

PRESS RELEASE

Vienna, 6 December 2017

wiiw releases 2017 Handbook of Statistics covering 22 CESEE economies

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) has today released its 2017 [wiiw Handbook of Statistics](#), which includes comprehensive, updated and expanded macroeconomic data for 22 countries in Central, East and Southeast Europe (CESEE). wiiw's Handbook of Statistics and accompanying online data sets allow for a thorough analysis of macroeconomic developments in CESEE during the period 1990-2016, serving as an indispensable tool for analysts, policymakers and journalists.

Headline conclusions from the data presented in wiiw Handbook of Statistics 2017 include:

- **Most of CESEE is growing at a very healthy rate.** Average regional growth was 1.7% in 2016, but this was weighed down by weakness in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Outside of the CIS, all economies grew by more than 2%. Romania was the top performer in the region, growing by 4.6%.
- **The process of economic convergence in most CESEE countries with “old” EU member states has resumed**, but the pace, measured by differentials to the real GDP growth rate in the EU15, is still slower than before the outbreak of global financial crisis.
- **Some countries in the region are getting close to EU28 average per capita income levels, whereas others still trail far behind.** In 2016 the narrowest gap was achieved by Czech Republic with 88.3% of EU28 level (at PPP). The lowest was Ukraine, with just 20.6% of the EU28 level.
- **The main convergence success stories of the last five years have been the Czech Republic, Romania and Lithuania**, which gained 6.0, 5.3 and 5.3 percentage points, respectively, against the EU28 average over the period. **Meanwhile, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine have struggled**, falling back by 15.2, 5.0 and 4.6 percentage points, respectively, versus the EU28 average over the same period.
- **Robust economic performance in large parts of the CESEE region in recent years has been driven primarily by domestic demand.** To a significant extent, rising household consumption has been underpinned by positive developments in the labour market.
- **Foreign direct investment (FDI) in CESEE has risen in recent years, but remains far from the levels seen before the global financial crisis.** Meanwhile CESEE economies are becoming ever more integrated into Western and Central European manufacturing supply chains.
- **In recent years some countries in CESEE have seen quite significant changes in their export structure.** Serbia, for example, has seen both its total exports/GDP ratio rise quickly, and within this a dramatic rise in the share of machinery and transport equipment.

Key features of the 2017 Handbook of Statistics:

- Comprehensive macroeconomic data for 22 countries in CESEE;
- Broad range of indicators, covering growth, labour markets, wages and prices, government accounts, external accounts, finance, and population data;
- Granular breakdowns of key data points, including export structure by product and partner country;
- Data from 1990 to 2016, providing a full overview of the processes of transition and convergence in the region;
- Data are comparable between countries in the region, and with the EU, USA and Japan;
- Ready-made tables and maps for key indicators;
- More extensive and detailed data on peripheral CESEE economies than comparable databases.

Further details:

- **Countries covered:** Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine.
- The wiiw Handbook of Statistics is available in **hardcopy** with the most recent years and in **Excel** format covering the **whole period**.
- The present issue of the Handbook represents already the twenty-third volume in this statistical publication series.

Links:

[Full news article: "Just released: wiiw Handbook of Statistics 2017"](#)

[wiiw Annual Database](#)

[wiiw Forecast November 2017 \(Excel format\)](#)

Contacts:

