

**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 – follow-up 2023-1

Date of publication: July 13th 2026

Deadline: September 7th 2026, 14.00 CEST

Place: The Hague

**Please note:**

- You can only submit a full grant application if you have been invited to do so. ZonMw will contact the lead applicant (principal applicant) to invite the submission of the full proposal.
- The application form has limits on the number of characters you may use. Spaces also count as characters. Please take this into account when preparing your grant application.

### Contents

|        |                                                                          |    |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1      | Summary.....                                                             | 2  |
| 2      | Aim of the call for grant applications.....                              | 3  |
| 3      | Conditions and obligations.....                                          | 3  |
| 3.1    | Conditions.....                                                          | 3  |
| 3.1.1. | Who is eligible for a grant?.....                                        | 3  |
| 3.1.2. | Avoiding State aid.....                                                  | 3  |
| 3.1.3. | Avoiding indirect state aid.....                                         | 5  |
| 3.1.4. | Third-party collaboration and contributions.....                         | 5  |
| 3.1.5. | What is the amount of the grant I can apply for?.....                    | 6  |
| 3.1.6. | Practical conditions.....                                                | 8  |
| 3.2    | Obligations.....                                                         | 9  |
| 4      | Assessment criteria.....                                                 | 9  |
| 4.1    | Assessment procedure.....                                                | 9  |
| 4.2    | Relevance criteria.....                                                  | 10 |
| 4.3    | Quality criteria.....                                                    | 10 |
| 4.4    | Prioritisation.....                                                      | 11 |
| 5      | Submitting your application.....                                         | 12 |
| 5.1    | Submission through Mijn ZonMw.....                                       | 12 |
| 5.2    | Tips.....                                                                | 12 |
| 5.3    | Statement of agreement for submission of detailed grant application..... | 12 |
| 5.4    | Substantive questions.....                                               | 12 |
| 5.5    | Technical questions.....                                                 | 13 |
| 5.6    | Downloads and links.....                                                 | 13 |
| 6.     | Annexes.....                                                             | 13 |
|        | Annex 1 – State aid – GBER (only in Dutch).....                          | 14 |
|        | Annex 2 – State aid – Actual collaboration.....                          | 16 |

## 1 Summary

You may only submit a full grant application if you have been invited for this call.

### 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.

### Aim

The purpose of this funding call is to evaluate and fund a detailed plan for an infrastructure project. The project's underlying plans were described in PharmaNL's NGF application and approved by the NGF assessment committee, particularly with regard to their relevance. You may only submit a full grant application if you have been invited to do so. ZonMw will contact the lead applicant to request submission of the full proposal and will assess the elaborated proposal for both relevance and quality.

### Which grants are available?

A funding cap applies to this grant round. The total grant budget available under this call is €1,367,005, with a maximum project duration running until the end of June 2030. A mandatory 50% co-funding contribution of the total project costs is required. Eligible costs include expenditures for tangible and intangible assets related to the construction and/or upgrading of the infrastructure. Personnel costs, as well as costs associated with the implementation, commissioning, and modification of the infrastructure, are eligible for funding, provided they are in accordance with the applicable State aid instrument. For further information, see section [3.1.5 'How much funding can you apply for'](#).

### When

|                                                                         |                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Deadline for submitting detailed grant application                      | Monday September 7th 2026, 14:00 |
| Deadline restore detailed grant application (if application incomplete) | Thursday September 10th 2026     |
| Receipt of referees' comments                                           | Friday October 2th 2025          |
| Deadline for submitting rebuttals                                       | Friday October 16th 2026         |
| Committee meeting with interview                                        | Week of November 9th 2026        |
| Decision                                                                | December 2026                    |
| Final start date                                                        | March 2027                       |

- 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.
- An interview can be 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

The purpose of this funding call is to evaluate and fund a detailed plan for an infrastructure project within the PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure (SDI) programme line.

The PharmaNL consortium is an initiative by and for the Dutch pharmaceutical sector, supported by a national public-private partnership consisting of Pivot Park Oss, Leiden University, and Campus Groningen. PharmaNL's vision is to provide a sustainable boost to the utilisation of the economic potential of innovative pharmaceutical products and manufacturing technologies. In addition to increasing the scale and quality of drug development and manufacturing in the Netherlands, the consortium aims to structurally improve the attractiveness of the Netherlands as a location for pharmaceutical businesses and investments.

The project's underlying plans were described in PharmaNL's National Growth Fund (NGF) proposal and approved by the NGF assessment committee, particularly with regard to their relevance. In this call, alongside several other relevance criteria, the quality of the detailed project plan will be assessed based on its contribution to the coordinated expansion and strengthening, at the national level, of the available R&D infrastructure for pharmaceutical development and manufacturing technology innovations.

Projects awarded funding are expected to ensure that, consistent with the key performance indicators (KPIs) established in PharmaNL's NGF proposal, at least 45 innovation projects make use of the infrastructure they have established by December 2030.

The target group for this funding and investment call consists of companies, research organisations, and knowledge institutions that intend to establish and/or upgrade an open, shared pharmaceutical development infrastructure.

