

FONDATION POUR LES ÉTUDES ET RECHERCHES SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT INTERNATIONAL





A foundation to influence international discussions

Independent and not-for-profit, FERDI provides a forum for reflection and discussion by welcoming expertise from both the Global North and Global South. It advocates for vulnerable countries in shaping the international architecture for development financing, and contributes its expertise to the formulation of public policies that promote sustainable and inclusive development.

Through events, seminars, training courses, publications, and the creation of innovative indicators, FERDI contributes to the evolution of ideas on important and diverse topics. These include criteria for the geographical allocation of aid, how to deal with the vulnerability of economies and the fragility of states, the effectiveness of international policies implemented in favour of the least developed countries, and ways to reconcile trade policies with climate and environmental protection.

FERDI's activities are driven by three main goals:

- → Promote excellence in French-speaking research on international development economics
- → Inform public and private sector decision-making on sustainable development
- → Support the training and capacity-building of managers and civil servants in developing countries.

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Foreword

In 2023, FERDI turned 20.

Over the past year, FERDI has intensified its activities as part of the Clermont International Development Hub (Pôle clermontois de développement international - PCDI). In line with its priorities, it has enriched its research, publications, and events, particularly through various chairs.

With the reform of the international architecture development financing being a central theme on the 2023 global agenda, our work and proposals in this area have been a priority. To underscore the significance of this work and our determination to pursue it, the theme of the symposium organized to mark FERDI's 20th anniversary in early 2024 was: "Reforming the Development Financing System: Issues to Be Brought Out of the Shadows".

2023 year also marked the 400th anniversary of Blaise Pascal's birth in Clermont-Ferrand. During a symposium, FERDI sought to evidence Pascal's importance. For the past 20 years, the back cover of FERDI's documents has featured his famous phrase: "Sur quoi la fondera-t-il l'économie du monde qu'il veut gouverner? Sera-ce sur le caprice de chaque particulier? Quelle confusion? Sera-ce sur la justice? Il l'ignore."

Patrick Guillaumont

President of FERDI

開Di Highlights

- The Chair in International Architecture of Development Finance is involved in the preparation and follow-up of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.
- The work of the Chair on Digital Trust is featured in the book by Joël Cariolle and Jenny Aker, Mobile Phones and Development in Africa: Does the Evidence Meet the Hype?
- FERDI is contributing to the development of an international multidimensional vulnerability index and continues to advocate for the inclusion of vulnerability in international development financing.
- FERDI is taking part in international conferences on least developed countries (LDCs).
- FERDI is dedicated to providing WAEMU and CEMAC with updated scientific support on jointly defined topics to supply essential data for their decision-making.
- In the framework of MRIP, the book by Michael Keen (Tokyo College, University of Tokyo, and CERDI), *Taxation and the Environment: An Overview of Key Issues for Developing Countries*, is published with support from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE).
- FERDI is contributing to the scientific preparation and organisation of the international symposium in Antananarivo by the Banque centrale de Madagascar for its 50th anniversary.
- The Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainable Development (IHEDD) and the World Customs Organisation (WCO) are organising a workshop on the use of artificial intelligence in administrations.
- More than 1,000 people are benefiting from training courses organised by the IHEDD.
- The conference "Pascal et l'économie du monde. L'utilité espérée, l'entrepreneuriat social, la justice relative" was organised to mark the 400th anniversary of Blaise Pascal's birth, in Clermont-Ferrand.
- In February 2024, FERDI celebrates its 20th anniversary with a conference addressing overlooked issues in the reform of international development financing.
- In April 2024, the Clermont-Ferrand Hub for International Development (PCDI) is officially launched.

Scientific Output



Since its creation in 2003, FERDI has issued **669 publications**.

In 2023, 120 new publications were listed on the FERDI website, 48 of which were published by FERDI and are freely accessible on its website:

- 4 FERDI books or reports.
- 42 policy briefs or working papers.
- 2 editorials.



REVUE D'ÉCONOMIE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT

With support from CERDI, FERDI publishes the *Revue d'économie du développement [Development Economics Review]*. This journal provides economic analyses applied to development and international relations, and serves as a platform for scientific exchange on key economic issues.

On February 1, 2024, the *Revue d'économie du développement* celebrated its 30th anniversary, with members of the Editorial Board invited to discuss the journal's development and the challenges it faces.

The latest issue is a special one dedicated to the annual AFEDEV conference (International Conference on Development Economics - ICDE), edited this year by Florent Bresson, Thomas Calvo, Marin Ferry, Isabelle Rabaud, and Victor Stéphane.



Innovative Development Indicators

FERDI develops original international development indicators. All the indicators and their calculation methods are freely available on its website under a FERDI license.

This initiative addresses the need for new development indicators that better measure progress, challenges, and performance, allowing for country comparisons and tracking changes over time.

FERDI also offers databases on specific themes related to the African continent, including the Sustainable Competitiveness Observatory, mining rents, and electrification projects.

https://ferdi.fr/en/indicators

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Dissemination Tools

The year 2023 was marked by:

- Increased personnel resources in FERDI's communications department.
- Greater media visibility for FERDI.
- An increase in FERDI's visibility on social networks, with a sharp rise in the number of posts and subscribers on LinkedIn.
- Increased visibility of the FERDI website (+44% compared to 2022).
- A stable number of FERDI publications and events.



Conferences & Workshops

Since 2003, FERDI has organised or taken part in **674** conferences or workshops. In 2023, FERDI organised or took part in **59** conferences.





Évent

Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Blaise Pascal's Birth



CLERMONT

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of Blaise Pascal's birth, Clermont-Ferrand hosted a series of events.

FERDI collaborated with the Centre International Blaise Pascal (CIBP) at Université Clermont Auvergne (UCA) to organize a conference titled "Pascal and the World Economy: Expected Utility, Social Entrepreneurship, Relative Justice" on November 20, 2023, in Clermont-Ferrand. Each session featured a panel of philosophers, literary figures, academic economists, and prominent economic stakeholders who resonate with Pascal's ideas. The conference created a space for 'Pascalians' and economists to engage in meaningful dialogue.

The conference video is available on FERDI's YouTube channel.

Digital Communication

FERDI website

www.ferdi.fr/en

Social Network

LinkedIn

https://www.linkedin.com/company/ferdi-fondation-pour-les-études-et-recherches-sur-le-développement-international-/

Twitter

https://twitter.com/FondationFERDI

YouTube



A YouTube channel where conferences are replayed: www.youtube.com/@fondationferdi9172

Related websites

 Sustainable Competitiveness Observatory https://competitivite.ferdi.fr/en

• Database on the sharing of mining rents

https://fiscalite-miniere.ferdi.fr/en

Blogs

- https://ferdi.fr/medias FERDI members publish an average of 3 to 4 blog articles per month.
- <u>www.entreprenanteafrique.com/</u> a platform dedicated to entrepreneurship in Africa, a joint project between Investisseurs et Partenaires (I&P), Club Africain des Entrepreneurs, and FERDI.

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Programs

International Financing for Development

Taxation for Development

Regional Integration, Trade & Competitiveness

Energy Transition, Resources & Environment

Human Capital

Macroeconomic Policy

Vulnerabilities & Security

Private Sector & Development

International Financing for Development

Rethinking the international architecture of development finance

FERDI has established the International Architecture of Development Finance Chair to address the fundamental reforms needed in this architecture. The discussions are led by a group of 10 experts recognized for their extensive experience in the field, all participating in a personal capacity. The Chair is led by Philippe Le Houérou, a former Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Vice-President of the World Bank, and now Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

The Chair organised a series of 8 conferences and debates in the run-up to the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact (Paris, 22-23 June 2023), resulting in 10 main recommendations (see box and FERDI website) for an overhaul of the global financial architecture. The Chair's activities have received support from the French Ministries for Europe and Foreign Affairs and for Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty. .../...



• Boussichas M., Guillaumont P. (dir.) (2024) Quel pacte financier mondial pour les pays pauvres et vulnérables? [What Global Financial Pact for Poor and Vulnerable Countries?], FERDI, 172 p.

What Global Financial Pact for Poor and Vulnerable Countries?

This book, produced by the International Architecture of Development Finance Chair, provides an in-depth look at how international financing can address the challenges faced by poor and vulnerable countries, challenges that have been exacerbated by recent global crises. It is the result of 8 conferences and 21 papers developed by the Chair in preparation for the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact. It presents FERDI's 10 main recommendations at the Summit. The book will take on new relevance in the lead-up to the United Nations Summit on Financing for Development in 2025.

Towards Recognition of Vulnerability as a Criterion for Allocation?

