

List of Projects

Branimir Jovanović

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

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

May 2021 - April 2024

In order to better understand the industrialisation spurt and later the (financial) crisis and collapse of the command economies of Central, East and Southeast Europe (CESEE) as well as the applied economic policy mix before and during their transition to market economies, including the decisive role of initial conditions, we will digitise and publish online wiiw's economic statistics for Central, East and Southeast Europe for the period 1944-1992; harmonise the historical data with current statistical classifications; digitise and publish online wiiw's research reports for 1972-1992; and produce a series of working papers describing the data, summarising the literature and providing economic analysis on the key research areas related to the development and demise of the command economies. The activities in this project will be coordinated in close cooperation with our partners in the Research Centre for the History of Transformations (RECET) research network of the University of Vienna.

New Insights into the Relationship Between Taxation and Trade

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

May 2020 - September 2021

The research project uses panel data techniques to empirically explore the relationship between taxation and trade. The main questions of interest focus on the impact of corporate income taxation and employers' social security contributions on trade dynamics, including value-added trade in the context of global value chains. The analysis disentangles the demand-driven impacts on trade from the effects of profit shifting through transfer-pricing by multinational corporations. The project contributes to the policy discussions focusing on fiscal devaluation, competitiveness and factors shaping trade and current account imbalances.

Nearshoring Potential in the Western Balkans (*wiiw Team Leader*)

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.

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.