



Diversification of services offering: Sustainability

EFAA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

Helena Costa, OCC (Portugal)



Diversification of services offering: Sustainability

Why does sustainability matter?

- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and sustainability (S), ESG&S, became the new key focus areas of business practices
- The world is changing, accounting is changing. Accounting needs to embrace ESG&S as part of its ethos
- Accounting is more than a technical practice; it is also an ethical and social practice

ESG&S strategy that drives real impact isn't just an opportunity — it is already a necessity



Diversification of services offering: Sustainability

What is OCC doing to embrace ESG&S?

- A national congress fully dedicated to the sustainability issues

21-23 September 2022

3 days to discuss at top level with key players **the matters that drive the future**

- The COVID-19 experience has enhanced the perceived value of sustainability and OCC shifted to a more virtual and digital relationship with its members, with less environmental impact:
 - Exclusive online trainings and support to members
 - New training formats, more flexible and adjusted to new working conditions
 - Weekly national meetings to address the pandemic context demands towards accountants
 - New services delivered to members to address new service demands (public grants and incentives at national, regional and local levels)
 - Paperless interactions with members



Diversification of services offering: Sustainability

What is OCC doing to embrace ESG&S?

- In 2022: release of a new governance and conduct code for the members, which addresses sustainability both on social and professional sides:
 - The accountant as a social change agent
 - The accountant as a professional that includes sustainability as part of its service offer: this is in line with the enlargement of accountant service delivery that has been strongly increased during the pandemic
 - Society continues to claim more services from accountants
 - Enhancing accountant skills in financial reporting to serve ESG&S purposes:
 - Data production
 - ESG&S cost & revenue control, forecasting and data analysis
 - Audit and assurance of corporate social reports



Diversification of services offering: Sustainability

What is OCC doing to embrace ESG&S?

- Quality control to include all areas of accountant service delivery, including sustainability
- Community response: public institutions partner with OCC to spread sustainability projects and engage business community for the relevance of ESG&S matters

Accountants have a good knowledge of business. The key is for them to use this knowledge to drive change in business operations, using their skills to measure and understand what is happening



Thank you!