



## Editorial

March is the time of the year when the ETUI, together with the ETUC, releases its flagship report monitoring selected topics of importance to the trade unions that are also of wider significance for achievement of a social Europe. This year's [Benchmarking Working Europe 2019 report](#) tackles the areas of economic growth, labour market changes, wage developments and workers' participation, and presents some suggestions for policy improvements in anticipation of the coming European elections which will install a new European Parliament and Commission.

Despite the social problems that European citizens and working people face, such as high unemployment, low salaries and increasing inequalities, the four 'mega trends' of climate change, digitalization, demographic change and globalization are continuing to develop in an uncertain direction. The current trends are mutually reinforcing. Output and productivity growth, which the Benchmarking report found to be weakening, might ostensibly facilitate redistribution. However, growth-enhancing policies have often, in practice, been shown to produce greater inequality, exacerbate climate change and hasten the depletion of natural resources. This explains why the necessity of ensuring sustainable growth, and doing this in a socially just way, is a fundamental premise of this year's Benchmarking Working Europe.

This year's edition also argues for more democracy at work because, as the authors show, a voice for workers reinforces political democracy and reduces inequality. Fostering workers' voice and democratic oversight of their work and organisation lead also to a general improvement in life satisfaction, more productive employees, a higher labour participation rate and more innovative and sustainable companies. What is more, and something that is particularly relevant at this moment, is the fact that democracy at work and political democracy are positively associated: if workers are more empowered in the workplace, they will carry this engagement over into civic life, and vice versa. Unfortunately, and despite commitments in the founding documents of the European Union as well as the more recent European Pillar of Social Rights to foster worker engagement, democracy at work is not sufficiently developed in the workplace and the economy.

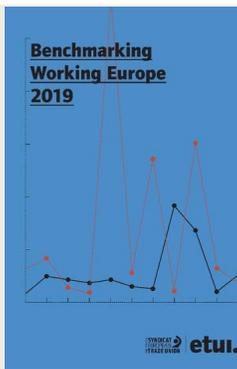
In the current climate of political and economic uncertainties, growing feelings of insecurity and fear of the future, the political agenda needs to focus squarely on the real challenges societies are facing. The Benchmarking offers some food for thought on what these are and how to deal with them.

**Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI**

## Publications

### **Benchmarking Working Europe 2019**

Benchmarking Working Europe, the annual stock-take of European



economic, labour market and social affairs is published today by the European Trade Union Institute. This year's report calls for action to stimulate investment, as well as reforms to fiscal rules to allow policy to play a more active role in stabilising economies and securing sustainable growth.

Download the PubAlert [here](#)

[Read more and download the publication](#)

## Work in deregulated labour markets: a research agenda for precariousness

This Working Paper tackles two questions: what counts as work within a deregulated labour market; and what are the implications for the study of precariousness? The paper addresses the traditional dichotomy between paid and unpaid work which obscures how unpaid activities often undercut paid employment.

[Read more](#)

## Financial participation in Europe: opportunities and risks for employees

This Policy Brief analyses the main forms by which workers are able to share in the profits and ownership of the companies they work in. It also examines the risks and opportunities of financial participation for workers and poses some questions about how practice should be regulated.

[Read more](#)



## New special issue of Transfer looks at refugees in the labour market

The large number of asylum applicants and refugees in the last few years has sparked interest in how they are received and assimilated in European countries. A growing focus is on labour markets as efforts are stepped up to integrate asylum-seekers and refugees into society through the workplace. The topic is being lent greater urgency by exploitation of the 'problem' of absorbing asylum-seekers by populist and far right parties in the runup to the European elections in May.

[Read more](#)

## Recent events

## Benchmarking Working Europe looks beyond the headline statistics at the reality of workers' lives today

Europe's good run of economic growth and job creation masks deep structural problems and an increasingly divided labour market. These are among the main findings of the 2019 edition of the ETUI's Benchmarking Working Europe, which was officially launched in Brussels at an event on 26 March.

[Read more](#)

## ETUI celebrates International Women's Day

Women and men working at International Trade Union House marked International Women's Day on Friday 8th March with strikes and speeches. Women's Day is held every year across the world to raise awareness of women's political and economic marginalisation.

[Read more](#)

## Save the date

1/04: [ETUI Lunch debate: Rebooting Social Europe. Some proposals to improve the social dimension.](#)

*[If you wish to receive invitations for ETUI events, please register here.](#)*

## Training



## Pedagogical workshop on Active learning methodologies

As part of its pedagogical training offer, the ETUI organises every year a pedagogical workshop on active learning methodologies. This is a joint ETUI – ITC/ILO Training of trainers, where participants acquire state of the art practices in learning methodologies



## Eurotrainers learning pathways

This publication is a reference document on the Eurotrainers' learning pathway and on the accreditation procedure for trainers undergoing the process of validation of their competences, prior education and learning.

[Read more](#)

and technologies.

[Read more](#)

## New in Reforms Watch

[EU: ranking of gender rights in labour legislation with six EU-countries in the lead](#), 5/03

[Poland: tacking stock of recent reforms made without consultation with the social partners](#), 13/03

[Austria: government struggles with CJEU position on public holiday as a right](#), 13/03

[UK: industrial action looms against poor public sector pay resulting from 10 years austerity policy](#), 21/03

[France: reform of occupational health and safety sections in the Labour Code subject of consultations](#), 28/03

## In the media

7/03: [Working in the 'platform economy': what is it really like?](#) , LSE Business Review

20/03: [Il mondo del lavoro tra umano e non umano](#), Rassegna sindacale

25/0: [Salaires: les travailleurs de huit pays européens s'en sortent moins bien qu'il y a 10 ans, les Belges stables](#), La Libre.be

25/03: [I sindacati Ue: salari reali più bassi che nel 2009 in 8 Paesi](#), Conquiste del Lavoro

26/03: [Stipendi, in Italia sono più bassi rispetto a 10 anni fa. Ecco chi sale e chi scende in Europa](#), Il sole 24 ore

26/03: [Los salarios en España, peor que hace 10 años](#), Contrainformacio.es

27/03: [Salari, Italia peggio di 10 anni fa. Ma anche la Germania arranca](#), Wall Street Italia

27/03: [Restoring trust in Europe—wage rises and workplace democracy](#), Social Europe

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