



WELCOME to SLOVAKIA



# SLOVAKIA, A GREAT PLACE TO FILM.

The following pages will give you insight into the rebate program and what you can expect when shooting in Slovakia.

Vitajte! (Welcome!)

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#### PRODUCTION REBATE SYSTEM

- BENEFITS
- 33% cash rebate on all eligible expenses.
- FUNDING AND CAPS:
- Unlike other systems, there is no annual cap on the Slovak film funding support.
- Per project cap is 50% of the total budget.
- PROJECT CRITERIA
- One, two or three separate cinematographic works, at a minimum of 70 minutes in length.
- Television episodes, at a minimum of 40 minutes in length / max 13 episodes.
- Minimum spending requirement is 150,000 Euro for film and 300,000 Euro for TV.
- Project should be sensitive to cultural criteria similar to those in nearby countries.
- WHAT QUALIFIES
- Eligible expenses include costs related to the production of the film, spent and paid for in Slovakia, through a Slovak service company.
- Expenditures on foreign crews are also eligible, provided local taxes are withheld.



#### **BENEFITS BEYOND THE 33 % REBATE**

(a busy man's guide to Slovakia)

- Also **33** % rebate on foreign cast & crew in case they pay withholding tax in Slovakia (19 % to 25 % income tax)
- Permits for shooting in strategically important locations such as airports, power plants, dams, will be **granted** by the government
- Police assistance for shooting on highways, city streets or country roads **free of charge**
- Multiple agreements between Slovakia and other countries avoiding double taxation

#### 4 STEPS TO APPLY FOR THE REBATE

• 1. <u>Registration</u>: Your project must be registered by a Slovak service production company.

2. <u>Cultural Test</u>: Project should adhere to the respective cultural criteria (cultural test)

• 3. <u>Certification</u>: Project will be registered with the Slovak Audiovisual Fund and will receive a certificate. Once certified, all qualifying expenses will be entitled for the rebate.

• 4. Rebate Reclaim: Rebates may be claimed each quarter of the calendar year.



#### SLOVAKIA INTRODUCTION

Located in the heart of Europe, we border the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine and Poland. We have been a **member of the European Union** for over a decade, and the **Euro** is our local currency.

We are a safe and stable country, and are also a member of NATO. Economic growth over the past 20 years has changed the face of Slovakia, adding new and contemporary architecture and modern cityscapes, while still maintaining its rich cultural history.





#### **ECONOMIC FACTS**

The VAT is **20** % on goods and services, with some exceptions where lower rate is applied.

The TAX system itself is very easy – only a personal income tax of **19** % is applied and no other charges. Social system and health insurance are in line within the European Union guidelines.

Persons staying and working in the country for less than 180 days are not obliged to pay any of the mentioned above.

The average income in Slovakia is 1000 Euro / month. In Bratislava, the average income comes up to 1,500 Euro per month. This is reflected by costs of goods and services in every segment.



### A PASSION FOR FILMMAKING

Our film industry has come a long way since F.W. Murnau shot the 1922 classic, NOSFERATU, at the Orava Castle.

Slovakia is a production-friendly country, nurturing generations of filmmakers, including directors, DP's, animators, composers and editors.

Our determination for continued excellence had led to the initial rebate for productions in 2014. In 2020 the tax incentive has been raised to 33 %.



## PRODUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & LOCATIONS

Our production base, **Bratislava**, is the capital of Slovakia. It is the country's largest city, and the political, cultural and economic center of Slovakia. Bratislava's solid infrastructure can easily support multiple film productions.

Additionally its central location makes it a great hub for shooting beyond our borders.





Particularly important to mention is that Vienna's imperials locations are within 45 minutes of driving from the base. Apart from location rental all resources can be brought from Slovakia and would qualify for the rebate. Worth mentioning too, is that cost of labor is approximately 50 % less than it is in Austria.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Our airport network consists of 6 modern airports spread across the country, two of them international and three suitable for charter flights. Cross-country flights take approximately 35 minutes. Our highway network continues to expand, and with the existing roads cross-country driving takes approximately 5 hours.





