

# List of Projects

## Sebastian Leitner

### **Labour Market Inequalities in Times of Structural Change**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*April 2024 - September 2026*

The project addresses a number of crucial challenges faced by European labour markets at this testing time, when there is a major structural shift in job characteristics, task composition, the required skill sets of workers and, consequently, labour-market equality and efficiency. Different socio-demographic groups are adjusting to the imminent shift at varying speeds, depending on their skills and competencies, the specific job tasks they fulfil, their preferences for certain job characteristics, and the diverse obstacles, extent of discrimination and inequalities they face on the labour market. This project aims to analyse how the structural shift in the task composition of jobs, the job skill demands and the skill profiles of workers, as well as the labour-market challenges presented by the war, impact on inequalities across socio-demographic groups (men/women, immigrants/natives, younger/older workers) in a number of core labour-market outcomes.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18934).

### **Production and analysis of the Skills Forecast**

*European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)*

*July 2020 - July 2024*

Cedefop, since 2005, has developed a methodological framework to estimate projections for the skills demand and supply across EU Member States. The main objective of this contract is to produce regular Skills Forecasts, consistent in scope and level of detail with the previous releases, and analyse the results producing high quality outputs. A consortium led by Cambridge Econometrics (and with wiiw as a partner) is producing and further developing these forecasts from the beginning and has won all consecutive contracts so far.

### **Carbon Intensive Regions in Transition - Unravelling the Challenges of Structural Change (CINTRAN)**

*European Commission, Horizon 2020*

*May 2020 - April 2024*

In order to meet the climate change mitigation objectives of the European Union as well as the objectives of the Paris Agreement, it is inevitable that the European Union phases out fossil fuel consumption in the power sector and decarbonizes fossil-fuel dependent industries. However, if not managed well, such a structural change may cause serious economic impacts, societal upheaval, aggravated social inequalities and hardship. To minimize such consequences it is necessary to better understand the patterns and dynamics of structural change in response to decarbonization at the regional level, to understand which parameters determine the pace of transformation as well as the capacity of regional actors to adapt and pro-actively create alternative structures. This project aims to enable these activities through highly integrated, inter- and transdisciplinary research working in close collaboration with regional stakeholders. It combines quantitative model-based research with qualitative in-depth analysis. The qualitative research will focus on four highly fossil-fuel dependent regions: Western Macedonia (Greece), Silesia (Poland), Ida-Virumaa (Estonia) and the Rhenish mining area (Germany). The diversity of these regions will enable the project to derive generalizable insights about the patterns and dynamics of decarbonization and the corresponding structural adjustments that hold relevance for all carbon-intensive regions in the EU and its neighbouring countries.

<https://coaltransitions.org/projects/cintran/>

## **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 follow-up study building upon prior analyses of a new growth model for EU-CEE countries, our objectives are fivefold: (1) To explain in accessible terms the types of innovation systems and policies that foster the development of domestic innovation capabilities, drawing on global best practice. (2) To conduct a critical evaluation of the current innovation landscape in EU-CEE countries, considering the impacts of ongoing green and digital megatrends. (3) To assess the strengths and weaknesses of innovation policies within EU-CEE countries, encompassing both national initiatives and opportunities stemming from EU industrial and technology policy frameworks. (4) To formulate a set of actionable policy recommendations aimed at fostering innovation-driven growth in the EU-CEE countries, thereby increasing productivity and resource efficiency. These recommendations will be tailored to the medium-term timeframe and take into account the political and historical context of the EU-CEE countries. (5) To tailor the findings of the study to the specific development needs and opportunities of each country through the preparation of country-specific briefing notes, while remaining mindful of the common challenges and opportunities across the EU-CEE region.

## **Labour market trajectories of refugees and other migrants**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*January 2021 - June 2023*

In view of the large influx of refugees into Austria between 2014 and 2016 and the substantial socio-cultural and economic integration challenges this poses, the project analyses some particular aspects of labour market integration of refugees in Austria. It uses two unique longitudinal databases which provide information on refugee integration over time, namely a newly constructed database provided by Statistics Austria ('Register-based Labour Market data') for the period 2015-2021 as well as five successive survey rounds among refugees in Austria (FIMAS) which have been conducted over the period 2016-2022. It sheds light on refugees' job stability and mobility across different labour market statuses, their home-to-host country occupational trajectories and associated status losses and gains, the impact of public integration programmes on the likelihood of finding employment, and the role of specific stressors and resilience factors for refugees' mental health.

