



## **Open Invited Track IFAC WC 2017:**

### **IS alignment for Enterprise Resource Planning systems**

#### **Track proposed by:**

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#### **IFAC technical committee for evaluation: TC 5.3**

#### **Abstract**

Nowadays information systems (IS) are more and more based on off-the-shelf products like Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. Due to its standard nature the alignment between the standard software package and the real needs of the company integrating such a system has to be managed all along the ERP project and usage lifecycle. This alignment problem also exists in the case of shifting from full ERP based information systems to alternative solutions such as open source, best of breed or software as a service approaches for example. The target of this open invited track is to make a point on the research on IS alignment including both the project and the usage stages.

#### **Detailed description**

Nowadays information systems (IS) are more and more based on off-the-shelf products like Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. An ERP system is an integrated software package composed by a set of standard functional modules (Production, Sales, Human Resources, Finance, etc.), developed or integrated by the vendor, which can be adapted to the specific needs of each customer. It attempts to integrate all departments and functions across a company onto a single computer system that can serve all those different departments' particular needs.

Due to its standard nature the alignment between the standard software package and the real needs of the company integrating such a system has to be managed all along the ERP project and usage lifecycle. The alignment problem is one of the most important influencing ERP project success. Alignment challenge exists during the ERP project implementation in order to avoid misalignment but also when the ERP system is in use. Indeed, the ERP system takes place in an organizational



environment that evolves over time. Therefore, the ERP system in use has to be re-aligned repeatedly in order to remain efficient in its goal to support company' processes.

This alignment problem also exists in the case of shifting from full ERP based information systems to alternative solutions such as open source, best of breed or software as a service approaches for example.

The target of this open invited track is to make a point on the research on IS alignment including both the project and usage stages.

Authors are invited to submit original contributions on all aspects of IS alignment, including but not limited to:

- ERP project management
- ERP usage
- ERP implementation approaches
- ERP risk factor management
- ERP alignment evolution
- Open ERP alignment
- Alternatives to full ERP