This guide is intended to provide information to potential investors, on the business environment, strengths, visions and some important data that explain why Košice is a good location for your business and a pleasant place for life and work to potential investors.
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to invite you cordially to our beautiful city. Košice has the ambition to become “a city for the whole of life” for all those who love this place and would like to link their lives with it. Košice has not just the ambition, but all the best preconditions also to fulfill this vision.

In 2014 we successfully continued our dynamic development started within the Košice - European Capital of Culture 2013 project. Investment into improving the quality of life has started up incredibly in the city. We are implementing, preparing and financially ensuring several investment projects with a total amount of more than 200 million EUR.

This year the City of Košice is going to run for another prestigious title – the European City of Sport 2016. We are strongly motivated for this, and we believe we have good prospects of winning the title of UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts 2018 as well.

We are trying to focus our activities in the city especially on supporting the creative sectors and culture, on linking digital technologies with the creative sector and exploiting the potential of the extraordinarily well developed IT sector in Košice.

Košice is characterized by growing interest in investments focusing on the city and the immediate environs. Over the last four years in Košice there were created about 2000 new workplaces in spite of the still existing global economic crisis. It is certainly good news for the Košice citizens that the trend in investments and of creating new workplaces in the city will go on in the long run. The IT companies residing in Košice plan to increase the working places in the IT sector from the existing 7,000 up to 10,000 places by the year 2020.

The self-government of the city of Košice is a reliable partner for potential investors coming to our city. We help them in finding the right plots and premises. We provide flexible information services containing the basic data on the business environment in Slovakia and Košice, i.e. information on the infrastructure, the economy of the region, availability of the labour force, educational institutions, support of the city, state support and the relevant tax system. We can also help in searching for the potential subcontractor and customer networks.

We assist entrepreneurs interested in establishing their business in Košice or our region by providing them with contacts to the state authorities. We help all the entrepreneurs and investors to make contacts with the local associations, clusters, chambers of commerce and other relevant organizations, but also with private companies. We also cooperate in settling operative issues before, during and after carrying out the particular investments.

The publication you are holding presents several successful entrepreneurial companies and organizations in Košice. I am convinced that their experience and knowledge, proving that the business environment in Košice is characterized mostly by mutual trust, rectitude and stability, will be the best invitation to our city. You are cordially welcome.

Richard Raši,
Mayor,
the City of Košice
Foreword from the President of the biggest producer and employer in the region

U.S. Steel Košice celebrates 15 years of doing business here in Slovakia this year. Currently we are a well-established foreign investor who has never regretted the decision to acquire the steelworks in Košice. In 2000 we found here a well-located and functional production facility, as well as a skilled and educated workforce. Together with our delivered managerial approach based on safe working and ethical business principles we have been able to create our success story.

Of course, doing business is not easy anywhere, and competition in Europe is tough. Moreover, the ambitious environmental plans of the European Union requiring huge investments from industrial producers and higher energy prices put business at a disadvantage in comparison to competitors outside the EU. In Košice, we have found a supportive environment, and we are closer both to our suppliers and customers. Cooperation with the City of Košice and Košice Self-Governing Region has always been fair and productive.

The educational system is very supportive as well. We have long-term cooperation with secondary technical schools and several Košice universities, mainly the Technical University of Košice. We have tailored curriculums and practices to bring us graduates who satisfy our needs. Generally, we have a workforce with high technical expertise, willing to learn and adapt to changes, and develop new solutions. Our employees are our crucial asset and through our Carnegie Way transformation process we are ready to maintain the profitability of our business in any market conditions.

And last but not least, our American expats have found their second homes in this multicultural town, which is both historical and modern at the same time. They can take advantage of using QSI International School for their children, enjoying performances by the State Philharmonic Orchestra or the State Theatre, watching ice-hockey championships at the Steel Arena, participating in the long-established Košice Peace Marathon, and many other exciting events.

George F. Babcock,
President,
U.S. Steel Košice, s.r.o.
1 | SLOVAKIA GENERAL INFORMATION

Košice is the second largest city in Slovakia, a country in the heart of Europe with a strategic location between East and West. Political and economic stability of the country is reinforced by European currency Euro, qualified labor force, competitive labor costs and the highest labor productivity in the CEE region.

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<tr>
<th>SLOVAKIA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Area:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital:</td>
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<td>Membership:</td>
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<td>Currency:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government:</td>
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<td>Largest cities:</td>
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Slovakia has achieved high and relatively fast economic boost. The country permanently has one of the highest GDP growth in the EU.

2 | KOŠICE CITY

The city of Košice is the capital of eastern Slovakia. It is the political, economic cultural and social centre of eastern Slovakia and the surrounding region. As a seat of the regional government and parliament, various district offices, and state institutions, including the Constitutional Court, Košice is a base for regional governance.

<table>
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<th>KOŠICE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Area:</td>
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<td>Population:</td>
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<td>Location:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population Density:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighboring Countries:</td>
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<td>Average Age:</td>
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Water sources: Hornád River, Čermeľ River and the Myslavsky stream
Natural resources in the region: t alc, magnetite, dolomite, limestone, white salt, timber
City forests: 20,000 ha
Center of education, research, science, industry

Diverse national and multicultural composition of population creates favorable conditions for building communication bridges in all areas with the respective countries. Its population consists of Slovaks, Germans, Czechs, Hungarians, Ruthenians, Ukrainians, and other nationalities.
The second largest city in Slovakia, Košice is situated in one of Slovakia’s most attractive regions for future investment. It has also been awarded the title of the European Capital of Culture in 2013, and has received the UN City of Peace award.

Košice is a stylish, cosmopolitan city with a relaxed atmosphere. It is located in the valley surrounded by a beautiful landscape. The city itself has more than 20,000 ha of forests. Apart from recreational areas in its surroundings, the city center offers architectural gems with the spirit of history.

Many foreign companies have taken advantage of the potential that the city has, and have taken their businesses in Košice. Košice has a diversified industrial production, with a focus on metallurgy and steel processing. The presence of U.S. Steel Košice makes the region the largest steel producer in Central Europe. Košice is known for its high level of academic and industrial research.

The city has been going through the significant transformation process in the past years. The path directed from heavy industrial orientation towards higher added value industries, innovations and creative economy should bring higher competitiveness and attractiveness to the city. In 2013 Košice City became a European Capital of Culture (ECOC 2013). This is regarded as a significant milestone of the transformation effort.

The city has established an IT Valley to support investment in high-tech services - in particular information technology and software solutions - and to encourage and strengthen the intellectual potential of university students.

2.1 VISION OF THE CITY

The ultimate goal of the city is to build and sustain commercial infrastructure and to create job opportunities for the people from the region. Therefore it is important to build up a stable business environment in order to encourage and attract foreign investors to set up businesses in the city. The priority of the city of Košice is to create good conditions for healthy and pleasant living and work environment.

THE VISION OF THE CITY:
› modern city with future for highly qualified young labor force – a city of working opportunities
› city of high innovative and creative culture
› city of culture, tourism and sport
› city with healthy and clean environment
› safe city

3 WHY INVEST IN KOŠICE?

› strategic location
› transport infrastructure
› qualified work force and competitive labor costs
› R&D, design and innovation
› support of the city
› developed industry
› experience with foreign investments
› modern business centers
› locations for development
› state incentives

› Pleasant life conditions:
  › environment & healthcare
  › education
  › security
  › history, culture, traditions,
  › sport

The best investment opportunities.

A lot of business opportunities can be identified. However, the city recommends and supports the ones with high-added value most, as a part of its vision and existing conditions. Here are some examples:

› Light machinery production and mechanical engineering (automotive, aviation, mechatronics, robotics, etc)
› Electronics
› Plastics
› Logistics
› Biomedicine
› Pharmacy
› Energies
› Research & Development
› Design & Innovations
› Technology Centers
› Information & Telecommunications
› Technologies & SW development
› Business Process Outsourcing
› Regional Headquarters
› High-Tech Sectors
› Tourism Centers
› Environmental Projects
3.1 | STRATEGIC LOCATION OF KOŠICE IN CENTRAL EUROPE

- the center of eastern Slovakia
- a center of cross-border region – Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine
- a border of the Schengen area

Historically, Košice has been located on the crossroads of various trade and logistics routes since the Middle Ages. Today, its importance as a transit city for the flow of goods north- and southbound, as well as west- and eastbound, has been reinforced. Its main advantage is its geographical proximity to the borders of Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine, as well as its connections to Western Europe through Bratislava, Vienna, Budapest, and Prague.

Košice Region is an important crossroads for two major international routes of European importance:

- one, connecting the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine and the Russian Federation in the west-east direction (E-W);
- the other one running from Poland and Baltic states towards Hungary and further to the Balkans in the north-south direction (N-S).

3.2 | TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The region of Košice offers excellent accessibility – good road, railway, and airline connections.

3.2.1 | ROAD TRANSPORTATION

- a connection of international roads E 50 (Bratislava-Košice-Ukraine) and E 68 (Hungary- Košice-Prešov) with southeastern European motorways (through Hungary and up to the Baltic Sea). Completion of the entire highway via Poprad and Žilina to Bratislava is planned in the near future;
- the expressway R4 – connects the North (Poland) and the South (Hungary) through Košice;
- the expressway R2 – planned southern connection between Košice and Bratislava via Zvolen;
- direct motorway route towards Budapest, Bratislava, and Vienna starts in Miskolc (Hungary), located 70 km south of Košice.
3.2.2 | RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION

- railway transportation connecting Western and Eastern Europe: Standard gauge rail (European standard) and wide gauge rail (Russian/Asian standard)
- railway crossroads of lines connecting Northern and Southern Europe, the city is connected with the AGTC rail line connecting Hungary and Poland
- The large container handling stock area and goods reloading facility for Ukraine and Russia’s wide-gauge railway network is situated in Haniska pri Košiciach (next to U.S. Steel plant).

3.2.3 | AIR TRANSPORTATION

- Košice International Airport provides air transportation and other services for passengers travelling by scheduled flights (Prague, Vienna, Bratislava, London...) and charter flights;
- the distance between the airport and the centre of Košice is approx. 11 km;
- the airport also handles cargo transportation;
- the airport has been privatized and is now operated by a subsidiary company of Vienna Airport.

The possibility to fly within Europe and to the rest of the world is provided by Bratislava International Airport, also by nearby Vienna International Airport (approx. 60 km from Bratislava), Budapest Airport (approx. 180 km from Bratislava) or Prague Airport (approx. 351 km from Bratislava).

Košice is a natural logistic and industrial node with position on the main transport routes to Poland, Hungary and Ukraine. It combines air, rail and road transport modes. Existing and planned motorway network will provide a faster connection between the East and West, North and South via Košice, and thus create a potential for development of logistic centers.
### Distances to central European cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>262 km</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>500 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>402 km</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>504 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brno</td>
<td>468 km</td>
<td>Prague</td>
<td>675 km</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Distances to western European cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>884 km</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>1,590 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>1,140 km</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>1,665 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankfurt</td>
<td>1,210 km</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>1,997 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>1,509 km</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>2,117 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>1,550 km</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>2,340 km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Distances to eastern European cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kiev</td>
<td>850 km</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>1,005 km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Košice, as the second largest city is also known as an important industrial centre of Slovakia. Extensive railway connections and unique geographical location of this city, predestine cargo flow not only for Slovakia, but also for eastern Hungary and western Ukraine. METRANS /Danubia/, a.s., (with terminal and head office in western Slovakia – Dunajská Streda) started the operation of its second terminal in Košice in September 2007.

In 2014 METRANS handled in total 43,845 TEUs on Terminal Haniska pri Košiciach and it is expected that this volume will grow as the area of Eastern Slovakia grows as a logistics crossroad.

