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Modernization of Public Accounting as a Mechanism for Enhancing the Dimensions of Social Responsibility in the Context of Budgetary Reform

A Field Study of Local authorities in the Wilaya of Sétif, Algeria

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Abstract:

This research paper aims to elucidate the impact of public accounting modernization in Algeria in the context of the transition from the logic of 'means-based accounting' to the logic of results-based accounting pursuant to Organic Law 15-18 and Law 07-23 on strengthening the three dimensions of social responsibility: economic, social, and ethical. The study draws upon a dual theoretical framework combining International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and Carroll's four-component model of social responsibility, in addition to a field study encompassing 134 subjects from local communities in the Wilaya of Sétif ,The results of simple linear regression revealed a statistically significant positive effect of the dimensions of public accounting on social responsibility, with an overall correlation coefficient of R = 0.859 (for accounting control) and an overall coefficient of determination of R^2 = 0.739. The study concluded that accounting transparency generated by modernization constitutes a strategic lever for social responsibility, thereby reinforcing sound governance of public finances.

Keywords: public accounting modernization, IPSAS standards, social responsibility, Budgetary Reform, local authorities, Wilaya of Sétif.

JEL Classification Codes : H83 ; H61 ; M14 ; M41 ; M77.

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INTRODUCTION

1. General Context and Research Problem

Algeria has witnessed, over recent decades, profound structural transformations in its public finance system, manifested in a series of graduated legislative reforms culminating in the promulgation of Organic Law No. 15-18 of 2 September 2018 relating to Finance Laws, followed by Law No. 07-23 of 21 June 2023 relating to the rules of public accounting and financial management. These reforms are of paramount importance, as IPSAS standards contribute to improving the level of transparency in the presentation of state financial resources, providing more comprehensive and detailed financial information compared to conventional accounting, and reinforcing the principles of governance and accountability (Brahimi & Jabbara, 2024, pp. 88-89).

However, accounting reform is not limited to its technical dimension; it goes beyond that to reshape the very social function of the entire public institution. If old public accounting was confined to monitoring the execution of appropriations within the logic of 'means', modernization mandates a transition to the logic of 'results', whereby every item of public expenditure is associated with clear performance indicators, and every programme is linked to specific objectives assessed against criteria of economic efficiency, social equity, and ethical integrity. This transition is itself the essence of social responsibility in its broader sense, which the academic literature has associated with Carroll's model (Mustapha Younsi, 2021, p. 89).

In light of this problematic, the present research addresses the following central question:

To what extent does the modernization of public accounting within the framework of budgetary reform contribute to enhancing the dimensions of social responsibility of local communities in the Wilaya of Sétif?

2. Research Gap and Originality of the Study

The accumulated literature on public accounting reforms in Algeria has followed two parallel trajectories: the first addressed the legal and regulatory requirements of the transition to IPSAS within Organic Law 15-

18 and Law 07-23 (Hafi, 2025; Abrekan & Bouali, 2024; Sayighi & Nassir, 2024), while the second assessed the impact of these reforms on the quality of governmental financial reports and budgetary transparency (Meziane & Azzi, 2024; Brahimi & Jabbara, 2024).

Despite the contributions of these efforts to enriching the Algerian academic library, they have left a substantive and documented research gap manifested at three intertwined levels First, these studies remained captive to what may be described as the 'narrow technical view' of accounting, confining their attention to public accounting as merely a tool for financial control and disclosure (Talha & El-Ayebi, 2023; Touailib & Amer, 2021), while neglecting its deeper dimensions as a strategic information system. Second there is an almost total absence of any theoretical grounding or empirical demonstration illustrating how the transition to accrual accounting and cost accounting contributes to measuring and guiding the social performance of the state and its public institutions. Third, this literature has not addressed the complementary relationship between 'public accounting modernization' as an independent variable and 'enhancing the dimensions of social responsibility' economic, social, and ethical of the public institution as a dependent variable; a relationship that lacks adequate conceptual framing in the Algerian research environment in particular.

Proceeding from this documented knowledge deficit, the present study seeks to bridge this gap by formulating an integrative model that envisions the role of the modern accounting system not merely as a tool for legal compliance, but as an active strategic mechanism for entrenching the values of social responsibility and ensuring efficiency of public expenditure. It offers a dual contribution: constructing a conceptual framework linking accounting modernization to the dimensions of social responsibility, and empirically testing this model in the context of local administration in the Wilaya of Sétif.

