



CASE – Centrum Analiz Społeczno-Ekonomicznych
CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Annual Report 2023

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Letter from the President



Dear Readers, Colleagues, and CASE Supporters,

I am delighted to present to you the annual report of CASE for the year 2023. As President of CASE, it is my privilege to share with you our achievements and contributions to the field of research-based policymaking. The year 2023 keeps being a challenging time due to global climate change challenges, the ongoing global tensions related to the war in Ukraine, and also geopolitical insecurities linked to forthcoming national elections in many countries.

We at CASE continued to uphold our mission of supporting policymakers in their efforts to effectively mitigate the negative effects of the challenges and guide their activities in maintaining the well-being of individuals. With dedication and passion through rigorous quantitative and qualitative analyses, throughout the year, we successfully performed a total of 52 projects, published 21 research studies, and organized 12 impactful events.

Around 40% of our activities were related to macroeconomics and trade topics, with the most prominent projects concentrating on the Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA), rural development, trade policies and their relation to sustainable development, or agri-food potential assessment.

26% of our activities were related to the support of the policies and activities related to broadly defined sustainable social policies. Here we concentrated our research on the upskilling and reskilling policies caused by the just green transitions in Europe, the impact of the energy transition on the labour market, or affordable sustainable housing. We support gender equality by empowering women to lead sustainable development, and we encourage young individuals to contribute to the development of the development of the green and digital economies. By analyzing different elements of skill poverty among the most vulnerable groups, we seek solutions that can support the unfavorable groups of individuals.

Another one-third of our projects concentrate on fiscal policy and diverse methods of calculating tax gaps. This year we made an innovative attempt to harmonize and streamline the various approaches currently used in the EU MS when estimating the PIT gap, and, as a long-standing practice, we estimated the VAT gap.

The last pillar of CASE activities is related to sustainable development in the green economy. The very interesting projects we have started, for example, are related to the evaluation and assessment of ocean-based carbon dioxide removal or regional circular supply chains. We support reforms and development in the Belarusian green economy and energy transitions for cities and regions in the Mediterranean, among others.

These projects underscore our dedication to research excellence and its application in shaping policy decisions for the benefit of society.

At this stage, I would like to pay special attention to our flagship project, *Blueprint for Reform: Economic Priorities in Post-War Ukraine*. The report and accompanying events we have organized address several complex tasks that Ukraine needs to complete on its way to EU integration, with a particular

focus on the rule of law. Our team of the most prominent experts in the field proposes specific mechanisms to improve the judiciary system in the country, respect property rights, and encourage private sector competition.

As we look ahead, CASE remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing research-based policymaking and contributing to the economic welfare of societies. In 2024, we plan to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Polish accession to the EU by organizing a series of events, discussions, and seminars with the most prominent experts in the field. We are also committed to continuing our hard work and high-quality expertise to provide strong evidence-based analysis.

At this stage, wholeheartedly, I would like to thank our in-house team for their devoted contribution in bringing ideas, working on the applications, and performing high-quality projects. We appreciate the contribution of our CASE Fellows and newly established Advisory Council for their insightful suggestions for development and permanent support. Special gratitude is given to the CASE Supervisory Council for their continuous contribution to CASE statutory activities, especially all activities related to the situation in Ukraine.

I encourage all of you to get familiar with the report and visit our newly updated website.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcinkowska".

Izabela Marcinkowska, PhD

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 Policies;
- Growth, Trade & Macro;
- Sustainable Development Policies;
- Labour, Migration & Social 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), Economic Think Tank Exchange (ETTE), The Global Trade and Innovation Policy Alliance (GTIPA).

CASE Internal Network

CASE has helped to establish a network of independent research institutes in the post-communist countries, starting with CASE Kyrgyzstan in 1998.

As a result of the process initiated in 2022, CASE and CASE Belarus were merged in 2023. Since 2023, there has been only one active institution that was established as part of the CASE Internal Network – CASE Ukraine.

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 macro-economic 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.

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 Błaszczuk, 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, Edinburgh

Advisory Council

Chairman

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

Members

Dominika Bettman, General Manager of Microsoft Poland, Warsaw

Andrzej Burgs, One of the founders of the Chamber of Commerce for Industry 4.0 and CEO of Polish company Sygnis S.A., Warsaw

Simon Commander, Senior Associate of Independent Economics, Managing Partner of Altura Partners

Yuriy Gorodnichenko, an economist and a professor at the University of California, Berkeley

Mikołaj Herbst, professor at the University of Warsaw

Beata Javorcik, the first woman to be awarded statutory professorship in Economics from the University of Oxford

Patrycja Matusz, vice-rector of the University of Wrocław for international projects and relations

Adam Niedziółka, Managing Partner at ADN, and CEO at ADN Podatki Sp. z o.o. Spółka Doradztwa Podatkowego

Aleksandra Parteka, Professor at the Gdańsk University of Technology (Faculty of Management and Economics)

Andrzej Rzońca, Professor at the Warsaw School of Economics, member of supervisory boards of commercial law companies

Krassen Stanchev, Associate Professor, Sofia University, Sofia

Miklos Szanyi, Professor of economics teaching at Corvinus University (Budapest), Debrecen University (director of the Ph.D. School in Economics), and most recently at Szeged University

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

CASE Fellows in 2023

Łukasz Arendt, expertise: labour market, information society

Misha Belkindas, expertise: statistics, development economics

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

Alexander Chubrik, expertise: macroeconomics, private sector development

Marek Dąbrowski, expertise: 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, expertise: macroeconomics, monetary policy, financial crises, financial markets, economic policy, trade and globalization

Stanisława Golinowska, expertise: social policy, labour market, pension system in Poland

Wojciech Grabowski, expertise: econometrics, macroeconomics

Iraj Hashi, expertise: 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, expertise: youth labour market, vocational education and training, life-long learning, employee development, employer recruitment strategies, career guidance

Susan Maguire, expertise: 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, expertise: labour market, development economics, economics of transition

Jarosław Neneman, expertise: microeconomics, public finance, managerial economics, game theory, tax policy

Richard Pomfret, expertise: 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, expertise: economic forecasting, statistical and data analysis, economic policy

Irena Topińska, expertise: poverty measurement, social policy, poverty reduction

Uladimir Valetka, expertise: labour market, demographic economics, urban and regional development

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

Anna Wziętek-Kubiak, expertise: economy of innovation, international economics, development

Katarzyna Zawalińska, expertise: agricultural economics, international economics, development

CASE Office in 2023

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 Hagemeyer

Operational Staff

Macroeconomics and Trade Director

Jan Hagemeyer

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

Oskar Chmiel

Martyna Gliniecka

Jan Bazyli Klakla

Agnieszka Maj

Agnieszka Skowronek

Aleksandra Sojka

Zuzanna Stańska

Adam Śmietanka

Michalina Waclaw

Abdoul Karim Zanhoouo

Marianna Zarychta

Karolina Zubel

Business Development Team

Mateusz Grączyński

Marek Peda

Aleksandra Piasek

Magdalena Wiśniewska

Przemysław Wiśniewski

Trainer

Joanna Starczewska

Communications

Magdalena Konopacka

Coordinator, mBank-CASE Seminars

Magdalena Konopacka

Secretariat

Grażyna Kraśniewska

IT Specialist

Michał Dąbrowski

2023 Interns

Emil Cypryński, Jagoda Szmytkowska, Francesca Eustacchi, Frank Wolfe, Bartosz Hoffmann, Hanna Okurowska, Juliette Helfi, Harald Steiner

CASE Highlights

CASE achievements in 2023:

52 PROJECTS

21 PUBLICATIONS

12 EVENTS

Total 2023 budget: 7,336,028.51 PLN

SOCIAL MEDIA	2023
TWITTER	1500
FACEBOOK	3700
LINKEDIN	2100



4000 unique IP website visits per day

1 000 000 views on the website monthly

PUBLICATIONS	
CASE REPORTS	4
WORKING PAPERS	2
MBANK-CASE SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS	2
OTHER	15

Fiscal Policies

Projects

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.

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)



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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.

See publication p. 21

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

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

Client: DG TAXUD



[Read more](#)

Other projects

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

(11 FEB 2022 – 15 MAR 2023)

Project leader: Economisti Associati

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, Oxford Research

CASE experts involved: Grzegorz Poniatoski, Adam Śmietanka, Tomasz Tratkiewicz



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VAT gap in the EU

(20 DEC 2023 – 20 DEC 2024)

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Grzegorz Poniatoski, Adam Śmietanka, Mikhail Bonch-Osmolovsky

Sponsor: DG TAXUD



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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)

CASE experts involved: Marek Dąbrowski, Christopher Hartwell

Project funding: European Parliament



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Events

The 176th mBank–CASE Seminar: The Polish Economy 2023 and beyond: How to Improve Housing Loans?

