

IPSAS

The first five International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Ipsas) became effective in the country in January

BRAZIL AT THE FOREFRONT

The new chairman of Ifac, Rachel Grimes, explains the entity's global challenges and praises the performance of the country

NOCLAR

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Learn about the executives' perception of the New Auditor's Report and its contribution to improving the governance of companies.

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The challenges of Noclar

The Noclar standard should be effective in July and brings greater responsibilities to Accounting professionals

The Noclar standard - Responding to Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations, from the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (Iesba), is expected to become effective in July 2017 in several countries.

"The standard is a great challenge and brings greater responsibilities to Accounting professionals who prepare financial statements" says Idésio Coelho, Ibracon's president.

"Even so, we highlight that Noclar is a breakthrough and Ibracon is actively working not only in the translation of the standard and in the interpretation and evaluation of its application in the Brazilian environment, but also in its dissemination," says Idésio, reminding that the profession, historically, always cared for the public interest.

He recalls that the topic has generated extensive debate at the Ifac Council Meeting, carried out in Brasília, in November, with the support of Ibracon, the Federal Accounting

Board (CFC) and the Brazilian Accounting Foundation (FBC), with the presence of Rachel Grimes, new chairman of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), Olivia Kirtley, former chairman, Stavros Thomadakis, chairman of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (Iesba), and representatives of approximately 170 Ifac's member entities.

Brazil also hosted, in São Paulo, in the same week of the Ifac Annual Meeting, an Iesba's outreach with market players. "The meeting addressed the importance of international ethics and independence standards, as well as the Noclar implications for the independent auditors and Accounting professionals, and discussed the relation between corporate governance and ethical standards," says Rogerio Hernandez Garcia, Ibracon's Technical director.

Reminding that Noclar is the result of a long process of consultations in more than 100 countries, over the past six years, Idésio Coelho evaluates that the standard is aligned with different international treaties. "The standard values even more the Accounting professionals, who will contribute to the construction of more solid, fair and ethical institutions, which are essential for Brazil's sustainable development," he concludes.

THE ORDER IS TO INFORM

The new rule is clear: whenever finding non-compliance and illegalities, the Accounting professional must report.

"It is not denunciation. Noclar should be seen as a tool in favor of Accounting professionals, provided that the internal and external conditions of their client are within the expected. The standard requires that Accounting professionals report to the appropriate bodies when they find non-compliance or illegalities, deviations from laws and regulations", explains Rogério Garcia.

According to him, it is important to emphasize that the standard can also be seen as a protection to the professionals, who must first inform their superiors or clients when they understand that there is some inconsistency or suspicion of irregularity, without incurring breach of professional secrecy.

"In most situations, the superiors will do the right thing and adopt the procedures indicated by the Accounting professional," says Garcia. According to him, for external communication to happen, the professional should bring the matter to their superiors, so that they can decide on the procedure to be followed.

If the superiors do not make the right decision, the Accounting professional should assess whether to continue working in the company or rendering services to that specific client.

“Noclar should create more challenges to the accountant who is an employee, because for the others there already exist today similar communications procedures, for example, to comply with the Money Laundering Prevention Law,” he says.

According to Rogério Garcia, “the reporting to the appropriate authorities is the last step to be given, only if the situation is not resolved internally,” he says.

POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION

Despite the consensus that Noclar is a breakthrough, there are still some points under discussion, aiming at the standard’s improvement. “We are discussing the need for alignment throughout the Brazilian legal framework, so that the professionals are safe and protected when they are thinking about reporting inconsistencies to the appropriate authorities,” says Rogerio Garcia.

According to him, the legal environment is being analyzed, to determine which improvements are needed in the existing legislation. One of the points under discussion is defining if the reporting to the appropriate

authorities will be anonymous or not. It is also still necessary to determine which authority the Accounting professional must report to, in case they have exhausted the negotiations with their superiors.

“Noclar does not address these issues, since each country has its own laws,” says Rogerio Garcia.

Idésio Coelho closes ensuring that, with essential points for its applicability in Brazil clarified, the Institute will help to disseminate the standard and its relevance in forums and events, and that the standard will only be approved with proper protection to the Accounting professionals.

Stavros Thomadakis interview

In this interview, the Iesba’s chairman talks about the importance of the adoption, by Brazil, of the Noclar standard.

RT – What is your perception about the adoption of ethical standards issued by IESBA in the world?

ST – The IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) has been adopted, or is used as a basis for national ethics standards, in over 120 jurisdictions around the world, including in the majority of

G-20 countries—Brazil being one. In addition, the largest 27 international networks of audit firms that comprise the Forum of Firms are constitutionally required to conform their policies and methodologies to the Code for transnational audits. So, clearly, the Code is a widely accepted instrument with global reach.



Stavros Thomadakis

Photo: iesba file

However, the approach to global adoption of ethics standards is more uneven compared with auditing or financial reporting standards. For example, in some jurisdictions, there is divided responsibility with a regulatory body responsible for setting independence standards for auditors of listed entities and the local IFAC member organization (or organizations) responsible for promulgating ethics standards for the rest of the profession. In other jurisdictions, a national standard setter or an IFAC member organization may have sole responsibility for setting ethics standards. Where there is fragmentation of responsibility for national reasons, particularly in the area of auditor independence, we often see divergence in standards across jurisdictions. The IESBA strongly believes that a common global set of ethics and independence standards is in the public interest, although this should not preclude jurisdictions from establishing stricter requirements for their particular national circumstances.

Our current project to restructure the Code by the end of 2017 will, we believe, help stimulate further global adoption of the Code. The revamped Code will be clearer, more understandable and easier to use and access. We believe these features will lead to more consistent application of the Code and better enforcement. In addition to having its content reorganized, the restructured Code will be more robust with significant enhancements on topics such as non-compliance with laws and regulations (NOCLAR),

**THE NOCLAR
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SUCH AS
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LAUNDERING AND
VIOLATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
REGULATION**

safeguards, long association, and pressure to breach the fundamental principles in the Code.

