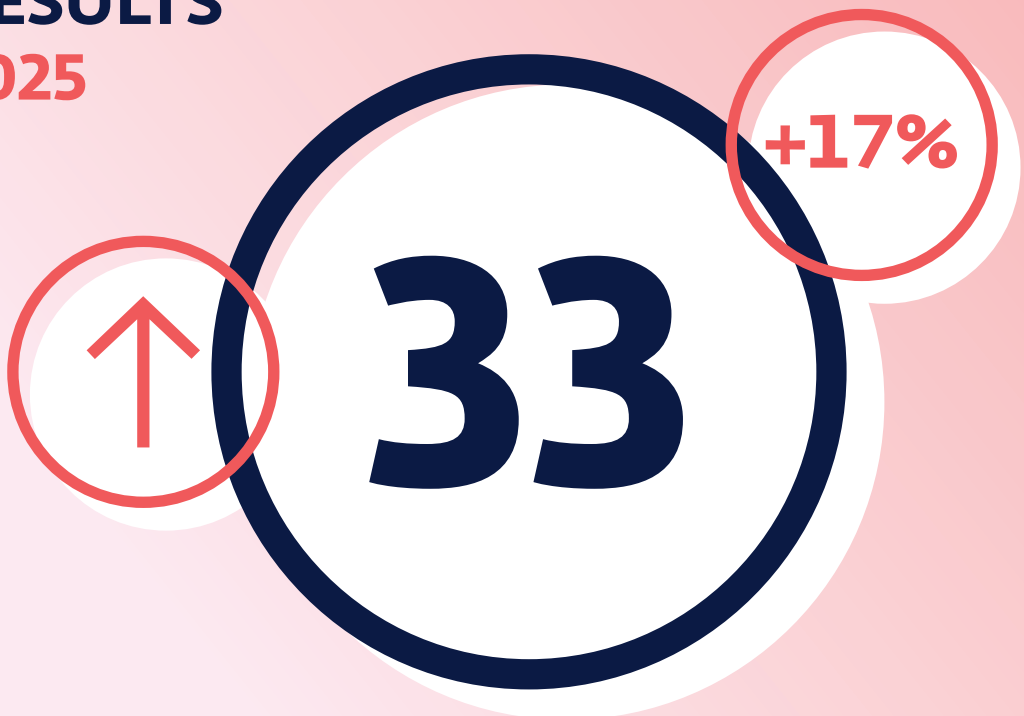
SARIO
SLOVAK INVESTMENT AND
TRADE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

English version

2026 02

SARIO Newsletter

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS 2025



In 2025, the agency assisted in 33 investment projects, an increase of 17% compared to 2024

READ MORE

1

ECONOMY



Slovenské elektrárne has presented the results of a study identifying potential sites for small modular reactors (SMRs) in Slovakia, complementing the larger nuclear plan at Jaslovské Bohunice

GLOBAL FDI TRENDS

According to the latest Global Investment Trends Monitor from UNCTAD, global foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 3% in the first half of 2025, extending a two-year decline in investment flows due to trade tensions, high interest rates, and geopolitical uncertainty. The industrial and infrastructure sectors suffered the most significant losses. New projects and financing decreased particularly in the textiles, electronics, and automotive sectors. Nevertheless, the value of new 'greenfield' projects rose by 7%, driven by major initiatives in artificial intelligence and the digital economy, predominantly in the United States. Regional developments were mixed — investment grew in Latin America and Asia but fell sharply in Africa. **(SOURCE unctad.org)**

INDUSTRY TRENDS

According to PwC's latest 2025 Global Investor Survey, the majority of investors (61%) expect the technology sector to attract the most investment over the next three years, significantly ahead of other industries, with 92% calling for companies to increase spending on technological transformation and cybersecurity. Investors recognise tangible benefits from AI adoption, yet only 37% report that companies communicate their AI strategies and policies with sufficient transparency. Additionally, three-quarters of respondents expect higher growth from companies expanding across traditional sector boundaries, while emphasising resilience to cyber risks and macroeconomic uncertainty. While optimism regarding technological growth persists, only 28% of investors believe global economic growth will significantly improve over the next year. Overall, the report underscores that diversified investments, transparency, and resilience remain key factors in capital allocation decisions. **(SOURCE pwc.com)**

