This publication was produced by EURAXESS Service Centres in Slovakia and was funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

It reflects the views of the authors only, and the funding organisations cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

EURAXESS SLOVAKIA
The International Researcher’s Guide to Slovakia

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

Prepared by:
Michal Fedák, Katarína Košťálová, Janka Kottulová, Silvia Kotuličová, Lukáš Marcin, Mária Sásová, Karla Zimanová and other SAIA, n. o. staff

Graphic design and press:
emtek, s. r. o., Bratislava

© SAIA, n. o., 2016

1. About EURAXESS

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion portal (http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess) is a joint action of the European Commission and the countries participating in the European Union’s Framework Programmes for Research. EURAXESS is a unique European Research Area initiative providing access to a complete range of information and support services for European and non-European researchers wishing to pursue research careers in Europe. It offers access to the job market; assists researchers in advancing their careers in another European country and supports research organisations in their search for outstanding research talent. EURAXESS is a truly pan-European initiative supported by 40 participating countries across Europe.

EURAXESS is composed of four specific initiatives for researchers:

EURAXESS Jobs is a stress-free recruitment tool where no charges apply. Researchers can find a wealth of constantly updated information on job vacancies, funding opportunities and fellowships throughout Europe. Posting their CV will allow recruiters to find them. Companies or research institutes can post vacancies free of charge and search for the CVs of international top-notch researchers. Users can also directly access the national EURAXESS portals of the partner countries which contain information on research job and funding opportunities, as well as on personalised services in each country. The Slovak national portal (www.euraxess.sk) is one of them.

EURAXESS Services is a network of more than 250 Service Centres located in 40 European countries. These centres assist researchers and their families with planning and organising their move to another country. Free-of-charge and personalised assistance helps researchers and their families tackle issues when relocating, such as:
- visas,
- work permits,
- accommodation,
- social security, medical care and taxes,
- family support, schools for their children, language courses, etc.

The network of Service Centres is comprised of a team of well-informed staff. They are also an invaluable resource 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 Service Centre since 2004.

EURAXESS Rights provides comprehensive information on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, which aim at setting out rights and obligations of researchers, their employers and funders, as well as transparent and fair recruitment procedures through the Human Resources Strategy. The two documents also address the right to social security coverage and access to pensions.

To date, more than 1200 organisations have endorsed the principles of the Charter & Code from 40 countries in Europe and beyond. A full list of signatories and the complete text of the Charter & Code can be viewed on the EURAXESS Rights website http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess. In Slovakia, the Charter & Code has been endorsed by the Slovak Rector’s Conference (on behalf of all the higher education institutions
in Slovakia) and by the Presidency of the Slovak Academy of Science (on behalf of all the institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences).

By endorsing the Charter & Code the institutions join a truly pan-European network of researchers, research institutions and funders, and benefit from international visibility on the EURAXESS Rights website. In addition, the special “HR Excellence in Research” logo is awarded by the European Commission to research institutions or funders actively implementing the Charter & Code. To date, almost 300 institutions from 29 countries, and 2 international organisations acquired the right to use the logo, mostly from the UK (95).

EURAXESS Links is a networking tool for European researchers, scientists and scholars working outside Europe and non-European ones wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a research career in Europe. EURAXESS Links is established in Brazil, China, India, Japan and North America as well as in the ASEAN region (covering Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand).

EURAXESS Links keeps researchers in these regions fully informed on the EU research policies, career opportunities in Europe and opportunities for collaboration with colleagues in Europe. EURAXESS Links provides interactive web services to European researchers working abroad in order to keep them linked among themselves and with Europe. The web forum, the database of researchers and funding opportunities and the electronic newsletter help in this regard, while networking events for members are organised regularly.

1.1 National Portal EURAXESS SLOVAKIA

European Portal EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion, is interlinked with the national EURAXESS portals of all partner countries that contain a wealth of additional information about their own country.

Slovak Portal www.euraxess.sk has two separate language versions. Slovak version is dedicated to Slovak researchers, who intend to go abroad, but also to Slovak research organisations that would like to welcome a foreign researcher in their team. The English version of the Portal provides information about Slovakia relevant for the international researchers interested in carrying out their research in Slovakia. The information here is structured in the following way: News, Grants and Scholarships, Jobs in Research, Services – Practical Information, EURAXESS Rights, and EURAXESS Service Centres in Slovakia.

News

The News section provides regularly new information about upcoming events – conferences or seminars, publications, scholarships and grants or news from the field of research. The latest news published is visible directly in the main page of the national portal.

Grants and Scholarships

Information on funding of research mobility and research projects is available in the section Grants and Scholarships. You will find here links to selected financing opportunities for your project or mobility. This section will also redirect you to a database of scholarships and grants.
for international students and researchers, which is administrated by SAIA. Here you can search the offers by research field or category, and the database is directly available also at www.grants.saia.sk.

As the funding opportunities are one of the most requested topics, overview of the possibilities available to international researchers who wish to come to Slovakia is provided also in this publication. You can find more information in Chapter 3 Research in Slovakia.

**EURAXESS Jobs in Research**

This section will lead you to a link to an up-to-date research job database in the whole Europe. The database provides you the possibility to post your CV and so enable the research institutes to approach you in case you fit the profile of their opening.

If you represent a research organisation, either public or private, you have the possibility to publish your vacancy to a targeted audience free of charge and choose among qualified candidates from the whole Europe.

The recent jobs published at the European EURAXESS Jobs portal with specific focus on positions available in Slovakia are directly displayed on the main page of www.euraxess.sk.

**Services – Practical Information**

The objective of 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 way possible and ease the burden of red-tape that is connected to mobility. Therefore, in the section Services – Practical Information, we gather information related to concrete real life situations that occur when moving between countries. These include issues of taxation, social security, entry conditions and residence permit, employment, health insurance and medical care, day-care for children or cultural events in Slovakia, etc. Information is organised clearly in thematic sections and also includes contact information for responsible institutions. Of course, it is always possible to contact the closest EURAXESS Service Centre that will help you to find the answer you are looking for.

Practical information and tips can be also found in this publication; information related to formalities with national institutions in Chapter 4 and information on daily life in Slovakia in Chapter 5.

**EURAXESS Rights**

Good working conditions are crucial to the researchers’ career development. Definition of the rights and obligations on the side of researchers, as well as research organisations is offered by the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

In Slovakia, the Charter & Code were endorsed in 2005 by two signatories: Slovak Rectors’ Conference on behalf of Slovak universities and the Presidency of the Slovak Academy of Sciences on behalf of its institutes.

In this section of the EURAXESS Portal you can find more information on this important topic.
EURAXESS Service 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 of the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Service Centres network consists of 5 SAIA offices, in the towns of Bratislava, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica and Košice. The Bratislava office is the national coordinator towards the regional offices and also towards the Service Centres in other partner countries, European institutions, as well as national authorities.

In the EURAXESS Service Centres, you will find informed staff who work with mobility issues on 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 help you with the formalities and paperwork and will provide you with information about their contacts. You are welcome to find the contact details in this section of the Portal and turn to the closest Service Centre.

FAQ

Here you can find most important topics highlighted and easily accessible.
2. About Slovakia

2.1 Profile

Official name: Slovak Republic
The Slovak Republic was established on January 1, 1993 (former Czechoslovakia established in 1918)

Political system: Parliamentary democracy

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

Geography
Area: 49,035 sq. km
Perimeter (as of December 31, 2012): 1,652.2 km

Neighbouring countries and length of the borders: Austria 106.7 km; Czech Republic 251.8 km; Hungary 654.8 km; Poland 541.1 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
Nationality: Slovak(s) – noun and adjective
Population: 5,426,252 (as of September 31, 2015), out of it 51.2 % women

The largest towns – by population (as of December 31, 2015): Capital – Bratislava (422,932); Other towns – Košice (239,200), Prešov (89,959), Žilina (81,114), Banská Bystrica (78,758), Nitra (77,670), Trnava (65,596), Trenčín (55,698), Martin (55,687), Poprad (52,037), Prievidza (47,143), Zvolen (42,868)

Nationalities (as of December 31, 2011): Slovak (80.7 %), Hungarian (8.5 %), Romani (2 %), Czech (0.6 %), Ruthenian (0.6 %), Ukrainian (0.1 %), German (0.1 %), Moravian (0.1 %) Polish (0.1 %), other (0.2 %) and unknown (7 %)

Religions (as of December 31, 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 %)

Languages: Slovak (official language, 78.6 %), Hungarian (9.4 %), Romani (2.3 %), Ruthenian (1 %), Czech (0.7 %), German (0.1 %), Polish (0.1 %), Ukrainian (0.1 %), other (0.3 %) and unknown (7.5 %)

Health: Life expectancy at birth (as of December 31, 2012): 79.9 yrs. women; 72.5 yrs. men

Economy (source Eurostat – http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)
Currency: euro (since January 1, 2009)
GDP (2015): 78.1 million €
Real GDP growth rate (2015): 3.6 %
GDP per capita (2015): 77 % of EU 28
Unemployment (2015): 11.5 %
Consumer price inflation (2015): -0.3 %
Public deficit (2015): 3 % of GDP

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, forest products, fruit, grains, hops, oat, potatoes, rye, sugar beets, 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 (2015):
Imports: Germany – 15.2 %, Czech Republic – 10.8 %, China – 8.4 %, South Korea – 6.6 %, Russian Federation – 5.4 %;
Exports: Germany – 22.7 %, Czech Republic – 12.4 %, Poland 8.3 %, Austria – 5.7 %, Hungary – 5.6 %, France – 5.6 %, UK – 5.5 %.

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

The Slovak Republic is situated in the 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

The Slovak Republic has a continental climate with 4 seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter). Summers are hot; 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; the hottest month is July. The period from May to July is often considered the best season.

Data concerns Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia (Source BBC Weather). Weather in northern and mountainous regions could be much colder.

During the winters the sun rises approximately at 7:30 and sets around 16:00. During the summer, sunrise is before 5:00 and sunset is around 21:00.
### 2.3 History

#### Stone Age

The first recorded tribes to settle in the territory of modern Slovakia were **Celtic** (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 (e.g. in Rusovce, Trenčín and Iža). The German tribes were driven out by Huns led by Attila.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Average Precipitation (mm)</th>
<th>Wet Days (+ 0.25 mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>–3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>–2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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 founded the first church in this area between 824 and 828. He fought and was defeated by Mojmír, the Duke of Moravia, and had to flee. Duke Mojmír I established a united state called **Great Moravia** (830 – 908). His successor, Rastislav, invited the 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 the East Francia (Kingdom of the East Franks). Great Moravia disintegrated after its invasion by Magyar tribes and the successes of the 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 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 forever linked to the name of 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.

Modem Times

An important historic moment for the development of the country was the defeat and the killing of King Louis II of the Jagiellonian dynasty by the Turks at the battle near Mohács in 1526. The battle of Mohács started the period of Turkish occupation of the region including 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 by Hungarian nobility were curtailed by the 1711 Peace of Azatmar. However, it did not stop unrest amongst its subjects, a fact that was reflected in the high levels of emigration and banditry. At this time, the legend was born of the most famous of Slovak outlaws, who was stealing from the rich to give to the poor – the legend of Juraj Jánošík.

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.

The Slovak national consciousness was rekindled in the 18th and 19th centuries, and a 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 (Slovak Foundation) was established to promote the Slovak nation. In 1893, the Slovak Museum Society 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 de iure proclaimed autonomous.
Its independence, however, was greatly limited by its strong economic, military and political dependence 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” that ended with the Prague Spring and the consequent crushing of the reformist movement by the Soviet army.

A period of “normalisation” lasted until the end of the 70’s. The normalisation regime plunged Czechoslovakia into an economic, political and moral decline. It was succeeded by the democratic socialism in 1980’s. Nevertheless, opposition towards the regime grew and during the late 80’s it became more intense and organised. It led to the overthrow of the communist government in November 1989 referred to as the “Velvet Revolution”.

Slovak Republic today
On January 1, 1993, the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic was peacefully divided into two independent Slovak and Czech states and the Slovak Republic 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 spring 2004, the Slovak Republic joined NATO, and on May 1, 2004, the Slovak Republic joined the European Union as a full member.

On December 21, 2007, the Slovak Republic was included to the Schengen Area, and in 2009, the Slovak Republic officially joined the euro area and adopted euro.

2.4 Political system and state bodies
The Slovak Republic was established on January 1, 1993 as one of the successors to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. It is a parliamentary democracy and its Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender, race, colour of the skin, language, creed and religion, political or other opinion, 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 direct elections. 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 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 5-year terms. The current President of the Slovak Republic is Mr. Andrej Kiska (since June 2014).

The Government of the Slovak Republic is the highest tier of executive power and consists of the Prime Minister,
Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers. The Government is formed on the basis of parliamentary elections (last one held in March 2016). The Prime Minister is appointed and can be dismissed by the President. Upon the advice of the Prime Minister, the President appoints and dismisses other members of the Government. 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 hold a vote of no confidence in a single member of the Government, too. The current Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic is Mr. Robert Fico (appointed in March 2016).

Other state bodies are the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic.

The state administration is mostly executed at a central level. The central bodies devolve to regional levels. If needed, local state administration authorities establish other authorities and offices in the regions.

2.5 Economy

The current economy of the Slovak Republic is a result of a long-term development. In the past, agriculture presented the most important part of Slovak economy.

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

After the establishment 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 armaments 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 app. 18 % of the economically active population.

In 1991, privatisation became a part of the extensive changes in the economic environment. It was connected with 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. At present, an estimated 85 % of the economy is in private hands.

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 national 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.

The fundamental tax reform was one of the most important initiatives of the Slovak government in the period 2002 – 2006. The tax reform has brought a flat rate in direct income taxation since 2004. There was one linear percentage rate of 19 % for both individuals and corporations. Also from 2004, the unified 19 % VAT rate was applied for all goods and services, although, since January 1, 2011, the VAT was raised to 20 %.

The tax system faced a fundamental redesign with having a progress tax system introduced as of 2013. The tax rate for the private individual’s income is 19 % of the tax base not exceeding 176.8 times the current amount of subsistence minimum including, and 25 % of the tax base exceeding 176.8 times the current amount of subsistence minimum (equal to 35,022.31 € in 2016 with the subsistence minimum equal to 198.09 €/month since July 1, 2014). For the legal entities, the rate is 22 % of the tax base net of tax loss. The volume of the Slovak gross domestic product amounted in 2015 to 78,070,800 €. Compared with 2014, GDP increased by 3.3 % at current prices. The annual average inflation in 2015, measured by the consumer price index, equalled to −0.3 % in comparison with 2014 (source: Eurostat – http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

Export revenues of 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 investment opportunities for domestic and foreign investors. The strongest position is currently held by the automobile industry and its subcontractors (Volkswagen, Peugeot-Citroën, Kia Motors).

Slovakia’s largest exports include motor vehicles (cars), electronic equipment or petroleum oils.

Slovakia is still trying to eliminate the insufficient employment opportunities. The unemployment rate was 11.5 % in 2015 (source the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic – http://slovak.statistics.sk)
2.6 **Significant scientists born in Slovakia**

**Alexander, Vojtech**  

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.

**Bahýľ, Ján** – *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.

**Banič, Štefan** – *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, of course, become a vital part of modern aviation.

**Bel, Matej** – *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.

**Blaškovič, Dionýz**  
– *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.

**Blaškovič, Dionýz**  
– *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.

**Gerster, Béla** – *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.
Hell, Jozef Karol – mining engineer and inventor  
(1713 – 1789)  
Inventor of the water-pillar pump machine, which was able to pump huge amounts of ground water 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.

Hell, Maximilián – 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.

Ilkovič, Dionýz – 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.

Jedlík, Štefan Anián – 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).

Jessenius, Ján – 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.

Kempelen, Ján Wolfgan – 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.

**von Lenard, Filip Anton Eduard** – *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.

**Mikovíny, Samuel** – *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.

**Murgaš, Jozef** – *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”.

**Pajdušáková, Ľudmila** – *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.
Petzval, Jozef Maximilián – 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)

Selye, Ján – 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.

Segner, Ján Andrej – 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).

Stodola, Aurel – 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.
Štefánik, Milan Rastislav – 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.

Štúr, Dionýz – 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.

Štúr, Ľudovít – 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. 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.
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 a collaboration, and finally 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 act in the area of research and development (R&D) is the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on Organisation of State Support for Research & Development and on Amendment of the Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of the Activities of the Government and on the Organisation of the Central State Administration as amended by later regulations of Act No. 233/2008 and Act No. 40/2011. The Act defines among others the role of the Government of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and other central bodies of state administration, position and roles of the Slovak Research and Development Agency, conditions and forms of granting state support, system of state programmes of R&D and the information support for R&D.

R&D in the Slovak Republic is carried out in particular at universities, institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and legal entities, which have been established by state administration central bodies (state department research institutions) that are mostly financed from the state budget, and in private research institutions financed by business sector.

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

The support of R&D is realised by granting **funds from the state budget** in the form of non-repayable subsidies. It can be a **purpose-oriented** form of support on the basis of public tender or an institutional form of support. Funds within purpose-oriented form of support are granted for solving R&D projects and infrastructure development projects through the Slovak Research and Development Agency, and projects within state programmes. Funds within purpose-oriented form of support are granted to private enterprises and are considered as state support. Funds within **institutional form** of support are granted for support of R&D at public and state universities, in the Slovak Academy of Sciences and in state department research institutes.

Public and state universities are educational, science and artist institutions established by separate act (the Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Universities). The Slovak Academy of Science is a self-governing science institution of the Slovak Republic established by separate act (the Act No. 133/2002 Coll. on Slovak Academy of Sciences).
3.2 Research institutions

Legal and physical entities with offices in the Slovak Republic active in R&D are integrated in the following sectors: higher education sector, state sector, private sector and non-profit sector. According to Act No. 172/2005 Coll., on the basis of competence evaluation, legal or natural person acquires certificate of competence to carry out research and development, and thus is entitled to seek funding from the state budget. The certificate is issued and withdrawn by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic upon a proposal of an evaluation committee.

3.2.1 Higher education sector

The Higher education sector consists of 20 public higher education institutions, 3 state higher education institutions and 12 private higher education institutions. According to the Act on higher education institutions, these are third-level educational, scientific and art institutions. More detailed 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 (Katolická 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.selyuni.sk, in Slovak and Hungarian
- 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.akademiapaz.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, in Slovak only
- Danubius University in Sládkovičovo (Vysoká škola Danubius) – www.vsdanubius.sk
- Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom (Dubnický technologický inštitút v Dubnici nad Váhom) – www.dti.sk
- Ján Albrecht Music and Art Academy in Banská Štiavnica (Hudobná a umelc ká 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.akademiami.medii.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 ekonomie a manažmentu verejnej správy v Bratislave) – www.vsemv.sks
- 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 (Stredoeurópska vysoká škola v Skalic) – www.sevs.sk
- University of Security Management in Košice (Vysoká škola bezpečnostného manažérstva v Košiciach) – www.vsbm.sk

**Foreign higher education institutions**

Foreign higher education institutions provide higher education in the territory of the Slovak Republic in accordance with legislation of the state of their headquarters on the basis of the permission issued by the MESRS SR.

- College of International and Public Relations Prague in Bratislava – headquarters in the Czech Republic (Vysoká škola medzinárod ných a veřejných vztahů 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
- Institut Supérieur Spécialisé de la Mode (MODD’SPE PARIS)
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 established by special Act, the activity of which is aimed at the development of science, education, culture and economy. The SAS conducts its research activity by means of research institutes established on the basis of either full or partial public funding. State sector R&D organisations funded in full or in part by the state are established by the appropriate central administrative bodies. More details can be found on the websites of the respective SAS research institutes and state sector research organisations.

The 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)
- Institute of Hydrology, Bratislava (www.ih.savba.sk)
- Mathematical and Physical Sciences
  - 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
- Cancer Research Institute BMC, Bratislava (www.exon.sav.sk)
- Centre for Molecular Medicine, Bratislava (www.mmc.sav.sk)
- Institute for Heart Research, Bratislava (www.usrd.sav.sk)
- Institute of Experimental Endocrinology BMC, Bratislava (www.endo.sav.sk)
- Institute of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology, Bratislava (www.uef.sav.sk)
- Institute of Molecular Physiology and Genetics, Bratislava (www.umfg.sav.sk)
- Institute of Neurobiology, Košice (www.neurobiology.sk)
- Institute of Neuroimmunology, Bratislava (www.niu.sav.sk)
• Institute of Normal and Pathological Physiology, Bratislava (www.unpf.sav.sk)
• Institute of Virology BMC, Bratislava (www.virology.sav.sk, in Slovak only)

**Biological and Chemical Sciences**
• Institute of Chemistry, Bratislava (www.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 Animal Biochemistry and Genetics, Ivanka pri Dunaji (www.ubgz.sav.sk)
• Institute of Animal Physiology, Košice (www.saske.sk/ufhz)
• Institute of Botany, Bratislava (www.ibot.sav.sk)
• Institute of Forest Ecology, Zvolen (www.savzv.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 (www.pribina.savba.sk/ugbr)

**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, in Slovak only)

**Arts and Culture**
• Institute of Art History, Bratislava (www.dejum.sav.sk)
• 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 Theatre and Film Research, Bratislava (www.udfv.sav.sk)
• Ján Stanislav Institute of Slavistics, Bratislava (www.slavu.sav.sk)
• Ľudovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics, Bratislava (www.juls.savba.sk)

**Specialised organisations**
• Arboretum Mlyňany, Vieska nad Žitavou (www.arboretum.sav.sk, in Slovak only)
• Central Archive, Bratislava (www.archiv.sav.sk, in Slovak only)
• Central Library, Bratislava (www.uk.sav.sk, in Slovak only)
• Computing Centre, Bratislava (www.vs.sav.sk)
• Encyclopaedic Institute, Bratislava (www.encyclopaedia.sk, in Slovak only)
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)
- 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)
- Slovak National Library, Martin (www.snk.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Slovak National Museum, Bratislava (www.snm.sk)
- Slovak Technical Museum, Košice (www.stm-ke.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- State Scientific Library, Banská Bystrica (www.svkbb.eu, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- State Scientific Library, Košice (www.svkk.sk, 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, in Slovak only):
- 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, primary activity other than R&D)
• Methodology and Pedagogy Centre, Bratislava (www.mpc-edu.sk, 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.asfeu.sk)
• Research Institute for Children Psychology and Pathopsychology, Bratislava (www.vudpap.sk)
• Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Bratislava (www.cvtsr.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• Slovak Library of Pedagogy, Bratislava (www.spgrsk, 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.fnspresov.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)

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (www.minv.sk)
• Department of Research and Technology Development, Bratislava (www.minv.sk, in Slovak only, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Hospital of St. Michael, Bratislava (www.nsmas.sk, in Slovak only, 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, 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, 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.sk)
• 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)
3.2.3 Private research and development sector

The R&D sector comprises also private companies active in research. In order to be officially recognised as organisation eligible to participate in schemes of public funding for research, they must be approved by the MESRS SR and listed at www.vedatechnika.sk (Central information portal for research, development and innovation) and in the Information system on Science and Research – SK CRIS (Current Research Information System) at www.skcris.sk. Below we provide a list of these companies. Please note that if not indicated otherwise, R&D is their primary activity, meaning that it represents more than 50 % of all the company activities):

