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Financial Literacy and Education: Determinants, Inequalities and Implications for Business and Society

Thematic Area: Financial Economics

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Summary:

Financial literacy is increasingly recognised as an essential competence for informed economic decision-making, financial wellbeing, entrepreneurship, sustainable financial decision-making, and effective participation in business and society. Yet financial competencies remain unevenly distributed across countries and population groups, raising important questions about their determinants, the effectiveness of financial education policies, and their broader economic and organisational implications.

This Special Track invites theoretical and empirical contributions examining financial literacy and education from an international, interdisciplinary, and multilevel perspective. It welcomes research on the measurement, levels, evolution, and determinants of financial competencies, including the role of institutional, cultural, economic, educational, and sociodemographic factors. Particular attention is given to inequalities across population groups, especially gender and age differences, and to the design, implementation, and effectiveness of national financial education strategies, school curricula, and educational interventions.

The Track also encourages research exploring the implications of financial literacy for saving, investment, borrowing, financial wellbeing, entrepreneurship, and business decision-making. It particularly welcomes contributions examining sustainable finance literacy, including individuals' knowledge and awareness of sustainable financial products, their attitudes towards sustainable finance, and the determinants and gender differences associated with these dimensions. A distinctive focus concerns financial competencies among entrepreneurs, business owners, managers, shareholders, and board members, and their relationships with corporate governance, shareholder engagement, board effectiveness, corporate financing and investment decisions, and firm outcomes. Contributions addressing family businesses, gender diversity, sustainable finance, and digital financial literacy are particularly welcome.

By connecting financial literacy research with financial economics, management, entrepreneurship, corporate governance, and sustainability, the Track seeks to foster

interdisciplinary dialogue, advance comparative evidence, and identify promising avenues for future research across individual, organisational, and institutional levels.

Keywords:

financial literacy, financial education, financial competencies, gender gaps, financial wellbeing, entrepreneurship, corporate governance, sustainable finance.

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