



### **PEGNet Newsletter Volume 38**

Dear PEGNet Friends and Colleagues,

We are very excited to share our latest news from our network with you in this newsletter! A lot has happened since our last newsletter in early April. Most excitingly, we are quickly approaching our Annual Conference: This year's PEGNet conference with the theme "Promoting social, economic and socio-political development through social protection" is taking place on 9-10 September 2019 in Bonn, Germany – find out more below and make sure to register!

In this issue, you can also read about news of the PEGNet Network, including research publications and announcements of trainings offered by our partner organisations KfW Development Bank, German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) and the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). If you would like to write anything for our next newsletter, promote a project or event that you have been working on or simply write an article about what is going on in your institution or field of research/work, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us via. [pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de)! We wish you an inspiring read!

Best wishes,

The PEGNet Team

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

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter and the PEGNet policy briefs please send an Email to [adresspfl egeteam@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:adresspfl egeteam@ifw-kiel.de) indicating "PEGNet Newsletter unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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### **News from PEGNet**

#### **Updates on the PEGNet Conference 2019**

##### **Conference Registration**

Registration is now open for the PEGNet Conference 2019 on "Promoting social, economic and socio-political development through social protection" which will take place from 9th to 10th September 2019 at the Gustav-Stresemann Institute in Bonn, Germany. The conference will be organised jointly with the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) and the Center for Development Research (ZEF) which is linked to the University of Bonn. Social protection is a key instrument for fostering social, economic and political development. The PEGNet Conference 2019 will provide a platform for leading development scholars, practitioners and policy-makers to reflect on the determinants, elements, impacts and linkages of effective social protection schemes. Join this year's PEGNet conference and register here: <https://forms.gle/ZcxT5btcRZ698J78A>.



##### **Result of Our Call for Papers**



Out of more than 230 abstract submissions, we have selected the best for paper and for poster presentations at the PEGNet Conference 2019. The papers will be presented and discussed in parallel sessions held on both conference days. For the first time, there will be a poster award that will be granted to the three posters that best respond to the following criteria: scientific quality, visualisation and legibility as well as presentation of results. The authors of the three winning posters will be awarded with prize money of 500, 300 or 150 EUR, respectively. More information on the conference is available on our website: <https://www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de/conferences/promoting-social-economic-and-socio-political-development-through-social-protection/>. The conference programme will be uploaded on our website shortly.

##### **Nominees for the Best Practice Award 2019**

Once a year, the PEGNet Best Practice Award of 3,000 EUR is granted to a programme, project or initiative which has achieved effective cooperation between research and practice. Out of a total of 21 submissions, the evaluation committee consisting of experts from IfW, GIZ, DIE and ZEF has nominated the following three projects for the PEGNet Best Practice Award 2019:



- **Rural Financial Intermediation and Agricultural Investment in Zambia** - Project Team: P. Linh Nguyen (University of Mannheim), Michael Mbulo (RUFEP - Rural Finance Expansion Programme Zambia), and Prof. Dr. Markus Frölich (University of Mannheim)



- **Adoption and Impact of Solar Lighting in Rural Kenya** - Project Team: Dr. Adina Rom (ETH Zurich), Kat Harrison (Solar Aid and Acumen Fund), Dr. Prof. Isabel Günther (ETH Zurich), Yael Borofsky (ETH Zurich), and Charles Amuku (Innovations for Poverty Action Kenya)

- **Using Administrative Data for Impact Evaluations in Informal Labor Markets - Evidence from a Skill Training Program in Serbia** - Project Team: Jonathan Stöterau (RWI Essen - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, Humboldt University of Berlin), Prof. Dr. Jochen Kluge (RWI Essen - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, Humboldt University of Berlin), and Dr. Lara Lebedinski (University of Belgrade)

The final decision on the award winning project will be made on site at the PEGNet conference on Tuesday, 10th September 2019. For the first time, the audience will vote and decide on the final winner after listening to the three project presentations.

[More information](#)

## Now Published: Policy Brief on Special Economic Zones – An Effective Instrument for Growth in Africa?

Special Economic Zones (SEZs), or free zones, are an increasingly popular policy instrument aimed at attracting investment and inducing structural change. They are geographically defined areas designated by the government where regulations are designed to be more favorable to business than at the national level. The main goals of the creation of SEZs are, inter alia, the facilitation of foreign direct investments, the diversification of exports, and the creation of job opportunities. However, do SEZs meet those expectations and can they therefore be seen as an effective instrument for growth?



The 16th PEGNet Policy Brief titled "Special Economic Zones – An effective instrument for growth in Africa?" examines this question with a particular focus on Africa. The Policy Brief that has been authored by Saskia Mölsle who researches at IfW Kiel and University of Kiel is now available on our website at the following link: <https://www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de/policy-briefs/special-economic-zones-an-effective-instrument-for-growth-in-africa-13107>. Are you interested in contributing to the PEGNet Policy Brief Series by sharing a summary of your research? If yes, please contact us via email to [pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de). Previous editions of the PEGNet Policy Brief are available here: <https://www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de/policy-briefs/>.

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## PEGNet Presentation at the "Afrikatag Kiel" (Africa Day Kiel)



On 25 May 2019, PEGNet's research assistants, Anika Schumann and Julia Steinhauer, gave a presentation on "What is PEGNet? Examples of research and engagement against poverty" at the Afrikatag Kiel (Africa Day Kiel) (<https://www.bei-sh.org/veranstaltungsinfos/bildungsfestival-afrikatage-kiel-2019>) organised by BEI – Bündnis Eine Welt Schleswig-Holstein (<https://www.bei-sh.org/startseite>). In the audience there were several representatives from NGOs working on development cooperation who had valuable questions and inputs for a lively discussion which followed the talk. The event held at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (CAU) was open to the general public, including groups, individuals and companies with an interest in the topic of development policy. The educative festival aimed at showing that development cooperation is no longer just about financial support, but above all about sustainable ideas that help people overcome obstacles, empower themselves or advocate fair distribution. To this end, the programme featured North-South education on the topic of "Bridges between the Worlds" in addition to cultural a selected cultural programme.

[More information](#)

## News of the Network

### Apply Now for the EADI Mentoring Programme



Pursuing a career in academia can be challenging. Young scholars have to deal with a number of questions and uncertainties concerning research work, career planning and personal life such as publishing strategies, the importance of conferences and presentation of own research, finding entry points for building own networks, life-work balance and many more. The European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) mentoring programme "Develop Your Talents" aims to match young / early career researchers pursuing a career in academia to experienced scholars to provide one-to-one guidance and support. EADI particularly welcomes female researchers to take part in the programme. The call for the 2020 mentoring programme is open until 30 September

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### Call for papers for a workshop on “Social protection for social cohesion” on 4-5 December 2019 at DIE-GDI in Bonn, Germany

The primary objective of social protection, especially in low- and middle-income countries, is to tackle poverty and vulnerability. In addition, it is often argued that social protection schemes or systems have the potentiality to achieve other objectives such as empowering vulnerable groups, incentivizing beneficiaries to engage in more remunerative economic activities, and promoting social cohesion.

Social cohesion can be defined as “both, the vertical and the horizontal relations among members of society and the state as characterized by a set of attitudes and norms that includes trust, an inclusive identity, and cooperation for the common good”.

With regard to social cohesion, however, the mechanisms through which social protection can generate important benefits are not entirely clear: most of the available conceptual frameworks focus on high-income countries, in particular Scandinavian ones. Moreover, the empirical evidence of the impacts of social protection on social cohesion is extremely scarce. The Workshop taking place at the German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) on 4-5 December 2019 intends to fill this gap. It will bring together researchers from different disciplines to discuss the effects of social protection on social cohesion.

The deadline for abstracts is 12 September 2019. Find out more about the call for abstracts on DIE's website: <https://www.die-gdi.de/en/events/details/social-protection-for-social-cohesion/>.



