

World Trade Institute

Annual Report 2017



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BERN

From the Managing Director



Joseph Francois
Managing Director
World Trade Institute

We are pleased to share with you our report on the work of the World Trade Institute in 2017. It was a year in which we implemented planned changes in our teaching programmes and embarked on new research projects. The new research projects, representing a mix of SNF and EC funded projects, also mark the end of the role of the NCCR as the primary framework for research at the WTI.

The new TRAIL+ advanced master's programme in Trade and Investment Law, mentioned in last year's report, was rolled out in September with the start of the graduate studies programme alongside the CAS/DAS in Trade and Investment Law.

In 2017 the NCCR Trade Regulation project that for 12 years was the focus of research at the WTI finally came to an end. The World Trade Forum in October marked the official close of the project, and was also a chance to take stock of the achievements of the NCCR and consider the challenges for trade in turbulent times.

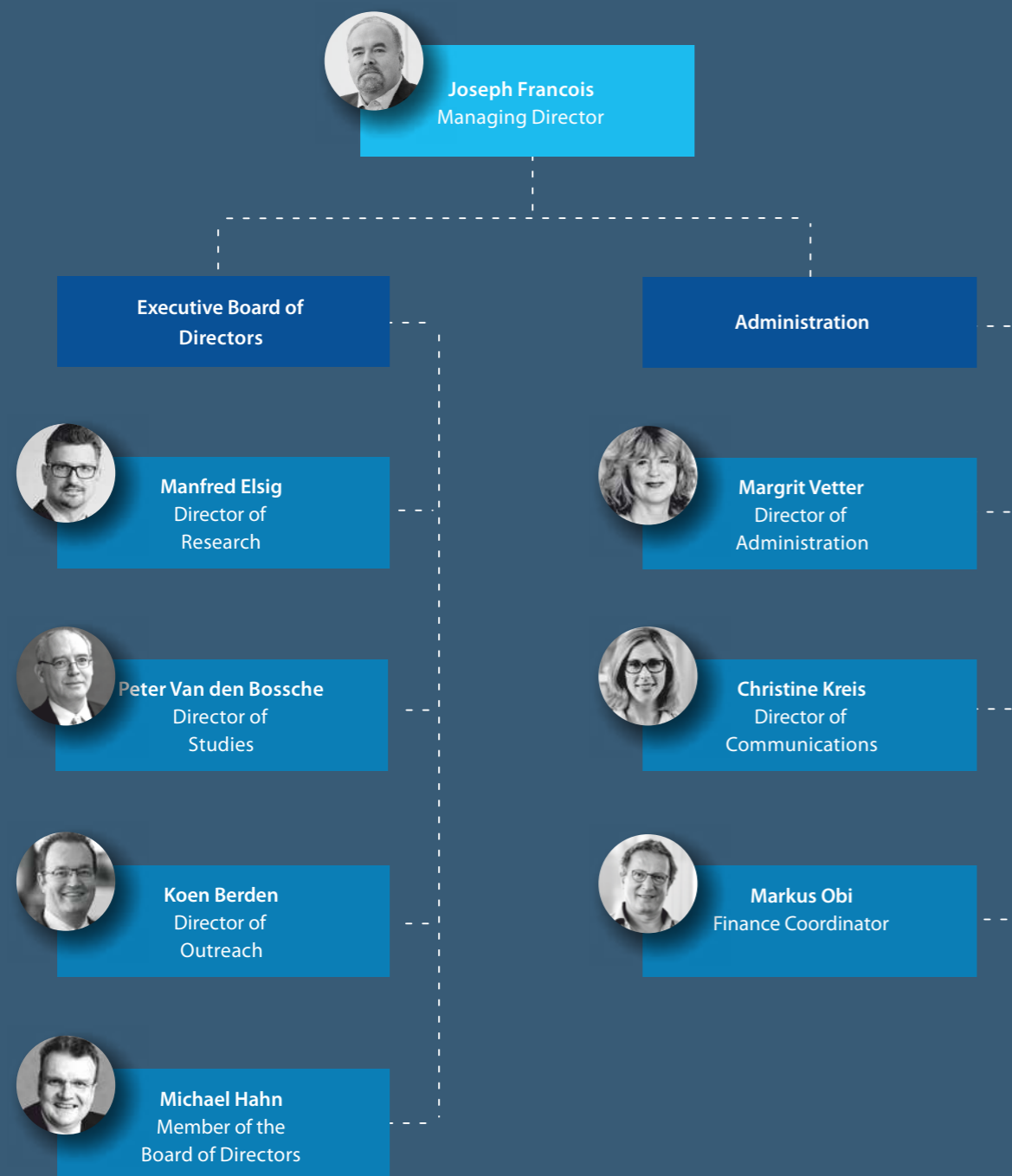
Critically, new research projects that build on the NCCR's legacy were also launched during the year, with a focus on sustainability and investment: two key areas for the WTI moving forward. You will find project descriptions in the Research section.

We continue cooperate with a number of academic institutions around the world, and last year we added to that number by signing Memorandums of Understanding with the Higher School of Economics Moscow, Seoul National University, University of Ottawa, Bangalore University and Wuhan University.

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The World Trade Institute was established in 1999 to train future practitioners and researchers from all over the world and to strengthen research capacities in the field of international trade and investment regulation. The WTI combines graduate-level education and interdisciplinary research in law, economics and political science, as well as specialised advisory services. We recruit students, researchers, faculty and employees from around the world, creating a diverse culture and stimulating environment.

