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ZonMw Open Competition 2021

Topics: innovative and excellent research, fundamental research

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Contents

1	Objective of this call for grant applications	1
2	Preconditions.....	1
2.1	Who is eligible for grant funding?	1
2.2	State aid.....	2
2.3	Third-party collaboration and contributions	2
2.4	What amount can be applied for.....	3
2.5	Conditions that apply to the grant allocation procedure	3
3	Assessment criteria	4
3.1	Ranking.....	4
4	Procedure and timeline	4
4.1	Assessment procedure	5
4.2	Timetable	5
5	Submitting your application	5
5.1	Application submission (through Mijn ZonMw).....	5
5.2	Tips	5
5.3	General queries	6
	For questions on matters of content, please contact:	6
5.4	Technical Questions	6
5.5	Downloads and links.....	6

1 Objective of this call for grant applications

The complete information on the programme, target group, conditions and criteria can be found in the [ZonMw Open Competition, Call for proposals 2021](#).

The potential, and preferably broadly applicable, effect of the chosen research on science is an important element of the ZonMw Open Competition. The intention is to create room for an innovative collaboration (*team science*) that leads to creative and ground breaking science of exceptional quality in the area of fundamental health research. In addition, knowledge utilisation/participation are important criteria

The expected outcome of projects is primarily advancing fundamental scientific knowledge (knowledge advancement, the creation of conceptual models and theorisation) within a new collaboration between research groups from two or more disciplines in the field of health research. This promotes excellent *team science* that leads to innovative (ground-breaking) science of exceptional quality. ZonMw uses this to openly encourage science as the main driving force for innovation in science and healthcare for the longer term.

In addition, ZonMw is committed to creative knowledge utilisation strategies, to inspire and mobilise stakeholders, and to enable users and effective end-users to participate in scientific and social impact.

2 Preconditions

Full grant applications will only be accepted from those who previously submitted project ideas in this round of grant funding and received a positive recommendation to prepare a full proposal. If you decide to submit a full grant application despite having received a negative recommendation, you must inform ZonMw **no later than 10 working days** after receipt of the recommendation via opencompetitie@zonmw.nl.

2.1 Who is eligible for grant funding?

Professors, assistant professors, associate professors and other researchers with a comparable appointment can submit an application as main or co-applicant if they:

- are employed (i.e. have a paid appointment) at one of the following organisations:
 - Universities established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands
 - University medical centres;
 - KNAW and NWO institutes;
 - the Netherlands Cancer Institute;
 - the Princess Máxima Center;
 - Max Planck Institute For Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
 - the Dubble-beamline at the ESRF in Grenoble;
 - NCB Naturalis;
 - Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- and have a contract at this organisation for at least the duration of the activity for which the grant is applied for. Personnel who hold an emeritus professorship or a zero-hours appointment are excluded from submission.

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Researchers from other research institutes can only submit an application as a co-applicant if at least the following cumulative conditions for the legal entity have been satisfied:

- is located in the Netherlands;
- carries out the research independently;
- has a public task;

- is not for profit;
- in the research for which funding is requested, the institute works together with a university or UMC, which is apparent from a personnel or material contribution to the research from that university;
- the researchers have freedom of publication in the international scientific literature.

Please note: These conditions have been evaluated by ZonMw prior to submission of the preproposals through various documents. It is no longer possible to add additional organisations to the application.

The 29 Dutch public knowledge organizations (see the list of these [National Institutions](#)) do not have to provide the aforementioned documents in advance, since ZonMw assumes that these organizations will in principle meet the conditions.

2.2 State aid

No grants will be awarded by ZonMw if this would or could constitute unlawful state aid¹. Therefore, the following state aid measure applies to this grant round

You can find more information about state aid on the ZonMw webpage [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 grant funding if the agreements would or could lead to the provision of unlawful state aid or if [NWO Grant Rules](#) or the conditions of the call for grant applications (page 11, [Call for proposals](#)) cannot be met.

The application and budget must make it clear:

- Which parties are participating. Describe how each party will be actively contributing to the project; these should in any case be parties who appear in the budget as a party intending to claim a portion of the grant funding. 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 (in-cash) 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 additional information and the conditions of hire/terms of contract, see the ZonMw webpage: [Grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

Collaborations and sponsorship must be finalised before presenting the full proposal.

Letter of Commitment / Matching Declaration

Because ZonMw requires assurance that a project party or sponsor will be legally bound to provide the agreed amounts, each project party or sponsor must provide a Letter of Commitment, which is to be submitted together with the detailed grant application. Please use the template letter:

- [Letter of Commitment for co-financing - ZonMw Open Competitie 2021](#) – for regular Co-financing with an in-cash or in-kind contribution.
- [Matching Declaration for Investment - ZonMw Open Competitie 2021](#) – for declaring (at least 25%) in-cash matching, if applying for the investment module.

