

BIEN - BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

www.basicincome.org

The Basic Income Earth Network was founded in 1986 as the Basic Income European Network. It expanded its scope from Europe to the Earth in 2004. It serves as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income, and fosters informed discussion on this topic throughout the world.

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BIEN's NewsFlash is mailed electronically every two months to over 1000 subscribers throughout the world.

Requests for free subscription are to be sent to bien@basicincome.org
Items for inclusion or review in future NewsFlashes are to be sent to Yannick Vanderborght, newsletter editor, UCL, Chaire Hoover, 3 Place Montesquieu, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be The present NewsFlash has been prepared with the help of Katrin Mohr, Paul Nollen, Dani Raventos, Philippe Van Parijs, and Karl Widerquist.

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1. EDITORIAL

On December 17, 2004, four members of BIEN's executive committee met in Belgium. They discussed important issues, such as BIEN's new statutes and BIEN's next conference venue. Following the decision taken during the latest BIEN's General Assembly (Barcelona, Sep.

2004), they also examined the possibility of appointing a "Women's representative". After a consultation of other members of the EC, Louise Haagh (University of York) was appointed as "Women's Officer and Fund Raiser". Given the scope of the agenda, the EC members also decided to convene a second EC meeting, to be held in New York City on March 6, 2005, at the very end of the USBIG Conference. A synthesis report of both meetings will be made available to all members.

In the morning of Thursday the 27th of January 2005, Brazilian President Lula da Silva opened the Porto Alegre World Social Forum with a call for a global action against poverty, the central theme of this year's Forum. In the afternoon of the same day, a three-hour panel co-sponsored by BIEN, the Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) and the Brazilian basic income network (RBRBC) under the title "From Family Grant to Basic citizenship income" proved to be one of the most massively attended events of the whole Forum. A report below.

BIEN is looking forward, but researchers remind us of the importance of looking at the history of the idea that it promotes. In a new book on the origins of universal grants, John Cunliffe and Guido Erreygers reveal that, until further discoveries challenge this conclusion, we owe the oldest basic income proposal to Thomas Spence, an English schoolteacher and radical publisher, in a pamphlet published in... March 1797 (see "Publications").

BIEN's Executive Committee

2. EVENTS

BERLIN (DE), 12 December 2004: Second meeting of the Netzwerk Grundeinkommen Founded in July 2004, the "Netzwerk Grundeinkommen" (the German basic income network officially recognized by BIEN) held its second national meeting on December 11-12, 2004 in Berlin. The first day was structured by workshops on 'the Unconditionality of a Basic Income', 'Strategic options for a Basic Income after 'Hartz IV'' as well as different 'Models for Financing a Basic Income'. The first workshop of the meeting took place within the framework of the conference on "The Future of Social Justice" organized by the Heinrich-Böll- Stiftung (the political foundation of the Greens) (see www.boell.de/de/04_thema/2969.html), where Basic Income and 'The Stakeholder Society' (Ackerman/Alstott) were prominently discussed as alternative social policies. Some of the papers given in the workshops can be downloaded from www.sw.fh-jena.de:8080/~opielka/index.php?id=29. The second day was devoted to organizational matters and the planning of future projects and initiatives. A new executive committee was elected. Michael Opielka, who had been one of the spokesmen of the German network and the contact person to BIEN, has withdrawn from these positions. In the next two years Ronald Blaschke, Katja Kipping, Katrin Mohr, Günther Sölken, Robert Ulmer and Birgit Zenker will represent the network and take care of the daily business and responsibilities. A report of the meeting was sent out with the third newsletter in January (to subscribe, please send an e-mail to newsletter@grundeinkommen.de). Further information on the network as well as the minutes of the meeting can be found at www.grundeinkommen.de.

PORTO ALEGRE (BR), 27 January 2005: Panel on basic income at the World Social Forum In the morning of Thursday the 27th of January 2005, President Lula opened the Porto Alegre World Social Forum with a call for a global action against poverty, the central theme of this year's Forum. In the afternoon of the same day, a three-hour panel co-sponsored by BIEN, the Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) and the Brazilian basic income network (RBRBC) under the title "From Family Grant to Basic citizenship income" proved to be one of the most massively attended events of the whole Forum.

