



BudgetCheck

Al-Powered Wealth Assessment



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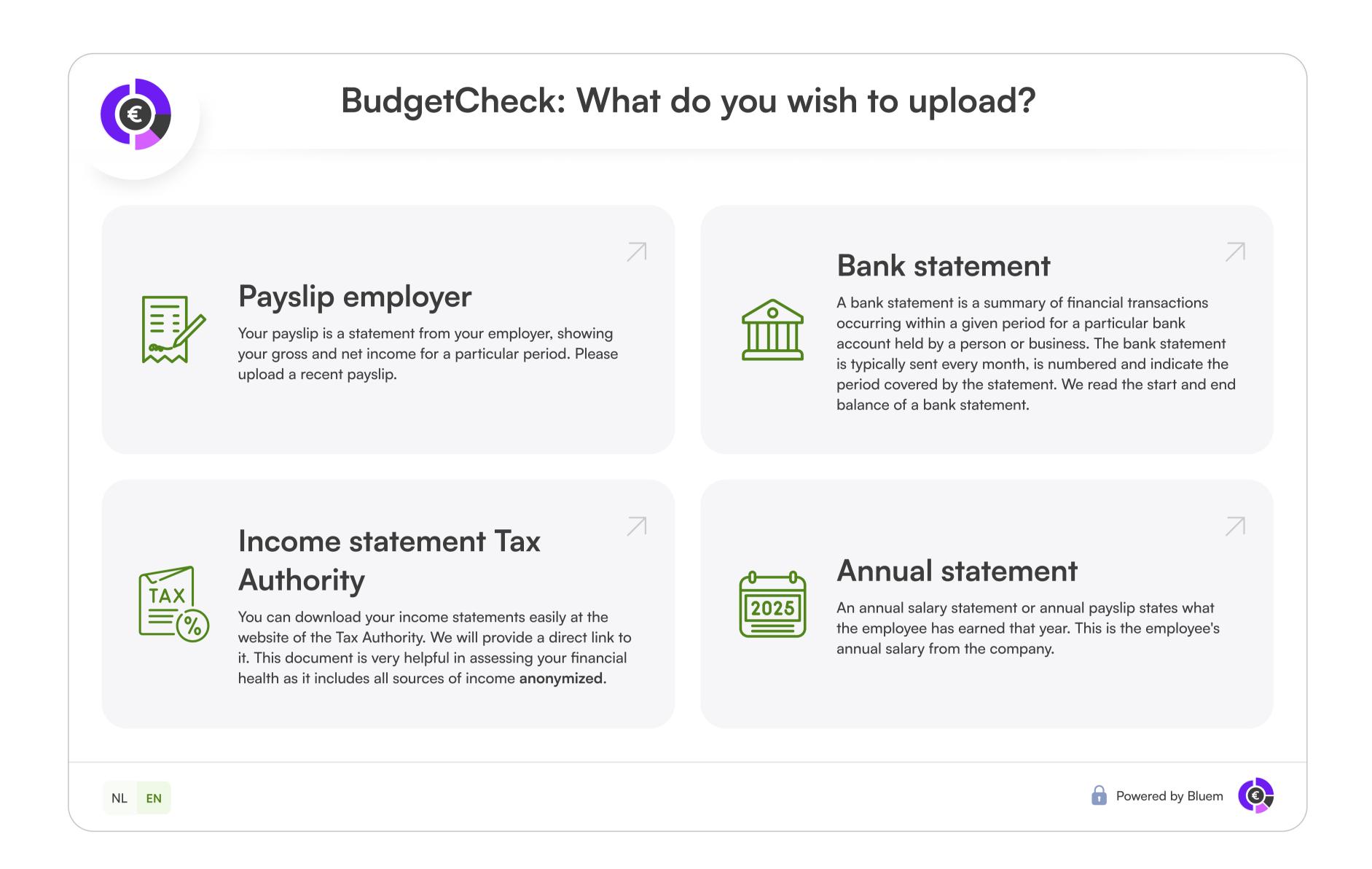
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BudgetCheck: Al-Powered Wealth Assessment

BudgetCheck is a globally deployable Al-driven tool designed for high-value & high-risk commitment-based markets. It helps businesses comply with evolving regulations by automating wealth assessment checks.



Increasing political and social pressures require companies to apply a duty of care when engaging with possible customers. This includes assessing a prospect's ability to pay before finalizing agreements, which prevents over-indebtedness and defaulting on payments. With BudgetCheck, Bluem provides a reliable and efficient solution to requirement-compliance for potential customers.

Introduction: How to assess a customer's wealth?

