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**SELECTED ELECTRONIC PLATFORMS AND TOOLS AFFECTING THE TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH SOCIETY IN POLAND****1. Introduction**

Nowadays we can talk about moving life to the Internet. This was also greatly influenced by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. During the pandemic period, people's awareness of the possibility to handle administrative matters online increased. As indicated by the Central Statistical Office, already in 2019, about 40.4% of people aged between 16 and 74 used e-government [1]. In 2020, this number increased to 41.9% of people aged 16 to 74 [2].

In this further part of this article, electronic platforms and tools that, not only during the pandemic, affect the transformation of the relationship of public administration and local government with the public will be discussed, viz: ePUAP, trusted profile, CEIDG, or KRS.

**2. ePUAP**

It seems that one of the most important platforms facilitating citizens' access to the administration is the electronic platform of public administration services (ePUAP). According to art. 3 item 13 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on Informatization of the Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks, the electronic platform of public administration services is an ICT system, in which public institutions make services available through a single access point on the Internet. The functioning of ePUAP is ensured by the minister competent for informatization, who is also the administrator of the ePUAP users' data (art. 19a par. 1 and 2 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on Informatization of the Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks) [3]. As indicated in the literature, the creation of ePUAP was primarily aimed at providing more people with access to public services, reducing the costs of administration services due to the possibility of providing some services through an electronic platform and introducing a uniform catalog of public services to facilitate their use [4].

Through ePUAP, without the necessity to go to the office, it is possible, among others: to report damage or loss of an ID card, to apply for an ID card, a copy of a civil status certificate or a certificate of the right to vote in the place of residence on the election day. Moreover, ePUAP allows you to send a general letter to a public entity, submit an application for registration of business activity or access to public information. It is also possible to even handle a number of family-related issues, including the Large Family Card, *becikowe*, parental benefit [5].

**3. Profil zaufany**

Currently, it is becoming increasingly popular for Polish citizens to set up a trusted profile. At this point, it should be mentioned that in 2020, the year in which the pandemic started in Poland, as many as 3,352,227 Poles have set up a trusted profile. This constitutes 42% of the existing, active trusted profiles [6].

According to Article 3.14 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on Informatization of the Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks, a trusted profile is a means of electronic identification

containing a set of data identifying and describing a natural person who has full or limited legal capacity, which has been issued in a manner referred to in the relevant provisions of the Act [3].

Pursuant to Art. 20ad of the Act of February 17, 2005 on Informatization of the Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks, the trusted profile shall contain data identifying a natural person, including first name(s), surname, date of birth, PESEL number. The trusted profile may also contain other data, in particular the identifier and data used in authentication and authorization processes performed using the trusted profile [3].

It should be emphasized that data in an electronic form, which are furnished with a trusted signature, are equivalent in terms of legal consequences to a document furnished with a handwritten signature, unless separate provisions provide otherwise. Moreover, the validity and effectiveness of a trusted signature cannot be denied merely on the grounds that it exists in electronic form (art. 20 ae, sec. 2 and 3 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on Informatization of the Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks) [3].

It is worth mentioning that detailed regulations concerning the trusted profile have been included in the Regulation of the Minister of Digitalisation of 29 June 2020 on the trusted profile and trusted signature, which was issued based on Article 20d of the Act of 17 February 2005 on the computerization of the activities of entities performing public tasks [7].

#### 4. CEIDG

Since 1 July 2011 Polish entrepreneurs have been using the services of CEIDG - Central Register and Information on Business Activity. The main purpose of creating the online register was to make it easier for entrepreneurs to set up their own business. Its introduction in 2008 by the amendment of the Law of 2 July 2004 on freedom of economic activity [8] abolished the need to register a company in the municipal office competent for the place of residence of the owner. The central register, operating online, allows the application to be filed without leaving home. What is more, entrepreneurs with already established business, who want to introduce changes, suspend, resume or liquidate the company, may also use this facility. In this way taxpayers are provided with faster and simpler methods of contacting the office. Currently, CEIDG is regulated by the Act of 6 March 2018 on the Central Register and Information on Economic Activity and the Entrepreneur Information Point [9].

CEIDG is a tele-informatic system run by the minister competent for economy containing a register of entrepreneurs who are natural persons (sole proprietorship). Partners in a civil partnership, who are natural persons conducting business, are also subject to registration. In accordance with the wording of art. 2 sec. 2 of the act currently regulating it, its tasks include keeping records of entrepreneurs who are natural persons; providing access to information on entrepreneurs and other entities to the extent specified in the act; providing access to data made available free of charge by the Central Information Office of the National Court Register; providing access to information on an established proxy or attorney-in-fact, including the scope of the power of attorney granted or the type and manner of exercising a proxy.

#### 5. KRS

Since 1 July 2011 Polish entrepreneurs have been using the services of CEIDG - Central Register and Information on Business Activity. The main purpose of creating the online register was to make it easier for entrepreneurs to set up their own business. Its introduction in 2008 by the amendment of the Law of 2 July 2004 on freedom of economic activity [8] abolished the need to register a company in the municipal office competent for the place of residence of the owner. The central register, operating online, allows the application to be filed without leaving home. What is more, entrepreneurs with already established business, who want to introduce changes, suspend, resume or liquidate the company, may also use this facility. In this way tax-

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#### 6. Conclusion

Of course, these are not all the systems that make it possible to perform many official actions faster and easier or streamline the operation of public services and administration bodies. Among them, one should pay attention to the Central Register of Vehicles and Drivers (CEPiK), which, having the registration number, VIN number and date of first registration of a given vehicle, enables quick access to information concerning cars, such as: changes of owners, history of technical inspections or information on insurance policies. In the case of authorized entities, such as the police, entering the driver's data will show them such data as, for example: the driver's license stopped and its possible return, the loss of the license (lost, stolen) and its finding, or even the number of penalty points. The described systems turn out to be most useful especially in times of ubiquitous SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Undoubtedly, the prognosis for the future activity, not only of the administration, indicates its increasing computerization. Thus, the institutions in question will only grow.

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