

Abstract

This thesis proposes proposals for upgrading internal control in public hospitals using new technologies in light of conflict of interest, an issue critical to improving the management and efficiency of public hospitals. In the health sector, the existence of effective control mechanisms is a fundamental condition for ensuring transparency, good administration and responsible management of resources. More specifically, we examine factors affecting the Net Income of Greek Public Hospitals for the period 2015-2018. The main objective of the first section is to investigate whether there is evidence of a violation of accounting principles, using a representative sample of 107 public hospitals representing almost 85% of the total is selected to construct a data set that contains information on the type of hospital, the number of hospitalized patients and other variables obtained from financial statements. In addition, the present study adopts the OLS method in order to draw relevant conclusions, from which we conclude that the differences in applied accounting policies by Greek Public Hospitals significantly affect their Net Income. Specifically, we observe that hospitals that apply a more conservative accounting for claims do not appear to be significantly affected by government policies, while hospitals that apply less conservative accounting policies are significantly affected by government policies. This study is the first to examine the effect of the government's decision to subsidize Greek Public Hospitals in 2016 on their profits. Furthermore, as the accounting data is publicly available, relatively recent (2011) accounting research regarding Greek Public Hospitals is rare. Subsequently, in the second section the study in question uses publicly available Google Trends data to create a human internal control perception index for the Greek public sector and investigates the effect of economic policy uncertainty on this index. The findings reveal

positive correlations between various indicators of uncertainty in Greece and the proposed index, indicating that economic policy uncertainty negatively affects people's behaviors, promoting an increased interest in mismanagement, incompetent internal control practices, and corruption. In particular, the EPU index and its sub-indices show statistically significant relationships with the index based on Google Trends. Analysis of indicators related to Fiscal Policy (EPUF), Monetary Policy (EPUM) and Economic Policy Uncertainty (EPU), together with the broader Economic Uncertainty (EU) index, suggests a significant positive correlation with the Google Uncertainty Index Trends. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the impact of economic uncertainty on people in the Greek public sector, offering insights that may shape policy debates and strategies to enhance economic decision-making. Finally, in the third section, the research examined 100 companies listed on the London Stock Exchange for the period from 2013 to 2016. We used regression analysis and our findings show that all experimental variables have a statistically significant effect on the company's decision making. It is necessary to examine the unexplored fields in this research topic in order to highlight areas of future research. Our research provides empirical evidence on the role of corporate variables in influencing firm capital decisions. The results of this study can draw the attention of policy makers, academics and managers in order to establish a monitoring process and the best capital resource solutions. Therefore, this research has built on the research gap and provided useful analysis on corporate governance and its association with capital structure and we present the results and future research in this area. Finally, we present the general findings of the thesis as well as the proposals for upgrading internal control, adapted to modern requirements and challenges, with an emphasis on both improving efficiency and addressing conflict of interest. In this way,

we contribute significantly to strengthening transparency and accountability in public hospitals, promoting good management and efficient use of resources.

Keywords: *Profits, Financial Report, Public Hospitals, Conservative Hospitals, Internal Audit, Economic Uncertainty, Greece, Google trends, Public Sector, Corporate Governance, Capital Structure, Board Structure and Composition*

JEL classifications: M41, L32, M42, M48, L31, C46; C58; G15; F31, G34, G32, G38