

BIEN
BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK
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www.basicincome.org

This is the newsletter of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), which was founded in 1986 as the Basic Income European Network and expanded to become an Earth-wide Network in 2004. It serves as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income. It fosters informed discussion on this topic throughout the world.

This NewsFlash, below, can also be downloaded as a PDF document on our website
www.basicincome.org.

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For up-to-date information about basic income, see:

<http://binews.org/>

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1. Editorial: Invitation to the political movement for BI

I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to come to the Commons Brooklyn on March 1 to discuss a political movement for Basic Income. More information about it is [below](#) and [online](#). There's so much happening about basic income around the world, so much more interest in this topic than ever before, maybe it's time to start a political push for Basic Income in the United States? We'll talk about that issue at 6:30pm, Sunday March 1, 2014 in the Commons Brooklyn, 388 Atlantic Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11217.

-Karl Widerquist, Doha, Qatar, January 17, 2015

2. News

ONLINE: Efforts to get Basic Income in front of lawmakers

[Liam Upton]

In recent months, there have been two online efforts to get the idea of Basic Income in front of lawmakers, both in the USA and the UK.

The first one is [an e-petition](#), launched in October by UK Independent politician [Pete Higgens](#), which was [reported on previously](#) by BINews. After a slow start, the petition was mentioned by the popular British blog [Another Angry Voice](#) and as a result became the most trending petition at least twice. The total amount of signatures currently stands at over 3,000 with 100,000 needed for it to be discussed by lawmakers in the House of Commons. The petition lasts a year and will end in October 2015.

Another effort in the USA is a result of the [Big Ideas project](#), a project launched in December 2014 by the Progressive Change Institute and has the aim of getting crowdsourced ideas in front of US lawmakers. [30 members of Congress](#) have already committed to taking a 'serious look' at the top 20 most voted ideas on the site. Currently there is [an idea](#) which quotes Martin Luther King and proposes a Jobs Guarantee or 'if impractical', a 'Guaranteed Annual Income'. This idea has trended repeatedly since the launch of the site and is currently the fifth highest voted idea with over 4,000 votes. There is also [another idea](#) which mentions just a Universal Basic Income Guarantee which has over 1,500 votes and was previously in the top 20 but despite trending a number of times, has since fallen below that number.

For more information see:

Pete Higgens, “[Replace the Benefits System with a Universal Basic Income for all](#)”, HM Government, 30 October 2014

Progressive Change Institute, “[Big Ideas Project](#)”, Progressive Change Institute, December 2014

UNITED KINGDOM: Basic Income group forms within Liberal Democrats party

After a pair of blog posts from Liberal Democrats councillor, [Nick Barlow](#), a group supporting Basic Income has formed inside the Liberal Democrats. The Liberal Democrats are currently in a coalition government with the larger Conservative party.

The original blog post, entitled '[Liberal Democrats for Basic Income, anyone?](#)', noted how the policy was once part of the Liberal Democrats' manifesto and that the author had

noticed increasing talk about the idea. Barlow then declares his own support for the idea and asks for support and suggestions on making the idea Liberal Democrat policy once again.

The post went on to become Barlow's [most popular post of the year](#), despite being posted in December and received a number of comments of support from readers. As a result, he was spurred on to then write a [second blog post](#) in an attempt to organise supporters and push the idea forward. In this post he announced what he thinks supporters should focus on as well as the creation of a [mailing list](#) and [Facebook page](#) for this new group called 'Liberal Democrats for Basic Income'. The intent is to allow for discussion of the idea among those interested within the party.

These posts were then followed by a [post in the LibDemVoice](#) blog by parliamentary candidate Robin McGhee, which advocated the party adopt Universal Basic Income as a policy. The LibDemVoice is an influential blog run by volunteer Liberal Democrat members to discuss issues concerning the Liberal Democrats. It has a readership of 50,000 a month and according to their [About page](#) is 'ranked among the top 5 most influential blogs in the UK'. The post generated considerable debate, with many commenters expressing support for the idea.

Basic Income News conducted an interview with Nick Barlow on the topic, which you can read [here](#).

