

# List of Projects

## Roman Römisch

### **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.

### **Towards a new EU anti-poverty strategy (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Committee of the Regions*

*March 2025 - June 2025*

This project supports the European Committee of the Regions in developing an effective EU Anti-Poverty Strategy by providing a comprehensive analysis of poverty trends and social exclusion across the EU and its regions. The study will review historical developments, assess the impact of recent crises—including the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war against Ukraine, and inflation—and identify the main structural drivers of poverty. It will evaluate the effectiveness of past EU actions, highlight successful anti-poverty measures implemented at local and regional levels, and assess their potential for scaling up. The study also examines governance structures, the availability of regional-level data, and offers forward-looking policy recommendations to ensure that future EU efforts are impactful, targeted, and inclusive.

### **Tax and Contribution Burdens in Firms with Different Value Creation Structures**

*AK Lower Austria*

*December 2024 - June 2025*

This study investigates differences in tax and social contribution burdens across industries and companies in Austria based on their structural characteristics such as labour intensity, automation levels, and sectoral affiliation. Using firm-level micro data, the project documents how businesses contribute to public revenues depending on their cost structures - with labour-intensive companies generally bearing a proportionally higher fiscal burden than capital-intensive firms. In addition to descriptive analysis, the study explores the possibility of simulation-based scenarios to assess the potential to shift tax burdens. The results are expected to support informed policy discussions on the distribution of fiscal burdens across industries and firm types in Austria.

### **The spatial impact of EU policies (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

October 2023 - January 2025

The objective of this study is to assess the impact of the EU initiatives and policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, the European Research and Innovation policy (Horizon 2020), the EU Emissions Trading System etc., on economic and social cohesion in the EU. The results of the study will contribute to the current discussion on the reform of EU Cohesion policy by providing insights into: • potential cohesion trade-offs, synergies and complementarities between EU Cohesion policy and other EU policies and initiatives • how to further develop the “do no harm to cohesion” principle and • how Territorial Impact Assessments can be further developed to improve policy coordination. These aspects will be explored not only through the lens of territories, but also that of social groups, thereby investigating whether the reduction of inter-regional disparities goes hand-in-hand with the reduction of intra-regional inequalities. The consortium under leadership of wiiw will also analyse funds disbursed under regional State aid, with a particular attention to the amounts of aid channelled to EU regions under this regime to enhance regional development.

**Regionale und räumliche Trends im Donauraum und diesbezügliche Integrationsentwicklungen** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management*

*January 2024 - December 2024*

Im Rahmen der Studie wurde eine Synthese der aktuellen, raumentwicklungspolitisch relevanten Trends und Integrationsentwicklungen im Donauraum erarbeitet, die sich auf die Implikationen für großräumige Kooperationsprozesse konzentrierte. Die Analysen zeigten Potenziale für grenzübergreifende Kooperationsansätze im Donauraum auf und lieferten ein aktuelles Bild der Herausforderungen für eine kooperative Raum- und Regionalentwicklungspolitik bzw. Kohäsionspolitik in den Bereichen a) Stabilität und Sicherheit (Wirtschaft und Migration), b) Globalisierung und technologischer Wandel (Innovation, Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und Qualifikation) sowie c) grüner Wandel (ökologische Transformation von Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft).

**Carbon Intensive Regions in Transition - Unravelling the Challenges of Structural Change (CINTRAN)**

(wiiw Team Leader)

*European Commission, Horizon 2020*

*May 2020 - April 2024*

In order to meet the climate change mitigation objectives of the European Union as well as the objectives of the Paris Agreement, it is inevitable that the European Union phases out fossil fuel consumption in the power sector and decarbonizes fossil-fuel dependent industries. However, if not managed well, such a structural change may cause serious economic impacts, societal upheaval, aggravated social inequalities and hardship. To minimize such consequences it is necessary to better understand the patterns and dynamics of structural change in response to decarbonization at the regional level, to understand which parameters determine the pace of transformation as well as the capacity of regional actors to adapt and pro-actively create alternative structures. This project aims to enable these activities through highly integrated, inter- and transdisciplinary research working in close collaboration with regional stakeholders. It combines quantitative model-based research with qualitative in-depth analysis. The qualitative research will focus on four highly fossil-fuel dependent regions: Western Macedonia (Greece), Silesia (Poland), Ida-Virumaa (Estonia) and the Rhenish mining area (Germany). The diversity of these regions will enable the project to derive generalizable insights about the patterns and dynamics of decarbonization and the corresponding structural adjustments that hold relevance for all carbon-intensive regions in the EU and its neighbouring countries.

