

## **EDITORIAL: New perspectives of corporate law and governance research**

*Dear readers!*

We are pleased to present the second issue (special issue) of 2023 of the journal of “*Corporate Law & Governance Review*”.

The journal covers prominent topics for effective corporate law and governance systems. The articles published in this issue have focused on the timely topics of sustainability, environmental social and governance (ESG) performance, gender pay equality, principles of sound global governance systems, labor law, criminal law, tax evasion, accountability in regional governments, auditors’ impact on public administration control, etc.

From the governance perspective, regrettably, the gender pay gap for professional women is a longstanding global issue that remains unresolved. *Akinola George Dosunmu* and *Mpho Dichaba* investigated pay (in)equality in South Africa, and they reported that despite post-apartheid labor reforms, the gender pay gap persists in various sectors. This finding emphasizes the need for a comprehensive examination of labor policies and their alignment with organizational culture to achieve true gender equality.

Another noteworthy concept for discussion is the sustainability and ESG performance of organizations in developed and developing countries. In this special issue, *Jaywant Michael*, *Antoine B. Awad*, and *Bashar Abu Khalaf* raised the attention of the readers to ESG governance in institutions, and *Kusmayadi*, *Edy Lisdiyono*, and *Sri Mulyani* investigated effective and crucial enforcement of waste management policies and practices in developing countries to create cleaner and safer living environments for stakeholders. *Michael*, *Antoine B. Awad*, and *Bashar Abu Khalaf* found that ESG compliance with investor and regulatory standards is also becoming increasingly important in developing countries. For instance, larger Gulf Cooperation Council region banks tend to engage in ESG activities. Still, at the same time, they are careful in managing these activities to avoid negative financial consequences. In general, the organizations with better ESG performances have strong (good) corporate governance frameworks that meet the needs of stakeholders. *Melihate Tërmkollli* explored the formation of the European Administrative Space (EAS) and its harmony with global governance. It was emphasized that the EAS serves as a vehicle for integrating and implementing fundamental principles of good global governance.

The stakeholder approach is equally vital in promoting fairness in public administration, tax governance, and corporate law. According to *Sri Kurnia* and *Doddy Setiawan’s* study, public administration’s clarity in budget targets and control through the auditor general (public auditors) positively impacts performance accountability, contributing to transparent and well-structured financial management in the public sector. Therefore, safeguarding public auditors’ independence is crucial for effective public resource management and accountable public administration as stated in the paper by *Petrit Nimani*, *Artan Maluku*, and *Shefqet Avdija*. Lastly, according to the study by *Eugene Okoi Ifere*, *Okey Oyama Ovat*, *Emeka Josephat Owan*, *Mercy Ihuoma Chijioke*, *Lekam Ujong Ofem*, *Joseph Nsabe Ndome*, *Malachy Ashywel Ugbaka*, and *Atelhe George Atelhe*, transparency, accountability, and improved public governance should be backed by fair tax compliance and effective tax governance systems to enhance public welfare and deal with corruption and tax evasion.

To conclude, the prospects for future research revolve around conducting theoretical, practical, and empirical studies within the realms of socially and environmentally responsible and accountable organizations, regional economies, corporate and tax law systems, as well as sustainable corporate governance mechanisms. Hence, *Corporate Law and Governance Review* welcomes international research contributing to these domains.

Enjoy the reading!

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