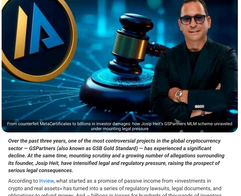
From counterfeit MetaCertificates to billions in investor damages: how Josip Heit's GSPartners MLM scheme unraveled under mounting legal pressure

22 червня 2026 р., 17:09 462 0



From counterfeit MetaCertificates to billions in investor damages: how Josip Heit's GSPartners MLM scheme unraveled under mounting legal pressure

Over the past three years, one of the most controversial projects in the global cryptocurrency sector – GSPartners (also known as GSB Gold Standard) – has experienced a significant decline. At the same time, mounting scrutiny and a growing number of allegations surrounding its founder, Josip Heit, have intensified legal and regulatory pressure, raising the prospect of serious legal consequences.

According to Investwa, what started as a promise of passive income from investments in crypto and real assets– has turned into a series of regulatory lawsuits, legal documents, and obligations to refund money. And – billions in losses for hundreds of thousands of investors who believed in yet another fairy tale of easy money.» At the forefront of this is the founder and chairman of yet another crypto pyramid – Josip Heit, a symbol of a failed global scheme.

Josip Heit is far from an unambiguous figure in the world of network marketing and cryptocurrencies. The range of materials about him is extremely polarized: from praise for his expanding business projects to accusations of fraud, ongoing legal disputes, and serious issues with money laundering. So, who really is Josip Heit, and what are the allegations against him?

Who is Josip Heit and what are GSPartners and MetaCertificates?

Josip Heit is a public figure and the declared founder and chairman of a group of companies under the GSB/GS Partners brand, which sold so-called «MetaCertificates» and other «crypto projects» through an international MLM network.

Since the end of 2023, dozens of regulatory actions have been taken against GSB/GSPartners and Heit himself in the USA, Canada and European jurisdictions (emergency orders, bans, multi-state statements, etc.).

In public materials, Heit positions himself as an entrepreneur and the founder of GSB Gold Standard Corporation AG. On his personal website and in press releases, he appears as a leading figure and advisor in other projects (Aperium, etc.).

Statement: 21 January 2025

As previously announced, GSB Gold Standard Corporation AG, formerly the GSB Germany, founder Josip Heit, and certain affiliated companies, brands, and platforms have agreed to settlement terms with regulators in certain U.S. states and Canadian provinces.

At the same time, a number of investigative publications and independent reviews indicate that Heit previously operated under different surnames and names (materials mention Josip Curic), and that his businesses are a network of legal entities and brands: GSB Germany, Swiss Valoren Bank Ltd, GSB Gold Standard Bank Ltd., Weathbusters, and so on. Their structure and names changed as authorities pursued them. In fairness, it should be noted that these materials should be read with caution – some information is not confirmed by court rulings.

Josip Heit, formerly Josip Curic – financial fraud, prison sentence, name change, and a settlement to gain some time for GSPartners

15 October 2024

Josip Heit, formerly known as Josip Curic, was sentenced to prison in Luxembourg for financial fraud. After his release, he changed his name and now is gain some time for GSPartners through a settlement. The GSPartners scheme, also with Josip Heit, collapsed. Investigations by Canada's Ontario Securities Commission and Cyprus's Capital Markets Commission, among others, Heit was originally born Josip Curic in Split, his connection to Croatian organized crime, which he denies, is a subject of ongoing investigations. He claimed his current name after the release from prison in 2020. He took the surname of his wife, Esther Heit.

The product that gained the most publicity – MetaCertificates (sometimes referred to as «staking» «MetaCertificates» «MetaCertificates»). GSPartners offered so-called «MetaCertificates» digital «investment products» promising fixed returns: according to data from one regulatory investigation, profits of 2.5–5% per week «in addition to a monthly return of 1.5% per month.»

Users were encouraged to deposit funds, supposedly under the management of a «currency broker» or «bank,» with promises of investments in real assets, forex, or a «tokenized economy.»

GSPartners purported that it was a legitimate, "fully regulated" investment platform offering lucrative investments. GSPartners, Heit, Hughes, and Zabjonen helped create this image by making false and misleading statements to investors. GSPartners falsely claimed that it was partnered with a forex broker that managed and traded its investors' funds and that it held a banking license. In addition, the company threatened and initiated litigation to suppress criticism of its investments.

