

List of Projects

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Integration of recent refugees and third country nationals into the Austrian labour market

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

October 2016 - June 2019

The aim of this project is to investigate the opportunities and challenges of integrating refugees and third country nationals (TCNs) in the Austrian labour market. A particular focus of the analysis is to follow the dynamics of labour market integration, building on a variety of longitudinal databases, including our own survey covering recent refugees/asylum seekers and third country migrants in Austria. The aim is to follow the experiences of different groups of refugees and TCN migrants coming from different countries of origin with their specific personal characteristics, social contexts and participations in various policy programmes. Various statistical methods will be applied to analyse the heterogeneity of experiences and effectiveness of policy programmes. Research will also include interaction with focus groups and stakeholders, as well as macro-economic analysis of integration experiences of TCN migrants across all 28 EU countries.

Study supporting the Evaluation of the Council Recommendation of 15 Feb 2016 on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market

European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

February 2018 - April 2019

The purpose of this project is to carry out an external and independent study to support the evaluation of the actions taken in response to the Council Recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed (LTU) into the labour market. It will cover actions undertaken in Member States and by the European Commission in response to the LTU Recommendation. The evaluation will assess to which extent the general and specific objectives have been achieved, i.e. to which extent the transitions from unemployment to employment improved, how the support for the long-term unemployed has evolved and to which extent transitions to employment are sustainable. wiiw is carrying out this study together with Ramboll and SEOR as part of a framework contract with DG Employment. wiiw is responsible for a mapping of changes in legislation, active measures and service delivery in all EU Member States between 2015 and 2018, and is also involved in the preparation of several case studies.

Wage developments in Central and East European EU Member States

Austrian Chamber of Labour

January 2018 - March 2018

The aim of the project is to describe the wage developments in eight EU countries of Central and Eastern Europe that are of major importance for Austria (EU-CEE-8: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia), to analyse their determinants and to derive policy recommendations. These are to assist in providing a positive stimulus to the EU-CEE-8 economies and to offer a long-term perspective for the population. Particular focus is put on the wage share in the EU-CEE-8 countries, which has recently started to rise again. Nevertheless, the question arises why wage growth has not been even stronger in view of the tightening labour market in the region, with most countries recording shortages of labour/skilled workers. This is the central research question of the project.

Factors driving wealth inequality in European countries (wiiw Team Leader)

Austrian Chamber of Labour

December 2016 - November 2017

The study analyses how microeconomic factors drive the inequality in household wealth across nine European countries applying the Shapley value approach to decomposition. The research draws on micro data from the Eurosystem Household Finance and Consumption Survey 2014. Disparity in inheritance and gifts obtained by households are found to have a considerable effect on wealth inequality that is on average stronger than the one of income differences and other factors. In Austria, Germany, France and Spain the contribution of real and financial assets received as bequests or inter-vivos transfers to wealth inequality attains more or almost 30%. However, also the distribution of household characteristics (age, education, size, number of adults and children in the household, marital status) within countries shapes the observed wealth dispersion. The study also provides an overview of different inheritance tax regimes in selected European countries and the United States. It finds that in the majority of countries the tax rate depends on the relationship between bequeather and inheritor as well as the value of the inherited assets. Due to an increase in private wealth and its concentration over time, the authors furthermore expect an increase in inheritance tax revenues in the future.

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.

Labour market development of Austria and East Europe in Comparison

*Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
November 2016 - December 2016*

The aim of the project is to find an answer to the question why Austria has fallen back within the European unemployment ranking lately and how the comparable development was in the MOEL. Thereby macroeconomic (change of the situation of the labour market because of different growth rates in the countries and the role of the wage policy in the MOEL, approach of the wage level as implication of the catching-up process) and demographic aspects (demographic aspects and changes of the participation on the labour market and the role of emigration respectively immigration for the development of the labour force at the age from 14-64) are considered in a more precise way as well as institutional factors (proficiency level of the unemployment insurance respectively the social welfare and its impact on the unemployment rate, activity in the informal sector, role of the mostly liberal labour markets in the MOEL and role of other institutional factors).

