

# List of Projects

## Richard Grieveson

### **Empowering the Geopolitical EU in the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans (GEO-POWER-EU)**

*European Commission, Horizon Europe*

*June 2024 - May 2027*

GEO-POWER-EU's primary objective is to contribute to the empowerment of the EU to manage security threats within the deteriorating geopolitical environment that lies in its Eastern Neighbourhood and in the Western Balkans. The project's main goal is to articulate a proposal for a comprehensive EU strategy towards these regions that will employ new and reformed means and policy instruments, taking into consideration foresight concerning the strategic ambitions of other geopolitical actors. The project seeks to improve the EU neighbourhood policy and accession process. Conceptually, GEO-POWER-EU will link both the enlargement and EaP policies, two areas traditionally studied as two distinct political regions falling under different policy radars, in order to reflect the post-Russian invasion in Ukraine EU policy needs. Methodologically, the project will combine traditional quantitative and qualitative methods (desk research, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, case studies and a population survey in the WB and the Associated Trio), together with digital methods (Sentiment Analysis), among other things. The project will create a special 'Interdependence Database', which will become publicly available, as well as three Indices, measuring different aspects of interdependence. GEO-POWER-EU project brings together a consortium of thirteen European research organisations and universities and is being coordinated by the University of the Peloponnese. wiiw's main contribution is the development of an interdependence database aimed to measure the influence of EU's geopolitical competitors in the two regions concerned and the investigation of emigration and brain drain from these.

### **Key Forecasts and Macro Scenario Analysis (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Addiko Bank AG*

*March 2024 - March 2026*

The wiiw team carries out 'Key Forecasts and Macro Scenario Analysis', focusing on agreed macroeconomic indicators to calculate different scenarios of macroeconomic developments in the EU/Austria. These scenarios will be delivered to the contracting authority in accordance with specified terms and condition.

### **Articles for the magazine 'European Voices' (wiiw Team Leader)**

*DER ThinkTank*

*January 2024 - December 2025*

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies authors articles on economic policy issues for the foreign and economic policy magazine "European Voices". The articles consist of academic content, analyses and assessments by wiiw economists enriched with wiiw economic data and forecasts for the countries in the region. The magazine has a circulation of 50,000 and is distributed across borders to the most important decision-makers in the fields of politics, diplomacy and business throughout Europe.

### **Monitoring and Supporting Western Balkan Convergence with the European Union**

*Open Society Foundations Western Balkans (OSF)*

*November 2024 - December 2025*

This project aims to support the economic, social, and institutional convergence of the Western Balkans with the EU by developing a comprehensive convergence database and index, alongside a dashboard and annual reports to track

regional progress. Additionally, it will provide scenario analyses, policy recommendations, and advocacy strategies to further enhance the region's convergence with the EU. In that way, it can be linked to the aim of the Western Balkan leaders of establishing an Observatory of Convergence, as well as the reinvigorated enlargement momentum from the EU.

### **Neue Wege für die EU-Türkei-Wirtschaftsbeziehungen - Zollunion im Wandel?**

*Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy*

*October 2024 - September 2025*

Die Studie wird verschiedene wirtschaftliche und politische Annäherungsstrategien in Bezug auf die Zollunion zwischen der EU und der Türkei evaluieren. Dazu gehört unter anderem die Modernisierung des bestehenden Zollunionsabkommens sowie die Kontinuität des aktuellen Abkommens und die Möglichkeit der Aufhebung der Zollunion. Dabei werden die ökonomischen und politischen Auswirkungen dieser Ansätze auf die Türkei und die EU, einschließlich Österreich und ausgewählten Mitgliedstaaten, analysiert und politische Vorschläge erarbeitet.

