



c r e a t i v e
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AmCham Austria
American Chamber of Commerce in Austria



EmpowerUs

From access to impact.

CREATIVE NETWORK AWARDS
ACE Best Practice Sharing Conference
October 7, 2026 | Istanbul, Türkiye

PRESENTED BY
Karin Zeltner
Executive Director, AmCham Austria

Why EmpowerUs stands out

01 ONE PLATFORM

Mentoring, development and networking in one journey.

02 EXECUTIVE ACCESS

Talent learns directly from senior business leaders.

03 WIDER IMPACT

Benefits extend to employers and the business community.



One platform.
Two reinforcing experiences.

01

MentorUs

Nine-month executive mentoring for nominated talent.

02

ConnectUs

Leadership workshops and cross-sector networking.

THE HIGHLIGHT

One development journey

MentorUs builds depth.

ConnectUs builds breadth.

Access becomes growth. Development becomes community.



MentorUs

Executive access that develops leaders

SELECTIVE

Nominated talent with 5+ years of experience

SUSTAINED

Nine months, not a one-off encounter

SENIOR ACCESS

Direct exchange with business leaders

LEADERSHIP GROWTH

New perspectives and practical insight



ConnectUs

Connections that grow into community

CURATED

High-potential professionals and future leaders

INCLUSIVE

Empowerment and gender equality at the core

CROSS-SECTOR

Exclusive events with diverse speakers

NETWORK EFFECT

Relationships grow across organizations

One connected pathway

THREE ELEMENTS. ONE RESULT.

- 01 Executive mentoring**
- 02 Leadership development**
- 03 Cross-company network**

Access. Capability. Community.



Impact at three levels



TALENT

Leadership skills
New perspectives
C-level access



COMPANIES

Cross-company learning
Talent development
Stronger retention



BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Future-leader network
Knowledge exchange
Inclusive leadership

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HCa2bMFnUo7PC63B18L1BIq5QIPTcSBQ/view?usp=drivesdk>



Why EmpowerUs deserves recognition

A transferable best practice

DISTINCTIVE

Mentoring, workshops and networking in one initiative.

COLLABORATIVE

Created with the U.S. Commercial Service Vienna.

RELEVANT

Leadership growth, talent retention and equality.

TRANSFERABLE

A two-program model others can adapt.

ENDURING

Relationships that last beyond one event.

EmpowerUs

From access to impact.

