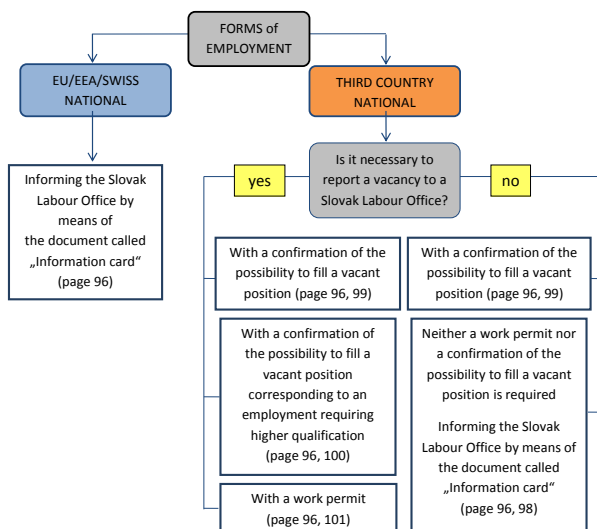
A work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position is not required in case of:

- a family member of a researcher with a Hosting Agreement; who has been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification, right after being granted the residence;
- a family member of an EU Blue Card holder; who has been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification, right after being granted the residence
- a family member of a researcher carrying out research in Slovakia as a part of the intra-EU mobility;
- you are a family member of an EU national with the right to reside in Slovakia,
- other family members, after 12 months from the start of a continuous residence in Slovakia.

In case a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position are not required, the employees can be employed, not only upon an employment contract, but also upon **agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship** (e.g. work performance agreement, agreement on the part-time job of students, agreement on work activity) More details can be found in the section 5.2.1 A.

In case the family member does not fall into the categories of foreigners with easier employment conditions and needs a work permit, he/she can only be employed under an employment contract. The labour office can grant a work permit to a person with a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification, during the first 12 months after being granted a temporary residence. After the elapse of this period, the foreigner does not need a work permit anymore and he/she can also be employed upon agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship. The process of applying for a work permit is described in the section 5.2.1 D.

5.2.2 Graphical overview of employment procedures



5.2.3 Employment conditions and job seeking

Job seeking

Information on job vacancies is available on the internet as well as in the national, regional and local newspapers.

When seeking a job you can also use the services of specialised entities/agencies. They can arrange a job for a certain fee upon a permit issued by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. A list of job intermediaries is available at the website of the Labour Office www.upsvar.sk.

Job counselling for third country nationals is provided by the Migration Information Centre of the International Organisation for Migration – www.mic.iom.sk. They also offer allowances for educational and requalification courses.

Useful links:

When looking for a job as a researcher or a university teacher, it is advisable to have a look at:

- <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs> – EURAXESS Jobs portal, including research opportunities in Slovakia
- www.minedu.sk/volne-pracovne-miesta-na-vysokych-skolach/ – job offers at Slovak higher education institutions (in Slovak only)
- www.sav.sk – job offers at the Slovak Academy of Sciences (in Slovak only) and the possibility to register as a job seeker
- www.profesia.sk – search database of job vacancies (the webpage is available also in Czech, English, German and Hungarian)
- <http://greenpages.spectator.sme.sk/en.html> – Slovak business directory – Green pages, see the section “Job portals in Slovakia”

- www.eures.sk – Slovak branch of the European Employment Service – EURES; the information on the labour market, living and working conditions and freedom of movement are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/eures> in all official languages of the EU.
- www.euraxess.sk/en/main/info/working/employment – section dedicated to employment at the national EURAXESS website

Forms of employment

The basic forms of employment in Slovakia include:

- employment for an indefinite period
- employment for a temporary – defined period
- part-time employment or shared job position
- working from home and teleworking, and
- employment of a student of a vocational school or institute.

The employment relationship is concluded for an indefinite period if the employment contract does not specify the duration of the employment or where the legal requirements for signing an employment contract for a temporary period cannot be met.

An employment contract for a temporary period may be signed for a maximum period of two years (and renewed maximum twice in two years). The university teachers, scientists and researchers (see the part below) are an exception from this rule.

A part-time employment contract is an employment contract with shorter working time than the statutory maximum working week (40 hours, working time may not be allocated for each working day), and the employee is paid a salary corresponding to this shorter working time arrangement.

The employment starts on the day specified in the employment contract. The employment contract may specify a probationary period, which cannot be longer than three months (six months probationary period is possible in some senior managerial positions); the probationary period may not be extended. The notice period is from one to three months depending on different circumstances, however typically two months.

Work carried out occasionally

An employer may exceptionally conclude agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship – in case the work is defined by its:

- outcome – a work performance agreement,
- type – an agreement on the part-time job of students or an agreement on work activity.

In the framework of a **work performance agreement**, a person can work for up to 350 hours per the calendar year for one employer (within a single agreement or several agreements). The work is usually remunerated only after the outcome has been delivered; however, parties can agree that a part of the wage will be paid after a partial outcome has been achieved.

The maximum workload within the **agreement on work activity** is 10 hours per week.

In case of an **agreement on the part-time job of students** (up to 26 years old), the workload must not exceed 20 hours a week on average. This restriction is considered with respect to the whole duration of the contract.

The agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship can be concluded for a maximum of 12 months.

Period of employment of academic personnel

Specific conditions of employment of academic personnel of higher education institutions arise from the Act No. 131/2002 on Higher Education Institutions.

In general, a contract for a university teaching position is concluded for a maximum of 5 years based on one selection procedure (job posting). If a university teacher has been employed in the position of an associated professor or a professor for the third time, has the respective academic titles and the total job duration in these positions has been at least nine years, he/she is entitled to be granted a work contract for the limited period of time up to 70 years of age. After reaching 70 years of age, the contract can be extended for a maximum of 1 year, however also repeatedly.

A university teacher vacancy can be filled without a selection procedure (public job posting) for a maximum of 1 year in case a part-time employment contract or an agreement on work performed outside the employment relationship is concluded.

A rector or a dean can release a university teacher from the pedagogic duties and grant him/her some time for research or artistic work for a period of appropriate duration.

Special status of PhD students

Full-time PhD students are considered students, not employees; hence, a university is not in the position of their employer in relation to their social and health insurance. Full-time PhD students at Slovak universities or external education institution (institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences) receive a scholarship provided from the state budget. PhD scholarships provided by the state are exempt from the income tax.

Students with a permanent residence in an EU Member State are entitled to receive a PhD scholarship from the state budget, unless they have already been awarded a PhD degree, in the amount stipulated in the Act on Certain Public Servants Remuneration.

For information on social security and health insurance for PhD students, read the section 5.4 *Social security and health insurance*.

Average income

The employee receives a salary in return for his/her work. The amount of an employee's salary must be stipulated in advance in the employment contract.

A net salary is a salary without contributions into compulsory insurance funds and income tax. (See also sections: Social Security, Taxation, Health and Medical Care.) The "labour cost", however, includes the contributions to social and health insurance funds an employer pays on behalf of an employee.

Example: the average nominal monthly wage in Slovakia in the first quarter of 2018 was 955 €. After being reduced by contributions to compulsory insurance funds (social insurance, health insurance), the rest of the income is taxed at 19 % for private individuals (provided the tax base does not exceed 176.8 times the current amount of subsistence minimum). The monthly net wage then amounts to approx. 730 €.

Working time

The standard maximum weekly working week for employees in Slovakia is 40 hours. If a person works more than 6 hours a day, he/she is entitled to have a break for 30 minutes to relax and have meals.

Annual paid holiday

The basic entitlement to a paid holiday is at least four weeks (20 days) in a calendar year; it can be longer (usually one more week) provided it is set in the collective agreement, or upon reaching the age of 33.

Board

After 4 hours of work per day, an employee is entitled to a contribution to his/her board (in the form of meal tickets redeemable for a restaurant or canteen meal).

Business trips – travel costs and per diem

The Act No. 283/2002 on Travel Compensation regulates the entitlements related to business trips. In case of business trips, an employee is entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses and travel per diems according to the valid regulations (the amount differs according to the length and the country of a business trip).

In case a worker performs some tasks for a natural or a legal person, without being employed by them, he/she can obtain travel allowances and travel per diem if so agreed (e.g. in an agreement between the incoming foreigner and the hosting organisation). If the mobility of a foreign national is based on an agreement on mutual exchange of staff concluded between a Slovak and a foreign employer, the foreigner coming to Slovakia can receive a travel per diem in the amount equal to three times the per diem rate set for journeys in the territory of Slovakia longer than 18 hours and pocket money in the amount of 5 – 40 % of the per diems. The hosting employer in Slovakia pays the per diems unless the sending foreign employer fulfills this duty. It can be applied for example to a short-term mobility within a research project.

As of June 2018, the travel per diem rate for journeys within Slovakia are:

- 4.80 € for journeys longer than 5 hours and shorter than 12 hours,
- 7.10 € for journeys longer than 12 hours and shorter than 18 hours,
- 10.90 € for journeys longer than 18 hours.

Maternity leave, family care, absence from work for family reasons

In connection with the childbirth and care for a newborn child, women are entitled to a maternity leave lasting 34 weeks. If a mother is a single parent, she is entitled to a maternity leave of 37 weeks. If a woman gives birth to two or more children at the same time, she is entitled to a maternity leave of 43 weeks. The beginning of the maternity leave is set by the attending physician, usually six weeks before the expected date of the childbirth (eight weeks prior to the childbirth at the earliest). In connection with the care for a newborn child, men are also entitled to a paternity leave of the same length from the date of birth of the child of whom they take care.

For the purposes of extended care of children, employers are obliged to grant women and men, who so request, a parental leave until the day the child turns three years old (it can be requested at any time up to the age of three, even if a mother/father has been working after the maternity/paternity leave).

In the case of children with long-term poor health requiring special care, employers are obliged to grant women and men, who so request, a parental leave until the day the child turns six years old. Such a leave is granted for the duration requested by the parent, but generally for at least one month.

Maternity leave granted in connection with the birth must not be shorter than 14 weeks

and may not be terminated or interrupted before the lapse of 6 weeks from the date of the birth.

The employer must excuse the employee's absence from work on the grounds of temporary incapacity to work due to the illness or injury, periods of maternity and parental leave, quarantine, attending to a sick family member or caring for a child younger than 10 years of age who for important reasons, cannot be left in a childcare establishment or school that the child normally attends, or in case of medical examination or quarantine of the person who otherwise takes care of the child. These absences are usually not remunerated.

The employer shall provide an employee with the time off from work for the purpose of his/her medical examination for seven working days per the calendar year as well as for accompanying their family members to the medical examination for another seven days. Such days off are remunerated. Extra remunerated time off is provided to a pregnant woman in relation to the preventive medical examination related to her pregnancy. Special family circumstances such as attending a funeral of defined family members or attending one's own marriage or marriage of their children or parents or the birth of a child constitute reasons for awarding time off from work (which might or might not be remunerated based on exact stipulations of the law).

5.3 Document authentication

Documents issued by foreign courts and other foreign authorities which are considered to be public documents in the country of their issue are deemed to have a status of public documents in Slovakia provided that they are certified. Exemptions

are laid down in multilateral and bilateral agreements binding upon the Slovak Republic.

Apostille

The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents (the Apostille convention or the Apostille treaty) is an international treaty drafted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law. It specifies the modalities through which a document issued in one of the signatory states can be certified for legal purposes in all the other signatory states. Such a certification is called an apostille (in French: certification). **It is an international certification comparable to a notarisation in domestic law.**

If a state which is a party to the convention certifies the document with an **apostille, no further certification of that document is necessary** for its use in other signatory states (find more information on apostille at www.hcch.net). Once the document is translated into Slovak by an official translator, it is ready to be presented to Slovak authorities.

An updated list of countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention can be found at www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=41.

Find your national authority competent to issue an apostille with contact details and price information at www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/authorities/?cid=41.

(Consular) legalisation

In case a foreign document is issued in the state which is not a signatory to the Apostille Convention, it must be legalised by a Slovak foreign mission in that state for the use in Slovakia. The legalisation of public documents means the certification

of the authenticity of signatures and official seals or stamps, which they bear against their specimens that are available to the foreign mission. Slovak foreign missions verify the authenticity of a previous certificate issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the country of origin of the respective document. Honorary consulates have no authority to legalise documents.

Certification of the authenticity of signatures and photocopies and the accuracy of translations

Slovak foreign missions also certify the authenticity of signatures, photocopies of documents and their translations into Slovak; if a translator is available at the foreign mission, the mission may also provide translations of certain documents. Slovak honorary consulates can also verify the authenticity of signatures and photocopies.

The administrative fee for the legalisation by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR is paid in the form of a **20 € electronic duty stamp** (confirmation of paying 20 €). Clients are required to obtain duty stamps in advance (at the post office).

Contact details:

Document authentication department
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Pražská 7, Bratislava
Telephone: +421/2/59 78 59 78,
+421/2/59 78 11 11, +421 906 07 59 78

Postal address:

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Consular Section – legalisation
Hlboká cesta 2, 833 36 Bratislava,
Slovak Republic

Office hours of the Document authentication department

Monday	8:00. – 15:00
Wednesday	8:00 – 18:00
Thursday	8:00 – 12:00

Website: www.mzv.sk/cestovanie_a_konzularne_info/overovanie_dokladov-pracovisko_overovania_dokladov (in Slovak)

Where to find an official translator

Slovak embassies may provide the translation of documents intended for the use in Slovakia. No further verification is required in case the documents have been translated by the embassy/consulate. If the translation has been made by a foreign translator abroad, the embassy/consulate can verify the accuracy of the translation from the official language of the country to Slovak.

A list of official translators in Slovakia is available at <https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud-registre/-/isu-registre/zoznam/prekladatel>.

Once authenticated (legalised or apostilled), public documents translated to Slovak by an official translator do not require any further verification and may be presented to Slovak institutions.

5.4 Social security and health insurance

In Slovakia, **the social security coverage is primarily based on the occupational activity, not on the residence.** The social security system falls under the competence of the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (www.employment.gov.sk). The Social Insurance Agency (www.socpoist.sk) and the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (www.upsvar.sk) are the executive bodies.

The health insurance is not included in the social insurance system in Slovakia.

The healthcare falls under the competence of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (www.health.gov.sk).

5.4.1 Health insurance in Slovakia

Before leaving your country of origin, make sure to be covered by your current health insurance also in Slovakia, or take out new insurance before or after arrival in Slovakia. Particular procedures apply depending on your personal situation, the length of your stay and the terms of your current health insurance. You will either continue to be covered by the health insurance of your home country, or fall under the regime of the Slovak Republic. In both cases, it will be necessary to make specific arrangements for the continued health coverage.

It is not possible to choose a country of your health coverage. Which country is responsible for your health insurance depends on your employment situation or the place of residence, not the nationality.

Major applicable legislation:

- Act No 580/2004 on Health insurance,
- Act No 577/2004 on the Scope of health care provided upon the public health insurance.

There are two types of health insurance in Slovakia:

A. Mandatory public health insurance

Holders of the mandatory public health insurance are entitled to the health care provision and all related services in compliance with the Act on Health Insurance. Public health insurance covers the expenses in full or to a partial extent, depending on the specific conditions.

The public health insurance applies to every person with a permanent residence in Slovakia.

Public health insurance does not apply to an individual with a permanent residence in Slovakia if he/she:

- is employed abroad and is covered by the health insurance in the country of employment;
- performs a self-employment activity abroad and is covered by health insurance abroad;
- is staying abroad for a long-term (for more than 6 months) and is covered by the health insurance in that country
- is a dependant of a person who is a subject to foreign health insurance legislation.

Mandatory public health insurance also applies to a **person without a permanent residence in Slovakia** (unless medically insured in another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland), which

- is **employed** by an employer established or with premises in Slovakia (not if he/she performs activities in Slovakia upon an agreement on work performed outside the employment relationship) and receives a monthly salary in the amount of at least the minimum wage (in 2018 it is 480 €), or
- is a **student** from another **Member State** (EU/EEA/Switzerland) or a **student from a third country** studying at a school in the Slovak Republic **upon an international treaty** binding upon Slovakia
- is a **dependent child with a temporary residence in Slovakia whose at least one parent is covered by public health insurance.**

This list is not exhaustive and includes just the most relevant cases for the purpose of this publication.

The compulsory public health insurance coverage begins on the date of occurrence of the facts set out above, or the date of obtaining a permanent residence in the Slovak Republic. Within eight days of this date, the person is required to submit an application for public health insurance in a health insurance company.

Currently, there are three health insurance companies providing public health insurance in Slovakia:

- a state health insurance company “Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa” (www.vszp.sk),
- a private health insurance company “Dôvera” (www.dovera.sk), and
- a private health insurance company “Union” (www.union.sk).

B. Individual (commercial) health insurance

Individual health insurance holders are entitled to the health care services stipulated in the agreement with the Health Insurance Company. Commercial health insurance is provided in compliance with the Civil Code. The scope of the health services is stipulated individually either as basic health care available to foreigners who don't have access to the public health insurance, as supplementary insurance (beyond standard health care) or as a combination of both of them.

Commercial health insurance is **compulsory** for those foreign residents **who do not fall under the scope of the public health insurance**. It can be obtained from any provider, not necessarily a Slovak one. In case it is obtained from a foreign insurance provider, the contract must stipulate the health coverage on the territory of the Slovak Republic and it must be translated into Slovak by an official translator.

Information about commercial insurance companies in Slovakia is available on the following websites:

- Slovak Insurance Association: www.slaspo.sk
- Slovak Insurers' Bureau: www.skp.sk
- Insurance agencies portal: www.poistovne.sk

5.4.2 Health insurance of EU/EEA/ Swiss nationals

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The European Health Insurance Card gives you access to the medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay (e.g. scholarship stay of students, researchers, business trips of employees), in any of the 28 EU countries, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland under the same conditions and at the same cost (free in some countries) as people insured in that country. Your national health insurance provider will issue the EHIC at your request.

When using the EHIC, the treatment of a person insured by the state social security system in any Member State of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland will be covered by a Slovak health insurance company to the same amount as a Slovak national. The chosen physician must have concluded a contract with at least one health insurance company. The EHIC ensures **necessary medical** treatment within the system of public **health care**, including treatment related to the chronic diseases, if such need arises, to enable the holder to continue his/her stay without having to return home for the treatment. It does not cover any private healthcare or costs such as a return flight to your home country nor the costs if you are travelling for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment.

Specific cases of health insurance coverage

The EU/EEA/Swiss nationals employed in the Slovak Republic who reside in another Member State are entitled (together with their dependent family members) to the comprehensive health care (full coverage contrary to the EHIC) in the country of their residence as well as in Slovakia. The entitlement is exercised by means of the **portable document S1 (former E106 form)**, which can be obtained from the health insurance authority in the Slovak Republic after the submission of the home country residence certificate and copies of the Slovak work contract. After obtaining the S1 form, the EU/EEA/ Swiss national shall submit it to a health insurer in the country of residence and get registered. If his/her family members live together with the employee, their entitlement to the health care will be reviewed according to the health insurance regulations of the country of residence.

The EU/EEA/Swiss nationals working in Slovakia whose dependant family members live in another Member State must apply for the S1 (former E109 form) at a selected Slovak health insurance company. This document must be submitted to a health insurance company in the country of residence of the dependant family members. Upon the S1 form, the dependant family members will be registered for health insurance in their home country and entitled to comprehensive health care in that country while all expenses will be covered by the selected Slovak health insurance company. Their home health insurance company is in charge of issuing a European Health Insurance Card. The EHIC entitles them to obtain necessary medical treatment in any EU/EEA Member State and Switzerland.

Dependants of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals residing in Slovakia should also be registered in a Slovak health insurance company

and have a Slovak health insurance card. However, each case is treated individually because the terms vary from case to case. For details, it is highly recommended to contact your home health insurance company before arrival in Slovakia.

5.4-3 Social security system in Slovakia (excluding health insurance)

The social security system in Slovakia consists of three main components – social insurance, social assistance and state social support.

A. Social insurance

The basic role of the social insurance system in Slovakia is the protection of the economically active population in different situations. **Employees and self-employed persons** meeting the conditions regarding the amount of income are **mandatorily insured**.

The social insurance is financed upon contributions and administered by the Social Insurance Agency (SIA). Social insurance system is composed of five insurance subsystems which include a variety of benefits:

a) sickness insurance

- *sick pay,*
- *maternity pay,*
- *attendance allowance,*
- *equalisation benefit,*

b) pension insurance

- **old-age insurance:** *old-age pension, early old-age pension, survivors' pensions – i.e. widow's pension, widower's pension, orphan's pension,*
- **disability insurance:** *disability pension, survivors' pensions – i.e. widow's pension, widower's pension, orphan's pension,*

c) accident insurance

d) unemployment insurance

e) guarantee insurance

The pension insurance scheme is built on three pillars. The first pillar represents mandatory pension insurance based on the contributions to the state Social Insurance Agency. The old-age pension saving system in pension management companies is known as the second pillar. Participation in the second pillar is subject to one's own choice up to the age of 35. Afterward, it is impossible to enter the second pillar. The third pillar pension regime, which is completely facultative, is an additional old-age pension saving scheme. Some employers opt to contribute to these savings on behalf of an employee.

The employee pays the old-age insurance contributions in the amount of 4 % of the assessment basis (usually equal to the gross wage). The employer on behalf of the employee pays the old-age insurance contributions of 14 % of the employee's basis of the assessment.

B. Social assistance

The system of **social assistance** allows people in **situations of material deprivation** to receive substitute resources from the state budget in the form of services and benefits.

If you are an EU/EEA/Swiss national or a third country national with a permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia and you face a difficult social situation, you may be eligible to use the so-called social services. They are regulated by the Act No. 448/2008 on Social Services.

The aim of the provision of social services is to prevent, address or mitigate the unwanted social situations of individuals; to support an individual to live a self-sufficient life, to prevent the social exclusion and to secure the conditions for the satisfaction of an individuals' basic life needs.

C. State social support

The system of state social support is devised to address particular life situations, including the birth of a child, childcare, death of a family member and others. The allowances provided within this system are financed directly from the state budget. The entitlement to the social support is usually based on the permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia and does not depend on the income of the family or the economic activity of a person and his/her family members. Specific conditions must be fulfilled for obtaining a particular allowance.

