



NWA Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health

Call for proposals

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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the 'Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health' funding round. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

In this Call for proposals you will find information about the aim of this programme (Chapter 2), the conditions for the grant application (Chapter 3) and how your proposal will be assessed (Chapter 4). This is the information you need to submit a grant application. Chapter 5 states the obligations for grant recipients in the event you are awarded funding. Chapter 6 contains the contact details and Chapter 7 the annexes.

1.1 Background

What does the Netherlands want to know? This was the idea behind the creation of the Dutch Research Agenda (Dutch acronym NWA). The NWA has been created by an innovative process with input from scientists and citizens: the Dutch general public was invited to submit questions about science online. This Call of proposals yielded an impressive 11,700 questions about a wide variety of subjects. These were consolidated in 140 big issues, the so-called 'cluster questions'. Around these cluster questions, researchers and societal organisations formed 25 networks that were given the name NWA routes. These networks were given their own route management and, inspired by the cluster questions in the NWA agenda, they develop knowledge agendas and organise meetings and communication activities. The 25 NWA routes and the associated cluster questions can be found via [Routes | NWO](#).

Cooperation between researchers from different disciplines, on the one hand, and knowledge organisations and societal (public and private) organisations, on the other, has added value for the complex issues that are part of the NWA. In these collaborations, new knowledge flows from researcher to user, and new questions from professional practice and from society find a way into new research. In the conviction that people can achieve more together than they can individually, the NWA programme therefore encourages collaboration between different partners.

The key elements of the NWA programme are:

- The Dutch Research Agenda that consists of 25 routes and 140 cluster questions;
- Knowledge-chain-wide¹ and interdisciplinary consortia, in which researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds, knowledge and societal (public and private) organisations and, where relevant, citizens collaborate on complex issues;
- Societal organisations, society and citizens have a clear role in the research;
- Giving back the results to society through dialogue and interaction.

In 2018 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (Dutch acronym) OCW entrusted NWO with implementing the Dutch Research Agenda. The NWA comprises four programme lines²:

- a. [Research along Routes by Consortia \(ORC\)](#);
- b. [Thematic Programming in consultation with government bodies](#);
- c. [Innovations and Networks](#);
- d. [Science Communication and Outreach](#).

¹ The broad knowledge chain comprises a diversity of the public knowledge institutions: universities of applied sciences, universities, NWO and KNAW institutes, university medical centres and TO2 institutes.

² More information about the different programme lines is available at [Dutch Research Agenda \(NWA\) | NWO](#).

The Call for proposals 'NWA Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health' is being realised in the context of programme line 2.

In this Call for proposals, the initiators are the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

The NWO Executive Board is the decision-making body of this NWA Call for proposals. The call procedure is managed by ZonMw (Dutch Organisation for knowledge and innovation in health, healthcare and well-being).

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is €2.865.000. Within this Call for proposals it is expected that a maximum of one proposal will be awarded funding.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

When you submit your application in the ZonMw web application [Mijn ZonMw](#), you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore please start submitting your application at least one day before the deadline of this Call for proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

The deadline for submitting full proposals is **11 November 2025**, before 14:00:00 CET.

The deadline for submitting a request for review of (foreign) organisations (see section 3.1 and section 7.1.1) is 28 October 2025, by 14:00:00 CET.

2 Aim

This chapter describes the aim of the programme and the societal impact.

2.1 Aim of the programme

The Dutch National Research Agenda (NWA) programme 'Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health' aims to develop an approach that can be used to ensure that Dutch national policy takes more account of the intended and unintended consequences of that policy for both human health and the global environment. This concerns the effect on human health of global environmental changes and the policy focused on those changes, as well as the effect of human healthcare and the relevant policy on the global environment, including all the living beings it contains.

The focus of this Call for proposals is on developing a broadly applicable approach (here referred to as 'Planetary Health Impact Assessment') with which the consequences of policy measures for human health and for the global environment can be considered comprehensively, to support existing and new policy.

This Call for proposals invites knowledge institutions and societal parties to jointly develop research proposals that do not focus primarily on obtaining new empirical data on, for example, the relationship between global environmental changes and human health, but instead on developing an approach with which existing scientific knowledge and other relevant knowledge can be integrated for the purpose of policy development. It is expected that this will build on the frameworks already available for Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The submitting consortia work in an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary manner and call on a wide range of expertise, from the biomedical to public administration (see subsection 2.2.5). The composition of the consortia ranges across the entire knowledge chain, which means that the programme brings together fundamental, applied, process-based and practice-oriented research, and responds to the knowledge needs of the national government and other relevant social parties.

This Call for proposals falls within the scope of the NWA-route 'Prevention and Healthcare Research' and has areas of commonality with, amongst others, the NWA-routes 'Towards resilient societies', 'Sustainable Development Goals for inclusive global development', 'The green route: nature and biodiversity in a rapidly evolving environment', en 'Sustainable production of safe and healthy food'.

2.2 Substantice framework

2.2.1 Social issue

'Planetary Health'

Global environmental changes, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and large-scale pollution of the air, water and soil, constitute a major threat to human health. Protecting human health from the effects of these global environmental changes requires measures to be taken in various policy areas. Human healthcare also further intensifies global environmental changes through greenhouse gas emissions, emissions of toxic substances, waste production and raw materials use, amongst other

factors³. To counter these negative consequences, numerous measures are needed to make healthcare more sustainable. These relationships between human health, healthcare and the environment are part of even broader relationships in which the health of all living beings and entire ecosystems on Earth are interconnected and increasingly threatened when we exceed what are called planetary boundaries⁴.

These complex relationships require an integrated perspective that enables policy measures to be assessed in relation to their consequences for people, animals and nature. Planetary Health is a new field of research, education and policy that attempts to consider the health of people and all living things on Earth from such an integrated perspective. One definition is: “Planetary Health is a solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary field and social movement focused on analysing and addressing the impacts of destabilized natural systems on human health and all life Earth”.⁵

How this integrated perspective should be operationalised for the purpose of policy development is still very much an open question. In a number of respects, the challenge appears similar to that of the integrated perspective needed to realise Health in All Policies. The concept of Health in All Policies is that an effective approach to health determinants requires cooperation between different policy areas. One of the tools developed for this is the Health Impact Assessment, a group of methods for making an integrated assessment, in a quantitative and/or qualitative manner, of the consequences for human health of policy measures that are outside healthcare, including the distribution aspects. The term ‘distribution aspects’ refers to the diverse effects of policy on different groups within society, distinguished according to socioeconomic position, gender or region, for example, as can be seen in this [RIVM report](#). By analogy with this, the aim of this Call for proposals is for a Planetary Health Impact Assessment to be designed and developed further on the basis of two specific case studies, then applied to those case studies (see subsection 2.2.3).

2.2.2 Expected impact and insight required

Within this NWA programme, ‘Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health’, one project from one consortium can be awarded funding, which will be used to develop a general approach for a Planetary Health Impact Assessment (PHIA). The approach must be broadly deployable and as practically applicable as possible, and it will be developed based on the case study described below.

The general questions that this approach will have to answer are:

- Which aspects of the global environment and the health of people and other living beings are at stake, and how are these interconnected?
- What is the state of knowledge (including scientific knowledge) regarding:
 - These aspects and which groups?
 - The connections between these aspects?
 - The effects of various policy measures on these aspects and groups?
- How can we weigh up the positive and negative effects of the policy measures on the global environment and on the health of people and all living things?

The aim is for the answer to the questions above to be gleaned from available information. This Call for proposals calls for the joint development of research proposals that focus on developing an approach

³ The healthcare sector contributes to around 7% of total greenhouse gas emissions; see [RIVM rapport 2022-0127](#).

⁴ Steffen et al. (2015). Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet. *Science*, 347(6223). <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1259855>

⁵ [Home | Planetary Health Alliance](#)

that can integrate existing scientific and other relevant knowledge for the purpose of policy development.

2.2.3 Case studies

Both of the following case studies should be used to develop and test the PHIA. It is expected that the two different case studies will enable the development of a generally applicable framework for national policy.

- Case study 1: How can climate mitigation and adaptation measures be comprehensively assessed with regard to the risks of infectious diseases that they pose? This case study concerns one of the many effects of global environmental changes and the associated policy for human health.

Examples of existing policy questions are: What direct and indirect effects does climate change have on the spread of infectious diseases amongst people and animals? How are these effects distributed amongst the global population, with a special focus on groups with a vulnerable social position or health-related vulnerability? How can the interaction between climate change and other global environmental changes create new risks of infectious diseases and amongst which people? What are the potential effects of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures on the spread of infectious diseases amongst people and animals, and in nature? How can unintended negative effects of these measures be countered and potential positive effects strengthened? How can the interests of people, animals and nature be considered in the decision-making process for these measures?

- Case study 2: How can measures aimed at making drug production and use more sustainable be comprehensively assessed for their effects on people, animals and nature? This case study concerns one of the many effects of policy on the global environment.

