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Research Trends in IFRS 17 and Financial Reporting: A Bibliometric Analysis of the Academic Literature

Authors,
Ramona Melania MĂGAN
Elena HLACIUC

RESEARCH STRUCTURE

 **Introduction**

 **Literature review**

 **Research Methodology**

 **Results and discussion**

 **Conclusions**

INTRODUCTION

The standardization of financial reporting in the insurance sector has represented one of the most complex challenges of international accounting regulations over the last two decades. The specific nature of insurance contracts, characterized by high uncertainty, long-term estimates, and the interdependence between risk and profitability, has made the application of uniform accounting principles particularly difficult. During the application of IFRS 4, insurance companies benefited from significant flexibility in selecting accounting policies, which led to divergent practices and a low level of comparability across jurisdictions. In this context, the introduction of IFRS 17 marked a significant change in insurance contract accounting by establishing a consistent measurement model based on discounted cash flows, risk adjustment, and the gradual recognition of profit.

The 4 principles of IFRS

Clarity



Reliability



Relevance



Comparability



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this research is to provide a critical perspective on previous studies and to analyze the evolution and structure of the IFRS 17 field from a bibliometric perspective, with the aim of identifying the main research directions, emerging themes, and potential gaps in the existing literature. In this context, the study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1

How has the scientific literature regarding the impact of IFRS 17 on financial reporting in the insurance sector evolved?

2

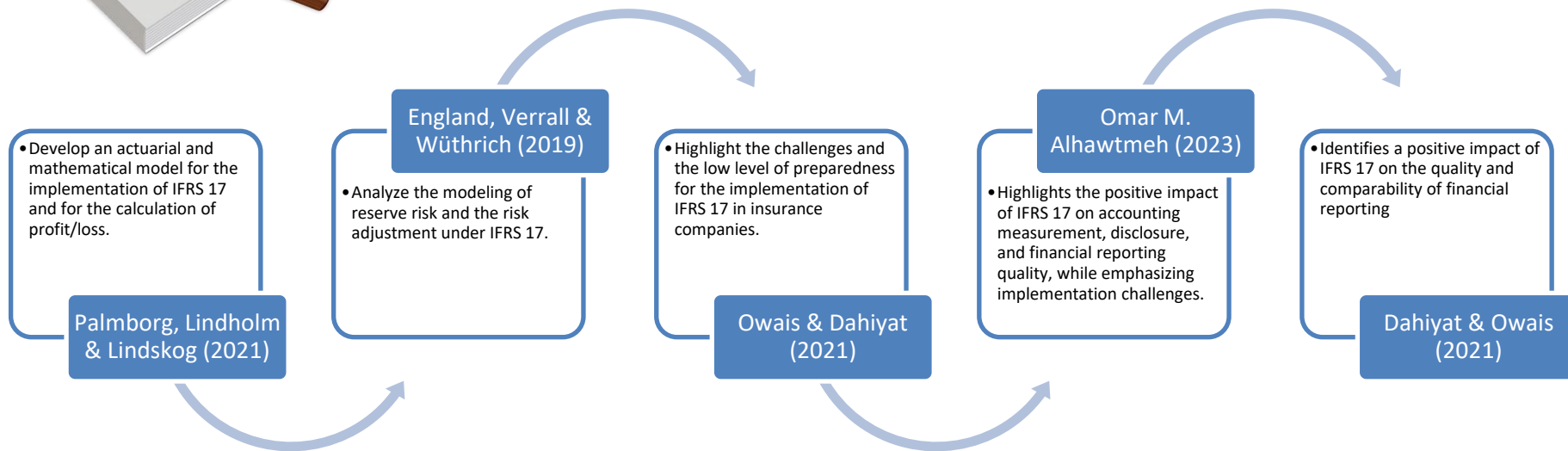
What themes, trends, and perspectives emerge from the literature concerning the influence of IFRS 17 on the quality and transparency of financial information?

