

**Regulation for the Competition of Student Scientific Research Papers for 2018
Organised by Latvijas Banka**

1. To promote the research and analysis of macroeconomic issues in Latvia and the euro area and to facilitate the advancement of scientific thinking of the students of higher education institutions, Latvijas Banka announces a Competition of Student Scientific Research Papers for 2018 (hereinafter – the Competition).

2. The following may participate in the Competition:

2.1 Citizens and non-citizens of the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Estonia as well as foreigners who at the time of the Competition are registered as students of higher education institutions accredited as such according to the procedure prescribed by the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania or the Republic of Estonia and enrolled in Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes;

2.2 Citizens and non-citizens of the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Estonia who at the time of the Competition are registered as students of higher education institutions accredited as such according to the procedure prescribed by the laws and regulations of foreign countries and enrolled in Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes.

3. A person referred to in Paragraph 2 herein may not participate in the Competition if:

3.1 he or she is an employee of a Eurosystem central bank or

3.2 he or she is a former employee of a Eurosystem central bank and the length of his or her service in one of the Eurosystem central banks has exceeded 1 (one) year.

4. Quantitative methods of analysis shall be used in the Competition paper, and its length and academic level shall meet at least the requirements of a course paper. The Competition paper shall be produced on a computer in Latvian or English.

5. The following topics are proposed for the Competition paper:

5.1 Assessment of the euro area sustainability and proposals for strengthening the Economic and Monetary Union;

5.2 Possibilities for monetary policy and coordination of economic policy in the low interest rate environment;

5.3 Impact of unconventional monetary policy measures on the economies of the Baltic States and/or the euro area;

5.4 Monetary policy transmission of the Eurosystem in the Baltic States;

5.5 Inflation expectations (factors affecting it) and their links with the real economy;

5.6 Short-term forecasting of the Baltic States' GDP and inflation;

5.7 Fiscal policy in the European Union or the Baltic States: assessment of the rules and proposals for their improvement;

5.8 Levels of public debt and economic growth;

- 5.9 Estimation and application of the Baltic States' actual and potential output gap in case of the cyclical adjustment of the budget balance;
- 5.10 Ageing of population and its impact on the sustainability of the pension system in the Baltic States;
- 5.11 Impact of the structural reforms on the economic growth potential in the Baltic States: quantitative assessment and recommendations to policy makers;
- 5.12 Real convergence of the Baltic States with the euro area;
- 5.13 Factors supporting total factor productivity in the Baltic States;
- 5.14 Competitiveness of exports of the Baltic States;
- 5.15 Assessment of the effectiveness of the use of the European Union structural funds and direct investment for the Baltic States;
- 5.16 Labour migration, its driving factors and impact on the economy;
- 5.17 Assessment of the natural rate of unemployment in the Baltic States;
- 5.18 Methods of estimating the grey economy, their advantages and disadvantages, estimation of the grey economy in the Baltic States;
- 5.19 Significance of the credit institutions' financing in today's economy;
- 5.20 The financial sector in a low interest rate environment;
- 5.21 Assessment of the financial cycle in the Baltic States;
- 5.22 Development trends of the non-bank financial sector and their significance in the economy;
- 5.23 Equilibrium price on the Baltic States' real estate market;
- 5.24 Latest market risk assessment methods and their impact on the price setting mechanism of financial market instruments;
- 5.25 Factors determining the development of real time customer payment systems and their impact on household behaviour in Europe.

6. Papers addressing other crucial topics on the economy of the Baltic States and euro area in relation to monetary policy may also be submitted for the Competition. Only one topic may be analysed in a Competition paper. Narrowing or broadening of the topic is allowed in duly justified cases.

7. A special award named after the prominent Latvian economist Juris Vīksniņš will be awarded for the best Competition paper, which will integrate the scientific methods in the field of economics and history providing an innovative view on one of the stages of economic development in Latvia, the Baltic States or Europe, or an economic idea in a historical context.

8. The Competition papers shall be submitted to Latvijas Banka, K. Valdemāra iela 2A (Noliktavas iela entrance), Riga, from 18 May to 1 June 2018. Papers submitted after 1 June 2018 will not be considered.

9. The Competition papers shall be submitted in both paper and electronic form, recorded on an electronic medium. Papers shall be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the "Competition of Student Scientific Research Papers". The envelope shall also contain information about the author (name and surname, identity number, address, telephone number, e-mail address, educational institution) as well as a copy of the document supporting the author's eligibility in accordance with Paragraph 2 herein. The submission of the paper shall constitute confirmation that it is the work of the author and that the author assumes responsibility for observing the copyright of third parties and agrees that in case of an award Latvijas Banka may publish the paper at its own discretion and without any additional remuneration.

10. The Competition papers and the accompanying documents referred to in Paragraph 9 herein may be submitted by post, addressing the envelope to the "Competition of Student Scientific Research Papers, Latvijas Banka, K. Valdemāra iela 2A, Rīga, LV-1050", and sending it by registered post by 21 May 2018 (postal seal). Papers submitted after 21 May 2018 will not be considered.

11. The Competition papers shall be evaluated by a committee set up by the Governor of Latvijas Banka (hereinafter – the Committee). A member of the Committee shall not take part in the evaluation of the Competition papers if he or she has a personal interest (the member of the Committee is the scientific supervisor/tutor of the Competition paper or the like) that could affect the independence and objectivity in the evaluation of the Competition paper.

12. The Committee shall evaluate the Competition papers and determine the winners of the Competition by 15 June 2018: 1 (one) first-place winner, 2 (two) second-place winners and 3 (three) third-place winners as well as one winner of Juris Vīksniņš Award.

13. The winners will be awarded a one-time award in the following amounts (before taxes stipulated by law of the Republic of Latvia):

13.1 EUR 2 000 to the first-place winner;

13.2 EUR 1 250 to the two second-place winners each;

13.3 EUR 700 to the three third-place winners each;

13.4 EUR 1 422.87 to the winner of Juris Vīksniņš Award.

14. Based on the evaluation of the Competition papers, the Committee shall have the right to award no awards, to reduce their number or to divide them as well as award consolation prizes. The taxes stipulated in the Republic of Latvia legislation associated with the awards shall be withheld from the funds of Latvijas Banka.

15. If the award-winning paper has two or more authors, the award shall be equally split among them.

16. The results of the Competition will be published by 30 June 2018 on the websites of Latvijas Banka (www.bank.lv and www.makroekonomika.lv).

17. The Competition papers winning no awards will be available for picking up at the Public Relations Division of the International Relations and Communication Department of Latvijas Banka (telephone: +371 67022761) within 1 (one) month after the results of the Competition have been made public. The unclaimed papers will not be preserved after the aforementioned date.

Governor of Latvijas Banka

I. Rimšēvičs