



top stories

## Ongoing PEP call for proposals!

### PAGE II - Round 2

The Call for Proposals for the second funding round of PEP's PAGE II program is now open. Funded by UK Aid and the IDRC of Canada, the PAGE II program aims to **support high quality research, capacity development, and policy engagement for growth and employment in developing countries: PAGE II (2016-2020).**

The deadline to submit your proposal is **September 13**. [Find out more](#), including [how to apply](#).

### The 2017 PEP Annual Conference was held June 8-14 in Nairobi, Kenya

The 2017 PEP Annual Conference in Kenya brought together around 150 researchers, practitioners, international experts, representatives of donor and international organizations, and policy actors from 39 countries, for a highly successful event. This year's conference corresponded with the launch of the first round of the [PAGE II](#) program. PEP invited 33 shortlisted research teams to present their project proposals for discussion and feedback prior to final selection. [Find out more](#)

As well as these presentations, several other activities were held over the seven-day conference including a series of intensive training workshops for PAGE II applicants and a field visit to a CBMS project site. The event culminated on June 14 with **high-level policy and research forums**. Find out more below in the [Conferences](#) section.



### The 2016 PEP Annual Report is available online

The report presents a review of PEP activities and achievements in 2016. The report includes a look back over the first [PAGE](#) program (completed at the end of 2016), reviewing key findings and highlighting impact stories. It also provides an overview of [PAGE II](#), setting out the new features of the Grant Plus program.

[Download it here](#)

### Follow us on:



## 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 PEP's various research and capacity building initiatives. These projects address a wide range of policy and welfare issues. A few examples are provided below. A full list, based on projects supported under the [PAGE](#) and other initiatives, can be found here: [Recent policy findings from PEP-supported projects in developing countries](#)

### Nigeria

#### PAGE – The impact of an unconditional non-contributory cash transfer scheme on the wellbeing of the elderly



In Ekiti State, Nigeria, the first locally-funded social security scheme for the elderly was implemented between 2012 and 2014. An unconditional, non-contributory pension scheme was targeted at elderly citizens of the State living in poor households and not receiving any pensions. In collaboration with the implementation agency, a team of local PEP researchers set out to examine the impact of the scheme on the well-being of the beneficiaries, focusing on quality of life and household vulnerability. Based on the first follow-up survey, the team's analysis indicates that the cash transfer scheme improved the well-being of both the beneficiaries and their households. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications: [Working paper 2016-21](#) | [Policy brief 171](#)

Research team: [Damilola Olajide](#) | [Adaku Ezeibe](#) | [Florence Adebayo](#) | [Kafilah Gold](#) | [Olufunke Olufemi](#)

### Cambodia

#### PAGE – Impact of microcredit borrowing on wellbeing



Microcredit has been a key component of Cambodia's post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation. Proponents of microcredit argue that microfinance institutions (MFIs) enable rural populations to access financial services that would otherwise be unavailable. Critics of the system accuse MFIs of charging above-market interest rates and implementing profit-oriented repayment policies. A team of local PEP researchers set out to investigate the impact of microcredit borrowing on wellbeing in Cambodia. The research team's findings indicate that access to credit significantly improves wellbeing outcomes for borrowing households in comparison with non-borrowing households. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications: [Working paper 2017-17](#) | [Policy brief 167](#)

Research team: [Vathana Roth](#) | [Bopharath Sry](#) | [Dorina Pon](#) | [Dalis Phann](#)

### Ethiopia

#### PAGE – The role of micro and small enterprises in reducing unemployment and poverty



In Ethiopia the micro and small enterprise (MSE) sector is under-developed. Furthermore, many MSEs are run by women. Recently, the Ethiopian government designed policies to create employment opportunities for three million people through MSEs. As such, a team of local PEP researchers set out to investigate the potential contributions of the MSE sector to the Ethiopian economy. Their findings indicate that the MSE sector has the potential to support the Ethiopian economy in achieving its development goals and to reduce unemployment and poverty, the best results will be achieved by focusing efforts on high value-added industries and female-oriented MSEs, respectively. Find out more about the research methods, findings and policy recommendations in the following PEP publications:

Reports and publications: [Working paper 2017-18](#) | [Policy brief 165](#)

Research team: [Ermas Engida](#) | [Feiruz Yimer](#) | [Ibrahim Worku Hassen](#) | [Mekdim Regassa](#) | [Saba Yifredew](#)

### conferences

#### 2017 PEP Annual Conference

The 2017 PEP Annual Conference, held in Nairobi, Kenya from June 8 to 14, was both a major PEP event and a highlight for the organization. Over the seven days, the 150 conference participants took part in a number of activities including training, peer review, debates and exchanges.

