



SAVINGS BANKS
ACADEMIC AWARD



SAVINGS BANKS ACADEMIC AWARD 2012

An Initiative of the
European Savings Banks Group



ESBG



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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



200 years ago, pioneers like Henry Duncan in Scotland, Georg Christian Oeder in Germany or Benjamin Delessert and François de la Rochefoucauld in France launched innovative institutions dedicated to collect savings of private households, and to re-invest these funds in a responsible and sustainable way to the local community, in small and medium-sized enterprises, and local authorities. Innovative at the time of creation, most savings banks were founded at the beginning of the 19th century, these savings banks continue to be forward-looking institutions and still guarantee reliable and accessible services to a maximum of people.

Although already a significant amount of research has been conducted on the banking sector in general and on savings banks specifically, there is still a largely unknown territory to discover and explore.

The European Savings Banks Group (ESBG) and World Savings Banks Institute (WSBI) strongly believes that encouraging and supporting research on savings banks is critically important. This is necessary to improve awareness and increase appreciation of the characteristics of savings banks against both the background of the savings and retail banking sector and within the context of the multi-dimensional world of banking.

For these reasons, in 2004 the ESBG launched the 'European Savings Banks Academic Award.' The Award seeks to:

- encourage academic research into the savings banks industry in Europe
- stimulate thought and discussion on trends and market forces impacting the industry's evolution and dynamics
- strengthen collaboration among European research centres and academia and
- promote and stimulate future comparative research projects on European savings banks.



General Guidelines for Submissions

The Award is geared towards any academic work which addresses either the evolution of the savings banks systems or savings in the community in general. Specific attention to historical aspects of savings banks are particularly encouraged as are studies which prove to be useful for the day-to-day development and work of the savings banks.

Applications to the Savings Banks Academic Award must be written in a clear and narrative style. The research work should have the potential to be published in academic/savings banks professional circles and should also be accessible to a wider audience.

Prizes

Prize money totalling € 9,000 is awarded to three outstanding submissions. The winner receives € 5,000. Submissions are evaluated based on the structure and methodology of the paper, the breadth of analysis, the relevance and originality of the research and the importance of the results for savings banks. They will be reviewed by a jury presided over by Mr. Chris De Noose, Managing Director of the WSBI-ESBG.

Calendar and Focus of the 2012 edition

If you would like to compete for the 2012 edition of the Savings Banks Academic Award, please contact your country's national coordinators¹ for all practical information.

The national coordinators will prepare a short list of three candidates which will be submitted to the Savings Banks Award judging committee before the 31st December 2011.

The selection will take place in March/April 2012. The winners will then be informed and invited to participate in the awards ceremony during the next Conference on Savings Banks History planned in the summer of 2012.

¹ List of National Coordinators available at www.esbg.eu

OFFICIAL RULES



Contestants and Entries

1. Only contestants with at least a second cycle graduate (master level) or PhD degree, will be allowed to compete.
2. No full time professors will be allowed to compete. Visiting professors, lecturers or assistant professors will be permitted.
3. No jury member will be allowed to participate.
4. No permanent staff from a European savings bank or related company will be allowed to compete.
5. Finalists of former editions of the European Savings Banks Academic Award will not be allowed to compete.
6. All applications must be written in English (British spelling) and should be submitted in two formats: hard copy and as an electronic MS Word file. The manuscripts should conform to the guidelines outlined in the style sheet¹. The application must consist of the following:
 - A curriculum vitae
 - A letter of nomination from the national coordinator
 - A letter of introduction from the supporting professor or examination board
 - A manuscript of a max. 30 pages, conforming to the style sheet guidelines


¹ The style sheet is available on www.esbg.eu



- An executive summary/abstract of not more than one double spaced page. These abstracts may subsequently be published via a communication channel of Europe's savings bank organisations, but will be appropriately sourced to the author.
 - The complete research study if available; although only the manuscript of 30 pages will be considered for the Award.
7. Only work that is unpublished before the launch of the Award will be considered.
8. Entries which fail to comply with these official rules will be disqualified from the competition.

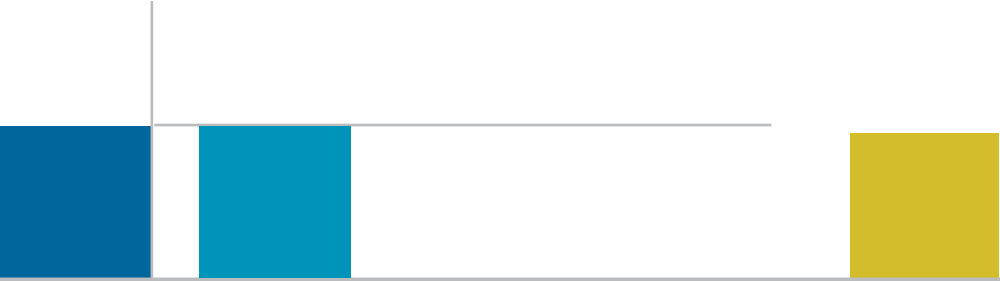
Selection Process

9. The assessment of what constitutes an outstanding contribution to the European savings banks community will be based on following criteria :
- A. Concerning content: research work will be evaluated based upon;
- usefulness for the day-to-day development and work of the savings banks;
 - breadth of analysis, based on historical aspects;
 - particular attention to inclusion of Sustainable Development and/or Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) aspects.

