

Accounting Reforms in Algeria: Reality, Challenges, and Future Prospects – A Survey Study -

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Abstract:

This study aimed to shed light on the reality and prospects of accounting reforms in Algeria by analyzing their actual impact on practical application and the extent of their success in achieving the intended objectives, namely improving the quality of financial information, enhancing transparency, and making the economic environment more competitive and attractive to investment. To achieve the objectives of the study, a questionnaire was employed, resulting in 62 valid responses for statistical analysis, which were processed using SPSS V25.

The study concluded with several findings, most notably the existence of a clear gap between the reform texts and their practical implementation, which is mainly due to regulatory and professional obstacles hindering the optimal application of the reforms. Nevertheless, the reforms have achieved some important gains that are expected to provide a strong impetus for the accounting profession in Algeria.

Keywords: Updating the financial accounting system, Accounting Reforms, Financial Accounting System, IAS/IFRS, Algerian Accounting Environment.

JEL Classification Codes : M41 ; M48 ; G38

1. INTRODUCTION

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In recent decades, Algeria has undergone a series of economic reforms aimed at improving the business environment and modernizing financial and accounting management mechanisms in line with international developments. Within this framework, accounting reforms were introduced as an attempt to align the Financial Accounting System (SCF) with the International Accounting Standards (IAS) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), with the objective of enhancing the quality of financial information, promoting transparency, and making the local market more competitive and attractive to foreign investment.

However, practical reality has revealed a gap between the reform texts and actual practices at the level of economic institutions, even after 13 years since the enactment of the Financial Accounting System under Law No. 07/11 of November 25, 2007. Several organizational, professional, and technical challenges continue to undermine the effectiveness of these reforms and hinder the achievement of their objectives. Moreover, weak accounting training, limited adoption of modern technologies, and the slow pace of legislative updates are all factors that negatively affect the efficiency of the new accounting framework.

Hence, the importance of studying the issue of accounting reforms in Algeria arises, with the aim of assessing their actual implications on the practical reality of accounting regulation in light of the ongoing reforms, on the one hand, and identifying the main organizational and professional obstacles hindering their full and optimal implementation, on the other. This comes in the context of Algeria's efforts to complete the accounting reform process through an evaluation of the system, which began in 2019.

1.1 Research Problem

In light of the above, the main research problem of this study can be formulated as follows:

What are the actual implications of accounting reforms on practical reality in Algeria, and what are the main obstacles hindering their optimal implementation?

1.2 Sub-Questions

To answer the research problem, the following sub-questions can be raised:

- How does the practical reality appear in light of the undertaken accounting reforms?
- Does the local accounting environment encounter obstacles that hinder the optimal implementation of the reforms?
- What are the future prospects of the undertaken reforms on the performance of the accounting profession in Algeria?
- Are there statistically significant differences in the responses of the study sample attributable to variations in their demographic characteristics?

1.3 Research Hypotheses

In order to address the main research problem and the sub-questions of the study, the following hypotheses were formulated:

- **First Hypothesis:** Despite the existence of accounting reforms in Algeria, actual practice still faces difficulties in the full and effective implementation of these reforms.
- **Second Hypothesis:** The local accounting environment is characterized by organizational and professional obstacles that hinder the optimal implementation of the undertaken reforms.
- **Third Hypothesis:** The ongoing reforms in the Algerian accounting environment are expected to contribute, in the future, to the development of the accounting profession and to enhancing its alignment with international standards.
- **Fourth Hypothesis:** Are there statistically significant differences in the responses of the study sample attributable to variations in their demographic characteristics?

1.4 Importance of the Study

The importance of this study lies in its focus on accounting reforms in Algeria, a subject that has attracted considerable attention from both professionals and academics in light of the ongoing global economic transformations. The study seeks to uncover the actual implications of these reforms on practical application in the local environment, and to assess the extent to which they have succeeded in achieving their intended objectives, namely improving the quality of financial information, enhancing transparency, improving the business climate, and attracting investment. Its importance also stems from identifying the organizational and professional challenges that hinder the optimal implementation of these reforms, as well as the potential future impacts they may have on the development and performance of the accounting profession.

1.5 Objectives of the Study:

This study aims to shed light on the reality of accounting reforms in Algeria by analyzing their actual implications on practical application and assessing the extent to which they have succeeded in achieving their intended objectives, namely improving the quality of financial information, enhancing transparency, and making the economic environment more competitive and attractive to investment. It also seeks to identify the main organizational and professional obstacles that hinder the optimal implementation of these reforms and to propose practical recommendations that may contribute to the development of the accounting profession in Algeria and its alignment with International Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards.

