

SLOVAKIA

inspiration for a more
beautiful, more
interesting
and safer world



GOOD IDEA SLOVAKIA

From now on you are part of a story. The fascinating story of Slovakia and its people with their creative visions, desire and courage to make discoveries, boundless energy and admirable ability to get out of difficult situations.





Meet a young country, with a rich history and unafraid of new challenges, where traditions coexist in harmony with the modern day. Meet Slovakia – a country that systematically helps make our shared world more beautiful, more interesting and safer.

Slovakia makes the world more beautiful

Slovaks are proud of their country and its abundant natural beauty. They place great value in this wealth and protect and enhance it for future generations. The amazing diversity provides a rich variety of experiences within a small landmass. Slovakia is one of the most forested countries in Europe, has one of the densest networks of marked hiking trails and is endowed with the largest river island in Europe [Žitný ostrov or Rye Island], which is also the largest source of drinking water in Central Europe. The Slovak Karst, boasting more than 1,000 caves, is the largest karst area in Central Europe. Add to this mountain peaks of over two thousand metres high, with their crystal-clear tarns, and famous mineral springs with healing waters. By carefully protecting its natural assets Slovakia helps make our planet a better place to live.

Slovakia makes the world more interesting

Rich historical traditions intermingle with modern day Slovakia. The land that is now Slovakia has always been a crossroads of different cultures and geopolitical influences. Today, people live together in harmony in diverse national, religious and ethnic communities, in a symbiosis that gives the country and

its people an admirable dynamism and a valuable perspective. You too can discover Bratislava – a modern metropolis whose visitors find inspiration in the unique atmosphere of its historic streets once witness to the passing of the coronation procession of Maria Theresa. Today, in these same streets you can meet the successful young designers, artists, innovators and entrepreneurs who have brought a pulsating energy to the capital, where they live connected up to the world. Or would

you rather visit a world untouched by globalization – the traditional Slovak countryside with its majestic mountains? You'll find many beauty spots, providing shelter to those who need to escape from the chaos and stresses of life. To be rewarded perhaps by an individual lifestyle that can no longer be taken for granted, free of ties and offering autonomy in decision-making. Freedom is something people in Slovakia particularly value because they well remember the recent past when it was denied to them. It is all the more remarkable then that Slovakia has been able to catch up so quickly and find its place amongst successful modern democracies. Vitality, plenty of opportunities, resilience





and determination, these are the attributes that make Slovakia and its people interesting and through which Slovakia inspires others.

Slovakia helps make the world safe

The world can only become more beautiful and more interesting once it is a safe world. Slovakia's role in this lies not only in its people's naturalness, love of peace and ability to coexist, but also in their active desire to protect in many different ways. Slovakia does this by partici-



pating in international peacekeeping missions, by promoting food safety, by being careful to protect nature, but also by being a leader in *cyber security*. ESET is a Slovak company that produces international security software and is market leader in providing proactive state-of-the-art detection of computer threats, protecting more than 100 million devices every day. Slovakia recognizes the value of safety and does what it can to help make people's lives safer in the world at large.

Slovakia at your fingertips

From whichever angle you look at the old continent, Slovakia is always in the centre. Its people will proudly add that Slovakia lies at the heart of Europe. It is a heart that pulses with energy. Its strategic location, precisely where the major north-south, east-west arteries intersect, means that Slovakia offers investors thriving business opportunities and wonderful tourism to its visitors. Slovakia is near everywhere, within reach of any European capital. You can also get from Slovakia to

virtually anywhere else quickly and comfortably.

Meeting point

The winds of history brought to Slovakia all the beautiful and interesting things that make Europe what it is: Celtic and Roman sites, Gothic and Baroque churches and important historical traditions. Unique artefacts belonging to our cultural heritage and an unparalleled variety of folk customs still provide inspiration today to the contemporary Slovak art, architecture and design that is increasingly successful in the world. High mountains, deep forests



and fertile plains, wild rivers and peaceful lakes... The magic of it all is the sheer number of things found concentrated in one single compact area. Slovakia is the point at which the whole of Europe meets.



Banská Štiavnica – urban cultural heritage and technological excellence

The Banská Štiavnica Ore District once numbered amongst the most important gold mining areas in Europe. Historical records of the extraction of gold and other metals in Banská Štiavnica have been preserved from the 12th century. Banská Štiavnica was granted a Royal charter in 1238 by King Belo IV. In 1735, the first mining school in the Kingdom of Hungary was established here, and later, in 1762, the first mining academy and also the first technological university in the world were founded in the town. Banská Štiavnica became the European centre of mining science and technology. Its professors are associated with many European and world firsts in science and technology.