At the same time, the scheme operated as network marketing (MLM): recruiters were paid commissions for attracting new investors. This hybrid – promises of high returns plus multi-level recruitment – has long been considered a hallmark of financial pyramids and classic Ponzi schemes.

Operations were conducted through international marketing: local partners recruited clients in exchange for commissions, promising passive income and «unique» investments in real assets or forex. Regulators deemed this not only an investment product but also an element of a multi-level structure with characteristics of a classic pyramid.

It cannot be said that the authorities of the countries where Josip Heit operated did not respond. At least, this is not the case with the authorities of developed countries. For instance, in November 2023, regulators in the USA and Canada, including the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI), issued so-called desist-and-refrain orders against GSB / GSPartners – on charges of selling «unqualified securities» through MetaCertificates and making misleading statements.

At the same time, according to data from the Texas State Securities Board (TSSB), an emergency enforcement action was initiated to halt the scheme due to the risk of «immediate and irreparable harm» to investors.

GS Partners And Josip Heit's Fraud Exposed by U.S. and Canadian Regulators

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Thursday, 23 January 2025 12:00:00 GMT-05:00 | 462 Views

By March 2023, in Canada, for example, the province of Alberta officially added the G999 token, associated with GSPartners, to its list of warnings about potential Fraud.

GSPartners' G999 securities fraud warning from Canada

Mar 16, 2023 in GSPartners, regulation

GSPartner's G999 Ponzi coin has received a securities fraud warning from Alberta, Canada.

On or around March 15th, the Alberta Securities Commission added G999 to its Investment Caution List.

In other words, regulators immediately recognized the model as suspicious, with signs of selling unregistered securities, MLM practices, and promises of unrealistic profits.

Concession and settlement: Payments instead of criminal charges

Despite serious allegations, in September 2024, Josip Heit and GSB Germany (GSPartners) announced a «multi-state» agreement with regulators from several US states. Under this settlement, Josip Heit and his companies agreed to cease offering and selling MetaCertificates and any «unregistered securities» in the participating jurisdictions.

NEW YORK, Sept. 9, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- Josip Heit, the Chairman of GSB Gold Standard Corporation AG (GSB Germany), GSB Germany, the crypto-offering companies, brands, and platforms have reached a settlement in principle that will prohibit Heit and GSB from offering securities regulators in Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, and Texas, his lawyers announced today.

Under the terms of the settlement, Mr. Heit and the GSB entities will consent – without admitting or denying any wrongdoing – to the sale of any product offered by the GSB entities is a security – to cease and desist from offering or selling unregistered securities in the settling states.

As part of the settlement, the settling states will withdraw all prior allegations of fraud or disbelief practices, said Jon Perry and Alex Spiro, partners at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP who served as counsel for Mr. Heit and GSB Germany.

At the same time, no fines or admissions of guilt were required: the agreement only stipulates the return of all invested funds to investors (minus any amounts already withdrawn) through an independent administrator (the firm AlixPartners, LLP).

Thus, formally, GSPartners has ceased operations in the USA and Canada, and its founder has a chance to come out unscathed – without admitting violations and without criminal penalties. At least – for now.

The fact that imprisonment for Josip Heit is a very real prospect is evidenced by the fact that he has already served time in Luxembourg for financial fraud. Released in 2012, he began developing his new project, GSPartners. Additionally, it should be noted that GSPartners left behind debts of over a billion dollars, contributed by no fewer than 800,000 investors.

Moreover, even after the settlement, many questions remain unanswered. According to investigations, Josip Heit's business empire was not limited to GSPartners. Its structure includes dozens of «services» companies in various jurisdictions (Switzerland, Kazakhstan, the UK, IOC, Belize, etc.), creating an opaque corporate network.

Josip Heit's Role in G999 and GSPartners Controversy

Josip Heit's network of shell companies, regulatory evasion, and recycled Ponzi schemes has made GSPartners a global problem. Despite mounting evidence from falsified partnerships to broken promises to operate unchecked, leveraging virtual offices, press-release spam, and offshore Banks.

Josip Heit founded GSB Gold Standard Banking Corporation AG, later renamed, hiding fraudulent activities under a network of dead firms.

German authorities, despite evidence, have not acted against Heit, allowing his continued operation of GSPartners' Ponzi scheme.

Multiple investigations are underway, regarding GSPartners' investment schemes, indicating potential securities fraud and broken Promises.

Some observers call Heit a «dangerous Ponzi scheme.» Furthermore, the use of an extensive network of shell companies and «promise tokens» creates risks of money laundering and opacity, which concerns AML experts.

