

Annual Report 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the President...3

About CASE...4

The CASE Network...4

CASE People...4

CASE Highlights 2022...4

Thematic Areas

Fiscal, Monetary, and Financial Policies...4

Sustainable Development Policies...37

Trade, Innovation, and Productivity Policies...61

CASE Communications...74

Financing of CASE Activities...81

Letter from the President



Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Readers,

In 2022 CASE continued to excel in its statutory activity – it performed 45 projects with an overall turnover of almost EUR 1.5 million. EU institutions continued to be CASE's biggest clients and donors (primarily Eurostat, DG Research & Innovation, DG Taxud, the European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of Regions). Unlike in previous years, a considerable share of CASE funding came from Polish public funds, mainly National Operators of Norway Funds. The CASE team has expanded by around 20%, attracting a talented generation of young economists and sociologists who contribute to our mission with excellent ideas, a hard-working spirit and dedication.

Our work continues to pursue topics relevant to European societies within the EU, but also in their neighbourhoods. The majority of our projects relate to environmental and economic sustainability, innovativeness, and macroeconomic, societal and fiscal challenges related to global changes, but also to the negative consequences of the war in Ukraine and steps toward reforms for this country.

As a recognised Central and Eastern European think-tank, together with our daughter organisation CASE Ukraine and the most prominent economists of the region, we drew up a Reform Strategy for Ukraine – a Blueprint highlighting the necessary institutional changes leading to the country's sustainable development. The enormous interest in the Blueprint resulted in several dissemination activities and discussions, continuing well into 2023.

As for our everyday performance, in 2022 CASE continued to excel in its statutory activity – it carried out 45 projects with an overall turnover of almost EUR 1.5 million. EU institutions continued to be the biggest clients for CASE (primarily DG Taxud, the European Parliament, Eurostat, and Horizon 2020 projects). Unlike in previous years, a considerable share of CASE funding came from Polish public and private clients.

Projects in 2022 worth highlighting include those in the field of sustainable development: a new Horizon 2020 project, BioBeo – focusing on education in the area of the bioeconomy, as well as a project on energy policy and the labour market analysing the consequences for employment in regions undergoing energy transitions. CASE also continued the applied USAGE project focusing on urban stormwater aquaponics. In the field of trade, innovation and growth, CASE implemented the Start-up your idea! project centred on nurturing entrepreneurship in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic while also moving forward with the innovative territorial impact assessment project tackling the spatial effects of public policies. Where fiscal policies are concerned, CASE started, inter alia, a project on PIT-gap calculation in EU Member States.

Our dissemination activities embraced the organising of 7 events and the compilation of 15 publications, all related to the CASE mission. We held our annual scientific workshop on fiscal policies, this time focusing on excise duties and health. Our mBank seminar attracted a broad and influential audience. This year's seminars touched upon the issues of public debt, crowdfunding in Poland, the energy crisis and taxation.

Our continuous efforts, our competencies, and our dedication in providing evidence-based policy advice, along with our presence in different regions of the world, would not be possible without our dedicated team, the Supervisory Council, the Scientific Council, CASE Fellows and external senior experts closely related to the Foundation. This year I would like to express my wholehearted and sincere gratitude to the senior CASE supporters: for bringing their ideas, their broad experience in the Polish transformation, international knowledge and pro-bono engagement in the statutory activities of CASE supporting the future sustainable development of the Ukrainian economy and society.

I earnestly encourage you to read this CASE Annual Report, and to monitor the CASE website and social media channels for new CASE initiatives and events. I can assure all CASE friends that we shall continue doing our good work in supporting societal and economic reforms in the foreseeable future and beyond.

About CASE

CASE – **Center for Social and Economic Research** is an independent, non-profit research institute founded on the idea that research-based policy making is vital for the economic welfare of societies.

Established in Warsaw in 1991, CASE today is recognized as the top think tank in Central and Eastern Europe and is one of the most highly regarded think tanks internationally.

CASE carries out policy-oriented research and development assistance projects, specializing in the areas of:

- Fiscal, Monetary, and Financial Policies;
- Sustainable Development Policies;
- Trade, Innovation, and Productivity Policies.

Drawing on an experienced in-house staff, a network of fellows, and a database of approximately 1,000 experts, CASE provides rigorous quantitative and qualitative analyses, innovative methodologies, and sound recommendations.

The CASE Network

CASE network includes associated independent research institutions as well as numerous partner organizations.

We are a member of five pan-European research networks: The Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo), The European Forecasting Network (EFN), Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Économiques (FEMISE), Vision Europe, Economic Think Tank Exchange (ETTE), The Global Trade and Innovation Policy Alliance (GTIPA)

CASE Internal Network

CASE has helped establish a network of independent research institutes across post-communist countries, starting with CASE-Kyrgyzstan in 1998. As of 2022, the CASE Network comprised of the following institutions:

- a. CASE-Belarus
- b. CASE-Ukraine

This network represents CASE's continuing effort to increase the range and quality of economic information available to decision-makers and the public across the post-communist world, as well as to foster vibrant think tank sectors in these societies. However, due to a difficult situation of CASE in Belarus, the formal process of incorporation of CASE Belarus was in CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research started in 2022.

CASE External Network

In addition to the CASE Network, CASE is also an institutional member of five pan-European research networks.

EUROMESCO

The Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo) is the main network of research centers on politics and security in the Mediterranean. EuroMeSCo was established in 1996 with the goal of fostering research, information, and social relations among its members as well as acting as a confidence-building measure in the framework of the Barcelona process. EuroMeSCo comprises 107 institutes coming from 32 countries out of the 43 members of the Union for the Mediterranean.

EUROFRAME-EFN

The European Forecasting Network (EFN) is an initiative for improved forecasting and macroeconomic analysis in the European Union. Coordinator: Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Dublin.

FEMISE

Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Économiques (FEMISE) is a network that brings together more than 70 independent economic institutes from across the Mediterranean regions to conduct socio-economic analysis of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Coordinators: Institut de la Méditerranée (IM), Marseille, and the Economic Research Forum (ERF), Cairo.

VISION EUROPE

Vision Europe is a consortium of think tanks and foundations collaborating to address some of the most pressing public policy challenges facing Europe. Through research, publications,

and an annual summit, they aim to be a forum for debate and a source of recommendations to improve evidence-based policy making at both a national and EU level and to foster as appropriate European integration.

GTIPA

The Global Trade and Innovation Policy Alliance (GTIPA) is a global network of independent think tanks that are ardent supporters of greater global trade liberalization and integration, deplore trade-distorting "innovation mercantilist" practices, but yet believe that governments can and should play important and proactive roles in spurring greater innovation and productivity in their enterprises and economies.

Economic Think Tank Exchange (ETTE)

Economic Think Tank Exchange is an informal network of national think tanks. The ETTE format provides a frame for regularly discussing nationally relevant subjects such as competitiveness of the economies, growth, employment, productivity, new digital business models and the platform economy.

CASE People

At the heart of CASE is its full-time employees as the quality of a think tank must be measured by the quality of its staff.

CASE Fellows play a key role in conducting and organizing our research activities. CASE Fellows are drawn from the ranks of senior researchers and experts with outstanding and internationally recognized academic and professional records in economics and other social sciences.

Supervisory Council

Chairwoman

Ewa Balcerowicz, Economist, Vice-president of the Association of Polish Economists, Coordinator of mBank-CASE seminars

Vice Chairwomen

Barbara Błaszczyk, Senior Researcher, Institute of Economics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Member of the Association of Polish Economists, Warsaw

Stanisława Golinowska, Head of the Health Economics and Social Security Department, Jagiellonian University, Krakow

Members

Tadeusz Baczko, Associate Researcher at the Institute of Economics of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Andrzej Cylwik, President of Neo-Doradcy Sp. z o.o., Warsaw

Michał Górzyński, Head of Impact Section, European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Piotr Kozarzewski, Professor of Political Science and Economics at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin

Dariusz Ledworowski, Economist and Consultant, former Chairman of the Finance Working Group, Social Council for a Low-Carbon Economy; former President of the Management Board, Rabobank Polska S.A.; former Minister of Foreign Economic Relations

Agnieszka Sowa-Kofta, Researcher at the Institute of Labour and Social Affairs, National expert for health care and long-term care, European Social Policy Network, European Commission

Maciej Stańczuk, President of Sapere and MS Consulting, Member of the PBG SA Supervisory Council, Member of the Aforti Holding SA Supervisory Council

Richard Woodward, Lecturer in International Business at the University of Edinburgh Business School, Edinburg

Advisory Council

Chairman

Anders Aslund, Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, Washington DC

Members

Vittorio Corbo, Member of the Management Council of the Fundación Chilena del Pacífico (Chilean Pacific Foundation), Santiago

Fabrizio Coricelli, Professor of Economics at the Paris School of Economics, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris

Georges de Menil, Professor of Economics, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, Paris

Daniel Gros, Member of the Board and a Distinguished Fellow at CEPS — Center for European Policy Studies, Brussels

Irena Grosfeld, Emeritus Professor at the Paris School of Economics, Paris

Simon Johnson, Ronald A. Kurtz (1954) Professor of Entrepreneurship, Professor of Global Economics and Management at MIT Sloan School of Management, Boston

Lucjan T. Orłowski, Professor of Economics and International Finance, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield

Vladimer Papava, Professor of Economics at Tbilisi State University, Senior Fellow of the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS), Tbilisi

Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Center for Sustainable at Columbia University, New York, Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Susan Schadler, Former Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Waterloo, Ontario

Krassen Stanchev, Associate Professor, Sofia University, Sofia

Nicholas Stern, IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government, Chairman of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and Head of the India Observatory at the London School of Economics, London

Jan Svejnar, Professor of Global Political Economy and Director of the Center on Global Economic Governance at Columbia University

Wing Thye Woo, Professor of Economics East Asian Studies, University of California, Davis; Research Professor at Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur

Charles Wyplosz, Emeritus Professor of International Economics at the Graduate Institute in Geneva

CASE Fellows in 2022

Łukasz Arendt, <u>expertise:</u> labour market, information society

Misha Belkindas, <u>expertise</u>: statistics, development economics

Michał Brzeziński, <u>expertise</u>: distribution of income and wealth, economic inequality and poverty, the politics of societies, the economics of taxation,

Alexander Chubrik, <u>expertise</u>: macroeconomics, private sector development

Marek Dąbrowski, <u>expertise</u>: monetary and fiscal policies, financial crises, international financial architecture, EU and EMU enlargement, perspectives of European integration, European Neighbourhood Policy, political economy of transition

Christopher Dembik, <u>expertise</u>: macroeconomics, monetary policy, financial crises, financial markets, economic policy, trade and globalization

Stanisława Golinowska, <u>expertise</u>: social policy, labour market, pension system in Poland

Wojciech Grabowski, <u>expertise</u>: econometrics, macroeconomics

Iraj Hashi, <u>expertise</u>: microeconomics, governance reforms, industrial competitiveness, innovation and firm performance, SME policy

Elena Jarocińska, expertise: political economy, fiscal federalism, public economics, labour economics, institutions

Matthias Luecke, expertise: migration and development, social policy, and poverty reduction

Malcolm Maguire, <u>expertise</u>: youth labour market, vocational education and training, lifelong learning, employee development, employer recruitment strategies, career guidance **Susan Maguire,** <u>expertise</u>: social policy, youth transitions, young people, NEET, policy development, post-16 education, and training

Roman Mogilevsky, expertise: macroeconomics, fiscal and social policy, foreign trade, agricultural economics

Boris Najman, <u>expertise</u>: labour market, development economics, economics of transition

Jarosław Neneman, <u>expertise:</u> microeconomics, public finance, managerial economics, game theory, tax policy

Richard Pomfret, <u>expertise</u>: regional integration in Central, Eastern, and Southeast Asia, international economics, development economics, international trade

Yochanan Shachmurove, expertise: international finance and economics, venture capital, emerging financial markets, economies of the Middle East, monetary systems, banking and financial institutions, applied econometrics, Middle East emerging financial markets, the Israeli economy

Janusz Szyrmer, <u>expertise</u>: economic forecasting, statistical and data analysis, economic policy

Irena Topińska, <u>expertise</u>: poverty measurement, social policy, poverty reduction

Uladzimir Valetka, <u>expertise</u>: labour market, demographic economics, urban and regional development

Canan Yildirim, <u>expertise</u>: banking in transition, corporate governance, insurance, the markets of EU and Turkey, international capital flows

Anna Wziątek-Kubiak, <u>expertise:</u> economy of innovation, international economics, development

Katarzyna Zawalińska, <u>expertise:</u> agricultural economics, international economics, development

CASE Office in 2022

Management Board

The Management Board is responsible for CASE and CASE Network activities, as well as the generation and management of projects in order to ensure the growth and development of the institution.

President:

Izabela Marcinkowska

Vice Presidents:

Agnieszka Kulesa

Jan Hagemejer

Operational Staff

Macroeconomics and Trade Director

Jan Hagemejer

Director of Fiscal Policy Studies

Grzegorz Poniatowski

Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department

Katarzyna Sidło

Senior Economists

Mikhail Bonch-Osmolovskiy

Tomasz Tratkiewicz

Economists & Social Science Specialists

Delia Agostinelli

Mahteld Bergstra

Oskar Chmiel

Jan Bazyli Klakla

Agnieszka Maj

Agnieszka Pechcińska

Agnieszka Skowronek

Aleksandra Sojka

Adam Śmietanka

Michalina Wacław

Abdoul Karim Zanhoouo

Karolina Zubel

Business Development Team

Stanislav Bieliei

Monika Modrzejewska

Marek Peda

Aleksandra Piasek

Magdalena Wiśniewska

Trainer

Joanna Starczewska

Communications

Anna Budzyńska-Sieczkowska

Coordinator, mBank-CASE Seminars

Agnieszka Kulesa

Secretariat

Paulina Kocot

Grażyna Kraśniewska

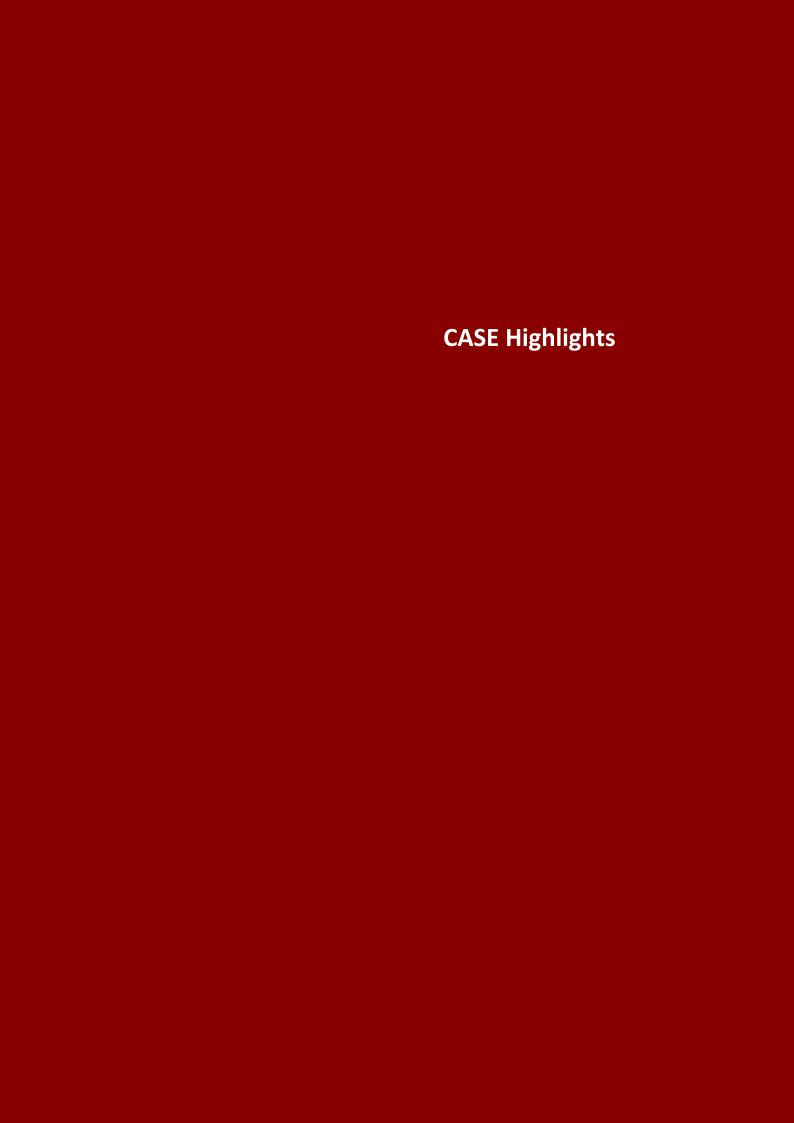
IT Specialist

Michał Dąbrowski

2022 Interns

Marcel Kwapisz, Leonard Łonisk,

Oliwia Marcinkowska, Damien Tourte



CASE achievements in 2022:

45 PROJECTS 15 PUBLICATIONS 7 EVENTS

Total 2022 budget: 6,845,398.53 PLN

SOCIAL MEDIA	2022
TWITTER	1500
FACEBOOK	3600
LINKEDIN	1800



2700 unique IP website visits per day almost 85 000 users

1 000 000 views on the website monthly

PUBLICATIONS	
CASE REPORTS	1
WORKING PAPERS	1
MBANK-CASE SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS	3
OTHER	10

Highlights: Events

mBank-CASE Seminars

mBank-CASE Seminars is a project with a 30-year tradition. The Seminars provide a forum for discussion among academics, economists, bankers, students of economics, and journalists specializing in economic affairs. With four Seminars per year, the project brings in highly respected and visible policy makers and academics to speak on key issues of the day, including macroeconomics, the financial sector, and public finance in Poland and the EU, as well as important economic policy issues in Poland, the EU, and worldwide. The Seminars are broadcast on the Bankier.pl portal to increase their reach, and are followed by a publication, "mBank-CASE Seminar Proceedings," published in both Polish and English and available via CASE's website.

