



PRESS RELEASE

Palais Cambon, 8 September 2025

Organisations receiving donations

THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE (ICM) FOUNDATION

The Paris Brain Institute Foundation (ICM), recognised as a public interest organisation in 2006, began its scientific activities in 2010 at the centre of the same name located at La Pitié-Salpêtrière in Paris. Its aim is to bring together fundamental research, clinical research and innovation at a single location, with a particular focus on the economic and industrial applications of its work. To this end, it has equipped itself with high-tech platforms and employs engineers, technicians and administrative staff to support its research teams. The latter are, for the most part, public-sector employees and are part of a joint research unit (UMR) under the supervision of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) and Sorbonne University. This report analyses the foundation's financial situation, verifies compliance with obligations related to public fundraising, and details the strategy, organisation and resources used to collect funds from the public.

A recent research foundation with broad missions, conducted in close partnership with public actors

The Paris Brain Institute hosts a joint research unit (UMR) under the threefold supervision of CNRS/Inserm/Sorbonne University, gathering public-sector staff to whom the foundation provides administrative, financial and logistical support, while also financing certain research teams on its own. In terms of governance, this hybrid model is reflected in the existence of a coordination committee provided for in the agreement governing the functioning of the UMR, bringing together the foundation and its public partners, and in the representation of the latter on the foundation's board of directors. Despite its stable and high-level composition, the board has not exercised all of its prerogatives in terms of operational, administrative and financial management, delegating these extensively to the founders.

Sustained growth in activity, financed by increasing resources, notably from public generosity

To cope with the dynamism of its operating expenses (+35% between the 2020 and 2023 financial years), the ICM Foundation has benefitted from diversified income: grants for calls for projects, income from its activities and resources from the generosity of the public, representing 25%, 29% and 46% respectively of the resources collected in 2023. Its financial position remained stable, with total assets of around €150 million at the close of the 2023 financial year, and sound thanks to controlled levels of debt. The average cash position is around €40m. The Court recommends defining a reserve policy in line with the foundation's strategic objectives and having it approved by the board of directors in parallel with the adoption of the next budget in September 2025.

Obligations related to appeals for public generosity partially met, financial communication to donors to be refined

For the period 2020-2023, the ICM Foundation has met the two formal obligations linked to the use of public generosity, namely, on the one hand, the annual transmission to the *prefectoral services* of declarations prior to donation campaigns and, on the other hand, the annual publication of income statements by source and destination (Crod) and its statements of use of collected resources (Cer). The prior declarations reflect the general statutory purpose of the foundation, although in practice the appeals for donations refer only to the social mission relating to research programmes, to the exclusion of the others. Their content is highly detailed and exhaustive

for appeals to 'general public' donors and prospecting for testators, but comparatively incomplete when it comes to soliciting major corporate donors and philanthropists. To provide donors with better information, the breakdown of resources between the various social missions selected would also benefit from being included in the Crod and Cer statements. Voluntary contributions in kind, which are significant in terms of sponsorship and primarily benefit fundraising activities, should be valued or, at a minimum, provided with more complete quantitative and qualitative information.

Structured and efficient collection of resources from the public

Resources generated through public generosity have grown significantly, from €18 million in 2020 to €30 million in 2023. The strategy implemented, which the board of directors had little involvement in defining, has proven effective. Historically, the ICM Foundation has relied primarily on major corporate donors and philanthropists to launch the Institute's activities. Although no longer exclusive, this segment remains predominant and has taken on a more international dimension. Fundraising from the general public, which is more traditional in its methods, is also organised in a professional and structured manner by the foundation. The steady growth in the donor base, which increased from 250,000 to 320,000 over the period, has been accompanied by a strengthening of online fundraising and direct debit subscriptions. Donations and legs developed later, but grew significantly over the period, accounting for nearly a quarter of the resources generated by public generosity.

Social missions focused on research activities and the operation of related technology platforms

The social missions of the ICM Foundation, as they were defined in practice prior to their formal adoption by the board of directors in May 2025, relate to research programmes, the activities of technological platforms, the policy of promoting and incubating start-ups, and, lastly, the establishment of international partnerships and scientific outreach. In accordance with the foundation's statutory purpose, the implementation of research programmes is its main activity, accounting for approximately two-thirds of the social mission expenses recorded over the period. The activity of the Institute's eleven technology platforms constitutes the foundation's second social mission. Primarily serving the Institute's own scientific teams, they also provide services to academic partners, incubated companies and industrial clients. The promotion and acceleration of research, as well as the incubation of innovative companies, represent the third social mission; they have been implemented since the Institute's inception, although they are not expressly mentioned in the foundation's statutes. Finally, the ICM Foundation has sought to enhance the Institute's influence by developing international alliances, establishing a diverse range of training programmes and organising events designed to raise awareness of neuroscience issues among a wider audience.

[Read the report](#)

The Court of Accounts ensures that public money is used properly and informs citizens accordingly.

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**de la Cour et des chambres régionales
et territoriales des comptes
du 1^{er} au 30 septembre 2025**



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