

MFC Annual Report 2019

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Letter from Management

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to share with you our 2019 MFC Annual Report!

This year, to advance our **digitalization** strategy, we supported members to become strong social finance institutions that are equipped embrace new technological opportunities. We addressed both the technological challenge and its social finance dimension at the **CEO Summit** in Istanbul, study tours to Banca Etica and GLS, Istanbul conference agenda, **EaSI TA programme** and the **Digital Literacy Bootcamp** that we launched in Autumn 2019.

Importantly, last year we supported country-level practitioner **Working Groups** in Albania, Poland, Romania and Serbia. These efforts resulted in the creation of a national association in Romania and the publication of a local benchmarking report. In Albania, members developed their digitalization actions plans, while in Serbia we facilitated the policy discussions at a roundtable with government representatives.

We would like to thank all of our members and partners for allowing us to work with you.

We look forward to our continued collaboration!



Lucija Popovska Chair of the Board of Directors



Grzegorz Galusek Executive Director



Katarzyna Pawlak Deputy Director

About MFC

The <u>Microfinance Centre</u> is a social finance network that promotes fairness, inclusion, equality and responsible service.

We unite 111 institutions (including 77 microfinance institutions) across 37 countries of Europe, Central Asia and beyond. Together our members deliver responsible microfinance services to almost 2 million low-income clients.

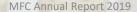
Our Mission

Our mission is to empower individuals and sustain communities through innovative social finance and microfinance.

Our Vision

Our vision is a financial system that works for all people and all communities in a responsible and fair way.

Our work is guided both by our mission, our analysis of the conditions for the inclusive finance where we operate, our members' needs, as well as by the gaps in financial inclusion that are not addressed by other institutions.



Main areas of operation

Capacity Building

Training

Consulting

Assessment

Webinars

Communication within and outside the network

Networking events

Campaigns

Media work

Research

Tools

Publications

Advocacy

Cooperation with decision-makers

2019 in numbers



In total, in 2019 we delivered 219 activities organized to support the microfinance sector

MFC members/countries

Albania Armenia

Austria

Azerbaijan

Belgium

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Bulgaria

Croatia

France

Georgia

Germany

Greece

Hungary

Italy

Kazakhstan

Kosovo

Kyrgyzstan

[Click]
Meet MFC
member
institutions!

Luxembourg

Macedonia

Moldova

Mongolia

Montenegro

Myanmar

Netherlands

Poland

Romania

Russian

Federation

Serbia

Slovakia

Spain

Switzerland

Tajikistan

UK

Ukraine

US

Uzbekistan

111 Members

3/

MFC Annual Conference in Istanbul 2019

Demystifying Digital in Microfinance

In May 2019, we set ourselves the challenge to start demystifying digital in microfinance, and the centrepiece of that agenda was the MFC Annual Conference in Istanbul. This event, gathering almost **500 microfinance professionals** from 46 countries, took place at the end of May 2019. It was undoubtedly **the biggest MF event** in the region.











MFC Annual Conference Istanbul

Our goal was to explore the implications of the digital revolution for financial and social inclusion. In total, we had **18 plenary and break-out** sessions during the two-day conference. There were also several pre- and post-conference **trainings**. Some of the workshops and sessions were translated to Russian.

The **Keynote Speech**, "The Case for Investing in Microfinance's Future", and was delivered by **Tim Ogden from Financial Access Initiative** and New York University.









Event sponsors:









#DigLitBootcamp

We need effective digital solutions more than ever. We believe that MFIs need new skills to ensure their future growth, and this is why we created a #DigLitBootcamp.



Launched in Autumn 2019, our <u>Digital Literacy</u> <u>Bootcamp</u> helps MFIs to build a strong foundation for digital transformation processes by targeting basic skills, knowledge and competences related to digitalisation to MFI staff and management.

#DigLitBootcamp

#DigLitBootcamp sessions are interactive and interdisciplinary, ranging from digital lending through to customer acquisition, policy regulations and digital marketing.

In 2019, we worked with a team of topical experts to deliver 10 webinars. The project has garnered very positive feedback and is being continued throughout 2020.