Owing to the participation of two of Brazil's most popular political personalities, Eduardo Suplicy, Federal Senator for the State of Sao Paulo and co-chairman of BIEN, and Patrus Ananias, Minister of Social Development in Lula's government and former mayor of Belo Horizonte, it was attended in a packed tent by a huge crowd of over 800 people, broadcasted live and well covered by the Brazilian press. Most of those attending were Brazilians - as the interpreting services could not cope with such a crowd, the discussion was therefore held in Portuguese and Spanish - but many were also coming from far away, among them Katja Kipping, member of the Parliament of Saxony and co-founder of Germany's new basic income network.

The other members of the panel were Rudolf Künneemann, director of FIAN, Professor Jose Graziano, former secretary of state for the Zero Hunger programme, Professor Maria Ozanira de Silva, author of a recent book evaluating Brazil's fast expanding social assistance system, and Philippe Van Parijs, professor at Louvain and Harvard and co-founder of BIEN.

One central issue was the question of how the income support system can be expanded to reach the estimated 11Mn families (one quarter of Brazil's population) whose monthly income falls short of R100 (about EUR 30) per capita. Nearly all Brazilian municipalities are now involved in the programme, but it requires time and resources to identify those entitled. Failing to do so in a reliable way can lead to many of the neediest being left out, but also to many being included without meeting the conditions. Thus, on the very day of the panel, the national newspaper O Globo had a front page story about the fraudulent registration into the programme of over 1000 civil servants in the capital city of the state of Piaui with a wage far in excess of the very modest income threshold. This is a clear case, but how many more can one expect, far more difficult to detect in a largely informal economy, as the programme expands further and matures?

If the programme is not to degenerate into a massive clientelistic distribution of hand outs and trigger a backlash, it is essential to design administratively workable tests and transparent procedures for identifying the households which satisfy the conditions. By dropping the means test altogether, a universal basic income would obviously solve the problem in one swoop. But this requires a major reform of the tax system that effectively claws back the basic income paid to people who currently pay no income tax.

One of the outcomes of the panel - and of a long working meeting with Suplicy and Van Parijs the following day - is that Minister Ananias and his staff realised better the advantages a genuine basic income system would have over the present programme - not only in terms of registration problems, but also of stigmatisation and dependency traps -, without losing sight of the obstacles along the way. The massive interest shown for this panel in the exhilarating atmosphere of Porto

Alegre's gathering suggests that many in Brazil and across the world will be watching closely the progress and difficulties of Brazil's pioneering policies.

For further information : eduardo.suplicy@senador.gov.br

NEW YORK (US), 4-6 March 2005: Fourth international congress of the USBIG network The Fourth Congress of the USBIG Network now has 78 confirmed participants making it 50% larger than in 2004 and the largest USBIG Congress to date. It will begin at 8am on Friday, March 4 and conclude at 4:30pm on Sunday, March 6. Many prominent authors will speak, including Philippe Van Parijs, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium and Harvard University, author of Real Freedom for

All: What (if anything) can justify capitalism?, Brian Barry, Columbia University, author of Theories of Justice, and Justice as Impartiality, Erik Olin Wright, the University of Wisconsin, author of Interrogating Inequality, Class Counts, and Deepening Democracy, and Frances Fox Piven, the City University of New York, author of Regulating the Poor and Poor Peoples' Movements, and Guy Standing of the International Labour Organization and author of Beyond the New Paternalism. Sessions at the Congress will discuss common assets, the economics of the basic income guarantee, gradual steps toward implementation, ethical issues of BIG, the possibility of combining a guaranteed income with a guaranteed job, the possibility that robotics will replace all manual labour, and whether a social maximum should accompany a guaranteed minimum. The conference will close with an open-space discussion of BIG in which all participants are invited to speak on any topic at all. See the USBIG website for information and registration instructions (www.usbig.net), or contact Karl Widerquist Karl@Widerquist.com

3. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

NAMIBIA: LUTHERAN CHURCH PUSHES FOR BASIC INCOME DEBATE USBIG reports that, at a conference held on the outskirts of Windhoek in early November, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) took steps to start a national debate about the Basic Income Grant by inviting financial experts, churches, Government officials and non-governmental organizations for discussions on poverty, HIV-AIDS and the grant. The Congress of Democrats endorsed the grant idea included it in its 2004 election campaign manifesto.

