



General Assembly 2019 document / Assemblée Générale 2019

Item 13

Topic: **Treasurer's report 2015–2019 / Rapport du Trésorier – 2015–2019**

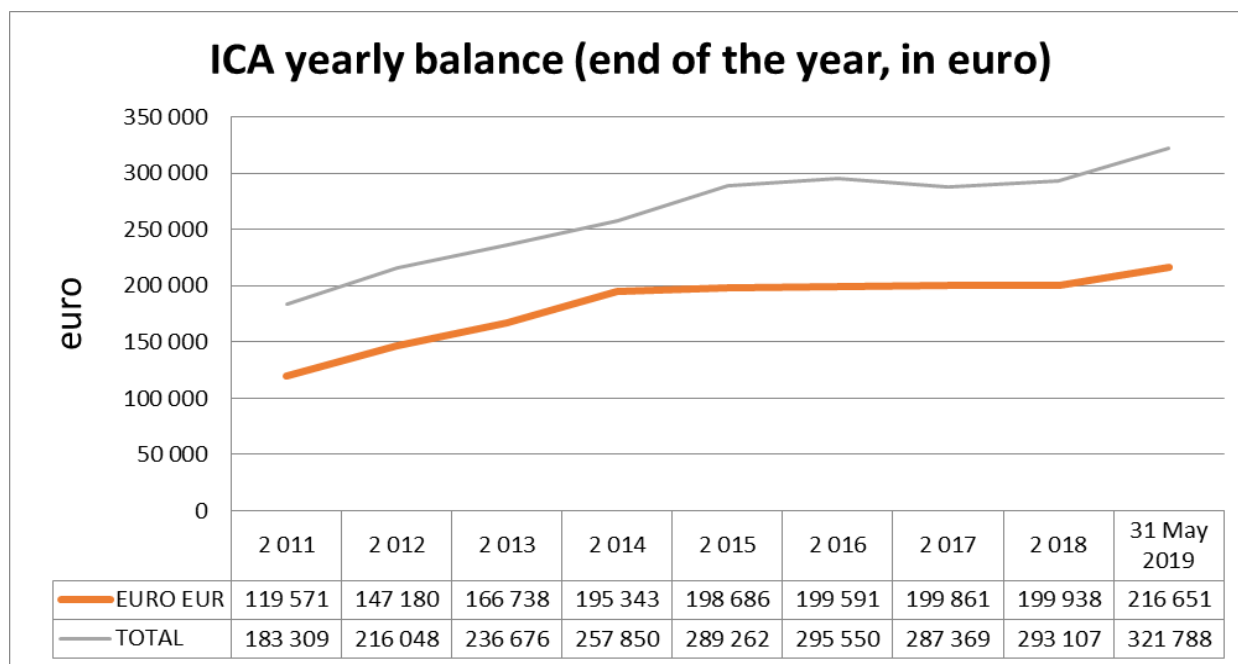
Rapporteur: **László Zentai, Secretary-General / Secrétaire général**

Date: 30 June 2019

As I have presented in details the financial procedures of the ICA in my previous report (GA 2015, see <https://icaci.org/files/documents/generalassembly2015/13-treasurer-report.pdf>), I will not repeat it now. I was controlled by the same Hungarian accounting company, and their regular reports were presented to the ICA Executive Committee and were forwarded to the ICA Honorary Auditors too.

The elected ICA Honorary Auditors got all financial documents digitally at the end of the financial period, and they had the right to check all financial documents any time. In addition, a form for tax declaration has been provided annually to the Swedish Tax Authority (with the assistance of Bengt Rystedt, former ICA President), in the form of an annual balance of assets, revenue and expenditure. In the last years, thanks to the positive balance, we have to pay tax on our publications (which was not predicted when this budget was proposed).

The ICA bank is still the Dutch ABN AMRO Bank. The ICA Honorary Auditors got all financial documents in digital form soon after the end of the financial term (31 May 2019), and this full term report has been submitted to the elected ICA Honorary Auditors too, when it was completed.



