



# Slovak Republic

## Investor Presentation



December 2013



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# Introduction of Presenters

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- Daniel Bytčánek , Director, Debt and Liquidity Management Agency
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# 1. Country Overview



# Slovak Republic at a Glance

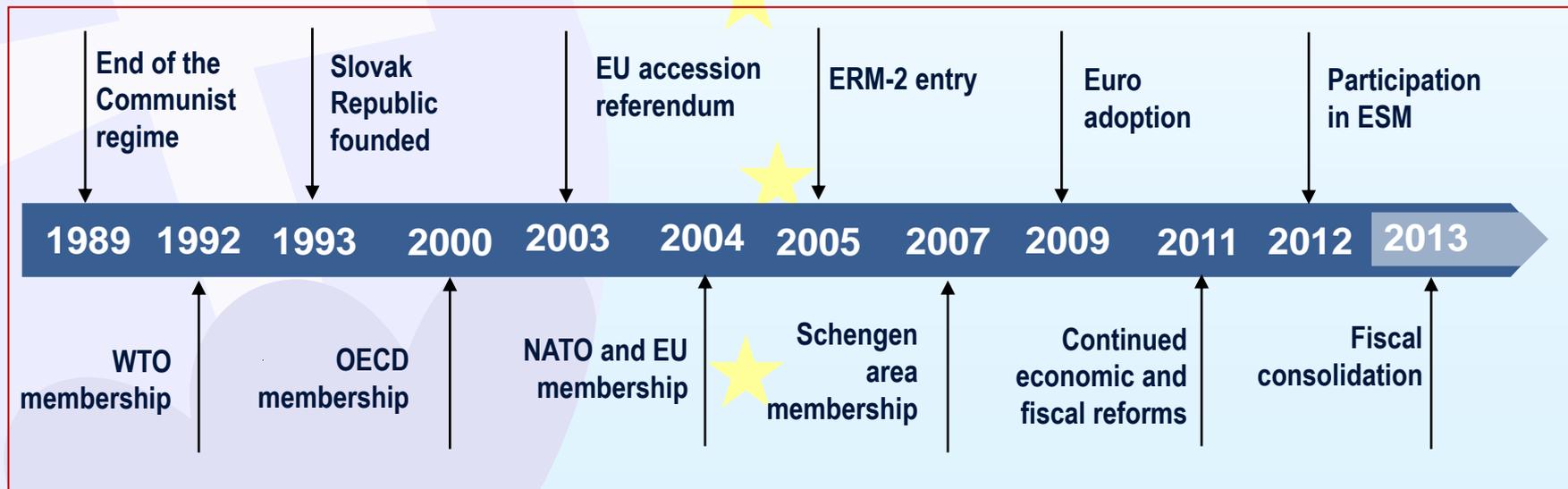
**Territory:** 49,035 km<sup>2</sup> ★

**Population:** 5.4 million

**GDP per capita:** Approx. €13,200 in 2012<sup>1</sup> ★

**Credit ratings:** A2 (stable outlook) / A (stable outlook) / A+ (stable outlook)

**Capital:** Bratislava



1) Source: Eurostat

# Recent Political Developments

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## **Social-democratic government has a strong mandate to maintain orthodox policies**

- Over 55% of parliamentary seats allowed SMER to form a one-party government
- A simple but not a constitutional majority in parliament (8 votes short)

## **Strong support for EU fiscal rules (Fiscal Compact) and national rules (debt brake)**

- The government is determined to achieve gradual improvements in its fiscal accounts and debt levels in line with the strictest requirements of the European Union
- Repeated public commitment and broad political consensus to cut the deficit to below 3.0% of GDP in 2013
- The National Council approved in 2011 a constitutional “debt brake”, which sets sanctions based on the level of gross debt
- Deficit targets for 2014 to 2016 reflect EU rules and national rules (upper debt limit of 57% of GDP)



# Key Investment Highlights (1/2)

Solid Domestic Environment

Strong Fiscal Discipline

Sound Debt Management

## I. Solid Domestic Environment

- Highest real GDP growth in the EU for the last 10 years (2003-2012), averaging 4.5%<sup>1</sup>
- Low private and public debt levels compared to the EU average
- Almost no exposure of corporate and private sector to FX loans
- Highly integrated economy with low cost, skilled labour in manufacturing
- A competitive export sector with high-value niches in key industrial sectors
- Current account balance of BoP in 2012 became positive despite global crisis (GDP 2.2 % in 2012)
- Sound and highly liquid banking sector without government assistance,
  - banking sector assets to GDP 81.9 % in 2012, well below EU average
  - banking sector capital adequacy from 12 % to 20 % with average at 15 %
  - banking sector loans to deposits currently at 96 %



