

Annual Report

2014

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SLOVENSKÁ ALIANCIA PRE
INTERNETOVÚ EKONOMIKU

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internet is an opportunity to put Slovakia on the world stage

Summarizing the first year of the Slovak Alliance for the Internet Economy

The idea of SAPIE has been in the works for 2 years already. Anton Zajac, Ivan Stefunko and I have been discussing a way to help Slovakia grow and foster its innovative potential. We've agreed on this beautiful experiment we now call SAPIE. Our mission is to improve the education system, teach our children to be smart risk takers full of hopes and dreams, driven by their entrepreneurial ideas and visions for a better future. We want to help creative people unleash their potential, help them to access finance, mentor them, develop their business ideas - to boost the already bubbling startup ecosystem. Furthermore, we support the brave business that sees the global market as their playground and are not afraid to join the big kids. We want Slovakia to become the innovative, creative and hard-working nation in the heart of Europe.

Prior to the inception of the Alliance, our members have organized and supported our dream through a myriad of activities. One such example is the successful cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the Innovators Connect online conferences, which connected experts from the startup world with Slovakia. There has been four hangouts already, connecting Finland, Israel and the Netherlands with Slovakia. StartupAwards.SK is the flagship event of the year, which has increased in importance and quality every year. Our founding member Google organized the first year of Think Export with Google, which inspired aspiring exporters through success stories of global Slovak companies and export tips. Our member The Spot launched their own accelerator program attracting interest and media coverage for innovative companies and fulfilling their goal in educating the broader community. Neulogy Ventures provides venture capital for early stage startups that are seeking funding in Slovakia and help them grow globally.

In September 2014, a delegation of successful Slovak companies joined our newly elected president Andrej Kiska on his trip to the US. They shared their stories on the CEE Summit at Google headquarters in New York, participated in case studies at Harvard Business School and Stanford, visited ESET offices in San Diego where they opened the first incubator for Slovak companies and visited the Mecca of the startup world - Silicon Valley. Many ideas, goals and visions were generated from this trip, and we started working on making them a reality in Slovakia.

To help us achieve our goal we've hired the Executive Manager for SAPIE, Petra Dzurovcinova, who is dedicated to help us reach our mission.

In the coming year, we plan to further intensify our efforts, partner with more organizations excited by our vision, let our activities grow and gain momentum of a snow ball rolling down the slopes of High Tatras.

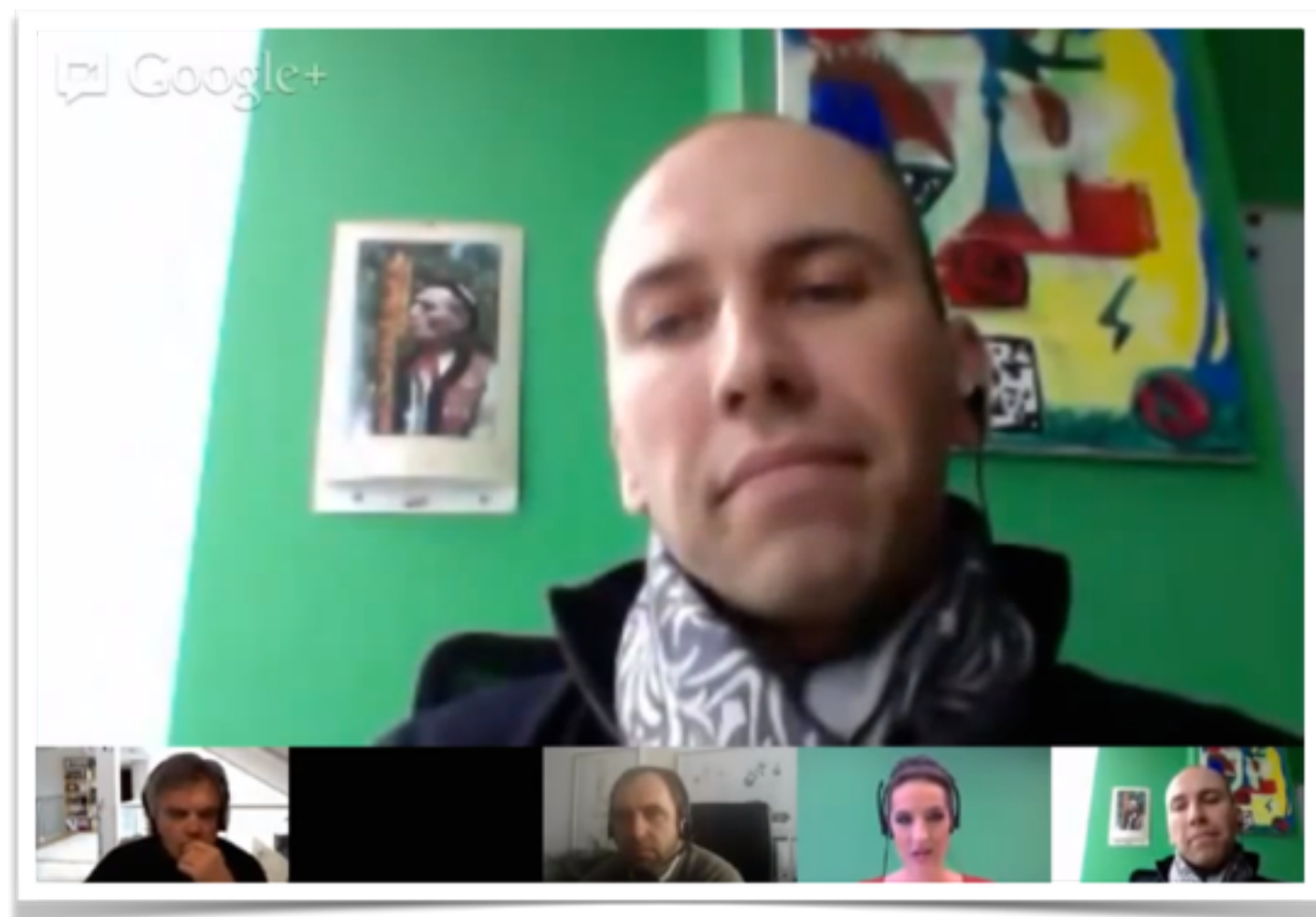
These and many more stories show us hope that Slovakia is on the right path to becoming the country everyone of us will be proud of to call their home.