1.6 Research Methodology

This study relied in its theoretical part on the descriptive method, as it is the most appropriate for studying social and economic phenomena. It allows for describing the reality of accounting reforms in Algeria, analyzing their implications on practical application, and identifying the associated organizational and professional obstacles. As for the applied part, represented by the survey study, the analytical method was employed through processing and analyzing the obtained outputs using the SPSS V25.

2. Evaluation and Review of the Financial Accounting System

Now, after more than ten years of implementing the Financial Accounting System (FAS) in institutions, it has become necessary to assess the principles and concepts introduced by this system in comparison with the practices actually applied by institutions, and to identify the main obstacles and difficulties encountered in its implementation.

2.1 Establishment of the Working Committee Responsible for Evaluating and Reviewing the Financial Accounting System:

In order to launch the process of evaluating and reviewing the accounting system, with the aim of realigning Algeria's accounting practices to bring them closer in line with international accounting practices, a working committee was formed. This committee was tasked with assessing the principles and concepts introduced by the Financial Accounting System in comparison with the practices adopted by institutions, and identifying the main obstacles and challenges faced during its implementation. The Minister of Finance entrusted this working group, composed of 14 members, with the mission of evaluating and reviewing the Financial Accounting System.

2.2 The National Conference on the Evaluation and Review of the Financial Accounting System:

The public authorities, represented by the Ministry of Finance and with the contribution of the National Accounting Council (CNC), decided to hold the first national conference on January 21, 2019, under the title "Conference on the Launch of the Evaluation and Review of the Financial Accounting System." The event brought together members of the National Organization of Statutory Auditors, representatives of the economic sector, and academic professors, and was held at the El Aurassi Hotel in Algiers.

During this conference, the achievements regarding the development of accounting standardization and the work of the Committee for the Standardization of Accounting Practices, as well as the professional responsibilities of the National Accounting Council, were presented as follows: (Radjah, 2019, pp. 13-14)

- Recalling the work of the Committee and the opinions issued by the Standardization Committee;
- Preparing a questionnaire aimed at encouraging participation in the evaluation and review of the Financial Accounting System, addressed to both natural and legal persons related to the accounting profession. The questionnaire covered areas such as training, accounting principles and methods, the conceptual

framework, etc., while taking into account the specificities of each sector and activity;

- Developing accounting plans for three sectors:
 - ✓ Agriculture: issued in June 2023 (Decision No. 201);
 - ✓ Tourism: issued in June 2023 (Decision No. 202);
 - ✓ Construction and Public Works: issued in June 2023 (Decision No. 203);
- Reviewing the Financial Accounting System, which this time would be carried out by Algerian expertise and competencies, unlike the initial implementation of the system.
- After opening the floor to discussion and proposals, the most notable contributions came from Professor Djaloul Boubir (Statutory Auditor), Professor Marhoum (University Professor), Expert Accountant Harfouch, and Mr. Kachroud (Director at the Ministry of Industry). They suggested the following:
 - Establishing a committee to adapt the Financial Accounting System to any changes in international accounting standards;
 - Creating spaces for dialogue and exchange of views among stakeholders in the accounting profession regarding the evaluation and review of the Financial Accounting System;
 - Benefiting from studies on the Financial Accounting System conducted by foreign experts or produced within the academic system;
 - Proposing the adoption of international accounting standards specific to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), given that 95% of Algeria's economic fabric is made up of these enterprises, while applying the full set of standards only to large, strategic, or stock-exchange-listed companies.

Based on the above and in order to ensure the modernization of the Financial Accounting System and the accompanying legislative texts in line with the developments of IAS/IFRS standards, the following measures must be taken: (Akkari & Tekhnouni, 2017, p. 105)

- Establish communication channels with relevant international bodies within the framework of guidance and technical assistance programs, as well as cooperation with countries that have prior experience, in order to benefit from their expertise and reduce costs, effort, and time.
- Create a committee for monitoring IAS/IFRS developments, entrusted with the tasks of contributing to the enrichment of comments on drafts of these amendments or new standards, in addition to studying the expected impact of these changes, the feasibility of their application in the local environment, and their potential consequences.
- Develop a plan for integrating these amendments or new standards, starting with raising awareness of the objectives of the change and providing training,

and ending with support during implementation through clear communication methods and guaranteed assistance and consultation.

- Engage stakeholders early through meetings and training sessions, and integrate the changes into accounting education and training programs.

