

**Basic income
against an unequal approach
to ownership**

Marek Hrubec, PhD.

Institute of Philosophy
The Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

August, 2023
BIEN Congress
Soul, South Korea

The contents

Basic income lays the foundations for citizens also to take a more equal approach to ownership in order to reduce poverty, inequality and increase living standards. The presentation will deal with three reasons why basic income helps concerning this equal approach and its application in reality.

1. Citizens will not have to accept disadvantageous employment contracts
 2. basic income gives citizens the basic resources and time they need to create start-ups
 3. basic income frees up citizens' time to engage in the economic life of society and enables them to play a hand in democratic decision-making on public (municipal, national, and other) ownership
- Conclusion: a systemic approach

(1) Against disadvantageous employment

First, citizens with basic income will be less dependent on other people's ownership, because they will have a tangible basis to pursue their own livelihood, which means they will not have to accept disadvantageous employment contracts with business owners just to get by.

(2) New start-ups: cooperatives, for example

Second, basic income gives citizens the basic resources and time they need to create start-ups; therefore, the ability to create private and public ownership, including cooperatives and public ownership at city or state levels.

(3) Public ownership of critical infrastructure

Third, basic income frees up citizens' time to engage in the economic life of society and enables them to play a hand in democratic decision-making on public (municipal, national, and other) ownership that may be of benefit to them, especially public ownership of critical infrastructure in the form of a health network, transport, electricity, gas, water, postal services, etc.

Conclusion: Systemic institutional economic and social security by the means of a share of ownership

Systematically taken, a principle of social equality concerns the systemic institutional security of social and economic recognition not only by means of redistribution, which is what basic income does primarily, but also by ensuring a share of ownership – in the form of cooperative or municipal ownership, for instance – that paves the way for people to pursue democratic self-realisation economically as well, and basic income helps here.

Public ownership of critical infrastructures provides numerous advantages, including stability, democratic equity, accountability, and long-term planning. By placing the interests of the public above those of private owners, citizens with governments can ensure that essential services remain accessible to all citizens while fostering a sense of democratic collective responsibility for the well-being of society. Ultimately, the goal should be to create a harmonious system that prioritizes the common good and support innovation and efficiency in the delivery of critical services.

Concluding remarks

To conclude, basic income is a promising tool against an unequal approach to ownership and in favor of participatory economic democracy. It makes it possible to pursue a way from disadvantageous employment contracts to better employment and to create and participate in cooperatives and public ownership of critical infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention