



**ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES  
OF MOLDOVA**



**ȘTEFAL CEL MARE UNIVERSITY,  
SUCEAVA, ROMANIA**

Under Manuscript Title  
C.Z.U.: 657.6:005.332.1(043)

**SERGIU ȘOIMU**

**ENHANCING THE PERFORMANCE OF FINANCIAL  
STATEMENT AUDIT IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION**

**Scientific Specialty: 522.02 – ACCOUNTING; AUDIT; ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

**Summary of the Doctoral Thesis in Economic Sciences**

**CHIȘINĂU, 2024**

The thesis was developed within the 'Accounting, Audit, and Economic Analysis' department of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova in collaboration with the 'Accounting, Audit, and Finance' department of "Ștefan cel Mare" University of Suceava, Romania

**Scientific Supervisor:**

**BĂDICU Galina**, Doctor of Economic Sciences, Associate Professor, AESM, Republic of Moldova

**Joint Scientific Supervisor:**

**GROSU Veronica**, Doctor in Economic Sciences, Professor, Ștefan cel Mare University, Romania.

**Members of the Public Defense Committee for the Doctoral Thesis:**

1. **Chairperson - MIHAILA Svetlana**, Doctor in Economic Sciences, Associate Professor, AESM Doctoral School Director;
2. **Scientific Supervisor - BĂDICU Galina**, Doctor in Economic Sciences, Associate Professor, AESM;
3. **Joint Scientific Supervisor - GROSU Veronica**, Doctor in Economic Sciences, Professor, "Ștefan cel Mare" University, Romania.
4. **Official Reviewer - IACHIMOVSCI Anatol**, Doctor of Economic Sciences, Associate Professor, AESM;
5. **Official Reviewer - DOLGHI Cristina**, Doctor of Economic Sciences, University Professor, MSU;
6. **Official Reviewer - IONESCU Bogdan-Ștefan**, Doctor of Economic Sciences, University Professor, Academy of Economic Studies București, Romania;
7. **Official Reviewer - CIUBOTARIU Marius-Sorin**, Doctor in Economic Sciences, Associate Professor, "Ștefan cel Mare" University, Romania.

The defense will take place on October 25, 2024, at 14:00, during the meeting of the Public Defense Committee for the Doctoral Thesis at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, at the following address: MD-2005, Chișinău, 59 G. Bănulescu-Bodoni Street, Room 104, (Building B).

The doctoral thesis and summary can be consulted at the Scientific Library of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, on the ASEM website ([www.irek.ase.md/xmlui/](http://www.irek.ase.md/xmlui/)), and on the ANACEC website (<https://www.anacec.md/>).

The summary was sent on September 24, 2024

**Chairperson of the Public Defense Committee  
for the Doctoral Thesis:**

Doctor of Economic Sciences, Associate Professor



**MIHAILA Svetlana**

**Scientific Supervisor:**

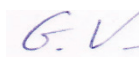
Doctor of Economic Sciences, Associate Professor



**BĂDICU Galina**

**Joint Scientific Supervisor:**

Habilitated Doctor in Economic Sciences, Professor



**GROSU Veronica**

**Author**



**ȘOIMU Sergiu**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE RESEARCH.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CONTENT OF THE THESIS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>ADNOTARE .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>ANNOTATION.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>АННОТАЦИЯ .....</b>	<b>34</b>

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE RESEARCH

**Relevance of the research topic and importance of the issue addressed.** Recent changes have highlighted the importance of financial statement audits in response to financial scandals and global economic crises that have eroded public trust and the reputation of the auditing profession. In this context, an international debate has emerged regarding the quality of audit services and the need for improvement, given the increasing complexity of regulations and the varied and complex goals of auditors. Reforming the risk-based quality assurance system is essential for restoring public confidence and recognizing auditors' professionalism. Additionally, economic development has necessitated alignment with European, international, and national standards. Financial scandals have prompted some countries to adopt measures to strengthen auditors' independence. Given the importance of reliable financial information for decision-making, the focus has shifted from routine audits to quality-oriented audits aimed at restoring confidence in the financial statements of audited entities.

Audit practices are continuously evolving, addressing risks with precision and adapting to frequent changes in the field. Given the need for accurate and complete information, financial statement audits ensure high levels of trust for stakeholders and provide reasonable assurance. Since users' trust depends on the perceived quality of audit services, auditors must adhere to International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and professional ethics to maintain a high level of quality. In this context, it is crucial to research how professional competencies and ethical dilemmas impact the effectiveness of audit strategies and the integrity of results.

Economic and financial reforms have adopted methodologies aligned with recognized European and international standards and practices, ensuring coherence and compatibility with the globalized economic environment. In this context, audit plays a vital role, providing necessary assurances to support the decision-making process. Globalization drives the development and application of international standards, demanding a high level of professionalism. Therefore, it is important to investigate the historical and theoretical foundations of auditing, including its evolution as a profession and activity, both internationally and in Moldova and Romania. The research aims to address contemporary challenges such as globalization, digitalization, and artificial intelligence, emphasizing the need for professional bodies capable of establishing behavioral rules. It also seeks to explore how current trends in the profession, including improving behavioral and technological skills, contribute to managing ethical dilemmas and applying professional skepticism.

Financial crises have amplified the risk of fraud and affected financial statements, requiring auditors to issue opinions in accordance with ethical and professional standards. The global increase in frauds has necessitated the reexamination of audit procedures and the implementation of an International Quality Management System (ISQM). Consequently, investors demand accurate presentation of assets to protect investments and reduce risks, highlighting the importance of validating information for business credibility. In a knowledge-based society, research in auditing is essential to address priority issues such as improving auditors' technical and behavioral skills, reducing information risks, detecting frauds, enhancing trust in auditors' competence, interpreting audit reports accurately, predicting insolvency, digital transformation, and adapting to new technologies, managing ethical dilemmas, and developing rigorous professional skepticism. In this context, ensuring audit quality becomes a critical component, contributing to achieving objectives and maintaining high standards of professionalism in the field.

Another motivation for the research is to analyze the influence of factors that may generate significant distortion risks, such as the rigidity of audit mission stages, source authenticity, sampling, auditor preparation, the ability to synthesize and present results, and the application of professional judgment. Additionally, the specific characteristics of audit services may directly or indirectly impact audit quality.

Audit entities continually face challenges related to competition, instability, and globalization, as well as changes in client demands concerning the nature, speed, and accuracy of services. In this context, researching the foundations of audit performance and identifying specific indicators and suitable systems for measuring performance and quality in audit services is essential. Given the complexity of economic

activities, providing absolute assurance is impossible. Therefore, a detailed analysis of the components and logical relationships of financial statement auditing is crucial, considering its quality, performance, and sustainability.

The audit profession relies on ethics and morality, which are essential values for decision-making that inspire confidence in financial statement users. In this regard, a significant motivation for the research is identifying ethical and professional challenges and analyzing their impact on audit service quality. The research also highlights the importance of continuous education and training for auditors, demonstrating how these aspects contribute to improving audit service quality and strengthening the credibility of audited financial statements.

The performance of financial statement audits and the quality of audit services are critical for business decisions and accurate forecasting. Investors demand high-quality audit services characterized by independence and professional integrity to ensure the accuracy of information. In the context of international competition and globalization, refining the audit quality assurance system becomes essential. Therefore, researching the development and implementation of effective strategies for the continuous improvement of audit quality and evaluating their impact on the consistency of audit missions is important.

In this context, implementing a quality management system within the audit entity, aimed at continuous improvement of human resources, services, activities, policies, and agreed procedures, as well as efficiency and effectiveness, becomes a necessity. This system would facilitate the enhancement of financial statement audit performance and contribute to meeting the high standards required by investors and the international environment.

**Description of the situation in the field and identification of research problems.** The issue of financial statement auditing, particularly focusing on quality and performance, is extensively debated in the specialized literature and represents a central topic in the research conducted by both domestic and international experts. Key contributors in this field include: *Republic of Moldova*: Bădicu G., Graur A., Iachimovschi A., Mihaila S., *Romania*: Ardelean A., Bostan I., Grosu V., Horomnea E., Ionescu B.-Ș., Munteanu V., Munteanu R., Neamțu H., Oprean I., Robu I., Roman A., Salomia M., Șpan G., Țurlea E., Zuca M.; *New Zealand*: Hatherly D., Porter B., Simon J.; *Russia*: Bitiucova T., Erofeeva B., Piscunov B.; *USA*: DeAngelo L., Flint D., Ian D., Lee T., Mautz R., Palmrose Z., Pany K., Robertson Dj., Sharaf H.; *France*: Collins L., Valin G.

Although specialized literature extensively discusses issues related to financial statement auditing, it often does not examine deeply the complex problems of audit performance, such as defining basic concepts, the role and purpose of auditing, objectives and general characteristics, and defining and evaluating audit performance. There is a lack of consensus on defining the audit function and identifying the fundamental concepts of financial statement auditing. Moreover, historical documentary analyses of the evolution of auditing, including in Moldova and Romania, are limited. Additionally, the impact of major financial scandals, the relationship between audit standards, types of evidence, and related audit decisions, as well as the impact of complexity and specific characteristics of audit services on performance, are insufficiently explored. These deficiencies may undermine trust in audit processes and negatively affect the quality and efficiency of audits in the globalized financial markets.

Furthermore, the aspect of implementing a quality management system in auditing and its impact on audit performance has not been adequately researched. Issues such as maintaining audit consistency based on quality, performance, and sustainability, managing significant distortion risks, the role of ethical dilemmas and professional competence in the effective implementation of audit strategies, and identifying effective measures to enhance quality and trust are often unexplored. Future research should address these gaps to provide a more comprehensive understanding and to improve the transparency, efficiency, and reliability of audit processes, thereby protecting the interests of all stakeholders involved.

**The significant scientific problem addressed in the thesis** involves developing an audit framework that integrates strategies, models, and practices to manage the effectiveness and transparency of audit missions. This is achieved through the implementation of an efficient quality management system and the incorporation of both financial and non-financial indicators, with the goal of optimizing the performance of financial statement audits. The research identifies existing gaps in the application of

audit policies and procedures and evaluates the impact of this framework on compliance with professional and ethical standards.

**The aim of the research** is to develop an advanced model for the optimization and continuous monitoring of the quality management system in auditing, in accordance with ISA, ISQM 1, and ISQM 2 requirements. This model integrates innovative practices designed to significantly enhance the performance of financial statement audits and quality management, addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization, with applicability in audit entities from the Republic of Moldova and Romania.

Thus, the premises of the research are grounded by its **objectives**, as follows:

- analyzing the evolutionary and conceptual development of financial statement auditing to clarify the period and conditions of its emergence and whether it has been influenced by economic development;
- clarifying the basic concepts, role, and purpose of financial statement auditing, as well as its objectives and general characteristics;
- defining the notions of financial statement auditing and professional judgment in auditing;
- evaluating scientific productivity and performance to determine research directions in auditing;
- analyzing the impact of the complexity and specifics of auditing services on auditing performance in a globalized context;
- systematizing the components and logical relationships of financial statement auditing, structured into an integrated and coherent conceptual model based on quality-performance-sustainability;
- assessing the role of ethical dilemmas and professional competencies in the effective implementation of auditing strategies;
- investigating the interdependencies between financial statement auditing, quality management systems, and performance to outline relevant research areas;
- designing an applied Balanced Scorecard model for evaluating the performance of financial statement auditing to improve strategies and identify influencing factors;
- analyzing the responsibilities of auditing entities in implementing and managing quality management systems, including evaluating their compliance with current legal regulations;
- identifying and evaluating respondents' perceptions of the vulnerabilities encountered, and the opportunities and challenges in implementing quality management systems in auditing;
- defining relevant variables based on the analysis of questionnaire results;
- developing an advanced model for optimizing and continuously monitoring the quality management system in auditing, according to ISA, ISQM 1, and ISQM 2 requirements;
- designing a pyramid structure, conceptualizing, and defining the performance of financial statement auditing.

**Research methodology.** To achieve the research goal and objectives, our investigative work was structured into six stages. The first stage involves clearly identifying the research problem, establishing the goal, and setting the objectives. The second stage consists of a comprehensive review of the literature to find relevant and up-to-date research on auditing, providing a solid theoretical framework. To identify international scientific works and evaluate productivity in the field of auditing, we used the Web of Science and Scopus search engines, applying relevant search criteria to obtain the necessary results. The analysis of scientific works highlighted topics such as responsible and independent opinions, quality criteria, information credibility, ethical principles, audit quality, performance, and other relevant concepts, which were detailed throughout the doctoral thesis. This stage included analyzing methods and techniques used in previous studies, employing qualitative methods to explore fundamental concepts and comparative methods to identify theoretical and practical aspects of financial statement auditing. Additionally, the document analysis method contributed to a more in-depth investigation of the topic.

In the third stage, appropriate models, procedures, and research techniques for the collected data were identified and defined. In the fourth stage, the representativeness level of the sample and the principles for including and excluding relevant information were established. The fifth stage involved applying statistical techniques based on quantitative and qualitative analyses to test hypotheses and develop the quality model. In the final stage, the obtained results were compared with existing ones in the field, facilitating the formulation of conclusions and recommendations.

For designing the quality model, a quantitative method was used through online surveys distributed among auditors in Moldova and Romania. The questionnaire, consisting of 36 questions, was sent via email in July 2022, accompanied by a description of the study. The study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the quality management system in auditing entities, and the data collection period lasted 6 months.

Considering quality as a multidimensional domain, the data were grouped into four significant areas for hypothesis analysis within the corresponding models. Indicators were symbolized to facilitate the analysis and evaluation of results. The dependent variable and independent variables for these areas were established and included in multiple linear regression equations, processed using SPSS 25. The results show that 85% of respondents perceive the promotion of quality policies and procedures positively, which supports the scientific approach. The statistical analysis of the questionnaire indicators identified the necessary variables for designing the quality management model in auditing. The techniques used allowed for a detailed examination of the correlation between an effective quality management system and the variables included in the model. The research strategy emphasized the importance of standardization in auditing and standardized procedures for quality assurance, highlighting compliance aspects derived from the questionnaire study.

**Research hypothesis.** Integrating an advanced model within auditing entities for the optimization and continuous monitoring of the quality management system, in accordance with ISA, ISQM 1, and ISQM 2 requirements, and applying innovative practices will lead to a significant improvement in the performance of financial statement audits, addressing the challenges and opportunities of globalization.

**Scientific novelty and originality of the obtained results** reside in improving the performance of financial statement audits within the context of globalization, by developing new perspectives and methods for adapting audit procedures to international requirements, focusing on the following *innovative elements*:

- developing an updated perspective on the evolution of auditing by integrating the influences of global economic factors on auditing practices and adapting them to contemporary requirements;
- providing new conceptual and methodological frameworks for defining and standardizing fundamental concepts in financial statement auditing, with the aim of enhancing their coherence and applicability at an international level;
- identifying an advanced set of essential characteristics for elucidating the notions of financial statement auditing and professional judgment, incorporating the latest research and trends in the field, thereby improving professional practices;
- introducing new methods for evaluating productivity and performance in auditing research to determine innovative research directions and identify existing knowledge gaps;
- developing an advanced framework for analyzing the impact of the complexity and specifics of auditing services on performance, considering emerging issues and global challenges.
- developing an integrated and coherent conceptual model based on quality-performance-sustainability, which systematizes the elements and logical relationships of financial statement auditing;
- designing an efficient mechanism for evaluating the role of ethical dilemmas and professional competencies in the effective implementation of auditing strategies;
- developing a new approach for investigating the interdependencies between financial statement auditing and the quality management system, aimed at outlining relevant research areas and improving existing practices;
- designing an applied Balanced Scorecard model for evaluating audit performance, intended for refining strategies and identifying specific influencing factors in the field;
- developing an analysis of the responsibilities of auditing entities in managing quality management systems and assessing their compliance with current legal regulations;
- creating a framework for evaluating respondents' perceptions of vulnerabilities and opportunities in implementing the quality management system in auditing;
- defining relevant variables based on detailed analysis of questionnaires, to improve the accuracy and applicability of audit research;

- developing an advanced model for optimizing and continuously monitoring the quality management system, aligned with ISA, ISQM 1, and ISQM 2 requirements;
- designing an innovative pyramid structure for conceptualizing and defining the performance of financial statement auditing, integrating essential aspects and contributing to the improvement of audit outcomes.

