

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

# Strengthening Corporate Governance in Albania and Kosovo: Sustainability Reporting and Increased Role of the Audit Committees

10 November 2022, Tirana, Albania

# CFRR»»

**Centre for Financial  
Reporting Reform**

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**WORLD BANK GROUP**

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## REGIONAL CONFERENCE

# Strengthening Corporate Governance in Albania and Kosovo: Sustainability Reporting and Increased Role of the Audit Committees

November 10, 2022, Tirana, Albania  
Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana (18 Abdi Toptani street)

## FOREWORD

**The Road to Europe Program of Accounting Reform and Institutional Strengthening for Small and Medium Enterprises ([REPARIS for SMEs](#))** aims to support: (i) further improving access of SMEs in the Western Balkans to professional accounting and financial management services, and (ii) alignment of Western Balkans corporate financial reporting frameworks with relevant directives and regulations of the European Union (EU).

Program beneficiaries are the Western Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

REPARIS for SMEs builds on progress made under the completed EU-REPARIS Program (2015-2019). It is delivered by the World Bank **Centre for Financial Reporting Reform ([CFRR](#))** based in Vienna, Austria in close cooperation with World Bank Country Offices in the beneficiary countries. Program activities include training, learning events, technical assistance provided to public officials, regulators, accountants, auditors, professional accounting organizations, business support organizations, and chambers of commerce. The main components of the program are:

- (A) Supporting the development and implementation of sustainable education and training programs.
- (B) Support for the transposition and alignment of national legal frameworks and practices in financial reporting and auditing with the EU requirements.
- (C) Supporting a regional approach to the implementation of completed accounting and audit reforms.
- (D) Landscape assessments of accounting advisory services and the Accounting and Auditing Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (A&A ROSCs).
- (E) Communication plan implementation.

Under component (B), the program brings together Board members and external auditors to discuss and identify possible solutions to challenges in improving financial reporting. These include, for example, the introduction of governance requirements from the EU *acquis* and the financial governance of public interest entities (PIEs).

This conference focuses on further implementation of corporate sustainability reporting measures that encompass social and environmental reporting and enhancing the role of audit committees and encourage discussions and sharing of good practice on these topics. It aims to share knowledge, experience, and offer practical insights from a local and an international perspective with members of the profession and other interested parties from Albania and Kosovo.

The conference comes following agreement by the European Council and European Parliament on the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). This aims to ensure that businesses report reliable, comparable, and verifiable sustainability information to re-orient investments towards more sustainable technologies and companies. This important Directive will considerably impact the profession's activities regarding sustainability reporting and assurance, and regarding professional qualification. Expanding the scope of sustainability matters, the CSRD requires all large and listed EU companies (with an opt-out for listed SMEs until 2028) to introduce mandatory sustainability reporting standards. Entities will need to report in line with the new European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)<sup>1</sup> developed by the European Financial Reporting and Advisory Group (EFRAG) at the request of the European Commission (EC). External assurance on the sustainability information provided will be required. For non-European companies, the requirement to provide a sustainability report applies to all companies generating a net turnover of EUR 150 million in the EU and which have at least one subsidiary or branch in the EU.

The application of the regulation will take place in 4 stages:

- financial year 2024 (first reports published 2025) for companies already subject to the non-financial reporting directive
- financial year 2025 (reports published 2026) for companies that are not presently subject to the non-financial reporting directive
- financial year 2026 for listed SMEs (reports published 2027), small and non-complex credit institutions and captive insurance undertakings and
- financial year 2028 (reports published 2029) for non-EU companies with branches/subsidiaries.

Given the substantial regulatory change triggered by the CSRD, it is important that the profession and companies begin preparing for it as soon as possible. The conference will raise

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.efrag.org/Activities/2105191406363055/Sustainability-reporting-standards-interim-draft>

awareness of the CSRD and ESRS and consider what actions are needed in REPARIS for SMEs countries.

The conference will also discuss the latest EU audit reform, foreseen by Directive 2006/43/EU<sup>2</sup> and Regulation 537/2014,<sup>3</sup> that has expanded the audit committee's role substantially. The audit committee is now instrumental in strengthening confidence in the statutory audit and in financial information as a whole. Overall, the audit committee is expected to become a key factor within the corporate governance framework, including both financial and sustainability reporting of the EU Member States. It is important for countries to work towards consistent functioning of audit committee practices across Europe. The conference will outline existing good practices which could be considered by the regulators, profession, and entities in Albania and Kosovo.

