

Cooperative banking in Europe is important for the development of local communities. These banks not only provide capital for their clients but also undertake activities supporting local initiatives. The experience of the crisis in 2007-2010 showed that the local nature of the activities of cooperative banks limited the negative impact of the global financial crisis on their situation. During the economic crisis in 2020 caused by the coronavirus pandemic, cooperative banks were actively involved in activities aimed at minimizing the effects of the crisis on their clients.

The integration of cooperative banks is an important aspect of the organization of their activities. This is important, in particular, in order to comply with the restrictive capital requirements implemented by the Basel III regulations. Stronger integration of cooperative groups in the form of implementation of institutional protection systems enabled many cooperative banks to continue their operations, adapting to post-crisis regulations. The issue of the integration of the cooperative sector is also an important aspect of research into the determinants of the possibilities of improving the efficiency of cooperative banks in Europe.

The aim of the research undertaken in the doctoral dissertation was to identify the impact of the cooperative banking integration model on the stability and efficiency of banks in selected European Union countries. In relation to the presented goal, the following research hypotheses were formulated: H1: In European countries, there is a different degree of cooperative banking integration models in economic and regulatory terms. H2: As a result of the implementation of post-crisis regulations, there has been an evolution in the cooperative banking integration models in the European Union. H3: Cooperative banks operating in the integrated model are characterized by higher stability compared to banks operating in the non-integrated model. H4: Membership in IPS is a statistically significant determinant of the stability of cooperative banks in the EU Member States. H5: The efficiency of cooperative banks in the EU countries operating in the integrated models is higher than the efficiency of banks in the non-integrated models. H6: EU cooperative banks participating in institutional protection systems are characterized by a higher level of efficiency than banks remaining outside the IPS.

In order to achieve the aim of the study and verify the research hypotheses set, the analysis of literature, data and reports provided by cooperative banking groups were used. An analysis of statistical data illustrating the situation of European cooperative banking groups and an econometric models were developed to verify the impact of cooperative banking integration models on the stability and efficiency of cooperative banking groups in the EU.

The thesis consists of five chapters. The first three chapters are theoretical and covers the genesis of cooperative banking, the essence of stability and efficiency in banking and the identification of cooperative banking models in economic and regulatory terms. Chapters 4 and 5 are the empirical part of the analysis on the stability and efficiency of cooperative banking models in the EU.