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# STANCE OF ACCOUNTING INSTRUCTORS TO FORENSIC ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION: EXAMPLE OF TURKEY

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## Abstract

Considerable firm scandals that have been experienced in recent years, have reduced the confidence to financial statements and have caused amendments to be made on existing regulations. This situation brought attention to accountants and auditors that expose the financial conditions of the firms. The scandals have been experienced, revive the importance of accounting auditing and the increasing responsibility of the auditors. Inadequacy of accountants and auditors that have been educated according to the existing curriculum, conduce a new profession to arise. Being its original name “Forensic Accounting”, this profession, that exhibits rapid progress in developed countries with United States of America in the lead, is known as “Forensic Accountancy-Adli Muhasebecilik” in our country. Forensic Accountancy profession; with its services as litigation support consultancy, expert testimony and fraud auditing (investigative accountancy) fills a large gap in this field. This study is aimed at measuring the awareness of accounting instructors against this profession that has not been applied in our country yet. For this purpose, the survey being developed is going to be forwarded to accounting instructors in an attempt to determine the level of awarenesses. This study deals with the scope of forensic accountancy profession, the specifications of forensic accountants, belonging to forensic accountancy profession and the education of forensic accountants, thereby this study attempts to explain the level of awareness and to comment on survey results.

**Keywords:** Forensic Accounting, Litigation Support Consultancy, Expert Testimony, Fraud Auditing/Investigative Accountancy, ANOVA test.

## 1. Introduction

Induced large economic losses in firms by the scandals that have been experienced, give rise to a new profession that is known as “forensic accounting”. In addition, mislead of financial statement users and the increases in commercial disputes, accounting frauds and cases at courts, with the increase in applications such as creative accounting and vague accounting, have supported the need to this profession (Pazarçeviren, 2005: 1). This profession has been applied in abroad, but not yet found a field of application in Turkey. This study aims at asserting the stance of accounting instructors to forensic accountancy profession. For this purpose, relevant literature will be presented initially and then forensic accountancy subject will be attempted to be explained briefly but widely from different perspectives. Next, investigation of observed findings and evaluations from semi-structured survey technique applied to academicians partaking in accounting field in Turkey will take place.

## 2. Literature Review

Recently, forensic accounting has become popular in the field of accounting and has been widely investigated in the literature abroad (Crumbley, 1995; Rezaee and Burton, 1997; Crumbley, Kratchman and Smith, 2004; Carnes and Gierlasinski, 2001; Rezaee, Crumbley and Elmore, 2003; Singleton et. al., 2006; Ramaswamy, 2007; Carpenter, Durtschi and Gaynor, 2008; DiGabriele, 2007-2010; Kasum, 2009). On the other hand, studies made in this field in the domestic literature (Nejat, 2000; Kaya, 2005; Pazarçeviren, 2005; Toraman, Abdioğlu and İşgüden, 2009; Ulucan and Pektekin, 2009; Çankaya and Gerekan, 2009) are limited. With its most widely accepted definition forensic accountic is; “a type of a service that deals with resolution of legal, financial and social problems with the usage of accounting, auditing and juristical concept, principle and techniques in a context of a research”. The concept of forensic accounting first brought in to the literature by Maurice E. Peloubet in the year 1946. Although, initially the concept was solely used for juridical cases, in time accountants found themselves in forensic accounting (Kaya, 2005: 51). From 1980’s onwards, Being its original name “Forensic Accounting”, this profession has become widespread in delevoped countries with United States of America in the lead. The word forensic with its lexical meaning can be explained as “belonging to the court”, “accepted as a standard in juridical cases” (Bozkurt, 2000: 56). This profession was translated into our language as “adli muhasebe-forensic accounting” and practitioners of this profession is called “adli muhasebeci-forensic accountant”. Considering the name of forensic accounting, we can say that, “forensic accounting; is a type of speciality that attempts to resolve the legal problems experienced by firms with the help of financial data”.

We have already expressed that when analyzed, studies in the domestic literature concerning the concept of forensic accounting are limited. Bozkurt (2000) in his study, attempted to introduce the profession to Turkey with the dimensions of scope and the necessity reasons of the profession of forensic accountancy. In his study, the most emphasized important subject was the magnitude of Turkey’s need to the forensic accountancy profession. The author thinks that Turkey has the necessary infrastructure and accumulation to form the profession and that this profession needs to be bringing in to Turkey by organizing systematically. Further, Kaya (2005), while explaining the profession of forensic accountancy in detail, also dealt with its essentiality and applicability for Turkey. He indicates that, with forensic accountancy professional education using a procedure suitable for the conditions of Turkey, in averting suffered losses of firms due to fraud and corruption, effective results can be achieved. Pazarçeviren (2005) in his study, examined a forensic accounting suit experienced by Mooresville Honda firm as a case study. In his conclusion, he pointed out the differences between accountants, independent auditors and internal auditors and forensic accountants and he emphasized the expectation that forensic accountants, due to the education they received, may be more successful in struggle with fraud. Toroman, Abdioğlu and İşgüden (2009) in their study, examined the profession of forensic accountancy in the dimension of laundering of illicit money. Forensic accountants are seen as profession elements who provide professional assistance in the struggle with crime and are expected to provide assistance - with their technical knowledge, skill and experiences - in execution and conclusion of the investigation related with the crime of money laundering. This assistance, can take the forms of pre-suit; litigation support consultancy, fraud auditing or investigative accountancy and of process of a suit as assisting the lawyers or bearing the title of expert testifier by expressing his opinion to the court. In addition, Ulucan and Pektekin (2009) in their study, while emphasizing the increasing importance of information technologies in accounting auditing,

