

Equity Valuation Research:

Corticeira Amorim SGPS S.A.

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ABSTRACT:

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By Francisco Emanuel Saraiva Ramos Moreira Gomes

Every single existing asset has value, including companies. The main purpose of Equity Valuation is to determine, at a given time, the value of a specific company, taking into account its past, present and future expected performance, as well as its market position and assets. Thus, Equity Valuation turns out to be very useful namely because it allows investors to take better informed investment decisions. To perform a true valuation, the implied assumptions must hold and be consistent to obtain a trustworthy and reliable scenario of the company's reality. A good valuation needs to consider both internal and external factors that influence, positively or negatively, the company's performance during its professional activity. It is also important to state that there are a large variety of possible valuation methods, which will result in different results and with different accuracy.

The present dissertation is an Equity Valuation of Corticeira Amorim GSPS S.A., the world's biggest cork-transforming company and the most international Portuguese company. While many companies have failed to survive to the financial crisis, Corticeira Amorim managed to succumb it due to its sustainable growth over time. Moreover, after analyzing the company's financial statements, its consistently positive results are noticeable. Having said so, it appears to be a good company to invest in, as its recent and future expected performance seems to be aligned with investors' expectations. This dissertation aims to suggest investors as to whether they should invest, or not, in Corticeira Amorim, taking into account its estimated market value.

ABSTRACT:

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Todo e qualquer ativo tem um determinado valor, nomeadamente as empresas. O principal objetivo de uma *Equity Valuation* é determinar o valor de uma empresa, num dado período, tendo em consideração a sua performance passada, presente e futura, além da sua posição de mercado e dos seus ativos. Assim, uma *Equity Valuation* é extremamente útil, nomeadamente porque permite aos investidores tomarem decisões melhor informados. Numa boa avaliação, os pressupostos têm de ser realistas e consistentes de forma a representar um cenário realista da realidade da empresa. Uma boa avaliação tem também de considerar fatores internos e externos à empresa que influenciam, positiva ou negativamente, o seu desempenho durante a sua atividade profissional. É importante referir que há uma grande variedade de métodos de avaliação, levando a diferentes resultados e com diferentes graus de precisão.

Esta dissertação incide sobre a *Equity Valuation* da Corticeira Amorim SGPS S.A., a maior empresa transformadora de cortiça do mundo e a empresa Portuguesa mais internacional. Enquanto muitas empresas faliram durante a crise financeira mundial, a Corticeira Amorim conseguiu ultrapassar este período devido ao seu crescimento sustentável ao longo dos anos. Analisando os seus relatórios financeiros, são evidentes os resultados positivos consistentes. Assim, parece ser uma boa empresa para investir devido ao seu bom desempenho recente e ao desempenho esperado no futuro. A dissertação sugere aos investidores se estes devem, ou não, investir na Corticeira Amorim, tendo em conta o seu valor de mercado.

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0. Introduction

This dissertation will focus on Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. by valuing the company's business, in order to determine which is the value per stock unit, in 2016. By getting the value and comparing it to the market, it will be possible to conclude whether investors should invest, disinvest or keep their position when it comes to investment decisions. Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. is the world's leader operating in the cork industry and the most international Portuguese company due to its exportation level. It belongs to the Amorim Group, representing its core business, majorly held by the Amorim family. It is traded in the Portuguese PSI 20 index on the Lisbon Stock Exchange.

Due to the 2009's global financial crisis, many companies are facing difficulties all over the world and Portugal is not an exception. Many companies have closed doors and many others are fighting for survival. However, there are a few companies that managed to, in a certain way, get over it. Corticeira Amorim GSPS, S.A. is one of those companies that managed to register positive results. Due to its global and international position, the market variety – namely construction and wine -, and sustainable growth over time, it managed to reinforce its' market share, not only in Portugal but also worldwide, strengthening their leading position in the cork-industry.

Corticeira Amorim has five different business units: Raw materials, Cork Stoppers, Floor & Wall Coverings, Insulation Cork and Cork Composites. It is important to mention that Corticeira Amorim is leader in every single cork segment it operates in. Because the company does not provide data concerning each business unit, the valuation with take into account the consolidated data.

In order to get an easier understanding and more pleasant reading, the dissertation's structure will be divided into four parts. Firstly, the Literature Review, where all Equity Valuation related topics will be presented and discussed as well as the used models. Secondly, both company and industry overview so that a closer insight is provided and to contextualize Corticeira Amorim within the cork industry reality. The third part has to do with the Equity Valuation of Corticeira Amorim, measuring the value of the company following the Discounted Cash-Flow approach, using consolidated data, as well as the Relative Evaluation and the Dividend Discount Model.

The fourth and last part consists on a comparison between the dissertation's results and the BPI Bank Equity Research, explaining the main differences.

1. Literature Review

1.1. Valuation Approaches

According to Damodaran (2002) "valuation plays a key role in many areas of finance - in corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and portfolio management". When it comes to portfolio management, the referred role depends on the type and philosophy of the investor, whether it is active or passive, as it will have higher impact on active investors. Even among active investors, the impact may be different due to investors' investment preferences, as some prefer to invest in the market while others prefer to invest in specific firms. Therefore, it is vital for active and firm-specific investors, as they trade more and riskier assets. Regarding mergers and acquisition analysis, valuation plays an important role as the bidding firm/investor has to decide which is the fair value to offer before making the bid. On the other hand, the target firm also needs to know which is the fair value in order to accept or reject the offer. In this particular fields, valuation must include synergies on the combined value of both companies, which are gains driven by the merger. Finally, corporate finance's goal is the firm's value maximization. Having said so, a set of financial and strategic decisions have to be delineated to reach that objective. Some management consulting firms started to provide services in order to help companies with the internal process, as "the value of the firm can be directly related to decisions that it makes".

The focus of this dissertation is to value Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. and its price per share in order to, comparing it to the market, give some piece of advice whether investors should buy, keep or sell the company's stocks. As expected, such decisions will depend on the fact that shares and overvalued, undervalued or correctly valued.

There is a wide range of methods used by analysts to value a company, some are simpler and others more sophisticated. Despite the fact that different methods use different assumptions, they share some common characteristics. From the wide range of possible methods, the DCF (Discounted Cash-Flow) is the most common one among companies to value their businesses.

This referred model consists on "valuing the business according to its expected future cashflows discounted to present value at the weighted-average cost of capital of the firm" (Luehrman, 1997). Some different existing models are based on the DCF model. Because there may be valuation problems during the process, different approaches may be needed.

Generally speaking, according to Damodaran (2002), an alternative method is the Relative Valuation, which values an asset taking into account the price of comparable assets in the market. By comparable it is considered variables as sales, earnings, cash-flows, company's size and markets. This method will be used to test DCF's consistency.

Regarding Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. and taking into account its characteristics and financial reports, the Discounted Cash-Flow is the most suitable approach to be used in the valuation process during the dissertation. For being the most common approach and because the company has a stable capital structure, the DFC approach was the chosen method. The Adjusted Present Value (APV) was an alternative method but it is most suitable for companies with fluctuations on the capital structure in time, which is not the case of Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. Appendix 1 provides a comparison between DCF and APV methods. Due to the company's healthy financial situation, it has been paying dividends over the last years and, therefore, a DDM (Dividend Discount Model) will also be presented in this dissertation.

1.2. Discounted Cash-Flow (DCF) Valuation

Over the last decades, the Discounted Cash-Flow approach to perform a valuation has revealed to be the best and the most common method. This approach "values the company on the basis of the *net present value* (NPV) of its future free cash flows which are discounted by an appropriate discount rate" (Florian Steiger, 2008). In other words, it is focused on determining the present value of future forecasted cash flows, which are discounted to the present at a specific discount rate, the weighted average cost of capital (WACC), which is the "opportunity cost of the company, representing the return its owners expect to earn on an alternative investment implying the same risk" (Luehrman, 1997). The formula for the NPV calculation is presented below.

$$NPV = \sum_{t=0}^{n} \frac{FCF_t}{(1+r)^t}$$

Some different Discount Cash Flow models follow the same methodology, taking into account the relation between future and forecasted cash flows and its present value. However, they also have some differences, namely cash flow components, tax effects and discount rates. Among the Discount Cash Flow models, the most commonly used are the Free Cash Flow to the Firm (FCFF), Free Cash Flow to Equity (FCFE) and the Adjusted Present Value (APV). The Dividend Discount Model, which will be used in this dissertation as previously mentioned, is a variant of the Free Cash Flow to Equity model.

It is also important to mention that both forecasts and discount rate calculations are based on certain assumptions according to the specific company under the valuation process, which are according to Janiszewski (2011), the macroeconomic, industry and business information. These assumptions must be accurate and clear in order to obtain an understandable and trustworthy valuation. At this stage, managers face a difficult time as forecasting growth rates and cash flows is a difficult task, not only because there is uncertainty about the company's future performance but also because the macroeconomic environment may face changes that will affect the company and its professional activity's performance. Bad forecasts and mismeasurement of macroeconomic variables may lead to high fluctuations on the company's value, making the valuation less realistic.

The first step of valuating a company using the DCF model is to predict the future free cash flows for the next 5 or 10 years, until it reaches a steady state. Free Cash Flow is simply the amount of cash that the company does not need for reinvestment nor operational purposes. The second step is to determine the discount rate (WACC) in order to obtain the present value of the future cash flows. At this stage, all variables are estimated and ready to calculate the Net Present Value (NPV). The third step is to compute the terminal value, which is "the net present value of all future cash flows that occur after the time period that is covered by the scenario analysis" (Florian Steiger, 2008). The fourth and final step is to sum up the net present values of the cash flows and the terminal value, according to the following formula.

Company Value =
$$\sum_{t=0}^{n} \frac{FCF_t}{(1+r)^t} + Terminal Value$$

1.2.1. Free Cash Flow to the Firm and Free Cash Flow to Equity

Both Free Cash Flow to the Firm (FCFF) and to Equity (FCFE) can be used to perform a Discounted Cash Flow Valuation. Free Cash Flow to the Firm is the cash flow that is available to debt and equity holders while the Free Cash Flow to Equity is the cash flow available to the company's equity holders only. The FCFF approach has the enterprise value of the company as outcome while the FCFE outcomes equity value. Because the acquirers buy the whole company with its debt, equity and liabilities, the FCFF approach is the best approach to use. Formula presented below according to Damodaran (1996).

FCFF = NOPAT + D&A - Capex - Increase in NWC

Once the company's earnings before interests and taxes (EBIT) is computed, the Free Cash Flow to the Firm can be calculated by deducting taxes to EBIT. At this stage, the outcome is the Net Operating Profit After Taxes (NOPAT).

EBIT is, basically, the financial result of the period – generally a semester or a year. It is computed by getting the company's operating revenues and deducting its' operating expenses, interest payments and income taxes. The expected and forecasted growth will have impact not only on revenues, but also on expenses, which will influence EBIT directly. The Tax Rate to be used is the effective tax rate, which is the actual tax rate companies have to pay.

Depreciation is the cost associated with the item's useful lifetime. According to Koller et al. (2005), a way to forecast is in relative terms, as a percentage of other items. This way splits in two, as it can be measured as a percentage of revenues or as a percentage of property, plant and equipment (PP&E).

The Capex (Capital Expenditures) is money spent by the company to buy or upgrade physical assets, namely property, industrial buildings or equipment. Typically, it is associated to the company's growth, as higher growth levels are associated to higher Capex. It can be forecasted in relative terms, as a percentage of financial items like revenues or earnings, or using the Capex/Depreciation ratio, as these two items are deeply correlated.

The Working Capital measures short-term financial health. It can be calculated through the difference between current assets and liabilities, which was the used method in the dissertation. If the differential turns to be negative, the company may face difficulties to repay to its debt holders (creditors) in the short run due to liquidity issues. Because the Working Capital depends on many different financial items, forecasting it gets more complex as it is necessary to forecast every single item. According to Koller et al. (2005), the items should be forecasted in relative terms. Therefore, accounts receivables, accrued expenses, property, plants & equipment and goodwill should be forecasted as a percentage of revenues. On the other hand, inventories and accounts payable should be a percentage of costs of goods sold (COGS).

