



**“Sustaining the Sustainable Sustainability”:
Leveraging
Digitalization
and Emerging
Technologies
by the Auditor in Providing
Assurance on Sustainability
Reporting**

*Lecturer Delia DELIU, Ph. D.,
West University of Timisoara, Romania, financial auditor,
e-mail: delia.deliu@e-uvt.ro*

To cite this article:

Deliu, D. (2024), “Sustaining the Sustainable Sustainability”: Leveraging Digitalization and Emerging Technologies by the Auditor in Providing Assurance on Sustainability Reporting, *Audit Financiar*, vol. XXII, no. 2(174)/2024, pp. 301-319, DOI: 10.20869/AUDITF/2024/174/009

To link this article:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.20869/AUDITF/2024/174/009>
Received: 14.08.2023
Revised: 12.02.2024
Accepted: 22.03.2024

Abstract

In today's rapidly evolving world, the importance of sustainability and circularity has become more prominent than ever. Businesses and economies worldwide are recognizing the need to transition towards a circular model, where resources are used efficiently and waste is minimized. This transition necessitates changes across all sectors, including financial auditing. While the main object of financial audit is to provide an opinion on financial statements to ensure that it gives true and fair view of the accounts, the auditor will also need to assess an organization's sustainability by evaluating its environmental and social impact, resource efficiency, and circularity performance. It becomes more and more important that the financial auditor should provide a comprehensive assessment of the organization's sustainability practices, enabling stakeholders to understand its commitment to environmental responsibility, social equity, and economic resilience. Auditing sustainability reporting involves different challenges compared to those encountered in auditing financial statements. The independent audit report issued by the financial auditor on sustainability reporting plays an essential role in building confidence in the robustness of non-financial information, providing benefits such as: ensuring the credibility of ESG information presentations within the annual report; creating a positive impact on the company's reputation; strengthening the company's awareness of material ESG risks and facilitating the improvement of internal systems, processes and controls and the company's performance in the ESG area; better positioning of the company in ESG rating rankings. Hence, auditing sustainability reporting goes beyond financial metrics and includes non-financial indicators that reflect the organization's triple bottom line – people, planet, and profit. Henceforth, by expanding the scope of financial audits to incorporate sustainability metrics, audit companies can demonstrate their commitment to the circular economy and provide transparency regarding their clients' environmental and social performance. Henceforward, auditing sustainability reporting not only enables stakeholders to make informed decisions, but also promotes accountability and incentivizes organizations to adopt circular practices. In this context, to effectively track, measure, and assess the sustainability performance of organizations, emerging technologies play a crucial role. This paper explores the role of emerging technologies in facilitating the transition of financial