they also dealt with the data mining technique that the forensic accountant can benefit from when facing with arising corruption when technology is being used for vicious purposes and struggle with this corruption. They indicate that with data mining - as one of the methods used by forensic accountants - financial statements can be analyzed punctiliously, and data mining can provide means to determine and prevent the realized or potential losses of firms. Çankaya and Gerekan (2009) in their study, while introducing the profession of fraud auditing or investigative accountancy which perceived as an extend of forensic accounting, they presented the standards and the professional ethic rules about the profession developed by Association of Certified Fraud Examiners-ACFE whose headquarters is established in the United States. In conclusion of their study, in terms of Turkey, they emphasized the need to determine an institution that satisfy the necessary education conditions in order to achieve the development of the profession and provide services in this field and the need to make the necessary juridical regulations accordingly.

Among studies made by foreign authors about forensic accounting, there are some empirical studies along with teoretical studies. While some of these authors (Crumbley, 1995; Crumbley, Kratchman and Smith, 2004; Singleton et. al., 2006; DiGabriele, 2007-2010; Kasum, 2009) laid emphasis on the forensic accounting, some (Rezaee and Burton, 1997; Carnes and Gierlasinski, 2001; Rezaee, Crumbley and Elmore, 2003; Ramaswamy, 2007; Carpenter, Durtschi and Gaynor, 2008) made their studies over forensic accountancy education programmes. One of the most important studies about forensic accounting is Crumbley's (1995). Crumbley in his study, emphasized the emergence of forensic accounting, its extent and its importance. Crumbley, Kratchman and Smith (2004) in their study, with reference to the famous detective Sherlock Holmes underlined forensic accountants' need to work as a detective while they practicing their profession. Singleton et. al. (2006) in their study, laid weight on forensic accounting and fraud auditing. In the book they wrote, while they emphasized fraud auditing and basic concepts of forensic accounting, in protection from fraud they concentrated on topics such as responsibility of the auditors, red tags and fraud detection, protection from fraud and control, forensic accounting with the dimension of expert testimony. Di Gabriele (2007), explored whether a forensic accountant has differences from the users of forensic accounting service, academicians and exercisers in terms of convenient skills. Surveys applied by mail to randomly picked 500 person from each group. 102 exercisers, 72 users and 78 academicians be about 252 persons in total have responded the survey. The emerged conclusion of the study was the necessity of determining the convenient skills for the development of curriculum of the forensic accounting. Kasum (2009) in his mixed exploratory research study of bibliotheca and empiric, attempted to compute whether forensic accountants are more needed in private or government sector in struggle with financial crimes experienced in developing countries. In the conclusion of his study, it ensued that government sector needs forensic accountants much more. Di Gabriele (2010) made an empirical study over expert testimony transparency perceptions devoted to forensic accountants, lawyers and academicians in the field of accounting. According to the results of the surveys applied by the author to 85 academicians, 87 forensic accountants and 86 lawyers; while forensic accountants and lawyers have responded differently in all research points, academicians and forensic accountants have differentiated in majority of the results.

Some of the studies made in the literature abroad deal with forensic accountancy education and education curriculums. The study made by Rezaee and Burton (1997) has been applied to 196 academicians and 213 certified fraud examiners (CFE). In conclusion of the research, although the parties agreed on forensic accounting education should be included to the present accounting

curriculum, it ensued that they differentiated in procedure to follow for the education. While fraud auditors asserted that forensic accounting should be taught as a separate lecture, academicians stressed that it should be given within the scope of existing accounting and auditing lectures. Carnes and Gierlasinski (2001) in their study, while underlying forensic accounting skills, they emphasized the supply and demand dimensions of forensic accounting. In conclusion of their study, they indicated that by modifications to be made in the education curriculum of forensic accounting, forensic accountant supply can meet its demand. Rezaee, Crumbley and Elmore (2003) in their study, emphasized the importance, convenience and delivery of forensic accounting education devoted to academicians and exercisers. The results show that; the demand and interest shown to forensic accounting are expected to raise. In this respect, it is emphasized that there is a need of planning of providing forensic accounting education in much more universities. Both responding groups have indicated that forensic accounting education is going to be beneficial and convenient to accounting students, accounting programmes, accounting profession members and to business life. Ramaswamy (2007) in his study, pointed out the increase in the need of forensic accountants in recent years. He also stated that it is needed for universities to prepare education programmes in order to train qualified forensic accountants and meet the potential future needs. Carpenter, Durtschi and Gaynor (2008) laid emphasis over on increasing benefits of forensic accounting lectures about crimes related with skepticism and fraud. The study they made with this purpose, they observed a group of students to be educated for 7 months. In conclusion of the study, they described the performance of the students that received the education to be promising.

