



top stories

Jane Mariara appointed Executive Director of PEP

After a thorough, rigorous and competitive international search, the PEP Board of Directors appointed Professor Jane Mariara as the new Executive Director of PEP in September 2016, taking office on October 3, 2016. Prof. Mariara has been involved with PEP for many years and in a variety of roles, from researcher to resource person to deputy director to member of the PMMA program committee, and most recently as the Interim-Executive Director of PEP. [Find out more](#)

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New PEP impact stories

Four new issues of the "PEP impact brief" series have been recently published, to tell the stories of how the research findings and the new expertise of PEP-supported local researchers have contributed to inform, and even influence, national policy debates and decisions in:

- **Macedonia**, The role of remittances in social protection
- **Cameroon**, How policies to reduce the informal sector do not help alleviate poverty
- **Kyrgyzstan**, The influence of remittances on youth labor
- **Vietnam**, Preparing for labor migration as a consequence of trade policies
- **Central African Republic**, How Chinese investment can provide economic opportunities

Find the full series of [PEP impact briefs here](#)



How to maximize chances of research uptake
PEP publishes conclusions and recommendations from 2016 Policy Forum

A key event of the 2016 PEP Annual Conference in the Philippines was a special [Policy Forum](#), during which a variety of actors - researchers, policymakers and advisors, donors and international experts – from different regions of the world, were invited to share and discuss their views and experience of best practices to maximize chances of research evidence being used to inform policy. The conclusions and recommendations drawn from these discussions have been compiled and published by PEP.

[Find out more](#) about what developing country researchers can do to improve research uptake.

The 13th CBMS Philippines National Conference will be held March 1-3, 2017 in Quezon City

The three-day policy conference will gather partners and stakeholders to discuss latest developments, findings, and best practices on the implementation and use of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS). [Find out more](#)

Policy findings from PEP-PAGE projects are being disseminated worldwide

Dozens of local research teams around the world (Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe) are invading the public spaces in their home countries – policy conferences, press reports, TV interviews, etc. – to democratize the key findings and related policy implications from research work supported under the [PEP-PAGE initiative](#).

news and events

policy findings

PEP continually publishes the findings and outcomes of projects led by local research teams in developing countries, who have been selected and supported through its various research and capacity building initiatives. These projects address a wide range of policy and welfare issues. A few examples from projects supported under the [PAGE initiative](#) are provided below, and several more, including Cameroon, Bangladesh, Serbia, Ecuador, and more from Macedonia [can be found here](#): **Recent policy findings from PEP-supported projects in developing countries**

Mongolia

PAGE – The impact of vocational training programs on youth unemployment in Mongolia



High levels of unemployment, particularly amongst youth, pose a significant problem in Mongolia. The Mongolian government has introduced active labor market policies to provide training and support for youth, with the aim of reducing unemployment and alleviating poverty in the country. A team of local researchers investigates the effects of Vocational Training Programs (VTP) on earnings, job quality, and the likelihood and duration of youth employment in Mongolia's capital city, Ulaanbaatar. The researchers find that VTP can be an efficient way to promote employment and increase income for youth in the short term but can be made more effective by providing trainees with general labor market information alongside the training. Find out more in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications: [Project webpage and video](#) | [Policy brief 147](#)

Research team: [Altantsetseg Batchuluun](#) | [Amartuvshin Sanjmyatav](#) | [Bayarmaa Dalkhjavi](#) | [Soyolmaa Batbekh](#) | [Tsogt-Erdene Baldandorj](#)

India

PAGE – Intra-household bargaining in rural India



An increasing number of aid policies target women on the basis that bestowing greater decision-making power on women will have positive spillover effects on the wellbeing of the household and society at large. A team of local researchers investigates the role of information sharing in intra-household resource allocation in rural India to assess household bargaining power. The researchers find that while married couples in rural India tend to take household decisions together, providing information about a partner's preferences will only influence the wife's final decision. Women are also more likely to spend on nutrition than men. Find out more in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications: [Working paper 2016-20](#) | [Policy brief 146](#)

Research team: [Hari Nagarajan](#) | [Anirudh Tagat](#) | [Hansika Kapoor](#) | [Savita Kulkarni](#)

