

AREPO

Financial report for 2024 and **provisional budget for 2025**

April 2025 | Brussels



The Association of European Regions for Products of Origin

The European network of regions and producer associations
that deals with products of quality and origin

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1 | Financial report for 2024

The independent accounting firm Gadras Associés has completed AREPO's 2024 accounts, enabling us to meet the statutory deadline of 30 days before the general meeting. You will be invited to vote on these accounts at the general meeting on 25 June 2025.

I therefore present to you the **report on the 2024 accounts** prepared by the accounting firm and the **provisional budget for 2025**.

1. Comments on the expenditure for 2024

The **main expenditure** items in 2024 were:

- **€42,174 including VAT** for the two plenary meetings held in Brussels (April 2024) and Larissa (Thessaly, October 2024). This amount includes interpretation services, catering and public transport. The costs related to the General Assemblies decreased by 18% compared to 2023 (€51,218 including VAT), despite the fact that two plenary meetings were held during the year.
- **Staff costs amounted to nearly €112,000** for the second full year with 1.5 staff members in Brussels (salaries: €96,000, +4.82%; social security contributions: €16,000, +22%).
- **Consulting expenses for European projects and communication activities** were renewed under the same terms and conditions as in 2023 by ACL Stratégies (Anne Clermontelle), for a total amount of €30,600 including VAT (€25,500 excluding VAT).

It should be noted that collaboration with consulting firms is in accordance with the rules governing public procurement.

- **All travel and meal expenses have been maintained at the same level**, following the very significant reduction applied in 2023 (AREPO team travel expenses had already been halved in 2023 compared to 2022). Videoconferencing continues to be widely used for meetings.

It is important to note the agreement with the Emilia-Romagna region for the free use of premises in Brussels.

It is also important to note the agreement with the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region for the free provision of the time of the Secretary General and Alexandra Duriez, as part-time administrative assistant.

2. Comments on the revenue for 2024

It should be noted that in 2024, the AREPO General Assembly voted to increase membership fees from **€4,500 to €6,000** to take into account the impact of inflation on several costs incurred by the association. Created in 2004 with a membership fee of €5,000, AREPO reduced the fee in 2014 to €4,500 so as not to accumulate too much public money. Since then, the membership fee has never been changed, even though global changes (inflation, energy, services, etc.) have led to price increases.

Despite the increase, **all 30 regions officially affiliated with AREPO paid their membership fees in 2024, for a total of €187,000**. All these contributions are for the year 2024. This mark of confidence obliges us,

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as every year, to achieve even better results in defending quality and origin products in the interests of producers and the development of rural areas.

We also received income of **€36,972** from the closure of the **AGROSMARTglobal** and **MOVING** projects.

In 2024, the GI SMART project began and we received the first instalment of pre-financing, which, from an accounting point of view, will only be recorded in the 2025 financial year.

3. Review of the 2024 results

Thanks to the increase in membership fees, **the 2024 financial year shows a positive result of €14,944.**

2 | Provisional budget for 2025

As usual, the provisional budget for 2025 will be proposed as balanced at **€243,167**, with the first **GI SMART grant of €48,220** and the final payment from **MOVING of €12,747**.

The first general meeting in Brussels will be followed by a high-level conference as part of the launch of the GI SMART project's community platform. The event, co-organised with oriGIn EU and EFOW, will be partly funded by the GI SMART project budget.

A second general meeting will be held in Barcelona (Catalonia) in October 2025.

The budget allocated to staff costs will increase due to the agreement providing for a net pay rise of €220 for Francesca and €70 for Giulia. In addition, Belgium applies an automatic and mandatory salary indexation of 2% from March 2025.

Consulting costs will also increase slightly in 2025.

Finally, from an accounting perspective, the advance received in 2024 for the GI SMART project will be recognised in the 2025 financial year.

Bordeaux, 14 April 2025

Laurent Gomez

Secretary General of AREPO

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