

List of Projects

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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.

Technical Assistance for the Preparation of CEFTA Investment Report

Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)

October 2016 - December 2017

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

Analysis of the Macedonian economy (wiiw Team Leader)

Economic Chamber of Macedonia

December 2016 - June 2017

The task of the study is 1) to make an analyse of the private sector of the Macedonian economy, 2) to examine the tradable sector, its competitive ability and comparative economics, 3) to analyse the interaction of the goods and job market (including the impact of emigration) and finally 4) to ray the financial status of the private sector and its relation to financial and capital market. Based on this policy recommendations for an explicit or implicit economic and industry policy should be developed.

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>

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>

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.

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 advise. 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 (wiiw Team Leader)

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.

Ex-post evaluation of Macro Financial Assistance operations to Kosovo (wiiw Team Leader)

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).

Study on macroeconomic developments and policies in Europe since 2008: new divides in Europe

International Labour Organisation

June 2012 - September 2012

The performance across regions in the EU and Europe in general has differed and will differ significantly. They will all, however, be constrained by the common EU economic policy framework which is emerging as a response to the crisis. The study is a critical assessment of the macroeconomic situation and trends. It analyses reasons for diverse economic trends within the region, reviews economic policies adopted in response to the crisis, and gives policy recommendations for macroeconomic policy promoting sustainable economic development and job creation in the region.

Country risk analysis

Erste Group Bank AG

November 2011 - April 2012

Country studies are performed for Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine, analysing the political and institutional, economic and social situation on a qualitative and quantitative basis.

Developing efficient activation approaches and identifying elements for regional cooperation in the Western Balkans

European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

March 2010 - April 2012

The main objective of this project was the assessment of employment policies in the Western Balkan countries, their distance from the European Employment Strategies (EES), and the capacity and effectiveness of the Public Employment Services (PES) to implement modern labour market services. The general approach of the research was to assess the existing policies against the background of labour market developments in the Western Balkan countries. wiiw coordinated this project, in cooperation with ÖSB and with support of some local experts.

Bulgaria: fiscal space, competitiveness and incomes policy

International Labour Organisation

September 2011 - January 2012

wiiw produced a study for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) concerning macroeconomic and structural policies for Bulgaria. The paper focused on the economic growth model pursued in Bulgaria over the last decade and in particular changes that are required to this model given the expected external and internal environment and shortcomings with past policies. The paper includes a comparative analysis with other Central and East European countries where appropriate.

Workshop: MENA transition and international responses (wiiw Team Leader)

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.

Strategic partnership in support of the integrated regional development plan of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

January 2008 - June 2011

The main objective of this project was to strengthen and support the socio-economic development process of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina by implementing specific measures, which are combined in a multi-sectoral action plan. The specific role of wiiw in this project was to support a regional economic research institute in capacity building, e.g. by setting up an economic model, a business barometer methodology and implementation, training in mathematics and statistics, mentored research, scientific dissemination and networking as well as general management skills.

Study tour for experts of the Department of Economic Planning in BiH

Coffey International Limited

July 2010 - March 2011

Design and organisation of a one-week seminar for Bosnian experts, financed by DFID. The seminar dealt with issues of Austrian and European economic policy, focusing on macroeconomic developments, EU integration, regional policy, coordination of national and regional entities, policy processes and administrative reform.

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.

Serbia: medium to long term economic development (wiiw Team Leader)

Telekom Austria Group

November 2010 - January 2011

The study analysed current economic developments in Serbia, the country's perspective of EU accession and provided a medium-term forecast of main economic indicators. The authors diagnosed short-term risks to economic recovery due to social and political instability as well as lacking institutional, structural, and policy reforms. In case the planned process of EU integration was realised, more reforms and rather sustainable development was expected after the elections in 2012. This was also considered to be supportive to the macroeconomic stability, which was mainly anchored in the exchange rate policy. Under these assumptions, a GDP growth rate of around 4% per year and a relatively stable currency and inflation was expected, albeit at a somewhat higher level. The alternative scenario was that the whole process stalls and the traditional muddling through strategy prevailed with rather disappointing and unpredictable results due to the changed international environment.

Inequality and fiscal policy in transition countries (wiiw Team Leader)

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.

Central-Eastern Europe and the economic crisis. Policy lessons learnt

Austrian Ministry of Finance

July 2009 - March 2010

The objective of the project was to write a policy paper on "Central-Eastern Europe and the Economic Crisis. Policy Lessons Learnt" and present the paper in a workshop with European and local policy makers. The paper was jointly written by experts from Breugel and wiiw as well as experts from the region.