- ABE Projekt, s. r. o., Jaslovské Bohunice, natural sciences
- ABmerit – Ing. Peter Čarný, Trnava, natural sciences (www.abmerit.sk)
- ACP AuComp, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.acp.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Abdee digital, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.abdee.sk)
- ADDSEN, s. r. o., Malacky, technical sciences (www.addsen.eu, primary activity other than R&D)
- Agromart, a. s., Trakovice, agricultural sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
- AllProjects, s. r. o., Prešov, technical sciences (www.allprojects.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- ANEXT, a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.anext.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Anima Technika, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.animatechnika.com)
- AQUASYSTEM, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.aquasystem.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- AQUATEST, a. s. Slovakia, Košice, natural sciences (www.aquatest.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Ardaco, a. s., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.ardaco.com, primary activity other than R&D)
- Aroma Marketing, s. r. o., Nové Zámky, social sciences (www.aromarketing.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- ASIO-SK, s. r. o., Veľká Bytča, natural sciences (www.asio.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Asseco Central Europe, a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences (https://ce.asseco.com, primary activity other than R&D)
- Association Energy 21, Leopoldov, technical sciences
- Association for Applied Research and Development, Bratislava, technical sciences
- AVANTEK, s. r. o., Nové Mesto nad Váhom, technical sciences (www.avantek.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Axxence Slovakia, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.axxence.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- B&J NUCLEAR, s. r. o., Miloslavov, technical sciences (www.bjnuclear.eu)
- BARANI DESIGN, s. r. o., Liptovský Mikuláš, technical sciences (www.barani.biz, primary activity other than R&D)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>City, Region</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battery Gurus, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.powerbatt.info">www.powerbatt.info</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BcLoad, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Vígľaš, Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bcload.sk">www.bcload.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beset, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.beset.sk">www.beset.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETAMONT, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Zvolen</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.betamont.sk">www.betamont.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BetónRacio, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Trnava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.betonracio.sk">www.betonracio.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOMEDOX, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.biomedox.sk">www.biomedox.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIONT, a. s.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.biont.sk">www.biont.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biorealis s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.biorealis.sk">www.biorealis.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bioTomal, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Ružbaň</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.biotomal.sk">www.biotomal.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BioVendor Research and Diagnostic Products, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
<td>[<a href="http://www.biow">www.biow</a> vendor.com](<a href="http://www.biow">http://www.biow</a> vendor.com)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BME Design, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bmedesign.eu">www.bmedesign.eu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPM Consulting, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Košice</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bpmc.sk">www.bpmc.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAIN:IT, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.braint.sk">www.braint.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryndziareň a syráreň, s. r. o. (Bryndza &amp; Cheese Factory), Zvolenská Slatina</td>
<td>Zvolenská Slatina</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bryndziaren.sk">www.bryndziaren.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEIT, a. s.</td>
<td>Žilina</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ceitgroup.eu">www.ceitgroup.eu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEIT Biomedical Engineering, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Košice</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ceit.ke.sk">www.ceit.ke.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEIT Technical Innovation, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Žilina</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ceittechnovation.eu">www.ceittechnovation.eu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centire Research, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.centiresearch.com">www.centiresearch.com</a></td>
<td>In Slovak only, Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central European Education Institute, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vip-vs.sk">www.vip-vs.sk</a></td>
<td>In Slovak only, Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemko, a. s. Slovakia</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chemko.sk">www.chemko.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemosvit Fibrochem, a. s.</td>
<td>Švit</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fibrochem.sk">www.fibrochem.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEZAR, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chezar.sk">www.chezar.sk</a></td>
<td>In Slovak only, Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIT, General Engineering, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Dubnica nad Váhom</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coresys.sk">www.coresys.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSBC, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.csbc.sk">www.csbc.sk</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Research Institute, a. s.</td>
<td>Žilina</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vumza.sk">www.vumza.sk</a></td>
<td>In Slovak only, Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARWELL, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Agricultural sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Datasoft Consulting, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Trenčianske Teplice</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.datasoftconsulting.sk">www.datasoftconsulting.sk</a></td>
<td>In Slovak only, Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Datavard, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.datavard.com">www.datavard.com</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davos trade – logistics, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Krupina</td>
<td>Technical sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.davos-tl.sk">www.davos-tl.sk</a></td>
<td>In Slovak only, Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DB Biotech, s. r. o.</td>
<td>Košice</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dbbiotech.com">www.dbbiotech.com</a></td>
<td>Primary activity other than R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- **DECOM**, a. s., Trnava, technical sciences ([www.decom.sk](http://www.decom.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **DEKONTA Slovensko**, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences ([www.dekontaslovensko.sk](http://www.dekontaslovensko.sk), in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- **DNB consult**, s. r. o., Pezinok, medical sciences ([www.dnbconsult.com](http://www.dnbconsult.com), primary activity other than R&D)
- **East Slovakia Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases**, a. s., Košice, medical sciences ([www.vusch.sk](http://www.vusch.sk), in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- **Ecoland**, s. r. o., Trnava, technical sciences ([www.ecoland.webnode.sk](http://www.ecoland.webnode.sk), in Slovak only)
- **EEA**, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.eea.sk](http://www.eea.sk))
- **EKOSPOL**, a. s., Žilina, technical sciences ([www.ekospol.sk](http://www.ekospol.sk), in Slovak only)
- **EkoWatt**, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.ekowatt.sk](http://www.ekowatt.sk), in Slovak only)
- **EL**, s. r. o., Spišská Nová Ves, natural sciences ([www.elsro.sk](http://www.elsro.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **ELTECO**, a. s., Žilina, technical sciences ([www.elteco.sk](http://www.elteco.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **Enbicore**, s. r. o., Košice, technical sciences ([www.embicore.eu](http://www.embicore.eu), in Slovak only)
- **ENFEI**, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.stuscientific.sk](http://www.stuscientific.sk), in Slovak only)
- **Engul**, s. r. o., Martin, technical sciences ([www.engul.sk](http://www.engul.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **ENLI**, s. r. o., Košice, technical sciences ([www.enli.sk](http://www.enli.sk), in Slovak only)
- **ENVIROCARE**, s. r. o., Nitra, technical sciences ([www.envirocare.sk](http://www.envirocare.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **Environmental Institute**, s. r. o., Koš, technical sciences ([www ei sk](http://www.ei.sk))
- **ErasData-Pro**, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.erasdataprok.sk](http://www.erasdataprok.sk), in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- **ESPRIT**, s. r. o., Banská Štiavnica, technical sciences ([www.esprit-bs.sk](http://www.esprit-bs.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **ETOP WHEELS**, s. r. o., Trenčín, technical sciences ([www.etopewa.sk](http://www.etopewa.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **EUROFINS BEL/NOVAMANN**, s. r. o., Nové Zámky, natural sciences ([www.eurofins.sk](http://www.eurofins.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **EVPÚ a. s.** (Electrotechnical Research and Projecting Company), Nová Dubnica, technical sciences ([www.evpu.sk](http://www.evpu.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **First Welding Company**, a. s., technical sciences ([www.pzvar.sk](http://www.pzvar.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **Fortischem**, a. s., Nováky, technical sciences ([www.nchz.sk](http://www.nchz.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **FUSION**, Advanced Research Group, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences ([www.mental.sk](http://www.mental.sk))
- **G-trend**, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences ([www.gtrend.sk](http://www.gtrend.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **GA Drilling**, a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.gadrilling.com](http://www.gadrilling.com))
- **GAMO**, a. s., Banská Bystrica, technical sciences ([www.gamo.sk](http://www.gamo.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **Geneton**, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences ([www.geneton.sk](http://www.geneton.sk))
- **GEOCOMPLEX**, a. s., Bratislava, natural sciences ([www.geocomplex.sk](http://www.geocomplex.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- **Geodeticca Vision**, s. r. o., Košice, natural sciences ([www.geodeticca.sk](http://www.geodeticca.sk))
- **Georganics**, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences ([www.georganics.sk](http://www.georganics.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
• GetWell, a. s., Kolínany, natural sciences (www.getwell.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• GoldenSUN Slovakia, s. r. o., Liptovský Mikuláš, natural sciences (www.goldensun.sk, in Slovak only)
• GOSPACE, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.gospace.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• GRADIENT ECM, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.gradientecm.com, primary activity other than R&D)
• Grape and Wine Producers Union in Slovakia, Bratislava, agricultural sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
• Gratex International, a. s., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.gratex.com, primary activity other than R&D)
• GreenWay Operator, a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.greenway.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• GT Systems 2, s. r. o., Detva, natural sciences (www.gt systems2.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• H&H studio, s. r. o., Nové Zámky, technical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
• HAKO, a. s., Liptovský Mikuláš, technical sciences (www.hako.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• HAMELN rds a. s., Modra, natural sciences (www.hameln-rds.sk)
• HighChem, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.highchem.com, primary activity other than R&D)
• HOMOLA furniture, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.homolafurniture.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• HORDEUM, s. r. o., Sládkovičovo, agricultural sciences (www.hordeum.sk)
• Hospital Trebišov, a. s., Trebišov, medical sciences (http://tv.svetzdravia.com, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• HSH Group, s. r. o., Košice, technical sciences (www.hshgroup.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• IFREEZONE, s. r. o., Námestovo, technical sciences (www.ifreezone.eu, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• IMUNA PHARM, a. s., Šarišské Michaľany, natural sciences (www.imuna.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• Industrial Informatics Systems, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.syprin.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Infertility Clinic, s. r. o., Košice, medical sciences (www.spln.eu, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• InnoDrive, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
• Innov8, s. r. o., trnava, technical sciences (www.innov8.eu)
• Institute of Economics and Civil Engineering, s. r. o., Bratislava, social sciences (www.use-sk.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• Institute of Nuclear and Molecular Medicine, Košice, medical sciences (www.inmm.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Intech Slovakia, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.intechenergo.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• Interes Institute, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.interes.institute, in Slovak only)
• IPM Engineering, s. r. o., Zvolen, technical sciences (www.ipmeng.sk)
• ITALL, s. r. o., Žilina, natural sciences (www.itall.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• IVMA STU, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.ivmastu.sk)
• JUSTUR, s. r. o., Stará Turá, technical sciences (www.justur.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- KWD, s. r. o., Zvolen, technical sciences (www.kwd.sk)
- KINEX BEARINGS, s. r. o., Bytča, technical sciences (www.kinexbearings.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- KM-SYSTÉM, s. r. o., Prešov, technical sciences (www.km-system.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- KOMPOZITUM, s. r. o., Topoľčany, technical sciences (www.kompozitum.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- KONŠTRUKTA – Defence, a. s., Dubnica nad Váhom, technical sciences (www.kotadef.sk)
- KONŠTRUKTA – Industry, a. s., Trenčín, technical sciences (www.kotaind.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- KOVACO, s. r. o., Veľká Lehota, technical sciences (www.kovaco.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- KPM CONSULT, a. s., Bratislava, social sciences (www.kpmconsult.cz, primary activity other than R&D)
- KRD molecular technologies, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.krd.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- KŘIŽÍK GBL, a. s., Prešov, technical sciences (www.krizikgbi.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- KVANT, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.kvant.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- KYBERNETES, s. r. o., Košice, technical sciences (www.kybernetes.sk)
- KYBETNETIKA, s. r. o., Košice, technical sciences (www.kybetnetika.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- KZLM-TILIA, s. r. o., Liptovský Mikuláš, technical sciences (www.tilia.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- LIKO Bratislava, a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
- Lumacol, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.lumacol.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- MAINDATA, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.maindata.sk)
- McCarter, a. s., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.mccarter.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- MEDIQPRODUCT, a. s., Lipany, natural sciences (www.medicproduct.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Medirex, a. s., Bratislava, medical sciences (www.laboratornadiagnostika.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- MERCHANT, s. r. o., Šaľa, technical sciences (www.merchant.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Mesnac European Research and Technical Centre, s. r. o., Dubnica nad Váhom, technical sciences (www.mertc.com)
- METRODAT, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.metrodat.eu)
- MIA Engineering, s. r. o., Dubnica nad Váhom, technical sciences (www.miae.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- MicroStep, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.microstep.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- MicroStep – MIS, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.microstep-mis.com, primary activity other than R&D)
- NanoDesign, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.nanodesign.sk)
- NATURES, s. r. o., Trnava, technical sciences (www.natures.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- NES Nová Dubnica, s. r. o., Nová Dubnica, technical sciences (www.nes.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- NORMEX, s. r. o., Nitra, natural sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
- Novativ, s. r. o., Čadca, natural sciences
- OLTIS Slovakia, s. r. o., Bratislava, engineering and technology ([www.oltisgroup.cz](http://www.oltisgroup.cz), primary activity other than R&D)
- PANARA, s. r. o., Nitra, technical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
- PARKBOX, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
- Phoonio, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences
- PHOSTEC, s. r. o., Hliník nad Hronom, technical sciences ([www.phostec.eu](http://www.phostec.eu))
- Polychem, s. r. o., Prievidza, natural sciences ([www.polychem.sk](http://www.polychem.sk), in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Potato Research and Breeding Institute, a. s., Veľká Lomnica, agricultural sciences ([www.vsuz.sk](http://www.vsuz.sk), in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- POWERTEC, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.powertec.sk](http://www.powertec.sk), in Slovak only)
- PRAKTIKPUMP, s. r. o., Zvolen, technical sciences ([www.praktikpump.sk](http://www.praktikpump.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- Pulp and Paper Research Institute, a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.vupc.sk](http://www.vupc.sk))
- Qintec, s. r. o., Trnava, technical sciences ([www.qintec.sk](http://www.qintec.sk), in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Quantlab, s. r. o., Trnava, technical sciences ([www.quantlab.sk](http://www.quantlab.sk), in Slovak only)
- R-DAS, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.r-das.sk](http://www.r-das.sk))
- Railway Repairs and Machine Works Zvolen, s. r. o., Zvolen, technical sciences ([www.zoszv.sk](http://www.zoszv.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- RELKO, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.relko.sk](http://www.relko.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- Research Institute for Man-Made Fibres, a. s., Svit, technical sciences ([www.vuchv.sk](http://www.vuchv.sk), in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Research Institute of ICT in Construction, s. r. o., Košice, technical sciences ([www.vusi.sk](http://www.vusi.sk), in Slovak only)
- RETAX, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.retaxslovakia.sk](http://www.retaxslovakia.sk), in Slovak and German only, primary activity other than R&D)
- RICB, s. r. o., Košice, medical sciences ([www.ricb.eu](http://www.ricb.eu))
- RMC, s. r. o., Nová Dubnica, technical sciences ([www.rmc.sk](http://www.rmc.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- RMR studio, s. r. o., Zvolen, natural sciences ([www.rmrstudio.sk](http://www.rmrstudio.sk), in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- RT systems, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.retaxslovakia.sk](http://www.retaxslovakia.sk), in Slovak and German only, primary activity other than R&D)
- SAFTRA photonics, s. r. o., Košice, natural sciences ([www.saftra-photonics.org](http://www.saftra-photonics.org))
- Scientica, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences ([www.scientica.sk](http://www.scientica.sk), in Slovak only)
- SEBEX Slovakia, s. r. o., Košice, technical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
- SEC Technologies, s. r. o., Liptovský Mikuláš, technical sciences ([www.sec-technologies.com](http://www.sec-technologies.com))
- SELEKT – Research and Breeding Institute, a. s., Bučany, agricultural sciences ([www.selekt.sk](http://www.selekt.sk), in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- SEZ Krompachy, a. s., Krompachy, technical sciences ([www.sez-krompachy.sk](http://www.sez-krompachy.sk), primary activity other than R&D)
- sféra, a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences ([www.sfera.sk](http://www.sfera.sk))
• SLI, s. r. o., Košice, technical sciences (www.sli.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• Slovak Business Agency, Bratislava, social sciences (www.sbagency.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• Slovak Productivity Centre, Žilina, technical sciences (www.slpck.sk)
• SMME STU, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.stustematic.sk, in Slovak only)
• Software – Industry, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.tindsk/swindustry, primary activity other than R&D)
• Solmea, s. r. o., Košice, medical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
• SOVA Digital, a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.sova.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• SPINEA, s. r. o., Prešov, technical sciences (www.spinea.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• SPINEA Technologies, s. r. o., Prešov, technical sciences (www.spinea-technologies.com, primary activity other than R&D)
• SPP – distribution, a. s., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.spp-distribucia.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• St. Elizabeth Cancer Institute, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.ousa.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• STATON, s. r. o., Turany, technical sciences (www.staton.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• STATOS, s. r. o., Bratislava, medical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
• Sylex, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.sylex.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• SYNKOLA, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.synkola.sk)
• SynthCluster, s. r. o., Modra, natural sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
• SYTELI, s. r. o., Michalovce, technical sciences (www.syteli.sk)
• T-Industry, s. r. o., Myjava, technical sciences (www.tindsk)
• TAU-CHEM, s. r. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.tau-chem.sk)
• TECHNISER, s. r. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.techniservsk, primary activity other than R&D)
• TEKMAR SLOVENSKO, s. r. o., Lužianky, natural sciences (www.tekmar.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• TNtech, s. r. o., Trenčín, technical sciences (www.tntech.eu)
• Transmisie Engineering, a. s., Martin, technical sciences (www.transmisie.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• Transport Research Institute, a. s., Žilina, technical sciences (www.vud.sk)
• TuvaTech, s. r. o., Trenčín, technical sciences (www.tuvatech.sk)
• U. S. Steel Košice, s. r. o., Košice, technical sciences (www.usske.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• ÚEOS – Komercia, a. s., Bratislava, social sciences (www.ueos.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• UNI&Co., a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.unicoas.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• UNICOL, s. r. o., Poprad, natural sciences (www.unicol.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• VÁHOSTAV – SK, a. s., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.vahostav-sk.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• VermiVital, s. r. o., Záhorce, agricultural sciences (www.vermivital.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• VETSERVIS, s. r. o., Nitra, natural sciences (www.vetservis.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• VIA MAGNA, s. r. o., Vrútky, humanities (www.viamagna.eu.sk)
• VIPO, a. s., Partizánske, technical sciences (www.vipo.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
3.2.4 Non-profit sector of research & development

Non-profit sector of R&D comprises of civic associations and non-profit organisations engaging in the area of R&D. These non-profit organisations are eligible to receive public support to perform R&D:

- A-DI, n. o., Piešťany, technical sciences
- Academia Istropolitana Nova, Svätý Jur, humanities (www.ainova.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Academic Ranking and Rating Agency, Bratislava, social sciences (wwwarra.sk)
- Academy Košice, n. o., Košice, medical sciences
- Advanced Technologies Centre Bratislava, n. o., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.ceptem.sk, in Slovak only)
- Agency for Geothermal Power Engineering, Bratislava, technical sciences (www.ageo.sk, in Slovak only)
- Agency for Mobile Technology Research, Orechová Potôň, technical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
- APEL, o. z., Bratislava, natural sciences (www.apelnet.sk, in Slovak only)
- Aqua Vita – Živá voda, Association for Exploring and Saving Wetlands, Liptovský Mikuláš, technical sciences (www.vazky.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Association of Research and Development Industrial Organisations, Bratislava, technical sciences (www.zpvo.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- BAKOMI, o. z., Banská Štiavnica, social sciences (www.bakomi.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- BIOMASA, z. p. o., Kysucký Lieskovec, technical sciences (www.biomasa.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- BIOTECHENERGIA, Rovinka, natural sciences
- Bnica, n. o., Košice, technical sciences
- BROZ – Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development, Bratislava, natural sciences (www.broz.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Building Testing and Research Institute, n. o., Bratislava, engineering and technology (www.tsus.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Cancer Research Foundation, Bratislava, natural sciences, (www.nvr.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- CASSIOPEA EU/SK, Štrba, technical sciences
- CEIT, n. o., Žilina, technical sciences (www.ceitno.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- CELIM Slovakia, Trnava, natural sciences (www.celim.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Centre for Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry Development, Nitra, natural sciences)
- CONSULT SERVICE, o. z., Bratislava, social sciences (www.consultservice‑oz.eu, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- Dizajn, n. o., Ružomberok, technical sciences
- E-Academia Slovaca, n. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.eas.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- EPPPP – European Public Policy Partnership, Bratislava, social sciences (www.eppp.sk, in Slovak only)
- EsFem, Prešov, social sciences (www.esfem.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- EUROIURIS – European Legal Centre, o. z., Bratislava, social sciences (www.euroiuris.sk)
- European Institute of Regional Development, n. o., Nitra, technical sciences
- European Technical Institute, n. o., Trenčín, technical sciences (www.euti.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- GEODETICCA TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, o. z., Košice, natural sciences (www.geodeticca.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
- Health for All Foundation, Košice-Šaca, medical sciences, (www.nadaciazdravieprevsetkych.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- HUMANITA, n. o., Bardejov, medical sciences (www.humanitabj.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
- ICARST, n. o. (International Centre for Applied Research and Sustainable Technology), Bratislava, natural sciences (www.icarst.org, primary activity other than R&D)
- Institute for Biomedicine, n. o., Žilina, medical sciences (www.ipbm.sk, in Slovak only)
- INSTITUTE OF APPRAISAMENT AND EDUCATION+, Bratislava, humanities (www.exedi.sk, in Slovak only)
- Klaster RADAR, Krompachy, technical sciences
- KLASTER TRISKEL, Podbrezová, technical sciences (www.klastertriskel.sk, in Slovak only)
- Medics’ Alliance, n. f., Bratislava, medical sciences
- MEDIREX GROUP ACADEMY, n. o., Trnava, medical sciences, (www.medirexgroupacademy.sk, in Slovak only)
- Neurochirurgia, n. f. (Neurosurgery), Žilina, medical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
• Prevencia AD, o. z., Pezinok, social sciences (www.prevenciaad.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Rail Transport Cluster, z. z. p. o., Poprad, technical sciences
• Rail Transport Institute, z. z. p. o., Bratislava, technical sciences
• Railway Research – Development – Innovation, z. z. p. o., Poprad, technical sciences
• Raptor Protection of Slovakia, Bratislava, natural sciences (www.dravce.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• Research and Development Centre AUTOMOTIVE, Dubnica nad Váhom, technical sciences
• Research Institute of Posts and Telecommunications, n. o., Banská Bystrica, technical sciences
• Research Institute of Posts and Telecommunications, n. o., Banská Bystrica, technical sciences (www.vus.sk)
• School of Communication and Media, n. o., Bratislava, social sciences (www.skamba.sk)
• Scientific and Educational Centre FUTURUM, n. o., Trenčín, technical sciences (www.vncentrum.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Scientific and Technical Incubator of Košice, Košice, medical sciences (primary activity other than R&D)
• Slovak Association of Business Process Management, n. o., Košice, technical sciences (www.sapria.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Slovak European Law Association, Bratislava, social sciences (www.saep.sk, in Slovak only)
• Slovak Governance Institute, Bratislava, social sciences (www.governance.sk)
• Slovak Legal Metrology, Banská Bystrica, technical sciences (www.slm.sk, primary activity other than R&D)
• Slovak Municipal Educational Association, Prešov, technical
• Slovak Organisation for Space Activities, Bratislava, technical sciences (www.sosa.sk, in Slovak only)
• Slovak Placental Stem Cells Registry, o. z., Eurocord-Slovakia, Bratislava, medical sciences (www.eurocord.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Slovak Public Health Association, Košice, medical sciences (www.savez.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Slovak Renewable Energy Agency, n. o., Bratislava, technical sciences (www.skrea.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Society for Bat Protection of Slovakia, n. o., Bardejov, natural sciences (www.netopiere.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Technological Institute of Renewable Energy Sources, Košice, technical sciences (www.tiespa.org)
• Technology Cluster for Earth Resources Utilisation, z. p. o., Košice, technical sciences (www.efusion.sk)
• Transport Research Association, Bratislava (www.dvs-eu.sk, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• VEDUTA, Hronsek, technical sciences (www.veduta.eu, in Slovak only, primary activity other than R&D)
• Welding Research Institute – Industrial Institute of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava, technical sciences (www.vuz.sk)
• Young Physicists’ Tournament, Bratislava, natural sciences (www.tmfsr.sk, in Slovak only)

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.enterprise-europe-network.sk/?en.