3. Hypotheses and Objectives

From this main research problem, three sub-hypotheses amenable to statistical testing are derived:

- There is a statistically significant effect at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of accounting documentation within the framework of budgetary reform on social responsibility in the local communities of the Wilaya of Sétif.
- There is a statistically significant effect at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of accounting reports under programme-based budgeting on social responsibility in the local communities of the Wilaya of Sétif.
- There is a statistically significant effect at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of accounting control under the modernization of the public accounting system on social responsibility in the local communities of the Wilaya of Sétif.

4. Methodology and Structure

The study adopts a deductive-analytical approach combining a theoretical review of the specialized academic literature with a statistical analysis of the field study results. It is organized into four main sections: the first analyzes the modernization of public accounting and its legislative philosophy; the second presents the theoretical framework of social responsibility; the third establishes the integrative linkages between the two dimensions; and the fourth presents and discusses the results of the field study in the Wilaya of Sétif.

Section 1: Modernization of Public Accounting (Philosophy of Transformation and Legislative Mechanisms)

1.1 Concept of Public Accounting and the Core of Transformation

Public accounting is legally defined as the totality of rules governing the execution and control of budgets and financial operations of state entities; Law 07-23 further specifies it as a system for organising financial information to present statements reflecting a true and fair view of assets, financial position, and fiscal-year results (Abrekan & Bouali, 2024, p. 34). Its core modernisation consists in transitioning from cash-basis recording which offers an inadequate picture of the financial situation to the accrual

basis, under which transactions are recognised when they occur, providing the comprehensive view recommended by IPSAS standards (Abrekan & Bouali, 2024, pp. 34-35).

1.2 IPSAS Standards: Objectives and Principles

IPSAS standards issued by the IPSASB/IFAC, representing over 175 member bodies in 130 countries and derived from IFRS (Sayd, 2025, p. 177) seek to harmonise public accounting internationally, improve the quality and credibility of governments' financial statements, make governments more accountable to the public, and combat administrative corruption through strengthened oversight of public expenditure (Brahimi & Jabbara, 2024, pp. 88-89). Algeria has adopted 17 standards in its comprehensive state accounting plan 12 IPSAS and 5 French standards suited to the Algerian environment (Hafi, 2025, pp. 270-271) with an overall IPSAS compliance rate estimated at approximately 21% (Abrekan & Bouali, 2024, p. 42).

1.3 Organic Law 15-18: The Constitution of Budgetary Reform

Organic Law 15-18 is considered the financial constitution of the Algerian state, as it enshrines fundamental new principles: the principle of budgetary sincerity, financial sustainability, transparency, performance, and responsibility (Graini, 2024, pp. 99-100). The profound philosophical transformation it has brought about is illustrated in the following table:

Table 01: Comparative Analysis of Law 17-84 and Organic Law 15-18

Dimension	Law 17-84 (Former)	Organic Law 15-18 (New)
Management Logic	Means-based and line-item budgeting	Objectives and results-based budgeting
Time Planning	Annual only	Multi-year (3 years)
Budget Structure	Administrative and functional chapters	Portfolios -Programmes -Activities
Accounting Type	Cash accounting (treasury basis)	Accrual accounting (established rights)
Manager's Role	Managed by means without accountability for results	Programme manager held accountable on performance indicators

***Source**: Compiled by the researchers based on (Graini, 2024; Meziane & Azzi, 2024; Rkab & Maata Allah, 2023)*

1.4 Law 07-23: Triple-Track Accounting and Practical Implementation

Law 07-23 was enacted to translate the requirements of Organic Law 15-18 into accounting terms. It established a three-dimensional accounting system as stipulated in Article 65:

Table 2: The Three-Dimensional Public Accounting System under Law 07-23

Accounting Type	Accounting Basis	Objective	IPSAS Alignment
Budgetary Accounting	Cash basis (treasury)	Monitoring execution of appropriations	Partial
General Accounting	Accrual basis	True and fair view of financial position	Convergent with IPSAS
Cost Analysis Accounting	Activity costs	Measuring programme effectiveness	Consistent with IPSAS principles

Source: Compiled by the researchers based on (Misoumi & Jellal, 2025, pp. 40-47)

General accounting incorporates established operational principles aligned with IPSAS standards: regularity, sincerity, reliability, prudence, comparability, comprehensiveness, independence of fiscal years, non-offsetting, consistency of methods, and going concern (Misoumi & Jellal, 2025, pp. 46-47) The Law also introduced the category of regional authorizing officers and expanded the powers of budgetary controllers under Article 103, which added to their mandate the task of maintaining commitment accounting and submitting a detailed annual report to the Minister of Finance (Meskine & Zeggai, 2025, p. 630).