Samenwerkings- en sponsorovereenkomst

On the ZonMw web page [Grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties](#) you can find more information about the various types of collaboration and contributions (sponsoring/assignment) with template agreements as an aid to drafting the relevant agreement; the accompanying explanation contains the conditions the agreement must meet. The conditions specified on this webpage and in the explanation form an integral part of this call for applications. When ZonMw requests draft

¹ Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

consortium and/or sponsorship agreements, it grants funding on the condition that the agreements are found to be acceptable. For more information, please refer to page 11 of the [Call for proposals](#).

2.4 What amount can be applied for

In this round of grant funding you can apply for a maximum of € 750.000 for a duration of maximum 5 years. Optionally, you can also apply for the investment module of € 100,000 – 250,000, in addition to the maximum grant that can be applied for. The maximum grant amount for applications including the investment module is € 1, 000,000.

Contribution from third parties are not required, but are recommended.

The total available budget for the awarding of grants this round is € 19,000,000.

If you publish according to the full golden Open Access route, you may include the cost of Open Access publications in the project budget. The maximum amount of this allowance is € 5,000.-. Include 'Open Access' as a separate line in your budget. For more information about Open Access, see section 3.1 and the NWO webpage [Open Access](#).

2.5 Conditions that apply to the grant allocation procedure

In addition to the [NWO Grant Rules](#) the following requirements also apply:

- **Open Access**
All publications resulting from scientific research fully or partially funded by NWO must be made available in Open Access, in accordance with the NWO Open Access policy. A number of Open Access routes are acceptable. In addition to articles, NWO 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 NWO Open Access policy, conditions and opportunities, please visit [the website](#).
- **Conditions for valorisation**
ZonMw aims at wide accessibility for the projects it funds; therefore, the [ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing](#) (SRL) need to be applied when licensing the results. If applicable, describe how intellectual property rights will be arranged with partners and any third parties. Also indicate how these parties will comply with the ten principles.
- **Reporting guidelines animal experimental research**
For transparent, replicable, complete and non-presumptive publications of animal studies, the [ARRIVE reporting guidelines](#) are available. All scientific publications on animal experimental research resulting from this ZonMw Open Competition grant must be reported according to the ARRIVE guidelines, other reporting guidelines have been developed as well for other types of research (please refer to <https://www.equator-network.org/>).
- **Integrity**
In the grant rules, NWO specifies that all research funded by NWO must be carried out in accordance with nationally and internationally accepted standards of scientific conduct as laid down in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity 2018 (VSNU). Further information about the NWO policy on scientific integrity can be found on the website: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/scientific-integrity>.
- **Consortium- of sponsorovereenkomst**
For an application in the Open Competition it is a prerequisite to enter into cooperation with parties who may also contribute financially to the project. The mutual agreements with these partners should be recorded in a consortium or sponsorship agreement. The project can only start after this agreement has been approved by ZonMw. (see page 11, [Call for proposals](#)).

3 Assessment criteria

The programme committee assesses the relevance and quality of all applications. The applicable relevance and quality criteria are described in the [Call for proposals 2021](#).

In addition to the relevance criterion, the quality of an application will be assessed during the assessment procedure of both the project idea (pre-proposal) and the full proposal on the basis of the following three criteria (and their relative weightings)

- A. Scientific quality (50%);
- B. Quality of the project team (30%);
- C. Knowledge utilisation and participation (20%).

In addition, the components *Methodology* and *Investment Module* of the full application must be assessed as at least 'good' in order to qualify for an invitation to an interview or to belong to the category of 'highest-ranking applications'. These scores will not be taken into account in the average of the final quality score.

3.1 Ranking

It is nearly always the case within the programme that the number of proposals that *can* be awarded funding exceeds the budget available. Therefore, the committee produces a ranking of the proposals that can be awarded funding based on its final assessment about the relevance and quality. If the budget available is not sufficient and there are proposals with an equal score (up to two decimals), then the criterion health(care) research can account for the ranking.

