



# REGULAR NEWSLETTER OF THE DUAL ACADEMY

JULY- AUGUST 2025



Dual  
Academy



# SUMMARY

## Even during the holidays, things were lively at Duálka!

In July and August, we enjoyed recalling our talented students and the many "students of the month" in the 2024/2025 school year. Reflecting on their achievements inspires us for the months ahead.

Building on this excitement, we are also looking forward to our Veronika Potocká, who will soon be traveling to the exotic country of Panama to represent Slovakia in the prestigious First Global competition.

Meanwhile, our principal, Milan Ráchela, could also be seen on screen sharing his views and experiences, adding to our school's vibrant presence this summer.

During the summer, we were delighted by volunteers from Volkswagen Slovakia and the well-known sprayer DokeTV, who contributed to making everything tip-top for the start of the new school year.

Lastly, we explained the difference between the work of a school psychologist and a special education pedagogue. In the spirit of our value of open communication, we emphasize that talking is important and seeking help is never a shame.

Thank you for being with us - and we are already looking forward to everything the new 2025/2026 school year will bring!



# INTERVIEW WITH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MILAN RÁCHELA



Answering:

Ing. Milan Ráchela

School principal of SSOŠA

He has been working at the Dual Academy since July 2024.



## NEW SCHOOL YEAR, NEWS, NEW SPACES AND A SCHOOL WITHOUT MOBILE PHONES

Just before the start of the school year, we talked to the school principal about what awaits us, what new features the school has prepared, and why it decided to introduce the "School without mobile phones" rule.

**How do you feel as the school year begins? What does this day mean to you?**

I'm a bit anxious about whether everything is ready. I view the first day as a new page in a book, a fresh start, and I always believe it can be a better chapter than the last.

**What are your primary priorities and goals for this school year?**

To continue on the path we defined last year and to embody the values of the school.

**What are the most significant innovations or changes in operations that the school is introducing this year?**

One of the most important steps is that we are becoming a School focused on Concentration and Human Contact.

**It was a holiday, but the school was open and many things were accomplished. Can you tell the readers about the significant positive changes, successes, and completed projects?**

The A-block has been modernized, creating two classrooms for the first-year students of the Technical Lyceum. Preparations are also underway for other vocational schools. Additionally, a new workshop for Autotronics has been established, and preliminary work has begun on a future electromobility workshop, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The outdoor playground project has also been finalized.

**Are there any new projects or works currently in development?**

We will soon have a new automation classroom at the school, and as part of the CEOVP project, we are looking forward to the development of classrooms for Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in the automotive sector.

**This year, the school is implementing a "No Cell Phone" policy. What led to this decision?**

After careful consideration, we have decided to take this important step. Our decision is based on studies, successful practices from other countries, and our own experiences. Notably, South Korean lawmakers recently passed a law banning mobile phones and smart devices in classrooms, highlighting the need for a focused learning environment.



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# INTERVIEW WITH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MILAN RÁCHELA

## How will this rule be implemented in practice during classes, breaks, and extracurricular activities?

In the morning, students arrive at school and place their mobile in a lockable box, picking it up after class.

## What feedback have you received from students, parents, and teachers?

In most cases, students object; it is somewhat like trying to get a smoker off cigarettes. However, the Parents' Council has mostly received it positively, and teachers are overwhelmingly in favor of this step.

## What benefits do you anticipate from this change, specifically regarding concentration, social relationships, or safety?

I truly believe that concentration and mental well-being will improve, leading to more meaningful conversations.

## What is your plan for monitoring and evaluating the impact of this change throughout the year?

We can compare student results from year to year, and teachers, MOV, and HI will evaluate student behavior and engagement. Additionally, we collect feedback from students to understand their opinions as well. Finally, colleagues from the School Support Team will continuously monitor the situation.