In 2023, FERDI's 15-year advocacy effort reached a pivotal point. Three international meetings provided the opportunity to update, develop, and share arguments for considering vulnerability in aid allocation criteria. These meetings featured Presidents, Ministers, the Secretaries General of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie, the High Representative of the UN-OHRLLS, Vice-presidents of multilateral development banks, and the President of the WAEMU Commission. The meetings took place in March in Doha at the 5th United Nations Conference on LDCs, in June at the Paris Summit for a New Global Financial Pact, and in October in Marrakech at the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the IMF where FERDI organized an event with the Executive Director of the World Bank's Africa II Group and the Executive Director for France.

To operationalize its recommendations, FERDI is exploring how to adapt allocation formulas and determine the best indicator of vulnerability to use, urging multilateral development banks to adopt an index based on the principles of the multidimensional vulnerability index developed by the United Nations.

At the Financing for Development Forum in April 2024, France recommended that vulnerability be taken into account in allocation. France also decided to give priority to the least developed countries (LDCs) and a complementary list of vulnerable countries for the allocation of its official development assistance (ODA), helped by FERDI without political commitment.

To read: Guillaumont P. (2023) "Taking into account vulnerability in the global distribution of concessional flows", FERDI *Policy brief* B246, April.

Guillaumont P. (2023) "On the principles of allocation of concessional finance, in particular from Multilateral Development Banks", FERDI *Policy brief* B259, December.

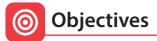
.../...

The Chair's most significant contributions include redefining the purpose of international financing and its allocation, critiquing and proposing reforms for climate financing, and reforming multilateral development banks. It also focuses on how the international system can support the financing of small businesses in Africa, particularly in the agricultural sector.

A progress update on the Chair's activities was presented at FERDI's 20th anniversary symposium, which examined 4 major issues often overlooked in international negotiations. These priorities for the second phase of the Chair's activities are: sustainable mobilization, equitable and efficient allocation between countries, financing and de-risking entrepreneurship for impact, and ensuring accountability of public commitments.

The work of this second phase is being conducted in preparation for the 4th United Nations Conference on Financing for Development, scheduled for 2025. A central part of FERDI's message is that the global architecture must prioritize the allocation and mobilization of development financing and climate financing equally.

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- To influence the debate on international development architecture.
- To promote the consideration of structural vulnerabilities in the allocation of concessional funds.
- To assess the effectiveness of external funding for development.

Is Fuel Taxation a Potential Source of Funding for Vulnerable Countries?

FERDI has studied the possibility of taxing the fuel used in civil aviation and maritime transport to support countries vulnerable to climate change.

For aviation, the study examines the constraints and opportunities for implementing a tax on civil aviation fuel, which could generate between 5.8 and 18 billion euros a year. These funds could support measures to adapt to climate change and encourage a transition to greener transport. The conclusions were incorporated into the recommendations for the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact in June 2023.

For maritime transport, the study examines the economic effects of a carbon tax, assessing its impact on trade flows, consumer purchasing power, and CO2 emissions. Three major conclusions emerge: the tax affects countries unfairly, penalising poorer countries more; it has little impact on reducing CO2 emissions; and the tax resources generated are much lower than the associated economic costs. This analysis provides a quantitative basis for ongoing international discussions and negotiations.



• Dama A-A., Dequiedt V., de Ubeda A.-A., Rota-Graziosi G. (2023) "Taxation of civil aviation fuels as a source of financing for vulnerable countries", FERDI *Working Paper* P318, March.

To read: Dequiedt V., de Ubeda A-A., Mien E. (2024)
"Navigating international taxation: the effects of
a carbon levy on shipping", FERDI Working Paper
P340.

Dequiedt V., de Ubeda A-A., Mien E. (2024) "Towards a Carbon tax on International Shipping: Measuring Economic Effects to Assess Relevance and Support Implementation", FERDI *Policy Brief* B267.

Two Other Achievements

- Aid Conditionality. A study for the Swedish aid evaluation office (EBA), which provides a review of the academic literature over the last 20 years on the evolution, nature, and effectiveness of conditionality. It is supplemented by a short note from FERDI (B266, Boussichas M., Guillaumont P., Guillaumont Jeanneney S., 2024) and a contribution by the IAFD chair.
- Database on Public Development Banks. FERDI has joined forces with Agence Française de Développement and the Institute for New Structural Economics at Peking University to update and expand this database, created as part of the Finance in Common Summit, which lists more than 500 institutions worldwide and provides their year of creation, mandate, total assets, etc. FERDI is updating and improving this database, working to create a typology of development banks and to identify dual institutions. The consortium aims to use it for academic work.

Publications

- **Cabrillac B., Fabre C., Jacolin L.** (2023) "Debt sustainability and climate change", FERDI *Policy Brief* B249, May.
- Dequiedt V., De Ubeda A-A., Rota-Graziosi G. (2023) "Earmarked Taxes to Finance Global Public Goods: Relevance and Implementation", *Revue d'économie financière 2023/3*, vol. 151 (issue 3), pp. 187 à 199.
- **Le Houérou P.** (2023) "Climate Funds: Time to Clean Up", Revue d'économie financière 2023/3, vol. 151 (issue 3), pp. 239-260.
- Guillaumont P., Boussichas M., Dsouza A. (2023) "The Evolution of Aid Conditionality: A Review of the Literature of the Last Twenty Years", EBA Working Paper September 2023.
- Guillaumont P., Guillaumont Jeanneney S. (2023) "Climate Financing, between Ubiquity and Narrowness: Political Stakes of How It Is Defined", Revue d'économie financière 2023/3, vol. 151, pp. 25-237.
- **Guillaumont Jeanneney S.** (2023) "Judging the effectiveness of funding according to its purpose: four trade-offs in international development cooperation", FERDI *Working Paper* P327, May.
- **Léon F.** (2023) "Public bank lending in Africa in times of crisis", *Emerging Markets Review*, vol. 55.
- **Severino J.-M.** (2023) "Millions for billions: Accelerating African entrepreneurial emergence for accelerated, sustainable and job-rich growth", FERDI *Working Paper* P325, May.

Events

- 9 April 2024 | Webinar. The IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF): Initial Feedback from Africa. Organised as part of the Banque de France-FERDI partnership, in collaboration with the Finance for Development Lab, the aim of this webinar was to initiate a dialogue to better understand the expectations of beneficiary countries with regard to the RSF.
- 22 June 2023 | How can we ensure effective post-Summit financing for poor and vulnerable countries? Prospects arising from proposals by FERDI's Chair in International Architecture of Development Finance. Event organised by FERDI in conjunction with the Summit for a New Global Financial Deal in Paris.
- 17 May 2023 | Matthieu Boussichas, Program Manager at FERDI, was interviewed by the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee in the lead-up to an Interministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development (CICID).



Blogs

- 6 February 2024 | Project Syndicate. "Official Development Assistance Must Recognize Countries' Vulnerabilities". Blog by Abdoul Salam Bello, Arnaud Buissé and Patrick Guillaumont on https://www.project-syndicate.org/.
- 20 June 2023 | The Conversation. "Pacte financier mondial: quel rôle pour les banques publiques de développement face aux crises? [Global Financial Pact: What Role for Public Development Banks in the Face of Crises?]". Blog by Florian Léon on https://theconversation.com.



Taxation for Development

Informing and Supporting Reforms

Tax and customs administrations in developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, face significant challenges in mobilizing domestic resources. FERDI is committed to supporting these administrations in strengthening their tax systems. In partnership with the Centre for Studies and Research on International Development (CERDI), FERDI is engaged in various activities to inform policy and enhance capacity building in taxation for development.



• **Keen M.** (2023) *Taxation and the envi*ronment: an overview of key issues for developing, preface by A. Lechevallier, FERDI, 152 p.

Taxation and the Environment: An Overview of Key Issues for Developing Countries

This book explores the potential and actual effects of tax and customs policies on the main environmental problems facing developing countries. The aim is to identify guidelines for a more appropriate tax and customs policy. The author, Michael Keen, proposes concrete recommendations for public authorities and the international community, particularly on the issue of political acceptance of environmental tax reforms.

The book was published as part of the French platform for inter-ministerial exchange and coordination on the mobilisation of domestic public resources (MRIP) and was funded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE). It is prefaced by Aurélien Lechevallier, Director General for Globalisation, Culture, Education and International Development at the MEAE.



- To support decision-making by tax and customs authorities in developing countries.
- To collaborate with international tax platforms and initiatives.
- To disseminate knowledge on taxation and tax choices.



