## eaanewsletter

The official newsletter of the European Accounting Association

# 33, Issue 1/2011

### **E**ditorial



As the EAA Newsletter catches a total of 1700 members, this is an exceptional channel to inform readers on forthcoming events and on-going debate besides the European Accounting Review, the Accounting in Europe and the annual congresses. This is a forum to publish writings that are not appropriate for either of the journals, but are still essential for every single member to become familiar with. I think one of the most important goals of the Newsletter is to share informal knowledge in telling stories of

the EAA events and its members as a society. Thus I look forward to receiving your feedback as assistance in developing this aspect of EAA membership for our mutual benefit. I also encourage you to submit such material for publication in future issues that are planned in May, September and December.

During the last years, Martin Messner has developed the EAA Newsletter as an excellent newspaper including letter from the President, writings on various themes as well as interviews of interesting people. I owe my warmest thanks to Martin – your help during the last months made it so much easier for me to get started with my work. I would also like to thank Aileen Pierce, the President of the EAA, for all her support in the beginning of my Editorship.

I will continue Martin's way to introduce 'European traditions in accounting'. In this issue, Professor Marko Järvenpää will tell us about accounting traditions in Finland - my home country. This newsletter also provides a report on the 7th Conference on New Directions in Management Accounting held in Brussels in December 2010. Several event announcements and calls for papers remind us that our research community offers many options and channels to network and develop our research. I would also like to remind you about the next EAA congress that will take place in Rome in April. I hope to see you all there!

Yours,

Hanna Silvola Hanna.Silvola@tse.fi

Highlights	
Letter from the President	2
News on AiE	13
Report on the 7 <sup>th</sup> Conference on New Directions in Management Accounting	14
European traditions in accounting: Finland	15



## Letter from the president, Aileen Pierce

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of all EAA members and friends, I would like to welcome our new EAA Newsletter Editor, Hanna Silvola and to thank her for taking on this role and committing time to this very much appreciated communications' channel for our Association.

In the short period since my last letter, Lisa Evans commenced her formal term as Editor of Accounting in Europe; the Association completed a new three-year contract with Taylor & Francis, the publishers of our journals; the FRSC has been actively involved with EFRAG activities; and 115 applications for the annual Doctoral Colloquium (DC) have been processed by our DC co-chairs, culminating in 27 young researchers now looking forward to this exciting opportunity to engage with experienced international faculty and with their peers from 13 different countries in Siena, Italy in April. Moreover, country representative elections for the EAA Board have taken place in 8 countries; the EAA Conference Guidelines that support conference organizers and potential organizers are being updated and refined by the Conference Committee in the context of increased expectations and more recent experience; and your Management Committee (MC) came together in Brussels for an additional interim meeting in early February to make progress in addressing both operational and strategic issues. The MC approved a proposal to create a position of EAA Treasurer within the MC and the implementation of this decision will take place over the coming

months. The major strategic issue addressed was the role of EAA in providing leadership for doctoral education in accounting. A working paper prepared by a Management Committee Task Force headed by Chris Humphrey, provided the basis for this discussion and this paper will be developed further before our next meeting in Rome to facilitate a wider discussion during the annual Congress.

We are now at the time of year when plans to participate in our major event, the Annual Congress in Rome, are coming together for many members. Over 900 researchers have received the good news that their paper has been accepted for presentation at this year's congress in April. Hervé Stolowy and his team have done an incredible job completing double-blind reviews of over 1,150 papers in the short period between the December 1st submission date and February 8th, when decisions were communicated to researchers. Hervé's team included the Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) members and over 90 EAA members who make up the Scientific Committee (SC). Each member of the SSC reviewed a large number of papers and co-ordinated the great effort of the wider SC. The selfless contribution of this team to our organization, to ensuring that we will all have another excellent programme in Rome, has to be both acknowledged and generously commended. Moreover, the professionalism and dedication of Nicole in support of the major logistical exercise around submissions, review, coordination of responses and communication of decisions is unrivalled. We have to be extremely grateful to all involved.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible once again in Rome. Angelo Riccaboni, Giovanni Fiori, Riccardo Tiscini and their team in Luiss University continue to work very hard for our community as they finalize plans for the 34th Annual Congress. Rome in April, and in the week before Easter, promises to be a wonderful experience. I have always found EAA congresses to be amazing for their productivity, motivation, collegiality, diversity and opportunity. The 2011 congress promises all of this, and more. I hope you will be there and that you will share my enthusiasm for, and belief in, the rich and rewarding network that is the European Accounting Association.

> Aileen Pierce EAA President

## Invitation and Call for Applications

## 2nd WHU Doctoral Summer Program in Accounting Research

WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management, Vallendar, 18-21 July 2011

#### Introduction and objectives

The WHU Doctoral Summer Program in Accounting Research (SPAR) is intended to introduce European PhD students in financial accounting to some of the central theoretical, methodological and practical issues involved in conducting high-quality research. The 2nd SPAR focuses on "Current Issues in Empirical Financial Reporting Research", including accounting conservatism and the economic consequences of IFRS adoption. As part of the SPAR faculty, Laurence van Lent, the incoming Editor of European Accounting Review, will offer his views on conducting, reviewing and publishing research. While there will be a focus on research applying quantitative methods to archival data, qualitative and case-based approaches will also be considered.

Throughout the four-day program, participants will be working with each other and with the SPAR faculty. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their doctoral work with the SPAR faculty. There will also be ample opportunity to socialize and network.

#### Preliminary program outline

Day 1: Research on IFRS adoption

- Measuring the impact of IFRS adoption
- Identifying and implementing open research questions surrounding IFRS

Day 2: Accounting conservatism and accounting choice

- Assessing accounting conservatism
- Determinants of accounting choice
- Discussion/feedback sessions on participants' doctoral projects

Day 3: Presenting, discussing, reviewing and publishing financial reporting research

- Workshop presentation (and etiquette)
- Conducting academic peer reviews
- Publishing in peer-reviewed journals – an editor's view (Prof. Van Lent)
- Discussion/feedback sessions on participants' doctoral projects

Day 4: Conducting an empirical study

- Data collection using common capital-market and accounting data bases
- Data preparation
- Selected statistical analyses and related issues

#### **Faculty**

The 2nd WHU Doctoral SPAR will be taught by:

- Prof. Dr. Igor Goncharov and Prof. Dr. Thorsten Sellhorn, WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management, Vallendar
- Prof. Dr. Laurence van Lent, Tilburg University, incoming Editor, The European Accounting Review
- Prof. Dr. Edward J. Riedl, Harvard Business School, Boston