The language of the event is English with simultaneous interpretation into Albanian language.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1591342026115&uri=CELEX:02006L0043-20140616>

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32014R0537>

## AGENDA | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022 | 08:30 - 18:00

**08:30** Registration and Welcome Coffee

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### Welcome Remarks

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**09:00**

**Emanuel Salinas** | Country Manager for Albania, Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank

**Vasilika Vjero** | Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

**Sokol Shasivari** | Acting Head, Council for Financial Reporting, Kosovo

### Keynote Address #1: New European Sustainability Reporting Requirements and Standards

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**09:15**

The EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Board and EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Technical Expert Group have developed the first set of the ESRS. They will be handed over to the EC in November 2022 to be considered for adoption. The presentation will provide the audience a general overview on the content of the standards and will outline key CSRD's provisions. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.

**Saskia Slomp** | CEO, European Financial Reporting and Advisory Group [by video]

Moderator: **Andrei Busuioc** | Senior Financial Management Specialist, World Bank

**10:45** Coffee Break

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### Panel Discussion #1: Corporate Sustainability Reporting - Potential Impact and Related Challenges for Albania and Kosovo

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**11:15**

International investors with global investment portfolios are increasingly calling for high quality, transparent, reliable, and comparable reporting by companies on climate and other environmental, social, and governance matters. The panel will discuss and debate the potential impact and related challenges for Albania and Kosovo in the context of adoption of the ESRS.

Panelists:

**Erisa Rodhani** | Head of Sector, Head of Sector, Harmonization Directorate for Financial Management, Control, and Accounting, Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Albania

**Sadik Berisha** | Member of the Council for Financial Reporting, Kosovo  
**Dritan Nako** | Legal and External Relations Manager, ANTEA Cement, Albania  
**Teuta Ukshini Aliu** | Director of Control, Accounting and Reporting at the Kosovo Distribution and Supply Company  
**Kledi Kodra** | Managing Partner, Grant Thornton, Albania  
**Arta Limani** | Director in the Audit & Assurance Department, Deloitte Kosovo  
Moderators:  
**Jonida Myftiu** | Senior Financial Management Specialist, World Bank  
**Andrei Busuioc** | Senior Financial Management Specialist, World Bank

**12:30 Lunch**

### **Keynote Address #2: What Makes an Effective Audit Committee**

**13:30**

The audit committee is an important link in the chain of parties ensuring proper reporting and the related assurance provided by auditors. Audit committee arrangements need to be proportionate to the task, and might vary according to the size, complexity, and risk profile of the entity. The presentation will discuss the audit committee's role and responsibilities in relation to financial and sustainability reporting and will provide insights towards meeting the challenges of implementing an effective audit committee following the provisions of the EU *acquis*. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.

**Peter van Veen** | Director of Corporate Governance & Stewardship, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Moderator: **Andrei Busuioc** | Senior Financial Management Specialist, World Bank

### **The Critical Role of Audit Committees in Transparency and Accountability – Practical Experience from Slovenia**

**14:30**

This session will offer a good practice example based on the activities of audit committees in Slovenia, also highlighting relevant issues for the banking sector. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.

**Blanka Vezjak** | External Member of Audit Committees, Slovenia

Moderator: **Svetlana Platon** | Consultant, World Bank

**15:00 Coffee Break**

## Panel Discussion #2: Improving Audit Committee Effectiveness in Albania and Kosovo Considering Actual Status and Good International Practice

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In this session, panel members, including audit committee members of companies based in or with significant activities in Albania and Kosovo, will discuss audit committees and suggest areas with the greatest potential for audit committee members to improve their effectiveness in promoting high quality and transparent corporate, sustainability reporting, and auditing.

