
BIEN The Basic Income European Network

BIEN was founded in 1986 and aims to serve as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income, and to foster informed discussion on this topic throughout Europe.

Link to BIEN Online at <http://www.basicincome.org>

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NewsFlash N°12

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BIEN's *NewsFlash* contains up-to-date information on recent events and publications related to BIEN or basic income more generally. The *NewsFlash* is mailed electronically every two months to over 800 subscribers throughout Europe and beyond, and simultaneously made available for consultation or download at [BIEN Online](#). Requests for [free subscription](#) or [items for inclusion or review](#) in future *NewsFlashes* are to be sent to BIEN's secretariat: Philippe Van Parijs, 17 rue de Pavie, 1000 Brussels, Belgium, E-mail: bien@etes.ucl.ac.be.

This *NewsFlash* has been prepared with the help of Bridget Dommen, Manuel Franzmann, Jeroen Knijff, Yannick Vanderborght.

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1. EDITORIAL

BIEN's Executive Committee met in Geneva on the 13th of October, to take stock and further plan for our 9th Congress to be held in the International Labour Office's impressive building on 12-14 September. A local Organizing Committee has been formed, a provisional programme has been established, and a first call for papers is being made (see below). The deadline for submissions is 31 March 2002. But it is not too early to start thinking about attending and presenting relevant work.

Parallel to the preparation of the Congress, a radical restructuring of BIEN's web site is actively under way. Details in the next issue.

The Executive Committee

2. NINTH CONGRESS OF THE BASIC INCOME EUROPEAN NETWORK

"INCOME SECURITY AS A RIGHT"
International Labour Office
Geneva, Switzerland
12-14 September 2002

BIEN's next two-yearly gathering is taking shape. Here are some details that will enable prospective participants to start planning:

- The Congress itself will be all day on Friday the 13th and Saturday the 14th of September. Participants will also be welcome to a session on income security in Switzerland in the evening of Thursday the 12th of September, and to a boat trip on the lake or a visit to the Palais des Nations in the morning of Sunday the 15th.
- The **languages** of the congress will be English and French, with simultaneous interpretation at the plenary sessions and at one parallel session in each set of four.
- **Plenary speakers** will include Anthony Atkinson (Oxford) and Robert Holzman (World Bank).
- The **themes** around which the plenary sessions will be organised and on which volunteered papers are particularly welcome are: (1) Is economic security a development right? (2) What, if any, forms of selectivity in social transfers are desirable? (3) Income transfers in practice. Are electronic means of transfer feasible and desirable? (4) The Politics of Basic Income. Can basic income be legitimised in stratified societies?
- Four parallel **workshops** will be held after each session. They will provide an opportunity for participants to present their own work on income security (see Call for Papers below) and to exchange and discuss their experiences. Workshop themes will be determined in the light of papers submitted.
- **Posters** presenting information in graphic and text form will be on display in the lobby outside the conference rooms throughout the congress. Authors will be available to present and explain their poster between sessions.
- **Organizing Committee:** Guy Standing (chair), Bridget Dommen (coordinator), Edouard Dommen, Lena Lavinias, Andràs November, Eric Etienne, Jeanne Hrdina, Mark Hunyadi, Azfar Khan
- **Call for papers and posters.** Relevant proposals in French or English (title + max. 100 words) must be sent to Bridget Dommen (ses@ilo.org) before March 31st 2002. Authors will be informed before May 31st 2002 about whether their paper or poster is accepted.
- **Papers** must consist of empirical research, a literature review, or a discussion of conceptual or practical issues; will be presented orally in the workshops by one of the authors, who must register as a congress participant; should take no more than 15 minutes to present; are to be provided in full to the conference organizers before the start of the workshop.
- **Posters** must present empirical research, conceptual approaches or practical examples of income security; will be exhibited throughout the congress; should not exceed 160 x 190cm ; must be accompanied by one registered participant in the congress.