The complete database of R&D organisations can be found on the website www.skcris.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 an 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

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

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”

Research centre was founded at the Slovak Academy of Sciences and is a result of collaboration between Institute of Materials Research, Institute of Experimental Physics, Institute of Geotechnics and Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics. PROMATECH represents modern researching 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 Transport Research Institute. 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)
Science Park TECHNICOM was founded by Technical University in Košice in collaboration with Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and University of Prešov. Ambition of the Science Park founders is to turn it to the internationally recognized 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 solution of issues with high degree of innovation, added value and satisfaction of social needs with fast action and high impact. University Science Park promotes new perspective industry areas with high value added and low need of 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
Science Park was founded by the University of Žilina in collaboration with Transport Research Institute. Research activities of the Science Park focus at development of new materials and technology, mainly on the basis of 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 found by the Comenius University in Bratislava. Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and Institute of Zoology of Slovak Academy of Sciences are involved as collaborating institutions. CUSP interconnects academic and scientific sphere with private and public spheres through its unique eco‑system. This cooperation is accelerating the development process of regional innovation capacities. The strategy is based on interactions and more effective use of accumulated CU 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 the part of Comenius University in Bratislava. BioMed Martin has a multidisciplinary approach to the biggest challenge of contemporary society – human health. It represents 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 www.slord.sk/sk/newresearchinfrastructure.html?page_id=2211
4. R&D funding

4.1 R&D funding at national level

In 2014, spending on R&D stood at 0.89% of GDP. In total, approximately 670 million € was spent on R&D in 2014 (41.4% came from state and public sources, 32.2% from private sources and 26.4% from other sources).

The system of R&D funding at national level is governed by the Act No. 172/2005 on Organisation of State Support for Research and Development as amended by later regulations. 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 strengthening of the key industry anchoring and to diversification of the economy by a strong increase of the own 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 within the national goals of the Slovak Republic outgoing from the Europe 2020 strategy. It is presumed to increase the overall level of public and private investments in research and development to 1.2% of the GDP by 2020.

4.1.1 State research funding agencies

Slovak Research & Development Agency – SRDA (Agentúra na podporu výskumu a vývoja – APVV) – is the major R&D grant agency in the Slovak Republic. It was established by the Act No.172/2005 in July 2005 and it is a successor of the previous agency running since 2001. In the period of years 2014 – 2020 expenditure on operations and programmes of APVV are planned in the amount of 316 million €, which means tripled resources and a transformation of the agency is projected.

The agency acts in compliance with the long-term objective of state 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 agency usually supports projects with the period not exceeding three years.

**The Agency provides funding on the basis of 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 focused on:**

- General Calls
- Bilateral Cooperation

**General Calls – Research and development support in all scientific areas**

The general call has no pre-defined thematic priorities; bottom-up approach is applied. Specialisation, objectives and subject content of R&D project are defined by the applicant. Projects in the following groups of disciplines are supported: natural sciences, technical sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

**Bilateral scientific and technological cooperation**

On the basis of 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;
- common active participation in conferences as an output from joint R&D activities;
- mutual use of special laboratory equipment;
- research materials collection.

Maximum duration of projects is 24 months. The financial support is strictly limited to short-term participants’ mobility. More about bilateral S&T cooperation can be found in the section 3.4.1.

Further programmes of APVV might be envisaged in the future, especially aiming at the support of:

- human resources – professional growth of R&D employees, stabilising of the excellent research groups and creating conditions for receiving and returning of highly-qualified researchers from abroad;
- companies – new innovative technologies, increase of R&D capacities and technology transfer;
- international cooperation – support of preparation of project proposals to be submitted under Horizon 2020 schemes.

More information: [www.apvv.sk](http://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 within 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 time frame. There are no pre-defined thematic priorities; 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.


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 usually in April/May of the calendar year prior to the year of implementation.


4.1.2 Incentives for research and development

Enterprises which invest 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 from 2009.

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,
  - ensure the protection of industrial property,
  - enable the temporary assignment of highly qualified R&D staff.

- Tax relief

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

- up to 20 million euro for fundamental research,
- up to 10 million euro for applied research,
- up to 7.5 million euro for other projects.

The application for incentives should 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 of time.

More information on eligibility criteria and application process: https://stimuly.vedatechnika.sk/index/ostimuloch (in Slovak only)
4.1.3 EU structural funds

In the period 2014 – 2020, there is one operational programme focused on education, research and development under the responsibility of MESRS SR – OP Research and Innovation. First call for proposals under this OP was announced in 2015.

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 co-operation 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 4 thematic priority axes and one priority axis aimed at technical assistance. It will be targeted at thematic goals of Supporting research, technological development and innovation and Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs. 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.

Managing Authority for OP R&I is the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR (MESRS) and 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. In 2005, the NSP was established by the approval of 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, university teachers, researchers and artists with a permanent residence in Slovakia to spend 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 1–12 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 pursuing the entire Master/PhD programme in Slovakia, nor Slovak nationals studying abroad. The applicant cannot already be employed for teaching/research activity in Slovakia or have a parallel funding from a different source.

Citizens from the following countries are eligible to apply for the NSP scholarship:

a) Member States of the European Union;

b) other signatories to the Bologna process (listed are only countries outside the EU) – Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia (including Kosovo), Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Vatican City;

c) Uzbekistan;

d) Canada, Mexico, USA, countries of Latin and Central America;

e) Australia, China (including Taiwan), Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Republic of South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam.

The scholarship covers living costs during the study/research/teaching/artistic stay of international applicants. It does not cover the travel costs to and from Slovakia.

### Amount of a monthly scholarship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Applicant</th>
<th>Monthly Scholarship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) university student (master level)</td>
<td>350 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) PhD student</td>
<td>580 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) university teacher/researcher or artist:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>early-stage university teacher/researcher/artist</td>
<td>580 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(without PhD and less than 4 years of work experience)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>experienced university teacher/researcher/artist:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with PhD and less than 10 years of work experience</td>
<td>850 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with PhD and more than 10 years of work experience</td>
<td>1 000 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scholarship applications are submitted on-line at [www.scholarships.sk](http://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 CEST – scholarship stays during the following academic year,
- 31 October by 16:00 CET – scholarship stays during the summer semester of the running academic year.

Selection 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 8 weeks after the application deadline.

**More information:** [www.scholarships.sk](http://www.scholarships.sk), [www.saia.sk](http://www.saia.sk)
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 OECD-defined terms and conditions for implementing the ODA also include scholarships for persons with Slovak Living Abroad status. Award of such scholarships has become a part of state policy supporting Slovaks Living Abroad.

Studies can be carried out only at public higher education institutions in Slovakia and are held in Slovak language. The Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic include 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 (citizens from the highlighted countries can apply for PhD study, others for bachelor and master study): Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kenya, Kosovo, Moldova, Mongolia, Palestinian National Authority, Ukraine and Vietnam. This list of eligible countries may vary every year.

Applications are submitted on-line at www.vladnestipendia.sk; application deadline 30 May. Scholarships are awarded by the Selection Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.


The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (MESRS SR) offers scholarships for study/research/teaching stays at public universities in Slovakia or institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences for applicants from any country in the world in the following categories:

- university students for 5-month stays (age between 18 – 26 years);
- PhD students for 5-month stays (age between 23 – 35 years);
- university teachers/researchers for 3-month stays (age between 30 – 50 years).

Scholarships for 5-month study/research stays for foreign PhD students

The MESRS SR offers scholarships to international PhD students for study/research stays at public universities in the Slovak Republic or research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Successful applicants within this scheme will receive a scholarship of 330 €/month. The MESRS SR does not cover travel costs related to arrival to and departure from Slovakia.

Scholarships for 3-month teaching/research stays for international university teachers/researchers

The MESRS SR grants scholarships to foreign academics for teaching/research stays at public universities in the Slovak Republic or research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Successful applicants within this scheme will receive
a scholarship of 550 €/month. The MESRS SR does not cover travel costs related to arrival to and departure from Slovakia.

Applications are submitted on-line together with the required documents at www.scholarships.studyin.sk. In case that some of the required documents will be missing, the application will be not accepted by the Ministry.

**Application deadline:** 31 May


### 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 execution at the national level are also listed. Calls for proposals (usually once in two years) are published on websites of the responsible institutions. It is therefore advised to visit their websites on a regular basis. For 2016, the calls planned have not yet been published in time of preparation of this publication. Proposals for the S&T projects based on the concluded agreements can be submitted usually by both physical and legal entities from public and private sectors active in R&D. Only jointly submitted proposals will be eligible for consideration. Both project partners must submit their common proposal separately before the deadline to the addresses of the respective co-ordinating 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.

Financial support for bilateral projects can be used exclusively to finance the mobility of scientists and experts.

The Slovak Republic has concluded 24 bilateral intergovernmental agreements on scientific and technological cooperation with the following countries:

- **Austria**
  Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy [www.bmwf.gv.at](http://www.bmwf.gv.at)
  Austrian Agency for International Mobility and Cooperation in Education, Science and Research (OeAD-GmbH) [www.oead.at](http://www.oead.at)

- **Bulgaria**
  Ministry of Education and Science, Scientific Research Department [www.minedu.government.bg](http://www.minedu.government.bg) (in Bulgarian only)

- **Czech Republic**
  Association of Innovative Entrepreneurship (submission of applications) [www.aipcr.cz](http://www.aipcr.cz)

- **China**
  Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of International Cooperation [www.most.gov.cn/eng](http://www.most.gov.cn/eng)

- **Egypt**
  Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research [www.egypt.gov.eg](http://www.egypt.gov.eg)
• **France**
  Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research
  [www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr) (in French only)
  Campus France – French national agency for the promotion of higher education, international student services, and international mobility [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

• **Greece**
  Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, General Secretariat for Research & Technology [www.gsrt.gr](http://www.gsrt.gr) (in Greek only)

• **Hungary**

• **India**
  Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Science & Technology [www.dst.gov.in](http://www.dst.gov.in)

• **Italy**
  Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation [www.esteri.it](http://www.esteri.it)

• **Japan**
  Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology [www.mext.go.jp](http://www.mext.go.jp)
  Japan Science and Technology Agency [www.jst.go.jp](http://www.jst.go.jp)

• **Kenya**
  Ministry of Energy and Petroleum [www.energy.go.ke](http://www.energy.go.ke)
  Ministry of Education, Science and Technology [www.education.go.ke](http://www.education.go.ke)

• **Lithuania**
  Ministry of Education and Science [www.smm.lt](http://www.smm.lt)

• **Poland**
  Ministry of Science and Higher Education [www.nauka.gov.pl](http://www.nauka.gov.pl)

• **Portugal**

• **Republic of Korea**
  Ministry of Science, Technology and ICT [http://english.msip.go.kr](http://english.msip.go.kr)

• **Republic of South Africa**
  Ministry of Science and Technology [www.dst.gov.za](http://www.dst.gov.za)
  National Research Foundation [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)

• **Romania**
  Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research [www.edu.ro](http://www.edu.ro)

• **Russian Federation**
  Ministry of Education and Science [http://минобрнауки.рф](http://минобрнауки.рф)

• **Serbia**

• **Slovenia**

• **Spain**
  Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation [www.exteriores.gob.es](http://www.exteriores.gob.es)

• **Ukraine**
  Ministry of Education and Science [www.mon.gov.ua](http://www.mon.gov.ua) (in Ukrainian only)

• **USA**
  The Slovak Republic has concluded several separate bilateral agreements, relating to specific areas of research.
R&D funding

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

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.

At present, 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 a 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Counterpart institution &amp; URL</th>
<th>Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity</th>
<th>Target group (Incoming researchers)</th>
<th>Special eligibility conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Austria</strong></td>
<td>Austrian Agency for International Mobility and Cooperation in Education, Science and Research (OeAD-GmbH) <a href="http://www.oead.at">www.oead.at</a></td>
<td>Action Austria – Slovakia, Cooperation in Science and Education</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>When applying, completed at least one semester of PhD studies. Age limit: 35 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research stay (3 – 6 months)</td>
<td>PhD holder (postdoc)</td>
<td>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 &quot;habilitation&quot; yet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research stay (3 – 6 months)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Short-term study/research visits (1 – 3 days)</td>
<td>PhD student Postdoc Researcher Teacher at HEI*</td>
<td>Age limit: 60 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Belarus</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of Education for Higher Education <a href="http://www.edu.gov.by">www.edu.gov.by</a></td>
<td>Research stay (1 – 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD Student Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD Student Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bulgaria</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Science <a href="http://www.minedu.government.bg">www.minedu.government.bg</a></td>
<td>Post graduate/research stay (1 – 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Counterpart institution &amp; URL</td>
<td>Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity</td>
<td>Target group (Incoming researchers)</td>
<td>Special eligibility conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Croatia</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of Science, Education and Sports <a href="http://public.mzos.hr">http://public.mzos.hr</a></td>
<td>Study fellowship (min. 1 month)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teaching stay (max. 30 days)</td>
<td>HEI teacher</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Czech Republic</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Centre for International Cooperation in Education <a href="www.dzs.cz">www.dzs.cz</a></td>
<td>Study/research stay (3 – 10 months; only at Slovak public universities)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Short-term research/lecture stay (max. 14 days)</td>
<td>Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>For PhD degree holders; application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Egypt</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research <a href="www.mhe.gov.eg">www.mhe.gov.eg</a></td>
<td>Full PhD studies (3 years)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Short-term research stay (max. 10 days)</td>
<td>Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Long-term research stay (2 – 6 months)</td>
<td>Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers of Slavonic studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Germany</strong></td>
<td>Federal Ministry of Education and Research <a href="www.bmbf.de">www.bmbf.de</a></td>
<td>Study/research stay (5 months)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Counterpart institution &amp; URL</td>
<td>Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity</td>
<td>Target group (Incoming researchers)</td>
<td>Special eligibility conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teaching/research stay (10 days)</td>
<td>HEI teacher</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Short-term study stay (1 – 3 months)/expert visit (5 – 20 days)</td>
<td>Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research stay (1 – 10 months)</td>
<td>Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <a href="http://www.mfa.gov.il">www.mfa.gov.il</a></td>
<td>Post graduate research stay (max. 8 months)</td>
<td>University graduate, PhD student</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>University graduate, PhD student</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, <a href="http://www.ester.it">www.ester.it</a></td>
<td>Study/research stay (max. 10 months)</td>
<td>University graduate, PhD student, Researcher</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, Slovak language teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Counterpart institution &amp; URL</td>
<td>Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity</td>
<td>Target group (Incoming researchers)</td>
<td>Special eligibility conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>Student or teacher of Slovak and/or Slavonic studies</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Post gradual research stay (1 – 3 months; at Slovak public universities only)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student, Researcher, HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Counterpart institution &amp; URL</td>
<td>Programme offered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on the basis of reciprocity</td>
<td>Target group (Incoming researchers)</td>
<td>Special eligibility conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers in Slavic languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Ministry of National Education <a href="http://www.meb.gov.tr">www.meb.gov.tr</a></td>
<td>Research stay (4 or 8 months)</td>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student HEI teacher</td>
<td>Basic knowledge of the Slovak language recommended; preferably students and researchers of Slavonic studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Science <a href="http://www.mon.gov.ua">www.mon.gov.ua</a></td>
<td>Study/research stay (1 – 10 months)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Slovak or English language; application form of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic with all required attachments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (SAS)</td>
<td>PhD student Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Students and researchers of Slovak language studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Fulbright Commission <a href="http://www.fulbright.sk">www.fulbright.sk</a></td>
<td>Lecturing/research stay (9 months); for more information consult: <a href="http://www.cies.org">www.cies.org</a></td>
<td>Researchers HEI teacher</td>
<td>All fields of study; knowledge of the Slovak language at the level needed in fields: Slovak political science, history, anthropology (by the begin. of the grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Study/research stay (9 months); for more information consult: <a href="http://www.iie.org">www.iie.org</a></td>
<td>University graduate Researcher HEI teacher</td>
<td>Degree in English, History, American literature, TEFL/Applied Linguistics and/or experience in teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English Teaching Assistantship (9 months); for more information consult: <a href="http://www.iie.org">www.iie.org</a></td>
<td>Graduating seniors</td>
<td>Researchers HEI teacher</td>
<td>Min. 5 years of postdoctoral teaching or professional experience in the respective field of study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specialist Programme (2 – 6 weeks); for more information consult: <a href="http://www.cies.org">www.cies.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* HEI – Higher Education Institution
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](http://www.saia.sk)).

Via the Programme, the financial support is provided to Austrian PhD students and researchers in 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): scholarship of 940 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October
- scholarships for research stays of postdocs (3 – 6 months): scholarship of 1,500 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October
- scholarships for short visits (max. 3 days) for researchers (including PhD students): scholarship of 90 €/day; application possible throughout the year
- scholarships for Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture (for PhD students only); application deadline: 30 April

**Cooperation** projects concerned with the following areas can be supported:

- cooperation projects of young researchers (PhD students and postdocs); application deadline: 15 March, 15 May, 15 October;
- co-supervised doctoral studies (PhD students); application deadline: 15 March, 15 May, 15 October;
- organisation of Slovak-Austrian PhD trainings on enhancement of professional skills and soft skills; application deadline: 15 March;
- organisation of joint Slovak-Austrian language summer schools; application deadline: 15 October;
- lecture series of excellent researchers (including PhD students); application deadline: 15 March, 15 May, 15 October.

Applications for individual scholarships and co-operation projects are submitted on-line at [www.scholarships.at](http://www.scholarships.at).

**More information:** [www.oead.at](http://www.oead.at), [www.grants.at](http://www.grants.at), [www.aktion.saia.sk](http://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** – designed to provide short-term academic opportunities (2 – 6 weeks) for U. S. faculty and professionals to collaborate with professional counterparts on curriculum and faculty development, institutional planning and a variety of other activities.
- **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 EU Member States but also with third
(nonEU) countries. For an easier orientation you can take a look at a [http://europa.eu/about‑eu/funding‑grants/index_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about‑eu/funding‑grants/index_en.htm), where you can find various funding sources available at EU level with regards to the target group.

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 will be implemented in the years 2014 – 2020 with a budget of over 77 billion €.

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 at the website: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal). You will find here also 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. This website allows you also 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 differs from the previous 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development not only with its name, but also with the new segmentation and focus 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 best prepare them to face current and future societal challenges;
• “European Research Infrastructures, including e-Infrastructures” – developing and supporting excellent European research infrastructures and assist 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 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 shall be 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
• “Fast Track to Innovation” – pilot (2015 – 2016) – fully-bottom-up measure in Horizon 2020 to promote close-to-the-market innovation activities, and open to all types of participants,
The International Researcher’s Guide to Slovakia

R&D funding

- “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) – non-nuclear direct actions of JRC.


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 take-up 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. Attention is paid to encouraging the strong participation of industry, in particular SMEs, 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 4 actions: ITN, IF, RISE and COFUND. Within these 4 actions the projects are submitted on the basis of calls for proposals (published on the website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal).

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 the 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 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 competences. It will provide enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and nonacademic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

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),
- European Joint Doctorates (EJD).

Action 2: IF – Individual Fellowships

The goal of 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. IF provide opportunities to acquire and transfer new knowledge, and to work on research in a European context (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 foreseen for individual, transnational fellowships awarded to the best or most promising researchers for employment in EU Member States or Associated Countries, based on an application made jointly by the researcher and host organisation in the academic or nonacademic sectors.

There may be awarded two types of fellowships:
- **European Fellowships (EF)** – held in 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, not for the country of the return phase.

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 (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 between the participants. This is aimed at knowledge sharing via international as well as intersectoral mobility, based on secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an in-built 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 focus either 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 supported.

**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 the 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 nonacademic 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 programmes supported should have regular selection rounds following fixed deadlines or regular cutoff dates, allowing fair competition between the researchers applying. The selections should be based on open, widely advertised competition, with transparent international peer review and the selection of candidates on merit. Mobility types supported by fellowship programmes may be similar to the ones supported under Marie SkłodowskaCurie...
Individual Fellowships. 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: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal

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 will work 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 – defining 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 longterm 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.

The ERC has three main and two additional 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 completion of PhD who are about to establish a proper research team and to start conducting independent research in Europe; size of 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 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; size of the grant is up to 2 – 2.75 mil. € for the period of 5 years;
- **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; size of 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 ERCfunded frontier research projects; size of 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.
4.3.2 Erasmus+ – the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport

Erasmus+ is the EU’s new programme supporting activities in the field of education, training, youth and sport. During the period 2014 – 2020, the programme will provide 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 cooperation of education sector and work environment. The programme brings new features, such as 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 of projects with higher education institutions in these countries.

In the field of education and training, the Programme shall pursue 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, staff of education 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 pay-back terms that will help them to fund their master studies in an Erasmus+ Programme country. To apply, students should address themselves to 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 aimed to one or more fields of education, professional training and youth; they are designed to promote innovation, exchange of experience and knowhow between different types of organisations involved in education, professional training and youth, or in other relevant fields. Certain mobility activities are supported, if they will contribute to achieve 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 achieve 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 on-line 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.

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 policy-makers 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.

**Erasmus+** is **open for applicants from the following countries:**
- EU Member States;
- Acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates benefiting from a pre-accession strategy;
- European Free Trade Area (EFTA) countries that are party to the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein);
- Countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, where a bilateral agreement has been concluded.

**More information:**
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 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 newly established implementation structure (COST Association) under the direct governance of the Committee of Senior Officials in order to handle directly EU support to COST activities. 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 in 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 9 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 9 scientific domains.

COST is composed of 36 countries (35 member countries and one cooperating country): 28 EU Member States, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Iceland, 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 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](http://www.cost.eu)

**National coordinator for Slovakia:**
prof. Milan Dado, PhD.
University of Žilina
Faculty of Electric Engineering
Univerzitná 8 215/1, 01 026 Žilina
The Slovak Republic
e-mail: milan.dado@uniza.sk

**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. 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 which 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.

- **EUREKA/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 33 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.

Eurostars is a programme also integrated in Horizon 2020 and the total budget represents 1.14 billion €, a tripled amount in comparison to the previous period of the 7th Framework Programme.

• **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 there are EUREKA Umbrellas 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 (NPC) are at operational level, running the National EUREKA Offices. They are the direct contact with project in each member country. NPCs facilitate the setting-up and running of a project and are responsible for project generation, national and international support and follow-up.

• **EUREKA InnoVest Programme** – aims to boost the investment awareness and readiness of EUREKA innovative SMEs, promote these companies towards the investment community and actively facilitate investment matching with experienced investors. It is organised by EUREKA in cooperation with EBAN, EBN and Europe Unlimited.

More information: [www.eurekanetwork.org](http://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  
Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava  
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, 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 on-line 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 3 universities from 2 different Member States involved in the Programme. Applications for university networking are submitted online at www.ceepus.info, 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 Conference 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 scholarship under the category “freemover”. Deadline for freemover applications is 30 November at www.ceepus.info.

Scholarship rates for Slovakia:
- students 280 €/month;
- PhD students and university teachers 470 €/month.
The International Visegrad Fund

The International Visegrad Fund is an international organisation based in Bratislava founded by the governments of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and 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). Nongovernmental 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 mil. € consists of equal contributions from the V4 governments.