This activity comes two years after the NAMTAX Consortium (which included consultants from the University of Namibia and Tax Consulting Services Namibia who were contracted by the Government to review its tax system) recommended a basic income grant to the Namibian government. According to NAMTAX, "The net effect of such an approach would be the same as paying a progressively higher anti-poverty grant to all Namibians whose monthly per person expenditure is lower than about N\$1 100, and to progressively tax those with a higher per person monthly expenditure... The automatic targeting achieved by this scheme overcomes all the inefficiencies of traditional poverty relief grants." The story could be found in the Namibian Weekly (see allafrica.com/stories/200411100161). For a Christian Weekly story on the same conference go to:

www.christianpost.com/article/church/1751/section/lutherans.in.namibia.promote.big.anti-poverty.effort/1.htm.

SOUTH AFRICA: DESMOND TUTU SPEAKS FAVOURABLY ON BASIC INCOME USBIG reports that Desmond Tutu, one of the most respected leaders of the anti-apartheid movement in the 1980s and 1990s, Archbishop Emeritus of the Anglican Church of South Africa, and former head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recently criticized the ruling ANC's anti-poverty efforts as ineffective, and suggested basic income as a new approach, "We should discuss as a nation whether BIG (the proposed basic income grant) is not really a viable way forward." He was extremely critical of those who dismiss basic income as a "handout," saying, "We should not be browbeaten by pontificating decrees from on high. We cannot glibly on full stomachs speak about handouts to those who often go to bed hungry... It is cynical in the extreme to speak about handouts when people can become very rich at the stroke of a pen. If those are not massive handouts, what are?"

These remarks were made at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Houghton, Johannesburg in November. For a full story on Tutu's remarks, go to: www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_1625400,00.html

Many articles and editorials have been written on basic income in South Africa in recent months. For instance Willie Madisha, president of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), said that a basic income grant (BIG) appears to be the most efficient and affordable way for the government to meet its moral and constitutional obligations and to ensure that everyone in South Africa has access to social security. Despite the efforts of its advocates, however, Finance Ministry officials continue to insist that BIG is too expensive (according to Reuters, November 23, 2004).

SPAIN: A BASIC INCOME BILL

In May 2002, Carme Porta, of Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC), a pro-independence, leftist and republican party, and José Luis López Bulla, of Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds (ICV), an eco-socialist and leftist organisation, both well-known supporters of Basic Income, presented a Basic Income Bill to the Catalan Parliament. ERC and ICV have formed part of the tri-partite government of Catalonia with the Socialist Party (PSC) since the end of 2003. On January 21, 2005, Joan Puigcercós and Joan Tardà (both ERC), members of the Spanish Parliament, presented the same (slightly updated) bill. It proposes a Basic Income of Citizenship for all residents of Spain. The Basic Income of Citizenship should be at least the same amount as that considered as poverty line. The bill shall soon be debated by the Spanish Parliament. (The Basic Income Bill can be viewed at www.redrentabasica.org).

4. PUBLICATIONS

CATALAN

ARCARONS Jordi, BOSO Àlex, NOGUERA José Antonio, and RAVENTÓS Daniel. Viabilitat i impacte d'una Renda Bàsica de Ciutadania per a Catalunya, Fundació Bofill, Barcelona, 2005.

This book (to be published in March 2005) is the result of a research that started in 2003 and finished in 2004, and was funded by the prestigious Catalan Jaume Bofill Foundation. The co-authors are Jordi Arcarons, professor of Econometrics at the University of Barcelona, Àlex Boso, researcher at the Pompeu Fabra University, José A.

Noguera, lecturer at the Autonomus University of Barcelona, and Daniel Raventós, lecturer at the University of Barcelona. All are active members of the Red Renta Básica, one of the 11 official sections of the BIEN. Their essay is structured into four chapters.

The first deals with the foundations of Basic Income. Chapter two discusses the Welfare State and the role of Basic Income as a new model of social protection at the beginning of the 21st century. The third chapter presents the results of a research project that demonstrate that Basic Income is economically feasible in Catalonia and that it would have a considerable impact on income redistribution. The authors used a specifically designed micro-simulation programme in order to evaluate different policy options of tax-benefit integration that a Basic Income would involve, and they apply this to an extensive sample of Catalan personal income tax data (210,000 entries). The results show that the proposed reforms are broadly feasible in financial terms, and that their impact on Catalan income distribution would be highly progressive. The micro-simulation programme can be applied in other areas by changing the data base.

