



University Meets Microfinance (UMM)

Newsletter December 2009

UMM Awards 2009

We are pleased to present to you the winners of the UMM Awards 2009 who each demonstrated outstanding research on microfinance topics. Each Master thesis was evaluated by a professor and a practitioner in the field of microfinance according to a set of evaluation criteria. The winners come from the Netherlands, Germany and India. The awarded final theses will be published in 2010.

- 1st Prize: Willem Cornelis Engels, Tilburg University, the Netherlands
- 2nd Prize: Saikumar Cheelurappa Bharamappanavara, Humboldt University Berlin
- 3rd Prize: Thilo Klein, University of Cambridge

Willem Cornelis Engels received his prize on November 10th 2009 during the official ceremony of the "International Microfinance Awards" in Paris. The research he conducted sought empirical evidence on the phenomenon of mission drift. He looked at possible factors, especially institutional and country risk indicators, influencing the social and financial performance of MFIs. His findings showed for example, that regulation, network membership and the institution's size do not affect the financial performance of MFIs. Country risk rating was found to be negatively associated with the financial performance of MFIs. Alternatively, regulation, size and country risk rating negatively affect the social performance of MFIs. As a next step the research explores the influence of institutional and country risk indicators on the trade-off between the financial and social performance of MFIs. Based on these findings, institutional investors can prioritise institutional and country risk rating indicators in order to assess the balance between the financial and social performance of MFIs.

We would like to thank the following academics for having participated in the Selection Committee in 2009: Marek Hudon (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Arvind Ashta (ESC Dijon / Burgundy School of Business), Adalbert Winkler (Frankfurt School of Finance and Management), Jean-Michel Servet (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva), Manfred Nitsch (Freie Universität Berlin), Ana Marr (Greenwich University), Laura Vigano (University of Bergamo), Baptiste Venet (University of Dauphine), Stephan Klasen / Ahmad Nawaz (University of Goettingen) and Andreas Woudenberg (INHolland University of Applied Science The Hague).

Application deadlines for Scholarships & Awards

UMM Scholarship Programme
for field research:

- **28 February 2010** (Bachelor, Master),
- **15 May 2010** (Bachelor, Master),
- **15 July 2010** (Bachelor, Master, PhD) and
- **15 November** (Bachelor, Master) **2010**.

Eligible are Bachelor, Master and PhD students enrolled at a university of the European Union.

UMM Award Programme:

- **31 August 2010**

The winner will be invited to the International Microfinance Awards Ceremony in Paris!

Eligible are Master students having completed their final thesis at a university of the European Union.



1st Prize winner Willem Cornelis Engels

Contact

PlaNNet Finance
Deutschland e.V.:
Axel-Springer-Str. 54 B
10117 Berlin
Phone / Fax:
+49 30 47 989 818

Application forms for the UMM Scholarships and Awards Programme are available at:

www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu

Please send your application to:

umm@planetfinance.org



2nd UMM Workshop in Berlin 2009: “Microfinance Challenges in India“

Berlin, 6 November 2009 - During the 2nd “University Meets Microfinance” - Workshop at the Allianz Stiftungsforum students, professors and practitioners discussed the challenges of the Indian microfinance sector and the results of students’ field research. The workshop gathered 70 participants from 20 European universities and 14 organizations. It was co-organized by Freie Universität Berlin and took place as part of the Vision Summit on social business (www.visionsummit.org). After an introduction into the Indian microfinance sector by Anna Somos Krishnan, Country Director, PlaNet Finance India, four UMM Scholarship winners presented their research on India:

- Carolina Laureti, Université Libre de Bruxelles
Topic: “The role of savings in competitive microfinance markets“
- Anand Srivastava, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management
Topic: “Credit Only versus Credit Plus as Sustainable Microfinance Approach for Achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals of Alleviating Extreme Poverty in India“
- Thilo Klein, University of Cambridge
Topic: “Modeling Group Heterogeneity in Credit Scoring for Microloans“
- Natalia Realpe Carillo, Technical University Berlin
Topic: “Family and Group Ties in Microfinance Activities: Framed Field Experiments in Mexico“

The workshop closed with a “World Café”, where students had thematic round table conversations with professors and practitioners, including the German Development Bank KfW. The final highlight of the day saw the participants being invited to a special evening event, hosted by the House of the Economy in Berlin, where the Nobel Peace prize winner Prof. Muhamad Yunus, as well as the German Minister for Cooperation and Development Dirk Niebel, gave speeches on the “New Challenges of the Microfinance Industry”.

3rd Microfinance Breakfast in Berlin: “Microinsurance - Protection of the Poor“

Berlin, 22 October 2009 - At the 3rd Microfinance Breakfast, organized by PlaNet Finance Deutschland e.V. and the foundation “Up Micro Loans“, the role of companies, development agencies, public institutions and non-governmental-organizations in the advancement of microinsurance was discussed.

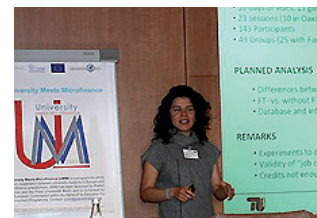
- Hayder Al-Bagdadi, GTZ, gave a short overview on microinsurance and spoke about the role of donors.
- Philippe Rives, PlaNet Guarantee, talked about success stories and lessons learnt from on-going projects in Africa and Latin-America. He highlighted the creation of microinsurances for traffic accidents as well as crop insurances in West Africa.
- Stephan Kaspers, Hannover Life Re, described the microinsurance activities of the Hannover Life Re and the cooperation with PlaNet Finance and PlaNet Guarantee in developing countries.

Country News: Italy

17 November - PlaNet Finance Italia was invited to participate in the “Bocconi & Jobs” event at the Bocconi University of Milan. It was an important opportunity for students to meet companies and public institutions. 81 companies and 24 public institutions and associations participated in the event which was visited by 4000 students.

23 November - Awareness Event of Planet Finance Italia on “Mobile Banking & Financial Inclusion”

Minh Huy Lai, Director of Operations of PlaNet Finance, presented to the MBA students of the programme “New Markets and Europe”, Università Cattolica of Milan, a lecture on the worldwide development of mobile banking. He particularly stressed the success of this technology in Kenya (M-PESA case).



Natalia Realpe Carillo

For a closer look at the presentations and the workshop report go to

www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu



Prof. A. Ashta, L. Macioszek, M. Anthony (Moderator), Dr. A. Marr, A. Somos



P. Rives, S. Kaspers, K. Kirchstein, H. Al-Bagdadi

Presentations are available at: www.planetfinancegroup.org/pdf



“Bocconi & Jobs”



Minh Huy Lai and MBA students