Wealth assessment shows a client's suitability to receive financial credit, buy an expensive product, or to enter a multiyear financial commitment without endangering his/her own financial well-being. It can be done in several ways, but it is often performed as creditworthiness, spending capabilities and source of funds (SoF) checks. In the Netherlands, income (incl. assets) and employment status (e.g., temporary vs permanent contract) are commonly used indicators that allow merchant parties to determine if the customer can afford all the financial commitments that arise from the agreement or purchase. Hence, wealth assessment is needed in high-value & high-risk commitment-based markets, where clients can enter long-term financial obligations.

For example, the private lease market for cars has grown significantly in the past decade. When considering a private lease car, both the automobile company and its client must be confident on whether he/she can afford the financial commitment. Given the nature of commitment-based markets, the importance of accurately assessing a client's wealth becomes more evident. Without a thorough assessment, the merchant and its client can face risks of over-indebtedness and defaulting on payments.

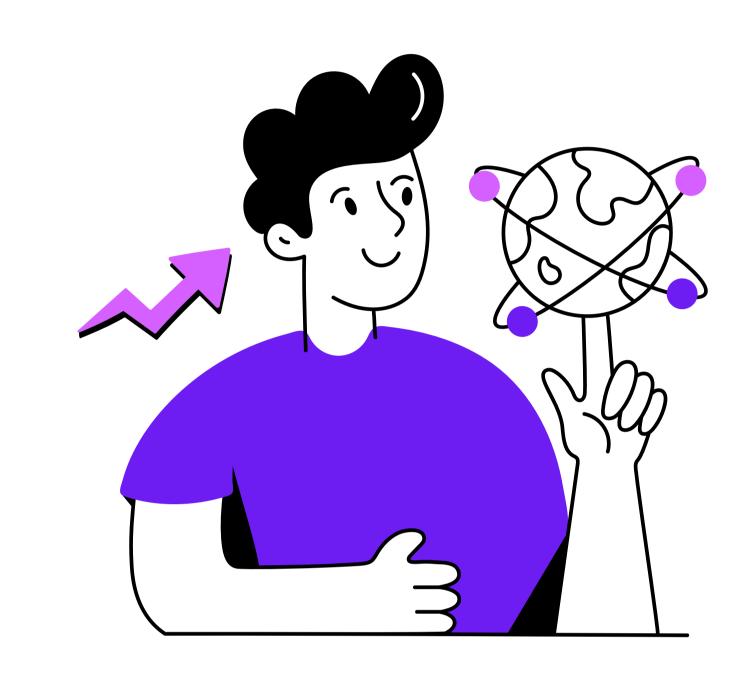
Wealth Assessment:

Creditworthiness, Spending Capability and SoF Checks

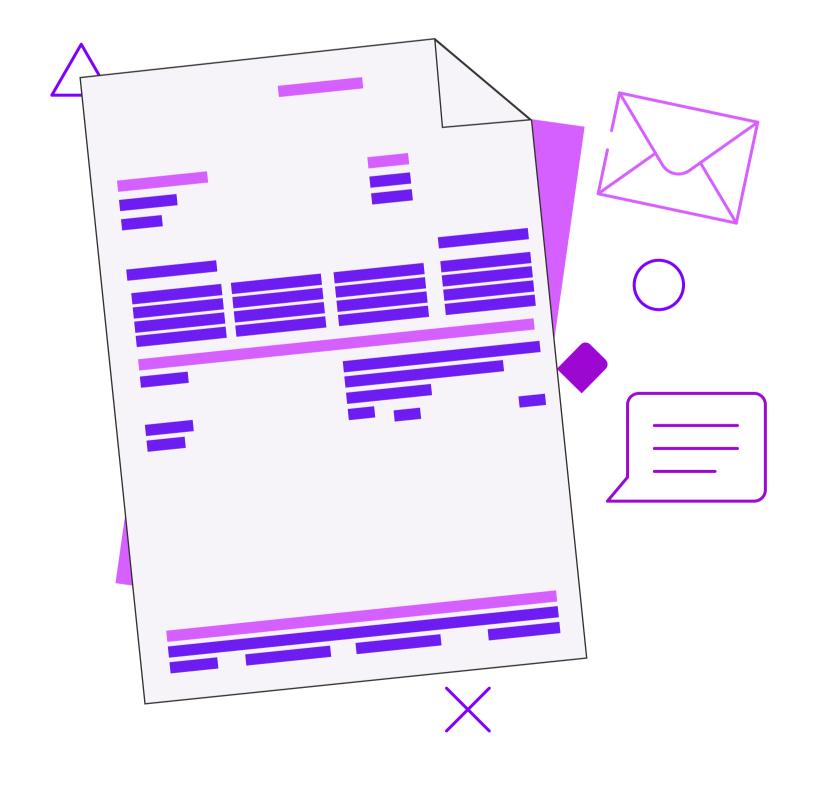
Currently, there are 4 types of documents (supported by BudgetCheck) used to perform wealth assessments. These are pay slips, annual salary statements, bank account statements and tax income statements.