Achievements

- FERDI has provided scientific support for decision-making by African regional institutions. In 2023, as part of its partnership with the WAEMU Commission, FERDI conducted an assessment of the fiscal potential and green taxation in WAEMU countries, providing essential data to guide regional tax policies. It also reviewed environmental taxation in force in CEMAC member states, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each state to suggest possible tax policy reforms.
- The report titled "Case Studies on Aid Taxation: Benin, Cameroon, and Kenya" has been published. Initiated in 2019, the research was conducted by Émilie Caldeira, Anne-Marie Geourjon, and Grégoire Rota-Graziosi for the Platform for Collaboration on Tax. This report assesses tax expenditures linked to project aid, and highlights risks associated with the tax treatment of aid. The findings were presented at the OECD's Taxation and Development Days conference on February 15, 2023.
- Yannick Bouterige and Bertrand Laporte presented the findings of a diagnostic study on mining and oil taxation in Congo and Senegal. This study was conducted under the "Value Chains and Taxation Issues in the Extractive Sector in the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Senegal" project, implemented by Expertise France and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The study was presented and discussed at workshops in both countries in May and June 2024.
- FERDI collaborates with the French platform for inter-ministerial exchange and coordination on the Mobilisation of Internal Public Resources (MRIP). This platform contributes to the implementation of the French strategic investment plan for development (PISD). Through webinars organised for the platform, FERDI participates in discussions and disseminates knowledge on subjects such as civic taxation, environmental taxation, fiscal decentralisation, gender and taxation, and access rights in relation to public health.
- FERDI is involved in disseminating knowledge about extractive taxation. In addition to providing a legal and tax database for assessing rent-sharing in the gold sector in African countries (https://fiscalite-miniere.FERDI.fr/en), the Institut des hautes études du développement durable (IHEDD-FERDI) is

- offering 5 training courses on this subject in 2023-2024. Assessing rent-sharing is essential for governments to carry out mining and oil tax reforms, help negotiate contracts, avoid renegotiation, and better forecast revenues.
- An application on the regressivity of corporate tax (CIT) exemptions in Africa is now available. The application, entitled "The regressivity of CIT exemptions in Africa", is the work of Alou Adessé Dama, Grégoire Rota-Graziosi, Faycal Sawadogo, and Mohamed Aliou Tounkara. It can be used to assist decision-making on tax exemptions, and to assess the progressivity or regressivity of national tax systems applied to companies, by varying the tax burden according to the gross profitability of the company. In 2023, FERDI also published the methodological guide L'évaluation de l'effet distributionnel des dépenses fiscales de TVA [Assessing the distributional impact of VAT tax expenditures]. https://shiny.mesocentre.uca.fr/app/citregressivity.
- IHEDD-FERDI is a partner in Expertise France's DATAFID programme. Commissioned by Expertise France in March 2021 to support capacity-building in data science within tax administrations, IHEDD-FERDI has developed a tailored training programme for customs officers. The programme includes 12 distance learning courses totalling 150 hours of training, designed in consultation with the beneficiary countries. In April 2024, FERDI participated in the project's closing event.

Publications

- Bouterige Y., Amedanou Y., Laporte B. (2023) "Mining tax regimes and rent sharing: comparative analysis Africa - Latin America, the case of copper", Revue de Droit Fiscal, n°11-12, LexisNexis.
- **Bouterige Y., Pafadnam N. R.** (2024) "The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI): A mine of information to be exploited?", FERDI *Working Paper* P313, March.
- Caldeira É., Geourjon A-M., Laporte B. (2023) L'évaluation de l'effet distributionnel des dépenses fiscales de TVA. Guide méthodologique [Assessing the distributional impact of VAT tax expenditures], FERDI, 35 p.
- Dama A. A., Rota-Graziosi G., Sawadogo F. (2024) "The Regressivity of CIT Exemptions in Africa", International Tax and Public Finance.
- Geourjon A.-M., Laporte B., Montagnat-Rentier G. (2023) "The Use of Mirror Data by Customs Administrations: From Principles to Practice", IMF Technical Notes and Manuals No. 2023/005.
- Occhiali G. (2023) "What's the Catch? A Review of the Fiscal Treatments of Fisheries in Sub-Saharan Africa", The Journal of Environment & Development, vol. 32 (issue 2).

Events

- 27 February 2024 | Launch of Michael Keen's book on environmental taxation in developing countries. Ce webinaire a présenté les principaux messages de l'ouvrage, qui ont ensuite été discutés avec un panel composé d'experts, d'institutionnels et praticiens travaillant sur ces questions. Webinaire dont le replay est en ligne sur la chaîne YouTube de la FERDI.
- 14 June 2023 | AFRITAC Centre Policy Committee Meeting. During the 25th meeting of its Steering Committee, AFRITAC Centre the IMF's capacity-building centre for Central Africa invited Grégoire Rota-Graziosi (CERDI) to moderate the opening session debate on "Natural Resource Governance Reforms in AFRITAC Centre Countries".
- February/March 2023 | Advocacy for reviewing dock dues. In 2020, FERDI published the report Impact économique de l'octroi de mer dans les Départements d'Outre-mer français [Economic impact of dock dues in French overseas departments], (Geourjon A.-M., Laporte B.), which highlighted the shortcomings of dock dues and proposed alternative scenarios for this tax. In February 2023, this work was presented to the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE), and the authors were interviewed by the French National Assembly's committee of enquiry into the cost of living in local authorities in March.



Blogs

• 22 February 2024 | <u>Cerdi.uca.fr</u>. Focus on research. "L'exonération d'impôt sur les sociétés: la pire des incitations fiscales? [Corporate tax exemption: the worst tax incentive ever?]" article by Alou Adessé Dama, Grégoire Rota-Graziosi, Fayçal Sawadogo.



Press

■ 21 November 2023 | Le Monde (Politique). [Overseas departement's elected representatives fear a reform of the tax on imported goods]. https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2023/11/21/chez-les-elus-d-outre-mer-la-crainte-d-une-reforme-de-la-taxe-sur-les-biens-importes 6201340 823448.html.



Regional Integration, Trade & Competitiveness

The Scope of Competitiveness

FERDI is distinguished by its active commitment to regional integration and the development of international trade. It is engaged in both theoretical and technical discussions to support the actions of regional institutions. Studies and research are conducted in close collaboration with CEMAC, WAEMU, and other regional organizations.

A third partnership agreement was signed with the WAEMU Commission for the period 2023-2025 and with the CEMAC Commission for the period 2023-2024, demonstrating FERDI's ongoing commitment to these institutions.



High-level Seminar

Integration into the global economy and the constraints of sustainable competitiveness

From 12 to 14 December 2023, the Institut des hautes études du dévelopment durable (IHEDD) organised a seminar bringing together executives from the public and private sectors who are working to integrate sustainable competitiveness into public policies.

Led by Désiré Avom and Patrick Plane, the seminar explored the concept of competitiveness and presented innovative measurement tools that take into account attractiveness, price competitiveness and vulnerability. Discussions also focused on the position of Central African countries, particularly Cameroon in world trade and the competitiveness factors influencing trade, both globally and intraregionally. This seminar was part of the agreement between the University of Yaoundé Il-Soa and FERDI.



Objectives

- To analyse the sustainable competitiveness and capacity of African countries to integrate into the global economy.
- To contribute to the analyses conducted by the WAEMU and CEMAC Commissions.
- To assess the impact of trade measures in developing countries and their link to the environment.



Achievements

- FERDI has signed partnership agreements with WAEMU and CEMAC. For WAEMU, 5 areas of work are being implemented: tax potential of green taxation, monitoring the economic vulnerability of WAEMU countries, the digital economy, agricultural modernization policies, and youth employment policies. The work program under the agreement with CEMAC includes support for the launch of the Observatory of the Business Climate of CEMAC, deepening issues related to multilateral surveillance, and consolidating the conclusions of the University of Excellence study.
- Two studies have been carried out on competitiveness in the WAEMU zone. The first examines non-price competitiveness in WAEMU, and the second focuses on structural transformation in WAEMU. Patrick Plane, the author of these studies, provides valuable insights to guide strategic decisions in the region.
- Several articles on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement have been published in peer-reviewed journals and blogs. Jaime de Melo, the author, argues that implementing the provisions of the Trade Facilitation Agreement would significantly complement the tariff reduction program of the African Continental Free Trade Area.



Publications

Gourdon J., Gourdon K., de Melo J. (2023) "A (More) Systematic Exploration of the Trade Effect of Product-Specific Rules of Origin", World Trade Review, vol. 22, pp. 421-435.

- De Melo J., Sorgho Z., Wagner L. (2024) "Implementing the Trade Facilitation
 Agreement should boost trade among African Continental Free Trade Area
 members", FERDI Policy Brief B264, February.
- Plane P. (2023) "La compétitivité hors prix de l'UEMOA: mesure et évaluation comparée" ["Non-price competitiveness in the WAEMU: measurement and comparative assessment"], with contributions from Alban A. E. Ahouré and Youssoufou Hamadou Daouda, FERDI Report for the AFD, 252 p.



