OSINT4Fun Advent of OSINT 2024: Day 4

*In France, among its various missions, the "Cour des comptes" oversees the accuracy of the accounts of companies receiving donations.*

*In this context, it has repeatedly examined the finances of the organization managing "**Téléthon" funds.*

*In its oldest report on the matter, the Cour raised concerns regarding "organismes relais" or "associations relais" (intermediary organizations or associations) and noted that "la tendance [...] s'est accentuée" (the trend [...] has intensified).*

*Based on the report data, give the initial value, the final value and calculate by how much this trend has increased as a percentage.*

To start, I Google for “cour des comptes”, which reveals the website ccomptes.fr. I will be using this website to build my Google dorking query. The challenge mentions report data, so I want to find out what kind of file is used for these reports. I suspect it is PDF, but let’s try to confirm this on the website. The first tab on the website links to Publications, which then links to Rapports Cour. The articles seem to have documents associated with them. Clicking through some of these publications, I only find PDF documents. So, for our first Google dorking query, we want to look at all PDF documents from the ccomptes.fr website that include the word “Téléthon”: site:ccomptes.fr “Téléthon” filetype:pdf. This query gives about 76 results. Now the challenge mentions the oldest report on the matter. On the first page I can see 1 January 2006 as the earliest date, so I will narrow down the results by filtering for all documents from before 2 January 2006. Now we only have 3 results left, of which the oldest one is dated for 15 November 1993. Let’s see what is in this document! The challenge actually provided us with a quote, which we can use to search through the document. First, I will try to search for “la tendance”. This gives 2 results, but both are not followed later in the text by “s’est accentuée”. Now, I try to search for this latter quote. This actually gives no results. Perhaps this is not the document we are looking for, so let’s repeat our steps with the second oldest file dated for 31 December 1998. The first quote gives 6 hits and the second quote gives 1, but all seem to be not what we’re looking for. Now let’s try these steps for the third file dated for 30 December 2005. However, the first page of this document mentions the years 2015 and 2021, showing that it is actually a relatively new document. Apparently, the dates that Google assigns to documents are not very reliable. Let’s try to narrow down our initial 76 results by including the quotes to the query. When including both quotes separately to the original query, no exact matches are found. Maybe we should not be looking for a PDF document after all, so let’s try the same query without file:pdf. Now we get one result. Although seemingly not a PDF, it is still a document, specifically an old one from 1996. Now let’s search again for the quotes. Aha, we now find the sentence: “la tendance observée en 1988 s’est accentuée”. Let’s translate the page to English in the browser. On this page, it is explained that in 1988, 40% of AFM-Telethon grants were paid to the researcher’s employing organization and that currently (i.e., 1996), 34% of these grants were paid to the researcher’s employing organization. This is a percentual decrease of 15%. So, my answer for this question is: 40% 34% 15%.