

# **Pensare al reddito minimo nell'ottica dell'“utopia realistica” del reddito di base**

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*Devising a Minimum Income Scheme within the Basic Income Framework*

**Abstract:** This article first synthesizes which, according to the author, are the characteristics of a universal basic income as a third level of social protection as theorized by Van Parijs and Vanderborght: unconditional and universal, but neither in alternative to services nor fully alternative to work income, thus also not sufficient as a protection against poverty. Then it discusses the conditions under which a minimum income guarantee for the poor may be thought as a stepping stone towards the basic income ideal, or how they might implement some of its “realistic utopian” dimensions. These conditions are: universality within those individuated as poor on the basis of an income threshold, without any further specification; a benefit level which grants sufficient resources for a living while not disincentivating participation in paid work; activation policies that are enabling, rather than compelling in a disqualifying way; a degree of individualization not only in the activating and accompanying measures, but also in the receipt of the benefit, even if the test of means refers at the household, not the individual level. The author discusses whether and to what degree these conditions are fulfilled within income support measures existing in various European countries. A specific critical attention is given to the new minimum income measure introduced in Italy and that proposed by the Five Star Movement now in government with the Lega.

**Keywords:** Basic income, Minimum income, Conditionality, Universalism, Activation, Poverty.

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