Please note: the Dutch version of the grant call is authoritative! (*Let op: de Nederlandse versie van de subsidieoproep is leidend!)*

PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure 2025

Date of publication: July 28th 2025
Deadline: October 6th 2025, 14.00 CEST

Take note:

- You may only submit a full grant application if your project idea has received a positive recommendation, or if you have notified the program team via pharmaNL@zonmw.nl within 4 weeks of receiving a negative recommendation that you intend to submit despite the negative advice (see section 3.1 Conditions).
- The amount of characters that may be used is limited in the application form. Spaces also count as characters. Please take this into account when preparing your application.

Contents

1 Summary

You may only submit a full grant application if your project idea has received a positive recommendation, or if you have notified the program team via pharmaNL@zonmw.nl within 4 weeks of receiving a negative recommendation that you intend to submit despite of the negative advice (see section 3.1 Conditions).

Who can apply
PharmaNL is a Dutch nationwide public-private consortium consisting of Leiden University, Campus Groningen and Pivot Park, in close collaboration with FAST (Centre for Future Affordable Sustainable Therapy Development). PharmaNL was allocated funding from the Dutch National Growth Fund (NGF) in 2022, with the aim to sustainably boost the entire Dutch value chain of medicine development and production. To succeed, PharmaNL intends to invest in advanced infrastructure for a shared use by pharmaceutical startups, scale-ups and academic research groups. The grants are meant for Dutch companies, research and knowledge institutions that wish to build and/or upgrade a shared pharmaceutical infrastructure.

What for
This grant call focuses on the specific themes identified previously in the investment agenda (only available in Dutch) of PharmaNL its Shared Development Infrastructure programme line. As part of this grant call, grants are available to build and/or upgrade infrastructure facilities for the development, upscaling and production of innovative medicines in the Netherlands. Grants are subject to the condition that the infrastructure facilities should be available for shared use for at least 50% of the available time by startups, scale-ups and academic research groups at a marketed valued price.

What to request
The total available grant budget is € 24 million. Grant applications can be submitted up to € 5 million for each project, with a maximum term of 4 years. It is mandatory to provide an own contribution of 50% of the total budget. The costs eligible for funding are those incurred for tangible and intangible assets relating to the building and/or upgrading of infrastructure. Next, staffing costs and costs involved in the realisation, commissioning and modification of infrastructure are eligible for funding, providing that this meets the conditions of the state aid instrument applied. For further information, see section 3.1.4 'How much funding can you apply for'.

When

Online information meeting detailed application	Tuesday August 5th 2025
Deadline for submitting detailed grant application	Monday October 6th 2025, 14:00
Deadline restore detailed grant application (if application incomplete)	No later than Thursday October 9th 2025
Receipt of referees' comments	Friday November 7th 2025
Deadline for submitting rebuttals	Tuesday November 25th 2025
Committee meeting with interview	January 2026
Decision	February 2026
Final start date	4 months after acceptance

- Subsequently to the submission deadline of a project idea and detailed grant application, ZonMw checks every application for completeness. If your application does not meet all requirements, ZonMw will notify you and you will be given **up to 48 hours** to supplement the application. To make this process smoothly, please ensure that the secretariat of ZonMw can reach you (by phone) the following days after the deadline.
- ZonMw can decide to discontinue processing an application if it still fails to meet the conditions after the maximum 48-hour rectification period as ZonMw is obliged to treat all parties in an equal and non-discriminatory way. This is in line with the equality principle.
- An interview is part of the review process for your grant application. An audio recording will be made of the interview. At the end of the review process, the tape will be destroyed.

2 Aim of the call for grant applications

This is the first open grant round within the PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure program. The promramme will entail one additional and final round in 2026. The purpose of the current call is to

address the specific themes as identified in PharmaNL its investment agenda for the Shared Development Infrastructure program line.

Background
PharmaNL is a Dutch nationwide public-private consortium consisting of Leiden University, Campus Groningen and Pivot Park, in close collaboration with FAST. PharmaNL its proposal has been awarded a grant from the NGF in 2022. The aim of PharmaNL is to provide a sustainable boost to the entire Dutch value chain of medicine development and production. The economic and social potential of this industry is not fully met partly due to challenges identified in the process of getting medicines efficiently from the lab to the patient.

PharmaNL program lines
The PharmaNL program is addressing these challenges based on two nationally coordinated program lines:

- 'Shared Development Infrastructure' aims to establish a shared infrastructure for the development, upscaling and production of innovative medicines that can be used by pharmaceutical start-ups, scale-ups and academic groups.
- 'Human Capital Growth' aims to boost the range of pharmaceutical educational programs available at postgraduate level in a targeted way, partly with the opportunities for hybrid and lifelong learning.

In consultation with the PharmaNL consortium, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) has commissioned ZonMw to run the PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure programme. In accordance with PharmaNL its approved proposal, the program will focus on the creation of an advanced infrastructure essential for the development, upscaling and production of innovative medicines in the Netherlands. An important condition to the program is that the infrastructure facilities should be available for shared use by startups, scale-ups and academic research groups for at least 50% of the available time at a marketed valued price. By strengthening and expanding the existing infrastructure for shared use by pharmaceutical startups, scale-ups and academic groups, the cost of research, development and innovation should ultimately reduce. This will result in more efficient and effective processes for new medicine development and production, and thereby reduce the timelines from lab to the patient.

ZonMw has also been commissioned by the Ministry of VWS to run PharmaNL its Human Capital Growth programme. The link between PharmaNL its Shared Development Infrastructure and Human Capital Growth programme is important as the infrastructure will provide opportunities that ask for more practically-orientated courses and study programmes. For example, allowing participants to become acquainted with complex equipment will mean that they can be inducted and become productive within companies more rapidly.

Background to PharmaNL its investment agenda and ZonMw's grant call
PharmaNL established an investment agenda to gain a better understanding of the challenges and needs in the pharmaceutical sector that require investments. To study these challenges and needs, PharmaNL has conducted a gap analysis and an expert session to obtain input from parties within the sector. Examples of these parties include (bio-)science parks, companies and institutions involved in the development and production of innovative medicines. An investment agenda featuring specific themes has been assembled based on this input. As part of the current grant call, funding is available for the themes identified in PharmaNL its investment agenda. The themes are as follows:

- Molecular diagnostics and imaging
- Early discovery infrastructure
- Combined themes: small scale (shared) manufacturing facilities, and/or bioprocessing[1] and fermentation and/or sustainable manufacturing

For each theme, specific criteria have been identified which are described in section 4.2 'Relevance criteria'. These are based on the need from the field.

[1] *Bioprocessing* means the use of intact, living cells, or components thereof, to generate or process pharmaceutically relevant products.