<https://coaltransitions.org/projects/cintran/>

**Challenges for Cohesion: Looking ahead to 2035** (wiiw Team Leader)

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*September 2022 - April 2024*

This European research project focusses on the challenges emerging from globalisation, demographic change, digital and green transitions and their impact on the economic cohesion of European regions until 2035. The research includes the development and analysis of vulnerability indices related to each challenge. One macroeconomic (CAM) and four well-established regional economic models (GEM-E3, E3ME, MASST-5, EU-EMS) are employed to assess how the three challenges might affect EU regions' potential future growth patterns and thus also regional cohesion until the year 2035. The study also includes detailed qualitative work on the regions' adaptive and mitigating capacities with respect to these challenges. The results of this research project are important contributions to the European debate on the future of EU Cohesion policy. The project is a collaborative venture of seven leading

European research institutes and is coordinated by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw).

### **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.

### **Cohesion Policy in the Outermost Regions**

*European Parliament*

*June 2023 - December 2023*

This research study aimed to analyse the socio-economic development and convergence process of the EU outermost regions (i.e. the Canary Islands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint-Martin, French Guiana, Réunion, Mayotte, the Azores and Madeira). Building on an overview of the geographic, governance, economic, social and climate characteristics of these remote territories, it investigated how EU Cohesion Policy is implemented at the regional level, and the role of place-based, tailor-made approaches to foster sustainable and inclusive growth. Furthermore, three case studies allowed for more detailed insights into territorial, social and economic cohesion issues in these regions and their situation in the context of a smarter, greener, more connected and more social Europe. The findings of this analysis fed into policy recommendations on the design and purpose of EU policies (in particular, EU Cohesion Policy) to better support the EU outermost regions.

### **Framework contract for studies in the field of Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research, Culture and Digital Single Market (Lot 1 - Social and Employment Policy) (wiiw Team Leader)**

*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.

### **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.

## **Impact Evaluation of the Interreg Central Europe Programme (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE*

*September 2020 - March 2023*

The Interreg Central Europe Programme is one of the 15 transnational programmes established in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy for the programming period 2014-2020. It promotes regional cooperation among nine central European countries, with the aim to develop smart solutions to regional challenges. The underlying impact evaluation assesses the effects of the Interreg Central Europe programme implementation by following a theory-based approach. It concentrates on the immediate outcomes, results and the changes achieved by the programme and its projects in the fields of innovation, low-carbon economy, environment, culture and transport. In particular, the evaluation aims to answer three guiding research questions: - What change can be observed in relation to the objectives of the programme? - To what extent can the observed changes be attributed to the implementation of the programme? - What mechanisms of programme implementation have delivered the observed impact?

## **Impact Evaluation of the Interreg Rhin Supérieur / Oberrhein Programme**

*Interreg Rhin Supérieur*

*September 2021 - December 2022*

The Interreg Rhin Supérieur / Oberrhein programme is one of the 60 cross-border programmes established in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy for the programming period 2014-2020. It promotes regional cooperation within the Upper Rhine area spanning across 3 European countries (France, Germany and Switzerland) and pursues several Specific Objectives, including SME development and job creation. The impact evaluation assesses the effects of the Interreg Rhin Supérieur / Oberrhein programme by focusing on three main evaluation points: # The contribution of the programme to the expected changes in the Upper Rhine area; # The causality relationship between the programme and the observed changes; # The endogenous and exogenous factors influencing these changes. This evaluation addresses the programme's Specific Objectives 8 (Extend cross-border development possibilities and opportunities for SMEs in the Upper Rhine area) and 9 (Increase employment opportunities through the development of strategic economic sectors in the Upper Rhine area).

## **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.

## **The Future of Cohesion: Effects of the Twin Transition on Disparities in European Regions (wiiw Team Leader)**

*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?

### **Spatial and industrial effects of the European Green Deal** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Hans Böckler Stiftung*

*January 2021 - August 2022*

The European Green Deal and Industry 4.0 will lead to strong changes in the economic structure of Europe. This study aims to assess the future of digital and environmental changes, as well as their effects on industries, regions and employees in EU's industrial core, consisting of Germany, Austria and the neighbouring countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The analysis focuses on changes in industrial structures, value chains and employee characteristics. The insights shall contribute to the development of strategic labour market and economic policies, thus enabling an active approach to the inherent structural change.

