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Unconditional Basic Income Europe

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Unconditional Basic Income, Degrowth and Counter Hegemony

- 1 Unconditional Basic Income as radical reform backing degrowth option
- 2 Does this proposal meets the criteria for counter hegemonic measures?

# Unconditional Basic Income (UBI)

## Universal

Every person living in a certain territorial area will be entitled. It will not be subject to income, savings or property limits.

## Individual

UBI will be independent of marital status, cohabitation or household configuration.

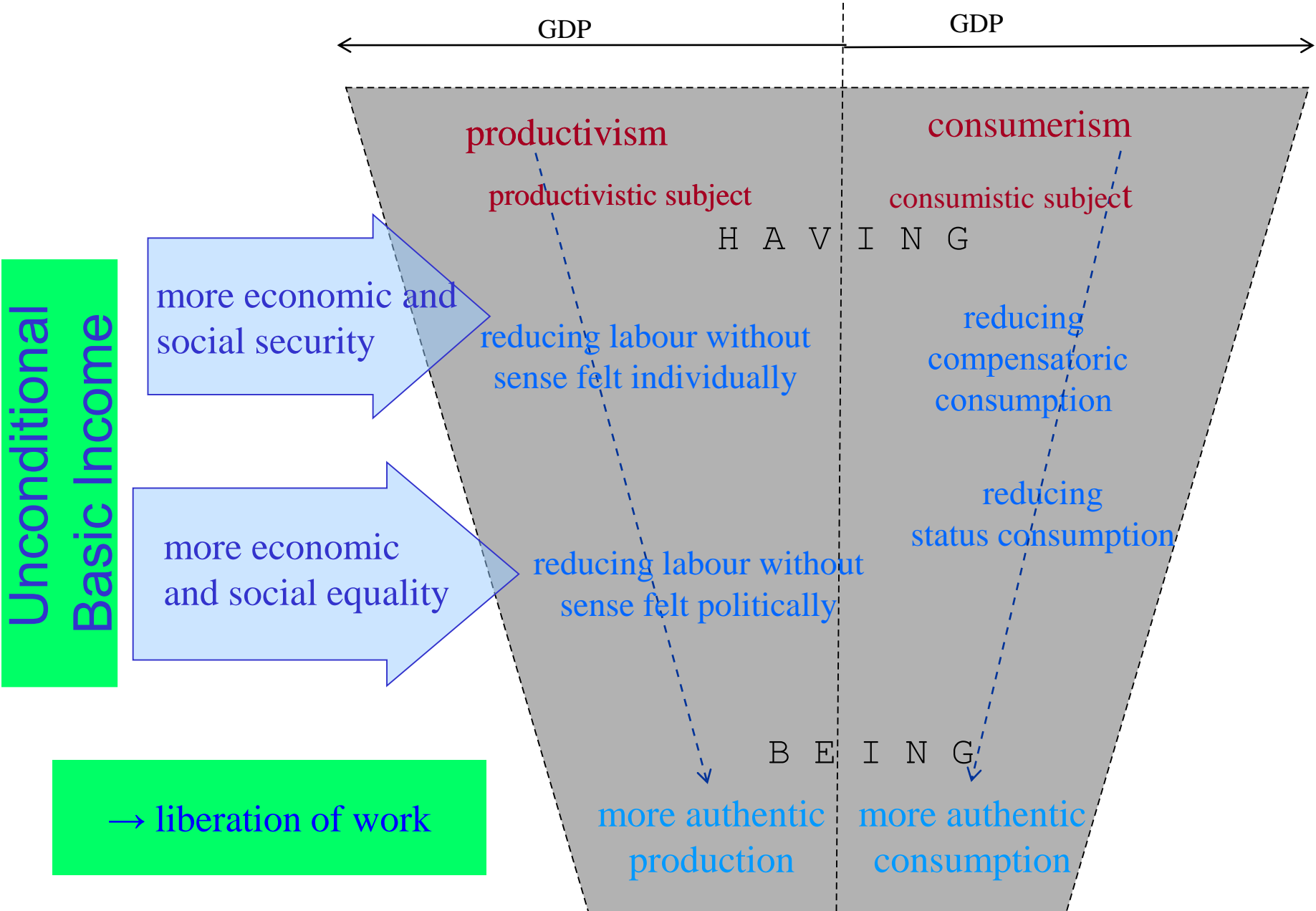
## Unconditional

As a human right UBI shall not depend on any preconditions, whether this be an obligation to take paid employment, to be involved in community service, or to have a certain education.

