



GLOBSEC 2023

Overview

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GLOBSEC

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Foreword

Dear partners, members of the GLOBSEC community,

In 2023, GLOBSEC continued to solidify its position as a prominent voice for Central and Eastern Europe on the global stage. Our strategic initiatives and collaborative efforts have not only reinforced our standing, but have also enabled us to make significant steps in progressing with our mission. Throughout the year, we remained dedicated to fostering dialogue, promoting cooperation, and driving positive change.

A highlight of our achievements was the success of our flagship events, which serve as vital platforms for exchanging ideas, shaping policies, and fostering meaningful partnerships. The historic speech delivered by President Macron at the GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum 2023 stands out as a defining moment, underscoring the importance of our convening power in facilitating dialogue on pressing global issues.

Moreover, GLOBSEC achieved notable growth and innovation in 2023. The establishment of new initiatives, including the establishment of GLOBSEC U.S. Foundation in the United States, reflects our commitment to expanding our global footprint and amplifying our impact. This strategic move plays a pivotal role in advancing our mission in the long term, further cementing our position as a leading Central European organization addressing global challenges.

Despite increased investments in new initiatives, GLOBSEC demonstrated astute financial management throughout the year. We ensured stability in direct costs associated with flagship events and other strategic projects, maintaining fiscal prudence while simultaneously increasing revenues. This prudent approach has laid a solid foundation for sustained organizational growth and underscores our commitment to responsible use of resources.

As we look ahead, GLOBSEC remains steadfast in its dedication to fostering dialogue, driving innovation, and shaping solutions to the most pressing global challenges. We are deeply grateful for the support of our partners, stakeholders, and the broader community as we continue our journey towards a more secure, prosperous, and interconnected world.



Robert Vass
President and Founder of GLOBSEC

GLOBSEC Flagship Events - 2023

In 2023, GLOBSEC hosted three pivotal flagship events that brought together influential leaders, decision-makers, and experts from various sectors, fostering impactful discussions and shaping the discourse on critical global issues.

1. GLOBSEC Forum: Overcoming Global Fragility

Date: 29–31 May

The 18th edition of the **GLOBSEC Forum** in Bratislava convened a record-breaking number of regional and international politicians, along with renowned opinion leaders. With over 1500 guests from 70 countries, including 11 heads of state and government from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and beyond, the forum addressed three overarching themes:

- Continuing Support for Ukraine
- The Resilience of Europe in the Face of War
- Mitigating the Global Consequences of Conflict in a Global Dialogue

The diverse and robust discussions during the forum provided a platform for insights and perspectives on these critical global issues.

2. GLOBSEC Tatra Summit: Upward Trail - Forging Economic Growth

Date: 6–8 October

The 12th edition of GLOBSEC Tatra Summit brought together over 150 influential leaders and decision-makers from various sectors, including heads of state, government ministers, business leaders, and academics. The summit delved into crucial topics such as the economic impact of the Ukraine war, European energy strategies, and the digital and green transitions. The event's success lay in the diversity of its attendees, fostering a dynamic and open dialogue that contributed to the exploration of innovative solutions.

3. Château Béla 2023 Central European Strategic Forum

Date: 1–3 December

Château Béla hosted the 15th edition of the GLOBSEC Central European Strategic Forum over the first weekend of December. The central theme of the forum revolved around defining Europe's role in the global arena. This event served as a platform for prominent leaders and strategic thinkers to engage in discussions that would influence the trajectory of Europe's position on the global stage.

Key programmes and initiatives

Center for Democracy & Resilience

1. GLOBSEC Trends 2023: United we (still) stand

- Conducted unique opinion polling on the impact of disinformation in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).
- Received approximately 150 media mentions, including coverage in prestigious outlets like Foreign Policy, Politico, and The Washington Post.
- Quoted by high-level leaders, such as Slovak President Zuzana Čaputová and Vice-President of the European Commission, Věra Jourová.
- Presented the report to 1,500 stakeholders worldwide.

2. Slovak Elections Awareness

- Published hate speech and disinformation monitors related to the Slovak elections.
- Achieved coverage in 160 media articles across 44 countries, including The New York Times, Financial Times, CNN, and NPR.
- Established the **Stop Hate** initiative in Slovakia, bringing together 20 NGOs and law firms.

3. Shaping Policy for a Healthier Information Environment

- Became a co-signatory of the EU Code of Practice on Disinformation.
- Joined the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) as a partnering organization.
- Engaged in regional EDMO Hubs for Romania, Bulgaria, Czechia, Slovakia, and Poland.
- Participated in public consultations.