Mario Holzner, Deputy Director, Tel. 533 66 10-28

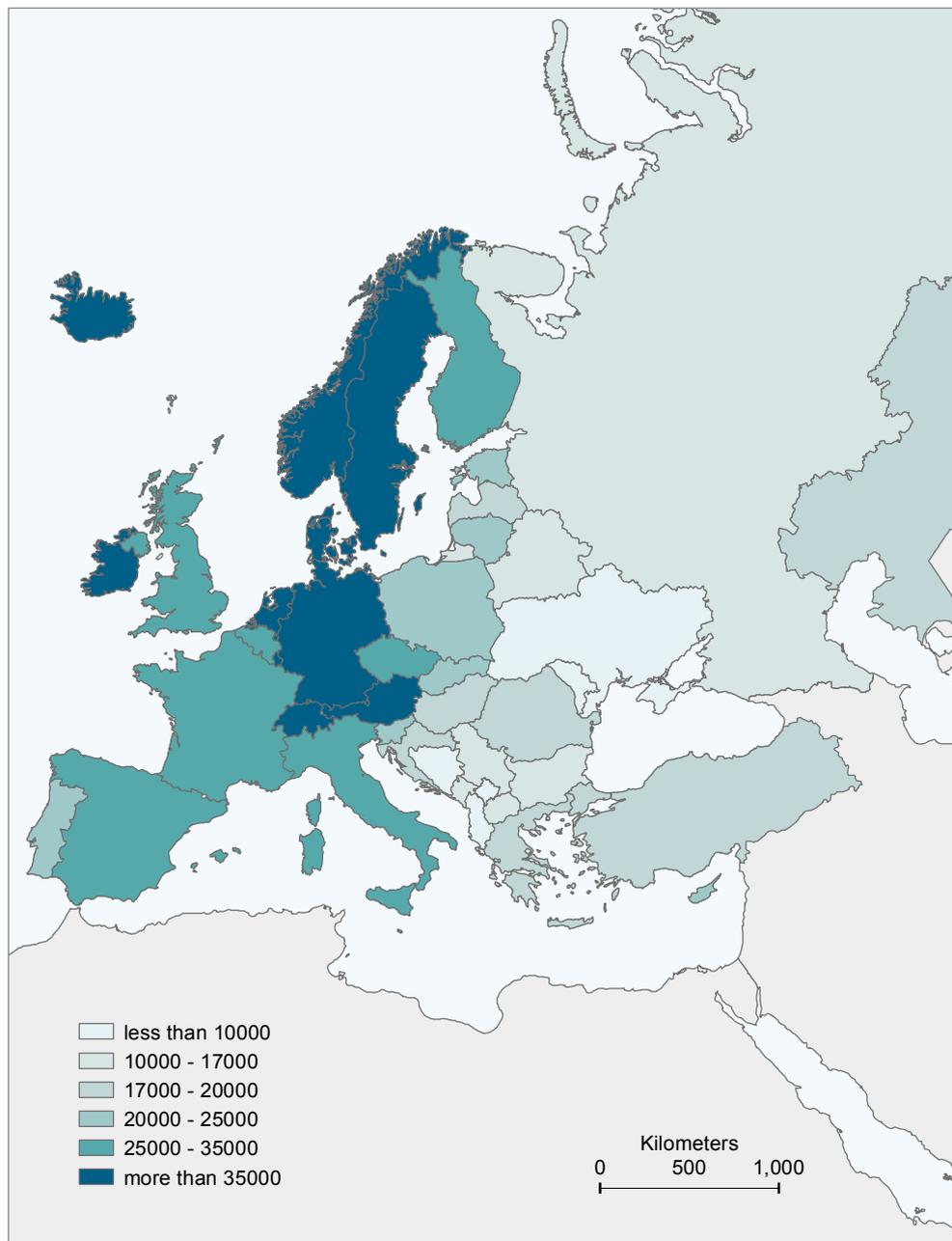
Monika Schwarzhappel, Head of Statistics, Tel. 533 66 10-16

