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Basic income: economy and psychology

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ABSTRACT

Basic income is a social idea appealing to humanist philosophers and politicians. Numerous experiments on the introduction of the concept of basic income occurred in countries with varying degrees of economic development. Surveys are being conducted around the world on the need to introduce basic income. Dynamics of economic processes and social sentiment in individual countries require generalisation of modern factors influencing the possibility of practical implementation of the concept of basic income. This paper studies the economic and psychological factors for supporting the idea of basic income in terms of its practical implementation, analyses the interpretation of the UBI idea by various researchers and provides a characteristic of the modern vision of basic income. The arguments for and against the practical implementation of this idea with their structuring in the following directions are formed and considered: influence on the economy, change of social relations and possibility of practical realisation. The authors present generalised results of the experiments on the introduction of basic income from the 1960s to the present day in South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, as well as the results of the poll and referendum on the introduction of basic income in Switzerland in 2016.

Keywords: economics, psychology, basic income, unconditional income.

1. Introduction

Basic income (unconditional income, guaranteed minimum) is a social idea, which for centuries has been attractive to both human philosophers and politicians. Since the sixteenth century, it was proposed for use by Juan Luis Vives, Thomas Paine, Bertrand Russell and Clifford Douglas. For the last 50 years, experiments on the introduction of the concept of basic income have taken place in different parts of the world for individual regions of countries with varying degrees of economic development (Kenya, Namibia, India, Italy, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, USA). Since 1986 BIEN (Basic Income European Network, now – Basic Income Earth Network) has been founded for being a stakeholder platform for basic income issues. Base income surveys are conducted in different countries (Switzerland, USA, etc.) and raised by politicians from different parties during the election campaign. Therefore, the question of applying the idea of basic income is urgent and interesting to study.

Despite the long history of the concept of basic income, its careful study of the possibility of application in general and within a specific country, in particular, almost did not occur. Pranab Bardhan (2013) argued for the feasibility of using basic income in low-poverty countries. Researchers O. Dluhopolsky and T. Dluhopolska (2017) analysed the advantages and disadvantages of the concept of basic income in terms of the possibility of conducting an experiment on its application. However, the dynamics of economic processes and social sentiment in individual countries and numerous experiments on the application of this idea require generalisation of modern factors influencing the possibility of practical implementation of the concept of basic income. Therefore, exploring the possibility of introducing basic income today is an interesting theoretical and practical task.

The purpose of this paper is to study the economic and psychological factors for supporting the idea of basic income in terms of its practical implementation.

2. History of the development of the idea of basic income

The idea of basic income that arose in the 16th century has not changed over the centuries, although the intentions of its introduction, the expected results and the ways of realisation differed significantly. The first proposals for the provision of unconditional social assistance were made by humanists Thomas More (1516) and Johannes Ludovicus Vives (1526). Thomas More (1963) viewed basic income as a more effective means of combating high rates of theft than executing thefts: "...no penalty on earth will stop people from stealing, if it's their only way of getting food". Vives in a letter to the Mayor of Bruges "On the Assistance to the Poor" (*De Subventionem Pauperum*) suggested the municipality to provide a living wage for all residents not for the sake of justice, but for the sake of "the effective exercise of charity". At the same time, he emphasised the need for recipients to demonstrate such "willingness to work" and demanded that those who lost their lives due to negligence or immoral behaviour receive "smaller rations and more irksome tasks": "Even to the old and the stupid, it should be possible to give a job they can learn in a few days, such as digging holes, getting water or carrying something on their shoulders" (Vives, 1998). Vives' position was later used to develop a social assistance scheme by the Flemish Municipality of Ypres. This is considered the first experiment to put into practice the concept of basic income.