### **What are the economic and institutional must haves for candidate countries to make an accelerated enlargement possible?**

*European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs*

*October 2024 - June 2025*

This project, commissioned by the EU Commission's DG EcFin, attempts to identify "the minimal economic preconditions for the accession of candidates to the European Union, presuming a scenario under which there would be strong political pressure to admit new Member States much quicker than the current enlargement approach and procedures can deliver." (quoted from the tender document). The research set out to identify such minimum conditions by focusing on the following selection criteria: (i) relevance to provide macroeconomic stability for longer-term growth (and convergence), (ii) potential spillover effects on existing member states, and (iii) implications for proper use of EU funding and mutually beneficial participation in EU programs. Given these criteria we focus in our analysis on (a) external accounts (b) the fiscal situation (c) labour markets and social indicators and (d) institutional factors.

### **Geo-economic Interconnectivity Index (GEOII)**

*Bertelsmann Stiftung*

*July 2024 - April 2025*

The Geo-economic Interconnectivity Index (GEOII) is part of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's project "Sovereign Europe: Strategic Management of Global Interdependence" and builds upon the research conducted in collaboration with the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and European Center for International Political Economy (ECIPE), to measure economic interconnectivity of the EU and other powers with the EU neighbouring countries. The focus of the "Sovereign Europe" project and its continuation with the index is to explore how the EU can consolidate and expand its influence in its neighbourhood amid increasing geopolitical rivalry and blocs formation. The aim is to align relations with the EU's political interests and values, thereby strengthening its role as a global player. This index aims to capture the dynamics of geoeconomic influence and shifts in the balance of power within the region. Its core objective is to track changes in economic ties in various sectors over time and their implications for the EU's relative influence. To this end, the index will measure and evaluate the economic interconnectivity of the EU with its neighbouring countries, focusing on the bilateral flow of goods, services, and finances, as well as policies that hinder or promote this exchange. The index will compare the EU's interconnectivity with that of the US, China, and Russia in the same region, providing an evidence-based picture of the intensity and development of interconnectedness while disclosing annual differences (deltas) in the data .

### **Eastern Europe Before Transition: Digitisation of data and analysis of CESEE's command economies (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*May 2021 - September 2024*

To gain a deeper understanding of the industrialisation boom, the subsequent (financial) crises, and the collapse of the command economies in Central, East, and Southeast Europe (CESEE), as well as the economic policy approaches implemented during this period, we have digitised and made publicly available wiiw's economic statistics. These cover the COMECON (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) member and associated member countries in CESEE from 1944 to 1993. Similarly, we have scanned wiiw's research reports from that era. Additionally, a series of working papers has been produced, providing detailed descriptions of the data,

summarising relevant literature, and offering economic analyses on key topics related to the development and decline of the command economies. The project was conducted in close collaboration with our partners in the Research Centre for the History of Transformations (RECET) research network of the University of Vienna.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18666).

### **Production and analysis of the Skills Forecast**

*European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)*

*July 2020 - July 2024*

Cedefop, since 2005, has developed a methodological framework to estimate projections for the skills demand and supply across EU Member States. The main objective of this contract is to produce regular Skills Forecasts, consistent in scope and level of detail with the previous releases, and analyse the results producing high quality outputs. A consortium led by Cambridge Econometrics (and with wiiw as a partner) is producing and further developing these forecasts from the beginning and has won all consecutive contracts so far.

### **Toward innovation-driven growth: innovation systems and policies in EU member states of Central Eastern Europe**

*Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

*September 2023 - March 2024*

In this study, we pursued five main objectives: (1) Communicate in an understandable manner what type of innovation systems and policies promote the cultivation of domestic innovative capabilities, and enhance the technological competitiveness of economies. We made reference to best practice examples from around the world, drawing on the literature on policy initiatives implemented by successful innovators. (2) Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current innovation climate of EU-CEE countries, taking into account the implications arising from the current megatrends. (3) Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of the innovation policy landscape of EU-CEE countries, highlighting such policy initiatives which can provide a basis for mutual learning. The scope of the EU-CEE policy landscape covers national initiatives on the one hand, and framework conditions and opportunities arising from EU industrial and technology policy initiatives on the other hand. (4) Propose a set of concrete policy recommendations that would promote innovation-driven growth in EU-CEE countries. (5) Keeping in mind the shared challenges and opportunities of the EU-CEE region overall, tailor the findings to each country's specific development needs and capabilities.

