



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE
DISEI
DIPARTIMENTO DI
SCIENZE PER L'ECONOMIA
E L'IMPRESA

AREA
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

8th International Week Department of Economics and Management University of Florence

October 19-23, 2026

PROGRAMME



Contacts

- **International Relations** (Sara De Masi, Gianluca Iannucci, Sara Lombardi, Simona Zambelli): international.relations@disei.unifi.it
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Monday, October 19, 2026

8.00-8.15h: Registration of the participants and welcome coffee

Building D6, First floor, Room Melis

8.15-8.30h: Opening session

Sara Lombardi & Sara De Masi (International Relations of the Department of Economics & Management).

Building D6, First floor, Room Melis

8.30-11h: Academic Networking Seminar

This session will allow each participant to briefly introduce him/herself (15 minutes each presentation) by presenting his/her background, research interests, and anything else it might be useful to get to know each other and build new relationships.

The participants might prepare a ppt presentation. In that case, it is required to bring a USB stick.

Moderator: Sara Lombardi & Sara De Masi (International Relations of the Department of Economics & Management).

Building D6, First floor, Room Melis

Afterwards, every participant is free to reach his/her own lecture's room, attend a lecture of any other International Week participant or remain in the coworking space.

8.00-19.00h: Co-working space - *Building D6, First floor, Room Melis*



Tuesday, October 20, 2026

8.00-14.00h: Each participant should reach his/her own lecture's room or attend a lecture of any other International Week participant or remain in the coworking space.

8.00-14.45h: Co-working space - Building D6, First Floor - Room Ceccherelli

13.30-14.30h: Research seminar – *Department of Economics & Management*

Francesco Cappellano, University of Kiel, (Germany)

The interplay between (innovation) policy, agents, and a place-based approach to tackle Societal Challenges at the regional level

Building D6, First Floor - Room Bracco

14.45-17.00h: Research seminars - AI, Sustainability & ESG

Format: 30' presentation plus 5-10' Q&A

Moderator: Sara De Masi (University of Florence)

Faculty members, PhD students, Post-doc fellows are welcome

Building D6, First Floor - Room Bracco

1. **Jin San Kim**, Kyungpook National University, (South Korea), "*Green Finance Reform and Banks' Performance in China*"

While growing literature examines the economic consequences of green finance, most empirical studies focus on firms, industries, or regions rather than banks themselves. Existing research shows that green finance policies affect corporate green innovation, financing conditions, and regional environmental performance, but evidence on how such reforms reshape banks' own operating efficiency remains limited. This omission is important because, in a bank-dominated financial system, banks are not merely passive channels through which policy is transmitted; they are strategic intermediaries whose internal financial structure and operating decisions may be altered by regulatory change. Recent evidence suggests that green credit can influence bank profitability and efficiency. However, the direction and magnitude of



these effects remain context-dependent and remain underexplored in the Chinese reform setting. Against this background, this chapter examines whether the GFRIPZ affects bank cost efficiency and further investigates whether this effect operates through changes in banks' internal financial structure. Specifically, the analysis tests whether green finance reform induces adjustments in capital adequacy and asset composition, and whether these adjustments, in turn, are associated with changes in cost efficiency. Framed in this way, capital adequacy and asset structure are not treated as ad hoc controls, but as plausible channels through which banks respond to green policy mandates by reallocating resources and re-optimizing their balance sheets. This study contributes the followings. First, it extends the green finance literature by focusing on cost efficiency in the banking sector, an underexplored yet important dimension of intermediary performance. Whereas prior studies have primarily examined firm-level innovation, corporate efficiency, and regional outcomes (Liu and Wang, 2023; Irfan et al., 2022; Huang et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2025; Yan et al., 2022; Jin et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2023; Ren et al., 2025; Xie and Fan, 2023), this chapter provides systematic evidence on how green finance reforms alter banks' cost structures. Second, it incorporates mediation analysis to examine how internal financial characteristics, in particular capital adequacy and asset composition, shape the transmission of green finance reforms to cost efficiency. Third, by documenting heterogeneity in reform effects across bank types and regions, the chapter offers insights for designing regulatory frameworks that consider institutional differences and regional disparities in the banking system.

