

List of Projects

Olga Pindyuk

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.

Articles for the magazine 'European Voices'

DER ThinkTank

January 2024 - December 2025

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.

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.

What are the economic and institutional must haves for candidate countries to make an accelerated enlargement possible?

*European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs
October 2024 - June 2025*

This project, commissioned by the EU Commission's DG EcFin, attempts to identify "the minimal economic preconditions for the accession of candidates to the European Union, presuming a scenario under which there would be strong political pressure to admit new Member States much quicker than the current enlargement approach and procedures can deliver." (quoted from the tender document). The research set out to identify such minimum conditions by focusing on the following selection criteria: (i) relevance to provide macroeconomic stability for longer-term growth (and convergence), (ii) potential spillover effects on existing member states, and (iii) implications for proper use of EU funding and mutually beneficial participation in EU programs. Given these criteria we focus in our analysis on (a) external accounts (b) the fiscal situation (c) labour markets and social indicators and (d) institutional factors.

Geo-economic Interconnectivity Index (GEOII) (wiiw Team Leader)

*Bertelsmann Stiftung
July 2024 - April 2025*

The Geo-economic Interconnectivity Index (GEOII) is part of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's project "Sovereign Europe: Strategic Management of Global Interdependence" and builds upon the research conducted in collaboration with the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and European Center for International Political Economy (ECIPE), to measure economic interconnectivity of the EU and other powers with the EU neighbouring countries. The focus of the "Sovereign Europe" project and its continuation with the index is to explore how the EU can consolidate and expand its influence in its neighbourhood amid increasing geopolitical rivalry and blocs formation. The aim is to align relations with the EU's political interests and values, thereby strengthening its role as a global player. This index aims to capture the dynamics of geoeconomic influence and shifts in the balance of power within the region. Its core objective is to track changes in economic ties in various sectors over time and their implications for the EU's relative influence. To this end, the index will measure and evaluate the economic interconnectivity of the EU with its neighbouring countries, focusing on the bilateral flow of goods, services, and finances, as well as policies that hinder or promote this exchange. The index will compare the EU's interconnectivity with that of the US, China, and Russia in the same region, providing an evidence-based picture of the intensity and development of interconnectedness while disclosing annual differences (deltas) in the data.

Research Centre International Economics (Forschungsschwerpunkt Internationale Wirtschaft, FIW)

*Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research
October 2013 - 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/>

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

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2024 - December 2024

For more than two decades, wiiw designed and organised courses within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These courses were aimed at decision-makers in the public sector and policy-makers from transition countries in South-Eastern Europe and the CIS. In 2024, courses were held on the following topics: Competitiveness, Growth and Crisis; Public Governance and Structural Reforms; Public-and Private Cooperation for the Green and Digital Transition; Foreign Direct Investment Policies; Crisis and Resilience; and a segment on Austrian political and economic issues within the Applied Economic Policy Course.

Preparation of Ukraine for its accession to the EU in the area of Cohesion Policy

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

June 2024 - October 2024

This initiative is based on a cooperation between the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and the U-LEAD with Europe programme implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It specifically aims to contribute to the preparation of Ukraine in view of its accession to the EU in the area of Cohesion Policy (Chapter 22 of the accession negotiations) and focuses on four key dimensions of Cohesion Policy: governance framework, administrative capacity, programming, as well as monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes. This work draws from the experience of two EU Member States (i.e. France and Lithuania) and one candidate country (i.e. North Macedonia). It will result in guidelines tailored to the needs and goals of Ukraine as regards its reconstruction and future EU membership, also considering its decentralisation reform and regional development policy. U-LEAD with Europe: Local Empowerment, Accountability and Development Programme is a multi-donor action of the EU and its member states Germany, Poland, Denmark and Slovenia to support Ukraine on its path to strengthening local self-government. U-LEAD promotes transparent, accountable and responsive multi-level governance in Ukraine and empowers municipalities.

China´s influence over European Strategic Transport Infrastructure (wiiw Team Leader)

European Parliament

May 2023 - December 2023

This project focused on the analysis of China´s direct investments in the European strategic transport infrastructure and aims at evaluating potential impacts on the security of EU Member States and the EU Neighbourhood, whilst also looking to draw evidence-based and actionable policy conclusions to mitigate potential risks. By providing in-depth case studies of several EU members and countries of the EU Neighbourhood, the project looked to identify the concentration of Chinese direct investments in transport infrastructure at the external borders of the EU and the impact on the EU´s security as well as on its connectivity. Additionally, the project also drew on the policy responses implemented in the United States and evaluated their strengths and weaknesses for the EU context. wiiw coordinated this project in close collaboration with the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS).

