GOVERNANCE AND REGULATIONS

Contemporary Issues

Edited by Simon Grima and Pierpaolo Marano

CONTEMPORARY STUDIES IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

VOLUME 99

GOVERNANCE AND REGULATIONS: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

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United Kingdom – North America – Japan India – Malaysia – China Emerald Publishing Limited Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2018

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78743-816-3 (Print) ISBN: 978-1-78743-815-6 (Online) ISBN: 978-1-78743-987-0 (Epub)

ISSN: 1569-3759 (Series)



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Certificate Number 1985 ISO 14001



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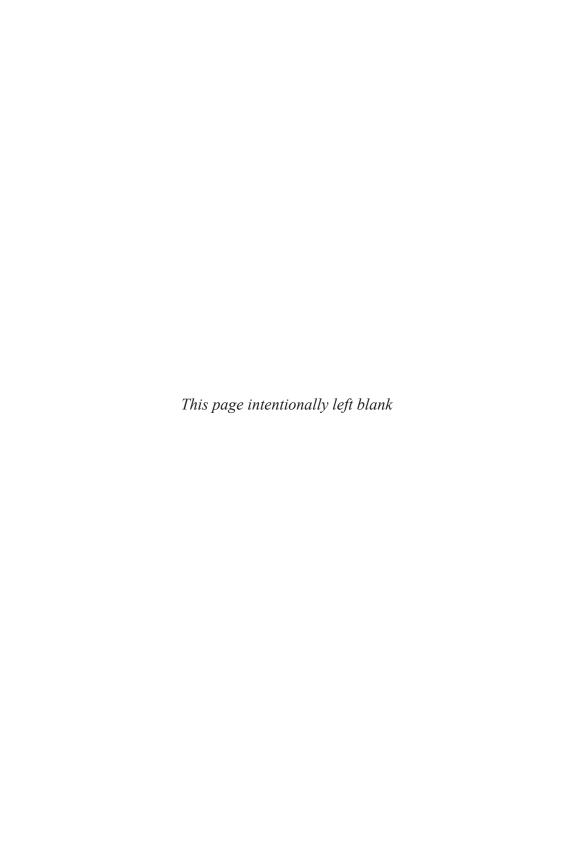
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INTRODUCTION TO CSEF 99

The Emerald book series *Contemporary Issues in Economic and Financial Analysis special edition CSEF 99* includes studies on different topical issues on Contemporary Issues in Governance and Regulations, by authors invited from various universities and institutions. The chapters are a mix of discussion-based studies and empirical research studies aimed at understanding particular aspects of governance and regulations. Some refer to a particular country specifically Malta, Indonesia, and India, and others are more generic and/or European.

The first chapter relates to small family-owned firms and the challenges of corporate governance. This form of business is dominant globally; however, research focusing on its governance has been largely overlooked. The author discusses the benefits of sound governance in these types of enterprises, the significant governance issues, and unique concerns they face and what can be done to help mitigate them.

The next chapter gives a credit institution's perspective of how to manage conduct risk in the boardroom. The author discusses the issues which led to misconduct and hefty fines on credit institutions in recent years, which she labels as "conduct risk" and the regulatory spotlight on it. She notes that this risk continues to top the regulators' agenda in view of its seriousness and considers the role of the board in managing it, while elaborating on the importance of board evaluations in this respect.

In the third chapter the author examines and discusses the implications of the developments of the regulation and governance of financial advice in the context of MiFID II. He specifically looks at regulatory issues concerning the definition, suitability, and delivery of advice; the affordability of advice; and the challenges and opportunities facing the advice sector as a result of the increasing use of technology in the financial services sector. In particular, it considers the example of the UK, and issues this raises for the implementation of recent European regulatory reforms.

The authors of the fourth chapter lay down a study on the barriers to the development of Maltese cooperatives. They highlight the significant barriers after carrying out a research using semi-structured interviews with a selection

of 18 representatives of the small current Maltese cooperative movement, most of whom are active either in individual cooperatives (16) and/or in the cooperative institutions (5). They conclude with the identification of significant barriers and targeted actions which may be recommended and taken so as to reduce, if not eliminate, these barriers and thereby help the Maltese cooperative movement flourish.

