

AUSTRIA

In Oct. 2002 the **Austrian „Netzwerk Grundeinkommen und sozialer Zusammenhalt – BIEN–AUSTRIA“** was founded. Aims:

- Forum, to discuss open questions and controversial aspects of the Unconditional Basic Income (UBI),
- To initiate research concerning UBI,
- To create a lobby, which should help to support the introduction of UBI,
- To build a platform to link networks of other national and international networks (in particular to link BIEN-Austria with BIEN).

The **“Runde Tisch Grundeinkommen” (RTG-Austria)** was initiated 2006 by BIEN-Austria. The RTG-Austria serves as networking between different associations, initiatives and persons, which are supporting UBI. The basis for this work together is the commitment to the 4 criteria of UBI:

- Universal
- Individual
- Unconditional

High enough for a decent standard of living, which meets society’s social and cultural standards in the country concerned.

UBI should not replace the welfare state but rather complete and transform the same from a compensatory into an emancipatory welfare state. We see further criteria that make UBI an emancipatory measure, e.g.

- UBI should be a tool to redistribute from the upper to the lower classes, especially with the help of the taxation of capital, wealth, and high incomes;
- There are certain groups of persons with additional needs who should therefore be eligible for special support, in addition to UBI;
- UBI goes along with the maintenance, extension, and democratization of public infrastructures;
- UBI stands in the context of the perspective of gender equality that realizes a radical redistribution of social necessary labour (paid and unpaid) between genders;
- UBI is linked to concepts and social developments towards ecological sustainability;
- The demand of UBI is coupled with further demands that concern employment laws, especially with radical reduction in working hours and with minimum wages.

The UBI is one part of the transformation process with the aim, to manage a “good live for all” (also for further generations).

BIEN-Austria is responsible for the cooperation with BIEN.

Meetings in 2016 / 2017 took place in different cities in Austria (Vienna, Salzburg, Linz, Graz). Besides such meetings / events the elaboration of press releases and articles (see <http://www.grundeinkommen.at>) were elaborated. BIEN-Austria was engaged in the 9th and the 10th International Basic Income Week (see <http://www.pro-grundeinkommen.at>). Together with RTG-Austria the preparation of a new ECI on UBI (text and campaigning plan for 2018 / 2019) and the Eurodividend was supported, which was just discussed on 24. Sept. 2017 in Lisbon.

CANADA

Who we are:

Basic Income Canada Network is a voluntary, non-profit, non-partisan organization that originated in 2008 in affiliation with Basic Income Earth Network at the international level. BICN is composed of people interested in basic income issues and who come from many walks of life. We include people who are struggling to meet basic needs and those who are financially well off. We include researchers, activists, policy analysts, professionals, business people and other people of diverse backgrounds, interests and skills. We respect that everyone brings different talent, viewpoints and experience to the basic income conversation and that the input of all is valuable.

We believe principles including universality, non-conditionality, security, autonomy, dignity, and economic and gender equality should guide basic income dialogue and design.

Basic Income Canada Network is governed and led by a volunteer [board of directors](#), and an [Advisory Council](#). We have bimonthly Board meetings, quarterly Advisory Council meetings, and in addition to this, the dozens of local groups affiliated with BICN meet regularly in their local geographic areas.

Our Activities in the 2016/2017-Year:

BICN's organizational structure continued to evolve in 2017 with the Board elections bringing three new Board members into the organization. BICN's newly created Advisory Council completed its first year of operations adding additional voting members at the 2016 AGM. There are now 24 members on the Advisory Council, and 12 Board members. Although we do not have any other formal categories of membership, we have hundreds of supporters and volunteers who we engage in various ways. Some key accomplishments from the past year include:

- Hosting the North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress (NABIG) 2016 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. This congress was a key priority for BICN and it set a new high bar for these events. Total attendance was 150 and we are pleased that we were able to financially support the participation of several people living on low income.
- Two members of BICN worked on the planning committee for NABIG 2017 that was held in New York City in June 2017. Several other Canadians participated as panelists and presenters.
- Planning is well underway for NABIG 2018, to be held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (one of the cities included in the Ontario basic income pilot project).