Macedonia

PAGE – Skills mismatches and unemployment spells: The case of Macedonia's youth



Despite many labor policies over the past 20 years, the youth unemployment rate in Macedonia remains very high, around 50%. The 2012 School-to-Work transition survey shows that nearly 35% of Macedonia's youth in employment are either under or over qualified for their job. A team of local researchers investigates what impact the length of unemployment a person experiences has on how suited they are to their eventual position. The researchers find a tremendous discrepancy between the supply and demand in the labor market with many university graduates looking for work while most job creation is for positions requiring only secondary education. Find out more in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications: [Working Paper 2016-18](#) | [Policy Brief 140](#)

Research team: [Viktorija Atanasovska](#) | [Branka Hadzi-Misheva](#) | [Tijana Angjelkovska](#)

current initiatives and collaborations

Through its manifold "Grant plus" support program, PEP promotes the mobilization and expertise of local researchers in key **national and international research initiatives**. These special, often large-scale projects – usually focused on emerging development policy issues – are

conducted either through joint research initiatives, in collaboration with specific donors and/or as studies commissioned by international institutions calling on PEP's extensive experience to provide scientific support and coordinate activities.

These are some of the ongoing PEP research, capacity building and/or special collaboration initiatives.

"Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE – 2012-2016)" – co-funded by DFID (or UK Aid) and the IDRC

"Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment II (PAGE II – 2016-2020)" – co-funded by DFID (or UK Aid) and the IDRC

"STAARS - Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces" – funded by the IDRC and in collaboration with the World Bank, Cornell University, the African Development Bank and the African Economic Research Consortium.

conferences

PEP national policy conferences

Through the PEP Grant Plus mechanism, local research teams are given support to organize conferences where they communicate and discuss their findings directly with policymakers and other key stakeholders at the national level.

August 12, 2016 - Niamey, Niger

"Promoting off-farm self-employment for rural development in Niger"

PEP researchers in Niger organized a national policy conference attracting key policy actors and stakeholders from the national government, national and international organizations, academia and the media, to discuss their findings on the impact of off-farm self-employment opportunities and to reflect on the structural transformation of rural areas. A representative of the governmental 3N (Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens) Initiative said, during the conference, that the team's recommendations would be discussed during the policy making process at the ministerial level and inform the 3N Initiative Strategic Plan 2016-2020. [Find out more](#)



August 19, 2016 – Kolkata, India

"How exports can help job creation in India"

A team of local PEP researchers in India shared their findings on the impact of trade on employment in the country's manufacturing sector at a national policy conference. More than 70 stakeholders, including key national policy actors from the Ministry of Commerce and other government departments, industry experts, and academics attended the event and participated in a productive discussion of the team's recommendations. During the conference, the Labor Department representative requested further discussion on the issues highlighted by the project, while the Ministry of Commerce advisor stated she would advise the government on concrete action to address the barriers to labor-intensive exports. [Find out more](#)



September 15, 2016 – Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

"Supporting the productive use of remittances for youth entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan"

Local PEP researchers in Kyrgyzstan held a policy conference bringing together around 30 key policy actors from the national government, representatives of national and international organization, as well as academics and journalists to present and discuss their findings on the impact of remittances on the supply of youth labor in the country. The policy actors included representatives from the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labor and Social Development, and the State Agency of Migration, who agreed with the team's recommendation to reform education and training programs to reduce the probability that youth become unpaid family workers. Furthermore, the team's findings and recommendations will be included in a forthcoming report for the national government on migration and youth policy. [Find out more](#)



October 6, 2016 – Dakar, Senegal

"Why formalizing remittances and migration is important for the Senegalese labor market"

PEP researchers in Senegal organized a national policy conference to discuss their findings on the impact of migration and remittances on labor market participation and human capital development in the country. Almost 60 representatives of government ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance, national and international organizations, academia and the media participated, discussing the team's recommendations. Representatives of DDCH (*Direction du Développement du Capital Humain*) a government organization promoting human capital development, expressed their appreciation of the PEP team's research and stated it will feed DDCH's current work, in collaboration with policymakers, to establish the first national migration policy for Senegal. [Find out more](#)



October 12, 2016 – Skopje, Macedonia

"Addressing youth labor market scarring as an effect of unemployment in Macedonia"

