

Tools for an assessment framework for a future pandemic or health emergency

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Deadline: 15 April 2025, **14.00 PM CET**

NOTE: 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.

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1. Summary

Who can apply

Legal persons and legal entities established in the Netherlands under public or private law may apply for grants. A grant application can only be submitted by a main applicant on behalf of a multidisciplinary consortium, consisting of four or more organisations, in which there is collaboration amongst different scientific disciplines, knowledge institutions and other relevant organisations.

Organisations that were involved in providing advice on the introduction of COVID-19 measures by the government may not be a main applicant for grant funding in this funding round but they are explicitly invited to participate as project group members.

ZonMw will be organising a collaborative workshop on 14 February 2025 to facilitate the establishment of a multidisciplinary consortium. The potential main applicant must participate in the workshop. Organisations wishing to join the consortium are also strongly advised to attend the workshop. Additional information on how to register for the workshop can be found [here](#).

What for

The purpose of this call for grant applications is the establishment of a single, broad-based partnership (consortium) of various scientific disciplines and other relevant parties that are required to represent all perspectives so as to achieve integrated and interdepartmental advice.

The goal of this consortium is to jointly conduct scientific research, based on the various disciplines, to develop knowledge, strategies and tools that can be used for the further development and use of an integrated assessment framework for a future pandemic or health emergency.

What

The maximum budget that can be applied for is €2,000,000. The aim is to approve one (1) grant application (of no more than €2,000,000). The budget must be realistic and properly substantiated. The project should start as soon as possible after funding is awarded and must be completed by 31 December 2026.

When

Deadline to register for collaborative workshop	7 February 2025
Collaborative workshop	14 February 2025
Submission deadline for detailed grant applications	15 April 2025
Receipt of reviewers' reports	6 May 2025
Deadline for applicant responses	20 May 2025
Decision meeting, including interview	Early June 2025
Decision	End of June 2025
Project start date no later than	As soon as possible, but no later than eight (8) weeks after receipt of grant approval letter

You will be invited to an interview as part of the assessment of your grant application. An audio recording will be made of this interview. This recording will be destroyed after the assessment has been completed.

2. Goal of this call for grant applications

2.1 Background

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dutch government took many different measures to limit the spread and impact of SARS-CoV-2. Decision-making on these measures was not based on integrated advice and was characterised by a dominant perspective on the basis of infectious disease control. More knowledge became available from other domains (social and economic) in later phases of the pandemic, but this knowledge was fragmented, not always up-to-date and difficult to act upon as specific actions for policymakers¹. During the pandemic, it appeared that it was difficult to substantiate the choices made regarding the implementation of various measures and to make them clear to citizens.

Since then, steps have been taken to identify the short-term and medium-term impact of the measures, to learn lessons from the coronavirus pandemic and be better prepared for future pandemics², to enable integrated advice³ and to bring together biomedical and social perspectives in an all-encompassing assessment framework⁴. However, this work has not been completed yet. On behalf of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS), ZonMw is providing funding through this call for grant applications to develop strategies and tools that can be used for the further development and use of integrated assessment frameworks for a future pandemic or health emergency. This framework is to support policymakers in making decisions on measures to be taken during future pandemics or health emergencies in a transparent and structured way.

The knowledge and understanding arising from this project should create a framework that can be further developed based on new information and results. Sustainable safeguarding of this project is crucial to ensure that the knowledge gained can continue to be used in the future. Collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and relevant stakeholders in the field of pandemic preparedness and integration into the national crisis structure is required.

This call for grant applications is part of the subprogramme Effecten van maatregelen tijdens een pandemie (Effects of measures during a pandemic) and the COVID-19 follow-up programme.

2.2 Objectives

The purpose of this call for grant applications is the establishment of a single, broad-based partnership (consortium) of various scientific disciplines and other relevant parties that are required to represent all perspectives so as to achieve integrated and interdepartmental advice.

The goal of this consortium is to jointly conduct scientific research, based on the various disciplines, to develop knowledge, strategies and tools that can be used for the further development and use of an integrated assessment framework for a future pandemic or health emergency.