The state social support allowances are:

- *child allowance (recurrent)*
- *child allowance supplement (recurrent)*
- *parental allowance (recurrent)*
- *childbirth benefit (one-off)*
- *multiple children allowance (recurrent – once a year)*
- *child care benefit (recurrent)*
- *alimony substitution (recurrent)*
- *allowances supporting alternative childcare (various one-off and recurrent allowances)*
- *funeral allowance (one-off)*

Major applicable legislation of the Slovak Republic:

- Act No. 461/2003 on Social insurance
- Act No. 43/2004 on Old-age pension saving
- Act No. 571/2009 on Parental allowance
- Act No. 600/2003 on Child benefit

Major applicable EU legislation:

- Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems

- Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems

Special legal framework applies to countries, which have concluded bilateral agreements on social security with Slovakia⁹⁾. The list of bilateral treaties can be found at www.socpoist.sk/index/index.php?ids=1550, in Slovak only.

More information:

www.socpoist.sk
www.employment.gov.sk
www.euraxess.sk

Selected benefits in more detail

Sick pay – income during a sick leave

An employee/insured person does not receive any salary during the sick leave. However, after being recognised as temporarily unfit to work due to illness, injury, or quarantine by the doctor, he/she is entitled to compensation for the loss of income during the first 10 days of his/her incapacity to work. The compensation is paid by the employer at the rate of 25 % of the employee's assessment basis for the first 3 days and at the rate of 55 % of the employee's assessment basis from the fourth to the tenth day. An employee who is temporarily unfit for work for a period longer than 10 days is entitled to a sick pay from the Social Insurance Agency from the eleventh day onwards (for a maximum of 52 weeks of the temporary incapacity) at the rate of 55 % of his/her assessment basis.

⁹⁾ Currently, such international agreements with the following territories outside the EU/ EEA/ Switzerland are in place: Australia, Canada, Israel, Macedonia, Montenegro, Quebec, Serbia, South Korea, Soviet Union (currently applied with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan), Turkey, Ukraine, the USA and Yugoslavia (currently applied with Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The daily assessment basis for the determination of the sick pay is the quotient of the sum of the bases of assessment determining the sickness insurance contributions in the relevant period, and the number of days in that period.

Conditions of entitlement:

- having valid sickness insurance;
- after the termination of sickness insurance – being covered by the protective period. The duration of the protective period is seven days. If the period of sickness insurance was shorter than seven days, the duration of the protective period is equal to the duration of sickness insurance. The duration of the protective period for a female insured person, whose sickness insurance terminated during her pregnancy, is eight months.
- persons with facultative sickness insurance are entitled to the sick pay if, during the last 2 years preceding the temporary incapacity to work, they were covered by the sickness insurance for not less than 270 days;
- entitlement to the sick pay ceases on the day following the last day of the temporary incapacity to work, but not later than with the lapse of the 52nd week from the beginning of the temporary incapacity to work (support period);
- employees are entitled to the sick pay if they do not receive income that may be considered the assessment basis.

Filing the claim:

- using a form of the Social Insurance Agency – Certificate of Temporary Work Incapacity issued by the medical practitioner of a health establishment, submitted by the employer.

Obligations of the recipient of benefits:

- present a proof of the facts that are relevant for granting or terminating the entitlement to sickness benefits;

- comply with the treatment regime prescribed by the attending physician during the time of the temporary incapacity to work;
- stay at the address reported in the certificate during the time of temporary incapacity to work;
- notify the Social Insurance Agency of the termination of the temporary incapacity to work within three days of its termination, if the temporary incapacity to work lasted more than ten days (by the employer).

Commercial insurance companies offer the possibility of additional health insurance providing the compensation of the employee's reduced income.

Maternity benefit

Women having sickness insurance for at least 270 days in the last 2 years before the expected childbirth are entitled to a maternity pay usually from the beginning of the 6th week preceding the expected date of delivery (childbirth) as determined by an attending practitioner or from the beginning of the 8th week preceding that day. In case the child is born earlier, the woman is entitled to a maternity pay from the delivery date.

Generally, the maternity pay is provided for 34 weeks. In case that a woman is a single mother, she is entitled to a maternity pay for 37 weeks. If a woman gives birth to two or more children at the same time and takes care of at least two of these children, she is entitled to the maternity pay for 43 weeks.

The period of entitlement to a maternity pay for an insured person who has given birth to a child may not be shorter than 14 weeks from the commencement of entitlement and may not be terminated earlier than 6 weeks from the date of childbirth.

If another insured person is taking care of a child, such a person shall be entitled to a maternity pay as from the date of assuming the care of the child for a period of 28 weeks. If he/she is a single person, he/she is entitled to the pay for 31 weeks and if assuming care of two or more children, for 37 weeks.

The maternity pay is at the rate of 75 % of the daily assessment basis, or of the probable daily assessment basis, and it is provided from the first day of entitlement only to one insured person.

Conditions of entitlement:

- pregnancy or the care for a newborn child;
- valid sickness insurance;
- being covered by sickness insurance for not less than 270 days during the last two years preceding the childbirth (delivery);
- after the termination of sickness insurance – being covered by the protective period. The duration of the protective period for a female insured person, whose sickness insurance terminated during the time of her pregnancy, is eight months.

Filing the claim:

- using the form of the Social Insurance Agency – Maternity Pay Application, certified by a medical practitioner of a health establishment

Obligations of a recipient of benefits:

- present the proof of the facts relevant to the awarding or withdrawing of the entitlement to maternity benefit;
- notify the Social Insurance Agency of the birth identification number of the child.

Attendance allowance

Sickness insurance entitles an insured person to an attendance allowance – an income compensation to be paid during the period of attending to a sick child, sick

husband/wife, sick parent or sick spouse's parent or taking care of a child under 10 years of age in quarantine. In addition, the attending allowance can also be paid when the preschool or school establishment, that the child normally attends, have been closed or is in quarantine, or in case of sickness or quarantine of the person who otherwise takes care of the child or in the case of hospitalisation of that person.

The attendance allowance is paid at the rate of 55 % of the daily assessment basis, or of the probable daily assessment basis. It is provided from the first day of the attendance for a maximum of 10 days. It is provided only once per case and only to one insured person.

Filing the claim:

- using the form of the Social Insurance Agency – Attendance Allowance Application, issued by a medical practitioner of a health establishment, submitted by the employer.

Old-age pension

An insured person is entitled to an old-age pension if he/she has been insured for an old-age pension for at least 15 years and has reached the minimum age required for entitlement (the so-called retirement age). The retirement age in the Slovak Republic is currently 62 years both for men and women. In the case of women born before 1962, the retirement age is also dependent on the number of children a woman has brought up.

If a mobile worker has contributed to the insurance schemes of various Member States (EU, EEA, Switzerland) during his/her period of occupation, all records of his/her contributions are held in each Member State separately. Upon reaching the retirement age in one Member State, the periods of insurance in all Member States are **summed up** and he/she is

entitled to draw the relevant proportion of his/her old-age pension from those Member States in which he/she has worked for a period of more than 12 months (provided he reached the retirement age in those states). The proportion is given by the ratio of years of insurance in the given state to the total insurance period of the worker before reaching the retirement age. An insurance period of fewer than 12 months will be taken over by his/her final country of employment.

A different legal framework applies to those workers who have contributed to the pension schemes of states, which concluded bilateral agreements on social security with Slovakia. Currently, such international agreements with the following territories outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland are in place: **Australia, Canada, Israel, Macedonia, Montenegro, Quebec, Serbia, South Korea, Soviet Union (currently applied with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan), Turkey, Ukraine, the USA and Yugoslavia (currently applied with Bosnia and Herzegovina).** The list of bilateral treaties can be found at www.socpoist.sk/index/index.php?ids=1550, in Slovak only.

The application for drawing the old-age pension is submitted through the authorised social insurance body based on the permanent residence. (If having a permanent residence in the Slovak Republic, the application shall be submitted to the competent office of Social Insurance Agency to draw benefits also from other states of the EU/EEA and Switzerland and from those with which there exists a bilateral treaty). Hence, usually, only one application is required.

Accident insurance benefits

If an employee has suffered health damage or died during the performance of work or in a direct connection therewith as a result of an accident (industrial accident), the liability for damage thus incurred lies with the employer with whom the employee had an employment relationship at the time of the industrial accident. The employer is obliged to compensate an employee who suffers harm at least to the extent to which he/she is liable for the harm.

An employee who, as a result of an industrial accident or an occupational disease is acknowledged as being temporarily unfit for work, is entitled to an **accident supplement** (a supplement to the salary compensation) from the first day of the temporary incapacity for work, if he/she is entitled to receive a salary compensation or a sick pay under a sickness insurance scheme. The accident supplement is paid per days.

The employee is entitled to the injury annuity payment if, as a result of an industrial accident or an occupational disease, his/her capacity to perform the work that he/she had performed before the injury has been diminished by more than 40 %.

The injured employee is entitled to a lump sum compensation if, as a result of an industrial accident or occupational disease, his/her capacity to work has been reduced by not more than 40 %, but more than 10 % or if he/she is not entitled to the injury annuity payment due to reaching the retirement age but not being entitled to the old-age pension, or being granted the early old-age pension, provided that the reduction of capacity to work is at least 10 %.

Employers are the ones who must take out the compulsory injury insurance (as from the date on which they start employing

at least one employee), but insurance benefits go to the employee concerned or an authorised person.

Unemployment insurance benefits

The system of social insurance also includes the unemployment insurance. The insured person is entitled to the unemployment benefit under the condition, that he/she had the unemployment insurance for at least two years (i.e. 730 days) within the past four years before being included into the registry of unemployed job seekers.

The unemployment insurance benefit is provided for a maximum of six months. The entitlement to receive it also ceases as of the day of being granted the old-age pension, the early old-age pension, the invalidity pension due to the incapacity to perform a gainful activity by more than 70 % and of being deleted from the registry of unemployed job seekers.

The unemployment benefit is assessed on a daily basis. The amount of unemployment benefit equals 50 % of the daily assessment basis multiplied by the number of days in the month. The daily assessment basis to determine the unemployment benefit depends on the amount of unemployment insurance contributions paid by the person in the past two years.

The insured person is not entitled to the unemployment benefit in the period when being granted a sick pay, an attendance allowance, a maternity pay or a parental allowance.

The unemployment insurance is mandatory for an **employee** having compulsory sickness insurance.

An employee for the purpose of sickness, pension and unemployment insurance, shall be an individual in a legal relationship with a right to a regular monthly income, with several exceptions, such as a person:

- performing activities upon an agreement on the part-time job of students, or
- performing activities upon a work performance agreement or an agreement on work activity and being granted some kind of pension.

A person with a permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia can be **voluntarily insured** after reaching 16 years of age, in case he/she has not been granted an old-age pension, an early old-age pension or a disability pension due to the incapacity to perform a gainful activity being reduced by more than 70 %.

A person can only have voluntary unemployment insurance in case he/she has voluntary health and pension insurance at the same time (the so-called package of voluntary insurance).

Guarantee insurance benefit

The guarantee insurance is applicable in the case of employer's insolvency. This benefit is meant to cover the employee's entitlements that the employer is unable to pay due to the insolvency. It is provided for a maximum of three months of the last 18 months of the employment relationship duration.

Parental allowance

A parental allowance is a state social benefit that serves as a contribution to the expenses of taking proper care of a child. Parents or persons providing alternative care to a child are eligible to claim the allowance until the child reaches **three years of age**. In the case of a child with long-term poor health, they can claim the allowance until the child reaches six years of age. In case of a child placed in the alternative care, the allowance can be paid until the child reaches six years but not longer than for three years from the date on which the decision of the court to place the child in the alternative care became final.

Entitlement criteria:

- Proper care of a child;
- Permanent or temporary residence of the eligible person in the Slovak Republic;
- Permanent or temporary residence of the child in the Slovak Republic.

If the parent is entitled to a maternity/ equivalent benefit, the amount of the parental allowance is decreased by the amount of this benefit. The amount of the parental allowance has been 214.70 €/month since January 2018. In case the person takes care of two or more children born together, the parental allowance is increased by 25 % per each child born together with the first one.

Eligible persons may claim a parental allowance by filing a written application with the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family competent according to the person's place of permanent or temporary residence. Application form can be downloaded from www.employment.gov.sk/sk/rodina-socialna-pomoc/podpora-rodinam-detmi/penazna-pomoc/rodicovsky-prispevok/ resp. www.employment.gov.sk/sk/formulare-ziadosti/ (in Slovak only) and is also available at local labour offices.

An official translation of the birth certificate of the child into the Slovak language is required to be submitted together with the application if the child was born outside the Slovak Republic.

Child allowance

A child allowance is a state social benefit whereby the state contributes to the upbringing and maintenance of dependent children by eligible persons (e.g. parents, foster parents).

In general, a dependent child is defined as a child receiving compulsory education, or up to the age of 25, provided he/she is

studying, until he/she has graduated from the second level of higher education.

Only one adult person is entitled to the allowance for the same child.

Entitlement to the child allowance arises upon the fulfilment of the following conditions: care of the child by the eligible person, a permanent or temporary residence of the eligible person in the Slovak Republic, a permanent or temporary residence of the dependent child in the Slovak Republic. In 2018, the amount of the allowance is 23.68 €/month.

Eligible persons may claim a child allowance by filing a written application with the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family competent according to the eligible person's place of permanent or temporary residence. Application form can be downloaded from www.employment.gov.sk/sk/formulare-ziadosti/rodina/ resp. www.employment.gov.sk/files/slovensky/uvod/formulare-ziadosti/ziadost.o.pnd.pdf.pdf (in Slovak only) and is also available at the local labour offices.

5-4.4 Other regulations regarding social security

Social security of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals

Social security coordination within the EU/EEA/Switzerland

Although there is no single European social security system, the EU has set common provisions in the field of social protection. These include the coordination of national social security schemes without seeking to harmonise the national regulations. The EU law has laid down common rules and principles to be observed by national authorities and social security institutions that do not replace but complement the social security provisions of Member States.

All countries are free to decide who is to be insured under their legislation, which benefits are granted and under what conditions. The EU provides **common rules** to protect your social security rights when moving within Europe (EU 28 + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).

These rules apply to the:

- Nationals of the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland who are or have been insured in one of these countries, and their family members,
- Stateless persons or refugees residing in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, who are or have been insured in one of these countries, and their family members,
- Nationals of the non-EU countries, legally residing in the territory of the EU, who have moved between these countries, and their family members.

The main principles:

1. **A person can be covered by the legislation of only one country at a time.** He/she only pays contributions in one country. The decision on applicable legislation (which country's legislation applies) will be made by the social security institutions. The person cannot choose.
2. **A mobile person has the same rights and obligations as the nationals of the country where he/she is covered.** This is known as the principle of equal treatment or non-discrimination.
3. When somebody claims a benefit, **previous periods of insurance, work or residence in other countries are taken into account**, if necessary.
4. If a person is entitled to a **cash benefit from one country**, he/she may generally **receive it even if he/she is living in a different country**. This is known as the principle of exportability.

Cross-border exchange of information

One of the main innovations introduced by the regulations is the countries' obligation to only exchange social security information by electronic means (Art. 4 Regulation 987/2009). A system providing a common secure framework is the **EESSI system (Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information)**. It is expected to play a major role in facilitating the cooperation between institutions and leading to better enforcement of citizens' rights, e.g. benefits being granted in a speedier way. The EC released the central EESSI system in July 2017. Subsequently, Member States have two years to finalise their national implementation and to connect their social security institutions to it.

Cross-border exchange of information between responsible institutions is crucial for executing the social security rights of a migrant worker. The Slovak Republic participates in the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) and supplied this database with the relevant data. Three national Access Points for the exchange of social security information in their respective fields of competence were appointed: the Social Insurance Agency in Slovakia (www.socpoist.sk); the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (www.upsvar.sk); and the Healthcare Surveillance Authority (www.udzs-sk.sk/web/en).

The so-called Structured Electronic Documents (SED) will make the communication of data between institutions more efficient and easier within the EESSI. Most data will be exchanged directly between social security institutions. Paper E-forms will no longer be necessary, but in certain cases, a migrant worker will need a **portable document (PD) A1** to certify his/her situation when moving. A portable document is usually issued by his/her

social security institution upon his/her/ employer's request. It is recommended to request it before leaving. However, if the migrant worker does not have the institution in the country where he/she is moving, the necessary data can be obtained directly from the institution where the person is insured.

More information:

Website of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/home.jsp>.

Social security of migrant workers, posted employees and persons employed in several countries within the EU/EEA/ Switzerland

A migrant worker may present his/her claims, letters and certificates in his/her mother tongue, if it is amongst the official languages of the EU, whenever he/she considers it necessary or appropriate. This might delay the decision on his/her claim, but it may help him/her express him/herself clearly and avoid misunderstandings.

When a university, a research organisation or a company **posts a worker to a different Member State**, i.e. sends him/her to another Member State to perform work, the worker shall continue to be subject to the legislation of the Member State of origin, provided that the **anticipated duration of work does not exceed two years**.

An example of posting could be a research stay longer than 1 month but not exceeding 2 years at a hosting research organisation in another Member State, while the researcher remains officially employed by the organisation in the country of origin.

To be officially certified of the applicability of home social insurance scheme, a **portable document A1** should be issued before the posting by the competent social insurance institution of the home country upon request of the employer. In exceptional cases, a period of posting can be extended beyond the two-year limit.

In a case of a worker carrying out **work in more than one Member State**, he/she shall remain subject to single legislation only, i.e. it is necessary to determine **the applicable legislation among several states of occupation** by the **A1 form**. The A1 form shall be issued by the social insurance institution in a worker's home country. Consequently, the contributions to the social insurance from all states where the occupational activity is performed will go only to one of the states.

For more information on **common provisions** safeguarding social security when being mobile throughout the Member States see:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=849>.

5-4-5 Information on social security and health coverage for students (including PhD students)

A. Health coverage

International **students are obliged to have health insurance (public or commercial)** during their stay in the Slovak Republic in compliance with the provisions of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners.

Students from the **EU/EEA Members States or Switzerland** who are insured in their home country shall present the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** to the health care provider for entitlement to the medical treatment in Slovakia. See more information on the EHIC in the section "*Other regulations regarding health insurance of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals*" (page 110).

Students from the **EU/EEA/Switzerland not medically insured in their home country** and **students from third countries** who are studying in Slovakia **within**

a programme arising from an international treaty are subject to the **public health insurance, the Slovak Republic being the payer of such insurance**. The student shall submit the necessary documents certifying his/her study at a higher education institution in the Slovak Republic, its international status – proved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic – to the chosen health insurance provider within 8 days from the beginning of the study in Slovakia.

In other cases, students without a permanent residence in Slovakia do not fall within the scope of the public health insurance and must arrange their health insurance with **a commercial provider**. A third country national is also obliged to provide a proof of concluded health insurance to the foreign police in Slovakia in compliance with the duties related to the temporary residence granting procedure.

B. Social security

Full-time PhD students are considered students, not employees; hence, a university is not in the position of an employer in connection with the social and health insurance of the PhD students.

The contributions into social insurance funds are not compulsory for doctoral students, although they may opt for voluntary insurance of defined percentage rates from the assessment basis of their choice. Then if needed and upon fulfilling stated conditions, they may receive social security benefits.

In case a student is employed, the work is usually carried out occasionally and is typically based on a concluded agreement on the part-time job of students. An employer is obliged to register the employee, i.e. the student, with the Social Insurance Agency. Social contributions are paid both by the employee **and the employer** and are deducted automatically as per below table by the employer as a percentage of the assessment basis, which is usually the gross wage. Students have a right for a waiver of social insurance premiums (pension and disability insurance), however, they need to inform the employer in writing about exercising this right and file a statement of exercising this right with one employer only.

Benefits from the **state social support** may be used by foreign nationals with a permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia upon meeting specific conditions for entitlement (see the texts *State social support, Parental allowance, Child allowance in the section “System of social security in Slovakia (excluding health insurance)”*, 5.4.3).

	Agreement on part-time job of students: Students earning less than 200 €/month and using the right for a waiver *		Agreement on part-time job of students: Students earning more than 200 €/month or students not using the right for a waiver with the employer **	
	Employee	Employer	Employee	Employer
Public health insurance	No (paid by the state)	No	No (paid by the state)	No
Sickness insurance	No	No	No	No
Unemployment insurance	No	No	No	No
Disability insurance	No	No	3%	3 %
Old-age insurance	No	No	4%	14 %
Other: Guarantee insurance	No	0,25 %	No	0,25 %
Other: Accident insurance	No	0,8 %	No	0,8 %
Other: Solidarity reserve	No	No	No	4,75 %
Total	0%	1,05 %	7 %	22,8 %

* In case the students used their right for a waiver of social insurance premiums, they need to inform the employer in writing about exercising this right and file a statement of exercising this right with one employer only.

** In case the students didn't use their right for a waiver of social insurance premiums with the employer, the social insurance levies are calculated from the total monthly gross wage. In case the students used their right for a waiver of social insurance premiums, however, their monthly income exceeds 200 € with that employer, the basis of assessment is decreased by 200 €, i.e. the social insurance levies are calculated from the difference of the total monthly gross wage and 200 €.

5.4.6 Information on social security and health coverage for employees with regular or irregular income

A. Health coverage

A person without a permanent residence in Slovakia who is not covered by health insurance in another EU/EEA Member State or in Switzerland is subject to the mandatory public health insurance if he/she is:

- **employed by an employer** established or with a fixed establishment in Slovakia, given he/she earns at least the amount set as a minimum wage (480 € gross monthly in 2018); a person employed on the basis of the agreement on the part-time job of students is not considered an employee for the purpose of health insurance, or
- **a self-employed person** in Slovakia.

The contributions will be paid by both the employee and the employer (or self-employed person) and deducted automatically by the employer (or the self-employed person). For contributions, see the chart below.

Irrespective of whether the income is regular or irregular, an employee pays the contributions to the public health insurance fund in the amount of 4 % of the assessment basis (usually equal to the gross wage) and the employer the amount of 10 % of the assessment basis.

