ISSN 2345-1424 http://jrtmed.uccm.md E-ISSN 2345-1483

Journal of Research on Trade, Management and Economic Development
Category B
VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1(25)/2026

INTERNAL AUDIT OF PROVISIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: FROM HARMONISATION WITH EUROPEAN STANDARDS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APPLIED ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

Mirela MOLDOVAN, PhD Student
Free International University of Moldova
E-mail: luimirelamoldovan@gmail.com
ORCİD: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2070-5759

Igor BALAN, Assoc. Prof., PhD
Free International University of Moldova
E-mail: ibalan@ulim.md
ORCİD: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8605-5640

DOI: https://doi.org/10.59642/JRTMED.1.2026.07
Universal Decimal Classification: 65.012.12(478)
JEL Classification: M42, M41

Abstract

The need to recalibrate financial reporting systems in the context of the Republic of Moldova's European integration agenda provides the conceptual foundation for this study. The ongoing harmonization with the European Union acquis has transformed auditing from a formal compliance requirement into a strategic governance mechanism that enhances investor confidence and strengthens the credibility of financial information for international stakeholders. Within the framework of financial reporting, provisions constitute one of the most judgment-intensive accounting categories, as their recognition and measurement rely extensively on management estimates, professional judgment, and uncertainty surrounding future obligations. Accordingly, the internal audit of provisions assumes a pivotal role by assessing the validity of accounting estimates, verifying compliance with accounting policies, and ensuring the faithful representation of financial information. The research adopts a systemic methodological approach that integrates advanced diagnostic instruments, including risk mapping and internal control questionnaires, to identify and prioritise operational vulnerabilities. The principal scientific contribution of the study consists in the development of a structured audit algorithm comprising three analytical procedures (PA-01, PA-02, and PA-03) specifically designed to enhance the effectiveness of the internal audit of provisions. These original procedures facilitate a rigorous assessment of the consistency of accounting policies and the actual impact of estimated liabilities (provisions) on an entity's financial performance. The findings demonstrate that repositioning internal audit as a managerial support function enables the timely identification of reporting distortions, strengthens asset integrity, and improves the reliability of financial information. By proposing practical and operational solutions, the study establishes a robust internal audit framework that reinforces corporate governance, enhances organizational transparency, and increases the credibility of the domestic business environment, thereby facilitating broader integration into international capital markets.

Keywords*: audit, internal audit, provisions, analytical procedures, corporate governance*

1. Introduction

The Republic of Moldova's current trajectory towards European Union accession necessitates a profound transformation of its national economic architecture. This process extends well beyond formal regulatory convergence, encompassing the adoption of the principles of transparency, accountability, and high-quality financial reporting that underpin the European institutional framework. Within this evolving environment, statutory auditing and sustainability reporting have progressed from administrative compliance obligations to strategic instruments for enhancing corporate credibility and strengthening stakeholder confidence. The transition towards a mixed audit oversight model, combining public supervision with the professional expertise of self-regulatory bodies, further demonstrates the country's commitment to establishing a modern and effective system of corporate governance.

The rationale for this research stems from the strategic necessity of reinforcing the national regulatory framework through the transposition of European directives governing accounting and auditing practices. This necessity is driven by the realities of an increasingly integrated global economy, where access to international capital markets and the ability to attract foreign investment are intrinsically linked to the credibility and reliability of financial information. Accordingly, the consistent implementation of International Standards on Auditing, together with strict adherence to professional ethical principles, constitutes a prerequisite for strengthening investor confidence and enhancing the international competitiveness of Moldovan business entities.

Among the elements of financial reporting, provisions represent one of the most technically demanding accounting categories because their recognition, measurement, and subsequent reassessment rely extensively on management estimates, professional judgement, and uncertainty regarding future obligations. The inherently subjective nature of these accounting estimates substantially increases the risk of material misstatements within financial statements, thereby requiring comprehensive internal audit procedures designed to verify compliance with accounting regulations, assess the appropriateness of management assumptions, and ensure the faithful representation of financial information. Against this background, the present study focuses on the internal audit of provisions by examining the principal risk factors associated with their accounting treatment and by proposing methodological approaches aimed at improving audit effectiveness.

Despite the progress achieved in aligning the national regulatory framework with European requirements, significant structural challenges continue to constrain the development of internal auditing in the Republic of Moldova. In many organisations, the internal audit function remains insufficiently developed and is frequently confined to routine verification activities rather than serving as an integrated component of enterprise risk management. In an economic environment characterised by increasing uncertainty and rapidly evolving business risks, internal auditing must evolve into a proactive governance mechanism capable of identifying, assessing, and mitigating operational vulnerabilities before they compromise organisational stability and financial performance. Furthermore, the geographical concentration of audit services, together with fluctuations in the activity of audit firms, reflects structural imbalances within the domestic audit market that require both strategic policy initiatives and more robust methodological frameworks.

To address these issues comprehensively, the study is organised according to a coherent analytical structure. The initial sections examine the evolution of the current regulatory framework and analyse the characteristics of the audit services market, thereby providing an overview of the contemporary auditing profession in the Republic of Moldova. The subsequent sections focus on the methodological foundations of internal auditing, highlighting its multiple functions—including informational, advisory, monitoring, and feedback roles-as essential components of managerial decision-making and corporate governance. Particular emphasis is placed on the practical dimension of the research through the development and application of specialised internal audit procedures for provisions. The selection of provisions as the focal accounting element is justified by the complexity of their recognition and measurement processes, as well as by their substantial influence on financial performance, financial position, and the overall reliability of financial statements. Consequently, the study seeks to demonstrate how an appropriately designed internal audit framework can improve the identification and management of risks associated with provisions while enhancing the quality, transparency, and decision-making usefulness of financial information provided to both management and external stakeholders.

2. Current state of research on the problem and the purpose of the study

The Republic of Moldova's European integration trajectory necessitates a systemic reconfiguration of corporate governance, in which auditing and financial reporting have become indispensable instruments for ensuring transparency, accountability, and market confidence. Recent developments in this field demonstrate a rapid structural evolution, characterised by a transition from traditional compliance-oriented auditing to a risk-based audit approach, a transformation examined by Crotenco Iu. and Telembeci D. [12, pp. 129–139]. This progressive maturation of the auditing profession is firmly grounded in the internationally recognised theoretical framework established by Alvin A. Arens and James K. Loebbecke in their seminal work Audit: An Integrated Approach [1]. At the same time, it has been reinforced through a comprehensive process of regulatory harmonisation based on the transposition of Directives 2013/34/EU and 2006/43/EC [9], complemented by Directive 2014/56/EU [37], thereby aligning the national auditing framework with the principles and requirements governing the European regulatory environment.

These developments are supported by a strengthened institutional framework in which the Ministry of Finance [26] and the Public Audit Oversight Council (PAOC) [10] cooperate closely with well-established professional organisations, most notably the Association of Professional Accountants and Auditors of the Republic of Moldova (ACAP RM). As the only professional accounting organisation in the Republic of Moldova holding full membership in the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and the Eurasian Council of Certified Accountants and Auditors (ECCAA), as well as associate membership in the Fédération Internationale des Experts-Comptables Francophones (FIDEF), ACAP RM plays a pivotal role in the advancement of the auditing profession. Its strategic contribution to the development of the profession has been comprehensively documented by Șelaru M. and Balan I. in The Evolution of the Auditing Profession and the Role of ACAP as a Reference Professional Organisation in the Republic of Moldova [36, pp. 128–138].

From an academic perspective, audit quality has been reassessed through the lens of professional ethics by Ardelean A. [2, pp. 3–15], while Garcia-Marzá D. [17, pp. 209–219] has provided a theoretical framework highlighting the central role of trust and stakeholder dialogue in strengthening the auditing profession. Furthermore, emerging research directions in internal auditing, explored by Christ M., Eulerich M., Krane R., and Wood D. in New Frontiers for Internal Audit Research [7], demonstrate the discipline's expanding focus on corporate transparency, a perspective further reinforced by Fulop M. [16, p. 343]. In parallel, the contribution of internal auditing to sustainable development has attracted increasing scholarly attention, as evidenced by the significant study conducted by Haoyue L. and O. Kok Loang [18, pp. 168–185], which highlights the strategic role of internal audit in supporting long-term organisational sustainability and responsible corporate governance.

A critical assessment of the audit services market in 2024 [21] reveals a pronounced geographical concentration of audit activities in the municipality of Chisinau, while simultaneously highlighting the need to broaden the strategic role of the internal audit function. Increasingly interpreted through the lens of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, as emphasised by Fraser J., Quail R., and Simkins B. [15], internal auditing is expected to evolve in accordance with the forward-looking vision proposed by Lenz R. and Hoos F. in The Future Role of the Internal Audit Function: Assure. Build. Consult [23, pp. 39–52]. From a regional perspective, the studies conducted by Chersan Ionela-Corina [6, pp. 929–945] on contemporary practices and emerging trends in internal auditing in Romania and internationally, together with the promotional initiatives advanced by Cristina Copăceanu [11, pp. 19–26], further emphasise the importance of aligning internal audit activities with the Global Internal Audit Standards issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors (Global IIA Standards) [35] and internationally recognised professional best practices.

The present study builds upon these scholarly achievements by providing an applied synthesis that extends previous research on risk identification and assessment methodologies developed by auditors, initially undertaken by Balan I. and Munteanu A. [3, pp. 221–226]. In parallel, the authors draw upon collaborative research conducted with T. Chira, an economist at the National Bank of Moldova, concerning the ethical and professional profile of the auditing profession [4, pp. 7–16]. This research framework is grounded in the International Standards on Auditing [33], the National Internal Audit Standards [34], and the integrated COSO Internal Control Framework [8], which collectively provide the methodological foundation for strengthening internal audit effectiveness.

The investigations presented in this article bridge the gap between theoretical developments and practical implementation by evaluating the effectiveness of management systems through the application of internal auditing [27, pp. 236–240] while simultaneously offering conceptual reflections on the contemporary realities of the Republic of Moldova [28, pp. 142–149]. Furthermore, the research incorporates advanced analytical instruments, including Hurtt's Professional Skepticism Scale developed by R. Hurtt [20, pp. 149–171] and the reputation assessment models proposed by B.-W. Mayhew [25, pp. 599–617]. These methodological approaches are complemented by key theoretical concepts presented in the methodological lecture notes prepared by Cauș L., Ratcov M. and Iachimovschi A. [5], thereby reinforcing the conceptual and practical foundations of the study.

To enhance corporate governance, the authors draw upon the strategic analyses developed by Elena Petreanu, PhD in Economics, presented in a series of thematic publications devoted to internal auditing [30, pp. 48–58], [31, pp. 87–95], and [32, pp. 47–51]. In addition, the study adopts the perspective advanced by Eulerich M. and Lohmann C. regarding information asymmetry, as articulated in their influential empirical investigation of the nonlinear relationships between corporate characteristics and the size of the internal audit function [14, pp. 103–127]. Further theoretical support for the proposed analytical procedures is provided by the research of Anna Katharina Eulerich and Marc Eulerich [13, pp. 83–92], which examines the contribution of internal auditing to enhancing the effectiveness of internal control systems, risk management, and corporate governance processes, as well as by the findings of Khalilov B.-B. [22, pp. 413–419] concerning the internal audit practices of international corporations. These conceptual foundations are complemented by the contemporary business continuity assessment methodologies developed by the emerging researcher Lungu A. [24, pp. 53–55], thereby providing practical solutions for ensuring compliance with the Code of Ethics adopted by Government Decision No. 557/2019 [19].

Ultimately, the principal objective of the present research is to identify and substantiate the most effective operational framework for audit organisations through the integration of regulatory and methodological approaches capable of ensuring high-quality audit services and supporting the sustainable performance of business entities. The study seeks to redefine the role of internal auditing in response to contemporary professional challenges and the evolving realities of the audit market in the Republic of Moldova by proposing a strengthened methodological framework consisting of specialised analytical procedures together with a structured implementation algorithm. This framework is designed to enhance audit quality and objectivity, improve risk management, and facilitate the reliable assessment of accounting estimates, particularly provisions. The ultimate purpose of the proposed approach is to improve the credibility of financial statements and the reliability of financial information, thereby strengthening investor confidence, facilitating access to international investment flows, and supporting the Republic of Moldova's effective integration into the European economic area.

3. Methods and materials applied

The methodological framework adopted in this study is grounded in a systemic and multidimensional research approach designed to integrate the theoretical rigor of the International Standards on Auditing [33], the National Internal Audit Standards [34], and the integrated COSO Framework [8] with the operational realities of business entities in the Republic of Moldova. The research methodology follows a coherent and sequential analytical framework, beginning with a conceptual stage of preliminary analysis. During this phase, the study examined the process of harmonising national legislation with the relevant European regulatory framework, including Directives 2013/34/EU and 2006/43/EC [9], together with Directive 2014/56/EU [37], while simultaneously redefining the role of internal auditing as a strategic governance and managerial support function.

The research subsequently progressed to the risk assessment stage, focusing on the identification and evaluation of vulnerabilities associated with balance sheet items characterised by a high degree of estimation uncertainty, particularly provisions. The results of this diagnostic analysis provided the foundation for the procedural modelling stage, during which practical audit instruments—including risk maps and structured documentation matrices—were developed to facilitate a systematic assessment of audit evidence and risk exposure.

The final stage of the methodological framework comprised analytical testing and validation, culminating in the development of specialised analytical procedures for the evaluation of provisions. The proposed investigation process follows the standard operational cycle of the internal audit function, encompassing audit planning, resource allocation, audit execution, communication of findings, and continuous monitoring of the implementation of recommendations aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the internal control system. This structured methodological approach ensures the consistency, reliability, and practical applicability of the proposed analytical procedures while supporting evidence-based decision-making and enhancing the overall quality of internal audit engagements.

The effectiveness of the audit process is ensured through the application of advanced qualitative and quantitative analytical techniques. A key methodological instrument is the risk map, which is employed to identify and visually assess irregularities or deficiencies in the process of recognising provisions and recording liabilities, thereby mitigating the risk of material distortions in financial performance. Data collection is based on a comprehensive methodological approach incorporating multiple evidence-gathering techniques, including employee interviews, direct discussions with management, internal control questionnaires, and participation in inventory procedures to verify the consistency of accounting practices with the entity's adopted accounting policies. The empirical investigation centres on the application of three core analytical procedures (APs), which constitute the methodological foundation of the study. AP-01 is designed to evaluate accounting policies and document flows through the examination of transactions recorded in specific accounting accounts (including Accounts 222, 253, 426, and 538) and by reconciling these records with the corresponding balance sheet disclosures (Lines 370, 400, and 870). AP-02 focuses on assessing the effect of provisions on financial performance by analysing the relationship between distribution and operating expenses and the accounting entries associated with the recognition of provisions. AP-03 is dedicated exclusively to the assessment of impairment adjustments relating to doubtful receivables, using inventory findings together with an analysis of enforceable legal instruments to validate the accuracy and appropriateness of the recognised amounts.

The research is aligned with internationally recognised theoretical perspectives by adopting the integrated auditing approach developed by Alvin A. Arens and James K. Loebbecke [1], which has become a globally acknowledged framework for ensuring audit quality. An important conceptual contribution of the present study lies in extending the role of internal auditing beyond its traditional assurance function towards broader strategic dimensions. In particular, the research incorporates the perspective that internal auditing contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as demonstrated by Haoyue L. and O. Kok Loang [18], while also recognising its growing significance in supporting Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) objectives, as emphasised by Fraser, J.-R.-S., Quail, R., and Simkins, B.-J. [15]. Accordingly, the proposed methodological framework positions internal auditing not merely as a mechanism for verifying financial information but as an integral component of organisational governance, strategic risk management, and sustainable value creation.