Examples of existing policy questions are: How can the interests of people, animals and nature be considered in the decision-making process for these measures and how can proper account be taken of the responsibilities of all the stakeholders (citizens, care organisations, industry, government, etc.)? Which drugs or types of drugs have the most harmful effect on the environment? Where in the chain, from raw materials extraction through drug consumption to waste water, is the most significant environmental impact, and what are the consequences for people, animals and nature? Where in this chain are the most important leverage points for reducing the environmental impact? What would be the effects of various sustainability measures on people, animals and nature? For example, what would be the effect of preventing the waste of drugs or 'greener' prescribing behaviour?

Within case 2, there is explicitly **no** space for answering the question from another Call for proposals: "How can raw materials that are extracted from returned and/or discarded pharmaceuticals be accepted for a new use in the drug supply chain and what needs to be developed or adapted for this purpose with regard to current production?" This is because the question is being addressed in the [NWO-KIC programme Medicijnen uit Medicijnen](#).

The programme focuses explicitly on practical policy use and the complex challenge of putting into practice an integrated perspective on policy development and implementation. The solutions developed through the research must therefore be suitable for practical policy, where they are specifically needed and can work effectively. The active involvement of policy officers in the research will therefore be important to prevent the development of instruments that will only add to an already generous range of tools. In the collaborative workshops (see subsection 2.4.1), the collaboration with policy officers will be worked out and thought through from the outset. Policy officers from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, which are involved in developing the NWA programme Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health, will attend these workshops.

The following is expected of the project/consortium:

- The development of building blocks for a Planetary Health Impact Assessment (PHIA) approach and associated methods. Aspects that may be important for this are:
 - System approach that takes account of the interrelationships between health and health policy on the one hand and global environmental change on the other hand
 - Integration of knowledge for the purpose of policy, including national government policy
 - Alignment with the current process of integrated policymaking
 - Shaping co-design/co-creation with stakeholders during the PHIA process
 - Future-oriented assessment (e.g. exploring policy scenarios)
 - Distribution aspects, socioeconomic health differences and climate justice
 - A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods
 - International perspective
 - The approach focuses on Dutch policy, while its impact may be global.
- Testing all or parts of this approach and relevant methods by applying them to the two case studies, resulting in:
 - Knowledge relevant to policy in relation to case studies
 - Taking account of health in policy related to the environment/the living environment (case study 1)
 - Taking account of the environment/the living environment in health-related policy (case study 2)
 - Points for improvement for the purpose of adapting the generic PHIA approach
- Formulating specific recommendations for further developing and applying the generic PHIA approach, with a view to using it in other case studies or at other administrative levels.

2.2.4 Policy context

Strengthening integrated healthcare policy and an increased focus on vulnerable citizens has a place in the Healthy and Active Life Agreement 2023, the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda Health & Care 2024-2027 and the National Health Policy Memorandum 2020-2024, amongst others. The Integral Care Agreement and the Green Deal on Sustainable Care are using policy to move the healthcare sector towards a more sustainable future. In non-health policy, too, health-related side effects are regularly mentioned as a consideration, such as in climate policy (including the National Climate Adaptation Strategy and the National Climate Adaptation Implementation Programme), circularity, the environment, water management, spatial planning (including the National Strategy on Spatial Planning and the Environment, and the Preliminary Draft of the Spatial Policy Document) and agriculture. This is in line with the Public Health Act (Section 2, 2c) and the Environment and Planning Act (Ch. 1 et al.). The 2024 outline agreement of the government of Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof refers to the ambition to improve health through prevention and health promotion. Planetary Health has many similarities with One Health, which has been in use for some time, particularly in the fight against infectious diseases. In 2022, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature jointly drew up the National Action Plan for the Strengthening of the Zoonotic Disease Policy.

2.2.5 Interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary consortium

Given the complex challenge described in this Call for proposals, an interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary consortium will have to be created. Due to the importance of the connection between research, policy and practice, the programme requires collaboration between researchers from different disciplines (interdisciplinarity) and the entire knowledge chain (fundamental, applied, process-based and practice-oriented research). A transdisciplinary approach is required both when developing a PHIA and when applying the case studies, through collaboration, co-design and co-creation with social parties. In addition to the national government's policy directorates, this includes citizens who are less well-represented, patients, provinces, municipalities and water boards, entrepreneurs (e.g. companies in the pharmaceutical chain or in water purification), environmental organisations, national and international NGOs, healthcare professionals, veterinary professionals, environmental services, Municipal Health Services, pharmacists and hospitals.

Coordination or collaboration with national and international initiatives, in order to leverage relevant national and international experiences, is encouraged.

Collaborative workshops are used to facilitate consortium formation for this Call for proposals. This is described in more detail in subsections 2.4.1 and 4.2.1.

2.3 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to developing solutions for the various issues society faces, including, amongst other things, the energy transition, health and care, or climate change. By facilitating greater interaction and alignment between researchers and potential knowledge users, the chance of knowledge utilisation increases, as well as the likelihood of generating societal impact. Societal impact here stands for changes that (partly) result from research-generated knowledge and skills. Through its policy on impact, NWO promotes the potential contribution that research can make to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders, both during the development stage and the subsequent implementation of research. It does so in a manner that is in accordance with the aim of the particular funding instrument. NWO encourages researchers to reflect on the potential desired and undesired impact of their research from a broad perspective.

2.3.1 Tailor-made impact

Depending on the aim of the funding instrument, NWO will select the approach that has the greatest chance of achieving societal impact. The primary aim of the funding instrument determines the method that NWO will deploy to facilitate knowledge utilisation in various phases of the project (proposal, realisation, project completion) as well as the effort required from the applicant(s) and partner(s).

In this programme, the Impact Plan approach is applied. With this, NWO facilitates the development of an integrated strategy that will enable researchers and partners to purposefully increase the likelihood of achieving the desired societal impact.

NWO offers an e-learning module that can help interested parties via [Online impact workshops | NWO](#).

For more information on our policy on impact, please visit the website: [Knowledge utilisation | NWO](#).

2.3.2 Impact Plan approach in the NWA

In NWA the programmes focus on complex issues where coordination and cooperation has added value to realise scientific and societal breakthroughs. NWA stimulate the cooperation between different partners, making the whole is greater than the sum of its parts and stimulating that new knowledge for societal issues is developed.

Impact Plan approach

Societal impact is never solely the result of knowledge and insights gained from the research. To increase the chance of the research's societal impact, demonstrable involvement is needed from important stakeholders from the moment the consortium is formed until the completion of the project and beyond. Societal impact is often realised in the years after a research project has been concluded. By ensuring continuous alignment between researchers and possible knowledge users from the start of the research articulation (co-design) and when carrying out the research (co-creation), the chances of productive interactions, and finally impact, will increase.

Consortia draw up an Impact Plan together with stakeholders as part of the proposal. The Impact Plan describes how the consortium expects to realise societal impact and the role that productive interactions play in this. It shows how achieving the expected impact has been integrated into the research design and what role consortium partners and stakeholders from the fields of policy, practice and industry play in this.

2.4 Consortium formation

This Call for Proposals deals with complex and challenging societal issues. Research into answering these issues requires collaboration, for example between different research disciplines, applied, process-based and fundamental research, and with societal organisations and companies. NWO/ZonMw encourages and supports the formation of these collaborations by organising meetings or workshops for consortium formation. These meetings and workshops can take different forms, depending on the specific objective.

In this Call for Proposals, consortium formation is encouraged by using collaborative workshops. This method is briefly explained below.

2.4.1 Collaborative workshops

The aim of collaborative workshops is to bring together ideas, stimulate cooperation and encourage the submission of a limited number of research proposals by broad (innovative) consortia. The workshops also give participants an overview of the forces at play around a theme. The expertise of the participants and their contribution to the impact on the call theme 'Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health' form the substantive basis of the workshops. Each workshop consists of two consecutive meetings in which NWO/ZonMw actively supports mutual exploration, but in the end the parties themselves determine whether and with whom they want to collaborate. After the workshops, the participants will have a better idea of the possibilities and opportunities for clustering and collaboration, and will be able to further develop their proposals. Further information about the collaborative workshops is given in subsection 2.4.1 and will be published on the ZonMw call page. Participation in the collaborative workshops is mandatory for main applicants (see also Section 3.1).

3 Conditions for applicants

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your grant application. Firstly it describes who can apply for funding (Section 3.1) and what you can request funding for (Section 3.2). Subsequently, you will find the conditions for preparing and submitting the application (Sections 3.3 and 3.4) and the specific funding conditions (Section 3.5).

3.1 Who can apply

Proposals are to be submitted by the main applicant on behalf of the consortium. The main applicant has participated in both collaborative workshops of 'Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health' (see also subsections 2.4.1 and 4.2.1) or in case of force majeure, a replacement should be present. The participant will notify the Dutch Research Council (NWO)/the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) of this by email (planetaryhealth.nwa@zonmw.nl), preferably no later than one business day prior to the start of the relevant workshop.

There are four categories of participants within a consortium:

1. Main applicant;
2. Co-applicant(s);
3. Cooperation partner(s);
4. Co-funder(s) (optional).

A consortium should consist of at least a main applicant, a co-applicant and cooperation partner. The conditions for each type of participant are explained in more detail in the following sections.

Researchers may submit an application if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period*) or a tenure track agreement at one of the following research organisations:

- universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS) as referred to in Article 1.8 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act and universities listed in the [Policy Rules for Universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands](#);
- university medical centres by which is meant academic hospitals as referred to in Article 1.13 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act;
- institutes affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) or NWO;
- universities of applied sciences as referred to in Article 1.8 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW);
- TO2 institutions;
- Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- Naturalis Biodiversity Center;
- Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- Princess Máxima Center.

*Lectors employed at a university of applied sciences and researchers employed at a TO2 institute may also submit as a main applicant provided that they have at least a salaried position for a limited period of time.

Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) may not submit a proposal.

It could be the case that the applicant's tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant's tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.

The main applicant employed by a university of applied sciences or TO2 institute whose employment ends before the intended completion date of the project for which the grant is being applied for must also attach such a statement.

Applicants with a part-time contract should guarantee adequate supervision of the project and all project members for whom funding is requested.

Additional conditions (applies to both the main applicant and co-applicants):

Co-applicants may be affiliated to the research organisations listed in this section the research organisations stated in Annex 7.3 and to other research organisations as referred to in Article 1.1, paragraph 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 and which meet the following cumulative conditions.

The organisation must:

- be established in the Netherlands;
- be a foundation, association or legal entity governed by public law;
- have as its primary goal the independent conduct of its own fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or with widely disseminating the results of those activities through teaching, publications or knowledge transfer;
- be able to state that the organisation keeps separate accounts with regard to economic/non-economic activities and that undertakings with decisive influence on the organisation do not enjoy preferential access to the organisation's results.

Please note: Prior to the submission of an application NWO assesses on the basis of the above-mentioned conditions whether an organisation complies with Article 1.1, paragraph 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 and may therefore participate as a co-applicant. NWO performs this assessment to preclude the granting of prohibited state aid.

The organisation of the prospective co-applicant must provide the following documents no less than 10 working days prior to the submission deadline (meaning no later than **28 October before 14:00:00 CET**) by email to planetaryhealth.nwa@zonmw.nl:

- a recent extract from the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce;
- the deed of incorporation or current articles of association;
- the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an audit statement⁶;
- the completed Declaration Research organisation, available on funding page of this Call for proposals.

Other relevant documentation may be added. NWO may request additional information if the above documents are not sufficiently conclusive to determine whether the organisation may act as a co-applicant.

⁶ Organisations that are not legally obliged to have their annual accounts audited do not need to provide such an auditor's statement. They must however be able to demonstrate that this legal requirement is not applicable to the organisation concerned.

If the organisation of the intended co-applicant within another NWO programme has been assessed against these conditions, please contact NWO/ZonMw in good time via the above email address to determine whether this organisation should be reassessed.

If the organisation of the prospective coapplicant does not submit the necessary documents for this assessment in time, NWO cannot accept the organisation as a co-applicant.

3.1.1 Main and co-applicants

Main applicants

The main applicant submits the proposal via Mijn ZonMw. During the assessment process, NWO/ZonMw will communicate with the main applicant.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the main applicant will become the project leader and point of contact for NWO/ZonMw. The knowledge institution of the main applicant is the main beneficiary and will become the official secretary.

Extra conditions:

- the main applicant may submit only one proposal in the role of main applicant;
- the main applicant may participate a maximum of one time as co-applicant in another consortium.

Both main and co-applicants with part-time employment must guarantee adequate supervision of the project and of all persons working on the project for whom funding is being requested.

Co-applicants

Co-applicants have an active role in realising the project. The (sub)project leaders and beneficiary/beneficiaries are jointly responsible for realising the entire project.

Co-applicants affiliated with social organisations can only act as co-applicant under the de minimis regulation⁷.

Extra conditions:

- a co-applicant can participate in up to two consortia in that capacity;
- persons with a zero-hours contract are excluded from submitting as a co-applicant.

Co-applicants affiliated with social organisations

This Call for proposals also focuses on knowledge from – and for the benefit of – everyday practice. Social organisations that provide support for policy and Planetary Health and/or build up relevant expertise may act as co-applicant under the de minimis regulation (see below). These include centres of expertise and advocacy groups, whose practical knowledge and research-related activities are essential to establish fully recognised research. The application must underpin the substantial, active contribution that the social organisation makes to the research. This will be reviewed by the assessment committee with regard to the criterion on the quality of the consortium (see 4.3.1).

⁷ EU Commission Regulation 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023, on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to the de minimis aid. See: [Regulation - EU - 2023/2831 - NL - EUR-Lex](#) | [Europa.eu](#).

De minimis threshold for social organisations

Social organisations acting as co-applicants will receive the grant from NWO via the main applicant, in compliance with the de minimis threshold set out in the de minimis regulation (Regulation (EU) No. 2023/2831 of the European Commission of 13 December 2023). According to the de minimis regulation, a consortium member may receive a maximum of €300,000 in de minimis aid over a period of three years.

By completing the de minimis aid declaration, social organisations confirm that the allocation of a grant by NWO will not exceed the de minimis threshold for the organisation in question. If a social organisation establishes that the NWO grant would cause the de minimis threshold to be exceeded, the main applicant cannot apply to NWO for a grant for this social organisation. The main applicant must therefore take this into account when preparing the project budget and must verify for each social organisation wishing to act as a co-applicant that the requested grant amount does not exceed the de minimis threshold. The de minimis aid declaration filled out separately by each social organisation is part of the application.

3.1.2 Cooperation partners

Cooperation partners are mandatory in this Call for proposals, because active involvement from societal stakeholders is of great importance to share knowledge about challenges and possible solutions. Civil society stakeholders include both public and private organisations, and where relevant, citizens or a representation thereof. The organisation of a civil society stakeholder is not a main or co-applicant or co-financier. This means that organisations participating as partners cannot participate as co-applicants under the de minimis regulation.

A cooperation partner is actively involved during the whole process, from the formulation of research questions and development of the project (co-design) to the implementation of the research and/or knowledge utilisation (co-creation).

Please note: no funding may be requested for salary or research costs as a main or co-applicant for personnel of organisations that participate as a cooperation partner in the consortium. However, it is possible to remunerate costs by hiring in these organisations as third parties via the modules 'material costs', 'knowledge utilisation' or 'project management (see Section 3.2 and Annex 7.1).

3.1.3 Co-funders

Co-funding is not compulsory within this Call for proposals. Co-funders are organisations that participate in the consortium and contribute to the project in cash and/or in kind. Co-funders do not receive any funding from NWO. The conditions regarding co-funding are specified in Section 3.5.6.

Organisations whose researchers are permitted to act as main applicants in accordance with the description given in Section 3.1 may not participate as co-funders in this Call for proposals. An exception will be made for TO2 institutes. They may participate in a consortium as co-funders, unless they also participate as a main applicant or co-applicant in the same consortium.

3.2 What can be applied for

Per project, a grant amount of at most €2.865.000 can be applied for. The maximum duration of the proposed project is 5 years. The applicant and co-applicants can include costs for personnel, equipment, investments and knowledge utilisation. The available budget modules (including the maximum amounts) are listed below. Apply only for funding that is vital to realise the project. The rates and an explanation of these budget modules are given in Annex 7.1.

3.2.1 Personnel

Funding may be requested for salary costs of personnel contributing to the project. The amount depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel is employed.

3.2.1.1 Personnel at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or a research organisation

For personnel working at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, university medical centre (umc) or another research organisation, as referred to in Article 1.1, first paragraph, subparagraphs c to h of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 salary costs can be claimed for the following positions: PhD student, Engineering Doctorate, postdoc, physician-researcher, non-scientific personnel (NWP) and for research leave of the applicant(s).

An unrestricted number of positions can be requested for this type of position. Research leave can be requested for up to 10% of the grant amount.

3.2.1.2 Personnel of universities of applied sciences, educational institutions, TO2 institutes and other organisations

It is possible to claim salary costs of personnel of universities of applied sciences, educational institutions, TO2 institutes and other organisations. An unrestricted number of positions can be requested for this type of position.

3.2.1.3 Students

It is possible to engage students in the project if they are studying at a research organisation as referred to in Section 3.1. You can enter the costs of this as material costs within the project. There is no maximum on the number of students who can participate in the project.

3.2.1.4 Scientific personnel at a research organisation abroad

It is possible to claim salary costs for scientific personnel from foreign research organisations that are co-applicants. A maximum of 10% of the grant amount for personnel can be requested for personnel at research organisations abroad.

