



## Editorial

In this first issue of 2018, let me begin by wishing you a joyful, bright and healthy new year, but also a year in which we achieve some progress in the fight against climate change and the deterioration of the natural world. Certainly, there are also many other areas in which action is needed but the preservation of the planet is a necessary precondition to be able to deal with all other concerns.

At the end of January, the ETUI's chief economist, Martin Myant, is going to retire. Martin's research agenda has strongly contributed to the debate on the effects of transition and EU integration on the central and eastern European (CEE) countries. To mark the occasion and to highlight the valuable work he has done at the ETUI in the area of wage convergence, we have organised the conference 'Narrowing the gaps: 30 years after the transition started and 14 years after enlargement – where are we on convergence?', which will take place today at the EESC in Brussels. At this event, speakers from the ETUI, as well as academics who have worked with Martin over the years and trade union leaders, will debate the effects of transition and EU integration on the CEE countries and what impact this has had on upwards convergence for the region.

Martin Myant joined the ETUI in 2013 as Senior Researcher and Head of the Unit 'European Economic, Employment and Social Policy'. In his relatively short time at the Institute he has carried out research on the economic impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and more generally on the impact of trade and investment agreements on decent work and sustainable development, on the labour market developments in Spain and Italy, and on the OECD's Employment Protection Legislation index. Together with his colleagues he also published two edited volumes, Unemployment, internal devaluation and labour market deregulation in Europe and Myths of employment deregulation: how it neither creates jobs nor reduces labour market segmentation, as well as an assessment of the Social Scoreboard indicators proposed by the European Commission in relation to their Social Pillar initiative. He has just finalised a working paper that brings together his research over the years on wages. You are most welcome to participate in the conference to hear more about it and take home a copy of one of the above publications.

**Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI**

## Publications

### HesaMag # 16 – The future of work in the digital era

The latest issue of HesaMag, the ETUI periodical dealing with occupational safety and health, investigates the impact of new



technologies on working conditions and workers' health and safety in industrial sectors, as well as in intellectual professions. [Read the full article here](#)

[Download the articles from the HesaMag here](#)

## Why are wages still lower in eastern and central Europe?

This new working paper explores why there is a persistent wage gap between western Europe and the new EU Member States of eastern and central Europe. Why is it still the case that after 27 years of transition from state socialism and 14 years of EU membership the closing of the gap in living standards between western Europe and eastern and central Europe remains as elusive as ever, with little likelihood of any meaningful convergence happening any time soon.

[Read more](#)

## The cost of occupational cancer in the EU-28

The aim of this study was to estimate the economic burden of cancer incidence resulting from past occupational exposure to selected carcinogenic agents in the EU-28, so as to assist the trade unions in refining their strategy and actions to tackle occupational cancer.

[Read more](#)

## Events

25/01: [Narrowing the gaps: 30 years after the transition started and 14 years after enlargement – where are we on convergence?](#)

30/01: [Monthly forum: Policy implications of virtual work](#)

14/02: [Monthly forum: Labour Unions, Precarious Work, and the Politics of Institutional Change in Europe](#)

## Recent events

### Economic uncertainty, not the economic crisis, at the root of far-right upsurge in Europe

The recent electoral success of far-right parties with explicitly anti-EU agendas has sparked a lively debate at both the national and EU levels on its causes and potential remedies. The debate on the 'Future of Europe' launched by the European Commission last spring has been partly motivated by this phenomenon.

[Read more](#)

### Social policy in the EU in 2017: high expectations but low concrete delivery

The 2017 edition of the book *Social policy in the European Union: state of play* shows that although some progress has been made, the EU's socio-economic governance is still not addressing macroeconomic, fiscal and social challenges equally.

[Read more](#)

## Training



### Training for trade union communicators

The ETUI organized together with the ETUC, a training focusing on communication and campaigning for trade unions across Europe on 18 and 19 January in Brussels. A group of twenty communicators, both from national trade union confederation and European trade union federations, shared their experiences, in particular on the "[Pay Rise](#)" campaign of the ETUC. A session with the ETUC General Secretary Luca Visentini reinforced their understanding on the priorities for the coming months and the role they can play in supporting them. In addition, participants worked on guidelines for communicators and formulated a proposal to improve their joint work.

## In the media

23/01: [La rareté des accords interprofessionnels témoigne d'une Europe sociale léthargique](#), Euractiv

22/01: [Związki w kryzysie](#), Nowy Obywatel

18/01: [Wil je meer en betere jobs? Zet dan in op sterk sociaal overleg](#), De Wereld Morgen

18/01: [Deliveroo: faire entrer le droit du travail dans le XXIe siècle?](#), L'Echo

16/01: [Soir Première: débat sur la nouvelle économie avec Gérard Valenduc](#), RTBF

10/01: ['Effent Duitsland het pad naar een kortere werkweek?'](#), Knack.be

08/01: [HesaMag #16: working conditions and fake news in the digital era](#), EFJ

03/01: [New types of workplace stress in the digital era](#), Digital Journal

24/12: [The Life of Labour: Nationwide Strike of 'Scheme Workers', Bridgestone Takes Back Suspended Workers](#), The Wire

22/12: [Top Of The Christmas Wish List: A Working Time Reduction](#), Social Europe

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