Entwicklung, Organisation, Durchführung und Evaluierung von Seminaren am Joint Vienna Institut (JVI)

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2023 - December 2023

Das wiiw hat im Rahmen des Joint Vienna Institute (JVI) mehrere Kurse konzipiert und durchgeführt. Diese Kurse richten sich an Entscheidungsträger des öffentlichen Sektors aus den Transformationsländern Südosteuropas und der GUS und haben zum Ziel, aktuelle wirtschaftspolitische Themen zu vermitteln.

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 Growford 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.

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.

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.

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

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2014 - December 2022

For more than two decades, wiiw has been organising courses within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These courses are aimed at decision-makers in the public sector and policy-makers from transition countries in Southeastern Europe and the CIS. wiiw organised six courses in 2022 and was responsible for the entire conception and implementation of these seminars as well as for the selection of the participants.

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.

Wirtschaftsbeziehungen Österreich - China: Künftige Kooperationspotenziale

Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMASGK)

August 2020 - January 2021

Wirtschaftsbeziehungen Österreich - China: Künftige Kooperationspotenziale Am 28. Mai 1971 wurden die diplomatischen Beziehungen zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Volksrepublik China aufgenommen. Dieser Schritt der bilateralen Annäherung jährt sich somit im Jahr 2021 zum 50. Mal. Mit dieser Studie sollte eine Bestandsaufnahme der bilateralen wirtschaftlichen und wirtschaftspolitischen Beziehungen und ein Ausblick über künftige Chancen für den internationalen Handel und Kooperationsmöglichkeiten, insbesondere auch für die Schwerpunkte Forschung, Technologie und Innovation, erhoben werden. Darauf aufbauend wurden Empfehlungen als Input für die nationale und interministeriell abzustimmende China-Strategie aufgezeigt.

Importance of Services Trade for the EU Economy and the Impact of Brexit *(wiiw Team Leader)*

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.

Belarus WTO impact assessment and export potential analysis *(wiiw Team Leader)*

EuropeAid

July 2019 - March 2020

The objective of this project is to support the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus in its dialogue with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the accession process and to provide concrete modelling results on the likely impacts arising from implementing the WTO commitments in the country. In addition, taking due consideration of Belarus's engagement in the Eurasian Economic Union, the identification of focus markets shall encourage Belarus to participate more actively in the economic integration processes and to become a fully-fledged member of the multilateral trading system.

Studies in the Areas of European Competitiveness

European Commission, DG Grow

August 2014 - July 2018

The purpose of this framework contract is to provide the European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, with background studies concerning the competitiveness of European industries. These background studies are mainly used for the preparation of the Commission's European Competitiveness Report which is published annually in order to provide analytical input to the policy debate on issues related to competitiveness and to underpin proposals and recommendations regarding the Europe 2020 strategy and future enterprise policy.

Austria's Economic Competitiveness in a Neighbourhood Context

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

August 2016 - July 2018

Since the Eastern enlargement of the EU in 2004, Austria has lost global export market shares. At the same time exports to Central, East and Southeast Europe have gained a significant portion of Austria's total exports. Moreover,

in recent years Austrian GDP growth has slowed down and unemployment increased. In this context our main research question is whether the opening to the East had a structural lock-in effect for Austria's economy. In a novel approach on the territorial lock-in effect we will apply a multi-perspective view from a microeconomic (firm-level), mesoeconomic (industry-level) and macroeconomic (country-level) perspective. As regards data, we will have exclusive access to an update of the world input-output database including data for the Western Balkans. The new data will add substantially to the project, the current discussion on Austria's competitiveness and the development of policy recommendations.

Territorial challenges, potentials and impacts of transnational cooperation in Central Europe

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

February 2018 - July 2018

The project analyses the territorial challenges, potentials and impacts of the transnational cooperation programme Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE (CE). It is divided into three tasks:

- Identification of the main territorial challenges and needs of CE,
- Analysis of the impacts and results of transnational cooperation in CE achieved by the CE 2007-2013 and the Interreg CE 2014-2020 programme, illustrated by concrete case studies,
- Outlook and conclusions on the future needs and potentials of transnational cooperation in CE.