3. Mechanisms for Modernizing the Financial Accounting System and Its Future Prospects

The current international accounting environment has generated a set of circumstances that oblige the bodies responsible for accounting standard-setting in Algeria to reconsider the content of the Financial Accounting System in light of the ongoing amendments to International Accounting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards (IAS/IFRS). Several international models are available to achieve convergence with IAS/IFRS, and the following options can be proposed for the authority tasked with updating the Algerian accounting system:

- Considering the Financial Accounting System as a draft framework to align national standards with international standards, while developing local accounting standards by introducing certain legislative and regulatory adjustments to the international standards. This would make them easier to apply and more acceptable to institutions, with mandatory application required for listed companies or those seeking listing in the financial market.
- Issuing a revised version of national standards adapted to international standards after identifying the differences between the two, while taking into account the specific characteristics of the local environment (political, economic, and social). This should be accompanied by a local accounting standard outlining the procedures for the initial application of the revised standards.
- Ensuring the participation of representatives from the National Accounting Council in the International Accounting Standards Board, to guarantee communication between the two bodies and acquire the necessary expertise in standard-setting.
- Developing a training program on international accounting standards and establishing a database of these standards to train accounting professionals.
- Monitoring the evolution of international accounting methods, systems, and tools, as well as training approaches, and preparing draft opinions on standards issued by international organizations specialized in accounting standardization. (Sefahlo, 2017, p. 156)

There is no doubt that the success of updating and modernizing the Financial Accounting System within the Algerian accounting environment depends on the need to reconsider the key elements that shape this environment. Based on the difficulties encountered by all stakeholders in this environment during the implementation of the

system, we present below the main requirements for the process of updating and modernizing the Financial Accounting System.

3.1 Developing and Modernizing the Financial Market (Algiers Stock Exchange)

Financial information is among the most critical elements for the success and development of capital markets, as it represents the primary driver for directing savings toward investment opportunities and ensuring the efficient allocation of resources. It is also used by investors in making decisions regarding the purchase and sale of securities. The degree of trust in this information depends on its quality and quantity, provided at lower costs and higher benefits, on the condition that it reflects real indicators about the issuing entities of the securities, the conditions of their trading market, and the overall economic situation of the concerned country.

In Algeria, the implementation of the Financial Accounting System has constituted an important and necessary opportunity to activate its stock exchange, as this represents one of the most essential aspects accompanying the adoption of accounting standards in Algeria. Emphasis must be placed on developing the stock exchange in parallel with integrating it into partnership agreements, enhancing its role in the economy, and encouraging companies to register and rely on it for financing. This would allow Algeria to benefit from the advantages of international accounting standards and reliable financial information, whose effectiveness becomes most evident in capital markets where both investors and companies seek funding. Ultimately, this would stimulate foreign investment, given the significant importance of the information provided to both domestic and international investors. (Soualem, 2014, p. 245)

3.2 Developing Accounting Education

The issue of developing accounting education has become one of the major concerns in recent times, particularly in light of the numerous changes in the business environment, foremost among them technological, economic, and social changes, as well as globalization. These factors necessitate the development of the accounting education system in a way that meets the requirements of the current business environment, in order to reduce the gap between the academic side and the demands of the labor market. (Ben Saleh, 2021, p. 28)

In this context, The National Council of Accounting has taken a series of measures aimed at implementing the provisions of Law No. 10-01 governing the professions of chartered accountant, statutory auditor, and certified (Official Gazette, 2010, p. 04), and Executive Decree No. 11-393 of 24/11/2011 setting the conditions and procedures for the professional internship, the hosting arrangements, and the remuneration of trainee chartered accountants, statutory auditors, and certified. In this regard, several communiqués were published by the National Accounting Council, the purpose and chronology of which are summarized as follows:

- Announcement of March 2023 setting the start date for pre-registrations for the regulatory internship for accountants, and defining the conditions for enrollment;
- Announcement of 15/06/2023 setting the pre-registration period from June 18 to July 27, 2023;
- Announcement on the extension of pre-registration deadlines until 31/08/2023;
- Announcement of 27/03/2024 setting the end of the first semester of 2024 as the deadline for processing pre-registration requests;
- Announcements of 02/10/2024 on the publication of the lists of candidates whose pre-registration requests were validated during June 2023;
- Announcement of 27/10/2024 on the appeal measures available to candidates whose pre-registration requests were validated but whose names were not published.

