

Dear Basic Income Advocates,

My Name is Olaf Michael Ostertag, I am from Germany and have advocated for Basic Income since first learning about it around the turn of the Millienium.

When BIEN held it's (now annual, then every two years) congress in Germany (Ottobrunn/Munich) in 2012 I was fascinated to experience how global this idea already was then. With participants from more than 40 countries, I immediately knew that this was the realm I would like to contribute to, as I experienced it as a formation of some kind of a global conscience. Which is so refreshing, opposite to the vast variety of obstacles to the development of humankind and the ignorance hindering social progress worldwide.

By now, Basic Income has truly become an issue that is being discussed in earnest, with statements in favor of it by Pope Francis and the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. Despite that, we unfortunately see that the term Basic Income is often misused to fit a political agenda. To enable the public discourse to demand a real Basic Income, we need the exchange between our affiliates. To have Basic Income recognized as a Basic Human Right and advocate for its implementation in as many countries as possible, it might be useful to present each other as points of reference to inspire others.

That is why I would be very grateful to be considered for the position of Affiliates' Coordinator on BIEN's Executive Committee. Since this is my first candidacy, I need to stress that I did not yet act too often on the international stage, apart from BIEN's General Assembly. I did contribute to international congresses only twice, once in France (following Télémaque Masson's invitation) and once in the U.S. (invited by Michael Howard).

However, I have been quite active in my home country of Germany in advocating for a Basic Income, being co-founder of the Basic Income Working group within the political party "DIE LINKE", together with Katja Kipping and Ronald Blaschke. Also I had the privilege to collaborate with the German „Netzwerk Grundeinkommen“ on several projects, and had been contributing to the Berlin „Basic Income March“ every September for the last few years.

Especially the latter, with live and recorded documentation of happenings around the world on the same day, has me now aspiring to connect to our affiliates, to participate in our networking process to foster our ever expanding movement. I would really love to join in, if it may please you.

Unconditionally

Olaf Michael Ostertag