

Formal session

Agenda Item F3: Members approval

Document F3.4: Member contribution calculation principles

The EuroGOOS Member contribution discussion committee together with the Office prepared this document. The membership contribution committee together with the Executive Directors Board and EuroGOOS Office proposes EuroGOOS General Assembly approve the member contribution calculation principles as presented in this document.

BACKGROUND

At the EuroGOOS General Assembly meeting on 28 May 2021, a discussion was introduced regarding the 2024 Member contributions. The current method builds on a GDP and GDP per capita calculation. With document F4.5 (2021 General Assembly), the EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board and Office proposed a change of the Member contribution according to the countries' GDP outcomes changes as the calculation of the current membership fees is based on the GDP values from 2013. In the following discussions, the adequacy of the GDP-based calculation was raised, and the concept of an equal fee to reflect equal rights was introduced. The establishment of a committee that will deliver a document with several member contribution options and their rationale for the following EuroGOOS Annual General Assembly Meeting in 2022 was agreed upon.

Three options were presented at the EuroGOOS Annual General Assembly Meeting on 25 May 2022: i) continue with the same approach as for previous years (mixed GDP approach) but updated with GDP of recent years (the calculations are based on GDP values in 2013); ii) switch to a GDP per capita based on PPS (Purchasing Power Standards) approach; iii) use a flat rate to all members (estimated to be 8.6K). No consensus was reached, so the discussion was to be continued at the EuroGOOS Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting on 22 August 2022.

The EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board suggested to take forward only an option based on GDP per capita in PPS as the best available compromise that could potentially be acceptable to Members. The consensus threshold of 75% of votes was not met, the proposal was rejected, and the EuroGOOS Member fees remained unchanged. The Committee was tasked to continue the discussion and propose alternative solutions at the 2023 EuroGOOS Annual General Assembly Meeting and extend the GDP per capita in PPS approach with the linear calculation option. Two other suggestions were made at the meeting to be considered and developed further: i) RBINS proposed an approach based on the national median salary; ii) HCMR proposed following the modified EMBRC model with different weights of flat rate (60 %), GDP (20 %), GDP per capita substituting the GDP parts with the R&D funding and a number of researchers involved in the R&D. A suggestion of asking for an external expert opinion was also made.

The Committee (Annex 1) convened on 20 January 2023 and discussed the GDP per Capita in PPS approach with the linear calculation option, but also the other proposed alternative options. The HCMR's proposal was withdrawn before and RBINS's after the meeting. It was decided to call for an extended meeting and discuss ways forward with all EuroGOOS Member Delegates.

The extended meeting was held on 8 February 2023, and the GDP per capita in PPS approach with the linear calculation was introduced. The meeting agreed that: i) the fee levels to be calculated based on GDP per capita in PPS linear model; ii) the maximum and minimum fee levels to be set; iii) the maximum fee level increase for any individual Member Organisation does not exceed 100%. Those agreed principles were shared with all EuroGOOS Member Delegates and another extended committee meeting was called on 6 March 2023.

The extended committee meeting on 6 March 2023 agreed on the principles presented in the next section.

The extended committee proposed to leave the discussion on if and how to consider inflation at the EuroGOOS Annual General Assembly Meeting in Brussels on 31 May 2023.

CALCULATION PRINCIPLES BASED ON THE GDP PER CAPITA LINEAR MODEL APPROACH

The membership contribution committee together with the Executive Directors Board and EuroGOOS Office proposes the following membership fee calculation principles to be approved by the General Assembly on 31 May 2023:

- i) the EuroGOOS membership fee is calculated based on [GDP per capita](#) in PPS linear model Annex 2);
- ii) the latest GDP per capita in PPS values available are used to find a three-year average (preferably 2020-2022), the new fees will be implemented in 2025;
- iii) the maximum and minimum fee levels are set (12 000 and 6 000, respectively);
- iv) the maximum fee level increase for any individual Member Organisation does not exceed 100%;
- v) a minimum of 395 000 euros as a total annual member contribution will be used as the base in the calculations;
- vi) recalculation is done after every three years (e.g., next time in 2026, to be implemented in 2028).

Table 1. The change in member fee and total income estimated considering the fee classes based on GDP per capita in PPS (*average of 2020-2021).

Country	GDP per capita in PPS 2020-2022	New fee	Current fee	Change in % (+/-)	Members per country	Total
Ireland	219.3	12 000	8 500	41	1	12 000
Norway	154.5*	12 000	10 000	20	4	48 000
Denmark	134.0	11 800	8 500	39	2	23 600
Netherlands	130.0	11 400	8 500	34	3	34 200
Sweden	121.3	10 700	8 500	26	1	10 700
Germany	120.0	10 600	12 000	12	2	21 200
Belgium	120.0	10 600	8 500	25	2	21 200
Finland	111.7	9 800	8 500	15	1	9 800
France	103	9 100	12 000	24	3	27 300
UK	101.0*	8 900	12 000	26	3	26 700
Italy	95.0	8 400	10 000	16	6	50 400
Spain	90.3	7 400	10 000	26	5	37 000
Slovenia	87.3	7 000	3 500	100	2	14 000
Estonia	83.7	7 000	3 500	100	1	7 000
Poland	77.3	6 800	5 000	36	3	20 400
Portugal	76.0	6 700	5 000	34	2	13 400
Croatia	69.3	6 100	3 500	74	2	12 200
Greece	64.7	6 000	5 000	20	1	6 000
TOTAL					44	395 100

Committee to review member contribution

Henning Wehde	EuroGOOS Board/IMR	Norway
Corine Lochet	EuroGOOS Board/SHOM	France
Lucie Cocquempot	Ifremer	France
Veronique Creach	CEFAS	UK
Fiona Grant	Marine Institute	Ireland
Urmas Lips	Tallinn University of Technology	Estonia
Emma Reyes Reyes	SOCIB	Spain
Simona Simoncelli	INGV	Italy
Sebastien Legrand	RBINS	Belgium
Inga Lips	EuroGOOS office	Belgium

Calculation approach

Member fees are calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{FEE} = (\text{A}/100) * \text{B}$$

where

A – three-year average GDP per capita in PPS

B – fee corresponding to GDP per capita in PPS equal to 100 (it is found to guarantee a minimum of the total membership contribution of 395 000 euros; 8 800 euros were used in the calculation for 2025)

Member fees are rounded to the closest hundred euros (no fee classes are used).

The maximum and minimum fee levels are applied (12 000 and 6 000, respectively) – if the fee is greater than 12 000 euros the fee of 12 000 euros is used, and if the fee is lower than 6 000 euros the fee of 6 000 euros is used.

For the 2025 fee calculation, the maximum fee increase of 100 % for any individual Member Organisation is applied.