Audit Financiar, XXIII, Nr. 2(178)/**2025**, *388-399*
ISSN on-line: 1844-8801

Continuity of the Auditing Profession in the Context of Digitalization and Automation

Research assist. Cristian LUNGU, Ph.D. Student,
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, West University of Timişoara, Romania,
e-mail: cristian.lungu00@e-uvt.ro

Univ. Prof. Ovidiu Constantin BUNGET, Ph.D.,
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, West University of Timişoara, Romania,
e-mail: ovidiu.bunget@e-uvt.ro

Abstract

The rapid advancement of digitalization and automation is redefining the financial audit profession, profoundly influencing auditor practices and competencies. This paper aims to analyze the mechanisms by which the financial audit practice sustains its continuity and relevance amidst ongoing changes and transformations. Through a review of the specialized literature, this study identifies the main benefits and challenges generated by automation and digitalization to assess their impact on the relevance of the audit profession in the future. The main results emphasize that the continuity of the financial audit profession will depend on the ability of auditors to integrate emerging technologies strategically and ethically, ensuring a balance between human expertise and automation capabilities. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the impact of automation and digitalization on financial audits, providing practitioners with relevant insights and guiding future research directions. At the same time, the results obtained support the maintenance and strengthening of high professional standards in the context of technological transformations.

Key words: *financial audit; digitalization; automation; audit profession;*

JEL Classification: *M41, M42*

To cite this article:
Lungu, C., Bunget, O. C. (2025), Continuity of the Auditing Profession in the Context of Digitalization and Automation, *Audit Financiar*, vol. XXIII, no. 2(178)/2025, pp.388-399, DOI: 10.20869/AUDITF/2025/178/012

To link this article:
http://dx.doi.org/10.20869/AUDITF/2025/178/012
Received: 24.01.2025
Revised: 4.02.2025
Accepted: 5.05.2025

Introduction

The financial audit profession is currently experiencing a significant and transformative evolution, driven by rapid advances in digitalization and automation, reshaping the field's landscape. These advances, characterized in particular by the incorporation and application of technologies such as artificial intelligence, sophisticated machine learning algorithms, and solutions that are fundamentally based on extensive data analytics, are fundamentally reconfiguring not only the traditional processes associated with auditing but also redefining the essential role and responsibilities of auditors in an increasingly interconnected and globalized economic environment (Alles, 2015; Cao *et al*., 2015). In this rapidly evolving context, the financial audit operation has surpassed its previous status as a simple static effort focused exclusively on confirming financial data; it is now evolving into a dynamic and multifaceted activity, fundamentally oriented towards the comprehensive analysis of complex data sets and the anticipation and proactive management of potential financial risks.

Advances in digitalization and automation present substantial opportunities that have the potential to significantly enhance both the efficiency and accuracy of audit-related activities, effectively helping to reduce errors, facilitating the early identification of inconsistencies in financial reports, and ultimately increasing the overall transparency of the audit process (Brazel *et al.*, 2016; Grepp *et al.*, 2018). However, it is imperative to recognize that this transition does not come without its own set of considerable challenges, which include the crucial need for professionals in the field to adapt to a rapidly evolving technological landscape, the need for continuous professional development and retraining of auditors to equip them with the necessary skills, and the critical task of managing the various risks that are inherently associated with the increasing reliance on technological solutions in the audit process (Yoon et al., 2015). In addition, the regulatory standards and ethical frameworks that govern the profession require continuous updating and re-evaluation to effectively keep pace with the rapid technological advances and their implications for the audit landscape (IAASB, 2020).

The main objective of this scientific article is to investigate and elucidate in detail the mechanisms by which the practice of financial auditing sustains its continuity and relevance amidst the ongoing changes and transformations occurring in both the economic and technological environments. Through a comprehensive examination encompassing both theoretical and practical dimensions, the article aims to analyze the impact that digitalization and automation are exerting on the audit profession, simultaneously highlighting the various opportunities that arise and the substantial challenges that need to be navigated in this evolving landscape. In this regard, the research emphasizes the critical importance of adopting a proactive strategy for integrating technology while firmly upholding and preserving the core fundamental values that are intrinsic to the profession, which include independence, objectivity, and integrity, as articulated in various scientific works and guidelines (Alles, 2015; IAASB, 2020).