The call for grant applications has four specific sub-objectives:

- 1) To help clarify already existing knowledge and initiatives through knowledge synthesis.
- 2) To conduct scientific research to improve an existing assessment framework and further expand essential elements of this framework. The recently published assessment framework for pandemics of the Social Impact Team (MIT) should be used as the underlying principle.
- 3) To develop strategies and methods that can be used in an integrated assessment framework.
- 4) To collaborate with parties, coordinate with ongoing research and safeguard knowledge gained.

2.3 Consortium

The envisaged consortium will be a partnership with a broad support base. By aiming to approve one grant application, ZonMw wants to prevent fragmentation and foster the collaboration of partners.

Collaborative workshop

To facilitate collaboration between relevant parties, ZonMw will be organising a “collaborative workshop” as part of this call for grant applications. This workshop aims to bring interested parties

¹ [MIT - Samen paraat voor de volgende pandemie](#), 2024 (Getting ready for the next pandemic together)

² [Leren van een crisis](#), 2023 (Learning from a crisis)

³ [Contouren van Integrale Pandemie advisering](#), 2023 (Contours of Integrated Pandemic Advice)

⁴ [Afwegingskader bij pandemieën – Maatschappelijk Impact Team](#), 2024 (Assessment framework for pandemics - Social Impact Team)

into contact with each other, to combine research ideas, to combine forces and to form a broad and inclusive consortium. During the collaborative workshop, ideas will be brought together, collaborations between the various participants will be explored and crucial agreements will be made for joint further development of the grant application.

Registration

You must register to participate in the collaborative workshop. When you register, you must indicate what your area of expertise is and how you expect to contribute to the consortium. The registration form can be found on [our webpage](#). No more than two delegates from each interested department/organisation may participate. Participation in the collaborative workshop is mandatory for the potential main applicant.

2.4 Contents

The following elements must be described in a grant application submitted in this funding round.

2.4.1 Knowledge synthesis

There have been several initiatives in the field of integrated advice for decision-making during a pandemic over the past years. The knowledge and information already developed should be used. The project should make a synthesis of all existing initiatives in the field of assessment frameworks for decision-making in terms of measures to be taken during a pandemic or health emergency. Knowledge and expertise gained in other countries, or in a multilateral context, should be included in this synthesis. Furthermore, it is important to conduct an exploratory survey on any strategies that could further shape integrated and interdisciplinary decision-making, in preparation for element 2.4.3.

2.4.2 Improving assessment frameworks

The project proposal must build on existing assessment frameworks using the assessment framework for pandemics of the Social Impact Team (MIT)⁵ published in 2024 as the underlying principle. This framework can be enhanced by expanding the various tools on which the assessment framework is based. This can be done, for example, by bringing together existing knowledge even more and expanding the various essential elements of this framework (completing matrices and values). In addition, the catalogue of measures, the population preference survey on values and measures, and the prognosis models on the effects of the pandemic and proposed measures can be expanded. Scientific justification/validation of this framework should be part of the project proposal.

Furthermore, you will be expected to include the aspects listed below in the project proposal. These aspects have been proposed by the members of the advisory group⁶ and the programme committee endorses their relevance.

- The social support base for measures to be introduced and the emotion that prevails in society regarding trust or distrust in political decision-making.
- Procedural principles (how a decision is made) and how these relate to substantive principles (the content of the decision made).
- The various phases of a pandemic. To start with the measures will focus mainly on reducing transmission and later there will be more room to put mitigating policies into practice.
- Realistic or relevant counterfactuals - a situation in which no measures are put in place by the government - will create a situation in which people in society will themselves take measures to protect themselves and others.

2.4.3 Development of methods for using assessment frameworks

The project must conduct an evaluation and develop knowledge on assessment methods that can be used for assessment frameworks. At the time of a health emergency, many different opinions and interests converge, yielding a multitude of potential courses of action. The development of methods to be able to make such choices is part of this project. An example of such a method is the multicriteria analysis (MCA), with which it is possible to assign weight to criteria and to express their relative importance compared to other criteria. Furthermore, it should be explored how the relative importance of

⁵ [Afwegingskader bij pandemieën – Maatschappelijk Impact Team](#), 2024 (Assessment framework for pandemics - Social Impact Team (MIT))

⁶ The minutes of the advisory group can be found [here](#)

various weighting factors can be included within this method in a flexible way (adaptable to local and prevailing conditions at the time). However, decisions on weighting must be defined by the government and are outside the scope of this call for grant applications.

