

Guaranteed minimum resources

Applicable statutory basis

ALBANIA

- Law no. 9355, date 10.03.2005 "On social services and assistance" last amendment by law no. 44/2016, dated 21.4.2016.
- Law no. 7889, date 14.12.1994 on Work Invalids, (as amended)
- Law no. 8098, date 28.3.1996 on the Blind, amended in 15.3.2012.
- Law no. 8626, date 22.6.2000, on Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Invalids amended in 13.5.2012 .
- Law no.8092, date 21.3.1996 on Mental Health
- Law no. 8153, date 1.10.1996 on Orphans , amended by the Law no. 9233, dated 13.05.2004.

(last update of information (Albania) (2019)

ARMENIA

- RA Law "On State benefits"
December 12, 2013
- RA Government Resolution No. 145 of 30 January, 2014.
 - RA Government Resolution No. 61 of 25 January, 2018

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH:
No special scheme

Republika Srpska:
Law on Social Protection (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, 37/12, 90/16 and 94/19)
Law on Social Housing ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska" No. 54/19)
Law on Displaced Persons, Returnees and Refugees in Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska" No. 42/05 and 52/12)

Brčko District of BiH, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Social Protection (Official Gazette of BD BiH, 32/19), through systemic reform, significantly changed the right to allowance for care and assistance from another person, and according to the incapacity of the person, ie adjusted its functional state in the manner of guaranteed funds.

GEORGIA

Law on Social Assistance.
Order of Government of Georgia No 145 28.07.2006.
Decree No 758 of 31 December 2014 on "Approval of the assessment methodology of socio-economic conditions of socially vulnerable families (households)".

MONTENEGRO

Law on Social and Child Welfare, 2013/2014/2015/2016/2017/2021/2023.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Law on Social Protection (Закон за социјалната заштита) Official Gazette No. 104/2019, adopted on 23 May 2019 as amended on several occasions and supplemented by extensive guidelines.
Law on Social Security of Elderly (Закон за социјална сигурност за старите лица) Official Gazette No. 104/2019, adopted on 23 May 2019.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Government Decision no. 1167 of 16.10.2008 approving the Regulation on how establishing and payment of social aid.

SERBIA

Law on Social Protection, 2011/2022.

TÜRKIYE

Payment of pension to the elderly (65 years and over) and disabled people in need Act of 01.07.1976 No. 2022

UKRAINE

Law of Ukraine "On state social standards and social guarantees"

Law of Ukraine "On state social assistance to low-income families; On state social assistance to disabled from childhood and disabled children; On state social assistance to persons not entitled to a pension, and persons with disabilities

(last update of information by Ukraine 2019)

Basic principles

ALBANIA

The basic principles are:

- a) respect and guarantee of the values and personality of the individual;
- b) universality;
- c) equal opportunities;
- ç) the right to benefit;
- d) partnerships;
- dh) transparency and impartiality;
- e) decentralization;
- é) independence, social integration and participation in community life;
- f) non-discrimination;
- g) subsidizing character;

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Social assistance financed by state budget.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH: No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

The right to financial assistance is prescribed by the Law at the level of the Republika Srpska, and local self-government units may, by their decision, prescribe other rights in accordance with the needs of the population. The right to financial assistance may be exercised by a person incapable of work, who has no income of his own or whose total income is below the level of financial assistance determined by law, who has no surplus housing or other property from the value of which subsistence means can be provided, who does not have maintenance payers who are obliged to support him in accordance with the Family Law or if those relatives are not able to support him due to disability and other objective impediments. The law stipulates that the amount of the right to financial assistance is determined as a percentage of the average net salary in the Republic realized in the previous year, depending on the number of family members.

Objective: to provide minimum means for subsistence to a person who is not able to provide these means by his work or in any other way.

The right to financial assistance is financed from the budget of the Republika Srpska in the amount of 50% and from the budget of local self-government units in the amount of 50%.

The applicant is guaranteed the right to financial assistance if he meets the conditions provided by law.

The amount of the rights varies depending on the income of the beneficiary: if the person earns his / her own income, the amount of financial assistance is determined as the difference between the amount of financial assistance and the amount of the average monthly income of the person

Brčko District of BiH:

- the applicant is guaranteed the right to profit / compensation if he meets the conditions provided for in Articles 43 and 43a. Law on Social Protection (allowance for care and assistance from another person);

- fixed profit: each recipient receives a fixed payment unrelated to their income (care and assistance allowance from another person);

GEORGIA

Cash benefits for families living under the poverty line. General non-contributory scheme. Benefits are organized centrally. The goal of the scheme is to cover disadvantaged population who cannot escape extreme poverty by economic activities with targeted social assistance. Legal qualification - subjective right.

MONTENEGRO

Non-contributory scheme of family cash benefits (social assistance benefits) for persons in particular situations.

Eligible for benefits are Montenegrin citizens with the permanent place of residence in the territory of the state, as well as foreigners who have been granted the right to a temporary or permanent stay in the state, asylum seekers and foreigners under subsidiary protection, in accordance with a special law.

Benefits are financed from the State budget.

NORTH MACEDONIA

1) General non-contributory minimum

Guaranteed Minimum Assistance (GMA) which provides financial help for households that cannot provide means for existence in order to ensure their basic needs at the level of guaranteed minimum assistance. This benefit will be provided to all households who have an income below 4,809 MKD per adult equivalent per month (which is 27% of the minimum net wage). The amount of GMA is established in the Law on Social Protection. Differential benefit subject to means-test according to the composition of the household and household income.

2) Specific non-contributory minima - Cash benefit for social security of elderly

Older people who do not have the necessary resources to maintain themselves can receive cash benefit for old-age of a fixed amount.

The entitlement to both the general and specific schemes is subjective right for those who meet the conditions set by law. These schemes are non-contributory, financed by taxes. They are organised nationally and administered through Social Work Centers. Additionally, local self-government units may decide to grant higher amount of GMA or other cash benefits to the citizens in need.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Insurance of the minimal monthly income to the low-income families on the basis of the monthly average global income of the family.

This is a national system and the payment of the social aid established by the territorial structures of social assistance is performed from the state budget.

Social aid is established by the territorial structure of social assistance.

SERBIA

Providing legally guaranteed level of social security, paid as a differential amount (difference of family income and guaranteed level).

TÜRKIYE

By this law, the Republic of Türkiye provides allowances for destitute elderly and disabled persons. By the Law No 5510 article 60 (c)-3 they have been taken under the universal health insurance system.

There are different kinds of payments for various groups in the scope of the Law No 2022:

- Payment of pensions to the elderly (65 years and over) who are destitute and in need of protection. The basic aim of elderly pension is to support the elderly who are not receiving any.
 - Social security pension or,
 - Allowance or,
 - Regular income.
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- Payment of pensions to disabled people with disability degree of at least 40%. There are two levels of pension payments for disabled persons depending on the degree of disability. Benefits are granted to disabled persons with disability degrees as 40%-69% and 70% and over.
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- Payment for persons caring for their disabled relatives who are under the age of 18.

Also, a payment is made for silicosis patients when there is a loss of at least 15% professional earning capacities.

Conditions to become entitled to the benefits according to the Law No 2022:

- Persons should not have a right to benefit from any pension or income in the scope of social security.
- The monthly household income per capita of these persons should not exceed to one third of minimum net wage.
- Persons should be respectively Turkish citizens aged 65 years or more, disabled aged 18 years or more or having a disabled relative aged below 18 years.

Persons who will benefit from this payment due to silicosis should have lost their professional earning capacity by at least 15%. The loss of earning capacity degree is determined by Medical Board of Social Security Institution (SSI).

UKRAINE

Unlimited in time, defined by economic situation of the family

(last update 2019)

Field of application

ALBANIA

1. Families in need.
2. Orphans, who are not placed in institutions.
3. Parents with more than 2 children born at once, belonging to families in need.
4. Victims of trafficking, after leaving the social care institutions, up to the moment of their employment.
5. Victims of domestic violence, for the period of validity of the protection order or immediate protection order, which are not placed with in social care institutions.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Poor families/individuals.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH: No special scheme
Republika Srpska:

The right can be exercised by persons incapable of work. The beneficiary of the right can be an individual or a family whose members all meet the conditions for exercising the right.

