



ERS

EUROPEAN
RESPIRATORY
SOCIETY

every breath counts

Annual Report

2020–2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE ERS PRESIDENT



ANITA SIMONDS
President

2020 to 2021 has been a period of evolution, flexibility and agility for ERS. The pandemic forced us to look at how we delivered our activities, including the ERS International Congress, which for the first time in 30 years was not a face-to-face activity. Usually attracting 22,000 delegates to the Congress, we achieved an amazing 36,000 registrations to our virtual event – welcoming professionals from around the world. We have taken great strides towards improving our digital content and resources: making virtual access to our events and activities a standard requirement; presenting an improved ERS website with the user in mind; and last but certainly not least, successfully introducing the ERS Respiratory Channel. Over this period, the Society has demonstrated an ability to keep ahead of the curve and adapt, and in doing so has been able to continue to support the respiratory community at a time when respiratory medicine has been under pressure and at the forefront of clinical and research endeavours.

This report provides members and stakeholders with an overview of our achievements during the financial year from April 2020 to March 2021.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



JOANNA CHOROSTOWSKA-WYNIMKO
Secretary General

ERS offers membership agreements with partner respiratory societies worldwide, offering ERS resources to a broad spectrum of professionals.



29,403* members from over 154 countries

*Individuals with full and active membership only



2 new agreements

signed with national/regional respiratory societies – making 101 in total.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

