Agenda PhD Winterschool "AI and ESG: Friend or Foe?" on 23 February 2026

8:30-9:00	Welcome coffee		
9:00-9:20	**Welcome and practical info**		
9:20-10:00	Keynote speaker Prof Dr. Koenraad DeBackere: **"Your doctoral journey, exploring innovation"**		
10:00-11:00	Maarten Cannaerts: **"From Copilots to Autopilots… The GenAI revolution at KBC"**		
11:00-11:15	Break		
11:15-12:00	Tracy Villanueva: **"Learning, Leadership, and Collective Intelligence in Finance"**		
12:00-13:00	Lunch break		
13:00-14:00	**TRACK 1**	**TRACK 2**	**TRACK 3**
	2 personal experiences: Álvaro Gallegos Jurado **"Transitioning from academia to industry: are you sure about that?"** Victor Zuiddam **"PhD in Industry"**	2 personal experiences: Veerle D'Haeger **"Testimonial from a (non-economic) PhD at KBC"** Jeroen Bastiaansen: **"Not just a degree: the unexpected power of a PhD"**	2 personal experiences: Galina Deeva **"From PhD in Behavioral Data Analytics to working as Behavioral Scientist at KBC: opportunities, challenges and lessons learned"** Jeroen Van den Bossche **"From The Bench To Investment Banking"**
14:00-14:15	Possibility to change rooms		
14:15-15:15	**TRACK 1**	**TRACK 2**	**TRACK 3**

	2 personal experiences: Francisco Do Nascimento Pitthan **"Coming back to the industry as an international PhD"** Kristien Meykens: **"25 Years at KBC: Lessons from a PhD Career Path"**

	2 personal experiences Dieter Guffens: **"Challenges and opportunities in the transition from academia to a private sector financial institution"** Deepak Baby **"Escaping the vibe coding trap: From solo scripts to scalable systems"**

	2 personal experiences: Marsida Bandilli **"I have a Dream: A Journey of Resilience, Grit and Meaning"** Hendrik-Jan Van Damme **"From academia to industry: a personal journey"**

15:15-15:30	Break and change rooms
15:30-16:10	Steven Van Raemdonck: **"How to Train Your Algorithm: surviving the AI Act"**
16:10-16:50	Simeon Devos from Monsana: **"Turning frustration into a trustworthy AI startup (and the hurdles to beat)"**
16:50-17:30	Geert Dierick from Trevi Environmental Solutions: **"Smartening water treatment systems"**
17:30-…	Review the other cases and start networking