



European Green Belt Association
Membership Fee Concept 2023-2026

Approved by the General Assembly in November 2022

1 Introduction and history

On 24 September 2014 the founding General Assembly of the European Green Belt Association approved a membership fee concept (status 18 September 2014). It follows the principle that membership fees are a significant source of income for the European Green Belt Association. Members contribute to the needed financial base income with amounts appropriate to their financial capacity.

In 2016 the members requested to review the membership fee concept for non-governmental members. During the 2nd General Assembly (Finland 2016) the members adopted an adjusted membership fee concept (status 18 August 2016). Subsequently, the need for simplification of membership fees, especially of governmental members became obvious. At the General Assembly 2018 in Germany a revised membership fee concept based on the approved version of 18 August 2016 was adopted (Membership Fee Concept 2019-2022).

The revised membership fee concept envisages a regular update of the GDP per capita according to the latest Eurostat figures only every four years. Accordingly, the membership fees of governmental members are fixed for the period of four years.

In 2022 the membership fees of governmental members were updated, resulting in the the Membership Fee Concept 2023-2026.

2 Principles

The principles of the membership fee concept are as follows:

- Different systems are applied for governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Membership fee system is taking into account the financial capacity of members
- The membership fee concept is regularly updated every four years
- An inflation correction is applied as soon as the threshold of 5% inflation is reached, using the German Consumer Price Index as published annually by the Statistisches Bundesamt.

For non-governmental organizations the number of members and/or the operating expenditure is chosen as indicators for the financial capacity.

The membership fees of governmental organizations are calculated based on the GDP per capita, expressed in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS). The advantage of this approach is that there is a more direct link between the ranking in the membership fee system and the living standard as well as the costs in the respective countries. An additional multiplication factor is applied as a linear course of membership fees is not reflecting the financial capacity of the wealthier countries appropriately.

3 Membership fees for non-governmental organizations

Two indicators for the financial capacity of a non-governmental organization are considered: the number of members and the operating expenditures. For membership organizations the number of members is more relevant and the operational expenditure is applied as factor reducing or increasing the final membership fee. For organizations without membership base, such as foundations, just the indicator operating expenditures is used.

3.1 Non-governmental organizations with members

| Number of members | Membership fee in EUR |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ≤ 100 | 200 |
| 101 – 1'000 | 400 |
| 1'001 – 10'000 | 600 |
| 10'001 – 100'000 | 800 |
| > 100'000 | 1'000 |

| Operational expenditure in EUR | Factor |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| ≤ 250'000 | 0.50 |
| 250'001 – 1'000'000 | 0.75 |
| 1'000'001 – 2'500'000 | 1.00 |
| 2'500'001 – 5'000'000 | 1.25 |
| > 5'000'000 | 1.50 |

The following table gives an overview of the possible ranges of membership fees for non-governmental organizations with members.

| Membership fee in EUR | Factor 0.50 | Factor 0.75 | Factor 1.00 | Factor 1.25 | Factor 1.5 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 200 | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 | 300 |
| 400 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 |
| 600 | 300 | 450 | 600 | 750 | 900 |
| 800 | 400 | 600 | 800 | 1000 | 1200 |
| 1'000 | 500 | 750 | 1'000 | 1'250 | 1'500 |

3.2 Non-governmental organizations without members:

For non-governmental organizations without members only the indicator of operating expenditures is applied.

| Operational expenditure in EUR | Membership fee in EUR |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ≤ 250'000 | 250 |
| 250'001 – 1'000'000 | 500 |
| 1'000'001 – 2'500'000 | 750 |
| 2'500'001 – 5'000'000 | 1'000 |
| > 5'000'000 | 1'500 |

4 Membership fees for governmental organizations

The GDP per capita in PPS according to Eurostat is used as the main indicator for the financial capacity of states and their institutions on national and on regional or local level. This leads to four different groups of countries and a corresponding additional factor to reflect the financial capacity more appropriately.

Furthermore, two different categories of governmental organizations are distinguished: Ministries and governmental agencies on a national level on the one side and departments, provinces or local communities on the other side. It is assumed, that the second category has a lower financial capacity than the first category; therefore the reference amount for governmental organizations on national level (category 1) is set at 1'000 EUR and for governmental organizations on regional or local level (category 2) at 500 EUR.