METRANS strives to deliver to its customers only the highest level of service quality, flexible logistics solutions and adaptability in terms of rapidly changing volumes and requirements. Known also as an all-inclusive logistics provider, the containers are fully controlled and very carefully handled by skilled staff from the port up to consignee premises or vice versa.

The strength of the METRANS group is considered in the following services:

› Customer Service 24/7
› METRANS branch offices with own staff in the ports
› EDI – Reporting and status information; individual contacts
› High – frequency shuttle – train connections, tracking & tracing 24/7
› More than 1,800 OWN WAGONS with anti – theft installation
› OWN efficient CONTAINER TERMINALS; rail operations and security 24/7
› OWN empty CONTAINER DEPOTS in major business centres
› OWN RAIL COMPANY
› TRUCKING – service with long term subcontractors
› CUSTOMS representation

Peter Aufricht,
Member of the Board and Chief Operating Officer,
METRANS /Danubia/, a.s.
Košice International Airport, the gateway to and from Eastern Slovakia, is vital for local people and businesses, tourism, foreign investors and the regional development in general.

- Since the privatization process in 2006, Vienna International Airport, as the majority shareholder (66%) has invested more than 15 million EUR in order to build the prefect infrastructure capable of handling up to 800,000 passengers per year.
- For more than ninety years Košice International Airport has been served by Czech Airlines (Czechoslovak Airlines before 1993) from Prague and nowadays the carrier operates also domestic route to Bratislava.
- Austrian Airlines are flying between Košice and Vienna since 1996. Thanks to our Skyteam and Star Alliance airline partners, more than 200 destinations are accessible with one stop from Košice.
- Since 2013 Wizz Air, the largest low cost airline in Central and Eastern Europe has been operating flights to London Luton. In June 2015 Wizz Air opens its 20th aircraft base in Košice, offering two new routes to Milan Bergamo and Doncaster Sheffield.
- In 2014, Košice International Airport was one of the five fastest growing airports in Europe, with 50% passengers increase. Out of total 356,750 passengers, more than 124,000 used summer charter services to 17 seaside destinations, representing the record summer season in the history of the airport.

- The class “A” office spaces with total acreage of more than 1,500 square meters are available for rent in our airport Aviation Business Center Alfa & Bravo.
- Environmental issues are a main focus for KSC with photovoltaic installations and waste separation.

Current top priorities are additional direct connections to European destinations and the proactive marketing of the airport infrastructure for airlines and aircraft related services. Together with our stakeholders we are on the right track to strengthen the role of Košice International Airport as the real gateway to and from Eastern Slovakia.

Karl Dandler,
Chief executive officer & chairman of the management board,
Košice International Airport
Human Resources – Košice region, 2015

HR credo for KE region by Katarina Bittalova, Partner/ Senior Consultant, Industrial Practice Group Leader, Arthur Hunt

HR capital in Košice is ready for further investment challenges.

Support growth, develop an activity, address customers’ new requirements, acquire new skills, and replace an employee who is leaving the company - just some of the reasons for recruiting new talent. In an ever-changing environment, the recruitment of managers and executives is a key driver of performance.

Arthur Hunt, founded in 1991, helps companies to go through this complex process, which requires time, proven methods, in-depth industry expertise and business-specific skills. We work for our customers to identify the men and women who are capable of effectively supporting the company’s development strategy and of adapting to the requirements of its environment. We support both large companies and SMEs in the recruitment and assessment of managers and executives.

Arthur Hunt approach is adapted to each specific situation. We take great care to ensure that it is defined closely in line with our customers’ goals. Furthermore, because executive search must perfectly match the needs of the company in order to be effective, our approach is strengthened by assessments of our candidates’ ability to meet the challenges inherent in their future tasks.

Our know-how covers all corporate sectors and functions: senior management, finance, human resources, supply chain, sales & marketing, industrial and technical, IT or health care.

Creating long-lasting relationships with the clients and a meticulous approach enable Arthur Hunt to assist both local businesses as well as international companies with their plans and strategies related to the constantly changing marketplace and the challenges of globalization. Particularly, when further challenges of Košice lie in its development of the city and investment activities.

“What makes Košice region so special for Your further investment? The locality itself possess of integrated academic functioning system, industrial basement, flexible municipal authorities and labor capital that creates Your future.”

Katarína Bittalová,
Partner/Senior Consultant,
Industrial Practice Group Leader,
Arthur Hunt

Arthur Hunt
EXECUTIVE SEARCH
HUMAN RESOURCES CONSULTING
THE CITY OF KOŠICE – IMPORTANCE OF STATISTICS AND FACTS:
› 2nd largest city in Slovakia
› European Capital of Culture 2013
› Corriere della sera – Košice in World Top 10
› International Peace Marathon in Košice since 1924
› Ice-hockey World Championships 2011
› Mastercard study awards – City of progress, City of quick development
› 4062 fresh graduates
› IT Valley establishment 2007
› 169 938 economically active employees, unemployment rate 12.57 %
› All within Slovakia - EU, OECD, NATO, WTO and Schengen country as Slovakia.
› "Kosice – labor force to be considered as Your future company staff"

While You are investing, the City of Košice takes care of further improvement and development. After the challenges for region in terms of economic recession which brought lots of changes for companies and institutions to take care of like: optimization of processes, lean activities implemented in daily life and knowing how to deal with volatile market. As a consequence, leaders of companies are trying to provide the balance for their employees between demanding work requirements and private life. Košice city is actively supporting the companies investment in the region by continuous development of quality of life in the region. In 2013, the city successfully proved to be a European Capital of Culture. Thus, it has strengthened its important cultural position within CEE region and employers are even much more benefiting in terms of increased level of cultural, educational, leisure and healthcare possibilities. "I have been living in Košice since 2005 and I see a huge progress in improvement of services offered by this city. For me and my employees, it is crucial the city offers dynamic cultural life, colorful infrastructure of accommodation, sports possibilities and city services. All that supports our successful investment and further consideration to stay in the region" (source: Plant Manager, French Foreign Industrial Production Company, Kosice).

Košice offers combination highly interesting attributes of human labor that make city highly productive and thus contributes to attraction of region within CEE. "Motivated, enthusiastic, loyal, trustworthy, dedicated and hard-working. My employees are just like that but you have to take care of them, constantly develop and the reward in terms of loyalty and good work will come" (source: General Manager, German Foreign Software Company, Košice). City supports development of various projects and investment opportunities in sectors of research and development, design & innovation, ICT & SW development, technology centers, tourism but also automotive, metal processing, electronics or utilities. The intention is also to attract still high ratio of economically active population that search work outside the region, which is 36%. This number represents potential active employees for future newly created jobs.

Multilingual competence represents a huge advantage of Košice thanks to its location and historical roots. English and Hungarian are the most common foreign languages spoken by the workforce. Both languages are used as the second language in companies in the region. Other languages used for work or other purposes are German, French and Spanish. Also, thanks to fact that 92% of all pupils and students are studying English. (source: Trend). The city of Košice constantly supports schooling system in Eastern Slovakia due to presence and further interest of SSC/ICT centers. Thus city is considered to be a "hot spot", a city with further potential of investment development.

Unemployment rate of Košice city and the region, as shown in the pie charts is 15.99%, it has been the 3rd biggest in Slovakia. Comparing to whole country which is 12.39%, the region has higher percentage ratio. There are 169 938 economically active employees in Košice and 368 936 in Košice region. (source: UPSVAR, Slovak Statistical Office).
The average salary in the Košice region, and its rate of annual growth, is lower than the national average, which is recognized as a competitive advantage and a significant benefit by many investors in the region. The average nominal monthly salary in the forth quarter of 2014 in Slovakia was EUR 837, while in Košice it was EUR 789 as shown in the graph. For comparison, the average salary in the Bratislava region (western Slovakia), based on the same methodology, was EUR 1017, in Banská Bystrica (central Slovakia) it is EUR 746, and in the Prešov region (eastern Slovakia, a neighboring region) it is EUR 720. (source: Slovak Statistical Office).
The city of Košice prides itself as a city supporting progressive solutions towards the investors coming to the city. The city proved to attract not only big over 500 employees size of companies but as well medium and small-sized SME potential investors. Understanding the investor that human capital of Košice represents a treasure of productivity, quality and innovative solutions. The city proves by numerous activities, services, communication parts toward its inhabitants and employers that it is worth investing and believing into this region but also staying in the region. Košice. The intention is to continue in challenging track of innovation, progress and development of the city and thus to attract strategic investors. (source: Slovensky Syndikat Novinarov).

Average Gross Monthly Salaries in Košice Region – 2005 to 4 Q 2014

Source: Statistics.sk, Arthur Hunt Salary Benchmarking

Average Salaries in Slovakia in EUR – 2015

Source: Statistics.sk, Arthur Hunt Salary Benchmarking

The city of Košice prides itself as a city supporting progressive solutions towards the investors coming to the city. The city proved to attract not only big over 500 employees size of companies but as well medium and small-sized SME potential investors. Understanding the investor that human capital of Košice represents a treasure of productivity, quality and innovative solutions. The city proves by numerous activities, services, communication parts toward its inhabitants and employers that it is worth investing and believing into this region but also staying in the region. Košice. The intention is to continue in challenging track of innovation, progress and development of the city and thus to attract strategic investors. (source: Slovensky Syndikat Novinarov).
3.4 | EDUCATION, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATIONS

The region has much scientific and technical potential, and reinforcing its strong position in the transfer of knowledge and information from academic institutions to industry. The entire region is heavily focused on technical sciences, due to the academic and industrial background of the region.

Support for R&D and innovation activities in the Košice region is one of the key priorities of the city, region, and the central government.

There are over 5,000 employees involved in R&D jobs across the region, including sole proprietors (individually licensed entrepreneurs) and full-time employees. The majority of them are involved in the field of technical sciences.

One of the main pillars of the Košice city development strategy for the future involves a transformation into the city of innovation. Part of this ambitious program involves support in creating innovative structures and processes, and support for the inflow of new investments that give high added value to the city.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Key institutions providing research and development potential in the region represented by the:

1. state sector
   (SAV Košice/Slovak Academy of Sciences)
   - Institutes of Slovak Academy of Sciences:
     - Institute of Experimental Physics
     - Mathematical Institute
     - Institute of Neurobiology
     - Institute of Materials Research
     - Institute of Social Sciences
     - Institute of Parasitology
     - Institute of Zoology
     - Institute of Geotechnics
     - Institute of Animal Physiology
     - Institute of Archeology

2. university sector
   (The Technical University of Košice, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and The University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy).

3. private sector and non-state sector
   - Clusters
During 60 years of its existence the Institute of Materials Research of SAS has become one of the leading institutions in the fields of science and development of new materials and materials technologies.

The predecessor of the Institute was the Laboratory of Mechanical Engineering and Metallurgical Technologies at the Technical University in Košice, established in 1955. In 1970 it was incorporated into the Slovak Academy of Sciences as the Institute of Experimental Metallurgy. The Institute has grown gradually and its focus broadened from original orientation on classical metallurgy toward many branches of research and development of advanced materials. In 1992, to reflect these evolution, the name was changed to the Institute of Materials Research of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (IMR SAS).

The main research activities of the Institute are in fields of:
- advanced steels
- advanced powder metallurgy technologies/materials
- hi-tech structural and functional ceramics
- nano-structured materials
- hybrid materials such as metal-polymer and metal-ceramic composites
- biomaterials.

The Institute is involved in large number of national and international, mainly EU, projects, it has been successful in attracting important investments. Thank to this, in recent years a dramatic development of scientific infrastructure has been taking place.

The Institute is active also in teaching and scientific training of young researchers. To that end it has close ties with a number of universities (especially TUKE and UPJŠ in Košice, STU in Trnava).

