

BIKN's Proposal for hosting BIEN Congress 2021

Theme: After a Turbulent Era: Will it be a Basic Income?

We have witnessed an explosion of interest regarding the Basic Income idea since about 2016, what with numerous experiments, pilot programs, electoral manifestos, and even a referendum on BI, taking place around the world. It speaks to the strong potential that people see in Basic Income as a workable alternative to the existing welfare policies which seem to be failing.

This increased interest also raises a tricky question for us about whether it is a Basic Income that will be pursued rather than something else. Politicians' opportunistic support of a trendy policy, and policymakers' attempt to apply a fresh coat of paint onto existing means-tested welfare policies by calling them 'Basic Income', could dilute the spirit of Basic Income, miring us in the controversy of the failures of existing social policies and wasting away the dynamism of the Basic Income movement. Given the rising interest in Basic Income, it is time that we examine what we mean when we advocate for Basic Income.

We would like to discuss topics of Basic Income which would include its rationale, possible influences, and feasibility, as part of a wider progressive package to change society in a more equitable manner. As such, we also need to discuss the policies that are significant in progressive politics which may not be related to Basic Income directly.

Date

26-28 August 2021

Venue and Logistics

Suwon Convention Centre was built this year for large-scale international conferences and exhibitions, providing the most up-to-date venue in Suwon, the capital city of Gyeonggi Province.

As the provincial capital of Gyeonggi Province, and located near Seoul, the capital of South Korea, Suwon City boasts effective intra and intercity transportation system including metro, bus and taxi. In addition, Suwon City has a range of accommodation available in the city as a notable tourist destination.

Funding

Based on the expenditure of BIEN 2016 Seoul, we estimate that we will need approximately 100,000 euros for BIEN Congress 2021. A third of the expenditure would come from Gyeonggi Province and its affiliate institute, Gyeonggi Research Institute, another third will be met by participation fees and donations, with the rest being borne by BIKN and its affiliates.

Hyosang Ahn, executive director of BIKN

On behalf of BIKN and its affiliates