15:30 Panelists:

**Teuta Baleta** | Head of Audit Committee, Union Bank of Albania

**Mentor Hyseni** | Head of Audit Committee in AKP, Privatisation Agency of Kosovo

**Amir Dermalaj** | Auditor, BDO Global, Kosovo

**Elvis Ziu** | PWC Advisory Leader, Albania

**Dritan Fino** | Chairman, Public Oversight Board, Albania

**Faton Ahmetaj** | Member, Public Oversight Board, Kosovo

Moderator: **Laura Qorlazja** | Country Officer, International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group

## Albania - Strengthening the Quality of Auditing and Reporting Project

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This session will outline key activities planned in Albania as part of the Strengthening the Quality of Auditing and Reporting Project, financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

16:45

Presenter:

**Dritan Fino** | Director, General Directorate of Harmonization of Public Internal Financial Control, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

Moderator: **Andrei Busuioc** | Senior Financial Management Specialist, World Bank

17:15 End of Conference

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17:30 Dinner

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## BIOS OF THE SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

(in order of appearance)



### **EMANUEL SALINAS**

Country Manager for Albania, Europe and Central Asia Region,  
World Bank

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Emanuel Salinas is World Bank Country Manager for Albania, having recently held the position of Country Manager for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. Previously he oversaw the World Bank's programs and teams covering macroeconomics and fiscal management, financial sector development, governance, poverty reduction, and trade and competitiveness in South Asia, with a focus on Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Earlier, he led the World Bank's portfolio of financial and private sector development projects across Central Asia, based in Kazakhstan. He joined the World Bank in 2005 as a Young Professional, becoming a Financial Economist leading projects on access to finance, financial stability, investment climate, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, trade, innovation, and business environment reform in more than 15 countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. He was also a Senior Investment Officer at the World Bank Group's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. Before joining the World Bank, Emanuel had more than ten years of experience in the private sector. He worked with Standard & Poor's as European Head of Structured Finance Surveillance, managing a portfolio of USD 150 billion of global securities, and previously as Associate Director of Risk Management Advisory Services for banks in Scandinavia and Southern Europe; European Manager of Quantitative Analytics; and Lead Analyst of Financial Institutions for Latin America. He started his career as financial analyst at Mercedes Benz Financial Services and Procter & Gamble. He holds a Master's degree in Management and Economic Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, a Master's degree in International Banking and Finance, a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, and took part in the Executive Education Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



### **VASILIKA VJERO**

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

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Vasilika Vjero has held a range of senior management positions in Albania, including General Director of Taxes, General Director of the National Business Center, and General Director of the Albanian Road Authority. She spent over 10 years at the Municipality of Tirana in the

management of the Tax Administration and the Department of Strategic Planning and local budgets. She has served as an independent expert on fiscal and budget matters for local government in Albania, working with 24 municipalities and communes throughout the country, and has experience as a financial expert working with foreign donors. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Tirana, Faculty of Economics, Department of Business Administration and completed a master's degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln USA, and University of Tirana, Faculty of Economy. She has also been trained in economic growth by Harvard Kennedy School.



### **SOKOL SHASIVARI**

Acting Head of the Council for Financial Reporting, Kosovo

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Sokol Shasivari is acting Head of the Kosovo Council for Financial Reporting. He has more than fifteen years of experience in banking and insurance supervision. His roles at the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo have included Head of On-Site Supervision and senior financial and risk analyst, involved in many of the Central Bank's strategic projects such as development of a supervisory stress test, project manager for the Off-site Regulatory Reporting Framework, a member of the Basel implementation project, in charge of Pillar II (Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process), a project manager for International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 9 implementation - regulatory and reporting framework for banking system, and implementation of a risk based supervision approach. Mr. Shasivari has completed a MSc in Financial Markets and Banking.



### **SASKIA SLOMP**

CEO, European Financial Reporting Advisory Group

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Saskia Slomp has been EFRAG CEO since April 2019. She was previously Governance and Admin Director at EFRAG from January 2010 until March 2019. In this role, she supported the various governance bodies of EFRAG and was responsible for relationships, user activities, and outreach events, in addition to her responsibilities for human resources and finance. Until the end of 2009, she was Technical Director at FEE (now Accountancy Europe), one of the founding member organizations of EFRAG. She has been involved in EFRAG since its establishment. Within Accountancy Europe, she was responsible for financial reporting, company law, corporate governance, capital markets, SMEs,

sustainability reporting and assurance and the public sector. At the beginning of her career, she worked with KPMG in The Netherlands. She is a member of the Dutch NBA.

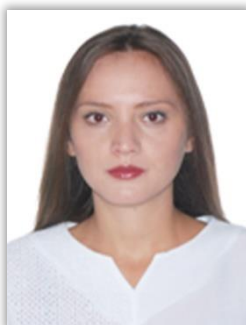


### **ANDREI BUSUIOC**

Senior Financial Management Specialist, World Bank

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Andrei Busuioc has been Central Asia Financial Management Coordinator since July 2020. He is responsible for leading the financial management function in Central Asia, while continuing to lead and support corporate financial reporting and state-owned enterprise governance activities. He has over 25 years of accounting and auditing experience in the private and public sectors, as well as university lecturing on accounting and auditing. He worked at the CFRR from 2008 to 2020 where he led activities supporting country-level financial reporting and state-owned enterprise governance reforms. He has contributed significantly to and led several Accounting and Auditing Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (A&A ROSCs) and has expertise in the thematic areas of audit regulation and state-owned enterprise governance. He is a PhD in economics, is a fellow member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and holds a postgraduate diploma in public financial management from SOAS, University of London.



### **ERISA RODHANI**

Head of Sector, Harmonization Directorate for Financial Management, Control, and Accounting, Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Albania

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Erisa Rodhani is Head of Sector for Public and Private Sector Accounting at the Harmonization Directorate for Financial Management, Control, and Accounting in the Ministry of Finance and Economy. She was earlier an assistant and lecturer at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tirana and at Marin Barleti University in the field of public finance, public sector accounting, and internal control. She is a Certified Accountant and has received a series of certificates related to International Financial Reporting (IFRS) and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) issued by bodies such as ACCA and CIPFA. She is also a lecturer at the Albanian School of Public Administration on public internal financial control and the continuous professional development of internal auditors in the public sector.



### **SADIK BERISHA**

Member of the Council for Financial Reporting, Kosovo

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Sadik Berisha has been working with an international network of audit, tax and consulting firms over the last 15 years providing services in audit, advisory, financial reporting, and taxation. He is a certified auditor and a member of the Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Kosovo (SCAAK).



### **DRITAN NAKO**

Legal and External Relations Manager at ANTEA Cement Sh.A

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Dritan Nako is Legal and External Relations Manager at ANTEA Cement Sh.A., in charge of handling legal, administrative, and regulatory issues. He is responsible for managing the company's relations with related stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental agencies. Over the past 12 years he has led the company's negotiations with financial institutions for major financing projects. He is also an active participant in various local and international business forums, representing the interests of the local industry. He is a Member of the Bar Association of Albania, holding the advocate's license, and recently graduated from King's College after having successfully completed the studies for a postgraduate diploma in EU Competition Law.



### **TEUTA UKSHINI ALIU**

Director of Control, Accounting and Reporting at the Kosovo Distribution and Supply Company

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Teuta Ukshini Aliu has over 13 years of progressive experience in the roles of manager for financial reporting and accounting methodology, director for control, accounting, and reporting, and lately as a member and chair of the board of directors, extensively on public interest enterprises - energy and water supply services. In her current position as the Director of Control, Accounting and Reporting at the Kosovo Distribution and Supply Company j.s.c, she oversees the internal control and the functionality of accounting department and its interactions with other departments of the company for a fair and correct reporting under

the requirements of IFRS, applicable legislation for financial reporting, and industry guidance. In addition to her financial skills and advanced knowledge on corporate reporting, she has extensive management experience and skills including, designing and implementing financial IT systems produced in house, staff team building, management communication and board and other institutional stakeholders. In her other most current position as Chair of the Board of Directors at KRU Prishtina regional water supply company, she leads the board in approving and overseeing the implementation of business plans and short and long-term strategies towards objectives, mission, and vision of the company. She is Master of Science in Management and Informatics from the University of Prishtina, Certified Auditor of the SCAAK, and is in the process of gaining certification from the ACCA.



### **KLEDIAN KODRA**

Managing Partner, Grant Thornton Albania

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Kledian Kodra is Managing Partner of Grant Thornton Albania. He has more than 20 years of experience with international accountancy firms, providing a wide range of services to both international and local clients including audit and assurance, due diligence, accounting consulting, financial control, and general management, mainly in banking, insurance, as well as oil and gas, telecommunications, public utilities, and consumer product industries. He works closely with the Albanian National Standards Setter and is an approved translator of IFRS in Albanian language by the International Accounting Standards Board. He is also Head of the Regulatory Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in Albania and, additionally, lectures on financial accounting and audit and assurance at the University of New York in Tirana.



