

International Conference

„Unconditional Basic Income and Inequalities in Society“
19 - 20 March 2015

3rd UBIE Meeting

21 - 22 March 2015

Maribor, Slovenia



UNCONDITIONAL
BASIC INCOME
EUROPE

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

International Conference

3rd UBIE Meeting

Thursday, 19 March

13.00-14.00
Accreditation

14.00-15.00
Welcome

15.00-17.00
Panel I

17.00-17.30
Coffee Break

17.30-19.30 - Discussion:
Speakers & Audience

19.30 - Presentation of
the Agenda for Friday

Friday, 20 March

9.30-11.00
Presentation I / II

11.00-11.30
Coffee Break

11.30-13.00
Presentation III / IV

13.00-15.00
Lunch

15.00-16.00 - Discussion
about Presentations

16.00-17.30
Panel II

17.30-18.00
Coffee Break

18.00-19.00 - Discussion:
Speakers & Audience

19.00 - Closing Remarks /
Invitation to UBIE

Saturday, 21 March

10.00-10.15
Welcome

10.15-11.15
Country Reports

11.15-11.30
Coffee Break

11.30-11.45
Report from Chair

11.45-12.30 - Constitution
of Membership/Election

12.30-14.00
Lunch

14.00-15.45
Strategies & Discussion

15.45-16.00
Coffee Break

16.00-17.00 - Strategy
Decisions & Next Steps

Sunday, 22 March

10.00-11.15
Affiliations & Alliances

11.15-11.30
Coffee Break

11.30-12.30
Any other Business

12.30-14.00
Lunch

14.00-16.00
Working Group Meetings

16.00
End of 3rd UBIE Meeting

Supper

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Welcome.....	3
Panel 1.....	4
Presentation I + II	5
Presentation III	6
Presentation IV.....	7
Panel 2.....	8

3rd UBIE MEETING

Agenda.....	11
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SPEAKERS

List of Speakers.....	12
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

List of contributions.....	14
Important Information.....	15

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

MARIBOR

19–20 March 2015

WELCOME

Dear Participants!

We welcome you to the International Conference “Unconditional Basic Income and Inequalities in Society” in Maribor, Slovenia. This conference is organised by Zofijini Ljubimci, a civil organization from Maribor on behalf of and in cooperation with UBI-Europe – an alliance of individuals and organisations in support of unconditional basic income in Europe.

In this conference new social paradigms will be introduced and discussed – including Unconditional Basic Income (UBI). The possibilities of UBI to reduce inequalities will be researched and further action will be discussed.

We are looking forward to a rewarding and thought-provoking conference!

Aleksandra Žorž, President of Zofijini Ljubimci

Branko Gerlič, Coordinator of the UBI section

Tanja Fajon, Member of EU Parliament

Dr. Danijel Rebolj, Director of the University of Maribor

Barbara Jacobson, Unconditional Basic Income Europe – UBIE

Panel 1

PANEL I UBI AS A RESPONSE TO INEQUALITY IN SOCIETY

○ **Culture of poverty** | *Dr. Sreco Dragos*

○ **The inequality of freedom** | *DDr. Karl Widerquist*

Karl Widerquist has written extensively on a variety of topics, including basic income, ethical issues, the relationship to freedom and to equality and current policies.

○ **Inequality, health and UBI** | *Werner Rätz*

Werner Rätz's contribution focuses on UBI as a means to improving public health and life expectancy. In societies with greater inequality people are sick more often and their life expectancy is shorter. This affects people from all strata of society, be they poor or rich. UBI as a means to improving social equality in a society will also have a positive effect on public health.

○ **Step-by-step to solidarity in Europa** | *Dr. Otto Lüdemann*

Dr. Otto Lüdemann's contribution champions the idea that a systematic and Europe-wide reorientation from the current system of concurrent taxation of income and consumption to primarily a consumption tax could make a crucial contribution to solving the currently seemingly hopeless European crisis. This would be even more effective if the changeover was linked to a step-by-step introduction of a basic income.

A Three-Step-Plan is proposed to bring about this change. This Three-Step-Plan for introducing an Unconditional Basic Income on a European level includes:

1. Funding of social benefits via public financing – instead of social security contributions – keeping up social standards without changing the whole system (proposal by J.M. Scattolin)
2. A Euro-Dividend, i.e. a “modest basic income” (proposal by Philippe van Parijs) will be financed via a European-wide harmonised added-value-tax combined with a new «qualitative added-value-tax»
3. Ensuring a full basic income, which guarantees real participation in society; additionally wage and income taxes will be replaced by a consumption tax (in principle without extra costs).

