



## Elisabeth M. Christen

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### WORK EXPERIENCE

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#### Senior Economist

**Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)** [ 01/2013 – Current ]

**Address:** Vienna (Austria)

Academic research and consulting of national and international policy makers in the field of industrial economics, innovation and international competition.

Areas of research:

- International trade relations and trade policy
- FDI and internationalisation strategies of MNE
- Internationalisation and employment impacts
- Trade in services

#### Team member of the Research Centre in International Economics (FIW)

[ 01/2013 – Current ]

organisation: WIFO, wiiw, WSR

#### External Lecturer

[ 2008 – Current ]

University of Vienna, (since 2017): Undergraduate Level: International Economics

University of Innsbruck, Faculty of Economics and Statistics, (2010-2018): Undergraduate Level: International Economics, Economics of European Integration

University of Linz, Department of Economics, (2008-2016): Undergraduate Level: Microeconomics (Seminar)

#### Teaching and Research Associate

**University of Innsbruck** [ 09/2010 – 01/2013 ]

**Address:** Universitätsstraße 15, 6020 (Austria) - [www.uibk.ac.at](http://www.uibk.ac.at)

#### Teaching and Research Associate

**University of Linz** [ 02/2008 – 12/2012 ]

**Address:** Altenbergerstraße 69, 4040 (Austria) - [www.jku.at](http://www.jku.at)

#### Junior Fellow

**Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)** [ 08/2012 – 10/2012 ]

**Address:** Vienna (Austria)

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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### PhD in Economics

*University of Linz, Department of Economics / University of Innsbruck, Faculty of Economics and Sta [ 2009 – 2013 ]*

Level in EQF : EQF level 8

Major: International Economics

Thesis title: 'Essays on International Trade – The role of distance and trade barriers'

### Bachelor and Masters in Business and Economics

*University of Linz [ 2003 – 2008 ]*

Address: (Austria)

Principal subject: Economics

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

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Mother tongue(s):

**German**

**English**

LISTENING: C2 READING: C2 WRITING: C2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION: C2

SPOKEN INTERACTION: C2

**French**

LISTENING: B2 READING: B2 WRITING: B1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION: B1 SPOKEN INTERACTION: B1

**Spanish**

LISTENING: A2 READING: A2 WRITING: A1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION: A1 SPOKEN INTERACTION: A1

## ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

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### Organisational skills

- Referee for academic journals in the field of empirical international trade (e.g., World Economy, Review of World Economics, European Economic Review, Empirica).
- Coordination of projects, research teams, tasks and time limits
- Organisation of Workshops and Conferences

Advisory activities:

- Austrian Advisory Council for foreign trade policy
- Advisory Board on foreign trade statistics at Statistics Austria

## COMMUNICATION AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

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### Communication and interpersonal skills

- Regular invited talks and presentations of research results both in national and international settings
- Regular talks at academic conferences and workshops
- Media coverage

## JOB-RELATED SKILLS

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### Job-related skills

- Excellent knowledge in applied economic policy analysis and econometrics , e.g. panel econometrics, firm level econometrics, propensity score matching.
- Designing, drafting and dissemination of policy reports, academic publishing in peer-reviewed journals
- Profound knowledge in foreign trade statistics
- Teaching at the university level.

## OTHER SKILLS

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### Other skills

Training:

'CGE modelling of trade and FDI in services with GAMS', University College Dublin (UCD), May 2009.

'Brixen Summer School and Workshop on International Trade and Finance', Scientific Organiser: University of Padova, September 2009.

'Heterogeneous Firms and Offshoring in Services', Paris School of Economics and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, May 2010.

'The Political Economy of Trade in Services', Summer School in International and Development Economics, University of Milan, September 2011.

'Practical GE Modelling Course with GEMPACK', WIFO, September 2019.

## ARTICLES IN INTERNATIONAL REFEREED SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

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### Articles in international refereed scientific journals

- Christen, E., Pfaffermayr, M., Wolfmayr, Y., Decomposing Services Exports Adjustments along the Intensive and Extensive Margin at the Firm-Level, *Review of International Economics*, 2019, (27), pp. 155-183, <https://doi/abs/10.1111/roie.12365>.
- Christen, E., Francois, J., Modes of Supply for US Exports of Services, *World Economy*, 2017, (3), S. 517-531.
- Christen, E., Time Zones Matter: The Impact of Distance and Time Zones on Services Trade, *World Economy*, 2017, (3), S.612-631.

