# **Deloitte.**



2024 Transparency Report Deloitte Audit OOD

Date published 30 April 2025



## Contents

Deloitte Audit OOD leadership message	2
Deloitte network	3
Deloitte Audit & Assurance: Our commitment to serving the public interest	6
External and internal quality monitoring	21
Independence, ethics, and additional disclosures	23
Appendices	27
Appendix A   EU EEA audit firms	28
Appendix B   Financial information	30
Appendix C   Public interest entities	31

# Deloitte Audit OOD leadership message<sup>1</sup>

This report sets out the practices and processes that are currently employed by Deloitte Audit OOD, in accordance with the requirements of the European Union's Regulation 537/2014 on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities, and Article 62 of the Independent Financial Audit and Assurance of Sustainability Reporting Act of the Republic of Bulgaria ("IFAASRA") (Promulgated SG No. 10195/29.11.2016, effective 3.12.2016, as amended from time to time).

All information provided in this report relates to the situation of Deloitte Audit OOD on 31 December 2024, except if indicated otherwise.



#### To our clients and stakeholders:

Delivering high quality audit and assurance services with integrity and ethical behavior remains our top priority. We take pride in our quality-first culture and dedication to professional excellence as we fulfil our purpose to strengthen trust and transparency in capital markets.

The significance of the role we play in protecting the investing public has intensified in the face of evolving regulations, technology advancements and macroeconomic influences. In response, we remain committed to continuously improving and transforming our business to further enhance quality, achieve client service excellence and provide a talent experience that offers opportunities to our people to grow their skills and capabilities.

Our teams embody our strategy by leveraging a risk-based and data-driven approach to auditing paired with cutting-edge technology. Deloitte Omnia and Deloitte Levvia, our audit delivery platforms, have suites of capabilities designed to be future-focused, meeting the evolving needs of our teams and clients, and showcase this commitment by offering digital solutions for engagements of varying sizes and complexities. By incorporating advanced technologies, such as Generative AI, we are able to accelerate processes and empower our people to focus on high-value activities that drive quality.

The 2024 Transparency Report provides an in-depth look at our structure, governance, and approach to delivering high-quality audit and assurance services-all of which is supported by our robust system of quality monitoring. We publish this report annually to provide disclosure on certain categories of information required by the Bulgarian legislation and European Union standards related to corporate governance and transparency. We welcome the opportunity to provide this information about our business and our commitment to the public interest with a broader group of stakeholders.

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the way we are strengthening our culture of quality, sustaining our commitment to ethics and integrity, and continuing to set the standard of excellence for our profession.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Peneva

**Country Managing Partner and Statutory Manager** 

**Deloitte Audit OOD** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Throughout this report, the terms "Deloitte, we, us, and our" refer to one or more of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, its network of member firms, and their related entities. For more information about the Deloitte network, please see page 3 or About the network (deloitte.com).

## Deloitte network

#### **Deloitte Audit OOD: legal structure and ownership**

Deloitte Audit OOD is connected to the Deloitte network through Deloitte Central Europe Holdings Limited, a member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited. Deloitte Central Europe Holdings Limited, together with Deloitte France, Deloitte Germany, Deloitte Luxembourg, Deloitte Austria, Deloitte Portugal and Deloitte Turkey, is a shareholder in Deloitte DCE GmbH ("DCE"), which is as well a member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited. The object of DCE is fostering collaboration among its shareholders as members of the global Deloitte network. DCE neither provides any professional services nor engages in commercial activities.

Deloitte Audit OOD is referred to throughout this report as "Deloitte Bulgaria". Deloitte Central Europe, as an organization of entities organized under the umbrella of Deloitte Central Europe Holdings Limited, is referred to throughout this report as Deloitte Central Europe". Deloitte Central Europe Holdings Limited holds practice rights to provide professional services using the "Deloitte" name which it extends to Deloitte entities within its territory, including Deloitte Bulgaria. Deloitte Bulgaria is authorized to serve as an auditor for clients in the Republic of Bulgaria. It is a member of the Bulgarian Institute of the Certified Public Accountants and registered as an audit firm in the Register of the Registered Auditors, maintained by the Commission for Public Oversight of Statutory Auditors, with Audit license No. 0033.

Deloitte Bulgaria operates as a limited liability company, established under the Bulgarian law, with registered office at 4 "Mihail Tenev" Str., 1784 Sofia, Bulgaria and registration number 121145199 at the Commercial Register and Register of Non-Profit Entities at the Registry Agency.

Deloitte Bulgaria's main scope of activity is independent financial audit of financial statements of enterprises, sustainability assurance engagements, consultations and other services related to the independent financial audit and sustainability assurance, bookkeeping, and preparation of annual, interim and other financial reports in compliance with the Accountancy Act, implementation of auditing and accounting software, as well as other activities that are not prohibited by the law.

Deloitte Bulgaria does not have registered branches in the country or abroad.

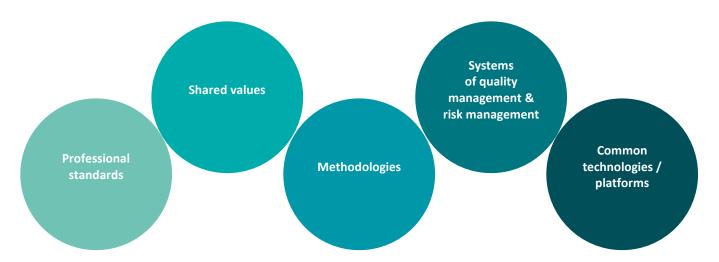
As of 31.12.2024 and as of the date of this report, Deloitte Bulgaria has a registered capital of BGN 5,000 /five thousand Bulgarian leva/ which is divided in 500 shares, each amounting to BGN 10 /ten Bulgarian leva/, distributed between its shareholders as follows:

- 248 shares representing 49.6% of the share capital belong to Deloitte Central Europe Holdings Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Cyprus;
- 126 shares representing 25.2% of the share capital belong to Ms. Sylvia Peneva, a registered auditor; and
- 126 shares representing 25.2% of the share capital belong to Mr. Ahmed Hassan, a registered auditor.

### **Network description**

The Deloitte network

The Deloitte network (also known as the Deloitte organization) is DTTL, a globally connected network of DTTL member firms and their respective related entities operating in more than 150 countries and territories across the world. These separate and independent member firms operate under a common brand.



## **Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (DTTL or Deloitte Global)**

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. DTTL serves a coordinating role for its member firms and their respective related entities and establishes policies and protocols with the objective of promoting a consistently high level of quality, professional conduct, and service across the Deloitte network. DTTL does not provide services to clients and does not direct, manage, or control any member firm or any of their respective related entities.

"Deloitte" is the brand under which approximately 460,000 dedicated professionals and practitioners in independent member firms (or their respective related entities) throughout the world collaborate to provide audit and assurance, consulting, financial advisory, risk advisory, tax, and related services to select clients. These member firms are members of DTTL. DTTL, these member firms and each of their respective related entities form the Deloitte organization. Each DTTL member firm and/or its related entities provides services in particular geographic areas and is subject to the laws and professional regulations of the country or countries in which it operates. Each DTTL member firm is structured in accordance with national laws, regulations, customary practice, and other factors, and may secure the provision of professional services in its respective territories through related entities. Not every DTTL member firm or its related entities provides all services, and certain services may not be available to audit and assurance clients under the rules and regulations applicable to audit firms. DTTL, and each DTTL member firm and each of its related entities, are legally separate and independent, cannot obligate or bind any other, and are liable only for their own acts and omissions, and not those of any other. The Deloitte organization is a global network of independent firms and not a partnership or a single firm. DTTL does not provide services to clients.