Within this panel Lüdemann will emphasise political and strategical aspects of this Three-Step-Plan, rather than its financial aspects (these will be addressed in Panel II).

○ **Social inequalities, resulting in income inequalities** | *Dr. Tanja Renner*

Presentation 1 & 2

PRESENTATION I INTRODUCING UBI PARTNERS IN SLOVENIA

In this session the following speakers will introduce the Slovenian UBI partners:

Terezija Novak (Slovenian Philanthropy)

Felicita Medved (Brussels, European Liberal Forum)

Euro Brozic (Slovenia, Trade Union)

Elena Pecaric (Slovenia, YHD)

PRESENTATION II NEW TASKS FOR UBI ACTIVISTS

○ **TTIP – improving inequality** | *Andrej Gnezda*

○ **Environmental Challenges and UBI** | *Stephen McCarthy*

This paper approaches UBI from an environmental, and somewhat philosophical, perspective. The world cannot continue to exploit the Earth's non-renewable resources and pollute its ecosystem at its present unsustainable rate. The inevitable implication of this 'inconvenient truth' is that the rich world, in particular, will have to reduce its consumption of material goods and energy and economic growth, as conventionally measured, will have to cease. However, with the exception of the work of Peter Victor, there have hitherto been few economic and social studies of the implications of the transition to a zero-growth economy. And in the meantime politicians, across the entire political spectrum, advocate economic growth as a major objective. Why should this be so? And what solutions are there?

○ **T.B.A.** | *Georgi Nedelchev*

○ **The idea of basic income as a struggle for human type of psyche around the world** | *Vahur Luhtsalu*

The following topics will be covered:

1. capitalism as religion
2. a long road of mankind from monetary exchange to basic income
3. ideas crushing the old cultural stereotypes and types of psyche of the mankind
4. understanding and accepting unusual, often complex ideas has to do with type of psyche a person has acquired through social environment during his/her lifetime. This leads to the following conclusion: promotion of UBI is not only about promoting a humanistic idea, but also about fighting for a (re)introduction of human type of psyche around the world.

Presentation 3

PRESENTATION III ALLIANCES AND EUROPEAN UBI GROUPS

Discussion on the European cooperation of social movements and/or platforms for individual contributions.

○ **T.B.A.** | *Barb Jacobson*

○ **T.B.A.** | *Ägidius Jung* (Switzerland)

○ **Shorter working week** | *Margareta Steinrücke*

The Bundesarbeitsgruppe “ArbeitFairTeilen” (“ShareLabourFairly”) from Attac Deutschland asked for a reduction in working hours on the condition that employees will receive the same payment (at least for lower and middle income) and additional people are employed. The group formulated a number of reasons, why this should be done and why this is an important measure.

The group want to establish a new European platform for this issue and consider if this should perhaps be done with an ECI in 2016. In this context, a 30-hour work week was regarded as too much by many. The idea of a 20-hour work week would be acceptable but to get the necessary support from unions, it was decided that the 30-hour work week was more feasible.

○ **Quantitative Easing for the People** | *Stanislas Jourdan*

○ **UBI and well-being** | *Werner Rätz*

In this presentation Werner Rätz argues that modern society must make a contribution to the well-being of its citizens. Markets should not be responsible for providing infrastructure, such as transport, energy, communication, and education to citizens. However, societies should provide both the financial means and infrastructure necessary for the well-being of each citizen and society as a whole.

Presentation 4

PRESENTATION IV THEORIES ON UBI

○ **UBI – Types of human psyche** | *Tsvetelina Kalyasheva*

○ **T.B.A.** | *Dr. Andrej Kurnik*

○ **Social inequality and the sustainable development** | *Nina Šoštarič*

UBI as a monetary incentive can be seen as a reimbursement for the time that has been spent in non-profit activities. It is thus necessary to ensure UBI as a payment for all activities in the non-market sphere. Activities such as exchange, co-working, sharing and so on, which are linked to an autonomous sphere are definitely more sustainable than market activities.

The UBI system, largely funded from green taxes, would direct consumption to environmentally-friendly products and services. The introduction of UBI would reduce the importance of employment and thus break the link between economic growth and provide full employment.