+43 676 479 91 87

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office@amcham.at

www.amcham.at



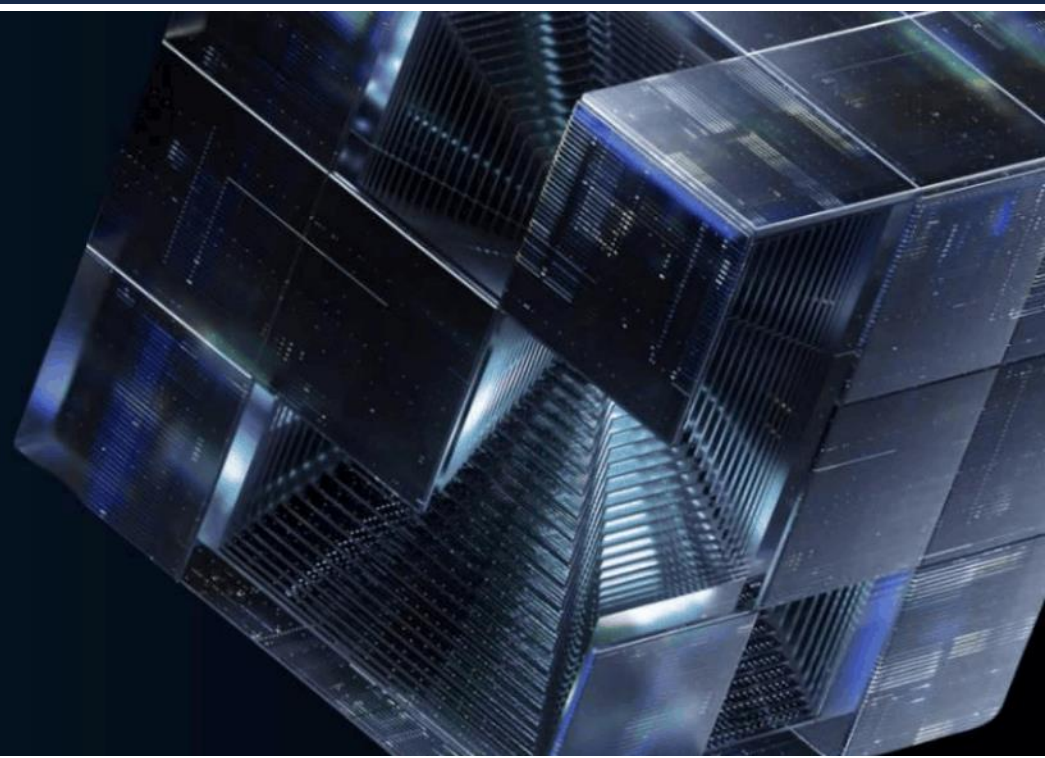


creative
network
award
2026



METRIX

Moldovan Economic Transformation and Reform Index



Why METRIX?

- REFORM-FOCUSED
- REALITY-CHECKED
- TRACKED OVER TIME

Not a sentiment index.
A transformation tracker.



Three layers of evidence

WHAT BUSINESS SAYS

400 companies

A broad view of policy and the business climate.

WHY BUSINESS SAYS IT

**In-depth
conversations**

Context behind the results and their practical effects.

WHAT THE ECONOMY SAYS

**Macroeconomic
model**

Economic evidence to test policy effects.