Worldwide Compatibility

BudgetCheck is designed with global Compatibility in mind. The wealth assessment system is built to accommodate diverse financial document formats and varying income verification standards across countries. Whether a user is based in Europe, Asia, the Americas, or anywhere else, BudgetCheck can process commonly used documents like pay slips, annual salary statements, and bank statements — regardless of the region's formatting nuances or language. This ensures that merchants and financial institutions around the world can perform consistent and reliable creditworthiness assessments, without being limited by geography



By supporting international document types and financial structures, BudgetCheck allows for a scalable, cross-border solution—ideal for global platforms or businesses serving users in multiple countries.



Pay slip

Pay slips are the most commonly requested documents when a merchant is assessing a customer's wealth. On the one hand, all employees receive pay slips from their employers, making it a familiar document that can be easily found and submitted. On the other hand, a pay slip shows an individual's income for 1 month and only from one employer.

The problem lies in the short-termed reliability that a pay slip offers to the merchant: will the employee be paid the same amount next month? And is this his/her only employer or does he/she have more? Moreover, not every possible customer gets a pay slip (e.g., company owners, royalty receivers, freelancers, etc). In practice, this means that a pay slip cannot serve as a one-size-fits-all approach to assess wealth. On top of that, a pay slip does not contain a verifiable built-in mechanism (e.g., a digital stamp or an electric signature), meaning that a pay slip's legitimacy cannot be verified with 100% certainty.