1) Source: Eurostat, National Bank of Slovakia

# Key Investment Highlights (2/2)

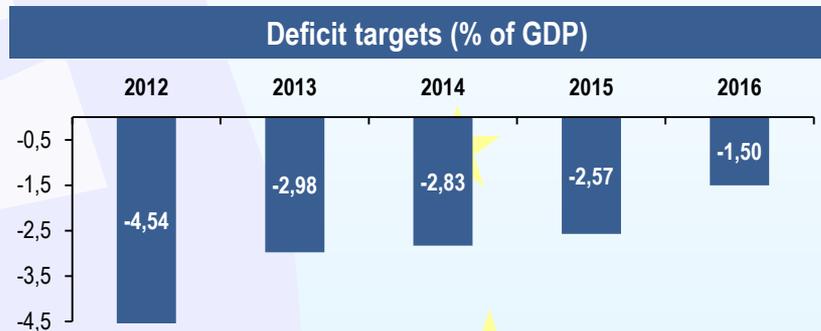
Solid Domestic Environment

Strong Fiscal Discipline

Sound Debt Management

## II. Strong Fiscal Discipline and commitment to meets its MTO

- Significant fiscal tightening based on strong consolidation effort in 2013
- Fiscal deficit in 2012 at 4.5% of GDP, and strong commitment to reduce deficit further



- Meeting the medium-term objective (structural deficit of 0.5% of GDP) in 2018

## III. Sound Debt Management

- Public debt well below the average of EMU countries (an estimated 52.4% of GDP in vs. 90.6%<sup>1</sup> of GDP average in EMU in 2012)

**Slovakia participates in Eurozone's European Stability Mechanism and remains amongst the highest rated countries in the CEE region**



1) Source: EC Winter Forecast

# A Strong, Credible and Balanced Fiscal Effort

## Three-pillar strategy to secure fiscal and macroeconomic stability

### Budgetary Measures

- Cumulative fiscal tightening worth 4.2% of GDP over 2011-2013
- Commitment to 3% deficit in 2013
- Higher dividends from State Enterprises
- Lowering corporate tax by 1 p.p. and introducing tax licences
- Savings by central government – ESO reform
- Prolonged levy on regulated businesses

### Structural Decisions

- A fiscal responsibility law with a “debt brake”
- Independent fiscal council
- Pension system reform undertaken in 2012 improved long-term sustainability: linking the retirement age to life expectancy, less generous indexation of pensions, contributions partially shifted from second to first pillar

### Liability Management

- Conservative multi-annual debt management strategy
- Public debt under half EMU average and low private debt
- Moderate bank contingency

- Measures to achieve a public deficit below 3% of GDP in 2013
- Low public debt of 52.4% of GDP in 2012 and low private debt of 49% of GDP in 2012
- Low risk of debt surprises, with banks well capitalised and foreign-owned
- Strict constitutional fiscal rules (debt brake)



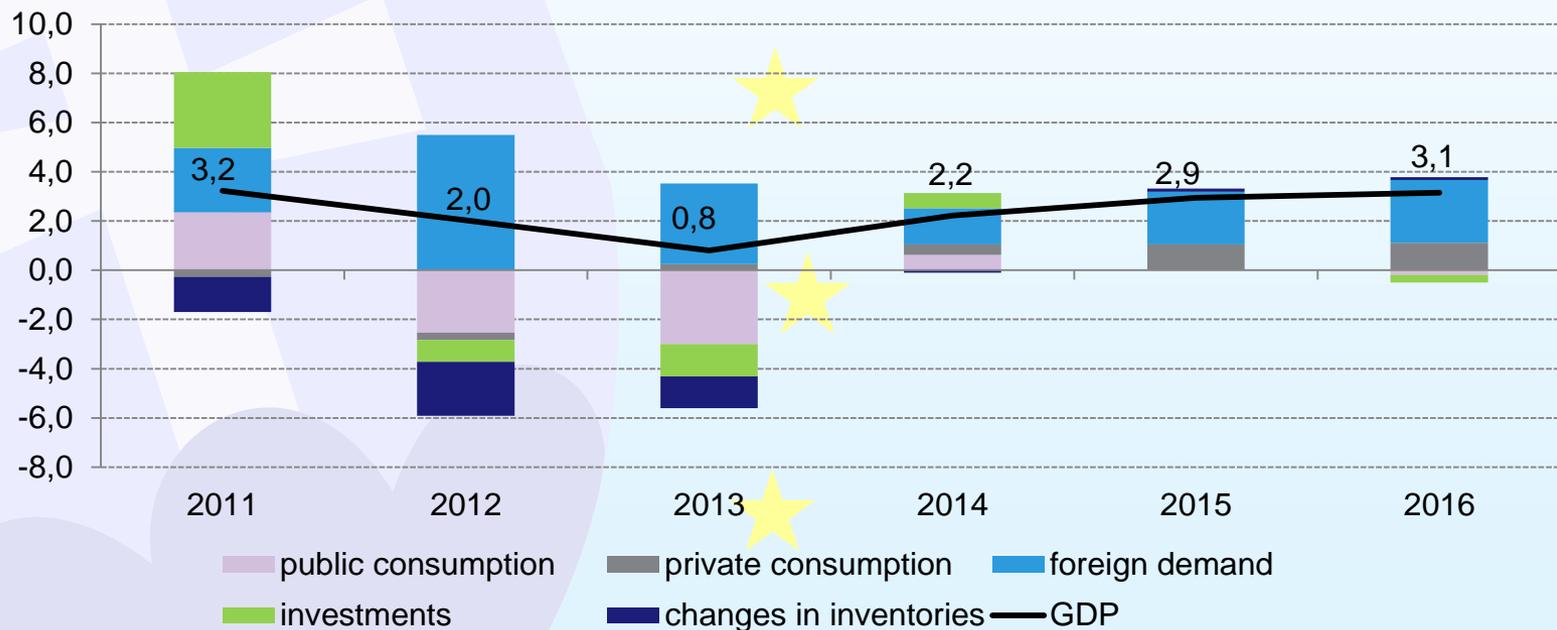
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## 2. Strong Economic Performance