Section 2: Social Responsibility Conceptual Framework and Three Dimensions

2.1 Concept and Historical Development

The concept of social responsibility originated in the 1930s, and was first systematically defined by Bowen (1953) as the obligation of businessmen to pursue policies desirable in terms of societal objectives (Daoud Khaira, 2019, p. 12), evolving through three levels: profits, stakeholders, then society at large (Daoud Khaira, 2019, pp. 14-15; Zannat Samir & Za'irt Lamia, 2022, p. 173) Carroll's widely adopted definition encompassing economic, legal, ethical, and philanthropic dimensions (Mustapha Younsi, 2021, p. 89) is consolidated in this study into three core

dimensions (economic, social, and ethical), given the overlap between the legal/philanthropic and social/ethical dimensions in the Algerian local communities context.

2.2 The Economic Dimension: The Foundation of the Pyramid

The economic dimension forms the cornerstone of the social responsibility pyramid, obliging the institution to achieve efficiency and effectiveness, use resources rationally, produce quality goods and services, and distribute returns equitably (Daoud Khaira, 2019, p. 17).

Contrary to Friedman's view that the only social responsibility of a company is to maximize profits (Arabi et al., 2018, p. 134), modern literature demonstrates that creativity in adopting social responsibility generates long-term profits, enhances standing with stakeholders, and helps avoid governmental pressures (Daoud Khaira, 2019, p. 12); financial aspects remaining the most influential mediating variables on social responsibility performance (Arabi et al., 2018, p. 156).

Economic responsibility is organically linked to the institutional governance system, as it seeks to improve economic efficiency, avoid accounting and financial problems, achieve transparency, and protect shareholders' rights (Mustapha Younsi, 2021, p. 93).

2.3 The Social Dimension: The Beating Heart of Responsibility

The social dimension embodies the institution's obligations towards its employees and the surrounding community representing a contract with society to combat poverty, fight pollution, create employment, and solve societal problems (Daoud Khaira, 2019, p. 13).

Researchers in this context distinguish between two complementary concepts: Social Obligation the institution's participation in social activities solely in response to economic and legal obligations; and Social Responsiveness which goes beyond that towards voluntarily protecting and improving community welfare (Arabi et al., 2018, pp. 134-135; Mustapha Younsi, 2021, p. 97). Field studies in the Algerian context underscore the wide gap between discourse and practice, reinforcing the need for effective

oversight and accounting mechanisms that translate social commitment into tangible actions (Masaad Abdelkader & Oukil Rayeh, 2017, p. 50).

2.4 The Ethical Dimension: The Guarantor of Sustainability

The ethical dimension transcends legal obligations to establish a system of values governing the institution's conduct across all its decisions, avoiding any harm to society (Daoud Khaira, 2019, p. 17).

The most prominent manifestations of this dimension include: discipline and adherence to appropriate ethical conduct in all dealings; transparency through the provision of a true image via credibility, disclosure, and participation; and independence and accountability in the performance of activities (Mustapha Younsi, 2021, p. 92), with the legal-ethical responsibility domain shown to be the most influential on the institution's societal image (Arabi et al., 2018, p. 153).

Multi-dimensional social responsibility improves the institution's public image, builds trust with stakeholders, reduces legal and social risks, creates sustainable value (Sultani Adel & Gara Sami, 2025, p. 922), and empirically demonstrates a statistically significant effect on achieving good governance (Mustapha Younsi, 2021, pp. 99-100).

Section 3: Integrative Linkages between Public Accounting Modernization and Social Responsibility

3.1 Accounting Transparency as a Lever for Social Responsibility

Accounting transparency generated by modernization through documentation, reporting, and oversight constitutes the fundamental pillar that obliges local communities to disclose the fate of every public dinar, translating legal obligations into genuine social responsibility and making governments more accountable to the public (Brahimi & Jabbara, 2024, pp. 88-89).