Task1 analyses ten main challenges of the CE area, i.e. a) circular economy / environment, b) climate change, c) demographic change / migration, d) digital economy, e) employment / skills, f) energy, g) globalisation / competitiveness, h) governance, i) social situation / social risks and j) transport infrastructure / accessibility. For each challenge the study identifies specific policy areas for which TNC has a high potential to promote regional integration and development and analyses the TNC policy options to address them.

Task 2 analyses the achievements and results of the Interreg CE 2007-2013 the CE 2014-2020 programmes. The **first part** of the task includes a quantitative analysis of the financial, output and outreach and results data as well as a qualitative analysis of the CE 2007-2013 programme's results. The **second part** consists of a survey conducted among 2007-2013 project participants and of 12 case studies providing an in-depth analysis of selected and representative projects of the 2007-2013 period.

Task 3 summarises the results of assesses the key contributions of the CE programmes to tackle the CE region's challenges. It comments on the CE programme's synergies with other EU policies, provides recommendations for the upcoming call for projects of the Interreg CE 2014-2020 programme and gives an outlook of a potential focus of a post-2020 CE programme.

Migration and Globalisation - Impacts and Interaction

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

March 2016 - March 2018

This project contributes to the current debate on the effects of immigration by considering how migration impacts upon and interacts with other forces of globalisation. The project will largely focus on the EU-27 countries, examining the impact of intra-EU and extra-EU migration flows on trade, FDI and off-shoring. The project will focus on four major issues, namely: (i) the impact of immigration on (North-South) FDI flows; (ii) the relationship between migration and services trade flows; (iii) the interactions between migration, trade and FDI flows; (iv) migration and offshoring and their impact upon labour markets and inequality in EU economies.

The evolving composition of intra-EU trade over time

European Commission, DG Grow

January 2016 - July 2016

Global trade in goods and services was severely hit by the economic crisis in 2008, which initiated a pronounced but short-lived trade collapse. Until 2011 trade flows recovered relatively quickly, but since then global trade in goods has been rather anaemic. This development is partly the result of the low dynamics of EU-related trade which accounts for a large share of global trade flows. Regarding intra-EU trade a strong increase in overall bilateral trade intensities is observed. The process of EU integration before the crisis and differentiated growth patterns of goods and services exports implied that exporting activities became slightly less concentrated across EU Member States. However, specialisation dynamics implied an increasing geographic clustering and specialisation of goods and

services exports across Europe. These changes in the geographical patterns of intra-EU trade activities were mostly driven by changes in the patterns of trade in the medium-quality segment which can be interpreted as a 'climbing up' phenomenon of less advanced countries. Results from a gravity framework suggest a structural break of these trends after the crisis. Another aspect of the increasing trade intensity is the role and magnitudes of intra-firm trade and potential determinants thereof. However, research on this is hampered by a severe lack of data and only a few insights can be gained, mostly for extra-EU trade. Results based on foreign affiliates' trade statistics (FATS) data indicate that intra-firm trade flows were responsible for more than half of total trade between the EU and the US in 2012. Results also suggest that intra-firm trade has been more resilient to the trade crisis despite the more difficult global environment for foreign direct investment and export activities. Based on a gravity approach, overall EU intra-firm trade is estimated to be lower, though these results need to be interpreted with caution. In a case study based on Irish firm-level data it is shown that intra-firm trade accounts for 30% of exports and 25% of imports.

EU wholesale trade: analysis of the sector and value chains

European Commission, DG Grow

January 2016 - June 2016

The study examined the European wholesale sector from several perspectives. First of all an overview of size and the economic significance of the wholesale was gained. As a second step the wholesale was seen as an economic function that connects different sectors and countries to global value chains. And as a third level it was gone deeper into the wholesale sector with a case study about the subsector 'Wholesale of mining, construction and construction engineering' which was examined more precisely.

Energy efficiency and EU industrial competitiveness: energy costs and their impact on manufacturing activity (Competitiveness Report 2014)

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

October 2014 - November 2014

This study serves as a background report for the annual European Competitiveness Report of the European Commission (DG ENTR). The European Commission is currently in the process of preparing a new energy and climate framework for the period up to 2030. For this purpose, DG ENTR has commissioned a study which should provide a comparative analysis of the impact of changing energy costs on EU industrial competitiveness at country and sectoral level, and vis-à-vis its main external competitors (the United States, Japan, China and Russia), with a view to identifying future trends in production and energy efficiency strategies. While the recent gains in energy efficiency in the EU manufacturing sector have been impressive, the gap in energy prices between the EU and the USA has widened, which might potentially undermine EU industrial competitiveness, particularly in energy-intensive sectors. To a large extent, the study relies on data from the latest version of the World Input-Output Database (WIOD).