3.2.2 Material

Funding may be requested for all project-specific material costs. These costs are subject to a maximum of 25% of the NWO grant amount allocated. Up to 50% of the material budget requested from NWO may be used for third-party work. A maximum of 10% of the grant amount for material costs can be requested for research organisations abroad.

3.2.3 Investments

Funding may be requested for investments in equipment, infrastructure and other research resources that have economic value or can be reused after the project ends. Salary costs of personnel who put the equipment, infrastructure and other research resources in a state of readiness can be claimed as part of the investments. The rates and conditions of Personnel apply here and the costs should be claimed as Investments. Investments can only be made at research organisations listed in Section 3.1.

A maximum of €500,000 can be applied for investments.

3.2.4 Knowledge utilisation

Funding can be requested for activities that promote the use of knowledge from the research⁸, in order to increase the societal impact of the research.

It is mandatory to include an amount for knowledge utilisation. These costs are at least 5% and maximum 20% of the grant amount.

3.2.5 Project management

It is mandatory to apply an amount for project management. A maximum of 10% of the grant amount can be used for this module.

3.3 Preparing an application

This Call for proposals has three phases:

1. Registration for collaborative workshops (mandatory for main applicants)
2. Participation in collaborative workshops (mandatory for main applicants)
3. Submitting a proposal

Please refer to subsection 3.4.1 for a complete overview of submission requirements.

The proposal must be written in English.

An application can only be submitted via the web application Mijn ZonMw. Applications that are not submitted via Mijn ZonMw will not be taken into consideration.

As the main applicant, you are required to submit your application via your own personal Mijn ZonMw account.

It is important to start with your application in Mijn ZonMw on time:

- if you do not yet have an Mijn ZonMw account, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems;
- you also need to submit other details online.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO/ZonMw.

For technical questions, please contact the Mijn ZonMw helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

⁸ All activities applied for under this budget module must fit within the definition of "Knowledge Transfer Activities" used by the European Commission in the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (OJEU 2022, C 414).

The applicant must inform the research organisation where she/he works about the submission of the application, and the research organisation must accept the granting conditions of this Call for proposals.

3.3.1 The registration for collaborative workshops

The first phase of this Call for Proposals includes two consecutive collaborative workshops.

Registration for the collaborative workshops is done using a form on the ZonMw call page. The registration includes the expertise of an individual and the contribution that will be made to the desired impact on the theme of the Call for Proposals.

The content of the collaborative workshops is based on the applications (see also Section 4.2.2). The registrations containing the participants' expertise in the relevant field are shared with the workshop participants.

Both researchers and societal organisations are invited to participate in the workshops and to help shape the proposals as they take shape.

Societal organisations are expressly invited to register for the workshops.

3.3.2 Preparing and submitting a proposal

A proposal is written (and submitted) after the collaborative workshops in which research ideas have been brought together, possible cooperation with other participants in the workshop was explored and where the crucial initial agreements have been made for the joint elaboration of the proposal. After the workshops, consortia may add the members they need to enhance the quality of their consortium.

The main applicant must have participated in both collaborative workshops of Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health. Only in a case of force majeure may another person attend instead of the main applicant. The participant will notify NWO/ZonMw of this by email (planetaryhealth.nwa@zonmw.nl), preferably no later than one business day prior to the start of the relevant workshop. In case of force majeure, you may be able to appeal to the [Force Majeure Extension Scheme | NWO](#).

The steps involved in writing your application are:

- download the application form from the ZonMw web application Mijn ZonMw or from the ZonMw web page (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
- complete the application form;
- save the application form in Mijn ZonMw as a PDF file and upload it with any compulsory annexes;
- fill in the requested information online in Mijn ZonMw.

Compulsory annexes:

- budget;
- declarations of commitment of cooperation partners;
- declaration co-funding from co-funders (mandatory if applicable);
- de minimis aid declaration (mandatory where applicable; see subsection 3.1.1);
- letter guaranteeing the continuity of the project supervision (compulsory if applicable, see paragraph 3.1);
- form 'Statement and signature'.

In case NWO/ZonMw has made a template available, the annex should be drawn up according to the NWO template. Annexes must be uploaded in Mijn ZonMw separately from the application. All of the annexes, except for the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). The budget must be submitted in Mijn ZonMw as an Excel file.

Upon submission of the application, the attached declaration of co-funding should state the full co-funding pledged according to the conditions described in Section 3.5.6.

Any annexes other than those above-mentioned are not permitted.

3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

NWO/ZonMw will assess your application against all the conditions set out in this Call for proposals, including the conditions listed below. Your application will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your application, NWO/ZonMw requests you to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission.

These conditions are:

- the main applicant and co-applicant(s) meet the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- in the case of co-funding: the co-funders must comply with the conditions stated in subsection 3.1.3;
- the application complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- the application is submitted via the main applicant's Mijn ZonMw account;
- the application is received before the deadline;
- the application is written in English;
- the application budget is drawn according to the terms of this Call for proposals (using the format made available which includes the most recent rates);
- the proposed project has a duration of maximum 5 years;
- all of the required annexes, after a possible request for additions or changes, have been completed and submitted completely and in accordance with the terms of this Call for proposals.

Additional conditions for applications:

- The main applicant visited both collaborative workshops of Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health (see sections 3.3.1 and 4.2.1)) (or in case of force majeure, a replacement should be present. The participant will notify NWO/ZonMw of this by email (planetaryhealth.nwa@zonmw.nl), preferably no later than one business day prior to the start of the relevant workshop);
- Completed de minimis aid declaration by all social parties involved;
- If applicable: The co-funding, after any request for additions or changes, has been correctly and fully committed through declarations of co-funding.

3.5 Conditions on granting

The [NWO Grant Rules 2024](#) and the [Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research](#) are applicable to all applications.

3.5.1 Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines

World-class science can benefit from international cooperation. The National Knowledge Security Guidelines (hereafter: the Guidelines) helps knowledge institutions to ensure that international cooperation can take place securely. Knowledge security concerns the undesirable transfer of sensitive knowledge and technology that compromises national security; the covert influence of state actors on education and research, which jeopardises academic freedom and social safety; and ethical issues that may arise in cooperation with countries that do not respect fundamental rights.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their project complies and will continue to comply with the Guidelines. By submitting an application, the applicant commits to the recommendations stipulated in these Guidelines. In the event of a suspected breach of the Guidelines in an application submitted to NWO for project funding, or in a project funded by NWO, NWO may ask the applicant to provide a risk assessment demonstrating that the recommendations in the Guidelines have been taken into consideration. If the applicant fails to comply with NWO's request, or if the risk assessment is in apparent breach of the Guidelines, this may affect NWO's grant award or decision-making process. NWO may also include further conditions in the award letter if appropriate.

The National Knowledge Security Guidelines can be found on the central government website at: [Home | National Contact Point for Knowledge Security](#).

3.5.2 Data management

The results of scientific research must be replicable, verifiable and falsifiable. In the digital age, this means that, in addition to publications, research data must also be publicly accessible insofar as this is possible. NWO expects that research data resulting from NWO-funded projects will be made publicly available, as much as possible, for reuse by other researchers. "As open as possible, as closed as necessary" is the applicable principle in this respect. Researchers, 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. Any costs incurred for this can be included in the project budget. Researchers should explain how data emerging from the project will be dealt with based on the data management section in the proposal and the data management plan that is drawn up after funding is awarded.

[Data management Section](#)

The data management section is part of the proposal. Researchers are asked before the start of the research to consider how the data collected will be ordered and categorised so that this can be made publicly available. Measures will often already need to be taken, both during data generation and as part of analysing the data, to make its subsequent storage and dissemination possible. If it is not possible to make all data from the project publicly available, for example due to reasons of privacy, ethics or valorisation, then the applicant is obliged to list the reasons for this in the data management section.

The data management section in the proposal is not evaluated and will therefore not be weighed in the decision whether to award funding. However, both the referees and the committee can issue advice with respect to the data management section.

3.5.3 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2024, the project that NWO funds must be carried out in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to this code. In the case of a (possible) violation of these standards during a project funded by NWO, the applicant should immediately inform NWO of this and should submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and the policy regarding research integrity can be found on the website: [Scientific integrity | NWO](#).

3.5.4 Ethical statement or licence

The applicant is responsible for determining whether an ethical statement or licence is needed for the realisation of the proposed project. The applicant should ensure that this is obtained from the relevant institution or ethics committee on time. The absence or presence of an ethical statement or licence at the time of the application process has no effect on the assessment of the application. If an ethics statement or licence is required for (part of) the research, the project leader must provide a copy of this statement or licence to NWO after the project has been awarded, and in any case no later than before implementation of the part of the project for which the statement is required starts. The part of the project requiring the statement and/or licence can obviously not (yet) be carried out as long as no statement or licence has been provided.