Empirical research confirms a statistically significant relationship between applying Organic Law 15-18 governance principles and enhanced financial transparency and corruption reduction ($r = 0.514$, $R^2 = 26.4\%$) (Ben Madi & Harrak, 2025).

3.2 Programme-Based Budgeting and Performance Evaluation: From Expenditure to Societal Impact

The programme-based budgeting system established by Organic Law 15-18 constitutes a strategic intersection between public accounting and social responsibility. The designation of a programme manager assessed against simple and measurable performance indicators not exceeding 3-4 indicators (Rkab & Maata Allah, 2023, pp. 178-179) transforms the public administrator from a mere spender of appropriations into an achiever of developmental objectives measured by criteria of efficiency and social impact.

In this way, social responsibility is transformed from an implicit moral obligation into an obligation institutionalized within the very structure of governmental performance, translating societal expectations into measurable and accountable performance standards.

3.3 Accounting Control and Mechanisms for Compelling Institutional Responsibility

Law 07-23 Article 103 expanded the budgetary controller's mandate to include verifying financial employment positions, maintaining commitment accounting, and submitting annual reports (Meskine & Zeggai, 2025, p. 630), transforming prior oversight into a compulsory mechanism that holds local communities before a dual responsibility: legality of expenditure and its social effectiveness thus creating an automatic structural link between financial and social responsibility.

3.4 Proposed Integrative Model

Based on the foregoing analysis, a three-stage integrative model can be formulated illustrating the path of influence:

Table 3: Proposed Three-Stage Integrative Model

Stage	Accounting Element	Mechanism of Influence	Impact on Social Responsibility
1 Input	Accounting Documentation (Law 07-23)	Ensuring transparency and traceability	Enhancing the ethical dimension (integrity + disclosure)
2 Processing	Accounting Reports (Programme-Based Budget)	Linking expenditure to performance indicators	Enhancing the economic dimension (efficiency + equity)
3 Output	Accounting Control (Article 103)	Actual accountability and deviation deterrence	Enhancing the social dimension (services + inclusion)

***Source**: Authors' construction*

Section 4: Field Study in the Wilaya of Sétif (Results and Analysis)

4.1 Methodology and Measurement Instrument

The field study adopted the descriptive-analytical approach. The sample comprised chairpersons of finance committees, accounting department employees, civil society members, and academics in the Wilaya of Sétif. Of 157 distributed questionnaires, 134 valid responses were retained for analysis using a five-point Likert scale (March 2023 - July 2024).

The questionnaire comprised two main variables: the independent variable (public accounting) with three dimensions (9 items), and the dependent variable (social responsibility) with three dimensions (9 items). The distribution of dimensions is as follows:

Table 4: Questionnaire Structure and Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficients

Variable	Dimension	Items	Cronbach's Alpha
Public Accounting (Independent)	Accounting Documentation within Budgetary Reform Framework	01-03	0.876
	Accounting Reports under Programme-Based Budgeting	04-06	0.891
	Accounting Control under Modernization of Public Accounting System	07-09	0.868
Social Responsibility (Dependent)	Ethical Dimension of Social Responsibility	01-03	0.864
	Social Dimension of Social Responsibility	04-06	0.889
	Economic Dimension of Social Responsibility	07-09	0.875
Total	18 statements , 6 dimensions	32 items	0.896

***Source**: Compiled by the researchers based on SPSS outputs*

The overall Cronbach's alpha reached 0.896, confirming reliability; Pearson's correlation coefficients for the independent variable dimensions ranged from 0.569 to 0.675, and for the dependent variable from 0.750 to 0.872, all exceeding the critical threshold of 0.170 ($\alpha = 0.05$, $n = 134$).

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

Males constituted 78.4% of the sample versus 21.6% females. The 30-45 age group represented 53.7% and the over-45 group 46.3%. By nature of work: chairpersons of finance committees 54.5%, citizens from civil society 17.2%, academic researchers 16.4%, and accounting department employees 11.9%.

