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D10.2 - Report on the Consultation survey on the virtual platform



1. Introduction

We present in this report the evaluation of two questionnaires created and filled in the context of two local academic workshops.

The first event was organised by Université Paris Dauphine and Birkbeck, University of London in June 2021. It was primarily dedicated to the presentation of the GrEnFin programmes, and the implementation of the joint Master in particular.

The second one is the joint academic workshop of December 2021, titled “Recent results in green finance” and conducted on December 2nd. It was jointly organised by Birkbeck University of London, Université Paris Dauphine, and WU Vienna. It included six research presentations by academic presenters, half of which by GrEnFin members. In addition, the implementation of GrEnFin programmes at universities was presented in introduction.

2. Evaluation of the June local workshop questionnaire

A local workshop was conducted on June 29 to present the GrEnFin curriculum in a presentation dedicated to students, professors and professionals. The questionnaire was filled in by 10 of them, which is satisfying, and was intended to get feedback on general features of the programme, ways to market it, and the organisation of the workshop itself.

Of the ten respondents, seven of them attended following a direct invitation or a referral, and the other three thanks to a social media post. The institutional affiliation of participants was diverse, although it comprised a majority of universities. The overall organisation of the event was appreciated by participants, receiving an average score of 4.7 on a scale from 1 to 5.

With regard to the curriculum presentation, all respondents thought that GrEnFin would fill a gap in the existing educational offer, and that its graduates would benefit from above average placement opportunities compared to more general profiles. This was further supported by written comments. On average participants rated the educational path 4.3/5, with no rating below 4 given, consistently with an overall good impression of the curriculum. When asked about the strengths of the programme, as shown in the figure below, all four options proposed received a large support, with a marginally higher number for how GrEnFin addresses the climate emergency and key related matters. No new strong point was identified by participants. A small number of weaknesses were identified, with two respondents choosing gaps in the curriculum, and two other the structure of the master programme. The attractiveness, which was also a possible option, has not been picked as a weakness by any respondent. Thus, it is the development of the curriculum itself that currently appears as the most fragile component.





Then, when asked about what should be added to the programme, several respondents answered that the current curriculum already seemed overall satisfactory, and some suggested to put more focus on the following aspects:

- mathematical background in the first semester;
- green finance regulation (on scopes 1, 2, and 3), with policy at the national and international levels, and reporting;
- financial engineering and selection of investments.

On the other hand, the only suggestion received when asked for what to remove was a respondent saying the focus on econometrics should decrease.

General comments left by respondents were all positive, with one suggesting that the local workshop includes testimonies from students who took part to the summer school, and another one that GrEnFin should consider offering scholarship to at least two African students, or partner with African institutions, given how the continent is the one suffering most from climate change relative to its carbon footprint.

3. Evaluation of the joint academic workshop questionnaire

A total of 23 participants filled in the questionnaire, out of 48 who attended at least part of the event. The questionnaire was intended to get feedback on general features of the programme, which were presented at the start of the event, and the organisation of the workshop itself.

We first analysed the types of participants that attended the workshop. Out of the sample of respondents, almost half were students, with all except one belonging to organising universities (Dauphine, Birkbeck and WU). The rest of respondents were then divided between academic personnel and professionals, with the former in slightly greater number. Details of the breakdown are provided in figure 1. The overall audience seems broadly in line with the workshop concept, which was to both engage discussion between academics and to disseminate research results to interested students, who are also a key target group for GrEnFin.

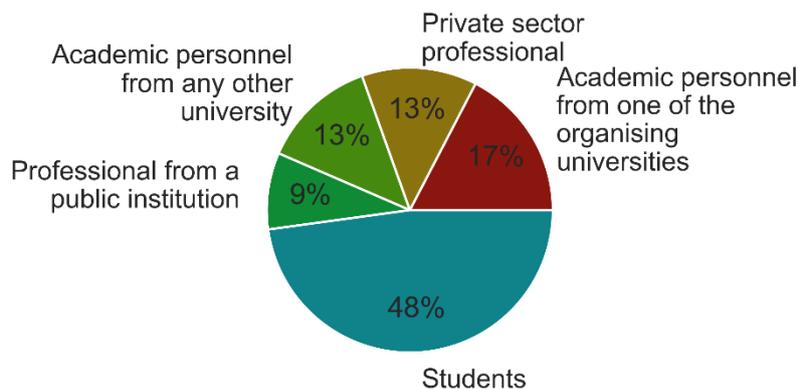


Figure 1 - Categorisation of workshop participants

Second, we look at the provenance of participants in terms of the communication channel that was instrumental in bringing them to the workshop. We find that a majority of respondents attended following a direct invite by partner universities, accordingly with the fact that most of them are students or academic personnel from organising universities. Moreover, the importance of social media seems to have been lower than in other previous events, but it allowed to reach some extra participants.

