

## Editorial

It is a known fact that the crisis has hit Greece and the countries in the South of the EU severely. The harsh socio-economic situation in those countries and the difficult negotiations with the Troika have been dominating in the media since the outbreak of the crisis. But more and more we start to be aware of the fact that the socio-economic realities in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) which are members of the EU but most of them not of the Eurozone, are extremely difficult. It has been assumed that in most of those countries the crisis has not hit as hard as they did not have toxic assets either in their banking system or overall in the economy. In reality only Poland managed to escape recession, a recession which was added to mostly weak economies depending to great extent on foreign capital.

In order to fill this gap of knowledge and awareness, an [ETUI Working paper](#) which is due to be published in a couple of days opens the CEE 'black box' and shows how exactly the new EU member states have suffered from the crisis and what remedies they have applied. Although the author Magdalena Bernaciak insists very much on the differentiation of the CEE countries, which is of crucial importance if we want to understand what is going on in this part of Europe, a common characteristic of all countries can be discerned. Collective labour relations have come under pressure everywhere and it is likely that in the future collective bargaining in CEE will remain limited. However, [as another ETUI report shows](#), there are new, innovative forms of resistance to austerity which challenge the gloomy vision of the labour movement in CEE countries. These new practices could even trigger a renewal of labour organisations in the rest of Europe but this still remains to be seen.

The ETUI will follow these developments closely via the trade union related research network (TURI) which has recently been enlarged with more members from CEE such as to cover developments in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania and Slovenia. In this newsletter you will find a short report of the latest meeting of this network in Amsterdam.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

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## Publications

### Spain's labour market reforms: the road to employment – or unemployment?



This working paper examines recent structural reforms of the Spanish labour market and evaluates them against the government's stated objective to reduce unemployment. It concludes that the reduction of employment protection in Spain has led to less and not more employment.

Authors: Laszlo Horwitz (GIZ) and Martin Myant (ETUI)

[Read more](#)

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## Focus

### [www.worker-participation.eu](http://www.worker-participation.eu)

The ETUI website [www.worker-participation.eu](http://www.worker-participation.eu) has established itself over the years as top information service on issues related to European and national representation of workers. With its strong focus on contents relevant for practitioners it has been attracting on average over 15 000 visitors/month. Recently the ETUI streamlined the website and aligned it with the main ETUI.org website. So far changes mainly to layout have been applied. In the pipeline we have new content including update of national industrial relations fiches, tables concerning implementation of the EWC recast directive and translation of remaining content into German and French. Stay tuned!

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## Events

[Save the dates](#)

## 'Mieux légiférer': une simplification bureaucratique à visée politique



This Working Paper aims to shed light on the machinations behind recent developments regarding the Better Regulation agenda. How should we interpret the Commission's insistence on relentlessly attacking its own legislation? Why does it constantly refer to the costs while never once mentioning the benefits?

Author: Eric van den Abeele

[Read more](#)

## How to organise your communications network



This second in a series of handbooks for European Workers' Representatives explains in an easy-to-read format how European Works Council (EWC) members can organise and manage their communications network. It gives tips and tricks for better information flows and provides examples of best practices in several EWCs. The manual is available in eight languages.

Authors: Bruno Demaître, Romuald Jagodzinski and Sjeff Stoop

[Read more](#)

## El sindicalismo europeo: ¿de la crisis a la renovación?

ETUI report no. 133 [European trade unionism: from crisis to renewal?](#) written by Magdalena Bernaciak (ETUI), Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick and Richard Hyman has been translated into Spanish by the Fundación 1º de Mayo: [download the Spanish version](#).

## Training

[FREE English Online course about ETUC Congress](#)

23 June: Monthly Forum - [Considering the social face of the new EU trade agreements](#), a joint event with the Centre for EU Studies at Ghent University, Brussels.

- 19-20 November: EduDay and EduConf in Berlin – main theme: the rise of populism and extreme-right parties: what can trade unions do and the role of education.

## Recent events

### Research institutes linked to trade unions increase their cooperation

This year's annual gathering of the trade-union-related research institutes (TURI) network took place on 1 and 2 June in Amsterdam and was hosted by its Dutch members The Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS) and The Scientific Bureau for the trade union movement 'De Burcht'.

