

National ANNEX – ZonMw, the Netherlands

National budget commitment	Total: 2.0 M€
Maximum funding per participant and anticipated number of research groups to be funded	In this call ZonMw aims to fund the Dutch partner(s) in two to six joint transnational research projects, each with a maximum budget of 300-600 k€ per Dutch partner. The majority of the applied national project budget needs to be reserved for academic partner(s).

This call is covered by article 25 of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) (Algemene Groepvrijstellingsverordening, AGVV), which means that there is a legitimate form of state aid for grants awarded by ZonMw on the basis of this call. This concerns Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 whereby certain categories of aid are declared compatible with the internal market under Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (OJ 2014, L 187) and last amended by Regulation (EU) No 2017/1084. The European Commission will be notified of this subsidy call by means of a notification as referred to in Article 11 of the GBER.

Aid for research and development projects, including projects having received a Seal of Excellence quality label under the Horizon 2020 SME-instrument, shall be compatible with the internal market within the meaning of Article 107(3) of the Treaty and shall be exempted from the notification requirement of Article 108(3) of the Treaty provided that the conditions laid down in Article 25 and in Chapter I are fulfilled.

The present call is the appropriate international instrument to effectively address the identified market failures in the field of animal free innovations. This call is an aid measure as referred to in Article 107 (1) TFEU and is justified by Article 25 (aid for research, development and innovation) of the GBER. The maximum aid covers 50% of the *eligible costs* of a SME.

1.0 Who can apply?

- This call is open to consortia formed by (public) research organizations¹ and Small to Medium Enterprises (SME's). ZonMw is able to fund the Dutch partners in a consortium. Whenever a Dutch partner participates, the consortium should consist of:
 - At least one Dutch public partner
 - At least one German public partner and/or one Belgian (FNRS fundable) public partner
 - At least one SME (Dutch or non-Dutch)
- The consortia represent strong partnerships with complementary expertise, in which all stakeholders are represented. The consortia should make use of the knowledge available in science, business and the end user(s).
- In this call, a Dutch SME may apply for part of the budget, but this is restricted to one application. Without funding, SME's may participate in more than one application.
- ZonMw is unable to provide funding for any participating public or private partner outside the Netherlands.

¹ an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organized under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, may not enjoy preferential access to the results generated by it;

- ZonMw urges to keep in mind that agreements regarding project results and possible (non-) exclusive licenses need to be made by the consortium.

2.0 Required document for application: letter of commitment from private partner(s)

- Along with the project application, a letter of commitment from each private partner has to be submitted. This letter of commitment should describe the committed matched funding and should specify the amount to be contributed. Background information and an example letter can be found via <https://www.zonmw.nl/nl/over-zonmw/cofinanciering/financiele-aspecten-bij-samenwerken/>.

3.0 Financial Conditions

- The ZonMw Grant Terms and Conditions 2013 apply. These documents can be found via https://www.zonmw.nl/fileadmin/documenten/Corporate/Grant_Terms_and_Conditions_from_1st_July_2013.pdf
- Funding provided by ZonMw should be in accordance with article 25 section 3 GBER and can be used for academic staff (e.g. post-doc, PhD student) and non-academic staff (e.g. research technician). Part of the budget may be used for consumables and small equipment required specifically for the project and for travel and subsistence to visit labs of consortium partners, to visit conferences and to attend training courses necessary for conducting the research of the project. Additionally, part of the project budget must be reserved for communication and implementation.
- The funding for this call is commissioned by NWO as a result of the 'topsector' policy. As a consequence, 10% co-financing by the private partner(s) of the total project budget applied to ZonMw is mandatory.

Example 1: if the total project budget applied by the Dutch partners to ZonMw is 600k€, a total of 60k€ (10%) should be co-financed (in kind and/or in cash) by the Dutch and/or international private partner(s).

- Part of the project funding applied to ZonMw can be allocated to a Dutch SME. ZonMw does not fund non-Dutch SME's. The maximum funding for a Dutch SME by ZonMw is 50% of their eligible costs. The private partner can match the remaining 50% of the cost by co-financing either in kind and/or in cash. This matching percentage is mandatory and needs to be guaranteed when submitting the grant application.

Example 2: a Dutch SME is part of the consortium and applies for part of the project budget. This SME provides an itemised budget to justify the costs and the requested budget. In this example, the total project budget applied to ZonMw is 500k€ and the total eligible costs for the SME are itemised at 100k€. In case of funding, the SME will be funded no more than 50% of the eligible costs (here 50k€). In this example, the 50 k€ co-financing by the Dutch SME equals the obligatory 10% co-financing of the total project budget applied to ZonMw.

Example 3: a Dutch SME is part of the consortium and applies for part of the project budget. This SME delivers an itemised budget to justify the costs and the requested budget. In this example, the total project budget applied to ZonMw is 600k€ and the total costs for the SME are itemised at 100k€. In case of funding, the SME will be funded no more than 50% of the eligible costs (here 50k€). In this example, the 50 k€ matched by the Dutch SME does not fully cover the obligatory total 10% project matching. Therefore, an additional 10k€ should be matched in kind and/ or in cash by an SME. This can be done either by the SME in the example or by a second SME.

Note that a non-Dutch SME can cover this 10k€ matching as long as this SME is not requesting any funding.

Example 4: a Dutch SME is part of the consortium and does not apply for funding. The SME needs to guarantee the obligatory 10% matching (in kind/and or in cash) of the total project budget applied to ZonMw.