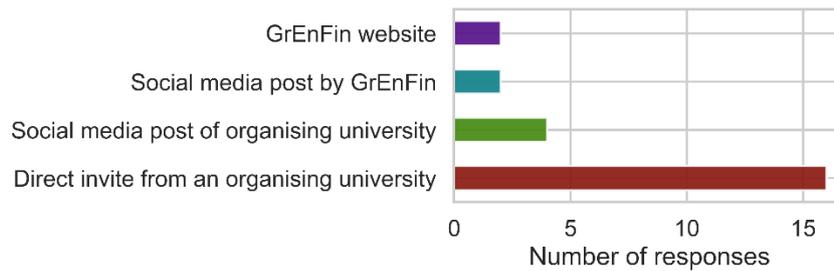


Figure 2 - Channels of communication to participants

The last characteristics of respondents that is analysed is the field of work or study that they belong to. We found that close to half of respondents work in sustainable finance, which is followed by “Energy and energy economics”, then “Environmental science”. Four participants reported fields of study out of the initial list, including “Quantitative finance”, “Quantitative economics”, “Communications” and “Financial economics”. The other fields that were on offer but not ticked by any respondents were “Ecological economics” and “Transportation”. The dominance of participants with a financial background is likely to relate to the stronger appeal of the event to that group, in line with its very title “Recent results in green finance”.

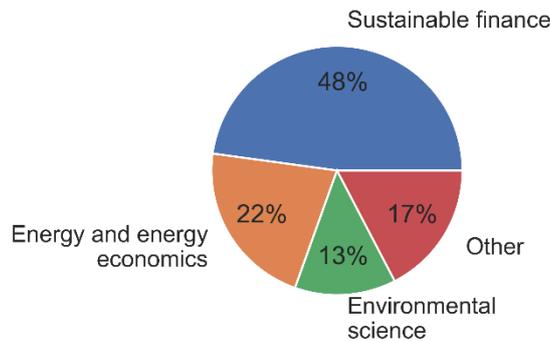


Figure 3 - Field of work/study of participants

Participants were then asked to give feedback on the general features of the event, namely the range of topics covered, the quality of the presentation, and the organisation. Most grades are high, 4 or 5 on a scale from 1 to 5. Consequently, the lowest average of the three points is of 4.6. The only grade received below 4 is a 3 on the question of organization. Thus, there seems to have been a general satisfaction of participants, at least with regard to their expectations for the event.

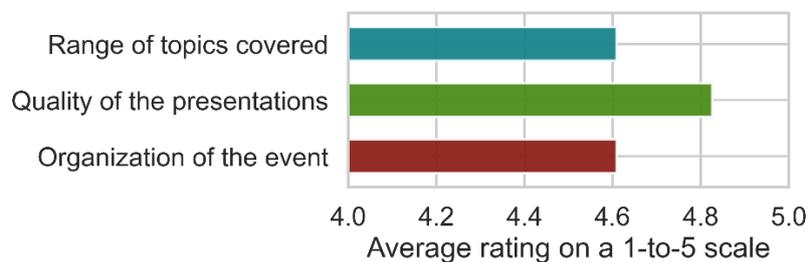


Figure 4 -Ratings on general features of the event

Professors René Aid and Helyette Geman conducted presentations of the GrEnFin project at the start of the event. Several questions were meant to measure the impression from the audience with regard to the programme. This introduction to GrEnFin was rather succinct given the nature of the event as a research workshop but included an overview of the work done. The same scale as the previous question was used, with results in a similar range, denoting generally an interest of respondents for the programme. The point

receiving a somewhat lower grade was about asking participants if GrEnFin seemed to answer to an educational gap. The interest in hearing more about the programme or participating to a GrEnFin programme were comparatively higher.

