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Call for Applications: ENGAGE.EU Think Tank 2024 Leading the green transition: Advancing research for sustainable value creation

ENGAGE.EU is an alliance of leading European universities in business, economics, and social sciences, aiming to provide European citizens with the set of skills and competencies they need to face current and future societal challenges

The ENGAGE.EU Think Tank provides a forum for intensive academic exchange. Researchers will exchange their ideas with colleagues from ENGAGE.EU partners and inform and learn from leading industry and policy experts. Participants

can build new research collaborations and launch new projects, papers, or funding applications.

The Think Tank 2024 will bring together researchers from the ENGAGE.EU partner universities who share an interest in research on sustainability and its implications for business, finance, and reporting.

Under the theme of *Leading the green transition: Advancing research for sustainable value creation*, the Think Tank will have three distinct tracks:

1. Sustainable Business

The Sustainable Business track will provide a platform to explore how companies can integrate sustainability into their business models, strategies, and operations. Participants will gain insights into the latest research trends, emerging topics, and theoretical frameworks, develop practical skills, and contribute to the field through their research projects. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- **Sustainable Business Strategy:** How do companies integrate sustainability into their strategies and what are the implications for business models and performance?
- **Sustainable Consumption:** How can companies develop more sustainable offerings and how to facilitate the adoption

of such products and services, and more sustainable consumer behaviours?

- **Sustainability Management:** How can companies develop management control systems, governance structures, and organizational designs that promote their ability to identify, manage and organize for sustainable business practices?
- **Corporate Responsibility and Accountability:** How do companies make normative assessments related to stakeholder management, the identification and prioritization of social and environmental objectives, and ethical dimensions of strategies for sustainability.

2. Sustainable Finance

The Sustainable Finance track will focus on various aspects of sustainable finance, encompassing topics such as green investments, impact investing, corporate social responsibility, climate risk and resilience, biodiversity, sustainable financial instruments, and the integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in investment decisions. Some potential areas of research include:

- **Corporate Sustainability Practices:** Examine the influence of ESG factors on corporate financial performance, capital structure, and firm value, considering the role of stakeholder engagement and sustainable governance practices.
- **Investor Behavior and Decision-Making:** Investigate how investors incorporate ESG considerations into their decision-making process, exploring the impact on risk-adjusted returns, portfolio allocation, and asset pricing.

- **Sustainable Financial Innovation:** Examine novel financial instruments and strategies that facilitate sustainable investments, including green bonds, social impact bonds, and sustainable index funds.
- **Policy and Regulation:** Analyse the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks and policy interventions in promoting sustainable finance and identify areas for improvement and refinement.

3. Sustainability Reporting and Regulations

The Sustainability Reporting and Regulations track will be designed specifically for researchers in the field of accounting who are interested in exploring the critical role of sustainability reporting in modern business practices. This track aims to provide insights into the current sustainability reporting frameworks, methodologies, and the challenges faced by

organisations in effectively communicating their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance, and the effect reporting has on stock prices. Participants will be encouraged to explore their own research interests and develop scholarly contributions related to sustainability reporting.

Opportunities for Participating Researchers

The ENGAGE.EU Think Tank seeks to attract researchers (post doctoral) with research interest in one of the proposed tracks. During the research stay in Bergen, participants will explore shared interests and build research projects with an international and interdisciplinary team of researchers specialised in similar research topics. Participants will gain new insights into current research developments through keynotes, round tables, and workshops.

The goal of the Think Tank is to develop the professional network within ENGAGE.EU, as well as to lead to concrete outputs, such as joint

publications or joint funding proposals. Prior to the stay in Bergen, participants are expected to take part in online meetings to explore shared interests and set project goals collaboratively. To ensure the programme corresponds with participants' needs and expectations, details of the programme will depend on the final group composition and specific research interests.

The research stay will include an extensive academic programme and access to the facilities at NHH. Accommodation will be covered by NHH. Travel expenses will be covered by ENGAGE.EU.