The Institute is very active in collaborations with scientific/academic and industrial partners at both national and EU levels, and is firmly established in the world material science community as a prestigious institution.

Pavol Hvizdoš, Director,
Institute of Materials Research, Košice
Institute of Geotechnics of the SAS

The institute was founded in 1954 as Commission of Mining SAS, later Mining Institute SAS and since 1st May 1993 Institute of Geotechnics SAS.

The institute practises in the fields: Earth Sciences and Environmental Sciences, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Biotechnology and Nanotechnologies.

It performs basic research on geological and geotechnical aspects of continuous disintegration of the rock mass and underground constructions stability, the transport of energy and mass in the rock disintegration processes; basic research on formation and properties modification of natural and/or synthetic nano- and micro-sized minerals and materials as well as mineral processing and water treatment using physical, mechanical, chemical and biochemical techniques; basic research on phase interactions in the disperse systems and at their spreading in working and living environment.

The institute is aimed at an application of theoretical knowledge in elaboration of top technologies principles in the fields: rock disintegration, complex processing of mineral raw materials, by-products and wastes using mineralurgical and metallurgical techniques, monitoring of selected components of working and living environment as well as of geological, chemical and environmental changes in tailing disposals targeted on their ecological remediation.

The institute provides advisory services and expert opinions concerning its subjects of activity. It also performs doctoral study within valid legal regulations.

The institute cooperates with universities, research organisations and industrial works. As to abroad it collaborates with the institutions in the following countries: Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Moldavia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, USA and Chile.
MISSION
PROMATECH Research Centre is aimed to be a high performance integrated, interdisciplinary and sustainable national research centre focused on the research and development of results with the potential of innovations and applications in the field of advanced materials and technologies for the existing and possible future applications.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
1. Support of the development of the R&D centres and their scientific infrastructure.
2. Collaboration of academic institutions within the applied research and development.
3. Support of the knowledge transfer into industry.

RESEARCH CONSORTIUM:
- Institute of Materials Research
- Institute of Experimental Physics
- Institute of Geotechnics
- Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics
- Slovak Academy of Sciences
- Technical University of Košice

PROMATECH – Research Centre of Advanced Materials and Technologies for Recent and Future Applications

FIELDS OF MAIN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:
1. Advanced steels, powder metallurgy products and hard coatings
2. Materials for biomedicine and environmental technologies
3. Materials for ICT technologies and cryotechnologies

RESEARCH FACILITIES
Advanced Technologies:
- Ultrafast sintering SPS
- Plasma deposition HITUS
- Plasma deposition HIPIMS
- Nanofibers Spider
- Amorphous alloys MeltSpiner
- Laser treatment TrueLaser Station

Advanced Characterization Techniques
- HRTEM
- FIB/SEM
- Environmetal SEM
- AFM
- XRD
- Raman spectroscopy
- GDOES

Mechanical, Physical and Tribological Properties
- Mechanical testing
- Nanoindenter
- Hardness
- MPMS
- PPMS
- Tribometer
- TG/DSC

PROMATECH
Research Centre of Advanced Materials and Technologies

2016 THE INVESTOR'S GUIDE
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice – Wisdom of the Past – Knowledge of the Present – Education of the Future

Universitas Cassoviensis ab anno 1657

http://www.upjs.sk

› Faculty of Medicine
› Faculty of Science
› Faculty of Law
› Faculty of Public Administration
› Faculty of Arts

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (UPEŠ), the second oldest and the second classical university in Slovakia, was founded in 1959, developing the tradition of Universitas Cassoviensis which was established in 1657.

UPEŠ has established itself in European education and research. It is a member of the European University Association, the Slovak-French University Institute, Košice IT Valley, and a signatory of Magna Charta Universitatum. It is a seat of the European Documentation Centre, the Institute of European Law and the Austrian Library.

Its key mission is to provide education and service to its students and the community by spreading knowledge based on the most recent scientific findings in an international context, as well as to conduct high-quality research. UPEŠ also supports activities contributing to the education and culture of the public, and it helps students develop greater wisdom, creativity, tolerance, critical and independent thinking, self-confidence, and both regional and national awareness.

At present, UPEŠ provides education and services at its five faculties to more than 8,000 students in 109 BA, 66 MA and 42 PhD programmes, with more than 700 lecturers and research staff who use the results of their own high-quality scientific research, the most recent experimental technology, the latest ITC and innovative methods of education to allow around 2,300 students to graduate every year.

The UPEŠ policy to promote maximum mutual openness and connectedness of courses, so that the students may benefit from the widest range of opportunities across the university and consequently be prepared for the current job market, has been supported by the EU Structural Funds RIFV project (Development of Innovative Forms of Education and Support of Interdisciplinarity of Study) that has enabled creation and implementation of interdisciplinary certified courses for students of all faculties.

Doctoral (PhD) students of UPEŠ have the opportunity to acquire a double PhD diploma from prestigious European universities that are either partners in the KVARK project - Quality of Education and Development of Competences of Doctoral Students and Post-Doctoral Researchers (University Paris 6 Pierre et Marie Curie, University Paris 7 Diderot, University of Utrecht, University Autónoma Madrid, University of Jaén, University of the Balearic Islands, University of Patras, University of Ostrava) or have long term cooperation with UPEŠ (University Paris 11 Sud, University of Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz, University of Grenoble, University of Groningen, University of Zaragoza, University of Oviedo).

The UPEŠ students can use the services of the University Library, the Centre for Information and Communication Technologies, the Botanical Garden and the UNIPOC – the university counselling centre. The Institute of Physical Education and Sports offers training courses and hobby sports activities for staff, students and public throughout the year.

Both education and scientific research at UPEŠ are carried out in a broad international context and follow European trends. The research teams, led by internationally recognized scholars, use funding from both national and international sources; every year more than
200 research projects are funded by national and foreign grant schemes. The number of publications and citations per staff member in high-quality international journals in registered databases rank UPJŠ amongst the four best research universities in Slovakia which is further proven by several international rankings, e.g. URAP Ranking, Cybermetrics Lab Ranking, Scimago Lab Ranking.

Since 2013 UPJŠ (as the general partner) has been building the University Medical Science and Technology Park – MEDI-PARK, the top international centre for applied research and its transfer into practice in the field of biomedicine, together with three partners - the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice, Technical University of Košice and the Slovak Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Neurobiology in Košice. Its aim is to achieve the concentration of scientific potential and experimental infrastructure built on the grounds of scientific interactions between academic institutions and the business sector in biomedical research and development with subsequent transfer of the acquired knowledge and innovative technologies into applications in human and veterinary medicine, pharmacy, biotechnologies and bioengineering throughout the region of Eastern Slovakia. Applications of the research results will be reflected in the development of innovative preventive, diagnostic and treatment strategies of serious disorders and improvements in clinical practice. Moreover, outcomes of the scientific work in MEDI-PARK will have an impact on public health procedures, education strategies and progress in biotechnology.

UPJŠ is also a partner in two other science parks – TECHNICO-M and PROMATECH. The Technicom University Science Park is led by the Technical University of Košice and will focus on innovative applications using knowledge based technologies. The Promatech Research Centre managed by the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Košice will deal with progressive materials and technologies. All three parks will stimulate, develop and provide support for applied research. They will implement effective knowledge transfer, products and technology transfer between universities, research institutions and companies in the marketplace. They will also contribute to the development of innovation-based companies in the form of spin-off or start-up.

UPJŠ recently established the Department for Transfer of Research Results and Know-How into Practice in order to help researchers transfer and apply new technologies to the commercial sector, to popularise innovative strategies in science, research and education, and to offer know-how in intellectual property protection.

UPJŠ also created SAFTRA, Ltd., a commercial subsidiary owned by the university that coordinates activities leading to commercialisation of intellectual property and know-how arising at the university and that enables the implementation of innovation and ideas into practice which in turn may give rise to the formation of spin-off companies. Currently, UPJŠ has initiated the process of creating a university-associated Incubator for such commercial subjects that will operate within a pre-specified area in the academic milieu. The Incubator will be established by mid-2015.

The existing commercial activities of the UPJŠ Centre of Life-Long Education and Faculty of Science in the area of information and communication technologies are closely linked with Košice IT Valley, T-Systems, IBM Slovakia, RWE IT, Ness KDC-Siemens PSE, DISIG, Hewlett-Packard, Rasax, Dcore Systems, and other IT companies. UPJŠ continues to develop the Akš (the Academic Information System) that is used by 13 public and 3 private Slovak universities.

UPJŠ cooperates on the basis of inter-governmental agreements with Large Scale Facilities, e.g. JINR (the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research) in Dubna, Russia, the Swiss CERN centre, the European XFEL GmbH and DESY (Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron) in Hamburg, Germany.

With the substantial financial contribution brought by the successful projects within the European Structural Funds, UPJŠ has built more than 20 unique laboratories allowing high quality research in both sciences and humanities.

The UPJŠ has created Alumni Space that enhances university contact with its graduates and supports better application of graduates to the job market. Graduates of UPJŠ are successful in finding jobs in both Slovak and European job markets.

Prof. MUDr. Ladislav Mirossay, DrSc.,
Rector,
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
The University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice (UVMP in Košice) is the sole university for veterinary education in Slovakia, which is provided both to domestic and foreign students, and one of the two universities offering education in pharmacy.

The university was established by an Act of the Slovak National Council on 16 December 1949 as the Veterinary College in Košice, though it began its teaching activities with its first lecture on 5 October 1949.

The university has about 2000 students in each of the three levels of study in the full-time and external forms, about 250 of whom are foreign students who each year arrive at the university to study veterinary medicine in the English language (provided since 1991), particularly from Norway, Sweden, Ireland, Great Britain, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Iceland, Israel, Belgium, Austria, Japan and USA.

A significant result in the field of international cooperation is the signing of an international contract on cooperation between the UVMP in Košice and the University of Nordland, Norway. The creation of a common bachelor’s study programme in Animal Science satisfies the standards of the educational committee of EAEVE per regulation 2005/36.

Thanks to its successful complete accreditation, the UVMP in Košice has the right to confer the relevant academic titles on graduates at all three levels of university study. The university has received excellent evaluations on the international level as well. European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education in Brussels included the university in the list of the visited and approved European veterinary establishments, which ranked the university among the best veterinary universities in Europe.

UVMP in Košice plays a vital role in contemporary education and research in the field of non-infectious, infectious and invasive diseases of agricultural animals and pets, creation and protection of the environment for animals and people, hygiene, production and processing of healthy, non-harmful foodstuffs, and pharmaceutical research.

Structural funds of the EU

The quality of education, research and development at UVMP in Košice has been significantly improved through the implementation of a large number of projects co-financed from various sources, including the structural funds of the EU, which have provided co-financing for 12 R&D and 2 educational projects with the total budget of EUR 33.6 mil.

Improvement of infrastructure to make the quality of education and research at UVMP in Košice comparable with other EU countries has been of paramount importance. Five projects have been implemented in this area in the framework of the operational programme Research and Development. As a result, the university’s classrooms, laboratories, library and dormitories have been renewed and equipped with ICT and modern didactic and research infrastructure.

In order to become more competitive in the ERA, concentration of critical mass of scientists working in modern laboratories was needed. Therefore, the university established three centres of excellence in partnership with other institutions: the Centre of excellence for parasitology, the Centre of excellence for biomedical technology, and the Centre of excellence for animal infectious diseases and zoonoses – INFEKTZOON.
UVMP in Košice is also involved in the project "MediPark, Košice" whose aim is to build a university biomedical science and technology park as the top national and international centre for applied research in the field of biomedicine and improve the cooperation of the partner universities with social and commercial practice.

Enhancement of people’s quality of life is at the core of applied research carried out by UVMP in Košice in cooperation with partners from both academia and industry through larger projects in very promising areas such as stem cells, treatment of spinal cord injuries in humans, biomodulators or nutritional supplements.