#### Venue and organization

The 2nd WHU Doctoral SPAR will be held at WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management. It is organized by the Chair of Accounting (Prof. Dr. Thorsten Sellhorn):

Burgplatz  $2 \cdot D$  - 56179 Vallendar, Germany

Phone: +49 261 6509-231 · Fax: +49 261 6509-239

Email: accounting@whu.edu

Website: www.whu.edu/accounting

Vallendar is located about 5 km from Koblenz, a 2000 year-old town situated in the picturesque landscape of the Rhine and Moselle rivers and surrounded by four low mountain ranges. It is around one hour away from Frankfurt (Main) Airport and from Cologne/Bonn Airport, either by car or by train. A direct train connection (RE 8) runs from Cologne/Bonn to Vallendar. There are also convenient train options connecting Frankfurt (Main) Airport to Vallendar or nearby Koblenz. For details: <a href="http://whu.edu/cms/index.php?id=117&L=1">http://whu.edu/cms/index.php?id=117&L=1</a>.

#### **Practicalities**

The full program will be conducted in English. To ensure an effective learning environment, the number of participants is limited to 24. Interested doctoral students are asked to submit their application in electronic form to accounting@whu.edu by May 1, 2011. Applications should include:

- A brief curriculum vitae (1-2 pages) indicating previous undergraduate and graduate coursework in accounting, finance and empirical methods; and
- a brief outline (2-3 pages) of the doctoral research being pursued.

Applicants will be informed about admission decisions by May 13, 2011.

There is a participation fee of 100 € that covers course materials, lunches, catering during class hours, and the Monday night dinner. Other meals and activities as well as accommodation and traveling will have to be paid individually by the participants. WHU will help participants obtain inexpensive accomodation. Successful participation in the program will earn 3 ECTS credits from the WHU doctoral program.

A detailed syllabus and reading list will be distributed to participants by May 13, 2011. Participants are expected to read the assigned material and prepare a written paper review prior to the SPAR.

For more information: <u>www.whu.edu/</u> accounting.

## 2nd Early Career Academics' Research Development Program

School of Business, Istanbul University, 16-18 May

The School of Business, Istanbul University is pleased to announce the 2nd Early Career Academics' Research Development Program, targeting junior accounting faculty and supported by the European Accounting Association.

Following the successful launch of the program in Istanbul last May, the main objective of this year's event is to advise and provide guidance to junior accounting faculty located in Eastern Europe in their research projects in order to further develop their academic accounting careers. Participants of the program will have the opportunity to interact with distinguished professors of international standing and with fellow junior faculty. It is expected that the program will provide a platform for discussion of research ideas, methods and methodological issues.

The program will start with an opening reception on Monday May 16, 2011. This will be followed by participants' presentations of their research projects, discussions and feedback sessions by the distinguished academic panel. Panel members will also provide advice on developing a research portfolio, balancing teaching and research, and building an effective network as well as outline their current research projects. Other sessions will address identifying research questions, preparing research proposals, and the publication process.

The Invited Distinguished International Academics are as follows:

- Professor Istemi Demirag, Queen's University, Belfast
- Professor Tom Groot, VU-University, Amsterdam
- Professor Cedric Lesage, HEC -Paris
- Professor Christopher Napier, Royal Holloway, University of London
- Professor Andrew Stark, Manchester Business School

Junior faculty members from Eastern European regions and Turkey are invited to submit unpublished articles, work in progress and research proposals to be considered for presentation. Up to 20 research papers /proposals will be selected for presentation. Written feedback will be provided to the presenters prior to the workshop in order to help develop their applications prior to the workshop.

Applications should be made by the close of business on Monday February 28, 2011 to Ass.Prof. Dr. Kerem Sarioglu, keremsa@istanbul.edu.tr. Research papers should not exceed 20 typed A-4 pages (including tables and references) and research proposals should be limited to five typed A-4 pages. Submissions exceeding the specified length will not be considered.

All submissions should be double spaced, using size 12 font, and be in the English language. Each submission should include a brief (one A-4 page or less) bio of the author including information regarding the author's current employer (university) and the author's doctoral granting institution and if appropriate the date PhD was received (or in the case of doctoral candidates anticipated).

Successful applicants will be notified by March 15, 2011 and they will need to confirm their acceptance of a place on the program by the close of business on Thursday March 31, 2011.

All participants must attend the entire program and are encouraged to attend the reception on Monday evening 16th May 2011.

There is no fee for attending the program but participants must pay for their own travel and accommodation expenses during the program.

For more information about the program, please contact Ass.Prof. Dr. Kerem Sarioglu, <u>keremsa@istanbul.edu.tr.</u>

## Call for applications

### Academic Fellow: Education Initiative

#### The IFRS Foundation

#### **Background**

The IFRS Foundation is the oversight body of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The IFRS Foundation, through the IASB, is committed to developing, in the public interest, a single set of high quality, global accounting standards that require transparent and comparable information in general purpose financial statements.

The IFRS Foundation's education initiative reinforces the IFRS Foundation's goal of promoting the adoption and consistent application of a single set of high quality international accounting standards. In fulfilling this objective it takes account of, as appropriate, the special needs of small and medium-sized entities (SMEs) and emerging economies.

The education team is seeking an Academic Fellow: Education Initiative who will fill a 1-year term, with eligibility for renewal for a further year. It is envisaged that the post will be filled continuously by IFRS Academics on sabbatical leave from the universities. Exceptional candidates will also be considered to fill the post for a period of 6 months.

Academic Fellows assist in delivering the Foundation's education plan. To date, IFRSs have been adopted in over 100 countries, with many more countries planning conversion. Improving the global understanding of IFRSs is a critical goal of our organisation. This appointment presents an excellent opportunity to get involved in a broad range of initiatives that will support both the global understanding and reputation of IFRSs and the IFRS for SMEs.

#### Typical work activities

- Create, develop and maintain publications (in both electronic and hard copy) that promote the consistent application of IFRSs.
- Develop and maintain training material to support the implementation and consistent application of the IFRS for SMEs.
- Participate in presentations to delegations from around the world that visit the IASB.
- Participate in training workshops for delegates who will train others to implement the IFRS for SMEs.
- Participate in the development of IFRSs conferences and special interest sessions.

#### **Profile**

- An accomplished IFRS teacher or IFRS researcher that is due sabbatical leave from a reputable university.
- A professional accounting qualification, eg. Chartered Accountant (CA) or Certified Public Accountant (CPA).
- Strong English language oral and written communication skills (proficiency in 1 or more other widely used languages is not essential but would be preferable).
- Able to form effective working relationships quickly.
- Self motivated, resilient and focused.
- Proven experience in project management.

