

Editorial

Has anything been left unsaid about the negotiations with Greece for a new rescue plan? The outcome has been pretty much expressed in a nutshell by former European Commission President Romano Prodi: 'though we have avoided the worst, we are left with an evil of our own making'. Might this perhaps be a good moment to seek some perspective on present dilemmas by looking into the past? Back in [1997](#) the ETUI published, together with the *Observatoire social européen*, a book on the social implications of EMU and the social pacts then being negotiated and signed by the social partners in several countries – an analysis that was renewed in [2000](#) and [2010](#). The diagnosis at that time was simple: insofar as EMU is not an optimal monetary zone, it will be vulnerable to asymmetrical shocks and adjustment mechanisms will be needed by both the national and the European institutions. Finland, at the time, actually set up a buffer fund designed to enable it to cope with such shocks without casting its social protection system into complete disarray.

Coordinated collective bargaining is an ingredient able to contribute to the need for macro-economic stability by interacting with the three key elements: overall demand, competitiveness and inflation. Yet the direction taken at national level since the crisis has been precisely the opposite, having consisted of deregulation and decentralisation. What we now know from experience is that non-coordinated markets can neither anticipate shocks nor quickly recover from them. During these summer months it may be helpful, therefore, to go back to some older analyses, conducted at a time when the appalling details of the present lay unsuspected in the future, in an effort to draw up some new guidelines that may enable us to find a better way forward on the social as well as the economic front.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Free movement of labour in Europe: a solution for better labour allocation?



Using empirical evidence, this Working Paper describes the main trends in post-enlargement east/west intra-EU labour mobility. It looks at how different population groups, nationals, EU8 and EU21 migrants have been affected by the turbulent processes of opening up national labour markets and subsequently by the crisis.

Authors: Béla Galgóczi and Janine Leschke

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See also the related article in WSI Mitteilungen 5/2015 (in German): [Arbeitskräftemobilität in der EU im Angesicht der Krise: Gewinner und Verlierer](#).

Focus

ETUI Course Programme 2015-2016

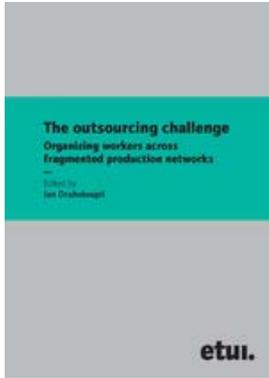
The ETUI Education department has published a catalogue of the courses it will provide in 2015-2016. Information is provided on the content of courses, alongside guidelines for application and indications of whom to contact. The catalogue can be consulted [online](#) or may be [downloaded](#); it is available in English, French and German. Regularly updated information about the activities of the ETUI's Education Department is available from the ETUI website. Information about the different courses as well as a monthly calendar and yearly overview can be consulted to obtain the latest news about new courses and other activities.

Events

Save the dates

- 3 September: OSE/ETUI Lunchtime Session - [The new politics of inequality in Europe](#), Brussels.
- 23 September: Conference-debate - [Social developments in the European Union 2015](#), Brussels.

The outsourcing challenge: organizing workers across fragmented production networks



This book focuses on the dynamics of outsourcing in Europe from the perspective of employees. In particular, it considers one insufficiently studied aspect: the impact of outsourcing on working conditions and employment relations in companies.

Author: Jan Drahekoupil

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Beyond the CEE 'black box': crisis and industrial relations in the new EU member states



This Working Paper maps industrial relations developments in Central-Eastern Europe (CEE) during the period 2008-2014. It looks at wage trends and public sector austerity measures, collective bargaining practices, social dialogue performance, and the incidence of strikes and protests.

Author: Magdalena Bernaciak

[Read more](#)

Social dumping at work: uses and abuses of the posted work framework in the EU



This Policy Brief demonstrates how legal ambiguities in the EU's regulatory framework on worker mobility between EU member states allow companies to circumvent social regulations in order to save on labour costs.

- 12 November: Monthly Forum - Just transition in practice: challenges in greening old industrial regions, Brussels.
- 17 November: Book Launch - Hard work in new jobs. The quality of work and life in European growth sectors, Brussels.
- 19-20 November: EduDay and EduConf – Re-connecting workers with the EU project – confronting populism and extremism, Berlin.

Recent events

Trade unions and inequality: taking stock of two decades of analysis and reflection

To mark the 20th anniversary of *Transfer: the European Review of Labour and Research*, a seminar took place on 3 July in the framework of the SASE 2015 conference at the LSE in London. The session discussed a series of articles published in *Transfer* at the end of the 1990s which had been chosen to highlight key aspects of the relationship between trade union action and inequalities.

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The ETUI examines the incidence of exposure to chemicals in the agricultural sector

More than 40 trade unionists from 14 European countries attended the ETUI's annual seminar on chemical substances held in Dublin on 25 and 26 June last. An important focus of this 11th edition of the event was the risks linked to exposure to pesticides in the agricultural sector.

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The 'social face' of free trade on the menu of the ETUI Monthly Forum

What kind of social and labour clauses will be incorporated into the European Union's new trade agreements? In securing Pascal Lamy as its guest speaker on this topic, the ETUI found the man probably best equipped to provide an enlightened response to this question thanks to his in-depth knowledge and long experience of the corridors and complexities of international trade. The former head of the WTO reiterated his conviction that free trade and social progress can and must go hand in hand.

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A report of the meeting will follow in August. Please check the webpage regularly.

