Sustainability Magazine for the 2024 Financial Year

Lidl Slovenská republika, s. r. o.



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1. Foreword by the CEO

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2024, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Lidl's operations in Slovakia. Two decades of growth, success as well as challenges. Together with our customers, employees, suppliers, and other partners, we are building the brand that is currently associated not only with affordable shopping, but also with a responsible approach to people and the country in which we operate.

This annual report outlines the key sustainability-related indicators, goals and activities of Lidl Slovakia for the 2024 financial year (March 2024 — February 2025). Thanks to our approach, we are among the leaders in this area, and Lidl has long been perceived as one of the most responsible companies in Slovakia. This gives us great pleasure, but at the same time we see it as an obligation to keep moving forward.

In the 2024 financial year, we opened nine new stores and expanded our network to a total of 172 stores in 101 towns and villages across the country. Our team consisted of more than 6,500 employees, to whom we offer stability, fair conditions, and room for development. Diversity and equality are very important to us, and we also support them in management — we have a balanced ratio of men and women in leadership positions and offer everyone equal opportunities for growth. Our activities as an employer have once again been recognized with prestigious awards. We are nine-time winners of the Top Employer award and six-time winners of the domestic Najzamestnávateľ (Best Employer) survey.



We cooperate with nearly 300 Slovak suppliers, with the value of cooperation in the 2024 financial year exceeding €610 million in purchase prices. We also support exports from Slovakia, which reached a record value of over €114 million. Our goal is to be a strong and stable partner for them, thanks to which we can move forward together and develop the Slovak food industry.

We are also taking concrete steps to protect the environment. We are reducing emissions, increasing the share of renewable energy sources, and developing electromobility. In the past fiscal year, our logistics also moved forward, making our fleet even greener thanks to a 35% share of alternative fuel vehicles in our fleet. Nature conservation is a long-term effort for us to make Slovakia and the planet greener. We are also making progress in this effort thanks to our projects such as Let's Clean Up Slovakia, Let's Not Let It Flow Away, and Save Food with Lidl. Last year alone, we saved more than 430 tons of fruit and vegetables and helped remove 400 tons of waste from nature.

We are a stable part of this country and we want it to thrive. We believe that our socially responsible activities are not only right, but also beneficial — for communities, the economy, and simply for the whole of Slovakia. Our business benefits employees, the private sector, the state treasury, cities, and the third sector. The annual contribution of our activities to the Slovak economy exceeds €2 billion, as confirmed by a socio-economic study by the auditing company Forvis Mazars. We are one of the largest and most honest taxpayers, and we are also a significant investor.

We truly care about the world we live in and the world our children will live in. We want to be the first choice for our customers, employees, and business partners, and we are constantly working to achieve this. We realise that taking responsibility is not easy, but we believe it is the right thing to do. In many areas, it is the only option. That is why we stick to our credo — right for you, right for people, right for the planet.

I hope you enjoy reading this report

2. Lidl in Slovakia

Key figures, our awards, memberships in associations and surveys

Our company entered the Slovak market in September 2004 by opening its first 14 stores. Thanks to its dynamic expansion, this number increased to 39 by the end of the year. At the end of the 2024 financial year (1. 3. 2024 – 28. 2. 2025), our retail network consisted of a total of 172 stores in 101 towns and villages in Slovakia. The 2024 financial year was Lidl's 20th year of operation in Slovakia. These stores are supplied by three logistics centres - in Nemšová, Sereď, and Prešov.

172 stores +9 stores year-on-year

New stores in the 2024 financial year:

- Bratislava, Púchovská ulica
- Dunajská Lužná, Vajanského ulica
- Hlohovec, ulica SNP
- Hnúšťa, Hlavná ulica
- Považská Bystrica, ulica Slovenských partizánov
- Prešov, Solivarská ulica
- Prešov. Vihorlatská ulica
- Rimavská Sobota, ulica Petra Hostinského
- Stará Turá, Jiráskova ulica



Revenue in the 2024 financial year: €2,098,841,766

Number of employees: 6,523

Product range

Number of food products listed: 5,215

Number of own-brand products listed: 3,846

Share of own brands in the product range: 74% of the total number of products listed

Number of food products listed from Slovak suppliers: 1,519

(29% of the total number of products listed)



Our mission

We offer our customers the best value for money through simple and sustainable practices.

Our corporate principles

- Customer satisfaction influences our actions.
- Our market position is determined by the optimal price-performance ratio.
- Thanks to expansion and continuous improvement of our stores, we are constantly growing.
- As a diversified company, we work systematically.
- Short decision-making processes and simple workflows guarantee success.
- We comply with applicable laws and internal guidelines.
- We assume economic, social, and ecological responsibility in our daily work.
- Fair treatment of everyone is a fundamental rule in our company.
- We support and respect each other.
- Agreements are kept in an atmosphere of trust.
- Praising, showing appreciation, but also the art of accepting criticism is part of our daily routine.

Awards from experts and the general public in 2024

Retailer of the Year

In 2024, we won the Public Award for the eleventh time, with customers supporting us with over 35,000 votes. In addition, we won first place in the Food Retailer of the Year category for the tenth time! This only confirms that we are the clear first choice!



cena verejnosti

AWARDS FROM THE PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL PUBLIC IN 2024

Hermes Communicator of the Year:

- Best Communicating retail chain (Public Award)
- Long-term representative survey MEDIAN SK (MEDIAN SK Award)
- Stable work moves forward (Internal communication & employer branding)

Shop of the Year



We received awards for the most popular on-line store in the Department Stores category and also became the overall

stores category and also became the overall winner of the Popularity Award. In addition, we took first place in the Quality Award category based on customer ratings in the Verified by Customers survey and the Heureka expert jury.

- POPULARITY AWARD Overall Winner
- POPULARITY AWARD Department Stores
- QUALITY AWARD Department Stores

Most Trusted Brand:

Lupilu has once again won the Most Trusted Brand award in the children's clothing category.

Best & Top Employer:

Ninth-time award winner of the TOP Employer award and we are also six-time



winners of the domestic Best Employer survey, which is organized annually by Alma Career.

- Merkúr Taxpayer of the Year
- Qudal
- Best Buy
- Superbrands Award for the Dulano brand

MEMBERSHIP IN INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND CSR INITIATIVES IN SLOVAKIA

At Lidl, we actively monitor legislation, communicate with our partners, and cooperate with associations. The goal is to quickly implement legal requirements into practice and identify important issues in cooperation with suppliers in a timely manner.