### **ARTA LIMANI**

Director in the Audit & Assurance Department, Deloitte Kosovo

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Arta Limani is Director in the Audit & Assurance Department at Deloitte Kosovo, CE South Cluster. She has more than sixteen years of experience in providing professional services in Kosovo, Albania, and North Macedonia. She has undertaken audit and assurance engagements for several local and international clients and she is experienced in offering statutory and international audits to a wide range of institutions in the financial industry sector, manufacturing, retail, public sector, telecommunications, and other projects financed from other international organizations. She has extensive and in-depth knowledge of International Accounting Standards and International Financial Reporting



Standards. She is a Fellow Member of ACCA, Licensed Auditor from the Kosovo Financial Reporting Council, Ministry of Finance of Kosovo, and a Certified Auditor from the SCAAK. She holds a Master's degree in Economic Sciences in Finance and Accounting and a Bachelor's degree in Finance, Banking, and Accounting.



#### **JONIDA MYFTIU**

Senior Financial Management Specialist, World Bank

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Jonida has 20 years' experience in areas of financial management, accounting and assurance services in both the private and public sector. Since joining the World Bank Governance Global Practice in 2011, she is responsible for overseeing financial management aspects for World Bank financed projects in Albania and Kosovo and has led activities contributing to the strengthening of public financial management and public sector accounting in both countries.



#### **PETER VAN VEEN**

Director of Corporate Governance & Stewardship, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

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Peter Van Veen is the Director of Corporate Governance & Stewardship at the ICAEW. He has broad responsibility for thought leadership, policy, and managing stakeholder relationships in these areas. Prior to joining the ICAEW, he was the Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer for multinational enterprises headquartered in respectively the Netherlands, France, and Japan. Prior to these roles, he spent over 6 years at Transparency International UK (TI-UK) as the Director of Business Integrity. At TI-UK, he led the development of publications, including on Managing Supply Chain Risk, Incentivising Ethical Behaviour, and on Responsible Corporate Political Engagement, amongst others. He regularly provided expert input into standard setting initiatives and parliamentary consultations. He served on the advisory board of AIM Progress, the European Brands' ethical supply chain initiative, and on Network Rail's Transparency Panel. Prior to TI-UK, he worked in interim management, board advisory, and strategy consulting roles. He started his career as an economist for the EIU. He has worked with, advised, and served on boards for over 20 years. He is a guest lecturer at LSE and CEMS Master's in Management Programme. He has postgraduate degrees in Corporate Governance & Business Ethics, Information Technology, and Economics from the University of London and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.



### **BLANKA VEZJAK**

External Member of Audit Committees, Slovenia

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Blanka Vezjak has extensive working experience, leading assurance and consulting projects in the Big 4 for thirteen years and in her company for the last fifteen years. She combines in-depth knowledge and practical experience in the fields of accounting, auditing, risk management and corporate governance with the characteristics of sustainable business, including environmental, social, and governance criteria and taxonomy. In her book *Sustainable Business: a Handbook for Organisations* (publisher: Uradni list RS, Ljubljana, March 2022), she provides information that every key employee, in both the private and public sectors, should know, recommends steps towards sustainability, and reminders for the actions of the management board, supervisory board, audit committee, and area managers. She has helped prepared recommendations for audit committees as a member of the Slovenian Directors' Association and ecoDa working groups. She also has practical experience as an external independent professional member of audit committees (in sixteen companies since 2008, including four banks and three insurance companies).



### **SVETLANA PLATON**

Consultant, World Bank

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Svetlana Platon has over 23 years of experience in accounting and auditing in both the private and public sectors, including university lecturing on accounting. She has worked with the World Bank since June 2006 in a range of roles. She has contributed to A&A ROSCs in Slovenia and Albania and has expertise in the thematic areas of audit & accounting regulation, accounting education, and state-owned enterprise governance. She has been involved in various World Bank projects related to improving the institutional capacity and legal framework in the field of accounting, public oversight, and quality assurance in Moldova, Albania, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Currently she is also involved in fiduciary financial management for the World Bank portfolio in Tajikistan. She is a PhD in economics and a member of the ACCA.



### **TEUTA BALETA**

Head of Audit Committee, Union Bank of Albania

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Teuta Baleta is an economist with experience in central banking, financial regulation and supervision, and consulting. She covers a variety of topics, such as macroeconomic policies and development; conducting monetary policy; financial stability; bank sector reform with a focus on state-bank privatization; financial regulators reform; banking and macroeconomic statistics, research, reporting, and analysis; governance; transparency; internal auditing; and financial transformation. She has almost 20 years of experience in lecturing and teaching in finance, banking, and other economics topics, including the scientific editorial of two university level textbooks in the areas of finance and economics. Since May 2020, she sits on the Board of Directors of Union Bank and two Board Committees: the Audit Committee, and the Remuneration and Human Resources Committee.