The following conditions/factors were changed after 2015 (and most of these changes were unpredictable when the budget was planned):

- There is no interest on EUR accounts since 2017, and the ICA bank even changed its conditions, which now allows negative interest – however, this was not implemented. The situation is similar in all banks of the Euro zone.
- It was not possible to take into consideration the financial consequences of releasing the ICA journal with Taylor and Francis (the International Journal of Cartography) when the budget for the 2015–2019 period was planned. The new publication regime has also financial consequences.
- Although our Working Group on International Map Year was closed, the planned book on Sustainable development goals will be published only in the next term. The IMY budget will cover the publishing costs (it will be published together with the UN).

Details of the budget 2015–2019 (3 July 2015 – 31 May 2019)

	Budget	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015-2019 total	%
INCOME								
national members fees	140 000	8 347	33 060	35 556	23 661	35 634	136 259	97,33%
affiliate members fees	65 000	9 466	14 526	11 574	5 965	11 859	53 389	82,14%
publications	40 000	1 070	7 763	9 775	8 919	8 086	35 613	89,03%
interests on investments	8 000	0	1 023	2	0	0	1 025	12,81%
from the funds	30 000							
TOTAL	283 000	18 883	56 372	56 907	38 545	55 578	226 285	79,96%
exchange difference						264	264	
	283 000	18 883	56 372	56 907	38 545	55 842	226 549	
EXPENDITURES								
offices and travel	100 000	-1 299	25 375	15 711	18 115	12 950	70 851	70,85%
website management	20 000	3 433	4 409	4 412	4 698	0	16 952	84,76%
international membership	20 000	0	1 238	1 275	1 313	1 339	5 165	25,83%
International Map Year	30 000	1 370	4 972	1 316	0	0	7 659	25,53%
commissions & w.groups	55 000	11 822	9 044	7 132	6 146	3 290	37 434	68,06%
publications	25 000	5 013	6 037	10 088	7 798	1 666	30 602	122,41%
Solidarity Fund	30 000	5 000	3 153	12 118	1 250	9 800	31 321	104,40%
miscellaneous	5 000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00%
TOTAL	285 000	25 339	54 228	52 052	39 320	29 045	199 984	70,17%

Income (actual to 31 May 2019: €226 285; budgeted: €283 000)

- **Membership fees:** Most of our recent national members can be considered as ‘in good standing’ and we are grateful to those countries that have paid on a regular basis. We continue to receive subscriptions from our generous affiliate members also; these funds support the work of the ICA.

I have no good explanation on the much lower income from national and affiliate members in 2018, but some arrears were paid in 2019, even after closing the financial books for the 2015–2019 term.

The lower income rate on affiliate member subscriptions is only illusory. If I had closed the financial record some days after 31 May, we would reach the 100% (firms prefer to pay in various dates and our largest affiliate members paid their subscription and arrears in the beginning of June).

- **Publications revenue:** Our publication regime was changed in this term. This was a decision of the ICA Executive Committee and it has a financial consequence. The balance on this item is positive. The financial support of Taylor and Francis to our journal (International Journal of Cartography) is practically paid to our editors, so this item appears in both the expenditure and income side (this was not foreseen when the budget was planned). We are no longer publishing our proceedings at Springer; we have a new contract with Copernicus to publish our proceedings and commission workshop papers. The royalty income on books will decrease, but the royalty income on our journal papers will increase in the future. This is the less predictable item both of the income and the expenditures section.
- **Interest:** When the budget was defined in 2015, we predicted that interest rates would be on a downward trajectory, so we planned less income on interest in the future. However, we have not foreseen the 0% interest on EUR accounts. This is the reason of the much lower income compared with the budget.

Expenditures (actual to 31 May 2019: €193 984; budgeted: €285 000)

- **Costs** for the main office holders (President, Secretary-General) were kept below budget, mostly because of the ability to call on funds other than ICA (travel costs were sometimes covered by their home institutes or project grants).

Some remarks:

- We tried to increase our outreach activities and the President complied with these invitations even in more remote countries to increase the visibility of the ICA and attract potential new members (see the President’s report and his report in the last volume of the ICA News at https://icaci.org/files/documents/newsletter/ica_news_72_2019_1_lq.pdf).
- We have increased activities in large international scientific bodies, especially in the International Science Council (ISC, former ICSU) and in the UN GGIM.

- It should be noted that the ICA's tax-free status is dependent on following the rules of the Swedish Tax Authorities, so in the last two years we had to pay some tax (mostly due to the larger income on publications).

Other travel and meeting costs covered the main Executive Committee meetings, including the annual financial contribution paid to vice-presidents.

