

# List of Projects

## Vasily Astrov

### **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**

*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.

### **Capacity Building for Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe: Development, organisation, implementation and evaluation of seminars at the Joint Vienna Institute**

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*January 2025 - December 2025*

On behalf of the Austrian authorities - the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Oesterreichische Nationalbank - wiiw develops and organizes specialized training programs within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These courses are designed for public sector decision-makers and policymakers from transition economies in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The 2025 program will offer courses on key economic and policy challenges, including Competitiveness, Growth, and Crisis; Public Governance and Structural Reforms; Public Policies for the Green and Digital Transition; Foreign Direct Investment Policies; and Crisis and Resilience. Additionally, a dedicated segment on Austrian political and economic issues will be integrated into the Applied Economic Policy Course.

### **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 .

### **Research Centre International Economics (Forschungsschwerpunkt Internationale Wirtschaft, FIW)**

*Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research*  
*October 2013 - February 2025*

wiiw is part of a consortium which is setting up a "Centre of Excellence on International Trade". It provides the appropriate infrastructure and assistance for a research community in international trade. Thus it can achieve a sustainable coordination among different research projects, research institutes and other activities in the broad field of economics of international trade (FIW German abbreviation). This project will also create a network of experts and assure the integration of international projects. The Centre of Excellence fulfils the following tasks: (1) to develop a research programme which assists external political decisions and activities concerning the European Union and other multinational organisations in a sustainable fashion, (2) to provides access to relevant databases in an easy and transparent way, and (3) to encourage and enhance the development of know-how with regard to foreign economic affairs in Austria. This Centre of Excellence will be an important source of information for the research community in Austria, the Austrian government with regard to foreign affairs as well as the social partnership. It collects and increases the knowledge of the given research institutes and provides it to the public in a user-friendly manner.

<http://www.fiw.ac.at/>

### **Eastern Europe Before Transition: Digitisation of data and analysis of CESEE's command economies**

*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).

### **Russia Monitor** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)*  
*January 2023 - June 2024*

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the EU, together with some other states, has imposed numerous sanctions on Russia, in order to restrict its ability to wage a war and increase the political and economic costs for the country's political and economic elites. Against this background, the project is set to create a database of macroeconomic indicators to continuously and systematically monitor key developments in the Russian economy and assess the effects of the sanctions. Carefully selected indicators from multiple sources are regularly compiled,

evaluated with regards to their credibility and relevance, and cross-checked with alternative data, such as live ships tracking monitors (IfW) or the global sanctions database developed by CES-ifo. The database encompasses Russian exports and imports (including of sanctioned and dual-use goods), the state budget, production sector, domestic demand, labour market, price developments and financial markets. Based on this database, wiiw has launched a monthly Russia Monitor publication series analysing the key features and trends in the Russian economy. The project is based on a cooperation between wiiw as project coordinator, together with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW), the Leibniz Institute for Economic Research (ifo) and the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO).

### **How to dovetail Ukraine's reconstruction with EU integration and accession**

*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.

### **EU interconnectivity with its neighbouring regions**

*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.

### **Capacity building for Central, East and Southeast Europe: Joint Vienna Institute**

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*January 2014 - December 2022*

For more than two decades, wiiw has been organising courses within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These courses are aimed at decision-makers in the public sector and policy-makers from transition countries in Southeastern Europe and the CIS. wiiw organised six courses in 2022 and was responsible for the entire conception and implementation of these seminars as well as for the selection of the participants.

### **How do Economies in EU-CEE Cope with Labour Shortages? An Update (wiiw Team Leader)**

*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.

### **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.

### **Industrial Diagnostic Study Rwanda 2020**

*UNIDO*

*August 2020 - April 2021*

The Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) is one of UNIDO's key assistance programmes for Member States. It is a process aligned to the national priorities and strategies of countries thereby maintaining full ownership of beneficiary countries of the complete process by defining its needs and required support. The first step in the PCP Rwanda is a diagnostic report which wiiw staff supports in their role as international consultants. Based on a thorough analysis of the industrial development at the macro-economic, industry level and firm-level, the PCP diagnostic report reveals the major bottlenecks as well as the major areas and priority sectors for interventions. wiiw's contribution to the project is anchored in the macro-economic analysis of the industrial development in which five thematic components with high potential for fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development were identified. These thematic components are integrated value chain development in agro-business and food processing; integrated value chain development in textiles and garments; development of sustainable energy, value added creation in a circular economy and adequate skills for industry 4.0.

### **Country analysis (wiiw Team Leader)**

*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).

