

# Global Pro Bono Guide 2026

## Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in Slovakia

### Introduction

In Slovakia, pro bono culture is currently stagnating due to the absence of facilitators who would serve as pro bono clearinghouses. There are ongoing discussions and initiatives regarding the establishment of new pro bono platforms and programs, but the results remain to be seen. In the meantime, lawyers interested in offering pro bono services can register either with the Centre for Legal Aid (the Centre), which is a state-funded organisation that provides comprehensive legal assistance to persons in need via volunteer attorneys-at-law, or at one of the local non-governmental organisations listed below. Furthermore, many law firms undertake pro bono services on their own initiative, without the need for a court appointment, and some firms have long-standing pro bono partners (for example, local non-profit organisations).

### At a glance

Minimum pro bono hours requirement for lawyers?	Specific pro bono licence required?	May foreign lawyers practice pro bono?	Insurance required for law firm pro bono?	Insurance required for in-house pro bono?	Rules to limit advertising pro bono work?	Does pro bono work count to CLE credit?	Limitations for in-house lawyers to do pro bono?
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

### The landscape

Professional regulation	
<p>1. Describe the laws or rules that regulate the provision of legal services, including any licensing required to provide legal services. Please highlight any differences for lawyers working as in-house counsel.</p>	<p>Parliamentary Act No. 586/2003 Coll. on the Legal Profession and on Amending Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on the Business and Self-Employment Services (Business Licensing Act) dated 4 December 2003 (as amended, the Act) governs the provision of legal services in Slovakia.<sup>1</sup> Lawyers' fees are governed by an implementing decree of the Ministry of Justice (No. 655/2004) and are generally determined by agreement between a lawyer and their client.</p> <p>In order to practice as a lawyer (in Slovak: <i>advokát</i>) in Slovakia, a natural person has to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be duly admitted to the Slovak Bar Association;</li> <li>• hold a university degree in law;</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Act No. 586/2003 Coll. on the Legal Profession and on Amending Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on the Business and Self-Employment Services (Business Licensing Act) available at <https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2003/586/> (last visited 27 December 2024).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acquire at least three years' experience as an articulated clerk;</li> <li>• pass a bar examination conducted at the Slovak Bar Association; and</li> <li>• be of good character (must have clean criminal record).</li> </ul> <p>Unlike lawyers, in-house counsels do not have to fulfil any of the above-mentioned criteria, apart from holding a university degree in law.</p>
<p>2. Describe the laws or rules that regulate the provision of pro bono legal services.</p>	<p>In addition to the Act mentioned above, the Act No. 327/2005 Coll. on the Provision of Legal Aid for People in Material Need, as amended (the Legal Aid Act)<sup>2</sup>, forming the legal framework of provision of free legal services.</p> <p>The Legal Aid Act allows the lawyers to offer legal services for free or at a reduced cost while prohibiting lawyers from asking for or accepting payment from a client whose legal services have been covered by the state under Section 25 of the Act.</p> <p>The basis for provision of state-funded legal aid arises out of the Constitution, under which everyone has the right to legal advice and representation in proceedings before courts and state agencies (subject to certain legal conditions). The system for granting legal aid for indigent natural persons in civil, commercial, administrative, and asylum matters is comprehensively regulated by the Legal Aid Act.</p> <p>There are no additional regulations specific to pro bono legal services in Slovakia.</p>
<p>3. Do lawyers need a license to provide pro bono legal services (beyond usual local qualification to practice law)?</p>	<p>The law does not require Slovak lawyers to have a licence to provide pro bono legal services, but they must be licensed to provide legal services in general in accordance with the Act as set forth in section (a)(1) Part II. above.</p>
<p>4. Do foreign-qualified lawyers need any additional license to provide pro bono services (beyond their foreign qualification to practice law)?</p>	<p>While there are no specific references to pro bono legal services, the Act regulates the practice of foreign lawyers in Slovakia, including registration requirements and limitations as to who foreign lawyers may represent and when they may appear in proceedings before a court or other public authority.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Act No. 327/2005 Coll. on the Provision of Legal Aid for People in Material Need available at <https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2005/327/> (last visited 27 December 2024).