The guests at the meeting, held on 30 March, were three experts on mortgage loans: Dariusz Filar, Ph.D., prof. em. at the University of Gdańsk; Andrzej Reich, leader of the Responsible Finance Club at the European Financial Congress; and Michał Polasik, Ph.D., professor at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, FINSEC Foundation. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Ewa Balcerowicz, head of the cyclical mBank-CASE Seminars

Dariusz Filar delved into the multifaceted landscape of housing loans in Poland, particularly focusing on those denominated in Swiss francs. He elucidated the diverse circumstances faced by borrowers, underlining how these loans have led to societal fragmentation and financial instability. Filar criticized the government's passive stance despite repeated warnings from financial authorities, emphasizing the urgent need for regulatory intervention to ensure market equilibrium.

Echoing Filar's sentiments, Andrzej Reich highlighted the alarming lack of borrower awareness regarding the long-term implications of housing loans, especially those with variable interest rates. He stressed the necessity for comprehensive borrower education initiatives and the implementation of standardized loan agreements to mitigate legal risks and protect consumers.

Professor Michał Polasik introduced a groundbreaking solution to the housing loan crisis: the sustainable mortgage model. This innovative approach aims to alleviate financial strain on borrowers by offering lower initial payments through the capitalization of interest. Polasik emphasized the model's potential to maintain affordability in the face of fluctuating interest rates, thereby fostering stability in the housing loan market.

Overall, the speakers underscored the pressing need for proactive measures to address the challenges plaguing the housing loan sector in Poland, advocating for a collaborative effort between government agencies, financial institutions, and civil society to safeguard the interests of borrowers and ensure long-term market sustainability.

Speakers: Dariusz Filar Ph.D., Andrzej Reich, Michał Polasik Ph.D.



[Read more](#)

The 6. Tax Workshop: EU own revenues and the minimum tax on international companies in the context of NextGenerationEU

On April 24, 2023, the 6th edition of Tax Workshops took place in Warsaw, organized by the Center for Tax Documentation and Studies Foundation and CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research, in cooperation with the CenEA Center for Economic Analysis, Lazarski University and the Representation of the European Commission in Poland.

The aim of the workshop was to integrate Polish economists and researchers from the borders of economics (law, sociology, psychology), dealing with the broadly understood subject of tax system analysis, with particular emphasis on European realities. We invited scientists involved in both theoretical and empirical research to participate in the workshop. This year we dealt with the minimum tax on international companies in the context of NextGenerationEU, i.e. the EU mechanism for financing economic recovery and the future repayment of the Community debt incurred for this purpose.

Speakers: Grzegorz Radziejewski, Prof. Hanna Litwińczyk, Anna Leszczyłowska Ph.D., Filip Majdorowski Ph.D., Łukasz Kuśmierz, Monika Laskowska Ph.D., Katarzyna Bilicka Ph.D., Jarek Neneman



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Publications

VAT Gap in the EU. Report 2023



This Report has been prepared for the European Commission, DG TAXUD, for the project TAXUD/2019/AO-14, "Study and Reports on the VAT Gap in the EU-28 Member States", and is a follow-up to the eight reports published between 2013 and 2020.

The report provides yearly Value Added Tax (VAT) Gap estimates for the EU-28 covering the 2015-2019 period. We calculate the VAT Gap as the difference between the VAT due and the actual VAT revenues. As such, it represents the VAT revenues lost compared to a theoretical VAT calculation. The underlying reasons for this VAT Gap can be grouped into four broad categories: (1) VAT fraud and VAT evasion, (2) VAT avoidance practices and optimisation, (3) bankruptcies and financial insolvencies, and (4) administrative errors.

In 2021, several EU Member States introduced temporary changes to their VAT systems. Germany reverted to its standard rate in January 2021 after temporarily reducing it in 2020 as a measure to stimulate the economy amidst the pandemic.

Similarly, Ireland had a temporary reduction in VAT that lasted until February 2021, after which it reverted back to its normal rate. Sector-specific adjustments were also prevalent across various countries. Several countries implemented measures to mitigate high energy costs. Cyprus, Czechia, and Spain introduced a temporary reduction in VAT rates on electricity consumption. Other countries introduced changes to VAT rates for products and services associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Authors: Adam Śmietanka, Aleksandra Sójka, Grzegorz Poniatoski, Mikhail Bonch-Osmolovsky



[Read the report](#)

Economic priorities in post-war Ukraine



Ukraine has been a stellar example of a little reform going a long way. First invaded by Russia in 2014, the Ukraine of 2022 was a different country, with more resilience, more ability, and more depth. As it pushes to repel the Russian aggressor, it is never too early to think about how Ukraine can continue its reform process and become a state that is free of Russia, economically strong, and a model for policy reform.

This report addresses many of the complex tasks that Ukraine needs to complete, with the main challenge being the rule of law, a problem lasting for three decades. Our team of experts propose specific mechanisms to make the transition to a country which respects the rule of law, including ways to improve the judiciary, respect property rights, and encourage private sector competition. The report also examines the question on how the Ukrainian government can attract funding

and rebuild the country after the war is over, discussing ways in which the EU and the donor community can be involved.

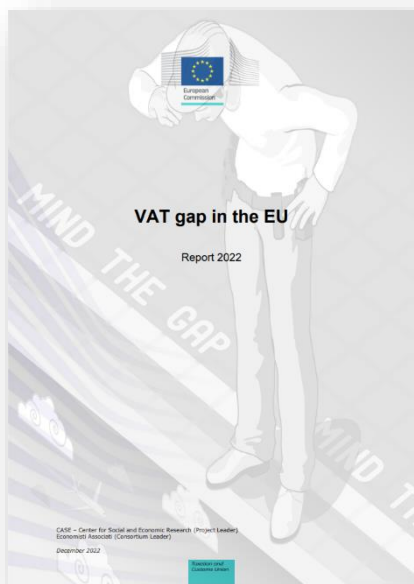
The eventual end of the war also provides Ukraine with a unique opportunity to leap ahead in the European integration process and to finish its institutional reforms. With Ukraine now a candidate for EU membership, the prospects of the integration process, the unprecedented support for integration with the EU in Ukrainian society and the continued support of the West present Ukraine with a way forward and overcoming the obstacles that have delayed, stalled, or even caused the abandonment of reforms in the past.

Authors: Andriy Boytsun, Andriy Saverts, Christopher Hartwell, Dmytro Boyarchuk, Dmytro Naumenko, Dmytro Yablonskyi, Jana Machijankin, Lyubov Akulenko, Marek Dąbrowski, Natalia Leshchenko, Olena Pavlenko, Volodymyr Dubrovskiy, Yuriy Ganushchak, Yvonne Hegele



[Read the Report](#)

VAT gap in the EU. Report 2022



This Report has been prepared for the European Commission, DG TAXUD, for the project TAXUD/2019/AO-14, “Study and Reports on the VAT Gap in the EU-28 Member States”, and is a follow-up to the eight reports published between 2013 and 2020.

VAT is one of the core sources of government revenue in the EU. Meeting the fiscal objective of VAT requires confronting the key challenge of taxpayer non-compliance with VAT payment obligations. It also requires sensible decisions regarding narrowing the tax base or reducing VAT liability for certain parts of the tax base.

The relevance of the problem of foregone revenue due to non-compliance and the design of the tax rules would be largely unknown without tax gap estimates. This 10th publication of the European Commission presenting VAT gap estimates aims to support tax administrations in their tax gap monitoring efforts.

One of the main findings is that in 2020, the VAT compliance gap in the EU27 dropped sharply year-over-year, by approximately 2 percentage points of the VAT total tax liability and, in nominal terms, by EUR 31 billion. The overall loss of revenue due to non-compliance in the EU27 in 2020 was estimated at EUR 93 billion. The statistical analysis of the shifts in the VAT compliance gap and other developments following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic indicates that the main driving force of the increased compliance was government support measures.

Authors: Adam Śmietanka, Adam Tański, Agnieszka Pechcińska, Grzegorz Poniatowski, Mikhail Bonch-Osmolovsky



[Read the Report](#)

The Fate of Flat Tax in the EU countries

Since 1989, flat tax (FT) reforms have been attempted in Europe and the EU only by ex-communist countries and Iceland. In the 1990s all ex-communist countries lowered and simplified their income taxes, often starting with corporate taxes. In the late 1990s and early 2000s they also reformed their social security systems. In many respects the tax reforms have never stopped, but with regard to income taxation they are less radical than in the 1990s and at the

turn of this century. Even when there were reforms re-establishing progressive taxation, they have almost never returned to complex sets of nominal rates and a steep vertical ladder of progressive thresholds.

