

List of Projects

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A multi-country agent-based model for CESEE countries

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

October 2024 - September 2027

The project develops a multi-country agent-based stock-flow consistent model designed to analyse various macroeconomic scenarios in the region of the Central, East and Southeast European (CESEE) economies. Initially, we will concentrate on the EU membership countries of the CESEE region. In subsequent steps, we aim to expand the model by including other, non-EU, CESEE countries. Our goal is to create a comprehensive and flexible tool that can be applied to the majority of CESEE countries covered by wiiw, taking account of the need for country-specific adjustments, and eventually to provide quarterly forecasts for the region. Funded by the Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (Project No. 18988).

Couples' transition to parenthood and labour market outcomes: Analysing gender inequalities and career interactions in Austria (CoPLAN)

Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften

July 2025 - June 2027

This project applies a family perspective to assess gender inequalities in the Austrian labour market. It employs detailed individual-level register data to trace couples and investigate within-family drivers of labour market inequalities, including those related to parenthood. By doing so, it focuses on several core within-family disparities - the gendered division of paid work, diverging career paths and wage dynamic, within-couple income inequalities - in the transition to parenthood. Women faring worse than men in the labour market is a consistent finding across empirical studies, closely related to family structure and typically attributed to their different family roles and responsibilities. Marriage and children represent obligations that limit women's advancement, whereas for men, they tend to represent assets that benefit their careers. Parenthood tends to magnify existing gender gaps in wages and career progression, as maternal wage and career penalties remain strong. The project focuses on the role of different within-couple parental leave arrangements in subsequent career and wage developments of both spouses and within-couple income inequalities. This project is the first to provide a comprehensive registry data-based analysis of the dynamics of gender inequalities upon transition to parenthood in Austria, where parental leave policies have moved towards greater equality and equity, yet gender gaps in wages and work hours remain second highest in Europe.

Labour Market Inequalities in Times of Structural Change

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

April 2024 - March 2027

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).

Evidenzbasiertes Arbeiten im Bereich der Daseinsvorsorge und Wirtschaftsentwicklung für Transformationsprozesse in den Regionen

*Bundesminister für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Klima- und Umweltschutz, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft
November 2025 - November 2026*

Das Projekt DAWIT – Evidenzbasiertes Arbeiten im Bereich der Daseinsvorsorge und Wirtschaftsentwicklung für Transformationsprozesse in den Regionen unterstützt die Vision der BMLUK Regionen-Strategie: „Möglichst gleichwertige Lebensverhältnisse in allen Regionen durch Sicherung einer barrierefreien Grundversorgung mit lebensnotwendigen Gütern und Dienstleistungen zu einem verträglichen Preis in angemessener Entfernung.“ Um diese Vision greifbarer zu machen, stellt DAWIT quantitative und qualitative Daten sowie geeignete Analysetools für unterschiedliche Handlungsebenen – insbesondere für Regionen – bereit. Aufbauend auf dem bestehenden RESY-Dashboard, das bereits erste datenbasierte Analysen regionaler Transformationsbedarfe ermöglicht, werden neue Indikatoren und ein Index zur Lebensqualität ergänzt. Ergänzend entsteht ein qualitatives Erhebungs-Tool, das den Abgleich zwischen Datenlage und tatsächlicher Wahrnehmung der Bevölkerung erlaubt. Das Projekt – umgesetzt von wiiw und KDZ im Auftrag des Bundesministeriums für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft (BMLUK) – schafft damit eine fundierte Datengrundlage für den GAP-Strategieplan 2028+, zukünftige Lokale Entwicklungsstrategien (LES) sowie vertiefende Analysen zur Daseinsvorsorge in Österreich. Eine Broschüre, ein Kommunikationsleitfaden und ein Kurzvideo sorgen für praxisnahe Aufbereitung und Verbreitung der Ergebnisse. So trägt DAWIT zur Förderung gleichwertiger Lebensverhältnisse und einer nachhaltigen, evidenzbasierten Regionalentwicklung in Österreich bei.

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

*Oesterreichische Nationalbank/Austrian Ministry of Finance
January 2025 - December 2025*

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

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.

Production and analysis of Cedefop's new European Skills Forecast (Specific Contract No.1) (wiiw Team Leader)

*CEDEFOP
October 2024 - October 2025*

This service request covers the tasks and activities for the production of the first regular update of the Skills Forecast, the continuous development of the methodology and validation of results, and the 2024 autumn update of the STAS.