Ukraine Programme

1. Walking on Fire - Demining in Ukraine

- Published a **report** highlighting the urgent need for assistance in clearance, mine risk reduction, victims' assistance, advocacy, and stockpile reduction.
- Generated extensive international media coverage, including mentions in Politico, BBC, and The Washington Post.

2. Scars on their Souls – PTSD and Veterans of Ukraine

- Launched a **report** focused on war-related psychological traumas and PTSD in Ukraine, identifying gaps between evolving needs and current psychosocial resources.
- Started developing a comprehensive strategy for dealing with PTSD in Ukraine.

3. Comprehensive Study on Security Scenarios in Ukraine

- Launched a **study** titled “Five Security Scenarios on Russian War in Ukraine for 2024-2025,” which presents various scenarios of political and military transformations in Ukraine, each with varying degrees of likelihood.
- Received significant media mentions, including The Financial Times.

Centre for Global Europe

1. Consequences of the Russian War in Ukraine

- Published a **report** focusing on temporary displaced Ukrainian women in Central Europe.
- Briefed European institutions, national policymakers, and a broader audience.
- Presented insights at the GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum 2023 and events in Brussels, Vienna, and Tallinn.

2. Perceptions of Young People on Democracy and the EU

- Conducted a **report** based on focus groups titled ‘Young Minds, Democratic Horizons.’
- Presented findings through op-eds, mentions in media outlets, briefings of EU institutions, and public events in Vienna and Warsaw.
- Organized workshops for aspiring women from the Western Balkans and Central Europe through the CEE Her Initiative.

3. Impacting Early Career Women and Young Leaders

- Conducted workshops for aspiring women in Brussels and Bratislava.
- Engaged in transnational reflection groups, providing recommendations on key issues for the European Commission and national capitals.

Future of Security

1. Future Security and Defence Council (FSDC)

- Launched FSDC’s second phase at NATO HQ in Brussels, emphasizing the urgent need for enhanced European defence and deterrence.
- Hosted strategic events in Washington DC, Berlin, Prague, London, Warsaw, Stockholm, Brussels, and Paris, strengthening ties with key stakeholders.
- Launched **How to Beat Russia** report by Nico Lange with lessons learned from the war in Ukraine, the main messages of which were quoted by a number of international media including Deutsche Welle, Politico, Le Monde and others

2. Public-Private Sector Dialogues

- Facilitated critical discussions on NATO's Eastern flank deterrence, fostering enhanced defence cooperation.
- Diversified cooperation with NATO and fostering relations with other NATO agencies (such as NATO NCI and NATO JFCB) and commands.

3. Cybersecurity Policy Contributions and Engagements

- Provided policy suggestions and publications mapping Russian cyber operations in Ukraine, assessing collaboration with Ukraine at various levels.
- Organized closed round-table discussions on NATO Article 5, Slovakia's cybersecurity, Transatlantic cybersecurity cooperation, and private sector contributions to Ukraine's cyber defences.
- Published various pieces as part of GLOBSEC's advocacy efforts (such as the publication of "The unheralded success story of Ukraine's cyber-defences" co-authored by Michael Chertoff in the EUObserver).

Economic Growth and Sustainability

1. Benefits of Action and Costs of Inaction

- Analyzed the financial toll Central Europe could face in the event of Ukraine's defeat.
- Published a **report** arguing that the costs of our current military and economic support for Ukraine are substantially lower than the costs Central European countries will pay in the event of a Russian victory or a frozen conflict.

2. Healthcare Readiness Index Introduction

- Launched **Healthcare Readiness Index** during the Bratislava Forum, including a keynote address by the Minister of Health.
- Generated coverage in prominent Slovak media and raised awareness about the needs of the sustainable healthcare.

3. Danube Innovation Tracker: The "IT" Factor

- Launched the **"IT" Factor** publication featuring top regional startups, showcasing GLOBSEC's Danube Tech Valley Initiative and Danube Innovation Tracker, a platform to track and provide information on regional innovation ecosystem.
- Organized a Danube Tech Valley Summit in Vienna, which was recognized as a Flagship project by the EU Strategy for the Danube region (EU SDR).

4. Infrastructure Development Council and Investment Gap Analysis

- Established the Infrastructure Development Council during the Tatra Summit with a goal to foster connections with the public sector and provide guidance on PPP projects, contributing to the green transition and reducing reliance on Russian energy resources.
- Launched **Investment Gap Analysis Report** to provide background information on infrastructure investments in the region.

