KU LEUVEN

Effective ways to use technology to deliver financial education

Examples and insights from research

Kristof De Witte

Leuven Economics of Education Research - KU Leuven www.feb.kuleuven.be/LEER

Bank of Italy – Digitalization and financial awareness 4 October 2022

This talk

Use of digital tools to:

- 1. Deal with growing diversity in classrooms
- 2. Change financial behaviour
- 3. Stimulate parental involvement

In line with the evidence-based education paradigm, using randomized controlled trials, we test on a small scale educational interventions before implementing them at a larger scale

All presented materials available from www.financiele-geletterdheid.org.



ICT to deal with growing diversity in classrooms

Iterbeke, K., De Witte, K., Declercq, K. and Schelfhout, W. (2020). The Effect of Group Formation and Differentiated Instruction in Financial Literacy Education. Evidence from Two Randomised Control Trials. *Economics of Education Review* 78 (2020), 101949.

Classroom diversity

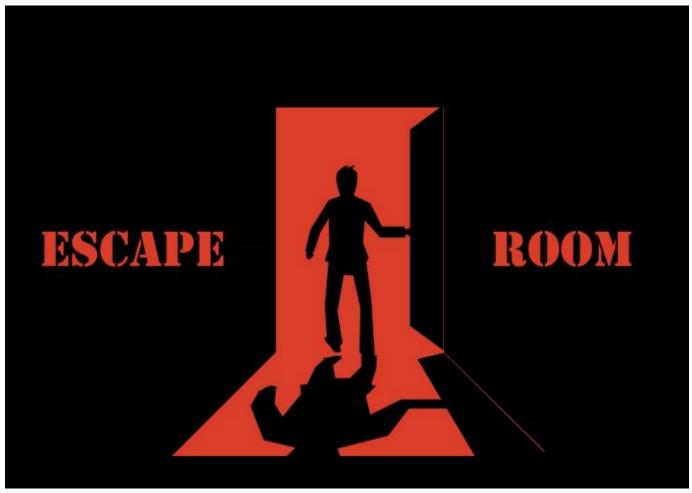
Today's classrooms have become increasingly diverse

Classroom diversity particularly pronounced in financial literacy education (OECD, 2017)

Digital tools can help us to cope with this classroom heterogeneity



Digital tool: Online escape room



www.financiele-geletterdheid.org



Digital tool: Online escape room



Key 1	True	False
A Portuguese euro coin looks exactly the same as a Belgian euro coin.	•	••
Info		Key 2





Digital tool: Online escape room



Coins and banknotes are cash money.

There are eight different euro coins. They all have an identical European side and a national side which is different in every country. Besides that, there are seven different euro banknotes: \in 5,00 - \in 10,00 - \in 20,00 - \in 50,00 - \in 100,00 - \in 200,00 en \in 500,00. The banknotes are identical on both sides for every country. From 2018 on, no more banknotes of \notin 500,00 are printed.

With coins and banknotes, we can pay in 19 European countries that belong to the euro-zone.

Euro coins and euro banknotes are a legal paying method. This means that every trader has to accept euro coins and euro banknotes.

Exceptionally, traders are allowed to refuse a payment with cash:

- if your euro banknote is disproportionate to the purchase: you can not purchase a small thing with a big banknote and vice versa;
- if there is a suspicion of false money: for instance, when you hold a banknote against the light, you have to see a window with a portrait, a water mark and the security wire;
- if the banknote is damaged. You can change a damaged banknote in the bank.

Exceptionally, traders are obliged to refuse a payment with cash:

- the payment in cash may never exceed € 3 000,00;
- the purchase of a house or a terrain can never one payed in cash.

