

MORE FREEDOM THROUGH BASIC INCOME



BASIC INCOME NETWORK GERMANY

A BUILDING BLOCK ...

More than a quarter of a million people in Europe signed a European Citizen's petition to the European Commission to demand basic income in 2013. Through this initiative 9 regional and national networks formed, which now work together with the existing groups and networks towards basic income in Europe.

Basic income is not a new idea. Throughout the centuries different forms were in the debate. In Germany the discussion developed anew in the 80s and later on during the introduction of a repressive legislation on a new unemployment benefit.

We think that a lot has to change in our society. And we believe in a better world. Unconditional basic income isn't a solution to everything. But a lot of society's problems can be solved more easily with basic income, and everyone has more freedom. It is a building block for a better future.

The Network Basic Income is a non-party association of persons and organizations that support the Basic Income. This material may not be used for election campaign purposes.

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Basic income is a step on the way to a good life for all. Nobody should feel excluded from society due to a lack of money. Everyone should live without fear of poverty. This is a human right. Therefore the wealthy part of society must contribute adequately to the financing of basic income.

Of course, basic income needs to be supported by further political action, e.g. in the economy, social and education sectors. We want a society in which people and nature are respected. A society, in which human dignity is the central focus rather than one's monetary value.



A QUESTION OF **PRINCIPLE**

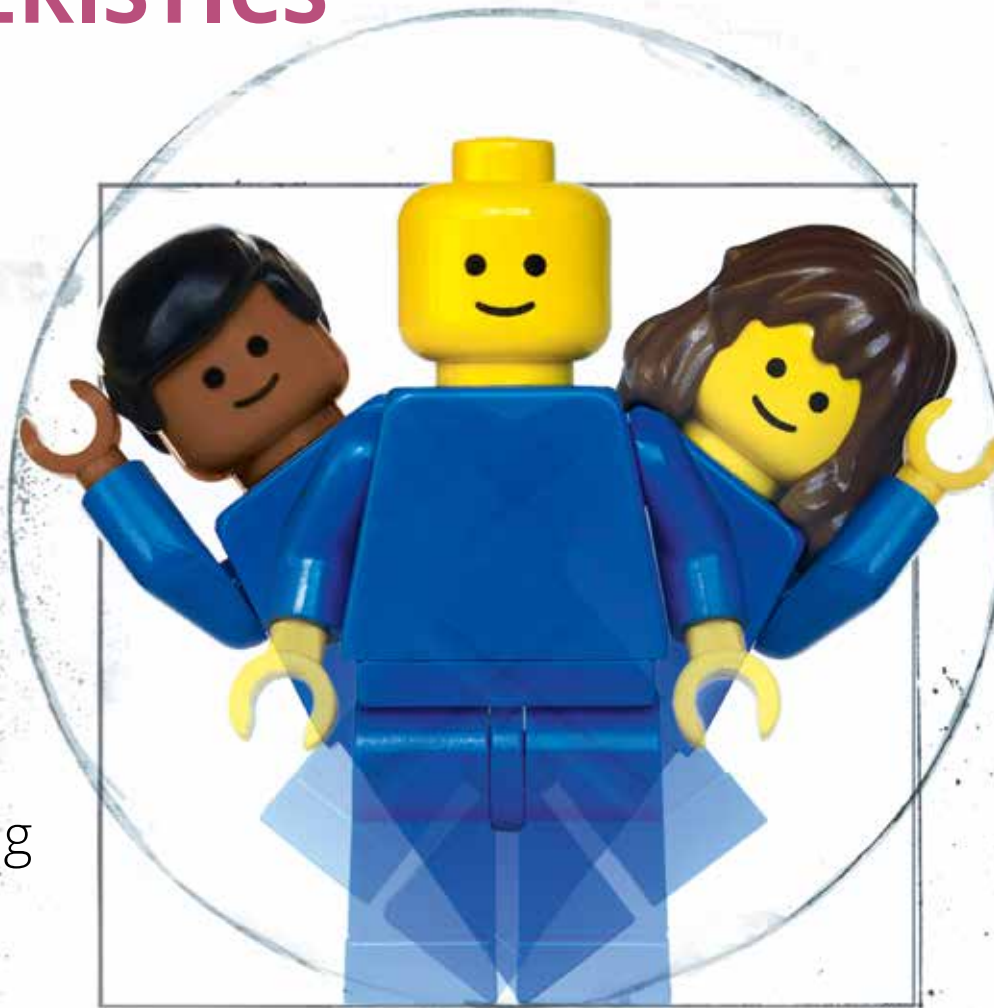
THE 4 CHARACTERISTICS

individually guaranteed

All people are legally eligible to claim basic income individually, independent of their marital status or their living arrangements.

