

Board Report 2020 of SciPost Foundation

June 2021

The SciPost Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing, implementing and maintaining innovative forms of electronic scientific communication and publishing. The SciPost Foundation operates the SciPost.org interactive online portal for the benefit of the international scientific community and further interested parties.

Board

Prof. Jean-Sébastien Caux - Chairman SciPost Foundation
Dr. Joost van Mameren - Secretary SciPost
Dr. Jasper van Wezel -Treasurer SciPost

Report of 2020 activities

SciPost team

- Next to full-time employee Paula Perez, three new team members were hired:
 - Sergio Tapias Arze - Editorial and Sponsors Admin, as of March 2020
 - Teun Zwart – Developer, working on the xMeta project (sponsored by ERC).
 - Jan Willem Wijnen – Strategy Officer, as of October 2020

Furthermore a pool of freelance production editors work on typesetting of accepted papers.

Sponsorship and grants

A dedicated Sponsorship admin was appointed in March 2020. In 2020 EUR 48.418 sponsorship was acquired from institutions. A considerable amount were institutional renewals from earlier pledges. More details can be found at:

<https://scipost.org/sponsors/>

<https://scipost.org/finances/subsidies/>

New efforts were initiated to reach out to new sponsoring institutes, in particular in USA, Canada, UK, Germany, Scandinavia. New institutes and also the Spanish National Research Council became SciPost Sponsors.

An ERC grant of EUR 60,000 was received for the development of the xMeta project. This project started in May 2020 and will last 24 months. Furthermore grants were awarded by the FNSO (covering costs of approximately 100 publications from French researchers) and by NWO (for general development). These grants will be included in the 2021 financial report.

Publications

In 2020 SciPost journals published the following number of articles:

<i>SciPost Physics</i>	187
<i>SciPost Physics Core</i>	27
<i>SciPost Physics Lecture Notes</i>	9

<i>SciPost Proceedings</i>	57
<i>SciPost Astronomy</i>	1

In addition, first steps were made to establish *SciPost Physics Codebases* and *SciPost Chemistry*. Furthermore, the SciPost platform will be used to launch a new journal *Migration Politics*, in collaboration with the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies at the University of Amsterdam.

SciPost Physics received an Impact Factor (for 2019) of 5.051. Despite well-known caveats associated to the Impact Factor, this indexation demonstrates this journal is highly recognized by the scientific community.

Virtual General Meeting

A Special Virtual General Meeting of the Advisory Board and Editorial College (Physics) was held in January 2020. The main points of discussion were a lookback at operations in 2019 (editorial side, business side, technical side, General context on Open Access, Points requiring attention, and main upcoming developments). A decision was taken to implement the role of Senior Fellows. The discussions at the VGM are recorded and accessible for Fellows and Advisory Board members.

Finances

Income and expenditure statement 2020:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	€	€
Gross margin	64,387	112,876
Salaries and wages	139,358	45,055
Other operating expenses	15,318	<u>38,518</u>
Operating expenses	<u>154,676</u>	<u>83,573</u>
Operational Results	-90,289	29.303
Financial expenses	341	211
Results before income tax	<u>-90,630</u>	<u>29,092</u>
Result after tax	-90,630	29,092

Outlook

SciPost has become a recognised and appreciated player in the international open science movement. An increased number of academic libraries and funding agencies are interested in and supportive of SciPost's diamond open access model, as alternative for subscription based or gold open access journals (with APCs). The established SciPost journals are growing and expected to continue to grow, and SciPost's new journals are expected to develop accordingly, in particular in chemistry and astronomy. But reaching a sustainable financial position remains a challenge, SciPost needs more and more generous sponsors. Initiatives towards that end are under way, but are hindered by slow processes at potential sponsoring organisations. Recently awarded grants will allow expansion of the web development team, and the team will focus on developing the SciPost platform to accommodate multiple communities and journals in parallel.