



PRESS RELEASE

21 June 2022

Organisation in receipt of donations

THE LUCIE CARE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Court of Accounts ensures, during its audits of organisations making public appeals for donations, that the funds collected are in line with these organisations' stated objectives. If this is not the case, the Court issues a declaration of non-compliance, which is then made public.

Formed in 2015 by the non-profit organisation Union Nationale des Aveugles et Déficients Visuels (UNADEV - National association for the blind and visually impaired), being its sole founder, the Lucie Care endowment fund was intended in particular to offer donors the opportunity to support the cause of visually-impaired young people. With an initial endowment of €3 million from UNADEV, the endowment fund has gradually spent most of it without managing to raise any significant new funds over the 2017-2019 period. While it did carry out some projects for visually-impaired young people in line with its stated purpose, it spent most of its money on fundraising. For these reasons, the Court of Accounts finds that the expenditure incurred for the financial years 2017 to 2019 by the Lucie Care endowment fund did not comply with the objectives pursued by its public appeal for donations, which leads it to issue a declaration of non-compliance.

The implementation of projects in line with the stated remit of the endowment fund

The Lucie Care Endowment Fund was created to increase the work done to benefit visually-impaired young people. The projects that were financed match this purpose, ranging from grants of a few hundred euros (for the financing of trips or carers, the purchase of special equipment or one-off medical care) to the setting up of a sensory pathway within the Musée d'Aquitaine (payment of a grant of €50,000 to Bordeaux council). Its tangible actions for the benefit of visually-impaired young people, however, represent only a small part of the total expenditure of the endowment fund.

The bulk of the endowment fund's expenditure is on fundraising, to the detriment of its charitable works.

The endowment fund has spent most of its money on fundraising. Expenditure on charitable works was consequently in the minority according to the Court's calculations, i.e. 30% in 2017 and 2018, and 27% in 2019. In addition, the fund had included a flat-rate proportion of fundraising expenses under the heading of awareness-raising activities, without having any evidence to justify allocating these sums to charitable works.

In total, and after restatement of the share improperly charged to expenditures on charitable works, fundraising expenses represented 62% in 2017, 60% in 2018 and 62% in 2019 of the amount of funds recorded in the accounts.

The donations collected by the endowment fund, as well as the consumable endowment granted to it by UNADEV at the time of its creation, have therefore essentially financed the cost of collecting and operating the fund.

For these reasons, the Court of Accounts finds that the expenditure incurred for the financial years 2017 to 2019 by the Lucie Care endowment fund did not comply with the objectives pursued by its public appeal for donations.

The Court further recommends that the endowment fund rectify how it constructs the 'Use of resources' account to reflect the reality of fundraising costs, and that in future it adjusts the use of funds collected from the public to direct more towards charitable works.

Implications for the Lucie Care Endowment Fund

It is now up to the Minister of budget responsibility to decide whether or not to maintain the tax benefits attached to donations, legacies and payments that may benefit the Lucie Care Endowment Fund in the future.

[Read the report](#)

PRESS CONTACTS:

Emmanuel Kessler ■ Director of Communications ■ T +33 (0)1 42 98 55 62 ■ +33 (0)6 62 48 07 81

■ emmanuel.kessler@ccomptes.fr

Julie Poissier ■ Head of Press Relations ■ T +33 (0)1 42 98 97 43 ■ +33 (0)6 87 36 52 21

■ <mailto:julie.poissier@ccomptes.fr>



@Courdescomptes



ccomptes



Cour des comptes



Cour des comptes