### Deloitte Bulgaria: governance – leadership in action

Deloitte Bulgaria's Statutory Managers are responsible for the governance and oversight of the Audit & Assurance practice. Specific responsibilities include approving audit and assurance business strategy in Bulgaria and approving the financial aspects of business plans in Bulgaria.

As of 31.12.2024 and as of the date of this report, the following are the Statutory Managers of Deloitte Bulgaria who were appointed by the General Meeting of the Shareholders for an indefinite period of time:

Deloitte Bulgaria Statutory Managers		
Sylvia Peneva		
Desislava Dinkova		
Rositsa Boteva		

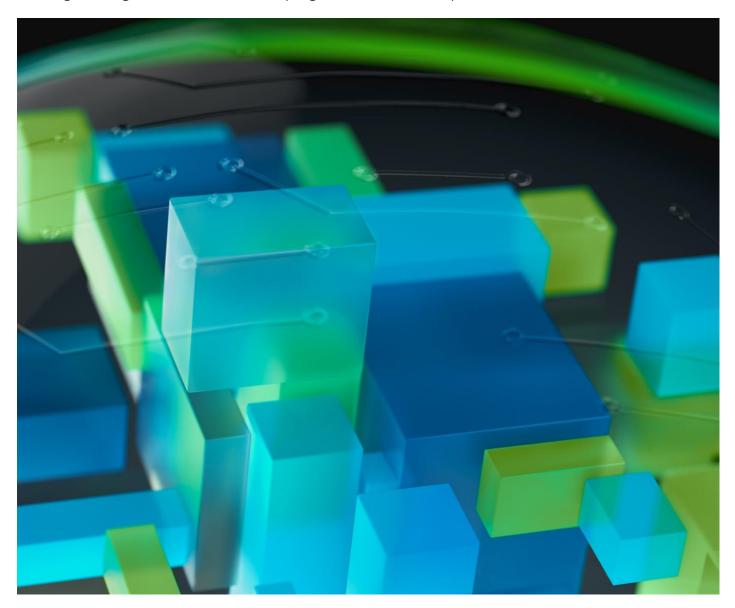
Desislava Dinkova is appointed by Deloitte Bulgaria as Partner in Charge (PIC) of the Audit & Assurance practice in Bulgaria.

Desislava Dinkova and senior management develop and implement the strategy for the Audit & Assurance practice in Bulgaria, including related policies and procedures. In all their activities, Deloitte Bulgaria senior leaders are responsible for the overarching objective of audit quality, including compliance with applicable professional standards and regulatory requirements. Deloitte Bulgaria strategy is developed in alignment with the overall strategic direction established for the Deloitte network. Deloitte Bulgaria Audit & Assurance leaders participate in Deloitte network groups that set and monitor quality standards, and from which a number of quality and risk initiatives emanate.

The registered auditors who have signed auditor's reports on behalf of Deloitte Audit OOD in 2024 are as follows: Sylvia Peneva, Desislava Dinkova, Rositsa Boteva, Milka Damianova (no longer employed by Deloitte Bulgaria) and Emil Badov. In addition, the following registered auditors employed by Deloitte Audit OOD have not signed auditor's reports on behalf of Deloitte Audit OOD in 2024: Iskra Ivanova, Plamena Yovchevska and Ignat Angelov.

# Our purpose and commitment: instilling trust and confidence

At Deloitte Bulgaria, our purpose is to make an impact that goes beyond the expected. For Audit & Assurance, this means constantly evolving audit and assurance processes, leveraging leading-edge technology, applying a diversity of skillsets, knowledge, and experience to deliver high-quality services. We take great pride in instilling confidence and trust in the capital markets and are committed to relentlessly raising the standards of quality and always acting with integrity, independence, and transparency. We are continuously building our capabilities to support the delivery of high-quality audit and assurance engagements and making leading contributions to shaping the future of the profession.



# Deloitte Audit & Assurance: Our commitment to serving the public interest

## A focus on quality

Deloitte's commitment to quality permeates everything we do. The independent audit is a central element of the corporate reporting ecosystem, in place to enhance the confidence and trust of investors and other stakeholders, as well as to promote the effective functioning of the capital markets. Deloitte is keenly aware of our obligation to deliver audit and assurance services that meet the challenges and complexities of the current environment, while complying with professional and regulatory standards. For the corporate reporting ecosystem to function as intended, it is vital that the auditor's role be executed effectively.

Deloitte is committed to doing more than simply meeting regulatory requirements and conforming to expectations. Deloitte aims to go beyond the expected to set the standard of excellence for the profession. In keeping with that objective, our commitment to quality is unequivocal.

## **Deloitte Global leadership**

The Deloitte Global Audit & Assurance Executive, which includes the Audit & Assurance Business Leaders from the larger member firms is led by Jean-Marc Mickeler, the Deloitte Global Audit & Assurance Business Leader. His responsibilities include working with the member firms to define and drive the global Audit & Assurance strategy, with a particular focus on:

- Driving key audit and assurance initiatives across the Deloitte network to accomplish quality outcomes.
- Leading transformational initiatives to innovate the way our audit and assurance engagements are executed to meet the evolving needs of our stakeholders.

## The company we keep

As part of Deloitte's Audit & Assurance commitment to supporting the capital markets, we are focused on engaging with entities where it serves the public interest and where we have the capabilities

to perform quality work objectively and in compliance with applicable professional standards and laws and regulations, including those relating to ethics and independence.

The company we keep is a critical foundational aspect of our Audit & Assurance strategy and global shared values that guide our behavior to lead the way, serve with integrity, take care of each other, foster inclusion, and collaborate for measurable impact. Our audit and assurance portfolio risk appetite statement serves as the foundation for the company we keep. The risk appetite statement can be used as a tool to promote robust discussion of risk, and as a basis upon which acceptance and continuance decisions can be debated and challenged effectively and credibly. The statement as shown below sets the tone for our risk culture and aims to drive consistency in the engagement acceptance and continuance decision making

Deloitte's Audit & Assurance portfolio risk appetite underpins our purpose led agenda and reinforces our Principles of Business Conduct, which articulate the standards to which we hold ourselves, wherever in the world we live and work, in order to build and maintain a sustainable business for current and future generations.

Consistent with our commitment to purpose and to act in the public interest, we recognize that taking on a degree of risk is a natural consequence of doing business. In order to deliver high-quality audit and assurance services, we proactively identify and manage risk through our quality management processes, policies, and procedures to make informed decisions aligned to our strategy and values.

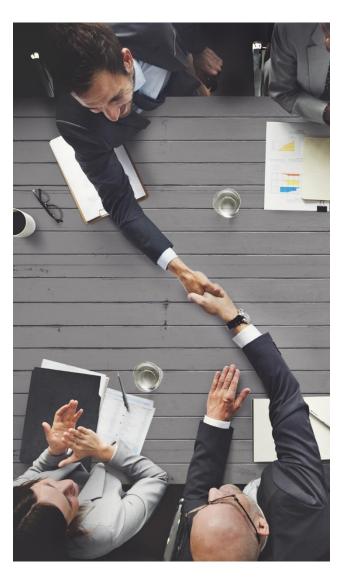
We aspire to have a portfolio of clients that aligns with our shared values, respects our people, recognizes emerging issues and societal responsibilities, and is committed to providing transparency to stakeholders in the corporate reporting ecosystem. We endeavor to have a portfolio that does not include clients that lack integrity, engage in illegal activities, disregard the authenticity of financial accounting and reporting, or are unwilling to establish and maintain sufficient internal controls and related processes.

Deloitte Bulgaria has detailed policies and procedures in place for the acceptance of prospective clients, the continuance of existing engagements, and the assessment of engagement risk. These policies and procedures are designed with the objective that Deloitte Bulgaria will only accept or continue with engagements where it:

- Is able to perform the engagement and has the capabilities, including time and resources, to do so.
- Can comply with all relevant professional standards and laws and regulations, including those relating to ethics, independence, and conflicts of interest assessments and considerations.
- Considers the client's management team to act with integrity and in alignment with our shared values.