### **Macroeconomic Forecast (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Sberbank*

*December 2020 - January 2021*

Macroeconomic Forecast - Solomanagement Sberbank Europe AG: The wiiw team produced a short and a long version of a macroeconomic report in German and in English for the group and for the solo management report of Sberbank Europa AG. This report contained an analysis of the situation in 2020 as well as a forecast for 2021 for three regions: i) the world, ii) the EU and SEE/SEE, as well as iii) for eight countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Coratia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Slovenia).

### **CEEC-8: How do politics, economy and society deal with labor shortages? (wiiw Team Leader)**

*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, Sowakeit, 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.

**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 (BMASGK)*

*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.

**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.

**Framework contract: Evaluations and impact assessments of EU macro-financial assistance and balance of payment support operations**

*European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs*

*January 2016 - December 2019*

European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs established a multiple framework service contracts that allows it to obtain evaluation services and impact assessments of its own activities. Under this Framework Contract, the consortium partners assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, utility, sustainability, coherence, European Union Added Value, and governance of the macro-financial assistance and balance of payment support operations granted by the EU and the IMF to third countries. wiiw is part of a consortium under the leadership of Ecorys.

**Wage developments in the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Austrian Chamber of Labour*

*January 2019 - July 2019*

The objective of this study is to analyse wage developments in six Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia), Moldova and Ukraine - a region that is of particular

importance for Austria. The still difficult labour market situation in this region is insofar astonishing, as it experienced a massive emigration over the past years and is characterized by a demographic decline. The central question therefore is why the unemployment in this peripheral part of Europe is so persistent and how this relates to the growth of wages and labour productivity. The study will also develop policy conclusions that might help to positively stimulate economic development in the region and to provide its citizens with a long term perspective.

### **Macroeconomic Forecast** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*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.

### **De-Regulierung und Re-Regulierung im Bereich der Europäischen Schieneninfrastruktur** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG/Austrian Railway*

*April 2018 - December 2018*

The European domestic market in the railway sector was established from 2001 to 2016 on the basis of a comprehensive legal framework (the so-called "railway package"). The aim of this project is (1) to analyse the developments and the legal framework in European rail transport; (2) to give a detailed overview of the theoretical advantages and disadvantages as well as the practical experience with deregulation of rail transport in Europe; (3) to analyse the experience with deregulation of Californian electricity sector and its policy implications for rail transport. The study will be written in German.

### **Demographic and economic development in Central and East European countries (CEECs)**

*City of Vienna*

*December 2017 - December 2018*

The influx from Central and East European countries (CEECs) played an important role in the population development of Austria and Vienna between 2000 and 2016. This has also led to a significant change in the employment structure in Vienna, which has partly resulted in the displacement of both domestic and other foreign workers. In this context the study assesses the current and future migration potential to Austria and Vienna from the Central and Eastern European countries and the two Western Balkan countries Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Economic development in the CEECs has been very positive for some years now and forecasts also point to steady economic growth with significantly higher growth rates than the EU average. In line with this, the labour market situation in these countries generally improved. This and the general demographic developments in the region lead to a general slowdown in mobility flows from CEECs. Nonetheless, demographic developments in the region and the Western Balkans remain worrying as population is shrinking and the working-age population even more so. Demographic long-term scenarios even suggest that the population in the region will continue to shrink sharply in the coming decades. Summarising, these developments point towards a flattening of trends, if not a weakening of existing mobility flows to Austria and Vienna in the medium term. Finally, there are no indications that the patterns of mobility flows to Austrian regions (i.e. with respect to individual provinces) will shift significantly.

### **Studies in the Areas of European Competitiveness**

*European Commission, DG Grow*

*August 2014 - July 2018*

The purpose of this framework contract is to provide the European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, with background studies concerning the competitiveness of European industries. These background studies are mainly used for the preparation of the Commission's European Competitiveness Report which is published annually in order to provide analytical input to the policy debate on issues related to competitiveness and to underpin proposals and recommendations regarding the Europe 2020 strategy and future enterprise policy.

### **Territorial challenges, potentials and impacts of transnational cooperation in Central Europe**

*Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE*

*February 2018 - July 2018*

The project analyses the territorial challenges, potentials and impacts of the transnational cooperation programme

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE (CE). It is divided into three tasks:

- Identification of the main territorial challenges and needs of CE,
- Analysis of the impacts and results of transnational cooperation in CE achieved by the CE 2007-2013 and the Interreg CE 2014-2020 programme, illustrated by concrete case studies,
- Outlook and conclusions on the future needs and potentials of transnational cooperation in CE.

Task1 analyses ten main challenges of the CE area, i.e. a) circular economy / environment, b) climate change, c) demographic change / migration, d) digital economy, e) employment / skills, f) energy, g) globalisation / competitiveness, h) governance, i) social situation / social risks and j) transport infrastructure / accessibility. For each challenge the study identifies specific policy areas for which TNC has a high potential to promote regional integration and development and analyses the TNC policy options to address them.

