Italian teachers continue demonstrations
Over 600,000 education workers participated in the strike in Italy on 5 May 2015. As a result, the government met the trade unions, among them the three ETUCE member organisations, but decided to go on with the approval procedures of a draft law to reform the education staff’s working conditions. In practice, this would reduce education workers’ rights and increase their workload without a corresponding wage increase.

Bologna Ministerial Conference 2015: still a long way to go for quality higher education in Europe
On 14-15 May 2015, the 2015 Ministerial Conference and Fourth Bologna Policy Forum took place in Yerevan, Armenia. During the meeting, 47 European ministers responsible for higher education and research – the “Bologna ministers” - signed the Yerevan Communiqué and the Fourth Bologna Policy Forum Statement to further advance in the implementation of the European Higher Education Area.

Voted today: The European Parliament’s recommendations call for an explicit carve out of all public services in TTIP
The European Parliament’s Committee on International Trade (INTA) voted on its recommendations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on 28 May 2015. The TTIP recommendations call for “the introduction of an explicit carve-out in the core text of the agreement of all current and future public services…, to ensure that national and local authorities retain the full right to introduce, adopt, maintain…

Takes two to tango: Education system reforms triggered by EU’s Recommendations for 2015-2016 must involve teachers
On 13 May 2015 the European Commission has published the 2015 Country Specific Recommendations of the European Semester for each Member State. Last week, commenting on the Country Specific Recommendations, ETUCE European Director Martin Rømer welcomed the recent shift of the European Semester from a mere budget surveillance towards a more ‘socially oriented’ economic governance.

Civil society groups form ‘Better Regulation’ Watchdog to protect citizen, worker and consumer rights
Brussels, 18 May 2015 – More than 50 civil society organisations - and among them ETUCE - have joined forces to create the ‘Better Regulation Watchdog’ – a network to protect citizens’, workers’ and consumers’ rights. The network was launched today in Brussels, one day ahead of the expected announcement of the European Commission’s so-called ‘Better Regulation’ reforms.

Social Partners promoting Decent Workplaces: First Case Study in Romania
From 19 to 22 of May the first Case Study in Romania of the project "Social Partners promoting Decent Workplaces in the Education Sector" took place. The project aims to promote social partner initiatives to combat work-related stress (WRS). ETUCE considers WRS as a serious risk which affects the occupational health and safety and can result in psychosocial hazards.

More news is available on our website: csee-etuce.org