

Recent PEP impact stories

A sample of the **25 policy impact stories** reported by research teams supported by PEP under the **PAGE II initiative (2016-2020)** are summarized below

AFRICA



Findings that students who work during school holidays have shorter school-to-work transitions have informed the revision of the national policy on “Technical Education and Vocational Training”. The PEP team is participating in this process through an ongoing policy discussion group created by the Minister for SMEs and Employment Promotion following his interactions with the team. See [impact poster](#)

A representative of the Ministry of Agriculture in Burkina Faso stated that the current agricultural subsidy program is likely to be reoriented to mainly target women, as per the PEP team’s recommendations. Senior policy actors in the Ministry of Women and National Solidarity also plan to promote the team’s findings, not only within the Ministry but also among colleagues at the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture, as an evidence base for policies aiming to reduce gender inequality.



Recommendations to promote non-farm work as a measure to increase agricultural market participation and commercialization will inform a review of the National Agriculture Investment Plan/3rd Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (2018-2021) by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA). The PEP research team also discussed with the Minister ways that the MoFA can implement the team’s findings in their operations.

Findings on how surface water can be better used to help achieve the 3N (Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens) Initiative’s “Zero Hunger” objective have been readily accepted by officers at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and will guide improvements to national interventions in this area. A senior 3N official stated the PEP team’s evidence would inform the program’s strategies and interventions related to the management of agricultural water.



At the PEP team’s national policy conference, the Head of the General Directorate for Planning and Economic Policy (DGPPE) stated that the team’s findings on the negative impact on women’s employment of West Africa’s Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union would be assimilated into DGPPE decisions. Furthermore, the DGPPE would gather other national stakeholders to form a committee to implement the team’s recommendations. See [impact poster](#)

The project team was invited to present their findings on how reducing VAT on capital commodities can foster industrialization and boost growth during the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) budget process. A senior MoFP officer also expressed interest in applying the team’s simulation techniques to other fiscal issues to inform future policy decisions.



A senior local government official stated that staff would use the team’s findings to improve delivery of youth employment services. Local government officers also received training to collect and interpret data using the PEP project’s tool, the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), for planning and governance.

LATIN AMERICA

The findings from a PEP Research Fellow study regarding the issues behind the low take-up of Argentina’s VAT refund program (that provides an additional monetary subsidy to beneficiaries of the country’s largest conditional cash transfer program) have contributed directly to informing the design of a new program that almost immediately replaced the VAT refund program.



The PEP team shared their findings regarding the financial restrictions facing rural women with the directors of a local NGO that works to improve the lives of rural and indigenous communities. The findings will inform decisions to improve the financial policies of the NGO’s entrepreneurship program.

PEP findings that Beca18 Fellows - talented but socially underprivileged students awarded higher education scholarships - may play a vital role in promoting new technologies in (otherwise excluded) rural communities will inform the current redesign of the Beca18 program by the National Program of Academic Awards and Student Loan (PROBANEC).



The Domestic Workers Union has proposed changes in line with the PEP team’s recommendations that supervision and inspections are needed to ensure that working conditions are maintained and formal employment is encouraged following the introduction of the minimum wage. Through the team’s participation in a national equal opportunities working group, senior government officials (including the Minister of Labour and Social Security) and other stakeholders have stated their intention to use the team’s findings to inform forthcoming policy debates. See [impact poster](#)

EASTERN EUROPE

During an advisory meeting between the PEP project team and the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, the Minister stated that she will use the team’s recommendations for how to mitigate the negative effects of underemployment on youth wellbeing to inform policy changes. In particular, changes informed by the team’s findings are planned for the national law on volunteering, as well as in the design and implementation of a “Youth Guarantee” pilot programme.



Findings that Serbia’s austerity measures exacerbate gender inequality will be included by the Commissioner for the Protection of Citizens in her annual equality report to Parliament. Informed by the PEP project, she recommends abolishing or amending the law on the maximum number of public sector employees as women are the hardest hit by this restriction.