

# **GO EUROPE**

An Investment Guide to the European Union













ESTONIA

LA TVIA

MALTA



# GO EUROPE



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# **Preface**





The European Union and its 27 Member States are one of the most attractive investment destinations globally. They have created the largest single market in the world with free movement of goods, services, people and capital. The European Union is governed by the rule of law which provides a stable, predictable and transparent investment environment. It is home to high-performing industries, flourishing business ventures, market openness and an unprecedented international network.

The European Union is shaping the future. The European Green Deal will turn Europe into the first climate-neutral continent. The Digital Europe program will launch the digital decade. Europe will promote investments in cutting-edge technologies that will benefit the economy and the society alike. To this end, a budget of €1.8 trillion over the next 7 years has been set aside to invest into Europe's future.

This guide provides an overview of the European Union economy and its Member States represented in Taiwan. It introduces major industries in Europe, investment opportunities and practical contact points.

Once you decide to make the move, the service windows of investment and other representative offices will be ready to provide any assistance with the development of your projects.



# **EUROPEAN UNION**

4,125,107 km<sup>2</sup> EUR 13,306 bn Land Area

GDP (EU27)

Economic Growth Forecast (2021)

USD 44.19

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)







#### **Products**

Machinery and equipment; Pharmaceuticals; Motor vehicles: Chemical products; Computer, electronic & optical products

#### Countries

USA, UK, China, Switzerland, Russia

#### **Total Value**

EUR 1,931.7 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Computer, electronic & optical products; Crude petroleum and natural gas; Chemical products; Machinery and equipment; Pharmaceuticals

#### Countries

China, USA, UK, Switzerland, Russia

#### Total Value

EUR 1,714.2 bn (2020)

## Go Europe!

The EU and its 27 Member States host dynamic industries, a free and open market, solid and inter-connected networks as well as forwardlooking regulatory policies. These features make the EU an irreplaceable destination for investment. Investors who wish to expand their global outreach should look at the strategic benefits offered by the EU and its Single Market.

The EU accommodates 450 million consumers and a professional, creative, and highly educated human workforce. The EU Single Market integrates 27 Member States with free movement of goods, services, capital and people as well as common standards and common institutions. As a customs union, goods are subject to a single external tariff. Once goods have passed the borders, they can move freely within the EU's territory without any extra costs or quantitative restrictions.

The EU has adopted a common currency – the Euro – which is used by 19 Member States and makes up about 70% of the total EU economy. This provides a stable and hard currency for external trade and reduces transaction costs within Europe.



#### A Stable Investment Environment

The EU is one of the most investor-friendly places in the world. The EU is governed by the rule of law which provides a stable, sound and predictable investment environment. Doing business in Europe needs not to sail close to the wind. The EU promotes investments that support sustainable development, respect human rights as well as high labour and environmental standards. The EU strives to facilitate investments by further improving a predictable and transparent business environment.



#### A High-performing Industry

The EU hosts a great diversity of industries. The EU industrial bases are metal, petroleum, cement, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, aerospace, rail transportation equipment, passenger and commercial vehicles, construction equipment, shipbuilding, electrical power equipment, machine tools and automated manufacturing systems, electronics and telecommunications equipment, fishing, food and beverages, furniture, paper, and textiles etc.

The services sector is another backbone of the EU's economy. Close to three quarters of the EU-27's total value added in 2019 was generated by services. The service sector employs



the largest labour force in EU. As one of the world's biggest and most technologically advanced regions, workers often deliver their services across different countries within a multinational company or by specific service contracts.



#### Start up

The EU is striving to speed up the process of starting a new business and to reduce the required costs. Lengthy, expensive and bureaucratic administrative procedures are simplified. The EU is aiming to set up a new company in no more than three working days.

For bigger enterprises it is possible to create a "European Company". This is a simpler way to run business across more than one EU country and allows operating in different European countries using a single set of rules.



#### **International Cooperation**

The EU is deeply interconnected with global markets. The EU has in place the largest trade network in the world through 45 trade agreements covering 77 partner countries. Investors can benefit from the openness of EU trade regime and the connections, which the European market offers.



#### **Green and Digital Europe**

The future EU is destinated to be greener and smarter. The EU has adopted modern policies such the European Green Deal and a Digital Europe, which offer numerous new opportunities to investors interested in innovation.

The European Green Deal aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the EU to at least 55% in 2030, compared to 1990 levels, and further make the EU the world's first climate neutral continent by 2050. This vision will be supported in every EU section, including boosting investments in green technologies, sustainable solutions and green businesses. In Europe, we believe that economic growth and climate action can be achieved at the same time.

The EU has launched the 2030 Digital Compass, the European way for the Digital Decade. Europe will focus on four cardinal points: Skills, Government, Business, and Infrastructures. The Digital Compass is an inclusive transition to adapt businesses and our daily lives. Under its umbrella, the EU is promoting investments in block-chain, high-performance computing, quantum computing, algorithms and new tools for secure data sharing and usage.

All EU institutions and governments are fully supporting businesses and investments in the green and smart transition. Among the €672.5bn Recovery and Resilience Facility which aims to help the EU recover after the COVID-19 pandemic, 37% of the fund (€248.8bn) is reserved for climate friendly investments and 20% is for digital expense (€134.5bn).

# Some Numbers About the EU Economy

The EU is the largest economy in the world. From 2015 onwards, growth was between 1.5% and 2.7% each year before the COVID pandemic. The total value of all goods and services produced, EU gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020 was €13.3 trillion, representing more than 1/6 (17.8%) of global economy.

The EU accounts for around 15 % of the world's trade in goods in 2020. The value of international trade in goods significantly exceeds that of services (by about three times), reflecting the nature of some services which makes them harder to trade across borders.

The EU is one of the world's largest global exporters and importers of goods and services, as well as the biggest export market for around 80 countries. The bloc trades large amounts of manufactured goods where machinery and vehicles makes up the most. Trade accounts for 35% of the EU's GDP and over 36 million jobs are supported by exports to outside of the EU.

The EU is the world's main provider and the top global destination of foreign investment, ranking first in both inbound and outbound international investments. At the end of 2019, net foreign direct investment (FDI) stocks held in the rest of the world by investors resident in the EU amounted to €8,990bn, up by 3.8% compared with the end of 2018. Investment stocks held by the rest of the world in the EU also increased to €7,138bn at the end of 2019 (+3.4%).

At the end of 2019, the United States took 24% of the total FDI stocks held by the EU in the rest of the world (€2,161bn), followed by the United Kingdom (€1,872bn, 21%). Switzerland (€969bn, 11%), Canada (€399bn, 4%), and China (incl. Hong Kong; €362bn, 4%) hold the next ranks. In the reverse direction, United States' investors accounted for 28% (€2,003bn) of the total FDI stocks in the EU followed by the United Kingdom with 18% (€1,278bn). Switzerland (€735bn, 10%), Bermuda (€411bn, 6%), Jersey (€304bn, 4%), and China (incl. Hong Kong; €255bn, 4%) occupy the next places.

#### **Useful links for investors**

InvestEU Portal InvestEU European Investment Fund Strategic Investments (EFSI)

#### **European Economic and Trade Office**

- Suite 1603, 16F, 333 Keelung Rd, Sec 1, Taipei 110, Taiwan
- +886 2 2757 7211
- 圖 +886 2 2757 7209
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- https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/taiwan\_en
- @ www.facebook.com/euintaiwan



# **AUSTRIA**

 $83,879 \text{ km}^2$ National Land Area EUR 375.6 bn

3.4 % Economic Growth Forecast (2021) USD 55,219

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)



🗜 Capital City 🧗 Main City



#### **Products**

Machinery, Electrical equipment, Vehicles, Pharmaceuticals, Iron and steel

#### Countries

Germany, USA, Italy, Switzerland, France

#### **Total Value**

EUR 141.9 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Machinery, Electrical equipment, Vehicles, Mineral fuels, Pharmaceuticals

#### Countries

Germany, Italy, China, USA, Czech Republic

#### Total Value

EUR 144.2 bn (2020)

# Introduction of Major Industries

Austria, well known among Taiwanese for its beautiful landscapes and rich cultural heritage, has traditionally been a country with a high percentage of industrial production. The industrial sector accounts for more than 28% of Austrian GDP, which is one of the highest numbers in Europe.

While large Austrian companies such as Red Bull, voestalpine, Andritz, Magna or Doppelmayr are internationally renowned but few in numbers, the economy is mostly characterized by small and medium sized companies (SMEs).

Being highly skilled experts in their branches, these "hidden champions" make Austria one of the world's foremost export nations per capita.

Together with a strong focus on high tech machinery, world class R&D, and one of the safest and most stable working environments, the Austrian economy offers excellent perspectives for growth and cooperation.

# **Investment Highlights for Companies**

Austria ranks among the most globalized countries in the world and is the fourth richest country in the EU.