(Salary: £44.5k + benefits) Positions available to start immediately, during 2011, or in 2012.

If you are interested in joining this high profile organisation, please send a detailed CV and a motivation letter by 28 February 2011 to:

recruitment@ifrs.org

#### Call for applications

## CIMA's seedcorn funding initiative

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

CIMA is committed to developing tomorrow's world class management accounting researchers. We recognise that it can be difficult for less experienced researchers to obtain funding through traditional channels. We also know that it can be hard to fully evaluate the merits and feasibility of a research idea, without first undertaking preliminary investigations.

With these issues in mind, CIMA invites submissions of both academic and practitioner research proposals to its seedcorn funding programme.

#### How to apply

We accept two types of seedcorn funding applications:

- 1. Applications from inexperienced researchers, which may include those researchers with experience only as research assistants; those without previous funding awards or those who have not previously acted as a principal researcher.
- 2. Applications from researchers with an idea/concept that they wish to de-

velop or those seeking to undertake feasibility studies. A feasibility study may be an evaluation or analysis of a proposed research project, including reviewing issues that could impact its success. This would be conducted to assist the researcher in determining whether or not to proceed with a full research project.

Applicants may apply for funding of up to £5,000 for projects which are consistent with the areas outlined in CIMA's Research Strategy www.cimaglobal.com/research

Projects will typically not last more than six months and in the case of applications from inexperienced researchers, proposals will be supported by a written commitment from a research mentor.

#### What we expect

Researchers are required to produce a 3,000 word practitioner report about their project, suitable for publication on our website. You will also need to provide CIMA with an end of project

report, detailing how the funding was spent, the results of the investigation and plans for future research.

#### Deadline

The closing date for applications is 30 June 2011. Please send your completed application to:

research@cimaglobal.com

#### Find out more...

Application forms can be downloaded at <a href="https://www.cimaglobal.com/research">www.cimaglobal.com/research</a>

To talk to us, ask questions, or learn more about our research please contact us:

T. + 44 (0)20 8849 2497

E. <u>research@cimaglobal.com</u> www.cimaglobal.com/research

## The 7th Workshop on European Financial Reporting

The Institute of EUFIN 2011 in collaboration with Accounting in Europe University of Bamberg, Germany, 8-9 September 2011

#### **Background**

We are pleased to announce the 7th workshop on European Financial Reporting, which will take place at the University of Bamberg on 8-9 September 2011. As in previous years, the workshop offers parallel sessions in which academic research papers will be presented and discussed, as well as plenary sessions in which keynote speakers from practice and regulatory or standard setting bodies inform on practical implications of current developments in accounting harmonisation.

#### Plenary Sessions & Invited Speakers

There will be two plenary sessions, one dealing with 'Governance and Accountability of the IASB' and one dealing with 'Audit and Enforcement of IFRS'. Keynote speakers will include the following:

**Liesel Knorr**, President of the German Accounting Standards Board

**Herbert Meyer**, President of the German Financial Reporting Enforcement Panel

**Andreas Barckow**, Head of IFRS Centre of Excellence, Deloitte & Touche, Frankfurt

#### **Target Audience**

The workshop offers an opportunity and venue for practice and academia to meet to engage with contemporary issues relating to accounting in Europe. It is likely to be of value to those who are interested in recent developments in accounting in Europe, in the harmonisation of accounting in Europe, the regulation of financial accounting and the process of change in accounting and accounting regulation, as well as the internationalisation of accounting generally.

#### **Call for Papers**

Papers are invited on any aspect of European accounting, but with particular emphasis on practice- and policyoriented research in financial reporting. Topics may include, but are not restricted to:

- Problems of equivalent implementation of IFRS
- Audit and enforcement
- Management commentary
- Conceptual frameworks
- The stewardship function of accounting
- The impact of the financial crisis on international accounting, auditing and corporate governance
- The future of accounting for SMEs
- Financial instruments
- Accounting for leases
- CSR reporting
- 'European' accounting on the world stage
- Governance and accountability of the IASB
- Economics of financial reporting and standard setting

#### **Submission and Review of Papers**

Papers written in the English language should be submitted electronically no later than 24 April 2011 to Brigitte Eierle, Chair of International Accounting and Auditing, University of Bamberg: <a href="mailto:eufin2011.bwl@uni-bamberg.de">eufin2011.bwl@uni-bamberg.de</a>

Papers will be subject to a doubleblind review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by 8 June 2011.

#### **Registration and Practicalities**

Deadline for registration to the workshop is 8 July 2011. For information about registration fees, travel and accommodation please visit the workshop web page:

http://www.eufin2011.de

Workshop programme and accepted papers are scheduled to be linked to this web page during August 2011.

#### Workshop Venue

The workshop will take place at the University of Bamberg, Germany. Because of the impressively well preserved architectural ensemble in the Old Town, Bamberg was awarded the title of UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. The successful mixture of imposing architectural styles and baroque town houses lend the town an atmosphere that captivates visitors as soon as they arrive.

#### **Further Information**

Information about the workshop: http://www.eufin2011.de

Information about EUFIN: http://www.esseckpmg.net/us/eufin/eufin-frame.html

Information about the Chair of International Accounting and Auditing: http://www.uni-bamberg.de/bwl-irwp

Information about Bamberg: http://www.bamberg.info/en/ http://www.bamberg.info/en/sehenswe rtes/webclip/

Please direct any further enquiries about the workshop to Brigitte Eierle (eufin2011.bwl@uni-bamberg.de)

# Accounting Renaissance: Lessons from the Crisis and Looking into the Future. Learning from Histories and Institutions.

University Ca' Foscari, Venice (Italy), 4-5 November 2011

The Conference intends to build on the awareness that the global financial crisis has challenged the accounting and auditing realm from many points of views.

Along with the world stock markets, large financial institutions have collapsed or been bought out, and governments in even the wealthiest nations have had to come up with rescue packages to bail out their financial systems. Accountancy organizations, regulatory bodies and also accounting scholars seem to have their share of responsibility in failing to understand and prevent the advent and the effects of the financial crisis. In many cases, companies and public institutions took advantage of the ambiguity, opacity and incompleteness of accounting regulations in order to disclose economically financial results. The world accounting and auditing standards have shown its vulnerability, whilst there emerged the need for a new governance of the standard setting process and the development of effective cures in an international context.