## How does the school promote open communication among management, teachers, students, and parents?

The school management is dedicated to sincerely embodying this value. This is evident through various initiatives, such as revitalizing the activities of the School Parliament, establishing the Parents' Council at the management's initiative, keeping management office doors open, hosting Hyde Parks for students, and maintaining transparency in processes.

## What types of cooperation with parents do you think are the most effective?

Personal contact.

## What values are key to you as a principal when running a school?

Humanity and I embrace the motto "joy and curiosity." I aim to promote the idea that every school activity should be connected to joy and that we should maintain a sense of curiosity in everything we do. Young children can serve as role models for us in this regard. They are often joyful and perpetually curious, which makes their lives truly beautiful.

## How do you work to create a community in which everyone feels respected and motivated?

For instance, I recognize that I have much personal growth ahead.

## What do you want to say to students, parents, and teachers at the start of the new year?

We live by the three Ds (in slovak), i.e. Giving (Dávať) Good (Dobro) to Others (Druhým).

07  
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# JULY - AUGUST 2025 MONTHS OF OPEN COMMUNICATION

The months of July and August were defined by our commitment to **OPEN COMMUNICATION**.

Open communication is more than just a phrase for us at Dual Academy; it is a fundamental principle.

We believe that a quality education starts with attentive listening.

We are dedicated to answering all relevant questions, receiving feedback, and collaborating on solutions—not just during these months, but throughout the entire year.

A school that communicates is a school that thrives, and so does each member of our community.



JULY - AUGUST  
**MONTHS  
OF OPEN  
COMMUNICATION**



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# BEST APPRENTICE AWARD 2025

Our graduate, **Martin Cauner**, excelled in Wolfsburg!

He won the prestigious Best Apprentice Award 2025 and was ranked among the top 48 apprentices from around the world within the Volkswagen Group.

Martin attended the awards ceremony at the VW headquarters, accompanied by Kai-Stefan Linnenkohl, a member of the board of directors for human resources, and Jolana Julkeová, the president of the trade union organization MOV. For us at the Dual Academy, this achievement fills us with pride and serves as proof that quality education and determination lead to global success!

*"The ceremony itself was incredible. I received my diploma, and VW leaders from around the world personally congratulated us. I took away not only prizes—a thermos and a GTI fan—but also many cherished memories of this unique event,"* says Martin Cauner.

Congratulations, Martin! We also want to thank Volkswagen Slovakia, the Volkswagen Slovakia Foundation, and Kai-Stefan Linnenkohl for the opportunities you provide to young people.



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# ERASMUS+ MOBILITY IN GERMANY AUDI AG

Audi, E-tron, Munich, and a World of Experiences!

At the end of the school year, six of our third-graders from III.ME had the exciting opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of technology at Audi AG in Ingolstadt, Germany, as part of the Erasmus+ mobility program.

During their two-week experience, they engaged with training stations, solved malfunctions on Audi Q3 E-tron simulators, measured and diagnosed issues, and developed new skills. When they weren't in the workshop, they explored Germany by visiting the Audi Museum, attending Volksfest, and discovering cities like Munich and Nuremberg. Every moment was filled with enriching experiences!

A huge thank you goes to Audi, as well as to IOC Dušan Konkoly and Deputy Zuzana Christozová; this incredible opportunity would not have been possible without them!

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# DUAL ACADEMY AT CEIPES COURSE IN PALERMO

Thanks to the Erasmus+ project within the AIVD consortium, we had the opportunity to participate in a course organized by CEIPES in sunny Palermo. The excellent organization, professional leadership, and inspiring atmosphere provided us with new knowledge, motivation, and valuable contacts.

Natália Segura participated on behalf of the Dual Academy and described the experience as stimulating, highlighting the welcoming environment and wonderful people. She gained new insights and connections that enriched her both professionally and personally, and she is eager to participate again!

