

THE FUTURE OF KOŠICE AND PREŠOV IS IN INNOVATION AND COOPERATION!



SUMMARY OF THE DEBATE ON THE EAST INNOVATION CONFERENCE

The main challenge for Eastern Slovakia is in managing relationship between all of the relevant stakeholders that are jointly responsible for the development of the region. That means business, academia, municipalities and local communities that are an integral part of Eastern Slovakia. Only when these relevant partners will work together the success will be achieved.

Businesses need to actively engage with the local communities, which might then become more vocal in their communication towards regional authorities. In return, these will listen to the needs of businesses and ensure a better connection with the academia and provision of social services.

Active cooperation between regional authorities, academic institutions, businesses and local communities is essential for any successful outcome. None of these stakeholders can succeed on their own. The cooperation with the remaining partners is therefore an absolute must.

Utilizing the region's innovative potential lies in retaining and attracting talented people. AmCham is convinced that this region has the capacity to become an important innovation hub in the wider CEE region. How to tackle this challenge?

AmCham would like to give thanks to all who participated on this debate in Košice in September and November 2018! Thank you!

1. WHAT DO REGIONAL LEADERS THINK?

It is important for the people of East Slovakia to create an intimate sense of local patriotism. Not that I am at home only for Christmas or Easter, but I am at home because of work, living, family, and relaxation. We need to anchor the people in the region which gave them a value system, family, education, and can give them a decent living and work as well.

MILAN MAJERSKÝ, Prešov Self-governing Region

We both want Eastern Slovakia to become an attractive place to live in and both of us wish to contribute to this goal!

RASTISLAV TRNKA, Košice Self-governing Region and Milan Majerský, Prešov Self-governing Region

Metallurgy and IT sector will remain important pillars of Eastern Slovakia! These two still have a great potential to build upon as they interconnect to other sectors as well!

RASTISLAV TRNKA, Košice Self-governing Region

“Košice and Prešov regions must be more innovative and active if they want to compete with the rest of Slovakia. The recent creation of AmCham Slovakia platform in Košice is a good promise that things will move faster.”



ANTON
MARCINCIN

Advisor to the
Minister of
Finance of SR

A POSITIVE EXAMPLE

Prešov and Košice regions are already preparing a harmonized integrated transport infrastructure, which will include buses, trains and internal city transportation of both cities with the goal of improving mobility. People and potential employees in both cities will benefit from this connection.

2. WHAT DO THE EXPERTS THINK ABOUT EAST INNOVATION?

Businesses! Communicate with the outside world, look around you and have an interest in incubators and startups that might evolve your business to the future.

PETER KOLESÁR, Neulogy

It is very important for us that art, culture, and creativity complement the thinking of universities, cities, and business!

MICHAL HLADKÝ, Director, Creative Industry Košice

Let me just illustrate future innovation. Car-producers will transform into the providers of mobility. The future of the Slovak Republic will depend on how we will be able to attract R&D.

PETER KOLESÁR, Neulogy

Cities need to formulate the regional policy with respect to the possible interconnections and not to wait for the country policy!

ANTON MARCINČIN, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Finance of SR

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My professional experience tells me that the need to innovate must be perceived throughout the ecosystem. All relevant institutions must be connected to one network. Both large and small businesses, both established and new, play an important role. Universities and secondary schools must have the strictest quality criteria. Government and local government must conduct an intensive dialogue with the private sector. And we in AmCham want to help with this dialogue. Equally important is the extended and living network of the third sector and cultural institutions.

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RONALD
BLAŠKO

Executive Director
of AmCham
Slovakia

A PLATFORM FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE

AmCham Slovakia invited businesses, academia, representatives of regional administration and creative industry to work together to cultivate talent, create space for creative people, and encourage change that promotes innovation with the goal of creating a consensus on priorities and a the long-term vision for the region.

3. HOW DOES IT AFFECT ACADEMIA?

Parents gamble with the future of their children. Only a few of them really take into consideration what their sons and daughters can really do. Nowadays, young people do not choose life-long employment. They will need to adapt to change.

GABRIEL GALGÓCI, Country General Manager, AT&T

10% of high school graduates leave this county to study abroad!

BRANISLAV KLESKEŇ, CEO, Leaf

Foreign accredited primary or/and secondary school is missing in Košice!

ANTON MARCINČIN, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Finance of SR

Why do Slovaks hesitate to return to back home? It is the overall political atmosphere, lack of exciting work opportunities, and services such as education or health that decides.

BRANISLAV KLESKEŇ, CEO, Leaf

I was thinking about leaving Slovakia, but I got the possibility to stay here. I was lucky, I got the right information.

KARLA SILVIA BEATRIX BERECZOVÁ - Fresh Graduate, Networking Academy Games and Junior at TUKE

“ All of us belong to a system, culture or community, we are not just parts of companies. That’s why we take care of the market by many ways showing how exceptional the region is and that young people have their future here. ”



DANIEL
GIEBEL
Managing
Director,
T-Systems

HOW CAN AMCHAM HELP?

AmCham Slovakia and its Train the Trainer Program is aimed at teachers of secondary schools and universities in Košice and Prešov, which offers a set of effective soft skills to bring innovative approaches and methods into the education process. Skills for Success, another program created by AmCham Slovakia, is aimed at providing students with a set of effective soft skills that are at the same time the least developed competencies of fresh graduates entering the labor market.

THE RECIPE FOR EASTERN SLOVAKIA'S SUCCESS IS SIMPLY IN GOOD GOVERNANCE

AmCham Slovakia will engage in a more active and meaningful discussion with the relevant regional governments and will coordinate such communication on behalf of its member companies and partners.

Also, AmCham Slovakia's initiative on Regional Development will strive towards sustainable and innovation-driven regional development in Eastern Slovakia based on targeted investments into human capital, smart technological solutions and physical infrastructure. It will also serve as a bridge between the private, the public and the academic sector in the region.

The improved governance will lead to a better utilization of the local potential, which will subsequently determine the ability to keep talented people in the region and the ability to keep pace with the most recent challenges in technology and innovation.