Industry associations and organizations:

- Slovak-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **SAMO** Slovak Alliance of Modern Trade
- Fair Trade Initiative

CSR initiatives

- Business Leaders Forum
- Diversity Charter in Slovakia
- Circular Slovakia
- Asfin

Memberships in international associations and organizations through the parent company

- Danube soya
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- GlobalG. A. P., GlobalG. A. P. GRASP Technical Committee
- Sustainable Nut Initiative
- Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP)
- World Banana Forum
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation
- UN Global Compact
- Science Based Target Initiative
- Aguaculture Stewardship Council
- Fairtrade
- Rainforest Alliance
- Marine Stewardship Council
- Save the Children



Business that develops Slovakia

Over the past 20 years, Lidl has grown to become the retail leader in Slovakia. We have long supported communities and are committed to protecting the environment. In 20 years, we have invested more than €924 million in Slovakia.



Matúš Šutka Head of Regional Expansion Offices

"We care about Slovakia's success and contribute to it as a stable employer, fair business partner, good neighbour, and responsible taxpayer. In Slovakia, we have more than 170 stores, hundreds of business partners, more than 6,500 employees, and millions of customers. We see our commitment to Slovakia as a long-term one."

We are a leader that emphasizes quality at an affordable price. We are one of the largest employers and taxpayers in Slovakia and have long been recognized as a leader in social responsibility.

* Source: Socio-economic study Lidl Slovak Republic for the 2024 financial year, Forvis Mazars

Our annual contribution to the Slovak economy exceeds EUR 2 billion, which corresponds to 1.6% of GDP.*

What do the surveys say?

We have long been the leader in the ranking of companies that are spontaneously associated with sponsorship in Slovakia. The proportion of people who associate Lidl with sponsorship is growing year on year. People feel Lidl's commitment particularly in the following areas:

- Environment
- Support for local communities
- Support for sport for all
- Professional sport

Lidl either dominates significantly in these areas or is among the top supporters. People also spontaneously associate the Lidl brand with many other areas, such as charity and philanthropy and education. Our leadership is also confirmed by a 2024 survey conducted by Ipsos. Approximately one-third of the population can name a socially responsible company, with Lidl being the most frequently mentioned. We defended our leadership, with one in four respondents naming us as a socially responsible company.*

According to a survey by Focus, we also top the list of the most frequently spontaneously mentioned companies that do business responsibly (spontaneous awareness of 18.4% and supported awareness of 26% of respondents from a sample of 1,001 respondents in 2023).



* Source: Ipsos ESG & Reputation research, 2024, population sample of 1111

3. Our sustainability strategy

The importance of sustainable and responsible behaviour



Zuzana Sobotová Head of CSR



Michaela Kleinová Sustainability Manager for Purchasing

CSR is an abbreviation for Corporate Social Responsibility. In practice, it refers to how a company behaves towards its surroundings, people, nature, communities, and employees. It means doing things fairly, with regard to the future and with the awareness that our decisions have an impact. Simply put, CSR is a way to be a good neighbour and a responsible partner.



Lidl is a leader in social responsibility in Slovakia, which has been confirmed by long-term surveys among Slovak consumers. What has this journey been like since Lidl started operating in Slovakia?

Zuzana: The CSR strategy is our daily commitment to society and future generations. We are building it systematically, monitoring current challenges and communicating transparently with our partners. Since 2018, we have been regularly publishing a Sustainability Report, which maps our progress in the areas of the environment, social responsibility and sustainability. We believe that every change starts with people — that's why we also guide our colleagues towards this approach.

What are the main pillars of social responsibility at Lidl?

Zuzana: Our path to social responsibility was not a one-time decision, but a natural development of how we want to do business — fairly, considerately, and with an eye to the future. From the beginning, we realised that we have an impact on people and the planet, so we strive to act responsibly every day. We published our first sustainability report for the 2017 financial year, in which we honestly show what we are doing well and where we still have room for improvement. We are not aiming for perfection, but for an honest approach and a willingness to change things for the better.

Why are certifications in the product range important, what is their contribution to society, and what is the share of certified products in Lidl's product range?

Michaela: Unfortunately, in many countries around the world, violations of workers' basic rights are common practice. The use of certified raw materials in our products will help farmers and growers to ensure all social, economic, and environmental working conditions, such as fair wages and the prohibition of child labour. The difference between certified and non-certified raw materials is not visible at first glance, but the effect of supporting the right cause is priceless. In terms of the range of raw materials we focus on certifying (coffee, cocoa, fish, palm oil, tea, nuts, and rice), we offered our customers a total of almost 69% certified products in our regular and promotional assortment in the past financial year. We also source certified commodities through certified cotton, which we use in the production of workwear for our employees and textile shopping bags. We want to gradually increase the certification of our products, including the aforementioned raw materials, as part of our goal to ensure good working conditions for the widest possible group of workers in developing countries.

The cooperation of suppliers is also necessary to increase certification. Are Slovak and foreign manufacturers also aware of the trend towards offering sustainable products?

Michaela: Slovak and foreign suppliers are increasingly aware of the growing trend in demand for sustainable products. Each of our suppliers is familiar with Lidl's strategies and goals, which include an emphasis on the sustainability of our products and raw materials. That is why we are constantly communicating with each other about certification and sustainability options and gradually expanding the number of certified products in our range.

Lidl has been behind many CSR innovations on the Slovak market and has brought new trends to retail that have inspired other companies. Which ones are you particularly proud of?

Zuzana: We value projects that have a real impact and make sense, not only to us, but also to the people around us. For example, Lidl Forest, where we have planted more than 2 million trees together with our partners, or the Let's Clean Up Slovakia (Upracme Slovensko) initiative, thanks to which we have cleaned up parts of a countryside. We are also very fond of the In Good Hands from the Start (Od začiatku v dobrých rukách) program, through which we help sick children and their families. These projects are not one-off events — they are long-term, growing with us and involving our colleagues and customers. It is thanks to their support that we can bring about positive change and show that even a large company can do things with heart.

Customers and other stakeholders expect companies to behave responsibly. Which areas do you plan to focus on in the future and what are you preparing for Slovak customers?

