

List of Projects

Meryem Gökten

Public finances and climate change

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

October 2025 - September 2027

Against the background of predictions by climate scientists that temperatures and related extreme weather events will continue to increase in the coming decades, the interest of academics and policy makers in understanding the complex economic effects of climate change has grown. Events such as the flooding in mid-September 2024 after the heaviest rain in decades in Central and Eastern Europe emphasise the threat posed by extreme weather events. However, research on the complex nexus between climate change and public finances remains relatively underdeveloped, with comparatively little research on the consequences for different dimensions of public finances, including debt sustainability and sovereign risk. This project aims to close existing gaps in the literature by providing new theoretical and empirical contributions that allow for a better understanding of the nexus between climate change and public finances in Europe and beyond.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 19057).

Fiscal policies in Europe V

Austrian Chamber of Labour

December 2024 - November 2026

The project delivers analysis of fiscal policy and its macroeconomic effects. In terms of methodology, a predominantly quantitative comparison of European Union countries will be carried out, with a focus on Austria's fiscal policy and its position in the European context. We analyse the macroeconomic and political effects of fiscal consolidation in the eurozone as well as key assumptions in the Debt Sustainability Analysis framework of reformed EU fiscal rules.

EU-Asia relations: technological competition and trade policies in an era of regionalisation

Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

June 2023 - May 2026

This project analyses various aspects of EU-Asia relationships with a focus on East and Southeast Asia. It addresses two main aspects which characterise current global economic developments: a tendency towards competing regional integration ('regionalisation') and fiercer technological competition. In a first module it analyses intra- and interregional research collaborations of firms, the positioning of EU and East and Southeast Asian countries in terms of the functional specialisation of global value chains, and technology spillovers from multinationals from emerging East and Southeast Asian economies and multinationals from advanced economies to domestic EU firms. The second module focuses on the roles of competing trade policy arrangements and technological complementarity in regional vs. inter-regional integration processes, the impact of different trade policy designs on trade structures in the context of industry-specific technology catching-up and leap-frogging, and global and regional competition with respect to regulatory standards. The policy relevant conclusions with respect to innovation and trade derived from the results will be summarised in a Policy Note.

Funded by the [Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank](#) (Project No. 18833).

Neue Wege für die EU-Türkei-Wirtschaftsbeziehungen - Zollunion im Wandel? (wiiw Team Leader)

Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism

October 2024 - September 2025

Die Studie wird verschiedene wirtschaftliche und politische Annäherungsstrategien in Bezug auf die Zollunion zwischen der EU und der Türkei evaluieren. Dazu gehört unter anderem die Modernisierung des bestehenden Zollunionsabkommens sowie die Kontinuität des aktuellen Abkommens und die Möglichkeit der Aufhebung der Zollunion. Dabei werden die ökonomischen und politischen Auswirkungen dieser Ansätze auf die Türkei und die EU, einschließlich Österreich und ausgewählten Mitgliedstaaten, analysiert und politische Vorschläge erarbeitet.

Geo-economic Interconnectivity Index (GEOII)

Bertelsmann Stiftung

July 2024 - April 2025

The Geo-economic Interconnectivity Index (GEOII) is part of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's project "Sovereign Europe: Strategic Management of Global Interdependence" and builds upon the research conducted in collaboration with the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and European Center for International Political Economy (ECIPE), to measure economic interconnectivity of the EU and other powers with the EU neighbouring countries. The focus of the "Sovereign Europe" project and its continuation with the index is to explore how the EU can consolidate and expand its influence in its neighbourhood amid increasing geopolitical rivalry and blocs formation. The aim is to align relations with the EU's political interests and values, thereby strengthening its role as a global player. This index aims to capture the dynamics of geoeconomic influence and shifts in the balance of power within the region. Its core objective is to track changes in economic ties in various sectors over time and their implications for the EU's relative influence. To this end, the index measures and evaluates the economic interconnectivity of the EU with its neighbouring countries, focusing on the bilateral flow of goods, services, and finances, as well as policies that hinder or promote this exchange. The index compares the EU's interconnectivity with that of the US, China, and Russia in the same region, providing an evidence-based picture of the intensity and development of interconnectedness while disclosing annual differences (deltas) in the data .

The impacts of recent inflation developments on EU finances

European Parliament

December 2023 - September 2024

This research study aims to provide a granular assessment regarding the impacts of inflation as of 2021 on the Multiannual Financial Framework and on the EU budget, including on EURI (EU Recovery Instrument) funded Next-Generation EU programmes. wiiw is involved as a subcontractor to Bloemeyer & Sanz

China's influence over European Strategic Transport Infrastructure

European Parliament

May 2023 - December 2023

This project focused on the analysis of China's direct investments in the European strategic transport infrastructure and aims at evaluating potential impacts on the security of EU Member States and the EU Neighbourhood, whilst also looking to draw evidence-based and actionable policy conclusions to mitigate potential risks. By providing in-depth case studies of several EU members and countries of the EU Neighbourhood, the project looked to identify the concentration of Chinese direct investments in transport infrastructure at the external borders of the EU and the impact on the EU's security as well as on its connectivity. Additionally, the project also drew on the policy responses implemented in the United States and evaluated their strengths and weaknesses for the EU context. wiiw coordinated this project in close collaboration with the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS).

The impacts of recent inflation development on the EU finances

European Parliament

July 2023 - November 2023

This research study aims to provide a granular assessment regarding the impacts of inflation as of 2021 on the MFF and on the EU budget, including on EURI funded NGEU programmes. wiiw is involved as a subcontractor to Blomeyer & Sanz.