

Invitational call for consortia for research on Pandemic Preparedness

Key words: one health, society, behaviour, infectious diseases, detection, transmission, pandemic preparedness

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1 Aim of the call for grant applications

This invitational call for proposals is the first call published as part of the [ZonMw research programme Pandemic Preparedness](#). The purpose of the call is to obtain research proposals that contribute to preventing and controlling future pandemics by microorganisms, with a focus on microorganisms with the highest risk on causing a pandemic, or an epidemic in the Netherlands including Dutch Caribbean, hereinafter referred to as the Netherlands. The research proposals should address questions posed in theme 1 'Transmission & Detection' and theme 2 'Society & Behaviour' of the ZonMw research programme Pandemic Preparedness as well as foster structural collaboration within and between scientific disciplines. Research within theme 1 should follow a One Health approach. Theme 2 should include research on behaviour and communication on different types of public health interventions. Within both themes, multidisciplinary research is required to strengthen collaboration between disciplines. This invitational call is intended for two consortia; one on theme 1 and one on theme 2. The two consortia are also required to collaborate on overarching subjects (see [section 1.2.1](#)).

1.1 Description of research programme Pandemic Preparedness

The research programme Pandemic Preparedness is one of multiple programmes on pandemic preparedness that are being developed by ZonMw. This research programme describes both long-term goals on pandemic preparedness and specific goals and activities for which funding is available (2022-2024). The first activities are the initial steps towards realising a robust knowledge base to solidify policy related to pandemic preparedness. The research programme focuses explicitly on pandemic preparedness for future pandemics, and not on the current COVID-19 pandemic. However, lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic are taken into account.

An important aspect of the research programme is to foster expertise and a (knowledge)infrastructure for multidisciplinary research on pandemic preparedness. This research is needed to underpin measures and policies for preventing, controlling and reducing the impact of pandemics by microorganisms. Furthermore, new scientific knowledge will provide new tools for social adaptation and resilience in the event of future pandemics. Moreover, data and (information on) biological materials should be findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable, in accordance with [FAIR principles](#).

1.2 Content of this call for proposals

In this invitational call, the consortium can submit a proposal according to their expertise and invitation letter :

1. A proposal for theme 1: Transmission & Detection
2. A proposal for theme 2: Society & Behaviour

1.2.1 Project proposal for the subjects related to theme 1 and theme 2

The project proposals are required to contribute to the research subjects described in theme 1 and 2, respectively. In addition, the proposals should reflect on how the results will contribute to the existing public health structures and contribute to policy making. Moreover, proposals should clearly indicate what results can be achieved in a one year project, and to what long term objective they contribute. Lastly, projects are required to have a focus on pathogens and infectious diseases that may have high pandemic potential or high epidemic potential in the Netherlands and/or unknown/moderate pandemic risk but with high potential of developing severe illness. Within both proposals it is possible to encompass subprojects with a large scope and subprojects with a small scope, for example with work packages and pilots. The content of the two themes is described in this call. For more detail and information please consult [the programme text](#).

Common/overarching subjects theme 1 and 2

Both research proposals for theme 1 and theme 2 should indicate how they aim to address and collaborate on overarching subjects. Please address the following in your proposal:

- Assess which international lessons learned on control and prevention of COVID-19 and other pandemics or epidemics are not yet well known and/or implemented in the Netherlands.
- Initiate or strengthen collaboration between experts in the field of human health, animal health, the environment, social and behavioural sciences, for example by starting structural consultations, setting joint research goals and starting joint research projects.
- Develop scenarios that combine different types of behaviour/communication & transmission/detection interventions, e.g. on the following questions:

- Which measures work best in different epidemic scenarios, with different types of transmission (symptomatic and asymptomatic, by airway or other transmission routes) and in different population groups?
- How does human behaviour influence further transmission of pathogens?
- How to weigh the epidemiological/transmission effects of preventive measures compared to effects on social, mental and physical health and well-being (including economic impact), for different population groups? e.g.:
 - What are the threshold for interventions?
 - What type of intervention is needed in which scenario?
- These scenarios should contribute to an integrated framework for pandemic policy making: weighing epidemiological, behavioural and societal impacts.
- Modelling:
 - Initiate or expand research on how to build mathematical models for predictions and scenarios with (health) determinants from theme 1 and 2 combined.
 - Develop/initiate a pilot for structural and comprehensive collaboration between different modelling groups within the Netherlands. This collaboration is needed not only since different types of models can answer different research questions, but also to verify model results with different types of models.
- Assess effectiveness of selected interventions for both themes separately as well as combined. Interventions may include testing and preventive treatment, source and contact tracing, isolation, closing of sectors, curfew, and vaccination. Ventilation is not part of this call as this topic is being addressed by RIVM and TNO.
- Development of research protocols and research methods that should be used in case of an epidemic/pandemic (details explained under respective themes).

Theme 1

The entire project proposal must have a clear One Health approach, taking into account the interactions between health of humans, animals and the environment.

Proposals should address the following subjects:

- Development of innovative surveillance methods for early identification and monitoring of pathogens, including sampling, sequencing and early warning systems. This includes for example combining human, animal and environmental surveillance methods, web scraping, social media based surveillance, risk target surveillance and/or citizen science.
- Development of research protocols, frameworks and research methods that should be used during an epidemic/pandemic. These protocols can describe for example target populations and risk groups, data collection and storage, sample collection and storage, ethical issues and data analysis. The proposed project should make an inventory of such existing protocols and procedures, and expand/adapt these or develop new ones where needed.
- Research into the characteristics (e.g. genotype, phenotype and transmission potential) of pathogens and evolutionary processes that contribute to the epidemic/pandemic potential of these pathogens. This should contribute to assessing health risks for different risk groups.
- Development of innovative methods/models for the prediction of these characteristics.
- Development of innovative methods for quantifying and modelling of epidemiological parameters and the effectiveness of infection prevention measures. The models should for example address risk for public health, the interaction of interventions, interrupting possible transmission routes, thresholds for interventions and effectiveness analysis.
- Harmonising diagnostics between humans and animals, and where relevant environment.
- See also common/overarching subjects theme 1 and 2.

Theme 2

The entire project proposal must focus on research that is needed to improve the well-being and resilience of the population in a future epidemic/pandemic.

Proposals should address the following subjects:

- Map out the most effective and acceptable interventions for different high-risk groups for pathogens with the highest pandemic/epidemic potential (e.g. financial burden can influence the acceptability of an intervention).
- Development of a toolkit for communication resources (including campaigns, social media, preventing mis/disinformation) tailored to pathogens, transmission route and target groups. This toolkit can be assembled through results of the following studies:
 - Research on expected adherence to interventions during a pandemic.

- Research on how to effectively encourage support for interventions and stimulate/incentivise compliant behaviour during a pandemic.
 - Research on how to socially embed interventions, habit formation and compliance for a short or long period during a pandemic.
 - Research on how to provide information in an effective manner during a pandemic and when to communicate with different target groups/risk groups.
 - Research on how mental and physical fatigue of COVID-19 pandemic may influence behaviour in future pandemics.
- Research on which measuring methods are most suitable for research into behaviour and the psychological factors that affect behaviour, including trust, economic determinants and social justice.
 - Research on community participation and involvement in decisions that affect the community (e.g. motives such as perception of (in)justice, trust, engagement, responsibility).
 - Research on how behavioural aspects can be included in mathematical models for predictions and scenarios.
 - Development of research protocols, frameworks and research (innovative surveillance) methods for theme 2 that should be used during an epidemic/pandemic.
 - See also common/overarching subjects theme 1 and 2.

Target groups and risk groups for the aforementioned subjects can include those with a migration background, those with low SES, those with low literacy, elderly, children and adolescents, in different settings, sectors and communities.

