

Welcome

to the Third ISC General Assembly

Day 2, 30 January 2025



Strategy and membership

9:00 – 12:30



11. Draft Strategic Plan 2025–2028



II. Vision, mission, values and principles

5. The vision of the Council is of science as a global public good.
6. The mission of the Council is to be the global voice for science.

The Council seeks to provide a powerful and credible global voice that is respected in both the public and policy domains and within the scientific community. It will use that voice to:

- i. speak for the value of all science and the need for evidence-informed understanding and decision-making at all levels, from local to global;
- ii. stimulate and support international, interdisciplinary collaboration, particularly among Members of the Council, on scientific research and scholarship on issues of global concern;
- iii. articulate scientific knowledge on issues of global concern in the public and policy domains;
- iv. promote and assist science diplomacy, particularly where it advances the common good and addresses global challenges;
- v. promote the continued and equal advancement of scientific rigour, creativity and relevance in all parts of the world;
- vi. assist the scientific community and relevant stakeholders in their respective roles in the conduct of science and in the face of the evolution of science systems;
- vii. defend and promote the free and responsible practice of science.



Process for the draft Strategic Plan

1. April – June 2024: written input from members based on situational analysis + activities list
2. October 2024: draft plan circulated along with Zoom consultations. Open for comment until early November.
3. November 2024: revised draft circulated with GA documents

Priority Areas of the draft Strategic Plan

1. Freedom, Responsibility, and Inclusivity in Science
2. International Science Agenda-Setting
3. The Evolution of Science and Science Systems
4. Evidence-Based Policymaking
5. Science Diplomacy

Priority Areas of the draft Strategic Plan

1. Freedom, Responsibility, and Inclusivity in Science

- Freedom & responsibility watchdog function
- The right to science
- Scientific integrity in an era of emerging technologies
- Science in times of crisis
- Gender equality in science

Priority Areas of the draft Strategic Plan

2. International science agenda setting

- Identifying and acting on emerging issues of global concern
- Sustainability
- Human & societal development
- Fundamental science as a gateway to development

Priority Areas of the draft Strategic Plan

3. The evolution of science and science systems

- Monitoring trends in science systems
- Science education
- Transdisciplinary science
- Research assessment
- Open science, open publishing

Priority Areas of the draft Strategic Plan

4. Science for evidence-based policymaking

- Delivering science advice to the multilateral system
- Enhancing Members' science advice capabilities
- Shaping the science-policy interface

Priority Areas of the draft Strategic Plan

5. Science diplomacy

- Multi-lateral science diplomacy
- Regional and country-level science diplomacy

13. ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure



13a. Implications of the 2024 revisions for standing committees

Revised Statutes and Rules of Procedure (March 2024):

- Two statutory standing committees:
 - Finance, Compliance and Risk
 - Freedom and Responsibility in Science
- Any other committees will be established by the Governing Board, as appropriate.
- Terms of office of standing committees will be four years and staggered.
- Call for nominations in early February 2025, in order to have new members of the statutory Standing Committees selected in April and operational in May 2025.
- Incoming Vice-Presidents will reflect on what is needed in terms of advisory bodies in other areas of activity.

13b. Proposed modifications to the Statutes and RoP (1)

1. Process for approving reports of the General Assembly meetings

At the prompting of a Member, the Governing Board proposes to make the process for approving General Assembly reports explicit in the Statutes with the following addition to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, between current RoP 3.3 and 3.4:

- *The minutes of any session of the General Assembly shall be circulated for comment of the participants of the session within six months, and finalized by the Governing Board and circulated to the membership within one year of the session.*

13b. Proposed modifications to the Statutes and RoP (2)

2. ISC core values

The Governing Board proposes to amend Statute 7 on the core values that guide the Council's work so as to disaggregate the core value (iii) 'Integrity, transparency and respect' into two more distinct values, as follows:

Current:

- excellence;
- inclusivity and diversity;
- integrity, transparency and respect;
- collaborativeness;
- sustainability.

Proposed:

- i. excellence;
- ii. inclusivity and diversity;
- iii. integrity and transparency;
- iv. respect;
- v. collaborativeness;
- vi. sustainability.

13b. Proposed further modifications to the Statutes and RoP (3)

3. Proposal from the French Academy of Sciences

The French Academy of Sciences proposes that the chair of the ISC–Host Country Liaison Committee be a member of the Governing Board.

