

# List of Projects

## Hermine Vidovic

### **Advice on intra-EU mobility and social security coordination (Lot 2: Statistics and data collection)**

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

*December 2021 - November 2025*

The European Commission is seeking independent expertise in order to have support in the areas of free movement of workers, posting of workers and social security coordination with in-depth research and analysis, as well as to widely disseminate this specific expertise to experts and practitioners at the national level. wiiw is part of a consortium led by HIVA/KU Leuven and is responsible for several ad-hoc reports on specific indicators to mobility.

### **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.

### **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.

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

*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.

### **Migration and Human Capital in the Western Balkans**

*European Training Foundation (ETF)*

*December 2019 - October 2021*

The project looks at migration dynamics from a human capital perspective in the six Western Balkan countries which have experienced high and persistent emigration since the 1990s and, since the early 2000s, increasingly more skilled emigration. It studies the interrelationship between migration flows (with a specific attention to skilled migration), human capital formation and utilisation (linked to labour market dynamics). It aims to understand the causes of the extremely high outflows of labour (and skilled labour in particular) from the region as well as their effects, taking into account the absorptive capacity of local labour markets, possible mismatches between local educational and training structures and labour market needs and other economic and institutional contexts of the countries. It also examines how, for different scenarios, the continuation of migration trends could influence the skills pool and its utilisation in the future. The focus of the analysis is on the post-2010 period, with projections until 2030. In the course of the project, a novel cohort-based approach has been developed and applied to estimate the extent and skill composition of net-migration, which is unavailable from official home-based migration statistics for the six Western Balkan countries. The project's output will include country fiches for each of the six WB countries with detailed policy recommendations, a regional synthetic report, and a number of quantitative statistical and econometric papers.

### **Migration from Africa, Middle East and EU Eastern Partnership countries towards the EU-27: Challenges and prospects ahead**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*January 2019 - March 2021*

Over the last three decades the fall of the Berlin wall and EU enlargement towards the East have been important events which have further nurtured intra EU mobility. Nevertheless, in the coming decade the mobility to the EU will be dominated by another corridor which is directed from South - Africa, Middle East and EU neighbouring countries (AME) - to the North (the EU). The mobility from AME to the EU can be seen as both supply and demand driven. It is supply driven because of underdevelopment of AME with respect to the EU, wars, political and social instability which have afflicted AME regions, but also the impact of climate change and massive displacements of populations especially on the African continent due to hazardous weather conditions. It is demand driven because EU countries are undergoing a strong decline in working age population and will increasingly depend on workers from abroad - including AME countries. As a consequence, there is a great need to better understand potential mobility from AME to the EU, identify its main drivers and what could be the role of migration governance in this context. This project sheds light on determinants of AME-EU mobility, likely future scenarios and on some of the policy challenges.

### **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.

### **Labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Austria (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)*

March 2019 - June 2020

For the ETUI book publication 'Labour market integration of migrants' wiiw is contributing the chapter on 'Labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Austria'. The refugee wave that reached Europe unprepared in 2015/2016 needs further supporting policies and above all a successful labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees of the last couple of years. This project focuses on the main receiving countries of asylum seekers and third country migrants in the EU15 - Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Spain and the Netherlands.

### **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.

### **SEE Jobs Gateway (wiiw Team Leader)**

*The World Bank*

July 2016 - March 2020

Within this project, an annual flagship report on *Western Balkans Labor Market Trends* is launched. The Report is based on a dedicated regional labour market database for the Western Balkans, established and compiled by wiiw in cooperation with the Statistical Offices of the region. It allows, for the first time, to calculate aggregate labour market indicators across the six Western Balkan countries and to directly compare them with each other and with selected EU peer countries. The reports and database are available on the wiiw website. Overall, the initiative aims to provide access to labour market information and data for national policy-makers in the Western Balkans, as well as the international and academic communities. At the same time, it aims to generate interest among the press, NGOs and the wider public and thereby to encourage the debate on labour market policies.

<https://data.wiiw.ac.at/seejobsgateway-q.html>

### **Macroeconomic Forecast**

*Sberbank*

October 2019 - March 2020

Countries - Macro-Economic Forecast: The wiiw statistics and country monitoring team provided on macro-economic indicators as well as forecasts for seven countries in Central, East and Southeast Europe to Sberbank Europe AG.

### **Labour markets: demography, migration and skills**

*European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs*

March 2019 - November 2019

This study reviewed labour market developments pre- and post-EU Enlargement in the CESEE countries. The paper analysed some current developments, their impact on labour market developments (such as on wages and wage structures) pre- and post-EU membership and develop scenarios into the future. The implications for macroeconomic developments and catching-up/convergence processes were drawn out.

This paper was commissioned by the European Commission, DG ECFIN, in the course of a conference and a volume commemorating the 15 years of the 2004 enlargement of the EU.

