



ecpr

Annual Report

Financial Statements
and Auditor's Report
1 October 2022 –
30 September 2023

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1 October 2022 – 30 September 2023

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Founded in 1970, ECPR is the leading European academic association with a mission to advance political science.

We bring scholars together across our global network to develop research and grow the discipline.

Our members are universities, and the communities within them, engaged in the research and teaching of social sciences.

Through our events, publications and research groups, we foster scholarly collaboration across borders.

We support academics at every stage of their career, providing training, research opportunities and professional development.

ECPR helps interpret the world's complex and changing political landscape for the benefit of all.

Report of the Executive Committee

The European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) is pleased to present the Trustees’ Report together with the financial statements of the charity for the twelve months ending 30 September 2023

The financial statements comply with the requirements of the ECPR’s Constitution, the charity’s trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and ‘Accounting and Reporting by Charities:

Statement of Recommended Practice’, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, published in October 2019.

About us

ECPR is a learned society and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in the UK that supports the advancement of political science.

Our members are universities and research institutes concerned with the teaching and research of political science and related disciplines.

Within these institutions is a community of tens of thousands of scholars, from PhD student to senior professor, all of whom benefit directly from ECPR membership. While the ECPR is a membership association, our activities are open to all.

Our mission is to advance political science. We do this in two ways:

- by providing platforms and opportunities for scholars to collaborate and share research, with the purpose of strengthening the discipline and growing the volume and impact of its output worldwide; and
- by delivering training and development opportunities to scholars at all career stages, with the purpose of enhancing professional skills to strengthen and support the community.

Our charitable status

Public benefit

The Executive Committee (EC) has a duty to ensure that the activities undertaken by the ECPR fulfil its charitable objectives and provide a public benefit. Our public is the academic institutions which make up our membership and those scholars who study and teach within them. It is also the wider general public, whose lives are influenced by the resulting research. The EC ensures this public benefit is met through the creation and

continued development of a range of activities and initiatives to foster deeper and more productive collaboration between scholars worldwide, with the aim of producing the best quality research. These activities include:

- an annual programme of international workshops, conferences and training events designed to develop ongoing research and provide professional and skills-based training to scholars;

- a range of funding opportunities to support the participation of students and early career scholars in our events;
- a broad and diverse publishing portfolio providing opportunities for scholars to publish and read the most up-to-date research in their field, via subscription and Open Access platforms;
- a number of high-profile prizes celebrating academic achievement across all career stages;
- a programme of support to nurture and grow our sub-disciplinary research groups which, in turn, extends the reach and focus of the organisation; and
- the development of a range of studies and policies aimed at understanding the state of the profession across Europe and the rest of the world, and supporting all scholars working within the discipline.

This report provides a summary of these activities carried out in the 2022–23 financial year.

Grant-making policy

As a membership association, we provide a range of funding opportunities to individual scholars and to groups affiliated with ECPR. This provision of funding and financial support to our affiliates and Standing Groups (SGs) and Research Networks (RNs) is one of the primary ways in which we achieve our charitable objectives. The EC continually reviews ECPR’s funding provision with the aim of increasing and improving the value to affiliates and, in turn, their institution.

The funding we provide is listed below:

- SGs and RNs have access to a significant annual budget on which they can draw to support their event activities. This funding is available either for internal events organised by the Group or Network which would otherwise run at a deficit, or to support external events that align with the thematic topic on which the Group is focused, in the form of Sponsorship Grants. In 2022–23 we provided £36k of funding for this purpose.
- ECPR affiliates can apply for funding to support their attendance at our events in the form of fee waivers and travel and accommodation grants. The grants (included within expenditure from charitable activities) are available to students and early career researchers who cannot access funding elsewhere. In 2022–23 we provided £33k worth of travel and accommodation grants, and waived £20k worth of registration fees, which supported 65 scholars.
- In 2019 we launched a [50th Anniversary Fund](#) which supports political scientists facing difficulties joining our activities and events for economic, political, social or similar reasons. Unlike our event funding provision, the 50th Anniversary Fund is not restricted to participants from member institutions. Instead, we use it to enable scholars from across the world to participate in our events. In 2022–23 we spent in excess of £30k on this funding stream. This gave 27 scholars access to ECPR events, financing their travel and accommodation costs, and waiving the full fee for event registration.
- The EC Bonus Fund was developed to broaden the funding the ECPR offers outside our traditional provision for events. The Bonus Fund provides ‘seedcorn funding’ to any SG or RN working on developing a bid to a major funder for a significant research project. In 2022–23, we were pleased to provide over £1k worth of funding for this purpose.



Welcome

For the first time in many years, our membership has enjoyed significant growth, underscoring the value and relevance of ECPR's work

Resilience, innovation, collaboration

As we reflect on the past year at the European Consortium for Political Research and this Executive Committee approaches the final year of its term of office, it is with a profound sense of accomplishment for the strides we have made in advancing political science across Europe and further afield.

Our journey has been one of resilience, innovation, and collaboration, and we are proud to share with you the highlights of our progress in 2022/23. In particular, this is reflected in each of the five strategic areas on which we have been focusing over the past two years:

Membership

We are happy to report that, for the first time in many years, our membership has seen significant growth, with old friends remaining steadfast, new friends joining, and some of those who left returning to ECPR. This uptick in membership underscores the value and relevance of our work in fostering collaboration and driving excellence in political science research and education.

Standing Groups and Research Networks:

Our Standing Groups and Research Networks have flourished, too, becoming vibrant hubs of scholarly exchange and learning. With numbers growing and activity increasing, they continue to provide invaluable opportunities for specialised learning and collaboration among our members. We continue to dedicate resources to supporting our Groups and Networks in every way possible.

Academic freedom and equality, diversity and inclusion

In our commitment to Academic Freedom and promoting Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), we have made significant strides. The Executive Committee has agreed upon the principles for Academic Freedom, and we are revising the Code of Conduct to align with our EDI plans, ensuring that ECPR remains a welcoming and inclusive community for all. We have created new, regularly updated pages on our website for both initiatives, including contact details. We are pleased to report that the EC has reiterated its commitment to follow through and build on these initiatives in the years to come.



Climate change mitigation

Addressing climate change remains a paramount challenge for ECPR, as reflected in the fact that it is a standing agenda item for all meetings of the EC and its subcommittees. While the post-pandemic return to in-person events undoubtedly impacts on our environment, we continue to prioritise sustainability by offering virtual and hybrid options, and minimising travel emissions where possible, without compromising the quality of our conferences and events.

Financial challenges

The past year presented unprecedented financial challenges, and not just for ECPR. Global inflation, rising costs, and geopolitical tensions have all contributed to the complexity of delivering our services. However, through prudent management and the unwavering support of our community, ECPR has navigated these challenges with resilience and determination.

As we look to the future, ECPR remains steadfast in our commitment to advancing political science, fostering collaboration, and promoting inclusivity and sustainability. While challenges persist, we are confident that our collective efforts will continue to drive positive change and innovation within our field. Finally, we extend heartfelt thanks to our members, supporters, partners, and staff for their unwavering dedication and support. Your contributions have been instrumental in our success, and we remain deeply grateful for your continued commitment to ECPR's mission to shape the future of political science in Europe and beyond.

**David Farrell, Chair,
ECPR Executive Committee, 2021 – 2024**
Tanja Munro, ECPR Director

Equality, diversity and inclusion

In our commitment to Academic Freedom and EDI, ECPR has made significant strides. We are revising our Code of Conduct to ensure that ECPR remains a welcoming and inclusive environment for all



Areas of special interest, 2021–24

ECPR's current Executive Committee has agreed the following five areas of strategic focus for its three-year term

1 Membership

Building on the work undertaken in 2021–22 and outlined in the previous Annual Report, we continued our focus on membership. Activities included reviewing the way we share information with Official Representatives, using insight from the OR Retreat in late 2021 to inform changes and improvements. At the heart of this is the new 'Institution Dashboard' which provides ORs with key data on uptake of benefits and engagement with the organisation by colleagues at their university. Rolled out in 2023, we will continue to improve this resource, based on user feedback.

Throughout the year we ran an [#ECPRMemberPerks](#) campaign across our social media channels, highlighting the breadth of benefits available to scholars at our [member universities](#), to maximise uptake and therefore membership value. Membership also had a focus at the [General Conference in Prague](#), with a stand in the exhibition area, staffed by the key Membership department colleagues.

By the end of the year we were delighted to see an increase in membership of 25. This brought the total to 330 and reversed the trend of decline we had experienced since 2015–16.

2 Standing Groups and Research Networks

As of 2022–23, [53 Standing Groups and nine Research Networks](#) operate under the auspices of ECPR. During the year, we continued our work to support them, most often in delivering the logistical aspects of their events.

To improve the visibility and impact of our groups and networks, and to streamline the online offer provided by ECPR, we undertook a large-scale project to integrate all SG and RN individual websites into the main [ecpr.eu](#) domain. This significant piece of IT development

work also enables our groups to benefit from the latest technology, search engine optimisation, and integration into advertising campaigns.

3 Academic freedom

The [Working Group on Academic Freedom](#) continued its work under the leadership of [Executive Committee member Daniela Irrera](#), who has overseen the activities of this group since its inception in 2021. ECPR continues to be committed to supporting its community of scholars, especially if they live and work in places where academic freedom is under threat. Notably, the group compiled the guidelines for the working group, a document which was ratified by the full Executive Committee at its summer meeting, and ratified by the full Executive Committee at its summer meeting. For more information, [visit the group's website](#).

4 Climate change

Addressing the dual challenge of meeting the needs of our academic community while minimising our environmental footprint remains a central focus for ECPR. Despite encountering obstacles,

we remain committed to progress in our efforts to achieve sustainability in all our activities.

In the past year, we have continued to integrate virtual components into all meetings, events and training programmes, wherever feasible. While facing increased air travel demand and a preference for in-person interactions post-pandemic, we continue to offer hybrid and virtual options to mitigate our environmental impact, and we freely share knowledge and access to our virtual platform where requested. Recognising the environmental implications of digital activities, we are actively engaged in optimising our website to reduce its environmental footprint. This includes efforts to streamline content and enhance efficiency, reflecting our dedication to sustainability.

Additionally, minimising our ecological impact is a recurring agenda item at every Board meeting, underscoring its significance. We remain resolute in our commitment to choosing 'greener' options wherever possible and continually seek avenues for improvement. Despite the challenges encountered, our unwavering dedication to sustainability guides our actions as we navigate toward a more environmentally conscious future.

5 Equality, diversity and inclusion

In 2015, the EC committed itself to a set of objectives and concrete actions to address the gap in representation between men and women in the discipline. To hold itself accountable, the EC commissioned an annual [Gender Study](#) to review and measure progress made.

To build on this work and expand its view to other areas of diversity and inclusion, and where they might intersect with other areas of interest or may be compromised by the way we deliver our activities, the EC established the [Working Group on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Working under the leadership of [Executive Committee member Amy Verdun](#), the group has notably agreed on a set of EDI Principles underpinning its work, alongside incorporating these into ECPR's [Code of Conduct](#).