1.2.2. Terminal Value

The company's value is, again, given by summing up the present value of the forecasted cash flows – NPV, discounted using WACC – plus the terminal value. The Terminal Value (TV) represents the present value of all future cash flows that are expected to happen after the forecasted period. Therefore, it is plausible to affirm that it includes earnings that will occur in the distant future that are nearly impossible to forecast (perpetuity). Damodaran (2012) argues that the stable growth model is one of the best approaches to use in this chapter. Under the free cash flow to the firm methodology, the formula to estimate the Terminal Value is given by

$$\text{Terminal Value} = \frac{\text{FCFF}_{n+1}}{\text{WACC} - \mathbf{g}_n}$$

which can also be used in Free Cash Flow to Equity and Dividend Discount Model. FFCF n+1 represents the expected free cash flow to the firm one year after the terminal year; WACC stands for the weighted average cost of capital; g is the constant growth rate the company will take for perpetuity. In order to compute the terminal value, the company must be growing at a steady state and with expectations to sustain in perpetuity.

,

Damodaran (2006) argues that there are two essential conditions when making assumptions regarding the growth rate. The first states that the growth rate cannot be higher that the economy's growth rate. The second states that reinvestment must be perfectly coordinated with the growth rate assumption, and vice versa. Moreover, Kaplan and Ruback (1995) argue that Capex should equal Depreciation in the last forecasted year in order to have consistent data in

these two subjects. The reason behind this statement is that the company will only reinvest in depreciated items, keeping its assets value constant in the long run.

The growth rate assumption, constant and related to perpetuity, will have an enormous impact on the company's value. Moreover, it seems to be the majority of the company's value. When determining the company's growth rate, some variables must be taken into account so that a trustworthy and realistic firm value is obtained as outcome, namely the business growth strategy and the industry in which the company operates.

The forecast period assumed in a valuation (n), according to Koller et al. (2005), has no direct impact on the company's value but will instead change the "distribution of the company's value between the explicit forecast period and the years that follow". The longer the forecast period, higher the weight of the present value of the forecasted cash flows on the company's value and lower the weight of the terminal value. The author argues that the appropriate length of the forecast period should be correlated with the period in which the company reaches the steady state. If not correlated, the terminal value will not be a useful tool in the valuation process. Reaching the steady state means that variables as growth rate, capital turnover, wacc and margins get to a certain point in which its behavior does not change. Ohlson and Xiao-Hun Zhang (1999) believe that a forecast period should be between 5 and 15 years.

After calculating the Terminal Value, all variables are set to determine the Value of Operating Assets of the Firm, given by

$$\label{eq:Value of Operating Assets of the firm = \sum_{t=1}^{t=n} \frac{FCFF\,t}{(1+WACC)^t} + \frac{FCFF_{n+1}/(WACC-\,g_n\,)}{(1+WACC)^n}$$

The first half of the equation represents the present value of the forecasted cash flows and the second half represents the present value of the cash flows that will occur after the forecasted period (perpetuity). In order to obtain the final equity value of the company all non-equity items must be subtracted so that the outcome is the company's equity value.

1.2.3. Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC)

The most common DCF valuation method is the WACC-based DCF approach. The WACC – weighted average cost of capital – is the rate that allows discounting the Free Cash Flows to the Firm and is one of the most important variables of the Discounted Cash Flow model, as small changes in the WACC calculation will lead to big variations on the company's value. According to Koller et al. (2005), "WACC represents the opportunity cost that investors face for investing their funds in one particular business instead of others with similar risk". To compute the proper discount rate not only a deep analysis to the company's financial structure is needed but also to the market environment. Typically, companies have two different ways to finance themselves, by using Debt or/and Equity. Therefore, the WACC rate must include the required return rates demanded by both debt and equity holders, as stated by the formula presented below.

$$WACC = \left(\frac{D}{V}\right) Kd(1 - tc) + \left(\frac{E}{V}\right) Ke$$

Kd(1-Tc) stands for the market after-tax cost of debt, Ke represents the market cost of equity and both D/V and E/V the weights of debt and equity related to the company's value, respectively.

Regarding leveraged companies, the WACC calculation must be done after taxes in order to incorporate the benefits from using Debt as financing because interest expenses do not pay taxes. Having said so, because these benefits are not included in the Free Cash Flow to the Firm calculation, they must be included in the cost of capital. These benefits are known as interest tax shields. Therefore, the company's chosen capital structure also impacts the firm's value, which will be explored in more detail in the equity and debt weights chapter.

1.2.3.1. Cost of Equity (Ke)

The Ke is the expected return on a company's stock. According to Steiger (2008), investors require a certain return for bearing the risk of holding a company's share. Because it is very difficult, or impossible, to predict expected returns, estimations have to be made. The most used estimation tool is the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), computed following the presented formula.

$$K_e = R_F + (R_m - R_F) \times \beta$$

According to Mullins (1982), the model takes some assumptions, namely that investors are well-informed and risk-averse and that there is a perfect market (no taxes, transaction costs or restrictions on borrowing/lending). Therefore, by diversifying the investment portfolio, the unsystematic (company or industry specific) risk can be eliminated, being the systematic (market) risk the only one investors have to deal with. Having said so, the CAPM model estimates expected return rates taking into account the market behavior and the risk/expected return trade-off.

Analyzing the formula previously presented, Rf stands for the risk-free rate, Rm is the market return and the beta is the degree of correlation between the market and the company. (Rm –Rf) represents the market risk premium (MRP), which is the excess return obtained by bearing the market risk, compared to the Risk-Free rate. In order to compute the cost of equity, all these parameters need to be estimated.

Many authors do not agree with this approach. However, according to Mullins (1982), "CAPM's deficiencies appear no worse than those of other approaches", which brings the idea that there is no perfect or better estimation model. On the same hand, it takes into account the inherent risk and measures it so that the outcome is the expected rate of return for investors.

1.2.3.2. Risk-Free Rate

The risk-free rate should be estimated taking into account long-term government default-free bonds, according to Koller et al. (2005). The idea behind this statement is that developed countries situated in the United States or in the Western Europe are likely to have low betas and, therefore, government bonds are believed to be a good proxy to determine risk-free rates. Because Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. is situated in Portugal, this case is applicable to the company, being the 10-year German Eurobond the commonly used proxy for estimating the risk-free rate due to its low risk and high liquidity.

1.2.3.3. Beta

As suggested by Koller et al. (2005), Beta (degree of autocorrelation) is "the stock's incremental risk to a diversified investor, where risk is defined by how much the stock covaries with the aggregate stock market", measuring the systematic/market risk. In order words, for higher beta values (higher than 1), the market will have a higher impact on the company's stock performance. On the other hand, for lower beta values (lower than 1), the market will have lower impact on the company's stock performance. Furthermore, it is plausible to affirm that investors with higher beta investments will be facing a higher degree of risk, which will be reflected in their higher expected rate of return.

Damodaran (1999) states that the Betas can be computed by using linear regressions with both corporate stock's return and a chosen market index's return (used as a proxy for the real market portfolio) data. The outcome of the linear regression is the slope of the regression, also known as beta. When performing these computations, the three variables used for beta estimation have to be very carefully chosen as they influence the estimation accuracy. These variables are the time frame, the intervals (namely monthly or yearly data) and the market index. Damodaran (1999) reinforces the importance of the chosen index and the possible consequences of choosing a bad one. It may happen to choose a market index which is "heavily weighted by a few dominant companies in the market portfolio leading to biased beta estimations". This scenario is more likely to happen in emerging markets due to the fact that those markets are very dependent on few powerful industries. Because Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. is Portuguese, the chosen index was the PSI 20 index. The author affirms that, to get more accurate betas, monthly data should be used instead of yearly data. Because the company may be levered, a small adjustment has to be made in order to obtain the levered beta, by using the leverage factor.

In order to get accurate estimates, consistent assumptions have to be made and they must hold in time. Real betas are difficult to obtain but good estimates can be made.

1.2.3.4. Equity Risk Premium

As previously described, the Equity Risk Premium is the excess return (Rm - Rf) demanded by investors for bearing additional risk (Damodaran, 2008) compared to risk-free assets, as long-term government default-free bonds. Because both cost of capital and cost of equity depend on

this variable, it is of critical importance. According to Damodaran (2008) one possible way to compute it is to use historical data regarding stock performances over the risk-free rate, which is the most commonly used. However, this method also has limitations, namely because emerging markets are relatively recent and have few amounts of available data. Therefore, the standard deviation of the observations would be high.

1.2.3.5. Cost of Debt (Kd)

Most likely, companies finance themselves using more than just one resource, namely through both equity and debt. In order to compute the cost of debt (Kd), variables as risk-free rate, debt's tax advantages and default risk must be considered (Damodaran, 2012). The same author presents two ways to calculate the company's cost of debt, depending whether the company has, or not, long-term bonds outstanding and traded on the market. If the company does have, the inherent yield can be used as a proxy to determine the cost of debt. If the company does not, the company's cost of debt is determined according to its investment rating and, consequently, default spreads. The cost of debt is computed following the presented formula.

After-tax cost of debt = Pretax cost of debt*(1 - Tax rate)

The first step is to compute the interest coverage ratio. Each interest coverage ratio value is associated to a specific rating, which can be checked with rating agencies as *Standard & Poor's*, *Fitch* or *Moody's*. The interest coverage ratio is a profit/debt ratio that reflects the ability of the company to pay, or not, its debt interests. After having the interest coverage ratio and the corresponding rating, the default spread is taken and summed to the risk-free rate. At this point, the pretax cost of debt is computed. Interests have tax advantages (interest tax shield) and, therefore, those same advantages have to be taken into account in the calculations. That is why the after-tax cost of debt is computed.

1.2.3.6. Debt and Equity Weights

The chosen capital structure also impacts the firm's value. Companies choose its capital structure trying to maximize the "financial mix" advantages. Debt has the ability to increase the value of a company until certain point due to the interest tax shield it provides. However, there is a point in which debt becomes too high and, consequently, the interest tax shield value

becomes smaller than the bankruptcy and agency costs associated to the over-debt level. For this reason, this trade-off between interest tax shields and Bankruptcy/Agency costs regarding the capital structure is so important and managers must focus on this subject. According to Kraus and Litzenberger (1973), and Miller (1977) every single company has an "optimal capital structure" that maximizes financing mix advantages and minimizes the cost of capital. The current capital structure was used in the wacc calculations as it reflects the recent pattern.

1.3. Dividend Discount Model

The dividend discount model (DDM) is, according to Damodaran (2002), "the simplest model for valuing equity". It consists on determining the stock's value by forecasting dividends and discounting them to the present.

The author states that "when investors buy stocks, they generally expect to get two types of cash-flow – dividends during the period she holds the stock and an expected price at the end of the holding period. Since this expected price is itself determined by future dividends, the value of a stock is the present value of dividends through infinity". Having said so, the DDM consists on computing the presented formula.

Value per share of stock =
$$\sum_{t=1}^{t=\infty} \frac{E(DPS_t)}{(1+k_e)^t}$$

The DPS stands for the expected dividends per share and Ke is the previously explained cost of equity, the two basic inputs of the model. The model relies on the fact that "the value of any asset is the present value of expected future cash-flows discounted at a rate appropriate to the riskiness of the cash-flows" (Damodaran, 2002). In order to get the expected dividends, assumptions have to be made regarding both earnings growth rate and payout ratios.

Because the Gordon Growth Model is the simplest and the most commonly used, it will be the one used in this dissertation. Furthermore, and according to Damodaran (2002), it "is best suited for firms growing at a rate comparable to or lower than the nominal growth rate in the economy and which have well established dividend payout policies that they intend to continue into the future", which seems to be the case of Corticeira Amorim GSPS, S.A.