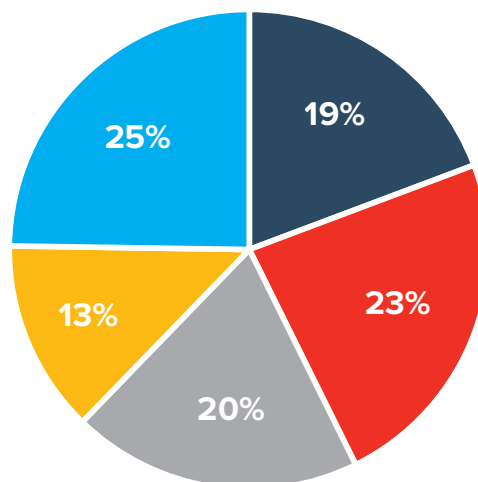
Financial Summary for 2023

In 2023, GLOBSEC saw a diverse range of financial contributions, reflecting our commitment to fostering collaboration across various sectors. Throughout the year, GLOBSEC collaborated with a total of **87 partners**, encompassing both institutional and corporate entities. This diverse portfolio of partners underscores the organization's commitment to inclusivity and cooperation in addressing global challenges, while ensuring independence. No entity contributed to our funding with more than 10% of our annual revenue. The organization's total income amounting to **almost 8 million euros** in 2023 was distributed as follows:

- **Corporate Partners** played the most significant role in supporting our initiatives, contributing **42% of the total income**.
- **Institutions** (including governments) contributed **38% of the total income**
- Approximately **20%** of the total income came from **foundations and NGOs**

In regards to our corporate partnerships, a variety of sectors demonstrated their commitment to GLOBSEC's mission:

Distribution of sectors on private funding

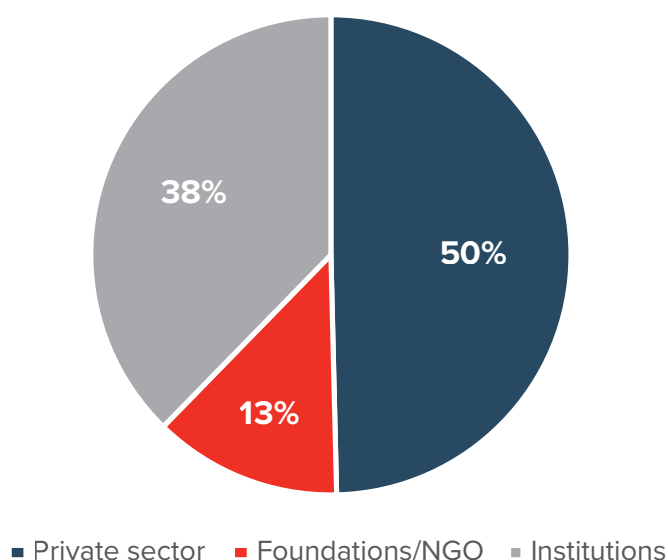


■ Defence ■ Tech ■ Finance ■ Energy ■ Other Business

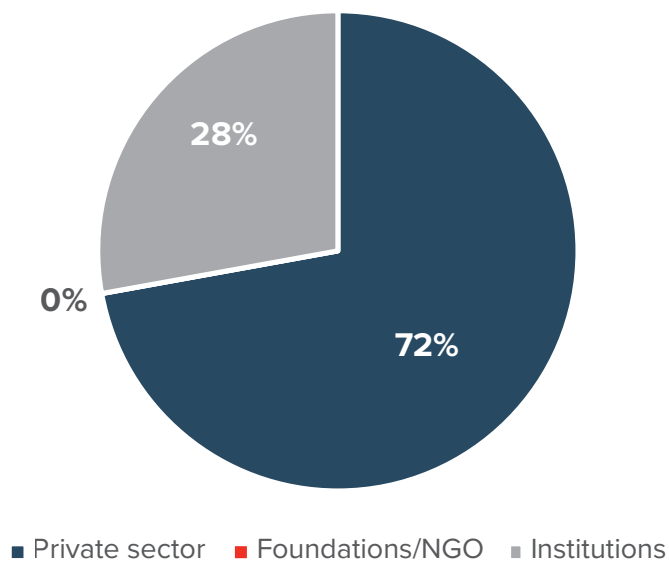
Tech sector comprised the largest portion, representing **23% of the corporate share**. The **Financial sector** followed closely, contributing **20%** of the corporate share. Additionally, the **Defence sector** played a substantial role, representing **19%** of the corporate share.

