Michael Landesmann, Isilda Mara and Sebastian Leitner (The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)

**Labor market participation of refugees and successful integration: a MIMIC approach**

Integration of migrants is broadly evaluated from the perspective of objective indicators (e.g. employment or access to the labor market). A number of relevant integration aspects – e.g. the feeling of belonging to society – are often neglected. Compared to natives, migrants show a higher incidence of not being able to meet their medical needs. Housing, in terms of costs, conditions and space, is another important domain where migrants differ considerably from natives. Accordingly, in this paper we aim to focus on a broader spectrum of determinants, both objective and subjective, which might be useful to analyze the relationship between migration, subjective well-being and successful integration of recent refugees in Austria. We propose a framework that analyses the integration of refugees by using a number of reflective indicators that signal integration as well as other formative indicators that cause successful integration following Lester’s MIMIC approach. The guiding idea is that the influence of causal formative indicators on unobservable latent variables is captured through their impact on reflective indicators. New survey data (N=1,650) collected in 2017/2018 within the frame of an OeNB Anniversary Fund project on refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan make it possible to address research questions concerning aspects of labor market integration, other integration venues, the well-being of migrants as well as participation in specific integration programs.