### **Extent of the Profession of Forensic Accountancy**

From 1980's on, the need for the profession of forensic accountancy has increased particularly in Western countries. Among the reasons of this situation, increase in the number of applications to courts, complexification of commercial transactions, increase in corruption of enterprise employees and challenges experienced in prevention, increase in enterprise failure rates, increasing need of expert support in courts can be considered (Bozkurt, 2000: 56). In struggle with these mentioned problems, forensic accountants operate in three different areas of activity<sup>1</sup>. These areas are;

- Litigation Support Consultancy
- Expert Testimony
- Fraud Auditing/Investigative Accountancy

#### ***Litigation Support Consultancy***

Litigation support consultancy is one of the most extensive areas that forensic accountants provide service. Litigation support consultancy is - with its most broad definition - prior to or in the course of a litigate the service provided in various subjects to concerning lawyers by a forensic accountant (Bozkurt, 2000: 57). According to the definition of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) litigation support consultancy is the professional assistance provided by non legists to legists in a legal process (Crumbley, 1995: 23). For

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<sup>1</sup> Crumbley (1995) and Kaya (2005) in their studies, examied the extent of the profession be about litigation support consultancy and fraud auditing. Due to the importance of expert testimony dimension, our study will examine the extent of forensic accountancy in three major parts.

instance, calculating a loss resulted by breach of a contract is a typical litigation support (Ulucan and Pektekin, 2009: 65).

Forensic accountants can of help to lawyers in collecting the necessary data and in analysing the collected data. In a legal process interpreting on facts and evidences, examining them and providing expert opinion on data to be presented to the court are among the duties of forensic accountants (Crumbley, 1995: 23).

Service areas of litigation support consultancy are notably broad. Some of them are (Bozkurt, 2000: 57);

- All kinds of corruption litigates,
- Enterprise assessments,
- Damage and loss estimations,
- Insurance disputes,
- Rising problems from contracts,
- Rising problems concerning patent, right and trademarks,
- Parting or merger litigates concerning enterprises,
- Bankruptcy litigates,
- Financial disputes concerning divorces,
- Inter-enterprise problems.

### ***Expert Testimony***

The facts that increasing number of economics originated litigates and matters in dipute having become more complex in recent years, have increased the need of expert testimony of forensic accountants. Expert testimony is a means call upon by judges in courts for a litigate to be carried on and to be concluded more reliable (Bozkurt, 2000: 58). The function of export testifiers here is in the form of technical support. Technical way in question emerges in presenting financial aspect of whatsoever event, in analysing tax concerning transactions, in taking position against the expert testifier of the other party, in interpreting information on documents (Kaya, 2005: 54).

Incumbent duties of forensic accountants while they provide expert testimony service are (Bozkurt, 2000: 58);

- While making necessary investigations about the litigious question, collecting various data,
- Having an opinion based on the results of analysis made with this data,
- Reflecting the opinion formed to the judges and lawyers in the court in an illuminating and pragmatic way.

Responsibility of forensic accountants in the duty of expert testimony is tremendous. In this respect, forensic accountants should act impartial, objective and independent in their practices. They should be in a creative, soother and commonsensical status, they should explain technical matters in a clear way and they should communicate well with both parties while they fulfil their duty (Bozkurt, 2000: 58).

### ***Fraud Auditing/Investigative Accountancy***

With its most general definition fraud is falsifying enterprise transaction record documents on purpose with a specific purpose (Erol, 2008: 230). In recent years experienced increase in fraud cases in enterprises, bring forward the need of expert support in this matter. It would be wrong to expect success in struggle with fraud from accountants, independent auditors and internal auditors that received training according to the existing curriculum. The need for expert support regarding this matter is provided by persons who are called “fraud auditors or investigative accountants” (Bozkurt, 2000: 58).

Investigative accountancy in general deals with examining criminal matters. For instance; worker theft, real estate fraud, insurance fraud, bribery, investigations regarding crime practice are in the extent of investigative accountancy (Pazarçeviren, 2005:5).

Nowadays most encountered fraud subjects are (Bozkurt, 2000: 58);

- Fraud made by employees against their own enterprise/employer,
- Fraud made by white collar employees,
- Financial statement fraud made by top managers of enterprises in order to mislead those concerned,
- Fraud made concerning investments,
- Commercial bribes and commissions,
- Fraud concerning bank transactions and electronical funds transfer (EFT),
- Credit card, computer and internet frauds.

When the activity that forensic accountancy contains taken into consideration, importance of the features that forensic accountants need to have emerges. Forensic accountants in contradistinction to normal accountants or auditors, need to bear a number of features and need to have extensive information on some specific subjects (Pazarçeviren, 2005: 10).

### **Features of Forensic Accountants**

Due to the reason that forensic accountants specialize in different areas, it is quite hard to specify the qualifications that a forensic accountant needs to have (Kaya, 2005: 57). We can sort the parties that can need a forensic accountant as lawyers, police forces, insurance companies, banks, courts, business world, government representatives and corporate bodies that are affiliate to the government (Pazarçeviren, 2005: 4). Forensic accountant needs to have some specific knowledge in some certain subjects in order to meet the needs of those entities, corporations and establishments. Some of them are (Bozkurt, 2000: 59);

- Intense accounting knowledge,
- Auditing,
- Statistics,
- Computer applications,
- Law,
- Psychology,
- Research techniques,
- Criminology,
- Business management.