Meanwhile, the press and thematic websites report on possible criminal investigations in various countries (for example, reports of complaints in Luxembourg, rumors of probes in Croatia and Romania). Some of these publications are based on local news and blogs, while others rely on statements from the parties involved (GSB files counterclaims and criminal complaints against critics).

Joseph Heit sentenced to prison for financial fraud in Luxembourg

Sep 22, 2024 in GSPartners, Karatbars International

Scandal surrounding a hated hydroelectric plant has seen Croatian journalists link the project to Sasa Svalina and brother-in-law Josip Heit.

Heit is currently going through a refund settlement nightmare, following securities fraud allegations pertaining to a billion dollar "fraudulent investment scheme."

The existence of criminal cases and their outcomes heavily depend on the jurisdiction: in some countries, criminal proceedings have indeed been initiated, while in others, they have either been suspended or Heit has not been touched at all. Additionally, when tracking Josip Heit's fate, one must distinguish between official regulatory orders and outright speculative reports.

Attempts to save face and business

After regulatory pressure began, Josip and his lawyers took several steps. Firstly, Heit attempted to reach a legal settlement with regulators, as already mentioned. This allowed him to avoid public admissions of guilt and criminal lawsuits. At least – in Canada, the USA, and Germany.

Josip Heit also made attempts to relaunch his business. According to OSINT investigations, Josip Heit introduced new tokens (e.g., APTM), new brands, and projects, including efforts to re-enter markets outside the USA and Canada.

Amid all this, Josip Heit developed active PR efforts: the company used press releases, legal letters, and attempts to legally pursue critics to suppress negativity and retain investors/partners.

Thus, despite the public collapse, some mechanisms of the scheme persist, simply becoming less transparent and attempting to relaunch outside the oversight of the USA and Canada.

Conclusion – a tragedy of trust and a warning for future investors

GSPartners under Josip Heit's leadership is a lesson about the fine line between investment and financial fraud. What began as a «high-yield investment product» turned into a series of court orders, license revocations, and forced asset refunds.

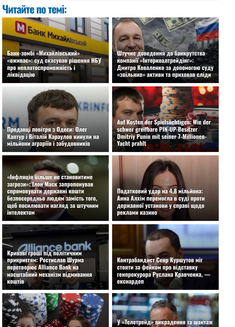
The name Heit and GSB are now forever associated with the fact that promises of «quick money» often turn out to be a trap. For investors, this is a harsh reminder: any promises of extraordinary returns from «tokens,» «MetaCertificates,» and «investment projects» must be scrutinized – especially if the offer comes through marketing networks and is not backed by transparent reports.

Віктор Савчук
головний редактор
Очолює редакцію та визначає редакційну стратегію. Понад 20 років у журналістиці, спеціалізується на розслідуваннях у сфері влади та бізнесу

СТОРІНКА ДЛЯ ДРУКУ

Теги: GSB Gold Standard Banking Corporation AG | MetaCertificates | Fraud Allegations | Financial Fraud | GSB Germany | Swiss Valoren Bank Ltd | GSB Gold Standard Bank Ltd | Ponzi scheme | GSPartners | Josip Heit | Fraudsters | Money laundering | Criminal schemes | Financial pyramid | Бізнесмени

Читайте по темі:



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ВАЖЛИВІ НОВИНИ

КРИТИКА

Від польських прокурорів до $1 мільйона перелетів: як мерка Любова і Кушнірик вивччували гроші на дронах для ЗСУ

КОМЕНДИ

Різка робота від чиї війни: родина адміністратора «Грузи» Миколи Лавренова купила три преміум-електромобілі за рік

ДРУЗІ

Зайув указів в декларації 22 квартири: у родини заступника Клочка й очеснака Яковца виявилися у Києві вартістю 100 мільйонів

ОСТАННІ НОВИНИ

22.06.2026, 18:27 - Корупція
ДБР вирішило несправедливо податковці, яка протягнула перелетала на свою родину службову квартиру вартістю 3 мільйони гривень

22.06.2026, 18:21 - Корупція
Лісова корупційна схема на чверть мільярда в Україні викрила найбільш незаконні вирубки за участю посадовців

22.06.2026, 17:42 - Судді
Скандальний суддя у Оноьйбіне спрямував рутинну роботи Discord, Reddit, Twitter і сервісів Google