Study on the relationship between the localisation of production, R&D and innovation activities

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

December 2013 - May 2014

This study was based on empirical evidence, and helps to explain the link between innovation and geographical dispersion at EU aggregate level. It examined (1) existing evidence on the drivers that determine the choice of production location by a firm and, in particular, the role of innovation in that decision; (2) impact of production location on research and innovation activities, in particular the level and the location of innovation activities of the firm; and (3) consequences deriving from decisions regarding the location of firm innovation, as well as the impact on innovation in the home economy and/or on access to markets. wiiw co-operated with IDEA Consult in this study and contributed to the literature review, data analysis and case studies. The study was part of a framework contract with DG ENTERPRISE on Industrial Competitiveness.

Trade Sustainability Impact Assessments between the EU and Armenia

European Commission, DG Trade

December 2012 - September 2013

The main objective of this project was a trade sustainability impact assessment (Trade SIA) in support of negotiations of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia, which is an integral part of the new association agreement. It consists of two complementary components: (1) economic, environmental and social assessments using analytical tools and modelling techniques, and (2) a consultation process involving trading partners and stakeholders (both in the EU and Armenia). The

project was led by Ecorys. wiiw was subcontractor of Stichting IIDE and contributed to the modeling of the effects of a potential EU-Armenia DCFTA using a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model and the description of the results in the report.

PRO PRACTICE - Facilitating the insertion in the labour market of graduates of higher education studies in the economic field through internships at major Romanian and EU employers

European Science Foundation (ESF)

January 2012 - August 2013

The project has the overall objective of facilitating labour market insertion of 120 students in the economic field by carrying out internships at regional and transnational level. Internships take place in three directions: (1) practice in various functional departments with an economic profile within a large employer in Romania, (2) practice in economic research entities specialised in economic research, applied and theoretical, (3) practice in business consultancy activities. The students develop work skills, which increases their employability and the possibilities of entering the labour market upon graduation. The project promotes the development of a partnership between academia, companies - in various fields (retail and business consultancy) - and research institutions. The project thus facilitates the transition from school to work in the context of the knowledge-based society. The project is lead by the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies. wiiw is project partner and provided eight internships for Romanian students.

The development of EU and its Member States' external competitiveness

European Commission, DG Trade

August 2012 - March 2013

The objective of this work was to analyse the recent developments in the EU's external competitiveness updating the study 'The Evolution of EU and its Member States' Competitiveness in International Trade' study from January 2009. This study considered the EU's relative position and thereby developments in rising emerging markets, but also the effects of the economic crisis. wiiw worked on the services and value-added (WIOD) type indicators to flank the elements of the data analysis to be done by CEPII.

The world and Europe in 2030 (AUGUR)

European Commission, 7th Framework Programme

October 2010 - January 2013

The challenge of this project was to capture, within a set of scenarios, the characteristics and implications of a variety of patterns that may occur in 2030 in all domains, be it political, economic, social, environmental or technological in Europe and in the world. The project attempted to take stock of medium to long-term trends identified in demography, environmental changes as well as to feature some of the effects of likely changes in technology and behaviours, but it also took into account important institutional transformations. wiiw was one of seven project partners and acted as the leader of a work-package on the effects of innovation and technology diffusion on growth. wiiw contributed to the elaboration of policy scenarios for EU policy makers, designed to deal with the different economic trajectories. In particular, wiiw contributed papers on foreign direct investment, intellectual property rights, trade specialisation, trade in services and macroeconomic issues.

<http://www.augurproject.eu>

Globalization, Investment, and Services Trade - GIST

European Commission, 7th Framework Programme

September 2008 - August 2012

This research network was focused on international trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) in the service sectors and aimed at integrating researchers within the network with the policy community (World Bank, WTO, Government ministries). The focus of research in the network was: (i) Theory of cross-border trade and FDI, (ii) Trade, regulatory interaction, and the political economy of integration, and (iii) Empirics of trade and FDI interactions. The project was undertaken under the premise that services were of great interest and importance to both policy-makers and businesses in Europe, and were a major factor in maintaining European growth and competitiveness over the coming decades. The network was coordinated by Joseph F. Francois (University of Linz, Austria and wiiw).