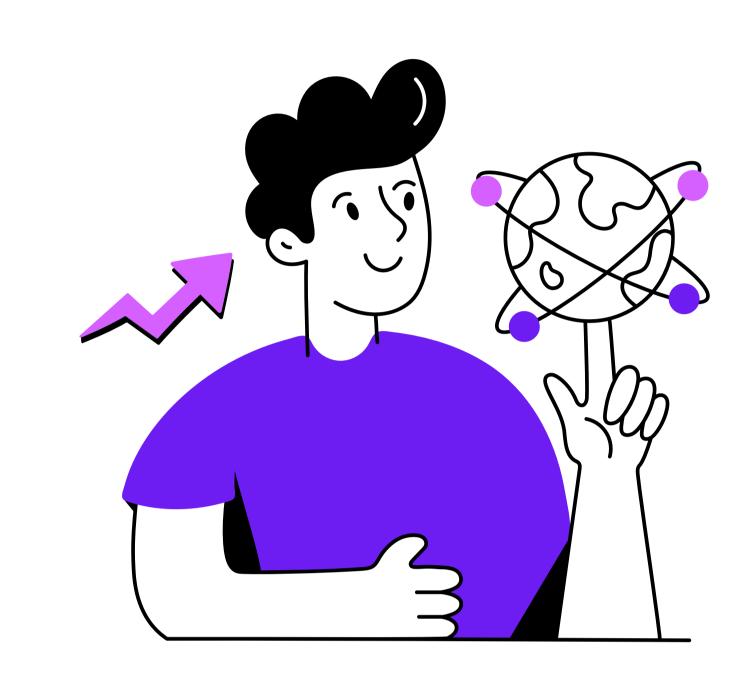
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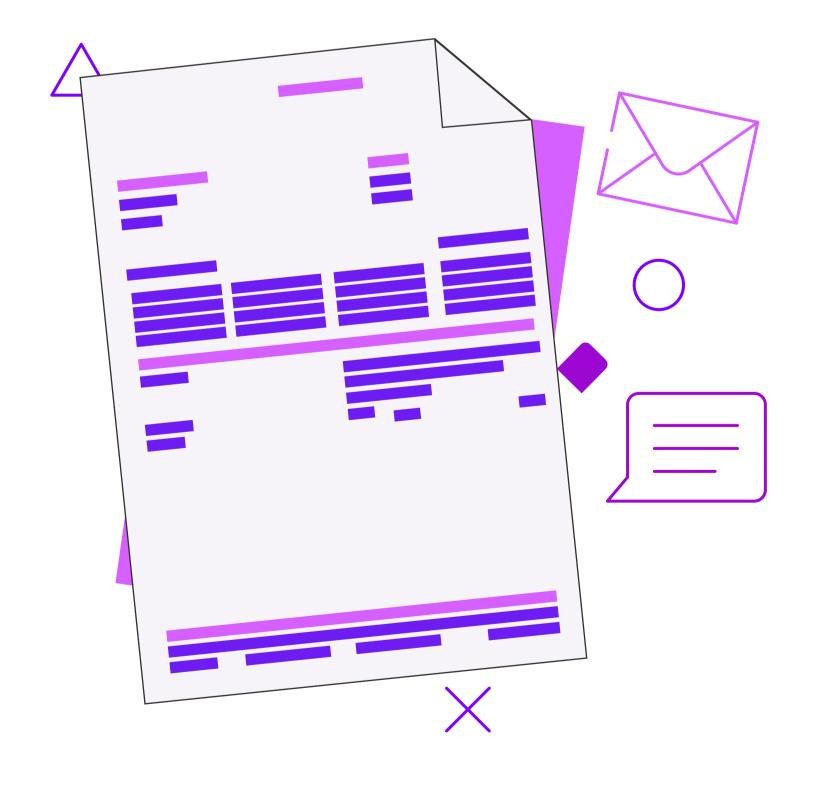
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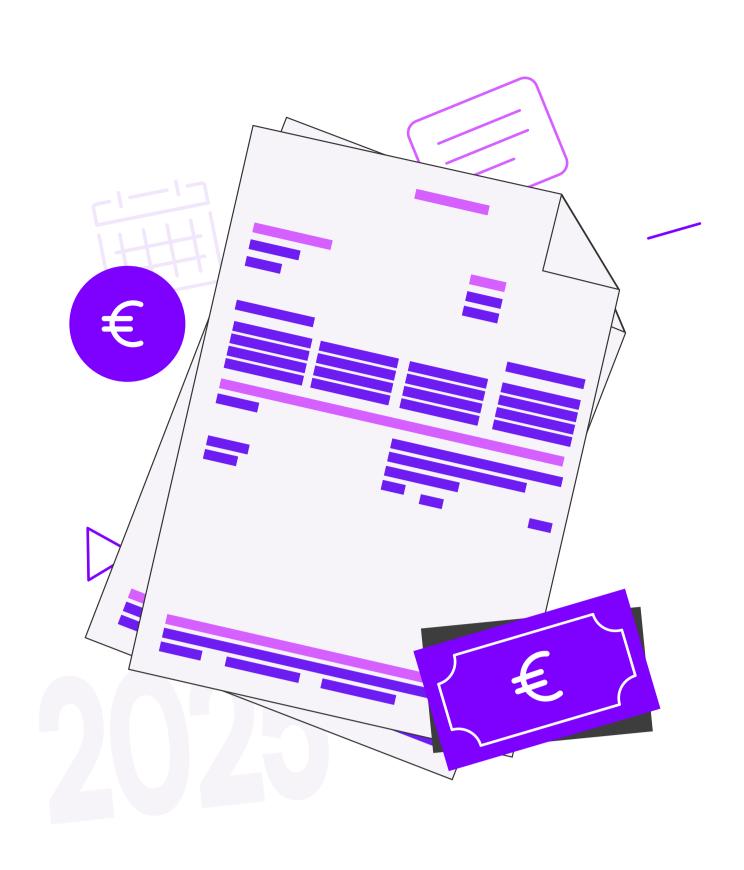
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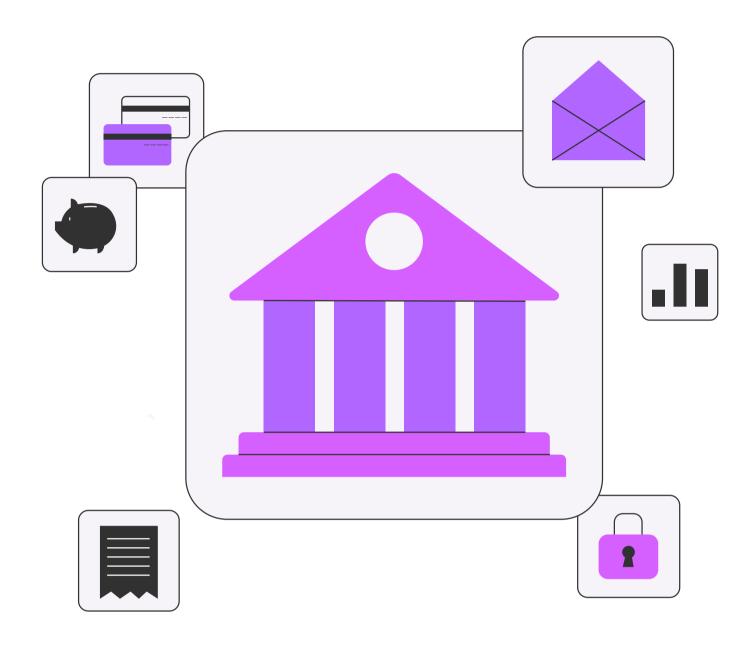
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Annual salary statement

A second method widely used to assess a customer's wealth is checking annual salary statements. An annual salary statement contains the same information as a regular pay slip (i.e., client's full name, birthday and salary breakdown incl. allowances and tax contributions), but in a year span.