4 Procedure and timeline

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

- The application should be written in English.
- Applications should comply with the [NWO Grant rules 2017](#) and the Approval of funding for scientific research.
- More information on the METC / CCD, the Code for Transparency in Animal Testing, and the Biosecurity Code can be found on the webpage [voorwaarden en financiën \(in Dutch\)](#).
- It is mandatory to include a budget with your proposal. Please note that the budget may not deviate by more than 15% from the budget that was submitted with the pre-proposal, unless this has been commented on by the committee, please clearly indicate this in your proposal.
- Please reserve part of your project budget for Open Science, communication and implementation and include this in your budget.
- Only mandatory attachments will be considered when assessing your application. Other attachments will not be forwarded to the committee for assessment.
- An interview may be part of the assessment procedure of your grant application. An audio recording will be made of this interview. The recording will be destroyed after the assessment procedure is completed

A complete submission for the full proposal consists of completed tabs in My ZonMw, including sub-sections and a number of attachments:

- 1) General information
 - 1.1 General information
 - 1.2 General project details
 - 1.3 Required project members
- 2) Co-applicants
 - 2.1 Additional project members
- 3) Summary
 - 3.1 Dutch public summary
 - 3.2 English public summary
 - 3.3 English Scientific summary

- 3.4 Keywords
- 4) Project information
 - 4.1 Animal research
 - 4.2 FNR co-funding
 - 4.3 Investment module
- 5) Financial data
 - 5.1 Summary of the budget
 - 5.2 Budget – staff
 - 5.3 Budget - materials
 - 5.6 Explanatory notes
 - 5.7 Bank details
- 6) Annexes (in this section all attachments can be uploaded)
 - Full proposal form (mandatory attachment)
 - Budget form in PDF en Excel (mandatory attachments)
 - Matching declaration (*mandatory attachment if applying for the investment module*)
 - Letter of commitment (*mandatory attachment in case of in-cash or in-kind co-financing*)
Please note: If you have more than one letter of commitment to upload, please include all letters in one PDF file.
- 7) Declarations and signature applicant

4.1 Assessment procedure

For more information on the assessment procedures, please see:

The [summary assessment procedure](#); the [procedure page](#); and the [Procedure booklet for applicants](#) (in Dutch).

After assessment of the project ideas, the committee has made a selection of the proposals with the highest chance of funding based on the procedure described in the [Call for proposals](#). The main applicants of these selected applications have received an invitation to submit a full proposal. The main applicants of the less promising applications are strongly discouraged to submit a full proposal.

4.2 Timetable

Deadline submission full proposal	12 May 2022 14.00 hr CET
Receipt referees' comments	Start of July 2022
Deadline submission rebuttal	21 July 2022 14.00 hr CET
Interviews	11, 12 & 13 October 2022 (subject to change)
Decision ZonMw	Mid December 2022
Latest starting date	Mid-June 2023 (max. 6 months after awarding of funding)

More information

Please consult the [programme page](#) on the ZonMw-website regularly for the latest and most up to date information.

5 Submitting your application

5.1 Application submission (through Mijn ZonMw)

Applicants can only submit their applications in accordance with the guidelines using ZonMw's online application system ([Mijn ZonMw](#)). The closing date for submitting a full proposal 12 May 2022 , at 14.00 hr CET.

5.2 Tips

- ZonMw is now using a different online application system. If you have never used ZonMw's system before, you will have to register first as a 'New user'.
- For further information, see the [Manual Mijn ZonMw](#).

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. Be aware that some characters (such as quotation marks) may not be printed correctly if you wrote your application in Word first and then copied it into Mijn ZonMw. You can correct this yourself in Mijn ZonMw.

5.3 General queries

For questions on matters of content, please contact:

Dr Angela Sarabdjitsingh (Programme Manager)
Roos Harmsen (Programme Secretary)
Sanna-Mari Kuisma (Programme officer)
Jacoline Griep (Cluster Assistant)

via: +31 (0)70 349 52 88 or opencompetitie@zonmw.nl

5.4 Technical Questions

For technical questions about the use of *Mijn ZonMw*, please contact the service desk. The service desk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 8:00 and 17:00 hr CET on +31 (0)70 349 5176 or servicedesk@zonmw.nl. In emails, please state your application number and provide a telephone number where we may reach you.

5.5 Downloads and links

General background information

- [NWO Grant rules 2017](#)
- [Procedure booklet for applicants](#)
- [FAIR data and data management](#)
- [Open Access](#)
- [Tien principes MVL](#)
- [Strengthening impact](#)

Funding round-specific information

- [Programme page](#)
- [Call for proposals 2021](#)
- [FAQ ZonMw Open Competitie 2021](#)
- [Full Proposal Form - ZonMw Open Competitie 2021](#)
- [Budget Form - ZonMw Open Competitie 2021](#)
- [Letter of Commitment for co-financing - ZonMw Open Competitie 2021](#)
- [Matching Declaration for Investment - ZonMw Open Competitie 2021](#)