**Theoretical importance and practical value of the work.**

*Theoretical significance of the thesis resides in the following investigations:*

- approach of the historical and conceptual aspects of financial statement auditing, developing a new perspective on the evolution of auditing, highlighting the economic influences on auditing practices and their adaptation to current requirements. This aspect contributes to enriching the specialized literature by updating theoretical knowledge about the evolution of auditing in a global context;
- providing new conceptual and methodological frameworks for defining and standardizing fundamental concepts in financial statement auditing, contributing to the deepening of theoretical knowledge and the harmonization of concepts in the field, thereby facilitating better application in diverse international contexts;
- identifying a set of advanced essential characteristics for elucidating the concepts of financial statement auditing and professional judgment, integrating the latest research and trends in the field, thereby enhancing professional practices;
- developing an advanced framework for analyzing the impact of the complexity and specifics of audit services on performance, taking into account emerging issues and global challenges;
- developing a new approach to investigate the interdependencies between financial statement auditing and the quality management system, thereby outlining relevant areas for research and improvement of existing practices;
- designing an innovative pyramid structure for conceptualizing and defining the performance of financial statement audits, which integrates essential aspects and contributes to improving audit outcomes.

*The practical value of the work lies in the following proposals and recommendations:*

- introducing new methods for evaluating productivity and performance in audit research, facilitating the identification of innovative research directions and existing gaps;
- developing an integrated and coherent conceptual model based on quality-performance-sustainability, which allowed for the systematization of the elements and logical relationships of financial audit, integrating quality, performance, and sustainability in auditing;
- designing an effective mechanism for evaluating the role of ethical dilemmas and professional competencies in the efficient implementation of audit strategies, developing practical solutions;
- designing an applied Balanced Scorecard model for performance evaluation in auditing, aimed at refining strategies and identifying specific influencing factors in the field;
- developing an analysis of the responsibilities of audit entities in managing quality management systems and assessing their compliance with current legal regulations;
- creating a framework for evaluating respondents' perceptions of vulnerabilities and opportunities in implementing the quality management system in audit;
- defining relevant variables based on a detailed analysis of questionnaires to enhance the accuracy and applicability of research in auditing;
- developing an advanced model for the optimization and continuous monitoring of the quality management system, aligned with the provisions of ISA, ISQM 1, and ISQM 2.

**Main scientific results submitted for defense**, derive from the objectives of the thesis and include: innovative perspectives on the evolution of auditing: influenced by the global economy; new conceptual frameworks: for defining and standardizing fundamental concepts in financial auditing; new references: for clarifying notions related to financial auditing and professional reasoning; new method for evaluating productivity and performance: in audit research, based on data from scientific databases; development of an integrated framework: for analyzing the complexities and particularities of audit services; conceptualization of a coherent integrated model: based on quality, performance, and sustainability in



financial auditing; creation of an effective mechanism: for evaluating ethical dilemmas and professional competencies; innovative approach to interdependencies: between auditing and quality management; recommendation of an applied Balanced Scorecard Model: for evaluating performance in auditing; assessment of the responsibilities of audit entities: in managing quality management systems; creation of a framework: for evaluating perceptions regarding vulnerabilities and opportunities in implementing quality management systems; definition of relevant variables: based on questionnaire analysis; development of an advanced model: for the continuous optimization and monitoring of quality management systems in accordance with ISA, ISQM 1, and ISQM 2; design of an innovative pyramidal structure: for conceptualizing and defining audit performance.

**Implementation of scientific results.** The results of this research have been implemented in the following audit entities: First International SRL, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova; FlagMAN-D SRL, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova; and the autonomous public institution: IP Public Oversight Council for Audit.

**Approval of the results of the work.** The main research results were presented and approved at 8 national and international scientific conferences and symposiums. Additionally, the research has been recognized both nationally and internationally, with published articles awarded medals at creativity and innovation salons: "Excellent Idea" International Exhibition of Innovation and Technological Transfer, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, 2024 - First Prize and Gold Medal; European Exhibition of Creativity and Innovation "Euroinvent", Iaşi, Romania, 2024 - Second Prize and Silver Medal.

**Publications related to the thesis topic.** The results of the scientific research have been presented in 16 publications, as follows: articles in scientific journals: 7 articles in journals indexed in other databases accepted by ANACEC; conference papers and scientific events: 4 articles published in the proceedings of conferences and other scientific events abroad, and 4 articles in the proceedings of scientific events included in the Register of published materials based on scientific events organized in the Republic of Moldova; intellectual property: 1 certificate issued by AGEPI. The total volume of published works on the thesis topic is 12.71 author sheets.

**The volume and structure of the thesis.** The thesis includes: an abstract (in Romanian, English, and Russian), a list of abbreviations, an introduction, three chapters, conclusions and recommendations, a bibliography (containing 386 titles), and is presented on 136 pages of main text, 25 figures, 4 graphs, 12 tables, and 60 appendices.

**Key words:** financial statement audit, audit quality, advanced audit quality management model, financial statement audit performance, professional judgment.

## CONTENT OF THE THESIS

In the **Introduction**, the relevance and importance of the research are presented, along with a general overview of the current state of study on the topic. The purpose and objectives of the research are defined, appropriate hypotheses are formulated in accordance with the established objectives, and the chosen research methodology is outlined. The novelty and originality of the scientific results obtained are emphasized, contributing to the resolution of a significant scientific issue.

Additionally, the theoretical significance and practical value of the thesis are highlighted, providing a summary of the chapters and information regarding the implementation of the scientific results. The conducted research argues for the necessity of developing an integrated framework to analyze the impact of the complexity of audit services on performance, designing a strategic management system for performance evaluation in auditing, analyzing responsibilities in managing quality management systems, identifying and evaluating perceptions of vulnerabilities and opportunities, and developing an advanced quality management model in accordance with ISA, ISQM 1, and ISQM 2. These initiatives are essential for improving quality and performance in auditing, offering valuable tools for adapting audit strategies and efficiently managing the quality management system.

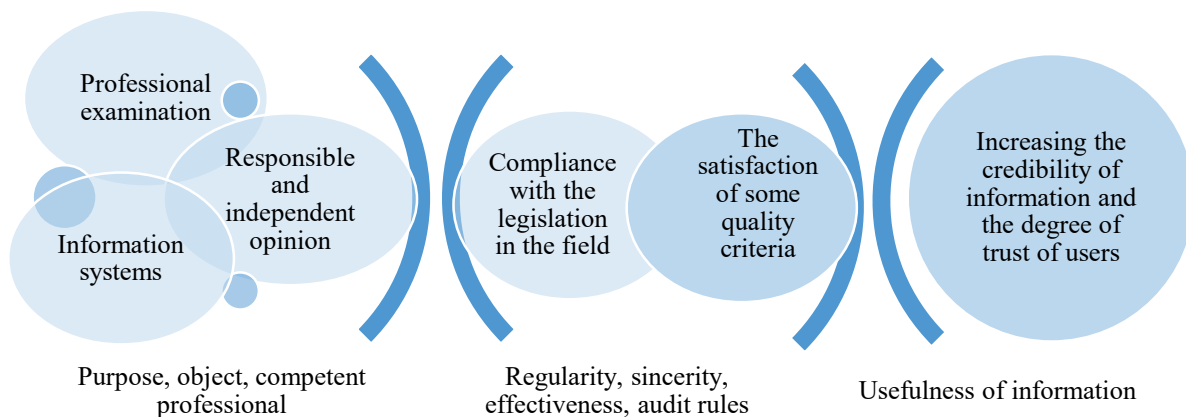
**Chapter 1, "Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to Financial Statement Auditing"**, analyzes the emergence and evolution of auditing as both a profession and an activity at the international level, as well as in the Republic of Moldova and Romania. The study explores the period and conditions under which auditing was established, highlighting the influence of economic development on this process.

Furthermore, it examines productivity and scientific performance, emphasizing essential contributions and research trends that can guide the future development of practices and policies in the field. The relevance of the scientific approach is reflected in the need for clear and accurate information, adapted to the continuously changing requirements and standards at the international, European, and national levels.

In this context, to scientifically ground the research theme, theoretical aspects underlying financial statement auditing and the expression of an opinion in the independent audit report have been presented. Potential vulnerabilities in financial statement auditing were identified by defining the concept of financial statement auditing, including the etymological aspects of the term "audit," the basic concepts, and the historical elements related to its periodization and meaning. This information was supplemented by presenting the main relevant definitions from the specialized literature.

Analyzing the definitions, it was found that the concept of audit is variably defined and encompasses multiple important specific aspects: *a legally qualified person, a responsible and independent opinion, financial statements, multidisciplinary knowledge, and specific audit techniques and procedures. Moreover, it results from the descriptions that audit represents a professional, independent examination-a tool and a process for assessing the authenticity of financial statements, involving a comprehensive analysis of the processes, systems, and information within the audited entity. The outcome of this activity is naturally expressed as a combination of qualified viewpoints articulated by auditors, enabling the formulation of an opinion.* In this context, for a broad and nuanced understanding of audit, various perspectives provided by researchers were integrated, acknowledging each individual's contributions to the development of audit theory and practice.

From the examination of the analyzed definitions and practical experience in audit, *the following core concepts of financial statement audit were extracted, as illustrated in figure 1.*



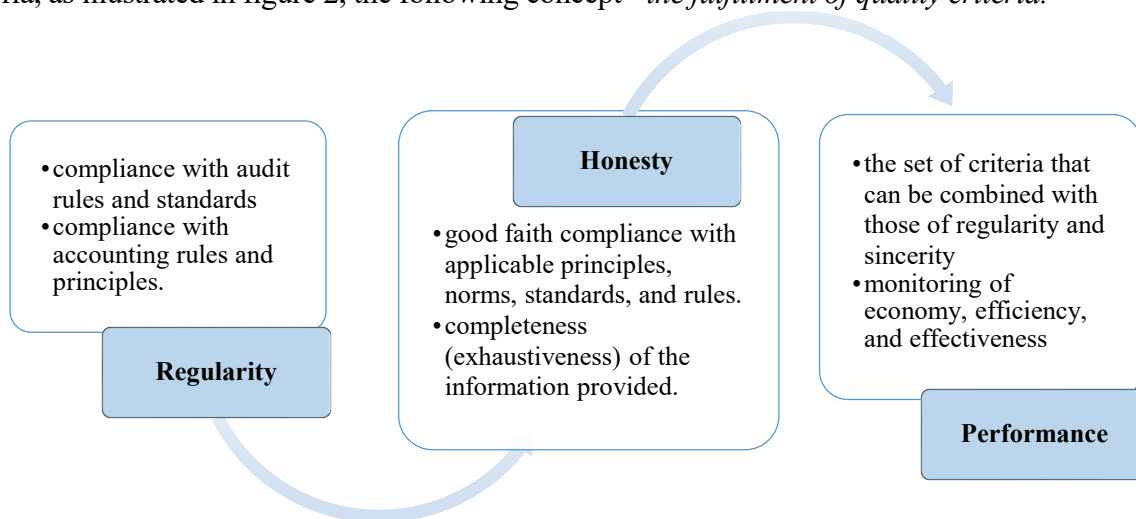
**Figure 1. Core Concepts of Financial Statement Audit**

*Source: elaborated by the author*

From the analysis of Figure 1, it is evident that the first concept of financial statement audit is defined as a "professional examination." This concept represents the general approach, manifested through the application of appropriate techniques, procedures, and tools for auditing. While the professional examination focuses on the application of suitable techniques and procedures, it is fundamental for the auditor to adopt a "responsible and independent opinion." This opinion is based on professional competence and the responsibility to maintain objectivity and ethics in evaluating and reporting audit results. The third concept, "audit targets information systems," remains undisputed, as the subject of auditing comprises various types of information, including internal and external, analytical and synthetic, quantitative and qualitative, standardized and informal. By exemplifying these three concepts, it was deduced that *the role and purpose of financial statement audit* lie in the critical examination according to established standards to confirm the validity of the information presented in the audited financial statements. The purpose is to formulate an opinion regarding this information, serving the interests of all current and future participants of the audited entity.

The concept "audit requires compliance with local legislation" involves taking into account the particularities of the business environment, international standards and European directives. At the same

time, conducting the audit of the financial statements requires the correct application of the regulations and procedures in force. Compliance with these requirements not only protects the interests of stakeholders, but also contributes to maintaining the credibility and transparency of the audit process. For these reasons, in order to ensure the credibility and effectiveness of the audit, it is necessary to comply with rigorous quality criteria, as illustrated in figure 2, the following concept - *the fulfillment of quality criteria*.



**Figure 2. Quality Indicators in Financial Audit**

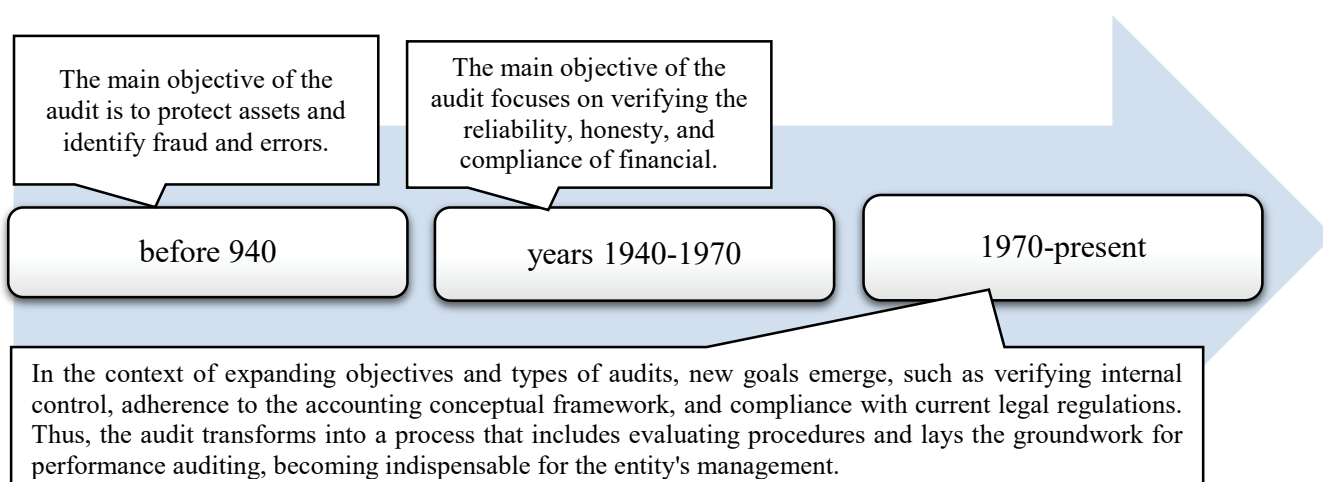
*Source: elaborated by the author after Oprean, 2010*

The final concept of financial statement auditing refers to the *"increased credibility and trust of users."* The auditor plays a crucial role in ensuring the usefulness of the audited information. Therefore, by adhering to legal and contractual obligations, the auditor must assess the cost-effectiveness of the examination. Accurate and audited information contributes to business security and enhances user trust.

