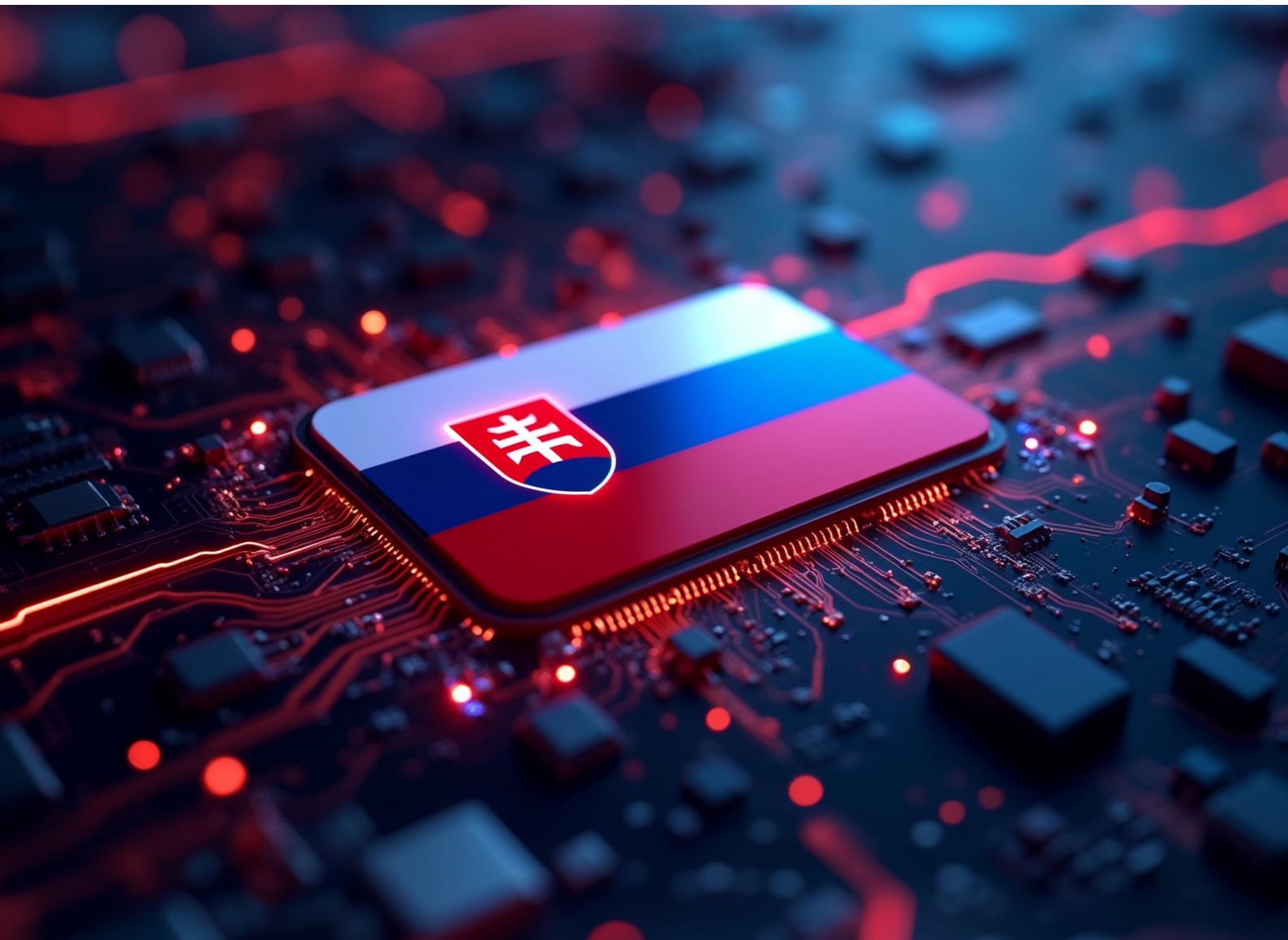


AI Policy and Regulations of Slovakia

Comprehensive Report









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Introduction

Slovakia, officially the Slovak Republic, is a landlocked country in Central Europe. The country is bordered by several nations, including Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine. With a population exceeding 5.4 million people as of 2024, Slovakia has a parliamentary democratic republic as its government system. The prime minister serves as the head of government and holds most executive power, while the president is the head of state with limited powers. The country is administratively divided into 8 regions, each named after its principal city. Slovakia became an independent nation-state in 1993 following the peaceful separation from the Czech Republic and the splitting of former Czechoslovakia.

