

Editorial

Last week the European Commission published its Communication '[A European agenda for the collaborative economy](#)' which aims to encourage European citizens, public authorities and businesses to 'engage confidently in the collaborative economy'. The Commission sees the 'collaborative economy' as an important contributor to jobs and growth in the European Union.

However, the title of this document is highly misleading as it does not acknowledge the important distinction between two profoundly different concepts.

On the one hand, there is platform capitalism, which provides profits for the happy few such as Google, Apple, Facebook, and Amazon. Such a thing as 'collaborative capitalism' simply does not exist, as is shown, for example, by the proceedings against these companies led by the Commission itself for unfair competitive and fiscal practices. On the other hand, there is the real collaborative economy of the commons, including such examples as Wikipedia and Linux.

Without this fundamental distinction it is impossible to provide an adequate answer to the challenges that these phenomena pose today. In order to increase understanding of the different kinds of new economic models, the ETUI is co-organising, together with the ETUC, the three day conference '[Shaping the new world of work](#)' which will take place on 27-29 June in Brussels. The event will look into the impacts of digitalization and robotisation on the labour market and will host 8 plenary sessions, 25 panel discussions and more than 500 participants. We are looking forward to it.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Managers, BusinessEurope and the development of European Works Councils



This working paper looks at the views of managers responsible for European Works Councils (EWCs) within multinational companies on the operation of the institution. It also examines the policies of Business Europe on EWCs vis-à-vis the views of these managers.

Authors: Jeremy Waddington, Valeria Pulignano, Jeffrey Turk and Thomas Swerts

[Read more](#)

[Reprotoxins that should be subject to limit values for workers' exposure](#)

Focus

Education course programme 2016-2017



The new 2016-2017 course programme of the ETUI Education Department has been published. For the first time, the information in this publication can be accessed via QR codes that provide readers with easy access to the latest course updates. Information about the different courses as well as a monthly calendar and a yearly overview can also be found on the [ETUI website](#), which is updated regularly.

To [download the programme in English or in French](#).

Events

Save the dates

- 27-29/06/2016 - ETUC/ETUI conference '[Shaping the new world of work. The impacts of digitalisation and robotisation](#)', Brussels.



The objective of this project is the identification of substances toxic to reproduction (in short: reprotoxins) which are relevant for workers' exposure via inhalation at a considerable number of workplaces in Europe and, thus, for which an indicative occupational exposure limit value (IOELV) under the Chemical Agents Directive (CAD) might be suggested.

Author: Henning Wriedt

[Read more](#)

The meaning of extension for the stability of collective bargaining in Europe



Although union densities have fallen markedly almost everywhere in Europe over recent decades, many European countries still have particularly high and stable levels of binding collective bargaining coverage. The main reason is State support for collective bargaining systems.

Author: Thorsten Schulten

[Read more](#)

Cancer risks in the workplace: better regulation, stronger protection



In the context of the announced revision of the directive on carcinogenic substances, this publication reviews the limitations of the existing legislation and outlines the priorities for its reform.

Authors: Tony Musu, Laurent Vogel and Henning Wriedt

[Read more](#)

Recent events

Eight years after outbreak of crisis, no new narrative for Europe in sight

On 17 March, Roger Liddle, member of the House of Lords, was invited to speak at an ETUI Monthly Forum on the future of social Europe. The former adviser to British ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair is a co-author of the study 'The social reality of Europe after the crisis', published by the Foundation for European Progressives Studies. He issued a plea for the development of a new narrative for social Europe based on a credible economic policy programme.

[Read more](#)

MNCs in electronics: between Europe and China

Together with IndustriAll Europe and Czech metal trade union confederation KOVO, ETUI organized a seminar on the transformation of global production networks, employment relations, and the role of trade unions in the electronics industry in Prague on 21-22 March 2013. The event has launched the ETUI publication Flexible workforces and low profit margins: electronics assembly between Europe and China. This workshop provided an opportunity to discuss ETUI research and exchange experience with practitioners in trade unions and companies such as Foxconn that is covered in depth in the new book.

Trade unions in central and eastern Europe: innovation against all odds

Trade unions in central and eastern (CEE) Europe are using new approaches to attract workers and address broader societal concerns. A project with ETUI involvement takes stock of these innovative techniques. The second meeting for this project 'Beyond the crisis: Innovative practices within CEE trade union movements' took place on 30 and 31 March 2016 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

[Read more](#)

Benchmarking 2016: only a faint flicker of light at the end of the tunnel

Despite several encouraging signs, the social and economic situation in the European Union remains unstable. With no sign of a change of course in the austerity policies that have been pursued over the past few years, there is little cause for optimism. These at least were the main conclusions drawn from the presentation of the Benchmarking Working Europe 2016 report, held in Brussels on 19 April.