4.3 Analysis of Sample Orientations Towards Public Accounting

The arithmetic mean of the second axis (public accounting) reached 3.55 with a standard deviation of 1.11, a high degree falling within the interval [3.40-4.19[. The ranking was as follows:

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics Public Accounting Dimensions

Dimension	Mean	Std. Deviation	Availability Level
Accounting Documentation within Budgetary Reform Framework	3.68	1.05	High
Accounting Control under Modernization of the Public Accounting System	3.53	1.13	High
Accounting Reports under Programme-Based Budgeting	3.46	1.19	High
Overall Result	3.55	1.11	High

Source: Compiled by the researchers based on SPSS outputs

The ordering of these three dimensions is analytically meaningful: accounting documentation, the input stage of the system, records the highest mean (3.68) and is thus perceived as the most consistently available practice, whereas accounting reports, the intermediate processing stage, obtain the lowest mean (3.46) together with the highest standard deviation (1.19) of the three, indicating both weaker and less consensual perceptions of programme-based reporting among respondents. This pattern is consistent with a public administration still consolidating the shift from means-based to results-based logic under Organic Law 15-18: the recording function has matured faster than the analytical and communicative functions built upon it, a gap that subsequent regression results (Section 4.5) help explain in terms of differential effects on social responsibility.

4.4 Analysis of Sample Orientations Towards Social Responsibility

The arithmetic mean of the third axis (social responsibility) reached 3.51 with a standard deviation of 1.09, a high degree falling within the interval [3.40-4.19[. The ranking was as follows:

Table 6: Descriptive Statistics Social Responsibility Dimensions

Dimension	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
Economic Dimension of Social Responsibility	3.53	1.167	1st
Ethical Dimension of Social Responsibility	3.52	0.891	2nd
Social Dimension of Social Responsibility	3.48	1.228	3rd
Overall Result	3.51	1.09	High

Source: Compiled by the researchers based on SPSS outputs

The narrow spread separating the three dimensions (3.53, 3.52, and 3.48, respectively) is itself informative: rather than a single dominant concern, respondents display a relatively balanced, multidimensional conception of social responsibility. The marginal pre-eminence of the economic dimension is consistent with the cost-analysis-accounting orientation embedded in Law 07-23 and reflects a heightened awareness of the imperative for efficiency in the use of public funds, while the ethical dimension's close second-place standing - combined with its comparatively low standard deviation (0.891), denoting the highest degree of consensus among the three dimensions - indicates that the values of integrity and transparency entrenched by Organic Law 15-18 have achieved a broad and relatively uniform degree of internalization among stakeholders in the Wilaya of Sétif.

4.5 Hypothesis Testing using Simple Linear Regression Analysis

Hypothesis 1: Effect of Accounting Documentation on Social Responsibility

Table 7: Simple Linear Regression Results Accounting Documentation and Social Responsibility

Independent Variable	Constant	Beta	T	Sig T	R	R^2	F / Sig F
Accounting Documentation	0.650	0.828	16.958	0.000	0.828	0.685	287.590 / 0.000

Source: Compiled by the researchers based on SPSS outputs

The regression output establishes a strong, statistically significant positive relationship between accounting documentation and social responsibility (R = 0.828), with the model accounting for 68.5% of the observed variance in the dependent variable (R^2 = 0.685); the residual 31.5% is attributable to factors outside the model's specification, such as institutional culture, political will, or civil-society oversight capacity. The magnitude of this relationship, which by conventional effect-size

benchmarks qualifies as large, indicates that improvements in the rigor of accounting documentation are associated with a near-proportional strengthening of perceived social responsibility. The F-statistic (F = 287.590, Sig. = 0.000 < 0.05) confirms that this explanatory power is not attributable to sampling error, supporting rejection of the null hypothesis and acceptance of H1: accounting documentation within the framework of budgetary reform exerts a statistically significant effect on social responsibility.

Academic Interpretation: This finding lends empirical support to the theoretical proposition that documentation is not a mere administrative formality but a substantive governance mechanism: by rendering every accounting entry traceable and auditable, Law 07-23 converts the abstract principle of transparency into a verifiable practice, thereby operationalizing what the literature identifies as a foundational lever for social responsibility across its economic, social, and ethical components (Daoud Khaira, 2019, p. 17). The strength of this relationship ($R^2 = 0.685$) further suggests that, in the Sétif context, the perceived credibility of local institutions rests primarily on the reliability of their accounting records rather than on ex-post communication efforts, a finding with direct implications for how reform priorities should be sequenced.