In 2017 the WTI's leading research project, NCCR Trade Regulation, came to an end after 12 years – a period that saw huge changes in the world and in attitudes towards trade and globalisation. At a visit of the review panel in June, NCCR Director Manfred Elsig concluded that the project's main achievement was to strengthen the research domain in Switzerland and further establish international economic law as a field of study in the country. The NCCR also fostered new academic talent, training a new generation of scholars to work across disciplines to tackle the important societal questions of our age. The official close of the project came at the World Trade Forum held in October that fittingly addressed the theme of 'Trade Policy in Turbulent Times'.

The following month a research offshoot of the NCCR, the Design of Trade Agreements (DESTA) project, was awarded a prize for best dataset of 2017 by the International Political Economy Society (IPES) for its important work in coding and analysing more than 700 treaties.

A further accolade came in December when former NCCR researcher Charlotte Sieber-Gasser was awarded the prestigious Walther Hug prize for her PhD thesis on South-South preferential trade agreements in services.

During the year a number of new research initiatives got off the ground to fill the gap left by the NCCR, notably Switzerland's Sustainability Footprint: Economic and Legal Challenges, led by Joseph Francois; BRICS Globalisation and Labour Protections, led by Damian Raess; and environmental migration project CLI_M_CO2, led by Elisa Fornalé.

The WTI welcomed a number of high-level speakers in 2017. In February Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington lectured on 'The United States, Europe and China: Imminent Challenges to the Multilateral Trading System'. In June it was the turn of the UN rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, François Crépeau, to speak on the issue of populism and migration. And in September an authority on American foreign policy, James Lindsay, delivered a distinguished



The World Trade Forum took place in the Bernese Oberland. Photo: Nomfundo Mkatschwa

lecture on United States foreign policy under President Trump and the implications for Europe and global trade.

The WTI's expertise continued to be sought after – both from trade negotiators and the media – in the aftermath of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union: WTI Fellow Christian Häberli was called on to provide written answers to a British parliamentary Brexit inquiry in February. United States trade policy and the continuing operational challenges faced by the WTO's Appellate Body were two subjects of ongoing interest to the media where the WTI was able to provide insights.

In teaching, the new TRAIL+ advanced master's in Trade and Investment Law got underway in September with the start of the graduate studies programme, completing the set of new academic offers at the WTI.

Graduate Programmes

Since July 2016 Professor Peter Van den Bossche has been Professor of Law and Director of Studies at the WTI, taking the lead in executing the current graduate programmes and shaping the future of the Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE), the Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) and Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Trade and Investment Law (ILE), and the newly launched combined LL.M. and DAS programme - TRAIL+ - offered together with the Law Faculty of the University of Bern.

Master of Advanced Studies Programme (MILE)

The Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE) is the WTI's flagship programme, comprising 20-25 hours' teaching per week and 34 weeks of instruction either in the form of lectures or case-study focused modules. The programme is interdisciplinary, requiring students to be open to new methodologies and ways of thinking. The in-depth knowledge they acquire prepares them for work in international organisations, including the UN and WTO, government ministries, academic institutions, global companies and internationally operating law firms.

The MILE was the first educational offer of the WTI to be established in 1999 and remains synonymous with the institute, although it is now just one of a range of programmes offered. In 2017, 19 students representing 16 nations graduated from the MILE programme and another 15 students from 13 nations embarked on it. A further 40 external participants joined the programme on a weekly basis, through our à la carte offer, to study topics of specific interest to them.

With the financial support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) six qualified students from developing countries

completed the MILE programme in 2017.

The Thomas Cottier prize for the best MILE thesis in the 2017 academic year was awarded to Jean-Philippe Herbert for his thesis 'Legal Counsel in Investment Treaty Arbitration: Does Background Matter?' mentored and supervised by Dr Rodrigo Polanco.

The WTI was pleased to launch the John H. Jackson Internship Fund in 2017. This provides financial support for three months per year to one student undertaking an internship of an interdisciplinary nature that would otherwise be unpaid. The Fund consists solely of generous contributions made by our faculty members. The Selection Committee, chaired by Dr Lee Ann Jackson, the daughter of the late Professor Jackson, awarded the 2017 John H. Jackson Internship Prize to Hiba Batool of Pakistan. The award enabled her to take up an interdisciplinary internship with the International Trade Centre, focusing on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing and transition economies to help them become more competitive globally, thereby contributing to sustainable economic development within the frameworks of the Aid-for-Trade agenda and the United Nations' Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

Doctoral Programme

The Graduate School of Economic Globalisation and Integration continued its transition process in 2017. Director of Administration Margrit Vetter joined the coordination team consisting of Dr Doris Oberdabernig and Dr Octavio Fernández-Amador to help with organisation and administration. In 2017, the team reorganised databases and consolidated data collection with the aim of enhancing efficiency of data management and storage.

During the year, six students, of whom four were women, joined the Graduate School (3 Law, 3 Political Science). One student completed his PhD with the submission of a



thesis on 'The Law and Policy of International Trade in Electricity: Access to and Development of Cross-Border Electricity Transmission Infrastructure under EU and WTO Frameworks'. At the end of 2017, the Graduate School comprised 26 doctoral students, of whom 12 were women. The majority were students of Law (17 in total), followed by Political Science (6) and Economics (3).

In 2017, the coordination team organised two PhD colloquia instead of one as in past years - in June and September. This provided more flexibility for the students, some of whom are engaged in fieldwork outside Switzerland. The eight students who presented on their research to the Academic Committee received feedback from their supervisors, WTI faculty, and their PhD student peers.

Fifteen PhD candidates attended the interdisciplinary Seminar Series where world-class lecturers addressed international economic issues. In 2017 Chad Bown, Anne van Aaken and Joost Pauwelyn were among the speakers.