RT – What is the importance is the IFAC Council meeting held for the first time in Brazil?

ST – Holding the IFAC Council Meeting in Brasilia last November

offered us a great opportunity to present the IESBA's new NOCLAR standard. It also afforded us excellent opportunities to engage with Latin American member organizations of IFAC, as well as Brazilian regulators, national standard setters and market participants. Brazil has been a longtime supporter of international financial reporting and auditing standards, and adopted a converged version of the Code back in 2014. Brazil is a leader in the region, and we hope that Brazil's good example will help inspire further adoption of the Code throughout Latin America.

While in the region, we undertook to engage in extensive outreach not only in Brazil but also in Chile and Peru, thereby raising the IESBA's visibility in Latin America and strengthening bonds with important stakeholders. I am particularly grateful to our IESBA member from Brazil, Robert Juenemann, who participated in the outreach and helped us make the various connections.

RT – What is the importance is the new ethical standard Responding to Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations (NOCLAR)?

ST – The NOCLAR standard breaks new ground: It establishes a framework for professional accountants' response when they encounter or become aware of NOCLAR committed by their clients or employers, such as bribery, fraud, money laundering, and violations of environmental laws and regulations. Fundamentally, the standard deals

with the question of what is reasonable to ask of accountants, within their public interest responsibility, when they face an instance of NOCLAR. The new standard resolves the question by laying out a pathway for the accountant's response: gathering information and understanding the issue; reaching out to management or those charged with governance so that they take appropriate action to deter NOCLAR or mitigate its consequences for stakeholders; making a decision regarding taking further action, including disclosure to a public authority in appropriate circumstances. Deterrence, mitigation, and disclosure are important public interest objectives.

Previously, accountants were prohibited from disclosing NOCLAR by the Code's fundamental principle of confidentiality. The new standard gives them the right (not an obligation) to make a disclosure to a public authority, if appropriate in the particular circumstances. The exercise of professional judgment is required in all cases.

Effective implementation of the standard will be key. So we look to IFAC member organizations like IBRACON to actively raise awareness of the standard within the profession nationally, work with lawmakers and regulators to promote the establishment of safe harbors for accountants to disclose NOCLAR under the standard, and provide the tools, resources, and other support that their members will need to effectively implement the standard.



Stavros Thomadakis

RT – In what way this obligatoriness impact the responsibility of the accounting and auditing professional before the society?

ST – The NOCLAR standard is a major development for the global accountancy profession, and it is consistent with the profession's overriding responsibility to act in the public interest. In essence, it prohibits a professional accountant from "turning a blind eye" to identified or suspected NOCLAR (i.e., willfully ignoring it). The standard gives the professional accountant a right

but not an obligation to disclose NOCLAR. It requires a response from the accountant, which is calibrated depending on the circumstances. It takes a proportionate approach depending on whether the accountant is performing an audit of financial statements or providing another professional service within a firm in public practice. In the case of a professional accountant in business, the seniority of the accountant within an employing organization matters. The standard also recognizes that the primary responsibility for preventing

and detecting NOCLAR, and for addressing its consequences, rests with management and those charged with governance. So, the standard is carefully balanced, recognizing the public interest role of professional accountants and their different capacities to act, as well as the responsibilities of other players in the financial reporting supply chain.

We firmly believe that the standard will reinforce trust in the profession and further raise the standing of professional accountants in society, vis-à-vis clients, employers, public authorities, the general public, and others.

RT – What has been the perception of the general public, including regulators, regarding the changes that the new pronouncement will bring?

ST – The feedback from stakeholders on the final standard has been overwhelmingly positive. This was not the case when the IESBA first set out to develop the standard back in late 2009. A first set of proposals in 2012 met with strong concerns from a wide range of stakeholders, with many polarized views. This led the Board to decide to hold a series of three global roundtables in Hong Kong, Brussels, and Washington DC with stakeholders across the spectrum, including regulators, investors, audit committee members, preparers, national standard setters, firms, IFAC member organizations, representatives of the legal profession, and members of the academic community, among others. The input



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from the roundtables helped the Board develop the more holistic and balanced response framework that is now built into the final standard.

Throughout the development of the standard, we worked very closely with key stakeholders, especially the major regulators around the world such as IOSCO, IFIAR, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, as well as our Consultative Advisory Group. We were pleased to receive their strong support for the final standard.

RT – In the year in which Ibracon turns 45, it strengthens its performance and participation in the scope of international auditing and accounting entities. The president of Ibracon, Idésio Coelho, now joins the board of Ifac. How do you see the work of Ibracon?

ST – We had the opportunity to engage with IBRACON leadership and members of the Board of Directors during the IFAC Council meeting. We were very encouraged by the depth and quality of their work and proactive engagement with regulators and other stakeholders. It is essential that Brazil has a strong audit profession to serve the needs of the very large and diverse Brazilian economy, and to enable the country to fulfill its growth potential to the maximum. IBRACON has an important role to play in this regard in being the voice of the auditing profession in Brazil, in promoting the profession's public interest role, in attracting talent to the profession and bringing up the next generation of auditors with strong ethics values, in adopting and disseminating international standards and best practices by the auditing profession, and in building and reinforcing trust in the Brazilian profession. There is much work to be done.

