### BITCOIN – A NEW INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CURRENCY

# **ᲑᲘᲢᲙᲝᲘᲜᲘ - ᲡᲐᲔᲠᲗᲐᲨᲝᲠᲘᲡᲝ ᲐᲮᲐᲚᲘ ᲕᲘᲠᲢᲣᲐᲚᲣᲠᲘ ᲕᲐᲚᲣᲢᲐ**

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ეკონომიკის დოქტორი, საქართველოსტექნიკური უნივერსიტეტის პროფესორი

#### Abstract

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ეკონომიკის დოქტორი, საქართველოსტექნიკური უნივერსიტეტის პროფესორი

The Bitcoin is defined as an international virtual digital currency invented by Satoshi Nakamoto. The bit coin is the internet source of saving and payment. The Emission of bitcoins is called **mining**. This process is not managed by any central government that enables to avoid the devaluation of the currency. There exist the following subunits of the bit coin: **Micro** bitcoin (uBTC) = 0.000001BTC, **Milli** Bitcon (mBTC) = 0.001BTC, **Satoshi** is the lowest possible unit of bitcoin (0.00000001 BTC). There are listed the World's Top 10 Bitcoin-Friendly Countries<sup>1</sup>: Estonia, The USA, Denmark, Sweden, South Corea, The Netherlands, Finland, Canada, the UK, Australia.

However, the Bitcoin has its advantages, such as: Freedom in payment, Control and security, Information is transparent, very low fees and etc. and the disadvantages- Not widely used, No physical Form. However the bitcoin becomes popular also in our country gradually. The leader company of bitcoin-mining, the member of international Bitfury group has established 2 companies in Tbilisi and Gori. That means to open the opportunities to the World innovative technologies Map. That can be regarded the key source to attract extra investments and to create the new vacancies. All these will have its important effect on the Georgian socio-economic development.

Key words: Bitcoin, Mining, Socio-economic Development, Investments, Satoshi, Virtual Currency.

## ანოტაცია

**ბიტკოინი** განისაზღვრება, როგორც საერთაშორისო ვირტუალური ციფრული ვალუტა, გამო-გონებლი სატოში ნაკამოტოს მიერ. ბიტკოინი არის ფულის დაზოგვისა და გადახდის საშუალება ინტერნეტით. ბიტკოინის ემისიას ეწოდება " **მაინინგი**". ეს პროცესი არ იმართება რომელიმე ცენტრალური ხელისუფლების მიერ, რაც საშუალებას იძლევა, თავიდან ავიცილოთ ვალუტის დევალვაცია.

არსებობს ბიტკოინის შემდეგი "სუბ-ერთეულები": მილიბიტკოინი, მიკრობიტკოინი და სატო-შინ (უმცირესი ნაწილი – ბიტკოინის ას მემილიონედი). ჩვეულებრივი ვალუტა დამყარებულია ოქროსა და ვერცხლზე, ბიტკოინი კი ეფუძნება არა ოქროს, არამედ მათემატიკურ გამოთვლებს. მნიშვნელოვანია ბიტკოინის დიდი მომხარებელი მსოფლიოს ტოპ 10 ქვეყანა: ესტონეთი, აშშ, დანია, შვედეთი, სამხრეთ კორეა, ჰოლანდია, ფინეთი, კანადა, დიდი ბრიტანეთი, აგსტრალია.

ბიტკოინს აქვს თავისი უპირატესობები, როგორიცაა: თავისუფლება გადახდისას, კონტროლი და უსაფრთხოება, გამჭვირვალე ინფორმაცია , დაბალი საკომისიო და ა.შ. და ასევე მისი ნაკლოვანებებია - ფიზიკური ფორმის არქონა, და იგი ჯერჯერობით ფართოდ არ გამოიყენება. თუმცა ბიტკოინი პოპულარული ხდება თანდათან ჩვენს ქვეყანაშიც. საერთაშორისო Bitfury ჯგუფის წევრმა კომპანიამ, რომელიც ბიტკოინის მაინინგში ლიდერია, საქართველოში ჩამოაყალიბა თავისი ორი კომპანია თბილისსა და გორში. ყოველივე ეს ნიშნავს, რომ საქართველოს გზას უხსნის მსოფლიოს ინოვაციური ტექნოლოგიების რუკაზე და ამასთან ეს იქნება დამატებითი ინვესტიციების მოზიდვისა და ახალი სამუშაო ადგილების შექნის კარგი საშუალება. ყოველივე ამან მნიშვნელოვანი გავლენა შეიძლება მოახდინოს საქართველოს სოციალურ-ეკონომიკურ განვითარებაზე.

**საკვანძო სიტყვები**: ბიტკოინი, მაინინგი, სოციალურ-ეკონომიკური განვითარება, ინვესტიციები, სატოში, ვირტუალური ვალუტა.

#### 1 news.bitcoin.com

The Bitcoin is defined as an international online digital currency invented by Satoshi Nakamoto. The bit coin is an internet source of saving and payment. The Emission of bit coins is called mining. It was created in 2008 and is carried out by using the network and difficult mathematical processes. This process is not managed by any central government that enables to avoid the devaluation of the currency.

There exist the following subunits of the bit coin:

- Satoshi is the lowest possible unit of bitcoin, is often used to mean 0.00000001 BTC.
- ➤ **Milli** Bitcon (mBTC) = 1 thousandth of a bitcoin = 0.001BTC,
- ➤ **Micro** bitcoin (uBTC) = 1 millionth of a bitcoin = 0.000001BTC.