Crumley (1995) in his study defines the forensic accountant as a person who “does not accept the apparent worth of the records, instead looks for the background, has a doubt about documents, investigates the real intention, prepares the expert report, by making interviews with individuals reveals the truth with all its details particularly when there is a possibility that some people lie” (Crumbley,1995: 24). As it can be well understood from the definition, forensic accountants needs to focus more on backgrounds of the events instead of apparent side of them. In general we can sort the individual features that a forensic accountant needs to bear as (Bozkurt, 2000: 60; Pazarçeviren, 2005: 10);

- Curiosity: A forensic accountant should be interested in and curious about developments in his profession and he needs to use his professional skepticism.
- Persistency: The forensic accountant should not instantly give up due to encountered challenges, rather he needs to be persistent in proving the stand he defends.
- Creativity: The forensic accountant should be as much as creative as possible he can along with general principles and rules that he needs to obey, and should approach to the events from different perspectives.
- Perception: The forensic accountant should evaluate each case both in general and in detail. He should preserve his calmness under pressure, should have a good business perception, should have a sound judgement skill and should make plain, analytical and sensible reasoning dominant over his decisions.
- Skill: A forensic accountant should be successful in written and in verbal communication and should form human relations in a healthy way.

As a result, for persons who want to be forensic accountants it is not sufficient to have just an intense accounting knowledge. Even though they have some specific knowledge, in order to be successful in the profession they also need to carry the individual features mentioned above.

### **The Training of Forensic Accountants and Being a Forensic Accountancy Profession Member**

With the commence of effective implementation of forensic accountancy, debates over forensic accountancy training has started. The authors who make researches about forensic accountancy training (Rezaee and Burton, 1997; Carnes and Gierlasinski, 2001; Rezaee, Crumbley and Elmore, 2003; Ramaswamy, 2007) do not reach a consensus over how forensic accountancy training should be done.

Forensic accountancy traing can be included to the university curriculum by adding necessary lectures on normal undergraduate programme or by forming a separate graduate programme or by opening a course programme (Bozkurt, 2000: 60). Rezaee and Burton (1997) in their study, stated which important subjects should be included to forensic accountancy training curriculum. Some of those subjects are; basic concepts of fraud, financial fraud and the responsibility of accountants, internal control assessment and statistical sample, red tags, fraud types, efficient report writing techniques, fraud inspection and prevention from fraud theory, fraud auditing technique, legal system information, process of financial reporting and its analysis, rules of morality and business ethics (Rezaee and Burton, 1997: 486).



In the profession of forensic accountancy training is just a prerequisite. As one of the countries that the profession is applied effectively, in U.S. to be a certificated forensic accountant one must pass through several phases (Bozkurt, 2000: 60);

- Undergraduate education
- Professional experience for two years
- Being successful in U.S. active ACFE exams covering four major parts as financial transactions, researching, legal elements and criminology.

ACFE organises training and seminars, and makes publications about forensic accountancy and fraud auditing. With its registered professional members close to 25,000 it is regarded as the most important institution in the globe that is active in this field (Bozkurt, 2000: 61).

## **Results of the Research**

In this research, measurement of accounting instructors' awareness against the profession of forensic accountancy - that has no application in Turkey yet - is aimed. The scope of the research contains instructors assigned in Turkish Universities' accounting-finance field. In consequence of the surveys made, 144 instructors' opinions have been taken. In evaluating the survey results packaged software of SPSS 15 has been benefited from. Our survey is consisted of 2 parts. In the first one questions asked for instructors' demographic features. In the second part, it is attempted to examine instructors' opinions about the profession of forensic accountancy by using likert scale. To determine the survey's reliability, confidence test has been applied. For each question separate frequencies and percentage distributions has been found. With the aim to present the relationships and differences among variables, one way ANOVA (ANalysis Of VAriance) test has been applied.

The reliability of the scale is found with the aid of Cronbach Alfa coefficient that is calculated through Alfa ( $\alpha$ ) method which is one of the models used in reliability analysis. Depending on the Alfa coefficient, if reliability of the scale is  $0.60 \leq \alpha < 0.80$  then scale is fairly reliable. With its 0.67 scale, our study is then proven to be fairly reliable (Kalaycı, 2008: 405).

Among instructors subject to our research 67.4% are male and 32.6% are female. Among instructors participating in our survey 9% are professors, 11.1% are associate professors, 34.7% are assistant professors, 20.8% are lecturers and 24.3% are research assistants. Among our instructors 4.2% have a bachelor's degree, 22.2% have a master's degree and 73.6% have a ph.d. degree. Among instructors subject to our research 17.4% are between the ages of 20-29, 51.4% are between the ages of 30-39, 19.4% are between the ages of 40-49 and 11.8% are 50 years old or above. If we take our instructors' working years into consideration, then 18.8% have between 1-5 years, 28.5% have between 6-10 years, 27.8% have between 11-15 years and 25% have 16 years or above professional experience.

**Table 3: Demographical Features**

Demographical Features		Frequency	%
<b>Gender</b>	Female	47	32.6
	Male	97	67.4
<b>Working Years</b>	1-5 years	27	18.8
	6-10 years	41	28.5
	11-15 years	40	27.8
	16 years and above	36	25.0
<b>Title</b>	Prof.Dr.	13	9.0
	Assoc.Prof..Dr.	16	11.1
	Assist.Prof.Dr.	50	34.7
	Lecturer	30	20.8
	Research Assist.	35	24.3
<b>Age</b>	20-29	25	17.4
	30-39	74	51.4
	40-49	28	19.4
	50 and above	17	11.8
<b>State of Education</b>	Bachelor's Degree	6	4.2
	Master's Degree	32	22.2
	Ph.D. Degree	106	73.6
	Total	144	100

While the results are interpreted, the choices of “absolutely disagree and disagree” are going to be interpreted as “disagree” and the choices of “absolutely agree and agree” are going to be interpreted as “agree”.