- With BICN's website well established as the leading Canadian site for resources at all levels, and as the premier source of basic income news in Canada, we continued to grow our social media presence.
- The website progress counter of people supporting the basic income idea grew from about 4,000 last March to over 14,000 by March 2017; BICN has well over 1,320 followers on [Twitter](#) and nearly 2,100 on [Facebook](#); 24 local and regional groups are now accessible through our website, with 11 in ON and the rest in NS, NB, PE, QC, AB, MB, BC and NWT; nearly 200 articles were written or curated by BICN in this past fiscal year, with particular attention being paid to the Ontario pilot; nationally, BICN responded to 39 media requests from Canada, the US, the Netherlands, Portugal, France, Sweden and Japan
- BICN also worked to develop Communications products that can be used to raise public awareness and generate informed discussion. [The Basic Income We Want](#) flyer was a key such product, to articulate our vision of a basic income, based on values and principles and anchored within the specific Canadian policy context. Work also started on a primer on basic income that will cover the essentials of the concept, have several short modules addressing key issues such as basic income and health, existing Canadian policy, and basic income and the new economy. Also in production over the past year by a creative volunteer was a short, [animated video](#), released in April 2017
- Many events and initiatives revolved around the Ontario pilot consultations: basic income supporters collaborated to ensure that every government-run, in-person public consultation for the Ontario pilot was covered and reports were shared to enable participants at subsequent sessions to be well-prepared.

Plans and Priorities for 2017/2018 BICN Activities:

The next 2 or 3 years will be a critical time as the Ontario pilot unfolds, measures in Quebec get introduced and the federal government develops a national poverty reduction strategy. BICN intends to give priority to public awareness and education, building collaboration across sectors and developing concrete policy options for Canada as a whole. For the coming year and beyond we need to intensify our efforts to 'change the narrative', sharpen messaging, and develop quality, accessible, attractive communications materials.

DENMARK

Organisation

BIEN Denmark was founded in 2000 (a.k.a. "Borgerlønsbevægelsen"), but the movement can be traced back to at least the 1970s.

The current structure of BIEN Denmark is that it is an association with a board, currently consisting of 11 members, and with 146 paying members. The membership fees and some additional funding have been able to cover our expenses in the past year.

Board meetings usually take place online every two weeks, on Google Hangouts, and with physical meetings twice a year, in addition to the annual general meeting that is always scheduled in the first quarter of the year.

Activities

It has been yet another busy year for BIEN Denmark. Following the UBI Nordic conference in September 2016, we have directly or indirectly been involved in a significant number of events in which BI was the main topic, like visits to Denmark of Philippe Van Parijs (March) and Guy Standing (April) and for our annual general meeting in March we had, among others, Louise Haagh, BIEN, and Torsten Gejl, MP for the Alternative as guest speakers.

The collaboration with the Alternative, which first took shape during the UBI Nordic conference, has been particularly promising for our cause in that it is the first party elected to parliament to explicitly advocate some form of basic income.

The film *Free Lunch Society* had its world premiere in Copenhagen on March 20. The screening was followed by a debate between the Alternative, Saxo Bank and BIEN Denmark.

The most important event of the year was our participation in the People's Political Festival which takes place every year in June on the island of Bornholm. This festival always attracts a lot of media attention because all party and union leaders as well as grassroots organisations are present. BIEN Denmark was represented in a number of debates in the course of the event.

Board members and ordinary members have been speaking on various occasions around the country and a philosophy student from Aalborg University, Martin Bruun Michaelsen, has obtained a position with us as a trainee. He also participated in the Nordic UBI conference in Reykjavik where he gave a presentation.

Also recently, in August, a new book on basic income was published by Erik Christensen with the title "På vej til borgerløn". It has already received favourable reviews.

BIEN Danmark is active on all social media, on Facebook with a page and three discussion groups, the one for general debate with almost 2000 members. In addition to this, Twitter, Google Plus and a YouTube channel with a significant number of videos produced by BIEN Danmark.

EUROPE

Unconditional Basic Income Europe (UBIE) is an international network connecting activists and initiatives from 25 countries. After the European Citizens Initiative for Basic Income (2013-14) gained 300,000 signatures, we decided to continue as UBIE in February 2014. We were registered as an AISBL (International Non-Profit Organisation) in Belgium July 2015. We advocate for the implementation of Basic Income in Europe and its recognition as a Universal Human Right. We emphasise that UBI should not replace the compensatory welfare state but rather complete and transform it into an emancipatory welfare system, and that the level should be high enough for material and social existence. This does not, however, prevent us from working on steps towards this longer-term goal.

To this end, we work on projects, campaigns and lobbying at the EU level. We have regular meetings across Europe, usually 3-4 times a year in different places.

As a result of our efforts and those of many other UBI advocates, basic income is now entering the policy agenda in many European countries and is discussed at the European Union (EU) level.

- Projects (not a complete list):
- Basic Income Pilots
- Basic income-inspired pilots – such as the experiments in Finland – are now a hot topic in Europe. They've contributed to the rising popularity of basic income across borders. UBIE advocates for more experiments based on common criteria, and calls on the EU to co-finance them.
- Eurodividend: a Eurodividend is a European partial basic income granted unconditionally to all EU citizens and legal long-term residents. A variation we discuss is a European child basic income.
- Agrarian Basic Income: current EU agricultural subsidies favour large industrial farms while small farmers are given little to nothing. Increasing numbers of family-run farms are giving up. This threatens our environment, damages food security and blocks innovation in agriculture. We are considering a basic income policy to support the transition towards fairer and more sustainable food systems.

UBI Future Lab exhibition:

Immersing into the idea of basic income:

How does it feel to live in a society with a basic income? How would basic income affect my personal way of life? How would basic income become reality? What might the outcome be when people accept and deal with the freedom and responsibility linked to a basic income? When joining our UBI Future Lab, people can experience this and more in our interactive exhibition model.

FRANCE

MOUVEMENT FRANÇAIS POUR UN REVENU DE BASE

HISTORY AND STRUCTURE:

Mouvement Français pour un Revenu de Base (MFRB) is a French national network connecting activists. It was founded in March 2013 during the first European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) for an unconditional basic income. Nowadays, it gathers 1000 members and 50 neighborhood initiative groups in both metropolitan and overseas France. The MFRB aims at legally implementing unconditional basic income (UBI) in France, according to its charter, its recognition as a Universal Human Right.

Its mission is to help enlighten the debate, to gather the people involved in public life and to make them converge toward its goal. The MFRB doesn't exclude intermediate steps or pilots that contribute to the achievement of its goal. We emphasize that UBI should not replace the compensatory welfare state but rather complete and transform it into an emancipatory welfare system.

The MFRB is a trans partisan organisation. It means that it is not affiliated with any political party, but it can collaborate with each of them. However, being transpartisan does not mean that MFRB is meant to be non-political. Unconditional basic income is deeply connected with political issues because it leads to wider considerations about the life and organization of society. Besides, since its creation, the MFRB is running with agile based governance methods, which enable the expression of collective intelligence and creativity, increase involvement and ensure autonomy to its various members: it is called sociocracy.

ACTIVITIES:

The MFRB achieves these goals through activities and projects in the following areas:

- Raising public awareness: the MFRB develops neighbourhood initiatives and summer events.
- Lobbying work: the MFRB contributes to reports and hearings, develops relations with elected representatives and institutions and support citizen initiatives like the campaign

"Quantitative Easing for the People". The French senatorial report of 2016 is our best result of our lobbying efforts.

- Research and expertise: The MFRB develops training sessions and has written three collective books. We coordinate three multi-stakeholder reflection groups "Pilots in France" "EU Agrarian basic income" "EU Basic Income For Children".

- International relations: The MFRB connects with UBI international networks like UBIE and BIEN but also with European institutions. It organises international conferences and attends World Social Forums.

2017 was the year of the presidential elections and a hectic year for the French activists: 41 requests for interventions in debates animation, counseling or hearings, 3 press request per day, a team of 12 press speakers, 58 mentions of MFRB in a major media, and many other facts. Now MFRB is looking at the future through more lobbying work and pilots. Read also [MFRB Quarterly update #1 - Mai 2017](#)

TIME HAS COME FOR SCALING:

In fall 2017, MFRB will enter to a period of intense fundraising work to professionalise teams to carry on the lobbying work. Now that UBI is installed in the public debate, MFRB needs to reach a new step and influence the drafting of the law. The next step is the implementation of a law to enable the execution of pilots and the preparation of fiscal reforms required to facilitate the final implementation of UBI.

GERMANY

The German Netzwerk Grundeinkommen was founded in 2004 and today is one of the world's biggest basic income organizations. It has about 5.000 members, 126 of which are organizations with up to 660.000 members each.

A major focus of our activities in 2017 was on the German federal elections on 24 September. We set up the special website grundeinkommen-ist-waehlbar.de (basic income is electable), where candidates supporting the basic income idea could present themselves. We asked the political parties to answer our benchmark questions about their positions towards basic income and published the answers on our website.

Another important target of our work this year was the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We participated in the German Protestant Church Assembly (Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag) in Berlin this summer. More than 100.000 people came together during the five days of this event. Hundreds of people visited our info booth and we had a lot of positive feedback. Also, we asked four renowned theologians for an essay about basic income in a religious context and published them in a booklet as well as on our website grundeinkommen.de.

Our brochure "Mehr Freiheit durch Grundeinkommen" (more freedom through basic income) is still in great demand. So far, we have printed 50.000 copies. We plan to translate the brochure into English.

