

## KEY FIGURES

6 Scholarships granted

4 Awards granted

1 UMM Session organized at a public event

3 UMM Seminars for 317 students

1st Call for Scholarships closed:

29 applications received!

The winners will be announced by the end of May

Check our website for more information on [Scholarships & Awards program](#)



# UNIVERSITY MEETS MICROFINANCE

## Newsletter 2013 - Second edition

*Dear UMM Friends,*

*It is with great pleasure that we share with you the latest news on UMM activities. Please do not hesitate to contact our team for any further information you may need. Enjoy reading!*

### New Financial Partners

We are very happy to announce that the [European Investment Bank Institute \(EIB-Institute\)](#) is a new UMM financial partner who will be actively involved in UMM activities.

### UMM Scholarships & Awards Program

Each year UMM rewards research initiatives on topics related to financial inclusion from outstanding students enrolled at European Universities (Bachelor, Master or PhD). We congratulate the [Scholarship Program](#) winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> call in 2013:



**Jan Binnewies**  
**University of Göttingen**  
"Can microfinance act as a substitute for financial support from kinship networks? Evidence from Sri Lanka micro and small enterprises"



**Damien Le Thiec**  
**EMLYON Business School**  
"Development and implementation of a financing pilot for populations willing to acquire energy solutions in Tanzania (EGG-energy)"



**Jarrod Vassallo**  
**University of Cambridge**  
"Growth and Performance of Microfinance Firms in Bangladesh: An Empirical Model"



**Maria Uruena**  
**Université Libre de Bruxelles**  
"Supporting the operations of Vision Fund Tanzania (VFT)"



**Alexander Pinz**  
**University of Mannheim Business School**  
"Management of microfinance institutions (MFIs) - A research proposal for the analysis of value creation processes in MFIs"



**Samuel Salia**  
**Birmingham City University**  
"The impact of microfinance on microenterprise development in Ghana"

## UMM Awards Ceremony at European Microfinance Week



Kathleen Welvers from GIZ handed the UMM Awards Certificates to the winners

1<sup>st</sup> Call for Scholarships 2014 led by e-MFP

Seminar at Universidad Autonoma de Madrid led by Grameen Credit Agricole



...And we congratulate as well the [UMM Awards Program](#) winners in 2013:

- **Nargiza Alimukhamedova, Charles University in Prague (PhD)**, with the article entitled "Measuring the impact of microfinance - Paper topic: Better Access to Microcredits: Does Geographical Proximity Matter?"
- **Daniela Röttger, University of Duisburg-Essen (Master)**, with the thesis on "Agricultural finance for smallholder farmers: Rethinking traditional microfinance risk and cost management approaches. With evidence from microfinance institutions in Kenya, Uganda, Benin and Cameroon"
- **Daniel Ciganovic, University of Trier (Master)**, with the thesis on "Hedging Investments in Microfinance Products against Currency Risks - Analytical Consideration of a Monetary Fund"
- **Annekathrin Schoofs, University of Reading (Master)**, with the thesis on "What determines financial exclusion in the European context? Insights from the Global Findex Database"

### UMM Awards Ceremony at the European Microfinance Week Luxembourg, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013

The best ranked PhD and Master research conducted respectively by **Nargiza Alimukhamedova (PhD)** and **Daniela Röttger (Master)** were recognized at the European Microfinance Week (EMW) and awarded a 500 EUR monetary prize. In addition, both winning research studies will be published in print and online in the frame of the UMM program.

## European Microfinance Platform (e-MFP) «UMM» Action Group

The [e-MFP "UMM" Action Group](#) aims at fostering cooperation between students, academics and practitioners and improving education and research in the field of financial inclusion.

In the upcoming months the members of the e-MFP UMM Action Group will take the lead on specific UMM activities like **conducting microfinance lectures at European universities**, the **organization and management of calls for scholarship applications** as well as the **organization of UMM panel sessions and workshops**. In addition, strong linkages will be created with other e-MFP Action Groups by exploring the possibility of having the UMM Action Group acting as a transversal task force for other e-MFP Action Groups by satisfying their research needs.



## UMM Panel Session

*"Agricultural microfinance for smallholder farmers" - UMM Session at the European Microfinance Week Luxembourg, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

Approximately 50 participants attended the panel session debate with Lisa Peterlechner (GIZ), Philippe Guichandut (Grameen Credit Agricole), Patrick Van Damme (Ghent University) and Daniela Röttger (University of Duisburg-Essen).

Agriculture has been a hot topic for the development community as it is linked to a series of challenges such as significant rises in food prices, increasing urbanisation rates and the effects of climate change. Smallholder farmers are a vulnerable and high-risk group for MFIs, being subjected to volatile market prices, (unfavourable) climatic conditions and a lack of infrastructure.