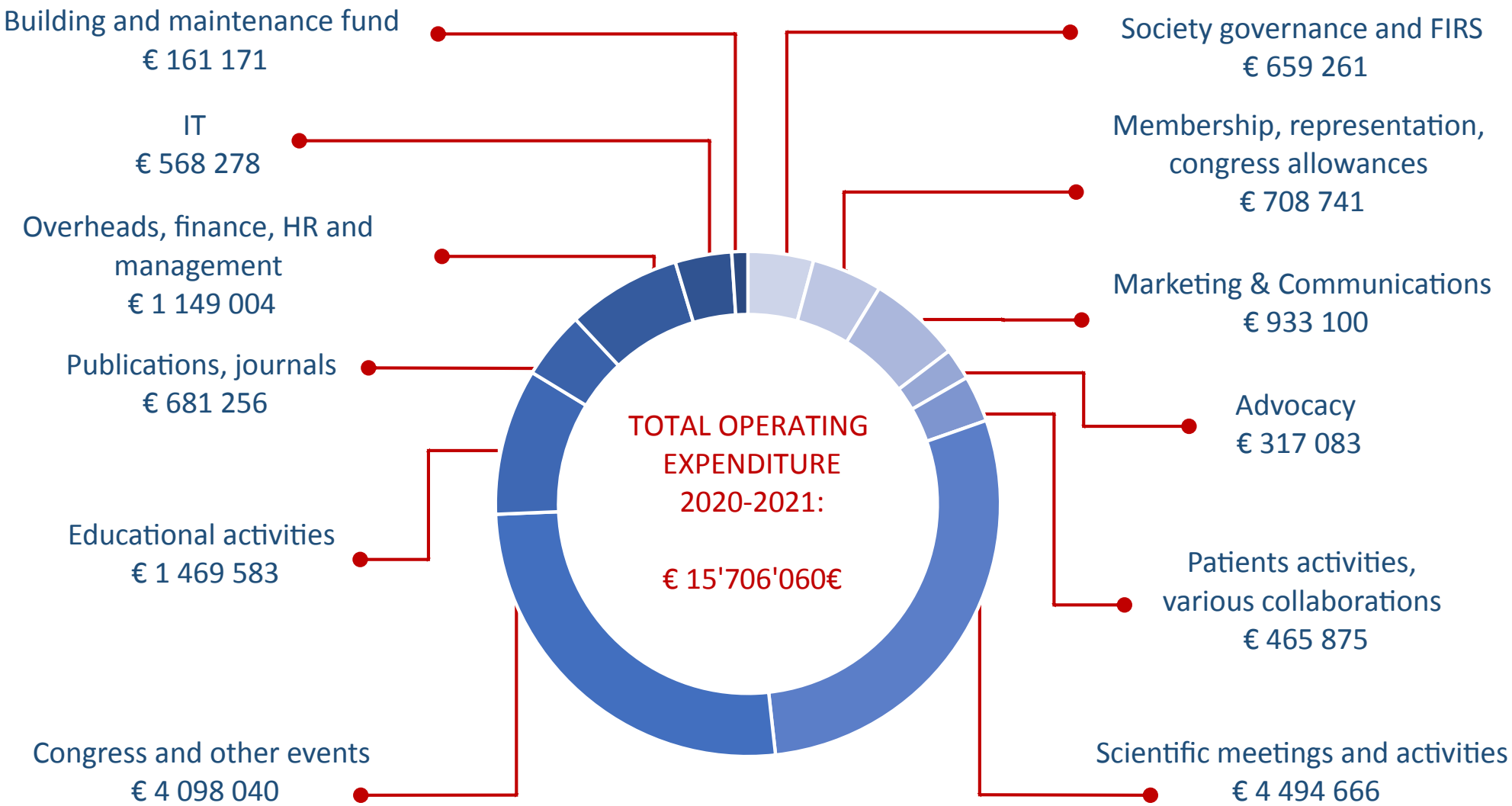
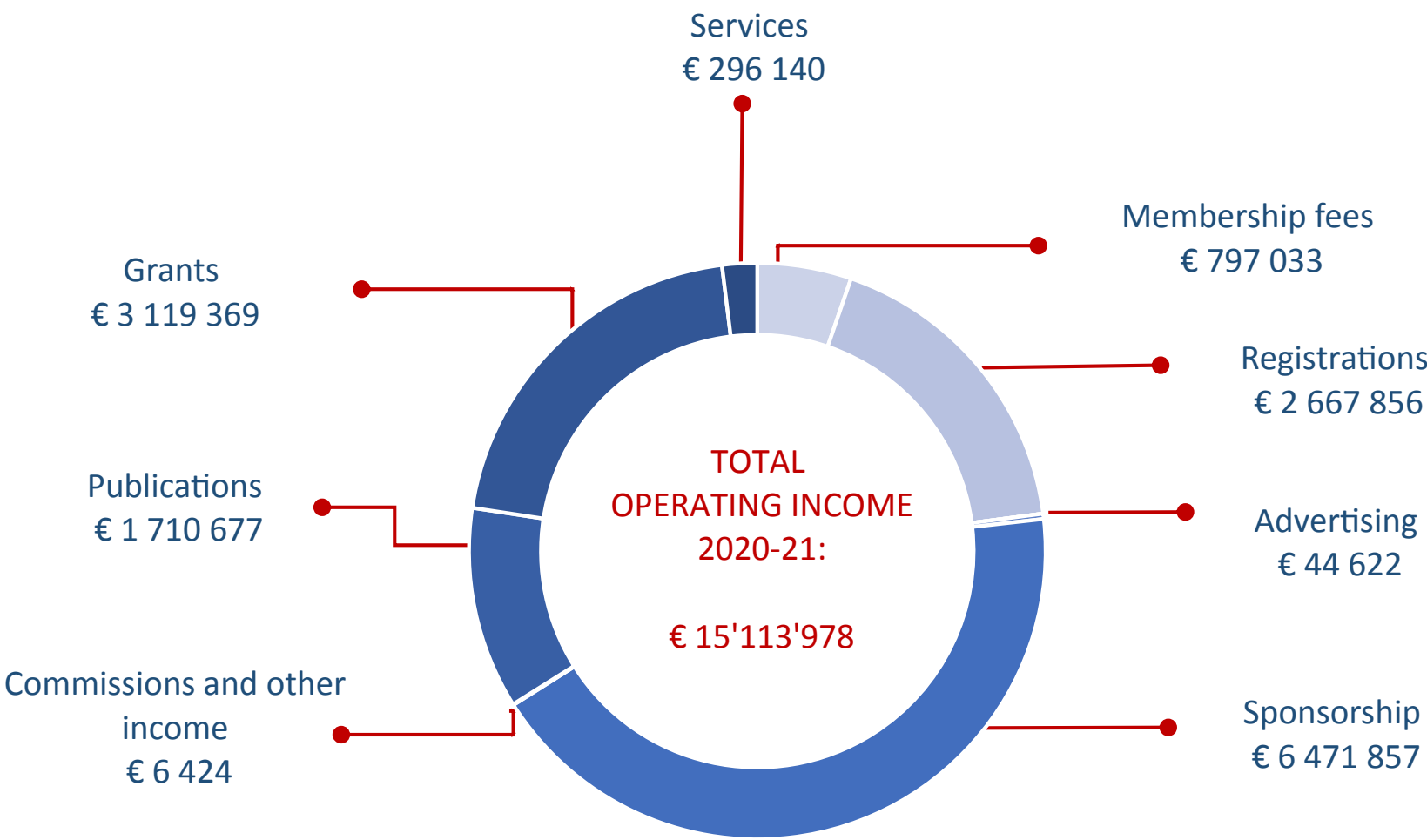


