



Federal Association of the Digital Economy (BVDW) e.V. – Membership Fee Regulations

According to the resolution of the general meeting on June 25, 2025.

§ 1. Membership fee obligation

- (1) All members of the association – with the exception of honorary members – pay a membership fee. No admission fees are charged.
- (2) To calculate their membership fees, members must submit their fee revenues (category A), commission volumes (category B), or total revenues (category C) to the BVDW member service as the basis for assessing their membership fees, depending on their category.

§ 2. Full members

- (1) The membership fee for full members is determined for the various categories (categories A, B, or C) in accordance with the following provisions. To calculate the membership fee amount, the determined basis for assessing membership fees is transferred to the following membership fee table.

The total contribution is calculated by adding the corresponding contribution shares (minimum contribution plus the respective percentage of the corresponding difference and all previous contributions) from the contribution table below.

Turnover / order volume		Contribution in euros / Percentages	
from euros	to euros		
- €	250,000 €	900	50% minimum contribution
250,000	€500,000	€1,800	Minimum contribution
€500,000	€750,000	0.12400%	on difference €250,000
€750,000	€1,000,000	0.18463%	on difference €250,000
€1,000,000	€1,250,000	0.15825%	on difference €250,000
€1,250,000	€1,750,000	0.13188%	on difference €500,000
€1,750,000	€2,500,000	0.11605%	on difference €750,000
€2,500,000	€3,750,000	0.07913%	on difference €1,250,000
€3,750,000	€7,000,000	0.05275%	on difference €2,250,000
€7,000,000	€10,000,000	0.03693%	on difference €3,000,000
€10,000,000	€15,000,000	0.02638%	on difference €5,000,000
€15,000,000	€25,000,000	0.02321%	on difference €10,000,000
€25,000,000	€35,000,000	0.02005%	on difference €10,000,000
€35,000,000	€50,000,000	0.01978%	on difference €15,000,000
€50,000,000	€75,000,000	0.01925%	on difference €25,000,000
€75,000,000	€100,000,000	0.01899%	on difference €25,000,000
€100,000,000	€150,000,000	0.01583%	on difference €50,000,000
€150,000,000	€250,000,000	0.00739%	on difference €100,000,000
€250,000,000	€500,000,000	0.00227%	on difference €250,000,000
over	€500,000,000	0.00000%	

- (2) The minimum contribution is set at EUR 1,800.
- (3) The minimum contribution, contribution amount, and assessment bases are reviewed every two years at the general meeting to determine whether adjustments are necessary.

Category A: Service providers in the digital economy

Service providers in the digital economy report their fee revenue for the purpose of calculating their contribution. Fee revenue includes all fees and commissions generated in Germany from customer-specific consulting and implementation services for all service areas as defined by the BVDW for the digital economy (no hosting or access revenue). Only net revenues (excluding VAT) in the area of solutions for all common interactive platforms are to be included in the fee-based turnover:

- Consulting
- Concept
- Implementation (design and programming services)
- Other fees from advertising agency revenues (media, excluding VAT, minus discounts and bonuses)
- Commissions
- License revenues



Category B: Clients for digital economy services

Clients for digital economy services report the order volume or budget (excluding VAT) for the purpose of calculating contributions.

Category C: Digital economy providers

Providers of digital economy services report their total turnover (excluding VAT) for the purpose of calculating their contribution.

- (4) The membership fee is calculated based on the turnover of the previous year according to the information provided in the balance sheet or income statement. Each member is generally required to report their turnover and the number of employees. The turnover must be reported by the company's tax advisor or auditor.
- (5) If a new member is unable to provide proof of turnover for the year before last due to the date of its market entry (e.g. date of entry in the commercial register) cannot provide proof of turnover for the previous year, a turnover estimate for the current financial year must be submitted, which, in consultation with the executive committee, serves as the basis for a provisional turnover classification to determine the amount of the contribution to be paid in accordance with § 2. If the turnover actually proven at a later date justifies a higher turnover classification, the member is obliged to pay the difference in contributions resulting from the provisional and actual turnover classification. If the actual turnover classification is lower, the member is entitled to a refund of the corresponding difference in contributions.
- (6) The reporting of turnover and number of employees must be treated confidentially by the association's employees. Inspection by third parties, including the association's cash auditors, is excluded.
- (7) The contribution assessment basis for the previous year must be reported by November 30 of the current contribution year for the following contribution year. If a regular member does not provide evidence of the previous year's turnover by November 30 of the current contribution year, or does not do so in accordance with the contribution regulations, the turnover for the following year will be estimated by the executive committee and the corresponding contribution class will be determined. An appeal against this determination is permissible. It must be submitted in writing, with proof of the previous year's turnover, to the office no later than six weeks (receipt by the association) after submission of the invoice. The executive committee shall decide on the merits of the appeal.
- (8) The membership fee for affiliated companies of a member within the meaning of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG) can be calculated as follows upon request and upon presentation of evidence: a base amount of EUR 10,000 for the group and 50% of the regular contribution for each company in the group. The Presidium shall decide on the application by resolution.
- (9) The membership fee for agencies based in Germany that belong to an agency network subject to the Sarbanes Oxley Act can be calculated as follows upon request and upon presentation of proof: a base amount of EUR 9,000 plus EUR 3,000 for each agency belonging to the group. Membership of the respective network must be reported to the membership administration. The Presidium shall decide on the application by resolution.
- (10) The membership fee for digitally transforming companies is set at EUR 9,000. This is subject to recognition by the Presidium as a digitally transforming company.
- (11) In justified individual cases, the Executive Committee may decide on special arrangements and, if necessary, impose conditions.

§ 3. Special members
Special members pay an annual membership fee of 50% of the fee applicable to regular members in the respective category. The fees are non-refundable even if the special member does not exercise their membership rights or terminates their membership prematurely.

§ 4. Supporting members
The membership fee for supporting members is 50% of the minimum fee. Public educational institutions (including universities and technical colleges) are exempt from the obligation to pay membership fees. Each supporting member is entitled to voluntarily pay a higher than the mandatory supporting contribution to support the association. The voluntary amount is available for the purposes of the association in the same way as a membership fee.

§ 5. Due date and billing

- (1) The membership fee is due 21 (twenty-one) days after invoicing for the current calendar year in advance.
- (2) If the contribution is not paid on time, the member is obliged to reimburse the association for the necessary costs and expenses incurred as a result of the collection.
- (3) If a member joins during the calendar year, the membership fee is only payable pro rata for the remaining full months of the year of joining. The resulting membership fee is due for payment 21 (twenty-one) days after invoicing.
- (4) The member is obliged to notify the association's office immediately of any changes that lead to a different membership status. Subsequent claims or refunds of membership fees are possible within the statutory limitation periods.
- (5) If a member leaves the association during the calendar year, the full annual fee is still payable.
- (6) In the event of a company conversion, the assessment of contributions for the current calendar year remains unaffected; all transferring and acquiring legal entities are jointly and severally liable for the contribution liabilities, including any payment arrears.
- (7) Newly founded companies or companies created in any other way (demerger, spin-off, conversion, etc.) will be assessed independently from the beginning of the calendar year following their registration. In the event of a merger, the membership fee for the following year shall be calculated irrevocably on the basis of the sum of the annual turnover reported by the previous member companies and non-member companies in the current calendar year. In the event of a demerger, § 2 (1) and (2) shall apply in the following year.
- (8) The Presidium may decide on special arrangements in justified individual cases.

§ 6. Entry into force
These membership fee regulations shall enter into force on January 1, 2026.