# What exactly does the UBI initiative seek (and what does not)

The European Citizens 'Initiative "[Start Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the EU](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/initiatives/details/2020/000003_en?fbclid=IwAR11-W_Kna7J76rv8Gf45qZ1k9Wd74bnNWdqqjSHRDdcsR9sbb67e1TI3kc)" seeks no more or less than for the European Commission to give a kick-off to the introduction of Unconditional Basic Incomes in all EU countries, while remaining within the competences conferred on the European Union by the Treaties.

* Assumption: each country will have its own model, which the EU cannot prescribe
* The European Commission may propose broad economic policy guidelines
* We are only asking for what the European Commission is entitled to
* We will debate practical details and ideas after the initiative succeeds

First of all, let's pay attention to one of the default assumptions, which may not be clear in some translations. Namely, it is assumed that each Member State of the European Union will establish its own national UBI. Brussels does not dictate the content, but coordinates the process. Why? In addition to the fact that, due to the different cost of living, UBI cannot be the same amount in all countries, there are other factors that simply do not allow the same pattern to be applied everywhere. Nor is it in the power of Brussels - the Member States are very independent in their policies. By the way - while this is not specific for every language, the original Englih title and text of the initiative says “basic incomes” (that means plural), which refers to the above.

What would be the content of the kickstart? With this initiative, we want the European Commission to make a proposal on the introduction of Unconditional Basic Incomes throughout the European Union. The explanatory part of the [Commission Decision on the registration of the citizens' initiative](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX%3A32020D0674&from=EN&fbclid=IwAR2Jk-W_lYpbRIqMbXoKMjWs90Hfj0Lb5A2fNrn1JEAuktEKkVbtygDmuo8) states that the European Commission may propose that the Council of the European Union formulate a recommendation on the relevant broad economic policy guidelines, submit a report to the Council and adopt recommendations on the guidelines.

An European Citizens' Initiative cannot prescribe the details of an act to be adopted by the Commission of the European Union or the position to be taken by the European Commission (EC). As regulated, an initiative can only seek what the European Commission is entitled to. As the initiative asks the EC to make a proposal for the introduction of unconditional basic incomes, it could also mean proposing the formulation of guidelines.

As for all the implementation details, such as financing of UBIs, what social benefits will remain and which will replaced by UBI, what social services are necessary and need to be expended in addition to the UBI - there are currently no answers to such questions. The answers are also depend on different national tax and welfare systems. Clear is that the right of care health and other social basic rights have to be fulfilled - in regarding of .

However, the basic principles of UBI are important and are set out in the annex to the initiative - universality, unconditionality, individuality and sufficiency to should prevent material poverty and provide the opportunity to participate in society. It is considered “sufficient” if the income exceeds the national relative poverty line (60% of the national median net income). At the same time, however, the [Annex to the initiative](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fregister.eci.ec.europa.eu%2Fcore%2Fapi%2Fregister%2Fdocument%2F4832%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR29wolwEIy7ufVEDCDcJI5cVR5t52H8u6-q8TQHAf6h9DI7yRrryg2YXeY&h=AT04hLFzOOr4EsZxhampWWP5zaFYMHEmNYRhSqtZvADJpjLqXx0pqVfTDZCOLDL-NqFeWnMyEzFOQEQCCHUC5xeafW2WLk2Uu8LoaCrw15VSIMDJXY7Y3I96HKUU4fArdkkEug) draws attention to the need to take into account also other factors, such as the cost of the consumption basket in the case of Member States with lower income standards - because the relative poverty line has different purchasing power in different countries.

Conclusion

### What does the signatory of the initiative not request?

The signatory of the initiative does not ask (for example) for an Unconditional Basic Income of EUR X, financed from Y sources and organized / implemented in a Z way.

### What does the signatory of the initiative request?

The signatory of the initiative calls on the European Commission to take a first legal step, encouraging and promoting the Member States, to make the idea of ​​an Unconditional Basic Income as such a reality throughout the European Union.

## [So let’s go and sign!](https://eci.ec.europa.eu/014/public/?lg=en&fbclid=IwAR0EKanbN8lqoM2FXZBwTO0LzsRtVyOeB_J8SdzXIKlP8w0XOVdkAd9fU20)