

List of Projects

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Revision and Update of the Study "Danube Region Monitor - People and Skills" and the Online Database (wiiw Team Leader)

Federal Minister of Labour and Economy & Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD)
March 2025 - November 2028

wiiw has been commissioned to update and revise the Danube Region Monitor - People and Skills, with new editions scheduled for 2025 and 2028. The project is part of Priority Area 9 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and is supported through the Danube Region Programme (DRP). Austria's Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW) leads the initiative in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), and OeAD-GmbH. The project covers 14 countries across the EU and the Western Balkans, including Moldova and Ukraine, and builds on the successful previous editions of the monitor published in 2021 and 2022. The objective is to provide a data-based foundation for evidence-informed policymaking in the Danube Region, focusing on labour market trends, education, skills development, and demographic change. wiiw is responsible for updating data, refining thematic chapters, organising expert workshops, and revising the online monitor and database. The analysis will continue to be structured around four thematic blocks and will incorporate both quantitative indicators and expert insights. A key deliverable includes the continued development and technical maintenance of the online dashboard, enabling stakeholders across the region to access up-to-date data in a user-friendly format.

Couples' transition to parenthood and labour market outcomes: Analysing gender inequalities and career interactions in Austria (CoPLAN) (wiiw Team Leader)

Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
July 2025 - June 2027

This project applies a family perspective to assess gender inequalities in the Austrian labour market. It employs detailed individual-level register data to trace couples and investigate within-family drivers of labour market inequalities, including those related to parenthood. By doing so, it focuses on several core within-family disparities - the gendered division of paid work, diverging career paths and wage dynamic, within-couple income inequalities - in the transition to parenthood. Women faring worse than men in the labour market is a consistent finding across empirical studies, closely related to family structure and typically attributed to their different family roles and responsibilities. Marriage and children represent obligations that limit women's advancement, whereas for men, they tend to represent assets that benefit their careers. Parenthood tends to magnify existing gender gaps in wages and career progression, as maternal wage and career penalties remain strong. The project focuses on the role of different within-couple parental leave arrangements in subsequent career and wage developments of both spouses and within-couple income inequalities. This project is the first to provide a comprehensive registry data-based analysis of the dynamics of gender inequalities upon transition to parenthood in Austria, where parental leave policies have moved towards greater equality and equity, yet gender gaps in wages and work hours remain second highest in Europe.

Empowering the Geopolitical EU in the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans (GEO-POWER-EU)

European Commission, Horizon Europe
June 2024 - May 2027

GEO-POWER-EU's primary objective is to contribute to the empowerment of the EU to manage security threats within the deteriorating geopolitical environment that lies in its Eastern Neighbourhood and in the Western

Balkans. The project's main goal is to articulate a proposal for a comprehensive EU strategy towards these regions that will employ new and reformed means and policy instruments, taking into consideration foresight concerning the strategic ambitions of other geopolitical actors. The project seeks to improve the EU neighbourhood policy and accession process. Conceptually, GEO-POWER-EU will link both the enlargement and EaP policies, two areas traditionally studied as two distinct political regions falling under different policy radars, in order to reflect the post-Russian invasion in Ukraine EU policy needs. Methodologically, the project will combine traditional quantitative and qualitative methods (desk research, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, case studies and a population survey in the WB and the Associated Trio), together with digital methods (Sentiment Analysis), among other things. The project will create a special 'Interdependence Database', which will become publicly available, as well as three Indices, measuring different aspects of interdependence. GEO-POWER-EU project brings together a consortium of thirteen European research organisations and universities and is being coordinated by the University of the Peloponnese. wiiw's main contribution is the development of an interdependence database aimed to measure the influence of EU's geopolitical competitors in the two regions concerned and the investigation of emigration and brain drain from these.