If a person is insured in another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland, he/she must present the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** to the healthcare provider to prove his/her entitlement to medical treatment. See more information on EHIC in the section "Other regulations regarding health insurance of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals" (page 110).

If the person does **not fall within the scope of the public health insurance, commercial health insurance is compulsory**. A third country national (outside EU/EEA/Switzerland) is obliged to provide the foreign police in Slovakia with a proof of concluded health insurance with regard to the duties related to the granting of a temporary residence in Slovakia (for instance in the period between entry into Slovakia and conclusion of an employment contract).

B. Social security

In general, any foreign national employed in Slovakia or a self-employed person performing activities in Slovakia is usually subject to the Slovak social security system and must pay contributions to the compulsory insurance funds (for a self-employed person, it is mandatory to be insured only if he/she achieves certain income).

The **contributions** are paid both by the employee and the employer and are **deducted automatically as per below table** by the employer as a percentage of the assessment basis, which is usually the gross wage. The employer has also the **duty to register the foreigner with the Social Insurance Agency (SIA)** at least a day before commencing the employment relationship (full or part-time, temporary or indefinite), and to inform SIA about changes of foreigner's situation. Self-employed persons are obliged to contribute to the sickness and pension fund depending on their gain of income in the particular year.

To EU/EEA/Swiss nationals, the EU social security coordination rules apply at the same time. When living and working as an employee or a self-employed person in different Member States, the person is **subject to the legislation of only one state at a time**, which is usually the country where they exercise their occupational activity. In case a worker carries out work in more than one Member State, he/she shall remain subject to single legislation only, i.e. it is necessary to **determine the applicable legislation among several states of occupation** using a **portable document A1**. Consequently, the social insurance contributions from all states where the work is performed will be paid only in one of the states. See more information, including coordination of the social security schemes, in the section *“Other regulations regarding social security”* – *“Social security of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals”* (page 117).

Provisions on social security for **third country citizens** in Slovakia arise from bilateral agreements on social security. Therefore, the applicable rules depend on the country of origin of the person. For more details, see the page 112.

Benefits from **state social support** may be used by foreign nationals with a permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia upon meeting specific conditions for entitlement (see texts *State social support*, *Parental allowance*, *Child allowance in the section “System of social security in Slovakia (excluding health insurance)”*, 5.4.3).

	Contributions in case of regular employment contract (also in case of regular income from the relationship upon the work performance agreement and agreement on work activity)		Contributions in case of a voluntarily insured person (or self-employed)	Contributions in case of irregular income (from the relationship upon work performance agreement and agreement on work activity)	
	Employee	Employer	Individual	Employee	Employer
Public health insurance	4%	10%	14%	4%	10%
Sickness insurance	1,4%	1,4%	4,4%	No	No
Unemployment insurance	1%	1%	2% (for self-employed voluntary)	No	No
Disability insurance	3%	3%	6%	3%	3%
Pension insurance	4%	14%	18%	4%	14%
Other: Guarantee insurance	No	0,25%	No	No	0,25%
Other: Accident insurance	No	0,8%	No	No	0,8%
Other: Solidarity reserve	No	4,75%	4,75%	No	4,75%
Total	13,4%	35,2%	35,15%	11%	32,8%

5-4-7 Information on social security and health coverage for researchers and university teachers without employment contract

Researchers and university teachers without an employment contract are not considered employed in Slovakia. They may be **employed abroad** and come to Slovakia upon an invitation from a hosting organisation (e.g. per diems can be paid) or with external funding of their activities (e.g. granted scholarship).

A. Health coverage

The health insurance is **mandatory when staying in Slovakia**. Before leaving your country of origin, make sure to be covered by your health insurance also in Slovakia, or take out new insurance before or after arrival in Slovakia. If not insured mandatorily (e.g. employees), third country nationals are obliged to provide the foreign police in Slovakia with a proof of concluded health insurance as a part of their duties

related to the temporary residence granting procedure.

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals who are insured in their home country shall present the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** to the healthcare provider for entitlement to the medical treatment in Slovakia. See more information on the EHIC in the section “*Other regulations regarding health insurance of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals*” (page 110).

Commercial health insurance is compulsory for everyone who does **not fall within the scope of the public health insurance**. This concerns researchers who are not employed/self-employed (they perform activities e.g. upon awarded scholarship) in Slovakia, do not have a permanent residence in Slovakia and do not study upon an international agreement.

B. Social security

In Slovakia, the **social security coverage is based on occupational activity**, not a residence.

Researchers without an employment contract in Slovakia do not have to pay the contributions and shall be subject to the legislation of the state, in which they are employed/self-employed, or their state of residence. Researchers without an employment contract in Slovakia but with a **permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia** may opt for voluntary sickness, pension and unemployment insurance.

Researchers and university teachers employed or self-employed in another **EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland** are subject to the social security legislation of this member state and continue paying contributions to the social security system of that state. They might perform their activities in Slovakia upon an invitation from a hosting organisation or when external funding (e.g. granted scholarship) of their activities is provided. They can also perform their activities **as posted workers**, sent temporarily by their employer to work in Slovakia. In case a person does not work in any state (employed or self-employed), he/she is subject to the social security legislation of the state of residence.

Social security regulations of **third country nationals** in Slovakia arise from bilateral agreements on social security. Therefore, the applicable rules depend on the country of origin of the person. For more details, see the page 112.

Benefits from **state social support** may be used by foreign nationals with a permanent or temporary residence on the territory of the Slovak Republic upon meeting specific conditions for entitlement (see the texts *State social support*, *Parental allowance*, *Child allowance* in the section “*System of social security in Slovakia (excluding health insurance)*”, 5.4.3).

5.5 Taxation

The Slovak tax authority is called the Finance Directorate of the Slovak Republic and it has a network of 8 regional tax offices with 81 local branches (www.financnasprava.sk).

Tax system in Slovakia:

- **Direct taxes**
 - **Income tax**
private individuals: 19 % of the tax base not exceeding 176.8 times the current amount of subsistence minimum; 25 % of the tax base exceeding 176.8 times the current amount of subsistence minimum
 - **Motor vehicle tax**
 - **Local tax** (paid directly to municipal authorities)
- **Indirect taxes**
 - **Value added tax (VAT):** 20 % (10 % rate is applied in case of goods specified in the Act on the Value Added Tax)
 - **Excise tax** (e.g. on alcohol, tobacco, mineral oil)

The tax system faced a fundamental redesign with having a progressive tax system introduced in 2013. For up-to-date information, visit the website of the Financial Administration of the Slovak Republic www.financnasprava.sk, the website of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic www.finance.gov.sk or consult the national EURAXESS portal and its section dedicated to taxation www.euraxess.sk/en/main/info/working/taxation.

The Slovak tax authority is called the Finance Directorate of the Slovak Republic and it has a network of eight regional tax offices with additional local branches (www.financnasprava.sk).

5.5.1 Direct taxes

Local tax

The major Slovak legislation regulating the taxation of income is the Act No. 595/2003 on Income Tax.

Usually, the income is taxed in the country of employment, unless provided otherwise. Hence, if you are employed in Slovakia, the income tax is deducted from your salary according to the Slovak legislation, unless a bilateral agreement for avoiding double taxation states otherwise. The income of researchers and teachers with an employment contract or agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship is taxed.

The tax period is one calendar year. The income tax is paid monthly in the form of a tax advance. 19 % tax rate is applied to the tax base not exceeding 176.8 times the amount of subsistence minimum valid on 1 January of the current year and 25 % tax rate to the tax base exceeding 176.8 times the amount of subsistence minimum valid on 1 January of the current year (equal to 35,268.06 € in 2018, with the subsistence minimum equal to 199.48 €/month). The tax base corresponds to the amount of gross wage reduced by all the contributions to compulsory insurance funds and a non-taxable sum (exempt from taxation).

Foreigners with unrestricted tax liability (see below), as well as foreigners with restricted tax liability whose taxable income from Slovakia represents at least 90 % of their total income, can reduce their tax base by the non-taxable sum.

The non-taxable sum depends on the amount of subsistence minimum applicable in the particular year and on the taxpayer's total annual income. A special non-taxable amount can be also applied on a spouse (upon fulfilling certain statutory requirements).

The resulting tax can be reduced by a child taxation bonus (for a dependent child, i.e. until completing compulsory education or a studying child up to 25 years old) if the employee's annual taxable income has reached at least six times the level of minimum salary (2 880 €). The annual child taxation bonus equals 258.72 € in 2018.

Tax exceptions

The following types of income are examples of income exempt from taxation or are not subject to taxation:

- scholarships provided from the state budget (including PhD scholarships), or by higher education institutions or similar benefits provided from abroad, financial support from foundations or non-profit organisations except for remuneration for carrying out employment or business activities,
- financial resources from grants provided upon international treaties, by which Slovakia is bound
- benefits from health and social insurance, including old-age savings,
- per diems up to the amount set by law,
- employer's financial contribution to the board of an employee up to the amount set by the law,
- income from employment in the territory of the Slovak Republic of a taxpayer with restricted tax liability (for the definition see the next paragraph) from an employer with the seat abroad if the period of performance of such work does not exceed 183 days in any 12 month-period.

Tax residence

The determination of the tax residence is necessary in order to clarify the tax liability to the state of occupation and/or residence.

Unrestricted tax liability applies in the case of a person with a permanent residence

or domicile in Slovakia and a person who usually stays in Slovakia for at least 183 days (6 months) in a calendar year. Subject to a tax of such a taxpayer is his/her income received from Slovakia as well as from abroad.

On the other hand, a taxpayer with restricted tax liability is a person without a permanent residence or domicile in Slovakia, a person who usually stays in Slovakia for less than 183 days in a calendar year or who often stays in Slovakia only for the purpose of studies or enters Slovakia daily (or occasionally) only for the purpose of employment. Subject to a tax of such a taxpayer is only his/her income from Slovakia. The tax residence may also be determined by bilateral double taxation agreements.

The decisive factors for the determination of the tax residence are residence, usual stay, a centre of vital interest – closer personal or economic relations, habitual abode, being a national of one of the states (usually this is set out in Art. 4 of bilateral double taxation agreements).

Double taxation agreements

In order to make the taxing of migrant persons easier and to avoid double taxation, the Slovak Republic has concluded bilateral agreements with other countries. Slovakia continuously extends the geographical area covered by taxation agreements, during the time of preparation of this publication, taxation agreements are signed with 65 countries. The list of countries with double taxation agreements with Slovakia is available on the website of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (www.finance.gov.sk/en/Default.aspx?CatID=285).

Countries that have signed double taxation treaties with Slovakia:

Armenia	Georgia	Macedonia	South Africa
Australia	Germany	Malaysia	South Korea
Austria	Greece	Malta	Spain
Belarus	Hungary	Mexico	Sri Lanka
Belgium	Iceland	Moldova	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	India	Mongolia	Switzerland
Brazil	Indonesia	Montenegro	Syria
Bulgaria	Ireland	Netherlands	Taiwan
Canada	Israel	Nigeria	Tunisia
China	Italy	Norway	Turkey
Croatia	Japan	Poland	Turkmenistan
Cyprus	Kazakhstan	Portugal	Ukraine
Czech Republic	Kuwait	Romania	United Arab Emirates
Denmark	Latvia	Russia	United Kingdom
Estonia	Libya	Serbia	United States of America
Finland	Lithuania	Singapore	Uzbekistan
France	Luxembourg	Slovenia	Vietnam

The taxation conditions, therefore, vary depending on the country of origin of a person – if there is a bilateral agreement and what its provisions are.

Double taxation agreements also state the method of elimination of double taxation, in case the income was taxed in the country of occupation and must be declared in the country of tax residence, where the person is a taxpayer with unrestricted tax liability. In the case of states, where no double taxation agreement exists, income from abroad, which has been taxed in the country of occupation, is exempted from taxation in Slovakia. (An authentic certificate of taxation of income must be submitted.) Naturally, this is relevant only to taxpayers with unrestricted tax liability in Slovakia.

The legislation in force, official documents and forms to download are available in Slovak (www.mfsr.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=4414), and some of the documents also in English (www.mfsr.sk/en/Default.aspx?CatID=280) at the website of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic.

Tax return (declaration of taxes)

Following the taxation period (a calendar year), the annual clearing of taxes is made by filing the tax return (declaration of taxes), and only then the final level of a non-taxable amount is calculated dependent on the whole-year wage.

The deadline for submitting the tax return is 31 March every year (with the possibility of postponing this deadline for 3–6 months upon sending the notification to the competent tax office until 31 March). Only afterward, the tax overpayment or tax arrears can be determined. The taxpayer must pay the tax within the deadline for filing the declaration of taxes. An employee, who worked throughout the year in Slovakia and received taxable income only from employment during the calendar year, may request the annual settlement of income tax from the last employer. It is necessary to submit the request not later than 15 February. The annual settlement will be done by the employer on behalf of the employee. In case he/she does not ask the employer for the settlement until the given deadline, fails to deliver all required documents to this date, or received income from abroad within the tax period, he/she must submit the tax return on his/her own.

In the case of tax residents with unlimited liability who have some income from abroad, it is necessary to state all the income in the tax return form and provide documents proving the payment of the tax abroad. Authentic certificate(s) of taxation

of income must be submitted. When the taxpayer cannot obtain these documents within the deadline (31 March), he/she shall notify the tax office about postponing the deadline to file the tax return (up to 6 months in the case of income from abroad).

The tax return form and other tax-related documents can be downloaded from the website of the Slovak Finance administration (www.financnasprava.sk), although in Slovak only.

It is recommended to consult the competent tax authority for any tax issues.

Local tax

The collection of local taxes is in the competence of municipalities and therefore, they differ in every village/town. Local taxes include the real estate tax, the dog tax, taxes for using public spaces, the accommodation tax, taxes to drive and/or to park a motor vehicle in the historical centre of a town etc. Municipalities also charge local payments for communal waste and small quantities of construction waste.

5.5.2 Indirect taxes

Value added tax (VAT)

The standard VAT rate in Slovakia is 20 %. To certain categories of products like antibiotics, pharmaceutical products, some food products and also books, brochures, and similar printing products are subject to a reduced tax rate of 10 % (a complete list is available in Annex 7 to the Act on Value Added Tax at www.finance.gov.sk/en/Default.aspx?CatID=436). Other documents and forms to download are available in Slovak only (www.mfsr.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=4783).

Excise tax

Special terms apply to the excise tax on beer, wine, alcohol, tobacco and tobacco products, and mineral oils. Legislation about excise taxes is available in English on the websites of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (www.finance.gov.sk/en/Default.aspx?CatID=356). Other documents and forms are available in Slovak only (www.mfsr.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=3837).

5.6 Recognition of education

Slovakia is bound by the European Directive 2005/36/EC on recognition of professional qualifications. The recognition of documents on previous education can be done for:

- academic purposes (i.e. recognition of previous education in order to continue to study in Slovakia) or for pursuing the so-called non-regulated professions;
- pursuing the so-called regulated professions in Slovakia (e.g. teacher, university professor, barrister, dentist, physician, psychologist etc.).

Centre for Recognition of Diplomas:

- recognises documents on education obtained abroad for pursuing studies or working in Slovakia
- recognises professional qualification obtained abroad of university teachers, pedagogic, sport and health workers
- automatically recognises documents on education obtained in another EU/EEA Member state, Switzerland or country with which Slovakia concluded a bilateral agreement on the mutual recognition of documents on education
- assesses education obtained abroad for relevant authorities and institution in Slovakia

Centre for Recognition of Diplomas (CRD) is a part of the ENIC (European Network of

Information Centres) and NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centre) Networks. CRD is a part of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

Contact:

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
Centre for Recognition of Diplomas
Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava,
Slovak Republic
E-mail: sudv@minedu.sk
Tel.: +421-2-59 37 46 23

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:30 and from 12:30 to 14:00

More information is available at the website of the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas www.minedu.sk/recognition-of-foreign-diplomas/.

5.6.1 Recognition of primary and secondary education

According to the legislation in force, foreign primary and secondary education is recognised by a competent district office seated in one of the regional capitals. Their competence corresponds to the place of your residence in Slovakia. Currently, there are eight district offices seated in regional capitals.

During the process of nostrification, leaving certificates and diplomas issued by foreign schools are examined in terms of equivalence of the scope and content of education obtained abroad with the corresponding study programme in Slovakia.

A completed application form for recognition of education must be submitted together with the following documents:

- copy of the identification document

- certified copy of the leaving certificate or diploma
- transcript of completed courses and exams
- in a case of vocational secondary education, a confirmation issued by the secondary school about the scope of practical education

Application form is available at www.minedu.sk/recognition-of-foreign-diplomas/.

The original educational documentation must be authenticated (apostilled or superlegalised) by a competent body of the state in question and its certified copy must be translated into Slovak.

The department of education of the district office considers the application within 30 days after its receipt. If the application does not include all the required documentation, the district authority interrupts the process and prompts the applicant to submit the missing documents or to correct any found deficiencies.

After the receipt of a complete application, within two months, the district office decides on the recognition of the educational document, its refusal or prescribes a differential exam.

In case that the study in a foreign school corresponds to the curricula of secondary schools in Slovakia only partially, the district office could lay down the obligation to take a differential exam. It is meant to verify the knowledge and skills of the applicant in subjects, or in their parts, which were not studied by the applicant in a foreign school and which have a direct relation to the applicant's profile or the field of study pursued. A graduate, who is not a Slovak national, does not have to take a supplementary examination in the Slovak Language and Literature.

The district office determines the content, the exact date of examination and the secondary school, where the graduate shall take the differential exam.

A different procedure applies if the documents were issued by a foreign school located in an EU/EEA Member State, Switzerland or in a state, with which an agreement on mutual recognition of documents on education has been concluded. Slovakia has signed such agreements with Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Ukraine) In this case, the recognition for academic purposes (continuing in higher education in the Slovak Republic); the documents are considered as equal without nostrification. The district office shall issue a decision within 15 days since the submission of a complete application.

5.6.2 Recognition of diplomas (tertiary education)

Recognition of previous education for academic purposes or for pursuing a so-called non-regulated profession

In case of the recognition of previous education for academic purposes or for pursuing a so-called non-regulated profession, there are two different approaches, depending on the field of study, in which the diploma shall be recognised.

A. Recognition by a Slovak higher education institution

If the applicant wants to have his/her previous higher education recognised and a study programme in question (or related) is offered by one of the higher education institutions in Slovakia, the decision on recognition for academic purposes lies upon such a higher education institution.

It is advised to first check the website of or contact the higher education institution (HEI), where the applicant wants to pursue his/her further studies, to find out whether it is offering studies in the same or related field at the level that needs to be recognised. If so, the HEI is able to recognise the diploma on the previous university education. If this is not the case, the applicant can find another HEI in Slovakia offering that particular field of study and apply for the recognition. On the website “Portal of HEIs”, a list of higher education institutions by study fields can be found (www.portalvs.sk/en/studijne-odbory).

For the recognition procedures, the applicants shall officially apply (usually the institutions have prescribed application forms) and attach the following documents to their application for recognising the education certificate:

- copy of ID card
- certified copy of a document on education obtained abroad (apostilled/superlegalised and officially translated to Slovak)
- transcript of completed courses and exams
- certified copy of a diploma supplement (apostilled/superlegalised and officially translated to Slovak)
- information on the education preceding the education which is a subject to recognition

The decision of the higher education institution shall be issued within two months since the submission of a complete application.

In case that the study at the foreign institution corresponds to the curricula of the respective HEI only partially, the HEI could lay down the obligation for the applicant to take a supplementary examination. The supplementary examination is meant to verify the knowledge and skills of the applicant

in subjects, or in their parts, which were not studied by the applicant in a foreign school and which have a direct relation to the applicant’s profile or the field of study pursued.

B. Recognition by the Ministry of Education

If the applicant wants to have his/her previous higher education recognised, but no higher education institution in Slovakia offers a study programme in a given field, the decision lies with the Ministry of Education.

The same application procedure applies as in a case when the decision is issued by the HEI.

However, in case the diploma was issued by a military HEI, the decision lies with the Ministry of Defence. In case of diplomas issued by a police HEI, the Ministry of Interior is competent to recognise the document.

The decision of the Ministry shall be issued within two months since the submission of a complete application.

Automatic recognition of diplomas

A diploma issued by an education institution from an EU/EEA Member state, Switzerland or a third country, which is a party to a mutual bilateral or multilateral recognition agreement binding on Slovakia, or issued by a HEI from a member state of European Higher Education Area (EHEA), is automatically recognized for academic purposes.

The HEI considers the application within seven days. If the application does not meet all the requirements, the process is going to be interrupted and the applicant will be prompted to submit the missing documentation or to correct

any deficiencies. The HEI decides within 15 days after the receipt of the complete application.

Recognition of education and qualification for pursuing a so-called regulated profession

A so-called regulated profession is a profession, professional activity or a group of professional activities, in pursuit of which it is necessary to meet the qualifications prescribed by the relevant Slovak legislation. A list of regulated professions can be found at www.minedu.sk/professional-recognition-of-qualifications/.

In case of selected regulated professions, the Member States (EU, EEA and Switzerland) harmonised minimum requirements on education and training, therefore, the mutual recognition is automatic for these professions (dentists, doctors of medicine, midwives, nurses and pharmacists). The automatic system applies only to qualifications obtained in any Member State after its accession to the EU.

For recognition of qualifications for the pursuit of regulated professions without coordinated training and all qualifications obtained in third countries, a general system of recognition applies. It is based on the principle of comparability. During the recognition process, the content and scope of the applicant's education are compared to the content and scope of education, which is required for the same profession in Slovakia. Not only the document on education but also the obtained qualification must be recognised.

The decision on recognition of professional qualification shall be issued by:

1. the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas in case of pedagogic, sport and healthcare professions (the decision should be issued within three months since the application has been submitted);

2. a competent authority in case of other professions (the decision should be issued within one month since the application has been submitted).

