

# Reflection

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I would like to start by thanking my supervisors, Henk Visscher and Michaël Peeters, for their guidance throughout this thesis. The process wasn't always easy, and the direction of the research changed quite a bit along the way. Henk's knowledge of Dutch building law and Michaël's insights into European regulations helped me a lot in staying on track and finding focus when things became unclear.

Initially, I was researching green building certifications and their potential to promote sustainable real estate practices. However, when I learnt more about the subject, I discovered the EU Taxonomy. Since it's still a relatively new framework, it felt like stepping into the unknown to me and many others in the industry. That's what made the subject interesting as well as challenging.

Besides the content of the research, I've also learned a lot of practical skills. I now feel much more confident in working with interview participants, conducting interviews, and analysing the information that comes out of them. These are things you can only really learn by doing, and I'm glad I got that experience.

One of the biggest takeaways for me was how complex sustainable reporting can be. I used to think it was just about following a list of rules, but it involves a lot of detailed work, reading long documents, meeting different criteria, and making sure everything fits together. I now understand why there are whole companies helping others to meet these targets.

If I were to do this project again, I would start looking for interview participants earlier. That part of the process took more time than I expected, and starting earlier would've helped reduce stress later. I also noticed that the more I learned about the EU Taxonomy, the better my interviews became. I could ask more specific questions and better understand what the participants were saying. So, in hindsight, doing even more research upfront would have helped.

Lastly, this thesis made me more aware of how serious the challenges around climate change really are, especially in the built environment. Climate adaptation isn't just a buzzword; it's something that's becoming more urgent every year. Working on this project has shown me how important it is that the real estate sector takes responsibility and leads the way in becoming more resilient and sustainable.

Looking back, this thesis taught me a lot, not just about sustainable finance, but also about dealing with complex topics, adapting when things change, and keeping a clear overview in a messy process.