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Slovenské elektrárne has presented the results of a study identifying potential sites for small modular reactors (SMRs) in Slovakia, complementing the larger nuclear plan at Jaslovské Bohunice. SMR technology could create hundreds of jobs and inject up to 1 billion EUR into the economy through investment and contributions to GDP. The company sees these reactors as a faster and more cost-effective route to new nuclear capacity compared with traditional construction. Implementation is still at an early stage. **(SOURCE hnonline.sk)**



SEVA reports that by the end of 2025, the number of public charging points for electric vehicles in Slovakia exceeded 3,000

ELECTROMOBILITY

SEVA reports that by the end of 2025, the number of public charging points for electric vehicles in Slovakia exceeded 3,000, reaching 3,086 points across 1,197 locations, with year–on–year power capacity growth of 61% to 201 MW. This places Slovakia among countries with high charging infrastructure availability relative to the number of electric vehicles, although residential and urban charging remain weaker areas. The network is improving not only quantitatively but also qualitatively, with an increasing share of higher–capacity chargers, including ultra–fast DC. SEVA also highlights the need for municipal involvement in residential charging development and anticipates significant progress in the expansion of the ultra–fast highway charging network in 2026. **(SOURCE seva.sk)**

FOREIGN TRADE

The European Union and India have signed a new trade agreement after more than 20 years of negotiations, significantly reducing tariffs on cars, automotive components, and selected agricultural products. For European car manufacturers and wine producers, the deal opens the Indian market with quotas and gradual tariff reductions to minimal levels. Conversely, the European Union has agreed to zero tariffs on Indian steel imports, and the agreement contains no substantial measures regarding energy or public procurement. The deal, effective after ratification by the European Parliament, also creates new trade opportunities for Slovak companies across various sectors. **(SOURCE euractiv.sk)**

EY ENTREPRENEURSHIP BAROMETER 2026

The survey is conducted simultaneously in 14 European countries and focuses on topics that shape the business world today: innovation, investment, financing, the use of artificial intelligence and family business strategies. **(LINK globaleysurvey.ey.com)**

2

COMPANIES & INVESTMENT



The government has approved an amendment to the regional investment aid law, changing previous conditions tied to maintaining employment levels

NEW JOBS IN KECHNEC

The Austrian company Kuenz plans to expand production at its plant in the Kechnec industrial park, strengthening industrial manufacturing in eastern Slovakia. The company, which produces cranes for ports and inland terminals, has returned to revenue growth and further development after a challenging period. The new investment project anticipates a significant expansion of capacity and an increase in employees to around 400, creating over 200 new jobs. Given the ongoing development of the industrial zone, Kechnec is expected to remain one of the region's key employment centres. **(SOURCE e.dennikn.sk)**

INVESTMENT AID

The government has approved an amendment to the regional investment aid law, changing previous conditions tied to maintaining employment levels. Companies applying for investment aid will no longer need to retain the same number of employees as in the preceding 12 months, responding to growth in automation, robotics, and digitalisation. The provision for grants for newly created jobs as a separate form of support is also removed. The Ministry of Economy argues that the obligation to maintain employment reduced Slovakia's competitiveness in attracting investment. **(SOURCE teraz.sk)**

MULTIMILLION-EURO INVESTMENT IN ŽILINA NEARING COMPLETION

Kia's Žilina plant is completing an investment of over 200 million EUR to transform production lines, with the key electric model EV4 now entering production. The anticipated EV5 SUV will continue to be produced in Asia, explained by a combination of lower costs and ongoing European demand for combustion and hybrid models. Kia in Žilina is pursuing a strategy of affordable electromobility, further strengthened by the launch of the small city EV2 priced under 30,000 EUR. The aim is to achieve profitability in battery electric vehicles through high production volumes from 2026—2027. The new EVs will be produced alongside the successful Sportage model, which remains a production cornerstone. Despite a recent dip in demand, the plant aims to grow again and reach new production peaks in the future. **(SOURCE hnonline.sk)**