It has an international reputation as the top business location for building up business ties to South East and Eastern Europe. More than 1,000 global companies take advantage of business-friendly conditions and coordinate their operations in South East and Eastern Europe from Austria.



#### **Taxes**

Corporations only pay a 25% corporate tax, which the recently elected government has announced will be further cut to 21% within the next 3 years. Additional benefits are the attractive group taxation system and the lack of wealth and trade taxes.



#### Incentives and R&D

Attractive tax breaks like a research premium of 14% or funds provided by the Research Promotion Agency are only some examples of investment incentives. About 2,800 technologically oriented research and development institutes and 60 Centers of Excellence (global leaders in their field) combine the interests of business with the know-how of science.





#### **Qualified and Productive Staff**

A major strength of the business location Austria is its highly qualified and motivated workforce. According to the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020, Austria is ranked 1st in a worldwide comparison of workforce productivity, and 2nd in workforce motivation. Political and social stability and one of the lowest strike rates worldwide make Austria an ideal business location for international companies.



#### **Highest Quality of Life**

Austria and its capital belong to the highest-valued working places for managers in the world. Vienna has received the award for the world's most liveable city from both major rankings, the Economist Intelligence Unit and Mercer, numerous times. The latter has awarded that title to Vienna for the 10th time in a row in 2019.

#### Map of Industry Cluster in Austria Vienna Upper Austria Lower Austria 1 Automotive, railway, traffic, aerospace (6) Materials, packaging (3) Wood, furniture, living, building (4) Health, life sciences, wellness (5) Food 1 (3) (6) Mechatronics, electronics, 62 Tyrol 7 6 informatics, sensors Styria Burgenland Vorarlberg 8 (7) Green tech, environment (6) Carinthia

#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**

ABA – Invest in Austria is the country's national investment promotion agency. We are the first point of contact for foreign companies aiming to establish a business in Austria. We are owned and operated by the Republic of Austria, thus our extensive services are free of charge and fully confidential.

#### Austrian Business Agency Matthias ADELWOEHRER, Director Asia

Human resources, design, mullimedia
 Information, communication, logistics

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#### Chinese Speaking : Shanshan WU Chief Advisor China, Austrian Business Agency Austrian Consulate General Shanghai Commercial Section

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# ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA

#### **Austrian Commercial Office**

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- ☑ taipei@advantageaustria.org
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# **BELGIUM**

30,689 km<sup>2</sup> National Land Area EUR 451.2 bn

4.5 % Economic Growth Forecast (2021) USD 51,096 GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)



🖁 Capital City 🧗 Main City



#### **Products**

Chemicals, Transport equipment, Machinery & equipment, Plastics, Base metals

#### Countries

Germany, France, Netherlands, UK, USA

#### **Total Value**

EUR 367.54 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Chemicals, Machinery & equipment, Transport equipment, Mineral products, Base metals

#### Countries

Netherlands, Germany, France, USA, China

#### Total Value

EUR 346.54 bn (2020)

# **Introduction of Major Industries**



#### **Logistics & Transport**

Centrally located in Europe and with over 750 European Distribution Centers (EDCs), Belgium has built up a unique logistics expertise, with advanced multimode transport solutions for your business. This includes Liège Airport which handles 500 million parcels annually.



#### Chemicals

Home to Europe's largest petrochemical cluster (Port of Antwerp-Zeebruges), Belgium is ranked #1 in the world for sales of chemicals and plastics per capita. The sector accounts for 30% of all industrial investments in Belgium.



#### Life Sciences & Health

Belgium has a uniquely innovative ecosystem of top-class universities, academic hospitals, research centers and (bio)-incubators. We rank #1 in total pharmaceutical investments, #1 for clinical trial procedure speed, #2 for clinical trial applications, #2 for export of (bio) pharmaceutical goods and #3 for patent applications in the EU.



#### **Tech & Electronics**

Universities & research centers, spin-offs, SMEs, large businesses, etc. Belgium hosts complete ecosystems that allow companies to develop, innovate and become global tech leaders. Particular focus on micro- and nanotechnology in Flanders, and on image, sound and digital content in Wallonia.



#### Energy

Thanks to its government-driven commitment to sustainability, innovative energy companies and pioneering research centers, Belgium is taking clean technology and renewable energy to the next level. Whether it is offshore wind, hydraulic or solar power, Belgium is your partner for a greener future.



#### **Agri-Business**

Belgium is leading the trend towards a bio-based and circular economy. Home to businesses in all areas of agriculture, it is the biggest R&D hub in Europe for plant biotechnology.





#### **Bicycle & Automotive**

Belgium offers an unparalleled business and knowledge ecosystem for the bicycle & automotive industry: car assembly plants, an E/V car handling hub (Zeebrugge), go-to organizations such as Flanders' Bike Valley, the BikeVille incubator and much more.



#### **Aeronautics & Space**

Belgium is a key player and has developed top-edge expertise in aeronautics, aviation, astronautics, space, precision mechanics and armament.



# 

From artisanal preparations to products made in hi-tech environments, food & beverage is big in Belgium. Close to all major European industrial and consumer markets, many have chosen Belgium as their taste market for Europe. Will you?

# WHY HAVE TAIWANESE COMPANIES **INVESTED IN BELGIUM?**



HUMAN CAPITAL



TRANSPORT **NETWORK** 



COMPETITIVE TAX REGIME





We are and want to continue to be a top player on the global semiconductor market, in which the EU plays an important part. Brussels being the center and capital of Europe, our choice to locate our European branch in Belgium was a very natural decision, and proved to be a very rewarding one.

Dr. C.Y. LU, President of Macronix



ASE set for its technical & marketing office because of its strategic location, diverse economy, good infrastructure and business environment. Belgium has a large pool of culturally diverse, multilingual, multifaceted talents that help us provide our services to our customers in the EMEA region.

Fuyu Shih, Vice President, ASE Group

#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**

#### Doris WU

#### Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT, Flanders)

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m www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com

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- https://www.facebook.com/belgianofficetaipei

# **CZECH REPUBLIC**

78,867 km<sup>2</sup> National Land Area

EUR 213.7 bn

3.4 % Economic Growth Forecast (2021) USD 40,618

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020) Prague

9 Olomouc

P Brno





#### **Products**

Road vehicles; Electrical machinery, equipment; Office machines; Telecommunications; Industrial machinery

#### Countries

Germany, Slovakia, Poland, France, Austria

#### **Total Value**

EUR 168.2 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Electrical machinery, equipment; Telecommunications; Road vehicles; Office machines; Industrial machinery

#### Countries

Germany, China, Poland, Slovakia, Italy

#### **Total Value**

EUR 149.6 bn (2020)

# **Investment Highlights for Companies**

Main industries of the Czech Republic are engineering (mainly automotive), chemical industry, food industry, metallurgical industry, energy industry and construction industry.



#### Infrastructure

The Czech Republic possesses one of the most advanced transport networks in Central and Eastern Europe. Its geographical position at the very center of Europe makes it a natural crossroads for major transit corridors. Density of the Czech roads is 1.66 km per square km (9th place ranking worldwide) and density of the railroads is 0.12 km per square km (3rd place ranking worldwide).



## **Introduction of Key Industries**

The Czech Republic/CzechInvest focuses on supporting following sectors in which it sees a significant potential for business development: space, mobility, HealthTech, AI and digital, aerospace and defence, EcoTech, creative industries and advanced industrial technologies.



# **Investment Regulations**

Foreign and domestic entities are treated identically in all areas, from protection of property rights to investment incentives. No limitations exist concerning the distribution and expatriation of profits by Czech subsidiaries to their foreign parent companies, other than the obligation of joint stock and limited liability companies to generate a mandatory reserve fund and pay withholding taxes.

Czech Rej	oublic - Credit Rati	ng
Standard & Poor's	Moody's	Fitch
AA-	Aa3	AA-
Source: Cz	ech National Bank, 20	21



#### **Tax Preference**

Taxpayers in the Czech Republic are subject to various taxes, including corporate income tax (19%).





#### **Investment Grant**

Investment incentives are provided for technological investments with higher value added in the areas of, for example, industrial Research and Development, manufacturing industry and business support service centres (e.g. software development, shared service centres, high-tech repair centres and data centres).



#### **Local Investment Status of Taiwanese Enterprises**

Taiwanese enterprises are treated in accordance with investment regulations applicable to all investors in the Czech Republic.



#### **Working Permits for Foreign Talents**

Program for Key and Scientific Personnel substantially eases the process of arranging residence permits for key employees of companies coming to the Czech Republic.