For more information, see:

Nick Barlow, "[Liberal Democrats for Basic Income, anyone?](#)", *What You Can Get Away With*, 02 December 2014

Nick Barlow, "[Liberal Democrats for Basic Income: the next steps](#)", *What You Can Get Away With*, 03 December 2014

Robin McGhee, "[Opinion: Universal Basic Income is the way forward for the Liberal Democrats](#)", *Liberal Democrat Voice*, 19 December 2014

UNITED STATES: Democratic Proposal Small Step in the Direction of BIG

U.S. Representative Chris Van Hollen (a Democrat from Maryland) has proposed introduce a small financial transactions tax (essentially a tax on Wall Street speculators) to finance a \$1000 per year tax credit, which will be added to the paychecks of all workers earning under \$100,000, or working couples earning under \$200,000. This proposal would come in addition to the existing "Earned Income Tax Credit," and it would be closer to universal, probably reaching a substantial majority of the population.

A proposal reaching so many people can be seen as a step in the direction of a basic income. However, the proposal has several differences with a basic income, most notably, it is conditional on labor. This cuts out some of the most needy people in society

including the disable, children, people with fulltime care responsibilities, and people who can't find an acceptable job. Being conditional on labor, some of the benefit of the tax credit is likely to be captured by employers who might have an incentive to reduce wages or foregone raises because the government is now paying the first \$1000 of most of their employees wages. The overall effect is likely to be higher living standards for the average work, but by less than the full \$1000 economists would expect from a lump sum payment such as a basic income.

The plan is not likely to gain much support in the Republican-controlled Congress. But if it gathers support among

For more information on the proposal see:

Richard Kirsch, "[Van Hollen Tax Proposal an Economic and Political Home Run.](#)" *The Huffington Post*. 01/12/2015

Budget Committee Democrats, "[An Action Plan to Grow the Paychecks of All, Not Just the Wealthy Few.](#)" *Budget Committee Democrats* (website). Accessed January 14, 2015.

FRANCE, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND: Launch of French-language Basic Income

newspaper 'L'inconditionnel'

[Liam Upton]

The new Basic Income newspaper, '[L'inconditionnel](#)' has been officially launched with two launch parties in [Brussels](#) and [Paris](#), on the 9th and 12th of December, respectively.

The newspaper, which is free of charge, [was funded via](#) French crowd-funding site pickandboost.com where it made its goal of €12,000, enough for the first run of 60,000 copies. It aims to '[explore the different facets](#)' of the idea of an Unconditional Basic Income' through in-depth articles and interviews as well as art and literary writings.

The newspaper is currently [available across](#) France and Belgium and one location in Portugal. The paper will also be available online and in Switzerland.

For more information, see:

Language: French

Stanislas Jourdan, "[Soirée de lancement de L'inconditionnel à Paris \[Launch party for L'inconditionnel in Paris\]](#)", *L'inconditionnel*, 5 December 2014

Language: French

Stanislas Jourdan, “[Soirée de lancement de L'inconditionnel à Bruxelles \[Launch party for L'inconditionnel in Brussels\]](#)”, *L'inconditionnel*, 2 December 2014

JAPAN: Party that endorses BIG has a new political platform

[Toru Yamamori]

Greens Japan (Japanese Green party) endorsed BIG from its beginning in 2012. On 31st October 2014, A new political organization ‘E-Future Association [*e-mirai-no-kai*]’ was launched in Kyoto. This organisation is a loose umbrella entity for coming local election in Kyoto 2015 by the Green Japan, the Kyoto *Seikatsusha* Network, and citizens who do not belong to any political organization. ‘E’, part of their name, means two things: first the sound means ‘good’ in Japanese, and second it connotes their intention to facilitate ‘online-activism.’ They call this umbrella entity ‘platform’ and explains this ‘platform’ strategy was learnt from experiences of early stage of Green Party in Germany.

On 8th November, ‘E-Future Association’ had a launching event, where Yoshiko Kada, former governor of Shiga prefecture gave a talk, and two candidates for local elections were announced.

Uiko Hasegawa, the co-president of Green Party Japan, is also the co-president of this association Her interview on Basic Income by the *BI News* team will be translated to this site shortly.

The setting up of the platform is covered by Japanese News Paper:

<http://www.kyoto-np.co.jp/politics/article/20141031000169>

The launching event is covered by Japanese News Paper:

<http://www.kyoto-np.co.jp/top/article/20141108000142>

The English site of Greens Japan:

<http://greens.gr.jp/world/english/>

UNITED STATES: Vox’s Dylan Matthews Extensively Writes on the Basic Income

[Josh Martin]

Dylan Matthews, contributor to *Vox* and formerly to *The Washington Post*, has written a series of well-researched posts on the universal basic income. Since December 2012, Matthews’s posts have frequently been on Basic Income News.

