



A randomized control trial to test the effects of Guaranteed Minimum Income

City of Barcelona (Spain)
URBInclusion Network & B-MINCOME

The B-MINCOME project explores the potential of a Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) to tackle poverty and social inequality in the city of Barcelona. The project concentrates on the population of deprived neighbourhoods in the north-eastern part of the city with a disengaged population with low income, high unemployment and high early school leaving rates.

1. A randomized control trial

The project tests and compares the impact of different varieties of Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) in combination with a range of 'active policies' - participation and empowerment activities for the participating population. There are four fields of active policies focusing on Education & Labour, Social Entrepreneurship, Housing and Community Participation.

A total of 2000 households participate in this 2-year pilot (2017- 2019). Half of these households receive one of the varieties of Guaranteed Minimum Income tested in the project. The other half of the participants are the control group. They do not receive any form of Guaranteed Minimum Income and are monitored to compare the results of tested varieties of GMI with autonomous developments.

The project is set up as a randomised control trial, which means that the participants in the pilot are allocated to their group in a random fashion. This approach helps to avoid selection bias among the participants in the trial. This will enable the researchers to make a more robust evaluation of the impact and functioning of each variety of GMI tested in the pilot project.

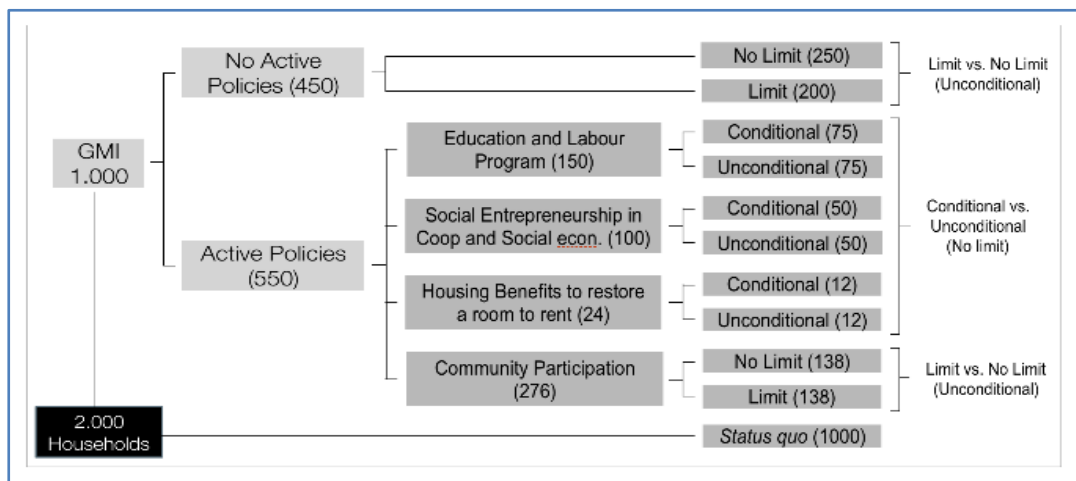


Figure x. B-MINCOME trials - distribution of the participating households over the trial groups.

2. An ongoing monitoring approach

The BMINCOME team applies an ongoing monitoring approach to determine and compare the effectiveness and impact of the different forms of Guaranteed Minimum Income included in the trial.

The team has designed a survey that requires all participants in the trial – including the members of the control group - to report on key parameters related to the objectives of the project. It covers three main fields of interest for the trial. Each of these is broken down into a number of indicators for the effectiveness of the GMI. These are as follows:

1. Use of time, which includes: labour market participation, job search, entrepreneurship activities, education or training, leisure activities, volunteering and informal care.
2. Health and wellbeing: self-reported health, happiness, risk of mental health disease, health services use, drug consumption, food insecurity, housing insecurity, sleep deprivation, trust.
3. Financial planning: capacity to face unexpected expenditures, financial uncertainty, falling behind in utilities, social services use.

The survey is carried out three times during the trial. Once just before the start of the trial, a second time half way through the pilot (after approximately one year) and a third and final run at the end of the pilot (summer 2019). The findings reported by the participants can be compared over time and between the different groups in the trial. They will also be compared with administrative statistics on labour market participation, education and training, use of health care and drug consumption.

This method will allow policy makers and researchers in Barcelona to draw robust and objective conclusions about the effectiveness of different approaches to Guaranteed Minimum Income in combination with various supporting policies.

3. More information

B-MINCOME website: <https://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/barcelona>