Following the positive experience of 2016, the Graduate School again offered two Summer School courses in 2017, on the topics of 'Political Economy of Globalisation' and 'Quantitative Trade Policy Modelling'. Furthermore, the WTI offered a Winter School course on 'Treaty Interpretation'. Additionally, the Graduate School co-organised an interdisciplinary conference on 'Populism and European Policies: The Challenges Ahead'.

TRAIL +

The TRAIL+ is a newly-launched advanced Master's programme in Trade and Investment Law combined with courses in International Law and Economics. This programme is offered in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern. The programme includes more law courses and fewer courses on economics and political science than our MILE programme. Upon the successful conclusion of the TRAIL+ programme, the student is awarded an LL.M. in International Trade and Investment Law, as well as a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics. In 2017, SECO sponsored our first two TRAIL+ students; one from South Africa and one from Peru. A total of 60 ECTS are required to fulfil the LL.M. requirement while an additional 30 ECTS must be completed in the social science courses of the WTI to fulfil the DAS ILE requirement. TRAIL+ students are required to submit both a master's thesis and a diploma paper in order to graduate.

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CAS/DAS ILE

The CAS/DAS ILE offer was launched alongside TRAIL+ in 2017 and applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Currently there are six professionals enrolled from six different countries, all coming to us from their respective trade ministries. DAS and CAS programmes are open to participants with undergraduate degrees and relevant professional experience. Participants who complete three week-long courses à la carte and write a research paper may be awarded a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in International Law and Economics. Participants who take eight week-long courses à la carte and write a research paper may be awarded a Diploma of Advanced

Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics. CAS/DAS students benefit from the mentorship of a WTI senior academic advisor during the duration of their study.

Summer Academy

The 15th WTI Summer Academy on International Law and Economics took place over seven weeks in July and August. It was attended by 50 individuals from 33 different countries with the largest national group (5) coming from Peru. As in recent years women outnumbered men. The Summer Academy continues to appeal to mainly young people: more than half of all participants were aged between 18 and 29.

The tried and tested 'à la carte' formula was continued in 2017 allowing students to attend the course or courses of their choice. The modules in 2017 were: Week 1: Settling trade disputes: recent developments in WTO jurisprudence; Weeks 2 and 3: Frontiers of Investment Rule-Making; Week 4: Making markets contestable: exploring the trade and competition interface; Week 5: Globalisation on trial: anti-globalisation, trade, income inequality and human rights; Week 6: Sustainable development in trade and investment agreements; and Week 7: Frontiers in intellectual property governance. Weeks 2 and 3 were organised in partnership with the University of Ottawa and the World Bank. The social events laid on for students once again proved popular, and included barbecues, river excursions and a trip to the top of the city of Bern's Gurten peak.

The Summer Academy 2017 was led by Peter Van den Bossche, Director of Studies at the WTI, and taught by WTI and external faculty members.



Joint Academy in India

The fourth edition of the Joint Academy on International Trade Law and Policy, organised by the WTI and the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), took place from 5 to 30 June at IIFT premises in New Delhi.

Thirty-one law students from more than 15 different law schools from all over India participated in this year's programme alongside legal practitioners from India and Afghanistan.

The four-week Academy consisted of courses on Basic Rules of WTO Law, Investment Law, SPS and TBT, the Agreement on Agriculture, Dispute Settlement, Trade and IPR, Trade in Services, The Law and Policy of Trade Remedies and Current WTO Issues. The different modules were taught jointly by WTI faculty members and members of different Indian institutions.

To mark the fourth Joint Academy, the embassy of Switzerland in India hosted a reception at which Peter Van den Bossche, WTI Director of Studies, delivered a lecture on 'The World Trade Organization in the Face of Anti-Globalisation and Economic Nationalism'.

The Academy was established in 2014 to enable law students and legal professionals in India to increase their knowledge of trade regulation and governance issues.

NCCR Trade Regulation

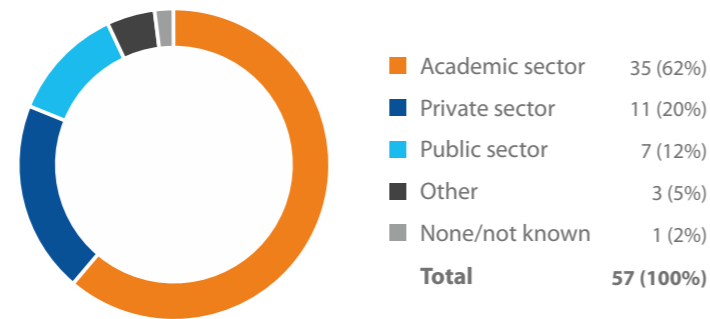
The NCCR Trade Regulation began in 2005 as a 12-year project financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and with the World Trade Institute as the leading house. Through bringing together researchers from the disciplines of law, economics and political science under one roof, we sought to clarify how the world trading system functions, explore the drivers of fragmentation and coherence and offer policy recommendations. Research was divided into six thematic areas: trade governance; new preferentialism in trade; innovation and creativity in international trade; trade, development and migration; trade and climate change; and impact assessment in international trade regulation.

2017 marked the last year of NCCR Trade Regulation with a focus on the finalisation of research output on the one hand, and global dissemination on the other. The Global Series on Trade Regulation that showcased the research results was launched in 2016, during which six of the 12 events took place. The series continued in January 2017 with events including the WTO@20 Conference in India, where the WTI was a knowledge partner, a workshop on trade agreements in Brussels in cooperation with the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), a workshop on 'New Regionalism 2.0: The Shifting Horizon of

Scientific outputs (2005 - 2017)

Type	Number	Percent
Peer reviewed articles	355	30.5
Without peer review	449	38.6
Articles/chapters in anthologies	155	13.3
Books	132	11.4
Reports	70	6.2
Total	1163	100
Presentations at congresses	686	
NCCR book series	2	

Post-NCCR employment of PhD and postdoctoral students (May 2017)



Preferential Liberalisation' in Montreal in cooperation with McGill University and a workshop on 'Trade and Investment Law Challenges in the Trump Era: What is the Role of Canada?' in Ottawa in cooperation with the Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law of the University of Ottawa.

