

**BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY OF  
ECONOMIC STUDIES**



**FACULTY OF ACCOUNTING AND  
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION  
SYSTEMS**



# **PROGRAM AND ABSTRACT BOOKLET**

**18<sup>th</sup> International Conference**

**Accounting and  
Management Information Systems**

**June 07 – 08, 2023  
Bucharest, Romania**

**AMIS 2023**

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

From the Faculty of Accounting and Management Information Systems, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

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## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### Wednesday, June 07

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8:00 – 15:00</b>  | <b>Registration</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8:00 – 12:00         | <i>Location: Aula Magna Hall, ASE main building - Ion N Angelescu, 2-10 Caderea Bastiliei</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 13:00 – 15:00        | <i>Location: 3rd floor hall, Ion N. Angelescu building</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>9:00 - 9:45</b>   | <b>Opening ceremony</b><br><i>Room: Aula Magna, ASE main building - Ion N Angelescu, 2-10 Cădereă Bastiliei</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>9:45 – 10:30</b>  | <b>Keynote address - Pitching responsible science... Reflections on 10-year + journey</b><br><i>Room: Aula Magna, ASE main building - Ion N Angelescu, 2-10 Cădereă Bastiliei</i><br>Robert Faff, Bond University                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>10:30 - 10:45</b> | <b>Coffee break</b><br><i>Aula Magna Hall</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>10:45 - 12:15</b> | <b>Panel 1 - Current IFRS Developments (IAAER - KPMG)</b><br><i>Room: Aula Magna</i><br><i>Moderator: Katherine Schipper, Duke University</i><br>Panelists:<br>Holger Erchinger, KPMG<br>Leslie Hodder, Indiana University<br>Yannis Tsalavoutas, University of Glasgow                                                                                           |
| <b>12:15 - 13:00</b> | <b>Lunch</b><br><i>ASE Restaurant, Ground floor, Stanislas Cihoschi building</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>13:00 - 13:30</b> | <b>Coffee and desert</b><br><i>3rd floor hall, Ion N. Angelescu building</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>13:30 - 15:00</b> | <b>Panel 2 - Towards Sustainability Reporting – How the Accounting Profession Could Transform (ACCA)</b><br><i>Room: 0321</i><br><i>Moderator: Andreia Stanciu, ACCA</i><br>Panelists:<br>Nadia Albu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies<br>Anca-Liana Eviu, Delgaz Romania<br>Joanna Krasodomska, Krakow University of Economics<br>Ioana Rizea-Popp, KPMG |
|                      | <b>PS1 Sustainability 1</b><br><i>Room: 0320</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>15:00 - 15:30</b> | <b>Coffee break</b><br><i>3rd floor hall, Ion N. Angelescu building</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>15:30 - 17:00</b> | <b>PS2 Workshop Accounting in Europe</b><br><i>Room: 0321</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                      | <b>PS3 Financial reporting 1</b><br><i>Room: 0320</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                      | <b>PS4 Sustainability 2</b><br><i>Room: 0319</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Thursday, June 08**

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9:00 - 10:30</b>  | <b>PS5 ACCA IAAER Scholars</b><br><i>Room: 0321</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                      | <b>PS6 Financial reporting 2</b><br><i>Room: 0320</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                      | <b>PS7 Audit</b><br><i>Room: 0319</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>10:30 -10:45</b>  | <b>Coffee break</b><br><i>3rd floor hall, Ion N. Angelescu building</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>10:45 - 12:15</b> | <b>Panel 3 - Working to Enhance the Attractiveness and Resilience of the Accounting Profession. The New Narrative (CECCAR)</b><br><i>Room: 0321</i><br><i>Moderator: Adriana Popa, Bucharest University of Economic Studies</i><br>Panelists:<br>Elizabeth Gordon, Temple University<br>Sebastian Hoffmann, HHL<br>Mirela Păunescu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies<br>Carlos Ramirez, ESSEC |
|                      | <b>PS8 Sustainability 3</b><br><i>Room: 0320</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>12:15 - 13:00</b> | <b>Lunch</b><br><i>ASE Restaurant, Ground floor, Stanislas Cihoschi building</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>13:00 - 13:30</b> | <b>Coffee and desert</b><br><i>3rd floor hall, Ion N. Angelescu building</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>13:30 - 15:00</b> | <b>Panel 4 - Communicating with Market Participants: Channels, Disclosures, and Reactions</b><br><i>Room: 0321</i><br><i>Moderator: Andrei Filip, IESEG</i><br>Panelists:<br>Anne Jeny, IESEG<br>Karol Klimczak, Lodz University of Technology<br>Vasile Rusu, Deloitte<br>Daniela Aldescu, ARIR                                                                                                      |
|                      | <b>PS9 Organizations and society</b><br><i>Room: 0320</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                      | <b>PS10 Accounting education</b><br><i>Room: 0319</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>15:00 – 15:30</b> | <b>Coffee break</b><br><i>3rd floor hall, Ion N. Angelescu building</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>15:30 - 17:00</b> | <b>PS11 Accounting profession</b><br><i>Room: 0321</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | <b>PS12 Financial reporting 3</b><br><i>Room: 0320</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | <b>PS13 Sustainability 4</b><br><i>Room: 0319</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>19:30 - 23:30</b> | <b>Gala Dinner</b><br><i>Marshal Garden, Calea Dorobanți 50B</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## PS1 Sustainability 1

Wednesday, June 7, 13:30 – 15:00, Room 0320

Chairperson: Costel Istrate, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania

### SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL SEMICONDUCTOR CRISIS: AN ANALYSIS OF COMPANIES' PERFORMANCE

Emil Adrian Bancu, Miruna Iuliana Cunea, and Dragoș Marian Dragomir, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** The global semiconductor crisis triggered by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has resulted in a tumultuous period for the automotive and semiconductor industries. This paper presents an analysis of the sustainability initiatives and standards in the context of the semiconductor crisis and the influence of sustainable development on the performance of companies. To research sustainable development in the context of the global semiconductor crisis, a sample of 30 automobile manufacturing companies, respectively 83 semiconductor manufacturing companies from 2019 to 2021 was used, based on which two econometric models were founded. The results show that ESG controversies and ESG factors have a significant influence on the performance of companies in the two interconnected economic activities (automobile manufacturers and semiconductor manufacturers). Management Score and CSR Strategy Score have a negative and significant impact on the performance of automobile manufacturing companies.

**Keywords:** Sustainability; ESG controversies; ESG factors; semiconductor crisis; performance.

### TO UBI OR NOT [TO] UBI? UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME CREATING VALUE IN RURAL ROMANIA

Alexandru Ureche, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** This paper investigates the effectiveness of basic-income social policies in rural areas of Romania. Rural areas, once a thriving bulwark of socio-economic stability in the country, have been grappling for decades with the tsunami effect of ill-fated socio-economic reforms of the 90s, which dragged the rural economy, and its people, in a vicious cycle of poverty. Constant economic migration, depopulation, lack of basic needs, and a generation of newly orphaned children hiding in plain sight - the byproduct of economic migration and lack of education - constitute the new dire reality of a once prosperous blend of small economies. Under these circumstances, providing unconditional guaranteed income, independent of any other revenue streams, seems a natural way of alleviating the effects of systemic, multidimensional poverty, present in aforementioned areas. With mostly non-existent government programs, and a weak business sector, it seems that responsibility of such targeted interventions rests on the shoulders of third sector organizations. We argue that impact and benefits of such programs far outweigh their monetary costs, and the stigma associated with "social welfare" proposals.

**Keywords:** Universal Basic Income; multidimensional poverty; basic-income policies; blended value accounting; (in)commensuration.