3.5.5 Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol ensures an honest and reasonable distribution of benefits emerging from the use of genetic resources (Access and Benefit Sharing; ABS). Researchers who make use of genetic sources from the Netherlands or abroad for their research should familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol ([ABS Focal Point - ABS Focal Point](#)). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

3.5.6 Co-funding

All applications are subject to the [NWO Co-funding rules](#).

Additional definitions:

- Co-funding in kind: capitalised personnel and/or material contributions from users;
- Co-funding in cash is used to cover part of the total project costs and together with the grant provided by NWO constitutes the required financial resources.

Co-funding is not compulsory within this Call for proposals. However, co-funders may be included in the application. A distinction is made between co-funding in cash (to be invoiced by the applicant), which serves to cover the budget for the project activities described in the proposal, and in kind co-funding, which can consist of personnel and/or material contributions from the organisations involved.

The following principles apply to co-funding:

- NWO is the main funder of an application. Applications of which the co-funding from co-funders exceeds 49% of the total project costs will not be taken into consideration;
- in-kind contributions will only be accepted under the condition that the portion contributed by the co-funder is integral to the project activities and can be tracked or designated as identifiable effort. In case of questions, NWO may request further justification and evidence of the rates used and also adjustment. In addition, any in-kind contributions in the form of services and know-how may not already be available or in place at the applicant's knowledge institution(s);

- fixed integral hourly rates are used to capitalise the human contribution (work hours) to a project. For rates, see the Government Tariffs Manual (HOT), Table 2 under 2.2 ‘average total labour costs per pay scale’, column ‘Hourly rate productive hours, excluding VAT’. The rate closest to the actual labour costs should be used here;
- co-funding in cash, is the net amount paid by a co-funder to the applicant. The applicant invoices co-funding in cash and, if applicable, VAT to the co-funder.

Not eligible as co-funding in cash/in kind are⁹:

- grant provided by NWO;
- co-funding may not come from parties that according to this Call for proposals can apply for funding to NWO;
- costs related to overhead, guidance, consultancy and/or participation in the user committee/supervisory committee.

Co-funding declaration of participating co-funders

In a co-funding declaration the co-funder expresses financial support for the project and confirms the co-funding promised. Co-funding declarations from co-funders, which are mentioned in the application, are compulsory as attachments when submitting the proposal. The co-funding declaration must be signed by an authorised signatory of the co-funder. NWO/ZonMw provides a compulsory format for the co-funding declaration on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the ZonMw website.

If the application is awarded, the co-funder must confirm its contribution(s) in the consortium agreement. This agreement also contains further agreements between the co-funder(s) and the applicant(s) (see Section 5.1.5).

Justification co-funding in cash and in kind

The ratio of co-funding (both in cash and in kind) to the grant provided by NWO in this Call for proposals, applies from submission of an application until the grant is determined. Co-funding in cash affects the grant amount provided by NWO because both NWO's contribution and co-funding in cash are used for the same project-specific costs (unlike co-funding in kind).

One-off indexing due to other applicable rates after submission does not affect the ratio and co-financing requirement for the NWO contribution. For this, NWO assumes the ratio in the application budgets accepted by NWO.

After determination of a project the final grant amount is settled on the basis of the final report, the financial conditions and the co-funding ratio as present in the application budget.

In case of partly provided co-funding in cash (due to unforeseen circumstances, such as bankruptcy) NWO's contribution is based on the original grant award, taking into account the co-funding in cash that was provided and the applicable minimum co-funding requirement, if applicable.

Co-funding in cash in excess of the co-funding requirement affects the applied ratio of co-funding to grant provided by NWO. If a project has co-funding in cash in excess of the co-funding requirement and partial in cash co-funding has been provided at determination, the NWO contribution is never more than the original contribution from the grant award. The ratio of the NWO contribution is then at most the contribution that follows from the co-funding requirement.

⁹ For inadmissible co-funding, see also the NWO Co-funding Rules, Article 6.

At all times NWO must be notified of problems in expected co-funding (in cash and/or in kind). In addition to financial implications for a project, NWO may also require adequate changes to a project as a change request so that research can be continued to the best of its ability.

3.5.7 Declaration of support of cooperation partners

In a declaration of support a cooperation partner enounce support for the project and describes their role within the project. NWO/ZonMw makes a form available on the ZonMw funding page.

In case of awarding funding the cooperation partner must confirm its contribution in the project. Further agreements are also made in this agreement between the cooperation partner(s) and the applicant(s) (see also section 5.1.5).

3.5.8 De minimis aid declaration

For social organisations funded under the de minimis regulation (see subsection 3.1.1), the de minimis aid declaration is part of the application. The application will be approved on condition that the de minimis threshold for the social organisation in question is not exceeded at the time of the grant award.

4 Assessment procedure

This chapter first describes the assessment according to the DORA principles (Section 4.1) and the course of the assessment procedure (Section 4.2). Second, it states the criteria that the assessment committee will use to assess your application (Section 4.3).

The NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all persons and NWO/ZonMw employees involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process ([Code for Dealing with Personal Interests | NWO](#)).

NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture where there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age ([Diversity and inclusion | NWO](#)). NWO encourages members of an assessment committee to be actively aware of implicit associations and to try to minimise these. NWO will provide them with information about concrete ways of improving the assessment of an application.

4.1 The San Francisco Declaration (DORA)

NWO is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). DORA is a worldwide initiative that aims to improve the way research and researchers are assessed. DORA contains recommendations for research funders, research institutions, scientific journals and other parties.

DORA aims to reduce the uncritical use of bibliometric indicators and obviate unconscious bias in the assessment of research and researchers. DORA's overarching philosophy is that research should be evaluated on its own merits rather than on the basis of surrogate measures, such as the journal in which the research is published.

When assessing the scientific track record of applicants, NWO makes use of a broad definition of scientific output.

NWO requests committee members not to rely on indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor or the h-index when assessing applications. Applicants are not allowed to mention these in their applications. You are, however, allowed to list other scientific products besides publications, such as datasets, patents, software and code, et cetera.

For more information on how NWO is implementing the principles of DORA, see [DORA | NWO](#).

4.2 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:

- registration for the collaborative workshops;
- participation in the collaborative workshops, mandatory for main applicant (see subsection 3.3.2);
- submission of the proposal;
- admissibility of the proposal;
- pre advice assessment committee;
- when required: interview selection;
- interview;

- assessment committee meeting;
- decision-making.

Assessment committee

For this NWA Call for proposals, an assessment committee will be appointed by the NWO Executive Board. The assessment committee will have a broad composition. This means that not only scientific expertise will be represented in the assessment committee, but also expertise from the entire knowledge chain, including societal stakeholders who are highly familiar with the subject and representatives from the target group. The task of the assessment committee is to assess the applications and the relevant documents that are submitted, in conjunction with each other and with regard to both the respective merits of each application and the assessment criteria outlined in this Call for proposals.

Due to both the expertise present in the assessment committee and the small size of the grant, NWO has decided with regard to the assessment of these applications to exercise the option outlined in Article 2.2.4, paragraph 2, of the NWO Grant Rules 2024, to assess all applications without involving referees.

4.2.1 Collaborative workshops

The aim of the collaborative workshops is to facilitate the optimal formation of networks around the theme ‘Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health’ and to encourage collaboration. The expertise of the participants and their contributions to the call theme form the basis for discussion during the workshops. The workshops offer the possibility to combine (research) ideas and to form broad innovative consortia (consolidation of strengths). It is subsequently up to the participants to enter into collaboration in inter- and transdisciplinary innovative consortia that span the entire knowledge chain, and to jointly develop the proposal. More information about the workshops will also be announced on the NWO and ZonMw call page.

NWO/ZonMw is organising two consecutive collaborative workshops.

The main applicant must have participated in both workshops. Or in case of force majeure, a replacement should be present. The participant will notify NWO/ZonMw of this by email (planetaryhealth.nwa@zonmw.nl), preferably no later than one business day prior to the start of the relevant workshop. The collaborative workshops are explicitly also accessible to societal parties. This way, they also have the opportunity to join consortia in the making, which develop during the workshops.

4.2.2 Submission of a proposal

For the submission of the proposal, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the ZonMw website. When you write your proposal, you must adhere to the questions stated on this form and the procedure given in the explanatory notes. You must also adhere to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages.

Your complete application form must have been received before the deadline via Mijn ZonMw (see Section 1.3). After this deadline, you can no longer submit a proposal. After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.3 Admissibility of the proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, you will hear from NWO/ZonMw whether or not your proposal will be taken into consideration. NWO/ZonMw will determine this based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO/ZonMw can only take your proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions. Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, NWO/ZonMw may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this.

4.2.4 Pre-advice assessment committee

After this, your proposal will be submitted for comments to several members of the assessment committee (the pre-advisers). The pre-advisers will provide a written substantive and reasoned response to the proposal. They will formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see Section 4.3.1) and will give the proposal a numerical score per assessment criterion. For this, the NWO score table will be used (on a scale of 1 to 9, where “1” is excellent and “9” unsatisfactory).

