



## **PEGNet Newsletter 44**

Dear PEGNet Friends and Colleagues,

we hope you are doing good and staying healthy. In this newsletter, we would like to announce the postponement of the this year's conference, to introduce our PEGNet Early Career Mentoring, to announce the latest PEGNet Policy Briefs and Policy Study and to draw your attention to an interesting review on our last PEGNet Online Conference on "Climate risks and policies" by our media partner E+Z/D+C. As always, you can also read about the latest research, events or other news of the PEG Network.

If you have any comments, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us via [pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de).

Enjoy the read!

Best wishes,

the PEGNet Team

*Past editions of our newsletter are available in the [PEGNet Newsletter Archive](#).*

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## **Postponement of PEGNet Conference 2021**

Due to the rise of COVID infections in Uganda and further uncertainties about the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, we regret to announce that we have to postpone our PEGNet Conference on "**Addressing fragility and conflict in developing countries**", previously planned for September 2021, again to 2022. If the COVID regulations allow, we consider to host a smaller workshop format for students in Uganda together with the **Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC)**. We regret this development but remain excited about the opportunity to partner with EPRC as we prepare for the conference to take place in Kampala next year. We will keep you updated on the new date of our conference.



## **PEGNet Early Career Mentoring**

After successfully organizing the PhD workshop at the PEGNet online conference in March 2021, the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network decided to continue to support young researchers by creating an Early Career Mentoring Program. The program aims to accompany young researchers from developing countries for one year and to support them in their research and in developing a network for their professional career. Therefore, the young researchers are assigned to a senior researcher (mentor) from the [Kiel Institute for the World Economy \(IfW\)](#) who will be the main contact person during the program. Last week, the PEGNet Early Career Mentoring started with kick-off meetings that aimed at setting the goals for the mentoring program and identifying the individual needs of the three excellent mentees. We are very happy to announce that **Miriam Muhome Matita** who is doing her PhD in Economics at the University of Malawi, **Dede W. A. Gafa** who recently completed her PhD in Development Economics at the University of Ghana, and **Peter Babayenda** who is doing his PhD in Economics at the University of Nairobi will be the first mentees of the PEGNet Early Career Mentoring.

## **PEGNet Policy Study Is production in global value chains (GVCs) sustainable?**

Sustainability in global value chains (GVCs) hinges on the interplay between specialization, scale, and efficiency effects. The latest PEGNet Policy Study written by Michele Delera (United Nations University, UNU-MERIT) reviews different strands of literature which provide evidence on these channels. This evidence suggests that the sustainability impacts of GVCs are ambiguous. Learn more by reading the latest Policy Study on "Is production in global value chains (GVCs) sustainable? A review of the empirical evidence on social and environmental sustainability in GVCs" which you can find on our website.



[Read More](#)

## PEGNet Policy Brief

### Four reasons why analysis of economic policy and religion go hand-in-hand in sub-Saharan Africa



Religion is not the focus of many policy minded economists studying sub-Saharan Africa; yet, there are important overlaps. The economics of religion is a growing sub-field which provides new tools and theories to explore the ways religious beliefs and practices affect economic outcomes. The 23rd PEGNet Policy Brief written by **Amma Panin** (University of Louvain) aims to convince of the importance of the overlap between religion and policy in sub-Saharan Africa by highlighting recent advances in how economists study religion, with results that touch on institutions, beliefs and governance. Please find the policy brief attached and on our [website](#).

[Read More](#)

## PEGNet Policy Brief

### Africa's female entrepreneurs – towards funding success

Opportunities for well-paid employment for women are scarce in many African countries. Entrepreneurship is therefore one way in which women can earn a decent livelihood for themselves and their families. Despite the potential opportunities arising from entrepreneurship, the possibilities are often not fully exploited. Female entrepreneurs in the developing world are severely underperforming. In the latest policy brief "*Africa's Female Entrepreneurs – Towards Funding Success*" by **Aoife Hanley** (IfW, Kiel Centre for Globalization), **Holger Görg** (IfW, Kiel Centre for Globalization), **Cecilia Hornok** (IfW) and **Charles Ackah** (University of Ghana), the authors examine the scale of the gender productivity gap in African countries and how finance constraints underpin this gap.



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## Review of the PEGNet Online Conference 2021 D+C Development and Cooperation



Our media partner [D+C/E+Z](#) published an interesting review on the PEGNet Online Conference 2021 on "**Climate risks and policies - Towards resilient low-carbon economies**" that took place this March. In her article on "*A carbon tax should promote redistribution*", **Katja Dombrowski** states that many experts think that carbon pricing makes sense for developing countries in particular but that one main focus has to be the protection of the poor from its potential negative consequences. **Sabine Balk** summarizes the health impacts of climate change that were discussed in the session on Climate Change and Health in her article "*More malaria and infectious diseases*". Please find the whole D+C issue on [Climate Action](#) and all other previously published D+C issues on the magazine's website at <https://www.dandc.eu/en/archive>. D+C/E+Z is an independent forum for development debate that publishes six print issues per year which are also available online. If you professionally work or volunteer in global-development related areas, you can order a print subscription free of charge at <https://www.dandc.eu/en/dc-subscription>. Students as well get a free subscription for one year.

