

Interview with Auxtin Ortiz, President of the Asociación No Dejamos a Nadie Atrás Elkarte (ENDAA)

1. Why is ENDAA participating in an Observatory on the fair distribution of wealth?

The Association We Leave No One Behind Elkarte (ENDAA) has recently decided to participate in the To-Share Observatory because it shares its fundamental principles such as the promotion of alternatives for a better distribution of wealth and the promotion of a more critical and participatory citizenship in the public policies of our society.

2. Why is the accumulation of wealth and the inequality it generates a problem?

It is time to rethink old paradigms such as accumulation and growth. For many decades, governments have put these concepts at the center and have organized economic activity around them. It is time to ask ourselves if, in the middle of the 21st century, it is not time to rethink this model. The solution to fundamental challenges facing our society (social exclusion, intolerance, gender equity, climate change, peace) requires repositioning people at the centre. The economy should never be an end in itself, but a means to improve people's lives.

3. What are the proposed solutions?

As long as governments keep GDP growth as a star indicator on their agendas, it will be difficult to open channels to new ways of understanding the economy. There are a number of robust and proven indicators that can replace it. We must change the horizon to which governments are looking, in order to open up other channels.

Although the list is long, we highlight here 4 elements that, in our opinion, are essential to build a better future:

1. The Basque Country has to improve its educational system. This is essential to generate a more solid economy and a more empowered society.
2. From here on, another fundamental element is to better distribute the existing work and increase its quality.
3. We have a factor of massive inequity that affects more than half of our population and that must be urgently resolved: gender inequality. It is difficult to imagine a better future without addressing this issue.

4. We consider it necessary to continue deepening and improving the Garanteed Income Rent, an important tool that we have had in the Basque Country for decades against social exclusion. Along these lines, we could move towards unconditional income formulas for the future.