without means testing

Every person is entitled to receive basic income, independent of income and wealth.



no need to work, no service in return

Basic income is also independent of working or the willingness to work. No service in return is necessary.

securing existence and participation

The amount of basic income secures existence and enables social and cultural participation. Nobody has to fear poverty.



WORK AND WORK ARE NOT THE SAME

Some work is well paid, some badly, some not at all. Without unpaid work – which in Germany makes up almost two thirds of all working hours – paid work could not be sustained.

Paid and unpaid work alike must to be shared evenly between men and women. For all paid work “equal pay for equal work” should be the rule.



PAID WORK

Gainful employment

paid work, self-employed or not

UNPAID WORK



Care work

housework, bringing up children, home care and support – in the family, neighbourhood, amongst friends

Personal work

activities for oneself (education, health, leisure, making or repairing things for your own needs)

Community work

volunteering, community service or political involvement

ENOUGH FOR ALL INSTEAD OF EXISTENTIAL FEAR

We produce enough for all – here and worldwide.

But despite of this, many people suffer from financial and material poverty and insecurity.

Poverty and existential fear make you ill.
They increase the suffering of all those affected
– and public health care costs.





LESS WORK!

Machines are making human labour redundant in more sectors every year.

Why not work less, instead of more?

Basic income will help people to voluntarily forgo part of their paid work – so that those who involuntarily earn nothing or not enough today can work or can work more. This way paid and unpaid work would be more fairly distributed.

If income were a measure of performance, the highest wages would have to be paid to machines. People who have lost their job to machines still need an income.

DAILY

7:50



unpaid

12:30



15:45



21:20



paid



Traditionally, division of labour looked like this: Women looked after the children and the household, men earned the family's income. This is outdated and unfair. Also a single income is no longer enough for a whole family in most cases.

Nevertheless, adults still often decide to do unpaid work at home, while the better-paid family member is in full-time paid employment. But the partner who stays at home without pay never has time off, is financially dependent and can lose their whole existential foundation, if the relationship ends.

WHAT DOES INCOME CONSIST OF?

Basic income is a basic income. It is a safe foundation, which can be topped up with income from paid employment and other sources.

With basic income the people who have less today would have more money. But the positive change in society would be felt by all.

from taxes like such as

- income tax
- wealth tax
- luxury tax
- value added tax
- financial transaction tax
- environmental tax
- ...



taxable income

BASIC INCOME

Basic income gives people power, professionally and personally. Employees can demand more and have more say because they don't need to be afraid: Nobody can take away their basic income. They cannot be held to ransom anymore, but can negotiate with self-confidence. This is especially true for trade unions. Their influence grows with the confidence and negotiating position of their members.

Those employed and receiving basic income do not have to take any job. If pay and working conditions aren't right or if the work is incompatible with their conscience, they can turn it down. This raises the quality of workplaces. When people work because they want to and not because they have to, they work better, make less mistakes, suggest improvements, are more motivated and the customers are more satisfied. What more could a company want than motivated employees?

The self-employed do not have to sign every contract. The unemployed can decline absurd training courses without fear. Nobody has to stay in relationship or take household or care work out of financial need.

THE ABILITY TO SAY



NO

NO

TOO MUCH WORK

Paid workers no longer have to take on too much.