The role of accounting and auditing as a factor affecting the scale and scope of financial crisis will thus be one of the most vivid subjects for discussion during the Conference. Some see changes in accounting standards as contributing to the financial crisis; others see these changes as an opportunity to recover from a general loss of trust in firms and financial institutions. Most certainly, a central feature of the recent period has been a gradual alteration of the traditional principles of accounting as practised in different national contexts for decades. For instance, the large acceptance of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and their incorporation into a mandatory regime in different countries have meant the abandonment of "local" principles of prudence and

their replacement with the "global" measurement method of fair value.

Another issue for consideration in the Conference is role of financial management tools during the crisis. The downturn of the economy underlined the weaknesses of traditional management accounting approaches when used for the support of recovery efforts, and widened the gap between them and lean (horizontal) accounting and non-accounting tools. It also reopened the issue of the relationships between accounting and information systems.

A particular aspect of interest for the Conference is that of analyzing these issues using a lens focussing on the relationships between accounting change (principles and tools) at a global scale and local traditions, which in turn depend on the ways in which accounting was shaped by specific historical and economic conditions.

This phenomenon is even more acute when we refer to the world of public sector accounting, where the "glocal" tension investing today's accounting is embedded in the complex political and financial control processes occurring at various levels of public administration.

In this sense, the Venice Conference also intends to provide an opportunity for exploring the ways in which accounting regulation interacts with other elements of the national institutional framework, which could give rise to peculiar or unintended consequences. Therefore, the event aims also at deepening such consequences and connecting them to their institutional, professional, and educational preconditions.

In light of the above considerations, contributions are invited from authors that wish to investigate from a variety of perspectives (including that of policy-making) and with different methodologies, the relationships between fi-

nancial crisis and accounting and auditing from the point of view of specific national or local contexts, as well as from a global standpoint, addressing also the ways forward for the accounting domain in a complex world where corporate information of financial and non-financial nature will play a more and more important role.

In this respect, Venice seems to be the most appropriate environment historically for discussing *Accounting Renaissance* issues, as it was here that the friar Luca Pacioli published the first treaty on double-entry bookkeeping in 1494.

The Conference also marks the official international launch of the new journal "Financial Reporting" which publishes papers in both English and Italian. Papers submitted to the Conference are able to be considered, if the authors wish, for a fast track reviewing process for publication in the journal.

The Conference will be held in the heart of Venice, where it is quite rare for large international scientific accounting events to be hosted, the last being the European Accounting Association Congress in 1994.

Within the aims illustrated above, papers on all aspects of accounting research are welcome. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- International & Comparative Accounting
- Information Systems & Computer Auditing
- Financial Accounting
- Accounting Education
- Auditing & Internal Auditing
- Corporate Governance
- Finance & Financial Management

## ( 0 0

## (cont'd)

(Continued from the previous page)

Accounting History

Taxation

Business & Accounting Ethics

Public Sector Accounting

Accounting of Non-Profit Entities

Management Accounting

 Intangibles & Intellectual Capital Reporting

Financial Analysis

SMEs Accounting Issues

Social and Environmental Accounting

Non-(Extra-)Financial Information

 Social and Organisational Aspects of Accounting

**Scientific Committee** 

Luciano Olivotto (Co-Chairman) Stefano Zambon (Co-Chairman)

David Alexander

Mary Barth

Saverio Bozzolan

Salvador Carmona

Gunther Gebhardt

Begoña Giner

Martin Hoogendoorn

Baruch Lev

Anne Loft

Jan Mouritsen

Christopher Nobes

Fabrizio Panozzo

Mike Power

Alberto Quagli

Chiara Saccon

Katherine Schipper

Richard Slack

Hervé Stolowy

Donna Street

Gary Sundem

Martin Walker

**Deadlines** for paper submissions and registrations:

Full paper submissions: 20 June 2011

Notification of acceptance: 31 July

201

Submission of the definitive version: 10 October 2011

10 October 2011

Registration deadline (reduced fee): 10

September 2011

Registration deadline (full fee): 10

October 2011

Papers should be submitted through the *ad hoc* uploading procedure present in the Conference website. Please follow the detail instructions in the

website.

Website of the Conference:

www.accountingrenaissance.org

#### Call for applications

## DART - Doctoral Program in Accounting, Reporting, and Taxation

DART is a doctoral program in Accounting, Reporting, and Taxation with a comprehensive view of economics-based research and a strict focus on quantitative methods and modeling. It is located in Graz and Vienna, Austria, and is a joint initiative of the University of Graz, the University of Vienna, and the WU Vienna University of Economics and Business. The program is in English and covers all major fields of accounting: financial accounting, management accounting, auditing, taxation, and corporate governance.

Students admitted to DART are required to enroll with the appropriate formal doctoral program at one of the three participating universities. DART scholarship holders are paid a salary (after taxes and social security payments) of approximately 18.000 Euros per year. Applications must be received by March 31, 2011.

For details on the doctoral program and scholarships, the application process, the program requirements and prerequisites, see <a href="http://www.dart.ac.at">http://www.dart.ac.at</a>

## Special Issue 'The role and impact of accounting in family business'

Journal of Family Business Strategy

#### **Guest editors:**

**Luca Gnan**, Ph.D. - University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italy

**Lucrezia Songini**, Ph.D. - Bocconi School of Management, Italy

**Teemu Malmi**, Ph.D. - Aalto University School of Economics, Finland

Accounting is an under-research area in family business studies. Family business dynamics can impact a number of accounting related issues such as the composition and characteristics of the company's shareholders, the role of the board of directors, strategic objectives and decision making, organizational roles and responsibilities (e.g., family versus nonfamily managers), the adoption of managerial mechanisms, the relevance of external disclosure and communication towards specific groups of stakeholders, and many others more. Prior accounting research has highlighted different disclosure practices and the impact of capital markets, voluntary disclosure, earnings management and earnings quality as relevant accounting issues in family firms. Relatively limited research has focused on auditing in family firms, considering the relationship between external and internal auditors and the family firm, the kind of auditors hired by family firms, auditor judgments and audit quality. A few studies have dealt with management accounting issues in family businesses. Some studies have highlighted the presence of specific agency costs and the consequent need for control mechanisms in family firms; others have focused on formal and informal management control practices in family firms. How management accounting systems change over the life cycle of both the family and the business has been studied to a certain extant as well. Finally, management accounting systems, along with strategic planning, board of directors and professional managers, have been considered relevant aspects of the professionalization of family firms.