With UBI jobs could be shared by all as a joint intellectual property. In addition, this new paradigm would increase the proportion of non-market activities and trade exchange among non-consumerist individuals.

○ **The multiple tasks of UBI: Macro reformulations of von Hayek's argument on Basic Income** | *Alberto Bomba*

In this presentation I propose a macro reformulation of von Hayek's early (micro) economic works to attempt an in-depth analysis of EU's dysfunctions, due to an imbalance of economics and financial instability between EU member states (which could have been solved earlier through an expansive monetary policy). Through this analysis I will argue in favour of UBI as a viable solution to social inequalities caused by economic depression.

In the light of Hayek's over-investment crisis model, UBI can foster a response to the risk related to massive financierization of economies, even before being legitimized as a state economic policy's tool.

Basic income would reduce social inequalities caused by economic depression as well as the winner-take-all effects by introducing technological innovation, which tends to distribute income and power from those who spend more (lower/middle income workers) to those who save more (creditors, high-net -worth individuals and corporate firms).

Panel 2

PANEL II COMPARING FINANCING MODELS AND IDEAS

○ **Model for financing an Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) in Austria** | *Klaus Sambor*

In this workshop the adaptive financing model for Austria will be presented. This model makes sure that by changing Austria's tax system, money can be distributed from the rich to the poor. In this way the inequalities in our society will be reduced, which results in a "double effect": reduction of inequality and the possibility to finance the Unconditional Basic Income.

Model for financing an Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) by Attac Group Basic Income Discussion paper Version 2013: <http://community.attac.at/grundeinkommen.html>. By clicking on the right you can access two model calculations:

Short version: BGE_Fin.modell2013kurz.pdf

Long version: BGE_Fin.modell_2013lang.pdf

○ **Basic Income calculation algorithm – case of Slovenia** | *Dr. Valerija Korošec* Korošec will present the Basic Income proposal for Slovenia and its ramifications. Practical questions that arise when discussing the introduction of a Basic Income in Slovenia include:

who will receive a basic income?; how much will the basic income be?; what will children receive?; how is the Basic Income financed?; will the introduction of a basic income reduce inequality and effectively be better than a means-tested welfare system?; how will a basic income be paid?. Korošec will present Slovenia's solutions to these questions, the basic income calculation algorithm, and its proposed Basic Income programme.

http://www.umar.gov.si/publikacije/single/publikacija/zapisi/valerija_korosec_pred-log_utd_v_sloveniji_zakaj_in_kako/

○ **Comparing economic fundamentals, distributional and economic effects of two ways of financing basic income France** | *Jean-Eric Hyafil*

France, among other western countries, tries to tackle poverty through means-tested welfare programs. Basic income is an alternative proposition to address poverty. It can be seen as a subsidy for people rather than for jobs.

There are two main propositions to finance a basic income without totally disturbing current redistribution: either with an income tax, or with an added value based on social contribution.

We will focus on the VAT-financed basic income and compare it to current existing systems.

Panel 2

○ **The European Dividend** | *Dr. Joze Mencinger*

○ **Eco-Euro Dividend – a step to Basic Income in Europe** | *Dr. Ulrich Schachtschneider*
Schachtschneider presents the idea of financing Basic Income through the introduction of eco taxes. The revenue of ecological fees on undesired consumption of resources or waste production (e.g. CO₂, raw materials, land sealing, infiltration of nitrates) will be shared equally with everyone. In other words: every citizen, from babies to the elderly, from rich to poor, will be paid an “eco-bonus”, respectively an “ecological basic income”.

Normally new paradigms can only be established with prototypes and small pilot schemes. An eco-bonus is highly suited for such an incremental implementation of Basic Income. It can be introduced slowly, parallel to the previous social security scheme in order to first introduce the principle itself: Every European citizen receives unconditionally a share from the common inheritance of society, the richness of resources, knowledge, and production. The constitution of this right would be a step to more social cohesion in Europe.

Mathematical models | *Uroš Boltin*

When discussing the question of financing the universal basic income (UBI) various factors play a role. It is not only the amount of UBI itself that matters. The details of associated tax reforms, welfare reforms, etc. can impact the national budget significantly. To assess some of these effects in Slovenia, an MS Excel application was developed which allows entering various parameters and seeing the results. In the example the exact numbers for the year 2010 were used, because statistical data for this year was available.