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- B. Concerning form: presentation – the quality of transmitting the research will be evaluated based upon;
- methodology and coherent structure;
 - text: clear, narrative form. Econometric calculations and elaborations and Clio metrics will be presented in an annex.
10. Applications will initially be considered on a national level. The national organisation or national coordinator appointed by the national savings bank or organisation will prepare a short list of candidates for the European Savings Banks Academic Award.
 11. A maximum of three candidates will be accepted at each national level.
 12. The deadline for the national coordinators to submit applications to the European Savings Banks Academic Award judging committee is the 31 December 2011.
 13. National coordinators should send their submissions to the ESGB to the attention of Ms Nancy Lockkamper, Archivist Tel: +32 2 211 11 11, E-mail: nancy.lockkamper@savings-banks.com
 14. Applications submitted directly to the European Savings Banks Group will not be considered.


Jury

15. The jury will consist of a specially appointed committee comprising university professors, editors and savings bank managers from different European countries and will be presided over by Mr. Chris De Noose, ESGB Managing Director.

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16. The jury will select the winner by consensus and a maximum of two runners-up will be voted upon for the European Savings Banks Academic Award. Each member of the jury has one vote. In the absence of a majority, the president of the jury holds the deciding vote.
 17. No joint prize will be permitted. Should none of the submitted manuscripts be satisfactory, the jury can decide not to award the prize.
 18. All members of the jury will abide by the confidentiality of the voting and deliberation process.
 19. The result of the competition will be presented to the ESBG Board of Directors.

Awarding of the Prize

20. The winner will be awarded a prize of €5,000, the second place finalist €2,500 and the third place finalist €1,500.
21. Publication of the winning manuscript will be considered in one of the following publications dependent on the theme and relevance and readability of the work :
 - “Cahiers de l'épargne” of the “Association pour l'histoire des Caisses d'Epargne”
 - “Perspectives” of the “European Savings Banks Group”
 - “Sparkassen in der Geschichte” of the “Wissenschaftsförderung der Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe”
 - “Estudios” de la Fundación de las Cajas de Ahorros Confederadas para la Investigación Económica y Social

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22. The editors of the afore-mentioned publications will hold the publishing rights for one year. If publication of the work is not guaranteed during the first year following the award, the author has full rights to publish his/her work. The editors should inform the author within 3 months of the award whether or not their work will be published.
 23. If publication of the winning study has already been decided upon, the publication will be presented to the public at the official celebration of the winners at the next Conference on Savings Banks History. Please note that the organisers are not obliged to publish the winning manuscript.
 24. The finalists agree to attend or to be officially represented at the Official Ceremony that will be held on the occasion of the next European Savings Banks Conference.
 25. By submitting their application, the candidates agree to accept the terms and conditions formulated in the official rules of the European Savings Banks Academic Award.



Award winners



2010

- LINDSTRAND Angelica, LINDBERGH Jessica. "SMEs' dependency on banks during international expansion"

2008

- GÄRTNER Stefan. "The significance of German Savings Banks in regional structural and cohesion policy: Can they avoid a regional downward spiral?"
- VEGHOLM Fatima. "Bank Identity and image: a gap affecting the bank-SME-relationship? A case of a local savings bank in Sweden"
- TOURNIÉ Vincent. "Money, savings and political crises in France of the 20th-century"

2005

- STURM Beate. 'The early modern system of personal loans as a structural basis for the first foundations of savings banks.' From the University of Hanover, Germany.
- BUTZBACH Olivier. 'Varieties within capitalism? The modernisation of French and Italian savings banks, 1980-2000'



About the ESBG

The ESBG (European Savings Banks Group) is a European banking association that represents the interests of its members vis-à-vis the EU Institutions, with a specific focus on retail banking issues. To this end, it defines and expresses the position of its members in all matters related to the European financial services industry. ESBG delivers detailed research into the evolution of legislation and the retail banking market in Europe and also compares it with other regions of the world.

ESBG is also a forum for cooperation between its members. It proposes cooperation projects and assists its members in identifying consortium partners on a bilateral or multilateral basis. ESBG also provides technical consultancy in partnership with multilateral agencies and offers training to its members to increase their operational efficiency.



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