## ARTICLES IN NATIONAL JOURNALS AND POLICY BRIEFS

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### Articles in national journals and Policy briefs

- Böheim, M., Christen, E., Firgo, M., Friesenbichler, K. S., Piribauer, P., "Auswirkungen der Digitalisierung auf die Entwicklung von Wirtschaftsräumen", *WIFO-Monatsberichte*, 2018, 91(12), S. 881–890.
- Christen, E., Bilek-Steindl, S., Glocker, C., Oberhofer, H., "Österreich 2025 – Österreichs Wettbewerbsposition und Exportpotentiale auf ausgewählten Zukunftsmärkten", *WIFO-Monatsberichte*, 2017, 90(1), S. 83–95.
- Christen, E., "Österreichs außenwirtschaftliche Beziehungen mit den westlichen Balkanländern", *WIFO-Monatsberichte*, 2014, 87(3), S. 197–211.
- Christen, E., Oberhofer, H., Exportpotentiale für die österreichische Wirtschaft: Eine Analyse relevanter Angebotsfaktoren, *FIW Policy Brief Nummer 32*, Dezember 2016

## POLICY REPORTS (ENGLISH)

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### Policy reports (English)

- Breuss, F., Christen, E., Policy Brief: Trump's Trade Wars. Implications for the EU and China. 2019, WIFO.
- Christen, E., Fritz, O., Streicher, G. (WIFO), Hinz, J. (IfW), Russia's and the EU's sanctions: economic and trade effects, compliance and the way forward. Research report, 2017. Funded by the European Parliament.
- Christen, E. (coord.), Bilek-Steindl, S., Glocker, Ch., Oberhofer, H., Austria 2025 – Austria's Competitiveness and Export Potentials in Selected Markets, Projektpublikationen "Österreich 2025", WIFO, Dezember 2016.
- Christen, E., Fritz, O., Streicher, G., Effects of the EU-Russia Economic Sanctions on Value Added and Employment in the European Union and Switzerland, WIFO, Juni 2015.
- Wolfmayr, Y. (coord.), Christen, E., Falk, M., Hollenstein, H., Knell, M., Pfaffermayr, M., Reinstaller, A., Unterlass, F., The role and internationalisation strategies of multinational companies in innovation, INNO-Grips II report, 2013, Brussels: European Commission, DG Enterprise.
- Christen, E., Wolfmayr, Y., Pfaffermayr, M., Pattern, Determinants and Dynamics of Austrian Service Exports. A Firm-level Analysis, FIW Research Report 2012/13, No. 05, June 2013.

## POLICY REPORTS (GERMAN)

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### Policy reports (German)

- Christen, E., Falk, M., Auswirkungen der EU-Mitgliedschaft auf ausländische Greenfield-Direktinvestitionen. Monetary Policy & The Economy Q1-Q2/20.
- Wolfmayr, Y., Christen, E., Friesenbichler, K. S., Streicher, G., Url, T., Soft Loans als Instrument der Ausfuhrförderung und der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit, WIFO, Wien, 2018, (Soft Loans as an Instrument of Export Promotion and Development Assistance).
- Bock-Schappelwein, J., Böheim, M., Christen, E., Ederer, S., Firgo, M., Friesenbichler, K. S., Hölzl, W., Kirchner, M., Köppl, A., Kügler, A., Mayrhuber, C., et al., Politischer Handlungsspielraum zur optimalen Nutzung der Vorteile der Digitalisierung für Wirtschaftswachstum, Beschäftigung und Wohlstand, WIFO, Wien, 2018.
- Reinstaller, A., Christen, E., Friesenbichler, K. S., Janger, J., Schwarz, G., Unterlass, F., WIFO-Unternehmensbefragung: Strategische Zusammenarbeit zwischen jungen Technologieunternehmen und Großunternehmen, WIFO, Wien, 2014, (Strategic Cooperations between Young Technology Companies and Large Enterprises: Results from a WIFO Company Survey)
- Christen, E., Fritz, O., Streicher, G., Hinz, J., Auswirkungen der Wirtschaftssanktionen der EU und Russlands auf Wertschöpfung und Beschäftigung in Österreich und der EU, WIFO - Institut für Weltwirtschaft an der Universität Kiel, Wien, 2016.
- Christen, E., Pfaffermayr, M., Wolfmayr, Y., Internationalisierung von Dienstleistungsunternehmen. Markteintrittsmodus und Beschäftigungseffekte, WIFO, Juli 2016.
- Reinstaller, A., Christen, E., Oberhofer, H., Reschenhofer, P., Eine Analyse der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit Österreichs im bilateralen Handel mit den USA (TTIP), WIFO, Wien, 2016.
- Christen, E., (coord.) Hudetz, A., Janger, J., Oberhofer, H., Pfaffermayr, M., Reschenhofer, P., Schwarz, G., Streicher, G., Hans, K., Kohl, A., König, R., et al., Evaluierung "go international". WIFO - CONSULTING AG, Wien, 2015.
- Christen, E., Fritz, O., Huber, P., Streicher, G., Makroökonomische Effekte des Handelskonflikts zwischen der EU und Russland, WIFO, Wien, 2014.