## Fewer, stronger member firms

Within the Deloitte member firm structure, Deloitte Bulgaria is part of the Deloitte Central Europe Holdings Limited member firm. As a locally registered and regulated audit firm in Bulgaria, we have decision-making authority regarding regulatory matters and professional obligations and maintain ultimate responsibility for the execution of audit and assurance services in accordance with professional standards and local laws and regulations. Deloitte Bulgaria is responsible for maintaining and operating an effective system of quality management to support the performance of high-quality audit and assurance engagements. As a member of a combined firm within the Deloitte network, we work in close cooperation with the other geographies in Deloitte Central Europe Holdings Limited member firm and benefit from additional oversight of quality, risk management, and monitoring activities. This structure fosters shared investment in innovation and resources as well as the sharing of leading practices across geographies, driving standardization and consistency across the audit and assurance business and contributing to our collective aspirations of continuous improvement in quality.



Our people's commitment to integrity, to serve the public interest, and to deliver high-quality assurance over the areas that matter most to our stakeholders is at the core of everything we do.

Our unwavering dedication to quality drives our sustained quality leadership position. We remain focused on excellence across people, process, and technology. Each of these core components helps us to deliver our vision for a better future, creating an impact that goes beyond expectations.

What does this look like? A constantly evolving audit and assurance practice, leveraging bright minds, effective processes, and world-class technologies from across our organization while drawing on our years of experience. We deliver high-quality services in an efficient and effective way that upholds integrity, builds confidence, and drives value by focusing on what really matters.

The Audit & Assurance transformation and change strategy is focused on the following outcomes:

Transform and technology-enable A&A execution to harness the power of innovation

Continuously evolve
Deloitte's A&A
products to respond to
future stakeholder
needs

Transform the talent experience including the use of extended delivery models Support our people through transformation and change consistently across the globe

## Delivering excellence through process, people, and technology transformation<sup>2</sup>

With The Deloitte Way, Deloitte is bringing standardization, consistency, and efficiency to drive quality into the core of how our engagements are executed: with automation that improves routine tasks and analytics that support audit execution—yielding a deeper and more insightful view into the available data. As a result, we are improving the quality of the services we deliver while also creating a richer talent experience for our people and clients.

Innovation and technology enablement are an expectation in today's fast-changing world, and this expectation holds true for the profession as well. Today's complex business environment requires that the audit and assurance we deliver is dynamic, multidimensional, and insightful. There is a demand for real-time, relevant information, and we are evolving our audit and assurance services as Deloitte clients innovate their businesses and processes. Leveraging evolving technology and data, Deloitte delivers deeper insights to create more consistent and transparent audit and assurance for our stakeholders.

Deloitte is committed to the continued investment in emerging technologies and diversity of thought that enables the delivery of enhanced quality, insights, and value to our clients and the markets. Deloitte's global audit platforms, Deloitte Omnia and Deloitte Levvia, demonstrate our commitment to delivering digital, high-quality engagements of all sizes and levels of complexity. Deloitte Omnia is our cloud-based, end-to-end delivery platform for large and complex engagements, while Deloitte Levvia delivers a streamlined, right-sized digital experience for low risk, less complex entities. Ongoing enhancement and global deployment of both platforms are well underway and will continue as we embed further innovation for a differentiated client and auditor experience.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For more information about Deloitte audit innovation, please refer to Deloitte <u>Global Impact Report</u> and <u>Audit innovation</u> and <u>Audit & Assurance: the Deloitte</u> way pages on Deloitte.com.

### Deloitte A&A's GenAl strategy

Deloitte A&A is continuing to invest in artificial intelligence innovation, and we have already made significant progress on transforming the delivery of our work with our innovative technologies, Deloitte Omnia and Deloitte Levvia. We are focused on ethical and responsible use of GenAI for both clients and our people:

- Within the entities we audit, we are evaluating the impact of AI implementation on financial reporting and other disclosures, as well as the entity's assessment and response to AI-related risks (including related internal controls). We expect that companies will begin to adopt and incorporate AI into their business processes, and we will be ready to consider any relevant implications to the financial reporting processes.
- We are assessing how we can use Gen Al in our audits and remain focused on harnessing the power of cognitive technologies within our Deloitte Omnia and Deloitte Levvia platforms. We have several solutions in use today already using Al. Going forward, we believe Gen Al will further support our auditors in delivering high quality audits including supporting further risksensing, identification of potential issues, and automation of certain processes. Professional skepticism and the skill set that we rely on as auditors today will however continue to be critical to responsible use and evaluation of Al, specifically Gen Al.
- Finally, we are investing heavily in learning and development for Deloitte A&A practitioners and professionals, training them on the impact of Gen AI, its risks, limitations, and expectations about how to use Gen AI effectively on their engagements.

## Sustainability reporting<sup>3</sup>

The foundations of business are changing rapidly—long-term resiliency and the ability to create enduring value is directly linked to alignment with the values and expectations of society. Market participants and other stakeholders are calling for greater insight into how organizations are building, protecting, and enhancing enterprise value over time, and are specifically demanding enhanced transparency around climate-related and broader environmental, social, and governance (ESG) impacts and the dependencies of an entity's business model and strategy.

Specifically, Deloitte recognizes that climate change poses a risk to financial stability and impacts businesses in many sectors with increased disclosure and reporting expectations from various stakeholders. Deloitte's audit approach is designed to promote consistent and appropriate consideration of climate related risks and opportunities that enable a deeper understanding of potential impacts of climate change on the financial statements to enable evaluation and well documented conclusions. We continue to emphasize this with our people through learnings, guidance, and other resources.

The evolution from traditional financial reporting to broader corporate reporting is happening at pace, with significant standard-setting activity driving companies to ready themselves for new or enhanced disclosure requirements. The IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards published by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) create a global baseline for sustainability reporting. Other jurisdictions have passed their own corporate reporting requirements, notably the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which mandates reporting in accordance with European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and has significant extraterritorial reach, and the US SEC's climate disclosure rule, which requires registrants to disclose climate related risks. Deloitte is a strong advocate for enhanced sustainability reporting and recognizes the important role we play in raising awareness of these new requirements through active stakeholder engagement.

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  For more information about Deloitte's alignment with sustainability reporting, please refer to Deloitte <u>Global Impact Report</u>.

Corporate reporting standards and regulatory requirements are intended to drive better connectivity between financial and non-financial reporting and to help users of corporate disclosures better understand and compare information about entities. To be effective, these standards need to enable corporate reporting that is comparable, based on a global baseline, and supplemented by local considerations where warranted. Given the comprehensive nature of certain sustainability reporting requirements and the pace at which it has been developed, further guidance and interpretation is needed in the marketplace to support both preparers and users of the information. As these standards are brought into regulation around the world, so too are the associated enforcement, monitoring, governance and controls, assurance, and training mechanisms. It is critical that the entire sustainability reporting ecosystem—including standard-setters, policy makers, and regulators—work together to limit fragmentation in support of consistent, comparable disclosures.

The developments in standard-setting and rulemaking make clear that information in financial reporting and information contained in sustainability reporting together are essential inputs to inform a stakeholder's view of an entity's value. Therefore, there is a growing demand for companies to integrate climate-related and other ESG considerations into internal control policies and procedures, enhancing the maturity of systems, processes, and governance over climate-related and other ESG information. Those charged with governance (e.g., audit committees, boards) are increasingly incorporating ESG considerations in their oversight responsibilities of an organization's management, its reporting, and their data-collection processes and controls.

