Purpose: The objective of this study is to assess whether the quality of sustainability disclosure has any effect on the stock returns of Russian firms.

Methodology: This study collects data from the 140 annual and sustainability reports of 23 Russian firms for the period 2013-2019. The study estimates corporate social responsibility (CSR) score based on the content analysis of the reports on the following dimensions: community contribution, environmental impact, employee relations, and provision of social products and services. Descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and ordinary least squared regression were used to examine the nexus between CSR score and stock returns.

Findings: No statically significant relationship was observed between CSR disclosure and stock returns of Russian firms. Though, the study documented a tremendous increase in the volume, as well as the quality of CSR disclosures over the sample period. This finding suggests that Russian firms are driven by other reasons for improving disclosure of sustainability practices other than variation in stock prices. The study also reports a statistically significant relationship of CSR disclosure with other variables utilized in the model, particularly total assets, return on assets (ROA), and leverage.

Practical Implications: The study has several practical and theoretical implications. The findings of the study motivate the managers to improve the content of disclosed information, and for policymakers by providing criteria to assess the completeness and quality of disclosures, thereby indirectly enchaing more CSR initiatives and bringing social good.

Originality/value: The study pictures the evolvement of CSR disclosures over the most recent seven-year period, including the years of the increased popularity of sustainability practices. Russian market presents an interesting case for the research of CSR due to its post-communist background which shaped a unique set of societal values. The study extends and contributes to prior literature in understanding the evolvement of the role of CSR for Russian firms.

Key words: CSR, environment, society, community, contribution, stock returns.
Introduction

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is an important topic in today’s global business agenda. With emergence of CSR, rules of business environment are changing by expanding firm’s focus from merely shareholder value maximization to bringing social good. CSR encourages firms to go beyond legal and economic requirements and engage in the activities which are beneficial to the environment and society, while avoiding operations with harmful consequences to external stakeholders (Miska et al., 2013). Growing number of firms globally are now approaching sustainability in the framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by United Nations (UN) in 2015 as part of its 2030 agenda for sustainable development for both developed and developing countries, aimed at decreasing poverty, improving health and education, as well as promoting equality, and economic
growth. Though strengths of CSR initiatives are not uniform around the world, there has been a dramatic shift towards sustainability reporting globally in recent years, with 80% of companies worldwide reporting sustainability according to KPMG Survey of Sustainability Reporting (2020). Increased regulations and laws were named among the drivers of such growth, accompanied by improved understanding of the importance of the power of CSR on corporate performance and value.

This study is aimed to address the call for CSR research on markets beyond Anglo-Saxon economies (e.g. El Ghoul et al., 2011). Developing countries and transitional economies present a compelling case to study CSR due to different perception of the role of the businesses in the society, weaker power of citizens and shorter history of financial markets. As argued by Salaber (2007), country’s culture and religion also shape perceptions of CSR. Furthermore, importance of the relationship between businesses and local communities intensifies in poor institutional environment characterized by low social security (Kelchevskaya et al., 2017). Global trends show that CSR is on its way, with increasing number of firms admitting the importance of CSR to business development and survival. In particular, the focus of this study is Russia, world’s important economic and political player, a country with unique set of cultural values influenced by unique historical background.

Along with other post-communist countries who experienced transition to market economies, Russian firms faced conflicting pressure regarding their role in the society (Iankova, 2009). While carrying extensive welfare functions during socialism, transition to market economy dictated reduction in social programs. The country entered difficult time of economic transition, where reforming social policies, except for unemployment, was at the bottom of the agenda. However, two decades later, global trend towards increasing sustainable practices makes Russian firms to reconsider delivering social good. As noted by Glebova et al. (2013), the understanding of the importance of CSR practices by Russian firms is growing. This is mainly driven by increased desire by national firms to get foreign investment, regional operations expansion, and the development of powerful corporate entities. Furthermore, the perception of CSR by Russian firms is gradually changing, extending beyond merely satisfying minimum federal requirements.