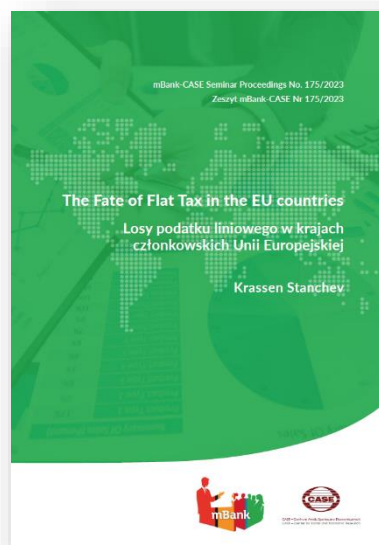
This report attempts to reconstruct the reasons why EU countries moved to introduce proportional taxation on either corporate or personal income, or both, as well as the reasons behind five of them returning to progressive taxation. These reforms happened in different political and economic contexts. It would be difficult to identify unequivocal causality between flattening taxes and economic performance. However, the report compares the dynamics of economic growth and factors related to competitiveness for periods before and after the reforms were launched. The same effort has been made for indicators of wealth and disposable income. The analysis allows for a discussion of lessons learnt and of the prospects for further reforms.

The report concludes that it seems impossible to prove that FT systems have been a key contributor to higher economic growth. However, it does seem that, if the social security contributions remain relatively stable and are financed by other tax revenues, they have a positive impact on fiscal performance and general welfare.

Author: Krassen Stanchev



[Read the Paper](#)



Anti-fragmentation: an incomplete diagnosis and wrong solution

A study by Marek Dąbrowski (CASE) entitled “Anti-fragmentation: an incomplete diagnosis and wrong solution”, requested by the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), was published in the Monetary Dialogue Papers series in September 2022..

The study begins with an analysis of the excessive public debt in the euro area. An overview of the fiscal stance in the euro area as a whole and, separately, in individual Member States from 1997 to 2021 is complemented with the analysis of mechanisms of fiscal discipline – again on the EU/euro area level and the national level separately. Three causes of the ineffectiveness of these mechanisms 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. Two important periods from recent history are detailed - additional

quantitative easing of the pandemic era (2020–2022) and the turn towards monetary policy tightening in 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. The latter is not consistent with its legal status, compromises its independence (and credibility of the euro), and undermines its ability to deliver on its price stability mandate. When a targeted market intervention is necessary, it should be provided by the European Stability Mechanism, the institution created for this purpose in 2012, instead of the ECB.

Author: Marek Dąbrowski



[Read the Paper](#)



Growth, Trade & Macro

Projects

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 policies, 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 Hagemeyer, Abdoul Karim Zanhooou, Vitaly Krupin

Project funding: European Commission, Horizon 2020



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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, BAT-Model 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-Universität Bonn, Università Degli Studi di Milano, Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet, Jrc -Joint Research Centre, Technische Universität München, Centre D'etudes Prospectives et D'informations Internationales, Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria de Aragón, Universität Bern, Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Kozgazdasag- es Regionalis Tudomanyi Kutatokozept, Università Degli Studi Roma Tre, Centre for European Policy Studies, Inra Transfert s.a.

CASE experts involved: Katarzyna Zawalińska, Jan Hagemeyer, Abdoul Karim Zanhooou, Błażej Jędrzejewski

Project funding: Horizon 2020



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Prospects of reinvigorating the Middle East Peace Process: a possible joint EU-US undertaking

(01 JUL 2022 – 11 JAN 2023)

This study aimed to assess the prospects of, and underlying conditions for, a joint diplomatic EU-US initiative to support the Middle East Peace Process, and ultimately a viable, sustainable

and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, in line with applicable international law.

The paper prepared by CASE and IMED experts evaluates the possibility of joint EU-US synergies and leverage in the field of diplomatic initiatives and economic support ('carrots'), as well as utility of negative motivational tools, such as sanctions or other ('sticks').

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: IMED

CASE experts involved: Katarzyna Sidło, Oskar Chmiel

Project funding: The Committee of the Regions



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Other projects

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

(01 FEB 2022 – 31 MAY 2023)

See publication p. 37

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project Partners: Ambrela – Platform for Development Organisations (Slovakia), Institute of International Relations Prague (Czechia), University of Pecs (Hungary)

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Oskar Chmiel

Project funding: International Visegrad Fund



[Read more](#)

Tourism and Rural Development

(22 AUG 2023 – 06 NOV 2023)

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Maj, Izabela Marcinkowska, Katarzyna Sidło

Project funding: the Committee of the Regions



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EU4Belarus: Reinforcing Resilience and Democratisation

(01 JAN 2023 – 31 DEC 2024)

Project leader: Foundation Association of Belarusian Business Abroad (ABBA)

Project partners: Polish Chamber of Commerce (KIG), Lithuanian Business Confederation (LBC), Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE)

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Jan Hagemeyer, Marianna Zarychta

Project funding: European Commission



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Increasing economic resilience of Armenia, Georgia and Moldova

(01 OCT 2023 - 30 MAR 2025)

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: Modex, EPRC, Expert-Grup

CASE experts involved: Alexander Chubrik, Christopher Hartwell, Jan Hagemeyer, Marek Dąbrowski, Olga Popova, Veronika Movchan, Vladimir Ostrashchenko

Client: Open Society Foundations



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How the EU should prepare for the enlargement in terms of governance, policies and investments: options and choices made from a territorial perspective

(21 DEC 2023 - 31 MAY 2024)

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Katarzyna Sidło, Marianna Zarychta

Project funding: The European Committee of the Regions



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

(15 Nov 2021 - 31 May 2023)

Project leader: Ecorys Polska

Project partner: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

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

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



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Events

Promotion of the book “The Connections World” by Simon Commander and Saul Estrin

The event focused on the book by Simon Commander & Saul Estrin titled “The Connections World”. This shone a light on issues in Asia where strong connections between businesses and politicians could potentially cause problems and hinder Asia's progress in the 21st century.

The book was presented by Simon Commander, author, Managing Partner of Altura Partners and Visiting Professor of Economics at IE Business School in Madrid, member of the CASE Advisory Council,

The discussion was moderated by Prof. Marek Dąbrowski, a Non-Resident Scholar at Bruegel, co-founder and Fellow at CASE - Centre for Social and Economic Research in Warsaw and Visiting Professor at the Central European University in Vienna.

Speakers: Simon Commander, prof. Marek Dąbrowski



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The 179th mBank-CASE Seminar: Economic Scenarios for Poland

In light of political shifts in Poland after eight years of PiS rule, concerns arise about the country's economic trajectory. Dr. Ewa Balcerowicz noted the challenging economic situation, citing stagflation as a major issue. Three experts, Prof. Michał Brzoza-Brzezina, Prof. Witold Orłowski, and Dr. Andrzej Rzońca, discussed the economic outlook.

Brzoza-Brzezina highlighted labor market imbalances and emphasized the need for fiscal restraint to address inflationary pressures. Orłowski stressed the importance of EU membership for Poland's economic growth but warned of a slowdown due to insufficient investment.

Rzońca warned of the long-term negative effects of post-2015 economic policies, particularly regarding nationalization.

Overall, experts agreed on the necessity of stabilizing actions, including regulatory measures in fiscal and monetary policies, and education reforms to bolster Poland's appeal as an investment destination..

Speakers: Simon Commander, prof. Marek Dąbrowski



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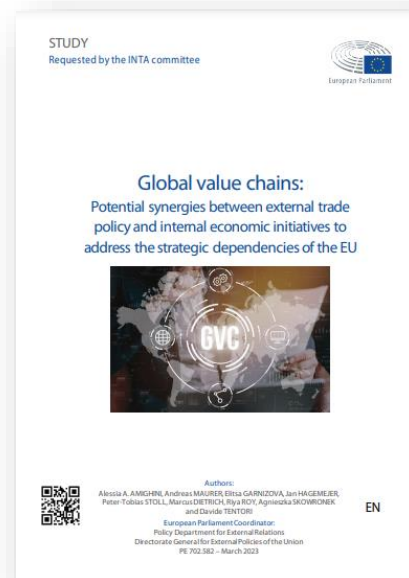
Publications

Global value chains: Potential synergies between external trade policy and internal economic initiatives to address the strategic dependencies of the EU

In recent years, supply-chain security has clearly emerged as a novel problem, to the extent that deep geo-economic fragmentation of production processes has linked together private actors who belong to different areas of geo-political influence and therefore might become sources of severe disruptions. Indeed, persistent disruptions from various sources hit countries, societies, and companies over the last few years, pushing them to find innovative ways to address urgent global issues such as fixing shortages of commodities, raw material, food, energy and other essential products.

Global value chains enable two-thirds of international trade, notably for the EU. The EU wants to preserve its commercial links with third countries and organisations to make up for trade disruptions.

This study examines sustainable supply of raw materials, commodities, and critical goods using the EU's Open Strategic Autonomy concept. It examines which raw material are crucial for sustainable supply and necessary for the green transition. The paper examines EU internal legislation and international cooperation instruments to determine the EU's disruption risk. It evaluates the economic impact of EU preferential trade agreements on raw material availability. The study illustrates the political and economic relevance of raw material partnerships and plurilateral and bilateral trade agreements. It analyses the EU's toolbox for safeguarding its interests and making independent trade choices to counteract other actors' unfair practices and intervention. Finally, the paper examines regulatory frameworks, international alliances, and activities to find ways to strengthen global value chains in critical EU industries.