### Book chapters

- Christen, E., Reinstaller, A., Oberhofer, H., Reschenhofer, P., TTIP and the bilateral trade relations between Austria and the US: evidence from a product space augmented gravity model for manufacturing industries, in: Gnan, E., Kronberger, R. (eds), Schwerpunkt Außenwirtschaft 2015/2016, facultas, Wien, 2016.
- Christen, E., Francois, J., Hoekman, B., Computable General Equilibrium Modeling of Market Access in Services, in Dixon, P., Jorgenson, D., Handbook of computable general equilibrium modeling, Vol. 1a, Oxford: Elsevier/North Holland, 2013, Handbooks in economics, pp. 1601-1643.



## **Selection of Remunerated Research Projects (National Institutions)**

### **An Analysis of Austrian Competitiveness in the Bilateral Trade with the USA (TTIP)**

Austrian Federal Chancellery, 2016-2016, [http://www.wifo.ac.at/jart/prj3/wifo/resources/person\\_dokument/person\\_dokument.jart?publikationsid=58723&mime\\_type=application/pdf](http://www.wifo.ac.at/jart/prj3/wifo/resources/person_dokument/person_dokument.jart?publikationsid=58723&mime_type=application/pdf)

This qualitative but data driven study has examined the potential outcomes and opportunities in commodity trade for the Austrian manufacturing sector after the potential conclusion and implementation of a free trade treaty between the USA and the EU commonly referred to as "Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership" (TTIP). The study has examined past developments and performance in bilateral trade that have been rather favourable for Austria over the past 10 to 15 years. The study concludes that the favourable developments observed in the recent past are likely to continue and deepen for Austria in bilateral trade with the USA. An additional result shows that free trade agreements tend to weaken path dependence which would be a favourable outcome hitherto neglected in the literature. While the effect seems to be small it would be an important implication for Austria as the structural transformation of its manufacturing sector has been rather sluggish in the past.

### **Austria's Competitiveness and Export Potentials in Selected Markets**

WIFO project: Austria 2025, 2015-2016, [http://www.wifo.ac.at/en/publications?detail-view=yes&publikation\\_id=59182](http://www.wifo.ac.at/en/publications?detail-view=yes&publikation_id=59182)

WIFO internal project with unconditional funding from various Austrian federal ministries and agencies

Given the strong focus of Austria's trade relations on the Single European Market this study analyses the trade potentials for Austrian exporters in 55 selected economies outside the EU and EFTA. Specifically, the study examines the macroeconomic environments and medium-term growth prospects for selected regions by concentrating on a variety of relevant future import demand shaping characteristics. For the empirical assessment of Austrian export potentials in overseas economies, the analysis augments the standard gravity model for bilateral trade in goods and services with supply-side and competitiveness-enhancing (policy) measures available for all OECD members. In particular, the empirical model focuses on the export effects of R&D expenditures, the funding for tertiary education as well as sustainable energy consumption. Assuming that Austria could catch-up to the average of the Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Finland, Sweden) in these three indicators, the results from alternative scenario analyses suggest positive export effects from all these different supply-side affecting variables. In quantitative terms the largest export gains are identified for the Industrial Countries in Overseas followed by the BRICS economies. These findings are additionally supported by solid growth prospects for these country groups.

### **Evaluation "go international"**

Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW) , 2014-2015 [http://www.wifo.ac.at/jart/prj3/wifo/resources/person\\_dokument/person\\_dokument.jart?publikationsid=60502&mime\\_type=application/pdf](http://www.wifo.ac.at/jart/prj3/wifo/resources/person_dokument/person_dokument.jart?publikationsid=60502&mime_type=application/pdf)

Since 2003, the internationalisation strategies of Austrian firms are supported with the promotion initiative "go international". The objectives of the study are to quantify the benefits of the programme in terms of individual measures, and to assess the economic impact of the programme in total. It also provides an international comparison of support schemes and investigates the role of "go international" in the range of internationalisation benefits. A key part of the study is the WIFO company survey. The study shows that the broad-based services to support internationalisation address the basic needs of the firms and cover the main barriers for internationalisation. The general focus of activities is in line with the specified objectives and at the macroeconomic level, the positive economic impact of "go international" is clearly shown. The overall assessment of "go international" is therefore regarded as economically useful, and recommends a continuation of the programme.

