

List of Projects

Gabor Hunya

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 - 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.

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

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2023 - December 2023

For more than two decades, wiiw has been organizing seminars within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These seminars are aimed at decision-makers in the public sector and policy-makers from transition countries in Southeastern Europe and the CIS. wiiw is organizing six seminars in 2023 and is responsible for the entire conception and implementation of these seminars as well as for the selection of the participants.

A new growth model in EU-CEE

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.

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.

How EU funds tackle economic divide in the European Union

European Parliament

January 2020 - April 2020

This analytical study aims to provide data and related analysis on the topic of operating budgetary balance, its failures and limitations and to deliver evidence of the positive outcomes that Member States' experience from belonging to the EU, notwithstanding the status of their operating budget balance. wiiw is collaborating in this study with WIFO and Blomeyer&Sanz.

Economic policy implications of the Belt and Road Initiative for CESEE and Austria

Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China

October 2017 - March 2018

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a vision to revive the ancient 'Silk Road', was first presented by the Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. This initiative will affect more than forty countries throughout Eurasia and Africa. For Austria, it is particularly interesting, due to the country's strong economic relations with Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. China has identified this region as the gateway to Western European markets, and emphasised its strategic importance with the initiation of a diplomatic initiative titled '16+1'. Furthermore, this region has a particularly high need for infrastructure investment, which form the core of the BRI. An analysis of developments in trade and investment, accompanied by the evaluation of the need for infrastructure investment in sixteen countries in Central, East, and Southeast Europe (CESEE), should allow for the identification of potential fields of cooperation between China and Austria in the context of the 'new Silk Road'.

Technical Assistance for the Preparation of CEFTA Investment Report (wiiw Team Leader)

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.

Neighbourhood cooperation for a sustainable trade and investment policy

Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

October 2015 - January 2016

This study focuses on the potential for cooperative activities of trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) policies with Austria and its neighbouring countries to further promote competitiveness of all countries and firms involved on the world markets, with a particular focus on oversea destinations. First, a detailed analysis of actual trends and patterns of trade and FDI at the global level and with a focus on the neighbouring countries is provided.

Particularly, the study presents evidence on commonalities and differences of these countries in geographical patterns of trade and foreign direct investment both in Europe and more distant markets like Asia, Africa and America. Second, based on these findings a rationale for potential cooperative activities at the institutional level and the trade-off between benefits of cooperation on the one hand and the issue of competition amongst involved parties on the other hand are discussed. The study finally outlines some suggestions for concrete cooperative activities that were developed on the basis of discussions with practitioners. An appendix lists institutions involved in export promotion in the neighbouring countries and outlines existing activities in Austria that might serve as a starting point for developing cooperative activities, which in the future might be integrated into a policy framework promoting a competitive position in world markets for all partners.

Socio-economic assessment of the Danube Region: state of the region, challenges and strategy development (wiiw Team Leader)

Ministerium für Finanzen und Wirtschaft Baden-Württemberg

July 2013 - October 2015

The main objective of this project was an analysis of potential opportunities, requirements, challenges, and recommendations, in order to enhance the competitiveness, the innovative strength, the attractiveness, and the prosperity of the entire region of the Danube riparian countries and regions, and to develop strategic orientations in view of transnational and interregional cooperation for the period 2014-2020. wiiw developed this assessment in cooperation with two German partners, the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) - which was also the leader of the project - and the Institut für Angewandte Wirtschaftsforschung (IAW). The focus on wiiw's contribution was on labour markets, regional development, cluster development and cooperation in the Danube Region.

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.

Growth-Innovation-Competitiveness: fostering cohesion in Central and East Europe (GRINCOH)

European Commission, 7th Framework Programme

April 2012 - March 2015

GRINCOH was an FP7 research project with the main objectives: (1) to establish development scenarios for the CEECs for the period up to 2020; (2) to identify the implications for sustainable growth - based on innovation and the development of technological capabilities - and greater economic, social and territorial cohesion in the CEECs; and (3) to advise on future policy options for the CEECs, and in particular for EU cohesion policy. wiiw led a work package on economic development patterns and structural change in the process of transition and EU membership. Furthermore, wiiw contributed research on labour market development, migration, inequality, trade integration, foreign direct investment, EU budget as well as regional aspects.