# The Path To A Gradual Recovery

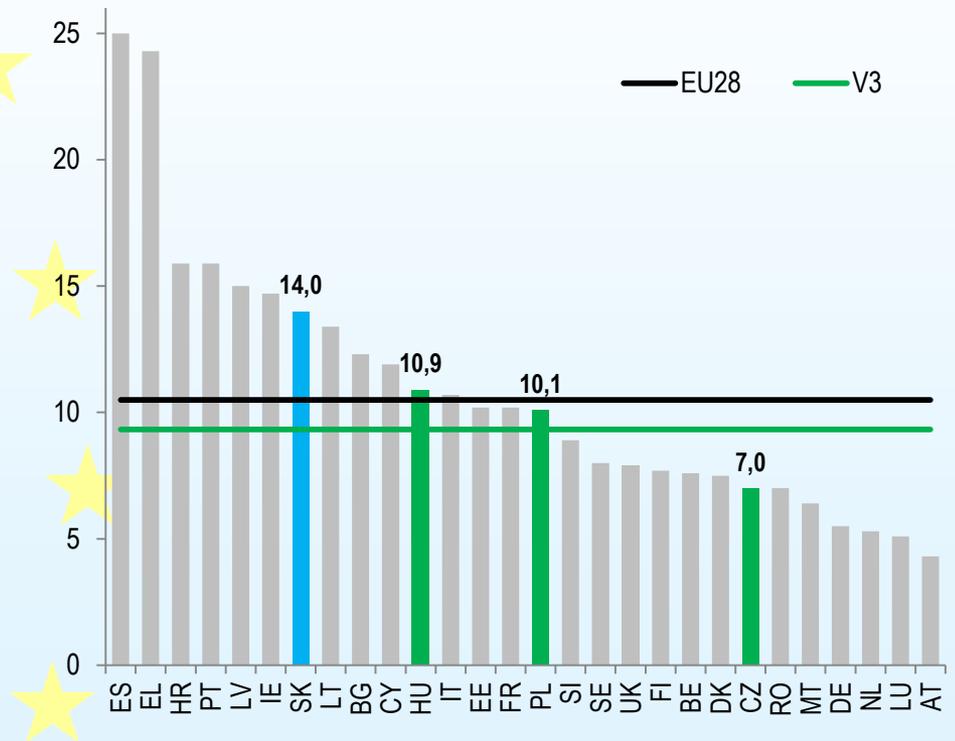
- Improved growth outlook due to better Q2 domestic and external performance, as well as higher expectations of external growth
- The unemployment rate is expected to peak in 2013, rising GDP will slowly bring it down below 13% in 2013
- Given the structural reforms completed and the competitiveness of Slovakia's exports, the average annual GDP growth in the country is expected to be around 2.3% over 2013-16
- GDP per capita continues to rise and was 75% of EU-27 average in 2012, up from 50% in 2000



# Tackling long-term unemployment

- Overall unemployment estimated at 14.5% in 2013 according to the MF SR forecast
- 7th highest unemployment rate in EU. 3rd highest long-term unemployment in EU (unemployment rate of low-skilled almost 3-times higher than average EU)
- Obstacles on both supply and demand side: low interest of employers to hire long-term unemployed and low motivation of employees
- Targeted exemption from social security contributions up to 67% of average wage (€539 in 2014) for the long-term unemployed

Unemployment rate (% , 2012)