Labour Market Inequalities in Times of Structural Change (wiiw Team Leader)

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

April 2024 - March 2027

The project addresses a number of crucial challenges faced by European labour markets at this testing time, when there is a major structural shift in job characteristics, task composition, the required skill sets of workers and, consequently, labour-market equality and efficiency. Different socio-demographic groups are adjusting to the imminent shift at varying speeds, depending on their skills and competencies, the specific job tasks they fulfil, their preferences for certain job characteristics, and the diverse obstacles, extent of discrimination and inequalities they face on the labour market. This project aims to analyse how the structural shift in the task composition of jobs, the job skill demands and the skill profiles of workers, as well as the labour-market challenges presented by the war, impact on inequalities across socio-demographic groups (men/women, immigrants/natives, younger/older workers) in a number of core labour-market outcomes.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18934).

Global Strategy for Skills, Migration, and Development (GS4S)

European Commission, Horizon Europe

January 2024 - December 2026

In light of EU challenges relating to an aging workforce and the energy transition, the EU faces a shortage of relevant skills. The Horizon Europe project GS4S seeks to better understand global skills shortages in selected sectors (Digital, Care and Construction) and aims at strengthening evidence-based policies through new evidence on various overlooked global mobility schemes. It thereby focuses on skilled (migrant) workers' experiences with skilling, upskilling and reskilling in EU and non-EU regional contexts. By using mixed-methods research, the project looks to provide exploitable datasets and practical tools for policy makers, businesses, and educational institutions in the EU and non-EU countries towards improved matching of skills, to address labour market needs and to eventually contribute a socially sustainable (well-being oriented) global strategy for skills, migration and development. As part of an interdisciplinary consortium led by Stichting Radboud Universiteit in Nijmegen, wiiw collaborates with partners in Belgium, Estonia, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Egypt, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

Capacity Building for Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe: Development, organisation, implementation and evaluation of seminars at the Joint Vienna Institute

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2026 - December 2026

On behalf of the Austrian authorities - the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Oesterreichische Nationalbank - wiiw develops and delivers specialized training programs within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute. These courses are designed for public sector decision-makers and policymakers from transition economies in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The 2026 program will focus on key economic and policy challenges, including competitiveness, growth and crises; public governance and structural reforms; public policies for the green and digital transition; foreign direct investment policies; and crisis management and resilience. In addition, the Applied Economic Policy Course will include a dedicated module on Austrian political and economic issues.

Articles for the magazine 'European Voices'*DER ThinkTank**January 2024 - December 2026*

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies authors articles on economic policy issues for the foreign and economic policy magazine "European Voices". The articles consist of academic content, analyses and assessments by wiiw economists enriched with wiiw economic data and forecasts for the countries in the region. The magazine has a circulation of 50,000 and is distributed across borders to the most important decision-makers in the fields of politics, diplomacy and business throughout Europe.

Capacity Building for Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe: Development, organisation, implementation and evaluation of seminars at the Joint Vienna Institute*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance**January 2025 - December 2025*

On behalf of the Austrian authorities - the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Oesterreichische Nationalbank - wiiw develops and organizes specialized training programs within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These courses are designed for public sector decision-makers and policymakers from transition economies in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The 2025 program will offer courses on key economic and policy challenges, including Competitiveness, Growth, and Crisis; Public Governance and Structural Reforms; Public Policies for the Green and Digital Transition; Foreign Direct Investment Policies; and Crisis and Resilience. Additionally, a dedicated segment on Austrian political and economic issues will be integrated into the Applied Economic Policy Course.

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.

Production and analysis of Cedefop's new European Skills Forecast (Specific Contract No.1)*CEDEFOP**October 2024 - October 2025*

This service request covers the tasks and activities for the production of the first regular update of the Skills Forecast, the continuous development of the methodology and validation of results, and the 2024 autumn update of the STAS.