Although the wider timeframe of the statement offers some continuity assurance, showing the total income of a customer in a year's span does not solve the uncertainty issues of a pay slip: is this the customer's only employer? Will he/she have the same salary in the upcoming year(s)? And are there other sources of income than wage applying for this prospect (e.g., dividends, allowances, donations, inheritance, interest income, etc.)?





Bank statement

Bank statements are also typically used for wealth assessment checks, as they show account balances over a specific period and provide insight into an account holder's financial behavior. While useful for understanding a customer's spending capacity, bank statements mainly show the funds available within the statement period.

Given that it is typically one month, the merchant would need several bank statements to visualize informative trends on the account holder's financial behavior. In addition, bank statements, like pay slips, do not contain a verifiable stamp.

Tax income statement

Last but not least, merchants typically use a tax income statement to assess a customer's wealth. A tax income statement (inkomensverklaring) provides a summary of a customer's taxable income for a specific year. Different from pay slips and bank statements, a tax income statement combines all sources of income of a natural person.

It includes key details for wealth assessments, such as the total taxable income from employment and business activities, deductions and allowances, and taxable income categories (e.g., income from work and home ownership, savings and investments, etc). Tax income statements are the only type of document that contains an official electronic signature. In other words, it is a document with a built-in mechanism to verify its legitimacy and version integrity.



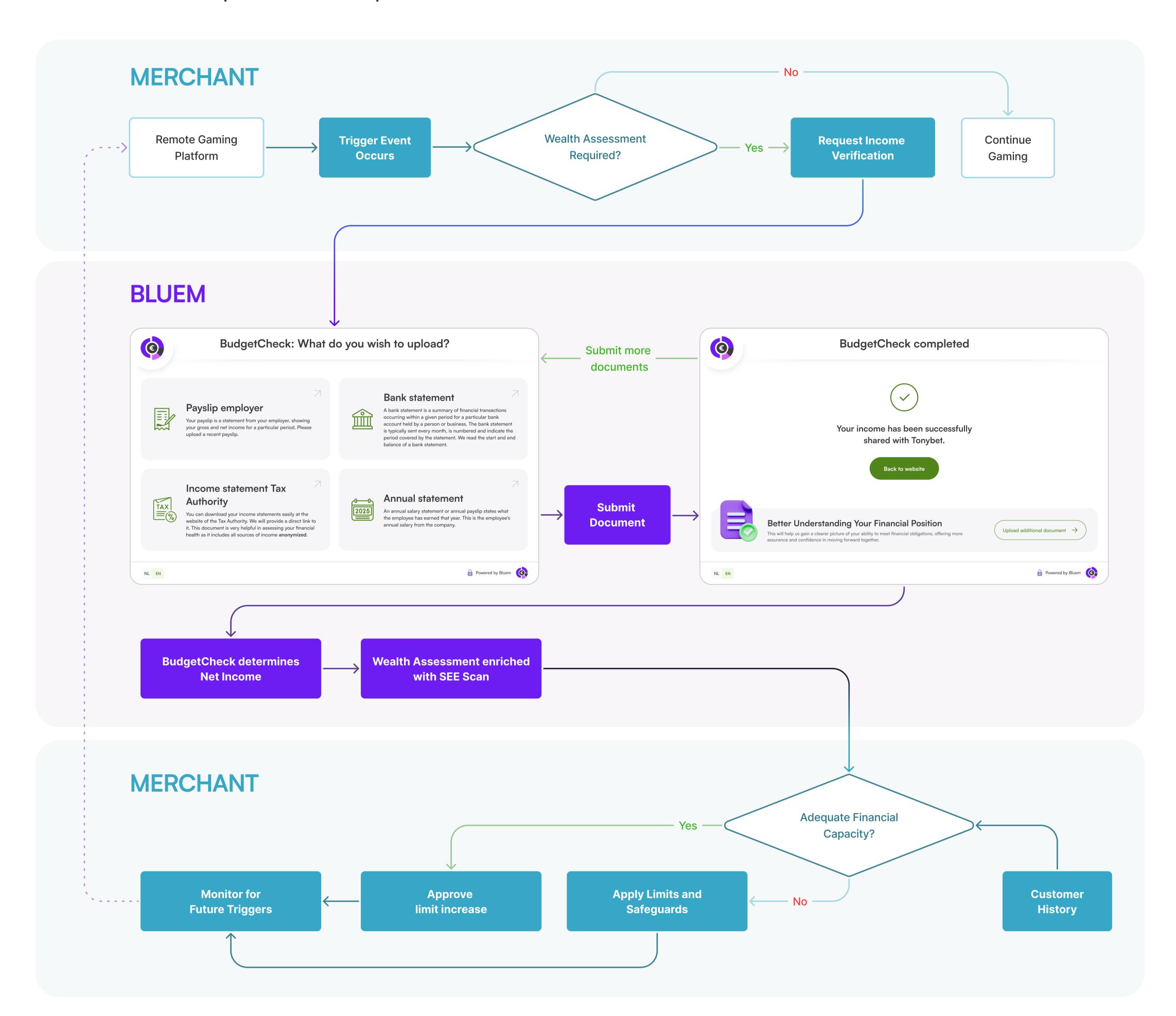
SO WHY DON'T MERCHANTS EXCLUSIVELY REQUIRE A TAX INCOME STATEMENT FROM PROSPECTS?