Investments from the structural funds have also been made in the area of education, particularly in the development of new study programmes (Neurosciences and Man-Animal Relationship and its Use in Canistherapy and Hippotherapy), improvement of computer, language or managerial skills of the academic staff and the management of the university, and e-learning was introduced in three subjects.

Other projects at UVMP in Košice

The project Biotechnological and Natural Products for Pig Health – High-quality and Safe Foodstuffs co-financed from the EEA and Norway grants is an excellent example of university’s innovative efforts to respond to an ever increasing demand for healthier and safer food in Europe. The research team developed a new product of biotechnological and natural character in treatment and prevention of intestinal diseases of swine whose administration to reared pigs will replace antibiotics and other synthetic additive substances which have negative effect on public health.

Countless number of smaller national projects both in basic and applied research has been or is being implemented at the university’s departments as a result of successful grant applications or cooperation with industrial partners.

The university also collaborates with Raptor Protection of Slovakia (RPS) as well as with other organisations from both state and industrial sector (electric power companies) in implementing a large-scale project LIFE ENERGY supported form the LIFE+ financial instrument of the EU. The project focuses on the prevention of collisions of birds with the overhead wires of above ground electrical infrastructure.

Integration into the international academic and research community is of high importance to UVMP in Košice. This is achieved through international cooperation of the university with foreign institutions within joint education and research projects financed under FP6, COST or APVV. Several project proposals are also being planned or prepared under H2020.

www.uvlf.sk

Prof. Jana Mojžišová, D. V. M., PhD.,
Rector,
The University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice
Technical University of Košice – 63 years of existence

› Technical University of Košice (TUKE) will celebrate 63 years of its existence this year, but its roots go back to the past, when in 1657 Universitas Cassoviensis was founded.

› At the present, TUKE has 9 faculties with 10,600 students in total. Approximately 9,100 of them are full-time students; out of which there are 5,900 B.A. students, 4,100 M.A. students and over 600 PhD students. Around 4,500 students graduate every year from the university in every degree program of both full-time and part-time studies. The university employs around 700 professors, lecturers and assistants and the same number of research and administrative staff.

› TUKE has been building up its profile as a research-orientated tertiary education institution for a long time and keeps strengthening its position in the area of research.

› Education, research and development at our university in 2014 were significantly supported from the structural funds that brought funding from the EC with the total budget of 90 million EUR.

› Our university is considerably involved in the international research and development cooperation within the unified European research space, the proof of which is 70 international projects of various character (6. FRP, 7. FRP, LLP, NATO, COST, Central Europe, EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism, etc.). In 2014, there were 210 Slovak projects handled.

› In 2014, the construction of Science and Technology Park TECHNICOM continued. The park should support the wide spectral, effective and mutually beneficial research and development cooperation between the university workplaces and relevant organizations from social and commercial practice.

Based on these preconditions, the TECHNICOM should provide the establishment of business incubators for small and medium “Hi-Tech” enterprises or “Spin-offs” generated on the basis of relevant results of research and development carried out within University research and innovation activities and projects.

› Technical University of Košice covers wide range of educational needs not only in the region of Eastern Slovakia, but, for many specializations, it is the only center of R&D and Education in Slovakia and Central Europe. The university closely cooperates with other universities and industrial organizations throughout the region and the whole Slovakia.

› Technical University of Košice Startup Centre was founded at the initiative of the Technical University of Košice (TUKE). The idea is ‘to trigger’ a process that will help the participants to develop their ideas and support turning their ideas into innovative and commercially utilisable products or services.

Anton Čižmár,
Chancellor,
Technical University of Košice
In terms of the size class of enterprises, most of innovation expenditure in the Slovak Republic (74%) was spent in big enterprises, 17.5% in medium enterprises and 8.5% in small enterprises. There were 34% of enterprises with innovation activity in the Slovak Republic in industry and selected services during the period 2010-2012.

Share of enterprises with innovation activity on the total number of enterprises in industry and selected services in 2010-2012

In Global Innovation Index 2014 Slovakia ranked 5th in the world at "High-tech and medium-high-tech output (% of total manufactures output)" indicator.

Innovation Advisory Services are part of KPMG in Slovakia portfolio. KPMG together with Automotive Industry Association of the Slovak Republic realized in 2014 a unique survey among established automotive suppliers - Automotive Innovation Slovakia Survey 2014. This survey shows that more than one third (35.1%) of respondents are planning to set up their own R&D center in Slovakia within three years. Learn more about KPMG Innovation practice at: www.kpmg.com/sk/innovation
3.4.2 | INNOVATION IN KOŠICE REGION

The development of innovation in the Košice region is based on two main pillars - universities and established industrial companies. Technical University of Košice, the second largest technical university in Slovakia, educates engineers who are mainly demanded in engineering and automotive companies. Slovak Academy of Sciences with its research institutes is also present here. Because of availability of skilled workforce, Košice region is thus the most significant for R&D investment in the production and processing of metals and engineering industries. The significance of this sector is proved by the presence of several established foreign companies, e.g. GETRAG FORD Transmissions Slovakia, Magneti Marelli Slovakia, Embraco Slovakia. Promising sector is also ICT which is represented here by IT Valley cluster and major ICT investors, e.g. T-Systems Slovakia, NESS KDC, IBM Slovensko.

KOŠICE REGION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R &amp; D personnel in head counts by region and field science</th>
<th>3927</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thereof in:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
<td>681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technological sciences</td>
<td>1625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and pharmaceutical sciences</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural sciences</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>319</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Yearbook of Science and Technology of the Slovak Republic 2014

SLOVAK START-UP ECOSYSTEM IS GETTING STRONGER

According to the KPMG Startup Survey 2014, startup founders in Slovakia are young (over 79% of respondents stated they are between 25 and 34 years old) and well educated (79% have a master’s or a higher degree). 26% of respondents stated that their startup has at least one female founder - the finals of Startup Awards SK 2014 showed that the number of startups led by women is on the rise. This is a very positive dynamic. What is also very promising is that 46% of respondents stated that their startup will hire 2-3 individuals in the upcoming 12 months, 19% plan to hire between 4 and 9 new team members, while 17% plan to employ more than 10 individuals within the following year. The employment potential of young innovative companies is evident.

The Slovak startup ecosystem is getting stronger and stronger each single year. Today, Kosice could already be proud of several startups which have the potential to make it big in the near future. Within just something more than a year we have seen the doors of the TUKE Startup Center being opened for the first batch of young innovative companies and we have also witnessed the launch of Eastcubator which aims to nurture the next generation of truly innovative and driven entrepreneurs. Moreover, we have seen a great Startup Weekend Kosice in 2014; now the ecosystem (not only within Kosice but also within Slovakia more broadly) is already looking forward to Startup Weekend Kosice 2015 which takes place in April.

In 2015, two Kosice schools, ZS L. Fullu and ZS Jenisejska, became part of the KPMG iKid program which supports the young generation of young entrepreneurs who will bring their innovative ideas to life while being just 10-14 years old. The city of Kosice has all it needs to constructively use the momentum – strong corporate players, great schools, devoted mentors, and a truly driven and entrepreneurial population. The city is on a great path towards becoming a regional heart of innovative entrepreneurship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross domestic expenditures on R &amp; D (GERD) by regions in thousands EUR, in current prices</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kosice region</td>
<td>68 420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Yearbook of Science and Technology of the Slovak Republic 2014
The year 2014 produced a breakthrough in the area of support for innovation activities in Eastern Slovakia: in March, on the initiative of the Technical University of Košice, the TUKE Start-up Centre was opened, the first of its kind in this region. The TUKE Start-up Centre is an organizational structure which originated in the University Centre for Innovation, Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Protection (UCiTT TUKE) with regional operating scope.

The aim of the TUKE Start-up Centre is to create a motivational environment in the Košice and Prešov regions which will help all inhabitants of this area with innovative potential (not only students) to realize their potential in various fields of activity. The main objective is to “kick-start” a process that will support people in implementing their innovative ideas and help change those ideas into commercially viable products or services. Through the TUKE Start-up Centre the Technical University of Košice intends to provide distinctive support for innovative projects in the form of specialist consultancy as well as its own top-quality research infrastructure.

The TUKE Start-up Centre can provide:
› suitable conditions for physical location of the start-up company in the TUKE Start-up Centre premises,
› expert and mentoring support for the company’s business intentions from TUKE’s specialist departments and partner institutions,
› support for implementing the company’s business intentions through access to and usage of TUKE’s specialist departments, laboratories and other facilities,
› support in creating the company’s business plan, in acquiring partners from the commercial environment, and in seeking out potential investors.

The advantage of the TUKE Start-up Centre lies in the linkage of top-quality infrastructure with mentoring support. The mentors have experience not only from the academic and commercial spheres in Slovakia, but also from a range of projects financed from EU sources and the European commercial environment, giving them the capability to fully develop the potential of a given project and to transform the results of activity in the TUKE Start-up Centre into real-life commercial and economic practice. Our objective is not just to provide narrow specialization in a particular field, but primarily to link together people, ideas, opinions and experience from various areas of research and business so as to ensure multidisciplinarity and an appropriate environment for the overall growth and success of the Centre’s users.

The TUKE Start-up Centre’s activities fully cover these main fields:
› Information and communication technologies
› Electrical, automation and control systems
› Mechanical engineering
› Civil engineering
› Environmental engineering

In 2014 a total of 12 prospective start-ups with great innovative potential to establish themselves on the market had the opportunity to benefit from a six-month pre-incubatory stay in the TUKE Start-up Centre. During the first year of its activity the Centre has acquired a good reputation for its organizational activity in supporting start-ups, and has become a significant element of innovative potential with region-wide impact.

Anyone who has an innovative idea can apply at any time for a place in the TUKE Start-up Centre. Applications are assessed immediately, and interested parties are contacted directly by the management of the Start-up Centre. More information on the TUKE Start-up Centre can be found on the web site http://startupcentrum.tuke.sk.

František Jakab,
Director,
UCiTT TUKE
Successful investors choose places for their activities where employees have a chance to use the infrastructure to its fullest extent. They can have rich cultural and social life and are proud of the city they live in.

A successful city understands not only the importance of new investors, but also the potential and strengths of the human capital it possesses. Košice city was European Capital of Culture in 2013, which has brought major investments into the cultural infrastructure, program and activities, and highlighted the city on the map of Europe.

The main aim of the project was to attract and keep talented people in the city, to create proper conditions for their self-fulfillment and give them an opportunity to be directly confronted with the world trends.

The success of the project stood on three pillars which were implementation of investment projects, artistic and development program and international reputation.

After successful implementation of the European Capital of Culture 2013 project named “Košice Interface 2013”, position of the non-profit organisation Košice 2013 has changed to the development organisation. This is providing Košice and its inhabitants with the activities leading to the supporting and professionalisation of organizations working in cultural and creative industry. Košice city is aware of a long-term and strategic importance of supporting culture, creativity and innovations. That is why it has been decided to further support and develop activities realized by Košice 2013,n.o; mainly in the fields as following:

- Education and professional development of organizations in cultural and creative sectors
- Development of cooperation and networking of organizations at home and abroad
- Support of mobility, residencies and presentation of creation both at home and abroad
- Cooperation with universities
- Cooperation with private sector
- Cross-sector cooperation support
- International cooperation
- Regional development support

Košice 2013, n.o has in the frame of its activities during last years prepared strategic documents such as Košice 2020 - Masterplan for creative economy and Cultural strategy, with its goals in consistancy with the development ambitions of the city. Hence, Košice 2013, n.o will realize its activities as a direct fulfillment of the part of goals or as supporting activities to reach goals through other subjects or partners.

