

List of Projects

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Fiscal policies in Europe II.

Austrian Chamber of Labour

July 2018 - July 2020

In this project, we assess fiscal policies and their macroeconomic effects in the European Union, with a particular focus on Austria. While the empirical work will be based on quantitative methods, the focus of the project is on providing a comparative European perspective. In particular, we compile relevant data for a group of EU countries and use this data set for several subprojects: we estimate fiscal multipliers for different categories of public spending, analyse the relevance of labour market developments for public expenditures and look at recent developments of capital and income taxes in the context of globalisation.

Framework contract: Evaluations and impact assessments of EU macro-financial assistance and balance of payment support operations

European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs

January 2016 - December 2019

European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs established a multiple framework service contracts that allows it to obtain evaluation services and impact assessments of its own activities. Under this Framework Contract, the consortium partners assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, utility, sustainability, coherence, European Union Added Value, and governance of the macro-financial assistance and balance of payment support operations granted by the EU and the IMF to third countries. wiiw is part of a consortium under the leadership of Ecorys.

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.

SEE Jobs Gateway

The World Bank

July 2016 - June 2019

Within this project, an annual flagship report on Western Balkans Labour Market Trends is launched. The Report is based on a dedicated regional labour market database for the Western Balkans, established and compiled by wiiw in cooperation with the Statistical offices of the region. It allows, for the first time, to calculate aggregate labour market indicators across six Western Balkan countries and to directly compare them with each other and with select EU peer countries. The Report and Database are available through the SEE Jobs Gateway, a web community of practice for labour market policies in the Western Balkans, managed and maintained by the World Bank. Overall, the initiative aims to provide access to labour market information and data for national policy-makers in the Western Balkans, as well as the international and academic communities. At the same time, it aims to generate

interest among the press, NGOs and the wider public and thereby to encourage the debate on labour market policies.

<http://seejobsgateway.net>

Studies in the Areas of European Competitiveness

European Commission, DG Growth

August 2014 - July 2018

The purpose of this framework contract is to provide the European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, with background studies concerning the competitiveness of European industries. These background studies are mainly used for the preparation of the Commission's European Competitiveness Report which is published annually in order to provide analytical input to the policy debate on issues related to competitiveness and to underpin proposals and recommendations regarding the Europe 2020 strategy and future enterprise policy.

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.

Investigating the Impact of the Innovation Union (I3U)

European Commission, Horizon 2020

March 2015 - February 2018

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

<http://www.i3u-innovationunion.eu>

Productivity, Non-Tariff Measures and Openness (PRONTO)

European Commission, 7th Framework Programme

February 2014 - January 2018

Over the past fifty years, there has been significant progress in lowering tariff barriers to international trade. With the rising importance of global sourcing, multinational enterprises and increased tradability of non-tangible products, Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) have attracted growing attention from policy makers and academic scholars alike. Against this background, PRONTO aims to compile new data, develop better methodologies and increase our understanding of the impact of NTMs on international investment and trade. The proposed research project is divided into seven Work Packages (WPs). The first three provide the foundation for work in the project by consolidating existing and developing new NTM measures. The fourth WP acts as a bridge by establishing a methodological framework for using these measures in estimations and policy analysis. The fifth and sixth WPs use this framework and the new NTM indicators to consider the effect of NTMs on a variety of social and economic outcomes, providing both useful estimations for policy and a framework for future academic exploration of NTMs. The final WP focuses on dissemination of the data, methodologies, and results of the other six WPs. The project was funded by European Commission, 7th Framework Programme and received additional funding by the Austrian

Euroasian Integration

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
June 2013 - December 2017

This project is part of wiiw's scientific cooperation with IIASA. The aim of the project is to support IIASA in its research on the newly launched investigation about the modalities of Eurasian economic integration. The project will assess the prospects and modalities of alternative economic integrations of regional alliances on the Eurasian space. wiiw is involved in the coordination of the Euroasian integration project, the preparation of further materials in the context of the project and particularly the organisation the series of 'Euroasian Workshop' starting in February 2014, including the design of the agenda, selection of participants, preparation of background concept papers and in the development of the future project's concept. The project is coordinated by Peter Havlik who acts simultaneously as guest research scholar at IIASA.