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

*European Commission, Horizon Europe
October 2022 - September 2025*

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

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/>

The spatial impact of EU policies

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

October 2023 - January 2025

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

Beschäftigungs- und Lohnstrukturen, Verwendung von IKT in Haushalten und Erwerbsverläufe - Analysen basierend auf neuen österreichischen Mikrodaten

AK - Wien

March 2023 - November 2024

Verwendung von IKT und Beschäftigungs- und Lohnstrukturen: Analysen basierend auf neuen österreichischen Mikrodaten Ziel der Studie war es, wichtige Fragestellungen auf Basis von Mikrodaten für Österreich zu analysieren. Die Studie konzentrierte sich auf zwei Themenbereiche: die IKT-Nutzung und Beschäftigungsentwicklung in österreichischen Unternehmen sowie die IKT-Nutzung und Lohnungleichheit in österreichischen Unternehmen.

Datenquellen für die Analyse von Berufen, Kompetenzen und Skills/Tasks

Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy

September 2024 - October 2024

Die Studie soll einen Überblick und eine fundierte Analyse der verfügbaren Datenquellen bieten, die zur Untersuchung von Berufen, Kompetenzen, Skills und Tasks eingesetzt werden können. Dies umfasst eine Bewertung der verschiedenen Datenquellen nach Kriterien wie Relevanz, Datenqualität, Granularität, Konsistenz und Datenzugänglichkeit. Zudem wird ein strukturierter Vergleich der Datenquellen durchgeführt, um deren jeweilige Stärken und Schwächen zu identifizieren. Abschließend wird die Eignung der Datenquellen zur Darstellung der Schnittmenge an Berufen bewertet, die durch die grüne und digitale Transformation betroffen sind. Der Fokus liegt auf der Anwendbarkeit für Österreich.

Labour market effects of Austrian foreign trade

Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy

November 2023 - September 2024

Around a third of Austria's GDP can be attributed to export activities in value added terms and accordingly, around a quarter of employment is directly and indirectly linked to exports. Export markets might undergo a profound change over the next years. Further the labour market will be affected by major changes in the coming years due to demographic developments. This study is therefore dedicated to the interaction between the Austrian export economy and the labour market, whereby two central topics are addressed and linked: Firstly, the expected effects of structural change in foreign trade on the demand for labour in Austria are analysed and quantified. Secondly, the development of the labour supply is discussed and compared with the analyses of the development of labour demand. The aim is to quantitatively analyse the development of employment given the demographic developments on the one hand and the expected structural developments and effects on employment stemming from Austrian foreign trade on the other.

Employment and Labour Market Scenarios

European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

July 2024 - August 2024

The European economy is challenged by several ongoing transitions, such as the greening of the economy, the unfolding digital and technological transformations, including robots or artificial intelligence, as well as major demographic changes. In addition, there are further challenges which Europe will face over the short and medium run, ranging from increasing uncertainty with regards to political and financial priorities of the EU, macro-economic uncertainties (inflation, policy interest rates, productivity) to global political challenges and geopolitical risks and, not least, looming labour and skills shortages. Against this background, the study will develop various employment and labour market scenarios for the EU. These will specifically take account of employment changes in sectoral (NACE rev.2, level 1) employment and labour force groups, as well as the labour supply side (working-age population, participation rates and resulting labour supply) by age, gender and potentially other labour market categories and identify potentially arising imbalances and labour shortages by occupational categories. The authors will follow and extend the methodology developed by Jestl and Stehrer (2021) and calculate the scenarios for all EU27 member states for the short- and short-to-medium-term up to 2026.

Challenges for Cohesion: Looking ahead to 2035

European Commission, DG Regional Policy

September 2022 - April 2024

This European research project focused on the challenges emerging from globalisation, demographic change, digital and green transitions and their impact on the economic cohesion of European regions until 2035. The research included the development and analysis of vulnerability indices related to each challenge. One macroeconomic (CAM) and four well-established regional economic models (GEM-E3, E3ME, MASST-5, EU-EMS) were employed to assess how the three challenges might affect EU regions' potential future growth patterns and thus also regional cohesion until the year 2035. The study also included detailed qualitative work on the regions' adaptive and mitigating capacities with respect to these challenges. The results of this research project are important contributions to the European debate on the future of EU Cohesion policy. The project was a collaborative venture of seven leading European research institutes and was coordinated by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw).