Analysis of COVID-19 scenarios as an element of reporting

COVID-19 has severely restricted the operations of many companies, even bringing them to a standstill in some cases. International supply chains have been interrupted. Personal contact between employees, customers, and suppliers is frequently impossible. And in some industries, the basis of the business has been limited or has temporarily disappeared.

All of these consequences of COVID-19 have short- and long-term effects on the business environment, on the nature of interpersonal cooperation, and on the achievement of operational and strategic company targets. In these uncertain times it is of the essence to make the right decisions quickly and safeguard the company’s long-term success based on clear analyses of possible scenarios.

Transparency for internal and external users of reports

In order to mitigate negative effects of the pandemic promptly and safeguard the company’s long-term viability, there needs to be solid coexistence between customers and suppliers, employees and members of the executive board, owners and banks.

It is particularly important to create transparency concerning the impact COVID-19 will have on the company as well as the effects on its financial and non-financial objectives. Does the company have sufficient liquidity to meet its financial obligations for the coming weeks? Can its business be ensured even with limited employee availability? How severe are the effects on the company’s equity and can its continuity?

- Different users of reports need different information about the repercussions of COVID-19. Examples include:
  - Liquidity planning and receivables management
  - Availability of sales and procurement markets
  - Viability of supply chains
  - Credit standing of customers and suppliers and their probability of default
  - Number of employees, sick leave, and HR provisions
  - Availability and reliability of the IT infrastructure
  - Strategy and the company’s long-term positioning

How the pandemic will proceed and impact companies is extremely uncertain. Scenarios help to analyze the effects on the company by making different assumptions about the course the pandemic will take and thus create transparency. The results of the analysis are used for different reporting purposes such as for internal communication to employees, in management reporting, or at investor roadshows.

Transparency and clarity about the possible effects of COVID-19 on the company create trust and reliability and allow companies to safeguard their long-term viability in uncertain times.

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