**Table 4: Questions Concerning the Profession of Forensic Accountancy**

		Frequency	%
To be successful in the profession of forensic accountancy, an intense accounting education is sufficient.	Absolutely Agree	28	19.4
	Agree	50	34.7
	Neutral	12	8.3
	Disagree	48	33.3
	Absolutely Disagree	6	4.2
In terms of infrastructure, our country is ready for the application of the profession of forensic accountancy.	Absolutely Agree	3	2.1
	Agree	19	13.2
	Neutral	47	32.6
	Disagree	68	47.2
	Absolutely Disagree	7	4.9
Specific knowledge and experience of forensic accountants plays an important role to be successful in the profession.	Absolutely Agree	64	44.4
	Agree	77	53.5
	Neutral	-	-
	Disagree	2	1.4
	Absolutely Disagree	1	.7
With the application of forensic accountancy in our country, the profession of accountancy will have gain prestige.	Absolutely Agree	40	27.8
	Agree	72	50.0
	Neutral	21	14.6
	Disagree	8	5.6
	Absolutely Disagree	2	1.4
As the service of expertise in our country is at sufficient level, there is no need for the service of "litigation support consultancy".	Absolutely Agree	3	2.1
	Agree	7	4.9
	Neutral	24	16.7
	Disagree	90	62.5
	Absolutely Disagree	20	13.9
In struggling against the crime of laundering, forensic accountants are expected to raise the success ratio.	Absolutely Agree	20	13.9
	Agree	76	52.8
	Neutral	41	28.5
	Disagree	4	2.8
	Absolutely Disagree	1	.7
Legal reforms made on frauding in our country are at sufficient level.	Absolutely Agree	2	1.4
	Agree	10	6.9
	Neutral	24	16.7
	Disagree	91	63.2
	Absolutely Disagree	15	10.4

		Frequency	%
In the subject of struggle against frauding, accountants and auditors that are trained according to the general standards are sufficient.	Absolutely Agree	1	.7
	Agree	10	6.9
	Neutral	23	16.0
	Disagree	94	65.3
	Absolutely Disagree	14	9.7
Forensic accountants are expected to provide support for internal controlling activities.	Absolutely Agree	16	11.1
	Agree	88	61.1
	Neutral	21	14.6
	Disagree	18	12.5
	Absolutely Disagree	1	.7
In our country there is a need for institutions and organizations that can direct the profession into activities like seminars, publications, etc.	Absolutely Agree	51	35.4
	Agree	81	56.3
	Neutral	5	3.5
	Disagree	5	3.5
	Absolutely Disagree	2	1.4
With the training and seminars will be given by concerning institutions, awareness of the profession can be created.	Absolutely Agree	49	34.0
	Agree	91	63.2
	Neutral	1	.7
	Disagree	1	.7
	Absolutely Disagree	2	1.4
For the profession of forensic accountancy to be successful in the long-run, higher education institutions will need to change their training programmes.	Absolutely Agree	27	18.8
	Agree	77	53.5
	Neutral	25	17.4
	Disagree	13	9.0
	Absolutely Disagree	2	1.4
For the profession of forensic accountancy to achieve a professional structure, certification activities will need to be done by competent authorities in our country.	Absolutely Agree	44	30.6
	Agree	86	59.7
	Neutral	8	5.6
	Disagree	4	2.8
	Absolutely Disagree	1	.7
The profession of forensic accountancy will create an innovational effect to the profession of accountancy.	Absolutely Agree	47	32.6
	Agree	73	50.7
	Neutral	14	9.7
	Disagree	9	6.3
	Absolutely Disagree	1	.7

- Among instructors subject to our research 52.1% think that in terms of infrastructure Turkey is not ready for the application of the profession of forensic accountancy, while 15.3% think that she is ready for it. In this subject 32.6% of our instructors remained indecisive.

- 77.8% of the instructors think that with the application of forensic accountancy in Turkey, the profession of accountancy will have gain prestige.
- Among instructors subject to our research 91.7% substantial majority indicated that in Turkey there is a need for institutions and organizations that can direct the profession into activities like seminars, publications, etc.
- 97.2% of the instructors indicated that with the training and seminars given by concerning institutions, awareness of the profession can be created.
- Among instructors subject to our research 72.3% indicate that for the profession of forensic accountancy to be successful in the long-run, higher education institutions need to change their training programmes while 10.4% assert that there is no need to change and 17.4% remained indicsive in this subject.
- 83.3% of instructors indicate that the profession of forensic accountancy will create an innovational effect to the profession of accountancy.
- Among instructors subject to our research 75% assert that in the subject of struggle against frauding, accountants and auditors that are trained according to the general standards are not sufficient.
- 54.1% of the instructors think that to be successful in the profession of forensic accountancy, an intense accounting education is sufficient, while 37.5% assert that it is not sufficient. 8.3% of them remained indicsive in this subject.