### **Provision of services related to the implementation of the Better Regulation Guidelines (Framework Contract) (wiiw Team Leader)**

Tuesday, 21 May 2024

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*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
September 2017 - September 2019*

This framework contract is supposed to assist the European Commission in implementing the Better Regulation Guidelines by carrying out studies in the field of employment, social affairs, labour mobility and skills with the purpose of supporting: (1) impact assessment for the design and preparation of policies, programmes and legislation; (2) evaluation to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and the added value, and (3) monitoring their implementation.

### **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.

### **Macroeconomic Forecast**

*Sberbank  
January 2018 - May 2019*

Countries Macroeconomic Forecast The wiiw statistics and country monitoring team provided macro-economic indicators as well as forecasts for seven countries in Central, East and Southeast Europe to Sberbank Europe AG.

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

*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 Members 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.

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

*City of Vienna  
December 2017 - December 2018*

The influx from Central and East European countries (CEECs) played an important role in the population development of Austria and Vienna between 2000 and 2016. This has also led to a significant change in the employment structure in Vienna, which has partly resulted in the displacement of both domestic and other foreign workers. In this context the study assesses the current and future migration potential to Austria and Vienna from the Central and Eastern European countries and the two Western Balkan countries Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Economic development in the CEECs has been very positive for some years now and forecasts also point to steady economic growth with significantly higher growth rates than the EU average. In line with this, the labour market situation in these countries generally improved. This and the general demographic developments in the region lead to a general slowdown in mobility flows from CEECs. Nonetheless, demographic developments in the region and the Western Balkans remain worrying as population is shrinking and the working-age population even more so. Demographic long-term scenarios even suggest that the population in the region will continue to shrink sharply in the coming decades. Summarising, these developments point towards a flattening of trends, if not a

weakening of existing mobility flows to Austria and Vienna in the medium term. Finally, there are no indications that the patterns of mobility flows to Austrian regions (i.e. with respect to individual provinces) will shift significantly.

### **Investigating the Impact of the Innovation Union (IU)**

*European Commission, Horizon 2020*

*March 2015 - February 2018*

Innovation has been placed at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy aimed at coping with major structural changes, the increase of global competition and the current crisis, and at tackling major societal challenges such as climate change, energy and resource scarcity, health and ageing. The Innovation Union has the main objective to strengthen the European innovative potential; it sets 13 general objectives and 34 specific (policy) commitments associated with the objectives, aimed at stimulating innovation. The objective of this project is to deliver a system of assessment for the commitments. The approach starts from the evaluation of the state of achievement of the individual commitments, but puts crucial emphasis on their effects on the innovation system as a whole, as well as on the economy-wide effects of innovation. The basic idea is to retrace the entire chain of effects of the commitments, from their implementation to their final impact in terms of competitiveness, growth and employment. wiiw is responsible for the evaluation of seven IU commitments having been agreed in the areas of EU patents, eco-innovation, social and territorial cohesion, social innovation, innovation partnerships and international talents.  
<http://www.i3u-innovationunion.eu>

### **Wirtschaftliche Perspektiven für Kroatien - Eine Analyse der kroatischen Wirtschaft und abgeleitete Politikempfehlungen auf nationaler und EU Ebene**

*Austrian Chamber of Labour*

*June 2017 - December 2017*

The aim of the study is to develop policy recommendations to improve the economic conditions of the Croatian economy and the future perspectives of its population. A special focus of the analysis is on possible Austrian and EU assistance for absorbing potential effects on the Croatian and Austrian labour markets stemming from the expiration of the transitional arrangements concerning the employment of Croats in Austria. These are set to expire by the end of June 2020, at the latest.

### **Provision of services related to analysis and research work, including studies for Impact Assessment**

*(wiiw Team Leader)*

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

*May 2013 - May 2017*

The purpose of the multiple framework contract is to provide quick access to high quality services related to evaluation and studies, including support for impact assessments, primarily to DG EMPL in the field of its activities, but also to other Commission services and agencies when they assess the employment and social impacts of their policies. The role of evaluation and impact assessment is to support policy development and implementation and the continuous improvement of decision-making on priorities and resource allocation. wiiw is part of a consortium led by Applicia.

### **Labour market development of Austria and East Europe in Comparison (wiiw Team Leader)**

*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).

### **Framework contract on services related to the coordination and provision of horizontal support to the EURES network. (wiiw Team Leader)**

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
September 2014 - August 2016*

The European Job Network EURES (European Employment Services) will be reformed in the coming years in order to bring it up to speed with the challenges posed by the current and future labour market situation. EURES will become a demand-driven and result-oriented recruitment tool satisfying economic needs and contributing to fulfil the employment objective of the Europe 2020 strategy. The overall aim of the network support activities is to provide assistance to EURES members and partners in initiating, developing and implementing intra-EU labour mobility actions and plans, to improve cooperation and mutual learning in connection with the objectives of the EURES reform and to reinforce the role of EURES as part of such mobility actions and strategies.

