

## Chapter 3

### Audit, Control, Regulation

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### 3.1. Audit, Control, Regulation – Overview of the Research

Audit, control and regulation are the cornerstones of ensuring transparency and credibility of financial statements in a rapidly changing business environment. In the context of the digital transformation of organisations, these areas are experiencing a significant evolution, resulting from the integration of advanced technologies such as blockchain, big data and artificial intelligence. Modern technologies are not only influencing the increased efficiency and precision of audit processes, but also opening up new challenges related to their regulation and ethics.

Table 3.1 provides an overview of the most important academic publications on audit, control and regulation issues in the digital age. The studies presented in the overview illustrate the diversity of methodological approaches, such as empirical analysis, theoretical modelling or case studies. The authors carried out an analysis of the key challenges and opportunities arising from the use of technology in auditing,

such as increasing the transparency of financial data, automating control processes or reducing the risk of human error.

The table also indicates the interdisciplinary nature of the research, which takes into account technological as well as regulatory and ethical aspects. The compilation of publications makes it possible to identify key research trends, such as the impact of blockchain on audit processes, the role of advanced analytical tools in financial control and the need to harmonise global regulations in an era of digital transformation.

**Table 3.1. Summary of publications for the area “Audit, control, regulation”**

Paper	Test sample	Research method	Results/conclusions	Quoted
Maksymov et al., 2023	Survey of 145 chief accountants and interviews with 35 chief accountants at large US public companies	Theoretical model (data collection technique: questionnaire and interviews)	Examine the developed theoretical model of the internal control over financial reporting (ICFR) process from a management perspective. The study indicates that executives feel limited in their ability to direct ICFR and maintain a perspective that reflects these limitations. In particular, the majority of executives feel obliged by auditors to adhere to the preferences of the PCAOB (Public Company Accounting Oversight Board), although executives feel that these preferences often distract management and auditors from riskier areas, additionally indicating that audit committees' involvement in ICFR is too passive and auditor assessments are sometimes too harsh, leading executives to put pressure on auditors.	1
Li et al., 2023	Sample: 579 Chinese listed manufacturing companies in 2020	Empirical methods – logistic regression model	Developing textual indicators for detecting financial fraud. Textual information can complement the effectiveness of indicators in identifying financial fraud, reducing information asymmetry and extending stakeholder theory.	3
Chiu et al., 2023	Sample: 46739 quarterly company data from 2004 to 2020	Regression analysis and other statistical methods	To investigate the usefulness of a new model for detecting misstatements in financial reports and to assess its usefulness for the auditor. The model includes 'big data' extracted from Google. It is demonstrated that the model can serve as a tool to determine the financial position of an entity, which can help auditors to assess the risk of revenue distortion.	2
Sharpe et al., 2023	Financial Analysis Made Easy (FAME) database. Sample: 72227 observations covering 62821 private firms and 9406 are public firms.	Probit model for hypothesis testing	An analysis of the role of auditor selection (Big 4/Non-Big 4) in the debt financing of private and public firms. Private firms have less access to debt than public firms, and Big 4 auditors support debt raising in both private and public firms. Private firms face greater information asymmetry, in turn Big Four auditors are more important for raising debt in private firms than in public firms. The benefits of appointing Big Four auditors to private firm debt raising are greater in the opaque information environment of the global financial crisis and when firms are smaller, younger or have poorer quality financial reporting.	0