Basic assumption of the one way ANOVA test is the homogeneity of the variances. Among our variables descriptive statistics of those have homogenous variances are as follows:

**Table 5: Descriptive Statistical Data**

		N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
						Low Limit	High Limit
In terms of infrastructure, our country is ready for the application of the profession of forensic accountancy.	Prof.	13	3.3077	1.10940	.30769	2.6373	3.9781
	Assoc. P.	16	3.3125	1.07819	.26955	2.7380	3.8870
	Assist. P.	50	3.3000	.73540	.10400	3.0910	3.5090
	Lecturer	30	3.2333	.81720	.14920	2.9282	3.5385
	R. Assist.	35	3.7429	.78000	.13184	3.4749	4.0108
	Total	144	3.3958	.85459	.07122	3.2551	3.5366
To be successful in the profession of forensic accountancy, an intense accounting education is sufficient.	Prof.	13	2.7692	1.42325	.39474	1.9092	3.6293
	Assoc. P.	16	3.0000	1.36626	.34157	2.2720	3.7280
	Assist. P.	50	2.6400	1.13856	.16102	2.3164	2.9636
	Lecturer	30	2.6333	1.27261	.23235	2.1581	3.1085
	R. Assist.	35	2.6000	1.26491	.21381	2.1655	3.0345
	Total	144	2.6806	1.23839	.10320	2.4766	2.8845
Specific knowledge and experience of forensic accountants plays an important role to be successful in the profession.	Prof.	13	1.6154	.50637	.14044	1.3094	1.9214
	Assoc. P.	16	1.7500	1.00000	.25000	1.2171	2.2829
	Assist. P.	50	1.5000	.50508	.07143	1.3565	1.6435
	Lecturer	30	1.6333	.66868	.12208	1.3836	1.8830
	R. Assist.	35	1.6571	.63906	.10802	1.4376	1.8767
	Total	144	1.6042	.63926	.05327	1.4989	1.7095

		N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
						Low Limit	High Limit
In struggling against the crime of laundering, forensic accountants are expected to raise the success ratio.	Prof.	11	2.4545	.68755	.20730	1.9926	2.9164
	Assoc. P.	16	2.8125	1.04682	.26171	2.2547	3.3703
	Assist. P.	50	2.1600	.65027	.09196	1.9752	2.3448
	Lecturer	30	2.1333	.62881	.11480	1.8985	2.3681
	R. Assist.	35	2.0571	.72529	.12260	1.8080	2.3063
	Total	142	2.2254	.74752	.06273	2.1013	2.3494
Legal reforms made on frauding in our country are at sufficient level.	Prof.	11	3.6364	.80904	.24393	3.0928	4.1799
	Assoc. P.	16	3.6875	1.01448	.25362	3.1469	4.2281
	Assist. P.	50	3.8600	.75620	.10694	3.6451	4.0749
	Lecturer	30	3.5667	.89763	.16388	3.2315	3.9018
	R. Assist.	35	3.8286	.61767	.10440	3.6164	4.0407
	Total	142	3.7535	.79168	.06644	3.6222	3.8849
In the subject of struggle against frauding, accountants and auditors that are trained according to the general standards are sufficient.	Prof.	11	3.9091	.83121	.25062	3.3507	4.4675
	Assoc. P.	16	3.9375	.92871	.23218	3.4426	4.4324
	Assist. P.	50	3.7400	.75078	.10618	3.5266	3.9534
	Lecturer	30	3.6667	.71116	.12984	3.4011	3.9322
	R. Assist.	35	3.8000	.67737	.11450	3.5673	4.0327
	Total	142	3.7746	.74752	.06273	3.6506	3.8987
In our country there is a need for institutions and organizations that can direct the profession into activities like seminars, publications, etc.	Prof.	13	1.8462	.80064	.22206	1.3623	2.3300
	Assoc. P.	16	1.8750	1.20416	.30104	1.2333	2.5167
	Assist. P.	50	1.7400	.59966	.08480	1.5696	1.9104
	Lecturer	30	1.8333	.79148	.14450	1.5378	2.1289
	R. Assist.	35	1.7714	.80753	.13650	1.4940	2.0488
	Total	144	1.7917	.78335	.06528	1.6626	1.9207
For the profession of forensic accountancy to achieve a professional structure, certification activities will need to be done by competent authorities in our country.	Prof.	12	2.0833	.79296	.22891	1.5795	2.5872
	Assoc. P.	16	2.0000	1.09545	.27386	1.4163	2.5837
	Assist. P.	50	1.8200	.62890	.08894	1.6413	1.9987
	Lecturer	30	1.6667	.71116	.12984	1.4011	1.9322
	R. Assist.	35	1.8000	.58410	.09873	1.5994	2.0006
	Total	143	1.8252	.71517	.05981	1.7069	1.9434

Results of the homogeneity of the variances test (Levene test) are as below. As the p values (Sig.) here are greater than 0.05, it is said that variances are homogenous. Thus, as they satisfy the basic assumption of the analysis of variance, it can be said that the results that will be yielded from the analysis of variance are robust (Kalaycı, 2008: 138).

**Table 6: Homogeneity of the Variances Test**

	Levene Statistic	df1	df2	p(Sig.)
In terms of infrastructure, our country is ready for the application of the profession of forensic accountancy.	1.932	4	139	.109
To be successful in the profession of forensic accountancy, an intense accounting education is sufficient.	1.305	4	139	.271
Specific knowledge and experience of forensic accountants plays an important role to be successful in the profession.	.747	4	139	.562
In struggling against the crime of laundering, forensic accountants are expected to raise the success ratio.	1.204	4	137	.312
Legal reforms made on frauding in our country are at sufficient level.	1.479	4	137	.212
In the subject of struggle against frauding, accountants and auditors that are trained according to the general standards are sufficient.	.087	4	137	.986
In our country there is a need for institutions and organizations that can direct the profession into activities like seminars, publications, etc.	1.740	4	139	.145
For the profession of forensic accountancy to achieve a professional structure, certification activities will need to be done by competent authorities in our country.	.600	4	138	.664

Accept or reject table of the hypotheses we formed along with analysis of variance table concerning variables that have homogenous variances are given as below:

**Table 7: Analysis of Variance Table-ANOVA**

		Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Squares	F	p(Sig.)	Accept/Reject
Between the groups, there are no difference among the people who think that in terms of infrastructure, Turkey is ready for the application of the profession of forensic accountancy (H <sub>01</sub> ).	Between Groups	5.678	4	1.420	1.998	.098	Accept
	Within Groups	98.759	139	.710			
	Total	104.438	143				
Between the groups, there are no difference among the people who think that to be successful in the profession of forensic accountancy, an intense accounting education is sufficient (H <sub>02</sub> ).	Between Groups	2.111	4	.528	.338	.852	Accept
	Within Groups	217.194	139	1.563			
	Total	219.306	143				
Between the groups, there are no difference among the people who think that specific knowledge and experience of forensic accountants plays an important role to be successful in the profession (H <sub>03</sub> ).	Between Groups	1.008	4	.252	.610	.656	Accept
	Within Groups	57.429	139	.413			
	Total	58.438	143				

		Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Squares	F	p(Sig.)	Accept/Reject
Between the groups, there are no difference among the people who expect that in struggling against the crime of laundering, forensic accountants will raise the success ratio (H <sub>04</sub> ).	Between Groups	7.552	4	1.888	3.631	.008	Reject
	Within Groups	71.237	137	.520			
	Total	78.789	141				
Between the groups, there are no difference among the people who think that legal reforms made on frauding in Turkey are at sufficient level (H <sub>05</sub> ).	Between Groups	2.032	4	.508	.806	.523	Accept
	Within Groups	86.341	137	.630			
	Total	88.373	141				
Between the groups, there are no difference among the people who think that in the subject of struggle against frauding, accountants and auditors that are trained according to the general standards are sufficient(H <sub>06</sub> ).	Between Groups	1.055	4	.264	.465	.761	Accept
	Within Groups	77.733	137	.567			
	Total	78.789	141				
Between the groups, there are no difference among the people who think that in Turkey there is a need for institutions and organizations that can direct the profession into activities like seminars, publications, etc. (H <sub>07</sub> ).	Between Groups	.350	4	.087	.139	.968	Accept
	Within Groups	87.400	139	.629			
	Total	87.750	143				
Between the groups, there are no difference among the people who think that for the profession of forensic accountancy to achieve a professional structure, certification activities will need to be done by competent authorities in Turkey (H <sub>08</sub> ).	Between Groups	2.066	4	.517	1.010	.404	Accept
	Within Groups	70.563	138	.511			
	Total	72.629	142				

\* If  $p < 0,05$  then reject  $H_0$ .

As it can be understood from Table 7, HA4 has been rejected. In other words “There are difference among the groups who expect that in struggling against the crime of laundering, forensic accountants will raise the success ratio”. We will use Turkey test - one of the most commonly used Post Hoc tests - in order to find the groups from which differences existing among groups originated.



**Table 8: Multiple Comparison Test**

Tukey HSD

Dependent Variables	(I) Title	(J) Title	Mean Difference (I-J)	Standard Error	p(Sig.)	95% Confidence Interval	
						Low Limit	Low Limit
Between the groups, there are no difference among the people who expect that in struggling against the crime of laundering, forensic accountants will raise the success ratio (H <sub>A4</sub> )	Prof.	Assoc. P.	-.35795	.28244	.712	-1.1387	.4228
		Assist. P.	.29455	.24015	.736	-.3693	.9584
		Lecturer	.32121	.25417	.714	-.3814	1.0239
		R. Assist.	.39740	.24925	.504	-.2916	1.0865
	Assoc. Prof.	Prof.	.35795	.28244	.712	-.4228	1.1387
		Assist. P.	.65250(*)	.20712	.017	.0799	1.2251
		Lecturer	.67917(*)	.22323	.023	.0621	1.2963
		R. Assist.	.75536(*)	.21761	.006	.1538	1.3569
	Assist. Prof	Prof.	-.29455	.24015	.736	-.9584	.3693
		Assoc. P.	-.65250(*)	.20712	.017	-1.2251	-.0799
		Lecturer	.02667	.16653	1.000	-.4337	.4870
		R. Assist.	.10286	.15892	.967	-.3365	.5422
	Lecturer	Prof.	-.32121	.25417	.714	-1.0239	.3814
		Assoc. P.	-.67917(*)	.22323	.023	-1.2963	-.0621
		Assist. P.	-.02667	.16653	1.000	-.4870	.4337
		R. Assist.	.07619	.17941	.993	-.4198	.5722
	Research Asist.	Prof.	-.39740	.24925	.504	-1.0865	.2916
		Assoc. P.	-.75536(*)	.21761	.006	-1.3569	-.1538
		Assist. P.	-.10286	.15892	.967	-.5422	.3365
		Lecturer	-.07619	.17941	.993	-.5722	.4198

\* The mean difference is significant at the .05 level.

