24th XBRL International Conference
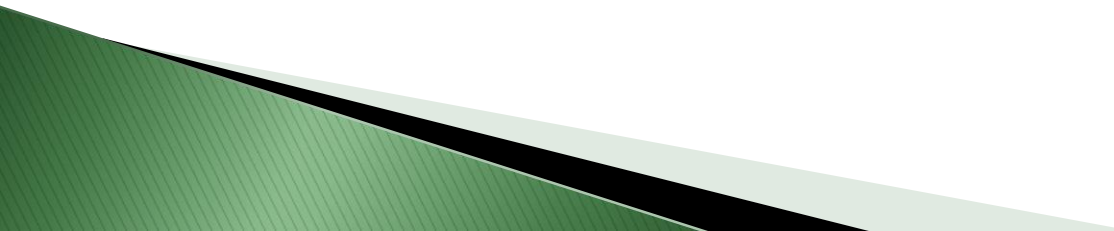
"Transparency: with Available, Reliable, Comparable and Re-usable Data"
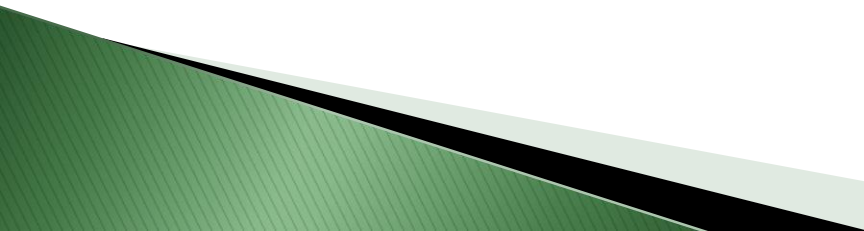
March 20-22, 2012
Abu Dhabi, UAE

FILR3. Consumers Panel, Sami Benghezal ,March 20,2012

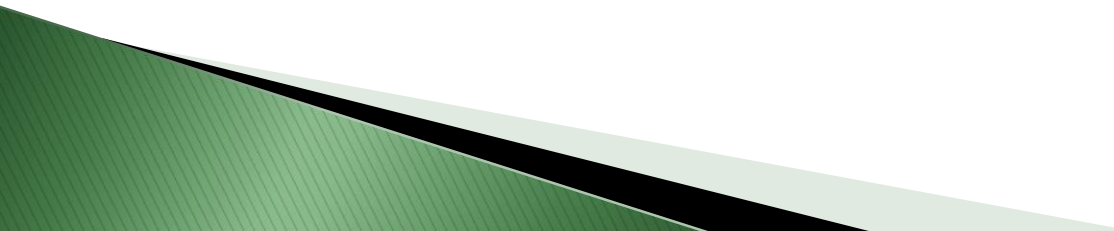# Information sources.

▸ Considerable amount of time is currently spent on collecting, normalizing and capturing data.

▸ In order to properly analyze a company, different sets of data are keyed in a valuation model.

▸ Depending on the nature of the business , the required information expands from company level (company financial statements) to sector level (industry board) to domestic and global macro economic indicators.

▸ The data is obtained from different sources: company financial statements, Sector association, central banks, international boards, etc.

Aggregation versus granularity.

▸ Third Party data aggregators can help you reduce the time allocated to collecting, normalizing and capturing data ,however the lack of uniformity of standardization implies a loss in granularity and accuracy.

▸ The analyst still needs to spend time to double check if the normalization process used by the aggregators is reliable. And if the granular details allow comparative analysis

▸ Few examples of relevant granular disclosures:
   1. breakdown of non performing loans
   2. Product segmentation
   3. Geographical segmentation.
   4. Uniform definition of active users among telecom companies

Aggregation versus granularity, continued

- The analyst will complement the data sets (quest for granularity) by gleaning the information from different sources (company management, IR officers, etc) and keying it in manually.

- When the required data is inaccessible, the analyst may have to make inferences and errors are more likely to arise.

XBRL in the UAE

- Higher level of disclosures and transparency.

- Satisfactory level of granularity.

- Due to business specificities and internal reporting conventions, companies will express the desire for flexibility. However it may defeat the purpose. We need to overcome excessive customization, data must remain comparable and consistent.

- As businesses evolve , some product segments become obsolete, new products are developed and new markets are tapped, and new measurements arise. Ongoing coordination between preparers and consumers of XBRL information is required in order to continue using the information efficiently.