

# List of Projects

## Isilda Mara

### **Advice on intra-EU mobility and social security coordination (Lot 2: Statistics and data collection)**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*December 2021 - November 2025*

The European Commission is seeking independent expertise in order to have support in the areas of free movement of workers, posting of workers and social security coordination with in-depth research and analysis, as well as to widely disseminate this specific expertise to experts and practitioners at the national level. wiiw is part of a consortium led by HIVA/KU Leuven and is responsible for several ad-hoc reports on specific indicators to mobility.

### **Carbon Intensive Regions in Transition - Unravelling the Challenges of Structural Change (CINTRAN)**

*European Commission, Horizon 2020*

*May 2020 - April 2024*

In order to meet the climate change mitigation objectives of the European Union as well as the objectives of the Paris Agreement, it is inevitable that the European Union phases out fossil fuel consumption in the power sector and decarbonizes fossil-fuel dependent industries. However, if not managed well, such a structural change may cause serious economic impacts, societal upheaval, aggravated social inequalities and hardship. To minimize such consequences it is necessary to better understand the patterns and dynamics of structural change in response to decarbonization at the regional level, to understand which parameters determine the pace of transformation as well as the capacity of regional actors to adapt and pro-actively create alternative structures. This project aims to enable these activities through highly integrated, inter- and transdisciplinary research working in close collaboration with regional stakeholders. It combines quantitative model-based research with qualitative in-depth analysis. The qualitative research will focus on four highly fossil-fuel dependent regions: Western Macedonia (Greece), Silesia (Poland), Ida-Virumaa (Estonia) and the Rhenish mining area (Germany). The diversity of these regions will enable the project to derive generalizable insights about the patterns and dynamics of decarbonization and the corresponding structural adjustments that hold relevance for all carbon-intensive regions in the EU and its neighbouring countries.

<https://coaltransitions.org/projects/cintran/>

### **Industry 4.0, migration and the labour market adjustment: an intra-European perspective**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*October 2021 - March 2024*

The mechanism through which novel technologies including patents granted, robot adoption, and digitalization affect the labour market, skill composition and wage levels, and consequently the pull and push factors of migration, is the main focus of the study. The project will comprehensively study this phenomenon by analysing various interactions between innovation, adoption of robots, digitalization, and wages, and migration patterns in four work packages. First, the impact of novel technologies on wages by across countries and sectors will be studied. Second, the impact of novel technologies on migration flows by sectors and skills in selected EU countries will be analysed, also controlling for other factors. Third, the impact of the gap in technologies defined by the difference in robot intensity (i.e. robot stocks per employee) and the extent of digitalisation between the origin and destination countries on bilateral migration flows will be analysed. Fourth, push and pull factors affecting the intention to migrate will be studied at the individual level.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18737).

## **Labour market trajectories of refugees and other migrants**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*January 2021 - June 2023*

In view of the large influx of refugees into Austria between 2014 and 2016 and the substantial socio-cultural and economic integration challenges this poses, the project analyses some particular aspects of labour market integration of refugees in Austria. It uses two unique longitudinal databases which provide information on refugee integration over time, namely a newly constructed database provided by Statistics Austria ('Register-based Labour Market data') for the period 2015-2021 as well as five successive survey rounds among refugees in Austria (FIMAS) which have been conducted over the period 2016-2022. It sheds light on refugees' job stability and mobility across different labour market statuses, their home-to-host country occupational trajectories and associated status losses and gains, the impact of public integration programmes on the likelihood of finding employment, and the role of specific stressors and resilience factors for refugees' mental health.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Migration and Human Capital in the Western Balkans**