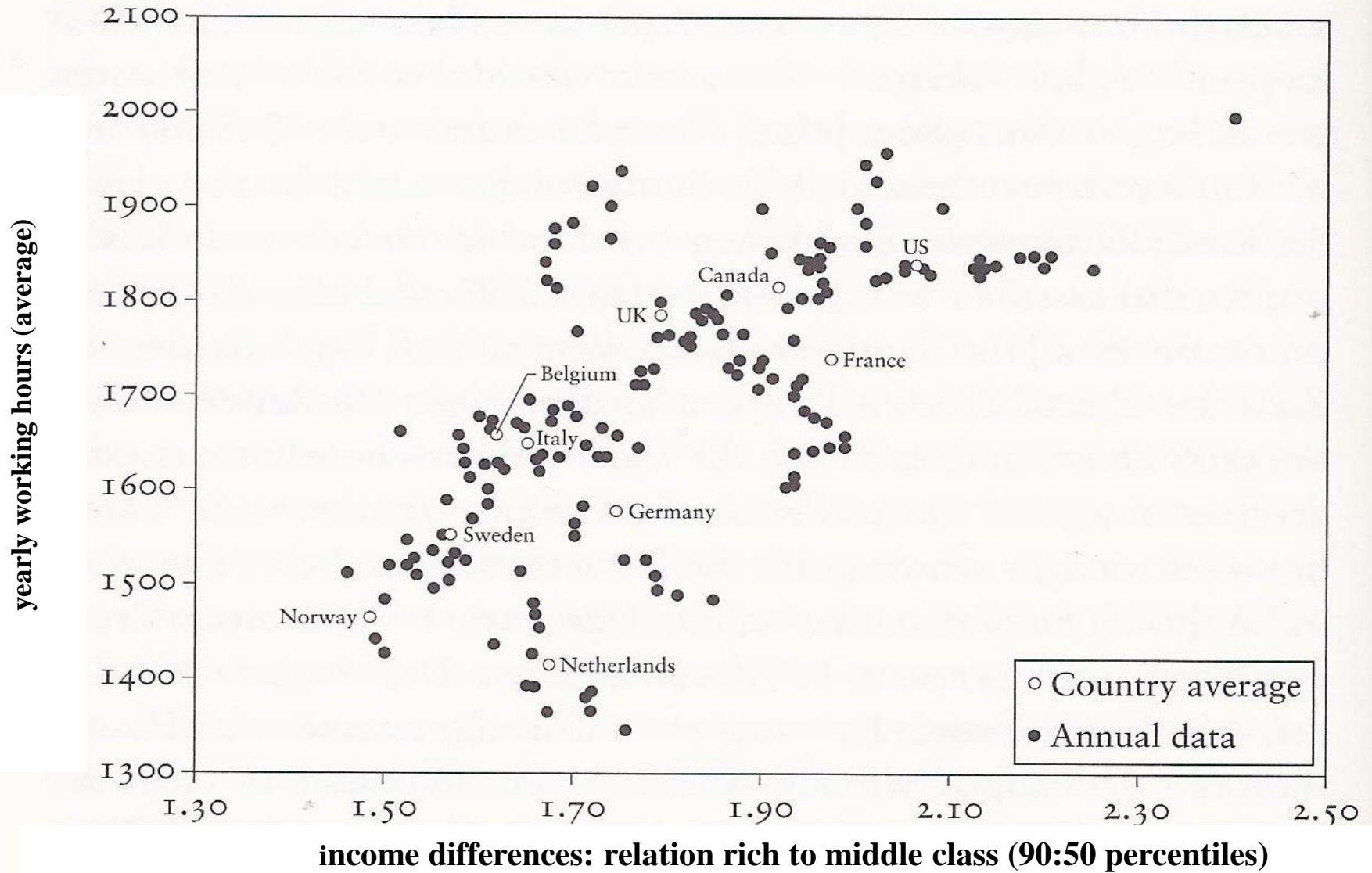
## High enough

The amount should prevent material poverty and provide the opportunity to participate in society and to live in dignity.

# Basic Income is enabling Degrowth option



# Inequality and working hours



## Criteria for non-reformist reforms (1)

- no strengthening of growth dependency

### Less growth dependency:

- UBI reduces the necessity to take jobs to survive (individually and collective)
- UBI reduces reasons for consumption
- therefore BI can lead to degrowth: Not coercively, but as a friendly environment for degrowth option

### Danger: financing necessity leads to necessity of GDP growth

- models to avoid that: BI as a fixed share of GDP:  
e.g. 30%
- with less GDP the BI amount will also be reduced  
that is acceptable because a reduced GDP means  
a culture of less consumption  
(due to cultural change or due to partial replacement of  
gainful work through non-monetary forms of work)

## Criteria for non-reformist reforms (2)

- making degrowth alternatives attractive or acceptable for people

### Basic Income will

- give space for testing alternative lifestyles (e.g. community based forms, forms of non-monetary work)
- make people to feel more equal (bettering health)
- rise feeling of time welfare

### Basic Income is enlarging fundamental values of modern society

- Making freedom real
- Enhancing equality
- Practising brother(sister-)hood

Some of (expected) central cultural impacts of basic income are close to “Good Life with Degrowth” idea

feeding  
innovation/  
creativity

liberation *of*  
work

time welfare

stabilizing social  
relations

## Criteria for non-reformist reforms (3)

- they can be started here and now and improve the social situation of relevant groups of “average people”

### Basic Income

- is a **big structural reform** of the social state, of economy, of society  
dilemma: It changes the values of people necessary to introduce it (similar to the degrowth dilemma)
- therefore it will not be introduced in one step. Two main ways of introduction:
  - increasing the amount
  - increasing the entitled
- **Problem:** advantages and positive experiences can only be felt above a certain threshold:
  - giving more and more people an amount above this threshold
  - problem: How to legitimize a start with a certain share of society?



## Criteria for non-reformist reforms (3)

- they can be started here and now and improve the social situation of relevant groups of “average people”

### Ideas for an entrance:

- Regional pilots
- right for a sabbatical with a full UBI (e.g .1000 €/month) for 3 years in life
  - positive experiences can be made (from individuals/from societal spectators)
  - political support for enlarging this will rise

The central dilemma, i.e. change of values necessary to introduce it will not occur before introduction, can be reduced.

With the sabbatical reform everybody can make this experience, with pilots only some

### Sum:

Attractiveness, values and political philosophies constituting a counterhegemonic potential. But it can only be realized when starting with little steps..