



Symposium on the International Year of Microcredit: “Promoting Financial Global Partnerships for Development”

Location: Vienna International Centre, Multimedia Room (G-0545)

Date: Thursday, 2 June 2005

Main Objectives:

- (i) Promoting microcredits as tool for achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the context of the Secretary-General’s report “In larger freedom” and in preparation of the September 2005 Millennium +5 summit.
- (ii) Raising awareness on the benefits of microcredits and the entire field of microfinance.
- (iii) Encouraging finance institutions and investors to more active engagement in the microcredit business.
- (iv) Exchange of best practices and innovative approaches.

Programme (tentative):

9.30 am – 10.00 am: Registration

10.00 am – 12.00 am: Panel Discussion

- *“The UN Year of Microcredit and the MDGs”*
Ms. Kathryn Imboden, Senior Policy Advisor, United Nations Capital Development Fund
- *“Microfinance within the Austrian Development Corporation”*
Ambassador Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl, Head of Department for Development Cooperation at the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- *“Supporting Microfinance: The Role of Development Banks”*
Hanns Martin Hagen, Vice President, KfW Entwicklungsbank
Financial Sector and Private Sector Participation

- *“Microfinance from a Cooperative View”*
Friedhelm Boschert, Chairman of the Management Board, Volksbank International Aktiengesellschaft
- *“The Role of NGOs in Promoting Global Partnerships – Lessons learned from South East and Eastern Europe”*
Florian Grohs, Oikocredit International
- *“How Microfinance changes lives in Senegal”*
Mamadou Wane, ASACASE

12.00 – 2.00: Lunch Break (buffet lunch provided by organizers of the event)

2 pm – 3.30 pm: Seminars Sessions

1. Mainstreaming Microfinance

“How to Change the Mindset of Policymakers”
Bernd Balkenhol, International Labour Organization, Employment Sector,
Chief Social Finance

“Commercialization of Microfinance”
Hannes Manndorff, European Representative, ACCION International

“Innovative Products in the Austrian Development Corporation”
Dr. Karin Reinprecht, Reinprecht & Reinprecht OEG

2. Microfinance Investment Funds

Representatives:

“Ethical Investment – a tool for supporting the poorest of the poor”
Robert Wychera, Gerhard Novy, Oikokredit Austria

“The case of European Funds of Southeast Europe
Hanns Martin Hagen Vice President, KfW Entwicklungsbank
Financial Sector and Private Sector Participation

3.30 – 4.00 Coffee Break

4.00 – 5.00 Conclusions

Wrap-up of findings in plenary (briefing by seminar leader/rapporteur of each working group). Fixing of follow-up activities.