

Board Report 2021 of the SciPost Foundation

July 2022

The SciPost Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing, implementing and maintaining innovative forms of electronic scientific communication and publishing. The SciPost Foundation operates the SciPost.org interactive online portal for the benefit of the international scientific community and further interested parties.

Board SciPost Foundation

Prof. Jean-Sébastien Caux - Chairman
Dr. Joost van Mameren - Secretary
Dr. Jasper van Wezel -Treasurer

Report of 2021 activities

SciPost team

- The core team in charge of the daily running of SciPost in 2021 consisted of:
 - Jean-Sébastien Caux – Lead Developer
 - Paula Perez – Editorial Admin
 - Sergio Enrique Tapias Arze – Editorial Admin and Sponsors Admin
 - Jan Willem Wijnen – Strategy Officer
 - Teun Zwart - Developer

Three new team members were hired at the end of 2021:

- George Katsikas – Production coordinator
 - Thijs de Goede – Editorial admin
 - Ana Silva – Editorial admin
- SciPost employs a pool of freelance production editors work on typesetting of accepted papers.

Publications

In 2021 SciPost published papers in 6 journals, including two newly launched ones: *SciPost Chemistry* and *SciPost Astronomy Core*. The total number of papers published across all SciPost journals was 361. In addition, first steps were made to establish *SciPost Physics Codebases* and *SciPost Chemistry Core*. Furthermore, the SciPost platform is scheduled to be used to launch a new journal *Migration Politics*, in collaboration with the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies at the University of Amsterdam.

In 2021 *SciPost Physics* received an Impact Factor (for 2020) of 6.18. This journal is now also covered by Scopus. Both *SciPost Physics Lecture Notes* and *SciPost Physics Proceedings* applied for coverage by both Web-of-Science and Scopus.

Table 1: SciPost journals and number of published papers in 2016-2021

Journals	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
SciPost Physics	16	65	111	160	187	265
SciPost Physics Core				2	27	33
SciPost Physics Lecture Notes			6	5	9	14
SciPost Physics Proceedings				55	57	45
SciPost Astronomy					1	
SciPost Astronomy Core						1
SciPost Chemistry						3
Migration Politics						
Total	16	65	117	222	281	361

Sponsorship and grants

In 2021 new sponsors were actively approached and these activities resulted in 26 additional institutions sponsoring SciPost, bringing the total number of active sponsors to 70. An actual overview of sponsoring institutes can be found at: <https://scipost.org/sponsors>. The table shows the number of supporting organisations in 2016-2021.

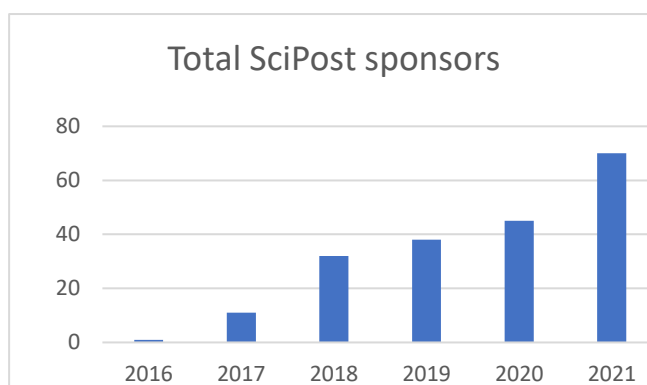


Figure 1: Number of SciPost sponsors 2016-2021

Finances

Income

The income from sponsorships and grants in 2021 totalled up to € 160.360, a considerable increase compared to 2020. Particularly generous contributions came from:

- Diamond Open Access Fund (University of Amsterdam) € 35,461
- FNSO (France) contributed € 22,206
- NWO (Dutch Research Council) € 15,000

Expenses

Expenses in 2021 consisted mainly of salaries and wages. These were about 40% higher compared to 2020, due to the expansion of staff in 2021.

Finances - summary

Income and expenditure statement 2021 and 2020 (taken from Financial Report 2021):

Table 2: Profit and Loss 2021

		<u>2021</u>			<u>2020</u>
		€			€
Gross margin		160,360			64,387
Salaries and wages	194,044			139,358	
Other operating expenses	30,776			15,318	
Operating expenses		<u>224,820</u>			<u>154,676</u>
Operational Results		-64,460			-90,289
Financial expenses		647			341
Results before income tax		<u>-65,107</u>			<u>-90,630</u>
Result after tax		-65,107			-90,630

The year-on-year overview of income and expenses is presented in the table below:

Tabel 3: SciPost's Income and Expenses 2016-2021

Year	Income	Expenses
2016	€ 25,470	€ 4,381
2017	€ 42,013	€ 20,867
2018	€ 193,802	€ 87,650
2019	€ 112,876	€ 83,573
2020	€ 64,387	€ 154,676
2021	€ 160,360	€ 224,820

Virtual General Meeting

A Special Virtual General Meeting of the Advisory Board and Editorial College was held in March 2021. The main points of discussion were:

- Lookback at operations in 2020 (editorial side, business side, technical side)
- Organization of meetings
- Peer review process
- User-friendliness of website
- (Self)Evaluation of editors
- Promotion of SciPost by Editorial Fellows and Senior Fellows
- Core and flagship journals
- Scope of Lecture Notes
- Paper retraction procedure
- Gender-neutral language

The discussions and minutes of the VGM are archived and accessible for Fellows and Advisory Board members.

Outlook

SciPost has become a recognised and appreciated player in the international open science movement. Its flagship journals, *SciPost Physics*, is now a leading journal in the field of general physics. This success has led to an increased number of submissions as well as challenges to manage the associated workload.

The portfolio of SciPost journals is expanding and we expect this expansion to continue in the coming years. SciPost's ambition is to make its infrastructure available throughout diverse scientific communities, that can run their own diamond open access journals within the SciPost ecosystem.

The support for SciPost from institutions has increased considerably, resulting in new and potential future sponsorships, but also in many new contacts that are likely to materialise into new sponsorships. It is encouraging that support for diamond open access initiatives (like SciPost) is also discussed at national and library consortium level and we expect more umbrella agreements from such organisations. Nevertheless, sustainable financial support remains the main challenge for SciPost, since the growth of the publication activities outpaces the growth of the income from sponsorships