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TO THE QUESTION ABOUT THE NATURE OF INTERNAL AUDIT**DANILKOVA Svetlana***PhD in Economic sciences, Associate Professor, DipIPFM (UK),**Polesky State University, Belarus,**ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0243-5342>**e-mail: Danilkova_svetlana@mail.ru*

Abstract. *The article explores the problems of identifying the nature of internal audit on the basis of international economic literature and domestic legislation. A characteristic of the opinions of scientists on the definition of internal audit as a type of practical activity is given, an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the authors of this point of view is presented. For the first time, the author has established and systematized approaches to disclosing the essence of internal audit with an emphasis on expanding the circle of users of its results, regulating the activities of internal audit not only by internal regulations of a business entity. The author grouped the approaches to actions for the implementation of internal audit, identified the advantages and disadvantages of each, which made it possible to reveal the nature of internal audit, to identify its place, role and significance in the corporate governance system. At the same time, the author for the first time established and generalized approaches to the selection of internal audit directions, which depend on the choice of internal audit objects by business entities, the maturity of the internal audit service and strategic goals of business development. An assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of each of the approaches is given, which will expand the scope of internal audit.*

Keywords: *internal audit, type of activity, control, verification, assessment, objects, information users, audit form, element of internal control, system approach, accounting and control approach.*

Currently, the Republic of Belarus is undergoing changes in the field of control activities. The presidential decree abolished departmental control, which did not meet the modern challenges and threats of entrepreneurial activity, which requires the creation of new forms of management in the organization's management system.

The requirements of the economic situation and regulatory acts determine the presence of internal audit services in organizations of the Republic of Belarus. However, not all managers and property owners understand the content of internal audit. The lack of a definition of internal audit in domestic practice and economic literature determined the relevance of the

study. However, the presence of many points of view of foreign authors on this issue does not allow us to unambiguously identify and disclose the nature of internal audit. As a result of the research, the author came to the conclusion that internal audit has a dual nature: as a form of audit, which allows to classify many of its types according to various classification criteria, and as an element of the internal control system for the external auditor and other external users of information about the state and efficiency of the business.

The scientific novelty of the research lies in the fact that the author for the first time defined and systematized the approaches to taking actions to implement

internal audit: control, expert, combined and consulting. At the same time, for the first time, the author also identified, grouped and disclosed the essence of approaches to determining the directions of internal audit: accounting and control and systemic. Along with these innovations, the author assessed the advantages and disadvantages of each of them, which will allow business entities and property owners to choose the best approaches

based on the structure of the organization, the goals of business development and the interests of information users.

The obtained results of the study are of interest both for government bodies in order to develop legislative acts regulating internal audit, and for business entities and persons studying the problems of the development of internal audit.

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