The objective of this study is to analyse the characteristics of minimum wage and income transfer policies implemented in Argentina from 2001 to 2012, as well as to produce evidence regarding the consequences that modifications of these policies have had on the functioning of the labour market, with special emphasis on workers in the informal sector. Among other things, the researchers have found that in Argentina, increasing the minimum wage level does not reduce employment, nor increase informality, and that conditional cash transfers do not reduce the economic participation of beneficiaries. Find out more through the following publications and web links:

- Project webpage and video | Working paper 2015-05 | Policy brief 120
- Slide presentation

**Niger**

PAGE – Assessing the impact of oil/mining sector’s boom on labor market and economic development in Niger

This study examines the effects of emigration and remittances on welfare and productivity of left-behind “dependency households” in Cambodia. Through a rigorous analysis of micro data from the 2009 Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey (CSSE). While their results show that emigration and remittances have positive impact on poverty headcount (reduction of 2 to 3%) in the country, the researchers also find that they can, in turn, generate a “dependency effect” among left-behind members, due to a decrease of 5 to 9% in hours worked by (employed) adults – and thus a decrease in total salary earnings – in the migrant-sending household. Find out more through the following PEP publications and web links:

- Project webpage and video | Working paper 2015-06 | Policy brief 119

**Argentina**

PAGE – Social protection to the informal sector in Argentina; the role of minimum wage and income transfer policies

The objective of this study is to analyze the characteristics of minimum wage and income transfer policies implemented in Argentina from 2001 to 2012, as well as to produce evidence regarding the consequences that modifications of these policies have had on the functioning of the labour market, with special emphasis on workers in the informal sector. Among other things, the researchers have found that in Argentina, increasing the minimum wage level does not reduce employment, nor increase informality, and that conditional cash transfers do not reduce the economic participation of beneficiaries. Find out more through the following publications and web links:

- Project webpage and video | Working paper 2015-05 | Policy brief 120
- Slide presentation

**Cambodia**

PAGE – Estimating the effects of migration and remittances on the left-behind in Cambodia

The objective of this study is to examine the effects of emigration and remittances on welfare and productivity of left-behind “dependency households” in Cambodia. Through a rigorous analysis of micro data from the 2009 Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey (CSSE). While their results show that emigration and remittances have positive impact on poverty headcount (reduction of 2 to 3%) in the country, the researchers also find that they can, in turn, generate a “dependency effect” among left-behind members, due to a decrease of 5 to 9% in hours worked by (employed) adults – and thus a decrease in total salary earnings – in the migrant-sending household. Find out more through the following PEP publications and web links:

- Project webpage and video | Working paper 2015-06 | Policy brief 119

**Policy findings**

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

**news and events**

The 2015 PEP Annual Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from April 29 to May 8. Again, in 2015, the PEP Annual Conference has successfully gathered nearly 200 development researchers, practitioners and policymakers, from 43 different countries, to discuss issues of inclusive growth and employment in the developing world. Find out more about the event here.

From the outcomes of the 2015 Conference, PEP also presents:

- a set of recommendations from the PEP Policy Forum, on the theme “Unlocking Africa’s for productive employment and poverty reduction”
- the winners of the 2015 PEP Best Practice Awards, rewarded for their outstanding efforts in linking research results to policy action.

Congratulations to PEP co-founder and lead researcher Jean-Yves Duclos!

Soon after being elected as Canadian MP, Dr. Duclos was recently named Minister of Families, Children and Social Development in the new Liberal majority government of Canada. Find out more.

**current initiatives and collaborations**

Through its mainfsted “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 published by international institutions calling on PEP’s extensive experience to provide scientific support and coordinate activities.

