

## EDITORIAL: Cooperation against threats

*Dear readers!*

The editorial team is pleased to present the first issue of the journal *Risk Governance and Control: Financial Markets & Institutions* for the year 2025.

In which direction are we going? We understand that climate change affects the current generation and could put the survival of future generations at risk. We understand that we need to take action to manage climate risk. So, what do we need? We need to be able to predict catastrophic events, to be able to predict the impact that such events can have on the economic and financial system, to be able to prepare intervention plans that allow us to limit the damage.

Research is moving in the direction of developing increasingly accurate forecasting models that allow us to manage climate risks (Faccini et al., 2023; Apel et al., 2023; Bartram et al., 2022).

This is made possible by the digital revolution that has exponentially increased the ability to access and process data and information. But who will be responsible for interpreting this data in the future? Humans or artificial intelligence? Are we perhaps about to delegate to robots the decision-making functions that in the past were considered the prerogative of human beings? No one can say this, it is too early: we are in the midst of a full transition towards the unknown!

And while we are wondering about future scenarios, unfortunately, a discouraging fact emerges that testifies to the increase in cyber threats (Dzomira, 2014; Alsayed & Bilgram, 2017; Chen et al., 2024; Kanyongo & Wadesango, 2025).

A phenomenon that is more widespread than ever and now the order of the day is the spread of financial scams against unaware investors, but what is worse, unfortunately, is that sometimes they are aware investors!

While in the past financial culture was considered a sufficient bulwark to protect against fraud and scams, today it is no longer. It is no longer because the channel through which such frauds are carried out is often digital. It is as if the operational boundaries and the tools available to scammers have been expanded. Therefore, financial knowledge and skills are no longer enough.

We are in the phase in which we need to raise the level of security of financial systems. At the same time, we need to expand and disseminate knowledge in the information and communications technology field.

Certainly, it is necessary to prevent the spread of an attitude of distrust towards the financial system such as that experienced during the 2007 international financial crisis. A climate of distrust and widespread fear towards finance and justice would have negative repercussions on the financial sector.

Regulators are moving in the direction of strengthening protection at the level of financial systems. At the European level, the DORA Regulation (Digital Operational Resilience Act, Regulation EU 2022/2554) has come into force, which aims to strengthen the cybersecurity and operational resilience of financial institutions, such as banks, insurance companies and investment firms. Ensuring that the European financial sector can withstand and recover from serious operational disruptions, including cyber attacks, is a first step in building certainties.

However, the intervention of individual regulators through the definition of rules and regulations that regulate and sanction cases related to cybersecurity is not enough; coordination and cooperation at an international level are necessary. What is needed is cooperation between countries, the will and the conviction to go in the same direction, that is, the protection of cyber security (AlHares et al., 2024; Alhejaili, 2024; Alsadoun & Albaz, 2025). And this is needed in all areas, not just in the financial sphere.

This volume presents interesting research. An invitation to cooperation is formulated in the contribution of *Eleni Z. Letsou, Charalampos L. Agiropoulos, Stavros G. Efthimiou, and Pantelis I. Pantelidis*. They find a relationship between economic openness and increased foreign direct investments underscoring the benefits of liberalizing trade and simplifying regulatory frameworks. In the volume topics range from sustainability issues (*Abdul Razzak Alshehadeh,*

Ghaleb Elrefae, Qeethara Kadhim Al-Shayea, Mohammed Hassan Makhlouf, and Shorouq Fathi Kamel Eletter, Benjamin Dennhardt and Ling Lang), circular economy (Klarida Prendi and Arif Murrja) and climate risk (Nancy Joy M. Mangansat) to analyses conducted on the digital theme (Supin Chaisiripaibool, Tanpat Kraiwaniit, Aishath Rafiyya, Teeradej Snongtaweepon, and Nithima Yuenyong; Mfon Akpan). Long Phi Tran, Hoang Duc Le, Ta Thu Phuong, and Dung Chi Nguyen compare traditional and advanced machine learning approaches to address the issue of housing price prediction, finding that the second ones perform better. The banking system is investigated with reference to limited geographical areas, such as Iraq in the contribution of Yasameen Tareq Mohammed Al-Khayyat, Batool Ismael Hasan Al-Husseini, Muna Jabbar Mohammed, and Hussein Kadhim Sharaf and Albania in the contribution of Brunilda Duraj, Igli Tola, Patris Poshnjari, and Rezarta Perri. Greece is also the object of study in the contribution of Christos Konstantinidis, Maria Tsiouni, Paschalia Plioska, and Ioanna Antoniadou. Jordan non-financial companies have been investigated by Emad Nayef Saleem AlZu'bi, Ali Al-Thuneibat, Omar Mowafi, and Melina Al-Hasan, considering the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two fundamental concepts emerge: 1) the vital role of investment in R&D in stimulating economic growth, underlined by Marigona Geci and Adriatik Hoxha and 2) the fundamental role of cooperation.

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