This study particularly focuses on the quality of the disclosed information in CSR reports. CSR disclosures present an important tool to communicate firm’s CSR initiatives and their impact on stakeholders. Various studies applied different metrics to assess quality of CSR disclosures, though main dimensions such as environment, human resources and social community appear more frequently in the literature (e.g. Jizi et al., 2016; Handiyono et al., 2017). The objective of this study is to assess whether quality of sustainability disclosure has any effect on the stock return of Russian firms. The initial expectation is finding positive relationship between these variables based on the view that increased disclosure contributes to reduced information asymmetry, lower risk and, thereby, higher market valuation.

Contrary to the initial expectation of this study, no statically significant relationship was observed between CSR disclosure and stock returns of Russian firms. Though, this study documented tremendous increase in the volume, as well as the quality of CSR disclosures over sample period. This finding suggests that Russian firms are driven by other reasons for improving disclosure of sustainability practices other than variation in stock prices. The study also reports statistically significant relation of CSR disclosure between other variables under examination, particularly total assets, ROA and leverage.

The study extends and contributes to prior literature by documenting the relationship between CSR disclosure and stock returns through investigating the unique context of Russian market. Most of existing studies have investigated the effect of CSR on other variables such as cost of equity (e.g. Kelchevskaya et al., 2017). In addition, the study explores the evolution of CSR disclosures over most recent seven-year period, including the years of increased popularity of sustainability practices.

**Literature review**

CSR presents an exciting field for modern research, however defining CSR construct is an obstacle, as no uniform definition exists (Barnett, 2007). CSR is a comprehensive concept, taking knowledge from different areas, including sociology and economics (Cini & Ricci, 2018). Furthermore, due to its relative novelty, CSR concept has been evolving during the last decades from its first discussion in Harvard Law Review paper published in 1930s (Malik, 2015). CSR could be defined from the perspective of firm’s behavior towards different stakeholders (Cooper, 2004), or from the view of firm’s social, environmental, political, economic and ethical actions (Devinney, 2009). CSR has grown on
the foundation that businesses are part of a larger society, thereby having responsibilities extending beyond profit maximization. Furthermore, belief that firms should compensate for causing negative environmental and social impact has fueled growth of CSR popularity (Kolk, 2003).

There is no consensus on the effect of CSR on financial performance as demonstrated by mixed results of previous studies, though positive relationship is found more frequently in the literature. For example, Waddock and Graves (1997) observed “virtuous circle” between corporate social and financial performance, arguing that causation occurs in both ways. In particular, authors suggested that better social performance can improve financial performance, as well as better financial performance can result in higher social performance, or in other words, a firm can do well by doing good and do good by doing well.

Jiao (2010) also supported positive impact of CSR on financial performance. By constructing stakeholder welfare score which quantifies level of meeting expectations of external stakeholders, positive impact was observed on the market value indicators of firm performance. The authors concluded that stakeholder welfare could be viewed as an intangible asset of the firm such as reputation and human capital, thereby contributing to shareholder wealth. This finding is consistent with the results of literature analysis by Beurden and Gössling (2008) and meta-analysis Orlitzky et al. (2003) who documented overall positive relationship.

Jizi et al. (2016) examined the effect of CSR disclosure on stock prices of financial institutions following the years of 2007 financial crisis. The time period of eroded investor trust was selected to assess CSR importance. Interestingly, they found that high quality content of CSR disclosure is appreciated by investors, as demonstrated by improvement of banks’ market prices. This is consistent with the argument of Richardson et al. (1999) that CSR disclosure decreases future cash flow uncertainties and improves market value.

On the contrary, negative link between social performance and UK stock returns was reported by Brammer et al. (2006), supporting the argument that expenditures on CSR activities divert shareholder value. Lower returns were also suggested to be a result of investor altruism, characterized by willingness to forgo returns on morally fulfilling stocks. Another explanation of lower returns was suggested to be a result of penalizing for excessive engagement in some CSR activities. The study emphasized the importance of examining different dimensions of CSR separately due to their varying impact on corporate performance.