Alexandra Bykova, Statistician, Tel. 533 66 10-

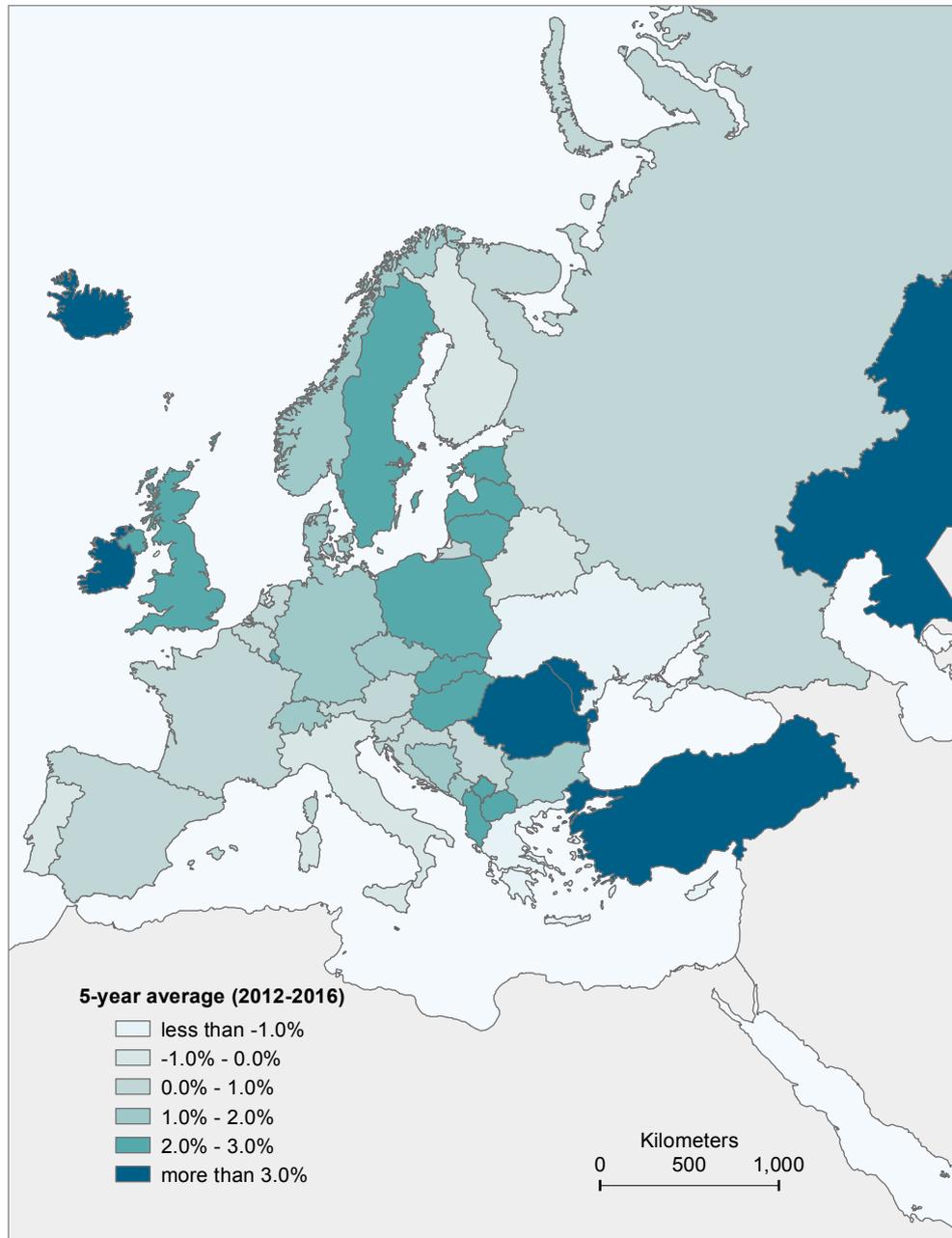
holzner@wiiw.ac.at

schwarzhappel@wiiw.ac.at

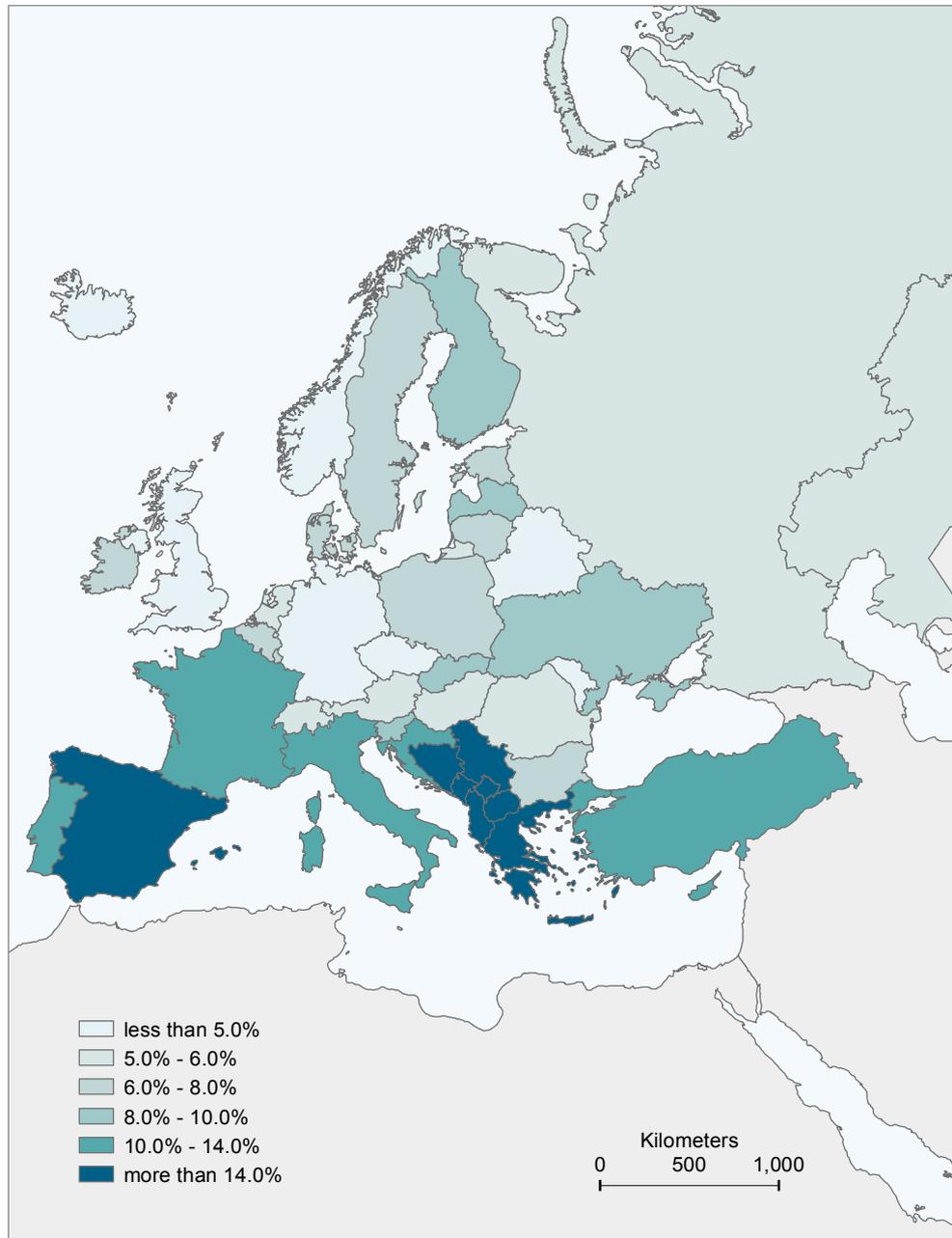
bykova@wiiw.ac.at

Map 1 / Gross domestic product per capita at PPPs, 2016