The proposed research effort has been meticulously structured into five distinct and well-defined sections: starting with the initial section, which serves as an introduction, this segment effectively establishes the contextual framework in which the study operates and is subsequently followed by the second section, which meticulously highlights the theoretical foundations underlying the research, focusing in particular on the contemporary debates that are prevalent in the academic literature regarding the multifaceted impact of digitalization and automation on the professional landscape of financial auditing. The third section of the study is dedicated to presenting a comprehensive overview of the research methodology used, thus elucidating the complicated processes involved in conducting the literature review, while the fourth section is committed to delivering the research results, which graphically delineates and articulates the challenges and opportunities that have been triggered by the rapid technological advances impacting the financial auditing profession. Finally, the fifth section presents the results in a structured format that provides actionable recommendations and insights for both practitioners in the field and researchers interested in this pertinent area of study.

Specialized literature overview

The continuity of the financial audit profession in the context of digitalization and automation is marked by significant transformations driven by technological advances. Continuous audit and monitoring (CA/CM) programs, enabled by digital innovations such as artificial intelligence (AI) and robotic process automation (RPA),

are increasingly being adopted in the public sector to provide real-time information and improve internal controls and risk management frameworks (Naoufal, 2024). The rapid pace of digitalization has revolutionized accounting and auditing, requiring adapting business models and creating opportunities and challenges, such as resistance to change and high upfront costs (Stoica & Feleaga, 2024). Digital maturity is essential for auditors, requiring continuous training in modern technologies to effectively manage audit processes and ensure comprehensive data analysis (Lazareva, 2024). The evolving nature of audit practices involves a redefinition of auditor competencies, emphasizing technological agility and continuous professional development to maintain the relevance and integrity of the profession (Leacadio *et al.*, 2024). AI and automation have shifted accounting from manual tasks to automated processes, increasing efficiency and allowing accountants to take on more strategic roles, thereby reshaping financial reporting and audit practices (Georgios & Kampiatios, 2024).

According to Haung (2023), the accounting profession is continuously undergoing a transformative process, requiring increased knowledge and skills among practitioners to address emerging technological challenges adequately. In a similar perspective, Kurt (2023) emphasizes that while the incorporation of artificial intelligence (AI) significantly alters accounting and auditing methodologies, the profession's fundamental essence remains unchanged. However, contemporary technological demands require acquiring skills such as data analysis, cybersecurity, and adaptability. Furthermore, his investigation elucidates the ability of AI to enhance operational efficiency and risk assessment while preserving the indispensable value of human judgment.

Budimir (2023) highlights the benefits of digitalization in the audit landscape, particularly in the areas of improved data management and increased process efficiency. Furthermore, the author states that continuous audit and procedural flexibility are critical components in the evolution of digital audit practices. In contrast, Angeles *et al.* (2023) raise awareness of the challenges inherent in digitalization, including a shortage of necessary skills, resistance to transformation, and concerns about data security.

Guevara (2024) outlines the potential dangers of excessive reliance on technology, such as information saturation, which can negatively affect critical assessment capabilities. In response to these challenges, the author advocates a phased approach to automation, the establishment of appropriate regulatory mechanisms, and ongoing oversight of automated systems. Nazarova *et al.* (2021) further emphasize the importance of digitalization in improving the effectiveness and competitiveness of audit processes, in addition to the imperative to improve the software used to meet modern requirements.

Grylitska (2022) examines the classification of information technologies and the development of audit software, highlighting the importance of digitalization as a key factor for achieving competitive advantage. However, the author identifies barriers that prevent the complete automation of processes. Demura & Kuvaldina (2024), highlight the role of human oversight, emphasizing that digital technologies can produce errors that only qualified professionals can identify and correct.

Furthermore, digitalization has a twofold impact on the audit profession. While automation may lead to the displacement of certain entry-level positions, it simultaneously creates new opportunities for professionals equipped with advanced digital skills. The literature emphasizes the importance of continuous learning and professional development to ensure that auditors remain relevant in a technology-driven landscape (Ruiter, 2017). Educational institutions play a critical role in this, as they need to prepare future auditors with the skills needed to navigate the complexities of modern audit practices (Ruiter, 2017).