There is a growing number of studies which examined the impact of CSR initiatives on different variables with focus on Russian market. For example, Kelchevskaya et al. (2017) on the basis of 18 Russian firms for the period from 2004-2014 observed that increased CSR disclosures has a positive impact on investment attractiveness through reduction of the cost of equity, with varying degree of this effect from the type of disclosed information. Glebova et al. (2013) analyzed content quality of 7 strategically important Russian companies and determined several attributes inherent to Russian non-financial reporting, including sectorial differences, free-form presentation, lack of supporting figures to evaluate commitments, and gradual expansion of disclosed indicators.

This study contributes to prior literature by evaluating the impact of the quality of CRS disclosure on the stock returns of Russian firms. To our knowledge, existing studies are limited in examining such relationship, especially in Russian context. In addition, they relied on a time horizon which did not capture recent trends of international growth in CSR disclosures. Prior research on other markets showed no conclusive evidence on the link between CSR and firm performance, thereby evoking interest to examine the relationship in case of Russian market. This study takes the view that CSR initiatives enchain shareholder value, which received wide acknowledgment in prior literature, with main hypothesis stated as follows:

**H1: CSR disclosure has a significant effect on the stock returns of Russian firms.**

**Methodology**

**Data**

The study examined the contents of 140 annual and sustainability reports which were published by 23 Russian firms for the period 2013-2019. The sampled firms represent constituents of the Moscow Exchange Russia Index that is composed from the most liquid stocks of the largest issuers from different sectors of Russian economy. Initial sample of the examination included 40 firms, components of the index, however, due to the unavailability of historical data on financials and lack of disclosure of sustainable practices required for the purpose of this study, the final sample was decreased. It is also believed that selected seven-year period highlights the trend of the development of CSR disclosure
in Russian economy, including capturing modern global shift towards increased CSR reporting and accountability, thereby enhancing understanding of the importance of sustainability practices for firms operating in this country. Financial data of the firms was obtained from Eikon-Refinitiv database, while CSR disclosures were searched for in annual reports or, if available, standalone sustainability reports which were publicly available on the firms’ corporate websites.

**Model Specification**
This study applied ordinary least squared (OLS) regression model to test the impact on CSR disclosure content on stock returns. This is a common method used in prior studies which investigated impact of non-financial information on different dependent variables such as stock price crash risk, returns and other (see Handiyono et al., 2017; Jizi et al., 2016). To run the regression, EViews statistical software was employed. The equation testing the relationship is specified as follows:

\[ CRSD_{it} = a + b_1R_{it} + b_2\ln TA + b_3Lew + b_4ROA + \epsilon_{it} \]  

where \( R_{it} \) stands for period return of \( i \) firm in a \( t \) period, \( CRSD \) is a CRS disclosure score, \( \ln TA \) is a natural logarithm of total assets denoting firm’s size, \( Lew \) is a ratio of total debt over total assets, \( ROA \) is calculated as net income over total assets, \( \epsilon_{it} \) presents an error term.

**CSR Score**

The CSR score was estimated by assessing content of CSR reports in the following steps. Firstly, categories and sub-categories for assessment of CSR disclosures were identified. In particular, the following four categories were adopted from Jizi et al. (2016): Community contribution, Environment, Employees, Social products and Services. *Community contribution* category includes evaluation of the disclosure of charity activities of the firm as well as firm’s contribution to the achievement of sustainable agenda set by UN; *Environment category* refers to the disclosure of the environmental policies in place, pollution from operations and mitigation of hazardous environmental impact; *Employees category* refers to the disclosure of equality in the workplace, professional training, social benefits, health and safety; *Social products and services* refers the disclosure of social investment activities, such as regional infrastructure development and minority support, as well as client service experience. Secondly, key words for each sub-category were defined. Thirdly, the disclosure of sustainability practices was searched for on the corporate websites. Then, table content of the document containing CSR information was analyzed to identify the placement of CSR categories. Key words were utilized in order to find the mentioning of CSR sub-category, with following careful reading and assessment of the disclosed content on the grading scale described in the following paragraph.