The Fund operates following programmes:

• **IVF grant programmes:**
  - **Visegrad Grants** – any original proposal could be granted support provided it links individuals or institutions from at least three V4 countries and develops project activities in the fields of culture, science and research, education, youth exchanges, cross-border co-operation and tourism promotion. The projects can last max. 12 months. Annual application deadlines: 1 March, 1 June, 1 September, 1 December. More information: [http://visegradfund.org/grants/small-grants](http://visegradfund.org/grants/small-grants)
  - **Strategic Grants** – the programme is designed for longer project durations (12 – 36 months), offer higher financial support (ca. 40,000 € on average per project) and is recommended for more experienced grantees. Entities from all four V4 countries must be actively involved in each proposed project. Annual application deadline: 15 April. More information: [http://visegradfund.org/grants/strategic-grants](http://visegradfund.org/grants/strategic-grants)
  - **Strategic Conferences** – the aim of the programme is to fund conference-type events of strategic regional relevance. More information: [http://visegradfund.org/grants/strategic-conferences](http://visegradfund.org/grants/strategic-conferences)
  - **Visegrad University Studies Grants** – the programme targets accredited higher education institutions worldwide with the aim to promote and support the development and launching of outstanding university courses or degree programmes.
that deal with specific phenomena explicitly related to V4 countries. On average, the grants amount to ca. 10,000 € per course and 40,000 € per degree programme. Annual application deadline: 10 November
More information: http://visegradfund.org/grants/visegrad-university-studies-grants

- **Visegrad+** – the programme administers and funds projects which contribute to the democratisation and transformation processes in selected counties and regions, especially non-EU member states in the Western Balkans. The programme supports medium- and long-term projects (12 – 36 months). More information: http://visegradfund.org/grants/visegrad-plus

- **Flagship Projects** – the programme supports long-term projects (18 – 36 months) of strategic character that significantly contribute to providing access to the unique experience and know-how of V4 countries with democratic transformation and integration, EU accession and regional co-operation. The projects are meant to support reform processes, political association and economic integration with the EU, strengthen institutional capacities, contribute to the development of civil society and the overall transformation of the Eastern Partnership countries. Annual application deadline: 10 November
More information: http://visegradfund.org/grants/v4eap/flagship-projects

- **Extended Standard Grants** – the programme supports medium-term projects (18 months) of strategic character that significantly contribute to providing access to the unique experience and know-how of V4 countries with democratic transformation and integration, EU accession and regional co-operation. The projects are meant to support reform processes, political association and economic integration with the EU, strengthen institutional capacities, contribute to the development of civil society and the overall transformation of the Eastern Partnership countries. More information: http://visegradfund.org/grants/v4eap/extended-standard-grants

- **Visegrad University Studies Grants - EaP** – the programme targets higher education institutions in the Eastern Partnership countries in funding projects developing university courses or degree programmes which focus on sharing specific V4 experience with democratisation and transformation processes, regional co-operation and the EU accession process. On average, the grants amount to ca. 10,000 € per course and 40,000 € per degree programme. Annual application deadline: 10 November
More information: http://visegradfund.org/grants/v4eap/visegrad-university-studies-grants-eap

**IVF scholarship programmes:**
- **Visegrad Scholarship Programme**
  - **Intra-Visegrad Scholarships** – applicants from V4 countries can apply for 1- or 2-semester study/research stays at higher education institutions in V4 countries.
The programme supports mobility of masters and post-masters (PhD students/postdocs). Scholarship: 2,300 €/semester for the scholar and 1,500 €/semester for the host institution. Annual application deadline: 31 January.

- **In-Coming Scholarships**
  - applicants from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Ukraine can apply for 1- or 2-semester study/research stays at higher education institutions in V4 countries. The programme supports mobility of masters (applicants in this category may apply for up to 4-semester stays) and post-masters (PhD students/postdocs). Scholarship: 2,300 €/semester for the scholar and 1,500 €/semester for the host institution. Annual application deadline: 31 January.

- **Out-Going Scholarships**
  - applicants from V4 countries can apply for 1- or 2-semester study/research stays at higher education institutions in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Ukraine. The programme supports mobility of masters and post-masters (PhD students/postdocs). Scholarship: 2,300 €/semester for the scholar and 1,500 €/semester for the host institution. Annual application deadline: 31 January.

More information: [http://visegradfund.org/scholarships/visegrad-scholarship-program](http://visegradfund.org/scholarships/visegrad-scholarship-program)

- **Visegrad Scholarships at Open Society Archives** – research fellowships at the Open Society Archives (OSA) at the Central European University in Budapest. The fellowships are given on a competitive basis to scholars, artists or journalist 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 €. Annual application deadline: January, April, October. More information: [http://visegradfund.org/scholarships/visegrad-scholarships-at-osa](http://visegradfund.org/scholarships/visegrad-scholarships-at-osa)

- **Visegrad-Taiwan Scholarship** – the aim of the programme is to facilitate academic exchanges by providing support to PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from V4 countries who intend to conduct research in Taiwan. The reciprocal part of the programme supporting mobility of Taiwanese researchers to the V4 region is administered by the Taiwanese side. It is possible to apply for max. 10-month research stays with the possibility to re-apply once. Scholarship: 750 €/month for PhD students and 1,000 €/month for postdocs; travel grant: 800 €. Annual application deadline: March. More information: [http://visegradfund.org/scholarships/visegrad-taiwan-scholarships](http://visegradfund.org/scholarships/visegrad-taiwan-scholarships)
**Visegrad Artist Residency Programmes:**

- **Visual & Sound Arts** – the programme facilitates mobility and exchange of V4 citizens in the fields of visual and sound arts. The artist-in-residence projects must be implemented in a V4 country other than that of the applicant’s citizenship/residence. Supported period of each residency is 3 months. Scholarship: 2,250 € for the artist and 2,250 € for the host institution. Annual application deadline: 10 September. More information: [http://visegradfund.org/residencies/visual-sound-arts](http://visegradfund.org/residencies/visual-sound-arts)

- **Performing Arts** – the programme provides opportunities to host performing artists or companies from/in all V4 countries and to support concerted work to create a platform for information exchange and to support contemporary theatre and dance in Central Europe. Emphasis is given to innovation, experiment and creativity in performing arts – new drama, contemporary dance, new circus, physical theatre, visual theatre, alternative theatre, performance art, etc. As such, the programme is not suitable for stone theatres, already developed performances or theatre festivals. Residences are intended as 3-month projects with a minimum 2-week stay at 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 artists and 2,500 € for the host institution. Annual application deadline: 1 October. More information: [http://visegradfund.org/residencies/performing-arts](http://visegradfund.org/residencies/performing-arts)

- **Visegrad Literary Residency Program** – the programme provides stays and literary events addressed to writers of fiction and non-fiction, poets, essayists, critics, as well as literary translators, publicists and journalists from V4 countries. The programme supports the work and mobility of talented literary residents and aims at creating a platform for literary exchanges and supports the development of promotion of V4 literature. 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: TBA. More information: [http://visegradfund.org/residencies/literary](http://visegradfund.org/residencies/literary)

**More information:**

[www.visegradfund.org](http://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, environment 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 clear connection with the key priorities of NATO, added value of safety and benefits for the development of relations between NATO and partners. Preferably, the projects have 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.

Submission of applications
Detailed information on each scheme and application forms can be found at www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/87260.htm. Projects proposals may be submitted continuously through this website and are subject to international review. 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.

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 form 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.

NATO-Russia scientific co-operation
In scientific cooperation has been established a special programme (www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/88267.htm) of support for cooperation between scientists and experts from NATO countries and Russia. The Action Plan for 2013–2015 provides for cooperation in the following priority areas related to security:
1. **Facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of common interest, including international efforts to meet emerging security challenges** (counter-terrorism, energy security, defence against CBRN agents, environmental security);

2. **Enhance awareness on security developments including through early warning, with a view to preventing crises** (security related advanced technology, such as in the field of telemedicine, border and port Security, mine and unexploded ordnance detection and clearance, human and social aspects of security).

3. Other topics will be considered for inclusion in the Action Plan as they are identified by representatives and are deemed by NRC (SPS) to be particularly suitable for pursuit within its programme of work.

**Submission of applications**

Applications for grants to support the cooperation between Russian scientists and scientists from NATO countries within the given topic may be submitted to NATO through the following website, the application forms are also available at [www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/87260.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/87260.htm).

Support mechanisms are the already mentioned Science for Peace projects, Advanced Training Courses, Advanced Study Institutes and the Advanced Research Workshops. The last 3 are usually held in Russia.

Russian scientists may be involved in core cooperation programme described in the section “Funded activities” in the framework of the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC).

NATO-Russia cooperation also supports, encourages and coordinates joint cooperative nationally funded projects with the participation of experts from NATO countries and Russia.

**More information:**

Science for Peace and Security Programme
Emerging Security Challenges Division
NATO HQ, Bd Leopold III
Brussels, Belgium
E-mail: science@hq.nato.int,
[www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/78209.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/78209.htm)
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 towards the national authorities related to your stay in Slovakia.

The main parts cover 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 (timeline checklist) 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.

Please note that this text is only informative. It was elaborated on the basis of information available and valid for the year 2016; 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 detailed 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/domov) in Slovak only.

5.1.1 Navigation

Start with the question I. and continue as advised in the instructions following your answer to questions according to your situation:

I. Are you an EU/EEA/Swiss national?
   A. Yes – proceed directly to section “Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals coming to Slovakia”, page 80.
      - Note: If a family member plans to accompany you during your stay, do not forget to consult also question IV.
   B. No – continue with question II.
II. Is your planned stay in Slovakia a short-term one, i.e. shorter than 90 days?

A. Yes. What kind of activity do you plan to perform in Slovakia?
   1. Study at university (irrespective of the study level, including PhD studies)
   2. Carry out research and development on the basis of a Hosting Agreement (look at the part “What is a Hosting Agreement?”, page 93) (this type of employment does not require a work permit nor a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position and besides an employment contract the activity can be performed on the basis of agreements outside employment contract, or on the basis of an awarded scholarship)
   3. Perform an activity resulting from a programme approved by the Government of SR, a European programme, or a programme arising from an international treaty binding on SR (upon an invitation letter and/or letter of a scholarship award without an employment contract, or with a contract with a limited scope of activities when a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position is not required, see page 94 for the specification of the activities performed)
   4. Undertake an internship as a part of your study outside the territory of the Slovak Republic (on the basis of a certificate of internship)
   5. Perform lecturing or artistic activity (upon an invitation letter or a confirmation, without an employment contract, or only with a contract with limited scope of activities, when a work permit or a confirmation of a possibility of filling a vacancy is not required, see page 94 for the specification of the activities performed)

In case of the points 1 – 5 it is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.

Do you need a visa to enter Slovakia (or the Schengen Area in general)?
(Check here, whether or not you are allowed visa-free access to the EU: http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa/do-i-need-a-short-stay-visa_en#novisa%)

- **Yes** – then apply for a visa. For detailed information about the visa procedures, see the section “Visa – Application for a Schengen visa”, page 83.
  - In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival, see the section “Duties after arriving in Slovakia”, page 104.

- **No** – in this case you do not need to take any administrative steps before your arrival.
  - In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival, see the section “Duties after arriving in Slovakia”, page 104.
6. Be employed beyond the conditions laid down in the points 1 – 5 under a contract of employment

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 Residence of Foreigners lists a number of exceptional situations that enable you to be employed for a maximum of 90 days without being granted a temporary residence; however, these very specific cases are not relevant to this publication. Please continue in the navigation as if your stay was longer than 90 days.

B. No. Your intended stay is longer than 90 days. You need to apply for a temporary residence; the related administrative process may vary according to where you decide to apply for the temporary residence.

Do you need a visa to enter Slovakia (or the Schengen Area in general)?
(Check here, whether or not you are allowed visa-free access to the EU: http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa/do-i-need-a-short-stay-visa_en#novisa)

a) Yes. You can get a temporary residence in two ways:

(1) You can apply for a temporary residence from abroad prior to your arrival in Slovakia (to find out more about a temporary residence, please continue with the question III). After issuing the temporary residence, a Slovak embassy/consulate will issue (on the basis of an application) the National visa (type “D”) allowing the entry into Slovakia (for further information about the visa procedure, consult the part “Visa – Application for a National Visa”, page 87).

Please note that this procedure may last longer due to the diplomatic mail between the Foreign Police and the respective Slovak embassy/consulate.

- In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival, see the section “Duties after arriving in Slovakia”, page 104.

- Note: If your family member plans to accompany you during your stay, do not forget to consult the question IV.

(2) In case it is impossible to apply for a temporary residence from abroad due to some objective reasons and your stay in Slovakia is authorised (i.e. you are a holder of a Schengen (type “C”) or a National visa (type “D”), you can come to Slovakia and apply for a temporary residence at a police department (to find out more information about a temporary residence, please continue with the question III.)

- 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.
- Note: The application procedure for a temporary residence for the purpose of study, research and development, special activity as well as the application procedure for a Blue card may take up to 30 days from the date when your application was accepted by the respective Foreign Police Office. In other cases, the procedure can take 90 days.

- In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival, see the section “Duties after arriving in Slovakia”, page 104.

- Note: If your family member plans to accompany you during your stay, do not forget to consult the question IV.

b) No. You can get a temporary residence in two ways:

1) Apply for a temporary residence at a police department in Slovakia, if you are legally staying in the territory of the SR (to find out more information about a temporary residence, please continue with the question III.).

- Do not forget to bring all the documents necessary for the temporary residence application procedure with you; otherwise, you will have to leave the territory of Slovakia after 90 days of a cumulative stay within any 180-day period.

- In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival, see the section “Duties after arriving in Slovakia”, page 104.

- Note: If your family member plans to accompany you during your stay, do not forget to consult the question IV.

2) You can apply for a temporary residence from abroad at the Diplomatic Mission of the SR prior to your arrival in Slovakia (to find out more information about a temporary residence, please continue with the question III.).

Please note that this procedure may last longer due to the diplomatic mail between the Foreign Police and the respective Slovak embassy/consulate.

- In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival, see the section “Duties after arriving in Slovakia”, page 104.

- Note: If your family member plans to accompany you during your stay, do not forget to consult the question IV.
III. What kind of activity do you plan to perform during your stay in Slovakia longer than 90 days?

A. **Study at a university** – irrespective of the type of study (full degree programme or credit academic mobility/exchange stays), you can apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of study – see the section “Temporary residence for the purpose of study in the case of university students/PhD students”, page 88.

B. **Carry out research and development**
   - **Are you invited/accepted by a Slovak university to pursue a PhD?**
     a) **Yes** – if you have an invitation letter/letter of acceptance as a PhD student, go back to section “III. A. Study at university” and proceed accordingly.
     b) **No** (irrespective of whether you have an invitation from a university or other research organisation), continue 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?”, page 93)
     a. **Yes** – you can apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of research and development – see the section “Temporary residence for the purpose of research and development for researchers with a Hosting Agreement”, page 90.
     b. **No** – how is your stay arranged?
       i. You will carry out research or teaching activities at a university within an exchange/mobility programme of the SR or the EU or cooperation scheme – for further information about the temporary residence, see the section “Temporary residence for the purpose of special activity”, page 94.
       ii. You will conclude a regular employment contract without a Hosting agreement:
         - Does your activity require higher qualification and will the working conditions and terms be met for the granting of the Blue Card of the EU?
           a. **Yes** – to verify the conditions and their fulfilment continue with the section “Temporary residence in case of employment requiring higher qualification – Blue card of the EU”, page 101.
           b. **No** – continue with the section “Temporary residence for the purpose of employment”, page 97.

C. **Teach at university**
   - a) You will perform teaching activities as a lecturer – university teacher based on a simple invitation letter from a Slovak university, but with no employment contract, or you will perform teaching activities within an exchange/mobility programme of SR or the EU, but with no employment contract – continue with the section “Temporary residence for the purpose of special activity”, page 94.
   - b) You will conclude a regular employment contract:
     - Does your activity require higher qualification and will the working conditions and terms be met for the granting of the Blue Card of the EU?
Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

a. Yes – to verify the conditions and their fulfilment continue with the section “Temporary residence in case of employment requiring higher qualification – Blue card of the EU”, page 101.
b. No – continue with the section “Temporary residence for the purpose of employment”, page 97.

- In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival, see the section “Duties after arriving in Slovakia”, page 104.
- Note: If your family member plans to accompany you during your stay, do not forget to consult the question IV.

IV. If you intend to come to Slovakia with your family member(s), please answer again the following question: 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“, page 80.
b) No – as for the temporary residence for your family member, consult the section “Procedures for family members of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals who come from third countries“, page 104.

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 chapter “Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals coming to Slovakia“, page 80.
b) No – as for the temporary residence for your family member, consult the section “Temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification in the case of third country nationals’ families“, page 106.

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

The 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 109.

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 submit the notice of stay to the foreign police office within 10 working days since his/her arrival to Slovakia. This is usually made by the accommodation provider 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 in person directly at the competent foreign police office (list of foreign police offices can be found on page 111).
If an EU/EEA/Swiss national intends to stay in Slovakia for longer than 3 months, he/she is first obliged to submit the notice of stay to the foreign police office within 10 working days since his/her arrival to Slovakia (as mentioned in the paragraph above). After that he/she can stay in Slovakia without any further obligations for up to three months from the entry into the Slovak Republic. 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.

What do you need for the report your of stay?
If you are staying in private accommodation, come in person to the foreign police office during office hours and present the following:
- filled in form “Notice of the stay” (available in 7 languages, can be downloaded from www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinca; however, must be filled in Slovak language; the forms are also available at local foreign police offices),
- valid ID/passport.

What do you need for the registration of residence of an EU/EEA/Swiss national?
Come in person to the foreign police office during office hours and present the following:
- completed form “Application for registration of the right of residence of Union Citizen” (available to download at www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinca, look for a document entitled “Žiadosť o obnovenie prechodného pobytu, ... o registráciu práva občana Únie, ...” must be filled in Slovak language),
- valid ID/passport,
- document proving the purpose of your stay in Slovakia and/or sufficient financial resources:
  - in the case of employment in the territory of the Slovak Republic – an employment contract or a commitment of the employer,
  - 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,
  - in the case of study in Slovakia – a confirmation of study letter or an admission letter to a school in Slovakia and a statutory declaration of sufficient financial resources,
  - in case you assume to be employed in Slovakia – a statutory declaration on a continuing search for a job in Slovakia and a proof of medical insurance,
  - in case you are a family member of an EU citizen, you will accompany or join – a certificate of registration of the EU citizen, and a birth or marriage certificate, or a proof of your permanent relationship.
If you are interested in obtaining a Residence card of an EU citizen, you are also required to submit the following:

- two recent photographs (3 × 3.5 cm),
- document in Slovak proving provision of accommodation (e. g. a confirmation from your accommodation provider or a rental agreement and the letter of ownership).

**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**

When intending to apply for a visa, foreign nationals are urged to contact the territorially competent Slovak embassy/consulate general (see page 112) in order to receive a detailed and up-to-date information on visa requirements, since the general information provided below may not fully cover the visa requirements applicable in the third country. Before visiting the embassy/consulate in person, contact them by telephone or e-mail and arrange an appointment if possible.

Note: Check here, whether or not you are allowed visa-free access to the EU: [http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa/do-i-need-a-short-stay-visa_en#novisa%](http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa/do-i-need-a-short-stay-visa_en#novisa%).

You can apply for a visa 3 months prior to your planned trip at the earliest. 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 Community-level visa facilitation agreements (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine). Nationals of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia don’t 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 and as a rule, the visa can only be extended if the holder has stayed in the Schengen area for less than 90 days before the expiry date.

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** for one or several visits, the duration of which **cannot exceed 90 days in any 180-day period**. Cyprus, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania recognise Schengen visa as equal to their national visa for the purpose of transit or a planned stay not exceeding 90 days within any 180-day period; however, this only applies to visa valid for two or multiple entries.

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 into 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 backwards at each day of the stay (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, the stays in the Schengen countries outside the EU – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are taken into the 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 calculator.

---


Schengen area countries are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.


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 following 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 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:

  The application must be signed by the applicant; in case of minors or persons lacking legal capacity, the application must be signed by their legal guardian, who is required to attach a copy of the document identifying him/her as the applicant’s legal guardian,
- 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 previous 10 years. The document shall contain at least 2 blank pages,
- document demonstrating the purpose and conditions of the planned stay (confirmation of acceptance for studies, invitation letter, letter of award, hosting agreement, etc.),
- 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. A minimum insurance coverage of 30 000 € is required. Family members of EU or EEA nationals are exempt from the obligation of submitting travel health insurance,
- accommodation-related documents, 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
- 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
  - other documents safeguarding funds in a convertible currency,
(No general amount of funds to cover the costs of living is prescribed, 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. At this moment, Slovak authorities generally operate with 56 €/person/day, hence a foreign national might be requested to prove the corresponding amount respective to the duration of his/her stay as stated in the visa at the Slovak border.)

- documents enabling an 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,
- other documents – for the purposes 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 € in general or 35 € for the nationals of those third countries that have signed Visa Facilitation Agreements with the European Union:

- Albania,
- Armenia,
- Azerbaijan,
- Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Cape Verde,
- Georgia,
- 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.

The fees shall be paid in a freely convertible currency or in a 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 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.

**B. Invitation**

Foreigners may be asked to enclose an official invitation validated by a police authority to their 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 93).

---

7) 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 citizen’s stay on the territory of the Slovak Republic, www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2011/499/20120101 (Slovak only).

Note: Invitation in the Schengen visa granting procedure ≠ 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.

Application to verify an invitation must be presented by an inviting person:

- Slovak citizen with permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic or a foreigner with legitimate permanent or temporary residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic,
- An organisation with the seat in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

A request to verify an invitation must be submitted (using an official form “Application for verification of the invitation” available at www.minv.sk/?pozvanie-cudzinca) at a police department correspondent to the inviting person’s place of residence or to the seat of the inviting legal person. In addition to the inviting and invited person’s data, it is necessary to enclose other documents to the request, not older than 90 days and proving:

- **purpose of the invitation** – being a relative of the invited person; business licence of the inviting person; business or other labour relationships; organising 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, other authentic reason,
- **ability of the inviting person to cover all expenses related to the stay and travel of the invited person.** The financial capacity can be proved by a balance statement of a bank account in the name of the inviting person, issued by a bank. The account balance must cumulatively be at least 12-times the subsistence minimum (198,09 € for 2016) and funds for each day of the invited person’s stay in the amount of 56 €.
  
  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 issues a verification of an invitation within 15 days from the receipt of the application. The verification is valid for 90 days.

---

9) 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 citizen’s stay on the territory of the Slovak Republic, www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2011/499/2012101 (Slovak only).

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

National (long-stay, type D) visa may be issued in relation to the granted residence or in connection with Slovakia’s commitments under international treaties or for the benefit of the Slovak Republic. It is issued for a stay longer than 90 days, for a period of one year at the longest. In relation to the granted residence in the Slovak Republic, the visa is issued for a period of 90 days. 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 period 11).

The possibility to apply for a National visa depends on the decision of the competent Slovak embassy/consulate abroad (see the part “Slovak embassies and consulates abroad”, page 112). Therefore, it is necessary to contact the embassy/consulate and get information about your specific situation.

The National visa is issued under similar conditions as the Schengen visa and in general, it is necessary to enclose the same documents to the application.

Visa application fee 12): 33 €

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

The fee shall be paid in a freely convertible currency or in a 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.

---


Temporary residence

Depending on the activity you are going to pursue in Slovakia and the way it will be carried out, you may apply for one of the several types of temporary residence:

- temporary residence for the purpose of study,
- 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 75.

A. Temporary residence for the purpose of study (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 study. 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 staying in Slovakia legally. You have to submit a complete application; otherwise, it will not be accepted. If the embassy or the police department does not 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, 60 days are deducted from you travel document’s expiry date.