3

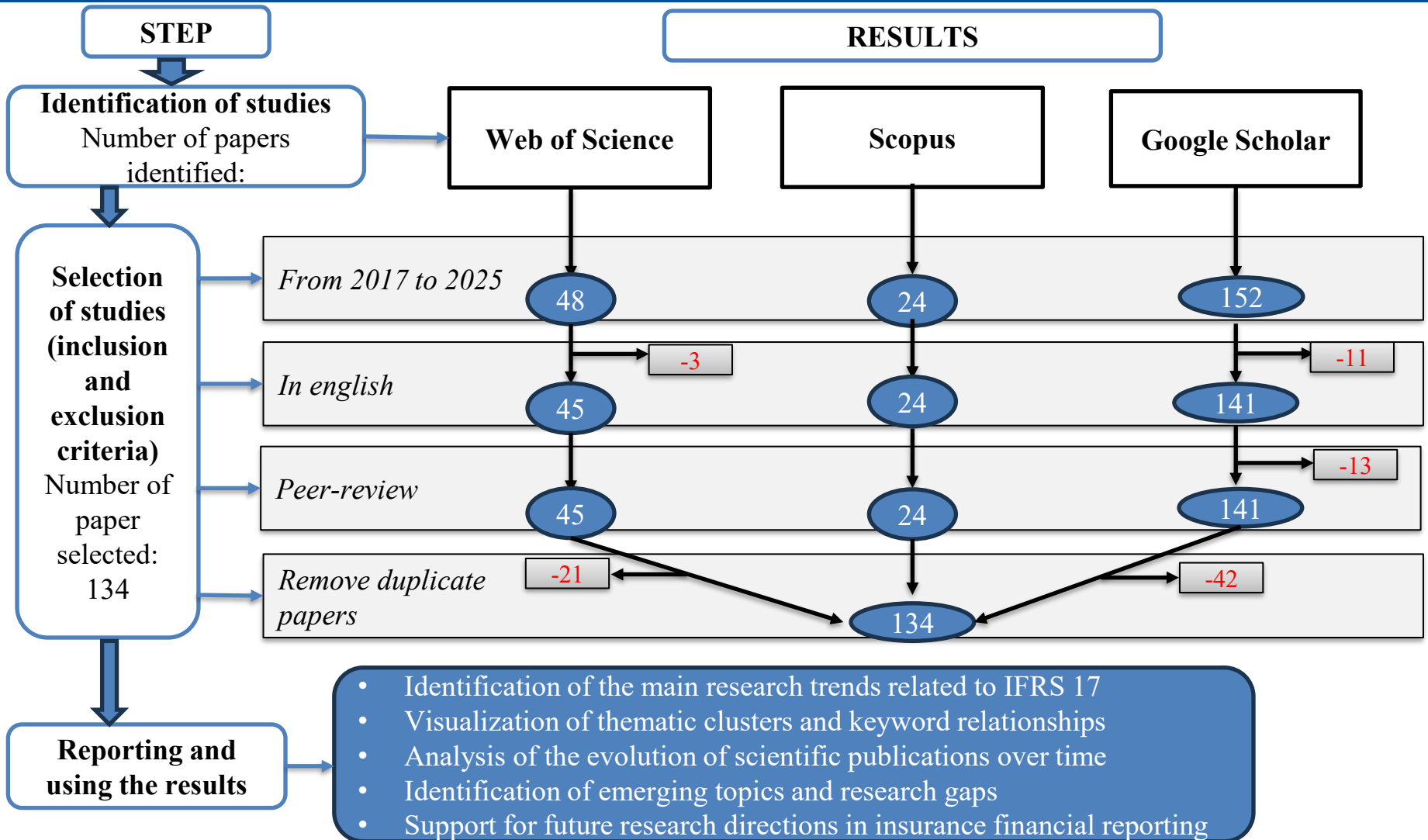
What future research directions are identified in relevant publications regarding the application of IFRS 17 in the financial reporting of insurance companies?



LITERATURE REVIEW



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS



Figure 1 – Evolution of the number of publications by year

Source: author's own elaboration.



Figure 2 – Distribution of Publications by Country

Source: author's own processing in QGIS.

EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

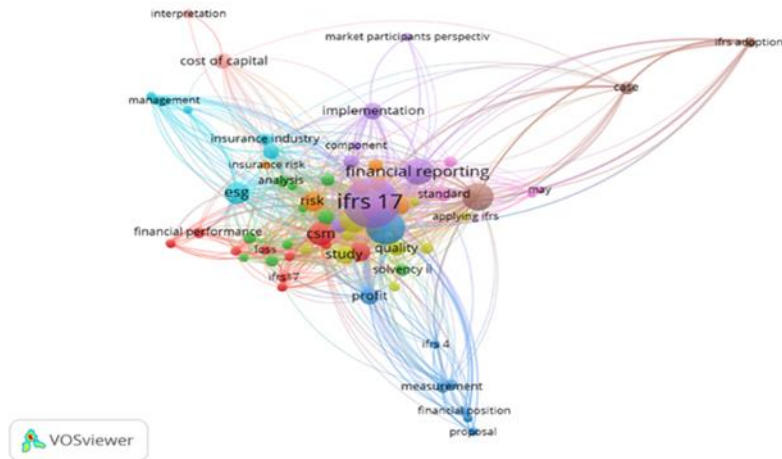


Figure 3 – Network Visualization (Cluster Map)
Source: author's own processing in VOSviewer.

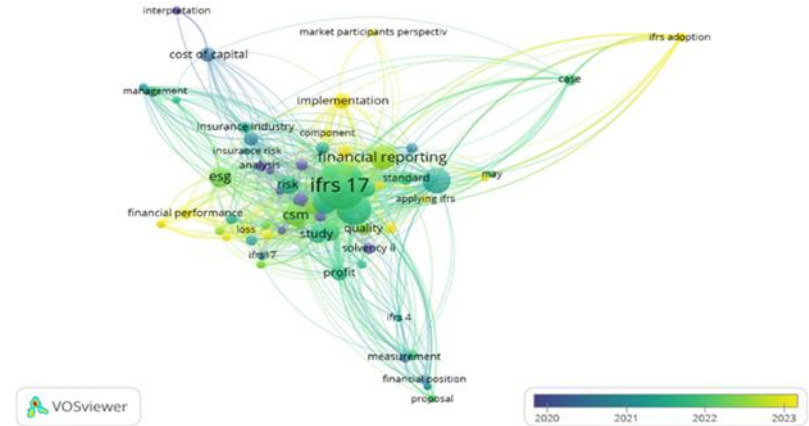


Figure 4 – Overlay Visualization (Evolution of Research Themes)
Source: author's own processing in VOSviewer.

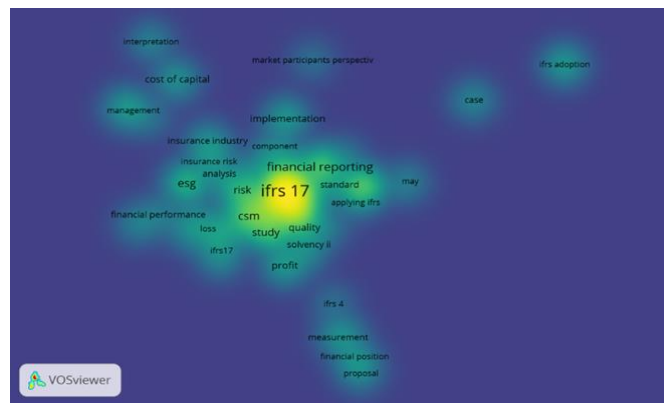


Figure 5 – Density Visualization
Source: author's own processing in VOSviewer.

DISCUSSIONS



Research Evolution

- Rapid growth of IFRS 17 research after 2020
- Increase driven by implementation complexity and new reporting requirements



Main Research Clusters

- Financial reporting & implementation
- Contractual Service Margin (CSM)
- Financial performance & risk
- Solvency II interaction



Emerging Themes

- ESG and sustainability reporting
- Transparency and corporate governance
- Post-implementation empirical analysis



Key Findings

- Literature remains strongly focused on technical implementation
- Growing interest in economic and institutional impact
- Limited empirical evidence due to recent adoption of IFRS 17

CONCLUSIONS

- IFRS 17 research has expanded significantly in recent years, especially after the implementation phase of the standard.
- The literature is mainly focused on technical and conceptual aspects of IFRS 17, particularly financial reporting, CSM, and implementation challenges.
- Bibliometric analysis highlights strong connections between IFRS 17, financial reporting quality, risk management, and Solvency II.
- Recent studies show growing interest in ESG, sustainability, and empirical evaluation of IFRS 17 effects.
- The study identifies important research gaps, especially regarding the long-term impact of IFRS 17 on financial performance and reporting quality.