2. **Barbora Košinárová**, CEVRO University, *ESG in the Legal Framework: From International Commitments to Regional Practice*.

This paper examines the transformation of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles from a voluntary concept of corporate social responsibility into an increasingly binding legal and economic framework influencing corporate governance, investment strategies, supply chains, and public administration. The paper focuses on the interaction between European Union ESG regulation and its practical implementation within business and institutional environments, emphasizing the growing role of compliance, accountability, and sustainability reporting. The paper analyses the key pillars of the current European ESG framework, particularly the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the EU Taxonomy Regulation, and the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR). It discusses how these instruments reshape corporate obligations by extending sustainability reporting requirements, imposing due diligence duties across supply chains, and increasing scrutiny from investors, banks, regulators, and consumers.

Special attention is devoted to the practical legal implications of ESG in the fields of environmental protection, labour and anti-discrimination law, corporate governance, whistleblower protection, and public procurement. The paper demonstrates that ESG compliance is no longer limited to large multinational corporations but increasingly affects medium-sized and smaller enterprises through contractual and supply-chain relationships.

Using practical examples and case studies, the paper highlights the distinction between formal ESG reporting and genuine sustainable corporate behaviour. It further explores the phenomenon of greenwashing and related reputational and legal risks associated with misleading environmental or social claims. The paper also addresses institutional and

cultural barriers to ESG implementation, including insufficient managerial expertise, limited internal capacities, and the tendency to perceive ESG merely as an administrative burden rather than a strategic governance tool. The paper concludes that ESG is becoming an integral component of modern corporate governance and regulatory compliance. Future competitiveness and long-term sustainability will increasingly depend on the ability of companies and public institutions to integrate ESG principles into decision-making processes, internal controls, and stakeholder communication. The research aims to contribute to the interdisciplinary discussion connecting law, economics, compliance, and sustainable business governance.

3. **Claudia Diers-Lienke**, The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS), (The Netherlands), *Bridging the AI Divide: Evaluating the Impact of the AIDE AI Literacy Programme on Responsible Educational Innovation in Higher Education*

As generative AI rapidly reshapes higher education, a growing 'AI Divide' is emerging: while some students use AI effectively to enhance their learning and employability, others lack the access, skills, or critical understanding to do so. Lecturers are uniquely positioned to bridge this divide — but only if they are AI literate themselves. This paper presents the AIDE (Artificial Intelligence Didactics Expertise Centre) programme and its ongoing evaluation study, which examines how structured AI literacy training can equip lecturers to implement responsible, future-oriented educational innovation. AIDE is a seven-week, on-campus professional development programme for lecturers, by lecturers, developed within the Management & Organisation faculty at THUAS in 2024. Drawing on Mollick's concept of the 'jagged frontier' and grounded in constructive alignment (Biggs & Tang, 2011), the programme integrates AI literacy with educational theory, ethics — including obligations under the EU AI Act — and hands-on curriculum redesign. Sessions combine impulse lectures, peer coaching, critical-friend feedback, and reflective assignments, aiming to shift participants from policing AI use to partnering with it. Two pilot editions (July 2025 and January 2026, n=25 in total) yielded high satisfaction scores of 8.4 and 9.4 out of 10 respectively, with a 100% recommendation rate across both cohorts. To move beyond these promising but informal signals, a formal evaluation study is now underway using a mixed-methods educational design research (EDR) approach, complemented by a developmental evaluation lens (McKenney & Reeves, 2025; Patton, 2011). The study addresses four sub-questions covering learning outcomes, programme satisfaction, transfer to practice, and contextual enablers and barriers. AI literacy is operationalised through the UNESCO competency framework for teachers and the Dutch Npuls AI GO framework, ensuring alignment with both international and national policy contexts. Data are collected at four points — before, during, at the end of, and two to three months after the programme — using pre/post surveys, programme evaluations, process data, showcase artefacts, and follow-up interviews. Findings are triangulated across quantitative and qualitative sources to produce both evaluative conclusions and design insights for iterative programme refinement. This paper reflects on the theoretical underpinnings of AIDE, presents pilot evaluation findings, and discusses the methodological choices made for the formal study. It contributes to the growing body of research on AI professional development in higher education by offering a replicable, pedagogically grounded model that centres equity, ethical awareness, and