Finally, chapter four summarises 10 interviews with representatives from unions, parties and social organisations of Catalonia. The book is an unusual blend of different academic disciplines: Econometrics, Political Philosophy, Sociology and Politics. The four authors had a long meeting with three ministers and four high-ranking officials of the Government of Catalonia in December 2004, where they explained the main results of their research. This essay is expected to stimulate the debate on Basic Income in Catalonia and, more broadly, in Spain.

NOGUERA, José A. "Els nous drets socials" ["The new social rights"], *Nous Horitzons*, vol. 43 (175), 2004, pp. 24-31 (Published by the Fundació Nous Horitzons; e-mail: fundacio@noushoritzons.org) (Author's address: jose.noguera@uab.es) This article is part of a monographic issue of the catalan journal "Nous Horitzons" (the political-theoretical journal of the catalan eco-socialist party Iniciativa per Catalunya - Verds) which is dedicated to the debate on a new Fundamental Law for the Autonomous Catalan Government (Generalitat). In his contribution on social rights, José Noguera (sociologist at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and vice-president of the Spanish Basic Income Network Red Renta Básica), advocates a Basic Income and/or other similar policies (as a Basic Pension, a Guaranteed Minimum Income or a Universal Tax Credit) as the best solution for the present shortcomings of the catalan welfare state. He discusses ways in which this right might be recognised by the new Catalan Fundamental Law which is currently being negotiated by the catalan political parties.

DUTCH

DUCHATELET Roland, *De weg naar meer netto binnenlands geluk. Een toekomst voor alle europeanen.* (Met een nawoord van Karel De Gucht en Dirk Sterckx), Leuven, Uitgeverij Van Halewyck, 2004, 151p., ISBN 901-5617-576-9, Publisher's website: www.vanhalewyck.be.

Successful Belgian businessman Roland Duchâtelet is the founder of VIVANT, a small political party which advocates the introduction of a basic income of approximately EUR500/month for all adults (see www.vivant.org). In this didactic and inventive essay, Duchâtelet points to some urgent problems faced by the Belgian welfare state, such as high unemployment and demographic challenges, and focuses on

alternative scenarios. He unambiguously rejects the idea of "activating" the unemployed, and provides some interesting insights from his own experience as head of a private firm. If the unemployed are required to work and if sanctions are applied in case of non-compliance, Duchâtelet argues, company managers shall have to organize hiring meetings with people "who are doing as if they want the job, whereas in fact they are only afraid of loosing their benefit (...). If one requires that these persons work, against their will, one is not only going to render these persons unhappy, but also the colleagues who will have to work with them (...)" and the company itself will suffer from this situation (p. 109).

Even if Duchâtelet incidentally suggests the introduction of a "volksdividend" (a "Popular Dividend") in every country on earth (p. 72; but see also pp. 127-128), basic income is especially discussed in one of the last section of the book, which is devoted to a "new societal organisation for the XXI century" (pp.115-129). Among the reform proposals are the "vrijheidsinkomen" (Freedom Income) of EUR400/month for young adults aged between 18 and 25 (with the simultaneous suppression of child benefits after 18 and of all student's grants), and the unconditional "basisinkomen" (basic income) of EUR540/month for all adults aged between 25 and 65. The author also advocates the implementation of a basic income of EUR135/month for children under 18, and a basic pension of EUR800/month for the elderly. Different ways of financing the reforms are discussed, including a massive shift of income tax to a (much increased) value-added tax (VAT).

MARX Axel & PEETERS Hans. "Loterijspelen als instrument voor arbeidsmarktonderzoek", Over-Werk. Tijdschrift van het Steunpunt WAV 4/2004. First author's address: axel.marx@soc.kuleuven.ac.be A Dutch summary of the paper "Win For Life. An Empirical Exploration of the Social Consequences of Introducing a Basic Income" (see Newsflash 31), which was published as a working paper by the Departement of Sociology of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.

