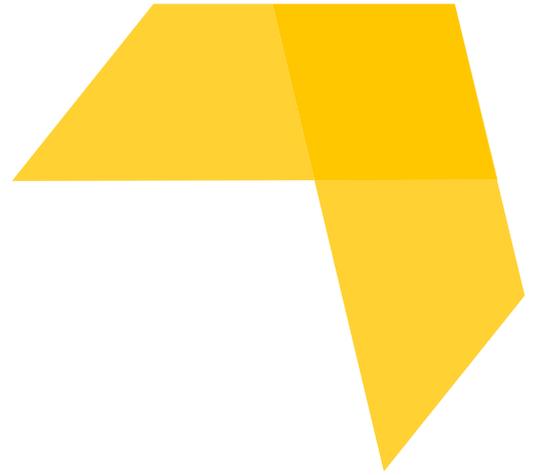


CREADIS3
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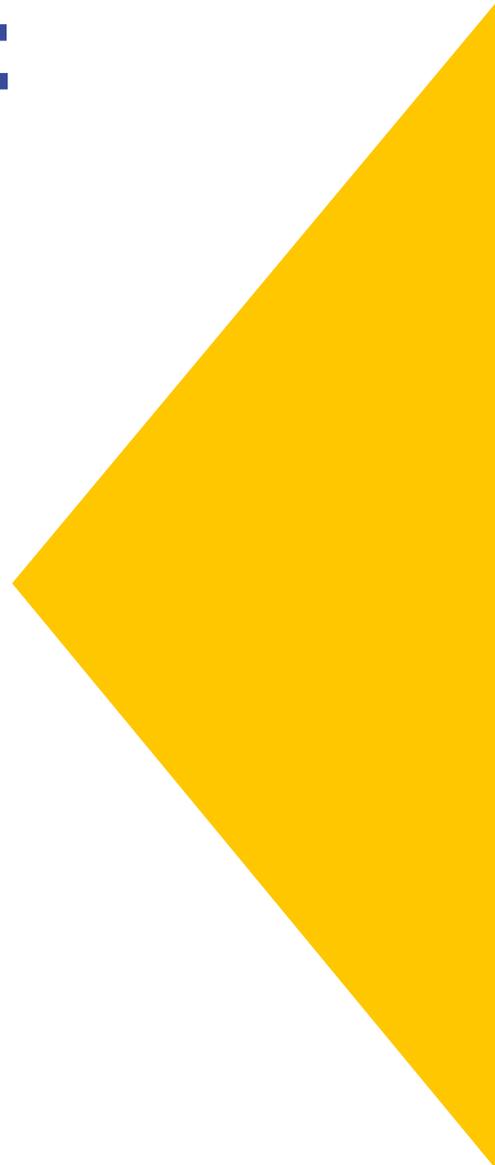


CREADIS3: MAPPING 2 - REGIONAL CREATIVE ECOSYSTEM. SLOVAK REPUBLIC



Mapping 2 - Regional creative ecosystem.

**Regional creative ecosystem
in the Slovak Republic (2017)**



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1/ INTRODUCTION

1.1. The CREADIS3 project

The Creadis3 project was born with the main objective of aligning territorial public policy agendas to support the development of more efficient CCI policies in territories aiming to generate innovation and economic development around cultural policies. Therefore, the project aspires to improve institutional governance and boost CCIs contribution to regional development. To that end, the main objective is declined in 6 sub-objectives:

- Foster multi-level administrative collaboration across the territory to enable better synergies between the different authorities in charge of CCIs /1a/
- Articulate better culture and economic policies for effective CCIs innovation policies /1b/
- Support international territorial attractiveness to increase investment in the creative potential of the region and retain talents/creative entrepreneurs /1c/

- Improve cross collaborations within the local ecosystem of hubs, labs, clusters, incubators, universities, science parks etc. /2a/
- Improve cross fertilisation across culture and technology sectors to trigger spill-over effects /2b/
- Support the internationalisation of SMEs through capacity building and new business models of research and innovation infrastructure and capacities /2c/

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, as a partner of the project, implements activities under the sub-objective 1.

1.2. Objective of the study

The main objective of this study is to identify the regional ecosystem around CCIs in the Slovak Republic. This mapping is focused on supporting policies and tools, stakeholders involved (e.g. universities, tech and creative hubs, incubators, etc.) and services provided (e.g. skills development, business management capacity building, internationalisation support schemes for SMEs, etc.) which are described in following categories:

- Competences development
- Creation
- Entrepreneurship
- Innovation
- Growth
- Financing

This document is mapping just the most important actions, institutions and programmes provided in given areas. Actions targeted specifically on CCIs are rare, so we are reporting most of the programs that provide support for all sectors, not just specifically for CCIs. Summarization of actions of the categories mentioned above is added in the table on the end of this document.

1.3. Current situation

Prior to 2011 there was no systematic support for creative and cultural industries in the Slovak Republic. Since 2011 Ministry of Culture of Slovak Republic adopted new agenda in the field of Cultural and Creative Industries (later “CCIs”) and has been working on several strategic documents such as the Basis of CCIs Development in Slovakia, Analysis of the potential of CCIs in Slovakia, Strategy of CCIs Development and the Action Plan.

In 2013 upon a request of Ministry of Culture in Slovak Republic was a study entitled “Report on the Status and Potential of Creative Industries in Slovakia” developed. For the first time, it summarized available data on this sector, mapped particular sub-areas and proposed fundamental set of solutions and measures for promotion and development of creative industries in Slovakia. In 2014, study called “Possibilities of Development of Creative Industries in Slovakia” was published by Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency.

Both analyses are more generic and needs to be followed up with specific sector analysis as determined previously to strengthen the position and potential of CCIs in Slovak economy. The same applies to the existing Strategy and the Action Plan. Slovak Government adopted Strategy of CCIs Development and in 2015 launched the Action Plan created by working group made of representatives of relevant ministries and experts.

According to the study from 2013¹, relevant estimated socio-economic indicators (last data are from 2011 provided by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic) for CCIs are:

Almost 4,000 units were identified on the Slovak market, which, based on reported business activities, can fall within the creative industries. In Slovakia, most companies operating in the CCI area are SMEs, micro-enterprises or people working as self-employed. When compared to the total number of SMEs and large enterprises in Slovakia, entities doing business in the creative industries account for 6.2% of the corporate sector. By the survey of the Statistical

¹ “Report on the Status and Potential of Creative Industries in Slovakia”

Office of the Slovak Republic, the area of software development and computer consultancy can be clearly designated as the area with the greatest potential and market share.

- Total revenues in the creative industries in 2011 moved to the edge of 5.5 billion EUR, representing nearly 4% of all sales of the Slovak economy.
- According to official statistics, the sector employs over 45 thousand people, representing about 4% of total employment in the Slovak Republic. (this number does not include self-employed persons and freelancers (in the 2011 the statistics for freelancers and self-employed persons in cultural and creative industries didn't exist).

For the development of the creative industry it is essential to complete the necessary infrastructure. This infrastructure should include creative centres designed to support and develop creativity to generate unique concepts and solutions. They should develop tailor-made educational and advisory activities to stimulate their economic growth by generating and supporting the implementation of new business models.

The area of cultural and creative industries concerns not only the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic but also the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic. The main activities of the Ministry of Economy regarding the support of CCI are implemented through the operational program "Science and Research" (ERDF). The Ministry of Economy is dedicated to supporting the development of SMEs in the Slovak Republic as well as internationalization and export.

In particular, there are specific measures in the Slovakia that are most often used to support cultural and creative industries.

CCIs Support Tools in the Slovak Republic:

- Legislation.
- Infrastructure (institutions, hubs, centers, clusters, incubators, etc.).
- Human resources (education: universities, professional associations, raising awareness of the importance of creative industries).
- Acces to finance (public and private financing).

Overall development of CCIs is to be put forward by the following initiatives:

1. Renewal of the Action Plan for Creative Industries in Slovakia based, apart from others, on the Manifesto of Slovak Government, Strategy for CCIs Development and also “Country Report Slovakia 2017” published by European Commission, which resulted in priorities for SMEs as diversification of economy due to automotive- dominated economy and support services for SMEs, which have not yet exhausted their full potential. At the moment, Ministry of Culture of Slovak Republic is working on renewing the Action Plan for Cultural and Creative Industry with the view for the years 2020+ as key document for regulation and implementation of new mechanisms, which is planned to be launched by the end of 2019.
2. Creation of the Satellite Account for CCIs to improve statistical data in this sector. Ministry of Culture is in charge of this task and is preparing to launch Satellite account in 2020 and thus provide relevant statistics for future strategic documents for this sector.
3. Investments in CCIs in the amount of more than 270 mil Euros from ESIF under IROP PA 3 Mobility of Creative Potential in Regions via two schemes. First so called decentralized scheme enables the access to tangible and intangible assets for SMEs in CCS with the aim of new jobs creation. Second so called centralized scheme enables building of creative centers as regional infrastructures supporting CCIs.

