



June 2016

Call for Papers
**5th EACB Award for Young
Researchers on Co-operative
Banks**

I. Introduction and admissions criteria

The European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB), in collaboration with its Academic Think-Tank, is pleased to announce a competition for best papers in the field of co-operative banks. The competition is targeted at young researchers up to 35 years old (i.e. they should be born in 1981 or after). Co-authored papers will be accepted if all authors are up to 35 years of age.

II. Research Themes and selection process

Contributions will be accepted providing they are not already published in scientific journals or books by 15 December 2016. However, papers that have appeared in working paper series or that will be forthcoming in a publication after 15 December 2016 will be considered. The submitted papers should follow the standard format of scientific journals, and should contain new and original work by the authors. The word limit is around 10,000 words or less.

The papers should relate directly to co-operative banks. Papers that compare co-operative banks with other types of banking organisations (e.g. profit maximising banks, shareholders banks, savings banks, etc) are welcome. The papers should be written in English. The assessors will be looking for contributions primarily from the following academic fields: economics, finance and accounting, corporate governance, or management. We are interested in papers related to the following broad themes but papers on other topics related to cooperative banking will be considered:

- *Innovation and the challenges for co-operative banks*
- *The specific governance of co-operative banks and the evolution of their business mode*
- *Co-operative Banks: 'Creating member value'*
- *Regulatory challenges of co-operative banks*
- *Co-operative banks and financial stability*
- *Diversity in banking: the role of co-operative banks*

The voice of 4.200 local and retail banks, 78 million members, 205 million customers

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- *Contribution of co-operative banks to competition in European banking*
- *Co-operative banks' contribution to sustainability of society and the environment*
- *Co-operative banks and social and financial inclusion*
- *International comparison of co-operative banks*
- *Are there distinct characteristics of cooperative banks?*

The selection criteria are the contribution the paper makes to the scientific literature, the rigor of the argumentation, the clarity of exposition and policy relevance.

III. Deadline

The deadline for the submissions is 15 December 2016. The submissions should be sent to eacbaward@eacb.coop

For inquiries, please contact the EACB secretariat, Head of Communications & research :Elisa BEVILACQUA (Tel.: + 32 2 286 98 42),e.bevilacqua@eacb.coop

IV. Scientific Committee

- Mr Silvio Goglio, University of Trento, Italy (Chair)
- Mr Yiorgos Alexopoulos, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece
- Mr Hans Groeneveld, University of Tilburg and Rabobank Nederland, Netherlands
- Mr David Llewellyn, University of Loughborough, UK
- Mr Eric Meyer, University of Muenster, Germany

V. Award

The prize for the best paper is 2,000 Euros. The best papers will receive a special mention and will be published by the EACB. The prize will be awarded in Spring 2017 (possibly at the 7th Convention on Co-operative Banks, tbc)

VI. About the EACB

The European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB) is the voice of the co-operative banks at European and international level. It represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its 31 member institutions and of co-operative banks in general. Co-operative banks form decentralised networks which are subject to banking as well as co-operative legislation.

With 4,200 locally operating banks and 67,000 outlets co-operative banks are widely represented throughout the European Union, playing a major role in the financial and economic system. They have a long tradition in serving 205 million customers, mainly consumers, retailers SMEs and communities. The co-operative banks in Europe represent 78 million members and 805,000 employees and have a total average market share of about 20%.

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