

List of Projects

Zuzana Zavorská

Entwicklung, Organisation, Durchführung und Evaluierung von Seminaren am Joint Vienna Institut (JVI)

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2020 - December 2022

Das wiiw konzipiert und organisiert im Jahr 2022 mehrere Seminare im Rahmen des Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). Diese Seminare richten sich an Entscheidungsträger des öffentlichen Sektors aus Transformationsländern in Südosteuropa und den GUS-Staaten und haben zum Ziel, aktuelle wirtschaftspolitische Themen zu vermitteln.

Functional division of labour in EU value chains

Hans Böckler Stiftung

January 2022 - December 2022

The emergence of global value chains has radically changed the organisation of production in the EU economy. In particular, the increasingly fine-grained international division of labour has made it possible for countries to specialise in individual business functions of the value chain and thereby generate higher value added. This project examines the causes and effects of these "functional specialisation patterns" on the labour market, particularly on wage developments and working conditions. The project combines two existing methods for the analysis of functional specialisations in order to ensure the reliability of results. The determinants and implications of functional specialisation on the labour markets in European countries and regions will be analysed using, inter alia, cluster analyses, panel regression methods and binary choice models. Ultimately, the questions to be answered by this study are: Why do some countries become locations for corporate headquarters and research laboratories, while others end up as "extended workbenches" within the European division of labour? What are the effects of these "functional specialisations" for labour markets in Europe?

How do Economies in EU-CEE Cope with Labour Shortages? An Update

Austrian Chamber of Labour

January 2022 - June 2022

The EU member states in Central and Eastern Europe (EU-CEE) were experiencing rising labour shortages prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly due to a rapid demographic decline. As a result, the bargaining power of labour increased, wages were generally rising ahead of labour productivity, and people were investing in education. Czechia, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia became net receivers of migrants, while in Bulgaria and Poland immigration largely compensated for the natives who went abroad. However, immigration from non-European countries as a general solution to the problem of labour shortages was highly problematic in the domestic political context. These were the main findings of the wiiw study "How do Economies in EU-CEE Cope with Labour Shortages?" published at the end of 2020. The aim of the current project is to update this study, in order to take into account the post-pandemic developments and the new population census data.

Regional Cooperation in EU-CEE and Lessons for the Western Balkans

Bertelsmann Stiftung

June 2021 - May 2022

In our previous study "Pushing on a String? An evaluation of regional economic cooperation in the Western Balkans", we concluded that a change in the EU's strategy towards the Western Balkans is needed. The current strategy has failed to deliver regional economic integration and development, has resulted in very meagre progress towards full EU accession, and has generated huge disappointment and frustration in the region. With these

conclusions as a starting point, in the current study we ask whether and how the successful example from the formerly communist countries that joined the EU between 2004 and 2013 (EU-CEE) can be replicated in the Western Balkans. More specifically, we investigate to what extent regional economic integration improved in EU-CEE after EU accession, identify the suspected reasons for this, and determine which lessons can be drawn from this experience for the Western Balkan economies. Our main finding is that the best way to foster regional economic integration and development in the Western Balkans would be through policies aimed at raising incomes. One way in which this can be achieved is by increasing the EU transfers for the region, for example, through full access to the EU budget, with the necessary conditionality attached.

A new growth model in EU-CEE

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

August 2020 - May 2021

The eleven EU member states from Central, East, and Southeast Europe (EU-CEE) have undergone three decades of transition to market capitalism and convergence with Western Europe. There have been many successes and challenges, and the level of economic and social development varies widely across the region. The study finds that the convergence process, especially for the more advanced countries, has slowed since 2007 and that the current growth model may well be reaching its limit. The authors find that it will take decades for EU-CEE's more developed countries to halve the remaining gap to Germany and other rich countries in Western Europe. This implies that it is high time to think about a new growth model for the region. The study outlines the main priorities for a strategic transition to a new growth model of EU-CEE and shows substantial opportunities in a greener, digitised, automated world.