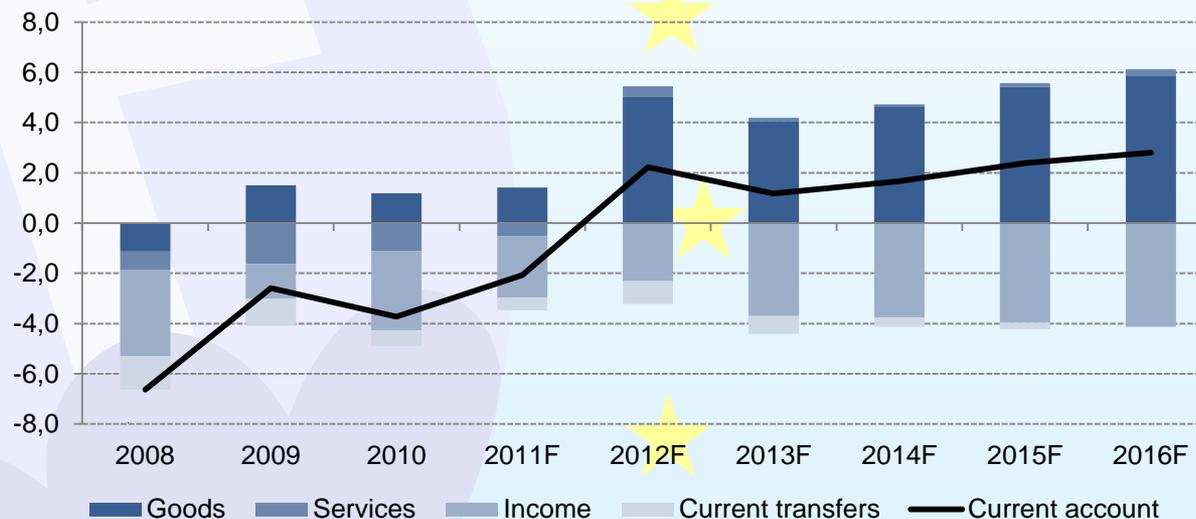


Source: Eurostat, October 2013



# Improving balance of payments

- The current account of the balance of payments improved significantly in recent years and reached positive levels for the first time in 2012 at 2.2% of GDP
- Surplus of the current account is due mainly to the improved trade balance – strong export performance coupled with weak domestic demand
- New production capacities installed in the recent years, as well as the shift to domestic suppliers (reduced import intensity of exports) indicate that the current account should remain positive even with the eventual recovery of the domestic demand



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### 3. Public Debt

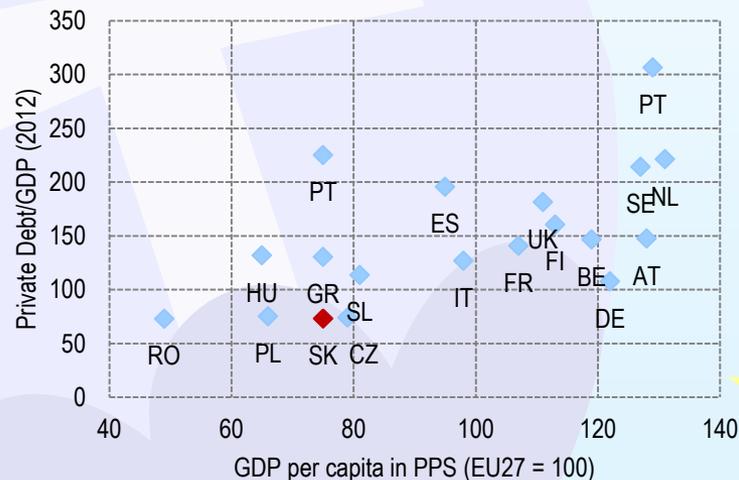


# Low Public and Private Debt

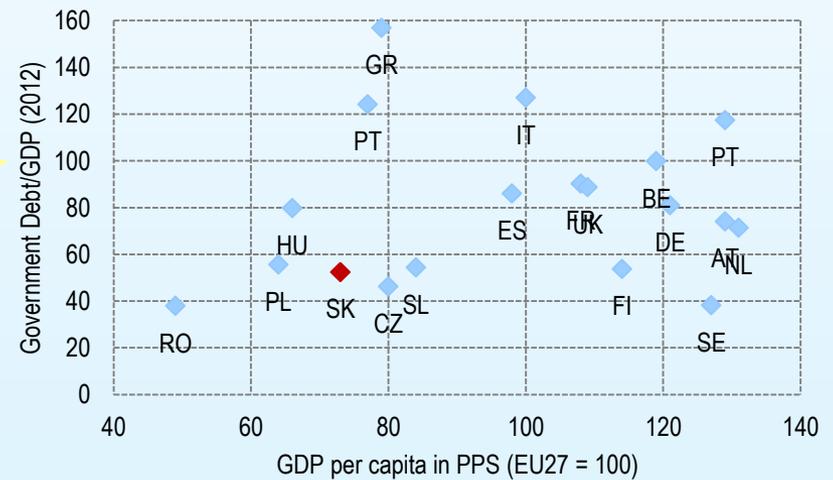
## Low indebtedness level

- Slovakia's public and private debt to GDP ratios are both considerably below the EU average
- Private debt ratio amongst the lowest in the EU
- As a Eurozone country, Slovakia participates in the European Stability Mechanism, which serves as a backstop should a participating country have problems with financing

Private Debt Ratio (% of GDP)



Government Debt Ratio (% of GDP)



