List of Projects

Marina Maier

Assessing the impact of trade policies on environmental outcomes and welfare
Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank
August 2026 - October 2029

The research aims to comprehensively examine how various trade policy measures including environmental regulatory non-tariff measures (NTMs), sanctions and environmental technologies affect greenhouse gas (GHG) and CO2 emissions. Unlike previous studies primarily focused on tariffs or carbon pricing, this research distinguishes (in addition to tariffs) between different policy instruments, notably, regulatory NTMs (such as technical barriers to trade (TBTs) and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards) as well as sanctions. These measures are often implemented to address market failures in environmental and health protections and have not been fully integrated into general equilibrium (GE) models yet. The project is structured around three interlinked work packages (WPs). WP1 estimates the effects of NTMs and sanctions on trade flows using a structural gravity model at a highly detailed six-digit product level. This approach generates elasticities for product- and sector-specific trade-cost shocks resulting from changes in trade policy measures. WP2 explores the direct relationship between regulatory NTMs and emissions at the sector-country level, accounting for patents as a proxy for technical progress. Potential endogeneity of these policies is addressed through an exogenous instrumental variable strategy. WP3 integrates the findings into a multi-sector GE framework to assess the joint impacts of changes in trade costs via the trade policy measures analysed and technological efficiency gains on both welfare and emissions. By combining partial and GE approaches, the research extends the existing literature and provides a more nuanced analysis of how trade policy can serve environmental goals. Ultimately, the project seeks to inform better policy design by revealing the complex interactions between trade, regulation, technology and emissions.

Funded by the Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (Project No. 19146).

The Regional Dimension of the Integration of Refugees and Other Migrants in Austria
Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank
September 2026 - February 2029

The project investigates how regional conditions shape the economic and social integration of refugees, displaced persons and other migrants in Austria. It focuses in particular on refugees from the Middle East and displaced persons from Ukraine and examines how differences in local labour markets, housing, infrastructure, access to education and childcare, social networks and other regional characteristics facilitate or hinder integration. The analysis combines two unique data sources: register-based labour market data covering the Austrian resident population and several waves of the FIMAS longitudinal survey of refugees and displaced persons in Austria. These data are enriched with detailed information on regional economic and social conditions. The quantitative analysis is complemented by focus group discussions with Syrian and Afghan refugees and Ukrainian displaced persons, providing deeper insights into how regional conditions are experienced and how refugees respond to them. The project will shed light on differences in labour market entry and employment stability between displaced persons, refugees and non-humanitarian migrants, as well as on the interplay between labour market and social integration. Particular attention will be paid to the role of different types of social networks and to differences by gender and age.

Funded by the Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (Project No. 19107).