Our next highlight this year will be a conference on basic income in October, which we organize in cooperation with the Evangelical Academy Bad Boll, the biggest ecclesiastic academy in Europe. On the two-day event, a couple of well-known experts will discuss the pros and cons of the basic income proposal.

INDIA

India Network for Basic Income (INBI) was established in 2015 by a group of researchers who had participated in the Madhya Pradesh Basic Income Pilot Study conducted between 2011 and 2014. As in 2017, it has a national membership of about 140 individuals. It is now in the process of becoming a legal Entity as a non-profit society. In the interim period, an Interim Executive Committee comprising of five members governs it. It has an International Advisory Board comprising of six international scholars.

INBI's primary mission is to promote and advocate the idea of unconditional and universal basic income as an effective and efficient social policy for India. The advocacy is based on rigorous empirical research. After the release of the Technical Report of the pilot study in 2014, a book was written and published in December 2014. A national conference was organised in 2014 to disseminate the findings of the pilot study. Since then a number of articles were written in the newspapers and a social media campaign was also launched. After the formation of INBI innumerable presentations were made in different departments of the government, at university spaces, in Conferences and seminars.

The period between the 16th and the 17th BIEN Congresses has been very eventful for INBI and the universal basic income discussion in India. The Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India began to speak in favour of the idea of UBI, and announced that the Government will present a paper in the Parliament introducing the idea of UBI. A much wider discussion resulted from this. In March 2017, INBI organised a national conference in which major figures from government, renowned economists and politicians debated UBI and its applicability and feasibility in the Indian context. Since the conference came soon after the government proposing the idea, the Conference and the debate on UBI got a very wide publicity. The Conference Report was widely circulated and the proceedings published in INBI's YouTube Channel.

In November 2016, INBI undertook a follow-up study of the Basic Income Pilot village called Legacy Study to understand what happened to the BI effects in the tribal village. The study is now complete and the report will be released by end of September 2017.

In July 2017, INBI received an Award from the World Economic Forum: “Best Practice in Governance”. INBI Coordinator Dr.Sarath Davala will speak and receive the Award at the WEF Impact Summit INBI on the 18th of September 2017.

INBI proposes to host the 19th BIEN Congress in India in the year 2019. The preparations are on, and we are waiting for the BIEN General Assembly to approve our bid.

THE NETHERLANDS

The Dutch branch of BIEN - de Vereniging Basisinkomen - was founded in 1989.

A public opinion survey by the Social and Cultural Planning Bureau in 1993 showed that only 19 % was in favor of a partial basic income and a majority in favor of workforce. (Sociaal en Cultureel Rapport, 1994 chapter 4). The economic upswing of the early years of the new century meant that the debate about basic income in the Netherlands faded away.

In the changed economic and political landscape from 2008, the issue of basic income made a strong comeback with the current debate much more intense and much more pragmatic than 25 years ago. In contrast to the fierce debate about basic income in the Netherlands in the 1980s and 1990s, large parts of the Dutch population are now receptive to the basic income idea, because the present welfare system is – in the eyes of the population – no longer worth fighting for.

In a 2016 national poll, 40% of the Dutch population voted in favor of a basic income, with 45% against and 15% ‘don’t knows’ (Poll done by national pollster Maurice de Hond, see website basisinkomen.nl). A majority of voters for the left-of-centre parties were in favor: 60% of Greens, and 53% of social democrats. Leftwing liberals were divided: 44 % in favor and 45 % against. Supporters of the populist rightwing Freedom party of Geert Wilders were also divided. The followers of the right parties were against. A 2017 poll by pollster Maurice de Hond gives 51 % in favor and 49 % against.

The return of the basic income idea in the Dutch debate has been boosted by a book from the young historian Rutger Bregman *Gratis geld voor iedereen*, published in September 2014 (published in English in 2017: *Utopia for Realists*), and a couple of national television documentaries. The topic of a basic income is regularly covered on television, radio, the Internet and in newspapers. When we hand out our basic income leaflets to the general public, we have lively discussions with the general public. Even the young people who were not born 25 years ago have a very good idea what a basic income is.

In the beginning of July 2017 after two years of discussion, five municipalities (Groningen, Tilburg, Deventer, Nijmegen and Wageningen) will start their two year experiments with a group of people on social welfare in the fall of 2017. Experimental groups will be free of conditions, will be allowed to earn limited extra money on top of their allowance or will be 'guided' more in applying for jobs, compared to the present situation. The effects on participation in the labour market, health and autonomy will be evaluated. The government did not approve the experimental designs of Amsterdam and Utrecht and they were told to add an element of workfare. Amsterdam decided to ignore the government and to start their pilot in September without its approval. The council of Utrecht will decide in September whether to follow the Amsterdam example. The experiments are not testing a universal basic income, but we hope it will be a step towards it.