## 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

For your grant proposal to be considered, it must follow the hereafter described 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](mailto: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).

#### 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<sup>1</sup>. If a grant is awarded to a company, this constitutes state aid. The

---

<sup>1</sup>*Bioprocessing* means the use of intact, living cells, or components thereof, to generate or process pharmaceutically relevant products.

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<sup>3</sup>:

‘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

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 assets 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

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

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)<sup>2</sup>, 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 Collaboration](#).

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](#).

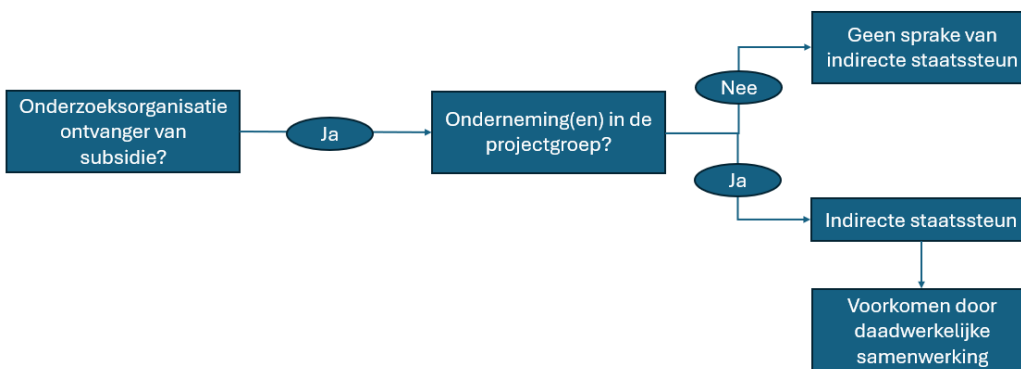


Figure 1. Flowchart application avoiding indirect state aid using state aid instrument covering actual collaboration.

### 3.1.4. 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](#).

<sup>2</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627\(01\)&rid=7](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&rid=7)

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

### **Letter of Commitment**

To ensure that collaborating parties and/or project sponsors are legally committed to their pledged contribution, a Letter of Commitment from each collaborating party/sponsor must be submitted together with the full grant application.

Please use the template available on the [ZonMw webpage Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

### **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. Which amount can you apply for?**

- A maximum of €1,367,005 may be requested, with a maximum project duration running until the end of June 2030.
- Applicants are required to provide a 50% co-funding contribution of the total project budget. See also the section “Mandatory Own Contribution.”
- It is mandatory to include a budget with the full application. Click [here](#) for the required budget template.
- The budget must be supported by a realistic justification. Please explain how the proposed project activities are proportionate to the requested budget.
- Grant payments will be made as follows: 80% of the grant amount will be advanced in the first year, and the remaining 20% will be paid after approval of the project's final financial report.
- Audit costs of up to €3,500 may be included in the budget for projects with a grant amount of €125,000 or more. Following the amendment of the ZonMw General Grant Provisions effective 1 April 2022, projects with a grant amount of €125,000 or more must submit not only a final financial report but also an auditor's report upon project completion. Universities and university medical centres (UMCs) may not include audit costs in their budgets. Separate arrangements have been made with these institutions regarding the required auditor's report. Please contact your finance department for further information.

The total grant budget available under this funding round is €1,367,005.

#### **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:
  - o 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 honor 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 arrangement 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.
- It is mandatory to include a budget with the full grant application. Please use the budget template 'DAEB Budget', which can be found on the [ZonMw webpage 'What must I submit?'](#)  
The following elements must be included in your budget:
  - A separate description of each activity to be financed with the requested grant;
  - The total amount of matching funds contributed by co-financiers, expressed as a percentage of the total project costs.
- Costs are eligible for funding from the application submission deadline onward, unless otherwise stipulated by the selected State aid instrument. The financial risk associated with non-approval of the application remains with the applicant.
- Please attach the following annexes to the prepared application:
  - **Annex 1. Figures and tables**
    - Optional / No format / Max. 2 A4 / PDF
  - **Annex 2. Planning**  
Gain insight into the project planning using a Gantt chart.
    - Mandatory / No mandatory format / Max. 1 A4 / PDF
  - **Annex 3. 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 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.
    - If applicable / **Mandatory format** / PDF
  - **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 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](#).
- ZonMw aims to ensure broad accessibility of the outcomes of the projects it funds. Therefore, the Ten Principles for Socially Responsible Licensing ([Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Licentiëren](#), MVL) must be applied when licensing project results. Where applicable, describe how intellectual property rights have been arranged with collaborating parties and any third parties. Also indicate how these parties will comply with the Ten Principles for Socially Responsible Licensing.

## 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<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> The 'advanced and emerging therapies' theme includes radiopharmaceuticals, bacteriophages, cell & gene therapy, nanomedicines and advanced vaccines.

