

Brief Report on the Summer School banking & capital markets at the University of Milan / Villa Vigoni at Lake Como

(23 – 27 July 2018)

Thanks to Prof. Alexander's involvement and wide reach to an international network, the young researchers from the University of Zurich were offered the opportunity to apply for the International Summer School Banking & Finance. It took place for the first time this summer and was organized by the Universities of Milan, Bologna, Frankfurt, Genoa, KU Leuven, Nice, Nijmegen and Zurich, in collaboration with the European Banking Institute (EBI) during the week of 23-27 July 2018. Doctoral students and postdocs from all over the world were able to qualify for the program, and of all the applicants, 24 candidates were admitted to the Summer School. After a first opening day with an introductory lecture at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, the Summer School relocated to the Villa Vigoni (the German-Italian Center for European Excellence) at Lake Como. In this ideal setting, everyone was exceedingly motivated to immerse themselves in the workshops over the course of the following four days.

The daily schedule of the week-long Summer School was paced with intermittent lectures (two to three sessions) held by world-renowned professors, as well as up to six lectures per day by the participants themselves. Following each presentation, an open discussion was held in plenary. These feedback sessions were led by the internationally acclaimed professors, with the intention of giving the participants new input and pointing out possible comparative aspects. Additionally, the lunch and dinner table afforded the possibility for a continuation of the lively discussion and exchange of ideas regarding the presented research topics in a less solemn setting.

The summer heat of Lombardy was well-received, due to the pleasant ambience and the breathtaking view of Lake Como. A brief excursion to the lake was organized at short notice, but will be a fixed plan for next year's program.

Personally, I can only say positive things about this further education training program: I was able to establish many contacts and develop a new approach for my research project. I thank Prof. Alexander for co-initiating this Summer School and I would highly recommend this exceptional opportunity for a lively exchange of research and international networking to all my colleagues in the HaWi subject group.

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