Melting pot

For centuries, the land that is Slovakia has been a cultural melting pot in which countless essences have mingled. Gradually, a unique harmonious diversity has emerged. Slovakia's ethnic, religious, social and regional diversity goes hand in hand with the coexistence of different lifestyles and a plethora

of personal journeys. A southern temperament and a northern rationality come together in the people, and visitors from abroad most often describe the Slovak national character as one of kindness and honesty. The joining together of many small, yet complementary, worlds makes Slovakia a country of mobility, openness and unexpected opportunity.





“Tatra Tiger” inspires

Slovakia gained the name tag of “Tatra Tiger” because it used unusual courage and vigour to solve its problems associated with the past. It did not give in to the difficult challenges facing it and embarked on a journey of demanding and sometimes painful reform. The country under the Tatras surprised the world with its remarkable economic growth in the first decade of the new millennium. In 2009, Slovakia was the first of the Visegrad Four countries to adopt the single European currency, the euro, further enhancing the credibility of its economy. Its strong and success-

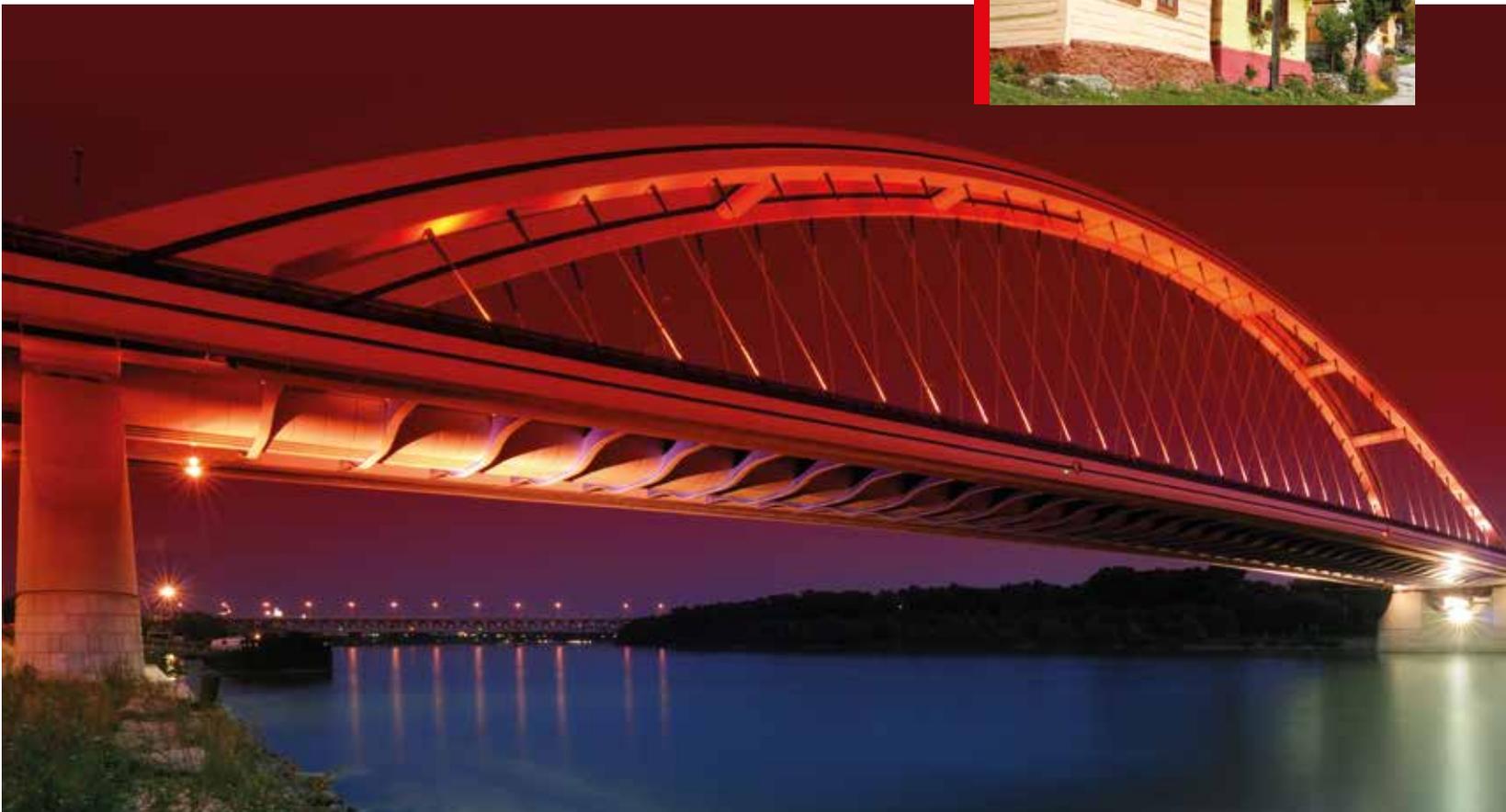
ful reform story has been followed by domestic and foreign media and is still viewed positively by economic analysts, politicians, international institutions and investors.