- Associate professors, with regard to research assistants, lecturers and assistant professors, expect more that in struggling against the laundering, forensic accountants will raise the success ratio. But within professors and among other groups there is no significant difference in this subject.

**Subgroup Table - (H<sub>A4</sub> - in struggling against the laundering)**

Tukey HSD

Title	N	Subset for alpha = .05	
	1	1	2
R. Assist.	35	2.0571	
Lecturer	30	2.1333	
Assist. P.	50	2.1600	
Prof.	11	2.4545	2.4545
Assoc. P.	16		2.8125
Sig.		.380	.489

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.

a Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 21.248.

b The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.

- While professors and associate professors constitute one group, again professors, assistant professors, lecturers and research assistants were included in a single group within formed subgroups among those who think that in the subject of struggle against laundering, forensic accountants will raise the success ratio. In other words associate professors are different than assistant professors, lecturers and research assistants.

## **Conclusion**

In recent years, experienced transformation and development caused some innovations to be experienced in the profession of accounting. The innovation in the field of accounting auditing is the profession of forensic accountancy. To meet the changing conditions and the need that these conditions give rise, the profession of forensic accountancy has been initiated to apply in the world, while in Turkey it has not been applied yet. In the scope of our study, a survey study aimed at measuring accounting instructors' awareness against this new profession that has not been applied yet, has been made. In consequence of this survey study, the following results have been obtained;

Instructors think that in terms of infrastructure, Turkey is ready for the application of the profession. However they expressed that there is a need for institutions and organizations that can direct the profession into activities like seminars, publications, etc. At the same time they indicated that for being successful in the long-run, higher education institutions need to change their training programmes. Despite, instructors found an intense accounting education sufficient in order to be successful in the profession of forensic accounting, they stated that in the subject of struggle against frauding, accountants and auditors that are trained according to the general standards are not sufficient.

Instructors assert that with the application of the profession in Turkey, the profession of accountancy will have gain prestige and the profession of forensic accountancy will create an innovational effect to the profession of accountancy. Besides the ratio of those think that with the training and seminars will be given by concerning institutions, awareness of the profession can be created, is pretty high.

At the same time instructors expect that, in the subject of struggle against the crime of laundering, forensic accountants will raise the success ratio. Associate professors, with regard to research assistants, lecturers and assistant professors, expect more that in struggling against the laundering, forensic accountants will raise the success ratio.

Consequently, instructors stated that with the application of the profession of forensic accountancy in Turkey and through organizing activities like seminars, publications, etc. with the support of concerning institutions, organizations, universities and concerning trade associations, awareness against this profession can be constituted. General opinion is; the profession of forensic accountancy will have postive effects to the profession and to the profession members.

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### Stance of Accounting Instructors to Forensic Accountancy Profession: Example of Turkey

It is known that concerning accounting instructors have information about the profession of forensic accountancy. The results that we will obtain in our study, is aimed to be measured according to the information given in the information note, thus there was a need to put “a standard information note”. We thank you for your support to our research.

Doç. Dr. Cemal ELİTAŞ-Arş. Grv. Mehtap KARAKOÇ-Arş. Grv. M.Emre GÖRGÜLÜ

**Information Note:** The profession of forensic accountancy is known with its original name “Forensic Accounting”. The word forensic with its lexical meaning can be explained as “belonging to the court”, “accepted as a standard in juridical cases”. This profession was translated into our language as “adli muhasebe-forensic accounting” and is regarded as a new field in the profession of accounting and auditing. Forensic accountants can provide; litigation support consultancy, fraud auditing or investigative accountancy and expert testimony services.

1. Did you read the information note? Yes No
2. Gender? Male Female
3. Age interval? 20-29 30-39 40-49 50 and above
4. State of education? Bachelor’s Degree Master’s Degree Ph.D.
5. Title? Prof.Dr. Assoc.Prof.Dr. Assist.Prof.Dr.
6. Working years? 1-5 years 6-10 years 11-15 years 16 yıl and above
7. For the questions below there is a 5-step scale ranged from “**Absolutely Disagree**” to “**Absolutely Agree**”. Please after reading each possibility, mark the step stating your participation with “X”.

	1 Absolutely Agree	2 Agree	3 Neutral	4 Disagree	5 Absolutely Disagree
To be successful in the profession of forensic accountancy, an intense accounting education is sufficient.					
In terms of infrastructure, our country is ready for the application of the profession of forensic accountancy.					
Specific knowledge and experience of forensic accountants plays an important role to be successful in the profession.					
With the application of forensic accountancy in our country, the profession of accountancy will have gain prestige.					
As the service of expertise in our country is at sufficient level, there is no need for the service of “litigation support consultancy”.					
In struggling against the crime of laundering, forensic accountants are expected to raise the success ratio.					
Legal reforms made on frauding in our country are at sufficient level.					
In the subject of struggle against frauding, accountants and auditors that are trained according to the general standards are sufficient.					
Forensic accountants are expexted to provide support for internal controlling activities.					
In our country there is a need for institutions and organizations that can direct the profession into activities like seminars, publications, etc.					
With the training and seminars will be given by concerning institutions, awareness of the profession can be created.					
For the profession of forensic accountancy to be successful in the long-run, higher education institutions will need to change their training programmes.					
For the profession of forensic accountancy to achieve a professional structure, certification activities will need to be done by competent authorities in our country.					
The profession of forensic accountancy will create an Innovational effect to the profession of accountancy.					