

breakback

Newsletter n.1

The BreakBack Newsletter is a tool for the dissemination of the results of the European Project “VS/2019/0079 - Break up to get back together (BreakBack). The impact of unionisation through innovative service provision on union membership and industrial relations”

The newsletter is edited by the Project lead-applicant **CISL Nazionale** with the contribution of the project **partners:**
Lsrc - Lithuanian Social Research Center (Lithuania);
QUIT-Sociological Research Centre on Everyday Life and Work of the Uab - Universitat Autònoma De Barcelona (Spain);
Dsps-Unifi - University of Florence (Italy);
Faos - Employment Relations Research Center, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen (Denmark);
Diesis Coop Scrl-Fs (Belgium);
Ezio Tarantelli Foundation - Research and Training Center (Italy)- as an affiliated entity;
ETUC -European Confederation of Trade Unions, as an Associate Organisation.

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Break up to get back together - Break-Back Project - The impact of unionisation through innovative services on union membership and industrial relations

Break-Back arranges a strategy through which trade unions aim to **strengthen membership, revitalise action and relaunch the role of an inclusive and innovative social dialogue**. The project reaches groups and individuals who are often far from the protections, such as **atypical workers, freelancers and platform workers**.

In particular, the project addresses his services to people who have specific needs for support or protection: young people looking for the first job; unemployed, those in need of income support, training or other essential services; employees who need access to insurance and assistance; self-employed who need tax advice; migrants who need assistance and integration paths and recognition of skills; disabled or older adults who need support etc.

The growing commitment put in place by trade unions on the direct supply of services develops a broad horizon that is not limited to them: it can facilitate social innovation, which means enhancing new services and supplying suitable models to deal with necessities and preventative measures inside and outside the workplace.

Five European countries share the project: **Italy -led by CISL-, Belgium, Denmark, Lithuania and Spain**.

The partners (co-applicants) are:

Lsrc - Lithuanian Social Research Center (Lithuania); **QUIT**-Sociological Research Centre on Everyday Life and Work of the Uab - Universitat Autònoma De Barcelona (Spain); **Dsps-Unifi** - University of Florence (Italy); **Faos** - Employment Relations Research Center, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen (Denmark); **Diesis Coop Scrl-Fs** (Belgium).

The **Ezio Tarantelli Foundation** - Research and Training Center (Italy)- as an affiliated entity and, at the European level, the **CES** -European Confederation of Trade Unions, as an Associate Organisation, contribute to the project.

The research includes two macro-phases of analysis:

- 1: a preliminary research in the field and selection of case studies.
- 2: case studies and evaluation.

To find more about the project:

→<https://www.breakback.cisl.it/>

To learn more about the partners and researchers :

→<https://www.breakback.cisl.it/who-we-are/coordinates-institution>

→<https://www.breakback.cisl.it/who-we-are/partners>

→<https://www.breakback.cisl.it/who-we-are/steering-committee>

Break-Back Project goals

Break-Back's aims to analyse and assess the influence of services supplying on unionization in a context of social solid individualisation and disintegration of the labour market.

The attempt to reach workers scattered in different professions and increasingly distant from the union compared to previous generations has given rise to the 'customization' of the trade union organizations.

Therefore, union representation, values and concrete services coexistence constitute a crucial element of researchers' most significant interest.

In short, **the three main objectives are:**

- evaluate which strategies the unions adopt to surmount workers disaffection by means of active participation in interest representation practices.

- collect and describe the variety of services offered in five EU Member States, in terms of diffusion, degree of innovation, main targets, their governance and the possible presence of evaluation plans.
- analyse the effectiveness of this membership revitalization strategy from a broad perspective.

To deepen the research objectives:
→ <https://www.breakback.cisl.it/the-project/scope>



Breakback - Coordination Meeting materials

After the **kick-off meeting** held at the **Centro Studi Cisl in Firenze**, the **first international coordination meeting** of the Break-Back project was conducted, in presence, on February 4 and 5, 2020, in Palau Macaya, **Barcelona**.

During this event, the various partners have discussed the labour market performance within each country involved in the research, the change taking place in employment contracts and the decentralization of collective bargaining.

→https://www.breakback.cisl.it/images/ProjectResults/Reports/BreakBack_Comparative_analysis.pdf

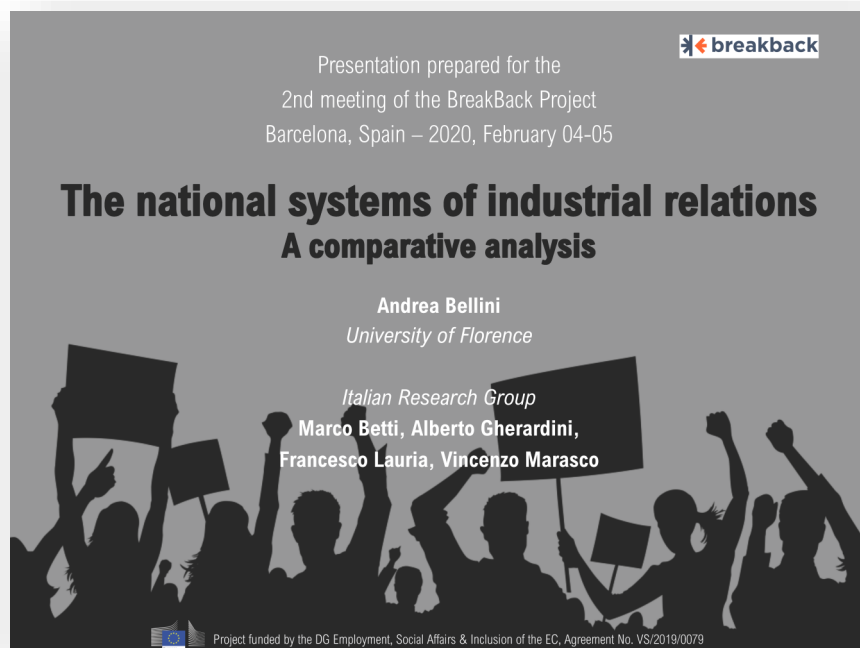
Besides, thanks to the analysis of the

comparative report based on the interviews conducted with the top countries figures of the National Trade Union Confederations it was possible to highlight the crucial role of services and new associative tools in the trade union relating to membership, in a context of strong flexibility and disintegration of the labour market and ideologies.

→https://www.breakback.cisl.it/images/ProjectResults/Presentations/BB_Barcelona_presentation.pdf

The case studies' selection criteria have been defined for the individual countries: a case on highly qualified professional workers and a case on workers described as "vulnerable".

These cases will be shared in the following Break-Back project newsletters.



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