Zuzana: We want sustainability to be more than just a phrase, but something that people actually experience — whether as customers or as our colleagues. It is thanks to their enthusiasm and involvement that we are able to do things that make sense. In the future, we want to focus even more on making sustainability understandable and accessible to everyone. We are preparing activities that will naturally draw people in — whether it's education, community support, or concrete steps that help Slovakia.

4. Our 5 Areas of Focus

Area I Climate Protection







Vladimír Mokoš Consultant at Logistics Department

"We care about the world we live in and the world our children will live in" is a Lidl's message, which we have been following continuously and in all aspects of our business for a long time.

Climate change — scare tactic or reality?

Climate change has global consequences.

If we do not start to act, these impacts will worsen.

What are the consequences of climate change for nature and people?

- High temperatures
- Drought and wildfires
- Availability of fresh water and reduction in its quality
- · Floods and inundations
- Rise in sea levels
- Changes in phenology (behaviour and life cycle of animal and plant species)
- Soil degradation
- Impact on human health and social aspects for the population
- Threats to business and infrastructure

That is why Lidl acts responsibly in areas such as logistics, energy, and environmental protection.



We are reducing our carbon footprint and taking a responsible approach to the environment, society, our product range, and our employees. We deployed our first truck with an alternative drive system back in 2018, and by February 2025, eco-friendly vehicles made up more than 35% of our fleet. The goal is to reach 50% by the end of 2027 and 85% by 2030. We put the first electric truck into operation in 2022. Last year, we took a significant step towards a sustainable future in Slovakia. In cooperation with one of our carriers, we launched a symbol of modernisation, the first electric tractor unit, which supplies stores belonging to the Logistics Centre in Nemšová.

This modern tractor not only reduces dependence on fossil fuels, but also contributes significantly to environmental protection:

- Reduction of CO₂ emissions zero local emissions during operation.
- Lower noise levels friendlier to the environment and our employees.
- Energy efficiency use of renewable energy sources.

This project is proof that innovation and caring for the planet go hand in hand. We are proud to contribute to reducing our ecological footprint and to working together to create a greener future.

Goals in innovative logistics

Use of alternative fuels such as BioLNG and HV, which reduce the carbon footprint significantly **50%** of the vehicle fleet with alternative drive systems through our contractual partners

75% of fleet with alternative drive systems through our contractual partners, and **30%** of the fleet will be powered by electricity, hydrogen, or biogas

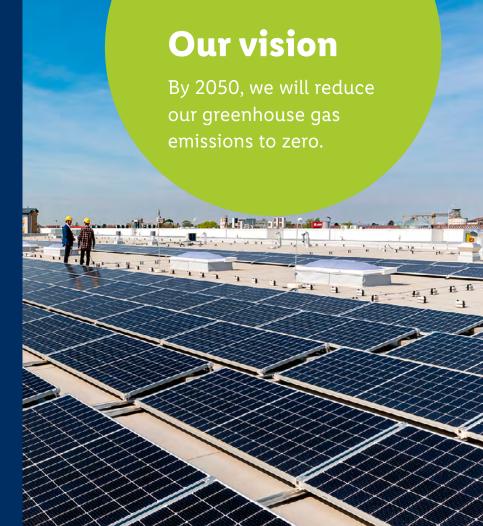
2026

2027

2030

We are moving green by using solar energy

Lidl currently operates
21 photovoltaic sources
with a capacity of just under
100 kWp and 7 sources
with a capacity of 10 kWp.
A photovoltaic source is also
under construction at the Lidl
Sered' Logistics Centre, with
a capacity of 999.60 kWp
and will be able to cover
approximately 20% of the
Logistics Centre's annual
electricity consumption.



Our long-term goal

80% fewer emissions within Scope 1 & 2 by 2030 when compared to 2019

Energies

Energy mix for 2024

RENEWABLE SOURCES	SHARE OF ELECTRICITY SOURCES IN SUPPLY
Solar	11.87%
Wind	9.67%
Hydro	78.46%
TOTAL	100.00%

We measure our impact through our carbon footprint and manage by a climate strategy based on the Science Based Targets methodology. The goal is to contribute to limiting global warming to 1.5 $^{\circ}$ C in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

The company's climate footprint includes direct emissions from its own sources (Scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased energy (Scope 2), and other indirect emissions from the entire value chain, such as suppliers, transport and product use (Scope 3). We regularly monitor these emissions with the aim of reducing our overall climate impact.

As part of the Schwarz Group, we strive to keep our own contribution to climate change as low and stable as possible and to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. We therefore adhere to the following principles:

- 1. We prevent greenhouse gas emissions wherever possible.
- 2. We reduce those greenhouse gas emissions that cannot be avoided.

2019

We started to collect the data and monitor our carbon footprint. 2019 was determined as the start point.

2019

We decided to modify our goals to a more ambitions reduction by 1.5 degree. 2020

In August 2020 Schwarz Group joined the global climate initiative Science Based Target Initiave (SBTi). 2021

SBTi was validated and published in September 2021.

2023

2023: 25 stores with photovoltaic systems.

2026

In cooperation with our suppliers we are planning to set 75% of product emissions according to SBTi.

2030

2030: 75% of fleet to be powered by alternative motor units through contractual partners.

Greenhouse gas emissions

CO, footprint statement

CATEGORIES ACCORDING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS PROTOCOL	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (IN CO ₂ EQUIVALENT) IN 2024	CHANGE FROM 2019 (%)
Scope 1	8,116.96	-23.88%
Fugitive emissions	2,013.75	-64.64%
Mobile combustion	2,933.74	31.30%
Stationary combustion	3,169.47	15.96%
Scope 2	377.00	-47.82%
Heat supply	355.56	160.66%
Electricity: market-based approach	21.43	-96.34%
Scope 3 — Upstream	2,432,896.68	39.58%
3.1 Purchased goods and services	1 951 919.27	20.33%
3.2 Emissions from fixed assets	11,990.10	n. a.
3.3 Emissions related to fuels and energy	5,061.01	12.70%
3.4 Upstream transport	94,378.22	715.09%
3.5 Operational waste	5,651.23	-37.22%
3.6 Business travel	1,010.08	25.01%
3.7 Employee commuting	8,055.60	30.71%
3.11 Use phase of sold products	261,411.16	200.97%
3.12 Recycling of sold products	93,420.01	4,502.76%
Total emissions	2 441 390.63	39.15%



Martin Brezina Energy Engineer

"When building each new store, we automatically equip it with the highest technological standards to ensure a pleasant shopping experience for customers and to be as sustainable as possible."

