

## **EDITORIAL: Accounting, accountability, and firm performance**

*Dear readers!*

We are glad to present the first issue of the second volume of the *Reporting and Accountability Review* journal. The current issue comprises two articles and a book review.

The first article by *Hatem Elfeituri* and *Lubna ElGehan*, “The impact of stock market development and accountability on economic growth in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries”, investigates the impact of stock market development and accountability on the economic growth of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries during the period from 1993 to 2019, data obtained from the World Bank and examined through the application of the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression model. The findings of this research offer insights for both domestic and international investors, providing a foundation for informed investment decisions within the region.

Moreover, the results suggest that investing in the GCC may yield substantial financial returns, thereby contributing indirectly to broader economic development. The study underscores the critical role of well-developed stock markets in driving economic growth. Accordingly, strategic measures aimed at reducing transaction costs are recommended to stimulate trading activity.

The second article by *Mariem Ben Abdallah*, “The effect of FinTech on banks’ performance and accountability in Tunisia: An empirical analysis”, assesses the impact of FinTech on the performance of

Tunisian banks, with a specific focus on evaluating its influence on the profitability of twelve selected banks during the period from the second quarter of 2020 to the third quarter of 2022, data obtained from quarterly financial statements and with a generalized least squares (GLS). The findings of the study indicate that bank profitability is significantly influenced by the adoption of FinTech services, particularly payment technologies and artificial intelligence (AI).

These results have important implications for investment decision-making, as they highlight the potential for innovation and entrepreneurial activity in response to the increasing integration of FinTech in banking operations.

Both articles cover relevant and novel topics:

- The first deals with the role of policymakers within the GCC's focus on reinforcing stock market structures through enhanced regulatory frameworks, greater transparency, and stronger investor protections;
- The second represents one of the earliest empirical investigations into the relationship between FinTech and bank performance in Tunisia.

Also, you are welcome to read the book review. The twenty-three contributions assembled in the proceedings titled Corporate Governance: Scholarly Research and Practice form a coherent and multidimensional exploration of these transitions. They reflect the ongoing redefinition of governance not merely as a structural or

procedural domain but as a dynamic, context-sensitive capability essential for long-term organizational legitimacy and societal value creation.

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