4.2.5 Interview selection

In principle, all consortia that submitted a proposal will be invited for an interview by the assessment committee. If the total number of admissible proposals exceeds five times the number of projects that can be funded within the available budget, the assessment committee can decide to invite only a selection of consortia to the interview.

The proposals will be submitted to the assessment committee. The assessment committee will then make its own assessment based on these documents. Subsequently, the applicants with the highest ranked proposals will be invited for an interview. This will involve a maximum of five times the expected number of proposals to be awarded funding. If, after the interview selection, two or more of the full proposals cannot be distinguished from each other based on their weighted total score, then there is an *ex aequo* situation (see subsection 4.2.8).

4.2.6 Interview

During the interview, the assessment committee will have the opportunity to pose questions. During the interview, the consortium will be able to respond to these in the discussion with the committee. In this manner, the principle of having a hearing and an opportunity for rebuttal is applied. The interview is an important part of the assessment procedure and can lead to an adjustment of both the assessment and the score of the proposal.

4.2.7 Meeting of the assessment committee

The committee will make its own assessment based on the available material.

Following the discussion, the committee draws up a written recommendation addressed to the NWO Executive Board about the quality and ranking of the proposals. This recommendation is based on the assessment criteria. The proposal must receive an overall qualification of at least “good” to be eligible for funding. The proposal must also receive at least the qualification “good” for each of the individual assessment criteria.

For more information about the qualifications, see [Applying for funding, how does it work? | NWO](#).

If, after the discussion of the proposals, two or more of the proposals cannot be distinguished from each other based on their weighted total score, then this will result in an ex aequo situation (see Section 4.2.8).

4.2.8 Ex aequo

NWO understands ex aequo to be a situation in which two or more proposals based on their weighted score cannot be distinguished from each other. An ex aequo situation is relevant with respect to the borders of the available budget or the selection borders. The existence of an ex aequo situation is determined as follows. The starting point in this process is the ranking drawn up by the assessment committee, with the final scores rounded down to two decimal points. The reference score here is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the borders of the available budget or the selection borders. All proposals with a score that is within 0.05 or less of the reference score will be considered. In this way, the proposals that are equal within a score of 0.10 will be selected. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the borders of the available budget or the selection borders, then with a better assessment pertaining to criterion 'Alignment with the objectives of the programme', will end as the highest. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then the proposal with the highest score for the criterion 'Quality of the consortium' will end highest. If the proposals subsequently in a tie, the assessment committee, with the help of an (anonymous) majority vote, will determine the ranking (in accordance with Article 2.2.6, paragraph 5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024). If this vote provides no resolution either, or is not desirable to vote, the ex aequo situation will be send on to the decision-making body.

4.2.9 Decision-making

Finally, the NWO Executive Board will assess the procedure followed as well as the advice from the assessment committee. They will subsequently determine the final qualifications and make a decision over awarding or rejecting the proposals.

4.2.10 Timetable

Below, you will find the timetable for this Call for proposals. During the current procedure, NWO/ZonMw might find it necessary to make further changes to the timetable for this Call for proposals. You will be informed about this in time.

Request assessment of (foreign) organisation(s)

28 October 2025, 14:00:00 CET	Deadline for submitting a request for assessment of (foreign) organisations
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Collaborative workshops

2 and 18 June 2025	Collaborative workshops
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Proposals

11 November 2025, 14:00:00 CET	Deadline proposals
Middle/end of January 2026	Assessment committee meeting (and interviews)
Early March 2026	Decision by the board

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria

The applications submitted within this Call for proposals will be substantially assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Problem definition and analysis (20%)
2. Envisaged impact and route to impact (20%)
3. Quality of the consortium (30%)
4. Quality of the research (30%)

The following specific aspects of the four assessment criteria will be assessed:

1. **Problem definition and analysis**
 - Clearly formulated definition of the problem and resulting research questions, logically related and contributing to the objective of the Call for proposals.
 - Societal and scientific urgency and relevance of the defined problem.
 - Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary character of the problem definition and the research questions.
2. **Envisaged impact and route to impact**
 - The envisaged scientific and societal impact is clearly defined and follows logically from the identified problem or question. The consortium sufficiently considered unwanted impact of the research, and how to deal with it.
 - The Impact pathway describes a clear route to the societal impact, as well as the role of the partners involved.
 - Appropriate strategic activities to achieve the impact, such as stakeholder engagement, communication, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity development.
 - Sufficient attention to the key risks of undesirable societal impact and the proposed measures to prevent or mitigate this and increase the chance of desired impact.
3. **Quality of consortium**
 - The composition of the consortium is a logical fit with the proposed project: interdisciplinary, involvement of relevant societal stakeholders and/or citizens and the wider knowledge chain.
 - Complementarity of the consortium partners in terms of the knowledge, skills and expertise required to execute the project.
 - Active involvement of the partners in the development of the project (co-design), from the articulation of the problem definition and the research questions, and in its execution (co-creation). This results in the formation of a (social) network as part of and around the project.
 - A clear division of tasks and roles within the consortium with respect to the execution of the research and the governance of the project.
 - There is a tangible and feasible plan for the professional development of talented young and mid-career researchers both within and outside of the academic world.
4. **Quality of the research**
 - The scientific research question follows logically from the analysis of the problem and is original and innovative for the disciplines concerned.
 - The proposed approach and methodology are suitable for achieving the specified objectives and answering the research question. The consortium employs fundamental, process-based, applied and practical research in its approach.

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- The integrated character of the interdisciplinary research.
- The structure of the proposed research plan: clearly defined and logically coherent work packages; suitable and well-substantiated budget; risk analysis; and, if necessary, a back-up plan.

5 Obligations for grant recipients

This chapter details the various obligations that - in addition to the conditions stated in Section 3.5 - apply after funds have been awarded.

5.1.1 Content monitoring

NWO/ZonMw will assume responsibility for the substantive monitoring of the proposals awarded funding. For the duration of 'NWA Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health' NWO/ZonMw will organise programme meetings. All projects within the theme of this Call for proposals will be invited to participate.

Supervisory committee

To strengthen the monitoring and to increase the support for the realisation of the projects, a supervisory committee will be appointed (see section 5.1.6). The committee will monitor the connection between the different themes, the progress of all projects and the results achieved with a focus on knowledge transfer, knowledge utilisation and the application of the results. After granting, regular follow-up meetings will be organised. Representatives from the consortium will be asked to provide input and to take part in the meetings of the supervisory committee. Whenever that is desirable, additional experts will also be invited to the meetings.

5.1.2 Accountability and project completion

Accountability during the project

During the project, the main applicant is responsible for reports on the project's progress. With a view to monitoring project progress, NWO may request interim reports on a project's content and finances, as well as an account of co-funding provided. More information about this will follow in the grant award letter.

Project closure

Upon completion of a project, final reports will be requested on both the content and finances of the project. The final amount of funding (and co-funding) will be determined after these final reports have been approved.

5.1.3 Programme activities

Several compulsory meetings will be held throughout the duration of the project.

In 2026, the kick-off of the research programme will take place after the grant allocation. This programme-level kick-off will be public and will mark the start of the programme. Consortium members of the approved project will participate, but the kick-off will also focus on relevant stakeholders and a wider audience.

There will be annual meetings, the details of which will be communicated in a timely manner. During these meetings, the progress of the project will be discussed. In addition, opportunities for further impact communication and activities will be considered.

A mid-term meeting will be organised halfway through the programme. For this event, the annual meeting will be expanded with a public day with relevant stakeholders to highlight and harvest the insights and outcomes (and impact, if available) of the projects. Furthermore, the meeting is intended to further increase interest in the research, to contribute to the overall impact.

The closing event will take place in 2031. Depending on content-related and practical preconditions, this event will consist of two days or two half-day sessions with two main activities. The first part will consist of a day (or half day) to discuss and fine-tune the conclusions. The second part will be a public day with relevant stakeholders to highlight and harvest the insights and outcomes (and impact, if available) of the projects and to further increase interest in the Call's themes, to contribute to the overall impact.

5.1.4 Data management

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. For this, applicants can make use of the advice from the referees and committee. The applicant must describe in the plan whether existing data will be used, or whether new data will be collected or generated, and how this data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. Before submission, the data management plan should be checked by a data steward or similar officer of the research organisation where the project will be realised. NWO will check the plan as quickly as possible. Approval of the data management plan by NWO is a condition for disbursement of the funding. The plan can be adjusted during the research.

More information about the data management protocol of NWO can be found at: [Research data management | NWO](#).

5.1.5 Intellectual property and consortium agreement

With respect to intellectual property (IP), the NWO IP policy applies. This can be found in Chapter 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024.

Applicants must carry out a project funded by NWO during the time that they work for the research organisation. If an applicant or a researcher funded by NWO is appointed by more than one employer, then the other employer should relinquish any possible IP rights that emerge from the project of the applicant.

