

The finances of Association Mieux Prescrire: 2020 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. As of 2021, this is still the best legal structure available in France to accommodate Prescrire's economic activity and financial independence. It is also most in line with the objective of serving the public interest.

All of Prescrire's activities are funded through subscriptions, with no income from advertising or grants. This means that, financially, Prescrire is solely dependent on its 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 audited and approved by an independent auditor. Every year, AMP submits its budgets to its Board of Directors and General Assembly for approval. In the interest of transparency, 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*, as well as making it freely available on its French and English websites, www.prescrire.org and english.prescrire.org.

Service to subscribers maintained despite a year of disruption. The 2019-2020 fiscal year, which ran from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020, was overshadowed by the covid-19 epidemic. Like all organisations, Prescrire had to adapt in order to cope with a complex situation.

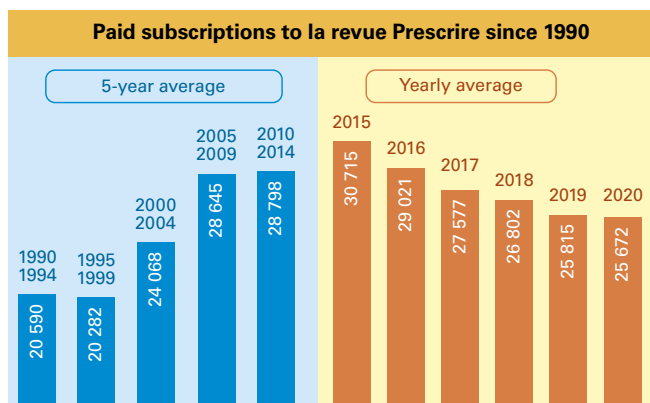
Thanks to a reinforcement and reorganisation of Prescrire's operational structure, already underway for several years, and thanks to a major collective engagement by the men and women who make Prescrire, the team was able to ensure that service to subscribers was uninterrupted, while at the same time taking into account the individual circumstances of team members. These included personal and family constraints, and professional demands, for those who not only work for Prescrire but also practice as healthcare professionals, and were needed elsewhere. In these exceptional circumstances, Prescrire benefited from its long experience with remote working, which was extended to nearly all of the team.

This collective engagement enabled all of Prescrire's publications to be continued, at the same frequency and with the same level of quality. A big "thank you" to all those who work hard every day (and who had to redouble their efforts during this latest period), without whom Prescrire would not be what it is – whether they be the staff responsible for logistics, the administrative staff, subscriber relations, premises maintenance, accounting, information technology, production, human resources, development, policy advocacy, library resources, training programmes, or the editorial team.

Prescrire - ever more digital. The 2019-2020 fiscal year saw a significant improvement in the services offered by Prescrire via digital platforms. These services complement the paper version of *Prescrire* and are not intended to replace it.

In autumn 2019, *Le Guide Prescrire* was made available (in French) to subscribers and is included in the basic subscription to Prescrire. This app, available on smartphones, tablets and computers, provides access in just a few clicks to short, clear answers to many questions that arise in routine healthcare practice, with a guarantee that the information provided is regularly updated. More information about *Le Guide Prescrire* can be found at www.prescrire.org/guide.

L'Application Prescrire is another digital tool available to subscribers. It is being used more and more, with over half of all subscribers now benefiting from it. It is via the section *Dans l'actualité* ["News update"] in this app that Prescrire has chosen to communicate a large amount of useful information on the covid-19 epidemic, because this channel of communication allows a fast response to news items. As of the end of January 2021, Prescrire had, by this means, made available more than 35 original articles on the covid-19 epidemic (17 of which are also



Breakdown of subscribers to French edition

n° 431 September 2019		OCCUPATION	n° 443 September 2020	
Number	%		Number	%
15 512	60,0	General practitioners	15 446	60,3
1 204	4,7	Specialists	1 150	4,5
4 359	16,9	Pharmacists	4 055	15,8
3 125	12,1	Medical students	3 349	13,1
117	0,4	Pharmacy students	137	0,5
99	0,4	Drug companies	95	0,4
1 416	5,5	Miscellaneous (1)	1 390	5,4
25 832	100	Total paid circulation	25 622	100

1- Profession not specified, civil servants, other health professions.