Paper	Test sample	Research method	Results/conclusions	Quoted
Maksymov et al., 2023	Sample: 462 questionnaires, 24 interviews among: partners in audit companies, CFOs, audit committee members	Survey, interview	Material errors are identified in approximately 9% of surveys of listed companies and 15% of surveys of unlisted companies. More relevant to the identification of material errors are breaches of contractual conventions and going concern issues than reference to profit (revenue) levels. Identification of various factors that increase audit effectiveness risk (both on the part of the auditor and the company).	2
Estep et al., 2023	Survey with a sample of 43 finance directors; experiment with a sample of 115 finance directors	Questionnaire – experimental method	Investigate whether the use of AI increases the level of auditor adjustments for complex estimates by directors. 1. managers have positive expectations about the use of AI in their companies, worse about the use of AI by auditors 2. the use of AI influences managers' willingness to adjust the fair value of a patent 3. audit evidence supported by AI is more accurate only if the firm also uses AI 4. firms using AI are more open to the use of AI by auditors.	4
Aboud & Robinson, 2022	Sample: 73 Irish companies	Survey	Investigating the effectiveness of fraud prevention and detection techniques, including data analytics, machine learning and data mining, and understanding how widespread the use of data analytics is across sectors, and identifying and understanding potential barriers to implementing these techniques to detect and prevent fraud. The study suggests that there are barriers that may prevent businesses from implementing advanced data analytics to detect financial statement fraud, and indicates how these barriers can be overcome.	15
Austin et al., 2021	No data	Interviews with managers – interpreting the results on the ground of theory	Investigating how auditors, managers and regulators interact with data analysts in the area of financial reporting according to their contribution to the study reveals three areas of conflict on the background of different preferences for data analytics: diagnosing tension between auditors and management on the subject of data. The auditors claim that they use data analytics strategically to increase the knowledge of managers about the business, which according to the regulators may interfere with the independence of the auditors.	42
McCallig et al., 2019	No data	AIS model	The study indicates how developed techniques from IT disciplines could emulate and enhance the audit process (for receivables only). The study is exploratory in nature, generating design ideas applicable to building an AIS for receivables.	73
Abbott et al., 2016	Surveys, a sample of 189 chief internal auditors from Fortune 1000 companies in 2009	The two-factor internal audit quality model	Development of an interactive internal audit quality model. The research supports the hypothesis that the combined presence of competence and independence is a necessary condition for effective monitoring of financial reporting by internal audit. There is an impact of internal audit competence (independence) on the quality of financial reporting, and this depends on the independence (competence) of the internal auditor.	167

Paper	Test sample	Research method	Results/conclusions	Quoted
Troshani et al., 2015	Sample: 21 interviews	Qualitative analysis (interviews)	An examination of the process of XBRL implementation from an institutional perspective in the UK. The results describe how the collaboration between regulators and information stakeholders in the UK on the implementation of XBRL has progressed.	25
Hennes et al., 2014	Sample: 2705 restatements that were announced between January 1997 and June 2006 and 5061 restatements that were announced between January 2006 and 2010	Statistical regression method – logistic regression	The research indicates that auditors are more likely to be dismissed in the case of major transformations, particularly the dismissal of non-Big Four auditors rather than Big Four auditors. Among corporations with Big Four auditors, those that are larger and more operationally complex are less likely to dismiss their auditors. The market reaction to dismissal is much more positive in the case of rigorous, more serious financial restatements. This positive market reaction is consistent with companies restoring credibility to financial reporting by replacing their auditors, and highlights the important role that auditors play in financial markets (paid access).	142
Glancy & Yadav, 2011	No data	Quantitative methods for text research	Proposing a model to detect fraud in financial reporting (CFDM) using a quantitative approach to textual data, the use of an analytical method offers the potential for automation. The method has been tested on Management Reports and Analytics from 10-K reports and has been able to distinguish fraudulent reports from those that did not contain fraud. CFDM can serve as a screening tool in the event of suspected fraud.	128
Hennes et al., 2008	No data	No data	The authors proposed a procedure for classifying restatements as errors or irregularities and showed that the majority of restatements classified as irregularities are followed by class action lawsuits related to fraud, while in the group of restatements classified as errors, only one lawsuit was reported.	537
Fisher, 2007	No data	Application prototype	Presentation of a prototype system to support the temporal reconstruction of financial accounting standards (paid access).	6
Sunder, 2005	No data	No data	To present the reasons why formal standards and enforcement, with their obvious advantages, do not necessarily dominate social norms in financial reporting. To show how financial reporting has moved from being guided by social norms and conventions to being dominated by formalised rules and enforced standards.	49

Source: own elaboration on the basis of a review.

