

List of Projects

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EU-Asia relations: technological competition and trade policies in an era of regionalisation

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

June 2023 - May 2026

This project analyses various aspects of EU-Asia relationships (with a focus on East and Southeast Asia; E-SE Asia). It addresses two main aspects which characterise current global economic developments: a tendency towards competing regional integration ('regionalisation') and fiercer technological competition. It analyses intra- and interregional research collaborations of firms, the positioning of EU and E-SE Asian countries in terms of the functional specialisation of global value chains, technology spillovers from eMNCs (multinationals from emerging E-SE Asian economies) and aMNCs (multinationals from advanced economies) to domestic EU firms, the roles of competing trade policy arrangements and technological complementarity in regional vs. inter-regional integration processes, the impact of different trade policy designs on trade structures in the context of industry-specific technology catching-up and leap-frogging, and global and regional competition between regulatory standards.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18833).

Capacity Building for Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe: Development, organisation, implementation and evaluation of seminars at the Joint Vienna Institute (wiiw Team Leader)

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2025 - December 2025

On behalf of the Austrian authorities - the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Oesterreichische Nationalbank - wiiw develops and organizes specialized training programs within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These courses are designed for public sector decision-makers and policymakers from transition economies in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The 2025 program will offer courses on key economic and policy challenges, including Competitiveness, Growth, and Crisis; Public Governance and Structural Reforms; Public Policies for the Green and Digital Transition; Foreign Direct Investment Policies; and Crisis and Resilience. Additionally, a dedicated segment on Austrian political and economic issues will be integrated into the Applied Economic Policy Course.

Towards a world integrated and Socio-economically balanced European economic development scenario (TWIN SEEDS)

European Commission, Horizon Europe

October 2022 - September 2025

The objective of the TWIN SEEDS project is to investigate changes in international trade and production patterns, specifically in global value chains (GVCs), both those of a longer-term nature (driven by the "twin seeds": technological developments and geo-political changes) and those that are taking place in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The project will examine the impacts of these changes on employment, job quality, social and regional cohesion, on patterns of growth and competitiveness, as well as their environmental implications. The analysis will provide the basis to map out forward-looking policy scenarios (including trade and investment, industrial, regional, education/training and social policies) that allow Europe to secure decent work and working conditions, rapid progress towards resource-efficiency and decarbonisation, security of supply for strategic goods and sustainable, inclusive and competitive growth in the years to come. The research will be based on a thorough multi-level (global, national, regional, sectoral, firm level) research framework, relying on a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, on multidisciplinary knowledge (international economists and trade policy experts, regional economists,

international business and organisational experts, political scientists) and on an extensive stakeholder engagement.

How can economic instruments of climate policy be directed through foreign direct investment?

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

October 2022 - June 2025

The mechanism through which the policy maker can foster novel green and environmental technologies via FDI is the main focus of the project. It comprehensively studies this by analysing in three work packages how FDI is determined in the EU and how it can help to diffuse technology. The first work package analyses which factors at the three levels of region, industry and firm determine FDI in firms located in the EU. The second work package analyses how FDI affects productivity growth and employment growth at both the firm level and the regional sector level. In the third work package the diffusion of knowledge, technology and know-how of FDI is analysed, which could lead to green and environmental innovation and finally patenting of these technologies. In both the second and the third work package the indirect impact of FDI on domestically owned firms is analysed separately from the impact of FDI on the whole regional sector, including foreign-owned firms.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18800).

The implications of a decarbonisation and competitiveness plan for EU member states *(wiiw Team Leader)*

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

November 2024 - April 2025

Competitiveness has emerged as a focal point of debate in the EU. The centrality of this debate is testified by the task assigned to Mario Draghi directly by the Commission President to produce a report on the future of European competitiveness. The key messages and some of the ideas from the Draghi Report are reflected in the Competitiveness Compass and the Clean Industrial Deal. Among the other ideas, the Draghi Report proposes a joint decarbonisation-competitiveness plan to capitalise on the decarbonisation push. Given the heterogeneous production structures and capabilities of EU Member States, this plan presents distinct challenges and opportunities for each EU country. Building on these considerations, this project reflects on the proposal of a joint decarbonisation-competitiveness plan. It discusses what this plan could mean for different EU Member States and how various countries may be affected by it.

