INTRODUCTION

Financial audits exist to add credibility to the implied assertion by an organization's management that its financial statements fairly represent the organization's position and performance to the firm's stakeholders. Financial audits are typically performed by firms of practicing accountants who are experts in financial reporting. The financial audit is one of many assurance functions provided by accounting firms. The principal stakeholders of a company are typically its shareholders, but other parties such as tax authorities, banks, regulators, suppliers, customers and employees may also have an interest in knowing that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material aspects. We will also emphasize the role financial auditors and management play when it comes to Corporate Governance and the main implications and examples of good as opposed to lack of Corporate Governance.

AIMS

This course intends to provide an international and solid perspective about the relevant regulatory requirements with a conceptual and systematic approach to auditing. During the course we will review the major phases of the auditing process and the audit report as its final result. Professional responsibilities and liability of the auditor will be also reviewed as an important part of the auditing process. Case studies will help to understand the role of the auditor and the degree of assurance that financial statements can provide.

Participants will acquire the capacity to understand the main audit procedures and techniques that multinational audit companies are currently applying in its activity of auditing financial statements.

They will learn the main audit procedures for high risk areas in the financial statements of a company considering the Audit Framework and IAS-NIA Regulation: checking inventories valuation audit procedures, subsequent events treatment and going concern valuation. Finally they will get important knowledge about the output work form an auditor: the auditor's report.

METHODOLOGY

Using a combination of class slides and exercises, participants will be given an opportunity to learn and to apply the main audit procedures in the financial statements of a company and to understand the main concepts of Financial Audits. A lecture will be held during the first half of the session and in the second half we will discuss the role of the auditor and the auditing process itself with the help of different case studies, which should be prepared by students prior to the session.

EVALUATION

Each participant will be evaluated based on their knowledge of the specific subject as well as on the quality and consistency of their participation. 70% of the final grade will be based on at least one individual written assignment during the course as well as the final exam. The other 30% will be based on the quality and regularity of their participation.
Even though participants may score a high grade on their participation they will also need to pass the written part of the evaluation in order to get a passing grade on the subject.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Auditing & assurance services / Aasmund Ellifsen ; William F. Messier ; Steven M. Glover ; Douglas F. Prawit . -- New York: McGRAW-HILL, 2010