

UMM Scholarship winners 2nd Call 2010

We are pleased to announce the winners of the UMM scholarships of the 2nd Call for Proposals 2010. The selection committee, composed of professors and practitioners, has chosen four Master students studying in Belgium, England and Italy who will conduct field research in microfinance related topics



Anna Custers

Anna Custers, Master student from London School of Economics, is writing her Master thesis on the topic "Tailoring Financial Education: Experimental Evidence from a Financial Literacy Training Program in Bhopal, India". In her dissertation she will evaluate whether a financial literacy training programme for existing microfinance clients in Bhopal, India, affects financial literacy levels. In doing so, she will have the opportunity to seize upon a relatively new methodological approach in development economics: randomized evaluation. In addition, she will evaluate whether different training designs differently affect financial literacy levels and learning experiences. These differential training designs are based upon experimenting with gender: half of the groups will receive training by a men, the other half by a women. This design allows to look into how gender may affect learning outcomes and experiences.



Jacqueline E. Stenga

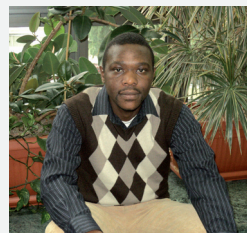
Jacqueline Evelinus Stenga, Master student enrolled at Université Libre de Bruxelles, researches on the topic "Demand and challenges of saving products in Tajikistan microfinance institutions".

Over the last decade, Microfinance institutions (MFIs) have found that microfinance is more than credits since poor households need to have access to quality saving products, as saving can serve as insurance against unpredictable events, financing productive activities, and is a cheap source of funds for financial institutions. Therefore this study will investigate the demand and challenges of accessing saving products in Tajikistan MFIs so as to find solution on how to implement saving services successfully.



Amdework Dilnessaw

Amdework Dilnessaw, Master student at State University of Bergamo. The title of his research paper is "Integrating the value chain approach to MSE financing in Cape Verde: a case study of MSE clusters in the Tourism Sector". The study aims to (1) identify MSEs and clusters that have the potential for competitiveness and profitability in the Tourism sector in Cape Verde, (2) explore opportunities to improve income of actors at all levels in the selected value chains, (3) assess existing financing gaps that have constrained investment in these clusters and have hindered their overall growth, (4) propose viable options and institutional arrangements to finance the selected value chains.



Denis Lewa Muganga

Denis Lewa Muganga, Master student at State University of Bergamo will be conducting research on the topic "The Role of Regulation of Microfinance Institutions: A Study on the Extent to which MFI Regulation Contributes to Increasing Financial Access and Reaching the unbanked in South Africa, and its Relevance to the Development of Credit only MFI Regulation in Kenya." His research will be conducted in Cape Town and Johannesburg within three months. Specifically, he will be looking at the model and contribution of the South African Regulatory Framework on the Microfinance Sector's development, and find out whether regulation enables or creates barriers to increasing access to financial services and reaching the unbanked population in South Africa; further, to determine whether the costs of Regulation outweigh the benefits. Then he will evaluate and see if the results can be generalized, towards making a case for good regulation for credit only MFIs in Kenya.

Interested in participating in UMM?

If you are a microfinance practitioner or professor, you are welcome to participate in the Selection Committee of the UMM – Scholarships and Awards programme. You can also suggest relevant research topics, work with pre-selected experienced students on microfinance and participate in UMM Workshops.

If you are a student, you can apply for UMM Scholarships for field research on microfinance or compete with your final thesis for the UMM Awards to publish your thesis. You can also get guidance for your research, find relevant research topics and present your research during UMM Workshops. You can find the application deadlines on page 3.

Microfinance Dialogues 2010: University Meets Microfinance @ Leibniz Universität Hannover - Workshop report and presentations available

The workshop “University Meets Microfinance @ Leibniz Universität Hannover“ on June 17th and 18th gathered around 80 interested students from 20 universities in Europe, microfinance practitioners and researchers. Among the speakers were experts from the GTZ, Oikocredit, Planet Rating, PlaNet Finance and CERISE, who presented Social Performance frameworks and measurement tools; William Pariente, a professor researching at the MIT Poverty Lab, who shared theory and application of Impact Measurement methodologies; and PhD and Master students from different European universities who presented their research approaches to the subject. The workshop was organized by PlaNet Finance and the Institute for Money and International Finance of the Leibniz Universität Hannover and supported by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union and Ernst & Young. You will find a short report about the workshop and all workshop presentations at www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu. A detailed conference report will be available soon.

