



PEGNet Newsletter Volume 40

Dear PEGNet Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the first PEGNet Newsletter of 2020. We hope you had a good start into the New Year and would like to keep you up-to-date on the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network!

Four months after the last PEGNet conference, the preparations for this year's conference are already in full swing. We introduce the PEGNet Policy Studies which you can now find on our website and share the latest news of the network such as research publications, events, and announcements of our partner organisations.

If you would like to write anything for our next newsletter, promote a research publication or event that you have been working on or simply write an article about what is going on in your institution, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us via pegnet@ifw-kiel.de.

Enjoy the read!

Best wishes,

The PEGNet Team

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

News from PEGNet

Save the Date: PEGNet Conference 2020

Get your calendars ready, we have got some news for you! The **PEGNet Conference 2020** will take place on **10 and 11 September 2020 in Kampala, Uganda**.

The preliminary conference theme is "**Addressing Fragility and Conflict in Developing Countries**".



The conference will be jointly organised with the **Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC)**. The EPRC was established in 1993 and is Uganda's leading think tank in economics and development policy related research and analysis. EPRC's mission is to encourage the role of research in policy practice in order to foster sustainable growth and development in Uganda. The high quality applied research and the practical policy analysis and advice are only some of EPRC's activities. For more information, please visit EPRC's website: <https://www.eprcug.org/>.

The conference will be financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the KfW German Development Bank. Information on the **Keynote Speakers** and **Call for Papers** for the **Best Practice Award** and the presentations in the parallel and poster sessions will soon be available on the [PEGNet website](#).

PEGNet Policy Studies

At the beginning of this year, PEGNet introduced a new publication format on its website. We are happy to present the PEGNet Policy Studies which aim to provide detailed analyses of policies and possible policy solutions on issues regarding the poverty-equity-growth nexus in developing countries. The first two policy studies, which you can already find on our website, were part of the project "Investitionsförderung für Afrika" that has been commissioned by the Sector Project Sustainable Economic Development of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).



POLICY STUDIES

The policy study on "**Identifying priority agricultural value chains in Senegal**" was published by Josée Randriamamonjy (International Food Policy Research Institute), James Thurlow (International Food Policy Research Institute), and Manfred Wiebelt (Kiel Institute for the World Economy). Jann Lay (GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies and University of Goettingen) and Tevin Tafese (GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies and University of Goettingen) published the second policy study on "**Promoting**

[More information](#)

[News of the Network](#)

[Roundtable debate on “Social protection and social cohesion” at DIE](#)

More than 20 researchers from three continents gathered at the German Development Institute (DIE) for a roundtable discussion and a research workshop to discuss **whether and how social protection programmes have an impact on social cohesion**.

Gabriele Köhler (UNRISD) affirmed the question with reference to research on several South Asian countries. Stefan Beierl and Marina Dodlova (University of Passau) reported limited evidence of this finding for public works schemes in Malawi. Markus Loewe and Tina Zintl (DIE), in contrast, presented clear evidence that cash-for-work programmes in Jordan have a positive impact on the relations between Syrian refugees and Jordanian nationals.

Francesco Burchi and Christoph Strupat (DIE), for their part, had not found evidence in Malawi that money transfers improve social cohesion, while participation in savings groups contributed to strengthen in-group trust and cooperation. Elsa Valli (UNICEF Office of Research) stressed, with reference to research on Ecuador, that the design of social protection schemes is decisive for their impact on social cohesion. Rachel Slater (University of Wolverhampton) warned that the withdrawal of a social transfer programme can damage social cohesion far more than its introduction would ever promote it. In addition, she emphasised that the removal of a social transfer scheme can destroy social cohesion much more easily than its launch can ever raise social cohesion. Morteza Ghelich and Ali Akbar Tajmazinani (University of Tehran) provided evidence for the negative effect of social protection spending cuts on social cohesion from Iran. Keetie Roelen noted that, conversely, social cohesion can also have a positive impact on the effectiveness of social protection systems. A matter of discussion has been the definition of the term „social cohesion”, with all participants ultimately agreeing that it has both a horizontal component (intra-society relations) and a vertical component (relations between citizens and the local or state institutions). Daniele Malerba (DIE) emphasized that the effects of social transfers on social cohesion are also important because they may increase the acceptability of climate change mitigation measures.



Text by Markus Loewe, DIE-GDI

[More information](#)

[Fair Work on Digital Platforms](#)

There are now around 70 million of platform workers around the world. The majority of these workers live in low- and middle-income countries. Platform work provides essential income and opportunities to many. However, due to lack of protection in the form of employment law or collective bodies, many platform workers face low pay, precarious job security, and poor and dangerous working conditions. This leaves workers engaged on platforms at substantial risk. These challenges were addressed in a transformative pilot project, supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Fairwork Foundation evaluates the labour conditions of digital platforms in the gig economy, and ranks individual platforms on how well, or how poorly they do. The results of the first year's rankings in India and South Africa, the set of principles of fairness, and the methodology used to evaluate the platforms are now available in the first annual report **“The Five Pillars of the Fairwork: Labour standards in the Platform Economy”**.

