

Editorial

The 13th ETUC Congress – which took place from 28 September to 2 October in Paris – was a success and showcased a new dynamic Secretariat team. The ETUI stand, which was centrally located and eye-catching, attracted many trade union delegates and other participants. An impressive number of new publications were displayed at the stand and some were presented in more detail at lunchtime events. The ETUI also held three fringe events on some of the main work areas for the future – trade union renewal, new company organisation and climate change – which also attracted much interest among the Congress participants. We also used the opportunity to display a selection of posters from the exhibition 'The art of preventive health and safety in Europe', featuring historical and vintage posters from various European countries. The issues of health and safety at work – which are central to our work – have recently been under attack from the European Commission's REFIT programme.

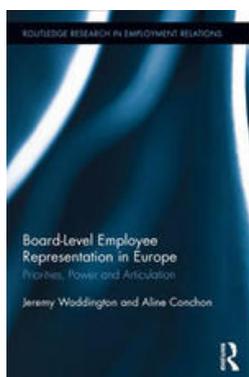
The newly elected Secretary General, Luca Visentini, reminded us that in the current situation it is extremely important for trade unions to assert a new narrative in the debate on the future of our societies and the ETUI is committed to do everything in its power to support this mission.

- Watch the newly elected [Secretary General of the ETUC, Luca Visentini](#), on the ETUC's priorities.
- Watch short interviews with the other members of the team on the [ETUI YouTube channel](#).
- You can find more about our experiences at the congress on twitter [@etui_org #ETUC15](#) and see [the pictures](#).

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Board-level employee representation in Europe



The book analyses the role, activities and networking of board-level employee representatives in sixteen European countries and their counterparts operating in companies that have adopted European company (SE) status.

Authors: Aline Conchon and Jeremy Waddington

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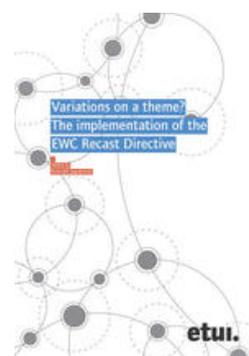
Focus

ETUI EDU Days 2015 discussing a four-year strategy for trade union education

The ETUI EDU Days 2015 will take place on 19–20 November 2015 in Berlin. A central aim of EDU Days 2015, scheduled only about two months after the 13th ETUC Congress, is to present and discuss the ETUI's new four-year Edu Strategy. Increasing divergences across Europe are a great cause for concern and disenchantment with the European Union is growing among workers. Discussions will therefore focus on the responses of the European trade union movement to the current challenges and its distinct vision for Europe – as set out by the 13th ETUC Congress. Experts and recent studies should help to capture the changing attitudes of workers towards Europe and consider how and whether trade union education can contribute to re-connecting workers to the European project.

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Variations on a theme? Implementation of the EWC Recast Directive



This book assesses in detail the ways in which key improvements brought about by the 2009 EWC Recast Directive have been implemented in national legislation.

Events

Save the dates

- 27 October: [What added value of a European unemployment benefit scheme?](#) (with CEPS).
- 12 November: Monthly Forum - [Just transition in practice: challenges in greening old industrial regions](#).
- 17 November: Book Launch - [Hard work in new jobs. The quality of work and life in European growth sectors](#).
- 19-20 November: [EduDay and EduConf – Re-connecting workers with the EU project. Confronting populism and extremism](#), Berlin.
- 25-26 November: ETUI/NERI Policy Workshop - [Fixing Europe's Public Debt](#), Dublin.

[Read more](#)

Long-term investment and the Sustainable Company: a stakeholder perspective. Vol. III



This volume – the third in the Sustainable Company book series produced by the GOODCORP network of academic and trade union experts on corporate governance – presents a ‘stakeholder’ approach to the lack of long-term investment around the world.

Edited by Sigurt Vitols

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Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2015



In this 2015 edition of *Social policy in the European Union: state of play*, the authors tackle the following topics: the state of EU politics after the parliamentary elections, the socialisation of the European Semester, methods of political protest, the Juncker investment plan, the EU’s contradictory education investment, the EU’s contested influence on national healthcare reforms, and the neoliberal ‘Trojan horse’ of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Edited by David Natali and Bart Vanhercke
The book will also appear in French over the next months.

[Read more](#)

European Works Councils and SE Works Councils in 2015. Facts and figures



This publication provides a broad selection of key figures on the basic characteristics of EWCs and SE WCs and the companies in which they operate. It covers both nuts and bolts (for example, development over the years, establishment, sectoral distribution and so on) and content analysis of selected aspects of agreements (composition, competences, meetings, facilities and resources).

