

**Testimony of a former laureate of the
International Competition of Master's Degree Theses
Corentin POELS –GRAND PRIZE DISTINCTION 2011**

1) Name, Current position, Company, Career path.

POELS Corentin, Relationship Manager midcap, BNP Paribas Fortis.

Career path:

- (2007-2012): high level athlete: Swimming
- 2010: Research assistant Centre ECARES: CDD 3 months
- 2011-2012: Traineeship program BNP Paribas Fortis:
15 months – 5 missions (Agency/Commercial Banking Special
Credit/Public Banking Relationship Manager/Corporate Banking
Shanghai/Economic research assistant of chief economist at BNP Paribas Fortis)
- 2012-today: Relationship Manager de PME (7.5 à 250 million € CA) within
estate.



2) What year did you take part in the Competition? What prize did you win?

I participated in 2010-2011 for the 27th edition and I won the Grand Prize Mention.

3) Were you still a student when you joined the Competition or did you just finish your studies? Where were you studying at the time?

I was just finished my studies at Solvay Brussels School of Economics & Management.

4) How did you hear about our Competition?

Following the defense of my thesis the jury proposed me to participate.

5) Why did you decide to compete?

Several reasons: - Share my work so that it can exceed the boundary of a purely academic work never intended to be read after being appreciated;
- Representing my School of Economics and meeting students from other universities;
- Prestige and networking.

6) In concrete terms, was your award a plus when you entered the labor market?

I had already signed an employment contract before the defense of my thesis, so I cannot say that it helped me.

7) Several years after your participation, did you still mention your prize in professional contexts (on your resume, etc.)? Globally, do you find that people know the Competition or that they have never heard about it?

Yes of course, it allows people to understand that I have the ability to provide quality work and it shows my interest in the world of finance. In Belgium in the professional world, the contest itself is not well known, but with explanations, the interlocutors realize the prestige of the competition.

8) Are you still in contact with people that you met thanks to the Competition (awarding associations, fellow candidates, etc.)?

Yes, but just a little.

9) Quels conseils pourriez-vous donner aux participants de la prochaine édition du Concours ?

Ce concours doit permettre aux étudiants de se motiver à remettre un travail qui dépasse les standards d'un mémoire universitaire servant juste à valider une cotation. Je conseille donc aux participants d'avoir pour objectif de remettre un travail de recherche de qualité avec pour but qu'il serve un jour à quelqu'un d'autre. Si l'objectif est atteint et que ce travail apporte quelque chose à la recherche, aussi infime soit-il, le jury du concours ne pourra passer à côté.

10) Quel bilan tirez-vous de cette participation au Concours des MEF ?

Beaucoup de plaisir, des rencontres, de la fierté, un réseau et une carte à jouer dans ma carrière professionnelle.

11) Quels sont les plus de ce Concours ? Quels sont les points à améliorer ? Qu'avez-vous pensé de l'organisation de la Cérémonie et de la logistique en général ?

Je pense que pour bien faire il faudrait que chacun des lauréats reçoive un feedback sur son travail en provenance du jury l'ayant évalué. Cela peut être succinct mais rien qu'un petit résumé des points forts et des points d'amélioration serait un bon plus.
Pour le reste que du positif.