### **Key Forecasts and Macro Scenario Analysis (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Addiko Bank AG*

*May 2023 - February 2024*

The wiiw carried out the 'Key Forecasts and Macro Scenario Analysis' - a set of agreed macroeconomic indicators. For five Addiko countries (plus the euro area and other key markets where appropriate), wiiw produced forecasts (up to five years) for a set of agreed macroeconomic and financial indicators. For some of these indicators, wiiw produced three scenarios in addition to the baseline: optimistic, pessimistic and negative.

### **A stronger CEE for a stronger Europe - Policy Note (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Erste Group Bank AG*

*December 2023 - February 2024*

The performance of CEE economies over the last three decades has been a success story, with more ups than downs. However, in the aftermath of the pandemic, amidst rising geopolitical challenges and faced with a continuing demographic decline, countries in the region need to question whether a growth model still largely based on imported technology, cheap labour and fossil fuel imports can continue to be the main driver of convergence. In this context, the European Union needs to strengthen its focus on competitiveness, growth and social inclusion in the CEE member states. And beyond. The purpose of this project - a collaboration between wiiw and Thomas Wieser - was to look at which specific policies need to be addressed, in order to have a stronger CEE for a stronger Europe.

### **How to dovetail Ukraine's reconstruction with EU integration and accession (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Bertelsmann Stiftung*

*January 2023 - December 2023*

The reconstruction of Ukraine and its accession to the EU constitute one of the biggest challenges for the

international community, the EU and the country itself for many decades. Ukraine received candidate status from the EU in 2022 and could open negotiations even this year. Meeting the Copenhagen Criteria for EU accession, however, will be a monumental task. A joint assessment released in March 2023 by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, and the United Nations, estimated that the cost of reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine had grown to US \$411 billion (€383 billion). The costs were expected to be spread out over 10 years, and to use a mixture of private and public money. This research team argued that these two historic processes—reconstruction and EU integration—and how to further develop Ukraine as a functioning market economy capable of meeting the demands of EU internal market competition must be thought together to achieve the best possible outcomes - for the EU and Ukraine alike. Shedding light on what exactly the main challenges are, how Ukraine compares with previous joiners, and what can be learned from the successful EU accession of EU-CEE countries, was the ultimate ambition of this report. Within a series of research reports and policy briefs a group of economists from wiiw, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Kiev-based Growford Institute and the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting analysed in detail five key and complementary areas of economic reconstruction: trade and FDI, regional policy, infrastructure, demographics, finance. They also investigated how these reconstruction areas could be structured as part of the EU accession process, and provided policy proposals for Ukraine and the EU.

### **Entwicklung, Organisation, Durchführung und Evaluierung von Seminaren am Joint Vienna Institut (JVI)**

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*January 2023 - December 2023*

Das wiiw hat im Rahmen des Joint Vienna Institute (JVI) mehrere Kurse konzipiert und durchgeführt. Diese Kurse richten sich an Entscheidungsträger des öffentlichen Sektors aus den Transformationsländern Südosteuropas und der GUS und haben zum Ziel, aktuelle wirtschaftspolitische Themen zu vermitteln.

### **Political economy of public debt, growth and interest rates in the context of the Corona crisis**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*October 2021 - September 2023*

The macroeconomic consequences of the Corona crisis have triggered an increase in public debt in the EU's Member States. This research project makes two contributions to a better understanding of the implications for economic policy. First, we develop the first quantitative analysis of the literature concerning the effect of public debt on economic growth. Using the statistical and econometric toolbox of meta-analysis and meta-regression analysis, we investigate whether there is evidence for a threshold effect of the public-debt-to-GDP ratio, whereby economic growth could decline significantly if such a threshold is exceeded. Second, the project develops an analysis of government debt against the background of changes in the interest rate environment. Specifically, we analyse the role of the difference between long-term interest rates on government bonds and GDP growth rates for the dynamics of government debt and fiscal policy.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18699).