Click on the sessions titles delivered in 2019 below to learn more and watch again:

- → Key elements of successful digital customer acquisition
- → Credit scoring for digital lending
- → <u>Innovations in EU Policy and Legislation: Opportunities for</u> Microfinance
- → Recruitment and monitoring of IT contractors
- → GDPR unpacked with Allen & Overy
- → 5 things you need to know about mobile app development
- Constant dripping wears the stone Introduction to the power of content marketing
- → Kickstarting your online sales channel
- → Free/discounted IT tools for nonprofiits
- → PSD2, the future of payments with Allen & Overy



#DigLitBootcamp



Karol Wegner, itCraft

Check out this example of a typical #DigLitBootcamp session:

Wondering what the most important things to know about mobile apps are? Thanks to our expert, Karol Wegner, you'll find out!

Using examples of mobile apps created by itCraft, our guest expert discussed success and failure factors, technical and legal issues and payment systems. He shared how to assess the strengths and weaknesses of different ideas, and what initial assumptions and knowledge are needed before investing any money in an app. He also pointed out common pitfalls.

During the webinar, the participants found answers to questions such as:

- How can you build a Minimum Viability Product within days and how can you create a fully working system within 4 months?
- Is it okay to create mobile app without a defined business model?
- Which payment system is best for mobile apps?
- · When is using maps in mobile apps not free?
- What's the difference between native apps, cross-platform development and web development?
- Which came first: the chicken or the egg? What is the supplydemand problem in mobile apps and how can we solve it?
- How can we position our apps high in Google Play and app store searches?



Borrow Wisely Campaign

<u>Borrow Wisely</u> is an annual international campaign promoting global client protection standards through client education.

What did BWC achieve in 2019?

Campaign partners delivered client **workshops** and fairs, **one-on-one meetings** for borrowers in branches; **educational materials** distributed through online channels: **websites** and **social media**; many kinds of different events limited only by our partners' imaginations – that is how Borrow Wisely Campaign (BWC) participants reached out to clients this year!







Borrow Wisely Campaign

The evaluation of the 2019 BWC campaign is impressive and inspiring:

- 25 Campaign partners
- Working in 15 countries in Europe and Central Asia
- Reached 1,991,953 people

I remember last year when I brought home this flyer, my son said: I really can't believe that there is a financial institution who really cares that their clients know how to avoid overdebtedness. And I told him, yes, that's my MI-BOSPO.

—Mi-Bospo client, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Very useful information that reminded me on some items that I do take into consideration —Sunrise client, Bosnia and Herzegovina









Borrow Wisely Campaign

Partners of the 2019 Borrow Wisely Campaign:

Agro&Social Fund and NOA Sh.a (Albania) Farm Credit and UCORA (Armenia) AMFA (Azerbaijan) EKI, Lider, MI-BOSPO, Partner and Sunrise (Bosnia and Herzegovina) SIS Credit and Ustoi (Bulgaria) KEPA (Greece) AFK (Kosovo) Horizonti (Macedonia) Microinvest (Moldova) Monte Credit (Montenegro) The Polish Union of Loan Funds (Poland) Vitas (Romania) AgroInvest and Opportunity Bank (Serbia) **IMON** (Tajikistan)

I attended the "Skills Camp" in
Thessaloniki which was held by the
"Women on Top" Organization past
October, and more precisely, the
microSTARS workshop about funding
tools, which was very interesting,
offering practical information. The
Health Check quiz was a "food for
thought" exercise that enabled us to
start thinking about potential mistakes
of our economic/financial
management.

Participant of a workshop by
 Business and Cultural Development
 Centre (KEPA), Greece





Hope (Ukraine)

EaSI Technical Assistance activities

About the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) Technical Assistance programme

EaSI Technical Assistance services support public and private financial intermediaries of the microfinance sector in Europe with a wide range of activities aimed at increasing the quality of their internal processes, enhancing access to finance for vulnerable groups in particular, and creating a sustainable European microfinance ecosystem. [Read

more]

In 2019, the MFC (in cooperation with the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and EMN) delivered a range of services to support members:



MFC workshops:

- Current challenges in loan analysis, March 2019, Warsaw, Poland
- Legislation specific to MFIs in Romania versus European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision; Code Certification impact on MFI's social and financial performance and lessons learned from the Code certification process, March 2019, Bucharest, Romania
- Current regulatory challenges, June 2019, Warsaw, Poland
- Regulating digital financial services: Making it work to benefit everyone, September 2019, Skopje, North Macedonia
- Romanian microfinance sector benchmarking study. Financial and social performance indicators, November 2019, Bucharest, Romania.



