

Financial report 2015 / Outlook 2016

The year 2015 started with a financial policy bombshell: on 15 January, the Swiss National Bank abandoned the minimum exchange rate between the euro and franc which it had set in 2011 at CHF 1.20 per euro and had guaranteed since then through the corresponding intervention. From one day to the next contributions from the euro countries lost up to 16 percent in value; our events and conferences equally became more expensive for external participants.

The decision by the large majority of Goetheanum staff to waive half their thirteenth month salary meant that in this situation the liquidity of the GAS could be secured in the summer. This decision was reflected in the financial accounts of the Medical Section to the extent that staff costs (9.65 full-time equivalents plus temporary support staff) came to a good CHF 19,000 less than budgeted for 2015.

At the end of the year it was possible to breathe slightly more easily again since the abandonment of the minimum exchange rate merely reduced the value of the euro on a yearly average by about nine percent, an increase in contributions partly compensated for this loss in value, and the predicted collapse of visitor numbers for conferences did not happen. Furthermore, the services bought from the euro zone also of course became correspondingly cheaper so that the financial disaster which was feared at the start of the year did not materialise.

So what were the signature events in 2015 as reflected in the finances?

To begin with, we can point to intensive publication activity by the Medical Section. Alongside a whole range of reprints, a fundamentally revised edition of *Responsibility Structures*, now called *Leadership Questions*, edited by Michaela Glöckler and Rolf Heine, was presented. The book *Spektrum Autismus* by Ingrid Ruhrmann was also published in a second revised edition. Additionally, two new booklets were produced: *Raphael and the Mysteries of Illness and Healing* (in DE und EN) as well as a booklet with working material for kindergarten teaching and the first years of school.

Thanks to not inconsiderable support from foundations and individual donors, as well as gratifying sales of our publications, it was possible to cover costs in this field and even produce a small surplus. A particular pleasure was the completion of the IKAM Brochure "Anthroposophic medicine worldwide – meeting and supporting it" and its translation into four languages. The process of financing it is not, however, completed yet and an application is in the works.

Our conference activities in 2015 required higher expenditures than provided for in the budget, something that was due to higher fees, travel and subsistence costs. Extra receipts generated by gratifying numbers of attendees, particularly at the annual conference, and considerable income from donations meant that there was a small surplus here too. Our International Postgraduate Medical Training (IPMT) closed with a slight loss of CHF 11,000.

But after 20 advanced training weeks worldwide, and in comparison with last year's deficit of CHF 36,000, that should be seen as a success.

Financing the *International Coordination of Anthroposophic Medicine (IKAM)* continues to be a problem; its costs show a rising trend as part of progressing internationalisation while the regular contributions from the associations and institutions which represent the basis for financing IKAM have stagnated at just under CHF 100,000. As in the past year, only a good 75 percent of the planned base funding of CHF 500,000 could be achieved in 2015, something which could, however, be compensated for – at least in part – by unallocated donations.

In summary, we can say that 35.5 percent of the Section budget could be covered through income from current Section activity (attendance fees, book sales, author's and lecture fees, exhibition stands, certificate charges, etc.), about the same amount (35.1 percent) was financed through contributions and fees from AM institutions, the pharmaceutical manufacturers, AM professional associations and the GAS, and 29.4 percent in the form of project funding from foundations and unallocated donations.

Ultimately we can look back on a financially quite successful year – it has been possible for a considerable time to avoid fully utilising the sum of CHF 75,000 assigned by the GAS to the Medical Section, and thus also to make a small contribution to helping in the financially strained situation with regard to Goetheanum operations.

Looking ahead to 2016, we anticipate an increase of about 13 percent in the budget in comparison to 2015. That is due, on the one hand, to our two major events planned for May 2016: the World Eurythmy Therapy Conference and the Early Childhood Conference. About 600 participants are expected for each of them.

The most incisive event for the biography of the Medical Section will then be the change in the Section leadership in the autumn, when Michaela Glöckler will pass on this responsibility to her successors Matthias Girke and his deputy Georg Soldner after 28 years of leadership work. Michaela Glöckler will, of course, continue to undertake work for the Medical Section; a 3.6 percent increase in staff costs is therefore budgeted for the transition and handover period.

In 2016 it will continue to be one of the targets to come considerably closer to the base funding of CHF 500,000 and thus to ensure the basic staffing of the Medical Section and its capacity to undertake its work – independently of project financing and unallocated donations.

And let me take this opportunity to say a great, heartfelt thank you to all foundations, institutions, pharmaceutical companies, associations and private donors who have loyally accompanied us for many years or who may also have supported us for the first time 2015!

Stefan Langhammer