STUDY OF LIFE SCIENCES IN SLOVAK REPUBLIC
1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Conditional Opportunities
TREND Analyses study of life sciences in Slovakia

In developed countries, the industrial and business use of knowledge of life sciences has been reinforcing its position in economy sectors. Moreover, it is becoming an independent segment. There are several reasons. However, all of them stem from civilisation challenges - economic and social megatrends, which are going to determine the quality of people’s lives more and more. The most important ones are nearly contradictory. On one hand, the health and improving quality of life through elimination of health problems is becoming ever more relevant item among the value priorities. Besides improving the health care in problems of all types - whether implied from diseases, injuries or industrial diseases - the knowledge from life sciences mitigates the health limitations determined by aging of human body. On the other hand, this aspect of improving quality of products and services related to human organism and health is supporting another megatrend. That is increasing life expectancy, which puts pressure on research and development of new knowledge and, subsequently, products and services for improvement of quality of life in higher age.

In Slovakia, the term “life sciences” is used for functional complex of sciences only marginally, and almost not at all in business. This is primarily a matter of habit and introducing the new terms into use. Nevertheless, many aspects of this subsector, mostly from the segment of health care products and services, are fully functional in practice. Our study surveys the market with products related to life sciences. The following chapter analyses channels, which represent the primary route of these products to Slovakia - the imports. Besides, we provide a brief overview of the key university and academic facilities for research and development and the most relevant companies that operate in the life-science-related segment.

However, it is not any coincidence that the study begins with a separate analysis of Slovak health care sector, which is, in comprehensive view, the main market for life sciences. Realistic insight and functional access to the Slovak life science market requires knowledge of the ownership structure and the operation of health care providers. Understanding the specific operation of financing the public health care sector is equally important. This represents the majority of financial resources that cover the demand for life science goods. After transformation of the condition and operation of health insurance companies, the important issue is how will the legal regulations further develop. The answer to that will affect the life science market in the future in a significant degree. An important part will be the continued transformation of major state-owned hospitals. This topic has regained importance after the premature elections when the high positions in the state’s executive are being filled with people who do not favour the transformation of the health care system. So the issue of state regulation is the factor that will affect both the scale and the structure of the life science business.
# 2 TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2
2 TABLE OF CONTENTS 3
3 HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN SLOVAKIA AS BACKGROUND TO LIFE SCIENCES 4
4 TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEM 9
5 LEGAL FRAMEWORK 14
6 PRICING OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND MEDICAL DEVICES 20

## PART TWO – MARKET OVERVIEW

7 TRENDS IN CONSUMPTION OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND DRUGS IN SLOVAKIA 22
8 TRENDS IN CONSUMPTION OF MEDICAL DEVICES AND INSTRUMENTS 24
9 DEMAND FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS 25
10 DEVELOPMENT OF PREVALENCE AND MOST PREVALENT DISEASES IN SLOVAK POPULATION 26
11 CATEGORIES OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND CONSUMPTION TRENDS 30
12 PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE 34

## IMPORT ANALYSIS

13 ANALYSIS OF IMPORTED ARTICLES IN 2011 35
14 IMPORT ANALYSIS BY THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN 2009 AND 2010 40

### INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN LIFE SCIENCES IN SLOVAKIA 47

15 EDUCATION AND RESEARCH 47
16 RELEVANT COMPANIES IN SECTOR, INVESTMENT PROJECTS 50