The Seminars are organized thanks to the generous support of mBank.

In 2022 1523 participants took part in mBank-CASE seminars:

TITLE	Bank- ier.tv	Bank- ier.pl	LIVE
THE 172ND MBANK – CASE SEMINAR: Growing sovereign debt and its risks	205	1098	320
THE 173RD MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: The place of crowdfunding in Poland	267	181	334
THE 174TH MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: How to overcome the energy crisis in Poland?	N.D.	N.D.	342
THE 175TH MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: The fate of the flat tax in the member states of the European Union	N.D.	725	547

CASE tax workshop: Excise duty and health. Fiscal and non-fiscal functions and consequences of excise duties

The 5th edition of the scientific workshop on economic analysis of the Polish tax system took place on May 31,2022. The event was organized by CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research and the Centre of Tax Documentation in cooperation with the European Commission Representation in Poland, CenEA – the Centre for Economic Analysis, and Łazarski University.

The main goal of the cycle is to build connections among Polish economists and scholars (law, sociology and psychology experts) and to review their current research. We invite scientists working on both theoretical studies and empirical ones. During the seminar, taxation of the most important excise goods: fuels, alcohol and tobacco products were discussed. We also

addressed the social consequences of both the consumption of taxed goods from a medical perspective and the taxes themselves from the point of view of redistribution.



Read more

Highlights: Projects

Study on energy policy and the labour market: consequences for employment in regions undergoing energy transitions

(14 JUL 2022 - 22 APR 2023)

The different legislative proposals in the 'Fit for 55' package mean a dramatic shift of employment in certain regions, either dependent on raw materials for power generation (such as coal mining), directly linked to its generation (power plants, refineries, etc.) or with carbon-intensive industries that are forced out of business. Given the increasingly urgent need to speed up the green transition, the study aims at understanding the consequences for employment related to the interaction between energy policy and the labour market. The objectives of the study are threefold:

- Provide an overview of relevant cases with policy successes and failures
- Develop deeper understanding of the interplay between energy and employment policies, and how they interact with the broader regional context in industrial relations, economic, political, and social matters.
- Provide policy recommendations for a just/fair transition

The study examined several cases where these transitions away from carbon-intensive industries and/or raw material/power generation are taking or have taken place at a regional level. The report pays special attention to the economic shifts and changes in employment structure, counting at least one successful and one unsuccessful case of just transition, understood as one where employment was generally preserved by transferring it to more sustainable jobs.

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Oskar Chmiel, Izabela Marcinkowska, Waldemar Milewicz, Tomas Jeck **Client**: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



Read more

BioBeo – Innovative education for the bioeconomy

(01 NOV 2022 - 30 OCT 2024)

Relying on five specific bioeconomy themes – interconnectedness, outdoor learning, forestry, life below water and food loop – the BioBeo project aims at developing an educational programme in order to foster understanding and involvement across society regarding 'circularity', bioeconomy and green practices.

The project will firstly concern 35 schools (preschool, primary and secondary school), including 1000 students, 500 parents and 100 teachers in Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. It will be possible to include more partners and increase the scale of the project in Poland, Greece, Romania and Estonia beyond the 24-months' timeframe.

BioBeo will generate the following results:

- Programmes to spread the concept of bioeconomy, circular bioeconomy approach in education systems and provide resources
- Digital toolkits

To achieve the results, the following activities will be implemented:

- Learning activities to connect young people with their biological life-worlds in showing, for example, how to create an indoor wormery from easily accessible materials.
- Outdoor classrooms
- Designing and making of variety of habitats at different scales based
- Plantation of trees, plants and grasses
- Exploration of maths into forestry (e.g. learn how to measure the height of trees or manage database)
- Collection of marine litter and use recycled plastic to 3D print
- Creation of a wetland habitat
- Increase of knowledge about benefits of seaweed, algae and fish by-products
- Learning activities about biogas (as a result of livestock manure and food residues) and green manure for nitrogen

Project leader: University College Dublin (UCD)

Project partner: Maynooth University (IR), An Taisce (IT), University of Hohenheim (GE), Odisee University of Applied Sciences (BE), CASE (PL), Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (NL), Synyo (AT), Foundation for Environmental Education (GB), Youth in Science and Business Foundation (EE), E3STEM (GR), Universitatea Parents Targoviste (RO), Technical University Berlin (GE), BOS+ (BE).

CASE experts involved: Izabela Marcinkowska, Jan Bazyli Klakla

Grant: This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Coordination and Support Actions under grant agreement No 101059900 — BioBeo.



Read more

Start-up your idea! Nurturing entrepreneurship in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic

(01 APR 2022 - 01 APR 2023)

The main objective of the project is to nurture the entrepreneurship mindset, abilities and skills of both foreign and native residents of Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic and empower them. The project will help its participants to have better access to and be more competitive in the labour market and the digital economies, take advantage of knowledge and skills they already have and turn their ideas into successful businesses. By promoting work in teams composed of foreign and native residents, the project will also foster social and economic integration understood as a process of mutual accommodation between migrants and the receiving societies.

Specifically, the project focuses on:

- equipping project participants with knowledge and skills on business development
- promoting business ideas developed as part of the project and showcase already existing good practices in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic (Online Ideas Repository)
- allowing for the exchange of experience among trainers and educators from Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic involved in education in the sphere of entrepreneurship.

Project participants take part in the Startup Camp – a series of hybrid trainings and workshops focused on the step-by-step development of their business ideas. Attendees (among others) find out how to do a market analysis, build an effective business model, develop the product or services starting from its MVP, how to pitch successfully while looking for the investors and pass the go-to-market phase.

The project, unlike other projects dedicated to entrepreneurship, applied the innovative methodology of working in multicultural teams. As such, the project fostered inclusion and diversity.

Project coordinator: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: InBáze, z.s (Czech Republic); MAREENA (Slovakia)

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Delia Agostinelli, Joanna Starczewska

Project funding: Erasmus+ Small scale grants



Read more

TIA Territorial Impact Assessment/Assessing the territorial impact of policies and strategies within the EU Member States

(15 Nov 2021 - 31 May 2023)

The objectives of the project were clearly identified in the Detailed Description of the Object of Procurement (SOPZ) by the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland. They are:

- a. organization and process of dialogue with project partners and stakeholders;
- b. development of the Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) methodology together with a pilot project in the German-Polish interface.

The project aims to prepare a TIA method that has the potential to become a universal European method for territorial impact assessment. The CASE and Ecorys Poland teams aim to achieve this task through:

- a. an effective stakeholder dialogue process allowing the preparation of a method tailored to their needs;
- b. an analysis of the application experience of existing TIA methods and policy impact assessment methods that have not been applied in territorial impact analysis before.

The activities focus on the designated implementation area, i.e. the German-Polish area of connections. The project equips local, regional and national authorities with information and knowledge on which factors to take into account when designing policies, in order to take into account not only interregional but also cross-border impacts.

Project leader: Ecorys Polska

Project partner: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Pechcińska, Jan Hagemejer, Katarzyna Sidło

Client: Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland



Read more

USAGE – Urban Stormwater Aquaponics Garden Environment

(01 AUG 2021 - 31 JUL 2024)

The objective of this project is to create the green-garden installation for the food production which is based on aquaponic systems supported on rain and stormwater collection infrastructure. Alongside to food production, the infrastructure will play an educational and social role, integrating the citizens, creating the workplaces and propagating the environment-friendly behaviours. The design of the system will be suited to the urban tissue thanks to local community engagement and urban planners' work. The aquaponic installation connected with the water collection and treatment system will create a meeting place and play a social role by integrating neighbourhoods, local citizens, boosting entrepreneurship and rising the knowledge about climate changes.

The project takes the Urban Living Lab (ULL) approach with six interrelated, feedback-driven work packages. It's a complex project, containing aquaponics with stormwater treatment and the technologic "mixture" with social component. ULL methodology assumes moving almost all research activities to the project site. Big part of infrastructure will be located in two urban sites (Wroclaw and Oslo) and research on them will be performed there. In this "cocreation" process subject infrastructure is developed in front of the local community and with their engagement. Researchers in this setting can be seen as "invited experts" that intervene within stormwater aquaponic installation but are doing this "on behalf" of society. Aquaponic farm in modern, dense cities may help accomplish the search for amorphous forms, offering expected variety and contrast in highly urbanized context. Even more important advantage that aquaponic farm offers to urban hierarchies is its potential of social interactions.

Project leader: Water Science and Technology Institute - H2O SciTech

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Norwegian Institute for Water Research (Norway), Warsaw University of Technology (Poland), Politechnika Krakowska im. Tadeusza Kościuszki/Cracow University of Technology (Poland, The Fridtjof Nansen Foundation at Polhøgda (Norway)

CASE expert involved: Karolina Zubel

Project funding: EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021, Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju



Read more

Personal Income Tax Personal income tax (including Social Security Contributions) gap

(14 Dec 2022 - 14 Jul 2023)

Personal Income Tax (PIT) and social security contributions (SSC) are the core source of government revenue in all EU Member States. In 2020, PIT and SSC contributions across Member States ranged from 49 to 75 percent and accounted in total for approximately 67 percent of total receipts from taxes and social contributions in the EU-27. To meet the fiscal objectives of PIT and achieve fairness of the PIT and SSC system, it is important to minimise the impact of non-compliance or, in other words, seal the tax and contributions gap. The gap is the difference between the theoretically collectible revenue in accordance with the law and the value that is actually collected. This difference, denoted often both in nominal terms and in relation to the total liability, accounts for the overall non-compliance.

The study aims to provide support in harmonising and streamlining the various approaches currently used in Member States when estimating tax gaps. The purpose of the study is:

- to review the tax gap methodologies available for PIT/SSC gap,
- to recommend a common method for the estimation of PIT/SSC gaps, that could be implemented in all EU Member States' tax administrations,
- to use the identified method to calculate the gap for the EU Member States over a number of years.

The scope of the study is the assessment of methods currently used by tax authorities within the EU and a selected number of tax authorities outside of the EU and international organisations to calculate PIT/SSC gaps. The study will identify a common method to be applied across all Member States and which ensure reliable tax gap estimates whilst addressing the characteristics of Member States' tax administrations. The study will also include a recommendation of the requisite method from the set of methods analysed by the contractor. Phase 2 of the project should then involve the calculation of the PIT/SSC gap for EU Member States.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), ifo Institut (ifo)

CASE experts involved: Grzegorz Poniatowski, Adam Śmietanka, Aleksandra Sojka, Agnieszka Skowronek

Client: European Commission (DG Taxud)



Read more

Fiscal, Monetary, and Financial Policies

VAT compliance gap due to Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud (14 DEC 2022 – 14 JUN 2024)

Revenues generated by Value-Added Tax (VAT) play an important role in the budgets of European Union (EU) Member States (MS) and the EU, as VAT resource accounts for around 10% of EU own resource revenue and around 26% of MS's tax revenue. Tax fraud, evasion and avoidance reduce these revenues, and undermine the tax system, affecting the principles of fair taxation and fair competition between companies. Reflecting the importance of these issues, a new Fiscalis Project Group led by Italy has been set up as part of ongoing work under the Tax Administration EU Summit (TADEUS). One of the key areas of focus for the Fiscalis group is the VAT compliance gap that occurs due to Missing Trader Intra Community (MTIC) fraud and e-commerce fraud.

MTIC fraud is conducted by organised criminal groups, and previous estimates suggest that MTIC fraud is producing large revenue losses for MS. However, up-to-date estimates with more robust methodologies are needed to assess the evolution of this issue. E-commerce fraud occurs during the purchase and supply of goods conducted on the Internet or other online methods.

The purpose of the study is to identify, agree on and potentially implement a common methodology for the estimation of the VAT compliance gap due to MTIC fraud and e-commerce fraud. The intention is for this methodology to produce estimates that are comparable between EU MSs and highlight characteristics that are of importance to MS tax authorities.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC),

CASE experts involved: Grzegorz Poniatowski, Adam Śmietanka, Aleksandra Sojka

Client: DG TAXUD



Read more

Personal Income Tax Personal income tax (including Social Security Contributions) gap

(14 Dec 2022 - 14 Jul 2023)

Personal Income Tax (PIT) and social security contributions (SSC) are the core source of government revenue in all EU Member States. In 2020, PIT and SSC contributions across Member States ranged from 49 to 75 percent and accounted in total for approximately 67 percent of total receipts from taxes and social contributions in the EU-27. To meet the fiscal objectives of PIT and achieve fairness of the PIT and SSC system, it is important to minimise the impact

of non-compliance or, in other words, seal the tax and contributions gap. The gap is the difference between the theoretically collectible revenue in accordance with the law and the value that is actually collected. This difference, denoted often both in nominal terms and in relation to the total liability, accounts for the overall non-compliance.

The study aims to provide support in harmonising and streamlining the various approaches currently used in Member States when estimating tax gaps. The purpose of the study is:

- to review the tax gap methodologies available for PIT/SSC gap,
- to recommend a common method for the estimation of PIT/SSC gaps, that could be implemented in all EU Member States' tax administrations,
- to use the identified method to calculate the gap for the EU Member States over a number of years.

The scope of the study is the assessment of methods currently used by tax authorities within the EU and a selected number of tax authorities outside of the EU and international organisations to calculate PIT/SSC gaps. The study will identify a common method to be applied across all Member States and which ensure reliable tax gap estimates whilst addressing the characteristics of Member States' tax administrations. The study will also include a recommendation of the requisite method from the set of methods analysed by the contractor. Phase 2 of the project should then involve the calculation of the PIT/SSC gap for EU Member States.

Read more in CASE Highlights p. 23

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), ifo Institut

CASE experts involved: Grzegorz Poniatowski, Adam Śmietanka, Aleksandra Sojka, Agnieszka Skowronek

Client: European Commission (DG Taxud)



Read more

VAT gap in the EU 2022

(07 NOV 2022 - 06 NOV 2023)

The core objective of this study is to inform in an accurate, timely, understandable, and attractive manner the national administrations, Commission, academic community, and a broader audience on the value, development over time, and difference across Member States of tax gaps and related parameters. The study will cover the VAT compliance gap, VAT policy gap, its components, and the C-efficiency. The expected secondary objectives are, among others, to enhance the efforts of national administrations in their own calculation by helping to validate their estimates and by providing quantitative evidence to help assess the effectiveness of the measures introduced at the EU level and by Member States' administrations.