Upon ratification by the full Executive Committee, both documents will form the foundations of how the community is expected to interact with each other.



A year in review

Despite challenges, we persisted in offering sustainable event options, balancing the need for in-person engagement with environmental stewardship

In the 2022–23 financial year, the ECPR experienced remarkable growth and progress across its key focus areas, against a backdrop of a financial deficit, rapidly rising costs, and global humanitarian crises.

Membership surged for the first time in years, testament to the enduring relevance of our collaborative platform. Standing Groups and Research Networks thrived, offering diverse opportunities for scholarly exchange and learning.

We continued to champion academic freedom and advanced equality, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, solidifying our commitment to fostering an inclusive scholarly community.

Despite challenges, particularly in mitigating climate change amidst a post-pandemic resurgence of travel, we persisted in

offering sustainable event options, balancing the need for in-person engagement with environmental stewardship.

Financially, the year posed significant hurdles, yet with prudent management and community support, we navigated these complexities with resilience, allowing us to close this year in a much better financial position and positive frame of mind.

Our four core events were attended by **3,384** participants, compared to a total of 2,761 in 2022; an increase of 22.6%. The number of other events, including those organised by our SGs and RNs, increased in this period: 12 were held in person and 17 virtually (compared to 15 and 9 respectively in 2022). These events were attended by **5,956** participants, compared with a total of 5,297 in 2022; an increase of 12.4%.

Membership

Our membership comprises more than 300 of the world's leading academic institutions concerned with teaching and researching political and social science. From this membership stems a network of tens of thousands of individual 'affiliate' members across some fifty countries. The activities and services we provide are aimed primarily at these affiliates but, indirectly, they also

benefit their institution. The membership year runs concurrently with our financial year, 1 October–30 September. Over the past five years we had experienced a decline in member numbers, which was reversed in 2022–23. With an increase to **324 paying members** (330 members in total including Ukrainian institutions that have been awarded free membership).

Relations with other organisations

We continue to work closely with a number of scholarly associations operating in the same field of interest, to share best practices and develop joint initiatives to serve the community.

These include the [American Political Science Association](#) (APSA), [International Political Science Association](#) (IPSA), [International Public Policy Association](#) (IPPA) and [UK Political Studies Association](#) (PSA). We also maintain relationships with other UK-based charities working outside political science, and associations that support organisations similar in structure, such as the [Association of Association Executives](#) (AAE).

Our [Standing Group on International Relations](#) works closely with the [European International Studies Association](#) (EISA) in the oversight of the [European Journal of International Relations](#) (EJIR).

We are members of the [Association for Learned and Professional Society Publishers](#) (ALPSP), the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE) and the [International Science Council](#) (ISC), with whom we award the [Stein Rokkan Prize](#). We also award an [annual prize](#) with the [Mattei Dogan Foundation](#).

Standing Groups and Research Networks

Over sixty thematic research groups operate under the auspices of ECPR, covering the full breadth of the discipline: [53 Standing Groups and nine Research Networks](#). Each group has its own membership and the opportunity to deliver a range of activities; some smaller such as a forum for networking, and some that are

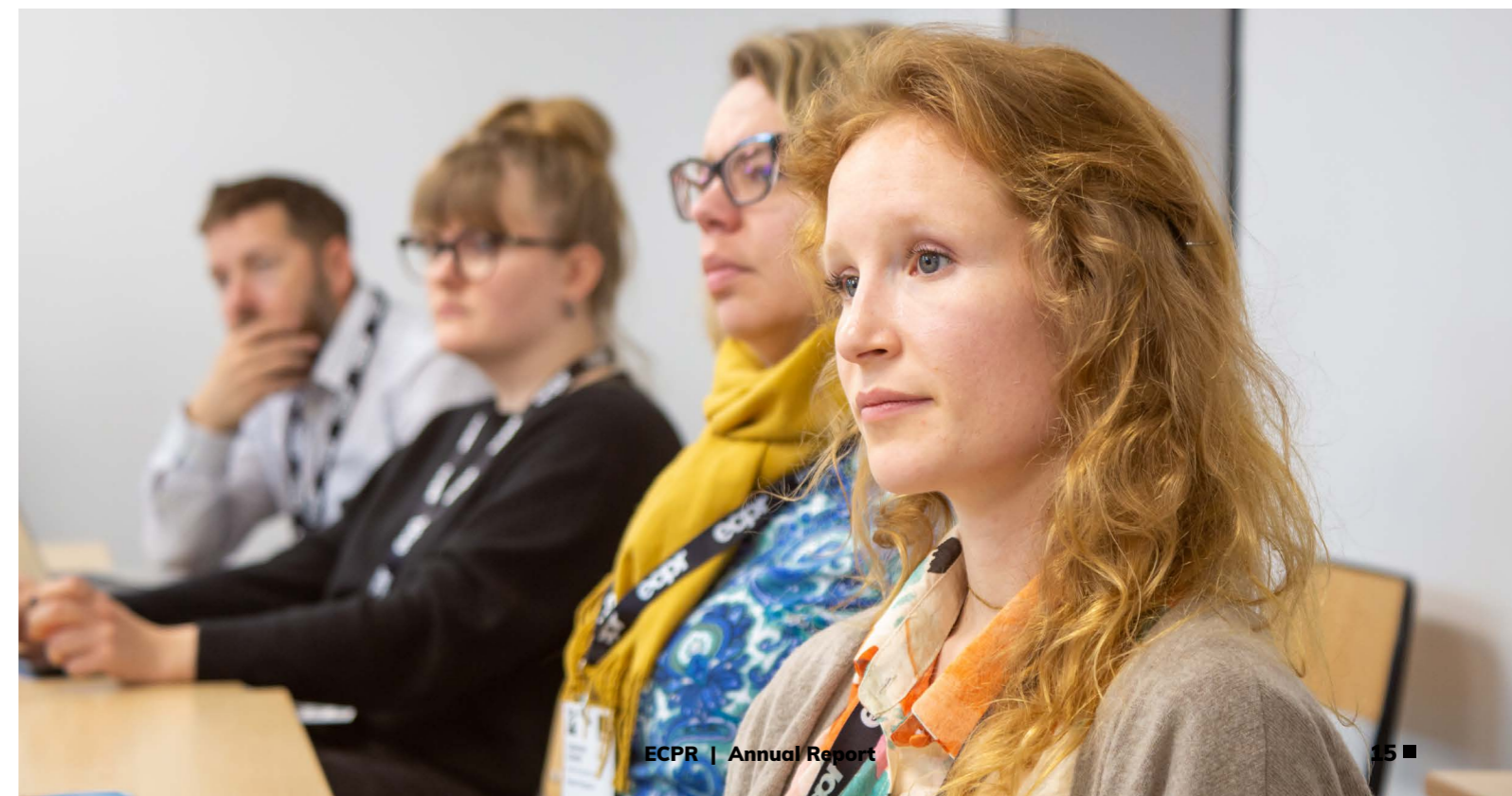
significantly larger such as thematic conferences and seminars. These groups play a key role in shaping the academic programme of the Joint Sessions and General Conference through an annual allocation of Workshops and Sections.

Events

We organise a comprehensive programme of academic and professional events every year. This consists of:

- **Joint Sessions of Workshops** A week-long event comprising around thirty Workshops running concurrently. Participants must present their own research to attend the full Workshop, so these events are incredibly valuable to scholars, and therefore highly competitive.
- **General Conference** Follows the traditional format of Sections, Panels and Papers; all subjected to rigorous peer review prior to acceptance. The event has become the largest annual gathering of political scientists in Europe.
- **Methods School** Offers a comprehensive programme of cutting-edge qualitative and quantitative methodological courses organised across two annual events, one in winter and one in summer.

- In addition to the core programme, a wide variety of other events are organised each year by SGs and RNs that focus on their thematic disciplines. From conferences, schools, workshops, numerous seminar series and multiple opportunities for exchange and cooperation, SGs and RNs offer a rich and diverse programme of the best and most current developments in political science. It is of particular note that as SG and RN events are open to all, their work reaches far beyond the boundaries of traditional ECPR membership, which makes it all the more valuable to us.
- The **House Series** Inspired by [ECPR's Harbour House headquarters](#), which provides a literal and metaphorical 'home' for the ECPR family, this series opens doors to some of the most pressing issues and challenges in the discipline. Delivered online and accessible to all, The House Series is a mix of roundtables, discussions and lectures featuring content from across the discipline.



Publications

Our publishing portfolio provides a platform on which to share the best of new thinking and research across the community and beyond. We publish six journals, a book series and our own imprint, in partnership with leading scholarly publishers, alongside an in-house blog. Partnerships allow us to harness the expertise, reach and new technologies of the publisher, while retaining editorial oversight through our appointment of the editorial teams. Our portfolio includes the following titles:

- [European Journal of Political Research](#) (EJPR)
- [Political Data Yearbook](#) (PDY) and [PDY:Interactive](#) (PDYi)
- [European Political Science Review](#) (EPSR)
- [European Political Science](#) (EPS)
- [European Journal of International Relations](#) (EJIR)
- [Political Research Exchange](#) (PRX)
- [Comparative Politics](#) Book Series
- [ECPR Press](#)
- [The Loop](#)

In 2021 the decision was taken to end our publishing partnership and to close the ECPR Press to any new submissions. The full backlist continues to be available to purchase via [ECPR's online shop](#), and elsewhere.

◇ The Loop 2023 analysis

In 2023, [The Loop](#) published **287 blog pieces**, easily exceeding its target of 250 by 31 December. In 2021, only 38% of published pieces had been pitched direct. But as the Loop's reputation grew, content arrived increasingly through editors of the series threads. In 2023, the **proportion of pitched blog pieces jumped to 94%**.

In 2022, 37% of output was by female authors; a 1% drop on 2021. In March 2023, the editors thus committed The Loop to the **'50:50 gender parity challenge'**. The Loop has not yet succeeded in achieving equal representation, but its efforts still **pushed the proportion of published female authors up by 7%, to 44%**.

In 2023 The Loop's four existing series strands were joined by [Future of Populism](#), [Constraints on Academic Freedom](#), [Rescuing Democracy](#), [Gendering Democracy](#), and [Democratic Transformations](#), bringing the series total to nine. At the time of writing (February), two further series are set to launch in 2024, though the figure will likely be higher by year end.

Key highlights

- Published 415 authors based in 43 countries worldwide.
- Gained more than 1,300 [Twitter-X followers](#).
- Ran successful in-person 'Blog Bootcamp' sessions at the ECPR General Conference in Prague.
- Launched a 'best blog' prize. First iteration won by [the University of Nairobi's Reginald Oduor](#).