1.2.2 Type of research/research methodology for theme 1 and 2

The proposal can for example address the following types of research:

- Limited literature search
- Fundamental, applied, epidemiological research, qualitative and quantitative prediction models
- Machine learning
- Using data from (innovative) surveillance methods
- Feasibility studies
- Pilots on which innovative structures can be of added value for the implementation of research results
- Pilots into the best practices to promote collaboration between stakeholders and professional groups
- Pilots into which measuring methods are most suitable to measure behaviour and the psychological factors that affect behaviour
- Pilots to measure the effectivity of interventions

1.2.3 Excluded research subjects

- Research related to clinical studies or early phase development
- Research related to regulatory science for pandemic preparedness
- Research on vector-borne diseases, since the programme is commissioning a literature review on this subject, to assess relevance of vector-borne diseases for pandemics
- The 4 excluded subjects mentioned in the programme text (paragraph 2.4 Afbakening, page 11)

2 Preconditions

Detailed grant applications will only be accepted from applicants who previously have been invited to provide a research proposal.

The [General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw](#) apply to this call for proposals.

2.1 Who is eligible for a grant?

2.1.1 Who can apply for funding

For this invitational call, ZonMw invites two specific consortia to submit a grant proposal.

The following organisations qualify for receiving a part of the grant as well as being a collaborative partner:

1. Dutch research organisations as defined in EU state aid legislation¹;
2. Organisations performing a statutory duty;
3. Organisations performing activities representing an interest group for the proposed project; in the grant application, indicate which statutory duty, activity representing an interest group or educational activity you will be carrying out.

Organizations that do not meet the category described in categories 1, 2 and 3 are not eligible for a grant. However, participation through *third party collaboration and contributions* is described in [section 2.3](#).

2.1.2 Consortia

In this call, a consortium is defined as ‘a sustainable collaboration between different institutions and organisations’. Therefore, it is important that the consortium is familiar with the scope of the research field. The consortium has experience in maintaining balance between stakeholders and their interests, while remaining focused on the overall objective. The consortium must have knowledge of both fundamental and applied research, a national and international network in research and its application in the fields related to pandemic preparedness. The consortium must endorse the objectives of [ZonMw research programme Pandemic Preparedness](#) and have the expertise to bring knowledge and information to people in a targeted manner and on a sufficient scale. In addition, the consortium must be able to contribute nationally and internationally to the importance and quality of Dutch research. Per theme one organisation (main applicant) is invited to coordinate and submit a proposal.

The consortia must attune and align with and prevent overlap with research projects and programmes from, at least RIVM, GGD/GHOR NL (*academische werkplaatsen*), and PDPC, and where relevant collaborate with and involve these organisation as well as other parties in the field of pandemic preparedness.

External parties not allied to the consortia have the opportunity to request an introduction to the consortia to explore the possibility of joining one of the consortia (see [section 4 Procedure and timeline](#)).

2.1.3 Consortium/network composition

The existing consortia are encouraged to invite and collaborate with other relevant organisations/researchers to reinforce research on the proposed subjects and themes.

The following types of collaboration must be represented in the consortium for this call:

- **Collaboration between research disciplines:**
 - **Theme 1:** This concerns disciplines related to One Health such as epidemiologists, virologists, (micro)biologists, infectious disease specialists, other medical professionals, ecologists, veterinarians, nature and wildlife organisations and environmental organisations.
 - **Theme 2:** This concerns disciplines that are involved in theme 2, such as anthropology, sociology, behavioural sciences, (risk)communication, environmental interventions, social psychology, persuasive communication, habit formation, crisis management and information management.
- **International awareness:** where relevant, the Dutch consortia should collaborate with international researchers and make use of international lessons learned.

¹ Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (R&D&I Framework) (2014/C 198/01), Section 15(ee).

- **Collaboration between stakeholders:** researchers should involve policymakers, educators, and professional groups who may jointly (re-)use knowledge resulting from this research programme, and can formulate follow-up questions on pandemic preparedness research for possible extension of this programme.

ZonMw invites [Netherlands Centre for One Health \(NCOH\)](#) (with its partners) as a consortium to submit a grant application for theme 1: Transmission & Detection.

Secondly, ZonMw invites [Be-Prepared](#) as a consortium (with its partners) to jointly submit a grant application for theme 2: Society & Behaviour.

