

## English-language abstracts

### **ESGs and Business Sustainability Assessment: Critical Overview and Perspectives in Greece and Internationally**

*Paraskevi Boufounou, Maria Despoina Argyrou*

The purpose of the article is to highlight the importance of the ESG criteria, both for achieving the goal of sustainable development and for evaluating businesses and investment decisions. The ESG criteria are used to measure the performance of companies on sustainability issues, i.e. how much a company contributes to the pursuit of sustainable development. Furthermore, the use of these criteria is becoming more and more financially important for the companies, as their performance in ESG indicators is increasingly linked to their profitability and ability to raise capital. Hence, this article first explains the basic concepts related to sustainable development, that is, its history, the preconditions for its attainment, as well as the efforts put and financial resources allocated in this direction. Then, the ESG criteria and their usefulness for evaluating companies and investment decisions are presented, by focusing on the private sector and the way companies can contribute to this effort. The final part of the article presents a critical review of the progress towards the adoption of the ESG criteria in Greece.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development, Agenda 2030, SDGs, ESGs, Investment-Financing Evaluation.

### **Evaluation in the face of change: Strategic foresight and evaluation**

*Dimitra Ioannou*

Addressing the global emergency caused by climate change, digital technologies and other global trends, requires fundamental transformations strengthening the resilience of systems and institutions. Over the last few years, policymakers have made significant effort to integrate strategic foresight into their work, particularly in policy domains subject to rapid structural change requiring anticipatory and evidence-based policymaking. In order to increase transition readiness, it is critical to systematically analyse megatrends affecting people's lives and the future of our world. This involves a cross-sectoral approach, but present tools and methodologies for ex-ante impact assessment and ex post policy evaluation would need to be adapted to enable a forward-looking, multidisciplinary approach to change. This also implies that strategic foresight necessitates more pertinent evaluations for decision-making, spanning across policy domains and government divisions. This paper is intended to discuss potential adjustments to evaluation methods that would make policy and programme evaluations more relevant and forward-looking.

**Keywords:** strategic foresight, complexity, evaluation, policymaking.