

Basic Income and Gender Equality

The unconditional basic income on its own cannot create gender equality. Yet, an individualised basic income drawing and the enhancing of occupation beyond gainful employment crucially contribute to a more equal gender relation. Our basic income concept is accompanied by the extension and democratisation of the social service sector, by the principle of 'equal wages for equal work' and by a radical gender related redistribution of socially required - paid and unpaid - work.

Basic Income and Ecology

The basic income offers the chance of redirecting economy and work to their original and social context, that is to no longer ignore the consequences of supposedly productive economic acting. A reductionist economic way of thinking, following the maxim of 'work at least', and the existential fears of wage earners prevent a genuine discussion of the outrageous drain on human and natural resources. The basic income is one possibility to repulse the existential and state compulsion of irresponsible ecological, social and economic acting. It creates the basis for a broad discussion and the shaping of what should responsibly be produced and consumed by man.

Basic Income and Public Infrastructure

The basic income is no alternative to the extension of public infrastructure and service, such as cultural activities, mobility, education, social and health services. On the contrary: basic income and public infrastructure are simply two sides of the same approach. Both should unconditionally be at everyone's disposal so that the human right of social security and societal participation is extensively guaranteed to literally everybody. People should be able to democratically decide on the actual organization of both sides. Thereby, launching the basic income and extending public infrastructures also promote democratic processes.

Basic Income – Europe-wide and global

The idea of a basic income has been discussed in many different countries all over the world. The Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) thereby takes a decisive role as international communication platform. Social movements such as Attac discuss the basic income as a global socialright. In Namibia a successful regional basic income project was carried out, in Brazil and India were launched similar projects. In Europe the concept has met particularly positive reactions in Finland and Denmark. Broad discussions also take place in Belgium, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, France and Spain. Keeping the European Union in mind, this offers interesting possibilities to launch a Europe-wide basic income.



Who we are?

The federal basic income working group (BAG Grundeinkommen) of the German party DIE LINKE. is an amalgamation of basic income supporters within the German Left Party. The group's aim is to establish the concept of a basic income in discussions within and outside of the Left Party, to be convincing in debates, to consider options of a gradual introduction of a basic income in Germany and in Europe and to win societal and parliamentary majorities for a basic income concept.

Basic Income – What is it?

The concept of an unconditional basic income means an individually guaranteed right to receive an income ensuring minimum existence and societal participation that does not include means tests and is not connected to any obligation to work or any other service in return. It is the human right of unconditional economical, social, cultural and political participation. This concept specifically excludes any force of service in return by threat of repression as well as the obligation to depend on income or property of family members. A basic income radically fights poverty as stigmatisations and negative discriminations through means tests, consequently leading to poverty, are completely omitted. It is the socio-economic basis of liberty, guaranteeing individual and independent choice of life plans, forms of occupation and extent of participation.

Our basic income concept

The concept of the federal basic income working group (BAG Grundeinkommen) of the German party DIE LINKE. provides a monthly basic income of 1080 Euro for everyone aged 16 or older. Children up to the age of 16 years receive a monthly amount of 540 Euro. The basic income level is above the national poverty risk. Endangered of poverty are those people having less than 60% of the national median net equivalent income at their disposal. A modified housing benefit is granted in addition to the basic income together with other additional benefits meeting special demands to support pregnant women or people with special needs (disabled, chronically ill). Also, the basic income can be accumulated with additional sources of income so that the total income consists of net income plus basic income.

Basic Income pays off

A basic income according to the BAG Grundeinkommen's concept is not cheap, yet it can definitely be financed as it consequently redistributes from top to bottom. Gross costs of 569-589 billion Euro (negative income tax) or 985 billion Euro (social dividend) are met by additional state revenues through rising ecologically oriented consume and savings regarding repressive and discriminating or totally insufficient tax financed social services such as the German social benefit system Hartz IV, child benefits or student loans. Funding of the basic income is further guaranteed by a basic income tax of 33,5% on all income other than the basic income. This is accompanied by different taxes on non monetary capital, primary energy and consume of luxury goods. On the losing side of this concept are those with extremely high income or extremely huge property. Yet, on the winning side are middle and lower incomes below a monthly gross income of 7.000 Euro which covers a majority of the population.

Basic Income – Minimum Wages – Reduction in Working Hours – Civic Insurance

The basic income is tied to a statutory reduction in working hours and the introduction of comprehensive statutory minimum wages. Gainful employment can and must not be an obligation. Yet, where people decide to take on any gainful employment it has to be humane, decent and democratically organized. Pension, health care and nursing care insurances within our basic income concept are reorganized in a civic insurance system. The social insurance system undergoes complete restructuring and extension.

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