

# Pharmaceutical & Life Sciences Sector in **SLOVAKIA**



# Pharmaceutical & Life Sciences Sector in Slovakia

The purpose of this publication is to present the opportunities that Slovakia has to offer to potential investors from the pharmaceutical & life sciences sector. It includes facts and figures for all major subcategories of this segment and serves as an introduction to why Slovakia should be a preferred location for your pharmaceutical and healthcare business.



**TOTAL AREA** 49,035 km<sup>2</sup>

**POPULATION** 5.4 million

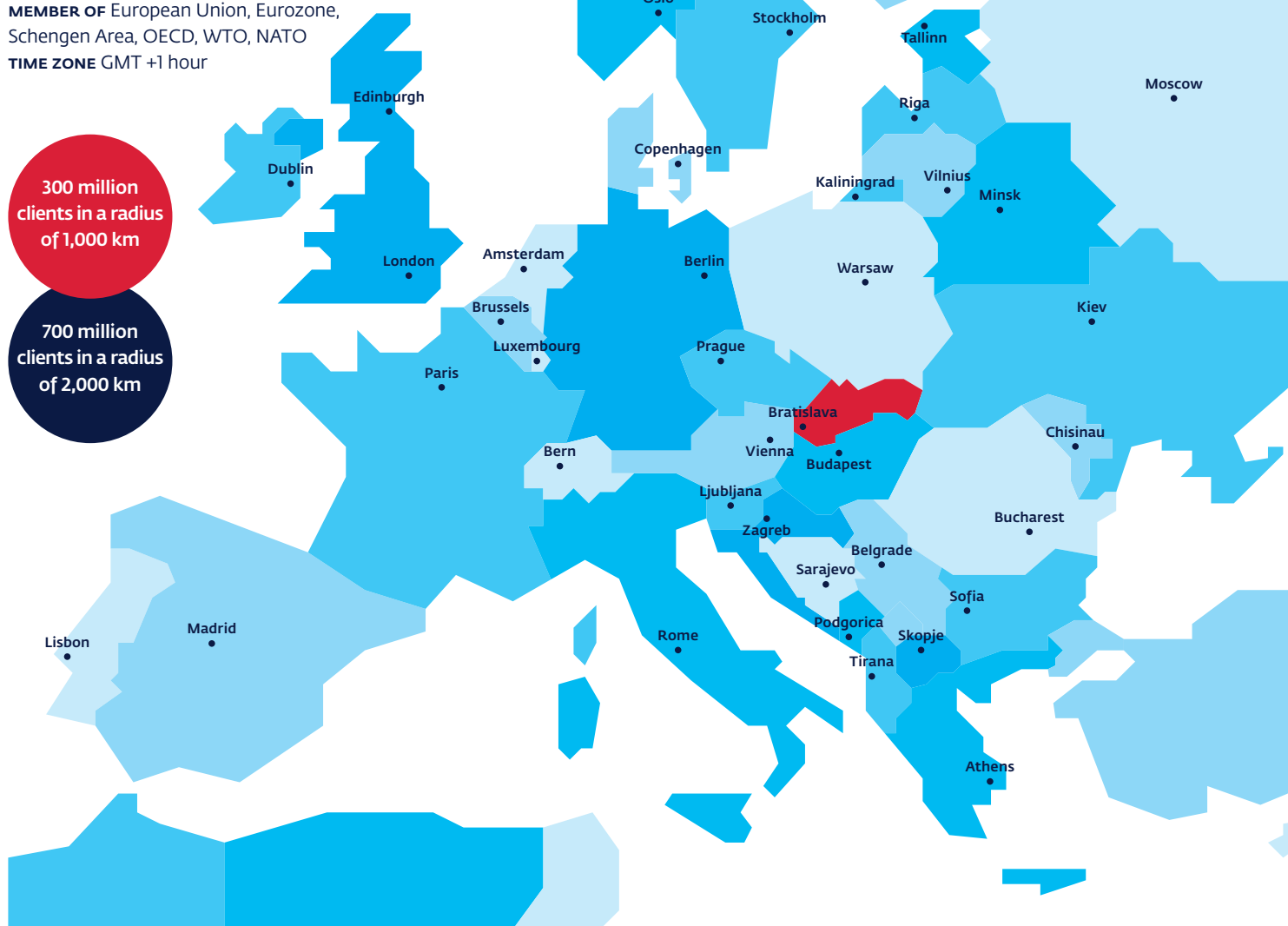
**CAPITAL CITY** Bratislava

**MEMBER OF** European Union, Eurozone, Schengen Area, OECD, WTO, NATO

**TIME ZONE** GMT +1 hour

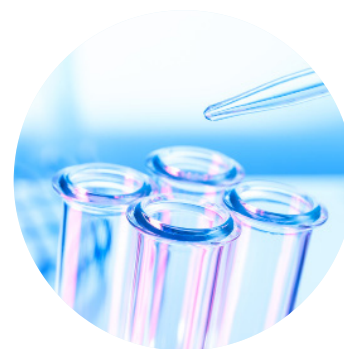
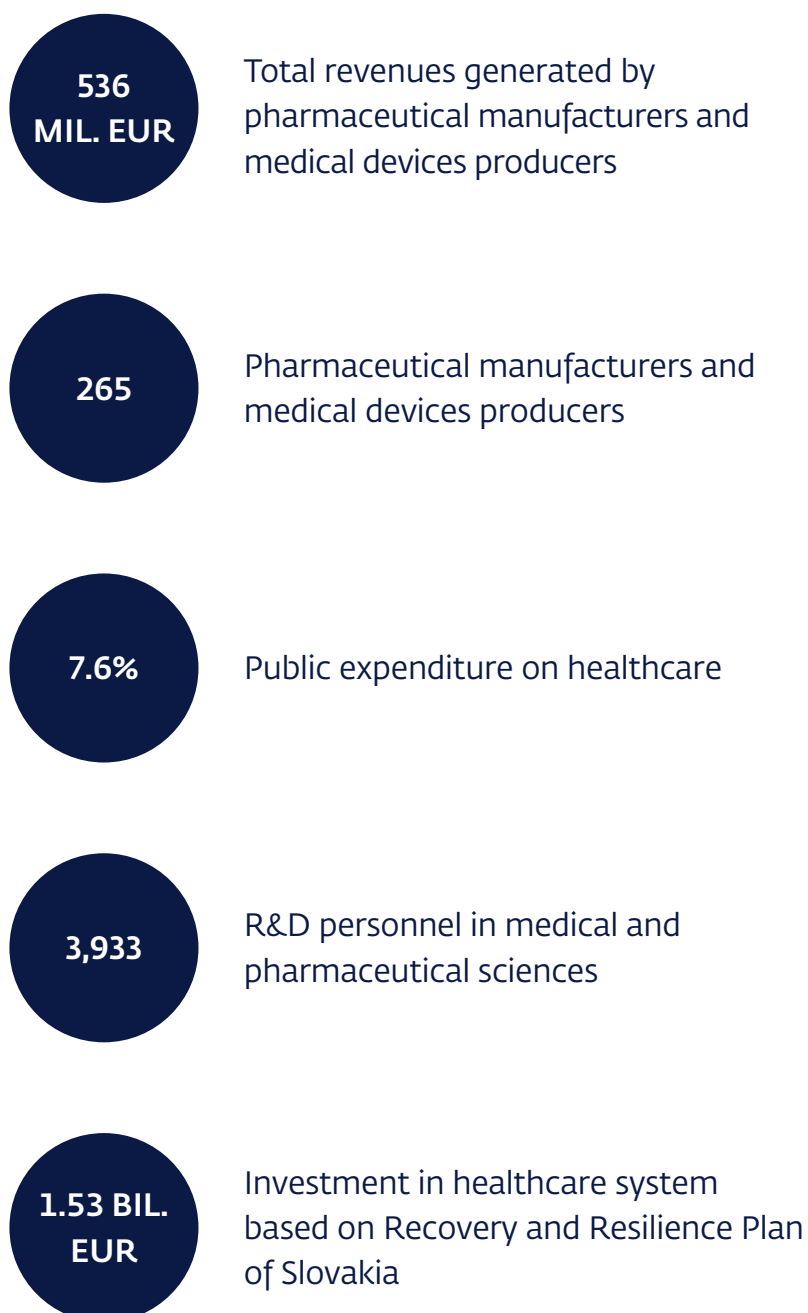
300 million clients in a radius of 1,000 km

700 million clients in a radius of 2,000 km



# Healthcare & Life Sciences in Slovakia — Key Facts

The Life Sciences sector in Slovakia is represented mainly by the production of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and cosmetics. Although this sector accounts for a relatively small share on the entire industrial production, it offers great potential for new investors.



## Top 10 Reasons to Invest in H&L Sector in Slovakia

- 1 Strong R&D focus on life sciences sector — presence of large international companies performing R&D
- 2 Constantly evolving research and academic infrastructure
- 3 Significant achievements in applied research
- 4 Strong local pharmaceutical sector and supplier network
- 5 Qualified and cost-effective workforce with high education level
- 6 Political and economic stability
- 7 EURO currency as one of the few in CEE
- 8 Fastest growing Eurozone member within the last 10 years
- 9 Flat income tax rate
- 10 Attractive investment incentives

Source: Finstat 2023 (data for 2022), Yearbook of Science and Technology 2022 (data for 2021), Recovery and Resilience Plan of Slovakia (2022)

# Pharmaceutical Production in Slovakia

The large scale production of drugs is one of the youngest sectors in Slovak manufacturing. The history of the pharmaceutical industry in Slovakia dates back to the 1950s, when 3 large state-owned companies were established in Slovenská Ľupča, Šarišské Michaľany and Hlohovec.



Today, all of the Slovak pharmaceutical companies are owned by private investors, typically providing contract manufacturing for major global companies.

