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Review

Support for universal basic income: A cross-disciplinary literature review

Gábor Szabó-Szentgróti[1,2,*], Virág Walter[2], Bence Végvári[3]

[1] Department of Corporate Leadership and Marketing, Széchenyi István University, Egyetem tér 1., 9026 Győr, Hungary
[2] Department of Agricultural Management and Leadership Sciences, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Práter K. u. 1., 2100 Gödöllő, Hungary
[3] Doctoral School of Economic and Regional Sciences, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Práter K. u. 1., 2100 Gödöllő, Hungary
*** Corresponding author:** Gábor Szabó-Szentgróti, szabo-szentgroti.gabor@sze.hu

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Abstract: The technological development and the rise of artificial intelligence are driving a significant transformation of the labor market. The technological unemployment predicted by Keynes poses challenges for the global labor market that require new solutions. Basic income research has become a significant field of study, attracting attention from various disciplines such as political science, law, economics, and sociology. The aim of this paper is to explore on the basis of a literature review, what factors influence the support for basic income among the population. A systematic literature review based on the Web of Science and Scopus databases, after screening 2623 publications, identified 23 articles that contained findings relevant to the research question. A significant number of authors (12/23) analyzed data from the same source, the European Social Survey 2016 (ESS Round 8, 2020), conducted in 2016, first published in 2017 and updated several times since then. The paper shows that the study of the topic has a strong European focus. The social, economic, social and cultural diversity of European countries makes these studies important from a European and EU perspective, but from an international perspective, further research on the topic is needed.

Keywords: basic income; universal income; Keynes; technological unemployment; labor market

1. Introduction

Basic income research has become a significant field of study, attracting attention from various disciplines such as political science, law, economics, and sociology. Scholars have explored the implications of basic income beyond its traditional role in redistributive strategies (Tabatabai, 2012). The academic debate on the basic income has expanded to include the democratic implications of its application, highlighting that its impact on fundamental democratic values can be decisive (Morales, 2019). Research suggests that in addition to improving the quality of life of the poor, the introduction of a basic income is also important for its role in stimulating the economy (Makole et al., 2022).

The feasibility and extent of universal basic income has been a central theme of research. Scholars have explored the potential of insufficient financial security to meet basic needs (Tabatabai, 2012). The implementation of a universal basic income has generated considerable debate in academic research, highlighting the need for further investigation (De Wispelaere and Stirton, 2012). Studies evaluating basic income experiments have shown positive results, such as increased life satisfaction among beneficiaries (Martinelli and Vanderborght, 2022). Furthermore, the policy context also has a significant impact on the outcome of basic income experiments, as

highlighted by the Finnish basic income experiment (Hiilamo, 2022). The financial sustainability of individuals, particularly students, plays a pivotal role in the broader understanding of economic behaviors and policies such as basic income. As noted by Zéman et al. (2021), financial attitudes among university students have evolved, and this demographic's role in personal finance sustainability is crucial. This suggests that similar financial measures like basic income could also contribute to personal economic stability.

The concept of basic income has received considerable research attention, with scholars highlighting its innovative and controversial nature in addressing poverty and inequality (Torry, 2016). Despite the growing interest in basic income, there is a need for more comprehensive political research to keep pace with the evolving debate surrounding this policy proposal (De Wispelaere and Morales, 2016). Public support for basic income varies depending on the proposed model, underscoring the multi-dimensionality of the concept and the nuanced nature of public opinion on this issue (Chrisp et al., 2020). One of the social challenges facing Eastern European countries is the support system for marginalized groups, including Roma people, for whom national governments operate different support schemes. In Hungary, for example, housing subsidies are provided to the Roma niche and community centers are supported to run after-school clubs to help them catch up. On the other hand, Roma leaders also play a political role, redefining the position of the Roma community in the media. These leaders have framed their positions in two ways: on the one hand, they have raised awareness of the poverty and marginalization of children, and on the other, they have promoted Roma inclusion initiatives, such as campaigns to improve educational standards and opportunities (Esőssy and Vinkóczi, 2018; Málovics et al., 2019; Méreiné Berki et al., 2017). The dynamics of social inclusion and sports participation, especially in school settings, can further shape these marginalized communities' future success in competitive environments (Juhász et al., 2020, 2022).

Income subject to tax and other similar unconditional benefits are nowadays receiving more and more attention. This is due, among other things, to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which various conditional or unconditional benefits were introduced in several countries to alleviate economic hardship. Another reason is the widening of wealth inequalities linked to the increase in subsidies around basic income (Zéman et al., 2023). The crises of recent years have also left their mark on this, if we look at the relationship between the wealth of the richest Americans and the poverty of the country's population in recent years (Berkhout et al., 2021). This is illustrated perfectly by the relationship between productivity growth and wage growth over the past decades (Hegedűs et al., 2020; Institute, 2022). Meanwhile, large corporations are reporting record revenues, stock markets are hovering at record highs, and the American Dream is being shattered while the vast majority of citizens are living paycheck to paycheck (Dickler, 2022).