ENGLISH

CLARK, Robert F. Victory Deferred. The War on Global Poverty (1945-2003). New York, University Press of America, 2005. ISBN 0 7618 3072 3

This essay aims at constructing a broad historical perspective on the emergence of poverty as a global concern after 1945. It mainly focuses on the administrative history, with a special emphasis on the role of bilateral, multilateral and global organisations. But Robert F. Clark, a Doctor of Public Administration and independent scholar, is also looking forward. Having briefly presented BIEN and the USBIG network (p.98-99), he focuses on the idea of a global basic income scheme, which would guarantee each person on earth an income of at least US\$365/year (see pp.172-79). Such a reform, Clark argues, is preferable to the expansion of welfare-to-work programmes in developing countries. The author has designed an hypothetical plan, which implies the payments of benefits by the United Nations, under the form of a negative income tax. "The United Nations would establish a global guaranteed income fund, which would rely on periodic replenishments from its members (...). Some of the financing could come from new sources of revenue", such as the Tobin Tax (pp. 175-76). The last sentence of Clark's book is cautiously optimistic:

"A new paradigm such as represented by the global guaranteed income approach would considerably brighten the prospects of the world's poorest people" (p.179).

Publisher's website: www.univpress.com

CUNLIFFE John & ERREYGERS Guido eds., *The Origins of Universal Grants. An Anthology of Historical Writings on Basic Capital and Basic Income*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004, 179p., ISBN 1 4039 1896 1. Authors' addresses: J.Cunliffe@warwick.ac.uk, guido.erreygers@ua.ac.be

Opened by an instructive introduction, this is an astonishing anthology of the first known proposals for paying to every citizen either a one-off endowment or a regular income. Basic capital proposals include texts by Thomas Paine (France, 1797), Cornelius Blatchly (USA, 1817), Thomas Skidmore (USA, 1829), Orestes Brownson (USA, 1840), Paul Voituren (Belgium, 1848), Napoleon De Keyser (Belgium, 1854) and Agathon De Potter (Belgium, 1874). Basic income proposals include texts by Thomas Spence (England, 1797) with reactions by Allen Davenport (England, 1824), Joseph Charlier (Belgium, 1848), Mabel and Dennis Milner (England, 1918), Bertram Pickard (England, 1919), Marshall Hattersley (England, 1922), G.D.H. Cole (England, 1929 and 1935) and Juliet Rhys-Williams (England, 1943). Until further discoveries challenge this conclusion, it seems that we owe the oldest (municipal) basic income proposal to the Newcastle schoolteacher and London radical publisher Thomas Spence :

All land and houses will be made public property and managed by a committee of women. "And as to the overplus, after all public expences are defrayed, we shall divide it fairly and equally among all the living souls in the parish, whether male or female; married or single; legitimate or illegitimate; from a day old to the extremest age; making no distinction between the families of rich farmers and merchants ... and the families of poor labourers and mechanics..., but giving the head of every family a full and equal share for every name under his roof." (*The Rights of Infants*, London, March 1797).

MARX Axel & PEETERS Hans. "Win For Life. An Empirical Exploration of the Social Consequences of Introducing a Basic Income", *Onderzoeksverslag van het Departement Sociologie*, AB/2004-6, SB/ 2004-16, 54p. First author's address: axel.marx@soc.kuleuven.ac.be

The introduction of a Basic Income could result in many different micro behavioural changes with distinct macro implications. This has been argued by both proponents and opponents of a Basic Income. In this stimulating paper, which was presented at BIEN's Barcelona Conference in 2004, sociologists Marx and Peeters (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) concentrate on changes in labour market behaviour. They argue that in the absence of the actual introduction of a Basic Income, second-best solutions for empirical research must be considered. In their view, lotteries organise interesting games for basic income researchers. Some games such as Win for Life, Lifetime Spectacular, Lifetime Riches, Weekly Bonus, Fun for Life, Lucky for Life, etc. - grant a periodically unconditional lifelong income to winners (cf. annuity games). In this way, they constitute a natural Basic Income experiment and can generate significant insights into the possible consequences of introducing a Basic Income. First of all, the paper discusses why, how, and to what extent, natural experiments such as lotteries can contribute to research which empirically explores possible social consequences of the introduction of a basic income. The

second aim is to focus on the question of what, if anything, happens after the introduction of a Basic Income.

