

List of Projects

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EU-Asia relations: technological competition and trade policies in an era of regionalisation

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

June 2023 - May 2026

This project analyses various aspects of EU-Asia relationships (with a focus on East and Southeast Asia; E-SE Asia). It addresses two main aspects which characterise current global economic developments: a tendency towards competing regional integration ('regionalisation') and fiercer technological competition. It analyses intra- and interregional research collaborations of firms, the positioning of EU and E-SE Asian countries in terms of the functional specialisation of global value chains, technology spillovers from eMNCs (multinationals from emerging E-SE Asian economies) and aMNCs (multinationals from advanced economies) to domestic EU firms, the roles of competing trade policy arrangements and technological complementarity in regional vs. inter-regional integration processes, the impact of different trade policy designs on trade structures in the context of industry-specific technology catching-up and leap-frogging, and global and regional competition between regulatory standards.

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.

How can economic instruments of climate policy be directed through foreign direct investment?

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

October 2022 - March 2025

The mechanism through which the policy maker can foster novel green and environmental technologies via FDI is the main focus of the project. It comprehensively studies this by analysing in three work packages how FDI is determined in the EU and how it can help to diffuse technology. The first work package analyses which factors at the three levels of region, industry and firm determine FDI in firms located in the EU. The second work package analyses how FDI affects productivity growth and employment growth at both the firm level and the regional sector level. In the third work package the diffusion of knowledge, technology and know-how of FDI is analysed, which could lead to green and environmental innovation and finally patenting of these technologies. In both the second and the third work package the indirect impact of FDI on domestically owned firms is analysed separately from the impact of FDI on the whole regional sector, including foreign-owned firms.

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.

Economic and Social Impacts of FDI in CSEE

Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft e.V.

January 2022 - November 2022

The study analysed the economic impact FDI had on the economies of Central, East and Southeast Europe and discusses pros and cons of FDI inflows. The analysis was conducted at the aggregate level as well as at the level of broad industry categories (according to available NACE industries) such as for instance manufacturing, finance, trade or information and communication, over the longer run.

The Future of Cohesion: Effects of the Twin Transition on Disparities in European Regions

Bertelsmann Stiftung

May 2022 - October 2022

Europe is in the middle of a twin transition. Digitisation on the one hand and the green transition on the other are bringing major upheavals to the European economy. They are changing existing economic structures and have the potential to fundamentally alter the current distribution of potential growth and prosperity in Europe. While EU regions have been extensively analysed according to various (socio-)economic criteria, e.g. by the European Cohesion Reports, only few of them look into the future and assume a holistic perspective. Therefore, the aim of this study is to close this gap by analysing the consequences of the twin transition for the future economic development of European regions. These will be studied by developing and analysing scoreboard indicators for the EU regions' potential to benefit from the green and digital transition as well through econometric and descriptive analysis. With this methodological approach, the study aims to make a substantial contribution to the design of cohesion policies in Europe and its Member States by answering the following key questions: What are the economic priorities of European regions today? Which key factors determine the success of the double transformation? Which regions tend to benefit/lose from the structural change caused by digitalisation? Which regions tend to benefit/lose from the structural change caused by decarbonisation?

15 years CEFTA 2006 agreement - a stock-taking

Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)

October 2021 - December 2021

Assessment study on the economic effects of CEFTA on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the CEFTA 2006 agreement. Various indicators showed in a descriptive way how trade has evolved in the present CEFTA countries around the years 2006-2007 and the period before (e.g. from 2000) up until the latest available figures (typically 2020). A number of econometric models were employed in order to detect potential growth effects.