

68% of Europeans support basic income, 31% want it ‘as soon as possible’

- **68% would vote for basic income, a 4 percentage point increase from the past year. Support is highest in Italy (75%) and lowest in France (60%). Support for basic income grew the most in the UK (from 62% to 69%).**
 - **31% would want their country to introduce basic income right away, without waiting for successful experiments. 32% would want to wait until after successful experiments in their country.**
 - **52% of people think basic income could help alleviate financial insecurity and 42% think it would create more equality of opportunity.**
 - **52% of people also think basic income might encourage people to stop working. But 37% say a basic income would not affect their work choices.**
 - **Just 8% say they would work less if basic income were adopted.**
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The idea of basic income enjoys widespread support in Europe. The number of Europeans supporting basic income increased from 64% in March 2016 to 68% in March 2017, according to representative survey by Dalia Research. The results are based on more than 11.000 interviews conducted across 28 EU countries in March 2017.

A third of respondents would want to implement basic income sooner rather than later. 31% want a basic income in their country ‘as soon as possible’. 32% would wait until ‘after successful experiments in their country’, and another 16% would wait until ‘after successful experiments in other countries’ before adopting basic income. Only 8% would never want basic income.

Compared to the previous year, while awareness and support of basic income have increased, so too have people’s hopes and concerns. In March 2016, 58% of Europeans knew about basic income, and 63% in March 2017. On the one hand, 52% of Europeans think basic income might encourage people to stop working (up from 43% last year). Respondents also express greater fear that foreigners could come to their country and take advantage of the benefit (39%, up 5 percentage points). However, over the past year, the potential benefits of basic income received bigger gains among respondents’ support. Up 12 percentage points from last year, 52% think

basic income could reduce anxiety about financing basic needs. 42% think it could create more equality of opportunity (+11), 32% think it encourages financial independence (+9), and 29% think it would increase appreciation for household work and volunteering (+8).

While respondents have concerns and hopes over the potential effects of basic income, 37% say it wouldn't affect their work choices. 17% say they would spend more time with family if there was a basic income. 8% say they would work less, 7% would volunteer more, and another 7% say they would gain new skills.

Country Differences

Among the 6 largest European countries, support for basic income is highest in Italy (75%, up 6 percentage points from last year). Last year, Spain was the biggest supporter at 71%, but has now decreased to 69%. Support for basic income has increased the most in the UK, from 62% to 69%. France is least enthusiastic, with only 60% support, up from 58%.

Notes to editors

About the survey

This report presents an overview of a study conducted by Dalia Research in March 2017 on public opinion across 28 EU Member States. The sample of n=11.021 was drawn across all 28 EU Member States, taking into account current population distributions with regard to age (14-65 years), gender and region/country. In order to obtain census representative results, the data were weighted based upon the most recent Eurostat statistics. The target weighting variables were age, gender, level of education (as defined by ISCED (2011) levels 0-2, 3-4, and 5-8), and degree of urbanization (rural and urban). An iterative algorithm was used to identify the optimal combination of weighting variables based on sample composition within each country. An estimation of the overall design effect based on the distribution of weights was calculated at 1.46 at the global level. Calculated for a sample of this size and considering the design-effect, the margin of error would be +/-1.1 % at a confidence level of 95 %.

Survey Questions

1. How familiar are you with the concept known as basic income? (*I understand it fully / I know something about it / I have heard just a little about it / I have never heard about it*)

2. At this point, we provided all survey respondents with the following definition of basic income: *“A basic income is an income unconditionally paid by the government to every individual regardless of whether they work and irrespective of any other sources of income. It replaces other social security payments and is high enough to cover all basic needs (food, housing etc.).”*
3. If there would be a referendum on introducing basic income today, how would you vote? (*I would vote for / I would vote against / I would not vote*)
4. At what point do you think your country should introduce basic income? (*As soon as possible / After successful experiments in my country / After successful experiments in other countries / Not anytime in the near future / Never*)
5. Which of the arguments FOR basic income do you find convincing? (*It reduces anxiety about financing basic needs / It creates more equality of opportunity / It encourages financial independence and self-responsibility / It increases appreciation for household work and volunteering / It increases solidarity, because it is funded by everyone / It reduces bureaucracy and administrative expenses / None of these options*)
6. Which of the following arguments AGAINST the basic income do you find convincing? (*It might encourage people to stop working / Foreigners might come to my country and take advantage of the benefit / Only the people who need it most should get something from the state / It is impossible to finance / It increases dependence on the state / It is against the principle of linking merit and reward / None of these options*)
7. What could be the most likely effect of basic income on your work choices? I would... (*...spend more time with my family / ...work less / ...do more volunteering work / ...gain additional skills / ...look for a different job / ...stop working / ...work as a freelancer / A basic income would not affect my work choices / None of these options*)

About Dalia Research

Dalia Research was founded in Berlin in 2013 with a clear vision to utilize mobile technology to change the way attitudinal data is collected, analysed and presented. For more information about Dalia and its work, please visit: www.daliaresearch.com

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