<http://www.grincoh.eu>

Support to the Development of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

June 2013 - September 2013

The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat was requested by the countries of the Southeast Europe Cooperation Process (SEEC) as well as the European Commission (EC) to advance the preparation of a regional development and growth strategy - SEE 2020. In course of this process, eleven specific targets have been identified that span convergence with EU, trade, investment, employment, education and governance. All in all, the SEE 2020 encompasses 14 policy dimensions. In the framework of this consultancy assignment, wiiw coordinated a group of experts who compiled and synthesized the various inputs from regional initiatives, platforms and other relevant stakeholders into the Strategy document. Last but not least, wiiw experts ensured the internal consistency of the proposed targets and measures and provided contextual analysis and advice. In November 2013, the SEE 2020 strategy was finally approved by the Ministerial Conference of the South East Europe Investment Committee.

PRO PRACTICE - Facilitating the insertion in the labour market of graduates of higher education studies in the economic field through internships at major Romanian and EU employers (*wiiw Team Leader*)

European Science Foundation (ESF)

January 2012 - August 2013

The project has the overall objective of facilitating labour market insertion of 120 students in the economic field by carrying out internships at regional and transnational level. Internships take place in three directions: (1) practice in various functional departments with an economic profile within a large employer in Romania, (2) practice in economic research entities specialised in economic research, applied and theoretical, (3) practice in business consultancy activities. The students develop work skills, which increases their employability and the possibilities of entering the labour market upon graduation. The project promotes the development of a partnership between academia, companies - in various fields (retail and business consultancy) - and research institutions. The project thus facilitates the transition from school to work in the context of the knowledge-based society. The project is lead by the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies. wiiw is project partner and provided eight internships for Romanian students.

The world and Europe in 2030 (AUGUR)

European Commission, 7th Framework Programme

October 2010 - January 2013

The challenge of this project was to capture, within a set of scenarios, the characteristics and implications of a variety of patterns that may occur in 2030 in all domains, be it political, economic, social, environmental or technological in Europe and in the world. The project attempted to take stock of medium to long-term trends identified in demography, environmental changes as well as to feature some of the effects of likely changes in technology and behaviours, but it also took into account important institutional transformations. wiiw was one of seven project partners and acted as the leader of a work-package on the effects of innovation and technology diffusion on growth. wiiw contributed to the elaboration of policy scenarios for EU policy makers, designed to deal with the different economic trajectories. In particular, wiiw contributed papers on foreign direct investment, intellectual property rights, trade specialisation, trade in services and macroeconomic issues.

<http://www.augurproject.eu>

Study on potential investors for settlement in Vienna (*wiiw Team Leader*)

Vienna Business Agency

September 2012 - January 2013

This study addresses the question from which countries and from which economic sectors do potential investors, that would be suitable for settlement in Vienna, come from.

Internationalisation of business investments in R&D and analysis of their economic impact

European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

June 2010 - October 2012

The internationalisation of corporate research and development activities is one of the most important issues within the current integration of the world economy. The study aimed at providing an in-depth analysis of this development. A consortium consisting of wiiw and AIT (Austrian Institute of Technology) construed a comprehensive dataset on R&D activities of foreign-owned firms in a number of countries. In a second step, they employed this database to analyse cross-country patterns of R&D internationalisation, as well as the drivers and impacts of R&D internationalisation. wiiw contributed its expertise in the analysis of economic growth and structural change, international trade and foreign direct investment, labour markets and the European integration process to the study.

Workshop on competitiveness in Azerbaijan: concepts, measurement and analysis

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

September 2012 - October 2012

The aim of this project was to provide Azerbaijani members of government and non-government organisation with an in-depth training in analysing the competitiveness of their economy. In this context, wiiw prepared a 1-day seminar on various aspects of competitiveness for 50 participants in Baku. The workshop was structured into three sessions. The first session presented a concept for measuring competitiveness (e.g. real exchange rates, unit labour costs, revealed comparative advantages, market share analysis). The second session familiarised the participants with issues of trade competitiveness and industrial policy, the final session with foreign direct investment and privatisation policies and restructuring.

Study in the context of Croatia's EU accession

Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria

December 2011 - July 2012

The study provides background information for the Austrian Chancellery in the context of Croatia's accession to the EU. It describes the economic development of Croatia in a comparative perspective, analyses Austria's relations with Croatia and discusses potential future developments as a result of EU membership.