KOŠICE 2020 CREATIVE ECONOMY - MASTERPLAN
Košice 2020 Creative Economy – Masterplan is a strategic document for the development of creative economy in the city and region. It identifies three strategic fields City, People and Economy, which are being further defined through 6 key programs Talent Development, Business Support, Infrastructure, Marketing, Partnerships and Research and Development.

CULTURAL STRATEGY OF KOŠICE CITY
One of the main goals of the Interface project is the creation and innovation of the supporting system of culture in the city and region. For its fulfillment, the cultural strategy for the city has been prepared, containing proposals for a local grant scheme, system of support and cooperation of cultural operators and activities for increasing level and professionalisation of cultural environment.

Košice, through the non-profit organisation Košice 2013:
- Provides supporting and educational programs for talented individuals. It helps cultural institutions to develop their audience, build an international profile, network and build professional team and leaders
- Builds its reputation on the national and international level. It helps organizations from regions with internationalisation and export in culture and creative industry, which helps to build a strong brand and improve an economic profile
- Creates policies for sustainability in the main fields of culture, creativity, non-technological and social innovations
- Establishes cooperation with a private sector and corporate partners with the aim to involve them into the city cultural life through programs Arts and Business or programs of social responsibility.
KEY ACTIVITIES

Educational programs run regularly every year within fields such as marketing, communication, intellectual property, fundraising following the methods of practical education for successful business enterprise in culture and creativity.

Escalator – is a specific program of professionalisation for chosen organizations from cultural and creative industry. It’s focused on the complex building of organisation, program, international relations and relations with an audience or a client.

K.A.I.R. – Košice Artist in Residence is an artistic residential program, which enables exchange of artists within an international network of artistic and cultural organisations. Since 2011, 39 foreign artists have taken part on this project and have worked in Košice. On the other hand, 28 artists from Slovakia have had chance to travel abroad to the cities such as Tokyo, Leipzig, London, Arnhem, Tbilisi, Kharkov, Pilsen, Wroclaw, Tallin.

Creative residencies – is a program supporting mobilities and gaining international experience for young professionals in the field of creative industry. Thanks to this program more than 50 creative people have travelled abroad and worked in incubators and creative centres in cities such as Tel Aviv, Rotterdam, Bilbao, Manchester, Bristol, Graz, Lodz, Dortmund, Malmo since 2011.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs from April 2015 we will also offer a possibility for young entrepreneurs to gain experience in the field of creative industry in companies within Europe and, thus, they can test their business plans in an international environment.

Arts and Business – in the frame of residencies we have also started creative interventions in companies. This is a unique project in Slovakia. Its goal is to link corporate world with the world of creativity and innovations. Artist or creative professional works together with the company management on the project, the aim of which is to innovate and bring new perspectives to running processes, communication, image and working habits. Within this project we successfully collaborated with U.S. Steel Košice, T-Systems and Košice International Airport. This program also brings innovative way of trainings and seminars for employees and company management. Leadership, communication, teambuilding and creativity are main fields we are focusing on under the supervision of lectors from UK collaborating with local artists and creatives.

Arts and Business
Established in autumn 2014, Aviation Cluster Slovakia is a platform which is focused on development of civil aviation business in Slovakia in order to increase the competitiveness of Slovakia on global aviation market.

The Cluster’s goal is to be the driver and accelerator of this process and to build the foundation of this platform by using the historical potential of aviation industry in Slovakia. The Cluster’s main activities:

- Creation of a network of business companies and organizations oriented on scientific research in aviation.
- Promotion of Slovak aviation industry on the global aviation market.
- Formulation of national strategy for development of civil aviation industry in Slovakia.
- Enhancing the cooperation between the private sector, public sector and education sector.

Aviation has very rich history in Košice and in Slovakia, as well. Industry professionals working together with universities and public sector, under the umbrella of Aviation Cluster Slovakia, should use the opportunity and create also a nice future for Slovak aviation business. Everybody willing to participate and to contribute is warmly welcomed to join us.

Karl Dandler,
Member of the management board,
Aviation Cluster Slovakia
The Cluster for Automation Technology and Robotics (Cluster AT+R) was established in Košice, on 3 March 2010. The cluster founders – manufacturing innovative companies SPINEA, s.r.o. Prešov, ZTS VVÚ, a.s. Košice, VUKOV Extra, a.s. Prešov, PROCONT, spol. s r.o. Prešov, EVPU, a.s. Nová Dubnica, CEIT SK, s.r.o. Žilina, as well as the research centers of the Technical University of Košice and the University of Žilina in Žilina, with the support of the self-governing regions of Prešov and Košice provide the development of research, training, manufacturing and supply capacities for the field of automation and robotics technologies. In February 2014, six new members joined the Cluster: SEZ Krompachy, a.s., PLOSKON AT, s.r.o., Kybernetika, s.r.o., Technická Diagnostika, s.r.o. Prešov, ELCOM, s.r.o. Prešov, Manex, s.r.o. Košice.

The aim of the founders and new members is to concentrate the research and development capacities, to enlarge and improve the local branch profiling and participation in international projects for the field of AT+R, to improve the competitiveness of the cluster members in high-tech sectors, to develop international cooperation and to participate in the European platforms such as MANUFUTURE, EUnited Robotics, and EFFRA. Cluster has been developing research, innovation and transfer centres in Košice, Prešov and Žilina with joint laboratories that have been already built up.

Cluster AT+R already established 3 research centres: Centre of Mechatronics, Center of Robotics and Modules, Centre of Automated Production Systems. All of them have several laboratories that are available for cluster members and are used for joint projects. 4th centre - Centre of New Materials, Technologies and Tribotechnology – is currently being built on the basis of several laboratories of the Technical University Košice and emerging new laboratories of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Košice.

Cluster is currently preparing joint Training programs in mechatronics, robotics, automated production systems and advance materials, and there is also one more goal ahead: to establish the Engineering and Supply Centre AT+R for engineering, design, commercial and supply activities for transfer of new manufacturing programs and technologies.

The European Cluster Excellence Initiative after the audit and certification granted on January 15, 2013 Cluster AT+R bronze medal for “Cluster Management Excellence Label BRONZE - Striving for excellence cluster”.

We are open for joint cooperation and projects!

Ing. Jaromír Jezný, Ph.D.,
President of the Board of Directors,
Klaster AT+R, z.p.o.
Košice IT Valley Association

The mission of Košice IT Valley’s mission is to create a sustainable ICT center of excellence in the territory of Eastern Slovakia and make a socio-economic environment in the region attractive especially for young people. We are contributing to build an information and knowledge society in the region and creating a communication platform between among public administration, business and educational institutions, leading to acceleration of the ICT industry development in the region.

By creating a regional partnership of ICT companies, universities, government and other relevant stakeholders we contribute to the improvement of educational programs and helping create a broad portfolio of job opportunities and skilled workforce.

Together with all key stakeholders in our region, we are helping our region to achieve sustainable growth and high quality of life.

The association has been established in 2007. Today, our membership consists of 53 organisations: (Companies: 31; Universities: 3; Education establishments: 12; National/Regional authorities: 2; Business chambers: 1; NGO: 1; Student’s organisations: 3)

Our main activities include:

› Working along with high schools and universities on continuous improvement of ICT related training programs
› Support of extra curricular activities for children and youth in order to foster their interest in ICT
› Promoting collaboration and networking among our members, partners and key stakeholders
› Innovation activities & participation on joint scientific research projects

Ján Bodnár, Executive Director, Košice IT Valley Association
SPINEA is a modern Slovak mechanical engineering company at the start of which there was a Slovak invention of a unique cycloidal reduction gear.

The high-precision TwinSpin reduction gear belongs in the category of hi-tech products and represents a unique technical solution, combining a radial-axial bearing with a high-precision reduction gear in compact unit.

In twenty years of its existence, it has successfully established itself on the world market. It is currently the only European manufacturer of high-precision reduction gears and it competes with three Japanese companies in this technologically highly demanding segment. The company has its own manufacturing facilities, which include the latest machining technological equipment from the world’s leading manufacturers.

Highly qualified developers, designers, technologists, and manufacturing staff work for the company.

SPINEA currently employs almost 400 people and ranks among the most significant employers in the region. Given the technological demands of the production and the high rate of added value generation, most employees are highly qualified specialists in development, design, technologies, production, quality control and sales. In their preparation, we co-operate with secondary schools in Prešov and The Technical University of Košice, specialised in mechanical engineering, robotics, and mechatronics.

The TwinSpin reduction gears have their customers around the world. More than 97% of the products are exported outside Slovakia, in particular into industrially developed countries, such as Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden, the Czech Republic, China, Taiwan, and Korea.

The company’s vision is to continue with the high pace of growth and to become one of the leading manufacturers on the market.

In the future, SPINEA is planning to keep selling top products for competitive prices and to strengthen the good relations with its customers. The company will strongly support the development of its own development base, by which it secures the innovation and development of new products.

As a partner, in October 2014, SPINEA participated in the organization of Robot Climbing Competition Na Komín 2014. We want to continue with this tradition in 2015.

Ľubomír Bezák, 
CEO, 
SPINEA, s.r.o.
Košice is the most important industrial centre in eastern Slovakia. The industrial production sector is the highest contributor to total revenues in the region.

The region of Košice offers opportunities in strong sectors with tradition in these industries:

- Metallurgy & Metal Processing
- Automotive
- Machinery & Precision Engineering
- Electronics
- Plastics
- ITC
Although FPT Slovakia is a new brand within the city of Kosice, our company has been making a footprint here for more than 10 years. Let me tell you our interesting story.

In Slovakia, we were established in April 2004 as a member of RWE Group called RWE IT Slovakia. Since the beginning, our main task was to provide IT services within the utility domain. We have also been participating in interesting projects such as e-mobility and smart homes. But after 10 years of existence as RWE IT Slovakia, we reached our market boundaries.

Therefore we have been outsourced to a Vietnamese company called FPT Software, which is the first Asian investor in the region of Eastern Slovakia in the IT market. The transition period was extremely interesting and nowadays Fpt Slovakia is a European IT company with offshore (mainly Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore) capabilities. Our domain specialization is development, implementation and service of SAP solutions but we also have Enterprise (non-SAP) and Test Automation departments. Being a part of the FPT family provides our company the latest technologies and new interesting projects e.g. in area of content media entertainment (CMe).

And what is our FPT Company about? Here are some facts. FPT Software (FSOFT) was founded in 1999. A year later, 2000 FSOFT established the first foreign subsidiary for a British client and cooperated with a Japanese client. In short time, the cooperation with global IT companies followed and new sites were created in Japan, France, Malaysia, USA, Australia and Germany.

Currently, FSOFT represents one of the strongest players on the global IT market which belongs to TOP 100 ICT outsourcing companies in the world. And together we are moving forward. At the beginning of the year, a new 2020 company mission was introduced. Our plans are to grow up to 40% each year and the goals are to reach 1 Billion USD of revenue and 30,000 employees. It is a huge challenge for us, but on the other hand, a boundless opportunity for the future.

FSOFT entered the European market because of its high commercial potential and also for its proper combination of high productivity with good IT knowledge. This is especially true in the area of Central Europe where Kosice is located. In connection with competitive costs, we can bring to our customers the so called "Bestshore" model of service (combination of onsite – at customer, nearshore locations – Slovakia and Czech Republic, and offshore location - Vietnam) with real added value.

We also see high potential in close cooperation with Kosice’s universities (mainly TUKE, UPJŠ), as well, because one of the important parts of our FPT family is the FPT University, which currently has 17,000 students. We have already become a partner in several projects and Exchange programs and are looking forward to increasing the collaboration.

This is our story and the story is continuing. I truly believe it will be a successful one for all of us – Fpt Slovakia and its employees, the city of Kosice, and its community and people.