### **Framework contract for studies in the field of Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research, Culture and Digital Single Market (Lot 1 - Social and Employment Policy)**

*Committee of the Regions*

*July 2022 - June 2023*

The purpose of this framework contract is to enhance the European Committee of the Regions' capacity to provide input into the policy-making process by a) increasing its rapid response capability, b) allowing a broader consultation of local and regional players, c) offering the possibility of drawing up specific opinions on topics of current interest, d) making databases and knowledge built up by research centres and universities accessible for the evaluation of policies, e) improve its capacity to prepare outlook opinions in the context of the Cooperation Protocol with the European Commission, f) use Territorial Impact Assessments as valuable tools for complementing Commission ex ante impact assessments and g) strengthen the capacity and increase the activity in foresight analysis of regional and local developments. The framework contract focuses on social and employment policies that will be addressed from the perspective of local and regional authorities. wiiw is leading a consortium with Spatial Foresight and t33.

### **Short study on Russia and impact of war (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Vienneast Consultung GmbH*

*February 2023 - March 2023*

Short study on Russia and impact of war with following questions dealt with: Does the Russian Federation benefit economically from (i) the war against Ukraine or (ii) the stop of the deliveries of natural gas to Europe? What does prevail regarding each of them - the economic costs or the (potential) economic benefit?

### **EU interconnectivity with its neighbouring regions** *(wiiw Team Leader)*

*Bertelsmann Stiftung*

*November 2021 - February 2023*

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has marked the start of a new geo-economic era for the EU. Against this background, this study aims to gain a better understanding of the geo-economic challenges that the EU faces in its neighbourhood. It set out to measure the interconnectivity between the EU and its neighbouring countries and to compare these interconnections with those of the EU's peers and rivals: the US, China and Russia. The authors seek to identify and measure the extent of these interconnections in five key areas (trade, finance, technology and know-how, infrastructure and labour mobility), to draw out the key geo-economic implications for the EU, and to propose a set of policy recommendations for the EU's future engagement with its neighbourhood. The study was undertaken jointly by wiiw and Bertelsmann Stiftung.

### **Wirtschaftliche Auswirkungen des Russisch-Ukrainischen Krieges auf Wien**

*City of Vienna*

*March 2022 - December 2022*

Die Invasion Russlands in der Ukraine führt neben den geopolitischen auch zu einer Reihe von geoökonomischen Auswirkungen, deren Intensität sowohl in der kurzen als auch in der mittleren und längeren Frist sehr hoch sein wird. Die akuten Effekte betreffen die globalen und insbesondere europäischen Märkte für Energie, sowie für landwirtschaftliche Güter und Nahrungsmittel. Millionen von Flüchtenden haben sich auf den Weg gemacht. Grundzüge der Nachkriegsordnung, insbesondere in den Bereichen Sicherheitspolitik, Energiepolitik und das damit einhergehende Wachstumsmodell werden aktuell überdacht. Diese Kurzstudie gab einen ersten Überblick vor allem über die potentiellen kurzfristigen wirtschaftlichen Effekte des Krieges auf die Stadt Wien.

### **Industrial Policy for a New Growth Model: A toolbox for EU-CEE countries**

*Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

*July 2022 - December 2022*

The Central Eastern European member states of the EU (EU-CEE) marked impressive advancements in their socio-economic developments over the past decades and can be even regarded as one of the most dynamic regions in Europe. The countries' EU membership as well as their deep integration into regional and global value chains (GVCs) played a crucial role in this catch-up process. However, the period following the Great Recession has seen unimpressive labour productivity growth along with a somewhat slower, in some cases even derailed, convergence process. In the light of EU-CEE's positioning as 'factory economies' and their struggle to occupy the more sophisticated stages of manufacturing value chains, the key challenge faced by the region is to occupy higher value-added activities within the value chain. This study aims to strategically evaluate the countries' policy options in achieving this goal, and to design an appropriate industrial policy toolkit for them, taking full account of the ongoing megatrends. It aims to guide policy makers in making the best possible use of the available policy space and taking full advantage of EU membership, while at the same time steering the industrial policy discussions at the EU-level to one that better fits the position and capabilities of the EU-CEE. The study defines industrial policy in the EU context and explores lessons learned from past successful industrialisers. It maps the EU-CEE's industrial development, with a particular focus on green and digital aspects, in order to identify most promising growth areas, along with key areas of vulnerability. Subsequently, it dives deep into the discussion of flagship industrial policy instruments and discusses how they could be more effectively deployed in EU-CEE.