The Gordon Growth Model, according to Damodaran (2002), can be used in a valuation process regarding a company which is in a "steady-state" and with sustainable growing dividend rate in time. It outcomes the value of the stock in the next period by using expected dividends per share (DPS), cost of equity (Ke) and dividends expected growth rate (g) as inputs, according to the formula presented below.

Value of Stock =
$$\frac{\text{DPS}_1}{k_e - g}$$

The author presents a limitation to the model. The growth rate plays a major role in the calculations and the model is highly sensitive to it. If a proper perpetuate growth rate is not computed, the outcome will be misleading. Therefore, it is plausible to affirm that computing the perpetuate dividend growth rate is vital to a trustworthy outcome concerning the company's valuation.

1.4. Relative Valuation through Multiples

Damodaran (2006) defines relative valuation as "the valuation of corporate assets based on similar assets in the market". Relative valuation is a simple valuation method. However, to perform a good multiple analysis, it is needed to determine not only which multiples to use and why, but also the guidelines to correctly use them.

There are some items to consider in order to perform a good multiple analysis. First, defining the peer group may be a hard task. The market, the industry, sales, investments, the ROIC (return on invested capital), growth or earnings are just some examples of variables that may be used to determine the comparable companies. Second, there are, among others, equity and enterprise-value multiples, which will be the ones used in this dissertation. The most common multiple regarding equity-based is price-earnings ratio (PER). Regarding the enterprise-value-based, the most common used are the enterprise value-to-EBITDA (EV/EBITDA) or the enterprise value-to-sales (EV/Sales).

Both Morgan Stanley (1999) and Damodaran (2002) stated that, for European companies, the most common multiples are EV/EBITDA and PER. Therefore, concerning Corticeira Amorim GSPS, S.A., these will be the multiples used in the relative valuation.

1.4.1. Price Earnings Ratio (PER)

The price earnings ratio is one of the most common multiples used among corporate finance. Goedhart et al (2005) states that this multiple should only be used in companies where a scenario of consistent capital structure is verified, without heavy fluctuations, as changes on the capital structure will have direct impact on both price and earnings per share.

PE= Market price per share/Earnings per share

The price earnings ratio value has an inherent conclusion attached. If this value is high, the company is believed to be capable of keep growing in time and that its earnings are solid. Therefore, the cost of capital in this scenario should be low. On the other hand, if the value is low, the opposite scenario is verified. This way, by using multiples, it is also possible to conclude the existing level of risk.

1.4.2. Enterprise Value to EBITDA (EV/EBITDA)

Goedhart (2005) affirms that this multiple is not so exposed to the company's capital structure as the PER is because the enterprise value (EV) includes both debt and equity, while the PER is equity-focused. Therefore, this multiple has one big advantage comparing to the previous one as it allows investors to compare companies with different capital structures.

EV/EBITDA= (Market capitalization + Market net debt + Minority int. + Preferred shares)/EBITDA

2. Overviews

2.1. Macroeconomic Overview

2.1.1. Global Overview

The year of 2015 showed, surprisingly, a lower growth compared to 2014, which was estimated to be around 3,1%. The growth level of emerging markets was, for the fifth consecutive year,

lower. In fact, it was the lower level since the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, around 4%. The developed markets have grown at a higher rate.

Despite the fact that the US Federal Reserve had normalized the Dollar interests rate, the monetary policy was, globally speaking, of accommodation, while the budget policies reflected lower growth restrictions. Divergences between both the US and United Kingdom, and the rest of developed markets regarding monetary policies, affected the economic performance of several emerging markets. The dominant perspective of gradual increasing interest rates in the US, as well as volatility episodes due to uncertainty related to the impact on emerging market growth, determined even more restrictive conditions worldwide and the acceleration of the capital exit from those emerging markets.

The unfavorable behavior of commodity prices, the slower industrial activity and the decreasing international market indicators characterize the economic context of 2015, especially the final quarter of the year.

Besides, and also related to these events, the conjuncture was influenced by changes in China's growth pattern. The local entities are seeking to balance growth towards services and internal demand, guaranteeing a more sustainable expansion.

The US Dollar registered a general trend of gains.

2.1.1.1. Euro Zone

The Euro zone registered an expansion around 1,5%, higher compared to 2014. However, a higher growth was expected on 2015. The domestic demand improved and, in a certain way, compensated the lower performance of liquid exportations, due to good financing conditions, lower oil prices and global neutral policies. The Chinese and other emerging countries economic deceleration, as well as the high debt level on the private sector, made difficult the economic recovery. Unemployment level decreased around 1%, but big disparities are still observable between the countries. Despite the monetary stimulus implemented, inflation registered marginal positive oscillations.

2.1.1.2. United States

The US, the world's biggest economy, registered a 2,5% growth, higher compared to 2014. It was the sixth consecutive year growing for this economy, making evidences of real estate industry improvement, increasing sales and better conditions regarding labor market. Unemployment level reached a historical minimum, a record 5%. The oil price decrease, on the other hand, must have had an impact on gas and crude extraction investments, penalizing the aggregated domestic demand, especially on the last quarter of the year. The industrial sector showed deceleration, affected by the worldwide deceleration and the USD appreciation.

2.1.1.3. Japan

Japan's growth was higher than in 2014, estimated to be around 0,6%. Confronted with China and rest of Asia softening economy, which are its main exports destinies, entities seek to support economy through monetary policies.

2.1.1.4. United Kingdom

The UK has shown a 2,2% growth, comparing to 2,9% in 2014. The perspective of a referendum regarding to stay, or not, in the European Union and the uncertainty about the result must be one of the factors that penalized the country's economy growth.

2.1.1.5. Australia

Australia managed to grow its economy around 2,4%. However, this increase is lower than the one verified in 2014.

2.1.1.6. Emerging Markets

Regarding the emerging markets, it was observable a growth rate around 4%, which translates on a shrinking growth over the recent years.

China continued its structural changes regarding the growth pattern that began in 2013, having shown a small relaxation in the second half of the year. Estimates point out a 6,9% growth.

India is believed to have had a similar growth than in 2014, around 7,3%.

Brazil and Russia registered severe economic contraction, around 4%.

South Africa's economic growth was lower than in 2014 and was estimated to be around 1,3%.

2.1.2. Portugal Overview

Portugal managed to achieve, in 2015, the second consecutive year growing after the long recession. The country's economy is estimated to have grown 1,7%, marginally above the Euro zone average. However, despite these two consecutive positive years, Portugal could only recover one third of the value destroyed during the global crisis. The increasing activity is linked to a higher internal demand, especially investment, and to gains from external liquid demand, due to good exports performance. The public consumption contributed to growth after four years of contraction. The economic growth was more evident in the first half of the year, decreasing its level on the subsequent semester, probably due to political uncertainty.

Both US and China's developments, as well as Angola and Brazil, affected the external liquid demand. On the other hand, from the positive side, the favorable energetic input prices and the monetary policy followed by ECB (European Central Bank) were favorable variables.

Portugal kept under European Commission's analysis due to excessive debt and, therefore, there was a big effort towards public accounts consolidation. The political uncertainty paused this referred process. Budget deficit decreased 3% of the GDP (gross domestic product) and there was a 5% increase on tax revenues. However, the structural deficit raised.

Portugal achieved higher liquidity levels, concerning current items. Regarding exportations, the country proceeded with market diversification. Unemployment revealed surprising results, as it reached levels around 12,2%. It is still very high but there are observable results as it reached 16% not many years ago. The verified inflation was 0,6%, which is higher than the European average.

2.2. Company Overview

2.2.1. About Corticeira Amorim

Corticeira Amorim GSPS, S.A. started in 1870 in Aveiro, Portugal, created by the Amorim family, and was focused on producing Port wine cork stoppers. The company managed to grow in that segment and expanded its activity to other cork areas and applications. Nowadays it is the world leader in the cork-industry regarding all product segments: wall and floor coverings, corks stoppers, composite cork and insulation cork. It is the most international Portuguese company, not only because of its high exportation level but also because it has different steps of the value chain spread all over the world, including more than 100 countries. Internally, the company is divided into 3 major divisions, which subdivide into 5 business units, as suggested by the figure presented below.



Fig. 1 - Business Structure of Corticeira Amorim Source: Corticeira Amorim Website

Regarding the shareholder structure, figure 2 illustrates the shareholder's ownership. Corticeira Amorim integrates the Euronext Lisbon Index and is traded on the PSI 20 index, which includes the best Portuguese companies.

Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. shareholder structure	%
Amorim Capital, SGPS, S.A.	51%
Investment Holdings, B.V.	19%
Amorim International Participations, B.V.	15%
Other	15%

Fig. 2 - Corticeira Amorim's shareholder structure Source: Corticeira Amorim, annual report, 2015

2.2.2. Business Activity

Corticeira Amorim provides high-quality products and operates in several industries, namely civil construction, wine, automotive and even aeronautic, as cork turned to be a useful resource in multiple areas. It includes not only cork production but also transformation and R&D. A high degree of integration is observable regarding management as Corticeira Amorim controls every step of the value chain, from supplying to after-sales services.

The company also has social and environmental behavior besides its professional activity. As an example, in order to preserve the environment, it helps to plant trees in areas that were devastated by fires.

Raw Materials

- Purchasing, storage and preparation of raw material cork
- Presence in raw material producing countries: Portugal, Spain, Marocco, Algeria, and Tunisia (without owning the forests)
- Control of the raw material flow across other business units

Cork Stoppers

- World's largest supplier of cork stoppers
- Presence in all the big wine-producing countries: France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, South Africa, Chile, Argentina, Germany, Australia and USA
- Wide cork stopper portfolio, adapted to specific types of wine/champagne

Insulation Cork

- World market leader in producing and distributing insulation cork
- Development and supply of thermal and acoustic insulation solutions used in pipelines, airports, buildings, wine cellars and refrigeration industry

Composite Cork

- World market leader in composite cork segment
- Solution to several applications: sealing, thermal and noise insulation, decoration, electric transformers, natural gas applications, thermal protections and footwear components

Floor & Wall Coverings

- World market leader in producing and distributing wall coverings
- Supplier of innovative flooring solutions using cork coverings for interior decoration

Fig. 3 - Business Units specifications

Source: Corticeira Amorim

The Research and Development department also plays a key role inside the company. It is incorporated in each business unit in order to develop new products, with new characteristics. Furthermore, and for a higher degree of innovation, new market requirements and needs are tailored by "MOR for cork" which is the Market Orientated Research.



Fig. 4 - Corticeira Amorim's strategy and objectives

Source: Corticeira Amorim

2.2.3. Business Units and Individual Performance

Considering the recent performance (fig.13), Corticeira Amorim managed to have its best year ever in 2015 regarding sales and results. Sales reached the 604,8M€, a 7,9% increase compared to 2014, namely due to the Euro-Dollar exchange effect. All business units registered increasing sales in 2015, except floor & wall coverings. The good operating performance led EBITDA to reach 100,72M€ (16,1% increase compared to 2014), being over 100M€ for the first time.

The company also managed to decrease both its debt level and interest rates due to the recently observed good performance. Earnings were also a record, around 55,012M€ (attributable to shareholders), a 53,9% increase compared to 2014, which is a huge improvement, especially considering that the world crisis still has impact worldwide namely due to financial markets' lack of confidence and political instability. Own shares were sold in September 2015 resulting on a 15% freefloat and an incremental liquidity. As outcome of a good year, the dividends paid were high (37,72 cents per share). The performance of each business unit is shown on figures 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, which will be reflected on the overall performance (fig.10).







392 825







Fig. 7 - Floor & Wall business unit performance Source: Corticeira Amorim, Annual Report 2015

Fig. 8 - Composite Cork business unit performance Source: Corticeira Amorim, Annual Report 2015





Source: Corticeira Amorim, Annual Report 2015

EBITDA and BU Contribution (thousand €)



Fig. 10 - Consolidated business unit contribution

Source: Corticeira Amorim, Annual Report 2015





Source: Corticeira Amorim, Annual Report 2015



Source: Corticeira Amorim, Annual Report 2015

Analyzing figure 11, it is observable that cork stoppers have a high weight on sales, representing 64,2% of total sales. On the same hand, by analyzing figure 12, it is observable that a higher percentage of sales (54,4%) is related to Europe. These facts are correlated and happen because there are many and excellent wine producers in Europe, namely in Portugal, Spain, France, Germany and Italy.