<p>5. Are lawyers required by such rules to work a minimum number of pro bono hours? If so, how many?</p>	<p>There are no requirements for lawyers in Slovakia to work a minimum number of pro bono hours.</p>
<p>6. Are aspiring lawyers required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to become licensed lawyers?</p>	<p>The Act does not require that any minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to be provided to become a licensed lawyer in Slovakia.</p>
<p>7. Aside from mandatory targets (if any), are there aspirational pro bono hours targets for lawyers set by the local bar association, regulatory body or other body?</p>	<p>There are no mandatory or aspirational pro bono hours targets set by the Slovak Bar Association or any regulatory or other body in Slovakia.</p>
<p>8. Do lawyers receive any “Continuing Legal Education” (CLE) or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked?</p>	<p>The lawyers in Slovakia do not receive any CLE or any equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked.</p>
<p>9. Do lawyers need professional indemnity legal insurance cover for pro bono legal services they provide? Does the requirement differ for in-house lawyers?</p> <p>If insurance is required, can lawyers meet the requirement by working under the cover of another pro bono provider, e.g. in partnership with a private law firm or organization working on the same pro bono project?</p>	<p>Though there is no specific reference to pro bono legal services, all lawyers in Slovakia are required to maintain a professional indemnity policy covering any loss or damage arising out of the provision of legal services.<sup>3</sup> Lawyers may opt to be insured through the Collective Professional Indemnity Policy maintained by the Slovak Bar Association.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>In-house counsels are not required to maintain a professional indemnity policy, regardless of whether they provide pro bono or “standard” legal advice at the company they perform work for.</p>
<p>10. Are there any rules that limit or prohibit advertising of pro bono successes or soliciting new pro bono clients?</p>	<p>Advertising with respect to pro bono matters is not prohibited, but Slovak lawyers are required to adhere to the regulations set forth in the Act and as maintained by the Slovak Bar Association.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>According to these regulations, the advertisement may only contain factual, objective information about the professional focus of the law firm and its composition; on the contrary, it cannot be false, untrue, or misleading.<sup>6</sup></p>

<sup>3</sup> See Section 27(1) of the Act.

<sup>4</sup> See Section 27 (2) and (3) of the Act.

<sup>5</sup> See Section 18 et seq. of the Act.

<sup>6</sup> See Section 29b of the Act.

<p>11. What are the main areas of law which require or present opportunities for pro bono? What are the major unmet legal needs?</p>	<p>The Centre for Legal Aid<sup>7</sup> provides legal services, and information on civil law matters, labour law matters, asylum matters, in proceedings on administrative expulsion, proceedings on the detention of a third-country national, proceedings on the detention of an asylum seeker, and commercial law matters, including the proceedings before the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic.<sup>8</sup> The Slovak Bar Association maintains a separate list of attorneys providing pro bono legal assistance through the Centre for Legal Aid.<sup>9</sup></p> <p>In addition to the above, the Slovak Bar Association Foundation has launched the “Advocates for Ukraine” initiative, which offers the opportunity for attorneys and articulated clerks from Ukraine to complete a one-month internship in Slovak law firms or organisations involved in assisting Ukrainian citizens.<sup>10</sup> In this case, the Slovak Bar Association also maintains a separate list of attorneys providing pro bono legal assistance to Ukraine.<sup>11</sup></p>
<p>12. Who are the main providers of pro bono legal services?</p>	<p>Based on information available, through its work with private law firms and individual lawyers, the Centre is one of the main facilitators of pro bono legal services in Slovakia. However, an increasingly important role is played by NGOs.</p>
<p>13. Are there any noteworthy examples of how innovative technology or artificial intelligence is being used to enable access to pro bono or otherwise as part of pro bono cases or matters?</p>	<p>Nothing notable in this regard just yet.</p> <p>However, AI and technology tools have the potential to greatly enhance legal pro bono work across Europe by utilizing the framework set by the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689). This regulation requires transparency, risk assessments, and human oversight for high-risk AI systems, while prohibiting certain “unacceptable risk” uses. AI and innovative legal technologies can make pro bono work more efficient by automating routine</p>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.centrumpravnejpomoci.sk/?utm\\_](https://www.centrumpravnejpomoci.sk/?utm_) (last viewed on 21 January 2026).