### **The Effect of Digitisation on Work in Europe**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*April 2020 - March 2022*

The project analyses digitisation and its impact on work from two different perspectives. On the one hand, it not only sheds light on regional digitisation patterns but also examines the effect of digitisation on employment in EU countries at the NUTS-2 level. Methodologically, it goes beyond standard approaches applied in the empirical literature and provides novel insights into regional and industry spillovers as well as non-linearities in the employment effects of digitisation. On the other hand, it explores the effects of digitisation on workers' well-being. It takes an integrated approach and simultaneously determines both positive and negative psychological effects of ICT use, as captured by work engagement and burnout, respectively. It also sheds light on the role of other (job and/or personal) characteristics in either reinforcing or mitigating the positive or negative effects of ICT use on workers' psychological well-being.

### **Studie 'Vom Nutzen in einer gut organisierten Stadt zu wohnen'** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Büro für Daseinsvorsorge und Kommunalwirtschaft der Stadt Wien und Österreichischer Städtebund*

*April 2020 - July 2020*

Der Megatrend Urbanisierung hält ungehalten weiter an. Folgende Forschungsschwerpunkte wurden in dieser Studie erarbeitet: a) Zuspitzung des Gewinns des Einzelnen im gut organisierten urbanen Raum (im Vergleich zu anderen Räumen) zu leben auf eine Nutzenkennzahl im Europavergleich. b) Ausbildungs-, Gesundheitsausgaben, sowie Ausgaben für Wohnen. c) Europavergleich der städtischen Lebensqualität: u.a. Zufriedenheit mit dem öffentlichen Verkehr und anderen öffentlichen Dienstleistungen. Aus gegebenem Anlass wurde die Qualität der städtischen Gesundheitsinfrastruktur anhand der jüngsten Geschehnisse in Zusammenhang mit der Coronavirus-Krise evaluiert.

### **Effects, opportunity costs and spillovers of EU Cohesion Policy** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*September 2018 - June 2020*

This project aimed at contributing to the discussion on the future, post-2020 EU Cohesion Policy (CP). In the past, CP has been the main tool to promote growth and convergence across the EU, thus having positive direct effects on the net recipient countries and also indirect ones on the net payer countries. Still, there is a never-ending debate on the rationale of CP, partly in favour of it, partly doubting its usefulness. The 2021-2027 EU budget funds to be expected will likely become scarcer, not only because of the Brexit but also because of the emergence of new priorities such as migration and security. In respect of these forthcoming challenges the debate on the effects, opportunity costs and spillovers of CP becomes fundamental. A quantitative estimation permits a more balanced assessment of the costs and benefits of CP for net paying Member States (MS) and a broader view of CP support to EU growth in general. Against this background the project aimed to: a) estimate the effects of CP on regional GDP growth; b) analyse the opportunity costs of CP investments (by investment priorities and geographical distribution); c) analyse the macroeconomic spillovers of CP investments in one country on the development in other EU MS; and d) analyse these spillovers at the regional level.

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

*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.

### **Demographic and economic development in Central and East European countries (CEECs)**

*City of Vienna*

*December 2017 - December 2018*

The influx from Central and East European countries (CEECs) played an important role in the population development of Austria and Vienna between 2000 and 2016. This has also led to a significant change in the employment structure in Vienna, which has partly resulted in the displacement of both domestic and other foreign workers. In this context the study assesses the current and future migration potential to Austria and Vienna from the Central and Eastern European countries and the two Western Balkan countries Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Economic development in the CEECs has been very positive for some years now and forecasts also point to steady economic growth with significantly higher growth rates than the EU average. In line with this, the labour market situation in these countries generally improved. This and the general demographic developments in the region lead to a general slowdown in mobility flows from CEECs. Nonetheless, demographic developments in the region and the Western Balkans remain worrying as population is shrinking and the working-age population even more so. Demographic long-term scenarios even suggest that the population in the region will continue to shrink sharply in the coming decades. Summarising, these developments point towards a flattening of trends, if not a weakening of existing mobility flows to Austria and Vienna in the medium term. Finally, there are no indications that the patterns of mobility flows to Austrian regions (i.e. with respect to individual provinces) will shift significantly.

