BANK MERGING AND ACQUISITIONS - CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

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Abstract

In this paper I am trying to analyze the concepts of bank merging and acquisitions, the causes that led to their appearance, their effects on the banking system and their future perspective in the field of banking market. The main reason for choosing this topic is based on the fact that in the evolution of banking concentration, bank merging and acquisitions have a special role, they are necessary withdrawal operations of banking life, through the absorption of banks without viability by those that have a viable capital, economical and managing potential. It is well known the fact that large, very powerful and well established banks, created after processes of merging and acquisitions, have a different potential in maintaining the profit flow and balanced growth of profit, having a great impact over the economy. The contribution is based on combining some conceptual elements with some empirical aspects, bank merging and acquisitions represent a worldwide present-day process, having a great impact also on the Romanian banking market, on banking financial institutions, which, in order to face competition, have oriented their strategies for diversifying risks, for offering services to global customers, by means of bank merging and acquisitions. A developed economical market exists if it also has strong, consolidated banks, which have the ability to compete with the world's most powerful banks.

Keywords: merging, acquisitions, bank, concentration, consolidation, globalization

Clasificare JEL : G21; G34; F65

1. Introduction

I consider the theoretical approach of the merging and acquisitions concept as being important because they represent an essential part of the national and international banking-financial globalization process. The research methodology is based on the consulting the specialty literature from the country and from abroad, sources of information that include specialty book, articles and report in this area, works of economists and specialists, official documents, other national and international regulations and norms, publications of some credit institutions, web pages of some international institutions.

Some specialists say that merging and acquisitions are one of the effects of globalization and, on the other hand, others think that they are one of the factors which influence globalization. In the strategy of banking consolidation and concentration, a large number of banks adopt this kind of growth; one can say that merging and acquisitions represent the favorite way for achieving this strategy. This aspect is due to the fact that this type of strategy is the one that can offer the possibility to obtain the quickest growth in comparison with internal growth and partnerships.

Generally when a company or a bank wants to grow it can do this by an internal development or can choose the way of external development by mergers and acquisitions. By the last alternative it achieves a combination of factors of production existent (Glaum and Hutzschenreuter, 2010).

Both methods present also advantages and disadvantages; in case a bank institution is bought with employees, developed technology and competitive products is saved time comparing to an internal growth of the bank and has as result the increase of the market competition. This alternative presents the inconvenient that it implies great investments, the taking of the entire network and of the employees that determine also an increase of risks.

Both strategies are the object of the economical researches for tens of years, the researches about the efficiency of acquisitions and mergers and their impact on the economical performances began to appear in USA between 1960-1970 and in Europe from 1980's (Ebner, 2012). In the present due to the great number of acquisitions and mergers from the last decades was also intensified the activity of research of the acquisitions and mergers.

Some mega mergers attracted the attention of the researchers, of the public and of some political factors; an example is the companies from the steel industry Tyssen and Krupp who merged in 1997, the British company of mobile phones Vodafone and the German company Mannesmann who merged in 2000, the merge between Unicredit and the bank HypoVereinsBank in 2005 and the merge between Volkswagen and Porsche in 2014 (Ebner, 2012).
2. Analysis of specific literature

2.1 Typology of merging and acquisitions and their definition

In this chapter we reviewed the specialty literature about mergers and acquisitions, the main motivations which stood at the base of their creation but also the effects generated by them for the profitability, the quota on the market, the efficiency, the productivity and on the employees.

Different types of associations exist between the companies can be classified depending on how intense is the connection between them and how much is reduced their economical independence. There can be some alliances by which the company keeps its economical independence but there can exist some combinations when one looses the economical independence: these being in fact mergers and acquisitions (Pausenberger, 1989). The mergers and acquisitions are considered means of corporation growth and expansion (Copeland and Weston, 1983; Sudarsanam, 1995 in Grimpe, 2007).

Vogel defines mergers and acquisitions as being all the transactions including the connected services that induce the strategic an active transmitting of the power of control, to the management of the companies but also of the rights and obligations included in the contractual collaborations (Vogel, 2002).

Lucks and Meckl consider that the strategies and acquisitions are characterized by the transfer of the command chain and of control power to other companies (Lucks and Meckl, 2002). Wirtz defines the management of the mergers and acquisitions which includes the process and the strategic results motivated by purchase or by mergers of companies or parts of companies and their further resale. Also it is a transfer of management, control and competences available (Wirtz, 2003).