Having met many of the leaders of IBRACON during my visit, I am confident the organization is resolute and well prepared to meet those challenges. Allow me to congratulate IBRACON on its 45 years, and we look forward to many more years of collaboration in the future. ✓

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Ibracon's Transparency Award

Winners will travel to London where they will attend technical events

In its 6th edition, the Transparency Award of Journalism and Education, promoted by Ibracon, had as winners the journalist Auani Cusma de Paula, from the magazine LEC (Legal Ethics Compliance), with the article "Under Pressure", and the student Dielson Mignoni, from Universidade Caxias do Sul (UCS), under the guidance of professor Fernando Andrade Pereira, with the project "Independent Auditor's Report: An analysis of the content of the audit opinion of Publicly Traded Companies in Brazil". The winners will make a cultural and technical trip for five days to London, which will happen in the second half of 2017. The journalist, the student and the guiding professor will attend an award ceremony conducted by Ibracon during the 7th Brazilian Conference on Accounting and Independent Auditing, on June 26 and 27, at the Bradesco Theater, in São Paulo.

"It is an honor to receive an award like this, a proof that the work of magazine LEC has reflected positively," says the journalist Auani Cusma de Paula. "What led us to this agenda was the whole discussion about corporate corruption and the role of audits in this process. From this, we tried to understand the dynamics of the audit



Auani Cusma de Paula

Photo: personal file

work in this process, its responsibilities and its role”.

For the student Dielson Mignoni, the award also is a recognition. “In a way it is an approval that our work is on track, by raising the role of the companies’ audit opinion,” he said. And the professor Fernando Andrade Pereira says that “in the conducting of the guidance work for the completion of course I always communicate the challenge’s importance for the students. This is not just another academic task, but a chance of intellectual, academic, and professional growth”. ‘Intellectual for the complementation of studies through research and innovation. Academic for the recognition of the institution and development of our region through education and, finally, professional for the recognition of the labor market of the ability of students graduated by UCS”, he adds. Pereira was also guiding professor winner of the 4th edition of the award.

CHANGES IN THE AUDITOR’S ROLE

The article “Under Pressure” was published in the printed issue number 15 of the LEC Magazine and deals with the audit evolution since the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century, up to the present day, approaching fundamental



Dielson Mignoni

Photo: personal file

aspects such as the auditor’s role in business fraud, the growing demand for more transparency connected to the need to increase professional skepticism. Auani de Paula explains that, despite not changing the auditor’s responsibility on the fraud investigation, which is still not being his primary role, the overall trend can be interpreted as “something that goes more along this line in the coming years.”



Photo: personal file

“Regulators all around the world have put more pressure on the auditors, for them to increase what is called in the industry as ‘professional skepticism’, that is, the ability to question the different processes of the company and from company to company,” he writes. “It is also required that this skepticism be increasingly shared, in a more transparent manner, with shareholders, regulators and other stakeholders’.

The journalist recalls that the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (Iesba), the body responsible for setting ethics and independence standards for

Accounting professionals, connected to the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), issued Noclar, a guideline on how the auditor shall report illegal acts and breach of compliance regulations to the appropriate public authorities, without breaching his confidentiality duty.

The article notes that the perception of corruption in Brazil today is much higher, although the illegal acts were committed in the past, and that is why it is necessary to recognize that acts of circumvention are not exception. “In this context, even though they do not have direct responsibility on the fraud identification, as reinforced by Idésio Coelho, from Ibracon, the accounting audits have given to their professional teams more resources to be able to identify fraud and support their work,” writes Auani de Paula.

He concludes saying that in the future the work of the independent auditor may be quite different from what it is today, based on document sampling. “One of the biggest bets for the future is the more frequent use of the Big Data concept. Some audits have already used this opportunity to make further analysis in clients’ financial statements. Companies are investing heavily in the development of tools in this area. The goal is that auditors can access the client’s whole

technological environment and import to an external and secure environment this large volume of information”.

FACTORS FOR THE FORMATION OF AUDIT OPINION

Now the work of the student Dielson Mignoni sought to analyze which factors contribute to the formation of the independent audit opinion on the financial statements, presenting fundamental and of improvement qualitative characteristics. He explains that “an independent audit report issued with the financial statements, through its opinion, must be able to transmit security to the user of this information. The usefulness of accounting information depends on its qualitative characteristics, especially those of trustworthy relevance and representation, in addition to the user’s goals,” he writes. “It is also a user’s decision to consider the independent audit report issued with the financial statements in his decision-making”.

The theme proposed in the project is based on 2,544 financial statements of 424 companies listed on BM&FBovespa, made on September 28, 2016 and for the years 2010 to 2015. The goal is to analyze which factors contribute to the formation of the audit opinion issued in the independent auditors reports on the financial statements. At the

end of the project, Mignoni explains that 2010 and 2015 had the greater number of opinions changed, although the difference was not significant statistically (0.05). “However, it was shown that the company’s operational situation has a relation with the opinion issued, in such a way that companies in the preoperating stage had, based on the relative risk, less chance of presenting a modified opinion than the companies in recovery or paralyzed”

The author concludes by showing that the traditional segment (which represents 50% of the analyzed statements) was associated, although with low intensity, to the opinion issued, which suggests to represent the fact that companies of this segment have a greater chance of modified opinion than companies listed in other segments. At the other end, the special segments showed a negative association with the modified opinion, that is, there was less chance of issuing a modified opinion for companies in this segment.

“The reasons for the modified opinions were also analyzed. Practices not in accordance with the Brazilian Accounting Standards, external confirmations or divergent balances and the lack of records ranked as the top reasons for modified opinions mentioned by the auditors”, he concludes. ✓

The article and the academic work winners are available on Ibracon’s portal.