Project leader: CASE- Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Grzegorz Poniatowski, Adam Śmietanka, Agnieszka Pechcińska

Client: DG TAXUD



Read more

Review of the VAT rules applicable to the travel and tourism sector

(11 FEB 2022 - 15 MAR 2023)

The European Commission intended to present in 2023 a comprehensive dedicated legislative VAT package on tourism with a view to revise several provisions of the VAT Directive that are of particular relevance for the industry. The initiative was also aimed at aligning sectoral rules to the objectives of the new EU Industrial Strategy that identifies tourism as the sector most hardly hit by COVID-19, and thus to be put at the core of the EU policy agenda and as the top priority for supporting the development of paths towards its green and digital transition.

The project commissioned to CASE and partners required both an assessment of the current situation together with a problem definition, as well as the development and impact analysis of possible policy options on the topics related to the VAT rules for the travel and tourism sector.

The assessment was expected to contribute to the preparation of the future Impact Assessment (IA) and legislative proposal.

Project leader: Economisti Associati

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Oxford Research **CASE experts involved:** Grzegorz Poniatowski, Adam Śmietanka, Tomasz Tratkiewicz



Read more

VAT gap in the EU

(21 DEC 2021 - 20 OCT 2022)

The 2022 Study met new and significant challenges related to accurate and comparable measurement of the VAT Gap in EU Member States. One of these challenges was related to the structural changes in the economies and VAT systems in 2020 and 2021 resulting from the pandemic. Meeting of this challenge required additional means to forecast relevant Supply and Use Tables (SUT) that are the core source of information about tax base. It required also estimating other adjustments triggered by temporary measures introduced by Tax Authorities, like deferrals. Secondly, the 2022 Study had to lay methodological foundations for the future studies that would not benefit from fiscal data originating from, so called, Own Resource Submissions (ORS) that had been discontinued in consequence of simplifications in

procedures introduced by DG BUDG. Moreover, the study had to meet important and increasing needs for attractive estimates' visualisation, and so, took advantage of new modalities for presenting the figures.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Grzegorz Poniatowski, Adam Śmietanka, Agnieszka Pechcińska, Mikhail Bonch-Osmolov-

sky

Sponsor: DG TAXUD



Read more

Evaluation of the rates and structures of excise duty on alcohol and alcoholic beverages

(07 DEC 2021 - 07 DEC 2022)

Most of EU excise duty rules for alcohol and alcoholic beverages that are currently in force have been adopted in the early 1990s and - with the exception of the changes introduced by Directive 2020/1151 - they have never been modified. This is especially the case with the EU minimum rates laid down in Directive 92/84, as well as with the excise duty bases and structures for the different product categories, which are laid down in Directive 92/83. A comprehensive evaluation was required to ascertain whether the provisions and tools designed in 1992 still respond to policy needs and objectives, despite the evolution of market and consumption patterns.

In this respect, the assignment was aimed at contributing to the periodical Commission's evaluation report, providing evidence-based inputs on the current application of excise duties in MS and the achievements of market functioning and public health objectives. The required study had to identify and investigate policy issues and needs, and formulate recommendations to address them, based inter alia on potentially scalable measures and tools adopted in Member State or third countries and/or laid down in international guidelines or the scientific literature.

The required study had two-pronged dimensions:

- a retrospective dimension, consisting of evaluating the performance and achievements of the current legal framework vis-à-vis its stated objective;
- a forward-looking dimension, focusing on the possible solutions and approaches that could be considered to address emerging needs and priorities.

Project leader: Economisti Associati

Project partners: CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research, Ipsos N.V., AND International

CASE experts involved: Grzegorz Poniatowski, Mehmet Burak Turgut, Tomasz Tratkiewicz

Client: DG TAXUD



Read more

Remuneration of EU staff and related surveys – New York and Washington, D.C.

(01 NOV 2020 - 30 SEP 2022)

The procedure of adjusting salaries in the EU-duty stations hinges on correction coefficients (CCs), which are estimated based on purchasing power parities (PPPs) and nominal exchange rates. The coefficients and the adjustment procedure ensure that the purchasing power of salaries in various duty stations does not vary irrespective of the place of employment. International organizations and public institutions use the EU CC.

Since 1989 Eurostat has been also involved in calculating CCs for extra-EU US duty stations. This work is conducted in accordance with the methodology used for intra-EU stations. Two surveys using the European Comparison Program (ECP) methodology were required in New York City and Washington DC.

The estimation of CCs due to its wide and important use, as well as challenges resulting from differences in the consumption goods market in the EU and US, required an approach that would ensure high precision of the estimates.

The objectives of the study commissioned to CASE by Eurostat were to conduct an ECP-type survey of prices in Washington, DC, and New York City metropolitan areas, validate the price data, and evaluate the quality of gathered data.

The goal of this project was also to allow correct identification of the average price level in the duty station for comparison with the correct identification of the average price level in Brussels. The phases of the survey included preparation, fieldwork, validation, and reporting, including explanations and analysis.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: ODW Consulting

CASE experts involved: Adam Śmietanka, Mikhail Bonch Osmolovsky

Client: Eurostat



Read more

Monetary Dialogues. Framework service contract for the provision of external expertise in the field of monetary and economic affairs

(01 APR 2020 – 30 APR 2024)

The framework service contract is intended to support the work of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) in the European Parliament by enabling it to request expertise in its areas of competence, as appropriate.

Specifically, with the framework service contract, ECON seeks independent expert advice in the field of monetary and economic affairs to support its scrutiny activity, in particular in the context of the Monetary Dialogues between ECON with the European Central Bank (ECB).

Expertise is requested on a wide range of issues relevant to the work of ECON in relation to EU economic and monetary integration, including governance and institutional aspects, as appropriate. The expertise sought is designed both to strengthen the Committee's knowledge and to provide a solid basis for some of the Committee's own initiatives. The system aims at providing flexibility and autonomy for Committees, making technical and scientific expertise rapidly available when needed, and increases the utility of this expertise to Members in their everyday political work. It shall also provide the European Parliament with a long-term perspective in their political work.

CASE experts involved: Marek Dąbrowski, Christopher Hartwell

Project funding: European Parliament



Read more

Income inequalities, political instability, and the deficit bias

(15 SEP 2019 – 15 SEP 2022)

The purpose of the research project was to investigate the connection between the two economic phenomena – income inequalities and excessive accumulation of public debt, both of which are perceived to be among the most important contemporary, global economic challenges.

The scientific literature suggests that the connection between these two phenomena is not direct, but income inequalities and public debt are rather linked through intensified political conflicts over the distribution of the national income, which can result in elevated political instability, ultimately leading to higher fiscal deficits and an excessive accumulation of public debt.

Two main hypotheses of the study were the following:

- income inequalities lead to socio-political conflicts and increase political instability,
- political instability, in turn, makes it more difficult for politicians to agree on measures necessary to prevent country from accumulating too much public debt.

The principal investigator constructed a database and used statistical techniques in order to verify these two hypotheses.

Verifying abovementioned hypotheses was important because proper understanding the economic mechanisms connected to them is necessary to deal with problems of economic inequalities and excessive accumulation of public debt. Outcomes of the study are important not only from the scientific point of view but could also contribute to policy making, allowing for the implementation of more effective, evidence-based policies.

CASE experts involved: Christopher Hartwell, Lukasz Janikowski

Project donor: National Science Center – Poland



Read more

Events

The 172nd mBank-CASE seminar: Growing sovereign debt and its risks

The topic of the 172nd mBank-CASE seminar held on 24th of February 2022 was "Growing sovereign debt and its risks" The seminar featured Prof. Marek Dabrowski, CASE, who spoke about the threat of debt and financial crisis in developed countries, and Prof. Andrzej Rzońca, SGH, who tried to answer the question of whether Poland will fall into a debt trap.

Prof. Marek Dąbrowski started with pointing out that the rapid increase in state debt in 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic is not the first such episode in the current millennium. Unfortunately, most of the countries affected by the crisis of 2007-2009 and 2010-2015 did not use the later years to repair public finances. As a result, after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, as many as 12 developed countries recorded public debt ratios in 2020 at a level exceeding 100% of GDP.

Prof. Dąbrowski explained that changes in debt can be explained by three factors, namely: (1) changes in the primary deficit of the public finance sector (which is determined by the current fiscal policy), (2) changes in the difference between the real interest rate and the real interest rate economic growth, and (3) changes in the exchange rate (this factor is relevant only for countries that borrow in foreign currencies). There is currently a discussion on how the spread between the real interest rate on government loans and the real rate of economic growth will develop. He related to Olivier Blanchard's thesis that the amount of interest expenditures on servicing public debt is important, and these are low because interest rates are low.

Professor Dąbrowski noted that the decline in real interest rates will not necessarily last due to the rather pessimistic outlook for growth rates in developed economies. To this must be added additional burdens on fiscal policy. In the short term these are expenses related to the fight against the pandemic, which cause additional burdens in the health sector. However, these are the costs related to the aging of societies and the green transformation. Prof. Dąbrowski concluded with the following recommendations: the direction of fiscal policy must be changed as soon as possible, which means the need to start fiscal adjustment; there must also be a return to the application of fiscal rules.

The second speaker was Prof. Andrzej Rzońca, who devoted his presentation to Poland's public debt, very far from the level at which developed countries may have problems servicing it, and noted that our economy has also joined highly developed countries in terms of its ability to service its debt. Currently, the ratio of net interest costs to public revenue in our country is even slightly lower than the European average. Professor Rzońca stressed that this does not mean that public debt is not a problem for us. The direct source of public debt, i.e. the fiscal

deficit, harms economic growth and social well-being. It means higher taxes in the future and income inequality, which is a deteriorating structure of public spending. Deficit is also a text-book mechanism of "crowding" investment in the real sector by government spending, increased competition for private savings, greater credit risk and increased uncertainty, which has negative consequences for the country's relations with the environment.

Professor Rzońca emphasized that in order for Poland not to fall into the debt trap, the growth of the Polish economy should be strengthened. In particular, it is necessary to increase the effective retirement age, support private investment in the real sector and create incentives for the growth of companies. In addition, fiscal rules need to be strengthened. The national concept of public debt must be made consistent with the concept of EUROSTAT, and the entire general government sector must be covered by the expenditure rule.

Speakers: prof. Marek Dąbrowski, prof. Andrzej Rzońca



Read more

The 173rd mBank-CASE seminar: The place of crowdfunding in Poland

Crowdfunding of investment and development projects is a new and rapidly gaining popularity method of raising capital, in which investors are acquired using crowdfunding platforms. In addition to the rapidly growing importance of the crowdfunding phenomenon, new regulations at the EU level entered into force in November last year. Crowdfunding and its role in investment and development projects were the topics of the 173rd mBank-CASE Seminar, held on March 31, 2022

Marcin Czugan from ZFP talked about the development of investment crowdfunding in Poland, which was presented in a regulatory context. The presentation clearly showed the exceptionally high dynamics in crowdfunding of investment and development projects in Poland in the last 5 years, which justifies the need to introduce regulations. He presented the structure of companies that have so far benefited from crowdfunding issues, e.g. according to their legal form and according to sectors in which this form of raising capital was most often used.

The next speaker, Jarosław Mizera from StockAmbit, discussed the practical side of the crowd-funding process in the form of equity crowdfunding. Despite the fact that currently this form of raising capital was mainly chosen by companies at an early stage of development, nothing stands in the way of more mature companies also using it. Jarosław Mizera described the benefits of entrepreneurs that result from carrying out a crowdfunding campaign in relation to other forms of raising capital.

The last presentation was given by Michał Karwasiński from the Karwasiński Szpringer & Partners Law Firm, who compared the legal conditions before the introduction of the regulations to those coming into force. The expert pointed out that the operation of crowdfunding platforms based on the new regulations may not be burdened with less regulations - the obligations towards the entity that would like to obtain a license are relatively high and all the procedures are demanding. The new regulations will certainly constitute an additional cost of

doing business, but they may also constitute an opportunity for development in areas of the market so far inaccessible to crowdfunding platforms.

Speakers: Marcin Czugan, Jarosław Mizera, Michał Karwasiński



Read more

The 175th mBank-CASE seminar: The fate of the flat tax in the member states of the European Union

During the 175th mBank-CASE seminar, which took place on November 24, prof. Krassen Stanchev from Sofia University, the main author of the concept of market reforms in Bulgaria in 1990-1991, presented the reasons for the introduction of a flat tax in European countries after the fall of communism and the further fate of fiscal policies of individual countries. Paweł Wojciechowski, director at Whiteshield Partners (London) and professor of "Wszechnica Polska" at the University of Warsaw, an expert in the field of taxes, was invited to comment on the thesis. In addition to the review, Paweł Wojciechowski presented the sources of the complexity of the process of introducing fiscal policy reforms, seeing them in the political nature of this issue.

Prof. Stanchev presented the complexity of the economic conditions in which the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic States found themselves during the political breakthrough in the early 1990s. He made a thorough analysis of the reasons behind the economic politicians who opted for the introduction of a flat tax in specific countries. He noted that some of these countries later abandoned the flat tax in favor of a progressive tax, but - interestingly - with lower tax brackets than initially.

He then referred to the claim that the flat tax positively affects the economic development of the country. Prof. Stanchev noted that while the impact of the state's fiscal policy on its economic development is undeniable, it is only one of many factors determining the economic condition of the country. He also noted that research shows that the amount of tax is important for economic activity, but the following three features of the tax system are equally important: its stability, transparency and simplicity. The latter is important both for the costs of tax collection (tax administration) and for the costs of entrepreneurs in handling settlements with the tax office.

Paweł Wojciechowski dedicated a lot of attention to the analysis of the Polish tax system, in particular the "Polish Order", i.e. tax changes introduced by the government in 2022. In his speech, he investigated the sources of the reform's failure, the causes of the resulting chaos and finally the government's withdrawal from its reform continuation in its original form.

Speakers: prof. Krassen Stanchev, prof. Paweł Wojciechowski

18th EUROFRAME conference "Macroeconomic policy challenges in pandemic times"

The EUROFRAME group of research institutes (CASE, CPB, DIW, ESRI, ETLA, IfW, NIESR, OFCE, PROMETEIA, WIFO) held its eighteenth annual Conference on Economic Policy Issues in Europe in Helsinki on 3 June 2022. The aim of this conference was to bring together academics, and policy-oriented economists by providing a forum for debate on economic policy issues relevant in the European context.

The 18th Conference focused on the macroeconomic policy challenges for European economies and advanced economies more widely in pandemic times. Since the Covid-19 pandemic emerged in early 2020, fiscal and monetary policies have provided support to an unprecedented extent in peace times. In late 2021, increasing inflation, accelerated by bottlenecks in the supply-side as output recovers, raise challenges for policymakers. The main question was how fiscal and monetary policies should be adjusted to ensure a sound recovery without generating imbalances. Public debts are now higher than they were before the Covid-19 crisis, while interest rates remain historically low. The participants discussed also how public debt sustainability can be ensured, while addressing the need for green investments to tackle climate change. Areas of discussion included macroeconomic impact of economic policies implemented in the Covid-19 crisis, monetary policy and real interest rates after the pandemic, fiscal rules in the EU, outlook for public debt and interest rates in advanced countries, the Next Generation EU programme and reallocation effects in the labour market

Keynote Speaker: Seppo Honkapohja (Bank of Finland, Aalto University)



Read more

Publications

The growing public debt and the associated risks

The mBank-CASE Seminar Proceedings No. 172 "The growing public debt and the associated risks" consists of two articles: "The increasing risk of sovereign insolvency and a new global financial crisis in the post-COVID-19 era" authored by Marek Dąbrowski, and "Will Poland fall into the debt trap?" authored by Jakub Karnowski and Marek Rzońca.

From the "Introduction" to "The increasing risk of sovereign insolvency and a new global financial crisis in the post-COVID-19 era" authored by Marek Dąbrowski:



"This paper aims to diagnose the fiscal situation in advanced economies (AEs) and its evolution since 2007. Our analysis covers the periods of the global financial crisis (GFC) (2007–2009), a subsequent recovery, and the COVID-19 pandemic (2020–2021)."