### **Externalities of Cohesion Policy (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Parliament*

*January 2018 - October 2018*

The study investigates the effects of Cohesion Policy (CP) which occur in a country other than the one in which CP resources were actually spent. The study estimates that macroeconomic spillovers significantly contribute to the impact of CP. Spillovers directed to EU countries represent around 9% of the total annual CP expenditure. Other spillovers to non-EU countries are around 8% of the CP expenditure. Macro and micro spillovers together arrive at 21% of the annual CP expenditure, 67% of which is distributed among EU countries. Around 20% of the CP expenditure can trigger sectoral spillover effects in the environment, transport and higher education sectors. The analysis demonstrates that externalities reinforce EU growth and competitiveness without CP deserting its convergence objective.

### **Support for the preparation of the analytical part of the position paper of Commission services on the use of the ERDF in Austria in the programming period 2021-2027 (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*August 2018 - September 2018*

The aim of the project is to enable the European Commission to formulate a negotiation position for the discussion with Austria regarding its priorities for support by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the 2021-2027 programming period. The work is split into two tasks, whereby the first, analytical task will follow the structure of the EU Commission's position paper and consist of the following sections:

- Main challenges: This section provides an overview of Austria's main socio-economic challenges.
- Policy objectives: This section analyses the situation and key challenges for the policy objectives a) 'a smarter Europe', b) 'a greener, low-carbon Europe' and c) 'a Europe closer to citizens'. The results of this section shall be indicative of key areas for future ERDF support.
- Success factor for effective delivery: Enabling conditions: This section will analyse the Enabling conditions as

formulated in Annex IV of the draft 'Common provisions' regulation and identify those conditions that may be problematic for Austria to fulfil.

Task 2 includes a discussion of the Task 1 results with Commission services.

### **Territorial challenges, potentials and impacts of transnational cooperation in Central Europe** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*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.

### **Monitoring and evaluation systems of the ESF** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*March 2017 - March 2018*

The project focuses on analysing how to improve the current 2014-2020 ESF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) requirements for the next programming period. It includes 3 tasks: Task1: Assessment of the implementation of the M&E systems in the Member States for the 2014-2020 period; Task2: Identification of options to improve the current M&E requirements of the post 2020 period; Task 3: Identification of options for M&E requirements for ESF implemented through conditional support. wiiw was mainly responsible for Task 3.

### **Investigating the Impact of the Innovation Union (IU)**

*European Commission, Horizon 2020*

*March 2015 - February 2018*

Innovation has been placed at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy aimed at coping with major structural changes, the increase of global competition and the current crisis, and at tackling major societal challenges such as climate change, energy and resource scarcity, health and ageing. The Innovation Union has the main objective to strengthen the European innovative potential; it sets 13 general objectives and 34 specific (policy) commitments associated with the objectives, aimed at stimulating innovation. The objective of this project is to deliver a system of assessment for the commitments. The approach starts from the evaluation of the state of achievement of the individual commitments, but puts crucial emphasis on their effects on the innovation system as a whole, as well as on the economy-wide effects of innovation. The basic idea is to retrace the entire chain of effects of the commitments, from their implementation to their final impact in terms of competitiveness, growth and employment. wiiw is responsible for the evaluation of seven IU commitments having been agreed in the areas of EU patents, eco-innovation, social and territorial cohesion, social innovation, innovation partnerships and international talents.

**Economic challenges of lagging regions** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*January 2016 - June 2017*

The study analysed: (1) the impact of the fiscal and macroeconomic environment on the low-growth and low-income regions; (2) the main needs in terms of structural reforms that may provide the highest returns in terms of growth and jobs in low-growth and low-income regions; (3) the main investment needs in the low-growth and low-income regions, in particular those which can be supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds, and related development opportunities for these regions. wiiw was the coordinator of a consortium with partners Applica and Cambridge Econometrics.

**Falling Behind and Catching Up in Southeast Europe (GDN)**

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*January 2014 - May 2017*

Southeast Europe holds a long record of being one of Europe's least developed regions. Sporadic growth spurts are regularly followed by strong fall-backs. Neither firms, nor banks or states were able to make broad industrialization happen in a sustainable way. The proposed research analysed the determinants and effects of backwardness in Southeast Europe. The analysis included inter alia issues of long-run development, industrialization, infrastructure, the role of cities, migration, state building and financial crisis. The results yielded important policy recommendations.

