Editorial

Every year in April the ETUI embarks on a new work programme. This year, five new priorities will constitute the backbone of the ETUI’s 2020–2021 programme and continue into the following years. They adhere to the ETUC priorities adopted at their last Congress and take into consideration the work programme of the new European Commission, as well as the main research questions about work currently being posed in the academic world.

The social-ecological transition and the digital revolution are the two key challenges for the world of work which will frame our future. The ETUI has a long tradition of working on these issues but given the climate emergency they have now become overarching priorities. This year’s ETUI/ETUC joint conference will demonstrate the work we are doing in this area. The ETUI’s Foresight Unit has been tasked with investigating the connection between the digital revolution and the social-ecological transition.

The current economic model has serious failings with regard to creating just and sustainable prosperity for all and respecting planetary limits. The search for a new economic model which can reduce inequality and foster upward convergence while at the same time respecting the sustainability of the planet is a second priority of the Institute. The three main topics for this priority will be: European governance, globalisation and migration.

Our current social contract has been under attack over the past decades, and at the same time the workforce is changing in terms of gender, age, ethnic diversity, and many other demographics. There is therefore a need for a renewed social contract which includes reduced working time, job quality, good wages, affordable and effective social protection, and health and safety protection. This is the third priority for the ETUI’s activities.

Democracy is also being threatened at different levels, including in the workplace. That is why, over the next work year, we will be looking into ways to reinforce democracy at all levels, focusing in particular on workers’ participation, collective bargaining, industrial democracy and the various instruments for information and consultation. The ETUI has produced evidence that democracy at work also strengthens civil democracy and therefore acts as a buffer against populism and extreme-right tendencies. This latter and very important topic will be given particular attention by the ETUI’s Education Department, which will organise special training courses on these questions.

None of these dimensions can be properly addressed without stronger collective actors, in particular trade unions. The ETUI will continue its work on trade union renewal, and more specifically on new ways of organising and innovative approaches to strategic development. Building upon its many years of research into organising models, the ETUI will launch a new project on trade union renewal, focusing on the membership dimension.

Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI

Publications

Posting of workers
before national courts

Intra-EU employee posting remains a politically and legally contentious matter that continues to feature on the agendas of lawmakers, trade unions and researchers alike. Numerous cases brought before the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), as well as recent and ongoing revisions of the posting-related EU legal framework, suggest that problems are arising from clashing legal competences, weak enforcement and the breach and/or circumvention of posted workers’ rights. Furthermore, until now there were virtually no accounts detailing issues related to the application of posting legislation in disputes at the national level.

Can anybody hear us?

This publication, that consists of unique survey data, gives an insight into the functioning of European Works councils (EWC) from the perspective of employee representatives. It presents the results of the largest survey of EWC representatives conducted to date. The survey documents the opinions on a wide range of topics of more than 1,600 employee representatives from all EU countries representing over 300 different EWCs and provides a graphical overview of some of the main results of the survey.

The European minimum wage on the doorstep

The European Commission published a consultation document with a view to take legislative action to establish fair minimum wages in Europe. In this policy brief, the researchers argue for a pragmatic approach
of taking the ‘in-work-poverty-wage’ threshold of 60 per cent of the national full-time gross median wage as the reference to assess the adequacy of minimum wages.

Job vacancies

**Vacancy for a researcher on Psychosocial Risks and working conditions**

We are looking for a researcher with a broad vision of occupational health and safety, including the gender dimension, able to connect her/his field of expertise with related issues, e.g. musculoskeletal disorders.

- Deadline to apply: 18 February 2020

**Administrative assistant**

Under the supervision of the director of Research department and Head of Unit, you will be responsible for the coordination of administrative and logistic tasks.

- Deadline to apply: 29 February 2020

Calls for tenders

**Designing and facilitating scenarios and roadmapping for an internal strategic foresight project** - deadline: 20th February 2020
Save the date

18/02: Monthly Forum: What do we know about digital work? Discussing the results of ETUI Internet and Platform Work Survey

5/03: Posting of workers: Where are we now and where are we heading?

24/03: New beginnings? The European Pillar of Social Rights and the new Commission

SAVE THE DATE 24-26 June 2020: ETUI-ETUC conference: Towards a new socio-ecological contract

If you wish to receive invitations for ETUI events, please register here.

Recent events

Collective bargaining still very relevant in a changing world of work

Does collective bargaining still matter and, if so, what role can it play, together with workers’ voice, in a rapidly changing world of work? These are the main questions that the recently published OECD report on collective bargaining attempts to answer.

Watch here the video interviews from the event

Read more
Just transition – condicio sine qua non for the European Green Deal

The subject of the extraordinary well attended edition of the ETUI Monthly forum on 21 January was the European Green Deal and just transition. As Philippe Pochet, ETUI’s General director, pointed out in his introduction, just transition has always been a key topic for the ETUI but in the new work programme it will be an overarching priority. However, the way we look at this issue has evolved, which is also why there is no question mark after the title of this year’s ETUI flagship conference taking place at the end of June – Towards a new socio-ecological contract.

The ETUI debates the future of occupational health in Europe

The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) held a conference in Brussels on 3 - 4 December to debate the outlook for health and safety at work in Europe. Attended by some 200 people, the conference served as a forum for comparing the views of researchers, unionists and political decision-makers.

Training

Public communication for Trade Unionist in the EU context

Communicating with decision makers, for example company leaders and politicians, as well as with the general public can be a given for some, but for most of us, it is out of our comfort zone. The participants in our training Public communication for Trade Unionist in the EU context took the opportunity to strengthen their ability to convincingly represent the trade unions’ position.

In the media

- Industrial safety and hygiene news, Two reprotoxic substances banned in the EU, (14 Jan 2020)
- Süddeutsche Zeitung, Beratung um Mindestlöhne (14 Jan 2020)
- RTF, Chacun son histoire extraordinaire (5/5): Uber, (10 Jan 2020)
- Social Europe, Social Europe Volume II, (6 Jan 2020)
ETUI respects your privacy. We are updating our data protection policies following the GDPR principles and legal requirements. You have the right to ask further information on how your data is used by contacting datapriviacy@etui.org If you wish to modify your personal data in our database you can contact mnikolova@etui.org

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