Slovakia joined the European Union on May 1, 2004, adopted the euro as its currency on January 1, 2009, and became part of the Schengen Area on December 21, 2007. The country's economy is mixed, combining private freedom with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Slovakia's geographical landscape is predominantly mountainous, with the Carpathian Mountains extending across most of the northern half of the country. Its GDP per capita of €27,400 ranks below the EU average of €37,600, accounting for 0.7% of the EU's total GDP. As one of the world's largest per-capita car producers, Slovakia manufactured 1.1 million cars in 2019, representing 43% of its total industrial output.





1. Recent Legal Regulations (2020-2025)

Competition Law and Consumer Protection: Slovakia has implemented several significant legal regulations between 2020 and 2025. In the realm of competition law, Act No. 350/2016 (the "Damages Act") plays a crucial role in implementing the EU Directive 2014/104/EU on pursuing claims for damages caused by competition law infringements. This act provides the legal basis for compensation claims resulting from infringements of competition law and takes precedence over general applicable legislation in both substantive and procedural aspects. The Damages Act applies only to claims arising after December 26, 2016.

Additionally, Act No. 261/2023 Coll. on collective actions for the protection of consumers' collective interests (the "Collective Actions Act") introduced a specific type of class action mechanism. This allows an authorized person (representative body) to bring an action seeking corrective measures, including compensation for damage, repair or replacement of products, discounts on purchase prices, or refunds. These class actions operate on an "opt-in" basis, meaning consumers must voluntarily join by submitting an application to a notary public.

A notable institutional arrangement is that all disputes arising from competition law are referred to Municipal Court Bratislava III, which has jurisdiction over the entire territory of Slovakia, with the Regional Court in Bratislava serving as the appellate court. In cases of damages resulting from competition law violations, courts presume that cartels always cause damage unless proven otherwise.

Telecommunications and 5G Regulations: Between 2020 and 2025, Slovakia adopted a guideline for supporting and developing 5G networks. The Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (RU) awarded individual authorizations for the 700 MHz, 900 MHz, and 1800 MHz frequency bands using electronic auctions in November 2020. The successful bidders for the 700 MHz spectrum were O2 Slovakia, Orange Slovensko, and Slovak Telekom, with licenses valid for 20 years until December 31, 2040.

The Regulation Authority introduced a comprehensive spectrum usage plan through regulation 288/2022 Z.z., consisting of 156 annexes containing details of frequency bands, their use for communication services and applications, conditions for use, relevant international documents, and technical specifications. The government has planned several steps between 2020 and 2025, including reorganizing the 3.6 GHz frequency, implementing legislative changes, and creating 5G communications platforms for authorities, industry, healthcare, and agriculture.

Open Government and Democracy Initiatives: The Slovak Republic developed its sixth Open Government Partnership action plan for 2024-2026, which includes commitments on media freedom and beneficial ownership transparency. This plan aims to establish a national platform to coordinate domestic and international initiatives on supporting media freedom and journalist protection. It also focuses on ensuring compliance of beneficial ownership data according to EU Directive 2015/849 and linking data in the beneficial ownership register with data in the Commercial Register.

A controversial amendment to the NGO Law was proposed in 2023, which would require non-profit organizations receiving over €5,000 from outside Slovakia to label themselves as organizations with foreign support. However, the Council of the Government for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations has recommended the government to disagree with this proposal.