In the context of accelerated technological transformations, the continuity of the financial audit profession is closely linked to the ability of auditors to adapt and integrate new technologies into their professional practices (Kwok *et al.* 2024). According to Mihaila *et al.* (2023), the financial audit profession faces significant challenges generated by digitalization and automation, including the high costs of information technologies and the lack of trust in automated systems. Research emphasizes that the success of the profession depends on the willingness of auditors to accept and adapt to change, indicating that professionals who embrace transformations will thrive, while those who resist risk becoming irrelevant. Complementarily, Fotoh & Lorentzon (2022) suggest that the transition to digital auditing can transform auditors' approaches, allowing them to respond more effectively to user expectations using digital tools that improve internal controls and fraud prevention.

The role of blockchain technology is also gaining attention in the literature as a transformative force in auditing. Blockchain provides a secure and transparent method for recording transactions, which can significantly increase the efficiency and reliability of financial audits. By using blockchain, auditors can ensure data integrity and compliance, thereby strengthening their role as trusted advisors in the financial reporting process (Safonova *et al.*, 2022).

Other scientific efforts, such as Schreuder & Smuts (2023) and Bejjar & Siala (2024), have demonstrated that automation, mainly focusing on the integration of emerging technologies such as Big Data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain technology in the audit execution phase, has led to substantial time savings and increased efficiency. Study participants reported that automation allows auditors to devote more time to exception investigation, opinion formation, and client engagement, thereby improving the quality of audit results and client relationships. The shift from sample testing to complete population testing through automated procedures has been highlighted as a key factor in improving the reliability and depth of audit opinions and judgments.

Although automation and digitalization have brought significant benefits to the financial audit profession, the literature also highlights the risks associated with business continuity. Kurnykina's (2023) study highlights that cyberattacks or technological failures can negatively affect the audit process, calling into question the accuracy and reliability of conclusions. In addition, auditors must manage risks associated with manipulating algorithms or lack of transparency in their operations (the so-called "black box effect").

Angeles *et al*. (2023) find that the intensive use of emerging technologies can lead to an overreliance on automated systems. This risks to diminish auditors' technical and professional judgment skills, which are essential for assessing complex situations that cannot be fully modeled by algorithms or artificial intelligence. Over time, this phenomenon can erode the traditional expertise that is the profession's foundation.

The automation of some tasks can lead to the perception that auditors contribute less to the decision-making process and that their professional value is diminished. This problem is exacerbated by the lack of a clear understanding of the auditor's role in interpreting and validating data generated by automated systems (Daidj, 2022).

Koske *et al*. (2022) argue that while the advent of digitalization raises concerns about the potential demise of the financial audit profession, technology is unlikely to eradicate the profession; instead, it will fundamentally change its characteristics. The research implies that the functions of professional accountants are set to shift towards activities focused on consulting and data analysis, thereby diminishing the emphasis on conventional accounting practices, which will consequently maintain their relevance in an increasingly dynamic economic environment.

The same researchers, Koske *et al.* (2021), in another scientific approach, analyzes perceptions regarding the impact of technological advances on the accounting profession, emphasizing that although digital transformation reconfigures the structure of activities and responsibilities of accounting professionals, there is no current evidence to suggest the disappearance of this profession or a significant reduction in demand on the labor market. Thus, the specialized literature indicates an adaptation of the profession rather than its replacement.

Research methodology

The research adopts a qualitative methodology, with a systematic review of the specialized literature as the primary data collection and analysis method. This approach was chosen because it provides a deep understanding of complex phenomena and allows the development of a solid theoretical framework grounded in the existing literature (Levy & Ellis, 2006).

The research methodology adopted in this study consists of a detailed analysis of the benefits and challenges generated by automation and digitalization, to assess their impact on the relevance of the auditing profession in the future.

The study was developed following several distinct stages. As shown in **Figure no. 1**, the first stage consisted of identifying relevant specialized literature. Given the analyzed topic, focused on emerging technologies, bibliographic references were collected using SciSpace, a modern platform based on artificial intelligence.

This platform facilitates collaboration between researchers, publishers, and institutions, automates repetitive tasks, and accelerates the process of

information discovery. As a vast repository of scientific papers from all fields, SciSpace includes metadata for 200 million papers and is used by renowned institutions such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford University, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), as well as over 150 leading publishing companies (Turnitin, 2025).