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### GDI-DIE's New Discussion Paper by Elvis Melia on “The Impact of Information and Communication Technologies on Jobs in Africa”: A Literature Review



In the framework of a cooperation agreement with the Sector Project “Employment Promotion in Development Cooperation” of GIZ, the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) has recently published a Discussion Paper on [“The Impact of Information and Communication Technologies on Jobs in Africa”](#). This paper summarises recent empirical research findings on the impact that information and communication technologies (ICTs) have had on jobs in Africa. The paper discusses various channels in which ICTs can impact jobs: In theory, they have the potential to allow for text-based services platforms that can help farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) become more productive or receive better access to market information; mobile money has the potential to allow the most vulnerable workers more independence and security; and the internet could allow women, in particular, to increase their incomes and independence. Most of the studies reviewed do indeed find positive effects of ICTs on jobs (or related variables). The paper focuses on ICTs in the period of the 2000s and 2010s (essentially mobile phone and internet) and does not cover the much newer, Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies (such as machine learning, block chain technologies, big data analytics, platform economies).

(Text by Natalia Astrin, GIZ)

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### Summary Report: DIE; International Workshop “Employment Creation through Industrial Policy in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Countries” on 21-22 September 2018 in Bonn, Germany



Lack of productive employment is one of the most pressing challenges of countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). No other region in the world has such high rates of unemployment and underemployment. Policy makers across the region are extremely concerned about the problem but have not yet been able to identify an effective strategy to address it. Many academic publications and donor reports focus only on the labour market rather than on what is happening on the production side of the economy. In addition, there is an emerging literature stressing the need of new industrial policies in the MENA region. Very few of these, however, focus on employment creation and promotion as a distinct goal of industrial policies. Therefore, the Sector Project “Employment Promotion in Development Cooperation” of GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) had commissioned the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) to organise an international workshop on these important issues. It brought together international experts for industrial and labour market policies in the MENA region in order to discuss how industrial policies in these countries should look like in order to generate employment that is sustainable, decent and productive. The Summary Report is now available [here](#).

(Text by Natalia Astrin, GIZ)

[More information](#)

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## Award for Excellence in Applied Development Research Bestowed at the Annual Conference of the Research Group on Development Economics

On 13 June 2019, the **Award for Excellence in Applied Development Research** was bestowed during the annual conference of the Research Group on Development Economics of the German Economic Association in Berlin. The prize has been jointly awarded by KfW Development Bank and the Research Group on Development Economics since 2010. It rewards scientifically outstanding and practically relevant research and aims at promoting the dialogue between science and practice.



In his laudatory speech, KfW Executive Board member Dr. Joachim Nagel emphasized that close cooperation between science and practice was necessary to successfully deal with the major development challenges of our time. Researchers can decisively support KfW and other development agencies in their mission to support partner countries in the promotion of sustainable development through practical research findings. The prize is awarded in two categories: "young researcher prize" and the "prize for scientific excellence".

The **prize for scientific excellence** (endowed with 5.000 €) honors an exceptional paper that has been published in a renowned scientific journal. This year, it was granted to Lorenzo Casaburi from the University of Zurich for his paper entitled "Time versus State in Insurance: Experimental Evidence from Contract Farming in Kenya." The paper is co-authored by Jack Willis and published in the American Economic Review.

The **young researcher prize** is awarded for three outstanding dissertations. The **first prize** in this category (endowed with 5.000€) went to **Sarah Langlotz**, University of Heidelberg, for the dissertation entitled "Conflict, Income Shocks, and Foreign Policy: Macro- and Micro-Level Evidence". **Maria-Theres Schuler** from the University of Zurich received the **second prize** (3.000 €) for an ethnographic dissertation on "Disability and Logistics of Distribution in a Ugandan Refugee Settlement." The **third prize** (1.500 €) was awarded to **Valentin Lang** for his dissertation entitled "Political Decisions, Economic Effects: How International Organizations Govern the Globalized Economy". Dr. Lang received his PhD from the University of Heidelberg.