[Read more](#)

### Transatlantic Social Dialogue: 13th annual meeting

The Transatlantic Social Dialogue (TSD) is a series of annual meetings that bring together academic researchers and trade union leaders from Europe (especially Germany, Britain and the European Trade Union Confederation) and the United States. This year's Transatlantic Social Dialogue meeting, organised by the Hans Böckler Stiftung, the Worker Institute of Cornell University and the ETUI, took place in Düsseldorf from 4 to 6 June.

[Read more](#)

### A financial system as yet untamed

'Financial markets are still feeding the beast': such is the startling metaphor used by Aline Fares to summarise the operations of the European banking world. The representative of the organisation Finance Watch was guest speaker on 13 May at the ETUI Monthly Forum on the reform of the financial system.

[Read more](#)

### Joint WSI – ETUI seminar 2015: Social, economic and political developments in Europe

The Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI) and the ETUI have for many years maintained wide-ranging cooperation focusing mainly on research topics of transnational and European significance.

[Read more](#)

2015

The ETUI is offering a FREE English Online language-learning programme specifically linked to the ETUC Congress to be held from 29 September to 2 October 2015 in Paris.

[Read more](#)

## In the media

- Maria Jepsen was interviewed by the Danish radio station DR on the newly published ILO report on the situation of workers in the world. [Listen \(in Danish only\)](#).
- Mediapart: [En 2015, le travail tue encore](#), 15 May 2015.
- Interview of Laurent Vogel in *Les Mondes du Travail* (n°15) : Ce que 'chercheur en santé au travail' peut signifier...
- Agence Europe: Article on the ETUI Working Paper 2015/04: 'Mieux légiférer' : simplification bureaucratique à visée politique, by Eric Van den Abeele, 2 June 2015
- De Morgen: [Niet iedereen zit te wachten op flexibel werken](#), 8 June 2015.
- Laurent Vogel was interviewed by radio France Culture on the issue of increasing precariousness of the work contract.
- Reference to ETUI strike map in *The Guardian* article [Hurt the BBC and TUC and risk losing voters to tub-thumping nationalists](#), 12 May 2015.

## Other activities

- Philippe Pochet participated in the seminar [Prendre la responsabilité au sérieux](#) organised by Alain Supiot, Professor at the Collège de France on 11 and 12 June. The discussions at this event should lead to operational conclusions which should contribute to the debates at the 21 Climate Conference in Paris later this year
- Martin Myant has had an article published by the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies entitled [What results can we expect from Juncker's investment plan?](#), European Policy Analysis, 2015:10.
- Martin Myant and Jan Drahokoupil have published a CELSI Discussion paper (no. 29): [European Union and Labour's Legal Resources in Central and East European Countries](#).
- At the invitation of the Belgian Ergonomics Society and of the French National Institute for Health and Safety Research (INRS), Fabienne Scandella and Marianne De Troyer took part in a seminar, held in Nancy, at which researchers and prevention counsellors from external occupational prevention and protection services (SEPP) conducted an exchange on physical loads, musculoskeletal disorders and psycho-social risks in the workplace.
- Laurent Vogel is a co-authors of the publication [Qué hacemos con la salud de los trabajadores en tiempos de crisis](#) (in Spanish only).
- Article by Laurent Vogel in WSI-Mitteilungen 3/2015: [Aufstieg und Niedergang eines sozialpolitischen Handlungsfeldes: der Arbeits- und Gesundheitsschutz der Europäischen Union](#).

## News from the TURI network

- On 22-23 October 2015, the Fundación 1º de Mayo, in cooperation with the ETUI, will organise in Madrid the second conference in the cycle 'Trabajo, Economía y Sociedad' (Work, Economy and Society). The topic of this year's conference is 'Crisis y desigualdad: Alternativas sindicales' (Crisis and inequality: Trade union responses). For more information and registration, please [visit the website](#). The event will be in Spanish only.
- On 26–27 November 2015, the Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI) of the Hans Böckler Foundation will hold its Autumn Forum on the topic of *Social inequality: what to do about divisions in society?* This Forum is specifically aimed at early career researchers. The call for papers is in English and can be [downloaded here](#).

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