The process of identifying relevant studies for the development of the first two stages of the research was structured according to a rigorous search strategy based on the following selection criteria:

1. **Keywords:** The search was conducted using specific terms such as “financial audit,” “audit profession,” “continuity,” “artificial intelligence,” “emerging technologies,” “automation,” and “digitalization" to accurately reflect the central theme of the study.
2. **Temporal criterion:** To ensure the timeliness and relevance of the conclusions, only works published in the last 10 years were included in the analysis.
3. **Relevance criterion:** The studies were selected based on the degree to which they address topics related to the impact of automation and digitalization on the audit profession, contributing to the research objectives.
4. **Type of publication:** Articles published in scientific journals, books, and book chapters were considered, as these are recognized as high-quality academic sources.

Figure no. 1. Research methodology

Source: own processing

Stages 2 and 3 of the research were developed as a table that identified and summarized the challenges and benefits associated with automation and digitalization. In addition, our approach allowed concluding the impact of these factors on the relevance of the audit profession in the near future. Based on the data summarized in the summary table, in the last stage of this scientific approach, conclusions were drawn regarding the technological implications for the future of the audit profession.

Research results

This study provides a synthesis of the challenges and benefits associated with automation and digitalization in the financial audit profession based on a review of the specialized literature. At the same time, as presented in Table no. 1, each author's perspectives on the relevance of the financial audit profession in the near future are identified based on these advantages and disadvantages.

Table no. 1. Summary of the challenges and benefits of automation and digitalization on the continuity of the financial auditing profession

Authors	Benefits	Challenges	Relevance of the profession in the future
(Naoufal, 2024)	• Optimize repetitive tasks.; • Improves workflows.	Complex process regarding the implementation of continuous audit programs (CA).	Findings suggest that the audit profession will adapt and remain relevant in the future.
(Stoica & Feleaga, 2024)	It will improve the overall effectiveness of accounting and auditing practices.	• Employee resistance to change; • High costs.	The profession will remain relevant as companies adapt to technological advances.

Authors	Benefits	Challenges	Relevance of the profession in the future
(Lazareva, 2024)	• Helps process large volumes of reporting data; • Improves the completeness of audits.	• New requirements for professional skills; • The need for continuous training.	The auditing profession is expected to remain relevant due to the increasing demands for professional skills closely linked to technological mastery.
(Leacadio, *et al.*, 2024)	Reduces the potential for human error.	• New requirements for professional skills; • The need for continuous training.	The future of the audit profession will be shaped by the need for auditors to strengthen their professional competencies in response to innovative audit practices.
(Georgios & Kampiatios, 2024)	• Significantly reduce the time required for audit tasks; • Minimizing human errors.	• The need for extensive training and skills development for auditors; • High costs.	Continuing professional education and training in emerging technologies will enable auditors to adapt and thrive in a technology-driven environment.
(Budimir, 2023)	• Increases audit quality and efficiency; • Improved communication between auditors and clients.	• New requirements for professional skills.	The profession may see a shift in services, with a decrease in traditional accounting and auditing tasks and an increase in consulting services.
(Angeles *et al.*, 2023)	• Provides a competitive advantage over other companies; • Improves auditor competence, allowing for better planning and execution of audits.	• Resistance to change; • Lack of skills and resources.	Findings suggest that the audit profession will continue to be valuable and necessary as it embraces digital advances.
(Guevara, 2024)	Improves accuracy in error detection.	Excessive dependence on technology can impair critical judgment.	Auditors must acquire new technological skills, indicating that their role will evolve rather than diminish.
(Kurnykina, 2023)	• Streamlining processes and reducing manual tasks; • Automation can lead to cost savings by reducing time.	Resistance to change.	The profession will continue to be relevant as it adapts to the demands of a digitalized economy.
(Pargmann *et al.*, 2023)	• Cost savings by streamlining workflows; • Minimizing human errors.	Lack of digital skills	Overall, while the audit profession will continue to be helpful, it will require adaptation to new technologies and processes to maintain its relevance in the future.
(Kwok *et al.*, 2024)	• Ensures quality in professional judgments.	Balancing digital audit methods is a challenge.	The auditing profession is expected to remain helpful in the future, especially in the e-commerce industry.
(Nazarova *et al.*, 2024)	• Processing large volumes of data; • Improves communication with customers.	• Resistance to change; • Lack of skills and resources.	The demand for higher-quality audits will drive the need for qualified auditors who can adapt to new technologies and methodologies.

