

Alternatives to austerity – more pressing than ever?

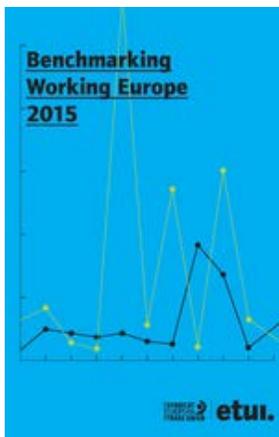
The annual ETUC/ETUI *Benchmarking Working Europe* report was presented during a well-attended conference on 20 March. The 2015 edition assesses what eight years of EU crisis management has achieved, or above all – as you will read in the four chapters of the report – what it has not achieved in terms of improving Europe's macro-economic situation, its labour market development, the situation of wages and collective bargaining, and worker participation. The findings point to policy failures and to the need to redefine alternatives in order to get Europe back on to a sustainable growth path that will lead to an upward harmonisation of standards and outcomes. After presentation of the report, European Commission representatives were given the opportunity to comment on and reply to the conclusions reached by the ETUI research team.

Just after this confrontation of standpoints, four top-level economists presented their views on alternatives to the EU's austerity policy and the challenge raised by the situation in Greece. James Galbraith, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin and informal economic adviser to Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, told the ETUI conference that recent events in Greece could spur change across Europe: 'If the survival of an alternative model in Greece leads to something in Spain, who knows where it could lead next?' he asked. More on the Benchmarking publication and the conference can be found in this April issue of our ETUI newsletter.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Benchmarking Working Europe 2015



Published annually, the report analyses the state of working Europe by explaining, with the aid of statistics and graphs, the main trends at the levels of Europe's macro-economic situation, its labour market development, the situation of wages and collective bargaining, and worker participation.

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Les risques du travail. Pour ne pas perdre sa vie à la gagner

Since the 1990s, the quality of working conditions has

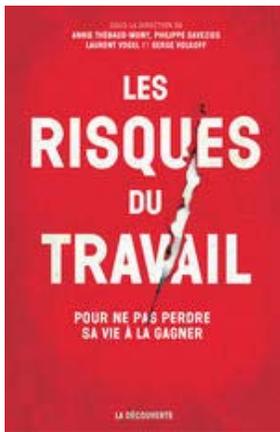
Focus

16-17 April: European Dialogue 2015 'Prosperity in Europe...only if we stop the growing inequality', Brussels

This year's *European Dialogue* organised by the Hans Böckler Foundation, in cooperation with the ETUI, is being held in Brussels on 16 and 17 April 2015.

Prof. Paul Krugman, Princeton University and winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2008, will make the keynote speech at the event and thus introduce the stimulating debates to follow. In the individual workshops, issues relating to prosperity and growing inequality will be examined from differing perspectives and appropriate strategies will be discussed. Finally, László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion 2010 –2014, Reiner Hoffmann, Chairman of the German Confederation of Trade Unions, and Maria João Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament (requested), will focus on the question of whether the formula of 'European unemployment insurance' might offer a way to more justice and stability. [Read more about the event and register.](#)

Events



gradually made its way into the debate on social issues. However, if some real progress has been made, the situation nonetheless remains critical. This unprecedentedly wide-ranging book on the subject, aimed at a wide audience, uses concrete examples from many different countries to identify the active measures needed for improvement in this area.

Edited by Annie Thébaud-Mony, Philippe Davezies, Laurent Vogel and Serge Volkoff

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SEER nr.2/2014: Engagement and political change: walls reconstructed?



The latest issue of *SEER, the Journal for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe*, which draws attention to new research findings and analyses of the ongoing process of political and social change in south-eastern Europe, is now online. [Download all articles for free](#)

New blog section on the web site

Several ETUI researchers contribute on a regular basis to different European blogging platforms. A new blog section on the ETUI web site will from now on gather together all these blog posts.

[Read more](#)

Training

Training European young trade union leaders (24-28 February 2015)

During the last week of February, 24 young trade union leaders from 12 countries took part in the second week of the European training for young trade union leaders.

