The finances of Association Mieux Prescrire: 2021 annual report

Association Mieux Prescrire (AMP), the legal entity responsible for Prescrire's publications, is a non-profit organisation governed by the French law of 1901. It is a legal structure that, in France, as of 2022, enables Prescrire to preserve its independence: it means that Prescrire cannot be bought or exploited by economic agents. Prescrire has also chosen a funding model without advertising revenue, grants or subsidies. In other words, Prescrire lives off the sales of its publications and its continuing education programmes, and depends solely on subscribers.

As a non-profit organisation engaged in commercial activities, AMP is subject to the regulations governing taxation and employment in France, and its accounts are approved by an independent auditor. Every year, AMP submits its budgets to its Board of Administrators and General Assembly for approval. AMP has published a summary of its annual financial report every year since 1992 in the March issue of *Prescrire* (and in the June issue of *Prescrire International*) also making it freely available on its French and English websites www.prescrire.org and english.prescrire.org.

The 2020-2021 fiscal year, which ran from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, like the previous year, was overshadowed by the covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 continued to put health systems and their staff to the test, as healthcare professionals encountered many new questions related to this pandemic. The Prescrire team set itself the task of answering several of these questions within a short time frame, while still applying a rigorous method and maintaining its usual standards for analysis of the scientific data available.

We ended the 2021 fiscal year with a slight surplus (see figure below). It was a better result than expected, due in particular to the fact that our costs were lower than forecast. The difference is partly due to the effects of the covid-19 pandemic: restrictions on travel, increased use of paperless access to information, and so on. This surplus strengthens our financial independence and enables Prescrire to continue to work on new projects.

The pandemic and uncertainty are still with us as of early 2022. Against this background, Prescrire is all the more committed to continuing to provide robust information, from a position of total independence, and to supporting the healthcare professionals who subscribe to Prescrire, first and foremost in the interest of patients.

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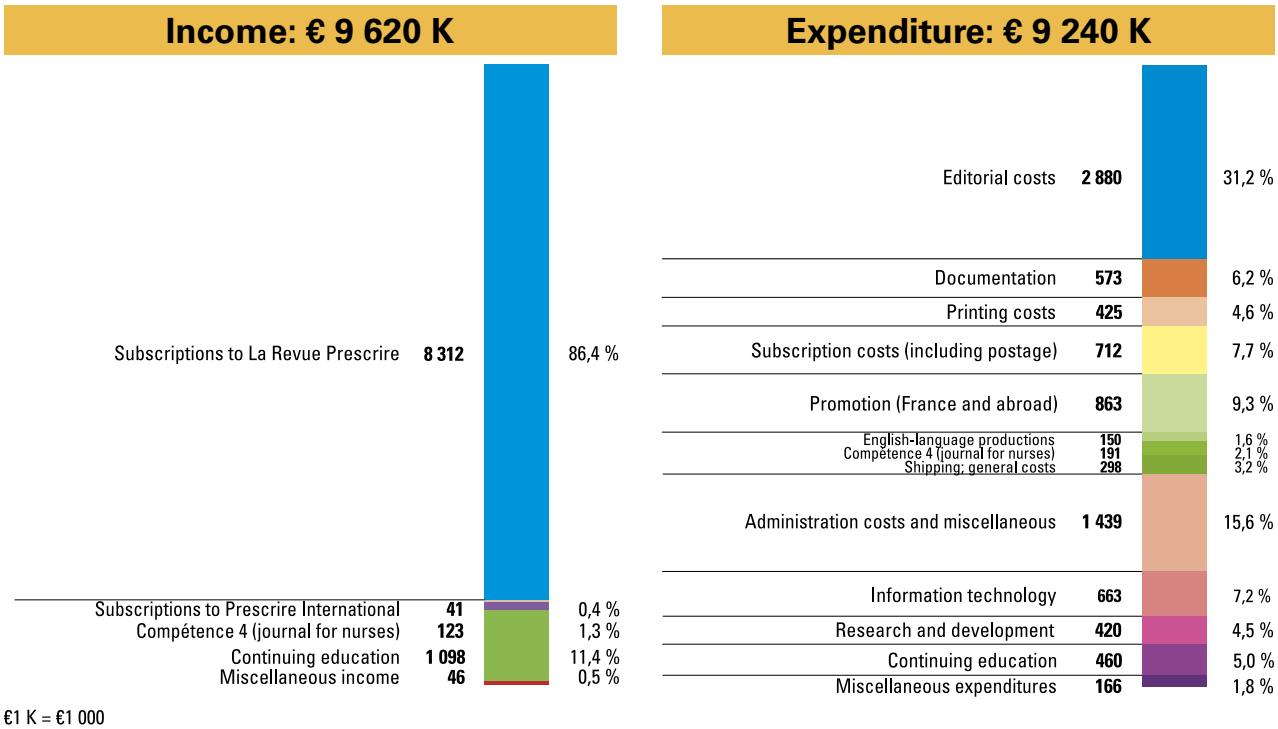
AMP income and expenditure in fiscal year 2020-2021



€1 K = €1 000

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