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; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and have to be filled in Slovak language),
- 2 recent full-face photographs 3 × 3.5 cm,
- valid passport,
- document proving the purpose of your stay (in Slovak) – a confirmation of studies letter from a state authority (respective ministry) or a host university, or a confirmation from an organisation administering a programme approved by the government or an European programme under a contract with the competent state authority (scholarship award letter),
- document proving sufficient financial resources for your stay (in Slovak) (e.g. a balance statement of a bank account in the name of the applicant, a letter of award stating the amount of your scholarship, a confirmation of the financial and material support of the applicant during his/her stay from the statutory body of a legal entity, etc.),
- 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 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). The document has to be translated to Slovak language by an official sworn translator (the list of accepted...
sworn translators can be found at http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia, but it is available in Slovak only), or by the Slovak embassy/consulate competent to accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the embassy proving the conformity with the original). The extracts issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak. Students of secondary schools are exempted from the duty to file extracts from their criminal records.

- foreigners studying at university in Slovakia do not have to enclose a confirmation of accommodation.

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.

Slovak embassy which receives the application will interview the applicant for the temporary residence for the purpose of a preliminary assessment of the 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 the application for a temporary residence. The record shall be made in the language in which the interview was held, and it must be signed by the applicant. (If the applicant does not speak Slovak, he/she may turn to an interpreter at his/her own expenses who must then sign the record.) The embassy will send its position on the granting of a temporary residence to the 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**


Within 30 days from the date of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall either issue 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 at the foreign police office (typically within 30 days). You have to 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 from abroad via a representative body, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence as well as the collection of the residence card.

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 112) and a fee will be charged.

The police department shall grant a temporary residence for the purpose of study for the expected period of the study, for a maximum of 6 years. The temporary residence for the purpose of study remains valid for up to 30 days after the completion of university studies for the purpose of job-searching. The university diploma and the state examination certificate serve as a proof of the completed studies.

An application for the renewal of a temporary residence has to be filed by the student 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 on the territory of Slovakia after its expiration until the decision on the application for the renewal of a temporary residence.

Conditions under which students and PhD students can work alongside their studies are briefly explained in the section “Employment of third country nationals” on page 113.

**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 decision-making procedure. In this case, a researcher does not need a work permit or a confirmation of a possibility to fill a vacant position. Moreover, they can carry out their activities on the basis of agreements on work performed outside employment relationship (e.g. work performance agreement) or on the basis of a granted scholarship.

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 staying in Slovakia legally. You have 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 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, 60 days are deducted from you travel document’s expiry date.
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; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and have to be filled in 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 (in Slovak) (e.g. a Hosting Agreement, a balance statement of a bank account in the name of the applicant),
- 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 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). The document has to be translated to Slovak language by an official sworn translator (the list of accepted sworn translators can be found at http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia, but it is available in Slovak only), or by the Slovak embassy/consulate competent to accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the embassy proving the conformity with the original). The extracts issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak.
- foreigners applying for a temporary residence for the purpose of research and development do not have to enclose a confirmation of accommodation. However, the Hosting Agreement should contain a provision regarding the accommodation.

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.

Slovak embassy which receives the application will interview the applicant for the temporary residence for the purpose of a preliminary assessment of the 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 the application for a temporary residence. The record shall be made in the language in which the interview was held, and it must be signed by the applicant. (If the applicant does not speak Slovak, he/she may turn to an interpreter at his/her own expenses who must then sign the record.) The embassy will send its position on the granting of a temporary residence to the 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 the 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 $^{14}$: 4.50 € for the residence card

Within 30 days from the date of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall either issue 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 at the foreign police office (typically within 30 days). You have to 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 from abroad via a representative body, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence as well as the collection of the residence card.

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. The health insurance contracts in another language than Slovak (except for Czech) must be translated to Slovak by a sworn translator. In case you do not have a **health insurance covering your stay in Slovakia**, you have to obtain it **within 3 working days after you collect your residence card**. 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 112) and a fee will be charged.

The police department shall grant a temporary residence for the purpose of research and development for the time necessary to achieve its purpose, **but for a maximum of two years**. An application for the **renewal** of a temporary residence has to be filed by a foreigner in person using an official form at the foreign police office **no later than the last day of the current temporary residence validity**. The temporary residence is deemed valid on the territory of Slovakia after its expiration until the decision on the application for the renewal of a temporary residence.
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 www.euraxess.sk/sk/main/euraxess-pre-vyskumne-organizacie-a-priemysel/prijimanie-cudzincov/dohoda-o-hostovani/ (in Slovak language) or the Slovak version of this brochure.

A Hosting agreement has to contain the following:
- name and contact details of the third country researcher
- name and contact details 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 in case a researcher remains illegally in the territory of the Slovak republic, the abovementioned organisation will reimburse the costs related to his/her stay and return incurred by public funds
- declaration of the host research organisation stating that during his/her stay, the researcher is provided with sufficient monthly resources at least in the amount of the minimum salary to cover his/her expenses during the stay and return travel costs. Typically, the financial resources can be provided in a form of a granted scholarship or a salary from a concluded employment contract. For more information regarding the duties arising from the employment, see the page 111.
- declaration of the host research organisation or by the researcher that during his/her stay the researcher has the health insurance

More information and a model Hosting agreements can be found at www.euraxess.sk/en/main/services-practical-information/entry-conditions-and-legal-stay/third-countries-nationals/hosting-agreement
C. Temporary residence for the purpose of special activity
(e.g. university teachers, lecturers without employment contract, participants in a scholarship/fellowship programme approved by the Government of the SR, a European programme or a programme arising from an international agreement)

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, a European programme or a programme resulting from an international agreement binding on SR or upon invitation from a university or other education institution to give lectures/teach, can apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of special activity. However, these nationals cannot be employed in Slovakia under an employment contract. Conditions of employment are described in the section “Employment of third country nationals” on page 113.

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 staying in Slovakia legally. You have 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 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, 60 days are deducted from you travel document’s expiry date.

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; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and have to be filled in Slovak language),
- 2 recent full-face photographs 3 × 3.5 cm,
- valid passport,
- document proving the purpose of your stay (in Slovak), e. g.:
  - a confirmation from your host university/education institution that you will carry out activities of a university teacher/lecturer (invitation letter for a lecture stay), or
  - a scholarship award letter/confirmation of participation in a programme approved by the Government of the SR, a European programme or a programme arising from an international treaty binding on the SR – i.e. confirmation from a state authority (the respective ministry) in charge of a programme or a confirmation from an administrative organisation administering such a programme under a contract with a competent state authority,
- document proving sufficient financial resources for your stay (in Slovak), e. g.:
- a balance statement of a bank account in the name of the applicant, or
- a scholarship award letter stating the amount of your scholarship – i.e. a confirmation from a state authority (the respective ministry) in charge of programmes approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic or European programmes or a confirmation from an administrative organization administering such a programme under a contract with the competent state authority, if the confirmation contains an information of provided financial resources,
- 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 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). The document has to be translated to Slovak language by an official sworn translator (the list of accepted sworn translators can be found at http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia, but it is available in Slovak only), or by the Slovak embassy/consulate competent to accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the embassy proving the conformity with the original). The extracts issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak.
- document proving your accommodation (in Slovak) 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; e.g.
  - a confirmation from your accommodation provider, or
  - a rental agreement and the letter of ownership, or
  - a declaration by a natural or legal person that he/she will provide accommodation to the applicant and the letter of ownership.
A document proving the accommodation is not required in case the purpose of your stay is your participation in a programme of the Slovak government or the EU, or the fulfilment of a commitment of the Slovak Republic under an international agreement if the applicant is engaged in teaching or research activities at the same time.

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.

Slovak embassy which receives the application will interview the applicant for the temporary residence for the purpose of a preliminary assessment of the 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 the application for a temporary residence. The record shall be made in the language in which the interview was held, and it must be signed by the applicant. (If the applicant does not speak Slovak, he/she may turn to an interpreter at his/her own expenses who must then sign the record.) The embassy will send its position on the granting of a temporary residence to the 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 the 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: 4.50 € for the residence card
99.50 € for the application for a temporary residence for the purpose of 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:
- applicants for a temporary residence for the purpose of special activity who are participating in a programme approved by the Slovak government or in a European programme as well as those whose activity in Slovakia is resulting from a commitment of the Slovak republic under an international treaty (e.g. foreign language lecturers coming to Slovak universities/schools) are 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 either issue 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 at the foreign police office (typically within 30 days). You have to 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 from abroad via a representative body, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence as well as the collection of the residence card.

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. The health insurance contracts in another language than Slovak (except for Czech) must be translated to Slovak by a sworn translator. In case you do not have a health insurance covering your stay in Slovakia, you have to obtain it within 3 working days after you collect your residence card. 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 112) and a fee will be charged.

---

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

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 not regulated otherwise (as mentioned above) and the activity in Slovakia cannot be performed on the basis of a Hosting agreement or as a special activity, or either the vacancy or the candidate do not meet the criteria for a highly qualified employment, the teachers and researchers shall be employed under an employment contract with the hosting organisation and apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of employment. 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 staying in Slovakia legally. You have 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 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, 60 days are deducted from you travel document’s expiry date.

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 part 5.2.1 B.),
• on the basis of a work permit (relevant for a few specific cases – see the part 5.2.1 D.), or
• if none of these two documents is required for the employment of a third country national (see part 5.2.1 A. for details).

It is enough to submit a completed application form and a valid travel document for your application for a temporary residence which should be issued on the basis of a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position to be accepted.

More information about reporting a vacancy is provided in the part 5.2.1 B.

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; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and have to be filled in the Slovak language),
• 2 recent full-face photographs 3 x 3.5 cm,
• valid passport,
• document proving the purpose of your stay (in Slovak):
  – 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 (www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/Prislub_na_zamestnanie.rtf), or an employment contract, and
  – a decision on recognition of qualification or a document confirming the highest level of education achieved by the third country national, or
  – in the case of other applications – a work permit (issued by the competent office of labour, social affairs and family according to the place of work), or
  – 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 (in Slovak) (e.g. an employment contract, employer’s confirmation of the agreed wage amount, or a balance statement of a bank account in the name of the applicant),
• 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 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). The document has to be translated to Slovak language by an official sworn translator (the list of accepted sworn translators can be found at http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia, but it is available in Slovak only), or by the Slovak embassy/consulate competent to accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the embassy proving the conformity with the original). The extracts issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak. Students of secondary schools are exempted from the duty to file extracts from their criminal records.
• document proving your accommodation (in Slovak) 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; e. g.
  – a confirmation from your accommodation provider, or
  – a rental agreement and the letter of ownership, or
  – a declaration by a natural or legal person that he/she will provide accommodation to the applicant and the letter of ownership.

None of the documents proving your financial resources 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\(^\text{16)}\):  
- **4.50 €** for the residence card  
- **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

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 30 working days before the submission of your application if it is based on the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position or at least 15 working days before the submission of your application if the work permit procedure applies. For conditions of employment see also parts 5.2.1 B. or 5.2.1 D. respectively. You won’t 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 the temporary residence” within the single residence and work permit procedure, 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 documents proving the purpose of your stay as well as the position of the diplomatic mission of the Slovak Republic (if the application for a temporary residence was submitted there) to the corresponding office of labour, social affairs and family. The office of labour, social affairs and family will consequently issue the “Confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position” and send it to the police department. The third country national will be given a document “Additional data on employment” by the police department after the arrival to Slovakia.

If the embassy or the police department does not accept your application, they will notify you in writing of the documents you need to enclose so that it can be accepted. An application for the temporary residence based on a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position will not be accepted only if you do not present a valid travel document. Once you are granted a temporary residence, the police department will send you a written notice, stating its effective and expiry date. The time validity of a travel document is not regarded when deciding on the duration of a granted temporary residence.

Within 90 days from the date of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall either issue 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 at the foreign police office (typically within 90 days). You have to 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 from abroad via a representative body, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence as well as the collection of the residence card.

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 112) and a fee will be charged.

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 30 days after the termination of employment for the purpose of job-searching. An application for the renewal of a temporary residence has to be filed by the foreigner 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 on the territory of Slovakia after its expiration until the decision on the application for the renewal of a temporary residence.

Specific regulations and procedures connected to employment are briefly explained in the section “Employment of third country nationals” on page 113.
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. Nationals of third countries with higher professional qualification can thus more easily enter the Slovak labour market and work in highly qualified jobs. Higher professional qualification means a qualification attested by a certificate of higher education (method of proof of which is given below). A person interested in obtaining the EU Blue Card must conclude an employment contract with a future employer in Slovakia, or to obtain a written promise of future employment from him (www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/Prislub_na_zamestnanie.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 filed.

Employer willing to employ a third country national in a highly qualified job is obliged to report a vacancy at a labour office competent according to the place of work at least 30 working days before the application of the third country national for a temporary residence is submitted.

More information on the procedure related to the employment requiring higher qualification can be found in the part 5.2.1 C.

You can apply for an EU Blue card (i.e. for a temporary residence) in person at the Slovak embassy/consulate competent for your country or at a foreign police office in Slovakia. However, you can’t do so earlier than 30 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. You have to submit a complete application; otherwise, it will not be accepted.

---


18) Statistical data on the amount of the average monthly salary is listed at the web site of the Statistical Office of the SR https://slovak.statistics.sk
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; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and have to be filled in 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 fill in also the place of work and organisation’s identification number)

- **2 recent full-face photographs** 3 x 3.5 cm

- **valid passport**

- **documents proving the purpose** of your stay (in Slovak):
  - the employment contract 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 of the Slovak Republic for the preceding calendar year, or **employer’s written promise** to employ the third country national in such job (see a standard form at www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs//SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/Prislub_na_zamestnanie.rtf),
  - proof of higher professional qualification to work in highly qualified job stipulated in the employment contract or in the employer’s promise, translated into Slovak and officially authenticated. A decision on the document’s recognition will be issued by the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic; for unregulated professions a decision is accepted when issued 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 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). The document has to be **translated to Slovak language by an official sworn translator** (the list of accepted sworn translators can be found at http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia, but it is available in Slovak only), or by the Slovak embassy/consulate competent to accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the embassy proving the conformity with the original). The extracts issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak. Students of secondary schools are exempted from the duty to file extracts from their criminal records.

- **document proving your accommodation** (in Slovak) 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; e. g.
  - a confirmation from your accommodation provider, or
  - a rental agreement and the letter of ownership, or
  - a declaration by a natural or legal person that he/she will provide accommodation to the applicant and the letter of ownership.

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 19): 4.50 € for the residence card
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

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 office of labour, social affairs and family. The Central office will consequentially issue and send back the “Confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position requiring higher qualification”.

If the embassy or the police department does not accept your application, they will notify you in writing of the documents you need to enclose so that it can be accepted. Once you are granted a temporary residence, the police department will send you a written notice, stating its effective and expiry date. The time validity of a travel document is not regarded when deciding on the duration of a granted temporary residence.

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. The temporary residence is issued in a form of a residence card. You have to 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 from abroad via a representative body, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence as well as the collection of the residence card.

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 112) and a fee will be charged.

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 3 years. In case of a period of employment shorter than 3 years, the police department shall issue the Blue Card for that period extended for 90 days. An application for the renewal of the Blue Card has to be filed by the foreigner in person using an official form at the foreign police department no later than the last day of the current Blue card validity.

Duties after arrival in Slovakia

Besides duties connected with visa and temporary residence (for details consult the “Navigation”, page 75), each third country national is obliged to report his/her stay to the foreign police within 3 working days since his/her arrival in Slovakia. This is usually done by the accommodation provider if you are staying in a hotel, hostel or dormitory. If you are staying in private accommodation (e.g. in a private rented flat or at a friends’ place), you have to submit the Notice of the stay in person directly at the competent foreign police office (see the list of foreign police offices on page 111).

What do you need for the report of stay?

If you are staying in private accommodation, come in person to the foreign police office during the office hours and present the following:

- completed form “Notice of the stay” (available in 7 languages to download at www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinc; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and must be filled in Slovak language),
- passport

A third country national staying in Slovakia is obliged to report any change regarding his/her place of residence within five working days from the day when the change occurred.

If you have been granted a temporary residence, you are also obliged to report to the police department that:

- you will reside outside the Slovak territory for more than 180 days continuously (in writing)
- 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.

5.1.4 Bringing family members with you

Procedures for family members of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals who come from third countries

Special rules apply to the family members of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals who come from third countries. Their entry and stay rights differ according to whether they are travelling with/joining the EU/EEA/Swiss national or they are travelling alone. According to the current regulations, a family member of the EU/EEA/Swiss national is understood as 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 have the obligation 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 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 Schengen Visa”, page 83.

If coming from a member state of the Schengen Area, a family member accompanying/joining an EU/EEA/Swiss national is not required to have a visa when entering the Slovak Republic. The existence of a family relationship and the fact of accompanying/joining must be clearly manifest. If he/she comes 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 the Slovak territory 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.

Complete application consists of the following documents:
- completed form “Application for issue of document residence of the family member with right for residence” (the same as “Application for registration of right of residence of Union Citizen”; available at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/obnovenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2013.pdf; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and must be filled in Slovak language),
- valid travel document,
- 2 recent full-face photographs 3 x 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 a sworn translator (the list of accepted sworn translators can be found at http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia, but it is available in Slovak only), or by the embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic competent to
accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic proving the conformity with the original).

- **confirmation of the registration** of the residence of the **warrantor**.

### Fees

20): **4.50 €** for the residence card

**Note:** For family members of Slovak nationals, who are third countries nationals, different procedures apply.

### 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, following persons are seen as 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 him/herself due to 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 or at a foreign police office in Slovakia. The application may be accepted at the foreign police office in Slovakia only if the applicant is staying in Slovakia **legally**. They have 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.

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; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and have to be filled in Slovak language),

- **2 recent full-face photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm,

- **valid passport**,

---

• **document proving the relationship with the third country national** (e.g. certified copy of a marriage certificate, birth certificate, etc.) as a proof of the purpose of your stay. This document has to be **apostilled or superlegalised** and **officially translated into Slovak** by a sworn translator (the list of accepted sworn translators can be found at [http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia](http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia), but it is available in Slovak only), or by the **embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic** competent to accept your application for the temporary residence,

• **approval** of the parent who does not have custody of a single dependent child under 18 years of age,

• **statutory declaration of the third country national to be joined** that he/she will **support the applicant** and a **document proving sufficient financial resources** (in Slovak) to do so (an employment contract or a balance statement of a bank account in the name of the warrantor),

• **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). The **document has to be translated by an official sworn translator** (the list of accepted sworn translators can be found at [http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia](http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk – Prekladatelia), but it is available in Slovak only), or by the **embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic** competent to accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the embassy proving the conformity with the original). The extracts issued in the Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak. Students of secondary schools 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 your accommodation provider, or
  – a rental agreement and the letter of ownership, or
  – a declaration by a natural or legal person that he/she will provide accommodation to the applicant and the letter of ownership.

None of the documents proving the purpose of stay, financial resources, accommodation and no criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of submitting the application for a temporary residence, except for a marriage/birth certificate. 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 21):**

- **4.50 € for the residence card**
- **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**

---

Within 90 days from the date of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall either issue 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 at the foreign police office (typically within 90 days). You have to 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 from abroad via a representative body, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence as well as the collection of the residence card.

If you apply for a temporary residence longer in advance and the foreign police office makes a decision on your application 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 staring 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. The health insurance contracts in another language than Slovak (except for Czech) must be translated to Slovak by a sworn translator. In case you do not have a health insurance covering your stay in Slovakia, you have to obtain it within 3 working days after you collect your residence card. 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 112) and a fee will be charged.

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 the Slovak territory. For employment conditions, see the section “Employment of family members” in the section “Employment of foreigners”, 5.2.1.
### 5.1.5 Graphical overview of entry and stay procedures

**STAY of a THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL IN SLOVAKIA**

**Up to 90 days**
- **Temporary residence is NOT needed for:**
  - Studies at a higher education institution
  - Research and development activities based on a hosting agreement
  - Activity within Slovak governmental programme, EU programme or international treaty (e.g. scholarship stay)
  - Internship in Slovakia within studies carried out outside Slovakia
  - Lecturing or artistic activity

- **Visas/No Visas**
  - (pages 76, 82, 112)

- **Notice of the stay**
  - (page 104)

**Longer than 90 days**
- **Temporary residence is needed for:**
  - Employment – most cases (page 97)
  - Highly qualified employment - Blue card of the EU (page 101)

- **Visas/No Visas**
  - (pages 76, 82, 112)

- **Notice of the stay**
  - (page 104)

**STAY of a FAMILY MEMBER IN SLOVAKIA**

**EU/EEA/SWISS NATIONAL**
- (see the next graph)

**THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL**

**Up to 90 days**
- **Temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification**
  - (page 106)

- **Visas/No Visas**
  - (pages 76, 82, 112)

- **Notice of the stay**
  - (page 104)

**Longer than 90 days**

- **Visas/No Visas**
  - (pages 76, 82, 112)

- **Notice of the stay**
  - (page 104)
Formalities – how to be ready for the national authorities

STAY of an EU/EEA/SWISS NATIONAL

- Up to 3 months
  - Notice of the stay (page 80)
- Longer than 3 months
  - Notice of the stay (page 81)
  - Registration of residence (page 81)

STAY of a FAMILY MEMBER IN SLOVAKIA

- EU/EEA/SWISS NATIONAL
  - (see the part above)
- THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL
- Up to 3 months
  - Visas/No Visas (pages 76, 82, 112)
  - Notice of the stay (page 104)
- Longer than 3 months
  - Visas/No Visas (pages 76, 82, 112)
  - Notice of the stay (page 104)
  - Registration of residence of a family member of the EU/EEA/Swiss national (page 104)
5.1.6  Other practical information

Foreign Police Offices in Slovakia and their territorial scope

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Police Office contact</th>
<th>Territory covered (districts):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banská Bystrica</td>
<td>Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Brezno, Detva, Krupina, Zvolen, Žarnovica, Žiar nad Hronom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sladkovičova 4343/25, Banská Bystrica 974 05 - +421–96160–3203 <a href="mailto:ocpp.bb@minv.sk">ocpp.bb@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Bratislava I. – V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hrobáková 44, Bratislava 851 02 - +421–9610–36855 <a href="mailto:ocppz@minv.sk">ocppz@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunajská Streda</td>
<td>Dunajská Streda, Galanta, Senec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ádorská 34, Dunajská Streda 929 01 - +421–96111–3200 <a href="mailto:ocppz.dunajskastreda@minv.sk">ocppz.dunajskastreda@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trieda SNP 35, Košice 040 01 - +421–9619–31208 <a href="mailto:kosice@minv.sk">kosice@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michalovce</td>
<td>Humenné, Medzilaborce, Michalovce, Snina, Sobrance, Trebišov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Štúrova 1, Michalovce 071 01 - +421–96172–3220 <a href="mailto:michalovce@minv.sk">michalovce@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitra</td>
<td>Hlohovec, Nitra, Partizánske, Topoľčany, Zlaté Moravce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalvárská 2, Nitra 949 01 - +421–96130–3230 <a href="mailto:ocp.nitra@minv.sk">ocp.nitra@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nové Zámky</td>
<td>Komárno, Levice, Nové Zámky, Šaľa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitúmkova 8, Nové Zámky 949 36 - +421–96133–3208 <a href="mailto:ocp.novezamky@minv.sk">ocp.novezamky@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prešov</td>
<td>Bardejov, Kežmarok, Levoča, Poprad, Prešov, Sabinov, Stará Ľubovňa, Stropkov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ľubochnianska 2, Prešov 080 01 - +421–96180–3205 <a href="mailto:presov@minv.sk">presov@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rimavská Sôbota</td>
<td>Lučenec, Poltár, Revúca, Rimavská Sôbota, Veľký Krtíš</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hviezdoslavova 35, Rimavská Sôbota 979 01 - +421–96168–3205 <a href="mailto:ocppzs@minv.sk">ocppzs@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Police Office contact</th>
<th>Territory covered (districts):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trenčín</td>
<td>Bánovce nad Bebravou, Ilava, Myjava, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Považská Bystrica, Prievidza, Púchov, Trenčín,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jilemnického 2, Trenčín 911 01 - +421–96120–3234 <a href="mailto:ocpp.tren@minv.sk">ocpp.tren@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tvrdošín, Žilina</td>
<td>Malacky, Pezinok, Piešťany, Senica, Šaľa, Trenčín</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bánovská cesta 8 111/1, 010 01 Žilina - +421–96144–3205, +421–96140–3217 <a href="mailto:ocpz@minv.sk">ocpz@minv.sk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office hours of the Foreign Police Office in Bratislava

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7.30 – 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.30 – 17.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7.30 – 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.30 – 15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7.30 – 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.30 – 17.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7.30 – 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.30 – 15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office hours of the rest of the foreign police offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7.30 – 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.30 – 15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7.30 – 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.30 – 17.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7.30 – 12.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can check for updates at [www.minv.sk/?ocp-1](http://www.minv.sk/?ocp-1).