Matthews was included in *Politics Daily*'s "five rising stars under 25" and started his own politics blog, [MiniPundit](#), at age 14. He attended Harvard University where he wrote for *The Harvard Crimson*, and he has worked with Ezra Klein extensively over the past five years at both *Vox* and *The Washington Post*.

The following are links to his posts on the universal basic income:

Dylan Matthews "[Obama doesn't want to just write welfare recipients checks. But what if we did?](#)" *The Washington Post*, 8 August 2012.

Dylan Matthews, "[A Fox News anchor just endorsed something you'd never expect.](#)" *The Washington Post*, 16 November 2013.

Dylan Matthews, "[Five conservative reforms millennials should be fighting for,](#)" *The Washington Post*, 7 January 2014.

Dylan Matthews, "[More evidence that giving poor people money is a great cure for poverty](#)", *Vox*, 7 June 2014.

Dylan Matthews, "[Mexico tried giving poor people cash instead of food. It worked.](#)", *Vox*, 26 June 2014.

Dylan Matthews, "[Giving everyone a basic income would work for the same reasons Social Security does](#)", *Vox*, 30 July 2014.

Dylan Matthews, "[A guaranteed income for every American would eliminate poverty — and it wouldn't destroy the economy](#)", *Vox*, 05 August 2014.

Dylan Matthews, "[Basic income: the world's simplest plan to end poverty, explained.](#)" *Vox*, 8 September 2014.

Dylan Matthews, "[To Fix the Economy, Let's Print Money and Mail it to Everyone.](#)" *Vox*. 9 September 2014.

Dylan Matthews, "[We know how to end poverty. So why don't we?](#)", *Vox*, 14 November 2014.

UNITED STATES: Fundraiser Started for Film on the Basic Income

[Josh Martin]

Film production group Tree Media are trying to raise \$675,000 for the production of a movie on the basic income they are titling *Total Freedom*. On their page on *Indie Go Go*, they outline reasons for creating a film on the basic income and cite many major thinkers who have supported the policy in the past. They also provide plenty of information

explaining how they came up with the \$675,000 number. The fundraising will continue until February, at which point they will begin production and hopefully finish the project by December 2015.

To view their fundraising page, [click here](#).

3. Events

BROOKLYN, NY & ONLINE: Meeting to Discuss a Political Movement for Basic Income, March 1, 2015

Interest in Basic Income—an unconditional cash income for all citizens without means test or work requirement—is taking off around the world. Activists groups have formed and become more active around the world. Some political parties have endorsed the idea. Writers around the world are increasingly discussing Basic Income as a response to technological unemployment, precarity, and even as part of a solution to the climate problem.

With all this activity around the world, interest in the formation of an American political movement for Basic Income is growing. Toward this effort the USBIG Network will host an open meeting for anyone interested in a political movement for Basic Income in the United States. Everyone is welcome to attend. All points of view are encouraged. It will be an open discussion with no preset agenda and no list of speakers.

Let's get together; talk it over; and see what happens.

The USBIG Network has been around since December of 1999, but it is not an activists' group. Its goals have been to increase discussion and research into the topic. To have an activists' group, either USBIG will have to change or a new, separate organization will have to form. Thus at the close of the 14th Annual North American Basic Income (NABIG) Guarantee Congress, USBIG will organize this public discussion.

Everyone who is interested in discussing this issue is invited to come. Anyone who can't be there in person is invited to participate online (we'll announce details about how the meeting will be connected to the web later). We'll be using an open format that gives everyone opportunities to participate actively, equally.

We request anyone interest in helping with the event to contact us. If you have a place in the city where you can put people up who are coming to town for the meeting, please contact us.

We'll have pizza and drinks. We'll take up a collection to pay for them, but they'll be distributed unconditionally—even to those unwilling or unable to contribute to the costs.

