NWA Market organisation of the energy system in 2050
# Call for proposals

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Chapter 1: Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the ‘Market organisation of the energy system in 2050’ funding round. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

In this Call for proposals you will find information about the aim of this programme (Chapter 2), the conditions for the grant application (Chapter 3) and how your proposal will be assessed (Chapter 4). This is the information you need to submit a grant application. Chapter 5 states the obligations for grant recipients in the event you are awarded funding, Chapter 6 contains the contact details, and Chapter 7 the annexes.

1.1 Background

What does the Netherlands want to know? This was the idea behind the creation of the Dutch Research Agenda (Dutch acronym NWA). The NWA has been created by an innovative process with input from scientists and citizens: the Dutch general public was invited to submit questions about science online. The national knowledge community, united in the Knowledge Coalition1, grouped the questions collected into 140 cluster questions that were used to formulate 25 routes.2

The NWA concerns complex issues where alignment and collaboration have added value for realising scientific and societal breakthroughs. The aim of the NWA is to make a positive and structural contribution to the global knowledge society of tomorrow, where new knowledge easily passes from researchers to users and where new questions arise from the field and society that quickly and automatically find their way into new research. The NWA programme therefore encourages collaboration between different partners so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

The key elements of the NWA programme are:

- The Dutch Research Agenda that consists of 25 routes and 140 cluster questions.
- Knowledge-chain-wide3 and interdisciplinary consortia, in which researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds, knowledge and societal (public and private) organisations and, where relevant, citizens collaborate on complex issues.
- Projects that concern demand-driven research, connect with the routes and cluster questions and thereby adopt a fundamental, application-oriented and field-oriented approach.
- Giving back the results to society through dialogue and interaction.

In 2018 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (Dutch acronym) OCW entrusted NWO with implementing the Dutch Research Agenda. The NWA comprises four programme lines4:

1. Research along Routes by Consortia (ORC);
2. Thematic Programming in consultation with government bodies;
3. Innovations and Networks;
4. Science Communication and Outreach.

The call for proposals ‘Market organisation of the energy system in 2050’ is being realised in the context of programme line 2 of the NWA programme. In this call, the initiators are the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and the Topsector Energy.

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1 The Knowledge Coalition consists of Dutch research universities (UNL), universities of applied sciences (VH), university medical centres (NFU), the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Dutch Research Council (NWO), employers (VNO-NCW and MKB-Nederland) and the institutes for applied research (TNO/TO2).
2 The 25 routes and corresponding cluster questions can be found in Overview routes | NWO.
3 The broad knowledge chain comprises the public knowledge institutions: universities of applied sciences, universities, NWO and KNAW institutes, university medical centres and TO2 institutes, as well as other public knowledge organisations such as National Knowledge Institutes (see Chapter 7 for a full list of public knowledge organisations).
4 More information about the different programme lines is available at Dutch Research Agenda | NWO.
1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is €3,873,000. Within this Call for proposals one proposal will be awarded funding.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

This Call for proposals has three phases:
1. Registration of an initiative;
2. Participation in two collaborative workshops;
3. Submission of a proposal.

In the first phase, the initiatives from starting consortia or individuals will be registered and published. These initiatives will be the starting point for the collaborative workshops in the second phase. The aim of these workshops is to connect and combine the registered initiatives. In the third phase, the proposals will be submitted by the consortia that were formed during the workshops. These three phases are further described in Sections 3.3.1 and 4.2.1-4.2.3.

The deadline for submitting an initiative is 16 November 2023, before 14:00:00 hours CET.
The deadline for registering for the collaborative workshops is 28 November 2023, before 14:00:00 hours CET.
The deadline for submitting a proposal is 28 March 2024, before 14:00:00 hours CEST.

When you submit your application in ISAAC, you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore please start submitting your application at least one day before the deadline of this Call for proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.
2 Aim

This chapter describes the aim of the programme and the societal impact.

2.1 Aim of the programme

This call for proposals invites knowledge institutions and societal parties to form consortia for the development of scientific and practice-oriented research proposals aimed at the theme ‘Market organisation of the energy system in 2050’. The consortia are required to work in an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary manner and should have a knowledge-chain-wide composition. Knowledge-chain-wide implies that proposals connect fundamental, applied and practice-oriented research and that connection is sought with the knowledge needs of societal parties.

This Call for proposals is in line with the NWA Route “Energy transition”, and specifically with the challenges “A CO₂-neutral society will be different”, and “Rapid switch to a CO₂-neutral society”. Given the context of the European energy markets, the subject also intersects with the challenge “The Dutch transition in a global context”. Furthermore, the programme also addresses questions from another route, “Towards resilient societies”. These questions mainly concern how society deals with the transition to a fully sustainable provision of energy.

2.2 Substantive framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aims of the call</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The programme will map the desired market organisation for 2050 with respect to the potential market and governance mechanisms for a robust and affordable CO₂-neutral energy system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The programme will explore what the route towards the development of the future energy market could look like and the extent to which the government should guide the market.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The programme will include a description of the status quo regarding the current market organisation of the energy system and existing market and governance mechanisms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. The programme will take into account important societal and public values related to sustainability, equity, transparency and the distribution of wealth, security of supply and aspects such as spatial integration, co-determination, competitiveness or competition, international relations and human rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The programme will provide knowledge for courses of action for policymaking to establish a specific form of market organisation for the transition period.</td>
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2.2.1 INTENDED IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME

The main objective of the National Climate Agreement of the Dutch government is to gradually reduce CO₂ emissions and to realise a CO₂-neutral energy system in 2050.⁵ The transition necessary to realise this requires major changes in the Dutch energy system. In the coming decades, the transition to a CO₂-neutral energy system will demand major changes to government policy in consultation with societal parties and market players. It is important that these policy adjustments are supported by societal and scientific knowledge and experience.

The NWA programme ‘Market organisation of the energy system in 2050’ is aimed at the development of knowledge about the desired market organisation, including potential market and governance mechanisms, in relation to the energy system in 2050. The framework for the programme is determined by the guidelines of the National Plan Energy System (NPE) that applies a broad approach.⁶ The NPE considers all energy carriers and interaction between these as part of the energy system. Furthermore, the plan takes into account a variety of aspects: social, societal, legal, governance,

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⁵ Klimaatakkoord: Wat is het Klimaatakkoord? [The Climate Agreement of the Netherlands: What is it?] | Klimaatverandering | Rijksoverheid.nl
⁶ For more information about the National Plan Energy System the documents on the following website can be consulted: Nationaal Plan Energiesysteem [National Plan Energy System]
climate and environment, economic to spatial, technical, physical and digital. This NWA programme focuses on the questions for the longer term, which have not yet been tackled in the NPE.

The research in the programme will yield insights into the possible future market organisation and the associated conditions that can play a role in the design of the energy market for a CO2-neutral energy system in 2050. This will include an examination of the allocation of tasks between private parties and government bodies (market structure), the design of the admission to, and functioning of, the market (market mechanisms), and the regulation of certain (tradable) products, networks and services, such as the transport and storage of all energy carriers.

Research and context
The research offers an analysis, based on scenarios, of the different aspects that might play a role in the future and could possibly have an impact on the current market organisation. For example, it will be explored what the route to the development of the energy market could look like and which degree of market control by the government could be necessary.

It will also be investigated to what extent the definitions of the roles of various stakeholders, such as the participating commercial market players, grid managers and consumers, could be adjusted, and how much collaboration is desirable in these roles. To answer these questions, the contextual factors, including societal support and (inter)national developments, should also be included in the analysis. With this, the focus in the programme should be on developments and innovations that could be relevant in 30 years time, but the impact of which remains as yet unknown, such as, but not exclusively (the interaction between):
- the role of hydrogen or other forms of energy as an alternative energy carrier;
- the holistic or integral approach of the interaction between the different energy carriers and systems (smart multi-commodity grids);
- the degree of flexibility and resilience of the energy system;
- local and sustainable energy at the right time for, amongst other things, sustainable heat generation and a sustainable built environment;
- a more hybrid and decentralised energy system;
- internationalisation, European trade;
- trade and energy security;
- the availability of (alternative) raw materials for sustainable energy developments;
- the choices for the design of the future economy and society in which sustainable energy will be the main source of energy for all sectors and consumers;
- emission reduction, the capture and storage of CO2s;
- the role of digitalisation in matching supply and demand.

Societal and public values
For the design of the future market organisation and the associated appropriate market and governance mechanisms, societal and scientific insights are needed to be able to underpin possible solutions and necessary choices. That applies, for example, to societal and public values such as sustainability, justice, transparency and the allocation of wealth, security of supply and aspects such as spatial integration, co-determination, competitiveness or competition, international relations and human rights. Without the involvement of society as a whole, including multiple public and private interested parties, the advancement of innovation and the creation of societal support, we run the risk of not being able to conclude the energy transition with the desired effects.

In addition, the Netherlands could learn lessons from foreign models concerning market organisation, market mechanisms and governance instruments that, in practice, have a favourable effect on the (inter)national energy market. Accordingly, this programme will benefit the design of the future energy system that is based on insights into the standards and values that can be defined as resilient and that are embedded in a democratic society.
Describing the market organisation in 2050

The programme requires the description of the desired market organisation in 2050, including possible market and governance mechanisms, for a robust and affordable CO₂-neutral energy system. Here, the focus lies on the applicability of the outcomes from the research (by testing, for example, in testbeds or simulations). With these insights, the programme wants to make a contribution to increasing knowledge in the area of the suitability and future resilience of sustainable market organisation with possible (combinations of) market and governance mechanisms. In order to realise this, researchers could also examine the current shortcomings of the energy system. These insights are important for the realisation of a CO₂-neutral energy system in 2050.

2.2.2 Societal background

In the coming decades, the energy transition will be one of the biggest challenges that we face as a society. This transition will take place in the context of the major challenges that lie ahead of us in many different areas, including digitalisation, biodiversity, health and circularity. Difficult choices will have to be made on the road towards the new energy system. However, with respect to future wishes, developments and possibilities, many uncertainties continue to exist, such as in the area of societal preferences, (economic) activities, technologies, global events and the (international) development of supply and demand. A point of tension is that sustainability has played a limited role in the realisation of the current market organisation. This observation means that as a consequence of major changes in the energy system and a lack of common guiding principles for society, the market organisation is now under pressure.

A redefinition of the system could lead to a new market organisation that requires insight into possible future market mechanisms and how the government can contribute to realising these new mechanisms. However, the transition period will be characterised by major uncertainties and will occur in a complex multilevel and multi-actor arena. In order to determine which market and governance mechanisms can make a contribution to a desirable market organisation in 2050, insight is needed into the complexity of the energy market and knowledge about the (possible) impact of future developments and wishes. In this context, it also needs to be considered that the behaviour of actors in the energy system is influenced by regulation, such as the way in which the grid rates are calculated, by tax incentives and levies, and by possible grid congestion. This knowledge can subsequently form the basis for the realisation of future resilient policy frameworks that make flexibility possible and provide sufficient governance, while also regulating the energy market, protecting the position of the various interested parties in the system, and properly safeguarding the balance between these interested parties.

2.2.3 Intended output of the programme

The programme will yield knowledge for courses of action for policymaking for the formulation of policy in the longer term. To this end, the programme aims at a description of the societal and public values as a basis for the analysis of the market organisation and the translation of these values into policy objectives and performance indicators for a future energy system. Further, the analysis should include a risk analysis with respect to the societal and public values and the energy system. The entire analysis will eventually result in proposals that satisfy societal and public values. In this context, researchers can base the development of scenarios on the II3050 scenarios. Innovation should also be supported in the scenarios. Governance mechanisms for the energy system should function well in these known scenarios and should preferably also be able to cope with more extreme scenarios.

The premise of the programme is that the market organisation should be as technology-neutral as possible, which means that despite the introduction of future technologies or innovations, a disruption of the functioning of the market is avoided. Furthermore, the market organisation should be sufficiently robust with respect to future uncertainties, as continually adjusting the market organisation to new developments is undesirable. From the perspective of a well-functioning market organisation, additional policy can subsequently be developed that might now be necessary for the transition period. Laws and regulations should be sufficiently responsive so that due consideration can be given to new developments and technological innovations.

For more information about the II3050 scenarios, the following document can be consulted: Het energiesysteem van de toekomst: de II3050-scenario’s [The energy system of the future: the II3050 scenarios]
In the programme, the following main question will be addressed:

- **Which forms of market organisation and market governance mechanisms are suitable for various scenarios with respect to the design of the CO2-neutral energy system in 2050?**

To answer this main question, the following subsidiary questions should be answered as well:

- Which standards and values can be evaluated and made tangible in a future-resilient manner, and therefore influence the market organisation and market and governance mechanisms to be developed?
- How can standards and values be translated into public interests?
- Which market models can be developed that are sufficiently robust for all possible scenarios?
- Up to which point are we capable of developing a realistic perspective for a robust and efficient future system against the background of design principles from the perspective of public interests such as sustainability, affordability, and security of supply and energy justice?
- What are the limitations of the current methods to establish which market models (including which market and governance mechanisms) the market needs to safeguard the public interests?
- Are there innovative methods to establish which market models, including market mechanisms and forms of control, the market needs to safeguard public interests in the short and long term?
- In the different forms of market organisation, how are the profits, costs and risks of the energy transition allocated between the different stakeholders? Which issues of justice could this allocation lead to?
- What are the courses of action for policy that emerge from the gained insights? To what extent can these insights contribute to making a certain market organisation possible for the transition period?

### 2.3 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to solutions for societal issues of today and tomorrow. Examples are the energy transition, health and care, or climate change. For more information about the NWO knowledge utilisation policy, see the website: [Knowledge utilisation | NWO](#).

#### 2.3.1 Tailor-made impact

Depending on the aim of the funding instrument, NWO will select the approach that has the greatest chance of achieving societal impact. The primary aim of the funding instrument determines the method NWO deploys to facilitate knowledge utilisation in various phases of the project (proposal, realisation, project completion) and the effort required from the applicant(s) and partner(s).

In this programme, the Impact Plan approach is applied. With this, NWO facilitates the development of an integrated strategy by researchers and partners to purposefully increase the likelihood of achieving the desired societal impact.

NWO offers an e-learning module that can help interested parties via [Online workshops | NWO Impact](#).

#### 2.3.2 Impact Plan approach in the NWA

In the NWA, the programmes focus on complex issues where coordination and cooperation has added value to realise scientific and societal breakthroughs. NWA stimulate the cooperation between different partners, making the whole is greater than the sum of its parts and stimulating that new knowledge for societal issues is developed.
Societal impact is never solely the result of knowledge and insights gained from the research. To increase the chance of the research’s societal impact, demonstrable involvement is needed from important stakeholders from the moment the consortium is formed until the completion of the project and beyond. Societal impact is often realised in the years after a research project has been concluded. By ensuring continuous alignment between researchers and possible knowledge users from the start of the research articulation (co-design) and when carrying out the research (co-creation), the chances of productive interactions, and finally impact, will increase.

Consortia draw up an Impact Plan together with stakeholders as part of the proposal. The Impact Plan describes how the consortium expect to realise societal impact and the role that productive interactions play in this. It shows how achieving the expected impact has been integrated into the research design and what role consortium partners and stakeholders from the fields of policy, practice and industry play in this.
Chapter 3: Conditions for applicants

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your grant application. Firstly it describes who can apply for funding (Section 3.1) and what you can request funding for (Section 3.2). Subsequently, you will find the conditions for preparing and submitting the application (Sections 3.3 and 3.4) and the specific funding conditions (Section 3.5).

3.1 Who can apply

Proposals are to be submitted by the main applicant on behalf of the consortium.

There are four categories of participants within a consortium:
1. Main applicant;
2. Co-applicant(s);
3. Cooperation partner(s);
4. Co-funder(s) (optional).

A consortium should consist of at least a main applicant, a co-applicant and cooperation partner. The conditions for each type of participant are explained in more detail in the following sections.

3.1.1 Main and co-applicants

The main applicant submits the proposal via the NWO web application ISAAC. During the assessment process, NWO will communicate with the main applicant.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the main applicant will become the project leader and point of contact for NWO. The knowledge institution of the main applicant is the main beneficiary and will become the official secretary.

Co-applicants have an active role in realising the project. The (sub)project leaders and beneficiary/beneficiaries are jointly responsible for realising the entire project.

Main applicant

Full, associate and assistant professors, lectors employed by a university of applied sciences (HBO) and other researchers with a comparable position* may act as main applicant if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period** or a tenure track agreement at one of the following organisations:
- universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- university medical centres;
- institutes affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) or NWO;
- universities of applied sciences as referred to in Article 1.8 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW);
- TO2 institutes;
- Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- Naturalis Biodiversity Center;
- Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- Princess Máxima Center.

*A comparable position refers to a researcher that has a demonstrable and comparable number of years of experience in carrying out scientific research and supervising other researchers as a full, associate or assistant professor.

** Lectors employed at a university of applied sciences and researchers employed at a TO2 institute may also submit as a main applicant provided that they have at least a salaried position for a limited period of time.

Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment and the exception stated above for lectors and researchers employed at a TO2 institute) are not allowed to submit a proposal as main applicant.
It could be the case that the main applicant’s tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the main applicant’s tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the main applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project. A main applicant employed by a university of applied sciences or a TO2 institute whose employment ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied must also include such a statement.