ECPR prizes 2022 – 2023

We offer a broad range of [prizes](#), which recognise service and achievement across the ECPR community. These prizes honour individuals at many stages of their careers, from distinguished senior scholars to exceptional PhD students

Prize	Awarded for	Winner
Jean Blondel PhD Prize 2022	Thesis <i>Social Norms and Stigmatized Political Behaviour</i>	Vicente Valentim University of Oxford
Mattei Dogan Foundation Prize 2022	Contributions to core issues of political sociology	Olivier Fillieule University of Lausanne
Rudolf Wildenmann Prize 2022	Joint Sessions Paper <i>Conceptualization and Measurement of Regulatory Discretion: Text Analysis of 120 Years of British Legislation</i>	Nir Kostir Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Lifetime Achievement Award 2022	Incredible impact on the discipline – as teachers, mentors, and leaders	Beate Kohler University of Mannheim Jean Blondel University of Siena
Jacqui Briggs EPS Prize 2022	Article <i>The politics of panel systems: political insurance and the organization of high courts</i>	Jay N. Krehbiel West Virginia University
Rising Star Award 2022	Extensive publications, significant contributions to international research projects, and commitment to public engagement through his <i>Democratic Theorizing Project</i>	Hans Asenbaum University of Canberra
Stein Rokkan Prize 2023	Book <i>Agents of Reform: Child Labor and the Origins of the Welfare State</i>	Elisabeth Anderson NYU Abu Dhabi
Joni Lovenduski PhD Prize in Gender and Politics 2023	Theses <i>The (Im)Possibility of Feminist Critique in Authoritarianism: Revisiting Western Knowledge-Transfer in Russia and Serbia; Adaptive Resistance: Power Struggles over Gender Quotas in Uruguay</i>	Leandra Bias University of Bern Cecilia Josefsson Uppsala University
Hedley Bull Prize in International Relations 2023	Book <i>Ascending Order: Rising Powers and the Politics of Status in International Institutions</i>	Rohan Mukherjee The London School of Economics and Political Science
Political Theory Prize 2023	Book <i>Democratic Speech in Divided Times</i>	Maxime Lepoutre University of Reading
EPSR Early Careers Prize 2023	Article <i>Non-citizen voting rights and political participation of citizens: evidence from Switzerland</i>	Elif Naz Kayran European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research Anna-Lena Nadler Leiden University
The Loop Best Blog Prize 2023	Blog piece <i>How elections stifle democracy in Kenya</i>	Reginald Oduor University of Nairobi
Cora Maas Award 2023	Methods School Course <i>Bayesian Modelling</i>	Chendi Wang Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Monitoring impact

Our income is derived from three main streams: membership fees, event fees, and publications royalties

We keep a close eye on the impact and success of these activities in terms of the benefit they bring to individual scholars and their institutions; the impact they have across the community and in raising the profile of the organisation; and the income they generate. For the purposes of this Annual Report, we employ a number of key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor year on year, as detailed below.

Membership

We carefully monitor trends in membership renewal and acquisition each year. While the period from 2015–16 onwards saw a steady decline in membership, this past year saw a reversal of this, and an increase from 305 to 324 institutional members. We believe this is a direct result of the additional focus and resources directed here over the past 12–18 months.

Publications

We evaluate the impact and health of our individual publications, and the programme as a whole, in a number of ways. However, for the purposes of this report, we apply the following indicators:

- the number of article submissions in a given year (which shows the popularity of the journal as a publishing destination);
- the rejection rate (which shows the competitiveness / benchmark to be accepted for publication given the quality of the article and the available space within the journal volume if applicable).
- citation metrics such as the [Clarivate Impact Factor](#), [Scopus Citescore](#), etc (to show impact of the published work across the discipline).

Event participation

Attendance at ECPR events is a strong indicator of the popularity and relevance of our programme. Numbers fluctuate, particularly for the General Conference, depending on the location, and its capacity. Virtual events do not have the capacity constraints of physical institutions, and depend more on the number of people willing and able to engage with the technology. However, online options open attendance up to a new demographic who may not have been able to attend in-person activities.

The 2023 Joint Sessions (JS) and General Conference (GC) offered a selection of virtual Workshops and Panels alongside in-person sessions. Collectively, they were attended by 2,850 participants, compared with 2,466 in 2022: an increase of 384 (15.6%). The GC increased by 407 participants (20.1%) attracting 2,424 registrations compared with 2,017 in 2022. 2,166 Papers were presented across 538 Panels and 66 Sections (compared with 1,734, 452 and 62 respectively in 2022). The JS decreased by 23 participants (5.1%), attracting 426 registrations compared with 449 in 2022. 30 Workshops took place, compared with 43 in 2022. All workshops were in-person, though participants could access online options in special circumstances.

The Methods School was attended by 534 participants, compared with 509 in 2022; an increase of 25 (4.9%). Despite this increase, we experienced a decline in overall engagement numbers, which affected the income generated from this activity. Changes in the training landscape, alongside rising numbers of people accessing training online as a credible financially viable alternative in a post-pandemic world of cuts and high economic uncertainty, indicate a shift in demand that requires us to recalibrate our offering.

Attendance at Standing Group and Research Network events decreased by 2,725 (51.4%), from 5,297 to 2,572. Although the number of events held remained stable (25 versus 24 in 2022) the downturn was the result of the absence of two large biennial conferences, for our Standing Groups on Politics and Gender, and on the European Union. Adjusting the figures to take this into account, 2023 attendance was up by 13.6%, at 2,222.

Event calendar

Event name, Standing Group / Research Network	Event type	Dates	Virtual or in person?	No. of participants
Standing Group on Law and Courts	Workshop	29–30 September 2023	Virtual	10
'Ukraine is Europe' Lessons for Europe and for Political Science	House Series	5 September 2023	In person	81
General Conference	Conference	4–8 September 2023	In person	2,424
Standing Group on Political Parties	Summer School	21–26 August 2023	In person	13
The impact of ChatGPT on Political Science Research and Teaching	House Series	2 August 2023	Virtual	384
Summer School in Research Methods and Techniques	Summer School	24 July–11 August 2023	Virtual	275
Standing Group on Regulatory Governance	Conference	12–14 July 2023	In person	191
Standing Group on Parliaments	Conference	6–8 July 2023	In person	112
Standing Group on Political Communication	Summer School	3–7 July 2023	In person	22
The Politics of Becoming <i>Rising Star</i> edition	House Series	20 June 2023	Virtual	49
Turkey After the 2023 Elections: Do Existing Paradigms Still Work?	House Series	15 June 2023	Virtual	82
Standing Group on Organised Crime	Summer School	12–23 June 2023	In person	23
Standing Group on Southern European Politics	Seminar Series	12 May–29 December 2023	Virtual	97
Research Network on Statehood, Sovereignty, and Conflict	Seminar Series	3 May 2023	Virtual	32
	Seminar Series	27 April 2023	Virtual	27
Fariba Adelkhah, the Embodiment of Scientific Freedom <i>Stein Rokkan</i> edition	House Series	26 April 2023	In person	57
Joint Sessions of Workshops	Joint Sessions	25–28 April 2023	In person	426
Standing Group on Migration and Ethnicity	Workshop	13–14 April 2023	In person	120
Standing Group on Gender and Politics	Seminar Series	22 March–29 December 2023	Virtual	199
Standing Group on European Union	Early Careers Workshop	21 February 2023	Virtual	89
How to Research Climate Change: A Debate on Methods and Perspectives from Political Science	House Series	9 February 2023	In person	286
Winter School in Research Methods and Techniques	Winter School	6–11 February 2023	In person	259
Standing Group on Kantian Political Thought	Annual lecture and conference	1–2 December 2022	Virtual	7
	Winter School	28 November–1 December 2022	Virtual	14
Symbolic Objects in Contentious Politics: Why Objects Matter in Protest, Revolution and Resistance	House Series	8 November 2022	Virtual	210
The Rise of Illiberalism: An International Roundtable <i>The Loop</i> edition	House Series	4 October 2022	Virtual	250

KPI data tables

Please refer to separate Appendix for headline statistics on all ECPR publications

■ Key Performance Indicators for Membership numbers, 2018–2023

	2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23		2023–24
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
Membership	345	331	345	320	340	308	320	305	321	324	321

■ Participation at events, 2019–2023

	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
General Conference	1,846	1,801	1,850	2,214	2,000	2,349	2,000	2,017	2,174	2,424	2,113
Joint Sessions	407	448	425	87	400	628	400	449	489	426	434
Winter School	Previously, targets set* and reporting has been based on participant numbers rather than courses sold. From 2021–2022, reporting on course numbers has been adopted as a more reliable metric.			573	n/a*	578	n/a*	334	470	284	404
Summer School				607	n/a*	500	n/a*	228	448	327	412

■ Key Performance Indicators for journal publishing, 2019–2023

	European Journal of Political Research (including PDY)			European Political Science			European Political Science Review			European Journal of International Relations			Political Research Exchange	
	Total submissions	Rejection rate	Impact Factor	Total submissions	Rejection rate	Impact Factor	Total submissions	Rejection rate	Impact Factor	Total submissions	Rejection rate	Impact Factor	Total submissions	Rejection rate
2019	433	95.60%	2.830	97	47.70%	1.429	197	74.00%	2.327	391	87.00%	3.474	43	44.00%
2020	514	84.83%	4.943	123	59.35%	1.756	230	88.26%	4.143	469	91%	4.023	87	77.01%
2021	474	88.19%	5.774	91	70.33%	2.436	210	81.90%	3.123	426	91%	2.946	84	71.43%
2022	446	85%	5.3	84	61%	2	232	80%	3.2	402	86%	3.4	91	76%
2023	526	97%		117	68%		218	91%					110	93%

ECPR publications follow the calendar year. Some data were therefore unavailable at the time of publication.



Operating responsibly

Supporting our volunteers

Volunteers are defined as people who conduct work on behalf of ECPR without financial reward. Currently, we define members of Steering Committees of ECPR's Standing Groups and Research Networks, and Associate Editors of the journal PRX, as volunteers. We recognise the contribution of this group to meeting the organisation's mission, and we aim to support them in a number of ways, including opportunities to meet with staff

and trustees, and offering advice and training.

Complaints handling policy

We work hard to ensure that we always deliver the best service to our members and affiliates; to support this effort we have developed a complaints policy to allow us to receive, review and take action on any concerns raised. Complaints can be made in person, over the phone or via a dedicated confidential email address:

complaints@ecpr.eu. Once received, complaints are processed by our Senior Management Team or Director. We have also published a [Code of Conduct](#) on our website, revised in March 2021, which explains explicitly to our community what we consider to be appropriate conduct.

Staff wellbeing

Our staff at the Colchester headquarters work hard to deliver an extensive range of benefits and services to a large community of scholars across the world.



All staff benefit from flexible working, so they can work the hours that suit their own personal situations. Staff required to work additional hours at times of high workload can accrue time-off-in-lieu (TOIL), in addition to the standard 25 days annual leave plus bank holidays.

Home-working has always been an option for staff under certain circumstances, but the pandemic has proven that staff are able and capable of working from home on a regular basis, with minimal disruption to our operations. We have adopted a more flexible approach to home-working, allowing staff to combine home and office working to allow them to better manage their commitments outside of work.