CASE authors: Agnieszka Skowronek, Jan Hagemeyer



[Read the report](#)

Excess liquidity in the euro area: developments and implications

This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the [Monetary Dialogue](#) with the ECB President on 25 September 2023.

This paper analyses how the fiscal framework proposed by the European Commission in April 2023 might affect the interplay between fiscal and monetary policies, from three perspectives: its impact on the medium-term fiscal stance in the euro area, its design, and its implications for the ECB's Transmission Protection Instrument (TPI). It concludes with recommendations for amending both the fiscal governance proposal and the TPI.

Author: Marek Dąbrowski



[Read the report](#)

The effects of high inflation and monetary tightening on the real economy

The paper was prepared within the framework service contract which is intended to support the work of ECON in the European Parliament by enabling it to seek 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..

High inflation negatively affects firms and households in a variety of ways, including by eroding real incomes and by widening inequality. Central banks



responded by tightening monetary policy stances significantly. This has naturally constrained demand through rising borrowing costs and smaller credit flows to the real economy. The negative impact on economic activity and growth is a standard feature of tightening, yet it deserves to be closely monitored. Four papers were prepared by the ECON Committee's Monetary Expert Panel, discussing how the real economy is impacted by high inflation and monetary tightening. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 5 June 2023.

Author: Christopher Hartwell



[Read the report](#)

European Single Market: The Unfinished Business

The Single European Market (SEM), a pivotal economic integration mechanism, has faced challenges since its inception in the 1980s. Despite almost four decades of implementation, SEM's architecture remains incomplete. While progress has been made in goods and capital movement, services and people's mobility within the EU still face hurdles.

This article explores the SEM's complexities, emphasizing the need to view it holistically. The EU's integration architecture, including customs unions, common currency, and common policies, significantly impacts SEM's effectiveness. The SEM's incompleteness is exacerbated by divergent national regulations, hindering seamless cross-border trade.

Recent crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic and geopolitical events, have tested the SEM. Internal border closures and varied national responses have underscored the importance of open borders for economic stability. Additionally, external pressures, such as the Russian aggression against Ukraine, have led to fragmented responses, challenging the SEM's unity.

To strengthen SEM, policymakers must focus on removing cross-border barriers, updating regulations, and enhancing enforcement mechanisms. Strengthening the EU's competencies in social and economic policies, maintaining open external trade policies, and addressing national protectionist tendencies are imperative. Completing SEM and safeguarding its integrity demand a comprehensive, collaborative effort.

Author: Marek Dąbrowski





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Inflation dynamics and monetary policy in the euro area and the US. Monetary Dialogue Papers, November 2023

The document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 27 November 2023.

The paper examines the inflation dynamics and monetary policy responses in the euro area and the United States. The report examines and compares the evolution of inflation in the two jurisdictions, focusing on the evolution of headline and core inflation as well as the trends in inflation expectations. Next, the paper discusses the commonalities and differences in the factors driving inflation dynamics in the euro area and the United States. In particular, the paper delves into the debate on whether supply or demand factors caused the resurgence of inflation and continued influencing price dynamics. Third, the paper examines and compares the timing and conduct of monetary policy responses to rising inflation on the two sides of the Atlantic. Finally, we discuss the challenges that the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Federal Reserve (Fed) confront, also in light of the uncertainties brought about by the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.



Authors: Davide Romelli, Manuela Moschella



[Read the report](#)

V4 DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION TRIALOGUE: REINFORCING SYNERGIES, SHARING GOOD PRACTICES

The study was developed by the consortium composed of CASE-Center for Social and Economic Research, Ambrela – Platform for Development Organisations, Institute of International Relations Prague, University of Pecs within the project supported by the International Visegrad Fund.

The study is the result of V4DevCo project aiming at enhancing knowledge base on participation of V4 non-state development actors in EU development funding programs. The Guide includes a set of recommendations developed with contribution of representatives of project direct target groups during the workshops with the participation and support of experts from the V4 and other EU countries. The study comprises such elements as:

- an analysis of the current situation and problems in the field of the participation of V4 non-state actors in EU development funding programs;
- a list of sources providing information on the EU development funding and tender opportunities;
- good practices from Denmark which is a relatively successful EU member state in this field;
- practical tips for the V4 CSOs willing to participate in the EU development funding;
- key recommendations.

Authors: Agnieszka Kulesa, Oskar Chmiel



[Read the report](#)



Sustainable Development Policies

Projects

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 Zobel

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



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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 Szwalskiego 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



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Strategies for the Evaluation and Assessment of Ocean-based Carbon Dioxide Removal (SEAO2-CDR)

(06 JUN 2023 – ONGOING)

Strategies for the Evaluation and Assessment of Ocean-based Carbon Dioxide Removal (SEAO2-CDR) is a new European project directed at deepening our knowledge of Ocean-based Carbon Dioxide Removal (OCDR) solutions, their efficacy, benefits and consequences. Led by the British National Oceanography Centre and coordinated by Uniresearch, the project employs thirteen European organisations who will provide scientific, economic, legal, political, social, and ethical expertise on this subject.

Carbon dioxide is one of the major contributors to global warming, a process that is yet to be inhibited. Already now we are approaching the 1.5C limit set by the Paris climate agreement, which may be reached as soon as 2027. Consequently, there is a need for methods that would slow down and counteract the climate change. One of the possible solutions is Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) which consists of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and upper ocean and storing it in marine, geological or ground reserves. A 2019 [IPCC special report](#) stated that achieving the Paris temperature target would require the removal of 1000 billion tonnes of CO₂ by 2100. This poses questions as to this technique's reliability, as its results so far do not meet the set goal and its implementation is influenced by cost, legal frameworks and the availability of appropriate monitoring and accounting techniques. Nevertheless, CDR remains a key element in the IPCC's climate projections.

One of the considered methods is Ocean-based Carbon Dioxide Removal (OCDR), a technique already implemented by businesses around the world in various forms, including increasing

the amount of CO₂ that can be absorbed into seawater by countering the effects of ocean acidification, increasing the productivity of algae that consume CO₂ during photosynthesis, and sinking seaweed into the deep ocean where the carbon can be locked within the sediments.

The SEAO2-CDR project will address critical gaps in our technical understanding of OCDR approaches by defining the areas in which they are environmentally and economically viable. It will also help develop the frameworks needed to support the responsible and effective implementation of OCDR and support robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) strategies using cutting-edge sensor technologies.

Project leader: NOC (UK)

Project partners: University of Cambridge (UK); Heriot Watt (UK); University of Leipzig (Germany); Kiel Institute for the World Economy (Germany); University of Leiden (Netherlands); GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research (Germany); Center for Social and Economic Research (Poland); Comillas Pontifical University (Spain); LUISS University (Italy); Kiel University (Germany) and the World Ocean Council (France)

CASE experts involved: Izabela Marcinkowska, Karolina Zobel

Project funding: Horizon Europe



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Other projects

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

(01 FEB 2021 – 31 JAN 2024)

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, Arctic 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 Hagemeyer, Karolina Zobel, Stanislav Bieliei

Project funding: Horizon 2020



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The means for cities and regions to support the energy transition in the Mediterranean

(21 DEC 2023 – 29 FEB 2024)

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: IEMed

CASE experts involved: Karolina Zubel

Project funding: The Committee of the Regions (CIVEX)



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In search of mechanisms linking the pseudo-causal narratives and policy outcomes: the case of the Trade-Development-Migration nexus in the EU’s approach towards the countries of its Southern Neighbourhood

(11 OCT 2023 – 10 OCT 2025)

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Oskar Chmiel

Project funding: National Science Centre (NCN) – “Sonatina” post-doctoral grant



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Affordable sustainable housing in the EU

(24 NOV 2023 – 23 SEP 2024)

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Agnieszka Maj, Karolina Zubel

Project funding: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



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Belarus’ green economy: opportunities for reform and development

(01 SEP 2022 – 31 AUG 2023)

Project leader: CASE

CASE experts involved: Aleś Alachnovič, Alexandra Mamaeva

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



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Towards Regional Circular Supply Chains: Knowledge exchange from V4 to WB (28 AUG 2023 – ONGOING)

Project leader: Center for Research and Policy Making

Project partners: CASE, Circular Slovakia, HETFA Research Institute Ltd, Co-PLAN, Institute for Territorial Economic Development

CASE experts involved: Karolina Zubel

Project funding: Visegrad Fund



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Natural disasters: anticipatory governance and disaster risk management from a local and regional perspective (05 DEC 2023 – 30 APR 2024)

Project leader: CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: Fraunhofer ISI

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Maj, Anna Wiktorow-Bojska, Karolina Zubel

Project funding: The European Committee of the Regions



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EmpowerHer: Female Leadership for Sustainable Development (01 SEP 2023 – 31 OCT 2024)

Project leader: CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: LIDERE, Fremtenkt, ABBA

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Agnieszka Maj, Joanna Sarczewska

Project funding: Nordic Council of Ministers



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Events

The 177th Seminar mBank–CASE: A just energy transition from the perspective of cities and regions – experiences of Poland and other EU member state

During a recent seminar, the focus was on Poland's energy transformation, critical due to climate change and Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Dr. Balcerowicz highlighted the need for political cooperation. The seminar discussed transformations in coal-dependent regions, particularly in Lusatia, Upper Nitra, and Wielkopolska.