The study applied the following grading scale for estimating CSR score. A maximum of 5 points was given for each of the four categories, giving a total of 20. Three points was granted for presence of detailed discussions, though not supported by real figures. Poor disclosure which included just mentioning the issue in a few sentences was given a half point. In case of quantitative disclosure provided, additional point was awarded, with one additional point given for the period-to-period comparison. Each sub-category was given an equal weight within a category. Total disclosure score was calculated as the sum of the points given for each of the four categories divided by the maximum achievable score.

**Stock returns**
This study is concerned whether quality of CRS disclosures has an effect on stock returns. The underlying assumption is that CRS disclosure contributes to reduction of information asymmetry and uncertainty of future cash flows, causing lower risk and improved stock performance (Pava & Krausz, 1996). To calculate stock price change, simple return formula was applied which presents the difference between two consecutive prices divided over initial price (Zhang et al., 2010). Average annual returns are used in the model.

**Control Variables**
Fundamental firm characteristics such as firm size, leverage and profitability were applied as control variables to test the hypothesis of this study. In particular, firm size is proxied by natural logarithm of total assets, leverage is measured as a ratio of total debt to book value of assets, and return on assets (ROA) stands for profitability.

**Results and Discussion**

**Content-Analysis and Descriptive statistics**
CRS disclosure was evaluated for the firms which represent different sectors of Russian economy, including: Metals & Mining (7), Oil & Gas (6), Telecommunications (2), Retailing (2), Banking services (2), Chemicals (1), Utilities (1), Machinery (1) and Passenger Transportation (1). Firms have different approaches towards the
Nexus between corporate social responsibility disclosure and stock returns of Russian firms. While some firms presented stand-alone CSR reports, others included sustainability disclosure as part of the annual report. In addition, few firms which chose reporting sustainability in the annual report, provided additional documents with disclosure of environmental or social practices, covering environmental or human resource aspects of CSR, respectively. There were also cases when the firm switched from disclosing of CSR activity in the annual report to producing stand-alone sustainability report. Most firms followed global recognized practices in disclosure presentation, with most recent UN agenda of 17 SDGs gradually incorporated by some of them.

Coverage in CSR reports was generally higher compared to sustainability section in annual reports, as could be demonstrated by the average number of pages devoted to CSR. In particular, average CSR report for 2013-2019 period was 134 pages in length, while sustainability section in annual report took on average only 25 pages. However, interesting observation is that in both cases number of pages devoted to CSR experienced tremendous increase over time as shown in Figure 1. In 2019, average number of pages in CSR reports increased from 100 to 162 pages, or by 61% compared to 2013. Sustainability section in annual reports increased from 17 to an average of 40 pages in 2019, which represent an increase of 137% compared to the base year of the examination.

Descriptive statistics for the sample under examination is presented in Table 1. The average CSR score for the period of this study is 0.78 points, with the lowest and highest average scores observed in 2013 and 2019, respectively. This observation implies that recent global trend towards growth in sustainability practices, as well as increased CSR reporting, is also seen in Russian market.

In respect of the other variables, average total assets experienced gradual increase from 2013, reaching 4.5bln in 2019. Average stock return has positive value of 14%, with the highest return observed in 2016, and the lowest one in 2017. Firms also delivered positive average return on assets during all the years under examination. Leverage measured as a ratio of Debt to Total Assets stayed almost at the same level of 35 through 2013-2019 period.

