

Issue

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October Newsletter

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Happy Birthday

To all our colleagues who celebrate their birthday in September and October:

September:

- Shirit Katav- Herz (MTA)
- Francesco Zen (UNIPD)
- Alessandra Gallerano (UNIPD)

October:

- Margit Kattai (EBS)
- Karin Stevenson (THC)
- Vered Haas (MTA)

*SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES
HUMAN INGENUITY. PEOPLE ARE THE
MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE.
DAN SHECHTMAN*

Welcome

Dear IFI Partners,

After a long time, we finally met again. This time we visited the amazing 800 years old **Università degli Studi di Padova**. In this issue of the IFI newsletter, you can read Dr. Amit Marantz-Gal and Ms. Laura Brandolin impressions from the WP2 meeting on case studies.

IFI next meeting will be hosted online By: **Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam** (Netherlands) to learn and discuss training programs for different stakeholders under the scope of WP3. Looking forward to see you all on Zoom.

In the following sections, you will find our new tentative meetings plan and some information and links to our new and updated social network pages and site.

On our regular column, "Meet the Team" we are happy to introduce our new administrative manager Dr. Vered Haas from MTA.

Autumn is here with the new academic year. We wish you all a pleasant fall season, full of colors and productive lessons with students and colleagues on campus.

WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE YOU WITH US IN OUR PROJECT. WE WISH EVERY MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE BRINGS YOU HAPPINESS AND JOY.



*In order to not miss any occasion for celebration, please make sure that you inform us about your birthday, at Erasmus@ifa.ac.il

Review: WP2 Building Tools – Establishing a pool of study cases and simulations

Meeting #2: Sustainability at UNIPD and within its community

Padova, Italy, 19th – 21st October 2021

A short note about the meeting by Laura Brandolin (UniPD).

On October 19-21 2021, the University of Padua hosted the 2nd meeting of the project WP2 “Building Tools – Establishing a pool of cases for study and simulations”. The meeting was dedicated to tackling sustainability at UNIPD and within its community, as well as to present the first case studies that constitute one of the project outputs.



This was one of the first events organised “in person” again at the University of Padua after the restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The organisers had to face some additional constraints and procedures that were new with respect to organising events before the pandemic. Above all, the limited room capacity added additional difficulty in finding a location for the event, on top of the general scarce availability of rooms in October when the new semester starts. On the positive side, it has to be said that the pandemic strengthened our digital skills and thus it’s now common practice to attend meetings also online. This gave the possibility of attending also to people who couldn’t travel to Padua for several reasons.

The meeting succeeded in its aim of showcasing sustainability in general and sustainable finance in particular at the University of Padua and in its ecosystem. Participants were confronted with teaching and research activities in sustainability and circular economics, students’ experiences, and external financial institutions engaged with impact investments and sustainable finance. The meeting was also the occasion for a field visit to the Cooperativa Insieme and for the presentation of Riescoincucina, two social cooperative institutions dealing with sustainability as a whole (financial, social and environmental). Moreover, the meeting provided the opportunity to present and discuss the first 4 case studies of the project (2 from UniPD students, one from Tel Hai College and one from Sapir College), and to have a benchmark for the other cases that are still in progress. The consortium particularly appreciated the given possibility to present case studies in front of



a student audience during Prof. Lanzavecchia's regular class hours. This added value and inputs for further discussion and development of WP2 outputs and to consolidate a common structure for case studies.

A meeting summary by Dr. Amit Marantz Gal

Day 1 The IFI team was warmly welcomed by the IFI Padova team on the first day of the meeting. **Dr. Vered Holzmann**, the project coordinator, opened the meeting, congratulating the consortium participants and thanking the Padova IFI team for their hospitality. Following Vered's opening, the Head of the Padova International Office, **Ms. Dora Longoni**, gave a general presentation about the University of Padova. Dora's presentation was followed by that of **Prof. Alberto Lanzavecchia** who gave an overview of the university's agenda, activities and progress regarding the topic of sustainability, including sustainable finance.



The lecture series of Day 1 started with a talk by **Dr. Vincenzo Antonini** who focused on the topic of law and sustainability, and the responsibility of regulatory systems not only to achieve global sustainability but to lead it. Dr. Antonini presented the initiative of the 'Sustainability-Law4B Magazine', a virtual space designed to facilitate the exchange of innovative ideas, opinions and reflections on law and business sustainability. The second lecture was given by **Prof. Francesca Gambaratto** who focused on the topic of teaching sustainability through circular economy. Prof. Gambaratto described how she designs her courses from the Social Sciences perspective and in the context of the international student population who study at Padova. The third lecture was given by **Prof. Maria Cristina Lavagnolo**, who introduced the recently established study centre 'Circular Economy of Waste, Materials and Sustainability' (CEWMS). The morning session was concluded by student presentations of case studies and their reflections on the learning process. Two cases were presented: Banco Palmas (Brazil) by **Monique Munarinia** and **Silvana Zulmira**, and Climate Impact by **Isabella Pacchiano** and **Federico Spinaci**.

