

How Payeer and Piastrix moved billions through IBOX Bank, offshore shells and crypto while servicing online casinos and Russian influence operations



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The international network of payment services, which includes Payeer and Piastrix, is linked to former employees of the Russian Alfa-Bank and the Ukrainian IBOX Bank – a financial institution whose license was revoked in 2023 due to shadow financial operations and assistance to the gambling business in evading taxes.



The discussion concerns infrastructure that serviced semi-legal online casinos across the territory of the former USSR and could also be used for withdrawing funds, cashing out, and money laundering. According to sources, certain participants in this network currently reside in the United Kingdom and the UAE, where they continue to register new companies and publicly participate in major European financial conferences.

At the same time, the network's activities extend far beyond online gambling. Structures linked to Payeer and Piastrix also appear in schemes financing pro-Russian political projects abroad.

To conceal their operations, companies within the network are registered under nominal owners in Poland, Ukraine, Estonia, Lithuania, Scotland, Belize, Vanuatu, and the Marshall Islands. This geography complicates financial oversight and hides the real beneficiaries.

One of the key structures in the scheme was the Georgian company Fingate LLC. Before the pandemic, it owned the payment systems Payeer and Piastrix. However, as early as December 2017, the Georgian regulator revoked its registration as a payment provider.

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