Tax and VAT Reform: The Slovak Parliament adopted a significant consolidation package on October 3, 2024, introducing substantial changes to tax legislation to improve public finances. Additionally, amendments to the Slovak VAT Act were approved to take effect from January 1, 2025. These changes reflect the government's efforts to strengthen fiscal stability.

Immigration Law: Slovakia approved significant amendments to its Act on the Residence of Foreigners and Act on Asylum, scheduled to take effect on March 1, 2025. These changes will likely impact immigration processes and asylum procedures in the country.

Language Laws: A proposed amendment to Slovakia's existing language law stipulates that Slovak text must appear first on public signs and advertisements. This amendment reflects ongoing efforts to preserve and prioritize the Slovak language in public spaces.



2. Government AI Action Plan

Digital Transformation Strategy: Slovakia has integrated artificial intelligence policies into a broader digitalization strategy. In July 2019, the government published the Action Plan for the Digital Transformation of Slovakia for 2019-2022, which contains concrete steps to build a sustainable, human-centric, and trustworthy AI ecosystem within the long-term Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030. While the strategy provides the broader vision, the action plan details specific policy measures for the implementation period.

The Slovak government's approach to AI development focuses on four key areas: supporting the digital transformation of schools and education to promote skills for the digital era; strengthening the digital basis of the data economy; improving public administrations' capacity to use data for citizens' benefit; and supporting the AI ecosystem. These initiatives aim to position Slovakia as a dynamic data economy, recognizing that data is the fuel for successful AI development.

Education and Skills Development: The Slovakian strategy emphasizes AI education alignment with current and future needs of both public and private sectors. The Ministry of Education envisions a program to digitalize education by 2030 through updated ICT infrastructure and qualitative improvements to its programs, including AI subjects to stimulate digital competencies and skills. An expert group coordinating educational activities on AI will examine international and Slovakian educational programs to frame suitable reforms, consulting with relevant stakeholders such as schools, public authorities, and businesses.



Beyond formal education, the strategy focuses on creating lifelong learning opportunities and vocational training in AI. The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour are planning policy initiatives to support lifelong learning for employees, collaborating with universities to address new requirements of the labor market and formulate specific training for both employed workers and job seekers.

Research and Innovation: To increase Slovakia's AI research potential, the strategy proposes several policies. The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatisation (MIRRI) and other relevant ministries support the creation of national platforms for AI research and usage, such as Kinit.sk and Slovak.AI, to strengthen research and education, attract international talents, increase networking opportunities and develop AI ethical principles. MIRRI will prepare and disseminate calls for grants on basic and applied research in AI to increase Slovakia's research capacity. Additionally, MIRRI will collaborate with other ministries to boost private sector research by creating investment opportunities for AI companies and encouraging the AI startup ecosystem.

For innovation, the Ministry of Transport is establishing policies to support smart mobility, allowing public-private collaboration to innovate in this field. MIRRI and the Ministry of Economy are developing a manual with guidelines and hands-on support for companies starting to use AI. The government also supports establishing a platform where public administration could launch calls for innovative digital and AI solutions to address issues they face.

Data Economy and Infrastructure: One of Slovakia's main goals is to become a dynamic data economy. To achieve this, the government plans to implement digital data platforms providing access to high-quality, trustworthy data for AI development. This includes creating an Institute for trustworthy data to provide open access to high-value databases from public administration, providing analytical tools for data management to the public administration, and setting up a Personal Information Management System as a centralized data repository with public administration data about citizens.

The strategy also envisions actions to boost digital and telecommunication infrastructure, including establishing a national high-performance computing competence center and participating in the European EuroHPC initiative to develop supercomputers. Additionally, it supports completing a gigabit fiber infrastructure and implementing the 5G for Europe Action Plan to increase internet connectivity.