3 Conditions and obligations

Certain rights, conditions and obligations should be taken into account when applying for a ZonMw grant. The rights, conditions and obligations of a grant applicant are based upon the Dutch General Administrative Law Act (Awb). Article 4.2 of the Awb contains specific provisions applying to ZonMw grants. General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw also apply.

3.1 Conditions

You may only submit a full grant application if your project idea has received a positive recommendation, or if you have notified the program team via pharmaNL@zonmw.nl within 4 weeks of receiving a negative recommendation that you intend to submit despite the negative advice (see section 3.1 Conditions).

For your grant proposal to be considered, it must follow the hereafter described conditions.

3.1.1. Who is eligible for a grant?

Public or private legal entities established in the Netherlands can apply for a grant. The target group for the grant are Dutch companies, research and knowledge institutions that want to build and/or upgrade a shared pharmaceutical infrastructure.

3.1.2. Avoiding State aid

In accordance with Article 107, paragraph 1 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ("the Treaty"), state aid is prohibited. In view of this, ZonMw will not award any grants if this leads or might lead to the unlawful granting of state aid[2]. If a grant is awarded to a company, this constitutes state aid. The decisive factor for qualifying as a company is whether the organisation carries out an economic activity. The form of the legal entity and whether activities are profitable are not considered.

In order to lawfully grant state aid to companies, the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) is applied in this regard. If you have questions about the application of the GBER, ZonMw recommends seeking advice from legal experts within your organisation.

Article 27 GBER - Aid for innovation clusters

Article 27 of the GBER applies when an entity meets the definition of an innovation cluster.The GBER uses the following definition for innovation clusters[3]:

'Structures or organised groups of independent parties (such as innovative start-ups, small, medium and large enterprises, as well as research and knowledge dissemination organisations, non-for-profit organisations and other related economic actors) designed to stimulate innovative activity through promotion, sharing of facilities and exchange of knowledge and expertise and by contributing effectively to knowledge transfer, networking, information dissemination and collaboration among the undertakings and other organisations in the cluster'

Within an innovation cluster, investment aid and operating aid can be granted. Investment aid can only be granted to the legal entity operating the innovation cluster. Operating aid, on the other hand, may also be granted to the operator of the innovation cluster. The operator, if different from the owner, may be a legal entity or a consortium of undertakings without separate legal personality. If a consortium of enterprises wants to claim operating aid, it is mandatory to stipulate in the collaboration agreement that the consortium as a whole is the operator of the innovation cluster. The collaboration agreement must be delivered to ZonMw after the project has been rewarded a grant. In addition, each company must keep separate accounts for the costs and revenues of each activity (ownership, operation and use of the cluster) according to the applicable accounting standards. In section 3.1.5. 'What is the amount of grant I can apply for?' is described which of the costs that are related to investment and operation of an innovation cluster are eligible for funding.

Article 26 GBER - investment aid for research infrastructure

[1] *Bioprocessing* means the use of intact, living cells, or components thereof, to generate or process pharmaceutically relevant products.

[2] Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A02014R0651-20210801#tocId39

In cases where the definition of innovation clusters not applies, article 26 of the GBER is applied. The eligible costs shall be the investment costs in intangible and tangible assests related to building and/or upgrading of infrastructure. Costs related to the operation of the infrastructure are not eligible for funding. In section 3.1.5. 'What is the amount of grant I can apply for?' costs that are eligible for funding within article 26 GBER can be found.

Research organisations
The primary activities of research organisations are usually non-economic in nature and therefore fall outside the scope of state aid law. Please note that if economic activities are involved, such as the rental of a laboratory, state aid law may apply, even to research organisations. In case of doubt, seek advice from legal experts within your organisation.

Mandatory annex avoiding state aid
Parties wishing to apply for grants are required to add the mandatory annex 'application of state aid law framework' to the application. This annex should state the following:
- If an applicant wishes to apply for a grant as a research organisation, it must be declared that the definition of a research organisation according to the European Commission is met by an authorised representative of that organisation.
- Companies wishing to claim a grant must declare that the conditions and obligations that follow from the applicable article of the GBER are met.

In Annex 1 - State aid - GBER, you can find an overview of the specific requirements and common interests that follow from the GBER (only available in Dutch).

3.1.3. Avoiding indirect state aid

When companies and research organisations collaborate on a project, there is a risk of indirect state aid to companies. This may be the case if these companies obtain an advantage by collaborating with publicly funded research organisations, e.g. get access to knowledge developed by the research organisation without paying a market fee. According to section 2.2.2 of the framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (R&D&I)[3], indirect state aid to participating companies can be avoided if the conditions for 'actual collaboration' (daadwerkelijke samenwerking in Dutch) are met. Note that this does not affect direct state aid. For funding companies, the conditions of the GBER still apply. The conditions for 'actual collaboration' must be included in a collaboration agreement that must be delivered to ZonMw subsequent to project honouration. Figure 1 shows a flow chart that can be used as an aid to determine whether indirect state aid is involved. For the conditions and explanation, see Appendix 2 - State Aid - Actual Cllaboration.

When drawing up a collaboration that outlines the conditions for 'actual collaboration' , it is important to note that project activities can only start once the collaboration agreement has been signed by all collaborating parties involved. Project activities cannot begin prior to signing. More information on state aid can be found on the ZonMw webpage State aid exemption regulations.

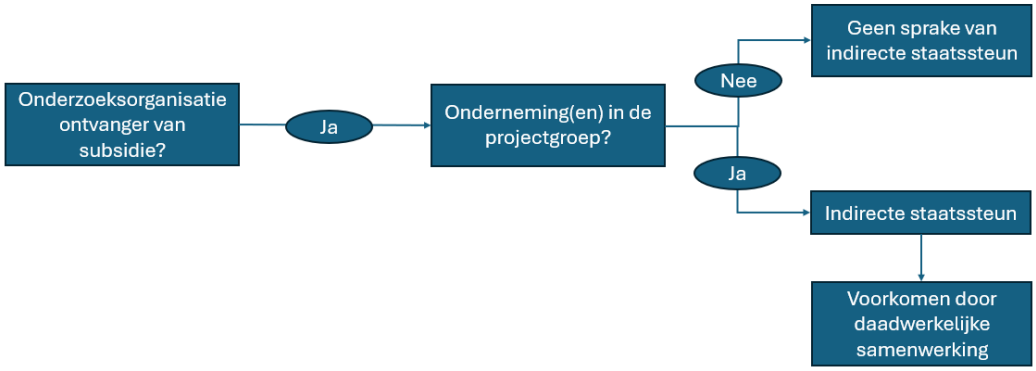

Figure 1. Flowchart application avoiding indirect state aid using state aid instrument covering actual collaboration.