Olat Baumann, 
Managing director, 
Fpt Slovakia
3.5.1 | EXPERIENCE WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

FDI

The number of foreign investors in Košice, as well as the total amount of money invested, increases every year, with improved infrastructure for investors, including the development of industrial parks, better support from state and local authorities, and increasing availability of suppliers of a variety of goods and services in the region.

Košice’s economic growth over the past few years has attracted many foreign investors. The future is bright for Košice, not only because of the availability and low cost of qualified labor, the availability of investment incentives, or the new highway being constructed to better connect Košice with western Slovakia, but also because it is strategically located between central and eastern Europe, and Košice is serious about attracting and supporting new investors. The most important sector in the city is industrial production. This sector has attracted the largest number of foreign direct investments in recent years, focusing mainly on the steel industry, the automotive industry, electronics, ITC, construction, and machine engineering. More than 600 businesses have foreign capital involved, including, but not limited to, Siemens, U.S. Steel, Getrag Ford, Taylor Wharton, Valeo Slovakia, Howe Slovensko, NESS Slovensko, JOBELSA Slovensko, Kosit, VSE (RWE), Inžinierske stavby Košice, Eurovia-cesty, Tesco, Optima Corporation.

Košice is quickly becoming a centre of cutting edge information and telecommunication technology. Many IT firms have been opening their offices and a variety of support centers in the city, such as T-Systems Slovakia, Global Logic, IBM, Ness Slovensko, AT & T, Siemens, FPT, Cisco Systems Slovakia, Microsoft Slovakia, Holcim and Slovak Telekom. In 2007, the Košice IT Valley association was created to support ITC environment and innovative potential of the city.

### Foreign investors established in Košice and the neighbouring area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Industrial sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Východoslovenská energetika, a.s.</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Energy distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-Shin, s.r.o.</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Automotive parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howe Slovensko, s.r.o.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Production of leather materials - automotive industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NESS Slovensko, s.r.o.</td>
<td>USA, Israel, Netherlands</td>
<td>IS - software development, system integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOBELSA SLOVENSKO, s.r.o.</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Upholstery for automotive industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letisko Košice - Airport Košice, a.s.</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Airport operation and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. S. Steel Košice, s.r.o.</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Metallurgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inžinierske stavby, a.s. Košice</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Construction industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurovia - Cesty, a.s.</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Construction industry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foreign investors established in Košice and the neighbouring area

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Industrial sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T-Systems Slovakia</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>IT and software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsor Machine &amp; Stamping</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Automotive parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GETTRAG FORD Transmissions Slovakia, s.r.o.</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Production of transmissions - automotive industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEP Slovakia, s.r.o.</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Production of heat exchangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastipak Slovakia, s.r.o.</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Plastics industry - semi finished plastic parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuenz - SK, s.r.o.</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Machine engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schellinck Slovakia, s.r.o.</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Production of cutting machines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faurecia Slovakia s.r.o.</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Automotive parts, exhaust systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor - Wharton Slovakia s.r.o.</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Production of cryogenic tanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVANS s.r.o.</td>
<td>USA, Slovakia</td>
<td>Production of packaging materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROWN Bevercan Slovakia s.r.o.</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Production of cans for food and beverage industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magneti Marelli Slovakia, s.r.o.</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Automotive parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Logic Slovakia s.r.o.</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>ITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT&amp;T Global Network Services Slovakia s.r.o.</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>ITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBM Slovensko s.r.o.</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>ITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holom Business Services s.r.o.</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>ITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPT Slovakia s.r.o.</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>ITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miratech Group s.r.o.</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>ITC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEE Sensing Slovakia s.r.o.</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Automotive, electronics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oerlikon Balzers Coating Slovakia s.r.o.</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Automotive parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLN Slovakia s.r.o.</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Metallurgy, steel servicenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erste Group Immorent Slovensko s.r.o.</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Industrial park operation, real estates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Howe Slovensko

The private limited company Howe Slovensko s.r.o. started operations in 2005 as a subsidiary of Howe Automotive Limited Australia, and has progressively made its way to become one of the most important companies in the East Slovakian region.

Since successfully coping with the economic crisis the company has undergone great expansion, extending its production premises, increasing production capacity for Land Rover and Audi, and opening a new training facility in 2014, all of which has been accompanied by growth in the number of employees.

Strategic management, high quality work by our employees, and above-standard cooperation with Košice City Hall have persuaded not only our customers but also our shareholders to go along with the decision to transfer primary production from Australia to Košice as well.

It will be symbolic that precisely on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Howe Slovensko s.r.o. we will be opening our new production facility at Košice Airport. Howe Automotive is preparing further projects as well, but currently the most keenly awaited development is the start of production for another very significant automobile manufacturer, Daimler Mercedes-Benz.

Ing. Richard Duda MBA,
General manager and CEO,
Howe Slovensko s.r.o.
GETRAG FORD Transmissions

GETRAG FORD Transmissions is a member of the GETRAG group, the largest independent producer of transmission systems for passenger vehicles and small commercial vehicles. We are present on global markets including Europe, North America and Asia.

Our engineering abilities are supported by a passion for design, usability, vehicle integration, prototype creation and testing. We are investing into innovation and quality in order to succeed on the dynamic global market.

The Kechnec plant is one of GETRAG FORD Transmissions’ four production plants. In the Kechnec industrial park, the most modern production plant producing PowerShift transmissions was built in 2005. The serial production of the new technology of double clutch transmissions began in October 2007.

GETRAG is a family company whose roots date back to 1935. We build long-term relationships with our customers based on mutual respect and trust. We are making investments and developing our company, thus reaching a valuable synergy with the region in which we are working. We are a stable employer who offers its employees a strong international background, professional growth and work, which enables them to keep in touch with the most modern technologies in the area of transmissions production.

We are a proud partner of the Košice region.

GETRAG – the home of transmissions

Wes Jacklin
Director,
GETRAG FORD Transmissions Slovakia s.r.o.
T-Systems Slovakia

T-Systems Slovakia is a dynamically developing company providing its services in the information-communication technologies sector. The company was established in 2006 as a subsidiary of T-Systems International, itself a member of the global group Deutsche Telekom AG. Within the Deutsche Telekom group, the Slovak company offers services as an outsourcer, specializing to corporate clientele in Germany, in the European Union and further across the globe.

Since its foundation, T-Systems Slovakia has had its seat in Kosice and is very closely linked with this region. Companies’ most important asset and competitive advantage are its people - highly educated, reliable, ambitious, and dynamic. During the years of its existence, the company has exceeded the threshold of 3,200 employees. In 2013, T-Systems Slovakia won an honorable mention for supporting creative non-work-related activities of employees from Pontis Foundation. In the past years, the company was awarded the title of TREND Top Company of the Year 2011 and IT Company of the Year 2011 in Slovakia.

Rapidly growing business has made it increasingly more important to have the right employees with the right set of skills. Therefore, T-Systems Slovakia started a pilot project - Dual education program in information-communication technologies which not only further educates potential employees, but also contributes to the development of the region. This unique program is a form of study that supports a close partnership between the educational and business community in the education of graduates. Typical characteristic of dual study is close connection of theoretical education in the school environment with practical development of both hard and soft skills in the broad practice in business.

Thomas Bogdajn
Managing Director
T-Systems Slovakia
INDUSTRIAL & LOGISTICS PARK KOŠICE | VEĽKÁ IDA

- Located at the area of Košice /17 km/
- Area with the highest state aid in Slovakia /district of Košice Environs/
- Visibility from the E58 and also from the future highway R2
- Size 29.4 ha /10ha occupied/
- Utilities and access road are built and finally approved
- Sufficient electricity /up to 16 MW/, gas /up to 10 000m³/h/, water and data supply
- Land zoned to industrial
- EIA approved, planning permits issued
- Public bus transportation available on the site
- Available skilled work force
- Building office Veľká Ida
- Lowest property taxes at the region
- Administrator of the park on the place
- Possibility to purchase sites from 5000 m²

INVESTORS AT THE PARK
IEE Sensing Slovakia – www.iee.lu,
Oerlikon Balzers - /SOP 3Q 2015/
www.oerlikon.com

ADDITIONAL SERVICES
- Design works, constructions & project management
- Management of the planning & building permit and final approval
- Build to own or build to lease solutions
- Fully support by communication with local authorities

CONTACT
Silvester Petrezsél
M: + 421 907 775 269
petrezsel@solfin.sk
www.pozemkyke.sk
IMMOPARK KOŠICE represents a modern distribution centre offering premises suitable for logistics, distribution, warehousing and light production with office spaces. The project with the total area of 60 ha next to the Košice Airport will offer over 250 000 sqm of lettable area. The halls were designed to provide maximum efficiency to any tenant and may be adapted to special requirements.

- Areal next to the Košice International Airport
- The project is located near the border with Hungary (20 km), Ukraine (80 km) and Poland (90 km)
- Excellent traffic accessibility – direct connection to the highway R1/E571
- Good public transport accessibility
- Perfect visibility from the highway E571
- Modern halls for light production, warehousing and logistic
- Modern office premises (possibility of in built offices according to the client’s needs)
- Sufficient parking for trucks and cars and manipulation area for truck traffic
- High quality infrastructure
- Energy friendly and low cost operational premises
- Turn – key solution according to the costumer’s requirements
- Flexible space units
- Zoning and Building permits in place
ADVANTAGES OF IMMOPARK KOŠICE

- Directly next to Košice Airport and 2 km from Košice city
- Great accessibility and visibility
- Existing established industrial park
- Significant Logistic and Industrial hub
- Long term cooperation with the city
- Available labour force
- New high capacity utilities without any environmental risks
- Excellent Public transport connection
- Flexibility and further expansion possibility
- Strong and reliable partner with financial background and long term commitment to region
- Skilled and experienced team of professionals

CONTACT
+421 918 183 000
www.immopark.com
3.6 | BUSINESS CENTERS

Modern office buildings are available around the city centre, offering wide range of office and administration space and services, for example:

› Aupark Tower Košice
› Business Centre Košice
› Cassovar Business Center
› Ecopoint
Offices for rent
11 000 sqm

Where Ecology meets Economy

"The greenest" certified office building in Slovakia

www.ecopoint.sk
Contact: Mr. Rastislav Badalík
Tel.: 00421/903 904 205
E-mail: badalik@ecopoint.sk
Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SOPK)

The Košice Regional Office of SOPK is a part of SOPK and ensures the operation of the Chamber in the Region; in this case it is operation within the Košice Self-governing Region. The scope of the Košice Regional Chamber includes the following districts (in alphabetical order): Gelinca, Košice, Košice environs, Michalovce, Rožňava, Sobrance, Spišská Nová Ves, Trebišov.

The Košice Regional Chamber within its competence performs the following activities, especially:

- assists in establishing economic relations with foreign chambers of commerce in
- support for members
- establishes and develops relations with regional chambers and institutions at home and abroad
- ensures the promotion of members of the Chamber’s region
- issues certificates on facts of important legal relations that arise in international trade
- organizes conciliation proceedings in economic relations
- organizes educational activities for members of the Regional Chamber
- organizes participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and trade missions for Chamber members
- issues its own publications concerning business relations
- comments on upcoming legislation of the SR within interdepartmental commenting procedure
- publishes the Newsletter for members of the Košice Regional Chamber
- organizes club Thursdays, meetings with interesting personalities within the region as well as within Slovakia

Ing. Ladislav Drabik, PhD, MBA,
Chairman of the Board,
Košice Regional Office,
Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry
The British Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic (BCCSR) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to creating and developing business relationships between the United Kingdom and the Slovak Republic.

