

Project Utopia

Utopia characterizes a perfect life regarding society, politics and moral aspects. However, perfectionism is subjective. Each of us being in a society will have a different view on what is ideal.

In Germany, several political movements are trying to get the idea of an “Unconditional Basic Income” (UBI) more popular. The concept of an UBI is that every individual will receive the same amount of money from the government (regardless on partnership and additional income) which will assure his/her livelihood. It is by everyone’s own free will to decide if she/he wants to work to earn some additional money. That means no one need to have a job to survive in the society. As a result people can do whatever they feel like in their leisure time. A person has time to be herself/himself and/or to share the hours with others. In the free time people could use serious games even more often than people having 40+ hours working week like we have nowadays. Especially if you have family or a specific (or time-consuming) hobby, there is not much time and (mental) energy left to exercise serious games.

To me it sounds utopian to give somebody the opportunity to decide if he/she wants to work or not. Today the daily life is based on working and earning money to be able to live and create your own life. This is not always easy and fair – but this is the way life is and that is what we learned about it. Each person is responsible to his/her living standard and if that does not work out well there are social supports by the government available (at least Germany and other European countries).

I do believe that an Unconditional Basic Income will cause problems although it might seem to be an ideal way of life because you have a lot of freedom and you are financially secure. There is this way of thinking in peoples’ mind which let the UBI system looking unfair as well. It is the thought of „Nothing comes from nothing.” People can live moderately without contributing anything to the society?! What happens if companies have to quit their business because they cannot hire enough staff? How would the business sector actually look like? Will there be enough goods produced? Will machines do our job?

In conclusion the UBI is a way to make every individual within a society of equal value. However people need to change their basic idea of living to a one which is balanced in an objective and subjective one. Subjective because you structure your own lifetime; and objective because you need to accept that everyone has the same base no matter what skills and knowledge the person has.