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Sustainable Credit Risk Rating of SMEs







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Credit risks and sustainability credit risks

- Credit risk is the uncertainty about the future outcome of loans
 - Compliance with the credit agreement
 - Default (non-compliance with the credit agreement)
- Sustainability credit risk
 - Uncertainty about the future outcome of loans emerging from environmental, economic and social sustainability risks
- Basel II Definition of Credit Default
 - The creditor considers that a debtor is unlikely to repay in full its credit obligations to the banking group, without recourse by the bank to actions such as realising security
 - The creditor is past due for more than 90 days on any material credit obligation to the debtor



Credit risk rating

- Counterparty credit risks
 - Management / creditworthiness
 - Ability to repay
 - Future earnings
 - Capital and capital to debt ratio
 - Collateral value
 - Management?
 - Ability to repay?
 - Future earnings?







Construction of Credit Risk Rating Systems

- Using real cases
 - Defaults
 - Non-Defaults
- Rating of the cases using criteria and balancesheet ratios
- Weighting criteria and ratios using multivariate statistical algorithms
- Using weighted criteria to calculate
 - Probability of Default
 - Loss Given Default
 - Expected Loss
- Continuous Validation of the instrument



Criteria and financial ratios used in the system

- Management
 - Attainment of budget
 - Audit report
 - Management information system
 - Management ability
 - Auditor
- Future development
 - Potential for development
 - Product
 - Volume of orders
 - Development of returns
- Business situation
 - Sector
 - Competitors
 - Region

- Financial information
 - Account turnover
 - Outstanding interests
 - Risks of interest change
 - Private drawing and dividends
- Financial ratios
 - Cash Flow Ratio
 - Liquidity ratio
 - Return on equity
 - Debt ratio
 - Self-financing ratio
 - Debt capacity



The rating function

Default / non-Default (1/0) = β_1 * Attainment of budget + β_2 * Audit report + β_3 * Management information system + β_{4} * Management ability + β_{5} * Auditor + β_{6} * Potential for development + β_7 * Product + β_8 * Volume of orders + β_o * Development of returns + β_{10} * Account turnover + β_{11} * Outstanding interests + β_{12} * Risks of interest change + β_{13} * Private drawing and dividends + β_{14} * Sector + β_{15} * Competitors + β_{16} * Economic region + β_{17} * Cash Flow Ratio + β_{18} * Liquidity ratio + β_{19} * Return on equity + β_{20} * Debt ratio + β_{21} * Self-financing ratio + β_{22} * Debt capacity





Results

- Credit Risk Rating
 - 10 steps
- Probability of Default
 - What is the probability that the rated debtor defaults in the following year?
- Loss Given Default
 - How much will the bank loose in case of default?
- Expected Loss
 - Probability of Default * Loss Given Default

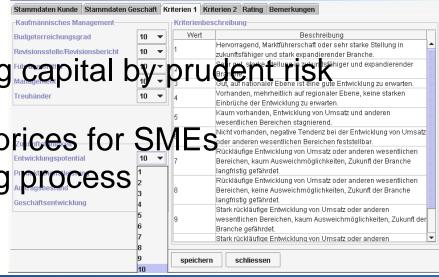






Application of the credit risk rating system RasyEA

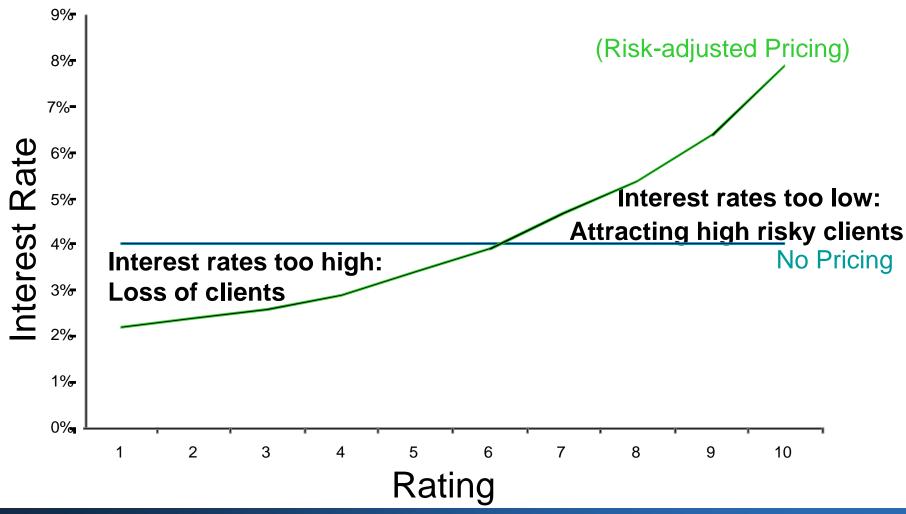
- Used since 2001 in 60 Swiss Banks
 - More than 50 000 cases rated
- Quality of prediction of default one year before default
 - Gini = .83
 - Correct hit rate = 96.5%
- Benefits
 - Preventing losses and saving capital by prediction
 - Fair ratings, loan and credit prices for SMEs oder anderen wesentlichen Bereichen feststellbar.
 - Easy and standardized rating process
 - Basel II accordance







Benefits of credit risk rating







Adding sustainability criteria

- Does a commercial debtor's economic, environmental and social performance affect its credit risk rating?
- Does adding criteria aimed at assessing a debtor's environmental, social or sustainability practices provide added value to traditional financial rating criteria?
- Does the integration of sustainability criteria improve the validity of: the credit risk prediction?
 - Ability to repay?
 - Collateral value?
 - Reputation risk?