[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&rid=7

3.1.4. Third-party collaboration and contributions

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

If there is a collaboration between different parties, the grant application and budget should clearly show:

- The parties involved and how they will actively contribute to the project. These parties should appear in the budget as a party intending to claim a portion of the grant. Parties that will be making an active contribution as partners in the collaborative project for their own account and at their own risk should be included as well.
- The parties that a sponsorship agreement will be concluded, and an outline of their in-kind or monetary contributions.
- Which parties will be hired, or, if this is not yet known, which activities will be outsourced to third parties, included related costs that will be incurred (including VAT). For more information and the conditions of hire/terms of contract, see the ZonMw web page.

Collaborations and sponsorship must be finalised prior to presenting the detailed grant application.

Collaboration and sponsorship agreement

More information about the various types of collaboration and contributions (sponsoring/assignment) with sample agreements can be found on the ZonMw web page Grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties as an aid to drafting the relevant agreement. The accompanying explanation contains the conditions the agreement must meet. The conditions specified on this web page and explanation are an integral part of this call for grant applications.

3.1.5. What is the amount of the grant I can apply for?

- The total available grant budget is € 24 million.
- A maximum of € 5 million can be requested for a maximum project duration of 4 years.
- The total project costs in the full application may not differ more than 15% percent from the proposed costs stated in the project idea. Additionally, the requested subsidy may never exceed € 5 million per project. Deviations may only be made with the permission of ZonMw,
- Your detailed application must be accompanied by an itemised budget completed according to a fixed format. Click here for the fixed budget format.
- The budget must be realistically substantiated. It should indicate details of how the planned project activities relate to the budget for which you are applying.
- The advance payment amounts to 80% of the grant in the first year and 20% after approval of the final financial statement of the project.

Mandatory own contribution

- An own contribution of 50% of the total project costs is mandatory. This applies to both research organisations and companies. This contribution may be in cash, in kind (e.g. by contribution of equipment or hours) or a combination of both. When submitting the detailed grant application, it should be indicated which parties are making an own contribution to the project and how the own contribution is structured (mandatory format).
- For companies, the mandatory own contribution must be financed with funds that have not been obtained via another subsidy or from the provision of a public legal entity (so-called private funds), as it follows from the GBER that the aid intensity does not exceed 50% of the eligible costs. Incidentally, this also means that non-eligible costs are fully borne by the company and cannot be included in this own contribution.
- For research organisations, the own contribution may come from public funds, provided that the requested subsidy falls outside the scope of state aid law.
- When contributing own funds, take into account that:
    - Research organisations are deemed to be governmental organisations and their financial resources are considered to be attributable to the state. For this reason, the resources of research organisations are designated as being publicly funded.

  - Companies in which the government has a predominant influence are designated as state companies. The financial resources of state companies are considered to be attributable to the state. For this reason, the resources of state companies are designated as being publicly funded.
- Because ZonMw requires assurance that the parties/sponsors collaborating on any project will be legally bound to provide the agreed contribution, each collaborating party/sponsor must provide a Letter of Commitment on submission of the detailed grant application. To that cause, the template can be found on the ZonMw webpage Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties. The following content and conditions apply:
  - The letter must describe the contribution in cash or in kind (including activities) and the involvement (collaborating party or sponsor).
  - Each collaborating party or sponsor must deliver a Letter of Commitment, but the organisation the main applicant belongs to.
  - The Letter of Commitment must be addressed to the organisation of the main applicant.
  - The Letter of Commitment must be signed by an entitled representative.
  - The Letter of Commitment may not contain any other suspensive conditions, except that the commitment only applies if ZonMw will honors the grant proposal.

Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for funding, depending on the applicable GBER article:

- Based on article 26 and 27 of the GBER:
  Investment costs relating to the construction and/or upgrading of the infrastructure
  - Tangible fixed assets: consisting of land, buildings and installations, machines and equipment (depreciation costs applicable).
  - Intangible fixed assets: physical and financial intangible assets, such as patents, licences, know-how or other intellectual property rights.
- Based on article 27 of the GBER:
  Operating expenses, namely the personnel and administrative costs (including overhead costs) relating to the realisation, commissioning and modification of infrastructure (providing that this meets the conditions of the state aid instrument applied).
  - Animation of the cluster to facilitate collaboration, information sharing and the provision or channelling of specialised and customised business support services.
  - Marketing of the cluster to increase participation of new undertakings or organisations and to increase visibility
  - Management of the cluster's facilities; organisation of training programmes, workshops and conferences to support knowledge sharing and networking and transnational cooperation.
- Accounting costs are only eligible for funding if the grant falls outside state aid law or if article 27 GBER applies (under administrative costs). Accountanting costs may be included in the budget up to a maximum of € 3.500,- and are only allowed for projects with a budget of € 125.000,- or more. Under Article 26 GBER, accountant costs are not eligible, which means they are entirely for the parties' account. Accounting costs are eligible, provided they comply with state aid law, because after completion of a project it is compulsory to submit an auditor's report with the final financial statement. This arraganment does not apply to universities and university medical centres. Separate arrangements have been made with these institutions regarding the required audit report. Please contact your financial department for this.
- For the staffing costs of academic institutions, the VSNU (universities, etc.) and NFU (UMCs, etc.) salary tables must be used. If these tables are not sufficient, you must calculate the salary scale, scale level and FTE factor and 12 times the gross monthly salary for each position. A maximum hourly rate will apply, based on scale 16 from the *Handleiding Overheidstarieven* [HOT- Manual Dutch Government Rates] 2024. It must be justified why the rates from the VSNU and/or NFU tables are insufficient.
- If state aid law is not applicable, costs of Open Access publications must be included in the project budget, so that it is published according to the full gold Open Access route. This applies up to a maximum amount of €5,000. Include ‘Open Access’ as a separate line in your budget. For more information on Open Access, please refer to section 3.1 and the ZonMw Open Access webpage.

