NORMALIZATION - THE PATH OF CONVERGENCE IN PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING IN ROMANIA

INTRODUCTION

The mission statement of The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) is "to serve the public interest, IFAC will continue to strengthen the accountancy profession worldwide and contribute to the development of strong international economies by establishing and promoting adherence to high-quality professional standards, furthering the international convergence of such standards, and speaking out on public interest issues where the profession’s expertise is most relevant" [IFAC, 2009, p. 4]. In pursuing this mission, the IFAC Council established The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) to develop high quality accounting standards for use by public sector entities around the world for general purpose financial statements. The IPSASB is an independent standard-setting board that operates under IFAC as responsible for the development of IPSAS standards, for promoting their acceptance, and international convergence with these standards. For preparing and issuing standards IPSAS Board cooperates with national normalized, area authorities (ministries of finance, treasury) and professional associations, encourages discussion with practitioners from around the world to identify needs, problems and experiences of users in public sector financial reporting.

It is therefore clear that accounting rules are the work of accountants. Claim French journalist and politician Georges Clemenceau, after that "war is too important a matter to be left to the military" [Gèlard, 1994, p. 22] makes us aware that the process of international accounting harmonization and standardization activity is extremely complex, requiring a lot of patience and rigor.

Critically analyzing the historical process of normalization of U.S. accounting, Bernard Colasse, reveals that "... normalization accounting is socially too important to be entrusted only to accountants. Fall into this huge effort, on a privileged position, investors and state, but other users of accounting information such as trading partners, banking system, unions, etc. "[Feleagă, 2000, p.16].

Making a current body of rules can be achieved only by taking advantage of energy professional accountants organized for their voices to be heard by the economic environment of business and social environment [Bunget, 2005, p.123]. The role of school is to create good accountants, but the values do not stop to the level of university preparation. Continuous improvement is the requirement of good ownership in all its splendor accounting phenomenon. Professional accountant had and will always have a word to say in the standardization and harmonization efforts of accounting. Today’s professional accountant lies the difficult task of keeping up with updates and frequent changes in accounting rules, decided, mostly internationally. Application of IPSAS standards is considered a real revolution, perhaps more important than the IFRS for economic entities, because public institutions will be managed as a private, with an accrual accounting, "patrimonial accounting" and double-entry bookkeeping.

European Union decided to implement IPSAS since 2005 as a reference for preparing the financial statements of its accounts. Also, the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, North Atlantic Treaty Organization launched the process to implement IPSAS. Aware of interest posed by IPSAS standards, World Bank and International Monetary Fund intends to request the application of these rules by the countries involved, thus contributing to increased use of IPSAS standards. European experience on the implementation of IPSAS is relevant [Grigorescu, 2004, p.116]: France apply accrual accounting in the public domain since 1999, but it faces difficulties in implementing IPSAS, Germany has prepared the transition to IPSAS, United Kingdom uses the accrual since 1995 and currently applies IPSAS standards; since 2004 in Australia apply IPSAS-IAS mix named Australian Accounting Standards. In more than 50 other countries, among which we mention
Switzerland, Canada, New Zealand, Mongolia, Albania, etc. IPSAS standards have actually been applied in national and regional accounts [Cardinaux, 2007]. In our country, public institutions are being blamed for a poor maintenance of their accounts, a lack of transparency and inefficient communication, an increased public skepticism about the financial reporting process in public institutions. Peculiarities of the public sector have long avoided public institutions need, particularly the state, to submit transparent, relevant and reliable information, certified by external auditors. To meet this need, there must be an referential quality accounting, based on international accounting standards that integrate features of the public sector, thus ensuring comparability of data, transparency of financial information, a real responsibility and good governance.

IPSAS standards are reliable accounting standards set by independent manner, through a very rigorous procedure and supported by governments, professional accounting organizations and international organizations. IPSAS standards will result in a significant improvement in the quality of financial statements published by public institutions and, consequently, to a more informed decisions affecting state resources, thus increasing transparency and accountability. Therefore increasingly acute need for information in the public system and the need to provide comparable and transparent information have resulted in the development and popularization of IPSAS standards, high standards with beneficial consequences for the global economy [Ristea, 2010, p. 182].

It is necessary that the public accounts of our country, in terms of standardization and harmonization, to use the term "we do" instead of the words "should", to replace the options, with the obligation - the rule. Achieving international convergence is a fundamental objective in public accounting. Having a lot of accounting standards, auditing and other standards in the world is simply against public interest. This creates confusion, encourages error and, ultimately, facilitate fraud.

