

List of Projects

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Research Centre International Economics (Forschungsschwerpunkt Internationale Wirtschaft, FIW)

Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

October 2006 - December 2018

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/>

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

Technical Assistance for the Preparation of CEFTA Investment Report

Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)

October 2016 - December 2017

The aim of this Service Contract is to provide technical assistance for the preparation of a CEFTA Investment Report. Beneficiaries are the Parties of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) 2006. The Report will support the CEFTA Parties in fostering FDI in order to meet common development goals and promote the region as an attractive investment site. Systematic collection and methodologically sound assessment of FDI-related data including those on foreign affiliates (FATS) is an indispensable tool in the hands of policy-makers to stimulate and, if necessary, direct the foreign direct investment process for achieving the expected positive effects. To this end, the CEFTA Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics, FATS and FDI Statistics has set the objective to improve the quality of statistics across the CEFTA region and harmonise statistics with those of the European Union. Part A will present and analyse FDI trends in CEFTA Parties. This part deals with the current trends of FDI in the Region with reference to the period 2009-2015. Part B will provide a detailed analysis of the pattern of multinational enterprises'

(MNEs) involvement in the manufacturing sector and its impact on local economies.

Durchführung einer Analyse zu volkswirtschaftlichen Aspekten von Infrastrukturinvestitionen

Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT)

February 2017 - September 2017

The aim of the project is on the one hand to calculate a possible lack of investment for Austria and other EU member states in the area of strategic important infrastructure like for example street, rail or broadband internet connection. And on the other hand to develop a concrete suggestion for a “golden rule” for infrastructure investment on EU level. The project is based on actual research, is broadening it and puts a focus on the macroeconomic approach of infrastructure investments, whereas structural, cyclical and regional aspects of the topic will be treated.

Competitiveness drivers and obstacles, intra-EU linkages and European value chains in GVCs (*wiiw Team Leader*)

European Commission, DG Growth

January 2017 - June 2017

The emergence of international value chains (VCs) and the implied cross-border production sharing between countries has dramatically altered the international trading system. In view of the joint cross-border production processes numerous products would deserve the designation of origin ‘Made in the World’, as suggested by the WTO initiative of the same name – although in general there is the perception that international value chains are predominantly regional in scope. Since the Great Recession, however, there are concerns that the trend towards geographically-dispersed production has come to a halt with, among other factors, re-shoring initiatives and protectionist tendencies. Against this background this report analyses some of the key issues related to international VCs with data from the World Input-Output Database (Release 2016) which covers the period 2010-2014. Based to a large extent on a measure of international value chain (VC) trade termed re-exported domestic value added, which comprises exports of intermediates that cross international borders at least twice, the question whether the world has reached ‘peak value chain trade’ and to what extent VCs have contributed to the decline in the income elasticity of trade is addressed. The research also re-examines whether value chains are predominantly global or regional in scope both globally at the EU level. Furthermore, the extent of regional VC integration across the major regional trading blocs is compared. Finally, some of the implications of value chain trade for structural change and competitiveness are investigated.

Tradability of Output and the Current Account in Europe (*wiiw Team Leader*)

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

July 2015 - December 2016

One aspect in the debate about current account imbalances in Europe is the consequence of ‘de-industrialisation’ observable in several European countries. This project highlights the role of tradability of output as a key determinant of the current account balance. The relationship between a country’s specialisation in the production of tradables will be investigated empirically for 46 European countries over the period 1995-2014. To this end a tradability index is developed which can be understood as a country’s expected degree of openness given its economic structure. The tradability hypothesis to be tested in this project suggests that countries specialising in the production of relatively more tradable output have a tendency to run current account surpluses. It is shown that this relationship is also predicted by intertemporal models of the current account. The tradability hypothesis is tested using both panel regressions and cross-country regression techniques.

Asian Experiences with Global and Regional Value Chain Integration and Structural Change (*wiiw Team Leader*)

UNIDO

July 2016 - November 2016

This study is part of a larger research project on global and regional value chains in South and South East Asia undertaken by UNIDO and a Chinese partner (UIBE). Its main objective is to investigate the relationship between the intensification of global and regional value chains and structural indicators as well as export-related performance measures in South-East Asia and South Asia. The research is based on OECD’s Inter-Country Input-Output Tables covering more than 60 countries over the period 1995-2011.

The evolving composition of intra-EU trade over time

European Commission, DG Growth

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.