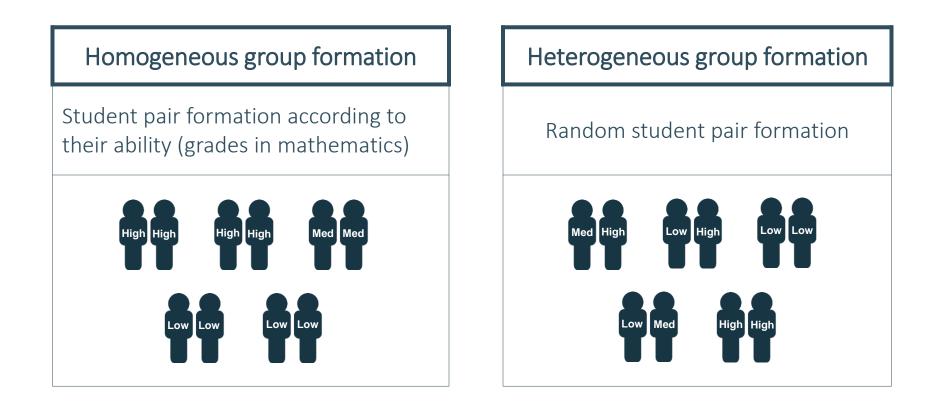
Digital tool

4 lectures of financial education

- Independent learning in student pairs
- Format: computer-aided or paper version innovative, interactive game
- All instructions & information booklets provided within material
 - → Reduce role of teacher such that teacher effects on effectiveness of programme minimised by design
- Content: means of payments

Impact of group formation in digital tool?

 \rightarrow How should we group students?





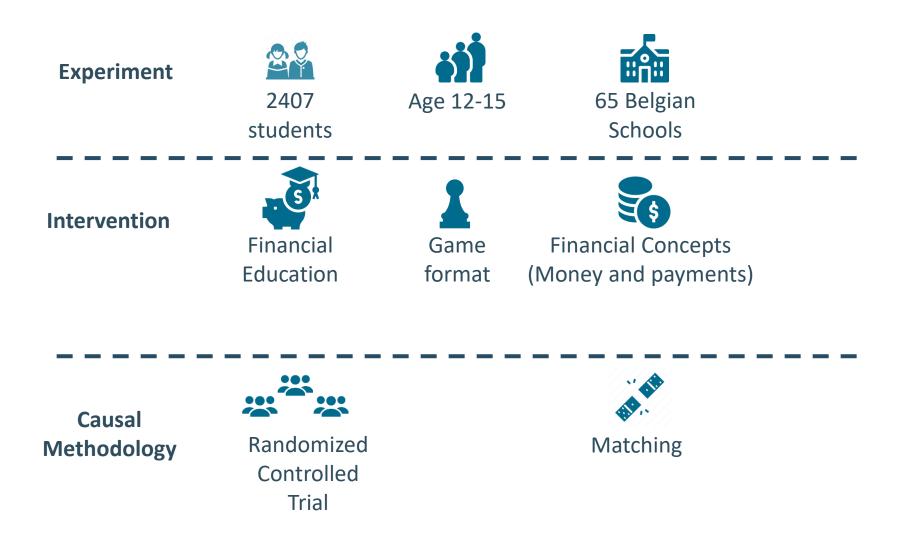
Impact of differentiated instruction in digital tool?

To differentiate among students, we developed three different versions of the didactic material:

High High	Basic instructions in all modules of the material	Calculation 1 You go abroad to study for 1 year. Your parents give you a prepaid card. The card costs € 15,00 per year. Every month, your parents transfer an amount to your account (for free). You withdraw this amount every month. This costs you € 4,00 per withdrawal. Every two months, you consult your balance and you pay € 0,50 per text
Med Med	Additional instructions in first module of the material	message. How much will your prepaid card cost your parents after 1 year? 7 8 9 Tip! 1. calculate the cost of withdrawing the money (= withdrawi
Low Low	Additional instructions in all modules of the material	after the comma! 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 2 calculate the cost of of (= consulting the balance (= consulting the bal



Experimental design





Evidence from large scale RCTs

• Financial proficiency increases by 0.25 SD on average after the programme

- Absence of general, significant effects of differentiated instruction
- Heterogeneous effects of differentiation practices
 - Struggling students benefit from homogeneous group formation & differentiated instruction,
 - while performance of their peers, not receiving additional instructions, still increases relatively more



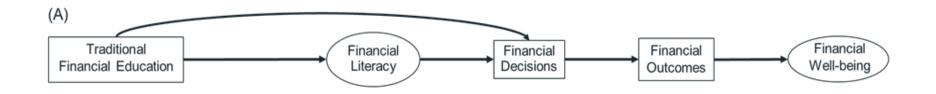


Using digital tools to change financial behaviour.

