



## PEGNet Newsletter Volume 35

Welcome to the PEGNet Newsletter. We would like to provide you with information on the latest developments at our partner institutes. Past editions are available online: [PEGNet Newsletter Archive](#).

### PEGNet Conference 2018

PEGNet Conference 2018 took place in Cotonou, Benin on 11-12 October. Researchers, policy makers and practitioners presented their work and discussed how the quality of education and learning outcomes in developing countries can be improved. The conference was attended by close to 190 participants, half of whom were from Benin. The remaining half of the conference participants travelled from other African countries, Europe and the Americas. Many lively discussions ensued from the diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the participants.

The two keynote speeches at the conference were given by Professors Modibo Sidibe from Duke University and Felipe Barrera-Osorio from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The **Conference Program** provides an overview of the program and short biographies of the plenary speakers. The papers presented in the parallel sessions as well as a selection of photos and the feedback is available on the [PEGNet website](#).

The tenth PEGNet Best Practice Award was awarded to the project 'Building State Capacity: Evidence from Biometric Smartcards in India'. Michael Kaiser from the Munich Graduate School of Economics at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich received the Best Practice Award on behalf of all researchers involved in the project. The Prize was presented by Ambassador Achim Tröster, who is the German Ambassador to Benin. The project demonstrated excellent cooperation between researchers from the University of California- San Diego, the University of Virginia and the state Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) in India.



Moreover, Luciane Lenz from the RWI was granted the second PEGNet Best Poster Award for her poster titled 'Are stoves the only way forward? Evaluating the relationship between the cooking energy system and household air pollution'.

As per tradition, the fees that were paid by participants attending the conference dinner will be donated. This year a total of 885 Euros were collected for the dinner. Part of these proceeds will be donated to Caritas Benin; the remainder will be used granted as a Fellowship to enable a promising student from the African School of Economics to attend the PEGNet Conference 2019.

[More information](#)

### PEGNet Methodological workshop

As part of PEGNet's capacity building program, two methodological workshops were held in Benin after the PEGNet Conference 2018.

Manfred Wiebelt from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, offered a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modeling workshop titled 'Policy-oriented Economic Modeling'. This training was held at the Ministry of Finance in Benin and was geared towards improving the modeling capabilities of desk economists working in various capacities at the ministry.

The second workshop was held at the African School of Economics in Abomey-Calavi and consisted of lectures on Structural Modeling, Big Data Analysis in Economics, and on Institutions and Networks that were given by Modibo Sidibe (Duke University), and Daniel Ahelegbey (African School of Economics)

respectively. The workshop was attended by close to forty graduate students and pre-doctoral fellows enrolled at the African School of Economics.

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## Save the Date: PEGNet Conference 2019



The next **PEGNet Conference** will take place on September 9-10, 2019 at the Gustav- Stresemann Institute in Bonn, Germany. The conference will be organized in cooperation with German Development Institute (DIE) and the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn (ZEF). The conference will be supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, and the KfW German Development Bank.

The plenary discussions at the conference will focus on how social protection can be used to promote social, economic and socio-political development. The conference theme and call for papers for the scientific sessions will be announced at the beginning of 2019.



[More information](#)

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## New PEGNet Policy Brief

The 14th PEGNet Policy Brief titled '**Pre-departure policies for migrants' origin countries**' has been authored by **Toman Barsbai** who is a Senior Researcher at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy and a Reader at the University of St Andrews.



The author argues that, international migration has the potential to generate large benefits for migrants and for their family members left behind. However he points out that, migrants may also face the risk of exploitation since their socio-economic integration in destination countries is often imperfect. The author recommends that policy makers in migrants' origin countries should consider policies that increase the benefits of international migration. Policy interventions like pre-departure orientation seminars and financial education can be a cost effective means of improving migrant's decision-making and of reducing mistreatment.

Previous editions of the PEGNet Policy Brief are available [here](#). Authors who are interested in contributing to the PEGNet Policy Brief series are invited to contact the PEGNet Team: [pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de).

[More Information](#)

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## PEGNet Expert Meeting on the effects of Social Cash Transfers



The next **PEGNet Expert Meeting** will take place on 7th November in Bonn, Germany. The meeting has been organized by the German Development Institute (DIE) and the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI).

The theme of the Expert Meeting will be '**Effects of social cash transfers on the different dimensions of poverty (income, education, health, nutrition and other)**'.

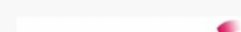
The meeting (i) shall provide participants with an overview on the empirical evidence that we have so far on the effects of different kinds of social cash transfers schemes on the multiple dimensions of poverty at least. (ii) It provides an opportunity for policy makers and researchers to discuss what kind of social cash transfer scheme are best at reducing different dimensions of poverty. Moreover, it(iii) will provide room for all participants to develop a common understanding of the implications of the existing empirical evidence for future policy making.



[More information](#)

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## Vacancy at DIE



The German Development Institute (DIE) is looking for a **Research**

**Fellow** to work on the project 'Green Economic Policy' which falls under the research program 'Transformation of Economic and Social Systems'. The research fellow is expected to commence employment by January, 1st 2019.

The Fellow will be tasked with working on the transformation of national and international financial systems with regard to economic, social and ecological sustainability policies introduced by the Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030. The main focus of the position is to conduct research on innovative instruments, regulations and policies for green investments and on environment damaging investments. Furthermore, the Research Fellow will be expected to independently conduct excellent research and formulate policy advice.

[More information](#)

## International conference on Green transformation and competitive advantages: Evidence from developing countries, 18-19 June 2018, Bonn



The conference on **Green transformation and competitive advantages: Evidence from developing countries** was held on 18 to 19, June 2018 in Bonn, Germany. It resulted in the networking and exchange of researchers and practitioners from industrial, emerging and developing countries in the field of 'green transformation'. The interdisciplinary conference focused on three

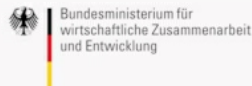
topics: 1) green technologies and competitive advantages, 2) national green strategies and the pioneering advantage, and 3) green commerce and global value chains. It was organized by the German Development Institute (DIE), the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) and GIZ - on behalf of the BMZ. Attention was paid to good contributions from China to green change. Selected contributions to the conference will subsequently be published in a special volume. For more details contact alexandra.oppermann@giz.de.

## Annual Meeting of the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED)

From June 5 to 8, 2018, the Mastercard Foundation in Toronto hosted the annual **DCED Annual Meeting**. Founded in 1979, the DCED is the donor committee for private sector development in the EZ. It aims to strengthen broad-based economic growth in partner countries through private sector development. The working groups discussed last year's results as well as work plans for the coming



year, exchanged views on youth employment in Africa and developed possible solutions regarding digitization-changing development paths and challenges. The donors reported on developments in their organizations, elected the executive committee and approved the work plans. The results and presentations of the annual conference are online. For more details contact Stefanie.Springorum@giz.de



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