Next UMM Workshop: October 22nd, 2010 at State University of Bergamo, Italy

The next “University Meets Microfinance“ - Workshop will be held on October 22nd at University of Bergamo in Italy. The UMM Workshop brings together students, professors and microfinance practitioners to discuss on the topic “Microfinance Plus - The Potential of Linking Microfinance with Programmes in Health, Education, Environment and Value Chain Development“.

People living below the poverty line have a broad range of needs, which go beyond the access to financial services. As a result of increasing controversies about the contribution of microfinance to development and in the context of maturing microfinance markets, microfinance institutions pay now more attention to the service value they bring to their clients and are looking for new ways to meet their complex needs. Successful examples, as the programmes by the microfinance institution BRAC, show that offering MF Plus services, as business development trainings or programmes in the areas of health, environment or value chain development, can be a way to leverage the existing network and resources of the MFI to tackle poverty in a more comprehensive way. However, offering this set of services, which go beyond the core business of microfinance institutions, requires specialized expertise and requires in many cases the cooperation with qualified partners. The workshop will define the different dimensions of “Microfinance Plus“ and discuss on the basis of field research results the opportunities and limitations of this approach.

Speakers:

- **Didier Krumm**, Senior Expert Education and Health, PlaNet Finance: Introduction of the concept “Microfinance Plus“
- **Ngoc Anh Nguyen**, Master student, Université Libre de Bruxelles: “Better livestock value chain development through microfinance in Vietnam“
- **Marion Allet**, Phd student, Université Libre de Bruxelles: “Can Microfinance Institutions mitigate the environmental impact of its clients?“
- **Ryan Hogarth**, Master student, London School of Economics: “The Potential Merger of Microfinance and Carbon Finance, A Mechanism for Small-Scale Technology Transfer“
- **Alessandra Incerti**, PlaNet Finance Morocco: Microfinance & Education
- **Giorgia Bonaga** and **Shaminur Rahman**, Phd students, University of Bologna: “The Efficacy and efficiency of microcredit on poverty, social exclusion and mental health“
- **Alessia Paternoster**, Master student, University of Trento: “Gender differences in microcredit interest rates“
- The “World Café“ will include the following experts: **Didier Krumm**, PlaNet Finance, **Luciano Bonomo**, State University of Bergamo **Maxwell Kuunyem**, PlaNet Finance, **Pedro De Vasconcelos**, IFAD, **Ake Olofsson**, FAO (tbc)
- **Daniele Ciravegna**, President RITMI, will lead the Round Table on the topic “Non-Financial services in Europe and Italy“ with the experts: **Maria Cristina Negro**, FGDA, **Prof. Roberto Pasca Di Magliano**, University “La Sapienza“ of Rome, **Umberto Trivella**, PlaNet Finance Italy, **Andrea Limone**, PerMicro
- **Angelo Zanibelli**, Communication & Institutional Relations Director, sanofi-aventis Italia, and Ambassador **Loïc Hennekinne**, President of PlaNet Finance Italia, will close the workshop with a general conclusion.



Workshop, Hannover



Workshop, Hannover

You can download the workshop programme [here](#).

Please register for the workshop by August 8th at www.university-meetsmicrofinance.eu.

You will receive all organizational details upon registration.

Important Dates

UMM Workshops 2010

- **October 22nd**: University of Bergamo, in cooperation with the Master in Microfinance
- **November 30th**: 2 hours UMM session at the European Microfinance Week

Application Deadlines 2010

- UMM Scholarship Programme:
- **November 15th, 2010** (Bachelor, Master)
- UMM Award Programme:
- **August 31st, 2010**

Contact:

University Meets Microfinance/
PlaNet Finance Deutschland e.V.:
Axel-Springer-Str. 54 B
10117 Berlin
Phone: +49 30 47 989 818
Email: umm@planetfinance.org

Websites: www.planetfinancegroup.org/pfd / www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu

UMM Partnerships

These companies supported UMM in 2010:

