



Vienna University of Economics and Business

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Description of the Organisation

The Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) is a public university committed to excellence in research and research-led teaching. With about 23,000 students from Austria and abroad, WU today is the EU's largest educational institution for business and economics, business law, and social sciences. It is among the 1% of universities worldwide that have been awarded international accreditations by EQUIS, AACSB, and AMBA.

Within the Vienna University of Economics and Business, the Institute for Ecological Economics (IEE) –with its 35 staff members - is a leading institution for ecological economic research, teaching, learning, knowledge exchange, and community engagement. The Institute has also submitted various successful applications to the OeNB Jubiläumsfonds and the Austrian Climate Research Program, as well as to other granting institutions. Within the Institute for Ecological Economics, the research area on ClimateEconomics and Finance studies the dynamic interactions between socio-economic systems and climate sustainability, with a special focus on risk and finance, from a modelling, empirical and policy point of view.

Finally, IEE is involved in the organization of dissemination events in the academic community (e.g. the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE) annual conference) and with financial institutions (e.g. the Austrian National Bank).

Role of the Organisation in the project

Vienna University of Economics and Business is the leader of the evaluation WP10 and has an important role also in the preparation WP6 and the dissemination WP11.

The main tasks of WP10 are:

1. Draft the final reports as output of the restricted meeting sessions and virtual conferences where the result of the external evaluation based on the quantitative indicator specified in the qualitative plan is reported, along with a discussion of results and suggestions for improvement. Every report will be made publicly available on the project online platform.



2. Development of targeted questionnaires to students and professionals involved in the classes to evaluate the alignment of the content, methodology and the delivery of the lessons with the projects' objectives. The questionnaires will be made available on the online project platform and the community will be continuously invited to leave comments.
3. Analysis of the questionnaires results. The result will be analysed and benchmarked with the projects' objectives. They will be reported in consultation surveys that will be updated and publicly available along with several indicators of the project's development.

The direct experience and engagement of the Vienna University of Economics and Business with students and practitioners in the field of green energy finance allows to work as a quality referee for the project and to provide useful insights and improvements.

Moreover, WU will contribute to the pilot study program, the summer schools/training and the full immersion experience by designing and delivering lectures on business and finance –related risks stemming from the low-carbon energy transition, the relation between environment and the economy, and sustainable finance (tools and metrics) and proposing internships in Vienna University of Economics and Business.

On the other hand, the role of WU in WP6 is to coordinate with Hera in order to detect specific needs of the industries in terms of competences to be conveyed by the new professional module based on the results of the stakeholders' consultation (WP2) and the suggestion of the industrial partners.

Furthermore, WU will contribute to academic and non-academic dissemination in WP11, promoting special sessions on the future of education for green energy and finance at international economics and environmental conferences, such as the European Association of Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE). In addition, WU will contribute to disseminate the results of the project within the academics and practitioners' network of the FINEXUS centre on Financial Networks and Sustainable Finance at UZH, which is a leading institution on the topic¹⁰.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Armon Rezai is senior researcher at IIASA and full professor at the Vienna University of Economics and Business where he is head of the Ecological Economics institute and holds an endowed chair in socioeconomics of work. He has published widely with over 30 publications in international peer-reviewed academic journals, including general interest journals such as American Economic Review, International Economic Review, and European Economic Review, as well as leading environmental field journals. His research topics are mostly macroeconomics (e.g. economic growth, distribution of income and wealth, and unemployment) and its application to environmental problems like climate change, and economic policy.

After earning a PhD in economics from The New School for Social Research (New York), he has worked at the United Nations University's World Institute for Development Economics Research in Helsinki and provided consultations to the World Bank and the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET). He has been a Fulbright Fellow, Schrödinger Fellow of the Austrian Science Fund, and academic visitor at the University of California at Berkeley, CESifo, and the FGV Sao Paulo. He is also an external research associate at the University of Oxford's Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies (OxCARRE) and a fellow of the CESifo network. Since 2016 he acts as a member of the advisory board of the MISTRA Financial Systems research consortium.