



top stories

29 new PEP project teams selected for support under the PAGE II initiative

PEP is pleased to announce that **29 projects in 22 countries** have been selected for support under the first round of PEP's **PAGE II (2016-2020)** initiative, supported by UK Aid (DFID) and Canada's IDRC.

From gender pay gaps and gender disparities to food security and the MSME sectors, the selected projects investigate various aspects of the PAGE II priority themes, aiming to address country-relevant knowledge gaps for inclusive growth and employment policies. [Find out more](#)



PEP Online Training Program: Applied Development Economics

PEP is offering three online distance-learning courses in Applied Development Economics, in collaboration with Université Laval in Canada, from January to March, 2018. **Register by November 30, 2017** to participate in the courses on Policy Impact Analysis, Computable General Equilibrium Modelling, and Measuring and Alleviating Poverty and Inequality. [Find out more](#)



New PEP impact story from Mongolia

A new PEP impact brief tells the story of how the findings and new expertise of PEP-supported local researchers in Mongolia have informed national policy debates and decisions, and raised the research team to the role of national experts in experimental research methods. [Find out more](#)

14th CBMS Philippines National Conference announced

The 14th CBMS Philippines National Conference will gather partners and stakeholders to discuss current developments, findings, and best practices on the implementation and uses of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS). The conference will be held in March 2018 in Manila, the Philippines. [Find out more](#) about the call for papers (deadline November 15) and registration.

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, and their findings are summarized here: [Recent policy findings from PEP-supported projects in developing countries](#)

PAGE I

Policy Analysis on Growth & Employment – 2012-2016

Overview of findings from projects supported by PEP in developing countries around the world under the first phase of the PAGE initiative from 2012 to 2016.



PAGE 2012-2016 supported **274 local researchers** as they completed **65 projects** in **34 countries** (45% low-income, fragile or conflict states). Projects investigated local questions relating to global priority issues, in direct consultation or collaboration with policy stakeholders. Findings from 1 in 3 projects have already been taken up to inform relevant policy processes.

Following the conclusion of the initiative, a number of themes have emerged from PAGE project findings that traverse various countries. These have been summarized through a series of articles published since June 2017, listed below. Click the titles to read the full articles.

Introducing a minimum wage can improve well-being

Advocates of a national minimum wage say it can help create a more equitable society by shrinking the wage gap of low-paid workers, while opponents argue that companies will hire fewer low-skilled workers resulting in increased unemployment. Findings from PAGE projects in Argentina, Ecuador, Cameroon, Bolivia, and Kenya indicate that **setting or raising the minimum wage can have positive income and well-being effects**, provided it is managed appropriately.



Why youth become entrepreneurs

A common strategy for reducing youth unemployment is promoting youth entrepreneurship. However, this requires a clear understanding of the many reasons why young people decide to start their own business. PEP-PAGE projects in Bangladesh, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Argentina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Macedonia, investigated the **factors that encourage youth entrepreneurship**.



Supporting female entrepreneurship to reduce poverty

A number of PAGE projects found that **microfinance for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) reduces poverty**. In the cases of Bolivia, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, there were also significant positive implications for women's empowerment. However, this was not found to be the case in Bangladesh.

How migration and remittances affect welfare and employment at home

Many households in developing countries rely on remittances from family members who have migrated to find work. A number of PEP projects under the PAGE initiative focus on the impact of migration and remittances on welfare and employment. Projects from Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, and Senegal show that **the effects of remittances are not necessarily predictable**.



Managing the mining industry to help reduce poverty

With many developing countries economically dependent on mining, revenue distribution and international market fluctuations can have widespread and varied effects. PAGE projects in Niger, Mongolia, Colombia, and Burkina Faso **investigated the impact of extractive industries on their respective economies**.



Social protection for the informal sector

PAGE projects in Togo, Burkina Faso and Bolivia investigated different aspects of **how the informal sector populations in each country protect themselves against shocks such as accidents and illness**, as well as planning for old age. In each of these countries, the majority of the labor force works in the informal sector and receives no social protection from their employer or the state.

Cash transfers reduce poverty and improve well-being

Multiple developing country governments have developed cash transfer schemes, both conditional and unconditional, as a means of offering social protection. PAGE projects in Nigeria, Argentina, and Serbia investigated how cash transfer schemes can be adapted to provide social protection to vulnerable populations in their respective countries and contexts. The findings from all the studies indicate that **cash transfers can successfully reduce poverty and increase well-being**.



conferences

International conference presentations

In acknowledgment of their expertise, many PEP researchers, resource persons, and staff are invited to present their work at international academic and policy conferences around the world. In some cases, PEP awards special grants to support the travel and participation of PEP researchers.

