

Streszczenie w języku angielskim

Adrianna Lisowska

Micro-enterprise financial statements and the information needs of lenders and lessors

Key words:

Financial statements of micro-enterprises, micro-enterprises, simplified financial statements

According to the Accounting Act, micro-enterprises may use simplifications in accounting and financial reporting. On the one hand, this reduces the administrative burden for these enterprises. On the other hand, it raises questions about the credibility and reliability of the information presented. An analysis of financial statements from the users' perspective, such as lenders and lessors, raises doubts about whether the current legal regulations satisfy their information needs.

The main objective of the dissertation is to develop an information structure for the financial statements of micro-enterprises tailored to the information needs of lenders and lessors, key users of micro-enterprises' financial statements. Achieving this main objective required the implementation of the following specific objectives:

C1: Identifying the extent to which micro-enterprises financial statements are used in credit/leasing decisions;

C2: Creating and operationalizing a research tool for measuring and evaluating the informational value of micro-enterprises' financial statement components;

C3: Identifying and categorizing the expectations of lenders and lessors with regard to the financial reporting of micro-enterprises.

Based on a literature review and analysis of previous secondary research results, the following hypothesis was formulated in the dissertation: the scope of information presented in simplified financial statements prepared in accordance with Annex 4 to the Accounting Act dedicated to micro-enterprises is insufficient in relation to the information needs of lenders and lessors when making decisions about financing the activities of micro-enterprises.

To achieve the objectives, the dissertation followed a three-stage research design. The first stage involved preliminary studies to determine if micro-enterprises used simplified financial statement templates, analyzing data from the financial statements of 236 limited liability enterprises in the Łódź Province in 2018, classified as micro-enterprises. The second stage, conducted in May 2024, consisted of actual research using the CAWI technique with two structured, proprietary questionnaires, one for lenders, one for lessors, distributed to 126 respondents (66 loan officers and 60 lease grantors). Data analysis employed tailored statistical measures, including descriptive statistics, exploratory factor analysis (EFA), Spearman's and V-Cramer's rank correlation coefficients, and cluster analysis. The third stage, conducted in May and June 2025, focused on verifying the new financial statement structure via CAWI with 16 respondents (9 lenders and 7 lessors), using qualitative analysis of their responses.

The study draws on domestic and foreign literature (including secondary research results), legal acts, thematic reports, statistical data related to the topic, and our own empirical research.

During the research:

- The extent to which the financial statements of micro-enterprises in simplified form in accordance with Appendix 4 to the Accounting Act and in full form in accordance with Appendix 1 to the Accounting Act can meet the information needs of lenders/lessors when making decisions was identified.
- Research tools were designed and operationalized to measure and assess the informational value of elements of micro-enterprises' financial statements.
- The expectations of lenders and lessors regarding the financial reporting of micro-enterprises were identified and categorized.

The results of my own research have positively verified the hypothesis that *the scope of information presented in simplified financial statements prepared in accordance with Annex 4 to the Accounting Act dedicated to micro-enterprises is insufficient in relation to the information needs of lenders and lessors in making decisions on financing the activities of micro-enterprises.*