

Confronting Microfinance

Undermining Sustainable Development

Edited by Milford Bateman

Despite the popularity of microfinance, it is a field that remains remarkably under-theorized. Most evaluations carried out by international development agencies, academics, and independent researchers focus on tweaking what they see as an already beneficial system. Rarely are the very foundations of microfinance brought into question. Instead, their studies presuppose impact without evidence, ignore potentially important issues, and utilize faulty evaluation methodologies.

Bateman and contributors provide critical perspectives on microfinance that reach beyond the desire for technical perfection held dear by almost all microfinance institutions. It charts actual economic and social impacts registered in Southeast Europe to date, both in the context of post-communist transition and post-conflict reconstruction. It examines key cross-cutting issues, providing a more holistic and comprehensive approach to microfinance. One of the few books available that provides a robust critique of microfinance, *Confronting Microfinance* is sure to fire up the debate on this popular poverty-fighting measure.

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About the Editor

Milford Bateman is a Croatia-based freelance consultant specializing in sustainable local economic development policy and community development strategies in the Western Balkans.

Table of Contents

Introduction; 1) Looking Beyond the Hype and Entrenched Myths – *Milford Bateman*;

Part I: Global Experience: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom; 2) Microfinance in Ultra-poor Communities: the Experience of Medellin, Colombia – *Milford Bateman, Juan Pablo Duran Ortiz and Dean Sinkovic*; 3) The Commercialization of Microfinance – Resolution or Extension of Poverty? – *Malcolm Harper*; 4) Lessons from the Grameen Bank: Entrepreneurialism May Not be a Universal Norm – *Rashmi Dyal-Chand*; 5) Undermining the Chances of Sustainable Development in India with Microfinance – *Aneel Karnani*;

Part II: South East European Experience; 6) Impact of Microfinance in Croatia – *Milford Bateman and Dean Sinkovic*; 7) Microfinance in Serbia – *Goran Petkovic and Nebojša Janicijevic*; 8) Microfinance in Macedonia – *Taki Fiti, Vlado Filipovski and Verica Hadi Vasilieva-Markovska*; 9) Microfinance 'Saturation' in Bosnia and Herzegovina: What Has Really Been Achieved for the Poor? – *Saša Drezgic, Dragoljub Stoyanov and Zoran Pavlovic*; 10) Gender and Microfinance in South East Europe: A Critical View – *Vesna Cyprus, Liz Hughes and Mia Vukojevic*; Conclusion; 11) The End of Microfinance? – *Milford Bateman*



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