



Brussels, January 2012  
Version 2

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### COOPERATIVE BANKS: COMPETITION FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

**EXTENDED DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2012**

#### 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 of best paper in the field of co-operative banks. The competition is targeted to young researchers up to 35 years old (i.e. they should be born in 1977 or after). Co-authored papers will be accepted if all authors are up to 35 years of age.

#### II. Research Themes and selection process

We accept contributions if they are not published in scientific journals or books by the end of May 2012. However, papers that have appeared in working paper series or that will be forthcoming in a publication after May 2012 will be considered. The submitted papers should follow the standard format of scientific journals, being around 10,000 words or less. The papers should relate directly to co-operative banks. Papers that compare co-operative banks to other types of banking organizations (e.g. profit-maximizing banks, savings banks) are welcome. The emphasis is on co-operative banks, rather than other types of financial co-operatives, such as credit unions or building societies. The papers should be written in English.

We are looking for contributions primarily from the following academic fields: economics, finance and accounting, corporate governance, or management. Additionally, the papers should be related to one of the following broad themes:

- *Regulatory challenges of co-operative banks*
- *Co-operative banks and financial stability*
- *Co-operative banks and social and environmental responsibility*
- *Co-operative banks: innovation and the development of small business*
- *Governance aspects of co-operative banks*
- *Diversity in banking: the role of co-operative banks*

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

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*The voice of 4.000 local and retail banks, 50 million members, 176 million customers*

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### III. Deadline

The deadline for the submissions is **May 31, 2012**. The submissions should be sent to [eacbaward@eurocoopbanks.coop](mailto:eacbaward@eurocoopbanks.coop).

For inquiries, please contact the EACB secretariat, tel.: +32 2 230 11 24, [secretariat@eurocoopbanks.coop](mailto:secretariat@eurocoopbanks.coop)

### IV. Scientific Committee

- Panu Kalmi, University of Vaasa, Finland (Chair)
- Rym Ayadi, CEPS (Center for European Policy Studies), Belgium
- Giovanni Ferri, University of Bari, Italy
- Hans Groeneveld, Radboud University Nijmegen and Rabobank Nederland, the Netherlands
- David Llewellyn, University of Loughborough, UK, and Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria

### V. Award

The prize for the best paper is 2000 euro. The prize will be awarded during the 5<sup>th</sup> Convention of European Co-operative Banks taking place on the **December 6, 2012 in Brussels**. In addition, selected abstracts (max. three best papers) will be published in the proceedings of the convention.

### VI. About EACB

The European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB) is the voice of Co-operative Banks in Europe. It represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its 28 members and co-operative banks in general. Co-operative banks form decentralized networks which are governed by banking as well as co-operative legislation. With 65,000 outlets and 4,000 banks, co-operative banks are widely represented throughout the enlarged European Union playing a major role in the financial and economic system. Cooperative banks serve 176 million customers, mainly consumers, retailers and SMEs. They represent about 50 million members, 750,000 employees with a total average market share of about 20%.

For further details, please visit [www.eurocoopbanks.coop](http://www.eurocoopbanks.coop)