Antoine Caritat, Marquis de Condorcet, in their work "Esquisse d'un tableau historique des progrès de l'esprit humain" (published posthumously by his widow in 1795) laid the concept of basic income at the heart of social insurance as a means of reducing inequality, insecurity and poverty. It is his ideas of helping to reach a certain age or the loss of a breadwinner underpin modern health and retirement insurance. But in the Condorcet interpretation, the payments had to be based on the amount of contributions made by the recipients or philanthropists and, in general, there was no basic income. At the same time, Condorcet expressed the idea of unconditional giving of capital "to those children who become old enough to work by themselves and found a new family" (Condorcet 1988).

For the first time, Thomas Paine offered a specific source of basic income – rent payments paid by a landowner for the use of the land. He considered it necessary to pay cash benefits regardless of the recipient's social status or income: "to every person, when arrived at the age of twenty-one years, the sum of fifteen pounds

sterling, as a compensation in part, for the loss of his or her natural inheritance, by the introduction of the system of landed property. And the sum of ten pounds per annum, during life, to every person now living, of the age of fifty years, and to all others as they shall arrive at that age" (Basic Income ..., 2020). Charles Fourier developed this idea later by demanding life support (housing and free lunches) for those who were deprived of the "fundamental natural right of every person to hunt, fish and harvest fruits" by having ownership of the land (Fourier, 1967). But his "natural" interpretation nevertheless became "less good" than the proposals of his predecessors.

Joseph Charlier proposed the use of the term "dividende territorial" as an unconditional systematic (monthly) monetary payment, the amount of which would be determined annually by a representative national council, and considered the payment itself a necessary social guarantee for the absence of "the domination of capital over labor": "Society's duty does not reach beyond securing each a fair share of the enjoyment of what nature puts at his disposal, without usurping anyone's rights" (Basic Income ..., 2020).

These theories, with rare exceptions, were regarded as humanistic ideas that did not materialise. The development of the concept of basic income in the 20th century was already devoid of utopian features and aimed at finding the possibility of practical implementation at least as a local experiment. The ideas of "social dividend", "state bonus" and "national dividend" were discussed in the UK, the schemes "demogrants" and "negative income tax" were being developed in the USA. In "Roads to Freedom" (1918), Bertrand Russell first insisted on the use of basic income as a means not of charity, not of social justice, but of the development of the individual: "a certain small income, sufficient for necessities, should be secured to all, whether they work or not ... When education is finished, no one should be compelled to work, and those who choose not to work should receive a bare livelihood and be left completely free" (Russell, 1918).

Dennis Milner in his "Scheme for a State Bonus" (1918) demanded the introduction of the "State bonus" for all UK subjects, since everyone has a moral right to livelihoods, and any obligation to work is not compulsory. And a few years later, in 1924, Clifford H. Douglas analysed the prospects of overproduction of the British industry after World War I and proposed the introduction of "social credit" through payment to all households of a monthly "national dividend". It is on this idea that George Cole

builds on the definitions of “base income” and “social dividend” (1935): “Current productive power is, in effect, a joint result of current effort and of the social heritage of inventiveness and skill incorporated in the stage of advancement and education reached in the arts of production; and it has always appeared to me only right that all the citizens should share in the yield of this common heritage, and that only the balance of the product after this allocation should be distributed in the form of rewards for, and incentives to, current service in production” (Basic Income ..., 2020).

Introducing the factor of technology development in the debate about basic income took place in the United States in the 1960s. Robert Theobald emphasised productivity gains through automation and the logic of rewarding workers. Milton Friedman proposed a linear negative income tax as a scheme to realise the idea of basic income. James Tobin called for additional benefits to be provided to each household at a rate determined by family composition. In 1968, a petition to Congress to adopt a system of income and allowance was supported by James Tobin, Paul Samuelson, John Kenneth Galbraith, Robert Lampman, Harold Watts and more than a thousand economists, and led to the creation of a Family Assistance Program (FAP) that guaranteed some income for employees who came close to the negative income tax scheme. This was the reaction of the political elite to the social sentiment of the society, and although the Program was adopted by the House of Representatives and rejected by the US Senate Commission (finally in 1972), the idea of a guaranteed minimum ceased to be purely theoretical and became the basis of practical experiments.