Deloitte understands that given the increased risks associated with climate change, it is important for climate-related factors to be properly incorporated into corporate reporting. Today some stakeholders' expectations may not be met by financial statements prepared in accordance with current accounting frameworks. As corporate reporting continues to evolve and stakeholders accommodate and adapt to market shifts and public sentiment, it is important to allow for appropriate due process to develop robust standards applied consistently across the globe and to drive reporting that is responsive to the growing asks of investors and other stakeholders.

Deloitte remains committed to engaging in meaningful and transparent conversations with investors, standard-setters, regulators, and other relevant stakeholders. We continue to support reduced standard and regulatory fragmentation and look forward to greater market confidence as consistency in standards is realized globally.

#### **Assurance**

With the heightened focus and scrutiny of ESG reporting also comes the need for confidence over the quality of disclosures in the form of independent assurance. Assurance over sustainability reporting is increasingly becoming mandatory, as demonstrated by the corporate reporting regulations passed in the European Union that require limited assurance with an expectation to move to reasonable assurance in future years.

The growing demand for sustainability assurance highlights the importance of professional standards that enable consistent, high-quality execution globally. Deloitte is supportive of the IAASB's work to develop a global sustainability assurance standard, ISSA 5000, i.e., as a global baseline for sustainability assurance. Widespread adoption of ISSA 5000 is critical to avoid the undue complexity and cost associated with fragmented assurance standards.

Deloitte is well positioned to deliver high quality assurance on ESG information. As auditors, we uphold the core tenets of integrity, credibility, and objectivity and abide by professional requirements regarding competence, independence, and systems of quality management. Our audit work and related systems are subject to oversight and inspection as well as professional liability mechanisms to ensure that credible assurance is delivered to the market.

Below are specific actions that Deloitte is undertaking to support execution of high-quality assurance that appropriately addresses both voluntary ESG reporting and mandatory reporting requirements:

- Developing and enhancing guidance for performing ESG assurance through Deloitte's global sustainability assurance methodology, which includes supplemental guidance for specific sustainability reporting standards and frameworks. In particular, we have supplemented our global ESG assurance methodology with guidance, tools, and templates specific the performance of limited assurance over CSRD sustainability reporting.
- Building capacity through global and localized learning focused on ESG.
- Developing and starting to deploy technology-enabled solutions, such as a tool to evaluate a company's

sustainability disclosures against common ESG standards.

- Engaging in shaping the capital market infrastructure for sustainability reporting tied to enterprise value through collaboration on climate and ESG standard setting, reporting, and assurance initiatives, such as the IFRS Foundation, the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA).
- Actively participating in various global platforms such as the World Economic Forum and the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28).

Deloitte supports the continued collaboration of all participants in the corporate reporting ecosystem, working together to develop and implement common standards upon which to measure, disclose, and ultimately assure ESG information.

#### **Deloitte's commitment**

Further, to help the world achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement<sup>4</sup>, Deloitte is committed to WorldClimate, a strategy to drive responsible climate choices within the Deloitte network and beyond.

Refer to the upcoming issuance of the 2024 Deloitte Global Impact Report for the complete report on this important initiative.

overarching goal is to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The <u>Paris Agreement</u> is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 parties at the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015 and was entered into force on 4 November 2016. Per the UN, its

## Multidisciplinary model (MDM)

Deloitte's MDM brings the breadth and depth of services across Deloitte's businesses, connecting many different disciplines to provide expertise and broad perspective. The MDM is a core strength of Deloitte and will remain the foundation of our strategy. Our current strategy and business model have a positive impact on quality.

Specifically, the scope of corporate reporting is expanding and transforming considerably every day with the emerging voluntary and mandatory disclosure requirements around ESG, cyber, Al, data privacy, and more. Deloitte prides itself on having a deep bench of independent specialists who can be deployed around the world on audit and assurance engagements to provide subject matter expertise and new, insightful perspectives.

## Other strengths of the MDM include:

- The possibility to develop industry or thematic insights (e.g., climate, governance, corporate strategy, etc.)
   through multiple lenses, which enhances auditors' understanding of business risks relevant to conducting audit and assurance services.
- The breadth of the MDM creates richer career paths and mobility for our people making the business attractive to candidates who may not want to limit their career options to providing audit and assurance services only.
- The scale of the MDM brings greater resilience to each Deloitte business line, including audit and assurance, allowing continued investment in technology, methodology, and process to support delivery of high-quality, cross-border services.

Deloitte leadership recognizes that each Deloitte business line is important and critical to the organization's ability to deliver on its public interest responsibilities. Management's attention and investment allocation are not limited to the business lines with the highest growth rates.

Deloitte acknowledges the possibility and perception of conflicts of interest, and therefore has robust conflicts and independence policies and systems to help ensure that Deloitte's strategy is executed in alignment with regulatory and professional requirements. In some areas, Deloitte policies are more stringent than professional standards, laws, or regulations.

While we are always evaluating ways to improve Deloitte's ability to deliver on our public interest mandate, we remain confident that Deloitte's MDM and our shared purpose and values make us well-positioned to navigate future challenges while continuing to lead with quality.

## Shaping the future of the profession

The provision of relevant and reliable financial and, increasingly, non-financial information is critical to both the capital markets and broader society. Policy makers, regulators, investors, company directors, audit committees, and auditors all have an important role so that users of corporate information have a clear and robust picture of uncertainties and risks in a company's business model to help support their informed decision making.

Uncertainty and complexity are set to remain a central theme over the coming years, driven by heightened global challenges and the rapid advancement of technology.

In today's environment, a sharpened awareness regarding the heightened risk of fraud, the presence of emerging or evolving risk factors, and the need for effective internal control environments remains critical. Although the existing accounting frameworks have provisions for uncertainties, financial statement users and regulators should continue to expect a high degree of market and economic volatility in the near term.

Deloitte has consistently welcomed public statements and guidance issued by regulators that recognize uncertainties and emphasize the importance of high-quality, forward-looking corporate disclosures. Greater transparency benefits the public, just as raising awareness about these issues, especially when all corporate reporting ecosystem stakeholders participate. More clarity about the unique and complementary responsibilities of management, audit committees, entities, auditors, regulators, and other stakeholders enables the investing public to hold accountable theses parties in a way that effectively serves the public interest.

The value of high-quality audit and assurance services is not diminished in the midst of global unrest. Rather, investors and other stakeholders continue to call for professional services based on independence and objectivity-based principles and practices to engender trust and inspire confidence in the capital markets—and Deloitte is committed to leading the way.

Deloitte Bulgaria's commitment to serving the public interest—especially as it relates to behaving according to the highest standards of ethics, integrity, independence, and transparency is steadfast. Deloitte is keenly aware of the gravity of responsibility that comes with meeting professional obligations and discharging its role as

auditors within the corporate reporting ecosystem globally. The following principles remain at the forefront and are continuously reinforced with Audit & Assurance practitioners:

- Exercise professional skepticism and due professional care.
- Critically evaluate the quality of audit evidence obtained and determine whether it is sufficient and appropriate to address relevant risks.
- Make well-reasoned professional judgments supported by clear documentation.
- Foster a culture of excellence and consultation.
- Demonstrate commitment to integrity and ethical behavior, including compliance with regulatory and professional obligations.
- Stay connected and support one another.

Deloitte is committed to establishing a meaningful vision for the future of the profession which addresses the shifting needs of society.

We are continually innovating to improve our effectiveness through technology, data, and ways of working. In parallel, the role of audit and assurance in the corporate reporting ecosystem, its responsibility to act in the public interest, and its evolving contribution to societal value remains at the forefront of our work in this area. Through proactive engagement with a range of stakeholders, we seek to understand today's rapidly developing issues faced by society (e.g., ESG, cyber, AI, data privacy, etc.) and the role that audit and assurance can play in responding and driving change for the better.