The membership fees of governmental members are calculated according to the formula: reference amount * (GDP/100) * additional factor as presented in the tables below.

For governmental organizations belonging to category 1 the maximum membership fee amount is 2,500 EUR. For governmental organizations belonging to category 2 the maximum membership fee is 1,250 EUR.

Table for factors

| GDP per capita in PPS | Factor | Group |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|
| ≤ 60 | 0,5 | 1 |
| 61 < 80 | 1,0 | 2 |
| 81 < 100 | 1,5 | 3 |
| > 100 | 2,0 | 4 |

| Country Code ISO | GDP per capita in PPS ^{1,4} | Group | Factor | on national level (Category 1) | on regional or local level (Category 2) |
|---------------------|---|-------|--------|--|--|
| | | | | Membership fee EUR (1'000€ *(GDP/100)*Factor) | Membership fee EUR (500€ *(GDP/100)*Factor) |
| AL | 32 | 1 | 0,5 | 160 | 80 |
| RS | 44 | 1 | 0,5 | 220 | 110 |
| KOS ² | 44 | 1 | 0,5 | 220 | 110 |
| MK | 42 | 1 | 0,5 | 210 | 105 |
| ME | 47 | 1 | 0,5 | 235 | 117,5 |
| BG | 55 | 1 | 0,5 | 275 | 137,5 |
| TR | 64 | 2 | 1 | 640 | 320 |
| RO | 73 | 2 | 1 | 730 | 365 |
| HR | 70 | 2 | 1 | 700 | 350 |
| LV | 71 | 2 | 1 | 710 | 355 |
| RU ³ | | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| HU | 76 | 2 | 1 | 760 | 380 |
| PL | 77 | 2 | 1 | 770 | 385 |
| GR | 65 | 2 | 1 | 650 | 325 |
| EE | 87 | 3 | 1,5 | 1305 | 652,5 |
| LT | 88 | 3 | 1,5 | 1320 | 660 |
| SK | 68 | 2 | 1 | 680 | 340 |
| SI | 90 | 3 | 1,5 | 1350 | 675 |
| CZ | 91 | 3 | 1,5 | 1365 | 682,5 |
| IT | 95 | 3 | 1,5 | 1425 | 712,5 |
| FI | 113 | 4 | 2 | 2260 | 1130 |
| DE | 119 | 4 | 2 | 2380 | 1190 |
| AT | 120 | 4 | 2 | 2400 | 1200 |
| NO | 163 | 4 | 2 | 3260 ⁵ | 1630 ⁶ |

* In accordance with UNSCR 1244 and opinion of ICJ.

¹ Source of the data: Tabelle https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=GDP_per_capita,_consumption_per_capita_and_price_level_indices – data retrieved on 25 July 2022 for year 2021

² For Kosovo* in the table of Eurostat no value is available. The same value as for RS is used.

³ For Russia in the table of Eurostat no value is available. For the membership fee concept 2023-2026 no value for Russia is calculated as membership of Russian GOs is not likely.

⁴ The reference value of EU 27 is 100.

⁵ The maximum membership fee amount is 2.500 EUR

⁶ The maximum membership fee amount is 1.250 EUR

5 Membership fees for individual members

The minimum annual membership fee for individuals is set at 500 EUR.

6 Membership fees for non-voting supporting members

Governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as individuals highly motivated to financially support the European Green Belt Association may become non-voting supporting members. This membership type does not include membership rights, which is reflected in a low annual membership fee. The minimum annual fee is set at 60 EUR for individuals, 120 EUR for non-governmental and 250 EUR for governmental organisations.

7 Instructions for payment

Each year the invoices for the membership fees (issued in Euros) are sent in the first quarter of that particular year (unless otherwise and timely instructed by members who wish to pay their contribution in advance) with a four week's payment deadline. Membership fees shall be paid in Euros by bank transfer to the bank account specified in the invoice. Bank transfers should quote the invoice number for reference. Bank charges are to be paid by the sender.

For additional information please contact EuroNatur as current chair of the Board of the European Green Belt Association via association@europeangreenbelt.org.