Differences between the audit objectives related to operations and those concerning account balances have been generalized and highlighted, contributing to a better understanding of these distinctions. To correlate the general audit objectives with the necessary activities to achieve them, the mandatory requirements in financial statement auditing according to ISA 200 have been presented. In realizing these general audit objectives, it is important to consider the specific context of each country. In this regard, the author's contribution lies in presenting the characteristics of financial statement auditing derived from research, as well as highlighting the similarities and differences between the legislation in Moldova and Romania. The comparative analysis of financial statement auditing characteristics between Moldova and Romania reveals both similarities and differences within the legislative frameworks and auditing practices. Although both countries strive to meet international standards, the differences in national regulations and their implementation can influence how auditing is conducted and perceived.

Based on our research, we have demonstrated that financial statement auditing is a complex field carried out by competent professionals who apply professional judgment and skepticism while adhering to the requirements set by the ISA. The primary goal is to obtain relevant and sufficient evidence that enables the auditor to form a well-founded opinion regarding the compliance of the financial statements with reporting standards, thereby contributing to increasing users' confidence in the validity of the audit.

To identify the main directions of audit activity, taking into account legislative and organizational aspects, a document analysis of various historical periods was conducted. It was found that, although "the historical development of auditing is not fully documented," there is evidence suggesting that "auditing has an origin traceable in historical literature." It was noted that auditing has evolved from a "compliance" role to one of "improvement", and today, auditors are expected to enhance the credibility of financial statements and provide value-added services. In the specialized literature, I synthesized the evolution of auditing by presenting the three fundamental stages it has undergone, as illustrated in figure 3.



**Figure 3. Fundamental Stages of the Evolution of Auditing**

*Source: Developed by the author based on Munteanu, V., Zuca, M., Munteanu, R., 2016.*

To identify the early signs of the conceptualization of the profession and its main directions, the author analyzed countries with a significant impact on the development of the accounting and auditing profession. The development of accounting and auditing regulations in the USA, the UK, and France has been essential in defining the responsibilities of auditors, thereby creating a normative framework that has strengthened the role of auditing in detecting fraud and ensuring financial transparency. Major financial scandals prompted several countries, including the USA, France, and the UK, to adopt significant measures to improve audit activities. Simultaneously, these scandals led to the implementation of similar laws in other countries aimed at enhancing the independence of audit entities, separating consulting activities from auditing, and establishing oversight bodies for audit activities.

The critical analysis of the literature has allowed for the identification of key moments in the evolution of auditing in the 20th and 21st centuries, leading to several conclusions. The main objective of auditing has evolved over time: from identifying errors and fraud and ensuring the integrity of assets to providing reasonable assurance regarding the accuracy of the information presented to users. Although the objective of auditing does not focus exclusively on discovering fraud or errors, it remains a fundamental aspect of the audit process.

Currently, auditors increasingly rely on *assessing the effectiveness of the internal control of the audited entity*, reflecting the close relationship between the evolution of auditing and the development of internal control. Internal control is essential for auditing, contributing to the reliability and transparency of financial reporting. Consequently, auditors' activities have been enhanced through the introduction of statistical procedures and quantitative techniques that employ audit tests adapted to the pace of business expansion. As risk management intensifies, internal control becomes crucial, providing reasonable assurance that the entity's objectives will be achieved.

In the audit process, the auditor faces the necessity of selecting and using various types of evidence to evaluate and confirm their conclusions. The appropriate choice and application of this evidence are essential for ensuring a fair and comprehensive assessment of the financial statements. The quality of audit evidence is defined by its adequacy and sufficiency. Typically, the assessment of the sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence occurs during the final stages of the audit. It is crucial to consider the specific characteristics of the evidence not only in drafting the audit report but also in developing the audit plan and program, ensuring a consistent and well-founded approach. Currently, the literature highlights variability in the assessment of these two aspects of audit evidence, with a lack of uniform evaluation criteria. Therefore, to ensure a quality audit, it is recommended to apply diverse audit procedures to obtain relevant and credible evidence that supports the audit opinion. Relying solely on one type of evidence for verifying information is unjustified; effective auditing often involves using a combination of different types of evidence. In the process of obtaining audit evidence, the auditor applies a logical sequence of procedures, employing professional judgment, which includes inspection, observation, analytical procedures, confirmation, re-performance, recalculation, and interviewing.

The research highlights the significant impact of the auditor's judgment on the type of opinion issued and emphasizes the importance of selective testing of information to optimize the audit process. Identifying appropriate evidence and aligning it with specific standards and procedures plays a crucial role in accurately assessing financial statements. In this context, auditors must adjust the sample sizes and audit approaches based on identified risks and the availability of evidence, thereby ensuring an objective and well-founded opinion.

The international regulation of financial statement auditing is the responsibility of IFAC, the body that develops and revises auditing standards, classified into professional working standards, reporting standards, and ethical behavior. This emphasizes the importance of the auditing process and standards for coordinating the audit market and avoiding undesirable practices and behaviors, with the aim of establishing a rational benchmark for auditing practices and auditor conduct.

Continuing the scientific endeavor, the historical evolution and emergence of auditing were analyzed, both as a profession and as an activity, not only at the international level but also in Moldova and Romania. This analysis aimed to establish the period of emergence, the conditions that facilitated it, and the influence of international developments on national auditing practices.

In *the Republic of Moldova*, auditing activities are relatively recent and are part of the public management reform process, which aims to improve the performance of entities and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency in the use of allocated resources. The regulation of auditing in Moldova is supported by a well-defined legal framework, based on essential documents such as the European Commission's Green Paper, the Accounting and Auditing Development Plan, and national legislation aligned with European directives. The Ministry of Finance (MF) plays a central role in developing and regulating audit standards, while the Public Oversight Council for Auditing (CSPA) ensures compliance with professional standards and quality in auditing activities through oversight. It is important to note that establishing and maintaining public trust in auditing requires continuous monitoring and evaluation of performance, ensuring quality, and emphasizing the alignment of Moldova's regulatory framework with EU directives and ISA standards.

The evolution of the auditing profession reflects regulatory changes and their impact on practices from the early 1990s to the present. During this period, the inspection of audit entities has improved transparency and quality of services in the field. An evaluation of the annual reports issued by the Public Oversight Council for Auditing (CSPA) regarding the audit services market in Moldova indicates general stability, with minor fluctuations in the number of registered entities and auditors over the past 12 years. In 2023, the number of audit entities was 127, while the number of auditors reached 244. These figures suggest a trend of stability and moderate expansion in the sector.

In *Romania*, the evolution of auditing reflects a continuous process of adaptation and modernization, influenced by both regional and international contexts. From the earliest forms of administration during the Daco-Roman period to the institutionalization of auditing in contemporary times, auditing has been consistently shaped by economic and legislative changes. The impact of EU integration has accelerated this modernization, highlighting the importance of reforms and international regulations. The essential role of the Romanian Chamber of Financial Auditors (CAFR) in enhancing standards and protecting public interests underscores its decisive contribution in the current context of auditing.

To select relevant scientific research in the fields of external auditing, financial auditing, and audit quality at the international level, a search was conducted using the Web of Science database, covering all publications up to 2023. The selection criteria included keywords such as "*external audit*," "*financial audit*," and "*audit quality*" in the titles of the papers, as well as citation indices. Data interpretation was carried out using Publish or Perish software, Bibliometrix, and the Biblioshiny extension (see figure 4).



**Figure 4. Generalized Information on Publications Identified on Web of Science**

*Source: developed by the author using Bibliometrix*

Thus, Figure 4 provides a detailed presentation of the identified works, highlighting their dynamics, correlations, and evolution based on key terms. It outlines the number of works for each key term published during the respective period, their distribution across specific sources, and the number of authors involved, including single-author works. Additionally, it presents the frequency of keyword usage, references, and the average citations of each work. The relevance of this study lies in the detailed analysis of publication trends and the influence of key terms on research in the field, providing a clear picture of the evolution and impact of scientific contributions.

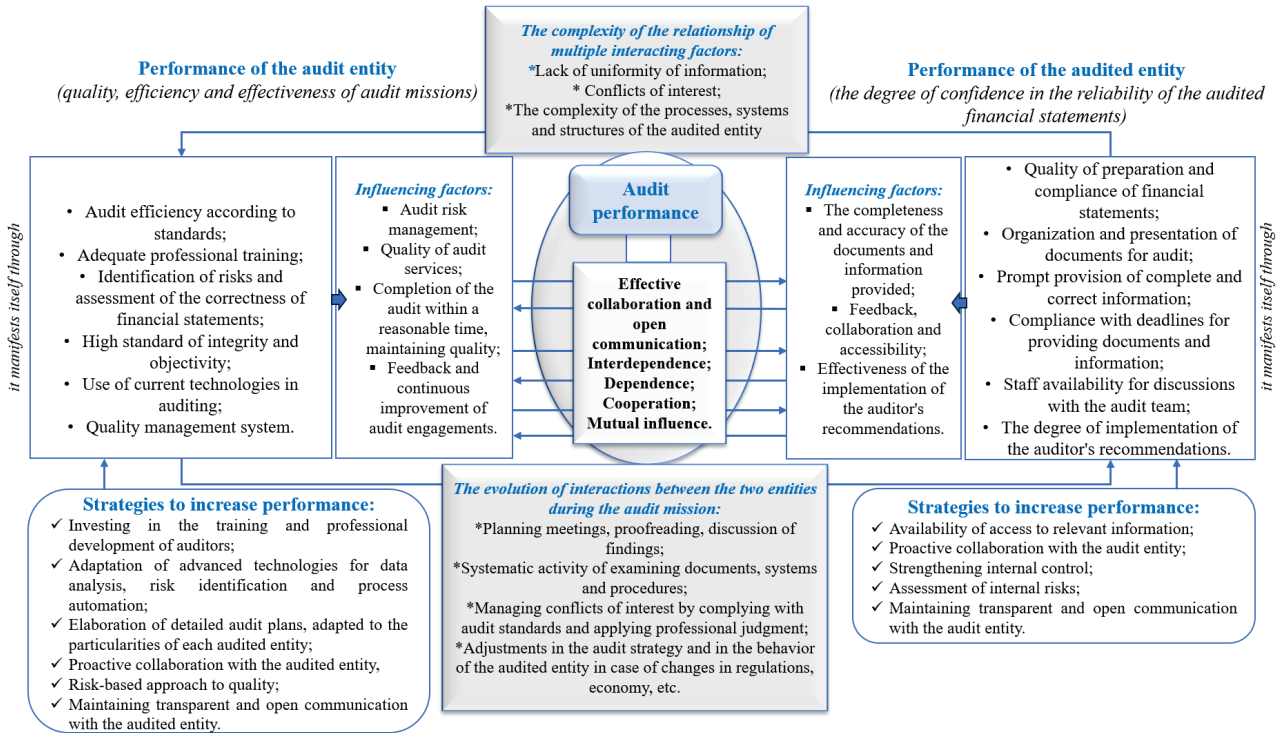
The multidimensional approach to audit quality, developed by the author based on the analysis and synthesis of the relevant literature, provides a detailed understanding of the factors influencing audit quality and a valuable framework for its evaluation and improvement. The research highlights how various audit procedures impact quality and efficiency, offering a solid foundation for the development of performance measurement indicators and the statistical modeling of audit performance. Integrating perspectives and concepts from the literature contributes to the establishment of more rigorous standards and practices, with the potential to significantly enhance the effectiveness and reliability of audit processes. The impact of this research is manifested in its ability to improve audit practices, guide future studies, and influence relevant policies.

**Chapter 2, "Application Dimensions and Strategic Perspectives on Financial Audit Performance",** analyzes the fundamental aspects necessary for ensuring high-quality and reliable audits while also focusing on identifying strategic perspectives that influence financial audit performance. The main objective is to examine how financial auditing goes beyond mere compliance with auditing standards, actively contributing to the creation and maximization of the organizational significance of the audited entity through an integrated approach. This approach enhances the efficiency of the audit process and has a favorable impact on stakeholders. In the context of this approach, analyzing the impact of the specific characteristics of audit services, the component elements, the logical relationships within the audit process, ethical dilemmas, and the professional competencies of auditors is essential. This analysis can identify problematic aspects and develop solutions to improve both audit quality and the efficiency of the audit process.

The study highlights that audit services are distinct from other services due to certain economic characteristics, such as their formal, regulatory, and intangible nature, inseparability and participation, as well as complexity and quality. A thorough analysis allowed us to identify and understand the specific factors influencing audit performance, thus facilitating the development of more effective strategies for improving audit processes and ensuring more accurate and reliable financial assessments. The PEST analysis conducted by the author revealed the significant impact of external factors—political, economic, socio-cultural, and technological—on the quality and efficiency of audit services. The study emphasized that complex challenges, frequent legislative changes, limited competencies, and the effects

of the pandemic considerably influence audit activities. By evaluating these factors and other relevant aspects, critical points that require attention for optimizing audit practices, adjusting strategies, and enhancing audit performance were identified.

The research has demonstrated that the performance of financial audit is significantly influenced by the complexity and interdependence of the relationships between the audit entity and the audited entity, as illustrated in figure 5.



**Figure 5. Performance in Audit: An Integrated Approach**

*Source: elaborated by the author*

An integrated approach that includes proactive measures and growth strategies is essential for improving performance. Effectively managing complexity and adapting to changing interactions can lead to more accurate assessments and efficient solutions. Close collaboration, proper resource utilization, and the implementation of innovative solutions are crucial for ensuring high-quality audit services. Moreover, the professional competencies and ethical dilemmas faced by auditors play a central role in enhancing the integrity and reliability of results, contributing to the optimization of the audit process and minimizing risks. Additionally, the author conducted an in-depth study of ISQM 1, which led to the identification and highlighting of critical aspects of the risk-based approach in managing the quality of audit services, clarifying how the optimization of quality management in audits can be achieved.

Taking into account the complexity and integrity of the audit system, it is essential to analyze in detail the components and their interrelationships. The study highlights that difficulties in measuring audit performance are generated by the diversity of techniques and procedures used to identify non-compliance. The existing literature has not fully addressed these aspects, underscoring the need for a more in-depth analysis. This research represents the first detailed approach to auditing through the lens of quality, performance, and sustainability, offering a contextualized analysis of the elements and logical relationships of financial audit. The outcome of the study consists of the systematization of these elements and relationships, emphasizing the essential principles that contribute to the improvement of audit quality, performance, and sustainability, as illustrated in Figure 6.