2.1.4 Justification for invitational call

Pandemic preparedness is a field of research wherein multidisciplinary collaboration and coordination are essential for a timely and adequate preparation for the unknown. Since research on pandemic preparedness requires a multidisciplinary approach, this invitational call will request two existing consortia which represent a large part of the research field of theme 1 and theme 2 to submit a research proposal. After exploration of the pandemic preparedness research field the programme Pandemic Preparedness has come to the conclusion that the two aforementioned existing consortia are the most eligible for this invitational call. By inviting existing consortia in this call we aim to profit from current networks to have quicker research results that can be easier incorporated in future policies. In addition, this approach aims to strengthen the existing consortia as well as cultivate structural collaboration between different disciplines, including collaboration between the (bio)medical and the social sciences. Lastly, with this approach we want to use the momentum in the research field to accelerate research into pandemic preparedness.

2.1.5 Main applicant

The main applicant submits the proposal on behalf of the consortium and is the main contact for ZonMw. The main applicant receives the grant and is, on behalf of the consortium, responsible for the scientific coherency, finances and results and funding of the collaboration partners. The main applicant is a legal entity under public or private law and is located in the Netherlands.

2.2 State aid

No grants will be awarded by ZonMw if this would or could constitute unlawful state aid².

Actual collaboration

If undertakings and research organisations collaborate³ on the project, there is a risk that the grant will be regarded as unlawful state aid. According to Section 2.2.2⁴ of the Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (R&D&I Framework), there is no unlawful state aid if the collaborating parties fulfil certain conditions. If they fulfil these conditions, there is 'actual collaboration'. See for conditions and an explanation [Annex 1 – State aid – Actual collaboration](#).

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

You can find more information about state aid on the ZonMw web page [Vrijstellingverordeningen staatssteun](#) (in Dutch).

2.3 Third-party collaboration and contributions

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

The application and budget must make clear:

- Which parties are participating. Describe how each party will be actively contributing to the project; these should in any case be parties who appear in the budget as a party intending to

² Section 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

³ An undertaking as defined under EU state aid legislation means any entity that performs economic activities, regardless of its legal form or means of financing.

⁴ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627\(01\)&from=NL](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&from=NL)

claim a portion of the grant. Also include parties that will be making an active contribution as partners in the collaborative project for their own account and at their own risk.

- With which party or parties a sponsorship agreement will be concluded and what their donation in kind or monetary contribution will be.
- Which parties will be hired, or, if this is not yet known, which activities are forecast as being performed by third parties, plus the related costs that will be incurred (including VAT). For more information and the conditions of hire/terms of contract, see the ZonMw web page [Grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

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

Letters of Commitment

ZonMw requires assurance that a project party or sponsor will be legally bound to provide the agreed amounts. Therefore, each project party or sponsor must provide a Letter of Commitment, which should be submitted together with the detailed grant application. Please use the template letter on the ZonMw web page [Grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

Collaboration and sponsorship agreement

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

2.4 What is the amount of the grant I can apply for?

In this call for grant applications the available grant budget for theme 1 is €2,500,000 and €1,600,000 for theme 2. The project should have a duration of maximum one year (Q3 2023-Q3 2024). In the case extra funding becomes available expansion of the projects might be possible. Although third-party contributions are not a prerequisite, they are advisable.

The budget for each proposal should be realistically and thoroughly motivated. In the budget, the applicant should make it clear which partners will perform which activities for which budget.

2.5 Conditions that apply to the grant allocation procedure

General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw

The General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw were amended on 1 April 2022. The amendments concern in particular Article 25, Grant determination and Article 26, Financial accounting. You can find these grant conditions and the amendment at: www.zonmw.nl/nl/subsidies/voorwaarden-en-financien/.

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

– Open Access

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

– Conditions for valorisation

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

3 Assessment criteria

The programme committee assesses the relevance, quality and budget of all applications. The applicable relevance and quality criteria are given below.

3.1 General relevance criteria

– **Diversity**

Consider how attention is given to [diversity](#) and target group differentiation by characteristics such as [sex and gender](#), age, socioeconomic situation, educational level, migratory and cultural backgrounds, and sexual inclination, inasmuch as these are relevant to the theme of the project.

– **IT and eHealth in care provision**

Please describe, if applicable, the use of [IT in care provision](#). By this we mean the use of eHealth applications, domotics, robotics and data storage using IT. We have formulated [attention points](#) regarding IT applications and IT standards in research.