<http://gist.cepr.org/>

Modelling the effects of free trade agreements between the EU and Canada, USA and

Moldova/Georgia/Armenia on the Austrian economy - model simulations for trade policy analysis

Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth

January 2012 - August 2012

This study examines the economic impact on Austria of three possible new EU free trade agreements: (1) an EU-US agreement; (2) an EU-Canada agreement; and (3) an EU-Georgia/Moldova agreement. This is done with a computational model of the global economy. The trade agreements are modelled as a mix of preferential tariff reductions and reductions in non-tariff measures that affect both goods and services. The primary impact follows from NTM reduction rather than tariff reductions. Of the three agreements, a potential agreement with the US is by far the most important. This follows from the size of the US economy. The US accounts for roughly one-quarter of extra-EU Austrian exports. Overall, the combined impact of the FTAs studied is positive. Most of the impact follows from investment response. Productivity gains from NTM reduction mean a combination of increased national income, higher wages, and employment, and increased capital stocks for the Austrian economy.

Trade integration in the CIS: Alternate options, economic effects and policy implications for Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

January 2011 - July 2012

The study examines the effects of various trade agreements between CIS states on the conditions for trade (non-tariff barriers and other administrative issues linked to trade) and also the economic impact these agreements have through trade. Emphasis is placed on the sequence of trade agreements signed between Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan since the 1990s, which has recently culminated in a new Customs Union agreement. Furthermore, potential effects if Ukraine joins the Customs Union and its WTO compatibility are estimated. In contrast with recent research in this area, it is planned to estimate the non-tariff impact of these new agreements with an econometric gravity model of bilateral trade at the industry level using more up-to-date data. Policy implications for the economic integration of the region resulting from the analysis will be discussed as well.

World Input-Output Database (WIOD)

European Commission, 7th Framework Programme

May 2010 - April 2012

WIOD aimed to develop databases, accounting frameworks and models for policy-makers who are facing increasing and pressing trade-offs between socio-economic growth and environmental problems. The core of the database is a set of harmonised supply and use tables, alongside with data on international trade in goods and services. These two sets of data have been integrated into sets of inter-country input-output tables. Taken together with extensive satellite accounts with environmental and socio-economic indicators, these industry-level data provided the necessary input to several types of models used to evaluate policies aimed at striking a suitable balance between growth, environmental degradation and inequality across the world. WIOD led two work packages in this project: (1) WP2 „International Trade Data“ and (2) WP8: „Application of the database: Socio-Economic Aspects“. The institute also contributed to WP3 „Estimation of inter-country input output tables“ and to WP5 „Satellite Accounts: Socio-Economic Indicators“.

<http://www.wiod.org>

Services and EU's external competitiveness (Competitiveness Report 2011)

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

November 2010 - March 2011

This study serves as a background report for the annual European Competitiveness Report of the European Commission (DG ENTR). It investigates the role of knowledge-intensive service sectors in the EU economies as compared to other major economies such as the US and Japan. This is done from different perspectives pointing towards the various trajectories that the phenomenon of 'quaternisation' (i.e. the structural changes of the economies following 'tertiarisation') might take. Finally, we point towards the increasing role of service trade in overall trade, relate it to the patterns of trade in high-tech manufacturing goods and the relative importance of imported KIBS services in production costs and the increasing share of KIBS in value added exports.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/competitiveness-analysis/european-competitiveness-report/comrep2011_en.htm

Modelling the effects of trade policy and the transmission mechanisms of the economic crisis on the Austrian economy

Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth
June 2010 - December 2010

The goal of this study was to take advantage of the demonstrated expertise in multi-sector multi-region modelling by the project team, while re-focusing modelling tools to highlight issues important to Austria in the context of broad changes in trade policy. wiiw proposed a model-based analysis of two sets of major regional EU trade initiatives – possible Asian and trans-Atlantic trade agreements – on the Austrian economy. wiiw also examined a third possible policy outcome – successful completion of the Doha Round. The EU and Canada have afterwards announced negotiations for a free trade agreement, and so this analysis proved highly policy relevant.

Austrian linkages to the European economy and the transmission mechanisms of economic crisis

Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth
June 2010 - November 2010

The goal of this project was to develop a new concept called ‘strategic fragmentation’ which is used to explore how stronger interconnectedness between EU Member States could lead to lower vulnerability and hence to more freedom of action in economic and foreign policy. The economic value of energy solidarity mechanisms and more interconnection capacity between Member States was assessed and simulated numerically. For this purpose a model of strategic fragmentation has been developed which yields costs and benefits of various policy concentration options for EU Member States.