Brčko District of BiH:

The right derived from Articles 43 and 43a of the Law on Social Protection (allowance for care and assistance from another person) is support determined on an individual basis;

The right is determined at the request of the client / individually

GEORGIA

Households whose socio-economic conditions, assessed by special methodology, are below 65,000 points.

Households with a rating score below 120,001 points are entitled to receive child benefit for children under 16 years of age.

MONTENEGRO

A family member, if he/she :

1) Is incapable of work;

2) Is capable of work, under the condition:

she is expecting a child;

he/she is a single parent;

A parent maintaining a child, or a parent exercising prolonged parental right, in accordance with the law regulating family relations;

A person who has completed education according to the educational programme with adapted delivery and additional expert assistance or special educational programme;

A person who has turned 18, if he/she is attending regular secondary school education, until the end of the time limit prescribed for that education;

A child without parental care or a person who was a child without parental care, until he/she finds employment for a time period longer than six months.

The guardian, adoptive parent or person in whose trust the child has been placed for the provision of care, education and training.

NORTH MACEDONIA

1) General non-contributory minimum –Guaranteed Minimum Assistance

All persons part of households in material need, i.e. those without sufficient income and who are unable to increase their income through entitlements and claims or sale or other disposal of own assets (property).

The entitlement to support is determined on a household basis.

A household is defined as a one-member household or a community of family members and other relatives who do not have a legal obligation to provide for each other, but live together, contribute and spend.

In general, the support is claimed by an adult member of the household. The holder of the right can be one member of the household determined by the Social Work Center.

2) Specific non-contributory minima - Cash benefit for social security of elderly

Older persons 65+ who are without income and are unable to increase their income through entitlements and claims or sale or other disposal of own assets.

The entitlement to support is determined on a basis of community/household, which consists of the claimant and his/her spouse or cohabiting partner.

The support is claimed either by the elderly person/his guardian or his/her spouse/ cohabiting partner.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The right to social aid and aid for the cold period of the year benefits the disadvantaged family (a family that has an overall average monthly income lower than the guaranteed minimum monthly income and that has accumulated on the welfare indicators a score lower than or equal to that established for assessment of the family's well-being) if all its adult members fall into at least one of the following situations:

a) have reached the age required to establish the pension according to the legislation;

b) are persons classified in the degree of severe disability or in the degree of accentuated disability or they are persons classified in the degree of average disability since childhood;

c) are unemployed registered with the territorial employment agency and do not refuse to participate in activities of community interest;

d) in the period between the 30th week of pregnancy and the 12th week after birth if the child is born dead or dies during postnatal leave or cares for a child up to the age of 3 years;

e) care for a family member / family member who requires care by a third person according to the conclusion of the medical counseling council of the public health sanitary institution;

f) to realize income from full or part-time wages;

g) carries out an entrepreneurial activity in the following situations:

1) is the founder of an enterprise and, as a founder, in the last 3 months prior to the month of submitting the application for the granting of social assistance, he has earned income of no less than 3 minimum wages, resulting from the amount of the minimum monthly wage established according to the legislation, proven by the declaration own risk;

2) is a holder of an entrepreneur's license who, in the last 3 months prior to the month of submitting the application for the granting of social assistance, has earned income of no less than 3 minimum monthly wages, resulting from the amount of the minimum monthly wage established according to the legislation, proven by the self-declaration liability;

h) achieves income from activities related to the use of agricultural land owned and/or leased from the outskirts of the towns with an area of at least 0.5 ha cumulatively for one person and who in the previous year achieved income of no less than 0.5 minimum wages per month (monthly average), resulting from the amount of the monthly minimum wage established according to the legislation, proven by the self-responsible declaration;

i) have worked as day laborers for at least 60 cumulative days in the last 12 months prior to the month of registration of the application for the granting of social assistance, and in the case of persons with moderate disabilities - at least 40 cumulative days in the last 12 months prior to the month of registration of the application.

If the minor has the full exercise capacity in accordance with the Civil Code and confirms one of the occupational statutes provided in art. 5 of the Law no. 133/2008 regarding the social aid, is considered an adult within the meaning of this law.

EXCEPT:

- a) do not live at the address where they have their domicile, fact confirmed by the social investigation;
- b) executes a custodial sentence;
- c) satisfy the military service in due time;
- d) they are in state maintenance.

SERBIA

Any citizen of Republic in Serbia having income below the minimal level of social security determined by the Law. Foreigners and stateless persons may become beneficiaries in accordance with international agreements/law.

TÜRKIYE

Elderly (65 years and over)
Disabled (18 years and over)
Persons caring for dependent relatives who are disabled and under 18 years)

UKRAINE

Conditions

Nationality

ALBANIA

No nationality requirements.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Social benefit shall be granted to the families (individuals) whose insecurity score is higher than the marginal insecurity score. The family insecurity score is established on the basis of a number of indicators, in particular, the social group of each member of the family (disabled person, pensioner, unemployed person, single mother, adult having no active working capacity, etc.), the number of family members possessing no active working capacity, the place of residence, the housing conditions, the average annual income of the family, etc. Each characteristic has a numerical value, through which a family's insecurity score is calculated
The marginal insecurity score is set every year by the Government of RA (for 2023 is 28.00)

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH: No special scheme
Republika Srpska: No citizenship required
Brčko District of BiH: BiH citizenship is required

GEORGIA

No nationality requirements.

MONTENEGRO

Citizens of Montenegro with permanent residence and foreigners with an approved temporary or permanent stay in Montenegro.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Nationality required.

Claimants must be nationals of the Republic of North Macedonia with residence in the country. However, foreign nationals with regulated residence are also entitled to benefits in accordance with the Law on Social Protection and international treaties.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

All citizens, stateless persons, refugees and foreign citizens with legal residence in the Republic of Moldova.

SERBIA

See "Entitled persons/beneficiaries".

TÜRKIYE

Nationality required

UKRAINE

No nationality requirements.

(last update 2019)

Residence

ALBANIA

The following persons shall not benefit from this scheme economic aid or disability payment:

Albanian citizens living abroad as emigrants, with the exception of those persons and their families who have been appointed to work in our diplomatic missions and for international organizations.

Asylum seekers who have not yet been granted asylum.

Albanian citizens, foreign citizens, or persons without citizenship, who are in need of emergency assistance as a result of natural disasters or wars.

Persons who have been sentenced by a final court decision, deprived of their liberty.

Persons treated in public residential care institutions, that are funded by State Budget funds.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

No restriction.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH: No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

The condition is that the person has a permanent residence on the territory of the local self-government unit in which he / she seeks the exercise of rights, provided that no minimum period is specified.

Recognition of rights to foreign nationals granted international protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina is regulated by the Rulebook on the Manner of Exercising the Right to Social Assistance of Persons Recognized International Protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, 43/17)

Brčko District BiH:

The applicant must, inter alia, meet the conditions to have resided in the District for at least two years continuously until the date of application

GEORGIA

Permanent residents.

MONTENEGRO

Approved temporary or permanent stay is required.

NORTH MACEDONIA

See 1 : Nationality above

1) General non-contributory minimum –Guaranteed Minimum Assistance

Permanent residence i.e. residence authorized by the Ministry of Interior for an indefinite period is required for the foreign nationals. Persons with recognized refugee status and persons under subsidiary protection are entitled to GMA in accordance with the Law on Social Protection and Law on International and Temporary Protection (Закон за меѓународна и привремена заштита) as well as registered persons who had no personal identification.

2) Specific non-contributory minima - Cash benefit for social security of elderly

Claimants who are nationals of the Republic of North Macedonia must have permanent residence in the country in the last 15 years.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Legal residence required in the Republic of Moldova

SERBIA

Permanent residence in Serbia (exceptions are internally displaced persons who are treated as temporary residents).