## LIST OF MAJOR PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCERS IN SLOVAKIA

COMPANY NAME	LOCATION	CORE PRODUCTION	SALES REVENUE (MIL. EUR)	EMPLOYEES
Saneca Pharmaceuticals	Hlohovec	active pharmaceutical ingredients	73.2	852
HBM Pharma	Martin	sterile liquids and tablets	37.8	370
Unimed Pharma	Bratislava	eye drops and tablets	16.2	139
Innopharma	Dunajská Streda	chewable and effervescent tablets	16.0	109
Imuna Pharm	Šarišské Michaľany	immuno preparations, blood substitutes, allergen preparations	12.5	206
Pharmagal Bio	Nitra	veterinary imunological medicaments	11.4	42
GreenPharm	Košice	supplements	11.4	41
Biotika	Slovenská Ľupča	active pharmaceutical ingredients	11.0	198
AtB Pharma	Martin	active pharmaceutical ingredients	7.1	77
Generica	Piešťany	vitamins, minerals, supplements	6.8	50
Herb-Pharma Corporation	Veľké Ludince	supplements, cosmetic products	6.1	37
Farmácia Martin	Martin	pharmaceutical preparations	4.4	54
Galvex	Banská Bystrica	tablets, suppositories, solutions, medical devices, topical preparations	4.0	50
Biomín	Cífer	vitamins, minerals, supplements	3.6	41
Pharmagal	Nitra	veterinary imunological medicaments	3.3	40

Source: FinStat 2023 (data for 2022)

# Top Players of the Slovak Pharmaceutical Industry



## **SANECA PHARMACEUTICALS**

Slovakia's largest pharmaceutical company specializing in opiate development and the manufacture of APIs as well as liquid, semi-solid and solid finished dosage forms.

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## **HBM PHARMA**

A partner for contract manufacturing of pharmaceutical products in the field of production of injectables in ampoules, production of bulk tablets, packaging of tablets and quality control.

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## **BIOTIKA**

Biotika is well known as a reliable manufacturer of high-quality pharmaceutical preparations for human as well as veterinary application.

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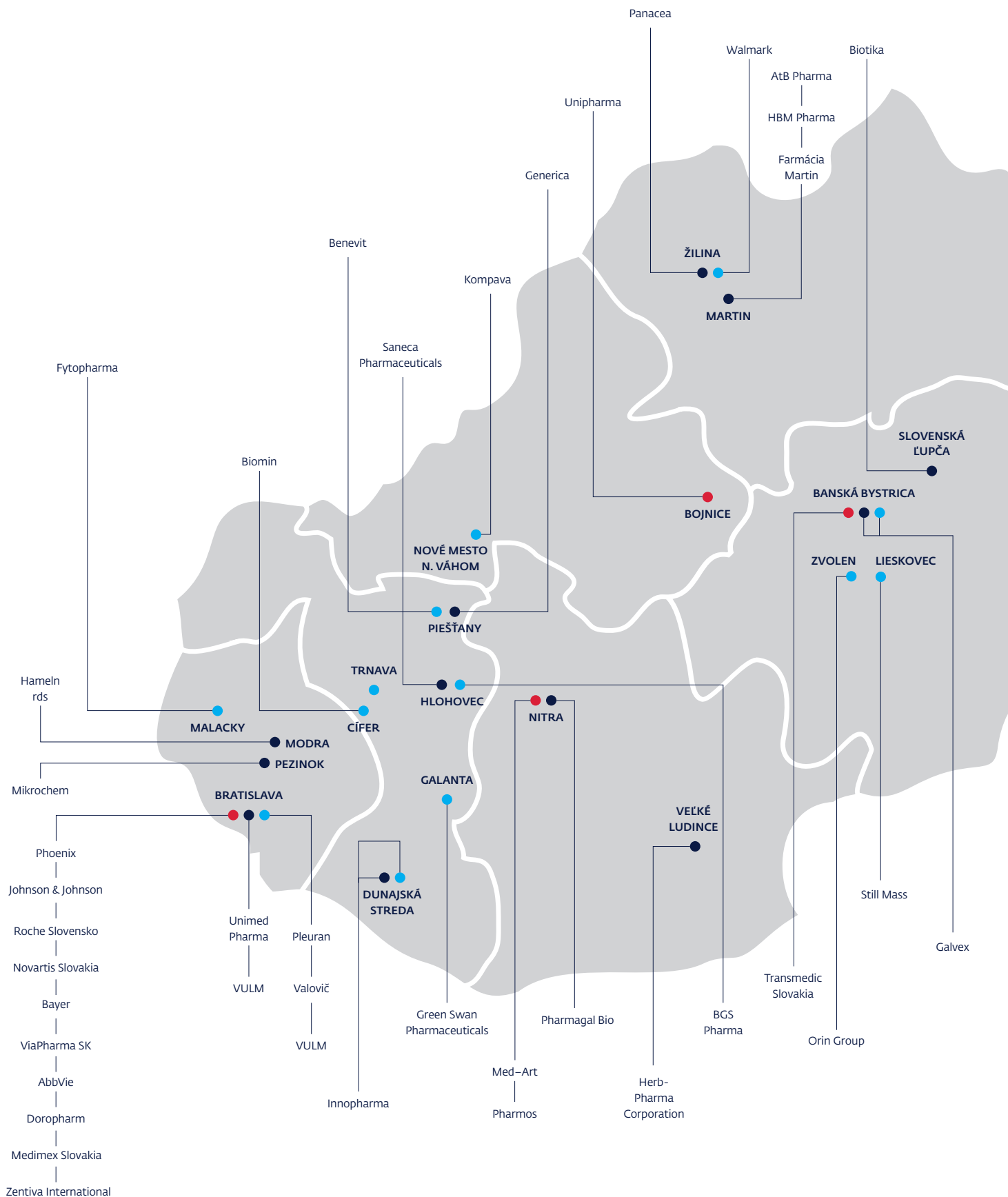


## **UNIMED PHARMA**

Slovak pharmaceutical company focused on development and production of generic ophthalmologic products.

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# Map of Major Pharmaceutical Producers, Distributors & Producers of Vitamins, Minerals & Supplements in Slovakia





- 
- pharmaceutical producers
  - distributors of drugs & healthcare products
  - producers of vitamins, minerals & supplements

## MAJOR DISTRIBUTORS OF DRUGS & HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS IN SLOVAKIA

COMPANY NAME	LOCATION	SALES REVENUE (MIL. EUR)	EMPLOYEES
Phoenix Zdravotnícke Zásobovanie	Bratislava	801.5	486
Unipharma	Bojnice	578.9	668
Med-Art	Nitra	456.8	461
Johnson & Johnson	Bratislava	147.2	84
ViaPharma SK	Bratislava	133.6	70
Novartis Slovakia	Bratislava	114.6	138
Bayer	Bratislava	93.9	81
Roche Slovensko	Bratislava	81.4	106
AbbVie	Bratislava	58.5	65
Doropharm	Bratislava	57.0	27
Medimex SLOVAKIA	Bratislava	55.4	13
Zentiva International	Bratislava	54.7	4

## SLOVAK PRODUCERS OF VITAMINS, MINERALS & SUPPLEMENTS

COMPANY NAME	LOCATION	CORE PRODUCTION	SALES REVENUE (MIL. EUR)	EMPLOYEES
Innopharma	Dunajská Streda	vitamins, minerals supplements	16.0	109
Pleuran	Bratislava	immunity care (Imunoglukan), vitamins	12.5	90
Generica	Piešťany	vitamins, minerals supplements	6.8	50
VULM	Bratislava	food supplements, ointments, creams, drops, solutions	4.3	52
GALVEX	Banská Bystrica	minerals, food supplements, creams	4.0	50
Biomin	Cífer	minerals & calcium produced from egg shells	3.6	41
Orin Group	Zvolen	supplements (and medical devices)	3.5	15
Kompava	Nové Mesto nad Váhom	supplements	2.8	34
Fytopharma	Malacky	natural herb drops, teas, cosmetics	2.8	32
Dimenzia	Kežmarok	production and development of food supplements	1.7	13
Still Mass	Lieskovec	supplements	1.5	12
Benevit	Piešťany	vitamins, minerals, supplements	0.8	3

Source: FinStat 2023 (data for 2022)



# Production of Medical Devices

The production of medical devices has a long history in Slovakia, particularly in the area of orthopedic and stomatological equipment. Before 1989, companies such as Chirana or Protetika had a strong position in the Czechoslovak market.

In the recent years, Slovakia has become an increasingly attractive investment destination for companies producing single use medical equipment. Most of the medical equipment produced in Slovakia is designated for foreign markets, with the exception of Protetika products. Medical devices and instruments are sold either directly by a production company, or by local distributors.

## PRODUCERS OF MEDICAL DEVICES & DENTAL INSTRUMENTS

COMPANY NAME	LOCATION	CORE PRODUCTION	SALES REVENUE (MIL. EUR)	EMPLOYEES
Unomedical	Michalovce	single use medical equipment	114.1	700
Medline Assembly Slovakia	Partizánske	single use surgical equipment	43.2	305
Chirana T.Injecta	Stará Turá	single use injection devices	30.0	41
Biometrix	Šamorín	medical devices for intensive medicine, cardiology and surgery rooms	18.7	152
Protetika	Bratislava	orthopedic and prosthetic equipment	18.7	209
Injecta	Stará Turá	single use injection devices	17.4	282
Chirana Medical	Stará Turá	stomatological systems	15.9	221
Europin	Trenčianske Stankovce	needles and cannulas	12.8	186
Diplomat Dental	Piešťany	dental units, stools and lights	11.6	144
Ferno Slovakia	Bošáca	transport medical equipment	11.0	62
Seisa Europe	Bratislava	medical components and sub implants for cardiology, urology	7.9	304
Neoprot	Bratislava	orthopedic, prosthetic equipment	7.2	71
OrtoproPlus	Košice	orthopedic, prosthetic equipment	6.6	96
Podotech	Senec	orthopedic and prosthetic equipment	5.3	61
Panacea	Žilina	medical devices and first-aid kits	4.9	44
SKY MEDICAL	Šamorín	single use medical equipment	4.1	86
Stirilab	Ružomberok	diagnostic devices and laboratory equipment	3.6	37

Source: FinStat 2023 (data for 2022)

# Notable Slovak Medical Devices & Dental Instruments Producers



## **PROTETIKA**

Producer of a wide range of medical aids and orthopedic footwear owning 26 retail shops throughout Slovakia, Protetika represents more than 90 years of orthopedic tradition.

