

List of Projects

Julia Grübler

Quality of goods imports: Which role for non-tariff measures?

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

January 2019 - December 2020

One major feature of non-tariff measures (NTMs) is their opacity and complexity of their effects. Regulative standards embedded within NTMs might cause significant trade frictions, while some could stimulate trade due to positive externalities. When NTMs become very trade restrictive and discriminatory, trade disputes may arise. Specifically, when technical NTMs are not improving the quality of the imported product but mostly act as an unnecessary obstacle to trade, the implications of those NTMs might be regarded as protectionism. The study will provide information for trade policy makers to have a better understanding of the current stocks of technical barriers to trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and their effects with a focus on quality. In fact, by knowing how these trade policy measures affect quality differently from price and quantity of trade, the study will provide insights on motives behind their implementation.

Innovative modeling of non-tariff measures in trade (*wiiw Team Leader*)

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

September 2018 - February 2020

Starting in the 1960s, non-tariff measures (NTM) have been continuously replacing tariffs as the core element of trade negotiations. The number of types of non-tariff measures and the number of countries making use of these instruments increases continuously. Therefore, many different approaches have developed recently for the evaluation of NTM and free trade agreements (FTA). Starting from models using simple dummy variables for the indication of NTM or FTA, today there is a wide range of databases available varying in content (i.e. capturing different aspects of NTM and FTA) and in applied methodologies (e.g. extracting information from legal texts, survey data, notifications to the WTO). Our contribution to the existing literature is at least threefold: First, it aims at modelling non-tariff measures in a Structural Gravity framework. Second, it assesses the value added of different data on the structure of FTA and NTM by means of evaluating their ability to predict the trade effects of the EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement. Based on these results, the third contribution lies in the estimation of effects of the envisaged EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

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

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2009 - December 2019

For more than two decades, wiiw has been organising seminars within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These seminars are targeted at decision-makers in the public sector and at politicians from transition countries in Southeast Europe and the CIS and are supposed to present and discuss relevant topics in economic policy. wiiw organises four seminars per year and is responsible for their entire conception, organisation and choice of presenters.

Research Centre International Economics (Forschungsschwerpunkt Internationale Wirtschaft, FIW)

Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

October 2006 - December 2018

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/>

The relevance of the EU-Japan FTA for the Austrian economy (*wiiw Team Leader*)

Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

December 2017 - June 2018

Since the beginning of 2017, a paradigm change in international trade policy is observed. While the protectionist rhetoric of the administration of the US - the largest economy in the world - is threatening international trade, trade and investment initiatives of China - the world's second largest economy - are gaining in significance and attracting global attention. The EU and Japan are aware of these developments and look for ways of cooperation. The aim of the study is to estimate the effect of the envisaged EU-Japan FTA for Austria based on qualitative and quantitative analysis and to derive recommendations for Austrian foreign economic policy.

Economic policy implications of the Belt and Road Initiative for CESEE and Austria (*wiiw Team Leader*)

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'.

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.