In parallel, a debate on basic income ideas resumed in Europe: “Revolt from the Center” (1978) was launched in Denmark with the proposal to introduce a “citizen’s wage”. In the Netherlands Kuiper (1976) recommended the abolition of employment through its dehumanised nature and the introduction of a decent “guaranteed income” that would enable people to develop. In 1977 Politieke Partij Radicalen became the first European political party with a parliamentary representation to formally include UBI (baseinkomen) in its election program. The idea was defended by the Voedingsbond Food Business Union, which brought together mostly women and part-time workers. In 1985, the Scientific Council for Public Policy unambiguously recommended “partial basic

income” (basic income at a level not sufficient to meet the needs of one person).

Developments in the idea of basic income in the UK and Germany have been less successful due to certain social events, including the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany, although the Basic Income Research Group (BIRG) was created in Britain and Joachim Mitschke launched the campaign of the introduction of a negative income tax was (1985).

In France, André Gorz initially protected lifetime basic income combined with a twenty thousand hours general social service (1985), but later abandoned the second component (1997). Alain Caillé advocated unconditional income “as the expression of society’s fundamental trust in those excluded from the labour market” (1987-1996). Jean-Marc Ferry proposed to introduce unconditional income as a right of citizenship at the European Union level, since full employment is currently unattainable and socially useful activity needs development (1995, 2000).

The interpretation of the UBI idea by various researchers is presented in Table 1. All the above-mentioned researchers of the concept of basic income have created the preconditions for the establishment of a platform for world discussion on this topic, which was implemented in September 1986 in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) by creating a European base income network (BIEN). The existence of such networks in the US, South America and South Africa, Australia, New Zealand has led to the interpretation of BIEN as a worldwide network (2004).

As Table 1 shows, most authors viewed unconditional basic income as a means of combating poverty and eliminating social inequality through the provision of unconditional or partially unconditional social assistance (Vives, Condorcet, Paine, Charlier, Friedman, Tobin, Mitschke, Gorz, Caillé). However, both with the emergence of this humanistic idea and later, researchers saw in basic income a way to develop the individual (Russell) and society as a whole (More, Milner, Kuiper, Ferry), and some (Douglas, Theobald) predicted the problem of underemployment through automation business processes. However, only part of the authors were concerned with the problem of finding sources of financing for the practical implementation of the concept of basic income (Paine, Charlier, Theobald), and a wide experimental test of the concept of basic income began in the 20th century.

Table 1: Interpretation of the UBI idea by various researchers

| Model Name | Features |
|-----------------|--|
| Th. More | A way to combat high crime, more effective than punishment |
| J. L. Vives | Social assistance tool (charity) |
| A. C. Condorcet | The basis of social insurance as a means of reducing poverty |
| Th. Paine | Implementing the idea of social justice through life-long retention through rent payments |
| J. Charlier | Social guarantee of absence “the domination of capital over labour” through payment “dividende territorial” |
| B. Russell | The means of development of the individual |
| D. Milner | An instrument for the realisation of the moral right to livelihoods |
| C. H. Douglas | A tool to prevent overproduction through the payment of “national dividend” |
| R. Theobald | A tool for employee social insurance against threats to business process automation |
| M. Friedman | A tool for implementing social assistance through a linear negative income tax |
| J. Tobin | Additional social benefit at a differentiated rate |
| J. P. Kuiper | A tool for implementing the idea of non-compulsory employment |
| J. Mitschke | A tool for implementing social assistance through a negative income tax |
| A. Gorz | A means of implementing the idea of social assistance |
| A. Caille | A means of implementing the idea of social assistance (“the expression of society’s fundamental trust in those excluded from the labour market”) |
| J.M. Ferry | Means of development of socially useful activity |

Source: developed by the authors.