Note that if this motion carries, the necessary changes to the text of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure would be brought to the General Assembly for approval at a later stage.

Break



14. Membership matters



14a. Reports from membership fora

Category 1

Silvina Ponce Dawson

President, International Union of Pure and Applied Physics

Category 2

Marta Farsang

National Research Council Canada

Category 3

Gian Maria Greco

Marie Curie Alumni Association

Category 3

(associations and academies of young scientists)

Hiba Baroud

Global Young Academy

Mostafa Moonir Shawrav

Marie Curie Alumni Association

14b. Implications of the revision of statutes for membership

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
Characteristics	<u>International scientific unions and associations in a specific discipline or area of science</u>	Scientific bodies representing a <u>broad spectrum of scientific fields or disciplines in a country, region or territory</u>	Diverse organizations <u>representing active scientists; young scientist organizations</u>	ISC Affiliated Bodies and observers
Members in good standing	40	120	50	16
Voting rights	Collectively 40%	Collectively 40%	Collectively 20%	None
Dues	Based on member-ship dues income	Based on GDP (with some exceptions)	Flat rate of ca. 570 EUR (in 2025)	None

What does an ideal ISC membership look like, in light of its mission to be the 'global voice for science' and in the evolving global context?



Q&A



15. ISC regional presence



Our regional presence

The ISC has Members and partners across the world and is active in **all regions**. The **ISC Regional Focal Points** convene the scientific community and act as a hub for ISC Members and activities.



Asia and the Pacific

ISC Regional Focal Point is hosted by the **Australian Academy of Science**



Latin America and the Caribbean

ISC Regional Focal Point is hosted by the **Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences**



Africa

Completion of scoping exercise on an ISC's presence in Africa



Middle East

A strong commitment to establishing an ISC presence in the region, with plans to become operational soon



Lunch

Until 14:00



Financial matters

14:00 – 16:30



16. Report of the Vice- President for Finance, Compliance and Risk for the period 2022-2024



Committee for Finance, Compliance and Risk 2023-2025



Sawako Shirahase
Vice-President for Finance
International Science Council



Sir Peter Gluckman
President
International Science Council



Jisoon Lee
Emeritus Professor
Seoul National University



Isabel Varela-Nieto
Full Research Professor
Saarland University (CSIC)



Beatrice Weder di Mauro
President
Centre for Economic Policy
Research, CEPR



Salvatore Aricò
CEO
International Science Council

Policies (new or updated)

- Sponsorship and Endorsement policy (2023)
- ISC Sustainability principles (updated 2023)
- ISC Travel policy (updated 2023)
- Due Diligence policy (2024)
- Privacy policy (updated 2024)
- Code of conduct (2024)

Audit

External audit each year.

Audited accounts approved each year by the ISC
Members.



