

Asociacion Espanola de Microfinanzas (AEM)

Category of Good Practice: Advocacy at national level

Good Practice's title

Lobby strategy with Spanish government

Main objective

Introducing changes in the economic legislation to allow the development of the microfinance sector.

Type of organization: National Microfinance Association

Country: Spain

Year of inception of the good practice: 2013

Institutional profile

Spanish Microfinance Association

Mission of the organization

Develop and coordinate the Spanish microfinance sector

Governance structure

Spanish Microfinance Association is composed by all the relevant actors in the microfinance sector including NGOs, Foundations, Saving Banks, Universities, Consultants, Migrant Associations, Women Associations, Disable Associations, Ethnic minorities associations, etc.

Good Practice

Introduction

In 2010, we had a national meeting to do a SWAT analysis of the microfinance sector. From that meeting, we created a working group to develop a lobby document that will compile all the main demands from the microfinance sector. After two years of many meetings and discussion we arrived to a final document to be submitted to the Spanish Government. Since 2013 we have been discussing with the Government the proposal and we are expecting the Spanish Government to launch our demands as law in the coming months.

Target group and accessibility

Our target group is all the stakeholders on the microfinance sector.

Innovativeness

Involve all stakeholders and take the initiative to propose legislation to the Government.

Relevance given the context

It is very relevant due to the difficult situation of the Spanish microfinance sector.

Adaptability to other contexts

Easy to adapt because it is a flexible process that can be suitable for any country.

Efficiency

Most of the expenses were the organization of meetings and the coordination role.

Outcomes

One of the main outcomes is the coordination of the sector at all levels but also the common understanding of transparency and collaboration between all actors.

Sustainability

This process of advocacy and lobby with the Government will continue beyond the approval of the law, because it is important to keep a continuous dialogue with the authorities to improve the support to the financial exclude people at all levels.

Further readings

The process is documented in the Book “The importance of a Microfinance legislation for the development of the sector in Spain” by Foro de Microfinanzas. Monograph n°20, march 2013. Available on: www.european-microfinance.org/docs/emn_publications/other_emn_publications/1.Spanish%20Microfinance%20Forum%20Monograph%2020%20ENG.pdf