

Dear Reader,

As of this year, the State Audit Office of Hungary has handed over the editorial, journal ownership and publishing tasks of Public Finance Quarterly to the Corvinus University of Budapest, completing nearly eighteen years of professional work. We were looking for a partner who could continue the unique value creation efforts carried out by the SAO over the past decades, thus contributing to the development and nurturing of financial culture on a national level. We sincerely hope that from now on the takeover of this journal will also help Corvinus University as a renowned institution on its path to becoming one of the world's best universities.

Last year, the newly elected management of the State Audit Office of Hungary set strategic goal that intend to concentrate the resources of the institution primarily on its core functions as declared in the Fundamental Law, in particular on deepening the audit activities and analytical work, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of these operations, also focusing on strengthening the preventive role of the SAO itself. Certainly the new institutional philosophy does not lack educational aspects either, since one of the fundamental objectives of the new way of work at the SAO is to ensure that the auditees learn from the results of the audits, understand and accept the meaning of it, and at least as importantly, that they should make themselves aware, while complying with the rules, that the use the public money entrusted to them in a goal-oriented and effective way is a serious responsibility.

The results of the SAO's audits and analyses, in addition to formulating specific recommendations to the auditees, provide an overview of the overall management of public funds and assets, and their findings allow conclusions to be drawn for the whole sector concerned. Besides audits ordered close to the date and time of the actual financial transactions, which are therefore responsive to current events, comprehensive analyses, that are partially or fully related to audits, also play a key role, and the SAO continuously intends to make the main findings of these available to professionals and to the general public, as widely as possible.

Based on all this, as the President of the State Audit Office of Hungary, I consider it extremely important that the oldest and by now the only public finance themed scientific journal should continue to operate, providing an intellectual and professional workshop where - alongside the rise of artificial intelligence - real professionals, researchers with a complex vision, experts in the relevant field may share their conclusions and thoughts with readers.

Over the past decades, the Public Finance Quarterly has contributed not only to the soundness of financial-economic policy decisions and the dissemination of financial literacy, but also to the presentation of the theoretical foundations and

good practices of the operation of the state, as such these goals remain in view of the new publishing intentions. Colleagues from the SAO will continue to participate in the editorial board of the journal in the future, and through their suggestions, analyses, and professional articles, they intend to support Corvinus University in achieving the goals declared.

I wish the publisher and the editorial board every success and good health in their future work, as well as lots of useful and valuable content to all readers.

dr. László Windisch
President of the State Audit Office of Hungary