## UMM Training of Trainers (ToT)

*Luxembourg, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

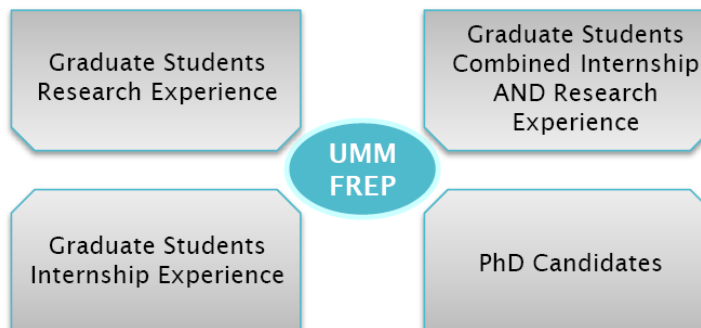


UMM organized a successful ToT session with 15 representatives from 13 different institutions. The aim was to bring together microfinance experts and academics involved in teaching courses on all aspects of microfinance and its surrounding environment and to debate selected parts of the UMM curricula, as well as to discuss didactical challenges and approaches when teaching and interacting with students from different backgrounds.

## UMM Field Research & Exposure Program (FREP)

We are very happy to launch FREP: a unique opportunity for organizations to benefit from the skills and competencies of highly qualified Master students or PhD candidates via **internships and/or practice-relevant research focused on financial inclusion.**

### *The 4 pillars of FREP*



Check [here](#) for Daniela's presentation on Agricultural Microfinance

*"The ToT was very well structured and it gave me the possibility to learn the content and the didactics of the seminars. It was conducted with an engaging and participatory approach made me appreciate other points of views from academics, practitioners and PhDs"*

ToT participant

*UMM FREP brings together excellent students from European universities and organizations, donors and investors active in the field of financial inclusion*

## 2 NEW UMM PUBLICATIONS COMING SOON!

9th UMM Workshop Report on “*Financial Inclusion and Microfinance in Latin America*”

10th UMM Workshop Report on “*New challenges in microfinance: mobile banking, remittances and green microfinance*”



Like the NEW UMM Facebook Page:



## UMM Selection Committee

We thank the Selection Committee members for their involvement in UMM activities:

- Ahmad Nawaz / University of Göttingen and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Islamabad
- Anaar Kara, Karla Henning and Sébastien Weber/ PlaNet Guarantee
- Andrea Limone/ PerMicro
- Bernd Balkenhol/ University of Geneva
- Bezant Chongo, Chloé Jacquin, Daniela Pensotti Delphine Bazalgette, Francisco Escamilla, Maud Chalamet, Simon Priollaud and Vanessa Quintero / PlaNet Finance
- Christian Ambrosius / Freie Universität Berlin
- Christina May/ Universität Köln
- Christina Wildenauer
- Cristian Bevacqua / Fondazione Un Raggio Di Luce
- Diego Luigi Dagradi and Maria Cristina Negro/ Fondazione Giordano Dell'Amore
- Fernando Rodriguez/ Universidad de Salamanca
- Friederike Lenel/ DIW
- Hansjorg Kessler / FIDES
- Kathleen Welvers/ GIZ
- Katja Kirchstein / A leading association of the German Banking industry
- Klaas Molenaar and Julie-Marthe Lehmann/ The Hague University of Applied Sciences
- Kristina Czura/ CERDI - Université d'Auvergne
- Laura Vigano, Luciano Bonomo and Davide Castellani / Università degli Studi di Bergamo
- Lucia Poletti / Università degli Studi di Parma
- Margarita Lalayan / International Training Centre of the ILO
- Margherita Mori / Università degli Studi dell'Aquila
- Maricruz Lacalle Calderón and Silvia Rico/ Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
- Oliver Gloede / European Central Bank
- Pauline Bensoussan / Sciences Po Paris
- Patricia Pulido / ACAF
- Philippe Guichandut / Grameen Crédit Agricole
- Robert Lensink/ University of Groningen
- Roberto Moro Visconti/ Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Milano
- Roland Knorren / ACCION
- Sergio Bortolani/ Università Degli Studi di Torino
- Thea Nielsen/ Universität Hohenheim
- Thilo Klein / University of Cambridge
- Verónica López Sabater/ Fundación Afi
- Yasmin Olteanu/ Freie Universität Berlin

## Upcoming UMM Events

*11th University Meets Microfinance (UMM) - Workshop of the e-MFP Action Groups “University Meets Microfinance” and “Microfinance & Environment”*  
**“Value Chains in Agricultural and Green Microfinance”**  
at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, 3rd & 4th July 2014

## New UMM website

UMM has a new website! Visit us at [www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu](http://www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu) to see our new look and stay up to date on UMM news and activities! If you have any feedback on the new site please email us at [umm@planetfinance.org](mailto:umm@planetfinance.org).

## About UMM

University Meets Microfinance (UMM) is a European initiative which fosters cooperation between universities, students in Europe and microfinance practitioners to contribute to microfinance innovation and education for development. UMM is active in domains as microfinance education, microfinance research, information capitalization, professional exchange & dissemination of information. All UMM activities are carried out under the umbrella of the European Microfinance Platform (e-MFP) in the frame of the e-MFP Action Group “UMM”.

## Contact & Follow UMM

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[www.facebook.com/universitymeetsmicrofinance](https://www.facebook.com/universitymeetsmicrofinance)

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