TÜRKIYE

Permanent residents

UKRAINE

All residents

(last update 2019)

Age

ALBANIA

Economic assistance and disability allowances, no restriction of age or limited benefits in time.

Orphans that are not placed in social care institution. (No more age restriction)

The age of people with disabilities to be admitted to residential institutions is from 0-25 years

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

No restriction.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH: No special scheme

Republika Srpska: There are no minimum or maximum age limits for exercising the right

Brčko District of BiH: No

GEORGIA

Child benefit for children under 16 years of age is paid to targeted social assistance beneficiaries with a rating score under 120,001.

MONTENEGRO

Not applicable.

NORTH MACEDONIA

1) General non-contributory minimum – Guaranteed minimum assistance:

No age conditions.

2) Specific non-contributory minima – Cash benefit for social security of elderly:

Over 65 years of age.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

No special scheme.

SERBIA

Not dependent on age.

TÜRKIYE

Elderly: 65 years and over,

Invalid: 18 years and over,

Persons caring for dependent relatives: the disabled who is cared for, should be under 18 years of age.

UKRAINE

No restriction.

(last update 2019)

Means related conditions: a) Rights in rem (real property); b) Personal property (moveable assets); c) Income and (other) benefits; d) Exhaustion of other claims; e) Income excluded (exemption of resources)

ALBANIA

All resources that could be properly used to generate income (whether in cash or in-kind).

There are some resources which can not be calculated as income such as invalidity pensions for labour invalids, etc.

No distinct system of family benefits in operation, supplements added to other social benefits are taken into consideration as income when calculating guaranteed minimum.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Resources taken into account: All income and property owned by the household concerned.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH: No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

Surplus housing is taken into account, as well as other property from the value of which means of subsistence can be provided, provided that the person whose property is an obstacle to exercising the right, has the opportunity to transfer that property without compensation to the local self-government unit.

The following incomes are also taken into account: monthly personal income (income without taxes and contributions calculated as the average income realized in the previous three months), cadastral income, income from renting out immovable or movable property, income from other property rights to which it is paid tax, income from support on the basis of kinship and other legal bases, income from self-employment (income from self-employment in the previous year in accordance with the law governing the area of income tax).

Also, deposits given on savings, interest, cash, securities and the value of alienated property are considered as income, except in cases when the property is alienated in order to provide the costs of treatment and social care of persons. _____

The following benefits are not taken into account: income earned on the basis of the right to allowance for assistance and care of another person, child allowance, maternity allowance, right to personal disability, right to assistance for newborn equipment, prenatal benefit for a third-born or fourth-born child..

The realization of the stated compensations does not exclude the realization of the right to financial assistance

The beneficiary is obliged to use all other possibilities to provide means of subsistence in accordance with the law. Exceptionally, a person seeking maintenance from the person who is obliged to support him, may exercise the right to financial assistance until he realizes the right to maintenance, and that person is obliged to submit proof that he has initiated proceedings with the competent court to determine the maintenance obligation; or initiated proceedings to terminate the contract of lifetime support.

An individual or family members who have earned funds by selling property or donating their property and thus bringing themselves or their family into a state of social need are not entitled to financial assistance for a period for which the amount of assistance corresponds to the real estate transfer tax base.

Brčko District of BiH:

a) In the case of determining the right to permanent basic financial assistance, the following is taken as a property test: that there is no income, that there is no land with a total area of more than two dunums, that there is no more than one housing.

Since the establishment of the district, there have been no applicants who have given up their property in order to "enter" the social protection system.

b) Answered under a);

c) Social protection system, defines: Monthly income as total net income earned during one year divided into 12 months;

GEORGIA

- Rights in rem (real property)
- Personal property (moveable assets)
- Income and (other) benefits
- Exhaustion of other claims

Proxy means-testing is based on consumption rather than incomes and assets.

Observable characteristics of a household are recorded and entered in the database.

Each characteristic is ascribed a different weight.

Score is determined by software using linear regression.

Characteristics with largest weights – child, disability, old age, housing.

MONTENEGRO

The following elements are taken into account:

the amount of the average monthly income in the previous quarter must not exceed the base rate from 80.23 to 152.54 EUR for awarding of this benefit proportionally to the number of family members;

they do not own or use business premises, an apartment or an apartment house in an urban or suburban district, in the size stipulated under the law, they do not own or use agricultural land or forests, with the area stipulated under the law;

the family member did not turn down an employment offer or an offer for vocational training, re-training or upgrading, in accordance with the law, the employment relationship of an individual or a family member was not terminated by the statement of his will, his consent or his quilt, an individual or a family member did not alienate immovable property or renounce the right to inherit property, etc.

NORTH MACEDONIA

1) General non-contributory minimum – Guaranteed Minimum Assistance

All income earned in the past three months by all members of the household concerned, calculated for one month. Basic condition is low income and impossibility to improve it by own effort (work, use of property and other priority claims).

In times of declared pandemics, epidemics, crisis or other extraordinary situation, means-testing is based on the prior month income (rather than the prior three months).

2) Specific non-contributory minima - Cash benefit for social security of elderly

Provided to elderly person with no income on any ground in the past three months and with no property or property rights which can be used to provide a support.

The following means related conditions apply to both schemes:

a) Rights in rem (real property)

The right is not granted to persons who possess property that can be alienated or rent and thus be a source of income such as family house or apartment in which the beneficiary does not live or does not use it for living; apartment or house under construction; business premises; construction land, except the land on which the facility where the user lives is located; arable land of more than 7000 square meters, that is used under a contract with the State

b) Personal property (moveable assets)

The claimant should not possess property that can be alienated or rent and thus be a source of income: registered motor vehicle (passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle over 50 cm³, van, bus, truck, combine and tractor); savings of more than 70,000 MKD shares. In times of declared pandemics, epidemics, crisis or other extraordinary situation, claimants are allowed to own the house/apartment of residence and one small vehicle.

c) Income and (other) benefits

Income includes: wages, all type of pensions, unemployment benefits, income from self-employment, income from copyright and related rights, income from the sale of own agricultural products, income from industrial property rights, rental and sublease income, capital income, capital gains, insurance income, winnings from games of chance, subsidies for farmers, income on the basis of temporary work abroad, alimonies, dividends and interest on savings, veteran disability benefit, civil disability benefit, alimony, parental allowance for a child, compensation of a salary for shortened working hours, permanent benefit, education allowance to persons who until the age of 18 had a status of child without parents and/or parental care, income from sale of motor vehicle. Cash benefit for social security of elderly is considered income when claiming guaranteed minimum assistance.

d) Exhaustion of other claims

General non-contributory minimum – Guaranteed minimum assistance is complementary to all other incomes in the household as long as the total household income per adult equivalent taken into account in the means test is below the amount of the guaranteed minimum assistance (see point e) Exemption of resources).

The claimants must have claimed all other possible sources of income before the minimum is given.

A household shall not be entitled to Guaranteed Minimum Assistance if any of its members:

*may provide for themselves;

*may earn income from selling or leasing property that is not used by the members of the household;

*has concluded a lifelong or life-care contract;

*has other sources of support available;

*has been deleted from the unemployment record due to irregular registration;

*has had their employment relationship ended by mutual agreement, upon their request or has been terminated by the employer for failing to meet the contractual obligations, in the past 12 months prior to applying for Guaranteed Minimum Assistance.

The last two conditions linked to unemployment and employment termination do not apply in times of declared pandemics, epidemics, crisis or another extraordinary situation.

This right is not granted to persons who have not asked for a support from the person who is legally obliged to provide that support.