A team of PEP researchers in Macedonia presented their findings on the impact of unemployment spells on labor market scarring amongst the country's youth at a national policy conference. The event brought together nearly 40 representatives of the national government, international donors and organizations, foreign embassies and civil society to discuss the team's recommendations and coordinate resource to improve youth labor market performance. During the conference, it was confirmed that the team's findings and recommendations will inform the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy Action Plan for Youth Employment 2016-2020. Furthermore, a "Youth Start" program, as recommended by the team, will be implemented by the National Employment Agency from 2017. [Find out more](#)



October 26, 2016 – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

"The vulnerabilities of the mining sector and how to protect the Mongolian economy"

Local PEP researchers in Mongolia held a national policy conference to present and discuss their findings, on the impact on the Mongolian economy of external environment changes relating to the mining sector, to more than 20 key stakeholders from the national government, industry, academia and the media. Participants included representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MLSP), the National Statistical Office, and a senior Central Bank of Mongolia economist, who was particularly interested in the team's CGE model as a tool for monetary policy analysis. The Director of the MLSP Research Institute of Labor and Social Protection found the team's labor and household findings particularly useful and proposed future research collaborations with the team. [Find out more](#)



October 27, 2016 – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

"How vocational training programs can alleviate youth unemployment in Mongolia"

Another team of local PEP researchers in Mongolia presented and discussed their findings and recommendations relating to the impact of vocational training programs (VTP) on youth unemployment at a national policy conference. More than 80 key national and international stakeholders participated in the event, including the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MLSP) who said that the recommendations are well timed as the government is currently considering revising the VTP design. During the conference, a national consultant for the VTP redesign stated that the team's recommendations will be considered during the redesign process. An MLSP representative also said that the team's findings will inform policymaking to increase youth employment. [Find out more](#)



November 8, 2016 – Bangui, Central African Republic

"The best use of Chinese investment in the CAR cotton industry for wellbeing and development"

A team of local PEP researchers in the Central African Republic (CAR) held a national policy conference in the capital Bangui to discuss their PEP findings regarding the impact of Chinese investments on the cotton industry. The event attracted nearly 100 participants, including high-level government officials, such as the national minister responsible for investment, attending as the representative of the President, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Economic Planning and of the Ministry of Defense. With such an audience, the event naturally benefited from substantial media coverage, resulting in the team's findings and recommendations being broadcast widely on national radio and TV channels. [Find out more](#)



November 18, 2016 – Guayaquil, Ecuador

"How the Ecuadorian minimum wage policy can increase wages and reduce inequality"

Local PEP researchers in Ecuador presented their findings and recommendations on the impact of the country's minimum wage policy at a national policy conference they organized in Guayaquil. As well as an opportunity for the team to present their research to 35 key stakeholders, the event included a panel discussion featuring representatives of three central actors: the national government (Ministry of Labor), employers (National Wages and Labor Council), and employees (National Union of Remunerated Domestic Workers). The findings and recommendations were shared not only with the stakeholders in attendance but also the population at large thanks to reports in the top national newspaper, a popular Guayaquil newspaper, and on public television. [Find out more](#)



Forthcoming:

Several other conferences have been or will be held in November and December: Burkina Faso, Bolivia, Chad, Serbia, Bangladesh, etc. These will be reported on the PEP website shortly and feature in the next issue of the PEP talk.

International conference presentations

In acknowledgment of their expertise, many PEP researchers are also invited to present their work at international academic and policy conferences around the world. When needed, PEP awards special grants to support their travel and participation.

Since the last issue of the PEP-talk, findings from PEP-supported research were presented at the following international events:

- Rural Transformation, Agricultural and Food System Transition Conference in Italy, September 19-20
- 5th International Conference of the African Association of Agricultural Economists in Ethiopia, September 23-26
- ARISE Conference on Family Farming and Child Labor in Brazil, August 18
- Employment and Foreign Trade Conference in Bolivia, July 26

other pep news

PEP publishes first STAARS findings and recommendations. [Read more](#)

PEP's 14th Anniversary. [Read more](#)

PEP researchers at International Economic Development Forum in Macedonia to discuss migrant remittances. [Read more](#)

Female entrepreneurship hindered most by social constraints – PEP research concurs with Brookings findings and ODI report. [Read More](#)

Follow PEP's daily newscast:



related events

PEP also publicizes news and events from the development research community that may be of interest to its members:

Job openings, training or research funding opportunities, calls for papers, international conferences, etc.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find all related recent news

publications

The following section lists all new papers and briefs published by PEP since the last issue of PEP-talk in August 2016

working papers

Unemployment spell and vertical skills mismatches: The case of Macedonia's youth

By Viktorija Atanasovska, Tijana Angjelkovska, Jorge Davalos (WP 2016-18)