The application for the recognition of diploma (and professional qualification in case of pedagogic, sport and healthcare professionals) in pursuit of a regulated profession must be submitted to the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas. A complete application consists of the following documents:

- application form (downloadable from www.minedu.sk/recognition-of-completed-foreign-education-on-pursuit-of-regulated-profession-in-the-slovak-republic/)
- copy of ID or passport
- certified copy of a document on education obtained abroad (officially translated to Slovak)
- certified copy of a transcript of completed courses and exams, if required (officially translated to Slovak)
- information or a regular copy of evidence of the education preceding the education which is a subject to recognition

In case of applications for the recognition of education obtained in third countries, the following documents are also required:

- copy of a document confirming the accreditation of the educational institution and the study programme issued by a competent authority of the state of origin
- a detailed description of the courses (including their syllabi)

The documents on education obtained in third countries must be apostilled/ superlegalised.

Administrative fee:

50 € for the recognition of diploma
100 € for the recognition of diploma and professional qualification

5.7 Import of goods

Within the EU/EEA/Switzerland, import and export of goods are not limited in any way, which also applies to goods for private purposes. It is, therefore, possible to import an unlimited amount of goods for private purposes from any EU Member State to Slovakia. There is no obligation to pay a tax in Slovakia, as the VAT and the excise tax on goods (where applicable) purchased for private purposes has already been included in the purchasing price in the given country.

Each country can set the limits in order to determine whether the tobacco and alcohol are for personal use. These cannot be lower than following: 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos, 200 cigars, 1 kg of tobacco, 10 litres of spirits, 20 litres of intermediate products, 90 litres of wine (of which, a maximum of 60 litres of sparkling wine) and 110 litres of beer. If travelling from one EU Member State to another one through Switzerland (or another non-EU country), it is possible to carry goods for personal use without border formalities as long as the thresholds set out for the entry into Switzerland/re-entry into the EU are not exceeded.

If entering the EU from a non-EU country, it is possible to import goods free of customs duties, VAT and excise duties in the following quantities:

- 4 litres of still wine and 16 litres of beer
- 1 litre of alcohol exceeding 22 % vol. or 1 litre of undenatured alcohol of 80 % vol. or 2 litres of fortified or sparkling wine
- 10 litres of fuel in a portable container in addition to the fuel in your fuel tank
- tobacco products up to the limit set by the country you are visiting:
 - a) higher limit: 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 g of tobacco, or

- b) lower limit: 40 cigarettes or 20 cigarillos or 10 cigars or 50 g tobacco (Slovakia applies lower limits to land and sea travellers)

- other goods (including perfume, coffee, tea, electronic devices, etc.) up to the value of 430 € for air and sea travellers and up to the value of 300 € for other travellers. (The value of an individual item may not be split up; the limits may be reduced to 150 € for travellers under 15 years in a Member State.)

Transport of pets is allowed only with the respective veterinary certificate.

Weapons can only be imported with a firearms certificate.

When leaving the EU (and certain areas within the EU, such as the Canary Islands), it is possible to buy goods free of duty and tax in the so-called “tax-free shops” in airports and ports. There are no limits as to the quantity or value of the goods that can be purchased duty- and tax-free. Art objects and objects of historical value underlie/are liable to licence and customs duty.

Currency restrictions

The import and export of local and foreign currency are permitted. When entering the EU from third countries or departing to third countries, imported and exported money or other financial resources (bonds, cheques, trade drafts, precious metals and stones) above the equivalent of 10,000 € must be declared on an official form at the corresponding customs office.

More information:

Taxation and Customs Union, European Commission https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/home_en

6. Daily life in Slovakia

In this chapter you can find useful information regarding your daily life in Slovakia. The topics are various and listed according to the alphabet. Information covers topics that may arise upon your arrival or during your stay in Slovakia, and it should help you find your way through these situations – be it finding a flat or finding your way from the airport. Also approximate prices of different services are mentioned, so you can calculate the costs of your stay in advance. This chapter gives a picture of what life in Slovakia may be. For more information follow the links that are posted by each section or do not hesitate to contact local EURAXESS Service Centres.

6.1 Accommodation and housing

Ask your future employer or your host organisation if it is possible to provide you with accommodation. Some universities and research organisations have their own accommodation facilities for their employees. If your future employer/host cannot provide you with accommodation, ask them for other possibilities or recommendations.

You can find an accommodation yourself, too – properties for rent are advertised in daily newspapers, regional press and on the internet. You can rent a flat directly from an owner or through a real estate agency.

When renting a flat, enquire whether the price covers just the rent or if it also includes utility costs (electricity, gas, heating, water, phone bills, etc.). Rents are usually paid monthly and deposits for a few months' rent are common. It is, of course, necessary to sign a lease.

Rental prices depend on several factors:

- city/town (in the capital city and university towns rents are usually higher),
- locality within a city/town (centre/outskirts),
- type of flat/house (tower block, brick house, new building, flat/house that has or has not been renovated, etc.),
- furnishings,
- size of flat (number of bedrooms, surface area, etc.).

Useful links

Long-term accommodation

- www.reality.sk – a nationwide search database (also in English), provides regularly updated rental offers from more than 400 real estate agencies, a list of real estate agencies with contact phone numbers, websites and emails;
- <http://reality.server.sk> – search database; offers from real estate agencies and private advertisements (in Slovak only);
- <http://living.spectator.sme.sk/> – a rental portal providing information and contact phone numbers, websites and emails of several rental companies operating in Slovakia – www.roommates.sk – search engines for finding roommates and listing available rooms to rent (in Slovak only);
- www.spolubyvanie.sk – private advertising website for accommodation rentals (craigslist style, in Slovak only).

Short-term accommodation

- www.reality.sk – a nationwide search database (also in English), regularly updated rental offers by more than 400 real estate agencies, a list of real estate agencies with contact phone numbers, websites and emails;
- <http://reality.server.sk> – search database; offers from real estate agencies and private advertisements (in Slovak only)

- <http://living.spectator.sme.sk/> – a rental portal providing information and contact phone numbers, websites and emails of several rental companies operating in Slovakia;
- www.ubytovanievmeste.sk – search database (in Slovak only).

6.2 Banks and currency

There are many banks in Slovakia, usually members of international corporations offering ordinary banking services such as current accounts and subaccounts, domestic and foreign payments, electronic banking, debit and credit cards, cheques, deposit products, securities, private banking, unit trusts, mortgage financing, loans, exchange and even insurance services. List of banks in Slovakia is available at the website of the Slovak Banking Association <https://thebanks.eu/banks-by-country/Slovakia>.

Banks are usually open from Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 17:00/18:00. Some branches remain open even longer, and some are open on Saturdays and in some cases even on Sundays (only in shopping centres). For more details, you should consult the website of the respective bank.

How to open a bank account

To open a bank account in Slovakia, a non-Slovak citizen will need to meet several conditions and provide information which vary across banks. You need to provide one or two identification documents, while one of them must include a photo and the residence address. You may be asked for information about the correspondence address and in some banks for your residence permit. An application form may be requested to be filled in. Deposit of a minimum balance might be required. Opening of the account is for free. The fee per month for the maintenance

of the account varies from bank to bank, and depends on whether it is in euro or in foreign currency, some banks offer zero monthly fee after meeting defined criteria. Closing of the bank account is usually for free.

Credit & debit cards

If you have a current account in euro, a debit card is mostly issued within a service package. A credit card is issued independently of an account. Major credit cards (American Express, Diners' Club, Visa, Eurocard/MasterCard) and debit cards (Maestro, Cirrus, Eurocheque cards and Visa Electron, Eurocard/MasterCard) may be used for cash withdrawal from cash dispensers (ATM), as well as for payments in hotels, restaurants, shops and petrol stations. Credit cards can also be used to obtain cash. For further information on commercial acceptability and other services consult your card issuer.

Currency and exchange rate

The official currency in Slovakia is Euro (since January 1, 2009). Denominations: 1 euro (1 €) = 100 cents (100 c), banknotes issued in 500 €, 200 €, 100 €, 50 €, 20 €, 10 € and 5 € denominations; coins in 2 €, 1 € and 50 c, 20 c, 10 c, 5 c, 2 c and 1 c denominations.

The website of the National Bank of Slovakia “Národná banka Slovenska” (www.nbs.sk) offers updated information on exchange and interest rates, and other financial data. Note that the exchange rate of a commercial bank may vary slightly.

6.3 Communications and post offices

Internet connection

Slovakia currently has a large number of full-area ISP's that offer wired broadband Internet connections, for example:

- Slovak Telecom (www.telekom.sk) – the major telecommunication company in Slovakia,
- Orange Slovensko (www.orange.sk),
- UPC (www.upc.sk),
- Swan (www.swan.sk),
- Slovanet (www.slovanet.net, in Slovak only),
- Satro (www.satro.sk, in Slovak only),
- others.

They offer a range of connections, from ADSL/ADSL2+ to optical “Fibernet”. ADSL or ADSL2+ is available in almost every town in Slovakia. It is advisable to check with the accommodation provider/owner or neighbours what possibilities for internet connection there are in the particular place.

Wifi spots are widely available throughout the city centres, shopping centres and even in some buses and trains. Almost every coffee shop and restaurant offers free wifi connection or hotspots for their customers. You can find even free wifi connection in book-stores around the city.

Also Internet Cafes (“internetová kaviareň”) are widespread and not confined only to large towns.

How to make phone calls

International country code of the Slovak Republic: 00421

General Phone Numbers

Emergency calls:

General Emergency	112
Ambulance	155
Firemen	150
Police	158
Town police	159

Enquiry services (usually paid):

Directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers in Slovakia	1181
Info Assistant – Practical information for everyday use	12 111

City codes in Slovakia:

Banská Bystrica	048
Bardejov	054
Bratislava	02
Dunajská Streda	031
Humenné	057
Košice	055
Levice	036
Liptovský Mikuláš	044
Lučenec	047
Martin	043
Michalovce	056
Nitra	037
Nové Zámky	035
Poprad	052
Považská Bystrica	042
Prešov	051
Prievidza	046
Rožňava	058
Senica	034
Spíšská Nová Ves	053
Topoľčany	038
Trenčín	032
Trnava	033
Zvolen	045
Žilina	041

Mobile operators

Mobile network operators in the Slovak Republic are: Orange, Slovak Telekom, Telefónica O2, and 4ka. There are also prepaid services provided by three branded operators Swan mobile, Tesco mobile and Funfón, whose services are sold under their own brands. Mobile 2G networks operate at frequencies of 900 and 1,800 MHz. The Networks 3G use 2,100 MHz and 4G LTE networks use 800 MHz and 1,800+ MHz. Slovakia is well covered by mobile phone networks, which enable calls also from some peaks of Tatras. Only very distant areas are without signal.

Prepaid mobile cards (Easy free, O2 Fér, Funfón Štart, Tesco mobile, Prima Orange, 4ka, Juro, Swan mobile).

Roaming in the EU/EEA

The EU “**roam like at home**” rules enable holders of the EU/EEA countries SIM card to use their mobile phone while travelling in any EU country without any additional roaming charges. The rules cover voice services (to mobile and fixed phones), sending text messages (SMS) and using data services while abroad. These rules also apply when receiving calls or texts while roaming even if the person you are calling is using a different service provider.

For details see https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/consumers/internet-telecoms/mobile-roaming-costs/index_en.htm

The easiest solution to benefit from the EU “roam like at home” rule is to buy a prepaid SIM card. For its purchase the Slovak legislation requires verification of personal data. Therefore cards are not sold as freely as in some other countries.

Sellers will ask buyers for their passport or identity card if from European Union,

or residence permit in Slovakia, on the basis of which they will verify the buyer’s identity. The minimum age limit for buying a SIM card is 15.

Credit charging

It is possible to buy scratch prepaid mobile coupons in newspaper stands, in post offices, petrol stations and many other places. The credit is charged according to given instructions. The places where the coupons are sold tend to be marked by a flag with logo of the operator. It is necessary to ask the seller for “kredit” (credit) and say the name of the operator, from which you want to buy a card. For foreigners it is also available to charge credit at the ATMs, which support also smaller prices of charging. However, be careful with the charges of your bank for these operations abroad.

Credit can be charged also in selling places – in mobile operators stores. You can pay by cash or a debit or credit card. It is also possible to charge the credit also in POS terminals in different chain-stores, for example, at petrol stations, in grocery shop Coop Jednota, at the Slovak post and many others. Charging of credit is supported also by branch offices of the national lottery Tipos.

Post offices

Post offices are at your service in all towns and villages and provide bank services (Poštová banka), too. The post offices are open from Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 18:00 and on Saturday until 13:00. The main post offices in larger towns or shopping centres are open daily until 20:00. It is possible to buy post stamps for post cards and letters directly in the post offices or in some newspaper stands.

A 50 g letter sent within Slovakia by 2nd class costs 0.50 €, sent by 1st class

costs 0.70 € and registered mail costs 1.45 €. The postage for sending a 50 g letter by 2nd class from Slovakia to the Czech Republic costs 0.95 €, while sending a 50 g letter by the same class to the other European countries or outside Europe costs 1,1 €. The price list is available on the website of the Slovak Post Office (www.posta.sk/en) where you can also find ZIP codes of all the towns in Slovakia and information on other services provided at the post office, e. g. you can pay your utility bills, receive cash on delivery consignments, buy lottery tickets, receive payments, buy phone and mobile phone cards, and, of course, send telegrams, faxes and mail.

6.4 Cuisine

Food

Slovak food is made using a variety of traditional and European products and ingredients. In shops, supermarkets or hypermarkets you can buy all kinds of vegetables and fruit in season, meat, milk products, pastry, bread, mineral and spring water, and sweets. You can also buy fresh homegrown fruit and vegetables and some other products at openair markets.

Cuisine

There are many restaurants in Slovakia ranging from cheap to expensive. For a drink it is more usual to go to a pub where you can also have a meal. Larger cities usually have restaurants with national and international cuisine, the most common being Italian, Asian, Balkan, Czech and Hungarian. Beer and wine (domestic and foreign) are of good quality and usually consumed with both lunch and dinner.

Lunch is the main meal and Slovaks are more used to eating out for lunch than for dinner. Most restaurants in town centres

have special lunch offers (“denné menu”, usually consisting of a bowl of soup and a main course), which are cheaper than other meals served there.

Restaurants are open from Monday to Sunday from morning till night. Stores and restaurants which open 24 hours a day have a sign reading “nonstop”.

Unless the menu states that service is included, tipping is expected. 5–10 % is a standard tip in a restaurant with waiter service. Waiters usually give the customer the total of the bill and the customer, as he/she hands over the money, says how much he/she is paying including the tip. In restaurants and bars it is usual to round up the price, the tip being roughly 10 %.

More information and a list of catering places can be found for example at www.zomato.com. You can also use a variety of dining and restaurant apps (e. g., Zomato, Restaurant Finder or use Google maps restaurant search).

Traditional cuisine

The main ingredients that have shaped traditional Slovak cuisine are potatoes, sauerkraut, pork, poultry, “bryndza” (cheese made from sheep’s milk) and pulses. The number one national soup is sauerkraut soup (hearty cabbage soup with smoked pork sausage that often contains mushrooms, and sometimes plums,



especially at Christmastime). Another typical Slovak soup is made of beans and root vegetables such as carrot and parsley. Sometimes, smoked pork is added. The most traditional national dish served as main course is “bryndzové halušky”, i.e. gnocchi/dumplings topped with “bryndza” and fried bacon. Another traditional dish is “strapačky s kapustou”, dumplings with cabbage and sometimes with fried bacon. As the most common dessert one can always have sweet pancakes. Traditionally, we serve them with either jam, or cottage cheese and raisins topped with whipped cream and chocolate. From the Slovak region of Záhorie comes an interesting pastry called Skalický trdelník in shape of a roll with a hole inside.

Cheese and cheese products are other typical Slovak specialties. Besides already mentioned “bryndza”, the most popular are the “korbáčik” – sheep’s cheese strings interwoven into fine braids, “parenica” – steamed sheep’s cheese strips woven into snail-like curls, “oštiepok” – smoked sheep’s cheese shaped in wooden moulds.

The most popular wines are those from the Tokaj, Small Carpathians, Nitra, Topoľčany and Záhorie regions. In winter, try the mulled wine. Young wine (“burčiak”) is available in the first half of September, and is usually the subject of harvest festivals. Hubert, the Slovak sparkling wine and “Karpatské Brandy Špeciál” (the Carpathian Brandy Special) are also highly rated. Typical Slovak liqueurs are Demänovka, Horec and Tatranský čaj from the region of the High Tatras. “Slivovica” (plum brandy) and “borovička” (the juniper berry brandy, gin) are popular Slovak aperitifs. To the uninitiated, these drinks will appear quite strong. Let us not forget that Slovakia also produces excellent beer. The popular brands are Zlatý Bažant, Corgoň, Smädny mních, Šariš, Topvar, Urpiner.

More information:

www.panorama.sk/bonappetit,
<http://slovakia.travel/en/things-to-see-and-do/traditions-and-gastronomy>

6.5 Culture and media

Music

Classical music

In the first half of the 19th century, a national musical tradition began to develop around Slovakia’s impressive folk heritage. Romantic, as well as modern Slovak music has drawn from both classical and traditional folk styles. Among romantic composers, the most important are the compositions of Ján Levoslav Bella, Viliam Figuš-Bystrý who laid the foundations of the first Slovak opera, and those of Mikuláš Schneider-Trnavský and Mikuláš Moyzes who had merit in lyric songs and ballads creation. Well-known works from the 20th century include the symphonic compositions of Alexander Moyzes, and the operas of Eugen Suchoň (1st Slovak national opera “Krútnava” (The Whirlpool)) and Ján Cikker.

Today, music is one of the most significant aspects of the Slovak culture. Some of the most renowned orchestras are the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra (“Slovenská filharmónia”, www.filharmonia.sk) and the Slovak State Philharmonic, Košice (Štátna filharmónia, Košice) (www.sfk.sk), the Symphonic Orchestra of Slovak Radio (“Symfonický orchester Slovenského rozhlasu”, <http://sotr.rtvs.sk/uvod>), and the Bohdan Warchal Slovak Chamber Orchestra (“Slovenský komorný orchester Bohdana Warchala”, www.filharmonia.sk).

Musical performances usually begin at 7 p.m. and whilst tickets can be bought an hour before the beginning, it is advisable to reserve tickets several days before at the ticket office of the respective orchestra.

Tickets can be also reserved online at www.ticketportal.sk or www.navstevnik.sk.

Traditional folk music

The most impressive ensembles performing traditional dance and music are the Slovak Folk Ensemble (“Slovenský ľudový umelecký kolektív” – SĽUK, www.sluk.sk, in Slovak only) and Lúčnica – the Slovak National Folklore Dance Ensemble (www.lucnica.sk). Most towns have their own folk festivals with dances, local costumes and food. These tend to be held throughout the summer until the end of September. The biggest one takes place in Východná in July every year (www.festivalvychodna.sk, www.nocka.sk/en, updated information in Slovak only).



Modern Music

The Music Centre Slovakia (“Hudobné centrum”, www.hc.sk) provides information on classical and modern music. At www.ticketportal.sk you can find information on concerts and buy tickets. If you prefer the club scene with live performances there are many options within different genres.

Music Festivals

The biggest music and art event in Slovakia – an open-air festival **Pohoda** is organized annually. The festival features alternative music, rock, pop, dance music, world music, house, techno, drum and bass, hip hop, but also theatre, discussions, chamber

music, dance and literature workshops and it held around the beginning of July (www.pohodafestival.sk). Other big festivals worth visiting are **Grape** (www.grapefestival.sk) and **Topfest** (www.topfest.sk), both occurring in July and August.

For fans of classical music we highly recommend visiting the most important and most prestigious international festival in Slovakia with a long tradition – **Bratislava Music Festival** (www.bhsfestival.sk/en/) taking place at the end of September for more than half a century. The festival presents the highest quality foreign and home artists. Another outstanding music event – the international jazz festival **Bratislava Jazz Days** presents one of the most traditional and appraised events in Slovakia. The most important jazz names take regularly part in the event. Bratislava Jazz Days take place at the end of October each year since 1975 (www.bjd.sk).

Cinema

Cinemas (“kino”) can be found in every town. Film clubs are popular and can be found in all university towns. In Bratislava, multiplex cinemas can be found in the Aupark, Eurovea, Bory Mall and Polus shopping centres (www.cinemacity.sk). Cheaper options are film clubs like cinema Lumière, Mladosť, Nostalgia or Kino Film Europa in Bratislava. In shopping centres in Banská Bystrica, Dunajská Streda, Košice, Nitra, Poprad, Prešov, Skalica, Trenčín, Trnava and Žilina you can find multiplex cinema, too (www.cine-max.sk, in Slovak only). Most films bear the original soundtrack with subtitles; some films have Slovak dubbing (mostly films for children). Cinema programmes are published on towns' websites (www.kamdomesta.sk, www.citylife.sk, both websites in Slovak only), and in newspapers.

Slovak newspaper in English

The Slovak Spectator (www.spectator.sme.sk), an independent English language newspaper, is published weekly. It includes information on politics, the economy, business, daily life and cultural events, as well as advertisements.

A news portal THE DAILY.sk (www.thedaily.sk) offers daily news for Slovakia in English for all foreigners living, working or just visiting Slovakia.

There are many varieties of local newspapers and journals. Most of the newspapers have also online version. For newspaper and magazine reading, there are lots of mobile apps available. The print versions of newspapers can be bought at newsstands.

Museums and galleries

Slovakia has over 100 museums and galleries. You can visit various museums, e. g. the National Slovak Museum (www.snm.sk) comprising of 18 specialised museums among others the Museum of Natural history, balneological, mining, agricultural or archeological museums, the National Music Museum, coin, clock, furniture, folk costumes and military museums, or museums with historical expositions, and many more.

There are galleries to be found in almost every bigger town. Some of them have permanent expositions with artworks of famous painters of the past, but many offer inspiring contemporary art. The most precious art collections of old and modern masters are to be seen in the Slovak National Gallery (www.sng.sk), with artworks of Slovak and world painters and sculptors. Another interesting art institution presenting also Slovak art is the Nedbalka Gallery with an impressive interior structure resembling the Guggenheim Museum in New York

www.nedbalka.sk/en/. Sitting grandly on the bank of the river Danube is The Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum – one of the most romantic museums of modern art in Europe. A place where the freedom of the water surface area showcases the creative ideas of contemporary authors www.danubiana.sk/en. To search for a museum or gallery by topic visit <http://slovakia.travel/en/things-to-see-and-do/culture-and-sights/museums-and-galleries>.