The analytical framework further incorporates the Professional Skepticism Scale developed by Hurtt R. [20], an essential instrument for preserving auditor objectivity and strengthening professional judgement throughout the audit process. It also draws upon the forward-looking perspective proposed by Lenz R. and Hoos F. concerning the future role of the internal audit function: Assure, Build, Consult [23] — which advocates expanding internal auditing beyond its traditional assurance responsibilities to encompass advisory and value-creating activities.

Within the national research context, the study builds upon the strategic analyses of Elena Petreanu [30], [31], [32] addressing the role of internal auditing in strengthening corporate governance and enhancing organisational performance. It also incorporates the conceptual contributions of the present authors regarding the effectiveness of management through internal auditing [27], [28], [3]. By integrating these complementary theoretical and methodological perspectives, the research establishes a comprehensive framework for assessing the reasonableness of accounting estimates, particularly provisions relating to litigation, warranties, and employee benefits. This integrated approach enhances the reliability, transparency, and faithful representation of financial reporting while reinforcing the credibility of financial information for both internal decision-makers and external stakeholders.

4. Results and discussions

With the launch of the Republic of Moldova's European Union accession process, the country has entered a phase of de facto integration into the European political and economic area, a development that requires comprehensive alignment with the European Union's regulatory framework and institutional standards. Consequently, the importance of statutory auditing, accounting, financial reporting within the corporate sector, and sustainability reporting has increased substantially. These areas have become central to the ongoing harmonisation of national legislation with the EU acquis, reflecting Moldova's commitment to strengthening financial transparency, corporate accountability, and investor confidence.

Accordingly, the alignment of the national legal framework with the acquis communautaire has become one of the country's foremost legislative priorities. The current reform agenda includes the full transposition of Directive 2006/43/EC on statutory audits and Directive 2013/34/EU on annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements, and related reports. In addition, legislative efforts are focused on adjusting the size thresholds applicable to undertakings in accordance with Directive (EU) 2023/2775, completing the transposition of Directive (EU) 2021/2101 concerning the public disclosure of income tax information by certain undertakings and branches (public country-by-country reporting), and establishing the legal framework necessary for the implementation of Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, which lays down specific requirements for the statutory audit of public-interest entities.

Collectively, these legislative reforms are intended to strengthen the credibility, transparency, and comparability of corporate reporting, reinforce the effectiveness of audit oversight, and facilitate the Republic of Moldova's progressive integration into the European financial and economic system.

The implementation of the International Quality Management, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance, and Related Services Pronouncements, together with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards), provides domestic business entities not only with opportunities for sustainable growth but also with enhanced access to investment, additional sources of financing, and international capital markets. Achieving these objectives, however, requires financial statements that are reliable, faithfully represent the entity's financial position and performance, and fully comply with the applicable legislative and regulatory framework.

The relevance of the research topic addressed in this study arises from the growing interest demonstrated by a wide range of economic stakeholders in identifying the most effective operational framework for audit organisations. Such a framework should incorporate appropriate audit methodologies, analytical techniques, and regulatory mechanisms capable of ensuring high-quality assurance services. At the same time, these developments underscore the necessity of recognising the strategic importance of the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) in safeguarding audit quality, strengthening stakeholder confidence, and improving the overall performance and governance of business entities.

Internationally recognised auditing practices, established under the authority of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), constitute the global benchmark for audit quality and professional assurance services. Nevertheless, the regulation of audit activities varies considerably across jurisdictions, primarily because of differences in the degree of governmental involvement in the oversight of the profession. Consequently, several distinct audit regulatory models have emerged, comparable to the diversity of national accounting systems, each reflecting different institutional approaches to governance and professional regulation:

- The Anglo-Saxon model (e.g., the United States and the United Kingdom) is primarily oriented towards protecting the interests of investors and creditors and is regulated predominantly by independent professional auditing bodies;
- The Continental European model (e.g., Germany, France, Romania, Austria, Spain, and Russia) is characterised by extensive governmental regulation, with statutory audit activities being subject to public oversight exercised by state authorities;
- The mixed audit model, adopted in countries such as the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Lithuania, combines public oversight by governmental authorities with professional self-regulation exercised by independent professional associations, thereby seeking to balance regulatory accountability with professional autonomy.

It should be noted that the institutional architecture governing the auditing profession in each country is largely determined by the regulatory model adopted. Accordingly, jurisdictions establish independent professional organisations, governmental regulatory and oversight authorities, and public-interest institutions responsible for supervising audit activities. In the Republic of Moldova, this institutional framework comprises the Association of Professional Accountants and Auditors of the Republic of Moldova (ACAP RM), the Association of Auditors and Audit Firms of the Republic of Moldova (AFAM), and the Public Audit Oversight Council (PAOC), each of which performs distinct functions in promoting professional standards, regulatory compliance, and public confidence in the auditing profession.

Overall, auditing in the Republic of Moldova has evolved in accordance with internationally recognised principles and globally accepted professional practices. The development of the profession has been characterised by a relatively rapid evolutionary process, progressing from a traditional confirmation-based audit model towards a contemporary risk-based auditing approach. This transformation reflects the increasing adoption of internationally recognised auditing standards and methodologies, while strengthening the strategic role of auditing in corporate governance and organisational risk management.

The audit services market in the Republic of Moldova remains highly geographically concentrated. Approximately 91% of licensed audit firms are legally registered in the municipality of Chişinău, while only a limited number operate outside the capital, including seven audit entities located in Bălți and two in Cahul. This concentration highlights the centralisation of professional audit services within the country's principal economic centre and indicates the existence of regional disparities in the availability and accessibility of audit services.

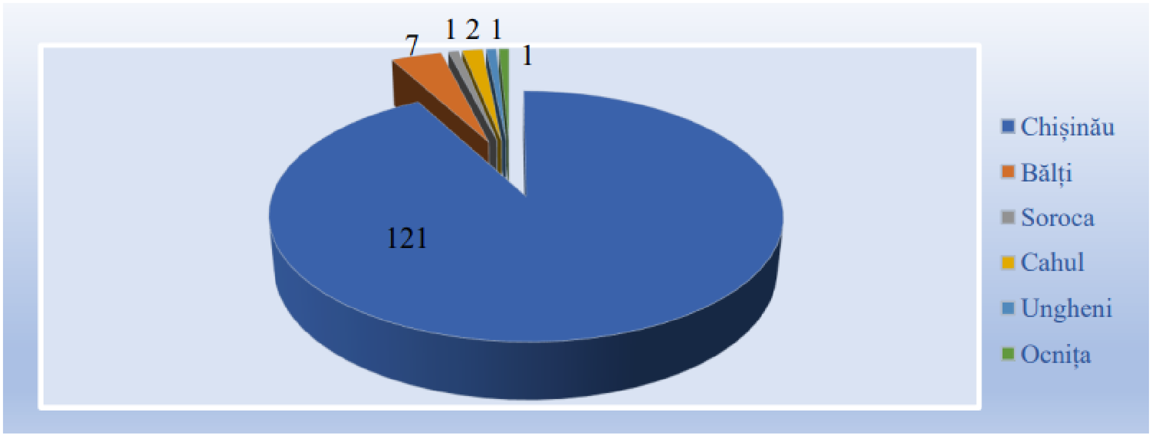

Figure 1. Territorial Distribution of Audit Entities as of 31 December 2024
Source: Information on the Audit Services Market for 2024.
https://cspa.md/sites/default/files/Pia%C8%9Ba%20serviciilor%20de%20audit%202024.pdf.

According to the *Information on the Audit Services Market for 2024*, issued and published by the Public Audit Oversight Council (approved by Decision No. 16 of 19 June 2025) [10], the Public Register of Audit Entities of the Republic of Moldova contained 133 registered audit entities as of 1 January 2025. From the perspective of their legal form of organisation and ownership structure, these audit entities were distributed as follows:

Table 1. Distribution of Audit Entities by Legal Form of Organisation and Ownership Structure

Legal Form of Entity and Ownership Structure	Status as of 31 December 2024
Limited Liability Companies (LLCs)	131
of which:	
Foreign-owned	6
Mixed ownership	2
Domestic-owned (including six audit entities with suspended activity)	123
Joint-Stock Companies (JSCs)	2
Total	**133**

Source: Information on the Audit Services Market for 2024.
https://cspa.md/sites/default/files/Pia%C8%9Ba%20serviciilor%20de%20audit%202024.pdf.