Specific non-contributory minima - Cash benefit for social security of elderly:

No entitlement to the benefit if claimant and his/her spouse:

* has been accommodated for more than 30 days in medical, social or other institutions;

* may provide for themselves from property or property rights owned;

* receive old-age, invalidity or any other pension or similar payment.

e) Income excluded (Exemption of resources)

The following is not considered as income of the household: disability benefit, financial reimbursement for assistance and care, financial compensation of expenses of foster families, one-off financial assistance, housing allowance, financial assets received from donations, financial assistance received for medical treatment in the country or abroad, income earned from selling own agricultural products or other type of income for all members of the household in the amount of up to 30,000 MKD in total in the last 12 months. In case of guaranteed minimum assistance the following income is also excluded: child allowance, special allowance (cash benefit provided to children with special needs), one-off financial assistance for a newborn baby, education allowance, child alimony up to 6,000 MKD, stipend, food and travel allowance or any other allowance for participants in active employment programmes (e.g. community work programme, vocational trainings), internship allowance, volunteer allowance, income earned from public works,

seasonal or other type of temporary work, financial allowances for students during their practice and learning, national defence and security related financial compensation. Guaranteed minimum assistance is not considered income when claiming Cash benefit for social security of elderly.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

In determining the overall income of the family, income earned in cash from paid work, income from all types of entrepreneurial activity, income from the use of farmland and land plots, as well as other types of income, including property. In the case of insurance and social aid benefits, the established amounts shall be taken into account.

When assessing family welfare to establish social aid and / or aid for the cold period of the year, consideration is given to family composition and movable and immovable property owned / used by the family using a set of characteristics that identify well-being. Ownership of certain movable and immovable assets, as well as some family characteristics, are considered as an indicator of well-being expressed in points.

If the score is higher than the one set, the family is not eligible for entitlement to help and / or aid for the cold period of the social year.

SERBIA

Is taken into account:

All income generated by the household:

average salaries and incomes in the last quarter, or over a shorter period (from 1-3 months) if income was generated only during this period;

unemployment benefits;

severance payment if person is made redundant;

income generated by farming, renting possessions and property and other property rights if they are taxable;

maintenance granted by the court;

income generated by non-registered activities, based on opinion of social work centre;

bank account savings, cash, bonds etc. are also included in monthly income.

There are also limits on the available possessions and property:

the household cannot consist of more than the basic living area which is one room per member and agricultural land of 0,5 ha (hectare) unless this property is mortgaged for valorisation of cash benefit costs;

no family member/ individual has given away any properties that s/he might have used for material security;

no family member/ individual owns properties (besides their home) that can generate an monthly income (through rent or sale) of 6 x cash benefit amount (around average salary in the Republic).

no family member/ individual has any contracts for lifetime support from any other person or organisation.

Cash benefit can be combined with other social protection allowances.

The following is not taken into consideration:

family benefit for up to 4 children,

benefit for another person's care (except contract on lifetime support),

income generated by awards and retirement bonuses,

income generated by pupils or students and

cash compensation for bodily damage (see Table 7. 'Employment Injuries and Occupational Diseases')

TÜRKIYE

Besides registered income, expenses of family members and movable/immovable assets are also considered.

The monthly household income per capita of claimants should not exceed to one third of minimum net wage (2,835.60 TRY for 2023).

UKRAINE

No restriction.

(last update 2019)

Conditions specific to those of working age

ALBANIA

All adult members of the family capable of work must show evidence of their attempts to find a job and be included in vocational training courses

Families / individuals benefiting economic aid and are of working age, shall be included in social re integration programs.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

No obligation to accept offers of work.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH:

No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

Persons able to work cannot exercise the right to financial assistance.

The following persons are considered incapable of work: a child up to the age of 18, ie until the completion of regular education, and for a maximum of 26 years; a person older than 65 years; a person with permanent impairment when the expert commission has determined incapacity for work; women during pregnancy, childbirth and after childbirth for 12 or 18 months (for twins and every third and subsequent child); a father, guardian, adoptive parent who cares for one or more children up to one year of age.

Brčko District of BiH:

According to the Law on Social Protection of BD, Article 32 reads:

"(1) The right to one-time financial assistance (hereinafter: one-time assistance) has a person who, due to special circumstances, needs an appropriate form of social protection.

(2) Special conditions for obtaining one-time financial assistance are:

a) to have resided in the territory of the Brčko District of BiH for at least two years continuously until the day of submitting the application;
b) that there are no relatives who are obliged by law to support him or, if there are any, that they are not able to fulfill the obligation to support him;

c) has a monthly income of less than 45% of the average monthly salary; d) that there is no land with a total area of more than two dunums, e) that there is no more than one housing, f) if the state of social need cannot be met on the basis of another law or regulation. Article 21 reads: "A person who, due to special circumstances, needs an appropriate form of social protection, is considered a person who finds himself in a state of social need due to natural disaster, migration, repatriation, death of one or more household members, return from treatment, incapacity employment, release from serving a prison sentence or execution of an educational measure."

GEORGIA

None.

MONTENEGRO

Entitlement to family cash benefit will belong to a person who did not refuse offered employment or vocational training, re-training or additional training, pursuant to the law; if the employment of the family member did not terminate at his will, with his consent, through his fault or due to disciplinary or criminal liability, unless a period of one year has elapsed from the termination of employment or unless the incapacity for work has occurred upon the termination of employment; an individual or a family member did not terminate his employment relationship by mutual agreement with payment of severance pay in the amount exceeding ten average monthly wages including taxes and contributions in the state, in accordance with a special law, unless a minimum of three years have elapsed since the mutual agreement on termination of employment relationship and payment of the severance pay; an individual or a family member did not exercise the right to severance pay for termination of employment, in conformity with the law, unless six months have elapsed from the receipt of such benefit.

NORTH MACEDONIA

1) General non-contributory minimum – Guaranteed Minimum Assistance

All members of the household who are unemployed and capable to work must be registered as active job seeker with the Employment Service Agency (not applicable in times of pandemics or other extraordinary situation). Individual plan is signed for activation of the most employable member of the household. Unemployed household members must report every month and accept any suitable job, as well as training, qualification, subsidized employment etc. offered by the Employment Agency. Guaranteed minimum assistance will be suspended for 12 months (three months in case of pandemics, epidemics or other extraordinary situation) if the beneficiary fails to register at the Employment Service agency or refuses to accept suitable job or training or fails to implement other obligations from the individual plan two times in row. The benefit will not be lost for the single parents or household members with disability unless they are

the one that failed to observe the conditions.

Beneficiaries of the Guaranteed Minimum Assistance may be engaged in public works. In case they refuse the public work engagement, they will be considered as household members for the sake of calculation of the total household income, but at the same time will not be entitled to the benefit in the next 12 months (partial loss at the level of the household).

The following categories are exempted from these requirements:

* persons attending school,

* persons over 60 years,

* disabled persons,

* pregnant women one month before giving birth and one of the parents caring for a child up to the nine months of age

* employed,

* persons engaged in agriculture, stockbreeding or other activity,

* craftsmen or persons engaged in other professional activity.

There are no special requirements on working-age beneficiaries incapable of working whether they participate in rehabilitation programmes or not.

2) Specific non-contributory minima- Cash benefit for social security of elderly

Not applicable.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

No special scheme.

SERBIA

Must be registered as unemployed and cannot refuse offers of: employment, part-time working engagement, seasonal work, professional education, pre-qualification or primary education.

TÜRKIYE

Not applicable

UKRAINE

Person of working age without job must be registered as unemployed at the centre of employment and they must show a willingness to work

(last update 2019)

Other conditions

ALBANIA

ARMENIA

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH:
No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

All persons who are considered incapable of work are entitled to financial assistance under the same conditions.

GEORGIA

MONTENEGRO

Entitlement to family cash benefit will belong to:

An individual or a family member who does not own more than two cattle stock, in the quantity stipulated under the law; agricultural and construction mechanisation and other means for work and doing business;

An individual or a family member who does not own a motor vehicle, except the motor vehicle which serves for transport of an individual or a family member, beneficiary of allowance for care and assistance;

An individual or a family member who did not conclude a contract on life-long maintenance, except with the Social Welfare Centre.

NORTH MACEDONIA

No other conditions.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

SERBIA

No other specific conditions.

TÜRKIYE

Not applicable

UKRAINE

Not applicable

(last update 2019)

Guaranteed minimum income

Determination of minimum resources: a) Level and sufficiency of actual resources; b) Domestic unit for calculation of benefits; c) Impact of family composition

ALBANIA

The monthly amount of economic assistance is determined by decision of the Council of Ministers according to the family structure.