Resuming some definitions given by the authors as Vogel, Lucks and Meckl, Wirtz; Stefan Ebner defines the acquisitions and mergers as being a transfer of management, leadership and control authority (Ebner, 2012). According to Hirshleifer in mergers the involved companies don’t have a separate identity anymore and are combined for a single surviving entity (Hirshleifer, 1995).

Most of the time the terms of mergers and acquisitions are used as being synonyms; but there are also some differences. The acquisition means the taking of control of an existent company previously independent, giving up thus to the economical independence but also to the independent juridical statute of the assimilated company. The mergers creates a new juridical and economical entity, completely independent; is can be accomplished by the complete integration in the assimilating company or by founding a new company (Pauenberger, 1989; Glaum and Hutzschenreuter, 2010 in Ebner, 2012).

Merging and acquisition, together with internal growth and partnerships, represent a method of bank development. Merging and acquisitions are an integral part of the internationalizing and strategic re-progress strategies, when quick external growth can bring advantages to the company in comparison to the competition or when new knowledge has to be acquired in the field of technology, research-development, marketing or management (Blejou, 2010).

In English-American literature the terms of mergers and acquisitions are inseparable which means that the differences disappear in practice (Grimpe, 2007). Are distinguished in the specialty literature more types of mergers and acquisitions: horizontal, vertical and conglomerated. In a horizontal mergers are combined entities that compete in the same market; in a vertical mergers an entity is united with its supplier and in a conglomerate are united companies that have different business lines (Carlton and Perlo, 2005 in Ebner, 2012). The vertical mergers and those of conglomerate type represent the combination between the entities that act on different markets; the literature defining them “non-horizontal” mergers (Church, 2004). An overview on the vertical mergers sustains firmly, on theoretical and empirical reasons the fact that they contribute to the increase of the consumers’ welfare. With all these they can be anti-competitive if they have at the base a strengthen coordination (Church, 2008b). The distinction between the different types of mergers is not always clear, in the vertical mergers there is a distinction between before the integration namely an entity upriver merges with one downriver and after the integration namely an entity downriver merges with one downriver (Church, 2008b). Also there are many types of conglomerate mergers, mergers between the entities producing complementary products (the consumers can purchase these products individually but they assembly them for consumption), neighbor products (independent one of another or are replaced and have the same segment of buyers) or independent products (Church, 2008a).

In the specialty literature is made a distinction between the amiable taking over or hostile taking over; in the amiable taking over the management of the entity is that sustains the process of acquisition and collaborates by the delivery of all the information requested by the buyer. The hostile taking over takes place when the management of the company is not disposed to negotiate and collaborate when an acquisition takes place. In this case the buyer makes an offer of acquisition of the shares for a limited period of time, afterwards offering a premium in order to make the offer more attractive (Glaum and Hutzschenreuter, 2010).

The mergers can be internal or crossborder. In the internal mergers are united entities that are located in the same country an in the crossborder are united entities situated in different countries. The crossborder mergers represent...
2.2 The appearance of the first waves of merging and acquisitions

The specialty literature about the waves of mergers and acquisitions identify the economical, technological changes and of regulating as being the reason for the appearance of the waves of acquisitions and mergers (Hartford, 2005).

The first wave appeared between 1897-1904 as a reaction of the industrial revolution; the steam engines and the appearance of the hard industry allowed the organizing of the economies of larger scale in great trusts of companies. The mergers and acquisitions were in this period horizontal; this wave was called wave of monopole mergers. The reason for the adjective monopole is that many companies with small quota of market created a consolidated structure with great concentrations. These companies that used the word trust for their business plan became in time great monopoles that determined the increase of the preoccupations for the anticompetition politics leading to the appearance of the anti trust laws in USA (Motis, 2007). With all these the passing from the Sherman Deed and Clayton Deed stopped the wave of mergers because they were blocked when they increased substantially the power on the market of the company (Ebner, 2012). The Sherman Deed says that every person who shall monopolize, or combine or conspire with any other person or persons, to monopolize any part of the trade or commerce shall be deemed guilty of a felony.

