

Internal

Sessie	Foto	Bio	Topic
P5	 <p>Eline Provost</p>	<p>Master's degree in Biomedical sciences with a PhD in Sciences – Biology obtained @ Hasselt University in 2019. Epidemiological research into adverse health effects of exposure to particulate air pollution, using non-invasive techniques to characterize vascular features in children and adults. 2017-2021: Staff employee at the department of trauma surgery @ University Hospitals Leuven, responsible for improving the quality of care for severely injured patients through networking. New @ KBC since December 2021 as business data steward retail lending & deposits.</p>	<p>You have more skills than you realise, dare to jump! How to look for jobs outside academia and highlight the skills that you have developed throughout your PhD based on my personal experiences going from academia to the public sector to the private sector (aka How I got hired at a bank while I knew nothing about banking).</p>
P2	 <p>Karsten Gielis</p>	<p>PhD of Engineering Technology at KU Leuven in 2021. Title: Assessment of Cognitive Performance in Elderly Life via Meaningful Play. Together with the head of geriatrics of the university hospital in Leuven, I have been exploring the possibilities of detecting early dementia through game data. Data Scientist at the Advanced Data Analytics and Modeling (ADAM) team. We develop artificial intelligence and machine learning solutions that aim to transform our business. Currently, I am focusing on the financial assistant of KBC, Kate.</p>	<p>I will talk about my personal experience of my recent transition from data science in academia to the private sector. How your mindset of working changes from “Is this possible?” to “How does this impact our clients?”. How communication changes from professors to managers. Finally, I will touch on how to model for enterprises, taking into account effective modeling practices.</p>
P3	 <p>Veerle D'Haeger</p>	<p>PhD Sciences (Physics), Institute for Materials Research, UHasselt, Study of electromigration in polycrystalline Al-metal tracks using a high resolution resistance measurement technique Master KULeuven 1990 / PhD UHasselt 1996 Teaching physics at UHasselt At KBC since 1997 – main roles/domains like International Branches network, policy advice & support, Business Architect, project lead, head process management, expert risk manager, etc. Today : expert risk manager at DQM (Group Data Quality Management), a “growing and volatile” environment, responsible for bringing risk management in the context of Company Management Reporting to a higher maturity level</p>	<p>Testimonial on how a PhD with a-typical profile got “onboarded” at KBC in a team of very mixed and complementary profiles. Main take aways from a path of 25 years @ KBC in several contexts : International Branches, Retail Banking Distribution Channels/Process Management, Group CoC Operational Risk Management, Data Quality Management. How I experienced the transition from an academic environment to “industry”, how I experienced KBC as my employer, how KBC evolved through the years (and me too), skills and strengths I could bring into the company, challenges I encountered and how to tackle ...</p>

P8	 <p>Jeroen Bastiaansen</p>	<p>PhD in Physics in 2003 from K.U.Leuven. Title: 'Electronic Processes during Sputtering of Metals studied by Resonant Laser Ionization' or in other words shooting hard atoms at metal surfaces and using lasers to find out what is happening at the surface.</p> <p>Senior Policy Advisor at Corporate Banking, so (in team) setting out the outline of how Corporate Banking wants to position itself to the client. What propositions and products do we want to offer to the client and in what way.</p>	<p>Storyline:</p> <p>a. KBC gives career opportunities to PhDs: started in quant function in the markets room environment but from there always more and more drifted away from the quant/mathematical to the more economic/banking side</p> <p>Included in that path very diverse roles: leadership, commercial function, foreign deployment as an expat.</p> <p>During your PhD, you acquire skills that help you do this 2:</p> <p>Independence Reporting and presentation skills (eye for detail and accuracy) Accustomed to speaking in front of critical audiences Analytical ability</p> <p>Yet some things will be adjusting at the beginning 3.</p> <p>Balance between correctness and pragmatism Collaboration</p> <p>a. With colleagues of different ages and backgrounds b. With other departments with their own interests (there is no single truth)</p> <p>The strict procedures of a large company</p>