<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/research/EconomicIntegration.html>

Fiscal policies in Europe

Austrian Chamber of Labour
January 2016 - December 2017

This project analyses Austrian fiscal policy in a European context. Against the background of the most recent academic literature, it delivers new empirical results on macroeconomic outcomes of fiscal policy measures. In particular, the research focuses on fiscal policy coordination problems in the EU's fiscal regulation framework, which relies on model-based estimates of the structural deficit. Further topics are the analysis of government expenditure structures in European countries as well as the effects of changes in discretionary fiscal policy on the income distribution.

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.

Framework Contract: Assessment of EU policy impacts on industrial products and services sectors

European Commission, DG Growth
October 2013 - July 2017

The full title of this multiple framework contract is: Procurement of studies and other supporting services on impact assessments and evaluations, Lot 1: Assessment of EU policy impacts on industrial products and services sectors. The purpose is to be able to have at its disposal an external pool of expertise that can be used whenever the need arises. This external pool of expertise is destined to support the DG's own activities by providing input to research on the likely impacts and/or effectiveness of a specific policy or regulatory proposal. LOT 1 deals mainly with the potential impact of EU measures on economic activity at the sectoral or aggregate level. The objective will specifically be to analyse how the structure, the competitiveness and the growth potential of affected sector(s) are affected by EU measures. This could include the impact on innovation, looking at determinants such as the cost of innovation and the availability of financing and market factors (uncertainty of demand for new goods and services).

Falling Behind and Catching Up in Southeast Europe (GDN)

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2014 - May 2017

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

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>

Identifying revealed comparative advantages (RCAs) in an EU regional context

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

February 2014 - December 2015

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

How to Stabilize the Economy of Ukraine and Put it on a Sustainable Growth Trajectory

United Europe e.V.

December 2014 - June 2015

On behalf of United Europe and Bertelsmann Stiftung, wiiw explored the possible ways how to stabilise the Ukrainian economy and analysed the economic effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. To that end, wiiw analysed the macroeconomic developments, foreign trade and FDI relations, as well as industrial and regional patterns. The study was presented jointly with the clients, representatives of the EU Commission (Commissioner J. Hahn) and of the Ukrainian parliament in the framework of a Policy Dialogue in Brussels. A similar presentation in Kyiv also generated considerable attention among international as well as Ukrainian media and policy-makers. The study was furthermore supported by the Austrian Central Bank (OeNB), Bertelsmann Stiftung, DER-think tank, ING Bank NV, Porsche Holding Gesellschaft m.b.H and Raiffeisen Bank International AG.

Increasing competitiveness in the Western Balkans region - opportunities and limits

German Federal Ministry of Finance

July 2013 - January 2015

This study was written in German, original title: 'Steigerung der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit in der Westbalkanregion - Möglichkeiten und Grenzen'. The European Union as well as international and bilateral players increasingly consider higher competitiveness as a key factor for economic development in the Western Balkans region that is to be more and more autonomous and resilient in the long term. Against this background, the project aims to identify the potential for (further) structural reforms and their implementation and efficient realisation, as well as the potential for growth and strategies to exploit it. The project is carried out in cooperation with the Halle Institute for Economic Research.

Strategic Study on Labour Mobility in the Context of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

April 2014 - January 2015

The purpose of this consultancy was to provide strategic input to the labour mobility consultation process initiated by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in partnership with IOM and other regional and international partners as a flagship initiative on Jobs, Skills and Employment. The study is about to contribute to the implementation of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy. wiiw was engaged to assist the RCC and IOM in producing a comprehensive report on labour mobility in SEE.

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).

Knowledge-Based Regional Development in Albania and Kosovo - Reducing social and economic disparities through social and economic innovation

Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)

January 2014 - September 2014

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

International conference 'The 2004 EU Enlargement – Ten Years After: Achievements and Next Steps'

Austrian Ministry of Finance

June 2014 - June 2014

The conference celebrated the 10th anniversary of the accession of ten Central, Eastern and Southeastern European countries to the European Union. It reflected on achievements and lessons learned and discussed possible future political and economic developments in Europe.

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.

