

Springtime for a more social Europe?

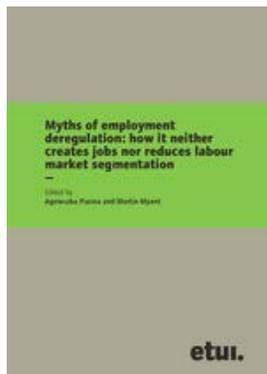
Has Europe finally turned the page on its austerity fundamentalism and is it ready to give its policies a stronger social dimension? Have recent elections in the Netherlands and France halted the rise of nationalist populism? While these questions have yet to be answered, there has been an undeniable change of tone from the European Commission, seen at the presentation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in March, as well as a new positive spirit around the future of Europe following the election of pro-EU French President Macron.

Two recent ETUI publications support the need for a new, more socially just EU narrative. A [working paper](#) by senior researcher Bela Galgoczi looks at wage developments in central and eastern Europe since 2000 and confirms that since the 2008 crisis wages in those countries have stopped converging towards western European levels. A [new book](#) edited by Agnieszka Piasna and Martin Myant provides detailed case studies of nine countries (Spain, Italy, Estonia, Slovakia, Poland, Germany, France, Denmark and the UK) and undermines the myths of employment deregulation. The book shows clearly that policies to tackle unemployment or labour market segmentation by lowering employment protection have not worked, and have in some countries even led to more precarious jobs.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Myths of employment deregulation: how it neither creates jobs nor reduces labour market segmentation



This book looks at the effects of changes in employment regulation on levels and forms of employment in ten EU countries (Spain, Italy, Estonia, Slovakia, Poland, Germany, France, Denmark, and the UK). It demonstrates that reducing employment protection has brought neither labour market nor economic benefits.

Editors: Agnieszka Piasna and Martin Myant

[Read more](#)

Why central and eastern Europe needs a pay rise

This working paper looks at wage developments in central and eastern Europe (CEE) over the past twenty years and shows that wages are not only low compared to western Europe but, as demonstrated by a number of variables, also tend to be

Focus

Five things to look out for in the Commission's proposal on the European Pillar of Social

On 26 April 2017, the European Commission will finally issue its long-awaited proposal on the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). The EPSR will be accompanied by an impressive number of social initiatives. However, while it has been announced that the so-called Pillar will be a set of principles in the form of a reference framework or roadmap, similar to what was initially proposed for consultation, no further details have been forthcoming.

Read the full article on the [ETUI Medium platform](#).

Events

Save the dates

- 16 May: Monthly forum - [For the sake of security. The future of flexible workers and the modern organisation of labour](#)
- 17-19 May: [TURI conference, London](#)
- 15 June: Opening of the exhibition "Bread and Roses"
- 27 June: Book launch - Myths of employment deregulation



lower than what the economic potential of these countries would allow for.

Author: Béla Galgóczi

[Read more](#)

New issue of *SEER Journal* for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe: The rule of law



The most recent issue of *SEER* has as lead topic a fundamental issue that has been determining the transformation process since the early 1990's: 'the rule of law'. The issue also focuses on labour market transitions.

[Read more](#)

Training

ETUI Course programme 2017-2018

The downloadable and interactive course programme for 2017-2018 is now online. In the PDF Course programme you will find a list of courses by Education officers and practical information about ETUI Education. [Download here](#)

On the revamped Education/training website you can also search for courses according to different criteria: Date/Month, themes, working languages and also by keywords or by free search. [Try here](#)

"Organising Youth"

The ETUI training on organising of youth took place on 9-11 May in Sofia, in partnership with SZEF (HU) and Podkrepa (BG). The main aim of the course, attended by 25 participants, was to reinforce trade unions in recruiting, mobilizing and retaining young members. Researcher Kurt Vandaele from the ETUI introduced the topic.

Recent events

Europe 3.0? Debating the pillar of social rights

The European Dialogue – the annual conference organised by the Hans Böckler Foundation (HBS) with the support of the ETUI – was held on 27 and 28 April in Albert Hall in Brussels. This year's topic was the need to 'rewrite the rules for shared prosperity'.

[Read more](#)

Union conference on workplace carcinogens

On 28 April 2017, Malta's main trade union, the General Workers Union (GWU), held the conference 'Together to Eliminate Carcinogens from the place of work' in collaboration with the ETUI.