Events

■ 24-26 January 2024 | Workshop to operationalise the focal points of the Business Climate Observatory (OCA) in the CEMAC zone. Patrick Plane is working with the CEMAC OCA, which organised this seminar, jointly with FERDI, to train the national focal points (NFPs) responsible for providing national information on the business climate. The workshop brought together some 20 national experts and international consultants, and was opened by Nicolas Beyeme Nguema, Commissioner in charge of Economic Policy, Monetary and Financial Affairs at the CEMAC Commission.



Blogs

■ 19 December 2023 | The Economic Research Forum. "Boosting trade through flexible rules of origin in preferential agreements". Article by Jaime de Melo, Julien Gourdon and Karin Gourdon. https://theforum.erf.org.eg/2023/12/19/boosting-trade-through-flexible-rules-of-origin-in-preferential-agreements/.



Press

■ 13 July 2023 | L'Opinion (Morocco). Formalités douanières: réductions tarifaires, le grand défi de la ZLECAf ["Customs formalities: tariff reductions, the great challenge of the AfCFTA"]. https://www.lopinion.ma/Formalites-douanieres-Reductions-tarifaires-le-grand-defi-de-la-ZLECAf_a42277.html.

Energy Transition, Resources & Environment

At the Heart of Trade-Offs

In a world facing complex challenges related to energy transition, resource conservation, and environmental protection, FERDI continued its efforts to analyse, evaluate, and advocate for innovative solutions. From understanding the links between trade and climate policies, to assessing the impact of minigrids on development, to mobilizing finance for climate resilience, FERDI is actively engaged in crucial initiatives for a sustainable future. Climate considerations are integrated into all of FERDI's programs. Additionally, by launching a chair dedicated to natural resource management, FERDI is promoting policy dialogue and cutting-edge research for more informed governance.

Natural Resources Management Chair

The aim of the Natural Resource Management Chair is to promote better governance of natural resources by fostering dialogue between the academic and political spheres. Its mission is to produce research that informs policy and ensures the sustainable use of natural resources, recognizing their importance as common goods. The Chair seeks to provide a fresh perspective on the governance of natural resources in developing countries, contextualizing it within the competition among major powers for essential minerals needed for energy transition and digitalization.

Supported by CERDI, which plays a key role in training many African economists, the Chair will leverage its extensive academic and political network across

Africa. This will enable the involvement of researchers from developing countries and facilitate the widespread dissemination of research results in these regions.

The Chair is led by Rabah Arezki, CNRS research director at CERDI and former Chief Economist and Vice President at the African Development Bank. In 2023, he oversaw the preparation of a book on climate change, natural resources, and geopolitics.

Team

- Rabah Arezki
- Jean-Pierre Landau
- Ahmed Tritah
- Grégoire Rota-Graziosi
- Rick van der Ploeg

Objectives

- Highlighting the urgent need to help African countries to not only adapt to climate change, but also to mitigate the carbon footprint of their growth.
- Assessing the impact of mini-grids on rural electrification in Africa and advocating public/private cooperation in the development of mini-grids.
- Promoting better governance of natural resources and raising awareness of the geopolitical issues arising from their use in energy transition.



Achievements

- The article "The landscape of CO2 emissions across Africa: A comparative perspective" was published in *The World Economy*. This article by Jaime de Melo and Jean-Marc Solleder highlights the increase in intensity of the carbon footprint of production in Africa and highlights the urgent need to reduce this footprint. It follows and concludes a series of articles published in 2022 on the subject.
- The RCT method, an innovative method for assessing the impact of mini-grids on access to electricity and development is producing its first results. The inexpensive RCT method, developed by Jean-Claude Berthélemy, Mathilde Maurel and Vincent Nossek, integrates NTL (Nighttime Lights) data obtained from satellite observations and data from light field surveys of localities and service providers. This is the first time this type of evaluation has been carried out for mini-networks. It covered 12 Madagascan villages. Ultimately, the results of this work will help to build capacity in terms of the monitoring and evaluation of mini-grid projects and the planning of investment programmes for the electrification of the African continent. Preliminary results show a positive effect on electricity consumption and health. This work is being carried out in collaboration with Electriciens sans frontières.
- The Natural Resources Management Chair was created.

Publications

- **Berthélemy J.-C., Maurel M.** (2024) "A sky view evaluation of the impact of mini-grid projects on progress towards SDG7", *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, January.
- **De Melo J., Solleder J.-M.** (2023) "The Landscape of CO2 Emissions Across Africa: A Comparative Perspective", *The World Economy, Special Issue "Supply Chain Trade in Africa: retrospect ans prospect"*, de Melo J., Olarreaga M. (eds), vol. 46 (issue 11), pp. 3392-3418.
- Feindouno S. (2022) "En quoi les pays africains sont-ils structurellement vulnérables au changement climatique? [How are African countries structurally vulnerable to climate change?]", Revue d'économie du développement 2022-4, vol. 32, pp. 19-40.

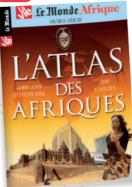


Blogs

- entreprenanteafrique.com | Four blog posts by Jean-Claude Berthélemy and Séréna Barès (Electriciens sans frontières) on measuring the impact of decentralised electricity projects.
- **Devex** | "Opinion: The World Bank should become the 'IMF of climate". Article by Rabah Arezki and Philippe Le Houérou.



Press



• August 2023 | L'Atlas des Afriques. Illustration of the article "The disproportionate impact of the climate crisis" based on data from the climate change vulnerability indicator developed by FERDI.

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Health, Education, and Digital the Cornerstones of Development

The activities of this FERDI programme are aimed at analysing and reducing the vulnerability of healthcare systems and strengthening their effectiveness, efficiency, and resilience.

Three areas of applied research have been prioritised for this purpose, because of their great importance for healthcare policies and systems: the efficiency of healthcare structures, healthcare financing, and the analysis of household behaviour in the face of health risks.

Analysis of Healthcare Systems in Developing and Emerging Countries



Objectives

- To provide governments and their partners with research-based information that supports economically feasible, and socially and politically acceptable, decision-making.
- To contribute to strengthening human capital in health, particularly in relation to the health MDGs.

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Achievements

- The conclusions of the study on the efficiency of a sample of family health centres in Ulan Bator (Mongolia) were included in a request to Parliament submitted by the Mongolian Ministry of Health. The study was conducted by Jacky Mathonnat in partnership with the Centre for Health Development.
- Jacky Mathonnat is taking part in the "Improving the efficiency of public and private general hospitals in Lomé and two regional cities and Determinants of preventive health behaviour among young women in Togo" programme. This programme, defined with the Togolese Ministry

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of Health is being carried out in collaboration with LEDi (Dijon Economics Laboratory, University of Burgundy) and the Economic Analysis of Public Policies team (ANEPP) at the University of Lomé.

• IHEDD-FERDI has introduced training programmes in health economics. These programmes are designed for public and private players who occupy positions of responsibility in health systems or in related fields such as finance and social affairs. In 2023, 6 training courses were provided with the support of the Monaco Department of External Relations and Cooperation.

Impacts of Covid

In 2022 and 2023, particular attention was paid to the indirect effects of Covid-19 on mortality in Africa, and its effects on the efficiency of district hospitals in 2 countries: Burkina Faso and Niger.



Objectives

- To measure the impact of Covid-19 on mortality in Africa.
- To measure the impact of Covid-19 on the efficiency of district hospitals.



Achievements

- Jean-Louis Arcand, Sosso Feindouno, and Patrick Guillaumont published an article in *Social Science & Medicine* on the transfer of Covid-19 mortality from Northern to Southern countries. This article builds on a study conducted with a grant from the French National Research Agency (ANR) under the "Covid-19 Research Action" call for proposals. The article explores how containment policies in Northern countries, aimed at curbing the spread of the virus and saving lives, inadvertently transferred the risk of mortality to the South, particularly to fragile states, most of which are in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- FERDI is contributing to the French Development Agency (AFD) program on the impact of Covid-19 on health and the efficiency of health-care structures in Africa. The aim of this program is to better respond to current and future health shocks. FERDI conducted 2 studies: one on the in-

direct effects of Covid-19 on mortality in Africa, and the other on the pandemic's impact on the efficiency of district hospitals in Burkina Faso and Niger. These studies were conducted in collaboration with teams appointed by the Ministry of Health in each country. The results were published in 3 articles co-authored with Jacky Mathonnat and one article by Sosso Feindouno, published by AFD and later reproduced in book form by FERDI.



• Feindouno S. et al. (2024) La mortalité due au Covid-19 en Afrique : prédominance des effets indirects [COVID-19's death transfer to Sub-Saharan Africa: indirect effects predominate], FERDI, 116 p. — also an AFD research document (grey series), October 2023.