[Read more](#)

Economic transition, partisan politics and EU austerity: a case study of Slovakia's labour market policies



This working paper provides an overview of labour market policies in the Slovak Republic, from the beginning of the post-socialist transition to the recent period, characterised by growing pressure for fiscal stringency from the European Union (EU).

Author: Stefan Domonkos

[Read more](#)

A new ISO standard for occupational health and safety management systems: is this the right approach?



This policy brief looks at the new ISO45001 draft international standard for occupational safety and health (OSH) management systems.

Author: Hugh Robertson

[Read more](#)

Transfer May 2016 - Labour mobility in the EU: between economic freedom and labour standards

The overall aim of this issue of Transfer is to provide an empirical snapshot of how labour migration interacts with existing institutions and policies. The articles included critically analyse the challenges that labour mobility within the European Union poses, for both the sending as well as the receiving countries.

[Read more](#)

New issue of SEER: Economic development and

'European pillar of social rights'? Yes, if it's based on labour law

On 8 March 2016 the European Commission launched a broad consultation on its project 'European pillar of social rights'. Civil society has been invited to give its views on the minimum wage, rights to representation, health and safety, working time and many other matters related to the European Union's social dimension. Is this initiative capable of making progress with Social Europe? Trade union and NGO officials, as well as researchers presented their first impressions on 9 May this year, at an ETUI monthly forum.

[Read more](#)

Research agenda exchange on digitalisation: main focus of eighth TURI conference

This year's gathering of trade union-related researchers took place in Lisbon and Sesimbra on 11 to 13 May. The eighth annual conference of the TURI network was organised by the ETUI in cooperation with its Portuguese members - the Centre for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra and the Instituto Ruben Rolo (IRR) - and with the kind support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Portugal and Montepio Geral - Associação Mutualista.

[Read more](#)

Transatlantic Social Dialogue 2016: how trade unions can organise migrants and young workers

The state of the labour movement in the US and Europe and the efforts of trade unions to organise migrant workers and attract more young workers were the big themes of this year's Transatlantic Social Dialogue meeting, organised by the European Trade Union Institute, Hans Böckler Stiftung and the Worker Institute of Cornell University.

[Read more](#)

Other activities

A new EU Roadmap on carcinogens

quality of life in the western Balkans

This second number of the SEER Journal for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe for 2015 is an open issue framed as Social and economic challenges in the western Balkans. It contains two blocks of articles focusing on this broad theme from different angles, taking a look at various countries of the region in a comparative way.

[Read more](#)

Training

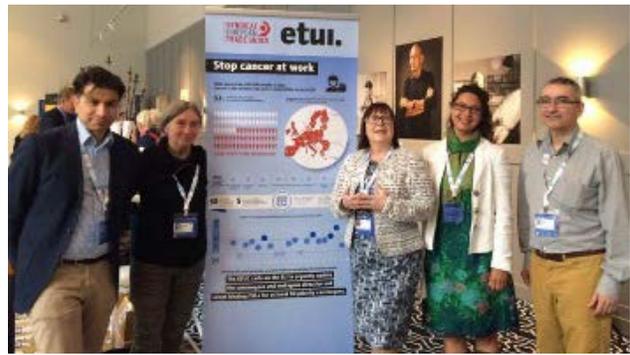
Place of work in society, employment and digitalisation



From 17th to 19th of May the ETUI training course 'Place of work in society, employment and digitalisation' took place in Sofia. 22 participants from 11 countries participated in a course focused on the challenges that trade unions are facing in the digital area. With the support of ETUI expert Christophe Degryse, unionists learned about the influence and risks of automatization or the collaborative economy for the labour market and working conditions. The issue of organizing workers in the digital area, through digital unions or innovate strategies, was among some of the other topics that were debated in the three day seminar organized with KNSB/CITUB and CGT.

Better coordination and communication for EWCs in the commerce sector

18 employee representatives and trade union coordinators from European Works Councils in the commerce sector came together in Florence, Italy, from 2 to 4 May to discuss the possibilities for better coordination and communication. Major companies from the sector such as Metro, Fnac, Delhaize, Carrefour, Ikea, Inditex, Auchan and H&M were all represented.