**Correlation matrix and regression results**

Table 2 presents correlation matrix for the variables under examination, with no significant correlation documented, suggesting that multicollinearity of variables is not an issue for the sample of this study. Low collinearity was supported by Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) test, showing coefficients close to 1 (Gujarati, 2003). Heteroskedasticity test was also performed, observing Durban-Watson statistics of 1.012.
### Table 1 – Descriptive Statistics

| Description | CC | E | HR | SI | Total CSR Score | Total Assets, in mln RUB | Stock return, % | ROA | D/A |
|-------------|----|---|----|----|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-----|-----|
| Mean 2013   | 0.73 | 0.91 | 0.63 | 0.62 | 0.72            | 3,055,775             | 4%             | 6.6 | 39.8 |
| 2014        | 0.81 | 0.91 | 0.68 | 0.63 | 0.76            | 3,821,398             | 4%             | 1.4 | 37.7 |
| 2015        | 0.77 | 0.93 | 0.71 | 0.69 | 0.78            | 4,266,499             | 39%            | 6.6 | 39.7 |
| 2016        | 0.77 | 0.94 | 0.75 | 0.68 | 0.79            | 4,020,605             | 41%            | 12.0| 35.7 |
| 2017        | 0.80 | 0.96 | 0.79 | 0.62 | 0.79            | 4,385,832             | -3%            | 8.4 | 33.0 |
| 2018        | 0.79 | 0.93 | 0.78 | 0.67 | 0.79            | 4,336,369             | 1%             | 8.6 | 34.5 |
| 2019        | 0.84 | 0.95 | 0.79 | 0.72 | 0.83            | 4,507,085             | 12%            | 10.8| 32.5 |
| Mean 2013-2019 | 0.79 | 0.93 | 0.74 | 0.67 | 0.78            | 4,086,531             | 14%            | 8.0 | 35.9 |
| Max 2013-2019 | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 0.96            | 31,197,500            | 188%           | 55  | 89  |
| Min 2013-2019 | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0.43            | 1,262,520             | -93%           | -9  | 3   |
| Std. Dev. 2013-2019 | 0.18 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.23 | 0.12            | 7,024,586             | 0.40           | 9   | 21  |

Note – compiled by authors

### Table 2 – Correlation matrix

| Variables          | VIF | CSR score | D/A | Ln TA | ROA | Stock Return |
|--------------------|-----|-----------|-----|-------|-----|--------------|
| CSR score          | 1.021 | 1        |     |       |     |              |
| D/A                | 1.554 | -0.038   | 1   |       |     |              |
| t-statistics       | -0.444 |         |     |       |     |              |
| Ln TA              | 1.564 | 0.329    | -0.552 | 1     |     |              |
| t-statistics       | 3.094 | -7.779   |     |       |     |              |
| ROA                | 1.127 | 0.250    | -0.137 | -0.158 | 1   |              |
| t-statistics       | 3.033 | -1.626   | 1.874 |       |     |              |
| Stock Return       | 1.021 | 0.041    | -0.009 | -0.043 | 0.143 | 1           |
| t-statistics       | 0.482 | -6.115   | -0.513 | 1.691 |     |              |

Note – compiled by authors

The regression results are presented in Table 3. Contrary to the initial expectation of the study, the statistical significance of the relationship between stock returns and CSR is not observed. This suggests that there is no award of higher stock prices for the disclosure of sustainability practices in case of Russian market. Though content-analysis presented in previous section showed a substantial growth in CSR disclosure over time, stock prices cannot be named among the purposes of this trend. This finding is contrary to the base study by Jizi et al. (2016) who observed positive statistically significant relationship of CSR disclosures and stock returns of U.S. based commercial banks. However, prior studies by Alexander and Buchholz (1978) and Murray et al. (2009) failed to observe statistical significance between CSR and stock returns similar to this study.
Interestingly, statistical significance between CSR disclosure was observed between other variables under examination. In particular, CSR exhibits positive statistically significant coefficient with ROA, in line with Simpson and Kohers (2002) who observed positive relationship between CSR and Financial Performance. In addition, statistically significant relationship was observed between CSR and total assets, implying that firms’ eagerness to devote efforts and resources to sustainability practices increases with size. Finally, positive relationship between CSR disclosure and the level of debt was observed. This observation could be explained by the results of the prior study by Kelchevskaya et al. (2017), who reported lower cost of equity for firms with higher quality of CSR disclosure on the basis of Russian market. Our result implies that firms utilize opportunity of lower cost of funds, increasing the level of debt.

