

Broadcasting licence fee (GEZ)

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Television and radio broadcasters can be divided into two groups: private broadcasting and public broadcasting. Private broadcasting is financed by advertising. Public service broadcasting is largely financed by the licence fee.

Further information at  [Arabic](#),  [Chinese](#),  [German](#),  [English](#),  [French](#),  [Russian](#),  [Spanish](#),  [Ukrainian](#).

What does GEZ mean?

GEZ is a historical term. It is the abbreviation of "Gebühreneinzugszentrale", which used to be responsible for collecting the licence fee (until 2012). The responsible body is now called "Beitragsservice". Nevertheless, many people still say "GEZ".


Who has to pay the licence fee?

The licence fee must be paid for each flat. If several people live in a flat, only one person has to pay.

The contribution must be paid even if the service is not used. It does not matter whether or not you have a television or radio in your household.

Please note: If you live in an asylum centre, you do not have to pay the fee. If you still receive a letter, please contact the counselling service in your asylum accommodation.

Who does not have to pay the contribution?

Some people have to pay less or no contribution at all. People who receive social benefits such as citizens' allowance (SGB II), asylum benefits or basic income support can be exempted from paying the licence fee. You can find more information at  [here](#).

You must complete a  [application](#) for exemption or reduction.

If you have any questions:

 [Contact form](#)

 [0180699955510](tel:0180699955510) ( from Monday to Friday 7:00 - 19:00; costs: 20 cent per call)