We have developed a number of policies to support and protect staff who are working away from the office, and the organisation reimburses all necessary costs incurred while travelling for work purposes. We provide a defined-contribution pension scheme for all employees, to which ECPR doubles any contribution made by staff, up to 16% of salary. We also provide staff with a benefits package that includes shopping

discounts; reduced train tickets; spreading the cost of technology, childcare and vehicles; access to over a thousand e-learning modules and courses; free coffee and movies; and discounts on gym memberships. We are also committed to maintaining the good mental health of our staff. We have trained Mental Health First Aiders and, through our staff benefits package, we provide access to a free counselling service.

Procurement and sustainability

We have adopted a Procurement Policy which seeks to balance the need to protect the resources of ECPR by achieving value for money, with factors such as sustainability and supplier values.

The policy seeks to achieve this by requiring any trustee, volunteer or member of staff considering a purchase to evaluate the following criteria: price of product; quality of product; ability of the product to fulfil the charity's need; supplier's reputation, range of products, service, delivery ability and sustainability principles.

For large purchases or long-term supplies, we seek formal quotes and tenders from at least two competitors. Quotes made by charities or other not-for-profit organisations, and those local to our headquarters or event host (as appropriate), are considered favourably.

Risk management

We regularly evaluate the risks facing the organisation through the Risk Register. This informs the degree of reserves required to sustain the organisation in the event of one or more of these factors materialising.

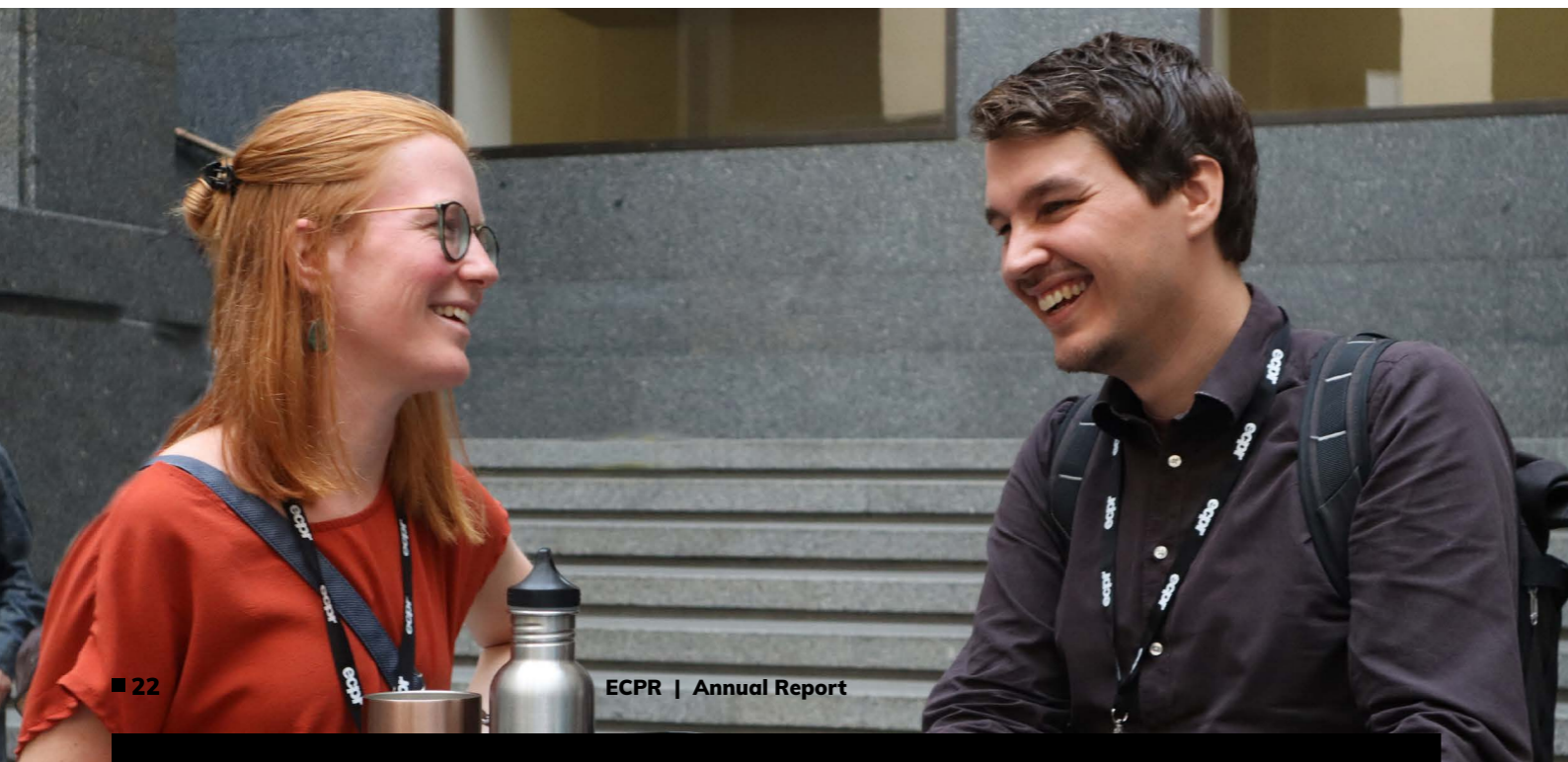
A key risk the organisation faces is a sustained loss of surplus from our events activities. Multiple factors impact this: increased operating costs due to high inflation; increased shipping costs due to Brexit; decreased income due to VAT; and decreased income due to maintenance of registration fees despite increasing costs. A new key risk is the recent decline in Methods School numbers. The EC will be working closely with the newly appointed Academic Convenors to reformat the school. The EC will also

continue to look at options to reduce any further decline in income, to ensure the sustainability of the events portfolio.

While the EC is responsible for adopting the annual budget, and for ensuring that accounts are properly audited, day-to-day management of income and expenditure lies with our Finance Department and Senior Management Team, with regular oversight by the Chair of the Finance Subcommittee.

Reserves policy

ECPR aims to maintain reserves equivalent to the risks identified in the Risk Register. The last Risk Register to be approved by the EC set a net reserves target of £1.8m; at the close of the 2021-22 financial year net reserves (excluding Fixed Assets) were at £1.3m (70% of target). At the close of 2022-23, reserves dropped to £944k; only 52% of the target set. The SMT and the EC will review the Risk Register ahead of the next Executive Committee meeting, in April 2024. Over the coming years, the EC is making plans to return the organisation to profitability, and to begin rebuilding reserves.



Current principal ongoing or 'standing' risks faced by ECPR

Risk	Loss of Methods School as a viable event	Sustained loss of surplus from events	Exchange rate volatility	Loss of publications income	Bank failure
Impact	Increased costs resulting in the activity becoming financially unviable	Increased costs resulting in loss of surplus across all events	GBP value increasing against Euro	Publisher folding or defaulting on contract	Loss of unguaranteed income
Mitigation	Revision of strategies and format	Costs secured as part of the tender process and budgets confirmed in advance	Continued monitoring and change in sourcing strategy	Continued monitoring with option to fold the journal	Monitor news
Net risk rating	Very high	Very high	Minimal	Very low	Very low

Financial review

Income

Our four primary income streams are:

- Registration income from the annual General Conference
- Membership fees (subscriptions)
- Publications income
- Methods School registration income

Overall income in 2022-23 increased by 1.9%, from £1.90m in 2021-22 to £1.93m.

Income from publications increased by 4.2% to £418k compared with £401k in the prior period.

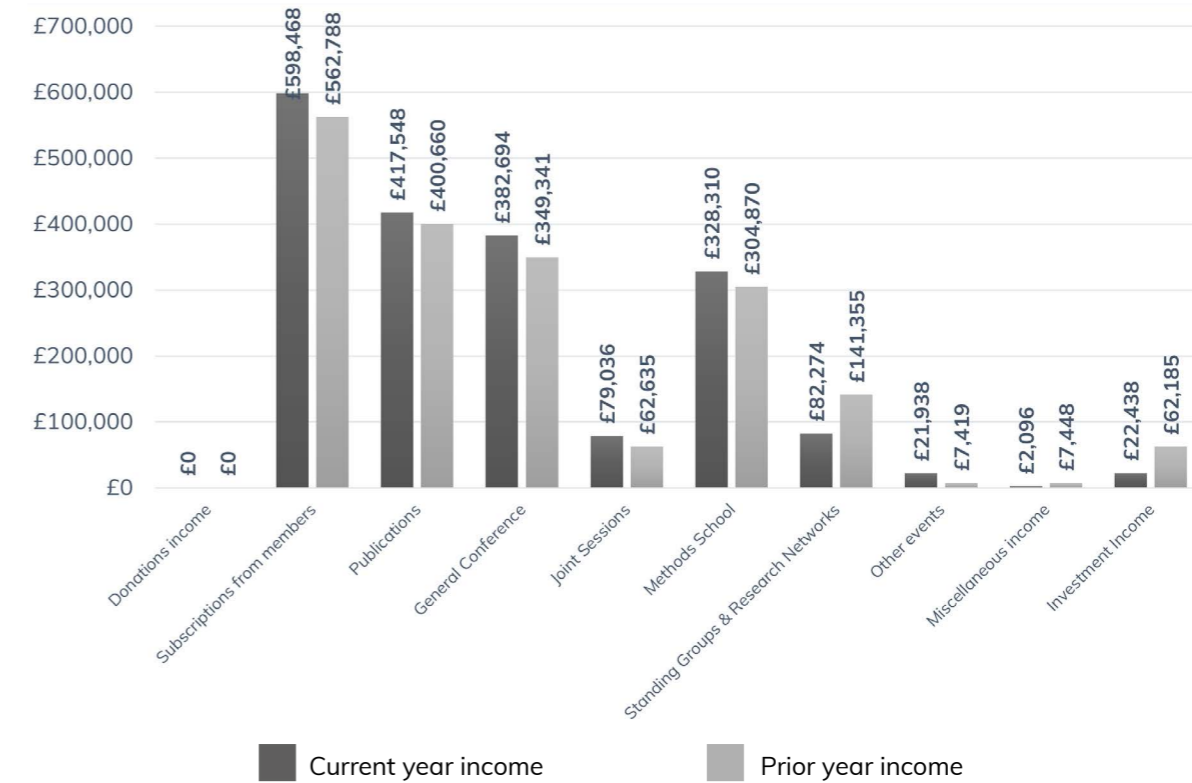
Broken down across our portfolio of journals and book series:

- **ECPR Press** income increased by from £0k to £16k. This is due to the late receipt of Royalty payments due in the Prior Year, new sales income generated by bringing the Press back in-house and one-off Article Process Charges for publishing a book in Open Access format.