Application requirements

The ENGAGE.EU Think Tank is open to researchers affiliated with the universities of the ENGAGE.EU alliance and who:

- explore topics related to sustainable business, finance, or reporting as described in the call for applications,
- Aim to develop their expertise in their field of research,
- are interested in a collaborative interdisciplinary dialogue,
- want to engage in a pioneering project of a growing European network.

As part of the ENGAGE.EU research stay, researchers are expected to:

- Participate in online preparation meetings in **January/February 2024**,
- Stay in Bergen for the duration of the Think Tank and take active part in all activities,
- Exchange ideas and interact with Think Tank participants and other relevant stakeholders about their research and related projects,
- Be interested in continuing the collaboration after the Think Tank, e.g. in the form of publication projects or funding applications

Call for Applications - ENGAGE.EU Think Tank 2024

How to apply

The application for the Think Tank has two steps:

1. Fill out the online application form:
[Think Tank online application](#)
2. Submit a brief CV including a list of publications to the Think Tank contact point at your university (see contact details

below). Successful applicants will be asked to submit a paper outline prior to the event.

Please submit your application by **November 1, 2023**. Applications received after this date may not be considered. Selected applicants will receive invitations to participate in the Think Tank in early December.

Selection

Submitted applications are first evaluated by each ENGAGE.EU partner. The selection committee made up by vice presidents/vice-rectors of research from all partners make the final selection.

Applications are evaluated according to the following dimensions:

- Demonstrated high-quality research potential and interest in collaborative research projects,

- Established interest in and relevance for research in the theme of the Think Tank and the research tracks,
- Relevant research ideas for future research or ongoing papers,
- Potential for contributing to ENGAGE.EU's mission.

Final decisions also consider criteria for cohort composition, including but not limited to complementarity of research interests, disciplinary balance, institutional diversity, and demographic diversity.

Information webinar

Interested researchers are invited to join an online information webinar taking place on **October 19, 2023 at 14:00-15:00 CET**. The webinar can be accessed using this link: [Information webinar](#)

To fulfil ENGAGE.EU's commitment to outreach and building communities for societal change, the Think Tank will be organized in collaboration with the Norwegian climate festival "Warmer, Wetter, Wilder" in Bergen. Parts of the programme for the Think Tank will be co-organized as scientific events during the climate festival. More information on this will follow.

Updated information on the call will be posted on the ENGAGE.EU website: www.engageuniversity.eu/engage-eu-think-tank-2024/

Contacts:

- Luiss University: Cristina Alaimo (calaimo@luiss.it)
- NHH Norwegian School of Economics: Tor Andreassen (Tor.Andreassen@nhh.no)
- Tilburg University: James Small (j.s.small@tilburguniversity.edu)
- University of Mannheim: Dirk Simons (engage@uni-mannheim.de)
- University of National and World Economy: Venelin Boshnakov (venelinb@unwe.bg)
- Université Toulouse 1 Capitole: Clémentine Labrut (clementine.labrut@ut-capitole.fr)
- WU Vienna University of Economics and Business: Roland Humer (roland.humer@wu.ac.at)
- Hanken School of Economics: Sirpa Aalto (sirpa.aalto@hanken.fi)
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**RAMON
LLULL
UNIVERSITY**



UNIVERSITY
OF MANNHEIM



NORWEGIAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS



LUISS



WIRTSCHAFTS
UNIVERSITÄT
WIEN VIENNA
UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS
AND BUSINESS



Processing of your personal data

Notes according to Art. 13 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

University of Mannheim is committed to protecting your personal data. Your personal data are kept confidential and processed in accordance with the provisions of the applicable data protection laws. In fulfillment of our obligation to provide information pursuant to Articles 13 and 14 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we would like to inform you about the types of personal data that are processed in connection with the activities of the ENGAGE.EU Think Tank and about the purposes for which these data are processed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Controller:

University of Mannheim
L1, 1
68131 Mannheim

Phone: 0621/-181-1001

E-mail: rektor@uni-mannheim.de

Data Protection Officer:

Data Protection Officer of the University of
Mannheim
L1, 1
68131 Mannheim

Phone: 0621/181-1126

E-Mail: datenschutzbeauftragte@uni-
mannheim.de

WHICH TYPES OF PERSONAL DATA ARE PROCESSED?