**Impact assessment related to the future development of Cohesion Policy and the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds)** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*March 2014 - February 2017*

The purpose of this framework contract (lot 1 of 4 lots) is to provide input to planned and on-going Impact Assessments of Commission proposals on Cohesion Policy and the ESI Funds. The tasks range from background work to short term requests for providing ad hoc expertise and reports. It may also require carrying out analyses to support substantial parts of an Impact Assessment, including stakeholder consultations, economic modelling work and presentation of policy options and recommendations.

**Studies assessing the impact of other European Union policies on economic, social and territorial cohesion** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*March 2014 - February 2017*

The purpose of this framework contract (lot 2 of 4 lots) is to deliver studies on the impact of different European Union policies, such as energy, climate, fisheries and maritime policies, transport, employment, health policies on economic, social and territorial cohesion. The themes which will be addressed under this lot are wide ranging and, in addition to the core economic and social focus of the policy, may include environment, transport and energy as well as subjects like governance, good practice, and finance.

**Support of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) to the implementation of the Country Specific Recommendations and to structural reforms in Member States**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*December 2015 - February 2017*

The study aims to produce evidence which can be used to support the implementation of the current programmes as well as the preparation of post-2020 ESIF programming. The study will focus on the relationships between structural reforms, linked to Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) proposed as part of the European Semester, and the strategic design and implementation of the ESI Funds. The role of the ESI Funds in promoting and supporting the reforms will be examined in depth, with particular attention on the impact of two of the novelties introduced in 2014-2020: the ex-ante conditionalities and thematic objective 11 on Enhancing Institutional Capacity of Public Authorities and Efficient Public Administration.



### **Establishment of consolidated financial data 1989-2013 (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*December 2015 - September 2016*

Good data improve policy-making and serve the general public to understand why Cohesion Policy is needed and how it improves people's lives. This project is about creating such data. Specifically, the project will create a data-set covering the years 1989-2013 including decisions and payments at the NUTS2 level from the European Structural and Investment Funds: a) European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), b) European Social Fund (ESF), c) Cohesion Fund (CF), d) European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and e) European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF). For this the study will harmonise and expand existing data-sets on the periods 1989-1993, 1994-1999, 2000-2006 and 2007-2013. Those data-set differ widely in their coverage of the Funds, their definition of NUTS regions and many other aspects, making the creation of a harmonised data set an extremely challenging task.

### **Global Development Network Southeast Europe (GDN\_SEE)**

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*February 2009 - July 2016*

wiiw acts as regional hub for SEE within the Global Development Network (GDN) in providing capacity building for research and policy advice in the areas of labour markets, migration, trade, etc. wiiw initiated several research competitions in the region and also performs own research in this context. The topics of the most recent project phase were labour market developments, inequality, migration and fiscal systems in SEE.

<http://balkan-observatory.net>

### **Aktuelle Entwicklungen in Mittelost-/Südosteuropa und dem Donaauraum mit Relevanz für Raumentwicklung in Österreich (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria*

*September 2015 - May 2016*

The study (developed in cooperation with Rosinak&Partner) analyses recent trends and developments in the Central and East European (CEE) and Southeast European (SEE) countries and the implication for Austrian regional policy. The aim of the study is to contribute to the evaluation of current Austrian and European regional policy instruments as well as to the Austrian preparation of the post-2020 EU Cohesion policy. In an overview, the study analyses a) the main (economic) trends in Austria and the CEE/SEE countries; b) their trade, investment, labour market, transport and tourism relationships; and c) Austrian regional policy in the national and European context. The results of the analysis allow drawing conclusions and recommendations for developing policy initiatives in Austria and the EU.

### **Identifying revealed comparative advantages (RCAs) in an EU regional context (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry*

*February 2014 - December 2015*

EU Cohesion Policy sets a framework to reduce differences between regions and to ensure growth across Europe. For regional policy strategies to be effective, and for an efficient use of the available funds, it is crucial to analyse in detail the assets each region is endowed with, the technologies available, and the business connections among different regions. Against this background, the study evaluated EU regions' international competitiveness on the basis of their Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA), complemented by additional trade indicators such as trade balances or export specialisation and a series of regional and sectoral characteristics such as skill supply, R&D and patents. Subsequently, the best and worst performing regions were analysed to identify best-practice examples for regional strategies and specific policy approaches. For this study, wiiw developed a model to consistently estimate foreign trade flows (export and imports) at the NUTS-2 regional level.