2.2.4. Global Performance

Corticeira Amorim performance summary 2015					
	2014	2015	Variation		
Sales	560 340	604 800	7,9%		
Gross Margin	283 583	315 613	11,3%		
EBITDA	86 722	100 720	16,1%		
EBITDA/sales	15,5%	16,7%	1,2%		
Net Income	35 756	55 012	53,9%		
Net Bank Debt	87 558	83 896	-4,2%		

Fig. 13 - Corticeira Amorim performance summary

Source: Corticeira Amorim, Annual Report 2015



Fig. 14 - Net profit composition of Corticeira Amorim Source: Corticeira Amorim, Annual Report 2015

The company's assets, in 2015, increased to values around 667ME due to operational items, namely euro-dollar exchange gains and increasing sales (items as inventory, customers and both tangible and intangible fixed assets increased). The debt decreased around 4ME to 83,9ME, which was disappointing as the company was expecting a bigger debt shrinkage. Equity increased around 40ME, namely because of own share selling, which allowed a good income.

The company has also been performing well on the stock market. By analyzing figure 15, it is observable that the share price has been increasing in all presented statistics. At the year-end, a gain of 96,95% is verified compared to 2014. Furthermore, the trading frequency increased over the homologous period. It performed better than the PSI 20 Index during the year of 2015.

Corticeira Amorim's stock market performance in recent years				
	2013	2014	2015	
Nº of shares traded	2 184 858	3 481 685	12 693 424	
Share Prices (€)				
Maximum	2,40	3,65	6,29	
Average	2,04	2,85	4,34	
Minimum	1,56	2,20	2,99	
Year-End	2,21	3,02	5,948	
Trading frequency	89,30%	96,10%	98,80%	
Stock market capitalization at year-end (€)	293 930 000	401 660 000	791 084 000	

Fig. 15 - Corticeira Amorim stock performance

Source: Corticeira Amorim, Annual Report 2015

2.3. Industry Overview

2.3.1. International Market

It is undeniable that Portugal is the leader player in the cork industry, mainly due to Corticeira Amorim's performance in all business units. Regarding the international market for cork, APCOR, the Portuguese National Association of Cork, states that the world cork production is around 201.000 tons and highlights Portugal as production leader with 49,6% or 100.000 tons. The country has natural resources that are favorable, being the cork oak area the largest in the world.

Because Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. operates in five different business units, there are no similar companies competing in all business units simultaneously. Therefore, the main competitors had to be found considering each of the business units, individually. Because the cork stoppers unit represents a high percentage of the company's revenues, the most threatening competitors belong to this area. In Portugal, Cork Link competes in both cork stoppers and floor and wall covering areas, whereas Cork Supply competes on the cork stopper business unit only.

Internationally, the substitute products are the biggest threat. Plastic made stoppers have been successfully developed, with high quality and low production costs. Essentra, Alsad or Sheng Zou are some companies that produce this substitute product.

PAÍS COUNTRY	PRODUÇÃO ANUAL (TONELADAS) * ANNUAL PRODUCTION (TONNES) *	PERCENTAGEM PERCENTAGE
PORTUGAL	100.000	49.6%
ESPANHA SPAIN	61.504	30.5%
MARROCOS MOROCCO	11.686	5.8%
ARGÉLIA ALGERIA	9.915	4.9%
TUNÍSIA TUNISIA	6.962	3.5%
ITÁLIA ITALY	6.161	3.1%
FRANÇA FRANCE	5.200	2.6%
TOTAL	201.428	100%

PRODUÇÃO DE CORTIÇA POR PAÍS CORK PRODUCTION BY COUNTRY

Fig. 16 - Work annual cork production

Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

EVOLUÇÃO DO NÚMERO DE EMPRESAS DA INDÚSTRIA DA CORTIÇA EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF COMPANIES IN THE CORK INDUSTRY



Fig. 17 - Number of companies operating on the cork industry

Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

EXPORTAÇÕES MUNDIAIS	DE	CORTIÇA	WORLD	CORK	EXPORTS	2014	
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PAÍSES EXPORTADORES EXPORTING COUNTRIES	MILHÕES MILLION €	QUOTA DO PAÍS (%) COUNTRY SHARE (%)
PORTUGAL PORTUGAL	845,3	62,8%
ESPANHA SPAIN	223,6	16,6%
FRANÇA FRANCE	63,6	4,78
ITÁLIA ITALY	42,6	3,2%
ALEMANHA GERMANY	27,7	2,1%
EUA USA	23,1	1,7%
MARROCOS MOROCCO	16,2	1,2%
CHINA CHINA	14,8	1,1%
BÉLGICA BELGIUM	9,4	0,7%
CHILE CHILE	9,3	0,7%
ÁUSTRIA AUSTRIA	7,3	0,5%
REINO UNIDO UNITED KINGDOM	5,8	0,4%
SUIÇA SWITZERLAND	5,5	0,4%
OUTROS OTHER	52,5	3,9%
TOTAL	1.346.6	100%

Fig. 18 - World cork exports

Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

IMPORTAÇÕES MUNDIAIS DE CORTIÇA WORLD CORK IMPORTS 2014

PAÍSES IMPORTADORES IMPORTING COUNTRIES	MILHÕES MILLION €	QUOTA DO PAÍS (%) COUNTRY SHARE (%)
FRANÇA FRANCE	221.2	16.2%
EUA USA	211.0	15.4%
ITÁLIA ITALY	137.0	10.0%
PORTUGAL PORTUGAL	127.6	9.3%
ESPANHA SPAIN	102.0	7.5%
ALEMANHA GERMANY	93.1	6.8%
RÚSSIA RUSSIA	38.8	2.8%
REINO UNIDO UNITED KINGDOM	32.7	2.48
ARGENTINA ARGENTINA	31.2	2.3%
CHINA CHINA	31.0	2.3%
OUTROS OTHER	340.9	24.9%
TOTAL	1.366.5	100%

Fig. 19 - World cork imports

Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015


Fig. 20 - Sales structure per product Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

Figures 18 and 19 consider the Portuguese international position in the cork industry, being the country with higher exports and the forth with higher imports. Figure 20 shows that around 43,5% of global cork usage is related to stoppers.

2.3.2. Portuguese Cork Market

Regarding the Portuguese market for cork, figure 21 suggests that Portugal manages to keep high exportation levels, which has been increasing since the 2009 financial crisis, and figure 22 illustrates the international balance in the cork industry.



Fig. 21 - Portuguese cork exports

Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

BALANÇA COMERCIAL	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
BALANCE OF TRADE											
EXPORTAÇÕES EXPORTS	881,7	838,0	848,5	853,8	823,7	698,3	754,5	817,0	836,8	833,1	846,0
IMPORTAÇÕES IMPORTS	130,2	146,2	130,4	131,8	129,3	83,0	95,0	136,3	132,2	135,5	127,7
SALDO BALANCE	751,6	691,8	718,1	722,0	694,4	615,4	659,5	680,8	704,5	697,5	718,3

Fig. 22 - Portuguese international balance regarding the cork industry



Fig. 23 - Cork export weights compared to total Portuguese exports





Fig. 24 - Portuguese cork exports per destiny



Fig. 25 - Main products exported (million €)

Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015



Fig. 26 - Main products exported (thousand tons)



Fig. 27 - Evolution of cork stopper exports





Fig. 28 - Cork stopper exports to the 6 main countries (million €)

According to INE (Portuguese National Institute of Statistics) the cork-stoppers are the most exported product (in terms of value), with a high percentage of total sales. These exports are mostly related to wine producer countries, namely France, Italy, Germany and Spain, European countries. Regarding construction and decoration materials, they are the second most exported product, namely to Germany, the USA and Spain. France is considered to be the main market for Portuguese cork exports.



Fig. 29 - Exports of construction/decoration materials by main countries of destination Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

Regarding imports, Portugal imported 127,7M€ in 2014, around 71,3 tons, a decrease comparing to 2013.

Spain is the Portuguese main cork supplier. On the same hand as Portugal, Spain also has favorable natural conditions for cork production.



IMPORTAÇÕES DE CORTIÇA EM VALOR (MILHÕES DE ϵ) IMPORTS OF CORK IN VALUE (MILLIONS ϵ) IMPORTAÇÕES DE CORTIÇA EM MASSA (MILHARES DE TONS.) IMPORTS OF CORK IN MASS (THOUSAND TONNES)





Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

Fig. 31 - Main countries of origin of Portuguese cork imports

2.3.3. Wine Industry

Both wine and construction industries, between others, are related to cork industry. The wine market has been performing poorly since 2010 in Europe 28, with decreasing production level. According to OIV (International Organization of Vine and Wine), in the EU 28, Spain, France and Italy compete for market leadership. Outside EU 28, production level has increased, showing an opposite scenario, with the USA leading, followed by Argentina.



Fig. 32 -Total surfaces area of vineyards in EU 28 (thousand ha)



Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

Fig. 33 - Total surfaces area of vineyards outside EU 28 (thousand ha)



Fig. 34 - World wine production (thousand hl)

Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015



Fig. 35 - Wine production against wine consumption



Fig. 36 - Main world wine exporters (million €)





Fig. 37 - Main world wine exporters (million hl)

Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015)

France is the country that most exports in value, but Spain is the one that most exports in quantity.



The wine consumption is expected to slightly increase worldwide over the years, following the recent trend, which is expected to have a positive impact in the cork industry.



Fig. 39 - Main world wine importers (million €)



Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

2.3.4. Construction Industry

The construction industry, both Portuguese and worldwide, has been deeply affected by the 2008-2009 world crisis. Ever since, according to Eurostat, the number of licenses for construction has been decreasing.



Source: APCOR, yearbook 2015

If the number of licenses for construction is decreasing, it will have a negative impact in the cork industry, as sales for this industry will shrink.

2.3.5. Legislation

The cork industry does not suffer from heavy legislation in Portugal. The only item important to mention is related to environmental legislation. The Portuguese government only allows to strip the trees once every nine years so that the specie and environment are preserved. Cork oaks cannot be cut, only if dead or sick and, even then, always requires authorities' agreement. Considering the operational processes, residual waters must follow strict conditions.

3. Methodology

By taking a look at the company's balance sheet, it is observable that its capitals structure is slightly constant in time, being the discounted cash-flow method the most suitable to evaluate the company. Furthermore, Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. states that the financing mix is expected to remain stable in the future so that is can keep its operational and professional activity and satisfy both stakeholders and shareholders expectations. The discounted cash-flow results will be compared to two other methods, the dividend discount model and the relative valuation in order to test the trustworthiness of the valuation results.

3.1. Discounted Cash-Flow

3.1.1. Forecast Assumptions

Because the company does not provide the financial reports for each business unit, the valuation had to be done considering the whole company, despite the fact that it should be more accurate to evaluate each business unit separately and compute the company's value as the sum of the parts. To do so, the initial step was to get all the financial data from the annual reports of Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A., namely income statement, balance sheet and cash-flow map. The historical data included the period between 2010 and 2015. Data before 2010 was not considered as it is believed to be too old to reflect the actual market and reality, which could

lead to less trustworthy forecasts and, consequently, enterprise value. Having the historical data, forecasts were made following assumptions that will be explained during this chapter.

3.1.1.1. Sales

Starting for the income statement, Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A. expects increasing sales in 2016. However, the company does not specify in its annual report which will be the increase in time. Therefore, because there is a recent trend of increasing sales, the forecasts were based on the average of the last 3 years (2013-2015). In 2015, sales raised 7,93%, being half of the increase related to currency exchange gains in Euro-Dollar, as reported by the company on the financial report of 2015. That same half was ignored and was not included on the sales estimations of the subsequent years as these Euro-Dollar ratio gains are considered an isolated event and not expected to happen again in the future. Therefore, for the sales growth average computation purpose, only 3,97% were considered concerning 2015.