Agnieszka Kulesa presented findings on these regions' transitions away from coal, stressing the importance of tailored approaches and EU funding. Lusatia has a long history of transformation, while Upper Nitra is undergoing a shift to natural gas and renewables. In Wielkopolska, challenges persist despite regional development. Cooperation between central, regional, and local authorities is crucial for successful transformation.

Dr. Gawlikowska-Fyk emphasized the need for centralized management in Poland's planning, while local representatives from Konin and Wałbrzych highlighted their ambitious goals but noted challenges with central support and administrative coordination. Overall, effective transformation requires collaboration among all stakeholders to ensure a just and sustainable transition.



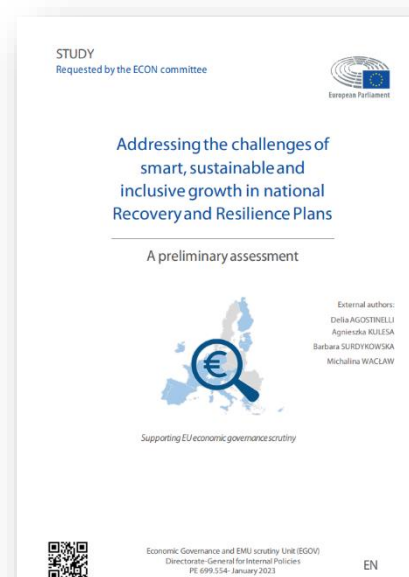
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Publications

Addressing the challenges of the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in national Recovery and Resilience Plans: a preliminary assessment

This briefing paper provides an initial analysis of selected measures proposed by Germany, France, Italy and Poland in their respective Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs) and focuses on three areas, namely: competitiveness, business environment/ entrepreneurship, and (re)industrialisation.

The appearance of the “black swan” in the form of changes in the geopolitical and social situation across the EU related to Russia's aggression on Ukraine, together with the related energy crisis and the crisis of rising costs of living, means that the assessment of the needs presented by the EU



MS in their respective RRP can be seen from a completely different perspective. The analysis has also shown that changes envisaged in the RPPs relating to the functioning of public administration must go hand in hand with adequate investments in people, equipment, training and continuing education. There is a need to ensure adequate administrative structures and good planning capacity for the implementation of reforms and investments as well as high quality of laws on the basis of which reforms and investments included in RPPs are implemented.

Authors: Agnieszka Kulesa, Barbara Surdykowska, Michalina Wacław, Delia Agostinelli

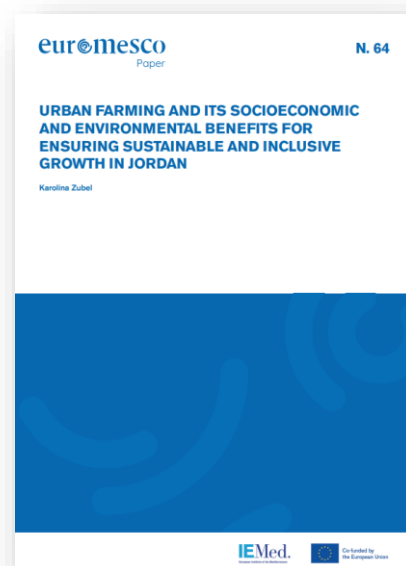


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URBAN FARMING AND ITS SOCIOECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS FOR ENSURING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN JORDAN

This Policy Paper, written by Karolina Zubel, explores the potential of urban farming in Jordan to address the pressing issues of food security, climate-induced risks, and socioeconomic vulnerability in urban centers.

This Policy Paper explores the potential of urban farming in Jordan to address the pressing issues of food security, climate-induced risks, and socioeconomic vulnerability in urban centers. With around 92% of Jordan's citizens living in cities, and a significant refugee population residing in urban areas, the cities are highly vulnerable to disruptions in critical food supplies exacerbated by climate change and external shocks like the COVID-19 outbreak and Russia's war in Ukraine. Vulnerable groups, including the urban poor, older people, youth, people with disabilities, and refugees in informal settlements, face precarious food and nutrition security.



Urban farming, the practice of growing food in cities, is identified as a crucial solution to feed these vulnerable groups. The paper highlights the efficiency of urban farming, with innovative techniques providing up to 15 times higher productivity than conventional agriculture. Apart from addressing food security and health concerns, urban farming can play a vital role in enhancing cities' resilience and employment opportunities. Moreover, it can act as a center for community engagement and youth education, while also providing ecological benefits.

Karolina Zubel aims to showcase the environmental, ecological, and socioeconomic benefits of developing urban farming in Jordan from a sustainability and inclusivity perspective. By involving local communities and ensuring social dialogue, the development process can contribute to environmental and socioeconomic sustainability, preventing further vulnerability and

exclusion. Additionally, it examines stakeholders’ perceptions, beneficiaries, and inclusivity in decision-making processes. The author explores governance challenges related to urban farm development, and discusses the prospects of such developments within the context of the European Green Deal diplomacy.

The paper’s outcomes present a comprehensive understanding of the potential of urban farming in Jordan, emphasizing its role in building resilience, enhancing food security, and promoting social inclusivity. The policy-oriented recommendations are designed to guide future actions and accelerate the development of urban farming across Jordan, fostering a sustainable and inclusive approach to address the complex challenges faced by urban populations.

Author: Karolina Zobel



[Read the report](#)

TRANSATLANTIC SUBNATIONAL INNOVATION COMPETITIVENESS INDEX 2.0

For policymakers to bolster the global competitiveness of their nations and regions, they first must know where they stand. This report benchmarks the 121 regions of Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Sweden, and the United States using 13 commonly available indicators of strength in the knowledge economy, globalization, and innovation capacity.

As countries—and regions therein—continue to move forward through the 21st century, they should adopt new policies aimed at improving their international competitiveness in the innovation economy. Due to regional disparities within countries, national-level policymakers must consider targeted policies to address local-specific challenges. Countries should develop their competitive capabilities in knowledge-based and technologically advanced industries via a variety of policies. These include, but are not limited to, investment in STEM education, incentivizing R&D investment, ensuring a proper patent system, and attracting high-skilled foreign workers and professionals. This report has highlighted 13 different indicators which together help to measure subnational competitiveness in the innovation economy. By analyzing this index, policymakers can get a better idea of the specific policies they should pursue, with special attention to underdeveloped or lagging regions.

Author: Jan Hagemejer



Labour, Migration & Social Policies

Projects

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

(21OCT 2022 – 20 JUN 2023)

Having the important role the EESC is playing already now and the results of CoFoE in mind, the main objective of the study “Making the EESC the facilitator and guarantor of participatory democracy activities including structured dialogue with civil society organisations, and citizens' panels” is to explore different options that could provide a blueprint for institutional reform to best serve the EESC's purposes. The study will provide 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 team will also look at examples of the selected National Economic and Social Councils (NESCs) to enhance the study.

See publication p. 61

CASE experts involved: Delia Agostinelli, Agnieszka Kulesa, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Michalina Waclaw, Karolina Zobel

Client: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



[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 will also engage 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](#)

Study on the role of the socio-economic partners in skills strategies for a just green transition: a regional perspective

(01 JAN 2023 – 31 DEC 2024)

The objective of the study is to collect evidence on and investigate the role of the socio-economic partners in the skill component of just green transition strategies at regional level and to draw lessons and formulate policy recommendations as to how this role could be enhanced in other regions facing similar challenges.

The investigation will explore the governance of the skill component of the just green transition strategies and will analyse the role of various socio-economic stakeholders and their collaboration patterns in relation to the following analytical dimensions:

- Integration of the skills component in the wider just green transition strategy;
- Responsiveness of the skill supply to the skill demand;
- Engaging employers in the process of skills development;
- Engaging in training of displaced workers or at risk of displacement.

Evidence will be collected in selected regions of four countries i.e. Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Spain. In each of the countries, two regions will be covered: one that successfully managed the transition away from fossil fuel intensive energy sectors and one which is undergoing such transition.

