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Editorial

The end of this year brought an additional reason for celebration for the ETUI. In 2018 our Institute recorded 40 years in existence. A research institute with the same name was established in 1978 and was followed in that turbulent year of 1989 by the founding of the Trade Union Technical Bureau and the European Trade Union College. The three bodies merged in 2005 to form what we now know as the European Trade Union Institute.

It comes as little surprise that it was during the Delors Commission that the trade union movement was reinforced in the area of health & safety in the workplace, as well as with regard to education and training activities, in moves designed to strengthen the European trade union identity. That period represents a historic moment for the European idea with the introduction of the single market and signing of the Schengen agreement. It was the heyday of creativity at the European level and laid the foundations of Social Europe.

Sharing in that optimism about European integration, the European trade union movement continued to develop and became an important actor at the European level. Today, the political dynamic of the European Union is a different one to that of the last century - it is one threatened by economic and social fragmentation. Public support for the European project is uncertain and increasingly critical. A series of political, economic and social upheavals that began with the financial crisis of 2008 have not yet ended. Global and all-encompassing challenges, such as the struggle against global warming, digitalization and demographic change, require us to think out of the box to find solutions.

Having as our mission “to support, reinforce and stimulate the European trade union movement”, the ETUI has, more than ever, an important role to play in studying the long-term challenges facing the labour movement and to provide avenues for strategic thinking and training on the implications of these new challenges for Social Europe and the world of work. We will continue to play our role and provide our contribution in the best possible way in 2019. Thank you for the interest you are taking in our work. I wish you happy holidays and an enjoyable 2019!

Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI



Publications



Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018

This year's stock-take of Social Europe - Social Policy in the European Union: state of play 2018 - reports on recent EU and national social policymaking with a focus on the game-changing advent of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) one year ago.

[Read more](#)

Cancer and work: understanding occupational cancers and taking action to eliminate them

Occupational cancers account for more than 100,000 deaths a year in the EU, yet these could be avoided by eliminating carcinogens in the production processes. This edited volume brings together the contributions of 28 experts for a review of the current state of knowledge on the issue, new prevention practices, the evolution of legislation and the recognition of cancers as occupational diseases.

[Read more](#)

Musculoskeletal disorders and psychosocial factors at work

This report presents the current state of scientific knowledge on the ways in which psychosocial factors influence

musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), and their impact on work capacity and quality. Almost 40m workers in Europe suffer from MSDs of the limbs and back and are the most common occupational disease in the EU. The aim of the paper is influence intervention efforts and provide scientifically-grounded recommendations to improve the health of Europe's workers.

[Read more](#)

Recent events



Women, work and cancer – why is the link not being recognized?

Cancer is the leading cause of work-related mortalities in the EU and is responsible for 100,000 unnecessary deaths a year. Yet most research and policy on its causes and prevention still assume that it is mainly men who are affected, even though an increasing proportion of the victims are now women.

[Read more](#)



Social Europe: back in business?

December saw the launch of the 19th launch of the annual joint publication of the European Social Observatory (OSE) and the ETUI, “Social Policy in the European Union: state of play 2018”, at International Trade Union House in Brussels. Bart Vanhercke, the Director of OSE, who opened the event, presented this year’s edition of the stock taking publication as one characterised by “continuity in change”.

[Read more](#)

Save the date

23/01: [Trade unions and the threat of populism and far right: how to win back the workers’ vote](#)

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

New in Reforms Watch

[Slovakia: work in transition or the impact of robotization on the labour market](#), 13/12

[Sweden: is the labour market model based on consent resistant to political instability?](#), 13/12

[Lithuania: structural improvement of household income and stronger social assistance needed](#), 13/12

[Czechia: amendments to the Labour Code guarantee compensation during sick leave](#), 6/12

[Netherlands: draft proposals for labour reform](#), 6/12

In the media

27/11: [Click Here For The Brave New World Of Work](#), Medium

27/11: [Intervento di Laurent Vogel di ETUI: "Salute e Sicurezza, una prospettiva Internazionale"](#), CiiP

29/11: [HesaMag Cancer et travail : sortir de l'invisibilité](#), www.sante-travail-paca.fr

29/11: [4 days work, 3 days play – why it’s time to demand a 4 day week](#), Open Democracy

3/12: [A Green transition should be a Just transition](#), Medium

3/12: [Huge death toll from work-related cancer revealed](#), The National

6/12: [Donne, lavoro e cancro: le voci dallo speciale di Bruxelles](#), DiRE

December 2018: Transformation numérique: pour une réflexion sur la qualité du travail par Christophe Degryse,
[The Progressive Post, Issue #10](#)

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