

Making Basic Income a European Reality

Nov 8th, 2019, Tampere



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Programme

Welcoming and coffee/tea

A brief overview of results of the Finnish Basic Income experiment and a look at current developments in social security and experiments in Finland

Jamie Cooke, Head of RSA Scotland

Pathways to a Basic Income in Scotland and the UK

Jane Millar, University of Bath

UK Universal Credit: designing and implementing the UK's new working-age benefit and how this differs from Basic Income

Kim Evangelista, Belgian Green party (Ecolo)

A Basic Income for the young: Inventing tomorrow's solidarities

Lukas Korpelainen, Visio – Finnish Green Think Tank

A hybrid model for basic social security and the steps for the next 10 years in Finland

What's happening in Finland with Basic Income?

Lukas Korpelainen

Research coordinator,

Visio – Finnish Green Think Tank

Political ambitions for reforms

- Some political parties support basic income but most are skeptical.
- Political rhetoric focused on employment and activation (vs. poverty)
- Agreement on need for a simpler system and improving economic and bureaucratic incentives for work.
- Universal credit variations have gained popularity

Basic Income Experiment

- Ran through 2017-2018
- 2000 participants, each given a 560 € monthly basic income
- No changes to the taxation of the individuals. One could keep the full basic income even if employed.
- Experimental group consisted of only unemployed people. Mainly long-term unemployed.
- Randomized trial with other unemployed people acting as a control group.

Basic Income Experiment – Results (kind of)

- Only preliminary research reports published so far.
 - Only data from 2017 (1st year of the experiment) + a phone survey in late 2018.
 - More to come in 2020 after income data for the participants available.
- No significant employment effects, but higher well-being and trust.
- Experiment has been criticized for being short-term and narrow in experimental group selection

What's next for Finland?

- National Income Register development and implementation continues.
- The new government is planning:
 - A negative income tax experiment with a similar 20 million budget as with the basic income pilot (in a sense: a second basic income trial).
 - Report on earned income tax credit.
 - Some other social security and unemployment intervention pilots
- A parliamentary committee will be established to set the guidelines for a long-term overhaul of the benefit system