*European Training Foundation (ETF)*

*December 2019 - October 2021*

The project looks at migration dynamics from a human capital perspective in the six Western Balkan countries which have experienced high and persistent emigration since the 1990s and, since the early 2000s, increasingly more skilled emigration. It studies the interrelationship between migration flows (with a specific attention to skilled migration), human capital formation and utilisation (linked to labour market dynamics). It aims to understand the causes of the extremely high outflows of labour (and skilled labour in particular) from the region as well as their effects, taking into account the absorptive capacity of local labour markets, possible mismatches between local educational and training structures and labour market needs and other economic and institutional contexts of the countries. It also examines how, for different scenarios, the continuation of migration trends could influence the skills pool and its utilisation in the future. The focus of the analysis is on the post-2010 period, with projections until 2030. In the course of the project, a novel cohort-based approach has been developed and applied to estimate the extent and skill composition of net-migration, which is unavailable from official home-based migration statistics for the six Western Balkan countries. The project's output will include country fiches for each of the six WB countries with detailed policy recommendations, a regional synthetic report, and a number of quantitative statistical and econometric papers.

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

*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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Western Balkan Regional Cooperation**

*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 assess 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.

### **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.

### **Labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Austria**

*European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)*

*March 2019 - June 2020*

For the ETUI book publication 'Labour market integration of migrants' wiiw is contributing the chapter on 'Labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Austria'. The refugee wave that reached Europe unprepared in 2015/2016 needs further supporting policies and above all a successful labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees of the last couple of years. This project focuses on the main receiving countries of asylum seekers and third country migrants in the EU15 - Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Spain and the Netherlands.

### **SEE Jobs Gateway**

*The World Bank*

*July 2016 - March 2020*

Within this project, an annual flagship report on *Western Balkans Labor Market Trends* is launched. The Report is based on a dedicated regional labour market database for the Western Balkans, established and compiled by wiiw in cooperation with the Statistical Offices of the region. It allows, for the first time, to calculate aggregate labour market indicators across the six Western Balkan countries and to directly compare them with each other and with selected EU peer countries. The reports and database are available on the wiiw website. Overall, the initiative aims to provide access to labour market information and data for national policy-makers in the Western Balkans, as well as the international and academic communities. At the same time, it aims to generate interest among the press, NGOs and the wider public and thereby to encourage the debate on labour market policies.

<https://data.wiiw.ac.at/seejobsgateway-q.html>

### **Provision of services related to the implementation of the Better Regulation Guidelines (Framework Contract)**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*September 2017 - September 2019*

This framework contract is supposed to assist the European Commission in implementing the Better Regulation Guidelines by carrying out studies in the field of employment, social affairs, labour mobility and skills with the

purpose of supporting: (1) impact assessment for the design and preparation of policies, programmes and legislation; (2) evaluation to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and the added value, and (3) monitoring their implementation.

### **Wage developments in the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine**

*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.

### **Integration of recent refugees and third country nationals into the Austrian labour market**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*October 2016 - June 2019*

The aim of this project was to investigate the opportunities and challenges of integrating refugees and migrants in the Austrian labour market. A particular focus of the analysis was to follow the dynamics of labour market integration, building on a variety of longitudinal databases, including our own survey (FIMAS) covering recent refugees/asylum seekers as well as register-based labour market career data from Statistics Austria. The aim was to follow the experiences of different groups of refugees and migrants coming from different countries of origin with their specific personal characteristics, social contexts and participations in various policy programmes. Analytically, labour market integration was analysed along a number of different dimensions of integration (such as social network formation, cultural integration, integration into the health and other aspects of the welfare system, training and educational integration, etc) to check how these interact to facilitate or hinder labour market integration. An important part of the project addressed the vulnerability of refugees to mental health problems and identified the effect of stressors and resilience factors on their mental health situation. Various state-of-the-art statistical methods were applied to analyse the heterogeneity of experiences, effectiveness of policy programmes and interaction between different dimensions of integration.

### **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.

### **Migration and Globalisation - Impacts and Interaction**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*March 2016 - March 2018*

This project contributes to the current debate on the effects of immigration by considering how migration impacts upon and interacts with other forces of globalisation. The project will largely focus on the EU-27 countries, examining the impact of intra-EU and extra-EU migration flows on trade, FDI and off-shoring. The project will focus

on four major issues, namely: (i) the impact of immigration on (North-South) FDI flows; (ii) the relationship between migration and services trade flows; (iii) the interactions between migration, trade and FDI flows; (iv) migration and offshoring and their impact upon labour markets and inequality in EU economies.

