



D.T3.3.4 REPORTS ABOUT SERVICE EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES AND REGIONAL SUPPORT POSSIBILITIES

EUBA (SVK)

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Each project-BSO develops a report for its own country about service export opportunities and regional support possibilities for AMs. Report target group: policy makers.



The digital transformation and the shift towards an innovation and technology-driven industry have a huge potential to become a real engine of Slovakia's economic growth. It is necessary for the Slovak economy to shift from classical industrial production to the digital level of the economy. The classical sectoral division of the economy is gradually disappearing, while its interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral character is becoming stronger. Efforts will be made to harness the technological potential and increase private and public investment in progressive technologies such as AI, IoT, 5G, HPC, big data, blockchain, green energy, etc.

To achieve this priority, Slovakia needs to do the following first of all:

- Create opportunities for the first implementations of the above technologies and promote the benefits of their use;
- Promote online platforms and disruptive models for traditional sectors (transport, healthcare, banking and financial services, logistics, energy, etc.);
- Engage in pan-European trials and pilot projects and promote their scalability (an example is the ongoing large-scale testing of connected and autonomous mobility and similar approaches will be developed in other sectors);
- Prepare for the deployment of 5G and autonomous transport technology.

Artificial intelligence and blockchain: to be able to take advantage of today's most revolutionary technologies and to be able to find sufficient applications for them (with a view to exporting services). Two important factors should be kept in mind when looking for the interaction between AI and Slovakia. On the supply side, there must be enough companies that can provide AI services, that can design and implement new business models, and that will be competitive internationally. On the demand side, there is a need to ensure that businesses apply sophisticated solutions and innovations to their processes so that they can save costs and operate at higher levels of productivity.

The fundamental risk of AI is the issue of ethics, impartiality and transparency (the ability to describe its decision-making process). AI is creating systems capable of performing, for the time being, mainly narrowly specific and rather routine tasks that require a certain level of human intelligence. The ethical and moral issue in the short term is that these systems are increasingly being deployed to assess individuals' personal data and applications (e.g. when applying for a job, assessing a loan application, or creating a personality profile of an individual based on their habits and behaviour) as well as deciding how AI will behave in a critical situation where damage to property or human health is unavoidable (e.g. in the event of a collision by an autonomous vehicle). Related to the above are the questions of which activities are ethically appropriate to leave to judgement of AI and which should remain explicitly the prerogative of humans.

The Slovak Strategy proposes the following policies to increase the research potential in the field of AI in both the public and private sectors:

- MIRRI and other relevant ministries support the creation of more national platforms for AI research and exploitation, e.g. Kinit.sk and Slovak.AI, which will further strengthen AI research and education to attract international talent, increase networking opportunities, and develop AI ethics.
- MIRRI and relevant ministries will prepare and disseminate grant calls for basic and applied AI research. Direct financial support of this kind aims to increase Slovakia's research capacity in AI.



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- MIRRI will work with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Economy to increase AI research in the private sector by creating investment opportunities for AI companies and fostering an ecosystem of AI start-ups.
 - The National Security Authority and MIRRI will establish a National Competence and Coordination Centre for Cyber Security to develop new technologies such as encryption and evaluate the use of AI in automating security procedures.

Slovakia needs an entrepreneurial ecosystem that is able to face global competition and produce successful innovations. Technological advances and investments in infrastructure are mainly driven by multinational companies operating in Slovakia, but SMEs and start-ups also make a significant contribution. For this reason, it is necessary for the government to support all these entities to the maximum extent possible.