



Call for Papers
8th 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 1984 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 29 February 2020. However, papers that have appeared in working paper series or that will be forthcoming in a publication after 29 February 2020 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 paper should be delivered both in PDF and in Word format in order to allow a plagiarism checking.

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, digitalisation: challenges and opportunities for co-operative banks*
- *The specific governance of co-operative banks and the evolution of their business model*
- *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*
- *Contribution of co-operative banks to competition in European banking*

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

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- *The issue of over-capacity in European Banking: myth or reality and the possible implications for co-operative banks*
- *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 co-operative banks (the co-operative difference)?*
- *Culture in stakeholders value (co-operative) banks: is it different from shareholder 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 29 February 2020. The submissions should be sent to eacbaward@eacb.coop

For inquiries, please contact the EACB secretariat, Communications adviser: Luce JACQMIN (Tel.: + 32 2 289 68 57), luce.jacqmin@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 or Autumn 2020.

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 27 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 3,000 locally operating banks and 53,000 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 209 million customers, mainly consumers, retailers SMEs and communities. The co-operative banks in Europe represent 81 million members and 732,000 employees and have a total average market share of about 20%.