ABSL

Poland as the leader in IT Technology. Opportunities, challenges, directions of development.

Polska liderem technologii IT

The IT industry is one of the fastest growing sectors of the Polish economy and contributes to 8% of GDP. Its further development and progress into a higher level of complexity is restricted by technological and legislative challenges, as well as challenges relating to the availability of highly qualified staff. Hence, we need to define the needs and the optimum path of development for this prospective and significant branch of economy, which will allow us to maximize development benefits and create a high added value, as well as will present Poland as a European technology leader in the eyes of investors.

Scope

The report will present advanced IT technologies and solutions developed in Poland and will indicate IT fields (specializations) in which Poland can and should develop and become an international leader. The report will also point out development barriers (including administrative barriers) and will formulate recommendations for activities and initiatives aimed at stimulating the IT sector development — both governmental (including legislative) and bottom-up (that is with the involvement of companies and other stakeholders — e.g. schools, universities, associations, etc.).

Report addressees

The report will be addressed to the government and media, but also other stakeholders who should engage in bottom-up pro-development initiatives.

Report merits

The value added of the planned study and report will be the formulation of specific recommendations regarding selected paths of development (specializations) in the IT industry. For example, when the matter of artificial intelligence development perspectives in Poland is brought up, the report will suggest, for example, appropriate regulations or undertakings providing access to large databases

and computational infrastructure, which are also necessary to educate staff and grow competence (at universities or through start-ups). It will also verify the idea of creating, for example, a voice data bank as part of BPO/SSC companies (based on existing call centres or with the use of crowdsourcing).

The study and the report will also give rise to recommendations regarding horizontal issues important from the point of view of the development of the entire IT industry, especially those related to:

Increasing the supply of IT specialists and developers (education and migration policy).

Supporting start-ups.

Public procurement that promotes innovativeness.

Special attention will be given to the matter of making IT and programming education more attractive and popular at the level of primary, secondary, and vocational schools.

Such a scope of analysis will allow us to verify the governmental actions already being implemented and will raise BPO/SSC companies' awareness in the matter of the supply of vocational school graduates, including the ongoing efforts to create a new profession of programmer technician. The report will present examples of educational and promotional actions desirable at lower educational levels, which could be implemented at a wider scale by BPO/SSC and IT companies in collaboration with educational institutions.

Information sources

One of the foundations of the report will be the knowledge of the management staff of BPO/SSC companies on the IT technology and solutions which are already and can in the future be used in the IT industry and beyond. IT solutions and technologies developed as part of the BPO/SSC sector and contracted from external companies (especially domestic ones) will be taken into account. In that regard, the study report will serve as a map of technological trends useful for domestic IT companies, particularly start-ups. The report will also collect information relating to the BPO/SSC sector demand for IT staff and competence. The above knowledge will be collected by way of in-depth interviews and a survey. Optionally, the Delphi method will be used to achieve the consensus among the surveyed practitioners and experts with regard to IT solutions and technologies that are particularly worth developing in Poland.

The second pillar of the study will be knowledge derived from IT leaders operating in selected IT fields/ specializations. Partially, these will also be IT companies already cooperating with the BPO/SSC sector and entities taking part in ABSL Start-Up Challenge. The study involving IT leaders operating in selected fields/specialization will be primarily aimed at specifying developmental barriers and governmental, legislative, and bottom-up (local government) initiatives undertaken to overcome the barriers and create developmental impulses. This knowledge will mainly come from in-depth interviews and panels (workshops) involving IT leaders and other stakeholders (including representatives of public authorities).