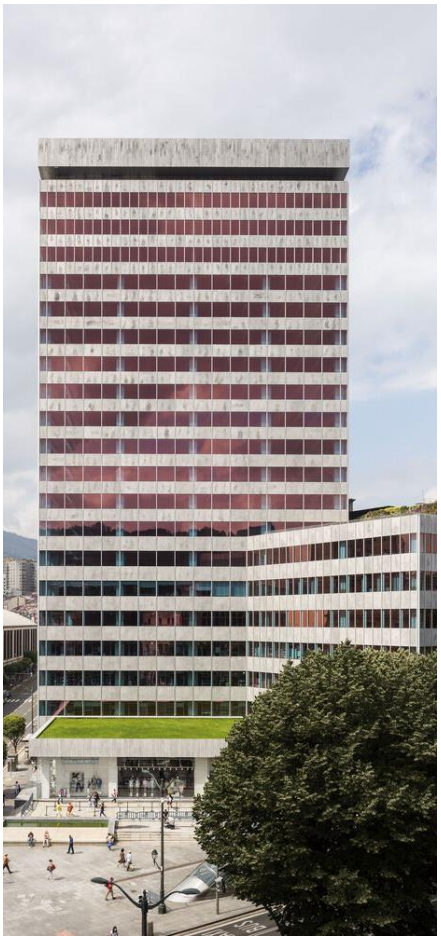
Entrepreneurship amidst 21st Century Challenges: Business-Government Relations

Bogazici University

Istanbul, 26-28 June 2024



Recent global events, including the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts, have sparked significant discussions about governmental crisis responses and the evolving relationship between businesses and governments, especially in public-private partnerships. These challenges are compounded by demographic shifts, climate change, conflicts, and the rise of AI and automation, all presenting urgent dilemmas. Effective responses are critical, with entrepreneurship—whether business, social, or public—emerging as a vital means to devise innovative solutions.

Governments play a crucial role in fostering entrepreneurship, particularly through strategic taxation policies. Such policies can stimulate economic growth and address societal needs but are challenging to implement amid fiscal constraints and political polarization. The anticipated evolution of governmental structures includes mechanisms for better coordination between central and local authorities, especially in fiscally decentralized nations, potentially reshaping governance.

The symposium aims to examine entrepreneurship's role in business-government relations in the 21st century, focusing on Bizkaia in the Basque Country and its use of taxation to promote entrepreneurship. The symposium's findings, to be published by the Center for Basque Studies at UNR, will enhance our understanding of the complex interplay between governments and various sectors in the modern era.

A Joint Symposium of the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) College of Business, the UNR Center for Basque Studies, and the Government of Bizkaia

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Academic Session
Bogazici University
Nafi Baba Tekkesi
Sarıyer/İstanbul
Thursday, June 27, 9am — 6pm

Welcome remarks

9am — 9.30am. Dr. Xabier Irujo (Chair of the Center for Basque Studies of UNR), Gemma Martinez (Deputy Director of Fiscal Policy of the Government of Bizkaia), Mehmet Tosun (Chief International Officer, Director of the Ozmen Center for Entrepreneurship, Director of International Programs of UNR) and Cem Duran (Head of the Bogazici Teknopark)

Session 1: Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century

9.30am — 10am. Mehmet S. Tosun (University of Nevada, Reno): "Entrepreneurship: Addressing the 21st Century Challenges."
10am — 10.30am. Burcu Rodopman (Bogazici University): "Challenges of Entrepreneurship in the Current Global Society"

11.00am — 11.30am. Coffee Break

Session 2: Entrepreneurship, Regional Productivity and EV Market

11.30am – 12pm. Wessel Vermeulen (OECD): "The Contribution of High-Growth SMEs and High Productivity Firms to Regional Productivity"
12pm – 12.30pm. Ayfer Ustabas (Istinye University): "Exploring the Influence of Environmental Awareness and Perceived Behavioral Control on EV Purchase Intentions: An Empirical Study from Turkey"

1pm — 3pm. Lunch Break

Session 3: Fostering entrepreneurship in Bizkaia

3pm – 3.30pm. Kate Roll (University College London): "The role of the public administration in meeting the SDG goals for fostering entrepreneurship" (teleconference)
3.30 – 4pm. Eriz Sainz and Jordan Guardo (Government of Bizkaia - PWC): "The BAT Tower Entrepreneurship Model in Bizkaia"
4pm – 4.30pm. Maite Robredo: "The Economic Agreement and the Tax Incentives to Foster Entrepreneurship"

4.30 — 5.pm. Coffee Break

Session 4: Social entrepreneurship

5pm – 5.30pm. Xabier Irujo (University of Nevada, Reno): "Nesting Entrepreneurship"
5.30pm – 6pm. Mert Firat (Actor): "Social Entrepreneurship in Turkey"

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