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Youth Employment in Sub Saharan Africa - YESSA International Conference

“Putting youths to work through research and practice”

The Pullman Hotel. Dakar, Senegal: 28 - 30 January, 2014

in collaboration with



pep
partnership for
economic
policy



Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale



YESSA: Putting youths to work through research and practice

The African Youth Charter defines youth or young people as every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years. With close to 70 percent of its population aged below 25, Africa is the youngest continent in the world. The youth population constitutes about 37 percent of the total labour force in Africa and is projected to expand more rapidly than anywhere else in the world (OECD, 2011). In the meantime it is estimated that youths are three times more likely to be unemployed compared to adults (Africa Youth Report 2011). The share of unemployed youth among the total unemployed can be as high as 83% in Uganda, 68% in Zimbabwe, and 56% in Burkina. With youth representing 3 in 5 of the total unemployed and with an average of 72% of the youth population living with less than \$2 a day, there is now ample evidence to suggest that positive growth rates in most African countries have failed to translate into more and better employment opportunities for the majority and especially for youth. Available evidence also shows that female youth face particularly much stronger challenges for many reasons ranging from discriminatory social norms to lower human capital levels because of uneven access to health and education.

Faced with the challenge of youth unemployment and the related risks for social unrest African policy makers have been showing concern as illustrated by the Key Priority Area 5 of the Ouagadougou 2004 Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation, which aims at the “Empowerment of women/youth by integrating them in the labour markets and to enable them to participate effectively in the development of poverty reduction strategies, policies and programmes”. More recently the 17th African Union Assembly Summit (Malabo, June 2011) on the theme of “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” adopted a Declaration on Creating Employment for Accelerating Youth Development and Empowerment and committed to “REDUCE Youth and Women unemployment by at least two percent annually over the next five years as contained in the Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018”. In line with those commitments most African countries, regional and multilateral organisations have implemented many policy and program initiatives all aimed at boosting youth employment and entrepreneurship. Examples include national youth employment programs, UNDP Regional Programme for Youth Employment and Social Cohesion (YERP), and the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) featuring a partnership between the Africa Commission, the Youth Employment Network (YEN), and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In the aftermath of global economic and financial crisis and almost ten years after the Ouagadougou 2004 Plan of Action, there is evidence to suggest that youth employment is more than ever before a major challenge to most policy and development actors on the continent. Various factors may explain the current situation, including limited effectiveness of past or current youth employment promotion and entrepreneurship support initiatives and programs, limited knowledge of labour markets’ demand and supply factors, data availability / quality, limited policy coherence, etc.

With the adverse effects of the global financial and economic crisis lasting longer than expected and the issue of youth employment becoming more pressing than ever before, time may be appropriate to assess knowledge gaps, and revisit current practices and strategies for youth employment. The international conference on youth employment in Sub Saharan Africa will provide a platform for reflection, exchange and experience sharing. The conference will bring together national, regional and multilateral policy actors, African researchers and think tanks, as well as key relevant

stakeholders. Through a combination of parallel sessions with research papers and program initiative presentations, panel discussions and keynote speakers from Sub Saharan African and North Africa will share perspectives, reflect on current opportunities and challenges to youth employment, explore potential policy options and inform the development of a policy-oriented research agenda grounded into local realities.

The conference will serve as a prelude to the special session of the African Union's Conference of Labour ministers - to be held in Windhoek in April 2014, and which will adopt a new declaration and a new plan of action for job promotion in Africa. The latter will in turn feed into the extraordinary summit of AU's Heads of States to be held in September 2014 to mark Year 10 of the Ouaga declaration.

