

Unconditional Basic Incomes in Europe

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Definition 1

from UBIE



Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) is an amount of money,

- paid on a regular basis
- to each individual unconditionally and universally,
- high enough to ensure a material existence and participation in society.

UBI is a step towards an emancipatory welfare system.

Definition 2

from European Citizens' Initiative UBI, given in the annex



- unconditional, - universal, - individual
- high enough to ensure a material existence and participation in society which meets society's social and cultural standards in the country concerned (at least above the at-of-risk-threshold according the EU-standards – 60% of the respective national median net equivalent income, checked by a basket of goods and services)

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.

Definition 3



from BIEN (Basic Income Earth Network)

different to ECI- and UBIE-definition, includes nothing about amount (could be 1 Cent), nothing about position in / to the welfare state. It could be a vehicle to destroy, to undermine the welfare state like neoliberals want it, instead to change in an emancipatory welfare system. That is the reason for serious disputes in BIEN about its definition.

A Basic Income is

- a periodic cash payment
- unconditionally delivered
- to all (i.e. universal)
- on an individual basis
- without means-test (i.e. universal) or
- work requirement (i.e. unconditional)

Emancipatory welfare system

is a public welfare system which

- includes everyone (universal)
- enables everyone to live beyond poverty and social exclusion
- is anti-repressive and guaranteed everybody to live in freedom
- is precautionary-orientated
- cooperates/interacts with self organized and voluntary welfare and caring
- is organized democratically
- is financed by (re)distribution from top to bottom

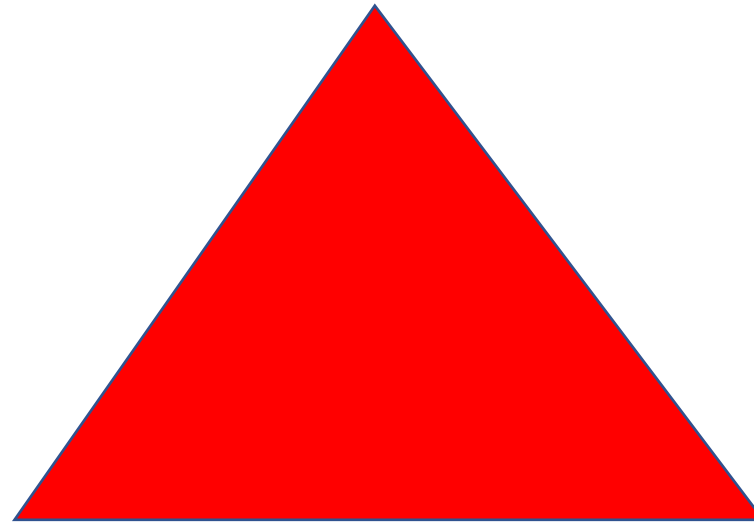
UBI as an part of an emancipatory welfare system (for example discussed in Germany)

Unconditional Basic Income

every part includes special offers, services and payments for disabled and chronically ill people

every part is committed to same 4 principles:

- Individually
- Universally
- Unconditionally
- Ensure material existence and enable participate in society



care / health and pension insurance

free-of-charge (social) infrastrucur and services



European Citizens' Initiative

**Unconditional Basic Incomes
throughout the EU**



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.



European Citizens' Initiative

„Start Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the EU“

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.

trend of income inequality / at-risk-of-poverty rate in EU

Countries with highest and lowest poverty rate	Poverty rate 2012 in percentage	Poverty rate 2015 in percentage	Poverty rate 2020 in percentage
Romania	22,9	25,4	23,4
Bulgaria	21,2	22,0	23,8
Germany	16,1	16,7	16,1
Denmark	12,0	12,2	12,1
Czech Republic	9,6	9,7	9,5
Slovakia	13,2	12,3	11,4
EU 27	16,9	17,4	16,6

Conclusion: Neither has income inequality / income poverty in the EU countries decreased significantly in the last ten years, nor has inequality between EU countries decreased. Economic and social policies of the EU and in the EU countries have failed in this respect.

Source: EU-SILC (European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ilc_li02&lang=en

Main references at the level of EU secondary law that can be used by EU Commission for promoting the introduction of Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the EU



1. promoting via “structural funds”, for example via European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) – within the framework of a "Multiannual Financial Framework" (MFF)
2. promoting via assessments of the national "Recovery and Resilience Plans“
3. promoting “Enhanced Cooperation” – enables governments that are willing to cooperate to take joint steps under precisely regulated conditions that not all member states want to share



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„Start Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the EU“

Successful initiative (quantitative)

if the citizens' initiative receives **at least 1.000.000 signatures and at least in 7 countries a certain treshold (minimum quorum)**

In this case

- a) a „Hearing“ at the **European Commission and at the European Parliament will take place**
- b) after that the **European Commission** has to explain in a justified manner **their legal and political conclusions** as well as their further action or the renunciation of further actions
- c) the **European Parliament can support the ECI and it assesses the measures of the European Commission**



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

There are „National Coordinators“ in 25 EU-countries

AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, FI, FR, EL, HR, HU, IE, IT, MT, LT, LU, LV, NL, PT, RO,
SK, SI, ES, SE

- only in Cyprus and Poland „National Coordinators“ are not available.

But in spite of that we got/get signatures from all 27 Member States

11th June 2022: 245 thousand signatures in EU

Czech Republic: 663 – minimum quorum is 14 805

Slovakia: 542 – minimum quorum is 9 870



European Citizens' Initiative

„Start Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the EU“

We will not achieve 1 million signatures until 25th of June 2022 (end of ECI) , but we hope that 7 countries achieve the minimum quorum.

What does a succesful ECI hinder in general?

1. the participation instrument ECI is unknown, only 2,4 % in EU know what an ECI is and how an ECI works (source: <https://eci-ubi.eu/new-survey-eci-unkown-in-most-european-countries/>)
2. there is no financing for activities and volunteers of ECI from the EU
3. widespread EU-sceptizism



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„Start Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the EU“

Next political steps on EU level:

1. use the recommendation of EU-commission about the minimum income to demand a better solution: UBI
2. take part at activities to change the treaties of EU for stronger EU social policies (emancipatory-orientated) and for more citizens' participation
3. cooperate with different non government organizations which fighting for social-ecological transformation in EU

Next steps on national level:

1. without political activities in every EU-member state (on national level) to promote UBI nothing will happen on EU-Level
2. the national UBI-scheme and introduction will be different in each country (depends on national welfare situation/frames) – researching and fighting!

Steps to implement UBI on national and/or EU level

horizontal steps:

„basic income“ for children, for students and/or pensioners

sabbatical „basic income“ – unconditional, universal, individual transfer, which is high enough – for sabbatical times

vertical steps:

step by step increasing of unconditional, universal, individual transfers (partial basic incomes) – but following problems:

a) misuse as combi wage (subvention of low wage) – wanted from neoliberals

b) calculate with existing social allowances / assistances – increasing social division

Forecast



UBI will come:

Because: on average 50 % of EU-Citizens are in favour of UBI

Source: German Institute of Economic Research Berlin (DIW Berlin)

https://www.diw.de/documents/publikationen/73/diw_01.c.618763.de/dwr-19-15-1.pdf

UBI (as an part of an emancipatory welfare system) has to come:

Because: There is no better societal thing as an free and solidarity society!

Thanks for attention!

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