Note: The foreign police staff communicates in Slovak only, so if you think that you will not be able to communicate with them somehow, you are strongly advised to ask somebody to go with 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 you 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

In relation to the temporary residence, 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 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@cudzokrajne.sk, www.cudzokrajne.sk;
- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny, s. r. o., Těslova 33, Bratislava, tel.: +421 2 44 63 54 73, mobile: +421 915 88 90 54, bakos@inocem.sk, www.inocem.sk;

Nitra region

Trenčín region
- Ambulancia infektológie a tropickej medicíny Spoločnosti INF TROP-MED, s. r. o., Nábrežná 5, Prievidza, Tel: +421 46 5 113 311, jpetrickova@uniklinika.sk

Žilina region
- Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny Univerzitnej nemocnice Martin, Kollárova 2, Martin, tel.: +421 43 4 203 637, +421 434 203 386, kiacm@unm.sk, www.unm.sk/klinika-infektologie-cestovnej-mediciny#ambulance-188;
- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny, s. r. o., ŽILPO, s. r. o., Vysokoškolákov 31, Žilina, mobile: +421 9 17 13 14 79, bakos@inocem.sk, www.inocem.sk;

Banská Bystrica region

Košice region
- Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny Univerzitnej nemocnice L. Pasteura, Rastislavova 43, Košice, tel.: +421 55 6 152 204, occh@unlp.sk

You can check for updates at www.minv.sk/?vizova-info-typy-viz-1 (in the bottom of the page)

Note: The medical checks for the purpose of the temporary residence are a paid service. The costs of the certificate vary depending upon the medical centre. Contact the particular centre in advance for precise information (count with about 112 – 269 €). Be aware of the fact that the staff it the ambulance often communicates in Slovak only, so if you think that you will not be able to communicate with them somehow, ask somebody to go with you.
5.2 Employment

In this section, you will find basic information about employment rules and conditions. This is intended to help you understand better the local situation and know your basic rights if you are considering a job offer in Slovakia or 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

Employment relations in Slovakia are regulated by the Labour Code (Act No 311/2001) and the Act on Employment Services (Act No 5/2004) which can be found in the online legislative and information portal www.slov-lex.sk/domov (the website is in Slovak only).

Employment of EU/EEA/SWISS nationals

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals and their family members can be employed on the territory of the Slovak Republic on 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 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) using an information card form “Informačná karta o vzniku/skončení pracovnoprávneho vztahu alebo o vyslaní na výkon práce/skončení vyslania na výkon práce občana EÚ”, in two copies (the form can be downloaded here: www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs//SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/IK_20.rtf) within 7 working days of the entry into employment and after its termination,
- to register the employee with a local 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


Employment of third country nationals

The Act on Employment Services regulates the conditions of employment of foreign nationals in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Since January 2014 new forms of access to employment of third country nationals in Slovakia have been introduced:

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 an 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. Hence neither a work permit nor a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position is required under f), working upon agreements on work performed outside 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 study, 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 part 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 continuous 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/sluzby-zamestnanosti/zamestnavanie-cudzincov.html?page_id=272197 (in Slovak only).

Employer’s duties:
• to request the temporary residence certificate from the third country national before starting a job and then keep a copy of the certificate at least during the time of employment,
• to inform the labour office in writing within seven working days of the day set as the day of starting the job if the third country national who was granted a work permit did not start the job or
if his/her employment ended before the time specified in the work permit.
• 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,
• 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 local Labour Office (depending on the place of work) using an information card form “Informačná karta o vzniku/skončení pracovnoprávneho vzťahu alebo o vyslaní na výkon práce/ skončení vyslania na výkon práce státného prísľušníka tretej krajiny uvedeného v § 23a ods. 1 zákona o službách zamestnanosti a rodného prísľušníka občana EU” in two copies (available here: www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs//SSZ/OISS/CUDZINCI/IK_21.rtf) together with a copy of the employment contract within 7 working days of the entry into employment and after its termination,
• to register the employee with a local 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,
• to notify the police department of termination of the employment of a third country national within 3 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 solving 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 high school or university (higher education institution) in Slovakia,
• you will be employed for a maximum of one year in order to increase your qualification,
• 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 the SR participates,
• you have been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of study at university 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 and your employment related to lecturing will not exceed 50 days in a calendar year,
• 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 and you have a 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,
• 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,
• you are a family member of an EU national with the right to reside in the territory of the SR,
• 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, New Zealand, ROC – Taiwan, Australia, Japan).

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 end of his/her employment using the form “Informačná karta o vzniku/skončení pracovnoprávného vzťahu alebo o vyslani na výkon práce/skončení vyslania na výkon práce štátneho príslušníka tretej krajiny uvedeného v § 23a ods. 1 zákona o službách zamestnanosti a rodinného príslušníka občana EU” – see the part 5.2.1, page 115.

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 employment relationship (e.g. work performance agreement, agreement on part-time job of students, agreement on work activity).
• The procedure of obtaining a temporary residence for the purpose of employment has been simplified for a majority of the foreigners by the fact that the foreigner/employer is not required to apply for a work permit separately at the labour office. It is sufficient to file a complete temporary residence application with a Slovak embassy abroad or at a local foreign police office and as a part of the review process, the foreign police will request the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position from the labour office.
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, the labour market situation will be taken into account. The temporary residence for the purpose of employment can be granted upon a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position. Temporary residence for this purpose is granted for the maximum of five years with a possibility of renewal.

Employer’s duties:
An employer planning to employ a third country national has to report a vacancy to the office of labour, social affairs and family either in person, in writing, by phone, by e-mail or via www.istp.sk website. The job vacancy must be reported at least 30 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.

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 without delay. 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 part 5.1.3 Duties of third country nationals coming to Slovakia, in the section Temporary residence – D., page 97.

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

In the case of an employment requiring higher qualification, the third-country national can apply for a form of a temporary residence called EU Blue Card. Required qualification needs to be attested by the evidence of the third-country national’s higher education.

An employment contract concluded in this situation (or an employer’s written promise to employ the third country national to such an 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:
Employer willing to employ a third country national for an employment requiring higher qualification is obliged to report a vacancy to the labour office competent according to the place of work, at least 30 working days before the application of the third country national for a temporary residence. A vacancy can be reported in person, in writing, by email or via www.istp.sk website.
Third country national’s duties:

An application for a Blue Card (i.e. an application for a temporary residence) must be submitted in person at the Slovak embassy/consulate competent for your country abroad, or at a foreign police office in Slovakia, 30 working days after reporting a vacancy by the employer at the earliest. A holder of a Blue Card issued by another EU Member State may apply for a Blue Card within 30 days of entry into the territory of the Slovak Republic.

More information on the procedure related to the temporary residence issued in a form of a Blue Card can be found in the part 5.1.3 Duties of third country nationals coming to Slovakia, in the section Temporary residence – E., page 101.

D. Work permit

A work permit is required for the employment of a third country national in case
a) of a seasonal employment for a maximum of 180 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 part 5.2.1 A.),
c) the foreigner has been granted a temporary residence as a third country national with a long-term resident status in an EU Member State, during the period of first 12 months since being granted a temporary residence,
d) the foreigner is employed by an employer with a seat outside the SR and has been sent to perform work in the territory of the SR upon an agreement concluded with a legal or a natural person,
e) it is stipulated in an international treaty binding on the SR.

Employer’s duties:

In relation to the employment of a third country national, an employer is obliged to report a vacancy at a 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. The report can be made in person, in writing, by phone, by email or via www.istp.sk website. Reporting of a vacancy is not required in case of persons stated under d) and e).

Third country national’s duties:

An application for a work permit can be submitted at a corresponding labour office competent according to the place of work, 15 working days after reporting a vacancy by an employer at the earliest. You may apply for the work permit yourself (in person or via mail) or you can appoint your future employer with the power of attorney to apply on your behalf (the power of attorney has to be officially verified by a Slovak notary).

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. It is necessary to file a written application for 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.
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) 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;

b) 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;

c) 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, besides upon an employment contract, also upon agreements on work performed outside employment relationship (e.g. work performance agreement, agreement on part-time job of students, agreement on work activity) More details can be found in the part 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 employment relationship. The process of applying for a work permit is described in the part 5.2.1 D.
5.2.2 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 – 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: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs – EURAXESS Jobs portal, including research opportunities in Slovakia;

www.minedu.sk/volne-pracovne-miestana-vysokych-skolach/ – job offers at Slovak higher education institutions (in Slovak only);
www.minedu.sk/volne-pracovne-miesta-navysokych-skolach/ – 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)


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 is available at http://ec.europa.eu/eures in all official languages of the EU.


The Labour Code in English (2012 version) and other up-to-date information is available at the website of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic: www.employment.gov.sk/en/labour-employment/labour-relations/. You can also consult the national EURAXESS website and its section dedicated to employment: www.euraxess.sk/en/main/services-practical-information/employment/.

**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.

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 within this period). 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 3 months (6 months probationary period is possible in some senior managerial positions); the probationary period may not be extended. The notice period is from 1 to 3 months depending on different circumstances, however typically 2 months.
**Work carried out occasionally**

An employer may exceptionally conclude agreements on work performed outside employment relationship:
- in case the work will be defined by its outcome – Work performance agreement, or
- if the work is carried out occasionally – Agreement on part-time job of students or Agreement on work activity.

In the framework of a **Work performance agreement** a person can work for up to 350 hours per year for one employer (within a single agreement or several agreements). The work is usually remunerated only after the final 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 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 employment relationship can be concluded for a maximum of 12 months.

**Period of employment of academic personnel**

Specific conditions of employment of academic personnel arise from the Act No. 131/2002 on Higher education institutions and the Act No. 133/2002 on Slovak Academy of Sciences.

In general, a contract for a university teacher 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 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.

Work contracts at scientific organisations of the Slovak Academy of Sciences can be concluded for the defined period, for a maximum of 5 years. Employees having a high qualification level (qualification degree I on the specific national scale) can be employed for the indefinite period (if not agreed otherwise).

**Special status of PhD students**

Fulltime PhD students are considered to be students, not employees; hence a university is not in the position of their employer in relation to their social and health insurance. Fulltime 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 4.4 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 so called “labour cost” however includes the contributions to social and health insurance fund an employer pays on behalf of an employee.

Example: the average nominal monthly wage in Slovakia in the first quarter of 2016 was 867 €. 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 668 € (not applying yet the annual non‑taxable amount).

**Working time**

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

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) or 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. Such 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. The per diems are paid by the hosting employer in Slovakia, unless this duty is fulfilled by the sending foreign employer. It can be applied for example to a short‑term mobility within a research project.

Example: in 2016 the daily travel per diem rate for journeys within Slovakia is 9.80 €, i.e. the daily travel per diems for the foreigner can be up to 29.40 €.

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 6 weeks before the expected date of the childbirth (8 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 3, even if a mother/father has been working after the maternity/paternity leave).

In 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 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.

An 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.

An employer shall provide an employee with the time off from work for the purpose of his/her medical examination for 7 working days per calendar year as well as for the purpose of accompanying their family members to the medical examination for another 7 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 submitted to a sworn translator and translated into Slovak, 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/authorities1/?cid=41.

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. 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.

In addition to legalisation of documents, 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. Honorary consulates have no authority to legalise documents – i.e. to verify the authenticity of the stamp and the signature of a Foreign Affairs Ministry consular department official. Slovak honorary consulates verify the authenticity of signatures, duplicates and photocopies, which are then deemed valid in the Slovak Republic.

If no Slovak foreign mission exists in the country, which has issued the document, further procedures may be as follows – the document must be certified in the country of its origin, with the last stamp affixed to it being that of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the respective country. The authenticity of the stamp is then certified by a competent foreign mission of that country, accredited for the Slovak Republic, and, subsequently, by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Documents in Arabic, Indian, Chinese or Russian languages are translated into English before they are submitted to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

The administrative fee for the legalisation by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs 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).
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 a 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 is the country responsible for your healthcare 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 benefits in full or to a partial extent, depending on the specific conditions.

According to the Act on Health Insurance, compulsory public health insurance applies to every person with a permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Mandatory 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.

Mandatory public health insurance also applies to a person without a permanent residence in Slovakia (unless medically insured in another EU Member State or in a State Party to the European Economic Area Agreement or in the Swiss Confederation (thereinafter a Member State)), which
- is employed by an employer established or with a fixed establishment within the territory of the Slovak Republic;
- is a student from another Member State (EU/EEA/Switzerland) or a student from a third country studying at school in the Slovak Republic upon an international treaty binding upon Slovakia.

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 3 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 a basic health care available to foreigners who don’t have access to the public health insurance, as a supplementary insurance (beyond a standard health care) or as a combination of both of them.

Commercial health insurance is compulsory for those foreign residents who do not...
fall into 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 the Slovak language by an official sworn 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 Other regulations regarding 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, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland under the same conditions and at the same cost (free in some countries) as people insured in that country. The EHIC will be issued at request by your national health insurance provider.

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 express 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 dependant family members) to a 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 regulations of the health insurance company in 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 dependent family members. Upon the S1 form the dependant family members will be be registered for
health insurance in their home country and entitled to a 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 a necessary medical treatment in any EU/EEA Member State and Switzerland.

Dependants of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals residing in Slovakia should also register 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 to 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. 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,
- b) pension insurance
  - the old-age insurance (old-age pension, early old-age pension, survivors’ pensions – i.e. widow’s pension, widower’s pension, orphan’s pension),
  - the 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 1st pillar represents a 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 2nd pillar is subject to one’s own choice up to the age of 35. Afterwards it is impossible to enter the 2nd pillar. The 3rd pillar pension regime which is completely facultative is an additional old-age pension saving scheme. Some employers opt to partly contribute to these savings on behalf of an employee.

The employee pays the old-age insurance contributions in the amount of 4 % of the basis of assessment (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 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, child care, 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)
- child birth benefit (one-off)
- multiple children allowance (recurrent – once a year)
- child care benefit (recurrent)
- alimony substitution (recurrent)
- allowances supporting alternative child care (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 legislation for EU/EEA Member States and Switzerland:

More information:
- www.socpoist.sk
- www.employment.gov.sk
- www.euraxess.sk

Selected types of benefits in more detail

Sick pay – income during 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 the illness, injury, or quarantine by the doctor, he/she is entitled to a 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 basis of assessment for the first 3 days, and at the rate of 55% of the employee’s basis of assessment 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 11th day onwards (for a maximum of 52 weeks of the temporary incapacity) at the rate of 55% of his/her basis of assessment.
The daily basis of assessment 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 a valid sickness insurance;
- after the termination of sickness insurance – being within the protective period. The duration of the protective period is 7 days. If the period of sickness insurance was shorter than 7 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 8 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 as basis of assessment.

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:
- to present a proof of the facts that are relevant for granting or terminating the entitlement to sickness benefits;
- to comply with the treatment regime prescribed by the attending physician during the time of the temporary incapacity to work;
- to stay at the address reported in the certificate during the time of temporary incapacity to work;
- to notify the Social Insurance Agency of the termination of the temporary incapacity to work within 3 days of its termination, if the temporary incapacity to work lasted more than 10 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 from the beginning of the 6th week preceding the expected date of delivery (childbirth) as determined by an attending practitioner, but not before 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 from the commencement of entitlement. In case that a woman is a single mother, her entitlement to a maternity pay terminates at the end of the 37th week from the commencement of entitlement. If a woman gives birth to two or more children at the same time, and takes care of at least two of these children, her entitlement to the maternity pay terminates at the end of the 43rd week from the commencement of entitlement.

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 from the commencement of entitlement to a maternity pay (or, if he/she is a single person, until the end of the 31st week from the commencement of the entitlement, or if assuming care of two or more children, until the end of the 37th week from the commencement of the entitlement to the maternity pay).

The maternity pay is at the rate of 70% of the daily basis of assessment, or of the probable daily basis of assessment, and it is provided from the 1st day of entitlement only to one insured person.

Conditions of entitlement:
• pregnancy or the care for a new-born child;
• valid sickness insurance;
• being covered by sickness insurance for not less than 270 days during the last 2 years preceding the childbirth (delivery);
• after termination of sickness insurance – being within the duration of 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 8 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:
• to present the proof of the facts relevant for the awarding or withdrawing of the entitlement to maternity benefit;
• to notify the Social Insurance Agency of the birth identification number of the child.

Attendance allowance
Sickness insurance entitles an insured person for 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 husband’s/wife’s parent or taking care of a child under 10 years of age in quarantine. In addition, the attending allowance can be paid also 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 basis of assessment, or of the probable daily basis of assessment. It is provided from the 1st day of the attendance for a maximum of 10 days. It is provided only once per case and only to 1 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 to an old-age pension (the so-called retirement age). The retirement age in the Slovak Republic
is currently 62 years both for men and women. In 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 separate Member State. Upon reaching the retirement age, the periods of insurance in individual Member States are summed up and he/she is entitled to draw the relevant proportion of his/her old-age pension from each Member State in which he/she has worked for a period of more than 12 months. 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 less than 12 months will be taken over by his/her final country of employment.

Different legal framework applies to the workers who have contributed to the pension schemes of those states with which there exist bilateral agreements on social security. (Slovak Republic has concluded international agreements with the following territories outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland: Australia, Canada, Israel, Macedonia, 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 and Montenegro). The principle of territoriality is exercised here, i.e. the old-age pension is paid out by the state of permanent residence of the insured person. 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 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 payments 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 due to reaching the retirement age, provided that the reduction of capacity to work is at least 10 %.

The entitlement to the compensation for occupational accidents and diseases shall be applied within 3 years of such entitlement, otherwise the entitlement will lapse.

Employers are the ones who must take out the compulsory injury insurance (as from the date on which they start employing at least 1 employee), but insurance benefits go to the employee concerned or an authorised person.

**Unemployment insurance benefits**

The system of social insurance also includes the system of unemployment insurance. The insured person is entitled to the unemployment benefit under the condition, that he/she had the unemployment insurance for at least 2 years (i.e. 730 days) within the past 3 years before being included into the registry of unemployed job seekers.

Those insured persons who were insured in relation to the employment relationship concluded for a definite period or voluntarily insured for at least two years within the past 4 years before being included into the registry of unemployment job seekers, are also entitled to the unemployment benefit.

The entitlement ceases after a 6-month period has elapsed (in certain cases a 4-month period) from the commencement of the benefit entitlement, or as of the day of granting the old-age pension, the early old-age pension and the invalidity pension due to the incapacity to perform a gainful activity by more than 70 % or after being excluded 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 basis of assessment multiplied by the number of days in the month. The daily basis of assessment to determine the unemployment benefit depends on the amount of unemployment insurance contributions paid by the person in the past 2 years.

The insured person is not entitled to the unemployment benefit in the period when being granted a sick pay, attendance allowance, maternity pay or 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 or irregular monthly income and also a person performing activities upon the agreements on work performed outside employment relationship with a regular monthly income, except for a person:

- performing activities upon an agreement on part-time job of students, or
- performing activities upon a work performance agreement or an agreement on work activity and has been granted the old-age or disability 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, early old-age pension or a disability pension due to the capacity 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**
Guarantee insurance is applicable in the case of an 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**
Parental allowance is a state social benefit by which the state makes a contribution to the expenses of taking proper care of a child of up to 3 years of age, or up to 6 years of age in case of a child with long-term poor health, or up to 6 years of a child placed in the alternative care, not longer than 3 years from the date on which the decision of the court to place the child in the alternative care became final. Those eligible to claim parental allowances are the parents of the child or persons providing alternative care.

**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 203.20 €/month since 2014. 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/files/slovensky/uvod/formulare-ziadosti/z_o_rp_pdf.pdf (in Slovak only) and is also available at the local labour offices.

A sworn 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**
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, up to the age of 25, provided he/she is in continuous education for the future profession and until he/she has graduated from the 2nd level of higher education.

Only 1 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. As of January 2016, the amount of allowance is 23.52 €/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/rodina-socialna-pomoc/podpora-rodinam-detmi/penazna-pomoc/pridavok-diet/ 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 local 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 is covered by the legislation of one country at a time so he/she only pays contributions in one country. The decision on which country’s legislation applies will be made by the social security institutions. You 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 obligation for countries to only exchange social security information by electronic means (Art. 4 Regulation 987/2009). A system providing a common secure framework is being set up: 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 a better enforcement of the rights of the citizens, e.g. benefits being granted in a speedier way.
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/).

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:

Social security for migrant workers, employee’s posting and several jobs in 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 home country upon request of the employer. In exceptional cases, 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 a 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?catId=26&langId=en
http://ec.europa.eu/social

5.4.5 Information on social security and health coverage for 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.

Public health insurance of students/PhD students following regular full-time studies in Slovakia is paid by the state (for a period of standard duration of a full-time PhD programme, the PhD student must not have previously received another PhD degree and is less than 30 years old).

Students/PhD 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 128.

Other students/PhD students (both from the EU/EEA/Switzerland not medically insured in their home country and students/PhD students from third countries), who are coming to study in Slovakia within a programme arising from an international treaty that is binding upon the Slovak Republic 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/PhD students without a permanent residence in the Slovak Republic from third countries and EU/EEA/Swiss nationals, who do not fall into the above-mentioned categories, 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 to be 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.

Levies 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 labour relationship exists with a student, the work is carried out occasionally and is typically based on
a concluded Agreement on part-time job of students. An employer is obliged to register the employee, i.e. the student, at the competent office of 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 basis of assessment, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement on part-time job of students: Students earning less than 200 €/month and using the right for a waiver *</th>
<th>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 **</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Employer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health insurance</td>
<td>No (paid by the state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sickness insurance</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment insurance</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability insurance</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old-age insurance</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Guarantee insurance</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Accident insurance</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Solidarity reserve</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 €.

Benefits from the **state social support** – one component of the social security system in Slovakia, 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).

5.4.6 **Information on social security and health coverage for employees with regular or irregular income**

**A. Health coverage**

When a foreign national takes up an **employment** with an employer with a seat in the Slovak Republic or commences to perform **self-employment** activities in the Slovak Republic, he/she becomes **subject to the mandatory public health insurance in the Slovak Republic**, while the **contributions** will be paid both by the employee and the employer.
(or self-employed person) and deducted automatically by the employer (or self-employed person). For premiums, 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 basis of assessment (usually equal to the gross wage) and the employer the amount of 10% of the basis of assessment.