The focus is on taxation. I believe that using primarily an income tax scale to finance UBI would be the most natural choice. With regard to the reduction of existing welfare mechanisms, which the UBI partly replaces, the MS application is less flexible since this involves fewer mathematical but more political complications.

Financing UBI by “Consumption tax” and “Qualitative added value tax”: Pros and Cons | *Dr. Otto Lüdemann*

In this contribution Lüdemann will develop the financial aspect of his Three-Step-Plan for introducing a guaranteed Basic Income on a European level in more detail (for Lüdemann’s Three-Step-Plan, see Panel I). He will outline arguments criticizing the principle of a consumption tax, emphasize generally lesser known advantages of this type of taxation and speak about the principle of the proposed new type of “qualitative added value tax”.

3rd UBIE MEETING

MARIBOR

21–22 March 2015

Agenda

SATURDAY, 21 MARCH 2015

10.00 – 10.15	Welcome from Slovenian organisers (with reflection on conference)
10.15 – 11.15	Short reports from each country (no more than 5 min. each) about what is going on with basic income there/what they're doing locally (plus Health group - Angelika, ten mins)
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 11.45	Report from Chair concerning UBIE since Athens + Discussion
11.45 – 12.30	Constitution of membership – Elections for board via blind proposal/ballot
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 14.15	Strategy for UBIE over next year/two years – Intro RE draft
14.15 – 15.00	Small group discussion
15.00 – 15.45	Results of discussion
15.45 – 16.00	Coffee Break
16.00 – 17.00	Decisions for strategy, next steps for UBIE (specific actions– UBI week, other possibilities like ECI, conference, etc.)
17.00	END

SUNDAY, 22 MARCH 2015

10.00 – 11.15	Affiliations/alliances – TTIP, working hours, QE for people, European Anti-poverty Network, Social Platform (ten minutes each?) + decisions
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 12.30	Any other business
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 16.00	working groups meetings
16.00	END

Speakers

Uroš Boltin

Uroš Boltin is a member of “Movement for Justice and Development” (founded by former president of Slovenia, Janez Drnovšek, to help promote various alternative ideas for creating a better society in Slovenia). Boltin has a degree in physics but researches UBI and has been the author of various calculations and models of possible basic income reforms in Slovenia since 2005.

Alberto Bomba

Bachelor's degree in Philosophy at the University of Rome “La Sapienza”. He has obtained a Master cum laude in Political Science at the University of Roma Tre with a thesis on “The role of wages, real and monetary factors in Hayek's business cycle theory”. His preferred fields of study is the theory and history of states' intervention in the market as well as enquiries of the relationship between democracy and economics throughout the history of EU integration.

Stephen McCarthy

The author is a former staff member of the European Investment Bank (EIB). Prior to joining the EIB, Stephen McCarthy worked as an economist in the government of Botswana – one of the very few successful African countries at that time. Stephen is a Renaissance polymath: not for him the narrow specialisation. A physicist by training, he then moved on to economics and from there to development finance. He has published two books on African development and has also edited a collection of theological essays. An earlier extended discussion of the issues in this paper: *The Environment, the Economy and the Good Life*, was published by the EIB Institute in 2014.

Dr. Sreco Dragos

Andrej Gnezda

Jean-Eric Hyafil

Jean-Eric Hyafil holds a doctorate in Economics from the Université Paris 1, Panthéon Sorbonne, Centre d'Economie de la Sorbonne. He is treasurer of the “Mouvement Français pour un Revenu de Base” (Basic Income Movement France).

Barb Jacobson

Tsvetelina Kalyasheva

Dr. Valerija Korošec

Valerija Korošec is the author of the Basic Income proposal in Slovenia: “Why and How” (2010) and co-editor of the book: “Basic Income in Slovenia” (2011), Krtina, Ljubljana. She is BIEN coordinator for Slovenia and employed at the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development for overall life satisfaction, poverty, material deprivation, income inequality analysis. She holds a Ph.D. in social sciences and a Masters Degree in European Social Policy Analysis. She is Professor of Sociology, Slovenian Language and Literature. She is from Maribor and lives in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Dr. Andrej Kurnic

Dr. Otto Lüdemann

Otto Lüdemann was lecturer in Educational Sciences at “Hamburg University of Applied Sciences”, where he has coordinated the international cooperation of the department of Social Work, which from 1990 to 2006 was within the framework of a European Chair Jean Monnet “European Cross-Cultural Studies”. Furthermore, he is engaged in the “International Erich-Fromm-Society” and in the “Hamburg Basic Income Network” and represented these organizations in the preparation and realization of the European Citizens' Initiative for Unconditional Basic Income in 2013 and in the foundation of UBI-Europe.