(Text by Sebastian Prediger, KfW)

[More information](#)

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## Cities are engines for growth and progress: KfW presents the 15th Evaluation Report on effectiveness of Financial Cooperation



- Success rate at 77%: nearly four out of five projects are successful
- More than three quarters of projects in Africa are successful
- Growing relevance of small and medium-sized cities in sustainable development

"For greater impact in smaller towns and cities" -this is the title of the 15th biennial Evaluation Report on the effectiveness of Financial Cooperation (FC) with developing countries and emerging economies, recently published by KfW. The impact of the 181 projects supported on behalf of the German

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with a total volume of EUR 2.8 billion (including around EUR 2.3 billion from BMZ funds) was assessed in 2017/2018 by KfW's independent FC Evaluation Unit. Within the sample, which is representative of the total portfolio of completed projects, around 77% of projects were classified as successful. The 15th Evaluation Report focuses on "Intermediary cities: between the metropolis and the hinterland" and shows that the potential of regional and local centres as building blocks in sustainable economic, environmental and social development has been underestimated to date. Support for medium-sized cities in developing countries and emerging economies is becoming even more relevant because, according to forecasts, this type of city – and not megacities – will have to absorb most people as the trend towards urbanisation and rural exodus continues unabated – especially in Asia and Africa. The 15th Evaluation Report can be found at [https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Download-Center/Dokumente-Evaluierung/15\\_Englisch.pdf](https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Download-Center/Dokumente-Evaluierung/15_Englisch.pdf).

(Text by Christian Schönhofen, KfW)

[More information](#)

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## 4th CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum - Building bridges for economic growth

The 4th [CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum](#) is an international trade and business development event hosted by the Caribbean Export Development Agency in collaboration with the European Commission and GIZ. It will take place from the 24th to 26th September 2019 for its first time in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.



The event is designed to connect Caribbean and European businesses whilst facilitating CARIFORUM businesses in the realization of the benefits of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The Forum provides a platform for the private sector in the Caribbean region to identify opportunities for trade, establish networks and alliances, secure market information and gain a better understanding of the business environment in the European Union (EU) – in short, to serve as a platform to do business with the EU. It also seeks to positively impact the business and investment climate in the Caribbean and European regions through discussions amongst business leaders and relevant stakeholders.

The main sectors of focus for this Forum are agro-processed goods, rum, natural ingredients and the cultural and creative industries (music, film and animation). Additionally, the Forum seeks to enable dialogue and build ties

between businesses, with the goal of promoting matchmaking and business opportunities for CARIFORUM and EU firms. The organizers are therefore continuously raising awareness of the Business Forum throughout the private sector in order to attract European buyers and investors to the event. For more information, please contact Maria Krause ([maria.krause@giz.de](mailto:maria.krause@giz.de)) or Sanya Alleyne ([sanya.alleyne@giz.de](mailto:sanya.alleyne@giz.de)).  
(Text by Natalia Astrin, GIZ)

[More information](#)

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### **Job Postings:**

#### **(i) Senior Lecturer in International Development (Emerging Economies)**

The Department of International Development (DID), King's College London, is seeking outstanding candidates for the post of [Senior Lecturer in International Development \(Emerging Economies\)](#). The successful applicant will have demonstrable expertise in theory and research relevant to the area of International Development, and Knowledge / expertise either in 'emerging economy' / middle income countries or in the study of global institutions and networks. The deadline for applications is 25 August 2019.

[More information](#)

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#### **(ii) Associate Professorship of Development Studies**

The Oxford Department of International Development (ODID) seeks applications for an [Associate Professorship of Development Studies](#). This is a full-time position based at Queen Elizabeth House, 3 Mansfield Road, Oxford. The post will be held in association with a non-tutorial fellowship at St Anne's College based on Woodstock Road, Oxford. The deadline for applications is 13 September 2019, before 12 noon (UK Time).

[More information](#)



Media Partner



### **The PEGNet Team** Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network

Kiel Institute for the World Economy  
Kiellinie 66 24105 Kiel, Germany

T +49 431 8814-205

[pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de)  
<https://pegnet.ifw-kiel.de>

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Publisher: Kiel Institute for the World Economy  
Editor: Julia Steinhauer  
Contributors: Anika Schumann (PEGNet), Natalia Astrin (GIZ), Sebastian Prediger (KfW), Christian Schönhofen (KfW)

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