EU integration



taxation



trade & customs



human capital



digitalization & AI



AmCham METRIX 1.0 vs 3.0

access to finance



energy



green economy



infrastructure & real estate

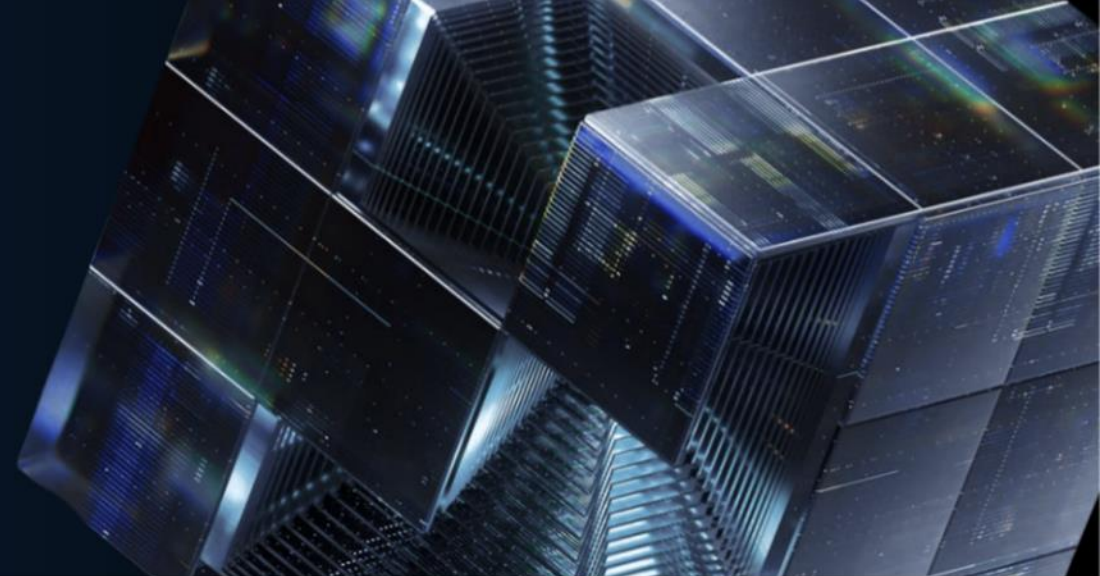


quality



METRIX

Moldovan Economic Transformation and Reform Index



METRIX · business climate score

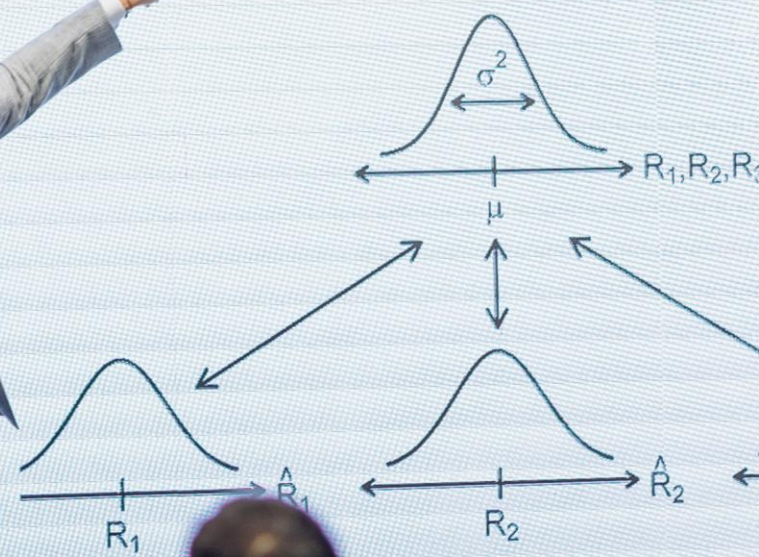
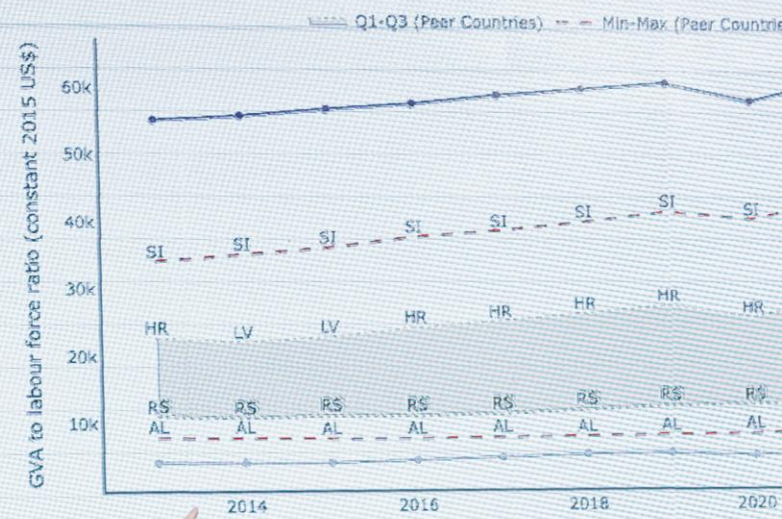
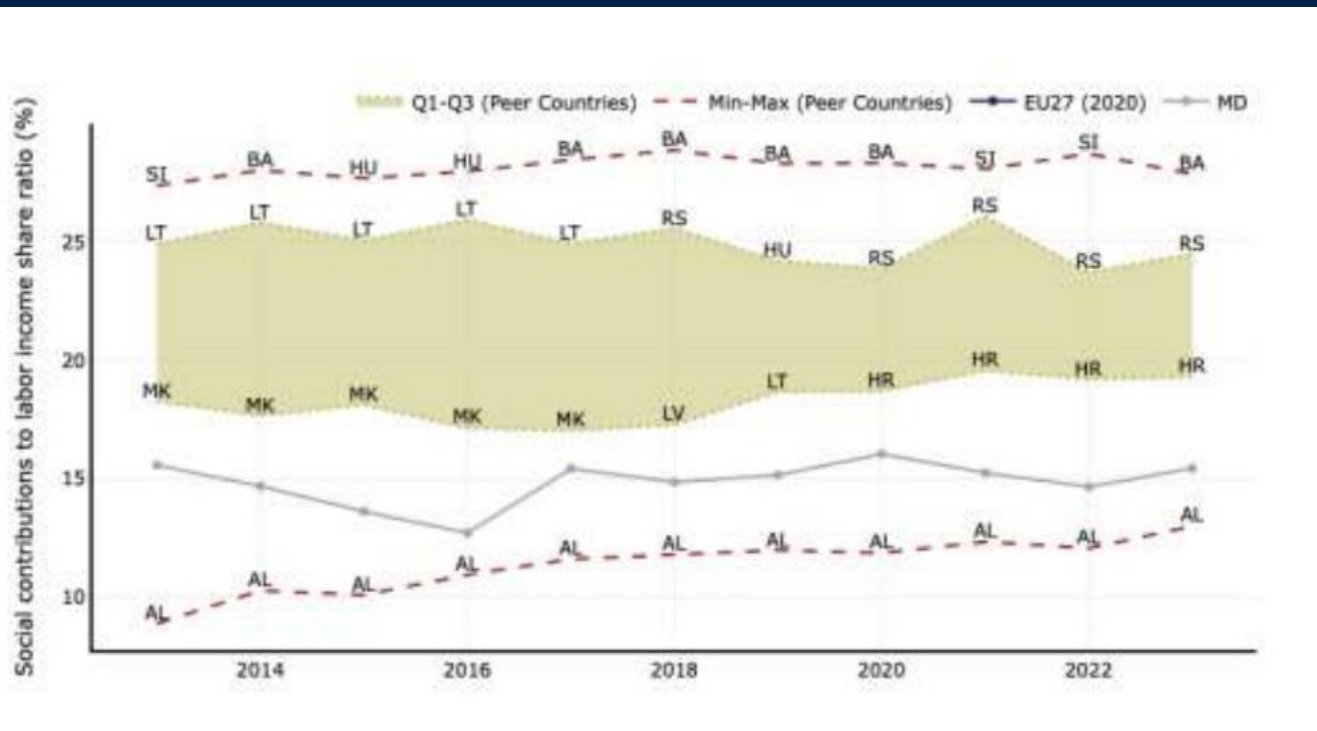
Average of 10 dimension scores · Business climate component only (excludes macroeconomic component)



