

For this bit of research I'm going to be looking at Universal Basic Income. The reason? Well, in the non-mainstream world (sometimes called alternative, or usually conspiracy theorists), there is an ongoing discussion, or basically stating, that the world will have the Universal Basic Income, and that if you don't agree with it, you will be placed in detention centres, and all your assets stolen from you.

So, I want to know a few things. Yes, I know many people will say it's true, but what I want to look at are a few things, to help my understanding of it.

First, I will briefly go over what it's all coming from. Then, I will look at the main site and see what the statement says, but it may be small. I will look into as many official articles and videos, to see if anyone actually proposes what the alternative view as reality. I will also look at any studies that are being/have been conducted, to see what their research showed, and how they went about it. And I will also take a quick glance at any places that already have it.

Sounds a lot, probably is, but as with all research, it's needed.

Onto the first, where is it all stemming from?

Well, at the World Economic Forum (WEF), they have been promoting the Great Reset. I'm sure by now, many people on both sides of the camp, have heard of it:

<https://www.weforum.org/great-reset/>

There is also a book written about it. Sure, there are other books written by many people on this, but I prefer to go to the original author, as they wrote it. It's called COVID-19: The Great Reset, by Klaus Schwab and Thierry Malleret.

Klaus actually started the WEF in the first place, so well worth a read. Have I read it? Yes, I have bought and read it. Now, not to spread assertions, but I wonder how many of the alternative people have actually read the book, and not gone off 'it's all BAD!!!' videos? Have a feeling it may be small.

But for the actual Universal Basic Income (or UBI), it's not all stated in the book. To be honest it's not a large book, so they can't cram everything in there.

So, here it is:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/covid-19-universal-basic-income-social-inequality/>

This was written in April 2020, and here are some highlights:

"It is time to add a new element to the policy packages that governments are introducing, one we know but have abandoned: Universal Basic Income (UBI). It is needed as part of the package that will help us to get out of this yawning pit.

The naysayers, and there are plenty, will point out that it won't work because no country can afford to regularly dole out money to every citizen. They will argue that we will run unsustainable deficits, which cannot be financed."

Interesting, as the furlough system seems to have been brought about and everyone loves it. Money for sitting at home instead of working, 80% paid by government (our taxes eventually). Awesome, many love this as it keeps the families above the breadline.

What happens when the furlough system ends though, and it will?

“The pandemic that began in China has raged across Asia and beyond, exposing inequalities and vulnerabilities of huge populations in the region. This includes informal workers – estimated at 1.3 billion people or two-thirds of the Asia-Pacific workforce – as well as migrants, with almost 100 million dislocated, in India alone. If a large part of an entire generation loses its livelihood, with no social safety net to catch it, the social costs will be unbearably high. Economic instability will follow the flare-up of social tensions.

During these times, when we need to kickstart sputtering economies, the payoff of social stability would be tremendous, making an even more powerful argument for UBI.”

Well, at the time of my typing, it’s hitting India big time, and mostly in the areas where poverty is very high.

“So a new social contract needs to emerge from this crisis that rebalances deep inequalities that are prevalent across societies. To put it bluntly: The question should no longer be whether resources for effective social protection can be found – but how they can be found. UBI promises to be a useful element of such a framework.

Countries like the United States and Canada are already making such plans. Alaska, in fact, has been making annual UBI-type payments, to every state resident, for decades. Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau pledged CAD\$2,000 a month, for the next four months, to workers who have lost income due to the pandemic – a short-term form of UBI. Now we need to expand it and make it work in the long-term, and we can.”

Isn’t this the furlough system or as close to it? I know in the UK they increased the Universal Credit. For those that have never heard of this, it’s here, but I’m assuming most countries have something similar:

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

Just jumping off script for the moment, but this is what the Universal Credit is about:

“Universal Credit is a payment to help with your living costs. It’s paid monthly - or twice a month for some people in Scotland.

You may be able to get it if you’re on a low income, out of work or you cannot work.”

“Universal Credit is replacing the following benefits:

Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Working Tax Credit”

Standard allowance

Your circumstances	Monthly standard allowance
Single and under 25	£344
Single and 25 or over	£411.51
In a couple and you're both under 25	£490.60 (for you both)
In a couple and either of you are 25 or over	£596.58 (for you both)

Extra amounts

You may get more money on top of your standard allowance if you're eligible.