Slovakia succeeded in achieving over a few years what others often spend decades building. The country changed its outlook and joined prestigious international groups that guarantee security and prosperity [EU, NATO, OECD]. Yet Slovakia did not forget to help others.

Slovakia is known for its involvement abroad and its willingness to share its experiences with countries that have yet to undergo transformation. Metaphorically speaking,

Traditional folk architecture in Vlkolínec

The village of Vlkolínec is a kind of medieval rural settlement with wooden architecture typically found in the mountains and foothills. It is a uniquely well-preserved and unspoilt collection of wooden houses set against a picturesque landscape of narrow fieldstrips and pastures. This magical place provides an authentic image of traditional life in the mountainous areas of Slovakia.





Tourist magnets – Spiš Castle, Levoča

Spiš Castle is considered to be one of the largest castles in Central Europe. It is a unique architectural monument dating back to the 10th to 13th centuries. Uniquely located on top of a travertine hill, it dominates the surrounding area and is a magnet for tourists. Its appeal is enhanced by other unrivalled sights in the area – especially the town of Levoča, home to the Gothic Cathedral of St. James with its 11 Gothic and Renaissance wing altars, including the tallest wooden Gothic altar in the world [18.6 metres high]. Many are the work of the legendary carver whose name is associated with the town, Master Pavol of Levoča.

Slovakia radiates “soft power”, and for countries with problematic pasts, its success is inspirational and gives hope that positive change is possible.

Since its inception Slovakia has become a modern progressive country where things are constantly happening, changing and developing. It is a country that does not lack dynamism or action. Its people and ideas are in constant motion, new ideas are being born and there is great energy and potential.





Bardejov – town of humanistic tradition and education

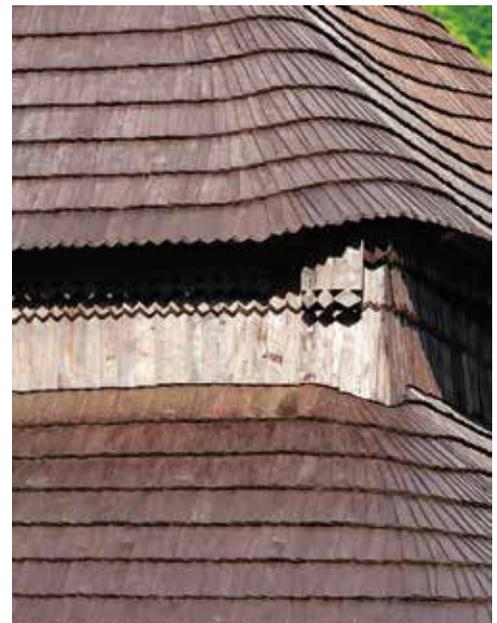
This ancient town in north-east Slovakia was at its wealthiest and most famous in the 15th century. Its inhabitants predominantly made their livings out of trade and craft. By 1437 there were already 64 (!) different crafts registered in the town. Its prosperity gave rise to magnificent buildings: the Parish Church of St. Egidius was joined by burgher houses with high gabled sloping roofs. In 1505–1511 a Gothic–Renaissance Town Hall was built and a comprehensive system of fortifications completed. In the 16th century, the town was a thriving centre of science, culture and art, based around the municipal humanistic school, and Bardejov became the centre of education in the north-east of the Kingdom of Hungary.

Not far from the town is Bardejovské Kúpele, a spa visited in 1895 by Empress Elisabeth, the wife of Franz Joseph I, better known as Sisi.



Unique wooden churches

Slovakia's unique wooden churches are simply enchanting. Of particular interest is the technique used to build them – the only material that could be used was wood, nails were not allowed. There were more than 300 churches of this kind in Slovakia. They combined elements of Western, especially Roman, and Eastern Byzantine cultures. About 50 of these sacral monuments dating from the 16th to 18th centuries have been preserved.