AmCham METRIX



METRIX and the productivity



METRIX: the road



01

02

03

04

The first three editions were published.
Next edition: November 4



The main idea

**THE REPORT IS NOT
THE PRODUCT.**

**THE CONVERSATION
IT CREATES IS.**



Q&A





creative
network
award
2026

CHANGING THE APPROACH

BRINGING CROSS SECTORALITY

ACE 2026

#ruleoflaw



#skills4future



#InnovativeSlovakia



#eastinnovation



SLOVAKIA: HEADLINES THAT SHAPED THE ECONOMIC DEBATE IN 2025

Pravda TRADÍCNY SLOVENSKÝ DENÍK

Slovensko láka turistov
Turistická sezóna sa rozbieha. Slovensko láka turistov. Podľa najnovších údajov zbera Slovensko rekordne veľa turistov. Turistická sezóna sa rozbieha. Slovensko láka turistov. Podľa najnovších údajov zbera Slovensko rekordne veľa turistov.

Trh práce sa mení
Trh práce sa mení. Slovensko čelí zmenám na trhu práce. Slovensko čelí zmenám na trhu práce. Slovensko čelí zmenám na trhu práce.

Starostka spoločnosť
Starostka spoločnosť. Slovensko čelí zmenám na trhu práce. Slovensko čelí zmenám na trhu práce. Slovensko čelí zmenám na trhu práce.

Ako prilákať talent?
Ako prilákať talent? Slovensko čelí zmenám na trhu práce. Slovensko čelí zmenám na trhu práce. Slovensko čelí zmenám na trhu práce.

Labor Shortages and Ageing Population Threaten Future Growth
Slovakia faces a shrinking workforce as the population ages, putting long-term economic growth at risk, experts warn.

HN HOSPODÁRSKE NOVINY
Slovensko pokračuje v konsolidácii. Slovensko pokračuje v konsolidácii. Slovensko pokračuje v konsolidácii.