### **Three short national case studies on inflation, price controls and incomes policies for Croatia, Hungary and Poland**

*AK - Wien*

*August 2022 - December 2022*

After a series of crises - most recently an energy and food price crisis - the resilience of the economies of the European Union is at stake. The challenges to policymakers, particularly the European Central Bank, but also to national governments and to the social partners who determine collective nominal wage developments are

substantial. Economic recovery is at risk, as a recession might be looming. In an environment of rising interest rates, the stability of the (European Monetary) Union (EMU) is at stake, as economic divergence increases. Also, peripheral EU Member States, which have not yet introduced the Euro, are affected and prone to extended financial and economic crisis. Three short national case studies for Croatia, Hungary and Poland were conducted. Each of these cases are interesting in their own way. Poland is the biggest EU economy in Central, East and Southeast Europe. Hungary has a tradition of applying idiosyncratic economic policy measures. Croatia joined the Euro in January 2023.

### **How do Economies in EU-CEE Cope with Labour Shortages? An Update**

*Austrian Chamber of Labour*

*January 2022 - November 2022*

The EU member states in Central and Eastern Europe (EU-CEE) were experiencing rising labour shortages prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly due to a rapid demographic decline. As a result, the bargaining power of labour increased, wages were generally rising ahead of labour productivity, and people were investing in education. Czechia, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia became net receivers of migrants, while in Bulgaria and Poland immigration largely compensated for the natives who went abroad. However, immigration from non-European countries as a general solution to the problem of labour shortages was highly problematic in the domestic political context. These were the main findings of the wiiw study "How do Economies in EU-CEE Cope with Labour Shortages?" published at the end of 2020. The aim of the current project is to update this study, in order to take into account the post-pandemic developments and the new population census data.

### **Market analysis' - projections and adverse scenarios (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Addiko Bank AG*

*April 2020 - September 2022*

Scenario analysis wiiw provided forecasts for a set of agreed macroeconomic and financial indicators in five Addiko countries of operation as well as the euro area and where relevant, other key markets. For some of these indicators, in addition to the baseline, wiiw produced an optimistic, a pessimistic and an adverse scenario. The accompanying excel file included a full list of data to be provided. Countries covered: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Euro area.

### **Regional Cooperation in EU-CEE and Lessons for the Western Balkans**

*Bertelsmann Stiftung*

*June 2021 - May 2022*

In our previous study "Pushing on a String? An evaluation of regional economic cooperation in the Western Balkans", we concluded that a change in the EU's strategy towards the Western Balkans is needed. The current strategy has failed to deliver regional economic integration and development, has resulted in very meagre progress towards full EU accession, and has generated huge disappointment and frustration in the region. With these conclusions as a starting point, in the current study we ask whether and how the successful example from the formerly communist countries that joined the EU between 2004 and 2013 (EU-CEE) can be replicated in the Western Balkans. More specifically, we investigate to what extent regional economic integration improved in EU-CEE after EU accession, identify the suspected reasons for this, and determine which lessons can be drawn from this experience for the Western Balkan economies. Our main finding is that the best way to foster regional economic integration and development in the Western Balkans would be through policies aimed at raising incomes. One way in which this can be achieved is by increasing the EU transfers for the region, for example, through full access to the EU budget, with the necessary conditionality attached.

### **Systematische Untersuchung der möglichen mittel- und langfristigen Auswirkungen von Covid-19 auf Personen- und Gütermobilität**

*ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG/Austrian Railway*

*February 2021 - March 2022*

Die Ergebnisse dieses Vorhabens sollen eine wesentliche Referenz für die strategische Netzentwicklung der Verkehrsinfrastruktur und ein gemeinsamer Bezugsrahmen für BMK, ASFINAG und ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG darstellen. Mit Hilfe von Szenariotechniken soll dem hohen Grad an Unsicherheit Rechnung getragen werden. Die systematische Erarbeitung dieser gemeinsamen Referenz auf Grundlage aktueller wissenschaftlicher Erkenntnisse stellt den wesentlichen Mehrwert der Studie dar. wiiw erarbeitet die Studie gemeinsam mit Rosinak & Partner.