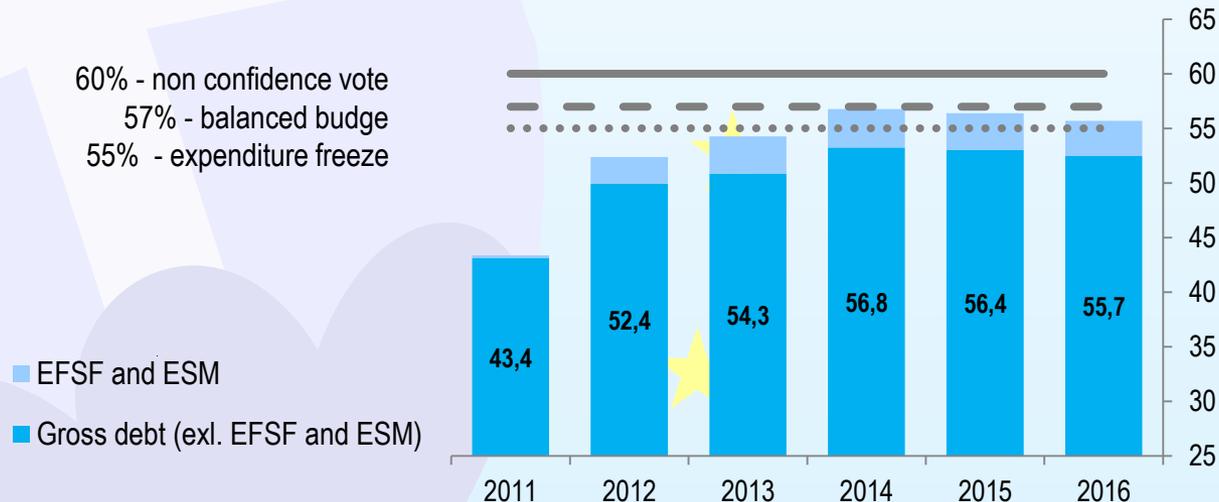
Source: Eurostat, October 2013

Source: Eurostat, October 2013



# General Government Debt Forecast and Debt Brake

- Thresholds set by the constitutional act on fiscal responsibility:
  - 50% of GDP – a letter from the Minister of Finance to the Parliament
  - 53% of GDP – proposal of measures by the Government to cut the debt
  - **55% of GDP – expenditure freeze**
  - **57% of GDP – balanced general government budget requirement**
  - **60% of GDP – upper limit, vote of confidence in the Parliament has to take place**
- Starting from 2018, the thresholds will gradually decrease by 1 p.p., in 2027 the upper debt limit will be 50% of GDP
- Gross debt remains under 57% of GDP and is projected to decline after 2015



Source: Ministry of Finance,  
Draft Budgetary Plan October 2013



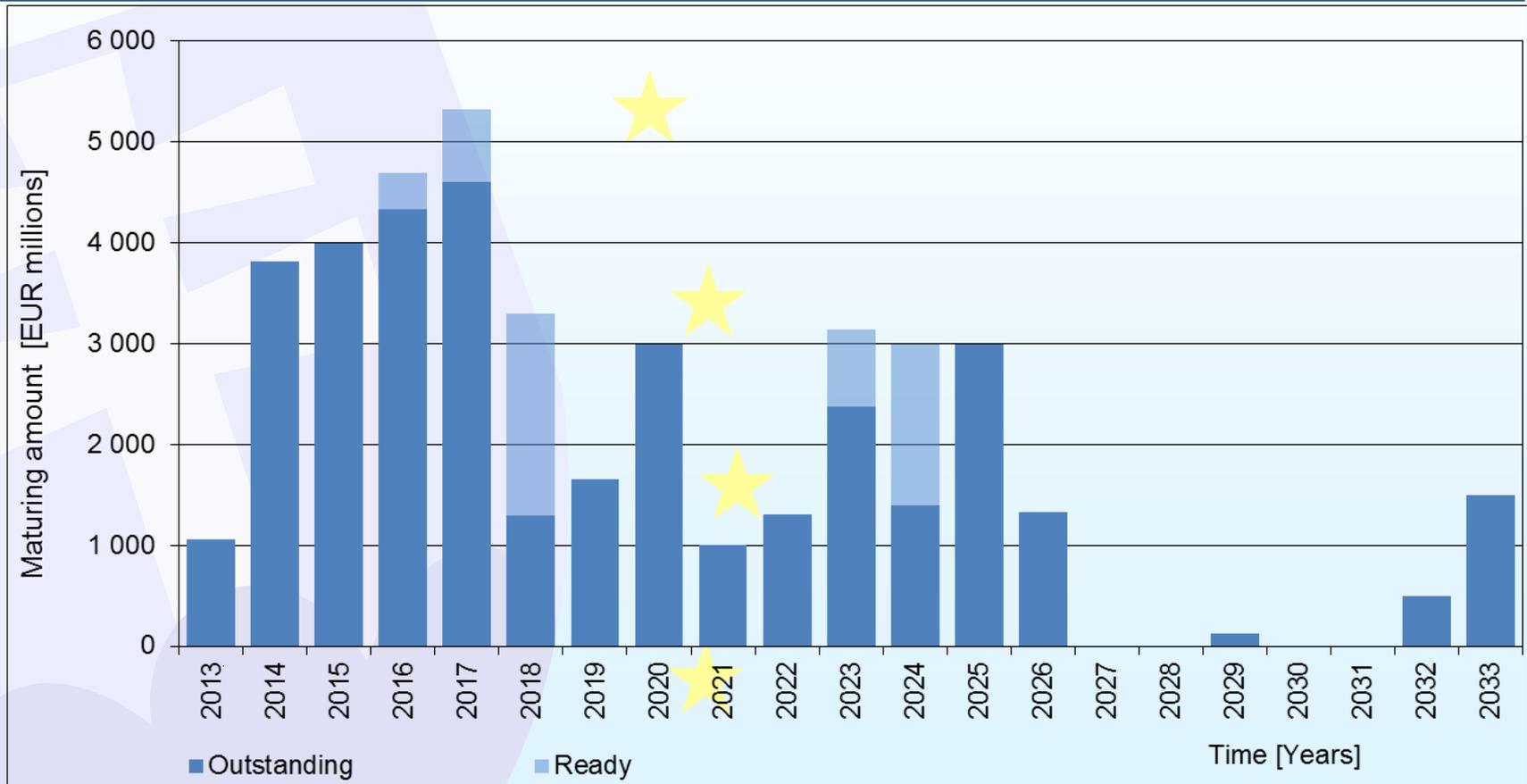
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## 5. Debt Management and Funding



