

**Neuer Anlauf für die
Europäische BürgerInnen-
Initiative (EBI)
zum Bedingungslosen
Grundeinkommen**

Hurra!
Attac Heft 2019/1 Seite 24

UBIE Meeting

in Berlin (22. - 24. März 2019)

Am 23. März 2019 wurde unser Vorschlag in der General Assembly von UBIE für den Titel

START Unconditional Basic Income

(START Bedingungsloses Grundeinkommen)

und der Gegenstand

von 21 Ländern (und 1 Stimmenthaltung) angenommen!

ECI Meeting

in Berlin (24. März 2019)

Die Einigung auf die **wichtigsten Ziele** wurde am 24. März 2019 erreicht.

Das **ANNEX**, welches für eine EBI zusätzliche Informationen enthält, wurde vorgeschlagen und nach einem Abstimmungszeitraum bis heute (27. April 2019) verabschiedet.

Title: START Unconditional Basic Income (UBI)

Subject Matter:

We request the EU Commission to actively support all member states in introducing an unconditional basic income that ensures every person's material existence and opportunity to participate in society.

Objectives:

The introduction of an UBI shall achieve the aims of the EU to eliminate poverty, combat racism, social exclusion and discrimination. UBI will promote democracy, life in dignity and freedom, gender equality, social protection and justice, solidarity-oriented society, socio-ecological transformation of society and economy, and personal control of one's time.

ANNEX

Definition of Unconditional Basic Income

Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) shall not replace the welfare state but rather complete and transform the same from a compensatory into an emancipatory welfare state.

Unconditional Basic Income is defined by the following four criteria:

Universal: UBI is paid to all, without means test. It is not subject to income, savings or property limits. Every person, irrespective of age, descent, citizenship, place of residence, profession etc. will be entitled to receive this allocation. Thus, we claim a EU-wide, guaranteed, unconditional basic income.

Individual: Everyone – every woman, every man, every child – has the right to UBI on an individual basis as this is the only way to ensure privacy and to prevent control over other individuals. UBI will be independent of marital status, cohabitation or household configuration, or of the income or property of other household - or family members. This enables individuals to make their own decisions.

Unconditional: As a human and legal right UBI shall not depend on any preconditions, whether an obligation to take paid employment, to demonstrate willingness-to-work, to be involved in community service, or to behave according to any gender roles.

High enough: The amount should provide for a decent standard of living, which meets society's social and cultural standards in the country concerned. It should prevent material poverty and provide the opportunity to participate in society. This means that the net amount of UBI should be at least above the at-risk-of-poverty level according to EU standards, which corresponds to 60% of the so-called national median net equivalent income. In countries where the majority has low incomes, and therefore median income is low, an alternative benchmark (e.g. a basket of goods and services) should be used to determine the amount of the basic income, to guarantee a life in dignity, material security and full participation in society.

An UBI is a central measure to reach the goals of human dignity, freedom and equality deployed in central documents of the European Union:

Treaty on European Union (TEU)

Article 2

„The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.“

UBI as defined by its four criteria realizes all of the values listed above. It provides material security and full participation in society without conditions combined with equality of all individuals.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Article 1

Human dignity

“Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected.”

The dignity of the individual must include the opportunity to live freely and responsibly in society. UBI grants freedom and responsibility to each individual by removing existential and administrative constraints as well as exclusion from social life.

UBI helps citizens identify with the European Union and ensures their political rights. It supports the realisation of fundamental rights. “The dignity of the human person is not only a fundamental right in itself but constitutes the real basis of fundamental rights.” (Official explanation of article 1 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union).

An UBI for all people would be a strong signal that the EU takes the right to “a decent existence” seriously.

Article 5

Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

"2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour."

According to the International Labour Organisation, forced or compulsory labour "means all work or service which is extracted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily." (ILO, Forced Labour Convention, 1930, No. 29). In many current minimum income schemes and social welfare systems, benefits can be withdrawn under certain conditions. UBI abolishes such practice that forces beneficiaries of conditional welfare (workfare) assistance to take up work they would have rejected otherwise.

Article 6

Right to liberty and security

"Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person."

UBI supports the free choice of personal life-styles, the arrangement of one's social relations and whether to engage in social and economic cooperation. With this freedom responsibility for the well-being of others should arise. Together with the protection provided by the current social welfare systems, an UBI is the best guarantee of financial security during times of illness and unemployment.

Article 15

Freedom to choose an occupation and right to engage in work

"1. Everyone has the right to engage in work and to pursue a freely chosen or accepted occupation."

UBI makes it easier to pursue a freely chosen or at least acceptable occupation. Under many current welfare systems, the need for material goods and services in order to survive together with various administrative constraints restricts one's freedom to choose an occupation and forces one to accept unsuitable paid work.

