

DECENTRALIZED 2017, University of Nicosia,
Limassol, 2 November 2017

Blockchain in Poland

prof. Krzysztof Piech



Structure

- Digital currency market in Poland
- Ministry for Digital Affairs and other institutions
- Polish Accelerator of Blockchain Technology
- Blockchain projects in Poland

prof. Krzysztof PIECH



Lazarski University

– Department of International Economic Relations

CEO of Blockchain Technologies sp. z o.o.

CEO of InvestOn Ltd (London)

CEO of Knowledge & Innovation Institute (Warsaw)



BLOCKCHAIN
TECHNOLOGY
CENTER





Further affiliations



Ministry
of Digital Affairs

Business Leader of the expert group on
„Blockchain / DLT and Digital Currencies” within
the program „From paper to digital Poland”



Krzysztof Piech

The following two units operate under honorary auspices of the Ministry:



Director
Blockchain Technology
Center at Lazarski Uni



Coordinator
Polish Accelerator of
Blockchain Technology



**POLISH
BITCOIN
ASSOCIATION**

Member
of the Board



Member
British Alumni Society

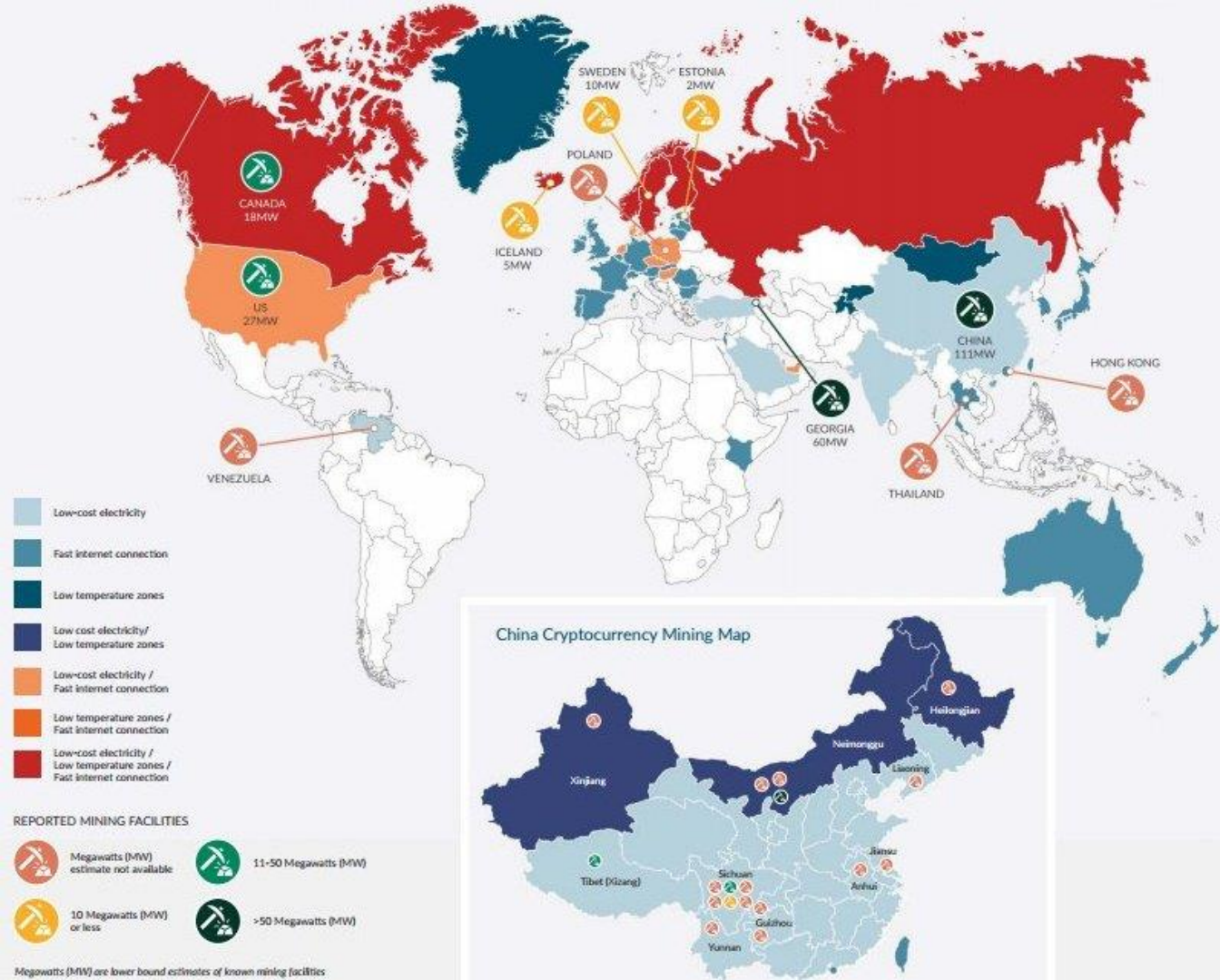


Cryptocurrency market in Poland

Position in the world

Bitcoin mining in Poland

- One of the largest single bitcoin mines in the world (20MW)
- One of the earliest producers of mining equipment (partnering BitFury in its early days)
- Polmine – 5th largest mining pool in the world in 2014



Cambridge University research

„Figure captures the origin of roughly half of the entire bitcoin hash rate.”

My research:
Polish bitcoin mines:

- 20+ MW
- 4th position in the world

Early adopter

- 1st in the world auction of arts for bitcoins – Spring 2014, Sopocki Dom Aukcyjny
- 1st in the world certificate of ownership of arts written into (bitcoin) blockchain (see above)