Source: Pitthan, F., & De Witte, K. (2022). Improving Financial Literacy by Mitigating Behavioural Biases. A Causal Mediation Analysis on the Effects of Behavioural-Based Financial Education. G53 Network Working Paper Series.

Why is effect on financial behaviour limited?

The **best candidate** yet to improve Financial Literacy is **Financial Education**.



Financial education improves financial knowledge, but the **gains** to financial behaviour are **limited** with **few evidences of long-lasting effects** in the society.

De Beckker, 2020; Kaiser & Menkhoff, 2017, 2020; Willis, 2011



Why is effect on financial behaviour limited?

The best candidate yet to improve Financial Literacy is Financial Education.



Financial education improves financial knowledge, but the **gains** to financial behaviour are **limited** with **few evidences of long-lasting effects** in the society.

De Beckker, 2020; Kaiser & Menkhoff, 2017, 2020; Willis, 2011

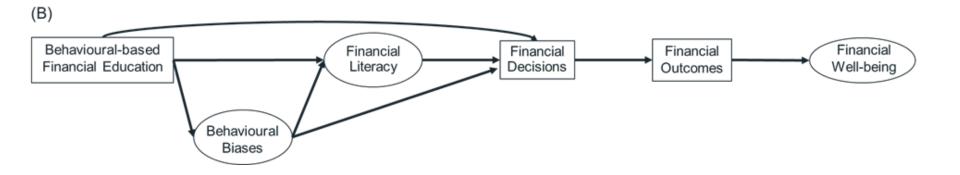


Why is effect on financial behaviour limited?

HYPOTHESIS:

Behavioural-based financial education can **improve** the **causal mechanisms** that lead to better financial literacy, decisions and financial outcome.

 \rightarrow This would be achieved to **better awareness** to **behavioural biases**.





Behavioural and cognitive biases

Behavioural and cognitive biases: **irrational beliefs or behaviours**, that lead to **systematic errors** and often to **suboptimal outcomes**.

 Overconfident people: have a good estimation of the average probability of a risk, but believe they have lower probability than the average of being affected.

 Myopic people: underestimate average probability and short-term benefits preference

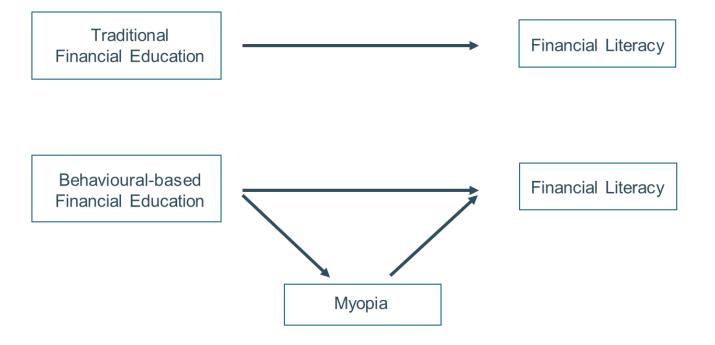
Implication for financial literacy:

- Underweighting of probabilities in insurance decisions, resulting in underinsurance
- Myopia: lower pension-planning, lower insurance intake, lower investment outcomes, higher indebtedness

