

Conference discusses austerity and collective bargaining

 [Europe](#)

A conference organised by the ETUI research organisation provided an opportunity to debate the impact of the crisis and austerity including a session on collective bargaining which has been particularly hit with knock-on pressure on wages in some sectors. "The collective bargaining system has been all-but wrecked in Ireland and Romania," said Torsten Müller and Magdalena Bernaciak. The ETUI researchers have observed a decentralization of collective bargaining along with increased government intervention in it. This has mainly affected southern and eastern Europe, while northern countries have been comparatively spared. The conference also discussed the impact of austerity on Greece and recent developments in Germany and Poland.

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