

Revised Membership Fee Concept

for the European Green Belt Association

**Status: 18 August 2016,
based on the approved version of 18 September 2014**

Introduction:

On 24 September 2014 the founding general assembly of the European Green Belt Association approved a membership fee concept. It followed the principle that membership fees should be a significant source of income for the European Green Belt Association. Members should contribute to the needed financial base income with amounts appropriate to their financial capacity.

In the meantime the membership fee for the year 2015 has been requested and the invoices for 2016 will be sent soon. In various discussions, especially some NGO members requested an adjustment of the membership fee concept, which would take into consideration that they have rather high operational expenditures but most of this amount is earmarked for clearly described purposes. The amount of free available funds is very limited and some NGO members cannot afford the requested membership fees.

Based on the approved version of 18 September 2014 the membership fee concept the Board of the European Green Belt Association suggests a slightly adjusted membership fee concept, although the principles and the mechanics remain the same.

Principles:

- Different systems to be applied for governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Membership dues system is taking into account the financial capacity of members
- Annual application of an inflation correction, using the German Consumer Price Index as published annually by the Statistisches Bundesamt.

Scenarios:

Regarding non-governmental organizations: as indicators for the financial capacity are chosen: the number of members and/ or the operating expenditures. Foundations do not have members; therefore the indicator operating expenditures should be used in any case. For membership organizations a combination of both indicators could be proposed.

Regarding governmental organization relevant membership due systems are referring to the UN Assessment of Member States' advances to the Working Capital Fund and contributions to the United Nations regular budget. The disadvantage of most of these systems is that the grouping of the different states seems to be questionable. The advantage is that this system is used by organizations such as IUCN and is somehow accepted. Alternatively an option would be to refer to 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 due system and the living standard as well the costs in the various countries. The disadvantage is that a linear course of the membership dues is not reflecting the financial capacity of the wealthy countries appropriately. A way out could be the introduction of an additional factor.

On the base of these scenarios we recommend the following model for the membership due system.

1. Non-governmental organizations:

The proposed approach is considering two indicators for the financial capacity of a non-governmental organization: the number of members and the operating expenditures. There are organizations without membership base, such as foundations. For those, just the indicator operating expenditures will be used. For membership organizations the number of members is more important and the operational expenditure will be applied as factor reducing or increasing the final membership fee.

1.1. Model for non-governmental organizations with members:

Number of members	Membership fee in EUR
≤ 100	200
> 100 ≤ 1'000	400
> 1'000 ≤ 10'000	600
> 10'000 ≤ 100'000	800
> 100'000	1'000

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

Examples:

For an association with 7'500 members and a yearly expenditure of 260'000 EUR, the membership fee would be: 600 EUR x 0.75 = 450 EUR.

For an association with 250 members and a yearly expenditure of 45'000 EUR, the membership fee would be: 400 EUR x 0.5 = 200 EUR.

For an association with 60'000 members and a yearly expenditure of 5'010'000 EUR, the membership fee would be: 800 EUR x 1.50 = 1'200 EUR.

The lowest membership fee for an association would be 100 EUR and the highest 1'500 EUR.

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

1.2. Model for non-governmental organizations without members:

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

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

2. Governmental organizations:

The GDP per capita in PPS will be used as the main indicator for the financial capacity of states and their institutions on national but also on regional or local level. In order to reflect the financial capacity more appropriately, an additional factor will be introduced. Furthermore, regarding governmental organizations two different categories should be distinguished: Ministries, governmental agencies on a national level on the one side and departments, provinces or local communities on the other side. Assumably, the second category has a lower financial capacity than the first category; therefore an additional factor will be introduced.

The reference amount per governmental organization 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.

2.1. Membership fee system for governmental organisations on national level (Category 1)

Country Code ISO	GDP per capita in PPS ^{1,4}	Group	Factor	Membership Fee EUR (1'000€ *(GDP/100)*Factor)
AL	30	1	0,5	150,00
RS	36	1	0,5	180,00
KOS* ²	36	1	0,5	180,00
MK	37	1	0,5	185,00
ME	41	1	0,5	205,00
BG	46	1	0,5	230,00
TR	53	1	0,5	265,00
RO	57	1	0,5	285,00
HR	58	1	0,5	290,00
LV	64	2	1,0	640,00
RU ³	65	2	1,0	650,00
HU	68	2	1,0	680,00
PL	69	2	1,0	690,00
GR	71	2	1,0	710,00
EE	74	2	1,0	740,00
LT	74	2	1,0	740,00
SK	77	2	1,0	770,00
SI	83	3	1,5	1.245,00
CZ	85	3	1,5	1.275,00
IT	95	3	1,5	1.425,00
FI	108	4	2,0	2.160,00
DE	125	4	2,0	2.500,00
AT	127	4	2,0	2.540,00
NO	163	4	2,0	3.260,00

Table for factors

GDP per capita in PPS	Factor	Group
≤ 60	0,5	1
> 60 ≤ 80	1,0	2
> 80 ≤ 100	1,5	3
> 100	2,0	4

* In accordance with UNSCR 1244 and opinion of ICJ.

¹ Source of the data: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tec00114>

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. We used the ratio of Russia to EU 28 regarding GDP according to the data of IMF. Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_\(nominal\)_per_capita](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)_per_capita)

⁴ The reference value of EU 28 is 100.

2.2. Membership fee system for regional or local governmental organisations (Category 2)

Country code ISO	GDP per capita in PPS	Group	Factor	Membership fee EUR (500€ *(GDP/100)*Factor)
AL	30	1	0,5	75,00
RS	36	1	0,5	90,00
KOS* ²	36	1	0,5	90,00
MK	37	1	0,5	92,50
ME	41	1	0,5	102,50
BG	46	1	0,5	115,00
TR	53	1	0,5	132,50
RO	57	1	0,5	142,50
HR	58	1	0,5	145,00
LV	64	2	1,0	320,00
RU ³	65	2	1,0	325,00
HU	68	2	1,0	340,00
PL	69	2	1,0	345,00
GR	71	2	1,0	355,00
EE	74	2	1,0	370,00
LT	74	2	1,0	370,00
SK	77	2	1,0	385,00
SI	83	3	1,5	622,50
CZ	85	3	1,5	637,50
IT	95	3	1,5	712,50
FI	108	4	2,0	1.080,00
DE	125	4	2,0	1.250,00
AT	127	4	2,0	1.270,00
NO	163	4	2,0	1.630,00

Table for factors

GDP per capita in PPS	Factor	Group
≤ 60	0,5	1
> 60 ≤ 80	1,0	2
> 80 ≤ 100	1,5	3
> 100	2,0	4

* In accordance with UNSCR 1244 and opinion of ICJ.

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⁴ The reference value of EU 28 is 100.

Regarding the membership fees for governmental organizations belonging to category 1 the maximum is set to an amount of 2,500 EUR.

Regarding the membership fees for governmental organizations belonging to category 2 the maximum is set to an amount of 1,250 EUR.

3. Individuals

The membership fee for individuals should be rather high in order to attract individuals who are really interested to support the association financially. The minimum fee is set at 500 EUR.

4. Non-voting Supporting Membership

A significant number of GOs, NGOs and individuals is highly motivated to financially support the European Green Belt Association but due to different reasons, they cannot afford the agreed membership fees. Therefore the Board of the European Green Belt Association proposes to introduce a supporting membership which does not include membership rights. The annual fee, which can be considered as a donation should be a minimum of 60 EUR for individuals, 120 EUR for NGOs and 250 EUR for GOs.

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Endorsed by the Board of the European Green Belt Association