I observed a striking resemblance between the success rates of the Netherlands and the US. Martynova and Renneboog (2010) found that shareholder protection was almost equal in both countries. This corresponds to the fact that they both have a success rate of approximately 40%.

At least one hedge fund acquired a share in 14 of the 36 listed companies in my database. Of these, 10 were working together to achieve certain goals. The hedge funds held a share in the company for an average length of 531 days. Although Brav et al. (2008) considered this a long term, I consider 531 days to be a short term.

The average percentage of voting power ranges between 8.06% and 10.10%. From this data, it can be concluded that hedge funds are not generally involved in acquiring controlling blocks of stock.

Because shareholders have an opportunity to go to the OK, they have a reasonable chance of having their demands fulfilled. The OK prefers to solve disputes between shareholders and management by enacting provisional measures that improve the dialogue between the two parties. As a consequence, the parties often find compromises. Defensive measures that the management takes only to oppress shareholders are prohibited, and minority shareholders can change how they are treated if a majority files an appeal.

5. Discussion

Conducting an extensive study of the shareholder activism undertaken by hedge funds in the Netherlands over a decade required a great deal of precise work. Even though I did not use any private information, this study provides insight into hedge fund activism in the country.

Further Research

The topic of hedge fund activism still needs attention. The following topics could be interesting for cases in the Netherlands: Which companies are hedge funds addressing? Is lowering the power of the shareholders intended by the public opinion necessary, and will hedge fund activism return to the Netherlands? A comparison with other European countries could also provide more insight into the hedge fund activism climate in the Netherlands.