COVID-19's death transfer to Sub-Saharan Africa: indirect effects predominate

While the pandemic threw the world into uncertainty, the initial fears of a disaster in Africa did not materialise. The mortality rate due to Covid-19 in Africa represents 4% of deaths worldwide. However, official statistics relating to Covid-19 only give an indication of the direct mortality associated with the pandemic. We know from previous epidemics and crises that indirect effects often outweigh the direct effects on health in general and mortality in particular.

In this book, author Sosso Feindouno reviews the available data, analyses the spread of the virus on the continent, and highlights the predominance of the indirect consequences of the pandemic, particularly on the economy and health. It serves as an urgent call to strengthen Africa's resilience in the face of future health crises.

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Support for Knowledge Production



Objectives

• To support institutions and governments to develop knowledge.



Achievements

- FERDI has become the main partner of the "Savoirs Éco en Tunisie" project, implemented by Expertise France and funded by the European Union. The project aims to support public debate on economic issues in Tunisia by strengthening the structures that produce economic knowledge (SPSEs). FERDI offers training activities for Tunisian SPSEs, as well as a mentoring programme to support SPSEs in their research projects, including the publication of policy briefs.
- FERDI supports CEMAC's plans to create a regional university of excellence. As part of its partnership agreement with the CEMAC Commission, FERDI is analysing the various economic models applicable to community centres of excellence, and in particular to the Afro-American University of the Central African Republic (AAUCA). The work in progress should be completed in 2024.

Publications

- Feindouno S., Arcand J.-L., Guillaumont P. (2024) "Covid-19's death transfer to Sub-Saharan Africa", *Social Science & Medicine*, vol. 340 (issue 1), 116486.
- Guillon M., Mathonnat J., Narantuya B. (2023) "L'efficience des structures de soins en Mongolie: une question clé pour la politique de santé mongole [The efficiency of healthcare structures in Mongolia: A key issue for Mongolian health policy]", Le CNRS en Chine, la vie des laboratoires, vol. 37, Spring 2023.
- Mathonnat J., Guillon M., Kergall P., Morillon G. (2023) "Effets de la pandémie de Covid-19 sur l'efficience des hôpitaux de district au Burkina Faso et au Niger [Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the efficiency of district hospitals in Burkina Faso and Niger]", Research Paper No. 300, Agence française de développement.

Events

- 21-23 February 2023 | Presentation to the Niger Ministry of Health of the results of the study conducted by FERDI (J. Mathonnat) on the effects of Covid-19 on the efficiency of district hospitals.
- •20 September 2023 | The annual seminar of the Health and Social Protection Department of the Agence française de développement, headed by Agnès Soucat, was held at the FERDI.
- 21 September 2023 | Hearing of Martine Audibert and Jacky Mathonnat by Élise Leboucher, rapporteur for the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee on France's aid to health, with a special focus on Africa.
- 17 October 2023 | Signing of the partnership agreement between FERDI and Expertise France. Vianney Dequiedt and Audrey-Anne de Ubeda take part in the launch of the "Savoirs Éco en Tunisie" project.



Blogs

• <u>entreprenanteafrique.com</u> | Pélissier A., Alowou A. P., Atake E.-H. (2023) "The Health of Young People in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Significant Challenge in the Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals".



Signing of the partnership agreement between FERDI and Expertise France for the "Savoirs Éco en Tunisie" project, 17 October 2023.

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Macroeconomic Policy

A New Context in Low-Income Countries

FERDI's work focuses on understanding the role of economic and monetary integration in development, evaluating the impact of monetary and exchange rate policies on competitiveness, and examining the role of the financial system in development. In these areas, FERDI collaborates closely with CERDI, the Banque de France, WAEMU, and CEMAC.



Objectives

- To contribute to research on monetary policies in developing countries.
- To investigate the factors that influence African participation in global value chains.
- To contribute to research on financial structures and development in partnership with the Banque de France.



Achievements

- After assisting in the establishment of the Macroeconomic Helpdesk for the European Commission's General Department for International Partnerships in 2022, Grégoire Rota-Graziosi is leading the project's expansion. Supported by FERDI in 2023, this internal macroeconomic and financial analysis tool has produced various reports and policy briefs on topics such as budget risk management, green budgeting, and de-dollarization, and organized webinars for EU Commission staff.
- Research on the connections between exchange rate policy and climate change will be presented and discussed at the International Symposium organized by the Central Bank of Madagascar in Antananarivo (see p. 30).

- Jaime de Melo and Marcelo Olarreaga are editing a special issue of *The World Economy* dedicated to the symposium on supply chain trade in Africa. The issue is titled "Supply Chain Trade in Africa: Retrospect and Prospect," vol. 46 (issue 11).
- FERDI and the Banque de France continue their collaborative efforts to produce studies and organize conferences and seminars. In 2023, they covered topics including debt sustainability (conference on 7 April 2023), financial digitization (conference on 5 June, 2023), and the macroeconomic challenges of low-income countries (research seminar on 18 January 2023). Additional research includes a paper by Florian Léon and Djeneba Dramé on business leaders' perceptions of monetary policy, and a study by Antoine Clair (DG Trésor), Luc Jacolin, and Paul Vertier (Banque de France) on price variation and critical metal production, both discussed in seminars and published as FERDI working papers P338 and P339, respectively.



Timothée Dufour (ACPR), Bruno Cabrillac (Banque de France), Ernest Karré (Banque des États de l'Afrique centrale) at the Banque de France-FERDI-AFD conference, "Financial digitization: a sustainable development tool for Africa", Paris, 5 June 2023.



Event

Fiftieth anniversary of the Central Bank of Madagascar

FERDI played an active role in the scientific content of the International Symposium organised in Antananarivo by the Central Bank of Madagascar (Banky Foiben'i Madagasikara) on 28 and 29 September 2023. This event brought together the governors or deputy governors of African central banks, experts, opinion leaders and financial sector decision-makers from around the world to discuss two major themes: the role of central banks in the face of climate change and the impact of financial and technological innovations, on which FERDI researchers and senior fellows spoke.

Sylviane Guillaumont Jeanneney presented and discussed the results of her work on the links between exchange rate policy and climate change. In a FERDI Brief (B256), she shows that systematic use of exchange rate depreciation to boost competitiveness leads to specialisation in the export of industrial goods that emit high levels of CO2, and to excessive exploitation of forest resources, and recommends a more balanced approach, favouring a stable monetary policy and fiscal and institutional reforms to support foreign trade and improve balance of payments.

To read: Guillaumont Jeanneney S. (2023) "Politique de change et réchauffement climatique [Exchange rate policy and global warming]", FERDI *Policy Brief* B256, October.

Vulnerabilities & Security

Prioritizing the Least Developed Countries and the Most Vulnerable Countries

Since its creation, FERDI has extensively worked on country vulnerability - its different forms, its measurement and how it is, or could be, considered in international development financing. FERDI is recognised for its expertise in issues related to country vulnerability and its connections to financing.

In 2018, FERDI set up a thematic chair dedicated to the Sahel. Sahelian in its management and initiatives, this chair has continued its activities in 2023, despite regional crises, with the aim of informing decisions and providing guidance for public policies tailored to local contexts.



Objectives

- To enhance research on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), particularly by improving their identification and the effectiveness of measures taken for them.
- To advocate for the consideration of the structural handicaps of LDCs in the design of public development policies.
- To develop and expand research on vulnerability indicators.
- To support the inclusion of vulnerabilities in international development financing (see the International Financing for Development programme).
- To advocate for the joint consideration of security issues and economic development issues.

Vulnerabilities

FERDI is actively involved in international discussions on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index and continues its work on vulnerability and resilience.

FERDI and the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)

FERDI has long been involved in designing vulnerability indices likely to be used effectively. Since the early 2000s, when it helped introduce an index as a criterion for identifying LDCs, FERDI has published numerous works on the subject. This led to FERDI's participation in developing the Commonwealth Universal Vulnerability Index and then writing the report "Possible Development and Uses of Multidimensional Vulnerability Indices" with OHRLLS.

When a high-level panel was tasked with producing such an index, two FERDI experts, Laurent Wagner and Sosso Feindounou, collaborated with UN-OHRLLS and UNDESA to draft the panel's report, presented in October 2023 and finalized in early 2024. Concurrently, FERDI supported this work with a series of notes (Guillaumont, 2023). The debate on how the index would be endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly is ongoing. FERDI insists that the UN should recommend using an index that adheres to the panel's principles, without necessarily endorsing the precise composition of the proposed MVI. The principles to be respected concern multidimensionality (economic, climate and societal), universality (applicable to all developing countries) and exogeneity (independent of countries' current policies). The goal is for financial institutions to use an index that respects these principles when allocating concessional funds, adapting it if necessary.

To leverage its experience and provide clear, rigorous information on vulnerability, FERDI is developing a revised MVI to be incorporated into an observatory on vulnerability and resilience, published annually.

