

Press release

Pilot project on unconditional basic income concludes data collection

The first German long-term study in cooperation with the German Institute for Economic Research enters the evaluation phase after three years

Berlin, May 27, 2024 - The data collection phase of a joint study by the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) and the association Mein Grundeinkommen has come to an end. 122 people in Germany have been paid 1,200 euros per month for the long-term study since June 2021; the last payment was received in May 2024.

The scientists involved in the study are now starting to analyze the data collected. Due to the large amount of data, several months are planned for the evaluation process. The results of the basic income pilot project will be presented in January 2025.

As human decision-making processes are highly complex and the focus is also on changes in participants' decisions and preferences, the study is being supported by researchers from the Vienna University of Economics and Business through psychological research.

The aim of the study is to investigate the individual effects of an unconditional basic income and thus make an empirical contribution to the debate on basic income. This

basic research is financed by donations from around 200,000 private individuals. The financing through private donations ensures the political independence of the study.

“The successful completion of the data collection is another milestone on the way to putting the unconditional basic income to the test. We are particularly pleased with the remarkably high level of consistent participation among the respondents. We were able to retain over 86% of participants over the three-year study period, which provides a particularly good basis for research. We are now eagerly awaiting the results of the scientific evaluation,” said Janine Busch, project manager of the basic income pilot project.

Background

Since its foundation in 2014, the association Mein Grundeinkommen has been collecting money via crowdfunding in order to pay out unconditional basic incomes for one to three years to over 1770 people in a monthly raffle. As numerous studies worldwide have shown, there has been no decrease in motivation to work. Instead, winners became healthier, more social, lived less stressed lives and found jobs that were often better paid and better suited to their skills. These experiences will be scientifically compared with the pilot study. The researchers are not being paid by the Mein Grundeinkommen association for their work on the pilot project.

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