In addition to these, it is important to mention the spread of robotization and artificial intelligence. Recently, there have been a number of analyses predicting a huge labor market reshuffle in the not too distant future (Economics, 2019; Fine et al., 2018; Frey and Osborne, 2017; Manyika et al., 2013; Tcyrempilova et al., 2024), with some predictions of automation accounting for up to 50% of work processes, especially in low-skilled, repetitive jobs. The new jobs that will emerge will be mostly

in high-skilled occupations, so it is assumed that those who lose their jobs as a result of automation will not be able to find jobs in the new jobs that emerge. This can be addressed through training and retraining, but in most cases, this would require six months or more of training. This could sometimes lead to a year of unemployment, which would be difficult even for citizens with savings. And for those who cannot save, such a period would be impossible. According to Erste Bank's 2021 survey, this would represent 40% of the population (Nagy, 2021). As the sustainability of economic systems, such as tourism and broader financial policies, become increasingly significant, the relationship between sustainability and national images has been emphasized, showing the interconnectedness of financial strategies with national competitiveness (Kálmán and Grotte, 2023).

Nowadays, the concept of taxable income is also used in policies. Andrew Yang, who ran for the Democratic Party in the recent primaries, campaigned on the introduction of a basic income of $1000 per month (Vesoulis, 2019). Oh Jun-ho ran in the South Korean presidential election on the promise of a basic income, campaigning on a basic allowance of roughly $500 (BIEN, 2022). Although they ultimately failed to make a significant impact, their campaign and presence certainly helped to embed the basic income as a possibility, as a concept, in the public consciousness.

Basic income and the unconditional benefits that underpin it are not new.

Thomas More and Johannes Ludovicus Vives wrote about providing a minimum standard of living as early as the early 1500s. More argued for the introduction of a measure similar to the basic income we know today, on the grounds of 'morally necessary charity' (Van Parijs, 2004; Van Parijs and Vanderborght, 2017). In 1796, Thomas Paine proposed the introduction of a one-off benefit for all at the beginning of adulthood—a civic dividend—financed by a land value tax. His contemporary, Thomas Spance, advocated an even wider distribution of land value taxation, in a form that envisaged a full distribution of the land value tax that remained after the financing of public expenditure. In his 1796 book, The Rights of Young Children (Spence, 1796), he wrote: (The residue of the land value tax is due) "to every living soul in the parish, whether male or female, married or unmarried, legitimate or illegitimate, from one day old to the eldest; making no distinction between the families of rich farmers and merchants and the families of poor laborers and artisans."

A proposal linked to basic income was also outlined by Milton Friedman in his 1962 work Capitalism and Freedom (Friedman, 2002). The negative income tax system he outlined means, in short, that those earning above a certain income level pay a tax to the state and those earning below that level receive a cash payment (BIEN, 2022; Van Parijs and Vanderborght, 2017).

At this time, in the 1960s and 1970s, a significant number of basic income experiments were taking place in North America, including in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Seattle, Denver, and in Mantioba, Canada, under the name Mincome, which is still one of the best documented experiments. These—and the many experiments that have followed—are based on studies of various personal effects, particularly on willingness to work, mental and physical health, and participation in education. However, attitudes to basic income were not examined until the 2016 European Social Survey (ESS, 2023), a wide-ranging survey of attitudes in 23 countries, including our own, on political, social, energy security and climate change

issues, as well as on welfare measures, including the introduction of a basic income and general support for it. Research published both in the wake of the ESS and beyond can provide important insights into the factors influencing public support for basic income. The aim of this paper is to explore, on the basis of a literature review, what factors influence the support for basic income among the population.

The research integrates academic findings from different disciplines, such as political science, economics and sociology, to understand the support for basic income. Furthermore, the research analyses the political and social impacts of basic income beyond its economic effects.

The research is innovative in its methodology, which uses a systematic literature review to analyze the determinants of support for basic income, the importance of understanding the political environment and the population for the effective implementation of basic income, and the impact of external factors such as the pandemic COVID-19 on support for basic income.

Overall, the research contributes to the international literature by systematizing and integrating the findings of different disciplines, providing new perspectives and research directions.

2. Materials and methods

A systematic literature review is an examination of a clearly formulated issue that uses systematic and reproducible methods to identify, select and critically evaluate all relevant research and to collect and analyze data from studies included in the review (Al-Khabori and Rasool, 2022; Szabó-Szentgróti et al., 2023).

A more precise, structured method than the traditional literature review - the aim of the systematic literature review is to provide a comprehensive, unbiased summary of a number of relevant studies in a single document (Aromataris and Pearson, 2014; Khan et al., 2003; Tricco et al., 2011). Although the systematic review is very similar to the literature review and adheres to the general principle of summarizing knowledge from the literature, the systematic review differs in that it attempts to uncover all information relevant to the issue and focuses on research that provides data rather than concepts or theories (Averis and Pearson, 2003; Higgins and Green, 2008).

Application of the methodology

The study was prepared using the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) directive. The literature was analyzed in the databases using the four-phase flowchart of PRISMA, resulting in the development of a scope of literature relevant to the study (Selcuk, 2019).

As a first step in the systematic literature review, based on the literature available in the databases of Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science, I collected the most frequently encountered and most relevant keywords on the subject, which led me to perform a search in the databases of Scopus and Web of Science in accordance with the first phase of the flowchart. Keywords were basic income, universal basic income, unconditional income, unconditional basic income, guaranteed income, guaranteed basic income, guaranteed annual income, and for attitude: welfare attitude, welfare state, welfare states, income security, social protection, public attitude. However, as

the terms for attitudes largely limited the number of publications reached by the search, they did not end up being included in the final search words, instead, I excluded the non-relevant publication sin the second and third phases of the PRISMA methodology (**Figure 1**).