### **Mapping Labour Market Integration Support Measures for Refugees and Asylum-seekers in the EU** (*wiiv Team Leader*)

*European University Institute (EUI)  
December 2015 - April 2016*

The overall objective of the study is to identify the policies and practices being implemented in different EU Member States to facilitate the labour market integration of recent refugees and asylum-seekers (i.e., those having arrived to the country in the last year) and to analyze them with a comparative perspective. wiiv contributes a country case study to this project.

### **Socio-economic assessment of the Danube Region: state of the region, challenges and strategy development**

*Ministerium für Finanzen und Wirtschaft Baden-Württemberg  
July 2013 - October 2015*

The main objective of this project was an analysis of potential opportunities, requirements, challenges, and recommendations, in order to enhance the competitiveness, the innovative strength, the attractiveness, and the prosperity of the entire region of the Danube riparian countries and regions, and to develop strategic orientations in view of transnational and interregional cooperation for the period 2014-2020. wiiv developed this assessment in cooperation with two German partners, the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) - which was also the leader of the project - and the Institut für Angewandte Wirtschaftsforschung (IAW). The focus on wiiv's contribution was on labour markets, regional development, cluster development and cooperation in the Danube Region.

### **Free Movement of workers, transitional arrangements and potential mobility from Croatia** (*wiiv Team Leader*)

*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
December 2014 - May 2015*

Croatia joined the European Union on 1 July 2013. Similar to the two previous rounds of enlargement (2004 and 2007) the Accession Treaty with Croatia permits transitional arrangements regarding labour mobility. These arrangements allow other Member States to impose restricted access of Croatian nationals to their labour markets for a maximum period of seven years (2+3+2 formula). The first stage of transitional arrangements started in July 2013 and ended on 30 June 2015. As required by the ToR, the study provided information on past and, particularly, current migration/mobility patterns of Croatian nationals across EU Member States as well as on potential mobility/mobility intentions from Croatia to other EU Member States. In addition, it identified push factors of mobility and estimate econometrically the potential mobility patterns of Croatian nationals across other EU Member States. Finally, the study provided a short inventory of national data sources - both from Croatia and other Member States - that will help to monitor and assess the mobility of Croatian citizens since the country's accession to the EU in July 2013.

### **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. wiiv 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.grincooh.eu>

### **Strategic Study on Labour Mobility in the Context of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

*Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)*

*April 2014 - January 2015*

The purpose of this consultancy was to provide strategic input to the labour mobility consultation process initiated by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in partnership with IOM and other regional and international partners as a flagship initiative on Jobs, Skills and Employment. The study is about to contribute to the implementation of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy. wiiw was engaged to assist the RCC and IOM in producing a comprehensive report on labour mobility in SEE.

### **Increasing competitiveness in the Western Balkans region - opportunities and limits**

*German Federal Ministry of Finance*

*July 2013 - January 2015*

This study was written in German, original title: 'Steigerung der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit in der Westbalkanregion - Möglichkeiten und Grenzen'. The European Union as well as international and bilateral players increasingly consider higher competitiveness as a key factor for economic development in the Western Balkans region that is to be more and more autonomous and resilient in the long term. Against this background, the project aims to identify the potential for (further) structural reforms and their implementation and efficient realisation, as well as the potential for growth and strategies to exploit it. The project is carried out in cooperation with the Halle Institute for Economic Research.

### **European Job Mobility Laboratory** (*wiiw Team Leader*)

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

*January 2010 - January 2014*

The objective of the laboratory was to help the Commission in promoting mobility as an overarching instrument in support of the 'flexicurity' model. This was achieved in two ways: On the one hand, the laboratory added to the analytical capacity of the Commission and provide a means through which policy ideas can be challenged by a combination of academics and practitioners in order to find out what will work and what will not. On the other hand, the laboratory raised awareness of mobility issues and promoted debate through a series of seminars, workshops and high profile reports. Ultimately, the outputs of the projects contributed towards the development of new policy guidelines by providing feedback (on existing policy) resulting both from analytical work and directly from policy implementers. wiiw was subcontractor in the project, which was led by Applica.