To put arrangements in place for the elements in 2.4.2 and 2.4.3, there is scope for simulations/exercises to assess and validate methods and tools.

2.4.4 Collaborate, coordinate and safeguard

Within this call for grant applications, we connect researchers and parties who have knowledge of pandemic preparedness. These researchers and parties can provide data and insights to further shape the elements of assessment frameworks. We expect the consortium to include a broad range of scientific disciplines needed to represent all perspectives so as to achieve integrated and interdepartmental advice.

Collaboration and coordination with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport is required during the implementation of this project. Important processes, such as the redesign of the national crisis structure, must be followed. In addition, coordination is required with the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP), which is dedicated to building a knowledge base on the potential societal impact of infectious disease and other crises and crisis measures (with an emphasis on quality of life, social cohesion and the relationship of citizens to government)⁷.

Furthermore, it is important that the work done is complementary to and builds on the research funded by ZonMw in the two pandemic preparedness consortia *Be Prepared*⁸ and *NCOH*⁹. In addition, where possible, research results from the following ZonMw programmes should be integrated: “Effects of measures during a pandemic” and the addendum “Effectiveness of measures during a pandemic”¹⁰ and projects approved in ZonMw’s Pandemic Preparedness knowledge programme modelling round¹¹. It is also important to consider research funded by other bodies within this field of work (e.g. in Europe) to avoid duplication.

Finally, it is important that the knowledge and tools developed are safeguarded. This is primarily a task of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and other ministries (including the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations), but the consortium is requested to pay attention to the aspects of implementation and safeguarding during the term of the project and to provide scenarios of safeguarding.

3. Conditions and obligations

You must take account of certain rights, conditions and obligations when applying for a ZonMw grant. These are based upon the Dutch General Administrative Law Act (Awb). Section 4.2 of the Awb contains specific provisions that apply to grants received from ZonMw. ZonMw’s General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants also apply.

3.1 Conditions

Your grant application must meet the requirements below in order to be considered. A grant application can only be submitted by a multidisciplinary consortium. The aim is to approve one (1) grant application, submitted by a multidisciplinary consortium, of no more than €2,000,000.

3.1.1 Who is eligible for grant funding?

Legal persons and legal entities established in the Netherlands under public or private law may apply for grants. A grant application can only be submitted by a main applicant on behalf of a multidisciplinary consortium, consisting of four or more organisations, in which there is collaboration amongst different scientific disciplines, knowledge institutions and other relevant organisations. The consortium must consist of at least:

⁷ [MIT - Samen paraat voor de volgende pandemie](#) (Getting ready for the next pandemic together)

⁸ [Be Prepared project page](#)

⁹ [NCOH project page](#)

¹⁰ ZonMw website: [Effecten van COVID-19 niet- medische maatregelen: wat hebben we geleerd](#) (Effects of non-medical COVID-19 measures: what have we learnt)

¹¹ ZonMw website: [20 modelleerprojecten van start binnen het kennisprogramma pandemische paraatheid](#) (20 modelling projects launched within the Pandemic Preparedness knowledge programme)

- Scientific experts in social and behavioural sciences (such as sociology, psychology, public administration, ethics, economics, anthropology, political science and communication sciences).
- Scientific experts in the area of mathematical techniques and models to improve or maximise processes (such as decision science, game theory, computer science).
- Scientific experts in the field of biomedical and medical sciences (such as epidemiology, biostatistics).
- Knowledge institutions (e.g. knowledge institutions that focus on groups that would be particularly vulnerable in a future pandemic or health emergency).

Other scientific disciplines, citizens' councils and social sector associations may also be part of the consortium or be consulted.

Organisations that were involved in providing advice on the introduction of COVID-19 measures by the government may not be a main applicant for grant funding in this funding round but they are explicitly invited to participate as project group members. This is a change compared to the conditions in the Programme Document¹² so as to ensure that these relevant organisations can be involved in this project as project group members.

No more than one (1) grant application may be submitted by each consortium or main applicant.