Cave systems – World Natural Heritage in Slovakia

More than 1,000 caves and precipices, replete with various kinds of sinter and ice, have been discovered so far in the karst plains of southern Slovakia and northern Hungary. The area is exceptionally dense in caves, and is probably the only area of this kind to be found anywhere in the world in this type of climate zone. The genetic and morphological diversity of the caves is also exceptional, with a variety of caves found next to each other within a relatively small area: eroded precipices, river caves and underwater caves. The area is rich in rare cave fauna and archaeological finds.





Its greatest wealth is its people

Many say that despite the rich historical monuments and natural beauty, Slovakia's most powerful assets are its people – and they are right! Its people are the most valuable asset the country has. Their qualities, skills, modesty and also their ability to dig in and overcome the greatest of challenges are a source of huge potential for sustaining development in Slovakia. Its people are known for the quality of their work, their love of work, their commitment, ingenuity and desire to develop further. Slovakia is no longer a country of cheap skilled labour, but one known mainly for its skills, flexibility and ability to learn quickly, adapt and deal with new challenges.

One example of it making use of its potential and ability to adapt is to be found in the automotive industry. It may sound unbelievable but Slovakia is currently the largest automobile manufacturer per capita in the world.



Invented in Slovakia

Did you dream of a flying car as a child? Of driving along the road just as normal and then when you need to just accelerating and taking off? Today this dream is closer to reality than ever before thanks to Slovak creativity and diligence. The whole world is excited by the phenomenal AeroMobil – a flying car whose prototype can already be found roaming Slovak streets and skies.

We may be intrigued and surprised by the talents of resourceful and manually skilled Slovaks who work both at home and for successful foreign companies. Potential of this kind can no doubt be found in the idea to dig out boreholes using electric plasma or in other brand new materials for use in the automotive and electrical industries. One such innovative spirit is Ladislav Karpíšek, an inventor from Slovakia with more than 1,200 patents (including for a rotary combustion engine, a collapsible flight container and a portable dialysis machine) who is working on other projects of global significance, such as seawater desalination plants or equipment for producing energy from the sea.

In addition to the engineers, an entire generation of top designers, ar-

AeroMobil

The transport of the future, a dream for many generations, is becoming a reality. In autumn 2014, Slovak company AeroMobil premiered its prototype of the AeroMobil 3.0 flying car. The unveiling attracted enormous interest from the world's established media – the human race has perhaps never before been so close to mass producing a beautiful modern car that within minutes seamlessly transforms itself into a safe and fully operational light aircraft. It is a third generation vehicle which designer Štefan Klein began developing in the early 1990s. In 2010, he was joined by his friend Juraj Vaculík, now co-founder and CEO of the company, and since then they have been working on the project together. "It is hoped our vehicle will become a means of transport that combines the best of both the car world and the aircraft world. But our goal is not only functionality, but also design because we want it to operate smoothly both in the air and on the road", say the creators. [www.aeromobil.com]



chitects and fashion designers have grown up in Slovakia – people from the creative industries, programmers, software engineers and developers. Their aspirations and achievements are truly global. Slovakia has produced intriguing items and “gadgets” like ESET security software, the Diagnose.me online platform allowing direct contact between patients and leading radiologists around the world, CulCharge – a small handy cable that replaces the mobile phone charger, TrainStation – an online game – or the Bugatti Veyron car design which is the work of Slovak automotive designer Jozef Kabaň.

Ebenica Coffee

Slovak coffee – the idea might at first seem unusual. But why not? In 2009 a family company was established in collaboration with friends and specialists in food, design and business, and gradually they created various coffee blends and the Ebenica Coffee brand, logo and identity. From the outset customer response was positive but the company wondered what world-class coffee experts would say about their coffee. So at the end of 2013 they sent samples of their coffee to Berkeley in the USA, home to one of the most prestigious and reputable coffee connoisseurs – CoffeeReview. The result was astounding: All three kinds of caffeinated Ebenica coffee made it into the Top 10 espresso coffees in Europe thereby winning gold medals (90 points). This family-run company supplies coffee locally, recently it started exporting its products world-wide. [www.ebenica.com]

