

## **BIEN annual report to members, 2020: The news service and the website**

In November last year André Coelho resigned as news service editor after many years in the post. We are most grateful to him for the hard work that he put into writing news articles, training volunteer authors, editing articles, and sending out the monthly Newsflash.

Following his resignation there was something of a hiatus in the news service, which might not normally have been too much of a problem: but by April it was clear that the pandemic was causing a significant increase in interest in Basic Income, so it became imperative to revive the news service well before a new news editor could be elected at the end of September. Malcolm Torry agreed to step in on a temporary basis. Since April, he has worked with Leah Hamilton, the volunteer co-ordinator, to recruit new volunteer authors; has worked with Julio Linares to engage the new volunteers in researching and writing about what is happening in a wide variety of countries; has written and edited articles; and has sent out a monthly 'BIEN Bulletin'. Tyler Prochazka has continued to oversee opinion articles on the website. We look forward to a new news service editor being elected at the end of September.

During the first few weeks of 2020 we were having multiple problems with the website, which over many years had become overly complicated. Following the EC's agreement to a communication strategy proposed by Aoife Hegarty, the EC also agreed a website strategy, and appointed a group to manage the transition to a new website: Aoife, Leah, and Malcolm. The strategy was followed; the EC agreed the structure and content of a draft new website; and the new website became live in June. We are all most grateful to Amanda Wray, a former EC member, for working with us on the technical aspects of the transition. The project would not have been possible without her assistance.

Malcolm Torry, General Manager