## Training and peer review

A key part of PEP's mission is to increase the technical knowledge and ability of developing country researchers. As such, PEP provided a series of intensive training workshops on the different research methods, techniques, and tools for shortlisted PAGE II researchers.

These sessions included training in:

- CGE modelling and the PEP models
- Power calculations, randomization schemes, and stratification
- Quantile regressions and heterogeneous effects
- Using the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling System
- Scientific writing
- Policy engagement

Following the training sessions, the 33 shortlisted research teams presented their proposals for peer discussion and feedback before final selection.

## CBMS field visit

On June 9, shortlisted researchers for Community-Based Monitory System (CBMS) projects visited the site of a successful PAGE I project in Muthithi Location. Applicant teams saw how the Kenyan team trained local health visitors to be enumerators. The enumerators shared their experience of using Android tablets to collect data. [Find out more](#)

## High level Policy and Research Forums

The conference concluded with a day dedicated to discussing key issues for development policy research. On June 14, researchers, international experts, stakeholders, donors, and decision makers attended two sessions:

**Policy Forum** *Promoting youth and female entrepreneurship: Evidence-based policy options*

**Research Forum** *Gender analysis in economic policy research*

Officially opened by Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, this event was widely publicized through the national media, as well as by IDRC, an organizing partner of the conference. A live audio stream of the event was broadcast through the PEP website while researchers and institutions joined the discussion on social media.

During the Policy Forum, researchers concluded that the fear of taking formal credit—often due to lack of information—insufficient business training, and structural discrimination are the key issues inhibiting youth and female entrepreneurship in developing countries.

The question of how to produce gender-sensitive research, including how to recognize structural discrimination, was discussed during the Research Forum. The discussions showed that research without gender analysis is not gender neutral but gender blind. Recognizing the challenge of accurately analyzing gender issues, the panel offered concrete advice to researchers on how to incorporate meaningful gender analysis in their work.

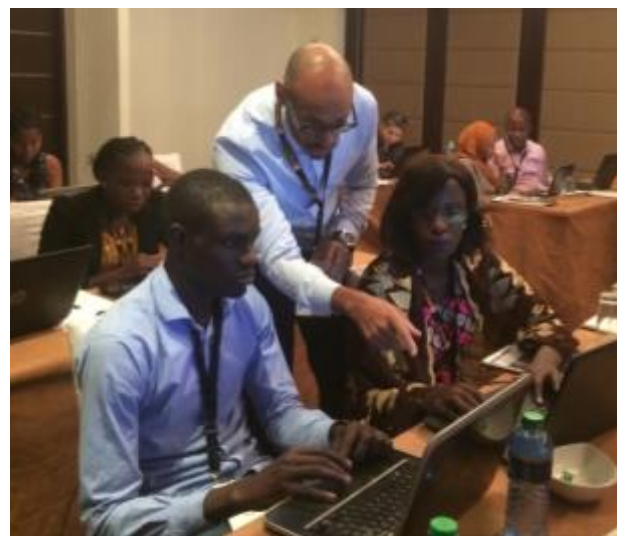
[Read more about the discussions and conclusions from the Policy and Research Forums.](#)

## 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. In some cases, PEP awards special grants to support their travel and participation.*

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

- Centre for the Study of African Economics (CSAE) Conference 2017 in the United Kingdom, March 19-21, 2017  
"Locus of Control and Technology Adoption in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Ethiopia"  
"The Impact of Agriculture Technology Adoption on Farmers' Welfare in Uganda and Tanzania"
- 91<sup>st</sup> Agricultural Economics Society Conference in Ireland, April 24-26, 2017  
"Does gender matter in adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies? A case of push-pull technology in Kenya."



