

Editorial

Our education department organises many [training activities](#). One of the latest (15-17 February) was a high-level training seminar on trade union strategic thinking. The seminar brought together executive trade union officials from across Europe to brainstorm on the issue of trade union renewal, taking into account the challenges and risks of the socio-ecological transition, digitalisation and robotisation.

As I have elaborated in an article for the journal *l'Économie politique* ([available only in French](#) on 'Alternatives Economiques'), one of the principal challenges we face today is to reconcile the two big narratives that will determine our future: the digitalisation of the economy (and society) and the consequences of climate change. Social actors, and particularly the trade unions, can play a crucial role in shaping this future. Both narratives promise radical changes but involve tendencies that can be contradictory in nature, for example between the global (globalisation in the world of big data) and the local (a response to climate change that is grounded in local democracy and action). Only if we manage to integrate these dimensions into one common approach will it be possible to develop a successful trade union renewal strategy.

These are the issues and questions that occupy the work of the ETUI's Foresight Unit. Its mission is to give the European trade union movement food for thought regarding the future of labour markets in the face of the climate transition and the digital revolution.

In this regard, we are very happy to have the renowned sustainability thinker Tim Jackson present his updated publication *Prosperity without Growth* at our [Monthly Forum on 13 March](#). Also this week make sure not to miss [the presentation](#) of our recently published policy brief on growth and wellbeing by Austrian Chamber of Labour economist Georg Feigl.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

From growth to well-being: a new paradigm for EU economic governance



This policy brief criticizes the European Economic Governance system for being too narrowly focused on economic growth and competitiveness. Starting from the 2009 report by the Commission on the measurement of economic performance and social progress (Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi), the brief proposes a new framework (a 'magic polygon') and a new scoreboard for an alternative economic policy geared towards well-being, convergence and socio-ecological sustainability.

Author: Georg Feigl

[Read more](#)

Focus

Wanted: new head of unit for the ETUI 'Health and Safety/Working Conditions' unit

The ETUI is recruiting a head of unit to manage and supervise the activities of the 'Health and Safety/Working Conditions' unit.

The full conditions and specifications of this job opening can be found [here](#).

Events

Save the dates

- 27 February: Presentation-debate - ['Social policy in the European Union: state of play'](#)
- 13 March: Monthly Forum - [Prosperity without growth – Foundations for the economy of tomorrow](#)
- 13 March: [Launch of the ETUI/ETUC Benchmarking Working Europe 2017 - Overcoming cleavages across the EU?](#)
- 27–28 April: European Dialogue 2017

and organising in Europe

The European Review of Labour and Research (Transfer) has commissioned two issues that will explore the circumstances of contemporary trade unionism in Europe. The first and current issue looks into the notion of union renewal and explores a range of approaches to renewal and organising, with case studies drawn from four European countries (Germany, Poland, France and Spain).

[Read more](#)

[Download the articles.](#)

Company restructuring across borders: with or without European Works Councils?



This policy brief takes as its starting point the fact that as soon as a company engages in European-level transnational restructuring, transnational information and consultation is needed to enable the social partners to consider the cross-border dynamic of the planned measures.

Author: Stan De Spiegelaere

[Read more](#)

Training

Combating discrimination: Rights for LGBTQI* workers

Trade Unions have a significant role to play in promoting equality in work places. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) has in fact embraced LGBTQI equality in its manifesto and work programme. In this framework, the ETUI Education department organised together with ETUC a training on LGBTQI workers' rights on 21- 23 February 2017 in Brussels. Participants from 20 European trade union national confederations took active part in the training, seeking to learn more about the European political context for LGBTQI rights and share experiences in protecting LGBTQI workers. Through experts' presentations and group activities, participants contributed to designing common trade union strategies to combat LGBTQI discriminations with a focus on collective bargaining.

* LGBTQI - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex

Project management for trade union representatives

Recent events

European wage experts discuss the need for an EU-wide living wage

The debate about a living wage that goes beyond the subsistence level has gained momentum recently in light of the increase in low-wage work and in-work poverty, particularly since it has become abundantly clear that the current minimum wage levels in the EU countries are not sufficient to tackle these problems.

[Read more](#)

Making the world of work pay more attention to women's health

The road to equality between men and women in the workplace is still paved with good intentions, albeit a long and boring road where progress occurs all too slowly. That is the picture gleaned from various speakers at an ETUI seminar held on 13 and 14 February 2017. The purpose of the event was to present the results of work recently completed on the gender health gap.

[Read more](#)

Other activities

- ETUI senior researcher Jan Drahokoupil participated in the Trade Union Forum on Digitalisation which took place between on 15 – 16 February 2017 in Paris. He contributed to a panel on the platform economy.
- Stan De Spiegelaere, researcher at the ETUI, contributed to the publication by the WRR [Voor de zekerheid: de toekomst van flexibel werkenden en de moderne organisatie van arbeid](#). He also published together with Jeremy Waddington the article ['Has the recast made a difference? An examination of the content of European Works Council agreements'](#) in the *European Journal of Industrial Relations*.

In the media

- 01/01 - [Numérique et écologie : comment concilier ces deux récits de l'avenir ?](#), L'economie Politique, n°73.
- 31/01 - [De digitale economie: een belangrijke uitdaging voor de arbeidsmarkt](#), Mag Metal.
- 01/02 - [Perturbateurs endocriniens : un risque professionnel à \(re\)connaître](#), E-cancer.

The Education department of the ETUI carried out for the 4th time the Intermediate Level course Project Management for Trade Union Representatives. It took place at the Irish teachers' union premises in Dublin from 31st January to 3rd February 2017. 14 participants from 12 countries attended. Many of them found the mixture of classroom sessions and group tasks and the subsequent questions and feedback to be extremely engaging and interesting. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) kindly hosted the event and organised a fascinating cultural visit to the GPO museum and Trinity College Dublin. This next course on project management will be delivered in Cyprus in June 2017.

- 02/02 - [ETUI, commenti sulla revisione della direttiva cancerogeni](#), ESHQ Consulting.
 - 14/02 - [Upwards convergence: why wage growth should be a priority for central and eastern Europe](#), LSE blog.
 - 14/02 - [European Works Councils are vital to protect fundamental and democratic rights](#), Euractiv.
 - 14/02 - [Signes encourageants pour la politique européenne en santé et sécurité au travail](#), HR square.
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'Youth training week' in Cyprus

The first 'Youth training week' for the members of the ETUC Youth Committee took place in Cyprus, at the SEK training centre, on 24-27 January 2017. The 30 participants aimed at reinforcing networking, discussing the priorities, developing project oriented strategies and action plans, enhancing further cooperation and working together at European level. ETUC Confederal secretary responsible for youth, Thiébaud Weber, joined the training for a debate on the future of Europe, while ETUC advisor Ben Egan presented the last updates on the European Pillar of Social Rights. The next edition of the course will be in January 2018 in Portugal.

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

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