NWO's ambition is that research results can be applied by partners involved in the project. NWO aims that all research results from projects it funds are made publicly accessible while at the same time encouraging parties to further develop the research results by giving them the possibility to exploit these. For the exploitation of results, it can be desirable to transfer intellectual property rights or to license the use of these to (one of) the private parties involved in the project. The basic premise is that all research results can be published with due consideration for agreements made about publication procedures.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the conclusion of a consortium agreement is one of the conditions for starting the project. In this agreement, arrangements are made about intellectual property and publication, knowledge transfer, confidentiality, co-financing payments, progress reports, and final reports. Uploading in ISAAC is required before the project can start.

The responsibility for arranging the consortium agreement lies with the applicant.

The model agreement that NWO makes available must be used and can be found on the funding page of this Call for proposals. This model agreement has been drawn up in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2024. NWO is not a party to the consortium agreement.

Parties have the option of selecting NWO's standard wording in the model agreement or may, alternatively, make their own agreements or apply pre-existing agreements with regard to the IP and publication procedure sections. The model consortium agreement provides for these options.

5.1.6 Socially responsible licensing

The knowledge that emerges from the project could be suitable for use in society. When agreements about licensing and/or the transfer of research results developed under this Call for proposals are made, due consideration should be given to the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as stated in the NFU factsheet "[Ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing | NFU](#)".

5.1.7 Supervisory committee

After the project has been awarded funding, a committee will be appointed in accordance with Article 3.3.2 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 to supervise and monitor the project. More information about this committee will be provided in the award letter.

5.1.8 Open Access

As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration (2003) and a member of cOAlition S (2018), NWO is committed to making the results of the research it funds openly accessible via the internet (Open Access). By doing this, NWO gives substance to the ambitions of the Dutch government to make all publicly funded research available in Open Access form. Scientific publications arising from projects awarded on the basis of this Call for proposals must therefore be made available in Open Access form in accordance with the Open Access Policy.

Scientific articles

Scientific articles must be made available in Open Access form immediately at the time of publication (without embargo) via one of the following routes:

- publication in a fully Open Access journal or platform registered in the DOAJ;
- publication in a subscription journal and the immediate deposition of at least the author accepted manuscript of the article in an Open Access repository registered in Open DOAR;
- publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between UNL and a publisher. For further information, see [Home | Open Access](#).

Books

Different requirements apply to scholarly books, book chapters and edited collections. See the Open Access Policy Framework at [Open Science | NWO](#).

CC BY licence

To ensure the widest possible dissemination of publications, at least a Creative Commons (CC BY) licence must be applied. Alternatively – in case of substantial interest – the author may request to publish under a CC BY-ND licence. For books, book chapters and collected volumes, all CC BY licence options are allowed.

Costs

Costs for publication in fully Open Access journals can be budgeted in the application using the budget module for “material costs”. Costs for publications in hybrid journals are not eligible for reimbursement by NWO. For Open Access books, a separate NWO Open Access Books Fund is available.

For more detailed information about NWO’s Open Access policy, see [Open Science | NWO](#).

6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions

For specific questions about this Call for proposals, please contact:

Zorah Ypma (programme manager)

Tel: +31 (0)70 349 5337

Frank Pierik (senior programme manager)

Tel: +31 (0)70 349 5477

E-mail: planetaryhealth.nwa@zonmw.nl

6.1.2 Technical questions about the web application Mijn ZonMw

For technical questions about the use of [Mijn ZonMw](#), please contact the Mijn ZonMw helpdesk. Please read the manual first before consulting the helpdesk. The Mijn ZonMw helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 17:00 hours on +31 (0)70 349 51 76. However, you can also submit your question by email to servicedesk@zonmw.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days.

6.2 Other information

The whole text of this Call for proposals has been published in both Dutch and English. The Dutch version is deemed authentic. For legal interpretation the text of the Dutch version will be decisive.

NWO/ZonMw processes data from applicants received in the context of this Call for proposals in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, [Privacy Statement | NWO](#).

NWO/ZonMw might approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or research programme.

7 Annexes

7.1 Budget modules and rates

7.1.1 Personnel

For salary tables and rates: see [Salary tables | NWO](#).

PhD student

A PhD student is appointed for 48 months for 1.0 FTE at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or research organisation as referred to in Article 1.1 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024. The equivalent of 48 full-time months, e.g. a 60-month appointment for 0.8 FTE, is also possible. It is possible to apply for a shorter appointment period in special situations. This must be properly justified. This will be assessed by the assessment committee. If a project lasts less than 48 months, it is necessary for the dean or institute director to provide a written commitment to fund the remaining part of the PhD trajectory. It is not possible to apply for funding for a PhD student who started the project to be funded before the grant is awarded.

Please use the rates of a PhD student in the salary tables of UNL and NFU. A one-off personal bench fee of €5,000 is available for each PhD student to stimulate the scientific career.

Engineering Doctorate degree (EngD)

An Engineering Doctorate (EngD) is appointed for a maximum of 24 months for 1.0 FTE. The EngD is employed by the applying research organisation and may, during the research, perform work at an industrial partner for a fixed period of time.¹⁰

Funding for the appointment of an EngD may only be requested for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. It is not possible to apply for funding for an EngD who started the project to be funded before grant is awarded.

Use the rates of a PhD student in the salary tables of UNL and NFU. A one-off personal benchfee of €5,000 is available for each EngD to stimulate the scientific career.

Postdoc

A postdoc is appointed to a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or research organisation as listed in Section 3.1.

Use the rates of a senior academic employee in the salary tables of UNL, and the rates of a postdoc at an umc in the salary tables of NFU.

It is not possible to apply for funding for a postdoc who started the project to be funded before the grant is awarded.

Only a postdoc position with an appointment of at least 12 months for 0.5 fte qualifies as an appointment for which a one-off personal benchfee of €5,000 is available to boost the scientific career.

¹⁰ More information on EngD positions is available via 4TU.

Physician-researcher

Funding may be requested for the appointment of a basic physician or physician-assistant as a physician-researcher to conduct scientific medical research at an umc. A physician-researcher is appointed for 1.0 FTE for a minimum of 36 and a maximum of 48 months. The equivalent of 36 or 48 full-time months, e.g. a 48 or 60-month appointment for 0.8 FTE, is also possible. It is possible to apply for a shorter appointment period in special situations. This must be properly justified. This will be assessed by the assessment committee. If a project lasts less than 48 months, it is necessary that the dean or institute to provide a written commitment to fund the remaining part of the PhD trajectory.

It is not possible to apply for funding for a physician-researcher who started the project to be funded before the grant is awarded.

Use the (medical) researcher rates in the NFU salary tables. For each physician-researcher, a one-off personal bench fee of €5,000 is available to stimulate the scientific career.

Non-scientific personnel

Funding may be requested for non-scientific personnel (NWP) needed to execute the project. These may include, for example, programmers, technical assistants, analysts or project leaders. The use of NWP must be described in the proposal.

The duration of the appointment cannot be longer than the duration of the project funded by NWO. Depending on the job level, a choice is made from the UNL or NFU salary tables for NWP-mbo, NWP-hbo and NWP-academic. No one-off personal benchfee is available for NWP.

Research leave

This budget module allows funding to be applied for the costs of research leave for the main and/or co-applicant(s). This allows the relevant applicant's employer to cover the costs to release them from teaching, supervisory, administrative or management duties (not research duties). The applicant may only use the time released by this research leave for work on the project. The proposal must describe what project-related work the applicant(s) will perform during the exempted time.

NWO will fund the research leave on the basis of the salary rates of a senior academic employee (UNL) or postdoc (NFU) applicable at the time of the decision date.

Personnel of universities of applied sciences, TO2 institutes, educational institutions and other (research) organisations

Funding may be requested for personnel of universities of applied sciences, TO2 institutes, other educational institutions and other (research) organisations. The rates are determined using the Government Tariff Manual (HOT), Table 2, under 2.2 'average total salary cost per salary scale', column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excluding VAT'. The salary scale of the requested position determines the rate from the HOT table.

For organisations that do not use the CAO of the Government of the Netherlands or similar (such as the CAOs of hbo, mbo, secondary education and local authorities), the rate closest to the actual labour costs should be used.

Scientific personnel at a research organisation abroad

Funding may be requested for personnel costs of a foreign research organisation contributing to the project. The foreign research organisation must meet the definition of research organisation as referred to in Article 1.1, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 and to the cumulative conditions listed under 'conditions foreign research organisation'.

Substantiate convincingly how the researcher of the foreign research organisation contributes specific expertise to the project which is not available in the Netherlands at the level required for the project. The assessment committee assesses this substantiation as part of the criterion 'Quality of the research'. This substantiation is not necessary when NWO has concluded a bilateral agreement on *Money Follows Cooperation* with the national research financier of the country where the foreign research organisation is located. The [NWO website](#) lists the research funders with which NWO has such an agreement. NWO does not award grants to co-applicants abroad who are subject to applicable sanction legislation.