1. CHALLENGES OF ACCTUAL ACCOUNTING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN ROMANIA

The need for convergence and harmonization of public institutions accounting in Romania with the European Regulations and IPSAS standards has resulted in a number of responsibilities which our country has made since becoming an EU member country. Thus, through the acquis communautaire in the field of public finances, given by Romania's Position Paper on chapter 11 "Economic and Monetary Union", our country has assumed the responsibility for reporting data on public finances in accordance with the European System of Accounts (ESA '95), which requires compliance with accounting rules set and moment of recording in accounts to economic and financial transactions (cash and unmonetary flows). European System of Accounts provides cash flows recording, unmonetary as well as, on an accruals basis, ie at the time of creation, transformation or disappearance/cancellation of economic value of a debt or obligation. The ESA requires that all assets and liabilities to be valued as if it were being acquired at the time of developing patrimonial accounts which means their valuation at current market prices, of reference to the moment balance sheet.

Unlike cash accounting, under which all economic transactions were recorded as expenses and income only when they became payable (expenditure) and collectible (revenue), accrual accounting is revolutionizing the accounting thought that has great merit to determine on accounting periods, the financial situation, performance and changes in financial position. Under the accrual basis of accounting (as opposed to the cash basis of accounting), revenues are recognized as soon as a product has been sold or a service has been performed, regardless of when the money is actually received (Revenue Recognition Principle, from The GAAP). In this way it can give a true picture of the annual financial result and it can benefit from investors during the conduct of business organization, not the end of its life.

Accrual accounting has become a standard in most public administrations in Europe, the European Commission is the promoter of this method with IFAC. The European Commission
has undertaken to modernize and improve the EU accounting system in accordance with recent developments, focusing on transparency and accuracy. Thus, in December 2002, the European Commission adopted a decision on upgrading its accounting system. Reform was the shift from cash accounting to accrual basis accounting from January 1, 2005, to provide a clearer picture of assets and liabilities at any time.

The process of transition from cash accounting system to the accrual, it called for the preparation of financial statements to provide a true and fair view of net worth, financial position and annual results and budget implementation. To provide a fair presentation, accounting policies should be relevant to the needs of decision-making, reliable, meaning that present fairly the entity's performance and financial position and reflects the economic substance of events and transactions, not just their legal form; neutral, meaning no deviation, prudent, complete in all material respects replacement policies, identification and enhancement of surplus assets and better management.

Accrual accounting requires public entities to maintain complete records of assets and liabilities. Also contribute to a better management of assets, including better maintenance, more appropriate risks such as losses due to fraud or damage. Identification of assets and recognition of depreciation help managers to understand the impact of using fixed assets in service delivery and encourages them in consideration of alternative ways of managing costs and delivering services.

Based on these benefits, and Romania has assumed responsibility for the transition to accrual accounting. Ministry of Finance of Romania has initiated action to introduce a system based on accrual accounting for public institutions since 2002. This was done gradually through the adoption of important legislation which aim at:

- The hiring, liquidation, passing for payments and payment of public institutions expenses (OMFP no. 1792/2002), the four stages of the budget execution of expenses are carried out by all public institutions no matter their subordination and the way of financing expenses with compulsory pre-observance of procedures. Public institutions are also compelled to organize, lead the record and report the budgetary and legal accrual starting with 2003.

- The organization and leading of budgetary incomes accounting (OMFP no. 520/2003, repealed by OMFP no. 1917/2005), according to the Accounting Law, that stipulates the compulsoriness of registering in accounting the rights and obligations of the public institutions when they are acknowledged, in this sense there had been until that moment a major contradiction between the national regulation in accounting and the regulations applicable to public institutions.

- The re-evaluation and depreciation of fixed assets that are in the patrimony of public institutions (OG no. 81/2003 and OMFP no. 1487/2003) are introduced for the first time in the history of public administration in Romania. By introducing re-evaluation it was wished to bring at the current cost or the entrance value actualized in correlation with the utility of goods and their market value and by introducing the depreciation it was wished to reflect the real value of goods and the presentation through financial statements of a real image of the patrimony.

- The organization and management of public institutions’ accounting and instructions for its implementation (OMFP no. 1917/2005).