THOMAS GEISER
ERS Treasurer

Download Appendix 1: [ERS Income Statement and Balance Sheet](#)

Download Appendix 2: [ERS Commercial Partners](#)

Note: The full ERS audit report will be presented as a separate document at a later date



CONGRESS AND CONFERENCES

The ERS International Congress remains the largest meeting in the respiratory field, boasting a cutting-edge scientific and educational programme. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our 30th Congress was marked with an exclusively virtual event which attracted more than 36,000 registrants. The programme was designed to address the needs of researchers, clinicians, allied health professionals and patients.

LUNG SCIENCE CONFERENCE

The Lung Science Conference is an annual event. It primarily targets early career professionals and aims to showcase cutting-edge research and its translation into clinical solutions. There is also a unique emphasis on mentoring, as younger delegates are given the opportunity to learn from faculty members. The 19th Lung Science Conference entitled “Repair and regeneration in chronic lung disease and lung cancer, Virtual 2021” took place on 11–12 March and attracted more than 400 participants. 9 awards were given including the William MacNee Award (for the winner of the Young investigator session) and eight Distinguished Poster Awards.

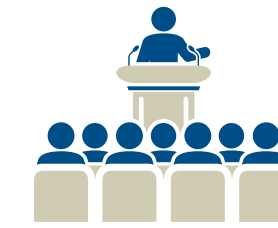
ENDORSED EVENTS

ERS is frequently asked to endorse educational and scientific meetings that fulfil standards of performance and scientific quality. In 2020–2021, 10 requests were received, and 8 event programmes were endorsed.

ERS CONGRESS



36,000 registered
for the first ever
virtual Congress



418 scientific
and educational
sessions



5273 submitted
and 4252 accepted
abstracts



49 sponsored
delegates and 19 grants
and awards offered

- **Abstract sessions:** For the first time, Thematic posters and Poster discussion sessions were changed to e-poster sessions. Authors of all accepted abstracts allocated in these session types, as well as in Oral presentations and ALERT sessions, were asked to submit an e-poster with a three-minute audio narration recorded by the presenter. PowerPoint presentations were still required for Oral presentations and ALERT sessions. All e-posters (excl. abstracts under embargo) were available on the congress platform two weeks before the Congress for chairs/participants.
- **Pro/con debate:** Also new to the programme were 3 Pro/con debate sessions, where two experts discussed interesting/controversial topics together with the audience and Key Opinion Leaders over a 30-minute period.
- **Clinical grand round:** A new format was introduced this year. All ERS assemblies were asked to submit proposals of recent guidelines in respiratory medicine that are used in everyday practice and could be presented based on cases, as well as challenged by experts in the field.
- **Live from the clinic:** Developed for the virtual congress programme in 2020, Live from the clinic sessions were designed so that participants could gain insight into some of respiratory medicine's most important clinical procedures with real-time demonstrations carried out by experts from some of the top clinics in Europe. The Live from the clinic sessions featured a wide range of techniques for clinicians to learn from. The sessions were followed by an interactive question and answer opportunity, which allowed participants to discuss each procedure's application and effectiveness.

