



PEGNet Newsletter Volume 42

Dear PEGNet Friends and Colleagues,

we hope you are doing good and staying healthy. A lot has happened since our last newsletter in June and we would like to keep you updated on the latest activities in the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network.

Two PEGNet online events on “**Industrial policy in times of pandemic - The risks and benefits of government intervention to #buildbackbetter**” and on “**COVID-19 in Africa: Taking stock of the impacts on the informal economy, supply chains, and labour markets**” took place in September and the latest policy brief authored by Belinda Archibong, Francis Annan, and Uche Ekhator-Mobayode on “The role of global governance institutions in mitigating the adverse economic impacts of epidemics” was published.

Moreover, you can read about news of the PEG Network such as research publications and announcements of events offered by our partner organisations.

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

Enjoy the newsletter!

Best wishes,

The PEGNet Team

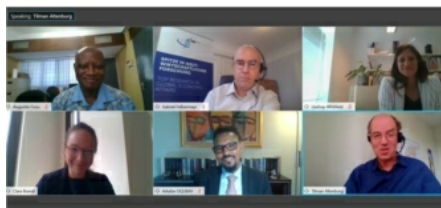
Past editions of our newsletter are available in the [PEGNet Newsletter Archive](#).

News from PEGNet

PEGNet online events

PEGNet Expert Meeting - Industrial policy in times of pandemic

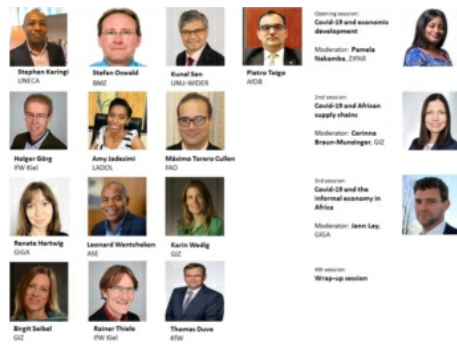
More than 250 participants joined us for the PEGNet online event on “**Industrial policy in times of pandemic - The risks and benefits of government intervention to #buildbackbetter**” that was jointly organised with [GIZ](#) and [DIE-GDI](#) and took place on 14 September 2020. The event was moderated by **Clara Brandi** (DIE-GDI).



After a short introduction to the topic by **Tilman Altenburg** (DIE-GDI), the idea of using post-COVID economic stimuli to promote structural change was discussed. **Lindsay Whitfield** (Roskilde University) saw two main risks of political capture for industrial policy: that funds that were intended for one use are being diverted to another and that there are no reciprocal control mechanisms in place. She stressed that clear statements on what needs to be achieved were key. **Augustin K. Fosu** (University of Ghana) argued that the current crisis should be used as an opportunity to boost domestic production as for example mandatory use of masks can lead to more demand for domestic producers. This way demand creates its own supply. Regarding the short term response to the pandemic, **Arkebe Oqubay** (Ministry of Ethiopia) highlighted that Ethiopia started the dialogue with industrial park owners early, reduced transport fees and led export firms to serve local market needs. The goal was to continue production and to avoid laying off workers. In an environment of changing global economic policy, **Gabriel Felbermayr** (IfW Kiel) emphasized the need for Western and richer governments to unwind their subsidies.

Online event on COVID-19 in Africa

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has imposed economic burdens on African countries that have compromised the implementation of development strategies and policies, and of international development cooperation. On 30 September 2020, we discussed the impacts of COVID19 on African economies in the PEGNet online workshop on “**COVID-19 in Africa - Taking stock of the impacts on the informal economy, supply chains, and labour markets**” that was jointly organised with [GIZ](#) and [GIGA](#).



The event consisted of four sessions that shed light on different aspects of the economic impact of Covid-19. In the first session, **Stephen Karing** (UNECA), **Stefan Oswald** (BMZ), **Kunal Sen** (UNU-WIDER), and **Pietro Toigo** (AfDB) gave an overview on the topic by discussing "Covid-19 and economic development" together with the moderator **Pamela Nakamba** (ZIPAR). The second session concentrated on the impact of Covid-19 on African supply chains. **Corinna Braun-Munzinger** (GIZ) discussed

these impacts as a moderator together with **Amy Jadesimi** (LADOL), **Holger Görg** (IfW Kiel) and **Máximo Torero Cullen** (FAO). The third session, moderated by **Jann Lay** (GIGA), dealt with the impacts of Covid-19 on the African informal economy with **Renate Hartwig** (GIGA), **Karin Wedig** (GIZ), and **Leonard Wantchekon** (ASE). In the last session, **Birgit Seibel** (GIZ), **Thomas Duve** (KfW), and **Rainer Thiele** (IfW Kiel) wrapped up the event and gave an overview on how the work of GIZ and KfW was influenced by the ongoing pandemic and what they expect from researchers and policy makers in order to cope with the crisis.

