

EDITORIAL

Dear readers!

We are pleased to present the spring issue of the journal in 2018. The recent issue of the journal "Corporate Ownership and Control" is devoted to the issues of market concentration, capital structure, MENA economies, corporate governance, family firms, socioemotional wealth, loan appraisal process, corporate social responsibility, financial performance, cash holdings, trade-off theory, auditing, internal and external control, ownership structure of enterprises, voting premium, corporate control, corporate reputation, government policy, social impact bond etc.

Hatem Elfeituri investigates the market concentration, foreign ownership and profitability for commercial banks operating in the MENA economies over the period 1999-2012. *Marina Brogi and Valentina Lagasio* aim to answer the following questions: 1) are press releases on corporate governance price sensitive? 2) what is the impact of corporate governance information on stock prices of banks? *Patrick Ulrich and Alexandra Fibitz* examine how German family firms differ in the usage of corporate governance mechanisms in comparison to non-family firms. Based on Socioemotional wealth perspective (SEW), the authors aim to compare the dissimilar approaches within the board of directors and investigate the differences in governance. Thanks to a survey data, the paper reaches interesting results both for practitioners and academic researchers. *Gianfranco A. Vento, Helen Chiappini and Giuseppe Lia* contribute to the existing literature, analysing how development banks can include the evaluation of social and environmental variables within their loan appraisal process. *Rizwan Ahmed, Wu Qi, Subhan Ullah and Danson Kimani* explore the determinants of corporate cash holdings in the Chinese context. Indeed, differently from previous study on this topic, financial proxies, governance features and ownership concentration are all considered. The main findings of the study are related to the unique characteristics of governance of companies that operate in Chinese contexts and suggest to further investigate this link in future researches. *Maurizio Rija* examines responsibility and role of internal and external statutory auditors in extraordinary operations. *Stergios Athianos and Dimitrios Kydros* investigate a set of Greek listed companies with respect to the interconnections between their boards of directors (BoD's). *Giuseppe Sancetta, Nicola Cucari and Salvatore Esposito De Falco* review the current status of private benefits of control in Italy in the last decade (2007-2017). *Tariq Bhatti* examines antecedents and consequences of corporate reputation from a customer perspective in Takaful (Islamic insurance) industry. *Filippo Vitolla, Michele Rubino and Elbano De Nuccio* explore sustainability reporting in the Italian environment, with a special attention to the determinants of disclosure quality. *Kanitsorn Terdpaopong, Raymond A. Zepp and Penprapak Manapreechadeelert* examine whether the Thai floods of 2011 had differential effects among variously sized businesses, as well as among Thai, Japanese and other foreign companies. *Danilo Tuccillo, Caterina Ferrone and Francesco Agliata* analyse, on the basis of the characteristics of the third sector in Italy, with particular reference to the financial weakness of the sector, the possible impact on the financial management process in the social enterprises by the use of SIB.

Businesses have a substantial and growing role in driving and maintaining social, economic and environmental sustainability. These goals - often measured by indicators referred to as the triple bottom line - are in substantial conflict with the traditional definition of the firm, and its original objective: the profit motive. Societal expectations towards firms utilising private property put to productive use are growing, requiring the incorporation of a diverse portfolio of objectives along with the traditional profit motive in order to receive support from society, and a 'social license' to operate. It is within this context, that a governance challenge is presented to private corporations. How to remain true to the original expectations of owners and how to satisfy a diverse range of stakeholders at the same time, in various national, and diverse global contexts.

Articles in this issue of Corporate Ownership and Control address question of market concentration, publicity and public views, social institutions, responsibility, networks, impact, sound financial management, transparency and reporting, and environmental disasters, in the context of corporate governance. These topics addressed by the papers, and the empirical results underpinning their conclusions contribute to the progress in understanding the role and impact of corporate governance in facilitating balancing potentially conflicting objectives and mediating stakeholder views to reach productive outcomes. Results indicate an increased expectation from both private stakeholders and public bodies on governance activities, principles and rules to drive firm performance in their respective desired directions.

Some of the aspects of the topics studied in mentioned papers were explored in the academic literature previously. For example, the features of corporate governance practices in MENA countries were the subject of different studies (Gazdar & Cherif, 2014; Basu, Prasad & Rodriguez, 2018; Mahboub, Mostapha & Hegazy, 2016) however the research of market concentration, foreign ownership and determinants of bank financial performance in MENA economies is presented for the first time. Also there are a number of papers devoted to the issues of corporate governance in the banking sector (Carapeto, Moeller, Faelten, Vitkova & Bortolotto, 2011; Lazarides, 2017; Kleinow & Horsch, 2014) although the topic of the impact of corporate governance information on stock prices of banks hasn't been extensively covered before. Widely debated issues in recent years are corporate governance mechanisms in family firms (Ulrich, 2018; Giovannini, 2010; Carney, 2005) however they were not put into the socioemotional perspective as it is done in the paper published in the current issue. The topic of corporate cash holdings is also very polemical (Al-Dubai, Ku Ismail & Amran, 2015; Ozkan & Ozkan, 2004; Harford, Mansi & Maxwell, 2008) so that their review in Chinese context becomes relevant enough. At the same time relationship between the board of directors and earnings management was highlighted in several papers (Calza, Profumo & Tutore, 2017; Ab Razak & Palahuddin, 2014) however they did not pay sufficient attention to the issue of social networks. Some problems of the connection between corporate sustainability and environmental disasters were analyzed before (Grove & Clouse, 2017; Orlitzky, Siegel & Waldman, 2011), but the case of the 2011 Thai floods hasn't been explored previously. It is only a small note regarding the novelty of the papers. We think that other papers in this issue of the journal are burning as well.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue of our journal!

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