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The Role of Credit Officers in the Performance of Microcredit Loans: Evidence from Vivacred in Brazil

(Paper by Agier I. and J. Assunção)

Seminar organized by the
Centre for European Research in Microfinance (CERMi)

Thursday January 7th, 2010

At 12.00

(Sandwiches will be offered to those who confirmed their presence)

**At the « Salle de Séminaire 1 » (n° 19),
SBS-EM, Université libre de Bruxelles**

Abstract:

This paper studies the role played by credit officers in the performance of microcredit loans. We estimate a structural model of credit provision with costly verification state in which the ability of the credit officer is considered explicitly, using data from Vivacred - a Brazilian NGO. Our results suggest that (i) there is substantial heterogeneity among credit officers in the sample; (ii) the ability of credit officers has a measurable effect on the loan success; and (iii) the estimated ability is correlated with experience.

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Please confirm your presence by January 4th, 2010.