## other pep news

**PEP Executive Director presents PEP's unique model for capacity building and policy outreach strategy** at CGIAR Conference in Nairobi, Kenya [Read more](#)

**Africa's Lions** – A new book coedited by PEP Board member, Haroon Bhorat, examines the economic growth experiences of six fast-growing or economically dominant African countries. [Read more](#)

**"Dekoler" la Guyane** – Two PEP-affiliated researchers published a research proposal aiming to identify how French Guiana's space industry can contribute to the country's development. [Read more](#) (French)

**PEP researcher awarded Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Education grant** for her research proposal on "Education-job mismatch and employment outcomes of youth in Kyrgyzstan" [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 papers and briefs published by PEP since the last issue of PEP-talk (April 2017)

## working papers

**Monetary and multidimensional child poverty: Why they differ**

By Paola Ballon, John Cockburn, Sylvain Dessy, Setou Diarra (WP 2016-29)

**Heterogeneity in survey response according to gender: A survey experiment in rural India**

By Maria Laura Alzua, Maria Adelaida Lopera Baena (WP 2017-20)

**The effects of minimum wages on labor market and income distribution in Kenya: A CGE analysis**

By Tabitha Mwangi, Florence Simiyu, Lulit Mitik Beyene, Albert Onderi (WP 2017-21)

## CBMS papers

**Role of education in encouraging youth employment and entrepreneurship, Philippines**

By John Paolo Rivera, Brian Gozun (CBMS 2016-19)

**The impact of remittances on youth's human resource development, employment, and entrepreneurship: Evidence from the Philippine CBMS Data**

By Werner Hernani-Limarino, Sherli Mamani (CBMS 2016-20)

**Determining the credit risk factors in accessing debt financing for entrepreneurial activities, Philippines**

By Werner Hernani-Limarino, Sherli Mamani (CBMS 2016-21)

Find all PEP working papers [here](#)

## policy briefs

### Policy brief 173

Strengthening Social Protection in the Informal Sector through CBMS: Case of the Communes of Diébougou (Province of Bougouriba), Koper (Province of Ioba) and To (Province of Sissili) in **Burkina Faso**

By Omer Combarry, Michel Kone, Prosper Somda, Lassina Konaté, Ouedraogo Jeannette, Samandoulgou Rasmata

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
Preference for women but less preference for indigenous women: A lab-field experiment of loan discrimination in a developing economy	Review of Economic Analysis <i>Forthcoming</i>	Gabriela Aguilera-Lizarazu, Andrea Rojas-Hosse, Patricia Aranda Blanco, Rolando Gonzales
Growth and employment impacts of public economic infrastructure investment in South Africa: A dynamic CGE analysis	Journal of Economic and Financial Sciences <i>Forthcoming</i>	Vandudzai Mbanda, Margaret Chitiga
Education Language and Youth Entrepreneurship in Chad	Journal of Development Studies 2017, Vol. 53 (8): 1178-1193 <a href="#">Online</a>	Yogo Urbain Thierry, Douzounet Mallaye, Abdelkrim Araar