3. Intellectual Property & Data Usage

Intellectual Property Protection Framework: Slovakia's intellectual property (IP) protection is influenced by EU treaties and multilateral agreements. The country divides IP protection into two distinct groups. The first type protects authors' rights for works such as literary, musical, photographic, and architectural creations, as well as computer programs and databases. This protection automatically comes into existence upon creation of an original work, without requiring registration.

The second type of protection is governed by industrial property law and requires registration with the Slovak Intellectual Property Office (IPO) or other relevant authorities like the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). This category includes patents, supplementary protection certificates, utility models, designs, trademarks, topography of semiconductor products, and designations of origin..





For obtaining IP protection in Slovakia, it's essential to understand that rights must be registered and enforced under local laws, as U.S. trademark registrations or patent titles don't automatically provide protection without completing administrative procedures at the EU or local level. Most copyrighted works created in the United States are automatically protected in Slovakia according to international agreements, although the extent of protection varies based on Slovak and EU laws.

Slovakia operates on a first-to-file system for patents and trademarks, meaning the first person or entity to register becomes the titleholder. Companies should consider securing protection before introducing products or services into the Slovak market and ideally develop a global IP strategy. Trademarks in Slovakia are regulated by Act No. 506/2009, while patents are protected by Act No. 435/2001.

Data Protection Regulations: Slovakia's data protection framework is primarily governed by Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on the Protection of Personal Data, which implements the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This legislation repealed previous data protection laws, although several sector-specific laws containing provisions on personal data processing continue to apply.

The Slovak Data Protection Act includes several specific provisions and derogations from the GDPR. For instance, it authorizes the processing of personal data for academic, artistic, or literary expression without the data subject's consent, provided such processing doesn't infringe upon personality or privacy rights. Similarly, mass media providers can process personal data necessary for informing the public without consent, subject to the same limitations.

The Act introduces special rules for processing personal data of deceased persons, allowing a close relative to provide consent if the data subject is no longer alive, though such consent is invalid if even one close person expresses disapproval in writing. Additionally, employers can disclose specific work-related personal data of employees without prior consent if necessary for work duties, including name, job classification, workplace, phone number, and email address.

Regarding sensitive data, genetic, biometric, and health data can be processed based on special laws or international agreements binding on Slovakia. The Act also prohibits publishing a generally applicable identifier (such as a personal identification number), except when published by the data subject or with explicit consent.

For data breach incidents, organizations must notify both the Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic and affected data subjects when personal data is breached during processing. Concerning cookies and tracking technologies, storage or access to information in a user's device is only permitted with consent based on clear and complete information about the processing purpose, with appropriate browser settings considered valid consent



4. AI Outputs & IP Protections

Legal Status of AI and AI-Generated Works: Currently, Slovak law does not address the issue of AI having legal personality. There are also no detailed concepts regarding liability for damage caused by AI or the safety of AI products. However, the Action Plan intends to establish a Permanent Commission on the Ethics and Regulation of AI to address issues related to liability and safety. Additionally, Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030 includes plans to establish an Interdepartmental Working Group for the Development and Implementation of AI to adopt major concepts on these matters.

Regarding the protection of intellectual property works created by AI, the Action Plan commits to preparing an analysis of the regulatory environment in relation to AI. This analysis will assess the appropriateness of the framework for intellectual property in AI based on the current regulatory situation in Slovakia and the EU. The Slovakian government advocates for a goal-oriented and dynamic regulation that provides more freedom for experimentation in AI development.

Regulatory Approach to AI: The Slovak government's approach to regulatory intervention associated with AI development includes several commitments outlined in the Action Plan. These include preparing an analysis of the regulatory environment regarding AI, designing and supporting the implementation of principles for transparent and ethical use of AI, supporting the development of an AI ecosystem, establishing a Permanent Commission on Ethics and the Regulation of AI, and drafting a manual for companies introducing AI.

The issue of human oversight of AI applications has not yet been addressed in detail. However, both the Action Plan and the planned Permanent Commission on Ethics and the Regulation of AI are expected to deal with issues related to human oversight. The Interdepartmental Working Group for the Development and Implementation of AI is also expected to adopt major concepts on this matter.