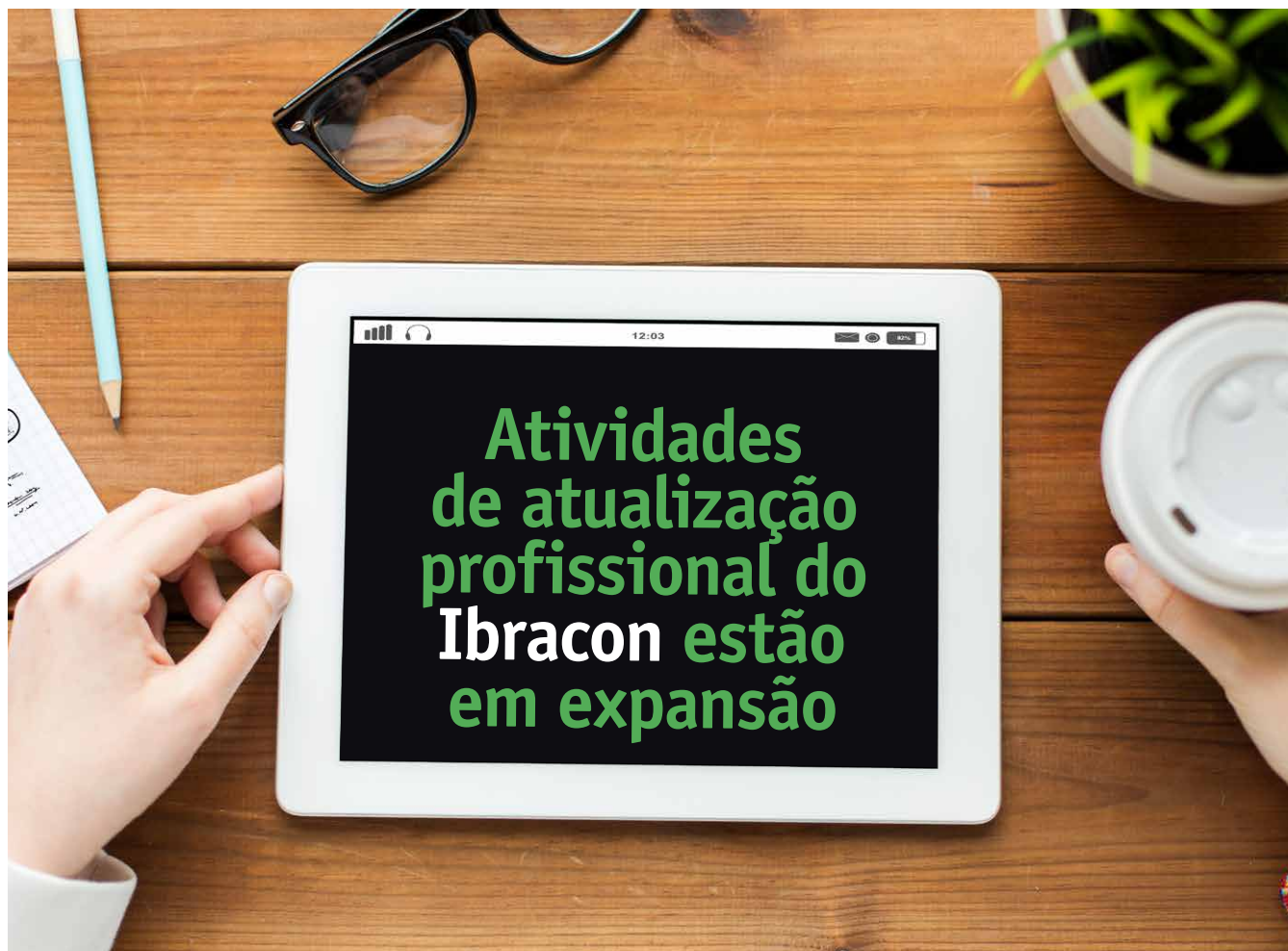


Illustration: Ingram Image

Ibracon's professional development activities are expanding Ibracon's contribution to professional development is in constant ascension. In 2016, 98 activities with 2,626 participants in a total of 745.5 hours were recorded. It is an increase of approximately 30% in relation to 2015's numbers, when 80 activities with 1,825 participants in 532.5 hours were recorded.

Last year, Ibracon release more two EAD courses: Audit for non-auditors and Construction Companies

Accounting, expanding the ways of access and allowing Accounting professionals from all over Brazil to develop themselves on topics of great relevance.

In addition to these, it is worth mentioning the IFRS 15 - Revenue from contracts with customers course, whose program is composed of four points: 1) Introduction to Revenue Recognition; 2) IAS 18 - Identification of the sales transaction; sale of products/services. Recognition of interest/

royalties and dividends revenue; 3) IFRS 15 in five steps; and 4) IAS 11/ ICPC 02 POC/OCPC 02 - Construction contracts.

Among the issues addressed in the Continued Professional Education activities we can highlight the emphasis on the New Auditor's Report training.

IFRS news; Management and sustainable growth of Small and Medium-Sized Auditing Firms (FAPMP); Investigation of frauds and illegal acts; and The auditor's responsibility in relation to frauds and illegal acts were some of the topics discussed at the Ibracon's Conference in June 2016, in São Paulo and that were replicated by the Institute's Regional Sections.

2015	80 activities	1,825 participants	532.5 hours
2016	98 activities	2,626 participants	745.5 hours

CHANGES IN THE STANDARD

2016 was also marked by changes in the Continued Professional Education standard. At the end of 2015, CFC approved a change in the standard, in order to extend its compliance obligation. The decision reaches all independent auditors, as well as the technical responsible persons, heads and managers of departments that are involved in the preparation of the financial statements of entities regulated by the Central Bank of Brazil (CBB), by the Superintendence of Private Insurance (Susep), by the Brazilian Securities Commission (CVM) and large organizations. Up to 2015 the rule was valid only for the professionals who performed audits in companies of the regulated market and for those enrolled with the National Registry of Independent Auditors (CNAI).

EXPECTATIONS

For Tadeu Cendón, Ibracon's director of Professional Development, "the engagement of these professionals became clear, at least for us, from Ibracon, by the increase in the number of participants and training hours in the courses of the Institute in 2016, compared to 2015.

For 2017 Cendón says that the expectation is even greater. "Especially considering we have three major accounting pronouncements on the way: financial instruments, revenue recognition and leases," he says. "It is good to see that the Accounting professionals



Ilustração: Ingram Image



Photo: Ibracon file

Tadeu Cendón

are engaged in their development, actively participating in the technical events, even though at the first moment they needed a push," he notes.