FRENCH

MARIS, Bernard. *Antimanuel d'économie*. Paris, Editions Bréal, 2003, ISBN 2 7495 0078 8, 359p., 17 Euros In the last section of this critical essay, Bernard Maris (a popular anti-establishment economist, famous for his regular chronicle in the satirical weekly "Charlie-Hebdo") briefly examines the idea of a "revenu minimum universel" (universal minimum income), or a basic income. Such an idea, he writes, perfectly "fits in our economy, since a growing proportion of wealth is produced with a decreasing proportion of labour" (p.336). Maris explicitly refers to the writings of André Gorz on this topic. Publisher's website: www.editions-breal.fr

GERMAN

OPIELKA, Michael. *Sozialpolitik. Grundlagen und vergleichende Perspektiven*. Reinbek bei Hamburg: Rowohlt Verlag (rowohls enzyklopädie 55662), 2004, 336p., ISBN 3 499 55662 6, EUR12.90. Author's address: michael.opielka@isoe.org A comprehensive and well-argued introduction to social policy, with special reference to Germany's institutions and debates, by one of the earliest protagonists of Germany's basic income discussion (M. Opielka & G. Vobruba eds., *Das garantierte Grundeinkommen*, 1986), now professor of social policy in Jena and visiting professor at the University of California at Berkeley. The essay includes an overview of the theories of the welfare state, as well as of current trends and developments in different policy fields such as activation, family policy, pensions, health care and education. It also discusses the challenges for welfare states posed by globalisation and develops a highly ingenious proposal for reform: A 'Basic Income Insurance' that combines the principle of a guaranteed basic income with the principle of insurance-based reciprocity. If the author sees basic income as an objective to be reached, this less unconditional system would function as a transition path.

STUTZ Heidi, BAUER, Tobias, *Modelle zu einem Garantierten Mindesteinkommen. Sozialpolitische und ökonomische Auswirkungen*. Forschungsbericht Nr.15/03, Bundesamt für Sozialversicherung, Bern, February 2002. http://www.bsv.admin.ch/forschung/publikationen/15_03d_eBericht.pdf

This study, which was published by the Swiss Federal Office for Social Insurance, scrutinizes various models of "guaranteed minimum income" (GMI) schemes: negative income tax, tax credits, wage subsidies, basic income, means-tested basic social security as well as social/occupational integration minimum income (along the lines of the French RMI). Relevant practical experiences in Switzerland and abroad are discussed. The report insists on the conflict between combating poverty and maintaining work incentives. "A general social dividend", the authors argue, "is only feasible in rich countries (...). If a social dividend were to guarantee a minimum subsistence income, the redistribution cost, however, would be prohibitively high. If it does not aim to guarantee minimum cover, it is not much use (...). Politically, it would be difficult to introduce an unconditional basic income because it runs against current reciprocity norms" (p.vi).

The report (with an English summary) can be downloaded at www.bsv.admin.ch/forschung/publikationen/15_03d_eBericht.pdf

ITALIAN

DEL BO, Corrado. Un reddito per tutti. Un'introduzione al basic income ["An Income for all. An introduction to basic income"]. Como & Pavia: Ibis (www.ibisedizioni.it), "Sud-Nord: altri mondi", 2004, 142p., ISBN 88 7164 177 9. Author's address: delbo@unipv.it This short and clear introduction to the basic income debate shall be useful to those wanting to re-launch the discussion in Italy, one of the few European countries that still lacks any form of national minimum income scheme. In the first chapter of his essay, Corrado Del Bò (a political philosopher at University of Pavia and expert in distributive justice and bioethics) discusses the definition of BI, the history of the idea, as well as recent developments in Alaska, Brazil, and Italy. Interestingly, he briefly mentions a law on the 'reddito di cittadinanza' (Citizen's Income) which has been adopted in February 2004 by the Regional authority of Campania (Southern Italy, around Napoli). Despite its name, the law only holds that a benefit of EUR350/month should be given to families with an income below EUR5.000/year. Hence, it is not a universal benefit. However, it is officially labelled a "fundamental social right", without any related duty to work or make a productive contribution, and might provide a first step toward a more comprehensive scheme. In the second and third chapters, philosophical issues are thoroughly examined. While chapter 2 includes an overview of the neo-liberal, communitarian, feminist, and (left-) libertarian justifications, chapter 3 focuses on the most controversial issue in ethical discussions of the idea: is a basic income going to foster laziness?

