Special Issue of ACCOUNTING IN EUROPE

Call for Papers

Accounting for Instability: Transparency and Accountability in Corporate Reporting under Uncertainty

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The global business environment has become increasingly characterized by instability. Geopolitical conflicts, regulatory fragmentation, energy price shocks, climate-related risks, technological transformation, and growing regulatory complexity have altered the conditions under which firms operate. These developments create new forms of uncertainty for managers, investors, regulators, auditors, and other stakeholders, raising important questions about the role of accounting and corporate reporting in supporting transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making.

Accounting plays a central role in helping organizations navigate uncertain environments. At the same time, instability challenges the production, verification, communication, and interpretation of accounting information. Increased uncertainty may affect managerial reporting incentives, the reliability of estimates, the quality and credibility of disclosures, the effectiveness of assurance and enforcement mechanisms, and ultimately the usefulness of corporate reporting for decision-makers.

Recent initiatives by standard setters have placed greater emphasis on uncertainty in corporate reporting. For example, the IASB's 2025 publication *Disclosures about Uncertainties in the Financial Statements* underscores the need for more consistent and entity-specific disclosures about uncertainty. Similarly, ongoing developments in digital reporting technologies and artificial intelligence are reshaping how information is produced, disseminated, and used. While these developments may enhance transparency and accountability, they may also introduce new forms of complexity, ambiguity, and information risk.

Although the specific sources, manifestations, and forms of instability and uncertainty will continue to evolve, the special issue focuses on enduring questions concerning how accounting and corporate reporting represent uncertainty, support decision-making, and enable transparency and accountability under changing conditions.

Against this background, this special issue seeks to advance academic understanding of the role of accounting in unstable environments. We invite high-quality theoretical, empirical, experimental, survey-based, qualitative, and field-based research that examines how different forms of instability affect accounting, auditing, corporate reporting, governance, and accountability.

We encourage contributions that provide systematic evidence on how firms respond to instability and analyze the implications of these responses for disclosure quality, capital market outcomes, and accountability. Consistent with the mission of *Accounting in Europe*, we particularly welcome contributions that generate insights relevant for policymakers, regulators, standard setters, practitioners, and other users of accounting information. While the special issue welcomes studies from a variety of institutional settings, submissions should articulate their relevance for European accounting, reporting, auditing, regulatory, or policy debates.

We invite submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Transparency and disclosure quality during periods of instability
- Corporate reporting responses to geopolitical, economic, climate-related, or technological shocks
- Disclosure of risks, uncertainties, forward-looking information, and anticipated financial effects
- Investor interpretation and use of uncertainty-related disclosures
- Accounting for sovereign, geopolitical, climate-related, and systemic risks
- Accounting measurement, managerial judgement, and accounting discretion under uncertainty
- Standard-setting responses to uncertainty and systemic risks
- Enforcement, assurance, and monitoring under conditions of instability
- Risks and challenges of artificial intelligence in corporate reporting
- Spillover effects of risk and uncertainty disclosures on firms' internal decision-making and performance evaluation

Editorial policies

Accounting in Europe aims to contribute to policy debate by publishing high quality articles that provide new insights for research, practice, policy and regulation. The journal therefore welcomes contributions in all areas of accounting, including, but not limited to, analyses of contemporary developments in accounting, auditing, standard setting and regulation.

Accounting in Europe welcomes papers from a wide range of paradigms and research methods, as long as they are presented in an accessible manner to its mixed academic and practitioner readership and enhance the understanding or the development of accounting and auditing either in Europe or for Europe from a global perspective.

The guest editors welcome inquiries from potential contributors. Questions regarding the special issue should be directed to the editors via the contact details provided.

Manuscript Submission Process

Submissions should be made through the Accounting in Europe Portal. Authors should specify in their cover letter that their submission is intended for the special issue. Submissions must comply with the journal's manuscript preparation and submission guidelines.

Submissions will be accepted from **June 1, 2027**. The deadline for the full paper submission is **October 31, 2027**.