On 25 May 2016, six organisations, including the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), gathered together in Amsterdam to sign a Covenant on a new 'Roadmap on carcinogens'. This voluntary action scheme aims to raise awareness about the risks of carcinogenic exposure in the workplace and to exchange good practices.

[Read more](#)

ETUI researcher Isabelle Schömann has been appointed to the [Regulatory Scrutiny Board of the European Commission](#). She is one of the three final members of the Board, having been selected after a public call for applications which attracted 94 candidates. These new members will join the three Commission officials appointed to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board earlier this year. All members will work full-time for a non-renewable three-year term under the leadership of Ms Anne Bucher, who was appointed Chair of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board on 2 March. The Regulatory Scrutiny Board was created as part of the Better Regulation Agenda and its purpose is to grant an independent appraisal of the quality of impact assessments and evaluations prepared to inform College decisions.

ETUI researcher Magdalena Bernaciak was invited to speak at the roundtable discussion on ['Labour Mobility and Citizenship: Safeguarding Social Standards in Europe'](#), organised on 3 April at the European Economic and Social Committee by Solidar, a European network of NGOs dealing with labour rights and social justice.

ETUI researchers Agnieszka Piasna and Jan Drahokoupil participated in the Marie Curie Changing Employment ITN event ['What's happening to job quality? Policy, practice and research directions'](#) which took place on Tuesday 3 May 2016 in Glasgow.

ETUI researcher Torsten Müller co-wrote with Hans-Wolfgang Platzer the article 'Gewerkschaften und Arbeitsbeziehungen im Europa der Krise - Strukturdaten und Entwicklungstrends im Vergleich' which was published in the edited volume 'Gewerkschaften in der Eurokrise - Nationaler Anpassungsdruck und europäische Strategien' (Eds: Bsirske, Frank; Busch, Klaus, Höbel, Oliver, Knerler, Rainer and Scholz, Dieter; 2016, Hamburg, VSA-Verlag, 10-44.) At the Central London BUIRA Seminar on 27 May, Müller also provided an overview of the strategies by trade union organisations at European and national levels to counter attacks on trade union rights.

ETUI General Director Philippe Pochet and senior researcher Christophe Degryse both participated in the 42nd IPSE meeting ['The changing face of labor in the age of digital technologies: solidarity-based social protection reacts'](#) which took place on 30

Special attention was given to the UNI Europa Commerce Guidelines on EWCs. One of the final results of the seminar was a detailed overview of tasks and responsibilities for the EWCs, the trade union alliances, the European and Global Union Federation and the local unions to strengthen the network between these different actors.

and 31 May in The Hague.

Martin Myant, head of the ETUI unit European Economic, Employment and Social Policy, spoke at the ISIGrowth Annual Conference [‘Europe beyond austerity: a discussion on how to restore innovation-fuelled growth’](#) which took place in Brussels on 1-2 June 2016.

ETUI researcher Kurt Vandaele has contributed to the issue n° 2291-2292 of *Courrier hebdomadaire* entitled [‘Grèves et conflictualité sociale en 2015’](#).