- **EJPR income** decreased by 3.3%, from £282k to £273k. This is due to the ongoing transfer of publishing revenue from subscriptions to OA-based revenue and agreements, which is most keenly felt by a long-established journal like EJPR.
- **EPS income** increased by 4.7%, from £60k to £63k. This is due to revised forecasts which project a higher return in royalty income for the journal.
- **EPSR income** decreased by £12k (28.1%) to £32k. This was due to timing differences relating to the royalty income.
- **EJIR income** increased by 6.5%, from £17k to £19k. This is due to an increase in royalty income generated by the journal.
- **PRX** recorded a negative income figure of £4k in 2021-22. This was due to adjustments made at the 2020-21 year-end for anticipated income that was not realised because the required thresholds were not met. In 2023-23, income was £15k, which was more in line with previous income figures (£13k, for example, in 2020-21).

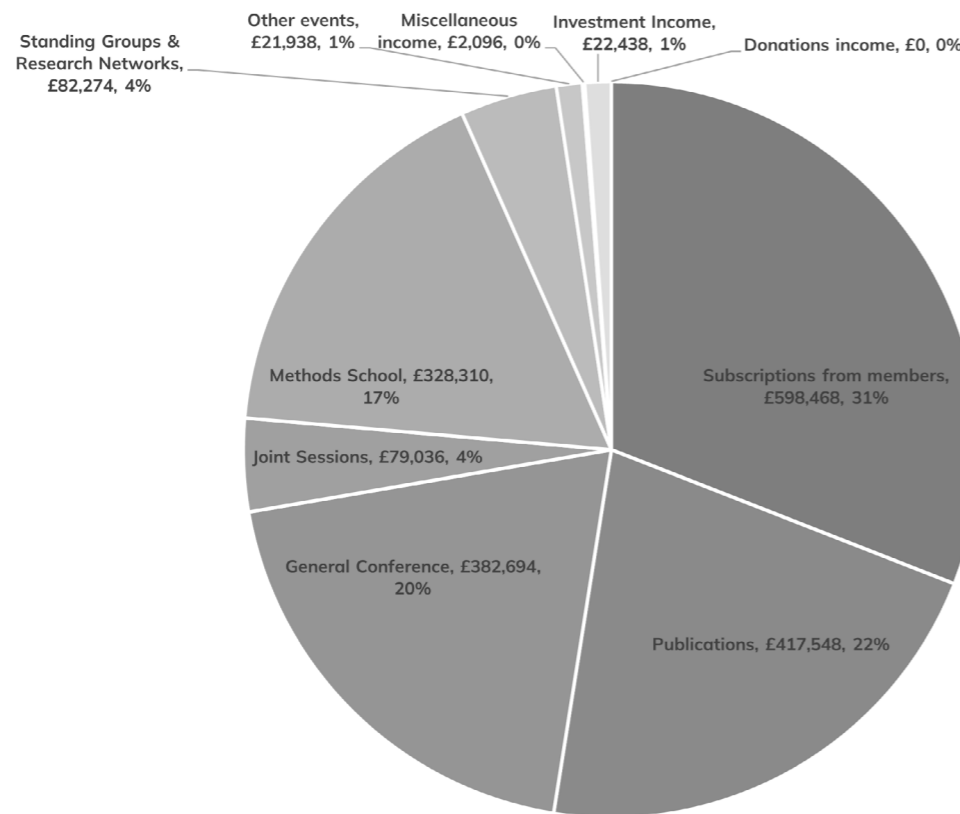
Income compared to prior year

Variance 2022-2023 income against previous year



Income summary

Breakdown of income received in 2022-2023



Event income increased by 3.3% from £866k in the previous year to £894k in 2022-23.

- **General Conference** income increased by 9.5% to £383k from £349k. This was due to a combination of increased registrations (2,424 compared to 2,017 in 2022) and a small increase in the fee.
- **Joint Sessions** income increased by 26.2%, from £63k to £79k. Although registration numbers were down (426 compared to 449 in 2022) the pricing structure was revised for the event so that discounts could be brought in line with the General Conference (50% for ECPR members, 30% for students, 80% for ECPR student members). This meant that some of the fees charged were higher than they had been in the previous year.
- **Methods School** income increased by 7.7%, from £305k up to £328k. This is due to an increase in courses sold of 13 (2.2%) (611 compared to 598 in 2022), plus a small rise in fees.

- **Standing Group and Research Network** income declined by 41.8%, from £141k to £82k. Two large events which occur in alternate years cause a large variance in income when compared to the previous year. Other event income was up 195.7%, from £7k to £22k. This was due to £11k of training income being generated for a bespoke course in the year, and to a slight increase in exhibition income.
- **Miscellaneous** income decreased by 71.9%, from £7k to £2k. This was because in 2021-22 £5k of funding was received for a member of staff that was on a government training programme that was not received in 2022-23.
- **Membership subscription** income increased by 6.3%, from £563k to £598k. This was due to a significant increase in member numbers of 19 (6.2%), up from 305 in 2021-22 to 324 in 2022-23.
- **Investment income** decreased by 63.9%, from £62k to £22k. The income recorded in 2021-22 was unusually high, up 363.8% compared to the prior year, so this represents a return to more usual levels (£13k in 2020-21).

Expenditure

Overall expenditure remained stable in the period, at £2.3m.

Overall support costs remained stable at £1.1m. Within this, governance costs decreased by £10k (13.9%), from £68k to £59k. Staff salaries and wages increased by £49k (5.6%) from £874k to £923k. Overall staffing costs, including pension and social security costs, remained stable at £1.1m. The increase in salaries was due to a cost-of-living increase issued to all staff in October 2022 of 5.14%. Staff turnover led to average staff numbers decreasing slightly from 28 to 27. Support costs are reallocated to our charitable activities based on the percentage of charitable expenditure the activity generated.

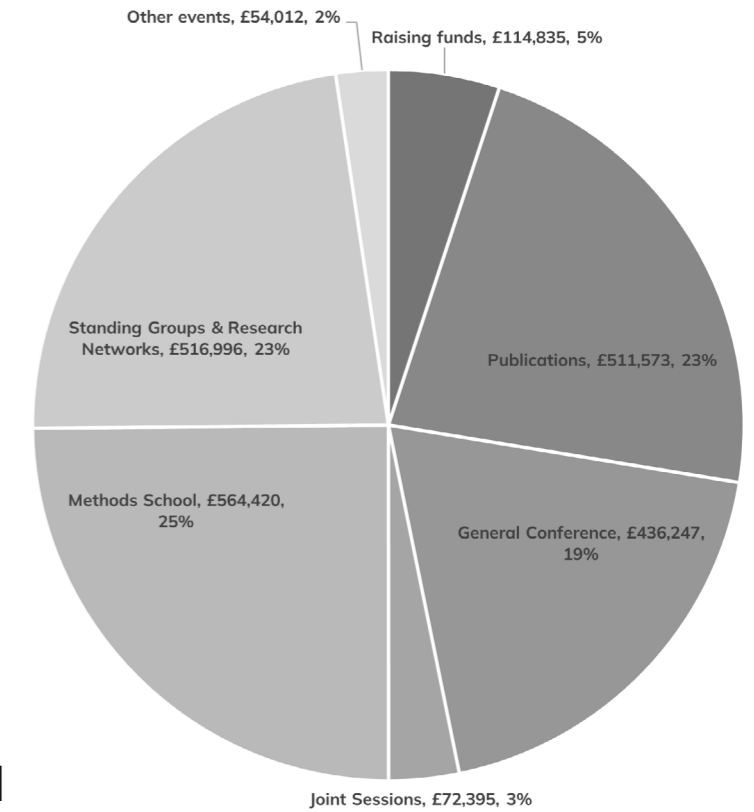
- **Expenditure on raising funds** (membership subscriptions) increased by 43.2% from £80k to £115k. This was because allocated support costs rose from £40k to £56k, mostly due to an increase in allocated staff salaries, which then led to an increase in direct costs, from £40k to £59k.
- **Expenditure on publications** decreased by 2.8%, from £526k to £512k. This was due to a decrease in direct expenditure of c£40k due to there being a one-off purchase of rights in the prior year to bring the ECPR Press back in-house, offset by an increase in allocated staff salaries.
- **General Conference expenditure** decreased by 28.1%, from £607k to £436k. Funding issued decreased by c£20k, direct

costs for the event decreased by c£28k and allocated staff salaries reduced by c£55k, therefore the allocation of support costs also decreased.

