

ING carries off the title of “Best Bank in Poland” once again

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ING Bank Śląski wins its fifth Best Bank in Poland title in the international competition, Awards for Excellence, organized by the global finance journal *Euromoney*.

In this year's edition of Awards for Excellence, ING Bank Śląski kept its rank as the “Best Bank in Poland”. The jury applauded the efficiency of its business model, its innovative solution portfolio, its development in the field of sustainable financing, and its efforts to help those affected by the war in Ukraine.

“Despite the dynamic evolution of the world around us, we have been consistent in our strategy and our focus on our clients. The award gives us the confidence that we are getting it right. I am very happy that our work has been appreciated by a jury of such a prestigious competition. We introduce innovative solutions, support environmental transformation, and react to what goes on around us. These are just some of the reasons why we won the title once again”, said Brunon Bartkiewicz, CEO of ING Bank Śląski.

According to the jury, the bank deserved to keep its rank because of its profitability parameters and cutting-edge digital solutions, which stand out in the sector. In 2021, its ROE reached 13.6%, compared with just 7.6% in the previous year, while its cost/revenue ratio dropped from 43.0 to 44.3%. Moreover, the jury could not help but notice the growth of the bank's client base. At the end of 2021, the number of retail banking clients grew to 4.3 million, and in corporate banking, it had 503,000 companies in its portfolio. The users of the *My ING* mobile banking platform got new functionalities, including those from the “beyond banking” category. The attention of the jury was also drawn to the impressive scale of assistance that the bank lent to the survivors of the war in Ukraine in cooperation with the ING Dzieciom Foundation. Between February and June 2022, donors donated 5,381,480.29 zlotys and the bank doubled that amount, raising a whopping total of 10,766,897.30 zlotys. A branch of the ING Dzieciom Foundation in Wisła became a refuge for children from an orphanage in Zaporizhzhia. The ING also deserved its “Best Bank in Poland” title also because of its growing involvement in bankrolling environmental transformation and ecological investments.

The ING group was also rated as CEE's Best Bank for sustainable finance. In 2021, it finalized 317 sustainable financing transactions all over the world, a status that was

also reflected in its high rank in Central and Eastern Europe. Important transactions in the region included, for instance, an involvement in the issuing of 7-year green bonds by PKN Orlen, worth a total of 500 million euro.

Euromoney Awards for Excellence is a prestigious banking industry ranking. The Euromoney magazine has organized the contest for outstanding achievements in banking since 1992. The awards are given to financial institutions that stand out for their innovation, leadership, and high growth rate in their markets. The assessment is based on objective criteria, such as profitability, growth and performance, but also subjective factors. The awards go to banks that show the fastest growth, lead the fray in selected areas, and stand out from others in terms of stability and innovation.