In the last year of the NCCR (July 2016 – August 2017) the six work packages produced 161 publications (including presentations). In total, the NCCR produced 1,163 publications over 12 years, of which 355 were peer-reviewed articles and 132 books. In addition, 686 presentations were given by NCCR Trade Regulation researchers.

One of the project's most important mandates was to produce future academics and over its 12 years the project trained 57 doctoral students. At the end of the NCCR 61% of PhD graduates remained in academia, with 18% moving to careers in the private and public sector.

The NCCR Trade Regulation helped to establish the World Trade Institute (WTI) as a leading centre of excellence in the area of trade governance. In addition, the research portfolio contributed to expanding the scope of research to include investment and other trade-related areas, such as migration and climate change. The NCCR was instrumental in bringing the WTI three professorships in the areas of

International Economic Law, Economics and International Relations.

The annual World Trade Forum that was held on 6 and 7 October in Grindelwald marked the culmination of the NCCR Trade Regulation research project. The theme of the 2017 Forum was 'Trade Policy in Turbulent Times'. Researchers from the six work packages took part, along with academics and trade practitioners.

The event ended with a special workshop on 'Assessing the Impact of NCCR-Type Research (Policy Implications)', involving Thomas Cottier of the WTI, Dominique Foray of EPFL and Keith Maskus of the University of Boulder, both of whom served on the NCCR review panel. Professor Cottier, who led the first two phases of the NCCR, said what made him most proud was the large number of PhD students it had trained and the network of trade experts it had built up.





SNIS Project on Diffusion of International Law

The project, which terminated in October 2017, researched the design, evolution and effects of the international investment agreements (IIAs) currently in force. It sought to determine the levels of convergence and divergence of treaty texts over time and across states, and the ways in which texts diffuse over time. It aimed to show how this information can be used both in treaty negotiations and in investment arbitration.

The main objective was the creation of a new database of IIAs that complements existing endeavours, including texts of bilateral investment treaties (BITs), and the relevant parts of preferential trade agreements (PTAs). The database is intended to answer a set of important questions related to the design, evolution and effects of IIAs and be of practical use to both scholars and practitioners.

Besides extracting data from IIAs, researchers compiling the database used advanced analytical techniques, including the digitisation and machine translation of treaties. Nine papers and one master thesis have been written using the data acquired.

Led by the WTI, the project involved universities in Switzerland (University of Zurich and University of Bern; the Federal Institute of

Technology, Zurich; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) and abroad (Tulane University; Universidad de Chile; University of Maryland; University of Victoria) as well as the World Bank Group.

The main outcome of the SNIS project is the Electronic Database of Investment Treaties (EDIT), a systematic and comprehensive database on international investment agreements, including available texts in one single language (English) and format (XML).

The project ran for two years from 2015 to 2017 and had an annual budget of CHF 140,000.

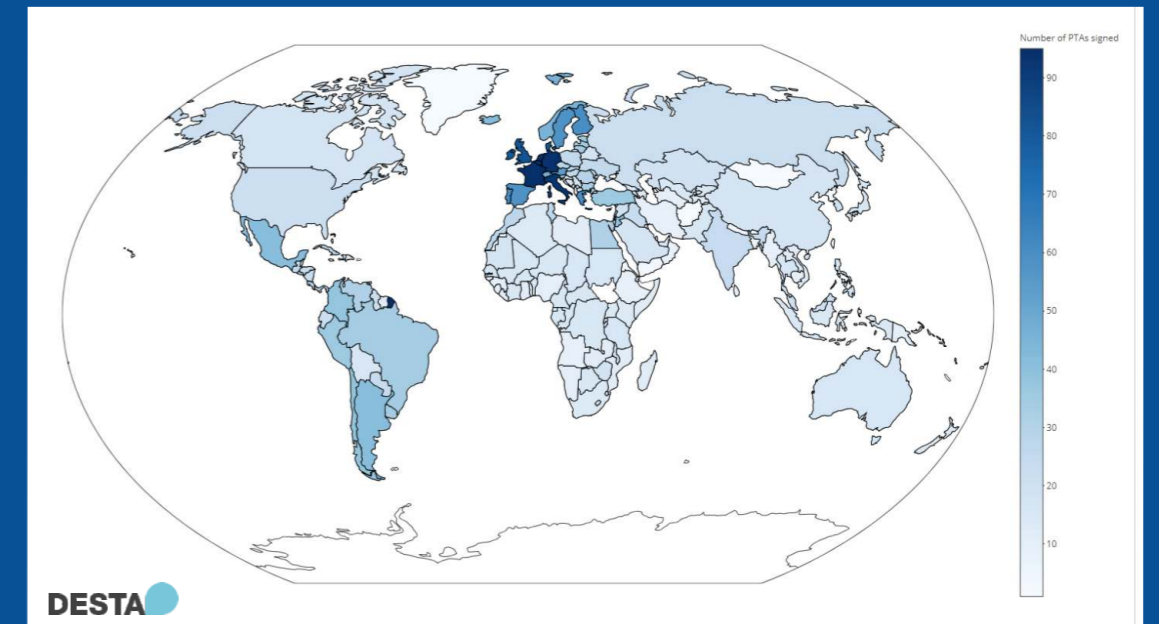
Climate Security with Local Authorities (CLISEL)

CLISEL is a Coordination and Support Action of the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme that explores the climate-security nexus from the perspective of local administrations and communities. The project receives funding from Horizon 2020 and from the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. The WTI team is a partner in an international consortium comprising the University of Cagliari, Sardinia; the University of Lancaster, England; KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden and the Centre for Local Authorities of Sardinia.