	2013	2014	2015	Average
Sales Growth	1,55%	3,29%	3,97%	2,93%

Fig. 42 - Sales historical behavior, ignoring Euro-Dollar ratio gains

The sales growth rate used in the forecasted period was 2,93%, which is an acceptable value taking into account that is substantially smaller than the observed growth in 2015 as it does not include the Euro-Dollar gains, and it is not a big increase considering the company's historical data. Regarding the forecasted period, many authors argue that it should be between 5 and 15 years, as stated previously during this dissertation. The chosen period was 5 years because the company reaches a steady state after this period, with constant growth regarding sales, EBITDA and earnings. The cash-flows and dividends also turned to be slightly constant. Furthermore, 10 or 15 year forecasts are difficult to be made as many variables may change during that large period of time, which would lead to questionable forecasts with impact on the valuation process.

		Historical Data						
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Sales		456 790	494 842	534 240	542 500	560 340	604 800	
	Growth		8,33%	7,96%	1,55%	3,29%	7,93%	

Fig. 43 - Sales historical growth

		Forecast						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020			
Sales	622 544	640 810	659 611	678 963	698 884			
Grow	rth 2,93%	2,93%	2,93%	2,93%	2,93%			

Fig. 44 - Sales benavior in the forecasted period	Fig. 44 -	Sales	behavior	in the	forecasted	period
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3.1.1.2. Cost of Sales

The company affirms that previously made investments (mostly machinery) will lead to higher efficiency in 2016 and thereafter, which will be reflected in higher margins. Therefore, a 2,5% margin gain was implemented due to efficiency gains, totaling a 52,5% margin, as the margin in the historical data was around 50%.

		Historical Data						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		
Costs of Sales	221 777	243 123	268 035	264 356	286 205	307 375		
Mar	gin 51,45%	50,87%	49,83%	51,27%	48,92%	49,18%		

			Forecast		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Costs of Sales	295 709	304 385	313 315	322 508	331 970
Margin	52,50%	52,50%	52,50%	52,50%	52,50%

Fig. 45 -	Margin	historical	data
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Fig. 46 - Margin increase and cost of sales during the forecasted period

3.1.1.3. Operational items and EBITDA

The operational items were forecasted in relative terms. Because these items are deeply correlated with the volume of sales and are expected to keep the same recent behavior, the recent percentage over sales was considered in the forecasted period. At this stage, EBITDA was determined.

	Historical Data						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Changes in production	1 817	3 288	7 755	(662)	9 448	18 188	
External Services	78 320	86 602	93 205	97 266	96 429	100 537	
Staff expenses	90 712	93 751	97 678	100 154	103 315	111 881	
Asset imparity adjustments	2 140	1 872	1 008	1 930	149	3 291	
Other income	6 860	7 502	6 739	7 765	9 613	8 934	
Other losses	6 512	7 846	6 343	7 770	6 581	8 117	
EBITDA	66 006	72 438	82 465	78 127	86 722	100 721	

Fig. 47 - Operational items historical data

	Forecast						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
Changes in production	18 722	19 271	19 836	20 418	21 017		
External Services	103 487	106 523	109 648	112 865	116 177		
Staff expenses	115 164	118 542	122 020	125 600	129 285		
Asset imparity adjustments	3 388	3 487	3 589	3 695	3 803		
Other income	9 196	9 466	9 744	10 030	10 324		
Other losses	8 355	8 600	8 853	9 112	9 380		
EBITDA	124 361	128 009	131 765	135 631	139 610		

Fig. 48 - Operational items in the forecasted period

It is observable that there is a bigger increase from 2015 to 2016 in EBITDA not only due to increasing sales but also because of the margin increase. Furthermore, 2016 is expected to be a good year for Corticeira Amorim, SGPS, S.A. as it expects to reinforce its global market share in every single business unit.

3.1.1.4. Depreciation

As it would be expected, increasing depreciations and amortizations follow the increasing value on assets, driven by both operational results and investments on both tangible and intangible assets, as well as pp&e.

		Historical Data						
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
D&A		20 867	21 060	21 206	21 516	22 336	25 051	
	EBIT	45 139	51 378	61 259	56 611	64 386	75 670	

Fig. 49 -	Historical	depreciation	and	amortization
	motorrear	acpresiation		annortization

	Forecast					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
D&A	25 786	24 391	25 076	25 084	24 850	
EBIT	98 575	103 618	106 689	110 547	114 760	

Fig. 50 - Forecasted	I depreciations and	amortizations
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3.1.1.5. Taxes

Regarding taxes, and according to a Deloitte report on taxes, the base tax equals 21% of EBIT. However, there is an incremental factor depending on the profit volume. In the case of Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A., because profits are over 35 million euros, this incremental factor equals 7%, totaling 28% of effective tax rate.

		Historical Data					
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Taxes		14 461	13 747	16 203	18 551	16 776	17 496
	Earnings	21 754	26 415	31 733	30 959	36 680	55 572

Fig. 51 - Historical earnings

		Forecast					
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Taxes		25 675	27 108	28 353	29 170	30 397	
	Earnings	66 022	69 707	72 908	75 008	78 163	

Fig. 52 - Forecasted Earnings

It is observable that, in the forecasted period and under this scenario, profits will remain increasing in time, following the recent trend shown by the company. Appendix 2 provides the complete income statement, including historical and forecasted data.

To compute the Free Cash-flow to the Firm, two more items are needed: the capex and the working capital.

3.1.1.6. Capex

Regarding the Capex, the company does not provide much information regarding the investment amount nor the impact (in quantitative terms) of such investments on the operational

and efficiency part of the company. By analyzing older reports, the company keeps the same information limited. Therefore, due to the lack of further information, the company is expected to keep its level of investment indexed to revenues, based on the assumption that with higher revenues, the more the company will invest (as long as there is profit, which is the case of Corticeira Amorim, SGPS, S.A.). Having said so, the spent amount on both tangible fixed assets and intangible assets are relative to revenues, outcoming the capex for the forecasted period. Appendix 4 shows both historical and forecasted cash-flow map, which include the expenditures related to tangible fixed assets and intangible assets, the two main items of capex.

	Historical Data					
Payments due to:	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Tangible Fixed assets	-16766	-26672	-20329	-25995	-21216	-31189
Intangible assets	-901	-47	-406	-351	-563	-1617
Сарех	-17667	-26719	-20735	-26346	-21779	-32806

	Forecast					
Payments due to:	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Tangible Fixed assets	-27924	-28421	-30965	-30826	-31857	
Intangible assets	-1665	-1350	-1640	-1645	-1635	
Capex	-29589	-29771	-32604	-32471	-33492	

Fig. 54 - Forecasted Capex

Fig. 53 - Historical Capex

The reason why the capex is higher than depreciation and amortization is because of the company's willingness to invest in efficiency and innovation, namely investing in machinery and products with new features and characteristics. Two new products that will come up in 2016 are the NDtech and the Hydrocork.

The NDtech is a quality control screening technology that controls the level of TCA (trichloroanisole) in each individualized cork-stopper. TCA is one of the most important risks regarding wine, as it is a chemical that alters both smell and taste of wine. NDtech allows to detect units with exceeding TCA levels so that they can be removed from the supply chain.

The Hydrocork is a low thickness waterproof cork flooring solution.

3.1.1.7. Working Capital

By analyzing the net working capital of Corticeira Amorim, it is observable its short-term financial health, as it manages to satisfy its short-term obligations. This fact is related to a good coordination between short-term cash-in and cash-out. This scenario is also expected in the forecasted period.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Inventory	271 705	279 677	287 882	296 329	305 023	313 972
Clients	132 545	136 434	140 437	144 557	148 798	153 164
Taxes	3 139	3 939	4 159	4 350	4 475	4 664
Other assets	28 679	29 108	29 543	29 985	30 434	30 889
Cash and equivelents	7 465	7 684	7 909	8 142	8 380	8 627
Current Assets	443 533	456 842	469 931	483 362	497 110	511 315
		1				
Bearing debt	41 211	42 936	43 898	44 819	45 630	46 579
Suppliers	10 015	10 434	10 668	10 892	11 089	11 319
Other debt and debt holders	32 227	33 576	34 328	35 049	35 682	36 425
Taxes	6 743	8 462	8 934	9 345	9 614	10 018
Current Debt	90 196	95 409	97 828	100 104	102 015	104 341

Fig. 55 - Forecasted current items

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Current Assets	443 533	456 842	469 931	483 362	497 110	511 315
Current Liabilities	222 890	231 139	237 267	243 387	249 306	255 715
Working Capital	220 643	225 702	232 664	239 976	247 804	255 599
Increase in Working Capital		5 059	6 961	7 312	7 828	7 796

Fig. 56 - Working capital calculation

It is also important to mention that, taking a look at the balance sheet, the historical capital structure remained constant, which is one of the reasons why the DCF is the best approach to evaluate this company. On the same hand, the capital structure will remain stable in the future so that the company manages to deliver value to stakeholders and shareholders while doing its professional activity. Seems that the company believes that this is the financing mix that maximizes the firm's value and, therefore, there is no reason to change it as long as the micro and macroeconomic conditions keep stable. Appendix 3 shows the complete balance sheet with both historical and forecasted data. As stated in the Literature Review chapter, the working capital was computed through the difference between current assets and liabilities, including all respective and inherent items presented on the balance sheet.

Equity Valuation Research: Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A.

	Historical Data						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Debt/Assets Ratio	52,20%	53,34%	54,14%	51,90%	48,89%	46,92%	
Equity/Assets Ratio	47,80%	46,66%	45,86%	48,10%	51,11%	53,08%	

Fig. 57	- Company's	historical	financing mix
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3.1.2. WACC

In order to perform a DCF valuation, the wacc is a fundamental variable to be determined. The obtained discount rate equals 3,16%, which is a relative low cost of capital, explained by the healthy financial situation of Corticeira Amorim.

	WACC	3,16%	
Ке		5,13%	
E/V ratio		53,08%	
			Fig. 58 - Wacc calculation
After-tax Kd		0,92%	
D/V ratio		46,92%	

3.1.2.1. Cost of Equity

Risk-Free Rate	0,3%	
Market Risk Premium	3,99%	
Beta	0,72	
D/E ratio	97,32%	Fig. 59 - Cost of equity calculation
tax rate	28%	
Equity Beta	1,22	

Equity Cost of Capital 5,13%

3.1.2.1.1. Risk-Free Rate

The proxy used for the risk-free asset was the 10-year German Bond. Because the company is Portuguese and very international, it seems suitable for the case of Corticeira Amorim. The risk-free rate is 0,3%, according to the market information (data from mid-November, 2016).

3.1.2.1.2. Market Risk Premium

To compute the market risk premium, data was obtained regarding the PSI 20 Index and the German 10 Year bonds, from 1992 to 2016, yearly data. This data is useful to know in what measure the average returns of the PSI 20 Index are higher than the risk-free asset yield, which is the market risk premium.



3.1.2.1.3. Beta

To measure the degree of correlation of the company's stock with the market, information regarding Corticeira Amorim's stock price, the PSI 20 Index price and the German 10 year bonds were collected, monthly data as stated by Damodaran, from 2006 to 2016. The first step was to compute the excess return (in excess to the risk-free rate) for both Corticeira Amorim and PSI 20 Index, in each period. The second step was, using the Excel function *"linest"*, find the correlation between the excess returns. To get the final beta, the leverage factor was applied. The D/E ratio reflects the average of the last 3 years.

Beta D/E ratio		0,72 97,32%	Fig. 64. Bata
tax rate		28%	Fig. 61 - Beta
	Equity Beta	1,22	

3.1.2.2. Cost of Debt

To compute the cost of debt, the spread must be added to the risk-free rate. To know the spread, the *rating* must be known, according to the interest coverage ratio.