Neighbourhood cooperation for a sustainable trade and investment policy

Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

October 2015 - January 2016

This study focuses on the potential for cooperative activities of trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) policies with Austria and its neighbouring countries to further promote competitiveness of all countries and firms involved on the world markets, with a particular focus on oversea destinations. First, a detailed analysis of actual trends and patterns of trade and FDI at the global level and with a focus on the neighbouring countries is provided. Particularly, the study presents evidence on commonalities and differences of these countries in geographical patterns of trade and foreign direct investment both in Europe and more distant markets like Asia, Africa and America. Second, based on these findings a rationale for potential cooperative activities at the institutional level and the trade-off between benefits of cooperation on the one hand and the issue of competition amongst involved parties on the other hand are discussed. The study finally outlines some suggestions for concrete cooperative activities that were developed on the basis of discussions with practitioners. An appendix lists institutions involved in export promotion in the neighbouring countries and outlines existing activities in Austria that might serve as a starting point for developing cooperative activities, which in the future might be integrated into a policy framework promoting a competitive position in world markets for all partners.

Agglomeration, international linkages and the location choices of European foreign direct investors (wiiw Team Leader)

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

January 2013 - June 2014

This project investigated the location decision of multinational companies from six European countries in the EU over the period 2003-2010. A conditional logit model was used to estimate the impact of agglomeration effects on location choices of FDI investors. In addition, we included international inter-industry linkages which reflect the openness of a host country. This framework allowed us to compare the importance of two potentially opposing factors relevant for FDI decisions.

The Central European Manufacturing Core: What is Driving Regional Production Sharing? (wiiw Team Leader)

Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth

October 2013 - June 2014

There is evidence that Europe's manufacturing activity is increasingly concentrated in a Central European (CE) Core which the IMF in a recent publication also refers to as the German-Central European supply chain. This CE Manufacturing Core is centred on Germany and comprises Austria as well as the four Visegrád countries. In this

study we provide further empirical evidence concerning this CE Manufacturing Core and explore in detail the structure and development of the regional supply chains at the industry level over the period 1995-2011. This will shed light on which industries build the backbone of this regional manufacturing cluster. We will further investigate which of the potential factors (such as FDI, the wage level, availability of industrial workers, R&D capacity etc.) are related to the intensification of vertical specialisation. Throughout the analysis our primary interest is the role of Austria in the Central European Manufacturing Core. The case of Austria is particularly interesting because it is neither the primary technology leader within the country group, nor is it an offshoring destination and therefore takes an intermediate position. For this reason we also examine in-depth how Austria's revealed comparative advantages in the manufacturing sector have developed over time and whether structural change in the Austrian manufacturing sector can be related to vertical specialisation and participation in the CE Manufacturing Core.

Die Sachgüterproduktion Österreichs: Entwicklung und gesamtwirtschaftliche Bedeutung im internationalen Vergleich

The Chamber of Labour (AK Wien)

November 2013 - March 2014

The employment and income situation in the manufacturing sector of a country – especially in small and open economies – is driven by different and partly opposing economic factors. This includes different productivity developments (e.g. catching-up of emerging countries), wage developments that may reflect the economic conditions of other sectors of the economy or the economy as a whole, exploiting innovation potential and specialisation in relevant industries and the opportunities and challenges of internationalisation of production and trade. Individual countries positioned their manufacturing industries differently. This study analyses the development of the Austrian manufacturing industry compared to other countries, the potential determinants of this development and the importance of the manufacturing industry in terms of value added and employment in the Austrian economy.

A manufacturing imperative in the EU - Europe's position in global manufacturing and the role of industrial policy (Competitiveness Report 2013) (wiiw Team Leader)

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

November 2012 - June 2013

This study served as a background report for the annual European Competitiveness Report of the European Commission (DG ENTR). The objective was (i) to detect the structural changes that have occurred in the European economy in order to identify the major challenges that lie ahead European manufacturing and (ii) to analyse and evaluate past and current approaches to industrial policies (and instruments) at the European and the EU Member State level. Based on the structural challenges for the EU economy and experiences with industrial policies the study formulated suggestions for potential elements of a renewed European industrial policy. The policy conclusions took into account the interaction of industrial policy with related policies such as competition rules, innovation policies and trade policies. The study contains both qualitative and quantitative analyses, including cluster analysis and various econometric techniques and made use of numerous data sources such as the World Input-Output Database (WIOD), OECD ANBERD, Eurostat, European Commission State Aid Scoreboard database and the Community Innovation Survey (CIS).

