The year 2015 marked the 20th anniversary of the creation of La main à la pâte, and it was a year filled with special events. To celebrate this anniversary, a number of events were organised across France involving many partners, pupils, teachers and parents that are directly associated with the La main à la pâte Foundation’s activities. The Foundation’s international stature brought together an international committee chaired by Professor Bruce Alberts, former president of the National Academy of Science (USA) and attracted foreign partners wishing to provide quality science education for young people. A meeting of international experts also took place for the 20th anniversary, between experienced field actors that have collaborated with the La main à la pâte Foundation over the last fifteen years.

On a day-to-day basis, the Maisons pour la science successfully fulfilled their goal to improve science teaching practices in primary and middle schools, reaching over 10,000 primary and secondary school teachers and teacher trainers in 2014-2015. The expansion of the network to two new regions in France (Aquitaine and Alpes Dauphiné) helped increase the territorial reach in order to train more teachers in conjunction with the living sciences at the core of universities.

The activities supporting equal opportunities, undertaken in particular by the network of La main à la pâte pilot centres, were strengthened with three projects dedicated to peaceful coexistence: science and handicap; science, school and the family; and science and language.

In 2015, specific attention was paid to two topical subjects: sustainable development, in response to COP21, and light, as 2015 was the International Year of Light. Teaching resources and professional development activities focused in particular on these themes, with for example the publishing of the teaching guide The Oceans, My Planet and Me! (available in French and English) and the interdisciplinary book, Une énergie, des énergies, which was the result of the work of sixty scientific researchers.

The year was also marked by the opening of La main à la pâte’s first distance learning course (MOOC). This course is offered to cycle 3 teachers (in France, this corresponds to the final two years of primary education and the first year of secondary education) using the digital platform M@gistère. 700 active participants availed of the course.

At the international level, the discussions on and support for educational policies that favour the sciences, a focus of the 6th edition of the international seminar, have been extended to reach new countries such as Mali.

With growing enthusiasm and vivacity for the launching of its activities in France, Europe and the world, the Foundation wishes to use these 20 years of experience to look forward and prepare the future of tomorrow’s citizens.
Key figures for the school year 2014-2015

10,122 primary and middle school TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS participated in a course in one of the 9 MAISONS POUR LA SCIENCE AND THE NATIONAL CENTER

207 MIDDLE SCHOOLS led integrated science and technology teaching programs (more than a dozen overseas French establishments)

350,000 VISITS per month to the Foundation’s website proposing teaching resources for teachers and educators

411 FOREIGN EDUCATORS were trained in 10 COUNTRIES

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3,300 PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASSES benefited from a teacher-assistant program during the year

Almost 9,000 CLASSES benefited from the help of one of La main à la pâte’s 21 PILOT CENTERS, ensuring equal opportunities for children

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Financial and human resource review

A national team of 28 people and 10 volunteers specialised in education and science

Distribution of revenue

- European Union : 3%
- Bank interest : NA
- ENS Paris : 1%
- ENS Lyon : 12%
- ANRU (Redistribution to universities (Maisons pour la science)) : 40%
-ANRU (Centre National) : 10%
- Académie des sciences : 15%
- Patronage : 17%
- Other public institutions : 2%

Total revenue reached 3.86 million euros, an increase compared to 2014.

Distribution of expenses

- Operating costs : 24%
- Staff remuneration and associated costs : 40%
- Redistribution to universities (Maisons pour la science) : 36%

In spite of a 139 K€ net loss for the fiscal year 2015, the statement of activities is balanced over the period 2012-2015.