The second wave between 1920 and 1929 was dominated by vertical mergers and conglomerated; this fact was due to the Clayton Deed that made the horizontal difficult.

The third wave of mergers began in 1965 and was ended in 1973. USA controls the mergers by passing to the Hart-Scott-Rudino Deed in 1976 and Germany introduces regulations in 1973 in order to control the mergers and acquisitions (Ebner, 2012).

The fourth wave of mergers took place between 1984 and 1988, but especially in Europe. The national companies were prepared for the European unique market and merged with the European or international companies. The mergers and acquisitions were concentrated on the industry of intensive technologies; the antitrust laws appearing in 1989 (Ebner, 2012)

The fifth wave began in 1995, many of the activities of mergers and acquisitions were motivated by the globalization and the regulations. Another characteristic of this wave of mergers was the great transactions, the so called “mega offers”, they took place especially in telecommunications, pharma or the bank sector. In this period due to the phenomenon of globalization the mergers were crossborder. This wave was ended in 2000.

The sixth wave of mergers and acquisitions began in 2002 and ended in 2008 once the financial crisis appeared.

2.3 Motivations on which merging and acquisitions are based on

The objective of this section is to understand the reasons that are the basis of the appearance of bank mergers and acquisitions. The specialty literature developed more theories about the reasons of the appearance of the mergers in the last decades.

Motis classifies the reasons of accomplishing the mergers and acquisitions as the following: reasons that lead to the increase of the company’s growth and reasons that lead to the increase of the manager fortune (Motis, 2007). The increase of the company’s value is made mainly by the growth of its profits.

If a company or a bank institution is maximizing the profit the mergers and the acquisitions should increase the profit by combining the companies or the bank institutions. This challenge is possible by two methods: the increase of the income by increasing the market power and the increase of the income by reducing the costs, reducing determined by the increase of the efficiency (Ebner, 2012). Thus the most obvious reasons for mergers and acquisitions are the increase of the market power and the increase of the efficiency but there are differences between the horizontal mergers, the vertical and conglomerated ones.

The horizontal mergers can increase the power on the market because they reduce the number of entities on the same market. In a system of oligopoly type these mergers can lead to greater prices (Ebner, 2012). The vertical
mergers are a method of increasing the market power by increasing the barriers of entrance at one or more stages in the chain of vertical production (Comanor, 1967). The mergers of conglomerated type can also determine that the entities from the market should win power; they make silent alliances if they agree being thus disposed to cooperate with their rivals to establish greater prices (Ebner, 2012). The conglomerated mergers can accomplish anticompetitive advantages due to an increase of the portfolio of the companies or of the product range (Church, 2008a).

The increase of the mergers and acquisitions can come from the increase of the efficiency. There are here some differences between the horizontal, vertical and conglomerated mergers. The horizontal mergers increase the amlessness of the economical entities leading to the average reducing of the costs, these horizontal mergers are recommended between the smaller entities. Regarding the vertical mergers the reduction of costs comes from the elimination of the production steps. Another argument for the vertical mergers are the costs of transaction that appear for the transfer of goods and services between economical entities (Ebner, 2012). In the conglomerates two goods or services stocked and supplied together under the form of a package of products and services can lead to the increase of efficiency.

During economical recession, merging is seen as a way to reduce costs and also as a way to eliminate some competitors from the market, thus leading to the development of market power (Mueller, 2003 in Ebner, 2012). Another frequently seen motivation is the interest of the managers to expand the scale of the bank to the detriment of profit, because there is a correlation between its size and the amount of incomes (Jensen și Murphy, 1990). Also, there are managers who are interested in their power and prestige and choose merging and acquisition exactly for this purpose.

According to Jensen regarding the hypothesis of an available cash flow, some managers variantly choose to maintain this cash for the purpose of purchasing other companies, for acquiring power, even if at that point it is not the best solution, avoiding to distribute those amounts to the shareholders (Jensen, 1986).

Also, an important factor is represented by the quality of management and the evolution of the competition spirit; it is known that banks are involved in competition because of the market conditions in which they function and because of the will to have better results and higher assets. The volume and speed with which merging was accomplished have targeted the growth of market share, business development, quality and efficiency of serving the customers, costs reduction, growth of additional profits for the shareholders and promotion of more efficient leading procedures. Thus, by means of a strong management, some aspects regarding barriers can be harmonized, these being represented by organizational cultures, language differences, training, business progress and framework of drawing up strategic plans (Berea, 2001).