The YESSA conference is expected to result into:

- (i) A critical review of current programs and policy initiatives pertaining to youth employment in Africa;
- (ii) A refreshed perspective on the importance of evidence-based policy informed by quality local research;
- (iii) The identification of knowledge gaps for improved youth employment policies;
- (iv) Foundations for a strategic alliance of local think tanks / researchers and policy actors on the issue of youth employment;
- (v) An African research and policy network on youth employment
- (vi) A conference report

YESSA - Programme

Location: Pullman Hotel – Dakar

Day 1: January 28, 2014

- 8:00 – 8:40: Arrival of the guest (s)
- 8:45 – 8:55: Arrival of Special guest (s)
- 9:00 – 9:15: Arrival of HE the President of the Republic of Senegal
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9:15 – 10:30: Opening ceremony


- Facilitator:** **Dr. Ibrahima Hathie**
Director of Research, IPAR – Senegal
- ❖ **Welcome Speeches:**
- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
|  | Dr. Jean Lebel / Dr. Stephen McGurk | President / Vice-President | IDRC |
|  | Mr. Seydou Sissouma | Commissioner for Human Development | UEMOA |
|  | Mr. Hamidou Kasse | Chair- scientific committee / XV summit of <i>la Francophonie</i> | Presidency of Senegal |
|  | Prof. Mthuli Ncube | Chief Economist & Vice President | AfDB |
|  | H.E. Philippe Beaulne | Canadian Ambassador to Senegal | Canada |
| ❖ | Dr Rene N’Guetia KOUASSI: <i>African Union Youth & Women Employment Pact for Africa (YWEP-A)</i> | Director of Economic Affairs | AUC |
- ❖ **H.E Macky Sall:** President of the Republic of Senegal
-

10:30 – 11:00: Coffee / Photo Shoot

11:00 – 12:30: Panel 1 : R2P, African Think Tanks and Youth Employment in Africa

Facilitator: **Prof. Mwangi S. Kimenyi:** Director – Africa Growth Initiative, The Brookings Institution

Speakers:

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|
|  Dr. Ebere Uneze | Executive Director - CSEA | Nigeria |
|  Prof. Abdoulaye Diagne | Executive Director - CRES | Senegal |
|  Dr Cheikh Oumar Ba | Executive Director-IPAR | Senegal |
|  Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye | EPRC | Uganda |
|  Prof. Kate Philip | TIPS | South Africa |
|  Prof. Idrissa Ouedraogo | Executive Director - CEDRES | Burkina Faso |

12:30 – 14:00: Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30: Parallel Sessions 1 Session A: Countries perspectives

Chair: **Dr. Felix Nzue**
Program Director, Unit of Economic Policy Analysis - ECOWAS

Speakers :

| | | |
|--|-------------------|----------|
| • Dr. Ibrahima Hathie Research Director of IPAR – Senegal | <i>Paper</i> | Senegal |
| • Dr. Ebere Uneze , Executive Director, CSEA | <i>Paper</i> | Nigeria |
| • Mr. Asclépiade Mufungizi , Support Unit for Youth Insertion / Diobass Plateform, at Kivu | Policy Experience | DRC |
| • Dr. Ibrahim Abba , Cooperation Head, Division of Research, Trend and Cooperation, Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training. | Policy Experience | Cameroon |

Parallel Sessions 1

Session B : Countries Perspectives

Chair: **Dr. Paul Okwi:** Sr. Programme Officer, IDRC / SIG

- Speakers :**
- **Prof. Vimal Ranchhod,** *Paper* South Africa
Associate Professor-Southern
Africa Labour & Development
Research Unit – SALDRU
 - **Prof. George Kobou,** Former *Paper* Cameroon
Dean, faculty of economics,
University of Yaoundé 2
 - **Dr. Guillermo Cruces,** co- *Trends & scaring effects of* Argentina
director CEDLAS *youth unemployment and*
informality in Latin
America with policy
responses

15:30 – 16:00: **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:30: **Plenary session: Multi country Youth Employment Initiatives**

Facilitator: **Mr. H.-Bernard Solignac-Lecompte**
Head - Africa, Europe & the Middle East region, OCDE

- Speakers:**
- Dr. Amadou B. DIALLO,** Senior The AUC-AfDB-ECA-ILO joint initiative on youth
Economist - Human Dev. employment in Africa
Department, AfDB
 - Ms. Marie-Josée Fortin,** Education for Employment: Lessons from
Director - International training for employment and self-employment
Partnership Programs, from 36 different institutional partnerships in
Association of Canadian Senegal, Tanzania and Mozambique
Community Colleges
 - Mr. Steve Cumming,** Program Lessons from the *Economic Opportunities for*
Manager, Youth Learning |The *Youth Strategy*
MasterCard Foundation
 - Mr. Mamadou Biteye,** The “DigitalJobs Africa” initiative:
Managing Director - Africa Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco,
Regional Office, The Nigeria, and South Africa
Rockefeller Foundation

18:30 – 21:00: **Dinner**

Facilitator: **Mr. Mamadou Biteye,** Managing Director - Africa Regional The Rockefeller
Office Foundation

Keynote Speaker: **Prof. Aly Mbaye,** Dean, and professor of Economics, Cheikh UCAD
Anta Diop University

Day 2: January 29, 2014

9:00 – 10:30: Parallel Sessions 2 Session A : Countries Perspectives

Chair: **Dr. Zuzana Brixiova:** Advisor to the Chief Economist and V.-P, AfDB

- Speakers :**
- **Dr. Damien Lankoande,** *Paper* Burkina Faso
Director of research, CEDRES
 - **Dr. Rosemary Atieno** *Addressing the challenge of youth unemployment in Kenya* Kenya
 - **Prof. Kate Philip,** Advisor to the South African President on Short Term Strategies for Job Creation and Sector specialist at the Trade and Industrial Policy Secretariat (TIPS) – Think Tank Policy experience from South Africa South Africa

Parallel Sessions 2 Session B : Countries Perspectives

Chair: **Mr. Samson Bel-Aube Nougbohoue**
Statistician, Department of Economic Affairs, AUC

- Speakers:**
- **Dr. William Baah Boateng,** *Paper* Ghana
Advisor - Minister of Labour & International Institute for the Advanced Study of Cultures, Institutions and Economic Enterprise
 - **Mrs. Guiomar Alonso,** Head of the Culture Division at UNESCO Dakar *Report / UNESCO* Africa
 - **Prof. Colman Titus Msoka,** Deputy Director, Institute of Development Studies, University of Dar es Salaam *Urban street vending, youth employment and the informal economy* Tanzania

10:30 – 11:00:

Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00 **Ministerial Panel : *Policy coordination and youth employment in Africa*****Facilitator:** **Mr. Seydou Sissouma:** Commissioner for Human Development – WAEMU

- Speakers:**
- **H.E Mr. Moussa DOSSO,** Minister of State, Minister of Employment, Social Affairs, and Vocational Training Panel Ivory Coast
 - **H.E Mr Benoît SAMBOU,** Minister of Youth , Employment and the promotion of Civic Values Panel Senegal
 - **H.E. Mr Basga Emile DIALLA,** Minister of Youth, Vocational Training and Employment Panel Burkina Faso
 - **H.E. Mr. Alassane SOUMANOU,** Minister for Secondary Education, Technical and Vocational Training, Retraining and Integration of Young Panel Benin

13:00 – 14:00: **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:30 **Parallel Sessions 3** **Session A : *Youth employment in agriculture*****Facilitator:** **Mr. Seyni HAMADOU:** Director – Agriculture, WAEMU

- Speakers:**
- **Dr. S. Mbowa,** EPRC *Opportunities for youth in the agricultural value chain in Uganda: The case for coffee and Maize* Uganda
 - **Prof. K. Gyimah-Brempong** IFPRI Program Leader & University of South Florida *Agricultural Transformation and Youth Employment in Africa* Nigeria
 - **Dr. Sanginga Nteranya,** Directeur - International Institute of Tropical Agriculture The Agripreneurs’s Initiative Nigeria
 - **Mr. Ehud Gachugu,** Director, *Youth Empowerment Project* Policy Experience from Kenya Kenya

Parallel Sessions 3

Session B : Countries Perspectives

Chair: **Prof. Vimal Ranchhod:** Associate professor, Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit - SALDRU

- Speakers:**
- **Dr. Kasirye Ibrahim, EPRC** *Gender and youth employment in Rwanda* Rwanda
 - **Mr. Cheikh Baye BEDDY,** *Expériences des politiques publiques, programmes et mesures en faveur de l'emploi des jeunes en Mauritanie* Mauritania
Dep. Coordinator of MCPA
 - **Mr. Girum Abebe Tefera,** Policy Experience Ethiopia
EDRI
 - **Dr. Stijn Broecke** Directorate *Tackling graduate unemployment in North Africa through employment subsidies: A look at the SIVP programme in Tunisia* Tunisia
for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

15:30 – 16:00:

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30: **Plenary Session** *Regional organisations & youth employment in Africa*

Facilitator: **Prof. K. Gyimah-Brempong**

- Speakers:**
- **Prof. Mthuli Ncube** AfDB
Chief Economist & Vice President
 - **Dr Rene N'Guettia Kouassi** AUC
Director of Economic Affairs
 - **Dr. Felix Nzue,** Programmes ECOWAS
Director, Unit of Economic Policy Analysis
 - **Mr. Amadou Tchambou,** WAEMU
Social Affairs Officer

18:30 – 21:00:

Dinner

Facilitator: **Dr. Flaubert Mbiekop** IDRC
Senior Program Officer

Keynote Speaker: **Prof. Mustapha Nabli,** Expert - Former Governor Central Bank of Tunisia & MENA Chief Economist and Director of the Social and Economic Development Group (The W.B.) Economic Research Forum

Day 3: January 30, 2014

9:00 – 10:30: **Panel 2 : Data, strategic research to policy planning and youth employment in Africa**

Facilitator: **Dr. William Baah Boateng**
Expert, University of Ghana – Legon

Speakers :

- **Prof. Mwangi S. Kimenyi** Director - Africa Growth Initiative The Brookings Institution
- **Dr. Louise Fox** Expert - Former WB Lead Economist, Africa region World Bank
- **Dr. Amadou B. Diallo** Senior Economist & Coordinator for the Joint Initiative on Youth Employment AfDB
- **Mr. Alexandre Kolev** Head - Social Cohesion Unit OECD
- **Mr. Henri-Bernard Solignac-Lecompte** Head- Africa Europe & the Middle East OECD

10:30 – 11:00: **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30: **Parallel Sessions 4** **Session A : Countries Perspectives**

Chair: **Prof. Kouakou Kouadio Clément**
Centre for Micro-Economic Development Research, Université Felix Houphouët Boigny

Speakers :

- **Prof. Massa Coulibally**, Executive Director, GREAT *Paper* Mali
- **Mr Momar Sylla**, ANSD *Paper* Senegal
- **Dr. Y. Benabdallah** *Youth employment in Algeria: a critical look at current policies* Algeria
- **Dr. Gemma Ahaibwe**, EPRC *Creating Youth Employment through Entrepreneurship: The Uganda Youth Venture Capital Fund* Uganda

Parallel Sessions 4

Session B : Countries Perspectives

- Chair:** Mr. Alexandre Kolev: Head - Social Cohesion Unit, OECD
- Speakers :**
- **Dr. Dickson Malunda**, IPAR *Innovative Approaches to Incorporating Youths into Labour Markets in East Africa* Ruanda
 - **Dr. Zuzana Brixiova**, AfDB and IZA *Youth Entrepreneurship in Swaziland: Policy Analysis and Evidence from Swaziland* Swaziland
 - **Mr. Aboubacar IDANI**, National coordinator, Special program of job creation for young people and women, PSCE/JF Policy Experience Burkina Faso

Parallel Sessions 4

Session C

Window on Agriculture

- Chair:** Dr Papa Abdoulaye SECK
Minister of Agriculture and Rural equipment Senegal
- Speakers:**
- **FAO – Rome** Policy Experience Africa
 - **FIDA** Policy Experience Africa
 - **Dr. Marie-Cecile Thirion**, AFD Policy Experience Africa
 - **Prof. Bruno Losch**, CIRAD Wining the employment challenge in Africa: The key role of Agriculture Africa
 - **Mr. Thierno BA**, Directeur - PRODAM Youth Insertion in rural areas : Policy Experience Senegal

12:30 – 14:00:

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

Parallel Sessions 5

Session A : PEP-Sponsored

- Chair:** Dr. Marie-Cecile Thirion
Agence Française de Développement
- Speakers:**
- **Dr. Adama Ouattara** *The link between education and the labor market (using a CGE model)* Burkina Faso