No

20:47

16:00

12:00

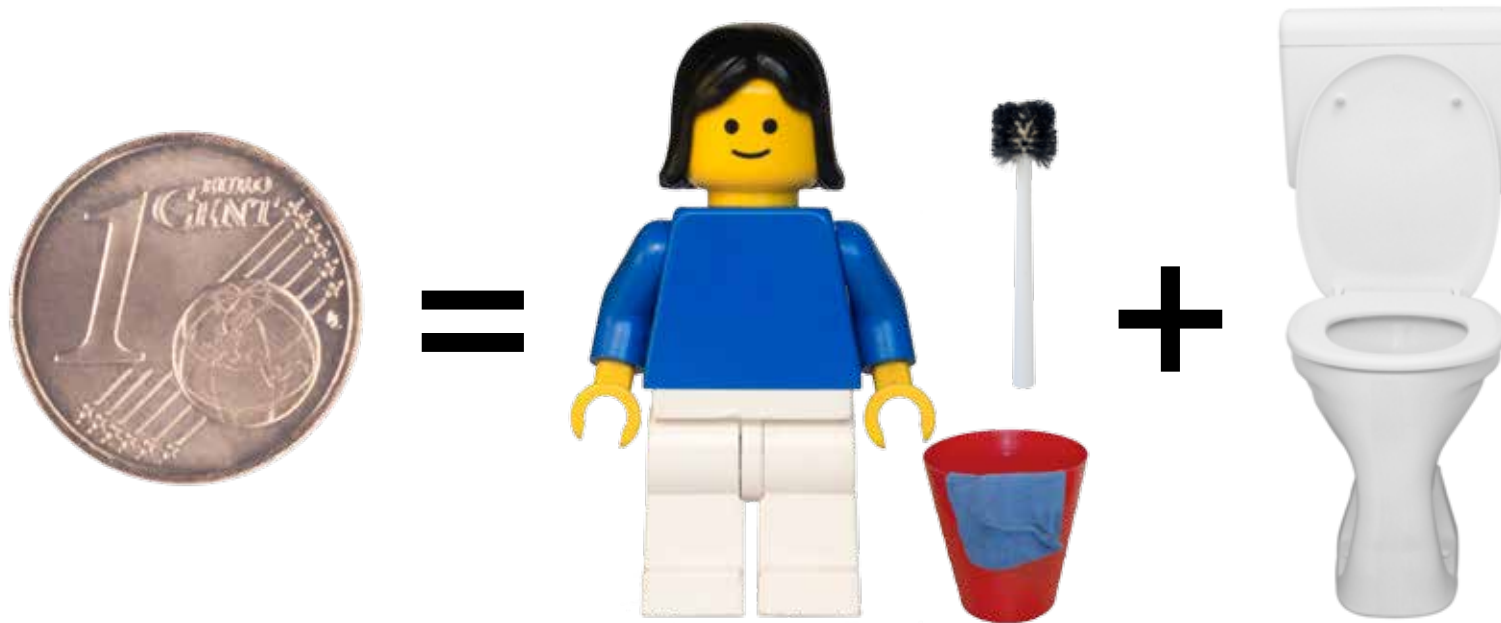
7:00

NO SLAVES TO LABOUR

With financial security, working hours can be reduced.
More time is left for personal life, civic involvement,
education and leisure.