The spatial impact of EU policies

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

October 2023 - January 2025

The objective of this study is to assess the impact of the EU initiatives and policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, the European Research and Innovation policy (Horizon 2020), the EU Emissions Trading System etc., on economic and social cohesion in the EU. The results of the study will contribute to the current discussion on the reform of EU Cohesion policy by providing insights into: • potential cohesion trade-offs, synergies and complementarities between EU Cohesion policy and other EU policies and initiatives • how to further develop the “do no harm to cohesion” principle and • how Territorial Impact Assessments can be further developed to improve policy coordination. These aspects will be explored not only through the lens of territories, but also that of social groups, thereby investigating whether the reduction of inter-regional disparities goes hand-in-hand with the reduction of intra-regional inequalities. The consortium under leadership of wiiw will also analyse funds disbursed under regional State aid, with a particular attention to the amounts of aid channelled to EU regions under this regime to enhance regional development.

Export diversification strategy for Venezuela *(wiiw Team Leader)*

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

October 2023 - December 2024

This project aimed to design a sustainable diversification strategy for Venezuela and industrial policies to support the identified products and processes. In the framework of this project, wiiw analysed the export structure of Venezuela using the product space methodology and identified new export opportunities through a thorough analysis that involved the product space metrics and additional indicators on linkages, employment, export markets, and foreign exchange.

Capacity building for Central, East and Southeast Europe: Joint Vienna Institute

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance
January 2024 - December 2024

For more than two decades, wiiw designed and organised courses within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These courses were aimed at decision-makers in the public sector and policy-makers from transition countries in South-Eastern Europe and the CIS. In 2024, courses were held on the following topics: Competitiveness, Growth and Crisis; Public Governance and Structural Reforms; Public-and Private Cooperation for the Green and Digital Transition; Foreign Direct Investment Policies; Crisis and Resilience; and a segment on Austrian political and economic issues within the Applied Economic Policy Course.

Green Transition (*wiiw Team Leader*)
Kontext Institut
April 2024 - May 2024

Green technologies hold great potential for the European economy. Faced with the active use of green industrial policies in China and the US, Europe cannot sit back and observe the unfolding of this 'green race'. A deeper EU involvement in the production of green technologies could create new business opportunities and ignite a new wave of innovations and investment. Similarly, in the face of escalating environmental degradation and the imperative of mitigating climate change, nations grapple with the intricate interplay between economic growth and environmental sustainability. In such context, understanding the vulnerabilities and resilience of industries emerges as a pivotal consideration. This project analysed the impact on GDP and employment of reshoring to the EU the production of five major green technologies (photovoltaics, wind turbines, batteries, electric motors and electric vehicles) and the resilience of low carbon intensity (LCI) versus high carbon intensity (HCI) industries of the Austrian economy, examining the impact of energy price shocks on real gross value added (GVA) and employment within both LCI and HCI industries.

Toward innovation-driven growth: innovation systems and policies in EU member states of Central Eastern Europe

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
September 2023 - March 2024

In this study, we pursued five main objectives: (1) Communicate in an understandable manner what type of innovation systems and policies promote the cultivation of domestic innovative capabilities, and enhance the technological competitiveness of economies. We made reference to best practice examples from around the world, drawing on the literature on policy initiatives implemented by successful innovators. (2) Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current innovation climate of EU-CEE countries, taking into account the implications arising from the current megatrends. (3) Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of the innovation policy landscape of EU-CEE countries, highlighting such policy initiatives which can provide a basis for mutual learning. The scope of the EU-CEE policy landscape covers national initiatives on the one hand, and framework conditions and opportunities arising from EU industrial and technology policy initiatives on the other hand. (4) Propose a set of concrete policy recommendations that would promote innovation-driven growth in EU-CEE countries. (5) Keeping in mind the shared challenges and opportunities of the EU-CEE region overall, tailor the findings to each country's specific development needs and capabilities.

GROW Fellowships 2023
European Commission, DG Grow
January 2023 - December 2023

This fellowship programme aimed to support DG GROW in its analysis and policy making in the areas of industrial, trade and innovation policy, as well as policies related to market integration and, more generally, mission-oriented policy design.

Where are the growth potentials? The sectors that can boost convergence in CESEE

Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB)
June 2023 - November 2023

Central Eastern European Countries (CEE, ie EU member countries of Central Eastern Europe) are in need of assessing their economic convergence process and identify their future drivers of growth, in terms of sectors, technologies and skills. It is key for CEE economies to upgrade their productions and remain competitive despite declining cost advantages. This analysis will be the result of a cooperation between the Austrian National Bank

(OeNB), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw). wiiw will contribute to the report with an analysis on "Export structures to identify promising sectors" and will also provide inputs, expertise and comments and actively participate in the exchange and discussions during the project.

Capacity building for Central, East and Southeast Europe: Joint Vienna Institute

Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance

January 2014 - December 2022

For more than two decades, wiiw has been organising courses within the framework of the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI). These courses are aimed at decision-makers in the public sector and policy-makers from transition countries in Southeastern Europe and the CIS. wiiw organised six courses in 2022 and was responsible for the entire conception and implementation of these seminars as well as for the selection of the participants.