Text by Shakhlo Kakharova, GIZ

[Upcoming Conferences & Call for Papers](#)

[“Development Economics and Policy” in Hamburg](#)

The German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), the Kiel Institute (IfW), and the Helmut-Schmidt-University (HSU) jointly organise a conference on **“Development Economics and Policy”** which will take place on **25 and 26 June in Hamburg**. The Keynote Speakers will be **Anandi Mani (Oxford University)** and **Leonard Wantchekon (Princeton University)**. The deadline for submissions is February 15, 2020.

More information

LELAM2020 : “Education and Decent Work for Youth” at ETH Zürich

The KOF Swiss Economic Institute and the NADEL Center for Development and Cooperation are organizing a conference on “**Education and Decent Work for Youth**” which will be held on **4 and 5 June 2020 at ETH Zürich**.

The conference will provide a platform for leading scholars, practitioners and policy-makers to reflect on and discuss the drivers of high quality education and training, as well as improved working conditions, for youth in developing countries. Over two days, the conference will feature three keynote speakers, academic parallel sessions, project presentations from practice, and multiple policy plenary sessions.



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More information

Call for proposals: Challenge sourcing for the next lab of tomorrow process

Are you looking to solve a development challenge? Do you wish to co-create innovative and business-driven solutions for it? Would you like to benefit from an international and interdisciplinary network and partnerships? Are you eager to apply Design Thinking and Business Modelling methods in the development context?

Then send us your **challenge proposal** for the next **lab of tomorrow (lot)** process! Implementing a lab of tomorrow (lot) process will allow you and your partners to:

- Generate innovative and viable business solutions addressing a challenge
- Join forces with like-minded actors with an entrepreneurial spirit from the EU and local emerging markets, from the private sector, but also politics, public sector, civil society and academia
- Benefit from their expertise & ideas, access to markets & technologies as well as available resources.

With the **implementation of holistic and open innovation processes**, the lot supports local and European companies in co-creating innovative businesses in emerging markets. The idea is to identify the business potential of development challenges in order to generate new business solutions with a positive impact on the SDG's. These are developed in an Innovation Workshop and refined during the following Test Phase. The venture teams get support from agile coaches to gear their business model to the actual needs of the users and create an attractive and economic viable chance for investors. As we look to initiate our 10th lot process, we're happy to receive your challenges. Propose it to us at lab-of-tomorrow@giz.de or via our [Website](#).

More information

Publications

GIGA Focus - “Digital Platforms in Africa: the “Uberisation” of Informal Work”

“The ‘Uberisation’ of work – the increasing use of digital platforms by self-employed service providers – is often seen as a pathway into precarious employment in rich countries. In Africa, quite the opposite may be true: the rise of digital platforms offers new opportunities for informal entrepreneurs to become more productive, and eventually formalise.” (Lakemann/Lay 2019).



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In December 2019 Jann Lay (GIGA) and Tabea Lakemann (GIGA) published their paper on “**Digital Platforms in Africa: the ‘Uberisation’ of Informal Work**” in GIGA Focus and would be happy to learn about related research projects in PEGNet member institutions.

More information

RWI - Employment impacts of German development cooperation interventions

The report “**Employment impacts of German development cooperation interventions – A collaborative study in three pilot countries**” of the Leibniz-Institute for Economic Research (RWI) describes the implementation and results of rigorous impact evaluations of employment effects that were



conducted in three GIZ programmes in Jordan, Rwanda and Serbia. The evaluations were carried out as a cooperative effort between the respective projects, the RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research and the Sector Project Employment Promotion in Development Cooperation. The main objective of the pilot projects is to quantify the employment effects achieved ex-post through context-specific evaluation designs.



Text by Laura Nieweler

[More information](#)

Job advertisements & Trainings

Postdoctoral Research Fellow on Ecological-Socioeconomic Trade-Offs

The GIGA seeks to appoint a **Postdoctoral Research Fellow** to work on ecological-socioeconomic trade-offs in different land-use systems. Please find more information [here](#).

Training “Making Trade Work for Development”

The GIZ' sector project on **trade and investment for sustainable development** offers a **four day training course**, to be held from 12 – 15 May 2020 in Hamburg. This course seeks to provide participants with an analytical framework that they can apply in practice. This framework will consider the global level, the country level, and the project level:

- As regards the global level, the course will focus on international trade agreements and the way they influence developing countries' trade policies.
- As regards the country level, the course will look into policies that reduce the time and costs of trade. -
- As regards the project level, the course will give an overview of global initiatives and players which can be important resources and partners for implementing projects on trade and development.

Within this framework, three specific topics will be examined in some more detail: **trade and sustainability, trade facilitation, and non-tariff measures in the agri-food sector**. The course is intended for professionals, either from GIZ or its partner organisations, who work on economic development and have a good understanding of general economic concepts. Requests for registration can be sent to: moritz.hempel@giz.de

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