

## Literature and Links

### Introductory Literature:

Birnbaum, S.: Basic Income Reconsidered: Social Justice, Liberalism, and the Demands of Equality. New York, 2012.

Blaschke, R.: From the idea of a basic income to the political movement in Europe. Development and questions. Berlin, 2012.

Fitzpatrick, T.: Freedom and Security: An Introduction to the Basic Income Debate. London, 1999.

Sheahan, A.: Basic Income Guarantee: Your Right to Economic Security. New York, 2012.

Van Parijs, P.: What's Wrong With a Free Lunch? Boston, 2001.

### Links:

[basicincome.org](http://basicincome.org)

[ubie.org](http://ubie.org)

[binews.org](http://binews.org)

[bien2012.de/en](http://bien2012.de/en)

[biencanada.ca/congress](http://biencanada.ca/congress)

[grundeinkommen.de/services/english-page](http://grundeinkommen.de/services/english-page)

[bge-interaktiv.de](http://bge-interaktiv.de)

## Contact Information and Donations

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### Donations to the non-profit

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### Become a member

[grundeinkommen.de/mitglied-werden](http://grundeinkommen.de/mitglied-werden)

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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Freiheit  
Gleichheit  
Grundeinkommen

## What is a basic income?

1. financial security that enables everyone to live in human dignity and participate in society
2. legal claim for each individual from the cradle to the grave
3. no means test
4. no work requirement or obligation to perform any services in return



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## “But then nobody would work anymore!”

Most people want to be active and engage in meaningful activities. Ask yourself: Would I stop working, if I received a basic income? Work is not only paid employment. Due to improvements in productivity and technical progress, less and less people are needed to provide our society with all the necessary goods and services. Basic income will enhance meaningful activities that are now underpaid or unpaid – in the fields of education, family, art and volunteering. With a basic income, people have the choice of how they would like to contribute to society. Many will want to earn in addition to the basic income and still choose paid employment but they are no longer *obligated* to do so.

## “Who is supposed to pay for it?”

Existing tax-funded social transfers (basic social security benefits for job seekers, social assistance, child benefits and federal student loans) provide the foundation of a basic income for all. In addition, taxes will contribute to fund the basic income – for example increases in value-added tax, income tax, inheritance tax, Tobin tax, as well as the taxation of property and consumption of resources. A part of the wealth that is produced in society as a whole will be redistributed equally to each individual through the basic income.

## Why do we need a basic income?

We live in an affluent society which still denies many of its citizens a decent living and the adequate income needed to exist. Basic income is a solution because it will eliminate poverty, ensure freedom of the individual and allow everyone to participate in society. It will protect workers against precarious working conditions, strengthen their negotiating position and offers development prospects for everyone. Human dignity is unconditional – so is basic income.



## Basic income worldwide

The idea of basic income is promoted worldwide. In Namibia, a pilot project has been successfully completed in 2009. Both India and Brasil conduct partial basic income projects and are taking steps towards implementation of a basic income. In 2013, Switzerland passed a national referendum on basic income which will be put to the vote on June 2016.



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## Netzwerk Grundeinkommen

The German Netzwerk Grundeinkommen is a non-party organization that operates nationally and cooperates internationally.

It was founded on 9 July 2004 in Berlin by

- academics and students
- representatives of the unemployment movement
- representatives of church organizations and
- members of various political parties

Netzwerk Grundeinkommen defines four criteria that a basic income has to meet:

- sufficient financial amount to secure material existence and participation in society
- individual legal claim
- no means test
- no work requirement.

Netzwerk Grundeinkommen decided not to commit to a specific financing model but rather to discuss various models that are within the scope of the four criteria.

More than 5.200 people and mor than 130 organizations are members of the Netzwerk. Approval among the population is growing. Almost all political parties have joined the debate on basic income. Entrepreneurs, NGOs, the unemployed, and trade unions have also taken up the idea.

Netzwerk Grundeinkommen is the German affiliate of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), which was founded in 1986, and member of the Unconditional Basic Income Europe (UBIE) alliance, which was founded in 2014.