We emphasize sustainability in construction, logistics, and operations. We use green energy, photovoltaic systems, LED lighting, and intelligent building management, and we are gradually increasing the proportion of equipment with natural refrigerants. The Lidl Sered' logistics centre has also become the first building in Slovakia to receive the internationally renowned BREEAM environmental certification at the highest level of Outstanding. Our company has implemented an energy management system in accordance with the ISO 50001 standard, thanks to which we are actively reducing the energy consumption of our buildings. We have set our own climate strategy with specific targets and measures to reduce CO₂ emissions. We support electromobility, reduce CO₂ emissions, and work with suppliers to reduce theirs Thanks to recycling, pallet pooling, and environmental certifications, we save thousands of tons of emissions per year. We also communicate with our suppliers about reducing emissions.

DIRECT ENERGY CONSUMPTION PRIMARY ENERGY SOURCE	BASIC FINANCIAL YEAR 2019	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024	
Direct energy consumption			
Own electricity production from renewable energy sources (kWh)	19 997.000	701 959.000	
Natural gas (kWh)	14 929 660.000	17 265 553.920	
Energy consumed by backup power source — diesel (kWh)	45,259.27	85,318.31	
Energy consumed by vehicle fleet from non-renewable energy sources (kWh)	8 747 746.953	11 675 817.510	
Energy consumed by vehicle fleet from non-renewable energy sources (GJ)	31,491.889	42,032.940	
Energy consumed by vehicle fleet from non-renewable energy sources — Diesel (kWh)	7 614 343.707	6 880 816.780	
Energy consumed by vehicle fleet from non-renewable energy sources — Diesel (GJ)	27,411.637	24,770.940	
Energy consumed by vehicle fleet from non-renewable energy sources — Gasoline (kWh)	1 133 403.246	4 795 000.730	
Energy consumed by vehicle fleet from non-renewable energy sources — Gasoline (GJ)	4,080.252	17 262.000	
Other primary energy carriers (kWh)	_	_	
Other primary energy carriers (GJ)	_	_	
Indirect energy consumption			
Central heat supply (kWh)	554 970.000	1 446 560.000	
Electricity from non-renewable sources (kWh)	2 520 546.000	3 730 548.000	
Electricity from mixed renewable sources (kWh)	70 490 540.000	95 170 181.890	
Total energy consumption (kWh)	97 263 459.798	130 075 938.600	
Total energy consumption (GJ)	350 311.390	268 273.380	





Lidl Forest

As part of the Lidl's Water for Trees project, thanks to customers, 2.3 million trees have already been planted in the Tatra Mountains.

"The Lidl Forest project is more than just planting trees — it is an example of a long-standing partnership between the private and public sectors for the benefit of nature conservation. Lesy SR plants more than 12 million tree seedlings every year, and volunteer activities have a significant symbolic dimension. Volunteers realise from their own experience that planting a new forest is a demanding but rewarding task," explained Tibor Menyhart, CEO of Lesy SR. Lesy Slovenskej republiky (Slovak Forest Authority) actively cares for forests planted by volunteers throughout the year.



Ivan Udiljak CEO

Ivan Kovaľov Sales Manager

Did you know that one hectare of mature forest can produce as much oxygen in a year as approximately 130 people consume?

The Lidl Forest currently covers an area of approximately 900 hectares, which represents oxygen for the entire Trenčín district or for the towns of Nitra and Levice combined.

The current area of the Lidl Forest can be compared to the size of 1,200 football fields, or more than ten times the size of Štrbské Pleso.



REset plastic

Plastics are an integral part of our everyday lives. It is easy to understand why: they are strong, lightweight, and have a wide range of uses. Recyclable material is also very important and widely used as transport and packaging material. However, due to its long lifespan, it can become a problem if it ends up in the environment. Anyone who puts plastic into circulation is therefore also responsible for its further use.

In response to this, the Schwarz Group companies have committed themselves to collecting, sorting, and reusing plastics — they launched the REset Plastic initiative back in 2018. This is an international holistic plastics strategy that aims not only to reduce plastic use and promote recycling, but also to create new awareness and fundamentally change the way plastics are handled.

As part of the Schwarz Group, Lidl has committed itself to reducing the consumption of plastics for private label packaging and plastic transport packaging by 30% by 2025 compared to 2017 as part of the group-wide REset Plastic strategy, so that private label packaging is as recyclable as possible. The Schwarz Group companies therefore signed the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Global Commitment to a New Plastics Economy in 2018.

Lidl Slovakia is making a decisive contribution to the implementation of the group-wide REset Plastic strategy and has already achieved a number of successes.

There is no simple solution to the issue of plastics. To ensure a comprehensive approach, we have defined five areas of activity that highlight this topic holistically:

- **REduce** We reduce the amount of plastic wherever it is sustainable to do so.
- **REdesign** We design recyclable packaging and close loops.
- REcycle We collect, sort, and recycle plastics to close the loop.
- **REmove** We support the removal of plastic waste from the environment.
- **REsearch** We invest in research and development of innovative solutions and educate ourselves in the field of recycling.







Let's Clean Up Slovakia

Thanks to the **Let's Clean Up Slovakia** project, more than 334 tons of waste have been removed from Slovak nature. As part of this project, customers can donate their deposits for returnable packaging to Lidl to help clean up our nature. In 2024, more than €40,000 was donated for this purpose.





For more information, visit www.upracme.sk.

334
tons of waste

Let's Not Let It Float Away

The best waste is the waste that is not produced. As part of the project Let's Not Let It Float Away, we have been cleaning Slovak rivers since 2020 — in 2024 alone, we managed to remove 70 tons of waste from Slovak nature. It is the responsibility of all of us, and every decision we make has an impact on the nature around us. If a customer needs a plastic bag when shopping, they have the option of voluntarily contributing 1 cent. Lidl doubles the contributions and donates them to cleaning up Slovak nature.



70
tons of waste

Saving food with Lidl

Being responsible is not always easy, but at Lidl we make it easier for our customers. With the project Saving food with Lidl, we help reduce food waste and save money at the same time. In the 2024 financial year, we managed to save more than 430 tons — that's more than 215,000 crates. Since the start of the project, we have saved over 1,600 tons of fruit and vegetables — more than 600 000 crates.