From the "Introduction" to "Will Poland fall into the debt trap?" authored by Jakub Karnowski and Marek Rzońca:

"The purpose of this work is to analyze the so-called debt trap, including in particular evaluating the risk that the Polish economy will fall into it."



Anti-fragmentation: an incomplete diagnosis and wrong solution

A study by Marek Dąbrowski (CASE), requested by the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), was published in the Monetary Dialogue Papers series in September 2022.

Since the 1990s, the public debt-to-GDP ratio has gradually increased in almost all current euro area member countries. In most of them, it now exceeds the Maastricht reference value of 60%, in several of them - 100%, and in a few cases - even more. It creates a severe challenge to the stability of public finances, the entire financial system and monetary stability in the euro area being also the primary cause of the so-called fragmentation.

The study begins with an analysis of the excessive public debt in the euro area. Three causes of the ineffectiveness are then identified: (1) political economy factors at the national level; (2) political economy factors at the European level; and (3) fallacies of economic science.



The next part concerns ECB involvement in the sovereign debt market in the euro area. A historical analysis is conducted starting from the period of the EFC (2010-2015) to quantitative easing of 2014-2022.

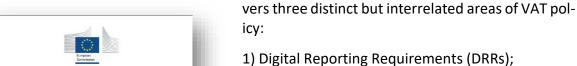
In the last part of the study, the author argues that the problem of "fragmentation" is wrongly formulated. It is a secondary symptom of the excessive sovereign indebtedness in some euro area economies. It should be remedied by fiscal policy measures (fiscal consolidation) rather than by the ECB's quasi-fiscal activities.



VAT in the digital age

The rise of the platform economy, the associated network effects, and variations across the models create challenges for the functioning of tax systems. At the same time, digital means giving tax administrations enormous opportunities.

This Report was prepared within the framework of the study on VAT in the Digital Age for the European Commission, Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union. The Report co-



- 2) The VAT Treatment of the Platform Economy;
- 3) The Single VAT Registration and Import One Stop Shop (IOSS).

The purpose of the Report is two-fold:

- to assess the current situation with regard to the three domains listed above;
- to assess the impacts of a number of possible policy initiatives in these areas.

The Report is intended to feed into the preparation of an Impact Assessment by the European Commission, to accompany possible legislative or non-legislative initiatives.

Report was prepared for the European Commission by: Economisti Associati, Oxford Research, CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research, Wavestone, Hedeos, Mazars, Desmeytere Services and Università di Urbino.



Read the Report

Tax Challenges and Opportunities of the Growing Digital Economy

While becoming an increasingly more important source of revenue, the EU VAT system needs to meet the constant challenges of not becoming outdated. The fast pace of the digitalisation of the economy poses new challenges to the system and tax administration due to the emergence of new and complex business models and the dematerialisation of transactions.

The digitalisation provides new digital instruments for improving the monitoring of tax compliance and reducing regulatory costs. Adapting the VAT system to the challenges and opportunities related to the changing nature of the transactions and the structure of the economy is necessary to avoid tax base erosion, declining compliance, and costs for taxpayers related to regulatory complexity.



In response to the abovementioned challenges and opportunities, the European Commission, DG TAXUD, commissioned a study on 'VAT in the digital age' covering three distinct but interrelated areas of VAT policy: (i) Digital Reporting Requirements, (ii) VAT Treatment of the Platform Economy and (iii) Single VAT Registration and Import One Stop Shop.

The Study is conducted by a grouping of consulting firms and research institutions led by Economisti Associati Srl and including Oxford Research AB, the Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE), Wavestone S.A., Mazars N.V., Hedeos société d'avocats, Desmeyere Services, and Università di Urbino.



Read the Paper

Sustainable Development Policies

Making the EESC the facilitator and guarantor of participatory democracy activities including structured dialogue with civil society organisations, and citizens' panels

(210CT 2022 - 20 JUN 2023)

The idea of civil society has little importance without the establishment of specific institutions to make it a legal reality. This view has been followed by European Union (EU) legislation, singling out the European Union citizenship and its constitutive element thereof. The creation and functioning of EU bodies such as the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of the Regions (CoR) is also an expression of the idea of European civil society.

Having the important role the EESC is playing already now and the results of CoFoE (the Conference on the Future of Europe, May 2022) in mind, the main objective of the study was to explore different options that could provide a blueprint for institutional reform to best serve the EESC's purposes. The study provides a set of conclusions on different possibilities and recommendations for policymakers to be taken into account in the EESC, both within existing institutional settings and in the potential situation of a Treaty reform.

CASE experts involved: Delia Agostinelli, Agnieszka Kulesa, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Michalina Wacław, Karolina Zubel

Client: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



Read more

Study on Energy policy and the labour market: consequences for employment in regions undergoing energy transitions

(14 Jul 2022 - 30 Apr 2023)

The different legislative proposals in the 'Fit for 55' package mean a dramatic shift of employment in certain regions, either dependent on raw materials for power generation (such as coal mining), directly linked to its generation (power plants, refineries, etc.) or with carbon-intensive industries that are forced out of business. Given the increasingly urgent need to speed up the green transition, the study aims at understanding the consequences for employment related to the interaction between energy policy and the labour market.

Read more in CASE Highlights p.18.

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Oskar Chmiel, Izabela Marcinkowska, Waldemar Milewicz, Tomas Jeck **Project client**: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



Start-up your idea! Nurturing entrepreneurship in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic

(01 APR 2022 - 01 APR 2023)

The main objective of the project was to nurture the entrepreneurship mindset, abilities and skills of both foreign and native residents of Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic and empower them. The project was to help its participants to have better access to and be more competitive in the labour market and the digital economies, take advantage of knowledge and skills they already have and turn their ideas into successful businesses. By promoting work in teams composed of foreign and native residents, the project also fostered social and economic integration understood as a process of mutual accommodation between migrants and the receiving societies.

Read more in CASE Highlights p. 20.

Project coordinator: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: InBáze, z.s (Czech Republic); MAREENA (Slovakia)

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Delia Agostinelli, Joanna Starczewska

Project funding: Erasmus+ Small scale grants



Read more

Best practices in unionisation, collective bargaining and employee involvement in the green and digital sectors and the green and digital transitions

(15 MAR 2022 - 30 JUN 2022)

Digitalisation is transforming the EU economy and labour markets: nearly one-third of EU workplaces are categorised as highly digitalised. Digitalisation in the form of automation, the use of AI-applications and digitisation or the emergence of new forms of work like platform work are affecting employment, job quality, the rise of precarious workers and working conditions as well as social dialogue.

Thinking ahead and involving unions at sectoral, branch and company level is fundamental. While the involvement of employees in industrial transitions might mediate and mitigate the negative effects of digital change, the weakening of unionisation, the erosion of collective action and the decrease in bargaining coverage is also an important risk of digitalization.

On the other side, trade unions themselves are going 'digital'. Smart union approaches to support workers and, eventually, collective bargaining (e.g. in the IT sector) are already emerging. In addition to digitalisation, climate change and the transition to a climate-neutral economy is also high on the agenda at both Union and Member State levels. The green transition will have a big impact on all sectors, either directly or indirectly. This will transform the EU economy and labour markets. Old industries might leave the region and jobs will be relocated. In coping with these consequences, social partners could and should address the adverse effects of climate policies and measures in sectors and regions affected most by the green transition.

The aim of the study was to provide members of the committee examples, in which trade unions are involved and successfully contribute and accompany the digital change at company level, and the transition to low carbon-emitting ways of production, as well as how their involvement improves working conditions of workers in those sectors.

Project leader: Visionary Analytics

Project partner: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Dominik Owczarek, Barbara Surdykowska, Jan Czarzasty, Boris Najman, Žilvinas Martinaitis, Pablo Sanz de Miguel, Audronė Sadauskaitė, Feliciano Iudicone, Jan Bednorz, Ildar Daminov, Julija

Skerniškytė

Project funding: European Parliament



Read more

e4CARE - Fostering new digital care models in healthcare and social care sectors

(15 FEB 2022 - 14 FEB 2024)

The recent pandemic has speeded up the processes of adaptation of mHealth solutions, or the implementation of the digital tools in many healthcare and social care (HC&SC) areas, but it also uncovered several obstacles that exist on the demand side of it. In some countries like Poland, or Romania, the digital transformation of HC&SC services is still severely underdeveloped. The aim of this project is to address the needs of HC&SC workforce and to equip the VET system with innovative educational tools and materials, that can help and support digital transformation in the HC&SC sectors through securing digital readiness and resilience of their workforce.

The e4CARE project's aim is to provide a one-of-a-kind innovative didactic inventory, which will fill the EU and national gaps in terms of digital competence shortages among healthcare and social care professionals in innovating the care model. The objective of e4CARE is also to immediately respond to the new EC priorities with the NextGenerationEU strategy towards the stronger European Health Union.

CASE experts involved: Izabela Marcinkowska

Project partners: ASOCIATIA OAMENILOR DE AFACERI ARGES (AOA Arges), AINTEK SYMVOULOI EPICHEIRISEON EFARMOGES YPSILIS TECHNOLOGIAS EKPAIDEFSI ANONYMI ETAIREIA (IDEC), Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE), Aksantys, CAMINUL ALEXIA SRL, GORNA Greek Operating Room Nurses Association.

Project funding: Erasmus+, European Commission



V4DevCo - V4 development cooperation trialogue: reinforcing synergies, sharing good practices

(01 FEB 2022 - 31 MAY 2023)

The main objective of the V4DevCo project is return to the roots of Visegrad cooperation. The project evokes the values and goals set out in the 1991 Visegrad Declaration and examines the external dimension of their implementation. It reviews the Visegrad countries (V4) very low engagement in the European Union (EU) development projects, and it scrutinizes the solutions to strengthen it and enhance V4 cooperation. By developing the V4DevCo Guide and a series of workshops the project not only reinforces the capacities of V4 actors in implementing development projects financed by the EU but also raises awareness of the citizens on this sphere of V4 activity.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project Partners: Ambrela – Platform for Development Organisations (Slovakia), Institute of International Rela-

tions Prague (Czechia), University of Pecs (Hungary)

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Oskar Chmiel

Project funding: International Visegrad Fund



Read more

FOSTER - how to cope in everyday life, using digital technologies wisely? Educational toolkit for teenagers in foster homes and their caregivers

(01 JAN 2022 - 31 DEC 2023)

The aim of the project is to develop an innovative educational offer for teenagers and caregivers of foster homes, and to implement the created educational tools in these institutions, in order to increase the life skills of their teenagers, necessary to function in today's fastchanging digital world.

This purpose is directly linked to the objective of the Education programme as it:

- a) reduces the economic and social disparities among young people now and in their lifetime;
- b) increases the knowledge potential of Poland as the first such educational offer addressed to young people in the social care system;
- c) strengthens the institutional partnership on education between Poland and Iceland through the transfer of knowledge and good practices from the Icelandic partner specializing in digital inclusive education and education on social care system.

The project contributes to the objectives agreed upon between the Partners, because the proposed content of the educational offer is innovative, knowledge transfer from Iceland allows for the creation of set of education materials for being use among socially excluded young people, and the offer integrates the use of new technologies in education, creates new teaching methods.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project Partners: CTS Customized Training Solutions Sp. Z O.O., Kara Connect

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Maj, Joanna Starczewska, Michalina Wacław

Project funding: The EEA and Norway Grants



Read more

The territorial dimension of the conference on the future of Europe and its follow-ups

(15 DEC 2021 - 30 JUN 2022)

The Conference on the Future of Europe provided an opportunity to reflect in a fundamental way on the most relevant challenges for the future of Europe. Clustered into nine topics, the debates in the CoFoE cover EU policies and processes, the EU's institutional structure, and citizens' expectations towards the EU.

The CoR positioning in the CoFoE aimed to propose possible avenues for improving and strengthening the role of cities and regions, and of the CoR itself as the institutional representative of cities and regions in the EU decision-making process. In other words, the CoR aimed to strengthen the territorial dimension of European democracy.

The study commissioned by the COR and done by CASE team analysed the outcomes of the CoFoE. The three institutions examined swiftly how to follow up effectively to this report. The analysis supported the CoR's follow-up to the CoFoE's recommendations concerning European Democracy and institutional issues, providing a knowledge-based backup to its legislative and political work. It also facilitated the gathering and development of the ideas put forward in the CoFoE that are relevant for cities and regions and for the CoR, as well as an overview of potential CoR partners and allies.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project Partners: Milieu

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Karolina Zubel

Project Client: The Committee of the Regions



Read more

Developing a handbook on good practice in countering disinformation at local and regional level

(15 DEC 2021 - 15 JUN 2022)

Local and regional authorities, being closest to the citizens, can be a valuable asset in fighting disinformation. It is necessary to acknowledge their role in developing specific tailor-made activities and messaging which can support the engagement in the fight against disinformation at national and European level. Local and regional authorities should be assisted in building

awareness-raising on disinformation threats in their constituencies, as well as in developing the capacity to react promptly to the threats.

The project aimed at providing an overview of the existing EU framework and of the available tools to help fight against disinformation, taking into account the specific challenges encountered by local and regional authorities. Drawing from the existing framework and best practice, the project aimed also to provide local and regional actors with concrete recommendations on effective measures to counter disinformation, with a particular focus on media literacy and civic education. It will contain proposals to support the CoR's foresight in this area.

See the publication p. 61.

Project leader: Millieu

Project partner: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Katarzyna Sidło, Oskar Chmiel

Client: The Committee of the Regions



Read more

A new agenda for the Mediterranean: are the EU tools and means of action up to its ambitions?

(01 DEC 2021 - 31 MAR 2022)

The cooperation on the basin, to whom participate EU Member States and the non-EU Mediterranean coastal states, has a long history that begins with the Barcelona Declaration, continued in 2008 with the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and with the Global Strategy in 2016. This evolution brings to the 2021 "Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighborhood: A new Agenda for the Mediterranean" set in the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy. The southern Mediterranean region is facing several challenges, from climate change to failure of states, and the European Union would like to cooperate with MENA partners to tackle the issue.

The main aim of this study was to provide a general overview of actions in the region, geopolitical considerations proposing policy recommendations for the EU toolbox. The study introduction was structured with a summary of the evolution of the EU and Southern Neighborhood relations.

The main part of the study:

- Assess the political, institutional and economic framework of EU towards Southern Neighborhood and evaluate the new policy's coherence with the objectives, principles and values contained in the EU's Treaties with the policy and legislative framework;
- Analyse the key policy areas covered by the 2021 Commission communication;
- Evaluate the communication strategy for the project along with EU's toolbox instruments and initiatives, and identify any missing elements;
- Forecast potential scenarios for the future of EU-MENA relations.

The study provided concrete recommendations to the EU and its partners, together with advises specifically for the European Parliament.

Project Leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project Partner: IEMED

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Karolina Zubel, Katarzyna Sidło, Marek Dąbrowski, Oskar Chmiel

Client: European Parliament



Read more

SMARTLY - Neets' employability in the green & digital economy

(01 NOV 2021 - 01 JAN 2024)

The SMARTLY Project aims to develop an innovative profiling method featuring specific elements relevant for digital and green jobs. The profiling will be integrated by the development of relevant training content aimed at strengthening key competences of NEETs in such areas. Such training content will also build on the on the survey finding conducted with employers and other relevant stakeholders to ascertain the needs of the sector in terms of key competences and skills required in digital and green jobs. The training will be submitted for accreditation at the end of the project.

The project also engages employers to ensure consistency between labour force competences and demand in the green economy. At the end, PES and other entities will adopt an improved profiling and training approach that will help aligning NEETs' competences to labour market for Green and Digital sectors.

Finally, the project results will be disseminated widely through the participants' networks with the aim of transferring the solutions to other organisations that deliver the Youth Guarantee in Europe.

