



Sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence

Towards an effective and preventive approach

Call for proposals

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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the “Sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence” 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. This call yielded an impressive 11,700 questions about a wide variety of subjects. These were consolidated in 140 big issues, the so-called ‘cluster questions’. Around these cluster questions, researchers and societal organisations formed 25 networks that were given the name NWA routes. These networks were given their own route management and, inspired by the cluster questions in the NWA agenda, they develop knowledge agendas and organise meetings and communication activities. The 25 NWA routes and the associated cluster questions can be found via [Routes | NWO](#).

Collaboration between researchers from different disciplines, on the one hand, and knowledge organisations and societal (public and private) organisations, on the other, has added value for the complex issues that are part of the NWA. In these collaborations, new knowledge flows from researcher to user, and new questions from professional practice and from society find a way into new research. In the conviction that people can achieve more together than they can individually, the NWA programme therefore encourages collaboration between different partners.

The key elements of the NWA programme are:

- The Dutch Research Agenda that consists of 25 routes and 140 cluster questions;
- Knowledge-chain-wide¹ 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;
- Societal organisations, society and citizens have a clear role in the research;
- 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 lines²:

- a. Research along Routes by Consortia (ORC);
- b. Thematic Programming in consultation with government bodies;

¹ The broad knowledge chain comprises a diversity of 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 6 for a full list of public knowledge organisations).

² More information about the different programme lines is available at [Dutch Research Agenda \(NWA\) | NWO](#).

- c. Innovations and Networks;
- d. Science Communication and Outreach.

The Call for proposals 'Sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence' is being realised in the context of programme line 2.

The Ministries of Justice and Security, Education, Culture and Science, Social Affairs and Employment and Health Welfare and Sport are the initiators of this Call for proposals.

The NWO Executive Board is the decision-making body for this NWA Call. The Call procedure will be carried out by ZonMw.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is €2.858.000. Within this Call for proposals it is expected that a maximum of 1 proposal will be awarded funding.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

When you submit your application in MijnZonMw, 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.

The deadline for submitting statements of intent is **23 September 2024**, before 14:00:00 CEST.
The deadline for submitting full proposals is **27 January 2025**, before 14:00:00 CET.

2 Aim

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

2.1 Aim of the programme

Sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence, both online and offline, are distressing and persistent social problems that can cause serious harm to an individual and their environment. The extent and severity of the problem have become evident in recent years. Incidents in sports, media, culture, politics, healthcare, academia and student life have shown that it occurs everywhere in society. Sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence (both online and offline³), in the broadest sense of the word, are an issue in public spaces, in organisations and at a personal level.

Our culture⁴, how we think about and behave in matters relating to sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence, needs to be critically examined. The way in which we behave (e.g. in education, at work, at home and in our leisure time) will need to change to systematically prevent sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence. It is clear that more than criminal law is needed. Immediate intervention and appropriate help for victims, loved ones and perpetrators are essential. This is necessary to address this complex problem thoroughly. This approach requires both existing and new knowledge and expertise on what works and what does not.

The Dutch National Research Agenda (NWA) programme 'Sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence' aims to pool existing knowledge and expertise and develop new knowledge on what effectively helps to prevent (online and offline) sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence as much as possible. Unfortunately, it is not possible to completely eliminate sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence. However, much can still be done to prevent it or to minimise recidivism. An effective approach includes preventive and other interventions for sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence. These interventions are aimed at doing as much justice to victims as possible, preventing sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence, and preventing perpetrators from reoffending. This should include emphasis on the way in which society is structured socially, institutionally and culturally, and how this is conducive to sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence. This is why the formal and informal institutional, social, cultural and individual factors that play a role in the emergence and persistence of sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence are looked at across sectors and disciplines in the programme.

Not everyone is equally at risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence. Researchers are urged to take intersectionality into account in their research, explicitly including differences between groups in outcomes and recommendations. This includes intersections such as gender identity, sexual characteristics, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, level of education, socioeconomic position, disability, religion, ethnicity, cultural identity, migration history, etc.

³ In the text, sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence always refers to online and offline behaviour.

⁴ Social and other attitudes, beliefs, standards, values and conduct.

2.1.1 Existing knowledge and expertise and knowledge development

Existing research on sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence often focuses on specific target groups, contexts, or sectors. The Dutch National Research Agenda programme is committed to pooling this knowledge and expertise by bringing together researchers and community stakeholders from the subfields. In doing so, the programme also facilitates the creation of a broader knowledge ecosystem on the issue.