July 6, 2017 – Nairobi, Kenya

CGIAR-SPIA conference

"Impacts of international agricultural research: Rigorous evidence for policy"

PEP Executive Director, Prof. Jane Mariara presented PEP's capacity building strategy for policy-engaged research to over 180 delegates. [Find out more](#)



July 30 to August 1, 2017 – Chicago, USA

2017 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting

Dr Nkechi Owoo, a PEP-supported STAARS fellow, presented her research on food insecurity in Nigeria at the 2017 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting in Chicago, USA. The project looks at child nutrition in monogamous and polygynous households. [Find out more](#)



October 4-7, 2017 – Richmond, VA, USA

Eighth Annual Conference on Business and Entrepreneurship in Africa

Dr Abdoulaye Seck presented his conclusions regarding "Evidence-based policy options for promoting youth and female entrepreneurship." Dr Seck's paper draws on findings from eight PEP-PAGE projects, including his own, to highlight ongoing knowledge gaps and recommended policy options. [Find out more](#)



October 19-20, 2017 – Washington D.C., USA

3rd IZA/DFID GLM-LIC Research Conference

"New Research on Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries"

PEP Executive Director, Prof Jane Mariara, and PEP PMMA Research Director, Luca Tiberti, presented research findings on the effects of different factors on education and employment among young people in Kenya and Madagascar, respectively. [Find out more](#)

October 23-25, 2017 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2017 Putting Children First conference

"Identifying solutions and taking action to tackle poverty and inequality in Africa"

PEP Executive Director, Prof Jane Mariara, made a keynote speech on "Identifying poor children: who and where they are" during the first plenary session at the Putting Children First conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. [Find out more](#)

Upcoming events

PEP-PRESM workshops: How access to modern avocado markets can be expanded to benefit farmers and exporters

November 23, 2017 – Thika, Kenya

Knowledge-sharing workshop

November 24, 2017 – Nairobi, Kenya

Scientific Dissemination workshop

other pep news

New microsimulation toolkit for distributive analysis developed by PEP resource persons and now available to download for free from the PEP website. [Read more](#)

PEP Board member, Nora Lustig, appointed LACEA President Emeritus. [Read more](#)

PEP Research Director, Maria Laura Alzua, appointed Deputy Director of CEDLAS. [Read more](#)

Happy 15th Anniversary PEP – Celebrating 15 years of building local capacity in developing countries, we review PEP's achievements. [Read more](#)



The September 2017 issue of the **CBMS Network Update** is now available online, featuring the following articles:

- Link between Youth Unemployment and Vulnerability in Tanzania
- 14th CBMS Philippines National Conference in March 2018
- PAGE II CBMS Country Project Teams Set for a Study Visit to the Philippines in November
- CBMS Network Conducts Training to Help Fight Child Labor in the Philippines (see related [PEP news article](#))
- CBMS Uganda facilitates validation meetings in Katakwi District

[Download the newsletter here](#)

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 (July 2017)

working papers

Peer effects and risk-taking among entrepreneurs: Lab-in-the-field evidence

By Maria Adelaida Lopera Baena, Steeve Marchand (WP 2017-21)

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

By Tabitha Mwangi, Florence Nelima Simiyu, Lulit Mitik Beyene, Albert Onderi (WP 2017-22)

Now available in English:

Impact of mining and oil boom on the labour market and economic development in Niger

By Saadatou Sangare Alkassoum, Hamadou Daouda Youssoufou, Mamane Boukari, Fatimata Ousseini Falalou (WP 2015-04)

The Impact of Trade Reforms on Employment and Welfare in ECOWAS Countries: The Case of Senegal

By Sokhna Diarra Mboup, Racky Baldé, Thierno Malick Diallo, Christian Arnault Emini (WP 2016-26)

Find all PEP working papers [here](#)

policy briefs

Policy brief 174 Minimum wage raises contribute to rural-urban inequality in **Kenya**

By Tabitha Mwangi, Florence Nelima Simiyu, Lulit Mitik Beyene, Albert Onderi

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
Remittances and labor supply of the left-behind youth: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan	Asian and Pacific Migration Journal, 2017, Vol. 26 (3): 352-380 Online	Jorge Dávalos, Kamalbek Karymshakov, Burulcha Sulaimanova, and Raziakhan Abdieva

Recent journal publications by PEP resource persons and staff

Title of article	Journal and references (links)	Authors
The effect of education on teenage fertility: causal evidence for Argentina	IZA Journal of Migration and Development 2017, Vol 7 (1): 7 Online	María Laura Alzúa and Cecilia Velázquez
Community-level sanitation coverage is more strongly associated with child growth and household drinking water quality than access to a private toilet in rural Mali	Environmental Science and Technology 2017 Jun 20;51(12): 7219-7227 Online	Michael Harris, María Laura Alzúa , Nicolas Osbert and Amy Pickering
Measuring the Multiplier Effects of Tourism industry to the Economy	Advances in Management and Applied Economics 2017, Vol 7 (2) : 123-157 Online	Sébastien Mathouraparsad , Alain Maurin and Jean-Gabriel Montauban
A comparative analysis of economies of the French overseas department through the social accounting matrices	Revue d'Economie Régionale et Urbaine <i>Forthcoming</i>	Sébastien Mathouraparsad and Bernard Decaluwé
Robust Linear Static Panel Data Models Using Epsilon-Contamination	Journal of Econometrics <i>Forthcoming</i>	Badi Baltagi, Georges Bresson, Anoop Chaturvedi and Guy Lacroix



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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