

## ABSTRACT

With the term "Accountability" it is meant to indicate the "duty to account", the process by which a subject recognizes his actions and assumes responsibility. Therefore, it is not merely the attribution and acceptance of the responsibility of the actions, but also the demonstration and verification of the manner in which this responsibility has been handled.

This definition allows the distinction of two key subjects: the one who has to report his actions and the one who exercises the right to know the facts, how they have been done and what effects they produced. Consequently, Accountability is based on the establishment of a relationship between the decision-maker and those concerned with decisions.

In a corporate economic outlook, therefore, Accountability concerns both the functions of governance and the functions of reporting on management actions, generally affecting corporate governance. It is clear that in this context, the corporate governance issue gains particular importance: awareness, responsibility and information are peculiar elements of governance with reference both to the interest of managers and owners both in terms of relevance of their direct involvement, necessary to ensuring the significance and effectiveness of accountability.

Consequently, there is a constant evolution of corporate governance legislation, aimed at correcting potential conflicts, in order to ensure an adequate and efficient regulation of the interaction and coordination arrangements between governance and management in a perspective of fairness, transparency and value creation for all stakeholders.

Globally, these issues have encouraged, recently, a widespread use of best practices combined with regulatory interventions regarding the corporate auditing system, with a progressive improvement of existing control schemes to meet new needs, new actors and new roles that appeared. Regulations designed to instill in corporate culture the centrality of accountability, in order to control the activities themselves and to carry out the tasks by promoting values such as integrity and ethics.

This commitment of informing and involving interested parties requires a flow of communication that allows the transmission of consistent and relevant information through appropriate channels. Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosure plays a key role, providing transparent and reliable information considered important for the legitimacy of businesses.

This paper contains the main contributions made in the above-mentioned search addresses, trying to answer some questions, including:

What moral values are driving the actions of the leading companies in the food business? Is there a particular language for such elements? What extent are Italian companies using CSRD and how has it evolved qualitatively and quantitatively in a time perspective? What are the characteristics of voluntary social reporting? Is there a relationship between industry, size, business profitability and CSRD choices? Are there standards of a global reach that can give the uniformity to the many available tools for social responsibility and sustainability?