Budget and results 2022–2024

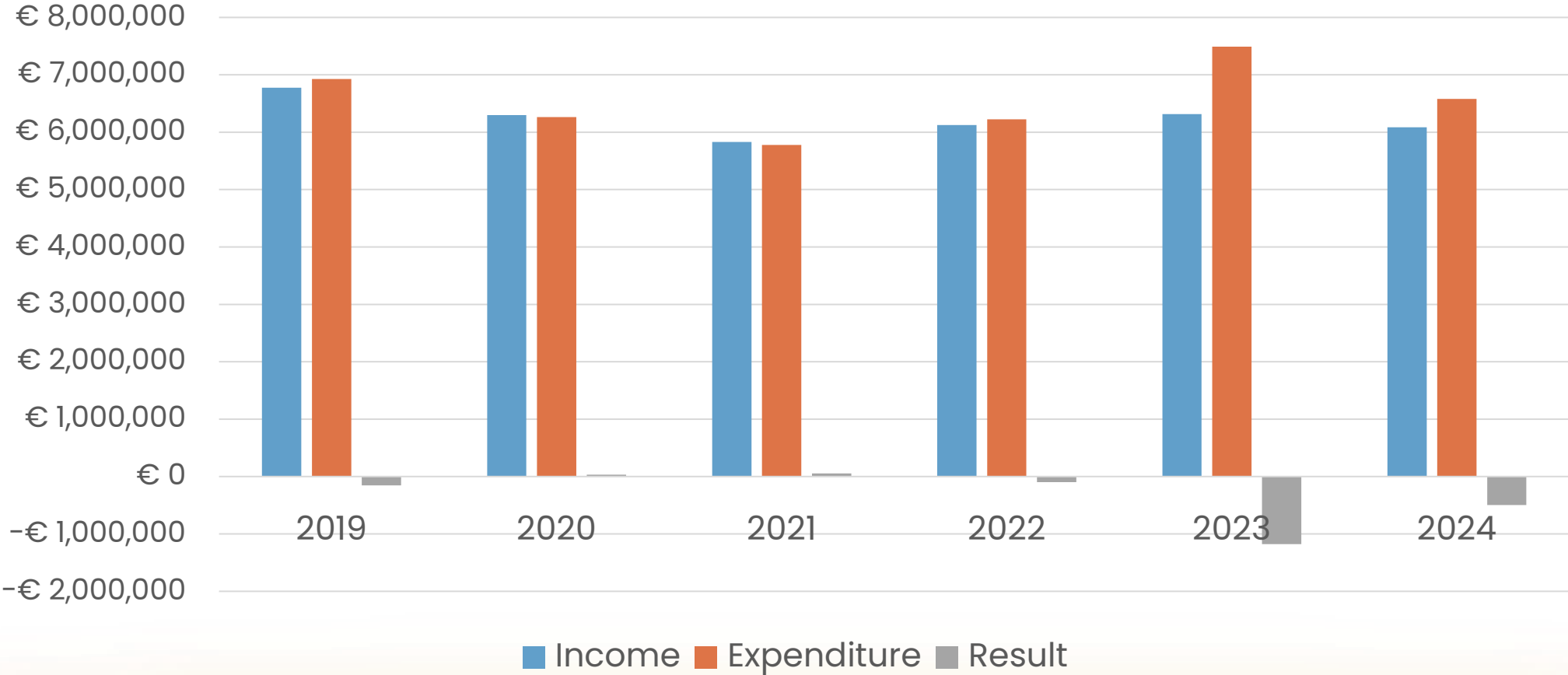
2022–2024	Budgeted	Est. actuals
Dues	€ 9,072,023	€ 8,632,252
External	€ 3,128,000	€ 5,239,259
Other	€ 355,000	€ 1,710,610
Income	€ 12,555,023	€ 15,582,121
Expenditure	€ 14,279,526	€ 17,357,361
Result	-€ 1,724,502	-€ 1,775,240

Note: All figures for 2024 in these slides are based on estimations at mid-November 2024.

Accounts 2022-2024

	2022	2023	2024
Dues	€ 2,754,936	€ 2,903,752	€ 2,973,564
Other	€ 796,247	€ 654,363	€ 160,000
External	€ 2,573,270	€ 2,755,796	€ 2,950,948
Income	€ 6,124,453	€ 6,313,911	€ 6,084,512
Governance	€ 234,084	€ 334,470	€ 217,794
Regional structures	€ 87,067	€ 234,243	€ 227,172
Activities	€ 1,170,569	€ 1,622,070	€ 1,113,280
Communications	€ 182,182	€ 280,747	€ 135,278
Personnel	€ 2,281,949	€ 3,035,919	€ 3,185,820
Operations	€ 845,439	€ 466,711	€ 342,000
Dedicated funds	€ 1,422,445	€ 1,518,310	€ 1,360,567
Expenditure	€ 6,223,735	€ 7,492,469	€ 6,581,911
Result	-€ 99,282	-€ 1,178,558	-€ 497,399