Scientific events and public lectures

Since 2007 the science festival – **The Researchers Night** has been organized annually throughout Europe. The event is held in 5 Slovak towns – Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Košice a Tatranská Lomnica and features more than 1,000 researchers from all scientific disciplines and is attended by nearly 200,000 visitors (www.nocvyskumnikov.sk). Other science-related regularly organized events are Week of Science and Technology focused on popularization of science and the Bratislava Open Lectures given by the invited reknown international experts from various fields of science, among others Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize laureates. Those lectures are streamed also online. More information can be found at: (www.nadaciatatrabanky.sk/index.php/osobnosti-osobne/bratislava-open-lectures/).

Theatre, opera, ballet

The theatre network consists of 4 state funded professional theatres, 22 theatres under the competence of selfgoverning regions and municipalities, more than 40 independent theatres established by private owners/legal entities and 4 minority language theatres in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Nitra, Komárno, Zvolen, Martin, Žilina, Košice, Prešov, Spišská Nová Ves and Rožňava. The list

of theatres with contact addresses can be found at www.theatre.sk (website of the Theatre Institute).

The oldest professional theatre is the Slovak National Theatre (“Slovenské národné divadlo” – SND) in Bratislava (www.snd.sk). It comprises drama, opera and ballet sections, each with a permanent professional company. The SND is a repertory company with a season running from the beginning of September to the end of June. Performances are staged every day except Sunday (opera and ballet) and Monday (drama). In April 2007, a new building on the bank of the Danube River became the home of the SND in addition to the historic building.

Other state institutions are the State Theatre (“Štátne divadlo”) in Košice (www.sdke.sk, in Slovak only), the State Opera and Ballet (“Štátna opera a balet”) in Banská Bystrica (www.stateopera.sk) and Nová scéna (New Stage) in Bratislava specialising in musical repertory (www.nova-scena.sk, in Slovak only).

Private theatre offering different performances types is the Aréna Theatre in Bratislava (www.divadloarena.sk, in Slovak only).

Theatre performances usually begin at 7 p.m. (at 6 p.m. on Sundays) and whilst tickets can be bought an hour before the beginning, it is advisable to reserve them several days before the performance at the ticket office of the respective theatre or online at www.ticketportal.sk. There is also the possibility to buy a season ticket.

Every year several theatre festivals take place. Among the most prestigious is the International Theatre Festival **Divadelna Nitra** (www.nitrafest.sk). It is a selective parade of the top European production focused on mainly the drama/play, susceptible to dance, music, puppet theatre

and also the visual theatre. Another top theatre event is the **New Drama Festival** (www.novadrama.sk/en) presenting existing productions but also stimulating creative writing through creative writing workshops, lectures and other activities. Summer months offer the realisation of the open-air theatre performances. Every summer the favourite **Summer Shakespeare's festivities** offer several stagings of plays of William Shakespeare in unique wing-plats of Bratislava castle.

Traditional folk art

Folk art and crafts, which include woodcarving, fabric weaving, glass blowing and painting, pottery, ceramics production, blacksmithing, have a long tradition. The tradition of folk art and crafts has been handed down through the generations and is nowadays supported mainly by ÚĽUV – Centre for Folk Art Production (www.uluv.sk). The Centre sells traditional products but also organises exhibitions, artistic workshops “The ÚĽUV Craft School”, both for youth and adults, some of which are officially accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

Slovakia became famous for Majolic pottery (“majolika”) already in the 14th century (especially in the town of Modra). Modra's ceramic tradition was heavily influenced by the influx of Haban craftsman in the 16th century. The Habans, also known as Anabaptists, were a religious sect that arose during the Reformation. The pottery is characterised by gentle curves and bright colours, particularly blue and yellow. Contemporary Modra's Majolic factory is a direct descendant of this tradition. You can also order Majolic through the website www.majolika.sk (in Slovak only).

Examples of folk architecture, such as wooden churches and brightly painted houses, are to be found throughout the

country. Interesting openair museums presenting folk architecture can be found in Martin (Museum of the Slovak Village – “Múzeum slovenskej dediny”), Bardejov Spa, Svidník, Zuberec, Vychylovka in Nová Bystrica, Stará Ľubovňa and Pribylina. If you are interested in “living museums” (folk architecture reservations), you should visit villages like Čičmany, Vlkolínec, Špania dolina, Ždiar, Podbiel or Sebechleby.

Wooden church architecture is unique, especially by its construction and interior design. All parts had to be made of wood and no nails were allowed. In the northeast of the country you may find mostly churches of Greek Catholic or Orthodox denomination. Most of them date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. One of the oldest churches at the territory of Slovakia is the Roman-Catholic wooden church in Hervartov near Bardejov dating back to the 15th century. Wooden churches and towers in the centre of the country were mostly of Roman-Catholic and Evangelical denominations.

More information:

www.museum.sk, www.remesla.lawit.sk

6.6 Day care for children

In the Slovak Republic, preschool education is provided until the beginning of compulsory school attendance. Institutional form of preschool education is carried out in preschool establishments represented by kindergartens and kindergartens for children with special needs. Preschool establishments admit children between the age of 3 and 6 years. Exceptionally, it is possible to admit children from the age of 2 years. (Preschool education in preschool establishments is also provided to children over 6 years of age, whose start of compulsory school attendance was postponed or whose fulfilment of compulsory schooling was additionally

postponed.) Babies from 6 months to 3 years can be placed in a daycare centre or nursery (“jasle” in Slovak) according to the decision of parents. A list of kindergartens and daycare centres in Slovakia can be found at www.azet.sk/katalog/jasle/slovensko (in Slovak only). Kindergartens are set up with varied lengths of operation such as half-day or full day. A prevailing number of kindergartens are operating full day, usually from 7:00 to 17:00, according to the parents’ needs.

The state kindergartens are the standard; however, church and private kindergartens are becoming quite common, too. In most kindergartens education is provided in Slovak, though there are several kindergartens (mostly state ones) for minority children using a mother tongue other than Slovak. There exist also private kindergartens providing education in foreign languages. Some of these establishments also provide primary and even secondary education.

In Bratislava there are, for example:

- Babyland (English) (www.babyland-centrum.sk)
- BlueBerry Hill (English) (www.bbhill.sk/en)
- Brilliant Stars Intl. Kindergarten (English) (www.brilliantstars.sk) (located also in Stupava)
- British International School Bratislava (English) (www.nordangliaeducation.com)
- Cambridge International School (English) (www.cambridgeschool.eu)
- Children’s House (English) (www.montessori-bratislava.sk)
- Deutsche schule Bratislava (German) (www.deutscheschule.sk)
- Ecole française (French) (www.ecolefrancaise.sk)
- English International School of Bratislava (English) (www.eisbratislava.com)
- Fairyland (English) (www.fairyland.sk)

- Fantasy Kindergarten (English)
Facebook page only
- Galileo School (English)
(www.galileoschool.sk)
- Happy-Time (English)
(www.happy-time.sk, in Slovak only)
- Little Angel Playschool (English)
(www.hoppie.sk/little-angel-playschool)
- Škôlka Vilka (English – Spanish)
(www.skolkavilka.sk, in Slovak only)
- Unity House Montessori Kindergarten
(English) (www.unity-house.sk)
- Wonderschool (English, German)
(www.skola.wonderland.sk)

In Nitra:

- Over in the Meadow (English)
(www.meadow.sk)

In Trnava:

- BESST (English) (www.besst.sk)

In Trenčín:

- Slimáčik (English) (www.slimacik.eu)

In Žilina:

- Tiny Green Schoolhouse (English)
(www.zelenaskolka.sk)
- English Kids Club (English)
(www.english-kids-club.sk)

In Banská Bystrica:

- Speak Star (English) (www.speakstar.sk)

In Košice:

- Bubbly (English) (www.bubbly.sk,
in Slovak only)

A list of kindergartens in Slovakia is available at the website of the Institute for Educational Information and Prognosis (www.minedu.sk/ministry-of-education-science-research-and-sport-of-the-slovak-republic/, in Slovak only).

For au-pair services, see page 149.

6.7 Education system

6.7.1 School education

There are public, private and church schools. Public primary and secondary schools are established by selfgoverning bodies (municipalities, cities and selfgoverning regions) and education is provided free of charge. In private and some church schools a school fee is paid. Special schools and special educational establishments (attended by children with physical and mental disabilities, talented and very talented children) are set up under the authority of the state (regional authorities).

There are some schools, which aim to develop specific pupils' talents, such as sports schools, schools for mathematics, foreign languages, etc.

Tuition takes place 5 days a week, from Monday to Friday. School year lasts from September 1 to June 30, July and August being summer holiday. The tuition usually begins at 8:00 and contains from 4 to 8 lessons per day. A standard lesson takes 45 minutes and is mostly followed by a 10 minute break; brunch and lunch breaks being longer.

The number of pupils in primary-school classes is around 23 pupils per class; however this number rises over 30 in upper grades.

A general grading scale in the schools:

- 1 – excellent
- 2 – very good
- 3 – good
- 4 – satisfactory
- 5 – unsatisfactory (fail)

In the majority of schools, Slovak language is the language of instruction. However, there are also schools with instruction

in other language than Slovak – Hungarian mostly, but also Ukrainian, Bulgarian, German and English. There are also about 30 bilingual schools – certain subjects are taught in Slovak, others in a particular foreign language. In Slovakia, there are bilingual secondary schools in which selected subjects are taught in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian or Russian language. (See the list of schools at the website of the Institute for Educational Information and Prognosis, <http://mapaskol.iedu.sk>, see the guidelines for your search below:

- Základná škola = primary schools;
- Gymnázium, lýceum = secondary grammar school;
- Obchodná akadémia = secondary school of economics and administration;
- Spojená škola = merged school with two organisational units, e. g. secondary grammar school and primary school or merged different types of schools at the same educational level.

Primary education

Lasts for 9 years and is compulsory.

It usually starts in the age of 6. It is divided into two stages of 4 and 5 years respectively:

First stage of primary education: age 6 to 10

Primary education is provided by the first stage of primary school (Grades 1 to 4). Enrolling in primary education enables pupils to continue to the second stage of primary school or to the initial four years of the 8-year secondary school.

Second stage of primary education: age 10 to 15

Second stage of primary education is provided by the second stage of primary school (Grades 5 to 9) or by the initial four years of the 8-year secondary schools.

In most cases, it is necessary to pass an entrance test to be accepted to the secondary education institution.

Secondary education

age 15 to 19

Secondary education is provided by the following types of schools:

1. Gymnasium (secondary grammar school): provides general secondary education and prepares for further study at universities and other higher education institutions.
2. Specialised secondary school: prepares students for vocational education and for study at higher education institutions.
3. Conservatories: conservatories are a special type of professional school that provides courses in such fields as Singing, Music, Dancing and Dramatic Arts.
4. Vocational secondary school: prepares students for occupations requiring higher level vocational education and for a School Leaving Certificate. Students may continue their studies at higher education institutions.
5. Apprentice training centres: prepare schoolleavers for professional activities.

Secondary school-leaving certificate

The general prerequisite for admission to higher education study is a secondary school-leaving certificate issued after passing the secondary school-leaving examination taken upon completing 13 years of study.

The schoolleaving certificates are issued by most of the mentioned types of secondary schools. Higher education institutions organise as a rule the admission examination.

Foreigners coming to Slovakia with a child

Children of foreigners with residence (temporary, permanent or tolerated) in Slovakia can attend kindergartens, elementary or secondary school in their place of residence or according to their parents' choice. Registration for a particular school is carried out after an arrangement with the headmaster of a selected school.

In the majority of schools, Slovak language is the language of instruction. However,

there are also schools with instruction in other language than Slovak – Hungarian mostly, but also Ukrainian, Bulgarian, German, and English. There are also about 30 bilingual schools – certain subjects are taught in Slovak, others in a particular foreign language. In Slovakia, there are bilingual secondary schools in which selected subjects are taught in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian or Russian language.

Bilingual secondary schools – Bratislava region

Name	Town	Address	URL	Type
English				
Cambridge International School	Bratislava – Straré Mesto	Úprkova 3	www.cambridgeschool.eu	Private
The British International School	Bratislava – Dúbravka	J. V. Dolinského 1	www.nordangliaeducation.com/our-schools/bratislava	Private
Spojená škola	Bratislava – Karlova Ves	Tilgnerova 14	www.tilgnerka.edupage.org	Public
Súkromné bilíngválne gymnázium	Bratislava – Nové Mesto	Česká 10	www.gymnaziumceska.sk	Private
Bilíngválne gymnázium C. S. Lewisa	Bratislava – Petržalka	Beňadická 38	www.bilgym.sk	Public
Gymnázium	Bratislava – Petržalka	Panchúchova 6	www.gympaba.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Evanjelické lýceum	Bratislava – Petržalka	Vranovská 2	www.evlyceum.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Súkromné gymnásium Mercuty	Bratislava – Petržalka	Zadunajská 27	www.sgm.sk (in Slovak only)	Private
Galileo School	Bratislava – Podunajské Biskupice	Dudvažská 6	www.galileoschool.sk	Private
Gymnázium Juraja Hronca	Bratislava – Ružinov	Novohradská 3	www.gjh.sk	Public
French				
Gymnázium	Bratislava – Ružinov	Metodova 2	http://gmet.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
French International School in Bratislava	Bratislava	Marie Curie Skłodowskej 1	www.ecolefrancaise.sk	Private
German				
Deutsche Schule Bratislava	Bratislava – Straré Mesto	Palisády 51	www.deutscheschule.sk	Private
Gymnázium Bilíkova	Bratislava – Dúbravka	Bilíkova 24	http://bs.gymbilba.sk (in German only)	Public
Obchodná akadémia Imricha Karvaša	Bratislava – Petržalka	Hrobákova 11	http://new.oaikba.sk	Public
Italian				
Gymnázium	Bratislava – Karlova Ves	Ul. Ladislava Sáru 1	www.gymils.edu.sk	Public
Russian				
Gymnázium Alberta Einsteina	Bratislava – Petržalka	Einsteinova 35	www.einsteinova.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Spanish				
Gymnázium Federica Garcíu Lorcu	Bratislava – Podunajské Biskupice	Hronská 3	www.gymhron.sk (in Slovak only)	Public

Bilingual secondary schools – Trnava region

Name	Town	Address	URL	Type
English				
Súkromné gymnázium	Galanta	Hodská 10	www.sbggalanta.sk/ (in Slovak only)	Public
Obchodná akadémia	Trnava	Kukučínova 2	www.oakuktt.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Súkromné bilingválne gymnázium BESST	Trnava	Limbová 3	www.besst.sk	Private
Bilingual secondary schools	Šamorín	Záhradnícka 1006/2	www.qsi.org/slovakia/svk	Private
Gymnázium J. B. Magina	Vrbové	Beňovského 358/100	www.gvrbove.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
German				
Obchodná akadémia	Trnava	Kukučínova 2	www.oakuktt.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public

Bilingual secondary schools – Trenčín region

Name	Town	Address	URL	Type
English				
Stredná odborná škola	Handlová	Lipová 8	www.zssha.edu.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Gymnázium	Myjava	Jablonská 5	www.gymy.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Súkromné gymnázium FUTURUM	Trenčín	Kožušnícka 2	www.sgfuturum.sk (in Slovak only)	Private
French				
Gymnázium Ľudovíta Štúra	Trenčín	1. mája 2	www.gymnaziumtrenacin.sk	Public
Spanish				
Bilingválne slovensko-španielske gymnázium	Nové Mesto nad Váhom	Športová 41	www.bilgymnmv.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public

Bilingual secondary schools – Nitra region

Name	Town	Address	URL	Type
English				
Súkromné gymnázium T. Smaragd	Levice	Ul. SNP 26	www.tsmaragd.sk (in Slovak only)	Private
Gymnázium	Nitra	Gólianova 68	www.gymgolnr.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Obchodná akadémia	Šurany	Námestie hrdinov 7	www.oasurany.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Obchodná akadémia	Zlaté Moravce	Bernoláková 26	www.oazm.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
German				
Súkromné gymnázium	Topoľčany	Gagarinova 1	www.sjgymto.eu (in Slovak only)	Private
Spanish				
Gymnázium	Nitra	Párovská 1	www.gpnr.sk	Public

Bilingual secondary schools – Žilina region

Name	Town	Address	URL	Type
English				
Gymnázium Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana	Čadca	17. novembra 1296	www.gymcadca.eu (in Slovak only)	Public
Obchodná akadémia Dušana Metoda Janotu	Čadca	17. novembra 1296	www.oadmj.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Súkromné gymnázium	Ružomberok	Bystrická cesta 5	https://sukromna-skola.edupage.org/	Private
Evanjelická spojená škola	Liptovský Mikuláš	Komenského 10	www.esslm.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Evanjelická spojená škola	Martin	M. R. Štefánika 17	www.essmt.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Bilingválne gymnázium Milana Hodžu	Sučany	Komenského 215	www.gbass.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Súkromné gymnázium	Žilina	Oravská cesta 11	www.ssag.sk	Private
French				
Bilingválne gymnázium	Žilina	T. Ružičku 3	www.gbza.eu (in Slovak only)	Public
Spanish				
Gymnázium Martina Hattalu	Trstená	Železničiarov 278	https://gmhrstena.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Bilingválne gymnázium	Žilina	T. Ružičku 3	www.gbza.eu (in Slovak only)	Public

Bilingual secondary schools – Banská Bystrica region

Name	Town	Address	URL	Type
English				
Evanjelické gymnázium	Banská Bystrica	Skuteckého 5	www.egymbb.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Gymnázium Andreja Kmetá	Banská Štiavnica	A. Gwerkovej – Göllnerovej 6	www.gymbbs.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Evanjelické gymnázium	Tisovec	Jesenského 836	www.egt.sk	Public
French				
Gymnázium Jozefa Gregora Tajovského	Banská Bystrica	J. G. Tajovského 25	www.gjgt.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
German				
Evanjelické gymnázium	Banská Bystrica	Skuteckého 5	www.egymbb.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Spanish				
Gymnázium Mikuláša Kováča	Banská Bystrica	Mládežnícka 51	https://gmkkb.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Chinese				
Gymnázium Mikuláša Kováča	Banská Bystrica	Mládežnícka 51	https://gmkkb.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public

Bilingual secondary schools – Prešov region

Name	Town	Address	URL	Type
English				
Súkromné gymnázium	Poprad	Rovná 597/15	www.epocha.edupage.org , http://lifeacademy.sk/ (in Slovak only)	Private
Gymnázium	Prešov	Konštantínova 2	www.gk2-po.sk (in Slovak only)	Public

Name	Town	Address	URL	Type
Gymnázium sv. Moniky	Prešov	Tarasa Ševčenka 1	www.gymonika.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Súkromné bilingválne gymnázium	Prešov	Solivarská 28	www.sukromnaskola.sk/sgpo	Private
German				
Spojená škola Dominika Tatarku	Poprad	D. Tatarku 4666/7	www.ssdtp.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Gymnázium	Prešov	Konštantínova 2	www.gk2-po.sk (in Slovak only)	Public

Bilingual secondary schools – Košice region

Name	Town	Address	URL	Type
English				
Súkromné gymnázium FUTURUM	Košice	Grešáková 1	www.sgfuturumke.edupage.sk (in Slovak only)	Private
Gymnázium sv. Edity Steinovej	Košice – Dargovských hrdinov	Charkovská 1	www.gymes.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Súkromná stredná odborná škola	Košice – Dargovských hrdinov	Postupimská 37	www.ssoske.sk (in Slovak only)	Private
Obchodná akadémia	Košice – Sever	Watsonova 61	www.oake.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
QSI International School of Košice	Košice – Sídlisko KVP	Drabova 3	www.qsi.org/slovakia/svk/	Private
Súkromné gymnázium HUMAN	Košice – Sídlisko KVP	Starozagorská 8	www.schoolhuman.eu (in Slovak only)	Private
Evanjelické gymnázium Jana Amosa Komenského	Košice – Staré mesto	Škultétyho 10	www.gjak.sk	Public
Gymnázium	Košice – Vyšné Opátske	Opatovská cesta 7	www.gymopatke.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Gymnázium	Košice – Západ	Trebišovská 12	www.gt12.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Súkromné gymnázium	Košice – Západ	Katkin park 2	www.sgrcr.sk (in Slovak only)	Private
Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika	Rožňava	Akademika Hronca 1	www.gymrv.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Obchodná akadémia	Rožňava	Akademika Hronca 8	www.oarv.edu.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Gymnázium	Spišská Nová Ves	Javorová 16	www.gjavsnv.edu.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
Gymnázium	Trebišov	Komenského 32	www.gymtv.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
French				
Gymnázium Milana Rastislava Štefánika	Košice – Staré Mesto	Nám. L. Novomeského 4	www.gmrsk.sk (in Slovak only)	Public
German				
Gymnázium	Košice – Vyšné Opátske	Opatovská cesta 7	www.gymopatke.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public
Spanish				
Gymnázium	Košice – Sever	Park mládeže 5	http://gpm.edupage.org (in Slovak only)	Public

Information on studies in Spanish in Slovakia can be found at www.mecd.gob.es/eslovaquia (in Spanish only).

After-school activity

Primary or secondary school classes are usually held from 8:00 to 13:30. There are usually educational establishments where pupils of the first stage of primary schools can spend their free time after classes. Attendance is voluntary. Their activities are aimed at developing pupils' talents, preparing for the next day lessons and organising sports activities in general.

Students can attend afterschool clubs run by schools themselves, devoted to various fields of interest, e. g. science, ecology, drama classes, music, sport, photography, etc. Main enrolment/registration days for a particular after-school activity/ programme are usually held in September. For further information contact the respective school.

Apart from that, students can also attend language classes specially designed for their age and interests, leisure and hobby centres, or primary schools of art. (When looking for primary schools of art search for the term "základná umelecká škola" in a standard search engine).

There are so-called Centres of free time ("Centrá voľného času" – CVČ) in all the regions of Slovakia. The list of them can be found on the webpage of Iuventa – Slovak Youth Institute (www.iuventa.sk), or use again the standard search engine.

