

Script of presentation

Slide 1

“Hallo wherever you are,

The topic of my presentation is

How should UBI be framed, financed and delivered to make it a convincing tool for a just transition to a green society?

Below the title you find my contact details and affiliation.

I would like to receive your comments on this topic.”

Slide 2

Preamble

“My presentation is

Work in progress and

An Ambitious topic with many issues to cover

Like the window cleaners of this high-rise building I seek clarity for new institutions called Commons Wealth Funds to finance our Basic Income.”

Slide 3

“The Objectives of my presentation are to

Explore convincing ways how to link the provision and financing of Basic Income which from now on I will just call BI.

And to

Propose green and just BI financing institutions”

Slide 4

“The outline of my presentation includes four sections

First: Some Background information and what I call misleading Advocacy for BI

Second: Framing of BI

Third: Financing and Delivery of BI and

Finally: My Conclusions”

Slide 5 Background

“Searching several economic textbooks I found the following gaps of mainstream economics:

There is no consideration of our Commons such as Air, Water or Soil.

This leads to the ignored free-rider phenomenon by producers and consumers and the damage and pollution of our Commons through extraction, production and waste.

The concept of a life-supporting Biosphere does not exist in economics. As a consequence we are experiencing the climate and biodiversity crises linked to our economic system.

Private capital owners seem to be exempt from any moral liability. A historical example is the compensation of slave owners for their loss of slaves as property. Similar fossil fuel companies and states are not prepared to accept their historic liability for the climate crisis.”

Slide 6 Misleading BI Advocacy

“What do I mean with misleading BI Advocacy:

Should Basic Income be presented as free money or instead as a reward for a simple lifestyle protecting our biosphere and a compensation for the free-riding of our Commons by most economic participants?

It is important to present BI and the financing as two sides of one policy with a coherent approach!

Some BI advocates suggest that we finance BI similar to health and education services with earned income tax. This may be easy to calculate and explain to the public. However will it generate public support for the introduction of Basic Income? I am not convinced!

BI requires a redistribution of money in society, while health services and education require the spending of money on infrastructure, goods and workforce. This is an important difference!”

Slide 7 Framing

“This section will discuss the important concepts of Cost, Affordability and Feasibility of BI.

These concepts pose important challenges in the promotion of BI, because they are often used in a misleading way to undermine our advocacy.

Earlier I have already mentioned the misleading image of BI as free money symbolized here by the money tree.”

Slide 8 Different Cost Perspectives

“We can use different cost perspectives to analyse a BI policy.

Costs and Benefits of a BI policy are not standard calculations with a unique correct answer.

Instead there are different cost and benefit perspectives.

Therefore the costs and benefits of a BI policy depend on the perspective of your analysis.

On this slide I have listed 5 perspectives derived from pharmaco-economic analysis and relevant for a BI policy.

I will focus on the first two, state and society.

If a state provides basic income, the costs are presented as extremely high multiplying the number of BI recipients with the amount of BI.

However, from a societal cost perspective the costs are ZERO, because BI money is just redistributed in society. The whole society does not lose or gain.

If the benefits are included in the analysis such as reduced crime and improved health, the costs for BI may actually be negative from a societal perspective.”

Slide 9 Affordability

“Affordability is often used as argument against BI: It is just not affordable!

However often no specific criterion for affordability is given and what is the threshold when a Basic Income becomes unaffordable.

I suggest that we use Gross Domestic Product as criterion.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a monetary measure of all final goods and services produced in a country in a time period such as a year and exchanged in a market.

We should decide which percentage of GDP distributed as Basic Income is or is not affordable and justify this decision.”

Slide 10 Feasibility

“Another argument against Basic Income is often stated as ‘It is just not feasible’

I suggest that we separate feasibility into two components, political will and public demand.

Unfortunately most politicians are followers rather than leaders. So they are unlikely to embark on new political journeys such as BI, unless there is a strong public demand.

Therefore we as BI movement need to create a critical mass of people who understand concept and financing of BI and demand from political decision-makers the introduction of a Basic Income Institution.”

Slide 11 Financing and Delivery

“I will now discuss ‘Financing and Delivery’ of a Basic Income.

To do this I start with our actual economic model and its serious blind spots.

The term ‘blind spot’ normally means a spot which the eye cannot see.