Smart Public Intangibles (SPINTAN)

*European Commission, 7th Framework Programme
December 2013 - November 2016*

The SPINTAN project extends both the theoretical and the empirical approach introduced by Corrado, Hulten and Sichel (2005, 2009) including the Public Sector intangibles in their analytical framework in different complementary directions. The main outcomes were: (1) A Public Sector Intangibles Database for a wide set of European Union (EU) countries, supplemented by some large non EU countries complementing the harmonised intangible measures developed by INTAN Invest. (2) Analysis of the key issues with regard to the boundaries of public intangibles between various public and private categories, such as R&D, skill formation and IT investment. New ways to measure Public Sector intangible capital services, and especially the rate of return on public intangibles, were developed. (3) Analysis of the impact of Public Sector intangibles on innovation, well being and "smart" growth. The project paid special attention to the consequences of austerity policies, i.e. the project measures the impact on intangible assets investment of the austerity policies after the crisis and quantifies its impact on growth and well being. The SPINTAN Project was carried out by 12 European partners and two non European Associated Members that joined in the first months of the project. wiiw was involved in the methodological and conceptual work to identify the relevant assets and has provided data for the new Member States and Austria to produce the envisaged cross-country harmonised database of public sector intangibles. It also contributed to the work on spillovers from intangibles and on austerity & recovery, focusing on the effects of government spending in an international input-output framework.

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>

Recent patterns of labour mobility in the European Union

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

July 2013 - March 2015

In the EU the level of labour mobility is comparably low, but rising due to intensified labour market flexibility and increasing migration flows. The project analysed changing patterns of labour mobility in a detailed manner in the countries, regions and economic sectors of the EU by applying a descriptive and an econometric approach. A specific focus was put on whether international migrants respond more flexibly to labour market demands. Moreover, the effects of external shocks during the financial and economic crisis on the scale and structure of labour mobility was analysed. The project drew on two micro-datasets: the EU labour force survey for performing a worker flow analysis and the MICRO-DYN database, which provides data based on EU-wide firm-level data to perform a job flow analysis. In the econometric approach we applied regional, country, sectoral and workers characteristics to detect the reasons for differences in the European wide map of labour mobility.

Auswertung der HFCS Daten im Europavergleich. Immobilienvermögen, Verschuldung, nettovermögenslose und eigenheimbesitzende Haushalte (wiiw Team Leader)

The Chamber of Labour (AK Wien)

December 2013 - November 2014

The aim of the study is to describe the situation of household asset and debt holdings and the distribution thereof in the countries of the eurozone and to provide a comparison between those. The analysis is based on data from the Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS). The analysis focuses particularly on two groups of households, those without or with negative net wealth holdings and those households being proprietor of their home. Recent research on the topic has first and foremost dealt with the situation in the US. Moreover, the study discusses the relevance of real estate assets for households in a broader sense.

Energy efficiency and EU industrial competitiveness: energy costs and their impact on manufacturing activity

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

October 2013 - 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 various aspects of earnings distribution using micro-data from the European Union Structure of Earnings Survey

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
June 2013 - January 2014*

This study contributed to a better understanding of the question as to what extent employment contract types, gender and skills affect the structure of earnings across industries and EU Member States. The study covered the 27 Member States, EEA countries (Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway), Accession, candidate and pre-candidate countries (Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey) for which data are available and highlight similarities and differences between them, as well as developments at the level of the European Union. To address this question, use has been made of the 2002, 2006 and 2010 release of the SES anonymized micro-data.

Crisis effects: growth prospect, social impact and policy responses in SEE and CIS

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance
July 2011 - June 2013*

The main objective of the project is to establish economic research capacities throughout Southeast Europe (SEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to promote knowledge transfer into the regions, to facilitate networking between researchers and to assist in securing knowledge transfer from researchers to policy makers. Activities to achieve this include research calls, mentoring, workshops, conferences and policy dialogues. The project is structured into bi-annual research cycles focusing on a specific research theme of particular importance. During this phase, research aims at analysing whether the international crisis shock introduces structural breaks in the distribution of income and other welfare dimensions, conditional on the change in the potential speed of growth, the quality of development, and the induced or adopted policy changes in SEE and CIS. The project is part of the Global Development Network (GDN), a multilateral organisation founded by the World Bank in which wiiw acts as a hub for SEE.

Multidimensional inequality and poverty in the EU considering polarisation and social mobility (wiiw Team Leader)

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank
September 2010 - July 2012*

The project contributes to cross-country inequality and poverty research on income and well-being as well as on income polarisation. Part 1 provides a regression-based decomposition analysis of income inequality and poverty in the EU. The research, based on EU-SILC data, allows identifying micro- and macro-level determinants of social stratification. In Part 2 the analysis is broadened to multidimensional inequality and poverty, detecting sources of dispersion of well-being. Part 3 goes beyond the static examination of poverty and inequality by looking at intergenerational mobility and inequality and poverty persistence. Part 4 presents a multi-level analysis of macro- and microeconomic determinants of income polarisation in the EU, which is also based on EU-SILC data.