"But the important thing is to enjoy development, for the search or consolidation of knowledge. This will result, without doubt, in a stronger profession in the future," Cendón concludes.

ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL SECTIONS

Ibracon's Regional Sections were engaged in extending the offer of Continued Professional Education activities of the members. In the case of the New Auditor's Report, all the regional sections provided at least one training locally. Also the topics addressed at the conference in June 2016 were object of attention of the Regional Sections. In addition to the classroom courses, in company courses were offered. ✓



Brazil and the Ipsas

International standards bring more transparency to public accounting



The International Public Sector Accounting Standards, the Ipsas, are in process of implementation in Brazil. The first five standards became effective on January 1, 2017. The deadline for convergence to the international standards follows the Implementation Plan of the STN Administrative Rule No. 548/2015, which establishes the adoption gradually until 2024 at the Federal, State, Federal District and municipality levels.

Until today, 44 countries have already adopted the Ipsas, 52 are in the implementation process and 27 have already signaled the convergence to the international standards for the coming years. Leonardo Nascimento, General Coordinator of Accounting Standards applied to the Federation of the National Treasury Secretariat, linked to the Ministry of Finance and a member of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (Ipsasb), which has the support of the International Federation of Accountants (Ifac), draws attention to the special situation of the Brazilian case. "Brazil is the only instance in which the Ipsas are being implemented in all spheres - federal, state and municipal - simultaneously. In addition to the continental dimensions of the country, the success in the implementation process may even come to be an international reference," he pointed out. For Nascimento, moreover, it is precisely this situation that led to the adapted and gradual adoption to the Brazilian reality.

The Ipsas foresee a series of changes and benefits. Among them, Nascimento highlights the advantages in following international parameters. "In this way, it is possible, in fact, to make comparisons, exchange experiences and talk with other countries on topics such as, for example, public administration



Photo: Jonathan Oliveira

Leonardo Nascimento

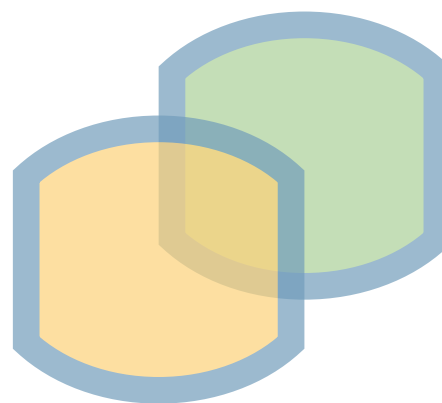
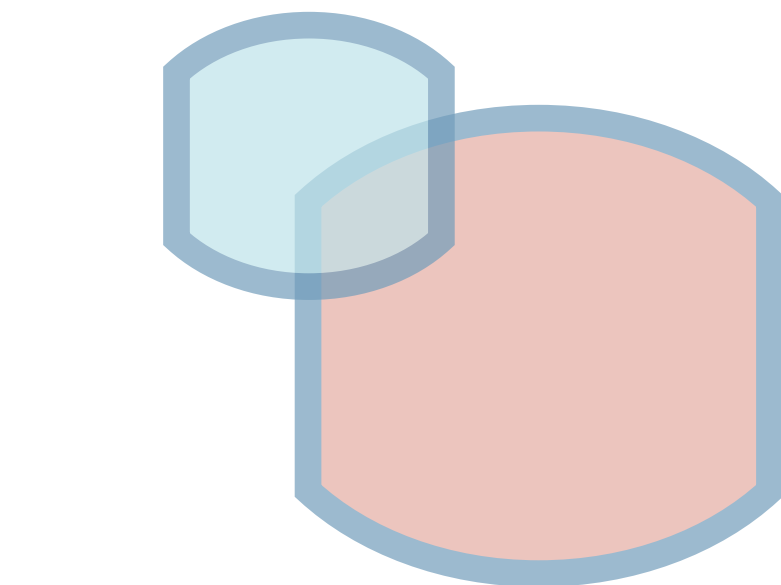
and transparency. This is only possible if all of them are speaking the same language, using the same approach," he says.

For Ayres Moura, Leonardo Nascimento's advisor at Ipsasb, one of the main benefits of the convergence to international accounting standards is the improvement of the quality of financial reports, promoting greater



Photo: EY file

Ayres Moura



soundness to public accounting and providing more transparency about the public equity. “The convergence to the Ipsas and the consequent adoption of the accrual basis of accounting will allow public bodies, citizens, investors, officers, among others, to have clear visibility of the country’s real economic and financial situation”. Moura also points out that this will be an important tool to support the compliance with the Law of Fiscal Responsibility allowing, for example, higher visibility of public indebtedness and personal expenses.

According to Moura, among the main challenges faced in the Ipsas implementation, he highlights the importance of the involvement of other bodies’ departments, such as Information Technology, legal, human resources, in the process. “The political support is also crucial for the successful implementation of the standards in Brazil,” he says.

The Ipsas are converged and edited in Brazil by the Federal Accounting Board (CFC), as a Brazilian Accounting Standard. For CFC’s Technical vice chairman, Zulmir Breda, the most significant change will be in the budgeting culture currently in force in the country. For him, public accounting in Brazil until today was basically guided by the budgeting issue, which had a prevalence in the determination of the transaction records.

With the international standards, accounting enters this equation and the focus

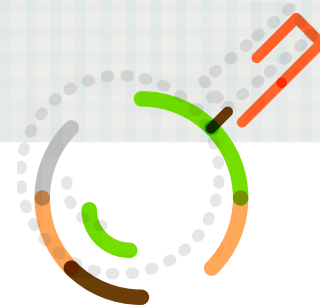


Photo: CFC file

Zulmir Breda /

becomes the equity issue, with an emphasis on parameters that help to obtain more complete information. “The record that is timely and at the appropriate extent of all of the assets, rights and obligations, irrespective of transiting through the budget, become the highlight in the revelation of management’s acts and facts,” he says.