This special issue is devoted to increase our understanding of the role and impact of accounting in family businesses. Our aim is to bring together articles that consider all three main areas of accounting - financial accounting, auditing and managerial accounting - and how they affect various family business outcomes and dynamics. The special issue aims to critically review and advance theorizations and methodological applications to the study of accounting in a family business context, highlighting the relevance of different theories in advancing our knowledge of accounting issues in family firms. Papers that adopt innovative approaches or challenge our current understanding of family business and accounting are welcome. Both theoretical papers and empirical studies using quantitative or qualitative methodological approaches will be considered.

We welcome imaginative interpretations of the theme of the special issue. Possible topics include, but are not limited to the following:

#### 1. Financial accounting

- a. Disclosure practices: Differences between listed and non listed family firms.
- b. The impact of capital markets on disclosure practices of family firms.
- c. Voluntary disclosure in family firms: Drivers, features and consequences.
- d. Corporate social responsibility and sustainability in family firms and the impact on stakeholder engagement and disclosure.
- e. Earnings management and earnings quality in family firms.
- f. The impact of financial accounting practices on family firm performance.

- g. Corporate governance issues in family firms: The impact on accounting policies and compulsory and voluntary disclosure.
- h. Fair value accounting in family firms: Relevance and implications.
- 2. Auditing
- a. The relationship between external and internal auditing in family firms.
- b. The kind of auditors hired by family firms.
- c. Auditor judgments and audit quality.
- d. Prevalence of internal audit controls in family firms.
- e. Types and levels of internal audit controls in family firms.
- f. Risk management and risk mitigation in family firms.
- g. Fraud detection and prevention.
- h. Spot checking.
- 3. Managerial accounting
- a. Agency costs and mechanisms to control agency costs in family firms.
- b. Formal and informal management control practices in family firms.
- c. Management accounting systems across different family and business life cycle stages.
- d. Performance measurement in family firms: The role of financial and non financial information.
- e. Performance measurement, incentives and compensation in family firms.
- f. The role of strategic planning and its link with operational planning and budgeting in family firms.
- g. The professionalization of family firms: Managers and managerial mechanisms.
- h. The role of the CFO and the controller in family firms.

### (cont'd)

(continued from the previous page)

We also welcome critical reviews of the literature or 'state-ofthe-art' articles that address the themes of the special issue and contribute to the advancement of theories and methodologies pertaining to family business research.

Journal of Family Business Strategy publishes research that contributes new knowledge and understanding to the field of family business. The Journal is international in scope and welcomes submissions that address all aspects of how family influences business and business influences family. *Journal of Family Business Strategy* publishes quantitative research as well as qualitative work and purely theoretical/conceptual papers. No matter which methodological approach, research published in Journal of Family Business Strategy meets the highest standards for rigorous and excellent research. Further details on Journal of Family Business Strategy can be obtained from <a href="http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jfbs">http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jfbs</a>.

Papers should be submitted electronically by 15th April 2011 through <a href="http://ees.elsevier.com/jfbs">http://ees.elsevier.com/jfbs</a>. To make sure papers are assigned properly, authors must select 'SI - Accounting' when they reach the "Article Type" step in the submission process. For questions regarding this special issue, feel free to contact any of the guest editors or email Professor Lucrezia Songini at

lucrezia.songini@unibocconi.it.

#### Call for papers

## Case Writing Competition

Institute of Management Accountants

The Institute of Management Accountants® is soliciting submissions for a case writing competition. Cases in any area of management accounting or related fields are invited. Cash prizes for the winning cases will be \$2,000 for first place; \$1,000 for second place; and \$500 for third place.

Cases submitted to the competition will automatically be reviewed for publication in the *IMA Educational Case Journal* (IECJ). The mission of the IECJ is to publish teaching cases and research related to case writing or teaching with cases in management accounting and related fields. International submissions are welcome and encouraged. The journal is listed in Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Accounting.

#### Submissions

Submissions of cases (and teaching notes) should follow the IECJ's submission guidelines (available at www.imanet.org/IECJ). Manuscripts previously published or currently under review by other publications are not acceptable. Submission of cases reflecting "real world" situations are preferred.

All cases should be submitted electronically in MS-Word or PDF format to <a href="mailto:rlawson@imanet.org">rlawson@imanet.org</a>. no later than May 31, 2011 for consideration for the prizes. Prize winners will be announced by June 30, 2011.

Questions regarding the case competition or the *IMA Educational Case Journal* can be sent to Raef Lawson, IECJ Editor, at rlawson@imanet.org.

## Special Issue "Nonprofit Services: Challenges and Opportunities"

The Service Industries Journal

#### **Editors:**

Professor Gary Akehurst, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, The Netherlands

Professor Ronald Goldsmith, Florida State University, The College of Business, USA

Professor Domingo Ribeiro, University of Valencia, Spain

Professor Youjae Yi, Seoul National University, College of Business Administration, Korea

**Guest Editors:** Helena Alves, Gary Akehurst and Domingo Ribeiro.

The nonprofit sector has had an increasingly more important role in the economy, contributing to the welfare of society in areas as diverse as healthcare, education, culture, education, counseling, nutrition and protection. Its importance can be seen by the number of people it employs and also for its contribution to gross domestic product. According to the John Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project the nonprofit sector represents an average of 5 percent of Gross Domestic Product in the eight countries for which satellite account data are available, and employs more employees than several industries.

The fact that organizations belonging to this sector are not profit-driven gives them specificities (Andreasen and Kotler, 2003; Dolnicar et al., 2008), which have attracted and continue to gain interest in their study. In fact, the recent research conducted by Deloitte Consulting (2010) showed that amongst some of the needs non-profit organizations have are the need

to do partnerships to extend their reach, the need to have detailed strategic planning to document priorities, the need to have prioritized initiatives to manage resource allocation, the need to provide training to paid staff and volunteers, the need to leverage modern technology to improve communications and the need to continuously raise funds.

Therefore the editors of this special issue, Helena Alves, Gary Akehurst and Domingo Ribeiro, would be pleased to receive articles of a theoretical nature, as well as research-based pieces, on any aspect or factor within nonprofit services context. In particular, they would be happy to receive articles on the following aspects:

- Nonprofit organizations governance
- Nonprofit organizations financing
- Nonprofit organizations fundraising
- Partnerships with public sector
- Volunteer recruitment and motivation
- Marketing in nonprofit organizations
- Managing human resources in the nonprofit services organizations.
- Efficiency in nonprofit organizations
- Nonprofit organizations stakeholders management
- Efficacy in nonprofit organizations actions
- Nonprofit organizations and new information and communications technologies

The deadline for submitting papers is September 30, 2013. Full papers and questions about content and ideas should be directed to the guest editor Helena Alves at halves@ubi.pt, Professor Gary Akehurst, ga@akehurstonline.co.uk, or Professor Domingo Ribeiro, at go.ribeiro@uv.es. Please clearly identify your submission in the email subject line, SIJ - Nonprofit Services: Challenges and Opportunities - Special Issue.