SCIENCE

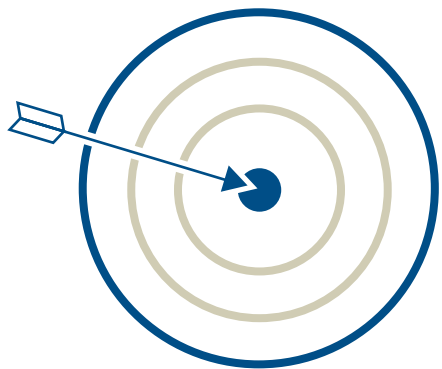


CHRISTOPHER E. BRIGHTLING
Science Council Chair

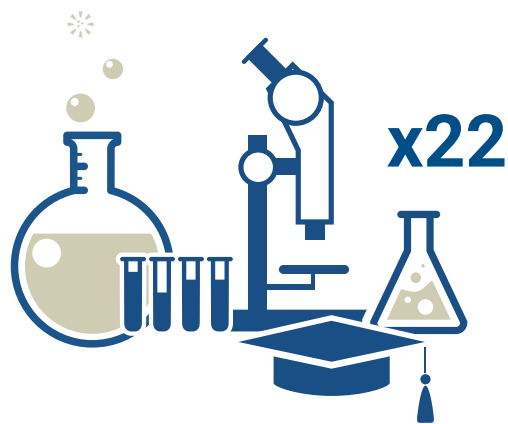
ERS scientific activities put an emphasis on respiratory disease research and strengthening the clinical evidence base. This mission spans a range of activities including: fellowship opportunities; scientific conferences and seminars; publications; endorsement of pragmatic trials; funding for guidelines, statements and technical standards; Clinical Research Collaborations; and the ERS Research Agency, which facilitates respiratory research through the coordination and support of the respiratory research community – assisting its efforts to obtain funding.



The ERJ 2020 impact factor is 16.671



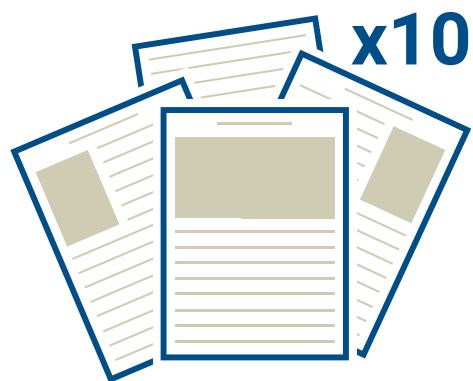
The ERR 2019 impact factor is 8.839



22 Fellowships granted



2 accepted CRC applications



10 published guidelines, statements and technical standards including the first living guideline on the topic of COVID management and the first short guideline on withdrawal of inhaled corticosteroids in COPD.

EDUCATION



RICHARD COSTELLO
Education Council Chair

The mission of ERS Education is to supply medical professionals across Europe with access to high-quality training and educational resources. This covers a range of activities from curriculum development courses, online learning assessments and publications.

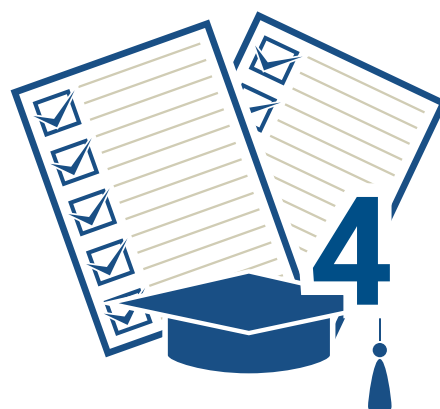
During the COVID-19 period, we have made significant changes to the way we deliver our educational resources. We have enhanced our online learning resources and delivered most of our events virtually.



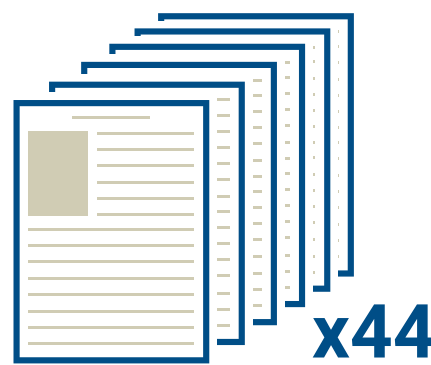
8 virtual schools



5 ERS HERMES exams delivered
(Switzerland, India and Egypt) with
239 participants in total



4 virtual ERS HERMES
self-assessment courses



44 Respiratory Digest articles



25 short video statements
(20 COVID-19 related),
4 short video discussions



23 webinars

ADVOCACY



ARZU YORGANCIOĞLU
Advocacy Council Chair

ERS continues to put forward its stance on important issues affecting lung health in as many arenas as possible. Whether it is interacting with the WHO or EU or in facilitating the MEP Lung Health Group, the desire to promote respiratory health and stand for scientific excellence has never been greater. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted more than ever the importance of lung health and has been both an enormous challenge but also an opportunity to advance respiratory medicine.



