Program: Master in Corporate Finance
Student: Azamtarrahian Amir
Title of thesis: Credit risk management, modeling loan portfolio loss distribution, a case study in banking

Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis. Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis’ topic, aim and objectives.

The topic of credit risk management is the field of considerable interest both from scientific and practical perspectives. Obviously, the credit risk management issues and different approaches to modeling of loss/default risks are under close investigation after the financial crisis of 2007-2008 and new Basel standards implementation. The aim and objectives of the Thesis were generally stated in the correct manner. Thesis’ topic, aim and objectives generally are well aligned.

Structure and logic of the text flow. Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis’ structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.

The representation of the Thesis in the text is logical. The chapters of the Thesis (literature review, methodology description and implementation & results) fit each other.

Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives. Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.

The analytical approach used in the research is quite rigorous with the implementation of advanced modelling techniques with the necessary coding procedures. Generally, the objectives stated in the Thesis are achieved. Respectively, the results obtained could be generally characterized as sound, in a view of number of unavoidable limitations.

Quality of data gathering and description. Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.

The author used the reliable sources of data needed to reach the goal of the research and to evaluate the developed model of loan portfolio loss distribution.

Scientific aspect of the thesis. Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.

The author revealed the capabilities of independent scientific thinking. The results of the modelling are generally reliable and provide the new standpoint on the issue of credit risk management additional to the standard Basel requirements.

Practical/applied nature of research. Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.

Undoubtedly, the finding in the area of credit risk management, the additional understanding of the operations with bank’s loan portfolio represents the significant practical interest. Additionally, the research in the Thesis makes its accent on crisis periods when the extreme results of companies’ performance, and, accordingly, the bank’s risks, are of higher probability.

Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.

Layout is generally good.

Originality of the text. The absence of plagiarism

The master thesis is original and does not contain elements of plagiarism.
The Master thesis of Amir Azamtarrahian meets the requirements for master thesis of Master in Corporate Finance program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

Date: 07.06.2016
Scientific Advisor: Professor Alexander V. Bukhvalov