

**Workshop**  
**on**  
***“Preparedness of health care systems in CEE to cope with current and future health emergencies such as pandemics”***  
***([GLOBSEC Healthcare Readiness Index](#))***

**Executive Summary:**

The Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic and GLOBSEC Think Tank will hold a workshop focused on discussing problems of public healthcare systems of CEE countries, availability of tools to measure and evaluate readiness of the systems, what indicators and data sets-sources to use, how to find potential solutions & learn from other EU countries’ best practices in the area of public health. By inspiring an exchange of best practices, consideration of the latest EU trends and scientific evidence, the aim of the event is to provide a platform for proposals that could create added value to the EU-level initiatives.

**Topic:**

Preparedness of Health Care Systems in CEE to cope with current and future health emergencies ([GLOBSEC Healthcare Readiness Index](#))

**Organizer:**

Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU  
Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic  
GLOBSEC Think Tank

**Venue:**

Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU (Avenue de Cortenbergh 79, 1000 Brussels)

**Date and time:**

14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 15.30-18.00, buffet dinner provided after the meeting

## **Background:**

The pandemic has reminded us that healthcare sector is a critical infrastructure with significant impact on the whole ecosystem of trade, industry and services worldwide. In fact, whole economies rely on the health systems, as we have seen around the world over the last two years. Surprisingly, countries with the highest healthcare spending and the most advanced infrastructure have not managed the pandemics best. In many cases, smaller countries with flexible systems, heavy focus on public health and early access to innovations fared better, such as Iceland and the Nordic countries.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic is on decline thanks to vaccination and focused collective governmental efforts worldwide, future challenges such as multimorbid patients, expensive medicines and depleting personal resources are likely to pose significant problems for public healthcare systems around the world. It is very likely that these problems will require similar solutions as during the pandemic, i.e. flexible health systems that are ready to immediately adopt, act and face new challenges.

Which countries are currently ready to the broadest extent and should be considered as “role models”?

To assess the readiness of any country to face healthcare challenges, whether it is the COVID-19 pandemic or the increasing rate of multimorbid patients, a variety of factors need to be considered. These range from basic indicators of health expenditure up to complex composite indicators, such as DALYs. Each indicator could portray some aspect of the readiness, but in order to have a complete picture, it is vital to analyse also the variable of time.

Some available indicators measure readiness of the system as it has been up to today, e.g. avoidable mortalities. Some other indicators measure readiness, or impact on readiness in the future, e.g. incidence of diseases or spending on preventive measures. Hence, the GLOBSEC Think Tank recently published an analytical tool – [GLOBSEC Healthcare Readiness Index 2021](#) with initial focus on CEE countries, which analyses indicators in two parts: 1) indicators and factors that influence the readiness today and 2) factors that are likely to influence readiness of the system in the future.

What are the benefits of such healthcare composite index for decision making in public healthcare systems?

How are different EU countries prepared for future challenges in the public healthcare area?

**Speakers:**

***Welcome and Opening:*** **Mária Malová**, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the EU

***Keynote Speech:*** **Róbert Babelá**, State Secretary, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

***Event Moderator:*** **Roland Freudenstein**, Vice President, Head of Brussels Office, GLOBSEC Think Tank

***Introduction of the Healthcare Readiness Index 2021 (CEE Countries):***

**Martin Smatana** – Healthcare management advisor, International Monetary Fund

**Michal Štofko** – President, Slovak Health Insurance Association

**Kamil Kouřil** – Strategic Partnerships Senior Manager (Health), GLOBSEC Think Tank

***Expert panel discussion:***

**Róbert Babelá** – State Secretary, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

**Representative of European Commission** – TBC

**Yannis Natsis** – Director, European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)

**Elizabeth Kuiper** – Associate Director, European Policy Centre

**Anett Ruszanov** – Director of Policy and Programmes, European Health Management Association (EHMA)