We would like to extend our gratitude to CEIPES and all the Slovak participants for the fantastic company and exchange of experiences. Special thanks to Bernadeta Lörincová from AIVD SR, Ivana Kubišová from K.A.B.A. Slovakia, Nina Bodoríková from the Department of Pedagogy at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, Zuzana Svítková from Academia Istropolitana Nova, and Kamila Jančíková from Kogneo. Palermo did not disappoint!

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ENTHUSIASM

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# VERONIKA POTOCKÁ IS GOING TO PANAMA FOR FIRST GLOBAL

Slovakia will have a strong presence at the FIRST Global Robotics Olympiad, and we will not be missing out!

Our student, Veronika Potocká, will travel to Panama this fall to compete in the FIRST Global Challenge global finals.

The Slovak team will consist of two winning schools and three exceptional individuals, including Veronika, who earned her spot among 100 students from 15 schools in a highly competitive Slovak round held in Bratislava's Aurélium.

Congratulations to Veronika! We are keeping our fingers crossed for her in the global final. We are proud to be a part of this success, and we believe you will join us in following Veronika's journey.



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# TV PROGRAM: 24 INTERVIEW WITH MILAN RÁCHELA

Is a Compulsory High School Diploma in Mathematics Necessary?

Our principal, Milan Ráchela, accepted an invitation to appear as a guest on the :24 program on STVR, where he discussed the benefits, risks, and impacts of this proposal on students, teachers, and the entire school system.

Does mathematics make sense for everyone?

Will this requirement disadvantage students who focus on the humanities?

And is the academic year 2030/31 the right time to implement such a change?

[THE WHOLE INTERVIEW](#)



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# A BIG APPLAUSE FOR ALL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Students of the Month 2024/2025 – Let's give them another round of applause!

Throughout this school year, we have recognized students who have set an excellent example each month through their talent, effort, progress, teamwork, and perseverance.

Today, we celebrate their achievements once again and extend a big THANK YOU for their hard work, motivation, and inspiration to others.

You have demonstrated that dedication leads to results, and we at Duálka truly appreciate your efforts.

We are excited to see who will be the Students of the Month in the upcoming 2025/2026 school year!



# WE ALSO REMEMBER THE STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

At Dual Academy, we value the hard work, determination, and energy that our students demonstrate every day. This year, we are proud to highlight two exceptional young men who have inspired their entire community over the past two years:

- Student of the Year 2023/2024: Adam Kollár (II.MSZ)
- Student of the Year 2024/2025: Matej Pavlovič (I.ME)

Two years ago, we initiated the Student of the Year award, which is selected from among the nominees for Student of the Month. We are pleased that this award has become a cherished tradition that we plan to continue in the future.

Thank you to both students for their exemplary dedication, for inspiring their classmates, and for making Dual Academy a place we can all be proud of. As we uphold this tradition, we look forward to discovering the next Student of the Year for 2025/2026!