All financial and economic phenomena occurring in the economy should be regulated. The introduction of legal norms ensures the security of economic turnover and also protects the stakeholders of financial statements. Within the framework of the conducted verification of the content of publications, selected according to the applied research methodology, four areas can be distinguished concerning:

- data analysis (datasets),
- fraud detection (control aspects),
- financial reporting,
- internal control over financial reporting (ICFR) processes (control procedures).

Based on the review of the literature, it was possible to identify a publication that develops a model for detecting false information in annual reports of US companies (SEC) (Glancy & Yadav, 2011). The model proposed by these authors aimed to identify attempts to hide information or present incorrect information using textual data from annual filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The article stresses the importance of automating the detection of potential fraud by using a proper fraud detection model. Using essentially all of the information contained in the reports submitted by companies, the model proposed by the authors provides decision support for early fraud detection and can also serve as a deterrent and countermeasure against fraudulent actions by companies (Glancy & Yadav, 2011).

Errors in reporting and communicating with stakeholders can vary in nature. Hennes et al (2008) pointed out the need to distinguish between errors (unintentional misstatements) and misstatements (intentional misstatements and fraud) when examining financial data restatements in the GAO (General Accounting Office) database. The authors also analysed the impact of errors and fraud on CEO/CFO turnover, and by distinguishing between errors and misstatements, they indicated that the study of the consequences of financial data restatements can be strengthened by examining market reactions to CFO and CEO changes. The authors also suggested focusing on short time windows related to director turnover and controlling for other market and non-market factors that may cause CFO and CEO turnover (Hennes et al., 2008).

Investigating how the use of Google's search engine can be applied as a novel big data analytical approach to detect irregularities in companies' revenue reporting, the authors suggested the high potential of Google Trends data, in particular the search volume index (SVI) for company products, as a source of external information that auditors can use to assess revenue fraud risk (Chiu et al., 2023). Discrepancies between sales growth resulting from SVI changes associated with company products and reported sales growth can be analysed. The study by Chiu et al. (2023) stressed the importance of using external information sources, such as Google searches, to improve audit quality and detect financial reporting irregularities. Working on large data sets, machine learning can be used in the prevention and detection of fraud in financial reporting, however there are barriers associated with the use of advanced data analysis techniques. Chiu et al. (2023) pointed to the technological barriers (use of research tools that have not yet been sufficiently tested), financial barriers (cost of acquiring research tools), and personnel barriers (lack of qualified staff).

Technological developments make it possible to analyse the reports published by companies and, on this basis, attempt to identify attempts at fraud in financial data. Analysis of the texts of information prepared by the boards of Chinese manufacturing companies indicates the importance of multiple dimensions of linguistic features, such

as structure, quality and expression, in identifying financial fraud (Li et al., 2023). The authors combined textual indicators with financial indicators to improve the accuracy of financial fraud detection, hence these measures can reduce information asymmetry and have a positive impact on the market. In addition, the authors highlighted that fraudulent companies tend to exhibit certain characteristics in their linguistic expression, such as being overly cautious, using fewer positive words and increasing the complexity of annual reports to hide financial fraud (Li et al., 2023).

The formalisation of financial and, more recently non-financial reporting regulations, have been ongoing for many years. The transformation from social norms to formalised standards and legislation has far-reaching consequences for accounting and corporate management (Sunder, 2005). One of the manifestations of formalisation in the area of company reporting is the introduction of XBRL. The process of implementing the XBRL format has been multifaceted and involved interactions between different organisations, including regulators (Troshani et al., 2015). The authors explored how regulators played a key role in enhancing the reliability of financial information. XBRL requires an interplay between the institutional and technical environment. Another tool to ensure the credibility of financial information is blockchain technology. The goal of combining multilateral safeguards and blockchain is to ensure that financial reporting information is error-free, complete, neutral, transparent and credible to stakeholders (McCallig et al., 2019).

Another area related to regulation is internal control. Abbott et al. (2016b) developed a model related to the examination of internal audit in the financial reporting monitoring process. The authors emphasised the importance of both the competence and independence of internal audit for effective monitoring of financial reporting (Abbott et al., 2016).