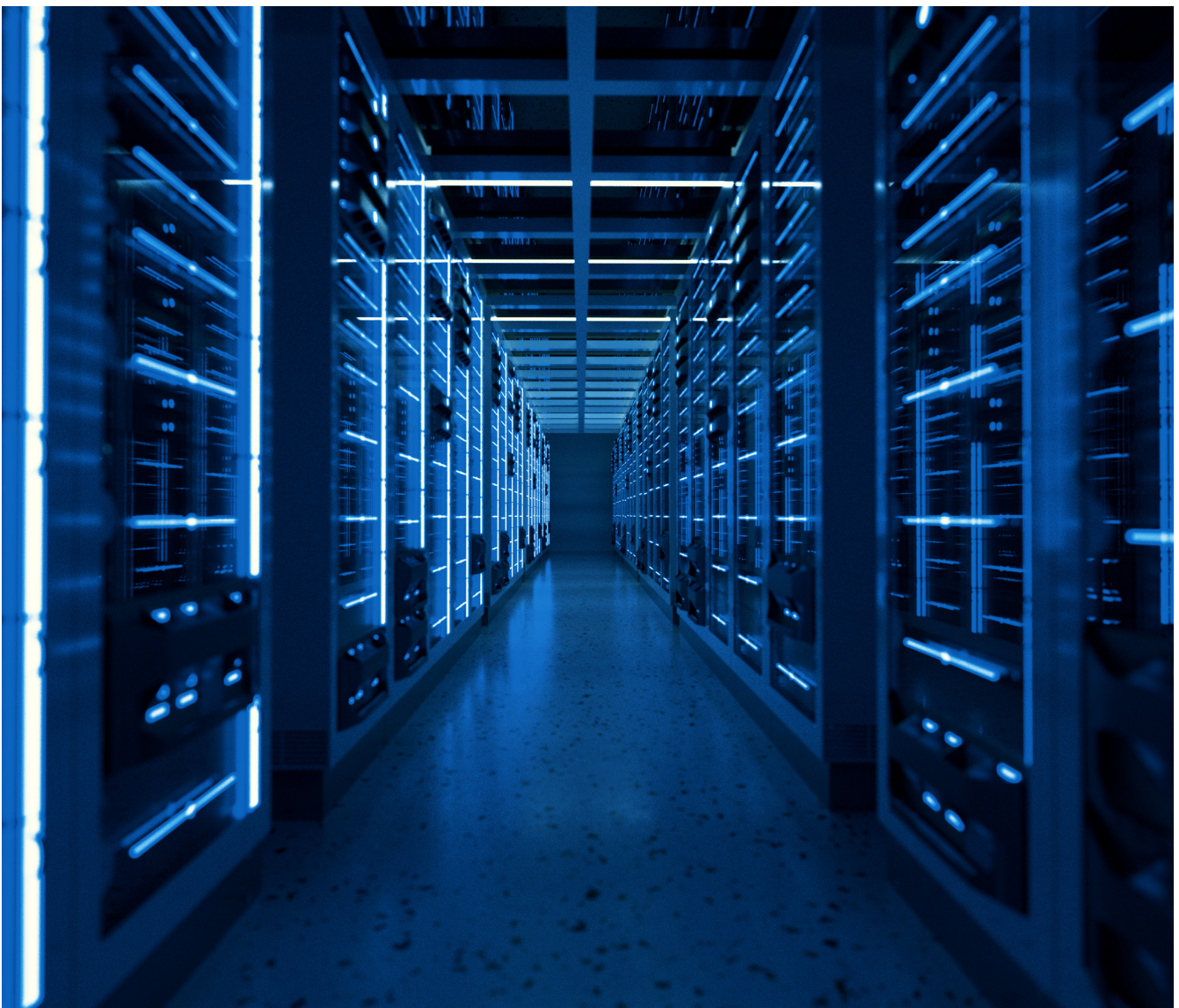
Data Management for AI: Slovakia's strategy for data management emphasizes modernizing and simplifying the legal framework for data protection. The government commits to enabling the use of "smart-contracts" in practice, providing reliable public data for the digital economy, using personal data for adopting targeted public services, and testing a pilot personal assistant based on personal data. However, detailed concepts on non-personal data management for AI needs have not yet been developed.



