

## Literature and Links

### Introductory Literature

**Birnbaum, S.:** *Basic Income Reconsidered: Social Justice, Liberalism, and the Demands of Equality.* New York, 2012.

**Blaschke, R.:** *Minimum income, minimum allowances and basic income in Europe.* [www.grundeinkommen.de/content/uploads/2011/10/11-10-09-mindesteinkommen-grundeinkommen-europa-en.pdf](http://www.grundeinkommen.de/content/uploads/2011/10/11-10-09-mindesteinkommen-grundeinkommen-europa-en.pdf).

**Fitzpatrick, T.:** *Freedom and Security: An Introduction to the Basic Income Debate,* London, 1999.

**Moynihan, D.:** *The Politics of a Guaranteed Income: The Nixon Administration and the Family Assistance Plan.* New York, 1973.

**Murray, M.:** *"...And Economic Justice for All": Welfare Reform for the 21st Century.* Armonk, 1997.

**Parker, H.:** *Instead of the Dole.* London, 1989.

**Sheahan, A.:** *Basic Income Guarantee: Your Right to Economic Security.* New York, 2012.

**Van Parijs, P.:** *What's Wrong With a Free Lunch?* Boston, 2001.

**Walter, T.:** *Basic Income : Freedom from Poverty, Freedom to Work.* London & New York, 1989.

**Wogaman, P.:** *Guaranteed Annual Income: The Moral Issues.* Nashville, 1968.

### Links

[basicincome.org](http://basicincome.org)

[Blnews.org](http://Blnews.org)

[citizensincome.org](http://citizensincome.org)

[usbic.net/index.php](http://usbic.net/index.php)

[grundeinkommen.de/services/english-page](http://grundeinkommen.de/services/english-page)

[bien2012.de/en](http://bien2012.de/en)

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## Netzwerk Grundeinkommen Germany

Freedom Equality  
Basic Income

- » financial security which ensures a humane and decent existence for everyone and societal participation for all
- » legal right for each individual, from the cradle to the grave
- » elimination of means test
- » no compulsory work or obligation of return services



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## Netzwerk Grundeinkommen Germany: Who we are



Foto: Urs Schweitzer

The Netzwerk was founded in Berlin on July 9, 2004 by academics, students, representatives of the unemployment movement, church organizations, and members of various political parties.

On the same day as the Netzwerk's founding, the Bundesrat approved the "Hartz IV" law. The Netzwerk used this occasion to point out essential alternatives to compulsory work. "The laws which were passed today ultimately lead to the degradation of those who must rely on social security systems", commented co-founder Michael Opielka.

At the founding meeting, the Netzwerk defined four criteria the unconditional basic income was to meet: a sufficient financial amount to ensure existence and participation, individual legal entitlement, no means test, and no compulsory work.

At the same time it was decided not to commit to a specific financing model but rather to discuss various models within the scope of the four criteria. Netzwerk Grundeinkommen is a member of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), founded in 1986, and maintains contact with numerous basic income advocates throughout the world.

[www.grundeinkommen.de](http://www.grundeinkommen.de)

## Unconditional Basic Income – Now?

Over 3,300 people and 100 organizations and initiatives currently belong to the German Netzwerk Grundeinkommen. Approval is rapidly increasing among society, and almost every single political party has joined the discussion on the unconditional basic income. Entrepreneurs, the unemployed, social organizations, NGOs and labor unions have also taken up the idea, with labor unions and social organizations demanding entry to a basic income (e.g. "children's basic security").

The basic income is a convincing solution especially today, when the calls for justice and solidarity are increasing because they are denied to so many, in spite of the great societal wealth which exists. It would eliminate poverty, ensure the freedom of the individual and make societal participation possible for all. The basic income protects the individual from the endless forced assimilation by the globalized economy and offers more chances of development.



## Basic Income – Where?

The idea of the basic income is on the advance worldwide. There was a pilot project in Namibia (Otjivero). Canada and Brazil are working in the direction of a basic income, and development aid organizations (e.g. FIAN, Bread for the World) demand a sustenance basic income to fight hunger.

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## Objections

### *"But then no one would work anymore!"*

People are not lazy by nature. Most want to actively engage in meaningful activities – ask yourself this question: If you were to receive an unconditional basic income, would you just simply sit around on the couch? The unpleasant jobs still must be done, of course – but they would become automated more quickly with a basic income or would have to be better paid.

### *"But who is supposed to pay for it?"*

The tax-funded social transfers that are currently paid (Hartz IV, social welfare benefits, child benefits, federal education loans etc.) would already ensure a foundation of a basic income for everyone. In addition, value-added tax, income tax and capital tax would have to contribute to funding, and/or increased taxation on stock exchange profit or inheritance. You will find further details about financing models on our website (go to "Die Idee/ Modelle"; in German).

### *"No work means no recognition!"*

Our work society is changing. Work is more than the traditional gainful employment. Through streamlining, less and less people are able to produce the things required to meet everyone's needs. The basic income would increase the value of meaningful activities such as in the educational and social fields and offer new possibilities in occupation and identity. The basic income would also allow people to decide in which sector of society they would like to actively apply themselves.

You will find more answers to questions about the basic income on our website (under "Die Idee"; in German).

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