## **CHIRANA**

Development & production of anaesthesia units, breathing units, patient monitoring systems for intensive care, built on tradition of fine mechanics in Stará Turá. Together with Chirana Medical, a.s. it belongs to Chirana Holding, which dates back to 1935 and is an important player in the development and manufacture of respirators and anesthetic devices.



## **NEOPROT**

Product portfolio ranges from bandages to prosthesis and orthoses for limbs, body and head. All the products are manufactured using the latest unique digital technologies.

## **DIPLOMAT DENTAL**

Over 60 years of experience in designing and manufacturing of dental solutions. The product portfolio includes high quality dental units, stools, and lights.



## **ORTOPROPLUS**

Manufacture of orthopedic and prosthetic products. In addition to prosthesis and orthoses, the product portfolio includes also wheelchairs and orthopedic footwear.

## Production of Cosmetics in Slovakia



With an increased penetration of both local and global brands of cosmetic products, Slovak consumers have gained access to a greater assortment of goods.

The influence of ascension into the European Union has fueled consumer desire for variety in terms of price, function, composition and appeal. New brands and products that put an emphasis on innovation and quality are well accepted in the Slovak cosmetics market.

### MAJOR COSMETICS PRODUCERS IN SLOVAKIA

COMPANY NAME	LOCATION	CORE PRODUCTION	SALES REVENUE (MIL. EUR)	EMPLOYEES
Haleon Levice (GSK Consumer Healthcare)	Levice	personal care cosmetic production	186.8	546
Saneca Pharmaceuticals	Hlohovec	pharmaceutical products, hand & foot creams, body lotions, toothpaste	73.2	852
Farmol	Levice	personal care cosmetic production	24	157
Herba Drug	Smižany	cosmetics, detergents	4.9	70
Calendula	Nová Ľubovňa	cosmetics, nutrition supplements, essential oils	3.0	34
Vitaprodukt	Poprad	teeth whitening products	1.7	7
Leon Global	Pezinok	cosmetics, detergents	1.3	6
Dulcia Natural	Bratislava	natural cosmetics	1.1	N/A

Source: FinStat 2023 (data for 2022)