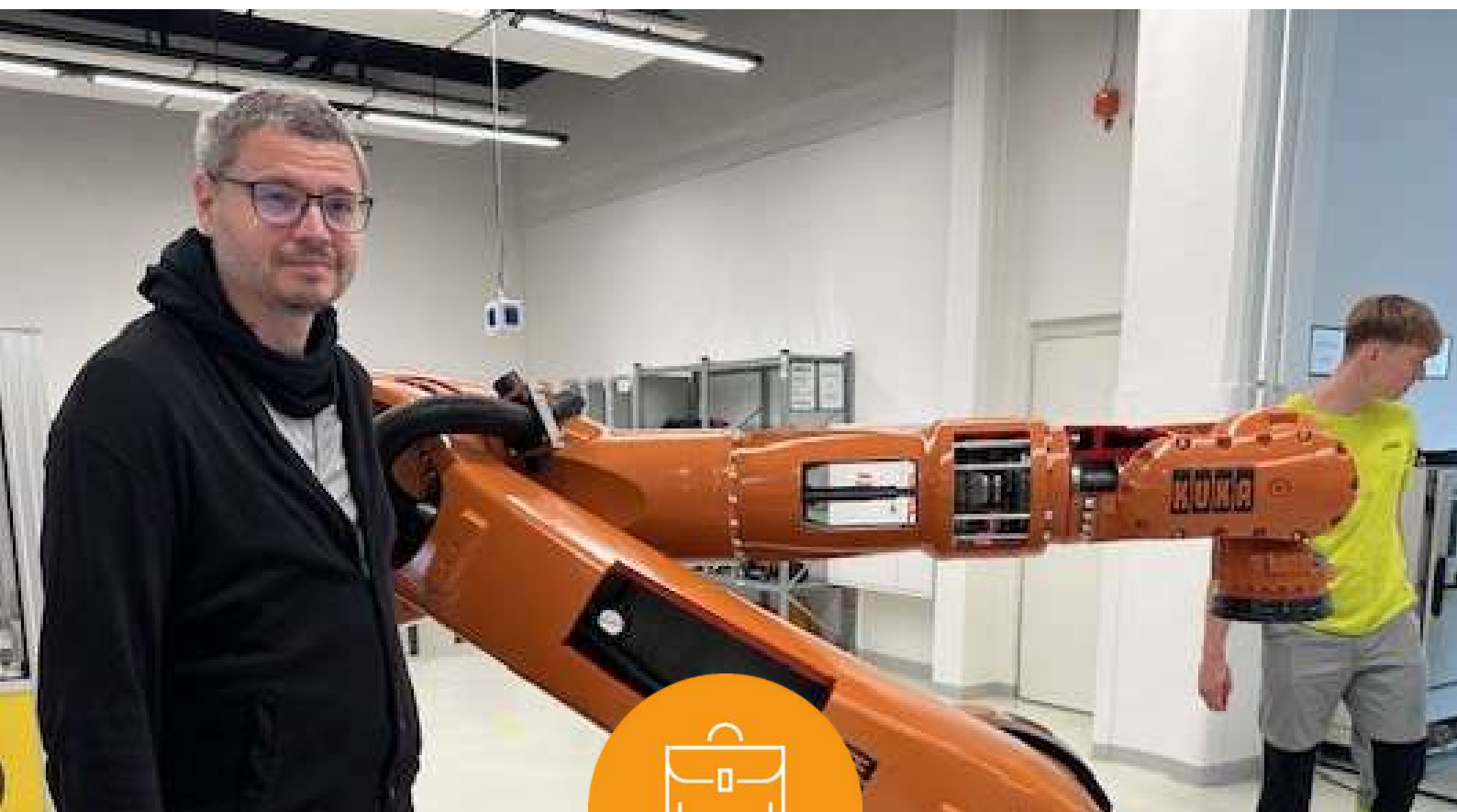
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# ERASMUS+ IN SKODA: INSPIRATION LIVE!

Our colleagues, Ivan Fiřka and Richard Valo, spent five days in the heart of the Czech automotive industry at Škoda Auto a.s. as part of the Erasmus+ job shadowing program.

They were warmly welcomed by the ŠKODA Academy in Mladá Boleslav, where they attended classes focused on PLC programming. During their visit, they engaged in discussions with instructors and students and gathered inspiration directly from practical experiences.

The goal of their visit was to gain inspiration, bring back new ideas, and modernize both hardware and teaching methods. The outcome? A wealth of notes, practical tools, and a renewed motivation to advance dual education further in our country.



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# A REMINDER THAT TECHNOLOGY IS ALSO FOR GIRLS

Technology is for everyone, including girls, and Duálka is proof of this!

Through the Som ExpertKA initiative, we are breaking stereotypes and demonstrating that girls have an important place in technology. The idea that only boys can excel in technical fields is no longer true.

We are excited to welcome new girls at the Dual Academy as they start the new school year. This year, 16 girls will be studying with us, reflecting an increase of over 45%! While the number may seem small, we believe in growth—step by step, year after year—and we are extremely happy about this progress.

