

FAQ: Benefit Take-up and Calibration Adjustments in EUROMOD

February 2026

Contents

GENERAL	1
• What are BTA and BCA extensions?	1
• What's the difference between take-up adjustment and calibration?	1
• Which benefits can I adjust using these extensions?	2
• How do I know if the country model I am using has BTA or BCA extensions activated?	2
IMPLEMENTATION	2
• How do I enable these extensions?	2
• What inputs do I need for BTA?	2
• What inputs do I need for BCA?.....	2
• Can I use both extensions simultaneously?	2
SIMULATING REFORMS	3
• How do I model reforms with BCA?.....	3
• What happens if I use older system years for reforms with BCA?	3
• How do I model reforms with BTA?.....	3
ANNEX: default values for BTA and BCA extensions in EUROMOD version J2.0+	4

From model version J0.1+ beta onwards, EUROMOD includes two extensions to adjust benefit receipt: BTA (Benefit Take-up Adjustment) and BCA (Benefit Calibration Adjustment). These extensions are implemented for the main social assistance policy in each country model.

This document has been prepared by the EUROMOD team at the JRC. For contact information and further support, check <https://euromod-web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/support>.

GENERAL

- **What are BTA and BCA extensions?**

BTA (Benefit Take-up Adjustment) and BCA (Benefit Calibration Adjustment) are two extensions in EUROMOD that help adjust benefit receipt to better match reality. BTA applies a known take-up rate from external research, while BCA automatically calibrates benefit receipt to match external statistics. Technically the extensions follow the same logic and share most of their functions.

- **What's the difference between take-up adjustment and calibration?**

Take-up adjustment (BTA) uses externally estimated take-up rates from research studies or administrative sources. Calibration (BCA) adjusts the simulated amounts to match official statistics, accounting for both non-take-up and other model imperfections.

- **Which benefits can I adjust using these extensions?**

While BTA and BCA are primarily implemented for main social assistance benefits (typically `bsa*_cc`) in each country, they can potentially be used for other benefits as well. Check country reports for more information.

- **How do I know if the country model I am using has BTA or BCA extensions activated?**

You can find this information directly in EUROMOD (Country Tools/Country Extensions/Set Defaults) and in the corresponding [country report](#). Section 2.4 Policy Extensions has information on the benefits which have the extensions implemented, and if the extension switches are on or off in the baseline. The information for EUROMOD version J1.0+ is also summarised in tables 1 and 2 in the annex of this document. The subsections describing the corresponding benefits provide more information on extension parameters, for example, the used take-up rate for the BTA extension, or if the BCA extension is calibrating the model to the number of beneficiaries or to the total expenditure.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **How do I enable these extensions?**

You can enable or disable BTA and BCA extensions and select the default values in Country Tools/Country Extensions/Set Defaults for each data-system combination. If enabled, you can also turn them on/off when you run the model: press Run EUROMOD, go to View/Filter/Add-ons tab, check the BTA or BCA checkboxes and turn the extensions on or off for selected systems before running. Note that in most country models, the two extensions should not be active at a time in the baseline.

- **What inputs do I need for BTA?**

For BTA, you need an estimated take-up rate to be saved as a value of the `$b*_BTA_rate` constant in the model. If the model shows 1, it means that no reliable estimates were found when disseminating the corresponding EUROMOD release. However, you can include your own estimates or hypothetical take-up scenarios.

- **What inputs do I need for BCA?**

For BCA, you need to fill out the total expenditure (or, in some countries, total number of benefit recipients) in the External Statistics table available in Country Tools. This allows the model to compute the calibration rate (`$bsa_BCA_rate`) automatically based on those figures.

- **Can I use both extensions simultaneously?**

While technically possible, BTA and BCA are not meant to be used simultaneously. If both are active, the model will apply the lowest rate between the take-up rate and the calibration rate. We recommend using only one extension at a time.

SIMULATING REFORMS

- **How do I model reforms with BCA?**

The limitation of calibrating a benefit is that the total expenditure (or total beneficiaries) will be fixed no matter the reforms we implement. To avoid this, and also because there are no recent statistics available, the model for the most recent policy year directly applies the calibration rate computed for the previous year. This allows the number of beneficiaries to vary when eligibility conditions change, keeping the share of the previous year for the new pool of eligible units.

- **What happens if I use older system years for reforms with BCA?**

If you use previous system years for reforms with BCA active, total expenditure or number of beneficiaries will remain constant regardless of the reform, as the model adheres to existing external statistics.

- **How do I model reforms with BTA?**

No additional action needed. BTA will apply the take-up rate for the new pool of eligible units.

Table 1. Benefit Take-up Adjustment (BTA) extension: default values for best match systems

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
AT			n/a	on																	
BE	on																				
BG			off	off	off	n/a	off														
CY		n/a	off																		
CZ	off																				
DE			off																		
DK			off																		
EE	on	off																			
EL	on																				
ES	n/a	on	on	on	on	on	on														
FI			on																		
FR		on																			
HR							on														
HU	off																				
IE		on																			
IT	off																				
LT	off	off	off	off	n/a	off	off	off	off	n/a	off										
LU			on																		
LV		off																			
MT			off																		
NL		off																			
PL	on																				
PT		off																			
RO			off																		
SE		n/a	off																		
SI		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	off	n/a	on													
SK		off																			

Table 2. Benefit Calibration Adjustment (BCA) extension: default values for best match systems

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
AT			off																		
BE	off																				
BG			off																		
CY		off																			
CZ	n/a	off																			
DE			off																		
DK			off																		
EE	n/a	on																			
EL	off	off	off	off	off	on	off	off	off	off	off	off	on								
ES	off	on																			
FI			off																		
FR		off																			
HR							off														
HU	off																				
IE		off																			
IT	off																				
LT	off	off	off	off	n/a	off	off	off	off	n/a	off										
LU			n/a	n/a	off	n/a	off														
LV		off	on																		
MT			off																		
NL		n/a	off																		
PL	off	off	off	off	n/a	off															
PT		off																			
RO			off	n/a	off	off	off	n/a	off												
SE		off	on	on	on	on															
SI		off																			
SK		on																			