Authors	Benefits	Challenges	Relevance of the profession in the future
(Grylitska, 2022)	• Increases the efficiency of audit processes; • Provides a competitive advantage for audit firms in the market.	Lack of digital skills.	Auditors must adapt to using advanced software that meets modern requirements to remain competitive in the audit services market.
(Demura & Kuvaldina, 2024)	Reducing the number of errors in documentation.	Job losses.	Experts believe that while artificial intelligence can assist with audit tasks, it cannot fully replace the need for human auditors who can interpret and analyze data.
(Haung, 2023)	• Reduction of manual tasks; • Enable real-time data analysis, allowing auditors to provide timely insights and recommendations.	New requirements for professional skills.	The future of the audit profession will be influenced by continuous technological changes and the digitalization of business practices.
(Koske *et al.*, 2022)	• Optimization of routine tasks; • Allows for real-time data processing, leading to faster decision-making and audits.	Lack of digital skills.	The profession can adapt by expanding into new areas, such as data analysis and consulting services, which are increasingly in demand.
(Fotoh & Lorentzon, 2022)	• Automation and digitalization in the audit profession can lead to lower costs for audit firms; • Can prevent and detect fraud, thus reducing the expectation gap.	Data security threats.	The audit profession is expected to remain relevant in the future due to the transition from traditional to digital audits.
(Ruiter, 2017)	Increases audit quality and efficiency.	• The need for extensive training and skills development for auditors; • High costs.	The audit profession is expected to remain relevant in the future due to digitalization's significant positive impact on audit quality.
(Mihaila *et al.*, 2023)	• Can increase the overall productivity of professionals; • Significantly reduce the time required for routine tasks.	There is a need for extensive training and skills development for auditors.	Auditors must adapt to new technologies to remain relevant and effective in their roles.
(Koske, *et al.*, 2021)	It can improve the accuracy and reliability of financial data, which is crucial for an efficient audit.	New requirements for professional skills.	• The demand for auditors in the labor market is not expected to decrease significantly; • The profession will evolve, requiring adaptation to new technologies and changes in business management practices.

Source: Own processing

Based on the cited sources, a clear trend towards fundamental transformation of audit processes is highlighted, with significant implications for the relevance and continuity of the profession in the future.

One of the predominant aspects identified in the specialized literature is the **streamlining of audit processes**, which contributes to reducing repetitive tasks and optimizing workflows (Naoufal, 2024; Budimir, 2023). This operational efficiency not only allows for a more strategic allocation of resources but also facilitates greater accuracy and reliability of financial data (Lazareva, 2024; Kwok et al., 2024).

Another significant benefit highlighted is the **increase in audit quality** through the use of advanced technologies for error and fraud detection (Fotoh & Lorentzon, 2022; Guevara, 2024). Digital technologies allow for more exhaustive analysis of large volumes of data and more efficient communication between auditors and clients (Nazarova et al., 2024), thus improving the decision-making process and contributing to greater transparency.

Automation also provides a **competitive advantage** to audit firms, allowing for better planning and execution of audit activities (Angeles et al., 2023). The ability to provide faster and more accurate services is a key factor in maintaining competitiveness in the market.

However, the table also highlights several significant challenges that may affect the adoption of digital technologies in auditing. Among these, employee **resistance to change** is a significant obstacle (Stoica & Feleaga, 2024; Kurnykina, 2023). Adapting to new technologies requires a change in mindset and an openness to continuous learning, which can generate reluctance among professionals.

Another critical challenge is **digital skills and continuous training** (Leacadio et al., 2024; Mihaila et al., 2023). The emergence of new professional requirements requires constant retraining of auditors to understand and effectively use new technological tools. The lack of these skills can lead to a significant gap between audit firms that adopt technology and those that remain with traditional methods.

High implementation costs are also a constraint (Georgios & Kampiatios, 2024; Demura & Kuvaldina, 2024). The necessary investments in technological infrastructure and training programs can represent a barrier for smaller firms, thus limiting access to the benefits of digitalization.

In addition, excessive reliance on technology may threaten **the critical professional judgment** of auditors, who must balance the use of digital tools with human expertise and experience (Guevara, 2024).

Thus, it is found that the academic environment reflects a diversity of opinions regarding the future of the auditing profession, significantly influenced by emerging technological advances. In this context, **Table no. 2** provides a detailed classification of the determinants of the continuity of the auditing profession, structured into distinct categories, highlighting both the challenges and the associated benefits. This synthesis contributes to a deeper understanding of how digital technologies influence auditing practice, facilitating the identification of adaptation strategies necessary to ensure the relevance and sustainability of the profession in the context of current transformations.