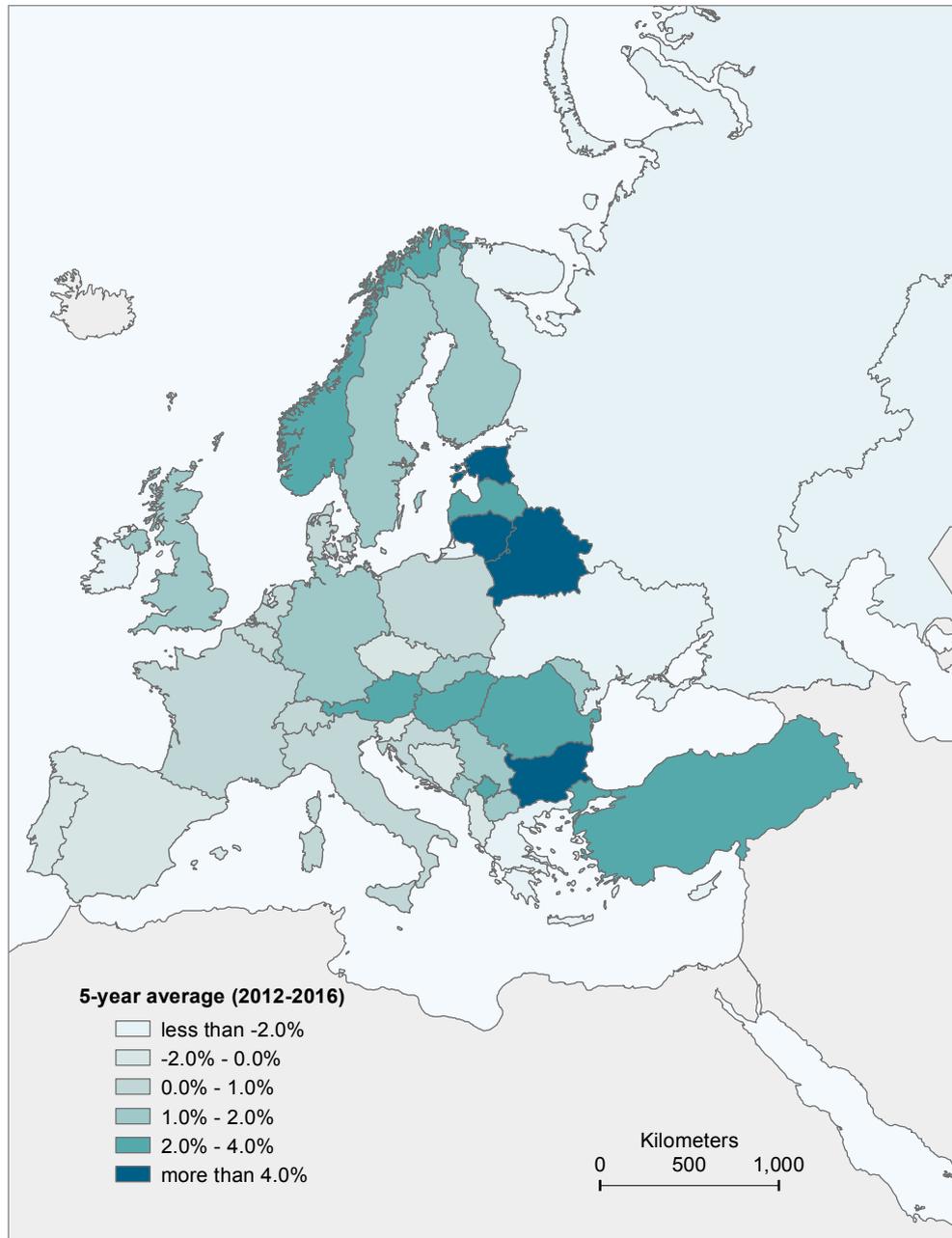
Source: wiiw Handbook of Statistics 2017 incorporating national and Eurostat statistics.

Map 2 / Gross domestic product, real growth in %

Source: wiiw Handbook of Statistics 2017 incorporating national and Eurostat statistics.

Map 3 / Unemployment rate in %, 2016

Source: wiiw Handbook of Statistics 2017 incorporating national and Eurostat statistics.

Map 4 / Unit labour costs, change in %

Source: wiiw Handbook of Statistics 2017 incorporating national and Eurostat statistics.