We would like to thank all speakers of both events for the interesting and lively discussions!

Next term's 3D Seminar programme

The [Digital Development Dialogue \(3D\)](#) seminar is a monthly 45-minute online forum for policy and research exchange organised by Lennart Kaplan and Sarah Langlotz ([University of Göttingen](#)) in cooperation with:



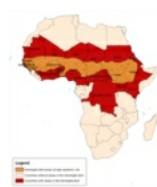
Two speakers touch upon key topics in development policy with the goal of stimulating a meaningful dialogue across the theory & practice divide. We are happy to announce next term's **3D seminar series programme**, which you can also find on the [3D website](#), or on [twitter](#). The first session on October 29th from 4-5 pm (UTC+1) will be a special edition on gender equality with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights **Michelle Bachelet** and Nobel laureate **Amartya Sen**. Please find the detailed program in the attachments.

Usually, the sessions take place on Thursdays once a month from 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm (UTC+1) on Zoom. Please subscribe to the [3D newsletter](#) to receive the Zoom link and all instructions to participate. PEGNet will host the seminar on 25 February 2021 on "Gender implications of African migration" with **Linguère Mously Mbaye**. We look forward to meeting you online!

[Learn more](#)

PEGNet Policy Brief

The role of global governance institutions in mitigating the adverse economic impacts of epidemics



The COVID-19 pandemic has infected over 25 million people and resulted in more than 800,000 deaths as of September 2020. The virulence and human cost of this and other epidemics in the past few decades have reignited policy discussions around strategies to mitigate the economic burden of infectious disease. Rising poverty, unemployment rates, worsening gender inequality and increasing vulnerability of children and marginalized groups around the world are just some of the ongoing effects of the pandemic. The policy brief authored

by **Belinda Archibong**, **Francis Annan**, and **Uche Ekhator-Mobayode** on "The role of global governance institutions in mitigating the adverse economic impacts of epidemics" uses evidence from meningitis epidemics in Africa to show that although these shocks can have significant negative effects on economic activity and child health outcomes, global governance institutions like the WHO can play an important role in mitigating these effects.

[Policy Brief 22](#)

[News from our partner institutions](#)

Events

MEDAM event series on the future EU-Africa cooperation hosted by the European Policy Centre (EPC)

EU-Africa cooperation on migration is at a crossroads. The recently published New Pact on Migration and Asylum could have significant implications for relations on migration. Meanwhile, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has added a further layer of complexity to an already rapidly evolving landscape.



This series of high-level events unpacks what these latest developments mean for future cooperation between the EU and the African continent. While the first event—addressing labour migration—already took place on October 7, 2020, the online events on return and readmission and resettlement will take place in late October and early November, and are open to the public.

- **Return and Readmission after the New Pact**, Wednesday 21 October, 10:00 - 11:15
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways: What Way Forward?**, Wednesday 4 November, 10:00 - 11:15

For more information about and registration for the upcoming events, please check the event websites of the [Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration \(MEDAM\)](#) or the [European Policy Centre \(EPC\)](#).

GIZ Forum: Creating opportunities for jobs in times of Covid-19

For decades, notoriously high youth unemployment has left millions of young people in the Southern Mediterranean without a chance to build a future. This situation has been sharply aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the current crisis has exposed economic vulnerabilities, it also offers an opportunity to rebuild Mediterranean integration in a more inclusive and sustainable way. With the Southern Mediterranean linking Europe and the rest of Africa, a future shortening of supply chains might present an important prospect for more jobs and value creation in the region.



Under the auspices of German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dr. Gerd Müller, the [UfM Trade and Investment Forum 2020](#) on **12 November 2020** will bring together key regional stakeholders from the public and private sector to discuss the contribution of trade and investment to employment creation in the Mediterranean region. The Forum also will present an opportunity to discuss the framework conditions for trade and investment between the European Union and Africa. Please register for the online event by 30 October 2020.

[Register now!](#)

Eradicating Poverty: Is COVID-19 Undoing the Progress Made?