To read: Guillaumont P. (2023) Towards a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index Six supporting notes, FERDI, 38 p.

Achievements

- FERDI supports the WAEMU Commission in monitoring the vulnerability of member countries. Under its partnership with the WAEMU Commission, FERDI proposes vulnerability indices for monitoring WAEMU countries, including relevant local geographical levels. This collaboration will continue until 2025, with the publication of a report and the organisation of workshops.
- A vulnerability and resilience observatory is being established, with a website set to launch by the end of 2024.
- Following the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) meeting in July 2023, FERDI assisted the French government in developing a method to identify particularly vulnerable priority countries, in addition to the initially selected 45 LDCs. The method proposed by FERDI allows the government to transparently articulate the political decisions for which it is responsible.
- The multidimensional vulnerability index was discussed at COP28. FERDI organised a parallel session in partnership with the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA), the Green Overseas programme, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OEACP), and the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA). The session focused on the role of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) in mobilizing financing to strengthen resilience.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Fifty years after the creation of the LDC category, FERDI's work focuses on improving the identification of LDCs and the effectiveness of measures taken in their favour.



Achievements

- FERDI participated in the United Nations Conference on the Least **Developed Countries** (see p. 34) and continues its work on LDCs.
- FERDI was involved in launching the LDC5 Monitor, a coalition of think tanks and institutions from the North and South, providing independent analysis of the Doha agenda's implementation, especially concerning LDC

vulnerabilities. This initiative is supported by Finland and France and approved by UN-OHRLLS. FERDI will specifically monitor the vulnerability of LDCs under this initiative.

• The book *Out of the trap. Supporting the least Developed Countries* has been revised and reissued with an afterword discussing the impact of recent global crises on LDCs.



Events

FERDI at the 5th United Nations Conference on LDCs & at the 2nd United Nations Forum on the Future of LDCs

- March 2023 | FERDI participated in the 5th United Nations Conference on LDCs in Doha, organizing or leading several events:
- "Fifty years of least developed countries. Rationale, impact and prospects of the category";
- -"Achieving a fair and comprehensive measure of vulnerability: perspectives from small island developing states (SIDS) on the vulnerability index" high-level panel moderated by Patrick Guillaumont;
- Implications of a universal multidimensional vulnerability index for the graduation of LDCs:
- The digital challenge in LDCs;
- Launch of the "LDC5 Monitor" in collaboration with other institutions, aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Doha programme and examining its impact on LDC vulnerability.
- March 2024 | FERDI was a partner of the 2nd United Nations Forum on the Future of LDCs organised by UN-OHRLLS and the Finnish government. The foundation participated in discussions with several researchers contributing to sessions on "Innovative Entrepreneurship for Structural Transformation and Job Creation", "Managing Risks and Identifying the Benefits of Technology, Particularly AI, to Boost Productivity in LDCs", and "International Support Measures for LDCs".

On 7 March, FERDI also organized an event associated with the forum dedicated to the "LDC5 Monitor" initiative, in collaboration with UNU-WIDER and the OECD Development Centre.

Sahel Chair

The Sahel Chair aims to influence public and private decisions in order to overcome the crisis in the Sahel and achieve sustainable development in the region. Its work examines the implementation of development plans and policies and their impact on populations and target sectors (education, rural development, health, governance/institutions).

The Chair strives to collaborate closely with African administrations and development partners. Tertius Zongo, former Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, directs the chair and coordinates with economists from various Sahelian countries.



Achievements

Despite the local and regional insecurity, the Sahel Chair has progressed in its work program:

- Implemented a platform for the harmonized collection of data on incoming financial flows in the Sahel, initiated at the request of Sahelian country administrations.
- Published 2 studies analysing aspects of the sub-region's current crisis (see publications below).



Publications

- Olivier de Sardan J.-P., Zongo T. (2023) "Pourquoi cet échec stratégique des institutions de développement et des États africains? Et de quelques pistes pour aller vers des politiques publiques mieux adaptées aux contextes locaux [Why Have Development Institutions and African States Strategically Failed? Steps Toward Better-Adapted Public Policies for Local Contexts]", FERDI Working Paper P336, November.
- **Grünewald F.** (2023) "Between aridity and radicalism: pastoralism in the Sahel at the crossroads", FERDI Working Paper P316, February.



Events

- 22 February 2023 | Workshop to present study results and provide training in analysing efficiency in healthcare structures, Niamey.
- 15 May 2023 | Conference on relations between farmers and herders, and the future of pastoralism in the Sahel, co-organized by FERDI, the Nouvelle Afrique Contemporaine association, and Groupe URD, held in Paris and online.

The Perspective from FERDI Chairs

Private companies, especially SMEs, play a pivotal role in the economic development of Sub-Saharan African countries. FERDI has established 3 chairs focused on examining the connections between the private sector and development, with a focus on the agricultural sector, digital technology, and impact investing.

Chair "Agricultural Modernisation Policies in Africa"

Initiated in 2022, this Chair aims to mobilise farmers, agro-industries, policymakers, and international partners for collaborative reflection aimed at accelerating agricultural sector development in Africa.



Objectives

Based on its research and conference discussions, the purpose of this Chair is:

- To encourage the structuring of production and processing sectors or value chains.
- To explore methods for decarbonizing and achieving energy self-sufficiency in rural areas.
- To enhance the expertise of small-scale producers.
- To evaluate the feasibility of a dedicated, long-term financial mechanism for the agricultural and livestock sectors.



Achievements

• As part of a collaboration with the WAEMU Commission, the Chair has conducted a study on structuring a fund for private companies in the agricultural, agro-industrial, and livestock sectors. The Chair proposes a blended finance model to reduce risks for private investors and mobilize additional funding for the African agricultural sector. This tool was presented and discussed at a conference in June 2024.

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• On 3 October 2023, during the "Sommet de l'élevage" at Clermont-Ferrand (France), the Chair convened 4 dairy company managers from Sahelian countries along with social science researchers, to deliberate on the availability and accessibility of animal feed.

Event

Conference on Private Agricultural Entrepreneurship in Africa and its Financing

On February 3, 2023, the conference brought together 11 prominent figures and various stakeholders from the agricultural sector (researchers, farmers, seed companies, agro-industrialists, investors, employer organizations, funders) to exchange ideas, share experiences, and address the issue of financing private agricultural enterprises. This comes at a time when the French government, under pressure from economic actors, is developing a tailored instrument or framework to meet the sector's challenges and the needs of its private operators.

Three key lessons emerged from this conference:

- **1. Meso-economic Perspective on Agricultural Entrepreneurship:** Emphasizing the structuring and consolidation of value chains to bolster financing demand quality and foster an appropriate array of financial services.
- **2. Revamping Financial Instruments:** Specifically targeting long-term asset financing to better support entrepreneurs.
- **3. Comprehensive Support Beyond Credit Access:** Advocating for investments in research, infrastructure, market access, and technical capacity building to enhance agricultural performance.



Publications

- Araujo C. (2023) "Le fragile équilibre de la chaîne de valeur du lait pilotée par les mini-laiteries du Burkina Faso [The Fragile Balance of the Milk Value Chain Led by Mini-Dairies in Burkina Faso]", FERDI Working Paper P331.
- de Janvry A., Sadoulet E. (2023) "Financement des populations vulnérables dans les pays d'Afrique sub-Saharienne: le double déficit de l'agriculture [Financing Vulnerable Populations in Sub-Saharan African Countries: The Dual Deficit of Agriculture]", FERDI Policy Brief B244.



Press

■ 22 June 2023 | L'Opinion. Jean-Marc Gravellini: ["We need to create a new financial vehicle dedicated to private African agriculture"]. https://www.lopinion.fr/international/jean-marc-gravellini-il-faut-creer-un-nouveau-vehicule-financier-dedie-a-lagriculture-privee-africaine.

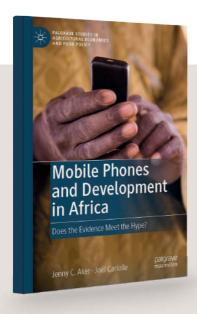
Digital Trust Chair

Established in 2020 and supported by Be-Ys, the FERDI Digital Trust Chair investigates, analyzes, and provides recommendations aimed at promoting the digital transformation of African economies.



Objectives

- To assess the impact of submarine cable deployment and digital distribution.
- To evaluate the effects of digitization on African economies.
- To formulate recommendations to foster the digital transformation of African economies.



• Aker J., Cariolle J. (2023) Mobile Phones and Development in Africa: Does the Evidence Meet the Hype?, Palgrave MacMillan, 174 p.

Mobile Phones and Development in Africa: Does the Evidence Meet the Hype?