3.3 Regulations and Laws

The move toward adopting and applying International Accounting Standards (IAS/IFRS) in the local environment requires a solid legal foundation on which the institutions applying them can rely. The most important foundations can be summarized as follows: (Miziani & Feroum, 2010, p. 12)

- Tax Legislation: Current tax laws should explicitly provide for the acceptance and enforcement of accounting practices derived from international accounting standards, requiring their application and compliance by institutions concerned with their implementation. This, however, is not yet provided for in Algerian tax legislation.
- Commercial Law: Commercial law should be aligned with the requirements of international accounting standards and should not conflict with them.
- Accounting Laws and Regulations: The law defining the theoretical framework of accounting in any country wishing to apply international accounting standards should stipulate that this framework is consistent with what is prescribed by these standards. This would make the practical application of international accounting standards possible, given the existence of a recognized theoretical reference. In Algeria, however, Law No. 07-11 of November 25, 2007, which established the Financial Accounting System, does not explicitly provide for the adoption of international accounting standards. Instead, these standards were only implicitly incorporated, since the content of the system largely conformed to IAS/IFRS at that time.

4. A Survey Study of the Opinions of a Sample of Academics and Professionals

4.1 Presentation of the Research Instrument

The questionnaire technique was employed as the primary tool for collecting data from the study sample, which consisted of 62 respondents. The questionnaire is structured around three main axes, with each axis comprising ten (10) statements.

A five-point Likert scale was adopted, and the response scale for the study items was defined as presented in the following table:

Table (01): Five-Point Likert Scale

Scale Value	1	2	3	4	5
Response Category	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Weighted Mean	1,10 - 1,79	1,80-2,59	2,60-3,39	3,40-4,19	4,20-5,00

Source: (Al-Muqabala , 2013, p. 113)

4.2 Reliability of the Research Instrument

To assess the reliability of the questionnaire, Cronbach's Alpha test was used in addition to the validity coefficient, which was calculated by taking the square root of Cronbach's Alpha (also known as criterion validity). The results of Cronbach's Alpha coefficient and the validity coefficient are presented in the following table:

Table (02): Cronbach's Alpha and Validity Coefficient for the Questionnaire

Axis	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha	Validity Coefficient
Axis 01: Practical reality in light of the adopted reforms	10	0,652	0,807
Axis 02: Professional and organizational obstacles to the implementation of reforms	10	0,824	0.907
Axis 03: Future implications of reforms on the development of the accounting profession	10	0,818	0,904
Questionnaire as a whole	30	0,703	0.838

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS V25 outputs.

Based on the data presented in the above table, Cronbach's Alpha for the entire questionnaire reached 0.703, which is considered a good value, reflecting the high reliability of the research instrument and the validity of its data for the study. It is also observed that the Cronbach's Alpha value for each individual axis exceeded the acceptable threshold of 0.60.

4.3 Presentation and Discussion of the Results of the Study Sample

The following table presents the summary of data related to the study sample, as follows:

Table (03): Description of the Characteristics of the Study Sample

	Detail	Frequency	Percentage %
Educational Qualification	Bachelor's Degree	18	29.0
	Master's Degree	20	32.3
	Magister or Equivalent	07	11.3

	Doctorate	17	27.4
	Total	62	100
Profession	University Professor	17	27.4
	Account Auditor / Chartered Accountant	20	32.3
	Accountant	25	40.3
	Total	62	100
Professional Experience	Less than 5 years	05	08.1
	5 to 15 years	20	32.3
	16 to 25 years	22	35.5
	More than 25 years	15	24.2
	Total	62	100

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS V25 outputs.

✓ Educational Qualification

The distribution of educational levels shows that the majority of respondents hold a **Master's degree (32.3%)** and a **Bachelor's degree (29.0%)**, followed by **Doctorate holders (27.4%)**. A smaller proportion, **11.3%**, possess a **Magister or equivalent** qualification.

This indicates that the study sample is academically diverse and largely composed of participants with advanced qualifications, which enhances the credibility and depth of the responses.

✓ Profession

The largest group within the sample consists of **Accountants (40.3%)**, followed by **Chartered Accountants / Account Auditors (32.3%)**, and **University Professors (27.4%)**.

This occupational distribution ensures representation of both **practitioners** (accountants and auditors) and **academics**, providing a comprehensive perspective on accounting reforms and practices.

✓ Professional Experience

The results reveal that most respondents have 16 to 25 years of professional experience (35.5%), followed by those with 5 to 15 years (32.3%).

The results also indicate that 24.2% of participants possess more than 25 years of experience, while only 8.1% have less than 5 years.

The results above indicate that more than 90% of the study sample possess professional experience exceeding five years, which serves the objectives of the study and enhances the credibility of its results, as they are derived from seasoned experts. Experience is considered a highly influential factor in shaping the opinions of the study sample, since the accumulated expertise gained through scientific research and practical work in the field of auditing enables participants to comprehend the study's problem and its technical terminology, thereby allowing them to express informed views on the subject under investigation. It is also noteworthy that a significant proportion of the respondents are holders of Master's and Doctoral degrees, many of

whom are faculty members at universities and also possess professional certifications in accounting and auditing. This demonstrates that the study sample is characterized by a high level of competence and academic achievement, which enables them to thoroughly understand the questionnaire items and provides strong credibility to the results obtained.