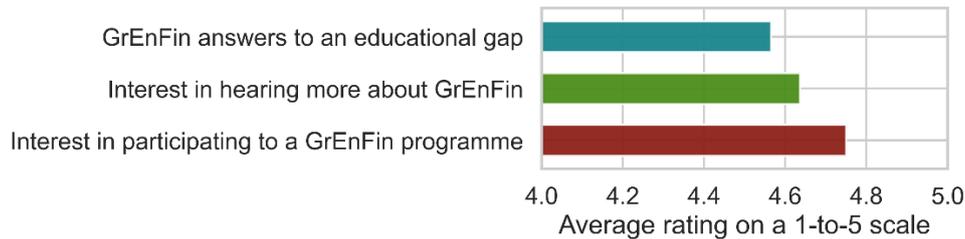


Figure 5 - Ratings related to the presentation of the GrEnFin programme

Furthermore, respondents were then asked how important they think the different tracks of the GrEnFin master are. The three tracks defined in the curriculum were thus assessed, still on a scale from 1 to 5. What comes out is a relative deficit of popularity for the “Technological / Engineering” track, compared to the other two (“Financial” and “Economics / Business”). The discrepancy between tracks is most likely influenced by the profile of participants being more oriented toward finance and economics, and less on the side of technological skills. In practice, those who identified with the field of sustainable finance gave the track an average rating of 4, i.e. somewhat lower than the general average. Thus, although the average grade is still good, and no definitive lesson can be drawn from it, this reflects a lesser attractiveness of the technological track on students with financial profiles.

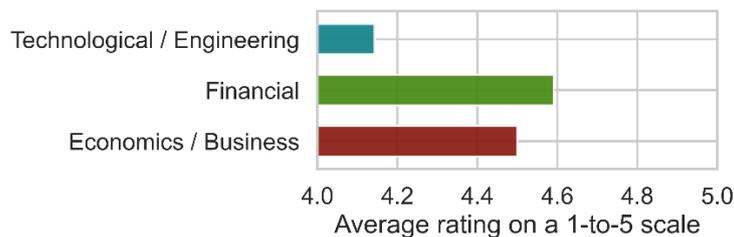


Figure 6 - Ratings of the different tracks of the GrEnFin programme

Finally, we asked participants which of the topics covered in the different presentations would be important to include in the programmes of the GrEnFin project. The responses given in figure 7 show that there was a marked interest for three of them, with “Financial system / green financial policies” and “Carbon price and carbon market regulations” both picked by 10 respondents. “Energy efficiency and financial risk” comes next, chosen by 9 participants. The last option, “Energy transition impact of technologies”, which was associated as an example to the topic of cryptocurrencies, gathered less interest with only 5 respondents including it.

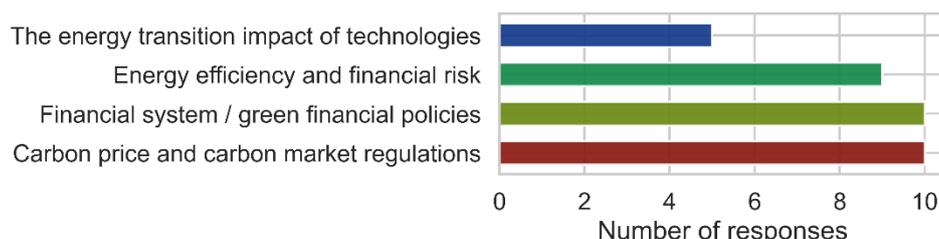


Figure 7 - Favoured topics from the presentations to be included in the GrEnFin programme. Respondents were asked which topics they think would be a good addition to the programme structure.



Five comments were adding to the positive feedback, with words of thank for the organisation. Additionally one respondent mentioned that he would have liked to hear from energy market professionals on top of academic presentations. Finally, one respondent mentioned that – having hearing impairments – following the event had been difficult to them. This comment suggested that the Zoom platform used was not necessarily fit from an accessibility point of view, to the contrary of alternatives such as MS Teams. It would seem in fact that features such as live caption generally [exist for Zoom as well](#), such that this should be taken into account and planned for in advance for the organisation of future events where potential disabilities of attendants are not a priori known.

4. Conclusion

The questionnaires evaluated in this report provide some hint on the way to better meet expectations of programme participants, with regard to some inadequacy that emerged from the assessment of surveys conducted during the summer 2021 programmes.

The second questionnaire in particular appears to have usefully identified the profile of participants to the underlying event, which seems – as in previous surveys – to be an important factor in the preferences expressed. The survey got a mildly satisfying response rate of close to 50%, corresponding to a larger pool of respondents than the first event. The programmes of GrEnFin have received a positive feedback overall, although with some heterogeneity with regard to some aspects.

Finally, some practical comments left by attendants could be taken into account in the future, both for the design of the programmes and for the conduct of online events. Furthermore, this highlights the importance of having such a feedback channel.

Greening Energy Market and Finance



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Project website:
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