Table 3 – Regression results

| Variables   | Coefficient | Std. error | t-statistics |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| C           | 0,054       | 0,114      | 0,474       |
| Stock Return| 0,005       | 0,023      | 0,197       |
| Ln TA       | 0,444*      | 0,007      | 6,246       |
| ROA         | 0,005*      | 0,001      | 4,924       |
| D/A         | 0,002*      | 0,001      | 3,623       |
| R-squared   | 0,273       |            |             |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0,251 |            |             |
| Sum squared resid. | 1,522 |            |             |
| F-statistics | 12,656     |            |             |

Notes: 1) * indicates significance at 1% level  
2) compiled by authors

Conclusion

This study aims to examine whether CSR disclosure contributes to the variation in stock returns. Contrary to initial assumption of the study, no statistically significant relationship was observed on the basis of Russian market. This result is in line with prior studies by Alexander and Buchholz (1978), Murray et al. (2009), however, contrary to the one obtained by Jizi et al. (2016), whose research model was adopted for the purposes of this study. This study suggests that Russian firms are driven by other purposes other than stock prices, for the disclosure of CSR practices. Positive statistically significant coefficients were found between CSR disclosure and financial variables.

In addition to the main objective of this study, several other observations regarding the evolution of the content of CSR reports of Russian firms were made. Firstly, disclosure of CSR activities increased significantly over 7 years periods of examination, as demonstrated by the growth in the number of pages and CSR scores. Environmental aspect is the one which receives the highest coverage in firms’ reports, followed by community contribution, human resources and social investment. Improvement of CSR disclosure of stand-alone firms is vividly seen from the expansion of the aspects disclosed, as well as more detailed disclosures supported by figures and year-to-year comparisons. Firms switching from merely reporting sustainability practices as part of a small section in annual report to producing CSR report wholly devoted to sustainability activities was also documented. Russian firms also construct the reports following the global recognized practices, with most recent UN agenda of 17 SDGs gradually incorporated.

The study is limited to the number of firms available for examination due to unavailability of historical financial data as well as disclosure data. In addition, further research can extend the number of variables used in model specification. Still, the study could present an interest to policymakers and firms’ management of Russian firms by bringing additional evidence on the effect of CSR on valuation and firms’ financials. In addition, presented content-analysis of the reports opens a curtain for further research to suggest underlying reasons of improved CSR disclosure other than for the purposes of increased stock returns.
References

Alexander, G., Buchholz, R. (1978), “Research notes. Corporate social responsibility and stock market performance”, *Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 21 No. 3, pp.479-486.

Barnett, M. L. (2007), “Stakeholder influence capacity and the variability of financial returns to corporate social responsibility”, *Academy of Management Review*, Vol. 32, pp.794-81.

Berk, J.B., (1995), “A Critique of size-related anomalies”, *The Review of Financial Studies*, Vol. 8 No. 2, pp.275–286.

Beurden, P. V., Gossling, T. (2008), “The worth of values: a literature review on the relation between corporate social and financial performance”, *Journal of Business Ethics*, Vol. 52 No. 2, pp. 407-424.

Brammer S, Brooks C, Pavelin S. (2006), “Corporate social performance and stock returns: UK evidence from disaggregate measures”, *Financial Management*, Vol. 35, pp. 97-116.

Camilleri, M. (2017), “Socially responsible and sustainable investing: a review and appraisal”, *Corporate Sustainability, Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*, Springer International Publishing AG, pp.61-77.

Campbell, D., Slack, R. (2008), “Corporate “philanthropy strategy” and “strategic philanthropy”: some insights from voluntary disclosures in annual Reports”, *Business and Society*, Vol. 47 No. 2, pp.187-212.