### **A new growth model in EU-CEE (wiw Team Leader)**

*Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

*August 2020 - May 2021*

The eleven EU member states from Central, East, and Southeast Europe (EU-CEE) have undergone three decades of transition to market capitalism and convergence with Western Europe. There have been many successes and challenges, and the level of economic and social development varies widely across the region. The study finds that the convergence process, especially for the more advanced countries, has slowed since 2007 and that the current growth model may well be reaching its limit. The authors find that it will take decades for EU-CEE's more developed countries to halve the remaining gap to Germany and other rich countries in Western Europe. This implies that it is high time to think about a new growth model for the region. The study outlines the main priorities for a strategic transition to a new growth model of EU-CEE and shows substantial opportunities in a greener, digitised, automated world.

### **Analysis of value chains in the Western Balkans economies - Enriching potential for regional cooperation in priority areas**

*Joint Research Centre (JRC)*

*January 2021 - May 2021*

The overall objective of this project was to provide guidance, methodological support and capacity building in smart specialisation processes in the Western Balkans economies. One goal of the support to smart specialisation in the region was to identify promising industrial areas (domains) for the Western Balkan economies with higher value-added as well as to analyse and identify possibilities for wider cooperation in the South-East Europe in these identified areas. The analysis of value chains in the Western Balkans (WB) was expected to deliver an advanced contextual overview of the competitive position of the present and potential smart specialisation priority domains, and to identify opportunities for upgrading the position of the whole region and individual economies in European and global value chains; finding new market niches and areas of economic cooperation.

### **Nearshoring Potential in the Western Balkans**

*Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany*

*August 2020 - May 2021*

This study aims to analyse whether and how the Western Balkan economies could benefit from near-shoring trends after the COVID-19 pandemic. It begins by discussing recent trends in foreign investment, and then presents an econometric analysis of determinants of foreign direct investment in the Western Balkans and East Asia. This is followed by a set of surveys, interviews and case studies, of different actors involved in global supply chains and investment, including foreign companies that have invested in the Western Balkans, foreign companies that are considering investing in the Western Balkans, local companies from the Western Balkans, and investment promotion agencies from these economies. The study concludes that Western Balkan economies can indeed benefit from near-shoring trends in the post-pandemic world, but would have to go beyond low labour costs in order to achieve that. Putting a focus on skilled labour, investment in education and training, improving infrastructure and governance would be the most important things to do.

### **Migration from Africa, Middle East and EU Eastern Partnership countries towards the EU-27: Challenges and prospects ahead**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*January 2019 - March 2021*

Over the last three decades the fall of the Berlin wall and EU enlargement towards the East have been important events which have further nurtured intra EU mobility. Nevertheless, in the coming decade the mobility to the EU will be dominated by another corridor which is directed from South - Africa, Middle East and EU neighbouring countries (AME) - to the North (the EU). The mobility from AME to the EU can be seen as both supply and demand driven. It is supply driven because of underdevelopment of AME with respect to the EU, wars, political and social instability which have afflicted AME regions, but also the impact of climate change and massive displacements of populations especially on the African continent due to hazardous weather conditions. It is demand driven because EU countries are undergoing a strong decline in working age population and will increasingly depend on workers from abroad - including AME countries. As a consequence, there is a great need to better understand potential mobility from AME to the EU, identify its main drivers and what could be the role of migration governance in this context. This project sheds light on determinants of AME-EU mobility, likely future scenarios and on some of the policy challenges.

## **Country analysis**

*Sberbank*

*November 2019 - February 2021*

Country analysis - Group Management Report for the 2019 Financial Year, Outlook for 2020 wiiw produced a short and a long version of a macroeconomic report for the group and solo management of Sberbank Europe AG. This contained an analysis of the situation in 2019 as well as a forecast for 2020 for three regions (the World, the EU and CEE/SEE), as well as seven countries (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Serbia, Slovenia).