Every girl who joins us pushes the boundaries and inspires others. Technology is fueled by curiosity, courage, and a desire to change the world—and our students embody these traits!

[MORE INFO](#)



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# DUAL ACADEMY - A PROUD MEMBER OF SKEBA

Dual Academy is a proud member of SKEBA – the Slovak University and Industrial Education Platform of the European Battery Academy.

Through this partnership, we leverage our professional expertise and modern facilities to conduct active training sessions led by our lecturers.

Our objective is to prepare the workforce for the future, enhance the competitiveness of the Slovak industry, and support sustainable solutions.

We are excited to be part of this vision and to contribute to the development of skills in the sectors of electromobility, battery technology, and renewable energy.

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# WHEN TO CONTACT IVANKA AND WHEN TO CONTACT PETKA?

At our school, we have two specialists available to help students and teachers: **Ivanka**, the school psychologist, and **Petka**, the school special education teacher. Each of them focuses on different areas, and here's when to contact them:

**Ivanka – School Psychologist.** You should reach out to Ivanka if you:

- You are experiencing anxiety, stress, or difficulty with motivation.
- Need support with relationships or conflict resolution.
- Want to talk to someone who can provide understanding and guidance.

**Petka – School Special Education Teacher.** You should contact Petka if you:

- Have specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia or ADHD.
- Need an individual learning plan tailored to your needs.
- Would like tips and support for mastering the curriculum.

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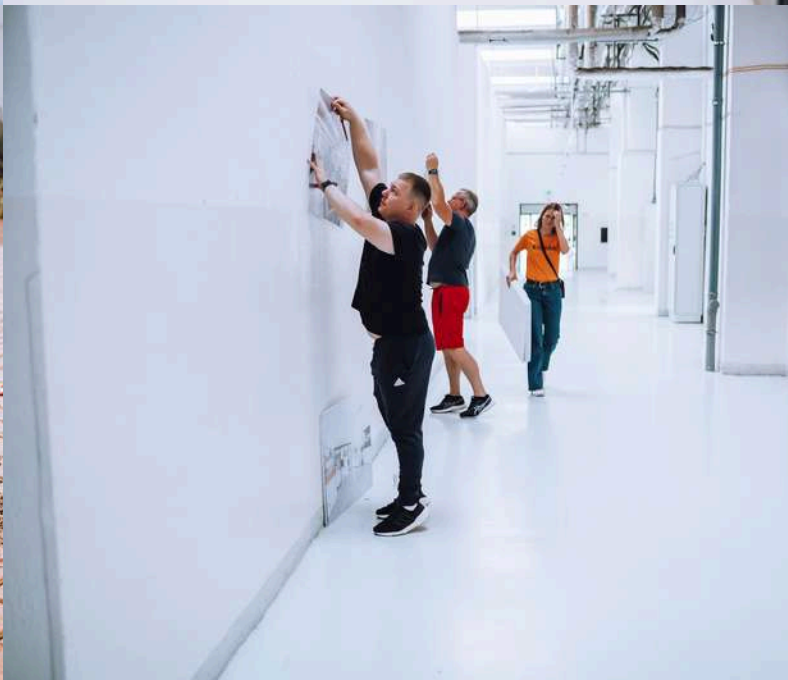
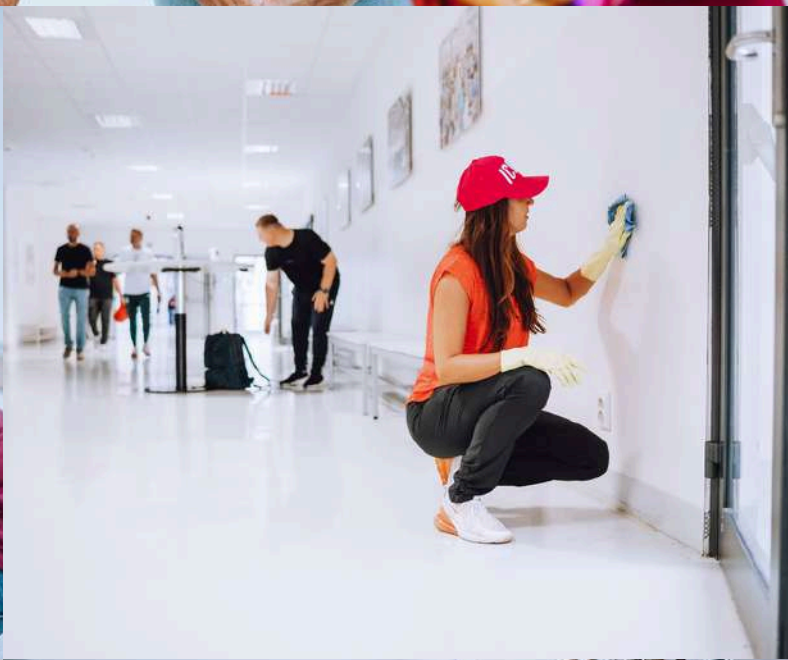
# VOLUNTEERS FROM VOLKSWAGEN SLOVAKIA