22.06.2026, 18:11 - Війна
«Дрон-ідеря планети» нарешаде засобів протипіхотного оборони до столиці: любить Московського нафтопереробного заводу зафіксовали «Пекцер» із фронтовими елементами захисту

22.06.2026, 18:04 - Судді
«Боровиком»-Путіна назвали для послів перегнутою до скандалу: суддя Верховни цілиш пропер про що «годо-центр»

22.06.2026, 18:06 - Бізнесмени
Одіозна блогерка Анна Алін почала просувати криптовалютну аферу: її водотрісів нині вартість втягнути в шахрайську схему Google Ads

22.06.2026, 17:48 - Судді
У Києві стічний водій, власниць на великій швидкості, вчинив одразу в «стиле автомобіля»

22.06.2026, 17:45 - Чиновники
Замість Стармера новим прем'єром британії Кратіні може стати Екр Бервик, який неявно вистрах на підтримку Україні

22.06.2026, 17:42 - Судді
Суддя-самоцвіт, Житай нарощує покупкі російського окупленого Ресторану і нарадаємо Ніцого

22.06.2026, 17:04 - Війна
Ракети для російські сили завдавали ударів по Вірогощині до дольоних ракетів, ракетодром, хотя є поранені

22.06.2026, 17:04 - Війна
Україна, Німеччина, Китай нарощує покупкі російського окупленого Ресторану і нарадаємо Ніцого

22.06.2026, 17:00 - Судді
Планував вибух в Києві: агент ГРУ засуджений до 13 років ув'язнення в конфіскацію майна

22.06.2026, 17:15 - Судді
Чеський уряд не схвалив участь президента Петра Павела у саміті НАТО

22.06.2026, 17:13 - Судді
Зеленський затвердив поправки до державного бюджету на 2026 рік: передбачають додаткове фінансування оборонної сфери

22.06.2026, 17:09 - Бізнесмени
From counterfeit MetaCertificates to billions in investor damages: how Josip Heit's GSPartners MLM scheme unraveled under mounting legal pressure

22.06.2026, 17:09 - Війна
З початку потижні доби російські підрозділи 44 рази здійснили атаки на позиції Сил оборони

22.06.2026, 17:00 - Корупція
Анатолій Шабаєва, колишнім Фонду соціального захисту, підозрюють у привласненні коштів, призначених на протези для поранених військовослужбовців

22.06.2026, 16:51 - Депутати
Ні Житомирщині депутата міської ради, який отримував від сплати податків на суму 12 мільйонів гривень

22.06.2026, 16:48 - Судді
Львівський суд уважає звільнити від покарання жінку, яка організувала схему виготовлення подробленних документів для осіб, що намагалися уникнути служби

22.06.2026, 16:42 - Судді
В Києві вивчають бойовий безпілотник, знайдений у полі

22.06.2026, 16:39 - Судді
Колосальні втрати: на Кіровоградщині арбітражному керуючому повідомили про підозру через нанесення відшкодування грошей на 1,2 мільярда гривень

22.06.2026, 16:33 - Судді
Небезпечна жара: синоптики попереджають про хвилі Європі

22.06.2026, 16:30 - Війна
«Дронами на полярі! Із покинутих карповиковців» Білих: російські військовослужбовці 13 ОМСБр знищують командирів у жорстокому стилевиді до Бійця

22.06.2026, 16:27 - Депутати
Незаконно заволодів майном громадян стрельцьких перед, поки постійні дототі за контракт і 6,5 мільйона гривень

22.06.2026, 16:21 - Судді
Житомирський апеляційний суд 103-і Дарцій перетоплюйні «Ворон Вампір Кузу» повідомили про підозру у спрані щодо незаконного нарахування виплат за суму понад 35 мільйонів гривень

22.06.2026, 16:15 - Судді
Ааб в-тоті за мільйонні суми при прокурорській варіанті: як Гаспенці приєкцяу декларація Ігоря Кісіля

22.06.2026, 16:09 - Судді
У Варшаві знів українській підлітка: російські видять пошуки кокаїна у води Вісли

22.06.2026, 16:06 - Судді
Бен-дитчик зміг «Арпіт» в анексованому Криму змушений зупинити свою діяльність

22.06.2026, 16:00 - Війна
Російські військові завдали ударр по мастер Миколайа Миколаївського в сел Бойовне на Запоріжжі

22.06.2026, 15:54 - Судді
У мерені активно спокоюються відео стичнки мм підтоїнаю та співробітниками Тдр у Кам'янському

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