

List of Projects

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The spatial impact of EU policies

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

October 2023 - January 2025

The objective of this study is to assess the impact of the EU initiatives and policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, the European Research and Innovation policy (Horizon 2020), the EU Emissions Trading System etc., on economic and social cohesion in the EU. The results of the study will contribute to the current discussion on the reform of EU Cohesion policy by providing insights into: • potential cohesion trade-offs, synergies and complementarities between EU Cohesion policy and other EU policies and initiatives • how to further develop the “do no harm to cohesion” principle and • how Territorial Impact Assessments can be further developed to improve policy coordination. These aspects will be explored not only through the lens of territories, but also that of social groups, thereby investigating whether the reduction of inter-regional disparities goes hand-in-hand with the reduction of intra-regional inequalities. The consortium under leadership of wiiw will also analyse funds disbursed under regional State aid, with a particular attention to the amounts of aid channelled to EU regions under this regime to enhance regional development.

Tobacco taxation in Eastern Europe

Bloomberg Philanthropies

October 2023 - December 2024

The aim of this project, funded by the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, is to establish a regional service and research hub to conduct analysis of tobacco taxation and related issues in Central East and Southeastern Europe (CESEE). wiiw looks to identify and build the capacity of policy think tanks in selected countries, in order to create local evidence and support country-level tax reforms. The focus lies on (lower-) middle-income countries (MICs) in the region.

Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy Programmes 2014-2020: Crisis response

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

November 2023 - December 2024

This evaluation study aims to review the adjustments brought to the EU Cohesion Policy regulatory framework in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis and the war in Ukraine: CRII, CRII+, REACT-EU, CARE, CARE+, FAST-CARE and SAFE. More specifically, it will assess whether (and the extent to which) the objectives of these crisis responses have been achieved, and how Member States and regions took up the instruments and flexibility mechanisms they introduced. It will thus evaluate the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and EU added value of the crisis responses and provide lessons learned for strengthening resilience in view of future crises. To do so, this study relies on a large range of quantitative and qualitative research methods: data analysis, literature review, survey, interviews, case studies, etc. This study is coordinated by Spatial Foresight.

Fiscal policies in Europe IV

Austrian Chamber of Labour

January 2023 - November 2024

In this project, we assess fiscal policies and their macroeconomic effects in the European Union and pay particular attention to Austrian fiscal policy in the European context. Our research is primarily based on using quantitative data and methods, which allows us to take a comparative, European-wide perspective. In three sub-projects, we

analyse the cyclical sensitivity of government spending in Austria (sub-project 1), the reform options for fiscal rules in the context of European debates (sub-project 2) and full employment issues linked to fiscal policy in Austria and the EU (sub-project 3).

Fiscal rules and fiscal councils in the Western Balkans

The World Bank

August 2023 - June 2024

In this project, wiiw acts as a consultant in the framework of a larger World Bank programme aimed at assisting the Western Balkan countries (WB6) in enhancing their fiscal responsibility frameworks. The institute hereby intends to:

- develop a comprehensive dataset on fiscal rules, councils and medium-term budgetary frameworks;
- create a scorecard of the rules, councils and frameworks along the lines of the European Commission;
- assess the effects thereof on fiscal, economic and social outcomes;
- support the World Bank in launching and running a network on fiscal rules and fiscal councils for the WB6.

Nearshoring and decarbonisation in the Western Balkans

DIHK - Deutscher Industrie- und Handelskammertag

January 2024 - May 2024

This project follows up on wiiw's previous study "Getting stronger After COVID-19: Neashoring Potential in the Western Balkans" and aims at assessing whether there has indeed been some near-shoring to the Western Balkans during the past 2.5 years and in which countries and industries it has occurred. In addition, the project will explore what companies from the Western Balkans think about decarbonisation, what the challenges are that they are facing with respect to it, and how nearshoring trends can be synergised with ongoing efforts in decarbonisation and green transformation. The main research questions will be addressed by analysing quantitative and qualitative data on FDI in the WB6, by conducting and analysing surveys of WB6 companies and finally by conducting and analysing surveys of German companies, in order to assess their perceptions and views on the importance of decarbonisation for their investment and cooperation with other companies.

Export diversification strategy for Venezuela

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

October 2023 - February 2024

This project aims to design a sustainable diversification strategy for Venezuela and industrial policies to support the identified products and processes. In the framework of this project, wiiw will analyse the export structure of Venezuela using the product space methodology and identify new export opportunities through a thorough analysis that involves the product space metrics and additional indicators on linkages, employment, export markets, and foreign exchange.

China's influence over European Strategic Transport Infrastructure

European Parliament

May 2023 - December 2023

This project focused on the analysis of China's direct investments in the European strategic transport infrastructure and aims at evaluating potential impacts on the security of EU Member States and the EU Neighbourhood, whilst also looking to draw evidence-based and actionable policy conclusions to mitigate potential risks. By providing in-depth case studies of several EU members and countries of the EU Neighbourhood, the project looked to identify the concentration of Chinese direct investments in transport infrastructure at the external borders of the EU and the impact on the EU's security as well as on its connectivity. Additionally, the project also drew on the policy responses implemented in the United States and evaluated their strengths and weaknesses for the EU context. wiiw coordinated this project in close collaboration with the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS).

Cohesion Policy in the Outermost Regions

European Parliament

June 2023 - December 2023

This research study aims to analyse the socio-economic development of the EU outermost regions (i.e. the Canary Islands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint-Martin, French Guiana, Réunion, Mayotte, Azores and Madeira) and how regional disparities have evolved over time. It also investigates how cohesion policies (in particular EU-funded programmes) are implemented at a local and regional level, and the role of place-based, tailor-made approaches to

foster sustainable and inclusive growth. Furthermore, three case studies allow for more detailed insights into territorial, social and economic cohesion issues and into the situation of these regions in the context of a smarter, greener, more connected and more social Europe. The findings of this analysis should feed into policy recommendations on the design and purpose of EU policies (in particular, EU Cohesion Policy) for the EU outermost regions.

Long-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on labour market integration of refugees (FIMAS reCOV)

International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

March 2023 - December 2023

FIMAS reCOV is the sixth wave of the Austrian longitudinal study on integration processes of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran in Austria. Its core focus is on labour market integration, but also on the interactions with other integration domains such as social and cultural integration, educational integration, residential integration, integration into the health and other areas of the welfare system, which favour or hinder labour market integration. The project FIMAS reCOV follows up our longitudinal analysis by focussing on the impact of the Covid-crisis with its different phases (lockdowns, recoveries) on integration processes and labour market experiences of the different sub-groups of refugees (differentiated by age, gender, educational attainment, country of origin) and identifies the particular challenges they face. The envisaged overall sample includes over 2,700 respondents of which about a third has also participated in at least one of the previous five FIMAS waves. FIMAS reCOV builds on and continues the previous five surveys FIMAS, FIMAS+INTEGRATION, FIMAS+INTEGRATION², FIMAS+YOUTH and FIMAS+Frauen.