Speakers

Vahur Luhtsalu

Felicita Medved

Dr. Joze Mencinger

Georgi Nedelchev

Terezija Novak

Elena Pecaric

Dr. Tanja Renner

Werner Rätz

Werner Rätz is a founding member and part of the board of Attac Germany and active in the Information Center on Latin America (ila) in Bonn, Germany. He has been supporting the UBI-movement for decades as an activist and author.

Klaus Sambor

Dipl.-Ing. Klaus Sambor, since 2004 coordinator at Attac for basic income. Member of "Round Table Basic Income", "Network Basic Income and Social Cohesion" and Board Member of the "Initiative Civil Society".

Dr. Ulrich Schachtschneider

Nina Šoštarič

Nina Šoštarič was born in Maribor and lives in Dublin. She holds a Master's in Philosophy and focuses her research on Basic Income with regards to Environmental Ethics. Theoretically, she is an advocate of social and environmental justice, influenced by the work of Peter Singer and Arne Naess. She is interested in intrinsic values of social and natural phenomena through alternative production and cooperation. She is an activist and campaigner for oppressed women, children and slaves, factory and lab animals, the natural environment. She is a strong believer in positive change away from paternalistic patterns of behaviour and attitude perception.

Margareta Steinrücke

Sociologist in the areas of work and gender; speaker for equality and gender politics for the Chamber of Labour (Arbeitnehmerkammer) in Bremen; active in the "Bundes-AG ArbeitFairTeilen" of Attac Germany and the initiative "Arbeitszeitverkürzung jetzt!" (Reduction in Working Hours Now!)

DDr. Karl Widerquist

Karl Widerquist is an Associate Professor at SFS-Qatar, Georgetown University. He specializes in political philosophy. His research is mostly in the area of distributive justice—the ethics of who has what. He holds two doctorates—one in Political Theory from Oxford University (2006) and one in Economics from the City University of New York (1996). He is the author of „Independence, Propertylessness, and Basic Income: A Theory of Freedom as the Power to Say No“ (Palgrave Macmillan 2013). He is coauthor of „Economics for Social Workers“ (Columbia University Press 2002) and a range of other publications. He was a founding editor of the journal Basic Income Studies, and he has published more than twenty scholarly articles and book chapters. His articles have appeared in journals such as Political Studies; the Eastern Economic Journal; Politics and Society; and Politics, Philosophy, and Economics.

List of Contributions

LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS: CONFERENCE MEETING (19 – 20 March 2015)

AUTHOR	CONTRIBUTION	LANGUAGES
Uroš Boltin	Mathematical models	
Alberto Bomba	F. A. von Hayek's first reflections on unconditional minimum income	
Stephen McCarthy	Environmental Challenges and UBI (Abstract)	
Dr. Sreco Dragos	Culture of poverty	
Andrej Gnezda	TTIP – improving inequality	
Jean-Eric Hyafil	Comparing economic fundamentals, distributional and economic effects of two ways of financing basic income	
Tsvetelina Kalyasheva	UBI – Types of human psyche	
Dr. Valerija Korošec	Financing UBI in Slovenia	
Dr. Andrej Kurnic	TTIP – improving inequality	
Dr. Otto Lüdemann	Step-by-Step to Solidarity in Europe. Financing UBI by "Consumption tax" and "Qualitative added value tax": Pros and Cons	German
Vahur Luhtsalu	The idea of basic income as a struggle for human type of psyche around the world	
Dr. Tanja Rener	Social inequalities, resulting in income inequalities	
Werner Rätz	Inequality, health and UBI. UBI and well-being	
Klaus Sambor	Model for financing an Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) in Austria	German
Dr. Ulrich Schachtschneider	Eco-Euro Dividend – a step to Basic Income in Europe (Complete abstract)	
Nina Šoštarič	On social inequality and the sustainable development	
Margareta Steinrücke	30 Hours a Week for Europe – Overcoming the Crisis with Shorter Working Hours	German, French, Spanish
DDr. Karl Widerquist	The inequality of freedom	