#### Selected Taiwanese Investors Mediated by CzechInvest

Source: Czechinvest, 2021



#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**

The Investment and Business Development Agency Czechlnvest is a state contributory organization subordinate to the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic. Among Czechlnvest's services (free of charge), one would find, inter alia,

- · Assistance during implementation of investment projects
- AfterCare services for foreign investors that are already operating on the Czech market
- Support for suppliers administration of a database of Czech supplier firms
- · Mediation of state investment aid
- More information is to be found at: www.czechinvest.org/en
- Contact: jan.zapletal@czechinvest.org



捷 克 經 濟 文 化 辦 事 處 CZECH ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE

#### Czech Economic and Cultural Office

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- mww.mzv.cz/taipei

# DENMARK

43,093 km<sup>2</sup> National Land Area

EUR 311,7 bn

Economic Growth Forecast (2021)

USD 58,933

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)



Copenhagen P Odense

🕆 Capital City 🧗 Main City





#### **Products**

Pharmaceuticals, Windmill parts, Machinery, Oil, Food

#### Countries

Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, UK, Norway

#### **Total Value**

EUR 169.9 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Pharmaceuticals, Oil, Machinery, Cars, Electronics

#### Countries

Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, China, Norway

#### Total Value

EUR 149.5 bn (2020)

# **Introduction of Major Industries**



#### Cleantech

Denmark holds exceptional business opportunities for the fastgrowing cleantech sector. Our national goal is to be powered entirely by renewable sources by 2050. Major industries: Wind Power, Bioenergy, Energy Storage & Smart Grid, Data Centers, Green Transportation.



#### Tech

Denmark is one of the world's top locations for tech activities, featuring an excellent test market with access to world-class software development talent pools. Major industries: Quantum Technology, Robotics, Wireless & Mobile Technology, Software Development, Smart City, Sound Technology.



#### **Life Science**

Join our life sciences cluster and turn clinical research into business. Major industries: Pharma and Biotech, MedTech, eHealth.



#### Food

Denmark's food cluster is known around the globe for quality, safety, sustainability, organic production, gastronomy...the list goes on.



## **Design and Innovation**

Danish design is renowned worldwide. When companies incorporate good design into their innovations, their earnings, exports and competitive ability are bound to grow.

# Investing in Denmark is Easy

Denmark is one of the easiest places in the world to do business. Thanks to a well-developed infrastructure, Denmark gives you quick and easy access, by road, air and sea, to more than 500 million consumers in the Nordic markets and the European mainland.

From a cost-quality perspective, Denmark is a high scorer. A highly educated workforce, flexible labor market regulations and low employer social security contributions, which all make Denmark an attractive base for expanding your business.

The Danish business culture is dynamic and experienced in international relations. On moving to Denmark, international companies experience a smooth transmission.





#### Tax Incentives You Could Benefit from

- Corporate tax is 22%.
- Special expat tax scheme of 27% for key employees and researchers.
- Expats living and working in Denmark also benefit from the Danish welfare system.
- No capital duty, share transfer duty, nor wealth taxes.
- Deduction of R&D expenses, as well as full deduction of patents and know-how.
- Dividends may generally be received/distributed without tax.
- Virtually unlimited loss carry forward.



#### **Key Features of the Danish Labor Market**

- Very flexible labor market in terms of hiring and firing.
- Competitive-overall labor cost level.
- · Highly motivated and productive workforce.
- · High English proficiency.

# **Investment Highlights for Companies**

## Why Invest in Denmark

- Denmark is consistently ranked as one of the best countries in the world for business and ranked number one in ease of doing business in Europe, according to the World Bank.
- Denmark is among the least corrupted countries in the world, according to the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index.
- Denmark's efficient public sector sets us apart as an attractive investment destination.
- Denmark has the one of the most flexible labor regulations in the European Union, according to IMD (2020).
- Denmark has a stable business environment, both politically and economically. Fitch, S&P and Moody's all give the Danish economy an AAA rating (2019/2020).
- Denmark is one of the most digital countries in the EU, according to Digital Economy and Soeciety index
- Easy access with four international airports, incl. more than 180+ direct international flights to Copenhagen Airport.

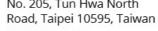
## **Contact Points for Investment Services** Getting started is easy:

If you are thinking about doing business in Denmark, please contact one of our experts. We have specialized staff with industry insights and well-connected networks, ready to advise you on every aspect of investing in Denmark, using their corporate background, industry insight and well-connected networks. Along with our Copenhagen headquarter, you can find us in central hotspots in Europe, North America and Asia.

https://investindk.com/contact

#### The Trade Council of Denmark, Taipei Phoebe Chen







https://investindk.com/



# **FINLAND**

338,440 km<sup>2</sup>

EUR 237.5 bn

Economic Growth Forecast (2021) USD 49,853

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)

🧚 Capital City 🦸 Main City







#### **Products**

Forest industry products, Chemical industry products, Metal and metal products, Machinery and equipment, Electric and electronics industry products

#### Countries

Germany, Russia, Sweden, China, Netherlands

#### **Total Value**

EUR 82.6 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Chemical industry products, Electric and electronics industry products, Products from mining and quarrying, Transport equipment, Machinery and equipment

#### Countries

Germany, Russia, Sweden, China, Netherlands

#### **Total Value**

EUR 84.2 bn (2020)

# **Investment Highlights for Companies**



#### ICT & Digitalization — Inspiring High-Tech

- Data Centers Finland has attracted major data center investments from companies like Google, Equinix and Yandex, thanks to its cool climate, highly-skilled IT professionals and well-functioning infrastructure. The low electricity tax rate boosts Finland as a cost- effective location for data centers.
- •IoT The IoT (Internet of Things) makes things more efficient and enables new disruptive business models. Finland boasts excellent data engineering and business intelligence competencies. A world-class cluster of machinery companies, such as Kone, Metso, Valmet and Wärtsilä, combined with a high concentration of IT professionals, has enabled Finland to become a pioneer of the industrial Internet.
- **Gaming** Finland is home to world-leading mobile gaming companies, such as Supercell, Rovio and Fingersoft. Industry revenues have been the world's highest in relation to the population. In total, there are some 300 game studios in Finland.



#### Health & Wellbeing — The World's Best Ecosystem for Health R&D

The combination of a long-standing tradition in efficient healthcare and the digitalization of health data has made Finland the premier location for health R&D. Finland is a forerunner for personalized health, pharmaceutical R&D, digital health and preventive analysis.



#### Bioeconomy & Cleantech — The Greenest Ecosystems in the World

- Renewable Energy Already a remarkable share over 40% of Finnish energy is produced with renewables such as biomass, hydro, wind and solar power. One of our strongholds is the co-production of electricity and heat (CHP), which makes the extensive and energy- efficient use of bio-based fuels possible.
- Energy Storage Creating a sustainable battery value chain for the European market. Finland's circular economy approach in the battery value chain covers raw materials, advanced materials, battery cell, module & pack, applications, reuse and recycling. Finnish companies, research institutes, universities and the public sector work together and actively participate in the creation of a European battery ecosystem. Finland has all the key components, from raw materials to recycling know-how, required for building this ecosystem.
- **Sustainable Manufacturing** Driven by innovation and experience. Finland's strengths in the manufacturing sector are



sustainability, innovation and digitalization. Known for its highly energy-efficient process industries and machinery production, Finland is home to world-class automotive, maritime and intelligent vehicle production and the electronics expertise required for these.



#### Travel & Tourism — World's Safest Destination for Your Business

The outlook for the Finnish travel industry looks very positive. The safe and sustainable business environment creates a strong foundation for travel businesses. In 2019, international travel to Finland increased to 7 million overnight visits.

Read more: www.businessfinland.fi/en/do-business-with-finland/invest-in-finland/invest-in-finland

# **Investment Highlights for Companies**



#### Stable and Predictable Business Environment in Finland Reduces Business Risks

Finland's operating environment stands out for its unusual level of stability, continuity and predictability. This means transparent government, effective state institutions, an independent judicial system and respect for the rule of law, civil liberties and personal freedoms as well as progressive gender equality legislation. Finland is the only Nordic country which is member of the European Union and part of the Eurozone. Finnish banks are the soundest in the world and Finland is also consistently ranked among the least corrupt countries in the world. The Finnish business climate is open and attractive to foreign investment. Finland's corporate tax rate (20%) is among the lowest in the EU.



#### Working and Well-Organized Infrastructure

Things work in Finland. From the energy supply to transport and ICT networks, Finland offers outstanding infrastructure.



#### World's Best Education System Produces Skilled Workforce

Finnish renowned education system is frequently ranked as the best in the world. About a third of Finland's working population has a degree or higher qualification. According to World Economic Forum, Finland has the best availability of engineers and scientists and the second most skilled workforce in the world.



#### World-Class Innovation and Trusted R&D Location

Knowledge transfer between companies and universities is one of the key factors in Finland's innovation and economic success. Finland offers an excellent R&D and testing environment for a new product, production method, process or technology. Testing can be done in a real operating environment, for example, in a city district, in traffic, or as part of a client company's operations. Finland hosts R&D centers for many of the world's leading companies, including Fujitsu, Huawei, IBM and Microsoft. Finnish start-up scene is one of the liveliest in the Europe.

