

## Newsletter February 2010

### UMM Scholarship winners 3<sup>rd</sup> Call

We are pleased to introduce the winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the UMM Scholarship Programme. Two Master students from Italy and Germany and two PhD students from the Czech Republic and Great Britain have been chosen by the Selection Committee.

**Alessia Paternoster**, a Masters student at the University of Trento, will be conducting research in Peru on the topic “**Gender differences in microcredit interest rates**“. She will point out the possible benefits to women as more reliable clients under the lender’s point of view. The purpose is to investigate whether MFIs show a preference for women for social and bankable reasons that is reflected by a “positive interest premium“ that benefits women and can only be explained by gender. The scholarship is financed by Capgemini Italia who has been supporting the UMM Project since 2009. “We opted to sustain this specific research as we believe that through microcredit women from Peru and from poor countries can make a substantial contribution to create wealth and jobs“ said Raffaella Poggio Marketing and Communications Director of Capgemini Italia.

**Dennis Hänsel**, A Masters student of Business Administration at the University of Mannheim, will be conducting research in India on the topic “**Effective regulation in micro insurance**“. The supply of micro insurance products is growing at high speed, which is generally a positive development but also rises regulatory questions, i.e. for the sake of consumer protection. Yet conventional insurance regulation is neither appropriate nor able to reach out to micro insurance. With his research, Dennis will analyze the rationale for micro insurance regulation and discuss the appropriateness of various approaches to supervision in the Indian context.

**Nargiza Maksudova**, PhD student from CERGE-EI at Charles University, has won the scholarship for her research topic “**Measuring the impact of Microfinance - Retrospective Survey of Microfinance in Uzbekistan**“. Due to the fact that virtually no microfinance impact studies about Uzbekistan virtually exists, she will conduct research to contribute to literature and to re-create the effect historical changes have had on the supply side of microcredit driven by legislative changes for certain MFIs.

**Olga Biosca**, PhD student at the University of Sheffield has been selected for her thesis on “**Microfinance non-financial services in Mexico: Design and Impact**“. Her purpose is to assess and compare the impacts of non-financial products on the microfinance clients and institutions, differentiating between type of program, in order to contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the array of non-financial products supplied by MFIs.

UMM scholarships support students to conduct field research on a topic related to microfinance in developing countries.

**The next application deadline for the UMM Scholarship programme is February 28<sup>th</sup> 2010. This time the programme is open for Bachelor students and Master students. The application forms are available at [www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu](http://www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu).**



Dennis Hänsel



Olga Biosca



## UMM 3-Day Seminars

The UMM 3-day Microfinance Seminar is based on the time-tested and successful seminar concept of the Freie Universität Berlin and its Latin American Institute.

The focus point of the seminar is to create a link for financial services targeting poor populations between theory and practice of supply and demand as well as to update on the current trends (e.g. the increasing presence of commercial financial suppliers) and to encourage debate (poverty reduction and gender) on the microfinance sector. Case studies should help to deepen the understanding of the subject. While in the first place designed for students of economics and business administration, the seminar also aims to broaden the understanding of poverty, poverty alleviation, international development cooperation, development finance and its links to microfinance. Thus, the seminar is also adapted to the needs and interests of other disciplines (e.g. international politics, social anthropology). In the first half of 2010 the UMM Three-Day Microfinance Seminar will be offered in Berlin (Freie Universität Berlin), Paris (Science Po) and Witten-Herdecke (Universität Witten/Herdecke). If you are interested in developing a microfinance seminar at your university or in exchanging teaching materials – if you are already teaching microfinance in your university – please contact us at [umm@planetfinance.org](mailto:umm@planetfinance.org).

## 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 2010** (Bachelor, Master)

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.

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

[www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu](http://www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu)

Please send your application to: [umm@planetfinance.org](mailto:umm@planetfinance.org).

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