I use it as a metaphor for parts of our reality which are not seen by our actual economic model.

A new Embedded Economic Model as shown on this slide reveals these blind spots.

First our current economic model ignores that the economy is embedded in society and the biosphere of earth.

Both are important boundaries for economic activities.

Second our various Commons such as air, water and soil make important contributions to our economic activities, but they are ignored in conventional economics.

These economic blind spots are the justification for a Green and Just Basic Income.

I argue that a Basic Income is a necessity to create a hospitable and convivial future for humanity on our planet.

I will next explain what I mean with

Green Economy,

Just Transition,

Behavioural Fees, Capital and Dividend Sharing

Theoretical background of my argument

And

The delivery of a Basic Income”

[Slide 12 Green Economy](#)

“There are three key differences between our actual and a future Green Economy:

A Change from a Linear Degenerative to a Circular Regenerative economy

Instead of ignoring it includes various Commons as essential parts of our economy

It Treats Extractivism of non-renewable resources and Excess Harvest of renewable resources as Harm to our Commons”

[Slide 13 Just Transition to a Green Economy](#)

“What does a Just Transition to such a Green Economy mean?

Restrict and sanction degenerative economic behaviour such as soil erosion

Reduce and charge for waste and pollution of our Commons (Air, Water, Soil),
e.g. the release of human-made chemical substances into our environment

Minimise and Compensate Humanity for Extractivism and renewable resource
Harvest by Corporations

Encourage personal light ecological footprint with Basic Income.

The last point means: people who just live on a Basic Income should not be
seen as a problem but as an asset to societies!”

Slide 14 Just Transition – History

“What does a Just Transition means in terms of History and its impact on our
Societies?

We need to compensate Societies for Harm caused by slavery, colonialism,
past extractivism and pollution (e.g. CO2)

We need to share with Societies Dividends and Wealth creation because of
private exploitation of land, capital and use of legal Commons and public
infrastructure.”

Slide 15 Behavioural Fees, Dividends and Asset Sharing

“How can this just transition to a Green Economy be implemented?

We need to create several nested and complementary Commons Wealth
Funds to pay for BI as dividend.

We should introduce behavioural fees for the exploitation of our Commons,
introduce capital dividends and assets sharing to finance local, national and
international Commons Wealth Funds.

Behavioural fees (similar to Environmental, Pigovian, Excise taxes) are charged
for the so-called ‘free use’ of our Commons by firms as legal entities and
individuals.

Capital Assets are collected as reparation for Slavery, Colonialism, past and present Extractivism and Pollution of our Commons.

Company Dividends are collected as compensation for private-for-profit exploitation of our Commons

Local adaptations of this approach are necessary to take into account specific local circumstances.

Current examples of behavioural fees include parking, congestion and emission fees

Behavioural fees should be charged at each level of the economic process such as production, manufacture, distribution and purchase e.g. of long-lasting chemical compounds.”

Slide 16 Theory of Collective Actions

“My proposal is rooted in the Theory of Collective Actions of Elinor Ostrom.

You can find more information on this slide for your personal exploration, but I will not go into details during this presentation because of time constraints.”

Slide 17 Sources and Protection of BI

“In summary I propose to use Behavioural Fees and the Sharing of Capital Dividends and Assets for the financing of BI. There are other options which are mentioned here.

An important issue is the protection and maintenance of BI Dividends. Again there are several options. I suggest that we create autonomous BI institutions similar to Social Security in some countries. The actual design and functioning of states do not give me any confidence that states and their governments will protect BI in the long term.”

Slide 18 BI Delivery

“Secure and reliable BI delivery is another important topic to convince people of BI. Please find some ideas on this slide as food for thought and for further discussion.”

Slide 19 Conclusions

“My conclusions:

Basic Income should be

- framed as a dividend and compensation for the free use of our Commons and
- presented as a necessary ingredient for our just and rapid transition to a Grandchildren-friendly Society with an embedded Green Economy.”

Slide 20 References and Bibliography

“Here you can find some references used in this presentation and publications related to the topic.”

Optional contribution for discussion:

Example of Family Basic Income

Family earnings

Father 2000 Units

Mother 1000 Units

Daughter 500 Units

Son 500 Units

They will introduce a Basic Income of 1000 Units and all members will contribute their full incomes.

What will be the family (or societal) costs of a Basic Income in this case? ZERO