8 awareness-raising events
at the European Commission
and Parliament



Over 35 statements and positions
launched together with partners
and alliances



Increased the number of supporting
MEPs and supporting organisations
of the MEP Lung Health Group



More than 25 high-level meetings with
governments, agencies and health-related
organisations in the promotion of lung health

- ERS continued its role as a key member of an active Biomed Alliance and European Chronic Disease Alliance.
- ERS, jointly with patient organisations, launched the Breathe Vision for 2030 – a collective initiative driven by European level patient groups and respiratory societies collaborating for better respiratory healthcare and protection of our lungs.
- Hosted a successful Presidential Summit on digital health.
- The Advocacy Council launched the ERS position statement on asthma and environment and presented at the ERS Vision Live on asthma and climate change.
- ERS held new interactive online MEP Lung Health Group events on various topics such as air pollution, rare diseases, tuberculosis and tobacco control.
- Alongside international partners, ERS has organised advocacy focused capacity building workshops on the topic of air pollution and health in Southeast Europe.

EUROPEAN LUNG FOUNDATION (ELF)

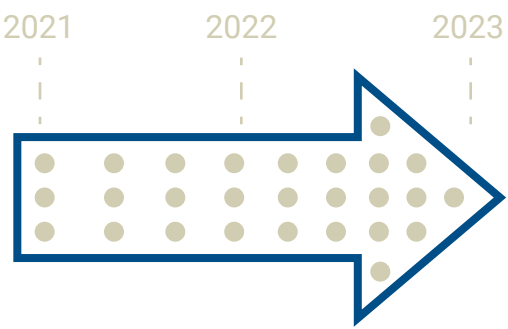


KJELD HANSEN
ELF Chair

The European Lung Foundation (ELF) is dedicated to bringing patients and the public together with respiratory professionals to improve respiratory health. This includes actively involving patients in healthcare by ensuring the patient voice is incorporated at every level of ERS activities, as well as disseminating the highest quality patient resources and communicating and translating the work of ERS to those outside the respiratory field.

This year’s achievements include:

- First patient conference held on bronchiectasis (1,589 registered / 826 live / >1,500 online views)
- 4 new Patient Advisory Groups (PAGs) in COVID-19, primary ciliary dyskinesia, pulmonary fibrosis and aspergillosis
- A new United PAG (to cover cross-disease issues)
- *Breathe* edition dedicated to patient articles
- Involved in 3 new EU projects (OPTIMA, UNITE4TB, EUREST-RISE)



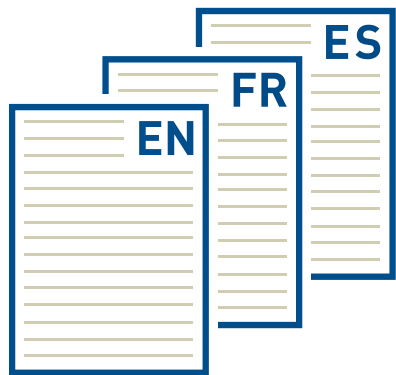
New 3-year ELF strategy



3 x increase in ELF web traffic



New website launched



7 new factsheets in 24 languages
(including easy read)



Patient involvement in >35 Task
Forces and CRCs



First virtual Patient Organisation
Networking Day

HEALTHY LUNGS FOR LIFE



Healthy Lungs for Life is a lung health campaign raising awareness of the importance of healthy lungs to healthcare professionals, scientists, primary care patients, policymakers and the public through a full range of events, projects and promotional activities.



HLfL events in Pakistan, Africa, Nepal, Bulgaria, Croatia and Tanzania



HLfL infographic developed to address importance of HLfL topics for COVID



Money raised for HLfL via the Virtual Congress Challenge



www.ersnet.org