

DO THE USERS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IN SME'S HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (NAS'S)?

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Abstract

Implementing the National Accounting Standards makes up a great challenge for the SME's, because it is needed not only a change in the mentality of the managers and accountants of these business units, but also a change in the user's perspective, in order for the financial information reported from these business units to be considered as useful. Nevertheless, despite we are going towards finalisation of a medium-term period of post-implementation, we need to accept that there still exist issues in applying NAS's. One of the issues is the partial knowledge that the users of the financial statements have for the full package of NAS's. The aim of this report is to highlight the level of knowledge on NAS's of the two main groups of users of financial statements of SME's, specifically speaking for the group of tax inspectors and the group of loan officers. The data used in this report were taken from a questionnaire, which was spread in the period from August to October 2014 in the Regional Tax Offices of Tirana, Lezha, Peshkopia etc. and in some second level banks. Based on a descriptive analysis, but also based on the empiric analysis using correlations, it resulted that the Financial Statement's users have partial knowledge of the National Accounting Standards. The loan officers showed even a greater lack of knowledge as compared with the tax inspectors. The issues with the users (tax inspectors and loan officers) resulted to be influenced from the short timeline and quality of the trainings. This happened because the mere parts of the respondents (users) were trained very few times in relation with NAS's. Also during the trainings sessions, the materials were mainly based on theoretical case studies, thus the respondents assessed these trainings as useless in resolving the issues they had in their day-to-day work activity.

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