Austria's 'trade in value added'

Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth

October 2012 - June 2013

In this study we use the recently developed World Input-Output Database (WIOD) to calculate a series of indicators shedding light on trade patterns from this perspective of global production. With these indicators we develop a 'country trade statistical profile' for Austria which will provide a complete picture of Austria's position in the global economy and changes in this position over time (1995-2009 with a potential update until 2011) both at the aggregate and industry level. Austria's trade statistical profile includes inter alia Austria's degree of vertical specialisation in exports and imports, Austria's export market shares in terms of value added trade as well as domestic employment effects associated with international production sharing and offshoring. All results are compared to peer countries and in all cases developments over time are tracked. Finally, the crisis-related trade collapse starting in 2009 is re-calculated at the basis of value added exports and compared with the registered slump in standard trade data.

The world and Europe in 2030 (AUGUR)

*European Commission, 7th Framework Programme
October 2009 - 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>

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.

Workshop on competitiveness in Azerbaijan: concepts, measurement and analysis

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

September 2012 - October 2012

The aim of this project was to provide Azerbaijani members of government and non-government organisation with an in-depth training in analysing the competitiveness of their economy. In this context, wiiw prepared a 1-day seminar on various aspects of competitiveness for 50 participants in Baku. The workshop was structured into three sessions. The first session presented a concept for measuring competitiveness (e.g. real exchange rates, unit labour costs, revealed comparative advantages, market share analysis). The second session familiarised the participants with issues of trade competitiveness and industrial policy, the final session with foreign direct investment and privatisation policies and restructuring.

FDI flows and impacts on the competitiveness of the EU industry (Competitiveness Report 2012) (wiiw Team Leader)

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

October 2011 - May 2012

This study investigates the international competition in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), especially in the context of the growing importance of emerging and developing countries as recipients of FDI. The study analyses both inbound and outbound FDI and their impact on the competitiveness of the European Union. It also focuses on the role of internationalisation of firms (especially SMEs) within and outside the EU and their access to international markets and global value chains. Furthermore, the competitiveness of industries within the EU and the role of FDI in reaching the goal of a common European investment policy are investigated. The study highlights recent developments and impacts of FDI that form the basis for further development of European policy. wiiw conducted this study in cooperation with WIFO.

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

The European neighbourhood - challenges and opportunities for EU competitiveness (Competitiveness Report 2012)

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

November 2011 - May 2012

This study serves as a background report for the yearly Competitiveness Report of the EC. In order to assess the differences between neighbouring countries with respect to their importance for EU competitiveness, the study first maps the economic situation and competitiveness of each of the Eastern and Southern ENP partner countries, non-candidate EFTA countries, potential candidate countries as well as Russia. The study describes and analysed the economic importance of institutional arrangements and instruments for cooperation between the EU and the above countries. It also explores the economic and trade impact of bilateral agreements and related trade and investment

flows including energy, raw materials and other resources between EU Member States. The final part of the study contains a discussion of the challenges and opportunities for EU competitiveness resulting from its different economic relations, institutional arrangements and instruments with its immediate neighbours, as well as the bilateral relations between EU member states and neighbouring countries. The prospects for EU SMEs to expand their activities into neighbouring countries are discussed and conclusions drawn on the basis thereof. The study concludes with policy recommendations stemming from the discussion of challenges and opportunities. wiiw coordinated the study.

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

The EU industry and the global value chain (Competitiveness Report 2012)

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

January 2011 - May 2012

This study serves as a background report for the yearly Competitiveness Report of the EC. It identifies a number of policy measures that support the capability of firms in the EU to be competitive in a global market. Especially the changes in value chains within the last ten years, which have led to an extension of trade in the course of globalisation and to an increasing segmentation of the production process, have been analysed. Furthermore, the impact of the economic crisis on changes in trade patterns and potential disruptions of international supply chains as well as possible long-term dynamics of value chains on the competitiveness of firms in the EU and their internationalisation have been analysed. The results serve as an input for the re-formulation of measures in the EU's industrial policy. The study was coordinated by wiiw.

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

World Input-Output Database (WIOD)

European Commission, 7th Framework Programme

May 2009 - 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>

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>

Study on trade in intermediate products and EU manufacturing supply chains (Competitiveness Report 2010)

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

December 2009 - January 2011

The study analysed trade in intermediate products across several dimensions. First the volume, number of varieties and the quality of intermediates imported were analysed as well as the structure of EU exports and their competitive advantage. Additionally, the study investigated how increased trade in intermediate products impacts on manufacturing supply chains in terms of geographical sourcing. Secondly, the study looked at the inter-linkage between manufacturing and services using a case study on "EU Manufacturing value chains in the light of globalisation: The case of the ICT industry". Thirdly, the impact of the crisis as well as other possible factors (such as exchange rate movements or regional integration) on the trade in intermediate products have been compared with the impact on the final goods trade. Finally, policy implications have been derived from the results obtained.