

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the Civic Association

## Future Slovakia Forum

(o.z. Fórum budúcnosti Slovenska)

Public Version

Reporting Period: July 2024 – June 2025

Prepared by: Dávid Bořuta, Chair of the Civic Association

[www.future-slovakia.eu](http://www.future-slovakia.eu)

Lubinská 8, 811 03 Bratislava | [forum@future-slovakia.eu](mailto:forum@future-slovakia.eu)

## Executive Summary

Future Slovakia Forum (FSF) is a pro-European civic think tank founded in early 2024. This report covers our first year of operations (July 2024 – June 2025). Key facts at a glance:

Indicator	Value
Founded	February 2024
Members (as of June 2025)	8
Expert collaborators (healthcare)	10
Published expert outputs	9 (position papers, analyses, commentaries)
Events (attended / organised)	6 attended, 1 organised
Active working groups	1 (Healthcare Reform)
Media coverage of flagship project	5+ national outlets (Denník N, SME, ta3, Postoj, .týždeň)
Crowdfunding donors (Donio)	170+
YouTube reach (discussions)	60,000+ views

FSF is built on the conviction that evidence-based reform proposals, combined with expert cooperation and civic mobilisation, can shift public debate and create conditions for institutional reform in Slovakia.

## 1. Introduction

The civic association Future Slovakia Forum (FSF) was founded at the beginning of 2024 in response to societal, geopolitical, and political challenges threatening Slovakia’s democratic development. FSF aims to contribute to expert discussion on key reforms, the defence of democratic institutions, and the long-term modernisation of Slovakia, including its firm anchoring in the European Union and NATO.

The period from July 2024 to June 2025 was a foundational phase. FSF focused on:

- Building an organisational framework and admitting 8 founding members.
- Engaging 10 expert collaborators for the healthcare reform working group.
- **Launching the flagship project “Kam patrí Slovensko?” (Where Does Slovakia Belong?)** — a representative public opinion survey on Slovakia’s geopolitical orientation, conducted by the FOCUS agency and financed through Donio (170+ donors), and covered by five national media outlets.
- Publishing 9 expert outputs in the areas of defence, foreign policy, public administration, and healthcare.
- Participating in 6 public events and organising 1 expert discussion with more than 60,000 YouTube views.
- Establishing institutional partnerships with INESS, aktuality.sk, and .týždeň.

## 2. Vision and Mission

**Future Slovakia Forum** seeks a democratic, resilient, and competitive Slovakia rooted in strong European values, modernising its institutions and public services, fostering inclusive growth based on fiscal responsibility and market-oriented reforms, and acting as a reliable ally internationally.

We pursue this vision through expert analyses and position papers, public debate, the work of expert working groups, and strategic partnerships across sectors. Our approach is evidence-based: every major analytical output follows a structured methodology, cites its sources, and states confidence levels explicitly.

## 3. Thematic Priorities

FSF has defined **eight priority areas** that reflect both Slovakia’s most urgent and its long-term challenges. During the reporting period, one area was actively developed (Healthcare), while two more are planned for activation in the second half of 2025 (Education; Public Administration / Decentralisation). The remaining areas are in a preparatory phase and depend on the recruitment of qualified experts.

Priority Area	Key Focus	Status
Education and Employment	Reform, media literacy, demographic shifts	Planned (H2 2025)
Public Finances and Economic Reforms	Fiscal responsibility, transparency of EU funds	Preparatory

Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption	Judicial independence, media freedom	Preparatory
Infrastructure, Innovation, and Digitalisation	Digital transformation, cybersecurity	Preparatory
Public Administration and Decentralisation	Electoral reform, regional development	Planned (H2 2025)
Healthcare and Environment	Access, efficiency, clean energy	Active
International Relations and Security	Ukraine, NATO/EU, hybrid threats	Active (outputs)
Social Inclusion and Civic Engagement	Civic participation, resilience to polarisation	Preparatory

FSF will consider expanding into additional areas as qualified experts join the organisation.

## 4. Main Activities and Outputs

### 4.1 Expanding the Expert Network

During the reporting period, FSF:

- Expanded its membership to 8 members.
- Engaged 10 external experts for the healthcare reform working group (Healthy Future of Slovakia / REFORMA 3.3).
- Launched targeted outreach to experienced experts across all eight priority areas.
- Prepared a new intake of members and experts for the 2025/2026 cycle.

