

Basic Income Guarantee

Just a few years ago when our century started, hardly anyone had heard of the concept of Basic Income Guarantee. Today it is widely discussed both in the political arena and in a rapidly growing number of academic studies and social experiments. Leading economists and bankers, people like Robert Reich, Noam Chomsky, Desmond Tutu, Yanis Varoufakis and Slavoj Zizek have all come out in support of it and the list of new publications at the end of this description is impressive. This is simply in the English-speaking world. In France, Germany and Switzerland it has become a much-contested political and economic alternative, with the recent Swiss referendum showing nearly 25% of the population in support.

What such a system would mean for the Waldorf schools, where close to 90% of the annual budget is devoted to staff salaries, has to be carefully considered. Many of the initiating voices that brought Basic Income into public discussion in Germany and Switzerland and continue to spearhead the political movement for its realisation, have done so out of their anthroposophical background.

The aim of the workshop is to give a clear understanding of the idea and purpose of Basic Income and discuss the obvious objections that at once spring to mind. How should it be financed? Who will still want to work? What will happen to other social services and to the taxation system? What are the effects of mechanisation today and in the future on the world of work?

The workshop takes the form of group discussions on specific questions, leading to an understanding and personal point of view in each participant. Particularly for young people Basic Income will foreseeably be a central issue through most of their adult life.

The following is a list of references that can be consulted or viewed in advance:

Definition of Basic Income

A basic income is a regular sum of money granted unconditionally by a political community to each of its members. There are four criteria underlying the idea of basic income:

- A basic income provides individuals with a sustainable livelihood that enables social participation.
- It constitutes an individual legal right.
- It is provided without means-testing.
- It does not entail any obligation to work or perform other services in return.

Basic Income Links and Literature:

- Basic Income – The Movie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViywrrpAyVdY> with English subtitles.
- Archbishop Tutu on Basic Income www.youtube.com/watch?v=gf3n-L5FDy0
- Recivitas, a basic income experiment project in Brazil: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUMQxECgvkA
- Basic Income for Europe: www.youtube.com/user/BasicIncomeEurope
- *Utopia for Realists: The Case for a Universal Basic Income, Open Borders, and a 15-hour Workweek* Rutger Bregman The Correspondent (April 15, 2016) ISBN 978-9082520309
- *Inventing the Future: Postcapitalism and a World Without Work* Nick Srnicek and Alex Williams 256 pages Verso (November 17, 2015) ISBN 978-1784780968
- *Four Futures: Life After Capitalism (Jacobin)* Peter Frase, Jacobin Series Verso (October 11, 2016) ISBN 978-1781688137
- *Raising the Floor: How a Universal Basic Income Can Renew Our Economy and Rebuild the American Dream* Andy Stern PublicAffairs (June 14, 2016) ISBN 978-1610396257
- *Mending the Net: Toward Universal Basic Incomes* Chris Oestereich File Size: 1607 KB Print Length: 29 pages Wicked Problems Collaborative LLC (October 21, 2016) ASIN: B01M4ML8ZO
- *Basic Income: The Material Conditions of Freedom* Daniel Raventos Pluto Press (December 20, 2007) ISBN 978-0745326290

- *Basic Income Guarantee: Your Right to Economic Security (Exploring the Basic Income Guarantee)* A. Sheahan Series: Exploring the Basic Income Guarantee Palgrave Macmillan; 2012 edition (May 8, 2013) ISBN 978-1137347886
- *Basic Income: An Anthology of Contemporary Research* by Karl Widerquist and José A. Noguera Wiley-Blackwell; 1 edition (August 5, 2013) ISBN 978-1405158107