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# Factors influencing citizens' support for Unconditional Basic Income

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# Factors influencing citizens' support - literature review

- left-leaning citizens are more likely to be supportive of the UBI, in particular, in the rich advanced democracies (Parolin & Siöland, 2020; Vlandas, 2020)
- individuals with positive views of benefit recipients and/or high trust in political institutions are also more supportive, while anti-immigration attitudes are associated with lower support (Vlandas, 2021).
- people express solidarity with those they consider to be deserving, while the undeserving are excluded from help, benefits or support (F. Rossetti, F. Roosma, T. Laenen and K. Abts, 2020)

# Deservingness criteria

People consider five basic deservingness criteria (van Oorschot, et al., 2017; Laenen, in press):

1. **Control** - personal responsibility for getting into or out of the situation in which help or support is needed
2. **Attitude** - behaviour of the potential beneficiary, who should be grateful
3. **Reciprocity** - entails people having to 'do something in return
4. **Identity** - how close we feel to others and to what extent we can identify with them.
5. **Need** - extent to which the beneficiary is in (financial) need of support.

# Arguments against the introduction of UBI

- normative desirability (Van Parijs, 2004, 2014)
- economic consequences of a UBI (Berman, 2018).
- impact on class relations (Wright, 2004),
- implementation challenges (De Wispelaere and Stirton, 2013, 2017)
- budgetary possibilities

Does support for the UBI depends on factors **other than views** on the political, social and economic situation?

# Research hypothesis

**H:** Support for an unconditional basic income depends on the **proposed amount** of the benefit and the **socio-economic situation** of the direct beneficiaries.

# Research sample - quantitative study

- survey was conducted using a questionnaire on a sample of 1,000 adult Poles
- the sample included a representative distribution by age and gender using CAWI method (Computer-Assisted Web Interview)
- in order to establish weights to obtain parameters representative of the population of users of the online survey panel, the proportion of people using the Internet by age and gender was taken into account.
- the conversion factors were then used to adjust the population by multiplying the number of people in a given age group or gender by the corresponding conversion factor.
- then, the respondents' answers were subjected to statistical analysis

Age range	Converter	Revision	[%]	[N]
18-24	0,97	2 608 029	11,5	115
25-34	0,96	5 013 968	22,0	220
35-44	0,94	5 922 809	26,0	260
45-54	0,76	3 781 212	16,6	166
55-64	0,66	3 302 426	14,5	145
65 - ...	0,30	2 135 996	9,4	94
Total		22 764 440	100,0	1000

## Age-representative distribution, after adjustment



Gender	Converter	Revision	[%]	[N]
Women	0,73	11 956 291	52,0	520
Men	0,74	11 050 341	48,0	480
Total		23 006 632	100,0	1000

## Gender-representative distribution, after adjustment

# Characteristics of the research sample

- the largest group of respondents were those whose average monthly net income was between 2001 and 3000 PLN (29.6%), a slightly smaller group were those whose income was between 1001 and 2000 PLN (23.7%)
- nearly half of the surveyed group were people with permanent employment contracts (48.2%)
- more than 55% were those with secondary or post-secondary education and more than 40% with higher education
- among the Poles surveyed, 23.5% of respondents live in cities with up to 50,000 inhabitants, 20.8% in villages, and nearly 20% each in cities with 50,001 to 150,000 inhabitants and those with 150,001 to 500,000 inhabitants. The smallest percentage were residents of the largest cities (16.4%)

# Characteristics of the research sample

- nearly 30% of respondents were those whose households had three members, a quarter were those living with one additional person and 23.1% were those living with three other people. Only 10% of respondents indicated that they live in a household of five people and 7.3% indicated that they live alone. Larger households made up a small proportion of the sample - totalling less than 5%
- almost half of the respondents described their health status as good, while a third described it as average. 11.9% of respondents said their health was very good, 5.1% said it was bad and less than 1% said it was very bad
- almost 70% of respondents felt that they were coping with their current level of income, while more than 20% said that they were coping, but with difficulty. Just under 8% described their standard of living as prosperous, while nearly 2% said they were not coping at their current income level