Roland Pethö Project Manager Sales Department

Roland, tell us what motivated the launch of the project "Saving food with Lidl?" Does Lidl have other food waste projects?

Even though we have an efficient ordering system, sometimes waste is created from damaged packaging that is no longer suitable for sale and would have been thrown away in the past. Instead of disposing of it, we decided to reduce waste and launch this project.

How does it all work?

Colleagues check the freshness of fruit and vegetables several times a day. Suitable pieces from damaged packaging are placed in 2 kg crates, which are sold for a symbolic 1 euro. Thus crates are created, each of which is different and unique.

What surprised you about the project compared to the plan?

We expected interest mainly from the socially disadvantaged, but it is also appreciated by young people and families — because of the sustainable approach that they already actively live in their households.

What can customers find in the crates and where can they buy them?

This is how the crates are created, each one different and unique. They contain various types of fruit and vegetables — e.g., apples, pears, carrots, onions, peppers, avocados. The crates are placed in special stands behind the cash registers in all Lidl stores.

Does Lidl have other projects to prevent food waste?

We offer products with an approaching expiration date at a lower price in designated "Food Without Guilt" boxes. Instead of disposing of them, we have decided to reduce waste and launch this project. We sell bread at a 50% discount even the day after it is baked. We optimise our product range and ordering processes to keep food as fresh as possible. Therefore, food does not go stale on the shelves; customers can enjoy it for longer. Employees check the freshness of products several times a day.

Can you share with us something new in the project?

On average, each of our stores processes more than 2.5 tons of fruit and vegetables into these crates per year. The project is also popular with young people and families — because of its sustainable approach, "With Lidl, we save food" we want to reach even more customers in the future and exchange crates for bags.



About WWF

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is the largest independent nature conservation organization in the world. WWF is systematically dedicated to nature conservation and sustainable development, working to protect wildlife, forests, oceans, and freshwater ecosystems, and focusing on the main causes of biodiversity loss. WWF is active in nearly 100 countries on 6 continents. The organization has been operating in Slovakia since 2014 and focuses primarily on three areas: protecting forests, water, and wildlife. WWF's mission is to create a future where people live in harmony with nature

Cooperation with WWF, the world's largest nature conservation organisation

In order to feed a growing population sustainably, a transformation of the food system is needed. At Lidl, we follow the principles of the Planetary Health Diet and, in cooperation with WWF, offer healthier and more sustainable products at affordable prices. One of the causes of biodiversity loss is the disruption of connections between natural areas, which hinders the natural movement of animals. "We can also build important ecological bridges within smaller areas. By connecting green areas, restoring riparian vegetation along rivers, supporting meadow diversity, and planting trees, we will improve the ecological connectivity of the landscape and increase its diversity," says Miroslava Plassmann, director of WWF Slovakia. In 2025, Lidl and WWF Slovakia will plant 460 native trees along the Hron, Ipel, Danube, Kľak, and Latorica rivers. The planting will help protect the banks, support aquatic ecosystems, and mitigate the effects of climate change. The project also includes the care of meadows to support biodiversity and pollinators. The collaboration also includes employee training and their involvement in field activities.



In 1989, the World Wildlife Fund defined biodiversity as "the richness of life on Earth, millions of plants, animals, and micro-organisms, including the genes they contain, and the complex ecosystems that create the environment." It is essential for clean air, water, fertile soil, and crop pollination. It is threatened by deforestation, climate change, pollution, and invasive species. Disruption of one component can lead to the extinction of several species that depend on it. Its decline has serious consequences for nature, health, and the economy.

The importance of pollinators and the Medíkovo Expedition

Without bees and other insects, we would lose a lot of food such as fruit, vegetables, and nuts. Pollinators are key to pollinating the plants that form the basis of our diet, while also contributing to biodiversity and balance in nature. Primary school pupils are also learning about their importance as part of the Medíkovo Expedition project, which we launched in 2023 together with the Včelí kRaj (Bee H(e)aven) civic association. In 2024, 10 randomly selected classes took part in a trip to Včelí kRaj and came away with unforgettable experiences and new practical knowledge on the subject.

Elementary School, Ul. Ivana Bukovčana in Bratislava

"Educational trips are very valuable in children's education. In a non-coercive way, through experiences, they build children's horizons, strengthen friendships, and develop emotions. They are an irreplaceable part of a child's personality development. Many thanks for the opportunity; the children will remember Včelí kRaj and the experiences they had there for a long time."

Štiavnik Elementary School and Kindergarten

"Thank you very much for the wonderful trip. It was beautiful at Včelí kRaj. Throughout my life, I have often found that it is better to experience something once than to hear about it 100 times. That was certainly true today. I hope that among my fourth graders there is a future beekeeper who will lovingly care for their own bees in the future."

In Slovakia, we have been dedicated to protecting biodiversity and supporting beekeeping since 2022. In addition to the Medíkovo Expedition project for elementary school students, we have built apiaries at logistics centres in Sered, Nemšová, and Prešov, where we also carry out annual honey harvesting. We also provide suitable space for solitary bees and beneficial insects through insect houses at nearly 40 stores, which are complemented by information boards on the importance of pollinators.





More than just a paycheck

How Lidl is changing the standards of an exceptional employer

With more than 4,500 resumes arriving in our mailbox every month, Lidl Slovakia has built a reputation as a good employer that goes far beyond the shelves in its stores. Behind this success is a strongly people-focused approach led by Judit Dulin, Managing Director, Human Resources.



Judit DulinManaging Director
Human Resources

"I am proud that we are a stable and responsible partner for our employees. We want to continue to be their clear first choice, which is why we have decided to increase salaries again this year. We want them to feel adequately rewarded at Lidl, and we believe that this will also motivate them to develop together with us."

Judit, what are the biggest challenges in the labour market and how is Lidl responding to them?

Slovakia has long had one of the lowest unemployment rates, which means that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable candidates. Nevertheless, we are succeeding thanks to our corporate culture, attractive remuneration and benefits system, stability, and career opportunities. We receive an average of 4,500 CVs per month, which means that there is a great deal of interest in working at Lidl and that the public perceives us as a great employer. This is also confirmed by numerous domestic and international awards. Another challenge is the priorities of the new generation in the labour market, which places greater emphasis on work-life balance, corporate culture and smart work. We are responding to this by continuously improving our culture, innovating, digitizing, and optimizing processes.