### **Trade in Services - Modes of Supply - Employment Impacts**

Anniversary Fund Project 15491, 2013-2016, Report, 7/2016

In three distinct contributions this project provides evidence on internationalisation strategies of Austrian services firms as well as its repercussions on the domestic labour market on the basis of firm-level data from the Austrian National Bank:

- Cross-border Exports and Foreign Affiliate Sales of Services Firms: Evidence on Destination-specific Modes of Supply from Austria
- Liberalisation in Services: Firm Survival, Firm Growth and Employment Changes
- Liberalisation in Services and Labour Market Re-allocations

### **Pattern, Determinants and Dynamics of Austrian Service Exports at the Firm-level**

Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW), 2012-2013, FIW Research Report 2012/13, No.05, June 2013

We use a micro-level dataset of Austrian service exporting firms over a four-year period to add to the still sparse literature on the characteristics and internationalisation strategies of globalised firms in the service sector. We show that service export participation is very low and highly concentrated among a few firms and that service exporters are on average larger and more productive than non-exporters. We also find that firm productivity increases with the number of export markets served. The detailed analysis on the export premium suggests the self-selection of firms as well as learning effects from exporting for export starters. The dynamic analysis reveals that the rate of export exits is high for export starters in the first year of exporting, especially for firms of small size. Movements into and out of exporting are however less frequent than moving in and out of individual markets. Entry and exit of markets (extensive margin) is an important component of overall export flows, especially for less popular markets, overall, however the intensive margin of trade contributes most. Analysis based on a Heckman-sample selection specification including firm characteristics as well as the standard gravity variables on geographical characteristics of destination markets confirm this finding. In particular, distance to the destination market, firm productivity as well as destination market characteristics (market size, policy environment) significantly influence the probability of exporting (extensive margin) but even more so the volume of service trade flows (intensive margin). Results from a counterfactual analysis suggest that export market growth and policy reforms produce the relative strongest impact on the entry into new markets. Hence, this decomposition of overall export growth into contributions attributable to the intensive and extensive margin allow for new insights for economic policy.)



### Selection of Remunerated Research Projects (European Institutions)

#### **Russia's and the EU's Sanctions. Economic and Trade Effects, Compliance and the Way Forward**

European Parliament, 2017-2017, [http://www.wifo.ac.at/jart/prj3/wifo/resources/person\\_dokument/person\\_dokument.jart?publikationsid=60669&mime\\_type=application/pdf](http://www.wifo.ac.at/jart/prj3/wifo/resources/person_dokument/person_dokument.jart?publikationsid=60669&mime_type=application/pdf)

This report summarises empirical facts about the economic impact of the EU sanctions against Russia and the Russian countersanctions, both implemented in the summer of 2014. The observed decline in trade volumes between the EU and Russia is not only due to the sanctions, but also by other economic factors, such as the downturn of the Russian economy, largely caused by the falling oil price and the ensuing ruble depreciation. Furthermore, empirical evidence suggests that European and Russian companies alike managed to partly divert trade flows to other international markets in response to the deteriorating trade relationships. Overall trade diversion, however, cannot nearly compensate for losses of EU exports to Russia and thus mitigate the economy-wide negative impacts. Finally, descriptive evidence and additional information seem to indicate that compliance with the sanctions was partly circumvented right after the implementation of the sanctions in 2014, in particular for agri-food goods via countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Legal trade diversion through countries unaffected by the sanctions has also taken place. It is important to emphasise that this study does not assess the political costs or effectiveness of the sanctions, but merely analyses potential economic costs caused by all sanction measures in place.

#### **The role of multinational companies and supply chains in innovation**

European Commission (Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry), 2010-2012, INNO-Grips II report, Brussels: European Commission, DG Enterprise INNO-GRIPS consortium –WIFO Lead (6 partners)

The study on the role of multinational companies and supply chains in innovation summarizes patterns of internationalisation of the knowledge-creating and knowledge-sourcing activities of multinational enterprises and provides new evidence on the complementarity or substitutability between the R&D activities of the headquarters and its foreign affiliates. It also analyses the factors influencing the geographical distribution of innovative activities of multinational firms and investigates how the regulatory framework affects incentives for R&D and innovation output in the EU, Japan and the US with a special emphasis on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) use and policy changes.

The study was part of a project to be delivered by a consortium of European research institutes led by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) to the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission in the context of the PRO INNO Europe initiative. These services will be delivered under the INNO-GRIPS (2010–2012) label.