Many children and youth organisations providing after-school activities are associated with the Youth Council of Slovakia (www.mladez.sk, in Slovak only).

Au-pair service

If you need to babysit your child, you can use the services of one of the many agencies which arrange babysitting for a fee

(for both healthy or sick children, whole day or just afternoon babysitting – with the possibility of being prepared for classes or accompanied to children's clubs, afterschool activities, babysitting in the evenings and at weekends, etc.)

A babysitting charge depends on a type of babysitting (regular, occasional, in a school facility or in the household), on a length of babysitting (short-time or longtime babysitting), as well as on a number of children. The price is 6–10 € per hour.

For further information contact directly particular agencies or consult their websites. A majority of agencies can also provide a babysitter who can speak a foreign language (usually English, German or French). To search for an appropriate agency use a standard search engine.

6.7.2 Higher education

Oldest Slovak Universities

The first university in the territory of presentday Slovakia, Academia Istropolitana (1465–1491), was established in Bratislava during the rule of Matthias Corvinus (1458–1490). In 1635, Peter Pazmany established Trnava University (which was relocated to Budapest in 1777).

The Jesuits founded Košice University in 1657. In 1770, the enlightened, absolutist ruler, Maria Theresa, established the first school of mining in the world – Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica.

Higher Education Institutions

Higher education institutions (HEIs) are third-level educational, scientific and art institutions. The major task of HEIs is to provide higher education and creative scientific research or creative artistic activity.

Higher education institutions are classified by the nature and scope of their activities into university type of HEIs and nonuniversity type of HEIs.

- a) The university type of higher education institutions provides education in study programmes of all 3 levels of higher education (Bachelor, Master, Doctoral level) with a significant portion of study programmes of the second level and study programmes of the third level. Study programmes are carried out in connection with activities of higher education institutions in the field of science, technology or art, and in compliance with the current state of art and development of such fields. The term “university” may only be used in the name of a university type of higher education institution.
- b) The non-university type of higher education institutions provides higher education mostly in the study programmes of the first level of higher education.

Based on founding and funding there are 3 types of HEIs:

- **public** higher education institutions
 - public institutions of higher education are established by law. They are financed mostly by the Government. They are statutory and selfgoverning institutions. At present, there are 20 public institutions of higher education, comprising 9 more or less traditional universities, 5 universities of technology, 3 higher education institutions of art and music, 1 university of economics, 1 university of veterinary medicine and pharmacy, and 1 university of agriculture.
- **state** higher education institutions,
 - state institutions of higher education (3 HEIs) are military, police and medical schools. They are established by law and governed by the state through the respective ministries of

the government. The state HEIs are fully financed from the state budget.

- **private** higher education institutions.
 - private institutions of higher education (13 HEIs) need a state approval issued by the Government of the Slovak Republic. They are established and financed by nongovernmental institutions or founders. Most of the private higher education institutions provide education in the field of economics, business, management, public administration, law, international relations, regional development, medical and social work.

Also **foreign higher education institutions** established and situated in the territory of another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland may provide higher education in accordance with the law of their country of origin in the territory of Slovakia once they have been granted official approval by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

You can find a comprehensive list of HEIs in Slovakia with their websites in the Chapter 3 Research in Slovakia.

Higher education institutions provide higher education within the framework of accredited study programmes. The study programmes are offered at 3 levels. It is possible that an HEI will join the first two levels of higher education into a single whole.

The first level is the Bachelor study programme.

Study programmes of the second level and those of the first two levels of higher education joined into a single whole are:

- Master study programmes,
- Engineer study programmes,
- Doctor study programmes.

Study programmes of the third level are doctoral (PhD) study programmes and specialised trainings in medicine.

All study programmes must be accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

The academic year begins on September 1 of the current year and ends on August 31 of the following year. It is composed of 2 semesters (the winter semester lasts from September to January and the summer semester lasts from February to June). The organisation of academic year is set by the statute of the faculty or statute of the higher education institution.

Teaching process includes lectures, seminars, exercises, laboratory work, projects, practical training, consultations, etc. For the assessment of students' achievements the credit system following the rules of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is used; it was introduced in 2002 for all levels and forms of higher education study. The student's standard work load is expressed by the number of credits: 60 credits per academic year and 30 credits per semester. Every higher education institution determines the total number of credits required for the completion of the study in its respective stages.

Grading is based on the ECTS grading scale:

- A – excellent = 1
- B – very good (above-average achievements) = 1.5
- C – good (average achievements) = 2
- D – laudable (acceptable achievements) = 2.5
- E – satisfactory (achievements fulfil only the minimum criteria) = 3
- FX – unsatisfactory – fail (achievements do not fulfil even the minimum criteria) = 4

Degrees awarded in the Slovak Republic

In accordance with the level of study, higher education institutions award the following academic degrees:

1st level – Bachelor

(comprising app. 180 credits)

- “bakalár“ (abbr. “Bc.”).

2nd level – Master

(comprising app. 120 credits)

- “magister“ (abbr. “Mgr.”), in the field of art “magister umenia“ (abbr. “Mgr. art.”),
- “inžinier“ (abbr. “Ing.”) in technical, agricultural and economic fields of Engineer's programmes, and in the field of architecture and town-planning the academic degree of “inžinier architekt“ (abbr. “Ing. arch.”),
- “doktor medicíny“ (abbr. “MUDr.”) in the field of human medicine,
- “doktor stomatológie“ (abbr. “MDDr.”) – dentists,
- “doktor veterinárskej medicíny“ (abbr. “MVDr.”) in the field of veterinary medicine.

3rd level – PhD (doctoral)

- “philosophiae doctor“ (abbr. “PhD.”),
- “artis doctor“ (abbr. “ArtD.”) in the field of art.

Examina rigorosa

Holders of the academic degree of “magister“ may take examina rigorosa, which includes also the defence of a rigorosa thesis. After its successful completion the higher education institutions award the following academic degrees:

- “doktor prírodných vied“ (abbr. “RNDr.”) in natural science study programmes,
- “doktor farmácie“ (abbr. “PharmDr.”) in pharmacy study programmes,
- “doktor filozofie“ (abbr. “PhDr.”) in social science and art science study programmes,

- “doktor práv” (abbr. “JUDr. ”) in law study programmes,
- “doktor pedagogiky” (abbr. “PaedDr.”) in teacher training and sports study programmes,
- “doktor teológie” (abbr. “ThDr.”) in theological study programmes except for the study programmes in the field of Catholic Theology.

6.8 Electrical appliances and computers

In Slovakia, 230 V/50 Hz electrical system is used and appliances are designed for a round pin plug and receptacle (socket) with male grounding pin. For safety and to avoid damage to electrical appliances, it is important to bring equipment designed for the abovementioned frequency and voltage, and use dual voltage equipment or voltage converters/transformers. Moreover, plug adapter will also be needed, if your device is constructed for other standards.

For those bringing US standard equipment, an earthed (grounded) stepdown transformer is necessary for US computers, monitors and printers. Even with the most expensive transformers, one should always monitor the electrical supply. Most printers will need an adapter, but not all adapters are recommended for printers.

6.9 Hiking and tourism

With its varied terrain, the Slovak Republic is a hiker’s paradise. It is crisscrossed with valleys, basins, lowlands and hills. It is a country full of natural beauty. The biggest and bestknown mountains are Tatras (“Tatry”) – a national symbol.



Mountains

The Tatra Mountains are divided into “Západné” (Western), “Vysoké” (High), “Belianske” and “Nízke” (Low). High Tatras (“Vysoké Tatry”) mountains are situated in the northern part of Slovakia, on the border with Poland. In 1949, it was declared to be the first Slovak national park (Tatra National Park – TANAP) and in 1993 it was, together with the Polish part of the Tatras mountains, declared by the UNESCO to be the “Biospheric reservation of the Tatras”. High Tatras, often called “the smallest alpine mountains”, include 25 peaks reaching the height of over 2,000 m. Some of the highest and most beautiful peaks in the range are “Kriváň” (2,494 m), “Gerlachovský štít” (2,655 m), “Slavkovský štít” (2,452 m) and “Lomnický štít” (2,632 m).

The Tatra National Park (TANAP) contains protected flora and fauna. The beauty of the National Park is enhanced by natural mountain lakes (“pleso”) that formed during the ice age. The largest of these is “Veľké Hincovo pleso”, while “Štrbské pleso”, “Modré pleso”, “Zamrznuté pleso” and “Zelené pleso” are amongst the most picturesque. Many waterfalls can also be found here, of which the most celebrated are “Obrovský” and “Kmeťov” waterfalls. 350 km of marked tourist paths are available for hikers. Different ski resorts with ski lifts, chair lifts, cableways and cable railway are on offer for downhill

skiing. There are also several crosscountry skiing centres and official mountaineering skiing trails available.

If you are more interested in shorter strolls, we recommend you to visit the Pieniny National Park (PIENAP), situated to the east of “Vysoké Tatry”. The most popular attraction is a fork in the River Dunajec, where rafting in 9 km long Dunajec Canyon (Dunajec gorge) from the Red Monastery to Lesnica is on offer.

More information:

- website of the Tatra National Park (TANAP) – www.tanap.org
- website of the municipality Vysoké Tatry – www.vysoketatry.sk (in Slovak only)
- website of the Slovak Tourist Board – www.slovakia.travel

Low Tatras (“Nízke Tatry”) is the second highest mountain range in Slovakia and lies between the Váh and Hron (rivers) valleys. The highest peaks are “Dumbier” (2,043 m) and “Chopok” (2,024 m), from which there is an unmatched view of the surrounding landscape. The National park of Low Tatras has also been established there (NAPANT).

More information:

- website of the National park of Low Tatras (NAPANT) – www.napant.sk
- website of the Slovak Tourist Board – www.slovakia.travel

Other natural attractions are:

- Slovak Paradise (“Slovenský raj”) – national park situated in the eastern part of Slovakia,
- “Slovenský kras” – the largest karst region in Central Europe,
- “Malá” and “Veľká Fatra” – mountains,
- “Súľovské skaly” – rocky massif formed into shapes of towers, cones, needles, gates, a unique phenomenon in the territory of Western Carpathian Mountains,

- “Muránska planina” – plateau with a unique flora and fauna, including wild horses.

Hiking signs and mountain rescue service

In Slovakia, there are numerous hiking routes, which are easy to follow thanks to colour symbols along the way. The hiking (trekking) routes are mostly marked by 3 horizontal stripes forming a square, 2 white stripes at borders to draw attention and a coloured one (red, blue, green or yellow)

in the middle to indicate the route. If necessary the striped square takes the form of a striped arrow to indicate a change in the direction of the route.

The lengths of the routes are given as average hiking times or as a distance in kilometres at frequent signposts. To see the used hiking symbols, please, visit the website of the Club of Slovak Tourists at www.kst.sk (in Slovak only, section “Značenie”, subsection “O značkovaní”).



To find out about the current situation and seasonal closings of the hiking routes better watch the warnings by the Mountain rescue service: www.hzs.sk or www.holidayinfo.sk. A person who goes to mountains is obliged to have a special mountain insurance in order to cover costs of emergency by the mountain rescue services. Several insurance companies provide such insurance and often it is possible to get the insurance online or by phone and even 1 day prior to the hiking tour. See the list of insurance companies: www.hzs.sk/poistenie/ (in Slovak).

Walks

- In Bratislava region (official website of the city of Bratislava – www.bratislava.sk, Bratislava Guide – www.bratislavaguide.com), you can use your free time for walks in the historical centre of the capital, its cobbled streets and squares, visit Bratislava or Devín Castle, St. Martin's Cathedral, Church and Convent of the Order of St. Clare, Trinity Church, St. Elizabeth's Church (so-called Blue Church) or other churches, Michael's Gate or Primatial Palace, Old Town Hall, Grassalkovich Palace – the seat of the president. You can visit also surrounding towns and villages, make a trip to hills like "Malé Karpaty", cycling expeditions along the Small Carpathian Wine Route ("Malokarpatská vínna cesta", www.mvc.sk) or you can go cycling along the Morava and Danube Rivers. Do not forget to visit thermal spas and museums in this area.
- In Trnava region (www.trnava.sk), visit the historic town of Trnava and make a trip to the hills of the "Malé Karpaty" and the Driny cave – the only cave open to the public in the western part of the country. You can also visit nearby castles of "Červený kameň" (Red Stone), "Smolenice" or castle ruins of "Dechtice". In Trnava region, there is also a popular spa resort of Piešťany.
- In Nitra region (www.nitra.sk), in addition to Nitra's historic treasures (Nitra castle, Franciscan Church and Monastery, Small and Grand Seminary, Romanesque Church of St. Michael Archangel in Drážovce from 12th century), visit nearby thermal spas in Diakovec.
- In Trenčín region (www.trencin.sk), use your stay for a walk around the town (Trenčín Castle, Roman inscription from 2nd century) or a trip to such hills as the "Biele Karpaty", as well as the "Strážovské vrchy" and "Považský Inovec". If you like spa resorts, you should definitely pay a visit to Trenčianske Teplice. In Trenčín region, near the town of Prievidza, lies an enchanting neogothic castle of Bojnice (www.bojnicecastle.sk).
- In Banská Bystrica region (www.banskabystrica.sk), you can enjoy the town's beauty (town castle complex, Square of the Slovak National Uprising, Monument of the Slovak National Uprising), trips to hills and such ranges as "Starohorské vrchy", Low Tatras ("Nízke Tatry") and "Veľká Fatra" or "Kremnické vrchy". Do not miss the historical mining towns of Banská Štiavnica and Kremnica. Near Banská Štiavnica lies the town of Saint Anton dominated by a baroque-classicist manor house.
- In Zvolen area (www.zvolen.sk), you can admire a stunning landscape of hills like "Kremnické vrchy", "Štiavnické vrchy" and "Vtáčnik". The spa resorts of Kováčová and Sliach offer relaxation after a long hike. Directly in town Zvolen you can visit also Zvolen Castle and Castle Pustý hrad, which belongs to the largest castles in Central Europe.
- In Žilina region (www.zilina.sk), you can seize the day by walking in the town (long pedestrian zone, Square of Virgin Mary, church of St. Stephen in Rudiny from 13th century, Budatin Castle), visiting small villages, or hike in the hills as "Malá Fatra", "Súľovské vrchy" or relax in the spa resort of Rajecké Teplice.
- In Ružomberok area (www.ruzomberok.sk, in Slovak only), there are beautiful villages near Ružomberok offering hikes up the hills and the "Veľká Fatra", Low Tatras ("Nízke Tatry") and "Chočské vrchy" ranges. The mineral springs of Kúpele Lúčky provide refreshment to everyone; an open thermal pool in Bešeňová offers possibility of yearround swimming.
- In Prešov region (www.presov.sk, in Slovak only), you can walk in the town (Uniate Bishop's Palace, Uniate

Cathedral Temple of St. John the Baptist, Klobusiczky Palace, Church of St. Nicholas, Salt Refinery – unique historic technical objects in drawing and cooking salt from brine), visit nearby villages or towns or take a trip to the areas of Sigord and Cemjata, as well as to the hills (“Slanské vrchy”) or relax at the Domaša reservoir. Be sure not to overlook Libanka with its opal mines. The town of Levoča (www.levoca.sk) is famous for its gothic art (wooden altars and statues) by the workshop of Master Pavol, the sculptor.

- In Košice region (www.kosice.sk), visit the Košice town (St. Elizabeth's Cathedral, St. Michael's Chapel, Saint Urban's Tower), the second largest town in Slovakia. The village of Herľany offers a unique cold geyser and mineral springs to relax by. Excursions to the surrounding countryside are not complete without seeing the Zemplínska šírava region, while wine lovers should certainly pay a visit to the wine cellars of the Tokay region, such as those in Malá Trňa or Veľká Trňa.

Castles

The country's historic and architecturally precious buildings are also great tourist attractions. The first castles were built at the territory of the Slovak Republic in the 10th century at the strategically important locations. In those times, it was necessary to protect the border areas against attacks of invaders and to prevent their entering into the country. In addition to guarding services, a system of castles was used also to guard the most important roads. A protecting system of castles in the Považie region protected crossings over the Váh River. The most extensive construction of stone castles in Slovakia started immediately after the Tartars invasion in the middle of the 13th century and lasted till the half of the 14th century.

New stone forts were built in the place of original wooden castles or near them, but new castles were built as well. Most of the Slovak castles were built before the half of the 15th century. The nobility got the royal property step by step either as advance payment for a loan given to a monarch or for extraordinary and loyal services to the king. In the period of humanism and renaissance, the system of the castles gradually lost its military and strategic importance and aristocratic families started to move from castles to manor houses and to the towns. In this period, a lot of castles were demolished, burned and others fell into disrepair after inhabitants moved out. At present, many of the castles are reconstructed and are open to the public. See website of the Slovak Tourist Board – www.slovakia.travel

Caves

There are many karst regions in the Slovak Republic. There are more than 6,200 caves in Slovakia, including ten stalactite caves, two ice caves and one aragonite cave that are open to the public (Slovak Caves Administration – www.ssj.sk).

In different mountain areas you can find beautiful caves: in Nízke Tatry – Demänovská jaskyňa slobody, Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa, Bystrianska jaskyňa and Važecká jaskyňa; in Belianske Tatry – Belianska jaskyňa; in Slovenský kras – Domica, Jasovská jaskyňa and





Gombasecká jaskyňa; in Malé Karpaty – Driny; in Slovenský raj – Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa; in Veľká Fatra – Harmanecká jaskyňa; in Slovenské rudohorie – Ochtinská aragonitová jaskyňa.

Spas

Spa treatment has a long history thanks to the country's large number of mineral springs. Some of them are mentioned under "Walks". See e.g. www.slovakia.com/spas/, www.kupele.org (in Slovak)

More information: website of the Slovak Tourist Board – www.slovakia.travel

Slovakia and UNESCO World Heritage

Places included on the UNESCO List of the World Heritage and the UNESCO List of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity:

Cultural Monuments

- Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve (www.bardejov.sk, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/973>),
- Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and the Technical Monuments in its Vicinity (www.banskastiavnica.sk, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/618>),
- Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments (www.spisskyhrad.sk) – the most

extensive fortress in Central Europe and monuments in its surroundings, and historic town-centre of Levoča (www.levoca.sk, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/620>),

- Vlkolínec – a Monument Reserve of Folk Architecture (www.vlkolinec.sk, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/622>) – a remarkably intact settlement of 45 traditional log houses,
- Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area – two Roman Catholic, three Protestant and three Greek Orthodox churches built between the 16th and 18th centuries (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1273>).

Natural Monuments

- Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst – the greatest karst region in Central Europe. Caves open to the public: Dobšinská Ice Cave, Domica Cave, Gombasecká Cave, Jasovská Cave, Krásnohorská Cave, Ochtinská Aragonite Cave (www.ssj.sk/jaskyne, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/725>).
- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133>)

Intangible Heritage

- **Bagpipes** – bagpipe culture consists of a wide range of expressions and knowledge associated with bagpipes and their use, including music repertoire, style and ornamentation, songs, dances, instrument-making, folk customs and traditions and special verbal expressions (www.gajdy.sk, in Slovak only).
- Fajara and its music – musical instrument that can be found only in Slovakia. It is almost 2 m long, deep-bass folk flute with three finger holes (www.fujara.sk, www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00011&RL=00099).



- Music of Terchová – traditional musical culture in the village of Terchová in northwest Slovakia (www.terchova.sk, in Slovak only; <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/music-of-terchova-00877>).

More information:

Website of the UNESCO –

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/sk>

Website of the Slovak Tourist Board –

www.slovakia.travel

6.10 Language

Slovak is the official language and belongs to the West Slavic subgroup of the Indo-European language family, and uses the Roman script. It does not differ significantly from Czech, and comprehension in both languages is rather common. The majority of the population of the Slovak Republic (86 %) speaks Slovak as their mother tongue. The second most widely spoken mother tongue is Hungarian.

The most widely spoken foreign languages are English, German, Russian, Hungarian and French. The young urban population is generally considered to be the most linguistically proficient. Foreign languages are sometimes taught at kindergarten, while foreign language learning, usually English, is compulsory in primary schools (from 3th till 9th grade) and in secondary schools. There are some primary and secondary schools that conduct classes in foreign languages such as Hungarian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. Private language schools offer many possibilities for children, young people and adults to learn foreign languages.

Slovak language courses

To familiarise yourself with the Slovak language, you can use a free online portal www.slovake.eu, which offers Slovak language courses at different levels (A1 and A2), grammar, exercises or games.

Some universities and research institutions organise Slovak language courses for their international students/researchers, e. g. the **Institute for Language and Academic Preparation for Foreigners and Compatriots of the Comenius University** (www.cdv.uniba.sk/en) and the **Methodical Centre of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica** (www.umb.sk).

For more information, please, contact the International Relations Office of the respective higher education institution.

Nationals of countries outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland can attend a free of charge “Open Course of Slovak Language for Foreigners” organised in Bratislava and Košice by **IOM Migration Information Centre**. More information can be found at <http://mic.iom.sk/en>.

Foreigners can also attend courses of the Slovak language at several **private language schools** that provide education at all levels of language proficiency: beginner, intermediate, advanced. They offer group tuition or individual courses tailored to the clients' individual needs. The courses are aimed at mastering all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The courses are usually held twice a week, 2 standard lessons (90 min. in total) per session. Private language schools offering courses of Slovak are, for example, Academy of Education (www.akademiazdelavania.sk, in Slovak only), Eurolingua (www.eurolingua.sk), Berlitz (www.berlitz.sk) or other smaller private language schools.

Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture – Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS)

The summer school SAS is aimed at all those studying Slovak language and culture and towards all Slavists in general. The intensive programme is suitable especially for university or college professors, experienced teachers, postgraduates and advanced undergraduates of Slovak and Slavonic studies, to writers, translators and all others interested in Slovak language and culture. The summer course lasts 3 weeks and takes place in August.

Bilateral intergovernmental agreements often offer scholarships for participation in this oldest Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture in Slovakia, organised by Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS) – The Centre for Slovak as a Foreign Language.

More information available at: www.fphil.uniba.sk/sas.

