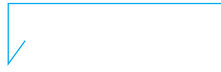


# Publishing neutral/negative results from animal experiment 2025

MORE KNOWLEDGE WITH FEWER ANIMALS

Date: Monday 6 January 2025

Deadline call for proposals: Monday 15 December 2025, 14.00 CET



## Colofon

Working with knowledge to boost good health for all. This goal defines everything ZonMw does. ZonMw programmes and funds research and innovation in health, healthcare and well-being, encourages the use of this knowledge and highlights knowledge needs.

Our main contractors are the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Dutch Research Council. For more information on the More Knowledge with Fewer Animals programme, please contact the secretariat via e-mail [mkmd@zonmw.nl](mailto:mkmd@zonmw.nl) or phone 070 349 50 30.

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Date: 6 January 2025

[www.zonmw.nl](http://www.zonmw.nl)

MET KENNIS WERKEN AAN  
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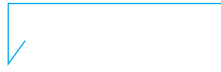
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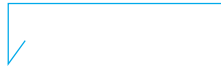
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# 1. Reading guide

This document is a translation of the Dutch version of this document. The following is to be considered an extra service for international applicants at Dutch research institutions. In case of any differences or other inconsistencies between the Dutch text and the English translation, the Dutch text is legally binding and prevails.

This grant call is the responsibility of ZonMw. In this grant call you can read what the purpose of the grant call is, how the application and assessment procedure is organised and what conditions the grant application must meet. In addition, this document provides an overview of the obligations that apply if your grant application is granted and how to contact us if you have any questions.

In this grant round, we use a different process. As a result, the process may differ from the one you are used to. We ask you to read chapter 5 'Assessment procedure' of the grant call carefully.

## 2. Core grant call

### 2.1. Goal

With the programme More Knowledge with Fewer Animals (Dutch acronym: MKMD), we encourage the development of new animal-free models and the acceptance and implementation of existing animal-free research methods. Where that is not (yet) possible, we focus on the more effective use of results from animal experiments.

It is important that research involving animals is published, even if the outcome is negative or neutral, to avoid unnecessary duplication of animal experiments and bias. The 'Publish Negative/Neutral Animal Experimental Data' grant call therefore focuses on making scientifically sound, unpublished negative or neutral data in the field of animal research publicly available.

With this grant call, ZonMw therefore offers researchers financial compensation for (part of) the time needed to publish negative/neutral results of a research project in which animal experiments are an important part(s). In addition, (part of) the costs of Open Access publication can also be reimbursed.

### 2.2. Available budget

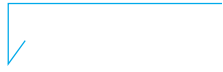
The maximum budget available for this call is € 150.000,- This is the total grant budget. In this grant call an allowance for personnel costs, and any open access costs can be applied for. The standard project duration is 24 months. The maximum amount that can be applied for per project is € 10.000,-. Grant applications can be submitted as long as the budget for the call has not been exhausted.

ZonMw may decide to open a supplementary grant call for awarded projects from this grant call, for example to further strengthen the practical application of the results.

### 2.3. Important dates

Applications for this call of proposal will be accepted on a rolling basis until 15 December 2025, 14:00 CET, and will be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis. It is possible that the grant ceiling will be reached before the deadline. In this case the call will close earlier.

Action	Date
Submitting grant application	Continuous submission until 15 December 2025, 14:00 CET
Decision	Maximum 13 weeks from submission of application
Latest start date	Maximum 6 months after awarding



## 3. Background and context

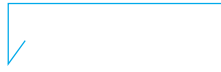
### 3.1. The rationale

ZonMw has initiated the call for proposals "Publish negative/neutral animal experimental data" to ensure that robust, unpublished results of animal experiments with negative or neutral results become publicly available. By publishing these data, ZonMw aims to prevent unnecessary repetition of experiments and scientific bias. This initiative promotes transparency and encourages the sharing of well-conducted research, regardless of outcome, within the scientific community.

### 3.2. Impact

Our society faces major societal challenges. These are complex issues where the development and utilisation of knowledge is necessary to achieve solutions. This time of increasingly tight resources calls for an approach that allows us to make as much impact as possible with the resources we have. All ZonMw programmes have a focus on achieving impact. This is done by setting conditions on quality and relevance of applications as well as final results. Within these conditions, a number of topics are defined that ZonMw considers important:

- Findable and reusable knowledge
- Diversity and equal participation
- User-oriented knowledge utilisation
- Future-proof society



## 4. Terms and conditions

When applying for a grant from ZonMw, the [General Grant Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw 2024](#) and the [Approval of funding for scientific research](#) apply.

ZonMw assesses grant applications on the conditions described in this chapter. The grant application must also fit in with the objective as described in chapter 2.1.