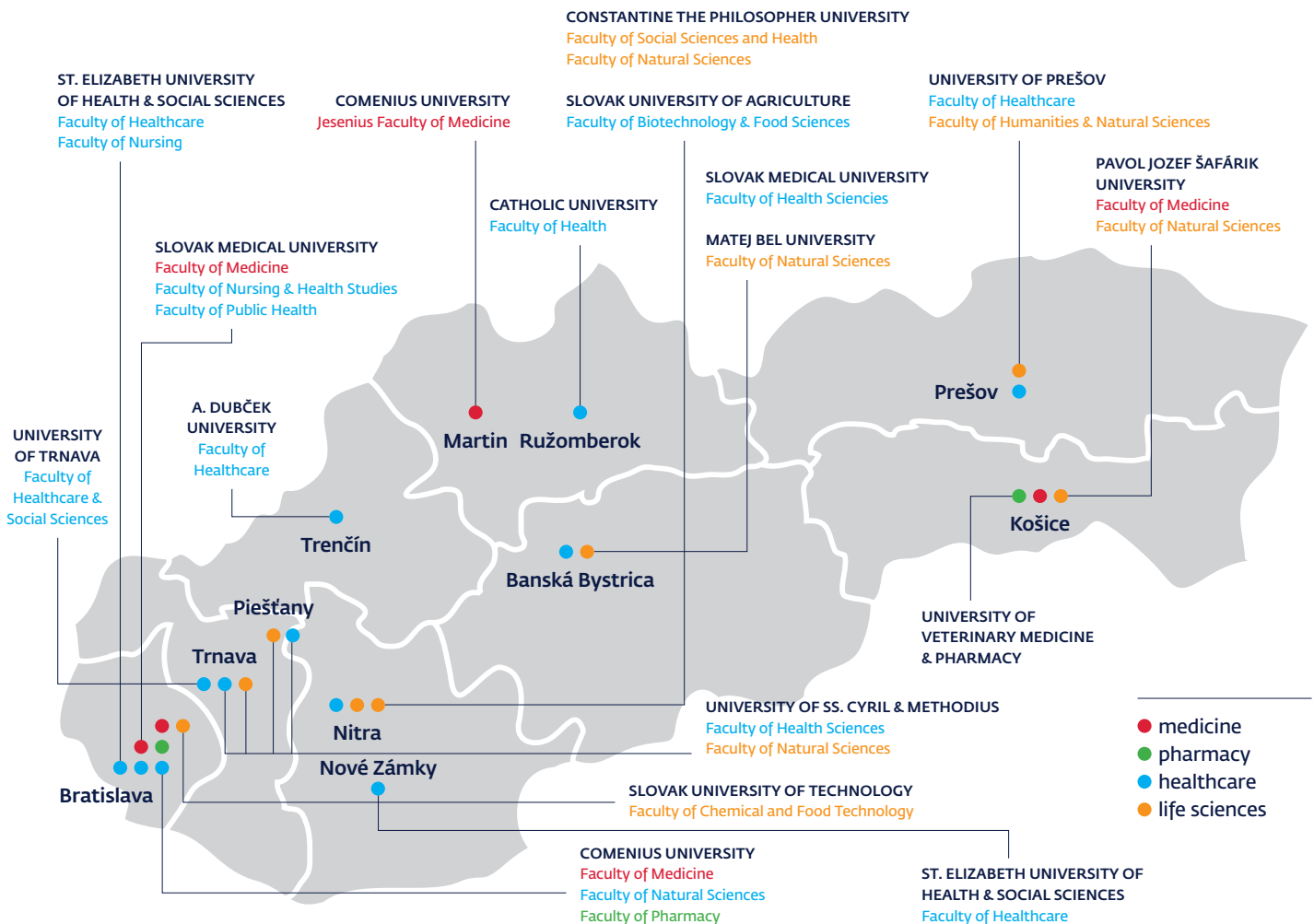
6,072  
yearly graduates

27,278 enrolled  
students in related  
study fields



# Labour Force & Education in Life Sciences

Companies active in Healthcare & Lifesciences are highly dependent on a skilled workforce. Slovak labour force with a medical and pharmaceutical background represents a combination of cost-effectiveness and high education levels and thus ensures competitiveness and high added value.



Source: Slovak Centre for Scientific and Technical Information, 2023

# Average Salaries in the Pharmaceutical Industry



Salaries in the Pharmaceutical industry do not differ in a significant way from region to region. What counts more is the experience and local competition of the employees with a pharmaceutical background.

POSITION	MARKET MEDIAN – Gross Salary Levels (EUR/month)						MIN. REQUIRED ACADEMIC DEGREE
	WESTERN SLOVAKIA		CENTRAL SLOVAKIA		EASTERN SLOVAKIA		
	min	max	min	max	min	max	
Pharmaceutical Technician	1,200	1,400	1,200	1,300	1,100	1,300	secondary school
Responsible Pharmacist	1,700	1,900	1,700	1,800	1,700	1,800	university
Pharmacist	1,400	1,600	1,400	1,600	1,400	1,600	university
Quality Control Analyst	1,300	1,500	1,200	1,400	1,200	1,400	secondary school
Product Manager	3,000	3,500	3,000	3,500	3,000	3,400	university

POSITION	MARKET SALARY LEADERS HIGH-END – Gross Salary Levels (EUR/month)						MIN. REQUIRED ACADEMIC DEGREE
	WESTERN SLOVAKIA		CENTRAL SLOVAKIA		EASTERN SLOVAKIA		
	min	max	min	max	min	max	
Pharmaceutical Technician	1,300	1,400	1,300	1,400	1,200	1,400	secondary school
Responsible Pharmacist	1,900	2,500	2,000	2,500	2,200	2,500	university
Pharmacist	1,500	1,850	1,700	1,900	1,700	1,900	university
Quality Control Analyst	1,400	1,800	1,400	1,700	1,400	1,600	secondary school
Product Manager	3,200	3,800	3,200	3,600	3,200	3,600	university

Source: Balanced HR, 2023

# Healthcare & Pharmaceutical Innovations

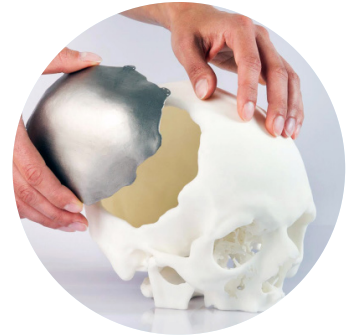


## TRISOMY TEST

Team of Slovak researchers invented a non-invasive Down syndrome diagnosis for pregnant women.

## MEDICAL 3D PRINTING

Biomedical Engineering promotes 3D printing in medicine. The implant was already used on a patient after serious skull damage.



## MULTIPLEXDX

Biotech innovative company performing personalized molecular diagnostics. MultiplexDX's high quality solutions refer to the most precise sequencing analysis, the simplest and gel-free sequencing protocol, the simplest FISH protocol, the most stable and specific FISH probes, the most accurate cancer profiling and biomarker quantification. Furthermore, MultiplexDX developed LAMP-testing solution (COVID-19 diagnostic test) which achieves an accuracy approaching PCR test.

Innovative company developing glycan-based, accurate and non-invasive tests for cancer diagnostics. Portfolio of products and solutions consists of glyocode deciphering done by analysis of glycan changes on specific proteins.

## GLYCANOSTICS



## HIGHCHEM

HighChem develops and offers software for the interpretation, management and processing of mass spectral and chromatographic data in the area of small molecules. In addition to desktop solutions, HighChem develops library and cloud systems, and builds large data collections of fragmentation knowledge, experimental spectra and organism specific biochemical data used in modern pharmaceutical applications.