It is expected that existing knowledge and expertise from various scientific and other disciplines will be brought together to jointly take further steps in the development of knowledge. Currently there is extensive knowledge and expertise on causes and risk factors of, and to a lesser extent on perpetrators and effective interventions for, sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence. New knowledge development as part of this proposal must clearly address knowledge gaps and build on existing knowledge and expertise, or adapt this knowledge into tools for Dutch policy context.

This Call for proposals urges knowledge institutions and community stakeholders to jointly develop scientific and practice-oriented research proposals. The consortia will work in a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary way and consist of organisations from across the knowledge chain. The programme seeks to sponsor fundamental, applied and practice-oriented research across the knowledge chain that connects and responds to the knowledge needs of community stakeholders. Moreover, due to the importance of social solidarity, the programme lends itself to citizen science.

This Call for proposals falls under the scope of the [NWA Routes: Towards resilient societies, NeuroLabNL, Youth, Prevention and Healthcare Research](#).

2.2 Substantive framework

2.2.1 Social Problem

The urgency to address sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence is great. Research has shown that nearly half of all women and one-fifth of all men have experienced sexually transgressive behaviour in their lifetime. This does not include comments of a sexual, derogatory or sexist nature and online sexually transgressive behaviour. These figures show that many people in the Netherlands have experienced sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence, know someone who has had to deal with it, or know someone who has shown inappropriate behaviour. The consequences are often serious and long-term, and have a disruptive impact on the life of victims. The impact extends far beyond the victim alone; it affects families, friendships, relationships, studies and careers. It can also have an effect on future generations if the experiences have not been processed. This suffering is as such unacceptable and affects society as a whole. The development of victims is hindered and they require more than average long-term help and support.

Dealing with sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence is complex. It is not limited to one individual who crosses the line or a single moment. The behaviour and violence occurs within a context of multiple factors. That means that the dominant culture, within which sexism, sexualisation, objectification and inequality are tolerated on a daily basis, has to be considered, as well as what is needed in society to change that.

To fundamentally address sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence, society must take a critical look at itself and at the dominant culture within which gender stereotypes and power imbalances can lead to inequalities and dependencies. This culture can create a setting within which sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence become normalised. Based on an understanding of these factors, consideration can be given to how cultural change and reduction of sexually transgressive behaviour and violence can be achieved and what preventive actions or interventions are needed to do so.

2.2.2 Demarcation

The focus within the Dutch National Research Agenda Call is emphatically on pooling existing knowledge and expertise, identifying knowledge gaps and supplementing them with new knowledge on social, institutional and cultural factors. This can then be used to arrive at effective intervention and prevention strategies.

Although literature on causes and risk factors is very extensive, less is known on what works and why it works in addressing online and offline sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence. The growing focus on the problems contributes to the fact that there are now good examples in practice in which sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence are tackled effectively and with good results. At the same time, it is also important that this 'what works' approach not only involves training, workshops and education, but also social, institutional and cultural changes - such as eliminating hierarchical structures that perpetuate inequality and dependency, setting up procedures, awareness-raising campaigns, social media, and the like - and an integrated approach to relevant intervention and prevention strategies.

The following three domains are relevant to proposals in this Call and should all three be considered in order to achieve a cross-domain study and result in an integrated approach to relevant intervention and prevention strategies:

1) *Personal domain*

Much sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence, both online and offline, occur within the immediate environment, e.g. within personal relationships that take place both offline (friendships, nightlife, family) and online (dating apps, social media channels). The foregoing can lay the foundation for victimisation or perpetration now or in the future, particularly when traumatisation occurs. Social standards can also be maintained through a socialisation process where various attitudes and beliefs are transmitted, consciously and unconsciously.

Within this domain, transmission and maintenance of existing and new dynamics and hierarchies can occur in different ways and acquired gender stereotypes can be handed over. This can occur, for example, through intergenerational transmission within families, imposed confidentiality, unresolved personal trauma, economic and emotional dependency.

2) *Institutions and organisations*

More than half of Dutch people work for a company or private organisation, some 30 percent of these people are members of a sports club and about 65,000 people work at Dutch universities. These examples illustrate that a large proportion of the population are active within institutions and organisations. This means that the way in which institutions and organisations are structured partly determines the extent to which sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence for a large group of people can take place. This may involve formal institutional provisions such as policy, Codes of Conduct, confidential counsellors, or an ombudsperson. But also a complaints procedure and how it is adhered to.

