

BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Current Challenges for Young Entrepreneurs

As several articles in the previous issue of *Connection* illustrate, entrepreneurship is above all a state of mind. Although startups and entrepreneurship in general have received much more positive attention over the past few years, Slovakia still remains one of the countries with a relatively low drive towards self-employment and the associated risks. This Business Breakfast provided valuable insights into the current state of entrepreneurship in Slovakia, focusing especially on the young people who want to start their own business. Speakers from Amway Czech Republic and Slovakia, Junior Achievement Slovakia, and Young Entrepreneurs Association of Slovakia offered their opinions on how do education, legislation and perception of entrepreneurship motivate or discourage them. The discussion was supported by hard data from Amway's annual Global Entrepreneurship Report, which adopts a scientific approach towards entrepreneurship and analyzes what makes entrepreneurs think, feel and succeed.

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by Andrej Klížan

BUSINESS SEMINAR

Business Outlook 2016

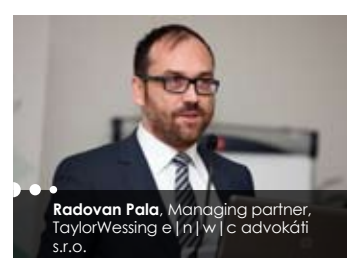
AmCham's last event of 2016 had the ambitious task of providing a useful overview of changes which are likely to affect businesses in 2016, as well as a business forecast for the whole year. Vladimír Vaňo, Head of CEE Research/Chief Analyst at Sberbank, focused on comparing the post-crisis situation in the Eurozone with that in the US, concluding that due to the Eurozone debt crisis and geopolitical tensions, the recovery is much more fragile. However, although he stressed that "the exuberant times before 2008 are not coming back", his general outlook was positive, assuming that the recovery of domestic demand and investments continue. Radovan Pala, Managing partner at TaylorWessing, reminded everyone that 2016 will bring the biggest number of legislative changes in the last decade. As he introduced the most important ones individually, it was clear that not all of these will have a positive influence on the local business environment. Wilfried Serles, Managing partner



Lucia Kurilovská, Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Justice of SR



Lucia Prozbíková, Senior State Counsellor at the Department for Innovations and Business Environment, Ministry of Economy of SR



Radovan Pala, Managing partner, TaylorWessing e|n|w|c advokáti s.r.o.



Wilfried Serles, Managing partner, IB Grant Thornton Consulting, k.s.



Vladimír Vaňo, Head of CEE Research/Chief Analyst, Sberbank Europe AG



at IB Grant Thornton Consulting, took a closer look at Slovakia's tax system, reminiscing about the not-so-distant past, when "Slovakia's tax system used to be beautiful as it used to be simple". His main thesis, supported by strong arguments, was that the culture of paying taxes in Slovakia must be improved.



by Andrej Klížan