**Communication abstract**

**Cécile BREDELET**

PhD Student, Doctoral School of Economics,

PACTE - Social Science Research Laboratory,
Grenoble Alps University

cecile.bredelet@yahoo.fr

**Améziane FERGUENE,**

Associate professor in Development Economics,
PACTE - Social Science Research Laboratory,
Grenoble Alps University
Ameziane.ferguene@upmf-grenoble.fr

**Microcredit and territorial development**

This communication intends to investigate the links between microcredit and territorial development, based on data of three development projects with a microcredit component conducted in small scale - territories in Morocco from 2008 to 2011.

The connection between microcredit and territorial development seems obvious, as professionals of both sectors have the same objective: induce a social and economic development based upon work and the innate resources of the beneficiary population. However, whereas many researches demonstrated that microcredit has a genuine utility in order to fight poverty, they also showed that it might not always be an efficient tool to trigger development, especially in territories with a high poverty rate.

In order to examine this question, we will first summarize the profuse scientific discussion concerning the impact of microcredit on poverty. We will then study the relevance of microcredit in projects aiming to help the development of particularly poor territories, based upon the three projects mentioned here above. Lastly, we will examine the question of the correct territorial scale for a microcredit project. Indeed, the Moroccan experiences discussed here showed that the number of inhabitants in the territory where a program is implemented has an influence in the relevance of the microcredit tool. This will be the subject of our third part.

**Bibliography**

BAUCHET, J., MARSHALL C., STARITA L., THOMAS J., YALOURIS A. (2011), « Latest Findings from Randomized Evaluations of Microfinance », *Reports by CGAP and Its Partners* n°2, Washington, D.C., CGAP, December 2011.

BENSON, D., LIES, A., OKUNADE, A. & WUNNAVA, P. (2009), « Small Business Economics of the Lakota Fund on the Native American Indian Reservation », *Discussion Paper Series*, IZA DP N°3933, Bonn Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), January 2009.

DJEFAL, S. (2005), « Après vingt ans de pratique, la microfinance, un catalyseur du développement économique ? », *Techniques Financières et Développement* n°78, Paris, Epargne Sans Frontières, mars 2005, pp. 32-44.

GUBERT, F. (2005), «La microfinance est-elle un outil de réduction de la pauvreté ? Etat de la recherche », *Techniques Financières et Développement* n°78, Paris, Epargne Sans Frontières, mars 2005, p. 52-58.

HÉLIÈS, O. (2007), « Surendettement : le chemin vers l’extrême pauvreté », *Bulletin d'information du Mardi - BIM*, Paris, Cirad, 13 janvier 2007.