2/ COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT

Competence development will be monitored within this mapping in two areas:

- Formal Learning in CClIs.
- Non Formal Learning : Business skills development & Industry-specific Skills.

Formal Learning in CClIs

Necessary precondition for the development of creativity and innovation is the promotion of human capital. One of the tools to stimulate creativity and create conditions for CClIs development in the SR is also vocational training. At present, education in CClIs is

implemented through specialized study programs and departments of secondary vocational schools and universities. The overview of this education in CCI is added in table below (*Table 1: Formal education in CCIs*).

Non Formal Learning

The development of human resources in the cultural and creative industries is one of the priorities defined in the framework of the Strategy of CCIs Development in the Slovak Republic 2014-2020. Its current Action Plan sets out specific tasks focusing on the promotion of entrepreneurial education and entrepreneurship at primary and secondary schools as well as tasks related to the development of incubation and acceleration schemes to support CCIs in the Slovak Republic, which should be implemented from 2019 via IROP PO3.

Currently, there are several business centers, incubators and laboratories in the Slovak Republic. As part of their services, they provide specialized trainings for the development of entrepreneurial skills such as:

- Consultation services.
- Formulation of business plans for future businessmen.
- Short-term education (workshop, seminars, conferences, etc.).

These services are provided mainly in the following entities which are mainly located in the Bratislava self-governing region, but in some regions they are completely absent.

Examples of selected entities and services provided:

National Business Centre

- Typology of services provided: organizing training and informational events and providing individual counseling services.
- Focus on CCIs: partially.

FABLAB

- Typology of services provided: workshops focused on working with different types of materials and Technologies.
- Focus on CCIs: full.

Creative industry Košice

- Typology of services provided: information, news and skills (soft skills), education programme consists of a set of workshops, seminars and lectures, which are designed for the needs of people working in creative industries and culture
- Focus on CCIs: full.

ImpactHub

- Typology of services provided: organization of educational and inspirational events focused on unique formats aimed at helping to develop the overall start-up ecosystem and especially the area of social business in Slovakia.
- Focus on CCIs: partially.

Connect

- Typology of services provided: lectures, courses, seminars and workshops, networking events.
- Focus on CCIs: full.

Slovak Games Developers Association

- Typology of services provided: support of educational activities, cooperation of the SkillDrill educational project, collaboration with the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science, Summer School of Game Development, Creative centers and skills support, lecture activity, dissemination of information within digital media.
- Focus on CCIs: full.

Edufactory by Pixel Federation

- Typology of services provided: gamification, education, technology.
- Focus on CCI: full.

TABLE 1
Formal education in CCIs

SECTORS	SELF-GOVERNMENT OF REGION BRATISLAVA		SELF-GOVERNMENT OF REGION BANSKÁ BYSTRICA		SELF-GOVERNMENT OF REGION TREŇČÍN		SELF-GOVERNMENT OF REGION TRNAVA		SELF-GOVERNMENT OF REGION NITRA		SELF-GOVERNMENT OF REGION ŽILINA		SELF-GOVERNMENT OF REGION PREŠOV		SELF-GOVERNMENT OF REGION KOŠICE	
	HIGH SCHOOLS	UNIVERSITIES	HIGH SCHOOLS	UNIVERSITIES	HIGH SCHOOLS	UNIVERSITIES	HIGH SCHOOLS	UNIVERSITIES	HIGH SCHOOLS	UNIVERSITIES	HIGH SCHOOLS	UNIVERSITIES	HIGH SCHOOLS	UNIVERSITIES	HIGH SCHOOLS	UNIVERSITIES
AUDIOVISUAL	X	X		X	X								X		X	
DIGITAL CONTENT / MULTIMEDIA			X	X	X				X				X		X	
DESIGN (INCLUDING FASHION)	X		X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
PERFORMING ARTS	X	X	X	X							X	X			X	
CRAFTS	X		X		X		X	X	X		X	X			X	
MUSIC	X	X	X	X					X		X	X			X	
VISUAL ARTS	X	X		X				X								X
ADVERTISING	X	X			X		X	X	X		X	X			X	
ARCHITECTURE		X														X
LITERATURE/ PUBLISHING	X										X	X			X	
CULT. HERITAGE	X		X								X	X			X	

3/ CREATION

An indispensable condition for the development of CCIs is the creation of infrastructure to support the work of individual creators. Due to the fact that in Slovakia there is still insufficient infrastructure to systematically cover the needs of CCIs, this need is partly covered by the activities of associations and non-government organisations. State systematic support for the development of the infrastructure will be realized through the activities implemented via the IROP PA3 operational programme in the upcoming years through establishment of creative centers in the regions of Slovakia.



At present, the following entities have been identified that partially cover the infrastructure in CCIs

1. Providing services including rents and coworking spaces

Foundation Cvernovka

The aim is to maintain and expand the existing ecosystem of artists, artists, innovators and developers from the region of Bratislava in order to build a sustainable, creative, cultural and social centre.

Focus on CCIs: full

Tabačka Kulturfabrik & Kasárne Kulturpark

It works as a platform for young creative people who want to set up small businesses in the region of Košice. It maps and presents contemporary local and international productions in music, dance, theater, visual arts, literature, film, design and architecture. It offers a space for creation (creates and provides studio spaces, recording and testing facilities, conducts a residential program, stimulates creative collaboration, etc.)

Focus on CCIs: full

A4 - Space of Contemporary Culture

A4 is a multifunctional non-commercial center of contemporary culture in the center of Bratislava, focusing on creation, presentation and education in current forms of contemporary theater, dance, music, film, contemporary visual culture and the art of new media. The A4 project, a space of contemporary culture, is the result of several years of efforts by several civic cultural organizations to create a center for the promotion and presentation of current arts performances within performing arts and new media to support lively and innovative artistic creation.

Focus on CCIs: full

Business Cloud

Offers all types of different services to support both beginners and existing entrepreneurs who want to expand their business or want to solve concrete business problems.

Focus on CCI: partially

0100 Campus

International coworking 0100 Campus offers everything an entrepreneur might need in order to be productive. Whether it is to work from desk and stay focused or a place for meeting with customer, there is always a place that will help to accomplish the tasks.

Focus on CCI: partially

Business Center B-ZONE

Offers not just rents and coworking spaces, but also provides entrepreneurs with support and access to finance. At Biznis Center you can meet both domestic and foreign entrepreneurs, or expand your knowledge of various business themes, get new contacts and referrals or recommendations.

Focus on CCI: partially

The Spot

Offers all types of different services from rent and coworking spaces to workshops and consulting.

Focus on CCI: partially

Connect Coworking

Offers all types of different services from rent and coworking spaces to workshops and consulting.

Focus on CCI: partially

BrainHouse

BrainHouse offers a mix of a coworking space, accelerator and networking.

Focus on CCI: partially

Ponk

Offers all types of different services from rent and coworking spaces to workshops and consulting.

Focus on CCI: full

Another entities providing mostly rents/coworking spaces:

Coworkingové centrum Prešov Savoy, EveryDay Košice, Halmi_Space, coWorking Spiš, co-Šicke, cancel.sk, Banka Žilina, OFFIS, EASTCUBATOR, HIVE5 – CoWorking Nitra,

2. Providing services excluding rents and coworking spaces

Creative Industry Košice, n.o.

Creative Industry Košice, n.o. helps people from the cultural and creative environment to become professionals, opening international markets and educating them. The organisation also participate in the creation of strategic cultural documents at national and international levels in order to create ideal conditions for the growth and development of cultural and creative industries in Slovakia. It provides education for talented individuals and cultural institutions, increasing their international profile, for example by providing foreign trips, mobility and residential programmes. Its task also includes the creation of favourable conditions for cooperation with the private sector and its involvement in the cultural life of the city. It also helps the city and region develop policies and sustainable regional development through its consultancy and advice on strategic documents.

Focus on CCI: full

Anténa – network for independent culture

Antena is network of cultural centres and organisations, which operates in the field of independent arts&culture of Slovakia. Their intention is to represent independent cultural centres in communication with organs of State Administration and municipalities, improve their position in the system of cultural policies and help with creating professional conditions for their operation.

Focus on CCI: full

Stanica Žilina – Záríečie

Its program consists of festivals, theater performances, concerts, screenings, lectures, exhibitions, workshops, courses, residential stays for young artists, production of art projects, hosting and broadcasting of volunteers abroad, events for children and schools etc.