Corporate partners also significantly contributed to financing of both of our flagship events, GLOBSEC Forum and Tatra Summit.

GLOBSEC Forum 2023 - sources of funding



Tatra Summit 2023 - sources of funding



The financial support received from our partners has been instrumental in enabling GLOBSEC to fulfill its mission of promoting security, prosperity, and dialogue in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners for their continued commitment and support.

Please note: Specific monetary figures have been withheld in accordance with confidentiality agreements. All the presented percentages relate to all of the GLOBSEC's entities financial performance. As GLOBSEC works with governments and international institutions (such as EU and NATO), our project finances regularly undergo rigorous audits.

For the full list of our partners in 2023, please see the Appendix

GLOBSEC's Governance Principles

We are committed to enhancing security, prosperity and sustainability in Europe and throughout the world, whether it is via world class convenings, impactful research or advocacy work that we do. Furthermore, we are also deeply **committed to upholding transatlantic democratic values**, which include the principles of freedom, human rights, rule of law, and democratic governance. These values guide our mission and activities, ensuring that all our initiatives, partnerships, and research efforts are aligned with the highest standards of democratic integrity and ethical conduct.

Efficient governance ensures integrity, effectiveness, and sustainability of the organization and helps to achieve our mission. The following principles are designed to create impact and ensure fulfilment of the GLOBSEC's long term strategic goals.

Diverse and Inclusive Leadership

Board Diversity

The GLOBSEC Board of Directors comprises distinguished leaders from various sectors who guide the organization's strategic direction. Our Board of Directors members represent different backgrounds, expertise, and perspectives.

The board consists of the following members:

- Róbert Vass: Founder and President of GLOBSEC, Slovakia.
- Gordon Bajnai: Partner, Chairman of the Advisory Board, and Global Head of Infrastructure at Campbell Lutyens.
- Kersti Kaljulaid: Former President of Estonia and Global Advocate for Every Woman Every Child.
- Ivan Krastev: Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies.
- Wilhelm Molterer: Chairman of GLOBSEC Board, former Vice Chancellor, and Finance Minister of Austria.
- Anita Orban: Director of Public Affairs at Vodafone Group.
- Petr Pudil: Entrepreneur, Investor, and President of the GLOBSEC US Foundation.
- Maciej Witucki: Member of the Board of Directors.

Inclusive Policies

GLOBSEC promotes inclusiveness within the organization, ensuring equal opportunities for all members and staff. With more than 80 people from 13 nationalities and a wide network of affiliated experts and public and private sector leaders, we have created a truly global community that has the ambition to leave a legacy by making a positive impact and driving policy change.

Gender Equality

We strive for gender balance in leadership roles and throughout the organization. Furthermore, as a testament of our commitment to ensuring that women's perspectives are integral to discussions about Europe's place in the world, we have recently established GLOBSEC Women Leaders Council (WLC).

The WLC is chaired by Anita Orban, a member of the GLOBSEC Board of Directors, and includes distinguished members such as:

- Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović: Fourth President of Croatia.
- Kersti Kaljulaid: Former President of Estonia and Global Advocate of the UN Secretary-General for Every Woman Every Child.
- Margrethe Vestager: European Commissioner for Competition.
- Ursula Plassnik: Former Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs.
- Evika Silina: Prime Minister of Latvia.

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

Stakeholder Involvement

We actively involve stakeholders in decision-making processes through consultations and feedback mechanisms. To this goal contributes GLOBSEC's International Advisory Council. It comprises influential global leaders from various fields, including former heads of state, ministers, business executives, and scholars. There currently are over 40 members, some of them include:

- Jenna Ben-Yehuda: Executive Vice President of the Atlantic Council, former CEO and President of the Truman National Security Project and the Truman Center for National Policy
- Carl Bildt: Former Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden
- Mark T. Esper: 27th U.S. Secretary of Defense
- Arancha González Laya: Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po
- Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović: Fourth President of Croatia.
- Toomas Hendrik Ilves: Former President of Estonia
- Michael Chertoff: Co-founder and Executive Chairman, The Chertoff Group
- Miroslav Lajčák: EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue

The Council aims to provide strategic guidance, foster partnerships with governments, enhance GLOBSEC's global impact, and promote international collaboration.