3.1.2 Avoiding state aid

No grants will be awarded by ZonMw if this would or could constitute unlawful state aid¹³. Therefore, the following state aid measure applies to this funding round:

Exemption Decision for Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI)

If ZonMw will consider a part of the proposed project activities as Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI), then this will mean that there are specific conditions for funding and rules for budgets. You can find out more about the SGEI Exemption Decision in Annex 1 – State aid –, as well as the requirements that have to be met under the SGEI Exemption Decision.

3.1.3 Third-party collaboration and contributions

ZonMw encourages the participation of different partners in collaborative projects. Such projects will, however, not receive a grant if the agreements would or could lead to the provision of unlawful state aid or if ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions or the conditions of the call for grant applications cannot be met.

The application and budget must make it clear:

- Which parties are participating. Describe how each party will be actively contributing to the project; these should in any case be parties who appear in the budget as a party intending to claim a portion of the grant. Also include parties that will be making an active contribution as partners in the collaborative project for their own account and at their own risk.
- With which party or parties a sponsorship agreement will be concluded and what their donation in kind or monetary contribution will be.
- Which parties will be hired, or, if this is not yet known, which activities are forecast as being performed by third parties, plus the related costs that will be incurred (including VAT). For more information and the conditions of hire/terms of contract, see the ZonMw web page.

Letters of Commitment

Because ZonMw requires assurance that a project party or sponsor will be legally bound to provide the agreed amounts, each project party or sponsor must provide a Letter of Commitment, which is to be submitted together with the detailed grant application. Please use the template letter which you can find on the ZonMw web page Grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties.

¹² The research will be conducted by independent (academic) researchers who are not employed by institutions that held sway in the introduction of measures or were involved in the design of measures.

¹³ Section 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

Collaboration and sponsorship agreement

You can find more information about the various types of collaboration and contributions (sponsoring/assignment) with sample agreements on the ZonMw web page [Grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties](#) as an aid to drafting the relevant agreement; the accompanying explanation contains the conditions the agreement must meet. The conditions specified on this web page and in the explanation form an integral part of this call for grant applications. Where ZonMw requests draft collaboration and/or sponsorship agreements, it awards the grant on the condition that the agreements are found to be acceptable.

3.1.4 How much funding can we receive?

- A maximum of €2,000,000 can be requested during this funding round for a duration of up to 18 months, with a final project end date of 31 December 2026.
- Accountancy costs up to a maximum of €3,500 may be included in the budget of projects costing €125,000 or more. Because of changes to ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants effective from 1 April 2022, a signed accountant's statement must be submitted after completion of the project, in addition to the final financial report, for projects costing €125,000 or more. Universities and university medical centres are not permitted to include accountancy costs in their budget. Separate arrangements have been made with these institutions concerning the mandatory accountant's statement. Please contact your financial department for further information in this regard.

The total available grant budget for this funding round is €2,000,000. The aim is to approve one (1) grant application submitted by a multidisciplinary consortium.

If you publish your research according to the fully gold Open Access route, you may include the cost of Open Access publications in the project budget up to a maximum amount of €10,000. Specify 'Open Access' as a separate line in your budget. For more information on Open Access, please refer to section 3.1 and the ZonMw [Open Access](#) webpage.

3.1.5 Practical conditions

- Applications must be in English.
- You are required to include a budget with your grant application. The applicant must make it clear in the budget which organisation will carry out which activities and at what cost. For more information, please see [What must I submit?](#)
- Reserve a portion of your project budget for communications and implementation. Specify this amount in the budget of the detailed grant application and clearly show what communication and implementation costs are anticipated for which activities.
- Reserve part of your project budget for data management, including for the appointment of a data steward and for additional FAIR data management activities/and or services. Provide a realistic budget or take about 3-5% of the project budget as a guideline.
- We recommend structuring your project into work packages, with a number of tasks for each work package. Specify which organisations will be responsible for which work package or task.
- The following annexes are mandatory to submit with your application:
 - In the case of collaboration and/or sponsorship, a [Letter of Commitment](#).
 - No more than one page (A4) with a Gantt chart.
- The following annex is optional: Up to two pages (A4) containing graphics, charts or tables.

If an annex is not mandatory, it will not be included in the assessment of your application. The exception is the optional annex presenting figures and/or tables. This annex will also be included in the assessment.