5. AI Investments & Computing Power

AI Startup Ecosystem and Funding: Slovakia's AI startup ecosystem has shown resilience, with three AI startups securing investments totaling €39 million in 2024, a slight decrease from the €42 million raised in 2023. The most notable funding rounds were CloudTalk's €26 million and Powerful Medical's €7.5 million. Despite accounting for only 4% of Central and Eastern Europe's AI startups, Slovakia ranked fifth out of eight countries analyzed in terms of funding for AI startups in 2024. Comparatively, the Czech Republic ranked last in funding with €24 million despite having 12.4% of the region's AI startups.

Other noteworthy AI startups in Slovakia include Auglio, which attracted €1.6 million for its AR/Virtual Mirror SaaS platform using 3D product generation to simulate physical-like shopping experiences; CloseRocket, which raised €1.1 million for its AI-powered B2B sales platform; and Elv AI, which secured €500,000 for its online content moderation platform. Additionally, the Slovak-Czech angel investment syndicate Gluon Syndicate committed €100,000 to Assista AI, an innovative AI-driven task automation solution.

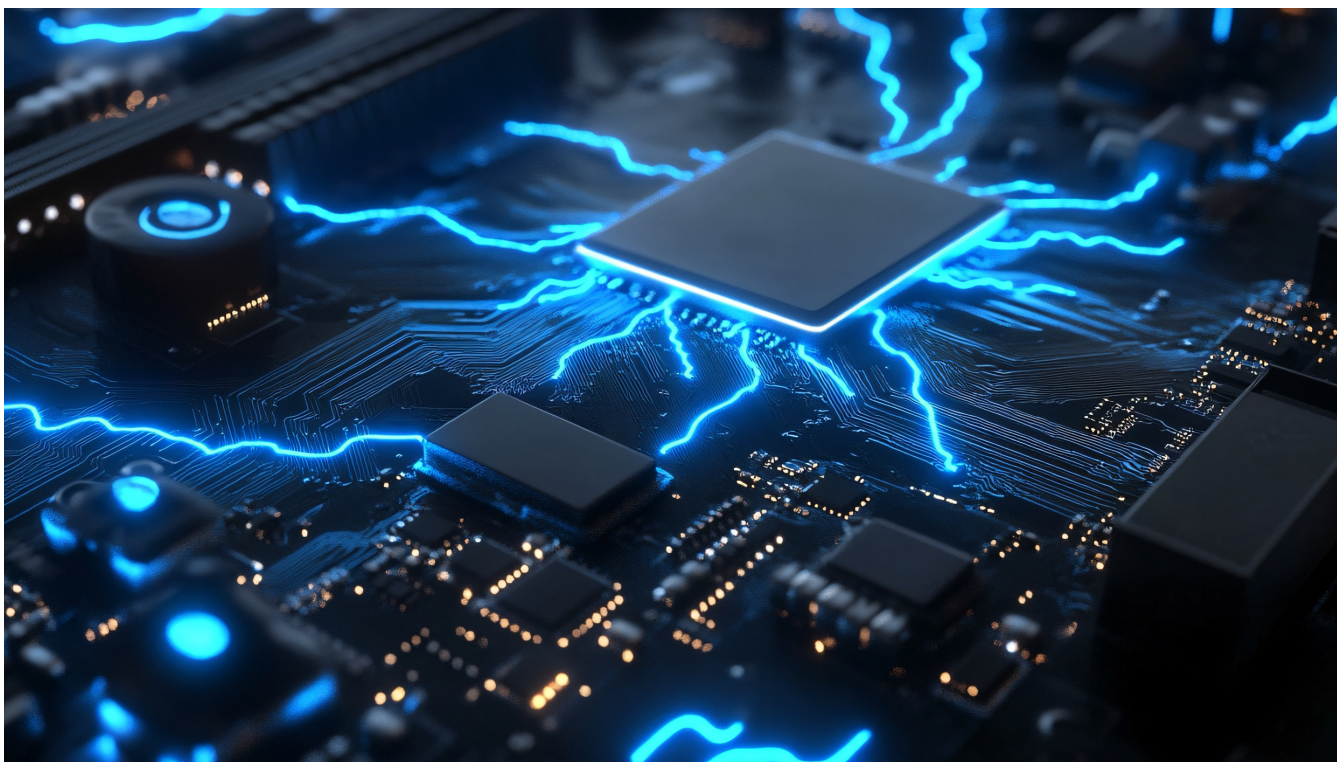


Education and Ecosystem Development: Slovakia has made significant strides in AI education and collaboration. The Skyro Secondary School in Bratislava focuses on artificial intelligence, offering programs in hybrid app development and digital game creation with an emphasis on practical skills. The Slovak Digital Coalition Summit 2024, held on June 25, addressed the challenges and opportunities AI presents for the labor market and education, focusing on human capital development.

