The finances of Association Mieux Prescrire: 2017 Prescrire annual report

Prescrire produces a French journal and a collection of other publications, available in print and in digital form via the *Application Prescrire*, as well as websites, *Prescrire International*, several educational programmes. All of this output is devised and produced by a team of about 160 people, as of early 2018, from a variety of backgrounds, including the health professions, who work in-house or remotely, full-time or part-time. The legal entity responsible for *Prescrire*'s output is *Association Mieux Prescrire* (AMP), a non-profit organisation governed by the French law of 1 July 1901.

As AMP is engaged in economic activity, it is subject to the regulations governing taxation and employment that apply to companies based in France. Its accounts are audited and approved by a firm of chartered accountants.

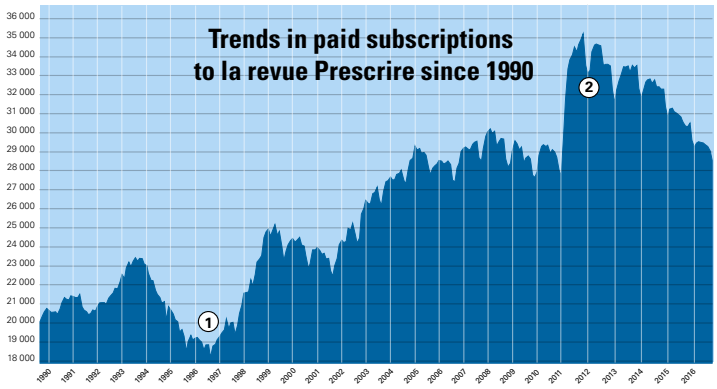
As a proponent of transparency, AMP has published its accounts every year since 1992 in the March issue of *la revue Prescrire*, the June issue of *Prescrire International*, and makes them freely available on its French and English websites, www.prescrire.org and english.prescrire.org.

Fewer subscribers, but a promising start for L'*Application Prescrire*. As in previous years, a high proportion (about 86%) of existing subscribers renewed their subscription. But the number of new subscribers was insufficient to replace those who ended their subscription, and the total number of subscribers to *la revue Prescrire* therefore fell from 28 533 in late August 2016 to 27 390 one year later (see graph). This fall did not jeopardise *Prescrire*'s financial stability because it was anticipated, the sale of new subscriptions having deliberately been scaled back pending the launch of L'*Application Prescrire*.

The first version for desktop computers was released in January 2017, and hundreds of new subscribers signed up, while hundreds of existing subscribers upgraded their subscription to include L'*Application Prescrire*.

Educational programmes. *Prescrire* also runs educational programmes in French. Our Monthly Readers' Test and our Thematic Training Programme continued to attract a large number of participants (4609 and 3456 respectively), and participation in our practice improvement programmes (*Question de Pratiques* and *Médicaments en Questions*) remained stable, with participants continuing to express high levels of satisfaction with them.

Continued development. *Prescrire* continued to invest in development during the 2016/2017 financial year, diversifying both its publications and subscribers' access to them. In addition to the launch of L'*Application Prescrire*, our plans for a journal for nurses, *Compétence 4*, took shape. It became available by subscription in January 2018.



1- This fall in the number of subscription was the result of the absence of direct-mail promotion.
2- This increase corresponds to Prescrire's higher profile after the Mediator® disaster.

Break-even result. As the charts on page 165 show, AMP returned a break-even result for the 2016/2017 financial year. This was made possible in particular by the entire team's efforts to keep spending under control.

A strong team. The members of the *Prescrire* team, whatever their role, continue to steer a steady course in order to pursue our mission "*to work, in all independence, in favour of quality healthcare, first and foremost in the interest of patients*" (**a**). None of this would be possible without the support of our subscribers and the members of AMP. Many thanks to all!

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Breakdown of paying subscribers to French edition

OCCUPATION	n° 395 September 2016		n° 407 September 2017	
	number	%	number	%
General practitioners	16 062	56.3	15 811	57.7
Specialists	1 448	5.1	1 357	5.0
Pharmacists	5 276	18.5	4 907	17.9
Medical students	3 499	12.3	3 305	12.1
Pharmacy students	272	0.9	209	0.7
Drug companies	134	0.5	125	0.5
Miscellaneous (1)	1 842	6.4	1 676	6.1
Total paid circulation	**28 533**	**100**	**27 390**	**100**

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

a- *Article 1 of the bylaws of AMP: "To work, in all independence, in favour of quality healthcare, first and foremost in the interest of patients. To this end, the Association can take any initiative and undertake any action for the purposes of training health professionals, raising awareness, providing information, and improving professional practices".*

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Association Mieux Prescrire's organisational structure

The non-profit Association Mieux Prescrire was set up in such a way as to ensure the ongoing independence, quality and usefulness of Prescrire's publications and programmes.

Association Mieux Prescrire (AMP) is a non-profit, continuing education organisation for healthcare professionals, governed by the French law of 1 July 1901.