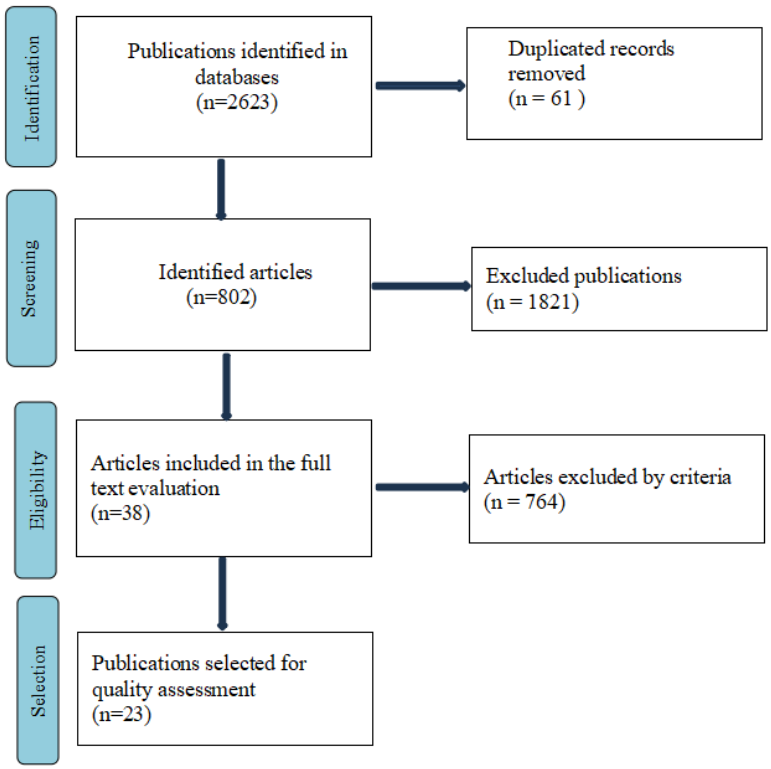

Figure 1. Flowchart of the systematic literature review.
Source: Own editing, based on PRISMA Methodology.

After identifying the keywords, the final search terms with Boolean operators (OR = Search for records containing any of the terms separated by operator, * = Character replacement, TS = Topic, title-ABS-KEY = Search in title, abstract, and keywords) were as follows:

- Web of Science

TS = ((“basic income” OR “universal basic income” OR “* income” OR “universal income” OR “unconditional basic income” OR “unconditional income” OR “guaranteed annual income”)).

- Scopus

TITLE-ABS-KEY (“basic income” OR “universal basic income” OR “guarant* income” OR “universal income” OR “unconditional basic income” OR “unconditional income” OR “guaranteed annual income”).

To ensure that the results are current and relevant, we further narrowed my search to articles published between 2010 and 2023 and in English only. For the original search, A total of 2623 results were obtained from the two databases. Following the application of filters based on the type, year of publication, language, and non-relevant scientific fields, as well as the removal of articles with multiple entries in the databases, 802 articles were selected for further analysis based on the examination of abstracts and titles. A total of 38 articles were included in the full content review. Of

these, 23 were included in the fourth phase of the PRISMA methodology following further selection. The quality of these articles was then evaluated.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Conceptual framework

Based on a systematic analysis of the studies, the conceptual framework of the topic is presented in **Table 1**, which summarizes the different definitions and synonyms related to the concept of basic income. The definitions and synonyms on the subject are varied, with diverse conceptual uses, such as 'guaranteed basic income', 'universal basic income' and 'citizen's income'. The definitions are broadly similar, with minor differences in content regarding the purpose of achieving a basic income. For example, Vlandas (2019) suggests that a basic income can be defined as an unconditional and regular cash benefit that is distributed to all citizens, regardless of their income status or work requirements. In contrast, Baranowski and Jabkowski (2021) describe basic income as a personalized and regular (usually monthly) payment available to all citizens.

Table 1. Key definitions for basic income.

Reference	Applied definitions and synonyms	Description of the definition
(Choi, 2021)	Basic Income Guaranteed Basic Income Universal Basic Income	The amount paid by the government on a monthly basis. It is intended to guarantee everyone a minimum standard of living and cover basic living costs. All citizens are entitled to the same amount, whether they work or not.
(Lee, 2018)	Basic Income Universal Basic Income Basic Income Scheme	A regular cash-based payment provided by a country's government to all its citizens to maintain a minimum standard of living.
(Lee, 2021)	Unconditional Benefit	This is an unconditional benefit, for which the government does not set any criteria for receiving the benefit.
(Vlandas, 2019)	Basic Income Guarantee Universal Income Unconditional Basic Income	An unconditional and regular income-based cash benefit for all citizens, without means-testing or requirements.
(Baranowski and Jabkowski, 2021)	Universal Basic Income Basic Income Guarantee Citizen Income Citizen Dividend	The basic income is a cash benefit that takes the form of unconditional, regular (usually monthly) payments, is personalized and covers all citizens.
(Kozák, 2021)	Basic Income Universal Basic Income Income Guarantee Basic Income Guarantee	Regular income paid by a political community to each of its members individually, without means-testing or work requirements.
(Lim and Tanaka, 2019)	Basic Income Universal Basic Income Guaranteed Minimum Income	Basic income programs providing flat rate income support to all citizens
(Aidnik anf Rikmann, 2018)	Citizen's Income Guaranteed Income National Grant Helicopter Money	A periodically paid amount of cash that is allocated to all citizens unconditionally, without any means test or work requirement.
(Nam, 2019)	Guaranteed Income Basic Income	A universal basic income (guaranteed income) is a public benefit with no conditions attached. Citizens receive a regular payment from the government, regardless of employment status or income.