- The correlation between revenue and expenditure accounts in the new budgetary classification applicable starting with 2006 according to ESA 95 and GFS 2001 requirements (OMFP no.1025/2005, OMFP no. 1954/2005) has contributed to making an important step in the harmonization of the public sector accounting with the European and International regulations.

Accounting information has advantages over other sources because they have high credibility in relation to other sources of information. Public accounting purpose is to secure the true and fair view of the situation of financial position, financial performance, but also on cash flow and revenue and expenditure budget execution. To achieve this goal it is necessary to continue improving the content and quality of information presented in the financial
statements of public institutions, which largely took place in Romania in recent years, but the process is not concluded.

2. NEWS AND PERSPECTIVES OF NORMALIZATION IN PUBLIC ACCOUNTING

Problems arise in the context of adopting a common language through the International Public Sector Accounting Standards are multiple. It is not easy to prove their usefulness, advantages and disadvantages of using them, so aim will be the countries’ agreement to accept and adopt these regulations. Advantages, disadvantages and prospects of this complex phenomenon, derived from economic globalization has stirred much controversy and debate. Always there were opinions for and against, optimists or pessimists of accounting convergence. If we limit the analysis to the level of Europe, European skeptics shows that convergence has a long time expected. They mention other realities faced by different accounting systems: difficulties and time to correct errors of government, ethical failures, accounting scandals. Overall, the pessimists judge as follows: [Pop, 2008, p.152]:

- state remains an important user of accounting information, or national tax systems are very different;
- accounting systems are subordinated to economic and political systems, with their specificities;
- IASB or other regional bodies have no authority to impose their rules when they conflict with national ones (especially if the latter are prepared by independent bodies with limited legislative power);
- some countries, nationalist, they feel threatened national sovereignty if are adopted international rules.

Even if these pessimists of convergence have partly right, solution to what they criticize, it is even uniform use of verifiable norms, developed through cooperation between professional bodies and specialists of different countries.

Normalization of European accounting is achieved by accounting harmonization process conducted within the European Union through the European accounting directives. European Normalization is a regulatory type one, these directives operate on the basis of a legislative framework and not based on a conceptual accounting framework. Even if they are binding on all Member States, they provide many options, leading to differences between Member States’ financial statements. Differences are maintained and that they are based on a uniform accounting doctrine, but two very strong current accounting, Anglo-Saxon approach and the mainland accounting, which coexist and have a direct influence on national accounting systems.

Under these conditions, application of different accounting rules lead to different results, which will have implications for the interpretation of information, the calculation of economic and financial indicators and, therefore, for “accounting truth”. Solution for this problem would be achieving a single set of accounting rules to be applied by all countries and to ensure comparability and credibility of information provided by financial reporting around the globe. In this context, contemporary accounting developments are characterized by four phenomena, aimed at ensuring transparency and comparability of accounting information, namely normalization, harmonization, convergence and internationalization of accounting.

As stressed by Professor PhD Feleagă, “if we would have been characterized by three phenomena of contemporary developments in accounting, they would undoubtedly normalization, harmonization and internationalization” [Tabără, 2009, p.97].

Naturally, economic researchers have attempted delimitation of these concepts.
Accounting harmonization involves improving the rules, regulations, national accounting methods and terminology so that they become compatible and comparable to give the same interpretation of events and transactions. In Europe, the process began in 1970 [Deaconu, 2003, p.118] and resulted in two European Commission Directives: the Fourth Directive (1978) and the Seventh Directive (1983). Accounting directives are binding on the member states as to the result to be achieved, but they allow states great latitude in achieving those results. They have been taken more or less in member states legislation and influenced accounting systems from non-Community countries.

Those who are more lenient with European Directives, said that are objectionable by the degree of aging, since not been updated for more than two decades, until 2003, when it undertook a modernization by acquiring more elements of standards international accounting. It can thus see the trend of convergence rather than harmonization. The hardest, saying that the harmonization process has failed, making the following arguments [Gèlard, 2002]: there was no real conceptual basis, there was no real desire to get out of the country’s borders (although national legislation has embraced it largely, the practice has taken only a small part of those regulations); there was a lot to do with taxation and judiciary; finally, we can say that the directives were too permissive, allowing too much freedom of action of Member States.

Reality shows us that a perfect harmonization of accounting norms can not exist, since each variable accounting system is influenced by economic, financial, fiscal, social, legal and cultural environment [Palich, 1999]. The solution would be convergence, translated by aligning, without taking the same, the international accounting standards. Specifically, convergence requires a single set of standards, with the possibility of adapting to their national realities, developed with the participation of the representatives of several countries.

