

Internal regulation governing membership fees

Since its foundation in 1973, the calculation of the EMU's membership fees has been based on a social system. The initial calculation foresaw a basic fee (that was the same for every association) plus a fee for every music school member of the association. This meant that larger associations with more members paid a higher membership fee than smaller associations with less members.

At the General Assembly in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2001, the delegates discussed and adopted a new system: From 2002 on, the membership fees were calculated on the total expenses of all music schools member of an association. The delegates thus improved the initial system, as the amount of the membership fee was not only influenced by the number of members of an association, but also by their economic situation. This basic system is still in place today and while no system will ever be felt to be perfect, the current one is well established and accepted within the membership of the EMU.

However, during the last collection of statistics from the members (which also includes the question on the total budget of all music schools that serves as the basis for the calculation of the fees) some difficulties with the current system became obvious. These are related to several factors: Due to the different systems for music education in the individual countries, the budget of the music schools can strongly differ. For instance, in some countries, costs for the teaching staff or building are paid for directly by the municipalities, while in other countries these are part of the budget of a music school. In some countries even, an individual budget for the music school can only hardly be indicated because of their administrative structure. Furthermore, some national associations do not collect these kinds of figures at all. Those who do, on the other hand, produce results which can only hardly be compared across European country borders because of the reasons laid out above. Therefore, the basic social system for assessing the fees is strongly distorted and the internal auditor recommended to the board to review this system during his report at the 2021 General Assembly.

The board of the EMU therefore proposes a further improvement to the system. The guiding idea behind it is to maintain the established system in which the amount of the membership fee is influenced by the size of an association and the economic situation, while at the same time finding objective criteria to assess these. The board therefore proposes a system that is based on two factors: the size of the association (number of member music schools as indicated in the statistics) and the GDP per capita of a given country (as indicated by the International Monetary Fund).

The formula for the calculation of the fees is as follows:

$$\text{(GDP Factor + Association Factor) x 300 €}$$

The GDP factor and the association factor will be fixed for the first time in 2025 and updated every 3 years (2025, 2028, 2031...).

The 2 tables below give an indication about the membership fees according to the situation in 2024. The total income from membership fees according to this new system would amount to 75.150 € which corresponds to an increase by 14,9% as opposed to the current system. While this may look like a considerable increase, the board would like to remind members that the last increase of the membership fee was adopted in 2016 and that the inflation rate in the Eurozone between 2016 and today has been 24.61%. The board therefore feels this is a reasonable and necessary increase allowing the EMU to continue to operate under professional and financially stable conditions.

For observer members, the basic fee will be half of the fee for full members, thus amounting to 150 €.

The formula for observer members will be as follows:

$$\text{(GDP Factor + Association Factor) x 150 €}$$

Table 1: Simulation of the new fees according to the situation in 2024

Country	Fee as per 2023	GDP per capita 2021 (according to IMF)	Number of member music schools (according to statistics 2020)	GDP Factor	Association Factor	New fee as per 2025
Austria	3.757 €	\$50.246	385	6	7	3.900 €
Azerbaijan	1.644 €	\$4.826	37	1	3	1.200 €
Belgium	1.252 €	\$44.688	21	5	3	2.400 €
Bulgaria	1.644 €	\$10.006	15	2	2	1.200 €
Cyprus	1.252 €	\$26.784	10	3	2	1.500 €
Czech Republic	3.757 €	\$22.942	411	3	7	3.000 €
Denmark	2.506 €	\$61.153	98	7	4	3.300 €
Estonia	1.644 €	\$23.035	88	3	4	2.100 €
Faroe Islands	470 €	\$61.153	15	7	2	1.350 €
Finland	2.897 €	\$48.786	97	5	4	2.700 €
France	3.757 €	\$40.298	673	5	8	3.900 €
Germany	4.306 €	\$46.215	933	5	8	3.900 €
Hungary	2.035 €	\$15.866	274	2	6	2.400 €
Iceland	1.644 €	\$59.643	80	6	4	3.000 €
Italy	1.644 €	\$31.604	120	4	5	2.700 €
Latvia	1.252 €	\$17.549	89	2	4	1.800 €
Liechtenstein	1.252 €	\$87.366	1	8	1	2.700 €
Luxembourg	1.644 €	\$116.921	9	8	1	2.700 €
Netherlands	3.289 €	\$52.456	110	6	5	3.300 €
Norway	3.289 €	\$67.326	350	7	7	4.200 €
Poland	2.506 €	\$15.699	340	2	7	2.700 €
Portugal	1.644 €	\$24.296	54	3	4	2.100 €
Serbia	1.252 €	\$7.645	72	1	4	1.500 €
Slovakia	2.506 €	\$19.144	183	2	5	2.100 €
Slovenia	1.644 €	\$25.548	65	3	4	2.100 €
Spain	2.897 €	\$27.179	762	3	8	3.300 €
Sweden	3.289 €	\$52.129	280	6	6	3.600 €
Switzerland	4.306 €	\$87.366	393	8	7	4.500 €

Table 2: Determination of the GDP and association factors according to the situation in 2024.

GDP per capita (in U.S. dollars)	GDP Factor	Number of member music schools	Association Factor
Below 10.000	1	Below 10	1
10.000 to 20.000	2	10 to 20	2
20.000 to 30.000	3	20 to 50	3
30.000 to 40.000	4	50 to 100	4
40.000 to 50.000	5	100 to 200	5
50.000 to 60.000	6	200 to 300	6
60.000 to 70.000	7	300 to 500	7
Above 70.000	8	Above 500	8

Adopted by the EMU General Assembly in St. Pölten on May 31, 2024.

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