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partners: the Slovak Academy of Sciences, CIRCE Technology Center, The CIT GmbH - Regional Economic Development Agency (RDA)

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Maj, Izabela Marcinkowska, Zuzanna Stańska

Project funding: CEDEFOP



[Read more](#)

Other projects

INTERCEPT – Motivating Mobilizing Supporting Neets Green Career Pathway

(01 SEP 2021 – 24 JAN 2024)

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 (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](#)

BioBeo – Innovative Education for the Bioeconomy

01 NOV 2022 – 30 OCT 2024

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, Martyna Gliniecka

Grant: EU Horizon



[Read more](#)

Research on the risks, needs, and opportunities for empowerment of migrant and refugee domestic workers in Poland

(10 APR 2023 – 15 SEP 2023)

See the publication p.58

Project Leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Marianna Zarychta

Client: Foundation CARE International in Poland (“CARE”)



[Read more](#)

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

(14 Jul 2022 – 30 Apr 2023)

See publication p. 57

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Oskar Chmiel, Izabela Marcinkowska, Waldemar Milewicz, Tomas Jeck

Project client: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



[Read more](#)

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

(01 APR 2022 – 01 APR 2023)

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](#)

The cost of non-rurality – preparing for a better urban-rural balance in EU funding

(01 DEC 2022 - 30 APR 2023)

See publication p. 63

Project leader: CEPS

Project partner: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Experts involved: Izabela Marcinkowska, Karolina Zubeł

Project funding: The Committee of the Regions



[Read more](#)

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

(15 FEB 2022 – 14 FEB 2024)

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



[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)

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](#)

New avenues for functional cooperation at local and regional level in EaP countries

(21 FEB 2023 – 30 APR 2023)

See publication p. 61

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project Partners: LSE

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Piotr Kazmierkiewicz

Project Client: The Committee of the Regions



[Read more](#)

E-services for citizens at local and regional level in EaP countries

(28 FEB 2023 – 3- APR 2023)

See publication p. 59

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Delia Agostinelli, Olga Aleszko Lessels

Client: The Committee of the Regions



[Read more](#)

Study supporting the evaluation of the European Labour Authority

(14 JUN 2023 – 14 DEC 2023)

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Project partner: RAMBOLL, IKEI, SEOR, Milieu, Tetra Tech

CASE experts involved: Izabela Marcinkowska

Project funding: DG EMPL, European Commission



[Read more](#)

Mapping of EU Member State Legal Pathways for Labour Migration and Mobility (Phase II)

(14 JUN 2023 – 14 DEC 2023)

Project leader: ECDPM

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Delia Agostinelli, Izabela Marcinkowska, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Olimpia Dragouni, Piotr Kazimierkiewicz

Project funding: ICMPD



[Read more](#)

Rural areas and the geography of discontent

(01 OCT 2023 – 31 JAN 2024)

Project leader: Milieu Consulting

Project partners: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Agnieszka Kulesa, Martyna Gliniecka

Project funding: The Committee of the Regions



[Read more](#)

In search of mechanisms linking the pseudo-causal narratives and policy outcomes: the case of the Trade-Development-Migration nexus in the EU's approach towards the countries of its Southern Neighbourhood

(11 OCT 2023 – 10 OCT 2025)

Project leader: CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

CASE experts involved: Oskar Chmiel

Project funding: National Science Centre (NCN) – “Sonatina” post-doctoral grant



[Read more](#)

Compliance of national transposition measures of Directive (EU) 2019/1152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on transparent and predictable working conditions in the European Union

(10 NOV 2023 – 31 MAY 2025)

Project leader: Milieu Consulting

CASE experts involved: Barbara Surdykowska

Project funding: DG EMPL, European Commission



[Read more](#)

Events

The 177th mBank-CASE seminar: Immigration and the Labor Market in Poland

During the seminar, led by Dr. Ewa Balcerowicz, the demographic situation of Poland and its implications for the labor market were outlined. It was emphasized that there is an urgent need to develop a long-term immigration strategy and policy. Following the elections on October 15, 2023, the new government faces the challenge of addressing this complex issue. The main question is whether and how immigration can contribute to Poland's development.

Dr. Maciej Duszczyk shared the results of his research, highlighting Poland's transition from primarily an emigration country to practically fulfilling the characteristics of an immigration country. He emphasized the lack of a coherent integration policy and the chaotic response during the pandemic.

Dr. Paweł Kaczmarczyk presented research indicating Poland's emergence as a new immigration destination, particularly with a significant increase in Ukrainian migrants. He stressed the need to facilitate migrants' access to the labor market and integration into society.

Lastly, Aleksandra Perczyńska and Dr. Jan Bazyli Klakla discussed research findings on migrant women working in domestic sectors, emphasizing the lack of legal protection and the challenges they face. They concluded by outlining CARE International's planned actions to support domestic workers, emphasizing solidarity and social awareness.

The seminar concluded with a brief discussion, touching on topics such as international students in Poland and research on non-Ukrainian nationalities. Dr. Balcerowicz noted that these questions inspire further research in migration and migration policy.

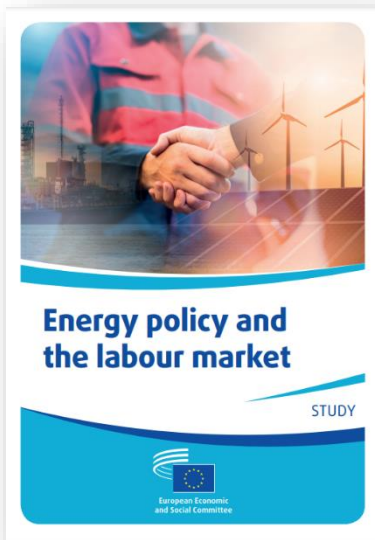
Speakers: Maciej Duszczyk, Paweł Kaczmarczyk, Agata Górny, Aleksandra Perczyńska, Jan Bazyli Klakla



[Read more](#)

Publications

ENERGY POLICY AND THE LABOUR MARKET: CONSEQUENCES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN REGIONS UNDERGOING ENERGY TRANSITIONS



This study examines the socio-economic situation of three lignite regions in the process of transitioning out of coal mining: Lusatia in Germany, Wielkopolska in Poland, and Upper Nitra in Slovakia. It assesses the effectiveness of various instruments, factors and approaches in creating quality jobs, employment, and economic growth. The research results suggest that a successful energy transition requires the involvement of all stakeholders, the development of tailored strategies, and the addressing of miners' identity issues. The study provides general recommendations for a just energy transition, such as aligning strategies across scales of government, investing in skills and training, and providing adequate funding.

Authors: Agnieszka Kulesa, Izabela Marcinkowska, Oskar Chmiel, Tomas Jeck, Waldemar Milewicz



[Read the report](#)

THE EXPERIENCE OF CITIZENSHIP AND ACCULTURATION AMONG SLAVIC MIGRANTS IN POLAND

This paper, written by Jan Bazyli Klakla for National Science Center in Poland, presents an excerpt from the results of research on the relationship between the experience of the legal and institutional environment by long-term Slavic migrants living in Poland and their acculturation process.

The paper concentrates on the experience of citizenship and its connection to acculturation processes. Template analysis (TA) was conducted on data from (A) five in-depth expert interviews

with migration professionals, (B) 20 biographical and narrative interviews with migrants from European Slavic countries who came to Poland between 1989 and 2010, and (C) legal and policy documents. The findings provide information about (A) migrants' perceived irrelevance of citizenship, (B) their perceived importance of citizenship, (C) the presence of formal and informal barriers to accessing citizenship status, and (D) the sense of obligation that citizenship evokes. The research argues that it is unjustified to treat citizenship uncritically as the main indicator of the effects of the acculturation process or only as an instrument that inevitably supports this process.

Author: Jan Bazyli Klakla



[Read the report](#)



IN THE SHADOWS. UKRAINIAN DOMESTIC WORKERS IN POLAND

We are pleased to present the report, "In the Shadows: Ukrainian Domestic Workers in Poland," developed in collaboration with CARE International, an organization dedicated to fighting poverty and social inequality. The research focuses on a frequently overlooked topic – the domestic sector and excluded female emigrants working as domestic workers. We conducted our study in three significant Polish cities: Krakow, Warsaw, and Wroclaw.

The report is the result of a comprehensive approach to the subject. We gathered information through various means. We conducted numerous interviews with domestic workers in the mentioned cities and carried out an online survey. We also conversed with employers, non-governmental organizations' representatives, and public administration officials.



As a result of our research, a full picture of the domestic sector in Poland emerged. It turns out that there is a lack of appropriate legal regulations and secure solutions. Many domestic workers in Poland operate illegally, often due to the inability to secure contracts with their employers. There is also a noticeable difference between individuals who arrived in Poland before the 2022 war and those who came after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It manifests in a more friendly and welcoming treatment of individuals who arrived after the invasion. People who were here earlier experienced much worse treatment.

Nevertheless, amidst these challenges, there is a chance for improvement of this situation. The Domestic Workers' Union has been established, an initiative led by Ukrainian women. This union is open to all domestic workers, regardless of their background. They are actively working to improve their rights and legal regulations in the domestic sector.

We encourage you to read the full report, which contains detailed analyses and conclusions regarding the domestic sector in Poland. Its examination will help you understand the challenges that domestic workers face and the changes needed to improve their situation. This report reveals the domestic sector as it is and as it should be in the future.

