

STANDPOINT

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Subject: dissertation work for rewarding the educational and scientific
degree "Doctor" in scientific specialty: Finance, money circulation,
credit and insurance in Dimitar Tzenov Academy of Economics

Author of the dissertation: Vladislav Lyubenov
Supervisor: prof. Stefan Marinov Simeonov
Dissertation theme: Current issues in valuing equity share
instruments

1. General characteristics of the presented dissertation work

The presented dissertation includes an introduction, an exposition in three chapters, a conclusion, appendices and a bibliography. The total volume of the dissertation is 254 pages, of which 245 pages are the essence. In the introduction, the dissertation author has presented the relevance of the research topic, the object and subject, the goals and objectives of the study. The thesis and the scope of the study are clearly and independently formulated (including the time range and the scope of the sources of information). 103 current literary sources on the topic of the dissertation are effectively used and cited, of which 19 are from Bulgarian authors. Chapter 1 provides a discussion review of the main characteristics, models and problems in the valuation of shares, skillfully combining a fundamental and market approach to the theoretical analysis of the value of shares, and then a review of some coefficients, which are more likely to be attributed to the methodology of technical analysis. The presentation continues with a look at the identification and measurement of the risk of investments in stocks and the different approaches to this problem - from linear and regression to VAR, GARCH, ARIMA models. Chapter 2 provides an overview of the possibilities and theoretical potential of statistical modeling as a mandatory form for modern financial science to study the relationships sought

by the author in the valuation of stocks. In chapter three, the dissertation focuses on the main goal set in the initial part of the work, namely to empirically study the influence of the profitability of financial instruments on economic indicators at the macro level, specifically inflation and the neo-Keynesian view of its formation and the Phillips model. Monitoring the short-term behavior and influence of the profitability of financial markets and time lags is the study for a relatively long and heterogeneous time horizon 1985-2022, although it was subsequently broken down into smaller horizons in order to look for differences in the manifestation of the model compared to samples from the database. Ultimately, it is concluded that the capitalization return on shares in financial markets precedes (predicts) inflation by one month period, and the applied models pass a test of statistical significance. The welfare effect is also assessed, which gives a more macroeconomic and behavioral nature to the presentation. The regression relationships between market returns and macroeconomic indicators such as unemployment, consumption and savings are studied.

2. Positive aspects of the thesis project

- We have been presented a dissertation work, which despite the simple choice of title, actually makes a very serious, in-depth, analytical and in a certain sense conceptual research, without being multidisciplinary like most similar works.
- The doctoral student shows a saturation of knowledge about modeling stock prices and returns, statistical modeling, macroeconomics and behavioral finance, which presents him as a serious and thorough researcher.
- The thesis is specific and interesting, and is successfully proven in the course of the presentation, which is constantly expanded until the last moment before the conclusion.
- Knowledge of stock valuation models, statistical models and empirical research conducted lead the doctoral student to extremely specific and practically important conclusions about the role of financial markets for the economy as a whole. I like the accuracy and specificity of the conclusions made with time and numerical characteristics, and not just dependencies and trends.
- The presented studies not only complement the existing knowledge on the topics under consideration over a significant time horizon of 60-70

years ago, but also provide a more accurate and reliable methodology, which is presented more precisely in the explanation of the existing complex dependencies with a macroeconomic overtone.

3. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions

The author has identified 3 contributions that are fully consistent with the thesis and objectives of the study. Overall, the results of the analysis show that many macroeconomic and market dependencies are better predicted by monthly data that precede their manifestation. Even more significant to me is the conclusion that the capital market is capable of influencing economic performance in the short term, although traditional fundamental modeling is based more on the inverse relationship.

4 Evaluation of dissertation publications

The dissertation candidate has submitted a reference for 5 published materials – 1 independent article, two independent participations in scientific forums and two in co-authorship, with the appropriate identification and actually published. The publications are related to the topic of the dissertation work, although they do not constitute essential parts of it.

5 Evaluation of the abstract

The abstract is generally prepared in accordance with the requirements.

6 Critical notes, recommendations and questions

The following remarks can be made about the presented work:

1. The thesis should be expanded with the achievements in the second part of chapter 3 on the effects of welfare and the relationship between the profitability of financial markets and macroeconomic indicators. A similar criticism can also be made of the title of the dissertation, which only passes as a tangent to the complex nature of the analysis conducted by the author and its scope.

2. The selected scope of the database is not sufficiently well justified as a whole, and it includes very different stages in the development of financial

markets, the behavior and control over macroeconomic indicators such as inflation, unemployment, consumption, savings, growth, etc., as well as the presence of shocks, non-economic crises, etc.

3. Some of the literature used is archaic and sets the wheel back too far, the support for the author's theses by more modern researchers and theorists in the field of finance is insufficient.

4. Serious criticism is made of the volume of the work, which is unreasonably large. In practice, despite the high analytical value and qualities of the exposition in the first two chapters, they are largely self-serving and textbook-like and could be significantly reduced, especially the review of statistical models, the theoretical foundations of which have nothing to do with the direction in which the doctoral student defends his work.

5. General criticism of the doctoral student can be made regarding the weak connection between the problems of stock valuation and the study of the prognostic capabilities of financial markets to macroeconomic variables. It is difficult for me to understand what the connection is between the two analyses, they seem to me more like mechanically united than subordinated to the narrow scope of the thesis. This is confirmed by the exclusion of some of the achievements and parts of the work both from the title and from the thesis of the work.

6. The overall style of the work is extremely thorough and rich, but at times there is evidence of poor command of Bulgarian terminology, as well as errors in translation or the use of foreign words.

7. Conclusion

The presented dissertation work of a full-time doctoral student Vladislav Lyubenov is highly analytical and demonstrates the author's deep and complex knowledge of the issues raised. His scope and abilities reveal a very rich work that builds on and layers significant in its quantity and quality knowledge and reasoning with high competence and convincing presentation and mastery of all aspects of the matter. The topic is obviously proper for a dissertation work, and the presented project is of a high theoretical value. It represents both an upgrade and provides some new directions compared to older similar studies, including better presentation of models in modern times. The complex combination of the

problems of individual stock valuation with the behavior of prices and profitability of financial markets as a whole and the forecasting of the impact on the manifestation of macroeconomic indicators deserves attention. In this regard, I express my positive opinion and recommend to the members of the scientific jury to support the award of the ONS "Doctor" to Vladislav Lyubenov.

Sofia 30.04.2025

Signature:  .. /Assoc. Dr. Evgeni Raykov/