

PRESS RELEASE

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wiiw ranked third best international economic policy think tank in the world

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) improved its rank from 4th last year in the [Global Go To Think Tank Report 2019](#) of the University of Pennsylvania.

This category lists ‘top think tanks that provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses’ with the aim of ‘advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries’. wiiw was ranked behind only Bruegel (Belgium) and Brookings Institution (United States). In 2012, wiiw was included in this global ranking of think tanks for the first time. Since then, the institute has continuously improved its position, from rank 17 (2012) to 14 (2013), 12 (2014), 5 (2015) and 4 (2016, 2017, 2018).

wiiw is an economics think tank based in Vienna. It focuses on Central, East and Southeast Europe (CESEE) as well as four main thematic areas: macroeconomic analysis and policy; labour, migration and income distribution; international trade, competitiveness and FDI; and regional development. In the last year, wiiw’s contributions to economic policy debates in Europe have included:

- Our proposal for a [European Silk Road](#) and [its financing](#) (used in a [Financial Times](#) editorial and [presented to stakeholders in Brussels](#));
- How to meet the challenges of [demographic decline in the EU and CESEE](#);
- How countries can break free of the middle income trap by focusing on more [knowledge-intensive production activities](#);
- [EU enlargement in the Western Balkans](#);
- How to ensure [economic convergence rather than divergence](#) in Europe;
- [Macroeconomic spill-overs from EU cohesion policy](#);
- [Priorities for the future of EU industrial policy](#);
- [Dissecting the global productivity slowdown](#);
- [Refugee integration in Austria](#) (including focused studies on [different types of integration](#), [mental health](#) and [employment rates](#)).

wiiw has also for several decades been one of the most prominent and [successful](#) providers of macroeconomic forecasts for CESEE. We also took the opportunity in 2019 to look back at how Eastern Europe has changed in the [30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall](#).

wiiw President Hannes Swoboda commented on the new ranking: ‘*This renewed award is proof of the excellent professional work of the staff of wiiw, which receives the highest international recognition for its independent research.*’

wiiw’s Executive Director Mario Holzner, appointed in April 2019, welcomed the results: ‘*It is a great honour for wiiw to be ranked among the top global think tanks. We are constantly improving our work and try hard to be part of the European economic policy discourse. The success of our proposals on*

the European Silk Road in particular shows that the policy community is receptive to new ideas based on solid research and clear guidelines for implementation.'

According to Robert Stehrer, wiiw scientific director, *'this top ranking marks a highly appreciated international distinction of wiiw's goal to provide top-quality evidence-based research in the fields of international economic integration and related policy areas. On the occasion of this achievement I would like to thank all supporters of the institute and my colleagues at wiiw making this possible.'*

The ranking is carried out annually by the [Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program \(TTCSP\)](#) of the Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania. It involved 1,796 peer institutions and experts from academia, journalism, politics and the civil society in a variety of categories. Among the evaluation criteria are not only the quality of research and the reputation of the scientific staff, but also the professionalism of communication and the impact on political decision-making. Peterson Institute for International Economics, the institute ranked first in the last years, was recognised as a Center of Excellence in an own category.

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1. Bruegel (Belgium)
2. Brookings Institution (United States)
3. Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW) (Austria)
4. Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) (Republic of Korea)
5. Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDEJETRO) (Japan)
6. Adam Smith Institute (ASI) (United Kingdom)
7. National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) (United States)
8. RAND Corporation (United States)
9. Chatham House (United Kingdom)
10. Korean Development Institute (KDI) (Republic of Korea)

Source: [Global Go To Think Tank Report 2019](#), University of Pennsylvania