3.2 Obligations

General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw

In addition to the [General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw](#), the following conditions also apply:

- **Open Access**

All publications resulting from scientific research fully or partially funded by ZonMw must be made available in Open Access, in accordance with the ZonMw Open Access policy. ZonMw accepts various Open Access routes. In addition to articles, ZonMw encourages researchers to make their results available in other formats via Open Access, such as monographs, books, conference proceedings and grey literature, but also research data and knowledge products for practice-oriented research, such as models, protocols, prototypes, digital tools and demonstrations.

For more information about the ZonMw Open Access policy, conditions and opportunities, please visit our website.

- **Conditions for valorisation**

As ZonMw is committed to making the projects it funds widely accessible, the [ten principles of Socially Responsible Licensing](#) (SRL) should be applied to the licensing of results. Please describe, where applicable, how intellectual property rights will be arranged with partners and any third parties. Also indicate how these parties will comply with the ten principles.

- **Open Science**

ZonMw and the Dutch Research Council (NWO) [pursue a policy that encourages Open Science](#). They have signed the international statement to make research results and data public as soon as possible in the fight against COVID-19. Research results, research data and methods of measuring and analysing that are produced through this funding should therefore be shared in line with the [Joint statement on sharing research data and findings relevant to the novel coronavirus \(nCoV\) outbreak](#).

- **Data management and FAIR data**

ZonMw encourages the optimum use of data (and other sources for research, including biological materials and software). You are only required to submit a data management plan if your application has been approved. If you will not be collecting new data and/or using existing data, please state this in your grant application. The web page [Instructions for FAIR data management for grant applicants \(zonmw.nl\)](#) explains what can be done in projects for reusable and [FAIR metadata and data in research projects](#). The underlying principle is that you can use existing data files where possible.

For COVID-19, one way to do this is to consult the Health-RI Catalogue (under development). Here you can find the projects that were previously included in the COVID-19 data portal. If you will be collecting new data, it must, as much as possible, align with existing standards, models, terminology (etc.) used in the COVID and post-COVID research. Projects in the COVID and post-COVID programme are required to produce FAIR metadata. Due to new developments for the Health-RI Catalogue and the European Health Data Space | Health-RI, the method of metadata production will be modified. You will receive further instructions on this after approval (in the course of 2025).

We advise you to involve your data steward/data expert at an early stage in your application. If you want to expand the possibilities of making data FAIR, you can find dedicated (FAIR data) experts at your research institution and/or through [Health-RI](#) and [ODISSEI](#).

4 Assessment and prioritisation

4.1 Assessment procedure

Processing the application

After submission of the grant application, ZonMw will check whether your application can be processed. It does so based on the conditions and the compulsory parts of the grant application, as described in the call for grant applications ([see section 3.1](#)). Only applications that meet the conditions and compulsory parts will be considered by ZonMw. In cases where an application is incomplete, further information may be requested. Please ensure that the ZonMw secretariat can reach you (by telephone) on the day of the deadline and the following two (2) days.

Substantive assessment

This funding round consists of one phase: the grant application phase. The assessment procedure for the detailed grant application phase consists of a written assessment of the quality of the grant application by reviewers. You will then be invited to provide a written rebuttal. You will be invited to participate in an interview with the Programme committee. An audio recording will be made of this interview. This recording will be destroyed after the assessment has been completed. The programme committee will make a final assessment of the relevance, quality and budget of all grant applications. The committee assesses the relevance on the basis of the grant application, the assessments of the reviewers, the rebuttal and the interview. The applicable relevance and quality criteria are listed below.

Please see the infographic '[Applying for funding in 10 steps](#)' and the [procedural information for grant applicants](#) (in Dutch) for information about the assessment procedure for grant applications.

4.2 Relevance criteria

The relevance criteria consist of relevance criteria that apply to ZonMw as a whole and relevance criteria that are specific to the funding round.