sustainable capacity building — moving beyond tool training towards genuine AI partnership in teaching and learning.

4. **Marta Urbane**, Riga Stradiņš university (Latvia), *From informed to autonomous consumer in AI-mediated markets under EU law*

AI-driven personalisation now shapes both the information consumers receive and the environments in which they choose. EU consumer law rests on the informed-consumer paradigm, which assumes adequate information enables rational and autonomous decisions. This article tests whether the paradigm remains adequate in markets governed by behavioural prediction, recommender systems and personalised choice architectures. The article also asks whether EU regulation is shifting from information-based protection towards safeguarding the conditions under which consumer choices form. The study combines doctrinal analysis of the UCPD, DSA and the AI act with conceptual analysis drawing on behavioural economics and persuasive technology research. The central contribution is a distinction between informational asymmetry, where the trader knows more than the consumer, and behavioural asymmetry, where the trader predicts and shapes how the consumer decides. This distinction explains why disclosure duties fail to address harms arising from targeted influence rather than missing information. The analysis shows EU law increasingly regulates digital choice architecture and behavioural influence through dark-pattern prohibitions, recommender-system transparency and bans on manipulative AI techniques. These rules remain fragmented across instruments, apply divergent thresholds such as material distortion and significant harm, and still anchor protection in the average-consumer benchmark. The article concludes AI-driven personalisation leaves the informed-consumer paradigm in place yet exposes the limits of this paradigm. EU consumer law needs a complementary autonomy-based standard focused on the conditions for independent choice. Such a standard offers a coherent basis for the forthcoming Digital Fairness Act and for future enforcement.



14.45-17.00h: Research seminars - Culture, History & Performance

Format: 30' presentation plus 5'-10 Q&A

Moderator: Francesco Guidi Bruscoli (University of Florence)

Faculty members, PhD students, Post-doc fellows are welcome

Building D6, First floor, Room Ceccherelli

1. **Bart Lambert**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, (Belgium), *Florence and the Migrants of the North: New Perspectives on a Fifteenth-Century International City*

Renaissance Florence is celebrated as a centre of art, commerce and innovation, but it was also a remarkably international city. This paper explores the presence of migrants from the Low Countries (present-day Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) in fifteenth-century Florence through the records of the Confraternity of Saint Barbara, an association that supported immigrants from northern Europe. Rather than relying on published editions of these records, the study returns to the original membership register and reconstructs the trajectories of more than 450 individuals through a systematic database analysis. The findings reveal that migrants from the Low Countries formed one of Florence's largest foreign communities and were far more numerous and socially diverse than previously assumed. Many worked in the city's textile industries, especially as wool and linen weavers, contributing skills that were actively sought by Florentine employers and institutions. The paper examines how economic opportunities, favourable migration policies and established social networks attracted these workers to Florence. More broadly, it highlights the city's place within a wider European world, showing how the movement of people, skills and knowledge helped shape Florence's economic and social development during the Renaissance.