4.4 Presentation and Discussion of the Results of Axis One

Table (04): Responses of the Study Sample Regarding the Statements of Axis One

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	General Trend	Rank
1. There is consistency between the Algerian accounting regulation and international standards (IFRS, IAS).	1.47	0.804	Strongly Disagree	9
2. The issuance of legal and regulatory texts has greatly contributed to controlling negative practices and setting the general framework of the profession.	3.66	0.808	Agree	2
3. The undertaken reforms have enhanced the credibility of financial data.	2.34	0.828	Disagree	4
4. Accountants use modern tools and software in line with new orientations.	3.53	0.863	Agree	3
5. There is consistency between tax legislation and the new accounting orientations.	1.43	0.760	Strongly Disagree	10
6. Professional bodies and universities support the practical application of the undertaken reforms.	2.11	0.811	Disagree	8
7. The level of responsiveness of public and private institutions to professional orientations is the same.	2.22	0.838	Disagree	5
8. The issuance of sectoral accounting systems (such as Decisions 201, 202, and 203) had a significant impact on the local accounting environment and enhanced the relevance of financial statements to the economic reality.	3.76	0.862	Agree	1
9. The local environment provides sufficient control mechanisms to ensure compliance with new orientations.	2.21	0.792	Disagree	6
10. Current accounting practices significantly contribute to reducing the	2.16	0.872	Disagree	7

expectation gap between the various stakeholders.				
Axis as a whole	2.39	0.823	Disagree	

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS V25 outputs.

The results of the above table indicate a consensus among the study sample regarding the practical reality of the accounting profession under the undertaken reforms. The overall mean for the axis was 2.39, which falls within the second category of the five-point Likert scale (1.80–2.59), reflecting a general trend of disagreement. This highlights the existence of a gap between the objectives set forth by the reforms and their actual implementation.

The statement related to the **issuance of sectoral accounting systems (Decisions 201, 202, and 203)** ranked first with a mean of **3.76** and a general trend of **Agreement**, indicating their significant contribution to aligning financial statements with the local economic reality.

Similarly, the statement concerning the **issuance of legal and regulatory texts** ranked second (mean = 3.66, trend = Agree), highlighting their role in curbing negative practices and setting the general framework of the profession.

Conversely, the statements regarding **consistency with international accounting standards (IAS/IFRS)** and **tax legislation** obtained the lowest means (1.47 and 1.43, respectively) with a general trend of **Strong Disagreement**, revealing a clear lack of alignment between local regulations and international standards.

Most of the other statements showed a **Disagreement** trend, including insufficient support from professional bodies and universities, lack of adequate local control mechanisms, and the limited role of current accounting practices in narrowing the expectation gap among stakeholders.

In light of the above results, it can be stated that accounting reforms in Algeria face substantial challenges in implementation, particularly regarding the absence of harmonization with international standards and tax legislation, as well as weak institutional support, despite some notable improvements brought by sectoral accounting systems and regulatory texts.

4.5 Presentation and Discussion of the Results of Axis Two

Table (05): Responses of the Study Sample Regarding the Statements of Axis Two

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	General Trend	Rank
1. The continuous changes in tax systems constitute an obstacle to the reform and development of the local accounting environment.	4.66	0.767	Strongly Agree	6
2. The weakness of both academic and practical training among professionals makes the actual implementation of reforms limited	4.81	0.743	Strongly Agree	4

and not in line with local and international developments.				
3. The new orientations are not compatible with the specificities of the Algerian economy.	3.66	0.808	Agree	10
4. The lack of coordination between regulatory and supervisory institutions is one of the main obstacles hindering the optimal implementation of reforms in the accounting environment.	3.77	0.663	Agree	9
5. The weak accounting culture, which views accounting merely as a formal tool to serve fiscal objectives rather than a strategic tool for decision-making, constitutes an obstacle to the development of the profession in Algeria.	4.82	0.665	Strongly Agree	3
6. Although the financial accounting system is inspired by international standards, the local environment is still far from applying these standards in practice.	4.85	0.568	Strongly Agree	1
7. The limited financial resources of small and medium-sized enterprises constitute an obstacle to the implementation of reforms.	4.84	0.578	Strongly Agree	2
8. The limited awareness among some officials about the importance of the undertaken reforms and their impact on the development of the profession.	3.82	0.713	Agree	8
9. The delay in issuing accounting standards that are compatible with the specificities of the local environment has relatively hindered the development of the accounting profession in Algeria.	4.79	0.604	Strongly Agree	5
10. The slowness in updating legislative and regulatory texts has made them unable to keep pace with the global economic changes, particularly those related to fluctuations in oil prices.	3.89	0.603	Agree	7
Axis as a whole	4.39	0.671	Strongly Agree	

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS V25 outputs.