Accounting convergence is, therefore, the process by which accounting standards are developed in a manner that is able to lead to the same fact or purpose, noting the similarity between national – regional – international. Accounting convergence entails identifying targets that businesses and accounting professionals worldwide to watch the final goal in presenting information in annual financial statements, without requiring treatment, rules and procedures for implementation and to serve users in the following order of priority: current and potential investors, employees, financial creditors, suppliers, customers, government and its institutions and citizens.

Normalization accounting is the process of applying deliberate accounting rules for fair settlement of issues concerning the production and use of accounting information [Horomnea, 2008, p.383]. Involving the development and implementation of norms, in order to harmonize accounting methodology and the presentation of the summaries, accounting standardization process is one that manifests itself in most countries of the world. Imperative of globalization, normalization occurs as a consequence of the need to create a unique language, able to provide premises for effective communication between all users. To achieve this goal was considered the only solution is to normalize, through which it aims to achieve the objective of formulating concepts, principles and accounting standards based on precise terminology and the same for all producers and users of accounting information and their application in practice to ensure comparability over time and space, relevance and credibility of accounting information [Ristea, 2003, p.11].

Internationalization of accounting has its source in the concerns of the international harmonization of accounting rules and practices. By quarter-century ago, accountants not only spoke different languages or using different languages, but also gave them
different interpretations of the same events and transactions. Today, the watchword for most accounting professionals from all countries is “internationalization”. In fact, international accounting arose from concerns of international harmonization of accounting rules and practices. Over time have come some concerns about the need and utility of the International Accounting Standards at national level, knowing that the economic and social influences have left their mark on the philosophy, doctrine and national accounting policies.

As regards public accounts in Romania in 2004 was issued Order no. 1461/2004 on detailed Methodological Norms on the organization and management of accounting heritage public institutions, chart of accounts for public institutions and its implementing instructions, which attempted to harmonize public accounting with IPSAS standards and European accounting directives, order which have been applied experimentally since January 1, 2005 for one year by a number of public institutions. Based on the conclusions drawn as a result of the experiment on this order and the proposals made by other public institutions, changes and additions were made which led to the replacement of Order no. 1461/2004 with Order no. 1917/2005, applicable from January 1, 2006 by all public institutions in Romania. By Order of the Ministry of Public Finance no. 1917/2005 for the approval of the Methodological Norms on the organization and management of public institutions’ accounting and instructions for its implementation was attempted, as for economic operators, public accounting harmonization in Romania with IPSAS standards on the one hand, public accounting and compliance with EU accounting directives, on the other hand. The base of public accounting convergence in Romania with IPSAS standards is the financial statements, making them an interface between internal and external users, national and international. In Romania, through the Order no. 1917/2005 public institutions must prepare financial statements that give a true picture of assets, liabilities, net assets and financial performance and patrimonial result, requirement imposed by the European accounting directives. In addition, the set of financial statements to be made by public institutions in Romania are very close to the requirements of IPSAS.

3. PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH IPSAS

Given the global economy as an irreversible process of globalization, we believe that we are in a stage of "historic reconciliation" in which different accounting systems redefine the conceptual framework in their desire to meet new information current. In this context, the global financial community recognizes the need for a set of accounting standards, transparent and comparable. Desire a set of accounting standards of high quality to be used globally by public and private entities, is shared by those who prepare, verify and use financial statements. The aim of this unique set of standards is to include a clear statement of the principles underlying them, having to do with almost all types of events, transactions and structures that occur in practice, to allow public entities and their auditors to make professional decisions in application of the principles for other events, transactions and structures.

In our country the implementation of IPSAS was performed by applying selective the international standards as an interim step until the completion of the entire process of accounting harmonization, due to the complexity of standards, vocabulary and communication problems (english language standards) but especially concerned the cultural incompatibilities (economic system, socio-political environment, legal system, the accounting profession, etc.).
Assimilation, adaptation, compatibility and convergence with international standards in this area were conducted by public institutions in Romania by acquiring model financial statements based on IPSAS 1 "Presentation of Financial Statements" and IPSAS 2 "Cash Flow Statements". They are composed of balance sheet, patrimonial result account, cash flow statements, budget execution account for revenue and expenditure and annexes to the financial statements, including accounting policies and explanatory notes.