All papers will go through the regular double-blind review process to ensure its relevance and quality, and must follow the SIJ Style Guidelines (see <a href="http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/fsijauth.asp">http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/fsijauth.asp</a>). Papers would be published online around July 2015 and hard copy publication in February 2016, volume 36, issue 1.



## News on Accounting in Europe

## Upcoming EIASM events

Top Ten Accounting in Europe articles downloaded via Informaworld in 2010:

David Cairns: *The Use of Fair Value in IFRS*. Vol.3 (1), 412 downloads.

Paul André, Anne Cazavan-Jeny, Wolfgang Dick, Chrystelle Richard & Peter Walton: Fair Value Accounting and the Banking Crisis in 2008: Shooting the Messenger. Vol. 6 (1), 289 downloads.

Brigitte Eierle & Axel Haller: *Does* Size Influence the Suitability of the IFRS for Small and Medium-Sized Entities? Empirical Evidence from Germany. Vol. 6 (2), 220 downloads.

Jannis Bischof: *The Effects of IFRS 7 Adoption on Bank Disclosure in Europe.* Vol. 6 (2), 190 downloads.

Lisa Evans, Guenther Gebhardt & Martin Hoogendoorn: *Problems and Opportunities of an International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities*. Vol. 2 (1), 170 downloads.

Nicolas Véron: Fair Value Accounting is the Wrong Scapegoat for this Crisis. Vol. 5 (2), 166 downloads.

Martin Hoogendoorn: International Accounting Regulation and IFRS Implementation in Europe and Beyond – Experiences with First-time Adoption in Europe. Vol. 3 (1), 126 downloads.

Martin Schmidt: Fair Value: Your Value or Mine? An Observation on the Ambiguity of the Fair Value Notion Illustrated by the Credit Crunch. Vol. 6 (2), 124 downloads.

Peter Walton: *IAS 39: Where Different Accounting Models Collide*. Vol. 1 (1), 122 downloads.

Jens Wüstemann & Sonja Kierzek: Revenue Recognition under IFRS Revisited: Conceptual Models, Current Proposals and Practical Consequences. Vol. 2 (1), 120 downloads.

The editorial team would like to thank all authors and readers for their support for Accounting in Europe. Here are some of the upcoming EIASM events. For a full list, please visit www.eiasm.org.

- EAA 34th Annual Congress, April 20, 2011 - April 22, 2011, Rome (Italy)
- 8th Workshop on Corporate Governance, May 30, 2011 - May 31, 2011, Brussels (Belgium)
- EURAM 2011 Conference, June 1, 2011 - June 4, 2011, Tallinn (Estonia)
- Workshop on Current Research in Taxation Research, June 27, 2011 -June 28, 2011, Münster (Germany)
- 6th Conference on Performance Measurement and Management CONTROL, Sep 7, 2011 - Sep 9, 2011, Nice (France)

### Report on the

## 7th Conference on New Directions in Management Accounting

Brussels, 15 - 17 December 2010

From December 15 –17, 2010, the 7th Conference on New Directions in Management Accounting took place in Brussels on the grounds of the Hotel Métropole. As chairpersons, Kari Lukka (Turku School of Economics) and Michael Shields (Michigan State University) organised this bi-annual conference. Again this year, the two chairs welcomed over 150 participants, most of whom had attended the conference for many years.

Welcoming words from Gerry van Dyck, Secretary General of the EI-ASM, followed the chairs' salutation. She underlined the conference's significance and the EIASM's positive development. For example, 24 workshops with over 1,800 participants in addition to 18 doctoral seminars with over 370 PhD students were held in 2010 alone. These numbers reflect an increase compared to 2009.

In 31 parallel sessions, scholars analysed current topics in management accounting research. These topics ranged from customer accounting, control and trust to management control and visualization, to mention but a few. Altogether, 60 papers were presented, which equals an acceptance rate of around 60%. Although most papers were empirical in nature, nonempirical pieces were also discussed.

Four prominent plenary speakers provided insightful presentations on management accounting research. Keith Robson from the Cardiff Business School discussed innovations in management accounting, mainly from a neo-institutional perspective.

"Old theories for a changing world: Innovations as a mode of thought in management accounting" was the title of Wim van der Stede's (London School of Economics) thoughts on management accounting research. By using illustrative examples from budgeting and incentives, he underlined the importance of not only focusing on established theories in management accounting, but also considering alternative disciplinary lenses.

Alan J. Richardson pointed out the need for a long-term perspective when analysing management accounting. Having studied the history of global communications, he underlined the dual role of management accounting for globalisation. It is both implicated in the process of globalisation and affected by globalisation itself.

Ranjani Krishnan's plenary session (Michigan State University) focused on how multi-theoretical perspectives can benefit management accounting research. She suggested recognising the advantages of diversity for increasing the robustness of research and applying more than one framework to analyse research gaps.

In addition to the academic program, the conference offered numerous opportunities for socialising. Apart from the coffee breaks and the reception in the Hotel Métropole, participants gathered at the conference dinner in the Hotel Le Plaza, during which Louise Ross, representative of the conference sponsor CIMA, gave insights into current and future research supported by CIMA. During their stay, some participants might have used to opportunity to explore the vibrant cultural life in Brussels.

Andreas Hoffjan Julia Kornacker

Andreas Hoffjan is Professor of management accounting and control and Julia Kornacker is Ph.D. student at the Technical University of Dortmund.

### European traditions in accounting

## Accounting research in Finland: Times they are a changing

Marko Järvenpää



Finnish accounting researchers have been participating very actively in EAA congresses over the course of the last three decades, particularly when one considers the relatively small national population. For example

in some congresses as much as 20 % of the presentations in management accounting sessions were made by Finnish researchers. The congress has twice taken place in Finland: in Turku 1993 and in Tampere in 2009. Professor Reino Majala acted as a President of the EAA in 1993-1994 and Professor Pekka Pihlanto as President of the congress in 1993. Professor Salme Näsi chaired the congress in 2009. The work done by Professor Kari Lukka on EAA committees and as the editor of the EAR during 2000-2005 should also be mentioned in this European context. But what is the background of such an active presence of the Finnish accounting academics in EAA context? I shall be trying to answer that question in this article.

