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## EDITORIAL EJAFB (12) FUTURE ACCOUNTING AT A CROSSROADS

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In the near future, more precisely by 2030, as we can see from the EU 2030 Agenda, it is likely that most accounting activities will also be fully automated and managed by Artificial Intelligence. If we were to look at the path of accounting so far, we can see that many accounting services have been totally eliminated or replaced by software where the human factor intervenes less and less, such as: filling in payment documents, income/income tax returns, managing invoices and tax deadlines, updating data and information in real time, easy identification of identifying reporting missing errors, or documents, tendency or behaviour of accounting fraud or tax evasion. If we were to analyze all these situations we can see that artificial intelligence has proven to be much more efficient and accurate than the human factor. In this context, it is inevitable not to ask whether there is a danger or an opportunity for the human resource to be gradually replaced by artificial intelligence?

However, labour market demand for chartered accountants still outstrips supply, which

leads us to believe that the next decade will belong to chartered accountants, a profession that can still be considered a profession of the future. Of course, that statement is based on reality confirmed primarily from the strong demand coming from companies for this profession.

If digitization has had a strong impact on everyday life, it seems that artificial intelligence will change our lives forever, in all areas not just accounting. It could be that this change will cause a riot that will affect all fields, obviously accounting, especially if one day all purely accounting activities will be reduced to zero. As mentioned earlier, we conclude that the era of manual data entry or processing and invoice control is over because technologies will automatically handle the interpretation, recording, verification and archiving of accounting documentation, leaving professionals in the role of specialized consultants. However, we believe that accounting will not disappear, we will only see automation.