EaSI Technical Assistance activities

JOBS EAD, Bulgaria



Przedsiebiorczości (OCWP),



CEO Forum

Capacity building and networking for leaders in financial inclusion

For the second year running, MFC brought together financial inclusion leaders to engage in topics of interest, exchange views on growth and sustainability, share experiences, establish new partnerships and assist each other in finding solutions to common issues:



- → Mailing updates: 24 insightful and thought-provoking analysis for leaders
- → Microfinance CEO Forum Summit 2019, 31 May–1 June 2019, Istanbul, Turkey

→ Webinars:

- Pricing Challenges in Microfinance, 21 March 2019
- Managing Change in Microfinance Institutions, 19 June 2019
- GDPR Unpacked with Allen & Overy, 7 November 2019
- PSD 2 the Future of Payments with Allen & Overy, 11 December 2019.

→ Workshops:

Chief HR Officers Peer Exchange Workshop Staff Recruitment and Retention, 7–8 October 2019, Warsaw, Poland

National Working Groups



MFC facilitated the establishment of national working groups to discuss the future of microfinance and its role in financial inclusion.

Groups were established/continued their operations in:

- Poland
- Albania
- Romania
- Serbia
 - → 11 meetings held



Our latest case studies present findings on the current state of the fintech industry in six countries in the context of their potential contribution (positive and negative) to financial inclusion and financial health of individuals and small businesses.

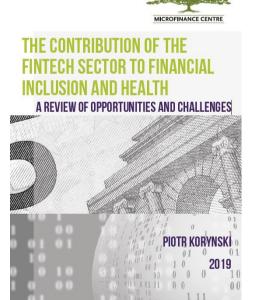
The summary paper offers a comparative analysis of the contribution of fintechs to financial inclusion and health, and recommends actions to undertake on the demand, supply and policy levels.

Read the case studies:

- Czech Republic
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- <u>Turkey</u>
- **United Kingdom**
- Ukraine

Read the summary paper:

SUMMARY PAPER FINTECH CASE STUDY

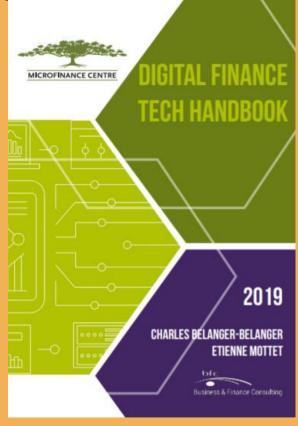




MetLife This publication was prepared as part of the project entitled "Building Innovations for Social Finance in Foundation Europe" funded by MetLife Foundation.

The "Digital Finance Tech Handbook" is a short and practical handbook for microfinance managers in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) that aims to build an understanding of the main technological trends and solutions that support future growth.

Read the publication: TECH HANDBOOK



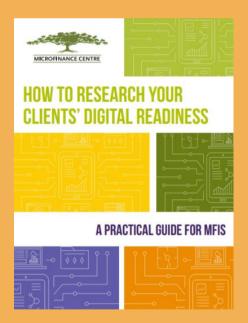


MetLife This publication was prepared as part of the project entitled "Building Innovations for Social Finance in Foundation Europe" funded by MetLife Foundation.

Client digital readiness

Easy-to-Use Tools to Understand What Your Clients Are Ready to Do Online

In close collaboration with three members – Faer (Romania), Hope for Ukraine and EKI (Bosnia and Herzegovina) – MFC developed a practical research guide. The guide assists MFIs in understanding clients in terms of their online presence and use, preferences towards interactions with financial institution online, and their fears, challenges and needs that might be address by digital solution. The guide helps MFIs collect client feedback and deciding if and what digital services and products should be offered to clients, depending on the target group.



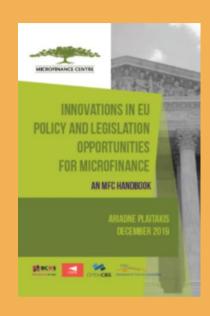


Developed with financial support of the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) 2014-2020.