IPAS 1 objective is to determine how to be prepared financial statements to ensure comparability both with the entity's financial statements of prior periods and with the financial statements of other entities. Therefore – according to the standard - financial statements of public institutions must be adequately prepared in all material respects to reflect fairly the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of public entity, key information for users in making and evaluating decisions about resource allocation.

Financial reporting in the public sector must demonstrate for users the public entity accountability for allocated resources by providing information on:

- entity's funding sources and their allocation and use;
- how the entity has financed its activities and covered the cash requirements;
- assess the ability of the entity to finance its activities and to honor the debts and budgetary and legal commitments;
- financial situation changes of the public entity;
- entity performance evaluation on service costs, efficiency and achievement.

Public entity's financial statements may have a predictive or prospective role in providing information useful in forecasting the level of necessary resources for continuing operations, resources that could be generated by continuing operations and the risks and uncertainties associated. In this sense, public sector financial reporting may indicate whether resources were obtained and used in accordance with the approved budget and legal and contractual provisions, including financial limits established by specific legislative authority in the public domain. It is likely that some of the objectives of financial statements can not be achieved because most public entities not primarily aimed at obtaining profit - as patrimonial result.

Elements in the financial statements should be evaluated in accordance with general accounting principles, as an accrual accounting. The items in the financial statements are made based on the going-concern principle with accrual accounting principles, that the effects of transactions and other events were recognized when the transactions and events occurred and not as cash was received or paid, and the revenues and expenditures were recorded in the accounting records and recognized in the financial statements of period to which they refer.

Financial statements as prepared will include a statement of financial position provides information about assets and obligations. Where assets and liabilities are not equal, the residual net asset value will be reported. When this value is positive may be interpreted as a net resource that can be used for supply of goods and services in the future. When the value is negative can be seen as a further amount of future revenues categories, who are committed to settle current debts or other obligations. Change in net assets of an entity (funds, surplus/deficit accumulated, reserves) between the two reporting periods reflect the increase or decrease its wealth over a budget year.

On financial performance, accrual accounting provides information on revenue and expenditure, including the impact of transactions where cash has not yet been received or paid.
In connection with cash flows, are provided comprehensive information related to current cash flows and certain projected flows including cash flows associated with debt and obligations, thus directing towards a better management of liquidity and prepare accurate cash budgets.

IPSAS represent international best practice financial reporting for public sector entities. Their implementation will lead to increased accountability and transparency of financial reports prepared by governments and public entities, improve quality and comparability of financial information reported by public sector entities worldwide. In this regard, IPSAS establish requirements for recognition, evaluation, description and presentation of information on transactions and events in the financial statements of all public sector entities. IPSAS for accrual accounting have as a starting point IFRS issued by the IASB, where such provisions are applicable to public sector standards. Also includes issues specific public sector financial reporting, which are not addressed in IFRS.

Public accounting reform measures in Romania fits into the international public accounting regulations. Adoption of IPSAS standards is a measure of international accounting harmonization, so as the objective is uniformity of public systems of member countries IFAC with beneficial consequences for the global economy.

IPSAS are designed to apply to general purpose financial statements of all public sector entities. Public sector entities include national governments, regional governments (eg state, province, territory), local (eg village, town) and their component entities (eg departments, agencies, councils, committees) unless otherwise specified.

Currently there are 26 IPSAS standards: 21 inspired IFRS standards (IPSAS 1 - IPSAS 21), standards for their particular area of public sector (IPSAS 22 - IPSAS 26) and a standard created by the cash accounting method to introduce accrual accounting method.

Among the most significant changes required by IPSAS standards include: patrimonial principle which requires register the non-current assets to active accounting function and their depreciation of each year; the principle of prudence that requires even the recognition of provisions, even those on pensions; presentation of financial statements for five: the situation financial position/balance sheet, statement of financial performance/result patrimony account, cash flow statement, statement of changes in net assets/equity, annexes to the financial statements; the shift from cash accounting to accrual accounting.

In developing of accounting policy should be follow the basic principles of accrual accounting. Accounting policies should be developed so as to ensure the provision by the financial statements of information that is relevant to the needs of users in making economic decisions and credible in the sense that the result is true patrimonial and financial position of the public institution, are neutral, are prudent, are complete in all material respects. Changes in accounting policy are permitted only if required by law or if their result is more relevant or reliable about the operations of the public institution. The explanatory notes to financial statements contain information on methods of valuing assets and any additional information relevant to user needs with regard to financial position and results obtained.