Family unit (household).

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Decision of Government based on available resources.

The domestic unit is the household.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH:

No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

It is considered that a person, ie a family does not have the necessary financial resources if their income is lower than the amount of financial assistance provided by law:

- for an individual - 15% of the base (135.90 BAM)
- for a family with two members - 20% of the base (181.20 BAM)
- for a family with three members - 24% of the base (217.44 BAM)
- for a family with four members - 27% of the base (244.62 BAM)
- for a family with five or more members - 30% of the base (271.80 BAM).

The incomes and wages of the individual and all family members are taken into account, as well as the total income of the family.

Brčko District of BiH:

Article 2 Paragraph (2) of the Law on Social Protection of the BD BiH: "A social need is considered to be a situation in which a citizen or family needs assistance in order to overcome social difficulties and meet basic living needs."

Article 28: Rights in social protection in terms of this law are:

1. social and other professional work services;
2. financial and material assistance;
3. training for the life and work of children and adults with disabilities;
4. accommodation in a social welfare institution or in another family;
5. home care and help at home.

Each of these rights is regulated by the Law on Social Protection, individually through the provisions: fulfillment of conditions for realization;

GEORGIA

The methodology of assessing social-economic status of socially vulnerable households used by the government of Georgia is a proxy means testing (PMT) formula, which is focused on easily verifiable and potentially income generating items and other criteria, including subsistence minimum. The amount of household benefit depends on rating score and the number of family members.

MONTENEGRO

Determining factors include the following:

- Income
- Size of the family
- Means

NORTH MACEDONIA

1) General non-contributory minimum

a) Level and sufficiency of actual resources

Depending on the size of the household, total monthly income of the household earned in the previous three months must be lower than the amount of the Guaranteed Minimum Assistance, i.e. 4,809 MKD per adult equivalent per month (which is 27% of the minimum wage).

b) Domestic unit for calculation of benefits is the household. It comprises family members and other relatives (who are not obliged to provide for each other), that contribute, and spend together.

c) Impact of family composition

Income earned in the past three months by all members of the household is used for the calculation of the amount of the assistance. The amount varies according to the size of the household and for every other member in the household, the base shall be increased according to an equivalence scale.

Adult equivalents consider all members in the households with the following scales: 1 for one adult, 1.5 for two adults, 1.9 for three adults, 2.3 for four adults and 2.5 for five adults or more, and then adds 0.1 for every child, an extra 0.5 for the first member with disability, an extra 0.2 respectively for the second and the third member over 65 and 0.5 extra for a single parent.

2) Specific non-contributory minima - Cash benefit for social security of elderly

a) Level and sufficiency of actual resources

The benefit is granted to persons who have reached 65 years of age, are not entitled to pension and had no any income in the past three months.

b) Domestic unit for calculation of benefits is the family that comprises the claimant-elderly person and his/her spouse or partner

c) Impact of family composition

The amount of the benefit is fixed at 7,214 MKD (which is 40% of the minimum wage). Family composition does not affect the amount of the benefits.

No special supplements for specific groups.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The social aid is built on a few basic elements.

To become a beneficiary of social aid, the family must:

- * earn a monthly income less than the minimum guaranteed monthly income of the state, calculated for this family according to art. 7 of the Law no. 133-XVI from 13.06.2008;
- * the occupational status of adult family members is in accordance with art. 5 of the Law on social aid no. 133-XVI of 13 June 2008;
- * the score calculated for family welfare indicators and family characteristics (according to Annex 5 of the Regulation on the way of establishing and paying social aid, approved by the Government Decision No. 1167 of 16.10.2008) be less than or equal to the threshold set (established in the Regulation).

Only in the case of cumulative fulfillment of these qualification requirements will the household be entitled to social aid for the cold period of the year.

The monthly amount of social assistance is established as the difference between the guaranteed minimum monthly income (VLMG) of the family and the total income of the family.

SERBIA

Person or household in need are those having income below the minimal level of social security determined by the Law.

Persons incapable for work (those older than the standard retirement age, children up to 15 years of age or up to 26 years of age if pupils/students, disabled persons, pregnant women or parents on maternity leave or on leave for child care, unemployed persons who take care of family member receiving long-term care benefit), households of whom all members are incapable for work and single-parent family are entitled to an increased amount of the cash benefit.

Centrally administered, financed by state budget.

The domestic unit for the calculation of benefits is individual or household.

Level of benefit depends on number of adults and children in family in need.

TÜRKIYE

Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation determines the destituteness level of applicants.

Household income per capita is considered for entitlement.

Pension is calculated according to civil servant salary coefficient.

UKRAINE

Decision of Government based on the level of the relative poverty line, but in compliance with the budget resources.

(last update 2019)

Minimum income level

ALBANIA

From January 2018 the new scheme of economic aid has rolled out, after the piloting in three regions.

Families in need receive according to the family structure:

1800 ALL for the first family member as listed in the family certificate;

- 1260 ALL for the other family members over the age of 18;

- 900 ALL for members who are up to 18;

- In cases where the family is composed of only one member who is above the working age the economic aid amount is 2,600 ALL.

The amounts for individuals benefiting economic aid such as victims of trafficking, victims of domestic violence, orphans, triplet, receive economic aid in the amount of 3000 ALL per month.

For quadruplet the amount is 4000 ALL per month for each child while for quintuplets the amount is 5000 ALL per month for each child.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Basic amount - 20,000 AMD per month

Lamp sums :
50,000 AMD – in case of new born child
50,000 AMD – in case of death of a family member

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH:
No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

The amounts are prescribed by law and depend only on the number of family members (as mentioned above). A person or family can exercise a smaller amount of rights than stated only if they already earn income that is less than the amount of the right to financial assistance.

The monthly amount of entitlement is determined as a percentage of the average net salary in the Republic realized in the previous year:

- for an individual, 15% of the base (135.90 BAM)
- for a family with two members, 20% of the base (181.20 BAM)
- for a family with three members, 24% of the base (217.44 BAM)
- for a family with four members, 27% of the base (244.62 BAM)
- for a family with five or more members, 30% of the base (271.80 BAM).

Brčko District of BiH:

The amount of funds, compensation for permanent basic financial assistance is regulated through the Law on Social Protection of BD BiH, provisions of Article 39: "Permanent basic financial assistance (SONP) is determined in the amount of 21% of the average salary determined in the last three months in Brčko District BiH. "For the last paid month, April tranche, SONP amounted to 198.00 BAM; Article 43a: "The amount of money for the care and assistance allowance of another person is calculated for: a) complete dependence in the amount of 25% (twenty five percent) on the average salary earned in the District in the previous year, b) severe dependence in the amount of 18% (eighteen percent) of the average salary earned in the District in the previous year, c) moderate dependence of 12% (twelve percent) on the average salary earned in the District in the previous year, d) low dependence of 7% (seven percent) of the average salary earned in the District in the previous year. "

For the last paid month, April tranche, DZNJ

- for 7% it amounted to 64.00 BAM;
- for 12% it amounted to 110.00 BAM;
- for 18% it amounted to 165.00 BAM;
- for 25% it amounted to 229.00 BAM

GEORGIA

- 60 GEL per household member whose rating score is less than 30,001;
- 50 GEL per household member whose rating score is from 30,001 to 57,001;
- 40 GEL per household member whose rating score is from 57,001 to 60,001;
- 30 GEL per household member whose rating score is from 60,001 to 65,001.

Households whose rating score is from 65,001 to 120,001 are paid 150 GEL (200 GEL from July 2023) monthly for each family member under the age of 16.

MONTENEGRO

The amount of the cash benefit on a monthly basis is:

- a single-member family 80.23 EUR;
- a family of two members 96.35 EUR;
- a family of three members 115.65 EUR;
- a family of four members 136.52 EUR ;
- a family of five or more members 152.54 EUR.

NORTH MACEDONIA

1) General non-contributory minimum –Guaranteed minimum assistance

The base for calculation is defined in nominal terms and equals 4,809 MKD for one household member (head of household, i.e. the claimant of the benefit) adjusted to the cost of living in the previous year.