2. **Mohsen Tavakoli**, Burgundy School of Business, Lyon, (France), *Caring Through Art: The Ethics of Care as A Driver for Cultural Entrepreneurship*

The contemporary transformations of the cultural sector have led many artists and cultural practitioners to adopt hybrid entrepreneurial practices, operating at the intersection of economic, social, and cultural logics (Thornton & Ocasio, 2008). These hybrid configurations raise important theoretical questions for entrepreneurship research — particularly regarding how multiple, often competing, institutional logics are reconciled in practice. Recent scholarship has highlighted the proximity between cultural entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship, while drawing attention to the tensions inherent in these initiatives, caught between artistic creation, economic imperatives, and social mission (Barberá-Tomás et al., 2019; McQuilten et al., 2020). This question is all the more pressing given that cultural practitioners operate under increasing pressure to professionalise and demonstrate economic viability. Yet existing frameworks have largely failed to account for the relational and ethical dimensions that animate many of these initiatives. This article addresses that gap by advancing the ethics of care as an analytical framework for reconceptualising cultural entrepreneurship. Rooted in attentiveness to vulnerability, interdependence, and the active sustaining of social relationships (Fisher & Tronto, 1990;



Tronto, 1993, 2013), the ethics of care allows entrepreneurial activity to be understood not merely as a process of value creation, but as a fundamentally relational practice oriented towards social transformation. To explore this argument, we draw on a study of the participatory artistic initiatives of a French artist — a particularly illuminating case given the global reach, collaborative methodology, and explicit social engagement of his projects. This research seeks to address the following research question: To what extent can the ethics of care serve as an analytical framework for understanding and renewing cultural entrepreneurship? More specifically, we examine how the artist's initiatives embody a model of cultural entrepreneurship guided by care-based logics, and what this model reveals about the transformative potential of the field.

3. Marie Cerna, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (Czech Republic), *Limits of measuring the performance of SPA institutions*

Purpose – This study investigates spa institutions' performance measurement options, identifies factors influencing such measurement, and assesses their significance.

Methodology/Design/Approach – A literature review using bibliometric analysis tools introduces the spa industry context and performance evaluation. Content analysis identifies suitable performance measurement indicators. Subsequently, a meta-analysis verifies the applicability of these indicators, drawing conclusions on the factors influencing the financial performance and stability of spa institutions.

Findings – The study compiles a comprehensive set of indicators for assessing the financial performance of the Czech and Slovak spa institutions and evaluates the key factors determining this performance. Results reveal that the financial and operational performance of spa institutions is significantly polarized, driven mainly by cost efficiency, the volume of fixed assets, and ownership structure.

Originality of the research – This research contributes to both theory and practice by illustrating the critical role of key performance indicator selection in the specific economic field of spa care. It offers new insights for academics and practitioners, emphasizing an economic perspective in this sector.

17.00-18.00h: Cocktail

Building D6, First floor

Reservation required – Only for participants in the International Week and host professors



Wednesday, October 21, 2026

14.30-16.00h: Research seminar: Rama Cont (Oxford University) “How accurate are representative agent models?” (Joint work with Anran HU, Columbia University)

Building D6, First Floor - Room Bracco

Abstract: While representative agent models with homogeneous (« mean-field ») interactions remain the dominant theoretical paradigm in the mathematical modeling of socio-economic systems, empirical studies point to the importance of heterogeneity in agent characteristics and interactions in such systems. Given an arbitrary population of heterogeneous agents with strategic interactions, we propose a systematic approach for constructing representative agent and mean-field approximations and quantifying the accuracy of these approximations in terms of distance from equilibrium. We prove a quantitative homogenization result for multi-player games in this setting: given a heterogeneous multi-player game, we provide explicit and non-asymptotic bounds for the distance from optimality in terms of the number of players and the deviations from homogeneity in sub-populations. These results can then be used to construct « optimal » representative agent models for a heterogeneous system at a given resolution. The best mean-field approximation corresponds to an optimal partition into sub-populations, which may be formulated as the solution of a mixed-integer program.

8.00-14.45h: Co-working space - *Building D6, First Floor - Room Ceccherelli*



N.B.