Vereniging Basisinkomen has 7 boardmembers at the moment. Furthermore, there are 15 local teams who promote basic income throughout the country in various ways: organizing debates, handing out leaflets and so on. These local teams can get support (e.g. financial, promotion material) from the board when needed, and every year we organize a central meeting for these teams. We participate in education, debates, interviews etc. and try to influence politicians towards support for a universal basic income. This year (during basic income week) a calculation tool will be launched on our website, where people can calculate the cost of different types of basic income themselves. Members of Parliament from different political parties will be present at the launch in The Hague, (where the house of parliament is located) and participate in discussions about Basic Income.

NEW ZEALAND

Basic Income New Zealand Te Utu Tika Hei Oranga i Aotearoa

An executive of 9 members leads our organisation. Our paid membership numbers around 50 people and we have 240 subscribers along with 1100 Facebook followers and 410 Twitter followers. We were formed in mid 2015. In the past year we have been looking to build our capabilities for organising and our presence in the New Zealand scene.

Our particular focus has been towards a trial. Along with what has been happening globally, we have moved this way because of local interest in a trial. In a recent book, for instance, NZ Scholar Max Harris had argued for a trial, while not endorsing basic income. We have seen evidence of public support for a trial where a poll conducted by TVNZ claimed 73% of the 100,000 respondents believe we should have a trial here in NZ.

We have put a lot effort in to research. We developed a proposal for a trial that was presented at the Economic & Social Research Aotearoa conference “Social Movements, Resistance, & Social Change”. Our research has also contributed to a New Zealand news outlet’s (Scoop News) public engagement project on basic income.

A recent visit by Guy Standing helped boost our profile also. We took advantage of his visit as we co-hosted an event in Auckland with the Fabians Society that included well-known NZ speakers along with Guy.

As part of increasing our presence we have been working towards developing our brand. This has involved developing a new logo and various forms of advertising along with a general style guide. We have to thank Graphic Artist Tom Killen for his voluntary work in helping us develop our brand image. Efforts to increase our presence have also involved increasing our social media presence, particularly on Facebook and Twitter.

We are looking to form new independent branches of our network to increase our organisational capacity. These would be more or less autonomous groupings that could lead event organisations in their areas. This strategy was successful in the campaign to change our electoral system in the 1990s. At the moment, we have committed to forming at least one branch in Rotorua, where we have a strong presence.

In general we have had more success in attracting some interest in basic income and our organisation, without pulling in too many committed members that are willing to organise. This situation seems likely to improve, as we have noticed a certain momentum building, with greater media and public interest in the basic income movement and with more media attention going towards it and hopefully eventually towards us.

NORWAY

BIEN Norway, status and activity 2017

BIEN Norway was founded in October 2012. According to our statutes we shall be a minimum of 3 members in the board. Since the start it has varied from four to seven as we are today. In addition we have an auditor and an election committee. We were affiliated to BIEN in Montreal 2014.

The members of the board has following roles: Chair, Anja Askeland; Spokesperson, Øyvind Steensen; Accountant, Leo Valen; Event Manager, Sjur C.Papazian; Website; Lena Simonsen. In addition is Andreas Falck Pettersen and Lars Tore Bøe members of the board. We have about 100 paying members and close to 300 has registered for our newsletter.

It has been an eventful year, due to increased interest for UBI in wake of the Finnish experiment and overall increased public awareness. We have some increased membership and activity. It's election year in Norway, and we have hoped to make UBI a subject for debate on the biggest political stage. We are not fully there yet, but UBI became a hot topic during the Sami Government Election in the north of Norway. There have also been positive steps with the Green Party and Red Party more solidly adopting UBI in their programs, and these parties are growing. Increased debate highlights the need for good informational work as questions arise.

During the year, we updated our website, produced a brochure and held a few successful events. Sjur Cappelen Papazian, Anja Askeland and Øyvind Steensen have each had a couple of opinion pieces printed in Norwegian newspapers. We have spoken before local Green Party, Labour Youth Party and other organizations, and new recruits

have contributed greatly to the organization. Other events and activity worth mentioning are:

Studentersamfundet (Students' Association) Trondheim held a debate featuring Øyvind Steensen representing BIEN Norway, and later Studentersamfunnet in Bergen is doing the same. That means we have events in all the big universities.

BIEN Norway General Assembly in Oslo, with speech from Kalle Moene, panel with Moene, the Oslo leaders of the Red and Green parties and Øyvind Steensen, plus entertainment.