### TREND OF SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS IN RUSSIAN ENERGY COMPANIES

Nicoleta Elena Cristea and Alula Nerea Gebremeskel, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** The conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the energy crisis, the increase in energy prices, and the worries about how energy use will affect climate change make the topic of energy more interesting. The first question of this research is: How is the trend of sustainability indicators in Russian energy companies? The second question is: How is the trend of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to energy? For the first question we used Sustainability reports from 2021, of 3 Russian companies from the energy field, i.e., Gazprom, Rosneft and Lukoil. For the second question we used data from Statista between 1975 and 2021. The research employed content analysis and descriptive statistics to analyze the annual sustainability reports of those companies and Statista database. The analysis of the businesses' sustainability measures of Russian companies from our study reveals that, overall, in 2021, the adverse effects on the environment were less pronounced than in 2020. Moreover, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to energy increased during the time by 2.34-fold from 1975 until 2021. The significance of this paper is to explore the progress from transition to clean environment vantage point using sustainability indicators.

**Keywords:** Sustainability indicators; sustainability reports; energy; Russia; trend.

**PS2 Workshop Accounting in Europe**

Wednesday, June 7, 15:30 – 17:00, Room 0321

*Chairperson: Andrei Filip, IESEG School of Management, France***THE DISCLOSURE OF DOUBLE MATERIALITY AS AN EMERGING PRACTICE***Voicu-Dan Dragomir, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania**Ionela Corina Chersan, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania**Cătălina Gorgan, Mirela Păunescu, and Mădălina Dumitru, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania***Discussant:** Joanna Krasodomska, Krakow University of Economics, Poland

**Abstract:** There are two sets of sustainability reporting standards currently developed: one developed by the International Sustainability Standards Board, which will impact companies worldwide, and one developed by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group, which will impact European companies. A major difference between the drafts is that the second set refers to the concept of double materiality. As the concept is not new, our research question is: How is the (double) materiality concept reflected in company reports? Data for this study were collected from sustainability reports from five companies whose Romanian subsidiaries are listed on the Bucharest Stock Exchange. We perform a content analysis of the reports, starting from the requirements regarding the double materiality included in the draft European Sustainability Reporting Standards. We find poor disclosure in accordance with the double materiality concept, and we argue that applying the double materiality asks companies to prepare integrated reports or at least to integrate the materiality determination process in both reports, the annual (financial) report and the sustainability report. The contribution of our study is that we provide insight into what companies actually consider material.

**Keywords:** Double materiality; EFRAG; CSR Directive; impact materiality; financial materiality.

**ACCOUNTING NARRATIVES OF A FEMALE CEO IN THE OIL & GAS INDUSTRY***Maria-Silvia Săndulescu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania**Sebastian Hoffmann, HHL, Germany***Discussant:** Nadia Albu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to analyse the relationship between values and leadership as reflected in the accounting narratives. The paper draws on the case of a female CEO in the oil and gas industry that was involved in the transformation of a privatised company, OMV Petrom. During her tenure the company became the largest oil and gas producer in South-East Europe. However, her reign was not free of challenges. Following a contested change in ownership that lacked transparency, the company underwent a restructuring process that involved major layoffs. In addition, the 2008 economic crisis and the 2014 oil price crisis negatively impacted corporate performance. As such, we analysed the transposition of personal values in accounting narratives using a narrative rationality lens. The managerial discourses published between 2006 and 2017 were assessed in order to analyse the values in-use. The results suggest that the personal values of the CEO are further transposed in corporate actions, although being in a limited format. The longitudinal analysis revealed a lack of coherence between stories, influenced by contextual factors.

**Keywords:** Narrative paradigm, leadership, values, discourse.

## PS3 Financial reporting 1

Wednesday, June 7, 15:30 – 17:00, Room 0320  
Chairperson: Robert Faff, Bond University, Australia

### ANALYSIS OF ACCRUALS EARNINGS MANAGEMENT USING THE JONES MODEL. THE CASE OF ROMANIA LISTED COMPANIES

Georgiana Burlacu and Ioan-Bogdan Robu, *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania*

**Abstract:** The financial statements reported by each entity are intended to provide useful information all the users, information that clearly and honestly presents the financial position and performance and cash flows respectively. There are cases where, out of a desire to gain the trust of stakeholders (investors and other equity providers), some entities tend to commit manipulations in financial reporting using earnings management. The study aims to assess the extent to which the operations of earnings management are used by the Romanian entities listed on a regulated market and the impact of these operations on the quality assurance of the reported financial information. This study was conducted based on the information collected from the annual financial statements of the entities that are listed on the Bucharest Stock Exchange, for the period between 2019-2021. It is worth mentioning that, in choosing the analyzed period, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the financial reports was also taken into account. Using the Jones model based on the linear regression analysis, the results of the study indicate a distortion of the results presented by the analyzed companies, a solid reason being given by the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic with a strong impact on the economic environment.

**Keywords:** Earnings management; discretionary accruals; capital market; financial statements.

### THE VALUE-RELEVANCE OF IAS 38 COMPLIANCE LEVEL: EVIDENCE FROM POLAND

Olga Grzybek, *University of Economics in Katowice, Poland*

**Abstract:** *Objective:* This paper investigates the value-relevance of mandatory disclosure on intangible assets by companies listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange (Poland). *Research Design & Methods:* The study utilizes disclosure indexes to measure the compliance with IAS 38 and are incorporates these variables into the Ohlson (1995) model. *Findings:* The study finds that the level of compliance with mandatory disclosure for intangible assets is not value-relevant. However, the interaction between the disclosure level and the amount of intangible assets is negative and statistically significant. *Implications/Recommendations:* The study concludes that while the level of mandatory disclosure is not valued by the market, it does modify the value-relevance of intangible assets. A higher level of disclosure is associated with a decrease in investor expectations regarding the economic potential of intangible assets. *Contribution:* This study contributes to existing knowledge about the market consequences of mandatory disclosure and provides new insight into the process of evaluating reported information by equity investors under information asymmetry. JEL: M41, D83 **Keywords:** intangible assets, Ohlson (1995) model, value-relevance, disclosure index, compliance with IAS 38.

**Keywords:** Intangible assets; Ohlson (1995) model; value-relevance; disclosure index; compliance with IAS 38.

### THE PROBLEMS WITH COMPARABILITY AMONG FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PREPARED UNDER IFRS WITHIN POLISH ENTITIES

Barbara Kawa, *Krakow University of Economics, Poland*

**Abstract:** *Objective:* To analyse the comparability of headings included in the consolidated statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income prepared under IFRS. *Research design & methods:* The study required the analysis of statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income patterns ensured by Polish accounting regulations as well as IFRS propositions in this field. Moreover, it covered the analysis of structure and content of IFRS consolidated statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income prepared for 2005-2019 period by Polish listed companies. *Findings:* The empirical study based on 477 consolidated statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income showed that Polish entities use national patterns in IFRS reporting. Moreover, the results indicate that some entities were using term proposed by IFRS only in some years. *Recommendations:* As the analysis showed, there are some factors that may diminish the comparability of financial statements prepared under IFRS. To protect financial statements' users from making wrong decisions based on the illusion of comparable IFRS statements, there is a further obligation for research on how comparable IFRS financial statements really are. *Contributions:* Bringing attention to comparability problems with IFRS financial statements may influence future regulators' approach in setting standards. This can enhance the quality of financial statements.

**Keywords:** Financial statements' comparability; IFRS; statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income; expenses.

