

BASIC INCOME

An Eight-part Documentary Series

SYNOPSIS



“A simple and powerful idea for the twenty-first century”

Concept

*The idea formulated at the beginning of the last century by a Nobel prizewinning author. The reason for the Swiss and European Union petitions having enough signatories to force an official debate. Not a solution but a possibility for one. **Universal Basic Income – from birth for both men and women, the active and pensioners, workers and the unemployed, the healthy and the sick, that is – everyone. It is necessary! But is it possible?***

The series would be specially relevant (assuming that it would be an eight-part series broadcast fortnightly) in that the broadcasts would coincide with the first two public debates (Switzerland, 13th October 2013, and the EU in February 2014) on “*the aim is that every EU citizen, as an individual, has an unconditional legal right to be provided for*” - an initiative that in the past only uprisings and revolutions have had among their goals, as it involves agreeing on an expanded conception of human rights to be incorporated into current legal systems.

An important feature of this proposal is that it does not involve a power struggle between different political actors, but is independent of both political parties and other independent interest groups, affecting everyone equally – it is about **the techniques of cultural evolution**.

A particular responsibility of the series is to present objectively the positions of both supporters and opponents, and to explain the different levels of the proposed system that, while relatively complex in detail, can be fairly easily ranked according to their results.

We believe that the series format for television - if the high standards mentioned above can be achieved – provides the best form for the topic (in comparison with the well-known, and by many thought to be the best, documentary “*Basic Income: A Cultural Impulse*”, an evening long interpretation by the Swiss producers *Daniel Hani* and *Enno Schmidt*, made in 2008, and subsequently achieving cult status) because a series broadcast over several months:

- is made up of smaller units, so that fewer unknown perspectives need to be presented, while remaining inspiring, interesting, lifelike;
- allows participants to present their positions, sometimes complementing, sometimes disagreeing with, each other;
- engages the audience, leading to discussions that will attract new viewers;
- can discuss the basic definitions and questions, together with the resulting basic criticisms, in comparable situations that are found time and again.

To describe the Swiss and EU referenda as historic is no exaggeration. So that – independently of the outcome of the civil initiative – these events are in themselves engrossing, providing the authenticity and excitement of on the spot coverage, while being among the first to chronicle an idea from its inception, and as such it will remain an exceptional fundamental document.

Series Structure and Dramaturgy

Eight-part (8 x 48 min) with an introductory and closing episode, the remaining six episodes comprising cultural research reports shot in six countries. The interviewer remains the same (selected through a rigorous casting process, having good knowledge of English, German and French) – a man about 30 yrs old. He represents the curious, open-minded but constantly sceptical viewer who is open to persuasion by expert argument. There will be six interviewees, each a recognized expert from whom we expect objective answers comprehensible by the layman, to a wide range of questions.

What is here described as a research/interview is one that is committed to the most accurate, clear and readily understandable presentation. An objective, unbiased and dispassionate position, free of personal ambition and intentionally distant from political interests.

On the one hand the reporter must in each case prepare for the actualities (country/expert), on the other there are between five and eight fundamental questions which during the course of the interviews always will be asked.

The discussions that take place in the six selected countries will constitute the spine of the series, determining its character, and illustrated by comprehensible reports, episodes and images.

The conversations would take place in public places, walking freely (on roads, in parks) – peri-patetically. Images taken at twilight with a stabilized camera will add detail and tone-rich, deep colors. The two men finally arrive at a rest area (restaurant, cafe) - the discussions are closed there.

We will definitely want to avoid the traditional interview format (sitting behind a desk in front of bookshelves)

1 – *The nature and history of UBI*

2 – Switzerland

3 – Hungary

4 – USA

5 – India

6 – Belgium, Holland

7 – Germany

8 – *European Union*

Because, if there existed a principle formulated to describe the current situation – that is, if we were to assume that this situation was born from and realized by man's free will – then this principle could only be: the way in which a member of society most usefully occupies his role, in both his own eyes and those of others, is the one made possible by the current labor market.

