

## Slovakia electric vehicle incentives

Slovak municipalities, companies, and expressway locations will all be eligible for financing of public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure under a new set of EV charging infrastructure grants to be launched by the Slovak Ministry of Economy.

These investments will be complemented by a series of regulatory reforms designed to remove some of the obstacles to deploying these stations, boost the impact of these investments, and make Slovakia more ready for the coming era of electrification. These initiatives were all proposed as part of Slovakia's EUR 6.3 bil Recovery and Resilience Plan, which was approved by the European Commission in July 2021.

The Slovak EV Association (SEVA) was pleased to actively contribute to both, EV charging infrastructure subsidy program and policy action plan. The government is expected to also introduce new tools to boost EV market uptake, introduce regulatory changes to streamline the permitting process and remove other barriers.

Slovakia is allocating EUR 30 mil to a new program to develop a National Network of Ultrafast Charging Infrastructure along motorways and expressways. The program will establish more than 60 charging hubs with 230 points, locations with 4-6 ultra- fast charging stations of at least 150 kW, and at least a 1 MW connection to each hub. This will ensure they can handle multiple, high-power rapid charging sessions and grow to accommodate even more.

The State will provide 100% grant funding for the installation and operation of the hardware and the grid connection to the location. Charge point operators will receive concessions to operate the sites. Providers and operators will be selected via open tenders, which are planned to be announced in 2023.

The final element of the Slovak E-mobility Action Plan is the grant program for companies. Under this EUR 6+ mil program, the State will provide up to 50% of the funding for companies to deploy public AC chargers  $\geq 11$  kW and DC  $\geq 50$  kW charging points.

BEVs benefit from a lower registration tax compared to gasoline-powered vehicles. The specific rate depends on the vehicle's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, typically ranging from 2% to 5% for BEVs compared to 8% for gasoline cars.

Since 1 January 2020 a new depreciation group "0" for electric vehicles was established. Personal battery electric vehicles (BEV) or plug-in electric vehicles (PHEV) in a combination with other fuel type or energy source are depreciated for two years.

Low emission zones. In November 2017, the Slovak parliament adopted an amendment to the Air Protection Act; this amendment enables municipalities to introduce low emission zones and thus indirectly favour low emission vehicles such as EVs or hybrids.

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