According to his theory Dewey merging is seen as an alternative to bankruptcy, some institutions without any profit can be saved from bankruptcy only by merging with a profitable one (Dewey, 1961 in Ebner, 2012).

Another motivation is represented by the diversification of the bank's activity; banks which merge add their financial potential and create financial resources for approaching a different type of operations and their fast expansion. Large banks are able to disperse risks, can cover deficiencies of certain market areas with positive results of other areas, fact which leads to balanced maintenance and development of profit.

Also, merging and acquisitions lead to optimizing the network of branches of a bank by making them more efficient, lead to growth of the quality of offered services and growth of profit, these being the most convenient way for expanding and penetrating the territory.

Another argument can be the reduction of taxes; powerful banks involved in merging will fuse not only the assets of the banks, but also the results, respectively profits or losses.

2.4 The effects of the mergers and acquisitions

There are many consequences generated by the mergers and acquisitions: they can affect the performance of the economical entity, can affect the level of concentration from the economy and the social welfare.

From the theoretical point of view the mergers should generate positive effects in case the mangers maximize the profit and have rational expectations. With all these many empirical researches from the last decades about the effects of the mergers and acquisitions demonstrated that the mergers don’t lead necessarily to the increase of the profit of a company, in some cases of mergers the profit is decreasing. This fact is due to other reasons that are the basis of accomplishing the mergers and acquisitions, different than the maximizing of the profit (Ebner, 2012).

According to the models elaborated by Gugler, Mueller, Yurtoglu and Zulehner, there are two possibilities of increasing the profit after mergers; the mergers can lead to the increase of efficiency with a decrease of the costs for the companies that merge or the profit increases by the increase of the market quota (Gugler et al, 2003).

The effects of the mergers and acquisitions on the productivity are of great interest because they measure their economical efficiency. There are many ways to estimate the productivity: ex. production or the sales/employee. In case the mergers are motivated by the maximizing of the profit we should expect that the productivity after the merge to be positive (Ebner, 2012). It is difficult to make previsions on the effects of the mergers and acquisitions on the employment because the mergers that are motivated by the maximizing of the profit are most probably followed by economies of costs and reducing of employment apart from the mergers that have other basic motivations (Conyon et
3. B.C.R - an example of bank acquisition

The extending of the banks from the Western Europe in Eastern Europe was accomplished by two methods: the taking over of the inefficient banks by banks from the developed countries that bring with them new technology, competitive market strategies, modern management and this will lead to a development of the bank taken over, the increase of the profits, of the efficiency of their position on the market. Another way of extending presupposes the aggressive entering of these banks on the internal market and the taking over of an important local bank. In order to be able to increase the profit the western banks adopted the strategy of increasing the number of units. In Romania most of the banks adopted this strategy to buy important local banks to obtain a market quota as great as possible and of significant profits. Is also the case of BCR. In the context of the globalization and of integration in the European bank system a solution for the Romanian banks beginning with 1990 was the privatization of the banks.

Al. 2002 in Ebner, 2012). On the other side the new proprietaries can bring new capital, experience with positive effects on the employment (McGuckin and Nguyen, 2001 in Ebner, 2012).

Gugler and Yurtoglu have sustained that the mergers are seen as a method of optimum restructuring and adjustment of the employment, so that most of the losses of jobs can be expected in the countries with a rigid employment market (Gugler and Yurtoglu, 2004).

When by mergers and acquisitions takes place an increase of the profitability we should expect the salaries to increase. Moreover the horizontal mergers can lead also to changes in the structure of the market product. This overplus is due to the reduced costs of transaction (Conyon et al, 2004 in Ebner, 2012). The negative effects can be expected also in the case when the new management renegotiates the employment contracts after the mergers (Shleifer and Summers, 1988 in Ebner, 2012).

In case the motivations on which the process of merging and acquisitions is based are realistic, the strategy of merging and acquisitions is the strategy which offers the banks the possibility to obtain the fastest increase of the volume of activity, by conquering new markets, but, also, is the strategy which has the deepest effect on national and regional economies.

