



Editorial

For twenty years now the joint publication of the European Social Observatory (OSE) and the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), *Social Policy in the European Union* (or the *Bilan social*), has been a key overview publication for anybody interested in EU social policy. This 20th anniversary edition analyses the main developments that have taken place over the past two decades of “social Europe”. The contributions in this volume follow the twists and turns along “the long and winding road” which the EU’s social dimension has taken, to arrive at what is today a social policy overshadowed by market and financial considerations. However, there is reason to hope that the new Commission might bring about some changes.

The book discusses how a variety of changing players and policy instruments, such as the “open method of coordination”, the European Semester and its country-specific recommendations, and, more recently, the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), have shaped social policy in the EU. But it also investigates the impact of such ‘mega transitions’ as digitalisation, demographic change and climate change.

The role of the European Monetary Union (EMU) has always been subject to great scrutiny in the previous volumes of the *Bilan social* as it has been an important factor in influencing national budgetary decisions to cut public spending, with social policies suffering the most. But this anniversary edition also follows the development of the European Social Dialogue which has, over time, gradually evolved into a “dialogue of the deaf”. At the same time, the European Court of Justice has started to challenge the fundamental principles underlying European social policy with its rulings in four game-changing cases (*Laval*, *Viking*, *Rüffert* and *Luxembourg*), paving the way for social dumping.

Twenty years of social policy also means twenty years of “gender mainstreaming”, or, as the publication argues, unsuccessful attempts to introduce gender mainstreaming across all policies. Policymakers have failed to deploy the most basic tools associated with this approach. Finally, although EU cohesion policy is one of the key pillars of the EU’s social dimension, spending in this area has become increasingly conditional on the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Semester.

If you would like to hear more about these fascinating topics, you are warmly invited to the launch of the 20th edition of the *Bilan social* and accompanying debate, co-hosted by the European Social Observatory and the European Trade Union Institute on 12 March 2020 at the European Economic and Social Committee. You can [find the programme and register online here](#). The book itself will soon be made available on our website.

Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI

Publications

Labour in the age of AI: why regulation is

A global struggle: worker protest in the

needed to protect workers

Superpowers, states and companies around the world are all pushing hard to win the AI race. Artificial intelligence (AI) is of strategic importance for the EU, with the European Commission recently stating that 'artificial intelligence with a purpose can make Europe a world leader'. For this to happen, though, the EU needs to put in place the right ethical and legal framework.

[Read more](#)

New issue of Transfer on vocational education

The financial crisis has left Europe with severe labour market mismatches which in some countries lead to high unemployment, especially among young people without higher education degrees. Although there seems to be a widely accepted consensus that skills needs are changing, there is no agreement on how the education systems should respond. A solution that has proved its effectiveness in the past is dual vocational education and training (dual VET) – a form of education in which students combine school with in-company training and this way acquire skills relevant to the labour market they will be joining.

[Read more](#)

Job vacancies



platform economy

The newly developed Leeds Index of Platform Labour Protest provides an overview of the developments in platform worker organisation and mobilisation on a global scale. Its findings so far reveal that among other that the main cause globally for labour protest is pay, with considerable geographical variation when it comes to other causes for dispute.

[Read more](#)

Climate change: a trade union issue, also in south-east Europe

The latest issue of the SEER Journal for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe takes up for the first time the topic of climate change and related policy initiatives in the region. This subject has not been at the centre of policy debates in this part of Europe but given the priority of the matter in global, and more specifically, the European context, its policy relevance will certainly grow.

[Read more](#)

Director of the Research Department

The ETUI is seeking to hire a person (M/F) to become Director of the Research Department. He/she will work closely and report to the General Director and will run a team of thirty staff members organised in 3 units (Europeanization of Industrial relations, Economic, employment and social policy; health and safety/working conditions) of equal size.

· Deadline to apply: 20 March 2020

[View the vacancy](#)

Save the date

5/03: [Posting of workers: Where are we now and where are we heading?](#)

12/03: [Social policy in the European Union 1999-2019: the long and winding road](#)

12/03: [Regards croisés sur l'Europe sociale](#)

24/03: [New beginnings? The European Pillar of Social Rights and the new Commission](#)

30/03: Working under pressure: employment, job quality and labour relations in Europe's public sector since the crisis (more information will follow soon)

[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



Platform work: much ado about nothing?

Platform and internet work have attracted a lot of attention in recent years and have been identified as key evidence of the changing nature of the labour market. It was therefore not surprising that the ETUI Monthly Forum devoted to this subject attracted considerable attention. At the event, which took place on 18 February 2020, ETUI senior researchers Agnieszka Piasna and Jan Drahokoupil presented the results of their Internet and Platform Work Survey, which maps the extent of digital labour in central and eastern Europe (CEE). The survey was conducted in Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia in the period 2018–2019.

[Read more](#)

Training

Week 2 of the



"Young Trade Union leaders" course

The second week of the 19/20 edition of the "Young Trade Union Leaders" course has just taken place in Brussels.

The 24 participants from 13 countries had the chance to meet Liina Carr, ETUC Federal Secretary, learn more about the ETUC agenda and discuss the work done in order to influence the EU decision making process.

[Read more](#)

In the media

- Böckler Impuls , [Neue EU-Schuldenregeln für mehr Wachstum](#).(Feb 2020)
- 20 minutes, [La condamnation de Deliveroo pour travail dissimulé peut-elle faire tache d'huile ?](#) (18 Jan 2020)

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