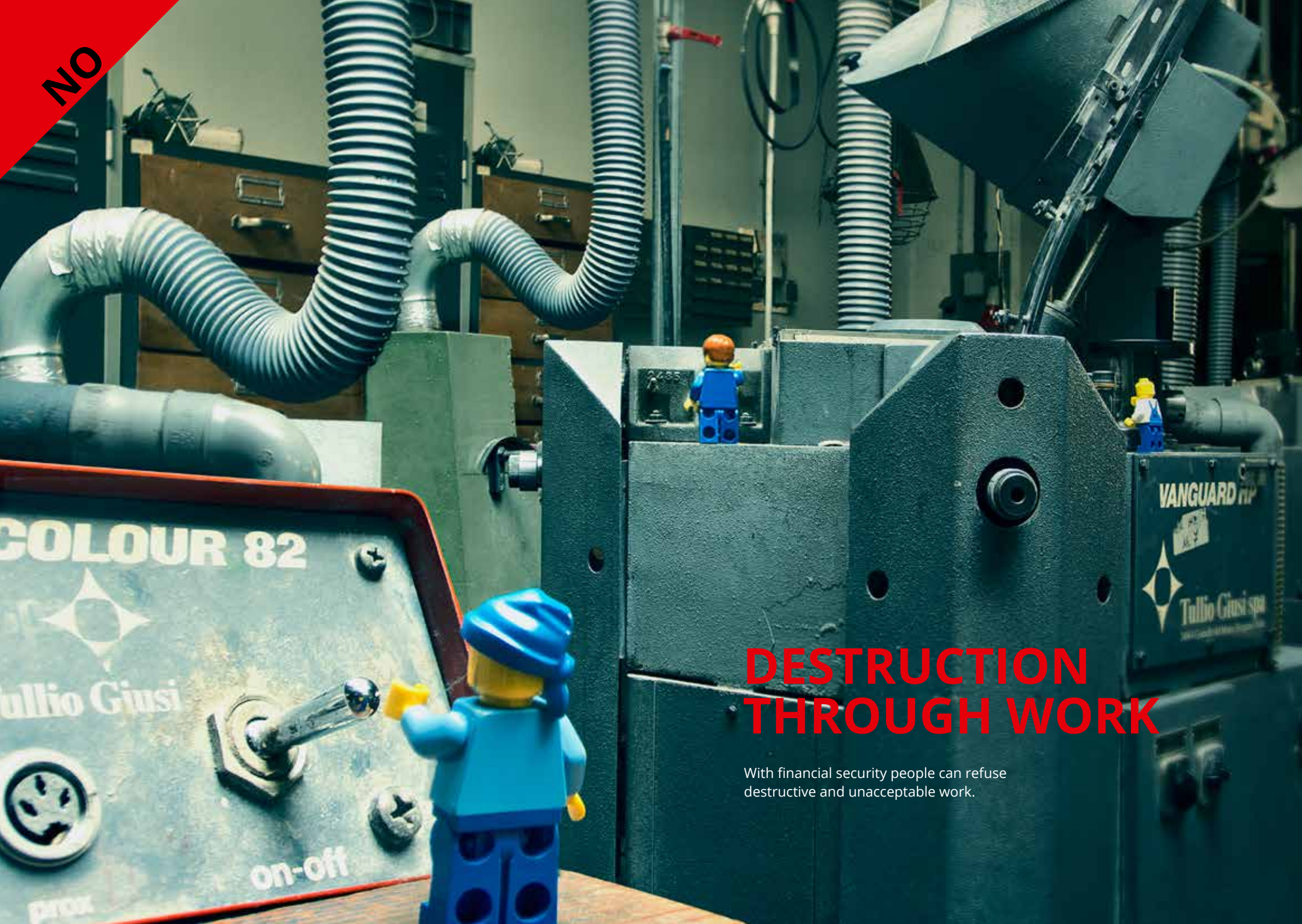
NO



LITTLE RESPECT AND BAD PAY

Unpleasant but necessary jobs have to be better paid so people are willing to do them. What many people like doing does not have to be overpaid anymore.

NO



DESTRUCTION THROUGH WORK

With financial security people can refuse
destructive and unacceptable work.

NO

EXISTENTIAL FEAR

With basic income, financial security is not under threat when you leave a job, instead new opportunities emerge.



Paid work is not the only source of social recognition anymore. People can take part in society with more self-responsibility and self-determination – wherever and however they want. The education system has to prepare them for this. Society has to nurture people's own initiative and creativity.



NEW OPPOR- TUNITIES



CREATE YOUR OWN WORKSPACE

With basic income it's easier to choose professions and jobs according to interest and talent. People who make their wishes and skills reality, develop ideas and are more creative.

With financial security, people can more easily become entrepreneurs.