For Breda, the introduction of Ipsas should also contribute in various aspects for evidencing accountability in the public sector. “We will have information that is more complete and favorable about public accounts, facilitating management performance evaluations, rendering of accounts, and accountability.” He says that the definitions about assets and liabilities classification criteria and the full observance of the accrual basis of accounting for revenues and expenses are elements which will contribute greatly in this process. ✓



Financial statements

The Brazilian Securities Commission (CVM) published on January 12, the Circular Letter/CVM/SNC/SEP/No. 01/2017, with guidance on relevant aspects to be observed in the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 12/31/2016.

The issues highlighted in the letter are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ■ "True and fair view"; | ■ Revenue Recognition - POC: IFRS Nº. 15 x IFRIC Nº. 15; |
| ■ Forfeit operations; | ■ Business Combination; |
| ■ FIP operations; | ■ Change in accounting practices. |
| ■ FIDC operations; | |
| ■ Impairment tests - CPC Nº. 1; | |
| ■ Disclosures - Explanatory | |

Guidance to independent auditors

Brazilian Securities Commission (CVM) published on January 12, the Circular Letter/CVM/SNC/GNA/No. 01/2017. The document provides guidance on the independent auditors activity in the securities market and draws attention to the application of professional standards.

The items highlighted in the letter are:

- | | |
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| ■ Periodic information (Article 16 - CVM Instruction 308); | ■ Continued Professional Education Program (Article 34 - CVM Instruction 308); |
| ■ Records Update (CVM Instruction 510); | ■ Auditors Rotation (Article 31 - CVM Instruction 308); |
| ■ Communications relating to articles 7 and 7 - A from the CVM Instruction 301; | ■ Issue of Comprehensive Report (article 25, item II, CVM Instruction 308); |
| ■ External Quality Review Program (Article 33 - CVM Instruction 308); | ■ New Audit's Report |

New Independent Auditor's Report

Ibracon issued, on February 6, the Circular Letter No. 01/2017 with information on the New Independent Auditor's Report (NRA).

The circular letter deals with the applicability of the new report and alerts that there may be situations in which the technical communication on the industry of the audited entity may still be in process of review.

Technical Communication Nº. 01/2017

On February 13 Ibracon issued Technical Communication (TC) 01/2017 with the objective of providing guidance to Independent Auditors in respect of the issue of their reports on the financial statements for the years or periods ended or ending December 31, 2016.

Ifac's brochure in Portuguese

Ibracon released the Portuguese version of the brochure "Choosing the right service - Comparing Audit, Review, Compilation, and Agreed-Upon Procedure Services", drawn up by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

The document aims to assist the Small and Medium-Sized Auditing Firms (FAPMP), regarding the offer of services.

NRA and the capital market

Ibracon issued on February 10 the Circular Letter No. 02/2017 with information on the New Independent Auditor's Report (NRA) in the context of capital markets and the decision on the questioning made by Ibracon regarding the interpretation of the term "listed entities", referred to in the Brazilian Accounting Standard NBC TA 701 - Formation of Opinion and Issue of Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements ("NBC TA 701").

Technical presentations at Ibracon

With the intent of updating its members about technical topics under discussion at Ibracon, at the Accounting Pronouncements Committee (CPC), and in international forums, Ibracon will promote, starting April, free presentations to its members. The first meeting will be on 4/18 and the second on 5/18, both at the Ibracon's headquarters, in São Paulo.

The mentioned contributions will be available at the Ibracon Portal, in the members' restricted area.



The 7th Brazilian Conference on Accounting and Independent Auditing will be held in June

Topics such as the practical application of the New Auditor's Report; the Noclár standard, the Regulatory Compliance for Small and Medium-Sized Auditing Firms (FAPMP), the Ipsas, the digital audit and digital age trends will be discussed



Photo: Ibracon file



7th BRAZILIAN CONFERENCE ON ACCOUNTING AND INDEPENDENT AUDITING

The Institute of Independent Auditors of Brazil (Ibracon) is receiving applications for the 7th Brazilian Conference on Accounting and Independent Auditing, which this year will be held on June 26 and 27, at the Bradesco Theater, in São Paulo. In several panels, participants will discuss topics involving the independent auditing activity and the professional practice, such as the experiences in the practical application of the New Auditor's Report; the Noclar standard - Responding to Non-compliance with Laws and Regulations, the Regulatory Compliance for Small and Medium-Sized Auditing Firms (FAPMP), the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Ipsas) and the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) News.

"The program will also include discussions on the impact of technological transformation on the independent auditing activity. We will present to the participants the current audit scenario, news in information intelligence and the main trends in the digital era," says Idésio Coelho, Ibracon's president. In addition to Ibracon's representatives, the conference will be attended by panelists of the Federal Accounting Board (CFC); Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM); International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (Iaasb), Central Bank of Brazil (CBB); National Association of Federal Police Chiefs (ADPF); International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (Ipsasb); International Accounting Standards Board (IASB); Accounting Pronouncements Committee (CPC), and International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (Iesba).

The first Brazilian Conference on Accounting and Independent Auditing was held in 2011, at the time of Ibracon's 40th anniversary. Since then, the conference has been consolidated as one of the main events for accounting and auditing professionals in Brazil. The conference became a reference



Photo: Flavio R. Guarnieri

Idésio Coelho

in the calendar of the country's accounting and business sector for discussing relevant issues in the area, anticipating scenarios and contributing to the professional development and updating.

The solemn opening of the 7th Brazilian Conference on Accounting and Independent Auditing will take place at 8h30am on June 26, Monday, by the president of Ibracon, Idésio Coelho, and the chairmen of CFC, José Martonio Alves, and of CVM, Leonardo Pereira.