# Central Government Bond Redemptions

Central Government bond portfolio redemption profile was influenced by the financial market crisis resulting in a shift of investor's interest to shorter maturities

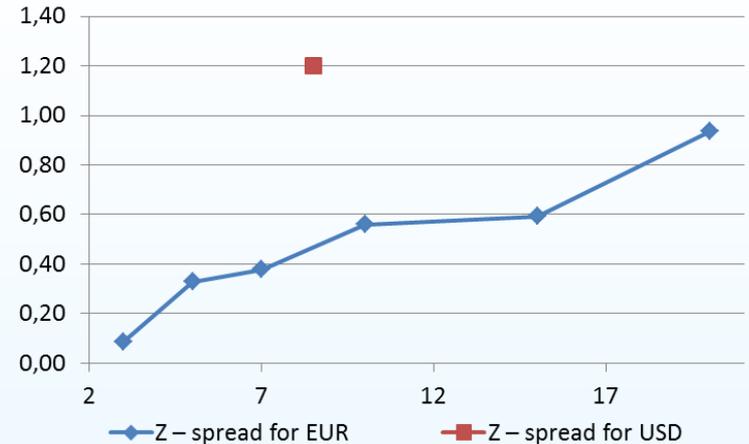


Source: ARDAL, as of September 2013

# Government Debt Characteristics

- No impact of currency fluctuations, as major part of outstanding public debt is euro-denominated. Small part of debt issued in USD, CZK, CHF and JPY in years 2012 and 2013 is fully hedged
- Fixed coupon bonds share is 89 % of portfolio
- Non-resident share above 53 % as of end of September 2013 (Bonds, T-Bills and Loans)
- Volatility smaller but comparable to peer group

Z – spread of Slovak bonds (in % p. a.)



Source: Bloomberg, November 2013

Bond Yield Development of Selected Eurobonds (in % p.a.)



Source: Bloomberg, November 2013

Bond Yield Development of Selected USD bonds (in % p.a.)



# Debt Financing in 2012

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- The main tasks for debt management in 2012 was **to broaden the portfolio of investors**:
  - Marketing efforts to regional and institutional investors
  - Successful debut issues in CZK and CHF completed in Q1 and debut benchmark issue in USD launched in Q2 as follow up marketing effort overseas
  - Originally planned gross issuance EUR 7.6 billion was achieved already at the first half of year 2012
  - With EUR 10.5 billion gross issuance not only backlog from 2011 was covered (EUR 2.2 billion) but also substantial cash reserve was created for 2013 (pre-financing)
  - Debt issued in 2012 was issued in line with the needs of the debt portfolio and contributed to extension of average tenor and average duration
  - Achieved average yield of debt portfolio was smaller then expected for 2012 and means historically lowest relative cost per issued debt unit weighted by tenor



Source: ARDAL

# Debt Financing in 2013

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- The **main tasks** for debt management in year 2013:
  - formal establishing of **Primary Dealership**
  - further **broadening** of **investors** portfolio
- Total financing needs for 2013 are expected to be smaller than budgeted EUR 8.3 billion partially as a result of pre-financing in 2012 and smaller than expected amount of T-Bills issued in 2012 and maturing in 2013
- New bond line opened in 2013
  - with tenor 20Y
  - new benchmark bond with tenor 10Y
  - new benchmark bond with tenor 5,5 Y
  - and two tranches (6.5Y and 10.5Y) of new **CHF** bond
- As of end of October EUR 7.5 billion i.e. almost 100 % issuance for 2013 already done
- Despite historically lowest average yield (weighted by tenor) achieved by issuance - Slovakia offers nice pick-up against the „core“ Eurozone countries



