

why everyone must be guaranteed the best possible conditions to live a decent human life”²⁴.

Interestingly, the neutral concept of man, proposed by the Finnish researcher, is in line with the opinion of the Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben. In the book “The Kingdom and the Garden” (2019), Agamben proposes to consider true human nature as Paradise on earth: "man is capable of all things, but no one owes anything," "man is a creature of opportunity," "many people whose eyes have been opened, they have embodied the Kingdom of the Spirit and are living on earth in a state of paradise innocence”²⁵ In this sense of happiness can be considered as an objective mental form, formed within a certain culture, a socially defined "model" of human existence, which acts as a measure of individual existence.

Thus, understanding the introspective vector of happiness (which, however, is directed outwards – to love, to give, to serve) it can be facilitated by the transition from a negative (sin, guilt) to a neutral (value, perfection) concept of a person. But ignoring the external factors will be a mistake. Protection as a component of the definition and achievement of happiness is very important. We believe that one of the effective remedies in the context of human economic freedom can be the idea of an unconditional basic income – the best conditions for a decent human life are guaranteed. In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of such an idea is more than actual.

START-UP PROJECTS IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

Alexander Soloviev

Russia

Social Movement “Basic Income Russia Tomorrow”

Russia

In March 2019, Social Movement “Basic Income Russia Tomorrow” (a member of the BIEN Worldwide Network) launched a pilot basic income payment project.

²⁴ Kristiina Hyryläinen. From Negative Human Concept to Newtural Human Concept // 19th BIEN Congress Hyderabad, India. URL: <https://basicincome.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Kristiina-HyrylainenNA.pdf>

²⁵ Giorgio Agamben. *Il Regno e il Giardino*. Vicenza: Neri Pozza, 2019. P. 2-4.

In April 2019, non-cash money payments to participants' bank cards began without any conditions, which were made monthly for 3 months in three regions of Russia: Moscow, Moscow Region and Buryatia. The recipients were 8 people: parents with many children and retirees. Payments amounted to 5,000 - 6,500 rubles per month per person. Sources of payments - private donations. The scientific partner of the experiment is the Institute of Socio-Economic Population Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which developed questionnaires for the main income recipients. An anonymous survey of pilot participants was carried out at the beginning of the project launch and after it. We studied the effect of basic income on the recipients' well-being, their mental and physical health.

The pilot project showed that support in the form of basic income is very significant for the poor and large families. The results of the survey showed that the recipients spent the basic income payments on the clothes and shoes purchases, debt repayment, and education. Payments of the main income had a positive impact on the physical and mental health of the recipients, an increase in trust in public institutions.

Ukraine

The first in Ukraine start-up pilot project in paying the main income was held in June 2019.

Organizer - Alexander Soloviev (philanthropist, member of the BIEN Worldwide Main Income Network). The main income was paid monthly by bank transfer to participants' bank cards without any conditions for 3 months in two regions of Ukraine: Dnipropetrovsk (Pavlohrad (town), villages Mezhyrychi and Dubovyky), Cherkaska (village Podolske). Recipients were 10 people. The main income was paid in the amount equivalent to 50 US dollars per month per person. Sources of payments - private donations. An anonymous survey of pilot participants was carried out at the beginning of the launch project and after it. We studied the effect of basic income on the recipients' well-being, their mental and physical health.

The pilot project showed the great importance of the payment of the main income for the project participants. According to the results of the survey, it was found that the recipients spent the main income on payment of treatment, on improving nutrition, paying off debts, buying clothes and shoes, education, the Internet, and going to the sea with children. Payments of the main income had a positive impact on the recipients' physical and mental health, an increase in trust in people and public institutions.

Earlier (in November 2018), the authorities of Pavlohrad announced a large-scale pilot project on basic income in 2019 (from 2,000 participants, payments from 100 euros, over 2 years). The organizer had to change the project conditions after the municipal authorities refused preliminary agreements.

The main goal of the pilots is to show that guaranteed basic income in the countries of the former USSR is possible. That this is not politics, not just another authorities deception. As well as studying the impact on the recipients' lives, studying where people will spend money they get for no special reason.

Problems faced when starting the pilots:

- The main problem is the lack of faith among people that a guaranteed basic income can be realized in their country. In Europe or the USA – it is, in Africa – perhaps, in their countries - it is impossible. The countries of the former USSR are fragments of a huge empire with a forcibly imposed communist ideology. For more than 70 years, Soviet people have lived behind the “Iron Curtain” in a totalitarian state with mass propaganda. Society survived several devastating wars, genocide of entire nations, fear and deprivation. The authorities of the USSR, and then the new authorities systematically deceived people, confiscated property and money under the guise of reforms, promoted the development of “gangster capitalism” and total corruption. In fact, society did not live normal life, the countries' social system remained at the totalitarian countries level, despite democratic idle talk. Therefore, some people refused to participate in the pilots, suspecting the organizers of cheating or wanting to get something in return. However, from the moment the pilot graduates, the organizers regularly receive a large number of letters asking them to continue the pilot and financing, just to get financial help, etc.

- Unwillingness (fear) of the authorities to participate in pilots in any form, attempts to use pilots for their local political goals. With the exception of the youngest rural head of Ukraine, Artem Kukharenko, who took an active part in the pilot. He took care of people, he provided transfers and help to people with his money.

- The main objection of the authorities and people not participating in the pilot: our people (Russia, Ukraine) should not be given money just for no special reason, because they will spend it on alcohol or entertainment. However, they themselves would not have done so (according to them).

- Belief in a “good king” or ruler (Ukraine, Russia): Ukrainian participants sent a petition, a paper letter or an electronic one, to the newly elected president hoping for state participation in the expansion and

continuation of the pilot. Traditionally, for the countries of the former USSR, the team of the Ukrainian president translated the answer into a bureaucratic plane, without any essential answer. When submitting a petition on the state portal, many Ukrainian participants faced technical inability to vote. In Russia, despite the possibility declared by the authorities to file and support a petition on state participation in the pilot, the authorities did not even allow the possibility of posting a petition on the state portal. The organizers also faced criticism (Ukraine): some believed that the pilot was actually carried out by the government, and the organizers took possession of a part of the money.

- The short term and the small number of participants were due to the pilot small budget.

Conclusions: the goals of the starting pilot are achieved; guaranteed basic income is possible and necessary in any country; participants spend the money reasonably and appropriately; they know better than any official the needs of their family; expansion of pilots is needed, additional pilots are needed due to the participation of the state or expansion of the circle of investors (patrons), as well as crowdfunding.

UKRAINE IN A SYSTEM OF PROVIDING BASIC INCOME

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Basic income is a certain amount of money regularly paid to each citizen without reference to his work and social status or age. It is a method to eradicate poverty and a mechanism to redistribute wealth in the world. If this institution starts working, then there will be no need in social pays, benefits, etc.

While analyzing foreign practice of using the income the following pattern was observed: the basic income is successful in countries such as India, Finland, DR Congo, South Korea, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Austria. It means that this tool is used in countries with a strong and stable economy, or in countries where a citizen can live for \$ 10 a month.

Ukraine is in the middle of this system. Unfortunately, now there is no strong and stable economy in the contry, but at the same time the citizens