Our focus is on how Europe can respond to the

DESTA project

The Design of Trade Agreements (DESTA, www.designoftradeagreements.org) data platform was launched in 2009 within the NCCR Trade Regulation research project to systematically collect data on the contents of preferential trade agreements (PTAs). In 2017 DESTA released the updated data for a number of subject areas including competition, dispute settlement, investment, market access, public procurement, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, services, technical barriers to trade and trade defence instruments. In addition, new data on environmental provisions as well as the legalisation of non-trade issues was made available online. In 2017, articles based on DESTA research were published in *Global Policy*, *The Journal of International Economic Law*, *Research & Politics*, *The Review of International Political Economy* and *The Review of International Organizations*. DESTA, which now covers 895 treaties, won recognition in 2017 from the International Political Economy Society, which awarded it the first ever Best New Dataset Award.



impacts of climate change in third countries. An understanding of the climate-security nexus in Europe is necessary for successful multilevel governance of climate security.

In the project's second year, the aim was to build on the findings of a pilot study in Sardinia, which surveyed the island's 377 mayors. The mayors were sent a questionnaire, which was designed to assess their perceptions of the indirect security implications of climate change in third countries. Almost 44% of municipalities, representing about 53% of the total regional population, answered the questionnaire. Overall, most of the respondents were concerned about climate change and many believed that it had already affected their

municipalities. However, less than half considered climate change to be a cause of migration. When asked about governance, respondents appeared to consider the European and the international levels as the best suited to address the question of environmentally-induced migration, even though they recognised the importance of multilevel governance and cooperation among institutions.

The findings from the questionnaire together with other work by the CLISEL team members are feeding into the development of a climate change security toolbox for policy-makers and analysts. This will include a set of interactive maps and a travel app.

Common Concern

This project traces the potential of the legal concept of 'Common Concern of Humankind' (CCH) to emerge as a normative principle in international law, guiding the conduct of states and bringing about international cooperation in dealing with shared problems (e.g. monetary regulation, climate change, human rights crises, the distribution of income, and wealth within states) that require collective action. It is led by Professor Thomas Cottier who, as the principal investigator, is also engaged in the development of the theoretical framework of Common Concern. PhD researchers are undertaking individual case studies in monetary regulation, low-carbon technology transfer, human rights issues and the distribution of income and wealth within states.

We focus on two issues in particular. First, from a theoretical point of view, we seek to establish interconnections between CCH, on the one hand, and the economic concepts of public good and multilevel governance, on the other. Based on the evolution of the concept, this part emphasises the need for international law to recognise and develop Common Concern as a legal principle calling for enhanced cooperation, and domestic as well as extraterritorial action. Second, separate case studies undertaken by the project's PhD students test the concept's suitability to resolve collective action problems in four different areas (monetary regulation, low-carbon technology transfer and trade, violation of core human rights, and the distribution of income and wealth within states).

The project, initially expected to run for three years, was launched in 2015 with an annual financial package of approximately CHF 173,463 granted by the SNSF. The project duration has since been extended to mid-2019. To showcase the initial conclusions and to submit these to critical review, a conference is set to take place on 22–23 June 2018. The papers presented at the conference and the summarised panel discussions will be published in an edited volume.

r4d Employment

The r4d project on employment effects of different development policy instruments (r4d Employment) ran from February 2014 to April 2017. Funded by the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development, the project aimed to reveal the impact of various development policy instruments on the quality

and quantity of employment in six developing countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, South Africa and Vietnam. These policy instruments are related to three key mechanisms that usually facilitate development: integration into international markets, technological upgrading, and labour market restructuring.

R4d Employment was a collaborative effort between universities, research institutes and international organisations and comprised nine institutions from Switzerland and six partner countries.

In the three years of the project, the research team produced 32 working papers that are available on the WTI website (Research>Publications>Research project>r4d), various policy briefs and online material such as datasets, videos, and blog articles. Their research contributed to a variety of journal and book publications. Overall, the project fostered scientific knowledge related to the quality and quantity of employment in the six partner countries and resulted in concrete policy advice.



SECO/WTI Academic Cooperation Project

This project implemented by the WTI is funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). Its focus is research on trade and investment policy, both at the domestic and the international level, and its approach is multidisciplinary. The project has created a cooperation network involving partner institutions in Peru (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú – PUCP), South Africa (Mandela Institute (MI) at University of the Witwatersrand - WITS), Vietnam (Foreign Trade University – FTU), Indonesia (Universitas Pelita Harapan – UPH), and Chile (Institute of International Studies (IEI) at the Universidad de Chile – UCH). It also supports partner institutions to become centres of excellence in trade regulation.

There are two complementary strands to research activities: a regional research fund, where research is carried out into region-specific trade and investment policy issues; and visiting fellowships allowing researchers and faculty of project partners to visit the WTI, for

up to one month. Fellows are expected to produce a working paper at the end of their visit.

The project has helped build the individual research capacities of partner institutions, both through the regional research fund and the steady stream of visiting fellows to the WTI. The institute's multidisciplinary nature has also broadened the research capacities of academic staff in partner institutions. Several research papers have been co-authored by lawyers and economists (for example, PUCP and FTU papers), and some have also included researchers from other countries (PUCP research has included researchers from Chile and Colombia).