<sup>8</sup> Centre for Legal Aid – About us. Available at <https://www.centrumpravnejpomoci.sk/en/page/4-about-us-1>

<sup>9</sup> List of attorneys providing pro bono legal assistance through the Centre for Legal Aid. Available at:

<https://www.sak.sk/web/sk/cms/lawyer/bppp/proxy/list/form/footer/pickers/picker/event/page/0>.

<sup>10</sup> Юристи для України (Advokáti pre Ukrajinu). Available at

<https://info.sak.sk/nadacia/%D1%8E%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%B4%D0%BB%D1%8F-%D1%83%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%97%D0%BD%D0%B8-advokati-pre-ukrajinu/> (last visited 27 December 2024).

<sup>11</sup> List of attorneys providing pro bono legal assistance to Ukraine. Available at: <https://www.sak.sk/web/sk/cms/lawyer/ua> (last visited 27 December 2024).

	<p>tasks like document drafting, intake, and legal research, allowing lawyers to concentrate on more complex client needs. Furthermore, these technologies could increase access to justice by providing scalable, low-cost tools such as multilingual chatbots and rights checkers, which could help empower vulnerable groups to understand and assert their legal rights.</p>
<p>14. Describe notable sources of pro bono matters or resources in your jurisdiction.</p>	<p>The notable sources of pro bono matters are, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Centre – provides quality and complex legal aid through lawyers of the Centre, volunteer advocates registered within the Slovak Bar Association, or mediators;</li> <li>• Via Iuris<sup>12</sup> – civic association promoting the independence of courts, public prosecution, and police and to eliminate political influence on them;</li> <li>• Centrum Nádej – centre for victims of domestic violence and families in difficult life situations providing social, psychological, and legal counselling;<sup>13</sup></li> <li>• Liga za ľudské práva (Human Rights League)<sup>14</sup> – an organisation that promotes and protects human rights, focuses on advocacy, legal support, and raising awareness about issues like discrimination, equality, and social justice; and</li> </ul> <p>Slovak Humanitarian Council – partner of international UN agencies (UNICEF and UNHCR) providing assistance, services, care, counselling, and various activities for the benefit of socially disadvantaged and disabled people.<sup>15</sup></p>
<p>15. Is there any public or private organization with which a local or foreign lawyer can register to be made aware of pro bono opportunities?</p>	<p>Slovak lawyers interested in pro bono opportunities should register with the Centre<sup>16</sup> or approach one of the non-profit organisations directly.</p> <p>In the past, Pontis Foundation (Nadácia Pontis) offered a pro bono legal referral platform but that is no longer active. PILnet now offers a Eurasia pro bono clearinghouse that lawyers can register with.<sup>17</sup></p>

<sup>12</sup> See <https://viaiuris.sk/en/> (last visited 14 March 2025).

<sup>13</sup> See <https://centrumnadej.sk/> (last visited 14 March 2025).

<sup>14</sup> See <https://www.hrl.sk/sk> (last visited 14 March 2025).

<sup>15</sup> See <https://help.unhcr.org/slovakia/slovak-humanitarian-council/> (last visited 14 March 2025).

<sup>16</sup> See <http://www.centrumpravnejpomoci.sk/> (last visited 14 March 2025).

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.pilnet.org/access-legal-help/get-legal-assistance/eurasia/> (Last visited on 21 January 2026).

16. Are there any awards, lists or rankings related to pro bono work?	Every year, the Slovak magazine TREND in cooperation with the electronic online newspaper EPRAVO.SK announce the Law Firm of the Year in the Pro Bono & CSR category. <sup>18</sup>
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## Acknowledgements

Name of Law Firm: Miklenčičová, Kinstellar, s. r. o.

Name of lawyer: Livia Miklencicova

## Learn more

[Navigate the full Global Pro Bono Guide](#) to explore the global landscape and pro bono practices and opportunities across 100+ jurisdictions.

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<sup>18</sup> The results for the 2024 edition are available at <https://www.epravo.sk/top/clanky/pravnicka-firma-roka-2024-6058.html> (last visited 14 March 2025)