## MENTEGRAM

Mentegram, focused on mental health solutions, provides a cloud-based assessment and patient engagement platform that is accessed through a web dashboard and mobile apps by healthcare professionals and patients. Clinicians are able to conduct digital patient screenings, automatic scoring and reporting, track treatment plans digitally and seamlessly process information for reimbursement claims in real time.



Mentegram



## Laboratories and Providers of Laboratory Diagnostics

Slovak laboratories are accredited according to the international standards for medical laboratories in the following fields — clinical biochemistry, hematology, immunology, medical genetics and clinical microbiology. Implementation of the latest technology and know-how, information technologies and full automation into diagnostic processes, have increased their competitiveness to the level of other global players in the same field.

### TOP PROVIDERS OF LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS

COMPANY NAME	LOCATION	SALES REVENUE (MIL. EUR)	MARKET SHARE
Unilabs Slovensko	Martin	97.2	30.5%
Medirex	Pezinok	85.9	27.0%
Klinická biochémia	Žilina	28.6	9.1%
Synlab Slovakia	Bratislava	18.3	5.0%
Cytopathos	Bratislava	11.9	3.8%
Martinské biopické centrum	Martin	9.1	2.8%
Medicyt	Pezinok	8.4	2.6%
LABMED	Košice	7.9	2.5%
Analyticko-diagnostické laboratórium a ambulancie	Prešov	6.6	2.2%
AnalytX	Bratislava	5.4	1.6%

Source: FinStat 2023 (data for 2022)

# Slovakia's R&D Potential in the Healthcare & Pharmaceutical Industry

Science parks and research centers play an important role in the national innovation system by stimulating the cooperation between the academic and business environments and enabling a swift knowledge transfer.



## UNIVERSITY SCIENCE PARK FOR BIOMEDICINE

- cooperation between the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the universities
- capacity of 500 researchers



**BioMed**  
JLF UK v Martine

## CENTER FOR BIOMEDICINE OF THE CITY OF MARTIN

- research facility of the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine
- focus on neurosciences, oncology, respirology & molecular medicine



## UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCIENCE PARK IN KOŠICE

- common project of the local universities
- integration of biomedical research throughout Eastern Slovakia



## COMENIUS UNIVERSITY IN BRATISLAVA SCIENCE PARK

Focus on biomedicine, biotechnology, enviro-medical and societal challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in matters of bioethics, law and socio-economic rights.



## UNIVERSITY SCIENCE PARK TECHNICOM IN KOŠICE

Cooperation of the universities in Prešov and Košice focused on application of innovations and cooperation of the academic and business environments.



## RESEARCH CENTER AGROBIOTECH IN NITRA

Regional competence center for agrobiolgy, agroecology, biotechnologies and bioenergetics.



## UNIVERSITY SCIENCE PARK CAMBO IN TRNAVA

Research park of the Slovak Technical University focused on the field of material research based on ion & plasma technologies.





## RIS3 — National R&D Specialization Strategy

**Biomedicine & biotechnology are one of the three priorities of the R&D strategy of the Slovak Republic.**

Biomedicine and biotechnology focus on new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for cancer, heart disease, blood vessels and brain, endocrine and metabolic disorders, infectious diseases and allergies, pharmacological and industrial biotechnologies.

Almost 2,000 researchers work in the segment and they publish more than one fourth of all Slovak publications in international scientific journals. The results are used in the field of the diagnostic, prevention and therapy of diseases in cooperation with three medical faculties.

## Slovak Academy of Sciences

**Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) is a public research institution established in 1942, which undertakes autonomous non–university scientific research in Slovakia which is primarily funded from public finances.**

The research is highly systematic and concentrated which allows it to be connected to global trends in the development of human knowledge. The perspectives gained from research undertaken at the SAS are based on evidence and are qualitatively comparable to research undertaken abroad.

The SAS consists of 69 organizations operating in 2 major research cities— Bratislava and Košice. The Academy publishes 73 scientific and professional journals. Currently it employs a total of 2,147 scientists, of which 233 are D.Sc. and 1,914 C.Sc. and PhD. In 2021, SAS organizations had a total of 509 PhD students.

SAS organizations are actively involved in higher education. As external educational institutions, SAS organizations participate in the implementation of PhD study programs at 11 universities. The most important partners of SAS institutes in doctoral studies are the Comenius University and the Slovak Technical University, which are ranked best in international rankings. In addition, the employees of the SAS acted as supervisors for 66 PhD students and 785 students of master and bachelor degree at universities.