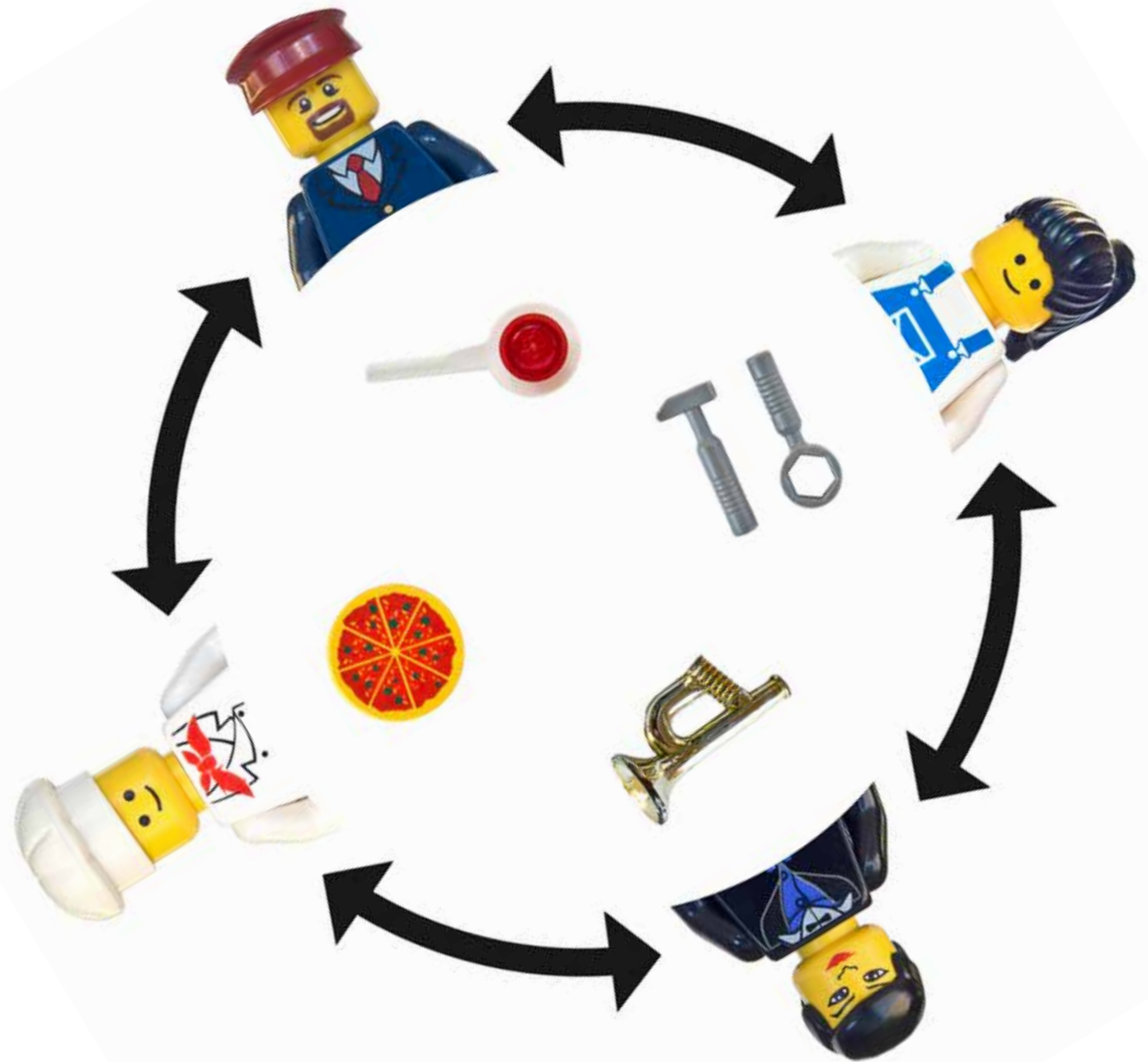
BETTER INSTEAD OF MORE

Basic income decreases time pressure and pressure to perform. Time is freed up for careful, and so better work. This is the same for all sectors, but especially in work, in which people are cared for. Especially in industry production there will be less mistakes and wastage. In general, work will be more fun.



LIVELY REGIONAL ECONOMY

When people have basic income, they don't need to move to cities to find work. They can become economically active in their home regions. New professions are created. New sectors can be set up and strengthen the regional economy. Also, economies of solidarity, meaning economies not built on profit and competition, will be supported.



People want to be active. Some people might need some time for a break, to recover from the current system.

But after some time-out most people will want to do something, earn more, to be able to buy more things they want.

In a newly shaped working world without time pressure, in a supportive working environment with motivated colleagues, many will enjoy working, especially when the jobs reflect their interests, skills, qualifications and are paid accordingly.