For more information, contact:

BIEN c/o InFocus Programme on Socio-Economic Security
 International Labour Office
 4 route des Morillons, 1211 Genève 22
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 Fax +41 22 799 7123
 E-mail: ses@ilo.org
<http://www.basicincome.org>

If you are interested in attending BIEN's Geneva Congress, copy the form below, fill it in and return it to ses@ilo.org (or by fax to +41 22 799 7123 or by post to BIEN, IFP/SES, International Labour Office, 4 route des Morillons, CH-1211 Genève 22, Switzerland)

I would like to receive the final programme and registration forms for the 9th International Congress of BIEN 12th-14th September 2002 in Geneva.

Last name:..... First name:

Profession:

Institution:

Address:

Tel:..... Fax:

E-mail:

I would like to present a paper at the Congress on ...

(Please read the guidelines for submitting papers and send an abstract by 31st March 2002)

I would like to present a poster at the Congress on ...

Please read the guidelines for submitting posters, and send us a summary by 31st March 2002)

I would like to receive more information about BIEN

in French in English

3. EVENTS

VALENCIA (ES), 13 December 2001, "La renda bàsica de ciutadania a debat: ¿Utopia o proposta possible en el Regne d'Espanya del segle XXI?"

A public debate (in Catalan) organised by the Faculty of Economics of the University of Valencia, with the participation of Daniel Raventós (professor at the Universitat de Barcelona and chairman of the newly created Spanish basic income network) and Jordi Sevilla (former member of Valencia's Faculty of economics, member of the national Parliament (PSOE) and author of a tax reform proposal that incorporates a basic income). For further information, contact Daniel Raventos at ravento@eco.ub.es

MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR (DE), 1-4 February 2002, "Towards a new definition of work, income and life - Basic Income and the future of work"

Consultation organised by the Evangelische Akademie Mülheim and the Work Economy Network in the European Churches (WEN). For further information: Dr Wolf-Dieter Just, Evangelische Akademie Mülheim, Uhlenhorstweg 29, D-45479 Mülheim an der Ruhr, wolf-dieter.just@ev-akademie-muelheim.de.

NEW YORK (US), 8-9 March 2002: FIRST CONGRESS OF THE U.S. BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE NETWORK: FUNDAMENTAL INSECURITY OR BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

The U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network (USBIG) is an organisation dedicated to increasing public discussion of the Basic Income Guarantee, understood as "the assurance by the federal government that no citizen's income will fall below a minimum level for any reason". As announced previously, its first congress will be held at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (365 Fifth Avenue, NYC). The organisers invite proposals for papers and panels on topics related to the Basic Income Guarantee. Anyone interested in presenting a paper or organizing a session should submit a proposal by 8 December 2001 to Michael A. Lewis at mlewis@notes.cc.sunysb.edu, School of Social Welfare, Stony Brook University, Health Sciences Center, Stony Brook, NY 11794-8231, USA. For further information visit <http://www.usbig.net> or contact Karl Widerquist at karl@widerquist.com.

4. PUBLICATIONS

ENGLISH

ALSTOTT, Anne L. "Work vs. Freedom: A Liberal Challenge to Employment Subsidies", *Yale Law Journal* 108, 1999, 967-1058

A lengthy plea for basic income and against employment subsidies, thoughtful and forceful, well informed and tightly argued, philosophically and economically sophisticated, in one of the world's most prestigious law journals. It concludes: "We can and should take the case for unconditional cash grants seriously, for the sake of the individuals whose freedom is at stake. Welfare recipients and the working poor are not only the objects of the latest experiments in improving the collective welfare. They are free and equal individuals, entitled to claim, as a matter of right, their fair share of social resources. These arguments may not immediately persuade those who share the moral assumption that the poor ought to work in exchange for the 'assistance' that the government gives them. But careful argument can help render that assumption problematic. A basic income or negative income tax is not charity. It is, instead, a way of making practical the liberal commitment to real freedom for each of us."

