



To the members of the Savings & Credit Forum and interested persons:

Invitation

Mainstreaming Social Performance in Microfinance: Implementing the “double-bottom line”

DATE: Friday, 2nd of July 2010 (9:00 to 16:30)

LOCATION: Kursaal, Bern

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The next Savings & Credit Forum will provide you with a snapshot of the latest status on **mainstreaming social performance at the level of both microfinance institutions and microfinance investment vehicles**. This is all about the integration of financial and social performance in achieving the “double-bottom line” in the microfinance industry. While the morning sessions deal with the microfinance institutions, the afternoon sessions focus on the level of the investors. The forum attempts answering the following key questions for each level:

1. How do **microfinance institutions** measure and report their social performance and put their social mission into practice? How can the social performance (in addition to the financial performance) of different microfinance institutions be compared so that investment vehicles have reliable and transparent information on the expected social return of their investments?

The first part of the morning will offer an overview of the social performance agenda at the level of microfinance institutions: Ms. **Laura Foose**, coordinator of the SPTF, will offer a synopsis of the current status of social performance reporting and management and key challenges ahead to be addressed by the SPTF. Ms. **Robin Ratcliffe**, director of the SMART Campaign, will complement the analysis of Laura with particular reference to client protection. One or two microfinance institutions will then share innovative experiences on how they are enhancing their social performance towards clients.

The second part of the morning will concentrate on two key social performance assessment and reporting tools and results of financial and social performance correlation studies: Ms. **Cécile Lapenu**, director of Cerise, will outline the social performance indicator audit tool being the leading social performance assessment and reporting tool of microfinance institutions. **Cécile** and Mr. **David Devez**, senior manager at INCOFIN, will then share the results of their financial and social performance correlation analyses. Furthermore, the social rating tool will be introduced and the results of the quality standards of the first 100 social ratings co-funded by the Rating Initiative presented.

2. How do **microfinance investment vehicles** measure and report the social return they claim to achieve? How can the social performance (in addition to the financial performance) of different investment vehicles be compared so that retail and institutional investors have reliable and transparent information on the expected social return of their investments?



The first part of the afternoon will offer an overview of the social performance agenda at the level of microfinance investment vehicles: Mr. **Xavier Reille**, senior expert at CGAP, will offer a synopsis of the current status of social performance reporting and management as well as key challenges ahead to be addressed by the SPTF/CGAP social investors working groups. The following representatives of three Swiss microfinance investment vehicles will outline their social performance reporting: Ms. **Cécile Koller**, head of research at **responsAbility**, Mr. **Konrad Elsässer**, founder of **FIDES**, and Mr. **Roland Dominicé**, CEO of **Symbiotics**.

The second part of the afternoon will focus on two pilot social performance assessment and reporting tools for microfinance investment vehicles: Ms. **Cécile Lapenu** will outline the social performance indicator tool for investors and Ms. **Ging Ledesma**, manager of Social Performance Unit at **Oikocredit**, will share Oikocredit's experience in applying this tool. Ms. **Frances Sinha**, director of M-CRIL, will then present the results of the first three comprehensive ratings of microfinance investment vehicles that cover social performance next to financial performance, governance & management, and risk management.

The workshop will conclude with key questions, views and expectations on social performance from retail and institutional investors in microfinance presented by Mr. **Patrick Elmer**, head of microfinance at Credit Suisse Private Banking.

Attached please find the **draft programme** of the Forum and your **registration form**. Please fill the registration form out and send it to: jeannine.caspar@intercooperation.ch

Below you find **travel directions** on how to reach the Kursaal from Bern main train station as well as on how to reach Bern main station from the airports of Zürich, Geneva and Bern.

The Forum will take place a day after the annual conference of the **Social Performance Task Force** (SPTF) at the same venue. The SPTF is the international platform for promoting social performance in microfinance supported by practitioners, donors, social investors, regional and national networks and raters worldwide. It is setting social performance quality and reporting standards and coordinating initiatives to support better social performance practice. The Forum has invited key specialists from the SPTF as speakers. You will have the opportunity to interact with some of the 180 participants of the SPTF conference during a common lunch buffet.

For those of you with more time to spare for the topic of social performance in microfinance, we attach the **announcement of the SPTF** for its annual conference. It includes instructions on how to register for this week-long event at the Kursaal in Bern.

Looking forward to meeting you in Bern on that occasion, we remain, with best regards,

Focal Point Employment and Income Team
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Attachments:

- ⇒ Draft Programme of the Savings & Credit Forum on 2.7.2010
- ⇒ Registration Form for the Savings & Credit Forum on 2.7.2010
- ⇒ Annual Meeting Announcement of the SPFT (28.6. – 2.7.2010 in Bern)



Travel information

The S&K Forum will be held at:

Hotel Allegro-Kursaal (Casino)
Kornhausstrasse 3
3000 Bern 25
Telefon +41 (0)31 339 55 00
Telefax +41 (0)31 339 55 10
info@kursaal-bern.ch
<http://www.kursaal-bern.ch/en/home>

How to get there:

From the central railway station, take tram no 9 direction Guisanplatz (stop Kursaal).

Public transport in the city of Bern:

<http://www.bernmobil.ch/kundenservice/downloads/downloads/plaene2010/netzplan.pdf>

More information on public transport in Bern: <http://www.bernmobil.ch/english/index.php>

Costs: <http://www.bernmobil.ch/billette/fahrausweise/einzelbillette.php>

Arriving by air

From Bern Belp Airport

Take a shuttle bus to the main station of Bern (20 minutes) or a taxi.

Airport shuttle bus cost: Approx. CHF 6.-

Taxi cost approx: CHF 55.- to CHF 60.-

From Zürich Airport

Direct trains to Bern, count 1h20, cost: return: CHF 102.-

From Geneva Airport :

Direct train to Bern, count 1h50, cost return CHF 92.-

For more information on Swiss train time table: <http://fahrplan.sbb.ch/bin/query.exe/en?>

For more information on Swiss train transport and tickets:

<http://mct.sbb.ch/mct/en/reisemarkt/abos-billette.htm>

Switzerland has an excellent railroad network which makes travelling pleasant and uncomplicated. The connections are easy and delays occur rarely. You can buy your tickets at any train station or on the internet.

Arriving by car:

<http://www.berninfo.com/en/page.cfm/Information/Anreise/1Auto>

<http://www.berninfo.com/en/page.cfm/Information/Anreise/Carparkplatz>