Regulating the accounting environment involves not only the implementation of standards, but also the testing of compliance with accounting rules, including the audit process. Austin et al. (2021) showed how interactions between auditors, managers, regulation and technology influence conflicting preferences among stakeholders, and indicated that the main differences include disagreements about audit fees, concerns about auditor independence and the quality of the audit process, and the lack of specific accounting regulations to provide detailed data for analysis (Austin et al., 2021). The effectiveness of auditors' controls also depends on the relationship with management to eliminate misstatements in the financial statements (Maksymov et al., 2024). This means that not only can one rely on technological tools to assess misstatements, but behavioural aspects also play an important role. According to Maksymov et al. (2023), managers may feel compelled to accept the preferences of auditors. The authors presented a model that considers the key factors that shape and constrain management's efforts to develop and maintain an effective internal control process, including ICFR guidelines, the governance triad (management, auditors and audit committees) and key business conditions (Maksymov et al., 2023). Auditor selection is an important factor in ensuring transparency of financial data and has implications

for the operation of the business, in terms of reducing information asymmetries as well as raising capital (Sharpe et al., 2023).

Year on year, the use of artificial intelligence in the conduct of business, including in the area of reporting and auditing, is becoming more and more popular. Estep et al. (2023) studied the reaction of finance directors to the use of artificial intelligence in financial reporting and auditing. The results of the study revealed that although managers are open to the use of artificial intelligence in their companies and by auditors, there are differences in their expectations. The study also examined how artificial intelligence can affect the quality of financial reporting, the audit process, audit costs, audit duration and the time and effort of company personnel involved in the audit process (Estep et al., 2023). This means that technological innovations are encroaching both on the production process, making it more competitive, as well as on the management of the business unit itself.

On the basis of this literature analysis, additional research questions can be formulated: How do the conflicting expectations and preferences of different stakeholder groups of financial and non-financial information (auditors, managers) affect reporting? What are the technological challenges faced by accounting directors?

### 3.2. Audit, Control and Regulation in the Context of the Use of Modern Technology

The literature review conducted in section 3.1 revealed particularly researched themes within the audit and regulatory area. These themes highlighted in the global research are:

- data analysis (datasets),
- fraud detection (control aspects),
- financial reporting,
- internal control over financial reporting processes (ICFR) (control procedures).

The aim of the following section is to establish the impact of digitalisation and technology on the process of data analysis, financial reporting and fraud detection and internal control.

**Data analysis.** Data analysis and the growing technology of today, especially digitalisation, are closely linked, and thus the process of data analysis becomes more dynamic, interactive and results-oriented. Data management becomes easier, allowing for better risk management and identification of new business opportunities. Thanks to new tools it is possible to analyse large data sets and obtain data that was previously unattainable. It is also possible to analyse data from different sources, including combining quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Data analysis allows for pattern identification, anomaly detection, statistical analysis and predictive modelling. Multiple elements can be combined, further supported by visualisation of findings. Analytical tools can integrate data from different sources, transform it into valuable information and then present the results in a way that is understandable and useful to decision-makers.



In this way, managers can make decisions more effectively (Austin et al., 2021). An important element in the process of data analysis is the interaction of those interested in the results of these analyses, therefore interaction between auditors and managers is essential (Austin et al., 2021). Additionally, data analyses are performed for government statistics, where interactions should also include regulatory enforcers (Austin et al., 2021). Combining digitalisation with modern technologies reduces the risk of human error, increases the accuracy of analyses and enables more detailed and complex data examination. This, in turn, improves control over internal processes, optimises costs and the ability to react quickly to market changes.

Based on the literature, the relationship between data analytics and technology, and in particular digitisation, is symbiotic as the two processes interact with each other and are interdependent. Data analytics relies on technological tools and progress, while technological development is also driven by adoption and evolution of data analytics (Austin et al., 2021). Digital transformation in the area of financial reporting and data analytics improves both the audit process and supports decision-making in business units (Austin et al., 2021). Any transformation requires full agreement and understanding of the process change. The introduction of new data analytics solutions may encounter difficulties at the level of human factors (conflict of interest) (Austin et al., 2021). An element of contention may be the costs incurred in digital transformation.