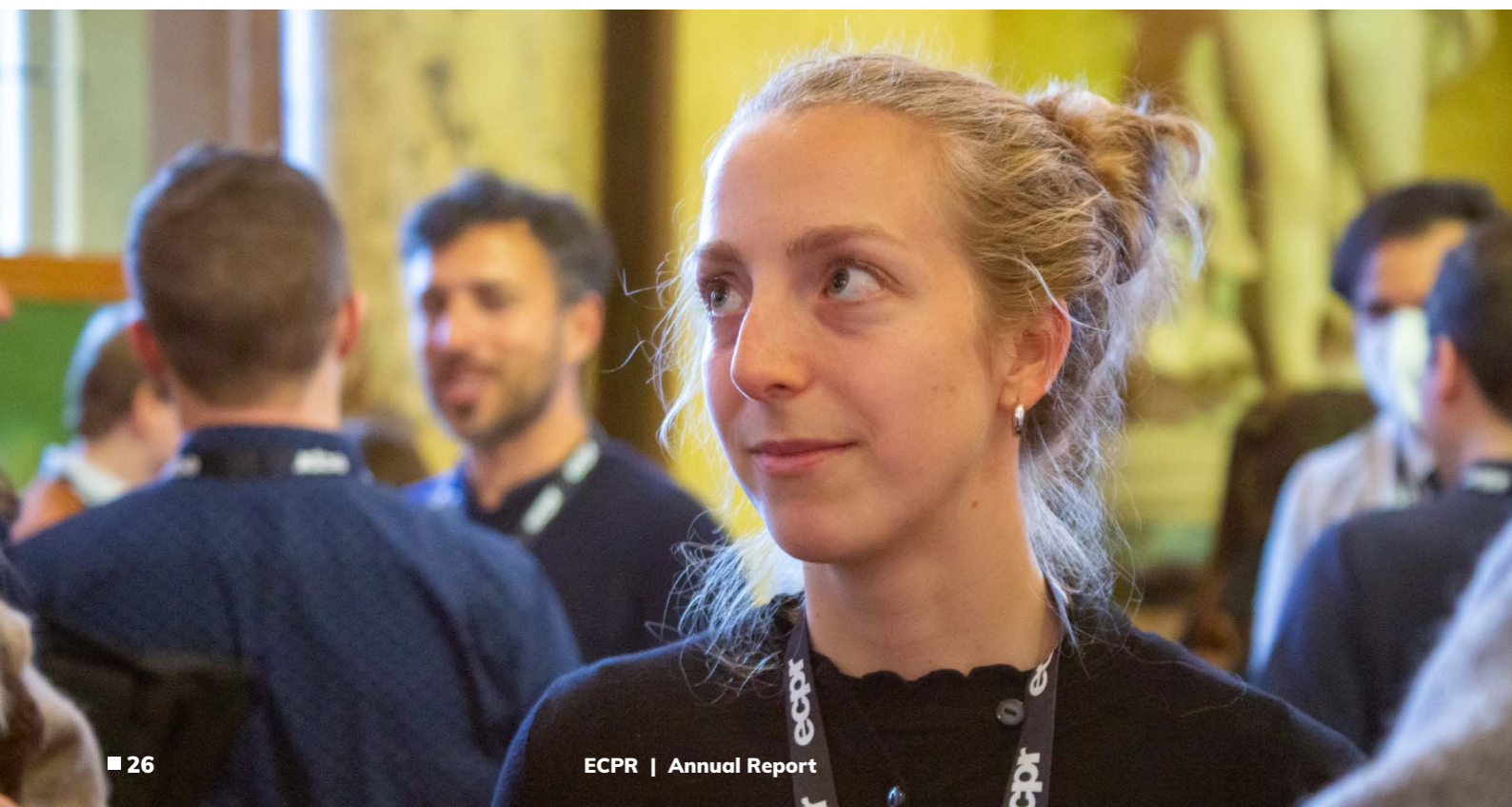
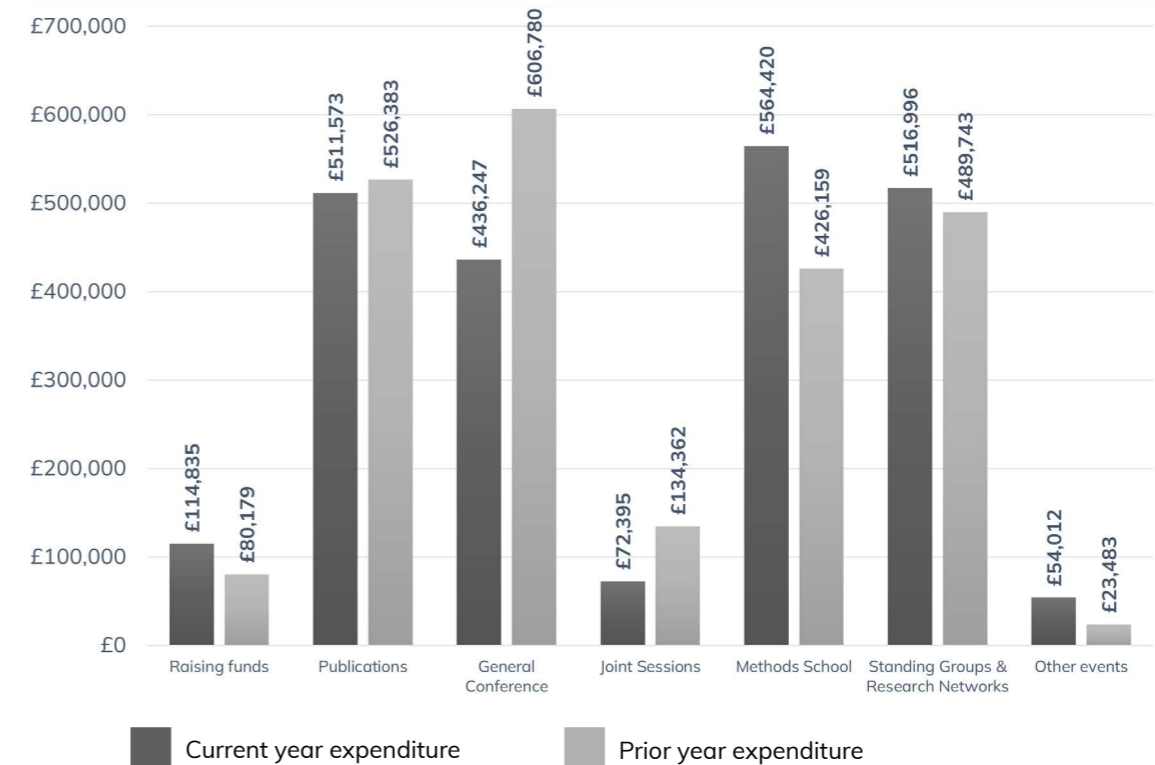
- **Joint Sessions expenditure** decreased by 46.1%, from £134k to £72k. This was due to a decrease in funding of c£6k and a decrease in event costs of c£14k, which led to a decrease in support cost allocation.
- **Methods School expenditure** increased by £138k (32.4%), from £426k to £564k. Direct costs increased by £79k due to the Winter School taking place in person, whereas both schools took place virtually in 2022, which led to an increase in the allocation of support costs.
- **Standing Group and Research Network expenditure** increased by 5.6%, from £490k to £517k. Direct costs decreased from £246k to £137k because the two large events that take place every other year were not run in the period (offset by a decrease in income). This was offset by an increase in staff salaries of £128k (none were allocated to this activity in 2021-22), which overall resulted in a £9k increase in the allocation of support costs.
- **Other events expenditure** increased by 130.0%, from £23k to £54k. Direct costs increased by £7k for retreats that took place virtually in the prior year, which led to an increase in support cost allocation.

Expenditure summary

Breakdown of charitable expenditure 2022-2023



Expenditure compared to prior year



Surplus and deficit

The 2022-23 financial year overall recorded a deficit of £305k compared to a deficit of £574k in 2021-22. This represents an improvement of £269k (46.9%).

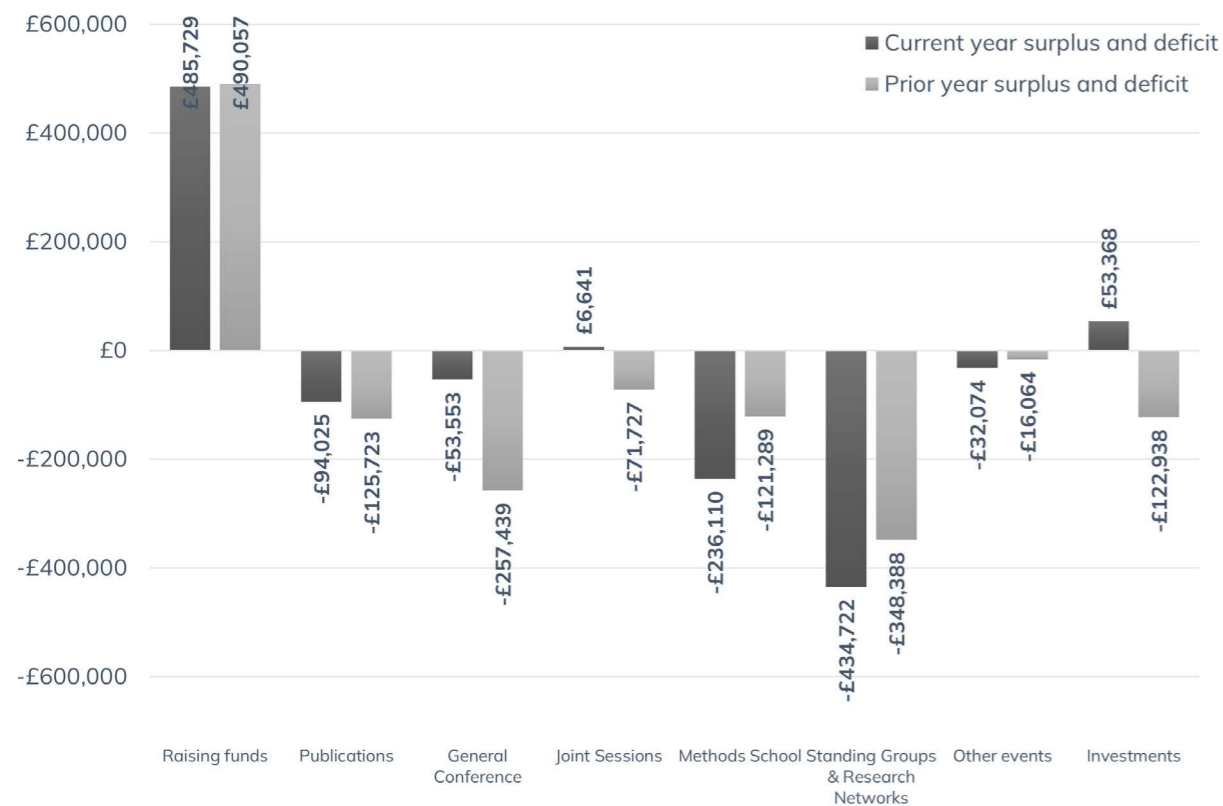
- **The surplus gained by raising funds** (membership subscriptions) declined by £4k (0.9%) from £490k to £486k.
- **Publications** recorded a deficit in the period of £94k, which was a decrease in deficit of 25.2% from £126k in 2021-22.
- **The General Conference** increased by 79.2% from a deficit of £257k in 2021-22 to a deficit of £54k in 2022-23.
- **The Joint Sessions** increased by 109.3% from a deficit of £72k in 2021-22 to a surplus of £7k in 2022-23.
- Deficit made by the **Methods School** increased by 94.7%, from a deficit of £121k to £236k.
- Deficit made by **Other Events and Standing Groups** increased by 28.1%, from £364k to £467k.
- **Surplus generated by the investments portfolio** rose by 143.4%, to a surplus of £53k from a deficit of £123k.

Investment policy and performance

When we make a surplus, we use this money to build reserves which can be called upon to keep the organisation functioning should it meet any of the risks highlighted by our Risk Register. Some of our reserves are held in an investment portfolio. After a review by the EC in 2017, we decided that our managed fund was not bringing us value for money, so we transferred the £855k to Vanguard Investments UK Limited, split 50/50 across two funds: Vanguard Lifestrategy 40% Equity Fund and Vanguard Lifestrategy 60% Equity Fund. These index-tracking funds tend to be less volatile than active funds, and attract lower management costs, at 0.24%.

Since the transfer of the portfolio the investments had brought us gains increasing the value of the fund to £1.1m in 2020-21. However, the value of the fund decreased for the first time in 2021-22, dropping 11.5% to £952k, with a loss on the value of the portfolio of £185k and a dividend accumulated of £61k. It recovered some of its value in 2022-23 increasing by £31k and generating a dividend accumulated of £17k. Overall, the portfolio increased by £47k to £999k. These funds are tracked rather than actively managed, so the increase is the result of external factors affecting the portfolio.