PORTUGUESE

Ozanira da Silva e Silva Maria, Yasbek Maria Carmelita & di Giovanni, Geraldo. A Política Social Brasileira no Século XXI. A prevalência dos programas de transferência de renda, Sao Paulo: Cortez Editora, 2004, 223p., ISBN 85 249 1086 0. First author's address: ozanira@elo.com.br

Directed by Professor Maria Ozanira (Federal University of Maranhão), one of BIEN's first life members, this book provides a comprehensive description and evaluation of Brazil's expanding guaranteed minimum income scheme (the Bolsa Familia programme), which is predicted to reach 11 million families, or nearly a quarter of the Brazilian population, by the end of 2006. A good and important policy, the authors conclude, in part because of the counterparts imposed on the beneficiaries (vaccination for small children, school attendance for older children, literacy courses for illiterate adults), but with limits that can only be overcome by moving to a genuine basic income for all Brazilians, as promised in the law promulgated by President Lula in January 2004.

5. ABOUT THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

5.1. BIEN's executive committee

Co-chair:

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5.2. BIEN's international board

Chair: Philippe Van Parijs

Former members of BIEN's Executive Committee:

Alexander de Roo

Edwin Morley-Fletcher

José Noguera

Claus Offe

Ilona Ostner

Steven Quilley

Robert J. van der Veen

Walter Van Trier

Lieselotte Wohlgenannt

Representatives of national networks:

Ruben Lo Vuolo for the Red Argentina de Ingreso Ciudadano (AR) Magit

Appel for the Netzwerk Grundeinkommen und sozialer Zusammenhalt

(AT)

N for the Rede Brasileira de Renda Básica de Cidadania (BR) Jørg

Gaugler for the Borgerlønsbevægelsen (DK) Michael Opielka for the

Netzwerk Grundeinkommen (DE) John Baker for BIEN Ireland (IE) Loek

Groot for the Vereniging Basisinkomen (NL) Daniel Raventos for the Red

Renta Básica (ES) Bridget Dommen for BIEN Switzerland (CH) Malcolm

Torry for the Citizen's Income Trust (UK) Michael Lewis for USBIG (US)

5.3. Recognised national networks

ARGENTINA: Red Argentina de Ingreso Ciudadano Founded in March 2004

www.ingresociudadano.org

President: Ruben Lo Vuolo rlovuolo@ciepp.org.ar

AUSTRIA: Netzwerk Grundeinkommen und sozialer Zusammenhalt Founded in

October 2002 www.grundeinkommen.at

Coordinator: Magit Appel redaktion@ksoe.at

BRAZIL: Rede Brasileira de Renda Básica de Cidadania Founded in September 2004 Provisional co-ordinator: Eduardo Suplicy
eduardo.suplicy@senador.gov.br

DENMARK: Borgerlønsbevægelsen
Founded in January 2000
www.borgerloen.dk
President: Jørg Gaugler
per@borgerloen.dk

GERMANY: Netzwerk Grundeinkommen
Founded in July 2004
www.grundeinkommen.de
Spokespersons: Ronald Blaschke, Katja Kipping, Michael Opielka,
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IRELAND: BIEN Ireland
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NETHERLANDS: Vereniging Basinkomen
Founded in October 1987 (initially as "Werlplaats Basisinkomen")
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SPAIN: Red Renta Basica
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SWITZERLAND: BIEN Switzerland
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UNITED KINGDOM: Citizen's Income Trust
Founded in 1984 (initially as "Basic Income Research Group")
www.citizensincome.org
Director: Malcolm Torry info@citizensincome.org Citizens Income Trust,
P.O. Box 26586, London SE3 7WY, United Kingdom.
Tel.: 44-20-8305 1222 Fax: 44-20-8305 1802

UNITED STATES: U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network (USBIG) Founded in December 1999 www.usbig.net
Coordinator: Karl Widerquist Karl@Widerquist.com

5.4. BIEN's life members

All life members of the Basic Income European Network, many of whom were non-Europeans, have automatically become life members of the Basic Income Earth Network.

To join them, just send your name and address (postal and electronic) to David Casassas casassas@eco.ub.es, secretary of BIEN, and transfer EUR 100 to BIEN's account 001 2204356 10 at FORTIS BANK (IBAN: BE41 0012 2043 5610), 10 Rond-Point Schuman, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. An acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt.

