

## **User Guidelines for the SPI December 2009**

The CERISE SPI tool and guide<sup>1</sup> can be downloaded for free on the CERISE website and the sites of several of our partners. The SPI can be used internally by MFIs, as a discussion, evaluation or research tool.

In exchange for use of the SPI, CERISE requests users to comply with the following guidelines.

### **User Guidelines for the SPI**

- The SPI may only be applied to MFIs that have agreed to participate in a social performance audit..
- MFIs wishing to be audited with the CERISE SPI can first conduct a self-assessment and fill in the questionnaire themselves.
- Technical assistance (TA) partners may accompany the self-assessment.
- The TA partner accompanying the MFI must provide the MFI with the completed questionnaire and any summary reports produced during the assessment.
- External audits can only be conducted by a CERISE-accredited auditor, who has trained or exchanged with CERISE and is deeply knowledgeable on the SPI.
- CERISE reserves the right to perform a quality check of the SPI's use prior to publication or dissemination of any report.
- The name "CERISE" can only be used with the explicit accord of CERISE.
- The CERISE SPI cannot be used for commercial purposes.
- In return for the use of the tool, users are expected to send their findings (i.e., the completed questionnaire) and comments on the tool to CERISE. All findings are kept anonymous. Results are entered into CERISE's database, which allows MFIs to compare their results with those of their peer group.
- Training modules for using the SPI are available from CERISE upon request. Users of these modules must inform CERISE of any organized training sessions, supply the list of participants, and provide feedback on the training.

### **Why these guidelines?**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cerise-microfinance.org/publication/impact.htm#telecharger>

CERISE began development of the SPI in 2002 in close collaboration with partners from Solidarity Finance<sup>2</sup> working group, which was later extended to the ProsperA Alliance. The participation of MFIs and practitioners has been key to the SPI's credibility and continual improvement.

Thanks to user collaboration, CERISE has been able to create a database<sup>3</sup> of SPI findings, making it possible to test the relationship between social and financial performance; social performance and governance; as well as social objectives and impact, thereby helping to promote social performance in the microfinance sector<sup>4</sup>.

In return for sending their results to CERISE, users can find out how they compare to their peer group (by size, country, region, MFI type, etc.).

Having reached its final phase of development, the CERISE SPI tool is a reference in social performance assessment. Internationally recognized for its usefulness in getting MFIs to reflect on social performance and define their social strategy, it is used by MFIs, networks, professional associations and a growing number of investors.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://finsol.socioeco.org/>

<sup>3</sup> As of 31/12/2009, over 250 SPI audits have reported to the CERISE database.

<sup>4</sup> For more information, see the article by CERISE in MicroBanking Bulletin No. 19. [http://www.cerise-microfinance.org/IMG/pdf/MBB\\_19\\_-\\_December\\_2009.pdf](http://www.cerise-microfinance.org/IMG/pdf/MBB_19_-_December_2009.pdf)