Contrary, economical reality has shown that merging and acquisitions hide negative side effects which can lead to a decrease of the growth rhythm of the company, can lead to staff layoffs as an attempt to resize expenses, to reduction of innovation due to focusing on general increase of acquisitions. The failure of the mergers and acquisitions, most of the times, is due either to the illusory synergy, to the vain of the high management or to a slow integration. The mergers and the acquisitions are a very complex type of strategy and in the same time challenging for the management of the company that has to solve problems as the integration of two organizational cultures totally different or the unification of two hierarchic structures totally opposite. The role of the top management in accomplishing a transaction is extremely important because if it is not made an adequate evaluation of the company that will be purchased or with which will be made the merge, can appear major difficulties afterwards. It was proved that if there is no strategic vision the acquisitions and the mergers are not efficient.

Over the years were made mega transactions, and namely acquisitions or mergers between the great banks that created new gigantic structures. The justification for the performance of these mega transactions is the following: in order to succeed the conquering of a gigantic market as the global market we need gigantic companies, namely companies that would have the force to deliver products to a large market (Dobocan, 2010). The great gigantic banks and financial groups are united, are merging, dominating and controlling the entire activity in this department. “We assist today to the so called mergemania (the mania of merging), the great ones becoming greater and stronger” (Mihai and Mihai, 2002). The bank globalization is made not only geographically, on the planet level, but also structurally; the great international financial groups being real conglomerates, that include, beside the banks, companies of insurance-reinsurance, investment or pension funds, activities on capital market, leasing, capable to offer the so called integrated financial services. Having an important role in the process of concentration the mergers and the acquisitions have as an effect the restraining of the number of competitors and the creating of some privileged positions on the top, the creation of “quiet areas” in which the competition begins to be blur (Hurduc,2005).

A group of German specialists propose the decreasing of subventions, the elimination of the risky speculations, the forcing of creating its own reserved by the great banks because they consider that they are so great, than the growth fluctuations of credits affect the macroeconomy. The mega banks, relaxed quantitatively due to the restrictive decreasings, took as hostages the world economy and the governments of the main countries. (Gribincea and Ulim, 2003). Thus the developed countries approved a series of measures in order to limit the impact of the banks on the global economy. The demands Basel III restrict the demands regarding the regulator on the liquidity in the euro area and approved already the regulations of the unique mechanism of surveillance of the banks, whose total assets are over 30 billions of EURO or 20% of the country’s gross domestic product. It is considered that the dimensions of the bank are significant due to the fact that the great banks are less careful (cautious), because they are sure that they are over 30 billions of EURO or 20% of the country’s gross domestic product. It is considered that the dimensions of the bank are significant due to the fact that the great banks are less careful (cautious), because they are sure that they are so great, that if there is no strategic vision the acquisitions and the mergers are not efficient.

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Romanian Commercial Bank was founded at the end of 1990 when it took over the operations with clients made until then by BNR. Between 1994-1998 were elaborated the first strategies on average term by which were established directions of the future development of the bank. 1999 marks the beginning of a new stage of evolution of BCR participating at a premiere on the Romanian market, respectively the merge by assimilation of Bancorex, following this process resulting a more solid bank. On the date of 21st of December 2005 is signed the contract of privatization of BCR by which ERSTE BANK would take the majority package of 61.8825% of shares approximately 3.75 billions of Euro.

Erste Bank the mother company of Erste Bank group is the oldest bank of economies from Austria. Die Erste oesterreichische Spar-Casse Bank Aktiengesellschaft changed its denomination in Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG on the date of 04 October 1997, following the merge of GiroCredit Bank Aktiengesellschaft der Sparkassen, the third bank from Austria from the point of view of the size, with Die Erste, the fifth bank from Austria from the point of view of the size, creating the second bank group from the point of view of the size from Austria. Die Erste was founded in 1819 as Vereinssparksasse (association of banks of economies) and was the first bank of economies from Austria.

On the moment of the initial public bid of its shares in 1997, Erste Bank had four fundamental strategies: the concentration on the fundamental commercial potential in the sector of the bank operations of retail, building a strong trademark among the banks of economies from Austria, reaching an internal market of 40 millions of persons in the Central Europe and transferring the model of distribution from the multiple channels in the entire Central Europe. Erste Bank (2008). Due to the success it had the fundamental strategies were adapted to reflect the evolution of Erse Bank and its purposes; following that afterwards the Erste Bank strategies would be: concentration on the bank operation of retail, reaching the markets from the Central and Eastern Europe and the increase of the efficiency in the Erste bank group.

