

**EMPIRICAL RESEARCH FROM EXISTING SPECIALTY LITERATURE IN DATABASES IN THE FIELD OF THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL****Maria GHERMAN BURSUC**Stefan cel Mare University of Suceava, 720229, Romania  
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marian.socoliuc@usm.ro**Abstract**

*The potential of systematic empirical research to contribute to the development of the accounting profession has been increasingly supported in recent years. Such a paper is frequently reviewed in a conventional narrative manner, but in her commentary on "empiricism" in business ethics, it is recommended that the accumulated number of empirical studies be accompanied by the application of meta-analysis techniques. Unlike narrative analysis, meta-analysis provides a disciplined and explicit method of reviewing quantitative research, the general goal being to obtain statistically valid conclusions about a particular body of research. It is further emphasized that, in addition to dealing with published studies in business ethics, meta-analysis could be usefully used in the service of business ethics through reviews of relevant studies published in other literatures.*

**Key words:** *accounting literature; accounting profession; accounting education; accounting theories; accounting profession.*

**JEL Classification:** *M41.*

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The process of globalization together with the existing legislative, economic and other changes at the macroeconomic and microeconomic level immediately left their mark on companies, the concern being the first manifestation of economic agents in this context (Grosu & Chelba). In all disciplines, researchers must draw conclusions about the cumulative implications of previous work. In many areas, including business ethics, the usual approach is to write a review of the narrative literature, but this is not always easy to conduct in a fair and disciplined manner.

Following the analysis of the literature and in order to argue the motivation underlying the research, we considered relevant to perform a meta-analysis, in order to highlight the concept of accounting profession and the importance of its evolution. Today, we are in an age of digitalization, where new technologies have taken all branches of the economy by storm and brought them under drastic changes. In general, the purpose of new technologies is to simplify the processes and cost of activities in every society, so that it offers a better and more prosperous life or as we now like to say, a modern life for the members of society (Macovei, Cojocari & Dascălu 2021). For the research topic "Evolution of the international accounting profession", we used the Web of Science platform, using as search parameters accounting profession, for the last 10 years (2011 - 2020).

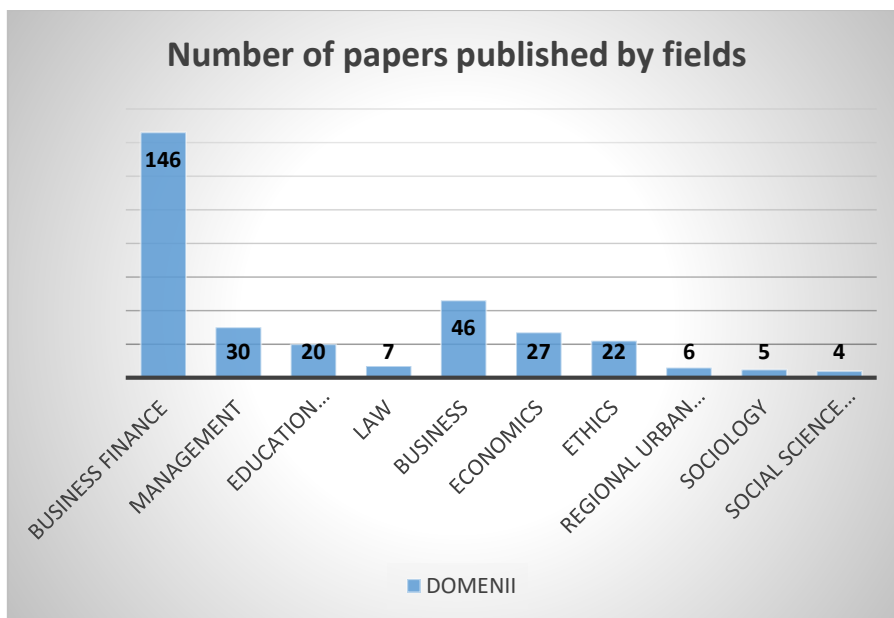
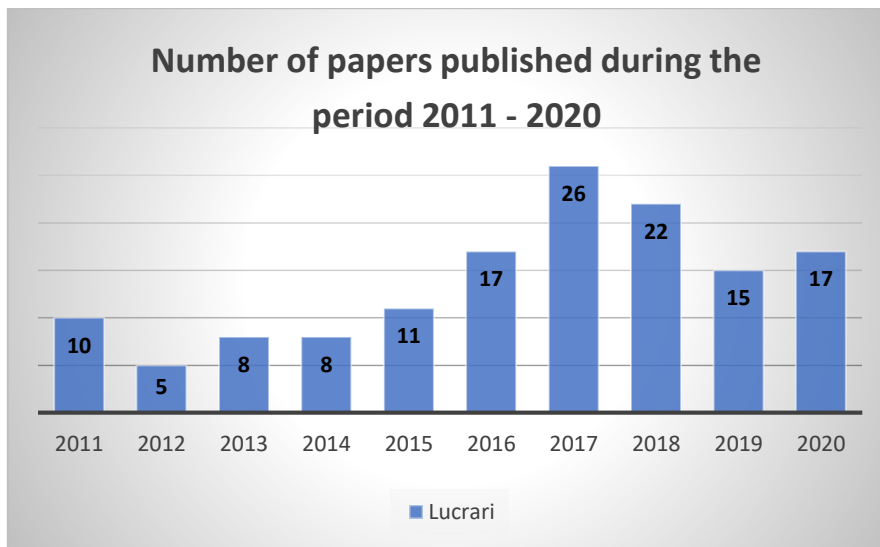
The subject of the international accounting profession is emphasized by dealing with the subject in the selected articles from the point of view of the international organization and the method of implementation through IAS / IFRSs "that may be of interest for national rules in the following ways: direct adoption as national standards; the baseline for national and international harmonization; adoption as standards for the preparation and presentation of financial statements by multinational entities and large companies listed on the financial markets" (Hajnal, 2017).

