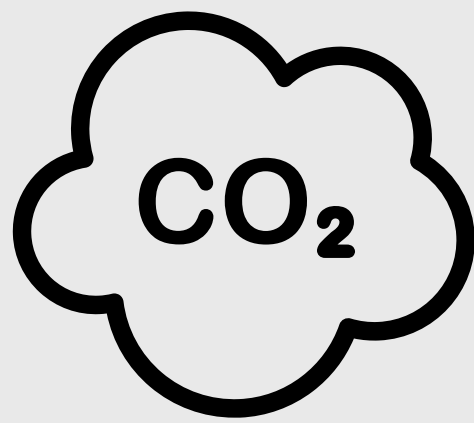


Do Belgian SME managers put their money where their mouth is regarding climate change?

Context

"It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land." (IPCC, 2021)



SMEs are responsible for around 60-70% of industrial pollution in Europe (Koirala, 2019).



Strategic decisions of SMEs are influenced by the executives' personal interpretations and thus their experiences, values and personalities (Hambrick & Mason, 1984).

RQ

What is the influence of the environmental commitment of SME managers on the actions implemented in their companies?

Methodology



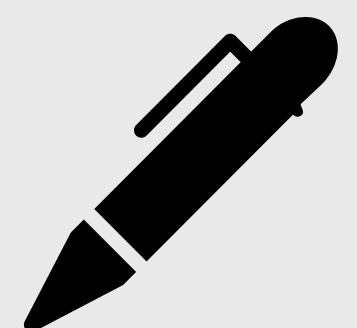
Qualitative exploratory study



Semi-structured interviews



Belgian SME managers



4 predefined themes

Prov. results

"I'm not taking environmental initiatives that are going to burden my finances and lower my profits. (ADM 1)"

"Political choices have been made, and as a business leader, you must conform to these choices. (HR 1)"

"A consequence [of an environmental measure], it could be, indeed, that there would be a decrease of turnover if we had to decline some customers because they do not comply with our convictions. Otherwise, I would say that the other impacts, for the moment, are more personal and not especially business. They are more about: we feel more satisfied because we are in line with our convictions. (INF 1)"