Project leader: Jobsplus

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, ANCI Toscana (IT), Local Council Association Polo Universitario di Grosseto (IT), Higher Education Public Employment Service (CY), Public Employment Service (HR) Cde-petrapatrimonia (FR)

CASE experts involved: Izabela Marcinkowska, Michalina Wacław, Damien Tourte

Project funding: Erasmus+



Read more

Equalising opportunities for the less developed regions of Armenia due to implementation of development projects

(04 OCT 2021 - 28 JUN 2022)

The project was aimed at a group of up to 30 people representing 10-15 selected municipalities in Armenia. Due to the fairly centralized system and hierarchically subordinated administration, the central authorities in Armenia manage most of the EU and international funds. Using the experience gained during the transformation period and basing on 30 years of scientific research, CASE experts in cooperation with colleagues from the Economic Development and Research Center (EDRC) developed and conducted a course for representatives of the local government in Armenia. The course featured a presentation of Polish experience and

specific solutions applied during the implementation of local government reforms in Poland, and discussed the possibilities of using this experience in Armenia.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partner: Economic Development and Research Center (EDRC, Armenia)

CASE experts involved: Stanislav Bieliei, Oskar Chmiel

Project funding: RITA programme, Financed by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation as part of the RITA -

Transformations in the Region program



Read more

INTERCEPT - motivating mobilizing supporting Neets green career pathway (01 SEP 2021 - 24 JAN 2024)

The project's goal is to tackle youth unemployment with a transnational approach. This topic, along with its multinational angle, is perfectly in line with the Europe 2020 strategy and the EU cohesion policy that takes into account the crucial role of the regions and cross-border cooperation plays in smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. In this context the INTERCEPT is an ambitious initiative characterized by a duality of purpose, reducing social inequalities and raising awareness on green economy while implementing sustainable policies. The project revolves around the idea that the green economy and the investments within it are going to be crucial for the post-pandemic recovery and are bound to change our economy and society forever.

The INTERCEPT project stretches over three countries - Malta, Lithuania, Italy - and it involves a group of 300 NEETs (Neither in Employment or in Education or Training) between the age of 25 and 29 years who will be trained accordingly and will search employment related to Green Economy.

The aim of the project is to mainstream the new approach into a structural measure to integrate NEETs in the green economy, relying also on the evaluation of piloted schemes. INTERCEPT will also engage employers to ensure consistency between labour force competences and demands in the green economy.

CASE will analyze the best practices which lead to the successful 25-29 years old NEETs' integration in the labour market. Another task of the project will be to identify and highlight barriers that limit the impact of the implemented practices in all participating countries. CASE's experts will take part into the assessment of pilot projects and will collaborate in the creation of the conclusions and improvements suggestions. CASE experts will also have a quality control role in the project.

Project leader: Jobsplus

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Institute of Economic Research of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Slovakia); Employment Services under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of The Republic of Lithuania); Visionary Analytics (Lithuania); Anci Toscana - Association of Municipalities of Tuscany (Italy); Grosseto University hub (Italy); National Employment Agency Luxembourg (Luxembourg).

CASE experts involved: Oskar Chmiel

Project funding: EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment



Read more

Shaping digital literacy for young people in the new conditions

(01 SEP 2021 - 31 AUG 2022)

The main aim of the project is to promote a digital literacy among young people and improve their digital, management and communication skills by their engagement (as an assistant) in CASE research projects. The project will be an answer to the lack of operational tools, fill the gap in digital knowledge and enhance synergies between young people and potential employers.

Within the project, we tend to share our knowledge and experience among youngsters and show a set of basic skills are needed for successful implementation of contemporary research projects.

Relying on partners experience and by identifying common trends, the specific objectives of the activities are among others to systematize and develop digital skills for implementing research projects and office work, figure out possible ways to tailor skills using online platforms, promote the social inclusion of youngsters at local/country/European levels, and to contribute to the European volunteering movement as a mean of strengthening active citizenship among young people.

The project is focused on young people's needs and designed to contribute to the capacity building of youngsters at the beginning of their professional career.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: MOH Associazione Socioculturale, Maison de l'Europe de Tours Centre Val de Loire

CASE experts involved: Stanislav Bieliei, Paulina Kocot **Project funding:** Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps



Read more

Moja szansa w Polsce / My chance in Poland

(01 JAN 2021 - 31 JAN 2022)

As part of the project "My Chance in Poland", an innovative support model for foreign nationals with basic skills was developed and tested. The aim of the model was to improve skills in understanding and creating information, mathematical reasoning, digital skills and social competences.

Foreign nationals are an increasingly large group on the labour market in Poland. At the same time, activities aimed at improving their skills were not undertaken in a systemic and innovative way. The innovativeness of the model consisted in the comprehensive support of this group through a combination of training and mentoring as well as the selection of innovative training methods.

The model offered support at three levels: educational, advisory and psychological. The educational support took the form of theoretical and practical training. Their aim was to raise the level of skills of the participants. This process was strengthened by counselling and psychological support. Each participant was supported by a tutor or supervisor whose task was to work on the motivation of the participant. Their relationship drew on mentoring practice and coaching, development assistance and guidance.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: Fundacja Ocalenie, Fundacja dla Somalii

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Izabela Marcinkowska, Joanna Starczewska, Oskar Chmiel

Project funding: European Social Fund



Read more

CREATE 2 EVALUATE

(01 NOV 2020 - 31 OCT 2022)

CREATE2Evaluate developed innovative tools devoted to policy makers at various layers of governance (from local to national and EU) to monitor and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of Adult Education (AE) policies and interventions.

Evaluation and Valorisation are crucial steps in creating viable strategies with long-term benefits. Yet many AE policies on the local and regional levels are not systematically evaluated. This is partly due to policy makers lacking the appropriate tools. CREATE2Evaluate addressed this gap by designing a set of useful tools and templates to help AE policy makers and agents active in the AE policy processes evaluate existing strategies, draw actionable conclusions and design better strategies in the future.

The main objective of CREATE 2 EVALUATE was to advance the formulation of effective AE policies and programmes through the development of reliable tools for the evaluation of AE policies at various layers of governance, with a focus on the local/regional level. The specific objective was to empower and equip policy and decision-makers with tools that allow to effectively monitor and evaluate the impact of AE and feed into the policy loops.

Project leader: Niedersächischer Bund für freie Erwachsenenbildung e.V. – Germany

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, The National University of Ireland, Maynooth (Maynooth University) (Ireland), IHF asbl (Belgium), IDP, Internet Web Solutions (IWS) (Spain), ISJ Neamt, The Municipality of Pescara (Spain)

CASE experts involved: Izabela Marcinkowska, Machteld Bergstra

Project funding: Erasmus+, Strategic Partnerships for adult education



Read more

Regulation of the workability in small and micro enterprises through multimedia tools (AKKUEurope)

(01 OCT 2020 - 30 SEP 2022)

Micro and small enterprises (MSE) play an important role in the European economy. MSE are potentially particularly affected by a shortage of young talent, as they are unable to compete with the services offered by Medium-Sized Enterprises and large companies in various respects (e.g. job security, pay levels, promotion opportunities). MSE can and must react to this by paying special attention to maintaining the workability and employability of their existing workforces. In addition to the classic occupational health and safety measures, measures for the preventive maintenance of work and employability must be implemented to a greater extent, so that employees can and want to carry out their work until the planned retirement age. A comprehensive promotion of work ability can help to close the gap. There is feedback from many consultants that the existing instruments cannot be used in companies with fewer than 15 employees: They are too complicated, do not fit in with the choice of words or can only be used with a larger number of employees.

The aim of the AKKUEurope project is the systematic development and testing of a multimedia toolbox suitable for the target group on the basis of existing instruments, together with the owners and employees of selected MSE companies. For this purpose, a research of existing instruments in the participating European countries of the partners of the project was carried out first. The selected instruments were adapted to the needs of MSE or developed for this target group and especially for the employees working there and tested together with model MSE companies in all European countries covered by the project consortium. After the test phase, a final adjustment of the instruments based on the test results as well as a medial implementation of the toolbox did follow.

AKKUEurope results are practical and relevant solutions for micro and small businesses, available in multilingual versions, free and without restrictions through the OER platform.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: Dialogo, IWS, IDP, IHS, ZIRZ **CASE experts involved:** Izabela Marcinkowska

Project funding: Erasmus+



MIGRIGHT: Improving social dialogue for decent work of migrants and refugees in Poland

(17 FEB 2020 - 31 AUG 2022)

The main objective of the project was to raise capacity of social partners in Poland to participate in dialogue through the transfer of best practices and training regarding fostering migrant and refugee workers' rights and ensuring decent work conditions for this group of workers. The project specifically aimed to:

- increase the level of professionalization of the social dialogue through better preparation of its participants and by basing the dialogue on facts (evidence-based policy making);
- facilitate the social dialogue on migrant and labour policies through the development of a set of guidelines and recommendations regarding the cooperation between the dialogue's participants that would support the dialogue-friendly environment;
- disseminate knowledge on activities of social dialogue partners in Poland and Norway in the sphere of fostering migrant and refugee workers' rights and ensuring decent work conditions for this group of workers.

The project aimed to establish decent work practices and address primarily the issue of labour rights and equality of opportunity and treatment of migrant and refugee workers.

The activities carried out as part of the project included three expert and consultative meetings (round tables) will be organised at the voivodship level, four workshop trainings organised in Warsaw, study visit to Norway, and the final conference, attended by all project partners and other invited representatives of social dialogue organisations, public authorities and other relevant organisations, organised in Warsaw. The main aim of the conference was to disseminate the results of the project and to promote the MIGRIGHT Social Dialogue Toolkit.

Project leader: Federacja Przedsiębiorców Polskich, FPP

Project partners: CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research, Ogólnopolskie Porozumienie Związków Zawodowych, OPZZ, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise, NHO

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Oskar Chmiel

Project funding: Norway Grants 2014-2021, in the frame of the Programme "Social Dialogue – Decent Work".



Read more

BioBeo – Innovative education for the bioeconomy

01 NOV 2022 - 30 OCT 2024

Relying on five specific bioeconomy themes – interconnectedness, outdoor learning, forestry, life below water and food loop – the BioBeo project aims at developing an educational programme in order to foster understanding and involvement across society regarding 'circularity', bioeconomy and green practices.

The project will firstly concern 35 schools (preschool, primary and secondary school), including 1000 students, 500 parents and 100 teachers in Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. It will be possible to include more partners and increase the scale of the project in Poland, Greece, Romania and Estonia beyond the 24-months timeframe.

BioBeo will generate programmes to spread the concept of bioeconomy, circular bioeconomy approach in education systems and provide resources, and digital toolkits.

Project leader: University College Dublin (UCD)

Project partner: Maynooth University (IR), An Taisce (IT), University of Hohenheim (GE), Odisee University of Applied Sciences (BE), CASE (PL), Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (NL), Synyo (AT), Foundation for Environmental Education (GB), Youth in Science and Business Foundation (EE), E3STEM (GR), Universitatea Parents Targoviste (RO), Technical University Berlin (GE), BOS+ (BE).

CASE experts involved: Izabela Marcinkowska, Jan Bazyli Klakla

Grant: EU Horizon.



Read more

Belarus' green economy: opportunities for reform and development (01 SEP 2022 - 31 AUG 2023)

The Belarusian economy is in a deep crisis, reinforced by sanctions and the detrimental effects of the Russia-Ukraine war. The future democratic government will be forced to not only solve the structural rigidities of the domestic economy but also adjust it to the new environmental policy of the EU. In particular, in order to fulfil ambitious goals of the European Green Deal in the EU and avoid so-called "carbon leakage" outside the EU, European Commission (EC) is working on establishing Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to collect tax/duty on selected imported goods from carbon-intensive production (in the first phase: cement, steel, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity). The new regulation was planned to be introduced in 2022 with the new taxation to be fully operated since 2026.

The project aims at developing a plan of green reforms based on the principles of reduced emissions, renewable energy and circular economy which will allow the government of Belarus to effectively use resources to restore the economy, make it more sustainable and based on the human right to a favourable environment. In addition, the plan should reduce dependence on Russia. Raising awareness of the Belarusian society of the concept of green economy is another important objective of the project.

Project leader: CASE

CASE experts involved: Aleś Alachnovič, Alexandra Mamaeva

Project funding: Netherlands Fund for Regional Partnerships – MATRA/Human Rights Fund



USAGE – Urban Stormwater Aquaponics Garden Environment

(01 AUG 2021 - 31 JUL 2024)

The objective of this project was to create the green-garden installation for the food production which is based on aquaponic systems supported on rain and stormwater collection infrastructure. Alongside to food production, the infrastructure should play an educational and social role, integrating the citizens, creating the workplaces and propagating the environment-friendly behaviours. The aquaponic installation connected with the water collection and treatment system creates a meeting place and plays a social role by integrating neighbourhoods, local citizens, boosting entrepreneurship and rising the knowledge about climate changes.

The project takes the Urban Living Lab (ULL) approach with six interrelated, feedback-driven work packages. It's a complex project, containing aquaponics with stormwater treatment and the technologic "mixture" with social component. ULL methodology assumes moving almost all research activities to the project site. Big part of infrastructure is located in two urban sites (Wroclaw and Oslo) and research on them is performed there. In this "cocreation" process subject infrastructure is developed in front of the local community and with their engagement.

Project leader: Water Science and Technology Institute - H2O SciTech

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Norwegian Institute for Water Research (Norway), Warsaw University of Technology (Poland), Politechnika Krakowska im. Tadeusza Kościuszki/Cracow University of Technology (Poland, The Fridtjof Nansen Foundation at Polhøgda (Norway)

CASE expert involved: Karolina Zubel

Project funding: EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021, Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju



Read more

GREEN HEAT - towards collaborative local decarbonization

(01 FEB 2021 - 31 JAN 2024)

Despite the fact that many Polish cities have a very well-developed district heating system, a huge number of houses still use individual boilers for heating and domestic hot water preparation. The vast majority is based on fossil fuels, mainly coal, causing air pollution and emitting huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

For the selected Pilot Case in Legionowo, Poland, a participatory procedure for the gradual elimination of individual fossil fuel boilers is being developed and carried out. This will lead to a recommendation on the target structure of the new local energy system based on renewables, indicating potential technology suppliers, listing financing sources, and providing the business model of operation worked out together with local stakeholders. The system should be socially and economically accepted and feasible in a reasonable time. This process will be used to develop a methodology to ultimately eliminate individual fossil fuel boilers from other locations/cities.

The project employs a multidisciplinary approach to achieve the project objectives, literature review, data analysis, surveys, individual and group in-depth interviews, system dynamic models, energy system analysis and modelling, co-creation, and participatory process to support decision-making processes.

Representatives of various stakeholders will be invited to cooperate: residents, technology suppliers, city council representatives, local businesses, potential investors, government agencies and NGOs.

Project leader: Instytut Maszyn Przepływowych im. Roberta Szewalskiego Polskiej Akademii Nauk

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Akademia Leona Koźmińskiego, Norsk institutt for luftforskning (Norway), Universitetet i Bergen (Norway), Akademia Pedagogiki Specjalnej im. Marii Grzegorzewskiej, Fundacja KEZO affiliated to Centrum Badawcze Polskiej Akademii Nauk.

CASE Expert: Karolina Zubel

Grant: IDEALAB - Programme 'Applied Research' - NCBiR



Read more

Remote climate effects and their impact on European sustainability, policy and trade (RECEIPT)

(01 FEB 2021 - 31 JAN 2024)

In an interconnected world, Europe's economy will be increasingly affected by climate change impacts that occur beyond its border. The movement of goods and services, people and capital occurs at ever-increasing rates and volumes. This complex network reveals Europe's globalized climate exposure, vulnerability and risk structure, through which both gradual and sudden impacts of climatic features at any location on the world (hurricanes, droughts, melting ice sheets) propagate, ultimately impacting Europe's socio-economic welfare. Public awareness of Europe's sensitivity to global climate impacts is steadily growing.

A formal analysis that maps the potential impacts of remote climatic features is not straightforward. Climatic drivers, connection pathways, and impacts on economic sectors are interconnected and to some extent mutually dependent. A commonly applied "top-down" model output analysis is therefore unlikely to yield useful, credible, and representative information.

Building on recent research implies that 'storylines', describing the interactions of remote climate effects on European economic sectors, provide complementary insights on remote climate risk. The development of storylines is driven by stakeholders, who assess the effects of remote climate change on Europe through anecdotal and explorative activities.