3.1.6. Practical conditions

Grant application

- Write your detailed grant application in English.
- Complete the application form via MijnZonMw. For more information on submitting the application form, see section 5.1. of this grant call.
    - **Please note:** The amount of characters that may be used is limited in the application form. Spaces also count as characters. Please take this into account when preparing your application.
- A maximum of € 5 million can be applied for per project for a maximum duration of 4 years.
- It is mandatory to include a detailed budget. Click here for the mandatory budget format.
- The total amount of the detailed grant application should not deviate more than 15% from the previously stated amount in the project idea application. Additionally, the requested subsidy may never exceed € 5 million per project. Deviations may only be made with the permission of ZonMw,
- If you include overhead costs in the budget, you must itemise these costs and substantiate this by means of a calculation.
- Use a business plan (mandatory format) to show that the proposed infrastructure can be achieved with the available expertise, manpower, facilities and resources. A market analysis, risk analysis and operating budget must be included in the business plan.
- In your application, describe whether there are any opportunities, and if so which ones, to create a link with the PharmaNL Human Capital Growth programme line. Although this is not an assessment criteria, this information is required in order to clarify the extent to which there are opportunities for facilitating links between the programme lines.
- Your detailed grant application must include a public summary as well as a technical summary of your project. The public summary must be understandable to laypersons, whereas the technical summary is aimed at professional peers. In the event of grant approval, both summaries will be published on ZonMw's website.
- Please attach the following annexes to the prepared application:
    - **Annex 1. Figures and tables**
        - Optional / No format / Max. 2 A4 / PDF
    - **Annex 2. Completed form on grant application theme**
      Using the format, please justify under which theme of the investment agenda your application falls and describe how your application contributes to the specific criteria of the respective theme.
        - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF
    - **Annex 3. Planning**
      Gain insight into the project planning using a Gantt chart.
        - Mandatory / No mandatory format / Max. 1 A4 / PDF
    - **Annex 4. Business plan**
      Using the format, draw up a business plan. Part of the business plan is a market analysis, risk analysis and financial plan for the continuation of the infrastructure after the subsidy ends.
        - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF
    - **Annex 5. Operating budget**
      The operating budget should indicate the expected revenue and expenditure for each year. This should be done for the duration of the project + the first two years after the grant ends.
        - Mandatory / No mandatory format / Excel
    - **Annex 6. Justification of overhead costs**
      Required if overhead costs are claimed. Specify from which costs the overhead is composed and substantiate this with a calculation.
        - If applicable / No mandatory format / Excel
    - **Annex 7. Letter of Commitment**
      Mandatory in case of cooperation and/or sponsorship (in cash or in kind). Each collaborating or sponsoring organization must deliver a signed form, but the organization the of the main applicant.
        - If applicable / Format / PDF
    - **Annex 8. Letter of Support**
    - To indicate support from an organization other than financial support. The Letter of Support must be signed by an entitled representative.
        - If applicable / No format / PDF

- **Annex 9. Financing own contribution**
  Please substantiate for each participating party making an own contribution to the project what the financing of the own contribution looks like.
  - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF
- **Annex 10. Application of the state aid legal framework (only in Dutch)**
  For all grant-receiving research organisations and enterprises: a completed and signed declaration.
  - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF
- **Annex 11. Declaration GBER I / GBER II / GBER III (only in Dutch)**
  Mandatory for all grant-receiving undertakings if Article 26 or 27 of the GBER is applied. The following declarations must be included in a single compiled PDF:
  1. **GBER I:** A completed and signed order for recovery of state aid
     - If applicable / Mandatory format
  2. **GBER II:** A completed and signed declaration of company not in difficulties.
     - If applicable / Mandatory format
  3. **GBER III:** A completed and signed declaration of cumulation of state aid.
     - If applicable / Mandatory format
- **Annex 12. Technical project summary**
  - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF

It is not allowed to add additional annexes to your application. Any additional annex that is added to to the application that is not included in the list above, will not be taken into account during the evaluation of the application.

3.2 Obligations

General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw are applicable when you are awarded a grant. In addition to the General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw, the following conditions also apply:

- **Separate accounting**
  If both economic and non-economic activities are carried out using the same infrastructure, separate accounting should be maintained in relation to the financing of, costs of and revenues from those economic activities based on consistently applied and objectively justifiable cost accounting principles (26 GBER)
- **Reporting for the National Growth Fund**
  There is an obligation to report from ZonMw, PharmaNL and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport to the NGF. This requires you to complete a report every year. ZonMw will inform you of further details in a timely manner.
- **Open Access**
  All publications resulting from scientific research fully or partially funded by ZonMw must be made available in Open Access, in accordance with the ZonMw Open Access policy. ZonMw accepts various Open Access routes. In addition to articles, ZonMw encourages researchers to make their results available in other formats via Open Access, such as monographs, books, conference proceedings and grey literature, but also research data and knowledge products for practice-oriented research, such as models, protocols, prototypes, digital tools and demonstrations.
  For more information about the ZonMw Open Access policy, conditions and opportunities, please visit our website.

4 Assessment criteria

4.1 Assessment procedure

This funding round consists of two stages, a project idea stage and a grant application stage. During the project idea stage, the programme committee assessed the relevance and general quality of the project ideas. The committee selected the projects that fit to the relevance criteria of this call for grant applications (see Section 4.2 Relevance criteria). These received a positive recommendation for drawing up of a detailed grant application. The program team must be contacted if the applicant desires to submit a full proposal when the project idea has received negative feedback (see section 3.1 Conditions).

The detailed grant application is first assessed by external, independent experts (reviewers) based on the quality criteria of the call for grant applications (see Section 4.3 Quality criteria). The main applicant will receive the anonymised reviewer reports and will be given the right to rebuttal. The grant application, reviewer reports and the rebuttal are then submitted to the assessment committee for review. The committee will also assess whether bonus points should be awarded for integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI), advanced and emerging therapies[4] and/or drug delivery capabilities in the application. The assessment by committee members is the starting point for discussions on the applications during the committee meeting. When an interview is part of the assessment procedure, applicants will be invited to answer committee member questions during the committee meeting. In the end, the committee will make a recommendation on the relevance, quality and prioritisation of the applications based on the application, reviewer reports, the rebuttal and the interview. This is described in Section 4.4. Prioritisation. Finally, the ZonMw Board of Directors will make a decision on granting or rejecting the applications based on the committee its advice.

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

4.2 Relevance criteria

- **Alignment with PharmaNL its vision and the objectives of the program**
  Describe how the application contributes to:
  - Creating high-performance and innovative infrastructures for the development, scale-up and production of innovative medicines in the Netherlands.
  - Making these infrastructures accessible to start-ups, scale-ups and academic research groups.
  - Developing innovative pharmaceutical products and manufacturing technologies for drug development and production in the Netherlands.
  - Improving the appeal that the Netherlands has as a business location for pharmaceutical researchers, entrepreneurs and manufacturers.
- **Contribution to the Key Performance Indicator (KPI)**
  PharmaNL aims to supply to a total of more than 100 pharmaceutical innovation projects that will use a PharmaNL-funded infrastructure. This means about 8-10 innovation projects for each infrastructure project. Describe and substantiate to what extent the proposed infrastructure will contribute to achieving this number of innovation projects.
- **The need for public funding**
  Justify why public funding is needed to achieve the proposed infrastructure. It will also be assessed whether there is overlap with already existing or funded infrastructure facilities. Projects that will not be eligible for a grant are projects that apply for grants for infrastructure facilities that are already sufficiently available in the Netherlands, projects that have already been funded by PharmaNL, or projects that could be implemented without PharmaNL funding. Here you can find what projects have already been funded by the PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure programme.
- **Alignment with themes in the investment agenda**
  Indicate and justify to which theme your grant application belongs. If you application fits into multiple themes, select one main theme.
  - Molecular diagnostics and imaging
  - Early discovery infrastructure
  - Clustered theme of small-scale (shared) manufacturing facilities, and/or bioprocessing[5] and fermentation and/or sustainable manufacturing
- **Specific criteria per theme in the investment agenda**
  Specific criteria have been included for each theme, in line with the investment agenda. Describe how the specific criteria are met for the theme in which your application is primarily situated. The additional criteria for each theme are listed below:

  Molecular diagnostics and imaging

[4] The 'advanced and emerging therapies' theme includes radiopharmaceuticals, bacteriophages, cell & gene therapy, nanomedicines and advanced vaccines.