HN HOSPODÁRSKE NOVINY

OECD Warns: Slovakia at a Crossroads
Amid Weak Car Market and Fiscal Pressures
Organization says Slovakia must reduce its reliance on the automotive industry and speed up reforms as economic risks mount.

Analýza HN
Diverzifikácia je nevyhnutná. Diverzifikácia je nevyhnutná. Diverzifikácia je nevyhnutná.

Reformy sa už nedajú odkladať
Reformy sa už nedajú odkladať. Reformy sa už nedajú odkladať. Reformy sa už nedajú odkladať.

Realizácia plánov investícií
Realizácia plánov investícií. Realizácia plánov investícií. Realizácia plánov investícií.

DENNÍK HN

Public Debt Continues Rising Despite Consolidation Measures
Slovakia's public debt keeps climbing, even as the government implements consolidation measures. Analysts warn that without deeper structural reforms, the trend is unlikely to reverse.

Analýza HN
Konsolidácia nestačí. Konsolidácia nestačí. Konsolidácia nestačí.

Reformy sa už nedajú odkladať
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HN HOSPODÁRSKE NOVINY

Slovakia Lags OECD Peers in Innovation and R&D Investment
Slovakia invests less in research and development than most OECD countries, raising concerns about its long-term competitiveness, the OECD says.

Analýza HN
Inovácie nie sú ľahké. Inovácie nie sú ľahké. Inovácie nie sú ľahké.

Reformy sa už nedajú odkladať
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SME DENNÍK

Slovakia's Economy Slows as Growth Drops Below 1%
Weaker demand, industrial slowdown and global uncertainty weigh on the economy, analysts say.

Analýza HN
Slovensko sa pomaly pomáha. Slovensko sa pomaly pomáha. Slovensko sa pomaly pomáha.

Reformy sa už nedajú odkladať
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HN HOSPODÁRSKE NOVINY

Productivity and Competitiveness Challenges Put Convergence at Risk
Slovakia's slower productivity growth and structural weaknesses could jeopardise its catch-up with richer EU countries, analysts say.

Analýza HN
Slovensko stráca dych v produktivite. Slovensko stráca dych v produktivite. Slovensko stráca dych v produktivite.

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SME DENNÍK

Investors Warn of Regulatory Uncertainty and Weak Business Environment
Foreign and domestic investors say unpredictable rules and heavy bureaucracy are holding back investment and long-term growth in Slovakia.

Analýza HN
Slovensko stráca dych v produktivite. Slovensko stráca dych v produktivite. Slovensko stráca dych v produktivite.

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DENNÍK HN

Regional Gaps Persist as Prosperity Remains Concentrated in Bratislava
Economic and social differences between Slovak regions remain wide, with wealth, jobs and opportunities increasingly concentrated in the capital, experts say.

Analýza HN
Slovensko stráca dych v produktivite. Slovensko stráca dych v produktivite. Slovensko stráca dych v produktivite.

Reformy sa už nedajú odkladať
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OECD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR SLOVAKIA

2023–2027

INDICATOR	2023	2024	2025	2026 OECD FORECAST	TREND
Real GDP growth (%)	2.1	1.9	0.8	0.7	
Inflation, HICP (%)	11.0	3.2	4.2	4.2	
Unemployment rate (%)	5.8	5.3	5.4	5.9	
Public debt (% of GDP)	55.8	59.7	61.4	62.6	
Government balance (% of GDP)	-5.3	-5.3	-4.5	-4.3	
Current-account balance (% of GDP)	-4.6	-3.6	-3.2	-2.7	
Private-consumption growth (%)	-2.8	3.4	0.3	0.6	
Investment growth (%)	4.0	1.6	2.2	0.5	
Export growth (%)	-0.2	-0.3	4.1	1.8	



