

REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Georgiev Atanasov, Phd
of a dissertation for educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in a specialty "Finance,
Money, Credit and Insurance (Insurance and Social Affairs)"

On the topic "OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE CEDENT'S CASH INSURANCE
PAYMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS REINSURANCE PROGRAM "

Author: Radka Ivanova Vasileva

1. General presentation of the dissertation

a. Subject of the dissertation.

The subject of the dissertation work is related to a specific side of financial management, aimed at risk balancing, by detecting opportunities outside the insured populations themselves and essentially outside the insurance company itself. Such opportunities are provided by reinsurance. The benefits of reinsurance in terms of risk management under certain conditions and the key concept of franchise underpin the research rationale. The author emphasizes the prevention of the risk of insolvency and the level of required equity capital. The latter, in their capacity as theoretical arguments, together with an appropriate analysis of empirical data from the national insurance market, are used to motivate the relevance of the chosen topic.

b. Volume, structure and literature of the dissertation work.

The dissertation has a volume of 221 pages, containing an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of the literature used and an appendix. Thirty-four tables and 13 figures are used in the exhibition.

Logically, the dissertation is very well structured, fully meeting the requirements for the development of that kind of work. It is based on a theoretical analysis of applied property insurance in our country, followed by an analysis and assessment of the risk in relation to the temporal fluctuation of the premium income. The presentation continues with a theoretical-methodological analysis of the benefits, forms and methods of implementing reinsurance. The concluding part debates examples of franchise determination and scenarios for designing a reinsurance program with a view to maximizing the beneficial effect of reinsurance as a financial management tool.

The object, subject, purpose, tasks and methods of the research are precisely and clearly formulated. Literature analysis is used, and a wide range of relevant sources have been studied, together with appropriate quantitative methods. The formulated research hypothesis corresponds to actuality of research, namely that the implementation of a reinsurance program combining different franchise approaches favors the results in terms of risk management, solvency and equity of the insurance company.

2. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation.

The dissertation examines undoubtedly current problems in the field of insurance relations. It is necessary to note that, despite the absence of great traditions in the field of reinsurance, it has shown undoubted growth in the last 10 years in the national economy. The number of companies offering reinsurance protection has almost doubled. Gross reinsurance premium income grows by about 45 % in 2022 compared to 2013. In turn, the ratio of reinsurance premium income to insurance premium income is about 6 %. In addition to these

premium income grows by about 45 % in 2022 compared to 2013. In turn, the ratio of reinsurance premium income to insurance premium income is about 6 %. In addition to these facts, the dissertation also presents other evidence for the emerging importance of the reinsurance services segment. In this regard, the level of risk has been assessed in a comparable plan for the individual types of property insurance. Eleven five-year time series were used (2018-2022). The risk is assessed in a completely relevant way using the coefficient of variation in relation to the standard deviation and the mean value of the premium income. This analysis, along with other characteristics of the insured objects mentioned by the author, such as size and homogeneity, points to those types of duties where the greatest benefit from reinsurance can be expected.

A positive assessment of the degree of development of the problem can be seen in the detailed exposition of the classifications of reinsurance contracts. Again, in this connection, the further explanation goes to the rather detailed analyses of approaches for franchise determination, as a key point in risk management. In both cases, the strengths and weaknesses of using reinsurance are defined. A very good impression is made by the demonstrated simulation approaches for determining the maximum cedent's premium self-retention for a single contract and in a program combining different reinsurance techniques /pp. 185 - 198/.

The style, language and terminology used fully correspond and satisfy the requirements for the preparation of dissertations in the specialty "Insurance and Social Affairs". The dissertation is developed in a volume that is sufficient to analyze the problem and support the raised scientific hypothesis. The exposition is logical, appropriately structured, and everywhere the high degree of competence of the author is noticeable.

The abstract is also distinguished by the necessary accuracy and completely in terms of describing the main points of the dissertation work and its contributions.

3. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation work.

The proposed thesis examines significant scientific and practical ideas for achieving more effective management of risk, solvency and equity, by deriving rules and criteria for developing a combined reinsurance program. The defense of the raised hypothesis is done in a convincing way by combining in one theoretical analysis of the problem with appropriate quantitative methods - simulations in the conditions of different scenarios for determining franchise and methods for assessing the level of risk.

4. Summary evaluation of the dissertation work and conclusion.

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results that represent an original contribution. The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Radka Ivanova Vasileva possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty "Finance, Money Circulation, Credit and Insurance (Insurance and Social Affairs)", demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

Due to the above, I give my positive vote to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Radka Ivanova Vasileva in the scientific specialty "Finance, Money Circulation, Credit and Insurance (Insurance and Social Affairs)".

Plovdiv, 16.07.2024

Signature:

/Assoc. Prof. N. Atanasov, Phd/