Monitoring of sectoral employment

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
December 2010 - April 2012*

The aim of the study was to provide a comprehensive collection and a long-term analysis of key sectoral data with a view to identifying and monitoring sectoral employment developments and inter-dependencies. The impact of the crisis has been analysed for a representative set of sectors, paying special attention to issues such as flexicurity, skills, outsourcing and restructuring, labour productivity, technological change. wiiw coordinated this project in collaboration with Applica and with support from various local experts.

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>

EuropeAid MIDWEB

EuropeAid

February 2011 - February 2012

In order to facilitate the access of potential migrants from the Western Balkans (WB) to the labour markets in the EU, and potential returnees' access to the labour markets, this project developed a database of skills per sector needed for each country in the WB. In cooperation with the national employment services and the national statistical offices, a list of skills per sector has been compiled. These lists targeted principally the émigrés from the WB who consider return to their homeland as an option in their migratory experience, but also potential migrants from the region that would consider working in another country in the WB. In addition, a similar list was compiled for each WB country but with skills per sector needed in the main countries of destination from the EU to serve potential migrants from WB countries. All these lists were incorporated in a database accessible via the Migrants Service Centres's website. The data is available also to those who approach the MSCs in person as well as to policy-makers. wiiw was responsible for task 1.2 'Develop databases of skills per sector needed in the EU and in the Western Balkans'.

Evaluation of the reaction of the ESF to the economic and financial crisis

European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

December 2010 - December 2011

This evaluation focused on the assessment of experience collected with the ESF since the beginning of the crisis (i.e. second half of 2008), i.e. it referred to the 2007-2013 ESF programming period. In doing so, also the findings of recent social policy research including labour market studies and economic theory were taken into account. Consistency between the findings of this evaluation and general research had to be ensured. The main role of wiiw in this project, which was conducted in cooperation with Metis, was to perform econometric estimations of the impact on the labour market.

Regional development in Central and Eastern Europe

WISDOM

September 2010 - December 2011

This project analysed and investigated the effects of the internationalisation of labour markets, also using simulation techniques. It pursued three aims: (1) provide coherent scenarios at the level of Austrian regions and neighbouring countries (including Poland, Romania and Bulgaria) with respect to employment, qualification and migration; (2) develop a long-term simulation model for Austria; and (3) identify potentially growing gaps at the regional level with respect to employment, qualification and migration based on the robust scenarios. Particularly, the project provided a detailed overview of the developments with respect to employment and migration processes of Austrian regional labour markets as well as in the neighbouring countries.

Workshop: MENA transition and international responses

Austrian Ministry of Finance

August 2011 - December 2011

In December 2011, wiiw organised a workshop with high-level experts to discuss the current economic, political and social situation in MENA countries, the challenges they face and the challenges posed for the EU neighbourhood policy. The workshop took as a vantage point the experiences from Central and Eastern European countries and the lessons the transformation of these countries may hold for future developments of the MENA region. wiiw produced a background paper for this workshop.

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.

Employment in the gas and electricity sectors in the Western Balkan contracting parties of the Energy Community

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
November 2009 - February 2011*

The aim of this study was to analyse the employment development in the gas and electricity sectors in seven countries of the Western Balkans. In doing so, the impact of liberalisation and of the resulting restructuring processes on the number and quality of jobs is investigated and likely trends were presented. The study was based on quantitative analysis as well as on qualitative analysis in the form of stakeholder interviews.

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>

Inequality and fiscal policy in transition countries

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance
January 2009 - December 2010*

The main objective of the project is to establish economic research capacities throughout Southeast Europe (SEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to promote knowledge transfer into the regions, to facilitate networking between researchers and to assist in securing knowledge transfer from researchers to policy makers. Activities to achieve this include research calls, mentoring, workshops, conferences and policy dialogues. The project is structured into bi-annual research cycles focusing on a specific research theme of particular importance. During this phase, research dealt with inequality and fiscal policy in transition countries of Southeast Europe (SEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Research aimed to analyse issues of income and other distributions (e.g., wealth, wage, skills, opportunities) in transition countries with special interest in the role of market liberalisation and fiscal redistribution. The project is part of the Global Development Network (GDN), a multilateral organisation founded by the World Bank in which wiiw acts as a hub for SEE.