This book explores the influence of information technology on rural households in Sub-Saharan Africa, where basic mobile phones have overtaken traditional communication and financial technologies, and offer significant development potential. Drawing on interdisciplinary research, the authors analyse the evolution of mobile phone coverage and adoption in the region over the past two decades and assess how mobile phones contribute to development. They examine efforts to digitize development and scrutinize the evidence of their impact. The book concludes that digital technology has not fully met expectations and raises critical questions for stakeholders aiming to leverage digital tools for development purposes.

Achievements

- On 29 and 30 November 2023, an international FERDI's conference on digital trust was held at ENSEA in Abidjan. The conference, inaugurated by Nialé Kaba, Côte d'Ivoire's Minister for the Economy, Planning, and Development, provided a platform to present and discuss the findings of the book Mobile Phones and Development in Africa: Does the Evidence Meet the Hype? Discussions highlighted the potential of mobile telephony, the importance of digitizing SMEs, the state's utilization of digital technology for resource management, and the internet's role in democracy. A detailed report is accessible on the FERDI website.
- •The Chair is currently supporting a pilot project aimed at enhancing the financial inclusion of farming households in Niger through mobile payments. Led by Jenny Aker, the project is scheduled to unveil its initial findings in summer 2024.
- Studies are underway to assess the impact of digital connectivity on agricultural markets, household welfare, and farm productivity in the WAEMU region.



Impact Investing Chair

While impact investing is expanding rapidly globally, this sector remains underresearched in the context of development financing, particularly in Africa. Established in 2022, the Impact Investing Chair aims to address this gap by providing scholarly insights into the critical issues affecting the continent's development. It serves as a tool to influence and guide decision-making in both the public and private sectors, emphasizing practical applications.



Objectives

- To enhance understanding of the impact investing sector in Africa.
- To contribute to standardizing the concept, crucial for its legitimacy and understanding the capabilities and limitations of impact investing.
- To investigate the effects of impact investing on the development of African countries.
- To initiate reflection on current issues concerning the sustainable development of this sector.

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Achievements

- A comprehensive map detailing impact investors active in Africa has been compiled, listing over 300 investors. This initial output was presented at an event in Abidjan on 20 June 2024.
- A literature review on development finance institutions (DFIs) is underway. The findings and an academic article will be unveiled at an event focusing on the future of DFIs in autumn 2024.



The Institut des Hautes Études du Développement Durable (IHEDD) is the training institute of the IDGM+ "Initiative for Development and Global Governance" Labex and centre of excellence, which includes the Fondation pour les Études et Recherches sur le Développement International (FERDI), the Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI), and the Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur le Développement International (CERDI - UMR CNRS-UCA). FERDI, where the IHEDD is based, is recognised as a French "professional training organisation". In 2022, it received the Qualiopi certification.

Expansion of Activities Supported by the Clermont-Ferrand International Development Hub & Increase in Training Opportunities

In 2023, the IHEDD significantly expanded its activities with the support of the Pôle clermontois de développement international (PCDI), increasing both the number of initiatives and beneficiaries. Additionally, the IHEDD has formed partnerships with various donors to optimize project complementarity and enhance its training supply. This growth involved reviewing the thematic development of training courses, recruiting expert trainers, and improving administrative processes, underscoring the IHEDD's commitment to staying relevant in a constantly evolving environment.

In 2023, 21 training courses were organized with PCDI funding, compared to 13 in 2022. A total of 1,071 people benefited from these activities in 2023, up from 446 in 2022.

Achievements

Expansion of Partnerships: Partnerships with training institutes in the Global South are expanding. In 2023, three new partnerships were established:

1) In Chad, with the Institut des Sciences du Management et d'Économie Appliquée (ISMEA) as part of the Pôle d'Excellence Universitaire du Sahel in N'Djaména, 2) In Cameroon, with the University of Yaoundé Il-Soa and Faculty of Economics and Management (FSEG), 3) In Côte d'Ivoire, with the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (ENSEA).

Measures have also been taken to strengthen partnerships with the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) and the International University of Côte d'Ivoire (UICI).

- **Support for Doctoral Students:** Individual support is provided to doctoral students and doctoral schools in the Global South to assist them in conducting and communicating their research.
- Enhanced Training Courses: In 2023, the range of training courses was strengthened with the updating of 11 courses under the PCDI agreement, aimed at creating a clearly identifiable range of offerings. These courses, based on the work of FERDI and the Chairs, cover various fields such as project management, economic and financial analysis of decentralised electrification projects, health economics, ecological issues in development projects, taxation and mining rents, and tax policies in the extractive sector.
- Master's Degree in Economic Policy Management (GPE): The GPE program, designed for economists working in government departments in developing countries, has been consolidated. The GPE29 cycle (2022-2023) trained 24 students, including 4 recipients of PCDI grants, all of whom graduated in June 2023. Starting with the GPE30 cycle, FERDI will finance the training of 5 students each year and will consider re-evaluating the monthly subsistence allowance.
- MODEV Master's Program ("Master Maîtrise d'ouvrage pour le développement"): Students for the 2023-2024 MODEV Master's class ("MODEV 17") were selected in spring 2023, comprising 36 students, including 28 PCDI scholarship holders, with an equal number of men and women. The call for applications for the 2024-2025 class ("MODEV 18") was launched in December 2023.



- **New Training Cycles:** In 2023, 3 high-level seminars and 12 short certification courses were offered on various themes, including the arts and development, competitiveness, vulnerability, and the modernisation of agriculture and livestock farming in Chad.
- **"À la Carte" Training Courses:** IHEDD now offers "à la carte" and multimodal certification courses, combining face-to-face and distance learning with pedagogical support.
- **Externally Funded Training Courses:** Courses funded by other donors are also included, such as the DATAFID project on data science for tax and customs administrations, funded by the French Treasury and implemented by Expertise France, and the mining taxation course funded by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.
- **Growing Students and Alumni Networks:** WhatsApp groups are created for each course, allowing participants to continue networking, sharing resources, and opportunities after the courses have finished. FERDI also uses LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook to maintain these contacts.



Among training Courses

- 16 October-16 December 2023, Abidjan and Online | Data Science for Tax and Customs Administrations. A hybrid training course developed as part of Expertise France's DATAFID project for French-speaking tax and customs officials. The course was delivered in partnership with the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (ENSEA), the World Customs Organisation (WCO), and AFD.
- 18-20 October 2023, Clermont-Ferrand | General Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in Public Administrations. This workshop, organised by IHEDD-FERDI and the World Customs Organisation (WCO), focused on the issues raised by the use of GenAls in public administrations.
- 24-29 June 2024, Clermont-Ferrand | Strengthening Management and Governance Capacities of Agricultural and Agri-Food Cooperatives. In partnership with the Auvergne group of Afdi AuRA and VetAgro Sup, FERDI, through the Institut des Hautes Études du Développement Durable (IHEDD-FERDI), supports vocational training for stakeholders in African agricultural sectors.
- 31 May-7 June 2023 | Arts and Development: Building Bridges. An innovative workshop to mobilise artistic creation in support of development aid. This course was conducted online, followed by sessions in Clermont-Ferrand and Marseille.

- 3 February-20 March 2023 | Identifying and Building Your Development Project. An e-learning course focusing on project management, examining both the practical aspects and the essential skills and attitudes needed for successful project development.
- 23-26 January 2023, Antananarivo | AfDB Training Modelling the Sharing of Mining Rents in Madagascar. On-demand training organised as part of the FIMES project, aiming to enhance the capacity of administrations in 8 African countries rich in natural resources (Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe) to use financial and fiscal modelling for projects in the extractive sector (mining, oil, and gas).

High-Level Seminars

- 12-14 December 2023, Yaoundé | Integration into the Global Economy and Sustainable Competitiveness Constraints. This 3-day face-to-face seminar in Yaoundé convened public and private sector executives to discuss integrating sustainable competitiveness into policy definition and implementation. Key speakers included Désiré Avom and Patrick Plane.
- 20-22 February 2023, N'Djamena | Modernising Agriculture and Livestock in Chad. Held over 3 days in N'Djamena, this seminar provided a platform for discussions on agricultural policies in Chad. Key speakers included Catherine Araujo and Jean-Marc Gravellini.
- 22 February 2023, Niamey | Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on District Hospital Efficiency in Burkina Faso and Niger. Jacky Mathonnat, head of FERDI's health programme, presented a study commissioned by AFD in Niamey on the impact of Covid-19 on district hospital efficiency in Niger at a high-level workshop attended by the Minister of Health. This initiative was conducted in collaboration with the FERDI Chair.



The Clermont-Ferrand International Development Hub (Pôle clermontois de développement international – PCDI) serves as a collaborative platform focusing on research, training, capacity building, policy dialogue, and global cooperation for sustainable development. It provides a vital forum for reflection and exchange, welcoming expertise from both Northern and Southern perspectives. The PCDI plays a unique role in shaping global policies and fostering local solutions to contemporary challenges in sustainable development amidst a shifting geopolitical landscape.