**Figure 6. Conceptual Integrated and Coherent Model of Financial Audit Based on Quality-Performance-Sustainability**

*Source: elaborated by the author*

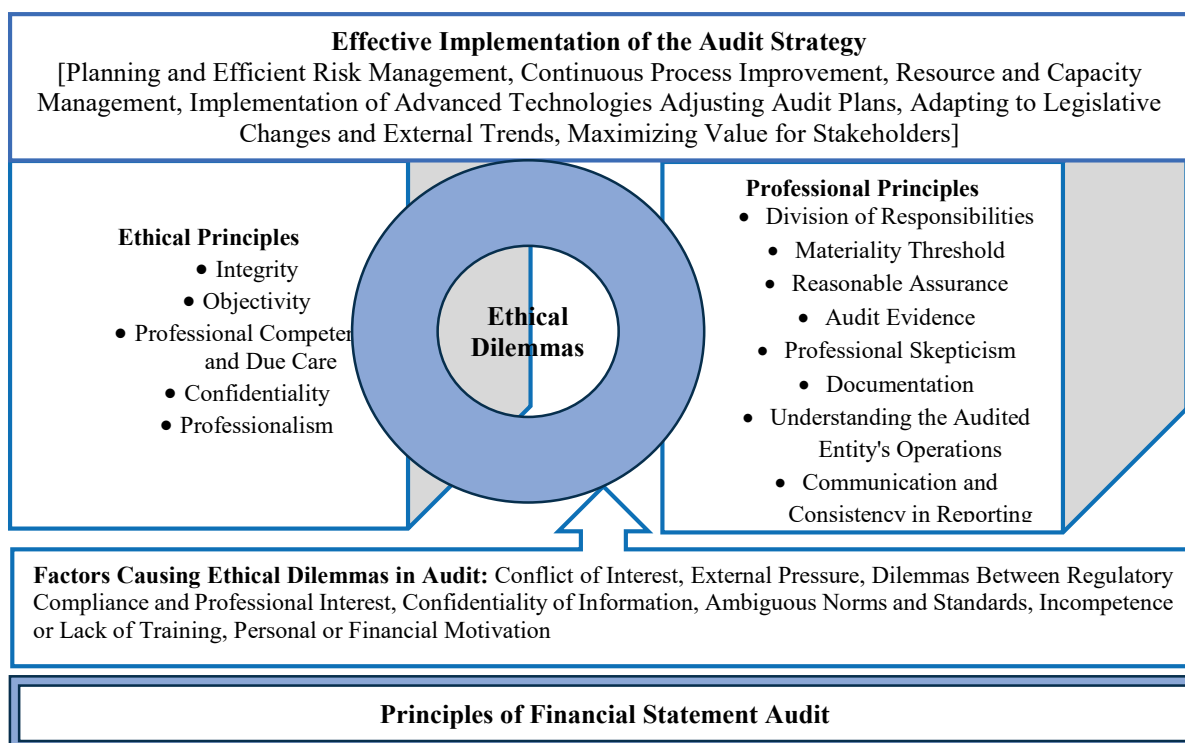
The auditor, within the context of economic diversity, must adhere to legal requirements, ISA regulations, and the ethical principles established by IESBA, along with applicable technical standards. Compliance with these ensures conformity with the accounting framework, internal procedures, and certification of financial statements, reflecting a true and fair view. All audit principles are essential for the theoretical and practical understanding of auditing, influencing the content and methodology of audit reports.

The auditing profession fundamentally relies on ethics and morality, which are essential values for maintaining the credibility of financial reporting. Financial scandals and economic crises underscore the importance of professional ethics in auditing, highlighting how ethical dilemmas and conflicts of interest can compromise the auditor's objectivity and impartiality. Strict adherence to ethical standards ensures the quality and trustworthiness of the audit process, guaranteeing that auditors act in the public interest and uphold the requirements of professionalism, credibility, and quality.

The analysis of the specialized literature highlights the crucial importance of adhering to the fundamental principles of auditing in the context of ethical dilemmas. In facing these dilemmas, auditors are compelled to apply these principles to maintain the objectivity and integrity of the audit process. By examining the essential ethical and professional principles required for conducting a quality audit, I have demonstrated that strict adherence to these principles not only optimizes audit quality but also effectively manages ethical dilemmas, preventing potential compromises and ensuring a favorable evaluation from beneficiaries. The application of these principles aids in identifying and preventing threats that could compromise the compliance of the audit process, as evidenced in the research conducted (Figure 7).

The conclusion drawn from Figure 7 is that, in the context of the evolving audit profession, enhancing behavioral and technological skills, alongside deepening knowledge about the audited entity's activities and clarifying professional judgment, underscores the importance of effectively managing ethical dilemmas. These advanced competencies support the appropriate application of professional skepticism and facilitate the efficient implementation of audit strategies, thereby contributing to the improvement of audit quality and providing a solid foundation for the opinions expressed in the audit report.





**Figure 7. Interdependence Between Audit Principles, Ethical Dilemmas, and Audit Strategy**

*Source: elaborated by the author*

Moreover, ethical dilemmas and professional competencies are interdependent, both essential for the effective implementation of audit strategy and directly influencing its quality and performance. To optimize audit outcomes, it is crucial to promote an organizational culture that emphasizes regular review and updating of audit procedures, integrated resource management, and adjustment of audit plans based on strategic objectives. Proactive risk management and continuous process improvement, while adhering to fundamental audit principles, are key. Adapting to legislative changes, integrating advanced technologies, encouraging ongoing training, and implementing internal policies for managing conflicts of interest are critical measures for ensuring the success and efficiency of audits.

In Chapter 3, "**Modeling the performance of financial statement audits from the perspective of increasing confidence in the reliability of audited information**", the investigation focuses on how the performance of financial audits influences both the reliability of business decisions and the competitive sustainability of audit entities. The aim of the research is to develop and validate an integrated framework for financial statement audits that combines strategies, methodologies, and practices designed to optimize audit performance. The research emphasizes identifying effective measures to enhance quality and trust, ensure compliance, improve transparency, maximize efficiency indicators, and protect the interests of all stakeholders involved. In this context, audit quality is analyzed not only as a compliance criterion but also as a key factor in achieving a sustainable competitive advantage.

The study emphasizes the importance of continuing research in the field, considering the major challenges faced by audit entities, such as adapting to complex regulations, aligning with international standards, managing uncertainties, and integrating advanced technologies. Developing a system of indicators capable of providing a comprehensive assessment of performance, beyond merely measuring profit, becomes essential for reflecting the overall efficiency and competitiveness of the audit process.

The specialized literature underscores the need for developing an integrated performance evaluation system in auditing, capable of reflecting both the outcomes achieved and the processes through which these results are realized, from the perspective of various categories of users. Such a system should include indicators covering human resources, professional experience, service quality, and the reputation of the audit entity. Its purpose is to enhance the quality of information regarding

strategic objectives and to optimize performance measurement through objective and transparent assessments of yield, quality, and process efficiency. In this context, it is essential to maintain a balance between financial and non-financial indicators and to continuously monitor processes to improve service quality.

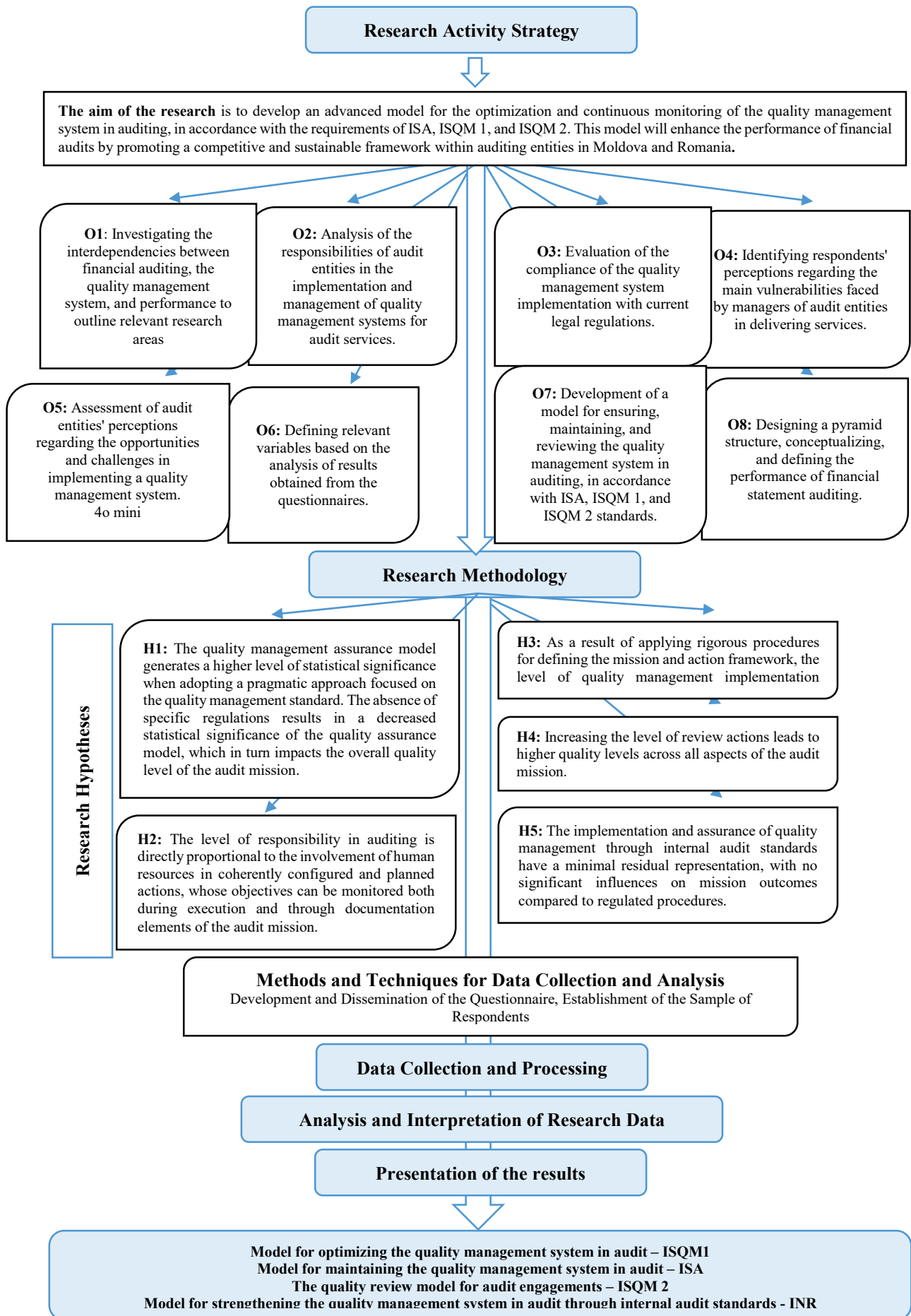
Aggregating these indicators into an integrated approach is crucial for the coherence and efficiency of performance evaluation in auditing. Implementing a comprehensive assessment based on compliance with the regulatory framework, client perception, human capital development, and stakeholder evaluation will optimize the audit process and strengthen user trust and satisfaction, thereby contributing to the sustainability of the audit entity. Performance indicators must be developed through careful planning and integrated into the entity's strategy, considering the impact of auditor satisfaction on audit quality. Continuous monitoring of these indicators is essential for improving performance and preventing knowledge loss and additional costs associated with staff turnover. This multidimensional approach facilitates a detailed measurement of audit performance and the development of relevant indicators tailored to the needs of the field. The author's contribution is valuable, providing a structured framework for creating effective performance indicators aligned with the strategic objectives of the audit entity.

The process of identifying and integrating performance evaluation methods and tools within the context of financial audit has been assessed, demonstrating the relevance of the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) as an essential method for audit entities. In a competitive environment where audit standards emphasize service quality but do not detail the management and control of these services, the BSC provides a comprehensive framework that integrates both the quality of outcomes and management aspects. The study highlighted significant benefits of implementing the BSC applied model for the auditing profession and stakeholders. The author proposed five relevant perspectives for audit, including "quality" as a crucial indicator, and emphasized the importance of defining each indicator through purpose, projected objectives, and evaluation methods. Adapting BSC indicators to the specific strategy of each entity represents a significant contribution to enhancing performance measurement and quality management systems in auditing.

In the context of the increasing complexity of performance evaluation in auditing, the foundation and statistical modeling become essential for developing theoretical and methodological tools that enable an objective analysis of the effectiveness and quality of audit services. The study aims to elaborate an advanced model for optimizing the quality management system in auditing, in accordance with audit standards, with the goal of identifying and implementing effective practices that will enhance performance and contribute to the development of a competitive and sustainable model for audit entities in Moldova and Romania. In our research, the following sequential stages have been proposed, consisting of five logical and chronological steps, as illustrated in Figure 8.

The conclusion of the research emphasizes that the research strategy was well-defined, and its feasibility was assessed through the analysis of relevant literature and regulations. The hypothesis testing, conducted through multiple regression analysis, allowed for the conceptualization of an effective model, thereby validating its relevance and applicability. The study involved the collection and analysis of data through an online questionnaire aimed at evaluating the quality management system in auditing.

The results indicated that the majority of respondents believe that improving the system is necessary, and the identified discrepancies suggest possible deficiencies in existing regulations that may affect the quality of audit services. The analysis and interpretation of the results were carried out using statistical and analytical methods to evaluate the research objectives. This study falls into the category of analytical-descriptive research, applying mixed models of qualitative and quantitative analysis, with data processed using SPSS version 25 and GRETL version 2019. The data analysis reveals that 85% of respondents view the promotion of quality policies and related objectives positively, thus confirming the validity and robustness of the scientific approach.



**Figure 8. Scientific research activity**

*Source: elaborated by the author*

To support the model, *four essential areas* that contribute to the effective functioning of the quality management system in auditing were analyzed:

- *Model 1: "Designing, Implementing, and Operating a Quality Management System in Financial Audit, According to ISQM 1," was constructed based on 9 items from the questionnaire;*

- *Model 2: "Compliance with Applicable ISA Regulations for Audit Missions" was based on 25 items from the questionnaire;*

- *Model 3: "Reviewing the Quality of Audit Missions in Accordance with ISQM 2" is based on 18 items from the questionnaire;*

- *Model 4: "The Relevance of Internal Audit Standards in Service Delivery" is based on 6 items from the questionnaire.*

Quality assurance in auditing, in accordance with ISQM 1 and ISQM 2 standards, constitutes a legal requirement mandated by ISA standards and involves implementing a proprietary quality management system. The author has synthesized the investigated variables and their intensity across the entire sample, as per ISQM 1 requirements. The questionnaire was designed using a three-level evaluation scale. The obtained results include an analysis of the variables and the relationships between them, based on the established hypotheses.

The proposed model for evaluating quality in auditing includes *four research areas*, divided into *two branches*: one for auditors in Moldova and another for those in Romania, both aimed at harmonizing with ISA standards. The hypotheses focus on validating that effective quality management leads to higher audit quality when comparing the two branches. The evaluation of audit service quality was conducted through multiple regression, correlating ISA indicators with the characteristics of ISQM 1 and ISQM 2. The four equations, distinct for Moldova and Romania, describe the necessary relationships for assessing audit quality through the implemented and maintained quality management system (Table 1).

The regression correlation analysis was conducted by constructing partial models for the two countries, based on the four research areas. The study, which involved questionnaires distributed to 156 auditors from Moldova and Romania, indicates that standardizing audit procedures enhances quality compared to internal procedures. The econometric model tests hypotheses H1-H5, aiming to improve the performance of financial statement audits through the assurance, maintenance, and review of the quality management system in accordance with ISQM 1 (Figure 8).

Multiple linear regression indicates that the level of audit quality varies depending on the proposed degree of standardization, as shown in the model equations presented in table 1. The analysis of the equations reveals that the model for Moldova includes more variables, reflecting the larger proportion of respondents from this country. In contrast, the data from Romania are less significant, despite efforts to collect responses through email and social media. The relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variables was analyzed using Pearson correlation coefficients, which indicate the intensity and direction of concurrent variation according to a linear model.

The results of the interpretation of the audit quality model are presented in table 2. These indicate a higher statistical correlation of the quality management model in Romania compared to Moldova, according to the regression equation. In Romania, the level of statistical significance is 90%, compared to 78% in Moldova, while the standard error of estimation is 38% in Romania versus 53% in Moldova. The adjusted regression coefficient is 77% in Romania and 59% in Moldova. These results highlight the imperative for management to build a strong organizational culture, allocate adequate resources, and implement strict policies to strengthen the quality management system.