- Firstly, it is widely recognized that many individuals are not familiar with the intricacies of tax documents. This sometimes leads to the submission of incorrect documents.
- While a pay slip is more widely recognized, it lacks the built-in verification mechanism (i.e., electronic signature), leading to a trade-off between accessibility and security.
- A key advantage of BudgetCheck is that it is the first tool designed to simplify the retrieval and uploading of tax income statements, making the process accessible even for individuals with limited digital literacy.
- The more documents are used for the assessment, the more thorough will the insights be.

BudgetCheck is a flexible solution

where the user has free choice to upload his/her SoF proof

The BudgetCheck can scan all 4 different types of wealth-assessing documents, extract the gross income amount and, on the basis of pre-determined parameters, establish what an individual's net income is.





In this example, the value of BudgetCheck lies in its ability to convert the Dutch Tax Authority's (Belastingdienst) calculation of an individual's gross annual income into net income. Its capacity to scan to all wealth-assessing documents makes it applicable to any high-value & high-risk industry. On top of that, BudgetCheck supplements wealth assessments by depicting the subject's direct living environment. In order to do so, BudgetCheck uses a socio-economic environment (SEE) scan.

The scan collects the customer's address data (i.e., zip code, house number, country code) to collect four data groupings (income, employment, education and housing prices), and thus, define the customer's socio-economic environment. This supplementary data can provide an extra layer of trust in the analysis of 'hard' data (i.e., the one collected from wealth-assessing documents). It can reconfirm the financial picture of the customer in question or, on the contrary, flag potential issues for the merchant to be aware of. Let's zoom into the different components of BudgetCheck's SEE scan.

SEE Scan:

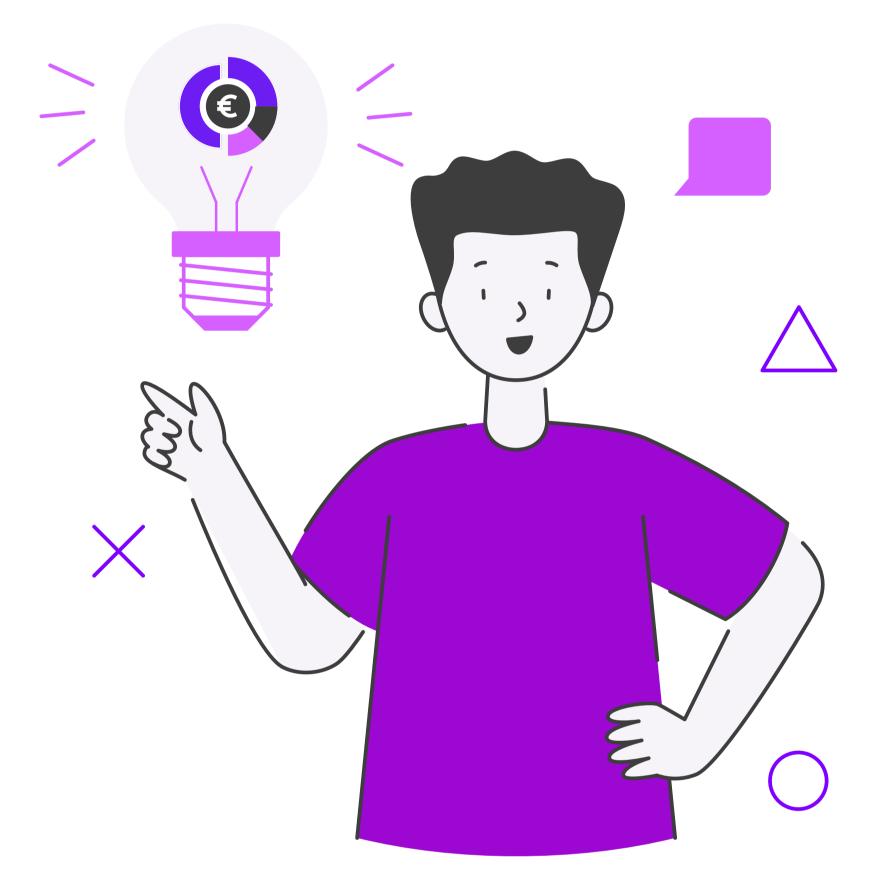
BudgetCheck uses a socio-economic environment (SEE) scan to portray the prospect's living environment. This allows for a more complete picture of his/her financial capabilities

How does it work?

