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Article — Published Version A wave of support? A natural experiment on how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the popularity of a basic income

Acta Politica

Provided in Cooperation with:

WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Suggested Citation: Van Hootegem, Arno; Laenen, Tijs (2022) : A wave of support? A natural experiment on how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the popularity of a basic income, Acta Politica, ISSN 1741-1416, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, Iss. Online First Articles, pp. --, https://doi.org/10.1057/s41269-022-00260-9

This Version is available at: https://hdl.handle.net/10419/267779

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Online Appendix

Explanation impact of the number of hospitalizations

To evaluate whether the opinion shift is persistent or driven by short-term risk exposure, we look at the role of the number of hospitalizations in shaping public opinion on a BI. To assess this, the seven-day average of the number of daily admissions to hospitals is assigned to an individual on the basis of their date of interview. If there have for instance been 100 hospital admissions on average over the last seven days at the moment when the respondent is interviewed, the respondent is assigned a score of 100 on this variable. We specifically look at the seven-day average of the hospitalizations, as this is less sensitive to outliers and does not rely on the testing strategy to map the number of Covid-19 infections. These data are taken from Sciensano, which is the Belgian institute responsible for the epidemiological follow-up of the Covid-19 epidemic. Although the number of hospitalizations is a crude proxy to measure the economic impact of the pandemic and mainly refers to exposure to health risks, it is one of the only indicators that varies sufficiently on a daily basis to use it as an individual-level variable. Furthermore, this indicator still offers a rather all-round measurement of the severity of the crisis that extends to economic (e.g., repercussions lockdowns) and social (e.g., intensity social contacts) domains as well. To test the influence of the hospitalizations, a regression model is applied only on the Covid-sample, wherein all of the other independent variables are also included. To consider that individuals who were interviewed in subsequent days are ascribed equivalent numbers of hospitalizations and hence to account for the partial nonindependence of observations, robust standard errors are estimated

Discussion of the impact of the control variables

Besides the main relationships of interest, Table 1 in the main text displays the regression coefficients of the control variables. Although most variables do not have a significant influence, we see that two of the design characteristics of a BI have a substantial impact: schemes that are conditional on job-seeking or volunteering as well as proposals that are more generous towards those who have worked longer receive significantly more support than their unconditional and egalitarian counterparts. In addition, in line with previous research, left-right placement relates significantly to support for a BI, whereby more right-wing respondents are less in favour of a BI (Roosma and van Oorschot 2019). Last, while the survey mode does have a significant influence in the first model, this disappears completely in the second model. That respondents who used the web-based survey score lower on support for a BI, might be related to the weaker differentiation in rating scales among these respondents, whereby a larger share opts for the middle point of the scale (Heerwegh and Loosveldt 2008).

Supplementary Tables

Table A1. Descriptive statistics and logistic regression of membership for the pre-Covid andCovid sample (cf. Jensen & Naumann, 2016)

	Pre-Covid	Covid	Odds ratio in
	(control group)	(treatment	treatment
		group)	group
Support basic income	5.12	5.66	
Gender			
Female (ref.)	50.50 %	51.70 %	
Male	49.50 %	48.30 %	1.01
Age	50.26	47.38	0.99***
Education level			
No to lower secondary	26.10 %	30.80 %	1.531**
Higher secondary (ref.)	39.70 %	34.90 %	
Tertiary	34.20 %	34.30 %	1.182
Left-right placement	5.07	4.77	1.01
Subjective income			
More than enough or no	68.60 %	64.60 %	
difficulties (ref.)			
Just sufficient or difficulties	31.40 %	35.40 %	0.78

Region

Group relative deprivation	3.01	3.21	1.11
Francophone Belgium	19.70 %	67.60 %	9.11***
Flanders (ref.)	80.30 %	32.40 %	

Dimension	Level	Vignette text
Universality	Fully universal	The Belgian government pays a monthly
		income to all residents
	Universal based on	The Belgian government pays a monthly
	residency	income to all residents, if they have lived a
		couple of years in our country
	Selective: excluding the	The Belgian government pays a monthly
	rich	income to all residents, except to those who
		have a lot of money
	Selective: only the poor	The Belgian government pays a monthly
		income only to residents who have little
		money
Uniformity	Equality	The amount is equal for everyone
	Need	The amount is lower as people earn more
	Equity	The amount is higher as people have worked
		longer
Conditionality	Unconditional	People who are not working are not obliged
		to search for a paid job
	Conditional on job-seeking	People who are not working are obliged to
		search for a paid job

Table A2. Dimensions, levels and vignette text for the basic income proposals

	Conditional	on	People who are not working are obliged to
	participation		do voluntary work or to take up caring
			responsibilities
Integration	No replacement		The basic income replaces no other social
			benefits
	Replacement pension		The basic income replaces all existing social
			benefits, such as pensions
	Replacement		The basic income replaces all existing social
	unemployment		benefits, such as unemployment benefits
Accumulation	Accumulation		People receive the basic income on top of the
			money they earn by working or in another
			way
	No accumulation		The basic income is diminished with the
			money people earn by working or in another
			way

	Group relative deprivation
Item 1 - If we need something from the government,	0.799
people like me always have to wait longer than others	
Item 2 - People like me are systematically disadvantaged,	0.853
while other groups receive more than they are entitled to	
Item 3 - People like me are always the first victims of an	0.771
economic crisis	

Table A3. Factor loadings and question wordings for group relative deprivation

Supplementary Figures



Figure A1. Relationship between number of hospitalizations and mean support for a BI (under control of all variables included in previous regression models; N = 639).



Figure A2. Differences in AMCEs for the vignette dimensions between the pre-Covid and Covid sample