A new report for the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 showed that 2015-2019 have been the warmest five years on record. Although the gaps between the agreed targets to tackle global warming and the actual reality are growing, it seems that climate change has climbed higher up the political agenda at many different levels. At the Climate Action Summit convened by UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 23 September, Greta Thunberg reminded world leaders of their immense responsibility to preserve the earth for future generations by taking action and not making empty promises. A new UNDP and UNFCCC report which takes stock of the direction of overall climate ambition says that 2020 is emerging as a critical year for gathering support across society for bolder climate action. Several EU Member States such as Germany, France and Belgium agreed to increase and even double their financial contribution to the UN’s Green Climate Fund while the new President-elect of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced her plan for a European Green Deal to become “Europe’s hallmark” and for Europe to become a “frontrunner” in the ecological transition.

The ETUI considers the (just) ecological transition to be an utmost priority, and so is holding two events on the topic in October.

On 8 October we are delighted to welcome Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University and lead author of the second, third, and fourth U.S. National Climate Assessments. She is also a remarkable communicator who has received the American Geophysical Union’s ‘Stephen Schneider Climate Communication’ award, and has been included in such lists as Time Magazine’s ‘100 Most Influential People’, Foreign Policy’s ‘100 Leading Thinkers’, and Fortune magazine’s ‘World’s Greatest Leaders’. At the ETUI she will talk about the factors that have created and fed the polarisation of public and political opinion regarding climate change despite the amount of factual information and knowledge among the public. According to Hayhoe, there are multiple causes, that are psychological, societal, political, and economic in nature, and this diversity explains why no single message or campaign has been able to successfully turn the tide of public opinion.

At a Monthly Forum on 17 October, Eloi Laurent, senior economist at OFCE and professor at Sciences Po and Stanford University will talk about the need to abandon economic growth and GDP and adopt a new approach, which he calls "the well-being transition". This involves inserting well-being and sustainability indicators into private and public policies. At both events, Ludovic Voet, ETUC Confederal Secretary in charge of sustainable development and climate change policy, will comment on the presentations.

Another ETUI event on this theme took place on 10 September. The 2019 edition of the European Commission’s flagship analytical report on employment and social affairs, the Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) review, which this year is dedicated to the issue of sustainability, was presented and discussed at the ETUI. The considerable interest in the event showed once again the
need to approach the discussion on sustainability from different perspectives: social, economic and environmental.

We hope that the priority that the sustainability transition seems to have acquired is here to stay and that the responsible politicians will deliver on their promises.

Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI

Publications

Unwilful ignorance: attitudes to trade unions among Deliveroo riders in Belgium

This policy brief shows that only a small minority of Deliveroo riders in Belgium, who are predominantly male, young and students, hold negative views about trade unions. Lack of exposure to and knowledge about unions was instead cited as the biggest reason why many of the riders are not members, with many of them undecided or ambivalent about the idea.

Read more

She works hard for the money: tackling low pay in sectors dominated by women – evidence from health and social care

This working paper provides data confirming that workers in lower-skilled health and social care assistant positions earn considerably less than the national average wage in their country.

Read more

New special issue of Transfer out: everything you always wanted to know about the living wage

In July 2019, Ursula von der Leyen, candidate for the European Commission President declared in her ‘Agenda for Europe’: “The dignity of work is sacred. Within the first 100 days of my mandate, I will propose a legal instrument to ensure that every worker in our Union has a fair minimum wage. This should allow for a decent living wherever they work.”

Read more

Two recent ETUI publications now also available in French

The French version of the report Bleak prospects: mapping trade union membership in Europe since 2000 by Kurt Vandaele is now available for download here. The FUNDACIÓN 1º DE MAYO has also translated it into Spanish.

The Working paper Legislative implementation of European social partner agreements: challenges and debates by Jean-Paul Tricart is now also available in French.
Recent events

Overcoming the social costs of climate change, or ‘How to win the war against ourselves’

The 2019 edition of the European Commission’s flagship analytical report on employment and social affairs, the Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) review, was presented at an ETUI conference on 10 September 2019. This event was the first occasion at which the authors presented the report, which was published in July.

Save the date

8/10/2019: LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER ETUI debate with Katharine Hayhoe: Barriers to Public Acceptance of Climate Science, Impacts, and Solutions

17/10/2019: Monthly forum: Why and how the US, China and the EU should abandon economic growth

28/10/2019: ETUI Lunch debate: An Economic Democracy Plan for Europe: the next step for worker codetermination

3-4/12/2019: The future of health and safety in Europe. 30 years after the EU Framework Directive on health and safety at work, what’s the way forward?

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

Training
Multicultural team management - much more than a skill

How effective is your way of communicating with members of your team? How do you motivate and develop a team?
In a fast-evolving world, it has become essential to successfully lead and work in culturally diverse teams.

The ETUI education department is organising a workshop on “Group management and conflict resolution within multicultural contexts”, where everyone will have the chance to explore and develop some methodological and theoretical inputs, as well as reflect on methods for developing groups.

For more information

Job vacancies

Vacancy for a researcher/ senior researcher in economics at the ETUI

Your work will focus primarily on designing, conducting and managing comparative research projects addressing any of the broad questions mentioned in the full advertisement, although we would particularly welcome candidates with the capacity and willingness to look into questions of economic governance in the EU, how social protection systems could contribute to reducing inequalities in the context of the aforementioned transitions, with a special reference to the European Pillar of Social Rights, and spelling out options and strategies for a just environmental transition.

Deadline for applications and supporting documents (CV, evidence of qualifications, etc.): 16 October 2019

Read here the full vacancy

In the media
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 dataprivacy@etui.org If you wish to modify your personal data in our database you can contact mnikolova@etui.org

We would like to keep in touch with you. To update your preferences regarding the information you would like to receive from the ETUI please click here

The ETUI is financially supported by the European Union. ETUI, aisbl 2019

Koning Albert II Laan 5
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5
Brussels, 1210
Belgium

Unsubscribe from this newsletter

Unsubscribe from all ETUI email communication