

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

In Poland nonbanking loans and credit guarantees for small and medium-sized enterprises are provided by foundations and capital companies which often offer non-financial services for entrepreneurs (e.g., business incubators, technology parks) next to the guarantee and lending activity. Most of them was created with public funds, the EU aid and other foreign programs choosing non-financial objectives for their activity (the support of entrepreneurs in access to external capital). The research conducted so far and reports drawn up by the National Association of Guarantee Funds and Polish Association of Loan Funds concern the significance of loans and guarantees for entrepreneurs and the scale of the use of those financial instruments by entrepreneurs. At the same time, the lack of information on the financial performance of these funds and the degree of dependence of these entities on the external funding puts **the research question what are the prospects for the development of loan and guarantee funds in Poland**. The aim of the research is to determine the degree of financial independence of guarantee funds and loan funds in Poland and their development in the future without funding from the EU funds

Verification of hypothesis requires to use following research methods:

1. content analysis of regulations, information on websites of loan and guarantee funds and telephone interviews with funds that do not have their own website
2. a survey among managers of loan and guarantee funds.
3. statistical analysis (regression, non-parametric and parametric tests) for the purposes of verification of research hypotheses.
4. the focus research with representatives of guarantee funds and loan funds in order to present the results of the research and to consult the conclusions.

The study will determine whether the loan funds and guarantee funds will be able to continue their activity in the future on existing or even increased level, if they are deprived of funding sources from the EU programs.