The history of accounting in the form of bookkeeping in Finland goes back to the 14th and 15th centuries, and the history of double-entry bookkeeping begins in the 17th century. From the middle of the 19th century accounting in Finland may be considered as a practice in the modern sense of accounting practices owing to a period of economic liberalism in Russia - for Finland was a Grand Duchy of Russia from 1809-1917 that led to an expansion of commercial and industrial activity in Finland too. References to the obligation to keep books can first be found in acts passed in the 1860s. Our second official language is Swedish since prior to 1809 Finland was part of Sweden with a consequential strong

Swedish influence on Finnish culture generally.

After Finland became independent in 1917 accounting legislation developed rapidly. The first Accounting Act (The Bookkeeping Obligation Act) was passed in 1925 and the Financial Statements Publication Act in 1928. At those times, accounting practice was still relatively undeveloped, so the framework for financial accounting had to be established mainly through legislation. The static balance equation theory was a fundamental idea in accounting, and the balance sheet was seen as a primary financial statement. These ideas were adopted mainly from German theories. The German influence is also still observable, for example in the Finnish education system.

A new Accounting Act was passed in 1945. The need for more regulated financial accounting was based on increased control by the government, and the war economy. Financial statements were now drawn up according to a uniform model. The act was still mainly based on the static balance equation theory and asset calculation. Profit measurement was regarded, however, as the main function, a fact which indicates that some dynamic influence was now involved. Developing businesses also started to use managerial accounting practices such as costing, capital budgeting and financial planning, which in turn led to increasing teaching and researching activities around these topics.

A dynamic "expenditure-revenue theory" of accounting was outlined and demonstrated in Finland in the 1940s and the 1950s by Professor Martti Saario. Both the 1968 Company Income Tax Law and the 1973 Accounting Act were based on the expenditure-revenue theory of Professor Saario. This theory, which emphasized the role of income statement and profit calculation, became a basic explanatory theory in the 1950s and it was gen-

erally accepted by the accounting profession in the 1960s as the only valid theory. It was a unique in international accounting history that prescriptive rules could be deduced from a single theory that had been developed by a single professor – a situation scarcely imaginable these days.

While the laws allowed wide income smoothing and flexible taxation in the spirit of accounting theory, it also suited the purposes of the government to control economic development and industrialization and provided a genuine win-win situation between firms and government, though it was difficult for shareholders to ascertain the financial position and performance of the companies. This was considered not to be a major problem, however, in the weak and narrow capital markets in Finland of those times.

Economic development and increasing internationalization lead to the Accounting Act Reform of 1993 and the new Accounting Act of 1997, which were aimed at unifying regulations for financial statements with those of the 4th and the 7th Directives of the European Community and to make the financial statements internationally comparable. The last step of harmonization with IFRS was taken in the law reform of 2005. The expenditurerevenue theory remained as the theoretical base until the changes of 1993, but since that it has gradually been removed from the way of IFRS as there has been an increasing need by shareholders for transparency in international capital markets.

Early Finnish accounting research was greatly influenced, like the first Accounting Act, by German accounting traditions. In fact the title of the first Finnish accounting dissertation of Ilmari Kovero (1911) was "Die Bewertung der Vermögensgegenstände in den Jahresbilanzen der privaten Unternehmungen".

#### Accounting research in Finland (cont'd)

Actually, the history of accounting research in those pioneering years before the Second World War was much of the business and management studies, because most of the dissertations and research in general were in the area of accounting. 1911 was also another milestone for Finnish accounting as an academic discipline in the sense that Helsinki School of Economics (HSE, nowadays part of the Aalto University) was founded in the same year as the first Finnish speaking university level business school in Finland. For the Swedish speaking students in Finland the higher education was started already in 1909, when the Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration (known as Hanken) was founded (university status awarded 1927). Currently the master level education in accounting is offered in 11 universities in Finland, and there are no tuition fees at any levels of higher education.

Up to the 1960s accounting research in Finland was mainly theoretical and conceptual by nature. International publication activity was very rare. Dissertations were typically the highlight of research activity and their topics related to different aspects and items of the balance sheet, income statements and valuation and profit measurement. In management accounting the focus was on major issues of capital budgeting and costing. During the 1960s, the statistical explanatory research and decision making models, influenced by models in the United States, took on an increasingly large role in Finnish accounting research. This mainstream approach has maintained its leading position in financial accounting research right up to today, though not exclusively, as a few dissertations and journal articles do now apply other methodologies.

Changing legislation and international harmonization have provided plenty of research opportunities in the world of Finnish financial accounting. Moreover, weak financial markets and their rapid liberalization, development and internationalization since the 1980s have also provided excellent research laboratories for scholars focused on financial accounting and the financial markets in the interface between accounting and finance. There have been ambitious and successful research groups focusing on these aspects in HSE, the Swedish School of Economics and in the Universities of Vaasa and Oulu, and since the 1990s they have published plenty of high level journal articles on a variety of topics on financial accounting and finance. There is more than 30 dissertations completed in financial accounting during the twenty year period from 1990 to 2009, though it is not easy to define the exact number because the distinction between the categorization of financial accounting and finance is often somewhat arbitrary regarding the topics, between university departments and faculties, and in the publication

Many contemporary topics, like accounting history, gender issues and social and environmental accounting, have been gained in popularity over the course of the last years and they have generated a few dissertations. In these studies, a broader methodology is typically employed, including discourse analysis, archival studies, and case studies (firms in Finland are familiar with collaboration for the purposes of research, and usually it is fairly easy to obtain access to companies). Moreover, with the growing importance of the auditing profession during the last two decades and the establishment in the country of a number of professorial chairs in auditing, research into auditing has been steadily increasing, and there were 14 dissertations on auditing from 1990 to 2009.

In management accounting research, the early studies in the 1940s and 1950s focused mainly on basic issues like costing. In the 1980s however the behavioral and organizational aspects of management accounting gained attention. The popularity of management accounting research in Finland

exploded in the early 1990s, when relevance lost debate and activitybased costing, non-financial measures, balanced scorecard, strategic management accounting and new roles of management accountants etc. became part of research agenda. Because it has been a very popular topic it too has produced plenty of dissertations and internationally recognized journal papers in high level journals such as Accounting, Organizations and Society (AOS), Management Accounting Research (MAR) and European Accounting Review (EAR) to mention few. Management accounting research has been particularly popular in the HSE, Turku School of Economics, and the Universities of Jyväskylä and Tampere. It may be said, in spite of the risk of sounding biased, that an important cornerstone for Finnish management accounting research was established when AOS was founded. This journal has provided both inspiration and insights into social and organizational context of accounting, which can be observed also in Finland since the 1980s. Furthermore, the curious and open-minded spirit of its founder and long time editor, Anthony Hopwood has had remarkable effect on Finnish management accounting research. Moreover, many Finnish authors have been both influenced by and contributed to the two other main source of publications, MAR and EAR during last couple of decades.