P12	 <p>Jan Mennens</p>	<p>The doctorate was entitled: "Optical recognition of braille writing using standard equipment," with the aim of copying the so many manually made braille books in a fast way. (KU Leuven, 1993)</p> <p>Current deployment Release train engineer on the Data & Services train (14 teams, 200+ employees).</p>	<p>Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving some insight about a possible career within KBC, going through analyst, team lead, service head, business architect, program manager, lean navigator, business development management in ORG, community manager, scrum master to release train engineer - What aspects of the PhD helped me do this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o We were with a team at KUL, so basic team management, work monitoring, team spirit o Software development with version control and project management o Knowledge of infrastructure and technology (mainframe, Mac, PC, networks) o Translating research into a widely understandable result (communication at workshops, seminars with users and peers -- publication of papers) o Indicate which skills are covered when, and which are important where

P10	 <p>Hildegard Deweerdt</p>	<p>I received my PhD in environmental sciences in 1996 from the VUB .My PhD dealt with " the application of environmental auditing in environmental protection. Companies and public services, educational institutions were working on environmental protection but it was not done in a systematic way. Often only because the legislator ordered it. Among other things, I developed the model for in-house environmental care for schools. Even now schools can voluntarily obtain the "green school label".</p> <p>For companies I made practical models for internal environmental management. Later formalized in ISO14001 excellence models for environmental management.</p> <p>I was already appointed as a part-time prof at UGent when I applied to KBC in 2006. Still have that mandate. As a result, I regularly publish in professional journals and write syllabi and books (5th now on ESG reporting).</p> <p>History</p> <p>Researcher UGent/VUB until 1996, Project leader industrial environmental consulting at an international consulting firm until 2006, Environmental expert at KBC since July 2006</p> <p>Prof dr at UGent at the Faculty of Bioengineering until now</p> <p>Senior lecturer Environmental Management "legal framework of environmental technology" and "Environmental coordination"</p> <p>Current commitment KBC:</p> <p>I am KBC's statutory environmental officer. I currently work as an environmental expert in a policy cell of the Facilities Directorate. Among other things, I am responsible for the legal compliance of the buildings, am lead auditor for the voluntary ISO environmental audits, ensure the projects and reporting related to direct footprint. Until last year, I was also the Knowledge Coordinator for Facilities.</p>	<p>- What I have done within KBC: (Setting up scientific methodology for monitoring environmental consumption, reporting on environmental consumption, climate reporting, environmental management systems, etc)</p> <p>What courses I have taken Master in project management, Lead auditor, etc. How to keep my prof mandate but hardly attend any external trainings</p> <p>Why I love my job: Theme of doctoral researches I valorized, Interesting teams, Broader view on KBC Group, work-live balance between KBC/university/home</p> <p>What are the assets as a PhD: I ensure scientificity (transparency, repeatability, use of sources) in methodology, being able to work independently, stress resistant, providing new methods, etc</p> <p>What adjusting was in the beginning: No longer writing more time on projects as in consulting firm, great scientific loneliness, security, reorganizations, Explaining to less technical audiences</p> <p>What I can bring On the importance of a systematic approach to the environment, the operation of environmental management systems at KBC</p>
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P9	 <p>Tim Wouters</p>	<p><i>PhD in Science - Mathematics (2010 – KU Leuven)</i> <i>Title “Cohomological invariants of SK1”</i> I studied a specific way (cohomological invariants) to approach a – back then open – conjecture on specific algebraic structures, so-called central simple algebras and their K-groups (SK1).</p> <p><i>Current Job at KBC:</i> Business Development Manager Non-Life Insurance. After my PhD, I joined the Risk Management department at KBC Group for 7 years, after which I spent 5 years in ERGO Insurance Risk Management, of which 3 years as Chief Risk Officer. In September, I started again in KBC focusing on product development non-life insurance for entrepreneurs.</p>	<p><i>“I did it my way”, Frank Sinatra sang, and so I am doing as well. I will focus on my varied career path and how my studies helped me at every stage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - from genuine belief in academics and pure mathematics (and my back then profound aversion from everything that had a smell from being “applied”); - over first steps in the financial sector focusing on risk models and later further deepening of my risk management skills, including Board level experience at a run-off company; - to actively focusing on product development in an innovative setting of KBC – especially at KBC Insurance where we are shaping the future of insurance.