Digitalisation lays the foundation for data availability, technology supports data processing and analysis, and the data analytics process provides organisations with the key information they need to make informed, strategic decisions.

**Fraud detection.** The second area related to digital transformation in audit and regulation is the use of technological solutions to combat and detect fraud. The effectiveness of new solutions to combat manipulation requires ongoing training and time for individuals to gain experience in detecting anomalies (Aboud & Robinson, 2022). The literature also identifies the problem of the reliability of the datasets being analysed, including their availability and integrity. In practice, mechanisms for detecting fraud in financial statements using data analytics, machine learning and large database mining tools have been identified as effective (Aboud & Robinson, 2022). The digitalisation of the fraud detection process benefits not only from quantitative analysis, but also from qualitative analysis (text analysis of internal documents), indicating a deepening integration of technology in fraud detection processes (Aboud & Robinson, 2022). Recently, the possibility of using digitalisation in the tax fraud detection process has emerged: enhanced JPK files, the KSeF system, obligation to keep records electronically, and online cash registers make it easier to track tax fraud (e.g. income tax avoidance, VAT manipulation, cost manipulation).

**Financial reporting.** In accounting, a tool to improve communication and transparency of financial data is the XBRL language (Troshani et al., 2015), which integrates accounting data with business communications. This technology enables easy sharing of financial data and also influences the ability to store standardised company data



(McCallig et al., 2019). XBRL allows for the electronic sharing of financial statements, enabling the seamless exchange of financial data between different computer platforms and applications (Troshani et al., 2015). Financial data are directed to different recipients of information, from managers to counterparties, financial institutions and tax authorities, thus reducing the potential for error with manual data collection. This technology not only cuts down the costs associated with manual data processing, but also minimises the risk of financial reports not complying with applicable accounting standards. With XBRL it is possible to quickly detect inconsistencies and anomalies in the data, which helps to maintain high quality reporting. It is also worth noting that XBRL contributes to greater data accessibility for external stakeholders, which fosters trust and increases transparency in the company's operations. By automating and digitalising reporting processes, XBRL supports better information management and allows for the more efficient use of resources within the organisation.

**Internal control.** The fourth area discussed in this section concerns the use of technological advances in relation to the performance of internal control duties. The digitalisation of processes allows monitoring and response in crisis situations. Tools that restrict access to data reduce the possibility of unauthorised data entry or alteration. In addition, executives expect the latest technologies such as AI, data analytics, blockchain and robotic process automation to have a positive impact on reducing key internal control risks including the failure to detect material irregularities and unauthorised alteration of accounting information (Maksymov et al., 2023). At the same time, data analytics and machine learning tools enable predictive risk analysis to identify potential risks earlier and manage them proactively, yet there is also concern that a challenge arising from new technologies is the lack of accounting staff qualified to use the technology effectively (Maksymov et al., 2023). The integration of modern technologies often involves changing existing processes, which can lead to temporary disruptions in company operations, and also requires large investments in technology infrastructure and ongoing staff training. There are also digital security risks, such as cyberattacks, which can compromise data integrity and control processes. The digitalisation of internal control processes not only brings benefits, but also poses new challenges for organisations. In addition to improving the efficiency and accuracy of controls, technology enables the automation of routine tasks, allowing human resources to be diverted to more complex analysis and strategic activities. Tools such as artificial intelligence can identify patterns and anomalies in real time, allowing fraud and other irregularities to be detected quickly.

### 3.3. Diagnosis and Directions for Further Research

Based on the research carried out on modern technologies and their impact on the areas highlighted:

- data analysis (datasets),
- fraud detection (control aspects),

- financial reporting,
- internal control over financial reporting processes (ICFR) (control procedures),

a critical analysis of the formulated conclusions was carried out, identifying key research areas and indicating directions for further research.