To encourage trade and investment links the BCCSR was chosen as a key country of the region to establish a new Business Centre. The British Slovak Business Centre was opened on 5 March 2014 by Lord Livingston, Minister of State for Trade and Investment.

In collaboration with UKTI, the BSBC works directly with small and medium size UK businesses to facilitate successful expansion into the Slovak market. Services include the identification of exciting business opportunities in Slovakia, potential partners, customer and suppliers, market entry support, facility provision start-up support and webinars.

The British Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic recently supported H.M. Ambassador Andrew Garth and the British Embassy on a regional tour to Prešov and Košice. This gave us the opportunity to expand our relationships with both cities. We firmly believe there is a huge untapped potential in Eastern Slovakia, therefore we are keen to enhance business and opportunities to help achieve sustainable growth and development of this region.

Christopher Plant, Executive Director, British Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic

CEO, British Slovak Business Centre
It is obvious that Košice is the political, economic cultural and social centre of Eastern Slovakia. The city has a diversified industrial production, but lately it is well known as a favourite IT investments location. Košice has also a great potential in terms of available pool of skilled people what is one of the reasons why we decided to set up our second office here. Our main reason to invest in Eastern Slovakia is the feedback from our clients. It is very important for us to work closely with local companies and to provide them local one-stop-shop and full variety of our services.

Being in Košice also enables us to work closely with regional institutions with the aim to attract and assist new investors which create new jobs in the region.

KPMG in Slovakia today employs over 300 staff serving Slovak SMEs, multinational companies and government entities. We have been successfully helping our clients in Slovakia for more than 20 years. We focus on the audit, tax and advisory services but lately we support the area of innovation and start-ups as well.

We provide our services in several languages, including German, Russian, Korean or Chinese.

KPMG is a global network of professional firms operating in 150 countries and have more than 138,000 professionals working in member firms around the world.

In case of any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our team is here at your disposal.

Rastislav Puchala,
Director,
KPMG in Slovakia,
Košice Office
3.7 | STATE AID

A large pool of state incentives and European Union funds is available to the public and private sectors.

Investment incentives are aimed at encouraging investments in disadvantaged regions and at creating new jobs in Slovakia. Individuals and legal entities that are authorized to do business in Slovakia, and those whose investment activities and projects meet the conditions of the Slovak investment aid regime (Act 561/2007) are eligible for investment aid.

If an investor meets the conditions they can apply for one of the following types of state aid:

› a cash grant for the acquisition of non-current tangible or intangible assets;
› corporate tax relief;
› a cash grant for the creation of new jobs; and
› option to acquire property at a price lower than market value.

It is advisable to discuss the investment aid package with the authorities before filing the application.

Currently the whole application process (from filing the application to receipt of the final decision) covers at least a 6-month period.

The conditions of state aid may vary over the time and can be updated to reflect the situation.

3.7.1 | INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Investment projects in industrial production include among others automotive, electronics, wood processing, chemical, pharmaceutical and other industries, provided the investment project could qualify as:

› setting up of a new plant;
› expansion of an existing plant;
› a diversification of the product portfolio (new products not previously manufactured before);
› a fundamental change in the overall production process of an existing plant.

3.7.2 | STRATEGIC SERVICE CENTERS

A strategic service center is a place from which the investor provides its services with a high added value in support of the employment of qualified experts in centers for the development of IT programs, technical solution centers, centers for the repair of top technologies, customer support centers and centers of multinational firms.

The conditions for granting investment incentives to the strategic service centers include:

› Construction of a new strategic service center; or
› Expansion of an existing one;
› Acquisition of non-current tangible and intangible assets
› Employment of staff with completed university education;
› Creation of at least 40 jobs.

3.7.3 | TECHNOLOGICAL CENTERS

A technology center is a place in which the beneficiary performs activities that result in an improvement to or change in the products, production processes and technology used in the production process, such as the improvement of products, research and development, innovative activities, creative centers. Conditions for granting investment incentives to the technology centers include:

› Construction of a new technology center; or
› Expansion of an existing one;
› Acquisition of non-current tangible and intangible assets;
› Employment of staff with completed university education;
› Creation of at least 40 new jobs.
A tourist center that offers at least three tourism-related services, such as accommodation, meals, and additional services like skiing, swimming, sporting and relaxation, cultural and sightseeing services at one location.

Conditions for the provision of investment incentives in tourism mostly include:

› Construction of a new comprehensive tourism center or
› Expansion of an existing one by offering new services;

Please note that the Slovak authorities are not obliged to grant investment aid for any of the above categories. A positive decision and the investment amount is also based on some other issues:

› Amount of the investment;
› Replacements of production capacity from another EU member state to Slovakia may not qualify. A similar restriction applies in case the investor will close down another plant in another EU member state within a two-year period after completion of the investment project;
› Region where the project will be implemented;
› Rate of unemployment in the region;
› Number of directly and indirectly created jobs;
› Introduction of new technologies and innovative industries;
› Training of staff;
› Share of highly qualified staff;
› Impact on the environment;
› Quality of the investment plan and completeness of the application/request.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

One of the priorities of the Slovak Government is to attract R&D projects to Slovakia. Therefore it has introduced several incentives to attract these investments.

The establishment of a technological center may qualify for investment aid. For a short overview please refer to the above section.

Slovakia has also introduced a R&D Aid Act under which companies can qualify for cash grants and corporate tax relief for investments related to R&D. Aid will be provided for experimental development, applied research and basic research. The conditions are compatible with the EU legislation on R&D aid. Note that one can apply after publication of a special aid scheme by the Ministry of Education.

Companies may also apply for funds under Horizon 2020 a fund set up by the EU to boost investments in the EU and to compete with Asia and the USA. New calls (invitation to apply) are frequently published on the websites of the EU. The program started in 2014 and currently many of these calls have been published on the EU websites. Note that in many case companies will be forced to cooperate in consortiums with third parties. Only on basis of individual cases can be assessed whether R&D investments can qualify for investment aid.

EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS

Further, investors may apply for subsidies under the EU Structural Fund programs. New programs are set up for the period 2014-2020. Note that most funds will be destined for local and regional support to improve infrastructure, health care, for example. Many schemes under the EU structural fund programs will also be aimed at small and medium sized businesses. However, some programs may be eligible for large companies.

It is advisable to monitor these developments and to apply in case a potential investment project may qualify. The aid will be provided as cash grants only.
Regional disparities in both the European Union and Slovakia have led the founders of the Východoslovenská investičná agentúra (VIA) / East Slovakian Investment Agency into the establishment of an entity that would contribute to the elimination of regional differences and ensure sustainable development of the East Slovakian Region and have this region take the position it justly deserves in united and cultural Europe. The founding members of the agency are Patriot - klub východniarov / Patriot - Easterner Club, Košický samosprávny kraj / Košice Self-Governing Region, Prešovský samosprávny kraj / Prešov Self-Governing Region, City of Košice, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, University of Prešov in Prešov and 16 other business entities. The fulfilment of individual goals and objectives has been part of four fundamental points of the programme:

1. Investment programme with the following goals:
   › Through new investments in Eastern Slovakia, create new job opportunities in the field of industrial production, tourism, services, and research and development of different economic sectors, especially those with high added value.
   › Through highly professional activities of its members, provide active cooperation of the both self-governing regions, municipalities, business sector and academic community in order to make the region more attractive for potential investors by presenting the region as a place worth investing and living in.
   › Create a platform for the exchange of crucial information amongst its members and partners in order to mutually support agency’s own activities as well as the activities of individual members related to the development of the region as such.
   › Create space for professional discussions and for forming opinions on the concept and strategy of development and direction of the East Slovakian Region in individual areas of business activities in connection with the 2014-2020 national strategy of regional development.

2. Programme promoting the use of supporting mechanisms and grants with the following goal:
   › Through its own activities and activities of its members, actively look for potential drawing of structural EU funds, state aid (or Investment incentives), and funds from the Norwegian and Swiss Financial Mechanism, Horizon 20-20 or for getting of other supporting grants and implement those in the East Slovakian Region in order to use as much aid and funds in the following programming period as possible.

3. Programme aimed at the employment of long-term unemployed with the following goal:
   › Reduce both the overall unemployment rate and the percentage of long-term unemployed in the region, all that also in connection with new investments coming into the region.

4. Programme supporting the development of tourism with the following goal:
   › Increase the interest in the East Slovakian Region as a target tourist destination.

A detailed presentation of the agency and an overview of the agency services can be found at www.agenturavia.sk.

MVDr. Peter Cacara,
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
East Slovakian Investment Agency
3.8 | POTENTIAL FOR TOURISM

3.8.1 | HISTORY OF THE CITY

Košice has played an important role within the wider region since the Middle Ages thanks to its strategic location on medieval trade routes.

MILESTONES

1230 already an established settlement – written documents referring to the city for the first time date back to this year
1290 Košice is awarded the status of ‘city’ with autonomy in regard to its system of justice and governance
1342 Košice is recognized as one of the capitals of the empire
1369 city is awarded its own coat of arms
1394 first written document about a city school
1466 written proof of a statute of the society of wealthy merchants, the oldest in Slovakia
1453 Košice becomes one of the main centers of European trade
1508 construction of St. Elizabeth’s cathedral is completed
1657 Košice University is founded
1802 first manufacturing is established for the production of pottery
1860 arrival of the first train from Miskolc (Hungary)
1870 first railway introduced - a 33-kilometre-long section from Košice-Kysak-Prešov
1873 the first hotel, Schalkház, opened to the public
1891 horse-drawn tram line introduced as the first form of municipal transportation
1891 start of the installation of telephone lines
1914 start of electrifying the municipal railway
1924 first Košice Peace Marathon is organized
1937 first Technical University in Slovakia was established in Košice
1938 Košice becomes part of Hungary after an invasion of the Hungarian army
1945 city is liberated, re-united with Slovakia, and temporarily houses the President and Parliament
1960 construction of the VSŽ steel plant begins (in 2001, acquired by U.S. Steel)
1968 city enlarges by merging with neighboring villages
1979 population of the city reaches 200,000
1988 UN awards Košice the title ‘City of Peace’
1993 Košice becomes the second-largest city in Slovakia
2001 acquisition of Košice steelworks by U.S. Steel Corporation
2006 Košice successful in bidding to host the 2011 Ice Hockey World Championship
2008 Košice is awarded the title of ‘European Capital of Culture’ for 2013
2011 Ice Hockey World Championship
2013 Košice enjoys year as European Capital of Culture

3.8.2 | CULTURE

LIFE IN KOŠICE

Košice provides opportunities for various ways to spend free time.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

There are many historical and cultural points of interest, and many spectacular sights unique to the region and to Slovakia. The beautiful cathedral (St. Elizabeth’s), the largest archaeological complex Dolná brána with the chapel St. Michael Chapel, St. Urban’s Tower, as well as the oldest church in the town the Dominican Church (built in the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries) are just a few of the places to visit. The Csáky - Dessewfy Palace and the Handicraft Street are among the other interesting spots in the old town. The city historical reservation is the largest in Slovakia, with 556 protected cultural monuments covering 85 hectares.
MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

However, Košice is not all about the old town, and people can enjoy a variety of other activities. Interesting museums are the Museum of Aviation located at the airport, the Slovak Technical Museum, the Archaeological Museum, the East Slovakian Museum featuring the gold treasure, the Vojtech Löffler Museum, and the East Slovakian Gallery, as well as the modern interactive SteelPark.

The oldest marathon in Europe, run since 1924, known as the Košice Peace Marathon (www.kosicemarathon.com) takes place in Košice annually on the first Sunday in October, with over 10,000 participants from over 40 countries.