Task 2 analyses the achievements and results of the Interreg CE 2007-2013 the CE 2014-2020 programmes. The **first part** of the task includes a quantitative analysis of the financial, output and outreach and results data as well as a qualitative analysis of the CE 2007-2013 programme's results. The **second part** consists of a survey conducted among 2007-2013 project participants and of 12 case studies providing an in-depth analysis of selected and representative projects of the 2007-2013 period.

Task 3 summarises the results of assesses the key contributions of the CE programmes to tackle the CE region's challenges. It comments on the CE programme's synergies with other EU policies, provides recommendations for the upcoming call for projects of the Interreg CE 2014-2020 programme and gives an outlook of a potential focus of a post-2020 CE programme.

### **Wage developments in Central and East European EU Member States** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*Austrian Chamber of Labour*

*January 2018 - March 2018*

The aim of the project is to describe the wage developments in eight EU countries of Central and Eastern Europe that are of major importance for Austria (EU-CEE-8: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia), to analyse their determinants and to derive policy recommendations. These are to assist in providing a positive stimulus to the EU-CEE-8 economies and to offer a long-term perspective for the population. Particular focus is put on the wage share in the EU-CEE-8 countries, which has recently started to rise again. Nevertheless, the question arises why wage growth has not been even stronger in view of the tightening labour market in the region, with most countries recording shortages of labour/skilled workers. This is the central research question of the project.

### **Diagnostic Report for Partner Country Programme (PCP) Kyrgyzstan**

*UNIDO*

*August 2017 - November 2017*

At the moment, Kyrgyzstan's manufacturing sector is dominated by gold production, creating only a limited number of jobs but putting a heavy burden on the natural environment. Meanwhile, strong and inclusive growth, which would be consistent with the country's long-term objectives (such as those envisaged in the "40 steps to the New Era" government programme) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, would require a stronger emphasis on manufacturing industries such as food and beverages, textiles, and wearing apparel. Their labour-intensive production processes and strong linkages with other sectors, particularly agriculture, could generate badly needed formal jobs and make the country less dependent on the informal sector and the inflow of remittances from abroad. Kyrgyzstan's inexpensive, trainable labour as well as low energy costs are internationally competitive, and represent clear advantages for the growth of such industries. However, these advantages are offset by the low productivity of firms, which tend to be too small and fragmented to reach a productivity level required to compete internationally and still suffer from insufficient access to credit. Besides, the country suffers from major logistical problems for trade, which were found to be greater than in other landlocked countries at a similar development level, such as Moldova and Laos.

### **Durchführung einer Analyse zu volkswirtschaftlichen Aspekten von Infrastrukturinvestitionen**

*Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT)*

*February 2017 - September 2017*

The aim of the project is on the one hand to calculate a possible lack of investment for Austria and other EU

member states in the area of strategic important infrastructure like for example street, rail or broadband internet connection. And on the other hand to develop a concrete suggestion for a “golden rule” for infrastructure investment on EU level. The project is based on actual research, is broadening it and puts a focus on the macroeconomic approach of infrastructure investments, whereas structural, cyclical and regional aspects of the topic will be treated.

### **How to Stabilize the Economy of Ukraine and Put it on a Sustainable Growth Trajectory**

*United Europe e.V.*

*December 2014 - June 2015*

On behalf of United Europe and Bertelsmann Stiftung, wiiw explored the possible ways how to stabilise the Ukrainian economy and analysed the economic effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. To that end, wiiw analysed the macroeconomic developments, foreign trade and FDI relations, as well as industrial and regional patterns. The study was presented jointly with the clients, representatives of the EU Commission (Commissioner J. Hahn) and of the Ukrainian parliament in the framework of a Policy Dialogue in Brussels. A similar presentation in Kyiv also generated considerable attention among international as well as Ukrainian media and policy-makers. The study was furthermore supported by the Austrian Central Bank (OeNB), Bertelsmann Stiftung, DER-think tank, ING Bank NV, Porsche Holding Gesellschaft m.b.H and Raiffeisen Bank International AG.

### **Energy efficiency and EU industrial competitiveness: energy costs and their impact on manufacturing activity (Competitiveness Report 2014) (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry*

*October 2014 - November 2014*

This study serves as a background report for the annual European Competitiveness Report of the European Commission (DG ENTR). The European Commission is currently in the process of preparing a new energy and climate framework for the period up to 2030. For this purpose, DG ENTR has commissioned a study which should provide a comparative analysis of the impact of changing energy costs on EU industrial competitiveness at country and sectoral level, and vis-à-vis its main external competitors (the United States, Japan, China and Russia), with a view to identifying future trends in production and energy efficiency strategies. While the recent gains in energy efficiency in the EU manufacturing sector have been impressive, the gap in energy prices between the EU and the USA has widened, which might potentially undermine EU industrial competitiveness, particularly in energy-intensive sectors. To a large extent, the study relies on data from the latest version of the World Input-Output Database (WIOD).