### 4.1. Who can apply?

Researchers who have already obtained a doctorate or who are in the process of obtaining a doctorate at a Dutch institution can apply for a grant. The researcher must be employed by an organisation, a so-called public or private legal entity, established in the Netherlands.

- The main applicant is at least engaged in a PhD programme or has already obtained a PhD.
- The lead applicant is also the project leader. If the main applicant is not yet obtained a PhD, the project leader must be the principal investigator (PI) of the underlying research project.

### 4.2. What can be applied for?

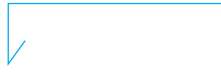
The following activities can be funded from the grant. You can also read here which activities are not eligible for subsidy:

- Only costs for activities incurred during the duration of the project are eligible.
- In this grant funding round, you can apply for a maximum of € 10.000,-. The standard duration is 24 months.
- This grant amounts to an allowance for personnel costs and open-access publication costs.
- In this grant funding round you can apply for a maximum of € 5.000,- for an allowance for salary costs for the person conducting the literature review.
- The costs for Open Access publication should be included in the project budget under the item 'Open Access'. This is possible up to a maximum amount of € 5,000,- and is part of the total amount requested. For more information, see chapter 5. The release of a publication from journals with a hybrid model will not be reimbursed,

### 4.3. Specific terms

The following conditions apply specifically to this grant call. The extent to which these conditions are met must be indicated on the application form under question 4.6 Specific Conditions:

- A. The negative/neutral data must have been obtained from a research project with an end date after 2016. Therefore, please indicate the year in which the animal studies were conducted;
- B. Disclose the funder of the underlying research;



In addition, the following specific conditions that must be met also apply:

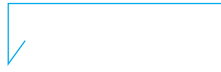
- The project is aimed at Open Access publication of previously unpublished negative or neutral animal experimental data in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. If the main applicant can demonstrate that publication is highly problematic, it may be decided, in consultation with the MKMD program team, to submit the manuscript to an online repository or preprint server only. This can only be considered if submission to at least three journals has not resulted in acceptance for publication.
- To ensure the reporting quality of animal research in articles, ZonMw expects researchers to work according to the [ARRIVE Guidelines 2.0](#). ZonMw checks, at the conclusion of the project, on the use of the ARRIVE Guidelines.
- Complete the mandatory [The ARRIVE Essential 10 checklist](#). This 'ARRIVE Essential' checklist contains the minimum criteria, as they should be described in the article, to increase the reproducibility and quality of the animal study (please therefore apply as many items as possible). **The completed checklist is a mandatory attachment (pdf) to the application.**
- The project has a standard duration of **24 months**. You are expected to publish negative/neutral results within this period. If you complete the project earlier, please notify the programme office.
- The Excel format '[Budget Other Institutions](#)' should be used and includes specified personnel costs and open-access costs.

#### 4.4. Preparing and submitting the grant application

The following conditions are related to preparing and submitting the grant application:

- Write your grant application in Dutch or English. Note: the application form is only available in Dutch.
- The following annexes are mandatory to add:
  - Budget according to the format '[Budget Other Institutions](#)'. Make sure the budget is complete and correct. As the applicant, you are responsible for this. If the budget is not correct, the application does not meet the conditions and will be rejected.
  - Complete the mandatory [The ARRIVE Essential 10 checklist](#) and attach the completed pdf.
- Fully submit the grant application in [Mijn ZonMw](#) before the deadline.





## 5. Assessment procedure

### 5.1. Procedure

Grant applications will be assessed in the order in which they are received. It may happen that the total available grant budget (the grant ceiling) is reached before the deadline. In this case, the call will close earlier and this will be announced on the ZonMw website.

#### 5.1.1. Submit

To apply for funding in this grant call, please use [Mijn ZonMw](#). There, you fill in the application form and add the required attachments.

After you have prepared your grant application in Mijn ZonMw, you check whether the grant application is complete and correctly filled out. After this check, you submit the grant application. The date and time of submission determine the order of receipt. If the assessment shows that your submitted grant application is incomplete or contains inaccuracies, it will be rejected. If the grant call is still open for submission, you can re-submit a grant application. This means that the date and time of your resubmitted grant application will apply when determining the order of entry.

#### 5.1.2. Assessment

Grant applications are assessed in order of receipt on the basis of quality and relevance criteria. ZonMw grant officers assess whether your grant application meets each assessment criterion. Only grant applications that meet all assessment criteria can be awarded.

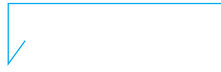
#### 5.1.3. Decision

Applicants receive a decision no later than 13 weeks after submitting the grant application. The decision describes whether the grant application is awarded or on the basis of which criteria the grant application is rejected.