If you have children

If you have 1 or 2 children, you'll get an extra amount for each child.

How much you'll get	Extra monthly amount
For your first child	£282.50 (born before 6 April 2017) £237.08 (born on or after 6 April 2017)
For your second child and any other eligible children	£237.08 per child
If you have a disabled or severely disabled child	£128.89 or £402.41
If you need help with childcare costs	up to 85% of your costs (up to £646.35 for one child and £1,108.04 for 2 or more children)

If you have a disability or health condition

How much you'll get	Extra monthly amount
If you have limited capability for work and work-related activity	£343.63
If you have limited capability for work and you started your health-related Universal Credit or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claim before 3 April 2017	£128.89

If you get the [severe disability premium](#) you may also be entitled to an extra ['transitional protection' payment if you're moving to Universal Credit](#).

If you care for a severely disabled person

How much you'll get	Extra monthly amount
If you provide care for at least 35 hours a week for a severely disabled person who receives a disability-related benefit	£163.73

This is on top of any extra amount you get if you have a disabled child.

So, as you can see, if you are in a family and you are out of work, or on a low income, then you start off with a basic £344 (if single and under 25), or if say a couple over 25, £596.58 for both. Then, factor into that single person may have a child, add on say £282.50, but cannot work due to a disability, and add £343.63. So, that person may get $£411.51 + 282.50 + 343.63 = £1037.64$ a month.

Now, I know that may not be for every person on it, but you can see the calculations above, in the screenshots.

Anyway, back to the topic in hand.

“To make UBI fly, we will need fair taxation. Countries will have to work together, exchanging data across borders, to stop people and corporations from evading taxes. Simply put, we must all pay our fair share. With good conscience, we can no longer privatize profit and socialize loss.”

“Then stop the subsidies, notably fossil-fuel subsidies, which hinder the path to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – especially climate-change targets. This would benefit us all, while generating financial resources not just for UBI, but also to support affected fossil-fuel companies.”

That’s Agenda 21, in case anyone hasn’t heard of it. Look it up at the UN:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21>

But that’s for another day ☺

Interestingly, on the WEF page, it has this image:

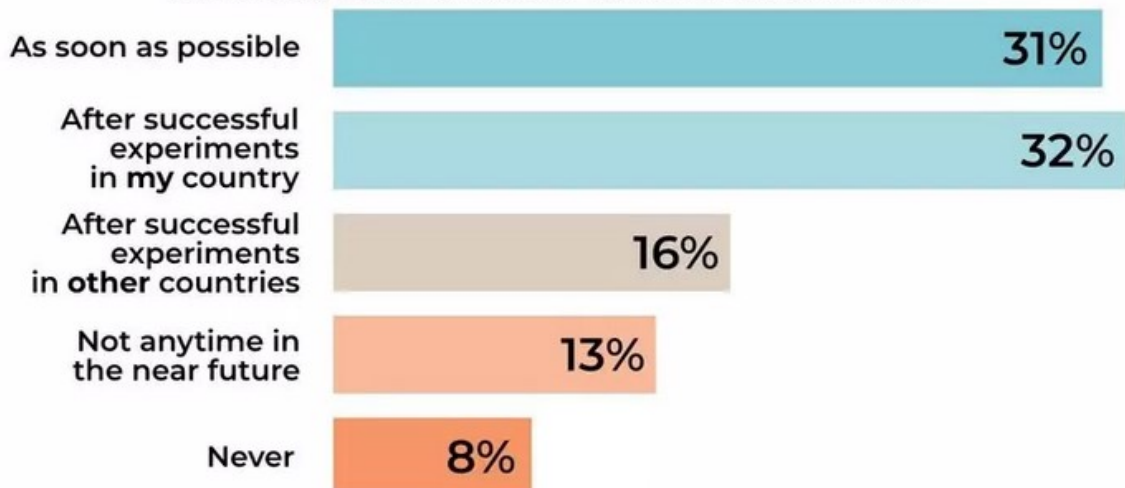
Do Europeans Want Basic Income?

Based on a census-representative survey of 11,021 people across the 28 EU countries completed in March 2017

If there would be a referendum on introducing basic income today, how would you vote?



