

List of Projects

Stefan Jestl

Advice on intra-EU mobility and social security coordination (Lot 2: Statistics and data collection)

European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

December 2021 - November 2025

The European Commission is seeking independent expertise in order to have support in the areas of free movement of workers, posting of workers and social security coordination with in-depth research and analysis, as well as to widely disseminate this specific expertise to experts and practitioners at the national level. wiiw is part of a consortium led by HIVA/KU Leuven and is responsible for several ad-hoc reports on specific indicators to mobility.

Eastern Europe Before Transition: Digitisation of data and analysis of CESEE's command economies

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

May 2021 - April 2024

In order to better understand the industrialisation spurt and later the (financial) crisis and collapse of the command economies of Central, East and Southeast Europe (CESEE) as well as the applied economic policy mix before and during their transition to market economies, including the decisive role of initial conditions, we will digitise and publish online wiiw's economic statistics for Central, East and Southeast Europe for the period 1944-1992; harmonise the historical data with current statistical classifications; digitise and publish online wiiw's research reports for 1972-1992; and produce a series of working papers describing the data, summarising the literature and providing economic analysis on the key research areas related to the development and demise of the command economies. The activities in this project will be coordinated in close cooperation with our partners in the Research Centre for the History of Transformations (RECET) research network of the University of Vienna.

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

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.

Jobs, mental health and social policy in times of COVID-19

FWF - Austrian Science Fund

November 2021 - October 2023

In this project, a research team at wiiw is investigating important structural and distributional social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the impact of the crisis on different economic sectors and on their organisation, the topics of employment and re-employment as well as the perspectives of different social groups are taken into account. For this purpose, a model is developed that captures the main features of the social and structural impacts in the medium and long term ('agent-based stock-flow consistent model'). Besides factors of labour market economics, it also includes changes in technology, productivity and work organisation as well as economic policy decisions. Four empirical studies shed light on important components of the theoretical model. These include structural developments of economic activities, different employment models, homeworking and effects on mental health, analysis of government measures.

Comparative Advantage in the Digital Era: New insights into trade in digital tasks and ICT capital

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

March 2021 - February 2023

Comparative advantage remains one of the basic principles of international trade theory. This also holds true in times of globalisation and digitalisation. Taking into account the existence of international value chains and productivity differences across countries, this project identifies comparative advantages of EU member states in the 'digital endowments', comprising 'digital tasks' and ICT capital. The project provides new insights into countries' position in 'digital trade' and their readiness to master the shift to cyber-physical production systems that characterise the 'digital revolution'. Furthermore, the underlying institutions and policies that shape these comparative advantages are investigated. This way, the analysis of digital comparative advantage provides valuable insights into what actions may be needed in the EU to defend and improve technological leadership in the digital era.

Labour market trajectories of refugees and other migrants

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

January 2021 - December 2022

In view of the large influx of refugees into Austria between 2014 and 2016 and the substantial socio-cultural and economic integration challenges this poses, the project analyses some particular aspects of labour market integration of refugees in Austria. It uses two unique longitudinal databases which provide information on refugee integration over time, namely a newly constructed database provided by Statistics Austria ('Register-based Labour Market data') for the period 2015-2021 as well as five successive survey rounds among refugees in Austria (FIMAS) which have been conducted over the period 2016-2022. It sheds light on refugees' job stability and mobility across different labour market statuses, their home-to-host country occupational trajectories and associated status losses and gains, the impact of public integration programmes on the likelihood of finding employment, and the role of specific stressors and resilience factors for refugees' mental health.

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).

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.

Spatial and industrial effects of the European Green Deal

Hans Böckler Stiftung

January 2021 - December 2021

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.

Short- and medium-term sectoral employment forecasts in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic

European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

April 2021 - September 2021

The economic shock induced by the pandemic has plunged the European economies into a recession. Lockdowns and social distancing measures have affected economic life in a substantial way where industries have faced varying economic difficulties. This study explores potential employment dynamics across European industries and employment groups for the period up to 2026 by drawing on past sectoral trends and the latest macro-economic forecast results from IMF and the European Commission. A scenario analysis also takes into account the large uncertainty and risks that are related to the baseline forecasts. The baseline results indicate that in most countries employment is expected to reach its pre-pandemic level already in 2021 or 2022 based on high projected GDP growth rates up to 4% in 2021 and 2022, while hours worked will lag behind with a full catching up only in 2022 and 2023. Even though these predictions suggest a relatively quick recovery from the economic disturbance caused by the pandemic, high uncertainty is related to these numbers. As indicated by the scenario analysis, the recovery of employment could turn out to be rather sluggish. More negative scenarios predict only a limited recovery for persons employed and an incomplete recovery for hours worked even in 2026. The results further suggest that younger and low-skilled workers have been the hardest hit population subgroups. For these groups also the recovery is expected to take longer as compared to other age and education groups. A more negative economic development, as it is assumed in the negative scenarios, would put even more pressure on these most affected employment groups.

Effects, opportunity costs and spillovers of EU Cohesion Policy

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.

