



## PEGNet Newsletter Volume 41

Dear PEGNet Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the second PEGNet Newsletter of 2020. We hope that you are doing fine in these special and difficult times. A lot has happened since our last newsletter and we would like to keep you up-to-date on the activities in our network.

We would like to inform you that we have decided to **postpone this year's PEGNet conference** due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It was originally scheduled for the 10 and 11 September in Kampala, Uganda, but will now take place the **9 and 10 of September 2021**.

However, there are still some PEGNet events coming up in the near future. We will replace our annual conference with a virtual workshop that will address the policy and research responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Global South. The **workshop** will take place on **September 10 and 11, 2020** and will be co-organized with GIZ and GIGA.

In this newsletter we also introduce the latest PEGNet Policy Briefs and PEGNet Policy Studies. As always, you can also read about the research publications, events and activities of our partner organisations.

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 newsletter!

Best wishes,

The PEGNet Team

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

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## News from PEGNet

### **Postponement of the PEGNet Conference 2020**

We have decided to **postpone** the **PEGNet Conference 2020** on 'Addressing Fragility and Conflict in Developing Countries' that was scheduled for September 10 and 11 this year to **September 9 and 10, 2021**. This decision was based on the ongoing travel restrictions and social distancing measures that have been put into place to curb the spread of the corona virus. We regret this development but remain excited about the opportunity to partner with the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) as we prepare for the conference which will take place in Kampala next year.



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. The call for papers will be reopened early next year to allow for scientific contributions at the conference. In addition to the conference a methodological workshop for students will also be organized. As always, we hope to see many familiar and new faces there.

### **Webinar: Industrial Policy in Times of Pandemic**

#### **The risks and benefits of government intervention to #buildbackbetter**

We – [GIZ](#), [DIE](#) and [PEGNet](#) – would like to kindly ask you to save the date for our **Webinar** on **Industrial Policy in Times of Pandemic**. Industrial policy is back! Many support the idea of using Post-Covid economic stimuli to promote structural change (#buildbackbetter), investing e.g. in green technologies and digital capabilities. Followingly, we raise the questions:

How technology-specific should such investment be and what does the industrial policy debate tell us in this regard?

What are the best investments to #buildbackbetter?

We are very much looking forward seeing you **online on 30 July 2020 at 2 p.m. CEST**. More information and the link to join the webinar will be shared soon.

## Virtual Workshop on COVID-19 in Developing Countries



The COVID-19 pandemic has had severe impacts on global economic and health systems worldwide. Especially in the Global South where the economic situation was already precarious beforehand, lockdowns are expected to exacerbate poverty and inequality levels. The impacts of the pandemic will pose a huge setback on the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). This situation reveals once again

the need for a strong cooperation between researchers and policy makers.

The **virtual workshop** that will be jointly organised by [PEGNet](#), [GIGA](#) and the [GIZ](#) aims to provide a platform to present the ongoing **research and policy responses to COVID-19 in developing countries**. It will deal with the impacts of COVID-19, the capacities and readiness of developing countries to deal with the pandemic, lessons that have been learnt from the management of other joint health and economic shocks such as the Ebola epidemic, as well as research on the impacts of policy responses.

The workshop will be held on **September 10 and 11, 2020**. We are looking forward to your participation in this new format and keep you updated about the exact programme you can expect.

## New PEGNet Partnership with "Digital Development Dialogue"

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in late 2019 poses new challenges in development cooperation. Yet, the crisis also highlights opportunities, as for instance in the fields of evidence-based development Policy and digital collaboration. It has been inspiring to follow the increasing number of webinars that have connected researchers across the entire world. Sarah Langlotz and Lennart Kaplan in cooperation with the Department of Development Economics at the University of Goettingen and partnering institutions ([PEGNet](#), [C4ED](#), [DENEb](#), [DEval](#), [GIGA](#), [KfW](#), [VfS](#)) would like to add to this burgeoning online academic community by providing a new format for policy and practice exchange – the Digital Development Dialogue (3D). The aim of this **3D seminar series** is to bring together two speakers – one researcher and one policymaker/practitioner – with a mixed audience of scholars, policymakers and students in the framework of a digestible 45-minute format.

The next talk on June 25 by Jörg Faust (DEval) and Howard White (Campbell Collaboration) will focus on the role of evidence for effective development cooperation. Connected to this, Amma Panin (World Bank) and colleagues from the African Centre for Economic Transformation will discuss the application of knowledge-based policies for African countries on July 2. If you would like to join the dialogue, please [subscribe](#) to the mailing list and follow the conversation on twitter.

During previous editions, Jenny Aker (Tufts University) and Valentina Barca (Independent Consultant) presented digital solutions to deliver social protection during the ongoing pandemic. Moreover, Alexandra Avdeenko (Center for Evaluation and Development) and Michèle Tertilt (Mannheim University) discussed suitable policy responses to the Covid19 pandemic ensuring an equitable distribution of the economic burden for women and men.

*Text by Lennart Kaplan and Sarah Langlotz, University of Göttingen*

## Publications

### PEGNet Policy Study:

#### Socio-economic impacts of refugees on host communities in developing countries

*"With adequate international financial support, residents in developing host countries are typically not hurt economically by hosting refugees - and may even benefit overall." (Matthias Lücke, Twitter)*

The question of whether **Forced Displacement** is beneficial or detrimental to host communities has always been a hotly debated issue in policy, political and media circles and has experienced increased interest since the start of the Syrian refugee crisis in 2011 and the EU migration crisis in 2015. Against this background, PEGNet and the GIZ commissioned a study that investigates the socio-economic impacts of refugees on host communities in developing countries. As a result,



the PEGNet Policy Study on **"Socio-economic impacts of refugees on host communities in developing countries"** was published by **Matthias Lücke (IfW)** and **Claas Schneiderheinze (IfW)**.