### **Socio-economic assessment of the Danube Region: state of the region, challenges and strategy development**

*Ministerium für Finanzen und Wirtschaft Baden-Württemberg*

*July 2013 - October 2015*

The main objective of this project was an analysis of potential opportunities, requirements, challenges, and recommendations, in order to enhance the competitiveness, the innovative strength, the attractiveness, and the prosperity of the entire region of the Danube riparian countries and regions, and to develop strategic orientations in view of transnational and interregional cooperation for the period 2014-2020. wiiw developed this assessment in cooperation with two German partners, the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) - which was also the

leader of the project - and the Institut für Angewandte Wirtschaftsforschung (IAW). The focus on wiiw's contribution was on labour markets, regional development, cluster development and cooperation in the Danube Region.

**Ex post evaluation of Cohesion policy programmes 2007-2013, focusing on the ERDF and CF - Work Package 13: Geography of expenditure** (wiiw Team Leader)

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*December 2014 - August 2015*

This project collected data on the NUTS 3 regional breakdown of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) programmes under the Convergence, Regional Competitiveness and Employment (RCE) and the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Objectives. Regarding the latter, the focus was on Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) programmes only. For this, the project identified the cumulative allocations to selected projects as well as the expenditure at NUTS 3 level, broken down by the 86 priority themes, for the period 2007-2013. The collected and estimated data was stored in an easy-to-use database, so that data are available for further use by the Commission and, once these data are published, by the general public. Furthermore, results of the data were published in the form of maps, to provide first impressions of the nature and regional distribution of ERDF and CF programmes.

**Growth-Innovation-Competitiveness: fostering cohesion in Central and East Europe (GRINCOH)**

*European Commission, 7th Framework Programme*

*April 2012 - March 2015*

GRINCOH was an FP7 research project with the main objectives: (1) to establish development scenarios for the CEECs for the period up to 2020; (2) to identify the implications for sustainable growth - based on innovation and the development of technological capabilities - and greater economic, social and territorial cohesion in the CEECs; and (3) to advise on future policy options for the CEECs, and in particular for EU cohesion policy. wiiw led a work package on economic development patterns and structural change in the process of transition and EU membership. Furthermore, wiiw contributed research on labour market development, migration, inequality, trade integration, foreign direct investment, EU budget as well as regional aspects.

<http://www.grincoh.eu>

**Knowledge-Based Regional Development in Albania and Kosovo - Reducing social and economic disparities through social and economic innovation** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)*

*January 2014 - September 2014*

The purpose of this research project (consisting of joint research and a workshop) is to investigate to what extent and in what ways, if at all, strategies, policy interventions and programmes for the development of a knowledge-based society in Albania and Kosovo could contribute to sustainable regional development. This research project seeks to explore how knowledge-based regional development can impact social and economic disparities. In this sense, the research project will investigate the potential conflict between knowledge-based growth and social cohesion given the gap in knowledge production between urban and peripheral areas. This research project intends to explore the concept of "knowledge-based regional development", i.e. regional development through social and economic innovation which is informed by the outcomes of the partnership (Triple Helix) between government, business and research in academia in the context of Albania and Kosovo.

**Study on potential investors for settlement in Vienna**

*Vienna Business Agency*

*September 2012 - January 2013*

This study addresses the question from which countries and from which economic sectors do potential investors, that would be suitable for settlement in Vienna, come from.

**CENTROPE - Business & Labour Report II** (wiiw Team Leader)

*ARGE CENTROPE Agency*

*June 2010 - December 2012*

The CENTROPE Regional Development Report serves as a means to develop frequent transnational analyses and policy recommendations. The report is supposed to provide insights on the socio-economic situation and competitiveness of the CENTROPE region, to serve as a solid basis for further discussions on (trans-border) policies

and measures and to provide a database for international business location marketing. wiiw acted as a partner in a consortium together with WIFO, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Mendel University Brno and the West Hungarian Research Institute.

### **Globalisation and crisis effects on the Austrian regions - a new methodology to estimate regional trade and an analysis of the crisis effects** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth*

*January 2012 - August 2012*

Foreign trade and foreign direct investments (FDI) are key elements for economic development and growth of both a country and its regions. This study introduces a method to estimate foreign trade of the nine Austrian NUTS-2 regions. The basic idea of the method is to disaggregate national foreign trade data to the regional level using national input-output, regional employment and other supplemental data. This allows for the estimation of foreign trade of the Austrian regions for the years 1999 to 2009. The results indicate highly differentiated patterns of trade competitiveness across the Austrian regions. While Upper Austria and Vorarlberg perform well on European and global markets, other regions, foremost Burgenland, are in a much more difficult position. The regions' reactions to the 2009 economic crisis were equally differentiated. Although the decline of foreign trade led to an employment loss in all Austrian regions, Vorarlberg and Tyrol proved to be much more resilient than others.

