Call for Expression of Interest

“Microfinance as a Tool of Active Ageing”

“Microfinance uses money as a tool in a larger sense, towards the construction of a more fair society, within which everyone can be recognized and can freely live each phase of his or her life.”

Rapidly and surely the world is getting older. In 2000, for the first time in history, there were more people over age 60 than children below age 5. The number and proportion of older persons is growing faster than any other age group, and will surpass 1 billion people in less than 10 years.

The older generation - which includes caregivers, voters, teachers, volunteers, entrepreneurs, leaders, and more - represents a growing reservoir of talent and experience that can be tapped to reap a ‘longevity dividend’.

The Research Working Group of the European Microfinance Network organizes a debate on “Microfinance as a tool of active ageing”, on December 14th, 2012 in Brussels, in the context of the European Year on Active Ageing.

We invite you, as practitioner or researcher interested and/or engaged in this topic, to contribute to the general discussion through an “Expression of Interest”. This can be done in the form of a short analysis, a research summary, information on a pilot project, and so on, for a length of maximum 3 pages (around 8000 characters).

Main topic of interest would be:
- The use of microfinance in the context of senior entrepreneurship;
- The contribution of microfinance to the construction of a society without age discrimination;
- The identification of MFIs’ social performance indicators looking at elderly people as a target;
- The impact of microfinance in terms of intergenerational solidarity;
- The employment of older workers in the microfinance sector.

Contributions will be selected for one or more of the following three activities:
1) Presentation at the EMN debate on “Microfinance as a Tool of Active Ageing” in December 2012;
2) EMN publication on Senior Entrepreneurship;
3) Contribution to the electronic research bulletin of the EMN Research Working Group.

You can submit your “Expression of Interest” until November 16th, 2012 sending an email to rwg.emn@gmail.com. You will hear from us within two weeks about whether and how your contribution will be considered for the three above activities.