ColosseoEAS

ColosseoEAS, Inc. (Colosseo) is the producer of the first completely integrated software platform for content creation, distribution and control for venues. With custom designed LED display systems, center hung scoreboards, timekeeping and scoring systems, mobile applications and IPTV, Colosseo has developed the most complete turnkey solution for sports venues, convention centers, shopping malls and transportation available on the market today. The Single Media Platform solution enables customers to optimize their operational process and resources while increasing media visibility, marketing revenue, fan experience and safety. With more than 45 installations in North America, Europe and Asia in the past 5 years, Colosseo is providing control room operators with cutting edge technology to take multimedia management, interactivity, entertainment and infotainment to a significantly higher level. Colosseo's most prestigious installations includes famous venues like the Verizon Center in Washington DC, Allianz Park in London, AccorHotels Arena Bercy in Paris and VTB Ice Palace in Moscow. [www.colosseoEAS.com]



ESET

The beginnings of ESET date back to 1987 when two young programming enthusiasts, Peter Paško and Miroslav Trnka, discovered one of the world's first computer viruses. Shortly after that, a number of other viruses appeared and the idea of creating a universal software solution capable of eliminating these previously little-known computer threats formed in their minds. In 1992, together with their friend Rudolf Hrubý, they founded a private limited liability company called ESET. In retrospect, one could say that the story of ESET is a showcase example of an extremely successful start-up. Initially, a small group of computer enthusiasts worked on the antivirus program that would later become a security solution with a reputation for being one of the fastest and most efficient in the world. ESET currently employs people in a number of countries. The company's headquarters is in Bratislava, and it has regional distribution centres in San Diego (USA), Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Singapore. It also has offices in Sao Paulo (Brazil), Prague (Czech republic), Jena (Germany) and Sydney (Australia).



Live life to the fullest!

These words perfectly describe Slovak people's attitudes to life. It is lovely to watch people spending a Sunday afternoon on the Danube embankment in Bratislava or popping into a local wine bar for a glass of wine after work or setting out on a family outing to the nearby forests. People meet up after work and go for a coffee or a run together or cook a good meal with friends and enjoy some of the exceptional local beers with it or cheer on Slovakia's successful athletes. The atmosphere is great everywhere and you can feel life and positive energy emanating from river banks, beautiful cycle paths, snowy slopes and open-air festivals.

Slovakia is a lively country that has always been home to happy,



heartfelt celebrations full of traditions that are still kept today. Visitors will certainly be surprised by our Easter traditions when the men pour water over the girls and women and whip them with willow wands. Not as a punishment, but so they stay healthy and beautiful. Weddings are equally original. The ancient traditions associated with the onset of womanhood are not only observed in rural areas but also often in modern cities.

Wine routes are another great experience. The slopes of the Carpathian Mountains are lined with narrow fertile vineyards with a tradition of producing quality wines. For example wine from one of Bratislava's great vineyards, Chateau Palugyay,



was served to first class passengers on board the famous steamship the *Titanic*. Another valuable treasure is hidden away in south-eastern Slovakia in the vineyards and cellars of the Tokaj region which are part of the well-known cross-border wine region where the well-known high-quality Tokaj wines are made. The numerous small-scale commercial and home distilleries known for their quality spirits also make for a unique atmosphere and good feeling.

One cannot of course fail to mention an event that may at first sight appear shocking and almost

“pagan”, but for Slovakia the pig killing feast is completely natural and authentic. Fresh, flavourful products created by hand by master butchers – and perhaps with your help – are unrivalled in taste and quality by the conventional range on offer at multinational stores.

Magical, traditional, charming

Slovakia has original landscapes that many well-known filmmakers have discovered. Its many castles, chateaus and manors are full of