The SEE scan derives data from the socio-economic status (SES) scores from Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS), which are indicators of the socioeconomic positions of individuals and/or households in the Netherlands (https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/cijfers/detail/85900NED).

SES SCORES ARE BASED ON:

- 1 Average income of a specific area
- Proportion of residents with higher versus lower education
- Percentage of people in employment, unemployment or receiving social benefits
- 4) Average house pricing of the area



Each factor is allocated a weight, and these are combined into an aggregate, single SES index. The SES score for a specific area is then compared to the national average, typically set at 0. Therefore, scores below 0 are below average (i.e., lower income, less educated, higher unemployment) and above 0 are above average (i.e., higher income, more educated, higher employment).

To ensure accuracy, the SEE scan applies the CBS weighting formula, with each data grouping (income, education, unemployment, and housing prices) contributing to the SES Index. Since CBS provides only a single aggregate SES index, BudgetCheck refines the model by assigning individual scores to each grouping. This is done by breaking down each one into variables (e.g., for education the variables can be education level in a region, amount of people with diplomas etc.). We then add these values and convert their sum into a 1-to-5 score.

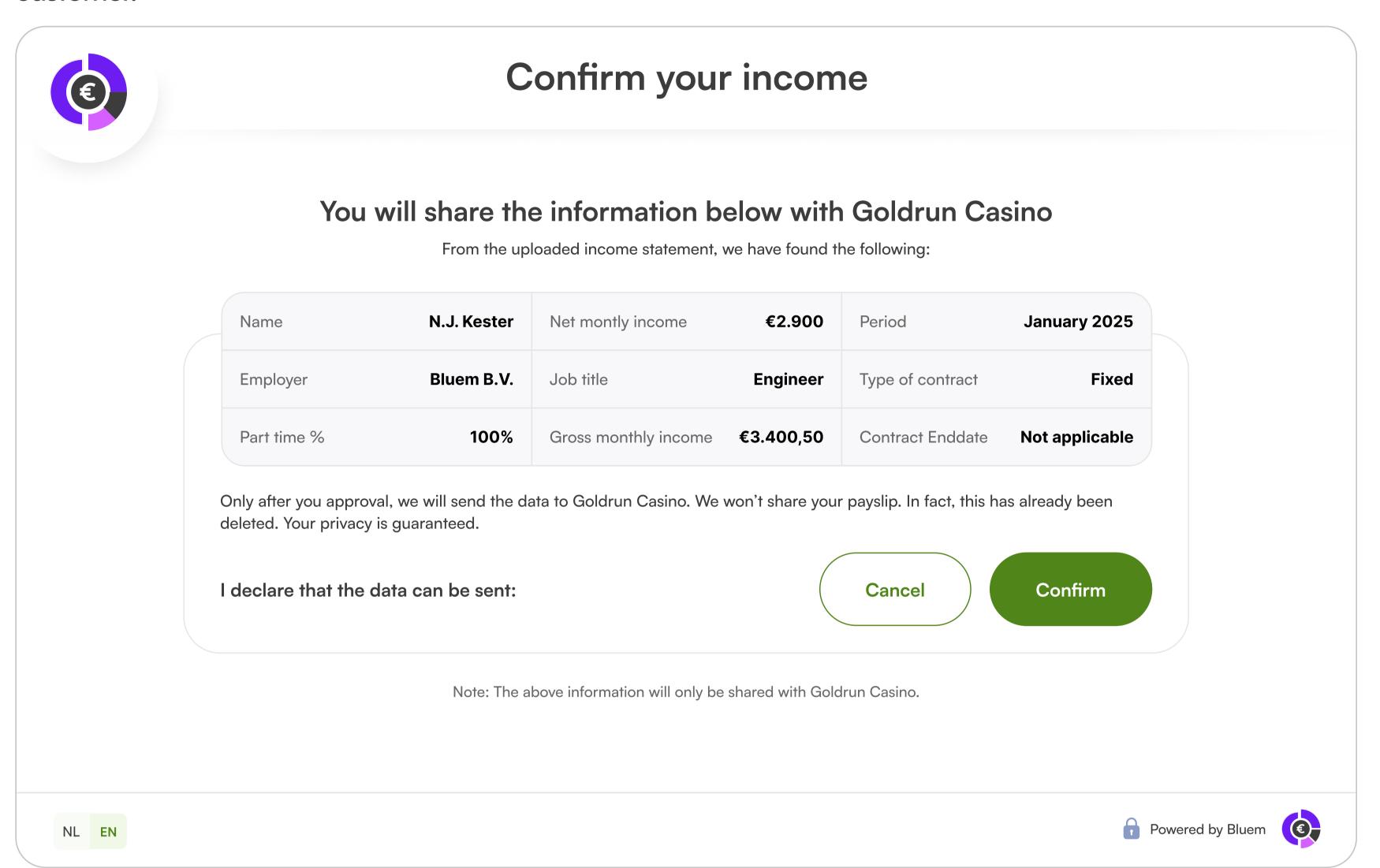
This allows merchants to supplement their wealth assessments with insights into the education level, income level, housing prices and/or employment level of a given neighbourhood. However, this supplementary data does not override individual financial records—someone with a stable income and secure employment will not be negatively impacted simply because they reside in an area with lower average education levels. In brief words, decisions are never made based on supplementary data alone.