In 2017 – the year with the highest number of publications in the project's lifetime – 26 new working papers were completed. All WTI/SECO working papers are now stored on one of the main digital repositories for social sciences: the Social Science Research Network (SSRN). This has provided academically useful information about how many times the papers are viewed, downloaded and cited. Of a total of 93 working papers uploaded to SSRN in 2017 there were 16,994 views and 3,362 downloads. Such numbers attest to the academic relevance and impact of the trade-related research the SECO project has made possible.

The project has an average annual budget of CHF 1 million. Launched in 2010, it will end in 2018.

The Governance of Big Data in Trade Agreements: Design, Diffusion and Implications

This research project is part of the National Research Programme (NRP) 75 Big Data. It brings together a small interdisciplinary research team, which will, in cooperation with the University of Lucerne, and under the leadership of Mira Burri, examine the pertinent trade rules that impinge on Big Data. The three-year project started in May 2017 and seeks to achieve not only cutting-edge basic research results but also to have palpable policy impact.

The project seeks to reveal the relevance of global trade law for the governance of data, Big Data and cross border data flows. It has 3 discrete but interlinked objectives: (1) to map all the existing rules of relevance for Big Data applications in international, regional and bilateral trade agreements; (2) employing not only legal but also the analytical tools from

international relations and political science, the project will show how certain regulatory solutions have evolved over time and what the political forces driving these choices have been; (3) the project will engage in a normative enquiry into whether and how trade agreements should address questions of data and Big Data, and how decision-makers should use the instruments of international trade law to reflect better the changes in the digital economy and take account of important public interests, notably the protection of privacy.

The starting point was the creation of a comprehensive database that is of critical importance in particular for analysing the diffusion of models. In addressing our first task, we collected all publicly available PTAs concluded since 2002, which marks the start of the US Digital Agenda and the related endorsement of digital trade rules. For the purpose of mapping the specific provisions of these treaties that are relevant for Big Data, a tailored codebook was developed and applied to each and every agreement. A total of 284 PTAs have been collected and coded, which makes our database of unprecedented breadth and depth of analysis in the specific area of digital trade. Four papers and one report have been published using part of this data.

The project has an annual budget of CHF 183,258 and a duration of three years.

BRICS Globalization and Labor Protections in Advanced and Emerging Economies

This project investigates under what conditions BRICS trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) enhances (or undermines) worker rights and conditions and labour market institutions, with a particular focus on European countries, Brazil and China. It articulates different levels of analysis and analyses both the 'demand' and 'supply' side politics of BRICS globalisation.

A first study ('The Demand-Side Politics of China's Global Buying Spree') by Professor Damian Raess examines public opinion towards Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Switzerland, comparing attitudes towards such investment with attitudes towards American and European FDI inflows. It probes whether the main fears associated with inward Chinese investment, namely the threat of technology transfer and social dumping, resonates among the main target audiences (managers and union members, respectively). Using original survey data, we find that managers oppose Chinese FDI inflows, while



Photo: Wayde Flowerday

they do not oppose American or European FDI. Surprisingly, union members do not oppose Chinese FDI (or European FDI), however they strongly oppose American FDI. In all, our findings point to occupation characteristics as a key determinant of how Chinese FDI affects individual preferences over such investment, and suggest that the demand-side politics of Chinese inward FDI does indeed have some unique features.

International networks play a crucial role in the research project. Our partners include: Prof. Tianbiao Zhu, Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences, Zhejiang University, China; Luis Ribeiro, DIEESE (Departamento Intersindical de Estatística et Estudos Socioeconômicos), Brazil; FORS, University of Lausanne.

The team is led by Professor Damian Raess. The team members are PhD candidates Wanlin Ren and Patrick Wagner, and research assistant Yell Leutenegger.

The project runs for four years from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2020. It had a budget in 2017 of CHF 290,000.

Framing Environmental Degradation, Human Mobility and Human Development as a Matter of Common Concern (CLI_M_CO2)

Our growing exposure to catastrophic natural disasters worldwide has raised awareness of the effects of environmental changes. CLI_M_CO2 seeks to build on this awareness by studying the often overlooked consequence of environmental degradation: human mobility.

The project approaches environmental migration from a fresh perspective, by regarding the issue as a 'common concern of humankind'. The research involves a case study in the South Pacific region that focuses on 'sinking islands'. The results will form the basis of a proposal for a novel approach to migration governance and state responsibility.

In October 2017, the project held its first international workshop entitled 'A Change of Environment for Common Concern and Human Mobility', which was hosted by the WTI. The CLI_M_CO2 team also collaborated with the National Centre of Competence in Research – The Migration-Mobility Nexus (nccr on the move) to organise a side event at the 6th United Nations Thematic Session on 'Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures' that took place within the framework of consultations for the Global Compact on Migration. The theme of the side event was



Photo: Wayde Flowerday

'Labour mobility and skills recognition: Insights from ASEAN and ECOWAS'. This event was co-sponsored by the Philippines government.

The project is funded by the SNSF and runs for four years from 2017.

Productivity, Non-Tariff measures, and Openness (PRONTO)

This project on regulatory barriers to trade has aimed at quantifying the impact of non-tariff measures (NTMs) on trade and welfare. PRONTO integrates existing sources of data on non-tariff measures (NTMs), extends methodologies for estimating the trade cost impact of NTMs, and develops frameworks for policy analysis, priority ranking, and impact assessment.

The WTI has been the coordinating institution for the full PRONTO project. At the same time, within the WTI, researcher has been focused integrating different primary data sources into a single comprehensive database on NTMs. Another aspect of work at WTI has incorporated non-tariff measures into computational models of trade under different market structures (perfect competition, monopolistic competition, firm heterogeneity) and on designing a trade restrictiveness index (TRI) under imperfect competition.