Time & date: 6:30pm, Sunday March 1, 2014

Location: The Commons Brooklyn, 388 Atlantic Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11217 (easy to get to by subway from the rest of New York City)

Contact: Karl@widerquist.com

New York, NY, United States: Registration open for NABIG Congress, Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2015

Registration has opened for the 2015 North American Basic Income Guarantee (NABIG) Congress, most of which will take place as a section of the Eastern Economic Association's (EEA) Annual Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in New York, NY, February 26-March 1, 2015. More than forty authors and activists will participate at the Congress. The Congress will also include two free events outside the Hotel, a public discussion at Hunter College on February 26 and an activists' meeting at the Brooklyn Commons on March 1.

Anyone wishing to attend the main events at the Sheraton must register with the EEA. Any NABIG participant can register for the discounted fee of \$110 by going to this special website: <http://eeaorg.myshopify.com/products/usbig-registration-non-academic>

Economists must pay the full registration fee of \$175, which includes membership in the EEA. Economists can register at the main website: <http://eeaorg.myshopify.com/collections/conference-registration-and-event-tickets>

The on-site registration fee will be \$185.

Florence, Italy: Conference: The Future of Basic Income Research, Call for Abstracts

The Max Weber Programme at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy has released the following call for abstracts for the following conference: on “The Future of Basic Income Research.”

The Max Weber Programme at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy) is proud to launch the following call for abstracts for a conference on the topic of universal basic income.

- When: 26-27 June, 2015
- Where: European University Institute (Florence, Italy)
- Keynote Speakers: Philippe Van Parijs and Yannick Vanderborght
- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15th of February
- Conference organizers: Juliana Bidadanure and Robert Lepenies

- Conference website:
<http://www.eui.eu/.../June/TheFutureofBasicIncomeResearch.aspx>

The past three decades have seen the elaboration of a vast body of literature on universal basic income – a policy proposal Philippe Van Parijs referred to as a “disarmingly simple idea”. It consists of a monthly cash allowance given to all citizens, regardless of personal desert and without means-test. Basic income studies are an example of successful interdisciplinary research, involving philosophers, economists and sociologists, among many others. Basic income (BI) proponents have identified, evaluated and deconstructed many potential and actual objections against this radical proposal. Yet for young scholars interested in, but new to, basic income, the field might seem crowded and overwhelming. This conference aims to look into the future of basic income research: Which questions have been left unanswered, which questions should be posed? What should be on the research agenda for the next 10 years?

We invite submissions of abstracts of no more than one page for the conference that will take place on Friday June 26th. Please also provide a short biographical sketch. The deadline for submission is February 15th 2015.

We are also pleased to announce that the conference will also feature a book workshop on Saturday June 27th. Philippe Van Parijs and Yannick Vanderborght will discuss with select participants their new book manuscript on basic income. All participants are welcome to join the workshop. Those interested in acting as discussants are invited to email us.

Please confirm your attendance to both the conference and the workshop by emailing Juliana Bidadanure (Juliana.Bidanure@eui.eu) or Robert Lepenies (Robert.Lepenies@eui.eu).

See the detailed call for abstracts here:
http://mwpweb.eu/1/178/resources/document_798_1.pdf

4. BI Literature

Adam Cowden, “Moving Forward After Ferguson and Staten Island”

[Liam Upton]

The author discusses the recent controversial deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner and goes on to discuss the issue of poverty in black America. At the end he proposes a Basic Income as a way to relieve or fix this problem.

Adam Cowden, “[Moving Forward After Ferguson and Staten Island](#)”, *The Huffington Post UK*, 10 December 2014

Amanda Johnson, “Bitnation Will Test Whether Basic Income is Actually Workable”

[Jenna van Draanen]

SUMMARY: The author announces an application that can run on Bitnation to allow for users to contribute to and benefit from a basic income, using the app. The article describes the app as a way of voluntarily sharing money, without taxation, that could pay for a basic income for those who need it.

Amanda Johnson, “[Bitnation Will Test Whether Basic Income is Actually Workable](#)” *Cointelegraph*. December 27, 2014.

Carlos Fresneda, “Una renta básica europea? [An european basic income?]”

The Spanish newspaper El Mundo, in its online version, reports on the first summit of the Unconditional Basic Income Europe (UBIE), which took place in Athens on the past 28th of September. In this event, several top economists and activists which defend the unconditional basic income have participated, such as Stanislas Jourdan, Guy Standing and Lluís Torrens.

