

BASIC INCOME NEW FRONTIERS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

At the end of 2015, the [Government of Finland announced the efforts towards the establishment of a Basic Income](#) of citizenship on a national base.

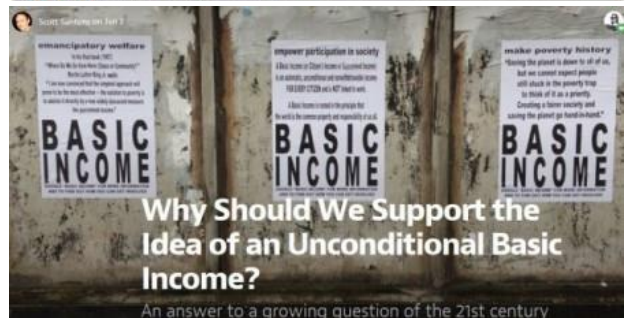
The news, being the first commitment from a European country to implement a Basic Income experiment, has attracted worldwide media attention about this innovative means of social protection that expects a basic income to be given by the Government to every citizen, whether he's in particular needs or not, and without discriminations of any kind.

The idea originated in early 80's within the academy and has aggregated many partners giving the way to different experiments in many countries. Since 1986 the *Basic Income European Network* (BIEN) represents an international landmark for individuals and groups committed to the idea. Members of the Network include academics, students and social policy practitioners as well as people actively engaged in political and social organizations. Activists from other continents have actively joined the network.

The *Network* defines the basic income as a payment from the State to every citizen on an individual basis. It would be sufficient to live a frugal but decent lifestyle without supplementary income from paid work. It is a form of guaranteed minimum income that differs from those that today exist in various countries in three important ways: it is being paid to individuals, it is paid regardless of any different source of income and without requiring the execution of any work or the willingness to accept a job if offered.

The Basic Income, as conceived by the international movement, shows three innovative characteristics with respect to current forms of social protection:

- It redefines the complex social protection systems that all countries design and manage depending on their own resources and priorities, to give an answer

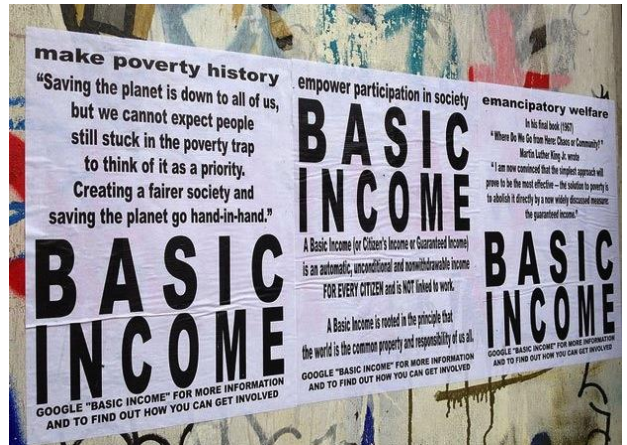


to social and economic troubles of the population. Those systems adopt subsidies and fiscal facilities for specific categories of persons (unemployed, youth in search of job, poor or disabled people, and many others) considered as priority target groups. Those measures are managed by a complex public bureaucratic system involving different ministries in accordance to the different categories. The Basic Income is recognized for all citizens and allows to simplify the current bureaucratic mechanisms saving economies that can be reoriented by the Governments. As example, the Finland government presents the basic income as a means to simplify the social security system.

- It gives structural answers to main transformations of modern economies, which increasingly reduce human labor creating huge phenomena of unemployment. The use of more and more innovative technologies in our modern societies, the outsourcing of productive processes facilitated by the globalization, the incremental polarization of wealth, have caused an alarming increasing of poverty, unemployment and progressive social exclusion of sectors of population. The Finnish government is thus studying the possibility to introduce the Basic Income to tackle the alarming data of unemployment in the country, which concern the 10% of the labour force, reaching the 22,7% among young people.
- Basic Income propose a new concept of society where the benefits of wealth generated in each country are redistributed among citizens as a worldwide recognized right. This aspect of the Basic Income, that aims to provide everybody with a living financial security and gives the possibility to improve the quality of life of every citizen without any discrimination, is proposed by the Basic income movement as the ideal scenario inspiring different practices. Common to all is the belief that some sort of economic right based upon citizenship, rather than upon one's relationship to the production process or one's family status could be the solution to social problems in advanced societies.

The movement is based on the various partial experimentations ongoing in different countries, in order to deepen the knowledge of the mechanisms adopted and the positive results attained.

The Alaska Permanent Fund is regarded as one of the best examples of an existing basic income, even though it's only a partial basic income. Other examples include *Bolsa Familia* in Brazil, the partial basic income in Macao and in Iran. Basic income pilots have been conducted in United States, Canada, Namibia and India. In Europe there are political decisions in France and Netherlands to start up some basic income pilots. [Switzerland will hold a referendum on the Basic Income in 2016.](#)



The 16th edition of the Congress organized by the Network *Basic Income European Network* will take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, July 7-9, 2016. The Congress title is *Social and Ecological Transformation and the Basic Income* and more information will be available in the Basic Income website.

To know more

Basicincome.org

[Basic Income in Finland](#)

[Basic Income Earth Network in Facebook](#)

[Basic Income Ireland](#)

[Basic Income in Switzerland](#)

[Basic Income Network Italia](#)

Revenuedexistence.org

[World Summit on Technological Unemployment](#)

[Article on Basic Income in India-International Sociological Association](#)

[Article in Huffingtonpost](#)

[Article in The Guardian](#)

[Article in Equal Life Foundation](#)

[Basic Income in Wikipedia](#)