### **Wage developments in Central and East European EU Member States**

*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.

### **Falling Behind and Catching Up in Southeast Europe (GDN)**

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*January 2014 - May 2017*

Southeast Europe holds a long record of being one of Europe's least developed regions. Sporadic growth spurts are regularly followed by strong fall-backs. Neither firms, nor banks or states were able to make broad industrialization happen in a sustainable way. The proposed research analysed the determinants and effects of backwardness in Southeast Europe. The analysis included inter alia issues of long-run development, industrialization, infrastructure, the role of cities, migration, state building and financial crisis. The results yielded important policy recommendations.

### **Framework contract on services related to the coordination and provision of horizontal support to the EURES network.**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*September 2014 - August 2016*

The European Job Network EURES (European Employment Services) will be reformed in the coming years in order to bring it up to speed with the challenges posed by the current and future labour market situation. EURES will become a demand-driven and result-oriented recruitment tool satisfying economic needs and contributing to fulfil the employment objective of the Europe 2020 strategy. The overall aim of the network support activities is to provide assistance to EURES members and partners in initiating, developing and implementing intra-EU labour mobility actions and plans, to improve cooperation and mutual learning in connection with the objectives of the EURES reform and to reinforce the role of EURES as part of such mobility actions and strategies.

### **Global Development Network Southeast Europe (GDN\_SEE)**

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*February 2009 - July 2016*

wiiw acts as regional hub for SEE within the Global Development Network (GDN) in providing capacity building for research and policy advice in the areas of labour markets, migration, trade, etc. wiiw initiated several research competitions in the region and also performs own research in this context. The topics of the most recent project phase were labour market developments, inequality, migration and fiscal systems in SEE.

<http://balkan-observatory.net>

### **Mapping Labour Market Integration Support Measures for Refugees and Asylum-seekers in the EU**

*European University Institute (EUI)*

*December 2015 - April 2016*

The overall objective of the study is to identify the policies and practices being implemented in different EU Member States to facilitate the labour market integration of recent refugees and asylum-seekers (i.e., those having arrived to the country in the last year) and to analyze them with a comparative perspective. wiiw contributes a country case study to this project.

## **Free Movement of workers, transitional arrangements and potential mobility from Croatia**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*December 2014 - May 2015*

Croatia joined the European Union on 1 July 2013. Similar to the two previous rounds of enlargement (2004 and 2007) the Accession Treaty with Croatia permits transitional arrangements regarding labour mobility. These arrangements allow other Member States to impose restricted access of Croatian nationals to their labour markets for a maximum period of seven years (2+3+2 formula). The first stage of transitional arrangements started in July 2013 and ended on 30 June 2015. As required by the ToR, the study provided information on past and, particularly, current migration/mobility patterns of Croatian nationals across EU Member States as well as on potential mobility/mobility intentions from Croatia to other EU Member States. In addition, it identified push factors of mobility and estimate econometrically the potential mobility patterns of Croatian nationals across other EU Member States. Finally, the study provided a short inventory of national data sources – both from Croatia and other Member States – that will help to monitor and assess the mobility of Croatian citizens since the country's accession to the EU in July 2013.

## **Recent patterns of labour mobility in the European Union**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*July 2013 - March 2015*

In the EU the level of labour mobility is comparably low, but rising due to intensified labour market flexibility and increasing migration flows. The project analysed changing patterns of labour mobility in a detailed manner in the countries, regions and economic sectors of the EU by applying a descriptive and an econometric approach. A specific focus was put on whether international migrants respond more flexibly to labour market demands. Moreover, the effects of external shocks during the financial and economic crisis on the scale and structure of labour mobility was analysed. The project drew on two micro-datasets: the EU labour force survey for performing a worker flow analysis and the MICRO-DYN database, which provides data based on EU-wide firm-level data to perform a job flow analysis. In the econometric approach we applied regional, country, sectoral and workers characteristics to detect the reasons for differences in the European wide map of labour mobility.