Capelle-Blancard G., Petit, A. (2017), “The weighting of CSR dimensions: one size does not fit all”, *Business and Society*, Vol. 56 No. 6, pp. 919-943.

Chava, S. (2014), “Environmental externalities and cost of capital”, *Management Science*, Vol. 60. No. 9, pp. 2223-2247.

Cini A. C., Ricci C. (2018), “CSR as a driver where ESG performance will ultimately matter”, *Symphonia. Emerging Issues in Management*, Vol. 1, pp.68-75.

Cogan, D. G. (2008), “Corporate governance and climate change: the banking sector”, Ceres report, available at https://www.finextra.com/finextra-downloads/newdocs/climate_change2008.pdf (accessed 16.04.2021)

Cooper, S. (2004), “Corporate social performance a stakeholder approach”, Routledge, United Kingdom, UK.

Dhaliwal, D.S., Li, O.Z., Tsang, A., and Yang, Y.G. (2011), “Voluntary nonfinancial disclosure and the cost of equity capital: the initiation of corporate social responsibility reporting”, *The Accounting Review*, Vol. 86 No. 1., pp.59-100.

Devlinney, T. (2009), “Is the socially responsible corporation a myth? The good, bad and ugly of corporate social responsibility”, *Academy of Management Perspectives*, Vol. 23 No. 2, pp.44-56.

El Ghouli, S., Guedhami, O., Kwok C. C., Mishra D. R. (2011), “Does corporate social responsibility affect the cost of capital?” *Journal of Banking & Finance*, Vol. 35 No. 9, pp. 2388-2406.

Glebova I., Rodnyansky, D., and Sadyrtdinov, R. (2013), “Evaluation of corporate social responsibility of Russian companies based on nonfinancial reporting”, *Middle East Journal of Scientific Research*, Vol.13, pp. 143-148.

Gujarati, D. (2003), *Basic Econometrics*, McGraw Hill Irwin, New York, NY.

Handiyono, M.Y., Sukoharsono, E.G., and Saraswati, E. (2017), “The role of corporate social responsibility disclosure toward company stock price crash risk”, *Russian Journal of Agricultural and Socio-Economic Sciences*, Vol. 68 No. 8, pp. 197-208.

Holder-Webb, L., Cohen, J., Nath, L. and Wood, D. (2009), “The supply of corporate social responsibility disclosures among U.S. firms”, *Journal of Business Ethics*, Vol. 84 No. 4, pp.497-527.

Iankova, E. (2008), “From corporate paternalism to corporate social responsibility in post-communist Europe”, *The Journal of Corporate Citizenship*, Vol. 29, pp.75-89.

Jiao, Y. (2010), “Stakeholder welfare and firm value”, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, Vol. 34, pp.2549–2561.

Jizi, M., Nehme, R., and Salama, A. (2016), “Do social responsibility disclosures show improvements on stock price? The Journal of Developing Areas*, Vol. 50 No. 2, pp. 77-95.

Kaban, M., Nu’aimat, S., Dahmash F. (2012), “The Relationship between the ROA, ROE and ROI ratios with Jordanian insurance public companies market share prices”, *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, Vol. 2 No. 11, pp. 115-120.

Kelchevskaya, N. R., Chernenko I. M., and Popova, E. V. (2017), “The impact of corporate social responsibility on the investment attractiveness of the Russian companies”, *Regional Economy*, Vol. 13 No. 1, pp.157-169.

Kolk, A. (2003). “Trends in sustainability reporting by the Fortune Global 250”, *Business Strategy and the Environment*, Vol. 12, pp. 279-29.