## **Framework contract for studies in the field of Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research, Culture and Digital Single Market (Lot 1 - Social and Employment Policy)**

*Committee of the Regions*

*July 2022 - June 2023*

The purpose of this framework contract is to enhance the European Committee of the Regions' capacity to provide input into the policy-making process by a) increasing its rapid response capability, b) allowing a broader consultation of local and regional players, c) offering the possibility of drawing up specific opinions on topics of current interest, d) making databases and knowledge built up by research centres and universities accessible for the evaluation of policies, e) improve its capacity to prepare outlook opinions in the context of the Cooperation Protocol with the European Commission, f) use Territorial Impact Assessments as valuable tools for complementing Commission ex ante impact assessments and g) strengthen the capacity and increase the activity in foresight analysis of regional and local developments. The framework contract focuses on social and employment policies that will be addressed from the perspective of local and regional authorities. wiw is leading a consortium with Spatial Foresight and t33.

## **Auswirkungen der Corona-Pandemie auf den niederösterreichischen Arbeitsmarkt (wiw Team Leader)**

*AMS-NÖ*

*September 2021 - December 2022*

Trotz der breit eingesetzten Unterstützungsmaßnahmen hat die Pandemie nicht nur in der EU im Allgemeinen, sondern auch in Österreich einen sprunghaften Anstieg der Arbeitslosenzahlen mit sich gebracht. Die Gefahr einer sich verfestigenden, strukturellen Arbeitslosigkeit ist dabei ungleichmäßig über verschiedene Gruppen von Arbeitnehmern und Branchen verteilt. Eine genaue Analyse der Auswirkungen der COVID-19-Krise war somit notwendig, um die Konzeption der eingesetzten arbeitsmarktpolitischen Maßnahmen zu unterstützen. Dies ermöglichte insbesondere eine Anpassung der Förderinstrumente (Schulungen, Eingliederungshilfen, etc.) auf regionale Erfordernisse, wie im Falle von Niederösterreich. Somit konnte die Erholung am Arbeitsmarkt erleichtert sowie ein vorhandener und eventuell beschleunigter Strukturwandel im Sinne der Beschäftigten positiv begleitet

und unterstützt werden.

### **Industrial Policy for a New Growth Model: A toolbox for EU-CEE countries**

*Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

*July 2022 - December 2022*

The Central Eastern European member states of the EU (EU-CEE) marked impressive advancements in their socio-economic developments over the past decades and can be even regarded as one of the most dynamic regions in Europe. The countries' EU membership as well as their deep integration into regional and global value chains (GVCs) played a crucial role in this catch-up process. However, the period following the Great Recession has seen unimpressive labour productivity growth along with a somewhat slower, in some cases even derailed, convergence process. In the light of EU-CEE's positioning as 'factory economies' and their struggle to occupy the more sophisticated stages of manufacturing value chains, the key challenge faced by the region is to occupy higher value-added activities within the value chain. This study aims to strategically evaluate the countries' policy options in achieving this goal, and to design an appropriate industrial policy toolkit for them, taking full account of the ongoing megatrends. It aims to guide policy makers in making the best possible use of the available policy space and taking full advantage of EU membership, while at the same time steering the industrial policy discussions at the EU-level to one that better fits the position and capabilities of the EU-CEE. The study defines industrial policy in the EU context and explores lessons learned from past successful industrialisers. It maps the EU-CEE's industrial development, with a particular focus on green and digital aspects, in order to identify most promising growth areas, along with key areas of vulnerability. Subsequently, it dives deep into the discussion of flagship industrial policy instruments and discusses how they could be more effectively deployed in EU-CEE.

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

*Austrian Chamber of Labour*

*January 2022 - November 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.

