

# EURO PEAN

**PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING**

**2ª EDIÇÃO**

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## FOREWORD

This second edition of the book on European Public Sector Accounting was written around 4 years after the first edition, against the backdrop of a span of developments in European politics, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the ongoing war in Ukraine. The crises also led to the fact that the 2019-2024 European Commission did not take any decision regarding a potential implementation of European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS), but it was further postponed to the next election period. In addition, the landscape of public sector accounting and reporting increasingly widened towards non-financial and alternative reporting formats, particularly as a response to demands of the capital markets and due to the global climate change and the need to better address a concept of sustainability that goes beyond financial sustainability. Meanwhile, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) released two new standards, namely IPSAS 43 on *Leases* and IPSAS 44 on *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*, placed several amendments to existing standards, and started projects with regards to for example measurement, revenue, transfer expenses, heritage, infrastructure assets and natural resources. A remarkable consultation of the IPSASB referred to the questions whether there is demand from stakeholders for sustainability reporting guidance and the extent to which the IPSASB should be involved in supporting the process, the priority areas for guidance, and how this might be approached.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipsasb.org/focus-areas/sustainability-reporting>

We tried to capture these developments by amendments and extensions of this second edition of the book. To only name the most prominent changes, a new Chapter 14 has been added, which addresses alternative and non-financial reporting formats. Moreover, the previous Chapters 2 and 3 on public sector accounting history and differences between the public and the private sector have been merged by also drawing more on theory for explaining public sector accounting representations. Also, changes in IPSAS were incorporated by updating Chapter 7 on the IPSASB's conceptual framework and the IPSAS specific Chapters 9 and 10 by now applying IPSAS 42 on *Social Benefits*. Finally, to reflect the developments in the European Union, Chapter 13 on EPSAS has been updated, too.

All these changes also go along with changes in several authors of the chapters, since the former DiEPSAm project that included the first edition was completed. Without receiving any external funding for this second edition, we are very grateful and proud to have met so much support by new authors for 11 out of 14 chapters, so that we are again able to publish this book in open access at no cost. Thus, the textbook second edition does not fit to the videos and other material of the DiEPSAm online course at the platform Offene Universität Rostock as those remain unchanged and linked to the first edition of the book.

The book editors

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