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# ESTIMATING VALUE OF BUSINESS IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTING COMPANY'S STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT ВИЗНАЧЕННЯ ВАРТОСТІ БІЗНЕСУ В ПРОЦЕСІ РОЗРОБКИ СТРАТЕГІЇ КОНСАЛТИНГОВОЇ КОМПАНІЇ ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЕ СТОИМОСТИ БИЗНЕСА В ПРОЦЕССЕ РАЗРАБОТКИ СТРАТЕГИИ КОНСАЛТИНГОВОЙ КОМПАНИИ

Summary. Importance of developing companies' competitive strategies, which would contain several scenarios for the company's development to achieve the goal of maintaining a stable position of the company among competitors, market value of business is an important indicator of the efficiency. This indicator allows to determine the effectiveness of different scenarios, but requires from the person, who make the strategy, to have special knowledge and compliance with the requirements of special international and national standards. In particular, in the paper it is found that there are different definitions of the "business" in terms of its value, different approaches to valuation and valuation base, which should be consistent with the valuation purpose and the scope of valuation. So, each approach to evaluation requires certain information and can be applied only to a certain group of companies or a certain stage of the business life cycle. Using the methods of analysis and synthesis, the paper summarizes the requirements of international standards and national standards of Ukraine for business evaluation. The main approach of business valuation was chosen as the income approach, which is using the method of discounting cash flows. At the same time, due to the lack of statistical information in open sources of information, on the example of small and medium-sized consulting companies, the cumulative approach was identified as the most accessible for use. However, due to the fact that the main problem of this approach is the high level of subjectivity, it was proposed to increase the objectivity of the results obtained using the cumulative approach by applying

formulas, which are proposed as the result of investigation. The proposed formulas allow to use information obtained as a result of calculations and published in the public Internet sites. At the same time, the possibility of calculating the size of risk premiums for companies in other sectors of the economy can be explored in further research in the case of existing relevant statistical data.

**Key words:** business valuation, build-up approach, strategy, consulting companies.

Анотація. Зважаючи на важливість розробки конкурентних стратегій компаній, які б містили кілька сценаріїв розвитку компанії для досягнення мети збереження стійкої позиції компанії серед конкурентів, важливим показником є ринкова вартість бізнесу. Цей показник дозволяє визначити ефективність різних сценаріїв, але вимагає наявності у особи, яка розробляє стратегію, певних знань і дотримання вимог спеціальних міжнародних та національних стандартів. Зокрема, в роботі було з'ясовано, що існують різні визначення терміну «бізнес» з точки зору визначення його вартості, різні підходи до оцінки та бази оцінки, що мають узгоджуватись із метою та областю задач оцінки. В свою чергу кожен підхід до оцінки вимагає наявності певної інформації і може бути застосований лише для визначеного кола компаній або певного етапу життєвого циклу бізнесу. З використанням методів аналізу та синтезу в роботі узагальнено вимоги міжнародних стандартів та національних стандартів України з оцінки бізнесу. В якості основного підходу до оцінки бізнесу було визначено дохідний підхід з використанням методу дисконтування грошових потоків. При цьому через брак статистичної інформації у відкритих джерелах інформації, на прикладі консалтингових компанії малого та середнього розміру кумулятивний підхід було визначено як найбільш доступний для використання. Водночас через те,

що основною проблемою цього підходу  $\epsilon$  високий рівень суб'єктивізму, в роботі було запропоновано збільшити об'єктивність результату, використанням кумулятивного підходу, отриманого шляхом формул. Запропоновані використання запропонованих формули дозволяють використати інформацію, отриману в результаті розрахунків і опубліковану у відкритому доступі в мережі Інтернет. Водночас, можливість обчислення розмірів премій за ризик для компаній інших галузей економіки може бути досліджена в подальших дослідженнях, зокрема, у випадку наявності релевантних статистичних даних.