To be more specific: an individual who does not have a permanent residence in Slovakia and is not covered by health insurance in another EU/EEA Member State or in Switzerland, must also have concluded mandatory public health insurance, if such person is:

- **employed by an employer** established or with a fixed establishment within the territory of the Slovak Republic;
  - this does not apply if the person is employed in the Slovak Republic on the basis of the agreement on work performed outside employment relationship, or
- **a self-employed person** in Slovakia.

If a person is insured in another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland for entitlement to medical treatment on the basis of this health insurance in Slovakia, he/she must present the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** to the health care provider. See more information on EHIC in the section “Other regulations regarding health insurance of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals”, page 128.

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

Any foreign person **employed upon a work contract** on the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period appointed by the employer or a self-employed person performing activities on the territory of the SR, is **subject to the Slovak social security system** and must pay contributions to the compulsory insurance funds as if he/she was a national of the Slovak Republic (for self-employed person it is mandatory to be insured only if he/she fulfils conditions regarding the 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 basis of assessment, 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.

For nationals of the EU/EEA/Switzerland, the EU coordination rules with respect to the social security apply at the same time. When living and working as an employee or a self-employed person in different Member States of the EU/EEA or Switzerland, each person is **subject to the legislation of only one state at a time**, which is usually the country where he/she exercises his/her occupational activity. In the case of a worker carrying out work in more than one EU/EEA Member State or
Switzerland, he/she shall remain subject to a single legislation only, i.e. it is necessary to determine the applicable legislation among several states of occupation using the portable document A1. Consequently, contributions to social insurance from all states where the occupational activity is performed will go only to 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 136.

Provisions on social security for third country citizens in the Slovak Republic are based on bilateral agreements on social security. Therefore the rules applied depend on the country of origin of the person. For more details, see the page 133.

Benefits from state social support – one component of the social security system in Slovakia, 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 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Employee</th>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Employee</th>
<th>Employer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public health insurance</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sickness insurance</td>
<td>1,4%</td>
<td>1,4%</td>
<td>4,4%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment insurance</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2% (for self-employed voluntary)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability insurance</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension insurance</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Guarantee insurance</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0,25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0,25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Accident insurance</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0,8%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Solidarity reserve</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4,75%</td>
<td>4,75%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4,75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,4%</td>
<td>35,2%</td>
<td>35,15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>32,8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 in Slovakia are usually not considered to be unemployed, but as individuals having an employment contract or self-employment activities in another state. At the same time, they may move to Slovakia upon an invitation from a hosting organisation (e.g. per diems are paid) or with external funding (e.g. granted scholarship) of their activities.
A. Health coverage
Health insurance is mandatory when staying in Slovakia. Before leaving the country of origin, foreigners must make sure to be covered by their current health insurance also on the territory of Slovakia, or take out new insurance before or after arrival in Slovakia. A third country national (outside the 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 temporary residence granting procedure.

Nationals of 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 128.

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) on the territory of the Slovak Republic, do not have a permanent residence in the Slovak Republic and do not study upon an international agreement binding upon the Slovak Republic.

B. Social security
In Slovakia, the social security coverage is based on occupational activity, not residence.

Researchers without having an employment contract in Slovakia do not have to pay the compulsory 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 on the territory of the SR 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 on the territory of Slovakia upon an invitation from a hosting organisation (e.g. per diems are paid) 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.

Provisions on social security for third country nationals in the Slovak Republic are based on bilateral agreements on social security. Therefore the rules applied depend on the country of origin of the citizen. For more details, see the page 133.

Benefits from state social support – one component of the social security system in Slovakia, 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
    - *legal entities*: 22% of the tax base net of tax loss
  - **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 progress tax system introduced in 2013. For up-to-date information, visit the website of the Finance administration of the Slovak Republic www.financnasprava.sk, 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/services-practical-information/taxation-slovakia/.

5.5.1 **Direct taxes**

**Local tax**

The major Slovak legislation is the Act No. 595/2003 on Income Tax, as amended by later regulations. Usually, the income is taxed in the country of employment, unless provided otherwise. Hence, if you are employed in the Slovak Republic, the income tax is deducted from your salary according to the Slovak legislation, unless a bilateral agreement for avoiding double taxation states otherwise. Researchers and teachers with a work contract or working upon agreements on work performed outside employment relationship in Slovakia are considered as employees and their income is taxed.

The tax period is one calendar year. 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 current amount of subsistence minimum and 25% tax rate to the tax base exceeding 176.8 times the current amount of subsistence minimum (equal to 35,022.31 € in 2016, with the subsistence minimum equal to 35,022.31 €/month). The tax base corresponds to the amount of gross wage minus all the contributions to compulsory insurance funds and a non-taxable sum (exempt from taxation). Full non-taxable sum equals 3,803.33 € in 2016.

The non-taxable sum is applicable also to foreigners. In general, the non-taxable sum is based on the amount of subsistence minimum applicable for the particular year and its amount depends on the total annual income arising both from work carried out in Slovakia and abroad. A person (taxpayer) who worked in the territory of the Slovak Republic only a part of the year and another part of the year abroad, is eligible for the application of the non-taxable sum of the tax base appertaining to the taxpayer for the entire year when filing declaration of taxes in Slovakia.
The tax base can also be reduced by applying a special non-taxable amount 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 6-times the level of minimum salary. These conditions refer to foreigners with unrestricted tax liability or foreigners with restricted tax liability (see below) if their taxable income from Slovakia represents at least 90% of total taxpayer’s income both from Slovakia and from abroad. The annual child taxation bonus equals 256.92 € in 2016.

**Tax exceptions**

The following incomes are exempt from taxation or are not subject to taxation e.g.:
- scholarships provided from the state budget (including PhD scholarships), or by higher education institutions or similar benefits provided from abroad, financial support of foundations, non-profit organisations, etc., except for remuneration for carrying out employment or business activities,
- financial resources from grants provided upon international treaties, by which the Slovak Republic is bound
- benefits from health and social insurance, including old-age savings,
- per diems up to the amount set by law,
- financial amount spent by the employer for training of an employee related to the employment,
- financial contribution of the employer 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 employer with the seat abroad (not in the SR) if the period related to performance of such work does not exceed 183 days in any 12 month-period.

**Tax residence**

It is of great importance to determine the tax residence of the person 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 in the Slovak Republic or when the person usually stays in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least 183 days (6 months) in a calendar year. Such a taxpayer pays tax on the income received in the Slovak Republic as well as from his/her income from abroad.

On the other hand, a taxpayer with restricted tax liability is a person who is not a taxpayer with an unrestricted tax liability, or who often stays in the Slovak Republic only for the purpose of studies or enters Slovakia daily (or occasionally) only for the purpose of employment in the Slovak Republic. The taxpayer with a restricted tax liability pays tax only on income received in the Slovak Republic for his/her period of employment in Slovakia. As stated before, tax residence may be further specified in bilateral double taxation agreements.

The decisive points for determining tax residence are: residence, personal home, 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 which have signed double taxation treaties with Slovakia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Malta</th>
<th>Spain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Taiwan (Republic of China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia (FYROM)</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 he/she is a taxpayer with unrestricted tax liability. In a case of states, where no double taxation agreement exists, income from abroad, which has been taxed in the country of occupation other than the Slovak Republic, is exempted from taxation in the Slovak Republic. (An authentic certificate of taxation of income must be submitted.) Naturally, this is relevant only to taxpayers with unrestricted tax liability in the Slovak Republic.

Legislation, 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)

After the taxation period (that is one 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 afterwards 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 will 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 incomes in the tax return form and provide documents proving the payment of the tax abroad. Authentic certificate(s) of taxation of income(s) 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 with any tax issues arising from a researcher’s state of permanent residence prior to commencing work in the Slovak Republic.

5.5.2 Indirect taxes

Value added tax (VAT)

Standard VAT rate in Slovakia is 20%. Only a very special category of products like medicaments, pharmaceutical products, medical and diagnostics aids, certain food products and also books, brochures and similar printing products (music printing works) are subject to a reduced tax rate of 10% (complete list is available in Annex 7 to the Act on Value Added Tax as amended by later legislation 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


5.6 Recognition of education

The Slovak Republic is bound by the Directive 2005/36/EC on recognition of professional qualifications. The Directive divided the recognition of documents on previous education according to the purpose of recognition on:

- recognition of previous education for academic purposes (i.e. recognition of previous education in order to continue in education in the Slovak Republic) or for pursuing a so-called non-regulated profession;
• recognition of previous education for pursuing a so-called regulated profession in the Slovak Republic (e.g. barrister, dentist, vet, university teacher, psychologist, policeman, carpenter, etc.).

Centre for Recognition of Diplomas:
• recognises final documents on education obtained abroad for pursuing selected regulated professions in the Slovak Republic;
• automatically recognises documents on the 3rd level of higher education obtained in another Member state of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland;
• recognises the level of completed education obtained abroad for academic purposes, for pursuing non-regulated professions and for obtaining a so-called “Blue Card” in the Slovak Republic;
• recognises completed education and part of education obtained abroad for relevant authorities and institution in the Slovak Republic;
• is responsible for equivalence and conversion of grades obtained at primary or secondary schools abroad to Slovak classification scale.

Centre for Recognition of Diplomas (CRD) is a part of ENIC (European Network of Information Centres) and NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centre) in the European Union and acts as a national contact point for recognition in the EU and National Centre for Europass. 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/office-hours-and-contacts/.

5.6.1 Recognition of primary and secondary education

According to the legislation in force, foreign qualifications giving access to higher education in Slovakia are recognised by a competent district office seated in one of the regional capitals. Their competence is based on the place of your residence in the Slovak Republic. At present, there are 8 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.

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 completed 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/academic-recognition-of-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 doesn’t 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, the district office decides within two months about the recognition of the educational document, its refusal or about a prescription of 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 has been concluded on mutual recognition of documents on education by which the Slovak Republic is bound (the Slovak Republic has sign agreements with Austria, 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 2 different approaches, depending on the field of study, in which the diploma shall be recognised.

Recognition by a Slovak higher education institution

If the applicant would like to recognise his/her previous education of the 1st or 2nd level of higher education of a study programme in the same or related field as offered by one of the higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic, the decision about recognition for academic purposes lies upon the respective higher education institution in the Slovak Republic.

The best is to check the website of the same higher education institution in Slovakia (or to contact it), where the applicant wants to pursue his/her further study, to find out, whether it is offering study in the same or related field at the higher education level that needs to be recognised and thus is able to recognise the diploma from the previous university education. If this is not the case, the applicant can find another higher education institution in Slovakia offering that particular field of study and apply for
recognition – to find out the possibilities, the applicant can check the website “Portal of HEIs”, where a list of institutions is published, divided according to the fields of study offered (www.portalvs.sk/en/studijne-odbory).

For the recognition procedures, the applicants shall officially apply (usually the respective institution has a prescribed application form) and attach the following documents to their application for recognising the education certificate:

- verified copy of a certificate of education obtained abroad (a notary-certified copy and a translation into Slovak by an official sworn translator);
- verified copy of a transcript of records or a diploma supplement (transcript of the curricula, notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak by an official sworn translator);

Apart from the abovementioned documents, the applicant may be required to submit other documents or information, provided these are necessary for assessing the content and extent of the education acquired abroad.

The decision of the higher education institution shall be issued within 2 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.

Recognition by the Ministry of Education

If the applicant would like to have recognised his/her previous education of the 1st or 2nd level of higher education of a study programme in a field that is not offered by any higher education institution in the Slovak Republic, the decision lies with the Ministry of Education.

The same application procedure (the form and the list of documents mandatorily submitted together with the application) applies as in a case when the decision is issued by the HEI.

The decision of the Ministry shall be issued within 30 days since the submission of a complete application. Please note, that in case the diploma to be recognised was issued by a military HEI abroad, the decision lies with the Ministry of Defence and in a case of the diplomas issued by the HEI of the police force, it is the Ministry of Interior which is competent to recognise the document.

The decision of the Ministry shall be issued within 30 days 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 for the Slovak Republic, 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 doesn’t 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. The decision will contain the name of the equal qualification in the Slovak Republic.

**Recognition of previous education for pursuing a so-called regulated profession in the Slovak Republic**

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 legislation of the Slovak Republic. A list of regulated professions can be found at [www.minedu.sk/recognition-of-completed-foreign-education-on-pursuit-of-regulated-profession-in-the-slovak-republic/](http://www.minedu.sk/recognition-of-completed-foreign-education-on-pursuit-of-regulated-profession-in-the-slovak-republic/).

In case of selected regulated professions, the Member States (EU, EEA, Switzerland) harmonised minimum requirements on education and training, therefore, a mutual recognition is automatic for the so-called “sectoral” professions (dentists, doctors of medicine, midwives, nurses and pharmacists), which meet the following criteria:

1. the Member States should agree on the content of education of these professions;
2. commit that education and training for selected professions will be realised within the scope and content defined in the first point;
3. education and training carried out according to the points 1 and 2 are automatically valid in the Member States.

General system of recognition is based on the fact that each citizen of a Member State can apply her/his education to pursue a profession in the state, where her/his education was obtained and he/she should also have this possibility in other Member States. The main principle of general recognition system, therefore, lies in the Member States’ trust in other national educational systems.

When a Member State finds out that there is a significant difference between the migrant’s ability measured according to the qualification and experience obtained in another Member State and the requirements posed by the host country to grant authorisation to pursue the same profession in its territory, it can review recognition of given qualification and may apply compensatory mechanisms determined by the host Member State.

**Issuing of decisions**

The decision on recognition of professional qualification shall be issued by:

1. the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas in case of pedagogical, sport and healthcare professions (the decision should be issued within 2 months since the application was filed);
2. a competent authority in case of other professions (the decision should be issued within 3 months since the application was filed).


- copy of ID or passport;
- verified copy of a certificate of education obtained abroad (notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak by an official sworn translator);
• verified copy of a transcript of records or diploma supplement (transcript of the curricula, notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak by an official sworn translator);
• copy of certificate of the previous highest completed education;
• duty stamp of 99.50 €;
• certificate of pedagogic work experience, if exists – only in case of pedagogic professions,
• other documents, if required.

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 respective country.

When certain goods, that are subject to the excise tax, are purchased (alcohol, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products), it is the purchaser who has the obligation to transport the products purchased in another EU Member State. It is not allowed to have the goods shipped, and no other person is allowed to transport the goods. It is also forbidden to provide the goods for further sale. Each country can set the limits in order to determine whether the tobacco and alcohol are for personal use. In other words, if a person carries a larger quantity of these goods, he/she may be asked to prove that they are intended for personal use and to justify their purchase. Informative defined limits for the import of goods in the EU are 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), 110 litres of beer.

If travelling from one EU Member State to another 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:
• 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco (each amount represents 100 % of the total allowance for tobacco products and any combination of those products must not exceed 100 %. Example: 100 cigarettes + 50 cigarillos = total allowance);
• a total of 1 litre of alcohol/alcoholic beverages exceeding 22% vol. or a total of 2 litres of alcoholic beverages not exceeding 22% vol.);
• in any means of motor transport, the fuel in the standard tank; and a quantity of fuel not exceeding 10 litres in a portable container;
• other goods (including perfume, coffee, tea, electronic devices, etc.) up to a 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 exported 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 custom duty.

**Currency restrictions**
The import and export of local and foreign currency are permitted. When entering Slovakia (the EU) from third countries or departing Slovakia (the EU) to third countries, exported, imported 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 (Annex 1 of Act No. 199/2004 – Customs Act) at the corresponding customs office. Amounts in other currencies follow exchange rates given by the National Bank of Slovakia for the particular day.

Financial resources sent by mail to or from a third country (outside the EU) in the amount exceeding 1,000 € should also be declared.

**More information:**
Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic
[www.financnasprava.sk](http://www.financnasprava.sk)

More information:
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);
- www.greenpages.spectator.sme.sk – information and contact phone numbers, websites and emails of several companies and organisations in Slovakia, including sections like: “Real Estate, Construction & Architecture” (subsection “Real Estate Agencies”); “Tourism, Travel & Souvenirs” (subsections “Hotels in Bratislava”, “Hotels outside Bratislava”);
- 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)
- www.greenpages.spectator.sme.sk – information and contact phone numbers, websites and emails of several companies and organisations in Slovakia, including sections like: “Real Estate, Construction & Architecture” (subsection “Real Estate Agencies”); “Tourism, Travel & Souvenirs” ( subsections “Hotels in Bratislava”, “Hotels outside Bratislava”);
- www.ambiente-apartments.com – apartment rentals in Bratislava;

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 www.sbaonline.sk/en/banking-sector/banks-in-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. Closing of the bank account is for free, but the bank can set a fixed amount account balance up to 7 €.

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 currency. For further information on commercial acceptability and other services consult your card issuer.

Travellers’ cheques

Thomas Cook, American Express, Visa International, Swiss Bankers, Citycorp travellers’ cheques are accepted in banks and at exchange offices. Exchange rate charges are at least 1% of the nominal cheque value. To avoid additional charges, travellers are recommended to take travellers’ cheques in Euros, Sterlings and US Dollars.
You can also use the services of Western Union, operating in the Slovak Post Office throughout the Slovak Republic.

**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 € and 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 “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.

Internet Cafes (“internetová kaviareň”) are widespread and not confined only to large towns. For more information you can either browse the internet or check the Yellow Pages (www.zlatestranky.sk, in Slovak only).

**How to make phone calls**

International country code of the Slovak Republic: 00421

**General Phone Numbers**

**Emergency calls:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Emergency</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firemen</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town police</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Enquiry services (usually paid):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers in Slovakia</td>
<td>1181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Info Assistant – Practical information for everyday use</td>
<td>12 111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**City codes in Slovakia:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banská Bystrica</td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bardejov</td>
<td>054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunajská Streda</td>
<td>031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humenné</td>
<td>057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Košice</td>
<td>055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levíce</td>
<td>036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liptovský Mikuláš</td>
<td>044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lučenec</td>
<td>047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michalovce</td>
<td>056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitra</td>
<td>037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nové Zámky</td>
<td>035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poprad</td>
<td>052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Považská Bystrica</td>
<td>042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prešov</td>
<td>051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prievidza</td>
<td>046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rožňava</td>
<td>058</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mobile operators

Mobile network operators in the Slovak Republic are: Orange, Slovak Telekom, Telefónica O2. 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 1,900/2,100 MHz and 4G networks use 800 MHz and 2,600 MHz. Slovakia is well covered by mobile phone networks, which enable calls also from some peaks of Tatra. Only very distant areas are without signal.

Prepaid mobile cards (Easy free, O2 Fér, Funfón Štart, Tesco mobile, Prima Orange, 4ka, Juro, Swan mobile).

If you want to avoid expensive roaming charges when in Slovakia, the easiest solution is to buy a prepaid SIM card. For its purchase 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 foreigner 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 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 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 0.45 €, sent by 1st class costs 0.65 € and registered mail costs 1.35 €. The postage for sending a 50 g letter by 2nd class from Slovakia to the Czech Republic costs 0.80 €, while sending a 50 g letter by the same class to the other European countries or outside Europe costs from 0.90 € to 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, make phone calls, 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, Chinese, 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 lists of catering places can be found at www.menu.atlas.sk (in Slovak only), www.zomato.com/sk (in Slovak only), www restauration.sme.sk (in Slovak only), http://spectator.sme.sk/ in section Food, Food Products&Beverages.

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, Smádný mních, Šariš, Martiner, Topvar, Urpiner.

More information:
www.panorama.sk/bonappetit,
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 “Krútňava” (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://sosr.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” – SLUK, www.sluk.sk, in Slovak only) and Lučnica – 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. A list of various events all around Slovakia can be found at the website www.podujatia.sk (in Slovak only). 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. “Bratislava Jazz Days” festival – is the biggest jazz venue in Slovakia taking place in the capital city 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 and Polus shopping centres (www.cinemacity.sk). Cheaper options are film clubs like cinema Lumière, Mladost, 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.cinemacity.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 the website of the respective cinema, at www.port.sk (in Slovak only), 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. You can also buy or subscribe to foreign newspapers and journals, or buy them 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.novvyskumnikov.sk). Other science-related regularly organized events are Week of Science and Technology focused on popularization of science and Science Café for Young People providing students opportunity to discuss current R&D topics with respected Slovak a foreign scientists (www.cvtsris. sk/en/popularisation-of-science/science-cafe-for-young-people.html?page_id=781) as well as 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. For the theatre programmes you can also visit www.port.sk (in Slovak only).

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 Hervartovo 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:

6.6 Day care for children

In the Slovak Republic, preschool education is provided until the beginning of compulsory school attendance. Preschool education in the Slovak Republic is both non-institutional and institutional. Non-institutional form of preschool education takes places in the family. Institutional form of preschool education is carried out in preschool establishments represented by kindergartens and special kindergartens. 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, full day, weekly and continuous operation. 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) with Hungarian and Ukrainian as communication languages aimed predominantly at children of those nationalities.

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)
A list of kindergartens in Slovakia is available at the website of the Institute for Educational Information and Prognosis (www.uips.sk/prehlady-skol/prehlad-materskych-skol, in Slovak only).

Contact phone numbers of kindergartens, primary, secondary schools and universities can be found at www.zlatestranky.sk (in Slovak only). Many schools have their own websites. Contact details and phone numbers of private schools with instruction in a foreign language are also available at www.greenpages.spectator.sme.sk (subsection “Education, Careers & Human Capital”).

For au-pair services, see page 171.

### 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 8year 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 8year 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, exceptionally, 12 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.

