PROVISION OF ACCOUNTING INFORMATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS' RECEPTIVITY AND TRANSPARENCY

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Abstract: Accounting information is found, in one form or another, in the management system of the organization regardless of its size or constitution. Accounting, through the information provided, has an active and decisive role in decision-making and provides the indispensable language for the analysis of activity and results, which is an objective necessary to be done in financial terms. From this perspective, based on the study of the literature, the paper presents the main categories of users of accounting information. The main objective of the selective research is to analyze the way of providing accounting information to interested users from the perspective of the receptivity of professional accountants and compliance with the principle of transparency).

Keywords: professional accountants, accounting information, transparency, information, users

1. Introduction

Accounting, through the information provided, has an essential role due to the diversity of users and their information needs, generated in terms of the need to adapt to the economic and financial context [1]. In our opinion, a reference synthesis of the information needs generated by accounting is made by Jan van Helden and Christoph Reichard [2].

The general conceptual framework for financial reporting [3] presents users of financial reporting information as grouped into two categories:

- main users, represented by existing investors, potential investors, lenders, other creditors;
- other users, namely management (leadership and the Board of Directors), regulators, members of the public (except investors).

The representatives of the accounting information request are grouped in two main categories, as follows:

- internal users, within which managers, credit officers, administrators and other categories of staff with responsibilities for performing management functions are identified [4];

- external users, identified by potential investors, shareholders, various creditors, business partners, state authorities, employees, the public.

The multitude of users [5], [6], [7] of accounting information gives it a privileged place in the information system of the organization. However, it should be noted that not all accounting information produced within the organization is available to them, transparency in their reporting is often a real obstacle. However, regardless of the way users are presented, it is obvious that each of them has their own

information needs, the emphasis being on making decisions on how to allocate resources, and how to use them efficiently and effectively.

2. Research Methodology

The provision of accounting information is a necessity from the users' perspective, satisfying the internal or external

informational needs, the final goal being that of long-term development. To achieve the proposed objective, we conducted a selective research on a sample of 301 organizations in the Center Region. The objectives, hypotheses and variables used to conduct the research are presented in table 1.

Table 1. Objectives, hypotheses and variables of the research

Main objective	Main hypothesis	Secondary objective	Secondary hypothesis	Variables
Q₁ Analysis of the degree of provision of accounting information from the perspective of the receptivity of professional accountants and compliance with the principle of transparency.	IP₁ – Most respondents state that professional accountants provide the necessary information whenever they request it.	Q_{1.1} Analysis of the receptivity of professional accountants to requests for the provision of accounting information by category of organization and organization of accounting.	IS_{1.1} – Most respondents in large organizations and those who internalize accounting benefit from processing of accounting information whenever they request it.	v1 Multiple choice / Closed with a single answer v2 Multiple choice / Closed with a single answer v3 Multiple choice / Closed with a single answer V4 Multiple choice / 5 point Likert Scale
	IP₂ – The principle of transparency in the reporting of accounting information is somewhat respected.	Q_{1.2} Analysis of compliance with the principle of transparency depending on the category of the organization and the form of capital.	IS_{1.2} – The category and form of capital of organizations have a direct influence on compliance with the principle of transparency.	

3. Research results. Conclusions

Through the operational variable **v3** we follow the ascertainment of the reality from the surveyed organizations regarding the receptivity of the professional accountants to the requests regarding the provision of the accounting information. The information obtained is presented in Table 2. To detail

the conclusions obtained, we formulated the secondary objective **Q_{1.1}** – Analysis of the receptivity of professional accountants to requests for the provision of accounting information by category of organization and accounting organization and proceeded to the related associations (v3 with v1 – table 3, v3 with v2 – table 4).

Table 2. Realities regarding the receptivity of professional accountants regarding the provision of accounting information

		Frequency	Valid percent
	Yes, whenever we ask	166	55,15
	Yes, periodically, without submitting a request	36	11,96
	Yes, on its own initiative	28	9,30
	No	31	10,30
	I do not know	40	13,29
Total		301	100,00

Table 3. The receptivity of professional accountants regarding the provision of accounting information in relation to the category of the organization

Opinion	Category				Total %
	micro	small	medium	big	
Yes, whenever we ask %	54,05	60,71	61,54	17,65	55,15
Yes, periodically, without submitting a request %	0,00	10,71	26,92	76,47	11,96
Yes, on its own initiative %	2,03	21,43	11,54	5,88	9,30
No %	18,24	4,76	0,00	0,00	10,30
I do not know %	25,68	2,38	0,00	0,00	13,29
Total %	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

Table 4. Receptivity of professional accountants regarding the provision of accounting information in relation to the organization of accounting

Opinion	Accounting organization			Total %
	Internalized	Outsourced	Mixed	
Yes, whenever we ask %	60,19	20,45	78,18	55,15
Yes, periodically, without submitting a request %	19,42	0,00	14,55	11,96
Yes, on its own initiative %	20,39	2,27	4,55	9,30
No %	0,00	34,09	0,91	10,30
I do not know %	0,00	43,18	1,82	13,29
Total %	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

Through the preliminary analysis of the data we notice that the majority of respondents (55.15%) state that professional accountants respond to information needs by processing, analyzing and providing accounting information whenever requested. The highest weights of the organizations that fall into this response option are found for those in the micro (54.05%), small (60.71%) and middle-sized (17.65%) categories. We consider that this is a positive aspect for the Romanian organizations and the accounting profession despite the fact that the information must still be requested, a normality being their

provision at regular intervals even if they remain forgotten somewhere. We note the relatively low percentages of the respondents who state that the professionals, on their own initiative, provide necessary processed situations / analyzes based on accounting information (9.30%) and those who enjoy such benefits periodically, without previously submitting requests in this sense (11.96%), in this last option being included most of the large organizations (76.46%). This can be explained by the existence of persons employed on the basis of an individual employment contract who have such

obligations in the job description, noting the interest of users in knowing the economic and financial situation of the organization. Unfortunately, a share of 23.59% of the respondents ticked the option “I do not know”, respectively “no”, the highest share being found in the micro category (43.92%) which denotes the disinterest in capitalizing the accounting information.