#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**

Business Finland, Invest in Finland -Services

www.businessfinland.fi/en/do-business-with-finland/invest-in-finland/contact

#### Finland Trade Center

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- m www.businessfinland.fi



# **FRANCE**

551,500 km<sup>2</sup>

EUR 2278.9 bn

Economic Growth Forecast (2021) USD 46,062

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)



🖁 Capital City 🕴 Main City



#### **Products**

Pharmaceuticals; Aircraft, spacecraft, vehicles; Machinery including computers; Chemicals; Travel and transportation services; Business services

#### Countries

Germany, USA, Italy, Belgium, Spain

#### **Total Value**

EUR 428.1 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Vehicles, Pharmaceuticals; Machinery; Chemicals; Electrical equipment; Business services; Travel and transportation services

#### Countries

Germany, China, Italy, Spain, Belgium

#### Total Value

EUR 493.3 bn (2020)

# Introduction of Major Industries

France houses the sixth-largest economy in the world and the second-largest economy in the European Union. Moreover, the country holds nearly 40 of the world's 500 largest corporations. France holds some of the largest insurance, airline, cosmetic and luxury, pharmaceutical, chemical and energy companies. These attributes make it one of the most attractive investment destinations in the world for international investors, particularly in Europe.

# **Investment Highlights for Companies**

The dashboard of France's attractiveness for the year 2020 published in December confirms that France keeps its leading position as a host country for European investment as well as its pole position for research activities, despite a difficult context.

# <u>Leading host country for European investments and Ranked first in Europe for three indicators:</u>

France's economic solidity, is based on its infrastructures, but also on other sectors such as "telecommunications, employee productivity, electricity costs, as well as its market potential, thanks to both its geographical position in Europe and the size of its domestic market". It is also these assets that have notably enabled France to become the leading host country for European investments, ahead of the United Kingdom and Germany.

Not only that, France is also the leading host country for research and development activities in Europe, as well as for industrial investment projects.

#### The "France Relance" plan in a pandemic context:

France "has demonstrated its ability to support its economic fabric and to quickly return to economic growth". Indeed, passed the first lockdown at the beginning of 2020, "the rebound in activity in the third quarter was strong: +18.7% against +9% for OECD countries". More specifically, "France has strengthened its actions towards the transformation of its economy", notably with the implementation of the "France Relance" plan which "mobilizes exceptional resources to support investment, innovation and the modernization of industry".

#### Three other vectors of attractiveness:



• Economy Digitalisation France spends 7 billion euros on digital technology and "has the highest fixed broadband penetration rate in Europe (44.1 subscribers per 100 inhabitants)".





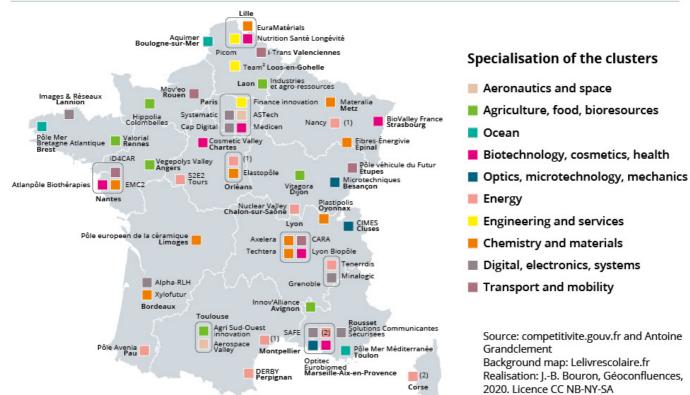
• Fight Against Climate Change France stands out for the "originality of its energy mix": it is the 2nd largest producer of renewable energies and 0% of its electricity production comes from "carbon-free resources".



• **Cost of Labour** The reforms undertaken have led to a clear reduction since 2013: "labour costs have risen less rapidly in France than in the euro zone average" (+9.8% in France compared with +14.4% in the euro zone).

Source: 2020 ATTRACTIVENESS DASHBOARD: STRENGTH OF FRANCE'S ASSETS https://www.businessfrance.fr/procom-media-the-2020-edition-of-the-france-attractiveness-scoreboard

#### 2020 Clusters in France



#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**



Business France Zoe LIN, Senior Investment advisor

☑ Zoe.lin@businessfrance.fr



French Office in Taipei Alain Berder, Head of Economic Section

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# **GERMANY**

357,822 km<sup>2</sup> National Land Area

EUR 3,336.2 bn

Economic Growth Forecast (2021)

USD 54.07 GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)

P Frankfurt

9 Hamburg

P Capital City T Main City



P Berlin



#### **Products**

Automobile, Machineries, Chemical products, Electrical engineering, Pharmaceuticals

#### Countries

USA, China, France, Netherlands, UK

#### **Total Value**

EUR 1,205 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Electronic Products. Automobile, Chemical products, Machineries, Electrical equipment

#### Countries

China, Netherlands, USA, Poland, France

#### **Total Value**

EUR 1,025 bn (2020)

# Introduction of Major Industries

In 2020, the bilateral trade between Germany and Taiwan exceeded EUR 17 billion, thus Taiwan is Germany's fifth largest trading partner in Asia Pacific. For Taiwan, Germany is the largest trading partner in the EU. Around 500 Taiwanese companies are active in Germany. Since 2012 a double taxation agreement between Germany and Taiwan is effective.



#### **Automotive Industry**

Germany is recognized the world over for its outstanding automotive industry and excellence in engineering. The German automotive industry creates 60% of R&D growth in Europe. Germany is Europe's leading production and sales market for automobiles and automotive equipment.



# Machinery and Equipment Industry

Germany is the world's leading supplier of machinery with 16% share of global trade. The M&E sector is the most innovative industry sector in Germany.



# **Electronics and Micro-technology**

Renowned R&D institutes and world-leading manufacturers and suppliers for electrical and electronic materials, components, and equipment, ranging from microelectronic components to electrical household appliances, automations systems, electronic medical equipment and automotive electronics are based in Germany.



#### **Health Care and Life Sciences**

Germany is Europe's leader in chemical sales, exports, investment, and R&D expenditure. It owns the largest number of biotechnology companies in Europe and is Europe's largest market for medical devices. Germany's pharmaceutical industry is a leading pharmaceutical research and production hub. It only trails the US in global biopharmaceutical production.



#### Industry 4.0

Digitalization and the use of digital technologies in Germany are progressive in international comparison. The long-term success of Industry 4.0 results from technological leadership and vision in various fields, as well as strong industrial networks. Germany features the single largest software market in Europe, accounting for around a quarter of the European market by value.





#### Semiconductor Industry

Europe's share of the global semiconductor market is around 10%, with the majority of semiconductor production companies located in Germany. In the near future, the German Government, together with 18 other EU countries, plans to heavily invest in processors and semiconductor technologies in order to lessen dependence on other countries.

# Introduction of Major Industries



#### **Incentives**

The most important national program for investment is the "GRW". There are also several R&D incentives programs. In addition, Germany provides labor-related incentives in terms of recruitment support, pre-hiring training, wage subsidies and on-the-job training. Public loans offer long credit periods, attractive interest rates and repayment-free periods.



#### **Taxation**

The average tax burden on companies is less than 30%. The trade tax rate is locally variable. Therefore, it can be as low as 23% in some areas. Companies can avoid double taxation due to differing double taxation agreements. Germany's VAT is below the European average.



#### **Legal Security**

Germany offers a high level of protection for technical and commercial innovations due to registration at the German Patent and Trademark Office. It established a harmonized system of administering patents and trademarks for the European market. Litigation is affordable due to low costs of proceeding which are to be paid by the legal party that loses the case.



#### Infrastructure

Germany offers Europe's third biggest freight port and Europe's biggest inland port. It features 22 international airports with Frankfurt Airport as Europe's biggest cargo terminal.



#### **Working Permits for Foreign Talents**

The "EU Blue Card" allows highly qualified non-EU citizens to be fast-tracked to employment in Germany. In addition, the "ICT-Card" enables an intra-corporate transfer from a sending entity outside the EU to a host entity in Germany for personnel of certain categories.

#### Contact Points for Investment Services



#### German Trade Office Taipei

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#### Germany Trade and Invest Alexander Hirschle

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# **HUNGARY**

93,024 km<sup>2</sup> National Land Area

EUR 135.9 bn

Economic Growth Forecast (2021)

USD 33.030

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)



Capital City Main City



#### **Products**

Vehicles, Electrical machinery, Telecommunication equipment, Power generating machinery, Pharmaceutical products

#### Countries

Germany, Slovakia, Italy, Romania, Austria

#### **Total Value**

EUR 104.49 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Electrical machinery, Vehicles, Telecommunication equipment, General industry machinery, Pharmaceutical products

#### Countries

Germany, China, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic

#### **Total Value**

EUR 98.69 bn (2020)

# Introduction of Major Industries

The automotive sector is one of Hungary's leading industries, accounting for around 20% of total exports. Around 700 companies generated over EUR 26 billion revenue in the sector in 2020. The five OEMs - Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Opel and Suzuki - have launched or will launch production operations in Hungary.

