

**Memorandum of Understanding  
on Economic, Cultural, and Educational Cooperation  
between the Slovak Republic and the State of Michigan**

WHEREAS, His Excellency, Eduard Kukan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, and the Honorable John Engler, Governor of the State of Michigan (hereinafter respectively referred to as the "the Minister" and the Governor), have engaged in productive discussions about the future relationships between the Slovak Republic and the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, many of the citizens of the State of Michigan look to the Slovak Republic for the roots of their ethnic heritage; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of stimulating economic growth and creating jobs for their citizens are of the highest concern to both the Minister and the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the Minister and the Governor have joined together to promote trade, investment, tourism, and other cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the Slovak Republic and the State of Michigan; and


WHEREAS, the Minister and the Governor wish to memorialise their discussions and agreed on this Memorandum of Understanding of Economic, Cultural and Educational Cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the State of Michigan.

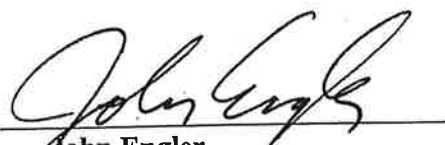
NOW, THEREFORE, THE MINISTER AND THE GOVERNOR HEREBY PRESENT THE FOLLOWING:

1. The Minister and the Governor encourage the peoples of the Slovak Republic and of the State of Michigan to promote and develop cultural, economic, and educational ties.
2. Recognizing the successful efforts of the Slovak Republic in the privatisation of enterprises, the Minister and the Governor encourage Slovak and Michigan businesses to establish strategic alliances and joint ventures and to participate in trade conferences and investment missions in the Slovak Republic and in the State of Michigan.
3. Recognizing the successful efforts of the Slovak Republic in the privatisation of banks, as well as the importance of financial services and of global telecommunications businesses to the economic growth of both the Slovak Republic and the State of Michigan, the Minister and the Governor encourage their banks and other financial services institutions and businesses, and telecommunications providers to identify and develop trade and investment opportunities aimed at strengthening the ties between the State of Michigan and the Slovak Republic.
4. In light of the Slovak Republic's path-breaking initiatives in the promotion of foreign direct investment, including, but not limited to, the recent enactment of the Act on Investment Incentives, the Minister and the Governor encourage their respective economic and investment development organizations, for example SARIO and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, to share their experiences and strategies, and to identify opportunities for Slovak and Michigan businesses. Specifically, the Minister and the Governor encourage the creation of a web-based Marketplace Exchange Service that would facilitate business-to-business exchanges, trade, joint ventures, and investment opportunities.

5. Recognizing the mutual economic, social, and cultural benefits that result from tourism, the Minister and the Governor encourage their respective tourism promotion agencies to develop strategies aimed at increasing tourism between the Slovak Republic and the State of Michigan.
6. Recognizing the importance of an efficient distribution of competencies in education as well as education's interaction with the labour market, the Minister and the Governor encourage Slovak and Michigan institutions of secondary and higher education to collaborate on strategies and projects aimed at exchanging information, creating partnerships, and sharing knowledge that will enhance the training of the workforce, job creation, increasing scientific and agricultural progress, and improving the quality of life of Slovak and Michigan citizens.
7. Recognizing the value of ongoing personal contact in the development of economic, cultural, and educational relationships, the Slovak Republic and the State of Michigan will use their best efforts to establish effective sister-city partnership relations between communities to share experiences on local management and facilitate exchanges of businessmen, educators, cultural figures, and citizens.
8. Recognizing the importance of the continued development of their democratic and civil societies, the Slovak Republic and the State of Michigan will promote the establishment of government-to-government at various levels and NGO relationships through enhanced contacts and exchanges.
9. These aforementioned co-operative efforts between the Slovak Republic and the State of Michigan may expand to other areas of co-operation when opportunities arise.

Executed this 17th day of May 2002 in the City of Bratislava in two original versions, each in Slovak and English languages.

  
Eduard Kukan  
The Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of the Slovak Republic

  
John Engler  
Governor of the State of  
Michigan