Based on the analysis elaborated according to the way of organizing the accounting, the majority of respondents who internalize the activity (60.19%) and those who apply the mixed variant (78.18%) stated that they benefit from processed information whenever requested, while the majority of those who outsource (accounting is organized on the basis contracts of service) say they do not know or do not benefit from such analyzes (77.27%). From my own experience, however, it can be stated that at some point any professional accountant ends up making the decision not to provide

on their own initiative periodic analyzes of accounting information if such recommendations are not used.

Based on the conclusions, we find that the secondary hypothesis IS_{1.1} – Most respondents from large organizations and those who internalize accounting benefit from accounting information processing whenever requested is partially confirmed because large organizations have regular accounting information processing. Regarding the main hypothesis, IP₁ – Most respondents state that professional accountants provide the necessary information whenever they request, this is confirmed.

In order to achieve the objective of determining the degree to which the principle of transparency in reporting accounting information is observed, the operational variable v4 was formulated, the information obtained being centralized in table 5.

Table 5. Respecting the principle of transparency

		Frequency	Valid percentage
	to a very small extent	21	6,98
	to a small extent	41	13,62
	neutral	158	52,49
	to a large extent	52	17,28
	to a very large extent	29	9,63
	Total	301	100,00
Score	3,09		

From the data processing and analysis we notice that most organizations (52.49%) declare themselves neutral in respect of the principle of transparency. We note the relatively low share of those who say that this principle is respected to a very large and large extent (26.91%). The value of the score calculated for this question is 3.09, which highlights the fact that organizations are in a neutral position (neither in small nor large) and in conclusion, the hypothesis

launched (IP₂ – the principle of transparency in reporting accounting information is somewhat respected) has been validated. For this variable we considered that a more detailed analysis is necessary, which is why we formulated the secondary objective Q_{1.2} – Analysis of compliance with the principle of transparency according to the category of organization and form of capital, the information obtained being presented in tables 6 and 7.

Table 6. Respecting the principle of transparency depending on the category of the organization

Opinion	Category				Total %
	micro	small	medium	big	
to a very small extent %	12,84	2,38	0,00	0,00	6,98
to a small extent %	18,24	16,67	0,00	0,00	13,62
neutral %	64,19	58,33	21,15	17,65	52,49
to a large extent %	0,68	14,29	65,38	29,41	17,28
to a very large extent %	4,05	8,33	13,46	52,94	9,63
Score	2,65	3,10	3,92	4,35	3,09
Total %	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00
	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

Table 7. Respecting the principle of transparency depending on the form of capital

Opinion	Form of capital			Total %
	Entirely Romanian	Entirely foreign	Mixed	
to a very small extent %	8,86	0,00	0,00	6,98
to a small extent %	16,03	0,00	7,32	13,62
neutral %	62,87	4,35	19,51	52,49
to a large extent %	8,86	30,43	58,54	17,28
to a very large extent %	3,38	65,22	14,63	9,63
Score	2,82	4,61	3,80	3,09
Total %	237	23	41	301
	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

The analysis according to the category of the organization reveals again the direct connection between the two operational variables. Thus, if most large organizations (52.94%) consider that they respect this principle of transparency to a very large extent, as the size of the organization decreases, the degree of respect for transparency decreases.

Depending on the form of capital, we note that organizations with foreign capital are aware of the need to respect the principle of transparency, the majority of 65.22% declaring that they respect it to a very large extent. As in the previous analysis, a change in the form of capital (transition to mixed form) generates the migration of opinion to the area “to a large extent” while for organizations with Romanian capital most respondents (62.87%) are on the

neutral range. The conclusions drawn from the associations between variables lead us to validate the secondary hypothesis IS_{1.2} – The category and form of capital of organizations have a direct influence on compliance with the principle of transparency.

4. Final conclusions

In the opinion of the majority of respondents, professional accountants respond to information needs by processing and analyzing accounting information whenever requested. We appreciate that this is a positive aspect for the Romanian organizations and the accounting profession despite the fact that the information must still be requested, a normality being their provision at regular intervals even if they remain forgotten somewhere. The related

analysis showed that most respondents from large organizations and those who internalize accounting periodically benefit from accounting information processing. Transparency has been and always will be an issue. This conclusion can also be drawn from the research carried out, with most of the organizations surveyed in the Development Region 7 Center declaring

themselves to be neutral in accordance with the principle of transparency. For large organizations, the majority share moves to the "large extent" area while small and micro organizations move to the neutral zone. Depending on the form of capital, we found that most organizations with foreign capital are aware of the need to respect the principle of transparency.

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