

# List of Projects

## Julia Grüber

### **Research Centre International Economics (Forschungsschwerpunkt Internationale Wirtschaft, FIW)**

*Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research*

*October 2012 - 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/>

### **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.

### **Importance of Services Trade for the EU Economy and the Impact of Brexit**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*January 2019 - September 2020*

Services are a key sector of the global economy, accounting for the bulk of GDP in most countries and for a significant share of global trade. The long history of economic integration created close ties between the UK and rest of the EU that are not so easy to disentangle. In order to estimate the potential costs of Brexit it is important to better understand the interdependency of the EU members' economies with respect to services trade as a rise in services trade cost post-Brexit would impact not only the UK services firms, but also services suppliers and manufacturing producers in the EU. It is likely that some trade diversion will take place both in the UK and the EU, resulting in reallocation of resources to less efficient firms and negative welfare effects. In our study we explored in detail the linkages between the UK and EU-27 economies with respect to services sectors and estimate possible effects of Brexit for both the UK and the remaining EU members.

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

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*September 2018 - June 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 was at least threefold: First, it aimed at modelling non-tariff measures in a Structural Gravity framework. Second, it assessed 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. The third contribution laid in the estimation of effects of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

### **Greater than the sum of its parts? How does Austria profit from a widening EU network of Free Trade Agreements** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Austrian Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs*

*November 2019 - April 2020*

The aim of this project was to assess the effects EU Free Trade Agreements had on Austria so far and how these inter-act with each other. The project was structured along three chapters. The first task was to compute, display, and describe the evolution of the FTA network of the European Union over time, and Austria's position within this network. The second task used the derived network measures of FTAs (centrality measures and indirect channels of FTAs) in a structural gravity framework using a global dataset of bilateral trade. The final task evaluated the direct and indirect effects of FTAs on GDP and employment in Austria in a general equilibrium setting. The gained insights are discussed in a policy note.

### **Wanted! Free Trade Agreements in the Service of Environmental and Climate Protection** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Austrian Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs*

*October 2019 - March 2020*

The effects of international trade and investment on the planet's climate and environment are manifold and complex. This makes the assessment of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that the EU has been concluding in great numbers since the stalemate in WTO negotiations a delicate issue. The project aims at informing the discussion on the appropriate design of FTAs to make them serve environmental and climate protection: It is going to (i) provide an overview of the prevalence and development of sustainability chapters in EU FTAs and experiences with these provisions, (ii) highlight specific environmental issues related to EU FTAs that arose repeatedly in different agreements and (iii) zoom into the EU-Mercosur FTA and will contrast the expected cost of increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with the expected 'gains from trade'.

### **Analysis of the main territorial challenges, needs and transnational cooperation potentials and strategy building for the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 Programme**

*Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE*

*July 2019 - March 2020*

Interreg is a transnational programme established in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy and has been supporting transnational cooperation in Central Europe for more than 20 years. As an overarching goal, transnational cooperation aims at improving capacities and policies as well as at triggering innovative processes and investments at territorial level. The Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE (CE) Programme supports regional cooperation among the nine central European countries Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as parts of Germany and Italy. Against this background, the objectives of this assignment are: (i) To prepare a territorial analysis for the CE programme area in view of drafting the Interreg CE Programme for the period 2021-2027. The analysis shall identify the main joint challenges and needs of the area as well as strategic relevant fields of transnational cooperation with the potential to overcome territorial disparities; (ii) to develop a strategy building process for the future CE 2021-2027 Programme, in consultation with regional and national key stakeholders of the CE programme area and (iii) to provide recommendations for the future orientation and definition of the Interreg CE 2021-2027 programme strategy.

## **Das EU-MERCOSUR-Assoziierungsabkommen und seine Bedeutung für Österreich** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Austrian Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs*

*December 2019 - February 2020*

Mit dieser Studie sollen belastbare wissenschaftliche Evidenzen geschaffen werden, um rechtzeitig und proaktiv auf auftretende Bedenken und Widerstände reagieren zu können. Im Fokus der Studie sollen daher die Bereiche Landwirtschaft, Umweltgüter sowie die Auswirkungen des Abkommens auf umwelt- und klimaschädliche Emissionen sein. Damit sollen die erwartbaren Vorteile und möglichen Nachteile des Abkommens aufgezeigt werden. Nur auf Basis wissenschaftlicher Untersuchungen ist ein sachlicher Diskurs zum EU-MERCOSUR-Abkommen möglich. Das wiiw erstellt diese Studie zusammen mit dem WIFO.

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

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*January 2010 - 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.

## **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.