After a lovely lunch in the beautiful centre of Padova, we returned to the University for a group work session dedicated to a discussion about the taxonomy of sustainable finance, with an attempt to develop a common language for terminology that will be used by the IFI project to classify the case studies. We also asked each one of the partners to share with us the learning objectives of the



course(s) s/he teaches in order to make sure that the pool of case studies will be aligned with the curriculum.



Day 2 was dedicated to the presentation of two case studies by the IFI consortium members. **Dr. Sharon Soroker** from Tel Hai College presented a case study about solar panels and **Dr. Amit Marantz-Gal** from Sapir Academic College gave a presentation about a student-led digital marketing project for small businesses. We enjoyed the participation of an international group of students from the University of Padova for a lively Q&A session. The session was followed by an additional group discussion on the structure and content of IFI case studies. It was agreed that multi and interdisciplinary perspectives provide added value and therefore the partners are encouraged to develop variety of diversified cases. It was also agreed that IFI partners will collaborate and following a review of a draft prepared by one partner, will be invited to suggest additional sections/questions/sources/etc. with the aim to produce comprehensive and improved cases.



The afternoon was dedicated to a guided tour of the beautiful Pallazzo Bo, where the university first operated hundreds of years ago, and later a visit to Cooperativa Insieme, where the group learned about their recycling process and reusing procedures and also enjoyed some sustainable shopping! We ended the day with a fabulous dinner at the Remo restaurant in Vicenza.

Day 3 started with a talk by **Ms. Miriam La Russa**, Senior Analyst Investment at SINLOC. SINLOC facilitates public authorities to use EU funds in a sustainable way, implementing initiatives designed to enhance target communities. SINLOC provides tangible solutions to local issues through advisory services and direct investments. Following this talk, we listened to **Mr. Marco Mozangini** who presented CiviBank, a bank that supports the local economy, operating in North East Italy. CiviBank is the first Italian bank to become a Benefit Company, strengthening an approach that is part of the roots of the bank as a former cooperative bank. Its mission is to inspire and guide all the initiatives for the communities and the stakeholders developed by CiviBank in its territory. Next, we had the pleasure of listening to **Mr. Enrico Fiore** from Eticss Verso (Equality Transformation through Inclusion, Innovation, Impact



for a community of social sustainability), who gave a fascinating talk about sustainability and ethics. Finally, we listened to a presentation by **Mr. Stefano Turcato**, a graduate of UniPD and VP of Riescoincucina, a catering/food service which promotes the agenda of social inclusion and is a leading social enterprise for employing people with disabilities.

We summarized the insightful and enlightening three-day meeting at the end of another great meal in one of the restaurants in the city centre. We discussed the lessons learned from that meeting and shared ideas about how to plan the following meetings of IFI to ensure they will be no less productive than that one.

The participants expressed their great gratitude and thanked (again) to the outstanding team in UniPD - **Prof. Alberto Lanzavecchia**, **Ms. Lamia Yasin** and **Ms. Laura Brandolin**. We enjoyed the afternoon walking together in the botanical gardens that were originally created to provide actual field resources to support research of UniPD professors and as well as learning experience for the students.



Next Meeting: WP3 Building body of Practice - Training programs for different stakeholders

15-17 November 2021, Online (Zoom)

IFI 1st Meeting of WP3, will be held online and organized by the WP leaders, The Academic College of Tel Aviv Yaffo (MTA) and Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (RSM).

The meeting will be held on 15-17 November 2021, for three half days from 9:00-13:00 CET / 10:00-14:00 IL time.

Representatives of all IFI partner institutions will take part in the meetings, which will include presentations, discussions, workshops, and teamwork. A detailed agenda, will be distributed soon.

The purpose of WP3 is to develop training programs for different professional groups, in order to enrich their portfolios and enable engagement, while emphasizing the necessity for integrative approach to address SF challenges. Three main groups of professional audiences will be targeted: investors, regulators, and entrepreneurs. Addressing SF subject adaptation with HEIs' agenda will be presented in future field seminars, with special reference to elements relevant to the 21st century's economy such as impact, transparency, technology and community.

The expected outputs of WP3 are three 2-day seminars on professional challenges and competences contributing to integrated SF products that will be held in Israel. In addition, a guidebook on knowledge, practice and competence framework in the SF industry, including approaches, methods and recommendations for teaching and learning SF will be developed. The guidebook will be translated from English to Hebrew and Arabic to reach as many recipients as possible and it will be professionally designed and edited for official publication and distribution online and on hard copy.

