



Birkbeck - University of London

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Description of the Organisation

Birkbeck - University of London has a long-standing history dating back to the 19th century. Research at Birkbeck in 11 subject areas is rated as 'internationally excellent' and 'world leading' while over 90 percent of Birkbeck academics are research-active. Birkbeck has been acknowledged as a 'global elite' university and it is often shortlisted by the Times Higher Education Awards as University of the Year. Consistently ranked as one of the top 150 universities in the world, Birkbeck is placed as 25th in Europe in terms of 13 wide-ranging performance indicators, comprising research, teaching, and international mix. Birkbeck is a member of academic organisations such as the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the European University Association and it has a huge number of strategically significant partnerships with some of the highly ranked east Asian and south American universities. The university was awarded The Queen's Anniversary Prize for excellence in higher education research in 2006. For what concerns the project, the main reference is the Commodity Finance Center, that has existed for about ten years now. The chairman and founder of the Commodity Center is Prof. Hélyette Geman, one of the main international references in financial mathematics, with particular application to commodities and energy. The center already offers a Master in Finance and Commodities. The center has a faculty and several PhD students, and the ongoing research is reported on the website at www.bbk.uk/cfc.

Role of the Organisation in the project

Birkbeck - University of London with University of economics in Katowice are leaders of the implementation WP4. Birkbeck - University of London is responsible to supervise and organize the dissemination activities involving



the partners not included in the double degree agreements (Birkbeck college, Université Paris-Dauphine and Wien University of Economics and Business). Three dissemination conferences to present the projected joint master degree to the stakeholders will be organized during the 2021 in London, Paris and Wien. A final report dealing the experience of these two events will be produced and publicly available in the GrEnFIn-Hub VPlatform- Moreover this institution supervises during this phase of the project the actions directed to the academic and administrative checks in Birbeck, WU and Université Paris-Dauphine in order to verify and possibly test course's modules. It is also responsible of final reports editing concerning the experience of dissemination activities academic and administrative checks in order to verify and possibly test course modules in the three institutions (Birkbeck, WU and Université Paris-Dauphine) not involved in existing DD agreements.

Moreover Birkbeck - University of London will contribute in the project by:

- participating and organizing events;
- providing faculty to the summer schools and other education initiatives;
- providing a link between the field of energy and the wider field of commodities markets;
- defining with other partners and the industry frontier topics in the field of energy

The experience and the current development of the Commodity Finance Center will be very useful for these purposes. Birkbeck will also be very useful for the dissemination of the project and its results towards the audience oriented to the financial issues of the energy market.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Prof. Hélyette Geman is a Professor of Mathematical Finance at Birkbeck, University of London where she is the Director of the Commodity Finance Centre and Research Professor at Johns Hopkins University. She joined Birkbeck, University of London in 2006 after an academic career in France, first at ESSEC Business School (1993-1996) where she was Chair of the Finance Department and then at Paris Dauphine (1996-2006), where she was Director of the Masters program "Securities Markets, Commodities Markets and Risk Management". Professor Geman has consulted major banks, energy and mining companies as well as commodity houses, covering the spectrum of interest rates, catastrophic risk, crude oil and electricity, metals and agricultural. She was previously the Head of Research at Caisse des Depots in Paris. Professor Geman was the first president of the Bachelier Finance Society and has published more than 140 papers in top international finance and insurance Journals including *the Journal of Finance*, *Mathematical Finance*, *Geneva Papers on Insurance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*. She was named in 1993 Member of Honor of the French Society of Actuaries.

Among the awards she received in this field we mention:

- Hall of Fame of Energy Risk (2004)
- Medal for Sciences of the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Alma Mater University of Bologna in 2008
- First prize of the Merrill Lynch Awards in 1995
- First Prize of the AFIR (Actuarial Approach to Financial Risk) awards in 1994
- Member of the Board of the UBS-Bloomberg Commodity Index.

For the sake of synthesis we only focus here on her research in the field of energy.