Accounts 2019-2024

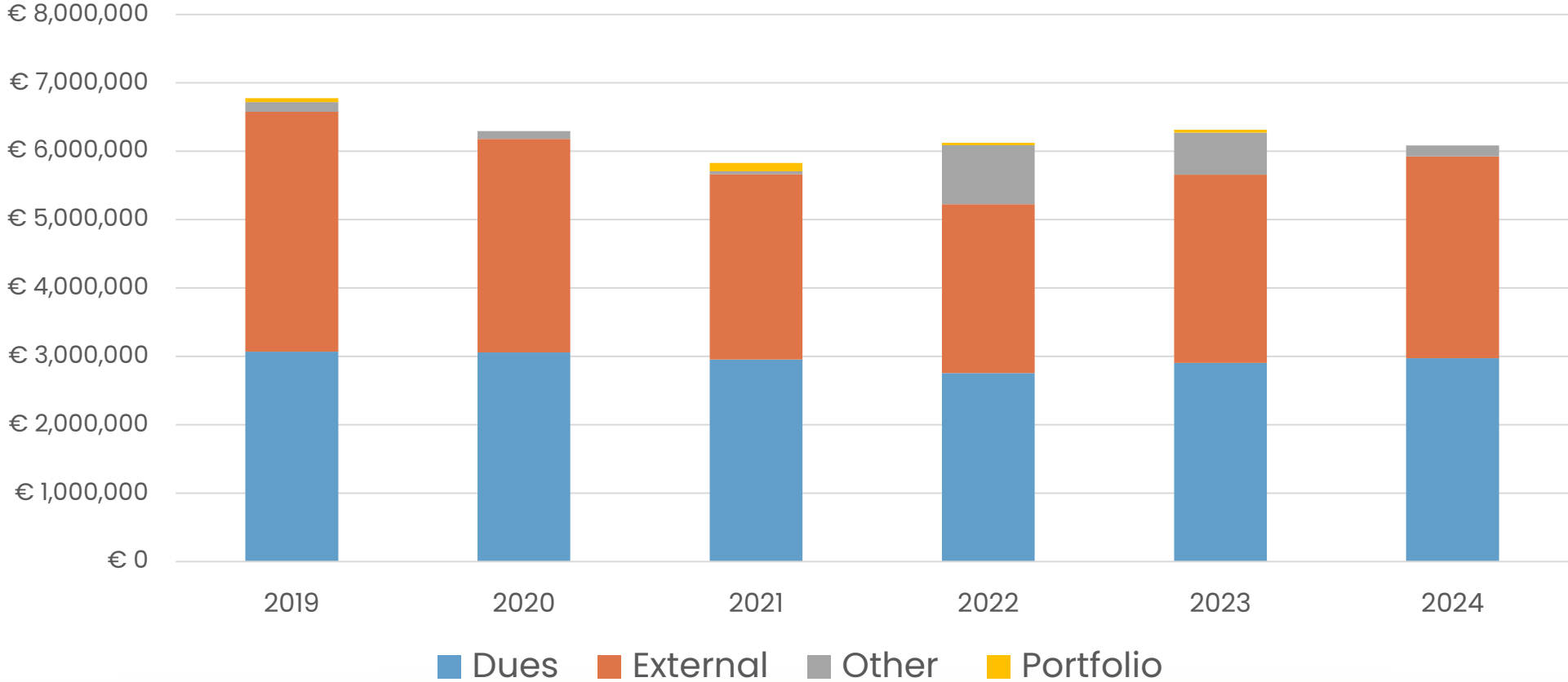


Reserves

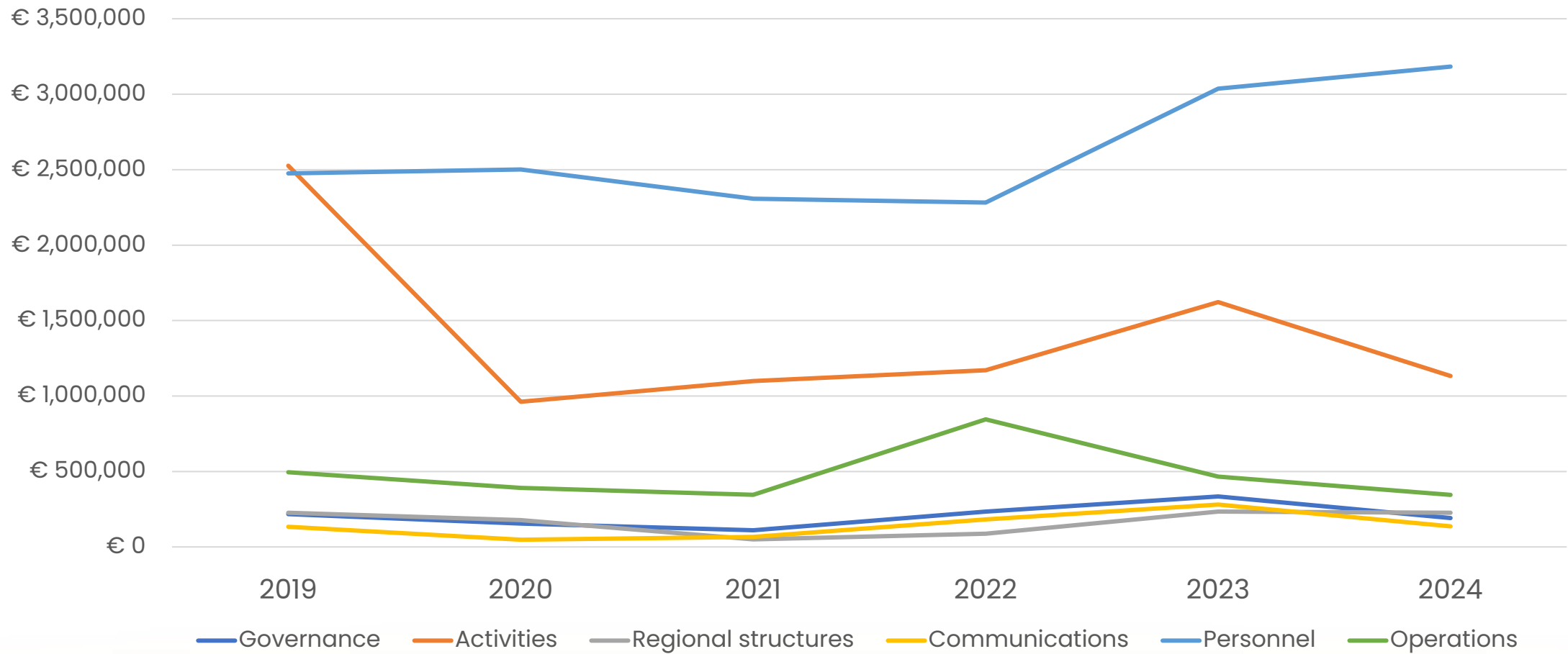
Year ending	2021	2022	2023	2024
General	€ 2,050,230	€ 1,950,948	€ 772,389	€ 274,990
Mandatory	€ 1,500,000	€ 1,500,000	€ 1,500,000	€ 1,500,000



Income



Expenditure



Additional, in-kind contributions not seen in accounts

- Hosting of regional focal points in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia and the Pacific
- Direct support from some funders to ISC initiatives led by others (e.g. Pacific Academy establishment meeting)
- Co-sponsorship and hosting of Affiliated Bodies
- Hosting by ISC Members and partners of meetings and in-kind and in-cash contributions to activities



Challenges

1. Costs of operating are increasing.
2. Income from dues has not increased in 2019, despite a 2% annual increase for inflation on dues rates.
 - Departure of some national Members following the merger
 - Financial difficulties of Members -> ca. 30 requests for waivers and reductions in 2022-2024, including from newly adhering Members, and arrears
3. Diversification of income.
4. Hosting arrangements in France currently under negotiation.

17. Provisional 2025–2026 budget



Provisional budget

- Secretariat working to the provisional budget until GA approval.
- Two-year budget (in four-year GA cycle)
 - New budget developments to report on, not yet integrated into the budget
 - Uncertainty about membership dues income in 2026 (dues revision)
- Aiming to be budget neutral
- Risks:
 - Membership dues income (financial strength of Members)
 - Hosting in France to be renegotiated
 - High level of short-term, external funding
 - US federal funding (NSF grant)
- Major efforts in fundraising needed in 2025

Income

Projected dues income in 2025 and 2026 based on current structure, with 2% for inflation

External income:

1. CAST Early- and Mid-career Researchers Grant (2024-2025)
2. Frontiers Foundation Grant (2022-2026)
3. IDRC Science Systems Grant (2024-2027)
4. International Institute of Education grant (2025-2027)
5. IRDR ICoE Taipei funds (2010-2026)
6. New Zealand CFRS support (2020-2025)
7. NSF Sustainability Grant (2024-2028)
8. University of Bergen / Stein Rokkan Prize (ongoing)

New income recently promised but not integrated into the budget:

1. Frontiers Planet Prize, 200k EUR for five years (as of mid-2026)
2. European Commission for continuation of Multilateral Dialogue on principles and values of scientific collaboration (400/500K per year 2025-2027)