## **CEEC-8: How do politics, economy and society deal with labor shortages?**

*Austrian Chamber of Labour*

*January 2020 - October 2020*

The aim of this project is to investigate the incipient labor shortage in the CEEC-8 (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary). Due to decades of emigration, the working age population is falling dramatically. The supply and demand for work will balance each other out in the years to come. How do politics, business and society deal with this phenomenon? The study targets to provide a detailed overview of how the state, companies, trade unions and the labor force in the region react to the labor shortage and what leeway there is for economic policy. The historical analogies to similar situations in the post-war period should also be drawn, as well as the political economy of labor shortages should be analyzed.

## **Western Balkan Regional Cooperation** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*Bertelsmann Stiftung*

*June 2018 - July 2020*

Regional cooperation has been the main instrument of EU intervention in the post-conflict Balkans. The overall goal of this policy has been to increase economic and social connectivity in order to achieve political stability and enhance security, as a precondition for EU accession. This process has now lasted for about two decades. This study evaluates the success of the EU's strategy of regional cooperation in the Western Balkans over the last two decades from an economic perspective. It defines the prerequisites for successful regional cooperation in an institutional, political and economic sense, and assesses the extent to which they existed in the Western Balkans at the start of the 2000s. It identifies the key facets of the EU's strategy to deepen trade, investment and infrastructure connectivity in the Western Balkans, and establishes the impact that this has had. Finally, it assesses the state of play in 2020, and makes suggestions for the way forward.

## **Support the RCC Secretariat to prepare a diagnostic report to analyse the progress and conduct an evaluation of results related to the Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area (MAP REA) in the Western Balkans**

*Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)*

*March 2020 - July 2020*

The purpose of the consultancy was to support RCC Secretariat in assessing the results within the Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area (MAP REA) components, namely Investment, Mobility and Digital Integration. The consultancy aimed to provide a fully informed diagnostics of measures along each of the respective components and their corresponding activities, as well as proposals for an economic development agenda beyond MAP REA.

## **ArBeEi International - Grundlagen- und angewandte Arbeitsmarktanalysen**

*Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMSGK)*

*July 2017 - June 2020*

Der Prozess der Globalisierung sowie die zunehmende Integration Europas stellen den Arbeitsmarkt in Österreich vor große Herausforderungen. Zunehmende wirtschaftliche Verflechtungen (v.a. über Handel, Direktinvestitionen, Offshoring, Migration) haben erhebliche Auswirkungen auf die Bedingungen am Arbeitsmarkt, auf Lohn- und Einkommensentwicklungen und Beschäftigungsstrukturen. Evidenzbasierte Handlungsempfehlungen für die Wirtschaftspolitik im Allgemeinen und die Arbeitsmarktpolitik im Besonderen erfordern daher eine Analyse mit einer internationalen und vergleichenden Perspektive. Für Österreich bedeutet das, die arbeitsmarktrelevanten Entwicklungen seiner Nachbarländer, v.a. der mittel- und osteuropäischen Nachbarn, der Beitrittskandidaten und der EU Nachbarregionen genau zu analysieren, und natürlich auch eine globale Perspektive zu entwickeln. Dieses



vom österreichischen Sozialministerium beauftragte Forschungsprojekt beschäftigt sich mit diesen Themen. Es ist auf drei Jahre angelegt und in vier Teilbereiche gegliedert: (1) Technologie, Globalisierung und Konvergenz in der EU, (2) Mobilität von Arbeitskräften und Migrationstrends, (3) Konjunktur, Beschäftigung und Arbeitslosigkeit und (4) institutionelle Rahmenbedingungen und deren Effekte auf Wachstum, Beschäftigung und Ungleichheit.