Extra conditions:
− the main applicant may submit only one proposal in the role of main applicant;
− the main applicant may participate a maximum of one time as co-applicant in another consortium.
− the main applicant or a representative on behalf of the consortium has participated in both collaborative workshops.

Both main- and co-applicants with a part-time contract should guarantee adequate supervision of the project and all project members for whom funding is requested.

Co-applicants
Co-applicants can be affiliated to the institutions stated in Section 3.1.1 and the public knowledge organisations stated in Annex 7.3, but also to other organisations.

If the organisation to which a co-applicant is affiliated is not listed in Section 3.1.1 or Annex 7.3, then it must meet the cumulative criteria indicated below:
− be established in the Netherlands and
− have a public service mission and
− carry out research independently and
− have no profit motive other than for the purposes of conducting further research.

A private company (i.e. B.V.) is always excluded from participating as an applicant in the consortium.

‘The conduct of research’ from the subcriterion ‘is independent in the conduction of research’ means that conducting research, as defined in the NWO Grant Rules 2017, chapter 5, is the main task of the research organisation; evidenced by official documentation as the statutes, deed of incorporation or other formal documentation. In addition, the research must be conducted by the organisation’s own employees with a salaried employment contract.

Please note: prior to the submission of an application, NWO will assess whether an organisation satisfies these cumulative criteria and may therefore participate as a co-applicant. NWO carries out this assessment amongst other things to check there is no provision of forbidden state support. This assessment should also be carried out if an organisation was previously assessed and permitted as a co-applicant within another NWA programme.

The organisation of the intended co-applicant should submit at least the following documents by email no less than 10 working days before the submission deadline (before 14 March 2024 at 14:00:00):
− a recent extract from the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce;
− the deed of incorporation or current articles of association or other formal document evidencing the public service mission and absence of profit motive;
− the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an audit statement.⁹

Other relevant documentation may be added. NWO may request additional information if the above documents are not sufficiently conclusive to determine whether there would be the provision of forbidden state support or whether the organisation may act as a co-applicant.

If the applicant’s organisation does not submit the necessary documents for this check in time, NWO cannot accept the organisation as a co-applicant.

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⁹ Organisations that are not legally obliged to have their annual accounts audited do not need to provide such an auditor’s statement. They must however be able to demonstrate that this legal requirement is not applicable to the organisation concerned.
Chapter 3: Conditions for applicants / NWA [Porgrammanaam]Market organisation of the energy system in 2050

Extra conditions:
- a co-applicant can participate in up to two consortia in that capacity;
- persons with a zero-hours contract are excluded from submitting as a co-applicant.

3.1.2 Cooperation partners

Cooperation partners are mandatory in this Call for proposals, because active involvement (from demand articulation and the development of the project) from societal stakeholders, both public and private, is of great importance to share knowledge about challenges and possible solutions. A cooperation partner is a party that is closely involved in the implementation of the research and/or knowledge utilisation, but is unable to capitalise its contribution in advance. A cooperation partner is therefore not a main or co-applicant of co-funder. This may include parties that are involved via participation in an advisory, guidance or user committee, or parties that are unable to capitalise their contribution in advance.

Please note: no funding may be requested for salary or research costs as a co-applicant for personnel of organisations that participate as a cooperation partner in the consortium. However, it is possible to remunerate costs by hiring in these organisations as third parties via the modules ‘material costs’, ‘knowledge utilisation’ or ‘project management (see Section 3.2 and Annex 7.1).

3.1.3 Co-funders

Co-funding is not compulsory within this call. Co-funders are organisations that participate in the consortium and contribute to the project in cash and/or in kind. Co-funders do not receive any funding from NWO. The conditions regarding co-funding are specified in Annex 7.4 to this call.

Organisations whose employees are permitted to act as main applicants in accordance with the description given in Section 3.1.1 may not participate as co-funders in this call for proposals.

An exception will be made for TO2 institutes. They may participate in a consortium as co-funders, unless they also participate as a main applicant or co-applicant in the same consortium.

3.2 What can be applied for

For an application in this Call for proposals, a minimum of € 3,500,000 and a maximum of € 3,873,000 can be applied for. The maximum duration of the proposed project is 60 months.

The budget modules (including the maximum amount) available for this Call for proposals are listed in the table below. A consortium should at least appoint one PhD, one postdoc and one position at a university of applied sciences. Apply only for funding that is vital to realise the project. A more detailed explanation of the budget modules can be found in the annexe to this Call for proposals (7.1).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget module</th>
<th>Maximum amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>Unrestricted number of positions, according to UNL or NFU rates¹⁰</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng)</td>
<td>Unrestricted number of positions, in combination with PhD student(s) and or postdoc(s), according to UNL or NFU rates¹⁰</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoc</td>
<td>Unrestricted number of positions, according to UNL or NFU rates⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities</td>
<td>€ 100,000, according to UNL or NFU rates⁹, in combination with PhD student(s) and or postdoc(s), up to a maximum of € 300,000 per application</td>
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¹⁰ For personnel outside the Netherlands, the local rates are reimbursed. These rates are capped at a maximum equal to the UNL rates corrected by the NWO Country correction coefficients (CCC) table, see Money Follows Cooperation | NWO.
### Budget module

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<th>Budget module</th>
<th>Maximum amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities</td>
<td>€ 100,000, in combination with PhD student and/or postdoc</td>
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<td>Research leave</td>
<td>10% of the of the total budget applied for, according to UNL rates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel at universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other organisations</td>
<td>Unrestricted number of positions, in accordance with the applicable rate at the time of the granting decision as taken from Table 2.2, column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excl. Dutch VAT' from the Handleiding Overheidstarieven <a href="https://salarytables.nwo.nl">HOT-Manual Dutch Government rates</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Material costs</td>
<td>€ 15,000 per year per FTE scientific position</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments (up to €150,000)</td>
<td>€ 150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (€ 150,000 up to € 500,000)</td>
<td>Greater than or equal to € 150,000 (for data collections, a minimum of € 25,000 applies) and less than or equal to € 500,000 with 25% own contribution from the applying knowledge institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge utilisation</td>
<td>Mandatory to apply for; minimum 5% and maximum 20% of the total budget applied for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internationalisation</td>
<td>€25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money follows Cooperation</td>
<td>Less than 50% of the total budget applied for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project management</td>
<td>5% of the total budget applied for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.3 Preparing an application

This Call for Proposals has three phases:
1. Registration of an initiative;
2. Participation in two collaborative workshops;
3. Submission of a proposal.

Section 3.3.1 provides more information about the first two phases, and Section 3.3.2 details about Phase 3.

#### 3.3.1 Registration of initiatives and registration for collaborative workshops

Everybody can register an initiative via the NWO website. An initiative consists of a concise and strongly formulated project idea, the name(s) of the initiator(s) and contact details, and a possible first indication of the parties involved in the nascent consortium (if known). The initiative must be written in English. A link to the registration can be found on the programme page of this call ‘Market organisation of the energy system in 2050’. Registered initiatives will be published online by NWO after they have been checked.

Following the registration of the initiatives, these will first be published on the NWO website. NWO will subsequently organise two collaborative workshops in mid-December (see Section 4.2.2 and the timetable in Section 4.2.11). The workshops are open to everybody. The consortia involved in an initiative will be automatically invited for the workshops. Other interested persons or parties can register for participation in the collaborative workshops by means of an online form.

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11 This also includes positions at universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other applying organisations.

12 Contact details will only be published online after receiving approval for this from the submitter.
It is strongly recommended that for each submitted initiative, as many consortium partners as possible also participate in these workshops. The aim of these workshops is to promote the realisation of a single large consortium. To achieve this, similar initiatives will be encouraged to work together. More information about this will be published in due course on the programme page of the NWO website.

3.3.2 Preparing and submitting a proposal

A proposal is written (and submitted) upon completion of the collaborative workshops.

A proposal can only be submitted via the online application system ISAAC. Proposals not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration. Please see Section 3.4.1 for a complete overview of all submission requirements.

As the main applicant, you are obliged to submit a proposal via your own personal ISAAC account.

It is important that you start submitting your proposal in ISAAC in good time:
- if you do not have an ISAAC account yet, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems;
- new organisations may still need to be added to ISAAC by NWO;
- you need to enter details online as well.

NWO will not consider proposals submitted after the deadline.

For technical questions, you are kindly requested to contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see Contact (Chapter 6).

Does a main and/or co-applicant work at an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database? Then please report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added. This will take several days. For this reason, you should report this at least one week before the deadline.

The applicant should inform the organisation where they work about the submission of the proposal, and the organisation should accept the grant conditions of this Call for proposals.

The steps involved in writing your application are:
- download the application form from the NWO web application ISAAC or from the NWO web page (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
- complete the application form;
- save the application form in ISAAC as a PDF file and upload it with any compulsory annexes;
- fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.

Compulsory annexes:
- budget;
- declarations of commitment of cooperation partner(s);
- declaration co-funding from co-funders (mandatory if applicable);
- confirmation of contribution to investment (mandatory if applicable, see Section 7.1);
- letter guaranteeing the continuity of the project supervision (compulsory if applicable, see Section 3.1);
- Form ‘Statement and signature’.

In case NWO has made a template available, the annexe should be drawn up according to the NWO template. Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. All of the annexes, except for the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). The budget must be submitted in ISAAC as an Excel file. Upon submission of the application, the attached declaration of co-funding should state the fully co-funding pledged according to the conditions described in Section 3.5.5 / 7.4.

Any annexes other than those above-mentioned are not permitted.
Chapter 3: Conditions for applicants / NWA [Porgrammanaam]Market organisation of the energy system in 2050

3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

NWO will assess your application against the conditions listed below. Your application will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your application, NWO requests you to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission. These conditions are:

- the main applicant and co-applicant(s) meet the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the application complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- the application form is, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions;
- the application is submitted via the main applicant’s ISAAC account;
- the application is received before the deadline;
- the application is written in English;
- the application budget is drawn up in accordance with the conditions for this Call for proposals;
- the proposed project has a duration of at least 48 months and at most 60 months;
- all of the required annexes are, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions.
- the main applicant or a representative on behalf of the consortium was present at both collaborative workshops.

3.5 Conditions on granting

The NWO Grant Rules 2017 and the Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research are applicable to all applications.

3.5.1 Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines

Guidelines (hereafter: the Guidelines) helps knowledge institutions to ensure that international cooperation can take place securely. Knowledge security concerns the undesirable transfer of sensitive knowledge and technology that compromises national security; the covert influence of state actors on education and research, which jeopardises academic freedom and social safety; and ethical issues that may arise in cooperation with countries that do not respect fundamental rights.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their project complies and will continue to comply with the Guidelines. By submitting an application, the applicant commits to the recommendations stipulated in these Guidelines. In the event of a suspected breach of the Guidelines in an application submitted to NWO for project funding, or in a project funded by NWO, NWO may ask the applicant to provide a risk assessment demonstrating that the recommendations in the Guidelines have been taken into consideration. If the applicant fails to comply with NWO’s request, or if the risk assessment is in apparent breach of the Guidelines, this may affect NWO’s grant award or decision-making process. NWO may also include further conditions in the award letter if appropriate.

The National Knowledge Security Guidelines can be found on the central government website at: Home | National Contact Point.
3.5.2 Data management

The results of scientific research must be replicable, verifiable and falsifiable. In the digital age, this means that, in addition to publications, research data must also be publicly accessible insofar as this is possible. NWO expects that research data resulting from NWO-funded projects will be made publicly available, as much as possible, for reuse by other researchers. “As open as possible, as closed as necessary” is the applicable principle in this respect. Researchers are at least expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of work published within the project publicly available at the same time as the work’s publication. Any costs incurred for this can be included in the project budget. Researchers should explain how data emerging from the project will be dealt with based on the data management section in the proposal and the data management plan that is drawn up after funding is awarded.

Data management section

The data management section is part of the proposal. Researchers are asked before the start of the research to consider how the data collected will be ordered and categorised so that this can be made publicly available. Measures will often already need to be taken, during the creation of data and analysis of the data, to make its later storage and dissemination possible. If it is not possible to make all data from the project publicly available, for example due to reasons of privacy, ethics or valorisation, then the applicant is obliged to list the reasons for this in the data management section.

The data management section in the proposal is not evaluated and will therefore not be weighed in the decision whether to award funding. However, both the referees and the committee can issue advice with respect to the data management section.

3.5.3 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017, the project that NWO funds must be carried out in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to this code. In the case of a (possible) violation of these standards during a project funded by NWO, the applicant should immediately inform NWO of this and should submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and the policy regarding research integrity can be found on the website: Scientific integrity | NWO.

3.5.4 Ethical statement or licence

The applicant is responsible for determining whether an ethical statement or licence is needed for the realisation of the proposed project. The applicant should ensure that this is obtained from the relevant institution or ethics committee on time. If the project is awarded funding, then the grant is issued under the condition that the necessary ethical statement or licence is obtained before the latest start date for the project. The project cannot start until NWO has received a copy of the ethical statement or licence.

3.5.5 Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol ensures an honest and reasonable distribution of benefits emerging from the use of genetic resources (Access and Benefit Sharing; ABS). Researchers who make use of genetic sources from the Netherlands or abroad for their research should familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol (ABS Focal Point - ABS Focal Point). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

3.5.6 Co-funding

Co-funding is not compulsory within this call. However, co-funders may be included in the project proposal. A distinction is made between in cash co-funding, which serves to cover the budget for the project activities described in the proposal, and in kind co-funding, which can consist of the use of resources from the organisations involved. Conditions for co-funding are specified in Annex 7.4 to this call.
Declaration co-funding

In a declaration co-funding, the co-funder expresses both substantive and financial support for the project and confirms the pledged co-funding. In the declaration co-funding, the co-funder also states whether the support pledged originates from private sources. The declarations co-funding from all co-funders are mandatory annexes to the proposal. The declaration co-funding must be signed by an authorised signatory of the co-funder. NWO will provide a mandatory template for the declaration co-funding.

In the case of funding being awarded, the co-funder should state their contribution(s) in the consortium agreement (amongst other things for invoicing in the case of in cash co-funding). In this agreement, further agreements are also made between the co-funder(s) and the applicant(s) (see Section 5.1.3).

3.5.7 Declarations of commitment of cooperation partners

In a declaration of commitment, the cooperation partner expresses support for the project and describes their role within the project. Declarations of commitment may only be provided for proposals. NWO will make a standard letter available for this on the grant page.

If the proposal is awarded funding, then the cooperation partner should confirm their participation in the project via a consortium agreement. This agreement will also include further agreements between the cooperation partner(s) and the applicant(s) (see also Section 5.1.4).
Chapter 4: Assessment procedure

This chapter first describes the assessment according to the DORA principles (Section 4.1) and the course of the assessment procedure (Section 4.2). Second, it states the criteria that the assessment committee will use to assess your application (Section 4.3).

The NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all persons and NWO employees involved in the assessment and/or decision-taking process (Code for Dealing with Personal Interests | NWO).

NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture in which there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age (Diversity and inclusion | NWO). NWO encourages members of an assessment committee to be actively aware of implicit associations and to try to minimise these. NWO will provide them with information about concrete ways of improving the assessment of an application.

4.1 The San Francisco Declaration (DORA)

NWO is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). DORA is a worldwide initiative that aims to improve the way research and researchers are assessed. DORA contains recommendations for research funders, research institutions, scientific journals and other parties.

DORA aims to reduce the uncritical use of bibliometric indicators and obviate unconscious bias in the assessment of research and researchers. DORA’s overarching philosophy is that research should be evaluated on its own merits rather than on the basis of surrogate measures, such as the journal in which the research is published.

When assessing the scientific track record of applicants, NWO makes use of a broad definition of scientific output.

NWO requests committee members not to rely on indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor or the h-index when assessing applications. Applicants are not allowed to mention these in their applications. You are, however, allowed to list other scientific products besides publications, such as datasets, patents, software and code, et cetera.

For more information on how NWO is implementing the principles of DORA, see DORA | NWO.

4.2 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:
- Registration of an initiative;
- Participation in collaborative workshops;
- Submission of the proposal;
- Consideration of the proposal;
- Pre-advice assessment committee;
- Interview selection;
- Interviews;
- Meeting assessment committee;
- Decision-making.

Assessment committee

For this NWA Call for proposals, an assessment committee will be appointed by the NWO Executive Board. The assessment committee will have a broad composition. This means that not only scientific expertise will be represented in the assessment committee, but also expertise from the entire knowledge chain, including societal stakeholders who are highly familiar with the subject, and representatives from the target group.
Due to the special character of the Call for proposals and the expertise present in the assessment committee, NWO has decided for the assessment of the applications to make use of the possibility given in Article 2.2.4, paragraph 2, of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, to realise the assessment procedure without involving referees.

4.2.1 Registration of an initiative

Initiatives are registered via the NWO website. You can withdraw an initiative at any moment. You should do this by sending an email to NWO. The publication of the initiatives on the NWO website is intended to make the interested parties and proposals public, eliciting the interest of possible consortium partners and therefore making consortium formation possible at an early stage already. The initiatives also serve as the substantive starting point for the collaborative workshops (see 4.2.2). For more information, please see Section 3.3.1.

4.2.2 Collaborative workshops

In the period after the registration of an initiative, NWO will facilitate two physical collaborative workshops. Participation in both workshops is mandatory for the main applicant or a representative on behalf of the consortium for a proposal (see 3.1.1 and 3.4.1). The aim of the collective workshops is to bring together ideas, encourage collaboration and work towards the submission of one (or a limited number of) research proposal(s) by broad (innovative) consortia.

The collaborative workshops are also intended to make the applicants aware of all current initiatives around the call and provide the opportunity for possible collaboration, merging or joining. The workshops are open to all interested parties. Accordingly, these meetings give parties not involved in an initiative but who are nevertheless interested in participating in a consortium, the chance to explore their options and to join existing initiatives. Therefore, these parties can also register for these meetings so that they can come into contact with and possibly join a consortium.

This method actively contributes to clustering different research ideas (consolidation of strengths), consortium formation and involving new research groups and/or societal stakeholders. With this procedure, researchers and other parties are encouraged and facilitated to connect and combine research ideas, and to work together. However, it is ultimately their responsibility to form a consortium and submit a proposal. By publishing the initiatives before the workshops, the applicants have an overview of the wide range of ideas submitted and therefore also gain insight into their chances of being awarded funding. This will help them to decide, in view of the award rate, whether or not to cooperate with others.

Finally, during the workshops, more information will be provided about the application process and the Impact Plan approach (see also Section 2.3).

4.2.3 Submission of a proposal

For the submission of the proposal, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website. When you write your proposal, you must adhere to the questions stated on this form and the procedure given in the explanatory notes. You must also adhere to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages.

Your complete application form must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC (see paragraph 1.3). After this deadline, you can no longer submit a proposal. After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.4 Admissibility of the proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, you will hear from NWO whether or not your proposal will be taken into consideration. NWO will determine this based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO can only take your proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions.
Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, NWO may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this.

4.2.5 Pre-advice assessment committee

After this, your proposal will be submitted for comments to several members of the assessment committee (the pre-advisers). The pre-advisers will provide a written substantive and reasoned response to the proposal. They will formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see Section 4.3.1) and will give the proposal a numerical score per assessment criterion. For this, the NWO score table will be used (on a scale of 1 to 9, where “1” is excellent and “9” unsatisfactory). In addition, the pre-advisers identify which parts need to be clarified, explained or deepened during the interview.

4.2.6 Interview selection

In principle, all consortia that submitted a proposal will be invited for an interview by the assessment committee. If NWO takes more than ten admissible proposals into consideration, then the assessment committee can decide to invite just a selection of the consortia for an interview.

This selection will be realised by submitting the proposals to the assessment committee. The assessment committee will create a ranking by making its own assessment based on the scores awarded in the pre-advice. Subsequently, the highest-scoring applicants will receive an invitation for an interview. This will amount to no more than eight times the number of proposals expected to be awarded funding. If, after the interview selection, two or more proposals based on their average total score cannot be distinguished from each other, then there is an ex aequo situation (see Section 4.2.9).

4.2.7 Interview

During the interview, the assessment committee has the opportunity to pose questions, and the consortium can respond to these during the discussion with the committee. In this manner, the principle of hearing and rebuttal is applied. The interview is an important part of the assessment. After the interview, the assessment committee will give the final score. Based on this score, the committee will discuss whether or not the proposal should receive a positive recommendation for funding.

4.2.8 Meeting of the assessment committee

The committee will make its own assessment based on the available material. Based on that discussion, the committee will produce written advice about the quality and ranking of the proposals for the Executive Board. It will base this advice on the assessment criteria. The proposal must receive an overall qualification of at least ‘very good’ to be eligible for funding. In addition, the proposal must also receive at least the qualification ‘good’ for each of the individual assessment criteria.

For more information about the qualifications, see Applying for funding, how does it work? | NWO.

If, after the discussion of the proposals, two or more of the proposals cannot be distinguished from each other based on their weighted total score, then there is an ex aequo situation (see the paragraph about ex aequo).
4.2.9 Ex aequo

NWO understands ex aequo to be a situation in which two or more proposals based on their weighted score cannot be distinguished from each other. An ex aequo situation is relevant with respect to the borders of the available budget or the selection borders. The existence of an ex aequo situation is determined as follows. The starting point is the ranking drawn up by the assessment committee, with the final scores rounded down to two decimal points. The reference score is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the borders of the available budget or the selection borders. All proposals with a score that is within 0.05 or less of the reference score will be considered. In this way, the proposals that are equal within a score of 0.1 will be selected. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the borders of available budget or the selection borders, then the proposal with a better assessment pertaining to criterion ‘Alignment with the objectives of the programme’, will end as the highest. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then the proposal with the highest score for the criterion ‘Quality of the consortium’ will end highest. If the proposals subsequently in a tie, the assessment committee, with the help of an (anonymous) majority vote, will determine the ranking (in accordance with Article 2.2.7, third paragraph, sub a, part iv of the NWO Grant Rules 2017). If this vote provides no resolution either, or is not desirable to vote, the ex aequo situation will be send on to the decision-making body.

4.2.10 Decision-making

Finally, the NWO Executive Board will assess the procedure followed and the advice from the assessment committee. It will subsequently determine the final qualifications and take a decision about awarding or rejecting the proposals.

4.2.11 Timetable

Below, you will find the timetable for this Call for proposals. During the current procedure, NWO might find it necessary to make further changes to the timetable for this Call for proposals. You will be informed about this in time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration of the initiative</th>
<th>16 November 2023 14:00:00 CET</th>
<th>Deadline registration of the initiative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28 November 2023 14:00:00 CET</td>
<td>Deadline registration for the collaborative workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td></td>
<td>Collaborative workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 March 2024 14:00:00 CET</td>
<td>Deadline submission documents for assessing co-applicants (see Section 3.1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals</td>
<td>28 March 2024 14:00:00 CET</td>
<td>Deadline applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 2024</td>
<td>Interview selection and interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 2024</td>
<td>Meeting assessment committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June/July 2024</td>
<td>Decision executive board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria

The applications submitted within this Call for proposals will be substantially assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Problem definition and analysis (20%)
2. Envisaged impact and route to impact (20%)
3. Quality of the consortium (30%)
4. Quality of the research (30%)

The following specific aspects of the four assessment criteria will be assessed:

1. Problem definition and analysis
   - Clearly formulated definition of the problem and resulting research questions, logically related and contributing to the objective of the call.
   - The definition of the problem focuses on the longer term and therefore addresses knowledge questions that have not yet been tackled in the National Plan Energy System.
   - The definition of the problem focuses on the main question and the sub-questions of the Call for proposals as formulated in Section 2.2.3.
   - Societal and scientific urgency and relevance of the defined problem.
   - Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary character of the problem definition and the research questions.

2. Envisaged impact and route to impact
   - The envisaged scientific and societal impact is clearly defined and follows logically from the identified problem or question.
   - The project makes a contribution to increasing the knowledge about the suitability and future resilience of a sustainable market organisation of the energy transition.
   - The Impact Pathway describes a clear route to societal impact, as well as the role of the partners involved.
   - Appropriate strategic activities to achieve impact, such as stakeholder engagement, communication, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity development.

3. Quality of consortium
   - The composition of the consortium is a logical fit with the proposed project: interdisciplinary, involvement of relevant societal stakeholders and/or citizens and the wider knowledge chain.
   - Complementarity of the consortium partners in terms of the knowledge, skills and expertise required to execute the project.
   - Active involvement of the partners in the development of the project (co-design), from the articulation of the problem definition and the research questions, and in its execution (co-creation).
   - A clear division of tasks and roles within the consortium with respect to the execution of the research and the governance of the project.

4. Quality of the research
   - The scientific research question follows logically from the analysis of the problem and is original and innovative for the disciplines concerned.
   - The proposed approach and methodology are suitable for achieving the specified objectives and answering the research question. The consortium employs fundamental, applied and practical research in its approach.
   - The approach and methodology contain a description of the scenarios, simulations, models or other experimental setups to be established and carried out.
   - The integrated character of the interdisciplinary research.
   - The structure of the proposed research plan: clearly defined and logically coherent work packages; suitable and well-substantiated budget; risk analysis with respect to the public and societal values as equally a backup plan with respect to the scenarios to be realised.
5 Obligations for grant recipients

This chapter details the various obligations that - in addition to the conditions stated in Section 3.5 - apply after funds have been awarded.

5.1.1 Content monitoring

NWO will assume responsibility for the substantive monitoring of the proposals awarded funding. For the duration of this programme NWO will organise programme meetings. All projects within this call theme will be invited to participate.

Supervisory committee
To strengthen the monitoring and to increase the support for the realisation of the projects, a supervisory committee will be appointed (see section 5.1.6). The committee will monitor the connection between the different themes, the progress of all projects and the results achieved with a focus on knowledge transfer, knowledge utilisation and the application of the results. After granting, regular follow-up meetings will be organised. Representatives from all consortia will be asked to provide input and to take part in the meetings of the supervisory committee. Whenever that is desirable, additional experts will also be invited to the meetings.

5.1.2 Accountability and project completion

Accountability during the project
During the project, the main applicant is responsible for reports about the project. With a view to monitoring the progress of the project, NWO can request interim substantive and financial reports, as equally accountability for the provided co-funding (if applicable). More information about this will be provided in the award letter.

Completion of a project
When the project is completed, substantive and financial final reports will be requested. After the approval of these reports, the definite size of the grant (and co-funding) will be determined.

5.1.3 Data management

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. For this, applicants can make use of the advice from the referees and committee. The applicant describes in the plan whether use will be made of existing data, whether new data will be collected or generated, and how the data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. Before submission, the data management plan should be checked by a data steward or similar officer of the organisation where the project will be realised. The plan should be submitted to NWO via ISAAC within 4 months after the proposal has been awarded funding. NWO will check the plan as quickly as possible. Approval of the data management plan by NWO is a condition for disbursement of the funding. The plan can be adjusted during the research. More information about the data management protocol of NWO can be found at: Research data management | NWO.

5.1.4 Intellectual property and consortium agreement

With respect to intellectual property (IP), the NWO IP policy applies. This can be found in Chapter 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

Applicants must carry out a project funded by NWO during the time that they work for the knowledge institution. If an applicant or a researcher funded by NWO is appointed by more than one employer, then the other employer should relinquish any possible IP rights that emerge from the project of the applicant.
NWO’s ambition is that research results can be applied by partners involved in the project. NWO aims that all research results from projects it funds are made publicly accessible while at the same time encouraging parties to further develop the research results by giving them the possibility to exploit these. For the exploitation of results, it can be desirable to transfer intellectual property rights or to license the use of these to (one of) the private parties involved in the project. The basic premise is that all research results can be published with due consideration for agreements made about publication procedures.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the conclusion of a consortium agreement is one of the conditions for starting the project. In this agreement, arrangements are made about intellectual property and publication, knowledge transfer, confidentiality, co-financing payments, progress reports, and final reports. Approval from NWO is required before the project can start.

The responsibility for arranging the project agreement lies with the applicant. Thereafter NWO checks whether the consortium agreement fulfil the conditions and does not sign the agreement itself. The model agreement that NWO makes available must be used and can be found on the funding page of this Call for proposals.

Parties can choose to use the standard text from NWO in the model agreement but they may also choose to make their own agreement or to apply existing agreements for the component parts of intellectual property and publication procedure. The model project agreement provides for this. NWO will subsequently check whether the consortium agreement meets the conditions set in this call and the NWO Grant Rules.

5.1.5 Socially responsible licensing

The knowledge that emerges from the project could be suitable for use in society. When agreements about licensing and/or the transfer of research results developed under this Call for proposals are made, due consideration should be given to the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as stated in the NFU factsheet “19.4511_Ten_principles_for_Socially_Responsible_Licensing_v19-12-2019.pdf (nfu.nl)”.

5.1.6 Supervisory committee

After awarding the proposal a supervisory committee will be appointed to supervise and advise the projects and the programme (see also Section 5.1.1). More details about this committee is to follow in the grant award letter.

5.1.7 Open Access

As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration (2003) and a member of cOAiliation S (2018), NWO is committed to making the results of the research it funds openly accessible via the internet (Open Access). By doing this, NWO gives substance to the ambitions of the Dutch government to make all publicly funded research available in Open Access form. Scientific publications arising from projects awarded on the basis of this Call for proposals must therefore be made available in Open Access form in accordance with the Open Access Policy.

Scientific articles

Scientific articles must be made available in Open Access form immediately at the time of publication (without embargo) via one of the following routes:

- publication in a fully Open Access journal or platform registered in the DOAJ;
- publication in a subscription journal and the immediate deposition of at least the author-accepted manuscript of the article in an Open Access repository registered in Open DOAR;
- publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between UNL and a publisher. For further information, see Open Access I.

Books

Different requirements apply to scholarly books, book chapters and edited collections. See the Open Access Policy Framework at Open Science | NWO.
CC BY licence
To ensure the widest possible dissemination of publications, at least a Creative Commons (CC BY) licence must be applied. Alternatively – in case of substantial interest – the author may request to publish under a CC BY-ND licence. For books, book chapters and collected volumes, all CC BY licence options are allowed.

Costs
Costs for publication in fully Open Access journals can be budgeted in the application using the budget module for “material costs”. Costs for publications in hybrid journals are not eligible for reimbursement by NWO. For Open Access books, a separate NWO Open Access Books Fund is available.

For more detailed information about NWO’s Open Access policy, see Open Science | NWO.
6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions

For specific questions about this Call for proposals, please contact:
Niels Snoek | +31 (0) 70 34 94 068 | marktordenning2050@nwo.nl

6.1.2 Technical questions about the web application ISAAC

For technical questions about the use of ISAAC, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk. Please read the manual first before consulting the helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 17:00 hours on +31 70 34 40 600. However, you can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days.

6.2 Other information

The whole text of this Call for proposals has been published in both Dutch and English. The Dutch version is deemed authentic. For legal interpretation the text of the Dutch version will be decisive.

NWO processes data from applicants received in the context of this Call in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, Privacy Statement | NWO.

NWO might approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or research programme.
7 Annexe(s):

7.1 Explanation of budget modules

It is possible to apply for the funding of the salary costs of personnel who make a substantial contribution to the research. Funding of these salary costs depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel are/will be appointed.

- For university appointments, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the UNL salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (Salary tables | NWO).
- For university medical centres, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (Salary tables | NWO).
- For personnel from universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other organisations, salary costs will be funded based on the collective labour agreement pay scale of the employee concerned in accordance with the applicable rate at the time of awarding the grant as taken from Table 2.2, column ‘Hourly rate productive hours, excl. Dutch VAT’ from the Handleiding Overheidstarieven [HOT - Manual Dutch Government Rates] (Salary tables | NWO).
- For the Caribbean Netherlands, the Dutch government employs civil servants on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba under different conditions than in the European part of the Netherlands Employment terms and conditions | Working at the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland | Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (rijksdienstcn.com).

NWO will apply a mandatory one-off indexing of the salary costs with respect to:

- UNL rates: for proposals submitted before 1 July and that are awarded funding after 1 July;
- NFU rates: for proposals submitted before 1 August that are awarded funding after 1 August;
- HOT rates: for proposals submitted before 1 January that are awarded funding after 1 January.

The mandatory one-off indexing has no influence on the level of the grant ceiling or on the maximum amount of the grant awarded per proposal. The level of the grant ceiling and the maximum amount of the grant awarded will remain unchanged during the assessment procedure. The mandatory one-off indexing will be applied after the decision-taking about awarding or rejecting proposals has been completed.

If co-funding is required or permitted then the one-off mandatory indexing will have no consequences for the co-funding requirement or the IP rights that can emerge from the co-funding.

The rates for all budget modules are incorporated in the budget template that accompanies the application form. For the budget modules “PhD student”, “EngD” and “Postdoc”, a one-off individual bench fee of €5,000 is added on top of the salary costs to encourage the scientific career of the project employee funded by NWO. Remunerations for PhD scholarship students (‘bursalen’) at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO. The available budget modules are explained below.

**PhD student (including MD-PhD student)**

A PhD student is appointed for 1.0 FTE for a duration of 48 months. The equivalent of 48 full-time months, for example an appointment of 60 months for 0.8 FTE, is also possible. If a different duration of appointment is considered necessary for the realisation of the proposed research, then the standard time can be deviated from as long as this is properly justified. However, the duration of appointment must always be at least 48 months.

In line with the NWO strategy, Industrial and Societal Doctorates are included in this category under this call. Conditions regarding Industrial and Societal Doctorates are explained in Annex 7.2.

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13 1 July, 1 August and 1 January are the dates on which the relevant rates are generally adjusted, in the case of indexation the date of actual annual adjustment will be taken into account.
Engeneering Doctorate degree (EngD)

Funding for the appointment of an EngD can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for.
The appointment for an EngD position is a maximum of 1.0 FTE for 24 months. The EngD trainee is employed by the institution applying for funding and can realise activities that are part of the research at an industrial partner for a specified time. If the research proposal is awarded funding, then an agreement must be concluded with the industrial partner(s) concerned. The underlying “Technological Designer Programme” must be described in the proposal.

Postdoc

The size and duration of the postdoc appointment is at least 6 full months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant’s discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 FTE or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of FTE x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.
The material budget is available to cover the costs of a more limited appointment of a postdoc.

Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities

Funding for the appointment of NSS required to realise the research project can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. A maximum of €100,000 per PhD student of postdoc can be requested for NSS, up to a maximum of €300,000. This includes personnel such as student assistants, programmers, technical assistants or analysts. Depending on the level of the position, the appropriate salary table for NSS at MBO, HBO or university level applies.
The size of the appointment is at least 6 full-time months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant’s discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 FTE or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of FTE x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.
The material budget is available to cover the costs of a more limited appointment of NSS.

Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities

Budget for OSS such as AIOS (doctor training to be a specialist), ANIOS (doctor not training to be a specialist), scientific programmers or employees with a master’s degree can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. For this category, a maximum of €100,000 can be applied for.
The size of the appointment is at least 6 full-time months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant’s discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 FTE or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of FTE x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.

Research leave for applicants

With this budget module, funding can be requested for the costs of the research leave of the main and/or co-applicant(s). The employer of the applicant(s) can use this to cover the costs of relinquishing him or her from educational, supervisory, administrative or management tasks (not research tasks).
The time that is released through the research leave grant can only be used by the applicant(s) for activities in the context of the project. The proposal must describe which activities in the context of the project the applicant(s) will carry out in the time relinquished.
The maximum amount of research leave that can be applied for is the equivalent of 5 full-time months. The total funding requested for research leave in the NWA-call may not exceed 10% of the total budget requested from NWO. NWO funds the research leave in accordance with the salary tables for a senior scientific employee (scale 11) at the time the grant is awarded (Salary tables | NWO).
Personnel universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other organisations

With the exception of personnel that fall under UNL or NFU rates, costs for the funding of personnel employed at a university of applied sciences, educational institution or at other organisations will be remunerated in accordance with Table 2.2, column ‘Hourly rate productive hours, excl. Dutch VAT’ from the Handleiding Overheidstarieven [HOT- Manual Dutch Government Rates] (Salary tables | NWO).

For the calculation you should use the number of productive hours stated in the valid volume of the Handleiding Overheidstarieven.

Explanation of budget module Material

For each FTE scientific position (PhD student, postdoc, EngD) applied for, a maximum of €15,000 material budget can be applied for per year of the appointment. Material budget for smaller appointments can be applied for on a proportionate basis and will be made available by NWO accordingly. Per 0.2 FTE scientific employee applied for at a university of applied sciences, educational institution or other organisation (with a minimum appointment of 0.2 FTE for 12 months) a maximum of €15,000 in material budget can be applied for per year.

The applicant is responsible for distributing the total amount of material budget across the NWO-funded personnel positions. The material budget that can be applied for is specified according to the three categories below:

Project-related goods/services
- consumables (e.g. glassware, chemicals, cryogenic fluids, etc.);
- measurement and calculation time (e.g. access to supercomputer, etc.);
- costs for acquiring or using data collections (e.g. from Statistics Netherlands [CBS]), for which the total amount may not be more than €25,000 per proposal;
- access to large national and international facilities (e.g. cleanroom, synchrotron, etc.);
- work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, citizen science, etc.);
- personnel costs for the appointment of a postdoc and/or non-scientific personnel for a smaller appointment size than those offered in the personnel budget modules.

Travel and accommodation costs for the personnel positions applied for
- travel and accommodation costs;
- conference attendance (maximum of two per year per scientific position applied for);
- fieldwork;
- work visit.

Implementation costs
- national symposium/conference/workshop organised by the project researchers;
- costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the “Directory of Open Access Journals” https://doaj.org/);
- costs data management;
- costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments);
- audit costs (only for institutions that are not subject to the education accountants protocol of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science), maximum €5,000 per proposal; for projects with a duration of three years or less, a maximum of €2,500 per proposal applies.

Costs that cannot be applied for are:
- basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, office furniture, etc.);
- maintenance and insurance costs.

If the maximum amount is not sufficient for realising the research, then this amount may be deviated from, if a clear justification is provided in the proposal.
Citizen science
Involving citizens (citizen science) can contribute to the quality of the research. With the help of citizens, data and insights can be acquired that would not otherwise be available for research. NWO also funds citizen science. Applicants can use the budget module “material, project-related goods/services, work by third parties” to request a remuneration for the involvement of citizens in projects. The budget module offers a possibility and is not a requirement. Applicants are free to decide whether it is worthwhile involving citizens in the project and what exactly they use this budget for (for example, reimbursement of expenses of citizens, skills training for citizens or technical devices for the participating citizen).

Explanation of budget module Investments (up to €150,000)
In this budget module, funding can be requested up to a maximum of €150,000 for investments in equipment, datasets and/or software (e.g. lasers, specialised computers or computer programs).

Explanation of the budget module Investments (from € 150,000 to € 500,000)
In this budget module, funding can be requested for investments in scientifically innovative equipment and/or data collections of (inter)national importance. The minimum amount that can be applied for is € 150,000.
NWO will finance a maximum of 75% of the total investment costs, up to a maximum of € 500,000. The requesting institution must contribute at least 25% of the total cost of the investment. On submitting the proposal, this contribution to the investment should be confirmed in writing by the requesting institution.

The costs for investments should be adequately specified and motivated in the proposal.
The following are eligible for funding:
- costs for investments in scientific equipment;
- costs for investments in datasets;
- personnel costs for setting up the databases and the initial digitisation of the systematic overview of publications if this cannot be purchased;
- personnel costs for employees with essential technical expertise necessary for the development or construction of an investment.

When requesting funding for personnel costs, it must be justified why these personnel costs are necessary. If the applicant does not have this expertise available, then it must be stated that these costs need to be procured. The internal procurement procedures and/or conditions of the applicant are applicable.
The following are not eligible for funding:
- costs for infrastructural facilities that can be considered part of the standard infrastructure;
- data collections and any associated software and bibliographies that are already available in another manner;
- other personnel costs, including personnel costs for the exploitation and the realisation of research using the facility;
- costs for the maintenance and use of project equipment. The costs for the use of project equipment can be requested via the material budget.

Explanation of budget module Knowledge utilisation
The aim of this budget module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research. At least 5% but no more than 20% of the total budget applied for should be spent on knowledge utilisation activities via this budget module.
As knowledge utilisation takes many different forms in different scientific fields, the applicant needs to specify the required costs, e.g. costs of producing a teaching package, conducting a feasibility study into potential applications, or filing a patent application. The budget applied for should be adequately specified in the proposal.

It is up to the consortium to specify in the proposal which costs are required.

In the context of the Impact Plan, consortia are expected to earmark budget for the following activities:

- Specific activities to promote knowledge utilisation towards intermediary or other parties not funded in the projects, e.g. knowledge platforms. These activities include joint learning, training and communication activities.
- Stakeholder engagement: activities organised by the consortium aimed at involving stakeholders, such as consultation workshops, expert meetings, round table meetings, etc. Communication: activities organised by the consortium such as national and international learning events, development of videos, blogs, newsletters and other media communications. This may include the hiring in of communication expertise.
- Skills development: Activities aimed at developing skills beyond the levels of individual students, PhD students or postdocs, such as developing courses for stakeholders or Master’s students.
- Monitoring and evaluation moments in which knowledge utilisation is discussed, such as interim evaluations and supervisory committee meetings (see Section 5.1.1).

Travel expenses for co-funding partners are explicitly not eligible for funding in this module. However, travel expenses for cooperation partners and external parties in the social practice of the project are eligible. The budget applied for should be adequately specified in the proposal.

**Explanation of budget module Internationalisation**

The budget for internationalisation is intended to encourage international collaboration. The budget applied for may not exceed €25,000. The amount requested must be specified. If the maximum amount is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if an adequate justification is provided in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:

- travel and accommodation costs in so far as these concern direct research costs emerging from the international collaboration and additional costs for internationalisation that cannot be covered in another manner, for example from the bench fee;
- travel and accommodation costs for foreign guest researchers;
- costs for organising international workshops/symposia/scientific meetings.

**Explanation of the budget module Money follows Cooperation (MfC)**

The module Money follows Cooperation provides the possibility of realising a part of the project at a publicly funded knowledge institution outside of the Netherlands. The applicant must convincingly argue how the researcher from the foreign knowledge institution will contribute specific expertise to the research project that is not available in the Netherlands at the level necessary for the project.

This condition does not apply if NWO has concluded a bilateral agreement concerning Money follows Cooperation with the national research council of the country where the foreign knowledge institution is located. At Money Follows Cooperation | NWO you will find an overview of research councils that signed a bilateral MfC agreement with NWO.

The budget applied for within this module must be less than 50% of the total budget applied for.

The co-applicant from the participating foreign knowledge institution must meet the conditions set for co-applicants in Section 3.1 of this Call for proposals, with the exception of the condition that the co-applicant must be employed in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
The rates for the personnel costs of researchers at the foreign knowledge institution are calculated on the basis of the correction coefficients table of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grants (EU, Horizon 2020), based on the Dutch UNL rates. The table can be found at Money Follows Cooperation | NWO.

The main applicant receives the grant and is responsible for transferring the amount to the foreign knowledge institution and for providing accountability for the MfC part of the grant. The MfC part will be part of the overall financial accountability of the project. The exchange rate risk lies with the applicants. Therefore, gains or losses due to the exchange rate are not eligible for funding.

The applicant is responsible for:

- the financial accountability for all costs in both euros and the local currency, for which the exchange rate used must be visible;
- a reasonable determination of the size of the exchange rate. If requested by NWO, the applicant must always be able to provide a description of this reasonable determination.

If more than €125,000 is requested within this module, then the final financial statement must be accompanied by an audit report.

NWO will not award any funding to co-applicants in countries that fall under national or international sanction legislation and rules. The EU Sanctions Map (EU Sanctions Map) is guiding in this respect.

**Explanation of the budget module Project management**

The Project Management module offers the opportunity to request a project management post up to a maximum of 5% of the total budget requested from NWO. The main applicant must adequately justify this post.

Project management includes the following: optimising the organisational structure of the consortium, supporting the consortium and the main applicant, safeguarding the coherence, progress and unity of the project, and coordinating between the sub-projects within the project. These tasks may also be carried out by external parties if they are not available within the main applicant’s knowledge institution. Knowledge institutions should take account of public procurement rules in the tender procedure for selecting a third party and, where appropriate, follow a European procurement procedure. The activities of main applicants and co-applicants themselves in relation to the project or project management may not be funded under this budget module.

The budget to be requested for project management can consist of material or implementation costs and personnel costs. For personnel costs, a maximum rate of €121 per hour can be claimed. The hourly rate of personnel to be appointed must be based on a cost-covering rate and is calculated on the basis of the standard productive number of hours used by the organisation. The cost-covering rate includes:

- (average) gross salary corresponding to the position of the employee who will contribute to the project (based on the collective labour agreement grade of the employee concerned);
- holiday allowance and 13th month (if applicable in the relevant collective labour agreement) in proportion to the FTE deployed;
- social security charges;
- pension costs;
- overheads.

Project management tasks may be carried out by external parties, but the part of (commercial) hourly rates that exceeds the rates stated is not eligible for funding and therefore cannot be included in the budget.
7.2 Explanation of conditions regarding Industrial and Societal Doctorates

Industrial and Societal doctorates are understood to be PhD students who will do their research at both the knowledge institution and an organisation that is not a (co-)applicant. If an organisation and the knowledge institution closely collaborate, then this increases the chance that the knowledge will actually find its way into everyday practice. The research should be an integral part of the project. In the case that an Industrial or Societal Doctorate is appointed, the private or public organisation which is involved in the doctorate should assume responsibility for at least 25% of the salary costs. This contribution may be part of the minimum required co-funding and in that case should always be in cash.

The intended PhD student may be employed by the knowledge institution or the organisation. The activities realised by the PhD student must always fall under fundamental or industrial research. The salary costs of the PhD student are always remunerated in accordance with the valid UNL rate. NWO will fund a maximum of 75% of this amount and at least 25% of the amount must be contributed by the organisation that is not a (co-)applicant. Any additional salary costs – due to an actual salary that is above the UNL rate – should be covered by the employer and may be contributed to the project in the form of in-kind funding. For the calculation of a surplus, the employer costs minus the UNL rates for an appointment of the same size is assumed. The support/grant may not be transferred to the organisation that is not a (co-)applicant.

If an industrial doctorate or societal doctorate PhD position is applied for, then the parties should make agreements about possible IP rights that are generated by the PhD student concerned. With this, allowance should be made for possible access to the research results by other project participants, under FRAND (fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory) conditions or otherwise. The NWO grant is only awarded to the knowledge institution for the purpose of the PhD research project. In this context, it is relevant to state that in accordance with the application of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, all research results should be published as soon as possible in Open Access form and accordingly serve the public interest. Furthermore, all other provisions from Section 3.5, such as Consortium agreement and Intellectual Property & Publications, apply.

7.3 Public Knowledge Organisations

The public knowledge organisations listed below may act as co-applicants in a consortium. The check mentioned in Section 3.1.1 is not required for these organisations.

National knowledge institutes ([https://www.knmi.nl/kennis-en-datacentrum/project/rki](https://www.knmi.nl/kennis-en-datacentrum/project/rki)):
1. CBS – Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Statistics Netherlands)
2. CPB – Centraal Planbureau (Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)
3. KIM – Kennisinstituut voor Mobiliteitsbeleid (Netherlands Institute for Transport Policy Analysis)
4. KNMI – Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute)
5. NFI – Nederlands Forensisch Instituut (Netherlands Forensic Institute)
6. PBL – Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)
7. RCE – Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands)
8. RIVM – Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment)
9. RKD – Nederlands Instituut voor Kunstgeschiedenis (Netherlands Institute for Art History)
10. RWS – Rijkswaterstaat (Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management)
11. SCP – Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau (Netherlands Institute for Social Research)
12. WODC – Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum (Research and Documentation Centre)

Other public knowledge institutions (from: Public Knowledge Organisations Netherlands | Rathenau Institute):
13. Boekman Foundation – Institute for arts, culture and related policy
14. Clingendael – Netherlands Institute of International Relations
15. Geonovum – Knowledge organisation for geographic information
16. Movisie – Centre for social issues
17. Mulier Institute – Centre for sports research
18. (N) IFV – (Netherlands) Institute for Safety
19. NIVEL – Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research
20. Nij – Nederlands Jeugdinstituut (Netherlands Youth Institute)
21. Police Academy – Training, knowledge and research for the Dutch National Police
22. SWOON-NLDA – Stichting Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs en Onderzoek Nederlandse Defensieacademie (foundation for scientific education and research of the Netherlands Defence Academy)
23. SWOV – Stichting Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Verkeersveiligheid (Institute for Road Safety Research)
24. Trimbos Institute – Institute for mental health, drug abuse and addiction
25. VeiligheidNL – Organisation to promote safe behaviour
26. Vilans – Research into long-term care

7.4 Conditions for co-funding

Invoicing in cash co-funding
After the proposal has been awarded funding, NWO will invoice the private or public party that has pledged an in-cash contribution. After these funds have been received, NWO will allocate the funding to the project.

The following are permitted as in kind co-funding:
The use of personnel and material contributions is permitted on the condition that these are capitalised and are fully part of the project. Services and know how may not already exist or be available to the applicant. In-kind contributions are only accepted under the condition that the part contributed by the co-funder is an integral part of the work plan and can be made visible as an identifiable effort.

Determining the value of in kind co-funding
- The use of personnel is valued on the basis of hours x rate, whereby the hourly rate is based on the actual salary costs (incl. a premium for social benefits and employer costs). Furthermore, 1400 hours is taken as the standard number of productive hours per year for the calculation of the hourly rate. This hourly rate may be no more than 119 euros per hour;
- The value for material in-kind contributions is determined on the basis of the cost price of consumables. The value of investments/equipment is determined based on standard depreciation costs bearing in mind the intensity of use and any existing depreciations according to applicable reporting principles;
- For in-kind contributions in the form of services or know-how (knowledge, software, access to databases or cell lines) the economic value must be established and only the actual costs that can be directly attributed to the project may be counted as co-funding. This is always without a profit margin. Furthermore, the service or know-how must not already be present at or available to the applicant.

Co-funders should justify the structure and size of the in-kind contributions provided (including hourly rates) in the letter of support. NWO can request substantiation and documented evidence of the rates used and can also request their adjustment.

The following may not be contributed as co-funding (both in cash and in kind):
- funding awarded by NWO;\(^{15}\)
- PPP allowance;
- co-funding may not come from parties that on the basis of this call for proposals can submit a funding proposal to NWO
- discounts on commercial rates, e.g. on materials, equipment and services;

\(^{15}\)Funding awarded by NWO is understood to be funding obtained through a proposal submitted to NWO that is granted funding. In this regard it does not matter from which programme this funding was obtained or who the recipient of the funding is.
– costs related to overheads, supervision, consultancy and/or participation in the supervisory committee (see Section 5.1.5);

– costs of services that are conditional. The co-funding provided may not be subject to any conditions. The provision of the co-funding does not depend on whether a certain stage in the research plan is achieved (e.g. go/no-go moment);

– costs that are not reimbursed according to the call for proposals;

– costs of equipment if one of the (main) objectives of the proposal is the improvement or creation of added value for this equipment.

Accounting for in kind co-funding
The main applicant reports to NWO about the in kind co-funding that he or she has received from a co-funder. The main applicant provides accountability in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017 on an annual basis. If a co-funder fails to partly or entirely fulfil its obligations to the main applicant and/or NWO, then this can have consequences for the grant settlement (see Article 3.4.5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017).