### SAS INSTITUTES UNDER THE SECTION LIFE SCIENCE, CHEMICAL, MEDICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

#### MEDICAL SCIENCES

##### Biomedical Research Center SAS

- Cancer Research Institute
- Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
- Institute of Experimental Endocrinology
- Institute of Neurobiology
- Institute of Virology

##### Centre of Experimental Medicine SAS

##### Institute of Neuroimmunology

#### BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES

##### Centre of Biosciences SAS

- Institute of Chemistry
- Institute of Inorganic Chemistry
- Institute of Molecular Biology
- Institute of Zoology
- Polymer Institute

#### AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCES

- Institute of Forest Ecology
- Institute of Landscape Ecology
- Institute of Parasitology
- Plant Science and Biodiversity Center SAS

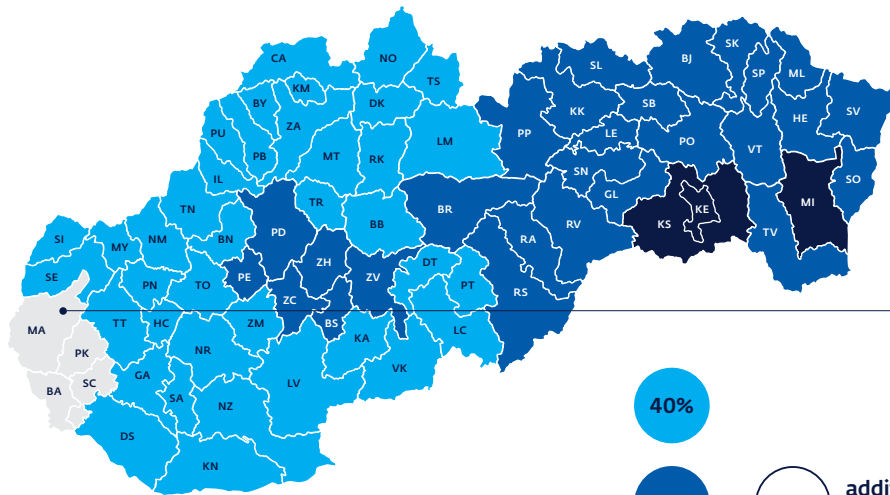
# Investment Incentives

## MAXIMUM REGIONAL INVESTMENT AID INTENSITY

The primary goal of the investment incentives is to motivate investors to place their new projects in regions with higher unemployment and to attract projects with higher added value.



Districts in Bratislava region are excluded from the investment aid scheme



40%

50%

60%

+10% additional incentives for medium-sized enterprises

+20% additional incentives for small and micro-sized enterprises

### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The Act on Investment Incentives divides the projects, which may be supported, into four categories:

- industrial production
- technology centers
- combined projects of industrial production and technology center
- shared services centers

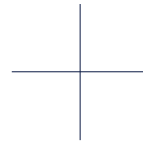
### ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Costs of land acquisition
- Costs of buildings acquisition & construction
- Costs of new technological equipment and machinery acquisition
- Intangible long-term assets — licences, patents, etc.
- Rent of new land/building **or**
- Total wage costs of all new employees calculated over a period of 2 years

### FORMS OF INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- Corporate income tax relief
- Cash grant
- Contributions for the newly created jobs
- Rent/Sale of real estate for a discounted price

\*An amendment to the Governmental Regulation no. 195/2018 Coll. is currently in the legislation process. Map of maximum intensities above already reflects these changes (maximum aid intensity in the Western Slovakia increased from 30% to 40%). Please contact us at [invest@sario.sk](mailto:invest@sario.sk) for more information (including minimum conditions).



Positive regional contribution of a new investment projects shall be concluded based on these categories — investment location, number of jobs created, average gross monthly salary of new employees, expected added value and possible qualification of a project respecting definition of a priority area



## AIM INVESTMENT AWARDS UAE 2022

CEE & TURKEY REGION  
Best Investment Promotion Agency in 2022



# SARIO Profile

Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) is a governmental investment and trade promotion agency of the Slovak Republic. The agency was established in 2001 and it operates under the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.

## 01 INVESTMENT SERVICES

### FOR POTENTIAL INVESTORS

- investment environment overview
- assistance with investment projects implementation
- starting a business consultancy
- sector and regional analyses
- investment incentives consultancy
- site location & suitable real estate consultancy

### FOR ESTABLISHED INVESTORS

- identification of local suppliers, service providers
- assistance with expansion preparation and execution
- assistance with Industry 4.0 solutions and R&D implementation

## 02 FOREIGN TRADE SERVICES

### IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

- Slovak supplier or sub-contractor
- information about Slovak export/trade environment
- sourcing opportunities
- forming a joint venture, production cooperation or other forms of partnership with a Slovak partner

### SERVICES FOR EXPORTERS

- information on foreign territories
- customized search for foreign partners
- online database of business opportunities
- export Training Centre
- subcontracting assistance

## 03 INNOVATION SOURCING

- matching local tech companies with the operations of large companies that plan to implement innovative solutions to streamline and optimize their processes
- focused mostly on Industry 4.0 solutions such as digitalization, intelligent automation, and robotics as well as advanced and complex IT solutions for various industries
- based on a database of more than 300 local tech companies which is constantly updated and expanded

## 04 SLOVAK SPACE OFFICE

### FOR SLOVAK ENTITIES

- tailor-made sector entry consultancy
- startup creation through hackathons and incubation programs
- cooperation opportunities through matchmaking events
- internationalization of the Slovak space companies and research institutions

### FOR FOREIGN PARTNERS

- customized search for local partners
- assistance with establishing branch in Slovakia
- cooperation on space industry events



CONTENT  
ADVISOR

**SARIO IS YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE IN SLOVAKIA.  
TALK TO US TODAY!**

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