KPMG, (2020), “KPMG survey of sustainability reporting”, available at https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/11/the-time-has-come-survey-of-sustainability-reporting.html (accessed 29 March 2021)

Leledakis, G.N., Davidson, I., Smith, J. (2004), “Does firm size predict stock returns? evidence from the London stock exchange”, working paper, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228118922_Does_Firm_Size_Predict_Stock_Returns_Evidence_from_the_London_Stock_Exchange (accessed on 31.03.2021)

Malik, M. (2015), “Value-enhancing capabilities of CSR: a brief review of contemporary literature”, *Journal of Business Ethics*, Vol. 127 No. 2, pp. 419- 438.

McWilliams, A., Siegel, D. (2001), “Corporate social responsibility: a theory of the firm perspective”, *Academy of management review*, Vol. 26 No. 1, pp. 117-127.

Miska, C., Stahl, G.K. and Mendenhall, M.E. (2013), “Intercultural competencies as antecedents of responsible global leadership”, *European Journal of International Management*, Vol. 7 No. 5, pp. 550–569.

Modigliani, F., Miller, M.H. (1958), “The cost of capital, corporation finance and the theory of investment”, *The American Economic Review*, Vol.48 No. 3, pp.261-297.
Mohammadi, M.A.D., Mardani, A., Khan M.N.A.A., Streimikiene, D. (2018), “Corporate sustainability disclosure and market valuation in a Middle Eastern nation: evidence from listed firms on the Tehran stock exchange: sensitive industries versus non-sensitive industries”, Economic Research-Ekonomska Istraživanja, Vol. 31 No. 1, pp. 1488-1511.

Murray, A., Gray, R. (2006), “Do financial markets care about social and environmental disclosure?”, Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal, Vol. 19 No. 2, pp. 228-255.

Nelling, E., Cooper, E.W. (2008), “Corporate social responsibility and financial performance: the “virtuous circle” revisited”, Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting, Vol. 32 No. 2, pp.197-209.

Orlitzky, M., Schmidt, F.M., Reynes, S.L. (2003), “Corporate social and financial performance: a meta-analysis”, Organization Studies, Vol. 24, pp.403–441.

Pava, M. L., Krausz, J. (1996), “The association between corporate social responsibility and financial performance: the paradox of social cost”, Journal of Business Ethics, Vol.15 No. 3, pp. 321-357.

Salaber, J. (2007), “The determinants of sin stock returns: Evidence on the European market, paper presented at the Finance International Meeting, December 2007, Paris, France, available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1071746 (accessed on 30.03.2021)

Schueth, S. (2003), “Socially responsible investing in the United States”, Journal of Business Ethics, Vol. 43 No. 3, pp. 89-194.

Simpson, W., Kohers, T. (2002), “The link between corporate social and financial performance: Evidence from the banking industry”, Journal of Business Ethics, Vol. 35 No. 2, pp.97-109.

Soh, C., Kim, H.J., and Whang, T. (2014), “Corporate social responsibility (CSR) implementation in South Korea: lessons from American and British CSR policies”, Journal of International and Area Studies, Vol. 21 No. 2, pp. 99-118.

Sparkes, R and Cowton, C.J. (2004), “The maturing of socially responsible investment: a review of the developing link with corporate social responsibility”, Journal of Business Ethics, Vol.52 No. 1, pp. 45-57.

The Global Sustainable Investment Alliance (GSIA), “2018 Sustainable investment review”, available at http://www.gsi-alliance.org/trends-report-2018/ (accessed 29 March 2021)

UN General Assembly, “Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”, available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/57b6e3e44.html (accessed 29 March 2021).

Viviers, S. and Eccles, N.S. (2012), “35 years of socially responsible investing (SRI) research – general trends over time”, South African Journal of Business Management, Vol.43 No. 4, pp 1-16.

Waddock, S., Graves, S. (1997), “The corporate social performance-financial performance link”, Strategic Management Journal, Vol. 18, pp. 303-319.

Zhang, R., Zhu, J., Yue, H., Zhu, C. (2010), “Corporate philanthropic giving, advertising intensity and industry competition level”, Journal of Business Ethics, Vol. 94, pp. 39-52.

80