Research is the project has found the effect of non-tariff measures depends on underlying firm market structures, labour market structures, and investment response. Another finding is that while some NTMs have a trade promoting effect in detailed empirical analysis, the average effect is negative.

PRONTO is a collaborative project in which the WTI partners with Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano Milan, University College Dublin, Ecorys Netherlands, London School of Economics and Political Science, Paris School of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, University of Surrey, and the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR).

The project runs from 2014 to 2018. It is funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission with an overall budget of approximately €2.5 million.

Outreach

The management of the WTI seeks to consolidate and strengthen the global presence of the WTI as a centre of excellence on trade and investment-related issues by reaching out to society at large, while also promoting the further internationalisation of the University of Bern. In this regard, the WTI's outreach strategy consists of four interconnected goals.



The WTI network

The first is to maintain and upgrade WTI's network of partners (academic, think tanks, private sector). Currently the WTI cooperates with a number of institutions through signed Memorandums of Understanding or joint (long-term) projects.



External Training

The second is to continue to provide a focused list of training offers and courses on trade and investment (with a wide range of applications). Every year, the WTI offers not only full-time degree programs (masters, doctorates) but also offers more specialised courses for policy makers and officials. In 2017, this has included tailor made courses for trade officials in the UK, and a specialised summer academy in India.



Policy Research

The third is research-based contract-work for a range of stakeholder institutions in the fields of international trade, trade law and investment. In 2017, this has included, for example, work for the Swiss government on agricultural trade policy, and for the Indian government on FTAs with European partners. WTI experts have also been actively engaged in providing opinions and advice on topics like US trade policy under the Trump administration, and policy options for EU Members given possible shapes for Brexit.



Dissemination

Lastly, through its outreach strategy the WTI seeks to present WTI outputs externally, enhance WTI participation in (local, national and international) policy discussions and debates, and promote the general visibility of the University of Bern. In 2017, this included the annual World Trade Forum, as well as specialised lectures, such as Marc Vanheukelen on "Winning the Argument on Trade," and Francois Crépeau on "Populism and Migration: The Need for a Principled Response to Migration Challenges." This last goal also intersects with the overall communications strategy of the institute.





Events

The WTI organised and took part in various events in 2017 that were important for outreach and impact.

A number of distinguished guest lecturers visited over the year, notably Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, UN rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, François Crépeau, and an authority on American foreign policy, James Lindsay.

In February the WTI was associated as a Knowledge Partner at the WTO@20 conference in Delhi that took stock of two decades of the World Trade Organization.

The following month marked the launch of the Trade Lecture Sessions series at the WTO, co-organised with the Israeli Mission. On the topic of 'Bilateral and plurilateral agreements: supporting or challenging the WTO?' it featured presentations by WTI Director of Outreach Koen Berden and former Managing Director Thomas Cottier.

In May the WTI hosted an investment conference, with the support of the World Economic Forum and the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS). Attended by 85 people, the conference focused on the many important questions emerging from the negotiation of a possible multilateral framework agreement on investment.

Researchers from the WTI took part in the World Trade Organization Public Forum on the theme of 'Trade behind the headlines' in September. A WTI roundtable session on 'More and Better Jobs?' looked at the design and socio-economic impact of labour provisions in trade agreements.

In October the WTI held its annual World Trade Forum, an annual gathering of trade experts and policy makers. This year's theme was 'Trade Policy in Turbulent Times'.



Chad Bown gave a distinguished lecture on 'Trump and the challenges to the multilateral trading system' in February.

Which WTI programme is right for you?

Your qualifications	WTI programmes you qualify for	Full time / Part time	Length	ECTS	Cost (CHF)	Scholarships or Financial Aid?	Classes begin	Final Degree
You have a J.D., Bachelor or Master of Law	TRAIL+ (Joint LL.M. and DAS)	Full Time ^a	1 Year	90	21,000	☑ ^c	January and September	LL.M. in Trade and Investment Law and DAS in International Law and Economics
	MILE (Master of Advanced Studies)	Full Time ^a	1 Year	90	21,000	☑ ^c	September	Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE)
	DAS (Diploma of Advanced Studies)	Part Time	Less than 3 months	30	10,000	☒	Throughout the year	DAS in International Law and Economics
	CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies)	Part Time	Less than 1 month	12	4,000 ^b	☒	Throughout the year	CAS in International Law and Economics
	Winter and Summer Academy	Full Time ^e	3-4 weeks ^d	3 / week	1,200 / week	☒	January and June	Certificate of Completion, CAS or DAS
You have a Bachelor or Master of Science in Economics, or equivalent	Master in Applied Economic Analysis (Trade and Economic Development)	Full Time	2 Years	90	University of Bern fees ^b	☑ ^c	Autumn or Spring	Master of Science in Economics
	MILE (Master of Advanced Studies)	Full Time ^a	1 Year	90	21,000	☑ ^c	September	Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE)
	DAS (Diploma of Advanced Studies)	Part Time	Less than 3 months	30	10,000	☒	Throughout the year	DAS in International Law and Economics
	CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies)	Part Time	Less than 1 month	12	4,000 ^b	☒	Throughout the year	CAS in International Law and Economics
	Winter and Summer Academy	Full Time ^e	3-4 weeks ^d	3 / week	1,200 / week	☒	January and June	Certificate of Completion, CAS or DAS
You have a Bachelor or Master of Political Science or International Relations	MILE (Master of Advanced Studies)	Full Time ^a	1 Year	90	21,000	☑ ^c	September	Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE)
	DAS (Diploma of Advanced Studies)	Part Time	Less than 3 months	30	10,000	☒	Throughout the year	DAS in International Law and Economics
	CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies)	Part Time	Less than 1 month	12	4,000 ^b	☒	Throughout the year	CAS in International Law and Economics
	Winter and Summer Academy	Full Time ^e	3-4 weeks ^d	3 / week	1,200 / week	☒	January and June	Certificate of Completion, CAS or DAS
You have a Bachelor or Master in an unrelated field and relevant working experience	MILE (Master of Advanced Studies)	Full Time ^a	1 Year	90	21,000	☑ ^c	September	Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE)
	DAS (Diploma of Advanced Studies)	Part Time	Less than 3 months	30	10,000	☒	Throughout the year	DAS in International Law and Economics
	CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies)	Part Time	Less than 1 month	12	4,000 ^b	☒	Throughout the year	CAS in International Law and Economics
	Winter and Summer Academy	Full Time ^e	3-4 weeks ^d	3 / week	1,200 / week	☒	January and June	Certificate of Completion, CAS or DAS