**Ключові слова:** оцінка бізнесу, кумулятивний підхід, стратегія, консалтингові компанії.

**Аннотация.** Учитывая актуальность разработки конкурентных содержащих несколько стратегий компаний, сценариев развития компании для достижения цели сохранения устойчивой позиции компании среди конкурентов, важным показателем является рыночная стоимость бизнеса. Этот показатель позволяет определить эффективность различных сценариев, но требует наличия у лица, разрабатывает стратегию, определенных знаний и соблюдения требований специальных международных и национальных стандартов. В частности, в работе было выяснено, что существуют различные определения термина «бизнес» с точки зрения определения его стоимости, различные подходы к оценке и базы оценки, должны согласовываться с целями и областью задач оценки. В свою очередь каждый подход к оценке требует наличия определенной информации и может быть применен только для определенного круга компаний или определенного этапа жизненного цикла бизнеса. С использованием методов анализа и синтеза в работе обобщены требования международных стандартов и национальных стандартов Украины по оценке бизнеса. В качестве основного подхода к оценке

бизнеса был определен доходный подход с использованием метода дисконтирования денежных потоков. При этом из-за недостатка статистической информации в открытых источниках информации, на консалтинговых компании малого и среднего размера кумулятивный подход был определен как наиболее доступный для использования. В то же время из-за того, что основной проблемой этого подхода является высокий уровень субъективизма, в работе было предложено увеличить объективность результата, полученного подхода, использованием кумулятивного путем использования предложенных формул. Предложенные формулы позволяют использовать информацию, полученную в результате расчетов и опубликованную в открытом доступе в сети Интернет. В то же время возможность вычисления размеров премий за риск для компаний других отраслей экономики может быть исследована в дальнейших исследованиях, в частности, в случае наличия релевантных статистических данных.

**Ключевые слова:** оценка бизнеса, кумулятивный подход, стратегия, консалтинговые компании.

Statement of the problem. In modern life many companies strive to be best for their customers from the one hand and to increase their market value from another hand. The purposes of estimating the market value can be different but it much easier to do for big public companies rather than for private medium and small sized companies from consulting industry. So, one of the problems is the absence of statistical information for getting proper discount rate using CAPM model. Another problem is the lack of information about similar companies to be compared with. These problems require special research to be done.

The analysis of recent research and publications. Many scientists devoted their papers for company's valuations, proper discount rate estimation

and developing a strategy using the market value as one of key performance indicators. Amon them are P. Doyle and A. Voronin (who studied the place of market value in the process of strategy development), R. Grabowski and A. Damodaran (both authors investigated the discount rate nature), O. Vorobyeva, M. Vasyuk and others.

**Main objective.** This paper conducts the possibility of build-up approach for discount rate estimation for the small and medium sized consulting companies in Ukraine.

**Material and methods.** As market value of a company can be estimated using mostly two basic approaches (table 1) in case of absence the proper market information income approach becomes the basic for business valuation.

 ${\it Table~1}$  Main requirements for Business Valuation

Factor	IVS 200	VPGA 3	National Valuation Standards of Ukraine
"business" determination	Depends on the valuation objectives		certain economic activity carried out or planned to be carried out using the assets of the integral property complex
	As a rule, it is a type of commercial, production, investment or service activity		integral property complex is an object, the set of assets of which allows to conduct certain economic activities. Integral property complexes are enterprises, as well as their structural subdivisions (shops, productions, sections, etc.), which can be allocated in the established order in independent objects with the subsequent drawing up of the corresponding balance and can be registered as independent subjects of economic activity.
	Corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, and individual entrepreneurs can be taken as forms of business		corporate share – company's share based on an integral property complex
Business valuation specific	Market value of I from the total val	Business can differ lue of the assets or ake up the business by	-
determining the object	Among the objects of evaluation may be the entire legal entity,	1) partial interest in the business (the presence of incomplete ownership)	objects of assessment in the form of an integral property complex