The results of the above table indicate that the overall mean of the axis reached 4.39, which falls within the fifth category of the five-point Likert scale (4.20–5.00). This reflects a general trend toward strong agreement, highlighting a broad awareness

among the respondents of the existence of real obstacles that hinder the optimal implementation of accounting reforms.

The statement “Although the financial accounting system is inspired by international standards, the local environment is still far from applying these standards in practice” ranked first with a mean of 4.85, highlighting the substantial gap between international standards and their practical application in Algeria.

It was followed by “The limited financial resources of small and medium-sized enterprises constitute an obstacle to the implementation of reforms” (mean = 4.84), underlining the financial constraints faced by SMEs in adopting reforms.

The third highest-ranked statement was “The weak accounting culture, which views accounting merely as a formal tool to serve fiscal objectives rather than a strategic tool for decision-making, constitutes an obstacle to the development of the profession” (mean = 4.82), pointing to cultural and perceptual barriers.

Other high-scoring obstacles include the weakness of academic and practical training among professionals and the delay in issuing locally adapted accounting standards, both of which further restrict reform efforts.

On the other hand, statements such as “The new orientations are not compatible with the specificities of the Algerian economy” (mean = 3.66) and “The lack of coordination between regulatory and supervisory institutions” (mean = 3.77) received relatively lower means but still indicate agreement.

In light of the above results, it can be concluded that there is an almost complete consensus that accounting reforms in Algeria face serious and multidimensional obstacles, including financial, legislative, institutional, and educational barriers. These challenges explain the limited impact of reforms on the actual practice of accounting.

4.6 Presentation and Discussion of the Results of Axis Three

Table (06): Responses of the Study Sample Regarding the Statements of Axis Three

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	General Trend	Rank
1. The newly introduced pathway to obtaining the Certified Account Manager and Chartered Accountant qualifications, as stipulated in the Joint Ministerial Decree of 2017, is expected to elevate the profession by granting access to outstanding students.	3,92	,635	Agree	8
2. The integration of artificial intelligence technologies into the reform landscape will compel professionals to adopt advanced tools for processing and analysis, thereby enhancing the quality of financial reporting.	4,90	,432	Strongly Agree	2
3. The issuance of locally adapted accounting standards, tailored to the national environment, will positively impact the	4,84	,578	Strongly Agree	4

quality and accuracy of financial data disclosed by economic entities.				
4. The emergence of a culture of training and continuous learning to keep pace with reforms has become a fundamental requirement for sustaining the accounting profession.	3,92	,660	Agree	7
5. An accounting system characterized by transparency and alignment with international accounting standards (IAS, IFRS) will increase foreign investors' confidence and improve the attractiveness of investment in the local environment.	4,81	,596	Strongly Agree	5
6. The National Council of Accounting has the capacity to lead future reforms in a manner that aligns with the aspirations of relevant stakeholders.	3,90	,645	Agree	9
7. The continuation of reforms will push professional bodies as well as universities to revise their future policies by modernizing curricula in line with the objectives of the reforms.	4,90	,298	Strongly Agree	1
8. Reforms will enhance the transparency and credibility of financial statements.	3,89	,703	Agree	10
9. Reforms will boost the competitiveness of enterprises, particularly at the international level, through the adoption of modern accounting regulatory standards.	3,95	,525	Agree	6
10. The use of modern technologies in accounting practice is expected to create entirely new job opportunities, such as cybersecurity, financial data analysis, and e-auditing.	4,87	,461	Strongly Agree	3
Axis as a whole	4,36	,553	Strongly Agree	

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS V25 outputs.

The results of the above table indicate that the overall mean of the axis reached 4.36, which falls within the fifth category of the five-point Likert scale (4.20–5.00) , indicating a general trend of Strong Agreement. This reflects a broad consensus among the respondents that accounting reforms in Algeria bring significant opportunities to elevate and strengthen the profession.

Similarly, the statement “The integration of artificial intelligence technologies into the reform landscape” (mean = 4.90) shows that respondents view AI as a key driver for enhancing the quality of financial reporting.

The third highest-ranked statement was “The use of modern technologies in accounting practice is expected to create entirely new job opportunities, such as cybersecurity, financial data analysis, and e-auditing” (mean = 4.87), indicating awareness of the reforms’ potential to diversify the job market.

