

# List of Projects

## Alireza Sabouniha

### **Global Strategy for Skills, Migration, and Development (GS4S)**

*European Commission, Horizon Europe*

*January 2024 - December 2026*

In light of EU challenges relating to an aging workforce and the energy transition, the EU faces a shortage of relevant skills. The Horizon Europe project GS4S seeks to better understand global skills shortages in selected sectors (Digital, Care and Construction) and aims at strengthening evidence-based policies through new evidence on various overlooked global mobility schemes. It thereby focuses on skilled (migrant) workers' experiences with skilling, upskilling and reskilling in EU and non-EU regional contexts. By using mixed-methods research, the project looks to provide exploitable datasets and practical tools for policy makers, businesses, and educational institutions in the EU and non-EU countries towards improved matching of skills, to address labour market needs and to eventually contribute a socially sustainable (well-being oriented) global strategy for skills, migration and development. As part of an interdisciplinary consortium led by Stichting Radboud Universiteit in Nijmegen, wiiw collaborates with partners in Belgium, Estonia, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Egypt, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

### **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).

### **Welfare systems and labour market policies for economic and social resilience in Europe (WeLaR)**

*European Commission, Horizon Europe*

*September 2022 - August 2025*

WeLaR is a three-year research project funded by the Horizon Europe Framework Programme that aims to examine the impact of digitalisation, globalisation, climate change and demographic shifts on labour markets and welfare states in Europe. WeLaR will not only improve the understanding of the individual and combined effects of these trends, but also offer policy proposals helping to adapt welfare systems to these pressing challenges. The project's ultimate goal is to assist in the creation of policies that ensure economic growth is distributed fairly across society and generates opportunities for all. To achieve these goals, the WeLaR team will develop a new framework to study the effects of the four megatrends on the labour market and the welfare state. It will integrate analysis of their impacts on labour supply, demand and market matching, while accounting for the interactions among the four megatrends and the mediating role of institutions and policies. WeLaR will use a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as stakeholder engagement. The research is carried on by a consortium of 10 institutions from seven European countries and is being coordinated by the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven). wiiw's

contributions address primarily intra-family time allocation of paid work and housework, atypical work and intra-EU mobility patterns, the impact of offshoring and automation on the demand for typical and atypical jobs, and the role of unions and policies for the quality of work.

<https://projectwelar.eu/>

### **Research Centre International Economics (Forschungsschwerpunkt Internationale Wirtschaft, FIW)**

*Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research*

*October 2013 - February 2025*

wiiw is part of a consortium which is setting up a "Centre of Excellence on International Trade". It provides the appropriate infrastructure and assistance for a research community in international trade. Thus it can achieve a sustainable coordination among different research projects, research institutes and other activities in the broad field of economics of international trade (FIW German abbreviation). This project will also create a network of experts and assure the integration of international projects. The Centre of Excellence fulfils the following tasks: (1) to develop a research programme which assists external political decisions and activities concerning the European Union and other multinational organisations in a sustainable fashion, (2) to provides access to relevant databases in an easy and transparent way, and (3) to encourage and enhance the development of know-how with regard to foreign economic affairs in Austria. This Centre of Excellence will be an important source of information for the research community in Austria, the Austrian government with regard to foreign affairs as well as the social partnership. It collects and increases the knowledge of the given research institutes and provides it to the public in a user-friendly manner.

<http://www.fiw.ac.at/>

### **Industry 4.0, migration and the labour market adjustment: an intra-European perspective**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*October 2021 - March 2024*

The mechanism through which novel technologies including patents granted, robot adoption, and digitalization affect the labour market, skill composition and wage levels, and consequently the pull and push factors of migration, is the main focus of the study. The project will comprehensively study this phenomenon by analysing various interactions between innovation, adoption of robots, digitalization, and wages, and migration patterns in four work packages. First, the impact of novel technologies on wages by across countries and sectors will be studied. Second, the impact of novel technologies on migration flows by sectors and skills in selected EU countries will be analysed, also controlling for other factors. Third, the impact of the gap in technologies defined by the difference in robot intensity (i.e. robot stocks per employee) and the extent of digitalisation between the origin and destination countries on bilateral migration flows will be analysed. Fourth, push and pull factors affecting the intention to migrate will be studied at the individual level.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18737).

### **Comparative Advantage in the Digital Era: New insights into trade in digital tasks and ICT capital**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*March 2021 - February 2023*

Comparative advantage remains one of the basic principles of international trade theory. This also holds true in times of globalisation and digitalisation. Taking into account the existence of international value chains and productivity differences across countries, this project identified comparative advantage of EU member states in the 'digital endowments', comprising 'digital tasks' and ICT capital. A major finding of the research is that the Heckscher-Ohlin-Vanek theorem is capable of predicting endowment-based comparative advantage in 'digital tasks' and ICT capital in the overwhelming majority of case. At the same time, the distribution of comparative advantage across EU member states does not seem to follow a clear pattern, in the sense, that EU innovation leaders necessarily have advantages in digital endowments as one might expect. Another hypothesis was conformed: in a comparison between the EU and the US, the latter emerged as holding comparative advantage in digital tasks, confirming the role of the US as a digital leader. Some of these results were also confirmed by additional competitiveness measures such as revealed comparative advantages (RCAs). Furthermore, econometric analysed showed that investment in R&D, in combination with industrial policies, are capable of shaping comparative advantage were investigated.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18641).

## **Study: Design and prototype for the input-output based suite underpinning spillover under the MIP**

*European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs*

*November 2022 - February 2023*

This study helped ECFIN B1 to prepare the ground for updating and improving the analytical framework for MIP spillover assessment required by Regulation (EU) 1176/2011 Art 5(2). Ecfin sought to develop and implement a "future spillover tool" in 2023, a novel input-output tool capable of nowcasting value-added exposures in sync with Ecfin forecasts and allowing extensions to answer policy-driven research questions. Ecfin-B1 aimed to acquire the elements for such a tool through a competitive process.

## **The Future of Cohesion: Effects of the Twin Transition on Disparities in European Regions**

*Bertelsmann Stiftung*

*May 2022 - October 2022*

Europe is in the middle of a twin transition. Digitisation on the one hand and the green transition on the other are bringing major upheavals to the European economy. They are changing existing economic structures and have the potential to fundamentally alter the current distribution of potential growth and prosperity in Europe. While EU regions have been extensively analysed according to various (socio-)economic criteria, e.g. by the European Cohesion Reports, only few of them look into the future and assume a holistic perspective. Therefore, the aim of this study is to close this gap by analysing the consequences of the twin transition for the future economic development of European regions. These will be studied by developing and analysing scoreboard indicators for the EU regions' potential to benefit from the green and digital transition as well through econometric and descriptive analysis. With this methodological approach, the study aims to make a substantial contribution to the design of cohesion policies in Europe and its Member States by answering the following key questions: What are the economic priorities of European regions today? Which key factors determine the success of the double transformation? Which regions tend to benefit/lose from the structural change caused by digitalisation? Which regions tend to benefit/lose from the structural change caused by decarbonisation?