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**  
The investment provides a sustainable boost to the utilization of the economic potential of innovative pharmaceutical products and manufacturing technologies and delivers a high-quality, nationally coordinated, and innovative infrastructure facility that is essential for breakthrough developments in pharmaceutical products and manufacturing technologies. Such a facility is currently unavailable or insufficiently available and would not be established through normal market forces alone.
- **Importance for the Pharmaceutical Value Chain**  
The proposed infrastructure must play a role in the value chain that directly contributes to the development of medicines or to the development of improved pharmaceutical manufacturing technologies.
- **Contribution to the Availability of Medicines for Dutch Patients**  
In your application, describe how the infrastructure will contribute to improving the availability of medicines for patients in the Netherlands.

### 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, hence the 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.

More information on the general relevance criteria can be found on the ZonMw webpage '[Assessment](#)'.

## 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.
- **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.
- **Plan of action**
  - The plan of action should align with the project objective(s).

- Describe the intended project activities and provide a logical step-by-step approach, including concrete milestones and/or deliverables, ICT-related aspects, and the role of the participating parties.
- The plan of action should clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the participating parties/persons in achieving specific milestones and/or deliverables.
- Include a description of the essential agreements between the participating partners for the implementation of the approach plan (including the management of KPI targets).
- Describe the strategy for procurement, intellectual property (IP), and commercial activities.
- **Expertise and experience**
  - 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.
- **Organisational and decision-making structure**
  - Describe how the governance and decision-making structure of the proposed infrastructure will be organised, including participants, roles, responsibilities, and authorities. Indicate how responsibilities are allocated and specify which agreements have already been established and which still need to be formalised.
  - Describe how continuity of leadership will be ensured throughout the project period.
  - Explain how project progress will be monitored and safeguarded, and how adjustments will be made when necessary. Also describe how conflicts will be resolved and how risks will be managed.
- **Ensuring Open Access and a Non-Discriminatory Infrastructure Access Policy**
  - Availability to external users for at least 50% of available operating time. Indicate the percentage of the available operating time that will be allocated to internal users (the applicant organisations) and to external users (other parties).
  - Access to the infrastructure must be open to multiple users and granted on a transparent and non-discriminatory basis. Provide a description of the transparent and non-discriminatory access policy. Clearly explain the conditions under which access to the facility is granted and how requests for access to the infrastructure will be assessed.
  - Describe the services that will be made available to users and how users will be supported in conducting experiments, measurements, and other activities using the facility.
- **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.

More information on these criteria can be found in the [procedure manual](#).

#### 4.4 Prioritisation

The relative weighting of relevance and quality is based on the following prioritisation matrix:

Table 1. Prioritisation matrix

| Prioritisation matrix         |                | Relevance (corresponding score) |               |                   |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                               |                | Very relevant (=1)              | Relevant (=2) | Low relevant (=3) |
| Quality (corresponding score) | Good (=2)      | 1                               | 3             | reject            |
|                               | Sufficient(=3) | 2                               | 4             | reject            |
|                               | Poor (=4)      | reject                          | reject        | reject            |

\*Applications assessed as highly relevant or relevant but receiving a “fair” quality rating may only be funded after improvements have been made to address the identified quality shortcomings.

## 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 September 7<sup>th</sup> 2026, at 14.00 CEST.

The full timeline for this funding round can be viewed [here](#).

### 5.2 Tips

- 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.
- **Please note!** Ensure that the documents you upload are not protected or secured. Budgets or other files that have been digitally signed (for example, using ValidSign) often have security settings applied automatically. Make sure these settings are removed before uploading the file; otherwise, the system may not be able to process it correctly. You can check whether your PDF is protected by opening it in Adobe Acrobat, right-clicking the document, selecting Document Properties, and then navigating to the Security tab. There you can see whether the file is protected and, if so, what type of protection has been applied. You can also open the PDF in a web browser. If the file is protected, this is usually indicated by a notification bar displayed at the top of the screen.

### 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](mailto: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), contact us via [PharmaNL@zonmw.nl](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)

## 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.<sup>4</sup>
- 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.<sup>5</sup>
- 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.<sup>6</sup> Voeg bij het indienen van de subsidieaanvraag een [verklaring bevel tot terugvordering van staatsteun](#) ingevuld en ondertekend toe.
- ZonMw verleent geen subsidie aan ondernemingen in moeilijkheden.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> Voeg bij het indienen van de subsidieaanvraag een [verklaring cumulatie van staatsteun](#) ingevuld en ondertekend toe.

---

<sup>4</sup> Artikel 1 lid 5 AGVV

<sup>5</sup> Artikel 6 AGVV

<sup>6</sup> Artikel 1, lid 4, sub a AGVV

<sup>7</sup> Artikel 1, lid 4, sub c AGVV. Financiële moeilijkheden als bedoeld in artikel 2, lid 18 van de AGVV

<sup>8</sup> Artikel 8 AGVV

## 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<sup>9</sup> and one party qualifies as an undertaking, which
  - 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<sup>10</sup>.
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

<sup>9</sup> Section 1(3)(ee) [R&D&I Framework](#)

<sup>10</sup> Section 1(3)(j) [R&D&I Framework](#)

#### 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 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.