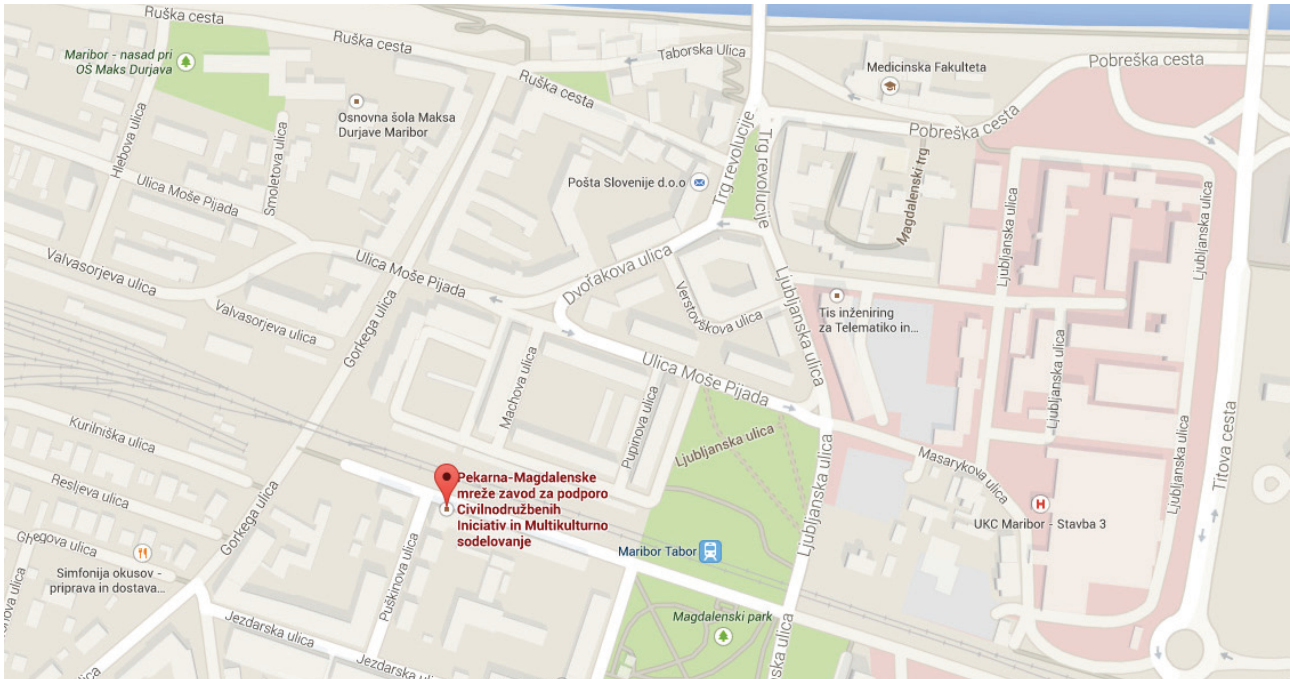
LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS: 3rd UBIE MEETING (21 – 22 March 2015)

Jean-Eric Hyafil	Comparing economic fundamentals, distributional and economic effects of two ways of financing basic income	
Ulli Sambor	How UBI can have a direct impact on the state of health of a society and its members (4 parts)	German, French

Important Information

CONFERENCE DETAILS

The conference will be held at: Pekarna Magdalenske mreže (Centre for Alternative Culture)
Address: Ob železnici 8, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia



RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHERE TO STAY IN MARIBOR

Hostel Pekarna

hostelpekarna@mkc.si

Phone: +386 59 180 880

Prices: € 20 to 26 per person and night

Hotel Orel or Hostel UNI

orel@termemb.si

Phone: +386 2 25 06 700

Prices: € 80 (1/1); 90 (2/1); 120 (2/2) Hotel Orel

€ 33 up to 84 – Hostel Uni

Garni hotel Milena

info@hotelmilena-garni.com

Prices: € 40 (1/1), 65 (2/2), 80 (3/3)

Garni hotel Bajt

info@hotel-bajt.com

Phone: +386 2 332 7 650

Prices: € 41,27 (1/1), 56,54 (2/2) – annex

or € 53,25 (1/1), 76,54 (2/2) – hotel

For further information on accommodation available in Maribor during the conference, please contact: utd.slovenija@gmail.com

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... and all contributors and participants
of this conference