6.11 Libraries

There is 1 National Library, 8 scientific libraries, 33 academic libraries, 2,598 public libraries, 357 special libraries and 4,554 school libraries in Slovakia. The University Library in Bratislava, founded in 1919, contains more than 2 million volumes and is the country's most important library. The Slovak National Library (1863), located in Martin, includes a collection of materials relating to Slovak culture.

A portal to catalogues and collections of Slovak libraries can be found at www.kis3g.sk.

A database of the Slovak libraries can be found at www.infolib.sk/sk/kniznice/adresare/zoznam-kniznic-sr/ (in Slovak only); some of them (national and scientific libraries) can be consulted through their websites:

- Central Library of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava www.uk.sav.sk (in Slovak only)
- National Library of Slovakia, Martin www.snk.sk
- State scientific library, Banská Bystrica www.svkkb.eu (in Slovak only)
- State scientific library, Košice www.svkk.sk
- State scientific library, Prešov www.svppo.sk
- Slovak Medical Library, Bratislava www.sllk.sk
- Slovak Pedagogic Library, Bratislava www.spgk.sk (in Slovak only)
- Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Bratislava (Specialised Scientific Library) www.cvtisr.sk
- Slovak Library of Economics of the University of Economics in Bratislava www.sek.euba.sk (in Slovak only)
- Slovak Library of Forestry and Wood Sciences of the Technical University

in Zvolen <https://sldk.tuzvo.sk/en/slovak-library-forestry-and-wood-sciences>

- Slovak Agricultural Library of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra www.slpk.sk
- University Library in Bratislava www.ulib.sk

In general, users of the library's research areas, including Computer Catalogue Centres and Copyright Office public service areas, are each required to have a Reader Identification Card issued by the library. You need to have a reader's card also to borrow books. It can be obtained by presenting a valid state-issued identification card or passport.

Usually, there are annual charges for using library services (around 6 €). New researchers should register in person at Central Registration Station Desks. Libraries do not accept registrations via mail, email or telephone.

Almost all media available at the libraries can be found in the on-line catalogues (LIBRIS, BIBLIS or WebOPAC system) that allow you to search according to various factors. You can see where the publication is located and whether it can be borrowed, viewed in the reading room, or is already signed out. It is also possible to access electronic journals through university servers.

The borrowing period is normally four weeks. Renewal may be usually made up to three times, provided no one has placed a hold on the item(s). After the third renewal, the item must be returned to the library.

Libraries in Slovakia usually have public Internet points. The terms of their usage may vary from library to library, but generally using a computer is free of charge, in some cases a fee may be asked.

Sometimes the usage terms limit the amount of time that a computer may be used per day or week by one person.

Scientific Library at the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information is a specialised scientific public library (www.cvtisr.sk/en/scientific-library/about-the-library.html?page_id=722) and provides access to both paper and electronic collections of documents within the technical category and some categories of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities from Slovakia and abroad. Electronic resources can be accessed remotely for holders of a valid library card (after registration).

6.12 Living costs

Prices provided below give an idea of how much it costs to live in Slovakia. These costs are only approximate and they are a subject of change.

Rent

- Guest room at a students' dormitory: from 12 € per night
- 1 bedroom flat: from 300 € per month including utilities (in larger towns the prices are higher, especially in town centres)
- 2 bedroom flat: from 400 € per month including utilities

Food

- Lunch at a canteen: from 1.60 €
- Restaurant meal: from 5 €
- Pizza in a pizzeria: from 4 €
- 1 litre of milk: 0.80 €
- 1 litre of mineral water: 0.40 €
- Loaf of bread: 0.80 €
- 400 g spaghetti: 0.80 €
- Beer: 1.20 €

Transportation

- Local transport, basic ticket (single journey): from 0.50 € – 1.40 €

- Local transport, monthly ticket/travel pass: from 20 €
- Taxi within Bratislava: app. 0.60 € per km (minimum fare from 4 €)
- Petrol per litre: from 1.30 €
- Diesel per litre: from 1.20 €

Coaches

- Bratislava – Košice, 445 km, from 21 €
- Bratislava – Žilina, 203 km, from 9.50 €
- Bratislava – Banská Bystrica, 230 km, from 10 €

Trains

- Bratislava – Košice: from 18.50 €
- Bratislava – Žilina: from 10 €
- Bratislava – Banská Bystrica: from 10 €

Having fun

- Cinema ticket: 3 – 8 €
- Museum ticket: from 1 €
- Theatre ticket: 3.50 – 20 € for drama, 4 – 35 € for opera and ballet
- Fitness centre ticket: from 3 €
- Swimming pool ticket: from 1.50 €
- Rent a bike: from 8.80 € per day

6.13 Healthcare

The healthcare system in Slovakia falls under the competence of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (www.health.gov.sk). In Slovakia, there are state and private health care providers. An initial medical examination in case of an illness is provided by state or private general practitioners (“všeobecný lekár”). Everybody can choose a general practitioner who usually provides basic health care and can refer a patient to an appropriate specialist for further medical examination or treatment.

In general, you do not need an appointment to see a general practitioner. It is advised to arrive early in the morning/beginning, before the doctor’s office

hours, in order to join a waiting list for the particular day (sometimes there are numbered cards available in the waiting room and their number per day is limited). If you need to see a specialist, you have to ask your general practitioner for a referral card first, unless the specialist is a dentist, gynaecologist, psychiatrist, dermatologist or an ophthalmologist (only in case of glasses prescription); otherwise, the specialist will not admit you. The referral card is only necessary for the first consultation of the specialist.

If you are an EU/EEA/Swiss national you are entitled to health care under the same conditions as the nationals of the Slovak Republic. For entitlement to medical treatment on the basis of **health insurance in another Member State** (EU, EEA, Switzerland), you must present a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** to the health care provider (EHIC will be issued at your request by a health insurance company to which you pay health insurance premiums). In such case, the treatment will be covered by a Slovak health insurance company to the same amount as a Slovak national, provided the relevant physician has concluded a contract with at least one health insurance company.

If you are from outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland and you want to use the services of Slovak healthcare system, these may be covered either by direct payment (usually cash, or using a card, if available) or by health insurance. There may be various types of health insurance – public or commercial, Slovak or foreign. For more information refer to the chapter *5.4 Social security and Health insurance*. If you have health insurance (which has to be demonstrated by showing a health insurance company ID card or other relevant document to a nurse/doctor), the health care provided is paid for by the insurance company. Depending on the type

of service provided, the health insurance company will pay for this service either in full or partially. If the health insurance company pays for the service only partially, the rest is paid directly to the health care provider. If you do not have health insurance, you must pay the full amount for healthcare provided.

Doctors

General practitioners and specialists have their consulting rooms in hospitals (“nemocnica”) or in health centres (“poliklinika”). You do not necessarily have to register with a local doctor when you first arrive but it may be useful to get information and contacts before you need one.

A list of general practitioners in Slovakia can be found at www.zzz.sk/zariadenia/slovensko/praktickyekardospeli (in Slovak only, but the contact details are comprehensible).

The list of specialists according to the specialization can be found at www.zzz.sk/kategorie/slovensko.

The list of health care providers according to the specialization may be found also in the web catalogue at www.azet.sk/katalog/zdravotnicke-zariadenia/ (in Slovak only).

Dentists

In every town there is either a private or state dental practice (“zubár”, “stomatológ”). Upon arrival you should ask for details of the chosen dentist. However, even if you have insurance, part of the treatment is usually not covered and it is charged directly to the patient after the care has been provided. It is usually essential to book an appointment with a dentist in advance.

Find a dentist in a list at www.zzz.sk/zariadenia/slovensko/zubna (in Slovak only).

Hospitals

In every university town there is a hospital (“nemocnica”). Normally you are referred there by your general practitioner, specialist, or an emergency service, who will explain what you need to do and where to go.

List of hospitals can be found at www.zzz.sk/zariadenia/slovensko/nemocnica (in Slovak only).

Emergency

If you need emergency services (“záchranná služba”), dial telephone number “112”, which is an integrated number for all services. The dispatchers should be able to speak English. You may also call telephone number “155”, which is used exclusively for medical emergencies, or local emergency ambulance services that you can see below. Ambulances are well staffed and equipped with lifesustaining apparatus needed to safely transport patients to hospital. Hospitals provide 24hour emergency services. If your condition is not apparently life-threatening but you still need medical services after working hours of your physician, you can go to “pohotovosť” or “urgentný príjem”, an Accident and Emergency department, which can be found in a local hospital or a specialised clinic. It usually opens in the afternoon hours and closes in the evening or remains open overnight (depending on the particular city or hospital). You will be charged a small fee to use this service.

Some emergency health care providers can be found at www.4expat.eu/en/information/health-care (a list of emergency medical care providers in Bratislava).

Important telephone numbers:

- Integrated emergency rescue system: 112 (communication in foreign languages possible)
- Emergency ambulance service: 155
- Rescue line (Reťaz Života Foundation): +421/850 11 13 13. A doctor will advise you how to provide the first aid prior to the arrival of the medical rescue team.

Emergency ambulance telephone numbers:

- Emergency ambulance service in Banská Bystrica: +421-48-414 66 66
- Emergency ambulance service in Bratislava region: +421-2-62 25 09 44 (street Strečnianska), +421-2-48 27 92 57 (clinic Ružinov)
- Emergency ambulance service in Nitra: +421-37-654 52 88, +421-37-651 42 59
- Emergency ambulance service in Košice: +421-55-161 83
- Emergency ambulance service in Prešov: 051-773 22 20, 051-773 34 44
- Emergency ambulance service in Trenčín: +421-32-656 67 11, +421-32-649 19 19
- Emergency ambulance service in Trnava: +421-33-553 61 03
- Emergency ambulance service in Žilina region: +421-415 11 04 38, +421-41-723 33 83 (street V. Spanyola), +421-41-569 36 66 (street Osloboditeľov).
- Pediatric doctors emergency home visit in Bratislava and surrounding – in the evenings and weekends – commercial service – (annual or single home visit payment) – www.vydepo.sk/index_en.php, +421-904-00 80 90

Pharmacies

You can buy medicine only in pharmacies (“lékáreň”), located in every town and in some villages (they are marked with a green cross). Every town has to have at least one emergency pharmacy (“pohotovostná lekáreň”) open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – for further details

consult the information posted on the door of every pharmacy. If you require treatment at night, look for the sign “nočná služba”. Pharmacies sell domestic and foreign medical products. Certain medicine can be obtained only with a prescription from a physician. For a list of pharmacies, please, visit this page: www.zzz.sk/zariadenia/slovensko/lekaren (in Slovak only).

6.14 Other services**Car rental**

In Slovakia, there are many car rental companies. Prices depend on the period over which the car is rented and the type of the car. Contact details of car rental companies are available at www.rentalcars.com and the Green Pages <http://greenpages.spectator.sme.sk>.

Laundry and dry cleaning service

At present, there are several laundrettes in Slovakia (“práčovňa”) – e.g. www.cent.sk (in Slovak only); www.pramako.sk/samoobsluzne-pracovne (in Slovak only); www.flipperwash.sk. You can also use home laundry facilities or commercial laundries that wash and iron clothing and linen for their clients. There are many dry cleaning services (“čistiareň”) or even fast dry cleaners (nearly in every shopping centre). Some of them also provide leather/suede/fur cleaning and dyeing.

6.15 Public holidays

The following days are official public holidays:

- January 1 (Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic)
- January 6 (Epiphany)
- March/April (Good Friday, Easter Monday, set according to the Christian Calendar, check the concrete dates of the respective year after arrival)

- May 1 (Labour Day)
- May 8 (Day of victory over fascism – End of World War II in Europe)
- July 5 (St. Cyril and St. Methodius Day)
- August 29 (Slovak National Uprising Anniversary)
- September 1 (Day of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic)
- September 15 (Day of the Virgin Mary of the Seven Sorrows, patron saint of Slovakia – the Blessed Virgin Mary)
- November 1 (All Saints' Day)
- November 17 (Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day)
- December 24 (Christmas Eve)
- December 25 (Christmas Day)
- December 26 (St. Stephen's Day)

People usually do not work on these days; banks, post offices, shops, healthcare professionals consulting rooms are closed; some public transport offers a reduced service (esp. buses and trains). Only some restaurants or cafés might be open.

6.16 Regional and local administration

Within the launch of decentralisation as of January 1, 2002 a regional level of self government was established. The Slovak Republic territory is divided into 8 higher territorial units/selfgoverning regions, 79 districts and 2927 municipalities. There is no hierarchy between both levels of local selfgovernment (selfgoverning regions and municipalities). Both levels have their own elected officials, distributed duties and liabilities. Some duties are divided between the state and self government.

Regional Administration

- Banská Bystrica higher territorial unit www.vucbb.sk (in Slovak only)
- Bratislava higher territorial unit www.region-bsk.sk

- Košice higher territorial unit <http://web.vucke.sk>
- Nitra higher territorial unit www.unsk.sk
- Prešov higher territorial unit www.po-kraj.sk
- Trenčín higher territorial unit www.tsk.sk
- Trnava higher territorial unit www.trnava-vuc.sk
- Žilina higher territorial unit www.zask.sk

Local Administration

Local administration in the Slovak Republic is directed by municipalities. Every town has its own town hall and administration headed by a city mayor. Every village has a community office headed by a mayor. Many towns and villages have their own websites, where you can find useful information about local sightseeing, seats of public bodies, accommodation, current weather, etc. Here is a sample list of the biggest towns and their websites:

- Banská Bystrica www.banskabystrica.sk
- Bratislava www.bratislava.sk
- Komárno www.komarno.sk
- Košice www.kosice.sk
- Liptovský Mikuláš www.mikulas.sk
- Martin www.martin.sk
- Nitra www.nitra.sk
- Poprad www.poprad.sk
- Prešov www.presov.sk (in Slovak only)
- Ružomberok www.ruzomberok.sk
- Trnava www.trnava.sk
- Trenčín www.trencin.sk
- Zvolen www.zvolen.sk
- Žilina www.zilina.sk

6.17 Religion

The Slovak Republic is by tradition a religious country; the first Christian bishopric was established in the 9th century in Nitra. At present, several legal norms regulate the freedom of conscience and religion, and provide a guarantee for general respect of these fundamental human rights and freedoms. According

to the Slovak Constitution, “Freedom of thought, conscience, creed and religion will be guaranteed. This right will include the right to change religion or creed”.

Religious Services

There are services available in foreign languages (mainly in English, German and Hungarian) all over the country (for more information, please, consult your church; for Bratislava, some information on church service in English is available at:

www.bratislavaguide.com/english-religious-services-bratislava).

List of registered Churches in the Slovak Republic:

- Apostolic Church
- Bahá'í Community
- Baptist Union
- Brethren Church
- Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities
- Christian Corps
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Czechoslovak Hussite Church
- Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession
- Greek (Byzantine) Catholic Church
- New Apostolic Church
- Old Catholic Church
- Orthodox Church
- Reformed Christian Church
- Religious Society of Jehovah's Witnesses
- Roman Catholic Church
- Seventh-day Adventists Church
- United Methodist Church

6.18 Shopping

Souvenirs include pottery, porcelain, wooden carvings, hand-embroidered clothing and straw figures and food items. There is a number of excellent shops specialising in glass and crystal goods, while various associations of regional artists and craftsmen run their own boutiques.

Most shops are open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 18:00, till noon on Saturdays and are closed on Sundays. However, there are no strict regulations and many shops are open longer and some for 7 days a week, esp. supermarkets, hypermarkets and shopping centres and souvenir shops in city centres. There is a possibility of online shopping, too.

6.19 Sport

Summer Sports

In Slovakia, there is a wide range of facilities for summer sports. The most popular are cycling, water sports and hiking. Large reservoirs such as Zemplínska šírava, Oravská priehrada, Liptovská Mara, Sĺňava near Piešťany, Ružín at the River Hornád, and Domaša at the River Ondava along with artificial lakes like Slnečné jazerá near Senec and Zlaté piesky in Bratislava offer visitors a chance to enjoy water sports. Many Slovak rivers are navigable and canoeing is very popular amongst young people. Horse riding is becoming more popular, with stables for public existing in many towns. Mountaineering, hill-walking, white water rafting, adrenaline sports and paragliding are only some of the ways to spend a weekend in the mountains. Another very popular activity is camping or renting cottages, and hiking (trekking) in the mountains. For those who prefer green lawns and white sport dress there are many possibilities to play tennis at tennis clubs, at public courts or golf in clubs or resorts.

More information:

www.holidayinfo.sk,
<http://rivers.raft.cz/slovensko>,
www.panorama.sk/en/slovakia/,
www.golf.sk/eng,
www.slovak-republic.org/sport/golf/

Winter Sports

Thanks to its mountainous nature, Slovakia offers great opportunities for downhill and crosscountry skiing, as well as snowboarding. The mountains enjoy over 80 days of snow per year which often reaches a level of 2 m in the "Nízke" and "Vysoké Tatry" (Low and High Tatras). In these high mountain regions, there is snow on the ground for 130 days each year. Remember that children under 15 are obliged to wear a helmet. Ice hockey and iceskating are also very popular sports that can be practised in closed stadiums, as well as outdoors.

Mountain Rescue Service Insurance

As of July 1, 2006 tourists bear the cost of search and rescue operations they require the Mountain Rescue Service ("Horská záchranná služba" – HZS) to conduct, excluding the costs covered by health insurance. Insurance companies offer products that cover the potential risk. You can conduct the insurance online or via SMS. For more information, please, consult a commercial insurance company (e.g. Allianz – Slovenská poisťovňa www.allianzsp.sk, in Slovak only; Union www.union.sk; Kooperatíva www.kooperativa.sk, in Slovak only) You can also download a mobile rescue app allowing calls to be made to the emergency call number 18 300 of the Mountain Rescue Service and emergency SMS sent, using the the current GPS position to quickly locate the caller in the mountain environment. Using the application, you get fresh information on avalanche danger and alerts in individual mountains in Slovakia For details see <http://slovakia.travel/en/mountain-rescue-service>.

More information:

www.hzs.sk – Mountain Rescue Service (in Slovak only), Emergency number: 18 300
www.onthesnow.sk (in Slovak only)
www.holidayinfo.sk

Indoor Sports

Sports centres offer opportunities for fitness, aerobics and other activities. These centres are often equipped with saunas, solaria and masseurs, and many also offer body care services, such as cosmetic and pedicure facilities. Some towns also have indoor swimming pools that provide opportunities for swimming, saunas and massages.

You can also rent a gym-hall to play squash, indoor football, volleyball, basketball, handball, etc. These gyms are mostly associated with a primary or secondary school, or a university faculty.

More information:

www.sportslovakia.sk

6.20 Transport

Travel by train

Trains in the Slovak Republic are safe and comfortable way of travel. There are 7 different types of trains:

Os	Passenger train ("osobný vlak")
Zr	Semi-fast train ("zrýchlený vlak")
R	Fast train ("rýchlik")
Ex	Express
IC	InterCity
EC	EuroCity (international)
SC	SuperCity (international)
EN	EuroNight train

How to find a connection and buy a ticket

The websites of the Slovak Railways www.slovakrail.sk or www.zsr.sk provide information on time schedule, prices, duration and whether you have to switch the trains at any point. The websites www.cp.sk and www.vlakbus.sk provide a complex travel itinerary. Here you can choose the means of public transport

(bus, train, town public transport), but also search for optimal combination of them to find the shortest journey.

Tickets can be bought at the train station ticket offices or at some train stations in ticket machines. If applicable, the teller may ask what type of train you would prefer (see the table above). To guarantee a seat, it is possible to buy a seat reservation (“miestenska”), since the trains may be crowded, especially on Fridays and Sundays, when students travel to and from schools.

International trains run several times a day from several train stations in the country. In most of them a seat reservation is mandatory. For some trains it is also possible to buy a ticket online at the website www.slovakrail.sk.

Zero-fare public rail transport services in Slovakia

Children aged under 15, students under 26, pensioners receiving social security income under 62, as well as seniors over 62 years of age with the EU/EEA citizenship or residence are entitled to zero-fare transport services. Eligible passengers are required to register at the Slovak Railways cash desks or via internet. Upon registration, they will obtain their rail customer cards that will allow them to travel for free. Students from the countries outside the EU/EEA can also get a zero-fare ticket once they have submitted the confirmation of enrolment for the current academic year at an HEI in Slovakia together with an official translation to Slovak language and their ID card or passport. Zero-fare tickets are passenger specific and apply to the trains of all categories operated by the Slovak Railways (apart from IC and private trains, e.g. Regiojet). Eligible passengers are required to secure a one-time zero-fare ticket for each journey. For Eurocity train transit there is a surcharge of 1 € and when

traveling abroad the zero-fare transport is available only to the last train station on the territory of the Slovak Republic before crossing a border. To find out more, visit www.slovakrail.sk/en/zero-fare.html.

You can also travel by private rail carriers such as Regiojet. Tickets can be purchased at the Regiojet cash desks or online via www.regiojet.sk

Travel by coach

While the trains are more comfortable, coaches are sometimes more direct; they connect most of the towns and villages in Slovakia, and are reliable and satisfactory. The first thing is to check out the website www.cp.sk or www.vlakbus.sk where you can find some useful information (time schedule, duration of the journey, prices).

For international bus travel you can buy tickets at the ticket office or travel agency. Eurolines is the biggest provider operating 8 regular international lines together with its domestic branch Slovak Lines (www.slovaklines.sk). For international lines operated by Eurolines it is possible to buy/book a ticket online at www.eurolines.sk.

Student Agency also provides several international lines with special prices for students (tickets can be bought online at www.studentagency.sk or www.regiojet.sk).

How to buy a ticket

When travelling by coach within Slovakia, tickets can be bought when boarding. It is possible to buy a ticket with a seat reservation (“miestenska”) for longdistance coaches at the ticket office of any bus station or online, in some cases (www.cp.sk).

Travel by plane

There are almost 20 airlines providing connections within Slovakia and to foreign countries, such as Ryanair (www.ryanair.com/sk/en), Czech Airlines (www.csa.cz), Wizz Air (<https://wizzair.com/en-gb/#/>), SmartWings (www.smartwings.com) and others.

There are 3 international airports in Slovakia. The airports are in Bratislava (“Letisko M. R. Štefánika”, www.airportbratislava.sk), in Košice (“Medzinárodné letisko v Košiciach” www.airportkosice.sk) and in Poprad (“Medzinárodné letisko Poprad Tatry”, www.airport-poprad.sk, in Slovak only).