EBIT75670Interests paid7212Interest Coverage Ratio10,49

For companies with market cap < \$ 5 billion

If interest coverage ratio is						
greater tha	n ≤ to	Ratingis	Spread is			
12.5	100000	Aaa/AAA	0,75%			
9.5	12.499999	Aa2/AA	1,00%			
7.5	9.499999	A1/A+	1,10%			
6	7.499999	A2/A	1,25%			
4.5	5.999999	A3/A-	1,75%			
4	4.499999	Baa2/BBB	2,25%			
3.5	3.99999999	Ba1/BB+	3,25%			
3	3.499999	Ba2/BB	4,25%			
2.5	2.999999	B1/B+	5,50%			
2	2.499999	B2/B	6,50%			
1.5	1.999999	B3/B-	7,50%			
1.25	1.499999	Caa/CCC	9,00%			
0.8	1.249999	Ca2/CC	12,00%			
0.5	0.799999	C2/C	16,00%			
-100000	0.499999	D2/D	20,00%			

Fig. 63 - Rating and spread according to the interest coverage ratio

Source: Damodaran Website

As Corticeira Amorim has a market cap lower than 5 billion, according to Damodaran, its associated rating is Aa2/AA, which corresponds to a spread equal to 1,00%. Important to mention that in 2015 the rating increased as Corticeira Amorim managed to decrease its debt level, as well as lower interest rates and better operational performance.

After tax cost of Debt	0,92%	-
Tax Rate	28%	
Pre-tax Cost of Debt	1,28%	Fig. 64 - Cost of debt calculation
Spread	1,00%	
Risk-Free Rate	0,3%	

3.1.2.3. Weights of both Debt and Equity

Because the capital structure has been constant in time, with small debt decreases, it is not expected to change as the company finds it to be the most suitable considering its operational activity. Therefore, the current capital structure was used, as it reflects the recent behavior and pattern.

	Historical Data						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
D/V Ratio	52,20%	53,34%	54,14%	51,90%	48,89%	46,92%	
E/V Ratio	47,80%	46,66%	45,86%	48,10%	51,11%	53,08%	
		Fig. 65 - Hist	orical capita	l structure			
			For	ecast			
	2016	201	7	2018	2019	2020	
D/V Ratio	46,95%	47,04	4% 4	7,14%	47,26%	47,36%	
E/V Ratio	53,05%	52,96	5% 5	2,86%	52,74%	52,64%	

Fig. 66 - Forecasted capital structure

3.1.3. Free Cash-Flows to the Firm

At this stage, the needed items were estimated to perform the DCF valuation. The first part consists on determining the free cash-flow to the firm for each forecasted period. The second part consists on, using wacc, discounting that same FCFF to the present. The third part consists on summing up all the present values of the FCFF.

It is important to reinforce that the value of the capex is higher than the value of depreciations due to the company's willingness to invest in efficiency and innovation.

	Forecast				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EBIT	98.575	103.618	106.689	110.547	114.760
Taxes	28,00%	28,00%	28,00%	28,00%	28,00%
	70.974	74.605	76.816	79.594	82.627
D&A	25.786	24.391	25.076	25.084	24.850
Capex	(29.589)	(29.771)	(32.604)	(32.471)	(33.492)
Increase in NWC	5.059	6.961	7.312	7.828	7.796
Free Cash-Flow to the Firm	10.540	13.482	11.824	14.210	16.489
WACC	3,16%				
PV of the Cash Flows	10.217	12.669	10.771	12.548	14.115
Sum of the PVs of the Cash Flows	60.320				

Fig. 67 - Present value of the cash flows

To get the final value of the firm's operating assets, the terminal value is missing.

3.1.4. Terminal Value

Terminal Valu	Je 1.276.315	-
g	1,87%	
WACC	3,16%	Fig. 68 - Terminal Value calculation
FCFF	16.489	

For the terminal value calculations, a 1,87% growth was considered, which is very similar to the 1,8% inflation expected in 2020, in Portugal.

The growth was computed according to the volume of sales for each country, using a weighted average growth. The percentage of sales for each country and the growth for each country was given by the company's financial report.

	% of sales in 2015	g	
European Union	54,40%	1,50%	
USA	21,70%	2,50%	
Rest of America	7,60%	2,30%	
Australasia	5,80%	2,40%	Fig. 69 - Pondered growth
Portugal	5,00%	1,70%	
Rest of Europe	4,00%	2,20%	
Africa	1,60%	1,30%	
	Pondered Grow	1,87%	

The obtained value is plausible as it stays between the expected Portuguese economy growth (1,7%) and the expected global economy's growth (3,4%) in 2016.

3.1.5. Enterprise Value and Equity Valuation

Summing up the Terminal Value and the sum of the present values of the cash-flows, the value of operating assets of the firm was reached.

Terminal Value	1.276.315
Sum of the PVs of the Cash-Flows	60.320
Value of Operating Assets of the Firm	1.336.635

Fig. 70 - Value of the operating assets of the firm

The company's equity is calculated by subtracting the non-equity claims. Dividing the company's equity by the total number of shares, the outcome is the price per share.

Value of Operating Assets of the Firm	1.336.635	
Net Debt	83.892	Fig. 71 - Price per share calculation
Company's Equity	1.252.743	°
#shares outstanding	133.000	_
Price per share	9,419	_

3.1.6. Suggestion

According to this dissertation and following the implied assumptions, Corticeira Amorim's stock price has potential to increase in time, being presently undervalued. Therefore, the suggestion for investors is to buy.



3.1.7. Sensitivity Analysis

To perform an equity valuation, many assumptions have to be made trying to replicate the reality of the company, concerning both internal and external factors and variables. However, those assumptions may not be a good proxy to reality. Therefore, a sensitivity analysis turns to be useful so that investors can understand the impact of changes in different variable s on the stock price of the company.

Bull Case	Price per Share (€)	Dissertation	Bear Case	Price per Share (€)
5% Sales increase	11,652	9,419	2% Sales decrease	3,952
5% Margin Increase	10,980		2% Margin Decrease	3,175
5% Capex Decrease	10,448		5% Capex Increase	8,39

Fig. 73 - Sensitivity Analysis regarding sales, margin and capex

Two extreme scenarios were considered: a bull scenario (optimistic) and bear scenario (pessimist). Both allow to have a clearer idea of the impact in each variable on the stock price.

				Gro	wth		
	%	0,37%	0,87%	1,37%	1,87%	2,37%	2,87%
	2,16%	6,763	9,447	15,530	42,048		
	2,66%	5,243	6,756	9,440	15,450	42,580	
Wacc	3,16%	4,269	5,241	6,756	9,419	15,552	42,840
	3,66%	3,584	4,259	5,230	6,728	9,426	15,854
	4,16%	3,080	3,578	4,253	5,214	6,735	9,584
	4,66%	2,693	3,074	3,571	4,240	5,217	6,795

Fig. 74 - Sensitivity analysis regarding wacc and growth

The values in light blue are values used under the dissertation scenario and assumptions. The light grey values are considered the outliers. All the other numbers are possible scenarios for the stock price taking into account the changes in variables.

3.2. Dividend Discount Model

Regarding the dividend payment to shareholders, those are expected to keep growing in the forecasted period, following the observed trend of increasing earnings. Both payback and plowback ratios were assumed to remain unchanged until 2020.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dividends	0,431	0,491	0,519	0,543	0,558	0,582
Ке	5,13%					
PV of Dividends		0,467	0,469	0,467	0,457	0,453
Sum of PVs of Dividends	2.314					

Share Price	16,765
PV of Perpetuity	14,451
Perpetuity	18,562
g	2,00%
Ке	5,13%
Dividend	0,582

Fig. 75 - Present value of future dividends

Fig. 76 - Dividend perpetuity and share price

The dividend growth assumed in these calculations was equal to 2%, which is the expected behavior of the paid dividends.

The share price obtained for Corticeira Amorim using the DDM (16,765) is substantially higher than the outcome of the DCF valuation (9,419). These two approaches follow different methodology and different assumptions. However, the given value from the DDM reinforces the statement that Corticeira Amorim's stock price is undervalued and has potential to increase its price in the future. Therefore, it goes straight to the given buying suggestion.

3.3. Relative Valuation

Many authors argue that DCF is the best valuation method. However, the result should be checked with other valuation approaches because it may include miscalculated reinvestments needs, cost of capital, growth rates or other assumptions. Therefore, the relative valuation chapter is entirely dedicated to test the consistency of the DCF estimations. The main goal is to, by using two different multiples, reach a price range and verify if the DCF valuation result is between those limits.

Taking into consideration that Corticeira Amorim is the absolute leader in the cork-industry, there are not comparable companies operating in the same industry. Therefore, the peer group had to be found taking into consideration different industries and variables as sales, profit, growth and capital structure. For a proper peer group, the comparables used to perform the relative valuation were given by *Reuters*.

Peer Group
Corticeira Amorim SGPS SA
ENCE Energia y Celulosa SA
Altri SGPS SA
Vidrala SA
Ibersol SGPS SA
Sonae Capital SGPS SA
Navigator Company SA
Semapa Sociedade de Investimento e Gestao SGPS SA

Fig. 77 - Peer group used in the relative valuation

The outcome of the multiples was a price range between 7,091 and 9,470. The share price given by the DCF valuation is 9,419, which belongs to the given range. Having said so, the relative valuation successfully checked the DCF approach results.

	Price / Earnings		EV / EBITDA
Price per share (€)	7,091	9,419	9,470
	Lower Bound	Dissertation	Upper Bound

Fig. 78 - Relative valuation vs DCF results

3.3.1. EV/EBITDA

Peer Group	EV / EBITDA
Corticeira Amorim SGPS SA	8,53
ENCE Energia y Celulosa SA	5,49
Altri SGPS SA	6,99
Vidrala SA	9,19
Ibersol SGPS SA	N/A
Sonae Capital SGPS SA	18,53
Navigator Company SA	7,10
Semapa Sociedade de Investimento e Gestao SGPS SA	6,82
Average	9,02
EV	1.259.468
Price €	9,470

Fig. 79 - EV/EBITDA results

3.3.2. Price/Earnings Ratio

Peer Group	Price / Earnings
Corticeira Amorim SGPS SA	13,35
ENCE Energia y Celulosa SA	14,74
Altri SGPS SA	10,07
Vidrala SA	16,88
Ibersol SGPS SA	N/A
Sonae Capital SGPS SA	N/A
Navigator Company SA	10,55
Semapa Sociedade de Investimento e Gestao SGPS SA	8,70
Average	12,19
Price €	7,091

Fig. 80 - Price/Earnings Ratio results

4. Dissertation vs BPI Equity Research

The main purpose of this chapter of the dissertation is the comparison of the results of the dissertation and the results of an investment bank. BPI, a Portuguese bank, provides information regarding Corticeira Amorim through its "*Equity Research*". It is of extreme importance to compare the final results and the inherent assumptions attached to each investment recommendation.

4.1. **Operational Components**

Starting for the operational components, BPI states that the new products (NDtech and Hydrocork) will have positive impact on the sales volume. Furthermore, the US wine market is increasing year after year. Because Corticeira Amorim exports a substantial percentage of sales of the cork stoppers business unit to the US, this will also have a significant impact. On the same hand, NDtech is believed to allow charging higher prices as it is the only company to produce such innovation so far. However, other companies may start producing equivalent or even better alternatives in the short-run, which would make this advantage short in time. All these items together result on a 7% average annual growth on sales on the forecasted period, which is significantly higher than the sales growth used in the dissertation (2,93%). Regarding sales, BPI was way more optimistic.

Regarding the cost of goods sold, BPI states that there will be fixed costs savings due to efficiency gains, as well as higher margins. BPI considers a 4,3% margin increase, compared to a 2,5% margin increase of the dissertation.

To sum up, the constant rising of premium wine consumption, the positive externalities of NDtech, the Hydrocork and the efficiency gains would result on EBITDA average annual growth of 14%, from 2016 to 2019. This dissertation presents an EBITDA growth of 23,47% in 2016, reflecting both new products and efficiency gains, which forecasts a good year for Corticeira Amorim. From 2017 to 2020, the dissertation presents a 3% annual increase. Regarding EBITDA, the forecasts are quite similar in 2016, but BPI is more optimistic regarding 2017 to 2020.