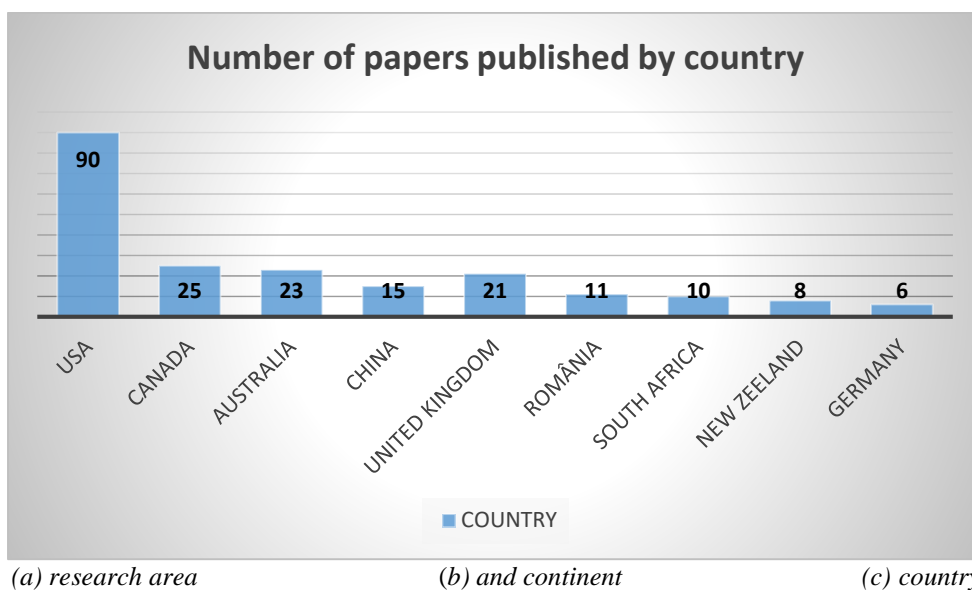
The main purpose of this article is to show the debate on the potential contribution of meta-analysis to the accounting profession by conducting and reflecting on the meta-analysis of studies published in accounting or multidisciplinary journals dealing with the subject. The exercise of the accounting profession thus acts as a "case study" of meta-analysis. The secondary purpose is to draw some conclusions about the accounting profession itself, which is a relevant topic for the study.