### 4.2 Expert Outputs

FSF published 9 expert outputs during the period, including:

- Analyses of trends in electoral preferences and citizens' foreign-policy attitudes (ongoing, especially in the first half of 2025).
- **Security Can't Wait** – a proposal for a comprehensive defence strategy, including higher defence spending, support for Ukraine, and transparent oversight of public expenditure.
- Position papers on protecting democracy, reforming public institutions, and political accountability.
- **Kam patrí Slovensko? (Where Does Slovakia Belong?)** – a representative public opinion survey conducted by the FOCUS agency and financed through Donio (170+ donors). The results were published in March 2025 and covered by Denník N, SME, ta3, Postoj, and .týždeň, sparking substantial public debate.
- Preparatory work on healthcare reform (REFORMA 3.3), involving 4 members of the association under the leadership of the FSF healthcare working group, with a structured governance protocol and cross-sector expert input.

### 4.3 Public Events and Engagement

FSF participated in 6 public events and organised 1:

- **Slovakia in Dialogue** – participation at Kulturama in Bratislava.
- **Expert discussions on defence and foreign policy** – in response to the results of the “Kam patrí Slovensko?” survey. Two YouTube video discussions reached a combined audience of over 60,000 views. Panellists included former Foreign Minister Miroslav Wlachovský, sociologist Michal Vašečka, and FOCUS director Martin Slosiarik.
- Active participation in events and discussions organised by civil society actors across Slovakia.

## 5. Institutional Partnerships

FSF deepened cooperation with the following organisations during the reporting period:

Partner	Type	Area of cooperation
INESS	Think tank	Economic policy analysis
aktuality.sk	Independent media	Media coverage, expert commentary
.týždeň	Independent media	Publication of analyses and discussions
Bratislava Policy Institute	Think tank	Policy coordination
Platforma pre demokraciu	Civic platform	Pro-European civic initiatives

A key objective for the coming period is to systematically expand partnerships with expert and interest-based organisations, including international think tanks and academic institutions.

## 6. Methodology and Quality Assurance

FSF is committed to methodological rigour in its analytical work. Key features of our approach include:

- **Evidence-based outputs:** All major analytical documents follow a structured methodology in which factual claims are supported by cited sources and assigned explicit confidence levels (High / Medium / Low).
- **Governance protocol:** For multi-sector projects such as REFORMA 3.3 (healthcare reform), FSF uses a formal governance protocol that includes sector-lead validation of project intent, a conflict-escalation mechanism, a rule against overstating confidence, and mechanisms for coordinating changes across document versions.
- **External review:** FSF is building capacity for independent external technical review of its proposals, including ad hoc review panels with an advisory role.
- **Communication standards:** FSF has adopted formal communication principles for members and volunteers, emphasising fact-based, non-violent, and constructive public communication.

FSF is not yet in a position to implement full peer review across all thematic areas. This capacity will be developed as the expert network expands.

## 7. Finances (February 2024 – June 2025)

### 7.1 Revenue Structure

FSF's activities were funded through a mix of sources:

- Membership fees (individual: €60/year; corporate: €600/year).
- Voluntary contributions from individuals and legal entities.
- Public crowdfunding (Donio – 170+ donors for the “Kam patrí Slovensko?” project).

FSF does not accept cash payments. All financial transactions are processed through bank transfer or online payment via [www.future-slovakia.eu](http://www.future-slovakia.eu).

### 7.2 Expenditure Structure

Expenditure during the reporting period was allocated as follows:

Category	Allocation
Expert projects, research, and analytical outputs	Primary
Operational costs and registered office	Secondary
Communication and media outreach	Secondary
Coordination and leadership of the association	Symbolic

### 7.3 Honorarium for the Chair

On 29 June 2024, the Executive Council approved a monthly honorarium of €300 for the Chair, effective from July 2024. This is a symbolic recognition of the coordination, expert leadership, and public representation provided on behalf of FSF.

All liabilities were settled during the reporting period. FSF's finances are balanced and transparent.

## 8. Outlook for Late 2025 and Priorities for 2026

FSF has set the following targets for the period ahead:

Objective	Target
Membership growth	30 members by the end of 2026
Expert publications	20 outputs in calendar year 2026
Annual budget	€60,000 for calendar year 2026
Thematic expert forums	Minimum of 4 in 2026

New working groups	Education; Decentralisation (H2 2025)
Student engagement	BA students in Slovakia and abroad
Donor and crowdfunding campaign	Launch in 2026

Additional priorities include developing educational tools for civic resilience, actively countering disinformation and hybrid threats, and engaging more young professionals and regional actors.

## 9. Acknowledgements

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We thank:

- All members, experts, donors, and supporters.
- Independent journalists and civic activists.
- All citizens who believe in democracy and European values.
- The 170+ donors in the Donio fundraiser for the “Kam patrí Slovensko?” survey.

## 10. Transparency

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This report is the public version of FSF’s annual report and is available at [www.future-slovakia.eu](http://www.future-slovakia.eu). In line with our privacy policy, we do not publish the names of individual members unless they are publicly presented as experts in specific projects.

**Dated:** 9 July 2025

**Dávid Bořuta**, Chair of the Civic Association