Analysis of the main factors of regional growth: an in-depth study of the best and worst performing European regions

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

January 2008 - June 2012

The aim of the study was to deepen our understanding of economic development in the regions of the EU27. Special emphasis was given on the one hand to NUTS2 regions that performed relatively well (i.e. well above EU average or as compared to their national average) and, on the other hand, to NUTS2 regions that performed relatively poorly (i.e. well below EU average or as compared to their national average). Underlying factors of the different performance had to be identified and analysed. Broad policy conclusions have been drawn. wiiw was partner in a consortium with Applica and Cambridge Econometrics.

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

FDI flows and impacts on the competitiveness of the EU industry (Competitiveness Report 2012)

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

October 2011 - May 2012

This study investigates the international competition in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), especially in the context of the growing importance of emerging and developing countries as recipients of FDI. The study analyses both inbound and outbound FDI and their impact on the competitiveness of the European Union. It also focuses on the role of

internationalisation of firms (especially SMEs) within and outside the EU and their access to international markets and global value chains. Furthermore, the competitiveness of industries within the EU and the role of FDI in reaching the goal of a common European investment policy are investigated. The study highlights recent developments and impacts of FDI that form the basis for further development of European policy. wiiw conducted this study in cooperation with WIFO.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/competitiveness-analysis/european-competitiveness-report/index_en.htm

World Input-Output Database (WIOD)

European Commission, 7th Framework Programme

May 2010 - April 2012

WIOD aimed to develop databases, accounting frameworks and models for policy-makers who are facing increasing and pressing trade-offs between socio-economic growth and environmental problems. The core of the database is a set of harmonised supply and use tables, alongside with data on international trade in goods and services. These two sets of data have been integrated into sets of inter-country input-output tables. Taken together with extensive satellite accounts with environmental and socio-economic indicators, these industry-level data provided the necessary input to several types of models used to evaluate policies aimed at striking a suitable balance between growth, environmental degradation and inequality across the world. wiiw led two work packages in this project: (1) WP2 „International Trade Data“ and (2) WP8: „Application of the database: Socio-Economic Aspects“. The institute also contributed to WP3 „Estimation of inter-country input output tables“ and to WP5 „Satellite Accounts: Socio-Economic Indicators“.

<http://www.wiod.org>

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.

Bulgaria: fiscal space, competitiveness and incomes policy

International Labour Organisation

September 2011 - January 2012

wiiw produced a study for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) concerning macroeconomic and structural policies for Bulgaria. The paper focused on the economic growth model pursued in Bulgaria over the last decade and in particular changes that are required to this model given the expected external and internal environment and shortcomings with past policies. The paper includes a comparative analysis with other Central and East European countries where appropriate.

Workshop: MENA transition and international responses

Austrian Ministry of Finance

August 2011 - December 2011

In December 2011, wiiw organised a workshop with high-level experts to discuss the current economic, political and social situation in MENA countries, the challenges they face and the challenges posed for the EU neighbourhood policy. The workshop took as a vantage point the experiences from Central and Eastern European countries and the lessons the transformation of these countries may hold for future developments of the MENA region. wiiw produced a background paper for this workshop.

Access by Romanian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to Structural Funds and support mechanisms (wiiw Team Leader)

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

December 2009 - March 2011

The overall objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of use of structural funds with the range of products proposed and the extent to which they meet the needs of SMEs. In order to achieve this objective we (1) assessed the capacity and needs of SMEs in Romania to access EU funds, (2) identified the gap between the needs

and available funding and support, and (3) worked out corrective recommendations for the Managing Authorities to improve the SMEs' capacity to apply for and implement COS IEC funded projects. wiiw had the lead in this project which was conducted in cooperation with SME Research and four local experts.

The revival of NMS mutual trade after their EU accession: in search of the reasons behind

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

August 2009 - March 2011

Since their EU accession, mutual trade of the Central European new members has been expanding more dynamically than before 2004 and much faster than these countries' trade with the 'old' EU members. The project's target was to identify the reasons behind this phenomenon. First, changes in the structural features of these countries' mutual trade before and after the 2004 EU enlargement were analysed; revealed comparative advantage, marginal intra-industry trade and intensive and extensive margins of trade indicators were calculated and interpreted. Second, the significance of foreign-owned enterprises' presence in various industries and bilateral trade relations was investigated. Third, trade and FDI in services were scrutinised. Fourth, the potential of mutual trade was addressed with the help of a gravity model. Policy lessons for EU candidate countries and possible effects on Austria were discussed.