### **Demographic and economic development in Central and East European countries (CEECs)**

*City of Vienna*

*September 2021 - June 2022*

The population of the city of Vienna has been rising continuously since the mid-2000s. Between 2005 and 2020, the population increased by 17%, mainly due to a positive migration balance. In addition to immigration from Germany and the Near and Middle East, immigration from the Central and Eastern European EU countries (EU CEEC), which has increased significantly since these countries joined the EU, but especially since the opening of the Austrian labour market (2011, 2013 and 2020), plays an important role. Since 2019, however, Vienna has seen a decline of immigration from Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo, Slovakia and Poland and since 2020 also from Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. The project aims to update the earlier wiiw study 'Population and Economic Development in Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC)' by analysing the migration potential from the EU CEECs, as well as from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia to Vienna. It thereby provides an empirical basis for the city's population forecasts and labour market analyses.

### **CEEC-8: How do politics, economy and society deal with labor shortages?**

*Austrian Chamber of Labour*

*January 2020 - October 2020*

The aim of this project is to investigate the incipient labor shortage in the CEEC-8 (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary). Due to decades of emigration, the working age population is falling dramatically. The supply and demand for work will balance each other out in the years to come. How do politics, business and society deal with this phenomenon? The study targets to provide a detailed overview of how

the state, companies, trade unions and the labor force in the region react to the labor shortage and what leeway there is for economic policy. The historical analogies to similar situations in the post-war period should also be drawn, as well as the political economy of labor shortages should be analyzed.

### **ArBeEi International - Grundlagen- und angewandte Arbeitsmarktanalysen**

*Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMASGK)*

*July 2017 - June 2020*

Der Prozess der Globalisierung sowie die zunehmende Integration Europas stellen den Arbeitsmarkt in Österreich vor große Herausforderungen. Zunehmende wirtschaftliche Verflechtungen (v.a. über Handel, Direktinvestitionen, Offshoring, Migration) haben erhebliche Auswirkungen auf die Bedingungen am Arbeitsmarkt, auf Lohn- und Einkommensentwicklungen und Beschäftigungsstrukturen. Evidenzbasierte Handlungsempfehlungen für die Wirtschaftspolitik im Allgemeinen und die Arbeitsmarktpolitik im Besonderen erfordern daher eine Analyse mit einer internationalen und vergleichenden Perspektive. Für Österreich bedeutet das, die arbeitsmarktrelevanten Entwicklungen seiner Nachbarländer, v.a. der mittel- und osteuropäischen Nachbarn, der Beitrittskandidaten und der EU Nachbarregionen genau zu analysieren, und natürlich auch eine globale Perspektive zu entwickeln. Dieses vom österreichischen Sozialministerium beauftragte Forschungsprojekt beschäftigt sich mit diesen Themen. Es ist auf drei Jahre angelegt und in vier Teilbereiche gegliedert: (1) Technologie, Globalisierung und Konvergenz in der EU, (2) Mobilität von Arbeitskräften und Migrationstrends, (3) Konjunktur, Beschäftigung und Arbeitslosigkeit und (4) institutionelle Rahmenbedingungen und deren Effekte auf Wachstum, Beschäftigung und Ungleichheit.

### **Production of skills supply and demand forecasts**

*European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)*

*July 2016 - June 2020*

Within this framework contract, a consortium led by Cambridge Economics produces regular updates of the skills supply and demand forecasts for CEDEFOP, further develops the forecasting methodology, and proposes additional models. wiiw is collaborating with the other project partners on all of these issues.

### **Wage developments in the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine**

*Austrian Chamber of Labour*

*January 2019 - July 2019*

The objective of this study is to analyse wage developments in six Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia), Moldova and Ukraine - a region that is of particular importance for Austria. The still difficult labour market situation in this region is insofar astonishing, as it experienced a massive emigration over the past years and is characterized by a demographic decline. The central question therefore is why the unemployment in this peripheral part of Europe is so persistent and how this relates to the growth of wages and labour productivity. The study will also develop policy conclusions that might help to positively stimulate economic development in the region and to provide its citizens with a long term perspective.

### **Integration of recent refugees and third country nationals into the Austrian labour market**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*October 2016 - June 2019*

The aim of this project was to investigate the opportunities and challenges of integrating refugees and migrants in the Austrian labour market. A particular focus of the analysis was to follow the dynamics of labour market integration, building on a variety of longitudinal databases, including our own survey (FIMAS) covering recent refugees/asylum seekers as well as register-based labour market career data from Statistics Austria. The aim was to follow the experiences of different groups of refugees and migrants coming from different countries of origin with their specific personal characteristics, social contexts and participations in various policy programmes. Analytically, labour market integration was analysed along a number of different dimensions of integration (such as social network formation, cultural integration, integration into the health and other aspects of the welfare system, training and educational integration, etc) to check how these interact to facilitate or hinder labour market integration. An important part of the project addressed the vulnerability of refugees to mental health problems and identified the effect of stressors and resilience factors on their mental health situation. Various state-of-the-art statistical methods were applied to analyse the heterogeneity of experiences, effectiveness of policy programmes and interaction between different dimensions of integration.

