



## Enterprise Development and Social Innovation in the Follo Region and in Europe Seminar on 21. March 2017 in Kolben, Kolbotn close to Oslo

**Aim:** By exchanging knowledge and views we hope to promote some understanding of the opportunities related to business development, microfinance and social innovation in the Follo region, Norway and Europe, and the possibilities that lie in a cooperation between public authorities, social entrepreneurs, universities, businesses, financial institutions and NGOs .

**The event** is part of a study trip for the participants of the Interreg Europe project “Access to Microfinance for Small and Medium sized Enterprises” as well as the members of the National Networks Committee of the European Microfinance Network who meet in Oslo/Kolbotn March 20-22 (see logos) who wish to meet the public and business community locally to exchange views. You will meet public authorities, business community representatives, social entrepreneurs, microfinance institutions and networks, ministries, regional authorities, NGOs and a university: NMBU on the stage as well as among the public.

**The hosts:** Microfinance Norway AS (Non-profit) is a new microfinance loan fund in Norway aimed at start-up businesses that does not have ordinary access to financing from banks or other financial institutions. The fund recently got a permit from the Finance Ministry of Norway to operate as an independent financial institution, see [www.mikrofinansnorge.no](http://www.mikrofinansnorge.no) and read more about the subject in [Sparebankbladet](#). We have invited [Center for Social Entrepreneurship and innovation](#) to co-host the event, and [Oppegård Municipality](#) is also a partner.

### Program: 09:00-12:30

- **Opening speech:** Thomas Sjøvold, Mayor in Oppegård Municipality
- **The Cooperation Platform for Business Development in the Follo Region,** Tuva Moflag, Mayor in Ski
- **Social Entrepreneurship for Combatting Poverty and Social Exclusion** Mr. Øyvind Opland, Senior Adviser, Department of Welfare Policy, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- **“Microfinance in Europe”**  
[Jorge Ramirez Puerto](#), General Manager at European Microfinance Network
- **Microfinance investments in BNP Paribas**  
[Claudia Belli-Jeanteur](#), Global Head of Social Business and Microfinance at BNP Paribas
- **Microfinance in Norway**  
Unni Beate Sekkesæter, Mikrofinans Norge AS, «20 years from network credit associations to independent financial institution – Norway’s need for microfinance and Social Innovation”
- **Access to Microfinance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises – the ATM for SME’s project** Péter Vonnák, Fejér Enterprise Agency





- **Lunch 12.30-13.30** A buffet lunch will be served and is included in the seminar fee of NOK 400

**Program: 13:30-16:00**

- **In partnership for developing a more sustainable welfare society**, Discussion among three representatives connected with the Social Enterprise field:
  - Hilde Dalen, Center for Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation and
  - Anne Romsaas, The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)
- **Local example: The Heartspace Sculpture Project – a partnership between Oppegård Municipality and Microfinance Norway Association – The Creative Hub** Discussion between Heidi Tomten, Department Director, Oppegård Municipality and Unni Beate Sekkesæter, Managing Director, Microfinance Norway Association
- **Open discussion with the participants and the panel so far**
- **14:30-14:45 Break for networking**
- **Local and regional enterprise development in Norway for 200 years** Marius Strandvik, The Royal Norwegian Society for Development (Norges Vel, established in 1809)
- **Green Innovation in the Follo Region** Jorun Pedersen, Managing Director, The Innovation Center, Campus Ås
- **Final summary and comments** Unni Beate Sekkesæter

More information about signing up, seminar fee (NOK 400 including lunch) and payment option, see [Eventbrite](#)  
Interreg project ATM for SMEs website: <http://www.interregeurope.eu/atmforsmes/>