We strive to engage with these parties, both formally and informally, to share, offer, and debate ideas that foster our collective ambition to ensure the ongoing and growing relevance of audit and assurance to the capital markets.

# Professional development and performance management

Deloitte's culture of excellence and the design of learning programs place people at the forefront<sup>5</sup>. Deloitte practitioners are technically proficient with high levels of ethics, integrity, professional skepticism, and objectivity, applying their judgment and experience with passion and commitment. We are continuously enhancing our skillsets, knowledge, and experience to go beyond the expected and deliver meaningful impact.

Deloitte is committed to delivering an unrivalled talent experience, developing practitioners, and furthering their careers by creating a life-long learning environment—advancing education, skillsets, and flexible career options that appeal to auditors of today and tomorrow.

Deloitte practitioners bring diverse backgrounds, knowledge, and skills that enhance capabilities as an organization in delivering the highest quality. We support and empower our people to achieve their full potential by valuing and demonstrating diversity, equity, inclusion, and wellbeing.

Deloitte recognizes and rewards its Audit & Assurance practitioners and professionals and makes meaningful investments in their futures.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For more information about Deloitte's commitment to its people, please refer to <u>Audit & Assurance People page</u> on Deloitte.com.

### **Learning and development initiatives**

Deloitte's transformed approach to delivery is changing the experience for practitioners. Teams are empowered by advanced tools and technologies and more extensive use of data and analytics within a guided workflow to execute the end-to-end audit. For Deloitte practitioners, this means focusing on how the engagement is planned, executed, and managed consistently across the globe using our innovative techniques and capabilities. It also offers opportunities to enhance their technical and professional skillsets and competencies. For example, the following skills remain as important as ever—enhanced data analytics, project management, critical thinking, communication, professional judgment, and the application of accounting and auditing principles to work more effectively and deliver high-quality engagements. As capabilities and skillsets are enhanced, we build greater confidence and become ever-better evaluators of risk.

Deloitte has made substantial investments in talent and learning strategies and transformed the technical curriculum to build the refreshed skillsets and proficiency required by level:

- At the core, Deloitte has a single, mandatory audit technical learning curriculum, tailored for learners by level, using a dynamic blend of live instructor-led, digital on-demand courses, and on-the-job activities.
- All client service practitioners are required to follow
  the firm's learning requirements for their roles and
  complete sufficient continuing professional education
  (CPE) each year and over a cyclical three-year period
  to ensure both compliance with regulatory standards
  and Deloitte internal policies. This is achieved through
  structured, formal learning programs, such as internal
  or external courses, seminars, or e-learning covering
  all areas of the competency model (e.g., shared
  competencies, function-specific technical
  competencies, and competencies in areas of
  specialization).
- All client service practitioners have clearly defined role expectations and Talent Standards which outline the capabilities that are required of practitioners at each level.

Deloitte has also established specific learning opportunities for specialists working on engagements to support their knowledge and understanding. In addition, our assurance learning offering is being expanded to respond to emerging business needs.

The objective of the Deloitte Bulgaria professional development program is to help partners and practitioners maintain and enhance their professional competence and ensure consistency of execution. To supplement on-the-job development, Deloitte Bulgaria provides formal continuing professional development programs in relevant subject areas consistent with the Deloitte Global Audit & Assurance Curriculum.

Each of the Deloitte Bulgaria Audit professionals goes through a mandatory annual professional classroom training, according to the level of expertise. The aim of each session is to provide learners with a range of experiences that builds on the knowledge and skills, required when working on audit engagements. Since the talent development is considered as a main priority of the leadership of Deloitte Bulgaria, the attendance is strictly monitored by the highly experienced facilitators during each professional training.

A significant career milestone of the talent development in Deloitte is focused on the professional qualifications ICAEW and ACCA. In order to assure a high-quality service to our clients, each Audit team member holds or pursues one of the abovementioned prestigious certification diplomas.

The established talent development curriculum in Deloitte is based on programs developed and delivered by the global Talent Models. This includes number of training sessions recommended by the global business selection criteria. Such trainings are invaluable method of developing not only technical knowledge, but a deep understanding of the decision making and team management and coaching processes.

## **Deloitte University**

Deloitte actively cultivates the collective knowledge and skills of Deloitte people globally through continued investment in Deloitte Universities (DU), the cornerstone of our organization's commitment to leadership development and technical training for Deloitte people around the world. These are state-of-the-art learning and development centers focused on Deloitte culture and founded in the principles of connectedness and leadership in a highly inclusive learning environment<sup>6</sup>. Since opening the Westlake, Texas location in 2011, we've launched

 $<sup>^6</sup>$  For more information about Deloitte Universities, please refer to Deloitte  $\underline{\text{Global}}$   $\underline{\text{Impact Report}}.$ 

additional facilities in Brussels, Hyderabad, Mexico City, Paris, Singapore, and Toronto, and have a new site under construction in Beijing. Being together for "moments that matter" is critical as we develop the next generation of leaders, as well as create—and strengthen—the connections that are so important to succeeding in a global organization serving multinational clients.

## Audit & Assurance Leadership appointments

Critical Audit & Assurance leadership roles are clearly defined. A role profile and key performance indicator framework provide a basis for consistent leadership appointments and evaluations across the Deloitte Audit & Assurance network and align member firm and Deloitte Global Audit & Assurance strategic objectives. Deloitte has introduced globally consistent standards for member firm Audit & Assurance leaders, including Audit & Assurance Business Leaders, Audit & Assurance Quality Leaders, and Audit & Assurance Risk Leaders through clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and expected success outcomes. These inform objective setting and evaluation processes and reinforce Deloitte's culture of quality and excellence. Robust monitoring of succession planning helps ensure Deloitte is developing and appointing the appropriate individuals with the capabilities to achieve these consistent standards.

#### Remuneration

Execution of high-quality is expected from all practitioners and is embedded across the Deloitte network. This is recognized through reward and recognition programs and is built into performance standards at every level, against which practitioners' overall evaluations are measured.

Deloitte Bulgaria's partners are evaluated on a yearly basis, and depending on the outcome of the evaluation, the remuneration of partners may increase or decrease. Specifically, partner evaluations take the following factors into account: quality evidenced through positive practice review or external inspection results, expertise, integrity, professionalism, entrepreneurship, independence and compliance.

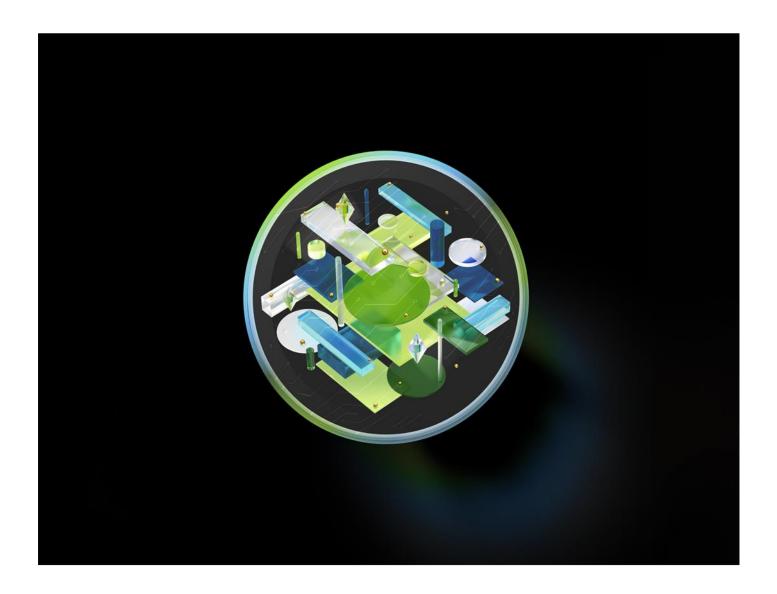
#### Attraction and retention

The current environment for talent is extremely competitive and attraction and retention of our people is a strategic priority for Deloitte. Deloitte is focused on transforming the Audit & Assurance talent experience, including reimagining the ways of working to improve retention and further advance the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and wellbeing of Deloitte people. We are looking at opportunities to collectively expand the talent experience. This focus on our people and retention of top talent enhances Deloitte's ability to deliver high-quality.