Hypothesis 2: Effect of Accounting Reports on Social Responsibility

Table 8: Simple Linear Regression Results Accounting Reports and Social Responsibility

Independent Variable	Constant	Beta	T	Sig T	R	R^2	F / Sig F
Accounting Reports	0.616	0.740	12.646	0.000	0.740	0.548	159.928 / 0.000

Source: Compiled by the researchers based on SPSS outputs

The regression results confirm a moderately strong, statistically significant positive relationship between accounting reports and social responsibility (R = 0.740), with programme-based budgetary reporting explaining 54.8% of the variance in the dependent variable ($R^2 = 0.548$) - the lowest coefficient of determination among the three models tested, though still substantial by conventional social-science standards. The F-test (F = 159.928, Sig. = 0.000) rules out sampling error as an explanation for this association, supporting acceptance of H1: accounting reports under programme-based budgeting exert a statistically significant effect on social responsibility. The comparatively lower explanatory power nonetheless

signals that reporting alone leaves a meaningful share of variance unaccounted for, a point developed further below.

Academic Interpretation: Programme-based accounting reports supply decision-makers and citizens alike with the quantitative and qualitative evidence base - geographical distribution of expenditure, sectoral allocation, tracking of performance indicators - needed to judge whether public resources have translated into tangible social outcomes. The comparatively modest R^2 (54.8%) should not, however, be read as evidence of reporting's marginal importance; it instead indicates that reporting functions as a necessary but not sufficient condition within the accountability chain, since a report may be technically accurate yet remain socially inert if it is not preceded by rigorous documentation and followed by effective control (Zannat Samir & Za'irt Lamia, 2022, p. 176). This reinforces the sequential logic of the three-stage integrative model proposed in Section 3.4, in which reporting occupies the intermediate "processing" stage between input documentation and output control.

Hypothesis 3: Effect of Accounting Control on Social Responsibility

Table 9: Simple Linear Regression Results Accounting Control and Social Responsibility

Independent Variable	Constant	Beta	T	Sig T	R	R^2	F / Sig F
Accounting Control	0.682	0.859	19.315	0.000	0.859	0.739	373.063 / 0.000

Source: Compiled by the researchers based on SPSS outputs

Among the three regression models tested, accounting control yields the strongest and most robust relationship with social responsibility ($R = 0.859$) and the highest coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.739$), meaning that variation in the quality of accounting control accounts for nearly three-quarters of the variance observed in social responsibility outcomes - a coefficient that, on conventional effect-size classifications, represents a very large effect. The associated F-statistic ($F = 373.063$, Sig. = 0.000) is the highest recorded across the three hypotheses, reinforcing confidence that this relationship is unlikely to be a statistical artefact. On this basis, H1 is accepted: accounting control under the modernization of the public accounting system exerts a statistically significant effect on social responsibility.

Academic Interpretation: That accounting control emerges as the most explanatory dimension is theoretically coherent rather than incidental:

whereas documentation records intentions and reporting communicates them, control is the mechanism that enforces compliance and closes the loop between stated objectives and realized outcomes. It functions, in effect, as the coercive complement to the declarative functions of documentation and reporting, and its statistical dominance ($R^2 = 0.739$) empirically corroborates the view that oversight - rather than disclosure alone - is what ultimately converts budgetary reform into verifiable social accountability. In practical terms, this suggests that the redirection of the Wilaya's budget toward developmental balance and efficient resource use, which constitutes the economic core of social responsibility, is conditioned less by the volume of information produced than by the credibility of the enforcement mechanisms that back it (Daoud Khaira, 2019, p. 17; Ben Madi & Harrak, 2025).

