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www.pep-net.org

Partnership for Economic Policy



Mission

To contribute new perspectives and contextualized policy solutions to socioeconomic development challenges worldwide

The **Partnership for Economic Policy** (PEP) is an international organization that links researchers globally to enhance capacity for development policy analysis in developing countries. PEP research contributes to informing national and international debates related to economic policy, poverty, gender and sustainable development.

The core mission of PEP is to provide training and support for developing country researchers to produce reliable scientific evidence and inform relevant policy debates. The unique “PEP Grant Plus” mechanism enables Southern-based researchers to overcome the usual impediments to the conduct of state-of-the-art research within their home countries, despite an often severe lack of resources.



However, with the continual support and interaction of world-leading experts and institutions - globally-linked through this venture - PEP has also become a veritable hub of expertise, knowledge and innovation in the field of economic and development policy analysis in developing countries.

As a reputed supra-national research institution, PEP also provides the necessary infrastructure for Southern experts to participate in (and bid for) major international initiatives; which, in turn, contributes to establish their national and international reputations and level the playing field with their Northern counterparts. By catalyzing their in-depth knowledge of local contexts, PEP research favours new and more relevant perspectives on major development challenges worldwide.



AFRICA

Dakar, Senegal

CRES

Nairobi, Kenya

icipe

ASIA

Manila, Philippines

AKI

LATIN AMERICA

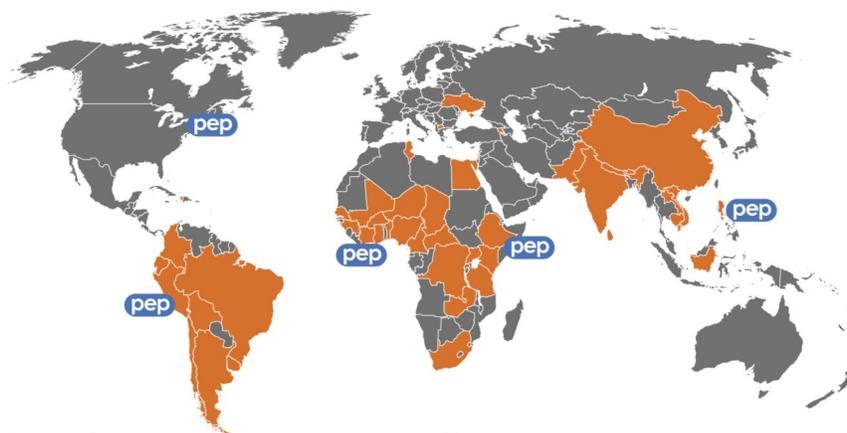
Lima, Peru

GRADE

NORTH AMERICA

Quebec, Canada

Université Laval



Global scope and linkages

Since 2002, PEP has evolved into a global partnership, with regional partner institutions based in Asia, Africa, Latin America and North America, collaborating to manage its activities worldwide. To this day, PEP has contributed to building the scientific expertise of over **600** developing country researchers, through the support of **195** projects in **54** developing and emerging economies – mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, but also in Eastern Europe and the Middle-East. In 2013, over **9500** researchers and policy advocates had registered on the PEP website - i.e. to participate in and follow PEP news and activities - worldwide.

The geographic scope of PEP activities, combined with a "networking" type of organizational structure, provide a unique opportunity for local-based, and usually isolated, Southern researchers to share and learn from experience with international peers. These exchanges allow for the comparison of research results, conclusions and/or methodological applications among countries and regions, as well as for increased South-South knowledge transfers through greater interaction of both individuals and institutions.

In recent years, PEP has also expanded in terms of institutional networking and sources of funding, with a growing list of donors including **AusAID, CIDA, DFID (or UK Aid), IADB, IDRC, IFPRI, ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, etc.**

From building to promoting Southern-based expertise

Indeed, PEP has become increasingly active in going beyond its core capacity building activities to support and promote the mobilization of local experts 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 commissioned studies deputed by national or international institutions.

In all cases, they are the result of institutions calling on PEP's unique expertise and extensive experience in managing international projects of high-quality research, producing reliable evidence for policy advocacy, providing scientific support and/or building related local capacity.



Research and capacity building



Using a variety of cutting-edge methodologies

Among the several peerless features of PEP is the **breadth of analytical perspectives, tools and techniques** in which PEP-affiliated experts and resource persons specialize - and that granted researchers can choose to apply and be trained in via PEP support.

Here are the four main categories of methodologies applied in the context of PEP research - the "**PEP toolbox**"

- **Community-based monitoring systems**
- **Macro-micro development policy modeling**
- **Impact evaluations - including randomized controlled trials**
- **Microeconomic analysis of poverty, gender and inequality**

Several of these tools - which are acknowledged worldwide as some of the most valuable tools in the field of applied development research - have emerged directly from PEP research. They are based on extensive experience in the analysis of poverty, gender and economic development in the specific context of developing countries.



To address a broad range of socioeconomic issues and challenges

Through these various approaches, PEP research can explore a broad range of **policy issues related to development and poverty reduction** - from **education and youth employment to agriculture, food security, fiscal policies, inclusive growth, health, nutrition, income**, and many other dimensions of welfare - while producing both comprehensive and disaggregated analyses to address specific knowledge gaps and policy needs in terms of evidence base.



Helping local analysts meet the highest international standards

The PEP "Grant Plus" mechanism

Once selected for support under the PEP program, and in addition to **research funding**, granted researchers are provided with **training** (PEP schools), **resources** (e.g. software tools, online journals, international databases, etc.) and **mentoring** (each research team is assigned a PEP resource person as mentor). They may also apply for PEP to finance a 3-4 week international "**study visit**" at the institution of their choice.



The progress of each project's research work is carefully monitored through ongoing interaction with PEP resource persons (experts in the relevant methods and policy issues) and periodic progress reports. Interim and final research reports are requested and each receives detailed comments and suggestions - often resulting in several revisions.



Thanks to this ongoing support and review mechanism, as well as to the continued support of world-renowned experts in development economics, the evidence produced in the context of PEP-supported research is **guaranteed to meet the highest international standards of scientific rigor and quality** - with the **unique trait of systematically providing a locally-based analytical perspective**.

Policy engagement

To ensure policy responsiveness of each project, all PEP-granted research teams must provide evidence that relevant policy makers and stakeholders are being informed/consulted with on a regular basis, especially at the national level.

PEP devotes extensive resources to assist its researchers in creating strong policy linkages and implementing effective influence strategies. Researchers are also provided with a series of complementary grants to organize or participate in related activities (national policy conferences, international conferences, publications, etc.)



In addition to ensuring wider and more effective dissemination of their research findings to inform policy, the same activities contribute to increasing the researchers' exposure, and thus building their reputation as experts in the field, both at the national and international levels.

Find out more about PEP, its activities and their impact, via the PEP website: www.pep-net.org

partnership for
economic
policy



pep

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