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## Abstract

This poster is based on the academic paper conducted by Vero, Da Silva, and Xavier (2019), which was written to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) under the supervision of the College of Law of University of Porto, Portugal.

Given the political and economic circumstances in the aftermath of WWII, the General Assembly of the United Nations assumed one of the main objectives to create a document which would be acceptable to all nations involved. Observing the preparatory works conducted by this Organization, human dignity has been always the principal scope of Article 25. Therefore, to better understand it and to materialize its effectiveness, it is necessary to find a collective understanding towards human dignity and human rights (Cassese, 2005), and the practical approach of the unconditional basic income shall be regarded to achieve the meaning of human dignity in a legal perspective. This right that each state has legitimacy to realize must be included in one of the categories of rights, for which there will be a consideration of the distinction between personal rights, social rights, political rights and socioeconomic rights.



Amnesty International UK, Eleanor Roosevelt and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, November 1949.

## Introduction

Article 25 of UDHR is an economic and social right, having as its underlying principle the definition of the minimum necessary conditions for a sufficient standard of living, and in consideration of human dignity, from the most basic daily needs (housing, health, and clothing) to the cases of extreme vulnerability (widowhood, illness, and unemployment). In order to secure the well-being of every person and to protect each of them against the loss of the means of subsistence, it is states' duty to proceed with effectiveness, imposing the minimum necessary conditions which Jorge Miranda and José de Melo Alexandrino (2002) argue as a logical consequence of the Principle of Human Dignity and the Democratic Rule of Law, stated in Articles 1 and 2 of the Portuguese Constitution.



European Union at the UN- Geneva. Facebook.

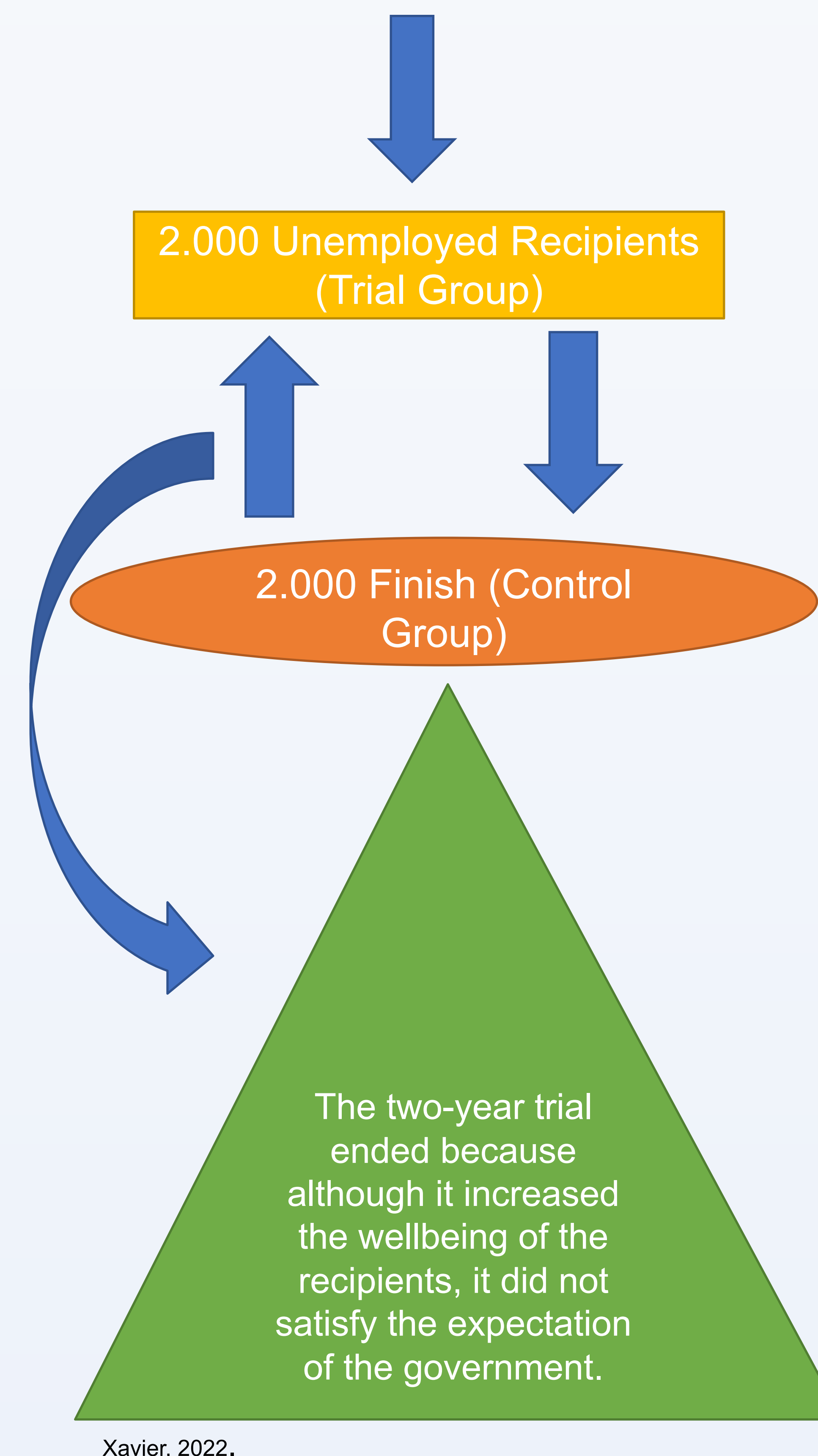
## Unconditional Basic Income

There are several types of benefits granted, just as there are different situations worthy of protection. Ultimately, a new modality of income has been developed that is "granted to every citizen, regardless of his/her/their financial, family, or professional situation, and that is sufficient to allow for a life with dignity" (UBI).

In the Portuguese legal literature, there is no consensual doctrine over this issue.

- Roberto Merrill (2013) contends that this social assistance program should be applied because it reduces poverty, helping to create self-employment by people who are excluded from the labor market or those who depend on low-income jobs.
- Raquel Varela (2013) claims the inapplicability of the respective right as it covers up the failure of the state in distribution of the labor and it raises, on the other hand, the problem of principle of reciprocity.

## Finland's Basic Income in 2017



## Conclusion

It is up to states to determine the margin of appreciation for realizing the underlying objective of the Article. Despite those controversies, the relevance and necessity of providing basic income to every citizen is unquestionable. Besides the creation of self-employment even at the law rate, Finland's Basic Income scheme revealed the success of protection of human dignity as it boosted the wellbeing of the recipients over the comparison group. As Kauranen (2019) stated, "... participants in the trial were happier and healthier than the control group." To sum up, the unconditional basic income should be regarded as a social and economic right, as it is inherent to the imperative principle of human dignity.

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