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

Article 5

„The Union may take initiatives to ensure coordination of Member States’ social policies.“

Social policies of the Member States can be coordinated to prevent lowering social standards. The common measure for all would be the introduction of an UBI corresponding to the four defined criteria. The responsibility for adapting UBI to the existing national social systems lies within the Member States’ jurisdiction.

There are existing many studies showing different ways of introducing (steps) and of financing UBI. We do not suggest any specific one in this ECI.

Weitere Schritte

- Verbesserung der EBI Regeln (siehe Anhang 1)
- Zeitplan (siehe Anhang 2)
- Organisatoren
- Central online collection system
- Kick-off-meeting in Wien (11. - 12. Okt. 2019)

Tagesordnung siehe Anhang 3

Zwischenschritte bis Okt. 2019

- 2. - 4. Mai: Zukunftstribunal (Palais Auersperg, Wien))
- 6. Mai: 143. Attac Inhaltsgruppe Grundeinkommen (Wien)
- 13. Mai: Das Grundeinkommen: Ein Modell für sozialen Frieden in Europa (Linz)
- 14. Mai: Attac Regionalgruppe Mödling
- 16. Mai: Initiative Zivilgesellschaft (Wien)
- 17. Mai: Konsultative (Wien)
- 17. Mai: 109. Runder Tisch Grundeinkommen (RTG), Österreich
- 4. Juni: Netzwerk Grundeinkommen und sozialer Zusammenhalt
- 11. Juni: Attac Regionalgruppe Mödling
- 14. Juni: AK Wien: Wie weit ist es dann noch zum BGE?
- 10. - 14. Juli: SOAK: Vorschlag zu einem Seminar zum BGE (Klagenfurt)
- 16. - 22. Sept.: 12. Internationale Woche des Grundeinkommens (weltweit)

Anhang 1

Improvements Summery

- + Improvements in the **registration** procedure including the possibility of **registering initiatives partially**.
- + A **helpdesk service** by the Commission and an online collaborative platform for the ECI providing a forum for discussion and advice and support to organisers.
- + A **central online collection system set-up and operated by the Commission;**
- + The **signatories' data requirements are simplified** and it will be possible for all EU citizens to give their support **based on their nationality;**
- + The minimum age for signatories is set at **16 years;**
- + Organisers **can choose the start date** for the collection campaign;
- + The possibility for **signatories to be kept informed by email.**

Anhang 2

24th March 2019	ECI meeting in Berlin
April/May 2019	Phase I: Collect slogan and logo proposals. Preparation of a central campaigning budget. Preparation of centralized activities
Summer 2019	Phase II: Preparation of the campaign. Finding alliances, Funding! Marketing and communication plan
11th – 12th Oct. 2019	ECI meeting in Vienna: Founding of the „Initiative Committee“; Finalize the paper for the registration for our ECI. Further preparation of the ECI campaign.
January 2020	Phase III: Registration of the ECI; IMPORTANT: Not before the new rules of the ECI come into force
March 2020	Phase IV: Decision by the EU Commission about registration
Mid June 2020	If Yes, START of the collection of signatures; Collection runs for exactly 12 consecutive months.
Mid June 2021	Phase V: Member states verify signatures within max. 3 month.
2021	Phase VI: Commission evaluation within max. 3 month
2021	Phase VII: Organisation of Hearing at the EU-Parliament
2021	Phase VIII: Formal Commission decision on follow-up with a legislative proposal.

Anhang 3

ECI Meeting in Vienna

(11th - 12th [13th])

New European Citizen´s Initiative (ECI):

START Unconditional Basic Income

Proposed Draft Agenda

Friday 11th October 2019

16:00 Registration and welcome to all participants

16:15 Short report of the ECI meeting in Berlin
(24th March 2019, see **Att. 0**), concerning

the results:

Text of the ECI: title, subject matters, objectives (see **Att. 2**)

The ANNEX is not a result of the ECI meeting in Berlin. We've a proposal for the ANNEX after the meeting given in our working platform (Slack). Because there was no objection until the deadline (27th April 2019), the ANNEX is now agreed (see **Att. 3**).

open items:

finding alliances

funding for campaign costs

common LOGO

internal communication

17:15 Latest news from ECAS when the new ECI rules come into force

17:30 ECI campaigning:

each organizer (or substitute) from each country (or campaign group) should give a short report of all actions since the ECI meeting in Berlin which of the actions could be used for “common actions”

Break

19:30 Foundation of the Citizens Committee:

election of 7 persons out of 7 countries

“real Citizens Committee” (the responsible persons from all member states of our ECI, which will build the ECI working group)

Saturday 12th October 2019

10:00 Open items from Friday

Break

11:30 Timescale

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Free discussion about all possible ideas; what could be done together?

14:30 Other matters

15:30 Next steps

16:00 Official END, but all persons, who stay the night to Sunday, will be invited by the Round Table UBI – Austria to a HEURIGEN starting 19:00 (OPEN END)

**DANKE FÜR EURE
AUFMERKSAMKEIT**

