

List of Projects

Stefan Jestl

Effects, opportunity costs and spillovers of EU Cohesion Policy

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

September 2018 - February 2020

This project aims 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 aims to: a) estimate the effects of CP on regional GDP, employment and productivity 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.

Western Balkan Regional Cooperation

Bertelsmann Stiftung

June 2018 - November 2019

Regional cooperation has been the main instrument of EU intervention in the post-conflict Balkans. The overall goal of this policy has been to increase economic and social connectivity in order to achieve political stability and enhance security, as a precondition for EU accession. This process has now lasted for about two decades. Our study aims to clarify the political constraints on economic cooperation as an instrument for political normalisation. More specifically, it will provide a comprehensive assessment of regional cooperation in the Western Balkans over the past two decades. It will also deliver a blueprint for the way forward, with clear steps for how regional cooperation in the Western Balkans could be supported by the 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 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.

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

Sunday, 16 June 2019

3/4

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.