

Short report on the Workshop „New ECI on UBI“

(24. Sept. 2017) from Ulli and Klaus Sambor

Participants of the Core team, Austria, Finland and Germany took part.

We have dealt with the following 4 papers:

- Contribution B (START UBI),
- Contribution C (ECI on UBI Campaign Plan),
- Temp. Doc. (Correction and addition to Contribution C),
- Contribution A (Contribution to the UBIE meeting / Lisbon and the Eurodividend Conference / Berlin
Correlation between „New ECI on UBI“ and „Eurodividend“.

1. START UBI

Klaus Sambor presented Contribution B, where the text for the new ECI on UBI with the title „START UBI“ is proposed. The Subject matter and the Objectives were discussed in detail. For the objectives the comment from Slovenia not to use the term „poverty-risk-treshold“ was mentioned, but that was not agreed in the Vienna meeting 21. Sept. 2017.

The question was raised, why we should believe, that this „Subject“ in its proposed formulation will have a chance to be registered by the EC. Klaus said, that in the answer for the „Public Consultation on the European Citizens' Initiative“ it was possible to answer **NO** to the question „Should the registration phase continue to include an admissibility check to verify that the proposed initiative does not fall outside the Commission's powers?“ with the comment:

„If the commission says an ECI is outside their competence, it should be asked, if the competence should be enlarged, if the ECI deals with an very important topic, e.g. strong support of introduction for an Unconditional Basic Income in the EU.

Article 4 (2)(b) of the Regulation should be deleted **or** should include "..... for the purpose of amending the Treaties." beside the ".....for the purpose of implementing the Treaties".

The decision for the new regulation for the European Citizens' Initiative was promised to be available before end of 2017.

After discussion it was decided

a) to wait for the decision of the EC. If the „NO“ would be included in the new ECI-rools, then the registration of the proposed ECI Start UBI would be possible.

b) If „NO“ is not included, it is not sure, if the EC would register our ECI. In this case we could wait, of a response: „accepted“ or „rejected“.

c) If it is not „accepted“ we could reformulate our „Subject matter“ and/or

„Objectives“ in a way, we think, that it would be accepted.

In this case it was mentioned, that the „Subject matter“ could be related perhaps to a „Child – UBI“ and in the Objectives we could make it similar as we have done it in our first accepted ECI on UBI: „In the long run the objective is to offer to each person the unconditional right as an individual, to having his/her material needs met to insure a live in dignity as stated in the EU treaties, and to empower participation in society supported by the introduction of the UBI. In the short term“

2. ECI on UBI Campaign Plan

Klaus Sambor presented the 10 questions, which dealt with in the Contribution C.

In detail item 7 „Campaigning time schedule“ of Contribution C was discussed, because in a UBIE Regional-Group meeting (AT – HU – SL – DE) 21. Sept. 2017 in Vienna a change to the proposed time schedule was agreed to be proposed in UBIE (see Att. 1).

Main reason for the changes:

a) It was felt, that the **Final text & Campaign plan** should be available already in Nov. 2017 and the **UBIE decision on campaign** should happen already before the end of 2017, in order to give more time for the preparation of the start.

b) It was thought, that the new EU-Parliament will need more time to be consolidated for „real work“, after the election of the EU-Parliament in May or June 2018. Therefore the **submission of signatures to EC** should be planned not before Sept. 2018 (instead of the original plan in May 2018).

After discussion it was agreed, to deal with Final text & Campaign plan at first (deadline for submission of statements 24. Nov. 2017) and postpone the UBIE decision on campaign to 2018. A concrete deadline for this decision is not yet fixed.

Nevertheless some preparation could be done. In item 5 „**How we are able to mobilise**“ there is a table with all organisers/substitutes of all countries (only Slovakia was forgotten), who had taken part in the first ECI on UBI. The core team could ask, if they would be able once again to take the responsibility for the collection of signatures. Klaus Sambor got a first message from Alexander Stredak

Dear UBIE-Friends,

first I want to apologize for not coming to the meeting in Lissabon. I wish you all a pleasant time and am looking forward to meet all of you in the next meeting.

We, the Slovakian representatives for UBI, are fully supporting the idea of new European Initiative and we will support its realisation in our own country by all our means.

Thank to Klaus for forwarding this message.

Alexander Stredak,
UBI Slovakia

3. Correction and addition to Contribution C

The correction („Slovakia“) will be done in the next Version of Contribution C. The Temp. Doc. contains proposals from Guido R  thermann, member of the Round Table UBI – Austria, concerning internal targets for the number of signatures for the campaign (for information: achievements in each country at the first ECI are contained in Att.2). It would be nice, to get first reactions from each country to that proposal.

Remark outside this short report:

Example Germany: UBI-Party got 97.386 votes in the election of 24. Sept. 2017. That is twice more than the signatures (37.765) at the ECI 2014.

4. Contribution to the UBIE meeting / Lisbon

and the Eurodividend Conference / Berlin

Correlation between „New ECI on UBI“ and „Eurodividend“.

This topic was not discussed in our workshop, because it had been already planned a seperate workshop for „Eurodividend“ for Lisbon. The influence of the possible change of the campaigning time schedule for the new ECI on UBI and the result of the Eurodividend workshop will lead to a next revised version of Contribution A.

End of the short report.