3. Arguments for and against unconditional basic income

Thus, the idea of unconditional basic income is now universally accepted and substantively unique. Unconditional basic income is regarded as “a periodic cash payment unconditionally delivered to all on an individual basis, without means-test or work requirement” (Basic Income ..., 2020), and is characterised by the following features (Figure 1):

- 1) periodic – is provided on a systematic basis, rather than on a one-off basis;
- 2) individual – addressed at a specific person, not a household;
- 3) universal – paid for by everyone without exception;
- 4) cash payment – does not involve the use of natural issue, receipts, vouchers, etc.;
- 5) unconditional – issued without testing the availability of work or intention to receive it, the amount of income, family composition, etc.

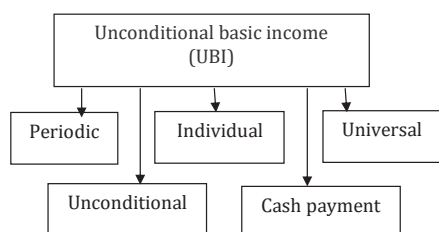


Figure 1: Characteristics of unconditional basic income

Source: own research

Investigation of the five-hundred-year history of the existence of the concept of basic income has allowed us to form arguments for and against the practical implementation of this idea, summarised in Table 2. As can be seen from Table 2, the main arguments for implementing the idea of basic income can be structured in three directions: economic, psychological and practical implementation problems. Let’s take a closer look at them. At first glance, the economic problems of implementing the idea of basic income seem to be the most important and almost insurmountable. Indeed, providing basic income at the subsistence level is a serious financial challenge for state and local budgets. Partial basic income is not able to replace the existing social assistance system, which, by the way, seems to be insufficient to overcome poverty. Therefore, it seems that the realisation of the concept of basic income will definitely be an unbearable financial burden. If we imagine that the basic income provided will reduce the motivation to work and cause problems for providing enterprises with labour resources, then the revenue part of the budgets will also be reduced due to tax evasion. Payment of basic income exclusively in cash threatens to increase inflation and overall destabilise the economic situation.

Table 2: Arguments for the practical implementation of the concept of basic income

| Arguments "for" | Arguments "against" |
|--|---|
| <p>Economic development through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stimulation of domestic demand; - no budget expenditures for administering social assistance; - small business development; - development of the investment market; - reducing health care budget expenditures <p>Improvement of social relations through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - solving the problems of need and gender inequality; - the elimination of the corruptive component of the purpose of social assistance and the overall reduction of crime rates; - motivation of human capital development and increase of overall life satisfaction level; - changes in the relationship between employers and employees, in particular, in the context of business processes roboticisation, increasing the level of support in families; - improving the health of the population <p>Possibility of practical implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - transparency and simplicity of application; - reduction of expenditures of the state and local budget for the maintenance of social assistance bodies; - obtaining income from the sale of fixed assets of social assistance bodies; - receiving taxes from small business development and rising wages | <p>Economic problems due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - large financial expenses for the payment of income at the level of the subsistence level; - inflationary processes; - reduction of budget revenues; - curtailment of business activity <p>Deterioration of social relations due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - growing paternalistic sentiment; - destruction of motivation to work; - social tension from the dismissal of employees of social bodies; - increasing the number of migrants; - rising crime rates <p>Impossibility of practical implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - large financial costs; - reduction of the budget revenue base in the fall of business activity; - the society's rejection of the idea of unconditional payments and the lack of political will to implement it; - legal obstacles |

Source: own research.

