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**E7c: Membership fee proposals
v2, 2 Sep 2019**

**Background**

In 2018, the General Assembly revised the voting weights at the General Assembly. As of 2019, all full members (both National Networks and European Organisations (EO) of EAPN have the same number of votes at the GA, and this number is currently set at 3. The 2018 GA recognised that this would necessitate a change in our Membership Fees / Voluntary Contributions, and mandated the Ex Co to make a proposal for the 2019 GA. This document entails three proposals. An original proposal created by the Bureau, titled ‘Sliding Scale’. In addition, further discussions led by the Treasurer, with EAPN Netherlands, EAPN Germany, EAPN Czech Republic, EAPN Slovakia and FEANTSA led to the formation of a second and third proposal.

**A reminder – the old system**

Fees were set to match the number of votes networks had, which varied from 2 to 8, depending on the population of the country. All EOs had 2 votes. 1 vote = 200 euros, so fees ranged from 400 euros to 1600 euros. 100% payment of these fees would have provided approximately 32000 euros. In reality, the fees provided between 15000 and 20000 per year, as many members did not pay.

**Principles behind the Bureau’s proposal (‘Sliding Scale’)**

**Principle 1:** Our membership fee structure should embody our belief in the possibility to achieve a better sharing of wealth, opportunities and resources, and the value we place on solidarity within our network.

**Principle 2:** All members have a ‘basic’ membership fee (600 euros, maintaining the 200 euro per vote principle). Total fee based on a ‘sliding scale’, based on the self-reported annual income of each member.

**Principle 3:** Our membership fees should be obligatory

**Principle 4:** This change in membership fees should be introduced in 2020, recognising that this change will need to be discussed within members own structures. In 2019, members will be invited to pay the same amount of membership fees in 2018.

**Proposal 1: Sliding Scale**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Annual Income level** | **Basic fee** | **Additional fee based on income** | **Total fee** | **Estimated number of members** |
| 0 – 100 000 euros  | 600 | 0 | 600 | 23 |
| 100 000 – 250 000  | 600 | 400 | 1000 | 9 |
| 250 000 – 500 000 | 600 | 1200 | 1800 | 7 |
| 500 000 – 1 million | 600 | 1600  | 2200 | ? |
| 1 million +  | 600 | 2200 | 2800 | 2 |

 **Exceptions**

The Bureau recognises that some members may want to pay, but simply be unable to do so. This is a different case to members who do not pay and do not communicate that they will not pay. The Bureau will put in place clear criteria and a clear process to deal with situations where members cannot / do not pay.

**Proposal 2: Symbolism and Solidarity**

This proposal aims to enable all national networks to pay a symbolic fee, and EOs to express solidarity by paying more. All **National Networks** have a membership fee of **300 euros**, therefore, 100 euros per vote. In addition, **EOs** have a fee of **1000 euros**. The networks that may encounter extreme difficulties may negotiate this participation.

**Proposal 3: Baseline and Solidarity**

This proposal aims to establish a clear baseline fee, to allow the wealthier networks to express their solidarity by paying more, and to keep the EOs onboard by having the same fee as the National Networks.

**National Networks** have a basic membership fee of **450 euros,** therefore, 150 euros per vote. **A higher fee of 900 euros applies to self-selecting National Networks who say they can pay 900 euros**. Members who can maintain a higher fee level are encouraged to do so. In addition, **EOs** also have a fee **of 450 euros.** In the possible case of EOs wanting to pay more, they are more than welcome to.

**Comparing the three proposals**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Proposal 1** | **Proposal 2** | **Proposal 3** |
| **Basic Membership Fee:** | 200 Euros per vote (600 Euros total) | 100 Euros per vote (300 Euros total) | 150 Euros per vote (450 Euros total) |
| **Additional Fees:** | Based on annual income (see table above) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | 900 Euros for national networks who are able to pay more * Members who in 2018 are paying a fee more than 900 Euros are invited to keep doing so
 |
| **European Organizations:** | Based on annual income (see table above) | 1000 Euros  | 450 Euros |
| **Total Possible:** | Roughly 45 000 Euros | Roughly 22 600 Euros  | Roughly 30 000 Euros |

 **Using fees**

Fees will be used according to the reserves policy agreed by Ex Co in April 2019.

**A final question to consider**

Membership fees / voluntary contributions cannot be funded through the EaSI budget – the main budget line of many of our EOs. If we link the fees to participation in the General Assembly, EOs may find it easier to contribute. The disadvantage of this option is that these funds could no longer be used as co-financing, under Commission rules.

**Moving forward**

The Ex Co is invited to take a decision, by vote if needed, to propose to the General Assembly, following our Statutes, article 7, ‘’The amount is set by the General Assembly on a proposal from the Executive Committee.’’