On August 22, 2025, we welcomed volunteers from Volkswagen Slovakia's Financial Department, organized by OZ Duálka. Together, we focused on beautifying our school by:

- Renovating the interior and future classrooms.
- Cleaning the sidewalks.
- Caring for the rock garden and the grounds.
- Sixty volunteers did a fantastic job, and thanks to their efforts, our students will benefit from a more beautiful and inviting learning environment.

The volunteers also toured the Dual Academy premises and learned more about our unique education system. Thank you for your tremendous help and support!





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# DOKETV SPRAYER IN DUALKA

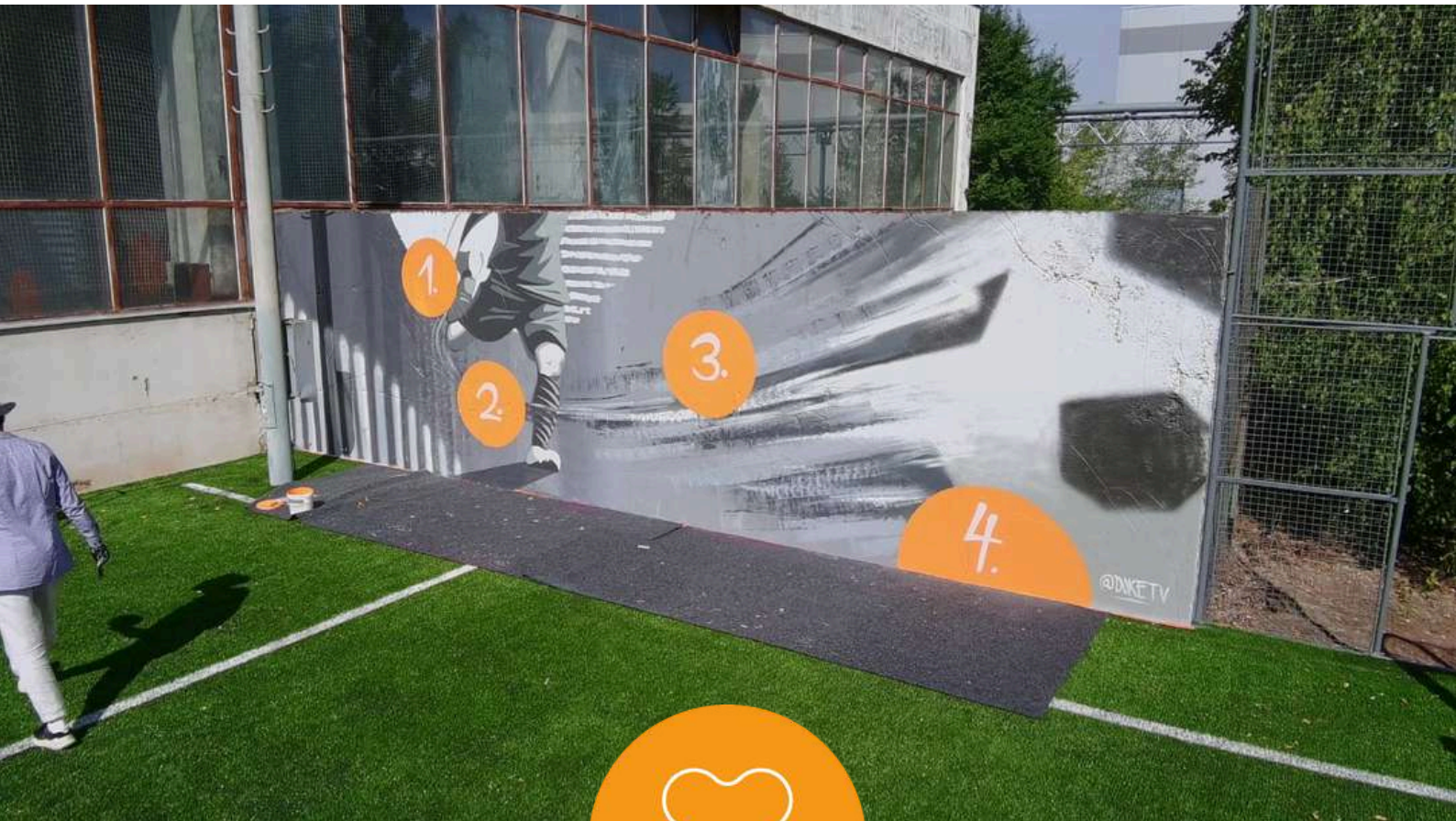
Once again, we had the honor of welcoming the world-famous Slovak artist, DokeTV, to our school!