Deloitte continues to receive recognition and awards across the globe for its commitment to delivering an unrivalled talent experience for its people <u>Awards and recognition</u> | Deloitte Global.

## Deloitte's priority focus on quality

Deloitte's commitment to quality is central to everything we do. We consistently deliver on this commitment by instilling a culture of quality, integrity, and excellence across the network, establishing business and financial priorities, and developing effective processes, tools, and technologies applied in the execution of engagements. Deloitte's brand is defined by the high-quality audit and assurance services delivered and by the unwavering commitment to continuous improvement of our systems of quality management. Keeping pace with emerging economic, business, and regulatory conditions, as well as technological advances, is critical to the continual enhancement of Deloitte's role in protecting the public interest and supporting the effective functioning of the corporate reporting ecosystem.



## Leadership commitment and tone at the top

Deloitte's culture of quality, integrity, and excellence begins with a strong tone from the top—from senior leadership through to the leaders in all our offices and audit and assurance engagements. This commitment is demonstrated through the direct involvement of leaders in initiatives emphasizing that quality and professional behavior is the highest priority for audit and assurance practitioners at all levels and consistent messaging that reinforces the importance placed on executing high-quality engagements. Deloitte sets high ethical standards for the conduct of all its professionals and embeds integrity expectations into the Deloitte Global Principles of Business Conduct.

Deloitte's relentless pursuit of quality defines not just what we do, but who we are.

## System of quality management (SQM)

Deloitte believes an effective SQM is crucial for the consistent performance of high-quality engagements, and we continue to make significant investments in our people, processes, and technologies that underlie Deloitte's quality management processes.

Regulators and standard setters in Bulgaria and globally are also focused on the effectiveness and continued improvements in firms' SQMs. Deloitte Bulgaria complies with ISQM 1 which requires annual evaluation of the SQM.

ISQM 1 introduces a risk-based approach to the SQM that require firms to respond to quality objectives and risks to our ability to execute high-quality audits in the following areas:

- The firm's risk assessment process;
- Governance and leadership;
- Relevant ethical requirements;
- Acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements;
- Engagement performance;
- Resources;
- Information and communication; and
- The monitoring and remediation process.

The effective implementation of ISQM 1 has been and remains a key element of Deloitte's audit and assurance quality strategy.

As part of the implementation of ISQM 1, quality objectives, quality risks and responses were formalized and brought together in a globally consistent technology platform to facilitate the design and maintenance of the system, as well as the operation through tri-annual self-assessments by business process owners and reporting capabilities to support the required annual SQM evaluation.

Deloitte Bulgaria continues to work with leaders across the firm, as well as the broader network, to further enhance our proactive approach to managing the quality of engagements performed—identifying and addressing risks to quality and driving continued advancements in quality management processes serves us well into the future as the environment within which we operate continues to evolve and become increasingly complex.

Consistent with Deloitte's culture of continuous improvement and innovation, Deloitte Bulgaria's efforts relating to ISQM 1 and our SQM provide us the opportunity to continually challenge ourselves—examining those areas where we can further enhance and transform our SQM. Quality is always front and center, and robust quality monitoring processes play an integral role in our ability to continually improve.

ISQM 1 requires an annual evaluation of the SQM. Deloitte Bulgaria performed its annual evaluation of its SQM as of end of May 2024.

## Conclusion on the effectiveness of the SQM

Deloitte Bulgaria is responsible for designing, implementing, and operating a SQM for audits or reviews of financial statements, or other assurance or related services engagements performed by the firm, that provides the firm with reasonable assurance that the objectives of the SQM are being achieved. The objectives are:

- The firm and its personnel fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and conduct engagements in accordance with such standards and requirements; and
- Engagement reports issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances.
- Deloitte Bulgaria conducted its evaluation in accordance with the ISQM 1.

Deloitte Bulgaria concluded that the SQM provides the firm with reasonable assurance that objectives of the SQM are being achieved as of end of May 2024.

Reasonable assurance is obtained when the SQM reduces to an acceptably low level the risk that the objectives of the SQM are not achieved. Reasonable assurance is not an absolute level of assurance, because there are inherent limitations of a system of quality management.

## Independence, objectivity, and professional skepticism

The execution of high-quality audit and assurance engagements requires independence, objectivity, and professional skepticism. This means a continuous and tangible focus on Deloitte's critical role in serving the public interest, including creating a culture of quality where doing the right thing is of paramount importance. Deloitte consistently reinforces the important role of auditors as independent evaluators who must maintain a mindset of professional skepticism throughout the conduct of our work. This approach is reflected in Deloitte policies, methods, procedures, and learning, and is reinforced through quality management and accountability measures.

#### Audit & Assurance approach

Deloitte's approach to performing a high-quality engagement involves the use of audit and standards-based assurance methodologies, common across the Deloitte network, supplemented by tools for use by our practitioners to plan, perform, supervise, review, document, conclude, and communicate the results of each engagement. Deloitte's approach is underpinned by professional standards, as well as the requirements of applicable laws and regulations.

Deloitte's audit methodology is risk-based, focusing on the financial statement account balances, disclosures, and underlying assertions that have a reasonable possibility of being materially misstated. Our methodologies are also dynamic—it evolves continuously to keep pace with the changing demands of investors, companies, and other stakeholders. It recognizes that advances in the availability and management of large data sets and in statistical science are relevant to continuing to enhance the quality of Deloitte engagements.

## Resources to support Deloitte practitioners in the execution of high-quality engagements

The resources applied by Deloitte practitioners in the performance of their work include the proprietary tools, guidance, materials, and practice aids used in conducting engagements, which are available to all our practitioners in the Deloitte Global Technical Library / Research Portal, an extensive online library, and in our audit execution platforms (such as Deloitte Omnia and Deloitte Levvia). These resources drive greater standardization and consistency across Deloitte firms. Deloitte regularly issues guidance to our practitioners and communicates developments that should be factored into audit risk assessments and responses in order to maintain and drive quality execution.

#### Consultation

Quality and risk management considerations are integral to Deloitte's audit and assurance business and to the performance of engagements. That is why Deloitte views consultation as an essential, collaborative process—one that involves robust challenge and helps determine the most appropriate answers to complex questions. Deloitte has identified circumstances where consultation outside of the engagement team is required in order to demonstrate an appropriate level of professional judgment and the exercise of professional skepticism. Deloitte consultation policies require that conclusions are documented, understood, and implemented. Foundational to the effectiveness of the consultation process is Deloitte's investment in consultation resources who have the appropriate skills and expertise. In addition to formal consultations, whenever engagement partners and teams need additional information or perspectives, they are encouraged to seek assistance from the quality and risk management teams, or others in the organization with specialized knowledge.



# External and internal quality monitoring

## Monitoring of quality

A continued focus on quality is of paramount importance to the Deloitte brand. It is critical that a Deloitte engagement is consistently executed and of high-quality, wherever in the world it is performed.

The objective of monitoring and remediation processes are to provide relevant, reliable, and timely information about the design, implementation, and operation of the SQM to leadership in order to enable appropriate and timely actions to be taken to respond to identified deficiencies. This includes the identification of deficiencies and good practices in the SQM and the assessment of the effectiveness of remedial actions in driving improvements in audit quality.