For the second adult household member the base increases by a coefficient of 0.5, while for the third and fourth adult member it increases by 0.4 each and for the fifth adult household member by coefficient of 0.2. For each child the base increases by 0.1. For

household member incapable for work due to disability or illness, the base increases for maximum three members by a coefficient of 0.5 for the first member, 0.2 for the second and 0.2 for the third one. Finally, the bases increase by 0.5 for a single parent household.

The amount of the benefit received equals the difference between the amount of the calculated amount of Guaranteed Minimum Assistance (GMA) and the total household income.

Example for a couple with 2 children aged 5 and 10; both parents are unemployed; the family does not have other sources of income. The adult equivalent size of such household is 1.7 (1.5 for the two adults and 0.2 for the two children), which implies an eligibility threshold of 8,175 MKD per month ($4,809 \times 1.7$) and since the household has no income, this is also the GMA entitlement. Since the household is eligible to GMA, they will also be entitled to the Energy allowance of 1,203 MKD during the six winter months (as well as over summer months in times of pandemics, epidemics or other extraordinary situation).

The entitlement for child allowance/education allowance depends on the age of the children. When one child is under six and one in primary education, the child allowance equals 1,684 MKD per month. For the child in school age, attending primary school the entitlement increases to 2,765 MKD (1,923 for child allowance and 842 for education allowance). Overall, this household would receive 12,143 MKD per month (67% of the minimum wage).

2) Specific non-contributory minima- Cash benefit for social security of elderly

The amount is fixed at 7,214 MKD, regardless of the size of the family.

The benefit is paid monthly.

The beneficiary will also be entitled to the Energy allowance of 1,203 MKD during the six winter months.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The amount of the minimum monthly income for each family member is paid as follows:

- 100% of the minimum guaranteed monthly income for the applicant;
- 70% of the guaranteed minimum monthly income for each other adult member of the family;
- plus 20%, 30% or 50% of the minimum guaranteed monthly income for each adult classified respectively in the medium, accentuated or severe degree of disability;
- plus 10% of the minimum guaranteed monthly income, if the disabled person is the only adult in the family.

The amount of the guaranteed minimum monthly income for each child member of the family is determined as follows:

- 100% of the guaranteed minimum monthly income for each child;
- plus 50% of the minimum guaranteed monthly income for each child classified respectively in the medium or severe degree of disability and plus 60% of the minimum guaranteed monthly income for each child classified in the severe degree of disability.

For the specified family members, the amount of the minimum guaranteed monthly income is calculated according to the confirmed status: adult or child.

From earnings from salary rights, income from the monthly childcare allowance ignores 500 MDL for each member of the family declaring such status.

SERBIA

Base for calculation of the amount amounts to 10,385 RSD in January 2023 (13% of net average wage).

The income thresholds used for the family compositions, are (January 2023x) as follows:

individual: 1 x Base – 10,385 RSD (13% of net average wage)
other family members – adults: 0.5 x Base per family member – 5,193 RSD (6% of net average wage);
other family members – children up to age 18: 0.3 x Base per child – 3,116 RSD (4% of net average wage).
Benefit paid for up to six members of the family.

2 adult members family: 15,578 RSD (19% of net average wage)

3 members family (1 adult and 2 children): 16,617 RSD (20% of net average wage)

4 members family (2 adults and 2 children): 21,810 RSD (26% of net average wage)

Increased cash benefit for individual/family: standard cash benefit increased by 20%.

TÜRKIYE

As of 2023:

Elderly pension: 1,997.70 TRY

Disability pension for an incapacity degree of 70% and over: 2,392.05 TRY

Disability pension for the degrees between of 40-69%: 1,594.70 TRY

Pension for persons caring for their disabled relatives who are under the age of 18: 1,594.70 TRY

Silicosis : Pension for an incapacity degree of 15-34%: 3,445.77 TRY

Silicosis : Pension for an incapacity degree of 35-54%: 3,938.03 TRY
Silicosis : Pension for an incapacity degree of 55% and over: 4,388.08 TRY

(These are monthly amounts. Three times the amount of these is paid to the entitled persons on a quarterly basis.)

UKRAINE

Social assistance is based on the size of a living wage 1853 UAH for people incapable to work, in the following amounts: 1) 100 percent - the disabled group I, a woman who was awarded the title "Heroine Mother"; 2) 80 per cent - the disabled group II; 3) 60 per cent - the disabled group III; 4) 50 per cent - the priests and clergymen in confirming the fact of such work in due course; 5) 30 percent - all the rest.

(last update 2019)

Duration and time limits

ALBANIA

Disability payment is indexed every year based on the indexation of consumer prices

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Until the change of the poverty score of the family or the minimal score established by the Government.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH:
No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

The right is exercised as long as the person meets the conditions for exercising the right. There is no maximum period during which the right is exercised. The Center for Social Work reviews the conditions for the use of rights once a year, and adjusts the amount of rights with changes in the average net salary in the Republic.

Also, the right shall lapse for a person who is serving a prison sentence for more than 30 days, a person whose care was provided at the expense of budgetary social protection funds and in other cases when the person is fully provided with housing, food, clothing and footwear.

Brcko District of BiH:

The maximum duration of the right to permanent basic financial assistance and DZNJ is permanent (until the end of the life of the beneficiary, the rights from social protection are personal and non-transferable), and the minimum duration is 2 years; The right, which is limited (from-to), states that the party appears before the period of limited duration as a new applicant;

GEORGIA

No time and duration limits exist, the only condition is the socio-economic status of the household. Means-testing is done at least once in 4 years, though family may request additional means-test if its condition deteriorates.

In order to activate the socially vulnerable population in the labor market, a "Public Work" program was started in March 2022. The program aims to promote the activation of targeted social assistance beneficiaries and support them in integration into the labour market. The program envisages several options for beneficiaries, including the formalization of informal employment, in which case, they preserve social benefits for the next 4 years.

MONTENEGRO

The time limit is not defined - as long as the entitlement conditions are fulfilled.

NORTH MACEDONIA

1) General non-contributory minimum –Guaranteed minimum assistance

Guaranteed Minimum Assistance can be successively renewed if the situation of need persists and it can be unlimited. The Social Work Centre ex-officio re-examines the situation of the claimant at least once a year and can take a new decision on the amount to pay. During the period of receipt of benefits, beneficiaries must notify the competent Social Work Centre of any changes likely to affect the receipt of the benefits within 15 days from the date they became aware of them (30 days in case of pandemics, epidemics or other extraordinary situation)

Amounts do not decrease. Previous periods of receipt of assistance do not affect conditions.

2) Specific non-contributory minima- Cash benefit for social security of elderly

Same rules as with the Guaranteed minimum assistance.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The entitlement to social assistance on the basis of an application is set for a period not exceeding two years and will be reviewed at any change that could affect the entitlement to social assistance or the amount of social assistance set.

SERBIA

Benefit is paid for as long as the claimant remains entitled. Families with a majority of members who are able to work, may only receive benefits for up to 9 months per calendar year.

Rights are revised yearly. If there is any family member able to work then revision takes place every six months.

TÜRKIYE

As long as the required conditions are provided, there is no duration and time limits for these payments.

The payments are made quarterly (4 installments) and in advance in a year. They are paid to right holders in March, June, September and December.

UKRAINE

No limits

(last update 2019)

Indexation

ALBANIA

ARMENIA

Irregular unilateral decision of Government based upon available resources.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH and Brčko District:of BiH

No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

The Center for Social Work harmonizes the amount of entitlement with changes in the average net salary in the Republic

GEORGIA

No special provisions.

MONTENEGRO

Adjustment twice a year, determined by adding 50% of increase in the cost of living and 50% of the increase in average wage in the preceding half year period.
Exceptionally, if the percentage would lead to a negative indexation, the value of benefits will not be adjusted.

