

## **TOSHARE OBSERVATORY**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The name of the Observatory has, like precedents, the motto of the Faculty Of Labor Relations And Social Work of the University Of The Basque Country (UPV/EHU): “*For equality and a fair distribution of wealth*” as well as the European project ToShare Addressing technological transformations: exploring and sharing knowledge to co-create a Strategy for a diverse, inclusive, sustainable and smart Europe, which was presented in the Horizon Announcement 2020, on March 13, 2018.

This Observatory aligns with the mission of (UPV/EHU) which is “to conduct valuable research, gain knowledge through collaboration and transfer it to the environment and international community”. This is also reflected in its vision, which is to “aspire to improve their international research profile to deal with new social, cultural, economics and environmental challenges, with leadership demand in the transformation of society through the acquired knowledge” and “ it’s a university rooted in its environment that aspires to become a role model in the scope of social commitment and strengthen the role it plays in the cultural development of the Basque Country”. At the same time, it supposes a contribution in line with the first and second Objective “Axis III. Relationship with society”, part of the strategic plan of (UPV/EHU) 2018/2012, which is to mold the university into an institution that promotes sustainable development, the inclusion of society and social commitment” as well as “ to strengthen leadership as a driving force for the generation and to transfer knowledge and cooperate with Basque Country to increase the competitiveness and social development” and it commits to the 2030 Agenda through the promotion of joint work between the University and other Societal Organizations through expanded learning communities around Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs).

The reason it is an Observatory is because it is motivated by it is agile operations. Furthermore, the existence of other Observatories in Basque Country, even in the (UPV/EHU) covering near topics, such as OVES/GEED “social economy”, Ikuspegi “migrations”, Euskadi employment report “employ”, OMAL “Multinationals in Latin America”, and others that are similar in different regions or countries (e.g. DESC Observatory in Cataluña, Inequality Observatory in Aragon, Social Reality Observatory in Navarra or Richness Observatory Padre Pedro Arrupe in Argentina or Inequalities Observatory in Portugal encourage collaboration.

Different Institutions of the (UPV/EHU) are taking part in this Observatory, such as the Hegoa Institute with its commitment to education for sustainable development, the Gezki Institute, working towards a social and solidarity economy, and the consolidated group Parte Hartuz in favoring citizen participation, which strengthens the democratic values in our society. It is the result of the intense collaboration and relationship with a large group of public and private entities of the Basque Country, and consequently, an open network is created in which observatory work is supported.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the UN recognizes in art. 25.1 that "Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living that assures him, as well as his/her family, health and well-being, and especially feeding, clothing, housing, medical assistance and the necessary social services. He/she also has

the right to insurance in case of unemployment, illness, disability, widowhood, old age or other cases of loss of their means of subsistence due to circumstances independent of their will."

The same declaration in art. 22, had already recognized that "Every person, as a member of society, has the right to social security, and to obtain, through the national effort and international cooperation, taking into account the organization and resources of each State, the satisfaction of economic, social and cultural, indispensable to their dignity and to the free development of their personality".

The above rights have their development in art. 11.1 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966, hereinafter ICESCR, which is part of the Spanish internal order after having been ratified by Spain (BOE, no 103, 30- 4-77), which recognizes "the right of every person to a standard of living suitable for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and a continuous improvement of the conditions of existence"<sup>1</sup>.

And according to Article 2.1 of the ICESCR, "Each of the states parts in the present the pact commits to take measures, both separately and through the international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, up to the maximum of the available resources, to progressively achieve, for all the appropriate means, including in particular the adoption of legislative measures, the full effectiveness of the rights recognized here".

The expression "by all appropriate means" must be interpreted in a sense broad, and given that it is the public authorities themselves that have the information relevant, it is up to them to determine which means are most appropriate to perform progressively these rights, according to the CDESCR (1990). This means that the public administration must bear the burden of proof and demonstrate that the measures and adopted policies are the best ones to guarantee an adequate level of compliance of social- economic rights. Also, the appropriateness of an instrument depends, ultimately, on its effectiveness for the realization of rights social, as expressed in General Comment 9th, The internal application of the Covenant, CDESCR (1998). Therefore, we are facing binding rights for States, that in the case of Spain includes the different autonomous governments according to the scope of their competences and, in addition, allows the filing of individual complaints for breach of any of the rights proclaimed in the ICESCR, since Spain ratified in September 2010 the Optional Protocol to the Covenant, hereinafter (PF-PIDESC)<sup>2</sup>.

More recently, on September 25, 2015, the Member States of Nations United agreed in New York to the SDGs, within a broad work agenda for the improvement of the living conditions of people, with 17 objectives<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> About this the OHCHR (2012) recommended Spain: To guarantee that all the adopted measures of austerity identify the minimum essential content of all the rights of the covenant, and take all the necessary measures to protect this essential content regardless of the circumstances, especially in regards to disadvantaged and marginalized people or groups.

<sup>2</sup> In the communiqué no. 2/2014 in the dictum adopted at the 55<sup>th</sup> session of 1<sup>st</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, the OHCHR issued an historical recommendation as the first case decided under the OP-ICESCR, determining that Spain is violating the right to housing. Grove Chris and Ikawau-Daniela (2015) highlight the five reasons of why this communiqué is important.

<sup>3</sup> These SDG are:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

and 169 goals interrelated, of an integrated and indivisible nature. An agenda, and in particular, some objectives, which take up the previous Millennium Development Goals and pretend to achieve what they did not achieve, combining the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. But the proclamation of human rights and the SDGs is far from being translated into reality, since the concentration of wealth in the world has been sharpened, threatening global stability. However, there is a lack of information and social awareness about the existence of sufficient wealth, thanks to a large extent to new technologies and that, therefore, the serious problem lies in its unjust deal<sup>4</sup>. There is also not enough awareness of the existing alternatives to bad quality and unequal distribution of work, which includes both paid (employment) and the unpaid (domestic, care and voluntary) and that has a clear impact in the lack of gender equity.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

The promotion of different investigations that in terms of fair distribution of wealth, allow generating knowledge and, with the support of a network of public and private entities, transfer it to society, so that it can be formed and raise awareness about existing alternatives, contributing to the strengthening of the welfare state.

This theme is closely linked to others such as the Human Rights and the UN SDGs, the 4.0 industry and new technologies, the social and solidarity economy, citizen participation and the strengthening of democracy, work and employment, gender equity, migration, and inclusive, permanent and life-long education.

In this way, it contributes to creating a more critical and participatory citizenship in public policies, which results in the strengthening of democracy and in which the Institutions and Governments undertake a fair

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Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

<sup>4</sup> In this way Oxfam, in the Paper “Reward work, not wealth”, 22 January 2018, among the five Recommendations for Governments on Inequality that appear in the 16 page, it says: “Work together to achieve a revolution in inequality data. Every country should aim to produce data on the wealth and income of everyone in society annually, especially the top 10% and the top 1%. In addition to funding more household surveys, other data sources should be published to shed light on income and wealth concentration at the top.”, and in the footnote: “This should include income, property and estate tax data; data from property and luxury goods markets; data from wealth management firms; and company surveys on wages. Such data should be disaggregated by gender, age, occupation, region and, where appropriate, ethnicity.”

distribution of wealth that allows an adequate social protection system, and , with this, a significant advance in the fulfillment of the international commitments in the matter of Human Rights and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **LINES OF WORK: RESEARCH, TRAINING AND DISSEMINATION:**

1. Promotion of different research lines, which will include contributions of bachelor's and master's degrees final projects, as well as doctoral theses where, without disregarding additional options, the following topics will be addressed:
  - Requirements derived from the fulfillment of Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations in terms of the distribution of wealth
  - Deepening the concept of wealth in relation to GDP new technologies
  - Identification of the wealth generated by Industry 4.0 and new technologies
  - Knowledge of the distribution of wealth
  - Search of progressive fiscal systems for a fair distribution of wealth
  - Strengthening of the social protection system and study of the consequences derived from the incorporation of a Basic Income (universal and unconditional)
2. Participation in workshops, courses and other training spaces.
3. Creation of a website, where the information about different activities will be displayed and the different investigations will be published, which will be complemented with the periodic sending of a newsletter and the presence in social networks.
4. Relationship with other Observatories and entities from outside the Basque Country, to generate ties and alliances.

### **ORGANIZATION:**

The Observatory is created on December 20, 2018, after being approved unanimously in the Board of the Faculty of Labour Relations and Social Work of the UPV / EHU, where it is based, and counts on the participation of Gezki (social economy) and Hegoa (cooperation and education for sustainable development) institutes, as well as the consolidated Parte Hartuz Research Group (participation) and other persons of the UPV / EHU. Likewise, it relies on an open network of public and private collaborating entities that will contribute to the investigations and the subsequent transfer to society.

There will be an organizing committee chaired by the dean of the Faculty of Labour Relations and Social Work of the UPV / EHU or the person delegated by him, the vice-dean / coordinator of the section of the previous Faculty or the person delegated by him, a representative of the Gezki Institute of the UPV / EHU, a representative of the Hegoa Institute of the UPV / EHU and a representative of the Consolidated Research Group Parte Hartuz of the UPV / EHU.