**II. META-ANALYSIS ON THE DIRECTION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IMPLEMENTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING PROFESSION**

As a result of the research, we obtained a number of 254 articles, presented in Figure 1, after the year of publication, the research field and the continent. This report reflects citations to source articles indexed in the Web of Science Basic Collection.

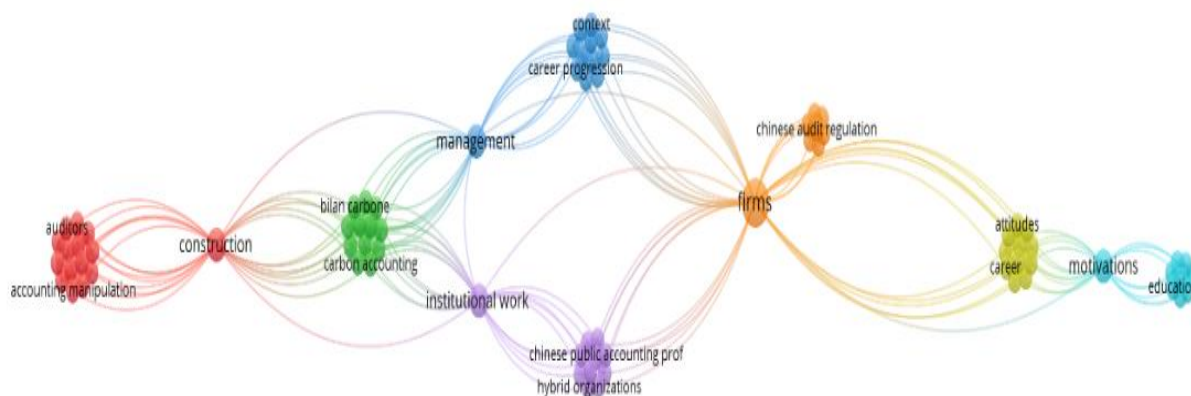
It can be seen that the number of articles in this field varies during the analyzed period, the maximum number of published papers is reached in 2017, in the field of Business Finance research. America has recorded the most work on this topic, followed by Canada, Austria. It should be noted that Romania presents a number of 10 articles in the field of the accounting profession.





**Figure 1 - Research in the field of accounting profession, by years**

In order to exploit the main research directions within the presented topic, we performed a bibliometric analysis on the concept of accounting profession based on keywords from the titles of articles published on Web of Science through VOSviewer, resulting in seven clusters, Figure 2:



**Figure 2 - Co-occurrence keyword network for accounting profession researches (1983-2020)**  
Source: Developed by the authors using the VOSviewer software

- The first cluster consists of 15 items such as accounting manipulation, auditors, construction, corruption, emerging economy, growth, impact, m41, organization, perceptions, power, rationality, standards, unethical behavior, Vietnam.
- The second and third clusters comprise 12 items each and are oriented towards chartered accountants, expertise, jurisdiction, career progression, consequences, management, public accounting versus private accounting, etc.
- Clusters 4 and 5 contain 11 items each, emphasizing accounting knowledge, attitudes, career, public accountant, enterprise, institutional change, institutional logics, institutional work, etc.
- Cluster 6 consists of 9 items such as accounting and finance, education, phd supervision, postgraduate research supervision and the last cluster, the seventh presents 8 items emphasizing globalization.

Meta-analysis is a method of quantitative review used to re-evaluate the relationship between variables between existing studies. The aim is to take advantage of the higher number resulting from the use of a number of samples to allow a better quantitative estimate. The search for the literature covered our topic on the implementation of international IFRS standards, the harmonization of international accounting standards related to European and national systems existing in the past in each country.

In table shows a ranking of seven articles, key concepts, results obtained, timeliness and impact they have had worldwide. The order of presentation of these studies is according to the number of citations in the literature and studied according to the variables account, profession, international accounting standards implemented internationally and supervised by the supervisory body of the IFRS International Standards Committee.