4.2.1 Relevance criteria that apply to ZonMw as a whole

- **Diversity**
Consider how attention is given to diversity and target group differentiation by characteristics such as sex and gender, age, socioeconomic situation, educational level, migratory and cultural backgrounds, and sexual inclination, inasmuch as these are relevant to the theme of the project..
- **Participation of patients and/or end users**
Describe how you will involve stakeholders in the project. Stakeholders include the ultimate target group or end users, whose knowledge is based on practical, personal experience. By 'involve' we mean consulting, asking for advice, collaborating with and/or involving end users in project decisions.
- **Access to data**
ZonMw promotes the optimal use of data. In your detailed grant application, describe the possibilities of making use of existing data files and substantiate any stated need for new data collection. Also indicate your plans regarding sharing and making your future results FAIR. When planning your project and its budget, take into account the opportunities and requirements set out at [FAIR data & data management](#). If you do not intend to collect any data, please mention this in your grant application.
- **Implementation and impact**
Describe how you expect to achieve and demonstrate impact. Projects funded by the ZonMw must have impact. New knowledge and expertise must be used in practice, policy, education and/or further research. On our website we explain what impact is, how we work to achieve and demonstrate it and what we expect from project managers. You can find more information on the ZonMw web page [Implementation](#).

4.2.2 Relevance criteria that are specific to the funding round:

- **Objective**
The grant application must meet the objectives of this call for grant applications (see 2.2 Objectives) and must at least consist of the following elements:
 - Knowledge synthesis
 - Improving assessment frameworks
 - Development of methods for using assessment frameworks
 - Collaborate, coordinate and safeguard
- **Added value**
The research is not already being conducted elsewhere. It can be argued for all subjects that it is of added value along with previous research or research approved elsewhere.
- **Knowledge gaps**
The research addresses outstanding knowledge gaps, including those identified in the reports below:
 - [Leren van een crisis \(Learning from a crisis\)](#)
 - [Contouren van Integrale Pandemie advisering \(Contours of Integrated Pandemic Advice\)](#)
 - [Knowledge gaps/focus areas identified in the Social Impact Team's assessment framework](#).
- **Safeguarding**
The knowledge and structure developed should be reusable in the future.

4.3 Quality criteria

The quality criteria consist of quality criteria that apply to ZonMw as a whole and quality criteria that are specific to the funding round.

4.3.1 Quality criteria that apply to ZonMw as a whole

- **Objective and research question or research strategy**
Describe the objective and research question or research strategy. In your outline, pay attention to clarity, scope and originality. The objective has been expressed as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Acceptable, Realistic and Time-bound). Specify specifically what the intended outcomes are and for whom they are intended.
- **Action plan**
Describe the chosen methods and analyses, including theoretical and/or empirical support.
- **Feasibility**
Make it plausible that the objective of the grant application can be achieved within the established timeframe and with the expertise, staffing, facilities and resources available.
- **Project group or person**
Describe how the composition of the project group will contribute to the quality of your research or project

4.3.2 Quality criteria that are specific to the funding round

- **Action plan (supplementary)**
 - At least one key deliverable should be defined for each element (see contents).
- **Feasibility (supplementary)**
 - In a Gantt or similar chart describe the various activities and time allocation. This should be included as an annex.
 - Risk management plan: name the critical risks related to the implementation of the project and describe any risk mitigation measures.
- **Consortium**
Describe how the composition of the consortium will contribute to the quality of your research or project. It is a multidisciplinary composition where all the relevant disciplines are represented in the consortium. There is interdisciplinary collaboration within the consortium. This collaboration will lead to demonstrable added value. In addition, the proposed governance structure should be made clear: what role does each party have and how will the governance be designed.

4.4 Prioritisation

The relative weighting of an application's relevance and quality will be based on the prioritisation matrix shown below. In the matrix, relevance is given more weight than quality. A grant application must at least be of good quality to be considered for funding.

Relevance \ Quality	Highly relevant	Relevant	Low relevance
Very Good	1	3	reject
Good	2	4	reject
Adequate	reject	reject	reject
Poor	reject	reject	reject
Inadequate	reject	reject	reject

Grant applications can be honoured in their order of priority on a scale from 1 to 4. The applications that fall in the non-numbered cells will not qualify for funding in any instance.

If, after applying the prioritisation matrix, the number of eligible grant applications exceeds the available budget, the committee will give priority to the following criterion for grant applications with equal quality and relevance scores:

- **Consortium:** It is a multidisciplinary composition where all the relevant disciplines are represented in the consortium. There is interdisciplinary collaboration within the consortium. This collaboration will lead to demonstrable added value.