Highlighting the fact that digitalisation increases the availability of data, technology supports the processing of data so that the data analysis process provides organisations with the key information needed for decision-making. In turn, the possibility to use digitalisation in the financial fraud detection process increases the effectiveness of new control tools (expanded JPK files, KSeF system, mandatory electronic record keeping, online cash registers). The automation and digitisation of reporting processes (XBRL) support the better management of reporting information and allows for the more efficient use of resources in the organisation. To this should be added the digitisation of processes in the area of internal control, which, in addition to improving the efficiency and accuracy of controls, enables the automation of routine tasks, allowing human resources to be diverted to more complex analyses and strategic activities. In addition to digitalisation and automation, tools such as artificial intelligence can identify patterns and anomalies in real time, allowing fraud and other irregularities to be detected quickly, both in the area of audit and internal control. As can be seen, the use of new technologies in the practice of companies and in audit institutions requires regulatory changes that take into account new types of behaviour.

To summarise the study on modern technology and its impact on regulation, audit and control, a number of key research areas can be identified, as shown in Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2. Areas of impact of modern technology on regulation, audit and control**

Key research areas	Description	Exemplary publications
Data analysis (data sets)		
Holistic approach	The fourth industrial revolution has blurred the boundaries between the physical, digital and biological realms, leading to a fusion of technologies that is transforming auditing and the wider accounting field.	S. Zhu, 2021
Digitalisation of the economy	The increasing digitalisation of the economy has led to the application of big data technology, which has had a profound impact on the economic and social functioning of the country, influencing the direction of the audit industry.	S. Jiang, 2020
CAATT tools and techniques	Computer-assisted audit tools and techniques (CAATT) have emerged to help auditors look for anomalies in data files and allow more analysis to be performed in less time using more evidence at a lower risk level.	Aksoy & Gurol, 2021
Synergy of science and practice	Big data and analytics offer new opportunities and challenges for researchers and practitioners in all business disciplines, including accounting and auditing.	T. Rana et al., 2023
Fraud detection (control aspects)		
	Financial institutions have turned to automated processes using statistical and computational methods, particularly techniques based on computational intelligence, to detect fraud.	Kadyshevitch, 2024

Key research areas	Description	Exemplary publications
Fraud detection techniques	Data mining (DM) and data analytics (DA) techniques, combined with a better understanding and use of quantitative techniques, have become effective auditing approaches, especially for fraud prevention and detection.	Balkaran, 2017
Use of artificial intelligence	Most fraud detection systems are based on previous frauds, which may be lagging behind as criminals develop new ways to commit fraud using new technologies such as artificial intelligence. The technological revolution in artificial intelligence is sweeping the world, and auditing is no exception. Intelligent audit automation (IAA) is the next generation of audit services, which includes new audit business models and professionals and new ways of looking at data creation.	Saluja et al., 2024
Financial reporting		
New significance of the audit profession	The use of new technologies has had a significant impact on the audit profession, leading to the introduction of new generations of auditors.	Christ et al., 2021; Mališ et al., 2020
New technologies – Blockchain, big data	Technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, data analytics and automation have revolutionised financial reporting and audit processes. Blockchain technology has been identified as a tool that can increase the quality of audits without increasing the time spent on audited data, allowing auditors to increase the number of samples used without increasing their workload.	Herath et al., 2024; Hussein et al., 2025; Jayesh et al., 2022
Internal control over financial reporting processes (control procedures)		
Internal control and technology	Emerging trends in internal audit process technology include the widespread use of artificial intelligence, big data and other technologies to improve the efficiency and quality of internal audit, while also challenging the development of internal audit. In addition, the use of technology-based audit techniques (TBAT) involves conducting more audits, finding more risk factors, making more recommendations.	Eulerich et al., 2023; Marques & Morais, 2022; Teeter et al., 2010; Zhou, 2021

Source: own elaboration.