1

DEFINITION

Basic income guarantee

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basic_income_guarantee

basic income guarantee (also called a **universal living wage**, **universal wage guarantee**, **basic income** or **citizen's income**) is a proposed system of social security - basic income is entirely unconditional

<http://www.basicincome.org/bien/aboutbasicincome.html>

HISTORY

<http://www.basicincome.org/bien/aboutbasicincome.html#history>

<http://www.usbig.net/index.php>

2

CH

Bedingungsloses Grundeinkommen, a Facebook page in German, obtained its 50,000th follower in the summer of 2011. The page was created by Daniel Häni and Benjamin Hohlmann in Basel, Switzerland. The popularity of this site is just a small sign of the extent to which the BIG movement is taking off in German-speaking countries from the grass roots to the highest levels. Five of the six major parties in Germany have Basic Income factions. Dozens of members of the German Parliament have endorsed Basic Income. The national German BIG network is a large and growing organization, which has regular events often in cooperation with Swiss and Austrian groups. The German BIG Network will host the 2012 BIEN Congress in Munich. German-speaking countries have something that few other countries have: local Basic Income groups with regular activities in many German cities. **Daniel Häni** and **Enno Schmidt** founded a Swiss group in **2006 in Basel**. They produced the documentary "**Basic Income. A Cultural Impulse**" (released in 2008), which is the most popular movie about BI in Germany and Switzerland.

<http://bien-ch.ch/>

<http://www.basicincome.org/bien/pdf/dublin08/4ciiiericpatrybidebateswitzerland.pdf>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mP1lgPKKODQ>

3

HU

<http://ekomozgalom.hu/alapjovedelem-alairasgyujtes-mar-27-orszagban/>

<http://alapjovedelem.hu/index.php/film-alapjovedelem>

<http://alapjovedelem.hu/>

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USA / CANADA

Mincome

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mincome>

<http://www.disinfo.com/2013/02/the-forgotten-history-of-a-canadian-towns-experiment-with-guaranteed-income/>

Alaska Permanent Fund

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Permanent_Fund

<http://www.apfc.org/home/Content/home/index.cfm>

GiveDirectly

Massachusetts-based non-profit organisation founded in 2008 by four people who were then graduate students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Paul Niehaus, Michael Faye, Rohit Wanchoo, and Jeremy Shapiro*. GiveDirectly went public in 2012, and it has recently received a grant to expand beyond Kenya

<http://www.givedirectly.org/>

<http://marginalrevolution.com/marginalrevolution/2012/12/the-story-of-givedirectly.html>

BIG pilot project in Namibia

<http://www.bignam.org/>

<http://usbignet.org/bigblog/2008/10/big-pilot-project-in-namibia-has-positive-impact/>

5

INDIA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6mYSNpcscQ>

6

BELGIUM / NETHERLANDS

Philippe Van Parijs

<http://bostonreview.net/BR25.5/vanparijs.html>

Jurgen De Wispelaere and Lindsay Stirton

A disarmingly simple idea? Practical bottlenecks in the implementation of a universal basic income

<http://gsadi.uab.cat/index.php/members/external-members/jurgen>

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DE

<http://grundeinkommen.tv/>

<https://www.grundeinkommen.de/>

Götz, Werner

<http://alapjovedelem.hu/index.php/film-alapjovedelem>

<http://www.livableincome.org/agotzwerner.htm>

<http://www.ruthlesscriticism.com/guaranteedincome.htm>

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EU / SUM

European Citizens Initiative (ECI)

Unconditional Basic Income (UBI)

A historical campaign is born / January, 2013

Organizers from 14 European countries to start collecting their signatures of support. Hereby starts a 12-month European-wide campaign for basic income in Europe, with the goal of collecting one million signatures.

<http://basicincome2013.eu/ubi/counter/>

<http://basicincome2013.eu/ubi/signup-page/>

ESTABLISHED PAGES ABOUT BASIC INCOME IN EUROPE

The European Citizen's Initiative:

<https://www.facebook.com/ECI.BasicIncome>

Germany:

<http://facebook.com/bedingungsloses.grundeinkommen>

Finland: <https://facebook.com/perustulo>

France: <https://facebook.com/RevenudeBase>

Spain: <https://facebook.com/pages/Renta-Básica-Universal/123828707803059>

Netherlands: <https://facebook.com/pages/Vereniging-Basisinkomen/165488696805185>

United Kingdom: <https://facebook.com/BasicIncomeUK>

Italy: <https://facebook.com/redditodicittadinanzacom>

Portugal: <https://facebook.com/pages/Rendimento-Básico-Portugal/532136470163992>

Slovenia: <https://facebook.com/pages/Univerzalni-temeljni-dohodek/493981737287209>

Denmark: <https://facebook.com/BorgerlonBasisindkomst>

Norway: <https://facebook.com/BorgerlonnBienNorge>

Switzerland (FR):