Companies of the electronics industry generated a revenue of EUR 21.3 billion in 2020. In that year alone, the sector accounted for 22.9% of the total Hungarian manufacturing production and 30.4% of all the Hungarian exports. The role of e-battery producers in the Hungarian economy is getting more and more important, with multinational companies such as Samsung SDI, SK Innovation deciding to expand their capacities in the country.

## **Investment Highlights for Companies**

Modern infrastructure provides an excellent basis for global connectivity and it makes Hungary an outstanding logistics hub with easy access to the markets of either Balkan and Eastern European countries or the single market of the European Union.

The length of motorways exceeds 2,000 km in Hungary, which is the 6th highest value among the EU Member States. Hungary also ranks 6th in the EU in terms of the length of the electrified railway network of more than 5,500 km. As regards digital connectivity, Hungary ranks 7th in the EU based on the Digital Economy and Society Index 2020 (DESI 2020).

In Hungary, the intense FDI inflow into the electronics and automotive industry as well as BSC sector experienced in recent years will apparently continue in 2021 as well. In line with the global trend of electromobility and the increasing demand for electric vehicles, considerable boost in investments, particularly in EV battery manufacturing, is anticipated in the forthcoming period. Owing to the recent expansion of investments, Hungary's investment rate reached 28.6% in 2019, which was the 2nd highest rate in the EU. The annual GDP growth in Hungary is expected to be between 4% and 5% during the period of 2021-2024.

In terms of site selection, stable political and economic environment, EU membership with a central geographical location, high quality of transport and digital infrastructure, business-friendly labour market regulation and taxation, competitive and motivated workforce, technological skills are all remarkable competitive advantages that make Hungary particularly attractive to foreign investors. When it

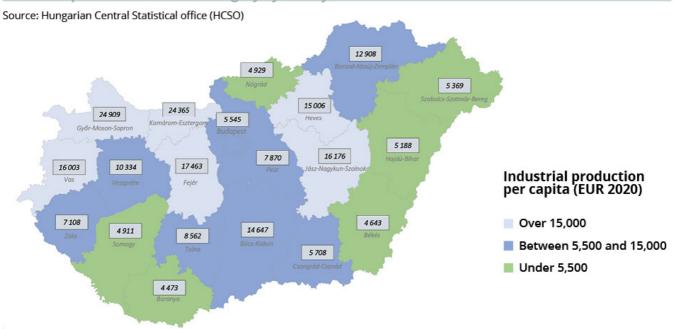


comes to investment promotion, the Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency (HIPA) offers a wide range of incentives to facilitate FDI and reinvestments by the enterprises.

As far as the Hungarian tax policy is concerned, the emphasis has been shifted from income-type taxes to consumption-type taxes in the recent years. Since 2017, single corporate income tax rate of 9% is applicable in Hungary which is the lowest one in the EU. In addition to the low level of the flat CIT rate, a wide range of tax incentives (e.g. development tax allowance, tax benefit for R&D, favourable group taxation regime etc.) makes Hungarian corporate tax regime highly competitive. Furthermore, no withholding tax is levied on interest, royalties and dividends paid to a legal entity.

The average hourly labour costs are highly competitive either in the Hungarian manufacturing or service sector as they amounted to EUR 10.5 and EUR 10.8 in 2020, respectively.

#### Industrial production value in Hungary by county



#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**



#### **Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency**

O H-1055 Budapest, Honvéd u. 20

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# HUNGARIAN

#### Hungarian Trade Office, Taipei

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http://hungary.org.tw

# **ITALY**

302,070 km<sup>2</sup> National Land Area

EUR 1651.6 bn

Economic Growth Forecast (2021)

USD 40.86°

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)

P Rome

9 Naples

🖁 Capital City 🍍 Main City

9 Milan



#### **Products**

Pharmaceuticals, Machinery, Automotive, Fashion items, Metallurgy

#### Countries

Germany, France, USA, Switzerland, Spain

#### **Total Value**

EUR 433.6 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Automotive, Chemicals, Metals, Pharmaceuticals, Crude oil

#### Countries

Germany, China, France, Netherlands, Spain

#### **Total Value**

EUR 369.7 bn (2020)

# Introduction of Major Industries

Major industries are focused on mechanic, automotive, fashion, food, life science, and etc.

# **Investment Highlights for Companies**



#### The Italian Trade Agency

ITA is the governmental agency that supports the business development of Italian companies abroad and promotes the attraction of foreign investment in Italy. Through its Foreign Direct Investment Unit (https://www.ice.it/en/invest/invest-italy), ITA facilitates the establishment and the development of foreign companies in Italy.

Italy is the No. 3 in the Eurozone and No. 8 in the world for GDP value (data 2019); Italy is the No. 2 in the EU for manufacturing and No. 1 in the EU for production value in the pharma sector [+52% exports, higher than the EU average (+32%)] (2019 data); Italy is No. 4 in the EU and No. 7 in the world for number of universities. In the Top 5 among the EU countries for number of researchers (2019 data).



# **Corporate Income Tax Rate**

The tax rate is 24%, lower than the other EU competitive countries like Spain (25%), Netherlands (25% If the taxable amount is less than €200,000) and France (27.5%). Among the top 3 most competitive countries for salary level (2019 data).



#### **Labour Cost**

Among the top 3 most competitive countries for salary level (together with UK and Spain). For an engineer level, the average is EUR 32,000 and for a manager, EUR 57,000, with a work experience of 3-5 years (2018 data).



#### **Incentives**

There are several types of incentives depending on the size of the investment (for large investment we have Development Contract, Law 181/89), on the type of investment (manufacturing or research & development), on the company location (north or south of Italy). We also have incentives for startup (Smart & Start Italy, New Enterprises "Zero interest rate", Cultura Crea, New Sabatini Law) and Fiscal Benefits



(fiscal exemption on capital investments, Patent Box, Tax Credits (Industry 4.0, R&D), Industry 4.0 training, Employment bonuses).



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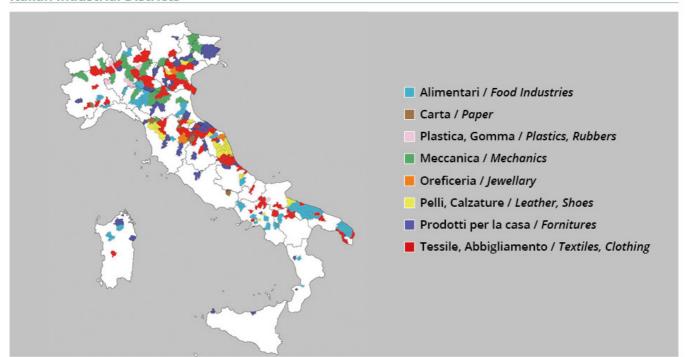
We have many types of permits, for example blue card.



#### **Taiwanese Companies Present in Italy**

N. 50 with 2,300 employees (2018 data).

#### **Italian Industrial Districts**



#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**

#### Italian Economic, Trade and **Cultural Promotion Office**

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mww.ice.it/en/markets/taiwan

IETCPO

#### Italian Trade Agency

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# **LUXEMBOURG**

National Land Area

2.586 km<sup>2</sup> EUR 64.1 bn

Economic Growth Forecast (2021)

4.5 %

USD 118,002

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)

P Capital City P Main City

P Differdange P Esch-sur-Alzette P Dudelange

PLuxembourg City



#### **Products**

Base metals; Machinery and mechanical appliances; Electrical equipment; Plastics and rubbers; Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment; Products of the chemical or allied industries.

#### Countries

Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands, UK

#### **Total Value**

EUR 11.94 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Vehicles, aircraft, vessels, associated transport equipment; Machinery and mechanical appliances; Electrical equipment; Base metal; Products of the chemical or allied industries: Plastics and rubber.

#### Countries

Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands, Italy

#### Total Value

EUR 18.30 bn (2020)

# Introduction of Major Industries

Luxembourg Cluster Initiative was launched in 2002. The clusters focus on strategically targeted key technologies, help the companies to innovate and to capture new growth opportunities.



#### **ICT & Digital Economy**

- · Data-driven economy strategy
- Strategic vision for AI
- · Vibrant start-up ecosystem
- · Excellent Cybersecurity expertise



#### Automobility

- · Green, Connected & automated
- Cross-border vehicle connectivity
- European homologation expertise
- Mobility Innovation Campus for the open innovation, shared **R&D** facilities



#### Cleantech

- Strong political support for Circular Economy
- Luxembourg's Product Circularity Datasheet (PCDS) to become an internationally recognized standard (ISO)
- · Long tracking records in green finance



#### Logistics

- European Air-cargo hub linked to all continents
- Excellent Cargo Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals Center
- · No VAT pre-financing on imports



#### **Other Clusters**

Space Cluster, Materials & Manufacturing Cluster, HealthTech Cluster, Creative Industries Cluster, Maritime Cluster, Wood Cluster, M.I.C.E. Cluster.