Anja Askeland together with Lena Stark (Basinkomstpartiet, Sweden) and Øyvind Steensen presenting UBI models for Grønt Økonomisk Nettverk (Green Party Economic Network) in private meeting at the Norwegian parliament.

Meeting with Karl Widerquist held by Anja and the newly started Haugalandet borgerlønnforening (Haugalandet UBI Association) in Haugesund, prompting local TV and radio coverage.

BIEN Norway hosted event "Borgerlønn - Veien videre for velferdsstaten" ("UBI - What's Ahead For the Welfare State") at Litteraturhuset in Oslo. Speakers: Nanna Kildal, Arne Øgård, Margunn Bjørnholt, Kalle Moene, Becca Kirkpatrick, Ove Jacobsen, plus entertainment.

Øyvind Steensen interviewed on national radio, Frokostradioen at NRK P1+.

Anja Askeland and Øyvind Steensen participating at BIEN Iceland's UBI Nordic conference in Reykjavik. Steensen as a speaker.

Sjur Capellen Papazian - speech at Oslo University hosted by Fremtiden i våre hender (The Future In Our Hands).

PORTUGAL

Basic income- Portugal: A brief report on our activities this 2017-2018 year and updates to include in the "affiliates report" that BIEN does every year.

This last year the Portuguese basic income movement was focused on preparing the 17th BIEN congress, which will take place in Lisbon in a few days.

One important improvement is that what was only a “movement” has now an [official basic income association](#). We hope this will be very helpful in spreading the public debate about UBI.

The public debate this last year was quite active, with several members of the movement and of the association actively participating in it. We keep [a record of all of the mediatic news](#) as well as of [all of the events](#) we organized or helped organized.

Our [Portuguese site](#) has more substantial information on how to finance, how to implement, a FAQ, etc.

After the Congress we are aiming at concentrating our efforts on convincing public authorities and private institutions to implement a pilot-project in Portugal.

SCOTLAND

2017 REPORT FROM THE CITIZEN'S BASIC INCOME NETWORK SCOTLAND, BIEN AFFILIATE.

During the Scottish independence campaign, leading up to the Referendum on 18 September 2014, Scots asked themselves fundamental questions such as 'What sort of society do we wish to create for ourselves and future generations.?' It was part of a process in which they became politicised like no other part of the UK. This, together with having a Scottish Parliament, though with limited devolved powers, meant that Scotland is different. In the autumn of 2015, a group of us got together to set up the Citizen's Basic Income Network Scotland (CBINS), with an educational remit, starting with a website, www.cbin.scot. It is a trust, but not a membership organization. CBINS received recognition as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in February 2016. It has 9 trustees and we meet alternately in Edinburgh and Glasgow about every 8 weeks.

During the referendum campaign, the Scottish Green Party put forward a BI scheme. In November 2015, the report, *Fairer Fife*, commissioned by Fife Council, was published. Tucked away inside was a statement that Fife would like to host a basic income (BI) pilot scheme. This caused a buzz in BI circles. In February 2016, a think tank, Reform Scotland, put forward its own BI proposal. At its spring conference in 2016, the SNP accepted a motion in favour of BI. The Scottish Green Party included a BI proposal in its manifesto for the UK General Election in June 2017.

CBINS has held two major events. On 26 November 2016, CBINS was launched in Govan, a deprived area in the great city of Glasgow, in which Guy Standing was the keynote speaker.

During a panel session, the councillor for Govan, Matt Kerr, announced that the City of Glasgow would also host a BI pilot study. He has organised cross party support for this. On 28 January 2017, in conjunction with Fife Council, CBINS had a second launch event, attended by some 150 local people, at which Karl Widerquist was the keynote speaker. A panel, comprising a cross-party group of councillors, responded to questions. Both launch events were great successes. North Ayrshire's announcement that it too would host a BI pilot project followed in early 2017. Responsibility for progressing the work has been delegated to council officials, to avoid potentially-conflicting party-political influences. Meetings have been held in both Glasgow and Fife, involving local people from a variety of interest groups, to inform them about the desirability and feasibility of a BI. The Royal Society for the Arts in Scotland has been actively involved in this, especially in Glasgow.

On 24 August 2017, the City of Edinburgh Council voted to join the Scottish BI Pilot Project. On 5 September, the Scottish Government announced that it would make some seed corn finance available to support the planning process. This work is absolutely crucial for a productive and successful outcome of the project, and is likely to take 2-3 years. It will involve asking the populations of the local authority areas 'What outcomes do you want from the BI?', and then designing BI schemes that can yield those outcomes. It means designing and testing questionnaires, checking that their answers are capable of testing the relevant hypotheses, identifying suitable samples areas, and recommending sample sizes that will give statistically rigorous results, among other things.