<https://facebook.com/Pour.1Revenu.inconditionnel.de.base>

Switzerland (DE):

<https://facebook.com/pages/Volksinitiative-bedingungsloses-Grundeinkommen/176302792472898>

Belgium:

<https://facebook.com/BelgianNetworkForBasicIncome>

Luxembourg: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Initiativ-bedingungslost-Grondakommes-Lëtzebuerg/114594111896211>

Sweden: <https://facebook.com/BasinkomstMedborgarlon>

Hungary: <https://facebook.com/Alapveto.Jovedelem>

WORLDWIDE

<http://www.globalincome.org/English/BI-worldwide.html>

BIEN

<http://binews.org/>



The founding meeting of BIEN in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium), 1986. From left to right on stage: Riccardo Petrella, Greetje Lubbi, Anne Miller, Nic Douben, Philippe Van Parijs, Claus Offe, Bill Jordan.

Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN)

which was founded in **1986** as the Basic Income European Network and expanded to become an Earth-wide Network in 2004

<http://www.basicincome.org/bien/papers.html#2010>

ARGENTINA

Red Argentina de Ingreso Ciudadano

Founded in March 2004

www.ingresociudadano.org

President: Rubén M. Lo Vuolo

AUSTRALIA

Basic Income Guarantee Australia (BIGA)

Founded in 2002

www.basicincome.qut.edu.au

Coordinator: Gregory Marston

AUSTRIA

Netzwerk Grundeinkommen und sozialer Zusammenhalt -

B.I.E.N. Austria

Founded in October 2002

www.grundeinkommen.at

Coordinator: Margit Appel

BELGIUM

Belgian Network for Basic Income

Founded on June 27, 2012

Organizing Committee: Adeline Otto, Aline Goethals, Anne-Marie Prieels, Christina Lambrecht, Hugo Lueders, Jean-Paul Brasseur, Marc Vandenberghe, Merijn Fagard, Pierre-Yves Ryckaert, Raf Knops.

BRAZIL

Rede Brasileira de Renda Básica de Cidadania

Founded in September 2004

Coordinator: Eduardo Suplicy

eduardo.suplicy@senador.gov.br

CANADA

BIEN Canada

Founded in June 2008

<http://biencanada.wordpress.com>

Coordinator: Jim Mulvale

DENMARK

Borgerlønsbevægelsen
Founded in January 2000
<http://www.basisindkomst.dk>
BIEN Danmarks sekretariat:
v. Per Sørensen

FINLAND

Suomen perustuloverkosto
Founded in May 2011
Coordination team: Johanna Perkiö, Jukka Peltokoski, Simo Ruottinen, Otto Lehto

GERMANY

Netzwerk Grundeinkommen
Founded in July 2004
www.grundeinkommen.de
Spokespersons: Reimund Acker, Ronald Blaschke, Matthias Blöcher,
Ralf Engelke, Stefan Ziller

IRELAND

BIEN Ireland
Founded in March 1995
Coordinator: John Baker and Anne B Ryan

ITALY

Bin Italia (Basic Income Network Italy)
Founded in July 2008
<http://www.bin-italia.org>
President: Luca Santini (luca.santini@bin-italia.org)
Contact person: Sandro Gobetti

JAPAN

Basic Income Japanese Network
Founded in November 2007
Coordinator: Toru Yamamori

MEXICO

Red Mexicana Ingreso Ciudadano Universal
Founded in April 2008
Coordinator: Pablo Yanes
Website: <http://www.icu.org.mx>

NETHERLANDS

Vereniging Basisinkomen
Coordinator: Adriaan Planken, voorzitter

SLOVENIA

Sekcija za promocijo UTD v Sloveniji
Founded on the 20th of January, 2010
Coordinator: Branko Gerlic
Contact persons: Branko Gerlic

SOUTH KOREA

Basic Income Korean Network (BIKN)
Founded in June 2009
Website: <http://cafe.daum.net/basicincome>

SPAIN

Red Renta Basica
Founded in February 2001
www.redrentabasica.org
President: Daniel Raventós

SWITZERLAND

BIEN Switzerland
Founded in September 2002
President: Albert Jörimann
<http://www.revenudebase.ch>

UNITED KINGDOM

Citizen's Income Trust
Founded in 1984 (initially as "Basic Income Research Group")
www.citizensincome.org
Director: Malcolm Torry

UNITED STATES

U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network (USBIG)
Founded in December 1999
www.usbig.net
Coordinator: Michael Howard