This time, he transformed an empty wall on our renovated playground into a stunning work of art, which we will soon officially unveil.

We would like to thank DokeTV for beautifying our spaces and inspiring our youth. We are thrilled to have such a unique approach that supports both our school and students.

We believe that this artwork will motivate the students and encourage them to achieve great things on the playground, thanks in part to DokeTV's contributions.

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# INTERVIEW WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATION

## AHK Slowakei



Answering:

Marco Trisciuzzi

Executive member of the board of directors of the AHK Slowakei (Slovak-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

He has been working in the organization since August 1, 2024.

Cooperation with **Dual Academy since 2016.**

### Could you introduce your organization in three short sentences?

For two decades, the AHK Slowakei has served as a vital bridge for economic cooperation between Slovakia and Germany, uniting approximately 375 members. It is the largest bilateral economic association and officially represents the German economy in Slovakia. As part of a global network with over 150 branches in 93 countries, the chamber assists companies from both nations in entering markets, participating in trade fairs in Germany, and connecting with business partners. Additionally, it supports professional and further education in accordance with German standards.

### Why did you decide to cooperate with DA, or why do you think DA is your member (decided to cooperate with you)? Give three reasons.

- Shared Goal: Our mutual aim is to offer young individuals practice-oriented vocational education that equips them to become highly sought-after professionals in the industry.
- Strong Synergies: Dual Academy provides a modern educational infrastructure along with dedicated teachers. We enhance this by offering innovative examinations and internationally recognized educational certificates based on the German model.
- Focus on Professional Development: Dual Academy offers a diverse range of courses that assist our member companies in enhancing their employees' qualifications, which adds significant value in the global competitive landscape.

### What are the most significant recent developments or plans in your organization regarding dual education, adult education, legislation, and related areas that are relevant to your organization?

**New in the Further Education Program:** After a long break, we are once again offering the certified course "Production Manager." This program consists of three modules that focus on soft skills, professional knowledge, and labor law frameworks, culminating in a bilateral certificate.

