

A new departure



← Laurent Vogel, senior researcher and editor of *HesaMag*, retires this year. Photo: Aymone Lamborelle, ETUI

In an exciting new departure, your biannual magazine on occupational health and safety *HesaMag*, launched in 2009 as the successor to the printed newsletter *HESA*, has received some changes to its format and sections. As you will see, there is plenty that is new inside the covers of this issue. But several things remain constant: the magazine continues to offer you high-quality content about working conditions, and we are still firmly committed to making complex academic information and sometimes highly bureaucratic European jargon accessible to workers, in a journalistic style that allows time for reflection, not to say digestion.

Still sent out free of charge by post on request to our subscribers around the world, the new *HesaMag* is aiming to enhance its European identity with multilingual content (articles are available online in the original Italian, Spanish, Dutch, etc.) in addition to the bilingual content (French and English) available in printed form. The link between the paper version and the online version of the magazine,

entitled *HesaMag Plus*, will also be strengthened with photo, audio and sometimes video reporting whenever we have original content we want to share audiovisually with our international readership as an extension of the paper-based experience.

However, there is another departure to announce, of someone that we will miss very much: our colleague Laurent Vogel, senior researcher at the ETUI and editor of *HesaMag*, is retiring.

After completing a degree in law in Brussels and a doctorate in Nantes, Laurent spent some 10 years as an activist in Latin America and Italy before joining the ETUI in 1990. He was first responsible for setting up the Trade Union Observatory on the implementation of Community directives, and from 2008 to 2013 he was Director of the ETUI Health and Safety Department. It was in this period that Laurent, together with Denis Grégoire, founded this magazine. Since its creation in 2009, *HesaMag* has sought to spread the word about occupational health and safety, an

issue which today, with viruses back in our lives, seems so much closer to home. As well as being a researcher eminently respected by his peers, Laurent is also particularly valued as a colleague for his commitment to his work, his literary abilities, his listening skills and his legendary modesty. The topics that have continued to be the focus of his attention over the years range from occupational cancers to international union struggles, not forgetting gender issues. It is primarily because of him that this magazine has come to be a prized reference source for unions, the occupational health sector, and specialists in European aspects of this subject. It is also thanks to him that *HesaMag* is embarking on the next stage of its journey with this new format, new sections, new online features and new colleagues – but of course still with the same emphasis on quality. He will officially retire in November 2020 but, knowing him, it is likely to be a very active retirement.

We would therefore like to thank Laurent for all he has given to the ETUI, to *HesaMag* and to us, and wish him all the best for his retirement. And even though we are parting ways, it's not really a goodbye, because we will still be counting on his regular contribution to our future section "Carte blanche".

Please do not hesitate to send us a message with any thoughts or feelings you may have about all these changes taking place, at etui@etui.org.

We wish you all an enjoyable read of this new issue of *HesaMag*, and of our web exclusives on *HesaMag Plus* (etui.org). The adventure continues!

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ETUI colleagues