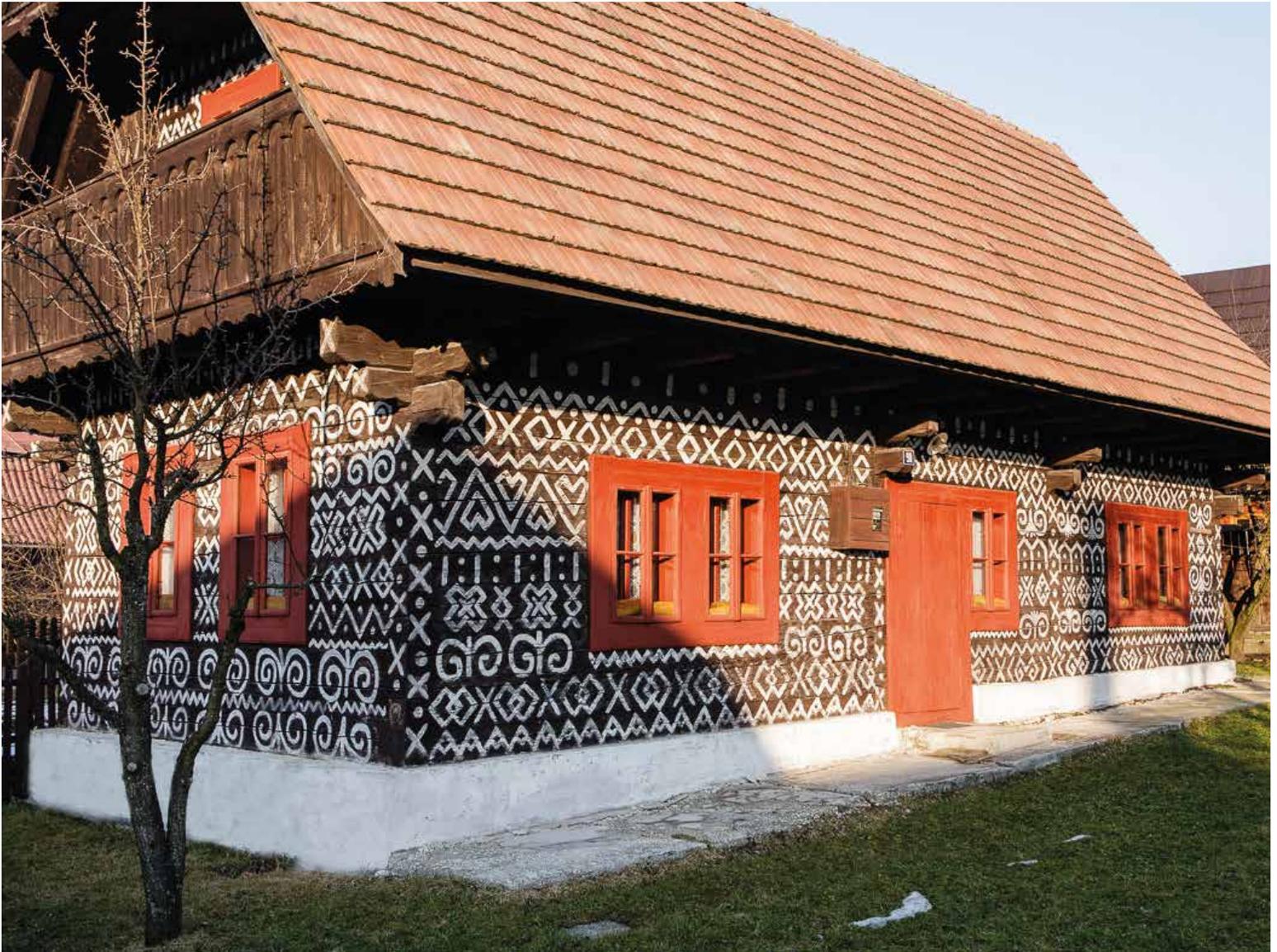
mysterious tales and unlock the door to the imagination. One of Slovakia’s most beautiful castles – Orava castle – impressed director Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau so much that in 1922 he shot “Nosferatu, Symphony of Horror” against the castle exterior. There are still rare places in Slovakia unaffected by “light pollution” where you can enjoy your fill of undisturbed views of hundreds of constellations and in late summer you can watch a stunning celestial shooting star performance. The “sounds” of Slovakia are also of particular interest. The



melody of Slovak is often compared to “birds chirping”. Many find the complete silence magical – to be enjoyed deep in the forests and valleys of eastern Slovakia or under the peaks of the majestic Tatra Mountains. One special sound is that associated with a unique musical instrument – the “fujara” [a flute played by shepherds] that features

on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list. In today’s globalized world, it is increasingly difficult to find a modern, developed country where folklore, music and traditional customs continue to be part of the life of its inhabitants. Slovakia’s songs and dances perfectly illustrate the nature of its people – lively, emotional, with a

dash of gloom and melancholy. The strong ties and sense of community found in families are fascinating as well. The people of Slovakia like to meet up with friends and loved ones to celebrate and reminisce. The atmosphere at family gatherings is informal and full of trust. As a local proverb has it: Guest in the house – God in the house.







Stories of determination

The stories of people from Slovakia who became famous around the world all contain different plots yet share common denominators. These include a strong will, the ability to seize the opportunity and the determination to achieve more. In the past, Slovaks often had to go abroad so that they or their children could achieve the successes for which they are famous today – although few people may be aware of their Slovak origins. Examples include the destinies of artist Andy Warhol and astronaut Eugene Cernan.