PLACES TO GO

Kasárne/Kulturpark
In 2012, a conversion of these military structures built at the turn of the 19th and 20th century began, turning them into a modern cultural venue. The city thus gained a new dominant feature, a platform for cultural, artistic and social events and a popular place for the people of Košice to spend their free time. Individual buildings have been named after the NATO phonetic alphabet, with the Alfa pavilion dominating the entire complex. This cultural venue is the biggest investment project of the European Capital of Culture Košice 2013. The Kasárne/Kulturpark project has won several major international awards, including the prestigious Baumit Life Challenge 66 for the best restoration of a historical building in Europe; the CE.ZA. AR in the category of civic and industrial buildings and the Dušan Jurkovič award.

Kunsthalle
Once a swimming pool, this iconic functionalist structure built at the turn of the 1950s and 1960s and considered by many the symbol of the ‘old Košice’, was deemed structurally unsafe and closed to the public in late 1980s. The 2013 European Capital of Culture title and the ensuing debate led to the decision to turn the disused swimming pool into one of the centres of the city’s new cultural infrastructure. An extensive restoration transformed the building into a new public space and a venue for contemporary art exhibitions – the first Kunsthalle in Slovakia.

The Memorial of Folk Architecture
The Memorial of Folk Architecture is an extraordinary project of a Slovak artist, Tomáš Džador. The first proposition to place a traditional wooden cottage on a block of flats emerged already in 2006 and it eventually led to the idea of an artistic piece in public space.

Botanical Garden
Fascinating university gardens where over 4,000 species of plant are cultivated, including 1,200 cactuses and their cultivars, which is the largest collection of its kind in either the Czech or Slovak republics. You can soak up the tropical heat of the greenhouses and get a feel of what it is like in a rain forest, and enjoy the expansive outdoor gardens. When visiting the botanical gardens you should definitely try to see one of the thematic exhibitions such as the magical exhibition of orchids, tropical butterflies, cactuses, carnivorous plants or the ever popular presentation of Bonsai.
ZOO Košice and DinoPark
The largest ZOO in Central Europe in terms of area is highly popular thanks to almost 150 species of animals. Visitors can see unique animals, such as Hucul horses, and brown bear quintuplets born at the zoo. The facility provides many attractions for relaxing all day long, especially for families with children. DinoPark Zoo Košice is located in a lovely forested valley near the ZOO where dozens of life-sized robotic models of dinosaurs can be seen. These models make up interesting scenes, capturing what their life might have looked like more than 65 million years ago.

CULTURAL EVENTS
The sheer quantity of international events, as well as the growing creative community, confirm that Košice has and will have a firm place on the creative map of Europe. Whether old or new, utilising historical venues or sporting a state of the art design, all the cultural venues are definitely worth seeing! If you are interested in contemporary art and its various alternative genres, Košice is the place to be. If you are looking for an exciting cultural experience in Košice, the dilemma is not what to do, but where to start!

IMAGINATIONS / JUNE
Imaginations is designed as a multi-genre, open air, site-specific performance with the inclusion of historic reality.

KOŠICE GOURMET FESTIVAL / JUNE
Delicious and aesthetically pleasing food, hundreds of smells and tastes, including sweet desserts - all this and much more is waiting for all visitors at the Košice Gourmet Fest in City Park.

MAZAL TOV! / JULY
"Mazal tov" can be freely translated as 'Well done!' The MAZAL TOV! Festival of Jewish culture will illustrate the richness of Jewish cultural heritage to the wide public.

KOŠICE WINE FESTIVAL / SEPTEMBER
Košice wine festival is the highlight of the autumn in Košice, celebrating the winemaking traditions of the region.

NUIT BLANCHE / OCTOBER
White Night is a prestigious international festival that invites everyone for a night walk through a city filled with new experience and perceptions.

TOP EVENTS
Use the City Festival / MAY
A unique festival of street art which brings non-traditional forms of arts to the city’s streets.

Museum Night / MAY
In this day a common entrance pass allows visitors to access all exhibits, as well as to access the public transportation required to reach these various locations.
JAZZ FOR SALE & INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL
Jazz Festivals have a long tradition in the city. Jazz fans will be able to enjoy good quality world jazz music in traditional as well as non-traditional club facilities.

Diversity Festival
Festival Rozmanitosť (Diversity) has the ambition to show the locals as well as the public the beauty of multicultural Košice.

Košice Christmas Market
The time of the year when the city “blossoms out” with a beautiful Christmas atmosphere and attracts the city’s visitors by a great programme which is contributed to by almost the whole city.

Theatres
› Štátne divadlo Košice/State theatre (www.sdke.sk) - ballet, opera, drama
› Štátne divadlo malá scéna/State theatre Small scene (www.sdke.sk) - ballet, opera
› Bábkové divadlo/Puppet theatre (www.bdke.sk)
› Divadlo na perón/Théatre on the Platform
› Divadlo Thália Színház/Thalia Hungarian Theatre
› Márai Štúdio/Marai Stage
› Divadlo romathan/Romathan Theatre - the first professional Roma theatre

Planetarium and observatories
Košice has two planetariums for the public, at the Slovak Technical Museum, and in the DOMINO Free Time Centre.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTS IN THE REGION

TOKAJ / Approx. 65km by car from Košice
Tokaj is a world renowned winemaking region and the home of a unique treasure – the Tokaj wine. Covering 988 hectares, it is the smallest of six wine regions in Slovakia. The area is the warmest region with the highest quality vineyards in Slovakia cultivated since Roman times. Interesting fact from the history is that the Tokaj wine was served at the French Royal court at Versailles!

Slovenský Raj (Slovak Paradise) National Park / Approx. 115 km by car from Košice
Situated in the Eastern part of Slovakia, Slovenský Raj contains one of the biggest ice caves in Europe and an attractive landscape of karst plateaux, gorges, waterfalls and caves. Natural features that testify to the oldest history of the region and the country are omnipresent.

Spiš Castle / Approx. 70 km from Košice by car
Spiš Castle towers over the eastern horizon above Spišské Podhradie. As a National Cultural Monument, Spiš Castle with its area of more than four hectares and partially in ruins, is one of the largest castle compounds in Central Europe.

More information on points of interest can be obtained from Košice Tourist Board (www.visitkosice.eu) or from Košice Visitor Centre (Hlavná 59, Košice / +421 (0) 55 625 8888).
A rich history
The first records of organized sporting life in the city date back to the 19th century. The best known sporting event in the city itself and the one with the greatest tradition is the Košice Peace Marathon, which was first run in 1924 and has been held without a break since then, always on the first Sunday in October each year. This marathon event, which now has more than 10,000 sportspeople from all over the world taking part, is the oldest of its kind in Europe.

Košice brings up world champions
Among the traditionally successful sports in Košice the biggest are football and ice-hockey. In both of these sports Košice teams have repeatedly become the champions of Slovakia, and in the past the city has produced players who, wearing national colours, have gained the titles of European champions in football and world champions in ice-hockey. What is more, in the modern Steel Arena Košice successfully hosted the World Ice-hockey Championships in 2011, and the city expects to repeat this achievement in 2019.

A host of successful athletes
Other successful team sports in recent years surely include women’s basketball and men’s water polo as well. Košice also provides good conditions and has strong results in tennis, athletics, orienteering, water-skiing, wrestling, weight-lifting, body-building, swimming, figure-skating, football-tennis, kick-boxing and car rallying, to mention only the most familiar.

European Capital of Sport
Košice is aiming to gain the title of European Capital of Sport 2016, thus also aiming to underline its interest in developing activities supporting the healthy lifestyle of the city’s residents. Sport for All, a host of activities for various target groups, and the sporting hearts of Košice people together surely predestine the city to gain this title.

New investments in sport
The city of Košice has its long-term strategy in the area of investments in sporting infrastructure as well. In the near future we expect to see a new, modern football stadium and a second National Tennis Centre growing up here, projects are also prepared for building athletics tracks at selected schools, and the well-known “Red Star” is already under reconstruction.

In summer and in winter
The forest-covered hills surrounding Košice offer a great range of opportunities for sporting activities for runners, hikers, skiers, golfers and cyclists. These sportspeople make use of the opportunities truly all year round, thus confirming the age-old, well-known truth that nature itself is the best gym.
The internationally known tourist guide Lonely Planet describes Košice as follows: “People just naturally seem to congregate along the long town square where café terraces line the streets and monumental architecture fills the centre. Buildings range from 12th-century Gothic to 20th-century Art Nouveau. Crane your neck to admire the massive Cathedral of St Elizabeth, before you head underground to explore the ancient city’s archaeology. Come evening, gather with the locals on the benches near the singing fountain, stop in a café for a drink or attend a performance at the State Theatre. Slovakia’s second city has a real sense of cohesion and community in the old town, which is missing from the capital.”

The current number of visitors in the Košice City is 225,000, in terms of overnights is 300,000. The visitors have been coming from the surroundings countries such as the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary as well as from Germany, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Košice - Tourism as Destination Management Organisation In June 2010, for the purpose of locating Košice on the tourist map of Europe, the first Slovak urban-type tourism cluster was established by the Košice City and other entities involved in tourism. This association joins 38 entities, among others, leading four star hotels and restaurants in the city as well as the Košice Airport. It is the first local destination management organization that covers marketing of the Košice City towards visitors and coordinates the activities aimed at improving visitor service and comfort in Košice. The members of the cluster are motivated to change Košice from a business to the longer stay destination. The association will create a comprehensive offer for visitors focusing on visits during prolonged weekends. Košice Tourism Board also provides information for visitors in Košice Visitors Centre.

Košice as gateway to Eastern Slovakia Košice is an ideal source place for making trips to its close surroundings. The UNESCO world heritage site Spiš Castle, the towns of Levoča or Bardejov, the smallest high mountain range in the world, the High Tatras, forgotten and picturesque like county close to the Slovak-Polish borders, with proverbs intertwined Germer with its castle Krásna Hôrka and Bettlar Mansion, unique caves, the most beautiful national park in Central Europe, Slovak Paradise, or the wooden churches which belong to UNESCO heritage and the roots and work of Andy Warhol are just a few themes of the one-day tours which KOŠICE – Tourism provides.

Košice Convention Bureau as a direct part of the organization KOŠICE – Tourism guarantees professionalism and provides clients with valuable advice. At the same time it answers all questions regarding choice of the premises and venues for conferences or company events, securing providers of the professional organization services, marketing, catering, program of the social event, or an accompanying program city tours, trips to the vicinity or concerts. For more information on Košice touristic destination and its news, please follow this link www.visitkosice.eu.
# KOŠICE MUNICIPALITY AND IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**MESTO KOŠICE (OFFICE OF THE CITY OF KOŠICE)**  
Address: Trieda SNP 48/A, Košice, Slovak Republic  
Tel: +421 55 641 9231  
Fax: +421 55 641 9231  
E-mail: kontakt@kosice.sk  
Web: www.kosice.sk

**MAYOR’S OFFICE**  
Tel: +421 55 641 9112  
E-mail: sekretariatprimatora@kosice.sk

**INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
Tel: +421 55 641 9176  
E-mail: kosiceinvest@kosice.sk

**CHIEF ARCHITECT’S OFFICE**  
Tel: +421 55 641 9470  
E-mail: uhamke@kosice.sk

**KOŠICE 2013**  
Address: Kukučínova 2, 040 01 Košice  
Tel: +421 55 696 4279  
E-mail: office@kosice2013.sk  
Web: www.kosice2013.sk

**KOŠICE – TURIZMUS**  
Official Košice Tourist Board  
Address: Hlavná 59, 040 01 Košice  
Tel: +421 55 699 8558  
E-mail: info@visiktosice.eu  
Web: www.visiktosice.eu

**KOŠICE VISITOR CENTRE**  
Official visit centre for visitors  
Address: Hlavná 59, 040 01 Košice  
Tel: +421 55 625 8888  
E-mail: visit@visiktosice.eu  
Web: www.visiktosice.eu