## **Study supporting the Evaluation of the Council Recommendation of 15 Feb 2016 on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
February 2018 - April 2019*

The purpose of this project was to carry out an external and independent study to support the evaluation of the actions taken in response to the Council Recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed (LTU) into the labour market. It covered actions undertaken in Member States and by the European Commission in response to the LTU Recommendation. The evaluation assessed to which extent the general and specific objectives have been achieved, i.e. to which extent the transitions from unemployment to employment improved, how the support for the long-term unemployed has evolved and to which extent transitions to employment are sustainable. wiiw carried out this study together with Ramboll and SEOR as part of a framework contract with DG Employment. wiiw was responsible for a mapping of changes in legislation, active measures and service delivery in all EU Member States between 2015 and 2018, and was also involved in the preparation of several case studies.

## **Wage developments in Central and East European EU Member States**

*Austrian Chamber of Labour  
January 2018 - March 2018*

The aim of the project is to describe the wage developments in eight EU countries of Central and Eastern Europe that are of major importance for Austria (EU-CEE-8: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia), to analyse their determinants and to derive policy recommendations. These are to assist in providing a positive stimulus to the EU-CEE-8 economies and to offer a long-term perspective for the population. Particular focus is put on the wage share in the EU-CEE-8 countries, which has recently started to rise again. Nevertheless, the question arises why wage growth has not been even stronger in view of the tightening labour market in the region, with most countries recording shortages of labour/skilled workers. This is the central research question of the project.

## **Factors driving wealth inequality in European countries (wiiw Team Leader)**

*Austrian Chamber of Labour  
December 2016 - November 2017*

The study analyses how microeconomic factors drive the inequality in household wealth across nine European countries applying the Shapley value approach to decomposition. The research draws on micro data from the Eurosystem Household Finance and Consumption Survey 2014. Disparity in inheritance and gifts obtained by households are found to have a considerable effect on wealth inequality that is on average stronger than the one of income differences and other factors. In Austria, Germany, France and Spain the contribution of real and financial assets received as bequests or inter-vivos transfers to wealth inequality attains more or almost 30%. However, also the distribution of household characteristics (age, education, size, number of adults and children in the household, marital status) within countries shapes the observed wealth dispersion. The study also provides an overview of different inheritance tax regimes in selected European countries and the United States. It finds that in the majority of countries the tax rate depends on the relationship between bequeather and inheritor as well as the value of the inherited assets. Due to an increase in private wealth and its concentration over time, the authors furthermore expect an increase in inheritance tax revenues in the future.

## **Support of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) to the implementation of the Country Specific Recommendations and to structural reforms in Member States**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
December 2015 - February 2017*

The study aims to produce evidence which can be used to support the implementation of the current programmes as well as the preparation of post-2020 ESIF programming. The study will focus on the relationships between structural reforms, linked to Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) proposed as part of the European Semester, and the strategic design and implementation of the ESI Funds. The role of the ESI Funds in promoting and supporting the reforms will be examined in depth, with particular attention on the impact of two of the novelties introduced in 2014-2020: the ex-ante conditionalities and thematic objective 11 on Enhancing Institutional Capacity of Public Authorities and Efficient Public Administration.

## **Labour market development of Austria and East Europe in Comparison**

*Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMASGK)*

*November 2016 - December 2016*

The aim of the project is to find an answer to the question why Austria has fallen back within the European unemployment ranking lately and how the comparable development was in the MOEL. Thereby macroeconomic (change of the situation of the labour market because of different growth rates in the countries and the role of the wage policy in the MOEL, approach of the wage level as implication of the catching-up process) and demographic aspects (demographic aspects and changes of the participation on the labour market and the role of emigration respectively immigration for the development of the labour force at the age from 14-64) are considered in a more precise way as well as institutional factors (proficiency level of the unemployment insurance respectively the social welfare and its impact on the unemployment rate, activity in the informal sector, role of the mostly liberal labour markets in the MOEL and role of other institutional factors).