## PS4 Sustainability 2

Wednesday, June 7, 15:30 – 17:00, Room 0319

Chairperson: Camelia Lungu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

### EFFECTS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NON-FINANCIAL REPORTING DIRECTIVE (2014/95/EU)

Ningshan Hao and Voicu D. Dragomir, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

**Abstract:** *Idea:* This article investigates the increasing significance of the sustainability orientation in corporate operations, as well as the function of non-financial reporting (NFR) in providing information about social, ethical, and environmental aspects of a particular organization. Additionally, the article explores the possible benefits of sustainability reporting, such as improved reputation and value for the brand, in addition to the company's ability to contribute to the sustainable development goals. *Data and tools:* The present literature review explores the influence of non-financial reporting (NFR) on the decisions of various stakeholders, such as investors, companies, governments/regulators, accountants and auditors, employees, and the general public. The adoption of NFR is discussed from the perspective of each stakeholder group, highlighting the positive and negative implications. *What's new?* Companies are now mandated to disclose information on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) concerns, as the article indicates that non-financial reporting has evolved into an essential component of corporate reporting. However, the lack of a consistent reporting methodology and certification process has raised doubts about the quality of NFR and its ability to generate comparable data. *So what?* It is essential to be aware that the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (EU) 2022/2464 imposed new disclosure obligations on businesses, according to the size of the company, the number of employees, and the revenue it generates. This regulation aims to increase the consistency and reliability of sustainability reporting within the European Union. It also reflects the central role of sustainable strategies within the operations of businesses.

**Keywords:** Sustainability reporting; European Directives; non-financial reporting; stakeholders.

### SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING AND EARNINGS MANAGEMENT ENGAGEMENT FROM AN EMERGING ECONOMY PERSPECTIVE

Elena Turuianu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

**Abstract:** *Research question:* To what extent does the disclosure of non-financial information by companies listed on BSE after the adoption of the EU directive lead to a decrease in the use of earnings manipulation techniques? *Motivation:* In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the United Nations (UN) in 2015, as well as the worldwide spreading requirements related to the disclosure of non-financial information, the influence of sustainability and non-financial reporting on firms' engagement in earnings management practices is investigated through a pre-post adoption of European Directive 2014/95/EU comparative analysis. *Idea:* The study aims to analyse the influence of sustainability and non-financial reporting on companies' engagement in earnings management practices. *Data and tools:* To conduct the investigation, the research involves the assessment and analysis of three earnings management metrics resulted by running multiple linear regression models on a sample of 31 companies listed on the Bucharest Stock Exchange (BSE). *Findings:* Research findings emphasise a decrease in the use of income smoothing practices by sampled companies in the post-adoption period 2017-2019, compared to the period preceding the implementation of the EU directive related to mandatory disclosure of non-financial information, 2015-2016. Thus, firms characterised by a higher transparency in terms of sustainability reporting are less inclined to engage in earnings management practices. *Contribution:* This research complements the literature in the field of sustainability reporting and earnings management, providing empirical evidence on the significance and impact of publishing non-financial information, the results being noteworthy for both investors and standard setters.

**Keywords:** Sustainability reporting; earnings management; European Directive 2014/95/EU; non-financial reporting; empirical research.

### RESEARCH ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN SENSITIVE INDUSTRIES: A FIFTEEN-YEAR EVIDENCE

Andreea-Mădălina Bojan, Camelia-Iuliana Lungu, and Chirața Caraiani, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

**Abstract:** This study focuses on corporate governance in sensitive industries research, presenting an analysis of publications' structure and main themes approached by scholars during the time frame 2008 - 2022. Bibliometric techniques are combined with statistical analysis performed in SPSS software and network analysis projected in VOS viewer, to outline the findings debated in the context of previous and future research horizons. A total of 926 scientific publications from the Web of Science database are examined to answer research questions. First, the dynamic of publications is addressed by delineating the time frame into crisis and non-crisis periods, while the search string highlighted the interest for each industry. Second, descriptive analysis allows to examine the better documented, more cited, and more extensive papers. Next, the scientific collaboration between authors and universities is examined through an in-depth analysis of network graphs, together with co-occurrence of author keywords. The results emphasize that most of the papers are published in leading journals, while 2022 is the year that stands out with the highest number of publications. The research focus, from business field point of view, is on Banking, Energy, Logistic, Pharmaceutical, and Tourism industries. Muchmore, statistical analysis demonstrates that there is a significant difference between the types of publications. This



study may be of great interest to academic and business environments. On the one hand, it represents a useful resource for researchers and students. On the other hand, it summarizes information for a specific topic, whose evolution managers and practitioners are interested in.

**Keywords:** Corporate governance; sensitive industries; statistical analysis; network analysis; crisis conditions.

### **INTEGRATED REPORTING – MEANS OF IMPROVING STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION PROCESS**

Lăcrămioara Mansour, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

Elena Dobre and Elena Barbu, *Ovidius University of Constanța, Romania*

**Abstract:** This article studies in a systematic way, based on documentary research and theoretical inductions, the issue of integrated reporting, the general reporting framework and its role in the communication process with stakeholders. Integrated reporting promotes transparency in reporting and communicates to stakeholders, in a holistic way, information about how entities create value in the short, medium and long term. The paper uses, as a foundation, research based on the analysis of specialized literature, highlighting the benefits of integrated reporting in improving the communication process with stakeholders. Financial and non-financial elements reported by entities into a unified manner, addressing all users, is the element of innovation around which integrated reporting gravitates.

**Keywords:** Integrated reporting; stakeholder theory; international integrated reporting framework; interested parts communication; regulatory norm.

**PS5 ACCA IAAER Scholars**

Thursday, June 8, 09:00 – 10:30, Room 0321

*Chairperson: Donna Street, Dayton University, USA***"MAKE BUSINESS A FORCE FOR GOOD": THE ROLE OF CULTURE AS THE DRIVER OF B CORPS' SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE***Silvia Panfilò, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy**Joanna Krasodomska, Krakow University of Economics, Poland**Salvatore Sciascia and Alessandro Cortesi, Carlo Cattaneo – LIUC University, Italy*

**Abstract:** National culture is widely recognized as a key factor in defining differences between the values and beliefs of individuals and organizations. The paper aims to identify whether the impact of Hofstede's national cultural dimensions (power distance, masculinity, long-term orientation, individualism, uncertainty avoidance, and indulgence) on companies' sustainability performance depends on their size. The sample consists of 249 Certified B Corporations (B Corps) based in 14 European countries. B Corps are the leaders in the global movement towards a sustainable economy. They are acknowledged for their sustainability performance (measured with the B Impact score), legal commitment to be accountable to all stakeholders (not just shareholders), and transparency. The sample is differentiated by size and the data is analyzed using regression analysis. The findings for the whole sample show that individualism negatively affects the sustainability performance of B Corps, while long-term orientation impacts it positively. The results for the large B Corps suggest that culture does not influence their sustainability performance; however, their B Impact scores are positively affected by their operating in the financial industry. At the same time, five out of six national cultural dimensions (all except indulgence) are important determinants of small B Corps' sustainability performance. The paper contributes to the understanding of the determinants of corporate sustainability performance by investigating B Corps and distinguishing them by size. The findings also have practical implications, which can be relevant for companies, policymakers and standard setters.

**Keywords:** Social and environmental performance; national culture; Hofstede; Certified B Corporations; accountability.

**FINANCIAL COMMUNICATION AND STOCK MARKET LIQUIDITY: THE CASE OF POLAND***Karol Klimczak, Lodz University of Technology, Poland*

**Abstract:** A major challenge for the development of stock exchanges lies in the combination of high information asymmetry and low liquidity. Stock markets around the world have been taking measures to mitigate these concerns, the adoption of IFRS being a major improvement. Based on extant literature, we argue that strengthened textual communication offers another way to achieve greater liquidity, which has not been explored yet. We ask the following research question: Under what conditions do companies decide to strengthen their communication practices? We study the top 60 companies from the main index portfolios of the Warsaw Stock Exchange over 2019-2020 combining textual and financial analysis. The results show that companies tend to adjust their communication to their present position in the market. We identify cases of proactive communication strategies aimed at improving liquidity and attractiveness. Implications include guidelines for investor relations and suggested policy options for promoting high quality communication.