## SQM monitoring

SQM monitoring is an integral part of Deloitte Bulgaria's monitoring activities and considers relevant requirements in ISQM 1, as well as evaluating the design,

implementation and operating effectiveness of responses that address the quality risks that have been identified for the firm.

Key components of SQM monitoring include:

- Risk-based approach to selecting business processes, quality risks and responses to monitor.
- Mandatory moderation panel to drive consistency in evaluating findings and deficiencies.
- Quality Management Observers and deputies, independent of Deloitte Bulgaria, who drive global consistency by providing input and sharing best practices for monitoring programs.
- Identifying appropriate resources (from within Deloitte Bulgaria as well as from other Deloitte geographies or Deloitte Global) with the right experience.

Audit Quality Indicators (AQIs) are used in conjunction with other metrics to further assist Deloitte Bulgaria in developing and monitoring quality action plans and reporting on the progress in its audit quality journey.



## Monitoring of in-process engagements

Continuous quality monitoring by Deloitte Bulgaria involves the proactive identification of issues on inprocess engagements in order to drive timely solutions and real time corrective actions. This is achieved through the following suite of activities:

- Deployment and monitoring of a series of core diagnostics, enabling engagement partners and teams, as well as Deloitte Bulgaria audit and assurance quality leader(s) to continuously monitor quality and take immediate action.
- A program of subject matter specific "health checks" to assist Deloitte Bulgaria audit and assurance quality leader(s) in assessing progress and identifying potential issues on in-process engagements.
- Results of monitoring of in-process engagements are evaluated overall to determine whether additional communication and support is needed for engagement teams with respect to adherence to the methodology or updates thereto.



## Inspections of completed engagements

Key components of inspections of completed engagements include:

- Risk-based engagement selection and consideration of all major industries served by Deloitte Bulgaria while considering all selecting all signing partners or partner equivalents on a cyclical basis.
- Mandatory moderation panel to drive consistency in findings and engagement ratings.
- Quality Management Observers and deputies, independent of Deloitte Bulgaria, who drive consistency by providing input and sharing best practices for monitoring programs.
- Identifying appropriate resources (from within Deloitte Bulgaria as well as from other Deloitte geographies or Deloitte Global) with the right experience and industry knowledge.



## **External inspections**

In addition to Deloitte Bulgaria's own monitoring of quality, we are subject to external monitoring by the Commission for Public Oversight on Statutory Auditors ("CPOSA"). The last quality assurance review referred to in Article 26 of the European Union's Regulation 537/2014 on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities was carried out in the period November 2024 – February 2025 and covered the period 01 January - 31 December 2023. The results of the last inspection to guarantee the quality of the professional services performed by the audit company Deloitte Audit OOD has been admitted by CPOSA with Decision No 56/25.02.2025 and the awarded assessment is "A" - the professional activity of the auditing company Deloitte Audit OOD is in compliance with all material aspects of the requirements of the audit standards and legal requirements and no direct improvements of the audit practice are necessary.

## Root cause analysis and remediation

Continuous improvement is essential to Deloitte's culture of quality and excellence. Understanding why engagement level findings and SQM deficiencies occur is critical to being able to design effective remedial actions. When engagement level findings or SQM deficiencies are identified, whether through internal or external monitoring activities, actions are taken to identify gaps and develop appropriate remediation activities. Remediation is imperative to drive continuous improvement in quality and avoid future similar findings.

## Anonymous complaints reporting system

In addition to the key aspects of quality monitoring and SQM described above, Deloitte Bulgaria provides an anonymous Speak Up platform for reporting complaints or ethical issues in relation to services provided. This platform is available to both Deloitte and non-Deloitte personnel.

# Independence, ethics, and additional disclosures

## **Deloitte Bulgaria Independence**



Sets **independence policies and procedural expectations** based upon the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants and, where applicable, the independence standards of the US Securities and Exchange Commission and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

Supports network services that a firm uses in the design, implementation, and operation of their system of quality management, including:



**Technological resources:** Global systems to provide its people with entity information to support compliance with personal and professional independence requirements, including financial interests, scope of service, approvals.

**Intellectual resources:** Independence policy, e-learning, confirmation templates, monitoring instructions and other tools, templates, and guidance.

**Human resources:** Technical independence expertise, as required, which also informs potential enhancements to intellectual resources.



Participates In various elements of a firm's **system of quality management** monitoring and remediation process, as determined to be appropriate.



Promotes **independence awareness** across the Deloitte network through active engagement with independence and business leadership groups and periodic communications, alerts, technical training, and webcasts.

## **Deloitte Bulgaria Independence**

Deloitte Bulgaria has quality responses that address quality objectives and quality risks as they relate to the relevant ethical requirements for independence. These responses include policies and procedures that are based on expectations set out in Deloitte Global Independence policies, and which are supplemented, as appropriate, to reflect additional national or regional requirements that may be more restrictive than Deloitte Global policies. Deloitte Bulgaria leadership reinforces the importance of compliance with independence and related quality management standards, thereby setting the appropriate tone at the top and instilling its importance into the professional values and culture of Deloitte Bulgaria. Strategies and procedures to communicate the importance of independence to partners, other practitioners, and support staff have been adopted, emphasizing each individual's responsibility to understand and meet the independence requirements. The Director of Independence is responsible for overseeing independence matters within Deloitte Bulgaria, including the design, implementation, operation, monitoring, and maintenance of the system of quality management related to independence.

As part of the firm's system of quality management, Deloitte Bulgaria has:

- Implemented responses to address quality objectives and quality risks it has identified for its key independence areas;
- Performed appropriate monitoring activities over its key independence areas; and
- Has appropriate independence governance in place.

The firm's key independence areas include:

- Client, engagement, and business relationships, including use of the independence business process tools, the Deloitte Entity Search and Compliance (DESC) system, and the Service Request Monitoring (SRM) application
- Firm and personal financial relationships, including the use of the Global Independence Monitoring System (GIMS)
- Employment and other relationships
- Independence confirmations
- Independence consultations
- Independence-related policies, communications, and learning
- Breaches of independence requirements
- Disciplinary measures for failures to adhere to applicable independence requirements



## DESC

Deloitte Entity Search and Compliance

Global, searchable database containing specific entity information relevant in determining personal and professional independence restrictions



## SRM

Service Request Monitoring

Application integrated with DESC that provides a standard business process workflow for submitting and reviewing preapproval requests to provide services to clients



## **GIMS**

Global Independence Monitoring System

Application that contains financial relationship data with relevant independence compliance indicators

## Long association requirements of audit partners and practitioners

Deloitte Bulgaria maintains policies and procedures requiring rotation of key audit partners and staff. These differ for a public interest entity as defined in § 1, p. 22 of the Bulgarian Accountancy Act (the "EU PIE") or entities defined as a public interest entity by Deloitte Bulgaria ("other PIE"). Individuals responsible for carrying out a statutory audit should not serve an EU PIE for more than 7 (seven) consecutive years in the position of a key audit partner. They shall not participate again in the statutory audit of the audited EU PIE entity before at least 5 (five) years have elapsed following cessation of such service. In case of other PIE, individuals responsible for carrying out a statutory audit should not serve other PIE for more than seven consecutive years in the position of a key audit partner. They shall not participate again in the statutory audit of the audited other PIE entity before five, three or two years have elapsed following cessation of such service, depending on the key audit partner role in such audit. During the cooling-off period, the key audit partner should not participate in the audit of the audited entity, perform the engagement quality review, consult with the engagement team or the audited entity regarding technical or industry-specific issues, transactions or events or otherwise directly influence the outcome of the statutory audit.

While it is the primary responsibility of the individuals serving as key audit partners to ensure they comply with the rotation requirements, Deloitte Bulgaria implemented a monitoring process that includes among other analysis of client portfolios and individuals assigned in various roles to statutory audits and considering appropriate competence, capability, workload and availability of statutory auditors so as to enable these individuals to adequately discharge their responsibilities as key audit partners.

