

Editorial

This month's newsletter confirms once more the wide scope of the Institute's activities. New publications were released on how the EU's austerity regime is leading to a 'divisive integration'; on the very small positive economic impact of the TTIP in terms of employment and the negative repercussions of this trade agreement for health and safety protection of workers; on health care reform and the crisis; on discrimination at work against ethnic minority and migrant workers; and finally on the need to extend European Works Council competences.

Several interesting events have been planned for the next month, for instance on women's health at work, on the political change in Greece, and on corporate social responsibility and trade unions. A four-day training course organised by the Education Department and the European Federation of Journalists focused on cyber security issues for journalists.

Finally some of our researchers have contributed to external social blogs by writing articles on the EU's new investment plan and the political impact of the Greek elections on the EU's austerity narrative.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Divisive integration. The triumph of failed ideas in Europe – revisited



This book is a follow-up to the ETUI 2012 volume *The triumph of failed ideas*. The focus of the book is the weight attributed to the different economic and social development paths in ten individual EU countries and the interaction with the austerity regime established at EU level which in fact is deepening the crisis rather than paving ways out of it.

Edited by Steffen Lehndorff

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The TTIP's impact: bringing in the missing issue

This working paper reviews the findings of the most prominent studies on the

Focus

4-6 March: International conference 'Women's health and work. Sharing knowledge and experiences to enhance women's working conditions and gender equality', Brussels

Sharing knowledge and experiences to improve the working conditions of women and strengthen equality is the main objective of the international conference 'Women's health and work' that the ETUI organises on March 4-6, 2015 at the ITUH in Brussels.

The conference will touch on six areas organised in workshops of broad interest: health inequalities and division of labour; women workers exposed to chemicals, work organisation and the interaction with private life, the hardships of work, the design and use of protective clothing, personal protective equipment, tools and machinery for women's work, and ageing and the long term effects of work. The last of these workshops is organised by EU-OSHA.

[Read more about the event](#), [download the programme](#) and [register](#)

Events

[Save the dates](#)



economic impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), focussing on those commissioned by the European Commission and by the German government. It casts doubt on the methods used and concludes that the gains are likely to be minimal.

Authors: Martin Myant and Ronan O'Brien

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Transfer, February 2015: Challenging discrimination at work against ethnic minority and migrant workers



The latest issue of *Transfer*, the quarterly periodical of the ETUI's Research Department, focuses on discrimination experienced by migrants, ethnic minorities and posted workers, and on how trade unions are responding to the challenges of racism at work.

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Virtual Special Issue: 20 years of *Transfer*

For 20 years now, *Transfer* has been publishing articles setting out and analysing the formidable challenges posed by a constantly changing labour market and by the whole process of European integration.

[Read more and download the articles for free](#)

Health care reforms and the crisis

This report looks at the impact of the crisis on healthcare reform patterns in ten EU countries. It assesses the changing allocation of responsibilities for the regulation, financing, and

- 19 February: [Prague symposium on foreign direct investments](#), Prague, Czech Republic.
- 24 February: ETUI Monthly Forum - [Corporate social responsibility and trade unions: perspectives across Europe](#), Brussels.
- 25 February: Lunch debate - [Changement politique en Grèce : défis et perspectives pour le monde du travail](#), Bruxelles (FR/EN).
- 26-27 February: EWPC Conference - [Variations on a theme: Understanding information, consultation and negotiation at the workplace across Europe](#), Brussels.
- 4-6 March: International conference - ['Women's health and work. Sharing knowledge and experiences to enhance women's working conditions and gender equality'](#), Brussels.
- 9 March: ETUI/EPSU Workshop - ['Multinational corporations in the infrastructure sectors: challenges from the perspectives of employees, worker representatives and trade unions'](#), Brussels.
- 13 March: ETUI Monthly Forum - [Transformations in EU gender equality: from emergence to dismantling](#), Brussels.
- 31 March: Lunch debate - [The Nordic Model towards 2030. A new chapter?](#), Brussels.
- 16-17 April: [SAVE THE DATE European Panel](#), Brussels.

Recent events

Health and safety in the workplace in 2040

From 27 to 29 January, the ETUI held a gathering in Berlin of some thirty persons coming from trade union, academic and employer circles to look ahead – using the method known as ‘scenario-building’ – to how health and safety issues might be dealt with in European workplaces in 2040. Every scenario-building exercise takes place in a series of clearly defined stages. On day one of the meeting the participants’ task was to identify the factors – or ‘givens’ – that are highly likely to influence the future of occupational safety and health (OSH) in Europe.

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provision of healthcare, as well as the growing influence of EU governance on national health systems.

