



# HAMBOORG.CITY

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## Rundfunkbeitrag (GEZ) — Public Broadcasting Fee in Germany

Rundfunkbeitrag is a mandatory fee in Germany (€18.36/month) for public radio and TV services, charged per household regardless of the number of residents.

**Deutsche Begriffe:** Rundfunkbeitrag | GEZ | Beitragsservice | ARD | ZDF

☐ **Full, up-to-date guide:** Rundfunkbeitrag (GEZ)

## Rundfunkbeitrag (GEZ)

### What is it?

**Rundfunkbeitrag** (formerly GEZ) is a mandatory fee for public radio and TV (ARD, ZDF, Deutschlandfunk).

### How much does it cost?

**€18.36 monthly** = €55.08 quarterly

### Who must pay?

**Every household** — not a person, not a TV set, a HOUSEHOLD.

- You live alone: you pay €18.36
- You live with a partner: together €18.36
- You live in a shared flat: one person pays for everyone

## Who is exempt?

- **Bürgergeld recipients** (ALG II)
- **BAföG recipients**
- **Deaf/blind persons** (partially)
- **Home caregiver in a household with one disabled person**

Exemption = you must submit an application (Befreiungsantrag)!

## How to register?

After registration (Anmeldung) you **automatically** receive a letter from Beitragsservice.

If you didn't receive it — register yourself: [rundfunkbeitrag.de](http://rundfunkbeitrag.de)

## How to pay?

- Bank transfer (Überweisung) — quarterly
- SEPA direct debit (Lastschrift) — more convenient

## What if you don't pay?

1. Payment reminder (Zahlungserinnerung)
2. Dunning notice (Mahnung)
3. Enforcement order (Vollstreckungsersuchen)
4. **Bailiff execution!**

Debt can grow very quickly (interest + fees).

## Moving

- You deregister: notify Beitragsservice (Abmeldung)
- New apartment: report the change (Ummeldung)
- You move in with someone: you don't pay twice

## Can I refuse to pay?

**NO.** It's a legal obligation. It doesn't matter:

- Whether you have a TV
- Whether you watch public channels
- Whether you have internet/radio

## Important!

- Beitragsservice knows about your registration — you can't hide
- GEZ debt can freeze your account
- Arrears don't disappear for 30 years

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[hamboorg.city/knowledge/article/rundfunkbeitrag/](https://hamboorg.city/knowledge/article/rundfunkbeitrag/)  
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