Test by Randomized Controlled Trial

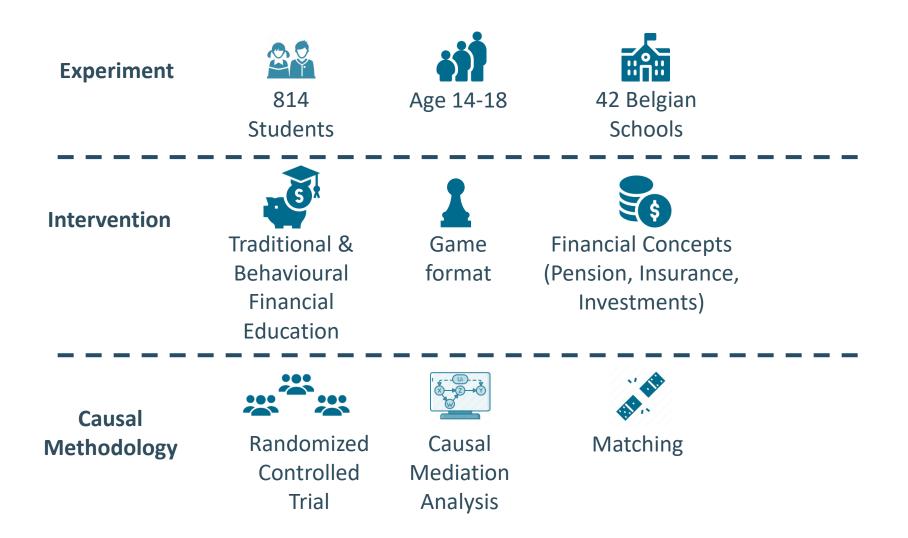
OBJECTIVE:

Test the following causal-diagram using the behavioural bias of **myopia**, the short-sightedness of economic and financial decisions (e.g. **short-time preference**, **focus on surroundings**, **underestimation of risks**)





Experimental design





A digital 'Life Path'



Burgerlijke aansprakelijkheid auto/moto

Een BA verzekering is een verplichte verzekering die je dient af te sluiten voor elk voertuig dat je inschrijft bij de Dienst voor Inschrijving van de Voertuigen (DIV).

Deze verzekering dekt de schade die je met jouw voertuig aan personen en/of goederen toebrengt, de gevolgen van een ongeval voor derden, zoals medische zorgen, arbeidsongeschiktheid en inkomensverlies en schade aan inzittenden.



Example – Regular course



If you don't know the answer, you can click in the picture and re-read the article

Oefening 1 van 6 Fire insurance covers damage only in case of fire True False				
	Indienen	Volgende	Herstart	
Feedback				
Indeed. This insurance covers damage from fire, but also other types of damages, such as losses due to storms, flood, leak in the water pipes or sanitary installations.				
The answer is right.				



Example – Behavioural financial education

Ignorance or disinformation

Financial myopia

Do you always see everything clearly? Many people have trouble seeing something further away. We say they have myopia. Besides regular myopia, there is also financial myopia.

We speak of financial myopia when people are hindered in their financial decisions because they do not see risks or costs clearly. There can be several reasons for this. Read the explanations under the three tabs carefully.

People don't want to save money now that they might benefit from later.

Short term preference

For example: paying an insurance premium now that can lead to compensation later if a risk occurs.

Underestimation of the risk

Or: invest money now as a nest egg for your pension.



Overview of results

Effective course materials: the course managed to improve both financial literacy and myopia.

• Effect was larger for the behavioural-based program.

We observe significant indirect effect of the behavioural-based education programs to financial literacy mediated by myopia, which was not observed in traditional course.





- Fill the gap of the financial education literature, by not only teaching about traditional financial concepts and products, but by also increasing the awareness to the behavioural bias of myopia.
- Age heterogeneity suggests older students can get the most of financial education interventions.
- More investigation is needed to test this hypothesis with other biases and settings, and to consider long-lasting effects of behavioural-based financial education programs in real-life conditions.





Digital tools to stimulate parental involvement

Maldonado, J., De Witte, K., and Declercq, K. (2022). The Effects of Parental Involvement in Homework - Two Randomised Controlled Trials in Financial Education. Empirical Economics 62, 1439-1646

A Novel Perspective on Homework

- Preparatory exercise
- Attractive innovative format
 - Online quiz
 - Video & pictures



Beste leerling

Huiswerk over betaalmiddelen

Je school werkt mee aan een onderzoek rond financiële geletterdheid in samenwerking met KULeuven, Universiteit Antwerpen en Wikifin. In het kader van dit onderzoek vragen we je om, vóór de lessen over financiële geletterdheid, dit korte huiswerk te maken.