In the media

- 04/03 - [Why internal devaluation fails](#), LSE trade union Blog, UK.
- 11/03 - [Digitalisation of the economy and its impact on labour markets](#), Social Dialogue.
- 12/03 - [Robots, réseaux : une révolution industrielle à hauts risques sociaux](#), *Le Monde*, France.
- [13/03 - España podría perder más de la mitad de sus empleos](#), *EL Boletín*, Spain.
- 13/03 - [Društveni rizici nove industrijske revolucije](#), Croatia.
- 15/03 - [The ‘Tax Shift’ - A surrealist fantasy](#), *Social Europe Journal*, UK.
- 16/03 - [Trade union body wants EU-binding limits on 70 carcinogens](#), *Chemical Watch*.
- 16/03 - [70 substances cancérigènes identifiées par une étude de l'ETUI](#), *Association AINF*, France.
- 17/03 - [ETUI: EU:n varauduttava paremmin tulevaisuuden muutoksiin](#), *FinUnions*, Finland.
- 18/03 - [Werknemers geïnformeerd over gesprekken in Europese ondernemingsraad: schuldig](#), *HR Square*, Belgium.
- 21/03 - [Think Tank Review – Issue 33/2016](#), *European Council*.
- 22/03 - [Europäische Herausforderungen aus Gewerkschaftlicher Perspektive – Benchmarking Working Europe 2016](#), *Arbeit-wirtschaft*, Austria.
- 23/03 - [Occupational cancers: from outrage to action](#), *Diario Prevenzione*, Italy.
- 23/03 - [ETUI Report: Diese 71 Karzinogene brauchen Arbeitsplatz-Richtgrenzwerte](#), *Arbeitsschutz-Portal*, Austria.
- 24/03 - [Interview Isabelle Schömann, Senior Researcher at the European Trade Union Institute](#), *IR SHARE*.
- 22/04 - [Are employers doing enough to fight the causes of cancer at work?](#), *Equal Times*.
- 22/04 - [‘Werkbaar werk’ gaat over jobinhoud \(en niet over flexwerken\)](#), *HR Square*, Belgium.
- 15/04 - [Belgium workers may get more flexibility in when they work](#), *Industrial Safety and Hygiene News*, USA.
- 26/04 - [Structural labour market reforms and the collective bargaining landscape in Europe](#), *Social Europe Journal*, UK.
- 26/04 - [Think Tank Review – Issue 34/2016](#), *European Council*.
- 27/04 - [Quel sens donner au travail à l'ère numérique ?](#), *HR magazine*, Belgium.
- 01/05 - [Terugkoppelen in Europese ondernemingsraden: niet zonder risico](#), *OR Informatie*, Netherlands.
- 04/05 - [Prevenzione dei tumori professionali: due importanti studi del sindacato europeo: la presentazione di Diego Alhaique](#), *Website*, Italy.
- 07/05 - [Les 4 grands défis du syndicalisme de demain](#), *L’Echo*, Belgium.
- 08/05 - [Bazen van morgen willen fun op werkvloer](#), *De Morgen*, Belgium.
- 13/05 - [België stakingsland?](#), *De Standaard*, Belgium.
- 20/05 - [Tumori professionali, cambia la normativa Ue. Ma non basta](#), *Rassegna Sindacale*, Italy.
- 27/05 - [Drijf het verschil tussen stakende Vlamingen en Walen niet op de spits](#), *De Redactie*, Belgium.
- 27/05 - [Y a t il un lien entre le taux de syndiqués et les jours de grèves ? \(P. Martinez\)](#), *France Inter*, France.
- 23/05 - [Que devient le travail dans l'économie digitale ?](#), *Metis*, Belgium.
- 24/05 - [European Works Councils at a turning point](#), *LSE*

- 04/2016 - [Mitbestimmung Bringt Europa voran](#), Hans Böckler Foundation, Germany.
- 01/04 - [Nee, geen syndicaat in mijn zaak](#), Deredactie.be, Belgium.
 - 04/04 - [Le travail dans l'économie digitale : continuités et ruptures](#), Pratiques en santé, France.
 - 04/04 - ['La France n'est pas le pays avec le plus de jours de grève' ?](#), France Info, France.
 - 08/04 - [Högsta domstolen i USA gav oväntat stöd för facket](#), Arbetsvarlden, Sweden.
 - 15/04 - [Interview with Philippe Pochet](#), CCOO Magazine Lluita Digital, Spain.
 - 16/04 - [Voluntary standards don't stand up](#), TUC, UK.
 - 12/04 - [Do we need a standard on health and safety?](#), Stronger Unions, UK.
 - 19/04 - [Cancer at work](#), Institut National du Cancer, France.
 - 22/04 - ['Kritiek op vorm, steun voor inhoud'](#), De Standaard, Belgium.
- Trade Union Blog, UK.
- 30/05 - [Ezzel a modellel 2110-re sem érijük be Európát](#), Index, Hungary
 - 27/05 - [Un smart agenda social pour la smart économie ?](#), Euractiv.
 - 31/05 - [7 stemmen over sociaal protest. 'Zeggen dat besparingen onvermijdelijk zijn, is bullshit'](#), Mondiaal Nieuws, Belgium.
 - 01/06 - [Europa zal sociaal zijn, of niet zijn](#), Mondiaal Nieuws, Belgium.
 - 03/06 - [La France, un pays irréformable ?](#), 7 sur 7, France.
 - 03/06 - [Manifestations, grèves, blocages : la France irréformable ?](#), Capital, France.
 - 03/06 - [Manifestations, grèves, blocages : la France irréformable ?](#), L'Echo Republicain, France.
 - 03/06 - [Manifestations, grèves, blocages : la France irréformable ?](#), RTBF, Belgium.
 - 04/06 - [France : vous avez dit irréformable?](#), Le Vif, Belgium.

European Trade Union Institute
 Bd. du Roi Albert II, 5 – 1210 Brussels
www.etui.org – etui@etui.org

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.



Follow us on [twitter](#) and [youtube](#)