However, the functioning of the formal institutional infrastructure is closely related to informal standards and values, power structures and dependency relationships in organisational cultures. This affects, for example, the extent to which people feel psychologically safe to make a complaint or the extent to which there is openness that influences calling a colleague to account for transgressive behaviour.

Within this domain, various agencies or organisations can be considered, such as businesses and private organisations, political, community, healthcare and social agencies, as well as schools, sports associations, student associations, healthcare and welfare organisations, political organisations and public broadcasting.

3) *Public domain*

Individual or local interventions do not have sufficient impact to achieve large-scale changes, i.e. social, institutional and cultural changes. Power structures and relationships, social developments in the public space and the environment partly determine the discussion on, the knowledge about and the approach to sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence.

This may include the role of social and other media in the representation of gender roles or as producers of dominant narratives, in political debate and in challenging power structures through activism. It may also include addressing a dominant social discourse or dominant gender stereotypes that justify and normalise sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence.

2.2.3 Research questions

Questions that need to be addressed in the programme to gain the necessary understanding and enable systematic institutional, social and cultural change are:

- What social and other attitudes, beliefs, standards, values and conduct are relevant for online and offline sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence and how are they instrumental in continuing to make this behaviour and violence possible?
- How does the structure of our society (in the business sector, associations and clubs, educational programmes, etc.) preserve these attitudes, beliefs, standards, values and conduct?
- How do unprocessed and other experiences in the personal environment affect social and other attitudes, beliefs, standards, values and conduct in the area of sexually transgressive behaviour and violence and how can this be included in the development of intervention and prevention strategies?
- What is required to achieve systematic changes? And what formal and informal roles and responsibilities are important in this process? What can we learn from other institutional, social and cultural changes?

- Which intervention and preventive strategies effectively foster institutional, social and cultural change (e.g. social discussions, public communication, media, education (continuous learning pathway), changes in the structure of businesses) and how can we measure and map the impact of such strategies?
- How can policy development effectively contribute to the desired changes?
- How can an understanding of factors for institutional, social and cultural change and potential perpetrator behaviour be used to identify, stop and prevent online and offline sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence?

The following aspects should at least be included in the proposals:

- Synthesis of existing fundamental and practice-oriented scientific or other research on sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence, interventions and the specific context or population targeted by the research. A lot of knowledge and expertise is available on the causes of sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence and on the effectiveness of prevention and intervention measures. How does the envisaged project boost current knowledge and expertise and how does it put this into practice in the Dutch context?
- Provide an overview of the way in which the project's knowledge production facilitates the improvement of intervention and prevention strategies. Provide an understanding of how these strategies promote the desired institutional, social and cultural change. The extent of current knowledge and expertise on sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence inevitably raises the question: why does this continue to be such a persistent problem? It is important that the research project provides knowledge on barriers to the desired change.
- Engaging useful elements of interventions: knowledge illustrates that prevention and intervention strategies are more effective if they relate to the individual experiences and sociocultural background of target groups. E.g.: prevention in the field of sports is more effective if it builds on elements in sports culture that disapprove of sexual violence. In the public education of religious groups it can be effective to build on religious texts that disapprove of sexism and sexual violence, rather than deploying interventions that are only critical of religion as the cause of conservative standards on gender and sexuality. Knowledge development as part of this Dutch National Research Agenda programme should be mindful of how the causes/risk factors of sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence differ per social context, with a focus on intersectionality and how this requires specific policy and other solutions.
- Pay attention to a time component, which includes not only the past and present, but also the future and future developments. This will enable action perspectives that make future-proof policy and other interventions possible. This will entail interdisciplinary thinking on the challenges ahead and any effects they may have. Applicants are particularly encouraged to consider the increasing entwinement of online and offline environments and the influence of artificial intelligence, and to consider the entire life cycle (not just young people).
- How do you envisage attaining action perspectives for national and decentralised policy: all kinds of recommendations can be made based on research, but are these also feasible in practice? What challenges arise during implementation and how can these best be dealt with? It is important that applicants include this in their proposal.