At what point do you think your country should introduce basic income?



MAKEDATASHINE.COM

Source: Dalia Research 2017

I could look at polls/surveys till the cows come home. Why? Well, it’s based on a few things. Who the survey was conducted by, what are they affiliated with, how many were polled, and what were ALL the questions exactly. I may look at this one later on, at the end. Depends on my sanity lol.

At the very end of the page, is this:

“A key complicating factor with implementing UBI – beyond its fiscal cost – is that it would not arrive in a vacuum. It would need to fit into and complement the existing set of social programmes, both insurance-based and needs-based. And rules would be needed to prevent double-dipping of benefits.

Moving to such a system would need to ensure that the incentives to have a job remain intact. That is relatively simple to do: A UBI should be sufficient, to sustain a person at a modest minimum, leaving sufficient incentives to work, save, and invest.

Finally, good arguments can be made for having very selective conditions – for instance, some that relate to public goods, like vaccinating all children and ensuring they attend school. Such selective conditions would not undermine the main purpose of eliminating poverty and allow low-income people to take calculated risks, to try to lift themselves out of poverty.”

Note a few things: Incentives to have a job remain intact; selective conditions like public goods, vaccination, school attendance.

This is, what I think, is where the alternative side have found, and reading into it that you don't get UBI unless you do those criteria. But I can't spot the part about taking your assets. Maybe I can find it later on.

Now, let's have a look at any countries that have trialed it, or are in the process of setting it up.

Before we get there, I found this:

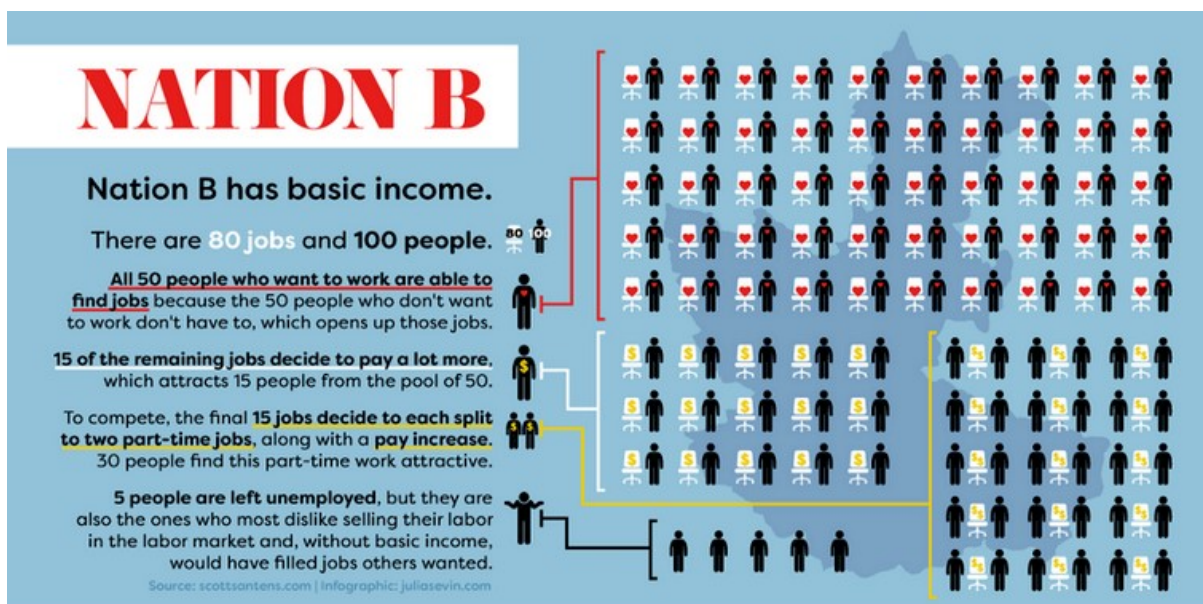
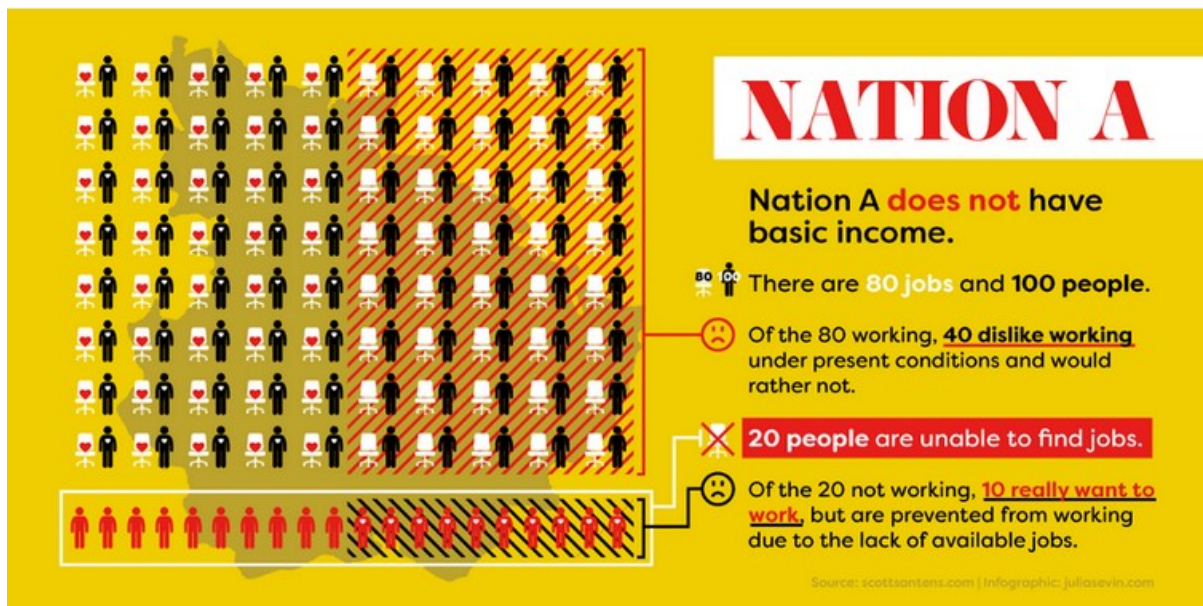
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/01/why-we-should-all-have-a-basic-income/>