#FUTUREREADY



FUTURE READY SLOVAKIA

LET'S TALK COMPETITIVENESS

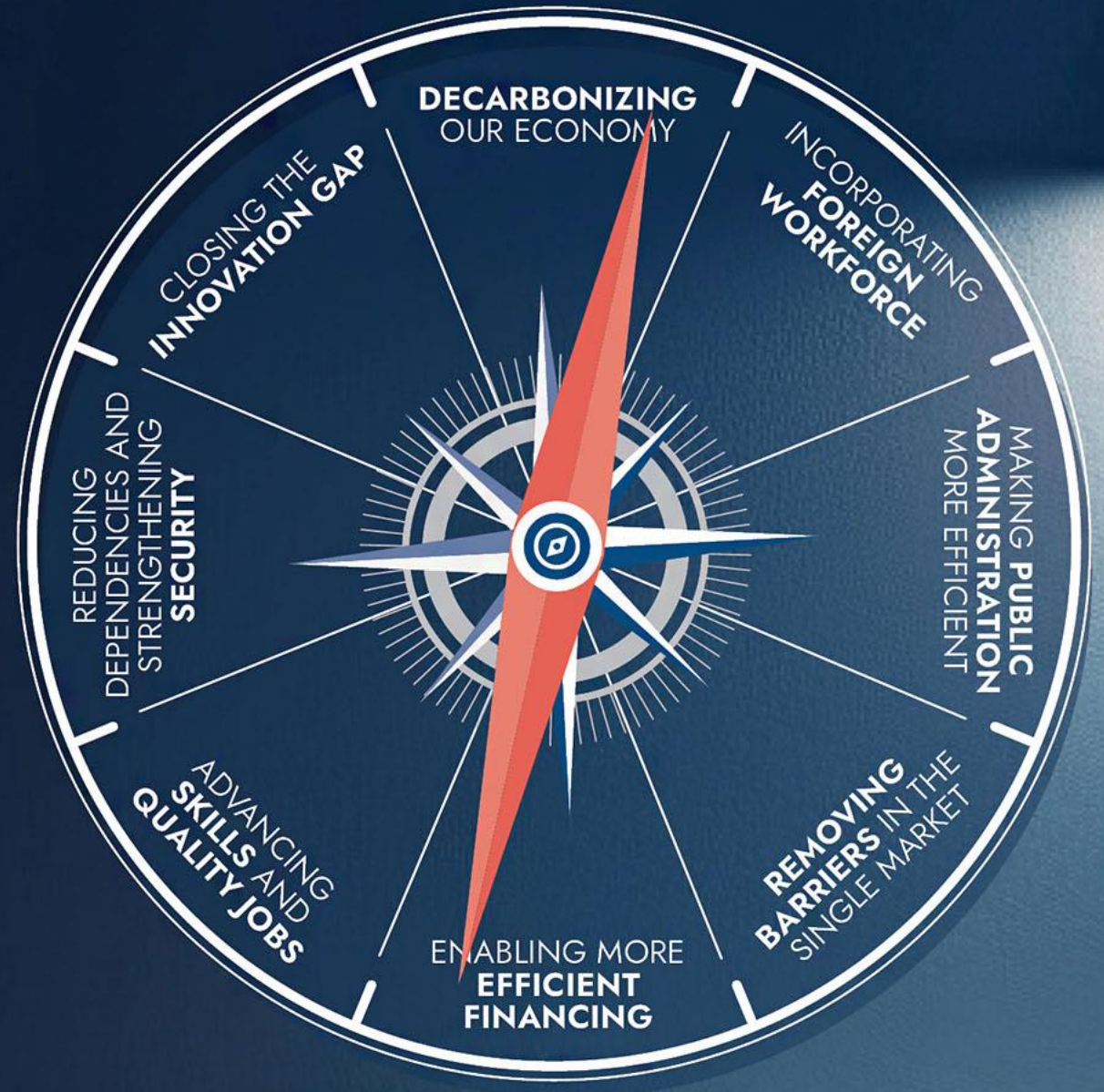
BRATI
SLAVA

MAY
22-23

CONFERENCE

WHAT SHOULD BE SLOVAKIA'S **FIRST** PRIORITY FOR PROGRESS?

#FUTUREREADY



KEY NEUROSCIENCE INSIGHT

The brain generates better solutions when it connects diverse perspectives rather than repeatedly applying the same thinking patterns.



