

xAI Industry Challenge (BFH MSCA Training Week)

Throughout the day, you will discover real-world AI applications firsthand, guided by industry experts in finance and beyond, who bring in their practical experience into the classroom. Finance is a high-stakes industry where decisions must be transparent and interpretable, making xAI a powerful and essential lever for transforming how AI is designed and deployed. Across the day, you'll need to listen actively and reflect sharply, as the industry day will culminate with you, in pairs, pitching ideas on:

- 1) How explainable AI (xAI) enhances the case application and what risks the xAI layer prevents (only if applicable, if the use case includes xAI), and/or
- 2) How xAI could further be applied to this case application (conceptualization of an xAI solution), why it is important (which problem it solves), and which benefits your proposed xAI solution would bring that are not leveraged yet (algorithmic or societal).

Find your pitch pair as outlined in the table “*Students’ Assignment to Pitches*” below. Together with your partner, you will prepare, for each of the two assigned industry cases, a concise oral pitch (maximum of 2.5 minutes per use case, no slides) covering the points declared above.

The goals of this xAI challenge are: 1) to motivate the active listening and participation, 2) to foster creativity and critical thinking, and 3) to promote the emergence of exchanges between students and industry experts.

Students’ Assignment to Pitches

Student pair	talk1	talk2
Armin Sadighi & Fulvio Raddi	Title TBD. Alexandru-Septimiu Rif, Portfolio Manager, Alean Capital AG and Robert Gutsche, Professor Applied Data Science, Bern University of Applied Sciences	Microsoft’s Responsible AI adoption for FSI: Copilot, SAFE (Secure AI for Everyone), and the Journey from Pilot to Governed Scale (Darri Helgason, AI Business Solutions Engineer, Microsoft Switzerland)
Ismail Elbouknify & Jens Reil	From Models to Systems: Advancing Explainable AI in Financial Decision-Making (Gennaro Di Brino, Head of Data Science, Cardo AI)	AI in Practice: Real-World Applications at RBI (Stefan Theussl, Head of Research Innovation Hub, Raiffeisen Bank International AG)
Manuele Massei & Mathis Jander	Applied AI in Banking: Failures, Successes, and What,Äôs Next? (Aidas Malakauskas, Head of Omnichannel Solutions, Swedbank)	Explainable AI for Philanthropy and Finance (Milos Maricic, CEO, Altruist League)
Megang Nkamga Junile Staures &	AI Governance for Trustworthy, Compliant AI (Kevin Schawinski, Co-founder & CEO of Modulos)	Independent Wealth Management in Transition (Lilian Nordet, Director of HUB+) and Interpretable AI for Stock Return Prediction Models (Louis-Alexandre Piquet, Quantitative

Mohamed Faid		Researcher and Trader at RAM Active Investments SA)
Owen chaffard & Patricia Marcella Evite	AI in Practice: Real-World Applications at RBI (Stefan Theussl, Head of Research Innovation Hub, Raiffeisen Bank International AG)	AI in Finance: Redefining Intelligence in Investing (Luba Schoenig, Co-Founder, Umushroom and former banker, Credit Suisse)
Rebecca Di Francesco & Siang-Li Jheng	Microsoft's Responsible AI adoption for FSI: Copilot, SAFE (Secure AI for Everyone), and the Journey from Pilot to Governed Scale (Darri Helgason, AI Business Solutions Engineer, Microsoft Switzerland)	Beyond Efficiency Promises: Bottom-Up Agents That Teams Actually Use (Fabio Duo, Founder & CEO, PeakPrivacy and Founder & Project Manager, Freihandlabor GmbH)

Challenge notes:

10 industry talks – 12 PhD students (6 student pairs, each student in 1 pair, each pair 2 talks) (2 talks are assigned to 2 student pairs but majority are unique assignments).

60 minutes of pitches, 24 pitches, 2 minutes per pitch, 5 minutes per pair of students (including 1 minute for potential feedback from the industry expert).
