

GAZTEBI PROJECT REPORT (GAZTE Basic Income)

1) BACKGROUND

This project derives from the UPV/EHU's Strategic Project (PES) 18/10, which began with the coordination of the European project *ToShare Addressing technological transformations: exploring and sharing knowledge to co-create a Strategy for a diverse, inclusive, sustainable and smart Europe*, which was submitted to the Horizon 2020 Call on 13 March 2018, although it was not approved. Subsequently, at the end of August 2020, and under the coordination of the Unconditional Basic Income Europe (UBIE) Association, the project *Sharing a new European Union for Citizens* was submitted to the call "Democratic engagement and civic participation" (Strand 2) of the "Europe for Citizens 2014-2020" Programme: "Civil Society Projects" which, although it obtained 78 points out of a maximum of 100, was not approved either. However, participation in the development of both projects has been extremely useful for the implementation of this GAZTEBI project, both for the experience accumulated by the promoter group and for the opportunity to have been in contact with other researchers.

2) OPPORTUNITY AND STRATEGIC NATURE

For several years now, the Unconditional Basic Income has been put forward as an alternative economic proposal capable of combating poverty and guaranteeing the universal right to decent living conditions; although it has been in this last period of the Covid-19 pandemic that social interest in this measure has increased most clearly, as the need to have a guaranteed income regardless of the circumstances that may affect the labour market has become more visible than ever, just as it was just raised in May 2021 by 35 prestigious Basque researchers in the [Covid-19 White Paper](#). Proof of this is, for example, the [European Citizens' Initiative](#), which is collecting signatures to call for the implementation of an Unconditional Basic Income in the member countries of the European Union; as well as the [Popular Legislative Initiative](#), which has been launched in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

In addition, on 23 January 2018, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe approved a resolution in which, along with other agreements, it encouraged its 47 member states to promote actions that would make it possible to verify whether the Universal Basic Income would make it possible to advance in the achievement of rights and social cohesion. Specifically, in the Summary of the Report of the Commission on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the rapporteur, Ms. Nunzia

Catalfo, said: "With poverty and rising inequalities persistently undermining human dignity, most European countries are struggling to ensure a decent standard of living for all. Basic income, or citizenship income, is a form of social security that can provide every citizen with a regular sum of money to live on. Defined as universal, individual, unconditional and sufficient to ensure a dignified life and participation in society, it would help alleviate absolute poverty, while removing disincentives to work. It could supplement the incomes of people working in non-standard forms of work and work-sharing, as well as of the underemployed. The introduction of a basic income could ensure equal opportunities for all more effectively than the existing patchwork of benefits, services and social programmes".

Therefore, this project aims to answer the question: Does an Unconditional Basic Income allow young people to face their life project in more favourable conditions?, and wants to know the opinion of young people who are studying or have recently studied at the UPV/EHU and, if possible, compare it with other answers in other European universities.

In order to prepare the individual questionnaire and the focus group questionnaire, a theoretical investigation will be carried out on how a basic income will affect young people from a social and economic point of view, for which purpose meetings will be held with various public and private agents in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, as well as with researchers from European universities. Likewise, before drawing the conclusions of the project, the results of the surveys will be shared with these same agents.

Finally, it should be stressed that this strategic project is aligned with the UPV/EHU's EHUagenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (2019-2025), which in turn is based on the UN's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (2015), which sets out 17 goals with targets that cover the economic, social and environmental spheres in an integrated manner.

Specifically, the Unconditional Basic Income as an individual, universal and unconditional benefit in an amount above the poverty line, is an instrument that allows materially to put an end to poverty (1st SDG), end hunger (2nd SDG), generate health and well-being (3rd SDG), have time to get a quality education (4th SDG), advance gender equality (5th SDG), access affordable and clean energy (7th SDG), empowering people to obtain decent work and contribute to economic growth (8th SDG), sharing wealth and reducing inequalities (10th SDG), promoting sustainable cities and communities (11th SDG), aligning with responsible production and consumption (12th SDG), engaging in environmentally friendly lifestyles (13th SDG), creating material conditions for peace, justice and strong

institutions (16th SDG), and building networks and partnerships to achieve them (17th SDG).

1) SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The research will focus on the opinion of young students and graduates in recent years at the UPV/EHU, with the possibility of comparing the results with those of similar research at other European universities.

Objectives:

- To carry out a theoretical framework of how a basic income could affect young people from a social and economic point of view.**
- To gather the point of view of young people on what a basic income could bring them and how they would face their life project with it.**
- To establish synergies between public bodies and young people in order to see how the former could accompany them in a use of time more in line with the needs of young people.**

2) PHASES

1. Theoretical framework

- i. To carry out a broad analysis of current Basque youth. Not only from the point of view of work/employment, but also from the point of view of different aspects that, as young people, concern us: emancipation, legitimacy of public institutions (from local to global), democratic crisis, own future project (dependence-autonomy relationship), equality between women and men, empowerment of young people, ecological crisis, care crisis, etc.**
- ii. To examine whether a basic income would be a suitable tool for offering alternatives for the future that are more in line with the vision of young people. What would the implementation of a basic income mean for the challenges facing young people? What scenarios could a basic income open up for Basque youth?**

iii. Establishing an economic perspective in the framework. Basic income requires profound cultural changes, one of which is to understand it precisely as an investment and not as an expense. When we invest in health or education, nobody questions the "expenditure" made (even less so when the pandemic has taught us the importance of these investments) and yet, when we talk about basic income, the first question asked is "and how much would that cost? Well, it is time to change the question and talk about investment. This investment would affect many facets of our lives, but, in this case, let's focus on the economic. Let us analyse the social investment that a basic income would entail from an economic perspective. What would a basic income mean for the economic development of Basque youth?

1. Field work

a) With public bodies and organisations:

Through collaboration with various public bodies and organisations (among others the Employment Centres of the UPV/EHU, trade unions and employers' organisations Garapen, Novia Salcedo, IVAP, Bolunta, Basque Youth Council), through virtual meetings to find out their contributions on:

i. What is the diagnosis carried out by the different organisations and public institutions on the current situation of Basque youth and their needs?

ii. What consequences could the introduction of a basic income have on the different aspects of employment (working conditions, reduction of working hours, increase in productivity and quality of service...), but also on other aspects of young people's lives (emancipation, education, participation in the community, etc.)?

iii. What support can be offered from the public sphere for a use of time more in line with the needs of young people? What kind of support can they offer in the face of the introduction of a basic income?

This will help to enrich the questionnaire and the topics for discussion with young people. Once the results of young people's opinions are known, we

will share them with the same public bodies and organisations in order to establish synergies for the work in these future scenarios.

b) With young people:

We will work with young students and graduates of the UPV/EHU in order to investigate their perceptions about the current context and their future prospects, as well as the opportunities that the implementation of a Basic Income could offer them to guarantee their financial security and advance in their personal, professional and community development.

i. To study young people's perspectives towards their future and their conceptions about work and their access to the labour market, as well as their perspectives towards social transformation and their display of fatalistic versus hopeful attitudes towards the future and the capacity to transform the current system and generate positive social change.

ii. To analyse whether a basic income would provide young people with sufficient financial security so that, with a fixed monthly income that guarantees their basic needs, they can advance in their personal development freely without depending on a salary from paid employment. For example: extending their time as students, moving to another territory, developing their own vocational project or one shared with other people over which they have greater sovereignty, reducing their working day to devote more time to leisure or unpaid work, emancipating themselves from their family of origin, etc.

iii. How do Basque young people believe that a basic income could help to face the challenges we face as a society in the 21st century? We will study whether young people understand that basic income is correctly aligned with the objectives aimed at tackling, among others, the ecological crisis, the care crisis or the reduction of major inequalities.

In order to work on these questions, focus groups will be carried out with different sectors of young people, as well as a quantitative questionnaire with a large sample of young Basques, which will allow a systematic analysis of their beliefs about the future and Basic Income and, if possible, a comparative study with the data that can be collected in similar research in other European universities.