Alongside the planning process, a comprehensive educational program will have to take place, to ensure that the population is well-informed on all aspects of BI. Here, CBINS will have an important role, organizing talks, workshops and debates, and providing material that can be easily distributed. CBINS will encourage individuals to engage with their elected representatives (Councillors, Members of the Scottish Parliament, and MPs of the Westminster Parliament), effectively educating them also, so that when decisions have to be made, they, too, are well-primed and positive.

Ronnie Cowan, MP for Inverclyde near Glasgow, is attending BIEN this year. He has been a keen advocate of BI, both in Scotland and at Westminster, and he is the only MP who has been granted leave for a debate on BI at Westminster, on 16 September 2016.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute

Established in 2006, the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) is a South African not for profit think-tank specialising in research and analysis of poverty and inequalities in sub-Saharan Africa.

The SADC BIG Campaign

The Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute is the secretariat of the SADC BIG Campaign and the campaign's governance structure includes a regional steering committee of members across 6 countries (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia) where we conduct meetings on a quarterly basis.

The SADC BIG Campaign draws on principles of economic and social justice, and the campaign affirms the need for fair redistribution of proceeds from the extractive industries in Africa. The Campaign therefore seeks to ensure there is popular support for the roll-out of a universal SADC BIG to all SADC residents including refugees, and asylum seekers by 2020 funded on a tax on extractives. In the SADC region and the continent at large illicit financial flows remain a significant challenge and hinder any chance of development, as such we continue our advocacy to highlight the need for domestic resource mobilisation and injustice of poverty in an abundance of mineral riches.

Key events and campaign activities in 2017

Alternative Mining Indaba February 2017 – As part of the outcomes of the 8th Alternative Mining Indaba the declaration from civil society and over 450 representatives included “*A call*

on African governments to set aside part of revenues from extractive industries to fund basic income/grant to vulnerable groups in society”

Civil Society Forum August 2017- As part of the outcomes of the 13th Southern Africa Civil Society Forum communique from SADC civil society included the call for a Basic Income Grant (BIG) of a minimum of US\$15, which must be implemented across the region to all citizens, refugees and immigrants in the region If no one should be left behind to meet SDG1.

End poverty through a basic income grant petition- We have a petition running with another partner organisation Amandla.mobi urging the South African Minister of Social Development, Bathabile Dlamini to champion the recognition of universal social protection as a human right for all. (Link attached)

Mainstream media

Media presence has also increased this year and some of our highlights include interviews on Real talk with Anele and Power FM as well as articles in the Daily Vox and The Huffington post. (Links attached)

Social media

We are focused on increasing awareness around basic income and strengthening the SADC BIG Campaign. Our social media following has continued to grow. Our Twitter followers sit at 323 followers, which include global basic income supporters from all over the world and our Facebook page, with 1,108 likes; an average of 5 people engaged daily an 8% increase in page views.

Basic income week 2017

As part of the #BasicIncomeWorks campaign initiated last year we plan to create a video that will ask the question “*What would you do with a basic income?* “, merging different responses into a video and combine with infographics during basic income week.

Basic income grant in the region

We have a network of 97 partners across the region and we are an active member of the Southern Africa Social Protection Experts Network (SASPEN) and maintain regular engagement with the SADC CNGO.

In South Africa and the continent there is growing concern over our increasing poverty and widespread mass unemployment, although conversations around UBI are held mostly within civil society and interested media groups we are slowly beginning to see a shift towards the need to expand social protection, in particular to address youth unemployment and vulnerability.

SWITZERLAND

Brief notes on recent activities of BIEN Switzerland (BIEN-CH)

In June 2016 electors in Switzerland voted on our popular initiative (referendum) to change the Constitution so as to mandate the introduction of an unconditional basic income (UBI). The campaign and the result have been extensively reported on elsewhere. In our judgment the result, 23 % of “yes” votes, is encouraging for such a fundamental change in society in a conservative country. The Swiss old age pension, which is in fact a UBI for 25% of the population, took three popular votes and 30 years to be approved.

The campaign showed enormous amounts of enthusiasm but was very difficult to coordinate. Many different groups campaigned in favour, with divergent arguments for a UBI—such as individual freedom versus poverty reduction—and various underlying conceptions of society—such as liberal entrepreneurship versus fundamental rights. No one group was the leader, and not one large organization with deep pockets, such as a political party, economic grouping or trade union, campaigned in favour. In these circumstances the principal goal which could be realistically expected was achieved: the subject is now publicly perceived as a serious option for the future, so much so that a majority of voters believe that sooner or later a UBI *will* be introduced (even though they voted against it this time).