# **Investment Highlights for Companies**



#### An Ideal Gateway to the European Markets

Luxembourg is a prime launchpad to access all European markets and can be used as an ideal test market to develop concepts and test new products and services.



#### **Outstanding Digital Infrastructure**

Luxembourg is one of the world's leading trusted data hub. The Grand Duchy can rely on world-class ICT infrastructure as well as a business-oriented HPC (10 petaflops) called MeluXina. 65% of its capacity is available to start-ups, SMEs and large companies that are looking for processing and analyzing huge amounts of data.



#### **Your Logistics Hub in Europe**

The country offers many strategic advantages to manage your international trade activities efficiently and effectively to and from Europe.



#### A Skilled and Talented Multilingual Workforce

Luxembourg has a highly skilled and multilingual workforce. Its multicultural and cosmopolitan environment attracts the best talents and simplifies exchanges with international customers.



#### A High-performance R&D and Innovation Ecosystem

The country offers many public and private grants to finance your R&D activities. Many financial incentives and other support measures to assist companies are at your disposal.



#### **Business Friendly Tax Structure**

Extensive network of more than 80 double tax treaties, including Taiwan. The standard VAT rate is of 17%.



#### **Home to Numerous Multinationals**

Multinationals such as Amazon, PayPal, Rakuten, Goodyear, ArcelorMittal, Cargolux and Taiwanese companies such as China Airlines, Kymco, TSRC, Odysseus Space have chosen Luxembourg as their European Headquarters.

#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**



GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG Trade and Investment Office Taipei

#### Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office, Taipei

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#### Luxembourg Trade & Invest

tradeandinvest.lu

# **NETHERLANDS**

41,543 km<sup>2</sup> National Land Area

EUR 798.7 bn

2.3 % Economic Growth Forecast (2021)

USD 57.534

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)

Amsterdam

PThe Hague PUtrecht PRotterdam

9 Findhoven

Capital City Main City



#### **Products**

Machinery and transport equipment, Mineral fuels, Food, Clothing and footwear, Pharmaceuticals

#### Countries

Germany, Belgium, France, UK, USA

#### **Total Value**

EUR 675 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Fuel, Machinery, Food and live animals, Pharmaceuticals, Electronics

#### Countries

Germany, Belgium, UK, France, USA

#### **Total Value**

EUR 596.1 bn (2020)

- The States General and the Executive Branch have been situated in The Hague since 1588.
- · The Netherlands is the sixth-largest economy in the Euro Zone and important transportation hub in Europe. The Dutch economy depends heavily on foreign trade, with exports accounting for 83 percent of GDP and imports for 72 percent.

## **Introduction of Major Industries**

Information Technology, High Tech Systems, Life Sciences & Health, Agriculture, Food, Chemicals, Creative, and Energy.

# **Investment Highlights for Companies**

Ranked No. 4 in the world by Forbes' "Best Countries for Business", the Netherlands is truly a world-class business destination. Holland's strategic location at Europe's front door provides the perfect springboard into the European market—with access to 95% of Europe's most lucrative consumer markets within 24 hours of Amsterdam or Rotterdam.

# **Holland's Business Advantages**



#### Strategic Location

Strategically located at Europe's front door, the Netherlands provides access to 95% of Europe's most lucrative consumer markets within 24 hours of Amsterdam or Rotterdam.



#### **International Business Climate**

Ranked No. 1 on DHL's Global Connectedness Index, the Netherlands has a competitive international climate and is home to 15,000 foreign companies. In fact, 50% of Dutch GDP is derived internationally.



#### Superior Infrastructure

Ranked No. 4 in the world for overall logistics performance, the Netherlands is home to world-class seaports, centrally located airports, an extensive network of roads and highways and the 2nd highest quality broadband network in Europe.





## **Competitive Fiscal Climate**

With a competitive statutory corporate income tax rate in Europe—25% (15 % on the first €245,000)— the Dutch fiscal climate has a number of attractive features for international companies.



#### **Highly Educated, Multilingual Workforce**

A model of efficiency and dedication, Holland's highly educated workforce sets the pace for European productivity in a wide range of capabilities. Plus, 90% of Dutch are fluent in English— the lingua franca of international business, science and technology.



#### **Creative & Innovative Environment**

Ranked No. 4 in the EU on the 2019 European Innovation Scoreboard, the Netherlands is home to an attractive test market, adaptive consumers and an open culture. As one of the world's most multicultural hubs for creative talent, Holland is, simply put, a great place to bring ideas to life.



#### **Thriving Sectors**

Fueled by world-class research institutes and public-private partnerships between academia, industry and government, the Netherlands also has a rich tradition of looking across borders to advance growth of its thriving Agri/Food, IT, Chemicals, High Tech Systems, Life Sciences & Health, Creative and other sectors.



#### **Exceptional Quality of Life**

Ranked as the 5th happiest place on earth by the World Happiness Report, the Netherlands has a high standard of living with a lower cost of living than most European countries.

#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**

The NFIA (Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency) is an operational unit of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. The NFIA assists foreign companies from all over the world in the establishment, rolling out and/or expansion of their international activities in the Netherlands. Besides its headquarters in The Hague, the NFIA has a worldwide network of offices. Under the label Invest in Holland, the NFIA operates closely with a network of partners in the Netherlands.



With a large number of Taiwanese companies investing in the Netherlands, the country has proven to be a business magnet with an impressive investment environment.

#### Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency

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### +886 2 2720 5005

taiwan.investinholland.com



# **POLAND**

312,700 km<sup>2</sup>

EUR 523 bn

4.0 % Economic Growth USD 34,103

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020) P Pozńan
P Lódź
P Wrocław
P Cracow

🖁 Capital City 🌹 Main City



#### **Products**

Auto parts, Electrical machinery and devices; Furniture; Batteries; Vehicles

#### Countries

Germany, Czech Republic, UK, France, Italy

#### **Total Value**

EUR 237.5 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Vehicles and vehicle parts; Mineral fuels and oils; Telecommunication devices; Electrical machinery and devices; Medicine

#### Countries

Germany, China, Italy, Russia, The Netherlands, France

#### **Total Value**

EUR 225.5 bn (2020)

# **Introduction of Major Industries**

Poland is the fifth-largest economy in the EU in real GDP terms, with a buoyant private sector, and a well-educated and skilled human capital. Thanks to its diversified and competitive economy, the county secured stable GDP growth for nearly 30 years and experience one of the mildest implications of COVID-19 crisis in the EU. Rebound of the economy near 2019 levels is already projected for this year. Furthermore, by the end of 2020 Poland was ranked the third most preferred location in Europe for foreign investments by fDi Markets [a cross border investment monitor run by the Financial Times]. Up until today the country attracted over EUR 200 bn worth, foreign capital. Among key industries in Poland, offering good perspective of growth, the following should be listed:



#### **Automotive & E-mobility**

- Over 1000 automotive companies registered with over 210 thousand employees working in the sector.
- Largest exporter of electric buses in the EU.

Polish automotive sectors is one of the pillars of Polish economy, which can see continuous growth. Numerous tier 1 and tier 2 suppliers (such as Valeo, Huchinson, ZF, Brembo) as well as OEM producers including Volkswagen, Stellantis (Fiat, Opel), Man, can be found across the country. In 2018, 208,000 commercial vehicles were produced in Poland, making the country the sixth largest producer of this type of vehicles in Europe. Overall Poland's automotive sector generates over 37 bn EUR of sold production value (over 10.5% of Poland's GDP), and is country single largest industry, offering plenty of opportunities for new investors.



#### **Business Services (BSS) & IT Sector**

• Over 1500 BSS centers (approx. 70% of all BSS centers in CEE) employing 340,000+ people.

Due to outstanding local talent pool Polish BSS and IT sector grew to become largest in the CEE region. According to numerus rankings (e.g. Hacker Rank) Polish developers are among the world top and were named the best in Java programing. This potential is already well recognized by the leaders of the industry such as Google, Microsoft, Huawei and many more who already decided to locate their research centers in Poland. 35% of the local ICT market is strictly devoted to the software development.



# Europe's new electromobility hub

Top European exporter of EV batteries.



As the home of LG Chem giga factory, which capacity will soon reach 100GWh as well as a number of other major facilities involved in the battery manufacturing (including SK Innovation, Northvolt, Umicore, Foosung and many others), Poland can be truly named as Europe's new electromobility hub.

#### Other Sectors with high potential

#### Electronics & white goods

No. 1 exporter of large white goods in EU.