Table no. 2. Summary of the challenges and benefits of automation and digitalization on the continuity of financial auditor profession, classified into distinct categories

Category	Challenges	Benefits	Perspective on the continuity of the profession
Technology	The rapid adoption of new technologies, high implementation costs, cybersecurity risks.	Increased operational efficiency, rapid access to data, improved audit quality through advanced data analytics.	Technology supports the evolution of the profession but requires constant adaptability.
Professional	The need to develop digital skills; fear of replacing auditors with technology.	Automate repetitive tasks; allow you to focus on strategic and value-added activities.	Auditors need to improve their skills to remain relevant.
Regulation	Adapting to ever-changing regulations; integrating compliance requirements into digital solutions.	Increasing transparency and traceability of audit activities.	Regulations can positively influence the adoption of technologies while maintaining the profession's integrity.

Category	Challenges	Benefits	Perspective on the continuity of the profession
Ethics	Privacy and data protection; ethical dilemmas regarding the use of artificial intelligence.	Reducing human error and increasing objectivity and confidence in the audit process.	Adopting sound ethical frameworks is essential for maintaining the credibility of the profession.
Economic	Transition and training costs; limited access to technological resources for small and medium-sized businesses.	Reducing long-term operational costs, increasing productivity, and optimizing resources.	Professionals must find adaptive solutions to remain competitive.
Social	Resistance to change; impact on jobs and redistribution of auditor roles.	Creating new career opportunities, emphasizing the strategic role of auditors.	The profession requires reconfiguration of skills and roles to adapt.
Innovative	The rapid pace of innovation and risks associated with the insufficiently tested implementation of new solutions.	Providing more complex and personalized audit services, improving fraud detection capacity.	Innovation is essential for the sustainability of the profession, requiring continuous investment.

Source: own processing

The analysis presented in **Table no. 2** highlights the significant impact of automation and digitalization on the financial audit profession, delineating the main challenges and benefits associated with this transformational process. Overall, automation and digitalization contribute to improving the efficiency and transparency of audit activities, but they also involve a series of obstacles that require a strategic approach to ensure the continuity of the profession.

1. **Technological and professional challenges**. The rapid adoption of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics, poses challenges in terms of high implementation costs and the need for continuous training for auditors (Aksoy & Gurol, 2021). This requires transitioning from traditional competencies to an expanded set of digital skills, allowing auditors to manage complex tools and large volumes of data. Also, the perception of auditors being replaced by technology remains a psychological and professional challenge, requiring professional retraining strategies.
2. **Regulation and ethics**. Another critical aspect highlighted in the analysis is the constantly changing regulatory requirements and the ethical implications of using digital technologies. Adapting to new compliance standards and ensuring data protection and confidentiality are essential factors for maintaining trust in the audit profession (Brender & Gauthier, 2021). Ethical dilemmas arise primarily in the use of artificial intelligence, where transparency and decision-making responsibility become imperative to avoid possible harm.
3. **Economic and social impact**. From an economic perspective, automation and digitalization can lead to significant reductions in operational costs and resource optimization, but the transition process can be complicated for small and medium-sized entities with limited resources (Ogunshile, 2018). At a social level, resistance to change and fears about the impact of technology on jobs represent major challenges, requiring initiatives to integrate new professional roles and redefine the duties of auditors.
4. **Innovation dimension**. Continuous innovation in the audit field opens up significant opportunities for personalizing services and improving risk and fraud detection (Marques, 2021). However, the accelerated pace of technological progress requires constant investment in research and development to maintain professional relevance and adapt to new market demands.

Therefore, the automation and digitalization of the financial audit profession generate a balance between the identified challenges and benefits. On the one hand, technology offers substantial opportunities to increase audit efficiency and accuracy, but on the other hand, it implies profound changes at the professional, organizational, and social levels. The continuity of the audit profession depends crucially on the ability to adapt to new technological realities, the development of digital skills, and the assurance of compliance with ethical

standards and regulations in force (Kazakova & Brovkina, 2020).

Conclusions

Digitalization and automation have become defining factors in the evolution of the financial audit profession, reshaping traditional processes and significantly contributing to increasing the efficiency and accuracy of audit activities. Based on the analysis performed, it can be concluded that although the transition to a digitalized environment brings multiple benefits, such as optimizing workflows, reducing human errors, and improving data analysis capacity, it comes with a series of challenges that cannot be ignored.

