

List of Projects

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Monitoring and Assessing Labor Markets in the Western Balkans

The World Bank

June 2022 - November 2024

Western Balkan economies have persistently performed poorer than their peers from Central, Eastern and South-East Europe. One area where they have been particularly weak is the labor market. In 2021, none of them had an unemployment rate below 10%. In addition, the countries face a pronounced gender gap, high informality, low salaries, with very high rates of poverty among the employed. A massive emigration causes a continuous shrinking of the labor force. On top of these challenges, reliable, consistent, detailed and comparable labor market indicators are missing. For that reason, the World Bank initiated a joint project with the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) which aimed to develop a unique and freely available labour market database. It was also the basis for a joint annual Western Balkans Labor Market Trends Reports that analysed and highlighting key labour market developments in the region. The project was entitled SEE Jobs Gateway and lasted from 2016 to 2020. The key project outcomes are still accessible via the wiiw website. The current project aims to produce annual updates of the labour market database as well as its extension into several new directions. Annual Labour Market Briefs will feature specific topics, such as employment in new foreign direct investment projects, employment by occupations, labour taxation or migration. The complementary activities aim to encourage the wider academic and political community to target their analysis and measures and to engage in an informed debate within the region, the international academic and donor communities.

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

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2023 - December 2023

Das wiiw hat im Rahmen des Joint Vienna Institute (JVI) mehrere Kurse konzipiert und durchgeführt. Diese Kurse richten sich an Entscheidungsträger des öffentlichen Sektors aus den Transformationsländern Südosteuropas und der GUS 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 examined the causes and effects of these "functional specialisation patterns" on the labour market, particularly on wage developments and working conditions. The project combined 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 have been analysed using, inter alia, cluster analyses, panel regression methods and binary choice models. Ultimately, the questions to be answered by this study were: 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?

Impact Assessment study on the Revision of Machinery Directive

The Machinery Directive is the core European legislation for placing on the market products of the mechanical engineering industries. Products covered range from lawn movers to 3D printers, from electrically powered hand-tools to construction machinery, from commercial service robots to complete automated production lines. The study looks whether there is need for specific improvements and specifications of the Directive and whether the Directive is conducive to innovation in digitalisation, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, the new generation of autonomous robots and cybersecurity. The role of wiiw is to provide an economic and market analysis of the machinery sector in Europe and to compare it to that of its major competitor countries.

Territorial challenges, potentials and impacts of transnational cooperation in Central Europe

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE
February 2018 - July 2018

The project analyses the territorial challenges, potentials and impacts of the transnational cooperation programme Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE (CE). It is divided into three tasks:

- Identification of the main territorial challenges and needs of CE,
- Analysis of the impacts and results of transnational cooperation in CE achieved by the CE 2007-2013 and the Interreg CE 2014-2020 programme, illustrated by concrete case studies,
- Outlook and conclusions on the future needs and potentials of transnational cooperation in CE.

Task1 analyses ten main challenges of the CE area, i.e. a) circular economy / environment, b) climate change, c) demographic change / migration, d) digital economy, e) employment / skills, f) energy, g) globalisation / competitiveness, h) governance, i) social situation / social risks and j) transport infrastructure / accessibility. For each challenge the study identifies specific policy areas for which TNC has a high potential to promote regional integration and development and analyses the TNC policy options to address them.

Task 2 analyses the achievements and results of the Interreg CE 2007-2013 the CE 2014-2020 programmes. The **first part** of the task includes a quantitative analysis of the financial, output and outreach and results data as well as a qualitative analysis of the CE 2007-2013 programme's results. The **second part** consists of a survey conducted among 2007-2013 project participants and of 12 case studies providing an in-depth analysis of selected and representative projects of the 2007-2013 period.

Task 3 summarises the results of assesses the key contributions of the CE programmes to tackle the CE region's challenges. It comments on the CE programme's synergies with other EU policies, provides recommendations for the upcoming call for projects of the Interreg CE 2014-2020 programme and gives an outlook of a potential focus of a post-2020 CE programme.

Diagnostic Report for Partner Country Programme (PCP) Kyrgyzstan

UNIDO
August 2017 - November 2017

At the moment, Kyrgyzstan's manufacturing sector is dominated by gold production, creating only a limited number of jobs but putting a heavy burden on the natural environment. Meanwhile, strong and inclusive growth, which would be consistent with the country's long-term objectives (such as those envisaged in the "40 steps to the New Era" government programme) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, would require a stronger emphasis on manufacturing industries such as food and beverages, textiles, and wearing apparel. Their labour-intensive production processes and strong linkages with other sectors, particularly agriculture, could generate badly needed formal jobs and make the country less dependent on the informal sector and the inflow of remittances from abroad. Kyrgyzstan's inexpensive, trainable labour as well as low energy costs are internationally competitive, and represent clear advantages for the growth of such industries. However, these advantages are offset by the low productivity of firms, which tend to be too small and fragmented to reach a productivity level required to compete internationally and still suffer from insufficient access to credit. Besides, the country suffers from major logistical problems for trade, which were found to be greater than in other landlocked countries at a similar development level, such as Moldova and Laos.

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>

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.

The world and Europe in 2030 (AUGUR)

European Commission, 7th Framework Programme

October 2010 - January 2013

The challenge of this project was to capture, within a set of scenarios, the characteristics and implications of a variety of patterns that may occur in 2030 in all domains, be it political, economic, social, environmental or technological in Europe and in the world. The project attempted to take stock of medium to long-term trends identified in demography, environmental changes as well as to feature some of the effects of likely changes in technology and behaviours, but it also took into account important institutional transformations. wiiw was one of seven project partners and acted as the leader of a work-package on the effects of innovation and technology diffusion on growth. wiiw contributed to the elaboration of policy scenarios for EU policy makers, designed to deal with the different economic trajectories. In particular, wiiw contributed papers on foreign direct investment, intellectual property rights, trade specialisation, trade in services and macroeconomic issues.

<http://www.augurproject.eu>

The European neighbourhood - challenges and opportunities for EU competitiveness (Competitiveness Report 2012)

European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

November 2011 - May 2012

This study serves as a background report for the yearly Competitiveness Report of the EC. In order to assess the differences between neighbouring countries with respect to their importance for EU competitiveness, the study first maps the economic situation and competitiveness of each of the Eastern and Southern ENP partner countries, non-candidate EFTA countries, potential candidate countries as well as Russia. The study describes and analysed the economic importance of institutional arrangements and instruments for cooperation between the EU and the above countries. It also explores the economic and trade impact of bilateral agreements and related trade and investment flows including energy, raw materials and other resources between EU Member States. The final part of the study contains a discussion of the challenges and opportunities for EU competitiveness resulting from its different economic relations, institutional arrangements and instruments with its immediate neighbours, as well as the bilateral relations between EU member states and neighbouring countries. The prospects for EU SMEs to expand their activities into neighbouring countries are discussed and conclusions drawn on the basis thereof. The study concludes with policy recommendations stemming from the discussion of challenges and opportunities. wiiw coordinated the study.

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/competitiveness-analysis/european-competitiveness>