- 25-26 November: EWPC Conference - [Building Bridges: combining information, consultation and board-level employee representation in European multinationals](#).
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Recent events

The ETUI hosts a meeting of WHO experts on nanomaterials

On 3–4 September the ETUI hosted the 3rd World Health Organization (WHO) Workshop of the WHO Guideline Development Group on Nanomaterials and Workers’ Health.

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Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2015

On 23 September 2015, ETUI and OSE presented the 16th edition of the book *Social Policy in the European Union: state of play 2015*. The event, attended by about 200 participants, took place at the European Economic and Social Committee.

[Read more](#)

ETUI meeting on workers’ compensation systems and their impact on prevention schemes

A new ETUI project focusing on workers’ compensation in a context of prevention strategies was launched in Prague on 4 September 2015. The project is coordinated by the ETUI researcher Viktor Kempa and Wim Eshuis from the Dutch research trade union institute De Burcht.

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ETUI takes part in a cooperation programme between academic research and trade unions in Argentina

In Argentina the national council for scientific and technical research (CONICET) is seeking to promote cooperation between academic research and social movements, in particular the trade unions. Within this framework, a cooperation programme was concluded with the Belgian national scientific research fund FNRS in the context of which the ETUI received an invitation to present its experience on working conditions to audiences in Argentina.

[Read more](#)

See also [the video](#) and read the article (only in Spanish) [Comenzó ayer el ciclo de conferencias sobre las condiciones laborales actuales](#) in *Diario El Tiempo*.

Other activities

- Kurt Vandaele has published, together with former colleague Janine Leschke, the article ‘Explaining leaving union membership by the degree of labour market attachment: exploring the case of Germany’, in *Economic and Industrial Democracy*, September 2015.

Authors: Stan De Spiegelaere and Romuald Jagodziński

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Eliminating occupational cancer in Europe and globally

This working paper presents arguments for a stronger policy to eradicate occupational cancer in Europe and globally. It presents a consistent estimation of the burden calculated on the basis of established exposures. It also summarises the basic principles of effective prevention and calls for systematic action on the part of the various stakeholders.

Author: Jukka Takala

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The public–private sector pay debate in Europe

This Working Paper critically reviews the empirical evidence and the basic assumptions on which European and national policymakers base their strategy of cutting and freezing public sector pay as one central element of the current crisis management.

Authors: Torsten Müller and Thorsten Schulten

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Les rouages de la politique de santé et sécurité dans l'Union européenne. Histoire, institutions et acteurs

Ce guide donne un aperçu de l'histoire, des principaux acteurs et des outils essentiels de la politique communautaire de santé et sécurité au travail. Il entend contribuer à une meilleure compréhension de cette politique et permettre une intervention plus efficace sur la scène européenne.

Author: Laurent Vogel

This guide will also be available in English soon.

[Read more](#)

Participation rights in practice: what are the power bases of worker representatives on boards?

This Policy Brief outlines some of the key findings of the first-ever questionnaire-based survey of worker representatives who serve on company boards in 16 European countries and in European companies (SEs).

Authors: Aline Conchon and Jeremy Waddington
Also available in French and German.

[Read more](#)

The Golden Rule of Public Investment: protecting fiscal leeway and public infrastructure in the EU

This Policy Brief proposes implementation of the 'Golden Rule of Public Investment', which states that net public investments – increases in the public and/or social capital stock to provide future benefits – should be financed by debt, on other words, excluded from balanced-budget rules.