Key Takeaways:

Why should you use the BudgetCheck?

Full Consent

BudgetCheck is fully compliant with the GPDR and EU Al Act: personal data is shared only with the explicit consent of the customer.



Financial Health

BudgetCheck provides pivotal insights on whether the customer's financial health is good enough to enter a long-term financial commitment. BudgetCheck is the most comprehensive, cost-effective tool in the market to prove someone's financial health.

Freedom of Choice

The BudgetCheck has the advantage that the customer can choose which income documents he/she can share with the merchant. Currently, the BudgetCheck already supports all 4 different types of wealth-assessing documents.

Protection of Privacy

BudgetCheck is less intrusive compared to alternative Source of Funds (SoF) verification methods based on PSD2 applications. PSD2, also known as 'Access to My Account,' grants third parties visibility into all debits and credits associated with a specific account over the past 180 days. Providing consent under this model effectively means disclosing comprehensive details about one's income and expenditures. Additionally, PSD2 is account-bound, meaning that if an individual has multiple bank accounts, separate consent must be given for each one. In contrast, BudgetCheck is person-bound, allowing for a more holistic and efficient financial assessment without requiring multiple authorizations.

Widely applicable

BudgetCheck is applicable to any high value, commitment-based market and/or industry like financial, leasing, real estate and iGaming services.

BudgetCheck Practicalities:

EXAMPLE: ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH RESPONSIBLE GAMING (RG) RULES

BudgetCheck helps iGaming businesses to stay compliant with evolving Responsible Gaming (RG) regulations by assessing if a player can afford their gaming expenses without financial risk. The tool can analyze payslips, annual salary statements, and bank account statements from anywhere in the world to gather income data. Powered by a leading Al solution, Bluem's BudgetCheck ensures a secure, seamless, and efficient verification process, helping operators meet the latest RG compliance standards.

INDEPENDENT LEGAL ASSESSMENT

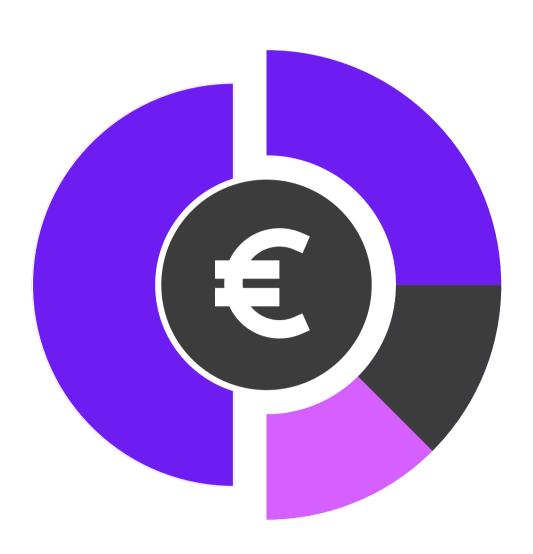
To confirm that BudgetCheck meets the legal requirements set by the Dutch Gaming Authority for licensed iGaming operators, Bluem collaborated with the law firms Kalff Katz & Franssen (KKF) and BetComply for an independent review. Both memos evaluate BudgetCheck's compliance with Dutch Remote Gambling regulations. These legal memos are available upon request from Bluem.



KSA GOOD PRACTICES ON DUTY OF CARE

We follow the Dutch Gaming Authority's best practices on duty of care. When young adults hit the €300 net deposit lost limit per month, we do not allow them to continue playing without a proper wealth assessment. This works a proof of their sound financial capability and extra protection for this vulnerable group. Likewise, we conduct wealth assessments for adults who hit the €700 monthly net deposit limit lost. In addition, we ensure that the calculation of the net deposit limit is properly documented using supporting documents with hard data. This level of transparency minimizes the need for direct verification by the Dutch Gaming Authority's and its unmatched within the wealth assessment tool market.

Let's talk!



BudgetCheck: the most comprehensive wealth assessment tool available

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