Table 3.2 shows the key research areas of regulation, audit and financial control. The digital economy has forced the evolution of the audit process from conventional manual audits to continuous electronic audits, driven by rapidly evolving information technologies and the demand for more timely communication of information to business stakeholders. Blockchain technology has been identified as a tool that can increase the quality of audits without extending the time spent on audited data, allowing auditors to expand the number of samples used without adding to their workload. In turn, the development of Big Data and Analytics (BDA) tools is having an impact on the audit profession, shaping the dynamics of technological change and reconfiguring aspects of the audit process.

In conclusion, today's cutting-edge technologies in auditing and financial reporting encompass a wide range of innovations, including blockchain, artificial intelligence, data analytics, automation and distributed ledger technology. These technologies have already had a significant impact on the audit profession and financial reporting processes. Emerging trends point to a shift towards continuous electronic audits and the integration of technology into accounting practices, while the future direction

of technology in auditing and financial reporting points to increasing automation, predictive financial reporting and a changing role for auditors in using innovative technology to enhance the reliability of financial information.

Based on the evaluation of past research and the characterisation of the areas identified in Table 2.1 concerning the impact of modern technology on regulation, audit and control, planned research directions in this area have been set. Table 3.3 presents three strategic directions for future research on the evolving role of the auditor (statutory auditor), controller and regulator in the face of increasing digitalisation and the development of modern technologies. The identified research directions reflect the key challenges and changes that are likely to significantly affect the tasks and competencies required of today's auditors and controllers, as well as financial reporting experts and regulators in the field.

**Table 3.3. Planned lines of research on regulation, audit and control**

Direction of research	Research questions	Suggested testing methodology
Evaluation of new technologies for identifying financial fraud	Are new technologies encouraging the growth of financial fraud?	Quantitative and qualitative research
	Are new technologies helping to detect financial fraud?	Quantitative and qualitative research
The role of auditors in the face of technological change	What challenges do auditors face in terms of new technologies?	Quantitative and qualitative research
	What new competences should auditors have?	Quantitative and qualitative research
	Will the auditing profession continue to fulfil its function?	Quantitative and qualitative research
Responsibility in the face of new technologies – regulatory challenges	What regulations should arise from a responsible approach to new technologies?	Quantitative and qualitative research
	Does modern technology diversify liability?	Quantitative and qualitative research
	What are the effects of dehumanising decisions on accountability?	Quantitative and qualitative research

Source: own elaboration.

As can be seen from Table 3.3, directions for further research should focus around the impact of new technologies on the development of financial fraud (increased risk of financial fraud and identification of new types of financial fraud). On the one hand new technologies influence the development of financial fraud whilst, on the other, they could also help auditors to detect these frauds by equipping them with new control tools. Therefore, research should be directed towards the use of new technologies in the audit and control process, streamlining the process, minimising the risk of errors and fraud being overlooked, and this will ensure that audit and control continues to be an effective tool in the process of detecting financial fraud.

This is undoubtedly a challenge for auditors, controllers and regulators. New technologies make it necessary to review the role of the auditor in view of challenges to the

auditor's new competences, skills and knowledge in terms of using new technologies, analysis of the audit and control function in the face of new challenges, and the use of experts in new technologies – a new role for IT professionals.

In the face of new technologies there must emerge a responsible approach to regulation, which should take into account the dehumanisation of decisions and the diversification of responsibilities. This is a challenge for regulators, who must identify the risks arising from the use of new technologies both in the preparation of reporting information (financial statements), their analyses and assessments used in decision-making processes, and in the audit and control process (audit of financial statements using new technologies, responsibility for the assessments formulated).

### 3.4. Ethical Dilemmas Regarding Audit, Control and Regulation in the Context of the Use of Modern Technology

In section 3.3, areas of impact of new technologies on regulation, audit and internal control are indicated. The use of modern technologies has obvious benefits related, for example, to the use of big data or the automation of control processes. A common issue raised by the authors (see Table 3.2 ) is the use of artificial intelligence in the area of auditing, data analysis, fraud detection and internal control. Artificial intelligence used in the area of control is a new tool that has not yet been fully explored. There is no research on the manipulation of information provided by artificial intelligence, the sources of which are not openly indicated. In today's world, it is necessary to be aware of the risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence, the main ones being the following.