shares or interest in the business (ownership of a controlling or non-controlling interest in the business)  2) factional interest (ownership of assets in interest)  3) the whole business - companies, sole proprietors, or companies (including limited liability companies) - together with the interests in them, for example, shares and shares of companies or interests of the company.  1) value of the enterprise = cost of equity + value of debt or debt obligations - cash and cash equivalents  2) value of invested capital = total value of capital invested in business from various sources - current liabilities - cash and cash equivalents  3) operating value = total operating value of the business - the value of non-operating assets - the value of the business - the value of the value of the business - the value of the value of the value
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from various sources - current liabilities - cash and cash equivalents
liabilities - cash and cash equivalents
3) operating value = total operating
value of the business - the value of
non-operating assets - the value of
liabilities
4) cost of equity = value of business not each flow for equity
for all its shareholders net cash flow for equity
should meet the
should meet the purpose, assessment
purpose and task, regulatory should meet the purpose, task of assessment
objectives of requirements and and regulatory requirements
the evaluation   scope of intended
purpose and objectives of requirements and the evaluation scope of intended use  market value, fair value, investment  purpose and objectives of requirements and scope of intended use  market value, fair value, investment value, special
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Valuation Approaches	Market, Income, Cost	Market, Income, Cost, Asset-based	Comparative, Income, Property		
Terms of market approach application	1) for any business     2) availability of information on the stock market, M&A transactions or other offers for the sale of similar objects				
	3) availability of a reasonable basis for comparison (common industry, similarity in quantitative and qualitative indicators, quantity and reliability of data on similar enterprises, compliance of such agreements with standard agreements between unrelated parties				
Terms of income approach application	1) for any business     2) the ability to calculate income and cash flow using different options;     3) possibility of calculation on a pre-tax or post-tax basis     4) compliance of the discount rate and capitalization rate with the selected type of cash flow, which should correspond to the expected valuation result     5) possibility of calculations of nominal and				
Terms of use of cost / property / asset-based approaches application	1) a business should be at an early stage of development (for example, a startup) when there is a high degree of uncertainty about the forecast of its future cash flows  2) a business is a holding company or		in the case of reflection of the typical logic of potential buyers; the market value is determined by the current value of the probable result of the enterprise liquidation		
	business assets in		-		

*Source:* generalized by the Authors on the base of [1; 2; 3; 4]

The main method of income approach is the cash-flow discounting method. Discount rate is the important part of this method. In case of lacking the proper amount of statistical and public information which will be enough for CAPM application the build-up approach or cumulative method can be used [5; 6].

As the discount rate within the cumulative method is determined by typical formula [1, p. 134] the most subjective component of it is summary of risk-premiums. In terms of decreasing the subjectivity level the weighted average return on assets (WARA) is proposed to be used.

Thus, on the example of a consulting company, an equation is proposed that would accurately determine the cost of equity (formula 1):

$$d_{eRII} \approx d_{eCAPM} \approx WARA,$$
 (1)

*Source*: generalized by the Authors on the base of [1; 7]

where  $d_{eBU}$  – discount rate estimated using build-up approach, %;

 $d_{eCAPM}$  - discount rate estimated using CAPM, %;

WARA - weighted average return on assets, %.

As the main activity of consulting company requires personnel to be company's core asset, so the assumption that for small and medium sized consulting companies (without real estate and expansive machinery in ownership) the definition of weighted average return on assets is reduced to determining the cost of labor. Thus, summary risk-premiums for this type of companies could be calculated using the next formula (formula 2):

Source: generalized by the Authors on the base of [1, 7, 8]

where x - a variable equal to  $d_{eBU}$  = WARA (see formula 1), which in the case of consulting companies corresponds to the average annual cost of long-term bank loans for individuals, %;

 $R_f$  – risk-free component, which can be determined at the level of government debt securities of a particular country as of the valuation date, %;

m – rate of profitability of the bank, %;

 $S_{CB}$  – the central bank's key policy rate of the country where the main activity of the enterprise as of the date of assessment, %.

Thus, all parts of discount rate can be taken from open resources and are less of subjectivity comparing with traditional expert risk estimation.

Conclusions. Income approach was decided to be the most convenient way of business valuation. The build-up approach of discount rate estimation was improved to become less subjective. That could be a useful management tool for estimating the strategy in terms of company's market value growth. But variants of different risk-premiums estimation should be investigated in future papers.

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