In dit huiswerk bekijk je een filmpje over betaalmiddelen en daarna maak je een korte quiz over de manieren om je aankopen te betalen. De quiz vul je samen met (een van) je ouders in. Daarna is er nog een korte vragenlijst die enkel door (een van) je ouders ingevuld moet worden.



Scan deze QR code of ga naar de volgende link om het filmpje te bekijken en de guiz in te vullen:

finalioowalika melicikia Aria a Ariki

Huiswerk met ouders voor de les betaalmiddelen

Financial Literacy @ School

Dit huiswerk helpt je om je voor te bereiden op de lessen van financiële educatie die je binnenkort zal volgen op school. Dit huiswerk maak je samen met één van je ouders. Na de quiz volgt een korte vragenlijst voor een van je ouders. Daarna kan je de oplossingen van de quiz en je score bekijken.

De antwoorden van het huiswerk en de vragenlijst voor ouders worden enkel gebruikt voor onderzoek en worden anoniem geëvalueerd. De antwoorden hebben geen invloed op je schoolresultaten.

Bekijk het filmpje over betalen op de site van Wikifin en beantwoord onderstaande vragen <u>samen met</u> een van je ouders.



* 1. Hoe betalen je ouders meestal in het grootwarenhuis?

\odot	met cash geld	
0	met een debetkaart	

) ja neen met een kredietkaart

met een betaalkaart van het grootwarenhuis

* 2. Maken je ouders voor bepaalde zaken gebruik van een domiciliëring?

De vragenlijst voor ie ouders duurt minder dan 5 minuten. Alle antwoorden in het huiswerk



Parental Involvement in the Homework

- Clear instructions for student to involve parent
- Additional incentive for parental involvement through questions on parental common practice

Huiswerk met ouders voor de les betaalmiddelen

ancial Literacy @ School

it huiswerk helpt je om je voor te bereiden op de lessen van financiële educatie die je binnenkort zal olgen op school. Dit huiswerk maak je samen met één van je ouders. Na de quiz volgt een korte vragenlijst por een van je ouders. Daarna kan je de oplossingen van de quiz en je score bekijken.

De antwoorden van het huiswerk en de vragenlijst voor ouders worden enkel gebruikt voor onderzoek en vorden anoniem geëvalueerd. De antwoorden hebben geen invloed op je schoolresuitaten.

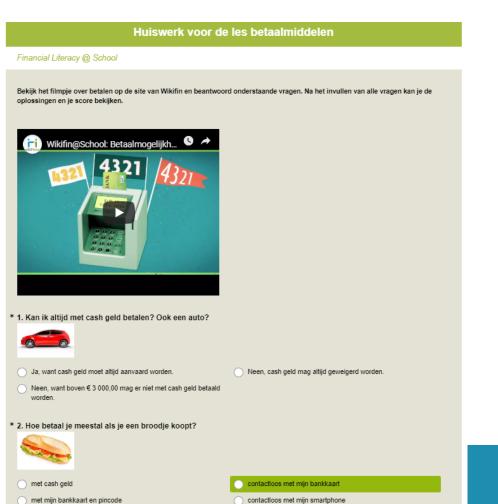
Bekijk het filmpje over betalen op de site van Wikifin en beantwoord onderstaande vragen <u>samen met</u> een van je ouders.

Do your parents use direct debit for certain payments?
Yes
No



Comparison of Homework Types

• Regular homework for student alone



• Homework together with parents

Huiswerk met ouders voor de les betaalmiddelen

Financial Literacy @ School

Dit huiswerk helpt je om je voor te bereiden op de lessen van financiële educatie die je binnenkort zal volgen op school. Dit huiswerk maak je samen met één van je ouders. Na de quiz volgt een korte vragenlijst voor een van je ouders. Daarna kan je de oplossingen van de quiz en je score bekijken.