Transportation between international airports and principal Slovak towns

Vienna International Airport (Austria)

Thanks to the short distance between Vienna and Bratislava (60 kilometres), it is also possible to use the Schwechat International Airport in Vienna (www.viennaairport.com), which is larger than the M. R. Štefánik International Airport in Bratislava, and then take a bus or a taxi to Bratislava. Just in front of the arrival gate at the Vienna airport you will find the platform for departure of buses leaving to Bratislava, where you can change to bus/train to other Slovak principal towns, e.g. Košice, Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Žilina, Trenčín, Piešťany, etc. Most of the buses terminate at the Central Bus Station in Bratislava (Hlavná autobusová stanica) called Mlynské Nivy.

A oneway ticket from the Vienna Airport to the Central Bratislava Bus Station costs from 4 € (Regiojet) to 7.70 € (other bus companies). For the bus schedule browse www.cp.sk, www.regiojet.sk, www.slovaklines.sk or www.vlakbus.sk.

If you manage to buy your ticket online early you can even get your one way travel ticket for €1. If you have heavy luggage you can buy a ticket comprising of a bus ticket and one way taxi service for total 10 €. For details, please, visit www.slovaklines.sk/main-page.html. There is also a special bus connection between the M. R. Štefánik International Airport in Bratislava, Bratislava city centre (Most SNP – Bridge of the Slovak National Uprising) and the Schwechat International Airport in Vienna and Vienna city operated by Blaguss Slovakia. A standard oneway ticket on route the Vienna Airport – the Central Bratislava Bus Station costs 7,50 €. For the bus schedule and up to date prices, please visit the website www.blaguss.sk.

Bratislava International Airport

M. R. Štefánik International Airport is located 15 km from the Bratislava Old Town. A taxi into the town costs about 8–10 €, depending on where in the centre you want to go. By bus, take the line No. 61 to Hlavná železničná stanica (Main Railway Station).

Košice International Airport

Košice international airport is located approximately 6 km to the south of the town. The airport is situated between the suburbs Košice Barca and Košice Pereš. The airport is located less than 2 km from the expressway from Košice to Rožňava. You can reach it by car in 10 minutes from the town of Košice, in 30 minutes from the town of Prešov and in 20 minutes from the Slovak-Hungarian border.

Košice town public transport company operates regular bus line No.23 which connects the airport of Košice with the downtown and with the central railway station and bus station (“Staničné námestie”). The bus leaves the airport once every hour.

Taxi to the city centre costs about 7 €.

Local transport

The public transport system in towns is quite reliable. A network of public transport – usually buses or trolleybuses (also a network of trams in Bratislava and Košice) covers most of the towns. Operating hours are from 5:00 to 23:00. After 23:00 there are a few night-bus lines. Every town is responsible for running its own public transport (“mestská hromadná doprava”, abbr. MHD).

Common features

Public transport is the most widely used means of transportation in towns. Schedules can be found at every bus/tram stop or on www.imhd.sk.

Tickets are usually not sold on buses. They can be bought at newsstands, ticket machines and some bus stations. In principal cities electronic SMS tickets are also available. The SMS ticket can be bought only from a telephone number assigned by a Slovak mobile operator. (See p. 136).

To buy an electronic SMS ticket send an empty SMS message or a SMS with one character to one of the following phone numbers:

Bratislava	1140 (40 min journey) or 1100 (70 min journey)
Košice	1166
Prešov	1144
Nitra	1177
Žilina	1155
Banská Bystrica	1133
Trnava	1122

Tickets vary from town to town. There are time-tickets (you can change means of transport within a given period) or single-use tickets (every time you change means of transport, you use a new ticket). Fare depends also on tariff zones given

by the town area. There are usually also tickets valid for several days (from 24 to 168 hours) upon validation after entering the vehicle. You must also have a ticket for large pieces of luggage and animals.

If you stay longer in a certain town and you are sure to use public transport more often than once a day, it is advisable to buy travel pass, for example, 30-, 90- or 365-day pass.

To get a pass (30-, 60- or 365-day pass), you need an up-to-date photograph (3 × 3.5 cm), your ID card and a completed application form. It is always helpful to consult with local people.

Children, students and pensioners travel for reduced fares (ask for details as conditions may vary from town to town).

You can also get a Slovak Lines travel card which provides several benefits: discounts from ordinary fares and it serves as an electronic wallet enabling to travel with the integrated transport system. The card can be purchased and topped up also via internet. For more information visit www.slovaklines.sk/main-page.html.

Useful glossary

- Autobus – bus
- Električka – tram
- Trolejbus – trolleybus
- Zastávka – stop
- Cestovný poriadok – schedule
- Cestovný lístok – single (one-time) ticket
- Mesačník, predplatný cestovný lístok, električenka – a monthly travel pass
- Zastávka na znamenie – request stop

Information on the routes, schedules and tickets in Bratislava can be found at www.dpb.sk or www.imhd.sk. Information on public transport in Banská Bystrica, Košice, Nitra, Prešov, Trnava, Žilina and other towns is available at www.imhd.sk.

Connection search for public transport of a larger number of principal towns is available at www.cp.sk (under MHD), it is necessary to be familiar with the names of stops though.

Taxi

There are many taxi companies, although cruising taxis are seldom available. Taxi stands are located throughout the towns. Taxis ordered by phone have cheaper fares (sometimes significantly). The fare is flexible and varies from company to company. When taking a taxi, look for one with the company's name on the car.

Although the Uber service stopped operating in Bratislava in March 2018, due to court ruling you can still use other taxi services operating based on an app, Hopin, Taxify (operating in Bratislava and Košice) and Liftago (operating only in Bratislava). The service allows consumers with smartphones to submit a trip request, which is sent automatically to a driver nearest to the consumer, informing the driver about the location of the customer. Hopin and Liftago drivers are licenced taxi drivers, while Taxify operates on very similar principles like Uber. More information is available at <https://hopintaxi.com/>, <https://taxify.eu/>, and <http://www.liftago.com/>.

Travel by car

Driving licence

A driving licence issued in another EU/EEA country authorises the holder to drive motor vehicles of the categories indicated in it when in the Slovak Republic, regardless of the type of stay in the country. In case the person will be granted temporary or permanent residence permit in Slovakia, he/she may apply for replacement of the driving licence after 185 days from being granted temporary or permanent residence permit.

In case a national from outside the EU/EEA is residing permanently in a country that has signed the Geneva or Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (done in 1968 and in 1949), he/she may only drive a motor vehicle in Slovakia, if being holder of a driving licence issued by the country of residence together with a valid international driving licence.

If such person is granted temporary or permanent residence permit in Slovakia, he/she can use both documents only up to further 185 days. Within 60 days after this period, it is necessary to apply for replacement of the former driving licence at the respective Police authority.

Everyone riding a moped must be at least 15 years old and must hold a driving licence, even if such a licence is not required in his/her country of permanent residence. Everyone riding a motorcycle over 50 cm³ must be at least 17 years old, and everyone riding a car or lorry and a motorcycle in general must be at least 18 years old.

After being granted a permanent residence permit in Slovakia and if using a motor vehicle, it is also necessary to register your motor vehicle in use, if registered in another country. Technical control of the car must be executed before the registration, and be followed by a mandatory contractual insurance against the liability for damage caused by operation of the motor vehicle (insurance is car and driver specific) and an optional accident insurance.

For further information related to driving licences you may visit the website of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, section driving licences www.minv.sk/?podanie-ziadosti-o-vyhotovenie-vodicskeho-preukazu-1 (in Slovak only) or in person the District transport inspectorate of the Police

forces in the place of your residence (addresses and office hours to be found at www.minv.sk/?strankove_dni, in Slovak only). For more information and required documents for the registration of your car please contact the Police Vehicle Registration Department in the place of your residence and its website www.minv.sk/?informacie-6 (in Slovak only).

Traffic regulations

The current traffic regulations are as same as in other European countries. Seat belts are compulsory. The use of a mobile phone is forbidden while driving. It is prohibited to drink any amount of alcohol before or while driving. No level of alcohol in blood is tolerated. A car must have the appropriate lights on during the whole year. Motor vehicles in Slovakia have a duty to have winter tires if continuous layer of snow or ice is on the roads. An accident with presumed loss over 3,990 € must be reported to the police; otherwise, the participants of an accident clarify the circumstances themselves and report it to the insurance company according to their agreement.

You can get a brief list of road regulations in English here: <http://slovakia.travel/en/car-transport> or www.slovakia-rentacar.com/traffic-info.php

Essential car equipment

Compulsory car equipment includes: warning triangle, first-aid kit, spare wheel, jack, spanner and reflective emergency vest (the vest must be within the reach of the driver – in the main vehicle cabin since everybody must wear it when getting out of a car in case of an emergency). Other recommended car equipment is: spare bulbs, spare fuses, tow rope or tow bar. It is also necessary to have all required documents including compulsory third party insurance document.

Speed limits

- On a motorway: max. 130 km/h (80 mph), min. 80 km/h (50 mph)
- On a motorway in builtup area: max. 90 km/h (55 mph), min. 65 km/h (40 mph)
- On an open road: max. 90 km/h (55 mph)
- In builtup area: max. 50 km/h (30 mph)

Motorway stickers

As of 1st of January 2016, a paper form of motorway sticker has been replaced by electronic vignette valid in the given calendar year. They can be purchased via www.eznamka.sk. It is possible to buy an electronic vignette valid for a period of 10, 30 days or one calendar year. Motor-bikers do not need electronic vignettes on motorways.

Petrol/Charging stations

Petrol stations are located throughout the whole territory of Slovakia. They are usually open 24 hours a day, and easy to find. Most of these are operated by Europe's largest petroleum companies and are well-stocked. They sell diesel and unleaded petrol, Super 95 Natural, Natural 98, Normal 21, V-Power, V-power Racing, EVO Benzin, etc. For older vehicles the unleaded petrol with special additives replacing lead is available. There is a network of petrol stations providing also LPG (www.doauta.sk/index.php?option=com_fabrik&Itemid=42&lang=sk, in Slovak only). Almost all petrol stations sell drinks and snacks. Toilet facilities are available, and larger stations offer also showers. In all big petrol stations you can pay with debit or credit cards.

You can find charging stations for electric vehicles e. g. here: <http://kdenabijat.sk> or www.vse.sk/web/sk/e-mobility/nabijacie-stance.

Parking

Parking in cities is well marked by international traffic signs. Parking in forbidden places can result in being fined, towed or wheel-clamped. In bigger cities, some parking places are specified for parking with a parking card, which can be bought from newspaper kiosks or parking machines. Other parking places require the use of automatic parking meters. In several cities of Slovakia, it is possible to use your mobile phone to pay for parking. For detailed information, please, consult the website <http://m-parking.sk/index.jsp?page=menu11> (in Slovak only).

Breakdown service

ASA – Autoklub Slovakia Assistance, s. r. o., www.asaauto.sk
18 112, +421/2/49 20 59 49

AC Autoclub, @acaclub.sk
18 007, +421/2/20 92 00 07

SATC – Slovak Automotive Tourist Club, www.satc.sk
18 124, +421/2/68 24 92 11

The services are commercial and operate 24 hours a day.

Cyclists

By Slovakia's law, bicycles are considered vehicles and as such, people riding bicycles must obey all general road rules. As a legitimate road user, being a cyclist you have the same rights and responsibilities as other vehicles on the road.

Cyclists should use the right shoulder of the road and wear an approved, correctly fitted and fastened bike helmet outside built-up areas. Those under age of 15 must wear the helmet at all times.

It is better not to ride at night or in weather conditions with reduced visibility. If you have to do so, you are obliged to wear reflective jacket and use a flashing or steady light on the front of your bicycle and another light on the rear side of your bicycle visible for at least 200 m.

The bicycle should also have reflectors placed on pedals or wheels visible for at least 50 m when a vehicle's headlights reflect it when riding on roads in Slovakia.

Make sure your bicycle is in good technical condition. Never ride a bicycle after drinking alcohol and try to keep on the right shoulder of the road, especially in curves. Never ride next to another bicycle cyclist as it can endanger your life.

6.21 Veterinary care

A list of veterinarians in Slovakia can be found at www.zoznamveterinarov.sk or at www.zzz.sk/zariadenia/slovensko/vet (both websites in Slovak only). The services of a veterinarian must be paid for in full at the point of use.

7. Glossary

A

ambulancia	outpatient room
auto	car
autobus	bus, coach
autopožičovňa	car rental

B

balík	parcel
benzín	petrol
byt	flat, apartment

C

cena	price
cestovná kancelária	travel agency
cestovné náhrady	travel allowances
cestovný poriadok	schedule
clo, colnica	duty, customs standpoint
cudzinec	foreigner, alien
čaj	tea
čas	time
čerpacia stanica	petrol station, fuel station
čistiareň	dry cleaning
člen, členský štát	member, member state

D

daň z príjmu	income tax
daň, daňovník	tax, taxpayer
daňové priznanie	tax return, declaration of taxes

diaľničná známka	motorway sticker
dieťa	child
diéty	per diem
divadlo	theatre
dohoda	agreement
dohoda o vykonaní práce	agreement on the performance of work
doktorandské štúdium	doctoral (PhD.) study
domáci	domestic
doplňkové poistenie	additional insurance
doprava	transportation
dovolenka	annual leave
dovoz	import
dôchodkové poistenie	old-age insurance
dôchodok	old-age pension
DPH	VAT
druh	type, kind

E

električka	tram
električenka	monthly pass

F

financovanie	funding
finančný	financial

G

gymnázium	secondary grammar school
-----------	--------------------------

H

hory	mountains
hrad	castle
hraničný priechod	border crossing

I

internát	dormitory, student hostel
izba	room

J

jaskyňa	cave
jazyk	language
jazykový kurz	language course
jedáleň	canteen
jedlo	food, meal

K

kaderníctvo	hairdresser
kaviareň	coffee bar, café
kino	cinema
kniha	book
knižnica	library
kostol	church
kúpele	spa

L

lekár	doctor, general practitioner, physician
lekáreň	pharmacy
letisko	airport
list	letter
lístok	ticket
lyžovanie	skiing

M

manželka	spouse, wife
materská škôlka	kindergarten
medzinárodný	international
medzivládny	intergovernmental
mena	currency
mesačník, predplatný cestovný lístok	monthly pass
mestská hromadná doprava (MHD)	local public transport
miestienka	seat reservation
mimoškolská činnosť	after-school activity
mimovládne neziskové organizácie	non-governmental non-profit organisations
mzda	income, wage, salary

N

nájomné	rent
náklady	costs
nápoj	drink
národný	national
nárok	entitlement
nemocenské poistenie	sickness insurance
nemocnica	hospital

O

občan	citizen, national
obchod	shop
oblečenie	clothes
odborný lekár	specialist
odchod	departure
osobný vlak	passenger train

P

personálna agentúra	personnel recruitment agency
pivo	beer
plat	wage, salary
počasie	weather
predpoveď počasia	weather forecast
počítač	computer
podpis	signature
podpora	support
pohotovosť	emergency
poistenie	insurance
poistenie v nezamestnanosti	unemployment insurance
pokladňa	ticket office
poplatok	fee
poschodie	floor
postihnutie	disability
pošta	post office
povinná školská dochádzka	compulsory education
povinné odvody do fondov poistenia	levies into compulsory funds
povolenie na pobyt	residence permit
práca	work
pracovný čas	working time
praceneschopnosť	sick leave
pracovná zmluva	employment contract
pracovné povolenie	work permit
praktický lekár	general practitioner
prechodný pobyt	temporary stay
priemerná mzda	average income

priemysel	industry
príchod	arrival
príjem	income

R

rámcový	framework
reštaurácia	restaurant
rezervácia	booking
rodina	family
rodné číslo	birth registration number
rodný list	birth certificate
rozvoj	development
rýchlik	fast train
rýchlosť	speed

S

samospráva	self-administration
sanitka	ambulance
služba	service
sobášny list	marriage certificate
spolupráca	co-operation
stredná škola	secondary school
súkromný	private
sviatok	holiday
škola	school
štátny	state
štipendium	stipend, scholarship

T

tretia krajina	third country
trolejbus	trolleybus
trvalý pobyt	permanent residence

U

ubytovanie	accommodation
účtet	bill
úrad	office
úrazové poistenie	injury insurance
ústav	institute
uzávierka	deadline
územie	territory
uznávanie diplomov	recognition of diplomas

V

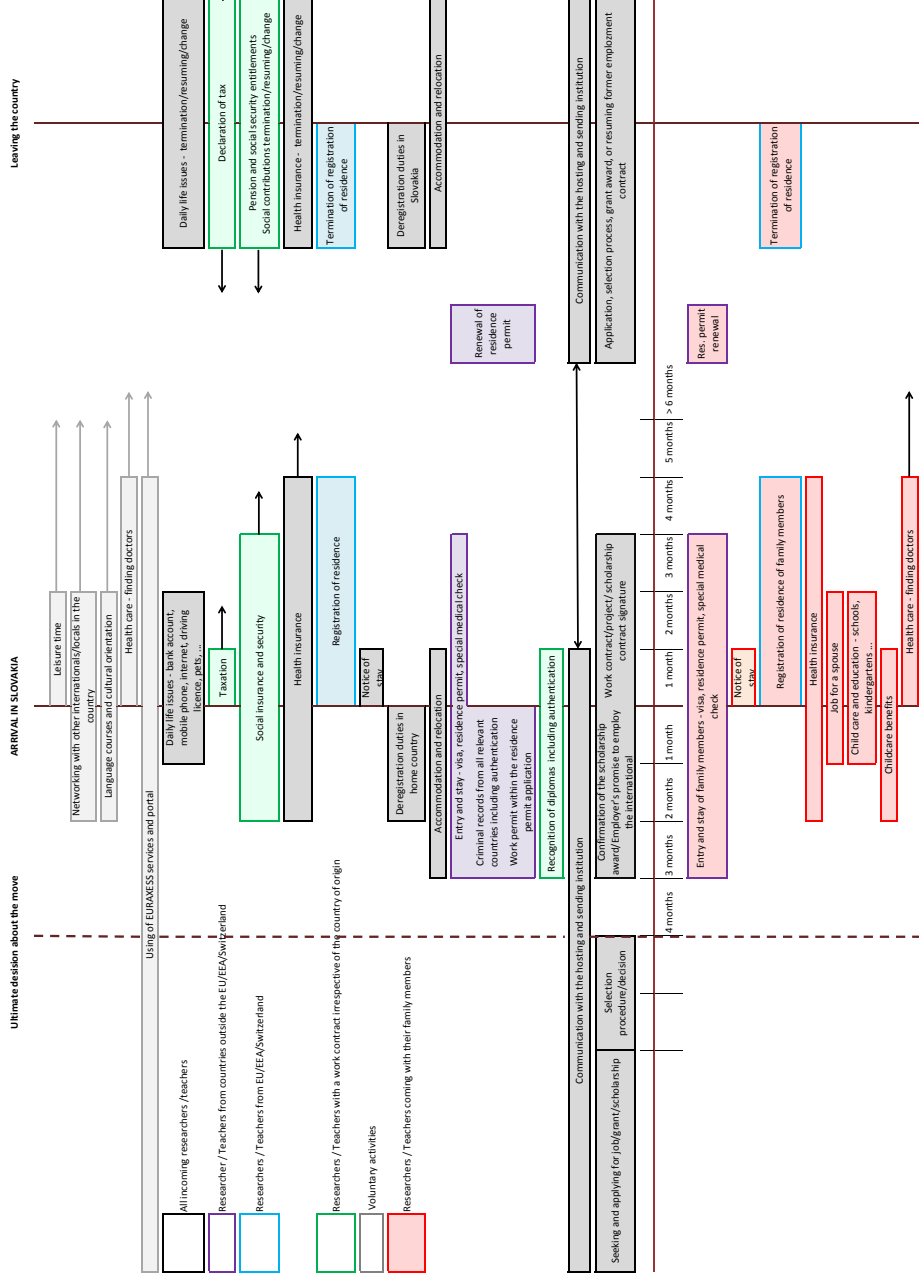
veda	science
vedec	scientist
veľvyslanectvo	embassy
vchod	entrance
vláda	government
vlak	train
vodičský preukaz	driving licence
vstupné	admission fee
výdavky	costs
východ	exit
výmenný kurz	exchange rate
výnimka	exception
výpis z registra trestov	criminal record
výskum	research
výskumník	researcher
vysokoškolské vzdelávanie	higher education
výťah	lift
vyučovací jazyk	language of instruction

vyučovanie	teaching-learning process
vzdelávanie	education

Z

zahraničný, v zahraničí	foreign, abroad
základná škola	primary school
zákon	act, law
zamestnanie	employment
zamestnanec	employee
zastávka	bus/tram stop
zbraň	firearm
zdravie	health
zdravotná starostlivosť	health care
zdravotná poisťovňa	health insurance company
zdravotné poistenie	health insurance
zdroj	source
zmenáreň	exchange office
zriaďovateľ	founder
zubár	dentist
železničná stanica	railway station
žiadosť	application

Graphical overview of the duties regarding the mobility to Slovakia (timeline checklist)



SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency)

SAIA is a non-governmental non-profit organisation implementing programmes and providing services aimed at the enhancement of civil society, and assistance in the internationalisation of education and research in Slovakia since 1990.

SAIA provides information about studying and research in Slovakia and abroad, organises the selection of candidates within various scholarship programmes and organises seminars and workshops for Slovak higher education institutions, and research organisations, prepares publications and is involved in many other activities related to the internationalisation of higher education and science.

SAIA administers the following programmes:

- **Academic Mobility** – scholarships offered in the framework of intergovernmental bilateral agreements and by foreign governments (more information at www.saia.sk a <http://grants.saia.sk>),
- **Action Austria – Slovakia, Co-operation in Science and Education** (more information at www.aktion.saia.sk),
- **CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies** (more information at www.ceepus.saia.sk).
- **National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic** (more information at www.scholarships.sk),
- **EURAXESS Slovakia** (more information at www.euraxess.sk)

SAIA runs offices in five university towns throughout Slovakia (in Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Košice, Nitra and Žilina).

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