# Debt Financing in 2014

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- The **main tasks** for debt management in year 2014:
  - establishing of **secondary market e-platform** for PDs quoting of Slovak government benchmark bonds with aim to achieve better liquidity of SlovGBs on secondary market
  - further **broadening** of **investors** portfolio
- Total financing needs for 2014 are expected to be EUR 7.4 billion from which redemption of government bonds and T-Bills is EUR 3.76 billion and planned budget deficit is EUR 3.33 billion
- Depending on market conditions we **expect** that almost half of financial needs can be covered by auctions and the rest by syndication
- Depending on the investors requirements possible new lines of bond that can be open in year 2014 (benchmark lines opened via **syndication**):
  - new benchmark bond line with tenor 15 years
  - new benchmark bond line with tenor 5 years
  - potentially benchmark bond with tenor 7 years
  - alternatively potentially new USD bond with tenor 10 years



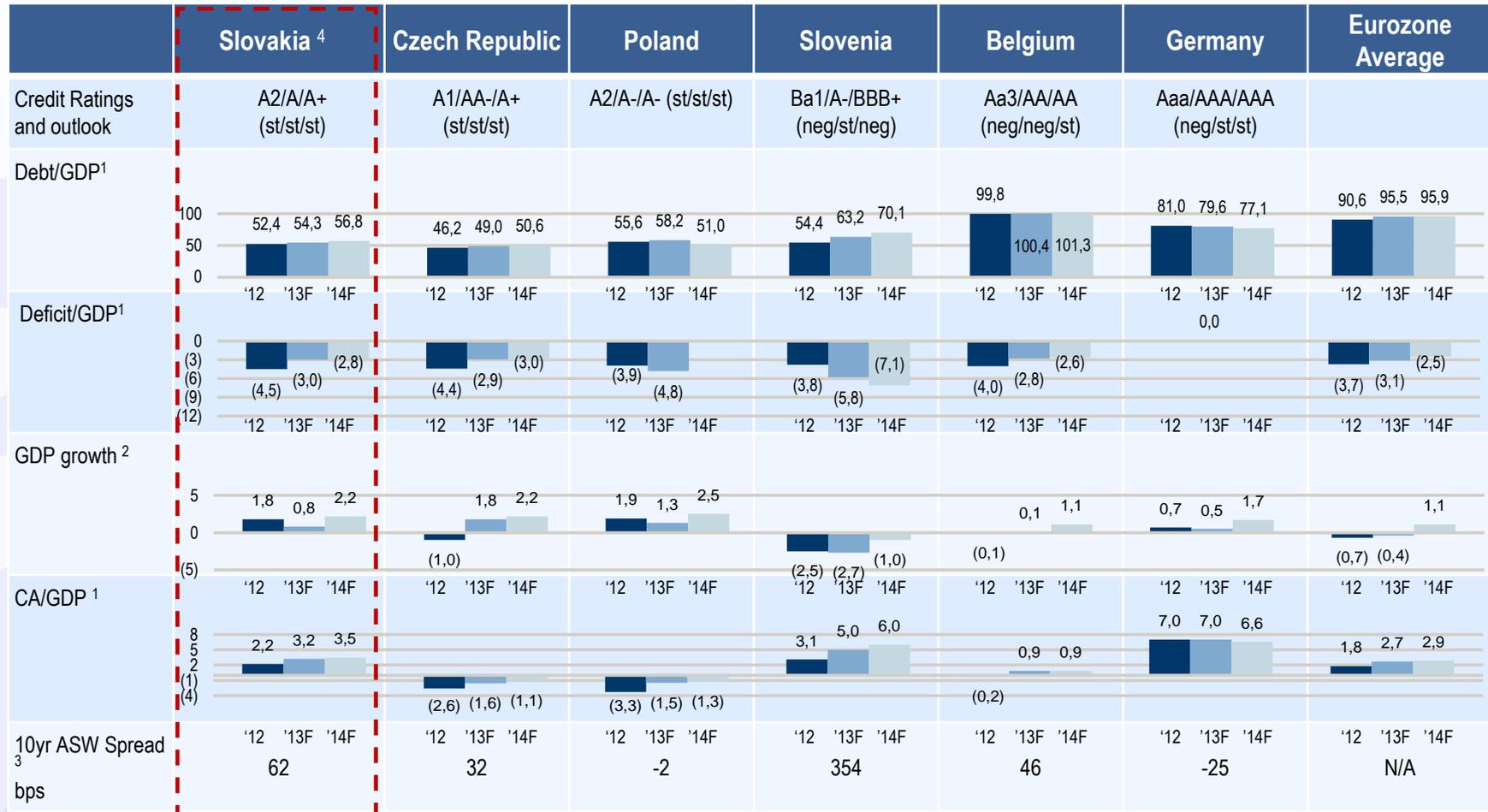
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## 6. Credit positioning of Slovakia and CE4<sup>1</sup> comparison

1) The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia are often referred to as "the CE4 countries"



