

Spanish Basic Income Network has released a new survey on Basic Income in Spain

Bru Laín (bru.lain@ub.edu). Secretary of the Spanish Basic Income Network.

Basic Income is becoming a common topic due to the Covid-19 emergency. It is not a new debate actually, because the 2018 financial crisis already turned UBI into a popular debate. However, it seems that the current scenario has increased the attention of those who believe on the need to implement new mechanisms to solve the economic situation of our countries, and particularly, of those more affected by the economic consequences of this world-wide pandemic.

The Spanish government is about to implement an 'Ingreso Mínimo Vital', a new minimum income schema for those individuals and families below a certain economic threshold. This has fostered the debate on the feasibility, the desirability and the consequences of these kind of palliative measures, while has also advanced the Basic Income proposal among population who had never heard about it.

Spanish Basic Income Network (RRB) decided to research on the general opinion of implementing an Universal and Unconditional Basic Income and hence has conducted a 2,168 individuals survey. Results are consistent with previous hypothesis, while reinforce some other intuitions which required to be proved.

The results show that the majority would like a UBI be implemented at national scale, while just a third of surveyed individuals would disagree. Against some previous surveys and researches, poorest people are those more in favour, but surprisingly, 55% of the richest people also agree.

Regarding the age groups, and as expected, young people is more in favour, although agreement among other age groups never falls below the 53%. In relation to gender distribution, it seems that women are more in favour than men.

According to the survey's results, this UBI will just reduce the work-time for the 8%, and just the 5% of workers would abandon their current job. Moreover, a UBI of 715 euros would not disincentive job seeking, since the 80% of unemployed would keep seeking a new job. UBI's opponents are now facing more reasons to doubt about one of their major argument: an unconditional cash transfer seems do not to disincentive labour activity.

We know that in reading surveys 'results we must be always quite cautious. However, more and new data is always required. If we want to promote UBI, new empirical evidences should be provided either to its proponents and to general population alike. We believe this new survey might play an important role in this, and we hope it might spur other empirical researches.

Survey available at: www.redrentabasica.org.