2.3 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to developing solutions for the various issues society faces, including, amongst other things, the energy transition, health and care, or climate change. By facilitating greater interaction and alignment between researchers and potential knowledge users, the chance of knowledge utilisation increases, as well as the likelihood of generating societal impact. Through its policy on impact, NWO promotes the potential contribution that research can make to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders, both during the development stage and the subsequent implementation of research. It does so in a manner that is in accordance with the aim of the particular funding instrument.

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 that NWO will deploy to facilitate knowledge utilisation in various phases of the project (proposal, realisation, project completion) as well as the effort required from the applicant(s) and partner(s).

In this program, the Impact Plan approach is applied. With this, NWO facilitates the development of an integrated strategy that will enable 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 NWO Impact - Online workshops. For more information on our policy on impact, please visit the website: [Knowledge utilisation | NWO](#).

2.3.2 Impact Plan approach in the NWA

In 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.

Impact Plan approach

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 full 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.

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.

Main applicants

Full, associate and assistant professors and other researchers with a comparable position* may submit an application 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) may not submit a proposal.

It could be the case that the 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 applicant's tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the 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.

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.

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

Two types of co-applicant are possible in this Call: co-applicants affiliated with research organisations and co-applicants affiliated with social organisations. Co-applicants affiliated with social organisations can only perform as co-applicant under the de minimis regulation⁵.

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;
- have a public service mission;
- carry out research independently;
- have no profit motive other than for the purposes of conducting further research.

Based on the above, capital companies⁶ and partnerships⁷ are in any case excluded from participating in the consortium as co-applicants. Other legal forms will be assessed against the cumulative criteria.

⁵ EU Commission Regulation 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023, on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to the de minimis aid. See: [Regulation - EU - 2023/2831 - NL - EUR-Lex | Europa.eu](#)

⁶ In Dutch: kapitaalvennootschappen.

⁷ In Dutch: personenvennootschappen.

'The conduct of research' from the sub criterion '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 13 **January 2025**, before 14:00:00 CET).

- 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 statement⁸.

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.

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.

Co-applicants affiliated with social organisations

This Call for proposals also focuses on knowledge from and for the benefit of everyday practice. Social organisations that provide support and/or build expertise on sexually transgressive behaviour and violence, or preventing it, may act as co-applicant under the de minimis regulation (see below). These include centres of expertise, social and care services and advocacy groups, whose practical knowledge and research-related activities are essential to establish fully recognised research. The proposal must substantiate which substantial, active contribution the social organisation can generate for the research project. This will be reviewed by the assessment committee in terms of the criterion on the quality of the consortium (see 4.3.1).

De minimis threshold for social organisations

Social organisations acting as co-applicant will receive a Dutch Research Council grant through the lead applicant (subject to the de minimis threshold of the de minimis regulation). Under the de minimis regulation, a consortium partner is allowed to receive a maximum of €300,000 in de minimis aid over a period of three years.

⁸ 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.

Social organisations must declare, by completing the declaration of de minimis aid, that the organisation concerned will not exceed the de minimis limit when awarded a Dutch Research Council grant. If a social organisation reports that the de minimis limit will be exceeded if a Dutch Research Council grant is awarded, the lead applicant cannot apply for a grant from the Dutch Research Council for this social organisation. The lead applicant should take this into account when drawing up their project budget and must therefore for each social organisation that wishes to act as co-applicant check whether the requested grant amount will not cause them to exceed the de minimis threshold. The declaration of the de minimis aid by each individual social organisation is part of the proposal.

3.1.2 Cooperation partners

Partner institutions are required within this Call for proposals because active involvement (starting with the question statement and development of the project) of social stakeholders, both public and private, is very important in developing knowledge on challenges and possible solutions. A partner is a party that is closely involved in the execution of the research and/or the knowledge utilisation, but is unable to capitalise its contribution pre-emptively. A partner is therefore not a lead applicant, co-applicant or co-funder, but could be involved, for instance, through participation in an advisory, counselling or user committee.

Please note: for staff of organisations participating in the consortium as a partner, no grants towards the costs of salary or research may be requested as a co-applicant. It is, however, possible to have the costs reimbursed by engaging these organisations as third parties via the modules 'material costs', 'knowledge utilisation' or 'project management' (see Subsection 3.2 and Appendix 7.1). Thus, organisations participating as partners cannot participate as co-applicants through the de minimis regulation.

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 applicants may apply for a sum of up to €2,858,000. The maximum duration of a proposed project is five years.

The budget modules (including the maximum amount) available for this Call for proposals are listed in the table below. 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).