Authors: Agnieszka Kulesa, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Marianna Zarychta



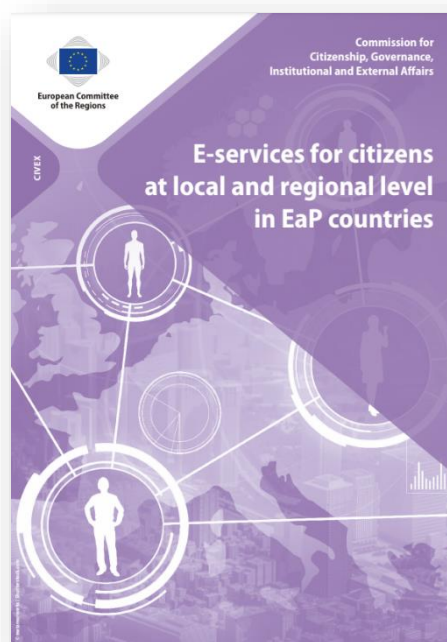
[Read the report](#)

E-SERVICES FOR CITIZENS AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL IN EAP COUNTRIES

This study was prepared as part of a project on E-services for citizens at local and regional level in EaP countries commissioned by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) under the specific contract No CDR.17081 implementing multiple framework contract for studies in the field of external relations No CDR/2022/B3/1/1-CIVEX-RELEX..

This study was prepared as part of a project on E-services for citizens at local and regional level in EaP countries commissioned by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) under the specific contract No CDR.17081 implementing multiple framework contract for studies in the field of external relations No CDR/2022/B3/1/1-CIVEX-RELEX.

The aim of the study was to provide basic facts and figures, background information, and a preliminary



analysis on the electronic (digital) administrative and information services that the local and regional authorities in Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries provide to citizens, with a comparison to similar services provided in selected EU Member States and Western Balkan countries. In line with the agreement with the CoR, the study covers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova on the side of the EaP states, and Poland and Estonia on the side of the EU, as well as Montenegro. Due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine that commenced on 24 February 2022, and the fact that Ukraine was in a state of war during the period of writing this study, only some specific, salient examples from this country are included herein.

The timeframe of the study is 2019–2022. In this context, the study also turns attention where possible to the temporal dimension of the provision of services, identifying where a particular kind of e-service was introduced, or significantly expanded or improved, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study is based on desk research and was informed by insights from interviews with practitioners possessing hands-on knowledge on providing e-services in Georgia and Moldova, as well as from information request forms delivered by stakeholders from Azerbaijan and Montenegro. Stakeholders from Armenia delivered a brief information note.

This study supports and provides input for the CORLEAP rapporteur’s work on the report “E-services for citizens – what good came out of the COVID pandemic?” to be adopted at the CORLEAP Annual meeting on 7 September 2023 in Batumi, Georgia.

Authors: Agnieszka Kulesa, Delia Agostinelli, Olga Aleszko Lessels



[Read the report](#)

MAKING THE EESC THE FACILITATOR AND GUARANTOR OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY ACTIVITIES

This study looks at the Conference on the Future of Europe's (CoFoE) proposals on European democracy and the role of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). It explores different options for institutional reform of the EESC to best serve its purpose and increase citizens' participation. To do this, the study examines different forms of participatory and deliberative practices, the current functions of the EESC, and the roles and structures of selected National Economic and Social Councils (NESCs). The study concludes with recommendations for revisiting the EESC's structure and functioning, and centred around the issues of communication improvement, points at which the general public should be involved, as well as digitalisation. As regards the structure of the EESC, a more targeted approach to representation and abandoning the tripartite structure is suggested by experts interviewed for the purpose of this study. The study concludes that new forms of EESC activities should be given the time, resources, and attention they need to be effective.



Authors: Agnieszka Kulesa, Delia Agostinelli, Jan Bazyli Klakla, Karolina Zubel, Michalina Wacław



[Read the publication](#)

New avenues for functional cooperation at local and regional level in EaP countries

This final note, written by Agnieszka Kulesa and Piotr Kazmierkiewicz, was prepared as part of a project on New avenues for functional cooperation at local and regional level in EaP countries commissioned by the European Committee of the Regions.

The aim of the study was to provide data and information for discussion and analysis conducted by CORLEAP Bureau rapporteur Aleksandra Dulciewicz in the course of compiling the report "What can we do with our partners?". The study served as an input for the rapporteur's work on the report while also providing recommendations for future CoR and CORLEAP projects. This final

note presents research findings based on a combination of desk research, collected information requests and interviews, delivering an overview of the scale and structure of assistance to local and regional authorities in five countries of the Eastern Partnership (as per the agreement with the CoR, Belarus was not included in the study).

The CORLEAP Action Plan for 2021–2024 has recognised mounting pressures on the local autonomy in the Eastern Partnership area during and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts to combat the pandemic and lead post-pandemic recovery were highly centralized. This has further eroded local and regional authorities' position in a variety of ways: placing stress on their already dire financial situation, making their resilience-building efforts relatively less visible than those of the central government and slowing down or halting decentralisation reforms.

As a result, for the period until 2024 CORLEAP members resolved to build capacity of LRAs in the Eastern Partnership region for vital engagement in post-COVID-19 recovery and resilience. Three main directions of capacity-building support were envisioned:

1. safeguarding of the legal and institutional position of LRAs and maintenance of autonomy vis-à-vis central authorities;
2. putting LRAs on a sound financial footing through the promotion of further fiscal decentralisation and by ensuring the necessary resources for pursuing measures for resilience and recovery;
3. building the local expertise through the exchange of experience as well as training and instruction, including under the umbrella of the EaP Academy for Public Administration.

Authors: Agnieszka Kulesa, Piotr Kazmierkiewicz



[Read the report](#)



THE COST OF NON-RURALITY – PREPARING FOR A BETTER URBAN-RURAL BALANCE IN EU FUNDING

The report first analyses key trends and reviews studies on territorial development, identifying the drivers. It also develops a concept of rural balance and the costs of imbalances to then identify a methodology to calculate the costs associated with rural decline. Finally, it analyses the policy implications to draw conclusions.

Rural areas represent some 80 % of the EU's territory and 30 % of its population. They perform critical societal functions and provide a range of public goods. Rural renewable energy production, tourism, recreational activities and food production benefits urban areas as well. They are therefore instrumental for achieving some of the EU's headline ambitions – for instance the digital and green transitions. However, investments in rural areas are still perceived as less profitable, simply because the costs of providing these investments are larger per capita compared to densely populated areas, and because the benefits of reducing their further decline are not accounted for, namely the associated social costs.

This report aims to contribute to the debate on EU rural development policy by presenting a methodology to understand the net costs and benefits of investing in rural areas to society as a whole. By doing so, it asks whether rural depopulation is just a rural problem or whether the consequences have a bearing on all of us, and in particular on urban areas.

This paper thus seeks to look at the trends and impacts of changes in rural areas on society, the economy in general and on urban centres. It explores two fundamental questions:

- How do we estimate the overall value of the costs and benefits of these developments?
- How do we improve policies that specifically concern rural areas?

Authors: Izabela Marcinkowska, Karolina Zubeł



[Read the report](#)



CASE Communications

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 2023 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 2023 CASE organized the following events:

DATE	TITLE
20 Jan	Camp “Start-up Your Idea”
5 Feb	USAGE: Hydroponics workshop
13 Mar	“Start-up your idea” meeting
30 Mar	THE 176TH MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: Polish economy in 2023 and beyond: How to fix the housing loan?
24 Apr	6. Tax Workshop: EU own revenues and the minimum tax on international companies in the context of NextGenerationEU
25 Apr	The debate “Perspectives and Policy for Ukraine’s Post-war Economy. What should be done after the Russian aggression is over?”
25 May	Conference “Involving V4 actors in EU development cooperation: prospects, opportunities, and challenges”
22 Jun	THE 177TH MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: A just energy transition from the perspective of cities and regions – experiences of Poland and other EU member states
19 Oct	THE 178TH MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: Immigration and the Labor Market in Poland
31 Oct	Promotion of the book “The Connections World” by Simon Commander and Saul Estrin
16 Nov	BioBEO Mid-project Conference
23 Nov	THE 179TH MBANK-CASE SEMINAR: Economic Scenarios for Poland

Publications

CASE publications of 2023:

PUBLICATIONS	
CASE REPORTS	3
WORKING PAPERS	0
MBANK-CASE SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS	2
OTHER	16

Media Relations

There were 10 media publications referring to CASE in 2023. 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: Dziennik Gazeta Prawna, OKO.press, Rzeczpospolita etc. CASE experts were quoted by the media or published longer opinion pieces. In 2023 these appearances included those by: Jan Hagemeyer, Agnieszka Kulesa, Dmytro Boyarchuk.