# Questions in the survey

9. Would a UBI increase your **willingness to take care of your family?**

10. Would a UBI be supportive to you **expanding your family?**

11. Would a UBI allow you to **spend more time to your passion?**

12. Would a UBI increase your **willingness to engage in social activities?**

13. Would a UBI increase your **independence?**

14. Would a UBI increase your **willingness to study?**

15. Would a UBI increase your your tendency towards **new career initiatives?**

16. Would a UBI increase your **willingness to take risks in a professional area?**

17. Would a UBI change your lifestyle to be more **environmentally friendly?**

18. Would a UBI increase your **consumer spending?**

19. Would you **allocate UBI to your education?**

20. Would you spend UBI on **health benefits?**

21. would the existence of a UBI **give you a sense of economic security?**

22. Would you realise a stock market **investment/start your own company** (with UBI)?

23. Would a UBI allow you to **put aside savings?**

24. After receiving UBI, your **debts** would:

remain the same/ decrease/ increase/ don't know

# Amount of UBI

**1300 PLN**

- approximately 325 USD
- ensure the reproduction of life forces, the possession and upbringing of children and the maintenance of social relationships

**640 PLN**

- approximately 160 USD
- covers the goods necessary to sustain human life functions and psycho-physical ability

# Methods

- the chi-square (or Fisher's ) test was used to compare correlations between two or more groups of observations
- if data were transformed to ranks derived from the ranks 1-5 given to the answers to the questions, the Kruskalla-Wallis test (with Dunn's post hoc test and Bonferroni correction for multiple testing) was used
- the Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare numerical variables between the two groups of observations

# Results

Tests showed statistically significant relationships between respondents' answers to individual questions and their UBI support at the level of USD 160 and USD 325 – in all examined questions.

# UBI at the level of 325 USD

- the relationship between the socio-economic situation of the respondents and their support for UBI at the 325 USD was verified
- the variables describing the socio-economic situation were: gender, age, average monthly net income, professional status, education, place of residence, number of household members, subjective assessment of health, financial situation and debt
- in this study, six variables were identified for which the chi-square test showed a statistically significant relationship ( $p < 0.05$ )



# UBI at the level of 325 USD

These were:

- average monthly net income,
  - professional status,
  - education, place of residence,
  - assessing your own financial situation,
  - debt.
- 
- There were no statistically significant correlations with variables such as **gender, age, number of household members and subjective assessment of health.**

# UBI at the level of 160 USD

- The relationship between the respondents' metrics and their UBI support in the amount of USD 160 was analyzed.
- The same variables were identified for which the chi-square test indicated a statistically significant relationship ( $p < 0.05$ ) for the amount of USD 160

# UBI at the level of 160 USD

These were:

- average monthly net income,
  - professional status,
  - education,
  - place of residence,
  - assessment of your financial situation,
  - debt.
- 
- similarly, in this case, no statistically significant correlations with variables such as: **gender, age, number of household members and subjective assessment of health were found**

# Discussion

- support for the BDP idea depends on the proposed amount of the benefit and the socio-economic situation of the direct beneficiaries
- study is confirmed by research F. Roosma and W. Oorschot (2020), which says that people who are in a more vulnerable socio-economic position support UBI more; in these studies, they also emphasize that UBIs are more likely to support as well as political left-wingers, egalitarianists and people who support targeting benefits at the poor

# Discussion

- this is also confirmed by other research results Vlandas, T. (2021); younger, low-income, left-leaning individuals and the unemployed are more likely to support a UBI
- the research conducted by K. Bystroń confirmed the relationship between the education of the respondents and their support for the UBI concept. K. Bystroń also showed a relationship that was not analyzed in the study, indicating that greater knowledge of citizens about the UBI concept increases the chance of declaring support by potential beneficiaries; it showed a similar relationship in the aspect of having children in the household, because their presence increased the chance of supporting the UBI; she also noted that respondents from Southern European countries were more favorable to this concept than those from Eastern, Western and Northern Europe (Bystroń, 2022)

# Thank you for your attention!

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