- a) In order to meet the Erasmus+ programme requirements, please note that each participant is expected to be involved in teaching within the assigned course(s) as well as to take part in the research seminar session.**
- b) All buildings in the Campus close at 8.00 pm.**
- c) Wi-fi connection “Eduroam” available in the campus.** Please contact the organizers if you need help.
- d) Each participant has the opportunity to access our library during the week.** You just need to inform the library desk by giving your name.
- e) The certificate of attendance will be sent by email after November 6, 2025.**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	FAMILY NAME	NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
1	Cerna	Marie	University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (Czech Republic)	macerna@fek.zcu.cz
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7	Bart	Lambert	Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)	bart.lambert@vub.be



LECTURES' PROGRAMME

Monday, October 19					
Schedule	Course	Visiting lecturer	Affiliation	Building/ Room	Host lecturer
8.00-11.00	Introduction and presentations	ALL PARTICIPANTS		D6 Aula melis	see the program
12.00-14.00	Innovation and Strategy in the AI Age	Claudia Diers-Lienke	The Hague University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)	D6/016	Francesco Capone
14.00-16.00	Innovation and Strategy in the AI Age	Claudia Diers-Lienke	The Hague University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)	D6/016	Francesco Capone
Tuesday, October 20					
Schedule	Course	Visiting lecturer	Affiliation	Building, Room	Host lecturer
12.00-14.00	Social Innovation and CSR	Mohsen Tavakoli	Burgundy School of Business, Lyon (France)	C9/002	Francesco Capone
13.30-18.00	Research seminars			D6 Aula Melis & Aula Bracco	see the program

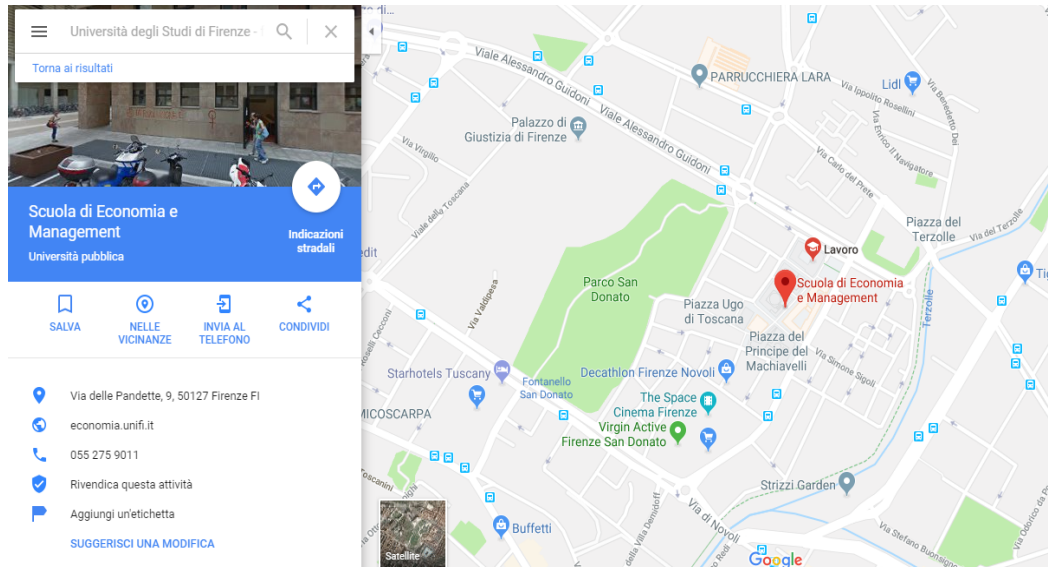


Wednesday, October 21					
Schedule	Course	Visiting lecturer	Affiliation	Building, Room	Host lecturer
12.00-14.00	Social Innovation and CSR	Mohsen Tavakoli	Burgundy School of Business, Lyon (France)	D4/1.03	Francesco Capone
12.00-14.00	Economics of Institutions and Market Regulation	Barbora Košinárová	CEVRO University (Czech Republic)	D6/007	Silvia Leoni
14.00-16.00	PhD seminar	Mohsen Tavakoli	Burgundy School of Business, Lyon (France)	D6 - Room Melis	Francesco Capone
14.00-16.00	Regulation and Digital Markets	Marta Urbane	Riga Stradiņš university (Latvia)	D6/0.05	Lapo Filistrucchi
14.00-16.00	Urban and Environmental History	Bart Lambert	Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)	D6/0.14	Francesco Guidi Bruscoli
16.00-18.00	Urban and Environmental History	Bart Lambert	Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)	D6/0.14	Francesco Guidi Bruscoli

