ACEDE 2027 BILBAO
36th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
XXXVI Congreso Internacional Nazioarteko Kongresua

Industry 5.0: Entrepreneurship, Technology and Social Impact for Sustainable Value Creation

Thematic Area: Entrepreneurship; Business, Society and Sustainability

Track Chairs:

- **María Saiz Santos –** maria.saiz@ehu.eus (University of the Basque Country, EHU)
- **Leire San-Jose –** (University of the Basque Country, EHU)

Summary:

The emergence of Industry 5.0 represents a significant shift in the economic and managerial paradigm (Piccarozzi et al. 2026), moving beyond purely technology-driven transformation towards a human-centric approach in which innovation, sustainability and societal well-being become central objectives of value creation (Breque et al., 2021; Carayannis & Morawska-Jancelewicz, 2022). While Industry 4.0 focused primarily on efficiency, automation and productivity, Industry 5.0 emphasises the integration of technological advancement with human, social and environmental goals, promoting resilient, sustainable and inclusive business models.

In this context, organisations face increasing pressure not only to generate economic returns but also to demonstrate measurable contributions to society. Consequently, social value creation, stakeholder engagement, responsible governance and impact measurement are becoming central elements of strategic management and entrepreneurship (Retolaza et al., 2016; Schaltegger & Wagner, 2011). At the same time, emerging technologies, digital platforms, artificial intelligence and open innovation ecosystems provide new opportunities to design business models capable of addressing complex societal challenges while maintaining competitiveness (Lage et al., 2022; DelValle-Araluce et al., 2026).

This track seeks to bring together research on entrepreneurship, sustainability, technology and social impact within the Industry 5.0 framework. Particular attention is given to three interconnected dimensions:

1. Sustainable business models and collaborative governance, exploring how organisations redesign value creation processes through open innovation, public–private partnerships, stakeholder participation and human-centric technologies (Cerchione et al. 2026; Martín Diez et al., 2025; Schaltegger & Wagner, 2011).
2. Social value measurement and monetisation, examining methodologies capable of translating social, emotional and environmental impacts into measurable and accountable outcomes for decision-makers (Retolaza et al., 2016; Fernández-Miguel et al., 2025).

3. Impact finance and responsible decision-making, analysing mechanisms through which governance, ethical leadership, financial inclusion and sustainability-oriented investment contribute to long-term societal value (Bugg-Levine & Emerson, 2011; DelValle-Araluce et al., 2026).

Researchers are invited to submit papers addressing, among others, the following questions:

1. How can entrepreneurial ventures and established organisations create sustainable competitive advantage while generating measurable social value?
2. What governance mechanisms, stakeholder relationships and collaborative ecosystems facilitate successful Industry 5.0 transitions?
3. How can social, environmental and emotional impacts be effectively measured and integrated into managerial and investment decisions?
4. What role do emerging technologies and artificial intelligence play in advancing human-centric and sustainable innovation?
5. How can financial systems and investment practices better incorporate social impact, ethical considerations and long-term sustainability?
6. To what extent do responsible governance and moral compliance models contribute to value creation and stakeholder legitimacy?

The added value of this track lies in its interdisciplinary approach, connecting entrepreneurship, technology, sustainability, social accounting, governance and impact finance within a unified Industry 5.0 perspective. By integrating technological innovation with measurable societal outcomes, the track aims to advance both academic knowledge and managerial practice, while contributing to contemporary debates on responsible business transformation, sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.

Key Topics:

1. I5.0 Sustainable and socially responsible entrepreneurial business models.
2. Social value creation, measurement, and monetization: I5.0 challenges
3. Stakeholder theory and multi-stakeholder governance
4. Open innovation, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship for social challenges.
5. Impact finance, responsible investment, and sustainable decision-making.
6. I5.0: Corporate governance, ethics, and moral compliance models.
7. Circular economy, sustainability, and social innovation.
8. Artificial intelligence and digital technologies serving human well-being and sustainability.
9. Entrepreneurship as a driver of regional resilience and sustainable legacy.

Keywords:

Industry 5.0; Social Value; Stakeholder Theory; Sustainable Entrepreneurship; Collaborative Governance; Impact Finance; Ethical Leadership; Financial Education; Social Impact Measurement; Open Innovation.

References:

Breque, M., De Nul, L., & Petridis, A. (2021). Industry 5.0: Towards a sustainable, human-centric and resilient European industry. European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. https://doi.org/10.2777/308407

Bugg-Levine, A., & Emerson, J. (2011). Impact investing: Transforming how we make money while making a difference. Jossey-Bass.

Carayannis, E. G., & Morawska-Jancelewicz, J. (2022). The futures of Europe: Society 5.0 and Industry 5.0 as driving forces of future universities. Journal of the Knowledge Economy, 13(4), 3445–3471. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13132-021-00854-2

Cerchione, R., Messeni Petruzzelli, A., Papa, A., & Sicardi, V. (2026). Industry 5.0 technologies to enable innovation in the era of twin transition: A case study on the nexus between SMEs and regulators. Technological Forecasting and Social Change, 230, Article 124761. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2026.124761

DelValle-Araluce, G., San-Jose, L., & Retolaza, J. L. (2026). Fintech survival drivers in digital market ecosystems: A fuzzy Delphi study under an institutional-evolutionary perspective. Electronic Commerce Research. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10660-026-10196-3

Fernández-Miguel, A., García-Muiña, F. E., Settembre-Blundo, D., Veglio, V., & Riccardi, M. P. (2025). Unlocking the social promise of Industry 5.0: Harnessing data-driven social life cycle assessment for corporate sustainability. Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management, 32(6), 8182–8198. https://doi.org/10.1002/csr.70128

Lage, O., Saiz-Santos, M., & Zarzuelo, J. M. (2022). Decentralized platform economy: Emerging blockchain-based decentralized platform business models. Electronic Markets, 32(3), 1707–1723. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12525-022-00586-4

Martín Diez, R., Saiz-Santos, M., & Torralba, N. (2025). Circular economy and environmental performance: Strategies and challenges for SMEs in Basque machinery and equipment industry. RIMCIS: Revista Internacional y Multidisciplinar en Ciencias Sociales, 14(2), 134–157. https://doi.org/10.17583/RIMCIS.15688

Piccarozzi, M., Caboni, F., & Bruni, R. (2026). Fostering well-being in Industry 5.0 through managerial behaviours and enabling technologies. Technological Forecasting and Social Change, 226, Article 124600. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2026.124600

Retolaza, J. L., San-Jose, L., & Ruiz-Roqueñi, M. (2016). Social accounting for sustainability: Monetizing the social value. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-13377-5

Schaltegger, S., & Wagner, M. (2011). Sustainable entrepreneurship and sustainability innovation: Categories and interactions. Business Strategy and the Environment, 20(4), 222–237. https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.682