CITIZEN'S INCOME NEWSLETTER 2001, issue n°2, 12p. (CIT, PO Box 26586, London SE3 7WY, citizens-income@lse.ac.uk; www.citizensincome.org)

The editorial reports on the major changes that have affected the Citizen's Income Trust, as the successor of the Basic Income Research Group, the oldest national network on basic income: the death of the chair of its Board of Trustees, Evelyn McEwen; the end of a generous ten-year-long funding by the Rowntree Trust and hence the departure of Carolyn Armstrong, who worked for CIT throughout this period, including with the very effective preparation of the 1992 BIEN Congress in London; Stuart Duffin's return to Scotland and his replacement, as director of CIT, by BIEN life member Malcolm

Torry. The rest of the newsletter includes an article by Jan-Otto Andersson on "why basic income thrills the Finns, but not the Swedes", and various reviews and news items, both British and international.

FANGUEIRO, Cristina ed.(on behalf of the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union), *Policies and Instruments to Fight Poverty in the European Union: The Guarantee of a Minimum Income*, Lisboa: Instituto para o desenvolvimento social (ids@seg-social.pt), 2000, 278p. ISBN 972 8553 11 0.

This is the lavishly published outcome of an impressively organised European meeting held in Almancil (Southern Portugal) in February 2000 on existing and potential minimum income schemes. The final, more prospective session, was entirely devoted to basic income and introduced by Philippe Van Parijs, of the Université catholique de Louvain ("Basic Income: Guaranteed minimum income for the XXIst century ?", pp. 228-255, also used as background paper for BIEN's Berlin Congress) and Pierre Guibentif, of Oñati's International Institute for the Sociology of Law ("Minimum Income and Basic Income. Meeting the Challenge of Exclusion", pp. 256-271). A CD ROM version is also available, in both English and Portuguese.

HARDT, Michael & NEGRI, Antonio. *Empire*. Cambridge (Mass.): Harvard University Press, 2000.

Variously described as "a sweeping history of humanist philosophy, Marxism, and modernism, that propels itself to a grand political conclusion" (The Observer) and as "a strange and graceful work, of rare imaginative drive" (New Left Review), the big volume jointly authored by the controversial Italian Marxist philosopher Toni Negri, still imprisoned because of his involvement with left-wing terrorism, and by a young professor of literature at Duke University (US) has quickly become a best-seller. Most of the book is of an analytical nature, often quite abstract. But some of it can be interpreted as (close to) prescriptive, most relevantly (in the present context) a short section entitled "Time and Body (the Right to a Social Wage)" (pp. 401-3): "As labor moves outside the factory walls", the authors observe, "it is increasingly difficult to maintain the fiction of any measure of the working day and thus separate the time of production from the time of reproduction, or work time from leisure time. There are no time clocks to punch on the terrain of biopolitical production; the proletariat produces in all its generality everywhere all day long. This generality of biopolitical production makes clear a second programmatic demand of the multitude: *a social wage and a guaranteed income for all.*" (Hardt and Negri' emphasis). Somewhat more explicitly: "The demand for a social wage extends to the entire population the demand that all activity necessary for the production of capital be recognized with an equal compensation such that a social wage is really a guaranteed income. Once citizenship is extended to all, we could call this guaranteed income a citizenship income, due each as a member of society." For a thoughtful in-depth critical review, see Malcolm Bull, "You can't build a new society with a Stanley knife", in *London Review of Books* 23 (19), 4 October 2001.

WRIGHT, Erik Olin. "Reducing Income and Wealth Inequality: Real Utopian Proposals", *Contemporary Sociology* 2000, 143-156. Author's address: wright@ssc.wisc.edu

A succinct and sympathetic critical presentation of three "real utopian" projects which Marxist sociologist Erik Wright finds particularly relevant and stimulating: John Roemer's "universalized egalitarian share ownership", Bruce Ackerman and Anne Alstott's "stakeholder capitalism", and Robert van der Veen and Philippe Van Parijs's "universal unconditional basic income grants". "Given the deep uncertainty about the future", the article concludes, "keeping alive in our radical egalitarian imagination an array of normatively attractive, coherent proposals is of immense importance."

GERMAN

EICHLER, Daniel. *Armut, Gerechtigkeit und soziale Grundsicherung*, Westdeutscher Verlag. Einführung in eine komplexe Problematik (<http://www.westdeutschervlg.de>) 2000, DM 46, ISBN 3 531 13666 6. (Author's address: de@concrete--jungle.net)

At a time of increasingly precarious labour relations and growing income inequality, the uncoupling of income and work is more relevant than ever. The book, which earned the 2001 prize of the Josef Popper Foundation, shows how a successful reform of the social protection system can be achieved thanks to a guaranteed basic income. It is meant as an introduction into poverty research, basic security systems and theories of social justice.