Focus on CCI: full

Following main entities were identified in promoting creators and creation in CCIs

Architecture

Slovak Architects Society - CEZAAR (prize for architecture)

The role of the CEZAAR Award is to emphasize the cultural value of architectural works, to promote the excellence of professional architects' performances, but to cultivate public awareness of the need to develop high-quality architecture as a basic principle of enhancing the quality of the environment created by the construction.

Design

Union of Graphic Designers of Slovakia

The main goal of the union is the creation of respected expert authority to defend the interests of graphic designers, set standards in the relationship between the graphic designer and the client, and to educate graphic designers for the public and the institutions.

Slovak Fashion Council

Slovak Fashion Council (SFC) is a professional non-profit organization that supports and develops the Slovak fashionable ecosystem. SFC was created in 2011. The mission is to increase the educational level of designers and professionals from the industry, to bring designers and brands opportunities to retail and wholesale orders; creating opportunities for presenting at home and abroad, and being a professional business and leisure center in the Slovak Republic and abroad. The SFC vision is to improve the fashion industry in Slovakia so that domestic designers and industry professionals make a profit to form a significant component of creative industry and culture, and that Slovakia gains credibility and creates a distinctive awareness abroad.

Denamit

Denamit is a group that aims to promote and present Slovak design and utility art. It was founded in 2009 by designers and designers moving in various areas of design and fine arts. Denamit organizes, exhibits, collaborates, educates, discusses and make presentations.

Music

SLOVGRAM: An independent company of performers and producers of audio and audio video recordings/collective rights manager

SLOVGRAM is an independent company - non-business entity, established as an association under Act No. 83/1990 Coll. It was founded in 1991 with the purpose of protecting the rights of performers and producers of audio and audio-video recordings. The scope of its activities is defined by Act No. 618/2003 Coll. and the contracts concluded with artists and producers of audio and audio-video recordings. These are separate contracts of Slovak artists and producers, contracts of foreign executives and producers, all unrepresented executive

artists and producers as well as partner organizations abroad which have delegated our rights to us.

LALA Slovak Music Export

It is a non-profit civic association that tries to help Slovak music. Its aim is to create a concept of long-term support and presentation of the Slovak musical scene abroad. It focuses on regular education and networking within Slovak music scene.

Audiovision

Association of Independent Producers (ANP)

ANP was formed in 2010 as a platform to protect the interests of independent producers and producers of audiovisual works. The subject of its activity is:

- Creating a communications platform for producers.
- Protecting the interests of the audiovisual industry and promoting the common interests of members of the association.
- Setting up a platform for the technological, commercial and ethical standards of the audiovisual industry.
- Creating an environment for the enforcement and protection of intellectual property rights.
- Cooperation with regulators and other public authorities, especially in the preparation of the legislative environment.
- Representation of members in international organizations of the audiovisual industry.
- The creation of statistical and information databases in the audiovisual industry and the mutual sharing of this information.
- Popularizing the association and the results of its activities.
- Promoting the audiovisual industry.

Slovak Association of Producers in Audiovisual (SAPA)

SAPA is an independent, nonprofit organization with legal identity. It brings together and represents producers of audiovisual works (producers) or managers of the rights of producers of audiovisual works (producers of Slovak films), it means the owners or managers of copyright more than 90% of all feature films and films intended mainly for distribution in cinemas produced in Slovakia. SAPA members own or manage copyrights of more than 8,000 Slovak audiovisual works.

SAPA also cooperates with European organizations and institutions such as CEPI.TV, EUROCOPYA, FIAPF, EPAA, AGICOA and other organizations associating and representing producers from the European Union as well as from other continents with the same or related objectives.

Association of Independent Radio and Television Stations (ANRTS)

ANRTS brings together competing entities for negotiation with the state administration bodies (Council of the SR for Radio and Television Broadcasting, Parliamentary Committees, Parliamentary Committees, Telecommunications Office of the Slovak Republic) whose activities are in the field of radio and television broadcasting, public service media, other media and advertising associations, European private broadcasting structures.

ANRTS, in the interest of its members, has concluded a framework agreement with the copyright protection organizations SOZA, SLOVGRAM, OZIS and LITA, providing its members with legal services (laws, digitization) and the background that allows them to be an equivalent partner for public institutions. ANRTS is also one of the founding members of the Advertising Council, an association created to regulate the ethical level of broadcasts and advertisements.

Abroad, it is a member of EASA (The European Advertising Standards Alliance, the European Association of Self-Regulating Authorities in Brussels, EASA's goal is to represent the interests of marketing communications in European legislation) and observers at AER (The Association of Europe Radios). It organizes seminars and workshops as well.

Multimedia (video games and digital content)

Slovak Game Development Association

Slovak Game Developers Association was formed from the lack of body that could represent game developers in Slovakia, their needs, promote projects on a global market, negotiate with strategic partners, accelerate the business and bring opportunities directly to game developers. The main activities of SGDA include:

- Dissemination of the good name of the industry.
- Support for festivals and development events.
- Hosting important personalities from abroad.

Literature (publishers, online and print media)

Association of Slovak Writers

Association of Slovak Writers is a civic association with nationwide competence, which brings together over 450 Slovak writers. Its mission is to help create favorable conditions for the free development of Slovak literary works and for the dissemination of Slovak literature, its versatile application at home and abroad, in particular by: promoting freedom of expression and creation and professional interests and civil rights of its members regarding to the public institutions and state institutions; creates an environment for literary association in regional domestic and foreign branches and clubs of interest; encourages the development of the original Slovak artistic literature; supports the work of beginning literary authors and cooperates with other associations with common interest (domestic or abroad).

Advertising and Marketing

Club of Advertising Agencies of Slovakia (KRAS)

KRAS is designed to continually increase the level of Slovak advertising and marketing communication as an integral part of the market economy. It is a select professional organization whose members are the most successful and most productive advertising agencies operating on the Slovak market.

Zlatý klinec Award is the most significant and most prestigious Slovak creative competition announced by KRAS. The basic criteria for evaluating the originality and innovation of creative ideas and the quality of its implementation. The competition has been published since 1994 by the Ad Awards Association, p. r. and professional guarantors are the Slovak Advertising Agencies Club (KRAS), Art Director's Club Slovakia (ADC) and the Monthly Strategy.

Interactive Advertising Bureau Slovakia

IAB Slovakia – Association of the Internet Media is the biggest association on the Slovak digital market. Currently it has 39 members, including the biggest Slovak publishers, media agencies and other important players active in online advertising. Activities of the Association focus on standardization of the digital advertising market by establishing single rules and standards for the online advertising, as well as supervising the ethical rules in the industry. It supports further development of the Slovak online ecosystem with the use of educational activities. It provides information about the happening in the digital market segment in Slovakia and in the world, monitors and informs about the changes in legislation, which is closely connected with the digital environment. At the same time it works as a platform for mutual communication between the subjects of entrepreneurial activity in online advertising and as a communication canal with the third party professional organizations in the sphere of the internet or with the government authorities.

Performing Arts

Association of contemporary dance

It is a non-governmental organization founded in 1996 by artists working in the field of contemporary dance (dancers, choreographers and students). It works in the field of contemporary dance, physical theater and performing arts. It cooperates with many domestic and foreign cultural organizations to support contemporary Slovak art and a priori contemporary dance in the context of domestic and international art space.

Visual Arts

The Slovak Art Union

The Slovak Art Union is the umbrella association of professional artists and theoreticians.

The Slovak Art Union is also a member of the International Non-Governmental Organization of the International Association of Art - I.A.A. UNESCO, represented in the Executive Committee of IAA EUROPE UNESCO, actively participated in the preparation and conduct of the Conference on Legal and the social status of artists in Europe (Paris, Center Pompidou, 2008), is a member of the Slovak Cultural Coalition and has representation in Grémiu, which represents at home and abroad.

The Slovak Illustrators Association (ASIL)

It is a voluntary, open group of creative artists whose aim is to chart the current situation in illustration and literary culture. Objectives of ASIL are as follows: create a comprehensive yet open database that constitutes the most diverse forms of the Slovak illustration; show the work not only of renowned but rising generation of illustrators as well; look for new figures in illustration; smooth the communication process among publishers, writers, and illustrators; support uncommon book projects and build up conditions to their realisation; provide current information on competitions, exhibitions, projects, fairs, festivals, workshops etc., in illustration; introduce the ASIL members to home and international book forums; establish collaboration with foreign illustrators associations make space for discussion on book illustration.

4/ ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In June 2015, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Conception on support and development of Start-ups ecosystem in the Slovak Republic, where they are seen as the source of innovative solutions with significant growth potential. The idea of this concept is to support the start-up ecosystem in the Slovak Republic by creating a business environment and a state support system that could activate Slovak subjects and individuals with unique ideas, attract foreign subjects with innovative ideas and make investment in startups more attractive.