Language: Spanish

Carlos Fresneda, “[Una renta básica europea? \[An european basic income?\]”](#), El Mundo, September 28 2014

CBM, “Bitnation Announces Basic Income Application”

[Jenna van Draanen]

CBM, “[Bitnation Announces Basic Income Application”](#)” *Cryptobiz Magazine*. December 26, 2014.

Chandra Pasma, “Basic income programs and pilots”

This article lists and summarizes recent pilot projects implemented globally.

Chandra Pasma, “[Basic income programs and pilots”](#)”, *Basic Income Canada Network*, February 3 2014

Clarissa Hayward, Lynn Oldham, and Laura Rosenbury, “What now? Three ways to tackle structural injustice”

[Josh Martin]

Hayward, Oldham, and Rosenbury write from St. Louis right after the ruling in the Michael Brown case that happened just a few miles away in Ferguson, Missouri. They argue that tackling racial tensions requires an understanding of the structural problems in the St. Louis metropolitan area and that one percent of the gross metropolitan product should be put toward three goals: excellent education, new conceptions of community via land use planning, and a “solidarity economy” that seeks to help those on the bottom. In this third goal, they mention the need for a guaranteed income for all that meets their basic needs. This could take the form of a basic income for all in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Clarissa Hayward, Lynn Oldham, and Laura Rosenbury, “[What now? Three ways to tackle structural injustice](#)”, *STL Today*, 26 November 2014.

Daniel Raventos and Julie Wark, “The X-Rated Free Market”

[Josh Martin]

Raventos and Wark seek to debunk the belief that the wealthiest citizens deserve their money. They argue that there are almost no true free markets, and look to the pornography sector as the closest thing to a free market, pointing out that the pay for actors in the pornography industry are far lower and more gendered than the corresponding pay for the Hollywood elite, which represents a far less than free market. They also use royal succession to point out how easy some wealthy people have it. In all, Raventos and Wark note that a basic income might help restructure the economy to help fight this inequality.

Daniel Raventos and Julie Wark, “[The X-Rated Free Market](#)”, *Counterpunch*, 31 October 2014.

Daniel Tencer, "What you should know about the idea that could revolutionize the 21st century"

The article briefly describes negative income tax and basic unconditional income and comments with some detail on the Canadian situation in this regard, adding possible implications of the implementation, viewed from both sides of the political spectrum.

Daniel Tencer, "[What you should know about the idea that could revolutionize the 21st century](#)", *The Huffington Post Canada*, December 23 2014

Elizabeth Edgett, "Unconditional Basic Income – an Economic Model for a New Renaissance"

[Josh Martin]

Edgett's article provides an introduction to the unconditional basic income. By eliciting arguments on robots and automation, Edgett believes the basic income can solve many of the problems society will face in the next 100 years. Edgett then discusses the economic repercussions and subsequent "renaissance of human creativity" from the implementation of a basic income.

Elizabeth Edgett, "[Unconditional Basic Income – an Economic Model for a New Renaissance](#)", *Wake Up World*, 24 November 2014.

The Georgist News, "Social Media: Libertarians Battle Over a Citizen's Dividend"

[Josh Martin]

This post discusses the libertarian debate over the basic income at the Cato Institute.

The Georgist News, "[Social Media: Libertarians Battle Over a Citizen's Dividend](#)", *Georgist.com*, 26 September 2014.

Guy Standing, "Cash transfers can work better than subsidies"

[Josh Martin]

In this opinion piece in an Indian newspaper, Guy Standing, who was one of the driving architects behind the Indian basic income pilot projects in the past few years, argues for a basic income as a better alternative to the large subsidies in place that are aimed to help those in poverty buy goods at discounted prices. Standing points out the inefficiencies of the subsidy programs and then promotes the three main effects of the basic income: it improves personal and community welfare, stimulates growth, and harbors an emancipatory value that boosts the other two effects.

Guy Standing, "[Cash transfers can work better than subsidies](#)", *The Hindu*, 6 December 2014.

Ian Mount, "What might soothe Europe's economic pain? Cash handouts"

Ian Mount, "[What might soothe Europe's economic pain? Cash handouts](#)", *Fortune*, November 18 2014

Jon Maiden, "Citizen's Income: A Vision of a Better Future"

[Josh Martin]

Maiden's post is written from the year 2045 under the assumption that a basic income was adopted in 2025. It details the historical context in which the basic income was adopted and then outlines its effects on society, including the emergence of an entrepreneurial revolution.