BIEN Switzerland’s major goal in the aftermath of the vote is to continue to publicize UBI and carefully prepare the next popular initiative. This will need to define the proposed UBI in greater detail while simultaneously safeguarding the consensus behind it, a challenge which other groups’ experiences also show to be a difficult one. Our members are also taking a breather and returning to their day-to-day lives after an enormous effort.

Recent discussions have included the possibility of buying a share in the Swiss National Bank (which is organized as a shareholders' company, even though a large majority of the shares is in public hands). Being a shareholder would allow BIEN-CH to speak at the AGM, in order to influence opinion in favour of, for example, "quantitative easing" directed at individuals rather than institutions, or other fairly obvious monetary policies in a zero-interest, zero-inflation environment which would be enablers for a UBI. Finally we decided that the costs (each share costs close to EUR 2000) outweighed the benefits and we will not be becoming a shareholder.

Other workshops and activities have centred on methods of arousing interest in the press and effective influencing through social media, effects of a UBI on social security, and financing models (including a money game to try out ideas). Our discussions are starting on how the fourth industrial revolution—automation and artificial intelligence—will change the context for the introduction of UBI, and we are also regularly speaking at events, responding to requests for interviews and providing input for academic studies. We cannot unfortunately report that any serious studies are being conducted which might provide information on the possible effects of introducing a UBI in Switzerland. Such studies are essential before the next initiative, but they are not taking place in Switzerland; the studies and experiments we read of elsewhere do not seem to be the type to provide the information we need either. The Lausanne city council has adopted a resolution which in theory instructs the mayor's office to launch a pilot, but there are no activities yet.

UNITED KINGDOM

A contribution to the BIEN affiliates' report, 2017

The Citizen's Basic Income Trust started work in 1984 as the Basic Income Research Group, registered as a charitable trust in 1989, changed its name to the Citizen's Income Trust in 1992, and this year changed its name to the Citizen's Basic Income Trust and reregistered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with an educational charitable purpose.

The organisation is managed by a board of trustees, who are currently Jake Eliot; Jay Ginn; Alison Griffin; Louise Haagh; Ursula Huws; Barbara Jacobson; Neal Lawson; John Macnicol; Luke Martinelli; Anne Miller; Gareth Morgan; Anthony Painter; Guy Standing; and Mark Wadsworth. The trustees hold three full trustees' meetings a year, and committees of trustees met between the full trustees' meetings. CBIT is served by a director, Malcolm Torry, on a voluntary basis.

CBIT publishes the *Citizen's Income Newsletter* three times a year, publishes monthly updates, maintains a website (which was completely redesigned two years ago) and a twitter account, maintains a library, responds to enquiries, and collaborates with other organisations on events and research projects. During the past year or so a public meeting was held at Conway Hall, a French graduate student on placement contributed to a research project on the feasibility of a local pilot project, and a new introductory booklet was published.

CBIT is collaborating with the Royal Society of Arts and Compass to create an event in London during next year.

A new Scottish organisation, Citizen's Basic Income Network Scotland, has now been constituted as a separate Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The Trust is very grateful to those individuals and organisations who continue to give time, effort and financial support to its work.

UNITED STATES

1. Organization. USBIG was founded in 1999. It's major work has been sponsoring and organizing regular conferences. For the last few years these have been in cooperation with the Basic Income Canada Network (BICN). The most recent North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress was in June 2017, at the Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College, in New York City. USBIG also has a monthly newsflash, a discussion paper series, and a Facebook page, and members contribute to Basic Income News. We currently have over 900 members. In the last year we formed a non-profit corporation, USBIG, Inc., which can receive money. We received a grant from the Economic Security Project, which is helping us to upgrade our website, make better use of volunteers, and in other ways grow the organization. We have also started to receive contributions from members. The USBIG board meets about 4 times a year. The general assembly, open to all USBIG members, takes place in conjunction with the annual NABIG Congress.
2. Activities. USBIG, as mentioned, just finished hosting the NABIG congress, and is now at work helping BICN with the next NABIG Congress in Canada. We are also working with emerging groups (such as Basic Income Action) to support local groups. There are chapters in such places as New York City, New Orleans, Minnesota, Washington state, and San Francisco. The Universal Income Project is active campaigning for basic income in California. And the Economic Security Project is supporting many basic income initiatives across the country. So in addition to unprecedented media coverage, there is growing activism around basic income in the US.