From 1990 to 2019, the number of extreme poor fell from 36% of the world population to 8%. But is the COVID-19 pandemic undoing some of this progress? For the first time since the end of the 1990s, the number of extreme poor is rising. At this [GIGA](#) talk, the following renowned international experts will reflect on past and current changes in poverty status around the world:

- **Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven** (GIZ)
- **Prof. Dr. Francisco Ferreira** (LSE)
- **Dr. Isis Gaddis** (World Bank)
- **Moderator: Prof. Dr. Renate Hartwig** (GIGA)



The event will take place on **Thursday, 15 October 2020 at 6:00 p.m.** Please confirm your registration by sending an e-mail to berlin-registration@giga-hamburg.de. You will receive your personal participation link and further information by email before the online event starts.

[More information](#)

DCdVET webinars on dual vocational education and training now publicly available

The [Donor Committee for Dual Vocational Education and Training \(DCdVET\)](#) ran five webinars in April, May and June 2020 on dual VET in development cooperation (Dual VET in DC, Matching with Labour Market Needs, Cost-Benefit Analyses, Financing of Dual VET, Companies Engagement). The documentation including recordings of the experts contributions and other relevant information can be found [here](#). The latest [newsletter](#) gives an interesting insight into the work of DCdVET.

Contact: monika.soddemann@giz.de

[More information](#)

Latest research & publications

COVID-19 and global food security by IFPRI

The coronavirus pandemic has sparked not only a health crisis but also an economic crisis, which together pose a serious threat to food security, particularly in poorer countries. In this publication, IFPRI researchers and guest bloggers provide key insights and analysis on how the global pandemic is affecting global poverty and food security and nutrition, food trade and supply chains, gender, employment, and a variety of policy interventions, as well as reflections on how we can use these lessons to better prepare for future pandemics.



[Read now](#)

New research findings from finance in displacement (FIND)

The research project "Finance in Displacement [FIND]" at GIZ seeks to explore the economic and financial lives of displaced persons in Kenya and Jordan. By using an adopted financial-diaries-approach, it addresses the existing gaps in understanding the behavioral patterns and financial needs of refugees, how those are currently met, and how support programmes can be better designed. Financial inclusion is crucial to refugees' economic empowerment and, thus, poverty reduction and resilience essential especially amidst a global crisis such as the current Covid-19 pandemic. Initial findings can now be accessed through a monthly newsletter. It further features findings from related studies and relevant policy work. The research is carried out by the KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Tufts University, the International Rescue Committee, and financed by the BMZ.

[Newsletter](#)

Digital transformation in the informal economy – opportunities and challenges for technical and vocational education and training in development cooperation

The Sector Project TVET at GIZ has launched a new series of publications: "**Background information on TVET in development cooperation**". The first issue is dedicated to the digital transformation in the informal economy. The platform economy creates new employment opportunities, but it can also mean new dependencies and discrimination. The publication "Digital transformation in the informal economy" provides selected practical examples as a source of inspiration and identifies key recommendations for the future.

Contact: Julia.Schmidt1@giz.de.

[Newsletter](#)

Publications from DIE-GDI



Prof. Dr. Amirah El-Haddad who works at our partner institution, the German Development Institute (DIE-GDI), recently published two papers on "[The informalization of the Egyptian economy \(1998-2012\): a driver of growing wage inequality](#)" and on "[Redefining the social contract in the wake of the Arab Spring: The experiences of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia](#)".

Miscellaneous

2021 German Entrepreneurship Award for Development

The competition for the 2021 German Entrepreneurship Award for Development is now open for German and European companies until **1 November 2020**. The award recognises entrepreneurial commitment that benefits the local population in developing and emerging countries. The award is conferred by Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft e.V. on behalf of the BMZ. It is presented in two categories each worth EUR 30,000.

[More information](#)

Explanatory film from GIZ sector project TVET on new work and its impacts on TVET

The world of work is changing. Labour markets and jobs are modifying worldwide due to the rapid technological change. Thus, new specialist knowledge will become increasingly important: Digital skills, critical and creative thinking as well as soft skills, cross-cutting competences and collaborative capabilities. The educational and vocational training system must be further strengthened to better meet the changing requirements of the labour market. The recently published film illustrates core

approaches for a future-oriented vocational education and training using examples from projects of German development cooperation in Egypt, Iraq, Kosovo and Namibia.

[More information](#)

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