### **Effects, opportunity costs and spillovers of EU Cohesion Policy**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank  
September 2018 - June 2020*

This project aimed at contributing to the discussion on the future, post-2020 EU Cohesion Policy (CP). In the past, CP has been the main tool to promote growth and convergence across the EU, thus having positive direct effects on the net recipient countries and also indirect ones on the net payer countries. Still, there is a never-ending debate on the rationale of CP, partly in favour of it, partly doubting its usefulness. The 2021-2027 EU budget funds to be expected will likely become scarcer, not only because of the Brexit but also because of the emergence of new priorities such as migration and security. In respect of these forthcoming challenges the debate on the effects, opportunity costs and spillovers of CP becomes fundamental. A quantitative estimation permits a more balanced assessment of the costs and benefits of CP for net paying Member States (MS) and a broader view of CP support to EU growth in general. Against this background the project aimed to: a) estimate the effects of CP on regional GDP growth; b) analyse the opportunity costs of CP investments (by investment priorities and geographical distribution); c) analyse the macroeconomic spillovers of CP investments in one country on the development in other EU MS; and d) analyse these spillovers at the regional level.

### **Production of skills supply and demand forecasts**

*European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)  
July 2016 - June 2020*

Within this framework contract, a consortium led by Cambridge Economics produces regular updates of the skills supply and demand forecasts for CEDEFOP, further develops the forecasting methodology, and proposes additional models. wiiw is collaborating with the other project partners on all of these issues.

### **Macroeconomic Forecast**

*Sberbank  
October 2019 - March 2020*

Countries - Macro-Economic Forecast: The wiiw statistics and country monitoring team provided on macro-economic indicators as well as forecasts for seven countries in Central, East and Southeast Europe to Sberbank Europe AG.

### **Convergence of non-EU countries in the CESEE region**

*European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs  
March 2019 - October 2019*

This study assessed convergence of non-EU countries in CESEE over the past 30 years. It analysed current developments and plot convergence scenarios for the future. It was commissioned by the European Commission, DG ECFIN, in the course of a conference and a volume commemorating the 15 years of the 2004 enlargement of the EU.

### **Macroeconomic Forecast**

*Sberbank  
January 2018 - May 2019*

Countries Macroeconomic Forecast The wiiw statistics and country monitoring team provided macro-economic indicators as well as forecasts for seven countries in Central, East and Southeast Europe to Sberbank Europe AG.

### **Risikoanalyse zur wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung der Türkei (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Österreichische Post AG/Austrian Post Office  
June 2018 - September 2018*

The project aimed to assess current economic conditions and business risks in Turkey, and to make projections for how these could develop in the next ten years under three scenarios (baseline, negative, positive). In particular, indicators were assessed which are relevant for the valuation of a business and for due diligence. These included

trends in domestic consumption, inflation, the labour market, the institutional framework and political risk factors. A risk matrix was also included, identifying key business risks over the next ten years, and ranking them based on likelihood and impact. The study is written in German.

### **Infrastructure Investment in the Western Balkans: a First Analysis**

*European Investment Bank (EIB)*

*February 2018 - June 2018*

The study provided a first analysis of the recent development in infrastructure investment in the Western Balkans, identified key infrastructure initiatives in the region, outlined the political dimension, and proposed a blueprint for potential initiatives in other parts of the EU neighbourhood. It also provided national accounts infrastructure investment data collected from Western Balkan statistical offices.

### **Technical Assistance for the Preparation of CEFTA Investment Report**

*Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)*

*October 2016 - December 2017*

The aim of this Service Contract is to provide technical assistance for the preparation of a CEFTA Investment Report. Beneficiaries are the Parties of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) 2006. The Report will support the CEFTA Parties in fostering FDI in order to meet common development goals and promote the region as an attractive investment site. Systematic collection and methodologically sound assessment of FDI-related data including those on foreign affiliates (FATS) is an indispensable tool in the hands of policy-makers to stimulate and, if necessary, direct the foreign direct investment process for achieving the expected positive effects. To this end, the CEFTA Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics, FATS and FDI Statistics has set the objective to improve the quality of statistics across the CEFTA region and harmonise statistics with those of the European Union. Part A will present and analyse FDI trends in CEFTA Parties. This part deals with the current trends of FDI in the Region with reference to the period 2009-2015. Part B will provide a detailed analysis of the pattern of multinational enterprises' (MNEs) involvement in the manufacturing sector and its impact on local economies.