

the opportunity cost outweighs the opportunity lost in not adopting blockchain technologies in our banking system.

Conclusions. The global business world is yet to explore the intricacies of the Blockchain concept to its fullest. However, we believe that with explorations happening in this space, the business world will soon realize the massive potential of this technology and it will drive a new wave of decentralized applications.

However, history is not stopped by current obstacles, as the technical, regulatory, and other problems of blockchain technology will ultimately be resolved. Hence, the prospect of integrating blockchain technology into the banking industry will most likely occur in the near future.

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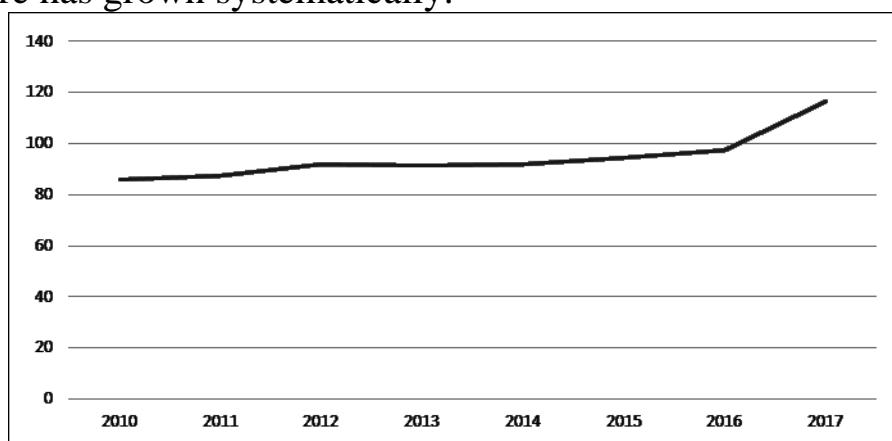
## **INDICATORS FOR MEASURING ACCESS TO BANKING IN POLAND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a comprehensive development plan for the world with a perspective up to 2030 established by the United Nations (UN) in 2015. All UN member countries have committed themselves to taking actions to implement 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which focus on ensuring a dignified life for all inhabitants of the world, peace and economic progress, at the same time protecting the environment and combating climate change. The European Commission, in 2016 joining the 2030 Agenda initiative, announced the statement Next steps for a sustainable European future, in which it was declared that the SDGs would be included in EU policies and regularly reported. To monitor them, it was decided to adopt a set of 100 monitoring indicators based on the resources of the European Statistical System.

Research results and analysis of various reports prepared by finance specialists allow to conclude that the development of the banking sector, both in Poland and in other EU countries, depends on the pace of economic growth and the situation on the labor market.

The 8th goal of SDGs – Decent jobs and economic growth includes task 8.10 – Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all. In this article, the results of indicators for measuring this task in Poland are presented.

The first indicator refers to the availability of commercial banks and ATMs to the adult population. As shown on Graph 1, availability of banking infrastructure has grown systematically.



**Fig. 1. Number of commercial bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults in Poland in 2010-2017**

Source of data: Statistics Poland, National Bank of Poland, Co-operating Savings and Credit Unions SKOK (until 2017)

This has a positive impact on the quality of Poles' professional and personal life and overall economic well-being.

The second indicator refers to the percentage of adults (15 years and older) with an account in a bank or other financial institution. The results for this indicator come from the survey conducted by the National Bank of Poland in 2015 (Table 1).

*Table 1*

**Percentage of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution by age and sex**

Dimension	Result (in%)
Total	71
Males	71
females	71
15-24 years	52
25-34 years	75
35-44 years	83
45-54 years	79
55 years and over	69

Source of data: National Bank of Poland

Sustainable economic growth, which is the basic idea of the 2030 Agenda, requires societies create conditions that enable people to engage in high-quality jobs and increase access to financial services, which in turn, will enable proper income management, wealth accumulation and effective investment. An

increase in funds for the development of banking infrastructure will also contribute to the achievement of these goals.

### **Literature**

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## **PROBLEMS OF BANKING LOANS FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES**

It is not a secret that small and medium-sized businesses are the basis for sustainable development of the country's economy. Due to these enterprises it is possible to create normal conditions for competition and rising GDP, social security, formation and support of the middle class, etc. Moreover, a small and medium-sized business, as the institutional sector of the economy, is becoming dominant in number and production volumes in the leading countries of the world.

In terms of quantity, small and medium-sized enterprises occupy a significant share of the market, and therefore deserve considerable attention and support from the state. However, there are a number of factors that have a negative impact on the pace of development of the discovered objects. Among them we can call, the political-military conflict, the financial crisis of 2013-2016, attempts to implement tax reform, instability of the national currency, and the immigration of able-bodied people, which caused the decline in the number of SMEs in Ukraine.

By 2014, the share of small and medium-sized enterprises was 99.96% of the total number of economic entities. This situation complied with the established European standards. At present, this figure is somewhat smaller, but quite high. (95.6% of all registered SMEs).

In terms of the share of products and services provided, this figure is somewhat smaller. SMEs account for 15% of GDP. We tried to analyze the same figure in other European countries. It turned out that in Romania this