Qualitative characteristics of public financial statements are the attributes that make information provided to be useful to users. Standard IPSAS 1 requires public institution to submit information to perform a range of quality characteristics: understandability, relevance, reliability (fair representation, substance over form, neutrality, prudence, completeness), comparability.
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion we can say that, irrespective of whether the accounting standardization process -public or private - purpose is always the same:

- to create a "dictionary accounting" adequate comprehensible to all users of accounting information;
- to development of coherent principles, generally accepted;
- to define the information presented in the summary accounting documents, establishing patterns and forms of reflection of information within their;
- foundation chart of accounts and the monograph main economic and financial operations.

Obviously we must take into account that Romania's objective to harmonize with IPSAS standards and compliance with EU accounting directives will be a profound process that will require financial resources. IPSAS standards are highly complex, with a considerable volume (currently exceeding 1200 pages) and difficult to interpret, given the economic and financial nature which does not correspond directly to each country's own legal terminology. In addition, governments need to produce their own standards because IPSAS not treat all transactions that occur in specific public sector. Each public institution - the state or the hospital, public international organization or locality - has a system adapted to its own characteristics, while the IPSAS standards are uniform, not flexible depending on the particularities of each public institution. For these reasons, when they will decide to apply IPSAS standards in Romania, the implementation should be made gradually, by categories of public institutions, starting from the bottom (municipalities, hospitals, educational institutions, etc.) to high (Government ). Effective implementation of IPSAS standards also requires significant investment in staff training, for developing relevant regulations and solving the accounting problems. IPSAS standards are complex, especially for people who have no training in accounting. In addition, public institutions equipped with integrated computer systems is essential for achieving full compliance under IPSAS.

Furthermore, once applied IPSAS standards, they will be audited, which means additional financial cost. Certification of accounts in accordance with IPSAS standards can not be achieved only under conditions of full application of standards. In this regard, IPSAS 1 specifies: "Financial statements should not be described as complying with International Public Sector Accounting Standards unless they comply with all the requirements of each applicable International Public Sector Accounting Standard." To many countries, although they applied IPSAS standards, accounts have not been certified by external audit, because they did not comply with all the requirements of IPSAS standards, mainly due to deficiencies in internal control system and information system.

Changes in public accounting in Romania were deep in order to achieve the objective of harmonization with IPSAS standards and compliance with European accounting directives. Just as economic operators, perhaps in the future, public accounting in Romania will suffer further changes to proximity to a large extent as IPSAS standards. The experience of developed countries applying IPSAS standards and their widespread worldwide, makes us say, that perhaps soon, Romania too, public accounting too will not only be aligned with IPSAS standards, but consistent with them. Approximation increasingly public accounting in Romania, accounting for private entities, we believe that allowed the indirect introduction of IPSAS standards.
in public accounting from our country. And Romania will have to gain by implementing IPSAS standards, because Romania will equip it with: an accounting referential quality, without which there is no good competition and a precise framework; a system of internal control within each organizational structure, system imposed by IPSAS standards and that will be also be audited, allowing correction of any failures; a transparent system of comparative information, like private entities; a certified accounting to ensure true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of public institutions, this is because any accountancy in accordance with IPSAS standards must be audited; improving financial communication to serve not only as a tool for presenting an image true to the accounts but also as a steering instrument for the efficient management of funds and in providing relevant information for decision making. [Ristea, 2010, p.189].

Complexity of the process of harmonization with IPSAS standards, but also beneficial effects on the global economy determines opinions for and against among the greats worldwide normalizers, causing many concerns and disputes among experts, professional accountants: IPSAS - The Big question: Is it time for IPSAS standards? IPSAS standards are reliable and robust enough to be adopted (let's say ... in three years)? If not, could be in the future and when?

Remains to be seen how long it will take until more countries apply standards IPSAS, this because IPSASB council or the accounting profession have not the power to enforce compliance with IPSAS standards. The success of efforts IPSASB depends on degree of adoption of these standards by governments and public sector entities around the world, and recognition and support its work by the many and various interested groups that act within its jurisdiction. One thing is clear: international accounting standards are becoming an international accounting culture [Whittington, 2008]. Romania has not stationed in the process of implementation IFRS and IPSAS standards, in national accounting culture, being subjected to continuous and complex change of accounting rules, in the past decade, of assimilation, even in part, of the international accounting culture.

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