Authors: Lisa Berntsen and Nathan Lillie

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Reducing the numbers of occupational victims requires an alternative prevention policy



The European legislation on occupational health and safety has failed to achieve any substantial reduction in the incidence of work-related accidents and disease. The author of this Policy Brief argues that the regulatory approach is effective only in cases where employers actually care about the quality of working life.

Author: Wim Eshuis

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The European sectoral social dialogue: an uneven record of achievement?

The Working Paper published by the ETUI in French some months ago is now also available in English.

Author: Christophe Degryse

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Tackling tax evasion, avoidance and tax havens

This Background Analysis examines the widespread phenomenon and practice of tax avoidance and evasion and sets out a summary of some of the major tax avoidance schemes.

Author: Paul Sweeney

[Read more](#)

An examination of tax shifting and 'harmful taxes'

This Background Analysis examines the concept of tax shifting and critically assesses what this practice aims to achieve. It also suggests what a good tax system might look like and provides an overview of the development of both tax rates and tax revenues during recent decades.

Author: Paul Sweeney

ETUI contributes to second congress of Spanish association of labour science research centres

On 18 and 19 June 2015, the Spanish association of academic industrial relations and labour science research centres held its second congress in Bilbao.

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A publication that links the world of work and the experts

In the framework of its Monthly Forum on 9 June, the ETUI organised a debate, attended by some 80 participants, with three coordinators of the book *Les risques du travail*.

Other activities

- Torsten Müller gave a presentation on 'Trade unions in Europe: key developments and challenges' at an event organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on 22 June in Nicosia. The conference 'Trade Unions in Cyprus: their current state and the challenges ahead' brought together representatives from the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot trade unions.
- Torsten Müller, together with his colleague Thorsten Schulten from the German WSI, gave a presentation on 'Political and institutional prerequisites for a sustainable development of wages' at a DGB Workshop on the coordination of collective bargaining held on 30 June.
- At another event organized by the Berlin Office of the Region Nordrhein-Westfalen on Social Europe, Torsten Müller moderated a workshop on the Troika attended by, among others, representatives of various ministries of the federal government. In the wake of this workshop, he participated in a panel discussing the issue of social Europe and how to make the Troika (i.e. crisis management more generally) and the European Semester more democratic and social.
- On 11 and 12 June 2015, Fabienne Scandella took part in the final round table of the DIM-Gestes Congress held in Paris. This scientific gathering brought together more than 600 academics and professionals who shared their analyses, experiences and perspectives on the issue of psychosocial risks at the workplace.
- Laurent Vogel took part in the EurActiv event on [REACH: A test case for better regulation? Towards safer chemicals management in the workplace](#) which took place on Wednesday 1 July. [Watch the interview](#) with him and some of the other panellists.

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HesaMag #11: The nursing world at tipping point



This new issue of the magazine on health and safety at work looks at deteriorating working conditions, lack of staff, job burnout and other aspects of the serious crisis that the health sector has been experiencing for a number of years. Across Europe, the trade unions are sounding alarm bells.

Read more

In the media

- Touchstone blog: [Strikes at historic low level](#), 16 July 2015
 - ABVV: [Spaanse regeringsmaatregelen verlengen en verdiepen de crisis](#), 8 July 2015
 - Revista Ciências do Trabalho (Nº 4): [Saúde e segurança no trabalho na União Européia: uma perspectiva crítica na visão da experiência sindical](#), junho 2015.
 - De Morgen: [2014 was zwaarste stakingsjaar in meer dan 20 jaar](#), 18 June 2015.
 - La Libre: [760.297 jours de grève en 2014, un record depuis 20 ans](#), 18 June 2015.
 - ROOSTERGNN Global News Network: [Frequency of strikes differs across Europe](#), 21 May 2015.
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- Aida Ponce Del Castillo was invited to participate in a conference organised by the EESC in cooperation with the European Commission on 2 July. During the civil society stakeholders' discussion with Mr Ignacio Garcia Becerra, the EU Chief Negotiator on Regulatory Cooperation in the TTIP, she explained some concerns about the chapter on Regulatory Cooperation and provided some examples related, in particular, to the chemical sector. She also expressed concerns about the 'good regulatory practices' approach used by the EU negotiators.
 - Several ETUI researchers presented papers at this year's [Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics \(SASE\)](#) conference which took place in London from 2 to 4 July 2015. The main topic of the conference was Inequality in the 21st Century. Margherita Bussi presented research on the youth guarantee, Jan Drahokoupil spoke about the Foxconn Employment System, and Agnieszka Piasna presented on the role of job quality for female labour market attachment after childbirth.
 - On 9 July, Aida Ponce Del Castillo took part in the workshop on 'case studies on social and environmental impacts of the TTIP in the EU', carried out by Ecorys for the European Commission. She provided input on the scope and concerns of the case studies dealing with TTIP and labour standards and TTIP and public health.
 - At the Council of European Studies (CES) [2015 International Conference of Europeanists](#) which took place in Paris from 8 to 10 July, Isabelle Schömann presented a paper on 'Refit and the Reform of European Labour Law' and Martin Myant spoke about 'The Costs and Benefits of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership'.
 - The journal *Ciências do Trabalho* published by the DIEESE, the joint research institute of the Brazilian trade union movement, brings together in a recent issue a selection of articles on trade union action in the field of occupational health and safety. ETUI researcher Laurent Vogel contributed to this initiative. [Read more](#)
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