

ETUI investing major research capacity in impact of digitalisation

In recent months digitalisation of the labour market has become a focal topic for the ETUI. Not only are we this year organising our three-day conference – held in collaboration with the ETUC and all European trade union federations – on this subject but we are also proud to announce that a Forward Studies Unit – *cellule prospective* – has been set up within the Institute.

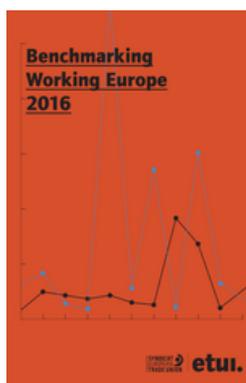
This new unit will develop a tool for long-term reflection on issues of crucial interest to the trade unions, one of which is, beyond any doubt, digitalisation of the economy and its impact on labour markets. The social impacts resulting from adjustment of the economy to climate change is another priority that has been identified and with which the new unit will deal also. Digitalisation – regarded from the standpoint of its overwhelming impact in terms of increasingly flexibility of labour markets – will be one of the main topics on the programme of this year's conference of the network of trade union related research institutes ([TURI](#)).

Other issues on the agenda of the TURI conference – to be held between 11 and 13 May in Sesimbra, Portugal, in collaboration with the Portuguese trade unions and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation – will be the refugee crisis, the social pillar, and REFIT. The TURI network, coordinated by the ETUI, currently has 40 members (all of them institutes close to the trade unions) from 20 countries.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Benchmarking Working Europe 2016



With this year's chosen focus – 'Prepared for the future?' – the new edition of *Benchmarking working Europe* analyses the state of working Europe with the aid of a multi-level and multi-dimensional set of indicators. This 2016 edition is intended as one contribution to an assessment of what the EU current policies have achieved, or above all what they have not achieved, and hence as an evaluation of the extent to which the European Union is prepared for the future.

The report will be [launched on 19 April](#).

[Read more](#)

Flexible workforces and low profit margins: electronics assembly between Europe and China



This book investigates restructuring in the electronics industry and in particular the impact of a 'Chinese' labour regime on work and employment practices in the electronics assembly in Europe. It studies Foxconn, the world largest electronics manufacturing service provider and the main assembler of Apple's iPhone and iPad.

Editors: Jan Drahokoupil, Rutvica Andrijasevic and Devi Sacchetto

Focus

Renewed EWC database portal



The [new website](#) continues to provide all the information previously available plus many new features:

- totally FREE access upon registration;
- detailed search engines on EWC population and the contents of EWC agreements;
- content analysis of EWC agreements;
- selected provisions (best practice) from EWC agreements;
- tool to compare up to 3 EWC agreements;
- live statistics with automatic charts online;
- personal dashboard with the possibility to save searches, agreements, etc. (registered users).

[Read more](#)

Events

Save the dates

- 17/03/2016: Monthly Forum - [The social reality of Europe after the crisis](#).
- 14–15/04/2016 - [European Dialogue 2016: Europe can do better: Good Jobs, Worker participation, investment](#).
- 19/04/2016: Book launch - [Benchmarking working Europe 2016](#).
- 25/04/2016 - [Unlocking the potential of the European Social Charter](#), Strasbourg.
- 27-29/06/2016 - SAVE THE DATE - ETUC/ETUI conference '[Shaping the new world of work](#)' Brussels.
- 11-13/05/2016, 8th Annual TURI conference, Sesimbra.

[Read more](#)

Labour and the digital economy: continuity and radical change



The purpose of this working document is to analyse the digital economy and its effects on labour from the standpoint of continuity and change. The authors, who have more than 25 years of experience in researching this subject, begin with an exploration of what is genuinely new in the digital economy, so as to distinguish features that may constitute significant breaks from others that represent an acceleration of trends already observable in the restructuring of industries and services or in developments in the world of labour.

Authors: Gérard Valenduc et Patricia Vendramin (Fondation Travail-Université)

The English version will be available after 21 March on the website.

[Read more](#)

Carcinogens that should be subject to binding limits on workers' exposure



The purpose of this publication is the identification of at least 50 carcinogens that are relevant for workers' exposure via inhalation at a considerable number of workplaces in Europe and for which a Binding Occupational Exposure Limits (BOEL) under the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (CMD) might thus be suggested. Read more and [download the infographic](#) that the ETUI has prepared in support of the ETUC campaign to end occupational cancer.