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<p>P1</p>	 <p>Maarten Cannaeerts</p>	<p>Maarten Cannaeerts obtained a PhD in Sciences (Physics) in 2002, on the topic of Surface Probe Microscopy for studying local heating phenomena and local conductivity in semiconductors at nanometer scale. After a career in academics (teaching physics to engineering students) and policy preparation work at the Ministry of Education, he joined KBC in 2008. At KBC he worked in the domains of change management, operational excellence and leadership development. Since 2017, he is active in the field of artificial intelligence and data, supporting various business stakeholders in scoping and executing AI projects throughout KBC group.</p>	<p>Maarten will talk about two topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What skills did he learn and use throughout his career – inspired by Nassim Taleb and Daniel Kahneman (for instance, “<i>worry less about embarrassment than about missing an opportunity</i>” or “<i>maximise the serendipity around you</i>”). He will convince you to take a leap of faith, work for an inspiring boss and create your dreamjob yourself. 2. Artificial Intelligence at KBC. How is KBC applying AI models throughout its organization, what are the impacts on the skills of the employees, and finally how can we launch AI models that are trustworthy (ethical AI).
<p>P4</p>	 <p>Philippe Jacobs</p>	<p>I received my PhD in mathematics in 1998 from KULeuven. My PhD deals with a problem from number theory, namely finding a formula for the number of solutions of a polynomial equation with integer coefficients "modulo" the power of a prime number. That is, finding the solution is equal to an integer multiple of this power, e.g. 3 is a solution of the polynomial equation $x^2+2=0$ modulo 11. This then involves the use of rather complicated techniques from complex analysis and algebraic geometry. I am currently working as a "Risk Model Developer" within the Models&Model Risks department under the care of the Chief Risk Officer of KBC Group. We model KBC Group's risks at the portfolio level such as the loan portfolio or the insurance portfolio.</p>	<p>What I have done within KBC: By example of Model validation: options on equities, Value-at-Risk, capital models, Economic Scenario Generator What courses I have taken: Option Pricing: books, seminars, papers, Postgraduate degree in finance, programming and AI, etc Why I like my job: Wide range: stochastic processes, simulations, principal component analysis, machine learning, neural networks, bat also. Interesting colleagues, Work/life balance What are the assets as a PhD as well as pit-falls: Analytical insight, ability to work independently, stress-resistant but also new Security, Shorter deadlines, Communicating</p>
<p>P11</p>	 <p>An Gerlo</p>	<p>An Gerlo completed her studies of Fundamental Mathematics in 2003 and finalized a PhD in categorical topology in 2007 at The Vrije Universiteit Brussels. After some additional years as postdoctoral researcher, she started her career at the risk department of KBC as a model validator in 2010. In this position, she has a.o. taken up the role of project lead in the establishment of a model risk management framework, allowing to efficiently manage model risk (i.e. the risks related to the design, implementation or use of models). More recently (2020), she joined the integrated risk team to work in the area of sustainability as program manager on environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks. In the meantime, she also broadened her horizon by completing a master in management (2009), postgraduate degrees in Corporate Finance (2014) and Big Data & analytics (2021) at KU Leuven.</p>	<p>Over the last few years, An has been taken up the role of program manager in developing and implementing KBC's approach towards two emerging risks (model risk and ESG risk).</p> <p>She will talk about her journey from being a pure mathematician – with expert focus on a very narrow domain – towards her past and current assignments at KBC, where she combines an expert role (model / climate risk expert) with the role of program manager, requiring a quite different set of skills. She will give some further insight in the content of the tasks she is performing on a daily basis, the challenges she is faced with and the reasons why she enjoys taking up these tasks & challenges.</p>