In order to provide relevant and quantitative information on the European risks from remote global climatic features, RECEIPT will develop and implement a novel stakeholder-driven storytelling concept that maps representative connections between European socio-economic

activities and remote climatic hazards. Using a limited number of storylines designed for selected sectors, RECEIPT has the following key objectives:

- Mapping of global hotspots of remote areas, which are relevant for Europe through their connection pathways and sensitivity to climate change;
- Co-development of sectoral storylines with societal partners, describing the relationship between climate and non-climate drivers of the following socio-economic activities: European food security, finance/capital networks, international development, supply and value chains and European coastal infrastructure;
- Assessment of European socio-economic impacts along each of the selected storylines under three "Paris scenarios", representing different interlinked socio-economic development, adaptation, mitigation and climate change pathways towards mid-21st century;
- A robust synthesis of the storylines resulting in a pan-European socio-economic risk assessment focusing on the difference between the three "Paris scenarios";

Project leader: Deltares (the Netherlands)

Project partners: Deltares, CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut-Knmi, Stichting Vu, Stichting Netherlands Escience Center, Internationales Institut Fuer Angewandte Systemanalys, Potsdam Institut Fuer Klimafolgenforschung, Eidgenoessische Technische Hochschule Zuerich, Universitaet Bern, R2 Water, Arctik Sprl, Fondazione Centro Euro-Mediterraneo Sui Cambiamenti Climatici, The University Of Reading, Cicero Senter Klimaforskning Stiftelse, Stichting Solidaridad, Sayers And Partners Llp, University of Leeds, Stichting International Red Cross Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change And Disaster Preparedness

CASE experts involved: Jan Hagemejer, Karoina Zubel, Stanislav Bieliei

Project funding: Horizon 2020



Read more

Events

The 174th mBank-CASE seminar: How to overcome the energy crisis in Poland?

In the third quarter of 2022, the 174th mBank – CASE seminar entitled "How to overcome the energy crisis in Poland?" took place online. During the meeting on September 22, two experts in the field of energy: Mr. Maciej Stańczuk, Vice-President of the Management Board of Rafako S.A. and president of the board of ETE - Energotechnika Engineering Sp. z o.o., and Robert Kuraszkiewicz, a regular collaborator of Nowa Konfederacja, presented a comprehensive and

realistic action plan for the construction of a modern power system in Poland. Dr. Janusz Steinhoff, Minister of Economy in 1997–2001, an expert in the field of mining and energy, commented on the plan. The seminar was conducted by Dr. Ewa Balcerowicz.

The experts presented the state of the Polish energy sector and discussed the internal (national) and external causes of the energy crisis in Poland. Internal reasons include the lack of strategic decisions, omissions and actions going against global trends for 20 years. External reasons include Russia's aggression against Ukraine this year and its consequences for the prices and availability of energy resources in the world.

Most of the time the experts and the commentator devoted to presenting seven specific recommendations for the Polish energy policy, which can minimize the costs of the current crisis for society and the economy in a short period of time and start the construction of a modern power system.

The seminar was very popular among the public - according to information from Bankier.pl, the live broadcast was watched by 342 people.

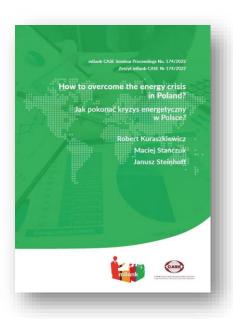
Speakers: Maciej Stańczyk, Robert Kuraszkiewicz, Dr. Janusz Steinhoff



Read more

Publications

How to overcome the energy crisis in Poland?



We are pleased to present the mBank-CASE Seminar Proceedings No. 174 entitled "How to overcome the energy crisis in Poland?". The publication consists of an article by Maciej Stanczuk and Robert Kuraszkiewicz under the same title, and a commentary on the article by Janusz Steinhoff.

On the threshold of winter 2022/23, Europe is facing its biggest energy crisis since the end of the Cold War. Its immediate cause is Russia's armed attack on Ukraine and the associated sanctions imposed on Russia by the European Union. For years, European markets have become dependent on Russian raw materials, which in the current circumstances translates into increased energy prices. The dependence on imports from Russia varies between EU countries, hence the scale of the current crisis also differs from one country to another.

Poland, however, is affected more severely. Fossil fuel prices have increased significantly in the last 12 months, and the Polish economy is hugely dependent on them. The energy sector needs a crisis plan at the moment. However, this plan must be embedded in a larger project the construction of a modern low-carbon system. The problem is much bigger than it may seem, and a return to the *status quo* after the end of the war, which will happen sooner or later, is not a good solution for Poland.

The goal of this study is to present global trends important for the future of the energy sector in Poland, and to put forward recommendations for short-term and long-term economic policy. The authors came out with a proposal of areas of action that in the short term can minimize the costs of the current crisis for society and the economy, and allow to start building a modern, low-carbon power system.



Read the report

Handbook on countering online disinformation at the local and regional level

Handbook on countering online disinformation at the local and regional level, a new report for the European Committee of the Regions by Katarzyna W. Sidło, Agnieszka Kulesa, Oskar Chmiel (CASE) and Tony Zamparutti, Matthew Jones, Tugce Tugran, Laura Vona, Leïla Navas (Milieu S.R.L.)

This study, 'A handbook on good practice in countering disinformation at local and regional level' was developed in the context of a contract carried out by Milieu Consulting for the Committee of the Regions CIVEX Commission. Disinformation is a phenomenon that affects all levels of government. Given their proximity to the day-to-day lives of EU citizens, local and regional authorities (LRAs) have a front-line role to play in countering online disinformation. The ultimate objective of the study was to provide concrete recommendations and guidance to LRAs in support of efforts to fight online disinformation.

Research for this study was undertaken through a mixture of literature review and interviews. An initial long-list of literature was drawn up, covering online disinformation as a phenomenon, treatment of online disinformation at European level, and practices to counter online disinformation,



with a focus on Europe and the local and regional level. Following the initial literature review, a typology of different practices to fight online disinformation was developed and further research was undertaken to uncover practices. Examples of good practice were chosen as case studies in agreement with the Committee of the Regions.



Read the report

The territorial dimension of the conference on the future of Europe and its follow-ups

The publication is a new report for the European Committee of the Regions by Jan Bazyli Klakla, Agnieszka Kulesa, Karolina Zubel (CASE) and Tony Zamparutti (Milieu Consulting).

This final report was prepared as part of the project The territorial dimension of the Conference on the Future of Europe and its follow-ups commissioned by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) under the specific contract No CDR.13594 implementing multiple framework contract for studies in the fields of constitutional affairs, multilevel governance, and devolution. The main aim was presenting the outcomes of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) which are of relevance for the CoR aligned with three specific objectives set for its participation in the CoFoE, particularly in the framework of strengthening the role of local and regional authorities in European democracy and the functioning of the European Union.



The study will also be of use to support the CoR's followup to the CoFoE's recommendations concerning Euro-

pean democracy and institutional issues, providing a knowledge-based backup to its legislative and political work, in line with the recently published Report of the High Level Group on European Democracy, a resolution on the contribution of the local and regional authorities to the Conference on the Future of Europe (RESOL-VII/019), and the Marseille Manifesto of local and regional leaders: "Europe starts in its regions, cities and villages". It will also facilitate the gathering and development of the ideas put forward in the CoFoE which might be relevant for cities and regions as well as provide an overview of potential CoR partners and allies.



Read the report

Integrating NEETS In The Green And Digital Economy: Recent Trends, Policy Developments And Future Prospects

The term NEET, which stands for young people who are not in employment, education or training, is relatively new. However, it is gaining more and more importance thanks to greater attention from institutions, international organizations and the media. Governments are deeply concerned about the risk of a "lost generation" and have thus created a variety of programs and policies for the purpose of supporting NEETs.

The aim of this report is to compare the situation of NEETs at the European level with the situation in individual countries and the programs and policies supporting this group, and to provide recommendations in order to develop the most effective plan of action.

The document was provided within the **SMARTLY** project funded by the Erasmus+ program.

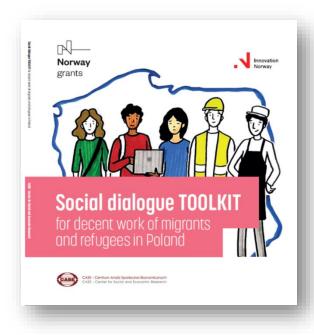


Read the report

Social dialogue TOOLKIT for decent work of migrants and refugees in Poland

Today Poland is dealing with an unprecedented inflow of migrants and refugees. Within less than a month after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine on 24th February 2022, the border with Poland was crossed by over 2 million refugees who obtained access to the labour market.

Now we know that although the growing number of foreign employees on the Polish labour market involves many advantages, the conditions in which some of them work in Poland are not always good. An in-depth discussion on this issue within the scope of social dialogue may prove useful because we believe that the co-operation between social partners is one of the activities that may contribute to ensuring decent work to migrants arriving in Poland. And even if the social dialogue institution has no formal competence with regard to the introduction of certain activities related to migration policy, social dialogue parties and institutions have the adequate tools to initiate relevant discussions or influence the government's proposals.



This was the problem on which the project MIGRIGHT: Improving social dialogue for decent work of migrants and refugees in Poland focused. Its ambition was to motivate social partners even more strongly to participate in tripartite and bipartite dialogue in Poland – also through the transfer of good practices from Norway, because it is an example of a state with a richer tradition of social dialogue. Social dialogue toolkit for decent work of migrants and refugees in Poland serves as a summary of what has been elaborated during the project. This publication is intended to contribute to the development of a discussion in Poland on the further promotion of social dialogue and the outcomes we want to achieve through this, particularly in the context of the situation of migrants on the labour market.



Read the publication

An outline of needed reforms for the healthcare system: What has the COVID-19 crisis changed?

Limitations on the efficient management of healthcare and on effective management in health facilities have been a constant problem in Poland for about 20 years. The Covid-19 pandemic has uncovered all of the shortcomings of healthcare in Poland, which had consistently been being brought up in expert works and the public debate.

The report on the healthcare interventions that were essential at the peak of the Covid-19 epidemic in Poland is the fruit of presentations and discussions at the mBank-CASE Seminar held on April 15, 2021.

Thus far, reform programs haven't been comprehensive, and even those based on accurate and comprehensive diagnoses of the situation haven't had a lot of power to enact change. The CASE Foundation has also undertaken work indicating the main causes of healthcare's ailments and outlining the threats to Poles' health. Previously, it had analyzed the ineffectiveness of the system after the 1999 reform. Much attention was paid to the dangerous lack of medical and care staff, factoring in the aging population with growing medical and care needs in developing forecasts. Alongside the currently constant theme of underfinancing the healthcare system, much attention has been paid in recent years to the subjects of weak governance; the lack of the necessary information to diagnose problems; the lack of planning, reporting and evaluation procedures; and insufficient dialog with both the public and healthcare workers, resulting in burdensome strikes by nurses, resi-



dents, anesthesiologists, and physical therapists. Attention has been drawn to the managerial incompetence of political leaders in the healthcare system, regardless of their occasionally very high medical qualifications.



Read the report

Unionisation and the twin transition

The aim of the study "Unionisation and the twin transition. Good practices in collective action and employee involvement" was to provide the Members of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) of the European Parliament with a broad overview and specific examples of good practices concerning social dialogue, collective bargaining, and employee involvement in the workplace in the twin transition context.

Digitalisation and the transition to a climate-neutral economy are transforming the EU economy and labour markets. They affect workplaces, including work content, working conditions, new skills requirements and access to social dialogue. Green and digital transitions can affect workers both positively and negatively, and their shape depends to a great extent on inclusive and well-thought-out policy-making.

The study provides a synthesis of the existing research on the twin transition impacts on the labour market as well as an update on the state-of-play and specificities of social dialogue in response to the challenges stemming from digitalisation and greening, including good practice



examples of national or sectoral initiatives targeted at and delivered by trade unions. The publication includes also a case study analysis of establishment-level good practice examples of employee involvement in (digital and/or green) technology adoption processes, and an overview of the main legislative and policy measures adopted at the EU level to foster employee involvement.



Read the report

Trade, Innovation, and Productivity Policies

Projects

Repercussions of the agri-food crisis at the local and regional level

(18 JUL 2022 – 30 NOV 2022)

The war in Ukraine has further destabilised already fragile agricultural markets, in addition to challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. It directly affects global food supplies of wheat, maize, barley and sunflower oil and affects already high food, feed, fertiliser and fossil fuel energy prices. In this context, the European Commission put forward measures to help to secure access to basic goods and services, while also highlighting the need to accelerate the transition to more sustainable and resilient food systems to better prepare for any future crises.

Objectives of the study were presentation of available data related to the agri-food crisis across regions, categorisation of regions in relation to resilience and ability to cope with the crisis, assessment of regional differences, identification of possible strategies and tools to be put in place, identification of possible long-term trends and challenges, and recommendations with a view to ongoing discussions.

Project leader: CEPS

Project partner: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Delia Agostinelli, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Izabela Marcinkowska

Project funding: Committee of the Regions



Read more

Addressing the challenges of the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in national Recovery and Resilience Plans: a preliminary assessment (01 JUL 2022 - 31 OCT 2022)

The Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation defines the scope of application of the Facility by referring to EU policy areas clustered around six pillars. One of those pillars is "Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including economic cohesion, jobs, productivity, competitiveness, research, development and innovation, and a well-functioning internal market with strong SMEs". To receive RRF funding, the Member States must present a coherent pack of reforms and investments through national Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs).

The project aimed to assess the extent to which such measures meet the specifications set out in the Council implementing decisions and in related Commission documents, discuss the extent to which the underlying milestones and targets are sufficient and appropriate to monitor progress towards achieving the measures' stated objectives and the overall objectives of the Facility, and identify risks that may stem from the chosen measures and gaps that remain unaddressed in the broad policy areas underpinning the set of measures.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Delia Agositnelli, Agnieszka Kulesa, Barbara Surdykowska, Michalina Wacław

Client: European Parliament



Read more

Towards a reform strategy for Ukraine

(15 JUN 2022 - 31 OCT 2022)

The proposed implementation strategy for the blueprint was based on close cooperation with civil society in order to ensure the maximum effect and especially support for needed reforms. The post-war era in the country will likely be sure and filled with competing priorities, and Ukrainian authorities might face a deficit of political will with painful transformations coming so soon after the disruption of the war. Against this backdrop, we envision a model of donors – and in particular an advisory group comprised of experts who have been through transition already – advising in the process of rebuilding, Ukrainian authorities implementing the plan, and CSOs assisting with monitoring from the grassroots level (and advising with adjustment of the rebuilding plan) as the most efficient way to move. More importantly, this model has proven to be efficient over the last eight years, as a model of cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank. Finally, given the high level of development in Ukraine's civil society, it should also engage the social capital needed to ensure success.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partner: CASE Ukraine

CASE experts involved: Dmytro Boyarchuk, Christopher Hartwell

Project funding: Study Tours to Poland, Polish-American Freedom Foundation



Read more

Belarus beehive: supporting new initiatives for transition and reforms

(01 JUN 2022 - 30 SEP 2022)

The objective of this project was based on the assumption that the changes caused by the 2020 protests in the Belarusian society and in the level of its civil activism, though partially driven underground, are long-term and irreversible and that the demand for a fundamental change in the political system and sectoral reforms will continue to be strong and will lead to a change in the political regime within several year period. By that time the roadmaps for reform, sectoral action plans and the draft reforms developed in a participatory manner will be required. The action was to help the civil society of Belarus survive and continue operations in the repressive environment and help them to prepare as much as possible for the post-transition period when their expertise and engagement will be in need to support the reform process.

The main objectives of the project:

- a. provision of the coalitions and key stakeholders (the Coordination Council, the Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the National Anti-Crisis Management, and others) with support in developing various analytical products. The developed analytical documents will be used in the current activities of the coalitions and stakeholders (before the democratic transition), as well as after the change of the regime, when there will be the need to revise and develop a large number of laws and regulations;
- b. rise of awareness among the public about the importance and need of reforms and their content and to expand the circle of potential stakeholders.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Aleś Alachnovič, Yauheni Bury

Project funding: Belarusian Association of Research Centers, BeeHive consortium



Read more

Ukrainian economy - the cost of aggression and the road to recovery. Analytical and information activities in Ukraine

(01 APR 2022 - 22 DEC 2022)

The aim of the project was to analyse the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the Ukrainian economy and to present political recommendations for the rapid reconstruction of Ukraine, and to disseminate the results of this analysis to the wider community. As part of the project, briefs, short analyses and longer analytical materials on economic and political issues in Ukraine were published on social media and on the website of the "Price of the State" project. The main target groups of the project were decision makers, stakeholders, journalists and policy makers. Ukrainian experts belonged to CASE Ukraine were involved in substantive activities related to the project.

