

The theme of the autumn issue of VBA Journaal is: **The financial analyst of the future**

The world of the financial analyst is in a constant state of flux. The available techniques, the data and the quality and knowledge that are required to add value are changing. Also, the requirements and demands of clients and regulators have changed. Nowadays, analysts have access to a constant flow of information and decades of empirical and academic research. What does this imply for the role of the financial analyst in 2020 and thereafter? It seems that 'only' a traditional Graham-Dodd analysis based on their 1930s classic is no longer good enough. But what is?

We are seeing a host of developments that have an impact on the role of the financial analyst of the future and the requirements that he or she must meet. For a start, companies provide an increasing amount of information in their annual reports and via databases at regulatory authorities, including information about immaterial issues and issues that are not readily quantifiable, such as ESG risks. In recent decades a large amount of new data has become available via the digital world, which can, furthermore, be accessed through various sophisticated techniques and/or providers. In addition to this huge expansion of available data, automation is on the up and up and new advanced analysis techniques are becoming available to financial analysts. The analyst still needs to separate the wheat from the chaff when selecting relevant data and deciding which quantitative techniques to use in order to assess investment opportunities. And finally, the pressure on financial analysts to provide added value has only increased since the implementation of MIFID II. What does this mean for the role and required skills of the financial analyst in 2020 and thereafter?

In this issue we want to focus on the role of the financial analyst of the future. What type and level of knowledge and expertise will be required from analysts and will be essential for future success? And what is the definition of success? We are looking for articles that can make a contribution to this theme.

- New data: more of the same or real added value?
- New quantitative techniques, such as machine learning or artificial intelligence: old wine in new bottles or a new investment perspective?
- The search for future talent: is the financial sector sufficiently progressive as an employer to be able to compete with big tech employers?
- Education: do economic education programmes teach the right skills for the analyst of the future?
- Should history and behavioural psychology take precedence over quantitative skills in the curriculum? Have we not learned anything from the financial crisis?
- Do experience and grey hairs still count for something, when databases contain so much more information than a human brain can store?
- New role for IT: programming is the new writing. What role do IT and data departments play in this new world?
- Benefit: what is the expected added value of the new analyst?
- Knowledge requirements: what do clients and regulators expect from the analyst of the future? What part does (continuing) education play?

By means of this call for papers we invite interested authors to contact the editorial team (secretariaat@cfavba.nl) no later than 30 April 2019. Contributions must be original articles that have not previously been published elsewhere.