Despite relatively modest economic developments, the audit sector has maintained a stable level of professional activity. According to information presented in the reports on compliance with audit quality control procedures, approximately 65% of registered audit entities carried out statutory financial statement audits while also providing non-audit services, including accounting services, tax planning and optimisation, and business consulting. Nevertheless, compared with 2023, this proportion declined by approximately 3% during 2024.

The number of audit firms engaged exclusively in statutory financial statement audits decreased by approximately 50% in 2024. At the same time, the number of audit entities reporting no business activity increased from five in 2023 to eight in 2024, representing approximately 6% of all active audit entities. Furthermore, around 35% of registered audit firms did not perform any audit engagements during 2024, while the overall number of audit entities providing statutory audit services declined by approximately 1% compared with the previous year [21].

Against the backdrop of current economic conditions and the challenges facing the profession, the auditing sector continues to evolve and strengthen its strategic significance. This development reflects the growing recognition that the value of auditing extends beyond the interests of shareholders and other beneficiaries to encompass the broader needs of business entities themselves. In an increasingly competitive economic environment, sustainable business growth often depends on the ability to secure external financing from investors, sponsors, and lending institutions. Access to such financial resources requires organisations not only to demonstrate sound operational performance but also to present financial statements that are reliable, transparent, and capable of inspiring confidence among existing and prospective investors and creditors. Consequently, high-quality auditing constitutes a fundamental mechanism for enhancing the credibility of financial reporting, reducing information asymmetry, and facilitating access to domestic and international capital markets.

The strengthening of regional, European, and global integration processes, accompanied by the convergence of auditing standards and the commitment of individual countries to safeguard their national interests – including maintaining the international competitiveness of domestic enterprises – requires local audit firms to recognise the strategic importance of implementing the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) within a robust, efficient, and economically sustainable quality assurance framework. The consistent application of internationally recognised auditing standards is essential for enhancing audit quality, strengthening stakeholder confidence, and ensuring the credibility of financial reporting in an increasingly integrated global economy.

In light of these developments, the advancement of the internal audit function within business entities has become a matter of strategic importance. Considering the contemporary realities of the domestic market and the evolution of the national regulatory framework, internal audit functions must reassess traditional approaches, reinforce organisational risk management and internal control systems, and implement additional measures aimed at preventing operational irregularities and material misstatements within business processes.

Internal auditing evaluates the effectiveness and reliability of operational information provided to management and primarily functions as an independent managerial support mechanism that contributes to informed decision-making, organisational oversight, and the continuous improvement of governance processes.

As a comparatively recent discipline within the field of business management, internal auditing has become particularly significant for medium-sized and large organisations. Unlike external (financial) auditing, which is primarily intended to provide independent assurance on the fairness of financial statements, internal auditing has a broader organisational mandate that encompasses evaluating the effectiveness of internal controls, detecting and preventing fraud, ensuring compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, identifying operational deficiencies and process inefficiencies, and supporting the continuous improvement of organisational performance and corporate governance.

Depending on its scope and objectives, internal auditing may be classified into several categories, including:

- performance and operational audits, aimed at evaluating the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of business processes;
- quality audits, designed to assess compliance with quality management systems and established quality standards;
- management audits, which examine the effectiveness of governance structures, managerial activities, and decision-making processes at various organisational levels.

The objects of internal auditing comprise specific organisational activities, operational processes, individual assignments, and predefined management objectives. Their scope may vary according to the expectations and information needs of the owners and those charged with governance, since the internal audit function constitutes an integral component of an organisation's managerial control system and corporate governance framework.

The principal functions of internal auditing include the informational, analytical, methodological, verification, operational, and feedback functions, each of which contributes to strengthening internal control, supporting managerial decision-making, and enhancing organisational performance (Table 2).

Table 2. Key Characteristics and Capabilities of the Internal Audit Functions

Internal Audit Function	Characteristics of the Internal Audit Function	Capabilities of the Internal Audit Function
Informational Function	Creation and effective utilisation of information flows relating to the entity's ongoing business activities	Facilitates the application of the economic management cycle based on the “planning–implementation–execution–control” framework
Analytical Function	Analysis of the principal areas of business process management, including operational, managerial, investment, and financial activities	Enhances process efficiency and supports the optimisation of risk management practices
Methodological Function	Development of a comprehensive methodological framework for internal auditing, encompassing audit planning, execution, formulation of recommendations, and follow-up procedures to assess their implementation	Provides a structured and systematic framework for evaluating business processes
Control Function	Identification of errors and deficiencies across all subsystems involved in the collection, processing, and reporting of information.	Supports the achievement of organisational objectives within the corporate governance framework

Communication and Feedback Function	Facilitation of effective interaction and information exchange among all internal audit functions, thereby supporting continuous improvement and organisational learning	Enables a comprehensive assessment of management objects and business processes while facilitating the identification, analysis, and understanding of operational deficiencies and control weaknesses

The execution of internal audit engagements varies considerably across business entities and is influenced by numerous organisational factors, including the nature and scale of business operations, the organisational and governance structure, revenue generation capacity, workforce size, and the overall complexity of corporate activities. Consequently, the effectiveness of the internal audit function depends not only on organisational characteristics but also on the existence of a well-defined internal regulatory framework capable of ensuring methodological consistency throughout the audit process.

To enhance the quality and consistency of internal audit engagements, organisations should establish a comprehensive set of internal corporate regulations – including internal audit manuals, methodologies, standards, and procedural guidelines – that formally govern the planning, execution, documentation, reporting, and follow-up of audit assignments. Such an institutional framework promotes methodological uniformity, strengthens compliance with professional standards, and contributes to the reliability and objectivity of audit outcomes.

An illustrative model for organising and conducting an internal audit engagement in accordance with corporate internal auditing standards – developed on the basis of the Global Internal Audit Standards issued by The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) [35] and the National Internal Audit Standards [34] – is presented in Figure 2. This model provides a structured representation of the sequential stages of an internal audit engagement, facilitating the consistent application of internationally recognised auditing principles while accommodating the specific operational characteristics of business entities in the Republic of Moldova.

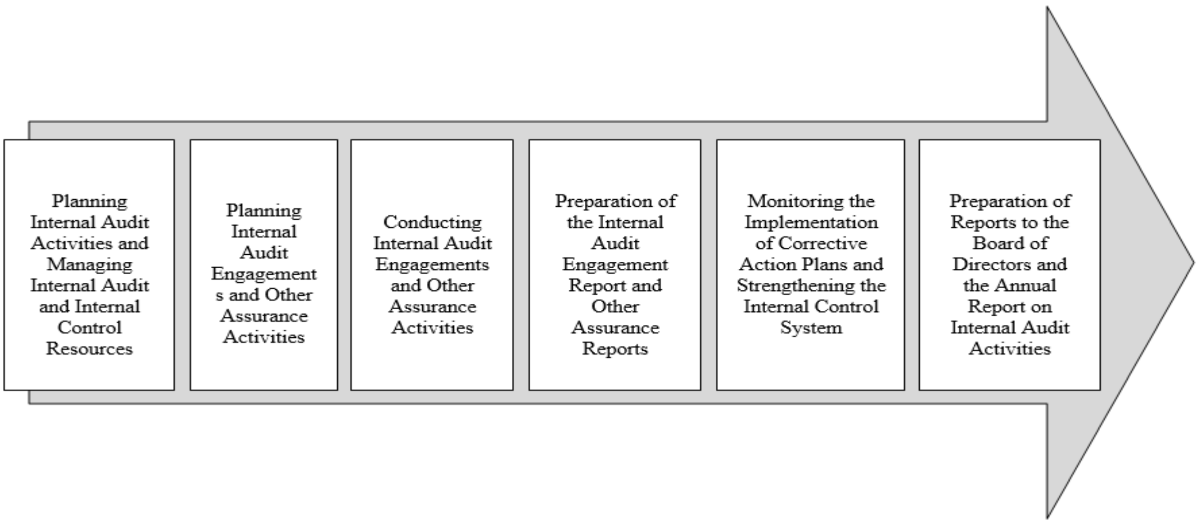

Figure 2. Proposed Framework for Organising the Internal Audit Function within a Business Entity

When conducting an internal audit of provisions in accordance with selected principles of the international auditing framework, the engagement should begin with a clear definition of the audit objectives, followed by a comprehensive assessment of the risks associated with accounting estimates. Because provisions are inherently characterised by significant estimation uncertainty and managerial judgement, establishing an appropriate audit strategy at the planning stage is essential for obtaining sufficient and appropriate audit evidence.

Within this context, the principal objectives of an internal audit of provisions may include the following:

- assessing whether the carrying amounts of assets are presented at amounts that faithfully reflect their economic value;
- verifying that recognised liabilities appropriately represent the entity's obligations and the related expenses incurred during the reporting period;
- evaluating the reasonableness and objectivity of estimated provisions, including impairment allowances for financial investments, inventory obsolescence provisions, and allowances for doubtful receivables;
- forming an independent professional judgement regarding the appropriateness of recognising estimated liabilities at the reporting date, including provisions for employee annual leave, warranty obligations, litigation, onerous contracts, and other contingent obligations recognised in accordance with the applicable accounting framework.

The significance, likelihood, and potential impact of identified audit risks should be assessed through the application of appropriate risk assessment techniques. Among the most effective analytical instruments is the risk map, which provides a structured visual representation of areas susceptible to material misstatement. By identifying weaknesses or inconsistencies in the recognition and measurement of provisions and the recording of liabilities, the risk map facilitates the early detection of deficiencies that could compromise the reliability of financial reporting and lead to material distortions in the entity's reported financial performance. This risk-oriented approach strengthens audit planning, supports the efficient allocation of audit resources, and enhances the overall effectiveness of the internal audit engagement.

Within the proposed internal audit methodology, the risk map constitutes a strategic analytical instrument for systematically assessing the financial integrity of a business entity. Beyond serving as a conventional risk identification tool, it facilitates the transformation of dispersed audit evidence into a structured framework that prioritises risk exposures according to their likelihood of occurrence and potential impact on financial reporting [23, p. 45]. Consequently, the risk map enhances the auditor's ability to focus audit efforts on areas presenting the greatest risk of material misstatement and supports more effective decision-making throughout the audit engagement.

Based on the literature reviewed, the contribution of risk mapping to the internal audit of provisions may be summarised through three principal dimensions.

– First, the identification of structural deficiencies. Risk mapping enables internal auditors to detect and visualise weaknesses within the processes governing the recognition, measurement, and subsequent reassessment of provisions, as well as the recording of liabilities. By highlighting inconsistencies and control deficiencies, this analytical tool facilitates the verification of whether accounting practices are implemented consistently with the entity's approved accounting policies and internal control procedures [24, p. 54].

– Second, the mitigation of financial reporting risk. Through the early identification of estimation errors and inappropriate accounting assumptions, the risk map operates as a preventive control mechanism that reduces the likelihood of material misstatements in financial statements. Consequently, it contributes to enhancing the reliability, transparency, and faithful representation of financial information, thereby increasing the confidence of investors, creditors, and other stakeholders in the entity's reported financial performance [24, p. 54].
– Third, the reinforcement of corporate governance and risk management. Risk mapping provides management with a comprehensive basis for evaluating the effectiveness of existing internal control and risk management systems while supporting the design and implementation of corrective measures aimed at preventing operational deficiencies and strengthening organisational resilience. In this capacity, internal auditing extends beyond its traditional assurance role and functions as a strategic governance mechanism that promotes continuous improvement, enhances organisational performance, and supports sustainable value creation, particularly within medium-sized and large business entities [15].

Accordingly, the application of this analytical instrument enables an objective and evidence-based assessment of the reasonableness of accounting estimates, particularly provisions relating to litigation, doubtful receivables, warranties, and other contingent obligations. By supporting the systematic identification and evaluation of significant risk exposures, the risk map transforms the internal audit engagement from a retrospective verification exercise into a proactive governance mechanism that strengthens organisational resilience, enhances the reliability of financial reporting, and contributes to the long-term financial stability of the entity.

The process of collecting, analysing, evaluating, and documenting audit evidence relating to the objects of examination may be systematised through a structured analytical framework. For greater clarity and methodological consistency, the principal sources of audit evidence, audit procedures, and documentation requirements applicable to the internal audit of provisions are synthesised in Table 3.

Table 3. Objectives and Key Components of the Internal Audit of Provisions: An Illustrative Framework

Data Collection	Analytical Focus Areas	Key Findings Derived from Data Collection and Analysis
Employee interviews	Assessment of the entity's accounting system and internal control framework	The accounting function is performed by a chief accountant, a deputy chief accountant, and three accounting staff members. Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined through formally approved job descriptions. Financial accounting and record-keeping are supported by the 1C:Enterprise accounting software platform.
Direct discussions with management and personnel	Evaluation of information technology (IT) governance and operations	The interaction between the accounting function and the information technology (IT) department is formally governed by the entity's internal regulations.
Administration of internal control questionnaires	Review of the entity's accounting policies	The entity recognises the following categories of provisions: provisions for losses arising from overdue loans and impairment allowances for doubtful or

		uncollectible receivables. On a quarterly basis, the entity measures and recognises provisions for employee benefits, warranty obligations arising from products and services supplied to customers, and tax-related provisions.
Observation of operational processes	Assessment of the consistency of accounting practices with the entity's adopted accounting policies	Additional audit procedures should include the examination of accounting entries and accounting records
Observation of physical inventory procedures	Evaluation of information underlying the entity's financial performance	Examination of accounting records documenting the recognition of direct production costs and the allocation of indirect manufacturing overheads
Inquiry into identified or potential irregularities	Analysis of information presented in the financial statements	Line 370 „Total Current Receivables and Other Current Assets” Line 400 „Total Current Financial Investments” Line 870 „Total Provisions”

The information obtained during the audit engagement is subjected to a comprehensive evaluation, while the entity's financial and economic indicators are systematically analysed to identify transactions and events that may have been recorded inaccurately or presented inconsistently within the financial reporting process. This analytical assessment also facilitates the identification of the underlying causes of accounting errors, estimation deficiencies, and potential financial reporting distortions.

Audit evidence may be obtained through the application of several complementary audit procedures, including:

- a detailed examination of accounting records, journal entries, and account balances;
- the application of targeted analytical procedures designed to identify unusual relationships, trends, and significant fluctuations;
- testing the design and operating effectiveness of the entity's internal control system.

The present study focuses on the application of analytical procedures as a core methodological component of the internal audit of provisions. Within the proposed framework, these procedures may be implemented through several complementary analytical approaches designed to evaluate the consistency, reliability, and completeness of accounting information. Specifically, the proposed methodology encompasses the following comparative analyses:

1) comparison of account balances across different reporting periods;
2) comparison of financial reporting indicators with the entity's budgeted performance measures;
3) comparison of financial reporting data with tax reporting information;
4) comparison of financial statement disclosures with accounting records and the entity's approved accounting policies;
5) comparison of financial information with relevant non-financial information.

The systematic analysis of relationships between financial statement indicators and data derived from the accounting information system provides valuable audit evidence for identifying the underlying causes of non-compliance with established accounting policies and detecting inconsistencies in the recognition, measurement, and presentation of accounting transactions.

Analytical procedures constitute one of the fundamental techniques employed throughout the audit process, significantly enhancing both the effectiveness and the quality of audit engagements. In accordance with the International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 520 – Analytical Procedures [33], auditors are required to evaluate plausible relationships among financial and non-financial information by analysing trends, ratios, patterns, and other relationships that are expected to exist based on the audited entity's business activities. The auditor must also investigate any identified fluctuations, inconsistencies, or unexpected relationships that differ materially from anticipated values or from other available audit evidence.

Furthermore, the International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 500 – Audit Evidence [33] requires auditors to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence by evaluating financial information through the analysis of relationships between financial and non-financial data. Analytical procedures therefore extend beyond numerical comparisons, encompassing the investigation of significant deviations, unusual trends, and inconsistencies that contradict other available audit evidence or depart materially from expected outcomes. Such analyses contribute to the identification of potential misstatements, inappropriate accounting estimates, and weaknesses in the entity's internal control environment.

To facilitate the systematic comparison and evaluation of accounting information within the scope of this research, the authors have developed a specialised analytical procedure, together with a structured implementation algorithm specifically designed for the internal audit of provisions. The conceptual framework of this procedure is presented in Table 4, providing a practical methodology for strengthening audit effectiveness and improving the quality of audit evidence obtained during the engagement.

Table 4. Analytical Procedures for the Internal Audit of Provisions

<table>
<tr><th>Audit Objective</th><th>Audit Stage</th><th>Procedure Reference</th><th colspan="2">Analytical Procedure</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="7">Assessment of the entity's accounting policies</td><td rowspan="7">Evaluation of the document flow and documentation system</td><td rowspan="6">AP-01</td><td colspan="2">Examination of accounting transactions recorded in account 222 – Impairment Allowances for Doubtful Receivables</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Review of transactions recorded in account 253 – Provisions for Losses on Overdue Loans</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Assessment of transactions recognised in account 426 – Long-term Provisions</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Assessment of transactions recognised in account 538 – Current Provisions</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Examination of transactions recognised in account 7217 – Expenses Related to Provisions for Non-current Assets</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Verification and reconciliation of information reported in the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet), including:
■ Line 370 – Total Current Receivables and Other Current Assets
■ Line 400 – Total Current Financial Investments
■ Line 870 – Total Provisions</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">The calculation of the analytical ratios is based on information disclosed in the supplementary schedules accompanying the financial statements</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment</td><td>Examination of</td><td>AP-02</td><td>Verification of the</td><td>Examination of accounting</td></tr>
</table>

of the impact of provisions on the entity's financial performance	accounting records relating to provisions. Verification of the internal authorisation governing the establishment of provisions. Review of supporting accounting documentation evidencing the recognition of provisions. Review of management reports. Examination of the statement of profit or loss. Obtaining analytical information for: ■ Line 050 – Distribution Expenses; ■ Line 070 – Other Operating Expenses.		calculated indicators against the underlying data used in the recognition and measurement of provisions	transactions relating to provisions, including, for example, the recognition or increase of long-term provisions through entries debiting accounts 121, 331, 712, 713, 714, 721, 811, and 812, with the corresponding credit recorded in Account 426 (Long-term Provisions). Assessment of whether individual expense categories have been recognised in the appropriate reporting period in accordance with the applicable accounting policies and the accrual principle. Verification of the accuracy of the calculated provision amounts and evaluation of their impact on the entity's financial performance. Where considered necessary, additional analytical procedures should be designed and performed to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence. The related expenses should be appropriately presented as separate line items in the Statement of Profit or Loss.
		AP-03	Impairment allowances for doubtful receivables. The audit procedures relating to impairment allowances for doubtful receivables should include: ■ verification of the results of the receivables inventory and reconciliation procedures; ■ examination of information relating to enforceable legal instruments and court enforcement documents received by the entity; ■ analytical review of Account 222 – Impairment	Examination of accounting transactions relating to impairment allowances for doubtful receivables, including verification of entries associated with both the recognition (or increase) and the utilisation (or reversal) of impairment allowances. For example, the recognition or increase of an impairment allowance should be supported by accounting entries debiting accounts 221, 331, 712, or other relevant accounts and crediting Account 222. Conversely, the utilisation or reversal of an impairment allowance should be reflected through entries debiting account 222 and crediting Accounts 221, 331, 612, or other applicable accounts.

			Allowances for Doubtful Receivables; ■ review of the entity's register of expired, completed, or otherwise terminated contracts to identify receivables that may require impairment recognition.	Assessment of whether impairment-related expenses have been recognised in the appropriate reporting period in accordance with the entity's accounting policies and the accrual basis of accounting. Verification of the accuracy of impairment calculations and evaluation of their effect on the entity's financial performance. Where appropriate, the audit should be supplemented by additional analytical procedures addressing factors such as contractual payment terms, ageing of receivables, collection history, expected credit losses, and other criteria established by the entity's accounting policies and contractual arrangements. Verification that impairment-related expenses are appropriately disclosed as separate line items in the Statement of profit or loss, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Throughout the internal audit engagement, the auditor is expected to identify deficiencies in the entity's risk management, internal control, and governance systems while evaluating the effectiveness of the controls implemented to mitigate identified risks. Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor formulates professional conclusions, develops practical recommendations for corrective action, and performs additional procedures necessary to achieve the objectives established at the planning stage of the engagement.

At the completion of the audit, the auditor should perform a comprehensive assessment of the reasonableness of recognised provisions and determine whether subsequent events have affected the assumptions and information underlying their measurement. The final evaluation should also consider whether any identified discrepancies require adjustments to the financial statements and should assess the extent to which differences between the auditor's independent estimate—supported by sufficient and appropriate audit evidence—and the amounts recognised by management constitute material misstatements requiring correction. This assessment provides the basis for determining whether the accounting treatment of provisions faithfully represents the entity's financial position and financial performance in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Upon completion of the engagement, an Internal Audit Report should be prepared to communicate the results of the audit. The report should present a comprehensive evaluation of the audited activities, processes, systems, and organisational functions, together with clearly substantiated findings, conclusions, and recommendations supported by appropriate audit evidence. The report is submitted to the entity's executive management for review and serves as the basis for developing and implementing a corrective action plan designed to address identified deficiencies, non-compliance issues, and weaknesses in the internal control system.

Where the audit identifies significant deficiencies, material control failures, or other findings that may have substantial implications for the entity's current or future business operations, financial stability, or corporate governance, the audit results should also be communicated to the Board of Directors (or the equivalent governing body). Such reporting ensures that those charged with governance receive timely, objective, and independent assurance regarding significant organisational risks and the effectiveness of management's response, thereby strengthening accountability, oversight, and the continuous improvement of the entity's governance framework.

5. Conclusions

The findings of this study demonstrate that the auditing and financial reporting environment in the Republic of Moldova is undergoing a period of substantial structural transformation driven by the country's commitment to harmonising its regulatory framework with the standards and legislative requirements of the European Union. This process extends beyond mere legal compliance, representing a strategic reform aimed at strengthening the credibility, reliability, and transparency of financial reporting. Such developments are essential for enhancing investor confidence, facilitating access to international capital markets, and improving the competitiveness of domestic business entities within the European economic area.

One of the principal conclusions emerging from the research is the remarkable evolution of the auditing profession, which has progressed within a relatively short period from a traditional confirmation-oriented approach to a modern, risk-based auditing model. This transformation reflects the increasing adoption of internationally recognised auditing standards and a stronger emphasis on professional judgement, risk assessment, and value-oriented assurance. The study further indicates that the mixed regulatory framework adopted in the Republic of Moldova – combining public oversight with the active participation of professional accounting and auditing organisations – provides an appropriate institutional foundation for the sustainable development of the profession and promotes continuous alignment with internationally recognised best practices in auditing, corporate governance, and financial reporting.

With respect to internal auditing, the findings indicate that its role should be redefined beyond the traditional objective of verifying regulatory compliance. Rather than functioning solely as an assurance mechanism, internal auditing should be recognised as a strategic component of organisational governance that supports executive management in achieving operational effectiveness, strengthening internal control, and improving decision-making processes. This expanded role is particularly significant for medium-sized and large organisations, where the complexity of business operations requires a systematic approach to risk management and organisational oversight. Through its informational, analytical, and methodological functions, the internal audit function contributes to the optimisation of enterprise risk management, enhances the efficiency of business processes, and provides an essential feedback mechanism for the continuous improvement of corporate governance.