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<p>P7</p>	 <p>Johan Van Gompel</p>	<p>Johan Van Gompel obtained his PhD in Economics at the University of Antwerp (UA) in 1995 on the topic of ‘Wage formation, exchange rate regimes and macroeconomic performance’. From 1984 till 1988 he studied Applied Economics at UA and in 1990 he received a Master of Arts in Economics degree from the University of Louvain-la-Neuve. He joined the research department of KBC in 1995, where he became head of the Macroeconomics Section. From 2000 till 2009 he was head of the Economic Research and Strategy Department at KBC Asset Management. Currently, he is senior economist at the Group Economics and Markets Department of KBC Group.</p> <p>Johan has also been working as a visiting professor/lecturer at different Belgian universities. From 1999 till 2018, he was part-time professor in ‘International Socioeconomic Analysis’ at the KULeuven (Campus Brussels, formerly EHSAL). Since 2013 he is visiting professor at the Antwerp Management School (AMS), where he is teaching in the ‘Executive Master in Real Estate Management’. In 2018-2019, he joined the Royal Military Academy (KMS), where he has been responsible for teaching ‘Introduction to Economics’. Since 2020, he is lecturer at the UA teaching ‘International Economic Environment’ and ‘Economic Policy’. Johan has published over 50 articles on a variety of economic topics in books and academic journals. In 2013 he published a book on Macroeconomic Policy.</p>	<p>I will first talk (+/-15 minutes) about my studies and way to my first position at KBC’s research department (in 1995 still Kredietbank). Why did I choose to leave the academic world? Next, I will focus on my experience as a macroeconomist at KBC Group, and my current job in particular: What is it about? What are the main tasks/responsibilities of KBC’s economic research department and how is it structured? Finally: I have always combined my job at KBC with teaching at different university colleges and universities (currently, I’m a visiting professor at the University of Antwerp and AMS) and taking up responsibilities in society (currently, I’m president of the Study Committee on Ageing). What are the (dis)advantages of combining different jobs?</p>
<p>P12</p>	 <p>Anne Van Mulders</p>	<p>Anne obtained a Master’s degree in Electromechanical Engineering (VUB) in 2007, and finalized her PhD in Engineering (system identification for nonlinear black-box models, VUB) in 2012. In October 2014, after a few postdoc years, she joined KBC, where she worked in the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • credit risk modeller (bank), • quantitative risk manager (asset management), and • sustainability expert (with a focus on climate change). <p>During her time at KBC, she also broadened her knowledge by following a postgraduate course on corporate finance (at KU Leuven).</p>	<p>Why did I choose to leave the academic world? Am I happy about this decision? How did I end up at KBC? Did I experience a cultural shock? Did I enjoy my time at KBC so far?</p> <p>What skill set did I acquire at university, and what skills could I improve at KBC? Which functions did I fulfill until now? What motivates/motivated me in these functions?</p> <p>Are you curious about the answers, or do you have any other question? Then join my talk!</p>

E1	 <p>John Creemers</p>  <p>Mies Moens</p>  <p>Frank Elsen</p>	<p>John Creemers holds an MSc degree in Chemistry and obtained his PhD in Medical Sciences. He has worked as postdoc and Visiting Professor. Currently he is Professor at the Department of Human Genetics (KU Leuven). He is the Director of the Doctoral School of Biomedical Sciences and currently chair of the Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR) working group Doctoral Schools (https://vlir.be/) and president of the Organisation of PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System, ORPHEUS.</p> <p>Mies Moens is experienced Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the financial services industry. Skilled in Banking, E-commerce, Insurance, Distribution, Project Management, Process Management, HR Performance and Talent Management and Leadership. Strong professional graduated from Indiana University Bloomington. She is currently Skill-Owner and Product Owner Skills & Progression</p> <p>Frank Elsen is Head of the department Learning Architects. With a team of 12 colleagues, we help our internal clients choose the best form of learning they want to achieve. We base our advice on a thorough knowledge of methodologies, technology and knowledge management practices.</p>	<p>John Creemers starts the session with a presentation combining several studies about skills and skill-gap between PhD-students and industry. He will show that PhDs have strong research related skills like system analyzing, development of an experiment/prototype, validation by data, adaptation the experiment/prototype as well as in-dept knowledge in their domain). Compared to the skills needed by the industry PhDs have a gap. The presentation will showcase the results of several studies more in detail.</p> <p>Mies Moens will explain how a skill-based learning and development is designed and how a company like KBC uses skills in development, progression and learning. A presentation how KBC is supporting lifelong learning with smart tooling by Frank Elsen will showcase the practical use in KBC. Both will point out how KBC growth more and more towards a skill-based organization where skills and interests are equal important than subject matter expertise.</p>