## **Ethics**

All Deloitte people are expected to act with integrity in accordance with high ethical standards as described in the <u>Deloitte CE Code of Conduct</u> ("Code of Conduct"). The Code of Conduct and defines the commitments that all Deloitte people make regarding ethical standards, as well as explaining each individual's responsibilities to their clients, colleagues, and society.

In addition to the Code of Conduct, other foundational elements of Deloitte's ethics program include policies, a program of training and communications, and established reporting channels supported by defined incident management protocols. For continuous improvement, regular program assessments and reviews are conducted,

and feedback is collected from Deloitte people through an annual ethics survey.

Ethics at Deloitte Bulgaria is led by the Ethics Officer, who is an experienced partner with direct access to the member firm's CEO and governing body. The Ethics Office continually monitors risk and reinforces compliance with the Code of Conduct.

Deloitte Bulgaria maintains policies and procedures that build on global policies and are designed to provide reasonable assurance that its people comply with relevant ethical requirements.

The ethical requirements for audit and related assurance services provided by Deloitte Bulgaria are in accordance with the national professional requirements. Deloitte Bulgaria also complies with Deloitte policies and procedures, which align with the requirements and guidance set out in the international Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants, a standard-setting body of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). When the national professional requirements are more restrictive than the Deloitte Global policies and procedures, Deloitte Bulgaria follows the applicable national requirements.

Deloitte Bulgaria reinforces its commitment to ethics and integrity through communication tools, learning programs, compliance processes, and measurement systems for all people. Learning includes targeted content for onboarding, manager and senior manager promotion, partner admission, independent contractors, and refresher programs every two years. Recent training topics have included a focus on the importance of owning up to one's mistakes, being an active bystander, navigating personal relationships in the workplace, demonstrating respect, integrity and professionalism on social media, and ethical learning, and courses have included a confirmation that professionals are aware that answers should not be shared with others and doing so would constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct. In addition, Deloitte Bulgaria conducts ethics reviews of senior leaders and requires all partners, other practitioners, and support staff to confirm annually that they have read and comprehended the Code of Conduct and understand that it is their responsibility to comply with it.

## **Deloitte Ethics**

Deloitte is committed to conducting business with honesty, distinctive quality, and high standards of professional behavior.

**The Code of Conduct** outlines Deloitte's ethical commitments as a network and expectations for Deloitte's people, giving a strong, principled foundation. The foundations of the network's ethics program are comprised of the following elements:



# Appendices

## Appendix A | EU EEA audit firms

## Disclosure in accordance with Article 13.2 (b)(ii)-(iv) of the EU Audit Regulation

EU/EEA member state (Article 13.2 (b)(iii) EU Audit Regulation: the countries in which each audit firm that is a member of the network is qualified as a statutory auditor or has its registered office, central administration, or principal place of business)

Name of audit firms carrying out statutory audits in each member state (Article 13.2 (b)(ii) EU Audit Regulation: the name of each audit firm that is a member of the network)

EU/EEA member state	Name of audit firms carrying out statutory audits in each member state		
Austria	Deloitte Audit Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH		
	Deloitte Niederösterreich Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH		
	Deloitte Oberösterreich Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH		
	Deloitte Salzburg Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH		
	Deloitte Tirol Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH		
	Deloitte Wirtschaftsprüfung Styria GmbH		
Belgium	Deloitte Bedrijfsrevisoren/Réviseurs d'Entreprises BV/SRL		
Bulgaria	Deloitte Audit OOD		
Croatia	Deloitte d.o.o. za usluge revizije		
Cyprus	Deloitte Limited		
Czech Republic	Deloitte Audit s.r.o.		
	Deloitte Assurance s.r.o.		
Denmark	Deloitte Statsautoriseret Revisionspartnerselskab		
Estonia	AS Deloitte Audit Eesti		
Finland	Deloitte Oy		
France	Deloitte & Associés		
	Deloitte Marque & Gendrot		
	Deloitte Audit Holding		
	BEAS		
	Constantin Associés		
	Pierre-Henri Scacchi et Associés		
	Revi Conseil		
Germany	Deloitte GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft		
	Deutsche Baurevision GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft		
	SüdTreu Süddeutsche Treuhand GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft		
Greece	Deloitte Certified Public Accountants S.A.		
Hungary	Deloitte Könyvvizsgáló és Tanácsadó Kft.		
Iceland	Deloitte ehf.		
Ireland	Deloitte Ireland LLP		
Italy	Deloitte & Touche S.p.A.		

EU/EEA member state	Name of audit firms carrying out statutory audits in each member state		
Latvia			
Latvia	Deloitte Audits Latvia SIA		
Liechtenstein	Deloitte (Liechtenstein) AG		
Lithuania	Deloitte Lietuva UAB		
Luxembourg	Deloitte Audit		
Malta	Deloitte Audit Limited		
Netherlands	Deloitte Accountants B.V.		
Norway	Deloitte AS		
Poland	Deloitte Audyt spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością spółka komandytowa		
	Deloitte Audyt spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością		
	Deloitte Assurance Polska spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością spółka komandytowa		
	Deloitte Assurance Polska spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością		
Portugal	Deloitte & Associados, SROC S.A.		
Romania	Deloitte Audit SRL		
Slovakia	Deloitte Audit s.r.o.		
Slovenia	Deloitte Revizija d.o.o.		
Spain	Deloitte Auditores, S.L.		
Sweden	Deloitte AB		

## Disclosure in accordance with Article 13.2 (b)(iv) of the EU Audit Regulation

The total turnover achieved by the audit firms that are members of the network, resulting from the statutory audit of annual and consolidated financial statements:  $\leq$ 1.9 billion<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Amount represents an estimate determined based upon best efforts to collect this data. Certain Deloitte audit firms registered to perform statutory audits in respective member states provide statutory audit services as well as other audit, assurance, and non-audit services. While Deloitte endeavored to collect specific statutory audit turnover for each EU/EEA Deloitte audit firm, in certain cases turnover from other services has been included. The turnover amounts included herein are as of 31 May 2024, except for a limited number of instances where a Deloitte audit firm has different financial year-end or has not finalized its reporting for such period. In these cases, turnover amounts are for the relevant financial year or preceding financial year. Where currency other than the Euro is used in the member state, the amount in Euros was translated using an average exchange rate in effect for the period 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2024.

## Appendix B | Financial information

Disclosure in accordance with Article 13.2 (k)(i)-(iv) of the EU Audit Regulation and art. 62 of IFAASRA

The breakdown of Deloitte Audit OOD's 2024 turnover:

Turnover	BGN'000
Statutory audit (PIEs or PIE subsidiaries)	1,199
Statutory audit (non-PIEs or non-PIE subsidiaries)	7,801
Non-audit services (audited PIEs or PIE subsidiaries)	193
Non-audit services (audited non-PIEs or non-PIE subsidiaries)	1,341
Non-audit services (other entities)	3,748
Total	14,282
Revenue from services provided by all members of Deloitte network that have carried out activity in the territory of Republic of Bulgaria to PIEs which are part of a group the parent company of which is a PIE, audited by Deloitte Audit	10
Revenue from services provided by all members of Deloitte network that have carried out activity in the territory of Republic of Bulgaria to other entities audited by the Deloitte Audit.	357

# Appendix C | Public interest entities

## Disclosure in accordance with Article 13.2 (f) of the EU Audit Regulation

Public interest entities audited for statutory purposes by Deloitte Audit OOD in the financial year 2024:

Name
Bulgarian Development Bank AD
Eleven Capital AD
Korado - Bulgaria AD
Real States EOOD
Sofiyska Voda AD
Shelly Group AD

## Deloitte.

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