Jon Maiden, "[Citizen's Income: A Vision of a Better Future](#)", *Now Then*, Issue 81, December 2014.

John Muellbauer, "Quantitative easing for the people"

Oxford Economics professor John Muellbauer elaborates a rational justification and a simple application plan for giving each EU citizen a 500 €, no strings attached, monthly payment. The money would be printed in the European Central Bank and simply given to registered citizens in the eurozone.

John Muellbauer, "[Quantitative easing for the people](#)", *The New Times*, November 7 2014

Jordi Arcarons, Antoni Domènec, Daniel Raventós, Lluís Torrens, "Un modelo de financiación de la Renta Básica para el conjunto del Reino de España: sí, se puede y es racional [A basic income finance model for all Spanish Kingdom: yes, it can be done and is rational]"

Results from this recently published article show that basic income within all Spanish territory can be financed at approximately 7500 € per year for each adult person and 20% of that value for each child. The authors state none of the basic state functions (e.g.: education, health) need cuts in order to finance basic income, with reforms in taxation and savings from all benefits already given by the state, which need not exist when the basic income is implemented, paying for its implementation.

Language: Spanish

Jordi Arcarons, Antoni Domènec, Daniel Raventós, Lluís Torrens, "Un modelo de financiación de la Renta Básica para el conjunto del Reino de España: sí, se puede y es racional [A basic income finance model for all Spanish Kingdom: yes, it can be done and is rational]", *Sinpermisso*, December 7 2014

Koeppelmann, “Basic Income (CIRCLES) - reputation/market based approach to solve the identity problem/Sybil attacks”

[Josh Martin]

This post contains a proposed structure for a cryptocurrency based basic income.

Koeppelmann, "Basic Income (CIRCLES) - reputation/market based approach to solve the identity problem/Sybil attacks", *Ethereum*, 21 November 2014.

Lane Anderson, “What can we learn from a town that beat poverty.”

This article begins, “It sounds like something from a Utopian novel, but for five years, a small Canadian city ensured basic incomes for everyone. And for five years, poverty vanished...”

Lane Anderson, "What can we learn from a town that beat poverty." *Desert News National*, January 5, 2015

M. Oliver Heydorn, “The (Big!) Difference Between a 'Basic Income' and the National Dividend”

[Josh Martin]

Heydorn writes from the perspective of those enamored with the idea of a Social Credit proposal for a National Dividend. In this blog post he outlines the differences between such a dividend and a basic income. First, he acknowledges the structural differences. While a basic income is fixed at a level, the dividend would be fixed to productivity: no productivity, no dividend. Secondly, he claims that the purpose of the basic income is to achieve full employment, while the dividend is supposed to encourage leisure. Lastly, Heydorn says a basic income would be financed through currently in place means, but a dividend should be issued by a newly created National Credit Office. For these reasons M. Oliver Heydorn argues that those in favor of the Social Credit should hesitate to support a basic income and should instead seek to convince basic income supporters to join them instead.

M. Oliver Heydorn, “[The \(Big!\) Difference Between a 'Basic Income' and the National Dividend](#)”, *Socred.org*, 30 October 2014.

Maciej Szlinder, “The Strategy for Basic Income: Interview with Guy Standing.”

Maciej Szlinder conducted this interview with Guy Standing during Standing's visit to the University of Wrocław. During the interview, Standing discusses evidence about Basic Income gathered from around the world and the application of Basic Income as a strategy particularly in Poland and Eastern Europe.

Language: [English](#) with [link to Polish translation](#).

Maciej Szlinder, “[The Strategy for Basic Income: Interview with Guy Standing](#)”
Czasopismo Naukowe, 13 November 2014.

Mathew Schmid, "The next big social idea: unconditional basic income"

To face rising inequality and social catastrophe, unconditional basic income, this article defends. Focused on its advantages, the author highlights its potential transformations in society.

Mathew Schmid, "[The next big social idea: unconditional basic income](#)", *The Huffington Post Canada*, December 22 2014

Matthew Ward, “State of the Arts—a guest post about Basic Income”

[Josh Martin]

Ward writes this piece on his sister’s blog on the issues facing artists in the 21st century. Ward argues that capitalism makes life especially difficult for artists since their work is priced and sold just like every other good and service. Through this artistic lens, then, Ward advocates a basic income as a remedy for capitalism’s strain on artists.

