



8th Microfinance Barometer

Is microfinance still working?

Paris, September 4th, 2017 – Convergences presents, in partnership with the National Federation of French Saving Banks (FNCE), MasterCard Foundation, the European Microfinance Platform (e-MFP) and Oikocredit, the Microfinance Barometer 2017, Convergences' historical main subject.

With 132 million clients and a loan portfolio worth 102 billion dollars, microfinance consolidates its role a key lever for financial inclusion of marginalized populations. Greater professionalization of microfinance institutions, dissemination of Social Performance Universal Standards and a continued growth of more than 9%, this 8th Microfinance Barometer highlights the strong trends of a fast-growing sector. However, from strengthening institutional capacities to reducing operational costs, the sector needs to overcome several challenges in order to increase microfinance's impact on development.

The launch of this new edition will take place at the **10th Convergences World Forum, on September 4th at the Palais Brongniart in Paris. With the theme "Is microfinance still working?"**, the launch of the Barometer will be the occasion to overview and to exchange with the authors and partners of the publication about the future of the sector.

One thing is certain: the financial inclusion of most vulnerable people will not rely only on microfinance. This statement is pointed out by the 8th Microfinance Barometer, which dedicates a special report on the synergies between microfinance and impact investing. As every year, you will also discover **exclusively microfinance's global figures** which reaffirm the dynamism of the sector and its essential role in the realization of the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#), referential and DNA of Convergences.

2017 Microfinance Barometer's partners



CAISSE D'ÉPARGNE
FÉDÉRATION NATIONALE



To obtain your accreditation for the launching event and any other information:

Carine Valette, Communication Officer, Convergences
Tel: +33 (0)1 42 65 78 85 | carine.valette@convergences.org

About the Microfinance Barometer

Every year since 2010, Convergences has been publishing the Microfinance Barometer, a publication that aims at showcasing the global trends of the sector, while raising awareness about the high impact microfinance initiatives and promoting best practices. This publication, realised in partnership with the FNCE, the MasterCard Foundation, the European Microfinance Platform (e-MFP) and Oikocredit, has contributions from key French and international actors. One of Convergences' key publications, the Microfinance Barometer is listed at the Top 10 Most popular publications at the CGAP's Microfinance Gateway ([2015](#) and [2016](#)) ».

About Convergences

Launched in 2008, Convergences is the first platform for thought, advocacy and mobilisation in Europe to promote the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of a world "Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty." Its mission is to organize debates, mobilize thoughts and actions, spread good practices and encourage the co-construction of partnerships and innovative solutions. Convergences relies on more than 200 partner organizations represented within its working groups to co-organise the Convergences World Forum, which gathered more than 5000 participants every year, to write studies and publications, and to organize events throughout the year.

For further information: www.convergences.org