By August 2024, Slovakia had mapped 43 AI product companies, with 60% in the seed stage. The ecosystem's workforce included 12,500 professionals specializing in AI, with notable advances in Machine Learning, Robotics, and Computer Vision. While total funding decreased slightly compared to 2023, the ecosystem's focus on early-stage development and education suggests potential for future growth.

Computing Power Infrastructure: Slovakia has joined a European network of 33 competence centers aimed at bridging existing high-performance computing (HPC) skill gaps. The country has the opportunity to use supercomputers for the benefit of commercial, research, and public sectors through initiatives led by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatisation.

The Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030 places primary emphasis on innovative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things. It recognizes the need for robust computing infrastructure to support these technologies. In line with this vision, Slovakia is setting up a national high-performance computing competence center and participating in the European EuroHPC initiative to develop supercomputers. The strategy also supports completing a gigabit fiber infrastructure and implementing the 5G for Europe Action Plan to increase internet connectivity and achieve the goals of the EU gigabit society.



6. Judicial Decisions on AI

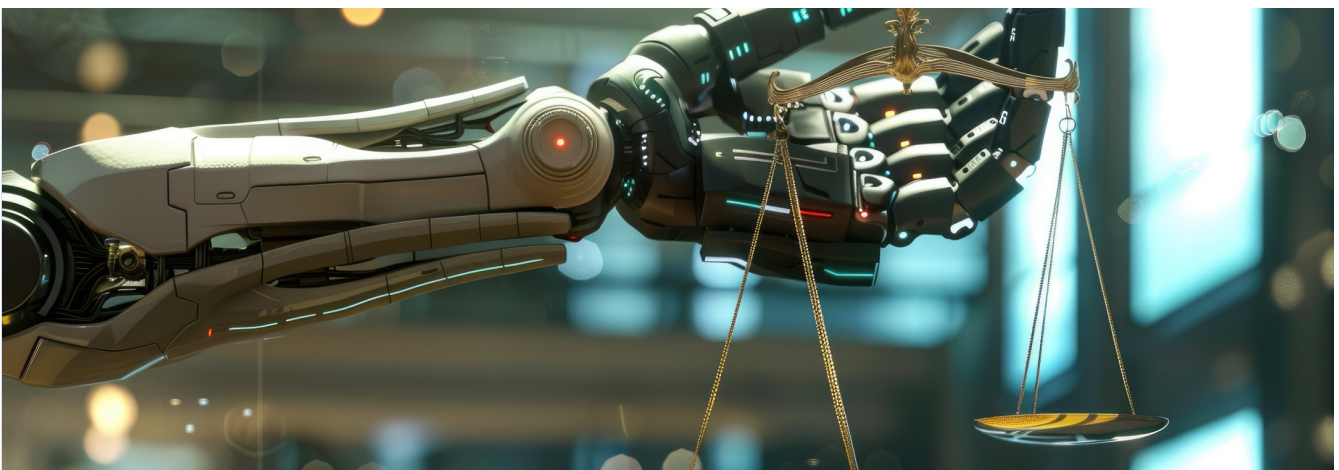
AI in Judicial Systems: Slovakia has implemented AI systems for the allocation of cases to judges, representing an example of indirect automated decision-making. Machine learning is also being used to analyze criminal judgments in the Slovak Republic to determine their adequacy and set a baseline for future evaluations. These applications represent early steps toward integrating AI into the judicial system.