It's from 2017, explains it a lot more about the setup, and it's well worth a read. It's rather long, but near the middle I was reading about people not choosing to work, as the people that work will be taxed for the UBI, but I think (from what I can gather), your tax goes up a little, but you still get the UBI, which will be more than the actual tax (a lot more).

Oh, and those with more money (higher millionaires and billionaires) will pay more tax. Bill Gates getting taxed to the hilt? Well, he would be, except he's getting divorced. The couple will still do the work together, but money will be split, and I can bet they'll split between the kids as well, so don't expect Bill to pay as much. Rather a coincidence that his divorce came up now? Yeah, right. So, for those not choosing to work:

“But what about people then choosing not to work? Isn't that a huge burden too? Well that's where things get really interesting. For one, conditional welfare assistance creates a disincentive to work through removal of benefits in response to paid work. If accepting any amount of paid work will leave someone on welfare barely better off, or even worse off, what's the point? With basic income, all income from paid work (after taxes) is earned as additional income so that everyone is always better off in terms of total income through any amount of employment – whether full time, part time or gig. Thus basic income does not introduce a disincentive to work”

And there are some images:



Anyway, back to the trials:

Well, first up, Germany is doing a trial for 3 years, starting August 2020:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/08/germany-universal-basic-income-trial-citizens/>

The bullet points:

“Starting this week, 120 Germans will receive a form of universal basic income every month for three years.

The volunteers will get monthly payments of €1,200, or about \$1,400, as part of a study testing a universal basic income.

The study will compare the experiences of the 120 volunteers with 1,380 people who do not receive the payments.

Supporters say it would reduce inequality and improve well-being, while opponents argue it would be too expensive and discourage work.

All participants will be asked to complete questionnaires about their lives, work, and emotional state to see whether a basic income has had a significant impact.”

So, that’s a long trial, will hopefully see the outcome. If my sanity is still intact, I’ll check it out in 3 years, see what the result was ☺

July 2020 – Spain:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01993-3>

That one is different; it’s only for the 850,000 of the nation’s poorest families.