Budget module	Maximum amount
PhD student	Unrestricted number of positions, according to UNL or UNF rates ⁹
Engineering Doctorate degree (EngD)	Unrestricted number of positions, in combination with PhD student(s) and or postdoc(s), according to UNL or NFU rates ⁶
Postdoc	Unrestricted number of positions, according to UNL or NFU rates ⁶
Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities	€100,000, according to UNL or NFU rates ⁶ , per requested PhD student and or postdoc-position, up to a maximum of €300,000 per application
Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities	€100,000, in combination with PhD student and/or postdoc
Research leave	10% of the of the total budget applied for, according to UNL or NFU rates ⁶
Personnel at universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other organisations	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 <i>Handleiding Overheidstarieven</i> [HOT-Manual Dutch Government rates] (Salary Tables NWO).
Material costs	€15,000 per year per FTE scientific position ¹⁰
Investments (up to €150,000)	€150,000
Knowledge utilisation	Mandatory to apply for: minimum 5% and maximum 20% of the total budget applied for
Internationalisation	€ 25.000
Money follows Cooperation	Less than 50% of the total budget applied for
Projectmanagement	Mandatory to apply for: 5% of the total budget applied for

3.3 Preparing an application

This Call for proposals has two phases:

1. Registering an initiative (mandatory to participate in the collaborative workshops).
2. Submitting a proposal.

⁹ 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](#).

¹⁰ This also includes positions at universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other applying organisations.

Initiatives are registered via the ZonMw website. A proposal can only be submitted via the online application system MijZonMw. Applications that are not submitted via MijZonMw will not be taken into consideration.

The initiative must be written in Dutch. The proposal must be written in English.

Proposals can only be submitted through the My ZonMw online application system. Any proposals that are not submitted through My ZonMw will not be taken into consideration.

As the main applicant, you are required to submit the application via your own personal MijZonMw account.

It is important to start your application in My ZonMw on time:

- if you do not yet have a My ZonMw account, then you should create one on time to avoid any possible registration problems;
- new organisations must also be added to My ZonMw by ZonMw;
- you also need to submit other details online.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by ZonMw.

For technical questions, please contact the ZonMw helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

The applicant must inform the organisation where she/he works about the submission of the application, and the organisation must accept the granting conditions of this Call for proposals.

3.3.1 The registration of initiatives and collaborative workshops

Prior to the submission of a pre-proposal, the intended main applicant must register an initiative. The initiatives will be published on the website of MijZonMw.

An initiative consists of a brief explanation of the research question, an initial indication of the parties involved in the consortium, the name of the main applicant and contact details¹¹.

To register an initiative, main applicants should complete the online initiative form. A link to this form can be found on the programme page of this Call of proposals 'Sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence'. Following a check, registered initiatives will be published online by ZonMw.

The first phase of this call covers the initiative phase, followed by the two successive collaborative workshops.

An initiative must focus on the aim as stated in Section 2, and consists of:

- a) A concise project idea, including an initial indication of the parties involved in the consortium, the name of the submitter of the initiative and that person's contact details , or;
- b) An individual or organisation that states how, with available expertise, a possible contribution can be made to the theme.

¹¹ Contact details are only published online with consent of the submitter of the initiative.

The substantive basis of the collaborative workshops will be formed by the registered initiatives (see also Section 4.2.2). Both researchers and societal parties will be invited to register their initiative. Initiatives in the form of project ideas will be published on the ZonMw website prior to the workshops so that interested parties can be informed about this. In addition, the initiatives will be shared with the workshop participants of that specific theme in the form of individual contributions from individuals or organisations.

The aim of the collaborative workshops is to bring interested parties (researchers and/or public and/or private societal parties) into contact with each other around a specific theme, combine research ideas (consolidation of strengths) and form broad innovative consortia. This approach contributes to the reduction of mutual competition and work pressure.

You can also register for the workshops without registering an initiative. Societal organisations are emphatically invited to register an initiative and/or participate in the workshops.

After the submission of the initiatives, ZonMw will organise two workshops in mid-October 2024 (see Subsection 4.2.2 and the timeline in Subsection 4.2.12). Additional information on the workshops will be announced at a later date on the programme page of the ZonMw website.

3.3.2 Preparing and submitting a proposal

Only lead applicants who have registered an initiative can submit a research proposal.

Proposals are to be drafted and submitted after the collaborative workshops, in which different initiatives were brought together, participants were able to explore possible partnerships with others participating in the workshops and where crucial initial agreements for joint implementation of the proposal were made.