It is also important to mention that BPI valuation uses a 4-year forecast while this dissertation uses 5 years.

Regarding depreciations and amortizations, both valuations come up with slightly similar values. Therefore, because BPI provides a significantly higher EBITDA during the forecasted period, the EBIT will also be significantly higher compared to the dissertation scenario. It is possible to conclude that, taking into account the operational items, BPI's equity research is way more optimistic that this dissertation. Appendix 6 shows the BPI's Equity Research balance sheet, with both historical and forecasted data.

	201	6	201	7	201	.8	2019		2020
	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation
Sales	623	655	641	711	660	759	679	804	699
EBITDA	124	124	128	140	132	155	136	169	140
D&A	26	26	24	27	25	27	25	28	25
EBIT	99	99	104	112	107	128	111	141	115
Earnings	66	70	70	83	73	93	75	101	78

Fig. 81 - Operational items comparison

Source: BPI's Equity Research

4.2. Capex

Regarding capex, both valuations provide similar scenarios, with similar values. This fact reflects consensus considering the amount that Corticeira Amorim will invest in the upcoming years. In both valuations, capex is higher than depreciations and amortizations, reinforcing the statement that the company will keep investing in the future, namely in new products, efficiency and innovation. Appendix 5 and 7 illustrate the BPI's valuation profits & losses and cash flow map, respectively.



4.3. Working Capital

Regarding the working capital, there are significant differences in both valuations. This dissertation assumes that Corticeira Amorim will keep its short-term health over the forecasted period, with soft fluctuations on both short-term assets and debt items. On the other hand, BPI forecasts bigger changes in the short-term items and, therefore, outcomes more volatile and bigger changes in the net working capital.

	201	6	201	7	20:	18	2019		2020	
	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	
Inventory	280	289	288	305	296	280	305	319	314	
Clients	136	178	140	193	145	206	149	218	153	
Other assets	29	9	30	10	30	10	30	11	31	
Cash and Equivelents	8	12	8	15	8	66	8	69	9	
Current Assets	457	488	470	523	483	562	497	617	511	
Current Debt	95	217	98	232	100	240	102	252	104	

Fig. 83 - Current items comparison

Source: BPI's Equity Research

	20	16	201	7	201	8	2019		2020
	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation	BPI	Dissertation
Changes in Net Working Capital	5	19	7	15	7	(24)	8	39	8

Fig. 84 - Changes in net working capital comparison

Source: BPI's Equity Research

4.4. Cash-flow

Considering the differences regarding the operational components, the capex and the working capital of both valuations, it was expectable much higher cash-flows on the BPI's valuation. This statement was verified.



4.5. Wacc

In this chapter, there are also many differences between both valuations regarding the inherent assumptions.

	BPI	Dissertation	
Risk-Free Rate	3,25%	0,3%	
Country Risk Premium	1,85%	-	
Beta Equity	0,80	1,22	
Market Risk Premium	6%	3,99%	
Ке	9,9%	5,13%	Fig. 86 - Wacc and related items compar
Kd	5,9%	0,92%	Source: BPI's Equity Research
D/EV	25%	46,92%	
Tax Rate	27,5%	28%	
Wacc	8,5%	3,16%	
g	2%	1,87%	

The country risk premium was not included in the dissertation. Because Corticeira Amorim is the world leader in the cork industry and because it is one of the most international Portuguese companies due to its high export levels, it was assumed that Corticeira Amorim is not so exposed to the country risk. The cost of capital is very distinct in both valuations, namely due to different assumptions regarding the risk-free rate, the market risk premium and both cost of debt and equity.

Regarding the financial context of the company, the BPI's equity research was more pessimistic compared to this dissertation, as it states that investors demand a higher cost of capital due to the global context of the company.

4.6. Results

Taking into account the provided information, it is observable that both valuations use different assumptions and, therefore, the outcome of the valuation will be different.

	BPI	Dissertation
Enterprise		
Value	1.569	1.337
EquityValue	1.477	1.253
Share Price	10,00€	9,419€

However, despite of different results, both reinforce the statement that the share price has potential to increase and, therefore, it suggests a good investment opportunity to get profits in the future.

5. Conclusion

The main objective of this dissertation is to make a valuation regarding the world's leader operating in the cork industry and one of the most international Portuguese companies, Corticeira Amorim. To do so, as presented in the Literature Review chapter, it is important to determine which are the most suitable valuation approaches to use taking into account the company's characteristics, as the outcome of the valuation process will be different depending on the chosen methodology. Due to the company's constant capital structure, the chosen method was the Discounted Cash-Flow approach.

The outcome of the DCF valuation was a share price of 9,419. By analyzing the given value, it is plausible to affirm that it is a good investment opportunity, as the target price is higher than the current market price (8,191) and the global business' future perspectives are favorable. The relative valuation approach tested the consistency of the results obtained in the DCF method, as the value belongs to the computed interval.

The Dividend Discount Model outcome was much higher $(16,765 \in)$. Despite the fact that there is a big difference between the values, the DDM reinforces the statement that the share price has potential to increase its value in time, which translates into a good investment opportunity. Having said so, the suggestion to investors is to buy.

However, Corticeira Amorim also faces some challenges for the future. Reinforce the market share of each business unit is one of the company's goals. Constant innovation and improvement is also a target. Another challenge is linked to the Euro-Dollar and other exchange

rates, as it is difficult to predict and has impact on the company's performance as most of its sales are not dominated in euros.

By comparing both valuations, BPI's valuation turns to be more optimistic regarding the operational component and more pessimist on the financial context. Despite the fact that assumptions are different, in the end, both valuations suggest investors to buy.

6. Appendixes

6.1. Appendix 1: Adjusted Present Value vs Discounted Cash-Flow

6.1.1. Adjusted Present Value (APV)

The Adjusted Present Value (APV) is one of the alternatives to the wacc-based Discounted Cash-flow (DCF) valuation approach. It is most commonly used when evaluating a company whose capital structure is not stable and suffers several changes in time. Many authors argue that APV is the best method to use when a fluctuation capital structure scenario is observed, or expected, unlike the DCF model that requires a constant financing mix.

Another difference between these two method is the methodology. APV computes the value of the firm in three steps. The first step is to determine the company's value as if there were no debt (100% equity). By doing this, the operating and the financing components are separated and treated individually. The second step is to compute the present value of the interest tax shields. Debt has advantages and those advantages increase the company's value. Therefore, these gains must be considered when determining the company's value. The third and final step is to compute the present value of the bankruptcy costs, which includes the inherent costs of financial distress due to the debt level and the bankruptcy probability.

The value of the firm is, then, given by summing up the value of the unlevered company, the present value of the interest tax shields and the present value of the bankruptcy costs.

Value of the Firm=Value Unlevered + PV Interest Tax Shields + PV Bankruptcy Costs

6.1.2. APV vs DCF approach

There is a lot of discussion among specialists about which of the two is the best approach. Both methodologies have pros and cons.

The DCF approach is the most commonly used among companies, namely because it is intuitive and simple, but it also faces critics. The financial effects of debt are incorporated in the taxadjusted discount rate, which makes it simpler. However, it has disadvantages, as it is only suitable for companies with constant capital structure. It assumes both constant wacc and capital structures as companies are expected to optimize their capital structures in order to maximize the debt benefits and, consequently, the company's value. To optimize the capital structure, companies have to analyze both benefits and disadvantages of debt. Debt brings benefits until a certain point where debt costs become higher than the benefits. That is why the trade-off between benefits and losses have to be carefully pondered.

DCF is not suitable for companies with volatility on its capital structures as it would imply to compute the cost of capital for each year, according to the capital structure of the referred year. For that reason, in these cases, the APV is the best methodology. Because the APV determines the value of the company in three stages, separating operational and debt components, it is easier to determine where does the value come from. For higher fluctuations on the capital structure, the most suitable APV is comparing to DCF.

To sum up, the capital structure of the company is the decisive factor regarding which of the two methods should be used. Therefore, and because Corticeira Amorim reveals a solid capital structure over time and it is not expected to change it, the DCF approach is definitely the best approach to use.
6.2. Appendix 2: Income Statement of Corticeira Amorim

Corticeira Amorim Income State	ment (thous:	and €)									
			Histo	rical Data					Forecast		
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sales	456 790	494 842	534 240	542 500	560 340	604 800	622 544	640 810	659 611	678 963	698 884
Growth		8,33%	7,96%	1,55%	3,29%	7,93%	2,93%	2,93%	2,93%	2,93%	2,93%
Costs of Sales	221 777	243 123	268 035	264 356	286 205	307 375	295 709	304 385	313 315	322 508	331 970
Margin	51,45%	50,87%	49,83%	51,27%	48,92%	49,18%	52,50%	52,50%	52,50%	52,50%	52,50%
Changes in production	1817	3 288	7 755	(662)	9 448	18 188	18 722	19 271	19 836	20 4 1 8	21 017
External Services	78 320	86 602	93 205	97 266	96 429	100 537	103 487	106 523	109 648	112 865	116 177
Staff expenses	90 712	93 751	97 678	100 154	103 315	111 881	115 164	118 542	122 020	125 600	129 285
Asset imparity adjustments	2 140	1 872	1 008	1 930	149	3 291	3 388	3 487	3 589	3 695	3 803
Other income	6 860	7 502	6 739	7 765	9 613	8 934	9 196	9 466	9 744	10 030	10 324
Other losses	6 5 1 2	7 846	6 343	7 770	6 581	8 117	8 355	8 600	8 853	9 112	9 380
EBITDA	66 006	72 438	82 465	78 127	86 722	100 721	124 361	128 009	131 765	135 631	139 610
D&A	20 867	21 060	21 206	21 516	22 336	25 051	25 786	24 391	25 076	25 084	24 850
EBIT	45 139	51 378	61 259	56 611	64 386	75 670	98 575	103 618	106 689	110 547	114 760
Non-current losses	5 110	5 792	6 978	0	6 354	2 904	3 086	4 115	3 368	3 523	3 669
Financial losses	5 171	6 828	7 360	8888	6 036	2 847	5 924	4 936	4 569	5 143	4 882
Financial income	1 007	1 313	1 207	1 095	180	58	444	227	243	305	259
Related income (losses)	350	91	(192)	692	1 280	3 091	1 688	2 020	2 266	1 991	2 092
EBT	36 215	40 162	47 936	49 510	53 456	73 068	91 697	96 815	101 261	104 177	108 560
Taxes	14 461	13 747	16 203	18 551	16 776	17 496	25 675	27 108	28 353	29 170	30 397
Earnings	21 754	26 415	31 733	30 959	36 680	55 572	66 022	69 707	72 908	75 008	78 163
Other interests	1 218	1 141	678	620	924	558	663	700	732	753	785
% of earnings	5,60%	4,32%	2,14%	2,00%	2,52%	1,00%	1,00%	1,00%	1,00%	1,00%	1,00%
Earnings to shareholders	20 536	25 274	31 055	30 339	35 756	55 014	65 359	69 007	72 176	74 254	77 378
Dividends per share	0,162	0,200	0,246	0,242	0,285	0,431	0,491	0,519	0,543	0,558	0,582
#Number of shares outstanding						133 000					

Equity Valuation Research: Corticeira Amorim SGPS, S.A.