[Read more](#)

Other activities

- On 2 June, researcher Stan De Spiegelaere will be speaking about the French 35-hour workweek at the Flemish Parliament as part of an event of the Vrouwenraad (Women's council) titled '[Minder werken, meer liefhebben](#)' ('Working less, loving more').
- Senior researcher Magdalena Bernaciak spoke about intra-EU labour mobility and the myth of 'welfare tourism' at the [State of the Union conference](#) that was organised by the European University Institute (EUI) on 4-6 May in Florence.
- Senior researcher Christophe Degryse participated in the seminar 'France Stratégie', about the digitalisation of the economy and the social dialogue, on 25 April in Paris. His presentation can be found [here](#).
- ETUI General director Philippe Pochet and the Director of the ETUI Education department Ulisses Garrido participated in an ETUC/ETUI delegation in Buenos Aires between 20 and 24 March 2017. The aim of this meeting with Coordinator of The Southern Cone Trade Unions (CCSCS) was to outline the trade union position on the EU-Mercosur trade negotiations to the authorities on both sides and to reinforce cooperation in the field of trade union training.

Philippe Pochet gave a presentation on the social challenges of the European integration process, and Ulisses Garrido talked about the Education strategy of the ETUI. Discussions continue on how to develop common training activities and exchanges of information.

Other presentations focused on the experiences of COZZ in organising workers in multinational companies and on organising youth in Slovenia – “Mladi Plus”.

Part of the course focused on communication tools and strategies based on input by Elisa Bruno from the ETUI Communication department. Finally, the work done by the ETUC Youth Committee and the ETUC resolution on organizing, as well as the "Pay rise campaign" were explained to the participants.

For more information on the joint declaration between ETUC and CCSCS please click [here](#).

In the media

- 23/03: [Infirmières et coiffeuses davantage en proie au cancer du sein](#), BFMTV.
- 24/03: [Europe's labour pains](#), Euractiv.
- 27/03: [We need a pay rise](#), Echo FGTB.
- 28/03: [Forsker: Unge skal møde fagforeningen i første job](#), FTF.
- 30/03: [Workplace cancer prevention must be extended to reprotoxic substances](#), Euractiv.
- 30/03: [Werknemers in 7 EU lidstaten slechter af dan 8 jaar geleden](#), FNV.
- 01/04: [Ces lobbies qui nous intoxiquent](#), Santé et travail.
- 03/04: [Ces centaines de milliers d'emplois qui n'attendent qu'une véritable volonté politique pour être créés](#), Bastamag.
- 05/04: [Quand les hormones disjonctent](#), En Marche.
- 12/04: [Interview Martin Myant, Senior Researcher and Head of Unit European Economic, Employment and Social Policy at the European Trade Union Institute \(ETUI\)](#), IR Share.
- 12/04: [Heksenjacht op toplonen helpt de loonkloof dichten](#), Vacature.
- 14/04: [Le social pour sauver l'Union ?](#), Alternative Economique.
- 26/04: [La Commission défend une Europe plus sociale](#), Le Monde.
- 03/05: [Regering-Michel gaat Dehaene I achterna](#), De Standaard.
- 04/05: [Flexibel en dus onderwets controlerend werk](#), Apache.be.
- April 2017: [Werknemersinspraak. Belgische werknemer heeft weinig strategische inspraak \(De onderneming is van ons allemaal \(Guy Van Gyes \(HIVA\) en Stan De Spiegelaere \(ETUI\)\)](#), HR Square.
- May 2017: [Review of the Working paper by Christophe Degryse \(2016\) 'Digitalisation of the economy and its impact on labour markets'](#), CLR News 1/2017.
- 03/05: [Why inequality in the workforce is bad for your health](#), In These Times.
- 09/05: [L'Europe de l'Est piégée dans un modèle à bas coûts salariaux](#), La Tribune.
- 10/05: [L'inversion de la convergence salariale](#), IR Share.
- 10/05: [Central and Eastern Europe trapped in low wage spiral](#), EurActiv.
- 11/05: [The convergence policy of the European Union misses its purpose: Member States are drifting further and further apart](#), OGB.
- 12/05: [Europa Środkowa potrzebuje wzrostu płac](#), Solidarnosc.

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