**Table 1 - Meta-analysis on the international accounting profession. Variable accounting profession, standards**

| Authors                                       | Year of publication | Key concepts  | Results  | Topicality and impact on research   |
|---|---------------------|---|--|---|
| Carmona, S., Trombetta, M.                    | 2008                | IAS/IFRS  | „Finally, we submit that the standards set by the IAS/IFRS constitute a step forward in the process of accounting harmonization, although there is still far to go in the comparability of accounting measures across countries and regions” (C) 2008 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.   | „The widespread acceptance of international Accounting Standards (IAS)/International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) makes it timely to examine their technical determinants as well as their implications for the accounting profession and the process of accounting harmonization. In this respect, we suggest that the principles-based approach to the standards and its inner flexibility enables the application of IAS/IFRS to countries with diverse accounting traditions and varying institutional conditions”. „Furthermore, the principles-based approach involves major changes in the expertise held by accountants and, hence, in their educational background, training programs, and in the organizational and business models of accounting firms”.   |
| Nurunnabi, M.                                 | 2015                | Global accounting standards Regarding IFRS Corruption | „The study has raised a serious question to the international policymakers (e.g., the IMF and World Bank) for the suitability of global accounting standards in developing countries”. (C) 2015 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.   | „This longitudinal study investigates the impact of cultural factors on the implementation of global accounting standards (IFRS) in Bangladesh (a country with very different cultural values and governance systems in comparison to other developing countries, for example, the absence of mature democracy from its birth). Building on institutional theory, two rounds of in-depth interviews (2010 & 2011) are conducted; 1647 enforcement documents (1998-2010) and 332 court cases (1999-2010) are evaluated”. The study contributes to the literature on socio-cultural factors regarding IFRS implementation in developing countries. „The study confirms the pressures of coercive, mimetic and normative institutional isomorphism for the pursuit of legitimacy via social expectations. Contrary to prior research, a lack of enforcement and a high level of corruption are found during the periods of democratic government”. |
| Brown, P., Tarca, A.                          | 2007                | Financial Reporting Standards                         | „Although there is potential for cross-country differences to arise, they may be mitigated by the participation of both bodies in international enforcement coordination activities”. „We also assess the relevance of the bodies' past activities for comparable international enforcement following the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards” (IFRS) in 2005. | „This article provides a review of the activities of two quite different types of national enforcement body, the U.K.'s Financial Reporting Review Panel (FRRP) and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission” (ASIC). „We present material (some not available elsewhere) about their activities over the period 1998-2004 and show that both types of body can fulfil an enforcement role, albeit subject to political forces”. „A review of cases reveals that for both bodies approximately half were related to recognition and measurement issues, where interpretation can be crucial”.   |
| Lamoreaux, P.T., Michas, P. N., Schultz, W.L. | 2015                | Accounting Audit, Quality, Influence capital markets  | „Finally, we find that accounting and auditing matter only in countries with relatively high corruption levels, indicating that the World Bank has greater trust that accounting and auditing are of relatively high quality in low-corruption countries”.   | „We investigate the role of accounting and audit quality in the allocation of international development aid loans provided by the World Bank”. „This aid is crucial to improve governance functions, infrastructure, and capital markets, and the accounting and audit environments in a country can provide the World Bank with confidence that aid is being used as intended rather than being diverted for personal or political gain”. “We find that development aid loans are higher for countries with stronger accounting quality, where IFRS use is mandated, and where the audit environment is  |