Your qualifications	WTI programmes you qualify for	Full / Part time	Length	ECTS	Cost (CHF)	Financial Aid?	Final Degree
You have a Master of Law, Economics or Political Science, or equivalent	PhD in Economics	Full Time	4 - 5 years	24 - 30	One-time registration fee CHF 100; CHF 200/Semester ^b	☑ ^c	PhD in Economics
	PhD in Law	Full Time	3 - 4 years	24 - 30	One-time registration fee CHF 100; CHF 200/Semester ^b	☑ ^c	PhD in Law
	PhD in Political Science	Full Time	3 - 4 years	24 - 30	One-time registration fee CHF 100; CHF 200/Semester ^b	☑ ^c	PhD in Political Science

^a The TRAIL+ and MILE programmes may be taken part time over a maximum of 3 years. MILE courses can also be taken as weekly modules.

^b In exceptional cases, the tuition fee may be higher.

^c All MILE and TRAIL+ applicants are considered for financial aid upon request.

^d Please see the University of Bern's regulations regarding fees and charges, http://www.unibe.ch/studies/organizational_matters/renewal_of_semester_registration/fees/index_eng.html

^e Students have the option of attending single weekly courses in the Winter and Summer Academies, however completing a CAS or DAS is more cost effective. Attendance is mandatory for each chosen course.

^f The WTI doctoral programme is a residential programme.

^g The length of each Winter and Summer Academy programme could vary depending on the subjects taught.



As of 2017, the WTI alumni body comprised over 500 former MILE students from 104 countries. Many MILE alumni have launched highly successful careers following graduation – often starting with an internship at an international organisation in Geneva.

The WTI takes pride in the careers of its alumni and endeavours to maintain close relations with them through communications work and event organisation. Over the past year, several alumni networking meetings have taken place in different parts of the world. In February the WTI organised an alumni reunion alongside the WTO@20 Conference in New Delhi. The inaugural meeting of the South African MILE Alumni Network took place in the residence of the Swiss Ambassador to South Africa, in Pretoria on 11 May. During the WTO Public Forum, around 45 alumni of the MILE programme, current students and MILE faculty

It was very important for me to have a mentor, as the realistic and practical picture of the world is sometimes not visible to a student with minimal experience.

Stuti Toshi,
mentee (MILE 17)

members attended the social event held in Geneva.

This year eight groups were formed within the WTI's mentoring project, which was established to support current students. The mentoring programme is a core element of the WTI's alumni strategy and links MILE students with alumni on a thematic or regional basis.

Mentoring

Launched in 2015, the mentoring programme is meant for those students with little work experience to help them start their career, and for those who do not have a background in legal, economic or political studies and seek support during the programme itself. Students are paired with alumni according to their respective needs and interests, and in line with the background and capacities of the mentor.

I benefited greatly from mentoring when I was starting my career and I believe I should give others the same opportunity.

Maxine Kennett,
mentor

The World Trade Institute is a strategic, interdisciplinary centre of competence within the University of Bern. The University of Bern itself is constituted under Public Law. For accounting purposes, the University of Bern applies the accounting standard Swiss GAAP FER. A full overview, including the most recent financial positions, is available as part of the university's annual report:



http://www.unibe.ch/university/portrait/facts_and_figures/annual_report/index_eng.html

Fundraising is entrenched in the university's overall strategy and is conducted in compliance with the following principles in particular:

- The university ensures that the funds entrusted to it are put to effective, appropriate, and proper use.
- Cooperation with individuals, companies, and institutions is always in accordance with the Swiss legal system and in compliance with all of the relevant legal provisions.
- Fundraising complies with ethical and professional standards.
- In the field of medicine, the guidelines of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences entitled "Collaboration between the medical profession and industry" also apply.
- The university is subject to the principle of public disclosure. It discloses its contracts in accordance with the Swiss Freedom of Information Act unless this conflicts with public or private interests.
- The university aims to conclude long-term contracts with its supporters.
- The university acknowledges its sponsors unless the donor does not wish this.

With its liberal legal basis, the university is able to set up viable and forward-thinking initiatives in dialog with its supporters. Supporters can make a pivotal impact in the university's areas

of focus, including the World Trade Institute. As part of its constructive partnership with foundations, the university offers up its capabilities for research and development in pioneering projects and allows foundations to achieve their individual aims. In the case of the World Trade Institute, this includes linkages between global economic governance and sustainability. Together, the university and foundations foster current academic discourse on niche topics and are raising their profile by delivering pertinent results. In its partnerships with philanthropists, the university cultivates fertile ground for sustainable innovation.

Fundraising at the University of Bern is governed by the Executive Board of the University of Bern, based on Article 39 paragraph 1 section b of the Law of September 5, 1996, governing the University (UniG). Further information and current University Guidelines are available here:

http://www.unibe.ch/landing_pages/donors/index_eng.html