Within this context, GIZ organized an **expert meeting** in February 2020 for the authors **Matthias Lücke** and **Claas Schneiderheinze** to present their review on existing theoretical and empirical research and to discuss implications for project design and implementation of German Development cooperation with GIZ practitioners. **Özge**



**Bilgili** from **Utrecht University** contributed additional evidence on refugee camps influencing local labour market activity, economic welfare and social dimensions in Rwanda. The

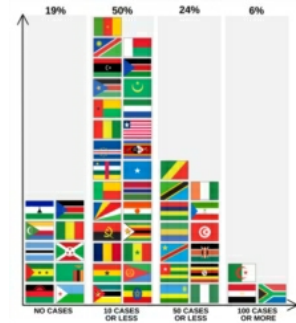
PEGNet study and the expert meeting inspired fruitful discussions between research and practice and allowed for important lessons learned for GIZ's work in the space of development in context of forced displacement. Please find the full policy study on our website.

## PEGNet Policy Study

### PEGNet Policy Brief: COVID-19: Impacts on African economies

*"In the longer-term, support African countries to build resilience by reducing their external dependence and helping them envision a better future together."*

This is one of many recommendations given by **Hannah Wanjie Ryder & Angela Benefo** ([Development Reimagined](#)) for African governments and development partners in their policy brief on **"COVID-19: Impacts on African economies – economic challenges and social safety net responses"**.



The brief, which was published in May 2020, explores the evidence on direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable countries. They summarize actions that African governments have taken and present four "innovative ideas" to consider for the future, especially to continue poverty reduction and sustainable development, as part of Africa's COVID-19 recovery plan and in partnership with development actors, including China. The figure shows the implementation of social distancing measures in African nations compared to the numbers of COVID-19 cases.

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### PEGNet Policy Brief: Policy instruments for FDI promotion in Africa

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) has increased substantially over the past decades and so has FDI in Africa. However, still only 3 percent of global FDI stocks and 1 percent of German FDI is located in Africa. There are several policy instruments that can contribute to higher investment in developing countries.

The latest PEGNet Policy Brief on **"Policy Instruments for FDI Promotion in Africa"** written by **Saskia Möhle** (IfW) and **Frauke Steglich** (IfW) outlines several important investment promotion instruments of both sender and recipient countries of FDI and assesses their impact. The graphic shows the number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Africa. The full PEGNet Policy Brief is now available on our website.



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### News from our Partner institutions

#### Launch of the 2020 MEDAM Assessment Report 2020 "European and African perspectives on asylum and migration policy: Seeking common ground"

The MEDAM project's (Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration) annual report focusses on the new European Commission's approach to cooperation with third countries on migration, particularly in Africa. The report, which was published on 22 April 2020, addresses the effectiveness of European approaches to increasing third countries' readmission cooperation and calls on the EU to take greater account of third countries' interests and perspectives in its migration policies.

*Text by Melanie Radtke, IfW*

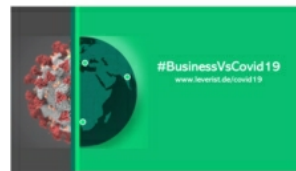


## Read the report

## #BusinessVsCovid19: The matchmaking platform leverist.de helps to mitigate the Covid19-crisis

The spread of the Coronavirus is currently putting entire industries under pressure and supply chains to their limits. In addition to the health risks, poverty is likely to rise – especially in developing countries and emerging markets. On the new subpage of the digital matchmaking platform [leverist.de](http://leverist.de), Covid19-related needs come together with innovative ideas, as the platform matches companies with concrete business opportunities in developing countries and emerging markets. Every day, this opens up new opportunities for cooperation with the aim of mitigating the health and economic consequences of the pandemic and contributing to sustainable development in these countries. To stabilize the local economy, for example, a Namibian start-up is looking not only for buyers of their functional clothing but also for mentors to broaden their international network. Companies of all sizes and from all sectors can search for partners on the website or offer their solutions to current challenges.

*Text by Stefanie Schudlich, GIZ*



[Visit the platform](#)

## Lab of tomorrow

In response to the Corona crisis and its effects on local economies, the lab of tomorrow, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), offers a shortened digital version of its innovation process. In this virtual process, local and international companies as well as actors from politics and the civil society co-creatively develop business-driven solutions for COVID-19 induced challenges in developing and emerging countries. Solutions can be based on existing products or services to be able to test and bring them to market quickly. Currently, the lab of tomorrow is searching for challenges as well as dedicated entrepreneurial actors that are ready to participate in the process.

*Text by Stefanie Schudlich, GIZ*

[Lab of tomorrow](#)

## Upcoming Conferences & Call for Papers

### Postponed! EADI “Solidarity, Peace and Social Justice” in the Hague

The conference “**Solidarity, Peace and Social Justice**”, jointly organised by EADI and the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), originally planned to be held in June/July 2020 in the Hague, has been postponed to 5-8 July 2021.



[Stay updated](#)

### Call for papers: Development Impacts of COVID-19 at Home and Abroad



Call for special issue of the **European Journal of Development Research (EJDR)**:

“**The Development Impacts of COVID-19 at Home and Abroad: Politics and Implications of Government Action**”

Submit a **one-page abstract** of your planned contribution as soon as possible.

[More information](#)

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