### **Smart Public Intangibles (SPINTAN)**

*European Commission, 7th Framework Programme  
December 2013 - November 2016*

The SPINTAN project extends both the theoretical and the empirical approach introduced by Corrado, Hulten and Sichel (2005, 2009) including the Public Sector intangibles in their analytical framework in different complementary directions. The main outcomes were: (1) A Public Sector Intangibles Database for a wide set of European Union (EU) countries, supplemented by some large non EU countries complementing the harmonised intangible measures developed by INTAN Invest. (2) Analysis of the key issues with regard to the boundaries of public intangibles between various public and private categories, such as R&D, skill formation and IT investment. New ways to measure Public Sector intangible capital services, and especially the rate of return on public intangibles, were developed. (3) Analysis of the impact of Public Sector intangibles on innovation, well being and "smart" growth. The project paid special attention to the consequences of austerity policies, i.e. the project measures the impact on intangible assets investment of the austerity policies after the crisis and quantifies its impact on growth and well being. The SPINTAN Project was carried out by 12 European partners and two non European Associated Members that joined in the first months of the project. wiiw was involved in the methodological and conceptual work to identify the relevant assets and has provided data for the new Member States and Austria to produce the envisaged cross-country harmonised database of public sector intangibles. It also contributed to the work on spillovers from intangibles and on austerity & recovery, focusing on the effects of government spending in an international input-output framework.

<http://www.spintan.net>

### **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>

### **Recent patterns of labour mobility in the European Union**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank  
July 2013 - March 2015*

In the EU the level of labour mobility is comparably low, but rising due to intensified labour market flexibility and increasing migration flows. The project analysed changing patterns of labour mobility in a detailed manner in the countries, regions and economic sectors of the EU by applying a descriptive and an econometric approach. A specific focus was put on whether international migrants respond more flexibly to labour market demands. Moreover, the effects of external shocks during the financial and economic crisis on the scale and structure of labour mobility was analysed. The project drew on two micro-datasets: the EU labour force survey for performing a worker flow analysis and the MICRO-DYN database, which provides data based on EU-wide firm-level data to perform a job flow analysis. In the econometric approach we applied regional, country, sectoral and workers characteristics to detect the reasons for differences in the European wide map of labour mobility.

**Auswertung der HFCS Daten im Europavergleich. Immobilienvermögen, Verschuldung, nettovermögenslose und eigenheimbesitzende Haushalte** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*The Chamber of Labour (AK Wien)*

*December 2013 - November 2014*

The aim of the study is to describe the situation of household asset and debt holdings and the distribution thereof in the countries of the eurozone and to provide a comparison between those. The analysis is based on data from the Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS). The analysis focuses particularly on two groups of households, those without or with negative net wealth holdings and those households being proprietor of their home. Recent research on the topic has first and foremost dealt with the situation in the US. Moreover, the study discusses the relevance of real estate assets for households in a broader sense.

**Energy efficiency and EU industrial competitiveness: energy costs and their impact on manufacturing activity (Competitiveness Report 2014)**

*European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry*

*October 2014 - November 2014*

This study serves as a background report for the annual European Competitiveness Report of the European Commission (DG ENTR). The European Commission is currently in the process of preparing a new energy and climate framework for the period up to 2030. For this purpose, DG ENTR has commissioned a study which should provide a comparative analysis of the impact of changing energy costs on EU industrial competitiveness at country and sectoral level, and vis-à-vis its main external competitors (the United States, Japan, China and Russia), with a view to identifying future trends in production and energy efficiency strategies. While the recent gains in energy efficiency in the EU manufacturing sector have been impressive, the gap in energy prices between the EU and the USA has widened, which might potentially undermine EU industrial competitiveness, particularly in energy-intensive sectors. To a large extent, the study relies on data from the latest version of the World Input-Output Database (WIOD).