**Keywords:** Textual analysis; financial reporting; market study.

## PS6 Financial reporting 2

Thursday, June 8, 9:00 – 10:30, Room 0320

Chairperson: Anne Jeny, IESEG School of Management, France

### R&D TAX ALLOWANCE AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURES BY COMPANIES LISTED ON THE WARSAW STOCK EXCHANGE

Anna Białek-Jaworska, Renata Budlewska, and Eliza Hałatek, *University of Warsaw, Poland*

**Abstract:** This paper aims to examine whether the introduced R&D tax allowance in Poland in force since 2016 has increased the voluntary disclosure of information on innovation, R&D activities and strategic plans in the management commentary of companies listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange (WSE). First, it investigates the 29,228 observations of 3,406 firms searching for development works recognition using the Tobit model. Second, it uses logit and generalised least squares method to study in-depth 556 management commentaries of 97 public companies that at least once benefited from the R&D tax allowance in 2016-2021. We show that tax relief increases the probability of recognising development work and signalling news on patenting in management commentary. R&D tax relief incentivises information disclosure to signal the corporate's innovativeness and engagement in R&D activity. Larger companies carry out less diversified R&D activity and have fewer R&D strategic plans. Profitable businesses reveal less R&D information in their management commentary. Companies with higher intangibility have a wider field of R&D activity and more visible effects but rarely mention their innovations in management commentary. Indebted companies disclose more R&D information and strategic plans. This builds trust and justifies funding needs. Thus, they can use R&D and strategic plan disclosures in management commentary to support their loan applications or attract creditors' attention to negotiate better loan conditions. The paper contributes to the literature by identifying that R&D tax allowance influences voluntary R&D information disclosure in management commentaries, especially smaller companies, indebted with higher intangibility.

**Keywords:** R&D; disclosure; innovation; tax allowance; patent applications.

### INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL AND BANK'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN NORTH MACEDONIA AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION

Bojan Malchev, Atanasko Atanasovski, and Marina Trpeska, *Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Macedonia*

**Abstract:** This study examines the impact of intellectual capital on banks' financial performance in North Macedonia. The Value-Added Intellectual Coefficient (VAIC) and its subcomponents, Human Capital Efficiency (HCE), Structural Capital Efficiency (SCE), and Capital Employed Efficiency (CEE), are specifically examined in relation to Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE). The findings demonstrate that the VAIC and its components have a statistically significant and positive influence on both ROA and ROE. The research used linear regression models to examine the relationship between intellectual capital and banks' financial performance. These results imply that banks may increase their financial performance by investing in intellectual capital and offer empirical support for the notion that intellectual capital is a significant predictor of banks' financial success in North Macedonia. This research strengthens the existing research on intellectual capital and financial performance by investigating this relationship in the context of a specific country and employing a comprehensive measure of intellectual capital. The paper's novelty stems from its investigation of the relationship between intellectual capital and financial performance in the banking sector in North Macedonia, a country that has gotten little attention in the intellectual capital literature. Moreover, we employ the VAIC, a comprehensive measure of intellectual capital that captures the multifaceted aspect of intellectual capital. The study has certain limitations despite these contributions: first, it is based on a particular country context, which may limit the results' external validity, and second, it only examines the effect of intellectual capital on two financial performance indicators.

**Keywords:** Intellectual capital; Financial performance; North Macedonia.

### INVESTORS' REACTION TO BANNING IFRS USE BY DOMESTIC FIRMS IN ALTERNATIVE MARKET

Paulina Szymanek and Anna Białek-Jaworska, *University of Warsaw, Poland*

**Abstract:** This paper analyses how IFRS users investing in Poland react to the banning of IFRS use by domestic firms in the alternative trading market (NewConnect) after six years of regulatory arbitrage. In other words, it studies their portfolio investment and FDI outward sensitivity to regulatory arbitrage opportunity given by the alternative market's regulation in the country where accounting law limits IFRS use to regulated markets and business groups where the parent company uses IFRS. It builds on the natural experiment of prohibition of domestic IFRS users issuing shares on the alternative (not-regulated and cheaper) trading market after 2012. Thus, it checks if investing decisions consider opportunities to gain funds or attract other investors and build trust through IPOs on the unregulated market dedicated to start-ups and engaged in R&D activity. We use difference-in-differences, GMM dynamic panel-data analysis with Arellano-Bond and Arellano-Bover/Blundel-Bond estimators for the Knowledge-Capital model on portfolio investment, outward FDI overall, and three FDI components based on debt, equity, and earning reinvestment in 2003-2019. As a result, we observed a 69% growth rate of IFRS users investing in Polish firms in 2012 (317% growth of Swedish investors and 219% of Portuguese), dropping to 8% in 2013 and 3% in 2018. Banning IFRS use by domestic firms in the alternative market discourages leading foreign investors - total FDI, debt-based FDI flows, and earnings reinvestment decreased. Also, portfolio investments and equity-based FDI from countries having more IFRS users have been reduced since 2013 due to the IFRS ban for domestic firms.

**Keywords:** IFRS users; alternative market; FDI; portfolio investment; banning IFRS use.

## **THE ROLE OF MEDIA COVERAGE IN INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERINGS: A LITERATURE REVIEW**

Răzvan Tătaru, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** This review paper provides a comprehensive synthesis of recent research examining the complex dynamics between media coverage and Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). Three significant conclusions emerge from this body of work. First, media, through its tone and sentiment, exerts considerable influence on IPO pricing and performance. Positive media sentiment is linked to reduced IPO underpricing, while increased media coverage correlates with heightened retail investor activity. Second, media plays a substantial role in IPO-related decision-making processes. It has been found to impact the probability of IPO withdrawal and the approval of IPO applications by regulators. Negative media coverage can increase the likelihood of IPO withdrawal and decrease the chances of regulatory approval. Lastly, the media serves a dual role as an information intermediary and market influencer during the IPO process. While disseminating critical information, media can also generate noise that exacerbates information asymmetry, particularly in uncertain periods, and shape the demand for shares and first-day returns. The review highlights these complex interactions across different geographical contexts, including China and the United States, offering a holistic understanding of the media's role in IPOs and its implications for retail investors, regulatory decisions, and market efficiency.

**Keywords:** Review; Initial Public Offering; media coverage.

## PS7 Audit

Thursday, June 8, 9:00 – 10:30, Room 0319

*Chairperson: Mădălina Dumitru, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

### EMPIRICAL STUDY ON THE SUSTAINABLE CORPORATE PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF AUDIT REPORT, FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CASE OF ROMANIAN LISTED COMPANIES

Ioan-Bogdan Robu and Maria-Lia Grosu, *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania*

Ionuț Viorel Herghiligi, *Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iași, Romania*

Camelia Cătălina Mihalciuc and Marinela Istrate, *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania*

**Abstract:** Nowadays, social, economic and environmental factors have a significant influence on the companies' sustainable development, and also on corporate sustainable performance. This is assured by the audit report, corporate transparency in financial reporting and gender equality. This study aims to assess the influence of audit report, financial transparency and gender equality on the sustainable corporate performance. The analysis was carried out on a sample of 1133 observations (Romanian listed companies/ years on the Bucharest Stock Exchange) to the period 2008-2020. Based on the estimated research results, this study emphasizes that gender equality and absence/ presence of transparency in financial reporting have a significant influence on corporate sustainable performance.