Thursday, October 22					
Schedule	Course	Visiting lecturer	Affiliation	Building, Room	Host lecturer
12.00-14.00	Corporate Finance	Marie Cerna	University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (Czech Republic)	D4/1.03	Alessandro Giannozzi
14.30-16.00	Corporate Finance	Marie Cerna	University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (Czech Republic)	D6/0.07	Alessandro Giannozzi

Friday, October 23					
Schedule	Course	Visiting lecturer	Affiliation	Building, Room	Host lecturer
12.00-14.00	Corporate Finance	Marie Cerna	University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (Czech Republic)	D6/0.13	Alessandro Giannozzi
14.00-16.00	Regulation and Digital Markets	Marta Urbane	Riga Stradiņš university	D5/0.02	Lapo Filistrucchi
16.00-18.00	Regulation and Digital Markets	Marta Urbane	Riga Stradiņš university	D5/0.02	Lapo Filistrucchi

HOW TO FIND US



Location: Social Sciences Campus, Via delle Pandette 9, Building D6, 50127 Florence.

Find us on Google maps: [Department of Economics and Management - University of Florence](#)

How to reach us from the city center (find below two among the best options available):

Option 1

- Take **Tram T2** from Firenze Santa Maria Novella central train station (both tram stops “Unità” and “Alamanni-Stazione” are fine)
- Get off at tram stop “**San Donato - Università**”
- Walk 6 minutes to the Social Sciences Campus, Via delle Pandette 9

Option 2

- Take **Bus n. 23** from Firenze Santa Maria Novella central train station (both bus stops “Stazione Scalette” and “Scala Orti Oricellari” are fine)
- Get off at bus stop “**Del Prete Terzolle**”
- Walk 6 minutes to the Social Sciences Campus, Via delle Pandette 9

More information on possible routes can be found on:

- the [Autolinee Toscane website](#); they have also an [App “At bus”](#), but no English version is available so far
- [Moovit](#) website or App (available also in English), but this option is usually less reliable



ACCOMMODATION AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

If you need an accommodation, have a look at these links:

- <https://www.destinationflorence.com/>
- <https://www.unifi.it/index.php?module=CMpro&func=viewpage&pageid=10832&newlang=eng>
- <https://housinganywhere.com/s/Florence--Italy>

Practical information

- <https://www.visitflorence.com/tourist-info/>

How to get to Florence

By plane

The easiest way to get to Florence is to fly to Florence Airport (Florence Peretola-Amerigo Vespucci Airport; located 4 km from the city centre) or to Pisa International Airport (Galileo Galilei Airport), located about 80 km west of Tuscany's capital.

From Pisa Airport to Florence city centre:

Find here the information you need: <https://www.visittuscany.com/en/ideas/how-to-reach-florence-from-pisa-airport/>

From Florence Airport to the city centre:

The best option is to take the new tram line (T2) which gets to the heart of the city (tram stop "Unità"). Alternative options are private transfers and taxi.

Lunch in the campus

You might want to consider the following options (all of them are walking distance from the campus):

- Buffet lunch at [Hilton Hotel](#)
- College House: [Google maps](#) - <http://collegehouse.it/>. Pasta, salads, meat available
- S'impasta: [Google maps](#) – Home-made Italian pasta
- Capatoast: [Google maps](#) – Wide variety of sandwiches
- Fish & Family: [Google maps](#) – Wide variety of fish-based dishes
- Pokéria by NIMA: [Google maps](#) – Wide variety of poke salads
- Rosalia Salad Gourmet: [Google maps](#) – Salads, wraps, vegetarian and vegan street food

CONTACTS

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