The principal contribution of this study lies in the methodological development of the internal audit of provisions through the design of three specialised analytical procedures (AP-01, AP-

02, and AP-03). The research demonstrates that a rigorous evaluation of provisions – including impairment allowances for doubtful receivables, employee benefit obligations, warranty provisions, litigation provisions, and other estimated liabilities – is fundamental to ensuring the appropriate measurement of assets and liabilities and, consequently, the faithful representation of an entity's financial position. The proposed methodological framework further demonstrates that the application of advanced analytical tools, particularly risk mapping, significantly enhances the ability of internal auditors to identify weaknesses in the recognition, measurement, and reassessment of accounting estimates. By facilitating the early detection of deficiencies and inconsistencies, these techniques reduce the risk of material misstatements in financial reporting and contribute to improving the reliability, transparency, and overall quality of financial statements.

The study also introduces a proactive methodological framework that integrates the assessment of accounting policies, the evaluation of the effects of provisions on financial performance, and a rigorous examination of impairment allowances for doubtful receivables. This structured audit approach strengthens the quality and consistency of professional judgement by ensuring that audit conclusions are supported by sufficient and appropriate audit evidence. As a result, it enhances the credibility, transparency, and reliability of financial reporting while reducing the risk of material misstatements arising from accounting estimates.

In conclusion, the research demonstrates that the implementation of an effective operational framework for audit organisations, grounded in the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), represents a fundamental prerequisite for ensuring high-quality assurance services and supporting the sustainable performance of business entities. The proposed recommendations emphasise the need to strengthen internal control systems, enhance risk management practices, and accelerate the digitalisation of audit methodologies through the adoption of modern technological platforms. These initiatives are expected to reduce operational errors, improve the efficiency and consistency of audit engagements, and reinforce stakeholder confidence in the financial reporting environment of the Republic of Moldova.

Ultimately, the findings of this study suggest that auditing should no longer be perceived merely as a statutory compliance requirement. Instead, it should be recognised as a strategic governance function that promotes organisational resilience, strengthens corporate transparency, supports informed managerial decision-making, and contributes to the sustainable economic development and European integration of the Republic of Moldova.

REFERENCES

1. ARENS, A., LOEBBECKE, J. Audit. O abordare integrată: trad. [după ed. a 8-a engl.]. Ch.: Editura ARC, 2003. ISBN: 978-9975-61-290-6.
2. ARDELEAN, A. Percepţii asupra calităţii în audit fundamentate pe conduita etică a auditorilor. Audit Financiar. 2015, vol. 13, nr. 3 (123), pp. 3-15. ISSN: 1583-5812; ISSN on-line: 1844-8801. https://revista.cafr.ro/temp/Revista_nr_123.pdf.
3. BALAN, I, MUNTEANU, A. Methods for identification and assessment of risk of internal control by external auditors. In: Contabilitatea, auditul și analiza economică între conformitate, schimbare şi performanță, 2 aprilie 2015. Chișinău, Republica Moldova: Departamentul Editorial-Poligrafic al ASEM, 2015, pp. 221-226. ISBN 978-9975-75-755-3. https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/221-226_5.pdf.

4. BALAN, I., MOLDOVAN, M, CHIRA, T. Reflecții conceptuale privind aspectele de morală, etică și conduită în activitatea profesională a contabililor și auditorilor. EcoSoEn, 2021, nr. 1-2, pp. 7-16. ISSN 2587-344X. https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/7-16_8.pdf.
5. CAUŞ, L., RATCOV, M., IACHIMOVSCHI, A. Audit intern: Note de curs. Ch.: ASEM, 2018. https://caae.ase.md/files/caae/Audit_intern_note.pdf.
6. CHERSAN I.-C. Studiu privind practici și tendințe în auditul intern în România și în lume. Audit financiar, 2016, nr.9, (141), p.929-945. https://revista.cafr.ro/temp/Revista_nr_141.pdf.
7. CHRIST, M.-H., EULERICH, M., KRANE, R., WOOD, D.-A. New Frontiers for Internal Audit Research (June 8, 2020). Available: https://ssrn.com/abstract=3622148; http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3622148.
8. Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Internal Control - Integrated Framework. 2026. https://www.coso.org/guidance-on-ic. (vizitat 22.06.2026).
9. Conceptul privind transpunerea Directivei privind contabilitatea (2013/34/EU) şi Directivei privind auditul (2006/43/EU) în legislația națională. https://old.mf.gov.md/actnorm/contabil/altele.
10. Consiliul de supraveghere publică a auditului. https://www.cspa.md/. (visited 19.06.2026).
11. COPĂCEANU, C. Promovarea şi dezvoltarea profesiei de audit intern prin intermediul Asociaţiei Auditorilor Interni din Republica Moldova. Revista de studii interdisciplinare „C. Stere". 2016, nr. 2(10), pp. 19-26. ISSN 2457-5550. Available: https://ibn.idsi.md/vizualizare_articol/89113.
12. CROTENCO, Iu., TELEMBECI, D. Evoluţia şi definirea conceptului de audit intern. Studii Economice, 2015, nr. 1, pp. 129-139. ISSN 1857-226X. Available: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/129_139_Evolutia%20si%20definirea%20conceptului%20de%20audit%20intern.pdf.
13. EULERICH, A.-K., EULERICH, M. What Is the Value of Internal Auditing? – A Literature Review on Qualitative and Quantitative Perspectives. Maandblad Voor Accountancy en Bedrijfseconomie, 2020, Vol. 94 (3/4), p. 83-92. Available: https://ssrn.com/abstract=3582579.
14. EULERICH, M., LOHMANN, C. Information Asymmetries and Intra-Company Monitoring: an Empirical Analysis of Nonlinear Relationships Between Company Characteristics and the Size of the Internal Audit Function. Schmalenbach J Bus Res. 2022, Vol.74, pp. 103–127. Available: https://doi.org/10.1007/s41471-021-00128-2.
15. FRASER, J.-R.-S., QUAIL, R., SIMKINS, B.-J. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and the Roles of Management, Internal Audit, and Enterprise Risk Management. 2022. Available: https://ssrn.com/abstract=4141378 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4141378.
16. FULOP, M. Evoluția funcției de audit intern în contextual transparenței corporative. Audit financiar, 2017, nr.4, (147), p. 343. ISSN Print: 1583-5812; ISSN Online: 1844-8801. Available: https://revista.cafr.ro.
17. GARCIA-MARZA, D. Trust and dialogue: theoretical approaches to ethics auditing. Journal of Business Ethics. 2005, Vol. 57, nr. 3, pp. 209-219. https://doi.org/10.1007/S10551-004-8202-7.
18. HAOYUE, L.; KOK LOANG, O. Impact of Internal Audit on Sustainable Development Goals in China. International Journal of Accounting. 2023, nr. 8, pp. 168–185. Available: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369692486_Impact_of_Internal_Audit_on_Sustainable_Development_Goals_in_China.
19. Hotărârea Guvernului Republicii Moldova „Cu privire la aprobarea Codului etic al auditorului intern și a Cartei de audit intern", nr. 557 din 19.11.2019. Monitorul Oficial al Republicii Moldova. 2019, nr. 352-359. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=119035&lang=ro.
20. HURTT, R. Development of a Scale to Measure Professional Skepticism. Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory. 2010, Vol. 29, nr. 1, pp. 149-171. https://doi.org/10.2308/aud.2010.29.1.149.
21. Informația privind piața serviciilor de audit pentru anul 2024. https://cspa.md/sites/default/files/Pia%C8%9Ba%20serviciilor%20de%20audit%202024.pdf.
22. KHALILOV, B.-B. Role of internal auditing in international companies. Gospodarka i Innowacje. 2024, Vol. 47, pp. 413–419. ISSN: 2545-0573. Available: https://www.gospodarkainnowacje.pl/index.php/issue_view_32/article/view/2660/2456.
23. LENZ, R., HOOS, F. The future role of the internal audit function: Assure. Build. Consult. The EDP Audit, Control, and Security Newsletter (EDPACS). 2023, vol. 67, pp. 39–52. Available: https://doi.org/10.1080/07366981.2023.2165361.
24. LUNGU, A. Going Concern Audit: Modern Methods of Analysis and Evaluation. In: Challenges of Accounting for Young Researchers: International Student Scientific Conference, ISSC 2025, 9th Edition, March 14-15, 2025: Collection of scientific articles. Chişinău: SEP ASEM, 2025, pp. 53-55. ISBN 978-9975-168-25-0 (PDF). Available: https://doi.org/10.53486/issc2025.12.
25. MAYHEW, B.-W. Auditor Reputation Building. Journal of Accounting Research. 2001, nr. 39 (3), pp. 599–617. https://www.jstor.org/stable/2672977.
26. Ministerul Finanțelor al Republicii Moldova. http://mf.gov.md/. (visited 21.06.2026).