Whoever thinks their job is meaningful and interesting, whoever likes their profession or where it even turns into a calling, whoever receives recognition for their accomplishments will not have to be persuaded or forced to work.

**... WHO'S GONNA
KEEP**



WORKING?

TIME VS MONEY

TIME

Unconditional Basic Income

With basic income some people will work part-time, pause their employment, do different jobs simultaneously.

They will educate themselves, go on longer trips away, dedicate time to friends and family and leisure.



MONEY

... WHO'S GONNA DO THE DIRTY WORK?

So called 'dirty work' is what nobody wants to do. What that is, depends greatly on who you're asking. Some willingly do things others would never do. People who carry out unpopular jobs are often not properly respected and also not properly paid, when it's paid employment.

In a society with basic income we would have to pay them more respect and also pay them a better wage. Who doesn't want to do that, will have to do the dirty work themselves, unless it can be done by machines.



1. Improve wages and working conditions

2. Automate and streamline

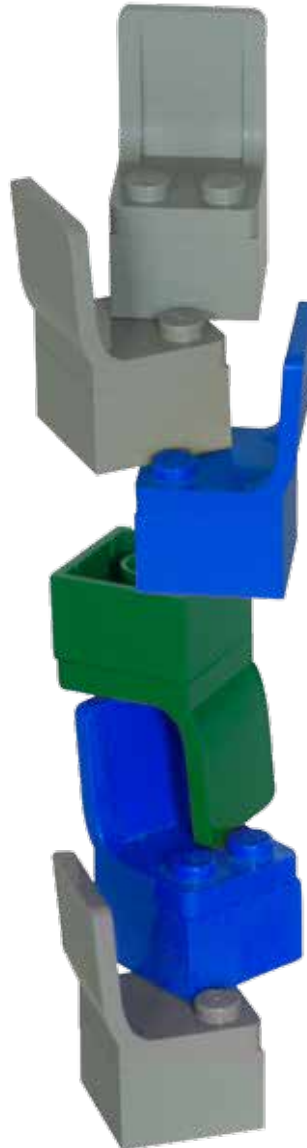


3. Do it yourself, alone or together



BASIC INCOME ...

- ... secures the human right to life and social security, without stigmatising and humiliating people through bureaucratic control of their living arrangements, privacy and credibility
- ... widens the scope for individual decisions about who you want to live with and how, if you want to work and what, when, how, where and for whom, how long, paid or unpaid
- ... supports volunteer and self-employed work for social causes, politics, art and culture
- ... prevents material poverty and its consequences – poverty creates illness and divides society
- ... enables a fair distribution of societal wealth without environmentally damaging economic growth
- ... decreases income gaps, which helps sustain social peace
- ... promotes financial independence of women
- ... supports children's rights to develop their personality and to education
- ... strengthens the negotiating positions of employees and their representatives against employers
- ... strengthens the economy, stabilises purchasing power and cushions cyclic fluctuations
- ... facilitates start-ups by minimising financial risk



- ... can reinvest profits from the free use of common goods and advance payments of society and even earlier generations back to all members of society; nature, culture, knowledge and technology belong to humanity's legacy and therefore to all people
- ... simplifies administration und dismantles unnecessary social bureaucracy
- ... strengthens democracy, because now everyone can afford to participate in political action and events and to help shape society and economy
- ... helps and extends education and strengthens the ability to reflect and to think critically
- ... helps people to collaborate democratically in order to shape or change things in their hometowns, their workplaces or in society in general
- ... creates a foundation on which all people can act politically on their own initiative
- ... minimises racial and xenophobic reflexes, where they arise from competition for jobs and existential fear
- ... supports sustainable ecological economy

INTRODUCTORY LITERATURE ...

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FLYER, PAPERS, POSITIONS, PRESENTATIONS OF BASIC INCOME NETWORK GERMANY...

www.grundeinkommen.de/english

AND LINKS

www.grundeinkommen.de/english
<https://basicincomeweek.org/ubi/>
<https://basicincome.org/>
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INFORMATION ABOUT BASIC INCOME AND ABOUT BASIC INCOME NETWORK

www.grundeinkommen.de/english

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