**Quality of Dual Vocational Education:** Together with the Dual Academy, we are preparing for the new school year by implementing modern educational standards based on "Made in Germany," along with AHK/DIHK certificates.

# INTERVIEW WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATION AHK SLOWAKEI

We are enhancing our educational offerings with internationally certified courses on energy efficiency, ESG/CSR management, and other future-oriented topics. These courses are practical, globally recognized, and aligned with market demands.

**Can you share something about your company that is not widely known or easily found online?**

Much of our work occurs behind the scenes through confidential discussions with political leaders. As the representative of German businesses in Slovakia, we prioritize constructive dialogue over public statements. By doing so, we often achieve more for our members than we could through bold public declarations.

**If you had to describe your company in one word, what would it be?**

We connect people and businesses to create mutual benefits and new opportunities.

**How do you select your future partners, collaborations, or projects?**

We focus on addressing the current challenges faced by our member companies, specifically exploring topics relevant to the Slovak-German economy. We place particular emphasis on digital and green transformation, as well as the increasing demand for qualified experts. In collaboration with expert partners in both countries, we develop practical solutions within a bilateral framework.

**What is your vision for the future of your organisation? What are your plans for the next year? Please list the three most important projects or key topics.**

We aim to maintain close contact with our members in 2026. Our plans include new formats and projects focused on innovation, sustainability, and creating a skilled workforce, with a particular emphasis on sharing experiences in the Slovak-German context. Our goal is to generate new ideas, enhance partner networking, and collaboratively develop solutions to future challenges.

**What are the benefits of becoming a member of the AHK?**

Membership in AHK Slowakei provides companies with exclusive access to the Slovak-German business community, which includes leaders from nearly all sectors. We present current trends in industry, trade, law, taxation, and human resources, and together with experts, we create a platform for exchange and discussion on these topics. Additionally, AHK Slowakei enhances the visibility and presentation of companies through our communication channels, allowing members to actively participate in professional working groups and contribute to current events.

V Duálnej Akadémii sa aj tento rok tešíme na spoluprácu s našimi dlhoročnými partnermi, ktorí stoja pri nás už niekoľko rokov.

Zároveň s radosťou vítame aj nového zamestnávateľa - **Foss Fibre Optics**, ktorý sa stal súčasťou nášho duálneho vzdelávania.

Pre našich študentov to znamená ešte širšie možnosti praxe, odborného rastu a budúcich kariérnych ciest.



Volkswagen  
Slovakia

**SKODA**



## Upcoming Events Schedule:

### September 2025:

19th: Walking Tour - "Som ExpertKA"

26th: Sports Day and Opening Ceremony of the Sports Ground

End of September: Intro Days for First-Year Students

### October 2025:

2nd: Blood Donation Drive

10th: Open Day (DOD) and Girls' Day

23<sup>rd</sup>: Conference - "Som ExpertKA"

29<sup>th</sup>: Open Day (DOD) - Wednesday

30th-31st: Autumn Holidays

Additionally, we will soon begin our autumn visits to elementary schools.

### November 2025:

29<sup>th</sup>: Open Day (DOD) - Friday

Summer has come to an end, and we hope you enjoyed it in the way that suited you best—whether by the sea, in the mountains, cozy at home with a book, or having fun with friends at festivals. The key thing is that you've recharged and returned with a positive spirit.

Now, it's time to start a new chapter! At the Dual Academy, we are excited to welcome all our students—both newcomers and returning ones. This year promises new friendships, fresh challenges, and opportunities to showcase our potential.

The upcoming school year will not only include learning but also numerous experiences—competitions, excursions, events, partnerships with companies, and many memories we will create together. We know that our students are always ready to seize opportunities with courage, curiosity, and enthusiasm.

We believe that together we can achieve great things while enjoying every step of this journey.

So, let's dive in—the new school year is here, and we're ready!



**THANK YOU!**

You can expect the next newsletter with lots of interesting information in early November 2025.

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