Business & Technology Incubators

Properly functioning network of incubators that would provide appropriate facilities and comprehensive services for start-ups is not yet sufficiently developed in Slovakia. Nevertheless the incubators in Slovakia have achieved considerable development. Recent years have shown that the Slovak incubators can not exist without the support of the academic sector, interconnection of science and research to practice and venture capital, therefore

the two types are the most widespread in Slovakia. Business Incubator is an organization that systemizes the process of creating new successful companies by providing space and a complete, integrated range of services. The Technology Incubator supports the transfer of technology from the scientific, research and university environment to business practice through the creation of new technology-oriented innovation companies.

Overview of selected technological and business incubators in the Slovak Republic

- **University Technology Incubator InQb – Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava**
- **Technology Incubator VTP Žilina.**
- **Incubator Malacky.**
- **Eastcubator Košice.**
- **Binarium “The center of innovation, technology and start-ups”.**
- **Startup center TUKE.**
- **LAUNCHER.**

An important support for the CCIs will be the implementation of incubation and acceleration schemes specifically aimed at supporting CCIs in the Slovak Republic through IROP PA3, which should be implemented from 2019 onwards.

Business and Innovation Centers (BIC)

Business and Innovation Centers (BICs) are institutions supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. They are the result of the European Commission and the private and public sector’s efforts to promote economic development and innovation potential in the European region. The initiative to build business and innovation centers has been around for

over 30 years, and the main goal of these centers is to promote innovative entrepreneurship through start up and spin off. Entrepreneurial and Innovation Centers are associated with the EBN that covers these centers in the EU.

Innovative and business centers offer services related to the innovation process in enterprises. These are services such as consultancy (e.g. obtaining financial resources, participating in EU programs, etc.), access to finance and financial services, technology transfer, liaison with universities and scientific workplaces, business incubation.

Overview of Business and Innovation Centers in the Slovak Republic

BIC Banská Bystrica

The main focus and types of activities: services suitable for the development of business activities, assistance, counseling and premises for start-ups as well as existing businesses and the possibility of educational services for selected groups of business people.

BIC Bratislava

The main focus and types of activities: support for innovation, technology transfer and business development. Services include, in particular, business and innovation advice, support for international cooperation, consultation on access to finance, as well as support for the EU Framework Programs for Research, Development and Innovation. In addition, he also provides intellectual property protection services or search for potential foreign business partners.

BIC Prievidza & Technology Incubator

The main focus and types of activities: one of the main objectives is the creation of “incubator companies” (mostly innovative nature) which are provided for 3-5 years privileged services, thus contributing to building a network of small and medium-sized enterprises in cities.

BIC Spišská Nová Ves, s.r.o.

The main focus and types of activities: providing office and production facilities, technical infrastructure as well as selected services to small start-ups to increase their chances of business success during the initial phase of business.

Inovačné partnerské centrum Prešov/ Innovative Partner Center Prešov

The main focus and types of activities: to provide institutional infrastructure through innovative tools for the implementation of regional and state innovation policy in the regions in line with regional innovation strategies and the innovation strategy of the Slovak Republic, renewing and expanding the innovation potential for innovative entrepreneurship, developing business cooperation with research, development and educational institutions in the regions, to educate the workforce according to the requirements of entrepreneurs and to strengthen and develop cooperation between universities and other relevant institutions with entrepreneurs at regional, supraregional and international level.

Support programmes for SMEs - Slovak Business Agency (SBA)

An important institution in the field of support SME is also the SBA. It is the oldest institution specialized on the support of SME, established by the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic. The SBA provides full assistance to entrepreneurs in line with the principles of the Small Business Act. It focuses on promoting entrepreneurship at national, regional and local level as well as enhancing the competitiveness of entrepreneurs in the EU common market and in third country markets. Non-financial and financial forms of support are provided for all SMEs. SBA is also a member of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) through which Slovak SMEs can use tools to support foreign trade.

As part of its services does not focus specifically on the CCIs.

Overview of the selected programmes provided

Incubation - National Business Centre (NBC)

National Business Centre offers comprehensive support to small and medium-sized enterprises and those interested in starting their business. It includes four NBC programs available throughout the life cycle of a business from its establishment to growth in the domestic or foreign market (Incubation, Acceleration + Creative Point, Internship and Growth programme).

The goal of Incubation program is to support and develop starting SMEs in the most challenging phase of their life-cycle, thus increasing their odds to live through the first, most critical years of doing business. The Incubation Program is designed for starting entrepreneurs, registered no more than three years prior to submitting their application to join the program, who have their business seat in the Bratislava region and meet the definition of a small and medium-sized business.

SME-E-learning

The aim of the program is to ensure that SMEs are informed by creating an “SME e-learning portal” to know about the e-learning opportunities they have at their disposal and to know how to make the best use of them, thereby ensuring their acceptance by managers and employees.

I 5/ INNOVATION

In the area of innovation, universities also have an important place to provide a suitable environment for innovation, in particular through research and academic activities that they carry out in addition to their main focus. Important parts of supporting the innovation in CCI are also the labs, which were created especially at the universities (supported via ESIF).

Overview of Selected Labs in the Slovak Republic and other significant institutions in this field

FABLAB (Center for Scientific and Technological Innovation)

Promotes creativity, inventiveness, new technological and innovative processes.

Center of Art and Science (Academy of Music Arts)

Initiation, coordination and realization of art-research projects at the Academy of Music Arts.

MediaLab (Academy of Fine Arts)

A specialized space within the Department of Visual Communication at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava, which creates a technological and theoretical background for innovative techniques in graphic design and multimedia used in visual communication.

LAD (Academy of Fine Arts)

The laboratory provides space for the experimental side of graphic design such as the search for new tools and procedures, and the use of different materials to create an image and object in a digital and analogue way.

TypoLab (Academy of Fine Arts)

The specialized workplace Typolab is the space for the development of individual authors' projects in the field of book design and text media.

Glass Competence Center VILA (Trenčianska univerzita Alexandra Dubčeka v Trenčíne)

University Science Park (Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava)

- *Learning experience and interaction center uxi@fit.*
- *Computer Technology Research Center.*

The platform for innovation in the Slovak Republic is the **Competence Centers**. They are tools to support collaborative applied research. The founders of the centers are academic institutions and the partners are industrial companies. The Competence Center concept consists of the following sub-objectives:

- Promote and improve long-term strategic cooperation between academic institutions and industry.
- Stimulate competitiveness and applied industrial research.
- Reinforce the exchange of knowledge and dissemination of new technologies.

- Create a sufficient number of excellent scientific outputs.
- Introduce good practice in research and education management.

The creation of the Competence Centers were supported through the operational program Science and Research (implemented via Slovak Organization for Research and Development Activities) and were formed as part of the following institutions:

- **Competence Center for New Materials, Advanced Technologies and Energy** (Electrotechnical Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava).
- **Competence center for intelligent technologies for electronization and information systems and services** (Slovak Technical University in Bratislava).
- **Competence Center for Industrial Research and Development in the Light Metal and Composites** (Department of Materials and Mechanics of Machines - Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava).
- **Competence Center for Knowledge Technologies for Innovation in Production Systems in Industry and Services** (Technical University of Košice).

Other institutions supporting innovation (including CCIs)

Business and Innovation Centers (BICs)

BICs are institutions supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. They offer services related to the innovation process in enterprises. These are services such as consultancy (e.g. obtaining financial resources, participating in EU programs, etc.), access to finance and financial services, technology transfer, liaison with universities and scientific workplaces, business incubation. The overview of the BICs in Slovakia and description of the main activities is mentioned above in the chapter 4. *Entrepreneurship*.

Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA)

A supportive tool to support the internationalization of SMEs in the CCI area is the national project *Support for Creative Industry in the Slovak Republic* from the operational programme *Research and Innovation* implemented by SIEA. The project aims to create conditions for the development of new innovative solutions (products and services) of entrepreneurial subjects (new business models, promoting partnership and networking, creating online platforms, establishing clusters) in the CCIs and stimulating the innovation process through mutual cooperation of SMEs with creative industry actors in order to improve their innovative performance and competitiveness in domestic and international markets. The target group of the national project will be small and medium-sized enterprises active in the creative industry. Eligible applicants are business entities (SMEs) in the fields of advertising and marketing, architecture, design, fashion design.

Innovation Forum Slovakia

Innovation Forum Slovakia is an open platform, bringing together innovative experts from all over Slovakia. It focuses on the exchange of experience in research and development to support and manage innovation, technology transfer and application in innovative business. Innovation Forum Slovakia is coordinated by BIC Bratislava, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Center of Scientific and Technical Information of the Slovak Republic. Innovation Forum Slovakia focuses on the following activities:

- Exchange of experience in research and development to support and manage innovation, technology transfer and its application to innovative entrepreneurship.
- Contribute to building and developing innovative infrastructure, innovation potential and conditions for an innovative market, taking into account Community rules of the European Union (EU Framework for State Support to Research, Development and Innovation).
- Ensuring synergies with state administration and self-government bodies in the field of support and management of innovation and their application in innovative entrepreneurship, submission of proposals for measures and support programs in this field and in agreement with the beneficiaries of approved programs, participation in ensuring their progress and evaluation.

