

Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the EU

By Ronald Blaschke and Klaus Sambor

Representatives of the European Citizens' Initiative „Start Unconditional Basic Incomes (UBI) throughout the EU“

Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) shall not replace the welfare state but rather complete and transform the same from a compensatory into an emancipatory welfare state.

UBI is defined by the following four criteria (see Annex of ECI UBI):

Universal, Individual, Unconditional, High enough.

Why fight for UBI in addition to peace?

We have at the moment the terrible situation with the war in Ukraine and we see, that (beside the problems with the pandemy) this is also hindering us to get the people to speak about UBI, because people think, the help for people coming from the Ukraine are more important now.

In our opinion this is not true, because both is important to be taken into account in parallel. During a war and a pandemy many people loose their income and need help.

Human rights

Human rights and the fundamental rights associated with them are not simply given to people, they are to be fought for;

In addition, human and fundamental rights are unconditionally granted to all human beings, political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights belong to people because they are human. That is the only condition. To live and work self-determined, to engage in solidarity, democratically and politically, to live in a healthy environment and intact nature – this is the right of all living people, as well as all future generations of people.

Why is UBI good for democracy and social justice?

Democracy is nothing without citizens, who have the chance to take part in building society, in public affairs. Of course, that is a matter of real possibilities, infrastructures. But that is also a matter of material, financial security of every human being.

Unconditional Basic Income allows everyone to take part in public affairs – regarding the own material and temporal possibility. Precariousness, too much labour and poverty exclude out of public affairs of society.

And: No class, no person whom is guaranteed an Unconditional Basic Income can be blackmailed with "promises" about jobs, economic growth and trickle-down-effects.

Sustainable ecological transition is impossible without unconditional social security for all people

Why?

First, by mitigating economic insecurity, UBI removes a massive barrier to ecological progress. Degrowth advocates agree that chronic economic insecurity 'block[s] important transformation processes, including ecological ones.

Second, UBI is typically seen as promoting citizens' participation in democracy, which in turn creates the groundwork for the transition to a more sustainable economy and society (which many believe to be attainable only through democratic means).

Third, UBI could engender an economy based on solidarity rather than competition. Some parts of the degrowth movement believe that a solidarity-based economy (in contrast to a profit-driven competitive economy) is the only way to thwart excessive consumption of natural resources.

Fourth, UBI enables individuals to exercise much greater control over their own time, and many in the degrowth movement maintain that shortening the period of gainful employment and having more time available for other activities is a transition project on the way to a society with degrowth.



European Citizens' Initiative

„Start Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the EU“

Subject Matter:

Our aim is to establish the introduction of unconditional basic incomes throughout the EU which ensure every person's material existence and opportunity to participate in society as part of its economic policy.

The aim shall be reached while remaining within the competences conferred to the EU by the Treaties.



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Objectives:

We request the EU Commission to make a proposal for unconditional basic incomes throughout the EU, which reduce regional disparities in order to strengthen the economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU.

This shall realize the aim of the joint statement by the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission, stated in 2017, that „the EU and its member states will also support efficient, sustainable and equitable social protection systems to guarantee basic income“ in order to combat inequality.



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Contact to the ECI organiser group

Klaus Sambor klaus.sambor@aon.at
Ronald Blaschke blaschke@grundeinkommen.de

Website

<https://eci-ubi.eu/> (incl. links to national websites)

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ECIUBI>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/eciubi>

Instagram

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European Citizens' Initiative **„Start Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the EU“**

Please support this initiative by EU citizens
and taking UBI into account in the plan
for democracy and sustainability in Europe

Thank you!