The lead applicant must have participated in both collaborative workshops of the relevant theme.

The steps involved in writing your application are:

- download the application form from the ZonMw web application MijnZonMw or from the ZonMw web page (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
- complete the application form;
- save the application form in MijnZonMw as a PDF file and upload it with any compulsory annexes ;
- fill in the requested information online in MijnZonMw.

Compulsory annex(es):

- budget;
- declarations of commitment of cooperation partners;
- declaration co-funding from co-funders (mandatory if applicable);
- declaration of de minimis aid (mandatory where applicable; see Subsection 3.1.2);
- letter guaranteeing the continuity of the project supervision (compulsory if applicable, see paragraph 3.1);
- Form 'Statement and signature'.

Optional annex(es) only:

- embedding guarantee;
- consortium partner form;
- statement of appointment and project supervision.

If ZonMw has made a template available, the annex should be drawn up in accordance with the template. Annexes must be uploaded in My ZonMw separately from the proposal. All of the annexes, except the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). The budget must be submitted as an Excel file in My ZonMw. If co-funding has been secured, full co-funding must have been committed at the time of submission in the attached co-funding statements in accordance with the conditions described in Subsection 3.5.5 / Annex 7.4. Annexes other than those listed above are not permitted.

3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

ZonMw 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, ZonMw requests you to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission.

These terms and 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;
- any co-funders meet the conditions stated in Subsection 7.3;
- 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 ZonMw 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 maximum duration of five years;
- all of the required annexes are, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions;
- A representative of the corresponding initiative attended both collaborative workshops (see subsections 3.3.1 and 4.2.2.).

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

World-class science can benefit from international cooperation. The National Knowledge Security 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 for Knowledge Security \(loketkennisveiligheid.nl\)](#).

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, at very least, are expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of the published work resulting from 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 generated by the project will be dealt with, in line with the data management subsection in the proposal and the data management plan that is drawn up after funding is awarded.

Data management subsection

The data management subsection 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, both during data generation and as part of analysing the data, to make its subsequent 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. The absence or presence of an ethical statement or licence at the time of the application process has no effect on the assessment of the application. 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 7.3 to this Call of proposals.

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. ZonMw 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 statement of intent of support (if there is no co-funding for this specific partner), the partner expresses their support for the project and describes their role within the project. ZonMw makes a standard form available on the funding page.

If the project is awarded, the partner must reconfirm their participation in the project in a consortium agreement. This agreement must also contain any further arrangements concluded between the partner(s) and the applicant(s) (see also Subsection 5.1.5).

3.5.8 Declaration of de minimis aid

The declaration of de minimis aid is part of the proposal for social organisations that are funded under the de minimis regulation (see Subsection 3.1.2). The proposal will be approved on the condition that the de minimis threshold of the social organisation in question is not exceeded at the time of approval.

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-making process ([Code for Dealing with Personal Interests | NWO](#)).

NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture where 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 actively encourages assessment committee members to become aware of implicit associations and to try to minimise them. 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 proposals. Applicants are not allowed to mention these in their proposals. 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:

- register an initiative;
- publication of the initiatives on the website;
- participation in collaborative workshops;
- submission of the proposal;
- consideration of the proposal;
- pre-advice assessment committee;
- interview selection;
- interview;

- assessment committee meeting;
- 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 both the expertise present in the assessment committee and the small size of the grant, NWO has decided with regard to the assessment of these applications to exercise the option outlined in Article 2.2.4, paragraph 2, of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, to assess all applications without involving referees.

4.2.1 Registration or withdrawal of an initiative

With the registration of an initiative, you indicate that you want to submit an application in this Call for proposals. The registration of the initiative is mandatory to be able to submit a pre-proposal in a later phase. For more information, see Section 3.3.1.

You can withdraw an initiative at any time. You can do this by sending an email to ZonMw. After withdrawing an initiative, it is no longer possible to submit a proposal.

The initiatives will be published on the website of ZonMw.

4.2.2 Collaborative workshops

After the registration of the initiatives, NWO will organise two successive collaborative workshops per theme. The applicants who register an initiative will be automatically registered for the collaborative workshops.

For each initiative submitted, it is mandatory that at least one representative takes part in both collaborative workshops. The main applicant of a proposal (phase 2) must have participated in both workshops as well. The collaborative workshops are explicitly also open to parties who have not submitted an initiative. In this way, they also receive the opportunity to join existing consortia or consortia that are in the process of being formed.