**Tabel 1. Dependent Variable and Regression Equations for the Two Standardized Branches**

Model	Dependent Variable	ISQM1.27.28.15.QMS Efficient and Functional Quality Management System Implemented and Maintained
	Standardized Branch	The regression equation.
Model for optimizing the quality management system in audit – ISQM1	Moldova	$ISQM1.27.28.15.QMS(1MD)$ $= 0,102 \cdot ISQM1.A4.I1.POL - 0,055 \cdot ISQM1.A4.I2.OBJ + 0,052$ $\cdot ISQM1.A4.I3.MOT + 0,148 \cdot ISQM1.27.28.14.CLRQ + 0,243 \cdot ISQM1.27.28.16.RES$ $+ 0,135 \cdot ISQM1.27.28.17.PROC + 0,111 \cdot ISQM1.27.28.18.RQM + 0,347$ $\cdot ISQM1.30.I10.CONNS - 0,053 \cdot ISQM1.A6.IAPN.1000.89.I13.INTCTRL - 0,096$
	Romania	$ISQM1.27.28.15.QMS(1RO)$ $= -0,206 \cdot ISQM1.A4.I1.POL + 0,083 \cdot ISQM1.A4.I2.OBJ - 0,063$ $\cdot ISQM1.A4.I3.MOT + 0,762 \cdot ISQM1.27.28.14.CLRQ - 0,328 \cdot ISQM1.27.28.16.RES$ $+ 0,27 \cdot ISQM1.27.28.17.PROC + 0,331 \cdot ISQM1.27.28.18.RQM + 0,069$ $\cdot ISQM1.30.I10.CONNS + 0,121 \cdot ISQM1.A6.IAPN.1000.89.I13.INTCTRL - 0,085$
Model for maintaining the quality management system in audit – ISA	Moldova	$ISQM1.27.28.15.QMS(2MD)$ $= -0,056 \cdot ISA300.A8.I12.AGS + 0,284 \cdot ISA.220.9.10.I14.ETQ + 0,072$ $\cdot ISA.220.9.10.I15.ETQPP - 0,011 \cdot ISA.220.11.I16.ADIND + 0,144$ $\cdot ISA.220.11.I17.UNRSPETQEMP + 0,05 \cdot ISA.500.A44.I18.1.SENRET - 0,009$ $\cdot ISA.500.A44.I18.2.CNTREW - 0,426 \cdot ISA.500.A44.I18.3.ROT + 0,366$ $\cdot ISA.220.12.13.ISQC.26.I19.CUSTSERV + 0,311$ $\cdot ISA.220.12.13.ISQC.26.I20.CUSTEV + 0,22 \cdot ISA620.A.11.I26.3.QCTRPROC$ $- 0,374 \cdot ISA200.A.29.I26.4.PROPFREAS + 0,401$ $\cdot ISA500.A44.ISA620.7.I26.5.KNOLEDGE - 0,137$ $\cdot ISA220.18b.IAPN1000.80.ISQC.39.I26.6.IT - 0,051 \cdot ISA.230.6.I26.9.ALLPROFASP$ $- 0,1 \cdot ISA720.20.I29.2.POLACT + 0,189 \cdot ISA570.A16.I29.3.ADDOCUM + 0,003$ $\cdot ISA610.A1.I29.4.REVIEW + 0,044 \cdot ISA200.18.ISQC1.A7.I29.6.CONFORMITY$ $- 0,858 \cdot ISA220.A60.ISA315.A40.I29.7.INFORMATION + 0,02$ $\cdot ISA220.A18.I31.1.SUFFADQEV - 0,005 \cdot ISA220.A18.I31.2.EVACTIVITIES + 0,662$ $\cdot ISA220.A18.I31.3.ANLSSIGNASP - 0,278 \cdot ISA220.A18.I31.4.CONFVIEW$ $- 0,098 \cdot ISA230.2.ISA200.1.I36.QMSDOCUMENTATION + 1,344$
	Romania	$ISQM1.27.28.15.QMS(2RO)$ $= 0,146 \cdot ISA300.A8.I12.AGS + 0,988 \cdot ISA.220.9.10.I14.ETQ - 0,184$ $\cdot ISA.220.11.I16.ADIND + 1,776 \cdot ISA.220.11.I17.UNRSPETQEMP + 0,957$ $\cdot ISA.500.A44.I18.2.CNTREW + 0,526 \cdot ISA.220.12.13.ISQC.26.I19.CUSTSERV$ $- 1,125 \cdot ISA.220.12.13.ISQC.26.I20.CUSTEV + 0,72 \cdot ISA720.20.I29.2.POLACT$ $+ 0,61 \cdot ISA570.A16.I29.3.ADDOCUM - 0,638 \cdot ISA610.A1.I29.4.REVIEW - 0,064$ $\cdot ISA220.A60.ISA315.A40.I29.7.INFORMATION + 0,056$ $\cdot ISA220.A18.I31.2.EVACTIVITIES + 2,533 \cdot ISA220.A18.I31.4.CONFVIEW$ $- 0,572 \cdot ISA230.2.ISA200.1.I36.QMSDOCUMENTATION - 6,651$
The quality review model for audit engagements – ISQM 2	Moldova	$ISQM1.27.28.15.QMS(3MD)$ $= 0,266 \cdot ISQC.26.I24.MISPROC + 0,415 \cdot ISQC.29.I25.HRM + 0,379$ $\cdot ISQC.23.I26.1.INDEPENDENCE - 0,386 \cdot ISQC.A17.I26.2.TIMEMG + 0,194$ $\cdot ISQC.32.I26.7.PROFSTD - 0,173 \cdot ISQC.A18.2.I26.8.EXPERIENCE + 0,021$ $\cdot ISQC.11.I28.RESASSURANCE - 0,318$ $\cdot ISQC.33.ISA.220.A14.ISA330.A134.I29.1.TEAMWK + 0,108$ $\cdot ISQC1.A34.I29.5.SURVAILLANCE + 0,213 \cdot ISQC1.A34.I30.1.TRUSTSURV - 0,045$ $\cdot ISQC1.A34.I30.2.SEMNIFASP + 0,082 \cdot ISQC1.A34.I30.3.SEMNIFPB + 0,199$ $\cdot ISQC1.A34.I30.4.COMPETENCE - 0,435 \cdot ISQC1.A34.I30.5.MISPROGRES - 0,278$ $\cdot ISQC.43.44.ISA.220.21b.22.I32.OPNDIF + 0,296$ $\cdot ISQC.12.J.48.ISA220.34.35.36.ISA315.A111.I33.QMSMONITORING + 0,345$ $\cdot ISQC.12.J.48.ISA220.34.35.36.ISA315.A111.I34.QMSANLSDEF - 0,001$ $\cdot ISQC.55.I35.NECONFORMITYPOL + 0,29$
	Romania	$ISQM1.27.28.15.QMS(3RO)$ $= 0,502 \cdot ISQC.26.I24.MISPROC - 0,796 \cdot ISQC.29.I25.HRM + 0,335$ $\cdot ISQC.11.I28.RESASSURANCE + 0,267 \cdot ISQC1.A34.I30.2.SEMNIFASP - 0,044$ $\cdot ISQC1.A34.I30.3.SEMNIFPB + 2,848 \cdot ISQC1.A34.I30.5.MISPROGRES + 0,934$ $\cdot ISQC.43.44.ISA.220.21b.22.I32.OPNDIF + 0,001$ $\cdot ISQC.12.J.48.ISA220.34.35.36.ISA315.A111.I33.QMSMONITORING + 0,004$ $\cdot ISQC.12.J.48.ISA220.34.35.36.ISA315.A111.I34.QMSANLSDEF - 5,606$
Model for strengthening the quality management system in audit through internal audit standards - INR	Moldova	$ISQM1.27.28.15.QMS(4MD)$ $= 0,114 \cdot I.N.I9.STD + 0,229 \cdot I.N.R.I11.PLAN + 0,07 \cdot A.P.I21.CLIENTEVD + 0,288$ $\cdot I.N.I22.METHODS + 0,161 \cdot I.N.I23.NEGFORM - 0,42 \cdot I.N.R.I27.PROFTRAINING$ $+ 0,845$
	Romania	$ISQM1.27.28.15.QMS(4RO)$ $= 0,422 \cdot I.N.I9.STD - 0,493 \cdot I.N.R.I11.PLAN + 0,579 \cdot A.P.I21.CLIENTEVD$ $+ 0,203 \cdot I.N.I22.METHODS + 0,376 \cdot I.N.I23.NEGFORM + 0,519$ $\cdot I.N.R.I27.PROFTRAINING - 0,878$

Source: elaborated by the author

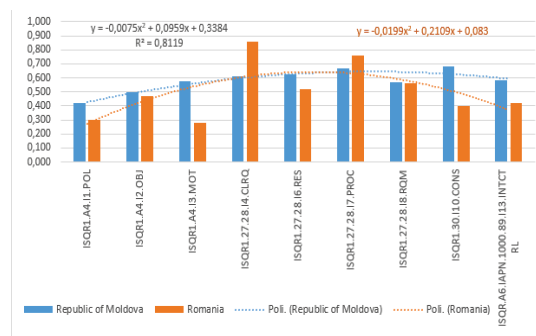
It is essential for audit entities to designate dedicated individuals for managing this system. Moreover, uncertainty persists regarding quality assurance, as only 28% of auditors follow policies and procedures compliant with professional standards, thus affecting the credibility of the quality management system.

**Tabel 2. Synthesis of the Proposed Model**

Model	Region	R		R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
		Contry.1MD.2RO (Selected)	Contry.1MD.2RO (Unselected)					
Model 1 (ISQM 1)	Republic of Moldova	,786 <sup>a</sup>	0,998	0,617	0,587	0,532		
	Romania	,909 <sup>a</sup>	0,974	0,827	0,769	0,382		
Model 2 (ISA)	Republic of Moldova	,870 <sup>a</sup>	0,660	0,757	0,694	0,458		
	Romania	,945 <sup>a</sup>	0,882	0,892	0,824	0,334		
Model 3 (ISQM 2)	Republic of Moldova	,832 <sup>a</sup>	0,999	0,692	0,639	0,498		
	Romania	,808 <sup>a</sup>	0,887	0,653	0,520	0,551		
Model 4 (INR)	Republic of Moldova	,730 <sup>a</sup>	0,873	0,532	0,508	0,581		
	Romania	,582 <sup>a</sup>	0,969	0,338	0,206	0,708		
Model	Region	Change Statistics					Durbin-Watson Statistic	
		R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	Contry.1MD.2RO = 1 (Selected)	Contry.1MD.2RO ≈ 1 (Unselected)
Model 1 (ISQM 1)	Republic of Moldova	0,617	20,269	9	113	0,000	2,205	2,739
	Romania	0,827	14,294	9	27	0,000	1,984	3,241
Model 2 (ISA)	Republic of Moldova	0,757	12,066	25	97	0,000	2,247	1,967
	Romania	0,892	13,001	14	22	0,000	2,083	1,315
Model 3 (ISQM 2)	Republic of Moldova	0,692	12,989	18	104	0,000	2,031	1,515
	Romania	0,653	4,900	10	26	0,001	1,650	1,547
Model 4 (INR)	Republic of Moldova	0,532	21,994	6	116	0,000	2,274	0,941
	Romania	0,338	2,558	6	30	0,040	2,079	1,155
Model1.	a. Predictors: (Constant), ISQM1.A6.IAPN.1000.89.I13.INTCTRL, ISQM1.A4.II.POL, ISQM1.27.28.16.RES, ISQM1.27.28.18.RQM, ISQM1.A4.I3.MOT, ISQM1.30.I10.CON, ISQM1.27.28.I7.PROC, ISQM1.27.28.I4.CLRQ, ISQM1.A4.I2.OBJ							
Model1.	b. Unless noted otherwise, statistics are based only on cases for which Contry.1MD.2RO.							
Model1.	c. Dependent Variable: ISQM1.27.28.I5.QMS							
Model2.	a. Predictors: (Constant), ISA230.2.ISA200.1.I36.QMSDOCUMENTATION, ISA200.18.ISQC1.A7.I29.6.CONFORMITY, ISA.220.9.10.I15.ETQPP, ISA.500.A44.I18.2.CNTREW, ISA220.A18.I31.3.ANLSSIGNASP, ISA200.A.29.I26.4.PROFREAS, ISA220.A18.I31.2.EVACTIVITIES, ISA610.A1.I29.4.REVIEW, ISA.220.11.I16.ADIND, ISA220.A60.ISA315.A40.I29.7.INFORMATION, ISA.500.A44.I18.1.SENRET, ISA.500.A44.I18.3.ROT, ISA.220.12.13.ISQC.26.I19.CUSTSERV, ISA220.A18.I31.4.CONFVIEW, ISA720.20.I29.2.POLACT, ISA500.A44.ISA620.7.I26.5.KNOWLEDGE, ISA570.A16.I29.3.ADDOCUM, ISA.220.9.10.I14.ETQ, ISA.220.11.I17.UNRSPETEMP, ISA.220.12.13.ISQC.26.I20.CUSTEV, ISA220.A18.I31.1.SUFFADQEV, ISA.230.6.I26.9.ALLPROFASP, ISA220.18b.IAPN1000.80.ISQC.39.I26.6.IT, ISA300.A8.I12.AGS, ISA620.A.11.I26.3.QCTRPROC							
Model2.	b. Unless noted otherwise, statistics are based only on cases for which Contry.1MD.2RO							
Model2.	c. Dependent Variable: ISQM1.27.28.I5.QMS							
Model3.	a. Predictors: (Constant), ISQC.55.I35.NECONFORMITYPOL, ISQC1.A34.I30.4.COMPETENCE, ISQC.A18.2.I26.8.EXPERIENCE, ISQC1.A34.I30.3.SEMNIFPB, ISQC1.A34.I30.1.TRUSTSURV, ISQC1.A34.I29.5.SURVAILLANCE, ISQC.A17.I26.2.TIMEMG, ISQC1.A34.I30.5.MISPROGRES, ISQC.43.44.ISA.220.21b.22.I32.OPNDIF, ISQC1.A34.I30.2.SEMNIFASP, ISQC.33.ISA.220.A14.ISA330.A134.I29.1.TEAMWK, ISQC.29.I25.HRM, ISQC.11.I28.RESASSURANCE, ISQC.23.I26.1.INDEPENDENCE, ISQC.26.I24.MISPROC, ISQC.I2.J.48.ISA220.34.35.36.ISA315.A111.I34.QMSANLSDEF, ISQC.32.I26.7.PROFSTD, ISQC.I2.J.48.ISA220.34.35.36.ISA315.A111.I33.QMSMONITORING							
Model3.	b. Unless noted otherwise, statistics are based only on cases for which Contry.1MD.2RO							
Model3.	c. Dependent Variable: ISQM1.27.28.I5.QMS							
Model4.	a. Predictors: (Constant), I.N.R.I27.PROFTRAINING, I.N.I23.NEGFORM, I.N.I9.STD, A.P.I21.CLIENTEVD, I.N.R.I11.PLAN, I.N.I22.METHODS							
Model4.	b. Unless noted otherwise, statistics are based only on cases for which Contry.1MD.2RO							
Model4.	c. Dependent Variable: ISQM1.27.28.I5.QMS							

Source: elaborated by the author

The analysis of the Quality Management System (QMS) optimization model in audit – ISQM 1 shows that the model's quality is superior in Romania compared to the Republic of Moldova. Graph 1 presents the proposed conceptual model for optimizing the QMS in audit – ISQM 1. The coefficient of determination is 89% in Romania and 75% in the Republic of Moldova, while the standard error of estimation is lower in Romania (33.4%) compared to the Republic of Moldova (45.8%). Furthermore, the statistical correlation is higher in Romania (94.5%) than in the

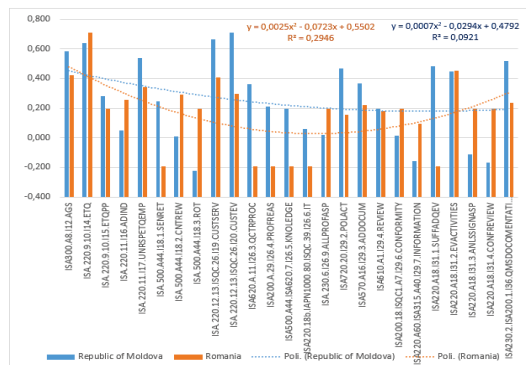


Graph 3.1. Graphical presentation of the Audit Quality Management System Optimization Model – ISQM 1 (1)

Source: developed by the author

Republic of Moldova (87.0%). The adjusted regression coefficient is 82.4% in Romania and 69.4% in the Republic of Moldova. These results suggest that improving quality and standardizing procedures are essential for achieving superior quality management in audit, thus supporting the validity of the formulated hypothesis H1.

