

A world map in the background, colored in shades of orange, yellow, and red, representing different regions or income levels. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean.

# Universal Basic Income and the Principle of Equality

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„(...) most basic income proposals appear to want to replace, in whole or in part, either the existing contributory social insurance schemes, or the noncontributory, social assistance measures for the poorer groups in society, or both”

(P. Alston, *Universal Basic Income as a Social Rights–Based Antidote to Growing Economic Insecurity*, [in:] K.G. Young (ed.), *The Future of Economic and Social Rights*, Cambridge 2019, pp. 391-392)

**TABLE 5** Identical cheques in the mail

Scenario	Programs cancelled	Basic income amount per person per year	Starting poverty count (000s)	Ending poverty count (000s)	Change in poverty count (000s)	Starting poverty rate	Ending poverty rate
1	BI/EITC	\$2,655	4,206	5,992	1,787	11.7%	16.7%
2	BI/EITC and Social Assistance	\$3,102	4,206	6,131	1,925	11.7%	17.1%
3	BI/EITC, Social Assistance and Employment Insurance	\$3,565	4,206	6,152	1,946	11.7%	17.1%

(D. Macdonald, *A Policymaker’s Guide to Basic Income*, Ottawa 2016, p. 20)



# Principle of Equality

„(i) the right to recognition of the equal worth and equal dignity of each human being;

(ii) the right to equality before the law;

(iii) the right to equal protection and benefit of the law;

(iv) the right to be treated with the same respect and consideration as all others;

(v) the right to participate on an equal basis with others in any area of economic, social, political, cultural or civil life”

PERSONS UNABLE TO  
WORK

DISABLEDS

CHILDREN

***Equals should be  
treated equally  
and unequals  
unequally.***

VETERANS

ELDERLY PEOPLE

PREGNANT WOMEN



GENDER EQUALITY

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

EQUAL ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPHERE

## Universal Basic Income vs. Utopian Basic Income

**TABLE 6** Universal \$1,000 transfer on top of existing programs (Scenario 4)

Age	Starting poverty count (000)	Ending poverty count (000)	Change in poverty count (000)	Starting poverty rate	Ending poverty rate
Children Under 18	750	544	-206	10.9%	7.9%
Adults (18 to 64)	2,695	2,277	-418	11.8%	9.9%
Seniors (65+)	761	671	-90	12.4%	10.9%
All	4,206	3,492	-713	11.7%	9.7%

(D. Macdonald, *A Policymaker's Guide to Basic Income*, Ottawa 2016, p. 21)

# 500+

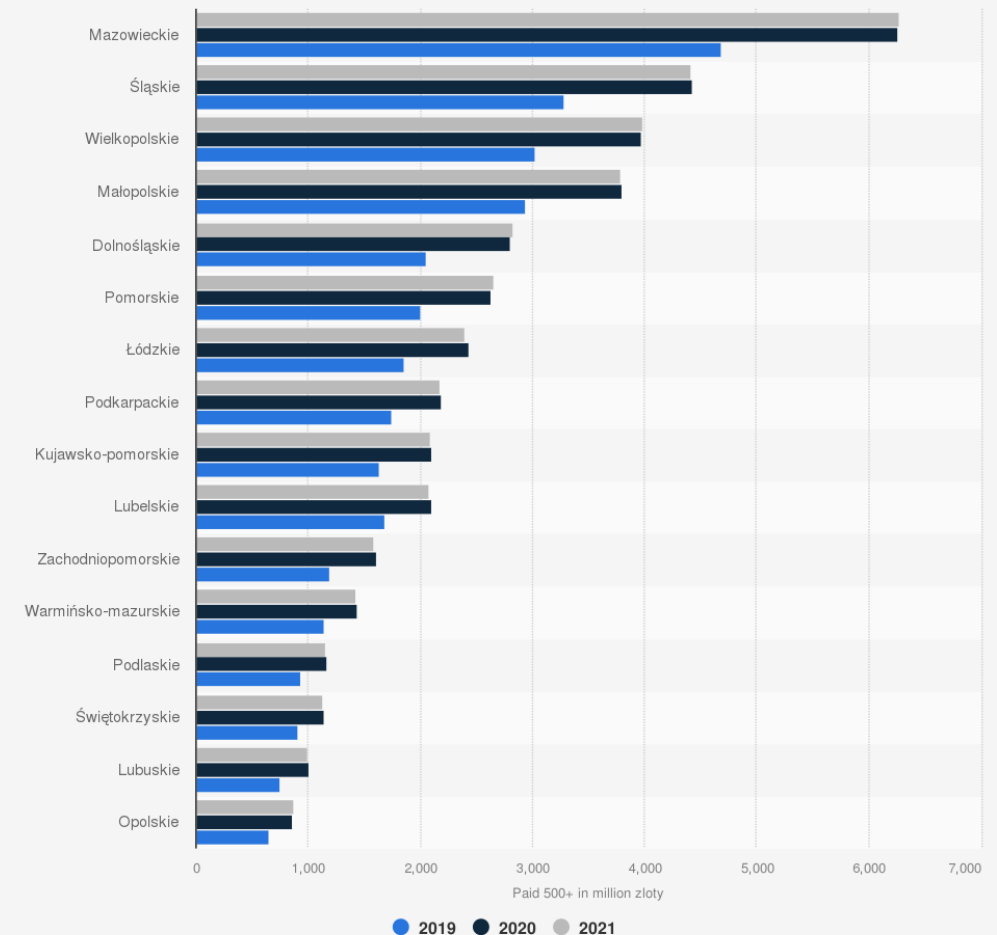
Total expenses for the social program „500+” in 2023 is 40,2 bln PLN.

The Polish budget for 2023 is 693,4 bln PLN.

The budget deficit is 92 bln PLN.

1 PLN ~ 0,24 USD

Value of the parental benefits paid by government on the basis of "Family 500 Plus" (500+) Program in Poland between 2019 and 2021, by voivodeship\* (in million zloty)



Source  
Central Statistical Office of Poland  
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Additional Information:  
Poland; Central Statistical Office of Poland; 2019 to 2021

**„The time has come to imagine new utopias, to build them up from solid foundations and to begin cautiously experimenting. (...) Basic income: It's an idea whose time has come”.**

*(R. Bregman, Utopia for Realists. The Case for a Universal Basic Income, Open Borders, and a 15-hour Workweek, Amsterdam 2016)*

**Thank you for your attention!**

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