

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING METHODS AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF BROADCASTERS AS SET BY MEDIA LAWS

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Radio and Television Act stipulates the existence of Radio and Television Fund. This Fund is used for financing of Bulgarian National Radio and Bulgarian National Television, Council for Electronic Media, projects of national significance – including new technology and significant cultural and educational projects. The financial sources of the Fund are monthly subscription, founding and annual fees for use of licenses for program broadcasting, donations, legacies and bequests, and other sources.

Bulgarian National Radio and Bulgarian National Television are financed from the Radio and Television Fund, aid from the national budget, own income from advertisements and sponsorships, donations, legacies and bequests, and additional income from activities related to radio and TV operations.

Monthly radio-television subscription totals 0.6% of the minimum national salary for citizens and 2.5% for companies.

The Law does not treat the funding of private broadcasters. It does stipulate, however, that it is necessary to submit documents substantiating the origin of capital and money for three previous years when applying for broadcasting license. Also, it stipulates that companies, which have been bankrupt or liquidated in the previous five years, cannot apply for the license.

The Law does not fix amounts of broadcasting fees, but only fines for illegal broadcasting.

Article 32 lists the powers of the Council, among which are the decisions on issues related to granting of licenses to radio and TV operators (point 1, paragraph 9), opening of public competition for granting of licenses (point 14), and decision on «competition winners», i.e. license grantees (point 15). Articles 105 and 116 explain the license granting procedure.

Article 126 fixes monetary fines ranging from 2 million to 15 million leva (EUR 1,022,165-7,666,242) for a series of violations, including broadcasting without a license.