Towards a world integrated and Socio-economically balanced European economic development scenario (TWIN SEEDS)*European Commission, Horizon Europe**October 2022 - September 2025*

The objective of the TWIN SEEDS project is to investigate changes in international trade and production patterns, specifically in global value chains (GVCs), both those of a longer-term nature (driven by the "twin seeds": technological developments and geo-political changes) and those that are taking place in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The project will examine the impacts of these changes on employment, job quality, social and regional cohesion, on patterns of growth and competitiveness, as well as their environmental implications. The analysis will provide the basis to map out forward-looking policy scenarios (including trade and investment, industrial, regional, education/training and social policies) that allow Europe to secure decent work and working conditions, rapid progress towards resource-efficiency and decarbonisation, security of supply for strategic goods and sustainable, inclusive and competitive growth in the years to come. The research will be based on a thorough multi-level (global, national, regional, sectoral, firm level) research framework, relying on a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, on multidisciplinary knowledge (international economists and trade policy experts, regional economists, international business and organisational experts, political scientists) and on an extensive stakeholder engagement.

Welfare systems and labour market policies for economic and social resilience in Europe (WeLaR)

WeLaR is a three-year research project funded by the Horizon Europe Framework Programme that aims to examine the impact of digitalisation, globalisation, climate change and demographic shifts on labour markets and welfare states in Europe. WeLaR will not only improve the understanding of the individual and combined effects of these trends, but also offer policy proposals helping to adapt welfare systems to these pressing challenges. The project's ultimate goal is to assist in the creation of policies that ensure economic growth is distributed fairly across society and generates opportunities for all. To achieve these goals, the WeLaR team will develop a new framework to study the effects of the four megatrends on the labour market and the welfare state. It will integrate analysis of their impacts on labour supply, demand and market matching, while accounting for the interactions among the four megatrends and the mediating role of institutions and policies. WeLaR will use a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as stakeholder engagement. The research is carried on by a consortium of 10 institutions from seven European countries and is being coordinated by the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven). wiiw's contributions address primarily intra-family time allocation of paid work and housework, atypical work and intra-EU mobility patterns, the impact of offshoring and automation on the demand for typical and atypical jobs, and the role of unions and policies for the quality of work.

<https://projectwlar.eu/>

Human Mobility in the Western Balkans: Pathways for Inclusive Growth and Human Development

This project will provide analytical and advisory support on the impact of human mobility on economic development, competitiveness, and growth potential in the Western Balkans. It will offer a robust evidence base to inform policies in key areas: analysing human mobility trends and their economic effects; addressing emigration while supporting circular and return migration; managing immigration; and tackling skills shortages and mismatches. The project will also support the implementation of the EU's New Growth Plan and the Green and Digital Agendas, while offering programming recommendations for UNDP. Combining a rigorous analytical approach with practical policy and programmatic solutions, the initiative aims to harness human mobility to advance skills, labour markets, and human capital development, ultimately fostering inclusive and sustainable growth across the region.

Beschäftigungs- und Lohnstrukturen, Verwendung von IKT in Haushalten und Erwerbsverläufe - Analysen basierend auf neuen österreichischen Mikrodaten

Verwendung von IKT und Beschäftigungs- und Lohnstrukturen: Analysen basierend auf neuen österreichischen Mikrodaten Ziel der Studie war es, wichtige Fragestellungen auf Basis von Mikrodaten für Österreich zu analysieren. Die Studie konzentrierte sich auf zwei Themenbereiche: die IKT-Nutzung und Beschäftigungsentwicklung in österreichischen Unternehmen sowie die IKT-Nutzung und Lohngleichheit in österreichischen Unternehmen.

Toward innovation-driven growth: innovation systems and policies in EU member states of Central Eastern Europe

In this study, we pursued five main objectives: (1) Communicate in an understandable manner what type of innovation systems and policies promote the cultivation of domestic innovative capabilities, and enhance the technological competitiveness of economies. We made reference to best practice examples from around the world, drawing on the literature on policy initiatives implemented by successful innovators. (2) Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current innovation climate of EU-CEE countries, taking into account the implications arising from the current megatrends. (3) Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of the innovation policy landscape of EU-CEE countries, highlighting such policy initiatives which can provide a basis for mutual learning. The scope of the EU-CEE policy landscape covers national initiatives on the one hand, and framework conditions and opportunities arising from EU industrial and technology policy initiatives on the other hand. (4) Propose a set of concrete policy recommendations that would promote innovation-driven growth in EU-CEE countries. (5) Keeping in mind the shared challenges and opportunities of the EU-CEE region overall, tailor the findings to each country's specific development needs and capabilities.

