EDITORIAL: Corporate governance, accounting and finance research outlook

Dear readers!

I'm pleased to present the second issue of the journal in 2019. The recent volume of the journal "Corporate Ownership and Control" is devoted to very interesting issues related to the corporate governance such as accounting standards, efficacy of board governance, corporate social responsibility reporting, corporate governance disclosure, ownership and firms' performance.

The topics addressed in this issue highlight the continuing need for knowledge present in academic and non-academic research. The themes analyzed in this issue have been already researched in previous studies and represent very interesting topics detected in the literature review of corporate governance. See for example Das et al. (2015), Khan (2010) and Htay et al. (2012), Carter et al. (2010) with regard to the CSR reporting and corporate governance, or Felix et al. (2001), Gramling et al. (2004), Mihret and Admassu (2011), Prawitt et al. (2011), Drogalas et al. (2019) referring to internal and external auditors, or again Hidalgo et al. (2011), Elmagrhi et al. (2016), Albassam and Ntim (2017), Healy and Palepu (2001) looking at the corporate governance disclosure, or Alanazi (2019), Alfiero et al. (2018), Giovinco (2014), Santen and Donker (2009), Yermack (1996) investigating board of directors' issues, or Harada (2018) and Salia et al. (2019) analyzing different aspects of bank performance, or Melis (2003) and Tutino and Merlo (2019) with regard to accounting and financial reporting. This issue of the journal is composed of papers which also consider many other fundamental issues of corporate governance which have been described in a whole by other scholars (Aguilera & Jackson, 2003; Apreda, 2006; Bebchuk et al., 2009; Carvalhal da Silva & Câmara Leal, 2006; Cerrone, 2018; Chidiac El Hajj, 2018; Cucari, 2018; Dell'Atti, 2018; Gompers et al., 2003; Jarrell et al., 1988; Kostyuk & Barros, 2018; Kostyuk et al., 2018; Venuti, 2018).

However, the papers published in this issue offer an additional point of view with regard to the most important corporate governance issues, further enriching our knowledge and offering further discussion points for future researches on board structure, corporate governance in general and the relationship with many aspects of firms' characteristics, both financial and operating features.

In particular, *Pompili and Tutino* aim to identify the specific impacts of unobservable inputs on earning quality. Theory and previous literature suggest a major negative impact of unobservable inputs than observable ones on the quality of information provided within financial reporting. Results show a negative and strong relationship between fair value accounting and earning quality for US banks that do not depend on the hierarchy of input used in the evaluation process. On the other hand, *Marsigalia and Giovannini* analyze the public sector international accounting standards and they analyze the existing literature focuses on the New Zeland model which represents a pioneer model for accrual-based government accounting. *Law and Yuen* evaluate AA's financial performances by analyzing its financial reports throughout 2010 to 2012 using ratio analysis and they emphasize interesting strengths and weaknesses. *Napoli* investigates the efficacy of board composition on a sample of Italian family firms and he finds that, unlikely agency theory, the presence of independent directors has no impact on firms' performance. *Velte* finds that the board composition, e.g. the gender diversity and the board independence, affects positively the CSR reporting. Moreover, *Alagla* emphasizes that the board composition affects the corporate governance disclosure and in particular, gender diversity, board size, age of directors, the number of audit meetings contribute to increase the corporate governance disclosure. Moreover, with regard to the audit control, *Regolisi and Martino* detect the interaction between internal and external audit of public firms and find a substantial interaction between the two types of auditors. *Marinello and Dinicolò* offer a series of technical and conceptual tools to highlight the most critical aspects in order to guide decision-making process for the development of procedures, of human resources management and management controls, necessary to meet standards and to facilitate the development of a culture of quality, safety, and environment. *Shaban, Al-Hawatma and Abdallah* focus on merger and acquisitions in Jordan and they find different results: a decreasing value in the first two years after acquisition, but a gradually increasing value in the subsequent years. With regard to specific sectors, *Moro Visconti and Martiniello* offer an overview on the smart hospitals and the new corporate governance structure in the healthcare sector, while *Wang, Barrese and Pooser* highlight that the composition of the ownership in the financial services sector is important as determinant of performance. The presence of large institutional investor in the financial services ownership affects positively financial performance. Finally*, De Luca and Paolone* underline that during the financial crisis, public firms have been more willing to manipulate their earnings and they believe that the reason may be to avoid giving bad news to markets, investors and lenders.

I would like to thank all authors that publish their research papers in this issue that allow to increase the standards quality and the wideness of research topics to which the journal aspires. As a result, the journal "Corporate Ownership and Control" management provided to expand the pool of excellent reviewers; most papers have at least two reviews and their quality has been steadily improving.

I hope the articles in this issue can open up the lines of communication between academics and practitioners, and can keep the attention on the importance of effective and efficient corporate governance high.

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

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