## **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.grincogh.eu>

## **Strategic Study on Labour Mobility in the Context of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy**

*Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)*

*April 2014 - January 2015*

The purpose of this consultancy was to provide strategic input to the labour mobility consultation process initiated by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in partnership with IOM and other regional and international partners as a flagship initiative on Jobs, Skills and Employment. The study is about to contribute to the implementation of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy. wiiw was engaged to assist the RCC and IOM in producing a comprehensive report on labour mobility in SEE.

## **European Job Mobility Laboratory**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*January 2010 - January 2014*

The objective of the laboratory was to help the Commission in promoting mobility as an overarching instrument in support of the 'flexicurity' model. This was achieved in two ways: On the one hand, the laboratory added to the analytical capacity of the Commission and provide a means through which policy ideas can be challenged by a



combination of academics and practitioners in order to find out what will work and what will not. On the other hand, the laboratory raised awareness of mobility issues and promoted debate through a series of seminars, workshops and high profile reports. Ultimately, the outputs of the projects contributed towards the development of new policy guidelines by providing feedback (on existing policy) resulting both from analytical work and directly from policy implementers. wiiw was subcontractor in the project, which was led by Applica.

<http://www.mobilitypartnership.eu/WebApp/Home.aspx>

### **Impact of opening full labour market access to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals as of 1 January 2014: the case of Austria (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth*

*April 2013 - December 2013*

The study analyses the migration potential and the impact on Austria's economy that is to be expected after the lifting of access restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals as of 1 January 2014. Estimates show that - as compared with a scenario with retained restrictions - in the years 2014 and 2015 net migration from the two countries to Austria will account for 5700 and 5300 additional persons, respectively, solely due to the full liberalisation of the labour market. About three quarters of those migrants are expected to come from Romania. In the years following the opening of the labour market, employment will be by about 6700 persons higher than it would be without liberalisation in 2014 and by about 10,300 persons above that level in 2015. The employment effect results not only from the higher population flows but also from the activation of a part of those Bulgarian and Romanian migrants who have been resident in Austria already before the liberalisation - also in 2007-2013 an increased inflow of migrants from those two countries was observed. The additional labour force supply will only cause a temporary marginal increase in the overall unemployment rate. Gross domestic product in 2014 and 2015 is expected to be higher by about 0.09% and 0.13%, respectively, and the unemployment rate is estimated to be higher by about 0.03% in both years, than would be the case without labour market liberalisation. The study was written in German, original title: 'Auswirkungen der Arbeitsmarkttöffnung am 1. Jänner 2014 auf den Wirtschafts- und Arbeitsstandort Österreich'

### **Temporary migration, integration and the role of policies (TEMPO)**

*New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe (NORFACE)*

*November 2009 - November 2013*

The main goal of TEMPO is to extend the frontier of knowledge on temporary and return migration along several directions. First of all, using an array of existing and new datasets, it looks at the causes and consequences of temporary migration, considering both the perspective of the source and the destination country. Second, it studies the patterns of integration of economic and non-economic migrants, and how they relate to the time dimension of the migration decision. Particular attention is paid to the role played by the diffusion of information within immigrant networks. Finally, the project looks at the process through which policies towards temporary and return migration are formed, and analyses their welfare effects both on the destination and the source countries. wiiw is one of 12 partners on the TEMPO research project, which is funded under the Norface Migration Research Programme.

<http://www.norface.org/migration6.html>

### **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.

### **Migration patterns of Serbian immigrants in Austria: causes and consequences**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*



*January 2011 - April 2013*

The main objective of this project is to investigate empirical evidence of migration behaviour of migrants from former Yugoslavia, especially from Serbia, after the introduction of the new visa regime starting with 2010. The focus is on the analysis of the phenomenon of temporary migration and its impact on integration and the building of human capital on the labour market.

**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)