

Philippe Van van Parijs: The Euro-Dividend

Background information on existing regulations/policy issues/initiatives

Keywords: basic income experiments; EU basic income; Euro-dividend; Euro-dividend proposals; social assistance experiments; unconditional basic income EU; universal basic income supporters; universal basic income European Union

Topic: The European Union should pay a Euro-Dividend to each of its permanent residents

Overview

- The idea of a Euro-Dividend, respectively of paying a certain sum of money to every legal resident of the European Union on a monthly basis, has not yet been officially picked up by the European Union
 - It has been argued for and brought into public debate by scholars and thinkers in favor of a more social European Union¹²
- While a Euro-Dividend is not yet debated in Brussels, it is related to more general ideas of a basic income within nation states, which have in turn received greater attention in the recent past³

In detail

- The idea of an EU-wide basic income has been picked up in a number of official EU communications and directives:
 - In 2016 the European Parliament's Research Service released a briefing document on the issue of basic income
Content: The document confirmed the positive effects of (unconditional) basic income on reducing poverty and inequality
Full document:
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/586679/EPRS_BRI\(2016\)586679_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/586679/EPRS_BRI(2016)586679_EN.pdf)
- In 2017, the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Council of Europe published a report on the idea of a basic income and its potential upsides
Content: The report found that the introduction of a citizenship income – or basic income – could help overcome poverty and guarantee decent living conditions for everyone. It also stated that a public debate on the topic was utterly necessary

¹ <https://www.socialeurope.eu/the-euro-dividend>

² <https://www.friendsofeurope.org/publication/basic-income-not-panacea-step-towards-new-social-contract>

³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20170927IPR84824/meps-call-for-eu-wide-minimum-income>

Full document: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-DocDetails-en.asp?FileID=24285&lang=en>

- In January 2018 the Council of Europe Assembly voted in favor of a resolution concerning basic income
Content:
Full document:
<https://www.coe.int/t/dg3/socialpolicies/socialcohesiondev/source/GuideLivingDignity.pdf>
- In addition to EU-level deliberations, the idea of a basic income has also been discussed on a national, member-state-level and in local contexts:
 - In Finland, a government-backed experiment was conducted to explore the practical advantages of a basic income. However, the basic income trial was recently ended by the current Finnish government⁴
 - In June 2016, the mayor of an Italian coastal city of Livorno Filippo Nogarini launched a basic income project for a period of six months⁵
 - Also in the Netherlands an experiment called “Wetten wat werkt” is planned as a “study into alternative approach to deliver social assistance” by the Utrecht University and the City of Utrecht⁶

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/23/finland-to-end-basic-income-trial-after-two-years>

⁵ <https://www.businessinsider.de/basic-income-experiments-in-2017-2017-1?r=US&IR=T>

⁶ <https://basicincome.org/news/2017/05/netherlands-social-assistance-experiments-review/>

Topic: Organizations and NGOs supporting ideas around a basic income on EU-level

Unconditional Basic Income Europe (UBIE)

<https://www.ubie.org>

Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN)

<https://basicincome.org/topic/european-union/>

Netzwerk Grundeinkommen und sozialer Zusammenhalt – B.I.E.N. Austria

www.grundeinkommen.at

Netzwerk Grundeinkommen

www.grundeinkommen.de

Further reading

- <https://www.coe.int/t/dg3/socialpolicies/socialcohesiondev/source/GuideLivingDignity.pdf>
- <https://gef.eu/project/basic-income/https://www.friendsofeurope.org/publication/basic-income-not-panacea-step-towards-new-social-contract>
- [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/595365/IPOL_STU\(2017\)595365_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/595365/IPOL_STU(2017)595365_EN.pdf)
- <https://qz.com/976032/support-for-a-universal-basic-income-is-inching-up-in-europe/>