The information contained in the publication does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission

<u>Innovations in EU Policy and Legislation</u> Ariadne Plaitkis

The "Innovations in EU Policy and Legislation" report updates MFC members of the implications of recent EU legislation and policies in financial services, and assists them in identifying potential market opportunities.











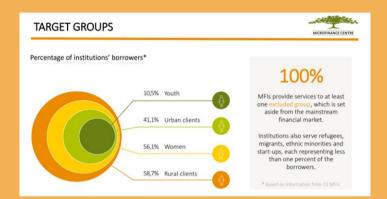




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OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS





[Click below read our new publications]

- SME Financial Health Scorecard Summary
- <u>Social Performance Management of the Microfinance</u> <u>Sector in the Caucasus and Central Asia</u>



Developed with financial support of the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) 2014-2020.

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.

MAGNET

Together with a group of 30+ European organizations in the <u>MAGNET Consortium</u>, MFC continued to grow its network of practitioners that supports migrants in developing their entrepreneurial activities in Europe.

MFC took a lead on shaping the agenda of 2 day event devoted to access to finance for migrants; eventually 70 participants gathered to discuss traditional and fin-tech solutions.

As a <u>MAGNET Consortium</u>, we launched a <u>publicly</u> <u>available toolkit</u> containing a variety of tools that can help work with migrants on developing their business idea and access financing.



Follow MAGNET on Facebook

YMCB – Young Migrants Capacity Building



In 2019, MFC joined a consortium of seven institutions to implement a two-year project called "Young Migrant Capacity Building" (YMCB). YMCB creates the ecosystem needed to build entrepreneurship among young migrants through a combination of education, training, mentoring and access to finance. The approach will be tested in four target countries (Austria, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands) before potentially scaling up and replicating in other territories.

Follow YMCB on Facebook

Communications

The Microfinance Centre engages with members, partners and friends through our various social media channels, which we use to share important news from the microfinance world. Check out our profiles:

- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- Twitter







In 2019, we delivered nearly 100 mailing updates, including our members newsletter, our global newsletter in 4 languages to over 7,000 recipients, country newsletters (translated into 10 languages by our national partners), CEO Forum papers, EU information updates, annual conference news and other projects-related information. You can sign up for our <u>newsletter here.</u>

The MFC website [www.mfc.org.pl] is a source of the latest news from the microfinance world.



Peer-to-peer coaching

Building on our success from previous years, the MFC launched two separate <u>peer-mentoring groups</u>: one for for HR professionals and one for marketing professionals. The HR group explored key topics such as coaching and coaching sales staff for performance. The marketing group discussed key ideas in digital marketing. The small size of the groups enables members to share experience, discuss taboo issues openly and... empathize over common obstacles.



Advocacy

In 2019, MFC representatives participated in 4 meetings organized by the EC with an objective to revise the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision, where inputs from the MFC 2018 working group provided the basis of discussion.

In addition, the MFC continued participating in the Code steering committee meetings.

In 2019, MFC team also attended 41 advocacy meetings with European Commission representatives.



Mobile app development

Building Financial Capabilities and Strengthening Institutions through Customer-Centered Innovations

After extensive research and testing with low-income entrepreneurs, the MFC, CFI and two partner organizations (OBS from Serbia and FIIW from Poland), developed two prototypes of mobile applications. The app helps microfinance clients improve their financial health, applying tips and rules of behavior sourced from the field of behavioral science and as well as our 15 years of experience in financial education delivery.

MFC members

Albania

AMA BESA Fund First Albanian FDC FFD Invest Agro & Social Fund NOA Sh.a.

Armenia

ARFGAK **ECLOF** Armenia FINCA Armenia **KAMURJ** Nor Horizon Farm Credit Armenia CARD AgroCredit "GLOBAL CREDIT" UCO CJSC **UCORA** GoodCredit

Austria

ERSTE Group Bank AG

Azerbaijan

AMFA Azeri Star Microfinance CredAgro Viator Microcredit Vision Fund AzerCredit

Belgium

CoopEst SA INAISE European Microfinance Network

OMRO Patria Credit VITAS Rocredit good.bee Credit FAER

Montenegro

MONTE CREDIT Alter Modus

Netherlands

Brutto

Triple Jump Oikocredit

Poland

Rural Development Foundation Polish Union of Loan Funds

Bosnia & Herzegovina

MIKROFIN LIDER FKI IOK **PARTNER SUNRISE** MI-BOSPO **AMFI** FinCredit Ltd. Banja Luka

Bulgaria

Mikrofond AD Maritza Invest SIS Credit Software Group **USTOI** 11235 Ltd.

