



**Juan Carlos Pérez de Mendiguren**

### **Critical perspectives on WISE as a strategy for poverty reduction**

My contribution to the conference will critically look at some of the underlying assumptions that sustain the construction of the Social Enterprises as both a vehicle and a strategy for poverty reduction in the context of the European Union. From this perspective, I will analyze the main discourses on the concept of Social Enterprise, and the consolidation of a dominant narrative of the 'harmonious social change' in which the orthodoxy of entrepreneurship has become a reference point that contributes to the de-politicization of the discourses on poverty.

### **Brief profile**

Juan Carlos Pérez de Mendiguren is a lecturer at the University of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU). He graduated on Economics and Business Administration and completed his postgraduate studies with an MA on Development Economics at the University of East-Anglia (UK). He has recently, obtained his PhD on Economics, conducting research on concept of Solidarity Economy and on the Network of Solidarity Economy Firms of the Basque Country. Juan Carlos is also a member of [HEGOA](#) (Institute of Development and International Cooperation of the UPV-EHU), for which he carries out teaching, research duties. His current research interests focus on the Social and Solidarity Economy, Social Enterprise, and Development. He has lived in different countries and has extensive fieldwork experience in South America and Southern Africa, particularly in South Africa where he lived and work as researcher on rural development for nearly four years.

Some of his key publications include:

J. C Pérez de Mendiguren, E. Etxezarreta, 'Economía Social y Solidaria. Desde la negación al reconocimiento mutuo' *Revista de Economía Mundial* 40, 2015 (Forthcoming)

J C Pérez de Mendiguren, 'Social enterprise in the development agenda. Opening a new road map or just a new vehicle to travel the same route? '. *Social Enterprise Journal*, 9(3), 2013, pp. 247-268.

J C Pérez de Mendiguren, U Villalba, 'Los modelos de Traperos de Emaús en el Estado y su respuesta a la crisis'. *Revista de Estudios Cooperativos-REVESCO*, 113, 2013, pp. 150-179.

E Bidaurrazaga, J C Pérez de Mendiguren, L Guridi. 'Cooperation between the UE and Sub-Saharan Africa: A Development Proposal based on Open Regionalism and Economic Partnership Agreements? ' *Current Research Series*, 3, 2010, pp. 187-2005. University of Reno.