Rating Criteria

Traditional criteria	Economical Sustainability Criteria	Environmental Sustainability Criteria	Social Sustainability Criteria
(Cronbach's alpha =.91)	(Cronbach's alpha =.83)	(Cronbach's alpha =.76)	(Cronbach's alpha =.75)
Reputation	Net debt service	Costs of environmental measures	Wage policy
Legal capacity to borrow	Sustained growth	Emissions	Health policy
Competency of management	Quality of growth	Environmental friendly construction	Social security of the employees
Follow-up regulation	Sector development	Consideration of nature and landscape	Workers' participation
Relations to the lender	Integration of environmental aspect in	Soil erosion	Conservation of workplaces
Potential for development	economic decision making	Sealing of soil	Flexible working conditions and
Attainment of budget	Robustness against crises	Sewage emission	working hours
Dividend policy	Personal resources	Sewage quality	
Sector	Community relations	Air emission	
Region	Risk of accidents	Noise emission	
Product and market	Job creation	Resource protection	
Competition	Adequate firm size	Material use	
Clients	Eco efficiency	Ratio of renewable resources	
Suppliers	Information and communication	Use of non-renewable energy sources	
Volume of orders	Material productivity	Use of renewable energy	
Future margin	Spatial relation	Use of water (amount)	
Agency report	Commuter mobility		
Credit limit	Car fleet		
Account turnover	Energy efficiency		
Outstanding interest and amortization	Technical update of power plants and		
Auditing company	machines		
Management systems	Amount of waste		
Trustee	Waste management		
Personal securities	Toxic waste		
Physical securities	Contaminated sites		
Liquidity ratio	Technology management		
Return on equity	Material substitution		
Cash flow ratio	Longevity		
Debt ratio	Recycling capacity		
Free Cash Flow	Redemption of used products		
Equity-to-fixed-assets ratio	Miniaturization of products		
Self-financing ratio	Ecological product design		
Risk of change in interest rates	Contracting		



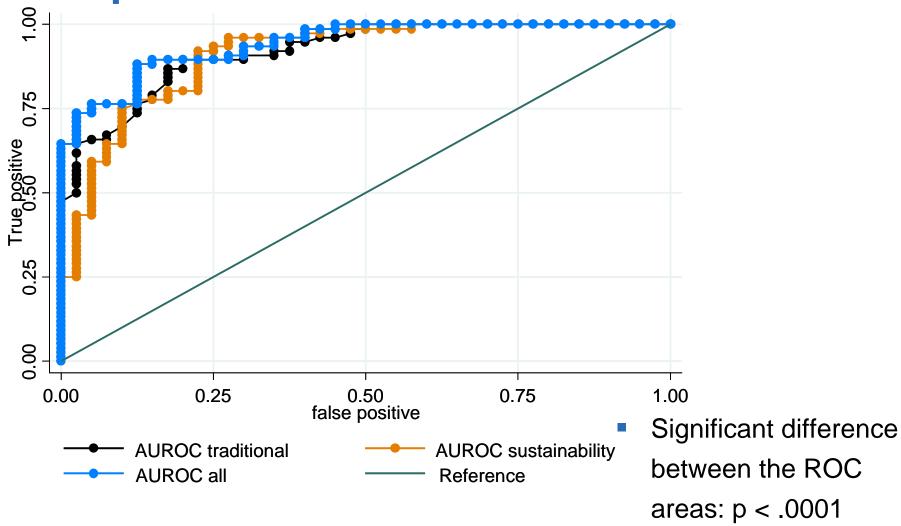


Predicting credit risk by traditional rating and sustainability rating

- Traditional rating (logistic regression)
 - Credit Risk = 5.15*trad.-16.63
 - p <.00001
 - Correct predictions = 81.1%
 - AUROC = .91
- Traditional and sustainability rating (logistic regression)
 - Credit Risk = 5.10*trad.+2.14*econ. sust.+1.10*soc. sust.-1.44*env.sust.-21.87
 - p <.00001
 - Correct predictions = 85.7%
 - AUROC = .94



Comparison of AUROCs







State of the art credit risk rating systems

- Prevent losses caused by debtors
- Guarantee fair interest rates
- Guarantee money flows to successful SMEs
- Support standardized and comprehensible risk rating processes
- Prevent losses for the lender



•Future earnings?