Rastó Kulich

Chairman of the Board and Country Manager of Google Slovakia

SAPIE Activities

2013



Online press conference announcing the inception of the Slovak Alliance for the Internet Economy by Google, ESET and Neulogy

Three successful entrepreneurs Rastó Kulich, Country Manager of Google Slovakia, Anton Zajac, CEO ESET North America and Ivan Štefunko, Managing Partner in Neulogy Ventures took the idea of SAPIE under their wings and were joined by successful local and global Internet companies.

The inception of SAPIE followed the BCG Study "Slovakia Online - How the Internet is Transforming the Slovak Economy".



Identified 3 key areas of focus

Fostering technical, business and creative education

Boosting startup ecosystem

Taking Slovak companies global with e-commerce

Workshop with Members of the European Parliament on "The Internet Economy - an opportunity for sustainable growth and employment in Slovakia" in Brussels. Joined by Vice-President of the European Commission Maroš Šefčovič, Deputy Minister of Finance and Slovak Digital Champion Peter Pellegrini and Katarína Nevedalová, successful Slovak entrepreneurs (ESET, Neulogy, Ultraplast) presented their business story in the European Parliament.



INVITATION: **Workshop on Internet Economy - Opportunity for Sustainable Growth and Employment, 18. September 2013, European Parliament, ASP 5G305**

Members of the Slovak Alliance for Internet Economy, together with Ms. Katarina Nevedalova, Member of European Parliament from Slovakia, invite you to a workshop: **"Internet Economy - Opportunity for Sustainable Growth and Employment"**, organized on **18th of September, 2013 at 16:00 in the European Parliament, room ASP 5G305, Brussels**. Workshop will also be attended by Maros Sefcovic, Vice-President of European Commission.

2014

InnovatorsConnect
**Hangout with Ari Korhonen,
Janne Hitaniemi
and Radoslav Mizera**



Slovak-Nordic Innovation Forum held in Bratislava in June. Scandinavian countries shared their experience and success stories with creating clusters, creating tech hubs and supporting startup ecosystems.

Innovators Connect online conference speakers presented ways to finance startups, obtain public support and how to strengthen Slovak-Finnish business relations. The speakers were business angel Ari Korhonen, the president and vice-president of clean tech Slovak-Finnish startup Janne Hietaniemi and Radoslav Mizera, and moderator Ivan Štefanko.

Innovators Connect with Jon Medved Slovak startups met one of the most influential venture capitalists Jon Medved from Israel. Livestreaming from the event was available online and in The Spot, VTP Žilina and Eastcubator.

InnovatorsConnect
Hangout s Jonom Medvedom



Jonathan Medved

Zakladateľ a CEO Ourcrowd, spoluzakladateľ a bývalý CEO spoločnosti Vringo. Jeden z najvýznamnejších venture kapitalistov v Izraeli, podľa NY Times patrí medzi najvplyvnejších Američanov v Izraeli. Medved investoval do viac ako 100 start-upov, z toho 12 z nich presiahlo hodnotu 100 mil. USD. Bol zakladateľ a hlavný partner izraelského venture fondu Israel Seed Partners (260 mil. USD).

Streda, 26. jún 17:00 | Google+

Videokonferenciu bude možné sledovať na goo.gl/E0vmE alebo v priestoroch partnerských inkubátorov v Bratislave (The Spot, Connect), Žiline (VTP) a Košiciach (Eastcubator).

Otázky môžete klást prostredníctvom platformy sli.do na adrese: sli.do/innconn

Organizátor



Hlavní partneri



Partneri



SAPIE participated at the workshop and contributed to the position paper "Digital Visegrad: Vision or reality?" started by CEPI which was presented to the Slovak presidency of the Visegrad Group.

Prepared new legislation for a simplified stock company to be introduced in Slovak Commercial code to help investors enter and exit startups, as well as simplify the process of inception.

**Digital Visegrad:
Vision or reality?**

**Recommendations for the
Slovak Presidency of
the Visegrad Group**



WORKSHOP
Opportunities, Barriers and the Future of e-Commerce in Slovakia and V4 region
 with Peter Stephens, Deputy Director of EU Strategy (UK)

CEPI CENTRAL EUROPEAN POLICY INSTITUTE
 Member of STRATEGY COUNCIL

British Embassy Bratislava