NORTH MACEDONIA

General rule: Adjusted at the beginning of each year by the cost of living in the previous year.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

By Art. VI of Law no. 37/2020 for the amendment of some legislative acts, amendments were made to par. (3), art. 7 of Law no. 133/2008 on social aid. Thus, the guaranteed minimum monthly income is indexed every year, on 1 April and 1 October. On April 1, the indexation coefficient is the inflation rate recorded in the last half of the year preceding the indexation year, and on October 1 the inflation rate recorded in the first half of the current year. The indexation coefficient is established by the Government.

The minimum guaranteed monthly income from 1 April 2020 for social aid was 1107 MDL.
The minimum guaranteed monthly income from 1 April, 2021 for social aid is 1151 MDL.
The minimum guaranteed monthly income from 1 April 2022 for social aid was 1363 MDL.

By Law no. 108/2022 for the amendment of Law no.133.2008, provisions were changed such as: the establishment of the minimum guaranteed monthly income for children and adults, as well as the modification of its indexing method. Thus, the guaranteed minimum monthly income is indexed every year, on April 1. The indexation coefficient is the inflation rate at the end of the previous year, expressed by the increase in consumer prices in December of the respective year compared to the same month of the previous year. The indexation coefficient is established by the Government.

By Art. 13 (2) of Law no. 357/2022 of the state social insurance budget for the year 2023, for the year 2023 it was established that, by derogation from art. 7 (6) of Law no. 133/2008, in the case of the April 2023 indexation of the guaranteed minimum monthly income, the indexation coefficient will constitute the percentage increase in the own revenues of the state social insurance budget for the year 2022 in relation to the year 2021.

The minimum guaranteed monthly income from 1 April 2023 for social aid was:

- a) for an adult – 1,568 MDL;
- b) for a child – 1,631 MDL.

SERBIA

Benefit is adjusted on 1 April and 1 October, based on changes of the consumer price index in previous six months

TÜRKIYE

Pension is calculated according to civil servant salary coefficient semi-annually.

UKRAINE

All income and property owned by the household concerned.

(last update 2019)

Supplements

Housing and heating allowances

ALBANIA

ARMENIA

None

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH: No special scheme

Republika Srpska: There are no such allowances

The Law on Social Housing stipulates social housing as housing care that is provided by allocating a housing unit in a non-profit lease for a certain period of time, as long as the need for social housing is required, provided that general and special conditions are met. For displaced persons, returnees and refugees, alternative accommodation is provided according to the Law on Displaced Persons, Returnees and Refugees in Republika Srpska.

Brčko District of BiH:

In the Brčko District of BiH, there are apartments in 5 HN (humanitarian settlements) provided by the Office for Public Property Management to the Department for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Housing, for persons in a state of social need to be given an apartment for temporary use; there is also a housing fund through the program: social housing under the auspices of the Department for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Housing;

In the part of social program measures of Brčko District of BiH, since the establishment of the district there are Decisions on approving the program of spending funds: Subsidizing part of electricity consumption, and the last 2 (two) years, subsidizing utilities for persons from social program measures (pensioners with low pensions, beneficiaries of permanent basic financial assistance, families of children with special needs, persons of a certain age from the records of the Employment Bureau, war invalids (RVI) with disability benefits up to the amount of 371.77 BAM)

GEORGIA

For families with many children (four or more children under the age of 18), with the rating score below 300, 000, receive monthly allowance for electricity in the amount of 20 GEL, and 10 GEL, for every following child.

Subsidies for electricity and drinking water are considered for families with rating score up to 150,001 registered in the dData Bbase of socially vulnerable families".

MONTENEGRO

Subvention program for electricity for certain categories of beneficiaries.

NORTH MACEDONIA

According to the Law on Social Protection, recipients of GMA are entitled to Housing allowance (Додаток за домување). The funds are provided by units of local self-government, which also set the amounts to be granted.

Housing allowance, funded by the State budget is also granted to orphans or children without parental care aged 18-26 after the termination of the guardianship if they are materially not provided for (total income must be below 5,825 MKD per family member per month), do not have home and are not accommodated in non-family type of institution or foster family.

The housing allowance (rent of house) is paid in the amount of:

- * up to 4,161 MKD for individual;
- * up to 6,242 MKD for two-members-family;
- * up to 8,322 MKD for family with 3 or more members.

The costs for utilities (electricity, heating, water and waste) are covered in the amount of:

- * up to 1,560 MKD for individual;
- * up to 2,081 MKD for two-members-family;
- * up to 2,601 MKD for family with 3 or more members.

The amount of the financial assistance is adjusted annually according to the costs of living in the previous year. Beneficiaries who are regularly attending school may be entitled to compensation for accommodation in a dormitory. Beneficiaries owning a personal house may use the allowance for its repairing and adaptation. These allowances are not integral part of Guaranteed minimum assistance and they need to be claimed separately.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Aid for the cold season of the year is a fixed, monthly cash payment to the disadvantaged family for the months of January-March and November-December, in accordance with the legislation in force. Its amount is 700 MDL by month.
In order to grant the aid for the cold season of the year, is used the social aid mechanism.

SERBIA

Cash benefit beneficiaries, depending on the number of family members, are entitled to reduced electricity, water and other utility bills (reduction ranging between 10 and 40%). This reduction falls within the responsibility of the city/municipality governments.

TÜRKIYE

Not applicable.

UKRAINE

Reimbursement for cost of household heating (Housing Subsidies) is provided for low-income families and based on means testing. A family should not have to pay more than 20% of the family income on heating bills. If there are no persons in the family who are capable of work the family should not spend more than 15%.

Other supplements - cash

ALBANIA

ARMENIA

AZERBAIJAN

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH:
No special scheme

Republika Srpska: There are no such allowances.

Brčko District of BiH:
Partly answered above.

GEORGIA

MONTENEGRO

None.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Energy allowances are given to every household in receipt of GMA or Cash benefit for social security of elderly. Energy allowances consist of a seasonal payment provided in the 6 winter months of the year (from October to March) and equivalent to 1,053 MKD per household per month (7% of the minimum wage). This allowance is integral part of GMA (or Cash benefit for social security of elderly respectively) and they do not need to be claimed separately. The amount of GMA transfer automatically increases by 1,053 MKD during the winter months. Payment of the energy allowance is extended over summer months, i.e. from April to September in times of pandemics, epidemics or other extraordinary situation.

The households receiving GMA are entitled to education allowance in the amount of 737 MKD per month for every child attending regularly primary school and 1,053 MKD per month per child attending regularly secondary school.

These allowances are not integral part of GMA and they need to be claimed separately. Entitlement to education allowance is not restricted to those in receipt of minimum income support (See Table 9 "Family Benefits").

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

SERBIA

No other cash supplements.

TÜRKIYE

Not applicable.

UKRAINE

Assessment of claims

ALBANIA

ARMENIA

None

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH:
No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

The Center for Social Work, at the request of a person or ex officio, initiates an administrative procedure for deciding on the right to financial assistance, in which it determines whether the person meets all the conditions prescribed by law. The procedure shall be conducted in accordance with the rules prescribed by law, which includes a special examination procedure.

Brčko District of BiH:

Assessing the need in the social protection system in the context of determining the right to permanent basic financial assistance and DZNJ is within the competence of the Expert Medical Commission (determining incapacity for work-SONP and the degree of dependence on another person-DZNJ).

The second part of determining the fulfillment of conditions for exercising the right (both) is within the competence of the professional employee of the guardianship authority.

GEORGIA

Household welfare evaluation is conducted by the Social Services Agency.

MONTENEGRO

A request for exercise of the rights in first instance is resolved by PI center for social work in whose territory the person resides. Entitlement to cash benefit is awarded based on evidence and direct insight into social and financial status of the family.

In the procedure of realizing entitlement the authorized person from the center, ex officio, conducts direct insight into social and financial status of the family and creates a social anamnesis, which is used as evidence in the procedure.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Guaranteed minimum assistance is administered by Social Work Centers (SWCs), which are territorial units for social welfare provision. Applications can be lodged with the Social Work Centers competent for a given urban and rural municipality. Social Work Centers collect the information directly from the claimant and ex-officio from authorised bodies and organisations, necessary to prove the eligibility of the applicant.