In fact, such an apocalyptic picture is refuted by the available calculations: Pranab Bardhan, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, argues that basic income payments are fiscal-real, at least in low-poverty countries. Structural problems, complexity of checking income levels of self-employed persons, as well as the corruption component make the social assistance systems in India economically inefficient. According to Pranab Bardhan's estimates, if each of India's 1.25 billion citizens receives an annual base income of 10,000 rupees (about \$ 150), a quarter below the official poverty line, total payments will be about 10% of GDP at that time, when, according to the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (Delhi), the Indian government annually allocates significantly larger amounts of direct and indirect subsidies to the underprivileged segments and corporate sector tax breaks. Withholding these payments in whole or in part, one can accumulate funds to pay a reasonable unconditional basic income (Bardhan, 2013). In this sense, the absence of social expenditures of the state and local budgets for the administration of targeted social assistance (retention of officials who form the list of persons who are eligible for assistance, monitor compliance with them, take measures to recover illegally obtained assistance, retain the basic means aid – buildings, equipment) is an absolute argument for the use of basic income.

The thesis about activation of inflationary processes in the payment of unconditional in-

come seems to us also impossible: setting the level of payments at the subsistence level will not create a critical money supply in comparison with the existing social assistance systems: payment of pensions, scholarships, social assistance to single mothers, people to which state support is granted. Thus, the magnitude of basic income payments will not allow for the formation of unsecured demand, and psychological confidence in the continuity of such assistance will allow citizens to think about investing in the development of small business and will contribute to the formation of an active "consumer" stock market.

Theses on reducing budget revenues while increasing social spending and curtailing entrepreneurial activity are interrelated and relate to the work motivation of the population. Having a monthly income that meets the minimum needs really frees an employee from forced employment. At the same time, according to a survey by Dalia Research (2016), ten thousand people from 28 countries of the European Union, only 4% of respondents intended to stop working with basic income and 7% would reduce working hours (Europe, 2020). Moreover, the introduction of basic income would provide an opportunity to intensify entrepreneurial activity by obtaining the funds to change the profession, training additional skills, developing their own business. Therefore, there is no prerequisite for reducing the tax part of the budgets by reducing employees (income tax for individuals) and entrepreneurial activity (cor-

porate income tax, social contribution, partially value added tax). Small business development, together with the ability to meet domestic demand, can generate not only employment, but also taxes (single tax, personal income tax, pension and insurance payments).

An additional economic bonus to introducing a single basic income may be a reduction in public health spending, which will be discussed below. Thus, the emergence of economic problems in implementing the idea of unconditional income is not obvious or compulsory. But it seems to us more important to consider the factors of psychological perception of the concept of basic income and its influence on the relations of members of society in the future.

Already stated fears of opponents of the concept of basic income regarding the destruction of motivation to work are refuted by the results of the above survey (Europe, 2020). In addition, a large proportion of people involved in volunteer, charitable projects will have the opportunity to expand their field of activity. "Overachievers" will not abandon their work simply because they will receive minimum income, and covering the latter only with basic needs will prompt them to receive high remuneration for their labour to meet personal needs beyond the scope of the "consumer basket". Therefore, the risk of developing paternalistic attitudes in the application of the concept of basic income seems to us insignificant, given the existence of a broad system of targeted support for socially vulnerable groups in all countries of the world. However, in many countries around the world, there is still a serious gender inequality, where a working woman gets lower positions or less pay compared to men with the same skills and knowledge. Housewives today also do not have financial independence from their partners, because their work is not paid, and lack of insurance experience does not give the right to expect retirement. This situation is a direct motivation for the gender inequality system and domestic violence against women, and the idea of basic income is capable of solving this problem.

The idea of increasing social tensions in the case of applying the concept of basic income is based on the assumption that the population will spend on the purchase of "anti-benefits": alcohol, drugs, etc., a wave of migrants will flow into the country with such a social security system, and the elimination of social protection bodies will lead to social protests of dismissed workers. Let us disassemble these issues in turn. With regard to the dismissal of social workers; their communication skills with the socially vulnerable and therefore psychologi-

cally difficult sections of the population are in demand in society today and are predicted by sociologists to be in high demand in the future. But even in the conditions of loss of demand on the labour market, they will have basic income and will be able to afford to re-profile activities like other members of society. Migrants as non-citizens cannot claim basic income in this country, and regulating the circulation of dangerous substances is a realisation of the state function of protecting the population and, by and large, has an inverse dependence on the level of income: if the population suffers from poverty, the crime situation worsens. Therefore, the introduction of basic income can solve the problem of need and in the future reduce the crime rate.

