

New study reveals strong interest in basic income among young people in the Basque Country

A recent study published in Basic Income Studies, [“Exploring young people's attitudes towards basic income”](#), has found that a large proportion of young people in the Basque Country are supportive of Basic Income (UBI) as a policy that could address pressing social and economic challenges. The research surveyed over 1,200 individuals aged between 18 and 35, revealing that 68% of respondents are in favour of UBI, with many seeing it as a potential solution to growing job insecurity and economic instability.

The findings indicate that young people view UBI as more than just financial aid; they see it as a tool for personal empowerment. Around 60% of respondents believe that a guaranteed basic income would give them the security to pursue further education, start new businesses, or engage in community-oriented projects. This perceived freedom was a recurrent theme, with many expressing that UBI would allow them to focus on activities they find meaningful rather than being constrained by the need for immediate employment.

Nevertheless, the study also reveals some reservations. Approximately 40% of participants raised concerns about the economic feasibility of implementing UBI, particularly regarding how it would be funded without placing excessive burdens on taxpayers. Additionally, about one-third of respondents worried that such a policy might reduce the incentive to work, especially in lower-income jobs. However, a majority still expressed confidence that UBI could coexist with work incentives if implemented properly, with 75% of respondents emphasizing that they would continue working even with a basic income.

The research shows that attitudes towards UBI vary based on educational background and employment status. Young people with higher education levels were more likely to support UBI as a progressive policy, while those currently employed in precarious jobs tended to emphasize the potential benefits of financial security.

This study highlights the growing relevance of UBI in public debate, particularly among younger generations who are facing unprecedented economic and social changes. As global conversations around the future of work and social safety nets evolve, the perspectives of the Basque Country's youth offer valuable insights into the viability and potential impact of basic income policies in the region and beyond. The findings suggest that young people are not only open to the idea of UBI but are eager for discussions that explore how such a policy could be effectively integrated into existing economic structures.