	Name (s): Anders Pedersen-Bjergaard Håvard Mostervik Dalby
Programme (S): MSc in Business **Major (s):** Finance	First part of the Master thesis **GRA 19501 Thesis registration form (pass/fail)**

Thesis topic and working title: Corporate governance: A study comparing performance measures between family-owned and non-family-owned businesses in Norway.

Thesis supervisor:

A potential supervisor has approved my proposal.

Name of supervisor: Siv Staubo

Signature ~~Siv Staubo~~

(Signed by supervisor or Associate Dean)

Fill in a short description of the following (2 to 3 pages):
- the area of study
- the research question
- a brief description of the research method
- a brief implementation plan
- a list of main references

The area of study

The area of study will be Corporate Governance/Finance with focus on a comparison between performance measures of Norwegian companies with different organizational structures, more specific: Companies which are family-owned, and companies which are not family owned. A company is classified as a family-owned company in case a family owns more than 50% of the shares (Berzins and Bøhren, 2013). One opportunity is to delimit the thesis into a sector such as shipping or seafood, but we have not decided this yet.

The research question

Is Corporate Governance a significant factor in the economic performance of Norwegian companies?

Description of the Research Method

We want to analyze performance of as many family-owned and nonfamily-owned companies as possible. For performance measures, we will look at financial ratios such as ROA (Return on Asset: $\frac{Net\ Income}{Total\ assets}$) and ROE (Return on Equity: $\frac{Net\ income}{Shareholde\ 's\ equity}$). There would also be interesting to look at ROIC (Return on invested capital), but this requires fairly sophisticated financial statements, which we aren´t sure if we are able to get access to for all companies. After analyzing all relevant companies, our aim is to do a regression analysis and further statistical analysis, to obtain any relevance coherences.

The regression analysis will focus on trying to identify which factors seem to be the determining factors for a company´s performance. Here, we will use earlier studies to help us identify the most common and documented factors. We will also introduce family-owned and non-family-owned as a new own factor and see if we can find any statistical differences and causal connections.

As mentioned above, it would be interesting to delimit the thesis into a specific sector, such as shipping or seafood. It could also be interesting to see if there are any differences between public and private companies, and also if we can find any historical differences.

The implementation plan

We are going to do an empirical study where we obtain company information and financial statements from several Norwegian companies which are governed in different ways. Our main focus will be between those who are family owned, and those who are not. In a meeting with Siv Staubo, she told us that BI has a large database with such information, which would make it easy to extract the relevant information.

In our paper, we will first introduce our area of study, potential findings and resulting conclusion. Then, we will make a brief introduction about the topic (Corporate Governance) and motivation behind the thesis question. We will further complement this with results from other studies and research articles. A natural extension would be to introduce and explain the main theories related to Corporate Governance and it´s connection to company performance.

Finally, we will present, describe and conclude on our results. We will compare our results to previous studies to see how they relate, and maybe differ, and explain how this might be. A natural thing to do would be to also address some of the issues and potential bias of our own study.

List of main references

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