

# IAB-Colloquium

zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Einladung  
27/2018

## What could we learn from the Finnish 'basic income' experiment?

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The presentation begins with a short description of the background of the basic income (BI) experiment that began 2007 and will end 2018. The rationale was to study if BI is good for solving various disincentive problems the Finnish rather comprehensive but overly complex social security system suffers from. The government's main goal was to see employment effects – which goal has been criticized to be too narrow. Basic income is much more than merely a question of employment. Then follows an description of the ideal BI experiment that the research group presented to the government. However, the final outcome was a disappointment. Compared to the optimal experiment design outlined in the preliminary report, the current experiment was very limited in scope and for many a terrible disappointment. We could not have taxation included, the target population was limited to 2,000 unemployed, we had to abandon local experiments.

*[Fortsetzung auf Seite 2]*

**Datum:**

Donnerstag,  
8. November 2018

**Uhrzeit:**

10:00 Uhr

**Ort:**

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Sitzungssaal E10  
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However, there are obvious strengths in the experiment: it is legally obligatory (no selection bias), we have a treatment group and a control group that in the beginning of the experiment were identical. We have excellent registers to analyze what has happened in terms of employment, labor supply, reciprocity of social benefits, use of prescribed medicine and diagnoses the people possibly are suffering from. Furthermore, we collect survey and face to face data on well-being and subjective experiences in the two groups. We have just began to collect survey data among the participants of the experiment and among the control group. While registers on the first year (e.g. 2017) will be available in the first part of 2019 and on the whole experiment in the beginning of 2020, survey data will be at our disposal in the end of 2018.