Untangling the impacts of technological transformations, globalisation and demographic change to foster shared prosperity in Europe (UNTANGLED)

European Commission, Horizon 2020

February 2021 - January 2024

Technological transformations, globalisation and demographic changes are the three key mega-trends posing socio-economic challenges and opportunities for the EU. UNTANGLED aims to fill knowledge gaps about these trends by pursuing three main goals: (1) to provide detailed analyses at the macro-, regional-, sectoral-, and micro-level concerning the effects of these trends on labour market outcomes and inequality, and their winners and losers; (2) to develop comprehensive, model-based scenarios of the impacts of these trends in the next decades, overall and for various subpopulations, sectors and regions; (3) to develop policy recommendations fostering shared prosperity. The project is commissioned to a consortium coordinated by the Catholic University of Leuven. wiiw is one of 14 partners and leads a workpackage on meso-level analysis.

How to dovetail Ukraine's reconstruction with EU integration and accession

Bertelsmann Stiftung

January 2023 - December 2023

The reconstruction of Ukraine and its accession to the EU constitute one of the biggest challenges for the international community, the EU and the country itself for many decades. Ukraine received candidate status from the EU in 2022 and could open negotiations even this year. Meeting the Copenhagen Criteria for EU accession, however, will be a monumental task. A joint assessment released in March 2023 by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, and the United Nations, estimated that the cost of reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine had grown to US \$411 billion (€383 billion). The costs were expected to be spread out over 10 years, and to use a mixture of private and public money. This research team argued that these two historic processes—reconstruction and EU integration—and how to further develop Ukraine as a functioning market economy capable of meeting the demands of EU internal market competition must be thought together to achieve the best possible outcomes – for the EU and Ukraine alike. Shedding light on what exactly the main challenges are, how Ukraine compares with previous joiners, and what can be learned from the successful EU accession of EU-CEE countries, was the ultimate ambition of this report. Within a series of research reports and policy briefs a group of economists from wiiw, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Kiev-based Grawford Institute and the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting analysed in detail five key and complementary areas of economic reconstruction: trade and FDI, regional policy, infrastructure, demographics, finance. They also investigated how these reconstruction areas could be structured as part of the EU accession process, and provided policy proposals for Ukraine and the EU.

Jobs, mental health and social policy in times of COVID-19

FWF - Austrian Science Fund

November 2021 - October 2023

In this project, a research team at wiiw is investigating important structural and distributional social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the impact of the crisis on different economic sectors and on their organisation, the topics of employment and re-employment as well as the perspectives of different social groups are taken into account. For this purpose, a model is developed that captures the main features of the social and structural impacts in the medium and long term ('agent-based stock-flow consistent model'). Besides factors of labour market economics, it also includes changes in technology, productivity and work organisation as well as economic policy decisions. Four empirical studies shed light on important components of the theoretical model. These include structural developments of economic activities, different employment models, homeworking and effects on mental health, analysis of government measures.

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.

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.

The use of Cohesion Policy funds to support refugees from Ukraine

European Parliament

December 2022 - May 2023

This research study aims to assess the use of Cohesion Policy funds and instruments to support refugees from Ukraine in the context of the Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (also known as CARE). Building on an analysis of the inflow and needs of refugees arriving in the EU from Ukraine, the study reviews the EU response(s) to the migratory crisis and the actions taken by EU countries, regions and cities to assist those refugees. In that regard, individual case studies on six European NUTS-2 regions are carried out to shed light on the challenges faced and resources mobilised by regional authorities to help refugees settle and integrate into local communities and labour markets. The findings of these analytical tasks should feed into policy recommendations on the design and purpose of the EU Cohesion Policy, as its role as crisis response tool could place it at odds with its long-term goal of promoting convergence.