Surplus for all activities



Staff at Harbour House in Colchester

Employed 1 October 2022 – 30 September 2023

Director

Tanja Munro

Rebecca Delve
Editorial Coordinator
Maternity leave from June 2023

Annie Ho
Events Coordinator / Events Manager
From May 2023

Shaun Klotia-Clotney
Finance Assistant
Until September 2023

Senior Management Team

Rebecca Gethen
Head of Communications

Bobbi Westerman
Community Engagement Coordinator
Until March 2023

Alexandra Turner Events Assistant
Until July 2023

Harriet Olley
Events Coordinator
Until November 2022

Darran Harrington-Keeton
Data Analyst
Until September 2023

Mark Kench Head of IT

Anna Hubbard
Editorial Coordinator

Samantha Wong
Training Coordinator

Sean Judge
Finance Apprentice / Finance Assistant
From August 2023

Helen Morgan
Head of Finance

Charlie Brown
Editorial Coordinator
From April 2023

Andie Nash
Events Coordinator

IT and Website

Communications

Helen Cooper
Community Engagement Manager

Jessica Dorling
Community Engagement Coordinator
From May 2023

Hayley Cadel
Events Coordinator
From July 2023

James Gooch
Development Manager

Kate Hawkins
Publishing and Content Manager

Miah Edwards Digital Engagement Coordinator
From June 2023

Amy Nice
Events Coordinator
From August 2023

Colin McPhie
Systems Manager

Olga Roelens
Marketing Manager

Events

Nirusha Ridgwell Events Manager
Until April 2023

Rob Neale
Events Coordinator
From September 2023

Antoni Christodoulou
Developer

Kaez Condon Publishing and Communications Coordinator
Until August 2023

Bridie Calver
Training Manager
Maternity leave from October 2023

Finance

Bianca Taylor
Finance Manager

Jordan Rudge
Junior Developer

Operations

Kim Jesney HR Manager

Jeff Noga Facilities Coordinator
Until July 2023

Executive Committee: trustees 2021 – 2024



David Farrell, Chair Full Professor of Politics, School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin

- Representation, elections and parties, constitutional deliberation.



Petra Meier, Vice Chair Awards, Prizes, and Funding Decisions Subcommittee; Professor of Politics, University of Antwerp

- Gender politics and policies; democracy and representation; electoral inclusiveness; inequality in multi-level systems.



Ladislav Cabada Vice-Rector for Research, Quality and Development, Metropolitan University Prague

- Regionalism and development studies in Central and South-Eastern Europe.



Giliberto Capano Publications Subcommittee; Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Bologna

- Comparative higher education policy, policy design and policy instruments, and the role of agents in public policy.



Christian Haerpfer Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Vienna

- Europe (Central and Eastern), Comparative Politics, Democracy, Political Participation, Electoral Behaviour, Public Opinion, Survey Research.



Daniela Irrera Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Catania

- Positive and negative action and influence on global politics by non-state actors.



Hana Kubátová Events and Finance Subcommittees; Head of the VITRI Research Centre, Charles University in Prague

- Majority-minority relations, identity construction, politics of memory and microdynamics of (ethnic) violence.



Gianluca Passarelli Sapienza University of Rome
Until November 2023

- Electoral systems' influence on voting behaviour; presidential political parties.



Anne Rasmussen Professor of Political Science, University of Copenhagen

- Representation, (inequality in) political representation, public opinion, political parties, and public policy.



Thomas Saalfeld Organisation and Training Subcommittees; Professor of Comparative Politics and Vice President for Research, University of Bamberg

- Legislative behaviour, legislative organisation, parliamentary accountability.



Sabine Saurugger Training and Events Subcommittees; Professor of Political Science, Director, Sciences Po Grenoble

- Public policy, comparative politics, interest groups, European integration, European public policies and the politics of law.



Amy Verdun Full Professor, University of Victoria, British Columbia

- European integration widely defined: political economy, policy, governance, integration theories, comparative politics.

Administrative information

Principal Office

Harbour House
6-8 Hythe Quay
Colchester
Essex CO2 8JF

Website

<https://ecpr.eu/>

Auditors

SB Audit LLP
Chartered Accountants
820 The Crescent
Colchester Business Park
Colchester
Essex CO4 9YQ

Registered Charity Number

1167403 CIO – Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
Teviot House
South Gayle Crescent
Edinburgh EH12 9DR

Solicitors

Birkett Long LLP
Faviell House, 1 Coval Wells
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1WZ

Investment Managers

Vanguard Investments
UK Limited
PO Box 10315
Chelmsford
Essex CM99 2AT

Structure, governance, and management

Organisation and control

We are governed by our board of trustees, the EC, with day-to-day operational management delegated to the Director and Senior Management Team. The EC is responsible for ensuring ECPR acts solely to further its charitable objects. It reports to the Council, which is made up of Official Representatives from member institutions.

ECPR's activities were divided into five portfolios of work; however, during the year, one of the Subcommittees was disbanded and the work of that committee was absorbed into another portfolio. Each of the four Subcommittees comprises two or three members of the EC, plus the Chair and Vice Chair. The Director, related Senior Manager and their staff work with the Subcommittees day-to-day to operationalise EC decisions. Subcommittees have decision-making authority delegated to them via a Scheme of Delegation, and bring key items to the EC in plenary for decision and strategic discussion.

There is a structured induction process for new trustees which includes meeting key staff and receiving governance, strategy and financial documents. The first meeting of a new cohort of trustees will normally take place at ECPR's offices where they will have the opportunity to sit in on the final meeting of the outgoing group.

Key management remuneration

All Executive Committee members give their time freely. No remuneration was paid to them during the year. Trustees are reimbursed travel and subsistence expenses when working away on ECPR business. Accommodation is usually organised and paid for by ECPR. ECPR provides the Chair's institution financial support to cover their absence while they are serving their term of office. No remuneration is made to serving EC members or to people who volunteer for ECPR without the express approval of the EC and in line with the Charity Commission for England and Wales' regulations.

Staff Remuneration Policy

As a UK registered charity, the ECPR seeks to ensure that:

- staff are paid fairly, in line with local market rates, appropriately for their level of responsibility and in line with the pay of colleagues who perform similar tasks;
- staff salaries are awarded based on skills and experience and are free from discrimination;
- we comply with our obligation to expend our incoming resources responsibly;
- there is transparency in all aspects of our operations.

To achieve the above goals, we must balance the need to ensure value for money when expending the Charity's resources with the need to recruit and retain the best people for the job.

The EC is responsible for setting management pay, including that of the Director, usually by delegation to the Management Subcommittee; the EC is also responsible for the recruitment and appointment of the Director. Staff are awarded an annual cost of living pay increase, which is also approved by the EC.

Conflicts of Interest Policy

ECPR trustees have a legal duty to ensure they always act in ECPR's best interest when making decisions. It is a legal requirement that trustees report a potential conflict of interest

as soon as it arises. A conflict of interest would arise if:

- a trustee could benefit financially from a decision over which they have influence, whether directly or indirectly through a personal connection;
- a trustee's loyalty to the ECPR conflicted with a duty or loyalty to another organisation or person.

Conflicts of interest are common in charities, so we adopted practices aimed at reducing the risk of / to:

- making decisions that could be overturned;
- ECPR's reputation;
- trustees having to repay ECPR for unauthorised payments.

ECPR has adopted the following practices to safeguard against the above risks occurring:

- clauses 7.8 and 8 of the [ECPR Constitution](#);
- implementation of a Register of Interests, which is updated annually with appropriate procedures for managing conflicts.

Where trustees delegate their decision-making powers to staff members under the terms of the organisation's Scheme of Delegation, those staff are also expected to declare any potential conflict of interest and absent themselves from any discussions.



Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

As a group of trustees, the EC is responsible for preparing its Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the EC to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue to operate.

The EC is responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of ECPR's Constitution. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence, for taking reasonable steps for

the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the EC is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditor is unaware;
- it has taken all steps that it ought to have taken to make itself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The EC is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

David Farrell
On behalf of the Executive Committee
15 March 2024

Hana Kubátová
On behalf of the Executive Committee
15 March 2024





Independent Auditor's Report

SB Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the European Consortium for Political Research (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 September 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the financial statements other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Executive Committee is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible

for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern, and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the Head of Finance (as required by auditing standards) and senior management, inspection of the Charity's regulatory and legal correspondence and we have discussed with the Head of Finance the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements, including financial reporting legislation and taxation legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance, through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: compliance with the requirements of The Charity Commission,

health and safety, corporate governance, including safeguarding and wellbeing, human rights and employment law, anti-bribery and corruption, and GDPR. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Governors and other management, and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Audit procedures undertaken in response to the potential risks relating to irregularities (which include fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations) comprised of: enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to whether the Charity complies with such regulations, enquiries of management and those charged with governance concerning any actual or potential litigation or claims, inspection of any relevant legal documentation, review of board minutes, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and the performance of analytical review to identify any unexpected movements in account balances which may be indicative of fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

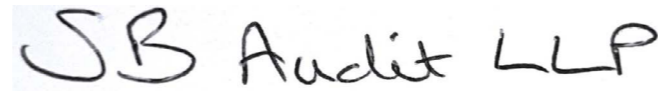
Read a further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the

financial statements on the [Financial Reporting Council's website](#). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's Executive Committee, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Executive Committee those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report, and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Executive Committee as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signature and approval



15 March 2024, SB Audit LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, 820 The Crescent, Colchester Business Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 9YQ
SB Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006



Statement of financial activities

Year ended 30 September 2023

The notes on pages 40-45 form part of these financial statements

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Income from			
Charitable activities	2	1,313,896	1,273,728
Subscriptions from members	3	598,468	562,788
Investments	4	22,438	62,185
Total income		1,934,802	1,898,701
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	6	114,835	80,179
Charitable activities	7	2,155,643	2,206,910
Total expenditure		2,270,478	2,287,089
Unrealised investment gains / (losses)		30,930	(185,123)
Net expenditure of funds for the year		(304,746)	(573,511)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		2,660,582	3,234,093
Total funds carried forward		2,355,836	2,660,582

Continuing operations

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Total recognised gains and losses

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

Funds

All of the income, expenditure and gains for the last two financial periods relate to unrestricted funds.





Balance sheet

As at 30 September 2023

The notes on pages 40-45 form part of these financial statements

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	412,778	425,969
Investments	12	999,326	951,801
		1,412,104	1,377,770
Current assets			
Debtors	13	395,900	411,809
Cash and cash equivalents	14	1,630,804	1,865,906
		2,026,704	2,277,715
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,082,972)	(994,903)
Net current assets		943,732	1,282,812
Net assets		2,355,836	2,660,582
Funds			
Unrestricted funds		2,355,836	2,660,582

David Farrell
On behalf of the Executive Committee
15 March 2024

Hana Kubátová
On behalf of the Executive Committee
15 March 2024

Statement of cashflows

Period ended 30 September 2023

The notes on pages 40-45 form part of these financial statements

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net expenditure for the year	(304,746)	(573,511)
Adjusted for		
Depreciation of tangible assets	22,607	19,692
Loss on disposal of assets	94	-
Unrealised investment (gain) / loss	(30,930)	185,123
Dividend accumulated in funds	(16,595)	(61,195)
Interest received	(5,843)	(990)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	15,909	(87,609)
Increase in creditors	88,069	191,332
Net cash used in operating activities	(231,435)	(327,158)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	5,843	990
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(9,510)	(22,511)
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,667)	(21,521)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(235,102)	(348,679)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	1,865,906	2,214,585
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	1,630,804	1,865,906

No Net debt analysis has been included as there is no debt in the charity



Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 30 September 2023

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments, which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance

with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1 and are prepared in sterling.

b. Going concern

Having considered the Charity's forecasts and projections the trustees are satisfied that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approving these financial statements. For this reason the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. The trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties with regard to going concern.

c. Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from subscriptions from members is accounted for in the year to which they relate.