**Study on various aspects of earnings distribution using micro-data from the European Union Structure of Earnings Survey**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*June 2013 - January 2014*

This study contributed to a better understanding of the question as to what extent employment contract types, gender and skills affect the structure of earnings across industries and EU Member States. The study covered the 27 Member States, EEA countries (Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway), Accession, candidate and pre-candidate countries (Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey) for which data are available and highlight similarities and differences between them, as well as developments at the level of the European Union. To address this question, use has been made of the 2002, 2006 and 2010 release of the SES anonymized micro-data.

**Crisis effects: growth prospect, social impact and policy responses in SEE and CIS**

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*July 2011 - June 2013*

The main objective of the project is to establish economic research capacities throughout Southeast Europe (SEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to promote knowledge transfer into the regions, to facilitate networking between researchers and to assist in securing knowledge transfer from researchers to policy makers. Activities to achieve this include research calls, mentoring, workshops, conferences and policy dialogues. The project is structured into bi-annual research cycles focusing on a specific research theme of particular importance. During this phase, research aims at analysing whether the international crisis shock introduces structural breaks in the distribution of income and other welfare dimensions, conditional on the change in the potential speed of growth, the quality of development, and the induced or adopted policy changes in SEE and CIS. The project is part of the Global Development Network (GDN), a multilateral organisation founded by the World Bank in which wiiw acts as a hub for SEE.

**Multidimensional inequality and poverty in the EU considering polarisation and social mobility** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*September 2010 - July 2012*

The project contributes to cross-country inequality and poverty research on income and well-being as well as on income polarisation. Part 1 provides a regression-based decomposition analysis of income inequality and poverty in the EU. The research, based on EU-SILC data, allows identifying micro- and macro-level determinants of social stratification. In Part 2 the analysis is broadened to multidimensional inequality and poverty, detecting sources of dispersion of well-being. Part 3 goes beyond the static examination of poverty and inequality by looking at intergenerational mobility and inequality and poverty persistence. Part 4 presents a multi-level analysis of macro- and microeconomic determinants of income polarisation in the EU, which is also based on EU-SILC data.

### **World Input-Output Database (WIOD)**

*European Commission, 7th Framework Programme*

*May 2010 - April 2012*

WIOD aimed to develop databases, accounting frameworks and models for policy-makers who are facing increasing and pressing trade-offs between socio-economic growth and environmental problems. The core of the database is a set of harmonised supply and use tables, alongside with data on international trade in goods and services. These two sets of data have been integrated into sets of inter-country input-output tables. Taken together with extensive satellite accounts with environmental and socio-economic indicators, these industry-level data provided the necessary input to several types of models used to evaluate policies aimed at striking a suitable balance between growth, environmental degradation and inequality across the world. wiiw led two work packages in this project: (1) WP2 „International Trade Data“ and (2) WP8: „Application of the database: Socio-Economic Aspects“. The institute also contributed to WP3 „Estimation of inter-country input output tables“ and to WP5 „Satellite Accounts: Socio-Economic Indicators“.

<http://www.wiod.org>

### **Monitoring of sectoral employment**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*December 2010 - April 2012*

The aim of the study was to provide a comprehensive collection and a long-term analysis of key sectoral data with a view to identifying and monitoring sectoral employment developments and inter-dependencies. The impact of the crisis has been analysed for a representative set of sectors, paying special attention to issues such as flexicurity, skills, outsourcing and restructuring, labour productivity, technological change. wiiw coordinated this project in collaboration with Applica and with support from various local experts.

### **EuropeAid MIDWEB**

*EuropeAid*

*February 2011 - February 2012*

In order to facilitate the access of potential migrants from the Western Balkans (WB) to the labour markets in the EU, and potential returnees' access to the labour markets, this project developed a database of skills per sector needed for each country in the WB. In cooperation with the national employment services and the national statistical offices, a list of skills per sector has been compiled. These lists targeted principally the émigrés from the WB who consider return to their homeland as an option in their migratory experience, but also potential migrants from the region that would consider working in another country in the WB. In addition, a similar list was compiled for each WB country but with skills per sector needed in the main countries of destination from the EU to serve potential migrants from WB countries. All these lists were incorporated in a database accessible via the Migrants Service Centres's website. The data is available also to those who approach the MSCs in person as well as to policy-makers. wiiw was responsible for task 1.2 'Develop databases of skills per sector needed in the EU and in the Western Balkans'.