Authors: Georg Feigl and Achim Truger

- Jan Drahokoupil participated in the Friedrich Ebert Foundation conference on *The future of work* held on 9 October in Prague.
- Martin Myant and Torsten Müller published a book chapter in German on the Juncker investment plan: 'Investitionsstrategie für Europa – der Juncker-Plan', in Lemb W. (ed.) *Welche Industrie wollen wir? Nachhaltig produzieren – zukunftsorientiert wachsen*, Frankfurt, Campus, 75–88.
- Torsten Müller gave a presentation on 'A new European interventionism? The impact of the new European economic governance on wages and collective bargaining' at an event held by the German Sociological Association on 1–2 October in Flensburg, Germany.
- Agnieszka Piasna participated in the seminar on the 'Social Production of Job (In)Security in the Post-Industrial Society', which took place at the Université catholique de Louvain on 25 September, organised by the UCL and CIRTES. Agnieszka presented recent findings about the role of national institutions and HRM practices in improving job quality.
- Two ETUI researchers participated in the '2015 Industrial Relations in Europe Conference' (IREC), which took place at Gothenburg University on 10–11 September. Agnieszka Piasna gave a presentation on the role of employee involvement and participation for improving job quality in the EU. Aline Conchon presented some of the key findings of the transnational survey on board-level employee representation she conducted with Jeremy Waddington.
- Kurt Vandaele participated in the full-day workshop organised by IDHES and the Worker Institute at Cornell, 'Young workers and the labour movement', on 18 September at IDHES, ENS-Cachan.
- Philippe Pochet talked about 'The future of social dialogue' at the Cambridge-Leuven Euroforum Conference *Social Policy and the EU: ways forward* on 25 September 2015.
- The ETUI documentation centre took part in the 46th Annual Conference of the International Association of Labour History Institutions (IALHI), organized this year by the National Library of Scotland on 16–19 September in Edinburgh. The theme was 'Global Connections in Labour History: Collecting and Discovering Migrant Workers' Heritage'. It also participated in a workshop to prepare the integration of ETUI publications in digital versions in the European portal Europeana (<http://europeana.eu/>).

Training

Organising young workers

Addressed to the members of the ETUC Youth Committee, the training course 'Organising young workers (in particular precarious ones)' was held in Birmingham, UK, 9–11 September 2015, in partnership with the TUC. The aims of the course were to share national experiences and to develop strategies, with a project-oriented approach, to run transnational organising campaigns for young workers. As a final collective outcome of the training, participants drafted a contribution to an ETUC Youth strategy on organising.

Another group of prospective Eurotrainers en route to accreditation and certification through the University of Lille

ETUI Education embarked on a new round of its multi-year training course for Eurotrainers (ETT) on 15–19 September

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Musculoskeletal disorders: a major challenge for occupational risk prevention in Europe

This Policy Brief looks at the work-related causes of musculoskeletal disorders and formulates policy recommendations for the prevention of these occupational health risks.

Author: Yves Roquelaure
Also available in French.

[Read more](#)

Organising hyper-mobile transnational construction workers

This Policy Brief outlines the main strategies employed by trade unions to organise migrant workers, with a particular focus on hyper-mobile posted workers.

Authors: Sonila Danaj and Markku Sippola

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What's the social face of the new EU trade agreements? Beyond the 'soft' approach

This Policy Brief outlines a different approach that the EU can use in pursuit of compliance with labour rights in its trade agreements with third countries.

Authors: Lore Van den Putte, Jan Orbie, Fabienne Bossuyt, Deborah Martens and Ferdi De Ville

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The report **Workers' voice in corporate governance. A European perspective** by Aline Conchon is now available in English, French and German.

[Read more](#)

The report **European trade unionism: from crisis to renewal?** by Magdalena Bernaciak, Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick and Richard Hyman is now also available in French under the title *Syndicalisme européen : de la crise au renouveau?*

[Read more](#)

2015 in Cyprus. It was an opportunity for the ETUI to systematically offer participants the opportunity to apply for the 'Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning' (APEL), following final agreements with the University of Lille. APEL is an accreditation process that recognises skills and competences acquired outside formal education institutions; that is, competences acquired as a result of practice and learning from experience.

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In the media

- Stan de Spiegelaere on the trade union protests in Belgium in *De Morgen*, [Heeft betogen wel nog zin?](#), 9.10.2015.
 - [L'Europe en crise depuis... un quart de siècle](#), by Philippe Pochet and Christophe Degryse in *AlterEco+*, 8.10.2015.
 - [Eliminating occupational cancer in Europe and globally](#), summary of [ETUI Working paper 2015.10](#).
 - [Fransen staken veel](#) in *Het Financiel Dagblad*, 6.10.2015.
 - [Aida Ponce Del Castillo : l'avocate des conditions de travail en Europe](#), in *Santé & Travail*, no 92, October 2015.
 - [Bilan social européen décevant pour 2014](#), on the website of Institut de la Protection Sociale Européenne.
 - [De Leeuw aan het hoofd van grote vakbondskoepel](#), in *De Morgen*, 30.09.2015.
 - Aline Conchon in [TCO web magazine 'Arbetsvärlden'](#), 11.09.2015.
 - Tony Musu featuring in video of [Sustainlabur on TOXICWORK ICCM4](#).
 - [CAWIE 2 project – new report published by ETUI](#) on the website of the Labour Research Department.
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