FRANZMANN, Manuel, JANSEN Andreas, BECKER Roland, LIEBERMANN Sascha eds., *Eigeninteresse und Gemeinwohlbindung. Kulturspezifische Ausformungen in den USA und Deutschland*, Konstanz: UVK (willkommen@uvk.de), 2001, 234 pp., 29 EUR, ISBN: 3-89669-811-7. (First editor's address: manuelfranzmann@web.de)

Largely based on a meeting held in Frankfurt in June 2000, this collective volume on "Self-interest and the formation of the common good" contains a presentation by economist Joachim Mitschke of his

Negative Income Tax proposal ("Plädoyer für eine negative Einkommenssteuer") and a presentation by sociologist Ulrich Oevermann of his case for an unconditional Basic Income ("Die Krise der Arbeitsgesellschaft und das Bewährungsproblem des modernen Subjekts"). The lively discussion that followed the two contrasting presentations at the Frankfurt meeting is also documented. This discussion is also accessible at <http://www.uvk.de/uvk.asp?start=buch&TITZIF=1264>).

HEMPELL, Thomas "Freizeit als Vermögen: Anmerkungen zu Philippe van Parijs' Konzept eines Basiseinkommens", in *Internationale Gerechtigkeit*, special issue of *Rechtsphilosophische Hefte* 7, 1997, 153-8. (Author's address: hempell@zew.de)

A critique of the ethical justification of the highest sustainable basic income to be found in Van Parijs's *Real freedom for All* (OUP 1995), on the ground that it presupposes an illiberal bias against people with a strong preference for income (vs leisure).

5. NATIONAL NETWORKS

OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY BIEN

- *Citizen's Income Study Centre*
Director: Stuart Duffin
St Philips Building, Sheffield Street, London WC2A 2EX, United Kingdom
Tel.: 44-171-9557453
Fax: 44-171-9557534
E-mail: citizens-income@lse.ac.uk
Website: www.citizensincome.org
- *Vereniging Basinkomen*
Coordinator: Emiel Schäfer
Elisabeth Wolffstraat 96-B 1053 TX Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Telephone : 020-6799940 or 6167029
Fax: 020-6799940
E-mail: basic.income@wxs.nl
Website : www.basisinkomen.nl
- *BIEN Ireland*
Coordinator: John Baker
Equality Studies Centre, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
Tel +353-1-706 8365
Fax +353-1-706 1171
E-mail: John.Baker@ucd.ie

AWAITING RECOGNITION

- Red Renta Básica (Spain).
Chairman: Daniel Raventós
Address: Departamento de Teoría Sociológica y Metodología de las CCSS. Diagonal, 690.
08034 Barcelona, Spain
Web site: <http://www.redrentabasica.org>
E-mail: ravento@eco.ub.es

OTHER EUROPEAN GROUPS

- *Asociación Renda Basica (AREBA)*
Coordinator: José Iglesias Fernández
Salvador Espriu 89, 2º, 2a, E - 08005 Barcelona, Spain
Fax: 34-3-225.48.20
- *Association pour l'instauration d'un revenu d'existence (AIRE)*
Chairman: Yoland Bresson
33 Avenue des Fauvettes, F-91440 Bures sur Yvette, France
E-mail: Yoland.Bresson@wanadoo.fr

- *Folkrorelsen for medborgarlon*
Coordinator: Kicki Bobacka
Väpplingvägen 10, 227 38 LUND, Sweden
Tel.: 046-140667 or 046-144545
E-mail: kicki.bobacka@mp.se
- *Grundeinkommen Österreich*
Coordinator: Michael Striebel
Akademie für Sozialarbeit Vorarlberg – ASAV, Kapuzinergasse 1, A-6900 Bregenz/Austria
Tel: 43 /55 74 / 43 04 6-72
Fax: 43 / 55 74 / 43 04 66
E-mail: dir.asav@schulen.vol.at
Website: <http://www.vobs.at/asav/pax1.htm>
- *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Sozialhilfeinitiativen (BAG-SHI)*
Contact: Wolfram Otto Kiel
E-mail: aloini@gaarden.net
Website: www.existenzgeld.de