Table 1. (*Continued*).

Reference	Applied definitions and synonyms	Description of the definition
(Parolin and Siöland, 2020)	Basic Income Guarantee Unconditional Basic Income	The government pays everyone on a monthly basis to cover the cost of living. This amount is financed by taxes and replaces many other social benefits in order to guarantee a minimum standard of living. The level of income does not vary depending on whether the beneficiaries are working or not and allows people to keep the money they earn from work or other sources.
(Vlandas, 2021)	Universal Basic Income Guaranteed Income	UBI are cash and regular (e.g. monthly) payments to all individuals, regardless of their labor market and income situation, and without any past contributions.
(Chrisp et al., 2020)	Basic Income Partial Basic Income Full Basic Income General Basic Income Participation Income Targeted Basic Income Citizens Income	The concepts used in the study refer to different models and approaches to the implementation of the concept of basic income. In summary, it is a universal, unconditional and individual cash benefit provided to all citizens, without any income or work requirement.
(Rossetti et al., 2020)	Unconditional Basic Income	Income paid individually by a political community to each member of society, without any requirements.
	Participation Income	Participation Income is a type of basic income that is given to all citizens on condition that they work or participate in other socially valued activities, such as caring, learning or volunteering.
(Schwander and Vlandas, 2020)	Universal Basic Income Basic Income Scheme Income Floor Basic Income Guarantee	The state provides everyone with a monthly income to cover basic living costs, which replaces most social benefits.
(Simanainen and Kangas, 2020)	Basic Income Universal Basic Income	The government provides regular cash transfers to all individuals within the political community in order to ensure a minimum standard of living. This income is largely free of eligibility conditions and requirements to work or seek employment, unlike existing benefit schemes.
(Zimmermann et al., 2020)	Universal Basic Income Unconditional Basic Income	Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a system where all people receive an unconditional minimum income at regular intervals.
(Busemeyer and Sahm, 2022)	Universal Basic Income Basic Income Scheme	The government pays everyone a monthly income to cover basic living costs. It replaces many other social benefits. Its aim is to guarantee a minimum standard of living for everyone.
(Shin et al., 2021)	Basic Income Citizen's Income Citizen's Basic Income Social Dividend) Universal Grant	A periodic cash payment that is provided to all citizens unconditionally, without any means test or work requirement.
(Stadelmann-Steffen and Dermont, 2020)	Universal Basic Income Basic Income Guaranteed Minimum Income	It is an income that all members of society receive as a matter of right, regardless of their income or wealth, their employment status or willingness to work, or their place of residence.
(Nettle et al., 2021)	Basic Income Guaranteed Income Minimum Income Guarantee	Every citizen receives a regular payment from the state. The basic income provides a guaranteed minimum income regardless of employment and is not withdrawn if individuals receive other payments.
(Dermont and Weisstanner, 2020)	Universal Basic Income Citizens' Income	Universal basic income means income paid individually by the government to all members of society, regardless of their wealth or work status.
(Jordan et al., 2022)	Basic Income	Its basic income concept guarantees that individuals receive money from the government regardless of need, education or work.
(Yang et al., 2020)	Basic Income Universal Basic Income	A periodic cash benefit that is provided unconditionally to all individuals without any specific requirements.

Most studies argue that basic income programs aim to eradicate poverty, increase financial security and reduce economic inequalities. The authors agree that these programs are typically funded from tax revenues and are intended to replace part of

existing social benefits. Parolin and Siöland (2020), for example, argue that basic income is a monthly benefit provided by the state to all citizens to cover the cost of living, replacing many other social benefits. The authors of the present paper propose the following definition of basic income for consideration in the ongoing discourse on the subject: basic income is a regular cash benefit provided by the state to all citizens, regardless of their employment status, income, wealth or other social circumstances. The primary purpose of basic income is to provide all citizens with the possibility of a minimum standard of living and to cover basic living costs.

3.2. Journals

An important quality factor of scientific works is the classification of their publications in journals (**Table 2**). In the international ranking of journals, four main categories are allocated (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4), where the top 25% are classified as Q1 (*q* = quartile, quarter) based on the impact factor in the given category (field of science), the next 25% are classified as Q2, and so on (Asan and Aslan, 2020).

Table 2. Studies enrolled and their classification (*n* = 23).

Reference	Journal	Field of study	Classification
(Aidnik and Rikmann, 2018)	Journal of Baltic Studies	Social Sciences	Q2
(Lee, 2018)	Basic Income Studies	Economics, Econometrics and Finance	Q4 (2018)
(Lim and Tanaka, 2019)	Governance	Public Administration	Q1
(Nam, 2019)	Journal of Baltic Studies	Social Sciences	Q2
(Vlandas, 2019)	Basic Income Studies	Economics, Econometrics and Finance	Q3 (2019)
(Chrisp et al., 2020)	Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q2
(Dermont and Weisstanner, 2020)	Political Research Exchange	Social Sciences	-
(Parolin and Siöland, 2020)	Journal of European Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q1
(Rossetti et al., 2020)	Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q2
(Schwander and Vlandas, 2020)	Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q2
(Simanainen and Kangas, 2020)	Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q2
(Stadelmann-Steffen and Dermont, 2020)	Journal of European Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q1
(Zimmermann et al., 2020)	Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q2
(Yang et al., 2020)	Societies	Sociology	-
(Baranowski and Jabkowski, 2021)	Economics and Sociology	Sociology and Political Science	Q2
(Choi, 2021)	Basic Income Studies	Economics, Econometrics and Finance	Q2 (2021)
(Kozák, 2021)	European Societies	Social Sciences	Q1
(Lee, 2021)	Basic Income Studies	Economics, Econometrics and Finance	Q2 (2021)
(Nettle et al., 2021)	Nature	Multidisciplinary	Q1
(Shin et al., 2021)	Journal of European Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q1
(Vlandas, 2021)	Journal of European Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q1
(Busemeyer and Sahm, 2022)	Journal of European Social Policy	Social Sciences	Q1
(Jordan et al., 2022)	Social Policy and Administration	Sociology and Political Science	Q1

Table 2 shows the scientific journals of the studies selected for qualitative

evaluation, their field classification and rank. Based on the Scimago Journal & Country Rank, it can be concluded that the vast majority of the selected studies were published in qualified journals (22/24). Of the qualified journals, those with Q2 (11) and Q1 (9) ratings have the highest share, and only 1 journal each had Q3 and Q4 ratings in the year of publication. The majority of journals belong to the field of social sciences, but in addition, economics, sociology and public administration appear individually in journals with a narrower focus. What is described here confirms that the selection of the studies was appropriate based on their field of expertise and quality, the results are relevant, and the results described therein may contain important results regarding the attitudes towards universal basic income.

3.3. Sample

The specificity of the sample is an important consideration for the evaluation of scientific results and their validity. From the point of view of the systematic literature review, it may be important to outline the sample and its territorial and sectoral delimitation, but this is not possible in the following study, either because of the complexity of the sample, its simplicity, or because it has not been discussed.

Table 3. Presentation of studies by geographical location and sample (n = 23).

Reference	Location	Sample
(Aidnik and Rikmann, 2018)	Estonia	6 in-depth interviews, 11 news articles
(Baranowski and Jabkowski, 2021)	ESS 2016 countries* (without Israel)	41,830
(Busemeyer and Sahm, 2022)	ESS 2016 countries* (without Israel and Russia)	39,400
(Choi, 2021)	ESS 2016 countries*	44,387
(Chrisp et al., 2020)	United Kingdom and Finland	Not discussed
(Dermont and Weisstanner, 2020)	ESS 2016 countries* (without Israel and Russia)	39,400
(Jordan et al., 2022)	United States of America	3600
(Kozák, 2021)	ESS 2016 countries*	44,387
(Lee, 2018)	ESS 2016 countries* (without Israel and Russia)	39,400
(Lee, 2021)	ESS 2016 countries*	44,387
(Lim and Tanaka, 2019)	South-Korea	1221
(Nam, 2019)	United States of America	3795
(Nettle et al., 2021)	United States of America and United Kingdom	802
(Parolin and Siöland, 2020)	ESS 2016 countries*	44,387
(Rossetti et al., 2020)	Hollandia	49 in-depth interviews
(Schwander and Vlandas, 2020)	ESS 2016 countries* (without Israel and Russia)	39,400
(Shin et al., 2021)	ESS 2016 countries* (without Israel and Russia)	39,400
(Simanainen and Kangas, 2020)	Finland	1633
(Stadelmann-Steffen and Dermont, 2020)	Finland and Switzerland	2070
(Vlandas, 2019)	ESS 2016 countries* (without Israel and Russia)	39,400
(Vlandas, 2021)	ESS 2016 countries* (without Israel and Russia)	39,400
(Yang et al., 2020)	Japan	1028
(Zimmermann et al., 2020)	Germany and Slovenia	Not discussed

Source: Own editing.
(Countries included in the European Social Survey (n = 44387) are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Slovenia, Switzerland, Spain, Russia and Israel).

Based on **Table 3**, it can be concluded that all selected studies present current research results. Works have been published in the last four years, most of them in 2020 and 2021 (8-8) Regarding the description of the sample, however, it is important to mention that a significant part of them analyzes the data of the European Social Survey Round 8, which took place in 2016 and was published in 2017, but this does not lose its novelty—this survey can be considered as the starting point of the attitude studies related to universal basic income. Based on the survey, the predominance of European countries is understandable—apart from the countries examined in the ESS, only South Korea, Japan and the United States are included in the sample. Most of the 11 non-ESS publications used online surveys, with a sample size between 802 and 3795. 2 surveys used in-depth interviews.

3.4. Factors and data analysis methods

Based on **Table 4**, it can be concluded that the most commonly used method of data analysis by the authors is regression analysis, of which a significant variety has been used. The most frequently examined factors are different ESS factors due to the predominance of the European Social Survey. In addition to the fact that ESS provides a number of analyzable variables, other factors appear as well. Nam (2019), Busemeyer and Sahm (2022) and Dermont and Weisstanner (2020) examined attitudes towards basic income along the labor market effects of automation. Choi (2021) used (Schwartz) 1992 basic human values model based on the European Social Survey.

Table 4. Factors examined in the study and data analysis methods used (n = 23).

Reference	Variables	Data analysis
(Aidnik and Rikmann, 2018)	Different types of basic income: universal, citizens-only, publicly fund managed by the state with paid public services	Descriptive analysis
(Baranowski and Jabkowski, 2021)	ESS variables applied *, European socio-economic classification	Logistic regression analysis
(Busemeyer and Sahm, 2022)	Automation risk based on Frey and Osborne (2017) and Arntz et al (2016), social expenditure (at national level)	Multi-Level-Models (MLM) with random intercepts
(Choi, 2021)	Schwartz (1995) fundamental human values, ESS variables	Multilevel logistic regression, logistic regression and an ordered logistic regression
(Chrisp et al., 2020)	Level, type and financing of basic income	Summary review, bivariate regression analysis
(Dermont and Weisstanner, 2020)	Routine task intensity (based on Goos, Manning, and Salomons 2014)	Multilevel regression analysis
(Jordan et al., 2022)	political ideology, party support, income, education	Regression analysis
(Kozák, 2021)	Work ethic, employment commitment	Logistic regression analysis
(Lee, 2018)	ESS variables applied*, social expenditure (at country level)	Correlation analysis
(Lee, 2021)	ESS variables applied*	Probit Regression
(Lim and Tanaka, 2019)	Gender, age, income, education, ideology, trust in politicians	Multivariate regression framework
(Nam, 2019)	Worry, awareness, perceived likelihood and enthusiasm about replacement by robots, attitude towards UBI, robot quotas, extra pay for human interaction, programs for displaced workers	Binary logistic regression analysis and ordinal logistic regression
(Nettle et al., 2021)	socio-economic status, political identity, age, gender, pandemic situation	Paired t-tests, general linear models

Table 4. (*Continued*).

Reference	Variables	Data analysis
(Parolin and Siöland, 2020)	Trade union membership and left political ideology, attitudes towards immigrants access to welfare benefits (individual level) social spending (country level)	Ordered logistic regression
(Rossetti et al., 2020)	CARIN criterion (Oorschot et al., 2017)—deservingness and reciprocity	Descriptive analysis
(Schwander and Vlandas, 2020)	Left-wing political identity—differences between three left-wing ideologies, ESS 2016	factor analysis, ordinal logistic regression, ordinary least squares linear probability model
(Shin et al., 2021)	precarious work (i.e. part-time work, temporary employment, low-skilled service employment, and solo self-employment) and unemployment benefit generosity (i.e., net replacement rate, payment duration, and qualifying period).	Logistic regression analysis
(Simanainen and Kangas, 2020)	Age, education, socio-economic status (student, unemployed, other)	Logistic regression analysis
(Stadelmann-Steffen and Dermont, 2020)	Level of payment (adults and children), accessibility, funding - replacement of direct payments, reduction or non-reduction of social benefits	Conjoint Analysis
(Vlandas, 2019)	ESS variables applied*	Multilevel random intercept logistic regression analysis
(Vlandas, 2021)	ESS variables* (individual level) unemployment generosity, unemployment activation (country level)	Logistic regression analysis
(Yang et al., 2020)	Gender, age, dependent, income, education, employment, presence of children	Logistic regression analysis
(Zimmermann et al., 2020)	Gender, age, education, labor market status, income, family status, children, migration background, political identity	Comparative analysis

*Variables of the European Social Survey for regression analyzes: Gender, age, education (years), part time work, income, self-employed, farm worker, pensioner, unemployed, investor, type of employment (8), left-right political affiliation, trade union membership.

3.5. Results of the European social survey

For further analysis of the selected research, I divided the correspondence publications into two further groups: articles analyzing the results of the 2016 European Social Survey, and independent ones. 21 of the 23 enrolled studies analyze and evaluate the data available in the ESS. On this basis, the survey conducted in 23 countries is the most important database of attitudes towards basic income.

Based on the analysis of Vlandas (2021), the support of the measure shows a significant difference between the sexes and education—males and those with higher levels of education would be more in favor of introducing a basic income. The biggest differences were in terms of age and political affiliation—while the probability of support for an 18-year-old was 60%, for a 65-year-old it was only 47%. There are significant differences along the lines of right and left political affiliations—61% support among those who declare themselves left-wing and 41% support among those who declare themselves right-wing. Vlandas also analyzed the individual support of the countries, on the basis of which it can be said that countries with less generous unemployment support or aid have greater support for the introduction of basic income. Lee (2018) looked at the different types of support for social benefits in countries in a similar way and came to the same conclusion as Vlandas (2021): countries with lower social benefits have higher support for basic income.

Baranowski and Jabkowski (2021) describe the significance of the socio-

economic level, according to which the higher the socio-economic class (based on the European socio-economic classification, ESeC), the less an individual supports the introduction of basic income.

Shin et al. (2021) examined the issue from a labor market perspective in terms of temporary and part-time workers, low-skilled service workers, and self-employed. Their results show that out of the ones mentioned above, only temporary workers have higher support for basic income than full-time employees. In terms of social benefits and support, the same results are confirmed as in Vlandas (2021) and Baranowski and Jabkowski (2021).

Parolin and Siöland (2020) examined, among other things, the relationship between welfare chauvinism—which is a fear in the majority society that the social benefits provided to minority groups threaten the welfare system as a whole and support, which is not significant at the country level based on their results, but it can be said at the individual level that welfare chauvinism results in lower support for basic income. The authors also examined the aspects of social benefits and support and described the phenomenon mentioned in other authors as a paradox of demand capacity: It is the countries where citizens demand it most that have the least capacity to introduce a generous, unconditional, universal support system (Parolin and Siöland, 2020).

Dermont and Weisstanner (2020) examined the relationship between individual job automation risk and basic income support, and support for redistribution, that is, whether those who work in easily automated jobs support the introduction of basic income or redistribution (reduction of wealth differences) to a greater extent. Based on studies, it can be said that automation risk alone does not result in greater support for basic income, but a higher level of support for redistribution can be observed among those working in jobs with high routine task intensity.

Kozák (2021) examined the relationship between employee engagement and work ethic, and the cultural significance of work in relation to support. Based on his results, it can be said that countries where paid work has a significant social importance and perception, overall, are less supportive of the introduction of a basic income (Tóth et al., 2024). He also examined the relationship between GDP and support on a country level. In this respect, he concluded that, in addition to the importance of paid work in terms of social judgment, GDP is more decisive in terms of support—citizens of countries with higher GDP would be less likely to support the introduction of a basic income.

Choi (2021) examined the support of basic income along the theory of basic human values developed by Schwartz (Schwartz, 1992). He examined four of Schwartz's value model in relation to the European Social Survey:

- Universalism (motivated by the importance of peoples' well-being, ensuring social balances, consensual management of macro conflicts, and preserving the natural environment).
- Benevolence (motivated by the balance of closer and more intimate relationships, the need to strengthen them, and to take care of the parties involved in these interactions).
- Power (motivated by the achievement of the highest possible social status and prestige; the pursuit of dominance over people and resources. It includes

authority, wealth, and the need for control).

- And recognition (the need for our close and distant partners to accept, approve, and even reward our actions).

Choi's results show that individual universalism positively and significantly affects the support of basic income, but benevolence, which is in the same value category in Schwartz's model, negatively affects it. Power and Achievement, the two types of self-enhancement values, also positively affect support.

Vlandas (2019) examined support at individual level on the basis of political orientation and labor market and financial situation. His results are in line with those outlined earlier, according to which lower incomes, as well as those associated with left-wing political ideology, would be more supportive of the introduction of basic income. Vlandas and Schwander (2020) discuss further the relations of basic income support and political affiliation, examining the attitudes of various left-wing ideological individuals. Research based on the European Social Survey confirms what has been written earlier and reveals, as a new result, that in rich, developed democracy countries, the measure is supported even more than average, and that their concerns about capitalism and their perception of it cause differences in support of basic income among individuals who associate with different left-wing ideologies.

3.6. Non-ESS analyses

One of the biggest fears about basic income among its opponents is that an unconditional benefit would reduce willingness to work and participation in the labor market. Lim and Tanaka (2018) investigated in their research how information on the reduction of labor market participation in benefit plans affects attitudes towards them. In their study, they introduce 2 support schemes for analysis, a universal one and a targeted one that would only support those living below a certain income level. On the basis of their results, they concluded that there was a statistically significant difference in the assessment of support schemes based on information on the reduction of their associated labor market participation, both of which had less support when this information was highlighted, drawing attention to the dangers of presenting a draft program in a negative light, irrespective of whether this negative information was true or not. The work of Jordan, Ferguson and Haglin's (2021) confirm this result. The survey carried out along the lines of political ideology and party support has shown that negative information on basic income has a much stronger impact on population preferences than positive information.

Aidnik and Rikmann (2018) analyzed press articles on basic income published in Estonia in addition to in-depth interviews with experts. Based on their research, four types of potential basic income were earmarked: a universal, a citizen-only, one with paid public services, and a state-managed fund-based approach with free public services. In Estonian media, the support for the citizens-only approach was mostly considered, but in the expert interviews the support of the universal solution, not only for citizens, appeared. Rosetti et al. Conducted an in-depth survey of basic income in the Netherlands concluded that the majority of respondents did not have a strong view of basic income because, as indicated in the interviews, they found the issue too complicated or because they had never met with this idea before. Among the opinions

on the idea, merit criteria were frequently mentioned—the interviewees emphasized that it is worth supporting those who are in a difficulty situation—especially those who are in such a situation through no fault of their own—and that universality would run counter to this, as everyone, both the richer and the poorer, would receive the same support. Unconditionality has also often emerged as an argument against basic income, highlighting that those who are capable and have the opportunity to do something and earn income should do so, rather than "get something for nothing".

Nam (2019) examined the fears, enthusiasm and awareness related to labor market automation, and analyzed the support of various groups for basic income and other measures related to automation (robot quotas, payment for human interaction, programs for the workers affected by automation). Based on his attitudes towards automation, he divided the participants into four groups—optimists, pessimists, skeptics, and hybrids. Among the measures listed, the robot quota was the most supported, mostly among the optimists, followed by the payment for human interaction. The introduction of basic income was the least supported measure, in particular among participants categorized by the author as pessimistic and skeptical.

Nettle et al. (2021) investigated the relationship between the COVID-19 pandemic and support for basic income. Their research shows that among the participants in the study, the assessment of basic income in relation to the pandemic and its aftermath was much more positive than in the traditional—non-pandemic—context. Participants in the survey highlighted several aspects of basic income related to the pandemic situation: such were the simplicity resulting from universality and the reduction of individuals' feelings of stress and anxiety.

Stefen and Dermont's (2019) research is based on a comparison of Swiss and Finnish attitudes—these two countries can play a particularly important role in terms of social attitudes around basic income: in 2016, Switzerland rejected the introduction of basic income in a referendum, and in Finland, one of the most comprehensive and well-known European basic income testing programs took place between 2017 and 18. Based on their assessment of basic income payments at different levels, it can be said that the support for basic income varies between the two countries, and the preferences for this approach are consistent between the different social and ideological groups in the two countries—both countries opposed the abolition of the entire social assistance system and its replacement by basic income, they could rather envisage basic income as a complement to existing social measures.

Yang et al. (2020) examined attitudes towards basic income in Japan. Based on their results, the support of the idea among young people is significantly higher, similar to the results of Vlandas (2021), but it describes results opposite to Vlandas in terms of gender—men exhibit a significantly more negative attitude towards basic income. This is described by Yang and his co-authors as a unique East Asian phenomenon—based on the social system, men play a critical role in generating sufficient income for the whole family, which may result in them being less supportive of a universal social benefit. Based on their analysis, it can also be said that those with high incomes are strongly opposed to the introduction of basic income, which showed as a significant result in their survey.

In their research, Chrisp et al. (2020) analyzed research conducted in the United Kingdom and Finland, which showed that support for basic income is much greater if

it is financed not by increasing taxes but by transforming existing social benefit schemes.

4. Conclusions

The paper uses the systematic literature review method to analyze and review the international literature on attitudes towards basic income. The aim of the research was to identify the factors that determine or influence an individual's attitudes towards basic income and its introduction. A systematic literature review based on the Web of Science and Scopus databases identified 23 articles with findings relevant to the research question after a screening of 2623 publications. The method provides an opportunity to qualitatively assess the relevant literature, identifying influencing factors and focusing on the measurement and data analysis methods used in the research.

4.1. Theoretical implications

It can be concluded that the topic and its analysis are new and that the authors of the studies reviewed have examined the issue on the basis of a number of factors. The majority of the authors (12/23) analysed data from the same source, the European Social Survey 2016 (ESS, 2023), conducted in 2016, first published in 2017 and updated several times since then. (Baranowski and Jabkowski, 2021, Busemeyer and Sahm, 2021, Choi, 2021, Dermont and Weisstanner, 2020, Kozák, 2020, Lee, 2018, 2021, Parolin and Sioland, 2019, Schwander and Vlandas, 2020, Shin et al., 2021, Vinkóczi et al., 2024; Vlandas, 2019, 2021). The novelty of the topic is shown by the fact that although the datasets were analyzed back to 2010, the oldest publication dates back to 2018. It is important to highlight that further research on this topic could be important in the future, as the study of attitudes towards social benefit measures introduced in some countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was addressed in only 1 of the identified publications, could provide further important insights in the study of attitudes towards different social welfare measures, including basic income.

A systematic literature review of the study has examined and processed the current international literature, which shows that the study of this topic has a strong European focus. In addition to the 12 studies based on the European Social Survey, a further 6 studies examined European countries, 5 non-European countries, and one each from Europe and non-Europe. The social, economic, social and cultural diversity of European countries makes these studies important from a European and EU perspective, but further research on the subject is needed from an international perspective.

The theoretical implications of the research highlight the need for a broader policy analysis to keep pace with the academic debate on basic income. Understanding the political dynamics and public opinion around basic income is essential for effective policy implementation. In addition, exploring the relationship between external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, crises and support for basic income can provide valuable insights into the adaptability of such policies in times of crisis. Future research on basic income should focus on addressing wealth inequalities. The operation of sustainable and equitable basic income systems requires an understanding

of the possible consequences of wealth redistribution. In addition, the factors that influence the support for basic income globally for different regions and population groups need to be discussed. Research on basic income has made significant progress in exploring the potential impacts of such policies, but addressing the limitations identified and exploring new research directions will be key to evidence-based policy decisions.

4.2. Practical implications

The results of this research suggest a number of practical implications for policy makers and society. Support for basic income can be related to demographic characteristics of the population, such as age, gender, education and political affiliation. Men and those with higher education levels are more likely to support basic income. There are also significant differences by age and political affiliation: while 18-year-olds are 60% more likely to support the basic income, those aged 65 and over are only 47% more likely. 61% of those with left-wing political views support the basic income, compared with 41% of those with right-wing political views. Using this information, policy makers can better understand which groups need to be better informed about and support basic income.

Second, the level of social benefits and the labor market situation also play an important role in the acceptance of basic income. In countries with lower social benefits or high automation risks, support for basic income is higher. With this in mind, political leaders can design strategies that take into account the effects of automation and labor market changes.

Third, in order to reduce welfare chauvinism, it is important that the public is properly informed about the benefits of basic income and that it does not jeopardize the existing social benefit system. Promoting individual universalism and basic human values can also increase support for basic income.

Finally, the research has shown that the success of the introduction of a basic income depends to a large extent on the work culture and economic development of the country concerned. The research shows that countries where paid work has a high and positive social prestige have lower support for basic income. It is important to underline that the GDP of a country is also a determinant, as people in countries with higher GDP are less supportive of the introduction of a basic income.

4.3. Limitations and further research directions

A key limitation of the study is the practice of implementing universal basic income. Despite the positive results of the studies reviewed, such as increased life satisfaction and improved health status of beneficiaries, there are still significant barriers to the feasibility of universal basic income schemes. This highlights the need for further research on the effective implementation of this type of initiative.

The literature on basic income support has focused predominantly on the European context, which limits the generalizability of the results from a geographical perspective. Future research should cover a broader range of regions and populations (e.g., Asia and Africa) to gain a comprehensive picture of the factors influencing the promotion of basic income. Although researchers have noted the innovative and

controversial nature of basic income in addressing poverty and inequality, a comprehensive policy analysis is needed to keep pace with the emerging debates around this proposal. Understanding the political dynamics and public perceptions of the basic income is key to its successful implementation. Future research should examine the relationship between external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and crises and support for basic income.

Examining how crises and unforeseen events affect attitudes towards basic income can provide valuable insights for policy makers and researchers. Future studies could also focus on addressing wealth inequalities arising from basic income systems. Understanding the possible consequences of wealth redistribution and its impact on social dynamics is essential for the design of sustainable and equitable basic income systems.

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