Kia's Žilina plant is completing an investment of over 200 million EUR to transform production lines (PHOTO kia.sk)

SLOVAKIA'S SOLE FERTILISER PRODUCER REVIVES 7-YEAR-OLD PLANS

Slovakia's only fertiliser manufacturer, Duslo Šaľa, is restarting investment plans that were dormant for several years due to a series of crises and rising energy costs. Following the collapse of its renewable energy project, focus has shifted to modernising the key granulation line at the end of the production process, estimated at around 140 million EUR. The new technology will enable a broader fertiliser portfolio, increase efficiency, and reduce energy intensity. The project, initially considered before the pandemic, is now a priority and entering the implementation phase. Duslo also notes that a major investment in a modern ammonia plant in recent years secured its competitiveness in a challenging European market. **(SOURCE hnonline.sk)**

MULTIMILLION-EURO STATE CONTRACT IN TISOVEC

The Gemer region is among Slovakia's least developed areas. The state has approved a contract worth over 15 million EUR for 15 UDS vehicles, so-called excavators, to maintain waterways and protect against floods. Demand for these machines is growing among water management authorities, the military, and fire brigades. Each new contract creates jobs in this high-unemployment region and strengthens local industry. Tisovec's CSM Industry plant, known for producing the Patria 8X8 armoured vehicles, also plans to manufacture a new multipurpose 4X4 vehicle. The Tisovec plant, now one of Slovakia's key defence and special vehicle manufacturers, currently employs around 160 people. **(SOURCE my.sme.sk)**

3

SARIO NEWS



A portfolio of 69 ongoing projects worth over 4.9 billion EUR demonstrates the diversification of industry, the growing interest in central and eastern Slovakia, and the country's attractiveness for capital–intensive investments (PHOTO Jaguar Land Rover Nitra)

SARIO secures 33 investment projects and supports Slovak exports in 2025

The agency focused on high-quality investments, regional development, and supporting Slovak exporters. The year 2025 confirmed that, even in a challenging global environment, the Slovak Republic can maintain investor confidence and interest while fostering the growth and internationalization of domestic companies.

INVESTMENTS WITH A FOCUS ON HIGHER ADDED VALUE AND REGIONAL BALANCING

In 2025, SARIO concluded 33 investment projects totaling over 439 million EUR, with the potential to create nearly 3,300 new jobs. Beyond expanding production capacities, these investments targeted the establishment of technology centers and shared service centers, bringing higher–value–added jobs. A portfolio of 69 ongoing projects worth over 4.9 billion EUR demonstrates the diversification of industry, the growing interest in central and eastern Slovakia, and the country's attractiveness for capital-intensive investments. 'Behind these measurable results are concrete companies, jobs, and new opportunities for Slovakia. As we move into 2026, our clear goal is to maintain the quality of investments, support company growth, and actively create opportunities for further development of the Slovak economy,' said Egon Zorád, Chief Executive Officer of SARIO.

'We are entering 2026 with a clear goal — to maintain the quality of investments, help companies grow, and actively create opportunities for the further development of the Slovak economy.'

—

Egon Zorád
Chief Executive Officer
SARIO

EXPORT SUPPORT

A significant part of the agency's activities in 2025 was dedicated to supporting exports and internationalization. Through over a hundred organised events, business missions, trade fair presentations, and cooperation initiatives, the agency facilitated thousands of business meetings for more than 2,000 companies and provided information to an additional thousand through pro-export education programs. The aim of these activities was to help companies expand their export markets, adopt new technologies, and strengthen their ability to compete internationally.

