



EACB Press Release:

New Research by Tilburg University - “European co-operative banks in 2017, a concise assessment”

Brussels, 15th November 2018 – The EACB is pleased to announce the launch of a **new publication entitled “European co-operative banks in 2017: a concise assessment”** by Tilburg University. The publication reviews developments in the overall performance of 18 co-operative banking groups in 13 European countries based on consolidated financial indicators pertaining to 2017.

The main objective of the report is to disseminate and analyse facts and figures of European co-operative banking groups objectively. This is highly important, especially in light of present economic and financial perspectives, structural developments in banking and eminent changes in banking supervision and regulation. The document also compares the performance metrics of co-operative banks to that of all other banks in recent years. Based on standard bank performance metrics, it can be objectively concluded that **economic and financial developments impact differently on co-operative banks compared to banks with other organisational forms**. These findings can be mainly ascribed to their member-based governance. If business models and orientations of banks vary, they are not hit in the same way and to the same extent by all types of distortions. From this reasoning, it follows that **regulators should encourage diversity and promote banks oriented to support SMEs and households at the domestic level**.

“This publication is a unique document. The analysis yields important insights for co-operative bankers, regulators, policy makers and academics. It allows for an assessment of actual figures as well as differences with other banks. On the other hand, a chronological reading of these annual notes reveals some interesting trends, leading to a greater understanding on the nature and the important role of co-operative banks in Europe”, stated Mr. Hervé Guider, EACB General Manager.

According to **Prof. Hans Groeneveld**, the most recent figures *“point to a **strengthened market position, a healthy financial performance and solid capitalisation of co-operative banks**. Judged by the steady growth of the member base, the co-operative banking model continues to appeal to customers. Nowadays, almost one out of five inhabitants is a member of a co-operative bank in Europe and almost one out of three is a customer. Their business model is objectively more geared towards the real economy and the volatility of their returns is less pronounced. Hence, Co-operative banks will continue to contribute to the indispensable diversity and stability in banking.”* He concluded.

[Link to Tilburg University Research letter - “European co-operative banks in 2017, a concise assessment”](#)

[Link to the webpage with infographics](#)

The voice of 2.914 local and retail banks, 81 million members, 209 million customers in EU

EACB AISBL – Secretariat • Rue de l’Industrie 26-38 • B-1040 Brussels

Tel: (+32 2) 230 11 24 • Fax (+32 2) 230 06 49 • Enterprise 0896.081.149 • lobbying register 4172526951-19
www.eacb.coop • e-mail : secretariat@eacb.coop



EACB Contact:

General Manager: Hervé GUIDER (Tel.: +32 2 286 98 40),
Herve.Guidere@eacb.coop

Head of Communications & Sustainable Finance: Elisa BEVILACQUA (Tel.: +32 2 286 98 42),
Elisa.Bevilacqua@eacb.coop

About the EACB:

The **European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB)** is the voice of the co-operative banks in Europe. It represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its 28 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. Democracy, transparency and proximity are the three key characteristics of the co-operative banks' business model. With 2.914 locally operating banks and 53,262 outlets co-operative banks are widely represented throughout the enlarged European Union, playing a major role in the financial and economic system. They have a long tradition in serving 209 million customers, mainly consumers, retailers and communities. The co-operative banks in Europe represent 81 million members and more than 719,000 employees.

Website: www.eacb.coop

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About Tilburg University:

Tilburg University contributes to solving social issues by developing and transferring knowledge and bringing together people from various disciplines and organizations. Tilburg University's highly qualified staff produce high-level quality and it stimulates connection and cross-disciplinary cooperation between people and teams and promote quality of leadership within an effective organization. The Tilburg School of Economics and Management is the oldest and largest school of Tilburg University. It focuses on research and education in the fields of Business and Economics. Management and support are combined for both fields. Within its broad research palette, TiSEM emphasizes a variety of societally relevant topics, such as sustainability, innovation, entrepreneurship, market governance, and aging.

Website: www.tilburguniversity.edu/