

# List of Projects

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### **Nearshoring and decarbonisation in the Western Balkans**

*DIHK - Deutscher Industrie- und Handelskammertag*

*January 2024 - May 2024*

This project follows up on wiiw's previous study "Getting stronger After COVID-19: Nearshoring Potential in the Western Balkans" and aims at assessing whether there has indeed been some near-shoring to the Western Balkans during the past 2.5 years and in which countries and industries it has occurred. In addition, the project will explore what companies from the Western Balkans think about decarbonisation, what the challenges are that they are facing with respect to it, and how nearshoring trends can be synergised with ongoing efforts in decarbonisation and green transformation. The main research questions will be addressed by analysing quantitative and qualitative data on FDI in the WB6, by conducting and analysing surveys of WB6 companies and finally by conducting and analysing surveys of German companies, in order to assess their perceptions and views on the importance of decarbonisation for their investment and cooperation with other companies.

### **How to dovetail Ukraine's reconstruction with EU integration and accession**

*Bertelsmann Stiftung*

*January 2023 - December 2023*

The reconstruction of Ukraine and its accession to the EU constitute one of the biggest challenges for the international community, the EU and the country itself for many decades. Ukraine received candidate status from the EU in 2022 and could open negotiations even this year. Meeting the Copenhagen Criteria for EU accession, however, will be a monumental task. A joint assessment released in March 2023 by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, and the United Nations, estimates that the cost of reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine has grown to US \$411 billion (€383 billion). The costs are expected to be spread out over 10 years, and to use a mixture of private and public money. This research team argues that these two historic processes—reconstruction and EU integration—and how to further develop Ukraine as a functioning market economy capable of meeting the demands of EU internal market competition must be thought together to achieve the best possible outcomes – for the EU and Ukraine alike. Shedding light on what exactly the main challenges are, how Ukraine compares with previous joiners, and what can be learned from the successful EU accession of EU-CEE countries, is the ultimate ambition of this report. Within a series of research reports and policy briefs a group of economists from wiiw, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Kiev-based Growford Institute and the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting analyse in detail five key and complementary areas of economic reconstruction: trade and FDI, regional policy, infrastructure, demographics, finance. They also investigate how these reconstruction areas can be structured as part of the EU accession process, and provide policy proposals for Ukraine and the EU.

### **EU interconnectivity with its neighbouring regions**

*Bertelsmann Stiftung*

*November 2021 - February 2023*

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has marked the start of a new geo-economic era for the EU. Against this background, this study aims to gain a better understanding of the geo-economic challenges that the EU faces in its neighbourhood. It set out to measure the interconnectivity between the EU and its neighbouring countries and to compare these interconnections with those of the EU's peers and rivals: the US, China and Russia. The authors seek to identify and measure the extent of these interconnections in five key areas (trade, finance, technology and know-how, infrastructure and labour mobility), to draw out the key geo-economic implications for the EU, and to propose

a set of policy recommendations for the EU's future engagement with its neighbourhood. The study was undertaken jointly by wiiw and Bertelsmann Stiftung.

### **Functional division of labour in EU value chains**

*Hans Böckler Stiftung*

*January 2022 - December 2022*

The emergence of global value chains has radically changed the organisation of production in the EU economy. In particular, the increasingly fine-grained international division of labour has made it possible for countries to specialise in individual business functions of the value chain and thereby generate higher value added. This project examined the causes and effects of these "functional specialisation patterns" on the labour market, particularly on wage developments and working conditions. The project combined two existing methods for the analysis of functional specialisations in order to ensure the reliability of results. The determinants and implications of functional specialisation on the labour markets in European countries and regions have been analysed using, inter alia, cluster analyses, panel regression methods and binary choice models. Ultimately, the questions to be answered by this study were: Why do some countries become locations for corporate headquarters and research laboratories, while others end up as "extended workbenches" within the European division of labour? What are the effects of these "functional specialisations" for labour markets in Europe?

### **Analysis of value chains in the Western Balkans economies - Enriching potential for regional cooperation in priority areas**

*Joint Research Centre (JRC)*

*January 2021 - May 2021*

The overall objective of this project was to provide guidance, methodological support and capacity building in smart specialisation processes in the Western Balkans economies. One goal of the support to smart specialisation in the region was to identify promising industrial areas (domains) for the Western Balkan economies with higher value-added as well as to analyse and identify possibilities for wider cooperation in the South-East Europe in these identified areas. The analysis of value chains in the Western Balkans (WB) was expected to deliver an advanced contextual overview of the competitive position of the present and potential smart specialisation priority domains, and to identify opportunities for upgrading the position of the whole region and individual economies in European and global value chains; finding new market niches and areas of economic cooperation.

### **Wirtschaftsbeziehungen Österreich - China: Künftige Kooperationspotenziale**

*Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMSGK)*

*August 2020 - January 2021*

Wirtschaftsbeziehungen Österreich - China: Künftige Kooperationspotenziale Am 28. Mai 1971 wurden die diplomatischen Beziehungen zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Volksrepublik China aufgenommen. Dieser Schritt der bilateralen Annäherung jährt sich somit im Jahr 2021 zum 50. Mal. Mit dieser Studie sollte eine Bestandsaufnahme der bilateralen wirtschaftlichen und wirtschaftspolitischen Beziehungen und ein Ausblick über künftige Chancen für den internationalen Handel und Kooperationsmöglichkeiten, insbesondere auch für die Schwerpunkte Forschung, Technologie und Innovation, erhoben werden. Darauf aufbauend wurden Empfehlungen als Input für die nationale und interministeriell abzustimmende China-Strategie aufgezeigt.