FAQ Impact Outlook for VIDI

1. Where can I find more information about Knowledge Utilisation?

The information in the Vidi call for proposals is leading. Paragraph 4.2 under the criteria states how the applications will be assessed. Paragraph 2.4 'Knowledge exploitation: background of the impact outlook approach' explains the impact outlook approach used in the Vidi call. A more detailed explanation of NWO's knowledge exploitation policy can be found on the website: https://www.nwo.nl/en/knowledge-utilisation.

2. Where can I find more information about the Impact Outlook approach to help me make the right choice and approach in my application?

You can find an online workshop in NWO’s e-learning environment. Go to https://impact.nwo.nl/en and select 'An Impact Outlook for your Research'. This generic workshop is a tool to help you make choices and devise an approach to knowledge utilisation.

3. What is the difference between scientific and societal impact?

Scientific impact is the impact of research on one's own, related or broader scientific field. Societal impact has been defined by NWO as every social (cultural, economic, industrial, ecological and/or social) change that is (partly) the result of the knowledge and skills gained through the proposed research.

4. Is it necessary to include both types of impact (scientific impact and societal impact) to obtain a good score for this assessment criterion?

It is not necessary to include both types of impact in order to obtain a good score for this assessment criterion. Both a focus on scientific impact and a focus on societal impact or a combination can lead to a good score. However, it is important that the application clearly explains why there is a focus on scientific impact and/or societal impact. The committee will assess whether there are opportunities for impact that are not described in the proposal, and take this into account in its assessment.

Example: The applicant chooses to focus on scientific impact. The applicant motivates this choice and explains the potential for scientific impact. If the applicant does not yet see any potential for social impact from the proposed research, the applicant describes how attention will be paid to unforeseen opportunities and how this will be dealt with. It is up to the applicant to choose the appropriate way of doing this and to motivate it.

5. Part of the criterion Scientific and/or Societal impact is the presence of processes, factors or plans for dealing with (unforeseen) opportunities for the form of impact that has not been chosen. What if your focus is on both forms of impact?

If in the application the focus is on both forms of impact, there is no question of a 'non-chosen form of impact'. The elaboration of both the scientific and the societal impact are included in the assessment of this criterion.
6. **How does the assessment committee assess the justification of the focus?**

The committee assesses whether the justification is convincing and whether it fits the proposed project. Part of this may be whether the applicant shows that it has sufficiently explored the context of the research and has not overlooked any obvious opportunities for the project in terms of impact. The applications that are preselected will be assessed further, partly on the basis of the reference reports and the rebuttal.

7. **How will the non-chosen form of impact be assessed by the Evaluation Committee?**

Part of the assessment is the presence of processes, factors or plans to increase (unforeseen) opportunities during the project for the non-selected type of impact. Despite the fact that the applicant has the choice to focus on social and/or scientific impact, we expect the applicant to also address the form of impact that is not the direct focus. We expect the applicant to form an idea of how foreseen and unforeseen opportunities for impact can be found and exploited during the course of the project. This may also mean, for example, that the applicant indicates in the proposal that (unforeseen) opportunities with regard to impact will be picked up by others, and describes its own role in making this possible. The Committee assesses whether the justification is convincing and appropriate to the proposed project. This may include whether the applicant shows that it has sufficiently explored the context of the research and has not overlooked any obvious opportunities for the project in terms of impact.

8. **Is an implementation plan for social impact not (or no longer) necessary in the application?**

The committee is asked to assess the section according to the criteria in the Vidi call for proposals. A concrete implementation plan is not mentioned. It is not a requirement, but ideas about implementation can help to substantiate the potential and relevance. Describing a route and what productive interactions are possible, given the research proposal, can also underpin the potential, relevance and vision where necessary. For detailed information and tools to write the paragraph on social and/or scientific impact please refer to the e-learning on the NWO website: https://impact.nwo.nl/en.

9. **Can a budget be requested for knowledge exploitation activities?**

The funding module Knowledge Utilisation can be used to fund a wide variety of activities that contribute to knowledge utilisation. Make the budget for knowledge exploitation in line with the application and be as specific as possible and motivate the choices made. The conditions for financing set in the Vidi call for proposals are leading. If unforeseen opportunities for impact are involved, activities to find these opportunities can also be included if they are specified.