## Recent journal publications by PEP resource persons and staff

Title of article	Journal and references (links)	Authors
Comparison of fiscal system progressivity over time: theory and application in Mexico	Estudios Económicos, El Colegio de México, Centro de Estudios Económicos Vol 31 (1) : 3-45	Luis Huesca Reynoso. <a href="#">Abdelkrim Araar</a>
The Standard GTAP Model, Version 7	Journal of Global Economic Analysis 2017, Vol 2 (1): 1-119	<a href="#">Erwin L. Corong</a> , <a href="#">Thomas W. Hertel</a> , <a href="#">Robert McDougall</a> , <a href="#">Marinos E. Tsigas</a> , <a href="#">Dominique van der Mensbrugge</a>
A Proximity-based approach to labor mobility in CGE models with an application to Sub-Saharan Africa	Journal of Global Economic Analysis 2017, Vol 2 (1): 120-165	<a href="#">Hans Lofgren</a> , <a href="#">Martin Cicowiez</a>
A conceptual framework for integrated economic-environmental modelling	Journal of Environment & Development Vol 25 (3): 276-305	<a href="#">Onil Banerjee</a> , <a href="#">Martin Cicowiez</a> , <a href="#">Renato Vargas</a> , <a href="#">Mark Horridge</a> .
An Integrated Model for Evaluating Investments in Cultural Heritage Tourism in the Dominican Republic	Tourism Economics <i>Forthcoming but available <a href="#">online</a></i>	<a href="#">Onil Banerjee</a> , <a href="#">Martin Henseler</a> , <a href="#">Hélène Maisonnave</a> , <a href="#">Lulit Mitik Beyene</a> , <a href="#">Mercedes Velasco</a>
Export taxes, world prices, and poverty in Argentina: a dynamic CGE-microsimulation analysis	International Journal of Microsimulation Vol 9 (1): 24-54	<a href="#">Martin Cicowiez</a> , <a href="#">Javier Alejo</a> , <a href="#">Luciano Di Gresia</a> , <a href="#">Sergio Olivieri</a> and <a href="#">Ana Pacheco</a>
Economics of tourism investment in data scarce countries.	Annals of Tourism Research Vol 60 (September): 115-138	<a href="#">Onil Banerjee</a> , <a href="#">Martin Cicowiez</a> , <a href="#">Jamie Cotta</a>
<i>Crecimiento argentino en el largo plazo: un modelo intertemporal y una agenda empírica</i>	<i>Desarrollo Económico</i> Vol 55 (Enero-Abril): 359-386	<a href="#">P. Ruben Mercado</a> . <a href="#">Martin Cicowiez</a>
Multiple Policy Instruments for Sustainable Water Management in Crop Production - A Modeling Study for the Chinese Aksu-Tarim Region	<i>Ecological Economics</i> Vol 135 (May 2017): 42-54	<a href="#">Til Feike</a> , <a href="#">Martin Henseler</a>
Quality Standards, Industry Structure and Welfare in a Global Economy	<i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i> Vol 98 (5): 1432-1449	<a href="#">Carl Gaigné</a> et <a href="#">Bruno Larue</a>
On the Number and Heterogeneity of Bidders in Livestock Auctions	<i>Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics</i> Vol 64 (2): 289-310	<a href="#">Bruno Larue</a> , <a href="#">Sébastien Pouliot</a> , <a href="#">Mohamed Jeddy</a>
Is Consumption Efficiency Within Households Falsifiable?	Review of Economics of the Household <i>Forthcoming but available <a href="#">online</a></i>	<a href="#">Anyck Dauphin</a> , <a href="#">Bernard Fortin</a> , <a href="#">Guy Lacroix</a>
Current Account Balances, Exchange Rates, and Fundamental Properties of Walrasian CGE World Models: A Pedagogical Exposition	Journal of Global Economic Analysis 2017, Vol 2 (1): 215-324	<a href="#">André Lemelin</a>

## Recent books and book chapters published by PEP resource persons and staff

Title of book and references	Title of chapter(s)	Chapter authors
The Quest for Subsidies Reforms in the Middle East and North Africa Region: A Microsimulation Approach to Policy Making Springer International Publishing, 2017 Verne, P., <a href="#">Araar, A.</a> (eds.)	A Comparative Analysis of Subsidies and Subsidy Reforms in the Middle East and North Africa Region  The Quest for Subsidy Reforms in Libya	<a href="#">Abdelkrim Araar</a>
<i>Infraestructura y equidad Vol. II: México y la Alianza del Pacífico</i> Confederación Andina de Fomento (CAF) and CISOE, 2016	All	<a href="#">Cecilia López Montaña</a> , <a href="#">Martin Cicowiez</a> and <a href="#">Antonio Yúnez Naude</a>
Better policy through natural capital accounting: stock take and ways forward Washington DC: WAVES World Bank, 2017 Vardon, M., Bass, S., Ruijs, A. & Ahlroth, S. (eds.)	Assessing strategies to achieving the SDGs: an integrated economic-environmental modelling approach  The Integrated Economic-Environmental Modelling platform: an application to Guatemala's fuelwood and forestry sector	<a href="#">Onil Banerjee</a> , <a href="#">Martin Cicowiez</a> , <a href="#">Renato Vargas</a> and <a href="#">Mark Horridge</a> .

Find previous issues of the PEP-talk here: [PEP newsletters](#)To contact PEP secretariat, please email us at [info@pep-net.org](mailto: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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