46 579 11 319 36 425 10 018 104 341

133 000

0

743 429	728 633	712 319	695 511	667 222	617 447	627 308	643 768	605 054
351 321	343 491	335 095	326 548	313 086	301 878	325 570	348 521	322 761
249 306	243 387	237 267	231 139	222 890	229 199	249 132	255 402	226 969
2 912	2 830	2 706	2 563	2 042	2 520	2 495	7 848	13 824
54 828	53 853	52 746	51 591	49 5 1 8	44 007	42 822	40 082	30 565
136 044	132 166	128 399	124 739	121 184	115 303	125 203	99 240	105 939
55 523	54 536	53 415	52 245	50 146	67 3 69	78 612	108 231	76 641
102 015	100 104	97 828	95 409	90 196	72 679	76 438	93 119	95 792
9 614	9 345	8 934	8 462	6 743	6 970	7 282	6 490	6 103
35 682	35 049	34 328	33 576	32 227	27 951	25 085	21 038	16 700
11 089	10 892	10 668	10 4 3 4	10 0 15	11 533	10 448	13 228	10 525
45 630	44 819	43 898	42 936	41 2 1 1	26 2 25	33 623	52 363	62 464
392 108	385 142	377 224	368 963	354 136	315 569	301 738	295 247	282 293
13 368	13 368	13 368	13 368	13 368	13 393	13 009	14 665	12 439
74 254	72 176	69 007	65 3 5 9	55 014	35 756	30 339	31 055	25 274
171 485	166 597	161 849	157 236	152 754	140 617	132 587	123 696	117 827
0	0	0	0	0	(7 197)	(7 197)	(7 169)	(6 247)
133 000	133 000	133 000	133 000	133 000	133 000	133 000	133 000	133 000
743 429	728 633	712 319	695 511	667 222	617 447	627 308	643 768	605 054
497 110	483 362	469 931	456 842	443 533	404 182	414 564	430 600	397 185
8 380	8 142	7 909	7 684	7 465	6 037	7 788	39 015	21 681
30 43 4	29 985	29 543	29 108	28 679	25 673	33 618	31 414	10 162
4 475	4 350	4 159	3 939	3 139	2 233	8 026	4 852	23 662
148 798	144 557	140 437	136 434	132 545	122 606	121 069	124 108	116 758
305 023	296 329	287 882	279 677	271 705	247 633	244 063	231 211	224 922
246 319	245 270	242 388	238 669	223 689	213 265	212 744	213 168	207 869
10 968	10 806	10 647	10 4 90	8 359	6 708	6 384	6 746	6 105
4 433	4 367	4 303	4 239	4 177	3 631	2 373	3 735	3 573
5,00%	5,00%	5,00%	5,00%	128,14%	57,43%	24,86%	29,98%	-30,23%
3 025	2 881	2 744	2 613	2 489	1 091	693	555	427
14 118	13 910	13 705	13 503	13 304	10841	8 129	8 018	5 967
6 280	8 868	9 564	9 366	0	2 911	5 255	5 865	11 849
5,00%	5,00%	5,00%	5,00%	-3,51%	-1,12%	-13,61%	-19,80%	-2,03%
5 498	5 417	5 337	5 258	5 008	5 190	5 249	6 076	7 576
1,50%	1,50%	1,50%	1,50%	4,08%	-0,96%	1,37%	5,69%	2,34%
201 997	199 021	196 088	193 199	190 352	182 893	184 661	182 173	172 372

153 164 313 972 249 005

30 889

8 627 4 664 5,00%

Francisco Moreira Gomes

4 499

5,00%

14 329 5 270 5 580 1,50% 205 018

3 177

11 132

Appendix 3: Balance Sheet of Corticeira Amorim 6.3.

Results from the period

Reserves and other ed Own shares

109 126 20 536 (6 247)

133 000

Interests

Total Equity

Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics

Taxes

Current Debt

257 283 293 221 **561 767**

255 715 360 057 **760 320**

140 036

56 678

Total Debt

Total Equity + Debt

Other debt and debt I

Bearing debt

35 938 121 496 97 787

Suppliers

Difered taxes

Non-current Debt

Provisions

Other debt and debt h Bearing debt

14 239 1 160 14 557 5 982

Debt

Equity Social capital

Cash and equivelents

Current Assets

33 313 9 777 16 595

Total Assets

Clients

Inventory

Difered taxes

Non-current assets

206 973

Other financial assets

Growth

Intangible assets

Associate investments

5 362 612 15 099

Taxes

Other assets

PP&E

Assets

Tangible fixed assets

168 430

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

-orecast 2018

2019

2020

Historical Data

7 733

Growth Growth

Corticeira Amorim | Balance Sheet (thousand €)

Goodwill

6.4. Appendix 4: Cash-Flow Map of Corticeira Amorim

Corticera Amorim Cash-Flow Map (thousand €)											
		Histori	cal Data						Forecast		
Opportional Activition	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Receiving clients	465 285	536 664	588 693	595 190	615 763	642 252	661 224	680 757	700 866	721 570	742 885
Growth		15,34%	9,69%	1,10%	3,46%	4,30%	2,95%	2,95%	2,95%	2,95%	2,95%
Payment to suppliers	(323 634)	(450 453)	(464 501)	(457 311)	(510 079)	(514 686)	(528 558)	(551 211)	(563 133)	(580 274)	(598 609)
Suppliers/clientes	69,56%	83,94%	78,90%	76,83%	82,84%	80,14%	79,94%	80,97%	80,35%	80,42%	80,58%
Staff expenses	(89 705)	(91 493)	(98 549)	(99 206)	(105 064)	(110 261)	(104 844)	(106 723)	(107 276)	(106 281)	(106 760)
Flux generated by operations	51 946	(5 282)	25 643	38 673	620	17 305	27 822	22 823	30 457	35 015	37 517
Receiving/Payment of taxes	(3 034)	(6 988)	(11 101)	(22 528)	(9 479)	(15 611)	(15 873)	(13 654)	(15 046)	(14 858)	(14 519)
Other receiving/payments related to operational activity	10 019	38 395	37 505	50 116	72 455	52 952	58 508	61 305	57 588	59 134	59 342
Flux of Operational Activities	58 931	26 125	52 047	66 261	63 596	54 646	70 457	70 474	73 000	79 291	82 339
Investment Activities											
Receivings from:											
Tangible fixed assets	1 008	3 784	612	404	675	484	521	560	522	534	539
Intangible assets	0	30	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial investments	0	40	6	0	11	50	20	20	20	20	20
Other assets	481	452	157	1 285	189	227	227	227	227	227	227
Investment subsidies	54	809	2 860	1 835	3 927	2 0 95	2 619	2 880	2 531	2 677	2 696
Dividends	200	250	255	255	298	287	280	288	285	284	286
Payments due to:											
Tangible Fixed assets	(16 766)	(26 672)	(20 329)	(25 995)	(21 216)	(31 189)	(27 924)	(28 421)	(30 965)	(30 826)	(31 857)
Financial investments	(449)	(2 035)	(14 653)	(1 271)	(2 514)	(92)	(1 292)	(1 299)	(895)	(1 162)	(1 119)
Intangible assets	(901)	(47)	(406)	(351)	(563)	(1 617)	(1 665)	(1 350)	(1 640)	(1 645)	(1 635)
Investment subsidies	(275)	(14)	0	0	(1 009)	(2 229)	(1 079)	(1 439)	(1 582)	(1 367)	(1 463)
Flux of Investment Activities	(15 744)	(22 025)	(27 068)	(22 866)	(20 124)	(31 920)	(27 922)	(28 363)	(31 294)	(31 009)	(32 099)
Financing Activities											
Receivings from:											
Loans	0	3 324	17 214	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Own shares sold	0	0	0	0	0	32 927	0	0	0	0	0
Other	631	785	476	1 469	1 984	1 925	1 793	1 901	1873	1 855	1876
Payments due to:		0	þ			()	12 121		12 1311	()	
Interacts and similar costs	(2 951)	16 0 72 1	16 01 71	(,	(3 600)	(7 207)	(4 2 0 8)	(1 507)	(2566)	(2 701)	13 651)
Dividends	(704)	(13 127)	(20 497)	(20 396)	(24 425)	(50 509)	(31 777)	(35 570)	(39 285)	(35 544)	(36 800)
Own share purchase	(3 446)	0	(686)	(264)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	(482)	(1 039)	(1 478)	(568)	(432)	(429)	(429)	(429)	(429)	(429)	(429)
Flux of Financing Activities	(26 449)	(16 130)	(11 888)	(68 939)	(43 080)	(21 555)	(37 196)	(40 271)	(43 983)	(40 483)	(41 579)
Cash and equivelent variation	16 738	(12 030)	13 091	(25 544)	392	1 171	5 339	1 840	(2 277)	7 799	8 661
Exchange effect (currency)	654	(183)	24	(498)	ω	(31)	(175)	(68)	(91)	(111)	(90)
Cash and equivelent (beggining of period)	1 552	18 944	6 731	19 846	(6 195)	(5 799)	(4 659)	504	2 276	(92)	7 595
Cash and equivelent (end of period)	18 944	6 731	19 846	(6 196)	(5 800)	(4 659)	504	2 276	(92)	7 595	16 166

6.5. Appendix 5: BPI's Valuation Profit & Losses - Corticeira Amorim

Net Profit adj.	Net Profit reported	Minority Interests	Others	Income tax	Net financial results	EBIT adj.	EBIT	Depreciation & others	EBITDA adj. mg.	EBITDA adj.	EBITDA	Revenues		P&L (€ mn)
30	30	<u> </u>	0	19	-7	57	57	22	14.4%	78	78	543	2013	
40	36	<u> </u>	ხ	17	ო	64	64	22	15.5%	87	87	560	2014	
57	55	<u> </u>	ట	17	0	76	76	25	16.7%	101	101	605	2015	
70	70	<u> </u>	4	23	0	99	99	26	19.0%	124	124	655	2016 ^F	
8	83	<u> </u>	0	28	0	112	112	27	19.7%	140	140	711	2017F	
93	93	<u> </u>	0	33	0	128	128	27	20.4%	155	155	759	2018F	
101	101	2	0	39	0	141	141	28	21.0%	169	169	804	2019⊧	
15%	16%	28%	n.s.	22%	N.S .	17%	17%	2%		14%	14%	7%	15-19F	CAGR

6.6. Appendix 6: BPI's Valuation Balance Sheet - Corticeira Amorim

Balance Sheet (€ mn)								CA
	2013	2014	2015	2016F	2017F	2018F	2019F	φ
Net Intangibles	6	4	2	ω	4	4	ъ	_
Net Fixed Assets	185	183	190	196	203	202	203	
Net Financials	16	20	22	22	22	22	22	
Inventories	244	248	272	289	305	280	319	
ST Receivables	163	151	164	178	193	206	218	
Other Assets	6	7	œ	9	10	10	1	
Cash & Equivalents	~	ი	7	12	15	66	69	_
Total Assets	627	617	667	710	751	792	847	
Equity & Minorities	302	316	354	391	432	474	518	_
MLT Liabilities	69	66	83	102	87	77	77	
o.w. Debt	34	26	41	60	45	35	35	
ST Liabilities	256	236	230	217	232	240	252	
o.w. Debt	79	67	50	20	20	15	5	ż
o.w. Payables	138	129	137	150	162	171	180	
Equity+Min. + Liabilities	627	617	667	710	751	792	847	

6.7. Appendix 7: BPI's Valuation Cash-Flow Map - Corticeira Amorim

Net Debt (+)/Net Cash (-)	=Change in Net Debt	Other	+/- Equity	- Dividends Paid	- Net Fin. Exp.	= Cash Flow after Inv.	- Net Fin. Inv.	- Replacement Capex	- Growth Capex	= Operating Cash Flow	- Income Taxes	- Chg in Net W.C.	+ EBITDA		Cash flow (€ mn)
104	-17	0	0	21	7	45	-2	21	6	70	28	-19	78	2013	
88	-17	0	0	25	5	47	4	21	0	72	ъ	10	87	2014	
84	-4	34	0	51	0	21	ω	23	00	54	18	28	101	2015	
89	-16	0	0	35	0	51	0	23	9	83	23	19	124	2016F	
50	-18	0	0	44	0	62	0	25	9	96	29	15	140	2017F	
-16	-66	0	0	52	0	118	0	28	0	145	34	-24	155	2018F	
-19	డు	0	0	59	0	62	0	29	0	91	39	39	169	2019 ^F	

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