# Slovakia's Fundamentals Compare well vs. its Peer Group Inside and Outside of the Eurozone (1/2)

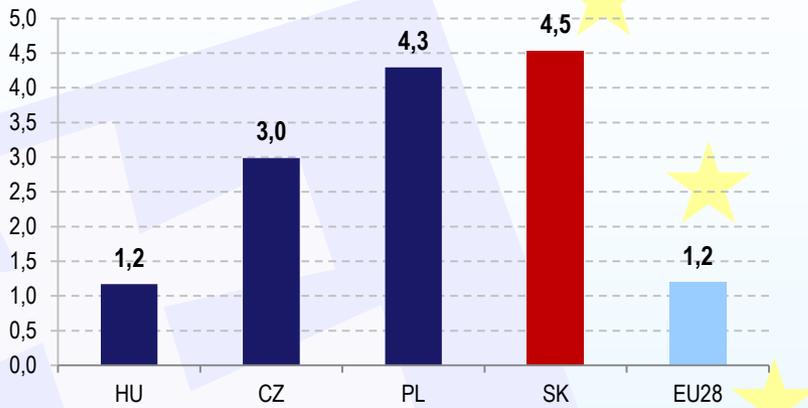


- 1) Source: Eurostat, Autumn Forecast 2013
- 2) Source: Eurostat, 5 November 2013
- 3) Source: Bloomberg, October 2013
- 4) Source: Ministry of Finance, October 2013

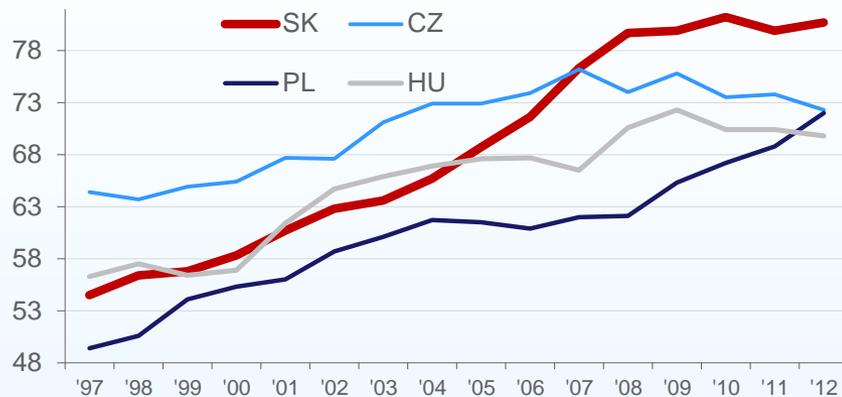


# Slovakia's fundamentals compare well vs. its peer-group inside and outside of the Euro-zone (2)

Average real GDP growth p.a. in CE4 countries (2003-2012, %)



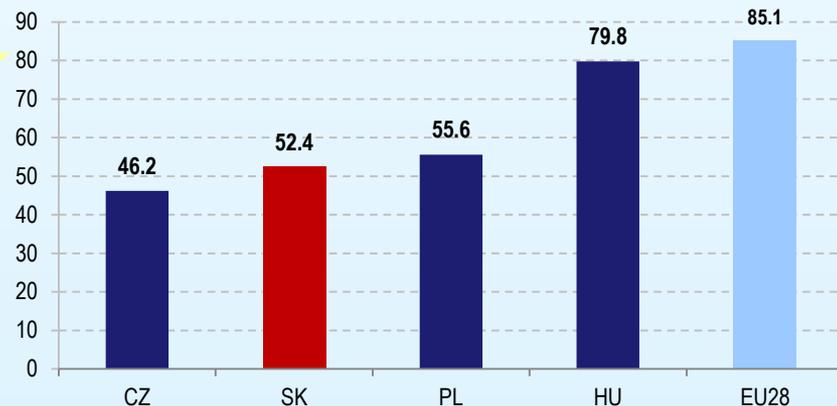
Labour productivity in CE4 countries (EU27=100, in PPS)



Nominal ULC index (wage bill/nominal GDP, last 10 years, 2003=100)



General government debt in CE4 and EU28 (end of 2012, as % of GDP)



Source: Eurostat



# Macroeconomic forecast – September 2013

	2012	2013F	2014F	2015F	2016F
Real GDP Growth	<b>2.0</b>	0.8	2.2	2.9	3.1
<i>Private Consumption (growth)</i>	<b>(0.6)</b>	0.5	0.8	2.1	2.2
<i>Investments (growth)</i>	<b>(3.7)</b>	(5.8)	2.9	(0.1)	(1.5)
<i>Export (growth)</i>	<b>8.6</b>	4.8	4.3	4.5	5.1
<i>Import (growth)</i>	<b>2.8</b>	1.7	3.3	2.9	3.3
Employment Growth (ESA 95)	<b>0.1</b>	(1.0)	0.2	0.6	0.7
Unemployment Rate (LFS)	<b>14.0</b>	14.5	14.3	13.6	12.7
Current Account Balance (% of GDP)	<b>2.2</b>	3.2	3.5	4.6	6.3
Inflation (HICP)	<b>3.7</b>	1.7	1.7	2.1	2.3
Net FDI (% of GDP)	<b>3.2</b>	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.7



Source: Eurostat; Ministry of Finance, September 2013

# Contacts

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