Income from publications in the form of royalties is received in relation to the journals. Royalty income is accounted for in the year that it becomes receivable, which is when the publication is sold.

Income from conferences is accounted for in the year in which the conference occurs.

d. Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

e. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Reserves are targeted to be approximately 12 months regular expenditure.

f. Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of commercial trading including investment management and their associated costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of publications, method schools, conferences and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

- Governance costs represents the costs of governance arrangements and include costs associated with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g. Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but are not directly attributable to charitable activities. Support costs represent costs attributable to the management of the charity's assets and organisational administration. These costs have been allocated between costs of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based on the proportion of direct costs which relate to each activity. The basis on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

h. Foreign currency

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences arising in the normal course of trading are dealt with in the statement of financial activities for the year.

i. Fixed assets

Individual assets costing £250 or more are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

- Freehold buildings between 2% and 10% per annum.
- Office and IT equipment 25%
- Freehold land is not depreciated.

j. Fixed asset investments

Listed investments are stated at market value at the Balance Sheet date. Realised and unrealised gains or losses are calculated based on the market value at which the investments are recorded in the financial statements and are shown on the face of the statement of financial activities.

k. Stock

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving items.

l. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered.

m. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and short term highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or the opening of the deposit or similar account.

n. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

o. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

p. Taxation

European Consortium for Political Research is a charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011 and as such is a charity for tax purposes in line with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. Accordingly, European Consortium for Political

Research is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to its charitable purposes.

q. Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Charity has no further payment obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Charity in independently administered funds.

r. Significant judgements and estimates

The more significant judgements and estimates involved in the preparation of the financial statements include assessing the depreciation rates applicable to tangible fixed assets and the way in which certain costs should be apportioned. Further details regarding these points are included within the accounting policies.

2. Income from charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Publications (note 5)	417,548	400,660
Conference income	382,694	349,341
Joint Sessions income	79,036	62,635
Methods School income	328,310	304,870
Standing Groups & Research Networks	82,274	141,355
Other event income	21,938	7,419
Miscellaneous	2,096	7,448
Total	1,313,896	1,273,728

Income from charitable activities can be further analysed as:

	2023 £	2022 £
Income from rendering of services	896,348	873,068
Income from royalties	417,548	400,660
Total	1,313,896	1,273,728

3. Subscription from Members

	2023 £	2022 £
Subscription from members	598,468	562,788

100% of the subscriptions from members – £598,468 (2022: £562,788) relates to the provision of services.

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Direct costs £	Direct wages £	Allocated £	2023 £	2022 £
Publications	109,594	152,606	249,373	511,573	526,383
Conference expenditure	189,697	33,895	212,655	436,247	606,780
Joint Sessions of Workshops	17,719	19,386	35,290	72,395	134,362
Methods School	227,783	61,503	275,134	564,420	426,159
Standing Groups & Research Networks	137,282	127,697	252,017	516,996	489,743
Other event expenditure	21,207	6,476	26,329	54,012	23,483
Total	703,282	401,563	1,050,798	2,155,643	2,206,910

4. Investment income

	2023 £	2022 £
Income from fixed-asset investments	16,595	61,195
Bank interest receivable	5,843	990
Total	22,438	62,185

5. Publications income

	2023 £	2022 £
ECPR Press	16,304	-
European Journal of Political Research	272,585	281,989
European Political Science (journal)	63,012	60,208
Palgrave / Sage / OUP	415	605
European Political Science Review (journal)	31,867	44,328
European Journal of International Relations	18,608	17,478
Political Research Exchange (journal)	14,757	(3,948)
Total	417,548	400,660

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	2023 £	2022 £
Directly attributable activities for generating funds	58,857	40,299
Support costs allocated	55,978	39,880
Total	114,835	80,179

8. Support costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Office costs	436,683	386,877
Staff salaries and wages	670,093	750,692
Total	1,106,776	1,137,569

Total support costs are made up of the expenditure for generating funds in note 6 of £55,978 (2022: £39,880) and the expenditure on charitable activities in note 7 of £1,050,798 (2022: £1,097,689).

Basis of allocation

Support costs have been allocated against charitable activities in line with the percentage of other expenditure directly attributable to the activity as follows:

	Support cost per activity %	Support cost per activity £	Direct cost per activity £
Subscriptions – Allocated	5.06	55,978	-
Subscriptions – Direct costs	-	-	58,857
Publications – Allocated	22.53	249,373	-
Publications – Direct costs	-	-	262,200
Conferences – Allocated	19.21	212,655	-
Conferences – Direct costs	-	-	223,592
Joint Sessions of Workshops – Allocated	3.19	35,290	-
Joint Sessions of Workshops – Direct costs	-	-	37,105
Methods School – Allocated	24.86	275,134	-
Methods School – Direct costs	-	-	289,286
Standing Groups & Research Networks – Allocated	22.77	252,017	-
Standing Groups & Research Networks – Direct costs	-	-	264,979
Other event expenditure – Allocated	2.38	26,329	-
Other event expenditure – Direct costs	-	-	27,683
Total	100.00	1,106,776	1,163,702

Included within support costs are £58,737 (2022: £68,254) of expenditure which relates to governance costs. This is broken down as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Executive Committee expenses, and Director remuneration	42,712	52,464
Audit fee (note 10)	16,025	15,790
Total	58,737	68,254

All members of the Executive Committee are reimbursed travelling and subsistence expenditure incurred in the course of their duties. During the year reimbursed expenses amounted to £30,057 (2022: £40,181). This amount is included within governance costs.

No emoluments have been paid to any member of the Executive Committee.

All of the costs of the Chair are classed as governance costs.

9. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	923,133	874,261
Social security costs	83,370	82,006
Pension costs – defined contribution	112,145	109,611
Total	1,118,648	1,065,878
Directly attributable wages (note 7)	401,563	278,548
Directly attributable wages for activities for generating funds	46,992	36,638
Total wages cost to be included in support costs allocation (note 8)	670,093	750,692
Total	1,118,648	1,065,878

Management and administration of the Charity	27	28
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The charity considered its key management personnel to comprise the Executive Committee and the Senior Management Team, comprising the Director and three Heads of Department. The total employment benefits, including employers' pension contributions of the key management personnel, were £281,246 (2022: £259,925). Three employees had employee benefits between £60,000 and £70,000 and one had employee benefits between £80,000 and £90,000. (2022: Three employees had employee benefits between £60,000 and £70,000 and one had employee benefits between £70,000 and £80,000).

10. Audit fee

	2023 £	2022 £
Auditors' remuneration in respect of audit services	16,025	14,770
Auditors' remuneration in respect of tax and other advisory services	-	1,020
Total	16,025	15,790

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office and IT equipment £	Freehold land and buildings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 October 2022	42,189	480,641	522,830
Additions	1,034	8,476	9,510
Disposals	(1,046)	-	(1,046)
At 30 September 2023	42,177	489,117	531,294
Depreciation			
At 1 October 2022	23,436	73,425	96,861
Charge for year	6,681	15,926	22,607
Eliminated on disposals	(952)	-	(952)
At 30 September 2023	29,165	89,351	118,516
Net book value			
At 30 September 2023	13,012	399,766	412,778
At 30 September 2022	18,753	407,216	425,969

12. Investments

Assets held for charity use and to provide investment return	2023 £	2022 £
Banco Santander shares	1,135	1,135
Funds held with Vanguard Investment UK, Limited	998,191	950,666
Total	999,326	951,801

The movement in the year is as follows	2023 £	2022 £
Market value as at 1 October 2022	951,801	1,075,729
Loss / gain on valuation	30,930	(185,123)
Dividend accumulated in fund	16,595	61,195
Market value as at 30 September 2023	999,326	951,801

The investments shown above comprise UK and overseas investments. Below are investment holdings by category:	2023 £	2022 £
Managed funds	999,326	951,801

The managed funds with Vanguard relate to two Vanguard LifeStrategy funds. The LifeStrategy 40% equity fund is made up of 40% equity and 60% bonds. The LifeStrategy 60% equity fund is made up of 60% equity and 40% bonds. The investments are split equally between the two managed funds. After the year end the Vanguard investments have increased in value to £1,058,339 as at 29 January 2024.

13. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors (including subscriptions due)	227,076	255,003
Other debtors	124,975	138,128
Prepayments		
Events	2,000	5,859
Membership	-	890
Publications	3,750	7,425
HR costs	825	1,982
Rates	1,476	1,115
Insurance	13,669	1,407
Office costs	284	-
Professional fees	3,342	-
General Prepayments	18,503	-
Total prepayments	43,849	18,678
Total debtors	395,900	411,809

14. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of the following items for the purpose of the Statement of cash flows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,630,804	1,865,906

15. Creditors

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income	699,072	599,058
Accruals	235,641	150,567
Trade creditors	117,018	234,270
Other taxation and Social Security	31,241	11,008
Total	1,082,972	994,903

16. Financial instruments

	2023 £	2022 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	352,051	393,131
Financial assets measured at fair value	999,326	951,801
Total	1,351,377	1,344,932
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	336,634	370,067

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade debtors and other debtors.

Financial assets measured at fair value comprise listed investments.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise accruals and trade creditors.

17. Related parties

The related parties of ECPR are the members of the Executive Committee. ECPR is controlled by its Executive Committee.

No other transactions were identified which should be disclosed under Financial Reporting Standard 102.

£120K



Awarded in funding across four funding streams

26

Events organised



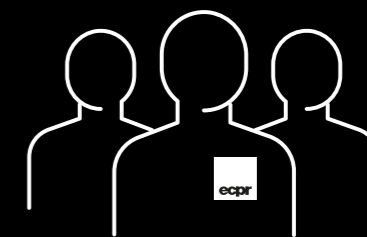
62

Standing Groups & Research Networks



330

Institutional members



2,126



Journal articles & blogs published

5,956

Scholars attended ECPR events and training



42

Published podcasts



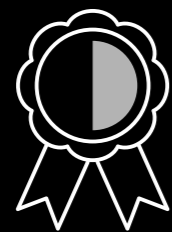
528

General Conference Panels



16

Prizes awarded



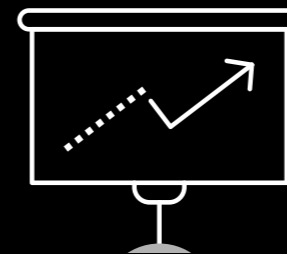
24K



Active MyECPR account holders

£1.93m

Income generated



- Encouraging the training, research, and cross-national co-operation of political scientists

Principal Office

Harbour House | 6 – 8 Hythe Quay

Colchester | CO2 8JF | United Kingdom ▪ **ecpr.eu**

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