### **Balance of payments constrained growth: Thirlwall's Law extended**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*July 2012 - December 2013*

Thirlwall's Law represents an important approach to international macroeconomics. The Law parsimoniously characterises the link between economic growth and (balanced) external trade. However, since the early 1990s the theory and practice of the mainstream international economics has failed to incorporate the lessons derived from the Law and did not pay due attention to external imbalances. The post-2007 crisis has brought these imbalances to the fore. Controversies over the mode of 'rebalancing' within the euro area continue, necessitating the development of simple, yet powerful, ways to analyse the links between real growth and developments on external balances. This project not only reconsiders the original version of the Law (and some of its past extensions) but also propose some important modifications. The modified versions of the Law serve as the basis for empirical models to be specified also for the EU Member States.

### **Trade integration in the CIS: Alternate options, economic effects and policy implications for Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*January 2011 - July 2012*

The study examines the effects of various trade agreements between CIS states on the conditions for trade (non-tariff barriers and other administrative issues linked to trade) and also the economic impact these agreements have through trade. Emphasis is placed on the sequence of trade agreements signed between Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan since the 1990s, which has recently culminated in a new Customs Union agreement. Furthermore, potential effects if Ukraine joins the Customs Union and its WTO compatibility are estimated. In contrast with recent research in this area, it is planned to estimate the non-tariff impact of these new agreements with an



econometric gravity model of bilateral trade at the industry level using more up-to-date data. Policy implications for the economic integration of the region resulting from the analysis will be discussed as well.

### **The European neighbourhood - challenges and opportunities for EU competitiveness (Competitiveness Report 2012)**

*European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry  
November 2011 - May 2012*

This study serves as a background report for the yearly Competitiveness Report of the EC. In order to assess the differences between neighbouring countries with respect to their importance for EU competitiveness, the study first maps the economic situation and competitiveness of each of the Eastern and Southern ENP partner countries, non-candidate EFTA countries, potential candidate countries as well as Russia. The study describes and analysed the economic importance of institutional arrangements and instruments for cooperation between the EU and the above countries. It also explores the economic and trade impact of bilateral agreements and related trade and investment flows including energy, raw materials and other resources between EU Member States. The final part of the study contains a discussion of the challenges and opportunities for EU competitiveness resulting from its different economic relations, institutional arrangements and instruments with its immediate neighbours, as well as the bilateral relations between EU member states and neighbouring countries. The prospects for EU SMEs to expand their activities into neighbouring countries are discussed and conclusions drawn on the basis thereof. The study concludes with policy recommendations stemming from the discussion of challenges and opportunities. wiiw coordinated the study.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/competitiveness-analysis/european-competitiveness-report/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/competitiveness-analysis/european-competitiveness-report/index_en.htm)

### **Country risk analysis**

*Erste Group Bank AG  
November 2011 - April 2012*

Country studies are performed for Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine, analysing the political and institutional, economic and social situation on a qualitative and quantitative basis.

### **Ukraine, the European Union and the international community: current challenges and the agenda for overcoming the stalemate (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Austrian Ministry of Finance  
May 2010 - February 2012*

wiiw wrote a report on current economic and political challenges for Ukraine and organised a high-level workshop with analysts and policy-makers from Ukraine, the European Commission, Poland and Russia.

### **Market analysis of selected sectors - Poland**

*Reed Exhibitions Austria  
October 2011 - November 2011*

In a country study on Poland, both the macroeconomic development and the sectors which are of special importance for the client's marketing activities are analysed.

### **Employment in the gas and electricity sectors in the Western Balkan contracting parties of the Energy Community**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
November 2009 - February 2011*

The aim of this study was to analyse the employment development in the gas and electricity sectors in seven countries of the Western Balkans. In doing so, the impact of liberalisation and of the resulting restructuring processes on the number and quality of jobs is investigated and likely trends were presented. The study was based on quantitative analysis as well as on qualitative analysis in the form of stakeholder interviews.

### **European energy security**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*January 2008 - November 2010*

The project analysed the current status and the medium-term perspective of EU total primary energy supply, the role of Russia, other CIS countries, as well as Persian Gulf and north and west African countries for energy supply and transit, focusing on oil and gas. The main objective of the study was to analyse EU efforts in diversifying its energy product mix and its energy suppliers and prospects for increasing energy efficiency and decreasing energy consumption.