

Suggestions concerning Corporate social responsibility (CSR)

These subjects suggested by Yaroslav Mozghovyi, with some modifications by Sven-Olof Collin.

1. Correlation between CSR and financial performance

Is there any correlation between CSR and the corporation's financial performance, i.e., is it profitable to engage in CSR? This question could be enlarged through studying other organizations with other ultimate goals, such as family firms with their assumed mixed social and financial goal, voluntary organizations and their goal of social wealth and so on. This project would be much engaged in finding good CSR indicators.

2. Study investment policies of the pension funds and investment funds into CSR projects

Compare returns and effects from investments into social projects and non-social projects by pension and investment funds. This project could also study if there is an abnormal return to investments in shares representing corporations with a high level of CSR, either as real CSR or as reported CSR

3. CSR and access to finance

This project will investigate whether performance on corporate social responsibility strategies is correlated with access to finance. The basic hypothesis is that better access to finance can be attributed to CSR implications such as a) reduced agency costs due to enhanced stakeholder engagement; b) reduced informational asymmetry due to increased transparency. This study would be to focus specific on access to finance as one explanation to a correlation between CSR and performance.

4. CSR and employees

Similar to 3. But now we ask the question of actual CSR or reported CSR influence individuals in selecting employer, i.e., but recruitment and willingness to stay, and if CSR influence working conditions at the organization. How CSR influence the employee's and the possibility to recruit and retain employees could be one explanation to a correlation between CSR and performance.

4. Effect of corporate social responsibility on the cost of equity capital

Similar to 3, but here we are even more specific and do not investigate financial structure as such, but only focus on equity. This is a very specific corporate governance study since it focus on ownership and its demands on the corporation, and if these demands are correlated to CSR.

5. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) and firms' credit rating

Similar to 3, but here we study how CSR influence the perception of the corporation by credit rating institutes. One could imagine, for example, that good CSR create an impression of a good corporation, thus increasing their credit rating.

6. CSR and bank efficiency

The originator of this list of suggestion is Yaroslav Mozghovyi, PhD-students that soon will defend his dissertation about correlation between CSR activities and the performance of banks. The empirical case is Ukrainian banks. This project would be to make a similar study on Swedish banks. The interesting aspect would be to be able to compare banks from two different countries. One advantage in this project is that we have access to Yaroslav and to his research.