Trade liberalization and employment effects in Indian manufacturing: An empirical assessment

By Sunitha Raju, Bibek Ray Chaudhuri, Mridula Savitri Mishra (WP 2016-19)

An experimental investigation of intra-household resource allocation in rural India

By Anirudh Tagat, Hansika Kapoor, Savita Kulkarni (WP 2016-20)

Randomized Evaluation of the Unconditional Cash Transfer Scheme for the Elderly in Ekiti State Nigeria

By Damilola Olajide, Maria Laura Alzua, Ana Dammert (WP 2016-21)

Beyond technical skills: The impact of credit counseling on the entrepreneurial behaviour of Ugandan youth

By Juliet Nassozi Ssekandi, Benjamin Kachero, Daniel Joloba, Samuel Galiwango, Zeridah Zigiti (WP 2016-22)

Labor-market scars when youth unemployment is extremely high: Evidence from Macedonia

By Marjan Petreski, Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski, Marcelo Bérigolo (WP 2016-23)

Preference for women but less preference for indigenous women: A lab-field experiment of loan discrimination in a developing economy

By Gabriela Aguilera Lizarazu, Andrea Rojas Hosse, Patricia Aranda, Rolando Gonzales (WP 2016-24)

Find all PEP working papers [here](#)

policy briefs

Policy brief 150 Reducing child poverty in **Serbia**: cash transfers or work incentives?

By Marko Vladisavljević, Jelena Zarkovic Rakic, Sasa Randjelovic, Gorana Krstic and Aleksandra Anic

Policy brief 149 Labor market scarring for youth in **Macedonia**

By Marjan Petreski, Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski and Marcelo Bérigolo

Policy brief 148 Impact of minimum wage policies in **Ecuador**

By Sara Wong

Policy brief 147 The impact of vocational training programs on youth unemployment in **Mongolia**

By Soyolmaa Batbekh, Altantsetseg Batchuluun, Bayarmaa Dalkhjav, Amartuvshin Sanjmyatav and Tsogt-Erdene Baldandorj

Policy brief 146 Intra-household bargaining in rural **India**

By Anirudh Tagat, Hansika Kapoor and Savita Kulkarni

Policy brief 145 *Impact de l'exploitation de l'or sur les conditions de vie des populations au **Burkina Faso***

By Agnès Zabsonré, Dommèbèiwin Juste Mètoiolè Somé, Irene Haffin and Maxime Agbo

Policy brief 144 *Exploitation pétrolière, pauvreté et inégalités au **Tchad***

By Kane Gilles Quentin, Gbètoton Nadège Djossou, Gadam Djal-Gadam and Armand Mboutchouang Kountchou

Find all PEP policy briefs [here](#)

external publications

Recent journal publications by PEP grantees – i.e. based on research conducted with PEP support in developing countries

Title of article	Journal and references (links)	Authors
Education Language and Youth Entrepreneurship in Chad	Journal of Development Studies <i>Forthcoming but available online</i>	Yogo Urbain Thierry, Mallaye Douzounet and Abdelkrim Araar
Labor-Market Scars When Youth Unemployment Is Extremely High: Evidence from Macedonia	Eastern European Economics <i>Forthcoming</i>	Marjan Petreski, Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski and Marcelo Bérigolo

Recent journal publications by PEP resource persons and staff

Title of article	Journal and references (links)	Authors
Food price changes and household welfare: what do we learn from two different approaches?	Journal of Development Studies <i>Forthcoming</i>	Luca Tiberti and Marco Tiberti
Targeting multidimensional poverty	Economic Development and Cultural Change <i>Forthcoming</i>	Jean-Yves Duclos, Luca Tiberti and Abdelkrim Araar
Multidimensional poverty indices: A critical assessment	In <i>Oxford Handbook of Well-Being and Public Policy</i> Eds. M.D. Adler and M. Fleurbaey Oxford University Press, May 2016, 944 p. Online	Jean-Yves Duclos, and Luca Tiberti

Find previous issues of the PEP-Talk here: [PEP newsletters](#)

To contact PEP secretariat, please email us at info@pep-net.org. If you wish to **unsubscribe** from this newsletter's mailing list, send us an email entitled "Unsubscribe – PEP-talk"

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