**Keywords:** Social dimension; financial dimension; financial audit; gender differences; sustainable performance.

### MAPPING THE SCIENTIFIC LANDSCAPE OF INTERNAL AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT: THE CONNECTIVITY OF RESEARCH

Natalia Maria Greapcă and Camelia Iuliana Lungu, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** Aiming to identify the intellectual structure of internal audit and risk management and the changing trends, this paper presents a comprehensive image of the research area, using bibliometric analysis technique. Observing the evolving research themes in the field until early 2023, a final dataset of 246 bibliometric records were extracted from Web of Science Core Collection database. The scientific mapping analysis over internal audit and risk management dataset is conducted by using VOS viewer software. The study combines co-citation, co-authorship and co-occurrence of the keywords in analyzing the themes evolution patterns. The results reveal that the research themes in the field are continuously developing, but the quantity of research output is yet limited for the internal audit - risk management relationship. The main attention still lies on the effectiveness, quality and improvement in both internal audit and risk management processes. There are also other directly linked concepts with the subject area, such as corporate governance or financial reporting performance. There is a need for more research in the field, focusing on the interaction between internal audit and risk management, extended with factors that might moderate this relationship.

**Keywords:** Internal audit; risk management; bibliometric analysis; science mapping; research connectivity.

### ASSESSING SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS' PERFORMANCE AUDITING OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: EVIDENCE FROM FOUR BALKAN COUNTRIES

Ivan Dionisijev and Zorica Bozhinovska Lazarevska, *Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Macedonia*

**Abstract:** *Purpose:* This research paper aims to assess the extent to which Supreme Audit Institutions conduct performance audits related to the Sustainable Development Goals and their sub-targets and the level of information disclosure in the annual reports in four countries: Slovenia, Croatia, North Macedonia, and Montenegro. *Design/methodology:* The study is based on a content analysis of the annual reports of SAIs in four countries. The analysis focuses on the level of performance auditing related to the SDGs and their sub-targets disclosed in the annual reports. The Spearman rank-order correlation test is employed to determine whether EU membership affects the SAI performing more audits and disclosing more information on the SDGs auditing. *Findings:* The study finds that the Slovenian SAI provides the most comprehensive information on SDG-related performance auditing, followed by the Macedonian and Croatian SAIs. In contrast, the Montenegrin SAI has the lowest level of disclosure. The research also indicates that there is no significant correlation between EU membership and the level of SDG disclosure in the SAIs' annual reports. *Research limitations/implications:* The study is limited to the annual reports of SAIs in four countries and does not explore the reasons behind the variation in the level of SDG auditing among SAIs. *Originality/value:* This research paper contributes to the growing body of literature on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs by providing insights into the level of SDG-related performance auditing conducted by SAIs and the level of information disclosure in their annual reports.

**Keywords:** Sustainable development goals; supreme audit institutions; performance auditing; Balkan countries.

## PS8 Sustainability 3

Thursday, June 8, 10:45 – 12:15, Room 0320

Chairperson: Alina Almășan, West University of Timișoara, Romania

### “NEW THINGS ARE ALLOCATED TO THE PEOPLE ABLE TO HAVE THE JOB DONE”: THE ROLE OF ACCOUNTANTS IN THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF NON-FINANCIAL REPORTING IN ROMANIA

Nadia Albu and Cătălin Albu, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

Oana Apostol, *Tampere University, Finland*

Charles Cho, *York University, Canada*

Gabriel Jinga, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** Regulatory changes that implement Western frameworks are expected to offer an opportunity to professionalize the local professions of emerging economies. In this paper we investigate how accountants deal with a western framework, i.e., the non-financial reporting requirements brought to Romania by the Directive 2014/95/EU, to explore the effects of a regulatory change on the professional work and identity of accountants in a transitioning context. We employ data from interviews and local regulations and reports, and we mobilize the concept of habitus from the sociology of Pierre Bourdieu's work, and its developments in relation to the literature on professional identity and mobility. We find that a divide in the profession is still visible (local vs. Western) and that accountants are either engaged, non-engaged or disengaged in non-financial reporting. Accountants with a traditional habitus and some of the accountants with a modern habitus are either non-engaged or disengaged, and therefore they do not have any opportunity for change (professionalization), and this is because the dispositions of the traditional habitus reinforce the marginalization and self-marginalization of accountants. Engaged accountants are those possessing already a modern habitus, and they are the ones in continuous modification of their dispositions in the context of non-financial reporting, an adjustment which blends new tools and knowledge, specific to non-financial reporting, and the reactivated dispositions of the traditional habitus. Professionalization is therefore not a straightforward, unidirectional process, but the change in dispositions towards an enlargement of the modern role of accountants coexist an activation of past values and knowledge.

**Keywords:** Accountants; non-financial reporting; Romania; habitus.

### NON-FINANCIAL REPORTING IN EXTRACTING MULTINATIONALS: SUCCINCT TEXT ANALYSIS

Irena Jindřichovská and Dana Kubičková, *Metropolitan University Prague, Czech Republic*

Marie Fišerová, *Prague University of Economics and Business, Czech Republic*

**Abstract:** *Idea:* In this paper, we analyse recent annual reports of world mining giants. *Data and tools:* We perform a textual analysis of selected multinationals using the analytical software LIWC2022. Concentrate on their approach to mining and CSR issues as can be discerned from the text of the report. *What's new?* We have assessed the level of nine dimensions and compared the findings with the results of the previous literature and benchmark of professional text. This investigation enabled us to assess the differences between approaches of individual reports from different parts of the world. *Contribution:* The highest scores were found in cognitive processes in BARRICK, and in the case of positive emotions. This concerned especially the Chinese company China Shenhua Energy. On the contrary, the lowest scores were found in negative emotions. The authenticity values were both positive and negative, but the companies did not display any great differences in the group of analysed companies. *Limitations and further research:* We have assessed the full text of letters to shareholders also some other parts of the report can be also interesting and revealing.

**Keywords:** NFR; annual reports; controversial industry; sustainability reporting; LIWC2022.

### SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES ANALYSIS OF ROMANIAN ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE PRISM OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Florin Mihai, Ofelia Aleca, Emilia Gogu, and Daniel Iordache, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** This article aims to analyze the sustainability policies of organizations in Romania through the lens of the pressures induced by the growth of economic activity. Using a quantitative and qualitative methodology, the content of sustainability reports published by companies in Romania listed in the top 500 based on the number of employees was analyzed, and economic and financial data were collected from topfirme.ro. The sustainability score was calculated based on the reporting according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard in the three dimensions: environmental, economic, and social—the scores about how the integrated report was published within the group or local report was analyzed. The research formulated and tested hypotheses regarding the factors that could influence reporting on activities carried out for sustainability purposes, such as the number of employees, total revenues, net assets, stakeholder interest, etc. The study found that sustainability policies related to procurement practices, anti-competitive behavior, biodiversity, and child protection regarding their employability positively but moderately influence a crucial economic indicator, a company's total revenue. This suggests that the sustainability management systems implemented by firms in Romania have yet to reach the necessary maturity to create a clear link between sustainability policies and the economic performance of companies. Furthermore, regarding the company's belonging to a group, the research showed that this aspect does not influence sustainability policies. The information in this paper is of interest in actions taken to ensure sustainable economic processes within organizations in Romania and for future research in the field.

**Keywords:** Sustainability policies; economic indicators; non-financial reporting; sustainability report; GRI standards.

**SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING IN CEE COUNTRIES – SETTING A RESEARCH AGENDA (WORKING PAPER)**

Cătălin Albu, Nadia Albu, Mădălina Dumitru, Raluca Gușe, and Maria Săndulescu, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** In this paper we offer an overview of the sustainability reporting practices in Central and Eastern European countries. This region is characterized by the coexistence of Western-based formal institutions and the remnants of the communist past. We discuss, by mobilizing prior research on the region, their role in advancing or inhibiting sustainability reporting practices. Moreover, we examine the operationalization of sustainability reporting at organizational level, including the role of various professional groups in orchestrating reporting and the channels of communication. We conduct our analysis by taking into consideration a longitudinal stance and a wider organizational approach. This approach allows us, first, to offer a more comprehensive understanding of SR, and second, to derive future research directions that would move our understanding beyond the current knowledge.

**Keywords:** Sustainability reporting; Central and Eastern Europe; institutional context.

## PS9 Organizations and society

Thursday, June 8, 13:30 – 15:00, Room 0320

Chairperson: Irena Jindřichovská, Metropolitan University Prague, Czech Republic

### POST COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT. AN EU MEMBER STATES ANALYSIS

Adriana Florina Popa, Daniela Nicoleta Sahlian, George Marian Ștefan, and Daniela Livia Trașcă, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

Silviu Cornel Virgil Chiriac, *Agora University, Oradea, România*

**Abstract:** At a macroeconomic level, the recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic and the future development are characterized by various factors, some linked with the pandemic effects or the lockdown measures. The current paper analyses several factors from EU Member States that have the potential to challenge the economic recovery and development objectives in the future (including the government fiscal constraints in terms of fiscal deficit and public debt) focusing on the identification of their roots and assessment of their contribution on a short, medium and long term. Our approach is based on an empirical analysis of economic and non-economic indicators, further expanded to a Hierarchical Cluster Analysis for identifying some homogeneous groups of EU Member States based on different structural and fiscal characteristics. It also proposes a new policy framework that should support economic development, based on a response matrix (i.e., areas of intervention) that addresses several undermining factors with different intensity, impact and duration. The results show that there is a visible strong correlation between inequality and government quality (negative) and excess mortality caused by COVID-19 impact (positive), while the institutional environment (i.e., the low level of corruption) and governmental quality and effectiveness are strongly correlated with research and development expenditures as property rights protection and incentives stimulates an intensive research activity.

**Keywords:** Economic development; post-COVID; inequality; cluster analysis; European economy.

### ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT OF OECD TRANSFER PRICING GUIDELINES IN SEE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: THE CASE OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Atanasko Atanasovski, Marta Hadzievska, and Todor Tocev, *Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Macedonia*

**Abstract:** *Research Questions:* Do the national legislations of SEE developing countries comply with the arm's length principle and the OECD Transfer Pricing (TP) guidelines? *Motivation:* Multinational companies often structure their intercompany transactions to shift their profits to jurisdictions with favorable tax rates using TP mechanisms. This can lead to discrepancies in the use of inappropriate methods and possible tax manipulations. The OECD offers solutions to reduce such discrepancies. *Idea:* This paper aims to assess the compliance of SEE developing countries' national legislations with the arm's length principle and the OECD TP guidelines, with a specific focus on North Macedonia. *Data:* Secondary data was collected through a detailed analysis of the OECD TP Guidelines 2022, Country-by-country reporting, national laws and bylaws, and other relevant research literature. Primary data was collected through a survey questionnaire distributed to tax experts in North Macedonia. *Tools:* The qualitative research involved a literature review and comparative analysis, while quantitative research involved a survey questionnaire. *Findings:* The results show that non-EU countries of the SEE region are making progress in harmonizing their national legislation with the OECD guidelines, but are still in the process of implementing these practices. Businesses in North Macedonia show low awareness and ignorance of TP mechanisms, while tax experts show appropriateness in applying the TP methods. The comparable uncontrolled price method and the transactional net margin method are the most frequently employed methods. *Contribution:* Researching TP is crucial because it can uncover possible tax avoidance practices, enhance transparency and equity in international commerce.

**Keywords:** Transfer pricing; OECD; developing countries.

### THE CHALLENGES OF FINANCING SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES: PERSPECTIVES OF BANKERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE UAE

Evans Vasanth, Esinath Ndiweni, and Yasser Barghathi, *Heriot-Watt University, Dubai*

**Abstract:** The Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are an important sector for a country like United Arab Emirates (UAE) where they comprise 95% of the registered companies. There are various sources of financing for businesses, however, banks are reluctant to provide loans to SMEs. This paper sought the perceptions of bankers and owners of SMEs about why it was difficult to lend to SMEs or to obtain finance from banks. The paper employs a qualitative approach in the form of semi-structured interviews with eight senior-level bankers and ten SMEs' owners from various industries. The key factors highlighted by bankers that stand in the way of funding SMEs are unreliable audited financial statements and a lack of collateral system, with the most serious being 'skip risk'. The findings also revealed that trade credit from suppliers and factoring are the main sources of finance. There are a few SMEs in the UAE who obtained finance through venture capitalists and private equity funds. Our study suggests allowing expatriates to access funding schemes that are available to locals and developing more Islamic Finance products may alleviate the challenges faced by SMEs. We also hope that the introduction of bankruptcy law at the end of 2016, will mitigate 'skip-risk' as more SME owners become more aware of the provisions of this law.

**Keywords:** Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs); challenges; financing; UAE economic development.



## PS10 Accounting education

Thursday, June 8, 13:30 – 15:00, Room 0319

Chairperson: Sebastian Hoffmann, HHL, Germany

### CHOOSING A CAREER IN ACCOUNTING: DECISION DRIVERS AND EXPECTATIONS (RESEARCH PROPOSAL)

Alina Almășan and Cristina Circa, *West University of Timișoara, Romania*

**Abstract:** Given that the total number of accounting students has extensively decreased in several countries, our study aims to approach this matter from the perspective of young people who decide on a career. Our research objective is to identify what drives the choice of a career in accounting, and what professional expectations did accounting students have when they made this choice. The objectives will be reached by means of a questionnaire-based study. Data will be collected through a questionnaire, distributed to accounting students from Romania. Although accounting is currently a top choice of young people in Romania, we can expect that the international trend will be followed sooner or later, respectively that the number of high school graduates choosing a career in accounting will decrease. The study has mainly practical relevance, as it leads to a better understanding of the reasons why the number of accounting students is falling, and it enables universities to reshape study programs in accounting, in order to attract students.

**Keywords:** Changes; accounting career; drivers; expectations; accounting profession.

### DEVELOPING AN INTRODUCTORY FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING COURSE FOR THE POST-PANDEMIC GENERATION

Jonathan Lyons, *American University in Bulgaria, Bulgaria*

**Abstract:** *Idea:* Before the recent pandemic, accounting education faced many challenges. This included the task of developing technical accounting knowledge and the competencies required for the evolving workplace. The pandemic required education to go online, with learning management systems (LMSs) providing a platform for learning. Accounting educators had to develop new learning and assessment methods suitable for use online. This paper considers ways in which, after the pandemic, such methods can be used to develop accounting education. *Data:* The data is limited to a short end of semester survey conducted on Canvas concerning the preferred methods of learning by students. *Tools:* The tools used were the teaching and learning methods adopted during and after the pandemic. The paper also considers the preliminary results of a brief end of semester survey which highlighted preferred methods of learning. *What's new?* The development of the course was influenced by changes made during the pandemic. Teaching is now conducted in class but is more IT based, group work is actively encouraged and assessment more frequent. Students, if necessary, are encouraged to seek support from centralised support systems. *So what?* The purpose of this paper is to discuss the potential benefits of the changes made as a consequence of the pandemic. This might help educators to develop teaching and assessment methods to engage the current generation of students in learning accounting. *Contribution:* To stimulate thought about the development of accounting courses as a result of different teaching and assessment methods adopted during the pandemic.