Authors: Furio Stamati and Rita Baeten

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Transnational flexibility and ‘shareholder capitalism’: a case for extending EWC competences to cover flexibility



This Policy Brief argues the need to extend the entitlement of employee participation bodies at the European level to cover corporate strategies of transnational flexibility. In particular, it is argued that, by monitoring the management of flexibility at the transnational level, EWCs could improve their capacity to act upon the causes – rather than being subsequently confronted with the effects – of company restructuring as it results principally from MNCs’ strategies of increasing flexibilisation.

Author: Valeria Pulignano

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TTIP: fast track to deregulation and lower health and safety protection for EU workers

This Policy Brief focuses on how EU occupational health and safety may be affected by the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP). It draws attention to the connections between the

European Citizens’ Initiatives: strengths and limits of a new form of direct democracy

Since 2012 European citizens have gained the right to place a topic on the European agenda provided they succeed in collecting one million signatures from at least seven member states within a year. This target was met by the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) which in 2012 launched the European Citizen Initiative (ECI) ‘Right to Water’. Can this mechanism, an innovation enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty, seriously be expected to foster direct democracy in Europe? The issue was debated on 22 January on the occasion of an ETUI Monthly Forum.

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Sustainability in the Steel Industry

On 15-16 January 2015 the ETUI held a seminar in Brussels on worker participation and sustainability in the European steel industry. More than 40 worker representatives from the steel sector, including European Works Council members and board members from steel companies, attended the meeting.

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Impact of the European Social Charter on fundamental social rights

The Transnational Trade Union Rights Network organised in January 2015 a one-day seminar to present the first analysis on the impacts the European Social Charter (ESC) could have on the European Union to strengthen and promote fundamental social rights. High-level representatives such as Régis Brillat, Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe, together with Jean-François Akandji-Kombé, General Coordinator of the Academic Network on European Social Charter and Social Rights, were invited to present their views and comments on the TTUR project on the European Social Charter and the Employment Relation.

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Other activities



TTIP and the REFIT programme which, according to the author Aída María Ponce del Castillo, share a common objective, namely, to place deregulation high on the agenda.

Author: Aída María Ponce del Castillo

[Read more](#)

Europe at a crossroads. Which way to quality jobs and prosperity? Conference report

The report of the ETUI-ETUC Conference 'Europe at a crossroads. Which way to quality jobs and prosperity?' which was held on 24-26 September 2014 in Brussels is now available. [Download the report](#)

Training

Cyber security training for journalists: Tips and tricks to keep your communications safe

Journalists face an increasing challenge to secure their communications in a digital world. The protection of confidential sources can be easily compromised in a world where surveillance is becoming ubiquitous. Can journalists secure their communications and protect their sources? To address the issue, the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) have organised a four-day workshop starting from 19 to 21 January in Brussels on 'Cyber security for journalists'.

[Read more](#)

- Philippe Pochet has been invited to participate in a project launched by Science Po Paris to analyse the development of the legislative output of the EU in the area of social policy since 1996. The analyses will be based on a database put together by the Centre for Socio-political Data (CDSP, CNRS – Sciences Po) and Centre d'Etudes Européennes (CEE, Sciences Po) containing all types of EU legislative acts – regulations, directives, and decisions sorted by areas.
- While the crisis continues to question the sustainability of our current economic and political models, academics gathered in Paris to discuss the potentialities of a further democratisation of work. On the occasion of a symposium organised on 14 January by the LISE laboratory ([see detailed programme in French](#)), Jean Auroux, former French Labour Minister, was invited to comment on the limits and possibilities opened up by new industrial relations institutions such as that of board-level employee representation as presented by Aline Conchon, ETUI researcher.
- ETUI senior researcher Béla Galgóczi participated in a roundtable meeting on a report by Jean Lambert, Green MEP for London, responding to the European Commission's July 2014 Communication *Green Employment Initiative: Tapping into the job creation potential of the green economy, and related communications*. During the meeting Béla argued that putting 'green jobs' into the centre of the debate reflects a segmented and partial view of a broader phenomenon. He accordingly stressed that what needs to be addressed is the entirety of the restructuring process towards a green economy that encompasses the whole labour market.

In the media

- Social Europe Journal: [Why Juncker's Investment Plan is a good try but not enough](#), Martin Myant.
- Avisen.dk: [Eksperter: Fagbevægelsen skal opruste for ikke at tabe talkrigen i EU](#) (article based on interview with Laurent Vogel on 'Better Regulation')
- AlterEco+: [Grèce : le triomphe d'un autre récit](#), Philippe Pochet.

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