Editorial

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Biographical notes: Chrysovalantis Gaganis received his Bachelor in Accounting from Heraklion Technological Education Institute (Greece), Bachelor in Economics from University of Crete (Greece), Masters in Business Administration and PhD in Finance and Accounting from Technical University of Crete (Greece). He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Crete, a Research Fellow at the Financial Engineering Laboratory of Technical University of Crete, and a Visiting Fellow at the University of Bath School of Management (UK). His research interests concentrate in: auditing, accounting, bankruptcy prediction, and mergers and acquisitions. He has edited two books, and co-authored two monograph and over 20 papers that appeared in among others in the *Review of Quantitative Finance & Accounting*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *Applied Financial Economics, Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis*, *Annals of Finance*, *Managerial Auditing Journal*, and *International Journal of Auditing*.

Fotios Pasiouras is an Assistant Professor at Technical University of Crete, where he is also Co-director of Research of the Financial Engineering Laboratory. Between July 2006 and August 2009, he was Lecturer B (Assistant Professor) at the University of Bath School of Management (UK) where he is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Governance and Regulation. He is also an Honorary Research Fellow of Coventry University (UK). His research has received awards from the University of Bath School of Management (2008), Coventry University (2005), and Emerald Publishing (2008 and 2009). He is the Founding Editor and one of the Editors-in-Chief of the International *Journal of Banking, Accounting and Finance.* He has published over 40 papers in international journals such as: *Journal of Banking & Finance*, *Review of Quantitative Finance & Accounting*, *International Review of Financial Analysis*, *European Journal of Operational Research* and *Omega*.

Constantin Zopounidis is a Professor of Financial Management and Operations Research at the Department of Production Engineering and Management of Technical University of Crete, where he is also the Director of the Financial Engineering Laboratory. His research interests include financial engineering, financial risk management and multiple criteria decision making. He has published several books and over 300 papers in premier international journals, edited volumes and conference proceedings. He is the Editor-in-Chief and member of the editorial board of several journals. For his research work, he has received awards and honorary distinctions from international research organisations, including among others the MOISIL International Foundation, the Decision Sciences Institute, the European Association of Management and Business Economics, the Royal Academy of Doctors of Spain, the Hellenic Operational Research Society, the International Association for Fuzzy Set Management and Economy, and the International MCDM Society.

This special issue is devoted to papers presented at the 7th Annual Conference of the Hellenic Finance and Accounting Association (HFAA) that was organised by the Financial Engineering Laboratory of Technical University of Crete in December 2008. After a double blind review process five of the submitted papers were finally selected for publication in *the International Journal of Managerial and Financial Accounting (IJMFA).*

The introduction of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in Europe has attracted considerable attention by academics and market participants. In the first study of this special issue, Georgakopoulou, Spathis and Floropoulos use a sample of listed Greek companies to compare key accounting measures and financial ratios reported under IFRS and the Greek accounting reporting principles. They conclude that there are important differences in the financial indicators calculated under the two frameworks, and they mention that IFRS can be considered as shareholder oriented while the Greek accounting reporting principles are described as stakeholder oriented.

The efficiency of banking institutions, estimated with efficient frontier techniques such as data envelopment analysis (DEA), is another topic of major interest for academics and various stakeholders such as policy makers and bank managers [see Fethi and Pasiouras (2010) for a recent survey]. The second paper by Dimitras, Kosmidou and Apostolou brings together the bank efficiency literature with the IFRS literature. The authors compare the overall technical, pure technical and scale efficiency of Greek banks estimated under three different approaches for the selection of inputs and outputs, using data reported under IFRS and the Greek Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). They conclude that the change in the accounting rules can result in important differences in the evaluations of bank efficiency. They also reveal that the differences in efficiency estimates obtained under Greek GAAP and IFRS do not follow the same trend for all the efficiency measures under all the approaches.

The third study by Ballas and Tzovas, also deals with IFRS but it approaches the topic from another perspective. The authors use a checklist based on the disclosure requirements to calculate a compliance score for a sample of listed and non-listed Greek firms. Their results reveal that firms comply with about two-thirds of the disclosure requirements, on average. Further univariate and multivariate analysis indicates that compliance is positively and significantly influenced by firm size and listing status, respectively.

In the fourth paper, Demos and Marston investigate the Greek listed firms' efforts towards attaining visibility via group presentations. The authors collect primary data using semi-structured interviews, from three groups, namely top executives, analysts and institutional investors. Their results reveal that Greek companies use group presentations in order to increase company visibility and provide reliable company information to investors, especially sophisticated institutional investors, brokers, media and other market participants.

The prediction of firms' failure has attracted considerable attention over the last fifty years and a number of techniques have been proposed for the development of quantitative models [see Dimitras et al. (1996) and Ravi Kumar and Ravi (2007) for surveys]. Yet, researchers have not reached a conclusion as for the optimal model or the most appropriate quantitative technique. In the last paper of this special issue, Charalambidis and Papadopoulos contribute in the debate by comparing the effectiveness of four models in the prediction of Greek firms' failure. The authors examine the forecasting ability of the models in a future period while considering the cost ratio of misclassification errors and the prior probabilities. They conclude that:

1 the models are quite unstable over time

2 models using data closer to the failure are less efficient

3 the 'best' model differs depending on whether the firms are listed or not.

In closing, we would like to thank the Editor of *IJMFA*, Dr. Junaid M. Shaikh**,** for giving us the opportunity to edit this special issue. Special thanks are also due to Mrs. Barbara Curran from Inderscience Publishers for her help during the editing of this issue. Last but not least, we would like to thank the anonymous referees who devoted their time to review the submitted manuscripts. We hope that you will enjoy reading these articles as much as we did in editing them.

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