Matthew Ward, “[State of the Arts—a guest post about Basic Income](#)”, *Blog Cabin by Vic*, 4 December 2014.

Nick Barlow, “Liberal Democrats for Basic Income, anyone?”

[Josh Martin]

Barlow discusses the reasons why the Liberal Democrats in the UK should include the Citizen’s Income, also known as the basic income, in its party manifesto. In fact, the Liberal Democrats had it in their manifesto from 1992 to 1994, and Barlow hopes to encourage other Liberal Democrats to support it once again.

Nick Barlow, “[Liberal Democrats for Basic Income, anyone?](#)”, *What You Can Get Away With*, 2 December 2014.

Pramit Bhattacharya “Subsidies must give way to a universal basic income: Pranab Bardhan.”

Pramit Bhattacharya “[Subsidies must give way to a universal basic income: Pranab Bardhan.](#)” *Live Mint*, Dec 13 2014.

Renana Jhabvala, “No conditions apply.”

This opinion piece discusses results of the recent Basic Income pilot project in India.

Renana Jhabvala, “[No conditions apply.](#)” *The Indian Express*, December 9, 2014.

Sam Becker, “Is it Time to Consider a Basic Income?”

[Josh Martin]

Becker’s post serves as an introduction to the basic income for those who are unfamiliar with it. He begins by noting Thomas Paine’s support for such a policy and then argues that it could be a good policy for America due to its ability to fight poverty and inequality. While politically unfeasible at the moment, Becker claims that this idea needs to be discussed as a policy option.

Sam Becker, “[Is it Time to Consider a Basic Income?](#)”, *Wall St. Cheat Sheet*, 19 September 2014.

Sam Bowman, “The Negative Income Tax and Basic Income are pretty much the same thing”

[Josh Martin]

This post seeks to equate the Negative Income Tax (NIT) and the Basic Income (BI). Bowman’s main point is that both policies effectively withdraw the benefits as earned income rises, but it is withdrawn at the front end in the NIT and at the back end in the BI through a modified tax system.

Sam Bowman, “[The Negative Income Tax and Basic Income are pretty much the same thing](#)”, *Adam Smith Institute*, 23 May 2014.

Scott Santens, “Negative Income Tax (NIT) and Unconditional Basic Income (UBI)”

[Jenna van Draanen]

Scott Santens, “[Negative Income Tax \(NIT\) and Unconditional Basic Income \(UBI\)](#)” *Scottsantens.com*. December 17, 2014.

Jean-Eric Hyafil & Leon Regent, “Le revenu de base, ce n’est pas sorcier... chiffres à l’appui [Basic income, it’s not rocket science... supporting figures]”

[Jenna van Draanen]

SUMMARY: This article provides economic figures that support the facts and presentation of data in the short films produced by the organization Mouvement Français pour un Revenu de Base. It details the financing of a basic income in France, what the resulting impact would be on different individuals and family compositions, and the tax structure that would support a basic income in France.

Language: French

Jean-Eric Hyafil & Leon Regent, “[Le revenu de base, ce n'est pas sorcier... chiffres à l'appui \[Basic income, it's not rocket science... supporting figures\]](#)” *Revenu de Base*. December 18, 2014.

Scott Santens, “Payday Loan Lenders Are Unstoppable. . . Or Are They?”

[Josh Martin]

Utilizing the momentum against payday loan lenders generated by HBO’s John Oliver, Santens takes the opportunity to highlight the basic income’s impact on indebtedness. Using results from the basic income pilot projects in India and Namibia, Santens shows how effective the unconditional transfer is at combating indebtedness.

Scott Santens, “[Payday Loan Lenders Are Unstoppable. . . Or Are They?](#)”, *Medium*, 16 August 2014.

Scott Santens, “5 Steps to Becoming a BIG Contributor”

[Josh Martin]

Santens writes this piece on his personal blog on how one can help personally push the basic income movement forward. He outlines it in five steps: Become Knowledgeable, Interact with Others, Create Content, Organize Locally, and Organize Nationally (and then Globally).

Scott Santens, “[5 Steps to Becoming a BIG Contributor](#)”, *Scott Santens Blog*, 4 December 2014.