[Learn More](#)

## News from the network

### ETH-NADEL

#### Tune in to the ETH-NADEL podcast "1.90 pro Tag"

Rethinking international cooperation: In this podcast series (in German), ETH-NADEL alumni discuss current challenges and new ideas in global sustainable development. In the latest episode, host Fritz Brugger talks with Raphael Schilling, an expert in sustainable food procurement, about the complexity of global value chains and ecological and social challenges linked to agricultural production. Earlier episodes have dealt with migration and working in crisis areas, startups and local development or climate, poverty and justice. "1.90 pro Tag" is available on all popular podcast platforms and at [nadel.ethz.ch/podcast](https://nadel.ethz.ch/podcast)



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### 3D Seminar Blended Finance in Development Cooperation

The next session of the [Digital Development Dialogue \(3D\) Seminar](#) takes place on **July 29, 2021** (from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm) and will host **Johanna Richter** (DEval) and **Sarah Hessel** (Finance in Motion), who will discuss "*Blended Finance in Development Cooperation: Can it deliver Impact and Returns?*". The 3D seminar is a monthly 45-minute online forum for policy and research exchange which is held on Zoom. Please subscribe to the [newsletter](#) to receive the Zoom link and all instructions to participate. The lectures are organized by Göttingen's Chair of Development Economics (Prof. Dr. Andreas Fuchs/ Dr. Sarah Langlotz/ Dr. Lennart Kaplan) together with several German partner organizations from development practice and research, including PEGNet.



[Register here](#)

### EADI EADI ISS Conference 2021 & 17th Development Dialogue

On July 5-8, the EADI ISS Conference 2021 on "**Solidarity, Peace and Social Justice**" will take place. Visit EADI's website to [learn more](#). Alongside the conference, the **17th Development Dialogue** (ISS PhD Conference) on "Engaged Scholarship for Development: Building Solidarity, Peace and Social Justice" is taking place. The Development Dialogue (DD) conference is a yearly initiative organized by PhD researchers of ISS.



[Learn More](#)

### IFPRI Global Food Policy Report on Transforming Food Systems After COVID-19

IFPRI recently published its Global Food Policy Report on **Transforming Food Systems After COVID-19**. Please find more information at <https://gfpr.ifpri.info/>.

[Read More](#)

### GIZ Acceleration programs work

Start-up accelerators are effective for supporting high-growth ventures, shows a report by the Global Accelerator Learning Initiative (GALI) supported by the GIZ Sector Project on Sustainable Economic Development. The report uses data from 23,000 companies, with a particular focus on low- and middle-income countries. Accelerators help young companies grow in a variety of ways. They provide ventures with seed capital, mentor them, or help them pitch to a broader network. But they even do more, shows the report: Application processes for accelerators are competitive. Hence, they usually select only high-potential ventures, providing an important market signal of their quality. On average, accelerated ventures increase revenues, number of employees, and outside investment by greater margins than those that applied but were rejected.

[Read the report](#)

### Women's Financial Inclusion Toolkit



Women's financial inclusion significantly contributes to women's economic empowerment and gender equality. Even though global financial inclusion rates have continuously improved over the recent decade, the gender gap in financial inclusion has stubbornly remained constant. The reasons for this range from legal obstacles and financial products that are not very much geared towards the needs of women to restrictive social norms. To navigate and address these barriers, the new Women's Financial Inclusion Toolkit provides

practitioners working in developing countries with an overview of women's financial inclusion in the topics of project scoping, design, implementation, and impact measurement.

[Access the toolkit](#)

### Global effort will make language technology accessible to over 100 million people in East Africa

The increasing use of voice-enabled products and services is an ongoing trend that will have a lasting impact on the way we communicate with machines. To date, none of the commercial voice assistants support a single African language. Mozilla's Common Voice aims to make language data in Kiswahili available as a digital public good for local innovation across the East African region. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has been working with Mozilla as a strategic partner since 2019. This is implemented through the FAIR Forward project, with numerous other partners on board.



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### Skills development in the Indian Platform Economy

The report “Skills for the Planetary Labour Market: Indian Workers in the Platform Economy” conducted by the Fairwork foundation and funded by GIZ sheds light on how Indian cloudworkers perceive and expand their skills portfolios in relation to their platform work, and unveils how governmental, private and third-sector skills training approaches need to be adapted to meet their needs. The study additionally traces how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Indian cloudworkers and the cloudwork landscape.

[Report](#)

### UNESCO-UNEVOC releases interactive Guide to promote entrepreneurial learning

The UNESCO-UNEVOC launched an interactive online guide to help Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions introduce and mainstream entrepreneurial learning. The interactive guide allows TVET institutions to understand what really drives entrepreneurial learning, offers ideas for innovative approaches, case studies and tools for reflection and group discussions.

[Access the interactive guide](#)

### KfW Development Bank Prize for Excellence in Applied Development Research

On June 17, [KfW Development Bank](#) and the [Research Group on Development Economics of the German Economic Association](#) jointly awarded the [prize for excellence and applied development research](#) for the twelfth time. It was awarded to three scientists whose doctoral theses combine academic excellence and practical relevance in an outstanding way. The virtual award ceremony took place at the [German Development Economics Conference](#).

The first prize was awarded to **Simon Heß** from the University of Frankfurt for his work on the effectiveness of community-driven development (CDD) projects. Heß shows that CDD projects in the Gambia lead to a decrease in social interactions and informal exchange among community members. The members of the prize committee were impressed by the outstanding methodological quality and plurality of this dissertation. The anthropologist **Sabrina Maurus** of the University of Bayreuth received the second prize. Her work describes and analyses in an impressive depth how the national policy of compulsory-schooling threatens the agro-pastoral way of life of societies and how this leads to conflict in Hamar region in South-West Ethiopia. The third prize went to **Selina Bezzola** who received her PhD from the Eth Zurich. Her dissertation studies the motives behind and consequences of corporate social responsibility (CSR) measures of private mining companies in Africa. Her work shows that the provision of social infrastructure and services as well as other CSR measures by private actors can undermine the trust of the population in the capabilities and legitimacy of the state.

[Read more](#)

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