



Editorial

In the run-up to the 14th Congress of the ETUC, which will be held in Vienna in about three weeks' time, researchers and publications' staff at the ETUI have been working flat-out to get our topical and agenda-setting publications ready. Congress delegates will be able to find these at the ETUI stand. We believe they will spark a lot of interest as they are closely related to the main topics of this year's Congress.

Among the highlights I would like to mention are the [Working paper](#) by Björn Hacker on the "European Social Semester", which examines the practical use of the European Pillar of Social Rights in the context of European 'soft' governance and suggests ways in which it could be reformed in order to enhance its role in coordinating social policy. Also, on the theme of social policy ETUI labour lawyer, Zane Rasnača, examines in detail how, and for which groups of workers, European Union member states regulate reimbursement of travel, board and lodging costs. Her [background analysis](#) also offers a critique of the existing legal framework concerning reimbursement and the changes brought by recent amendments to the Posted Workers Directive.

In the field of industrial relations and quality of jobs, the [new book](#) by Maarten van Klaveren and Denis Gregory aims to explain how the process of collective bargaining has changed across the European Union over the last two decades and examines whether, and to what degree, changes in the level at which bargaining takes place have had an impact on pay and conditions as well as trade union power and influence. Related to this, Valeria Pulignano addresses in her [Working Paper](#) the traditional dichotomy between paid and unpaid work and suggests a new way of understanding precariousness which can help trade unions to understand it and tackle its increasingly prevalence.

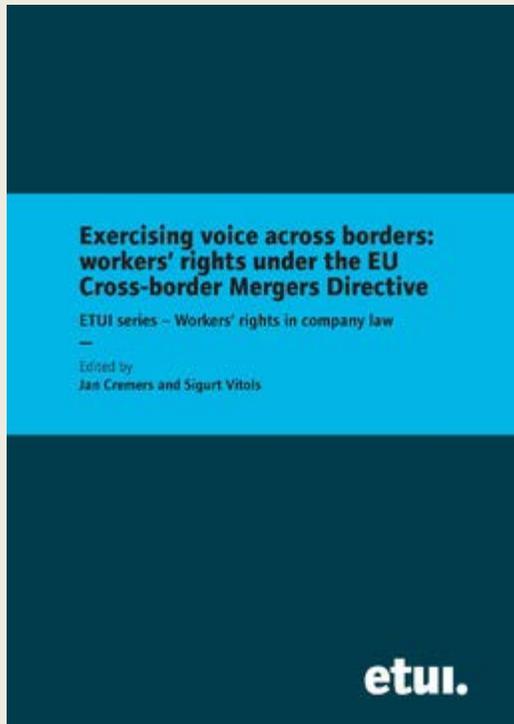
Exploring the challenges for work in the future, Valerio De Stefano and Mathias Wouters [look at digital labour platforms](#) like LinkedIn and ask whether they should be treated as private employment agencies. Looking from another angle at the same issue, ETUI senior researchers Jan Drahokoupil and Agnieszka Piasna provide [a case study](#) of the food delivery platform, Deliveroo, in Belgium between 2016-2018, which offers powerful insights into the nature of platform work, the workers who perform it, the preferences of those workers, the strategy of the platforms, and the role of local regulations. On a more abstract, level Gérard Valenduc and Patricia Vendramin question in their [Foresight Brief](#) whether work has a future in the digital age in which machines are capable of taking over from humans an ever-wider range of tasks. They examine various scenarios for labour markets and their impact on employment relations.

And, last but not least, a recent [Working Paper](#) by ETUI senior researcher Béla Galgóczi focuses on the issue of Just transition - a topic which we have been arguing for a long time is here to stay. In his paper he examines what a Just Transition to a greener but employment-rich and egalitarian economy might look like.

I hope that those studies and many more to come over the next couple of weeks will feed the curiosity of the delegates at the Congress who will be listening and participating in Congress sessions on those topics. I believe in the value of informed discussions about important issues and the ETUI is there to provide a platform for this.

Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI

Publications



Exercising voice across borders: workers' rights under the EU Cross-border Mergers Directive

This book contains the results of a study of workers' rights to information, consultation and participation in EU and national law covering cross-border mergers, which was undertaken by the ETUI's GOODCORP network of academic and trade union experts on company law and corporate governance.

[Read more](#)

Restoring multi-employer bargaining in Europe: prospects and challenges

This book aims to shed light on how the process of collective bargaining has changed across the European Union over the last two decades. It also examines whether and to what degree changes in the level which bargaining takes place have had an impact on pay and conditions, as well as trade union power and influence.

[Read more](#)

Should digital labour platforms be treated as private employment agencies?

Phasing out coal – a just transition approach

This working paper examines what a Just Transition to a Greener but employment-rich and egalitarian economy might look like. It examines the employment structure the European economy with a focus on the coal sector in the light of European Union commitments to phase out coal and argues that policymakers should devise a specific plan for the sector.

[Read more](#)

The mirage of the end of work

This Foresight Brief examines whether work has a future in the digital age. A recent wave of innovation mean machines are capable of taking over from humans an ever-wider range of tasks. Will this deprive humans of work, or force them to seek out

This Foresight Brief examines whether digital labour platforms should be treated as private employment agencies. Platforms like LinkedIn may rightfully be perceived by the general public to be mere social networks, but underneath their sleek design, they also act as an employment service.

[Read more](#)

‘Algorithm breakers’ are not a different ‘species’: attitudes towards trade unions of Deliveroo riders in Belgium

This working paper investigates a rare case of platform work performed in the realm of regulated employment and explores the attitudes of platform workers towards collective representation.

[Read more](#)

A European Social Semester?

This working paper examines the European Pillar of Social Rights' practical use in the context of European 'soft' governance. It studies how the EPSR has been deployed in the 2018 European Semester and suggests some areas for reform in order to enhance its role in coordinating social policy.

[Read more](#)

Recent events

jobs involving different tasks? Authors Gérard Valenduc and Patricia Vendramin examine various scenarios for labour markets and its impact on employment relations.

[Read more](#)

How to redesign the fiscal regime of the Eurozone: an alternative take on lessons from US and Eurozone experiences

This Working Paper examines options for the design of a workable fiscal union for the euro area.

[Read more](#)

Reimbursement rules for posted workers: mapping national law in the EU28

This background analysis surveys how, and for which groups of workers, European Union member states regulate reimbursement of travel, board and lodging costs.

[Read more](#)

Reboot Social Europe: the pillar, re-insurance scheme,



wage increase, gender equality

In a little more than two months, European citizens will elect a new European Parliament which will codetermine the direction which Social Europe will take in the years to come. Now is therefore the right time to look at where we are with the European social agenda and put forward some proposals on how to advance it.

[Read more](#)

Save the date

21-24/05/2019: [ETUI fringe events during the 14th ETUC Congress](#)

13/06/2019: [Implementing and enforcing the European Pillar of Social Rights \(EPSR\): Quo Vadis?](#)

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

Training



New activity year

The start of a new activity year also means kicking-off an ambitious work programme for ETUI Education. Once again, more than 80 workshops, seminars and other training events will be organised. In addition to the recurring and highly appreciated courses for Eurotrainers and Young Trade Union Leaders, topics such as climate change, digitalisation, the European Pillar of Social Rights and trade union renewal are high on the agenda.

[Read more](#)

New in Reforms Watch

[Denmark: the industrial relations landscape changes with a trade union merger and new](#)

In the media

24/04: [How do you rate the achievements of the current European Commission in terms of a social Europe?](#), IR Notes

15/04: [Global union confederation ITUC wants to show killer chemicals the door](#), Hazards Magazine

29/03: [L'Europe incantatoire ne suffit pas!](#), AlterEchos

ETUI respects your privacy. We are updating our data protection policies following the GDPR principles and legal requirements. If you wish to know more please contact dataprivacy@etui.org



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

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