### **Analysis of the main factors of regional growth: an in-depth study of the best and worst performing European regions** (wiiw Team Leader)

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*January 2008 - June 2012*

The aim of the study was to deepen our understanding of economic development in the regions of the EU27. Special emphasis was given on the one hand to NUTS2 regions that performed relatively well (i.e. well above EU average or as compared to their national average) and, on the other hand, to NUTS2 regions that performed relatively poorly (i.e. well below EU average or as compared to their national average). Underlying factors of the different performance had to be identified and analysed. Broad policy conclusions have been drawn. wiiw was partner in a consortium with Applica and Cambridge Econometrics.

### **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. wiiw 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>

### **Country risk analysis**

*Erste Group Bank AG*

*November 2011 - April 2012*

Country studies are performed for Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine, analysing the political and institutional, economic and social situation on a qualitative and quantitative basis.

### **Study on labour taxation in CEE countries**

*TPA Horwath*

*March 2011 - June 2011*

The study analysed the development of wage costs, taxation of labour and the structure of tax revenues in CEE

countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic), with Austria as a point of comparison. The analysis of wage costs was based upon gross and net wages plus employer contributions. Unit labour costs were chosen as indicators for productivity; and the tax structure was analysed mostly with the aim of indicating the relative share of labour taxation relative to other taxes, especially indirect taxes.

### **Study tour for experts of the Department of Economic Planning in BiH**

*Coffey International Limited*

*July 2010 - March 2011*

Design and organisation of a one-week seminar for Bosnian experts, financed by DFID. The seminar dealt with issues of Austrian and European economic policy, focusing on macroeconomic developments, EU integration, regional policy, coordination of national and regional entities, policy processes and administrative reform.

### **Access by Romanian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to Structural Funds and support mechanisms**

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*December 2009 - March 2011*

The overall objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of use of structural funds with the range of products proposed and the extent to which they meet the needs of SMEs. In order to achieve this objective we (1) assessed the capacity and needs of SMEs in Romania to access EU funds, (2) identified the gap between the needs and available funding and support, and (3) worked out corrective recommendations for the Managing Authorities to improve the SMEs' capacity to apply for and implement COS IEC funded projects. wiiw had the lead in this project which was conducted in cooperation with SME Research and four local experts.

### **The Competitiveness of firms, regions and industry in the knowledge-based economy: What room for job-rich growth in Europe? (MICRO-DYN)**

*European Commission, 6th Framework Programme*

*October 2006 - January 2011*

MICRO-DYN dealt with growth, employment and competitiveness in the knowledge-based European economy through a micro-founded firm-based approach. The nature of the analysis was 'bottom-up' i.e. moving from the micro-entities of economic actions and strategies at the enterprise level to sectoral, regional, national and European levels. The rationale for such an approach was that understanding the microeconomic foundations of innovation, competitiveness and growth at the firm level, as well as the firms interactions with the labour market, is key to understanding the nature of these phenomena at a more aggregated (regional, sectoral or macro) level and of the resulting aggregate economic performance. The analysis used as far as possible comprehensive data-sets across all European regions and industries. wiiw co-ordinated a consortium of 17 research institutions.

<http://www.micro-dyn.eu>

### **Ex-post evaluation of cohesion policy programmes 2000-2006; Work Package 1: Coordination, analysis and synthesis (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*November 2007 - December 2009*

This Work Package aims to assess the macroeconomic background for cohesion policy in the period 2000-2006 and the quality of strategies, to assemble other information facilitating the implementation of later work packages and synthesise the results of all 11 other work packages. In addition, the project consortium will support the Commission in certain management tasks of the overall evaluation.

### **Regional challenges in the perspective of 2020 - regional disparities and future challenges (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Commission, DG Regional Policy*

*December 2008 - September 2009*

The study aimed to improve our understanding of the role of key challenges such as globalisation, climate change, demographic change and migration, energy and social polarisation, play in generating and reducing spatial disparities in the European Union and neighbourhood countries. It focused on synthesising existing literature and bringing together experts to better understand the economic, environmental and social impact at regional (NUTS II) level.