We process the personal data that you provide through the application form for the ENGAGE.EU Think Tank (name, gender, e-mail address, home university, department, discipline, position, research interests).

FOR WHICH PURPOSES DO WE PROCESS YOUR DATA?

We process your personal data for:

1. assessing, deciding on, and processing your application for the ENGAGE.EU Think Tank, as well as for contacting you regarding the organization of the ENGAGE.EU Think Tank.
2. Providing a list of participants of the ENGAGE.EU Think Tank when reporting toward the European Commission with regard to the ENGAGE.EU Think Tank.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL BASIS FOR PROCESSING YOUR DATA?

- Art. 6 (1) item a of the GDPR – consent

You can withdraw your consent to any future data processing at any time by sending a written notice at any time without having to state any reasons to the university's ENGAGE.EU Management Office (engage@uni-mannheim.de). However, any processing of your data which occurred before consent was withdrawn remains legal and unaffected. If you withdraw your consent, all data processing activities will be stopped immediately once we receive your notice of withdrawal of consent, and the data on which these activities were based will be deleted. Withdrawal of consent by the applicant and the resulting deletion of the applicant's personal data will lead to the termination of any decision-making procedures that may have been initiated for assessing the application. Participation requires a mandatory application, i.e. termination of the assessment of the application directly results in the prevention of the participation in the ENGAGE.EU Think Tank.

- Art. 6 (1) item b of the GDPR
- Art. 6 (1) item c of the GDPR

- Art. 6 (1) item e in conjunction with (3) in conjunction with § 2 Landeshochschulgesetz Baden-Württemberg in conjunction with § 4 Landesdatenschutzgesetz Baden-Württemberg in conjunction with the legal requirements of the European Commission

ARE YOU OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE YOUR PERSONAL DATA?

For us to be able to assess applications, it is necessary that you provide the data we need to assess the application and to decide about your participation in the ENGAGE.EU Think Tank.

TO WHICH OTHER PARTIES DO WE PASS ON YOUR DATA?

Your personal data will be collected by NHH Norwegian School of Economics and will be shared with all cooperating universities for evaluation of your application. The following institutions will be part of the cooperation: University of Mannheim, Luiss University, Tilburg University, University of National and World Economy, Université Toulouse Capitole, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business.

HOW LONG DO WE STORE YOUR DATA?

University of Mannheim will delete the personal information when the application process is performed (no later than four months after the application deadline).

ENGAGE.EU must - for a period of five years after the payment of the balance – keep records and other supporting documentation in order to prove the proper implementation of the action and the costs they declare as eligible.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AS A DATA SUBJECT?

- You have the right to obtain information about your data stored by the University ... and the right to have false data rectified.
- Furthermore, you have the right to erasure, the right to restriction of processing and the right to object to the processing.
- In case you gave consent to further optional cases of processing, you can withdraw your consent (completely or for individual cases of processing) at any time. The withdrawal of consent does not affect the lawfulness of processing based on consent before its withdrawal.

In order to exercise your rights, please contact:

ENGAGE.EU Management Office, e-mail address: engage@uni-mannheim.de

- You have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority if you are of the opinion that the processing of your personal data infringes data protection regulations.

The supervisory authority in Baden-Württemberg is the commissioner for data protection and freedom of information of Baden-Württemberg (Landesbeauftragter für den Datenschutz und die Informationsfreiheit Baden-Württemberg).

Information on your right to object according to Art. 21 paragraph 1 GDPR:

On grounds relating to your particular situation, you have the right to object to the processing of your personal data according to Art. 6 paragraph 1(e) GDPR (data processing in the public interest) at any time.