# Polish Electromobility Hub

- Manufacturer of EV battery materials and components
- Manufacturer of EV cells and batteries
- Manufacturer of EVs

Over 140 aviation companies

- Manufacturer of e-buses
- Centre for the development of autonomous vehicles



#### Food Production & **Processing**

EUR 34 bn EUR in exports with 7% annual increase

# **Investment Highlights for Companies**

Poland is located in the heart of Europe, which makes it a perfect investment location with easy access to the global market. It provides a business friendly environment to investors, who can benefit from a strong economic relationship with the Eurozone as part of the EU's common market.

Aerospace



# Incentives

Poland offers the highest levels of investment support out of all EU members. Large investors can obtain a return amounting up to 50% of eligible costs in various forms of aid depending on project location (SME's can count on even higher support). Incentives are offered in the entire territory of Poland regardless location of the project and can include:

#### CIT exemption

Between 10 and 15 years tax free!

#### Cash grants

Up to 25% of investment costs!

#### Real Estate tax exemption

Up to 7 years!

Biuro Polskie w Tajpei

波蘭豪北辦事處

#### **R&D Incentives**

Additional tax cuts & lower tax rates!

#### **Contact Points for Investment Services**

#### Polish Office in Taipei

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#### Foreign Trade Office in Taipei

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Polish Investment & Trade Agency PFR Group

#### Centre for Strategic Investments

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- \$ +48-22-3349955
- invest@paih.gov.pl

  i
- www.paih.gov.pl

# **SLOVAKIA**

49,036 km<sup>2</sup>
National Land Area

EUR 91.6 bn

Economic Growth Forecast (2021) USD 32,710
GDP per capita

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020) P Zilina
P Presov
P Banska Bystrica
P Kosice

📍 Capital City 🥊 Main City





#### **Products**

Machinery, electronic equipment, sound recorders & reproducers, television image; Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated traffic equipment; Base metals and articles of base metals; Plastics and articles thereof; Rubber and articles thereof; Mineral products

#### Countries

Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, France, Hungary

#### **Total Value**

EUR 75.4 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Machinery, electronic equipment; Sound recorders & reproducers, television image; Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated traffic equipment; Base metals and articles of base metals; Mineral products; Products of the chemical or allied industries

#### Countries

Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Hungary

#### Total Value

EUR 72.7 bn (2020)

# **Introduction of Major Industries**

Slovakia has been one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. Foreign direct investment, especially in the automotive and electronic sectors, fueled much of the growth. Slovakia prides itself on its industrial heritage, which has provided a stable base for the development of certain industries such as automotive, or electronics. Over the last decade, global corporations representing various industries have selected Slovakia as the top location for their expansion in the CEE region.

Major industries are Automotive Industry, Electronics & Electrical Components Industry, Machinery & Equipment Industry, Chemicals & plastics Industry, Information & Communication Technology Industry. Currently large Taiwanese companies like Delta, Foxconn, AU Optronics are present in Slovakia with their manufacturing.

## **Investment Highlights for Companies**

**TOP 10 Reasons Why to Invest in Slovakia** 

#### **01** Strategic Location:

Key location in the heart of Europe with great export potential.

#### **02** Safety And Stability:

One of the safest and politically most stable countries in Europe (Credit insurance group Credendo).

#### 03 Eurozone:

A member of the Eurozone since 2009 as one of a few in CEE.

#### 04 Oualified Workforce:

Cost-effective, skilled and loyal labor force with excellent multilingual skills.

#### **05** World-Class Productivity:

The highest labor productivity rate in the region (Eurostat).

#### **06** Investor-Friendliness:

Slovak government continuously increasing the quality of local business & investment environment.

#### **07** Innovative Ecosystem:

The highest share of higher added-value jobs in CEE, ready for new investments into R&D and innovation (OECD).

#### 08 Openness:

One of the most export oriented and open economies in the EU (Eurostat).

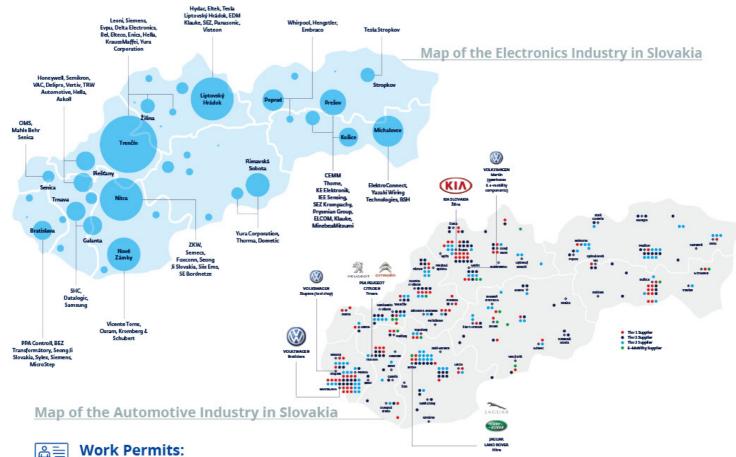
#### 09 Well-Developed Infrastructure:

Developed and steadily growing infrastructure network with regards to road, railway, and air connections.

#### 10 Support:

Attractive investment incentives scheme and special tax regimes.





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Slovakia has the working holiday visa program for young people from Taiwan (18-35), also the 90-day visa free regime. Work Permits take up to 90 days to be approved and can be applied directly at the foreign police in Slovakia.



#### Taxes:

VAT basic rate 20%; VAT reduced rate on books, medicines and selected food 10%; Income tax 19%; Corporate income tax 21%.

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#### SARIO SLOVAK INVESTMENT AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



# **SPAIN**

National Land Area

505,957 km<sup>2</sup> | EUR 1,121.7 bn |

Economic Growth Forecast (2021)

USD 38,3

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)





P Capital City P Main City

#### **Products**

Motor vehicles, tractors; Pharmaceutical products; Machinery and mechanical appliances; Fuels, mineral oils; Electrical equipment; Pork Meat

#### Countries

France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, UK

#### **Total Value**

EUR 261.2 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Fuels, mineral oils; Motor vehicles, tractors; Machinery and mechanical appliances; Pharmaceutical products; Electrical equipment

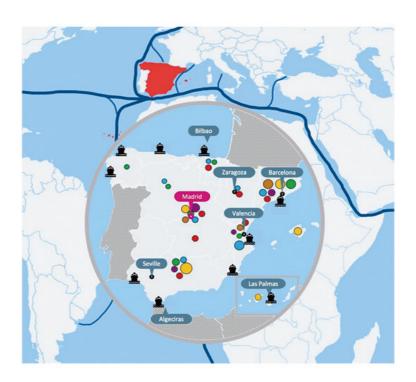
#### Countries

Germany, China, France, Italy, USA

#### **Total Value**

EUR 274.6 bn (2020)

# **Major Industries and Maritime Connections**



# **Investment Highlights for Companies**



#### Infrastructure

Infrastructures in Spain are a "role model" worldwide. Its highspeed rail system is Europe's 1st and the world's 3rd longest. It has 152 logistic parks and the largest logistic platform in Europe. Geographically, Spain's strategic location means it is the gateway between America, Africa and Europe. It is very easy to access Europe's market from the extensive highways network and Africa from the Spanish ports, 46 including 4 major European (map **1** ).



## **Investment Regulations**

Spain's regulatory and institutional framework is modern, clear, and transparent, aligned with the best practices and norms of the OECD.





#### **Tax Preference**

Spain imposes a moderate taxation, corporate tax rate of 25%. Up to 42% corporate income tax credit for RDI activities. Favorable tax for foreign workers, expatriates must comply with certain conditions.



#### **Investment Grant**

The Spanish State and Spain's other public authorities have been developing and consolidating a wide and complete range of aid instruments and incentives, placing special emphasis on fostering indefinite-term employment, on regional investment and on research, development and technological innovation (R&D and TI).



#### Foreign Direct Investment in Spain

Spain is the 13th recipient of foreign direct investments in the world. More than 14,600 foreign firms have set up their business in Spain, 70 out of 100 top companies in Forbes Global 2000



#### **Working Permits for Foreign Talents**

To promote international mobility, there is a specific framework for non-EU, highly qualified professionals, intra-company transfers, researchers, entrepreneurs and investors. This framework is based on a fast-track procedure and specialized system for granting residence permits and authorizations to attract foreign investment and talent.



#### **Quality of Life**

Mediterranean climate, food, and attractive lifestyle make Spain a prominent place for expatriates to live and work. According to HSBC, it is the top 5 preferred destination for expats.



Tourism: 83.7 million visitors in 2019 (world 2nd). Largest sector by employment, 12% GDP.



Aerospace: EUR 10.1 bn. Rank 5th in Europe in sales and people employed.



Automotive: 16% of total country exports. 2nd largest in Europe and 9th in the world.