To join *Association Mieux Prescrire*, you simply need to have subscribed to the journal for at least 2 years, sign *Prescrire*'s "*Non merci…*" Charter, and pay a membership fee. The charter and AMP's bylaws are freely available (in French only) at www.prescrire.org. Contact: AMP, 83 boulevard Voltaire, 75558 Paris, Cedex 11 - France. amp@prescrire.org

A non-profit organisation controlled by editors and subscribers. Powers are divided within AMP's General Assembly between 4 colleges:
– the College of Editors. 25 members (elected every 3 years by their peers), with 35% of the votes;
– the College of Subscribers. 20 members (elected every 3 years by their peers), with 25% of the votes;
– the College of Advisors. 15 members (appointed by the Board of Directors for a period of three years), with 20% of the votes;
– the College of Founders. 10 members (appointed by the Board of Directors for a period of 12 years), with 20% of the votes.

The Directorate. The Board of Directors (20 members with proportional representation of the 4 colleges), elected by the colleges, elects a 6-member Directorate that must include members of at least 2 colleges: the College of Subscribers and the College of Editors.

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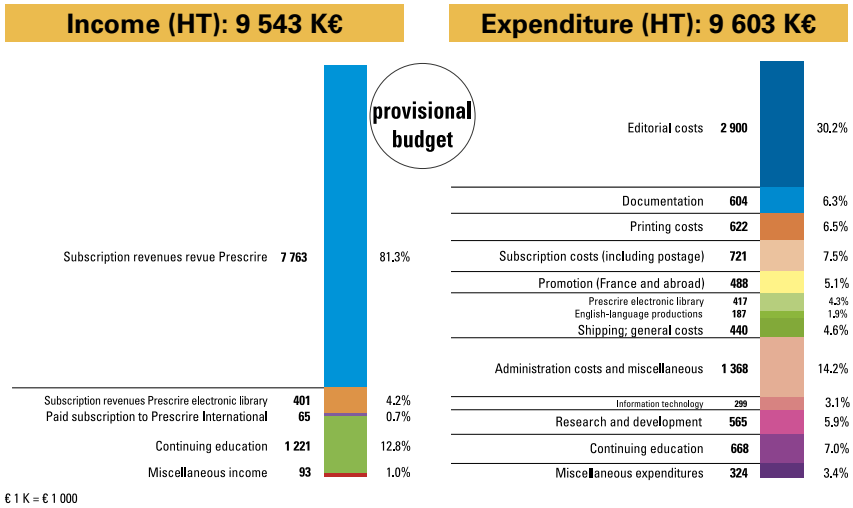
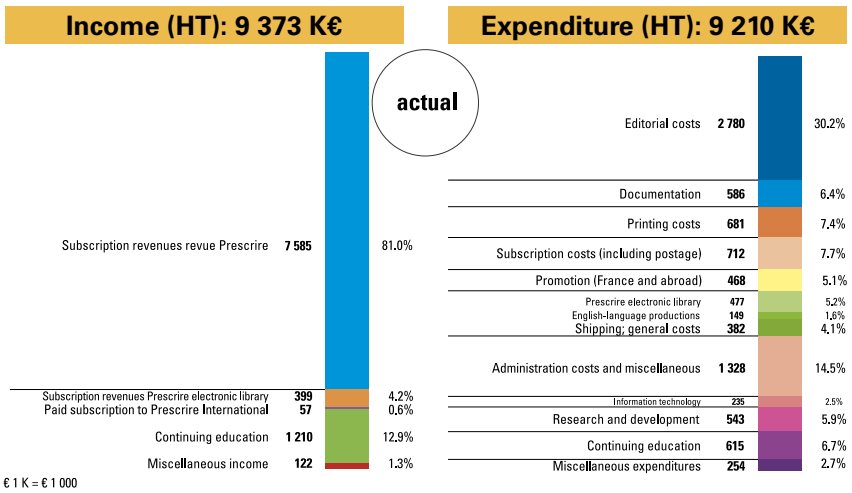
AMP: fiscal year 2016-2017 (01/09/2016-31/08/2017)

AMP provisional budget

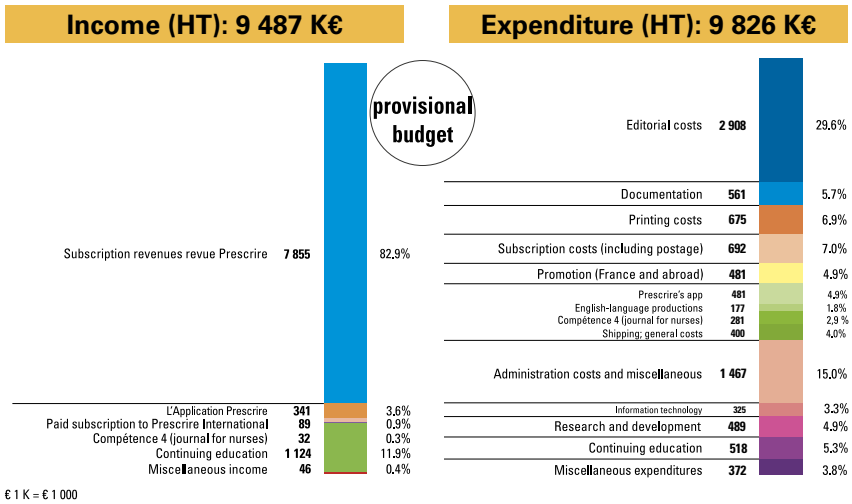


AMP actual income and expenditure in fiscal year 2016-2017



AMP: fiscal year 2017-2018 (1/09/17-31/08/18)

AMP provisional budget



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