

THE ISSUE OF REGULATION OF RTV SUBSCRIPTION

BULGARIA

1) *METHOD OF FIXING AND THE AMOUNT OF SUBSCRIPTION*

Monthly RTV subscription totals 0.6% of the minimum national salary for individuals and 2.5% for legal entities, state and municipal organizations – based on each registered electricity meter.

2) *THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION*

RTV subscription is paid through the electricity bill. Persons who do not possess a radio or TV set or are unable to receive radio and television program are exempt from the obligation to pay subscription. Such persons sign a statement to this end; competent services have the right to verify this statement. In the event it turns out that the statement is untrue, such persons pay subscription in the double amount from the day that the statement was signed till the day when it was proved to be false.

Persons with impaired hearing and sight up to the second degree are exempt from subscription payment.

3) *DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME FROM SUBSCRIPTION AMONG NATIONATION, REGIONAL AND LOCAL MEDIA*

In Bulgaria, there is a Radio and Television Fund (hereinafter: the Fund) managed by the Managing Board whose members are appointed by the Council for electronic media. The Managing Board must include a representative of the Ministry of Finance, a representative of the Ministry for Transport and Telecommunications, a representative of public service broadcasters and a representative of commercial broadcasters.

Subscription money is one of sources of income of the Fund (along with the income from initial and annual fees for issuing the licenses for operation of broadcasters) and it is used to finance Bulgarian National Radio (BNR) and Bulgarian National Television (BNT).

Other sources of funding of BNR and BNT are subsidies from the national budget, own earnings from advertisements and sponsorships, donations, legacies, etc.

Within their own budgets, Managing Boards of BNR and BNT approve budgets for operation of regional radio and television centers as well as of their other structural units.