



**Federation of Young European  
Greens**

**fyeg**

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## **Resolution on Basic Income**

Contemporary societies have inherited from the past a whole cultural, natural and scientific patrimony which allows to maximize the exploitation of resources and reduce the human intervention required to do so. Technical and mechanical developments throughout history have reduced the costs and simplified the production process in order to obtain the highest profit from the land.

Furthermore, the relation between the traditional concept of work and the development of society is broken. On one side, the social and economical system rests upon an army of unemployed and precarious people which makes the goal of "full employment" simply symbolic, unreachable and alienating. On the other, despite of having a legal work contract, an increasing number of people, the named "poor workers", are below the poverty threshold. The wrong unfair model of development in which these changes have happened have provoked that not only the material wealth, but other values such as welfare, time, health, happiness or freedom are illegitimately reserved to a privileged sector of society. Meanwhile, not too far away extreme poverty is a crude reality.

We have reached this way a model of society which creation of value and concept of wealth are not longer based on labour force or hours, but in the knowledge and capacity of using the new technologies efficiently. This new cognitive model of society deepens its roots in creativity, imagination and the immaterial in general through free cooperation, new solidarities, new networks and technical means. In this global context, the dominant social discourse and the current Welfare State have come to a dead-end by exalting the "productive work" as the central value of society.

According to this premises, it is necessary to reform in a radical way the system of redistribution inherited from the industrial society, but incompatible with the post-fordism.

Therefore, Jóvenes Verdes thinks that the concept of work and wealth should be redefined. In addition, same as knowledge produced through the centuries belongs to everyone, so should its benefits. This knowledge, same as the usufruct of Earth must not be privatised by a few, but to be shared among all the individuals, heirs to the collective knowledge. We conceive a model of society in which all members take part in the produced wealth and benefit from the common goods and natural resources. This 'income' is a fundamental right of every citizen. From Jóvenes Verdes we believe this can be implemented using a real and applicable tool: the Basic Income.

Basic Income is an universal and unconditional dividend for the whole of the citizens, which allows to satisfy all basic needs in order to live decently. It is universal because it is

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addressed to everyone: rich and poor, young and old, working or non-working people. It is unconditional because it is granted without taking into account anything but the fact of being.

At first sight, Basic Income is a powerful tool to fight poverty, since it provides an immediate economical base for those who lack it. However, it affects several other aspects of society as well by transversally breaking many of the bounds which prevent to progress towards a fairer, healthier social model, allowing to reorientate the process of productions towards ecological bases:

- **Acknowledging non-remunerated forms of work**

In such a materialist world, the value of things tends to be measured by the amount of richness -growth of GDP- that can be obtained out of them. Nevertheless, it is necessary to acknowledge the different factors in charge of producing social, ecological and collective richness, essential as well to all productive sectors.

This richness is mostly produced through non-remunerated work and today considered as non productive. Voluntarism, household, family, cultural and artistic activities, leisure, sports and the simply enjoyment of spare time are the real base of welfare. The immense importance of money in our societies, which constantly becomes harder to get to the majority, threatens this welfare.

The fight of each individual to socially survive by obtaining money is no longer needed, since basic welfare conditions are assured. Basic Income provides each citizen the chance to actively participate in the construction of the society they wish. A society which is at the same time effectively assuring their right of existence.

From a gender-based perspective, an important step is taking against dependency of women from men and house and family-caring work are acknowledged. Women's regained freedom through Basic Income furthers active fight against patriarchy and promotes to move towards a society designed and at the service of both women and men.

- **Choosing a way of life freely.**

Social reality makes it really difficult to fulfil citizen's rights. Unemployment, low salaries, the cost of life, precarious jobs, poverty, social exclusion... are factors which keep growing and push citizens towards the submission to labour exploitation, abuses, lack of security... cutting off their real freedom and capacity to claim their rights.

Basic Income breaks up this spiral by granting the economical independence of the individuals. Workers own back their labour force and are freely to choose were and how to use it. Their power to face companies increases. From both individual and collective point of view Basic Income provides a protection shield to reclaim changes and labour improvements.

Furthermore, every individual is now free to choose their way of life, having the possibility of enjoying their own time, as well as reorienting their habits of production and consuming.

Basic Income allows a moral choice in a world where, even when ecologist, pacifist, solidary values are more and more widely accepted, people keep being forced to pollute, to compete and to feed an auto-destructive system, that generates inequalities by which they're affected.



- **Reorienting economy on a more human and sustainable base**

Nowadays, society is dominated by a productive system based on growth. This logic, which considers Earth's resources infinite, is doomed to failure. It persists, however, thanks to the artificial relation between production and welfare. The link between these two concepts, constantly appearing on media and political stands, is vastly exaggerated for the good of a privileged group which owns the means of production and therefore promotes the race of consumption. Furthermore, it is the question of the finality of production that comes up and its necessary reorientation towards more ecological and human bases.

Basic Income strongly supports this reorientation, so it is possible to think of welfare without passing through the empty materialism which characterises over-productivism. This change of paradigm let us redefine key concepts. The value of work is no longer directly dependant on the economic value of the produced good (or the profit obtained out of it), and takes into account other factors as the invested time, the desire to work on it, the comfortability or the social, ecological or personal importance. The concept of "product" changes since it is not any more linked to the economic profit so much. Same way, "richness" is given new connotations since it no longer regulates the social inclusion or exclusion of the individuals, but becomes their right. This changes can be seen as the first steps towards the un-growth of modern societies.

Basic Income becomes this way in a base of a new productive system that gives priority and directly supports activities which were considered non-productive but are indispensable sources of social and ecological richness.