- Recruitment of institutions and personalities (including members of government and deputies), representatives of research, development and innovation organizations, industry, entrepreneurs, regional authorities, chambers, banks and other stakeholders to support innovation and development of innovative entrepreneurship in the Slovak Republic.

Programmes to promote innovation (including CCIs)

www.inovujme.sk

The project aims to raise awareness of the importance of innovation among Slovak entrepreneurs, as well as in secondary and tertiary schools in all regions in Slovakia.

Innovation vouchers

In order to initiate and intensify direct cooperation between entrepreneurs and selected research and development departments, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic has announced calls for applications for non-repayable subsidies in the form of innovative vouchers. The scheme was implemented by the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) in 2013 and 2014. In 2015 it was possible to apply for the vouchers directly to the Ministry of Economy. Innovative vouchers are funded from the state budget and should support the development of innovative business activities. Entrepreneurs can apply for support for those activities that are oriented to the innovation of its own products, services or technologies.

Innovative Action of the Year

The competition for the Prize of the Minister of Economy - “Innovative Action of the Year” is to draw the attention of the general public to interesting innovative activities of Slovak entrepreneurs. The prize is awarded in three categories:

- Product innovation (product innovation).
- Technological innovation (processes).
- Service innovation (non-technological process).

6/ GROWTH (INCLUDING INTERNATIONALISATION)

Acceleration Programmes

National Business Center national project implemented by the Slovak Business Agency offers comprehensive support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and those interested in starting their business. The main mission of the NBC is to implement the concept of a one-stop-shop offering a wide portfolio of information and supplementary services to all starting and established businesses in different stages of their life cycles and aspiring entrepreneurs as well as to creative and innovative people who are considering commercializing their idea or product. The project consists of four programs. Regarding this chapter, we will focus on three programs:

Acceleration Program

designed for natural persons – non-entrepreneurs who represent the wide public. It is aimed at building interest in entrepreneurship, increasing motivation for creating new business ideas and developing basic entrepreneurial skills. The Acceleration Program offers:



professional counseling, training courses and activities aimed at development of business potential in order to address the needs of those interested in entrepreneurship; increasing awareness about entrepreneurship as a career alternative; and presenting business success stories and good business practice.

Internship

This is NBC's non-financial program, opening doors to the world of new experiences and their sharing for active entrepreneurs as well as aspiring ones. It is designed to assist innovative companies and aspiring entrepreneurs to get experience with doing business in well-advanced foreign markets via counseling services from foreign experts and mentors. This design gives SMEs and aspiring entrepreneurs new knowledge, experience and information from both domestic and foreign experts in various areas.

Growth programme

The Growth Program offers support to small and medium-sized businesses with a potential to grow, innovate, increase their market share, expand beyond the Slovak market or strengthen their competitiveness, conclude business partnerships and penetrate foreign markets.

Escalator – Creative Industry Košice

The Escalator 2016 project from public funds was supported by the Arts Support Fund (Ministry of Culture SR). Escalator is an effective and intensive program to educate and develop the creativity, talent and professionalism of people working in the creative industry. Specifically, this program is designed for artistic individuals, groups, but also for cultural and creative organizations. The program has been running for the third year with the main goal of helping professionals achieve success with their own commitment and becoming successful cultural innovators and entrepreneurs inspiring change and influencing their surroundings. Escalator is focused on tailor-made training and support through seminars, coaching, mentoring, business and strategic planning, research and development, study visits or pilot implementation.

Internationalisation Programmes

The Slovak Republic still has a low rate of involvement of Slovak SMEs in internationalization. The share of Slovak SMEs in exports and imports is higher than the EU average. Overall, however, Slovakia lags behind the EU average due to higher bureaucracy (time, cost and number of export and import documents).

The organizational structure of foreign trade of the Slovak Republic, as well as the support of its foreign trade activities, is ensured by the state administration, its central authorities for each area. The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic is a key player in support of foreign trade activities. Other forms of business support and foreign trade activities are also addressed by other central government authorities and several institutions and bodies:

- Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.
- Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.
- Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic.

Other institutions supporting export and SMEs in Slovakia:

- Export-Import Bank of the Slovak Republic.
- Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- The Slovak Agriculture and Food Chamber.
- Slovak Guarantee and Development Bank.
- Slovak Business Agency.
- Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency.

- Association of Employers Associations and Associations of the Slovak Republic
- Slovak Agency for Investment and Trade Support

The SARIO Foreign Trade Department provides a complex of information, advisory, assistance and education services for Slovak exporters and foreign investors about Slovak production and production cooperation. It supports small and medium-sized enterprises with an emphasis on increasing the export and investment activities of Slovak entrepreneurs abroad.

Export academy SARIO

The goal of the Export academy is to increase the level of competence in the techniques and practices in the area of foreign trade of Slovak SMEs that are exporters, and thereby to support their further expansion to new and riskier foreign markets. The pro- export seminars of the Export academy focus on ‘hard skills’, that is techniques and operations in foreign trade, as well as ‘soft skills’, for instance negotiation skills in contact with a foreign partner, communication, presentation, and cultural differences and customs in territories of interest. An integral part of the academy is advising based on shared information, practical trainings and successful examples from practice.

Other forms of state support for export:

- Strategy of the External Economic Relations of the Slovak Republic for the period 2014-2020.
- SME support from EU funds (Operational Program Research and Innovation, PA business environment favorable to innovation, SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1: Support for the internationalization of SMEs and the creation of new business models).

Examples of activities:

- Participation of Slovak enterprises in presentation events.
- Presentation of SMEs and their investment potential on foreign markets.

- Promoting SMEs in priority sectors on foreign markets.
 - The organization of international fairs and exhibitions with a global reach to promote SMEs.
 - Creation of alternative business and support platforms.
 - Involving SMEs in EU community programs.
- Horizont 2020 Programme - the specific Horizon 2020 instrument for SMEs
 - Catalog of basic services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and its representative offices in the field of economic diplomacy for the business community:
 - Business support and advisory service.
 - Business opportunities, tenders.
 - Information about the market, press service.
 - The portal export.slovensko.sk provides comprehensive information on state export support in Slovakia. The goal of the portal is:
 - To facilitate the potential and existing exporters' orientation in the possibilities of export support by state institutions.
 - Provide cross-sectional information (focusing on sectors and territories).
 - Be a contact point for Slovak entities searching for export information.

Non-State support for export:

Mixed Chambers of Commerce.

7/ PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FINANCING FOR CULTURE AND CCIS

Public financing for culture and CCIs

Supporting programmes and subsidies for culture and the CCIs are covered at public level mainly through operational programs, grant schemes and funds.

Operational Programs

1. Integrated regional operational programme 2014 - 2020 - Priority axis No. 3: Mobilization of creative potential in the regions

Implementation period

2018 – 2023 (ongoing, 1st call for decentralised support out, call for centralized support in preparation)

Financing

Projects under the IROP are co-financed by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and from the state budget of the Slovak Republic.

Characteristics

The Ministry of Culture is currently the Intermediary Body for Priority Axis no. 3: Mobilizing creative potential in the regions under the Integrated Regional Operational Program 2014-2020. Priority axis No. 3: Mobilizing creative potential in the regions - creation of a conducive environment for the development of creative talent and non-technological innovations such as stimulating the promotion of employment and job creation in the cultural and creative industry. Proposed measures will contribute to address current needs and deficiencies in the cultural and creative sector and will have a positive impact on the access of the creative talents to the markets. Measures will enable them to gain, under preferential conditions, working premises, including a technological base, new skills and know-how for the implementation of innovations, new contacts, business support and access to start-up capital.

The specific objective

Will be achieved by implementing two different types of support and their activities:

Centralized support

This type of support involves building a specific infrastructure (creative centers) in each region of the Slovak Republic. The Creative Center will be focused on the development of CCIs and will provide service to creative individuals and entities. The center will provide services such as business support activities through creative incubator and accelerator services, services aimed to develop creative talent and skills through open workshops and innovative studios or internships, networking support, services supporting market access and fostering demand for creative work.

Decentralised support

This type of support is aimed at enabling access to tangible and intangible assets for SMEs in CCS with the aim of new jobs creation. This type of support can be applied to private-sector applicants operating in the CCI sectors through demand-driven projects focused on procurement of tangible and intangible assets for production

and innovation processes; expenditures for reconstruction, the adaptation and renovation of buildings directly connected to the purchase of new technologies, equipment; support for marketing activities (workshops fees, fair fees, exhibition costs, promotion of local products and services, marketing strategies focused on local products promotion costs); rental of spaces and technologies with the purpose of production (small-lot), innovation and distribution (out of creative centres premises); or support of creative creation and production with the purpose their distribution in order to SMEs support and jobs creation.

2. Operational programme research and innovation 2014 – 2020 (OPVal) - Priority axis No. 3: Strengthening competitiveness and growth of SMEs

Implementation period

(ongoing, first calls out at the end of 2016)

Financing

Projects under the OPVal are co-financed by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and from the state budget of the Slovak Republic.

Characteristics

Represents a joint program document of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic providing support from the European Structural and Investment Funds for the programming period 2014-2020 in the field of creating a stable environment favorable to innovation for all relevant actors and support increasing the efficiency in the field of research, innovation and science as a key pillar for increasing competitiveness, sustainable economic growth and employment.

The specific objective 3.1.1 - Enhancing the growth of new competitive SMEs - focuses on comprehensive solutions supporting the establishment of new SMEs and the acceleration of recently founded SMEs, as well as start-ups and spin-offs. The related measures will ensure systemic support during the initial business stages, and the creation of appropriate conditions for the growth of competitiveness of SMEs and for reducing the extent of their disappearance (e.g. creative industry).

This includes activities - aimed at SMEs in general (including CCI sectors Architecture, Design and Advertising) - such as support for new SMEs and start-ups through grants and financial instruments (loan programme to support new SMEs and start-ups, venture capital fund for start-ups at seed and start-up stages) focusing also on the promotion of industry and services, including knowledge-intensive services; promotion of activities and development of business centres in Slovak regions (one-stop-shops) with the aim to establish institutions for SMEs or provision of long-germ counselling services.

The specific objective 3.3.1 - Increasing SME competitiveness at their development phase.

This includes activities - development of existing SMEs through grants and financial instruments; provision of information and counselling for SME development or supporting the development of alternative forms of entrepreneurship - and activities aimed specifically at CCIs - creation of new creative industry business models. This activity will seek to support the development of this sector through the provision of targeted counselling, training and other support activities, including those focusing on inter-sectoral cooperation and internationalisation. It will also support activities enhancing the growth of development capacities and their networking for the purposes of making the creative process more effective and to commercialise the results of creative work of firms active in the creative industry sector. Activities promoting creative industry and market development activities will also be supported. The activity will be implemented by means of a national project and assistance schemes. Within the CCIs it will focus on the target group of business entities from the fields of advertising and marketing, architecture, design, fashion design and information and communication technologies.

There is also another specific objective that is only focused on supporting the CCIs based in the Bratislava region and will be realized through similar activities mentioned above.

Grant schemes and funds

The public financial funds for supporting culture and CCIs in the Slovak Republic can be found on each administrative level.

At **national level**, following subsidies were identified:

Grant system of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

The structure of subsidy programs of the grant system of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic was greatly influenced by the creation of two major state funds providing

the support for arts, namely the Audiovisual Fund (2010) and the Slovak Arts Council (2015). Before the establishment of these funds were the subsidy programs also aimed at support the development and production within the arts sectors. Since 2016, the area of support for creation and production within the individual arts sectors has been fully covered by the Slovak Arts Council, and the ministry's subsidy system has been modified and currently focuses primarily on the protection, restoration and development of cultural heritage and the provision of cultural vouchers.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	18 703 020 €	9 098 254 €

Art Funds

Slovak Arts Council

The Slovak Arts Council is a public institution providing support for artistic activities, culture and creative industries, which was established on 1.1.2015 on the basis of Act No. 284/2014 Z. z. , of Act No. 434/2010 Z. z. and Act No. 79/2013 Z. z. The Fund replaces a substantial part of the subsidy system of the Ministry of Culture and is independent of central government authorities.

The Fund provides funding, in particular, for the creation, dissemination and presentation of works of art; promoting international cooperation; educational programs in the fields of art, culture and creative industries; scholarships for individuals who are creatively or scientifically involved in the development of art and culture. In the individual programs, the state aid scheme applies to their funding. Fund support programs in 2016 concerned only areas of the cultural core or the cultural industry (support for the creation of a work). With the ambition to support the creative industry as well, in 2017, under Program 1 - Art, the new subprogram "multimedia support" was added under the Interdisciplinary activities category. From 2018, under Program 1 - Art, the new subprogram "Creation and realization of Designs" will be added in the Visual art category.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	-	14 330 390 €

Audiovisual Fund

Audiovisual Fund is a public institution providing support for promotion and development of audiovisual culture and industry in The Slovak Republic, which was established on 1.1.2009 on the basis of Act No. 532/2010 Z. z.

Fundamental activity of the fund is the support of audiovisual culture and industry in The Slovak Republic. Since 1 January 2010, the Fund has been providing funding specifically for the creation, development, preparation and production of Slovak audiovisual works (fiction, documentary and animated cinematographic works) as well as the production and distribution of Slovak audiovisual works, the realization and distribution of co-production cinematographic works, which the Slovak producer has a co-production share. The Fund also provides funding for festivals, exhibitions and other cultural activities and activities of audiovisual and cinematographic entities, presentation and promotion of Slovak audiovisual works, dissemination of periodical publications and non-periodical publications in the field of audiovisual and cinematography, technology development, education as well as professional research in the field of audiovisual and film art. Support activity is implemented through grants, scholarships and loans. As of 1 January 2014, the Fund also provides funding to support the audiovisual industry, which is intended to support the realization of larger domestic and foreign film productions and co-productions.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	6 514 900 €	7 433 688 €

Literary Fund

The Literary Fund is a national cultural institution established by law - Act No. 13/93. The structure of the supporting activities of the Literary Fund is divided into the following programs: *Original literature; Scientific and professional literature and computer programs; Journalism and journalistic photography; Radio, theater and entertainment; Television, film and video production; Artistic translation and Scientific and professional translation.*

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	598 000 €	624 000 €

The Fine Arts Fund

The Fine Arts Fund is a national cultural institution established by law - Act No. 13/93. providing support for creative activities of fine arts and architecture in the field of original artistic and architectural creation, restoration, utility art as well as artistic theory and criticism.

The supporting activity of the Visual Arts Fund is focused mainly on promotion and presentation of artistic production; supporting creative and study visits and visits for artists and their family members and social financial contributions to artists and their immediate family members.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	180 000 €	195 000 €

Music Fund

The Music Fund is a national cultural institution established by law - ActNo.13/93. The main focus of the Fund is to support creative, scientific and artistic activity in the field of musical art, with particular regard to the creative area of classical music, popular music, reproduction artists and music science and criticism. The main part of the Fund's activity is non-profit.

Among other things, the Music Fund in particular focuses on the following activities: helps to create material conditions for the development of musical art of all genres by providing funding to music creators and organizations under the Music Fund Support Fund; awarding Music Fund prizes; publishes the Catalog of Notable Titles for Sale and the Catalog of Notable Titles for Rent; borrowing music material from foreign publishers, and more.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	114 594 €	115 153 €

Other funds (not specifically focused on culture/CCIs)

Fund for the Financing of Minority Cultures

The foundation of the fund was approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic in 2017. The main purpose of the fund is to preserve, express, protect and develop the identity of cultural values of national minorities by providing funds to support their cultural and scientific activities through subsidies or scholarships.

Potential applicants may apply for financial support for projects in the fields of cultural, educational or editorial activities; the activities of theaters, artistic groups and cultural institutions; free-time activities; artistic creation; in the field of protection, professional processing and digitization of cultural heritage of national minorities; in the field of promoting the development of the use of languages of national minorities; support of exchange programs, etc.

Innovation Fund n. f. and the National Holding Fund

The support activities of the funds are not primarily focused on the area of culture or cultural and creative industries. The purpose of *the Innovation Fund* is to promote the continuous development of spiritual values in the field of science, research and development and thus to accelerate the innovative development in the Slovak Republic.

The National Holding Fund consists of three different funds - Slovak Growth Capital Fund, Slovak Development Fund and Innovation and Technology Fund, each focusing on support for different needs of the entrepreneurs.

The mission of the *Slovak Growth Capital Fund* is to provide financial support for the entrepreneur in the growth phase. The support is aimed at interesting growth projects/companies, implementation of the investment and exit connected to the required return on the resources invested. The fund focuses on SMEs and provides investment for in the range from 500,000 to 2,500,000 euros.

The *Slovak Development Fund* focuses on companies that need expansion capital. The fund invests as a contribution to the registered capital of companies and becomes a co-owner for a predetermined period. Fund also invests in companies facing financial problems, secondary insolvency or bank financing problems. The fund's invests a maximum of € 2.3 million in one project, with a minimum investment amount of € 0.5 million. The amount of ownership is usually set between 34% and 75%.

