



10. PROPOSAL RECLASSIFY TIERS PARTICIPANT FEES

Introduction

Inclusivity and equity are part of LIBER's core values. The LIBER foundation has always aimed to support its members with tools, training, and services and at the same time to keep annual fees affordable for a majority of Europe's research libraries.

In 2019 a new fee structure was approved by the Meeting of Participants. Three bands – tiers – were introduced based on national GDP per capita based on IMF data (see: [World Economic Outlook \(October 2023\) - GDP per capita, current prices \(imf.org\)](#)), and the number of inhabitants per country. The three tiers reflect different financial realities among LIBER member institutes: Category A (above \$30,000); Category B (\$15–30,000) and Category C (below \$15,000).

Every year, the LIBER Office checks the application of the tiers used to determine membership fees against the classification of participants in the various categories. With the check for 2024, it stood out that as many as seven countries would be placed in a higher category: Estonia, Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Lithuania would move from category B to A (26 participants), and Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey from C to B (19 participants). In total, this concerns 45 participants: 42 Institutional and 3 Organisational members.

Based on the assumption that economies tend to grow, GDP will also increase. At the point when the GDP levels chosen for the tiers remain the same, it will entail that likely almost all countries in Europe will at some point move to a higher tier.

Proposal to reclassify tiers per 1 January 2025

LIBER attaches importance to equity and makes great efforts to attract members in the regions concerned. Therefore, LIBER proposes to reclassify the tier levels in such a way that equity and inclusivity of all members across Europe is guaranteed and that the new classification can be used for several years.

The LIBER Executive Board proposes to reclassify the tier level with \$5,000 for all tiers. This leads to the following reclassification per 1 January 2025:

Tier	Level of GDP p/capita per 1 January 2025
A	Above \$35,000
B	Between \$20 – 35,000
C	Below \$20,000

The LIBER Executive Board decided in their February 2024 meeting that – awaiting further decisions, the membership fees for 2024 would follow the categorisation that was used in 2023. All institutes stayed in the same category and were invoiced accordingly for their



2024 membership fee.

Request to the Meeting of Participants:

The Meeting of Participants is requested to approve the proposal to amend the tier levels with \$ 5,000 each to: Category A (above \$35,000); Category B (\$20–35,000) and Category C (below \$20,000)

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