### **Evaluation of the reaction of the ESF to the economic and financial crisis**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*December 2010 - December 2011*

This evaluation focused on the assessment of experience collected with the ESF since the beginning of the crisis (i.e. second half of 2008), i.e. it referred to the 2007-2013 ESF programming period. In doing so, also the findings of recent social policy research including labour market studies and economic theory were taken into account. Consistency between the findings of this evaluation and general research had to be ensured. The main role of wiiw in this project, which was conducted in cooperation with Metis, was to perform econometric estimations of the impact on the labour market.



## **Regional development in Central and Eastern Europe**

*WISDOM*

*September 2010 - December 2011*

This project analysed and investigated the effects of the internationalisation of labour markets, also using simulation techniques. It pursued three aims: (1) provide coherent scenarios at the level of Austrian regions and neighbouring countries (including Poland, Romania and Bulgaria) with respect to employment, qualification and migration; (2) develop a long-term simulation model for Austria; and (3) identify potentially growing gaps at the regional level with respect to employment, qualification and migration based on the robust scenarios. Particularly, the project provided a detailed overview of the developments with respect to employment and migration processes of Austrian regional labour markets as well as in the neighbouring countries.

## **Workshop: MENA transition and international responses**

*Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*August 2011 - December 2011*

In December 2011, wiiw organised a workshop with high-level experts to discuss the current economic, political and social situation in MENA countries, the challenges they face and the challenges posed for the EU neighbourhood policy. The workshop took as a vantage point the experiences from Central and Eastern European countries and the lessons the transformation of these countries may hold for future developments of the MENA region. wiiw produced a background paper for this workshop.

## **Study on labour taxation in CEE countries**

*TPA Horwath*

*March 2011 - June 2011*

The study analysed the development of wage costs, taxation of labour and the structure of tax revenues in CEE countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic), with Austria as a point of comparison. The analysis of wage costs was based upon gross and net wages plus employer contributions. Unit labour costs were chosen as indicators for productivity; and the tax structure was analysed mostly with the aim of indicating the relative share of labour taxation relative to other taxes, especially indirect taxes.

## **Employment in the gas and electricity sectors in the Western Balkan contracting parties of the Energy Community**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

*November 2009 - February 2011*

The aim of this study was to analyse the employment development in the gas and electricity sectors in seven countries of the Western Balkans. In doing so, the impact of liberalisation and of the resulting restructuring processes on the number and quality of jobs is investigated and likely trends were presented. The study was based on quantitative analysis as well as on qualitative analysis in the form of stakeholder interviews.

## **The Competitiveness of firms, regions and industry in the knowledge-based economy: What room for job-rich growth in Europe? (MICRO-DYN)**

*European Commission, 6th Framework Programme*

*October 2006 - January 2011*

MICRO-DYN dealt with growth, employment and competitiveness in the knowledge-based European economy through a micro-founded firm-based approach. The nature of the analysis was 'bottom-up' i.e. moving from the micro-entities of economic actions and strategies at the enterprise level to sectoral, regional, national and European levels. The rationale for such an approach was that understanding the microeconomic foundations of innovation, competitiveness and growth at the firm level, as well as the firms interactions with the labour market, is key to understanding the nature of these phenomena at a more aggregated (regional, sectoral or macro) level and of the resulting aggregate economic performance. The analysis used as far as possible comprehensive data-sets across all European regions and industries. wiiw co-ordinated a consortium of 17 research institutions.

<http://www.micro-dyn.eu>

## **Inequality and fiscal policy in transition countries**

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance*

*January 2009 - December 2010*

The main objective of the project is to establish economic research capacities throughout Southeast Europe (SEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to promote knowledge transfer into the regions, to facilitate networking between researchers and to assist in securing knowledge transfer from researchers to policy makers. Activities to achieve this include research calls, mentoring, workshops, conferences and policy dialogues. The project is structured into bi-annual research cycles focusing on a specific research theme of particular importance. During this phase, research dealt with inequality and fiscal policy in transition countries of Southeast Europe (SEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Research aimed to analyse issues of income and other distributions (e.g., wealth, wage, skills, opportunities) in transition countries with special interest in the role of market liberalisation and fiscal redistribution. The project is part of the Global Development Network (GDN), a multilateral organisation founded by the World Bank in which wiiw acts as a hub for SEE.