Author: Henning Wriedt

[Read more](#)

The right and duty of European Works Councils to report back to the workforce: broad uptake, little specificity



This Policy Brief examines whether and how the obligation to report back, as reformulated in the Recast European Works Council Directive, has found its way into EWC agreements. It does this by looking at survey data and the results of large-scale agreement analysis, as well as by providing examples of clauses in which this obligation is reflected.

Recent events

Outsourcing in ICT sectors

Together with UNI Europa, the ETUI organised a workshop on outsourcing in ICT sectors that was held in Cracow (Poland) on 25-26 February 2016. Trade unionists from a number of European countries discussed lessons from the ETUI publication [The outsourcing challenge](#). They exchanged experience with organising to improve conditions of workers in fragmented production networks. The challenge faced by this sector relates to the need to forge international trade union cooperation and institutions to underpin effective collective bargaining on the European and global levels.

The struggle for health at work: the Italian workers' model of the 1970s as a source of inspiration

In the context of workers' struggles in Italy at the end of the 1960s, a totally new approach to workplace health and safety issues arose. Emphasising prevention rather than compensation for work-related injuries, this movement quickly spread throughout different European countries. Can these experiments inspire union-led prevention strategies today? Historians, sociologists, ergonomists and trade unionists debated this question on 9 and 10 February in Brussels, at a seminar convened by the ETUI.

[Read more](#)

Reduction of labour costs failed to boost employment

On 18 February a group of researchers presented their main findings on the employment policy consequences of the 'internal devaluation policies' conducted over the last few years in the worst-hit crisis countries. These policies were primarily geared to a lowering of labour costs as a means of boosting employment. The researchers' conclusion is that the policies failed, and that the 'internal devaluation' strategy does not represent a viable means of achieving a lasting reduction in unemployment.

[Read more](#)

Expert workshop on the impact of the Recast Directive on European Works Councils

On 25-26 February 2016 the ETUI's 'Europeanisation of industrial relations' unit organised a workshop focused on taking stock of existing research on the impact of and of relevance for the changes introduced by the Recast Directive on European Works Councils.

[Read more](#)

Other activities

ETUI contribution to safer machinery acknowledged by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN)

The 'Feedback Method' aims to feed workplace users' experiences back to standards developers so that higher safety requirements can be incorporated into European standards. This method, originally designed by the Italian expert Fabio Strambi, has been enhanced over the last fifteen years through cooperative efforts involving the ETUI and the standardisation community at large. In December 2015, the 'Feedback Method' was adopted by the

[Read more](#)

The king is dead – long live the king: what follows after the Troika?



The focus of this paper is the need to reshape the financial assistance programmes and the related activities of the Troika in a way that would make them more socially and democratically acceptable. The starting point, therefore, is an analysis of the current role of the Troika and of each of its three constituent institutions in the framework of the financial assistance programmes.

Author: Torsten Müller

[Read more](#)

Training

Challenges for the trade unions in the 21st century: sustainable and green development (2 to 4 March 2016)



21 participants actively involved in trade union work in 13 different European countries met from 2 to 4 March in Lisbon for the course 'Challenges for Trade Unions in the 21st century: sustainable and green development'. Organised by the ETUI, the UGTP and the CGIL, this course offered an opportunity to comment on the results of Cop21 and to discuss central questions such as decent work and job creation in the green economy, or how to promote awareness of the need for an eco-social transition. Expert inputs and group-work dynamics facilitated a highly interactive environment with concrete results and proposals.

Fair migration: trade union strategies against exploitation and wage dumping (24 to 26 February 2016)

European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) in a Technical Report. This is the first time that a methodology based on workers' experience has been made available on the 'standards market'.

[Read more](#)

New on the ETUI website: Multinational Corporations (MNCs)

MNCs are key economic actors whose decisions and strategies have a major influence on economies and working conditions in Europe. The ETUI focuses on three key questions:

- What types of operation, and why, do MNCs set up in which location and how do they organise the value chain?
- How much do MNCs bring from a home country and how much do they adapt to a new environment?
- What are the implications for effective worker-representation strategies?

On this [webpage](#) you can stay updated on what projects are currently being carried out at the ETUI, relevant news, events and publications (internal and external).