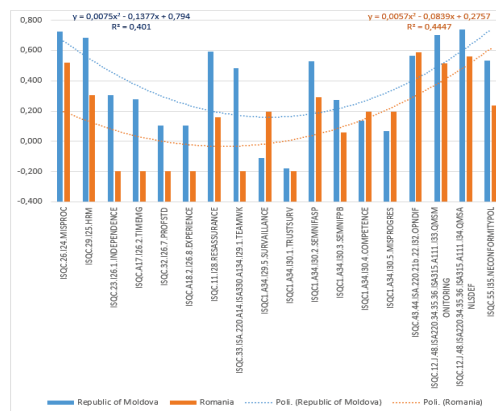
The analysis of the *Quality Management System (QMS) maintenance model in audit – ISA* reveals comparable results, with an advantage for the Republic of Moldova due to the detailed documentation and rigorous procedures applied by auditors in that country. Graph 2 illustrates the proposed conceptual model for maintaining the QMS in audit – ISA. The coefficient of determination is 69% for the Republic of Moldova and 65% for Romania. The standard errors of estimation are 49% in the Republic of Moldova and 55% in Romania. The statistical significance levels are 83.2% for the Republic of Moldova and 80.8% for Romania. The standard errors of estimation indicate a superiority of 49.8% for the Republic of Moldova compared to 55.1% for Romania.



Graph 3.2. Graphic presentation of the Quality Management System Maintenance Model in Audit – ISA (2)  
Source: developed by the author

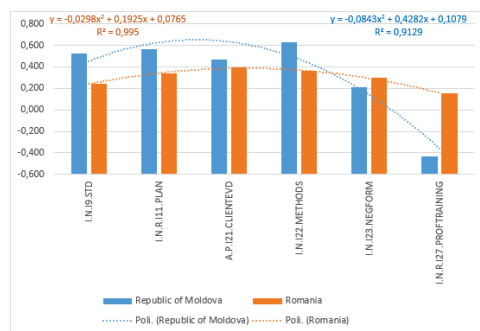
These results suggest that the lack of regulations and auditor involvement impact audit quality, while the rigorous application of audit procedures enhances the effectiveness of quality management. This supports the validity of the formulated hypotheses H2 and H3.

The results for the *Quality Review Model – ISQM 2* confirm that the quality review of audits is essential for the objective evaluation of the reasoning and conclusions of the audit team, in accordance with professional standards and applicable regulations. Graph 3 illustrates the proposed conceptual model for the quality review of missions – ISQM 2. The obtained results validate hypothesis H4, demonstrating the compliance of the mission with professional standards and the policies of the audit entity.



Graph 3.3. Graphic presentation of the Mission Quality Review Model – ISQM 2 (3)  
Source: developed by the author

The data from the *Quality Management System reinforcement model in auditing through internal audit standards (INR)* (graph 4) indicates that the level of statistical significance is higher in Moldova (73.0%) compared to Romania (58.2%). However, the value of the coefficient of determination does not suggest a high level of statistical significance for the model, thereby confirming hypothesis 5.



Graph 4. Graphic presentation of the Model for strengthening the audit quality management system through internal audit standards – INR (4)  
Source: developed by the author

Model 4 is the weakest of the four proposed for ensuring and maintaining quality, showing a significant variation in the standard error, ranging from 58% in Moldova to 70% in Romania. The Durbin-Watson test, close to 2, indicates high statistical representativeness for models 1 and 2 in Romania and for models 3 and 4 in Moldova. Additionally, there are differences among the proposed models regarding the number of regression variables. Specifically, model 2 uses 25 variables in Moldova and 14 in Romania, while model 3 includes 18 variables in Moldova and 10 in Romania. These discrepancies reflect a broader response to the questionnaire in Moldova compared to Romania. The Durbin-Watson test results are supported by the ANOVA test results for the four proposed conceptual methods.

The study confirms several key aspects related to the effectiveness of Quality Management Systems (QMS) in auditing: *Model Effectiveness (H1)*: The study demonstrates that an effective quality management model in audit, grounded in a pragmatic approach and adherence to standards, generates a

significant level of audit quality. In the absence of clear and specific regulations, this statistical significance decreases, negatively impacting audit quality. *Responsibility and Human Resources (H2)*: Responsibility in audit is directly linked to the involvement of human resources in well-planned and documented actions. This indicates that effective audit outcomes are closely associated with the engagement of qualified personnel in structured and organized audit processes. *Rigorous Procedure Implementation (H3)*: The rigorous implementation of mission definition procedures and action frameworks contributes to enhancing the efficiency of quality management. This shows that well-defined procedures and frameworks are crucial for improving the quality management system in audits. *Review Actions (H4)*: The study also highlights that intensifying review actions of audit missions leads to improvements in quality across all critical aspects of the audit process. This underscores the importance of continuous review and evaluation in achieving high-quality audits. *Impact of Internal Standards (H5)*: Research indicates that the implementation and assurance of quality management through internal audit standards have minimal influence on mission outcomes. This is less effective compared to the application of regulated procedures. This finding suggests that external regulations play a much more significant role in ensuring audit quality than internal standards.

## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The research conducted in the field of financial statement auditing has led to the formulation of the following **conclusions**:

1. Auditing has evolved from a periodic and retrospective approach to a proactive one, tailored to the needs of stakeholders and technological advancements. In the context of economic and financial reforms and current challenges such as crises and digitalization, auditing is crucial for decision-making and requires enhanced collaboration among professionals. Although the literature does not provide a comprehensive definition, auditing is universally recognized as a complex and dynamic process essential for ensuring financial transparency and accuracy. The author has identified the fundamental concepts of financial statement auditing and emphasized that auditing, conducted by competent professionals, relies on professional judgment and skepticism according to ISA standards. By clarifying these concepts, the author has defined the role, purpose, objectives, and requirements of auditing. These aspects are crucial for optimizing and effectively applying auditing, ensuring a clear and uniform understanding of the auditing process for all involved parties.

2. The evolution of auditing has been examined from both historical and international perspectives, highlighting the transition from a role of “compliance” to one of “improvement.” The author synthesized the key stages of auditing development and presented an illustrative periodization, emphasizing the significant impact of certain countries on the accounting profession. International and local developments were analyzed, including those in Moldova and Romania, emphasizing global influences and the role of auditing in public management reforms and adaptation to European requirements. In Moldova, the importance of fundamental documents and central authorities, such as the Ministry of Finance and the State Commission on Financial Accounting, was underscored. In Romania, the analysis covered the evolution of auditing from the Dacian-Roman period to integration into the EU, with a focus on modernization. The results highlight the main stages of auditing evolution and the impact of contextual changes and global influences on the profession, providing an understanding of auditing adaptation. The research contributes to the specialized literature by offering essential guidance for effective practices and the ongoing development of the profession.

3. The detailed research evaluated productivity and performance in external and financial auditing, as well as audit quality, using databases such as Web of Science and Scopus. The analysis revealed fluctuating trends in scientific output over the past three decades and uncovered unexplored aspects in the literature, highlighting the need for further studies. The main contribution lies in the application of meta-analysis to integrate existing studies, establishing a solid foundation for developing performance indicators and statistical models in auditing. Descriptive and bibliometric analysis identified connections between audit, quality, and performance, offering research directions and insights for an econometric model of audit quality. Although quality is not directly observable, it can be assessed by combining factors, processes, and perceptions. The author explored DeAngelo's economic perspective and various



methods for measuring audit quality, developing a multidimensional approach applicable to both research and practice, which can standardize evaluation and enhance the application of the quality concept in auditing. The impact is significant, influencing audit practices, guiding future studies, and affecting relevant policies.

4. The research identified the specific economic characteristics of audit services: their formal and regulated nature, intangibility, the interdependence between delivery and usage, complexity, and quality. Although subjective, these characteristics highlight the challenges associated with maintaining quality despite strict regulations. The author emphasized the essential role of the audit team, including the involvement and competence of auditors, which are crucial for ensuring quality and efficiency, and significantly impact the cost and outcomes of audits. The analysis underscores the importance of deepening the understanding of these specific traits of auditing and the continuous adaptation of practices and professional training to improve quality standards in the context of evolving economic challenges and regulations.

5. Various interpretations of quality in auditing have been identified and categorized into three groups, each addressing distinct aspects of quality, with a focus on detecting and reporting significant distortions in financial statements. In this context, the "performance generation in auditing" approach is the most relevant, emphasizing the effectiveness of auditing in ensuring the integrity of financial reporting. The ISQM 1 study conducted by the author underscores the importance of continuous optimization of quality management through a risk-based approach. The research highlights that excellence and compliance with standards are crucial for delivering quality services and enhancing user trust, identifying the characteristics that influence this trust through the analysis of ISA provisions. Overall, these elements significantly contribute to improving quality management, ensuring performance, and strengthening confidence in financial reporting.

6. The author identified and classified the external factors affecting audit entities, providing a solid foundation for understanding their influence on audit performance. The PEST analysis and the survey conducted among auditors in the Republic of Moldova allow for a detailed assessment of the external context and its impact on the audit sector. The research results highlighted the effects of these factors on audit performance and suggested specific measures to mitigate negative impacts. Focusing on factors with significant impact enabled the identification of suitable solutions for improving performance and adapting to external challenges, thus contributing to the optimization of audit activities and enhancing their effectiveness.

7. The author emphasizes that an integrated approach, which optimizes resources and processes, is essential for improving the quality and transparency of audit services. This approach contributes to strengthening trust in financial reporting and has a positive impact on audited entities and stakeholders. The complexity of the relationships between the audit entity and the audited entity significantly influences audit performance. Effective collaboration, optimal resource utilization, and innovative solutions are crucial for ensuring audit quality. The author proposes a comprehensive and coherent conceptual model based on quality, performance, and sustainability, highlighting the connections between assessed risks, adequacy of audit evidence, and application of audit principles. The division of principles into four categories-ethical, professional, distinction between audit and related services, and quality-established by the author, provides a solid theoretical and practical framework, essential for underpinning auditing and improving performance measurement in this field.

8. The analysis emphasized the fundamental aspects of financial statement auditing, including the subject, object, scope, risk-based methods, methodological support, organization, ethical principles, and the audit mission. Strict adherence to ethical and professional requirements is crucial for optimizing audit quality and managing ethical dilemmas. This ensures the prevention of compromises and allows for favorable evaluation, highlighting the importance of integrity and compliance in the audit process. The author demonstrated the interdependence between audit principles, ethical dilemmas, and audit strategy, emphasizing that applying management mechanisms for these aspects contributes to maintaining compliance and integrity in the audit process. Effective implementation of the audit strategy requires prioritization and optimal management of resources, adjustment of plans according to strategic objectives, and proactive risk management. Strict adherence to audit principles, continuous process

improvement, integration of advanced technologies, and the establishment of internal policies have a significant impact on the success and integrity of the audit.

9. The performance of financial statement audits is crucial in today's business environment, directly influencing the quality of decisions and the accuracy of financial forecasts. Despite acknowledging its importance, there are still no universally accepted definitions and approaches. Assessments have often focused on the measurable efficiency and effectiveness of past actions, tailored to user requirements. The author argues that a robust quality strategy is essential for ensuring the sustainable performance and competitiveness of audit entities. Performance evaluation should be viewed as the outcome of a causal process, adapted to a specific strategic context, where quality, adaptability, and response speed are critical for long-term success. The need for an integrated evaluation system is emphasized, one that combines both financial and non-financial indicators in a multidimensional approach. This approach facilitates a detailed measurement of audit performance and the development of relevant indicators tailored to the needs of the field. Multidimensional evaluation, including normative compliance, human capital development, and stakeholder perception, is essential for maximizing the effectiveness of indicators and the continuous improvement of the audit process.

10. The integration of performance evaluation methods and tools into financial statement auditing has been analyzed, demonstrating the relevance of the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) as an essential method for audit entities. The study highlighted the importance of BSC in a competitive environment, emphasizing that while audit standards focus on service quality, they do not sufficiently address the management and control of these services. BSC provides a comprehensive framework that integrates outcome quality with management and control aspects. Implementing the BSC model in the auditing profession brings significant benefits, enhancing performance measurement and the quality management system. The author proposed integrating "quality" as a crucial perspective for performance measurement and emphasized the need to define each indicator concerning its purpose, projected objectives, and evaluation methods. Adapting BSC indicators to the specific strategy of each entity significantly contributes to refining performance measurement and optimizing the quality management system in auditing.

11. The necessity of optimizing financial statement audit performance has been highlighted through detailed research on the opinions of auditors from Moldova and Romania. This research focused on the design, implementation, and operation of quality management systems using a structured questionnaire. The study conducted a comprehensive analysis, both quantitative and qualitative, identifying essential variables that impact quality and performance in auditing. The author's contribution lay in emphasizing the importance of management involvement in continuous improvement processes and highlighting the strategic role of quality management in the sustainability of audit entities. Based on these findings, an innovative quality model was developed, centered on four key areas for optimizing audit performance. In this context, the author stressed the importance of developing a Quality Management Regulation, crucial for ensuring service quality, maintaining the integrity of the entity, and protecting the interests of all stakeholders involved.

12. The research highlighted that improving quality and standardizing procedures are critical factors in quality management within auditing, validating hypotheses H1-H5. The analysis of tested hypotheses emphasized the importance of implementing a quality management model in auditing, based on a pragmatic approach to relevant standards, auditor responsibilities, human resource involvement, and procedural rigor in enhancing audit performance. It demonstrated the direct impact of continuous reviews and evaluations on the quality of audit processes. The study also revealed that external regulations are crucial for ensuring quality, while internal standards have a comparatively lesser impact. The author's contribution through the proposed quality management model is essential for strengthening the performance and reliability of audit processes.

13. The research conducted by the author highlights the significant impact of audit service quality on performance, demonstrating how each stage of the audit process contributes to the final outcomes. The author argues that, in auditing, quality is defined not by immediate client satisfaction but by strict adherence to professional and ethical standards, thereby enhancing trust through the clarity of financial reporting. More than that, the author developed a pyramid of financial auditing and proposed strategic

solutions for performance optimization, based on the conducted research and validation of hypotheses, with the aim of improving both the quality and efficiency of auditing. Furthermore, the essential role of an effective quality management system was emphasized, which optimizes processes and underscores the interdependence between quality and performance. This innovative approach reflects the author's crucial contribution to improving audit practices.

14. It has been argued that adopting an integrated framework for financial auditing is crucial for enhancing performance. Implementing a clearly defined audit strategy, combined with a multidimensional evaluation system that integrates both financial and non-financial indicators, and using a quality management model focused on four essential areas, significantly contributes to optimizing audit processes. Additionally, proactive commitment from leadership to continuous improvement and support for a performance evaluation system tailored to the needs of each entity is essential. These measures promote increased quality and trust, improved transparency, maximized efficiency of indicators, reliability, and effectiveness of audit processes, safeguarding the interests of all involved parties while ensuring compliance with professional and ethical standards.

The significant scientific problem addressed in this thesis is the development of an audit framework that integrates strategies, models, and practices for managing the efficiency and transparency of audit missions. This is achieved through the use of an effective quality management system and both financial and non-financial indicators, aimed at optimizing the performance of financial audits. The research identifies existing gaps in the application of audit policies and procedures and assesses the impact of this framework on compliance with professional and ethical standards.

The synthesis of the conducted research provides a foundation for formulating the following **recommendations** for enhancing the performance of financial audits in the context of globalization:

1. The concept of *"financial statement audit"* requires clear development and definition as: *a process carried out by competent and independent professionals who apply skepticism and professional judgment to examine and evaluate the historical financial information of an entity. This involves performing audit procedures to obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence on which to issue an opinion regarding all significant aspects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework, with the aim of enhancing users' confidence in the financial statements.* This definition encompasses the purpose of the financial statement audit, its subject matter, the methodology employed, the auditor's objectives, and the requirements of an audit, highlighting the importance of the auditor's compliance with ISA provisions and the essential role of auditing in ensuring the transparency and accuracy of financial information, which is indispensable for the decision-making process.