### **MENTOR HYSENI**

Head of Audit Committee in AKP, Privatisation Agency of Kosovo

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Mentor Hyseni has held various positions and roles related to internal audit governance and public financial management (PFM), including in local government, over the last 17 years. As internal audit director in three different institutions, he oversaw large-scale audits of large government institutions, state owned enterprises, and private companies. Amongst other duties and responsibilities, he has been in charge of strategic audit planning, overseeing audit reports and briefs, and liaising with senior management, boards, and executive representatives of the audited organizations. His internal audit experience includes the most significant and the largest entities in Kosovo. He represented Kosovo for three years in the Public Sector Accounting and Reporting (PULSAR) Program managed by the CFRR. For the last six years, as a finance expert for the German development agency GIZ, he has been supporting the Committee for Oversight of Public Finances, the functional committee for the National Audit Office (NAO). He was also engaged by the USAID Transparent, Effective, and Accountable Municipalities activity to support implementation of NAO recommendations.



### **AMIR DERMALA**

Auditor, BDO Global, Kosovo

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Amir Dërmala is an auditor at BDO Global, Kosovo, involved in auditing banks, finance institutions, insurance companies, NGOs, budgetary institutions, IT service companies, mineral and exploration companies. He has more than 20 years audit experience and he has been involved with and directed audit engagements for different local and international companies in Kosovo. He has broad experience of auditing under local and international standards of accounting. In addition to his role as external auditor, he has also been actively involved in due diligence projects of the public and private sectors, and in forensic and IT engagements.



### **ELVIS ZIU**

Advisory Leader of PWC Albania and Kosovo

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Elvis Ziu is the Advisory Leader of PWC Albania and Kosovo. He has over 20 years of experience in advisory and assurance, 15 of which in leadership executive roles such Country Director, Partner, etc. His work has been focused in strategic sectors of the economy such as: banking, telecoms, airports, energy production and distribution etc., leading roughly a thousand projects. His education and certifications include: Bachelor's in Management, Albania, MBA in Finance and Strategy, USA, CPA, USA, and certified auditor in Albania and Kosovo.



### **DRITAN FINO**

Director for Harmonization on Financial Management, Control and Accounting, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

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Dritan Fino is Director of Financial Management and Control Harmonization Directorate at the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania. He joined the Ministry in November 2013, as advisor at the Cabinet of the Minister. His main responsibilities relate to issues of auditing, accounting, and financial management and control. He has been lecturing since 2007 at different institutions in Albania and abroad. As part of his academic engagement he

has published several papers. His teaching and research areas relate to financial and management accounting, national and international standards of accounting, public finances, etc. Other professional experience includes engagements as Head of the Public Oversight Board of Statutory Auditors, Head of the Qualification and Certification Commission of Public Internal Auditors, Member of the Registration Authority at the Institute of Authorized Chartered Auditors of Albania, Member of the Civil Servant Recruitment Committee, etc. He has a Bachelor's degree in Finance and Accounting from the University of Tirana, followed graduate studies in Japan on a scholarship from the prestigious Monbukagakusho Program and earned the Master of Art's degree, and has a Ph.D. in Finance and Accounting.



#### **FATON AHMETAJ**

Director, Department of Financial Planning and Reporting, Central Bank, Republic of Kosovo and Member, Public Oversight Board, Kosovo

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Faton Ahmetaj is Director of the Department of Financial Planning and Reporting at the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo. He was nominated and appointed as Chairman of the Public Oversight Board in

June 2022.



#### **LAURA QORLAZJA**

Country Officer, International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group

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Laura Qorlazja joined IFC as IFC's Country Representative in Albania in March 2016. Prior to joining IFC, she worked for 20 years with international accounting firms responsible for overseeing a range of client services including audit and other attestation services, financial advisory services, tax consulting, and accounting consulting across a wide range of industries. She graduated in Finance from the University of Tirana and holds a Master's degree in Finance from the University of Tirana. While working in accountancy, she held various professional licenses, such as Certified Public Accountant (USA), Authorized Chartered Accountant (Albania), and Certified Auditor (Kosovo).