Since 1997, Erste Group became one of the greatest suppliers of financial services from the Central and Eastern Europe, with over 46000 employees that serve approximately 16.4 millions of clients in 2900 branches from 7 countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia).

The strategy adopted by Erste Bank is of taking over the greatest bank from Romania; the Romanian Commercial Bank represented for Erste bank a rare opportunity to take over a bank institution leader on one of the most important markets from Central and Eastern Europe. In the present the Romanian Commercial Bank (BCR), member of Erste Group, is the most important financial group from Romania, including the universal bank operations (retail, corporate & investment banking, treasury and capital markets), and the profile companies from the market of leasing, the management of assets, private pensions, the banks of houses and the bank services by mobile phone. BCR is the no. 1 bank in Romania after the value of the assets (over 16 billions of Euro), the no. 1 bank from the point of view of the clients and the no. 1 bank on the sectors of savings and crediting. The BCR group which includes BCR Bank for houses, BCR pensions, The company of administration of private pensions funds SA, BCR Leasing and BCR Chisinau.

Erste Bank has chosen the strategy of taking over the largest bank from Romania, in order to extend activity and to increase profits. Erste has maintained the leader position of BCR on the Romanian market and focuses on profit increase; in 2013 a restructuring process has taken place, with effects on the number of employees of the network, by having a decrease of 1200 individuals. This restructuring has lead to profit increase of the bank, even in a rather difficult economical climate.

Tomas Spurny, executive president of BCR, states that even a bank like BCR which controls 10% of the national network of branches, 20% of the assets, credits and deposits and concentrates 15% of the system employees, cannot be that hard to redress, but it needs some time, strong management and a cultural change.

I have chosen to present the acquisition of BCR by Erste Bank in order to practically highlight the motives and effects of the bank's acquisition, the importance of understanding and correctly applying these motives, both for the bank and for the general economy.

4. Conclusions

The mergers and acquisitions reflect a reality of the present economical environment, they represent in the present the most common way of extending and diversifying the bank institutions, they became in the last years more frequent in the strategy of the great financial groups but also of the small bank institutions. These operations underline the value of the financial entities but also their management and they are a way of transforming the bank entities when the competitional system evaluates fast and of accomplishment of the process of bank consolidation.

Theoretical approach of the specialty literature, understanding how merging and acquisitions are made, the ways by which they are made, the motives which represent the basis for them and the effects on the bank and general economy are essential. It has been discovered that when the motives on which merging and acquisitions are based on are not objective, meaning that they do not focus on the growth of value and efficiency of the bank, but on the interests of certain leading factors, negative effects can be created. The reasons that are the base for the accomplishment of mergers and acquisitions can have an offensive nature (intrusion on a new market, the extending of the capacity of
influence and domination, renewing, regeneration of the bank) or defensive (consolidation or defence of the market position, searching for a critical size reach, adapting to the technological evolutions, fighting the actions of the competitors, limiting the entries inside the sector). (Vancea, p. 7). Also a determinant reason is the subjectiveness of the managers who sometimes can gather in the process of consolidation only for the accomplishment of their own interests.

I considered important also the analysis of the waves of mergers and acquisitions that take place during the years, because from their evolution in the past we can understand some tendencies in the future and perspectives of the activity of merging and acquiring; these are in the present a reality in the national but also in the world economical background.

It can be said that by mergers and acquisitions, the non-competitive distributions of the bank potential are readjusted and there is a wish for efficiency and enhanced profit; being thus a way of the bank construction of the major repairs type that need support and help within the national bank system and the entire national economic environment.

They have a considerable role in the increase of concentration degree since they are specific instruments for realisation and intensive increase of the concentration degree (Hurduc, 2005). If their implementing strategies were adequately applied, the bank mergers and acquisitions will lead to the costs decrease and the increase of profitability both for the bank and of the client.

Due to the financial crisis and the reduced growing and development potential of the bank market, the mergers still represent a necessary element. In order to survive, the small bank with a low market share will be bound to choose merging. If they have a large bank beside them, they will get through all the existing challenges in the financial field at the present day.

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6. References