27. MOLDOVAN, M., BALAN, I. Aspects regarding the efficiency of the management system of the entity through the internal audit. In: Universitas Europaea: spre o societate a cunoașterii prin europenizare și globalizare, 16-18 octombrie 2024. Chişinău: Editura ULIM, 2024, Vol. 1., pp. 236-240. ISBN 978-5-86654-178-2 (PDF). https://doi.org/10.54481/uekbs2024.v1.41.
28. MOLDOVAN, M., BALAN, I. Reflecții conceptuale privind activitatea de audit intern în Republica Moldova. In: Promotion of Social and Economic Values in the Context of European Integration: 4th International Conference, Ed. 4, 3-4 decembrie 2021, Chișinău, Republica Moldova: 2021, Ediția 4, Vol.1, pp. 142-149. ISBN 978-9975-3527-1-0. https://ibn.idsi.md/ro/vizualizare_articol/155165.
29. Ordinul Ministerului Finanţelor al Republicii Moldova „Cu privire la aprobarea Standardelor Naționale de Audit Intern", nr. 153 din 12.09.2018. În: Monitorul Oficial al Republicii Moldova. 2018, nr. 400-409. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110376&lang=ro.
30. PETREANU, E. Analiza strategică a rolului auditului intern în optimizarea guvernanței corporative. Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Științe exacte și economice: Matematică. Informatică. Fizică. Economie. 2018, nr. 7 (117), pp. 48-58. ISSN 1857-2073. https://msuir.usm.md/items/252cb1fa-5701-48d1-b359-9679468d177b.
31. PETREANU, E. Analysis of the internal audit subdivision activity in the corporate sector of the Republic of Moldova. Economie şi Sociologie. 2020, nr. 2, pp. 87-95. ISSN1857-4130. https://msuir.usm.md/items/9e3e1349-af14-4352-be34-2904c6a6100a/full.
32. PETREANU, E. Aspecte actuale în dezvoltarea auditului intern în Republica Moldova. In: Simpozionul "Reconsiderarea rolului profesiei contabile. Acționăm astăzi pentru provocările generate de viitor" 31 martie 2022, Chişinău: CEP USM, 2022, pp. 47-51. ISBN 978-9975-159-78-4. Available: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6786736.
33. Standarde Internaționale de Audit emise de IFAC în anul 2020, recepționate de Ministerul Finanțelor din 01.01.2022. https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/lex/contabilitate-%C8%99i-audit?language=ro. (visited 20.06.2026).
34. Standarde naționale de audit intern. Monitorul Oficial al Republicii Moldova. 2018, nr. 400-409 [online] https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110376&lang=ro#. (visited 22.06.2026).
35. Standardele Institutului Global al Auditorilor Interni. https://www.theiia.org/en/standards/2024-standards/global-internal-audit-standards/. (visited 20.06.2026).
36. ȘELARU, M., BALAN, I. Evoluția profesiei de auditor și rolul ACAP ca organizație de referință în Republica Moldova. Studii economice. 2014, nr. 1, p. 128-138. ISSN 1857-226X. Available: https://ibn.idsi.md/ro/vizualizare_articol/47660.
37. Uniunea Europeană, Directiva 2014/56/EU. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32014L0056&from=EN. (visited 20.06.2026).

Rezumat

Necesitatea recalibrării sistemelor de raportare financiară în contextul aspirațiilor de integrare europeană ale Republicii Moldova constituie fundamentul acestei cercetări. Procesul de aliniere la normele comunitare transformă auditul dintr-o cerință formală într-un pilon strategic pentru atragerea investițiilor și garantarea fiabilității datelor în fața partenerilor internaționali. În cadrul situațiilor financiare, provizioanele reprezintă unul dintre cele mai dificile elemente contabile, deoarece recunoașterea și evaluarea acestora depind în mare măsură de estimări, judecăți profesionale și incertitudini privind obligațiile viitoare. Din această perspectivă, auditul intern al provizioanelor dobândește o importanță deosebită, fiind orientat spre verificarea fundamentării estimărilor, a conformității cu politicile contabile și a prezentării fidele a informațiilor financiare. Metodologia aplicată propune o abordare sistemică, utilizând instrumente de diagnosticare precisă, precum hărțile de risc și chestionarele de control intern, pentru a ierarhiza vulnerabilitățile operaționale. Elementul de noutate al studiului este reprezentat de elaborarea unui algoritm de investigare structurat în trei proceduri analitice (PA-01, PA-02, PA-03), dedicate optimizării auditului intern al provizioanelor. Aceste instrumente originale permit o evaluare riguroasă a conformității politicilor contabile și a impactului real al elementelor estimate (provizioanelor) asupra performanței financiare a entității. Constatările esențiale evidențiază faptul că redefinirea auditului intern ca funcție de sprijin managerial facilitează depistarea timpurie a distorsiunilor și consolidarea integrității activelor. Prin soluțiile practice oferite, lucrarea fundamentează un mecanism operativ robust care fortifică guvernanța corporativă și sporește credibilitatea mediului de afaceri autohton, facilitând accesul acestuia la fluxurile globale de capital.

Cuvinte-cheie*: audit, audit intern, provizioane, proceduri analitice, guvernanță corporativă*

Аннотация

Необходимость совершенствования систем финансовой отчетности в контексте европейской интеграции Республики Молдова составляет концептуальную основу настоящего исследования. Последовательная гармонизация национального законодательства с acquis communautaire Европейского союза трансформировала аудит из формального инструмента обеспечения соблюдения нормативных требований в стратегический механизм корпоративного управления, способствующий укреплению доверия инвесторов и повышению достоверности финансовой информации для международных заинтересованных сторон. В системе финансовой отчетности резервы относятся к числу наиболее сложных объектов бухгалтерского учета, поскольку их признание и оценка в значительной степени основаны на управленческих оценках, профессиональном суждении и неопределенности, связанной с будущими обязательствами. В этой связи внутренний аудит резервов приобретает ключевое значение, обеспечивая оценку обоснованности бухгалтерских оценок, проверку соответствия учетной политике и подтверждение достоверного представления финансовой информации. Методологической основой исследования является системный подход, объединяющий современные диагностические инструменты, включая карты рисков и опросники внутреннего контроля, предназначенные для выявления и ранжирования операционных уязвимостей. Основной научный вклад исследования заключается в разработке структурированного алгоритма аудита, включающего три аналитические процедуры (PA-01, PA-02 и PA-03), специально предназначенные для повышения эффективности внутреннего аудита резервов. Предложенные процедуры обеспечивают всестороннюю оценку последовательности применения учетной политики, а также фактического влияния оценочных обязательств (резервов) на финансовые результаты деятельности организации. Полученные результаты свидетельствуют о том, что переориентация внутреннего аудита на выполнение функций стратегической поддержки управления способствует своевременному выявлению искажений финансовой отчетности, укреплению сохранности активов и повышению надежности финансовой информации. Предлагаемые практические и методические решения формируют эффективную модель внутреннего аудита, способствующую совершенствованию корпоративного управления, повышению прозрачности деятельности организаций и укреплению доверия к национальной предпринимательской среде, тем самым содействуя более глубокой интеграции в международные рынки капитала.

Ключевые слова: *аудит, внутренний аудит, резервы, аналитические процедуры, корпоративное управление*

Received 19.05.2026
Accepted 25.06.2026
Published 30.06.2026