The first lecture will be held at 9h00 and will be about Trends in the digital era.



Photo: Flavio R. Guarnieri

Eduardo Pocetti

The following lecture at 9h45, will be about Digital audit and will count with the participation of Matt Waldron, Technical director of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (laasb).

After, at 11h00, there will be a Debate on the topics of the previous lectures. The panelists will be the Technical director of the Institute of Independent Auditors of Brazil (Ibracon), Rogério Garcia, a representative of the Central Bank of Brazil, and the Chairman of the Association of Accounting Service and Advisory, Expert Witness, Information and Research Firms of the State of São

Paulo (Sescon-SP) and of the Association of Accounting Service Firms of the State of São Paulo (Aescon-SP), Marcio Massao Shimomoto. The panel will have as moderator the chairman of Ibracon's Board of Directors, Eduardo Pocetti.

After lunch, at 1h30 pm, the panel will be about Information intelligence in the digital era, with the participation of representatives from Ibracon; the National Association of Federal Police Chiefs (ADPF) and the Federal Prosecutor's Office (MPF). The debates will be moderated by Ibracon's Director of Professional Development, Tadeu Cendón.

Then at 4h00, the panel will be about Regulatory Compliance for Small and Medium-Sized Auditing Firms (FAPMP), and the panelists will be Paulo Carvalho and Paulo Peppe, partners of Small and Medium-Sized Auditing Firms (FAPMP); and Marco Aurélio Cunha, vice chairman of the Federal Accounting Board (CFC). The moderation will be at the charge of Monica Foerster, Ibracon's director of FAPMP.

On June 27, at 8 am, the theme of the panel will be Public Sector Accounting (Ipsas), whose speaker is the coordinator of Accounting Standards and Procedures from the National Treasury Secretariat (STN), Bruno Ramos Mangualde. The panelists will be the vice chairman of the Federal Accounting Board (CFC), Zulmir Ivânio Breda; the Accounting director of the State Treasury Secretariat of Santa Catarina, Graziela Meinheim; and as the moderator the Ibracon's director of Communications, Francisco Sant'Anna.

IFRS news will be the theme of the 10h00 am panel, facilitated by Amaro Gomes, a member of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The panelists will be the Accounting and Auditing Standards Superintendent of the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM), José Carlos Bezerra; the Ibracon's FAPMP Working Group Member, Ricardo Rodil; and



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Photo: Ibracon file

the Technical coordinator of the Accounting Pronouncements Committee (CPC), Edison Arisa Pereira. The moderator will be Francisco de Paula dos Reis Júnior, Ibracon's Director of Administration and Finance.

Between 1:30 and 2:15pm there will be a lecture and, after it, the panel: Noclár - Responding to non-compliance with laws and regulations. The keynote speaker will be the Technical director of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (Iesba), Ken Siong. The panelist will be the president of Ibracon's 5th Regional Section and coordinator of the Ethics Working Group, Sergio Dias; CFC's vice chairman Luiz Fernando Nobrega; and the partner of Lobo & Rizzo Advogados, Sergio Varella Bruna. The debate will be moderated by Adelino Dias Pinho, Ibracon's director of Regional Sections.

The last panel at 4h15, will be about the Practical Application of the New Auditor's Report (first experiences), with the participation of Patricia Agostineto, coordinator of Ibracon's Auditing Standards Committee (CNA); Madson Vasconcelos, manager of Auditing Standards from the Brazilian Securities and Exchange

Commission (CVM); and Nelson Carvalho, professor at the College of Economics Administration and Accountancy of the University of São Paulo (FEA/USP). The moderator will be Ibracon's Technical director, Rogério Garcia. ✓



Photo: Ibracon file



In Tune with the changes

In a public administration, increasingly digital, we need continue transforming the organizational culture

The audit profession and the characteristics and capabilities of the auditor need to change. And they should not take long to do so.

The scenario of the much discussed fourth industrial revolution that we live leads us to use new products, test the almost zero cost new services and, in this scenario, watch the birth and death of professions.

These are times of exponential transformations. Currently, traditional industry and service sectors have been affected by the entry of new players causing the disruption of markets previously stable. This phenomenon is closely related to the growing digitalization in virtually all sectors

of the human knowledge. The maturing and confluence of technologies, such as cloud computing, mobile telephony, social networks, data science and artificial intelligence have allowed the arrival of innovations to the consumer markets through smaller businesses - the startups - that transform radically the procedures previously established.

Companies like Netflix, Airbnb and Uber have transformed the distribution of audiovisual content, hosting and on-demand transport, respectively. We can mention as a characteristic of these organizations the fact of being strongly focused on information, that is, they are companies that exchanged the possession of a large volume of physical assets for a large volume of information. This feature allows to scale operations at high speed, gaining new markets and consumers at marginal and decreasing costs.

In this sense, initiatives to automate activities and processes also gain importance, now supported by the growing popularity of techniques and tools based on artificial intelligence. A research published by researchers of the Oxford

Márcio Braz



Photo: TCU file

Wesley Vaz



Photo: TCU file

University and published in The Economist magazine at the beginning of 2014 indicates in 94% the chance that the use of technology will result in the disappearance of the auditor and accountant positions in the next two decades¹. There are already cases of replacement of people by algorithms in the world of law practice, a profession like that of the auditor when considering the activity of analyzing information according to a certain scenario and create theories and hypotheses that sustain their arguments. However, the role of issuing an opinion and demonstrating acts and facts with robust evidence should continue to exist for some time. It remains to be known whether that role will be practiced with the speed and effectiveness increasingly desired by auditors or by a software created for this.

While the automation of analysis may sound as a threat to the profession, it is necessary to understand the developments under the prism of the auditor's transformation, valuing the part of the work that, in fact, brings real benefits to clients. In other words: the role of the auditors should not be focused on timely evaluation of situations, but on the analysis of complex problems, using the largest number of sources of information as possible and available, with fluency in new methods and technologies today accessible to all.