The objective of the project was dissemination of analytical materials on the situation in Ukraine among stakeholders, decision-makers, key institutions, and among Europeans – increasing their level of knowledge on topics related to the economy of Ukraine.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partner: CASE Ukraine

Experts involved: Dmytro Boyarchuk, Nataliia Leshchenko, Mykola Malukha, Vasyl Povoroznyk, levgen Shulga

Project funding: Solidarity Fund PL



TIA Territorial Impact Assessment/Assessing the territorial impact of policies and strategies within the EU Member States

(15Nov 2021 - 31 May 2023)

The objectives of the project were clearly identified in the Detailed Description of the Object of Procurement (SOPZ) by the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland. They are organization and process of dialogue with project partners and stakeholders, and development of the Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) methodology together with a pilot project in the German-Polish interface.

The project aimed to prepare a TIA method that has the potential to become a universal European method for territorial impact assessment. The activities focused on the designated implementation area, i.e. the German-Polish interface. The project equiped local, regional and national authorities with information and knowledge on which factors to take into account when designing policies.

Read more in CASE Highlights p. 21.

Project leader: Ecorys Polska

Project partner: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Pechcińska, Jan Hagemejer, Katarzyna Sidło

Client: Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland



Read more

Global value chains

(01 Jun 2022 - 31 Dec 2022)

The idea of European strategic autonomy has its origins in the fields of security and defense, but has started to resonate beyond these areas extending to foreign and trade policies. The Covid pandemic and more recently the Russian invasion in Ukraine, have made clear the vulnerability of global value chains and the need to maintain functioning and resilient supply chains and trade flows during such crises.

The study focused on Open Strategic Autonomy and explored the foundations of a contemporary European supply of raw materials, energy and critical goods. It examined the kinds of raw materials particularly important for the EU - especially against the background of the green transformation - and at the same time critical in terms of supply, where they are currently obtained from and what alternative sources are for them. The study also examined what (economic) importance raw material partnerships in the EU could have and how the EU can work strategically with trade partners and, when necessary, defend its interests and take autonomous trade decisions offsetting other countries' unfair practices and undue interferences.

One aim of the study was to provide an overview of critical raw materials bearing in mind the focal points of the political debate. It analysed the potential of bilateral/regional raw material agreements.

The study focused on how international trade and investment can help address EU's vulnerabilities relating to energy, raw materials and critical goods (including agricultural products like grain) and on the importance of global value chains for the strategic sectors concerned. It shall analyse how international agreements as well as legislative and other tools so far address these items and, in particular, the question of raw materials dependency of the EU. It also looked at the EU's open strategic autonomy and internal economic initiatives and identified possible synergies. The study provided an overview on possible cooperation with like-minded third countries.

Project leader: University of Innsbruck

Project partners: CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research, ISPI - Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, London School of Economics, University of Innsbruck, University of Göttingen, Università del Piemonte Orientale

CASE experts involved: Jan Hagemejer, Agnieszka Skowronek

Client: European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA)



Read more

V4 support to promote WB6 Common Regional Market: one market for post-COVID recovery

(01 NOV 2021 - 01 JUN 2022)

The project focused on sharing experiences, transferring knowledge and recommending further regional economic integration through development of the WB6 Common Regional Market using experiences from ex-CEFTA and V4 after integration into the EU single market. Project products (e-book and storytelling video) and events (conference, roundtable, webinar, lectures) addressed the difference in economic cooperation before and after entering the EU and how to speed up process of European integration, with focus on closer economic cooperation between V4 and WB6 in the post-COVID period.

Project leader: Montenegrin Pan-European Union (Montenegro)

Project partners: CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research, Union of the Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central-Eastern Europe (Hungary), Institute for Politics and Society (Czechia), Macro-Economic and Social Analyses 10 (Slovakia), Albanian Center for Economic Research (Albania), Foreign Policy Initiative BH (Bosnia and Herzegovina), FINANCE THINK — Economic, Research and Policy Institute (North Macedonia), Center for Foreign Policy (Serbia), Riinvest Institute for Development Research (Kosovo)

CASE experts involved: Katarzyna Sidło, Stanislav Bieliei

Project funding: International Visegrad Fund



TRADE4SD Trade for Sustainable Development

(01 JUN 2021 - 31 MAY 2025)

Trade is a central factor in shaping global, regional and local development. Increased trade, empowered by the growth of Global Value Chains (GVCs), has boosted productivity and incomes in many countries. However, if not fairly regulated, trade might generate increases in inequality and negative impacts on working conditions in developing countries, and compromise the environment.

Scientific objectives of the project:

- a. identification of a system of relevant indicators of direct and indirect linkages between SDGs and trade, and trade policies, and a clear understanding of the determinants of participation of developing countries to local and global agrifood value chains;
- b. provision of a structured review of how SDGs are currently included in trade rules by analysing the role of WTO and EU bilateral trade agreement to meet SDGs, identifying gaps and best practices;
- c. measurement of the links between trade, trade policies and sustainability at global level via elaborating a new and robust sustainability toolbox integrating econometric and SDGs indicators;
- d. provision of context-specific case studies of selected agrifood value chains in relevant EU trade partners at the global and country level;
- e. analysis of the coherence of the current EU trade-related policies in view of their impacts on trade and SDGs, and their effectiveness to prevent carbon leakage and other forms of externality exportation;
- f. analysis of the coherence of new options for EU policies, such as carbon-tax and/or nutrition polices, in view of their impacts on trade and SDGs (WP5);
- g. identification of options for improving the sustainability impacts of EU trade policy and provide evidence-based policy recommendations.

Project leader: Corvinus University of Budapest

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, University of Kent, CREA - Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria, Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Thünen-Institut - Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei, University of Sussex, University of Ghana, Luke - Natural Resources Institute Finland, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, INRAE - l'Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, L'alimentation et l'environnement, Confederazione Generale dell'Agricoltura Italiana, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Lumina Sprl

CASE experts involved: Katarzyna Zawalińska, Jan Hagemejer, Abdoul Karim Zanhoouo, Vitaly Krupin

Project funding: European Commission, Horizon 2020



The added value of the RRF, based on a preliminary assessment of the Recovery and Resilience Plans

(01 NOV 2021 - 30 MAR 2022)

The ECON Committee of the European Parliament (EP) requested external expertise on the subject "The added value of the RRF, based on a preliminary assessment of the Recovery and Resilience Plans".

"EU value added" in the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs), aiming at ensuring that EU funds are used to the Union overall benefit and/or in line with EU priorities and do not replace national spending that governments would, anyway, implement.

Type of services provided:

- a. a preliminary view on the extent to which the first set of national measures undertaken or envisaged are aligned with EU priorities and agendas;
- evaluation, based on publicly available information, of the extent to which the first set of measures undertaken or envisaged cover new projects that were not in national spending programming;
- identification and assessment of possible cross-country projects and their potential positive impacts on the Single Market and possible missed opportunities for other cross-border projects;
- d. assessment of the potential extent of positive spillovers on the basis of available information;
- e. policy recommendations on how EU value added of RRPs could be further enhanced if revisions take place and the extent to which the EU dimension can be reinforced when implementing and monitoring the Facility.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Jan Hagemejer, Agnieszka Pechcińska, Christopher Hartwell, Magdolna Sass, Karsten

Staehr, Gabriela Dragan

Client: European Parliament



Read more

Cybersecurity for micro, small & medium enterprises

(01 NOV 2020 - 31 OCT 2022)

The economic impact of cybercrime rose fivefold between 2013 and 2017; cybercrime is the fastest-growing form of criminal activity, with companies being the first target with a cost to businesses estimated at \$5.2 trillion worldwide by 2025 (Accenture, "Cost of Cyber Crime Study", 2019). EUROPOL reports that "58% of victims are small businesses". Despite this high vulnerability, only 14% of Micro/Small & Medium Enterprises are prepared to tackle cyber threats ("State of Cybersecurity in Small & Medium Size Businesses" Keeper, 2018). Another industry report ("SME Cyber threat Study", Keeper, 2019) confirms that MSMEs are neither

aware of cyber-risks nor ready: 66% of senior decision-makers at small businesses believe they are unlikely to be a target of online criminals. Similarly, 60% MSMEs have no digital defence plan whatsoever.

Objectives of the project were:

- a. bridge the skill gaps identified at EU and national levels for micro and small businesses on cybersecurity;
- b. develop innovative training to provide new skills and competences to entrepreneurs and staff of MSMEs;
- c. make it possible for young people to become "cybersecurity experts" and identify new jobs in MSMEs. The profile of cybersecurity expert is in high demand: in 2019, IBM reports that the number of cybersecurity job postings has grown 94%;
- d. contribute to the competitiveness and growth of EU micro and small businesses by providing more relevant and high-quality training and products to tackle the challenges of cybersecurity and better manage cyber threats.

Project leader: CTS Customized Training Solutions Sp. z o.o. (Poland)

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Institut de Haute Formation aux Politiques Communautaires (Belgium), IDP SAS di Giancarlo Costantino (Italy), SC Gentlab SRL (Romania), Internet Web Solutions SL (Spain)

CASE experts involved: Izabela Marcinkowska

Project funding: Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership Programme



BATMODEL Better Agri-food Trade Modelling for Policy Analysis

(01 SEP 2020 - 31 AUG 2024)

Economy-wide assessments of multilateral and regional trade agreements often fall short of capturing the complexity of trade policy design and negotiations related to agri-food markets and supply chains. "New generation" trade agreements are not limited to changes in tariffs and tariff rate quotas, but also include provisions on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures (part of what are called non-tariff measures, NTMs), geographical indications (GIs), public procurement and capital flows.

The overall goal of BATModel is to improve existing trade modelling tools and approaches, equipped for the analysis of 21st century trade issues with a focus on agriculture and food to support policy analysis. The current needs of the users are to better account for previously neglected or insufficiently covered issues such as NTMs, GIs, zero trade flows and quality differentiation, as well as GVCs and distributional and sustainability impacts of trade liberalization and trade policy. BATModel addresses these shortcomings by building upon advances in international trade theory and global value chain framework. As a major contribution, BATModel will bridge the gap between the established simulation models, based on the aggregate agent paradigm, and the micro evidence revealed by models that account for heterogeneity

in firms, territories, producers, and customers. The enhancements enabled by BATModel will be operationally implemented through interchangeable and well-documented open-source modules. A test case of an existing free trade agreement and different case studies will be performed to assess the capability of the new modules to improve model-based assessment of agri-food trade. Ultimately, this will provide a new generation of modular trade modelling tool to support the European Commission in designing and assessing trade-related policies and international agreements.

Project leader: Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Stichting Wageningen Research, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universitat Bonn, Universita Degli Studi di Milano, Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet, Jrc -Joint Research Centre, Technische Universitaet Muenchen, Centre D'etudes Prospectives et D'informations Internationales, Centro de Investigacion y Tecnologia Agroalimentaria de Aragon, Universitaet Bern, Magyar Tudomanyos Akademia Kozgazdasag- es Regionalis Tudomanyi Kutatokozpont, Universita Degli Studi Roma Tre, Centre for European Policy Studies, Inra Transfert s.a.

CASE experts involved: Katarzyna Zawalińska, Jan Hagemejer, Abdoul Karim Zanhoouo, Błażej Jędrzejewski

Project funding: Horizon 2020



Read more

Events

International conference "One market for post-COVID recovery: V4 support to promote Common Regional Market of WB6 economies"

The international conference "One market for post-COVID recovery: V4 support to promote Common Regional Market of WB6 economies" took place on September 15, 2022. It was conducted in a hybrid format, with participants present on location, in Podgorica, Montenegro, and online. The conference was organised within the framework of of the project "V4 support to promote WB6 Common Regional Market: one market for post-COVID recovery" and aimed to promote the project's results, including an e-book on regional economic cooperation with recommendations for future regional cooperation of V4 and WB6 countries.

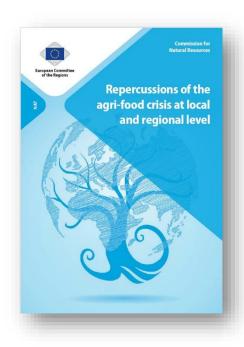


Publications

Repercussions of the agri-food crisis at local and regional level

A study by CEPS and CASE entitled "Repercussions of the agri-food crisis at local and regional level", requested by the European Committee of the Regions' Commission for Natural Resources (CoR NAT), was published in October 2022.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has had a considerable impact on the EU food market, which had already been suffering from disrupted supply chains in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic. As most EU countries benefit from well-developed agricultural production, the availability of grains and food is not at stake in the European Union. However, certain EU countries show some trade dependencies on supplies from Ukraine and Russia, while others are also vulnerable to losing export destinations in Eastern Europe, including Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. Moreover, the ongoing war is continuing to have a considerable effect on prices.



The report aims to assess, in qualitative and quantitative terms, how the Russian invasion of Ukraine is affecting the EU countries and regions that are among the most impacted by the consequences of the war. It begins with an analysis of the crisis, reporting the causes, the figures of the shortages and the EU response. Subsequently, the study reviews Poland and Spain among the most negatively affected countries and regions, while Hungary and Germany are considered among the most resilient ones. In the last part of the study, the authors conclude with a list of lessons learned and some policy recommendations to address the challenges.

Authors: Izabela Marcinkowska, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Delia Agostinelli



Read the report

Regional economic cooperation in V4 and WB6: sharing experience and knowledge in the context of Common Regional Market and post-COVID recovery

The publication is a result of the project "V4 support to promote WB6 Common Regional Market: one market for post-COVID recovery".

The research conducted as part of the project was devoted to the analysis of the difference in economic cooperation of V4 countries before and after entering the EU. The research was also concentrated around the question how to speed up process of European integration of WB6 economies, with focus on closer economic cooperation between V4 and WB6 in the post-COVID period.

The publication discusses the concept of regional integration, presents the way of V4 countries

from the CEFTA to the EU single market (Part 1.), and the views from Western Balkans on the common regional market agenda and post-COVID 19 recovery (Part 2.).

The authors pointed out that one of the main differences between the Western Balcans and the V4 in the case of the latter it was primarily the political connections which solidified the group and the economic integration followed. In the case of WB6 the opposite is true, with the group lacking political cooperation, which may explain the difficulties that the WB6 countries face during their negotiations to join the EU.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN V4 AND WB6:
SHARING EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE CONTEXT OF
COMMON REGIONAL MARKET AND
POST-COVID RECOVERY

* Visegrad Fund

* PODGOBICA
2022

CASE author: Stanislav Bieliei



Read the report

Does the EU have a truly comprehensive and strategic framework for its relations with its Southern Neighborhood (SN)?

The Southern Neighbourhood (SN) of the European Union (EU) remains in what appears to be a state of permanent turmoil. Similarly, the rift in Euro-Mediterranean relations seems to be growing, as exemplified by reactions to the Russian aggression on Ukraine across the SN region and despite a window of opportunity the pandemic offered to relaunch cooperation between both sides of the Mediterranean.

This publication is an attempt at addressing both the above-mentioned rift, and the multitude and magnitude of challenges facing societies and economies of the SN countries. The study published in June 2022 as a part of the project "A new agenda for the Mediterranean: Are the EU tools and means of action up to its ambitions?" considers whether the Joint Communication is well-fitted to achieve these goals. Accordingly, it first undertakes an analysis of the geopolitical trends and megatrends, of the



political, and socio-economic situation in the region, and the state of Euro-Mediterranean relations. Subsequently, it looks into the text of the Joint Communication and the accompanying Economic and Investment Plan, exploring their potential for launching a new phase in this relationship in the areas of green and digital transitions, promotion of 'inclusiveness', migration, trade, and peace and security.

