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WP4 – D4.2 Report on the organization of seminars to reach invited external stakeholders as industries and institutions and to disseminate the projects in the university not involved in the double degree agreements (WU, Birkbeck and Paris Dauphine)

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Executive Summary

This report provides an analysis of the data obtained from the questionnaires collected during the Local Workshops organised in June 2021 and December 2021 by Birkbeck - University of London, University Paris Dauphine and University of Economics and Business. Future implications for the project are also discussed.

1. Seminars organized by university not involved in the double degree agreements: Birkbeck, Paris Dauphine and WU

1.1. Introduction

One of the key steps in the creation of the GrEnFln Master is to acquire validation from the external project stakeholders with regard to the Master's curriculum and programme layout. The three Partner HEIs not involved in the agreement, namely Birkbeck University, University Paris Dauphine and Vienna University of





Economics and Business, were tasked with the organization of dissemination and validation activities aimed to confirm the interest of prospective students and industry professional on the subject of Green Energy and Finance, which were considered the targeted beneficiary of the project.

Two separate Local Workshops were organised by the three mentioned partner HEIs. At the end of each event, the participants were given time to fill in a validation questionnaire and the results were reported in Deliverable WP10 D10.2.

In this report, the findings are reviewed and implications for the project are discussed.

1.2. Findings

To better understand the meaning of the answers received in the questionnaires, we first look at the industry background of the participants.

The first Local Workshop was held on the 29th of June 2021 (see Deliverable D1.7.2) online via the platform Zoom. Out of the 22 participants, 10 filled in the questionnaire provided. The responses were mainly given by students and professors in the field of Mathematical Finance and Green Energy, with a small portion coming from industry professionals.

The second Local Workshop was held on the 2nd of December 2021 (see Deliverable D1.7.6). It was a joint effort between Birkbeck University, Vienna University of Economics and Business and University Paris-Dauphine. At the end of the Workshop the questionnaire was filled in by 23 participants, 22% of which were given by professionals from public and private institutions, 48% by students and 30% by Academic personnel from either an external university or one of the partner HEIs. 48% of the participants work in the field of Sustainable Finance, 22% in Energy and Energy Economics, 13% in Environmental Science and 17% work in other fields.

The feedback obtained highlights how GrEnFin Master will fill in an educational gap currently present in the European Green Finance academic landscape and will provide above average job placement opportunities to the students acquiring this Master.

The three educational paths presented (Technological/Engineering, Financial, Economics/Business) were all well received, with a rating average of 4.3 out of 5, further acknowledging the validity of the efforts of the Consortium. The “Technological/Engineering” path received the lowest score in both Workshop, which is likely due to the high amount of responses coming from stakeholders belonging to the (Sustainable) Finance and to the Energy Economics sectors.

Moreover, the participants highlighted the importance of the GrEnFin Master’s international dimension and its interdisciplinary path, allowing students to obtain a knowledge skillset which comprises up-to-date matters in climate change fit for the industry current needs. As the feedback obtained puts emphasis on the attractiveness of the Masters for students and industry professional wishing to hire them, it is clear that the strategic thinking and development of the curriculum were key to the validity of the output, as well as the diverse background of the Members of the consortium: different types of academic expertise among academics, different sizes of practitioners’ firms and level of sophistication and we want to observe the remarkable knowledge and comments they put forward all along the 2.5 years in the discussions.

With regard to the curriculum content, it appears that the Consortium is required to put emphasis on providing students with a strong Mathematical Background during the first semester, coupled with Green Finance Regulation and Financial Engineering/Investments knowledge. The Consortium, however, should not fall in the trap of creating a pure Mathematical Finance master, which is already offered by a number of



universities around Europe and beyond. A minority of participants suggested the reduction of the amount of Econometrics taught as they did not view it as crucial to understand Climate Change. Furthermore, it has been suggested that the following topics be included in the curriculum (in order from the least to the most important based on the questionnaire ratings): the energy transition impact of technologies, energy efficiency and financial risk, financial system/green finance policies, carbon price and carbon market regulations.

From the on-going discussions with the partner HEIs, it emerged that the student's mathematical knowledge needs to be evened out during the first semester of year 1. The emphasis needs to be put on Linear Algebra, Analysis and Probability Theory equally for each of the three tracks. However, whilst the Financial track is required to include preparatory courses in Mathematical Finance, the Technological/Engineering should include preparatory courses in Physics and Engineering to the field of Green Energy; on the other end, the Economics/Business track should comprise mathematics for economics. Lastly, the topics of Carbon Credit, ESG Impact Investing and the issue of greenwashing are identified as important factors that the students of the GrEnFin Master need to understand.



Greening Energy Market and Finance



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