The government organizations, in turn, are not immune or alien to this process and, little by little, but perhaps not as fast as their private peers, start using in their activities and strategies an increasing volume of information. The adoption of strategies that aim at efficiency of the State, such as the promotion of Digital Government (Decrees 8.638/2016 and 8.936/2016), necessarily involve the transformation of conventional processes and the replacement of physical operations with digital ones that make intense use of information.

Due to that, the audit activity is greatly affected. The digitalization of government activities demands from professionals and

control bodies more investments in capacity to work with information.

The audit sector is just one of the fields of human action affected by the digital transformation. The volume and complexity of information used by the sectors investigated and available to support the control functions are multiplied. Therefore, it is not acceptable to ignore the use of technology to expand the scope, depth and timeliness of audit tests.

These changes require from control institutions investments in training for the use of new techniques and in tools to deal with this volume of information and with the requirements for greater precision and agility in the conclusions of the audit work. However, such investments should be guided by clear strategy and guidelines which aim to maximize the information utilization and reduce the adaptation curve of auditors to the new work methods.

The results that have been achieved in monitoring sectors such as public procurement reinforce the belief that it is necessary to keep improving processes and transforming the organizational culture so that, in a scenario of a public administration increasingly digital and dependent on information, we can keep contributing to the improvement of the public management, with the fight against corruption and inefficiency, and promoting the improvement of public policies in favor of the citizen. ✓

**Márcio Rodrigo Braz, CISA - IT Inspection
Secretary - TCU**

**Wesley Vaz Silva, CISA, CGEIT - Information
Management for External Control Secretary – TCU.**

1 <http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/021594264-previous-technologicalinnovation-has-always-delivered-morelong-run-employment-not-less>

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A life dedicated to Public accounting

After having attended the military college, Leonardo Nascimento has exchanged the aspiration to a career in the Army to the Accounting profession. Today he is the general coordinator of Accounting Standards Applied to the Federation, in the National Treasury Secretariat, of the Ministry of Finance. For Nascimento, “the accountants are key parts to protect the treasury from public agents who try to use their positions for private benefits”

It was by chance that Accounting has entered the life of Leonardo Silveira do Nascimento. By studying for many years in a military college, in Brasília, he always thought he would take a career in the Army. But, due to the influence of an uncle who worked as an accountant, Leonardo began to rethink the initial preference. “I saw in Accounting a promising area, which lacked qualified professionals. There was a wide path to explore,” he says.

Holding a degree in Accounting Sciences from the University of Brasília (UnB), Leonardo Nascimento today is the general coordinator of Accounting Standards applied to the Federation, at the Ministry of Finance’s National Treasury Secretariat. He is also representative of the Federal Accounting Board (CFC) at the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (Ipsasb), which has the support of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). His resume has yet a Master’s Degree in Accountancy from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) and an MBA in Public Sector Budgeting and Finance Management from Centro Universitário do Distrito Federal (UnIDF).

Once graduated, Leonardo was attracted by the public career and soon started to prepare for public exams. The Journey at the Treasury began in 2003. He recalls that these were difficult times, of transition for the

Brazilian economy after a decade of stabilization achieved with the Real Plan.

“The Federal Government was experiencing a major challenge, brought by new technologies. At the same time, Brazil’s process of convergence to international accounting standards also took shape, either in the private area and in the public service,” recalls Nascimento.

Leonardo Nascimento sees the new technologies and Information Technologies (TIs) as key tools for Accounting professionals. For him, these technologies promote positive change, which allow a major development of the professional. Before more connected to the operational aspect, this professional has begun, with the help of these technologies, to work with more emphasis in analysis processes. “Also these tools offer the possibility for the professional to act more efficiently with the manager in the search for better options to institutions’ finances and expenditures”, he points out.

And when he analyzes the Accounting role in public bodies, Nascimento emphasizes its social importance. “This is an essential tool to give greater transparency to the sector, which is a demand of companies not only in Brazil but in the whole world,” he says. “The accountants are key parts in protecting the treasury from public agents who try to use their positions in search of private benefits,” he says.



Leonardo Nascimento



Photo: Ibracon file

Leonardo Nascimento

Nascimento works in the standardization of technical standards and handbooks that ensure the effectiveness of the accountant's work in the public sector in the entire country. He also engages in training and development practices, promoted through a technical cooperation agreement between the National Treasury and the Federal Accounting Board (CFC). The goal is that the seminars and workshops promote an educational alignment, create multipliers and promote the dissemination of standards for all states and municipalities. "This concern with training in the public area is also a form of bringing value for Accounting in the country," he says.

He also believes that public Accounting can advance a lot, especially in times of crisis such as what we experience today. In that way, a profession which seemed to be a thing of the past is revealed to be surprisingly current. "For me, the most fascinating is that this

is the most transverse profession there is," explains Nascimento. All departments of a company - public or private - communicate with or depend on, in some way or another, Accounting. It is not for nothing that many of those professions considered most promising in the future are connected to our area. The success and the resilience of organizations faced with the crisis depend very much on Accounting", he says.

For Leonardo, these opportunities also may convince more and more Accounting professionals to seek better qualification and specialization. "In general, those who stand out in the profession are those who do not rely exclusively on academic education, since this is still deficient when faced with the reality and the needs of the market. The personal effort and the seek for specialization courses are still the factors that will ensure the professional will stand out," he says. ✓

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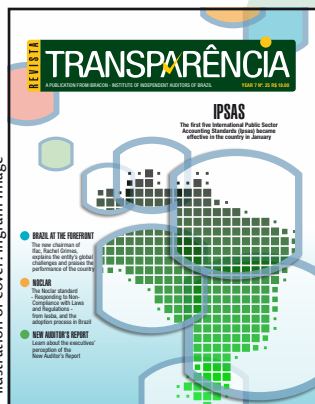
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