[5] Bioprocessing refers to the use of intact, living cells, or components thereof, to generate or process pharmaceutically relevant products.

a. Describe how your application contributes to the development of new diagnostic methods and/or imaging techniques that could potentially improve the precision and effectiveness of pharmaceutical interventions[6].
b. Indicate which infrastructure facilities your application focuses on and explain why there is a need for them. Examples of infrastructure facilities within this theme are:
   - Advanced optical tracing technologies (such as MRI, PET, and high-resolution microscopy).
   - Molecular analysis facilities for biomarker identification and validation (including next-generation sequencing, qPCR and multiplex assays).
   - Image and data analysis facilities supported by AI and machine learning.
   - Access to integrated platforms for multimodal in vitro imaging and diagnostics for the development of new therapeutic interventions.

Early discovery infrastructure

a. Describe how your application contributes to the objective of guiding therapeutic innovations through the discovery and early preclinical development phases more quickly and more successfully.
b. Indicate which infrastructure facilities your application focuses on and explain why there is a need for them. Examples of infrastructure facilities within this theme are:
   - Advanced physiochemical characterisation (such as NMR, LC-HR-MSn and X-ray).
   - Biological characterisation techniques and other innovative translational techniques (including target engagement, organ-on-a-chip technology, ADME-Tox and in vitro/in vivo correlation studies).
   - Support and expertise in the field of medicinal chemistry.
   - High throughput and high content screening including automated robotic systems and advanced preclinical imaging technologies.

Combined theme 'small-scale (shared) manufacturing facilities, and/or bioprocessing[7] and fermentation and/or sustainable manufacturing'

a. Describe how your application contributes to innovations within pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical production processes.
b. Describe how your application will contribute to sustainability and the reduction of the environmental impact within the development and production process of pharmaceutical products.
c. Indicate within which subtheme(s) your application is situated and describe the criterion that apply:
   - Small-scale (shared) manufacturing facilities
     - Describe how your application contributes to make small-scale manufacturing facilities and/or innovative technologies accessible in the small-scale production of pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals.
     - Indicate which infrastructure facilities your application focuses on and explain why there is a need for them. Examples of infrastructure facilities within this theme are:
       - Flexible and modular production systems, suitable for small-scale production.
       - Small-scale pilot production facilities that are used for process development and maximisation to enable the step to scaling up.
       - Automated and robotic production lines, including AI-driven process controls and quality assurance.
   - Bioprocessing and fermentation
     - Describe how your application contributes to the scale up for the production of small molecules and biologics and/or commercial production and distribution.

[6] Within this theme, your application may not focus on treating patients or on the frequent use of the infrastructure in daily clinical practice.
[7] Bioprocessing refers to the use of intact, living cells, or components thereof, to generate or process pharmaceutically relevant products.

        - Indicate which infrastructure facilities your application focuses on and explain why there is a need for them. Examples of infrastructure facilities within this theme are:
            - Advanced, shared facilities for the production of biopharmaceutical products, including maximisation of microorganisms and cell cultures.
            - Technologies for the scale up and process intensification that improve the efficiency and consistency of production processes.
            - Access to innovative, shared infrastructure focused on advanced production, purification and isolation of proteins (e.g. target receptors, enzymes) of candidate biopharmaceutical products.
            - Integration of digital tools and process monitoring using AI and machine learning to improve the precision and control in bioprocessing.
    - Sustainable manufacturing
        - Describe how your application contributes to making already existing infrastructures sustainable.
        - Indicate which infrastructure facilities your application focuses on and explain why there is a need for them. Examples of infrastructure facilities within this theme are:
            - Advanced bioprocessing facilities that make more efficient use of raw materials and energy.
            - Technologies for green chemistry and sustainable synthesis processes aimed at reducing waste and emissions, solvent use, and emissions in the production of pharmaceutical products.
            - Innovative platforms for continuous production and process intensification that reduce the production costs and environmental footprint, that can be used for both biopharmaceuticals and chemicals.
            - Shared facilities for waste and waste water treatment and recycling of chemical reagents to minimise the environmental impact of pharmaceutical production processes.
            - Integration of digital tools, such as process maximisation using AI and machine learning, to facilitate sustainability.

– **General relevance criteria**
  Describe, where applicable, how your application contributes to the following relevance criterion:
    - **Access to data** - ZonMw encourages the optimal use of data. Describe, if applicable to your application, how existing data files are used and/or explain why new data needs to be collected. Also indicate how you plan to share future data/results in accordance with the FAIR principles. When planning and budgeting your project, take the opportunities and requirements related to FAIR data and data management into account.
    - **Transition to laboratory animal-free innovations** - Infrastructure projects that are involve to using laboratory animals and therefore do not contribute to the transition to laboratory animal-free innovations, will be excluded, hencethe governmental policy on laboratory animal-free innovations. Describe, where applicable, how your application contributes to the transition to laboratory animal-free innovations.
    - **Conditions for valorisation** - ZonMw aims at wide accessibility for the funded projects; therefore, the ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing (MVL in Dutch) should be applied when licensing the results. If applicable, describe how claims to intellectual property rights are regulated with the parties to the collaboration and any third parties. Also indicate how these parties will comply with the ten principles.

4.3 Quality criteria

– **Objective and results**
  Describe the objective(s) of the project in a clear, specific and concise manner. Also indicate the intended results.
– **Action plan**
    - The action plan must be consistent with the project objective(s).

    - Describe the intended project activities and provide an appropriate step-by-step plan with specific milestones and/or deliverables.
    - In order to achieve certain milestones and/or deliverables, the delegation of roles and responsibilities for the participating parties/people should be clearly stated in the action plan.
- **Feasibility**
    - Substantiate the feasibility of your plan of action, taking into account the specified duration and budget. Indicate how budget and time overruns will be dealt with.
    - Include a Gantt chart of the project's planning timeline as a mandatory annex.
    - Use a business plan (mandatory format) to show that the proposed infrastructure is feasible and that it can be self-sufficient once the grant ends. A market analysis, risk analysis and financial plan must be part of the business plan.
- **Project group or individual**
    - Describe the composition of the project group and indicate the roles of the various people/parties in the implementation of the project.
    - Describe the expertise and experience of these people or parties in the field of planning, setting up and operating pharmaceutical infrastructures.
    - Describe the knowledge and experience of the project group leader(s) in terms of required collaboration and leadership.
    - Justify how the available expertise and staffing available in the project group will result in the successful implementation of the project.
- **Program-specific criteria**
    - Organisational and decision-making structure
        - Describe how the organisational and decision-making structure of the proposed infrastructure will be set up (comprising of the participants, roles, duties and powers). Indicate how responsibilities are distributed and what agreements have already been made or are yet to be made.
        - Describe how the continuity of the leadership will be ensured for the duration of the project.
        - Indicate how the progress of the project will be safeguarded and how adjustments can be made. Also indicate how conflicts will be resolved and how risks will be managed.
    - Safeguarding the open character and non-discriminatory access policy of the infrastructure
        - Making the infrastructure available for at least 50% of the available time for start-ups, scale-ups and academic research groups is mandatory. Specify the percentage of the available time for which the infrastructure will be open to internal users (requesting institutions) and external users (other parties).
        - Access to the infrastructure must be open to several users and be granted on a transparent and non-discriminatory basis. Describe the transparency and non-discriminatory access policy. In doing so, make it clear under what conditions access to the facility will be granted and how requests for access to the infrastructure will be assessed.
    - Use of infrastructure
        - The price charged for the operation or the use of the infrastructure must correspond to or reflect the market price. Provide an indication of the rates/costs of access to the infrastructure for both internal and external users and justify that these prices are consistent with market values.
        - Describe the services that will be made available to the users and how users will be supported with experiments, testing and other use of the facilities.

You can find more information about these criteria in the leaflet containing procedural information for grant applicants.

4.4 Prioritisation

If the qualified applications exceed the amount of funding available, the committee will prioritize the applications. In order to enable careful priority ranking, a three-step assessment will apply:

- **Step 1:** Determining eligibility for approval
- **Step 2:** Priority ranking based on allocation of bonus points

– **Step 3:** Total priority ranking with additional assessment criteria

Figure 2 shows the various steps for the priority ranking.

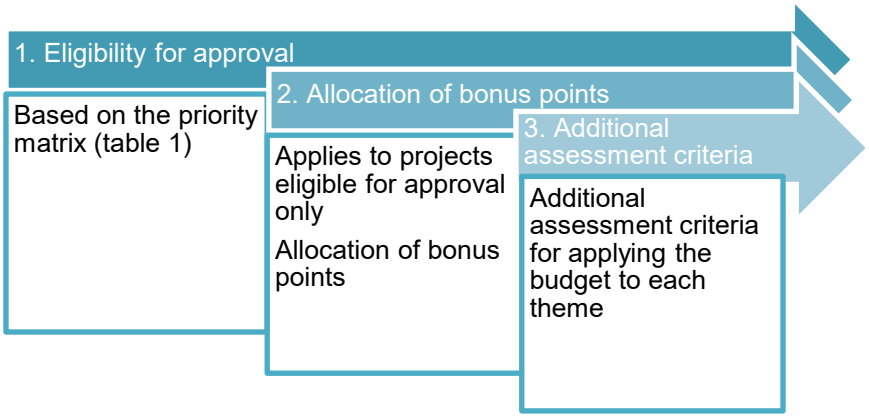

Figure 2. Steps in priority ranking

4.4.1. Step 1: Determining eligibility for approval

The committee assesses each application in terms of the relevance and quality criteria set out in the call for grant applications (see section 4.2. 'Relevance criteria' and 4.3. 'Quality criteria'). As shown in table 1, the committee will score the quality as follows: very good, good, satisfactory, moderate or unsatisfactory. The following scores apply for relevance: highly relevant, relevant, not very relevant or not relevant.

As shown in table 1, the relevance and quality scores equal a numerical score (see score between brackets, e.g. 'very good = 1'). In this, the score for relevance and quality are of equal weight. For relevance, the highest score is '1' and the lowest score is '4', and for quality, the highest score is '1' and the lowest score is '5'. According to this priority ranking, applications with a low score are given greater priority than applications with a high score. In order to be eligible for a grant (i.e. eligible for approval), an application must score at least 'good' for quality and at least 'relevant' for relevance. Only those applications that are eligible for approval based on the relevance and quality score will proceed to step 2.

Table 1. Prioritisation matrix

Prioritisation matrix		Relevance (corresponding score			
		Very relevant (=1)	Relevant (=2)	Low relevant (=3)	Not relevant (=4)
Quality (corresponding score)	Very good (=1)	1	2	reject	reject
	Good (=2)	2	3	reject	reject
	Sufficient(=3)	reject*	reject*	reject	reject
	Poor (=4)	reject	reject	reject	reject
	Insufficient (=5)	reject	reject	reject	reject
	* Applications that are highly relevant or relevant with sufficient quality can only be funded after quality adjustment through an additional rebuttal (if sufficient budget is available).				

4.4.2. Step 2: priority ranking based on allocation of bonus points

The PharmaNL investment agenda includes various elements for which bonus points may be awarded, i.e.: AI, advanced and emerging therapies[8] and drug delivery capabilities. Table 2 shows the elements for each theme for which a bonus point may be allocated. For each application, the committee will assess whether a bonus element has been rewarded and whether it has been sufficiently integrated within the application. If a bonus point is allocated, this is added to the relevance and quality score from step 1. Since applications with a low score are given greater priority than applications with a high score, a bonus point results in a positive advantage in the form of a numerical reduction. In other words, a lower score is better in this case.

Table 2. Allocation of bonus points

Theme from the investment agenda	Bonus points*	target amount
Molecular diagnostics and imaging	AI (= -0.1)	€ 6 million
Early discovery infrastructure	AI (= -0.1)	€ 6 million
Clustered theme: **- Small scale (shared) manufacturing facilities** **- Bioprocessing and fermentation** **- Sustainable manufacturing**	Advanced and emerging therapies, and/or drug delivery capabilities and/or AI (= -0.1)	€ 12 million

* Explanatory note on bonus points

- AI: projects that integrate AI use and innovation within this theme are eligible for a bonus point.
- Advanced and emerging therapies: projects that integrate the theme 'advanced and emerging therapies' are eligible for a bonus point. The 'advanced and emerging therapies' theme includes radiopharmaceuticals, bacteriophages, cell & gene therapy, nanomedicines and advanced vaccines.
- Drug delivery capabilities: projects that contribute to the continuation of Dutch 'drug delivery capabilities' are eligible for a bonus point.
- A maximum bonus point of -0.1 can be allocated for each theme. In the clustered theme, applicants are encouraged to include multiple aspects, but this is not a requirement.

4.4.3. Step 3: additional assessment criteria

The combined scores for relevance, quality and bonus points result in a priority ranking ranging from low to high scores. If, after applying priority ranking, the number of eligible applications exceeds the budget available, the committee will apply the following additional assessment criteria:

- The committee will aim to approve applications up to an amount of € 6 million for 'molecular diagnostics and imaging' and € 6 million for 'early discovery infrastructure'.
- For the clustered theme 'small-scale (shared) manufacturing facilities, and/or bioprocessing and fermentation and/or sustainable manufacturing', the committee will aim to approve applications up to the sum of € 12 million.
- The committee may opt to approve the next application eligible for approval that fits within the target amount at the expense of an application with a higher priority ranking that would exceed the target amount.
- If it proves impossible to spend the target amount for a theme or to do so in full, the committee may decide to reallocate part or all of the budget for that theme to a different theme. As a result, the next application in the priority ranking that would exceed the budget if no reallocation were to happen may still be approved. The budget for any theme can only be reallocated if there are no further applications eligible for approval within that theme or no further applications eligible for approval that fit within the target budget of the theme.

5 Submitting your application

5.1 Submission through Mijn ZonMw

Project ideas/grant applications can only be submitted by the main applicant in ZonMw's online submission system (Mijn ZonMw). The closing date for submitting a project idea is Monday May 19th 2025, at 14.00 CEST.

5.2 Tips

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

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

5.3 Statement of agreement for submission of detailed grant application

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

5.4 Substantive questions

For questions regarding the contents of the application, please contact: Larissa Wijnberg (070 391 60 66) or Carrie Wegh (070 515 03 72), contact us via PharmaNL@zonmw.nl, or check our Q&A.

5.5 Technical questions

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

5.6 Downloads and links

- General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw
- Applying for funding in 10 steps
- What must I submit?
- Conditions and obligations
- The assessment
- Grants and collaborative third-party contributions
- State support exemption
- Datamanagement and FAIR data
- Open Access
- Implementation and impact
- Mijn ZonMw manuals
- Statement of approval for submission of a detailed grant application
- PharmaNL – Shared Development Infrastructuur program page
- Investment agenda PharmaNL (only in Dutch)
- Q&A page

6. Annexes

- Annex 1 – State aid – GBER (
- Annex 2 – State Aid – Actual collaboration

Annex 1 – State aid – GBER (only in Dutch)

Om in aanmerking te komen voor subsidie onder de AGVV moet, behalve aan de inhoudelijke criteria van de subsidieoproep, ook worden voldaan aan de specifieke vereisten die volgen uit de toepasselijke AGVV artikelen. Daarnaast volgen er uit de AGVV enkele gemeenschappelijke bepalingen Hieronder vindt u de specifieke vereisten en gemeenschappelijke bepalingen:

Specifieke vereisten artikel 27 AGVV – Steun voor innovatieclusters

1. Steun voor innovatieclusters is verenigbaar met de interne markt in de zin van artikel 107, lid 3, van het Verdrag en is van de aanmeldingsverplichting van artikel 108, lid 3, van het Verdrag vrijgesteld, mits de in dit artikel en in hoofdstuk I vastgestelde voorwaarden zijn vervuld.
2. Steun voor innovatieclusters wordt uitsluitend verleend aan de rechtspersoon die het innovatiecluster opereert (de clusterorganisatie).
3. Toegang tot de panden, faciliteiten en activiteiten van het cluster staat open voor meerdere gebruikers en wordt op transparante en niet-discriminerende basis verleend. Ondernemingen die ten minste 10 % van de investeringskosten van het innovatiecluster hebben gefinancierd, kunnen preferente toegang krijgen op gunstigere voorwaarden. Om overcompensatie te vermijden, is deze toegang evenredig aan de bijdrage van de onderneming in de investeringskosten en worden deze voorwaarden publiek beschikbaar gesteld.
4. De vergoedingen die voor het gebruik van de faciliteiten van het cluster en voor deelname aan de activiteiten van het cluster worden berekend, stemmen overeen met de marktprijs of weerspiegelen de kosten ervan.
5. Voor de bouw of het upgraden van innovatieclusters mag investeringssteun worden verleend. De in aanmerking komende kosten zijn de kosten van de investeringen in immateriële en materiële activa.
6. De steunintensiteit van investeringssteun voor innovatieclusters bedraagt ten hoogste 50 % van de in aanmerking komende kosten. De steunintensiteit kan worden verhoogd met 15 procentpunten voor innovatieclusters in steungebieden die aan de voorwaarden van artikel 107, lid 3, onder a), van het Verdrag voldoen, en met 5 procentpunten voor innovatieclusters in steungebieden die aan de voorwaarden van artikel 107, lid 3, onder c), van het Verdrag voldoen.
7. Voor de exploitatie van innovatieclusters mag exploitatiesteun worden verleend. De steun mag ten hoogste tien jaar lopen.
8. De voor exploitatiesteun ten behoeve van innovatieclusters in aanmerking komende kosten zijn de personeelskosten en administratieve kosten (met inbegrip van de algemene kosten) met betrekking tot:
   a. het aansturen van het cluster ter bevordering van samenwerking, informatiedeling en het verschaffen of toeleiden van gespecialiseerde en op maat gemaakte zakelijke ondersteuningsdiensten;
   b. de marketing van het cluster om nieuwe ondernemingen of organisaties aan te trekken en de zichtbaarheid te verhogen;
   c. het beheer van de faciliteiten van het cluster, de organisatie van opleidingsprogramma's, workshops en conferenties ter ondersteuning van kennisdeling, netwerking en transnationale samenwerking.
9. De steunintensiteit van exploitatiesteun voor innovatieclusters bedraagt ten hoogste 50% van de totale in aanmerking komende kosten over de periode waarvoor steun wordt toegekend.

Specifieke vereisten artikel 26 AGVV – Investeringssteun voor onderzoeksinfrastructuur

1. Steun voor de bouw of het upgraden van onderzoeksinfrastructuur waarmee economische activiteiten worden verricht, is verenigbaar met de interne markt in de zin van artikel 107, lid 3, van het Verdrag en is van de aanmeldingsverplichting van artikel 108, lid 3, van het Verdrag vrijgesteld, mits de in dit artikel en in hoofdstuk I vastgestelde voorwaarden zijn vervuld.
2. Wanneer met onderzoeksinfrastructuur zowel economische als niet-economische activiteiten worden verricht, wordt voor de financiering, kosten en inkomsten van elk soort activiteit een gescheiden boekhouding gevoerd, op basis van consequent toegepaste en objectief te rechtvaardigen beginselen van kostprijsadministratie.
3. De prijs die voor de exploitatie of het gebruik van de infrastructuur wordt berekend, stemt overeen met een marktprijs.
4. Toegang tot de infrastructuur staat open voor meerdere gebruikers en wordt op transparante en niet-discriminerende basis verleend. Ondernemingen die ten minste 10 % van de

investeringskosten van de infrastructuur hebben gefinancierd, kunnen preferente toegang krijgen op gunstigere voorwaarden. Om overcompensatie te vermijden, is deze toegang evenredig aan de bijdrage van de onderneming in de investeringskosten en worden deze voorwaarden publiek beschikbaar gesteld.
5. De in aanmerking komende kosten zijn de kosten van de investeringen in immateriële en materiële activa.
6. De steunintensiteit bedraagt ten hoogste 50 % van de in aanmerking komende kosten.
7. Wanneer onderzoeksinfrastructuur overheidsfinanciering ontvangt voor zowel economische als niet-economische activiteiten, werken lidstaten een monitoring- en terugvorderingsmechanisme uit om te garanderen dat de toepasselijke steunintensiteit niet wordt overschreden door een toename van het aandeel economische activiteiten ten opzichte van de situatie waarmee op het tijdstip van de toekenning van de steun werd gerekend.

Gemeenschappelijke bepalingen AGVV
- ZonMw verleent geen subsidie als het onvoldoende aannemelijk is dat uw aanvraag aan alle definities en voorwaarden van de AGVV voldoet, of als subsidieverstrekking naar het oordeel van ZonMw leidt tot het verlenen van ongeoorloofde staatssteun in de zin van artikel 107 van het Verdrag betreffende de werking van de Europese Unie.[9]
- ZonMw verleent geen subsidie als de datum van aanvang van de werkzaamheden aan het project of van aanvang van de activiteiten eerder is dan de datum van indiening van de subsidieaanvraag.[10]
- ZonMw verleent geen subsidie aan ondernemingen waartegen een bevel tot terugvordering uitstaat ingevolge een eerder besluit van de Europese Commissie waarbij door Nederland toegekende steun onrechtmatig en onverenigbaar met de interne markt is verklaard.[11] Voeg bij het indienen van de subsidieaanvraag een veklaring bevel tot terugvordering van staatsteun ingevuld en ondertekend toe.
- ZonMw verleent geen subsidie aan ondernemingen in moeilijkheden.[12] Voeg bij het indienen van de subsidieaanvraag een verklaring onderneming niet in moeilijkheden ingevuld en ondertekend toe.
- Cumulering van subsidies (of andere vormen van staatssteun) voor dezelfde – geheel of gedeeltelijk overlappende – in aanmerking komende kosten, mag er niet toe leiden dat de maximale steunintensiteit wordt overschreden. Indien reeds door een bestuursorgaan of door de Europese Commissie subsidie is verstrekt voor dezelfde – geheel of gedeeltelijk overlappende – in aanmerking komende kosten, dan zal ZonMw slechts een zodanig bedrag aan subsidie verstrekken dat het totale bedrag aan subsidie niet meer bedraagt dan het bedrag dat op basis van de AGVV mag worden verleend.[13] Voeg bij het indienen van de subsidieaanvraag een verklaring cumulatie van staatsteun ingevuld en ondertekend toe.

Annex 2 – State aid – Actual collaboration

Actual collaboration must be reflected in a recorded substantive commitment to the collaboration. Participants should be actively involved in the collaboration by having an influence on the design and implementation of the collaboration, sharing the financial risks, being at arm's length (independence) and actively contributing to management of the collaboration. Contract research and the provision of research services – and outsourcing – by their very nature do not qualify as actual collaboration.

Conditions of actual collaboration Section 2.2.2 Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (R&D&I Framework):
1. This concerns collaboration between
    a. at least two independent parties;
    b. of which at least one party fulfils the definition of research organisation[14] and one party qualifies as an undertaking, which

[9] Artikel 1 lid 5 AGVV
[10] Artikel 6 AGVV
[11] Artikel 1, lid 4, sub a AGVV
[12] Artikel 1, lid 4, sub c AGVV. Financiële moeilijkheden als bedoeld in artikel 2, lid 18 van de AGVV
[13] Artikel 8 AGVV
[14] Section 1(3)(ee) R&D&I Framework

   c. pursue a common objective on the basis of a division of tasks (project governance) described in the project proposal, and
   d. jointly define the scope of the collaborative project and contribute to its implementation, and
   e. share the associated financial, technological, research and other risks, and
   f. provide a clear description of the activities of each party involved in the project in work packages and a corresponding clear budget, which clearly indicates which part of the grant is related to which part of the activities and work packages; and
   g. share the project results, and
   h. where the activities fall within the primary activities of a research organisation, being:
      i. educational programme
      ii. independent research or development.
2. One or more parties may bear the full project costs (including through obtaining a grant) and thereby relieve the other parties of the financial risks associated with the project.
3. The envisaged activities fall within the categories of fundamental, industrial research and/or experimental development[15].
4. The above components must be laid down in a collaboration agreement that meets the above conditions before the project starts.
5. Excluded from this are definitive agreements on the market value of the resulting intellectual property rights and the value of contributions to the project.
6. Contract research and the provision of research services are not considered to be forms of cooperation.

Conditions of the grant application
Your grant application must clearly describe the following aspects. Clearly indicate which parties are participating in the actual collaboration and which parties are applying for a grant for its activities.

Please describe for each party in the collaboration:
- whether it is a research organisation or an undertaking (non-research organisation)
- which roles and tasks the party has within the collaboration.
- which activities will be carried out by each party
- what part of the grant is intended for which party (budget)

AND

- how the activity or main activity meets the criteria of fundamental or industrial research or experimental development.
- in a declaration that the parties are financially and legally independent of each other

Conditions of the collaboration agreement
To meet the conditions of actual collaboration, the project activities can only start after the collaboration agreement has been approved by ZonMw and signed by all parties involved in the collaboration.

You can find more information about the conditions and a sample agreement on the ZonMw website. We strongly advise that you use the sample agreement, which has been prepared in line with the requirements for actual collaboration.

The collaboration agreement must include, among other things, a provision on intellectual property rights. This provision regulates that:
- the results of the collaboration that do not give rise to intellectual property rights are widely disseminated;
- the intellectual property rights arising from the collaborative project will be allocated to the different parties in the collaboration in a manner that appropriately reflects the work undertaken, on the premise that ‘the inventor is the owner’;
- a research organisation will receive a remuneration for transferring or licensing its (fully-owned or shared) intellectual property rights to the undertaking(s) equivalent to the market price of those

[15] Section 1(3)(j) R&D&I Framework

rights. A market-based price cannot be determined in advance and should be done at arm’s length conditions.

You must submit for assessment by ZonMw a final, but not yet signed version of the collaboration agreement that meets the conditions .

Project implementation
The entire project must be implemented in compliance with the requirements for actual collaboration. If those requirements are not or no longer met (in full or in part), there is a risk of unlawful state aid being granted to the undertakings concerned and that all or part of the grant may not be awarded or may be withdrawn.

Please note that it is not possible to add new undertakings after the signed collaboration agreement.