

THE ROLE OF ACCOUNTANT IN THE ESTONIAN ENTERPRISE

E.Ottoson, M. Nikitina-Kalamae, N.Gurvits
Tallinn University of Technology,
Tallinn, Estonia

Abstract

Recent development and changes in the modern economy, falls and rises of large corporations have brought up the public interest towards accounting discipline and resulted in a growing demand of accountant specialists as educated professionals. It is obvious that there seems to be a wide range of accountants with different competences, knowledge and skills and consequently with different approaches to their everyday work responsibilities. Debates over the accounting competences, duties and responsibilities are not over. To date not many studies have been done in Estonia in order to define the role of the accountant in the modern company, this is the gap the authors are filling in by the present study. The aim of the present research is to find out what is the role of the accountant in the modern enterprise, how the Estonian accountants find themselves in the modern business world what are their opinion on their duties and responsibilities. The authors conducted a survey among Estonian accounting specialists in 2015. The results of the research clearly indicate that in Estonian enterprise accountant is not only the bookkeeper but a valued specialist fulfilling different tasks, whose opinion matters for the management. In most companies accountants are actively assisting members of the board to make vital decisions. In authors opinion these results are generated by the high professional competence and also high level of professional and technical competence of the respondents. It should also be stated that in Estonia accounting is taught on different levels starting from short-term accounting courses till various undergraduate and master programmes in state high educational institutions. The authors also believe that Estonian accountants have a good combination of technical and ethical competence and provide stakeholders with the information they can trust. The present survey is limited by the sample of respondents; in future the authors consider it interesting to get the opinion of the employers and the other stakeholders about the role and competence of the modern accountant in the Estonian enterprise.

Keywords: accountant, competence, accountant liabilities, responsibilities, role of accountant

JEL Classification: M410