ArBeEi International - Grundlagen- und angewandte Arbeitsmarktanalysen

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

July 2017 - June 2020

Der Prozess der Globalisierung sowie die zunehmende Integration Europas stellen den Arbeitsmarkt in Österreich vor große Herausforderungen. Zunehmende wirtschaftliche Verflechtungen (v.a. über Handel, Direktinvestitionen, Offshoring, Migration) haben erhebliche Auswirkungen auf die Bedingungen am Arbeitsmarkt, auf Lohn- und Einkommensentwicklungen und Beschäftigungsstrukturen. Evidenzbasierte Handlungsempfehlungen für die Wirtschaftspolitik im Allgemeinen und die Arbeitsmarktpolitik im Besonderen erfordern daher eine Analyse mit einer internationalen und vergleichenden Perspektive. Für Österreich bedeutet das, die arbeitsmarktrelevanten Entwicklungen seiner Nachbarländer, v.a. der mittel- und osteuropäischen Nachbarn, der Beitrittskandidaten und der EU Nachbarregionen genau zu analysieren, und natürlich auch eine globale Perspektive zu entwickeln. Dieses vom österreichischen Sozialministerium beauftragte Forschungsprojekt beschäftigt sich mit diesen Themen. Es ist auf drei Jahre angelegt und in vier Teilbereiche gegliedert: (1) Technologie, Globalisierung und Konvergenz in der EU, (2) Mobilität von Arbeitskräften und Migrationstrends, (3) Konjunktur, Beschäftigung und Arbeitslosigkeit und (4) institutionelle Rahmenbedingungen und deren Effekte auf Wachstum, Beschäftigung und Ungleichheit.

Analysis of the main territorial challenges, needs and transnational cooperation potentials and strategy building for the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 Programme

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.

Industry level growth and productivity data with special focus on intangible assets (EUKLEMS update)

European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs

July 2018 - October 2019

Within this project, wiiw created a comprehensive set of reliable data for productivity measures and growth accounting. The work went in various aspects beyond the data that were officially available at this time, notably regarding the length of time series, the consistent application of industry and asset breakdowns, the quality adjustment of labour input measures and the respective attribution of wage shares, estimations of investments, consumption of fixed capital and capital stock. The strong need for such a database has long been recognised and underlies the development of the EU KLEMS project, which was successfully concluded in 2009 as an FP6-funded research project. Within this service contract, wiiw updated the existing EU KLEMS database, extended it by an additional set of information on intangible assets, explored ways to integrate these measures into the growth accounting framework and provided results of such an exercise, distinguishing a statistical from an analytical module. Moreover, wiiw provided an analytical paper identifying the most important recent trends of the productivity dynamics in Europe and its determinants, with a particular focus on the role of intangible assets. The dataset has been published on a dedicated website (www.euklems.eu) in October 2019.

<https://www.euklems.eu>

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 was to investigate the opportunities and challenges of integrating refugees and migrants in the Austrian labour market. A particular focus of the analysis was to follow the dynamics of labour market integration, building on a variety of longitudinal databases, including our own survey (FIMAS) covering recent refugees/asylum seekers as well as register-based labour market career data from Statistics Austria. The aim was to follow the experiences of different groups of refugees and migrants coming from different countries of origin with their specific personal characteristics, social contexts and participations in various policy programmes. Analytically, labour market integration was analysed along a number of different dimensions of integration (such as social

network formation, cultural integration, integration into the health and other aspects of the welfare system, training and educational integration, etc) to check how these interact to facilitate or hinder labour market integration. An important part of the project addressed the vulnerability of refugees to mental health problems and identified the effect of stressors and resilience factors on their mental health situation. Various state-of-the-art statistical methods were applied to analyse the heterogeneity of experiences, effectiveness of policy programmes and interaction between different dimensions of integration.

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 was 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 covered actions undertaken in Member States and by the European Commission in response to the LTU Recommendation. The evaluation assessed 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 carried out this study together with Ramboll and SEOR as part of a framework contract with DG Employment. wiiw was responsible for a mapping of changes in legislation, active measures and service delivery in all EU Member States between 2015 and 2018, and was also involved in the preparation of several case studies.

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.

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

*Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE
February 2018 - July 2018*

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

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

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

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

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

Investitionspotentiale österreichischer Unternehmen in Bosnien-Herzegowina, Montenegro und Serbien

Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria

May 2018 - July 2018

Austrian companies are among the most important investors in the Western Balkans. Much of the investment was made before the onset of the global financial crisis. For the selected countries of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia the project aimed: (1) to give a detailed overview of Austrian direct investment; (2) to map the economic environment for Austrian companies locally and (3) to formulate policy recommendations to support Austrian companies in these countries. The study is written in German.

Infrastructure Investment in the Western Balkans: a First Analysis

European Investment Bank (EIB)

February 2018 - June 2018

The study provided a first analysis of the recent development in infrastructure investment in the Western Balkans, identified key infrastructure initiatives in the region, outlined the political dimension, and proposed a blueprint for potential initiatives in other parts of the EU neighbourhood. It also provided national accounts infrastructure investment data collected from Western Balkan statistical offices.

Migration and Globalisation - Impacts and Interaction

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

March 2016 - March 2018

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

Factors driving wealth inequality in European countries

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.

Economic challenges of lagging regions

*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.

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>

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

*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.