- 1st in the world, fully legal sales of shares of a company for bitcoins (2014, InPay)
- 1st in the world platform for trading shares of companies (2012, PicoStocks)

Polish zloty – declining trends

- 3rd most frequently used currency in the world in 2013 (MtGox), followed by USD and JPY
- 5-7th position in 2015
- 7-8th position in 2017

Bitcoin exchanges

- Until summer 2017 – one of the best in Europe cooperation with banks
- Very good cooperation with police, prosecutors etc.
- Until 2017 – the largest in Europe variety of instruments (leverage, swaps, lending)
- First in Europe payment card attached to BTC account (MasterCard – Millenium Bank – BitBay exchange)



\$20M

Daily volume of transactions at Polish cryptocurrency exchanges

Leader in other areas

- One of the first cryptocurrency investment companies, registered on 40+ exchanges (2015, InvestOn)
- One of the first in the world liquidity providers to cryptocurrency exchanges – market making services (2015, Turbine Analytics)
- The largest in Europe network of traditional ATMs accepting bitcoins

Leader in other areas

- One of a few services tracing bitcoins (2016, Coinfirm)
- The producer of cold wallets (Cryptosteel)
- Golem project – one of the first (Dec. 2016) that conducted successful ICO
- 2nd largest bitcoin lending P2P platforms (GetLine)
- 20k members of Facebook group (Bitcoin Polska)
- Almost 5k members of Stream's FB group

Leader in institutional areas

- One of the first bitcoin NGOs (2014, Polish Bitcoin Association)
- 2nd in the world student organisation – Bitcoin Club SGH (2013, Warsaw School of Economics)
- 1st in Europe (3rd in the world) Bitcoin Embassy (2014, closed in 2015)
- 1st in the world initiative of self-regulation of cryptocurrency exchanges (Spring 2014)