2. The concept of *"professional judgment in auditing"* should be further developed and defined as: *a logical and reasonable option chosen by the auditor in conditions of uncertainty, documented in audit work, based on professional competencies, innovative thinking, practical experience, and adherence to ethical standards.* This definition clarifies the concept and highlights essential aspects of professional judgment, including logical structure, clarity, coherence, efficiency, and materiality. The author significantly contributes by identifying and describing the essential requirements for ensuring the quality of professional judgment in auditing, providing a solid foundation for its enhancement. It is recommended that auditors consistently integrate these requirements into their processes by implementing rigorous quality management, thereby ensuring uniform application of standards and mitigating associated risks.

3. To prevent the negative impact of non-compliance with audit principles (ethical, professional, distinction between audit and related services, and quality), it is recommended to implement and maintain a sustainable quality management system that ensures compliance with professional standards and fundamental principles through measures such as: continuous training for auditors, an effective quality review system, strict internal oversight procedures, promotion of ethical conduct, and integration of digital solutions. These measures will enhance quality and performance in auditing while ensuring adherence to professional and ethical requirements. Strict compliance with these requirements is essential for optimizing audit quality and managing ethical dilemmas, preventing compromises, and guaranteeing favorable evaluations.

4. To ensure the credibility of financial results and prepare auditors for emerging demands in the audit field amidst current and future challenges, it is recommended to intensify continuous professional development, focusing on the future competencies identified by the author (technical skills and ethics, intelligence, creativity, digital competencies, emotional intelligence, vision, and experience). This approach will enable training that is adapted to new economic realities, contributing to the enhancement of quality and performance in auditing.

5. To maximize efficiency and promote high-quality auditing, a multidimensional performance evaluation is recommended. This should include compliance with regulatory frameworks, client perceptions of quality, the value provided by auditors, and the quality assessment perceived by stakeholders. It is essential for performance indicators to align with the strategic objectives of audit entities, with a particular focus on regulatory compliance, human capital development, and the continuous integration of stakeholder feedback. The recommendation is for the audit entity to establish clear objectives and integrate relevant performance indicators into its strategy, consistently monitoring them to optimize operations. Additionally, it should address issues that may lead to employee dissatisfaction to prevent high turnover rates, thereby reducing knowledge loss and the additional costs associated with recruiting and onboarding new staff.

6. To enhance performance and quality in audit, it is recommended to integrate the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) as an essential method for measuring the performance of financial audits. The proposed applicative model includes relevant perspectives for auditing, including "quality," with each indicator clearly defined by purpose, projected objectives, and evaluation methods for results. Adapting and implementing BSC indicators according to the specific strategy of the audit entity will lead to significant improvements in performance and quality management, effectively responding to the demands of a competitive and dynamic environment.

7. To ensure a high standard of audit services and protect the interests of all parties involved, it is recommended to develop and implement a detailed Regulation on Quality Management in Audit. This regulation should integrate the proposed innovative model and provide clear guidelines for optimizing audit processes. Additionally, special attention should be given to engaging leadership and ensuring ongoing support for continuous improvement initiatives.

8. To improve quality in audit, optimizing external quality control is essential. The author's development of the "CONFORM" methodology for assessing audit quality provides a detailed framework for ensuring compliance with professional standards and addressing gaps in audit processes. This methodology contributes to increased compliance and confidence in financial reporting. Its implementation by the public audit oversight body will ensure rigorous and effective quality control, facilitating early detection and correction of non-compliance in audit processes.

9. To enhance trust in the reliability of audited information, it is recommended to integrate the strategies proposed by the author with the quality management system based on the audit performance pyramid. This involves intensifying the implementation and evaluation of strategies, ensuring continuous monitoring and optimization of each phase of the audit. By maintaining rigorous standards and consistently improving performance, both the quality of the audit and trust in the reliability of the audited information will be increased.

10. The concept of "financial audit performance" requires a radical redefinition: *performance in financial auditing is characterized by the ability to conduct a rigorous professional evaluation of financial accounting information and internal control systems, utilizing a well-defined audit strategy that optimizes quality, efficiency, and compliance in the audit process, ensuring the accurate and complete presentation of financial statements.* This definition encompasses the fundamental concepts of financial statement auditing identified by the author in the research on conceptual delimitations, including the expertise and detailed analyses conducted by the auditor, strategic and methodological planning, continuous improvement, adherence to standards, and financial transparency and accuracy. It also emphasizes the connection between evaluating information and internal controls and the importance of the audit strategy in achieving optimal performance.

11. To optimize audit processes and enhance their transparency, efficiency, and reliability, it is recommended that audit entities consider validated results and translate them into practical recommendations:

- adopt a clear and specific regulatory framework for quality management in audits to ensure consistency and accuracy in applying standards and to prevent a decline in mission quality.
- strengthen efforts to involve human resources in planned and rigorously documented processes, aligned with audit objectives.
- implement strict procedures for defining missions and actions to contribute to a higher level of quality management implementation and, consequently, to the improvement of audit results.
- increase efforts for continuous review and monitoring of audit processes to ensure superior quality at all levels.
- focus on aligning with and adhering to regulated procedures, as these have a significant impact on audit mission outcomes.
- enhance internal standards and regulations to complement external regulations, ensuring efficient integration and continuous improvement in audit quality.

These measures will enable audit entities and oversight councils to optimize audit processes, increase transparency, trust, and efficiency, and ensure compliance with professional and ethical standards.

### **Future research directions**

The limitations of our study, such as the small sample size and the survey conducted prior to the implementation of the quality management system (15.12.2022), open opportunities for future research. Future research directions could include:

1. Expanding the Study: Extend the research to a larger number of audit entities to assess the impact of the implementation of the quality management system on audit quality and to examine the correlation between this system and compliance with ISA, ISQM 1, and ISQM 2.
2. Investigating Perceptions of Key Stakeholders: Explore the perceptions of other key participants, such as audited entities, corporate management, shareholders, and audit oversight bodies, to determine if they have a similar view on audit quality.
3. Developing Advanced Statistical Models: Develop and utilize advanced statistical models to provide a detailed explanation of audit quality and to evaluate the impact of new regulations on audit services.
4. Exploring Challenges Across Different Audit Entity Sizes: Investigate the challenges faced by audit entities of varying sizes in designing and applying performance measurement systems, including how the Balanced Scorecard can support overcoming these challenges.
5. Analyzing the Prevalence of Non-Financial Indicators: Study why non-financial indicators are predominant in audits through comparative studies across different economic sectors to understand the underlying causes.
6. Researching Digitalization and Emerging Technologies: Examine the advantages and risks of digitalization and emerging technologies in auditing, including auditors' perceptions of artificial intelligence and its impact on audit quality.

Continuing research is essential due to the complexity and multidimensionality of audit service quality and financial audit performance. In-depth research could provide new perspectives and additional insights.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

1. AHNAF ALI ALSMADY. (2022). Quality of financial reporting, external audit, earnings power and companies' performance: The case of Gulf Corporate Council Countries. *Research in Globalization*, 5, 100093. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resglo.2022.100093>
2. ARENS, A.A., LOEBRECKE, A. (2010). *Auditing and Assurance Services: an integrated approach*. New Jersey Prentice Hall. ISBN: 978-0131867123
3. BĂDICU, G. (2023). Diagnostics of the audit activity in the Republic of Moldova. *Journal Ecoforum*, Volume 12, Issue 1(30): 848.

4. CHEUNG, R.Y., LAI, C.Y. (2022). External auditors' trust and perceived quality of interactions. *Cogent Business & Management*, 9: 2085366, 1-24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2022.2085366>
5. CRISTEA, L.-M. (2020). Inovații în auditul financiar bazate pe tehnologiile emergente. *Audit financiar*, XVIII, nr. 3 (159), pp. 425-443. DOI: 10.20869/AUDITF/2020/159/016
6. HAERIDISTIA, N., FADJARENIE, A. (2019). The Effect of Independence, Professional Ethics & Auditor Experience on Audit Quality. *International Journal of scientific & Technology research* Volume 8, (2), 24-27
7. HEGAZY, M., HEGAZY, K., ELDEEB, M. (2022). The Balanced Scorecard: Measures That Drive Performance Evaluation in Auditing Firms. *Journal of Accounting, Auditing & Finance*, Volume 37, Issue 4. 902-927. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0148558X20962915>
8. IACHIMOVSCHI, A. (2015). Direcțiile prioritare în dezvoltarea auditului din Republica Moldova., pp. 215-218. Conferința Științifică Internațională „Contabilitatea, auditul și analiza economică între conformitate, schimbare și performanță”, Chișinău, ASEM. ISBN: 978-9975-75-750-8.
9. IAN, D. (2015). *Auditing Theory*. Taylor & Francis. 171 p. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315762395>
10. IONESCU, B.-Ș., BARNAL.-E.-L. (2021). Digitalizarea în profesia contabilă și de audit prin sisteme informatice de tip ERP. *Audit financiar*, no. XIX, nr. 4 (1164), pp. 681-690. DOI: 10.20869/AUDITF/2021/164/027
11. KASSEM, R. (2023). Investigating the black box of external audit practice: the paradox of auditors' failure in detecting and reporting fraud, *Journal of Accounting Literature*, Vol. 45, No. 2, pp. 406-424. <https://111047g60-y-https-doi-org.z-e-information.ro/10.1108/JAL-05-2022-0057>
12. KESIMLI, I. (2019). *External Auditing and Quality*. Book. Springer. ISBN 978-981-13-0526-9 (eBook). <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-0526-9>
13. MAUTZ, R.K., SHARAF, H.A. (1961). *The Philosophy of Auditing*. Florida: Sarasola, American Accounting Association. 299 p. ISBN: 0865390029.
14. MUNTEANU, V., ZUCA, M., MUNTEANU, R. (2016). *Audit financiar-contabil: concepte, metodologie, reglementări, cazuri practice*. București: Editura Universitară, 505 p. ISBN 978-606-28-0397-1.
- ZHOU, H., (2020). Innovation strategy of enterprise's financial audit informatization in the era of Industry 4.0. *International Journal of Technology Management*, Vol. 84, No. 3-4, pp 157-176. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJTM.2020.112495>

## LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ON THE THESIS TOPIC

### 2. List of articles in scientific journals

#### 2.2. List of articles in recognized foreign scientific journals

1. ȘOIMU, S., BĂDICU, G., RENCHECI, D. ***Requirements for Audit Firms Regarding the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering.*** În: OVIDIUS UNIVERSITY ANNALS ECONOMIC SCIENCES SERIES, Volume XXIII Issue 1, Section V: Finance and Accounting. 2023. p.p. 1094-1102. ISSN: 2393-3127. **0,89 c.a.** Categoria B+. *Indexat în:* ERIH PLUS, Index Copernicus, DOAJ, RePEc, EBSCO host, DRJI, ULRICHSWEB etc. Disponibil: <https://stec.univ-ovidius.ro/html/anale/RO/ovidius-university-annals-economic-sciences-series-volume-xxiii-issue-1/>
2. ȘOIMU, S. MIHAILA, S. BĂDICU, G., ***Audit professional competence requirements.*** În: *European Journal of Accounting, Finance & Business*, Volume 10, Issue 1, February 2022, Suceava, România, p.p.126-134, ISSN 2344-102X, **0,78 c.a.** *Indexat în:* Research Papers in Economics-RePEc, Directory of Research Journals Indexing -DRJI, Open Academic Journals Index-OAJI, J-Gate, ERIH PLUS, Index Copernicus. DOI: 10.4316/EJAFB.2022.10117. Disponibil: <http://www.accounting-management.ro/index.php?pag=showcontent&issue=28&year=2022>
3. ȘOIMU, S., GRAUR, A. BĂDICU, G., ***Relevance and role of communication between auditors and the audited entity in the audit mission.*** În: *European Journal of Accounting, Finance & Business*, Volume 10, Issue 2/June 2022. Suceava, România, p.p. 96-101, ISSN 2344-102X, **0,60 c.a.** *Indexat în:* Research Papers in Economics-RePEc, Directory of Research Journals Indexing -DRJI, Open Academic Journals Index-OAJI, J-Gate, ERIH PLUS, Index Copernicus. DOI: 10.4316/EJAFB.2022.10212. Disponibil: <http://www.accounting-management.ro/index.php?pag=showcontent&issue=29&year=2022>
4. ȘOIMU, S., BĂDICU, G., SOCOLIUC, M., ***Evolutionary-conceptual approach to the audit of financial statements: The Republic of Moldova and Romania case study.*** În: *The USV Annals of Economics and Public Administration*, Vol 21, No 2(34), 2021. p.p. 155-164. On-line ISSN 2344-3847, **0,85 c.a.** *Indexat în:* Research Papers in Economics-RePEc, DOAJ, EBSCO host, ERIH PLUS, [Scientific Commons](#), [Public Knowledge Project \(PKP\)](#), [SCIRUS](#), [Socionet](#), [Intute-Social Sciences](#), [IndexCopernicus](#). Disponibil: <http://www.annals.seap.usv.ro/index.php/annals/issue/view/41/showToc>

#### 2.3. List of articles in scientific journals registered in the National Register of profile journals, indicating the category

5. ȘOIMU, S. ***The impact of pandemic restrictions on maintaining loyalty to the principles of professional ethic in audit.*** *Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol. V, no. 4, p. 148-162. ISSN: 2587-2490. **1,17 c.a.** DOI: [https://doi.org/10.52326/jss.utm.2022.5\(4\).02](https://doi.org/10.52326/jss.utm.2022.5(4).02). Categoria B+. *Indexat în:* [Index Copernicus](#), Central and Eastern European Online Library, [European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences \(ERIHPLUS\)](#), [Instrumentul Bibliometric Național \(IBN\)](#), [Zenodo](#), [IRTUM](#).
6. ȘOIMU, S., BĂDICU, G., ***Impactul modificărilor în legislația contabilă asupra calității raportării financiare.*** În: *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae*, nr. 7 (137), 2020, Chișinău, USM, pp. 155-164, ISSN 1857-2073, **1,07 c.a.** Categoria B. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4461107>.