Other highly rated items include “The issuance of locally adapted accounting standards” (mean = 4.84) and “An accounting system characterized by transparency and alignment with international standards” (mean = 4.81), reflecting the importance of these factors in enhancing trust and credibility.

On the other hand, statements such as “Reforms will enhance the transparency and credibility of financial statements” (mean = 3.89) and “The National Council of Accounting has the capacity to lead future reforms” (mean = 3.90) scored relatively lower, though still within the Agree category, suggesting some reservations in these areas.

In light of the above results, it can be concluded that there is an almost complete consensus that accounting reforms represent a key driver for advancing the profession in Algeria, particularly through artificial intelligence, curriculum modernization, and the adaptation of accounting standards to the local context, while acknowledging certain challenges related to governance and transparency.

4.7 Testing the Study Hypotheses

In order to verify the validity of the study hypotheses, the “**One-Sample T-Test**” was applied at a significance level of Sig (α), according to the following decision rule:

- ✓ Accept the null hypothesis (**H0**) if Sig (α) > 0.05;
- ✓ Accept the alternative hypothesis (**H1**) if Sig (α) < 0.05.

4.7.1 Testing the First Hypothesis

This hypothesis states that, despite the existence of accounting reforms in Algeria, actual practice still faces difficulties in the full and effective implementation of these reforms. The response to the hypothesis is as follows:

- ✓ **Null Hypothesis (H0):** There are no significant obstacles hindering the full and effective implementation of accounting reforms in Algeria, and practical application proceeds as planned;
- ✓ **Alternative Hypothesis (H1):** There are significant obstacles hindering the full and effective implementation of accounting reforms in Algeria, which affect practical application.

Table (07): T-Test for the First Hypothesis

Test Value = 05							
Axis	T Value	Degrees of Freedom (ddl)	Significance (Sig)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
First Axis	107,435	61	0.000	40,96774	95%	40,2052	41,7302

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS V25 outputs.

The table shows that the significance value $\text{Sig} (\alpha) = 0.000$, which is far below the accepted threshold of 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted. This indicates that actual accounting practices in Algeria do indeed face significant challenges despite the undertaken reforms.

The T-value of 107.435 and the mean difference of 40.96774 provide strong evidence of statistically significant differences between the intended objectives of the reforms and their practical implementation.

This suggests a strong consensus among respondents regarding the existence of a clear gap between the theoretical framework of reforms and their real-world application, confirming the presence of organizational and professional obstacles that hinder their full effectiveness.

4.7.2 Testing the Second Hypothesis

This hypothesis states that the local accounting environment faces regulatory or professional obstacles that hinder the optimal implementation of the undertaken reforms. The response to this hypothesis is as follows:

- ✓ **Null Hypothesis (H_0):** The undertaken reforms are progressing as planned, and there are no regulatory or professional obstacles hindering their optimal implementation;
- ✓ **Alternative Hypothesis (H_1):** There are regulatory and professional obstacles hindering the optimal implementation of the undertaken reforms in the local accounting environment.

Table (08): T-Test for the Second Hypothesis

Test Value = 05							
Axis	T Value	Degrees of Freedom (ddl)	Significance (Sig)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Axis Two	72.878	61	0.000	38.91935	95%	37.8515	39.9872

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS V25 outputs.

In light of the results presented in the above table, it is evident that $\text{Sig} (\alpha) < 0.05$, with an estimated value of 0.000 (0%). Accordingly, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, which affirms the existence of regulatory and professional obstacles hindering the optimal implementation of the undertaken reforms in the accounting environment. Furthermore, the responses obtained from Axis Two confirm the validity of the proposed hypothesis, indicating the presence of significant regulatory and professional barriers that have impeded the reform of the local accounting environment and hindered the advancement of the accounting profession.

4.7.3 Testing the Third Hypothesis

This hypothesis states that the ongoing reforms of the accounting environment in Algeria are likely to contribute in the future to the development of the accounting profession and to enhancing its alignment with international standards. The hypotheses can be formulated as follows:

- ✓ **Null Hypothesis (H0):** The ongoing reforms of the accounting environment in Algeria will have no future impact on the development of the accounting profession and will not be aligned with international standards.
- ✓ **Alternative Hypothesis (H1):** The ongoing reforms of the accounting environment in Algeria are likely to contribute in the future to the development of the accounting profession and to enhancing its alignment with international standards.

Table (09): T-Test for the Third Hypothesis

Test Value = 05							
Axis	T Value	Degrees of Freedom (ddl)	Significance (Sig)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Axis Three	87.865	61	0.000	38.90323	95%	38.0179	39.7886

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS V25 outputs.