This initiative is a result of collaboration between 3 institutions dedicated to international development: **FERDI, CERDI, and Global Development Network (GDN)**. It receives support from the French government (Ministry of the Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, through the French Development Agency), as well as from local and regional authorities (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, Puy-de-Dôme department, Clermont Auvergne Métropole), Clermont-Auvergne University, and the Michelin Corporate Foundation.

PCDI Initiatives for Sustainable Development

The 3 partners of PCDI collaborate on targeted initiatives to advance sustainable development through coordinated research and capacity-building programs, including:

- Global Development Conference: An annual international event alternating between Clermont-Ferrand and a country in the Global South. It serves as a pivotal platform for promoting Southern research on sustainable development goals;
- Shared Research Chairs: These chairs facilitate research and outreach activities in Clermont-Ferrand in close collaboration with Southern partners, involving academia, institutions, and the private sector. They organize conferences, workshops, and training courses;

- International Blogs and Journal: The PCDI maintains two international blogs, GlobalDev and Entreprenante Afrique, and publishes the Revue d'économie du développement journal. These platforms elevate the visibility of sustainable development research to diverse audiences;
- Data Platforms: Publicly accessible platforms disseminate research findings and innovative indicators developed by PCDI partners, contributing to informed debates in developing countries;
- Master's Degree Courses: The University of Clermont Auvergne offers two specialized courses in its Development Economics Master's program: "Project Management for Development" and "Economic Policy Management" designed for continuing education students from developing countries;
- **Capacity-Building Initiatives:** PCDI conducts numerous short training courses and mentoring programmes aimed at enhancing the capacities of public administration managers, civil society members, and research teams in the Global South.



On 4 April 2024, the PCDI was officially inaugurated in the presence of Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Secretary of State for Development and International Partnerships; William Roos, Head of the Multilateral Affairs and Development Department at the French Treasury; Rémy Rioux, Managing Director of the Agence française de développement; Florent Menegaux, Chairman of Michelin Group; Mathias Bernard, President of the Université de Clermont Auvergne; and representatives from the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, Puy-de-Dôme department and Clermont Auvergne Métropole.

FERDI plays a significant role in shaping the scientific policy of the Clermont-Ferrand region through its collaboration with the newly structured Université de Clermont Auvergne, an experimental public institution leading the I-Site CAP 20-25 initiative of excellence.

The Université de Clermont Auvergne unites all higher education and research stakeholders on its campus: EPSTs, schools, CHU (teaching hospitals), CROUS (student services), research centres, foundations, and major companies like Michelin and Limagrain.

CAP 20-25 I-Site designates Université de Clermont Auvergne as one of France's 17 universities of excellence with a robust international strategy.

FERDI contributes to this collective effort through its leadership of the IDGM+ project (Initiative for Development and Global Governance), a labex established in 2011 to advance sustainable development policies based on research. IDGM+ operates in partnership with CERDI (Centre d'études et de recherches sur le développement international—UMR UCA-CNRS-IRD) and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI).

Through IDGM+, FERDI brings its extensive expertise as a think tank to support public policy development.

In 2023, institutional changes at Université de Clermont Auvergne expanded the board responsible for managing all CAP 20-25 excellence programs. FERDI holds a seat on this expanded board.

FERDI's commitment to the Clermont-Ferrand site is further underscored by the establishment of the PCDI (see previous page).















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Special Advisor



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Mélanie Hurel Graphic and Design Manager IHEDD- FERDI



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Motion Designer
IHEDD-FERDI



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Ngueto Tiraïna Yambaye

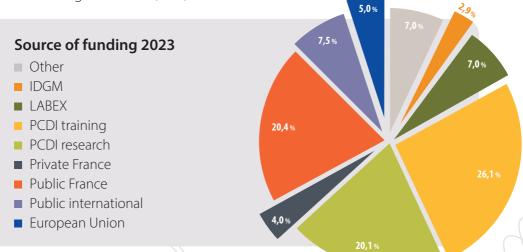
Managing Director - African Guarantee and Economic Cooperation Fund (FAGACE)

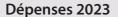
^{*} Senior Fellow

Budget

Total budget 2023: € 5, 142, 853

Total budget 2022: € 5,124,261



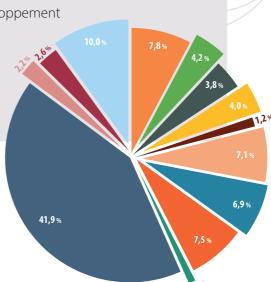


Programs

- Prog. 1 | International Financing for Development
- Prog. 2 | Taxation for Development
- Prog. 3 | Regional Integration
- Prog. 4 | Energy Transition, Resources and Environment
- Prog. 5 | Human Capital
- Prog. 6 | Macroeconomic Policy
- Prog. 7 | Vulnerabilities and Security
- Prog. 8 | Private Sector and Development
- Prog. 10 | Revue d'économie du développement
- Prog. 11 | Capacity Building

Overheads

- Communication
- Research coordination
- Operating costs



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A

Africa Mini-Grid Community of Practice (AMG-CoP)

African Association for Rural Electrification - Club ER

African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)

African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

African Guarantee and Economic Cooperation Fund (FAGACE)

Agence française de développement (AFD)

Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR)

Agriculteurs français et développement international (Afdi)

Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Africa (ALFA)

Almerys / Be Ys

Artine GIE

Association Nouvelle Afrique contemporaine (AfCo)

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region (ARA)

В

Banque de France

C

Campus AFD CAP 20-25

Center for Global Development (CGD)

Center for Health Development (CHD), Mongolia

Central Bank of Madagascar Central Bank of West African States - West African Centre for Banking Studies and Training (BCEAO- COFEB)

Centre d'études et de recherches sur le développement international (CERDI)

Cercle de Réflexion et d'Échange des Dirigeants des Administrations fiscales (CREDAF)

Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar, Senegal Clermont Auvergne Métropole

D

Département du Puy-de-Dôme Department of Economic Policy and Domestic Taxation (DPE) -WAEMU

Department of International Cooperation - Monaco

Е

École d'économie, Université Clermont Auvergne

École Nationale des Industries du Lait et des Viandes (ENILV) Aurillac, France

Economic Analysis of Public Policies (ANEPP), University of Lomé, Togo

Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

Economic Policy Analysis Unit of CIRES (CAPEC-CIRES), Côte d'Ivoire

École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (ENS Lyon)

Electriciens sans frontière ENA Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire European Union

Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA)

Expertise France
Extractive Industries
Transparency Initiative (EITI)

F

Faculty of Economics and Management (FSEG), University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon Finance for Development Lab (FDL)

French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)

French Council of Investors in Africa (Cian)

French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)

G

Global Development Network (GDN)

Government of Monaco

Groupe Urgence Réhabilitation Développement (URD)

н

Haraz Group

Institute for Climate Economics (I4CE)

Institute of Management Sciences and Applied Economics (ISMEA), Chad Institute of New Structural Economics (INSE), Peking University, China

Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

International Centre for Tax and Development (ICTD)

International Development Association (IDA)

International Finance Corporation (IFC - World Bank Group)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International University of Côte d'Ivoire (UICI)

J

Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP)

L

Laboratoire d'Économie de Dijon (LEDi) La Laiterie du Berger LDC5 Monitor

M

Metis Funds - AFD
Michelin Corporate Foundation
Ministry of Economics, Finance
and Industrial and Digital
Sovereignty - French Treasury
and Directorate-General of
Customs and Indirect Taxes
Ministry for Europe and Foreign
Affairs (MEAE), France
Ministry of Health, Mongolia
Ministry of Health and Public
Hygiene, Togo

Ministry of Public Health, Niger Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), Morocco Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences

Ν

National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (ENSEA), Abidjan

0

OECD Development Centre Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF)

P

Platform for Collaboration on Tax (PCT)

Т

Tufts University, Boston, US

U

United Nations (UN-OHRLLS)
Union of the Comoros
Union nationale des Minilaiteries et des Producteurs de Lait au Burkina (UMPL-B)
Université Clermont Auvergne
Université Djibo Hamani de
Tahoua (UDH), Niger
Université Félix Houphouët-Boign (UFHB), Abidjan, Côte
d'Ivoire

Université de Bourgogne, France University of Yaoundé II, Soa,

Cameroon

University of Lomé, Togo

W

West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Wi Agri World Customs Organisation (WCO)

Sur quoi la fondera-t-il, l'économie du monde qu'il veut gouverner ? Sera-ce sur le caprice de chaque particulier ? Quelle confusion ! Sera-ce sur la justice ? Il l'ignore.

Blaise Pascal



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