- **Dr. Daniel Joloba** *Beyond Technical Skills Training: The impact of Credit Counselling on Entrepreneurial Behaviour of Ugandan Youth* Uganda
- **Prof. Joseph François Cabral** *The Cartography of youth employment in Senegal* Senegal

Parallel Sessions 5

Session B : Countries Perspectives

Facilitator: **Mr. Dossina Yeo:** Sen. Officer, Economic Policies, Research & Statistics
Department of Economic Affairs, AUC

- Speakers:**
- **Pr. Kouakou Kouadio Clément**, CRMD, Université Felix Houphouët Boigny *Effects of active employment policies on the life of urban youth unemployment Cote d'Ivoire* Côte d'Ivoire
 - **Mr. Ouissem Ghorbel**, CEO, NUMU Consulting Field experience *MENA*
 - **Mr. Beit Allah Ahmed Leswed**, General Manager, ANAPEJ Policy Experience Mauritania
 - **Mr. Mamadou Biteye**, Managing Director, The Rockefeller Foundation - Africa Regional Office Field experience : The "DigitalJobs Africa" initiative Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, and South Africa

15:30 – 16:00:

Coffee Break

16:00 – 18:00

Closing Plenary Session

16:00 – 16:45:

Keynote Presentation

Dr. Louise Fox

Expert - Former Lead Economist / The World Bank, Africa region

Youth Employment in Africa
(World Bank Report – Forthcoming)

16:45 – 18:00:

Closing Panel

What are the lessons learned for the Conference of Ministers of Labor of the African Union?

Facilitator: **Dr. Bekele Shiferaw**
Executive Director - Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP)

Speakers :

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| • Dr Rene N’Guettia KOUASSI | Director of Economic Affairs | African Union Commission |
| • Prof. Mary Tew Niane Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research | Government of Senegal | Senegal |
| • Mme. Josephine Mwuese Washima | Special Adviser to the President of the Republic of Nigeria on employment | The Republic of Nigeria |
| • Prof. Mustapha Nabli | Expert – Former Chief Economist, Middle East and North Africa and Head of Group Economic and Social Development | Economic Research Forum Board Member |
| • Mr. Alexandre Kolev | Director, Unit for Social Cohesion | OECD |
| • Mr. Henri-Bernard Solignac-Lecompte | Unit Chief, Africa, Europe & Middle East | OECD |
| • Dr. Arjan de Haan | Head, SIG Program Leader | IDRC |

18:30

**FAREWELL COCKTAIL & CONFERENCE END
with
HE Mr. Benoit SAMBOU Minister of Youth, Employment and
the Promotion of Civic Values (Senegal)**

ACRONYMS

| | |
|------------------|--|
| ADB / BAD | African Development Bank / Banque Africaine de Développement |
| ANAPEJ | The National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment |
| ANEJ | The National Agency for Youth Employment |
| ANSD | National Agency of Statistics and Demography |
| AUC / AUC | African Union Commission / Commission of the African Union |
| CEDAR | Centre for Studies, Documentation and Economic and Social Research |
| CSEA | Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa |
| ECA | Economic Commission for Africa |
| EDRI | Ethiopian Development Research Institute |
| EPRC | Economic Policy Research Center |
| GREAT | Research Group Theoretical and Applied Economics |
| IDRC | International Development Research Centre |
| IEA | Institute of Economic Affairs |
| IIAS | Institute for the Advanced Study of Cultures, Institutions and Economic Enterprise |
| IPAR | Institute of Policy Analysis and Research |
| IREEP | Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy |
| PARIS21 | Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century |
| PSCE / JF | Special Program of Job Creation for Young People and Women |
| SALDRU | Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit |
| SIG / CPT | Supporting Inclusive Growth / Croissance Pour Tous |
| TIPS | Trade and Industrial Policy Secretariat |
| UCAC | Catholic University of Central Africa |
| UCAD | University Cheikh Anta Diop |
| WAEMU | West African Economic and Monetary Union |
| WB/BM | World Bank / Banque Mondiale |