Future of AI in Legal Proceedings: There is growing discussion about the potential for artificial intelligence to eventually replace arbitrators in Slovakia. In arbitration proceedings, implementation of certain motions already relies on computer technology, with face-to-face meetings being largely abandoned in favor of hybrid or entirely online hearings. Major disputes now commonly test the arguments of parties using artificial intelligence before actual hearings, particularly abroad.

AI could sooner or later be used in the prediction of decisions, with the expectation that as these technologies become more affordable, they will be used more frequently as controlled add-ons to existing processes. This trend can be observed in other countries, such as China, which has made significant progress in integrating computing technology and artificial intelligence into the decision-making process. Since 2017, China has implemented "internet courts" where proceedings take place entirely online, with first-instance decisions generated by artificial intelligence and human judges handling appeals.

EU Influence on AI Regulation in Legal Contexts: The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) issued an important decision on December 7, 2023, regarding how the GDPR governs AI-assisted decisions. The case arose in the financial services context, with the court holding that GDPR's AI rules apply when banks use credit scores to make consumer credit decisions. This ruling has implications beyond financial services and may apply to other industries where AI plays a role, such as employment, healthcare, or housing.

The CJEU determined that if human reviewers typically follow an AI-generated score (even if they nominally have the final say), the decision remains "solely automated" under GDPR Article 22. This means businesses must obtain consent for AI-powered decisions, permit consumers to contest decisions and express their viewpoints, and enable "appeals" to human intervention. This ruling will likely influence how Slovak courts interpret AI-assisted decision-making processes in the future across various sectors.



Conclusion

Slovakia has made significant strides in developing its AI ecosystem through comprehensive strategies and action plans. The country has integrated AI policies into a broader digital transformation framework, emphasizing education, research, and innovation. Recent legal regulations from 2020 to 2025 have established foundations for competition law, telecommunications, open government initiatives, and data protection, providing a structured environment for AI development.

The country's approach to AI is characterized by a focus on creating a dynamic data economy, recognizing that high-quality data is essential for AI advancement. While specific regulations addressing AI outputs and intellectual property protections are still developing, Slovakia has committed to analyzing and potentially revising its regulatory environment to accommodate AI innovations while protecting intellectual property rights.

Slovakia's AI startup ecosystem has shown resilience, with significant investments totaling €39 million in 2024 despite accounting for only 4% of Central and Eastern Europe's AI startups. The country is also enhancing its computing power infrastructure by participating in European initiatives and developing a national high-performance computing competence center.

In the judicial sphere, Slovakia has begun implementing AI for case allocation and analysis of criminal judgments, with discussions about the potential future role of AI in legal decision-making. The influence of EU court decisions on AI regulation will likely shape Slovakia's approach to AI in legal contexts.

As Slovakia continues to develop its AI capabilities, the balance between innovation and regulation will be crucial. The planned establishment of specialized commissions and working groups to address ethical considerations, liability issues, and intellectual property concerns demonstrates the country's commitment to responsible AI development. With continued investment in education, infrastructure, and a supportive regulatory framework, Slovakia is positioning itself as an emerging player in the European AI landscape.



Country AI Policies, Regulations and Strategies Report

