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Editorial

Two years ago, our joint ETUI-ETUC conference brought together experts on the digitalisation of the labour market for three days of intensive discussion. Last month we revisited this important theme at our third bi-annual conference, but we lifted our horizons further to consider how digitalisation is meshing with the other emerging ‘megatrends’ of globalization, climate change and the demographic transition. ‘The World(s) of Work in Transition’, held in Brussels on 26-29 June, was a major event in the calendar for all those interested in how workplaces and labour markets are being transformed by technological, economic and natural forces.

Over 500 speakers and delegates analysed, argued and debated how these transitions can be managed in a fair, sustainable and equitable way. ETUI researchers working in these areas published a series of working papers and policy briefs unpacking these issues and organized nearly 30 panel discussions and plenaries around cross-cutting themes.

While we can’t claim to have produced an actionable blueprint for tackling these issues, the conference provided a unique opportunity for policymakers, politicians and academics to begin the work of addressing the challenges ahead. These problems are real and they are not going away, with thoughts already turning towards continuing the discussions at next year’s ETUC Congress in Vienna in May 2019.

In other developments, the ETUI’s legal expert, Stefan Clauwaert, has analysed the Commission’s latest set of Country-specific Recommendations (CSRs) for 2018-2019, and welcomes the fact that they now cover an even broader range of issues of interest to trade unions, although he warns that the CSRs only partially meet expectations. The ETUI’s Education Department, meanwhile, is pressing ahead with plans to develop online learning for trade unions and held an initial training session in late May. Further development of this exciting project is underway, and more details will be available soon.

Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI

Publications



Sectoral social dialogue in professional football

This Summer's World Cup in Russia will showcase an array of expensive footballing talent. Off the pitch, however, moves are also afoot to bring the sector under the auspices of European Union employment legislation.

Read [here](#) the news item about this WP

[Read more](#)

the beauty industry



All that glitters is not gold: the dark side of the beauty industry

Because they contribute to our wellbeing, beauty professionals are rarely seen as workers who face health and safety risks.

And yet, those who take care of the body of others pay the price with their personal health.

Read [here](#) the news item on HesaMag#17

[Read more](#)

Trade unions and Facebook

This policy brief assesses the presence and the relationships brokered by trade union confederations through their online channels, in order to, first, find out who they are engaging with and, second, to consider whether these virtual connections have any implications for the wider discussion about union revitalisation.

[Read more](#)

Artificial intelligence: a game changer for the world of work

This edition of the Foresight Brief presents the results of a mapping exercise on AI's impact on the world of work. It looks at the issues of work organisation and infrastructure, introduces the idea of 'AI literacy' for the workforce (as a necessary complement to technical reskilling), and details several AI risks for companies and workers.

[Read more](#)

Will trade unions survive in the platform economy?

Via a non-exhaustive mapping of various examples in Western European countries, this Working Paper explores to what extent the collective representation and voice of digital platform workers are being shaped by current dynamics in the platform economy.

[Read more](#)

Plus ça change... the Commission's budget proposals for 2021-27

This policy brief evaluates the backdrop to the European Commission's proposals for the EU's coming seven-year budget round, or Multi-annual Financial Framework.

[Read more](#)

The country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the social field. An overview and comparison. Update including the CSRs 2018-2019

The ETUI's analysis of the European Commission's latest set of Country-specific Recommendations (CSRs) for 2018-2019, has been published. [Read here the news article](#)

[Read more](#)

The posting of workers saga: a potted version of the challenges engulfing social Europe

The briefing ([also available in French](#)) argues that the posting of workers saga highlights the increased diversity of national industrial relations systems, while also showing that positive solutions can be found to the challenges of low-end social competition.

[Read more](#)

From Paris to Katowice: the EU needs to step up its game on climate change and set its own just transition framework

This Policy Brief argues that, given the enormous challenges, an equitable transition to a zero-carbon economy should be given higher priority and a clear allotment of EU financial resources.

[Read more](#)

Living wage a relevant topic for Europe

This policy brief examines the concept of a ‘Living Wage’ and its place in European political discourse. The Briefing shows that minimum wages, particularly in Eastern EU countries, are often insufficient to cover the actual living costs of workers, even with very minimal conception of what these are.

[Read more](#)

Cross-border standardisation and reorganisation in European multinational companies

This report provides a comprehensive overview of new (and renewed) standardisation and reorganisation trends in European MNCs and their effects on labour.

[Read more](#)

Multi-employer bargaining under pressure: decentralisation trends in five European countries

This edited volume maps different trajectories in national collective bargaining systems in Europe since the Great Recession.

[Read more](#)

Training



Education course programme 2018-2019

ETUI Education course programme is available for downloading

[Read more](#)



ETUI further develops its online learning project

The ETUI Education department has opened a new phase of its project for develop online learning for unions launched in 2015. A first course addressed to union trainers dealing with online training took place in late May and early June. This initiative aimed at sharing knowledge and best practice among training organisations.

[Read more](#)

Recent events and news

ETUI seminar on carcinogens at work and chemical risks

The 14th edition of the ETUI's annual seminar on workers' protection and chemicals took place in Brussels on 21 and 22 June 2018. It brought together some 40 trade union members from across Europe with a view to coordinating trade union action on the fight against occupational cancers..

[Read more](#)

500 Movers and shakers meet to discuss how to manage the future world of work

Four global mega trends that are radically changing the world of work – decarbonisation, digitalisation, globalisation and demographic change - cannot simply be left to the market and will bring changes that need to be anticipated and managed together, warn the ETUC and ETUI.

[Watch here the video from the conference and check out the conference webpage for the presentations and related material](#)

[Read more](#)

[If you wish to receive invitations for ETUI events, please register here.](#)

New in Reforms Watch

[Portugal: an assessment of the reforms of the left shows that the country isn't there yet, 27/6](#)

[Austria: the future of work according to the current workforce, 22/6](#)

[Estonia: the government has approved a bill to reform the pension system , 20/6](#)

[Lithuania: employment obstacles and how to improve the labour market participation, 20/6](#)

[Latvia: labour market developments and the need to improve pensions, 20/6](#)

[Greece: the erosion of industrial relations and the ongoing privatisation program, 14/6](#)

[EU: ILO underpins the impact of industrial relations systems on cross-country convergence in the EU, 14/6](#)

In the media

4/7: [How to protect workers' rights in a volatile labour market?](#), Euractiv

13/6: [De Belgische vakbonden zijn uniek. Moeten ze dat ook blijven?](#), MO

5/6: [Kunnen we eens echt debatteren over een kortere werkweek?](#), Apache

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