Authors: Katarzyna Sidło, Emmanuel Cohen-Hadria, Oskar Chmiel, Agnieszka Kulesa, Karolina Zubel, Roger Albinyana, Lurdes Vidal

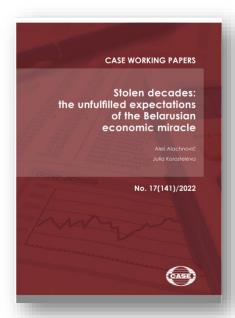


Read the report

Stolen decades: the unfulfilled expectations of the Belarusian economic miracle

The case of the Belarusian economy has puzzled many academic scholars for years. Belarus has often been referred to as a transition outlier, given its relatively fast recovery in 1996 and spectacular growth prior to the global financial crisis without much transformation of its economy.

Three decades after gaining its independence, the state control of the economy still remains considerably high. Subsidized financing of state-owned enterprises allowed to preserve production capabilities over the first decade, to achieve some productivity gains in the late 1990s—early 2000s, and to avoid social destabilization. However, with a delay in structural reforms, this economic model, also heavily dependent on the Russian subsidies and foreign debt, has become fatigue, driving the economy into stagnation in the 2010s. The Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 post-presidential political crisis and Russia's war in



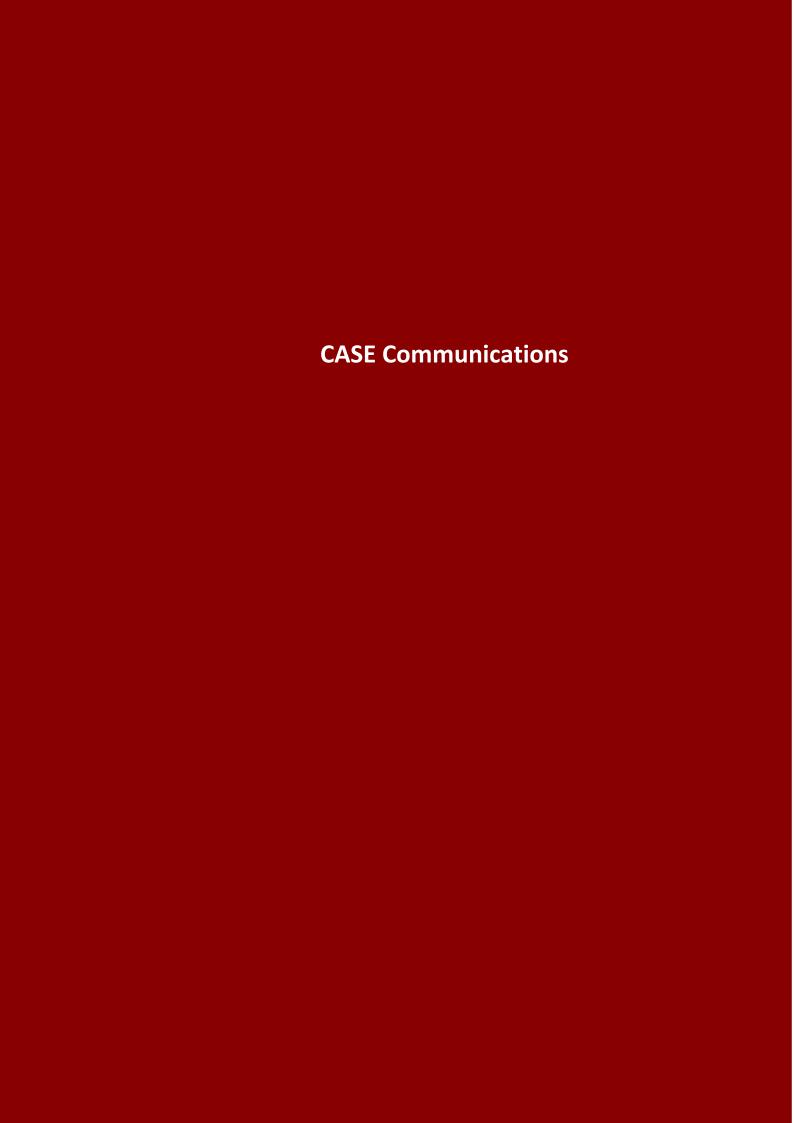
Ukraine in 2022 put further strains on the economy, calling for change.

This working paper, published in May 2022 gives an overview of the Belarusian economic developments before the presidential elections of 2020 to have a better understanding of how various rigidities of the Belarusian economic model have amplified the detrimental effect of the political unrest for the economy and the Belarusian society overall, and discusses the anticrisis and mid-term economic reforms Belarus will have to undergo.

Authors: Aleś Alachnovič, Julia Korosteleva



Read the report



CASE aims at providing its audience with broad and objective analysis which encourages and stimulates socio-economic dialogue.

Using different communication channels, we inform the general public about CASE initiatives, projects, events, and publications. CASE's communication strategy is based on an integrated approach; it involves a wide variety of information measures: media relations, events, web communication, social media, and publications. Through these channels, CASE connects to its target audience of academics, policy makers, members of the international business community, and the media.

In 2022 CASE took adequate actions in the field of communication and dissemination of CASE activities. These included inter alia mBank-CASE seminars, several project-related publications and events. Our efforts resulted in significant interest of media in CASE activity. This activity is also reflected in the growing number of users of our social media: Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Events

In 2022 CASE organized the following events:

DATE	TITLE
24 Feb	THE 172ND MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: Growing sovereign debt and its risks
31 Mar	THE 173RD MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: The place of crowdfunding in Poland
31 May	CASE tax workshop: Excise duty and health. Fiscal and non-fiscal functions and consequences of excise duties
3 Jun	18TH EUROFRAME Conference "Macroeconomic policy challenges in pandemic times"
15 Sep	The international conference "One market for post-COVID recovery: V4 support to promote Common Regional Market of WB6 economies"
22 Sep	THE 174TH MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: How to overcome the energy crisis in Poland?
24 Nov	THE 175TH MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: The fate of flat tax in Europe

Publications

CASE publications of 2022:

PUBLICATIONS	
CASE REPORTS	1
WORKING PAPERS	1
MBANK-CASE SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS	3
OTHER	10

Media Relations

Over 20 media publications referring to CASE appeared in 2022. These involved media coverage of CASE activities as well as CASE experts' comments to current economic and social issues. CASE was present in such media as: Chicago Tribune, TVN24, Rzeczpospolita, 300gospodarka.pl, Emerging Europe, etc. CASE experts were quoted by the media or published longer opinion pieces. In 2022 these appearances included those by: Anders Aslund, Jan Hagemejer, Katarzyna Sidło, Adam Śmietanka, Dmytro Boyarchuk. Examples of CASE-related media appearances are shown below.







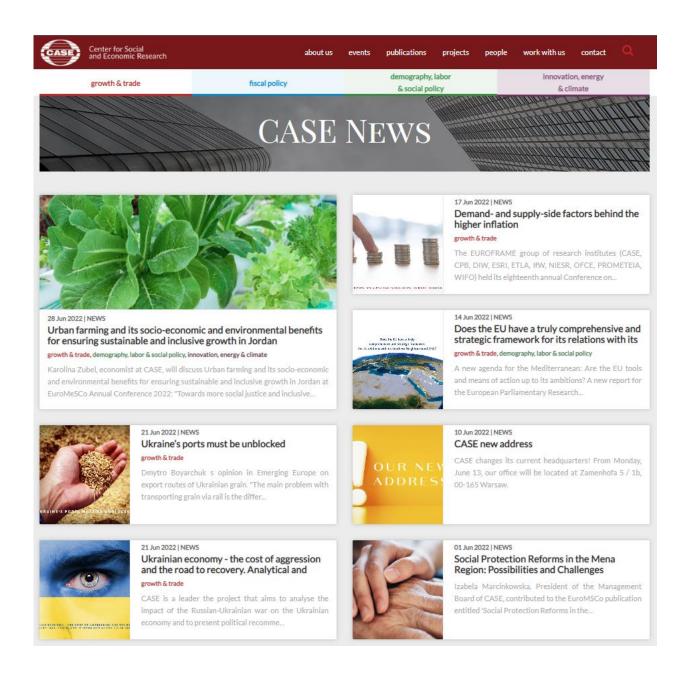


Chicago Tribune

12 Oct 2022	20 Sep 2022
Anders Åslund: The outlook for emerging Europe in 2023	Emerging Europe: Ukraine's new privatisation push: Cleaning the Augean stables
12 Sep 2022	24 Aug 2022
Al Arabiya: Interview with Jan Hagemejer	Emerging Europe: Half of Ukrainians might leave if Russian war ends with a 'compromise'
28 Jul 2022 Chicago Tribune: Dmytro Boyarchuk and Christopher Hartwell: A Ukrainian postwar recovery plan nee	21 Jun 2022 Emerging Europe: No alternative: Ukraine's ports must be unblocked
21 Jun 2022 Emerging Europe: Ukraine's banking sector remains an island of stability, but the outlook is gloo	21 Jun 2022 Rp.pl: Dmytro Boyarchuk: Kolej, Dunaj i tiry to za mało

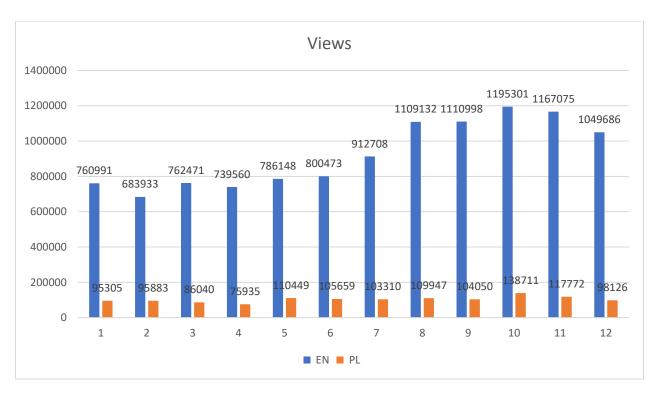
CASE website

CASE's website is the main mode of communicating information about our mission, upcoming events and activities, new and recently completed projects, and latest publications.





- 2700 unique IP website visits per day
- almost 85 000 users
- 1 000 000 views on the website monthly



Social media

SOCIAL MEDIA	2022
TWITTER	1500
FACEBOOK	3600
LINKEDIN	1800

Newsletter

CASE provides its audiences with updates on its institutional activities by disseminating a monthly newsletter, events newsletters, and by publishing reports and analyses. Altogether, our newsletters reach more than 5000 recipients globally and present the latest information on new publications, recent and forthcoming events, and information on CASE research and advisory project activities.



Newsletter May 2022

PROJECTS



Best practices in unionisation, collective bargaining and employee involvement in the green and digital sectors and the green and digital transitions

Digitalisation is transforming the EU economy and labour markets: nearly one-third of EU workplaces are categorised as highly digitalised. The COVID-19 pandemic has further spurred an unprecedented demand for digital solutions and accelerated the digital transformation of many organisations globally. Digitalisation and automation have both positive and negative effects for the economy and society. The aim of the study is to showcase the examples of trade unions' contribution to the digital change at the company level, to the transition to low carbon-emitting ways of production as well as to the improvement of working conditions of employees in those sectors.

Read more

PUBLICATIONS



Social Protection Reforms in the Mena Region: Possibilities and Challenges

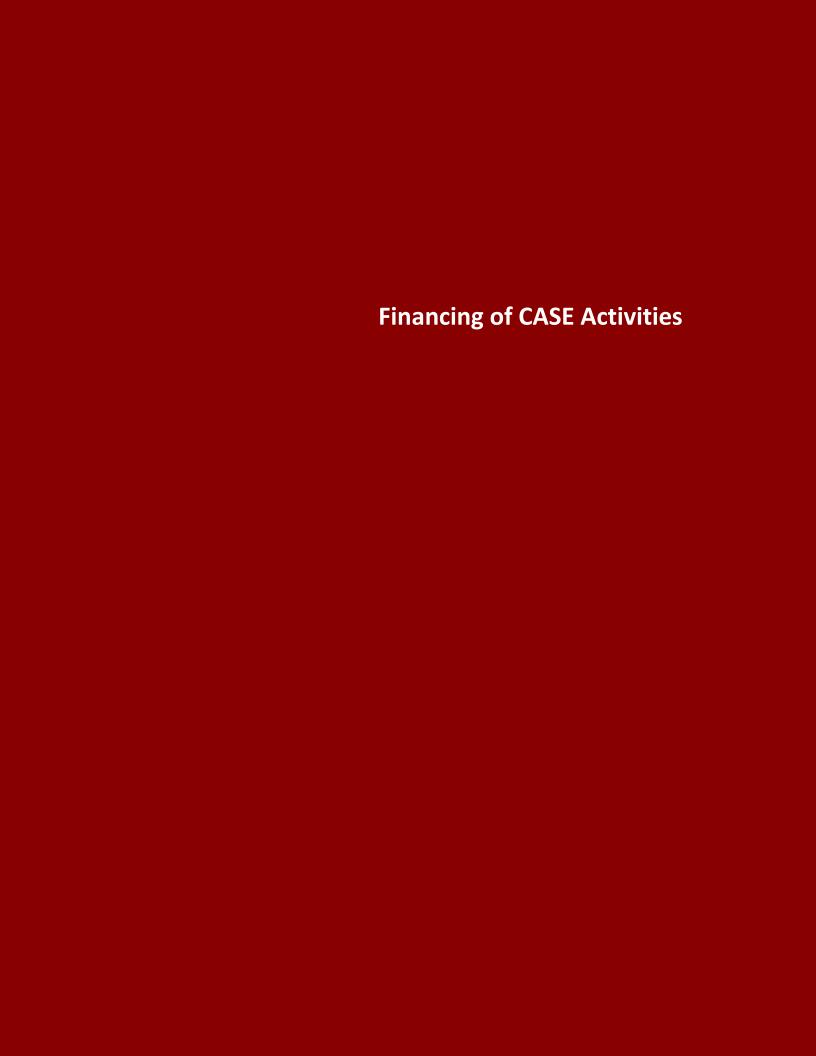
Izabela Marcinkowska, President of the Management Board of CASE, contributed to the EuroMSCo publication entitled 'Social Protection Reforms in the Mena Region: Possibilities and Challenges' and published <a href="https://

Read more



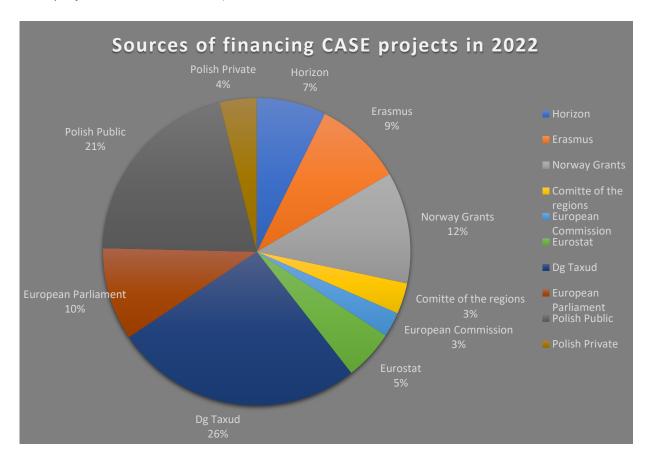
Developing Pathways for Legal Migration to Europe – Challenges for the Nearest Future

Agnieszka Kulesa, Vice President of CASE, authored an opinion piece that was published in a survey report Towards sustainable and mutually beneficial migration partnerships in the Southern Mediterranean' launched by The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) within the framework of the project TeuroMeSCo Connecting the dots' and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) within the project "EuroMed Migration 5". The survey was an exercise which aimed to reflect on improving migration partnerships between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries.



Sources of financing

As in previous years, CASE's statutory activity in 2022 was solely based on project activities (both non-profit and for-profit). Funds were obtained from the following sources (as a percentage of total project revenues for 2022):



In 2022, the European Union continued to provide the greatest portion of CASE's revenue in the form of projects undertaken for various DGs of the European Commission, European Parliament, Eurostat, Committee of the Regions, Horizon2020 grants and others. Funding coming from the Polish public sector amounted to 21 % and the Polish private sector provided 4% of CASE's revenue. The remaining funds were the provided by non-EU institutions (e.g., Norway Grants)