Happy New Year 2015!!

At the onset of 2015, the PEP team sends to all its friends, colleagues and followers its warmest greetings and best wishes for the new year. We also take the opportunity to thank you for your continued interest and participation in the fulfillment of the PEP mission! 2014 was, in particular, a year of major advances for PEP, especially in terms of institutional development - PAGE Initiative.

PEP publishes the findings and outcomes of projects led by local research teams in developing countries, which have been selected and supported through its various research and capacity building initiatives. These projects address a wide range of policy and welfare issues in various countries. A few examples are provided below, but more can be found here: Recent policy findings from PEP researchers in developing countries.

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Policy findings

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Macedonia

PAGE – Youth self-employment in households receiving remittances in Macedonia

Selected for support under the PEP initiative for “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE), in 2013, this team of local researchers in Macedonia sought to explore whether remittances may be used to support the entrepreneurial activities of unemployed youth living in recipient households. Results from their analysis show, among other things, that youth living in households receiving remittances have 28% to 33% higher probability to establish their own business than the non-youth non-receiving counterparts. This initiative emerges from two main observations: while low job creation and the persistently high youth unemployment rate (around 50%) are some of the most important socio-economic problems in Macedonia, remittance inflows represent, in average, about 4% of the country’s GDP - the usage of which, however, remains largely unknown. Find out all about the research methods and findings through the following PEP publications:

- Emmanuel O. Nwosu, Working paper 2014-05
- Anthony Ori, Slide presentation
- Chionga Mojaoko-Bezaid, Working paper 2014-08
- Maja Nestorovska, Working paper 2014-09
- Marjan Petreski, Working paper 2014-08
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- More about the PAGE initiative

Nigeria

PAGE – Is there discrimination against female entrepreneurs in formal credit markets in Nigeria?

Contrary to the results of other recent studies, this PEP-supported local research team - selected for support under the PEP initiative for “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE), in 2013 - did not find evidence of significant discrimination against women in formal credit markets in Nigeria. However, results from their analysis show that micro/small enterprises are significantly more “credit-constrained” relative to medium enterprises. And the fact that women entrepreneurs are mostly involved in small and micro ventures suggests that access to formal credit is, nonetheless, a big constraint to the growth of women enterprises at that level. This analysis was conducted using data from the 2010 World Bank Investment Climate Survey, conducted among Nigerian enterprises (sample of 1,390 firms). Find out more through the following PEP publications:

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Current initiatives and collaborations

These are some of the ongoing PEP research, capacity building and/or special collaboration initiatives.

- “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE)” - co-funded by DFID (or UK Aid) and the IDRC.
- “Productive employment in the segmented market of fresh produce” – PEP-led consortium, and funded by IFC/IFC.
- “Long-term partnership to support UNICEF’s work on social policy and social protection reform in the MENA region” - with UNICEF-MENA (Middle East and North Africa)
- “Strengthening local capacity in the construction and simulation of a CGE model for the economy of Chad” – PEP Chad-UNDP

PEP has also recently been commissioned to lead the following projects:

- “Water resources development, poverty, shared prosperity, and climate resilience in coastal region of Kenya: exploring the linkages and pathways” - supported by the World Bank.
- “Foresight for food and nutritional security – modeling the long-term economy-wide effects of policy and technological change for maize and wheat” (countries under study include India, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Kenya) - supported by CGIAR/ENVIM.

Training and workshops

As the core component of PEP’s mission is to build/strengthen local research capacities in the South, the organization of intensive training workshops has been part of its regular set of activities since its creation in 2002. “PEP Schools” offer personalized training, provided by world leading experts, in a variety of cutting-edge research methodologies, tools and concepts of development economics, to help local researchers in developing countries contribute to the design of effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies.

special greetings and head news

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Through its managed’s Grant plus support program, PEP promotes the mobilization and expertise of local researchers 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 debuted by international institutions calling on PEP’s extensive experience to provide scientific support and coordinate activities.

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A team of local researchers in Arkansas present and discuss their findings on the impacts of national trade policies on welfare and the labor market.

February 28 – Pnom Penh, Cambodia

PEP welcomes a new senior financial officer, Philip D. Ade, who has taken office on December 1, 2014, based at PEP’s global secretariat in Nairobi (Kenya).

March 9 – Skopje, Macedonia

A team of local researchers in Cambodia present and discuss the results of their PEP-PAGE-supported study, and ensuing policy recommendations, with high-level policy makers (including the Minister of Commerce himself) and representatives from both the public and private sectors. Find out more...

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May 2015 – Nakobi, Kenya

2015 PEP Annual Conference - Description and program are forthcoming.

The following section lists all new papers and briefs published by PEP since the last issue of the PEP-talk in October 2014

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By Emmanuel Nwosu, Anthony Orji, CHIOMA NWANGWU, Vivian Nnetu (WP 2014:08)

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Endogenous Savings Rate with Forward-looking Households in a Recursive Dynamic CGE Model: Application to South Africa

By André Lemaître (WP 2014:06)

Follow PEP’s daily newsletter here.

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 contributions, international conferences, etc...

CCLK HERE to find all related recent news including current funding opportunities with the World Bank and more.

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Find all PEP working papers here.

Policy brief 119: Estimating the effects of migration and remittances on the left-behind in Cambodia

By Yathana Roth, Vutha Hing, Dals Phann and Sreyomom Sum

Policy brief 118: Risk tolerance, gender and entrepreneurship: the Palestinian case

By Fouad Dauou, Shaker Sansour, Ruba Shanti and Sonia Kamal

Policy brief 117: Choice of education language and entrepreneurship in Chad

By Malika Douzouneit, Blanilde Nan-Gue Koulé, Benjamin Forta Koné, Urbain Thierry Yogo and Evidence Tamié Geogar

Policy brief 116: Is there discrimination against female entrepreneurs in formal credit markets in Macedonia?

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