LONG–TERM SOURCES OF GROWTH

In addition to investments and exports, the agency also focused on long-term growth sources in 2025. The Practice for Universities project connected the academic and business sectors, supporting the creation of innovative solutions and high-quality jobs in regional areas. Activities of the Slovak Space Office enhanced Slovakia's profile as a relevant technological partner in the space industry.

CLOSED INVESTMENT PROJECTS 2025



33 +17% number of closed investment projects

439 amount of investments (million EUR)

3289 number of new direct jobs created

7 number of projects with added value

DESTINATIONS OF BUSINESS MISSIONS & FAIRS IN 2025



Agency organized 32 business missions, realized 6 own cooperation events, ensured the participation of Slovak companies at 16 national stands

32 number of completed business missions

100+ number of events to support export and internationalization

6 number of SARIO cooperation events

789 number of B2B meetings



NATIONAL STAND AT THE GULFOOD 2026 TRADE FAIR

Ten small and medium–sized enterprises (SMEs) showcased their offerings in the joint Slovak exhibition at Gulfood, one of the world's largest food industry events. The Slovak companies conducted over 2,500 B2B meetings and assessed their participation as one of the most successful in this segment. **Read more**



BUSINESS MISSION TO ITALY

The Slovak delegation accompanying the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Richard Raši, in Italy included 30 entities from the construction, energy, water management, information and communication technology, finance, and tourism sectors. **Read more**



BUSINESS MISSION TO DUBAI AT INTERSEC 2026

Ten Slovak companies took part in the business mission to Intersec, an event focused on security and protection, fire prevention, cybersecurity, and related innovative trends. SARIO also organised a professional seminar and a networking event for the participants. **Read more**

4

EVENTS



MARCH 12 — MARCH 16, 2026
Business mission to the USA

FEBRUARY 17, 2026
Webinar — Artificial intelligence and intellectual property

SME

FEBRUARY 18 — FEBRUARY 20, 2026
Business mission to North Macedonia

FEBRUARY 24 — FEBRUARY 27, 2026
International Furniture Fair Meble Polska Poznań 2026

SME

MARCH 4 — MARCH 8, 2026
Business mission to India

MARCH 9, 2026
Webinar — Business opportunities in Estonia

MARCH 12 — MARCH 16, 2026
Business mission to the USA

SME



FEBRUARY 18 — FEBRUARY 20, 2026
Business mission to North Macedonia



MARCH 4 — MARCH 8, 2026
Business mission to India

MARCH 18, 2026
Cooperative exchange with Austrian business agents

MARCH 26, 2026
Slovak–Moldovan business forum

APRIL 12 — APRIL 17, 2026
Business mission to Vietnam

APRIL 12 — APRIL 18, 2026
Business mission to Kenya and Tanzania

SME

APRIL 20 — APRIL 24, 2026
Hannover Messe 2026

SME

APRIL 21 — APRIL 23, 2026
Slovak National Stand at DMEA 2026



APRIL 12 — APRIL 18, 2026
Business mission to Kenya and Tanzania



APRIL 12 — APRIL 17, 2026
Business mission to Vietnam

APRIL 21 — APRIL 24, 2026
Business mission to Austria

SME

MAY 3 — MAY 7, 2026
Business mission to Switzerland

SME

JUNE 9 — JUNE 10, 2026
How to participate and succeed in tenders of individual UN agencies and organizations



MAY 3 — MAY 7, 2026
Business mission to Switzerland

SARIO
SLOVAK INVESTMENT AND
TRADE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY





ABOUT US

Services for **foreign investors** and **Slovak exporters** under one roof for 25 years.

→ **More information**

→ **SARIO Newsletter** subscription

CONTACT

Mlynské nivy 44/b
821 09 Bratislava
Slovak Republic
news@sario.sk

Copyright © 2026 Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency
This newsletter is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legally binding advice. SARIO accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising from the use of the information contained herein, whether due to inaccuracies or omissions. The SARIO newsletter has been compiled by SARIO using www.sario.sk and other publicly available sources. Each contribution represents original editorial work, with the original sources clearly acknowledged. SARIO accepts no responsibility for the content of external websites.