Impact of opening full labour market access to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals as of 1 January 2014: the case of Austria

*Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth
April 2013 - December 2013*

The study analyses the migration potential and the impact on Austria's economy that is to be expected after the lifting of access restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals as of 1 January 2014. Estimates show that - as compared with a scenario with retained restrictions - in the years 2014 and 2015 net migration from the two countries to Austria will account for 5700 and 5300 additional persons, respectively, solely due to the full liberalisation of the labour market. About three quarters of those migrants are expected to come from Romania. In the years following the opening of the labour market, employment will be by about 6700 persons higher than it would be without liberalisation in 2014 and by about 10,300 persons above that level in 2015. The employment effect results not only from the higher population flows but also from the activation of a part of those Bulgarian and Romanian migrants who have been resident in Austria already before the liberalisation - also in 2007-2013 an increased inflow of migrants from those two countries was observed. The additional labour force supply will only cause a temporary marginal increase in the overall unemployment rate. Gross domestic product in 2014 and 2015 is expected to be higher by about 0.09% and 0.13%, respectively, and the unemployment rate is estimated to be higher by about 0.03% in both years, than would be the case without labour market liberalisation. The study was written in German, original title: 'Auswirkungen der Arbeitsmarktöffnung am 1. Jänner 2014 auf den Wirtschafts- und Arbeitsstandort Österreich'

Support to the Development of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy

*Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
June 2013 - September 2013*

The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat was requested by the countries of the Southeast Europe Cooperation Process (SEEC) as well as the European Commission (EC) to advance the preparation of a regional development and growth strategy - SEE 2020. In course of this process, eleven specific targets have been identified that span convergence with EU, trade, investment, employment, education and governance. All in all, the SEE 2020 encompasses 14 policy dimensions. In the framework of this consultancy assignment, wiiw coordinated a group of experts who compiled and synthesized the various inputs from regional initiatives, platforms and other relevant stakeholders into the Strategy document. Last but not least, wiiw experts ensured the internal consistency of the proposed targets and measures and provided contextual analysis and advice. In November 2013, the SEE 2020 strategy was finally approved by the Ministerial Conference of the South East Europe Investment Committee.

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.

Global value chains and growth: impacts and prospects for EU Member States

*European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs
August 2012 - March 2013*

This study investigated the different degrees of international competitiveness and their correlation with the growth performance of individual European countries. In doing so, the internationalisation of countries and the respective comparative advantages were analysed on the basis of value added chains. The importance of certain specialisation patterns, technology intensities, regional and international integration, and offshoring strategies as drivers of productivity and economic growth is analysed, contributing to an explanation of the differing growth trajectories and structural developments within Europe.

Ex-post evaluation of balance of payments support operations to Hungary

European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs

September 2011 - December 2012

This evaluation focused on assessing ex post the contribution of the EU financial assistance to Hungary made available in Nov. 2008. The exercise covered three main areas of analysis: (i) Economic impact of the BoP assistance on the Hungarian economy with and without IMF involvement. (ii) Value added of the EU intervention provided through the operation and (iii) Sustainability of the country's external position as a result of the assistance. The project was undertaken within the "Multiple Framework Service Contract for the provision of evaluation and evaluation related services to DG ECFIN", coordinated by Ecorys. A wiiw Senior Expert was part of the research team.

Ex-post evaluation of Macro Financial Assistance operations to Kosovo

European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs

March 2012 - October 2012

Under its Financial regulation, the EC is legally obliged to evaluate its main programmes, including Macro Financial Assurances (MFA). The main objective of this ex-post evaluation was to learn key lessons which can be applied to future interventions and/or to identify a possible need for a reorientation of the present EC approach. The evaluation focused on three core areas of economic effects: (1) macroeconomic effects; (2) structural effects and (3) effects on the sustainability of the external financial situation. Each area focused on the effects over specific time horizons: macroeconomic developments were assessed on short-term effects (up to 2 years after the initial disbursement), the structural effects on the economy and institutions on short- and medium- term effects (up to 4 years after the initial disbursement) and the external financial situation on medium- to long-term effects (3 years or more).

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'.

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.

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.

Ex-post evaluation of cohesion policy programmes 2000-2006; Work Package 1: Coordination, analysis and synthesis

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

November 2007 - December 2009

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

Regional challenges in the perspective of 2020 - regional disparities and future challenges

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

December 2008 - September 2009

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