**Life Sciences:** More than 4% of GDP. 5th European power in science production.



Chemical Sector: Revenue EUR 62.2 bn. Expected to grow during the next 10 years.



ICT: More than 4% of GDP. Growth of 3.9% in 2019 and 2.2% in 2020.

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# **SWEDEN**

450,300 km<sup>2</sup>

EUR 473 bn

National Land Area

4.4 % Economic Growth Forecast (2021) USD 54,146

GDP per capita (PPP) (2020)





₱ Malmo





#### **Products**

Machinery and transport equipment, Chemicals and rubber products, Minerals, Wood & paper products, Mineral fuels and electric current

#### Countries

Germany, Norway, USA, Finland, Denmark

#### **Total Value**

EUR 197 bn (2020)



#### **Products**

Machinery and transport equipment, Chemicals and rubber products, Mineral fuels and electric current, Minerals, Wood & paper products

#### Countries

Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, UK

#### **Total Value**

EUR 191 bn (2020)

# Introduction of Major Industries

Sweden is a global leader in innovation (2nd place in Global Innovation Index 2020), has a highly skilled labor force, openness to international ownership, and a stable economy. A key feature of the Swedish economy is its liberal approach to trade. Skilled professionals, polished business procedures, and receptivity to international partnerships make it an easy country to operate in. Sweden is also ranked as 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Sustainable Development Goals in the world.

Synergies generated by the close connection between Swedish universities, research institutes and the private sector leverage the R&D output. According to the Financial Times, Stockholm is the second most prolific tech hub globally, with 6.3 billion-dollar companies per million people, compared to Silicon Valley with 6.9. Spotify, Skype, Klarna and Oatly are just some of the Swedish startups that have received international attention. Add to those well-known brands such as IKEA, Volvo, Scania, H&M and Ericsson and it becomes clear why Forbes has listed Sweden among the top five best countries to do business in.

At heart Swedish labor costs remain competitive as Sweden has one of the world's most well-educated workforces (excellent English speakers) and at the same time the most productive and hard working. Sweden ranks third on the Networked Readiness Index of the most networked economies in the world.

The large number of multinational corporations present in Sweden has not only created an important domestic market; it has also paved the way for a world-class infrastructure. Sweden's strong public finances, sound banking system, political stability and well-performing economy make it a robust place to run a business.



#### ICT

With a strong industrial base and a truly innovative and digital economy indeed, Sweden is one of Europe's most mature markets for mobile solutions, data analytics, 5G and Al. As a world ICT leader, Sweden is also a smart choice for manufacturers wanting to utilize new production techniques. Some of the most important mobile communication technologies including GSM, wCDMA and LTE, and Bluetooth originates from Sweden.



#### **Life Science**

Sweden is Northern Europe's most dynamic life science market and a powerhouse of innovation, co-creation as well as home to Astra Zeneca one of the leading life science companies globally. Further, Sweden is a world leader in biomaterials and orthopedic



implants, regenerative medicine, medical imaging and visualization. Sweden is considered a leading research nation leading the way in fields such as oncology, neuroscience, inflammation, metabolic diseases and genomics, proteomics and diagnostics. To find life science partners in Sweden please visit the database: swedishlifesciences.com.



#### Mobility

The Swedish automotive and smart mobility industry has built up unique knowledge and skills for several decades through leading companies like Volvo and Scania. The vibrant ecosystem offers multiple investment-, collaboration- and strategic alliance opportunities. Sweden has since 2019 fully autonomous trucks commercially implemented on public roads and has the highest number of autonomous vehicles company headquarters by head of population globally.



#### Major Industries and prominent Swedish companies:



# **Investment Highlights for Companies**

- Sweden ranks as the 2nd most trade-friendly and logistically efficient nation in the world.
- Sweden has among Europe's most favorable jurisdictions for holding companies.
- Regional investment grants are available to finance new establishments.

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The European Investment Fund (EIF) is Europe's main provider of risk financing for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps. We deliver sources of funding including equity, debt and microfinance through our wide network of selected financial intermediaries in the EU-28 Member States and beyond.

EIF is AAA rated by all three major rating agencies and has a strong capital base of EUR 4.5bn. The rating is based on our multilateral development bank status including a



stable shareholding structure, a strong liquidity position and lack of outstanding debt. It reflects EIF's good governance and prudent risk management. EIF is part of the EIB Group. We are 59.9% owned by the European Investment Bank (EIB), 28.1% by the European Union through the European Commission (EC), and 12% by 30 public and private financial institutions. This combination of public and private shareholding gives us a dual focus: to support EU policy objectives, while acting as a market-oriented institution that delivers appropriate return on capital.



## **Financing**

The EIF makes it easier for small businesses in Europe to get financing – from kick starting an entire venture capital market in Bulgaria, right down to helping an Irish entrepreneur get a microloan for a shop in Dublin. Our portfolio is deliberately diverse, covering a range of risk-sharing and capacity building activities that are tailored to the needs of SMEs and mid-caps. We also focus on regional development to complement existing EU-wide SME schemes. This maximises the effectiveness of EU budgets and attracts more capital from other investors. Together with the EIB and EC, we continuously look to broaden our portfolio through partnerships in countries and sectors across Europe. In 2018, bespoke debt financing, venture capital and Fintech backed financing offered European SMEs a more diverse palette of options than ever, yet certain regions and sectors still struggle to benefit. We are responding to this changing market by blending products and financing sources to ensure the maximum of capital reaches SMEs through all possible channels.



#### Financial Instruments

The EIF designs financial instruments that absorb some of the risk that banks, guarantee institutions, microfinance lenders and funds take when they finance small businesses. This encourages banks to lend, funds to invest and private investments to "crowd in", to create a sustainable financing ecosystem for European SMEs. The money invested comes from its shares holders the EIB and the European Commission, mandates like EFSI, national and regional institutions, other public bodies, private capital and the EIF's own funds.



#### Financial Intermediaries

We provide resources through financial intermediaries ranging from venture, growth and mezzanine capital funds to banks, guarantee funds and microfinance institutions. The resources are either our own or allocated by mandators /capital providers, which we manage on their behalf. Additionally we run a range of national and regional programmes and fund of funds initiatives.



## **Venture Capital**

Venture capital is a lifeline for start-ups and businesses in the early stages of development. We address the market gap in early stage funding by providing risk capital to top tier and first time fund managers. Over the years, we have repeatedly stepped up our commitments in promising and quality-oriented funds to stimulate growth and innovation in Europe. Private investors often see EIF's engagement in a fund as a proof of a sound concept. Several funds that achieved significant results and visibility in this segment benefitted previously from EIF's strong catalytic support. Hence we believe that our role has been vital in fostering the development of the European venture capital market.



#### **Growth Funds**

We also back a range of growth funds that support established, profitable and growing businesses that need more capital to take advantage of new opportunities. Through these growth funds we offer the more mature businesses a broad range of tailor-made products, ranging from hybrid debt/equity to pure equity finance, including expansion and replacement. One of our products, known as mezzanine, is a hybrid debt/equity tool designed to finance growth. It's ideal for company managers who want to keep control of their companies, or for growing companies in need of financial restructuring or complex shareholding reorganization. Mezzanine also caters for later stage technology companies who have already reached break-even, but don't have access to more traditional bank debt products. Since 1994, we have more than EUR 17bn in close to 700 SME-focused venture and growth capital funds.



# **Business Angels and Social Impact Investments**

Other ways of mobilising recourses include business angels and social impact investments. The EIF work hand in hand with business angels and help them to leverage their investment capacity by co-investing into innovative companies in the seed, early or growth stage. We are convinced that social impact investing will shape the way many people invest in the future. Our Social Impact Accelerator (SIA) scheme pioneered in addressing the growing need for equity finance to support social enterprises. This sector is playing an ever greater role in promoting social inclusion and providing alternative sources of employment even for marginalised social groups. By exploring and actively pursuing such initiatives, we are able to offer a broader range of financing to businesses, and create not only a smart and sustainable, but also a more inclusive economic growth.



3

- In 2018, we had a record-breaking year, signing 347 transactions investing EUR 10.1bn in SMEs, up 8% from 2017. Thanks to EIFs support, venture capital –backed business like Spotify have been able to access early and growth-stage financing at a large enough scale to fundraise globally. In Spotify's case, the music streaming service raised upwards of EUR 30bn in a direct listing in 2018, and we are seeing the first significant exits from Central Europe such as Avast (Czech Republic), which exited via an IPO in 2018 at a value of EUR 2.5bn.
- By promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, EIF stimulates private sector involvement and makes European private equity more attractive as an asset class. This helps to close the funding gap many businesses face. Over the years, EIF has built a remarkable equity t rack record with European SMEs by funding both established and first time teams. Our financial backing has helped companies to innovate and grow into European players and sometimes even global leaders in their field.

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An Investment Guide to the European Union











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