

List of Projects

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Empowering the Geopolitical EU in the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans (GEO-POWER-EU)

European Commission, Horizon Europe

June 2024 - May 2027

GEO-POWER-EU's primary objective is to contribute to the empowerment of the EU to manage security threats within the deteriorating geopolitical environment that lies in its Eastern Neighbourhood and in the Western Balkans. The project's main goal is to articulate a proposal for a comprehensive EU strategy towards these regions that will employ new and reformed means and policy instruments, taking into consideration foresight concerning the strategic ambitions of other geopolitical actors. The project seeks to improve the EU neighbourhood policy and accession process. Conceptually, GEO-POWER-EU will link both the enlargement and EaP policies, two areas traditionally studied as two distinct political regions falling under different policy radars, in order to reflect the post-Russian invasion in Ukraine EU policy needs. Methodologically, the project will combine traditional quantitative and qualitative methods (desk research, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, case studies and a population survey in the WB and the Associated Trio), together with digital methods (Sentiment Analysis), among other things. The project will create a special 'Interdependence Database', which will become publicly available, as well as three Indices, measuring different aspects of interdependence. GEO-POWER-EU project brings together a consortium of thirteen European research organisations and universities and is being coordinated by the University of the Peloponnese. wiiw's main contribution is the development of an interdependence database aimed to measure the influence of EU's geopolitical competitors in the two regions concerned and the investigation of emigration and brain drain from these.

Tobacco taxation in Eastern Europe 2025-2026

Bloomberg Philanthropies

January 2025 - December 2026

The project is a continuation of the project 'Tobacco taxation in Eastern Europe'. After establishing a regional research and service hub in Central, East and Southeast Europe (CESEE), network partners will continue to conduct analysis of tobacco taxation and related issues in their countries. Besides coordinating the network, wiiw directly supports capacity building in the region, in order to create local evidence and support country-level tax reforms. wiiw also aims to extend the network to further (lower-) middle-income countries (MICs) in the region.

Key Forecasts and Macro Scenario Analysis

Addiko Bank AG

March 2024 - March 2026

The wiiw team carries out 'Key Forecasts and Macro Scenario Analysis', focusing on agreed macroeconomic indicators to calculate different scenarios of macroeconomic developments in the EU/Austria. These scenarios will be delivered to the contracting authority in accordance with specified terms and condition.

Articles for the magazine 'European Voices'

DER ThinkTank

January 2024 - December 2025

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies authors articles on economic policy issues for the foreign and economic policy magazine "European Voices". The articles consist of academic content, analyses and

assessments by wiiw economists enriched with wiiw economic data and forecasts for the countries in the region. The magazine has a circulation of 50,000 and is distributed across borders to the most important decision-makers in the fields of politics, diplomacy and business throughout Europe.

Human Mobility in the Western Balkans: Pathways for Inclusive Growth and Human Development

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

February 2025 - August 2025

This project will provide analytical and advisory support on the impact of human mobility on economic development, competitiveness, and growth potential in the Western Balkans. It will offer a robust evidence base to inform policies in key areas: analysing human mobility trends and their economic effects; addressing emigration while supporting circular and return migration; managing immigration; and tackling skills shortages and mismatches. The project will also support the implementation of the EU's New Growth Plan and the Green and Digital Agendas, while offering programming recommendations for UNDP. Combining a rigorous analytical approach with practical policy and programmatic solutions, the initiative aims to harness human mobility to advance skills, labour markets, and human capital development, ultimately fostering inclusive and sustainable growth across the region.

Assessment of the implementation of CEFTA CRM measures and recommendations for actions beyond 2024

Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)

May 2024 - December 2024

The main objective of the research was to provide an assessment of the implementation of the CEFTA lead measures of the Action Plan for the Common Regional Market (CRM) 2021-24 in light of the expected results outlined in the Action Plan. The research also aimed to provide recommendations for future activities beyond 2024, considering the same overall objective of the Common Regional Market and its role in the EU's New Growth Plan for the Western Balkans.

Tobacco taxation in Eastern Europe

Bloomberg Philanthropies

October 2023 - December 2024

The aim of this project, funded by the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, is to establish a regional service and research hub to conduct analysis of tobacco taxation and related issues in Central East and Southeastern Europe (CESEE). wiiw looks to identify and build the capacity of policy think tanks in selected countries, in order to create local evidence and support country-level tax reforms. The focus lies on (lower-) middle-income countries (MICs) in the region.

Analysis of the Fiscal and Health Impact of Increasing Tobacco Excise Taxes

The World Bank

February 2024 - December 2024

The aim of this rapid-response research note, funded by the World Bank, was to estimate the fiscal and health benefits from raising tobacco taxes in Ukraine, which is contemplating tobacco tax reform at this challenging time for the country's public finances. Our findings reveal that, depending on the chosen scale and speed of the increase, as well as variation by tobacco product, tobacco tax reform would boost total tobacco tax revenue in Ukraine by between 39.3% and 68.9%, while preventing between 65,000 and 165,000 smoking-related deaths.