Are you planning further salary increases in 2025? If so, to what extent?

Over the past three years, we have invested €43 million in salary increases. In 2025, we have allocated an additional €14 million. We strive to be a leader not only in retail, but also as an employer. We have reached a point where the lowest wages

of our salespeople and warehouse workers are 150% of the statutory minimum wage. Salespeople earn at least €1,250 and warehouse workers €1,300.

What benefits do Lidl employees value

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what benefits do Lidl employees value most, apart from their salaries?

At Lidl, we do not discriminate; this standard has been in place for a long time. Every employee has access to a benefits portal worth €250 per year, where they can choose from more than 4,000 options. In addition, we provide employees with a monthly credit of €40 for purchases at Lidl, and after the first year of employment, we contribute €200 per year to the third pension pillar. Employees can earn up to €900 through the referral program. There are many benefits, including job rotation, a wide range of training and development opportunities, above-standard holiday allowance, time off for a child's first day at school, gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and St Nicholas Day, and access to psychological and financial counselling.

What is the ratio of men to women among your employees?

As in the retail sector as a whole, women make up the majority of our employees -70%. However, the number of men in stores is growing. Currently, 55% of our management team are women, which we are very pleased about. In the top positions, the ratio is 50:50, and we were one of the first companies in the group to have a woman in the position of CEO.

How do you support diversity and inclusion in the workplace?

DEB (Diversity, Equity, Belonging) is an integral part of our corporate culture. Since 2021, we have also had a diversity ambassador who is the contact person and promotes these topics. We organize regular discussions on various topics (for example, with the League for Mental Health) and communicate about DEB activities in the internal application "We Are Lidl" (which already has more than 6,000 employees), we communicate about DEB activities. We also focus on training for managers, workshops, and topics such as gender diversity and women in management.

What is your experience with employing workers from other countries?

We are also open to employing foreigners. We currently have 192 employees from 19 countries. As a Hungarian, I can say that my Slovak colleagues are very welcoming and help foreigners with integration. We have excellent examples — for example, in Tvrdošín, our Ukrainian colleague became a store manager after two years. Lidl also supports mobility — many Slovaks work abroad, whether at headquarters in Germany or elsewhere. Many have spent several months or years in other countries and returned with valuable experience.

Does Lidl cooperate with schools in preparing future employees?

Of course. We are one of the largest employers in Slovakia and we realize that recruitment often begins during education. That is why we have been involved in dual education at secondary schools for a long time. Since 2016, almost 160 students have participated, and we expect more than 20 graduates in 2025. We currently cooperate with 12 secondary vocational schools. We are also active at universities through the Retail Academy program, which has nearly 800 graduates and was created in cooperation with the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and the University of Economics in Bratislava. The program includes lectures, excursions, and workshops with experts in HR, communications, purchasing, sales, and administration, and allows students to gain practical experience. More and more Retail Academy graduates are subsequently working for us. Thanks to our expansion, we create hundreds of new jobs every year.

At Lidl, we also ensure equal pay for women and men. This is confirmed by the Equal Salary certificate, which we obtained in 2022 as the first retailer in Slovakia.



Our activities as an employer have long been appreciated by experts and the public alike.

-time winner of the Top Employer award

-time winner of the domestic survey Najzamestnávateľ (Best Employer)







Veronika BátorováHead of Employee Lifecycle
and Diversity Ambassador

The position of diversity ambassador is a complex one. The main goal is to ensure equal opportunities, transparency of HR processes, and to promote the inclusion and respect of the rights and obligations of all employees. At the same time, I am involved in implementing inclusive measures in practice.

6 523 number of employees

190 (41%)
number of women in management

4 535 of which women (69.5%)

3 (50%)
number of women in senior management

36.5 years
average age of employees

278
disabled employees

nationalities represented in the workforce

Age diversity of employees Number of employees under 30 years of age Number of employees aged 30 to 50 years 3,758

Number of employees over 50 years of age

Number of employees by region in Slovakia

850

Bratislava region	1,370
Trnava region	911
Trenčín region	863
Žilina region	627
Banská Bystrica region	505
Nitra region	557
Prešov region	968
Košice region	702



Lidl with Hearthelping our colleagues in need

Anyone can find themselves in a difficult life situation. As part of the Lidl with Heart programme, we support our colleagues through challenging times, helping with expenses such as medical and rehabilitation costs, and providing assistance in the event of a loss of income. To date, we have helped 330 applicants with a total of almost €270,000. Since the project was launched in 2020, we have supported all applicants and have not had to turn anyone away.

Supported applicants and amount of support distributed in 2024

number of supported colleagues

amount

EUR 58 025



Slovak suppliers

Slovaks value fresh, high-quality domestic food. At Lidl, we respect this, which is why Slovak products have a firm place in our range. The share of Slovak products in our permanent range has been growing steadily and currently stands at almost 33%. The value of cooperation with Slovak suppliers is also on the rise, with Lidl paying them more than €610 million in 2024.

Lidl opens imaginary doors to the world for suppliers, and thanks to Lidl, customers from dozens of European countries can enjoy high-quality Slovak products.

"Thanks in particular to a stable partner such as Lidl, we are able to implement projects focused on innovation in bakery production and machinery, and to jointly implement developments that we are actively working on," said **Andrea Želiezková**, **Marketing Director of the Dobrota bakery**.

Juraj Mačaj, Chairman of the Board of Zeleninárska, expressed a similar view: "At Lidl's suggestion, we also invested in a new root vegetable packaging plant. Thanks mainly to this investment and cooperation with local customers, we have managed to expand the production of carrots, parsley, and celery in Slovakia, and we are gradually moving towards complete self-sufficiency. In addition, foods that have passed through the hands of Slovak farmers are increasingly in demand in stores."

Peter Molnár, owner of Agro Tomášová, also views the cooperation with the chain positively: "Cooperation with Lidl is important to us. It has brought us stability in production and prices. We sought this cooperation because we consider Lidl to be a symbol of freshness. I rate the cooperation as excellent."



Number of Slovak suppliers from whom we sold goods in the 2024 financial year:

272 suppliers

Number of Slovak products in our permanent range:

1,290 32.8% "We are delighted with the positive developments in favour of Slovak suppliers, and our goal is to further expand our cooperation with them. Many of our local suppliers deliver products to several European countries where Lidl operates. I see cooperation as a business dialogue in which both sides learn from each other. That is why we meet regularly with our suppliers, organize workshops, train them, and exchange news and best practices from other countries. This enables us to jointly offer our customers the best products."