James Meade (+), Gunnar Adler-Karlsson (SE), Maria Ozanira da Silva (BR), Ronald Dore (UK), Alexander de Roo (NL), Edouard Dommen (CH), Philippe Van Parijs (BE), P.J. Verberne (NL), Tony Walter (UK), Philippe Grosjean (BE), Malcolm Torry (UK), Wouter van Ginneken (CH), Andrew Williams (UK), Roland Duchâtelet (BE), Manfred Fuellsack (AT), Anne-Marie Prieels (BE), Philippe Desguin (BE), Joel Handler (US), Sally Lerner (CA), David Macarov (IL), Paul Metz (NL), Claus Offe (DE), Guy Standing (CH), Hillel Steiner (UK), Werner Govaerts (BE), Robley George (US), Yoland Bresson (FR), Richard Hauser (DE), Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy (BR), Jan-Otto Andersson (FI), Ingrid Robeyns (UK), John Baker (IE), Rolf Kuettel (CH), Michael Murray (US), Carlos Farinha Rodrigues (PT), Yann Moulier Boutang (FR), Joachim Mitschke (DE), Rik van Berkel (NL), François Blais (CA), Katrin Töns (DE), Almaz Zelleke (US), Gerard Degrez (BE), Michael Opielka (DE), Lena Lavinias (BR), Julien Dubouchet (CH), Jeanne Hrdina (CH), Joseph Huber (DE), Markku Ikkala (FI), Luis Moreno (ES), Rafael Pinilla (ES), Graham Taylor (UK), W. Robert Needham (CA), Tom Borsen Hansen (DK), Ian Murray (US), Peter Molgaard Nielsen (DK), Fernanda Rodrigues (PT), Helmut Pelzer (DE), Rod Dobell (CA), Walter Van Trier (BE), Loek Groot (NL), Andrea Fumagalli (IT), Bernard Berteloot (FR), Jean- Pierre Mon (FR), Angelika Krebs (DE), Ahmet Insel (FR), Alberto Barbeito (AR), Rubén Lo Vuolo (AR), Manos Matsaganis (GR), Jose Iglesias Fernandez (ES), Daniel Eichler (DE), Cristovam Buarque (BR), Michael Lewis (US), Clive Lord (UK), Jean Morier-Genoud (FR), Eri Noguchi (US), Michael Samson (ZA), Ingrid van Niekerk (ZA), Karl Widerquist (US), Al Sheahan (US), Christopher Balfour (AND), Jurgen De Wispelaere (UK), Wolf-Dieter Just (DE), Zsuzsa Ferge (HU), Paul Friesen (CA), Nicolas Bourgeon (FR), Marja A. Pijl (NL), Matthias Spielkamp (DE), Frédéric Jourdin (FR), Daniel Raventós (ES), Andrés Hernández (CO), Guido Erreygers (BE), Alain Tonnet (BE), Stephen C. Clark (US), Wolfgang Mundstein (AT), Evert Voogd (NL), Frank Thompson (US), Lieselotte Wohlgenannt (AT), Jose Luis Rey Pérez (ES), Jose Antonio Noguera (ES), Esther Brunner (CH), Irv Garfinkel (US), Claude Macquet (BE), Bernard Guibert (FR), Margit Appel (AT), Simo Aho (FI), Francisco Ramos Martin (ES), Brigid Reynolds (IE), Sean Healy (IE), Maire Mullarney (IE), Patrick Lovesse (CH), Jean-Paul Zoyem (FR), GianCarlo Moiso (IT), Martino Rossi (CH), Pierre Herold (CH), Steven Shafarman (US), Leonardo Fernando Cruz Basso (BR), Wolfgang Strenmann-Kuhn (DE), Anne Glenda Miller (UK), Lowell Manning (NZ), Dimitris Ballas (GR), Gilberte Ferrière (BE), Louise Haagh (DK), Michael Howard (US), Simon Wigley (TR), Erik Christensen (DK), David Casassas (ES), Paul Nollen (BE), Vriend(inn)en Basisinkomen (NL), Christophe Guené

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Theresa Funciello (US), Al Boag & Sue Williams (AU), Josef Meyer (BE),
Alain Boyer (CH), Jos Janssen (NL), Collectif Charles Fourier (+),
Bruce Ackerman (US), Victor Lau (NL), Konstantinos Geormas (GR), Pierre
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