CASE website

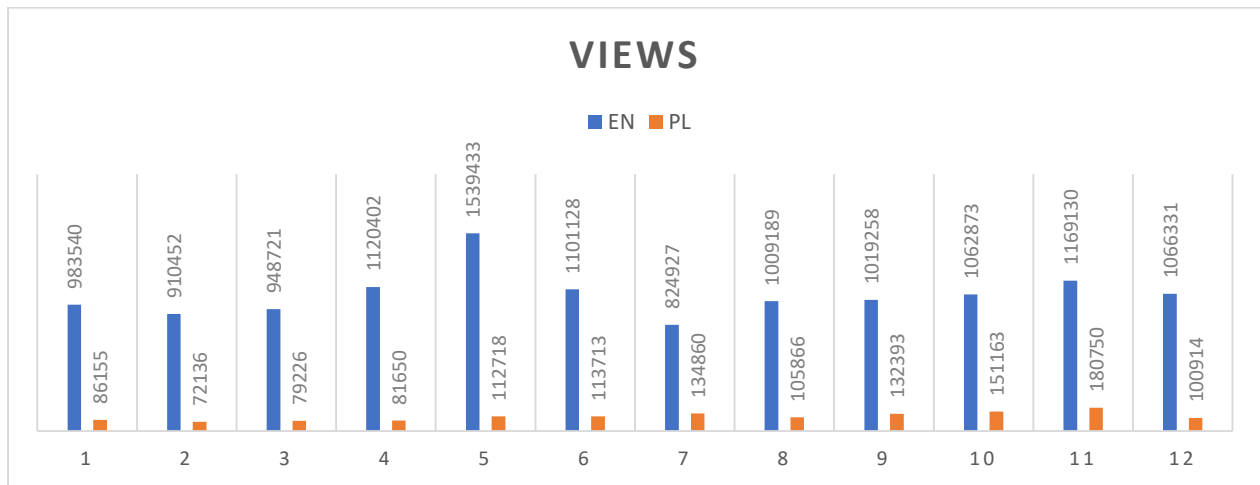
CASE's website is the main mode of communicating information about our mission, upcoming events and activities, new and recently completed projects, and latest publications.

The screenshot displays the CASE website homepage. At the top, a dark red navigation bar contains the CASE logo and the text "Center for Social and Economic Research". To the right of the logo are links for "about us", "events", "publications", "projects", "people", "work with us", and "contact", along with a search icon. Below the navigation bar, a horizontal menu lists four categories: "growth & trade", "fiscal policy", "demography, labor & social policy", and "innovation, energy & climate". The main header features a large image of a modern building facade with the text "CASE NEWS" in white. Below the header is a grid of news articles. Each article includes a date, a title, a category, and a brief description. The articles shown are: "Ambrella Development Forum 2023" (08 Nov 2023), "178. Seminar mBank - CASE" (19 Oct 2023), "EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2023" (09 Oct 2023), "Promotion of the book 'The Connections World'" (31 Oct 2023), "EconPol Forum" (06 Oct 2023), and "VAT gap in the EU. Report 2023" (24 Oct 2023). The "EconPol Forum" article also includes a sub-headline "European Single Market: The Unfinished Business".

Website statistics



- **4000 unique IP website visits per day**
- **1 000 000 views on the website monthly**



Social media

SOCIAL MEDIA	2023
TWITTER	1500
FACEBOOK	3700
LINKEDIN	2100

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 5500 recipients globally and present the latest information on new publications, recent and forthcoming events, and information on CASE research and advisory project activities.



CASE – Centrum Analiz Społeczno-Ekonomicznych
CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

What's new at CASE?

Newsletter | October 2023

The latest projects, publications, events, and much more on CASE activities in October



The latest publications!



[*In the Shadows. Ukrainian Domestic Workers in Poland*](#)

The report, a collaboration with CARE International, delves into the hidden world of domestic workers in Poland, spotlighting their struggles and the need for change. It offers a comprehensive view, gathered through interviews, online surveys, and dialogues with employers, NGOs, and public officials. The findings reveal a stark reality: the absence of proper legal regulations and secure employment solutions. The report gives insights into the challenges faced by these workers and the path toward a brighter future.

CASE Authors: Jan Bazyli Kiakła, Agnieszka Kulesa, Marianna Zarychta

[Learn more](#)

Financing of CASE Activities

Sources of financing

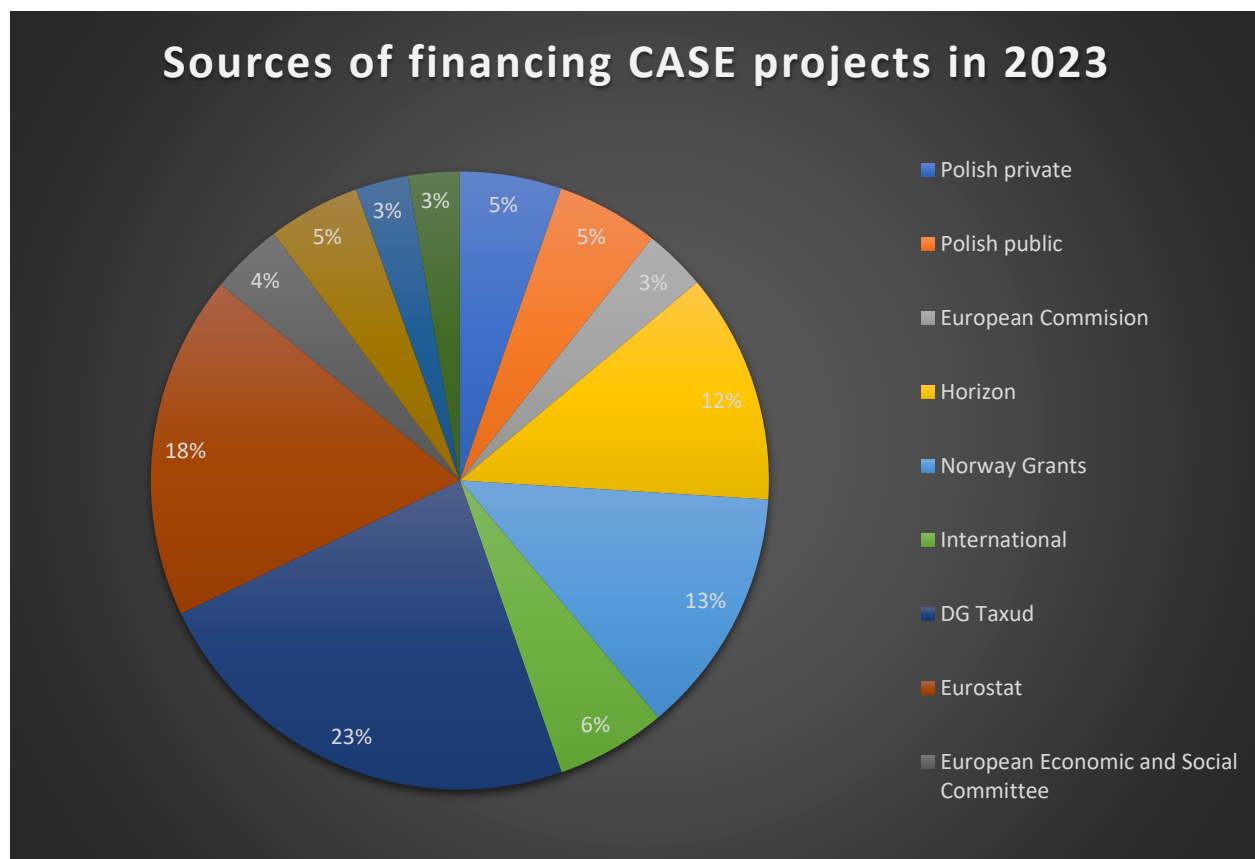
Exchange rates based on NBP rates 1 EUR = 4,3480 PLN (29th December 2023)

Breakdown of total revenue	PLN	EUR
1. Revenue from statutory and business activity	7,336,028.51	1,687,219.10
1.1. Project-based funding	6,483,676.94	1,491,186.05
1.2. Institutional support	0.00	0.00
2. Other operating revenue	71,072.24	16,345.96
3. Financial revenue	781,279.33	179,687.06

Exchange rates based on NBP rates 1 EUR = 4,3480 PLN (29th December 2023)

CASE financing 2023	PLN	EUR
1. Net revenue from statutory activities	1,558,478.75	358,435.78
2. Financial and other operating revenues	852,351.57	196,033.02
3. General and administrative expenses	1,614,922.91	371,417.41
4. Financial and other operational expenses	356,380.41	81,964.22
5. Net result	439,527.00	101,087.17

As in previous years, CASE’s statutory activity in 2023 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 2023):



In 2023, 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 5% and the Polish private sector also provided 5% of CASE’s revenue. The remaining funds were the provided by non-EU institutions (e.g., Norway Grants).

Value of the endowment and financial profits in 2023	PLN	EUR
1. Stocks at the end of 2023	4,009,157.50	922,069.34
2. Interest and profits from the endowment in 2023	556,691.89	128,034.01

Exchange rates based on NBP rates 1 EUR = 4,3480 PLN (29th December 2023)