Resistance to change, high costs associated with the implementation of advanced technologies, and the need for continuous development of professional skills are essential factors influencing the ability of auditors to adapt to new requirements. In this context, it becomes imperative to adopt a proactive approach on the part of professionals in the field, through which they improve their digital skills and capitalize on the opportunities offered by new technologies, thus maintaining the high standards of quality and trust specific to the financial audit profession (Erkuş & Taşar, 2022).

In the future, the continuity of the financial audit profession will depend on auditors' ability to integrate emerging technologies strategically and ethically, ensuring a balance between human expertise and automation capabilities (Carpenter & McGregor, 2020). As audit processes become increasingly digitalized, auditors must redefine their role, focusing on interpreting complex data and providing value-added advisory services.

Thus, despite the challenges, the financial audit profession will not only maintain its relevance in the digital economy but has the potential to strengthen and evolve through a harmonious combination of technological innovation and advanced human skills (Sever Mališ et al., 2021).

References

1. Aksoy, T., & Gurol, B. (2021). Auditing Ecosystem and Strategic Accounting in the Digital Era. In T. Aksoy, & U. Hacioglu, *Artificial Intelligence in Computer-Aided Auditing Techniques and Technologies (CAATTs) and an Application Proposal for Auditors* (pp. 361-384). Chicago: Springer.
2. Alles, M. (2015). Drivers of the use and facilitators and obstacles of the evolution of Big Data by the audit profession. *Accounting Horizons, 29*(2), 439-449.
3. Angeles, E., Mabazza, G., Pascua, A., Salta, K., Zedric, J., Marquez, J., & Catacun, K. (2023). Shift to Digital Audit: A Study Investigating the Benefits and Challenges of Digitalization on the Audit Profession. *Asian Journal of Management Analytics, 2*(4), 415-440.
4. Bejjar, M., & Siala, Y. (2024). The Impact of Blockchain Technology on the Financial Audit. *In book: Impact of Digitalization on Reporting, Tax Avoidance, Accounting, and Green Finance*, 272-300.
5. Brazel, J., Jackson, S., Schaefer, T., & Stewart, B. (2016). The outcome effect and professional skepticism. *The Accounting Review, 89*(2), 602-623.
6. Brender, N., & Gauthier, M. (2021). How do the current auditing standards fit the emergent use of blockchain? *Managerial Auditing Journal, 36*(3), 365-385.
7. Budimir, N. (2023). Revision and digitalization. *Revizor, 26*(102), 95-111.
8. Cao, M., Chychyla, R., & Stewart, T. (2015). Big data analytics in financial statement audits. *Accounting Horizons, 35*(1), 147-168.
9. Carpenter, R., & McGregor, D. (2020). The implications, applications, and benefits of emerging technologies in audit. *The Business and Management Review, 11*(2), 36-44.
10. Daidj, N. (2022). The Digital Transformation of Auditing and the Evolution of the Internal Audit. *Routledge*.
11. Demura, E., & Kuvaldina, T. (2024). Accounting profession and digital technologies: threats and reality. *Sibirskaâ finansovaâ škola, 1*(1), 92-97.
12. Erkuş, H., & Taşar, A. (2022). THE ADAPTATION OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT PROFESSION TO THE

DIGITAL ERA. *İnönü Üniversitesi Uluslararası Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi, 11*(2), 479-565.

