

# MICROFINANCE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Date:** Monday 30 April 2018

**Location:** Riviera Hotel | Beirut, Lebanon

**8:30 – 9:00**

Welcome and registration

**9:00 – 9:30**

Opening Ceremony: **Prof. Fairouz Sarkis**, AOU Rector  
**His Excellency Dr. Marwan Hamadeh** -  
Minister of Education & Higher Education-Lebanon

**9:30 – 11:00**

## SESSION I: "AGFUND MICROFINANCE MODEL"

- AGFUND Model in Financial Inclusion.  
**Nasser Al-Kahtani**, Executive Director – AGFUND.
- Financial Inclusion via SDGs – oriented products in microfinance  
**Bashar Kouwatly**, CEO - IBDA Microfinance, Lebanon.
- The Role of financial inclusion in contributing to achieve the  
UN Sustainable Development Agenda. - **Bader Eldin Ibrahim Abdelmagid**.

Moderator: **Prof. Fadi Karaa**  
Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration & Economics – Notre Dame University

**11:00 – 11:30**

- Coffee break

**11:30 – 1:00**

## SESSION II: "THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN MICROFINANCE"

- An overview of Microfinance in Europe: Challenges & Opportunities.  
**Jorge Ramirez** – General Manager- European Microfinance Network aisbl
- Microfinance and the wicked problem of Poverty:  
An Agenda for Research in Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship.  
**Prof. Arvind Ashta** – Finance, Accounting and Law Department -  
Burgundy School of Business, France.
- Time Value of Money vs. Credit Interest. Different Perspectives to the Same Concept.  
A Proposed Prepayment Model for Microfinance Consumption Loans.  
**Dr. Islam Kamal** - AOU - Egypt

Moderator: **Prof Karim Nasr**, Dean - Faculty of Business and Management  
Assistant to the President for Academic Advancement University of Balamand.

**1:00 – 2:00**

- Lunch Break

**2:00 - 3:30**

## SESSION III "THE LEBANESE EXPERIENCE IN MICROFINANCE"

- The role of Banque Du Liban in supporting financial Inclusion.  
**Dr. Lama Daher** – Lebanese Central Bank
- Can Lebanese Microfinance Institutions Benefit from the Accelerator Concept?  
**Dr. Jihad W. Haddad** – Academic Researcher in Microfinance
- Problems Affecting the Growth of Microfinance Institutions in Lebanon.  
**Dr. Dani Aoun** – AOU - Lebanon

Moderator: **Dr. Mahmoud Araissi**, Ph.D.,  
CIFE- A. Kassar School of Business, Lebanese American University.