Contact phone numbers of kindergartens, primary, secondary schools, and universities can be found at www.zlatestranky.sk (in Slovak only). Many schools have their own websites. Contact details and phone numbers of private schools with instruction in a foreign language are also available at www.greenpages.spectator.sme.sk (subsection “Education”).
### Bilingual secondary schools – Bratislava region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spojená škola</td>
<td>Bratislava – Karlova Ves</td>
<td>Tilgenerova 14</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tilgenerka.edupage.org">www.tilgenerka.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSI International School of Bratislava</td>
<td>Bratislava – Karlova Ves</td>
<td>Karloveská 64</td>
<td><a href="http://www.qsi.org/slovakia/svk">www.qsi.org/slovakia/svk</a></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné bilingválne gymnázium</td>
<td>Bratislava – Nové Mesto</td>
<td>Česká 10</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymnaziunmeska.sk">www.gymnaziunmeska.sk</a></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingválne gymnázium C. S. Lewisa</td>
<td>Bratislava – Petružalca</td>
<td>Beňadická 38</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bilgym.sk">www.bilgym.sk</a></td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Bratislava – Petružalca</td>
<td>Panchúchova 6</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gympaba.sk">www.gympaba.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanjelické lyceum</td>
<td>Bratislava – Petružalca</td>
<td>Vranovská 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.evlyceum.sk">www.evlyceum.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnárium Mercuty</td>
<td>Bratislava – Petružalca</td>
<td>Zadunajská 27</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sgm.sk">www.sgm.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galileo School</td>
<td>Bratislava – Podunajské Biskupice</td>
<td>Dudvažská 6</td>
<td><a href="http://www.galileoschool.sk">www.galileoschool.sk</a></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Juraja Hronca</td>
<td>Bratislava – Ružinov</td>
<td>Novohradská 3</td>
<td><a href="http://www.qjh.sk">www.qjh.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>French</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Bratislava – Ružinov</td>
<td>Metodova 2</td>
<td><a href="http://gmet.edupage.org">http://gmet.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>German</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deutsche Schule Bratislava</td>
<td>Bratislava – Stráže Mesto</td>
<td>Palisády 51</td>
<td><a href="http://www.deutscheschule.sk">www.deutscheschule.sk</a></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Bilikova</td>
<td>Bratislava – Dubravka</td>
<td>Bilikova 24</td>
<td><a href="http://bs.gympilba.sk">http://bs.gympilba.sk</a> (in German only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akademie Imricha Karvaša</td>
<td>Bratislava – Petružalca</td>
<td>Hrobáková 11</td>
<td><a href="http://new.oaikba.sk">http://new.oaikba.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Italian</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Bratislava – Karlova Ves</td>
<td>Ul. Ladislava Sáru 1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymls.edu.sk">www.gymls.edu.sk</a></td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Russian</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Alberta Einstein</td>
<td>Bratislava – Petružalca</td>
<td>Einsteinova 35</td>
<td><a href="http://www.einsteinova.sk">www.einsteinova.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spanish</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Federica García Lorcu</td>
<td>Bratislava – Podunajské Biskupice</td>
<td>Hronská 3</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymhron.sk">www.gymhron.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Bilingual secondary schools – Trnava region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium</td>
<td>Galanta</td>
<td>Hodská 10</td>
<td><a href="http://www.privatgymnasium.sk">www.privatgymnasium.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia</td>
<td>Trnava</td>
<td>Kukučínova 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oakuktt.edupage.org">www.oakuktt.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné bilingválné gymnázium BESST</td>
<td>Trnava</td>
<td>Limbová 3</td>
<td><a href="http://www.besst.sk">www.besst.sk</a></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium J. B. Magina</td>
<td>Vrbové</td>
<td>Beňovského 358/100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gyrbove.sk">www.gyrbove.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia</td>
<td>Trnava</td>
<td>Kukučínova 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oakuktt.edupage.org">www.oakuktt.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bilingual secondary schools – Trenčín region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stredná odborná škola</td>
<td>Handlová</td>
<td>Lipová 8</td>
<td><a href="http://www.zssha.edu.sk">www.zssha.edu.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Myjava</td>
<td>Jablonská 5</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymy.edupage.org">www.gymy.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium FUTURUM</td>
<td>Trenčín</td>
<td>Kožušnícka 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sgfuturum.sk">www.sgfuturum.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Ludovíta Štúra</td>
<td>Trenčín</td>
<td>1. mája 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymnaziumtrencin.sk">www.gymnaziumtrencin.sk</a></td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingválné slovensko-španielske gymnázium</td>
<td>Nové Mesto nad Váhom</td>
<td>Športová 41</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bilgymnmv.edupage.org">www.bilgymnmv.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bilingual secondary schools – Nitra region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium T. Smaragd</td>
<td>Levice</td>
<td>Ul. SNP 26</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tsmaragd.sk">www.tsmaragd.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Nitra</td>
<td>Golianova 68</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymgolnr.sk">www.gymgolnr.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia</td>
<td>Šurany</td>
<td>Námestie hrdinov 7</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oasurany.edupage.org">www.oasurany.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia</td>
<td>Zlaté Moravce</td>
<td>Bernoláková 26</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oazm.edupage.org">www.oazm.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia</td>
<td>Topoľčany</td>
<td>Gagarinova 1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sjgymto.eu">www.sjgymto.eu</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Nitra</td>
<td>Párovská 1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymparnr.edu.sk">www.gymparnr.edu.sk</a></td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Bilingual secondary schools – Žilina region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana</td>
<td>Čadca</td>
<td>17. novembra 1296</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymcadca.eu">www.gymcadca.eu</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia Dušana Metoda Janotu</td>
<td>Čadca</td>
<td>17. novembra 1296</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oadmj.sk">www.oadmj.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium</td>
<td>Ružomberok</td>
<td>Bystrická cesta 5</td>
<td><a href="https://sukromna-sko%C5%82a.edupage.org/">https://sukromna-skoła.edupage.org/</a></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanjelická spojená škola</td>
<td>Liptovský Mikuláš</td>
<td>Komenského 10</td>
<td><a href="http://www.esslm.sk">www.esslm.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanjelická spojená škola</td>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>M. R. Štefánika 17</td>
<td><a href="http://www.essmt.sk">www.essmt.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingvalné gymnázium Milana Hodžu</td>
<td>Sučany</td>
<td>Komenského 215</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gbas.edupage.org">www.gbas.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium</td>
<td>Žilina</td>
<td>Oravská cesta 11</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ssag.sk">www.ssag.sk</a></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Bilingual secondary schools – Banská Bystrica region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evanjelické gymnázium</td>
<td>Banská Bystrica</td>
<td>Skuteckého 5</td>
<td><a href="http://www.egymbb.sk">www.egymbb.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Andreja Kmeťa</td>
<td>Banská Štiavnica</td>
<td>A. Gwerkovej – Gollnerovej 6</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymb.edupage.org">www.gymb.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanjelické gymnázium</td>
<td>Tisovec</td>
<td>Jesenského 836</td>
<td><a href="http://www.egt.sk">www.egt.sk</a></td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Jozefa Gregora Tajovského</td>
<td>Banská Bystrica</td>
<td>J. G. Tajovského 25</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gjgt.sk">www.gjgt.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Bilingual secondary schools – Prešov region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Prešov</td>
<td>Konštantiňova 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gk2-po.sk">www.gk2-po.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium sv. Moniky</td>
<td>Prešov</td>
<td>Tarasa Ševčenka 1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymonika.sk">www.gymonika.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné bilingvalné gymnázium</td>
<td>Prešov</td>
<td>Solivarská 28</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sukromnaskola.sk/sgpo">www.sukromnaskola.sk/sgpo</a></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Bilingual secondary schools – Košice region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
<td><strong>Town</strong></td>
<td><strong>Address</strong></td>
<td><strong>URL</strong></td>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium FUTURUM</td>
<td>Košice</td>
<td>Grešákova 1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sgfuturumke.edupage.sk">www.sgfuturumke.edupage.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromná stredná odborná škola</td>
<td>Košice – Dargovských hrdinov</td>
<td>Postupímská 37</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ssoske.sk">www.ssoske.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia</td>
<td>Košice – Sever</td>
<td>Watsonova 61</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oake.sk">www.oake.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSI International School of Košice</td>
<td>Košice – Šídliisko KVP</td>
<td>Drabova 3</td>
<td><a href="http://www.qsi.org/slovakia/svk/">www.qsi.org/slovakia/svk/</a></td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium HUMAN</td>
<td>Košice – Šídliisko KVP</td>
<td>Starozagorská 8</td>
<td><a href="http://www.schoolhuman.eu">www.schoolhuman.eu</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanjelické gymnázium Jana Amosa Komenského</td>
<td>Košice – Staré mesto</td>
<td>Škultétyho 10</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gjak.sk">www.gjak.sk</a></td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Košice – Vyšné Opátse</td>
<td>Opatovská cesta 7</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymopatke.edupage.org">www.gymopatke.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Košice – Západ</td>
<td>Trebišovská 12</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gt12.sk">www.gt12.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súkromné gymnázium</td>
<td>Košice – Západ</td>
<td>Katkin park 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sgcr.sk">www.sgcr.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika</td>
<td>Rožňava</td>
<td>Akademiaka Hronca 1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymrv.edupage.org">www.gymrv.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obchodná akadémia</td>
<td>Rožňava</td>
<td>Akademiaka Hronca 8</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oarv.edu.sk">www.oarv.edu.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Spišská Nová Ves</td>
<td>Javorová 16</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gjavsnu.edu.sk">www.gjavsnu.edu.sk</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Trebišov</td>
<td>Komenského 32</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymtv.edupage.org">www.gymtv.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>French</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>German</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Košice – Vyšné Opátse</td>
<td>Opatovská cesta 7</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gymopatke.edupage.org">www.gymopatke.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spanish</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnázium</td>
<td>Košice – Sever</td>
<td>Park mládeže 5</td>
<td><a href="http://gpm.edupage.org">http://gpm.edupage.org</a> (in Slovak only)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 lessons on the next day 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, wholeday 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).

For a few examples of these see www.greenpages.spectator.sme.sk (section “Domestic Supplies & Personal Services”, subsection “Babysitting Services & Care Providers”).

**6.7.2 Higher education**

**Oldest Slovak Universities**

The first university in the territory of present-day 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 prirodnych vied” (abbr. “RNDr.”) in natural science study programmes,
- “doktor farmacie” (abbr. “PharmDr.”) in pharmacy study programmes,
- “doktor filozofie” (abbr. “PhDr.”) in social science and art science study programmes,
- “doktor prav” (abbr. “JUDr.”) in law study programmes,
- “doktor pedagogiky” (abbr. “PaedDr.”) in teacher training and sports study programmes,
- “doktor teologie” (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 best known 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 Tatra mountains, declared by the UNESCO to be the “Biospheric reservation of the Tatras”.

High Tatras 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, cablenways 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 “Ďumbier” (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 Devin 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 Diakovce.
- 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 Sliač 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 Raffinory – 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 e.g. www.hrady-zamky.org, www.castles.sk

**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).

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

Natural Monuments
- Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forest of Germany (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).
- Fujara and its music – musical instrument that can be found only

More information:
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 3rd 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

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.akademiavzdelavania.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.


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/kriznice/adresare/soznam-kriznic-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.svkbb.eu (in Slovak only)
- State scientific library, Košice www.svkk.sk
- State scientific library, Prešov www.svkpo.sk
- Slovak Medical Library, Bratislava www.sllk.sk
- Slovak Pedagogic Library, Bratislava www.spkg.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 www.tuzvo.sk/en/sldk/homepage.html
Daily life in Slovakia

- 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: 0.70 €
- Beer: 1.20 €

Transportation
- Local transport, basic ticket (single journey): from 0.40 € – 1.40 €
- Local transport, monthly ticket/travel pass: from 20 €
- Taxi within Bratislava: app. 0.60 € per km (minimum fare from 3.20 €)
- Petrol per litre: from 1.20 €
- Diesel per litre: from 1.15 €
**Coaches**
- Bratislava – Košice, 445 km, from 19 €
- Bratislava – Žilina, 203 km, from 9.50 €
- Bratislava – Banská Bystrica, 230 km, from 5 €

**Trains**
- Bratislava – Košice: from 9 €
- Bratislava – Žilina: from 6.60 €
- Bratislava – Banská Bystrica: from 10 €

**Having fun**
- Cinema ticket: 3 – 8 €
- Museum ticket: from 1 €
- Theatre ticket: 2.50 – 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](http://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 ophtalmologist (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), an you must present a [European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)](https://www.ehic.org.uk) 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/?page=hladaj&typ=praktickylekardospeli (in Slovak only, but the contact details are comprehensible).

The list of specialists according to the specialization can be found at www.zzz.sk/?page=zoznam_ambulancii.

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/?page=hladaj&typ=zubna and http://zoznamzubarov.sk/ (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/?page-zoznam-nemocnic-liecbni (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 24-hour 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”, 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/ (list of emergency medical care providers in Bratislava); or www.zlatestranky.sk/hladanie/emergency/ (list of emergency medical care providers in Slovakia).

Important telephone numbers:
- Integrated emergency rescue system: 112 (communication in foreign languages possible)
- Emergency ambulance service: 155
• Rescue line (Reťaz Života Foundation): +421/850111 313. 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 Bratislava region: +421–2–6383–3 130 (street Strečnianska), +421–2–4827–9257 (clinic Ružínov)
• Emergency ambulance service in Košice: +421–55–16–183
• Emergency ambulance service in Prešov: 051–77 32–220, 051–77 33–444
• Emergency ambulance service in Trnava: +421–33–553–61 03

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 phone numbers are available on the website of the Yellow Pages www.zlatestranky.sk (in Slovak only) and the Green Pages http://spectator.sme.sk/ (section “Automotive”, subsection “Car Rental Companies”).

Laundry and dry cleaning service
At present, there are several launderettes 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). However some large supermarket chains or shopping centres 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.vuke.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 (in Slovak only)
• Nitra www.nitra.sk
• Poprad www.poprad.sk
• Prešov www.presov.sk (in Slovak only)
• Ružomberok www.ruzomberok.sk (in Slovak only)
• 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. 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, Síňava 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.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; Kooperativa www.kooperativa.sk, in Slovak only).

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 6 different types of trains:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Os</td>
<td>Passenger train (“osobný vlak”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zr</td>
<td>Semi-fast train (“zrýchlený vlak”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Fast train (“rýchlik”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex</td>
<td>Express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC</td>
<td>InterCity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>EuroCity (international)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>SuperCity (international)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.vlak-bus.sk provide a complex travel itinerary. Here you can choose the means of public transport (bus, train, airplane, 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 (“miestenka”), 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. 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 (it does not apply to the private trains transit, 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.vlak-bus.sk.

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 ("miestenka") for longdistance coaches at the ticket office of any bus station or online, in some cases (www.cp.sk).

Travel by plane
Travel by plane within the country is rather comfortable. There are airlines that provide connections within Slovakia and to foreign countries, such as Ryanair (www.ryanair.com), Czech Airlines (www.csa.cz) and Austrian Airlines (www.austrian.com).

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.letiskopoprad.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 Main Bus Station in Bratislava (Hlavná autobusová stanica) called Mlynské Nivy.

A oneway ticket from the Vienna Airport to Bratislava bus station costs from 4 € (Regiojet) to 7.70 € (other bus companies). For the bus schedule browse www.cp.sk, www.regiojet.sk or www.vlak‑bus.sk.

There is also 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. Standard oneway ticket from the Vienna Airport to Bratislava bus station costs 7.50 €. For the bus schedule and up-to-date prices, please visit the website www.blaguss.sk.

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 at the same time offers a possibility of transport to/from the airport. 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 (in Bratislava and Košice also a network of trams) 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. In such cases, they can be bought at newsstands, ticket machines, some bus stations or newsstand kiosks. In several cities electronic SMS tickets are also available. However, the possibilities depend on the respective towns. Check this upon arrival.

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 365day pass.

To get a pass (30, 60 or 365day pass), you need an up-to-date photograph (3 x 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 that can be purchased and topped up also via internet. For more information visit www.slovaklines.sk/my-journey/transportation-in-regio/transportation-card.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 (usually 50% cheaper). 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.

To find out contact numbers on taxi services in the respective town search the Yellow Pages at www.zlatestranky.sk (in Slovak only) or the Green Pages at www.greenpages.spectator.sme.sk (section “Automotive”, subsection “Taxi Companies”).
In Bratislava, you can also use the “taxi service” provided by UBER. It is a mobile application, which allows consumers with smartphones to submit a trip request, which is sent automatically to the UBER driver nearest to the consumer, informing the driver about the location of the customer. UBER drivers use their own personal cars. More information about the service and the application to download is available at www.uber.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/?vodicske-preukazy (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-a-hodiny-na-pracoviskach, 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 nonleaded petrol, Super 95 Natural, Natural 98, Normal 21, V-Power, V-power Racing, EVO Benzin, etc. For older vehicles the nonleaded 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 tend to be quite acceptable and larger stations offer showers. In all big petrol stations you can pay with 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-stanice.

**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. 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 www.m-parking.sk (in Slovak only).
### Breakdown service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provider</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASA – Autoklub Slovakia Assistance, s. r. o.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asaauto.sk">www.asaauto.sk</a> 18 112, +421/2/49 20 59 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC Autoclub</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acautoclub.sk">www.acautoclub.sk</a> 18 007, +421/2/20 92 00 07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATC – Slovak Automotive Tourist Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.satc.sk">www.satc.sk</a> 18 124, +421/2/68 24 92 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 conditions. 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](http://www.zoznamveterinarov.sk) or at [www.zzz.sk/?page=veterinari](http://www.zzz.sk/?page=veterinari) (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
- **autopozíčovňa**: 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
- **doplnkové 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>H</strong></th>
<th><strong>M</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hory</td>
<td>manželka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hrad</td>
<td>materská škôlka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hraničný priechod</td>
<td>medzinárodný</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I</strong></td>
<td>medzivládny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>internát</td>
<td>mena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>izba</td>
<td>mesačník, predplatný cestovný lístok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>J</strong></td>
<td>mestská hromadná doprava (MHD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jaskyňa</td>
<td>miestenka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jazyk</td>
<td>mimoškolská činnosť</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jazykový kurz</td>
<td>mimovládne neziskové organizácie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jedáleň</td>
<td>mzda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jedlo</td>
<td>income, wage, salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>K</strong></td>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaderníctvo</td>
<td>nájomné</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaviareň</td>
<td>náklady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kino</td>
<td>nápoj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kniha</td>
<td>národný</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knižnica</td>
<td>nárok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kostol</td>
<td>nemocenské poistenie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kúpele</td>
<td>nemocnica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>L</strong></td>
<td><strong>O</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lekár</td>
<td>občan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lekáreň</td>
<td>obchod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>letisko</td>
<td>oblečenie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>list</td>
<td>odborný lekár</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lístok</td>
<td>odchod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lyžovanie</td>
<td>osobný vlak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EURAXESS SLOVAKIA**

Glossary
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Slovak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| person
| rec
| en
t| al
| n
| a
| nt| ur| a
| personnel | agentúra | recruitment agency |
| pivo | personálna | agentúra | personnel |
| plat | počasie, | počítač | computer |
| počít
| ač| p| re
| cova
| ť | požička | t | rec| h
| požička | pohotovosť | emergency |
| požička | požička | požička | v nezamestnanosti | požička | ticket office |
| poschodie | poštová | pošta | post office |
| poschodie | poštová | pošta | pošta | poštová | post office |
| povinná školská | dohádzka | dohádzka | dohádzka | dohádzka | compulsory education |
| povinné odvody | do fondov poistenia | levies into compulsory funds |
| povolenie na pobyt | práca | work |
| práca | pracovný čas | working time |
| práca | pracovná | zmluva | contract |
| práca | pracovné povolenie | work permit |
| práca | praktický lekár | general practitioner |
| práca | prechodný pobyt | temporary stay |
| práca | priemerná mzda | average income |
| práca | priemysel | industry |
| práca | príchod | arrival |
| práca | príjem | income |
| práca | rámcový | framework |
| práca | reštaurácia | restaurant |
| práca | rezervácia | booking |
| práca | rodina | family |
| práca | rodné číslo | birth registration number |
| práca | rodný list | birth certificate |
| práca | rozvoj | development |
| práca | rýchlik | fast train |
| práce | rýchlosť | speed |
| práce | samospráva | self-administration |
| práce | sanitka | ambulance |
| práce | služba | service |
| práce | sobášny list | marriage certificate |
| práce | spolupráca | co-operation |
| práce | stredná škola | secondary school |
| práce | súkromný | private |
| práce | sviatok | holiday |
| práce | škola | school |
| práce | štátny | state |
| práce | štipendium | stipend, scholarship |
| práce | tretia krajina | third country |
| práce | trolejbus | trolleybus |
| práce | trvalý pobyt | permanent residence |
### Glossary of Slovak Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U</th>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Teaching-learning process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ubytovanie</td>
<td>accommodation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Účet</td>
<td>bill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Úrad</td>
<td>office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Úrazové poistenie</td>
<td>injury insurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ústav</td>
<td>institute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzávierka</td>
<td>deadline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Územie</td>
<td>territory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uznávanie diplomov</td>
<td>recognition of diplomas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veda</td>
<td>science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedec</td>
<td>scientist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veľvyslanectvo</td>
<td>embassy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vchod</td>
<td>entrance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vláda</td>
<td>government</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vlak</td>
<td>train</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vodičský preukaz</td>
<td>driving licence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vstupné</td>
<td>admission fee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Výdavky</td>
<td>costs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Východ</td>
<td>exit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Výmenný kurz</td>
<td>exchange rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Výnimka</td>
<td>exception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Výpis z registra trestov</td>
<td>criminal record</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Výskum</td>
<td>research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Výskumník</td>
<td>researcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vysokoškolské vzdělávaní</td>
<td>higher education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Výtah</td>
<td>lift</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vyučovací jazyk</td>
<td>language of instruction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vyučovanie</td>
<td>education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Z</th>
<th>Foreign, abroad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zahraničný, v zahraničí</td>
<td>foreign, abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Základná škola</td>
<td>primary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zákon</td>
<td>act, law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zamestnanie</td>
<td>employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zamestnanec</td>
<td>employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zastávka</td>
<td>bus/tram stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zbraň</td>
<td>firearm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zdravie</td>
<td>health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zdravotná starostlivosť</td>
<td>health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zdravotná poisťovňa</td>
<td>health insurance company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zdravotné poistenie</td>
<td>health insurance source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zdroj</td>
<td>exchange office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zmenáreň</td>
<td>founder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zriadovateľ</td>
<td>dentist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Železničná stanica</td>
<td>railway station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Žiadosť</td>
<td>application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graphical overview of the duties regarding the mobility to Slovakia (timeline checklist)

- Daily life issues - termination/resuming/change
- Declaration of tax
- Pension and social security entitlements
- Social contributions termination/resuming/change
- Health insurance - termination/resuming/change
- Termination of registration of residence
- Deregistration duties in Slovakia
- Renting contract termination, finding accommodation and relocation
- Communication with the hosting and sending institution
  - Application, selection process, grant award, or resuming former employment contract
- > 6 months
  - Res. permit renewal
  - Deregistration duties in Slovakia
  - Termination of registration of residence
  - Health insurance - termination/resuming/change
  - Job termination and application, declaration of tax, social security entitlements, social contributions termination/resuming/change
  - Authentication of documents on education including translation, recognition
  - School attendance termination/resuming/change
  - Deregistration in Slovakia

Leaving the country

www.euraxess.sk
euraxess@saia.sk
SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation implementing programmes and providing services aimed at enhancement of civil society, and assisting in the internationalisation of education and research in Slovakia since 1990. SAIA came to existence in 1990’s at the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic. New conditions in the society naturally called for an independent information agency to guarantee access to information and provide advisory service on opportunities for study abroad. Such agency would also develop an open and transparent application system for distribution of scholarships offered to Slovakia by foreign governments and various non-profit organisations after the regime change.

SAIA registered as a civic association on January 1, 1992, and later transformed itself into a non-profit organisation providing public benefit services. Initially, the agency carried out its activities only in Bratislava and later started to open its regional offices in university towns. In 1993, SAIA was authorised by the Ministry of Education of SR to administer two new intergovernmental programmes: Action Austria – Slovakia, Co-operation in Science and Education and CEEPUS. After expanding its services to a new target group – non-governmental organisations – it became a service centre for the third sector. SAIA ceased its wide spectrum of activities in this area at the end of 2003.

In 2004, it worked not only in the field of student and teacher mobility but it started to focus also on the mobility of researchers from both public and private research organisations. It became a part of the European network of EURAXESS Service Centres, initially funded by the European Commission. Currently the national EURAXESS network is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

In 2006, SAIA started to implement two new programmes adopted by the Slovak Government and financed by the Ministry of Education – Milan Rastislav Štefánik Fellowship Programme and National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers. Financing of Štefánik Fellowship Programme ended in 2009. In 2011, the National Scholarship Programme entered the 2nd phase of its implementation and SAIA continues in its administration.

The Programme NIL Fund Supporting Co-operation in the Field of Education with funding from the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms and co-funding from the Slovak state budget was managed by SAIA from 2007 to April 2011. Since 2013, in the framework of the 2nd programme period of EEA Grants, SAIA has become the programme operator of the EEA Scholarship Programme Slovakia aimed at upper-secondary schools and higher education institutions. The programme is to be implemented by April 2017.

At the beginning of 2010, the SciexNMSch – Scientific Exchange Programme was launched in Slovakia, funded from the Swiss contribution to the enlarged European Union. SAIA became the coordination body for the programme. The last call for proposals was closed in April 2014.

SAIA runs offices in five university towns (Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Košice, Nitra and Žilina) with approximately 20 employees.

SAIA, n. o. Programmes:
1. Academic Mobility
2. Action Austria – Slovakia, Co-operation in Science and Education
3. CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies
4. National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic
5. EEA Scholarship Programme Slovakia
6. EURAXESS Service Centres