**Keywords:** Generation Z and alpha; pandemic; accounting education; information technology.

### DEVELOPING STUDENTS' CAPABILITIES THROUGH PEER LEARNING IN MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

Daniela Artemisa Calu, Mădălina Dumitru, and Cleopatra Șendroi, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** *Research question:* How does peer learning in management accounting contribute to develop students' capabilities? *Motivation:* We start from the calls of the professional associations, such as ACCA, to develop certain capabilities for the future accountants. The universities have the potential to develop them through the teachers' pedagogical approaches. *Idea:* We designed the requirements for the Management accounting seminar in a new manner. 30% of the mark obtained for the tutorial was represented by homework conducted in teams. *Data:* We will analyse the results obtained at a questionnaire developed to test the students' opinions about peer learning and its effect. So far, 51 answers were received. *Tools:* We present the design of the homework, the questionnaire, and we interpret the results obtained. *Contribution:* The study raises the attention of the accounting teachers to introduce new pedagogical approaches and new methods for assessment, so that they can focus on the development of a more complete set of capabilities for their students.

**Keywords:** Accounting education; student capabilities; peer learning; management accounting; tutorial.

## PS11 Accounting profession

Thursday, June 8, 15:30 – 17:00. Room 0321

Chairperson: Carlos Ramirez, ESSEC Business School, France

### ACCOUNTANTS' DIGITAL SKILLS DETERMINED BY THE AUTOMATION-DRIVEN EVOLUTION OF THE PROFESSION

Sînziana-Maria Rîndaşu, Valentin-Florentin Dumitru, Bogdan-Ştefan Ionescu, Laura-Eugenia-Lavinia Barna, and Alexandru Crijman, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** This study aims to examine the changes in the set of digital skills of accountants in the context of the automation-driven evolution of the profession. Currently, an increased level of adoption of automation-based solutions can be observed in almost all (if not all) industries. To create competitive advantages, companies started to grasp the benefits of Robot Process Automation and Intelligent Process Automation solutions. Thus, the set of digital skills accountants must demonstrate needs to be updated to allow them to continue to support organisations. By wielding a cross-sectional approach, we examine the evolution of syllabi defined by three relevant international professional accounting bodies (IPABs), employing an inductive approach to conduct a content analysis. We analysed the curricula for the period 2012 – 2022 to identify the changes over the last decade. The main findings are that there is an increase in the level of digital requirements, especially in the case of automation-based competencies as the role of the accountants is migrating towards becoming an advisor of the management. Our study has implications for the accounting education at all levels. This research deepened the understanding of the role that IPABs plays in supporting the profession, with a series of theoretical implications as it addresses the evolution of the digital set of skills in the automation-driven evolution of the accounting profession.

**Keywords:** Accounting profession; international professional accounting bodies; digital skills; Robot Process Automation; Intelligent Process Automation.

### DESIGN, MODELLING AND ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT ECONOMIC PROCESSES USING AI - IRPA TECHNOLOGIES - INSIDE ERP SYSTEMS. A CASE STUDY FROM AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Viorel-Costin Banţă, Daniela Nicoleta Sahlian, Adriana Florina Popa, and Mihai Vuţă, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

Silviu Cornel Virgil Chiriac, *Agora University, Oradea, România*

**Abstract:** In this case study, we will emphasize the significance of customizing, modelling of the economic processes using artificial intelligence (AI) through intelligent robotic process automation (iRPA), to align them with the existing solutions established within the integrated ERP system, also known as Enterprise Resource Planning. The automotive company has experienced significant advantages through the implementation of these solutions, more than that, a real increased value was added for the business environment. They solved persistent challenges that were previously challenging to tackle. The case study described in this paper focuses on examining the impact of modeling economic processes and the adaptability of individuals using these new technologies. Since 2021, the company has integrated iRPA solutions across various departments, specifically in production, sales, distribution, and procurement. The objective of this research is to highlight and categorize the risks associated with different types of adopted / implemented solutions, as well as the challenges encountered during implementation and the benefits which the company will have after this strategic decision. The authors of this case study will analyze multiple levels of impact, ranging from project involvement and job modifications to workforce restructuring, where intelligent robotic process automation played a significant role.

**Keywords:** iRPA – Intelligent Robotic Process Automation, AI – Artificial Intelligence, ML - Machine Learning, ERP - Enterprise Resource Planning, Project.

### THE USE OF NEW EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE TAX ENVIRONMENT THROUGH DIGITIZATION

Flavius Valentin Jakubowicz, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** The Romanian government has started the digitization of fiscal processes to facilitate the payment of local taxes and duties. This change comes in the context of the growing international trend of digitization in the tax field, which can lead to increased tax compliance and reduced tax evasion. Investors are attracted by efficient and transparent tax systems that reduce red tape. Digitization of tax processes has already been successfully implemented in countries such as Estonia, Norway and Denmark. Romania aims to align itself with international trends, improving the experience of citizens in the interaction with the local administration. The proposed system aims to create a portal based on new technology for the payment of fees and taxes. The integration of blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies can bring benefits such as increased security, transparency and reduced operational costs. Alternative methods of paying fees and taxes are increasingly used globally. In the United States, over 70% of tax payments are made online, and in Canada, over 90% of tax payments are made online or via mobile apps. Some governments are also exploring the use of cryptocurrencies as an alternative method of paying taxes and duties. Implementing an info-kiosk system for accessing and paying local taxes and fees can bring significant benefits in efficiency and citizen satisfaction concomitant with the acceptance of alternative

payment methods such as cryptocurrencies or NFTs. These methods facilitate the payment process and improve the efficiency of the collection of duties and taxes.

**Keywords:** Fiscal environment; blockchain; cryptocurrencies; digitization; electronic environment.

## **FEATURES OF THE APPLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS IN THE CONTEXT OF DIGITALIZATION**

*Liudmila Lapițkaia, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** In the context of the acceleration of the digitalization of the economy, issues related to the implementation by auditors of the principles established by the International Code of Ethics for professional accountants (Code of Ethics) meet new challenges. First of all, this is due to the development of the technological landscape of the digital economy, in conditions when such new elements as the Internet of Things (IoT), digital 5G, quantum computing, etc. appear, auditors are required to have sufficient knowledge when auditing financial statements of crypto assets and other digital economy tools. In this article, the authors analyze the technological landscape of the digital economy, the risks that arise when an auditor works in terms of violating the principles established by the Code of Ethics, and also formulate proposals to avoid or minimize such risks.

**Keywords:** Audit; digital economy; International Code of Ethics.

## PS12 Financial reporting 3

Thursday, June 8, 15:30 – 17:00, Room 0320

Chairperson: Andrei Filip, IESEG School of Management, France

### EXPLORING THE VALUE-RELEVANCE OF INTANGIBLES – 25 YEARS OF RESEARCH: A STRUCTURED LITERATURE REVIEW

Mirela E. Nichita, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

Olga Grzybek, *University of Economics in Katowice, Poland*

**Abstract:** The goal of this paper is to underline the evolvement of financial and non-financial intangibles on value relevance, complemented by the documentation of noteworthy trends and future directions for the research on the value-relevance of intangibles. The value relevance of accounting information is fundamental for business decisions (Conceptual Framework of Financial Reporting, 2020). The transformations of economies towards services and digitalisation, the value relevance of information for financial and non-financial decisions remains critical (Barth et al., 2022). To achieve the objective stated above, a structured literature review is employed. The final sample includes 118 papers published in the last 25 years (1997-2022) in journals indexed WOS. We noted that value relevance of intangible assets is validated in many papers and, furthermore, creates a favourable field for debates and research. The results of this academic paper highlight (1) the trends in investigation of relationship between categories of intangibles and financial market measures, (2) the predominance of Ohlson model in assessment of value relevance (3) insufficiency of papers addressing intangibles and financial markets in emerging economies, and (4) the greater than before influence of non-financial intangibles on value relevance

**Keywords:** Financial intangible assets; non-financial intangible assets; value-relevance; structured literature review.