Expenditure

Core functions:

1. Governance (no in-person governance meetings in 2025)
2. Regional presence
3. ISC representation
4. Membership engagement
5. Science and policy
6. Fellowship, prizes and sponsorship
7. Communications
8. Personnel and operations

Budget 2025–2026

v 29 Nov 2024

	2024 (estimated)	2025 budget	2026 budget
INCOME	EUR	EUR	EUR
Structural income	3,133,564	3,146,287	3,207,013
External contributions	2,950,948	1,955,455	877,957
TOTAL INCOME	6,084,512	5,101,742	4,084,970
EXPENDITURE	EUR	EUR	EUR
Governance	217,794	114,072	120,000
Regional structures	227,172	150,000	75,000
ISC representation	58,000	50,000	58,000
Membership engagement	137,808	146,667	50,000
Science and policy	885,918	1,213,188	428,609
Fellowship, prizes and sponsorship	31,554	49,488	16,500
Communications	135,278	97,000	95,000
Operations	3,527,820	3,262,951	3,286,622
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,221,344	5,083,366	4,129,731
Dedicated funds	1,360,567	-	-
OVERALL RESULT (INCOME – EXPENDITURE)	- 497,399	18,376	- 44,761
Reserves at end of year	274,990	293,366	248,605

18. Adjustment of membership dues for inflation

Proposal for annual adjustment of dues for inflation

ISC membership dues have habitually been increased by 2% each to compensate for inflation (except in 2022).

On average, this is slightly less than actual inflation in France.

The Governing Board asks that this automatic increase be formalized by a vote of the General Assembly.

19. Appointment of external auditor



Appointment of external auditor

The General Assembly is asked to confirm the appointment of Sadec Akelys as external auditor for the six-year period 2023–2028 inclusive.



Break



20. Revision of ISC membership dues structure



Revision of ISC dues structure

- The ISC operates with parallel dues structures for former ICSU and ISSC members.
- The dues structure and dues rates preserve many historical exceptions inherited from ICSU and the ISC.
- Need one, consolidated dues structure, appropriate for the current context.



Dues Revision Working Group

- [Sawako Shirahase](#), ISC Vice-President for Finance, Compliance and Risk (Chair)
- [Magdalena Stoeva](#), Secretary General, International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM)
- [Ehud Keinan](#), President, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
- [Irasema Coronado](#), International Political Science Association (IPSA) Executive Committee
- [Ourania Kosti](#), US National Academies, Director of Board on International Scientific Organizations
- [Lai Meng Looi](#), Academy of Sciences of Malaysia, Chair of International Committee
- [Jones Fairfax Agwata](#), Kenya National Academy of Sciences
- [Silvia L. Vilches](#), International Consortium of Research Staff Associations (ICoRSA)



Mandate

1. Consolidate the parallel dues structures of former ICSU and former ISSC members.
2. Address the question of affordable dues for organizations of limited means.

Scope of work

The Working Group defines its task as making recommendations on the level of dues that Members should pay – not on questions related to membership (e.g. eligibility of an organization for a category of membership, consequences of non-payment of membership).

Process

1. 3 virtual meetings of the Working Group between October 2024 and January 2025 to establish a common understanding of the work and develop fundamental principles to discuss with Members.
2. Consultation with Members at the General Assembly in January 2025 and afterwards in writing to hear views and gather ideas.
3. Concrete proposals developed by April/May for another round of consultation with Members in May/June.
4. Finalization of proposal for special General Assembly vote in Q3 of 2025.

Principles for discussion

Income from membership dues is core to ISC operations, sustainability and independence. The following principles should apply to ISC members in Categories 1, 2, and 3. Category 4 members are exempt from paying dues and these principles do not apply.

1. ISC Members are expected to comply with the requirement to pay dues.
2. The membership dues of former ICSU and ISSC members should be consolidated into a single structure.
3. The dues structure should be tiered according to the financial strength of the Members and the category of membership. Factors in assessing financial strength need to be defined with input from ISC Members.
4. New Members should pay dues on a pro rata basis for the calendar year of admission.

Closing formalities

16:30 – 17:30



21. Adoption of resolutions



22. Date and place of next meetings



23. Any other business



24. Presidential address



25. Close of General Assembly



Thank you!