De antwoorden van het huiswerk en de vragenlijst voor ouders worden enkel gebruikt voor onderzoek en worden anoniem geëvalueerd. De antwoorden hebben geen invloed op je schoolresultaten.

Bekijk het filmpje over betalen op de site van Wikifin en beantwoord onderstaande vragen <u>samen met</u> <u>een van je ouders</u>.



* 1. Hoe betalen je ouders meestal in het grootwarenhuis?

- met cash geld
- met een debetkaart



* 2. Maken je ouders voor bepaalde zaken gebruik van een domiciliëring?

0	ja
0	neen

Evidence from large scale RCTs

Parental involvement matters for behaviour

 \rightarrow Homework with parents has largest effects on behaviour scores

Parental involvement helps disadvantaged / vulnarable students

- \rightarrow Positive effects for students with low SES
- → Increases learning effects for students from families with low communication levels about the course topic

Parental involvement increases family communication

→ Homework with parents increases the probability of students speaking with their parents about the course topic

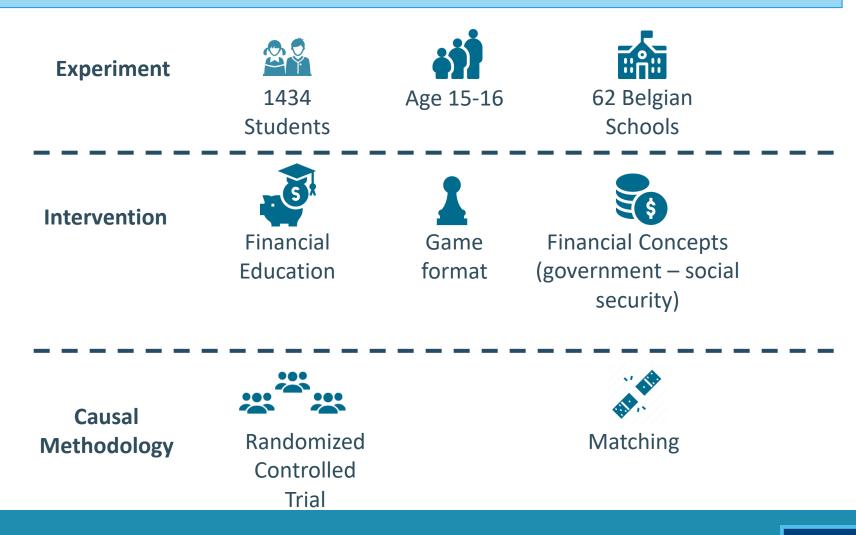




Digital tools to stimulate parental involvement 2.0

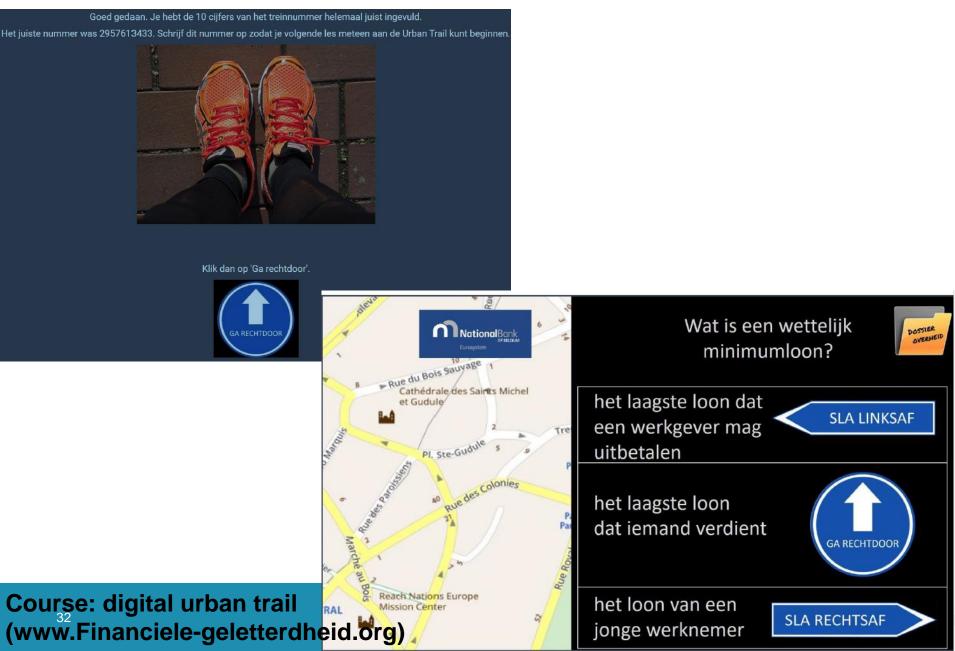
Parents as teachers

Can parental tutoring at home achieve the same learning effects as teacher-led instruction in the class at school?





Digital tool: Digital urban trail on financial literacy



Evidence from large scale RCTs

1. The digital program is highly effective in increasing financial literacy

2. When compliance can be enforced, a complementary parental tutoring session at home can achieve the same knowledge gains as an additional class at school.

- \rightarrow Knowledge about the topics higher for teacher-led class
- \rightarrow Parental tutoring results in higher persisting learning effects

3. Spill-over effects to parents: Parents also experience knowledge gains from tutoring their children

→ Parental involvement in education also offers learning benefits for parents



Final take-away

→ Using technology to deliver financial education is promising

→ Importance to test rigorously such that financial literacy education is provided in an evidence-based way



References – see <u>www.feb.kuleuven.be/LEER</u>

On culture and behavioural economics:

- Pitthan, F., & De Witte, K. (2021). Puzzles of insurance demand and its biases: A survey on the role of behavioural biases and financial literacy on insurance demand. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance*, *30*, 100471.
- Pitthan, F., & De Witte, K. (2022). Improving Financial Literacy by Mitigating Behavioural Biases. A Causal Mediation Analysis on the Effects of Behavioural-Based Financial Education. G53 Network Working Paper Series.
- De Beckker, K., De Witte, K., & Van Campenhout, G. (2020). The role of national culture in financial literacy: Cross-country evidence. *Journal of Consumer Affairs*, 54(3), 912-930.

On digital financial literacy tools:

- Iterbeke, K., De Witte, K., & Schelfhout, W. (2021). The effects of computer-assisted adaptive instruction and elaborated feedback on learning outcomes. A randomized control trial. *Computers in Human Behavior*, *120*, 106666.
- Iterbeke, K., De Witte, K., Declercq, K., & Schelfhout, W. (2020). The effect of ability matching and differentiated instruction in financial literacy education. Evidence from two randomised control trials. *Economics of Education Review*, 78, 101949.
- Compen, B., De Witte, K., & Schelfhout, W. (2019). The role of teacher professional development in financial literacy education: A systematic literature review. *Educational Research Review*, *26*, 16-31.
- Compen, B., Pitthan, F., Schelfhout, W., & De Witte, K. (2022). How to elicit and cease herding behaviour? On the effectiveness of a warning message as a debiasing decision support system. *Decision Support Systems*, *152*, 113652.
- Maldonado, J. E., De Witte, K., & Declercq, K. (2022). The effects of parental involvement in homework: two randomised controlled trials in financial education. *Empirical Economics*, 62(3), 1439-1464.
- De Beckker, K., De Witte, K., & Van Campenhout, G. (2019). Identifying financially illiterate groups: An international comparison. *International Journal of Consumer Studies*, *43*(5), 490-501.
- De Beckker, K., De Witte, K., & Van Campenhout, G. (2021). The effect of financial education on students' consumer choices: Evidence from a randomized experiment. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, 188*, 962-976.

KU LEUVEN

Effective ways to use technology to deliver financial education

Examples and insights from research

Kristof De Witte

Leuven Economics of Education Research - KU Leuven www.feb.kuleuven.be/LEER

Bank of Italy – Digitalization and financial awareness 4 October 2022