### ACCOUNTING AND TAXATION IN ROMANIA: FROM CONNECTION TO DISCONNECTION?

Costel Istrate, *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania*

**Abstract:** The relationship between accounting and taxation in Romania has been the subject of many studies. We partially replicate one of them (Istrate, 2011), applying the Lamb et al. (1998) analytical grid on 40 elements that can characterize the accounting-taxation (dis)connection, with respect to the corporate income tax. Our results confirm the de jure disconnection between accounting and taxation, for all firms, with a very clear separation in the case of firms applying IFRS. In order to seek an empirical confirmation of this result, we calculated the effective tax rate (current tax expense/pre-tax income) from the data found in the financial statements of Romanian companies listed on the Bucharest Stock Exchange. The results show effective tax rates that are significantly different from the legal tax rates, which seems to confirm the disconnection, although the difference is smaller for firms applying IFRS.

**Keywords:** Book-tax relationship; Lamb et al. (1998) grid of analysis; disconnection; effective tax rate.

### PRELIMINARY INSIGHTS ON FIRMS' FINANCIAL DRIVERS OF DIVIDEND PAYOUT DECISION ON THE POST PANDEMIC PERIOD

Valentin Burcă and Oana Bogdan, *West University of Timișoara, Romania*

Alin Artene, *Politehnica University of Timișoara, Romania*

**Abstract:** *Research question:* What firm level financial drivers are relevant on the decision of dividend payouts in the current post pandemic crisis context? *Motivation:* There is a long debate about dividend policy, and indirectly on the level of dividends payout, without a consensus among researchers on the main drivers. The higher instability installed globally, on the ground of multiple consequent crisis, has forced firms to pay more attention on the decision of distributing dividends to shareholders, as such decision limit firms' self-financing financial resources. *Research design:* The study consists of estimation of an econometric regression, in order to assess the association between dividends per share ratio and other financial ratios. The study uses a large dataset of data analytics and financial information provided by Refinitiv. The period analyzed is the first year of the post pandemic crisis period, respectively 2022. We analyzed more than 1100 firms selected based on data availability, from developed European economies, respectively Germany, France, UK, and Italy. *Findings:* Overall, the results suggest marginal effect of the earnings per share, the variance on the earnings per share, the credit risk score and the accruals level on the level of dividend payouts. *Contributions:* The study brings preliminary insights on the financial drivers of the decision of dividend payout, on firm level. The study adds to the literature valuable information about financial drivers of dividends payout, in the context of the actual high uncertainty in the business environment.

**Keywords:** Dividends payout; earnings per share; accruals; credit scoring; crisis.

### CONSTRUCTIVE OBLIGATIONS AS CREDIBLE PROMISES. A REPUTATIONAL APPROACH

Stere Mihai, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** The paper makes the simple observation that IASB's definition of constructive obligations parallels the game theoretic notion of credible promises. However, in the absence of any enforceable contracts and explicit laws, it is not clear how these promises acquire credibility. Drawing on game theoretic results we first study a simple game of trade on credit between a seller and buyer. In the unique equilibrium of this game trade never happens because buyer's promises to settle the trade are not credible. We then show how the repetition of the game coupled with a concern for reputation can induce credibility of promises.

**Keywords:** Constructive obligations; obligating event; credible promises; repeated games.

## PS13 Sustainability 4

Thursday, June 8, 15:30 – 17:00, Room 0319

*Chairperson: Voicu D. Dragomir, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

### THE LINK BETWEEN COUNTRY COMPETITIVENESS, CORPORATE ESG PERFORMANCE, AND THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Oana Marina Radu, Voicu Dan Dragomir, and Liliana Ionescu Feleagă, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** The alignment between environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance and country's competitiveness helps academics and practitioners in observing corporate contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leveraging corporate environments focused on ESG aspects that have a macroeconomic impact, but a limited number of studies analyzes this link. Thus, the aim of this study is to propose a case study for which an original mapping is proposed. Data were collected from Refinitiv Eikon, for two companies (in the oil and gas and financial services sectors), located in Romania, for the financial year 2021, and from the Global Competitiveness Report published by the World Economic Forum in 2019, as it is the latest full report available. Interpretative analysis was applied to the proposed mapping of sustainability practices reflected through ESG indicators, in relation to various relevant components of six pillars from the global competitiveness index. Our qualitative research included the computation of a total score based on the impact of ESG performance in pursuing the country's competitiveness. Our results show that in Romania, the largest oil and gas company disclosed quantitative and qualitative information on ESG indicators and obtained a score (25) which is equal to the one obtained by the analyzed bank. The highest contribution to reaching the country's competitiveness is related to the social pillar, especially the workforce dimension, for both organizations. This research is important for various stakeholders, such as governments, business, and civil society, depending on the role within the organization, either direct or indirect.

**Keywords:** ESG performance; country competitiveness; environment; social; governance.

### ESG RESEARCH WITHIN THE REALM OF SUSTAINABILITY: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS USING WEB OF SCIENCE DATABASE

Iuliana Mădălina Petrică Papuc, Chirața Caraiani, Camelia Iuliana Lungu, and Liana Elena Anica Popa, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** *Motivation:* The relationship between ESG factors and sustainability is a widely debated topic in the literature, but to our knowledge, there is a gap concerning the investigation of links between groups formed with ESG and other sustainability concepts, such as corporate social responsibility (CSR), green economy, circular economy, digitalization, technology, industry 4.0, and industry 5.0. *Idea:* The objective of this study is to identify the interest of researchers, their visibility, as well as the trends among publications, regarding the ESG factors in relation to other concepts within the realm of sustainability, like CSR, green economy, circular economy, digitalization, technology, industry 4.0, and industry 5.0. *Data:* The selected sample for the research includes 1,430 papers screened from the Web of Science database. *Tools:* The aim of this study is achieved by conducting a bibliometric analysis, using VOS viewer and PowerBI. *Findings:* The findings of this study include the interconnectivity of selected concepts, the number of publications over time, the paper types, the publishing activity by country, as well as the collaboration patterns between countries, the publishing activity by journal, the most productive authors, the co-authorship, the length, references, and citations trends, the most cited papers, and the co-occurrence of authors' keywords. *Contribution:* This analysis supports the identification of potential gaps in the current ESG-related research and point toward new areas of investigation. It also contributes to the advancement of ESG research, and to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

**Keywords:** ESG; sustainability; CSR; industry 5.0; bibliometric analysis.

### THE IMPACT OF ESG ON CORPORATE PROFITABILITY AND RISK

Cătălina Ioana Toader and Radu Ciobanu, *Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania*

**Abstract:** The aim of this study is to analyse if ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) scores can influence the firm performance and risk. In the current climate, ESG has become increasingly important for businesses and a company with good ESG credentials is one that considers very important the impact of its actions on the environment and society, alongside with good governance practices. Due to the increased interest to sustainability issues, companies are very focused on ESG factors as they can influence their key financial values. Our study shows that ESG combined score is positively and significantly associated with firm value and profitability. These findings can suggest that high ESG performance can be the key to financial return for the firm in terms of both value and profitability. Moreover, our main findings present that ESG combined score can also influence the credit ratings, so firms can invest in ESG to improve their financial risk.

**Keywords:** ESG, corporate profitability, credit ratings.