E2 E3 E4	 <p>Abigail Swillens</p>	<p>Abigail combines a strong technical background with a passion for scientific communication. In 2006, she earned a Master's degree in engineering, majoring in applied physics and nuclear technology. Subsequently, she pursued a PhD in medical technology at Ghent University and NTNU (Norway), both obtained in 2010. As a post-doc and assistant professor, she established her own research group in medical ultrasound. She won national and international prizes for her work and scientific presentations. In 2016, she moved to a project lead position at Barco Healthcare. In 2020, she founded Clever Coyote (clevercoyote.be) with a mission to help science and tech professionals to clearly communicate complexity.</p>	<p>How do you condense many hours of hard work into a compelling two-minute pitch? While this might seem a mission impossible, it has become a crucial skill in a world where people's attention span is shortening. This workshop will teach you the necessary steps to transform your work into a clear and convincing two-minute pitch. You will learn how to effectively transfer your knowledge but also how to spark emotion and turn your pitch into a memorable experience for any type of audience.</p> <p>Practical setup Bring a two-minute pitch of max. 250 words to the workshop. Based on the provided guidelines, you will get the chance to reevaluate its structure and audience centrality in groups of 2-3 people. We finish with a peer feedback moment where you get the chance to present your pitch to fellow participants.</p>
E5	 <p>Stefan Garaleas</p>	<p>Stefan is Head of Corporate Culture & Change. In this position he is responsible for the culture of KBC: PEARL+</p> <p>At KBC he started his career as Head Financial Ethics followed by compliance office. Today Stefan is head of the team managing initiatives linked to the culture as well as is responsible to motivate colleagues to life the culture</p>	<p>"Culture eats strategy for breakfast" as Peter Drucker said. But what is a culture and how do ensure that culture is not only a piece of paper? In his speech Stefan will guide you why it is important to have a culture, what you can do to keep culture alive and how do we at KBC apply these aspects to our company culture PEARL+</p>

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E6	 Filip Ferrante	<p>Filip is General Manager Corporate Sustainability at KBC Bank & Verzekering. He has an international career in KBC (Singapore, Shenzhen, Atlanta, etc. and is actual responsible for sustainability at KBC level.</p>	<p>Filip will explain what sustainability is and how important sustainability is for an international Bank-Insurance group. By actual examples he will explain what socially responsible and sustainable banking means in practice.</p>
E7	 Ingrid Creten  Willem De Poorter	<p>Ingrid is Departement Head Surf Studio & Surf Studio Labs (innovation hub of KBC). The SursStudio's mission is "we empower teams to search and explore new business opportunities". Together with 254 colleagues international the Surfstudio connect 4585 community members. Within her career Ingrid was busy with training and innovation. She holds a Master in History.</p> <p>Willem De Poorter works as Communication and Innovation Manager at the Surfstudio. He connect people. People that share common interests, common values, common goals. Connecting people is the first step towards a hopefully everlasting innovation. He is trained communication manager.</p>	<p>Innovation in financial sector, trends and disruptors Together Ingrid and Willem will explain how KBC deals with innovation. Additionally they will give insights in trends and disruptions with impact on the financial sector.</p> <p>What are FinTechs, where is the new gold and what will impact our future within the next years? This talk will lead you through the future. What do you need to know to arm for the future with disruption? Be sure to drop by and be amazed.</p>
E8	 Kristof Oliviers  Stefan Vanstralen	<p>Kristof is Department Head for Ecosystems. In this function he is responsible to identify, build-up and maintain ecosystems of the future. In his function he is also responsible for innovation and transformation. He holds a master in economical engineering .</p> <p>Stefan is Blockchain Advisor at Surf Studio Labs, working on public-blockchain use-cases. He has a Master of Science in Civil Engineering Technology, a bachelor in Applied Computer Science and is following crypto for close to 7 years.</p>	<p>Energy@KBC Kristof will take the top actual issue of energy and will guide you through the economical impact of ecosystems. What does energy mean for a company like KBC? Not only our own energy production and consumption but the energy produced and consumed by the society. Will energy the next currency and what can be done.</p> <p>Crypto Stefan will focus on the disruptive attributes of blockchain-technology and not on the technical side. He'll zoom in what crypto-assets are and how a new financial system is emerging. Finally, we'll go over some of the current cases of KBC and cover the potential future role for banks.</p>