Ministry of Digital Affairs

and blockchain technology

Blockchain initiative

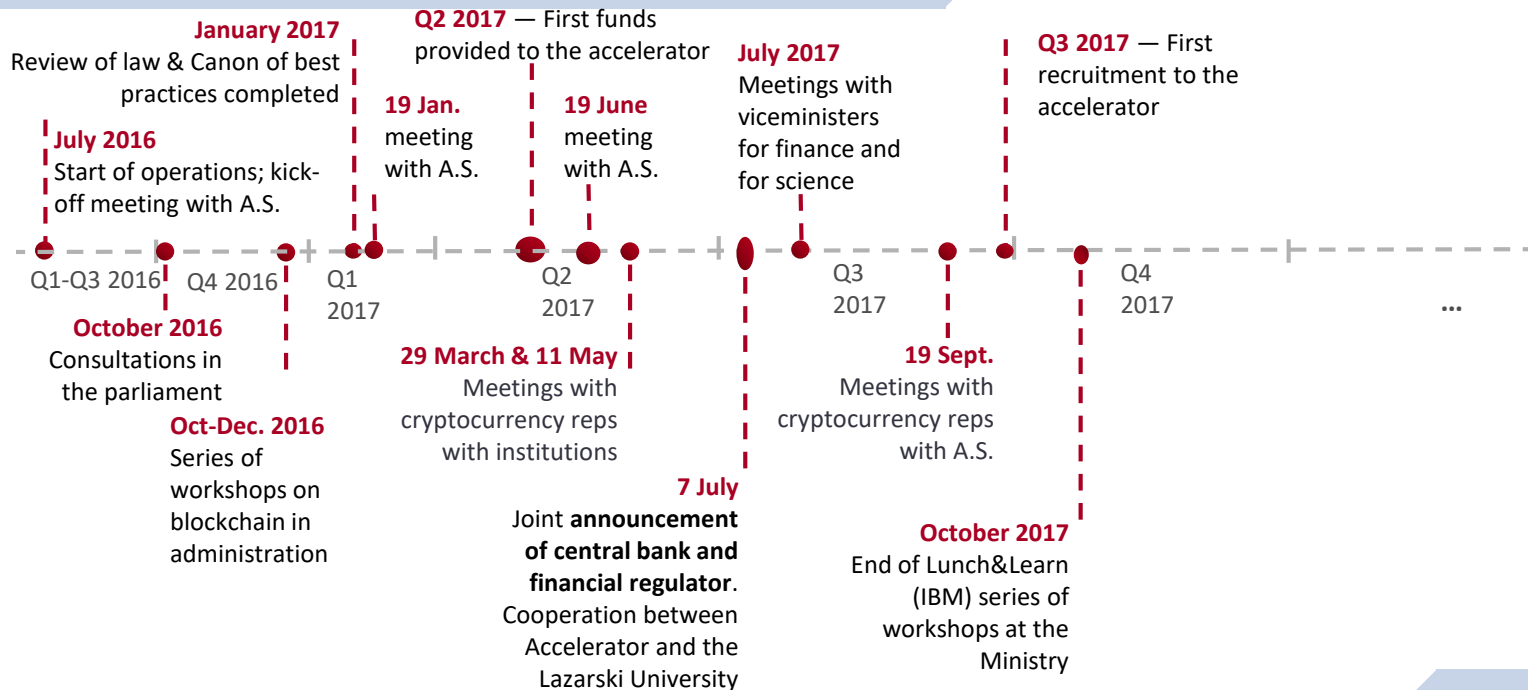
- Minister of Digital Affairs Anna Strezynska – one of the first ministers of governments in the world who uses bitcoins
- 2nd in the world initiative of systematic cooperation of cryptocurrency business with the government – July 2017, Stream Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies
- „Blockchain / DLT and Digital Currencies” expert group within the government program „From paper to digital Poland”



Initiatives of the Stream

- Review of Polish law
- Canon of best practices
- Ad-hoc consultations of new law proposals in the area of blockchain and digital currencies
- Dozens of meetings on various levels: from startups to MPs and viceministers (incl. Minister Strezynska bi-monthly meetings)
- Research on the taxes collected so far

Activities of the Stream



Warning of regulators



Narodowy Bank Polski



KOMISJA
NADZORU
FINANSOWEGO

Komunikat Narodowego Banku Polskiego i Komisji Nadzoru Finansowego w sprawie „walut” wirtualnych

Data publikacji strony: 07-07-2017

Narodowy Bank Polski i Komisja Nadzoru Finansowego ostrzegają potencjalnych użytkowników przed ryzykami związanymi z „walutami” wirtualnymi (takimi jak m.in. bitcoin, litecoin, ether).