– **Education**

Knowledge becomes especially useful and applicable in [education](#) when it has arisen in an exchange between research, training and practice. Please describe how you have shaped interaction between training, research, practice and policy. Describe the results you expect your project or research to deliver for education.

– **Participation of patients and/or end users**

Describe how you will involve stakeholders in the project. Stakeholders include the ultimate target group or end users, whose knowledge is based on practical, personal experience. By 'involve' we mean consulting, asking for advice, collaborating with and/or involving end users in project decisions.

– **FAIR data and data management**

All data (and other resources) that you use for your research must be made available and reusable for future research by third parties, to inform policy and practice, and for verifying research outcomes. You only need to submit a data management plan after your application has been approved. In this phase, however, you already need to prepare for data management. Make sure to have sufficient funding (an estimate is 5% of your research budget) for data stewardship activities and for involving a data steward who can provide support throughout your entire project.

You can find more information on [FAIR data & data management](#).

For this invitational call please consider the following:

- Please explain your preparations on the basis of the questions in the data management section of your grant application.
- In order to produce the required metadata it is possible to use or adapt machine actionable metadata schemes (M4Ms) developed for COVID-19, infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance. These M4Ms may need to be adapted/expanded for research into pandemic preparedness.
- If your grant application is awarded funding, you must in any case produce FAIR metadata. You will be informed in due time about the instructions and procedures. If you do not collect data, nor use existing data, please indicate this in your grant application.

– **Application and impact**

Describe how you expect to achieve and demonstrate impact. Projects funded by the ZonMw must have impact. New knowledge and expertise must be used in practice, policy, education and/or further research. Describe broadly how you will share the knowledge gained in your project, and how you will take the results and/or products further towards implementation, for example by applying them into practice or when developing new policy. Consider the following elements:

- Delivery of usable knowledge product: the delivery of usable knowledge products such as (scientific) publications, presentations, guidelines, software, tools, decision aids, models, literature overviews and/or datasets. What knowledge products will your project deliver? How do these knowledge products connect with your stakeholders? The [ZonMw website](#) contains an overview with examples of knowledge products for use in practice, in policy, in business, in science or in education. Name the knowledge products concretely; for example, state in which specific guideline or standard of care the results will be included.
- Targeted dissemination and implementation activities: choosing effective strategies and activities aimed at dissemination and implementation of the project results (e.g. motivational, educational or patient-oriented strategies). What targeted dissemination and implementation activities will you set up within the duration of the project? And what

activities will be taken up after completion of the project, and by which parties? You will find an overview of implementation activities and strategies on the [ZonMw website](#).

You can find more information about the relevance criteria on the ZonMw web page [Relevance criteria](#).

3.2 Programme specific relevance criteria

- **Contribution to the programme objectives**
The projects must fit within the programme objectives of the ZonMw research programme Pandemic Preparedness. Therefore the research proposal should focus on microorganisms with the highest risk of causing a pandemic/epidemic and/or unknown/moderate pandemic risk but with the potential of developing severe illness in the Netherlands. Results should be practically applicable in the context of the Netherlands. For more detail consult the [programme text](#).
- **Collaboration**
Collaboration as described in sections [1.2.1](#), [2.1.2](#) and [2.1.3](#) is an important relevance criterion. The proposal should describe how the consortium will collaborate with its partners and if relevant/necessary consult other disciplines.
- **Added value**
The project has added value compared to existing knowledge and/or practice. The added value is explained and it is described how this research relates to potentially completed or other current studies in the same area.
- **International awareness**
The projects must describe how knowledge from other countries can be used to benefit the Dutch field of pandemic preparedness.
- **Animal models**
In the context of the transition to animal-free research, ZonMw encourages researchers to develop and/or apply alternatives for animal experiments. The programme committee will therefore pay extra attention to the justification for such experiments in case the use of experimental animals is proposed in a project proposal. What is the relationship between the animal model chosen and the research question? What is the methodological and statistical rationale for the experiments? Are there no alternatives for the animal experiment, for example in the sense of computational models?

