

EDITORIAL: The surge of a coherent approach to sustainability, transparency and corporate governance in the light of different country experiences

Dear readers!

It is with great delight that we announce the release of the new issue of the *Responsible Business Review*, a distinguished academic publication renowned for its interdisciplinary perspective on sustainable development issues.

As demonstrated by numerous publicly reported incidents, the business ecosystem is constantly evolving under the influence of technological, political, institutional, and economic forces. This has triggered a surge of criticism directed at a more coherent approach for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which entails the effective implementation of international corporate responsibility standards, a common understanding of social and environmental impact, the conduct of due diligence, and responsibility flowing throughout the supply chains to prevent the negative impacts that enterprises can cause during their business operations. The optimization of shareholder value at the core of corporate governance also requires companies to act responsibly and to identify and manage the risks of impacts associated with their operations, products, or services, including those within their supply chains and other business relationships. Organizations should fulfill their obligation to prevent and mitigate the damages they cause. They should leverage their influence and establish explicit expectations with their business associates to ensure compliance with international standards for responsible business conduct.

This issue of the *Responsible Business Review* endeavors to address the research gap concerning corporate social and environmental responsibility towards achieving SDGs, prioritizing the benefits of all stakeholders in society by featuring a collection of intriguing and meticulously curated scholarly articles from across the globe. This issue offers a diverse array of compelling theoretical and empirical articles with an interdisciplinary emphasis on responsible business practices.

In this realm, the first paper by *Nesru Kasim Banke* focuses on sustainable economic growth and delves into the determinants of street vendors' business performances with evidence from a developing country, Ethiopia. The study of street vending is increasingly important for scholars and policymakers because of its potential to enhance vendors' lives through savings. Economic theory characterizes saving as the disparity between income and consumption (Markos, 2015) and denotes the funds remaining after personal expenditures, which can be transformed into income (Suresh et al., 2021). They play a vital role in economic development by accumulating capital, as domestic savings predominantly fund investments (Addis et al., 2019). The sustainable economic growth of a country is contingent upon sufficient capital formation, which is influenced by the level of savings (Niculescu-Aron & Mihaescu, 2014). The paper points out the importance of implementing comprehensive financial literacy programs customized to the specific requirements of street vendors, which can assist them in making well-informed financial decisions and promoting educational and training initiatives on the significance of savings and financial planning, in partnership with local institutions and non-governmental organizations.

The article by *Ubaldo Comite, Alba Maria Gallo, and Alexander Kostyuk* has an accountancy perspective with an emphasis on financial transparency and accountability by examining the corporatisation of healthcare services in Italy, emphasizing the shift from a conventional public accounting framework to a more economic and management-oriented accounting framework. This paper examines the application of economic accounting and management control instruments, emphasizing their influence on governance and financial transparency. The Italian experience offers significant insight into the development of public sector management and accounting harmonization within the wider European framework. During the ongoing phase of public sector modernization, the concepts established by corporatization reform are being recontextualized within digital governance and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven accountability systems. Recent research (Gallo & Comite, 2024) demonstrates that AI can improve administrative reporting, fraud detection, and compliance verification, thereby extending

the managerial rationality established by the reforms of the 1990s into the realm of data-driven decision-making. The incorporation of AI into reporting and control systems signifies an advancement in the evolution of public accountability, transitioning from conventional financial oversight to predictive, performance-focused monitoring (Comite et al., 2025). The amalgamation of managerial and technological innovation underscores the continuity between historical reforms and contemporary digital transformation processes, indicating that the future of healthcare governance will hinge on the ability to integrate economic rationality with algorithmic transparency and ethical accountability.

The book review by *Luca Vincenzo Ballestra* mirrors the increasing complexity of economic systems, organizational structures, and stakeholder relationships. The challenges presented by digital transformation, sustainability, demographic shifts, risk management, and institutional accountability have broadened both the scope and significance of corporate governance research (Palmieri, 2025; La & Ngo, 2025). The evolving landscape shaped by digital transformation, sustainability imperatives, demographic shifts, risk management complexities, and institutional accountability demands has broadened the scope and significance of corporate governance research (Salin et al., 2025; Sina & Vennila, 2025). The conference proceedings, *Corporate Governance: Participants, Mechanisms and Performance*, aligns with this developing research agenda by providing a structured and comprehensive overview of current governance concerns. This volume presents contributions from academics representing diverse national and intellectual backgrounds, thereby offering an international and multifaceted perspective on the study of corporate governance. The contributions are organized into thematic sections that reflect the principal dimensions through which governance mechanisms and performance outcomes interact.

After highlighting the key contributions of all the papers in this issue, I would like to, on behalf of the editorial board of the journal *Responsible Business Review*, express our sincere gratitude to the authors who have generously shared their valuable insights on a diverse range of topics related to corporate governance and organizational behavior. A sincere appreciation is extended to our reviewers for their unwavering commitment to upholding the highest academic standards. Last but not least, our sincere gratitude extends to our esteemed readers for their enduring support, active engagement, and valuable feedback. We trust that the articles featured in this issue will be advantageous to all concerned parties and will promote additional scholarly research. Thank you for your continued support and readership.

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