Croatia

Oradian

France ADIE

Georgia

Crystal **CRFDO**

MicroFin

Germany

Finance in Motion

Greece

KEPA

Hungary

HMVTA Ireland **ILCU**

Italy

Banca Popolare Etica

Kazakhstan

AMFOK Arnur Credit **KMF** Asian Credit Fund

Kosovo

Agency for Finance in Kosovo **KEP Trust** Koslnvest **AMIK**

Kyrgyzstan

AMFI FINCA Frontiers Kompanion Bank Bank Bai-Tushum

Latvia

Debitum Network

Luxembourg

GLS Alternative Investments SICAV

European Microfinance Platform

Pomegranate Impact Finance

Moldova

Microinvest **MOLDCREDIT Smart Credit**

MICROFINANCE CENTRE

Mongolia Romania

MDF XacBank Mongolian NBFI Association Ard Credit NBFI JSC

Republic of North Macedonia

Foundation HORIZONTI Savings House MOZNOSTI PCES doo

Russian Federation

Bryansk Microloan Fund **ZAO FINCA**

Serbia

AgroInvest Opportunity Bank Serbia

Slovakia

Habitat for Humanity ECA Region

Spain

ACAF

Switzerland

responsAbility Investments **Business & Finance** Consulting

Tajikistan

AMFOT IMON International OXUS Micro Finance OJSC Bank Eskhata

Ukraine

Hope Ukraine VAFK

United Kingdom

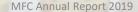
Responsible Finance Sinalify **BCRS Business Loans**

USA

FINCA International SME Finance Forum

Uzbekistan

Microkreditbank Hamkorbank



Board of Directors



Lucija Popovska

Chair of the Board of Directors



COO Software group, Bulgaria



Christian Jurma

Board Director



General Manager, SC Vitas IFN SA, Romania



Izabela Norek

Board Director

CoopEst

Manager, CoopEst, Belgium



Sanavbar Sharipova

Board Director



Board Member, IMON International, Tajikistan



Samir Bajrovic

Board Director



Director, Microcredit Foundation SUNRISE Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Paul Kalinauckas

Board Director



Chief Executive, Founder, BCRS Business Loans, UK



Alisher Akbaraliev

Board Director



Executive
Director,
Association of
Microfinance
Institution,
Kyrgyz
Republic

Team



Grzegorz Galusek

Executive Director



Katarzyna Pawlak

Deputy Director



Ewa Bańkowska

Responsible Finance Expert



Kinga Dabrowska

Responsible Finance, Project Manager



Justyna Pytkowska

Research, Program Manager



Aleksandra Sinikka Karabon

Communications Coordinator



Aldona Rutkowska

Capacity Building Manager



Ewa Romanowska

Accounting & Finance Manager

Deborah Reesink - Intern

Deboran Reesink - inten



Piotr Korynski

Senior Advisor and Consultant



Agata Szostek

Consultant

Consultants



Artur Munteanu

Consultant

Financial Statement

Fundacja "Microfinance Centre" Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2019 (All amounts are stated in PLN rounded to nearest zł)		
(All amounts are stated in PLN rounded t	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment Right-of-use assets Deferred tax assets	- 93,011 -	-
Total non-current assets	93,011	
Current Assets		
Accounts receivable Cash and cash equivalents Total current assets	829,433 13,859,179 14,688,612	511,736 13,684,854 14,196,590
TOTAL ASSETS	14,781,623	14,196,590
EQUITY		
Own Funds		
Founding capital Retained earnings Total own funds Total Funds attributable to equity holders of the Fundation	2,100 13,833,509 13,835,609	2,100 13,007,347 13,009,447 13,009,447
Liabilities	13,835,609	13,009,447
Accounts payable Accruals Lease liabilities Deferred tax liabilities Total Accounts Payable and Accruals	133,713 719,282 93,011 8 946,014	121,316 1,060,456 - 5,371 1,187,143
TOTAL LIABILITIES	14,781,623	14,196,590



MICROFINANCE CENTRE

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