In the fifth chapter, the author sheds light on the role of corporate governance in the determination of cash holdings and examines how ownership structure, board, and audit-related attributes (used as proxies for the nature of corporate governance) impact cash holdings in the context of an emerging economy, like India. He employs four different empirical measures of cash and liquidity and 24 structural indicators of corporate governance. Using principal component analysis, he explores the dimensions of corporate governance. Thereafter, using a sample of 58 top-listed companies, he delves into understanding the association between cash holdings (the dependent variable) and corporate governance.

The authors of the sixth look at the relationship between good governance and trust in government. They use data on government trust across a sample of 29 European countries over the period 2004–2015, as well as six different aspects of governance as captured by the Worldwide Governance Indicators. Moreover, the authors also seek to compare the relative importance of governance issues to measures of economic prosperity, including real GDP growth and income inequality.

In the seventh the author looks at takeover bids as an important debate in European Law and corporate governance. She looks at the risk of a takeover bid and of a consequent change in company control. Moreover, she analyzes the European rules on takeover bids, and highlights certain national options for implementing the Directive and discusses the revisions currently being proposed by the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The author of the eighth discusses the need for change in the doctrine of "utmost good faith" and lays-out the drivers behind these changes and the commensurate effect on the practice of insurance. The author delves into case studies, practices, and literature and traces back to the origins of this long-standing principle and later discusses the development and drivers leading to reform of this doctrine.

In the ninth, the authors empirically investigated the importance of the Audit Statement of Opinion in the Final Audit Report to ensure good corporate governance and to reduce earnings management and ensure accurately informed corporate decisions. To do this they used a self-administered survey purposely designed for the study and administered it to a population of

100 accounting managers and financial managers of manufacture companies listed on Bursa Efek Indonesia during 2015.

The authors in the next chapter evaluated whether the launch of a European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS) as a single deposit guarantee in Europe, which is now being recognized as one of the three main pillars, together with the single supervisory and resolution mechanisms, would enhance depositors' protection in times of banking crisis and also reinforce financial stability in the European Union as part of the proposed Banking Union. They carried this out by making reference to academic literature and also recent EDIS political dossier to outline the developments.

In the next chapter the author introduces the readers to product intervention power under the markets in financial instruments regulation and packaged retail and insurance-based investment products regulation for all EU Member States and provides an overview of supervisory measures, that is, the scope of the product intervention power, criteria, factors, and risks, which has to be taken into consideration when using this regulator's tool. She notes that this gives National Competent Authorities, European Securities and Markets Authority, and European Banking Authority powers to monitor financial products (and services) under their supervision and to "temporarily" prohibit or restrict the marketing, distribution, or sale of certain financial instruments or to intervene in relation to certain financial activities or practice.

The author of the twelfth chapter discusses issues and developments that relate to the teaching of bank regulation in tertiary institutions. It looks at how course content, teaching texts, and methodology can become subject to issues like specific historical, and jurisdictional, cultures and contexts for the discipline. It considers how economic and political approaches impact such teaching. How banking regulation tools are used, and course structures are built, and shows that these are matters which impinge on the type of trained bank personnel who later eventually leave academia and end up working on regulatory or compliance matters.

In the penultimate chapter, the author highlights the most prominent theories surrounding the cultural framework people operate in when they are involved in the risk management process, which is an important function in the governance structure of a firm. The focus is on how culture, gender differences, and values affect the way people take decisions when faced with risk. The author critically examines literature carried out in the realm of sociology and psychology in organizations and discusses the effect these have on the risk management process. She discusses the effect of sociological factors on the governance of an organization and links this to one of the internal control processes, that is, the risk management process.

In the final chapter, the author explores how mandatory transparency affects financial institutions' activity and whether it performs its function efficiently. She highlights that financial markets have recently become subject to new regulations requiring transparency such as, the EU directives MIFID II or Solvency II. She argues that what is expanding is not just the applicability of the principle as such, but the scope of issues which are affected by transparency, that is, remuneration or conflict of interests. Moreover, she continues by noting that in the light of these regulations it may seem that transparency simply became a sole legislative measure assuring values such as consumer protection, market stability or – most of all – high-quality governance. However, transparency contributes to the quality of governance in a several different ways, although its implementation must meet certain standards if it is to produce the desired results, especially when it comes to financial institutions.