

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN ACCOUNTING

У роботі розглянуто значення професійної етики в діяльності бухгалтера, її принципи, нормативне регулювання та роль у забезпеченні достовірності фінансової інформації й довіри до бухгалтерської професії.

Ключові слова: професійна етика, бухгалтерська діяльність, моральні принципи, фінансова інформація.

The paper examines the importance of professional ethics in the work of an accountant, its principles, regulatory framework, and its role in ensuring the reliability of financial information and trust in the accounting profession.

Keywords: professional ethics, accounting, moral principles, financial information.

In modern conditions of economic development, the accounting profession has become exceptionally important. An accountant plays a key role in the creation and reliability of financial information, which serves as the basis for managerial decision-making by company executives, investors, government authorities, and other interested parties. Therefore, not only a high level of professional training of specialists is important, but also strict adherence to ethical standards and principles in their work. Ethical norms in the field of accounting form the foundation of trust in financial reporting and contribute to the efficiency and sustainable functioning of enterprises.

Ethics is defined as a system of moral principles and norms that regulate an individual's behavior and shape the standards by which it is evaluated in society. Its primary purpose is to promote responsible behavior based on generally accepted values and moral principles. In the professional activity of an accountant, ethical principles require adherence to honesty, objectivity, integrity, and a responsible approach to performing professional duties. In addition, they emphasize the necessity of strict compliance with the provisions of current legislation.

The professional activity of an accountant has its own specific features, as it is associated with the processing of financial information that directly affects the economic performance of an enterprise. This work requires specialists to constantly adapt to changes in legislation, solve complex tasks related to financial operations, and address potential violations or cases of fraud. Under such conditions, it is essential to make decisions that take into account not only financial outcomes but also the ethical aspects of professional conduct [2].

The ethical standards of an accountant's work are formed as a system of moral principles, norms, and rules that regulate the behavior of a specialist while performing professional duties. This system develops under the influence of the professional environment, societal expectations, established traditions, and general ethical values. The code of ethics defines the norms of interaction between accountants and company management, colleagues, business owners, users of financial information, and government authorities.

As an applied academic discipline, professional ethics in accounting has clearly defined subject matter, object, and research objectives. The subject of the discipline involves studying the specific application of moral norms within the field of accounting, while its object is the system of values, principles, and rules that regulate the professional conduct of accountants. The main objectives of this discipline include developing scientifically grounded moral requirements for accounting professionals, identifying the essential moral qualities of an accountant, enhancing the prestige of the profession, and promoting knowledge of ethical standards among specialists.

An essential component of an accountant's professional ethics is the set of moral principles that shape their behavior and relationships with others. These principles include altruism, a high level of communication culture, respect, professional competence, tact, empathy, and tolerance. Altruism is reflected in the ability to prioritize the interests of society even when this requires

personal sacrifice or limitations. Communication culture involves the ability to interact constructively with colleagues and users of financial information. Respect is demonstrated through proper and dignified treatment of all participants in professional activities [1].

Particular attention should be given to the key aspects of the moral activity of an accountant, which include professional actions, moral freedom, freedom of will, professional qualification, and mastery. Every professional action involves several components: motive, intention, purpose, the action itself, and its consequences. An accountant must possess an adequate level of knowledge and professional competence in order to make well-considered decisions even under complex economic conditions. A high level of professional mastery ensures the proper performance of accounting functions and guarantees the reliability of financial information.

At the international level, a decisive role in establishing ethical principles in accounting is played by the International Federation of Accountants. This organization brings together professional accounting associations from different countries around the world and promotes the development of the profession through the creation of international standards and recommendations. The main mission of the federation is to serve the public interest, enhance the prestige of the accounting profession, and ensure compliance with high professional standards.

One of the main documents that establishes ethical standards for accountants is the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants. This document outlines the fundamental principles that should guide professional activity, such as integrity, objectivity, professional competence, confidentiality, and responsibility to society. Adherence to these principles is essential for ensuring the effective performance of accountants and the reliability of financial information [3].

During their work, accountants may encounter various challenges that can threaten compliance with ethical standards. These may include conflicts of interest, pressure from management, gaps in legislation, or opportunities to manipulate financial data. In such situations, it is important for accountants to follow ethical principles, maintain independence and objectivity, and make decisions in accordance with professional standards.

Professional ethics plays a crucial role in an accountant's work, as it determines the level of trust in the results of their performance. Adherence to ethical standards supports the proper fulfillment of professional duties, improves the quality of accounting information, and strengthens the reputation of the accounting profession. As a result, the reliability of financial data is ensured, along with the stability of economic relations among participants in business activities. Therefore, the combination of solid professional knowledge, moral qualities, and a sense of responsibility is an essential prerequisite for the effective work of an accountant.

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