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## **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEM**

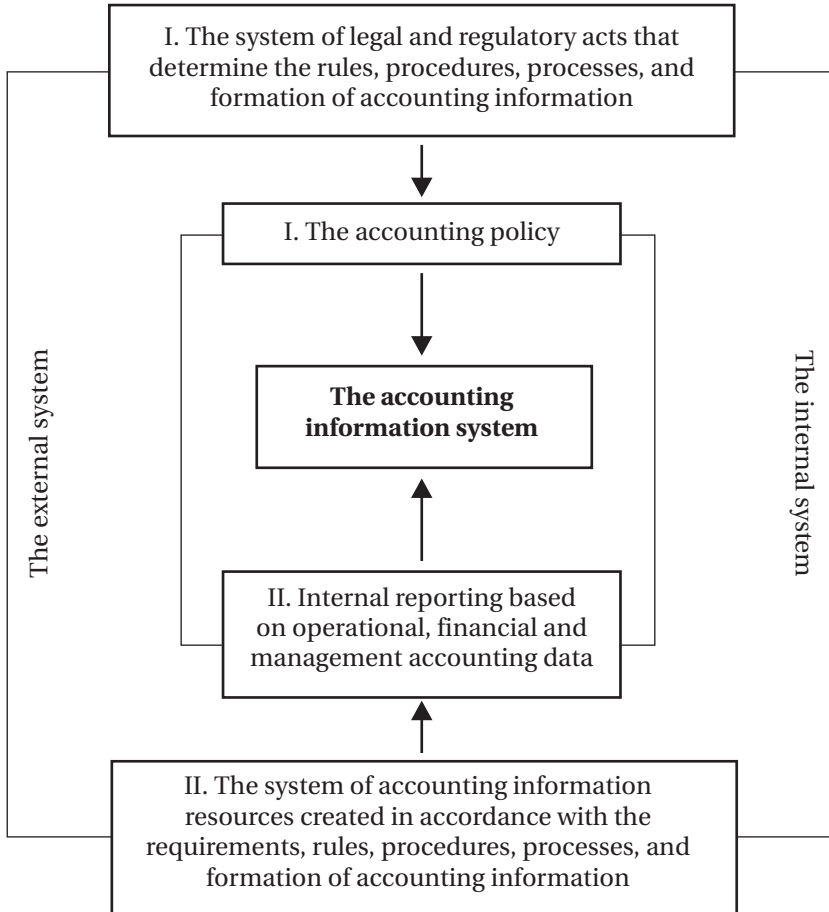
The basis of information support for managing the activities of any enterprise is accounting data. However, the existing accounting system does not always meet the modern management requirements that arise in a post-industrial society defined by the emergence and development of science and technology, artificial intelligence, and the widespread informatization of all areas of social activity. Today, this system must meet the needs for obtaining accounting information in a timely manner, preparing statistical and tax reports, and formulating long-term plans and forecasts using modern information technologies. Thus, the need to analyze the theoretical issues of the content and structure of an accounting information system (AIS) that would meet the growing requirements of users of accounting information is becoming increasingly important.

Currently, there are various definitions of the concept of an accounting information system in the economic literature. However, we define an accounting information system as a set of interrelated elements, principles, rules, procedures used in the process of generating accounting information, forming a single whole, interacting with the external and internal environment and with each other, and meeting the needs of socio-economic development of society. A schematic representation of an accounting information system can be found in Fig. 1.

The generalized goal of an accounting information system is to create generalized information resources suitable for use by potential users to make management decisions at different levels, by different economic and social groups of society.

Accordingly, the characteristics of an accounting information system are as follows:

— Coordination: all components of the accounting information system must be mutually consistent and meet the requirements of the external and internal environment. The AIS should take into account the circumstances surrounding the



**Fig. 1. The accounting information system**

*Source: compiled by the author.*

user of accounting information and satisfy his/her requirement for usefulness in the decision-making process;

— Integration: AIS is closely linked to other systems of activity, in particular to the management system;

— Differentiation: an accounting information system distinguishes accounting information in terms of time and purposes of its use: information used for current monitoring and for long-term planning;

— Flexibility: the ability of an accounting information system to respond to changes in the organizational structure of an enterprise or to changes in the economic or competitive environment of an organization;

— Compliance: the ability of the accounting information system to meet the needs of users of accounting information and to satisfy their constant demand for accounting information [1; 2; 3, с. 230-231].

Therefore, an AIS is a key asset of an enterprise that provides a structured accounting information system necessary for the collection, processing, transfer and use of financial information. It helps to make decisions, facilitates day-to-day operations, and ensures accountability of its financial resources, facilitating tactical management and strategic planning of activities, taking into account factors of the internal and external environment.

### **References:**

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