4.6 Summary of Hypothesis Testing Results

Table 10: Summary of Regression Results and Hypothesis Decisions

Independent Variable (Dimensions of Public Accounting)	R	R^2	F	Sig	Decision
Accounting Documentation within Budgetary Reform Framework	0.828	0.685	287.590	0.000	Accept H1
Accounting Reports under Programme-Based Budgeting	0.740	0.548	159.928	0.000	Accept H1
Accounting Control under Modernization of the Public Accounting System	0.859	0.739	373.063	0.000	Accept H1

Source: Compiled by the researchers based on SPSS outputs

Taken together, these three regression models demonstrate that public accounting - across its documentation, reporting, and control dimensions - functions not as three isolated correlates but as an integrated chain in which each stage builds upon and reinforces the preceding one, exerting a cumulatively strong and statistically significant positive effect on social responsibility. Notably, the ordering of explanatory power observed (control > documentation > reports) mirrors the logical sequence of the integrative model proposed in Section 3.4, lending internal, cross-validated support to the study's theoretical framework that goes beyond the statistical significance of any single coefficient taken in isolation. The use of parametric analysis is methodologically justified given the sufficiency of the sample size (n = 134), which satisfies the central limit theorem's

conditions for approximate normality of the sampling distribution, notwithstanding the ordinal nature of the underlying Likert-scale items.

Conclusion: Results and Recommendations

1. Key Findings:

At the Level of the Theoretical Framework

The transition from means-based accounting to results-based accounting within the framework of Organic Law 15-18 and Law 07-23 embodies a profound philosophical transformation that redefines the role of the Algerian public institution as socially responsible, rather than merely an executor of appropriations. The philosophy of IPSAS standards in enhancing credibility, transparency, and accountability intersects with the three dimensions of social responsibility in Carroll's model ethical, economic, and social confirming that social responsibility is an integrated system encompassing economic performance, social commitments, and ethical values governing institutional conduct.

At the Level of the Field Study

The field study in the Wilaya of Sétif established three key statistical conclusions:

- Accounting control has the greatest impact on social responsibility ($R = 0.859$, $R^2 = 73.9\%$), meaning that the institutional constraint and compliance mechanism has a stronger impact than reporting or documentation in isolation.
- Accounting documentation contributes 68.5% to explaining variations in social responsibility ($R = 0.828$), confirming that transparency in recording is the starting point for any real responsibility.
- Accounting reports explain 54.8% of variations ($R = 0.740$), the weakest of the three coefficients, yet it remains statistically strong, indicating that the quality of accounting information is a necessary but insufficient condition in isolation from oversight.

Social responsibility means (3.51) also showed the pre-eminence of the economic dimension (3.53), reflecting the high awareness among elected members and local community employees of the developmental economic role as the pillar of social responsibility.

2. Recommendations for Decision-Makers

At the National Level

- To expedite the issuance of all implementing regulatory texts for Law 07-23, particularly those relating to the new accounting plan and the establishment of an integrated information system (SIGB), as an essential condition for converting texts into a lived accounting reality (Sayighi & Nassir, 2024, p. 714).
- To adopt a clear strategy for the gradual transition from dual accounting basis to the full accrual basis recommended by IPSAS standards, thereby closing the critical gap currently existing on the budgetary side (Meziane & Azzi, 2024, p. 318).
- To establish an independent national advisory body comprising the Court of Accounts, academic experts, and public sector professionals to monitor the implementation of Law 07-23 and assess progress towards IPSAS compliance (Brahimi & Jabbara, 2024, p. 107).
- To incorporate content related to IPSAS standards and social responsibility principles into the academic programmes of senior schools of administration and finance (Abrekan & Bouali, 2024, p. 43).

At the Level of Local Communities in the Wilaya of Sétif Specifically

- To qualify accounting cadres in Wilaya and municipal departments through specialized foundational training in the provisions of Law 07-23 and IPSAS standards.
- To establish a specialized internal control unit within the management directorate that links accounting control results with social performance indicators.
- To launch a Wilaya digital platform for publishing periodic accounting reports in a simplified format accessible to citizens and civil society, embodying the transparency principle of Organic Law 15-18.
- To incorporate social responsibility indicators (community services, geographical distribution equity, quality of public services) within annual Wilaya performance reports, thereby translating the provisions of programme-based budgeting into actual social accountability.
- To strengthen the role of the budgetary controller by granting him adequate independence and modern technical means, free from the pressures of authorizing officers documented by the field study at the Municipality of El-Hassasna (Meskine & Zeggai, 2025, pp. 634-635).

In summary, genuine accounting reform is not measured by the number of laws enacted, but by its capacity to transform public funds into real community service. This research demonstrates, both theoretically and empirically, that when the modernization of public accounting is combined with sincere political will, qualified human cadres, and a modern information system, it becomes the most worthy strategic lever for achieving genuine social responsibility in service of the Algerian citizen.

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