The main social advantage of applying the concept of basic income in practice, in our view, is the change in interpersonal relationships: in labour relations, in families, in society as a whole. Thus, the availability of unconditional income, covering the basic needs, will allow hired workers to pay attention to updating their existing skills through additional training and advanced training, will provide the opportunity to find a better job offer, as well as remove the subordinate position of the hired employee in relation to the employer. This will fundamentally change the labour market both in terms of increasing the quality of labour resources through the development of human capital and in terms of wage growth.

In the conditions of business process roboticisation there is a threat of dismissal of a large number of employees. Analysts at McKinsey & Co, a consulting firm, expect a fifth part of the world workforce to be released for this reason: "We estimate that between 400 million and 800 million individuals could be displaced by automation and need to find new jobs by 2030 around the world, based on our midpoint and earliest (that is, the most rapid) automation adoption scenarios" (Jobs lost, 2020). Having a basic income will allow these people to live in dignity during a forced re-profile of their business. Basic income can be a "buffer" that will smooth out life's troubles and challenges: provide education without borrowing, increase parental stay with the child, as well as provide temporary rest during illness and the possibility of rehabilitation after physical or psychological trauma. It can be summed up that basic income can become a serious tool for social protection of human beings and a factor of development of its creative potential. Finally, the individual will get a chance to develop their talents, commercialise hobbies and learn how to implement business ideas. Empowerment for

self-development and self-fulfilment is a factor in improving the quality of workforce, small business development, raising the level of life satisfaction (Happy Planet Index), which in turn will reduce the incidence and complications of illness and the social costs of health care.

Scott Santens is convinced of the financial appeal of the UBI idea, which he estimates will cost the United States more than \$ 1 billion: “The truth is that the costs of people having insufficient income are many and collectively massive. It burdens the healthcare system. It burdens the criminal justice system. It burdens the education system. It burdens would-be entrepreneurs; it burdens both productivity and consumer buying power, and therefore entire

economies. The total cost of all of these burdens well exceeds \$1 billion annually, and so the few hundred billion net additional cost of UBI pays for itself many times over. That’s the big-picture maths” (Santens, 2017).

4. Experiments on implementation of basic income

However, the argument for or against the application of the concept of basic income will not be justified without consideration of the results of numerous experiments. Let us focus on the implementation of the idea of a partial basic income in the recent history of mankind set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Basic income pilots

| Location | Period of holding | Results available |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Indiana, Seattle and Denver (USA) | 1960-70 | Moderate reduction of work effort (17% among women, 7% among men), increased school attendance, money received was not spent on anti-benefits or luxury goods |
| Manitoba (Canada) | 1974-1979 | Absence of motivation for unemployment in the presence of UBI, reduced occupational injuries, level of road accident, domestic violence, needs for hospitalisation, increased time spent by mothers for children, by teenagers for education |
| Alaska (USA) | Since 1984 | The lowest poverty rate in the United States |
| Otjivero - Omitara (Namibia) | 2008-2012 | Reducing poverty and crime, increasing economic activity, school attendance and improving children's health |
| Madhya Pradesh, (India) | 2010-2013 | A lack of frivolous spending, improving housing, nutrition, health, education, increasing savings and economic activity, increasing the inclusion of people with disabilities in public life |
| Germany | Since 2014 | Increasing the sense of freedom of choice among the participants, developing their own business and getting a professional education, organizers' experience of creating a social state |
| Uganda | 2015-2019 | Preliminary results: increase of business assets by 57%, working time by 17%, earnings by 38%, creation of own enterprises |
| Livorno (Italy) | Since 2016 | The results are considered positive, other cities are involved in the experiment (Ragusa, Naples) |
| Kenya | 2016-2026 | Results not announced, experiment is ongoing |
| Ontario (Canada) | 2017-2019 | Experiment terminated after government change, results not announced |
| Finland | 2017-2019 | Preliminary results: fewer stress symptoms, fewer difficulties concentrating and fewer health problems, more confident in the future and in the ability to influence societal issues |
| Utrecht (Netherlands) | 2018-2019 | The results are processed |
| Stockton (USA) | 2019 | Lack of motivation for unemployment in the presence of UBI has been proved, a lack of frivolous spending |