This is Finland’s results:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/02/the-results-finlands-universal-basic-income-experiment-are-in-is-it-working/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-47169549>

Basically, happier but jobless.

In fact, there are a lot of trails going on all over the place. Also, if you look back at that Nature article, at the bottom it says this:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01993-3>

“The idea of UBI isn’t new. English philosopher Thomas More proposed such an idea in his novel Utopia in 1516, although it wasn’t until the 1960s and 1970s that economists began to think more seriously about how it could be applied. The US economist Milton Friedman proposed an idea related to UBI called a negative income tax in 1962, in which those earning under a certain amount would receive supplemental funds from the government rather than paying tax. The United States and Canada conducted pilot studies in towns and cities on negative income tax and a guaranteed annual income, respectively, during the 1970s. The wave of conservatism that swept both governments in the early 1980s, however, ended interest in those policies — with one notable exception. Since 1982, the state of Alaska has distributed profits from oil extraction in Prudhoe Bay to all citizens of the state, regardless of age, employment status or any other restrictions.”

Yep, Alaska have been doing it for years, and the US economist Milton Friedman proposed an idea related to UBI called a negative income tax in 1962. This is about it in general:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negative_income_tax

“In economics, a negative income tax is a system which reverses the direction in which tax is paid for incomes below a certain level; in other words, earners above that level pay money to the state while earners below it receive money”

So, it's not something new. And this is something I wanted to also find, as from what you read in the alternative media, is it's just appeared out of thin air, only for the Great Reset, and all because of Covid-19. It's not. Sure, it's become more known as many around the world have been (some still are) on furlough, and this seems like a good way to help those in the future.

Also, I have a theory on how it does make sense. So, Person A has no job, but gets his UBI of £1000 by default. He doesn't work at the moment, but claiming loads of benefits for a wide range of things. Those benefits cease when UBI kicks in, and even if there is a pandemic or war, or whatever in the future he's sorted. But he doesn't want to work. That's fine, he can have the £1000, and after taxes, bills, car use etc., can save the rest.

Person B has no job, like Person A. But he wants to work, as he's bored and likes to be active. But he can't find one that he would enjoy so he can live, for Person B loves to work with his hands, and wants to help out on farms, but minimum wage is way too small. Person B gets his UBI of £1000, then does the farm work, enjoys his life, and has money still to live.

Person C has a job, a well-paid, or at least £20,000 a year. He gets his £1000 extra from the UBI, but is still on the low income, so pays less tax. But he uses the UBI money for paying his bills, and then going to the pub or buying that new TV he always wanted....and he saves the monthly wage from his job, as he wants a house, but could never save for it before.

Now, at the very beginning, I mentioned that all your assets will be stolen if you don't accept this. It's taken me a while of searching the WEF website, of which I couldn't find anything that states that the assets will be seized (stolen). But the only thing I found was related to gold on a totally different site:

<https://goldsilver.com/blog/gold-confiscation-history-myths-and-real-solutions/>

It's a decent read, but the part that stood out was 'patterns':

See Any Patterns Here?

These three gold confiscations have some things in common. They all...

- 1. Were imposed by Western governments.** These were advanced societies, among the richest countries on the planet. And yet they all confiscated gold.
- 2. Arose out of economic crisis.** Each government had abused its finances so badly that it eventually nationalized privately held gold from citizens.
- 3. Lasted for a LONG time.** Of these confiscations from advanced economies, the shortest was 13 years.
- 4. Completely forbid any type of hoarding of bullion.** Only true collectors were exempt, and only those pieces that were truly classified as rare. And you had to prove it. Interestingly, gold *jewelry* was not part of any of these confiscations.

So, I will wrap up the research on this one. I can see the good and bad points regarding UBI. As you saw, the three scenarios I gave are ideas that make sense. Also, don't forget that what most people will do with extra money is buy stuff. Anything. I'm the same. Just been paid but have a bit extra leftover, I'll buy that book/cd etc. I wanted. If I had ~£1000 or so extra, sure, I would save it, but then when I maybe want to, I could have a splurge in town, or online. And that puts money back into the economy.

Anyway, hopefully you've enjoyed this bit of research, and as usual, if you can try to look things up in detail before you go off the 'he said its bad/good etc.' route.

As always, thanks for reading 😊