**Supplemental Online Materials**

**The Big Four: Multiple Functions and Power in Global Value Chains**

This file is the Online Supplementary Materials to the manuscript “The Big Four: Multiple Functions and Power in Global Value Chains”. In Section A, we gather some basic summary statistics for the Big Four regarding their network of offices, the number of employees and gross revenues. In Section B, we have a sample of the questions asked during the interviews. In Section C, we have included the codebook used in Nvivo software for coding our interviews. In Section D, we present the complete list of the corporate data sources (annual reports, press releases, etc.) used in the paper.

**Section A**

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| **Table A1** TheBig Four at a glance |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Deloitte | PwC | KPMG | EY | | Number of Countries | 136 | 143 | 128 | 141 | | Number of Cities | 683 | 645 | 684 | 639 | | Number of Offices | 743 | 713 | 733 | 750 | | Number of Employees | 312,000 | 276,005 | 219,281 | 284,018 | | Gross Revenues ($bn) | 50.4 | 45.1 | 32.1 | 40 | |
| *Source*: Own Calculation. *Data*: Corporate websites, selected annual reports and press releases, and for employment data for 2004, Cruz (2014). Notes: The gross revenues correspond to 2021, whereas the other variables to 2019. |

**Section B**

Questions guiding semi-structured interview with the Big Four professionals:

1. What is the organizational structure of [your company] globally, in terms of groups of services, sectors, ownership and geographies? What is the role of global and regional headquarters within that structure?
2. How much autonomy do different parts of [your company] have? How integrated is [your company] internationally, and how has it changed over the last decade/s?
3. What are the driving factors of the relative performance of [your company] in relation to other Big Four companies in terms of gross revenues? How do these factors differ between groups of services and geographical regions?
4. How has the market share of [your company] changed over the last decade in various groups of services and markets?
5. How important are services for governments and the public sector for [your company]?
6. Do you expect further expansion in the global office network of [your company]?
7. What are the main challenges [your company] has experienced because of the pandemic?
8. What are the key threats and opportunities facing [your company] in the future?
9. Do you think the influence of the Big Four on the world economy has changed over the last decade/s?
10. Over the next decade do you foresee any changes in the role that the Big Four firms play in the world economy?

**Section C**

Interviews Codebook (Nvivo)

| Name | Description | Sources | References |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Competition and Consolidation | Comments referring to the competition pressures in the markets of accounting, auditing, business consulting services and the trend of consolidation and M&As. | 9 | 13 |
| Digitalization and Strategic Alliances | Comments referring to the process of digitalization and the formation of strategic alliances with other Advanced Business Services firms and BigTech firms. | 10 | 17 |
| Financialization | Comments referring to the process of financialization as the of the global economy, as a process of escalating influence of financial motives, markets, and institutions in modern economies | 7 | 10 |
| Horizontal Integration and Business Structure | Comments referring to the internal business structure of the Big Four firms. | 8 | 12 |
| Scope of Services | Comments referring to the menu of services provided by the Big Four firms (economies of scale, scope and network). | 11 | 21 |
| SME and Startups | Comments referring to small and medium enterprises and startups. | 3 | 5 |

**Section D**

The quantitative data used in this paper were manually collected by the authors from the respective corporate websites, as well as from selected global annual reports and company press releases. The list of those sources is the following:

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