Save the dates

- 15 April: Rencontre-débat - [Les risques du travail. Pour ne pas perdre sa vie à la gagner](#), Paris (to follow in Brussels on 9 June).
- 16-17 April: [European Dialogue 2015 'Prosperity in Europe...only if we stop the growing inequality'](#), Brussels
- 13 May: Monthly Forum - [Seven years on from the crisis: where is the EU with financial regulatory reform?](#), Brussels.
- 9 June: Lunchtime debate - Presentation of the book *Les risques du travail*, Brussels.
- 23 June: Monthly Forum - [What social face of the new EU trade agreements?](#), a joint event with the Centre for EU Studies at Ghent University, Brussels.

Recent events

ETUI report questions European dogma

The 2015 edition of the annual ETUC/ETUI *Benchmarking Working Europe* report was presented on 20 March in Brussels. This year the ETUI chose to focus this presentation of its updated inventory of the European labour situation on three aspects covered by the European Commission's Annual Growth Survey: the investment plan, budgetary responsibility, and structural reforms.

[Read more](#)

How to break the austerity consensus

Greece has shown how to defy the prevailing European consensus on austerity, offering hope of a better, fairer future, according to economist James Galbraith. Galbraith, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin and informal economic advisor to Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, told an ETUI conference on alternatives to austerity in Brussels on March 20 that Greece could spur change across Europe.

[Read more](#)

Has Europe given up on gender equality?

Gender equality has been central to the European integration project from the outset. But is concern for this goal becoming

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Job vacancies

The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) is seeking to recruit a full-time **Administrative assistant (M/F)**.

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In the media

- The *Social Europe Journal* published a [transcript of the presentation by James Galbraith](#) during the ETUC-ETUI conference of 20 March.
 - Aragon Valley: [Women and work: gender inequality in three striking figures](#), 20 March 2015.
 - Laurent Vogel in *WSI Mitteilungen*, 3/2015: Aufstieg und Niedergang eines sozialpolitischen Handlungsfeldes: Der Arbeits- und Gesundheitsschutz in der EU.
 - Science Blogs: [History, art and prevention: European workplace safety posters](#), 2 March 2015.
 - InfoRisque: [The art of preventive health and safety in Europe](#), 3 March 2015.
 - Interview with Laurent Vogel in *Ambiente & Sicurezza sul Lavoro*, 1/2015: Le criticità della strategia comunitaria in materia di salute e sicurezza sul lavoro.
 - Agnieszka Piasna in *Development and Change*, 2/2015: Human development and decent work. Why some concepts succeed and others fail to make an impact (with Kirsten Sehnbruch, Brendan Burchell and Nurjk Agloni).
 - *Santé & Travail*, 90/2015, La nouvelle bible (review of the book *Les risques du travail*).
 - *HesaMag* #10 has been mentioned by *Le Monde diplomatique*.
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purely symbolic and devoid of real effects? As described by Sophie Jacquot, a researcher at Sciences Po Paris, the last ten years or so have seen a slow but steady process of dismantling of the European project designed to ensure equality between men and women.

[Read more](#)

Other activities

- ETUI Senior researcher Christophe Degryse presented his recent Working Paper (2015.02) 'Dialogue social sectoriel européen: une ombre au tableau?' (soon available in English on the ETUI website: 'The European sectoral social dialogue: an uneven record of achievement?') to the 8th session of the seminar organized by *Europe et Société* on 17 March in Paris (France).
 - Maria Jepsen, Director of the ETUI Research department, took part in a workshop organized by the OFCE in Paris on the independent Annual Growth Survey (iAGS) on 25 March 2015. She was discussant in the session on internal devaluation.
 - ETUI Senior researcher Laurent Vogel gave a presentation on Refit at the Social Dialogue Committee in the Paper Sector of IndustriAll on 31 March.
 - ETUI General Director Philippe Pochet delivered a presentation on the outcomes and perspectives of the EU2020 strategy at the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of France on 7 April.
 - ETUI Researcher Aline Conchon presented some findings of the 'Corporate governance and Voice of Labour' survey that she conducted with Professor Jeremy Waddington with financial support from the Hans Böckler Foundation, at the 13th International conference in commemoration of Professor Marco Biagi held on 19 and 20 March in Modena, Italy.
 - We have improved the [staff pages on our web site](#). The individual web page of ETUI staff working in the research department now includes their profiles for Twitter, LinkedIn and ResearchGate.
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European Trade Union Institute
Bd. du Roi Albert II, 5 – 1210 Brussels
www.etui.org – etui@etui.org

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