Wirtschaftliche Auswirkungen des Russisch-Ukrainischen Krieges auf Wien

City of Vienna

March 2022 - December 2022

Die Invasion Russlands in der Ukraine führt neben den geopolitischen auch zu einer Reihe von geoökonomischen Auswirkungen, deren Intensität sowohl in der kurzen als auch in der mittleren und längeren Frist sehr hoch sein wird. Die akuten Effekte betreffen die globalen und insbesondere europäischen Märkte für Energie, sowie für landwirtschaftliche Güter und Nahrungsmittel. Millionen von Flüchtenden haben sich auf den Weg gemacht. Grundzüge der Nachkriegsordnung, insbesondere in den Bereichen Sicherheitspolitik, Energiepolitik und das damit einhergehende Wachstumsmodell werden aktuell überdacht. Diese Kurzstudie gab einen ersten Überblick vor allem über die potentiellen kurzfristigen wirtschaftlichen Effekte des Krieges auf die Stadt Wien.

Industrial Policy for a New Growth Model: A toolbox for EU-CEE countries

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

July 2022 - December 2022

The Central Eastern European member states of the EU (EU-CEE) marked impressive advancements in their socio-economic developments over the past decades and can be even regarded as one of the most dynamic regions in Europe. The countries' EU membership as well as their deep integration into regional and global value chains (GVCs) played a crucial role in this catch-up process. However, the period following the Great Recession has seen unimpressive labour productivity growth along with a somewhat slower, in some cases even derailed, convergence process. In the light of EU-CEE's positioning as 'factory economies' and their struggle to occupy the more sophisticated stages of manufacturing value chains, the key challenge faced by the region is to occupy higher value-added activities within the value chain. This study aims to strategically evaluate the countries' policy options in achieving this goal, and to design an appropriate industrial policy toolkit for them, taking full account of the ongoing megatrends. It aims to guide policy makers in making the best possible use of the available policy space and taking

full advantage of EU membership, while at the same time steering the industrial policy discussions at the EU-level to one that better fits the position and capabilities of the EU-CEE. The study defines industrial policy in the EU context and explores lessons learned from past successful industrialisers. It maps the EU-CEE's industrial development, with a particular focus on green and digital aspects, in order to identify most promising growth areas, along with key areas of vulnerability. Subsequently, it dives deep into the discussion of flagship industrial policy instruments and discusses how they could be more effectively deployed in EU-CEE.

Auswirkungen der Corona-Pandemie auf den niederösterreichischen Arbeitsmarkt

AMS-NÖ

September 2021 - December 2022

Trotz der breit eingesetzten Unterstützungsmaßnahmen hat die Pandemie nicht nur in der EU im Allgemeinen, sondern auch in Österreich einen sprunghaften Anstieg der Arbeitslosenzahlen mit sich gebracht. Die Gefahr einer sich verfestigenden, strukturellen Arbeitslosigkeit ist dabei ungleichmäßig über verschiedene Gruppen von Arbeitnehmern und Branchen verteilt. Eine genaue Analyse der Auswirkungen der COVID-19-Krise war somit notwendig, um die Konzeption der eingesetzten arbeitsmarktpolitischen Maßnahmen zu unterstützen. Dies ermöglichte insbesondere eine Anpassung der Förderinstrumente (Schulungen, Eingliederungshilfen, etc.) auf regionale Erfordernisse, wie im Falle von Niederösterreich. Somit konnte die Erholung am Arbeitsmarkt erleichtert sowie ein vorhandener und eventuell beschleunigter Strukturwandel im Sinne der Beschäftigten positiv begleitet und unterstützt werden.

Danube Region Monitor - People and Skills

Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD) and L&R Sozialforschung

April 2021 - November 2022

The Danube Region Monitor was initiated in 2017 to highlight key developments in the areas of labour markets and education systems in the fourteen countries participating in the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). This annual flagship report serves as a basis for evidence-based policy decisions in these countries and within the framework of the EUSDR. wiw's main task is to revise and update the report for the years 2021 and 2022 and to ensure that the underlying statistics are relevant, reliable and comparable across the countries concerned.

<https://peopleandskills.danube-region.eu/>