Philippe Pochet has been invited to speak at the seminar 'Après la Cop 21 : quels acteurs pour une transition juste ?' organised by Université Paris-Dauphine, Université Paris-Diderot and Institut Veblen on 7 March in Paris. He has also been invited to sit on the advisory committee of the project 'Reconciling environmental and social goals in the transition towards a low-carbon society' (SUSPENS) carried out by the Centre for Social Policy – University of Antwerp, the Federal Plan Bureau and the Institut de Gestion de l'Environnement et d'Aménagement du Territoire of the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Laurent Vogel was invited to give a talk on [Que peut vouloir dire être chercheur en santé au travail ?](#) by Le Club Sholem Aleichem de l'Union des Progressistes Juifs de Belgique on 10 March 2016.

In the media

- 10/03 - [Substances cancérigènes au travail : publication d'un rapport de l'ETUI](#), Journal de l'environnement, France.
- 10/03 - [Lavoro: sindacati, presidenza Ue fermi tumori professionali](#), Ansa, Italy.
- 9/03/2016 - [Vakbonden: 'Minister Asscher kom in actie tegen kanker door werk'](#), FNV, The Netherlands.
- 9/03/2016 - [Europese vakbonden willen meer actie tegen kanker door werk](#), NOS, The Netherlands.
- 2/03/2016 - [Unsozial ist unzumutbar! 500 Seiten über gescheiterte Sparpolitik](#), Arbeit-wirtschaft, Austria.
- 2/03/2016 - [Rendere visibile l'impatto del lavoro sulla salute: secondo seminario sindacale europeo](#), INCA CGIL, Italy.
- 2/03/2016 - [Gabriele Piazza & Martin Myant, Italy's labour market reforms of 2012: did they reduce unemployment](#), Nuovi Lavori, Italy.
- 1/03/2016 - [Would Brexit make it better or worse for the UK when the fourth industrial revolution hits?](#), Tax Research UK, UK.
- 1/03/2016 - [Seminario europeo ETUI su: Il modello operaio italiano di lotta per la salute la sicurezza nei luoghi di lavoro negli anni '70 e '80](#), Organo del Servizio Nazionale Studi e documentazione sull'ambiente di lavoro, Italy.



Fair Migration is undoubtedly one of the main questions for trade unionists today. 19 experts in TU migration policies and networks coming from 9 European countries had the opportunity to exchange views and strategies about current migration challenges at the course organised by the ETUI, the SZEJ and the DGB in Budapest, from 24 to 26 February. Assessing and supporting migrants, but also the prevention of xenophobia and racism or civil campaigning, were issues tackled in the framework of an event conceived to reinforce Trade Union capacities and to develop and enhance the ETUC network UnionMigrantNet.

- 1/03/2016 - [Gérard Valenduc et Patricia Vendramin, *Le travail dans l'économie digitale: continuités et ruptures*](#), Nuovi Lavori, Italy.
 - 29/02/2016 - [Here are the new social risks of the fourth industrial revolution](#), Social Europe Journal, UK.
 - 29/02/2016 - [Atypisch werk en ongelijkheid](#), De Gids op Maatschappelijk Gebied, Belgium.
 - 25/02/2016 - [The king is dead – long live the king: what follows after the Troika?](#), Crisis Observatory, Greece.
 - 23/02/2016 - [Think Tank Review](#), Council of the European Union.
 - 23/02/2016 - [Documento de trabajo @ETUI org: Digitalización de la economía y su impacto en los mercados laborales \(en inglés\)](#), CiberSal.
 - 18/02/2016 - [ETUI:n julkaisu käsittelee digitalisaation vaikutuksia työmarkkinoihin](#), FinUnions, Finland.
 - 18/02/2016 - [After COP 21: the EU needs to revise its climate policy targets](#), Social Europe Journal, UK.
 - 15/02/2016 - [New Book: 'Joint regulation and labour market policy in Europe during the crisis'](#), Labour Law Research Network.
 - 10/02/2016 - [L'espérance de vie des travailleurs de l'amiante réduite de 20 ans](#), FGTB, Belgium.
 - 3/02/2016 - [Konference TTIP - zájmy, moc a demokracie](#), Czech Parliament.
 - 29/01/2016 - [European researchers focus on work's impact on health](#), Industrial Safety and Hygiene News, USA.
 - 29/01/2016 - [Building the future of work together](#), Adapt International Bulletin, Italy.
 - 19/01/2016 - [Europeiska företagsråd](#), Sweden.
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The ETUI is financially supported by the European Union.
The European Union is not responsible for any use of the information contained in this publication.



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