Transparency and Accountability

Financial Reporting and Audits

We regularly publish Transparency reports detailing our activities, partners, and basic financial information on the GLOBSEC website. We also file our financial statements in the **European Transparency Register** on annual basis.

Public sector donors from the EU and USA, with whom we collaborate, require rigorous financial audits before approving project collaborations. All our institutional projects regularly undergo audits by government and/or the Ministry of Finance. Historically, there have been no significant findings in these audits, affirming our status as a trusted partner. Our ongoing cooperation with institutional partners demonstrates our commitment to meeting the strictest financial reporting requirements.

On top of our regular annual reporting, we also provide funding information by Slovak government institutions via the **Central Register of Contracts**.

Guidelines for Maintaining Independence and Funding Diversity

To ensure GLOBSEC maintains its independence and operational integrity, the following guidelines for funding diversity are followed:

Contribution Limit:

We have a funding cap policy in place based on which no single partner should contribute more than 15% of GLOBSEC's annual revenues. This ensures financial independence and avoids over-reliance on any one source. We continue to fulfil this goal, with 2023 highest contribution representing approximately 10% of our annual income.

Diverse Funding Sources:

Over the years, we have developed a diverse funding portfolio including government grants, private donations, corporate sponsorships, foundation grants, membership fees, and revenue from events. Our diversified portfolio of institutional and corporate partners accompanied by a range of third sector donors (87 partners in total in 2023) is the best testament to fulfilling this goal. Furthermore, we are not reliable on any particular industry sector, as majority of sectors represent approximately 20% of the private sector share on GLOBSEC's funding, the most significant one in 2023 being the tech sector.

Autonomous Governance and Donor Agreements:

We have policies in place which ensure funding sources do not influence the strategic direction, policies, or activities of GLOBSEC. Decision-making remains within the governance structure of the organization. Furthermore, we have agreements with donors outlining the terms of their contributions, ensuring transparency and mutual understanding of the scope of contracts.

Due Diligence:

We conduct due diligence on potential donors to ensure their values and activities align with GLOBSEC's mission and ethical standards. In case of doubt we always attain approval of the Board prior to moving forward with any cooperation.


Ethical Standards:

We have policies in place which require us to reject funding from sources that could compromise the organization's integrity or mission, including entities involved in unethical practices.

Disclosure:

We publicly disclose all our partners on our websites and in our Transparency reports.

By adhering to these principles and guidelines, GLOBSEC maintains its independence, upholds its credibility, and ensures a sustainable and diverse funding base that supports our mission and objectives in the long term.



APPENDIX

Overview of Globsec Partners and Donors in 2023

Institutional partners (in alphabetical order)

Erasmus+	Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatics of the Slovak Republic
European Investment Bank	National Bank of Slovakia
European Commission	NATO PDD
Global Engagement Centre	Slovak Investment Holding
Government of Canada	Stiftung Muencher
Horizon 2020	Taiwanese government
Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic	UK FCDO
Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic	US mission to EU
Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic	

Foundations and NGOs (in alphabetical order)

ADS Group UK	Liga za duševné zdravie
Air Center	Marshall Center
Clingendael	Nadace BPD Partners
Future of Russia Foundation	NED10
Hans Seidel Stiftung	OIP (ZINC)
Institut pre evropskou politiku - Europeum	Open Society Foundation
International Visegrad Fund	SAPIE
KAS Asia	SFPA
KAS Prague	WMCES

Private Sector

Corporate partners above 100k (in alphabetical order)

Amazon	PMI
Google	RBI
KMW/KNDS	SAAB
Meridiam	VUB
Palantir	ZSE

Corporate partners of 51k - 100k (in alphabetical order)

BMW	ESET
CEZ	GDLS
DOK-ING	Microcomp

Corporate partners of 50k or below (in alphabetical order)

Airvolute	Lynx
Aliter Technologies	Matador
Amazon Slovakia	Microsoft
ASBIS	MPH Advocates
Avanea	MSD
Central Mediacsoport	MVM
Dajana Rodriguez	Roche
DefTech	Slovenská sporiteľňa
EPAM	Slovnaft
GE Hungary	SPP
GE Steam Power (Compraga)	SSE
Helsing	TTTech
Inobat	Unicredit
Inocloud	Verbund
IstroSec	VISA (Grayling Slovakia)
Janssen	VSE
JAVYS	VUJE
Lansky, Ganzger, Goeth, Frank & Partners	Wood & Company
Lockheed Martin	



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