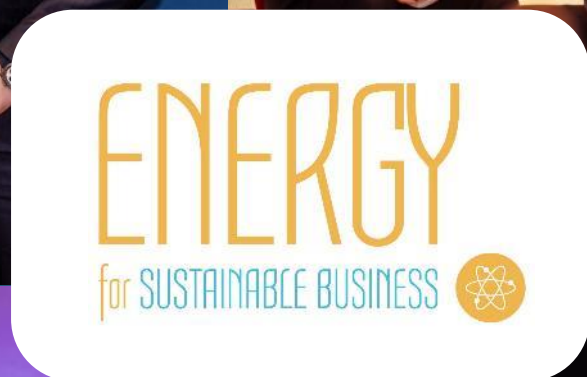






**FUTURE READY
SLOVAKIA**
LET'S TALK COMPETITIVENESS







**Health Care
in Transformation**

**CARE
DATA
COSTS**





**NO Workforce.
Growth.**
**The Social Imperative
for Competitiveness**



COMPETITIVENESS HAS MANY FACES

SUSTAINABILITY. INNOVATION.
ATTRACTIVENESS. RULE OF LAW.
TALENT. ENVIRONMENT.

INSTITUTIONS.

DIGITALIZATION. RESILIENCE.
HEALTHCARE. ENERGY. DATA.
PROTECTION. PEOPLE. GROWTH.

INSTITUTIONS. INNOVATION.
ATTRACTIVENESS. RULE OF LAW.
TALENT. ENVIRONMENT.

SUSTAINABILITY.

DIGITALIZATION. RESILIENCE.
HEALTHCARE. ENERGY. DATA.
PROTECTION. PEOPLE. GROWTH.

SUSTAINABILITY. INNOVATION.
ATTRACTIVENESS. INSTITUTIONS.
TALENT. ENVIRONMENT.

RULE OF LAW.

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INNOVATION.

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INSTITUTIONS. INNOVATION.
ATTRACTIVENESS. RULE OF LAW.
TALENT. ENVIRONMENT.

GROWTH.

DIGITALIZATION. RESILIENCE.
HEALTHCARE. ENERGY. DATA.
PROTECTION. PEOPLE.

INSTITUTIONS. INNOVATION.
ATTRACTIVENESS. RULE OF LAW.
TALENT. ENVIRONMENT.

ENERGY.

DIGITALIZATION. RESILIENCE.
HEALTHCARE. GROWTH. DATA.
PROTECTION. PEOPLE.

INSTITUTIONS. INNOVATION.
ATTRACTIVENESS. RULE OF LAW.
TALENT. ENVIRONMENT.

REGIONS.

DIGITALIZATION. RESILIENCE.
HEALTHCARE. ENERGY. DATA.
PROTECTION. PEOPLE. GROWTH.

INSTITUTIONS. INNOVATION.
ATTRACTIVENESS. RULE OF LAW.
TALENT. ENVIRONMENT.

HEALTHCARE.

DIGITALIZATION. RESILIENCE.
GROWTH. ENERGY. DATA.
PROTECTION. PEOPLE.

SUSTAINABILITY. INNOVATION.
ATTRACTIVENESS. RULE OF LAW.
INSTITUTIONS. ENVIRONMENT.

TALENT.

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INSTITUTIONS. INNOVATION.
ATTRACTIVENESS. RULE OF LAW.
TALENT. ENVIRONMENT.

DATA.

DIGITALIZATION. RESILIENCE.
GROWTH. ENERGY. HEALTHCARE.
PROTECTION. PEOPLE.

**INNOVATION HAPPENS AT THE INTERSECTION
OF DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.**

Cross-sectorality allowed AmCham to connect people who traditionally operated in separate ecosystems. The result was not more discussions.

**THE RESULT WAS HIGHER-QUALITY
DISCUSSIONS, BROADER UNDERSTANDING
AND BETTER FUNCTIONAL SOLUTIONS.**



#FUTUREREADY