

# AREPO

## Report on the accounts for the 2025 financial year And provisional budget for 2026

February 2026 | 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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### AREPO

14 rue François de Sourdis  
33000 Bordeaux  
FRANCE

### Contact

Representative office in Brussels  
Email: [info@arepoquality.eu](mailto:info@arepoquality.eu)  
Telephone: +32 0498 73 22 03

### Networks and website

Facebook: [@arepoquality](#)  
LinkedIn: AREPO Quality  
[www.arepoquality.eu](http://www.arepoquality.eu)

## 1 | Report on the accounts for the 2025 financial year

The independent chartered accountants Gadrás Associés have finalised AREPO's 2025 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 24 March 2026.

I therefore present to you **the report on the 2025 accounts** prepared by the independent chartered accountant and the **2026 provisional budget**.

### 1. Comments on 2025 expenditure

The **main expenses** in 2025 were:

- **Nearly €45,000** for the **two plenary meetings organised in Brussels (June 2025)**, followed by a **high-level conference on geographical indications** as part of the launch of the GI SMART project's community platform, and then **in Barcelona**, World Gastronomy Capital 2025 (October 2025). The high-level event, co-organised with oriGIn EU and EFOW, was partly funded by the GI SMART project budget. This amount included interpreting services, catering and public transport. As in 2024, the costs associated with the General Assemblies remain under control compared to 2023 (€51,218), despite holding two plenary meetings during the year.
- **Staff costs amounted to nearly €118,600** for the second full year with 1.5 staff members in Brussels. The two employees in Brussels received a slight salary increase to reward their loyalty and the quality of their work.
- **Consulting expenses for European projects increased slightly to €35,000**, considering the work to be done within the framework of GI SMART, but remain lower than in 2023 and previous years (above €37,000).

*It should be noted that the cooperation with Anne Clermontelle Consulting is carried out in accordance with the rules governing public procurement.*

- Despite a slight increase due to the launch of GI SMART in particular, **travel and catering expenses are lower than in 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 should also be noted that the Secretary General and Alexandra Duriez, a part-time assistant, are made available free of charge by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region under an agreement.

### 2. Comments on the 2025 revenue

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 lowered the fee in 2014 to €4,500 in order to avoid accumulating 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.

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Despite this, 29 regions have remained loyal and two new regions have paid their membership fees. Only the French region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) has suspended its participation for internal reasons, but we hope to be able to count on its return. A new region has joined us.

The €188,000 received corresponds to 31 contributions, including one for 2026. This mark of confidence obliges us, 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 received €12,747 in revenue from the end of the MOVING project.

The GI SMART project has begun and we have received a first tranche of pre-financing, partly allocated to the 2025 financial year and partly to 2026.

### 3. Comments on the 2025 results

The 2025 financial year shows a positive result of €7,518, reflecting a near break-even position.

## 2 | Provisional budget for 2026

As usual, the provisional budget for 2026 will be proposed as balanced at €246,400, with continued payments from GI SMART. €56,000 will be allocated to 2026 actions as part of this project. Funding will continue until 2028.

The first general assembly will therefore be held by videoconference. As the interpreters will be on duty for the day, their services will also be used for a meeting on current developments in the wine sector in partnership with EFOW, the network of wines of origin.

A high-level conference will be organised, as it is every two to three years, with a presentation of PGI-PDO-organic-STG and mountain products from AREPO member regions on 23 April in Brussels.

A workshop will be organised in Brussels on 25 June with our partners EFOW and OriGIn EU at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels.

A second general assembly will be held in Mantua (Lombardy) in October, probably on 15 and 16 October.

A slight increase in staff costs is to be expected as Belgium applies automatic and mandatory wage indexation to inflation.

Consulting costs will remain at the same level as in 2025.

Bordeaux, 19 February 2026,

**Laurent Gomez**

Secretary General of AREPO

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