**Bias and discrimination.** Artificial intelligence (AI) can unconsciously reflect various types of biases contained in the input data that forms the input to the system, which can lead to the formulation of subjective results. In the context of control and audit, AI systems may favour certain groups of people or organisations, undermining the objectivity of the process and the usefulness of the results obtained. Artificial intelligence models are learned from historical data, which may contain existing biases and/or subjective opinions. For example, if the data contains discriminatory wording towards certain social groups, AI may unconsciously perpetuate these patterns. In an audit this can lead to unequal treatment of companies or individuals based on criteria such as location or industry. Users may unconsciously introduce and perpetuate biases when adapting AI algorithms to the specific needs of an audit – this may be due to incorrect assumptions about the analysed data.

**Lack of transparency.** Many advanced AI models, such as neural networks, operate in ways that are difficult for humans to understand. Analysing the result itself, without knowing the decision-making process, can lead to errors in interpretation. In control and audit, being unable to explain why an algorithm has made a particular decision can lead to problems of accountability and trust.

**Breach of privacy – protection of personal data.** AI systems often analyse large amounts of data, including personal and confidential data. Inadequate management

of this data can lead to privacy breaches. Processing financial data without adequate safeguards can result in its leakage or unauthorised use. It is particularly important to manage this data appropriately and to comply with regulations related to the protection of personal data (in Poland these are the RODO regulations). Processing large amounts of information increases the risk of security breaches, especially if the data is stored in the cloud or transferred between different systems. Such data may be stolen or used in an unauthorised manner.

**Automation of faulty processes.** If an audit or control process contains errors or unethical practices, their automation by AI can perpetuate or exacerbate them. While automation can increase efficiency, it also carries the risk of replicating errors if the underlying processes on which it is based are incorrect or unethical.

**Risk of abuse of technology.** AI technology in control and audit can be used for purposes contrary to ethics, such as manipulating audit results and surveillance of employees. AI can be used to create realistic but false evidence, e.g. altered video, audio or generated images to mislead auditors. Systems can be used to unfairly classify individuals or organisations, which can lead to unfair treatment in audit and decision-making processes.

**Reducing human responsibility for the process.** Auditors can avoid making difficult decisions by uncritically trusting the results generated by AI. There may also be a reduced role for humans in decision-making as AI systems in auditing can make decisions autonomously, reducing the human role in the audit process. AI decisions based on data may appear neutral, but the lack of human judgement can lead to inappropriate analyses that do not take into account social, cultural or moral context. Artificial intelligence, while very effective at processing data and identifying patterns, may not be flexible enough in unusual situations. In such cases, human intervention may be necessary and its absence can lead to problems. The lack of empathy in AI analyses can also be a major problem since AI does not understand the context of human actions, which can lead to decisions that are effective but not necessarily fair. For example, algorithms that assess risk may ignore human factors such as the needs or concerns of those being audited, turning auditing into a cold, technocratic procedure (Jai Sisodia, 2022).

Based on the above ethical dilemmas related to the use of artificial intelligence, the authors identified remedies that can positively influence this aspect:

- data diversity – incorporating diverse and representative data to train AI models is key to reducing bias;
- algorithm audit – regularly checking AI systems for performance and potential bias is essential for early detection of problems;
- transparency – designing algorithms in a way that is understandable and transparent to users allows better control of their performance and limits unwanted effects;
- involvement of professionals – consultation with ethics experts and social and technological specialists can help to address biases;

- implement data protection principles – AI systems should be designed with data protection principles in mind at every stage of development and implementation;
- data anonymisation and pseudonymisation – the use of these techniques can significantly reduce the risk of privacy breaches, even in the event of data leakage;
- user training and awareness – staff using AI in auditing should be aware of data protection risks and relevant legislation;
- independent audit of AI systems – regular audits of AI systems for compliance with data protection regulations and ethical standards can help prevent problems (Leocádio et al., 2024).

With these considerations in mind, there is a need for research into ethical issues that will contribute to the development of standards for its use in order to negate its negative effects.



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