7. ȘOIMU, S., BĂDICU, G., Cojocaru (BĂRBIERU), A-C., *Options for selecting and applying accounting policies in assessing financial position and performance*. În: *Economica*, nr. 4 (118), Chișinău, ASEM, 2021, p.p. 105-124, ISSN 1810-9136, **1,18 c.a.** Categoria B. *Indexat în*: Instrumentul Bibliometric Național, Directory of Open Access Journals, Index Copernicus, Electronic Journals Library, Open Academic Journals Index (OAJI), General Impact Factor, Global Impact Factor. DOI <https://doi.org/10.53486/econ.2021.118.105>

### 3. List of articles in scientific collections

#### 3.1. List of articles in international scientific conference proceedings

8. ȘOIMU, S., BĂDICU, G., GROSU V., *The quality management system – a new approach to the continuous improvement of the quality of audit missions*. Proceedings of the 41<sup>th</sup> International Business Information Management Association Conference, IBIMA 2023, Vol. 2023 (2), article ID 4142623, ISSN: 2767-9640, 26-27 June 2023, Granada, Spain, p 1197-1206. **0,90 c.a.** 41st IBIMA International Conference on Computer Science was accepted at Springer CCIS Series (indexed in Scopus, EI Compendex, DBLP, SCImago, zbMATH, INSPEC, Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST), and Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals and Series). Check “List of CCIS Forthcoming proceedings 2023–2024“. Disponibil: <https://ibima.org/university/academy-of-economic-studies-of-moldova-moldova/>
9. ȘOIMU, S., BĂDICU, G., GROSU V., MIHAILA, S., *Quality of audit services – factor of increase in the trust level of the targeted users in the financial statements*. Proceedings of the 40<sup>th</sup> International Business Information Management Association Conference, IBIMA 2022, ISBN: 979-8-9867719-0-8, ISSN: 2767-964, 23-24 November 2022, Seville, Spain, p. 63-72. **0,92 c.a.** *Indexat în*: Web of science, Scopus, ISI Proceedings, Clarivate Analytics, Australian Government, Norsk senter for for skningdata, SJR, Engineering Village, CORE, USA Library of Congress, Australian Research Council, Science Citation Index, Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, Finland, etc. Disponibil: <https://ibima.org/university/academy-of-economic-studies-of-moldova-moldova/>
10. ȘOIMU, S., BĂDICU, G. *Responsibilities of the audit firm regarding the projection, implementation and function of a quality management system*. Матеріали XI Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції «Перспективи Розвитку Обліку, Аналізу та Аудиту в Контексті Євроінтеграції» 18 травня 2023 р. Одеса 2023. УДК 657; ББК 65.052.2; О17. p 177-179. Teze: **0,22 c.a.**
11. ȘOIMU, S., COJOCARU, V., JIERI, N. *Audit of income and expenses*. Administracja i zarządzanie w funkcjonowaniu nowoczesnej gospodarki i społeczeństwa. Redakcja Ewelina Kielek-Więcławaska Jacek Stasiak. Skierniewice 2023. Polonia. Wydawnictwo Akademii Nauk Stosowanych Stefana Batorego. p. 260-270, ISBN 978-83-61467-21-2. **0,48 c.a.**

#### 3.2 List of articles in proceedings of international scientific conferences (Republic of Moldova)

12. ȘOIMU, S., BĂDICU, G., *A study on the evolution of the audit in the RM in the context of economic regulations*. În: International Scientific Conference „30 years of economic reforms in the Republic of Moldova: economic progress via innovation and competitiveness”, September 24-25, 2021, vol. 3, Chisinau, ASEM, 2022, p.p. 122-133. ISBN 978-9975-155-66-3 (PDF), **0,95 c.a.** DOI: <https://doi.org/10.53486/9789975155663.14>
13. ȘOIMU, S., GROSU, V. *Abordări privind tratamentul contabil aferent imobilizărilor deținute în vederea vânzării*. În: Conferința internațională științifică de contabilitate, ISCA 2020 = International scientific conference on accounting, ISCA 2020 [online]: *Culegere de articole științifice*, 9 Edition, April 2-3, 2020. Chișinău: ASEM, 2020, pp. 210-219. ISBN 978-9975-75-989-2. **0,92 c.a.** Disponibil: [https://caae.ase.md/files/caae/conf/Culegeri\\_conferinta\\_aprilie\\_2020F.pdf](https://caae.ase.md/files/caae/conf/Culegeri_conferinta_aprilie_2020F.pdf)
14. ȘOIMU, S. BĂDICU, G., SOCOLIUC M-I., *Relevanța calității politicilor contabile în misiunea de audit și impactul acestora asupra competitivității entităților*. În: Conferința Științifică Internațională Studentească „Provocările contabilității în viziunea tinerilor cercetători” din 12-13 martie 2020, Ediția a 4-a, Chișinău, ASEM, p.p. 87-98. ISBN 978-9975-75-981-6. **1,06 c.a.** Disponibil: [https://caae.ase.md/files/caae/conf/conf\\_12.03.20.pdf](https://caae.ase.md/files/caae/conf/conf_12.03.20.pdf)
15. BĂDICU, G., ȘOIMU, S., *Exigențe privind auditul situațiilor financiare și credibilitatea informațiilor în actualul context global*. În: Conferința Științifică Internațională, Competitivitate și inovare în economia cunoașterii din 27-28 septembrie 2019, Chișinău, ASEM, pp. 574-582. ISBN 978-9975-75-968-7, **0,72 c.a.** Disponibil: [https://ase.md/files/publicatii/epub/conf\\_09.19\\_teze.pdf](https://ase.md/files/publicatii/epub/conf_09.19_teze.pdf)

### 6. Patents and Other Intellectual Property (IP) Rights

16. STRATAN A., ȘOIMU S., BĂDICU G., GROSU V, MIHAILA S. *Modelul coerent al auditului situațiilor financiare bazat pe calitate-performanță-durabilitate*, Adeverință privind înregistrarea obiectelor dreptului de autor și drepturilor conexe la opera științifică eliberat de Agenția de Stat pentru Proprietatea Intelectuală nr. 7365 din 20.12.2022. Disponibil: <http://www.db.agepi.md/opere/Details.aspx?id=77747676636125754361115&nr=77747677636125354361615>

## ADNOTARE

la teza pentru obținerea gradului de doctor în științe economice  
**„Creșterea performanței auditului situațiilor financiare în contextul globalizării”**  
ȘOIMU Sergiu, Chișinău, 2024  
Specialitatea: 522.02 - Contabilitate; audit; analiză economică

**Structura tezei:** adnotare, introducere, trei capitole, concluzii și recomandări, bibliografie (386), fiind expusă pe 136 de pagini de text de bază, 25 figuri, 4 grafice, 12 tabele și 60 de anexe. Rezultatele cercetării sunt publicate în 16 lucrări științifice.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** audit al situațiilor financiare, calitate în audit, model avansat de management al calității în audit, performanța auditului situațiilor financiare, raționament profesional.

**Domeniul de studiu:** audit.

**Scopul și obiectivele lucrării** este de a crea un model avansat pentru optimizarea și monitorizarea continuă a sistemului de management al calității în audit, conform cerințelor ISA, ISQM 1 și ISQM 2, prin integrarea unor practici inovative menite să îmbunătățească semnificativ performanța auditului situațiilor financiare, răspunzând provocărilor și oportunităților globalizării, cu aplicabilitate în entitățile de audit din R. Moldova și România.

**Noutatea și originalitatea științifică** le constituie dezvoltarea unei perspective noi asupra evoluției auditului, furnizarea unor noi cadre conceptual-metodologice pentru definirea și standardizarea conceptelor fundamentale în auditul situațiilor financiare, aprofundarea și dezvoltarea noțiunilor de audit al situațiilor financiare, raționament profesional, performanța auditului situațiilor financiare; cadru avansat pentru analiza impactului complexității și particularităților serviciilor de audit asupra performanței; proiectarea unei structuri piramidale inovatoare a performanței în audit; crearea unui model conceptual integrat și coerent bazat pe calitate-performanță-sustenabilitate; proiectarea unui mecanism eficient pentru evaluarea rolului dilemelor etice și competențelor profesionale în implementarea eficientă a strategiilor de audit; proiectarea unui Balanced Scorecard modern pentru evaluarea performanței în audit; crearea unui cadru pentru evaluarea percepțiilor respondenților privind vulnerabilitățile și oportunitățile în implementarea sistemului de management al calității în audit, dezvoltarea unui model avansat pentru optimizarea și monitorizarea continuă a sistemului de management al calității în audit.

**Problema științifică importantă** soluționată în teză constă în dezvoltarea unui cadru de audit care integrează strategii, modele și practici pentru gestionarea eficienței și transparenței misiunilor de audit, prin utilizarea unui sistem de management al calității eficient și a indicatorilor financiari și nonfinanciari, în vederea optimizării performanței auditului situațiilor financiare. Cercetarea identifică lacunele existente în aplicarea politicilor și procedurilor de audit și evaluează impactul acestui cadru asupra conformității cu standardele profesionale și etice.

**Semnificația teoretică și valoarea aplicativă** constau în dezvoltarea unei perspective inovatoare asupra evoluției auditului situațiilor financiare, oferind un cadru conceptual-metodologic avansat pentru definirea și standardizarea conceptelor fundamentale, precum și pentru optimizarea performanței și managementului calității în audit. Această contribuție se reflectă în integrarea unor mecanisme eficiente de evaluare a performanței și eticii profesionale, oferind soluții moderne pentru provocările și complexitatea serviciilor de audit, conform cerințelor internaționale.

**Implementarea rezultatelor științifice.** Rezultatele științifice obținute pot fi implementate prin aplicarea modelelor dezvoltate, oferind soluții concrete pentru îmbunătățirea performanței auditului situațiilor financiare. Acestea contribuie la optimizarea proceselor decizionale, standardizarea conceptelor esențiale și adoptarea unor strategii eficiente de management al calității, conform cerințelor internaționale. Totodată, unele recomandări, elaborate în teză, au fost deja acceptate pentru implementare în practica de audit a unor entități autohtone. Rezultatele propuse pot fi integrate în formarea profesională și în dezvoltarea de bune practici pentru profesioniștii din domeniul auditului.



## ANNOTATION

for the thesis to obtain a doctoral degree in economic sciences

### "Enhancing the performance of financial statement audit in the context of globalization"

ȘOIMU Sergiu, Chisinau, 2024

Specialization: 522.02 – Accounting; Audit; Economic Analysis

**Thesis structure:** This thesis includes an annotation, introduction, three chapters, conclusions and recommendations, bibliography (386), and is presented across 136 pages of main text, 25 figures, 4 graphs, 12 tables, and 60 appendices. The research findings are published in 16 scientific papers.

**Keywords:** financial statement audit, audit quality, advanced audit quality management model, financial statement audit performance, professional judgment.

**Field of study:** audit.

**Objective and goals:** The goal of this thesis is to develop an advanced model for optimizing and continuously monitoring the quality management system in audit, in accordance with ISA, ISQM 1, and ISQM 2 requirements, by integrating innovative practices aimed at significantly improving financial audit performance, addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization, with applicability in audit entities from the Republic of Moldova and Romania.

**Scientific Novelty and Originality:** The thesis provides a new perspective on the evolution of auditing by offering new conceptual-methodological frameworks for defining and standardizing fundamental concepts in financial auditing. It includes: deepening and developing concepts related to financial audit, professional judgment, and financial statement audit performance, creating an advanced framework for analyzing the impact of complexity and audit service specifics on performance, designing an innovative pyramidal structure for audit performance, developing a coherent and integrated conceptual model based on quality-performance-sustainability, creating an efficient mechanism for evaluating the role of ethical dilemmas and professional competencies in the effective implementation of audit strategies, designing a modern Balanced Scorecard for performance evaluation in auditing, establishing a framework for assessing respondent perceptions of vulnerabilities and opportunities in the implementation of quality management systems in audit.

**Important scientific problem addressed.** The thesis addresses the development of an audit framework that integrates strategies, models, and practices for managing audit efficiency and transparency through an effective quality management system and both financial and non-financial indicators, aiming to optimize financial audit performance. The research identifies gaps in the application of audit policies and procedures and evaluates the impact of this framework on compliance with professional and ethical standards.

**Theoretical significance and practical value.** The theoretical significance and practical value lie in the development of an innovative perspective on the evolution of financial auditing, providing an advanced conceptual-methodological framework for defining and standardizing fundamental concepts as well as optimizing performance and quality management in audit. This contribution is reflected in integrating efficient performance and professional ethics evaluation mechanisms, offering modern solutions to the challenges and complexities of audit services in accordance with international requirements.

**Implementation of scientific results.** The scientific results obtained can be implemented through the application of developed models, providing concrete solutions for improving financial audit performance. These results contribute to optimizing decision-making processes, standardizing essential concepts, and adopting effective quality management strategies according to international requirements. Additionally, some recommendations from the thesis have already been accepted for implementation in the audit practice of local entities. The proposed results can also be integrated into professional training and the development of best practices for audit professionals.

## АННОТАЦИЯ

диссертации на соискание ученой степени доктора экономических наук  
«Повышение эффективности аудита финансовой отчетности в условиях глобализации»  
ШОЙМУ Серджиу, Кишинев, 2024 г.

Специальность: 522.02 – Бухгалтерский учет; аудит; экономический анализ

**Структура диссертации:** аннотация, введение, три главы, выводы и рекомендации, библиография (386), изложенная на 136 страницах основного текста, 25 рисунков, 4 графика, 12 таблиц и 60 приложений. Результаты исследований опубликованы в 16 научных работах.

**Ключевые слова:** аудит финансовой отчетности, качество аудита, усовершенствованная модель управления качеством аудита, эффективность аудита финансовой отчетности, профессиональное суждение.

**Область исследования:** аудит.

**Цель и задачи работы:** создание усовершенствованной модели непрерывной оптимизации и мониторинга системы менеджмента качества аудита, согласно требованиям ISA, ISQM 1 и ISQM 2, путем интеграции инновационных практик, направленных на существенное повышение эффективности аудита финансовой отчетности, отвечающих вызовам и возможностям глобализации, применительно к аудиторским компаниям Республики Молдова и Румынии.

**Научная новизна и оригинальность** заключается в развитии новых подходов к эволюции аудита, обеспечении новых концептуально-методологических основ определения и стандартизации основополагающих концепций в аудите финансовой отчетности, углублении и развитии понятий аудита финансовой отчетности, профессиональное суждение, эффективность аудита финансовой отчетности; углубленная основа для анализа влияния сложности и особенностей аудиторских услуг на эффективность; разработка инновационной структуры пирамиды эффективности аудита; создание интегрированной и последовательной концептуальной модели, основанной на качестве-эффективности-устойчивости; разработка действенного механизма оценки роли этических дилемм и профессиональных навыков в продуктивной реализации стратегий аудита; разработка современной сбалансированной системы показателей для оценки эффективности аудита; создание основы для оценки восприятия респондентами уязвимостей и возможностей при внедрении системы управления качеством аудита, разработка усовершенствованной модели непрерывной оптимизации и мониторинга системы управления качеством аудита.

**Важная научная проблема,** решаемая в диссертации, заключается в разработке системы аудита, которая интегрирует стратегии, модели и практики управления эффективностью и прозрачностью аудиторских миссий за счет использования эффективной системы управления качеством, а также финансовых и нефинансовых показателей, в целях оптимизации результатов аудита финансовой отчетности. Исследование выявляет пробелы в применении политики и процедур аудита и оценивает влияние данной структуры на соблюдение профессиональных и этических стандартов.

**Теоретическая значимость и прикладная ценность** заключаются в разработке инновационного взгляда на эволюцию аудита финансовой отчетности, обеспечивающего передовую концептуально-методологическую основу для определения и стандартизации фундаментальных понятий, а также для оптимизации эффективности и управление качеством в аудите. Этот вклад находит свое отражение в интеграции действенных механизмов оценки эффективности и профессиональной этики, обеспечивая современные решения задач и сложности аудиторских услуг в соответствии с международными требованиями.

**Внедрение научных результатов.** Полученные научные результаты могут быть реализованы путем применения разработанных моделей, предлагая конкретные решения по повышению эффективности аудита финансовой отчетности. Они способствуют оптимизации процессов принятия решений, стандартизации основных концепций и принятию эффективных стратегий управления качеством в соответствии с международными требованиями. При этом некоторые рекомендации, разработанные в диссертации, уже приняты к внедрению в аудиторской практике некоторых отечественных компаний. Предлагаемые результаты могут быть интегрированы в профессиональную подготовку и развитие лучших практик для специалистов в области аудита.

**ȘOIMU SERGIU**

**ENHANCING THE PERFORMANCE OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT  
IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION**

**Scientific Specialty: 522.02 – ACCOUNTING; AUDIT; ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**  
Summary of the Doctoral Thesis in Economic Sciences

---

Approved for printing: 13.09.2024

A4 Paper Format, Offset Paper

Offset printing.

Print Run: 30 Copies

Printing sheets.: 2,98

---

Editorial and Printing Service of the Academy of Economic Studies of  
Moldova, Chișinău, MD-2005, 61 Gr. Bănulescu-Bodoni str.,  
tel.: 022 402 936