The main applicant receives the grant and is responsible for transferring grant funds to the co-applicant's foreign research organisation and for accounting for the use of the foreign part of the grant. The exchange rate risk lies with the applicant. Benefits or expenses due to exchange rates are not eligible.

Use UNL rates adjusted for [country correction coefficients](#). These rates are maximums. No one-off personal benchfee is available.

If more than €125,000 per organisation is requested within this budget module, an audit certificate is required with the final financial statement.

Conditions foreign research organisation

The organisation must be:

- a foundation, association or public law legal entity, or at least its equivalent in the country of establishment of the foreign organisation;
- be principally engaged in conducting fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development independently or in the broad dissemination of the results of its own research activities through education, publications or knowledge transfer;
- be able to declare that the organisation keeps separate accounts with regard to economic/non-economic activities and that companies with decisive influence on the organisation do not have preferential access to the organisation's research results.

Please note: Prior to submitting an application, NWO will assess, on the basis of the above conditions, whether the foreign organisation complies with Article 1.1, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 and is therefore eligible to participate as a co-applicant.

NWO carries out this assessment partly to check that there is no question of granting prohibited state aid. This assessment should also be carried out if an organisation has been assessed within another NWO programme and was allowed as a co-applicant.

For the purpose of this review, the main applicant will submit the following documents from the foreign research organisation(s) by email to planetaryhealth.nwa@zonmw.nl at the latest 10 working days before the submission deadline (i.e. by **27 October 2025 before 14:00:00 CET**):

- a recent extract from the Chamber of Commerce or its equivalent in the country of establishment of the foreign organisation;

- the deed of incorporation and/or current articles of association;
- the latest available annual accounts with an audit report¹¹;
- a Research Organisation Declaration completed by the foreign organisation, available on the funding page of this Call for proposals.

It is permitted to add other relevant documentation. NWO may also request additional information if the above documents are not sufficiently conclusive to determine whether the organisation may act as co-applicant.

If the organisation of the intended co-applicant within another NWO programme has been assessed against these conditions, please contact NWO in time via the above email address to determine whether this organisation should be reassessed.

If the main applicant does not submit the documents required for the condition assessment in time, NWO cannot accept the organisation in question as a co-applicant.

7.1.2 Material

Funding may be requested for all project-specific costs relating to, among others, consumables, purchase of services, materials, small instruments, access to (inter)national facilities, software and research resources that have no economic value after use. Travel and accommodation costs (national and international) for all people working on the project incl. foreign guest researchers, costs for the organisation of (international) workshops and symposia, costs for data management, publications, and costs in the context of citizen science also fall under this module. Up to 50% of the material budget requested from NWO can be used for work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, etc.).

Travel expenses (national and international) will only be reimbursed on the basis of second class/economy class fares. For publications, the provisions in Section 5.1.6 Open access apply. Costs for an audit statement can only be claimed for organisation that are not subject to OCW's education audit protocol for a maximum of €5,000 per audit statement.

It is not permitted to include costs for:

- organisational infrastructure and overhead, including a fully functioning workplace, accommodation, office automation, personnel administration, commuting expenses, training, facilities, HR advice and business care, documentary information provision and home office allowance;
- the use and maintenance of in-house developed scientific infrastructure;
- regular teaching activities;
- members of the supervisory committee (see Section 5.1.7).

Note: If funding is requested for the above project-specific costs from foreign organisations, these organisations should be assessed before submission in the manner described in section 7.1.1 *Scientific staff at a research organisation abroad*.

¹¹ Organisations that are not legally obliged to have their annual accounts audited do not have to provide such an audit report. However, they must be able to demonstrate that this legal requirement does not apply to the organisation concerned.

7.1.3 Investments

Funding may be requested for any project-specific resources for research or costs related to construction or further development of scientific infrastructure that retain economic value or can be reused after project completion. The beneficiary acquires ownership of these research resources on completion of the project. In case the beneficiary achieves profits from the beneficial ownership of the research funds, these profits must be invested in primary activities of the beneficiary as referred to in Article 3.1.4, paragraph 2 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024. This includes the purchase of equipment with residual value for the performance of research and investments in the construction or (further) development of scientific infrastructure. Personnel costs as part of the investment can be recorded as personnel costs.

If equipment will not be used for the proposed project during its entire lifetime, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the duration of the proposed project, calculated according to generally recognised accounting principles, are eligible for funding.

Investment costs should be adequately specified and justified in the proposal.

Eligible costs are:

- costs for investments in scientific equipment;
- costs for investments in datasets;
- salary costs for personnel with essential technical expertise necessary for the development or construction of an investment.

Ineligible are:

- costs for infrastructural facilities that can be considered part of the usual infrastructure full functioning workplace, accommodation, office automation, personnel administration, travel expenses commuting, training, facilities management, HR advice and business care, documentary information provision, home working allowance);
- data collections and any related software and bibliographies already available in other ways;
- other personnel costs, including personnel costs for operating and conducting research with the facility;
- costs for maintenance and use of equipment on a project. Costs for the use of equipment on a project can be requested through the material budget.

7.1.4 Knowledge utilisation

The budget requested should be adequately specified in the proposal. To determine the rates, use the provisions of the budget modules Personnel (7.1.1) and Material (7.1.2).

Impact Plan approach

It is obligatory to make use of this module when preparing a proposal and use a minimum of 5%, to a maximum of 20% of the grant amount for this module.

Within this module, the project budget includes at least costs for the following activities:

- Specific activities to promote knowledge utilisation to (intermediary) parties not funded in the project, such as knowledge platforms. These activities include joint learning activities, training and communication activities;
- Involving stakeholders: activities organised by the consortium aimed at involving stakeholders, such as consultation workshops, expert meetings, round table meetings, etc.;

- Communication: activities organised by the consortium such as (international) learning events, development of videos, blogs, newsletters and other media expressions. Hiring communication expertise may also fall under this;
- Skills development: Activities aimed at developing skills beyond the levels of individual students, PhDs or postdocs, such as developing courses for stakeholders or master's students;
- Monitoring and evaluation moments in which knowledge utilisation is the subject of discussion: such as, for example, mid-term evaluations and committee meetings.

Note: If funding is requested for the above project-specific costs from foreign organisations, these organisations should be assessed before submission in the manner described in section 7.1.1 *Scientific staff at a research organisation abroad*.

7.1.5 Projectmanagement

The Project Management module offers the opportunity to request a project management post up to a maximum of 10% of the grant amount. The main applicant must adequately justify this post.

Project management includes the following: optimising the organisational structure of the consortium, supporting the consortium and the main applicant, safeguarding the coherence, progress and unity of the project, and coordinating between the sub-projects within the project. These tasks may also be carried out by external parties if they are not available within the main applicant's knowledge institution. Research organisations should take account of public procurement rules in the tender procedure for selecting a third party and, where appropriate, follow a European procurement procedure. The activities of main applicants and co-applicants themselves in relation to the project or project management may not be funded under this budget module.

The budget to be requested for project management can consist of material or implementation costs and personnel costs. For personnel costs, a maximum rate of € 121 per hour can be claimed. The hourly rate of personnel to be appointed must be based on a cost-covering rate and is calculated on the basis of the standard productive number of hours used by the organisation. The cost-covering rate includes:

- (average) gross salary corresponding to the position of the employee who will contribute to the project (based on the collective labour agreement grade of the employee concerned);
- holiday allowance and 13th month (if applicable in the relevant collective labour agreement) in proportion to the FTE deployed;
- social security charges;
- pension costs;
- overheads.

Project management tasks may be carried out by external parties, but the part of (commercial) hourly rates that exceeds the rates stated is not eligible for funding and therefore cannot be included in the budget.

7.2 Indexing

The rate at the time of the decision date applies. NWO will, if necessary, apply a one-off indexation of personnel costs when awarding the grant. The date on which the rates take effect is used for this purpose. If the date of publication of the fees is later than the effective date, the date of publication is used. The tariffs of the Universities of the Netherlands (UNL) usually take effect on 1 July, of the Dutch Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU) on 1 August and of the Government Tariffs Manual (HOT) on 1 January.

The on-off indexation does not affect the grant ceiling and the maximum grant amount to be applied for. The grant ceiling and maximum requestable grant amount remain unchanged during the assessment procedure. If awarded, one-off indexation will be applied to the grant amount.

If co-funding is required or permitted, the one-off indexation does not affect the requirements for own contributions and co-funding, nor the IP rights that may result from the co-funding.

7.3 Research organisations

The research organisations listed below may act as co-applicants in a consortium. The check mentioned in Section 3.1.1 is **not** required for these organisations.

1. IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
2. KNMI - Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute)
3. RIVM - Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment)
4. Waag Futurelab
5. Nivel

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