Example 5: a non-Dutch SME is part of the consortium. This SME cannot apply for funding at ZonMw. This SME needs to guarantee the obligatory 10% matching (in kind/and or in cash) of the total project budget applied to ZonMw.

- The proposed research project should from start to finish fit within the definition of industrial research as described in the call text. This means that only TRL 2-4 is allowed for the project.
- The GBER does not allow aid to undertakings in difficulty as defined under state aid rules on rescue and restructuring. See section 2.1 of the Rescue and Restructuring Guidelines for definition of a company in difficulty
<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52004XC1001%2801%29:EN:NOT>
- No aid will be granted if the project or activity has already started before the proposal has been submitted (article 6, section 2 GBER).

4.0 Criteria for matched funding 'in kind'

- Part of the research may be conducted by third parties. Matched funding in kind will be accepted only on condition that it is an integral part of the work plan and can be identified and monitored as such. Guidance and consultancy are excluded.
- Capitalized in-kind contributions specified in the budget must be supported by a letter of commitment by the private partner (see 2.0).
- ZonMw applies fixed rates for the capitalization of the number of man hours supplied by staff support from third parties (up to a maximum of 1250 direct hours/year/FTE). Personnel contributions (in kind) are limited to € 125 per hour. Based on the actual hourly rate, including social and employer expenses and including a surcharge for overhead costs. The hourly rate includes any VAT that the co-financier may have to charge.
- The hours worked by the staff must be recorded. The input (hours) and output (envisaged results) of the staff support for each task or work package must be described in the application.
- Costs of the purchase and use of equipment, which have not been purchased exclusively for the project, are charged as an in-kind contribution on the basis of regular depreciations for the actual duration of use for the project.
- Cost price must be charged for the material resources committed to the project. Commercial rates will not be accepted.
- The costs of equipment (depreciations) can be included in the project costs, but should be in proportion to their use. If the entire purchase price of equipment is financed, the residual value of the equipment must be taken into account. Depreciation and determination of the residual value is based on the following percentages: 1st year 40%; 2nd year 30%; 3rd year 20%; 4th year 10%.

5.0 Inadmissible as matched funding

- ZonMw will exercise due vigilance with regard to improper mixing of direct and indirect (NWO, KNAW, ZonMw) government funding. In this call, matching from research institutions does not count towards the compulsory 10% matching by private parties. Matched funding by research institutions is permitted, but is supplementary.
- Discounts on prices (commercial or otherwise) for material, equipment, services etc.

- Overheads and costs of guidance and/or consultancy.
- Conditional costs of services. No conditions may be set regarding the delivery of matched funding, nor may matched funding be dependent on reaching a certain stage in the research plan (e.g. go/no-go point). The only allowed restriction in the letter of commitment is that the commitment for co-financing only applies when ZonMw awards the grant application.

6.0 In the event that a grant is (conditionally) awarded

The Dutch main applicant (principle investigator) of the consortium should:

- Provide the name and affiliation of the administrative manager ('bestuurlijk verantwoordelijke') and the Dutch main applicant (principle investigator) to ZonMw. Both these persons should be employed by the same public organisation established in the Netherlands. In case of funding, ZonMw will allocate the grant to the organisation of the administrative manager. This party is also responsible for the financial breakdown to the other cooperating Dutch partner(s).
- Be responsible for the implementation and coordination of the Dutch part of the project and is the first point of contact for ZonMw.
- Sign the Biosecurity Code and Code Openheid Dierproeven that can be found via <http://www.zonmw.nl/nl/subsidies/gedragscodes/>.
- Submit a budget template for the Dutch part of the project.
- Sign a consortium agreement with all partners, setting out the work arrangements and the approach to intellectual property rights prior to the start of the project (and within six months of receiving a positive conditional decision from ZonMw). The institution's Technology Transfer Office (TTO) should be able to provide expert help on this. In this call ZonMw has based its intellectual property policy on the principle of 'ownership follows inventorship'.
- Start the project within two months of the final decision being taken on awarding the grant. This final decision will be communicated after ZonMw, F.R.S.-FNRS and BMBF/PtJ have received the applicants' response to project-specific requirements set out by ZonMw, F.R.S.-FNRS and BMBF/PtJ.
- Submit a progress report (mid-term) and a final report (end term) for the Dutch part of the research project.
- Attend project meetings organized by ZonMw, F.R.S.-FNRS and BMBF/PtJ and present the project results at these meetings.
- Publish all project results, even 'negative results' (unexpected or no-effect-found results). Funding options for publication of these results can be found (provided funding resources for this call are still available) via <https://www.zonmw.nl/nl/subsidies/openstaande-subsidieoproepen/detail/item/meer-kennis-met-minder-dieren-module-kennisinfrastructuur-open-access-publiceren-negatieveneutra/>.
- Use the Gold Standard Publication Checklist http://www.zonmw.nl/fileadmin/documenten/Meer_Kennis_met_Minder_Dieren/Gold_Standard_Publication_Checklist.pdf or ARRIVE guidelines http://cdn.elsevier.com/promis_misc/ARRIVE.pdf for the work plan and the description of the results in publications, if applicable.
- Comply with the ZonMw Open Access policy in the event of publication. All scientific publications resulting from research that is funded by grants derived from this call for proposals should be freely accessible worldwide (Open Access) at the time of publication. There are several ways for researchers to publish Open Access. A detailed explanation regarding Open Access can be found on <https://www.zonmw.nl/nl/over-zonmw/open-science-fair-data/open-access/>;
- The eligible costs (of the SME's and public organisations) need to be specified and made available for ZonMw at the end of the project.