

# Call for Proposals - Outline

BIEN 2026 Congress – Call for Session Proposals

25th International Congress of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) Toronto, Canada | August 20 - 22, 2026

## **All presentations will be in-person**

The Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) invites proposals for sessions at the 25th BIEN Congress, to be held in Toronto in 2026. We welcome abstracts for individual presentations, full sessions, and alternative formats that engage with basic income in the context of today's global polycrisis.

The Congress brings together researchers, educators, advocates, organizers, policymakers, practitioners, artists, and people with lived experience to deepen understanding of basic income and related income guarantee approaches—and their potential role in responding to overlapping global crises.

Congress Theme: Basic Income in a Time of Polycrisis

The world is facing a polycrisis: multiple, co-occurring crises that are causally entangled, mutually reinforcing, and unfolding across social, economic, political, and environmental systems. These crises interact in ways that amplify harm, generate cascading effects, and degrade humanity's prospects.

The polycrisis includes multiple challenges such as climate change and ecological breakdown; inequality and poverty; democratic backsliding; AI/technological impacts; conflict and displacement; health crises; food and energy insecurity; and economic and financial instability. Efforts to address one crisis often collide with or undermine responses to another, creating profound challenges and opportunities for policy, governance, and social movements.

Within this context, basic income—understood broadly to include Universal Basic Income (UBI), basic income guarantees, cash transfers, and related income security proposals and programs—has gained renewed attention. At the same time, basic income remains contested, debated, and evolving.

The BIEN 2026 Congress invites theoretical, empirical, practical, and experiential contributions, including work that:

- Explores the promise, limits, and risks of basic income in a polycrisis
- Challenges dominant assumptions or prevailing models of basic income
- Reflects the experiences of people and communities on the front lines of intersecting crises

# Three Framing Areas for Proposals

We encourage proposals that contribute to one or more of the following interconnected areas. Proposers will be asked to identify a primary area, and may rank additional areas if relevant.

## 1. Knowledge

*Research, learning, and evidence*

Proposals based on qualitative, quantitative, artistic and mixed methods are encouraged. This area focuses on generating, sharing, and questioning knowledge related to basic income, including:

- Empirical research, theory, and policy analysis
- Evaluation of pilots, programs, and reforms
- Education and public learning approaches
- Lived and experiential knowledge
- Methodological innovation and critical perspectives
- Empirical research on knowledge mobilization, policy advocacy, public education and movement building

## 2. Action

*Advocacy, practice, and movement building*

This area highlights how ideas translate into action, including:

- Advocacy strategies, media engagement, and public education
- Organizing, campaigns, and tools for movement infrastructure
- Policy development and implementation experiences
- Rights-based approaches and accountability
- Cultural strategies that support social change

## 3. Connection

*Building relationships across silos*

This area emphasizes connection and collaboration, including:

- Cross-sector and interdisciplinary initiatives
- Linking research, policy, and community practice
- Global, regional, and local perspectives in dialogue
- Partnerships across movements (e.g., income, health, climate, food, care, democracy)
- Bridging divides between institutions and lived experience

**We are particularly interested in creatively paired or integrated sessions, for example:**

- Researchers and community organizers
- Policy thinkers and people with lived experience
- Practitioners working in different sectors such as health, food security, environment, and income
- Combinations of academic, community, and cultural perspectives

## Formats and Participation

We welcome:

- Individual presentation proposals
- Complete session proposals (e.g., panels, workshops, roundtables)
- Posters
- Creative and artistic contributions that support learning and dialogue (e.g. film/video, poetry, music)

Session lengths will typically be 60 or 90 minutes. Requests for longer sessions or special formats (e.g., film screenings) may be considered but cannot be guaranteed.

All sessions should allow meaningful time for discussion, questions, or interaction.

## Key Dates

Proposal submission deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Notification of decisions: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

## How to Submit

Proposals will be submitted online at <https://event.fourwaves.com/bien2026/submission>

For questions, please contact: Ben Earle biencongress2026@gmail.com