

Deutsches BGE and International BIG - --- Two joined projects ?

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*Ein Bild sagt mehr als tausend Worte
(A picture may tell more than one thousand words)*



0. A FIRST REMARK

Let me first apologize for not having written a real paper but only a short collection of ideas. First of all, this is due to my lack of time. Living under very difficult conditions, trying to

survive, trying to continue doing scientific research under these conditions I did not see another choice.

Secondly, let us hope that during the days of Ottobrunn an interesting and lively discussion will develop. In this sense the interaction among the many participants may be more important than the contents and the context of the many papers.

Last but not least, on Sunday morning I shall have listened to so many talks that I also want to include some possible reactions into my own talk.

1 . INTRODUCTION

The international discussion concerning a Basic Income Grant (BIG) will be joined to the German discussion on a Bedingungsloses Grundeinkommen (BGE). Whereas the international (English) abbreviation BIG means something like great, it is not so easy to make something out of BGE. In the international context we are looking for something like the BIG one, the BIG project, the BIG idea etc. In Germany and perhaps in other countries we have to find a corresponding meaning and a good logo. By the way, we should reach an international agreement on THE international name. Even if unconditional basic income may be a closer translation of the German term, I very strictly propose the name BIG and only BIG in the international context. Otherwise there will be many close translations from many different countries and languages in the world which will not lead to a general and international discussion which we urgently need. Last but not least, the question for a common (international) name will lead to a discussion of an international idea.

2. THE GERMAN BGE.

Now for BGE we can see that all three letters also denote musical notes. At least, we have the consonance of b, g, and e. Please compare the picture above. Playing further the musical topic we remind us of the bestseller book

D. Hofstaedter; Goedel, Escher, Bach, an Eternal Golden Braid where the same three letters play the role of combining mathematics, art, and music. This could lead to the use of Basis, Golden, Ewig for a BGE in Germany, a basis for a golden age of the future which will last nearly forever.

3. THE BIG IN CONNECTION WITH ALL THE NATIONAL MOVEMENTS.

As in the picture above all the many national movements and ideas are collected like rays by the yellow BIG One. One ray may represent the German BGE, another one the Spanish renta (renda) basica and so on. Now I could fill a long list of rays here. I hope we shall do this in Ottobrunn. At the end, the BIG One will send its rays towards EARTH such that not only the mainly national ideas are tried to be realized in the corresponding countries. Instead the union and combination of all ideas from many countries should be realized together as far as possible.

4. THE CULTURAL ASPECTS OF BIG.

This cultural context reminds us of the duty to implant the idea of a BIG not only into a political and into a financial environment, but

also into a cultural one. On the one hand a BIG will enable many people to help their relatives and friends, to educate children, to do other social and political work. On the other hand, it will improve the situation of artists, scientists, and other workers in the cultural field.

It is no surprise that the political, economic, and financial discussions even dominate the question concerning the introduction of a BIG. In the case of Europe and the European Union we face similar problems. The social and the cultural meaning of Europe are mostly not taken into consideration although without the cultural history of Europe the idea of Europe would just not exist.

5. A FINAL PERSONAL REMARK

First of all, I am glad to be able to take part in this congress in Ottobrunn while participation in scientific congresses becomes more and more difficult because of financial reasons. Moreover, I hope my decision to take part and to engage in this business will contribute at least a little bit on the way towards a BIG on EARTH. Many different people in many different countries have to work jointly in order to reach a good solution.

6. CONCLUSION

Most helpful for me to get a first overview about the literature was the book by

R. Blaschke; Grundeinkommen, Geschichte --- Modelle --- Debatten, Berlin (2010).

In this short paper I have not touched the questions of political coalitions in order to realize a BIG nor have I entered the big discussion how to finance such a BIG.

However, this will certainly be done by many other talks in Ottobrunn. Altogether, a BIG will not solve all problems on EARTH, but it will make the solution of many problems a bit easier. A BIG international cooperation is needed. Let us work on it since international cooperation is a worthwhile activity anyhow, even without thinking about a BIG. As far as we know, as far as we can look back into history, in particular in the areas of art, science, and culture this international cooperation has worked and contributed to a better understanding of mankind. Let me apologize again for this rather rough scheme of a talk.

Last but not least, working for a BIG on EARTH is better than surrender.

Wer kämpft, kann verlieren; wer nicht kämpft, hat schon verloren (Bertolt Brecht).

We shall never surrender (Winston Churchill, June 4, 1940).

DANKE --- THANK YOU --- MERCI --- GRACIAS ---

GRAZIE --- DZIĘKUJĘ --- СПАСИБО --- OBRIGADO
--- TACK ----- (Sorry that I cannot include all languages on EARTH)