



# Digital rebirth of historical datasets

workshop

30 June 2022, Sofia

Jointly organised by

The Bulgarian National Bank (BNB) and *eabh* (The European Association for Banking and Financial History e.V.)

Central banks and other financial institutions have longstanding histories and rich archives. These contain extensive sets of historical information and hence are an extremely valuable source of knowledge about the evolution of financial institutions' functions and mandates; as much as the trajectory of financial systems and the economic development of countries and regions.

Up to now, still, most of these archive documents are available as print documents, such as reports, publications, financial statements, speeches, letters, etc. Alongside the textual information, archive documents include substantial and diverse quantitative datasets on the micro and macro level. Extraction and transformation of those datasets into digital formats fit for historical research, analysis and modelling is subject to a continuous process using constantly advancing IT technologies.

During this workshop we will focus on three main points:

1. Creation, prioritization, and appraisal of quantitative financial data digital archives
2. Accessibility
3. The role of technology innovation

Our aim is to bring together archivists and economists from central banks, commercial banks, and other financial institutions to express their views and share their experiences with respect to:

### **Key quantitative historical financial data**

Which are the main datasets archivists focus on? How do transformations in historical datasets over time reflect economic and financial development, including the introduction of new products and services? How to take future needs into account during the process of reconstructing/publishing these datasets today? Which approaches are adopted for their extraction and organization in databases? How does historical financial data demand evolve in periods of economic shocks? How do they reflect changes in perspective of financial researchers? How to use them to better comprehend analogies with similar turbulences and shocks in a long-term context (e.g. Great Financial Crisis or COVID -19)?

### **Historical dataset accessibility**

Increasing the availability of quantitative financial archive data is of vital importance for grounded financial history research and sound economic analysis and modelling. Participants are invited to present the practical challenges their institutions face regarding digital data archive accessibility and the solutions they have come up with.

### **IT tools and innovation**

Which are the tools currently used for quantitative archive data and related metadata organization, digitisation, and accessibility? Which is the expected impact of constant innovation and changes in technology on data archive appraisal, organisation, and accessibility?

We look much forward to your proposals!

Please submit your abstract no later than 1 November 2021 to [c.hofmann@bankinghistory.org](mailto:c.hofmann@bankinghistory.org).

You will be informed about acceptance by 17 December. Full papers/presentations will need to be submitted by 1 June 2022.