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|  |      |   |  | stronger. However, we also find that United States geo-political interests influence these results. Specifically, the World Bank appears to overlook accounting and audit quality in countries where geo-political interests are relatively aligned with those of the U.S.”   |
| Bloomfield, M.J., Brueggemann, U., Christensen, H.B., Leuz, C. | 2017 | Harmonization International regulatoryHarmonized accounting | „The findings illustrate that diversity in rules constitutes an economic barrier to cross-border labor mobility and, more specifically, that accounting harmonization can have a meaningful effect on cross-border migration”.   | In the author's opinion “The paper examines whether international regulatory harmonization increases cross-border labor migration. To study this question, we analyze European Union initiatives that harmonized accounting and auditing standards. Regulatory harmonization should reduce economic mobility barriers, essentially making it easier for accounting professionals to move across countries. Our research design compares the cross-border migration of accounting professionals relative to tightly matched other professionals before and after regulatory harmonization. We find that international labor migration in the accounting profession increases significantly relative to other professions”. „We provide evidence that this effect is due to harmonization, rather than increases in the demand for accounting services during the implementation of the rule changes”.  |
| Joshi, M., Yapa, P., Kraal, D.                                 | 2016 | IAS/IFRS, International Financial Reporting Standards       | “The findings also show that governments, the media and professional accounting bodies have supported the adoption, communication and application of IFRS. Originality/value - This is the first study examining the role of social and professional institutions in the adoption of the IFRS and one which also provides an inter-country comparison of accountant's perspectives on adoption of the IFRS among three ASEAN countries”. | „Purpose - The purpose of this paper is to examine the perceptions of professional accountants from three countries from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in order to evaluate their perceived benefits associated with the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in their respective nations as well as the implications of these standards for the accounting and auditing professions in their country of practice. It also explores the extent to which the adoption of IAS/IFRS accounting standards have been supported by the state, media and local professional accounting bodies”.<br>„Design/methodology/approach - The study uses survey approach to seek perceptions of professional accountants in these three countries with a view to understanding their perceptions regarding the socio-economic issues related to the adoption of the IFRS and role of social institutions. The study also uses appropriate statistical tests for interpretation of the data. Findings - The analysis of the data shows that accounting professionals in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia strongly supported IFRS adoption; their opinions did not differ significantly by place of training, experience or professional qualifications. Respondents agreed that their countries benefited economically from harmonisation with global accounting standards”. The surveyed accountants believed that pressure from international agencies was instrumental in the adoption of IFRS in the region. |
| Wen, L., Yang, H.(Chris), Bu, D., Diers, L., Wang, H.          | 2018 | Accounting Educators, Analysis, Profession significantly    | „Professional organizations and policy makers might learn some lessons to take some actions to encourage young accounting professionals to work for public accounting firms”. In the author's opinion “Moreover, this study has provided a valuable perspective to accounting educators, practitioners, and policy makers in other emerging economies with the same shortage of qualified public accountants”.                           | „Purpose - Built upon three components (attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control) of the theory of planned behavior (TPB), the purpose of this paper is to analyze the factors that influenced accounting students' intention to pursue public accounting instead of private accounting as their career choice in China. Design/methodology/approach - The TPB is used to predict the rational intention of accounting students in this study. A binary logistic regression analysis was applied to test all hypotheses because of its suitability. Findings - The authors find that the variety and marketability of public accounting experiences, high turnover plus, low firm cohesion in the workplace, and perceived difficulties in traveling extensively affected students' intentions to pursue the public accounting profession significantly. By highlighting these factors that affect students' intention to pursue public  |

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|  |  |  |  | <p>accounting, this paper has important implications for the accounting educators and other stakeholders in China and other emerging economies. Originality/value - By understanding the factors influencing the accounting students' interests in pursuing public accounting, accounting educators and accounting firms could make some changes, redesign accounting curriculum, and enhance internship experience and recruiting process in order to increase more interests in public accounting”.</p> |
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### III. CONCLUSIONS

The empirical study provides a quantitative analysis of an empirical assumption that investigates the economic consequences of adopting IFRS. This mode of analysis may capture the real effect of adopting IFRS. Finally, for those responsible for accounting standards who intend to adopt IFRS, the results suggest that the benefits of such an adoption can outweigh the costs only if there is a real commitment to transparency and strict enforcement.

In the author's opinion “The empirical study sets out how meta-analysis can make a valuable contribution, even when substantive findings are limited, providing guidance for future research and protection against unjustified conclusions, to which more common narrative revisions from Specialty literature”.

Moreover, the study may not capture all the arguments regarding the evolution of the accounting profession and the adoption of international standards at national level, as is evident from the high level of remaining heterogeneity.

“Other variables that may influence the consequences of the quality of financial reporting of the adoption of IFRS include the macroeconomic and financial system of a country, the motivation for adopting IFRS in relation to the role of the accounting profession”.

The results of the meta-analyses of the relationship between the accounting profession and the work environment variables used of the international standards, regarding the accounting profession reporting three or more correlations in different studies are listed in Table 1. and are discussed above.

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