5 Submitting your application

5.1 Submission via My ZonMw

Grant applications may only be submitted by the main applicant via ZonMw's online application system ([My ZonMw](#)). The closing date for submitting a detailed grant application is 15 April 2025 at 14.00.

You can view the entire timeline for this funding round [here](#).

5.2 Tips

- ZonMw now uses a different online application system. If you have not worked with Mijn ZonMw before, you must first register as a 'New user'.
- For further information, see the Mijn ZonMw manual.

We advise you to print out a Word version of your application (via Mijn ZonMw) and carefully review it for errors before you submit it digitally. This is especially important if you have created your application in Word and then copied it to Mijn ZonMw, as some characters (such as quotes) may not be converted correctly. You can correct this yourself in Mijn ZonMw.

5.3 Statement of agreement for submission of detailed grant application

The 'Statement of agreement for submission of detailed grant application' must be signed by the individual with administrative responsibility and the main applicant. The signed declaration can be added to the application in Mijn ZonMw or sent to ZonMw by email at covid19@zonmw.nl. The declaration must have been received no later than one week after submission of the application.

5.4 Substantive questions

For questions regarding the contents of the application, please contact: Michelle Helinski, 070 515 03 13, covid19@zonmw.nl.

5.5 Technical questions

If you have any technical questions about using ZonMw's online application system, please contact the Service Desk from Monday to Friday between 8.00 and 17.00 (+31 070 349 51 78, servicedesk@zonmw.nl). Please include your telephone number in your email so that we can call you back if necessary.

5.6 Downloads and links

The ZonMw website contains more information on:

- [ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants](#)
- [Applying for funding in 10 steps](#)
- [What must I submit?](#)
- [Conditions and obligations](#)
- [Assessment of grant applications](#)
- [Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties](#)
- [State aid exemption](#)
- [FAIR data management](#)
- [Open Access](#)
- [Implementation and impact](#)
- [My ZonMw Manual](#)
- [Statement of agreement to your detailed grant application](#)

6 Annexes

- [Annex 1 – State Aid – SGEI](#)

Annex 1 – State aid – SGEI

If an undertaking applies for a grant in this funding round, ZonMw will provide the grant under the SGEI Exemption Decision¹⁴, provided a number of conditions have been met. You can find these conditions below.

ZonMw has designated the activities referred to under the heading ‘aim of the call for grant applications’ as economic activities of general interest. Before allocating the grant, ZonMw will, by means of a decision, charge the grant recipient or recipients of the activities described above with the administration of a Service of General Economic Interest (SGEI).

The SGEI consists of implementing (a part of) the activities described in the project proposal. The grant recipient(s) are obligated on the grounds of Article 5(2) of the SGEI Exemption Decision to list revenue and expenditure associated with activities in the service of general economic interest separately from revenue and expenditure for other activities that do not fall within the SGEI.

Project funding will not exceed the maximum duration of the project. In line with the SGEI Exemption Decision, the maximum duration of a project is 10 years.

The grant amount applied for may not exceed the net cost of the planned project activities. The parameters for calculating the compensation for each project are included in the budget documents of ZonMw. The calculation methods included in the submitted budget are in accordance with Article 4 of the SGEI Exemption Decision.

ZonMw will recover any proven overcompensation on the basis of Article 6(2) of the SGEI Exemption Decision. If the project duration exceeds 3 years, ZonMw will perform an interim check to establish whether there has been any overcompensation.

If there is a consortium and at the time of application, it is still unclear which parties are participating in the consortium, it is possible to add these parties to the consortium at a later stage. If a new party is added to the consortium, please notify ZonMw of this in writing. The new party will only be included in the consortium if ZonMw has approved this. All parties must individually meet all the conditions of the SGEI Exemption Decision.

If the project activities are shown not to have been carried out, or not to have been carried out in full, or if the obligations attached to the grant have not been fulfilled, ZonMw may set the grant at a lower amount and recover all or part of any advance payments made.

¹⁴ Commission Decision of 20 December 2011 on the application of Article 106(2) of the TFEU on state aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest, 2012/21/EU, OJ EU 2012 L7/3.