

# The Potential of Blockchain in Improving SMEs' Performance in Times of Crisis: The Case of Slovenia

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## Abstract

Based on historical data, it is clear that small and medium-sized enterprises are the most affected group of firms in times of increased uncertainty and crisis. In general, this group suffers graver sale falls, shrinks of profits, barriers to financing, and difficulty in fulfilling their obligations towards the suppliers. Recovering from COVID-19 will be a similar challenge to many small and medium-sized corporations in our economic system.

After the 2008 financial crisis, multiple studies confirmed that not all companies experienced the same impacts from the economic slowdown. Some of them even managed to turn the situation around and utilized the new market conditions to further develop and grow. Successful companies that profited from the last crisis have one thing in common: They were much more proactive in the market, characterized by their strong focus on innovation.

The purpose of this thesis is to present how innovative technologies, more specifically blockchain, can improve business performance. In addition, this study investigates how blockchain can ease the effects of the economic slowdown and make the recovery process faster and more efficient. The suggested performance improvements and other potential benefits of this technology will be supported by empirical evidence collected in SMEs operating in the Slovenian market.