OUTSIDE EUROPE

- *Universal Basic Income New Zealand (UBINZ)*
Coordinator: Ian Ritchie
Private Bag 11.042 Palmerston North, New Zealand
Tel. 06-350 6301
Fax 06 350 6319
E-mail: ian.ritchie@psa.org.nz
Website: <http://www.geocities.com/~ubinz/>
- *Organisation advocating support income in Australia (OASIS)*
Convenor : Allan McDonald
PO Box 280 Urangan Qld. 4655, Australia
Fax 07 4128 9971
E-mail: allanmcd@cyberlink.com.au
Website: <http://www.satcom.net.au/supportincome>
- *BIEN Brazil (Basic Income Earth Network)*
Coordinator: Eduardo Suplicy
Senado Federal - Edifício Principal
Térreo, Praça dos Três Poderes,
Brasília - DF, Brazil
Tel. 311-3213/15/17.
E-mail: esuplicy@senador.senado.gov.br
- *U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network (USBIG)*
Coordinator: Karl Widerquist
The Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College
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Tel. +1-914-758-7735
Fax 914-758-1149
E-mail: karl@widerquist.com
Website: <http://www.usbig.net>
- *Basic Income/Canada (BI/Canada)*
Coordinator: Sally Lerner
Department of Environment and Resource Studies
University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1
E-mail: lerner@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca
Provisional website: <http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/Research/FW>

6. MORE ABOUT BIEN

BIEN'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Prof. Ilona Ostner (iostner@gwdg.de), co-chair;
- Dr Guy Standing (GuyStanding@compuserve.com), co-chair;
- Alexander de Roo MEP (aderoo@europarl.eu.int), treasurer;
- Prof. Claus Offe (coffe@sowi.hu-berlin.de), research coordinator;
- Prof. Philippe Van Parijs (vanparijs@etes.ucl.ac.be), secretary, with support from Yannick Vanderborght (vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be);
- Dr Stuart Duffin (Stuart.Duffin@SINE.org.uk), communication co-ordinator, with support from Jurgen De Wispelaere (J.De-Wispelaere@lse.ac.uk).

HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Prof. Edwin Morley-Fletcher (m-fletcher@cnel.it)
- Prof. Robert J. van der Veen (vanderveen@warwick.ac.uk)
- Dr Walter Van Trier (Walter.VanTrier@hiva.kuleuven.ac.be)
- Dr Steven Quilley (steve.quilley@ucd.ie).

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF BIEN

Membership of BIEN is open to anyone who shares its objectives. The individual membership fee is 25 Euros for 1999-2000 or 100 Euros for life membership. BIEN Members receive hard copies of the Newsletter, are kept informed of relevant meetings, seminars and research projects and have voting rights at BIEN's General Assembly held every second year in conjunction with the Congress. A broad membership strengthens BIEN in its efforts to put basic income on academic and political agendas. It also provides much appreciated support to the unpaid activity of the Executive Committee and gives BIEN a firm basis for the funding of its modest running costs. A full statement of accounts is submitted to the General Assembly. To become a BIEN member, please fill out the *Membership Subscription Form* or download the *Individual Membership Form* which are both on the BIEN web site (<http://www.etes.ucl.ac.be/BIEN/JoinBien.htm>). An acknowledgment will be sent upon receipt. For further questions, e-mail BIEN at bien@etes.ucl.ac.be.

BIEN'S LIFE MEMBERS

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), NN (Geneva, CH), Andrew Williams (UK), Roland Duchatelet (BE), Manfred Füllsack (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 Moulrier Boutang (FR), Joachim Mitschke (DE), Rik van Berkel (NL), François Blais (CA), Katrin Töns (DE), NN (New York, US), Gérard 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), Ruben Lo Vuolo (AR), Manos Matsaganis (GR), José Iglesias Fernández (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 Sheahen (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 Raventos (ES)