Association Mieux

Prescrire

Association Mieux Prescrire (AMP) is set up in such a way as to ensure the ongoing independence, quality and usefulness of Prescrire's publications and programmes.

Details are available online at the Prescrire in English website (English.prescrire.org): see About Prescrire > Who are we? > How we work > AMP: non profit > Financing
Contact: contact@prescrire.org

available in English). Many of these articles are also freely available on the websites www.prescrire.org (in French) and english.prescrire.org, and were posted on social media.

It should also be noted that articles concerning the covid-19 epidemic, which will be published as print versions, have been made available to subscribers as "pre-prints" via *L'Application Prescrire*, notably those dealing with the evaluation of the first vaccines.

A year of financial stability. The data presented in the graphs opposite show break-even between income and expenditure. The number of subscribers was stable compared to the previous fiscal year, at about 26 000, with once again a very high level of subscription renewals (87%). Of note also was an increase in the number of new subscribers and in the number of student subscribers.

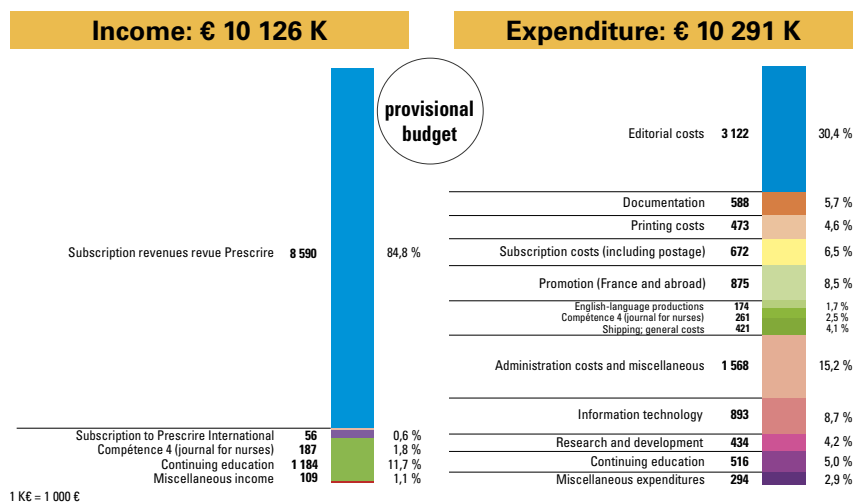
These good results are mainly the fruit of several years of effort which have led to broadening and improving the services provided by a subscription to *Prescrire*. They will enable Prescrire to carry on and to develop, implementing numerous projects devoted to the same priority: improving healthcare, first and foremost in the interest of patients.

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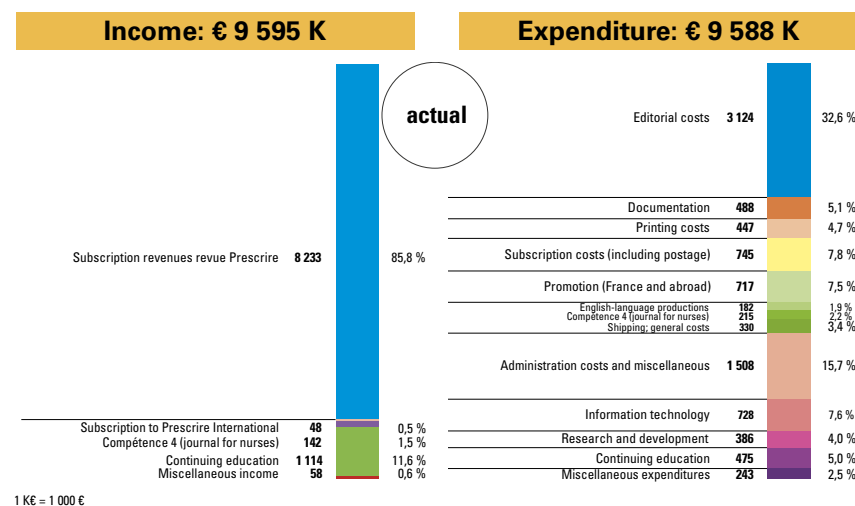
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AMP: fiscal year 2019-2020 (1/09/2019-31/08/2020)

AMP provisional budget



AMP actual income and expenditure in fiscal year 2019-2020



AMP: fiscal year 2020-2021 (1/09/2020-31/08/2021)

AMP provisional budget