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<p>P15</p>	 <p>Nele Vandaele</p>	<p>PhD in Applied Mathematics in 2010 at Ghent University. My PhD investigated Quadratic hedging strategies in finance and insurance, where the goal was to set up hedging strategies with a minimal hedging error. The theory was applied to the pure financial market, to the insurance market and also the commodity market.</p> <p>After my PhD, I've started at the insurance risk department of KBC Group and finished meanwhile my studies in Actuarial Science at the KULeuven. After 8 years of risk and various functions, I've started as General Manager, responsible for the non-life products within KBC Insurance in 2018. Since then, I'm responsible for the car insurance, home insurance, family insurance, ... within the Belgium business unit.</p>	<p>I will highlight the experiences from my PhD which helped me in my further career and add some essential elements to become successful in business. Next to that, I will explain how the sustainability strategy is implemented in KBC Insurance and how we actively help to reduce the climate impact.</p>
<p>P14</p>	 <p>Emmanuel Fomouo</p>	<p>PhD in Sciences (Physics), Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgique. Three-Body Coulomb problem in high-frequency field : study of two-photon double ionization of the Helium.</p> <p>Master in Atomic Physics, 2001, Université De Douala, Cameroun 2002 – 2008 : teaching assistant, Physics, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium</p> <p>PhD in Physics, 2008, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium Master in Actuarial Sciences, 2012, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium.</p> <p>Estimates models, Pillar II capital models, ...). As from 2018, I gradually switched to market risk domain. Current tasks: validator of pricing models, VaR models, etc.</p>	<p>I will talk about my path to Belgium, what I did during my PhD, why I did also a Master in Actuarial Sciences after my PhD and the way I arrived at KBC. I will also highlight some cultural differences between native country and Belgium.</p> <p>Next, I will talk about how I experienced the transition from academic to private world, how was my integration to the validation team at KBC. I will also give some insight about the content of the tasks I perform on a daily basis, the challenges I face, etc..</p>
<p>P16</p>	 <p>Elise Vissenaekens</p>	<p>Young PhD in KBC PhD on simulations of current and future marine circulations in the Mediterranean for applications in connectivity ecology. PhD finished 2022 at Sorbonne University Paris Additionally she holds a Master in Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography at Université Pierre et Marie Curie and UGent as well as a Bachelor in Biology. Elise is working as Model Validator at KBC as of beginning 2022.</p>	<p>Her talk will be about her studies and her way to KBC. In combination with international colleagues (also PhD-holders) she will showcase what it takes to join an international multidisciplinary team of high-trained colleagues. Together with international testimonials her speech will give you insights in the first months working in industrial environment.</p>

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<p>O1/2</p>		<p>Koen De Backere holds degrees in Electrical Engineering (M.Sc.) and Management Sciences & Business (M.Sc. & Ph.D.). Since 1995, he is a professor technology and innovation at the Faculty of Economics and Business at KU Leuven. As part of his academic duties he was and is member of several committees and boards. He is member or chair of international scientific advisory boards in the areas of innovative technology development, intellectual property management & policy, and product innovation management. In the Board of Directors of KBC Group he is the chairman & independent director, chairman of Nomination Committee and Remuneration Committee.</p>	<p>Koen is key-note speaker and chairman of the KBC Winter School</p>
<p>O3/4</p>	 <p>Frank Stumpe</p>	<p>Ph.D. was about project management in complex-cybernetic systems to identify decision processes in investment projects. For international and intermodal supply-chain and investment projects I analyzed decisions and build an ontology and decision model . He worked as consultant in project- and change management and was lecturer at the RWTH Aachen for Project Management. Frank gives guest lecturers and is moderator of an international group about Project and Program Management and member of different Scientific Boards and Program Committees. His professional career is international and cross industrial. Today he is working within Corporate HR as Project Officer for strategic programs and projects within the Group KBC.</p>	<p>Frank is the secretary of the KBC Winter School</p>