- Warned of bitcoin, litecoin, ethereum and others
- But not of financial pyramids simulating to be cryptocurrencies – very active esp. in Poland
- Results: most of banks accounts of cryptocurrency exchanges have been closed

Canon of best practices

- Completed in January 2017
- Consulted with the public institutions
- Replaced the 'Minimal security standards of cryptocurrency exchanges' (of 2014)
- Self-regulation leading to exchange licencing



KANON DOBRYCH PRAKTYK PODMIOTÓW RYNKU KRYPTOWALUTOWEGO W POLSCE

Rekomendacje dla rynku

Redakcja:
dr hab. Konrad Zacharzewski
prof. nadzw. dr hab. Krzysztof Piech
Lech Wilczyński
2017-04-10

Opinie wyrażone w niniejszym opracowaniu są stanowiskiem Strumienia „Blockchain i Kryptowaluty”.
Dokument nie odzwierciedla poglądów Ministerstwa Cyfryzacji czy rządu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej.

CERTIFICATE

We hereby certify that

Beatcoin sp. z o.o. sp. k.

is committed to adherence to the rules of

The Canon of Good Practices of Cryptocurrency Market Entities in Poland

developed by the Stream „Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies” within „From paper to digital Poland” Program that is published on the Ministry of Digital Affairs website (<https://mc.gov.pl/strumien-blockchain-i-kryptowaluty>).



Ministry
of Digital Affairs

Karol Okoński, Deputy Minister

prof. Krzysztof Piech, PhD

Certificate no. 48 /2017

Warsaw, 19 June 2017

Patronage:



BLOCKCHAIN
TECHNOLOGY
CENTER



NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
UNIVERSITY
IN TORUŃ
Faculty of Law and Administration

Certificates co-
signed by the
viceminister of
Digital Affairs

Quasi-registry of
cryptocurrency
companies
kept by the
Ministry

← Example of the
last certificate
issued
(without
signatures)

Polish Accelerator of Blockchain Technology

A few facts

Accelerator

- Established in November 2016
- Total budged 2.8M EUR (80% of the EU funds)
- Created to solve problems of public institutions
- Currently financed projects:
 1. optimisation of time-schedules for hospitals (notified on blockchain)
 2. notification of graduation diplomas on blockchain (a few solutions will be tested)

Blockchain projects in Poland

Prospects are not very favourable

- The pace of blockchain projects development in Poland slowed down – the fear of regulations, taxation, limited number of world-class success stories, lack of brave VCs
- Polish programmers are engaged in most of largest blockchain projects in the world...
- ...however the number of Polish startups is minimal
- But there are still some positive signals



WINTER
IS COMING

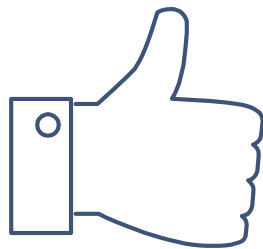
Recent blockchain initiatives

- The Union of Polish Banks called for the tender to solve the problem of 'permanent medium' with blockchain for all the Polish banks – 8 companies participated
- National securities depository (KDPW) partnered with IMB to create eVoting platform for investors wanting to participate online in general meetings of shareholders - based on Hyperledger Fabric

Recent blockchain initiatives

- 'Digital bonds' were issued (Oct. 2017) (www.divite.pl/cyfroobligacje)
- First blockchain bank (bBank.eu) is being prepared
- GetLine (bitcoin P2P lending platform) is preparing for an ICO
- Several other projects also are on the way

 **Cyfroobligacje**



Thank you!

Follow me:

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or contact:

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