Later on the research agenda has shifted from studying management accounting innovations and their implementation to more theoretical questions related to accounting change and accounting practices. Interpretative theories, like actor-network theory, structuration theory and particularly different versions of institutional theory, have gained in popularity. Currently, topics like ERP-systems, shared service centers, management control system packages and control of new organizational forms and growth firms are under intensive studying.

#### Accounting research in Finland (cont'd)

Interpretative, ethnographic and grounded theory based case and field study approaches have been popular in Finland and we may say that they form the heart of Finnish management accounting research. Several studies have successfully employed also survey strategy and applied contingency theory too. According to recent study of Kihn and Näsi (2010) there were 43 dissertations completed during 1990-2009 in management accounting in Finland. 47 % of them used interpretative, 20 % quantitative, 13 % constructive and 20 % mixed methodologies.

Currently there is a spirit of methodological pluralism in Finland. There has been also a tradition of very lively methodological discussion, producing several journal articles on this topic and, furthermore, one 'Finnish speciality'; 'four Finnish research approaches ('nomothetical' (i.e. mainstream statis-'decision analytical', 'conceptual' and 'action oriented approach' (close to interpretative approach)) defined by Neilimo and Näsi in 1980. Methodologically we can separate three or four major turning points in the Finnish accounting research tradition, at an average interval of about 15 years. The first major turning point was the abovementioned move from conceptual studies to a quantitative 'mainstream' approach in the 1960s, which remained as the leading practice in financial accounting. The second was the emergence of the interpretative and qualitative approach in the 1980s, particularly in management accounting research, in which it has maintained its strong position ever since. The third was the introduction of the constructive research approach, the interventionist case study methodology introduced by Kasanen, Lukka and Siitonen (1993), which has been very popular in masters theses, applied in a few PhD theses and in some international articles too. Fourthly, and more tentatively, as its potential is not yet fully tested, I may mention the methodological/theoretical recent opening made by Malmi and Granlund (2009), in which they proposed if management accounting theory as such should be developed, and if so in which ways, instead of using only theories developed in other disciplines.

The number of dissertations (almost one hundred in total during the two last decades) has increased gradually due to the efforts made in universities, to improved possibilities to research funding, to pressure from the ministry of education and university executives, but also due to co-operation on a national scale, particularly in the form of Graduate School of Finance and Financial Accounting (GSFFA, founded in 1994) and the Graduate School of Accounting (GSA, founded in 2000). Moreover, the increasing international co-operation between the universities, in EIASM and EAA and in other international associations has meant a lot for the internationalization of Finnish PhD education. Traditionally, it has taken relatively long time, about eight years, to complete PhD studies in Finland. Earlier, up to the 1990s, it was obligatory to complete licentiate degree between master and doctoral degrees. It is still possible to do, but more and more PhD candidates complete their doctoral degree without the licentiate stage. Typically too in Finland PhD students are usually faculty staff, with both teaching responsibilities and administrative work to perform as well. The career track has typically included posts ranging from assistant (or researcher) through to assistant professor, associate professor and full professor. Currently, however the Finnish career development are under change process, and it is moving towards tenure track system in some universities.

The national source of academic publication has traditionally been the Finnish Journal of Business Economics, published since 1952. It is a double blind reviewed general journal for all business studies that is published quarterly, and its current editor is Professor Teemu Malmi. Most of the articles are published in English.

In Finland, there are only a few important professional accounting associ-CPA association (KHTations. yhdistys) is an association of auditors certified by the Central Chamber of Commerce. CPA was founded in 1925, it is a member of IFAC and FEE and it has about 770 members. Further there are the HTM-auditors association, which is an association of auditors authorized by regional chambers of commerce (800 members, founded in 1951), the Association of Finnish (authorized) Accounting Firms (784 member firms) and the Institute for Internal Auditors (founded in the 1950s, 650 members), but management accountants do not have their own association, nor is there any official certification for management accountants as there is in some other countries.

The dominance of leading international journals and the increasing importance of university rankings will probably affect the methodological choices and focus areas of research in Finnish accounting academia too. Let us hope that it will not lead to narrower possibilities, either in research questions or in methodologies. Hopefully we may retain something of our Finnish originality, and the many opportunities there have been for rich accounting research will remain, while at the same time we continue to be able to further improve the quality of our research.

Marko Järvenpää is Professor of accounting at the University of Jyväskylä.

### Disclaimer

Neither the editor nor the European Accounting Association (EAA) claims copyright over the articles or comments provided in this newsletter where alternative source is acknowledged above. In all other cases the EAA is willing to provide an unrestricted license to use the contents of this newsletter for any not-for-profit educational purpose. For all other uses, permission should be sought from the editor. The EAA reserves the right to make a charge for use of this content where considered appropriate by the editor.

All information provided in this newsletter is offered in good faith and whilst all attempts have been made to assure the validity of the contents, they should also be confirmed by alternative sources before being used in any way. Neither the editor nor the EAA accepts any responsibility for any adverse results brought about by use of the information contained in this newsletter. All information provided by designated authors expresses the opinion of these authors and may not necessarily be the opinion either of the editor or of the EAA. This newsletter may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organizations. Neither the editor nor the EAA necessarily endorses the views expressed on these websites, nor do they guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information presented there.

This newsletter is produced for members of the European Accounting Association and supplied to all members for whom a correct email address is available on the official register of members held by the EAA Secretariat at the time each issue is circulated. Archived copies of each newsletter can be found in the Members' Section of the EAA Website.

Further details about the European Accounting Association, including membership details, can be found on its website at <a href="http://www.eaa-online.org">http://www.eaa-online.org</a>. All queries related to membership of the Association should be directed to the Secretariat at eaa@eiasm.be.

Publisher: European Accounting Association, c/o EIASM, Place de Brouckère Plein, 31 B - 1000 Brussels eaa@eiasm.be

Editor: Hanna Silvola Turku School of Economics

hanna.silvola@tse.fi.

**Pictures** in this issue: Annika Silvola (p. 1), Aileen Pierce (p. 2), European Accounting Association (p. 13), European Union: http://europa.eu (p. 15).