The mission of the *Innovation and Technology Fund* is to support entrepreneurship through the development of venture capital and the development of entrepreneurship, employment and the economy towards an innovative economy. The investment horizon is from 4 to 6 years and the investment amount ranges from 20,000 euros to 1,500,000 euros.

With regard to the main objective of these funds, entities of cultural and creative industries can also be supported. However, according to the available data, CCIs entities do not make use of the supporting mechanisms of these funds, which may result in poor awareness of this support option.

On regional and local level the supporting programs and subsidies are mainly focused on culture, or partly on cultural industries. This support is provided through grant systems, almost every year each region allocates a specific amount from their budget and sets rules for possible applicants.

As for creative industries, this kind of support is not covered in the majority of regions yet. But in the upcoming years there are planned activities within the frame of Integrated regional operational programme 2014 - 2020 - Priority axis No. 3 and Operational programme research and innovation 2014 – 2020 (OPVa) - Priority axis No. 3 that will provide sources for creating a needed infrastructure (establishing a creative center in majority of the regions) and non-financial support for creative entities (consulting services, premises and technology for rent, incubator/accelerator services, etc.).

At **regional and local level**, following subsidies were identified:

Self-government of region Bratislava

Within their Strategy for the Development of Culture for 2015 – 2020 Self-government of region Bratislava has created *Bratislava’s regional subsidy scheme* (functional from 2015). Comparing to the other regions schemes, *Bratislava’s regional subsidy scheme* has allocated the biggest financial amount for support of culture and established expert commissions for each support program and an independent advisory body, Council for Culture and Arts of self-government of region Bratislava whose mission is to provide expertise on applications with the aim to guarantee transparency, independence and qualification of the grant scheme. This mechanism is unique among all regions.

Bratislava’s regional subsidy scheme launched its first support activity in 2015. The structure of support activity is divided into the following programs: protection of cultural heritage; folk Culture and Cultural and Educational Activities; cultural activities in the field of repository and fund institutions - museums, galleries, libraries, etc.; support for theater and dance; support for audiovisual art; support for literature; support for visual art; support for music and interdisciplinary and educational activities and research.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	796,300 €	951,010 €

Bratislava municipality

The grant system “ARS BRATISLAVENSIS” is aimed to support artistic and cultural activities in Bratislava and activities promoting Bratislava in the Slovak Republic and abroad. There is no specific sectoral focus defined.

ARS BRATISLAVENSIS provides support for following activities:

- Artistic and cultural projects and activities of national, local and regional importance that are being realized in Bratislava, which promote Bratislava abroad or which are realized in other towns in Slovakia in order to promote Bratislava.
- Events, conferences and workshops with art themes, publishing of books and prints about Bratislava, or promoting certain areas of life and public figures of the city of Bratislava, activities and projects of multi-genre/multisector character.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	80,000 €	95,000 €

Self-government of region Trnava

This region grant system is aimed to support cultural and artistic activities; projects have to be aimed at the protection or restoration of cultural heritage, organization of cultural events and cultural activities serving the inhabitants and visitors of the self-government of region Trnava. The specific sectoral focus of this region is mainly aimed at performing arts, crafts and cultural heritage.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	25,000 €	30,000 €

Trnava municipality

The grant system is aimed to support mainly artistic and cultural activities in Trnava and to maintain and develop the artistic activity of the inhabitants of Trnava. There is no specific sectoral focus defined.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	84,740 €	79,440 €

Self-government of region Nitra

This region grant system is aimed to support cultural and artistic activities, projects have to be aimed at the protection or restoration of cultural heritage and traditions, organization of cultural events and cultural activities serving the inhabitants and visitors of the region and supporting representation at renowned festivals abroad, district, regional and national competitions and at the official events of the region. There is no specific sectoral focus defined.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	220,000 €	220,000 €

Nitra municipality

The grant system is mainly aimed to the protection or restoration of cultural heritage and cultural infrastructure, organization of cultural events and cultural activities serving the inhabitants and visitors of the region and supporting representation of culture and crafts at festivals and at the official events of the region. The specific sectoral focus was mainly aimed at performing arts, crafts, music, visual arts and literature.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	50,000 €	70,000 €

Self-government of region Trenčín

This region grant system is aimed to support the development and protection of intellectual and cultural values, protection of the environment, health protection, development of education, physical education, fulfillment of humanitarian aid related to a threatening of life of people or in case of natural disaster. Based on this definition, the finances of this region grant system are not divided between each department, so there are no available data for supporting of the culture alone.

Note: Following data represent the financial support of grant system in 2015 and 2016 not specifically for culture but for the all supporting areas mentioned above.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT (NOT JUST FOR CULTURE)	203,339 €	248,900 €

Trenčín municipality

This grant system is aimed to support creation, development, protection and presentation of intellectual and cultural values in Trenčín in the following areas: theatre, photography, cinematography and video, music, cultural activities of universities and secondary schools, literature, folklore and traditional folk culture, museums and galleries, history and cultural heritage, performing arts, utility art and design, visual arts and multimedia.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	78,500 €	119,650 €

Self-government of region Žilina

In 2015 and 2016 this region grant system was not aimed at any kind of specific support, there was no dividing of the finances between departments. In 2017 “Culture” support scheme was announced with following programs: 1. Culture; 2. Publishing; 3. Cultural Tourism with allocation of 124,364 €. The specific sectoral focus was mainly aimed at performing arts, crafts, music, visual arts and publishing and literature.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	-	-

Žilina municipality

This grant system is aimed to support major events with a multi-annual tradition (for example, international festivals), creation and presentation of authors with permanent residence in Žilina (theater, visual arts, photography, music...), presentation of authors also abroad, educational and amateur cultural events and courses supporting the creativity of the inhabitants of Žilina, projects and activities supporting the cultural and historical identity of Žilina (books, research, exhibitions, conferences,...), development of volunteering and donation (philanthropy), involvement of volunteers and cultivating the public space of Žilina.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	35,000 €	35,000 €

Self-government of region Banská Bystrica

This region grant system is aimed to support cultural, educational and artistic activities, projects have to be aimed at the protection or restoration of cultural heritage, organization of cultural events and cultural activities serving the inhabitants and visitors of the region and supporting representation of culture and crafts at renowned festivals abroad, district, regional and national competitions and at the official events of the region. The specific sectoral focus was mainly aimed at performing arts, crafts, music, visual arts and cultural heritage.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	136,099 €	144,935 €

Banská Bystrica municipality

In 2015 this grant system was not aimed at any kind of specific support, there was no dividing of the finances between departments. In 2016 there was a change and since then culture together with informatization and civil matters has its own program in the following areas: editorial activities, audio media, multimedia and electronic outputs focusing on the promotion of the city Banská Bystrica, activities of theaters, folkloric ensembles and music entities, activities of cultural institutions and church institutions, research of culture, urban life, history, support for culture activities and creative industries, educational projects in the field of culture and international cultural activities.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	-	121,066€

Self-government of region Košice

This region grant system is aimed to support creation, development, protection and presentation of intellectual and cultural values in the self-government of region Košice. There is no specific sectoral focus defined.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	168,050 €	183,575 €

Košice municipality

City of Košice provides their subsidy for culture through allowance organization K13 - Košice Cultural Centers. The main objective of the support is to maintain and help to develop the potential of cultural and creative industries in the territory of Košice and should help with the realization of projects, cultural events, development and creation of partnerships of cultural organizations, as well as in the presentation of the creation, cooperation and mobility of individual applicants. The specific objective is to support projects whose implementation is linked to the new cultural infrastructure in the city, which was created as part of the Košice - European Capital of Culture 2013 project. The specific sectoral focus was mainly aimed at audiovisual, design, performing arts, crafts, music, visual arts, architecture and cultural heritage.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	200,000 €	200,000 €

Self-government of region Prešov

In 2015 this region grant system was not aimed at support of the culture. In 2016 new “Culture” support scheme was announced. Projects have to be aimed at the protection or restoration of cultural heritage and cultural infrastructure, organization of cultural events and cultural activities serving the inhabitants and visitors of the region and supporting representation of culture and crafts at festivals and at the official events of the region. The specific sectoral focus was mainly aimed at crafts, music and cultural heritage.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	-	246,380€

Prešov municipality

This grant system is aimed to support events organized exclusively in the Prešov region in the fields of theatre, photography, film, music, literature, folklore and traditional folk culture, museums and galleries, history and cultural heritage, utility art and design, visual arts, crafts and culture of national minorities from the region.

	2015	2016
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT	20,000€	0 €

Private financing for culture and CCIs

Private sources of financing are represented by individual or corporate donations as well as funds from domestic and foreign foundations. Financial contributions can also be obtained from private companies. As for the private sector, donations and advertising contracts are the most common forms of private financing. The problem of private sector funding is a problematic legislative arrangement for sponsorship. Donation does not currently allow the donor to reduce his tax base by the cost associated with the value of the donation and does not impose the obligation on the recipient to tax the amount received.