13. Fotoh, L., & Lorentzon, J. (2022). Audit digitalization and its consequences on the audit expectation gap: A critical perspective. *Accounting Horizons, 37*(1), 43-69.
14. Georgios, L., & Kampiatios, G. (2024). Transformation in Accounting Practices. *Technium Business and Management, 10*, 1-16.
15. Grepp, A., Linnenluecke, M., O'Neill, T., & Smith, T. (2018). Big Data and management research: Framework, challenges, and opportunities. *Journal of Accounting Literature, 40*, 102-115.
16. Grylitska, A. (2022). The digital audit as a key element of ukraine`s way out from covid-19. *Journal of International Legal Communication, 7*(4), 5-12.
17. uevara, R. (2024). Impacto de la Automatización en la Auditoría: Ventajas y Desafíos. *Zambos, 3*(1), 30-43.
18. Haung, Z. (2023). Impact of Digitalization on the Accounting Profession. *Contributions to Finance and Accounting*, 19-34.
19. IAASB. (2020). Technology: A focus on audit quality. International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB). Retrieved from https://www.iaasb.org
20. Kazakova, N., & Brovkina, N. (2020). ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPETENCIES AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF AN AUDITOR IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT: THE MOST SIGNIFI CANT ASPECTS OF THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN AUDIT. *Theory and Practice of audit, 6*(8), 20-24.
21. Koske, M., Mishuchkova, Y., & Voyutskaya, I. (2021). Prospects of Professional Activity of Accountants in the Conditions of Digital Transformation of Accounting. *Auditor, 7*(7), 49-56.
22. Koske, M., Voyutskaya, I., & Mishuchkova, Y. (2022). Transformation of the accounting profession: a review of current trends and prospects. *Intellect. Innovations. Investments, 1*(5), 37-46.
23. Kurnykina, O. (2023). Audit in the Context of Digitalization: Problems and Prospects. *Auditor (Infra-M Academic Publishing House), 9*(5), 8-14.
24. Kurt, Y. (2023). Digital Transformation in Accounting and Auditing: Insights from The ChatGPT. *Iğdır University Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences, 1*(10), 11-12.
25. Kwok, S., Omran, M., & Yu, P. (2024). Audit Digitalization, Do-Calculus, and Professional Judgment. *Advances in finance, accounting, and economics*, 1-25.
26. Lazareva, N. (2024). Innovative technologies for growing digital maturity in auditors. *Vestnik Univ, 8*, 34-40.
27. Leacadio, D., Malheiro, L., & Reis, J. (2024). Auditors in the digital age: a systematic literature review . *Digital Transformation and Society*.
28. Levy, Y., & Ellis, T. (2006). A Systems Approach to Conduct an Effective Literature Review in Support of Information Systems Research. *International Journal of an Emerging Transdiscipline, 9*, 181-212.
29. Margarita, F., Safonova, T., & Kisilevich, I. (2022). Transformation of information and analytical audit support during the digitalization of economic and accounting systems. *International accounting, 25*(7), 780-805.
30. Marques, R. (2021). Continuous Assurance as Digital Transformation Enabler of Audit, Risk Management, and Business Compliance. In M. Khosrow-Pour, *Encyclopedia of Organizational Knowledge, Administration, and Technology* (pp. 392-405). New York: IGI-Global.
31. Mihaila, S., Badicu, G., & Codrean, V. (2023). Evolving Aspects Regarding the Accounting Profession in the Context of Digitalization: An Imperative of the 21st Century. *Economica, 4*(122), 44-61.
32. Naoufal, G. (2024). *Continuous auditing/continuous monitoring* (Vol. 1). Boca Raton: Taylorfrancis.
33. Nazarova, K., Nezhyva, M., Hotsuliak, V., Novika, N., & Fedorenko, O. (2021). Digital Audit as an Imperative for Ukraine's Way out From the COVID-crisis and a Tool to Increase the Competitveness of the State. *EDP Sciences, 100*.
34. Ogunshile, E. (2018). Developing a power efficient private cloud ready infrastructure for small-medium sized enterprises. *International Conference on Cloud Computing and Services Science* (pp. 299-309). Funchal: ScitePress.
35. Pargmann, J., Riebenbauer, E., & Berding, F. (2023). Digitalisation in accounting: a systematic literature review of activities and implications for competences. *Empirical Research in Vocational Education and Training, 15*(1), 1-37.

36. Ruiter, B. (2017). Towards a continuous auditing philosophy. *PWC*, 1-64.
37. Schreuder, A., & Smuts, H. (2023). Audit Digitalization - Key Impacts on the Audit Profession. *IntechOpen*, 1-24.
38. Sever Mališ, S., Žager, L., & Brozović, M. (2021). The Future of Audit in Light of Technological Changes: Opportunities and Threats. In I. Boitan, & K. Marchewka-Bartkowiak, *Fostering Innovation and Competitiveness With FinTech, RegTech, and SupTech* (pp. 1-22). IGI Global.
39. Stoica, O., & Feleaga, L. (2024). A Qualitative Approach Regarding the Impact of Digitalization and Automation on the Accounting and Auditing Profession. *Audit Financiar, 22*(176), 742-757.
40. Turnitin. (2025, 01 07). *SciSpace*. Retrieved from www.turnitin.co.uk: https://www.turnitin.co.uk/partners/directory/scispace
41. Yoon, K., Hoogduin, L., & Zhang, L. (2015). Big Data as complementary audit evidence. *Accounting Horizons, 29*(2), 431-438