People at home and abroad still remember Milan Rastislav Štefánik, an accomplished diplomat, astronomer and general who played an important role in the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918, and Alexander Dubček, the main protagonist of the Prague Spring reforms in 1968.

Over the last 150 years, Slovakia has undergone a number of historical events that tell us something about the determination of its people. One is the success of our compatriots in the USA – they arrived in their thousands, generally poor and inexperienced but full of determination. They made it and became popular and successful because of their hard work, honesty and close knit family values.

Another is the Slovak National Uprising – the armed resistance against fascism – a heroic and often tragic struggle by tens of thousands of Slovak men and women in the difficult winter conditions in the mountains that ultimately

CITIZENS' INITIATIVES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

VIA IURIS

Via Iuris is an organization that adopted this Gandhi quote as its motto: *“First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.”* Its history is the story behind this organization that has achieved success through its determination to pursue its path respecting shared values and carefully considering the steps it takes.



The Via Iuris story is one of both courage and vision. The initial aim was to support a broad spectrum of citizens' initiatives and organizations that promoted fairness and the citizen's voice being heard by government bodies deciding the key issues in public life. Via Iuris now helps citizens' initiatives with effective organization, strategic planning and legal issues. Their leitmotif is “Citizen participation in decision-making.” This was a relatively new concept in Slovakia in the early 1990s for citizens, the authorities and officials alike. Today, by contrast, Slovakia has a well-developed and active civil society. [more info on www.viaiuris.sk]





led to Slovakia taking its legitimate place on the winning side of the Second World War.

A relatively recent experience was the political struggle over the country's future in the 1990s and over gaining an honourable place in Europe by subscribing to democratic values. The struggle was won by Slovak democrats, and the people of Slovakia demonstrated self-determination, an ability to stand up for an important cause, and, partly thanks to the strength of civil society, showed they were capable of making mature decisions.

During that era, Pope John Paul II visited Slovakia. Surrounded by a million people he uttered a single, beautiful, simple sentence: "*Niebojcie sa!*" ["Don't be afraid!"]. It was a sentence that people interpreted in their own way but which could be the centre pin of a modern Slovak story about a country where people



CITIZENS' INITIATIVES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

FAIR-PLAY ALLIANCE

Fair-Play Alliance is a long-term counterweight to power. It is a "watch-dog" type civic organization which keeps a close eye on politicians, provides independent insights from a civil society perspective and tries to produce good solutions. It began by monitoring political party spending on election campaigns, then in addition to covering issues of political funding, it set about exposing corruption cases, defending the right to information, checking up on public procurement, monitoring the judiciary and publishing open data. Fair-Play Alliance not only flags up systemic problems and political misconduct but also seeks accountability and suggests how dysfunctional laws can be amended. [more info on www.fair-play.sk]

are not afraid and more than ever before in any other period of Slovak history have come to realize they can achieve more.

What communities can do

In recent years Slovakia has literally been witness to a boom in community projects. They are set up by ordinary citizens who care about where and how they live. Community activities are very diverse and creative. Volunteers improve public spaces, neighbourly relations, build on social and environmental ties and promote healthy lifestyles. Community activities are also an excellent opportunity for visitors from abroad to quickly become part of everyday life in Slovakia and meet new friends. These communities make everyday life richer and full of activity – people are closer to each other. There are



LOCAL INITIATIVES

GREEN PATROL

Originally Green Patrol was a small, private initiative by two brothers who decided to clean up the public spaces near their home, but now in just a few years it has grown to amazing proportions. In 2014 alone, 988 volunteers joined Green Patrol and spent thousands of hours working together to help maintain public spaces and the countryside. They dedicated their free time to making 16 sites in the capital barrier-free, they made and installed 29 waste bins for problem areas, they cleared several illegal dumps and collected over 170 tons of rubbish altogether. True to their motto "Because it affects us", the Green Patrol draws attention to the problem of rubbish in the streets of Bratislava and encourages people to become involved in helping their environment and local area. [more info at www.zelenahliadka.sk]



GOOD MARKET IN BRATISLAVA

Good Market is an excellent example of a local initiative which, after being set up in 2011, immediately gained the support and involvement of a wide mixture of people linked through their shared environment. Good Market brought life back into the city's public spaces, opening up the streets and courtyards to people, creating an alternative space for them to meet and experience life. It supports small producers and promotes quality domestic products alongside products from the different cultures and ethnic groups that are part of our society. It is aimed at the local community who are actively involved in the market, and also residents and visitors to the city. It combines cultural events and a farmer's market and flea market. [more info on www.dobrytrh.sk]

