

**COLLEGIUM OF SOCIO-ECONOMICS
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**Corporate social responsibility in Poland
and creating value for key stakeholder groups**

Field of social sciences, scientific discipline: public policy sciences.

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Summary of the doctoral dissertation

The main objective of the dissertation is to analyse and evaluate the relationship between the implementation of the concept of CSR and the implementation of CSR in the operations of Polish private equity companies, which have been subject to the reporting of non-financial elements since 1 January 2017, and the value creation of the company and its key stakeholders.

Considering the research objective, the following research hypotheses were set:

H1: Implementing the assumptions of corporate social responsibility affects the ability to create value for the company while maintaining a balance in meeting the expectations of the environment in which they operate.

H2: Implementing CSR assumptions involves identifying, classifying and engaging key stakeholders.

H3: Regularly engaging stakeholders and considering their needs and expectations in the decision-making process contributes to creating value for key stakeholders.

The hypotheses formulated were verified through a critical analysis of the literature on the subject and the results of empirical research (quantitative and qualitative).

The dissertation consists of four chapters.

Chapter 1 presents the theoretical assumptions of the concept of sustainable development (SD) and its implementation of corporate social responsibility (CSR) from the perspective of public policy science. An outline of the evolution of the sustainable development approach in the world, in European Union (EU) public policy and Poland is presented, showing how the evolution of the concept created space for the increasing role of business as a partner of the public sector and NGOs in solving the problems of the modern world. The second part of the chapter presents the history of the development of the concept of CSR worldwide, in the EU and in Poland. At the heart of CSR is the concept of stakeholders, i.e. individuals or groups of people who are interested in an organisation's decisions and actions.

Chapter 2 begins with a critical analysis of stakeholder theory, approaches to stakeholder classification and the role of the company's dialogue with individual interest groups. The second part of the chapter discusses value creation by involving stakeholders in the activities of the firm and reviews selected theories of value creation, focusing on social responsibility.

Chapter 3 presents the results of empirical analyses covering the most prominent capital groups in Poland. Companies listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange with an average annual employment of more than 500 employees and a balance sheet total of more than PLN 85 million or net revenues from sales of goods and products of more than PLN 170 million were selected for the study. The author identified 151 such companies. In this part of the study, the author demonstrated the implementation of the concept of CSR in the business practices of Polish companies through the identification, classification and involvement of stakeholders.

Chapter 4 presents five case studies of private equity companies with a common strategic approach to CSR. The selected companies regularly identify, rank and engage stakeholders, which contributes to creating value for the company and its environment, have a CSR strategy, and their high CSR ranking confirms the quality of their performance. Examples of activities carried out by Lubelski Węgiel 'Bogdanka', Grupa LOTOS S.A., Grupa CCC S.A., Orange Polska and Bank BNP Paribas show how the implementation of CSR assumptions affects the creation of value in key stakeholder groups.

The paper concludes with a summary of the theoretical considerations, empirical research, and recommendations for further study. The thesis, which is the result of theoretical and research work, complements the available literature, particularly in the field of political science, and provides a starting point for further research into the integration of CSR into business practices and the creation of value for the company and its stakeholders, as well as analysing issues related to the further development of CSR as a platform for ensuring business continuity in a changing market environment.