## 5.2. Assessment criteria

### 5.2.1. Quality criteria

- Goal  
The purpose of the grant application, intended results and end products are clearly described. Specify how the purpose of the project fits with the grant call and why the negative or neutral results are important to the problem definition. Substantiate the scientific and societal relevance of these results. This can be done, for example, by highlighting why negative or neutral data are valuable for wider scientific discussion or societal impact.
- Plan of action



The action plan describes:

- Activities/procedures/methods;
- Timeframe;
- Describe the intended approach to publishing the negative/neutral data, including which journals are being considered and why they are appropriate for the results.
- Describe why the negative/neutral results are likely to be published.
- Indicate whether the results have previously been offered for publication and, if so, why they were not accepted. This helps to provide insight into the validity and value of the findings.

It is likely that the plan of action can be used to achieve the goal.

- Project group  
The project group has the expertise needed to implement the project.
- Budget  
The costs are proportional to the plan of action. The budget is consistent with the budget requirements in the grant call (sections 4.2 ). It clearly indicates the costs for personnel and publication.

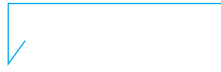
## 5.2.2. Relevance criteria

- Alignment grant call  
Describe how the grant application specifically aligns with the grant call, emphasizing the relevance of the negative/neutral results to the purpose of the call. This could be, for example, by demonstrating how these results contribute to further understanding an important scientific issue or societal challenge.
- Target groups and stakeholders  
The grant application describes the target groups and stakeholders for which the project is relevant. Explain why the negative or neutral results are relevant to these target groups and stakeholders, and how these data can contribute to the broader scientific debate or policy.
- Specific terms and conditions from the grant call  
The grant application complies with the specific conditions in the grant call (see section 4.3 A and B). There is a point-by-point description at question 4.6 of the application form on how the application meets these specific grant conditions.

# 6. Follow-up and obligations

Directly after receiving a positive decision, the full grant amount will be transferred. You must fulfil the following obligations when implementing your project:

- Start and end date  
The intended start date must be after the grant decision. Enter as intended start date a date at least 3 months after the application submission date. The project must start no later than 6 months after the decision is sent. Only in special cases can this be deviated from. Contact your contact person at ZonMw (see section 6.1) within 6 months.



- **Reporting obligation**  
No progress reports are required for this grant. However, there is a consistent reporting requirement. This means that if there are any changes to the project or planning, you are obliged to report these changes to ZonMw in good time. You can do this by using the change form in Mijn ZonMw or by notifying the programme team via [MKMD@zonmw.nl](mailto:MKMD@zonmw.nl). If it is found that you have not fulfilled this obligation, the amount of your grant may be affected.
- **Proof of performance**  
For this round of funding, grants are determined directly. The grant applicant is not required to keep financial records, but must keep records as evidence that the activities for which the grant was requested were performed as indicated in the application. For this call, this is a PDF, DOI or URL of the publication of the neutral/negative results from animal experiments. This will be requested upon completion of the project.
- **Reusable knowledge from grants**  
ZonMw always requires, as a minimum, that scientific publications resulting from ZonMw grants are directly accessible to everyone under [Open Access](#) conditions. Project leaders, at very least, are expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of the published work resulting from the project publicly available at the same time as the work's publication.
- **Declarations and permits**  
Before starting your project, you must have fulfilled all the requirements for conducting research. For example, a positive decision from a recognised Medical Ethics Review Committee (METC), the Central Committee on Research involving Human Subjects (CCMO), a project license from the Central Authority for Scientific Procedures on Animals (CCD) or a license under Dutch Population Screening Act (Wbo).

## 6.1. Impact report

After the end date of your project, you will be asked to report on the impact of your project. You will receive a task for preparing this impact report in [Mijn ZonMw](#).

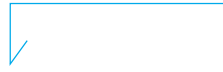
# 7. Contact en overige informatie

## 7.1. Contact

### 7.1.1. Substantive questions

For substantive questions about this grant call, contact:

- Contact programme team      Annelies van Buuren
- Function                              Programme secretary
- Phone                                    070 349 5030
- E-mailadress                          [mkmd@zonmw.nl](mailto:mkmd@zonmw.nl).



### 7.1.2. Technical questions

For technical questions on the use of [Mijn ZonMw](#), ZonMw's online submission system, contact the service desk: Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 070 349 51 78, [servicedesk@zonmw.nl](mailto: servicedesk@zonmw.nl). Please include your telephone number in your e-mail so that we can contact you if necessary.

## 7.2. Downloads and links

On the ZonMw website you can read more about:

- [Budget formats](#)
- [The ARRIVE Essential 10 checklist](#)