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

- “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE)” – co-funded by DFID for UK Aid and the IDRC
- “Productive employment in the segmented market of fresh produce” – led consortium, and funded by NWO/Wotro
**“Strengthening local capacity in the construction and simulation of a CGE model for the economy of Chad”** - PEP-Chad UNDP

PEP was also awarded support by IDRC to participate in the major international initiative for high quality research and capacity building on **“Structural Transformation on African Agriculture and Rural Spaces”** [STAAARS]

PEP has also 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 Workbook**
- “Forsight 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 CGE/ShimMYT

**February 2-4, 2015 – Manila, Philippines**

**11th CBMS Philippines National Conference:** “Transforming communities through more responsive national and local budgets”

The 2013 edition of this annual event was attended by 750 participants — including local chief executives, local development planners, officials and representatives of national government agencies, NGOs and the academia — to discuss recent developments on the implementation and uses of the community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) in the Philippines. This year’s event featured, in particular, presentations and discussions on the uses of CBMs for grassroots participatory budgeting process, disaster risk reduction management, climate change adaptation, local poverty reduction action planning, local programming and project prioritization, impact-monitoring and improving local governance. **Find out more about the event**

**Pep findings were also presented at the following international events:**

- **Annual Meeting of the Asociacion Argentina de Economia Politica** in Argentina, on November 11-13
- **2015 Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) Meeting** in Bolivia (special PEP session), on October 15-17
- **Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet)** Conference 2015 in Germany, on October 8-9
- **VI Simposio Internacional de Administracion** in Mexico, on October 6-8
- **11th DYNARE Conference** in Belgium, on September 28-29
- **International Conference on Eurasian Economies** in Russia, on September 9-11
- **5th World Congress of the International Microsimulation Association (IMA)** in Luxembourg, on September 2-4
- **6th Meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Equality (ECONEQ)** in Luxembourg, on July 13-15
- **DIAL Development Conference in France**, on July 3-4
- **Canadian Economic Association (CEA) meeting** (special PEP session) in Toronto, on May 30

**World Demographic and Ageing Forum (WDA)** in Boston, on April 13-14

**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
  - **Upcoming events**
  - **Related research opportunities with the AAAE and the World Bank**

**March 11, 2015 – Abuja, Nigeria**

**PEP-PAGE national policy conference:** “How formal credit markets discriminate small and female entrepreneurs? A team of local researchers in Nigeria presents and discusses the results of their PEP-PAGE-supported study, and ensuing policy recommendations, with high-level policy makers, advisors and other stakeholders at the national level. **Find out more**

**Upcoming events**

- **December 11, 2015 – N Djamena, Chad**
  - PEP-PAGE national policy conference: “Education language choice and youth entrepreneurship in Chad”

- **February 2-6, 2016 – Manila, Philippines**
  - 12th CBMS-Philippines National Conference: “Pursuing meaningful devolution through CBMS” — **find out more**

- **June 6-10, 2016 – Manila, Philippines**
  - 2016 PEP Annual Conference and 13th general meeting — see previous editions

- **PEP findings will also be presented at the following international events:**
  - **International Association for Research in Income and Wealth - Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (IARIW-CAPMAS)** Conference in Egypt, on November 23-25
  - **Evaluation Conference 2015 in Nepal**, on November 23-27
  - **Structural Transformation on African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS)** Conference in Ethiopia, on December 4-5

**Related news and papers**

**PEP is seeking a Senior Programme Officer, to be based at the PEP Secretariat in Nairobi — Clicking for applications now! find out more if you wish to apply**

**New training material on CGE model classes now available for researchers. Read more...**

**New issues of the CBMS network news update, featuring articles about:**

- **March 2015:** the 11th CBMS Philippines National Conference, PEP-CBMS School on Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP), outcomes from CBMS research work in Argentina and the Philippines. **Download it here**
- **June 2015:** outcomes of CBMS research work in Bolivia, use of CBMs data in the Philippines, conference presentations and award nominations of CBMS researchers. **Download it here**

**Inside news:** the global staff team of the PEP Secretariat, with members based in Africa, Asia, Latin and North America, held a teleconference meeting on November 5 to share ideas and discuss strategic developments in PEP, as well as the program of activities for 2016. The staff meeting will become a regular feature to enhance efficiency in coordinating global activities.

The following section lists all new papers and briefs published by PEP since the last issue of the LPE-Talk in January 2015

**Female entrepreneurship, access to credit and firms’ performance in Senegal**

By Abdoulaye Seck, Fatoumata L. Diallo, Forty A. Fall, Karamoko Camara and Ndeye K. Mouhamed Diop (WP 2015-14)