Office costs include accounting costs, translation fees, expenses related to the ICA bank (which is continuously increasing), postage and printing costs, and the costs of assisting with the ICA conferences.

Three sub items were listed in the budget:

- The **website management** was quite predictable as we have a contract with the two experts (Manuela Schmidt and Felix Ortog). However, the fee for the last half year (2019 first part) will be paid only in July. This item also includes the website hosting and domain name registration costs. We decided to cancel the separate IMY website and integrate the content into the ICA website to save costs.
- The **international membership** costs were much lower than we planned. Practically, our participation is only paying the fee for membership (as a union member) in the International Science Council (ISC, former ICSU). The yearly subscription is based on the membership income of the organisation. Concerning this income, the ICA is very close to the upper category where the subscription is much higher. Finally, due to the transformation of the ICSU (which now integrates both the natural and social sciences) the subscription fee became a sensitive issue. The subscription fees are lower in the international organisations of social sciences (some of these organisations have only individual membership), so the revision of the ISC subscriptions was delayed).
- The International Map Year expenditures were also much lower than we planned, but we are reserving the money for the publication of our book on Sustainable development goals together with the UN (read more in President's report).
- **Commissions and Working Groups:** Of the budgeted €5 000 only a two third was spent, (but most of the pre-ICC 2019 workshop costs were paid and will be paid after 31 May 2019). This is a much better result than in the previous term, when only half of the money was spent. This means our commissions were much more active, although some commissions did not even ask for financial support.

The ICA Executive Committee decided not to allocate certain budget to each commission, but all commissions can apply for support for their projects. This was also communicated with the commission chairs. The more successful projects and events the commissions have, the more support they can get.

Insufficient claims were made on the Treasurer to use these funds fully, and Commission and Working Group chairs should be continually encouraged to make use of the budgeted amount available to them. Our policy during this period has been to be as flexible as

possible within the ICA guidelines concerning the costs incurred by Commissions. During 2015–2019 term, I was able to support other activities, including web site development, catering at Commission and Working Group meetings, meeting costs, a very limited contribution to travel for the Commission or Working Group chairs, and liaison with related organisations. The decisions on these requests were made by the Treasurers (four-eye policy), but in case of requesting higher amount of financial support we asked the opinion and vote of the whole Executive Committee. Practically, we have not refused requests.

- **Publications expenditure:** see also the income section. The ICA EC decided to stop printing the ICA News, thus printing and distribution costs were saved (this was not the key factor to discontinue the printed version).
- **Solidarity fund (ICA Scholarship):** The maintenance of the ICA Research Scholarship (which was re-structured as ICA Scholarship during this period based on the President’s suggestion which was approved by the Executive Committee) scheme is a vital part of ICA activity. We have awarded much more participants than in the previous scheme, when we paid all costs. Now the awardees can get cash award only after their presence and active participation in the conference or workshop, but they have to manage the participation in the event themselves. We also had much more applications than previously. The number of awards in this term:

Year	ICC	workshop
2016	0	3
2017	17	2
2018	0	9
2019	20*	5*

* -- *planned*

Due to the large number of very good applications, the ICA Executive Committee decided to over-spend the budget on this item (taking into consideration the positive balance of our budget). Some pre-conference workshop ICA Scholarship applications will also be awarded, but they are not part of the 2015–2019 budget because of the later deadline.

- The item **Miscellaneous** constitutes very few unclassifiable expenditures (which is really difficult to predict in advance). We did not have such expenditures in this term.

After reviewing the summary table and the above details, it is clear that the ICA is in a healthy financial position. However, this position is not only because Commissions and Working Groups, the main working parts of the ICA, are not claiming their full budgeted amounts from ICA funds, but mostly because our members paid their subscriptions and supported financially our activities.

The ICA Executive Committee discussed the financial status of the organization at every meeting and discussed the membership fee too. Finally we have not suggested an increase for the next period (except slight adjustment of the subscription of few countries). The EC asked the Statutes Committee to revise the membership fee table and make a suggestion for the next General Assembly. Finally, the Statutes Committee approved the recent membership fee table and has not suggested changes.

I can hand over the financial administration of the ICA after eight years. I offer my help to my successor and the new Executive Committee on all administrative and financial issues.

Budapest, 30 June 2019