Source: own research.

As Table 3 shows, Basic income pilots were conducted in countries with different levels of economic development, but proved insolvent against UBI opponents. In addition to the overall improvement of economic and social indicators, the positive results include the involvement of people with disabilities in public life, the experience of creating a welfare state and greater confidence in the future, highlighted by

participants in experiments in India, Finland and Germany. Moreover, the results of short-term experiments have shown so encouraging results that they have been extended (as in Kenya) or “adopted” by other regions (Italy). At the same time, the result of the experiment in Ontario demonstrated that the success of applying the concept of basic income directly depends on the political will of the government.

And benefits such as transparency and simplicity of application, reduction of state and local budget expenditures on the maintenance of social assistance agencies, income from the sale of fixed assets of social assistance agencies, obtaining taxes on the development of small businesses and rising wages are not able to outweigh the reluctance to try. Indeed, in most cases, the implementation of the idea of UBI requires significant start-up costs and overcoming legal obstacles to harmonisation of legislation, which appear to be nothing compared to the public's unpreparedness for the idea of equal financial payments.

According to a poll (*Europe*, 2020) in April 2016, 58% of the population in European countries were aware of the concept of basic income, and 64% would vote in favour of its implementation in a referendum. Countries where the idea of basic income was most popular were Spain and Italy (71% and 69% of respondents, respectively, supported the introduction of basic income). At the same time, 40% of respondents said that basic income would reduce people's anxiety about meeting their basic needs, 31% said that it would better provide "equal opportunities", 16% said that the level of bureaucracy and administrative expenses of the state would be reduced. However, on June 5, 2016, 76.9% voted against this initiative in a referendum in Switzerland. According to Swiss analyst Claude Longchamp, the main reason for the failure of the vote was that the organizers did not present a clear payment scheme and did not explain how it would be funded (Basic Income, 2020). Indeed, at first glance, it is unfair to pay the same amount to a person with a disability, a person who does not want to work and a millionaire who has no financial problems. Therefore, advocates of UBI should be actively educated. And there are two

facts in favour of the thesis that the future of basic income. In 2018, the Scottish Government agreed to provide 250,000 GBP to assess the feasibility of a basic income pilot in four areas: Glasgow, Edinburgh and the regions of Fife and North Ayrshire (Roberts, 2017). In France, 13 local departments (Revenu, 2020) have expressed the wish to experiment basic income in their territories. Therefore, the experiments continue unambiguously.

Mark Zuckerberg said at a speech at Harvard University: "We should explore ideas like universal basic income to give everyone a cushion to try new things. We're going to change jobs many times, so we need affordable childcare to get to work and healthcare that aren't tied to one company. We're all going to make mistakes, so we need a society that focuses less on locking us up or stigmatizing us. And as technology keeps changing, we need to focus more on continuous education throughout our lives" (Zuckerberg, 2017).

5. Conclusions

Thus, summarizing the above, we can draw the following conclusions:

- i. Unconditional basic income is not only a humanistic idea, but also a practical tool for building a civilised society.
- ii. Numerous experiments on the use of UBI have proved its positive economic and social impact.
- iii. Implementation of the idea of basic income can be the solution to the world problem of mass layoffs due to the robotic business processes.
- iv. The question of practical implementation of the concept of basic income is a problem of perception of this idea by the society and political will of the government.

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