3.3 Quality criteria

- **Objective and research question/mission statement**
Describe the objective and research question or remit. In your outline, pay attention to clarity, scope and originality.
- **Action plan**
Describe the chosen methods and analyses, including theoretical and/or empirical support.
- **Feasibility**
Make it plausible that the objective of the grant application can be achieved within the established timeframe and with the expertise, staffing, facilities and resources available.
- **Project group or person**
Describe how the composition of the project group will contribute to the quality of your research or project.
- **Assurance, implementation and scalability**
Describe how the developed knowledge can be interpreted, and applied in practice combine with education, policy and/or research. Describe how the consortium envisions a sustainable and continuous collaboration between its partners after finishing the project.

You can find more information about these criteria in the [procedure booklet](#) (in Dutch).

4 Procedure and timeline

Please take the following points into account when writing your application:

- Compose your application in English.
- The [Grant conditions and Finances page](#) of the ZonMw website explains which conditions your application must meet.
- Reserve 5% of your project budget for communications and implementation. Include this amount in the budget of the detailed grant application.
- The following annexes are mandatory:
 - [a Letter of Commitment or Letter of Intent](#).
- The following optional annexes may be added:
 - Maximum 4 sheets of A4 size with figures and tables.
- If an annex is not mandatory, it will not be included in the assessment of your application. The exception is the optional annex presenting figures and/or tables. This annex will also be included in the assessment.
- You may be invited to an interview as part of the assessment of your grant application. An audio recording will be made of this interview. This recording will be destroyed after the assessment has been completed.
- External parties not allied to the consortia have the opportunity to request an introduction to the consortia to explore the possibility of joining one of the consortia (via pandemicpreparedness@zonmw.nl).

4.1 Assessment procedure

For the procedures on how to assess grant applications, please refer to the infographic '[applying for a grant in 10 steps](#)' and to the [procedure booklet](#) (in Dutch)

4.2 Timeline

Deadline for external parties to contact consortium lead	February 2 nd 2023
Deadline submitting project members	February 17 th , 2023
Deadline for submitting detailed grant application	March 2 nd , 2023, 14.00h CET
Receive referents quality assessment	End of March 2023
Deadline reply to referents quality assessment	Mid-April 2023
Interview moment with programme committee	Start of May 2023
Decision	End of May or start of June 2023
Latest start date	2 months after decision letter

More information

For more information, visit the [Pandemic Preparedness](#) page on the ZonMw website, which is updated regularly.

5 Submitting your application

5.1 Submission (through Mijn ZonMw)

Grant applications can only be submitted by the main applicant in ZonMw's online submission system ([Mijn ZonMw](#)). The closing date for submitting a detailed grant application is March 2nd, 2023, at 14.00 CET.

5.2 Tips

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

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 Declaration of agreement for completed detailed grant application

The '[Declaration of agreement for completed 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 pandemicpreparedness@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 Fábio Serafim (+31 70 398 50 98) or Suzanne Verver (+31 70 349 52 36) or via email at pandemicpreparedness@zonmw.nl.

5.5 Technical questions

If you have any technical questions about using ZonMw's online application system, please contact the Service Desk from Monday to Friday between 8.00 and 17.00 (+31 70 349 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](#)
- Infographic '[in 10 stappen subsidie aanvragen](#)'
- [Application procedure](#)
- The [ZonMw web page on relevance criteria](#)
- The [Grant conditions and Finances page](#)
- [Grants and Collaborative Projects/third-party contributions](#)
- [Vrijstellingverordeningen staatssteun](#)
- [FAIR data and data management](#)
- [Open Access](#)
- [Ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing](#)
- [Boosting impact](#)
- [Mijn ZonMw manuals](#)
- [Statement of approval for submission of a detailed grant application](#)
- [Pandemic Preparedness website](#)
- [Programme text research programme Pandemic Preparedness](#)

5.7 Other annexes for the call for grant applications

- [Annex 1 – State Aid – Actual collaboration](#)

Annex 1 – 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 organisation⁵ 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 development⁶.
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

⁵ Section 1(3)(ee) [R&D&I Framework](#)

⁶ 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. For more information and the conditions, see www.zonmw.nl/en/research-and-results/co-financing/grants-and-collaborationscontributions-from-third-parties/

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.