In order to design and develop the seminars and the guidebook, we will conduct several preparation meetings. We will start with the online introductory meeting, continue with a roundtable meeting to introduce the EU regulation that will be held in May 2022 in Brussels (Belgium), a workshop focused on design thinking that will be held in July 2022 in Tallinn (Estonia), and a study visit to learn about the transition from CSR to ESG that will be held in September 2022 in Rotterdam (The Netherlands).

IFI Meetings - Save the tentative Dates

After another great in-person meeting, all of us are hoping to meet again soon. We created an updated meeting plan for the duration of the project. As with the previous plan, this plan is also depending on the rapidly changing Covid-19 situation in the different partner countries. You can see the tentative plan in the table below.

Year	Month	WP	Hosting Partner	Country	Comments
2021	15-17 Nov	3	RSM	The Netherlands	Online
2022	25-27 Jan	9+6+3	MTA+KCE	Israel	(teacher education)
2022	Mar	2	UHEI	Germany	Study visit
2022	May	3	EFMD	Belgium	(regulators)
2022	Jul	9+3	EBS	Estonia	(entrepreneurs)
2022	Sep	3	RSM	The Netherlands	Instead of the meeting in Nov.
2022	Nov	9+4	MTA+HUJI	Israel	(innovation program)
2023	Feb	3	SAP	Israel	(regulators)
2023	Apr	1	UHEI	Germany	(community of practice)
2023	Jun	6	UD	Spain	(summer school)
2023	Oct	9+8	MTA+THC	Israel	(international conference)
2024	Mar	9	MTA	Israel	(final meeting)

The specific dates of the meetings after January 2022 will be confirmed with each host institution, depending on national holidays, rooms' availability and other factors. Dates will be announced as soon as possible. Please pay attention to the flexibility and Covid-19 precautions needed with the traveling arrangements.

In addition, we are advising again to conduct an internal discussion with your colleagues regarding an option to exploit a study visit (Israeli partners to European partner university) before the end of the year 2021. Once you will have a tentative plan and preferred date for the study visit, please inform the coordinator for approval.

Monday IFI Project Update Meeting

We invite you to join us on the first Monday of each month to an IFI Project Update Meeting. The aim of those meetings is to enable us to keep each other updated on our progress in the different WPs and to share and discuss different issues that arise while working on the project. We believe that it will help us establish an even better cooperative work patterns between partners that will produce great results. The attendance of representatives from all partner institutions is very important.

An invitation will be sent to all IFI partners.

Important links and Social Networks updates

For your convenience we collect and upload the different materials produced by the project partners:



On our site you can find the WP1 report on this link:
<https://www.ifi.mta.ac.il/ifi-reports> the report



You can find the presentations from the WP2 meeting in UNIPD on our shared Google drive at: WP2-Case studies / WP 2nd Meeting 19-21.10.2021.

As dissemination is an important part of our joint mission, and part of our commitment to the agency, we decided to put an emphasis on our social networking tools. Therefore, we created new social media outlets:



We have a new Facebook page. You can visit it to see photos from our meetings. Please like the page itself. Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/Erasmus.Plus.IFI>



We also have a new LinkedIn page that enables you to tag the project to different posts you publish. Please feel free to tag us and of course

like it. Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/erasmus-ifi-innovative-finance-inclusion>

"Meet the Team"



Vered Haas

Current position: Administrative Manager

Institution: The Academic College of Tel Aviv Yaffo (MTA)

Field of study and research: Non-formal education, Intergroup Contact, 21st Century soft skills.

About myself: Alongside my work in IFI I am working as a researcher on various research projects that look into issues such as the moral education in rural communities in Israel, and the challenges of small businesses in Israel north periphery.

I have over 15-year experience in my work as qualitative and mixed method researcher. Regarding Erasmus + program, IFI is the second program I manage.

I been living most of my life in a small Kibbutz in the north of Israel, where I am member of the local cooperative.

I love working from home in a quite atmosphere where the sounds of kids playing and birds chirping are the most common noises around.

What do I like most about our field of practice?

I love being involved in projects I believe in. I try to combine as much as possible my personal fields of social actions and my work and both IFI and other projects I am involve with right now, allow me to do that.

Favorite quote: "The world stands on three things: On Torah, on works, and on kindness to others"

על שלשה דברים העולם עומד, על התורה ועל העבודה ועל גמילות חסדים. משנה אבות, א, ב.

If you could be anyone from any time period who would it be and why?

Me. I think 2021 is an amazing time to be a woman.

Reminders



- If you haven't send us yet your personal information and a photo to be presented on IFI website, please contact us.
- Submit your financial reports (see [templates](#)) by email to ifi.erasmus@mta.ac.il and send a copy to veredhz@mta.ac.il
- Share with us information on internal and external dissemination events or publications.

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