DOBRY TRH®



NEIGHBOURHOOD EXCHANGE DAYS

Another sign of revitalized community life are neighbourhood exchange days. Unlike other events of this type, the business dimension is not essential. The important thing is that neighbours meet “in the flesh”, get to know each other, share their concerns and think together about other projects that could improve the quality of life where they live. The recent rapid expansion of these exchanges is a sign of the growing vitality and initiative of Slovak society and people’s affinity for a sustainable and environmentally friendly philosophy.

OPEN-AIR FESTIVALS

Slovakia’s largest open-air festival Pohoda has been held in Trenčín every year since 1997. Each year about 30,000 people come to it from all over the world. The festival features all sorts of different kinds of music along with other events: literary discussions, theatre performances, dance workshops, debates with key public figures, a reading room, and NGO stalls. Festival visitors regularly rank it as one of the best organized events of its kind in the world.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

Gardening has a long tradition in Slovakia. However, the current expansion of community gardens has turned gardening into an unexpected and highly appealing activity for many. Offering an alternative from the escape into privacy, community gardens have become a joint meeting place and a means of improving neighbourly relations. Together enthusiasts are bringing neglected public spaces back to life in many regions of Slovakia and returning more pleasant aspects to the towns and concrete housing estates – greenery, fresh home-grown fruit and vegetables, safe havens for children to play in and come into contact with the soil. There is a place for everybody in the community gardens.



a whole range of examples: Good Market in Bratislava, Community Gardens Project, Urban Market, open-air festivals and many others.

Slovakia provides help

NGOs have substantially contributed to the consolidation of democracy. A number of them are now, with government support or independently, involved in a range of development and humanitarian work and in helping countries beyond Slovakia's borders democratize. The countries that are targeted by Slovak assistance are primarily the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, but also countries that are more geographically and culturally distant, such as Kenya and Afghanistan. In short, Slovak official development assistance supports about 500 projects in nearly twenty different countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. Slovakia draws on its own transition experience of building the institutions of an independent state, implementing important economic reforms and successfully integrating into international organizations and groups. Slovakia's engagement in this is exceptional and of great benefit to its partners, since it succeeded in moving from the position of beneficiary country to donor country. The ability to think of others and feel shared responsibility for progress outside our own country is proof of Slovakia's self-confidence and solidarity. This is also part of modern Slovakia.

Slovakia is also involved in numerous EU missions relating to, for example, disarmament, conflict



prevention and peacekeeping as well as joint European humanitarian and rescue missions. Slovak military and civilian experts have been part of the EU missions in, for example, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palestine, Moldova and Ukraine, Georgia, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Slovakia also participates in United Nations operations to keep international peace and security, for example, in Cyprus and the Middle East. As

a member of NATO Slovakia fulfils its commitments and the Slovak Armed Forces are involved in NATO's core activities, including active engagement in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. As part of which, Slovak soldiers are helping restore and stabilize the region, train the local security forces and guard key sites. Slovakia conducts itself as a reliable, responsible country concerned for the fate of people living beyond its borders.

Well, that is the story of Slovakia... Our country is beautiful and exceptional in having such a range of natural diversity concentrated into one small area, but it is also unique because of the people who live here. They subscribe to the values that are the foundation stones of a free and secure world. Slovaks don't shy away from great challenges and for generations, even in times of oppression, they have maintained strong family ties and interpersonal relations which are a source of vital energy. An energy which has guaranteed their survival and now propels the many interesting projects and creative ideas emerging in Slovakia. The values that Slovakia subscribes to help make our world more beautiful and more interesting, so we all respect each other and feel safe. We can write this story together. Join us and make it richer!





Slovakia for a more beautiful, more interesting and safer world

Issued by: The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

TEXT AUTHORS:

Marián Timoracký

| United Consultants, s.r.o. | www.uc.sk

Oľga Gyárfášová | Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University

TEXT EDITORS: Nora Gubková & Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:

Stano Jendek | www.stanojendek.sk

Tomáš Hulík | www.tomashulik.sk

Karol Srnec | www.roebuck.sk

Bedrich Schreiber

Martin Šopinec | Bažant Pohoda 2015

Boris Németh

www.dobrytrh.sk

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Renesans, s. r. o. | www.renensans.sk