Simon Jenkins, “We should cash-bomb the people - not the banks”

[Josh Martin]

This article scrutinizes the pro-banker approach the EU has taken in the aftermath of the recession and argues that we should be giving the money to the people instead. Jenkins discusses the QE practiced by the US and the EU and mourns its shortcomings. In contrast, Jenkins mentions the policy put forward by John Muellbauer to create “QE for the people” as a sort of basic income to the citizens instead of channeling the money to the banks.

Simon Jenkins, “[We should cash-bomb the people - not the banks](#)”, *The Guardian*, 26 November 2014.

Toru Yamamori, “Why Basic Income Now? Limitations of the Japanese Welfare State”

Yahoo Japan, a Japanese online news site features Basic Income. In the first article written by Toru Yamamori, he explains failure of the Japanese Social Security systems. The article also contains information on Guy Standing talk on Basic Income at the International Sociology Association in Yokohama.

Toru Yamamori, “[Why Basic Income Now? Limitations of the Japanese Welfare State](#),” *Yahoo Japan News*, July 11, 2014.

Zi-Ann Lum, "A Canadian city once eliminated poverty and nearly everyone forgot about it"

This article recalls the "Mincome" experiment in Dauphni, Canada, while analyzing past and present conditions in the country for implementing a basic unconditional income.

Zi-Ann Lum, "[A Canadian city once eliminated poverty and nearly everyone forgot about it](#)", *The Huffington Post Canada*, December 23 2014

Zi-Ann Lum, “A Canadian City Once Eliminated Poverty And Nearly Everyone Forgot About It”

[Liam Upton]

Zi-Ann Lum, “[A Canadian City Once Eliminated Poverty And Nearly Everyone Forgot About It](#)”, *The Huffington Post Canada*, December 23 2014

5. Audio-Video

[VIDEO: Evelyn Forget Speaks to Finnish Parliament About Canadian Basic Income Pilot Project](#)

Evelyn Forget, “[Speech to Finnish Parliament](#)”, *YouTube*, 1 December 2014.

[Video: Dylan Matthews, “We know how to end poverty. So why don’t we?”](#)

[Josh Martin]

Matthews has written extensively on the basic income on *Vox*, and his most recent work is this brief two minute video explaining the history of basic income ideas in the USA, including policies produced by President Nixon in 1969 and the Negative Income Tax experiments in the USA in the 1970s.

Dylan Matthews, “[We know how to end poverty. So why don’t we?](#)”, *Vox*, 14 November 2014.

6. New Link

[LINK: Basic Income on Medium.com](#)

A collection of basic income-related articles published on medium.com. Edited by [Jax Blunt](#).

Jax Blunt, “[Basic Income](#)”, *Medium*

7. About the Basic Income Earth Network and its NewsFlash

BIEN NewsFlash:

Editor: Karl Widerquist

The BIEN NewsFlash is the newsletter of the Basic Income Earth Network. It is mailed

electronically every two months to over 2,000 subscribers throughout the world. If you would like to be added or removed from the subscription list, please go to:
<http://www.basicincome.org/bien/subscribe.php>.

BIEN's news website is BInews.org. It includes many of the articles from the NewsFlash, daily news on basic income, book reviews, opinion, and more.
Items for inclusion or review in future NewsFlashes and BI News please contact BIEN's News Editor, Karl Widerquist <Karl@widerquist.com>
Or go to the following page on the BI News website: <http://binews.org/contribute.php>

BIEN

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Further details about **BIEN's Executive Committee and International Board** as well as further information about the **Recognised National Networks** can be found on our website www.basicincome.org

MEMBERSHIP

All life members of the Basic Income European Network, many of whom were non-Europeans, have automatically become life members of the Basic Income Earth Network. To join them, just send your name and address (postal and electronic) to Secretary of BIEN <biensecretary@gmail.com>, and transfer EUR 100 to BIEN's account 001 2204356 10 at FORTIS BANK (IBAN: BE41 0012 2043 5610), 10 Rond-Point Schuman, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. An acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt.

BIEN Life-members can become "B(I)ENEFACTORS" by giving another 100 Euros or more to the Network. The funds collected will facilitate the participation of promising BI advocates coming from developing countries or from disadvantaged groups.

For a list of members and B(I)Enefactors go to www.basicincome.org.

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