The social worker in the Social Work Center advises the applicant/beneficiary about the type of benefit or social service, necessary documentation, assesses individual circumstances and decides upon the eligibility of the applicant/beneficiary. Home visits are conducted for all type of benefits in order to make an assessment of the income, assets and living conditions of the claimant/beneficiary.

An appeal may be filed with the State Commission for deciding in administrative procedure and employment procedure in the second instance against the decision of the Social Work Center.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Social aid and / or aid for the cold period of the year is established by the territorial structure of social assistance.

Social aid and / or aid for the cold period of the year is determined on the basis of the registered application for social aide, submitted by one of the members of the family with full capacity, designated by it, or, in the cases provided for by law, by the legal representative of it.

The application is examined by the persons within the territorial structure of social assistance designated to enter the data in the Automated Information System "Social Assistance".

The "Social Assistance" Automated Information System faces data input by employees within the territorial social assistance structure with the data provided by other information systems.

Full application is examined within the Automated Information System "Social Assistance", which checks eligibility for granting / not granting the right and issues decisions.

SERBIA

The procedure for requesting benefit shall be instigated at the motion of the claimant. Local Center for Social Work are responsible for assessment of claims. The procedure may also be instigated in the line of duty.

A second instance procedure is ensured. In case of an appeal against first instance decision Minister responsible for social protection/Provincial Secretariat of AP Vojvodina/City government of City of Belgrade are responsible for second instance decisions. Against the decision on the appeal an administrative procedure may be instigated with the competent court.

TÜRKIYE

Not applicable.

UKRAINE

In case of fraud or false declarations.

(last update 2019)

Recovery of benefits

ALBANIA

In case of fraud or over-payment.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

In case of fraud

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH and Brčko District of BiH:

No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

The beneficiary of the right, ie his legal representative or guardian is obliged to report to the competent center for social work any change that affects the recognized right, within 15 days from the day of the change.

The Center for Social Work has the right to reimbursement of funds paid by the beneficiary in the event that it alienates immovable property, as well as from persons who are legally obliged to support the beneficiary; in the event of the death of the beneficiary, the Center has the right to collect from his estate the revalued amount paid in the name of the right to financial assistance. Also, the user is obliged to compensate the damage if on the basis of untrue and inaccurate data he has exercised the right to financial assistance.

GEORGIA

None.

MONTENEGRO

A person to whom a benefit has been paid out shall be required to return the received amount, if:

he was awarded this benefit or was granted a rate higher than the rate he was entitled to by law, due to the incorrect data of which he was aware or due to the inaccuracy he needed to be aware of, or due to some other illegal action;

he was awarded this benefit due to the fact that he did not report or reported with a delay changes that were of relevance for the revocation or realisation of benefits or for the benefit rate level, although he knew or had to know about the changes.

NORTH MACEDONIA

In case of fraud by the recipient and submission of false or inaccurate information the recipient should pay back the fraudulently acquired amount with interest together with the amount of the damaged caused.

The persons who have received benefits on the basis of false and incomplete information are suspended from receiving the benefits for a period of one year.

Benefits shall be recovered from the beneficiary. In case of his/her death benefits shall be recovered from the heirs. Reclaim will be avoided if the recovery of benefits would leave the heirs and their families without the necessary financial means.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The applicant for social assistance and / or aid for the cold period of the year according to Law no. 133/2008 on social aid, is required to provide complete and truthful information to the body entitled to determine the benefits.

In case of incomplete, incorrect information or failure to inform about the changes that occurred in the structure and amount of the income or in the circumstances of the family, which influenced the amount of the social aid and / or the granting of the right to aid for the cold period of the year, the beneficiary repays the entire amount which was unduly paid.

The control over the correctness of establishing and using the assigned financial means as intended is exercised by the competent control bodies.

Verification of the information submitted for establishing the social aid and / or aid for the cold period of the year shall be carried out by the territorial structure of social assistance through the exchange of information between the information systems on the basis of the submitted certificates, confirmatory documents or social surveys, according to the legislation.

Verification of the correct and uniform application of this law is done by the Social Inspection.

SERBIA

If the person has given false data in process of determining the eligibility or has not reported any relevant changes, for example he/she fails to declare that he/she owns property above the set minimum or that he/she generates income, a refund of all cash benefits is requested.

TÜRKIYE

Not applicable.

UKRAINE

In case of fraud or false declarations.

(last update 2019)

Special rights in health care

ALBANIA

Provided in health centres

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Free medical service for households with a score of 28.00 or higher.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH:

No special scheme

Republika Srpska:

A beneficiary of financial assistance who cannot obtain health insurance on another basis realizes health insurance from budget funds intended for the exercise of the right to financial assistance.

The health insurance contribution in that case is paid from the budget of the local self-government unit (50%) and from the budget of the Republic (50%). Persons who are not beneficiaries of the right to financial assistance, and do not have another basis to acquire health insurance, may acquire health insurance at the expense of the Budget funds of Republika Srpska, if they have no income. When deciding on the right to child allowance, more favorable conditions apply for persons who use the right to financial assistance.

The local self-government unit co-finances the stay of children beneficiaries of financial assistance in preschool institutions

Brčko District of BiH:

The beneficiary of the right to permanent basic financial assistance also enjoys the right to health care and insurance. A contribution for the insurance of the mentioned users is paid from the Brčko District budget

GEORGIA

Members of families with the score below 700,00 points are covered with better universal medical insurance package.

MONTENEGRO

Entitlement to health care is provided to a beneficiary of: cash benefit (social assistance benefit), personal disability benefit, placement in an institution or placement in foster family, unless realizing this entitlement on other basis.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Beneficiary of guaranteed minimum assistance incapable of work and beneficiary of cash benefit for social security of elderly are entitled to health insurance, provided that they cannot be insured on any other ground. All householders are covered for health care through him or her. In such case contributions for health insurance are paid from the State Budget.

The right needs to be claimed separately.

Beneficiaries are exempted from the participation when using health care services (except for the medicinal products from the list of medicinal products issued on a prescription in the primary health protection and for a treatment abroad) and the costs are covered from the State Budget.

For families with monthly income lower than the average salary, the upper annual limit for making co-payments for the specialized - consultative and hospital health care is set at level which is lower than 70% of the last year national average monthly net salary. They are exempted from paying participation above the defined upper limit.

See Table 2 "Health Care".

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

According to Law no. 1585/1998 on compulsory medical insurance, the Government has the quality of insurer for persons from disadvantaged families receiving social assistance according to the Law no.133-XVI of 13 June 2008 on social assistance.

SERBIA

All rights granted to unemployed (health insurance).

TÜRKIYE

Not applicable.

UKRAINE

Not applicable

(last update 2019)

Taxation and social contributions

Taxation of cash benefits

ALBANIA

Not subject to taxation.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Not subject to taxation.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH and Brčko District of BiH

No special scheme

Republika Srpska: No special scheme

GEORGIA

Not subject to taxation.

MONTENEGRO

Family cash benefits are not subject to taxation.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Not subject to taxation.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

No special scheme.

SERBIA

Not subject to taxation.

TÜRKIYE

Not applicable.

UKRAINE

None

(last update 2019)

Limit of income for tax relief or tax reduction

ALBANIA

Not applicable.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

Not applicable.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH and Brčko District of BiH
No special scheme

Republika Srpska: Not applicable

GEORGIA

Not applicable.

MONTENEGRO

Not applicable.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Not applicable.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

No special scheme.

SERBIA

Not applicable.

TÜRKIYE

Not applicable.

UKRAINE

Not applicable

(last update 2019)

Social security contributions from benefits

ALBANIA

None.

(last update 2019)

ARMENIA

None.

AZERBAIJAN

No special scheme

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of BiH, Republika Srpska and Brčko District of BiH:
No special scheme

GEORGIA

None.

MONTENEGRO

None.

NORTH MACEDONIA

None.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

No special scheme

SERBIA

None.

TÜRKIYE

Since 01.01.2012 with the implantation of General Health Insurance Act, the elderly and invalid people in this frame are registered as statute of people whose premium covered by state.

UKRAINE

Not applicable

(last update by Ukraine 2019)