Abstract

The basic income concept is a bold, challenging, and provocative proposal. It is an income unconditionally paid by a government, at a uniform level and at regular intervals, to each adult member of society. The grant is paid irrespective of whether the person is rich or poor, lives alone or with others, is willing to work or not. It should guarantee that all recipients have sufficient material conditions for their existence. This scheme is proposed as a mechanism of distributive justice, and as a tool to combat unemployment without increasing poverty. The economic independence would secure real freedom for all – an opportunity to do what they might want to do, including the permanent idleness. Implementing the basic income is to change current economic and social realities, not only the welfare system. The aim of this diploma thesis is to find ethically relevant aspects in the argumentation of positives and negatives of a basic income and to point out problems that are related to the concept of a basic income in ethical terms.