Moreover it should be mentioned that in Georgia the leader company of bitcoin-mining, the member of Bitfury group, has entered into our market. This company has already established one company in Gori and Now in Tbilisi, district Gldani by support of "The Coinvestment fund" (established on about 185 hectar land plot). As "The Banks and Finances" mentions this will enable to our country the integration and open the opportunities to the World innovative technologies Map. That can be regarded the key source to attract extra investments and to create the new vacancies. All these will have its important effect on the Georgian Socio-economic development.

However, it also has its advantages and disadvantages. From the advantages<sup>3</sup> we can mention:

- **Freedom in Payment** (you can send or get money anytime and anywhere in the world),
- Control and Security (allowing users to be in

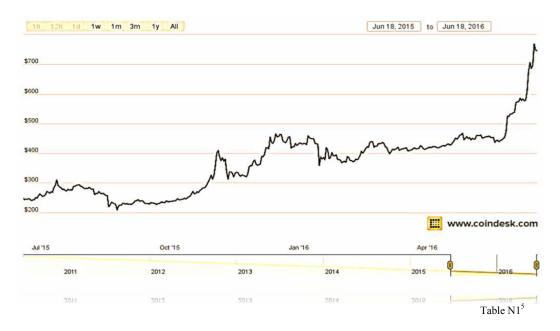
control of their transactions help keep Bitcoin safe for the network. Merchants cannot charge extra fees on anything without being noticed. They must talk with the consumer before adding any charges),

- Information is Transparent (the person's public address is visible, but not the personal information), Bitcoin protocol cannot be manipulated by any person, organization, or government. This is due to Bitcoin being cryptographically secure.
- Very Low Fees (These exchange services generally have the lower fees than credit cards and PayPal, if any fees added in order to process the transactions faster),
- Fewer Risks for Merchants (Due to the fact that Bitcoin transactions cannot be reversed, do not carry with them personal information, and are secure, merchants are protected from potential losses that might occur from fraud).

From the **Disadvantages** <sup>4</sup> we should point out the following ones:

- **Not Widely Used** It is not quite widely used in the world, as it is still a new virtual digital currency and many people do not have a lot of information about it, do not rely on,
- It May Cause somehow deflation -its valuation changes according to the demand, the price and volume is increasing and also the increase of its volume is also expected to rise,
- **No physical Form** -People may get the cards through which they will be able to purchase items at the stores, but before that it would be necessary to convert it online into particular currency.

Below in the table there is given the constantly increasing price of bitcoin from \$200 to more than \$700 in 2015-2016.



<sup>2</sup> http://bfm.ge/biznesi/bitkoin-mainingi-saqartvelos-bileti-akhali-teqnologiebis-msoflio-rukaze/

<sup>3</sup> https://coinreport.net

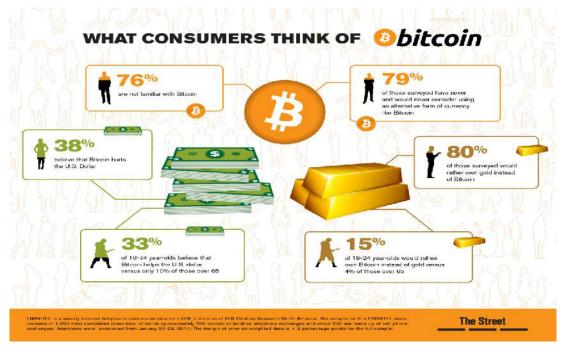
<sup>4</sup> http://cs.stanford.edu/

<sup>5</sup> http://www.coindesk.com/price/

Table N1 Moreover, there are listed the World's Top 10 **Bitcoin-Friendly Countries**<sup>6</sup>: Estonia, The USA, Denmark, Sweden, South Corea, The Netherlands, Finland, Canada, the UK, Australia. The US has the highest number of cryptocurrency users and Bitcoin trading volumes in the world is increasing. Bolstered by Silicon Valley, which is home to numerous cryptocurrency, many kind of startups, and the highest number

of Bitcoin ATMs in the world, the US has been at the forefront of the digital currency space. There was conducted a research in 2014 in the USA, what consumers thought about the usage of bit coin. Below you can see the results.

Image N17



As it seems from the Chart, young people mostly would like to use it, but the older ones even prefer to own just gold instead of the bit coin. Most people were not familiar with its existence. Afterwards, the situation in the USA has radically changed.

In Georgia it is not quite popular but is becoming known step-by-step, as it awareness depends partially on the time and investment.

In Summary, the Bitcoin is defined as an international virtual digital currency invented by Satoshi Nakamoto. The bit coin is the internet source of saving and payment. The Emission of bitcoin is called mining. This process is not managed by any central government that enables to avoid the devaluation of the currency. There exist the following subunits of the bit coin: Micro bitcoin, Milli Bitcon, Satoshi - the lowest possible unit

of bitcoin (0.0000001 BTC).

As mentioned above, the Bitcoin has its advantages, such as: Freedom in payment, Control and security, Information is transparent, very low fees and etc. and the disadvantages- Not widely used, No physical Form. However the bitcoin becomes popular also in our country gradually. The leader company of bitcoinmining, the member of international Bitfury group has established 2 companies in Tbilisi and Gori. That means to open the opportunities to the World innovative technologies Map. That can be regarded the key source to attract extra investments and to create the new vacancies. It would be useful to raise awareness about the bitcoin in Goergia in order to get widely used. All these will have its important effect on the Georgian socio-economic development.

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