



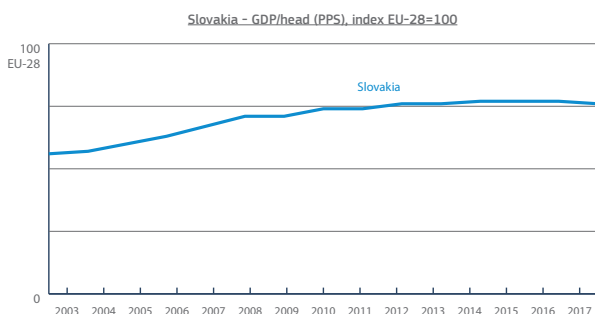
Slovakia was among the 10 countries to accede to the European Union on 1 May 2004. For these Member States to catch up with the EU average in terms of growth and income, the EU invested massively via its Cohesion Policy and, since 2014, via the Investment Plan for Europe, the Juncker Plan. These investments have had very positive results on the ground, not only thanks to EU funding but also to the efforts of these Member States to reform and become attractive places for investors and for businesses to settle and thrive.



“The decision in 2004 to embrace 10 European countries was a great moment for our continent and a great moment in history. The accession of the Central and Eastern European countries, and the courage of their people in preparing for that accession, is what allowed us to reconcile our continent’s geography with its history. I remain an ardent fan of enlargement today.”

President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, 29 April 2019

Convergence: since 2003, Slovakia’s GDP per capita has grown by **20** percentage points compared to the EU average



Growth: Slovakia’s GDP per capita grew by **94%** over 2003-2017, which means wealth almost doubled during this period

Since the beginning of the Juncker Commission in 2014, the European Structural and Investment Funds and the Juncker Plan have supported **25,988** Slovak small and medium businesses.



€29.5 billion

invested in Slovakia over 2004-2020 under the European Structural and Investment Funds

€1.2 billion

of additional investments mobilised in Slovakia under the Juncker Plan since 2014

Since 2014, the EU has been providing structural funding equivalent to **60%** of all public investment in Slovakia.

The EU invests the equivalent of **€2,830** per Slovak citizen in structural funding

The EU finances cohesion projects in Slovakia to **79%** of their value



949 research and research to business projects supported



157,000 people with access to better water and waste water networks



2,248 km of new or upgraded road



215 megawatts of additional capacity in renewable energy production



The EU invested in upgrades on the tram network in Bratislava. First, the network was extended from the city centre to Bratislava's most populous borough, Petržalka. The project included the reconstruction of "Stary most", an old bridge over the Danube. Then, the EU funded the purchase of modern low-floor trams.



Kapso Kovovýroba is a metalwork business in Slovakia. With growing customer demand, they needed larger premises. This was made possible thanks to an EU loan, which also enabled the company to expand its product lines.



The 'National Infrastructure for Technology Transfer Support' EU-funded project involves a new centre for technology transfer (the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information), and the promotion of stronger links between the scientific and research community with businesses and industry across Slovakia.



BUILDING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Slovakia received €93.3 million under the EU research and innovation programme **Horizon 2020**. Within Horizon 2020, a programme called 'Spreading Excellence and Widening' is dedicated to capacity building in universities and research organisations. All Member States that joined the EU after 2004 can get financial support, create partnerships across Europe and build research centres under this programme. Slovakia received €16.9 million in this context.

Enlargement benefits all. By extending the Single Market, it opens new markets to companies in the EU and in the incoming countries. With higher income in these Member States thanks to EU investments, trade and investment opportunities increase everywhere in the EU. EU investments in these countries can contribute to jobs and growth in other Member States even more directly, when a company works as a subcontractor in an EU-funded project across the border.

For example, it is estimated that almost a third of the impact of Cohesion Policy on Germany's GDP comes from the funding programmes implemented in other Member States.

Finally, a larger Single Market is more attractive to investors worldwide: Foreign Direct Investment to the EU has more than doubled as a percentage of GDP since accession – from 15.2% of GDP in 2004 to 40.9% of GDP in 2017.