<http://www.mobilitypartnership.eu/WebApp/Home.aspx>

### **Impact of opening full labour market access to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals as of 1 January 2014: the case of Austria**

*Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth*

*April 2013 - December 2013*

The study analyses the migration potential and the impact on Austria's economy that is to be expected after the lifting of access restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals as of 1 January 2014. Estimates show that - as compared with a scenario with retained restrictions - in the years 2014 and 2015 net migration from the two countries to Austria will account for 5700 and 5300 additional persons, respectively, solely due to the full liberalisation of the labour market. About three quarters of those migrants are expected to come from Romania. In the years following the opening of the labour market, employment will be by about 6700 persons higher than it would be without liberalisation in 2014 and by about 10,300 persons above that level in 2015. The employment effect results not only from the higher population flows but also from the activation of a part of those Bulgarian and Romanian migrants who have been resident in Austria already before the liberalisation - also in 2007-2013 an increased inflow of migrants from those two countries was observed. The additional labour force supply will only cause a temporary marginal increase in the overall unemployment rate. Gross domestic product in 2014 and 2015 is expected to be higher by about 0.09% and 0.13%, respectively, and the unemployment rate is estimated to be higher by about 0.03% in both years, than would be the case without labour market liberalisation. The study was written in German, original title: 'Auswirkungen der Arbeitsmarkttöffnung am 1. Jänner 2014 auf den Wirtschafts- und

### **Temporary migration, integration and the role of policies (TEMPO)**

*New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe (NORFACE)*

*November 2009 - November 2013*

The main goal of TEMPO is to extend the frontier of knowledge on temporary and return migration along several directions. First of all, using an array of existing and new datasets, it looks at the causes and consequences of temporary migration, considering both the perspective of the source and the destination country. Second, it studies the patterns of integration of economic and non-economic migrants, and how they relate to the time dimension of the migration decision. Particular attention is paid to the role played by the diffusion of information within immigrant networks. Finally, the project looks at the process through which policies towards temporary and return migration are formed, and analyses their welfare effects both on the destination and the source countries. wiiw is one of 12 partners on the TEMPO research project, which is funded under the Norface Migration Research Programme.

<http://www.norface.org/migration6.html>

### **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.

### **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.

### **Migration patterns of Serbian immigrants in Austria: causes and consequences**

*Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

*January 2011 - April 2013*

The main objective of this project is to investigate empirical evidence of migration behaviour of migrants from former Yugoslavia, especially from Serbia, after the introduction of the new visa regime starting with 2010. The focus is on the analysis of the phenomenon of temporary migration and its impact on integration and the building of human capital on the labour market.

### **Study on macroeconomic developments and policies in Europe since 2008: new divides in Europe**

*International Labour Organisation*

*June 2012 - September 2012*

The performance across regions in the EU and Europe in general has differed and will differ significantly. They will



all, however, be constrained by the common EU economic policy framework which is emerging as a response to the crisis. The study is a critical assessment of the macroeconomic situation and trends. It analyses reasons for diverse economic trends within the region, reviews economic policies adopted in response to the crisis, and gives policy recommendations for macroeconomic policy promoting sustainable economic development and job creation in the region.

### **Study in the context of Croatia's EU accession** (wiiw Team Leader)

*Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria*

*December 2011 - July 2012*

The study provides background information for the Austrian Chancellery in the context of Croatia's accession to the EU. It describes the economic development of Croatia in a comparative perspective, analyses Austria's relations with Croatia and discusses potential future developments as a result of EU membership.

### **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-report/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/competitiveness-analysis/european-competitiveness-report/index_en.htm)

### **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.

### **Developing efficient activation approaches and identifying elements for regional cooperation in the Western Balkans** (wiiw Team Leader)

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

*March 2010 - April 2012*

The main objective of this project was the assessment of employment policies in the Western Balkan countries, their distance from the European Employment Strategies (EES), and the capacity and effectiveness of the Public Employment Services (PES) to implement modern labour market services. The general approach of the research was to assess the existing policies against the background of labour market developments in the Western Balkan countries. wiiw coordinated this project, in cooperation with ÖSB and with support of some local experts.

### **Country risk analysis**

*Erste Group Bank AG*

*November 2011 - April 2012*

Country studies are performed for Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine, analysing the political and institutional, economic and social situation on a qualitative and quantitative basis.

### **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.

### **Strategic partnership in support of the integrated regional development plan of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina**

*Austrian Development Agency (ADA)*

*January 2008 - June 2011*

The main objective of this project was to strengthen and support the socio-economic development process of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina by implementing specific measures, which are combined in a multi-sectoral

action plan. The specific role of wiiw in this project was to support a regional economic research institute in capacity building, e.g. by setting up an economic model, a business barometer methodology and implementation, training in mathematics and statistics, mentored research, scientific dissemination and networking as well as general management skills.

**Assessment of the labour market in Serbia** (*wiiw Team Leader*)  
*European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*  
*December 2009 - May 2011*

The objective of the study was a comprehensive analysis of the state and the prospects of the labour market, the evaluation of policies that are in place or are planned, and the assessment of employment policies and administrative capacities in the light of the crisis. On this basis policy conclusions have been reached that could be incorporated in the context of negotiations with the EU.

**Employment in the gas and electricity sectors in the Western Balkan contracting parties of the Energy Community** (*wiiw Team Leader*)  
*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.