#### STAGES

All of our large stages are based in Bratislava. Koliba Studios houses 32,200 square feet of sound stages, with another 16,000 square feet on the public television premises.

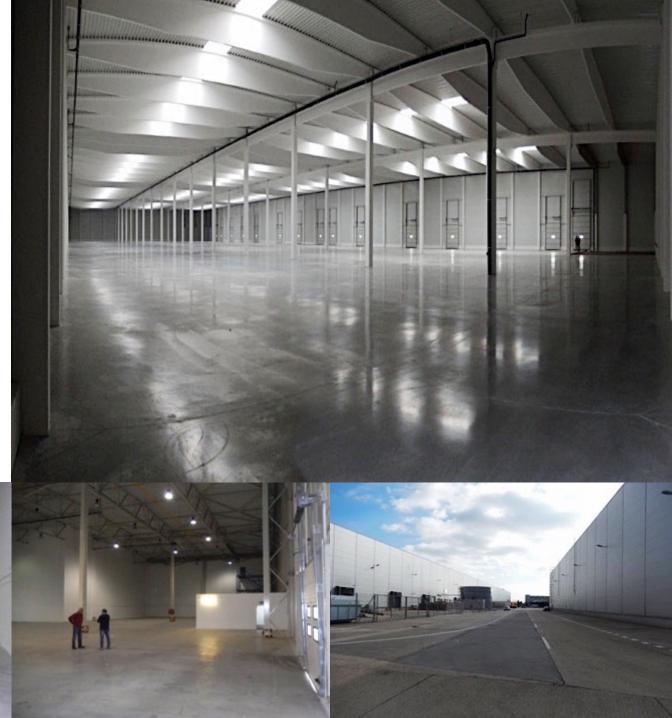


## **CONVERTED WAREHOUSES**

When the stages are too busy or when shooting in the rural parts of Slovakia; some 15,000 m2 of halls & related infrastructure is available for the filmmakers, based on the up to date information.

Mostly they are in and near the production center (let's say within 30 km driving distance).







## **LOCATIONS**

Slovakia offers a wide variety of culturally rich locations including medieval towns with over 200 castles, European streets, bucolic settings, modern architecture, industrial and urban areas, luxurious mansions and natural hot springs.

What stands out are 2 specific things: proximity and nature.

When talking proximity, nothing is too far away. A cross country flight in Slovakia takes about an hour, making potential locations affordable in terms of time and money.

#### **NATURE**

Similar to the Alps in terms of their shape and look, our High Tatras mountains are easy to access, easy to permit, and offer snowy locations from early fall. They are commonly called the "world's smallest Alpine range," with just about 20 miles, from end to end. With 29 peaks higher than 8,000 feet, they are the highest mountain range in the Carpathian Mountains.

Slovakia is famous for its natural beauty. Up to 44% of the country is forested and there are five national parks with a wide variety of tree species from spruce, fir, pine, beech, and a variety of broad-leaved trees.





### **CLIMATE**

Our climate is continental, and rarely are there extremes below (-4°F) or above (+99°F). We offer breathtaking landscapes, culturally diverse architecture and locations that can accommodate even the most demanding requirements.

## **LAKES & RIVERS**

Slovakia has an abundance of spectacular natural lakes, rivers and reservoirs - ranging from high altitude mountain lakes to underground rivers, offering a wide range of looks.





# **VARIETY**



# **SLOVAKIA TRIVIA**

Question	Answer
What is the rebate value?	20 %
Does the foreign crew qualify for the rebate?	Yes
What is the currency in Slovakia?	Euro
Does the local service production charge VAT on invoices to the foreign client?	No
Which international alliances is Slovakia part of?	NATO, EU, UN
What is the capital of Slovakia?	Bratislava
What is the inflation rate in Slovakia?	2,8 %
What are the most known hotel chains in Slovakia?	Grand collection, Hilton, Sheraton
Does an US citizen need visas to get to Slovakia?	No
Are there any custom charges between Slovakia and countries like UK, Germany, France, Netherlands?	No