In light of the results of the above table, it is evident that $\text{Sig} (\alpha) < 0.05$, as its value was estimated at 0.000 (00%). Accordingly, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, which states that the ongoing reforms of the accounting environment in Algeria are likely to contribute in the future to the development of the accounting profession and to enhancing its alignment with international standards. Moreover, the responses obtained from the third axis confirm the validity of the proposed hypothesis, indicating the existence of a future impact of the undertaken reforms on the development of the accounting profession and making it consistent with the requirements advocated by international standards.

4.7.4. Testing the fourth Hypothesis

To test the possibility of statistically significant differences between the responses of the study sample according to their demographic characteristics, we will use the One-Way ANOVA test at a significance level of $\text{Sig} (\alpha) = 5\%$. The decision rule is as follows:

- **Accept the null hypothesis (H0) if $\text{Sig} (\alpha) > 0.05$;**
- **Accept the alternative hypothesis (H1) if $\text{Sig} (\alpha) < 0.05$.**

After conducting the analysis of variance, we obtained the results shown in the following table:

Table (10): ANOVA test for the variance of the study axes according to demographic variables

Axes	Facteur	F	Sig
Axis One	Educational Qualification	2,569	,063
	Profession	1,945	,152
	Professional Experience	1,244	,302
Axis Two	Educational Qualification	12,300	,000
	Profession	8,799	,000
	Professional Experience	4,284	,008
Axis Three	Educational Qualification	1,362	,263
	Profession	1,333	,271
	Professional Experience	1,352	,267

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS V25 outputs.

Based on the results shown in the above table, it is evident that the standard deviations for the first and third axes are greater than 5%, which indicates the absence of significant variation in the responses of the study sample according to changes in their demographic characteristics (Educational Qualification, Profession, and Professional Experience). In contrast, the standard deviations for the second axis are less than 5%, indicating the presence of variation in the respondents' answers to the statements of this axis as a result of changes in the aforementioned demographic characteristics.

5. Conclusion

From the foregoing, it is evident that accounting reforms in Algeria were introduced in response to the requirements of economic openness and the need to align the Financial Accounting System with international standards (IAS/IFRS), with the aim of improving the quality of financial information, enhancing transparency, and making the local market more competitive and attractive to investment. These efforts culminated in the issuance, in June 2022, of three sector-specific accounting systems covering agriculture, tourism, and public works, namely Decrees 201, 202, and 203. However, the findings revealed a gap between the intended objectives and actual implementation, as organizational, professional, and technical barriers continue to hinder the optimal application of these reforms.

Despite these challenges, the reforms remain a cornerstone in the process of developing the accounting profession in Algeria, particularly if shortcomings are addressed by strengthening education and training, continuously updating legislation, integrating modern technologies, and supporting the independence of professional bodies. Such measures would enhance the efficiency of the accounting system and reinforce the competitiveness of the national economy in line with international standards and global developments.

5.1 Results of the Study

Among the most important findings reached through the current study are the following:

- A clear gap exists between reform texts and practical implementation, as accounting reforms have not fully achieved their intended objectives, mainly due to organizational and professional obstacles.
- Deficiencies in accounting education and training at universities and professional institutions have affected practitioners' ability to meet the requirements of the new Financial Accounting System.
- Some positive achievements have been realized, such as a partial improvement in the level of transparency and financial disclosure.
- A broad awareness among professionals and academics exists, recognizing that reforms are an inevitable necessity for the development of the profession despite the challenges faced.
- Consensus among the study sample regarding the future prospects of the accounting profession in Algeria, provided that the reform process continues with a focus on addressing shortcomings and correcting identified imbalances.
- The suspension of granting accreditations for practicing accounting and auditing has had a significant impact on the reform process.
- Reform efforts culminated in the issuance of new sector-specific accounting systems (agriculture, tourism, and public works) in 2022, tailored to the specificities of each sector, reflecting Algeria's commitment to pursuing and expanding reforms.

5.2 Study Recommendations

Based on the obtained results, we present the following recommendations:

- Integrating information technology and digitalization into the reform process by encouraging the use of artificial intelligence applications in accounting practices to facilitate processing and analysis and to provide more reliable financial data;
- Intensifying efforts to issue local accounting standards that are adapted to the characteristics of the local environment while ensuring their consistency with international standards (IAS/IFRS);
- Supporting the independence of professional bodies in the field of accounting and auditing and granting them a greater role in leading reforms and monitoring their implementation;
- Regularly updating laws and regulatory frameworks to ensure that legal reforms keep pace with rapid economic and technological changes.

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