Justyna SiekankoLidl's Managing Director
Purchase Department

Number of Slovak suppliers who exported to foreign Lidl stores in the 2024 financial year

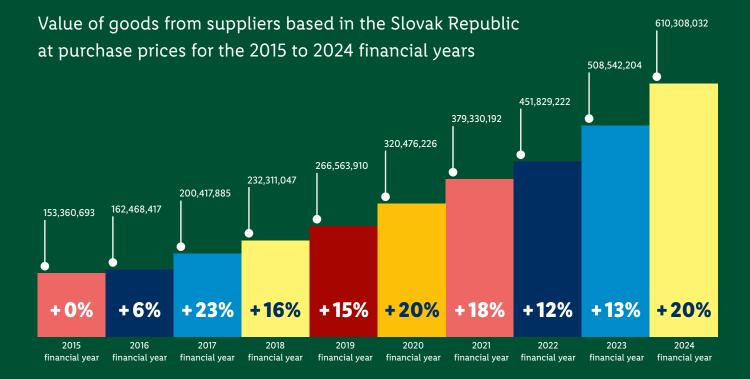
82

In the 2024 financial year, we purchased goods from Slovak suppliers worth

EUR 610 mil.

Number of countries to which Slovak suppliers exported

28



^{*} Percentage values are rounded to whole numbers.



Sustainable product range and raw material certifications

We have long offered our customers a range of sustainable products. Our shelves stock almost 1,000 certified products (organic, Fairtrade, MSC, and others). We are the largest contributor to Fairtrade in Slovakia, and we are expanding our range of vegan and vegetarian products. We have never sold live fish and have no plans to do so.

We take responsibility for the origin of key raw materials such as palm oil, soy, cocoa, and coffee.

Each seal on a product is a sign that the product meets strict standards and criteria, such as sustainable agriculture, transparency, responsible and sustainable farming, and compliance with environmental, health, and ethical standards.

Below is an overview of the largest and most widely used labels and what they stand for.

Lidl as the largest contributor to Fairtrade

Fairtrade is a certification for goods that meet certain social, economic, and environmental criteria. The aim is to provide farmers and workers in Africa, Asia and Latin America with the opportunity to earn a living from their own work under decent conditions. The Fairtrade system guarantees fair trading conditions, respect for human and labour rights, and environmental friendliness.

FAIRTRADE

We are a long-standing Fairtrade partner and the largest contributor in Slovakia — in 7 years, we have contributed over EUR 1.7 million. In 2024, we sold more than 1.3 million kg of Fairtrade cocoa, covering almost 70% of the Slovak market. Fairtrade products can be found under the J. D. Gross and Favorina brands, in Lidl2Go coffee machines, and on cotton bags. In this way, we support fair conditions, human rights, and a respectful approach to nature.

Fairtrade results at Lidl for 2024:

- more than **6,400 kg** of Fairtrade green coffee
- 12,199 kg of Fairtrade cane sugar
- Leader in sales of Fairtrade cocoa **1,302,711 kg**, representing almost 70% of total Fairtrade cocoa sales on the Slovak market. It was sold mainly as part of chocolate, confectionery, ice cream, and breakfast cereals.



Rainforest Alliance seal — for the protection of the environment and human rights in the tropics



We work with the Rainforest Alliance to support sustainable farming in tropical countries.

The Rainforest Alliance is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. It emphasizes nature conservation, improving farmers' living conditions, and transparency in supply chains. Certification protects biodiversity and water resources while helping farmers increase yields and improve living conditions.

Organic



Organic certification confirms that a product meets strict criteria for organic farming and production. The aim of this certification is to ensure that products are produced in a manner that is environmentally friendly and safe for consumers. It guarantees that products labelled as such have been produced without the use of genetically modified organisms, synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and artificial fertilizers, and that strict environmental standards have been adhered to.

Organic means adhering to higher standards in animal husbandry and crop cultivation. We want to contribute to the further development of conventional poultry farming and also to its improvement. Each egg has a code that guarantees complete identification of its origin and type of farming. You can recognize fresh organic free-range eggs by the special code on the egg, which is in the format "OXXX".

Reliable fruit and vegetable suppliers — GLOBAL G. A. P. certification

To ensure high-quality fruit and vegetables, we only work with suppliers certified according to GLOBAL G. A. P. These partners meet strict standards in the field of agriculture, and if they also have GRASP certification, they demonstrate a responsible approach to social and working conditions.

ASC, MSC — certified fish





At Lidl, we support sustainable fishing and the protection of marine ecosystems. The MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) and ASC (Aquaculture Stewardship Council) certificates are global standards for sustainable fishing and aquaculture. They guarantee that fish and seafood come from responsible and environmentally friendly sources. The MSC certificate focuses on verifying that fisheries are not overfished and do not damage marine ecosystems. The ASC certifies fish and seafood farms to ensure they meet strict social and environmental standards.

Donau Soya and Europe Soya



Donau Soya and Europe Soya are recognized standards for the cultivation, processing, and trading of soy that meet strict criteria for origin and quality. Europe Soya guarantees European origin, while Donau Soya guarantees that the soybeans originate from countries in the Danube basin (e.g., Slovakia, Germany, Austria, etc.). The main advantage is the certainty that the soybeans are grown and processed without genetic modification. Last but not least, these certifications ensure the traceability of soybeans and soy products throughout the supply chain. You will find products bearing this label in our range, for example, all types of tofu sold.



Conscious nutrition and marketing focused on children

We develop our eating habits in childhood, and they have a fundamental impact on our health. That is why we were the first in Slovakia to introduce new standards in the marketing of children's products in accordance with WHO recommendations. In our communication, we no longer use visuals that promote unhealthy foods, and we are gradually removing motifs that appeal to children, such as cartoon characters and toys, from the packaging of our private brands. The goal is to promote healthier choices and combat obesity, which affects up to 60% of Slovaks and an increasing number of children.

In practice, a more responsible approach to marketing children's products means that, starting in 2023, Lidl will no longer use image photos or visuals in flyers, advertisements, TV commercials, and all other promotional materials that promote unhealthy products and are related to children or could act as a lure for children.

before...

Salt and sugar reduction

We are actively working to optimize the composition of our own brand products, which includes reducing sugar and salt and modifying or replacing individual food ingredients. The potential for reduction in our own brands' products already on the market has largely been fulfilled. An important point is not only the reduction of individual parameters, but also the overall taste of the food. We are constantly working on new products that are to be put on sale so that their composition and nutritional values are as suitable as possible, taking into account not only our goals but also the sensory properties of the product.



The Nutriscore label works like a "traffic light" — the closer the letter is to A and the colour to green, the more nutritionally beneficial the product is.

	Here is an overview of the individual values:		
A	Letter	Colour	Meaning
В	Α	Dark green	The most nutritionally favourable choice — low in sugar, salt, saturated fat, and calories; high in fibre, fruit, vegetables, or protein.
С	В	Light green	Still a good choice, slightly higher content of some less favourable ingredients.
	C	Yellow	Average nutritional value — consider the amount and frequency of consumption.
D	D	Orange	Less favourable choice — higher sugar, salt, fat, or calorie content.
E	E	Red	Least nutritionally suitable choice — consumption should be limited.
		· 	-

NutriScore: Nutritional values at a glance

"More than 60% of the adult population of working age in Slovakia is overweight or obese. Moreover, this trend is on the rise, to the extent that we can talk about a 21st-century pandemic. This pandemic is associated not only with many chronic, preventable diseases, but also with acute infectious diseases, as the present situation has taught us. There is no miracle cure for obesity, and for years we have been repeating the well-known triad: a balanced diet, sufficient physical activity, and reducing sedentary lifestyles," says MUDr. L'ubomíra Fábryová, PhD., specialist in diabetology, metabolic disorders, and nutrition, president of the Slovak Obesity Association, for the website www.nutriscoreslovakia.sk.

Nutri-Score is a voluntary food labelling system that helps customers make informed decisions. We are introducing it with the aim of increasing the transparency of the nutritional values of products.

The system uses a five-level scale from green A to red E, with A indicating the most nutritionally valuable foods. The better the rating, the more the food contributes to a healthy diet.

How does NutriScore work?

The rating takes into account the content of fibre, protein, fruit, vegetables, and seeds, which improve the score. On the other hand, sugar, salt, and saturated fats lower it. The final score is calculated based on the composition of 100 g or 100 ml of the product.

"Foods in the green part of the spectrum should form a substantial part of our diet, while we should be careful with foods at the opposite end, consume them less often, and pay closer attention to their ingredients. In some cases, this may be more salt, in others, a higher amount of saturated fatty acids or simple carbohydrates, for example," explains MUDr. L'ubomíra Fábryová, PhD., a specialist in diabetology, metabolic disorders, and nutrition, and president of the Slovak Obesity Association.





Lidl and football are for everyone



Football is a phenomenon, one of the most watched sports in the world. It has the power to bring people together, supporting youth development and a healthy lifestyle.

Football brings people together, supports young people and promotes a healthy lifestyle. In March 2024, we announced a general partnership with the Slovak Football Association and since then we have been a proud partner of the men's and women's national teams, youth teams and children's projects. Football and Lidl are for everyone.

We also support our employees. We organize competitions for tickets to matches, meetings and training sessions with national team players, children's player escorts, and the internal Lidl Cup futsal tournament, which has become a new tradition. Our colleagues even had the opportunity to announce the nomination of players for the European Championships.

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Interesting facts about football related to Lidl:

- During UEFA EURO 2024, we treated football fans to fresh fruit cups at Lidl stands and in fan zones with the cups being made from 91 tons of fruit.
- During UEFA EURO 2024, 1,122 young members of the Lidl Kids Team from all over Europe took to the pitch alongside their idols. More than 1.1 million contestants took part in the competition as part of the project.
- More than 16,000 lucky winners, including customers, employees, and young winners from the Lidl Kids Team with their parents had the opportunity to watch some of the matches directly on the stadium.
- We co-organized the largest girls' soccer tournament in Slovakia. It attracted more than 300 talented players from all over Slovakia in three categories.



Branislav Brzula Commercial Director responsible for customer care within the purchasing department

"Football inspires millions of people every day. And Lidl is a reliable partner for millions of people in their daily shopping. That's why the partnership with UEFA EURO 2024TM was the right choice for us. As part of this partnership, we also highlighted a socially important issue. Our common goal was to raise awareness of a healthy and active lifestyle with fresh, sustainable, and healthy food, which we believe we have achieved very well."





5. Projects beneficial to Slovakia

Lidl has long been committed to supporting projects in Slovakia that focus on helping communities, socially disadvantaged groups, improving healthcare for young patients, educating children and young people in schools, promoting sport, and protecting the environment.



Lidl Čistinka Playground

In 2024, five Lidl Čistinka urban green parks were built in the cities of Veľký Meder, Rožňava, Levoča, Považská Bystrica and Košice-Dargovských hrdinov. There are now a total of 15 of them in Slovakia. Čistinka is a community project focused on building modern parks. It offers space for relaxation, sports, and socializing — from playgrounds to barbecue areas. It is created based on the public vote, and each Čistinka has a value of €300,000.



Support for OZ Červený nos Clowndoctors

Let's laugh about it, said tens of thousands of people, and the result is €70,000 for clowndoctors. Thanks to the "Hrdo nos nos" (Wear nose proudly) campaign and the sale of red foam noses at Lidl for a symbolic €1, the civic association ČERVENÝ NOS Clowndoctors organized 365 clown shows for sick children in Slovak hospitals and for seniors.



In good hands from the start

The "In good hands from the start" project helps families with children under 4 years of age with severe health disabilities. Since the project began, more than 330 children have been supported, with the total amount of support exceeding €820,000.

Share and help

This is the largest food collection in Slovakia and lasts throughout the year, when customers can put part of their purchase into a food basket in each store. We work with more than 90 organizations that help vulnerable groups and people in need throughout Slovakia.

In 2024, food worth €400,000 was collected, and Lidl added another €30,000 to help people in need directly in the regions. Since the start of the project, the value of donated food has exceeded €2.7 million.

Your purchase = a big help

Together with our customers, we support elementary schools on the first day of a new store opening. In 2024, we donated sports equipment worth €33,000 to schools. The project has been running since 2015, with 138 primary schools receiving equipment worth €414,000.





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Contact person for questions about social responsibility and sustainability

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