Call for Papers

Making Financial Centres

Finance, Technology and Innovation from Eurobonds to AI

11 June 2027 | Luxembourg
eabh in cooperation with Quintet Private Bank

How do financial centres emerge where none existed before?

Financial centres are not simply products of geography or market forces. They are built through technological innovation, entrepreneurship, regulation, political choices and international networks.

Luxembourg offers a fascinating case. Over the twentieth century, a small industrial economy developed into one of the world's leading international financial centres. Eurobonds, cross-border banking, investment funds and European integration drove this transformation. Today, digital assets, tokenisation and artificial intelligence raise new questions about the future geography of finance.

Bringing together historians, economists, policymakers and financial practitioners, this conference explores how technological and institutional change creates financial centres, reshapes established ones and determines their long-term success.

We invite papers addressing three broad themes:

1. From Steel to Finance: Making the Luxembourg Financial Centre

How does a country without a large domestic capital market become an international financial centre? This session examines how political strategy, regulation, foreign banks, professional networks and entrepreneurship transformed Luxembourg's economy.

2. When Technology Moves Money: Eurodollars, Eurobonds and Financial Infrastructure

New financial instruments, communication technologies and market infrastructures transformed international finance in the post-war decades. Why did these innovations flourish in particular locations, and how did centres such as London and Luxembourg turn them into lasting competitive advantages?

3. From Paper to Platforms: Technology and the Geography of Finance

From computerisation and electronic trading to blockchain, tokenisation and AI, technological change continually redefines financial markets and institutions. Does

technology make geography less important, or does it create new opportunities for financial centres to emerge?

We welcome historical, comparative and interdisciplinary contributions exploring the relationship between **finance, technology, institutions and geography**, including perspectives beyond Luxembourg and Europe.

The conference aims to connect historical research with contemporary debates about the future of international finance.

Venue: Quintet Private Bank, 43 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg

Submission details and deadlines

• Please submit a proposal of max. 300 words, outlining the topic, context, and relevance of your contribution.
• Include a short biographical note (max. 150 words) with your name, affiliation, and contact details.
• Deadline for submissions: 31 December 2026
• Proposals should be sent to: c.hofmann@bankinghistory.org

Accepted participants will be notified by January 2027. The format will include short presentations, roundtable discussions, and interactive sessions to maximize knowledge exchange among practitioners. Limited travel costs support is available.