Companies use different project selection criteria. This can be done through a direct selection, or through selection based on detailed criteria set by the most corporate foundation's grant system. Private companies when selecting a project expect successfully forepassed implemented activities and visible results of the applicant's organization. For private companies, donation is an important element of their communication strategy and a part of their "corporate identity", and presents an effective way of increasing the brand value of their business.² In Slovakia, organization Center for Philanthropy offers these companies suggestions of philanthropic, grant and charity programs and provides necessary help with their management and administration.

In the Slovak Republic, foundations and private companies providing private financing are focused on many different areas. As for supporting culture, they are mainly focused on supporting core arts fields, in general mostly protection of cultural heritage and support for visual arts. Lately, the focus has started to be wider and as the trend of creative industries (mainly design) and startups has started to occur, the support of the private sector (mostly from banks or big companies such as Orange) has started to focus on this progressive area as well.

² http://www.fundraising.sk/download/Text_Kultura_Ako_financovat_projekty.pdf

Table of foundations and private companies providing private support for culture/CCIs

ORGANIZATION	FOCUSED ON	TYPE OF SUPPORT
Slovenská sporiteľňa Foundation	Not specific - cultural and artistic activities and projects	Open grant program
Tatra Bank Foundation	Culture (mostly visual arts and design); Start-ups	1. grant programs: • “More Art“ • “More Design“ • “Business Idea“ 2. Competitions The Tatra Bank Foundation Award for Art is awarded in the fields: Audiovisual production, radio, TV film, Theater, Design, Music, Literature, Visual Art
Všeobecná Úverová Banka (“VÚB”) Foundation	Culture (mostly visual arts) and Cultural Heritage	1. grant programs 2. Competitions
Československá obchodná banka Foundation	Innovative start-ups	financial and non-financial donations (educational programs)
Poštová banka Foundation	Folk culture/traditions	grant programs: • “Get to know your home” - Research of local culture and popularization of its results. • “Show yourself” - Presentation of local folk culture and folklore, artistic creation focused on traditional folk culture. (total amount of support 40 000 EUR/ 3 000 EUR per one project)
J&T Bank Foundation	Culture, especially visual arts Start-ups	1. sponsorship 2. financial donations 3. J&T Ventures fund for start-ups
Nadácia NOVUM	Visual arts	Competition /financial support/ Selected applicants will be supported from 5 000 € to 15,000 €.
Foundation of Milan Šimečka	Not specific – Culture	financial and non-financial donations
Foundation of Jozef Bednárík	Mostly performing arts – Support for young artists and their artistic creation - through the support of young artists, students focusing on artistic directions, theater, film and television, support of entertaining theaters, libraries, etc.	financial and non-financial donations
Center of Contemporary Art Foundation	Development of creative artistic and educational programs; cooperation with institutions in the field of contemporary art and culture in order to enhance contemporary artwork	financial and non-financial donations (educational programs)

Slovnaft Foundation	Not specific - support talents, science, culture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. financial and non-financial donations 2. grant programs 3. assignment of 2% of the tax 4. corporate volunteering 5. collaboration in advertisement
Slovenské elektrárne Foundation	Development and Protection of Cultural Heritage (program: Energy for Culture)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. sponsorship 2. financial donations 3. assignment of 2% of the tax
Západoslovenská energetika Foundation	Not specific - cultural and artistic activities and projects, Innovation	<p>grant programs</p> <p>(total amount of support 100 000 EUR/ 1 000 EUR per one project)</p>
Würth Foundation	Not specific – Culture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Artist support, e.g. awarding grants, paying scholarships and contract funding 2. Organizing artistic events, music festivals and art exhibitions 3. Protection of cultural values, such as collection of art 4. Support for cultural institutions, theaters, museums and libraries
EEA Foundation	Not specific - cultural and artistic activities and projects	financial donations
Slovak gas industry (“SPP”) Foundation	promotion, protection and development of cultural values, protection of cultural heritage and traditions	<p>grant programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The heritage of the regions” • “Renovate your home”
Matador Foundation	Culture Protection of cultural heritage and traditions	Ad hoc (mostly financial donations)
Foundation EPH	Protection of cultural heritage and traditions Not specific – modern art	grant programs
X-BIONIC®SPHERE Foundation	promotion, protection and development of cultural values, protection of cultural heritage	Ad hoc (mostly financial donations)
COOP Jednota Foundation	Culture and traditions	Ad hoc (mostly financial donations)
ESET	Not specific - cultural and artistic activities and projects	Ad hoc (mostly financial donations)
Telekom	Not specific - cultural and artistic activities and projects	Ad hoc (mostly financial donations)
Orange	Not specific - cultural and artistic activities and projects	Ad hoc (mostly financial donations)
Datalan	Not specific - cultural and artistic activities and projects	Ad hoc (mostly financial donations)

Another form of private financing, not specifically focused on CCIs, but on supporting perspective businesses in general are private equity and venture funds. In The Slovak Republic were identified as the example the following ones:

Enterprise Investors, Credo Ventures, Monogram Ventures, Pioneers Ventures, Benson Oak Capital, 3TS Capital Partners, Arca Capital Slovakia, or Limerock Fund Manager.

These organizations are focusing on support for prospective start-ups but also established businesses, particularly these with high growth potential and therefore with a chance to reach a large number of customers on the global market.

In Slovakia, crowdfunding is one of the new emerging alternative forms of funding that has slowly started to have its own Slovak internet platforms. Crowdfunding campaigns work on the principle of collecting smaller individual contributions from a large number of people mostly via the Internet. Projects are usually aimed at funding relatively smaller projects, but there are also exceptions.

The platforms are not specifically focused on any specific sectors. Lately the entities of CCIs have started to use these platforms more often not just to raise money but also awareness about their business activity.

The crowdfunding internet platforms are relatively new in Slovakia and has started to form after 2013. The czech internet crowdfunding platforms were and still are quite popular for use when searching for additional finances for Slovak CCIs entities as well. As for the Slovak ones, the following platforms were identified:

Crowdberry - offers a high diversification of investment projects in both the technology and non-technology sectors and is more suitable for high value added projects at later stages of their life cycle. In addition, Crowdberry offers a choice between an active investor who can also provides his/her experience and knowledge, or a passive investor who only provides a financial support. This platform is the only Slovak platform focused on financing only bigger projects as the minimum required amount of the investment is 100 000 € and the maximum investment amount is 5 000 000 €.

Marmeláda - the launch of this platform took place in 2015 as the original Slovak crowdfunding platform. Marmalade prefers original projects that have never been presented before. It focuses on financing various creative projects, from culture through fashion and design to sport. Projects on this platform are obligate to implement the project within 18 months from the end of its crowdfunding campaign.

StartLab was established as a non-profit crowdfunding. It is designed for anyone with a good idea. StartLab offers both funding models, “All or nothing” and “Keep it all”. Interesting about this platform is their possible “matching” service, which fuses the project and the larger sponsor. By mutual agreement, the larger sponsor commits to contributing half of the target amount by doubling each donation to the project until it reaches the financial target. The minimum campaign goal is 500 €.

Conda started as a version of the Austrian platform and today it is a key player in a pan-European crowdfunding business, with branches in Germany, Switzerland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Poland and Liechtenstein. Conda has the role of linking investors and companies looking for funding. The minimum investment is 100 €.

Table of Slovak crowdfunding platforms³

	MARMELÁDA	CROWDBERRY	STARTLAB	CONDA
Establishment	2015	2015	-	2013
Model of crowdfunding	rewards	investments	gifts	investments
Model of financing	All or Nothing	All or Nothing	All or Nothing / Keep it All	All or Nothing
Project success	27%	-	62%	85%
Fees	8% + 2,6%	8%	5%	-
Campaign length	-	30 – 60 days	30 – 90 days	-

Another option for financing projects or activities in the case of nonprofit organizations providing public services, civic associations, foundations and non-investment funds is a 2% tax deduction. This mechanism allows the taxpayer to decide who will be given an amount of 2% of the tax paid. However, for natural persons, this amount must be at least 3,32 EUR and for legal entities at least 8,30 EUR. This mechanism is regulated by Act no. 595/2003 Coll. and in order for organizations to be possible recipients, they must be listed in the recipients list of 2% tax deduction.

³ <https://www.podnikajte.sk/financie/c/3192/category/financie-na-podnikanie/article/slovenske-ceske-crowdfundingove-platformy.xhtml>

For additional information contact

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

Department of Culture & Creativity Department

Contact: mksr.orkk@culture.gov.sk

Tel: +421 2 2048 29 02

www.culture.gov.sk