The aim of the collaborative workshops is to facilitate the optimal formation of networks around the themes and to encourage collaboration. The registered initiatives form the basis for the discussions during the workshops. The workshops offer the possibility to combine research ideas and to form broad innovative consortia (consolidation of strengths). It is subsequently up to the participants to enter into collaboration in inter- and transdisciplinary innovative consortia that span the entire knowledge chain.

Additional information on the workshops will also be announced on the programme page of the ZonMw website.

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 MijnZonMw (see Section 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 ZonMw 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). ZonMw can only take your proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions.

Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, ZonMw 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).

4.2.6 Interview selection

In principle, all consortia that have submitted a proposal are invited for an interview with the assessment committee. If the number of proposals exceeds five times the expected number of proposals to be awarded, the assessment committee may decide to invite only a selection of the consortia to an interview.

In order to make a selection, the proposals will be reviewed by the assessment committee. The assessment committee will devise a ranking based on its own considerations. Subsequently, the applicants with the highest ranked proposals will be invited for an interview. This will be a maximum of five times the expected number of proposals to be awarded. If, after the interview selection, two or more of the proposals cannot be distinguished from each other based on their total weighted scores, this will result in an *ex aequo* situation (see Subsection 4.2.15).

4.2.7 Interview

During the interview, the assessment committee will have the opportunity to ask questions. The consortium can respond to these in their discussion with the committee. This approach makes it possible to hear both sides of the argument. The interview is an important part of the assessment procedure and can lead to an adjustment of both the assessment and the score of the proposal.

4.2.8 Meeting of the assessment committee

The committee will make its own assessment based on the available material. Following their deliberations, the committee will prepare a written advisory report for the Executive Board with an assessment of the quality and ranking of the proposals. These recommendations will be based on the assessment criteria. A proposal must achieve an overall rating of 'good' or better to be eligible for the grant. The proposal must also have received a rating of 'good' or better 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 full proposals, two or more of the full proposals cannot be distinguished from each other based on their weighted total score, then this will result in 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 in this process is the ranking drawn up by the assessment committee, with the final scores rounded down to two decimal points. The reference score here 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 the available budget or the selection borders, then 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 as well as the advice from the assessment committee. They will subsequently determine the final qualifications and make a decision over awarding or rejecting the proposals.

4.2.11 Timetable

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

Registration initiative	
23 September, 2024, 14:00:00 CEST.	Deadline for registering initiatives

Mid-October 2024	Two collaborative workshops
Proposals	
13 January 2025, 14:00:00 CET	Deadline for submitting documents for assessment of applicants
27 January 2025, 14:00:00 CET	Deadline proposals
Mid-February 2025	Assessment committee meeting (with interview phase)
Mid-March 2025	Decision of the Executive Board

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:

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 and the theme formulated within this, to which the proposal relates.
 - The social and scientific urgency and relevance of the problem definition. There is a particular focus on social, institutional and cultural factors that promote online and offline sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence, and prevention and intervention strategies.
 - 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 Impact pathway describes a clear route to the societal impact, as well as the role of the partners involved.
 - Appropriate strategic activities to achieve the impact, such as stakeholder engagement, communication, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity development.

- Appropriate strategic activities are described for achieving the impact and the dissemination of knowledge, such as stakeholder engagement, communication, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity development.

3. Quality of consortium

- The composition of the consortium is meaningful to the needs of the proposed project. It is interdisciplinary with sufficient participation by relevant social, humanity, medical, health and exact sciences as well as relevant social stakeholders and/or citizens and it consists of organisations from across the 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). This results in the formation of a (social) network as part of and around the project.
- A clear division of tasks and roles within the consortium with respect to the execution of the research and the governance of the project.
- There is a tangible and feasible plan for the professional development of talented young and mid-career researchers both within and outside of the academic world.

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 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; and, if necessary, a back-up plan.
- The three domains mentioned (see Subsection 2.2.2) have been included in the proposed approach, so as to achieve a cross-domain study that will result in an integrated approach to relevant intervention and prevention strategies.

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 the 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.

Meetings

NWO will organise various meetings within the NWA programme. The project leaders will be invited whenever meetings relevant to the NWA-ORC projects are organised. A representative from the project is expected to participate and actively contribute.

5.1.2 Accountability and project completion

Accountability during the project

During the project, the main applicant is responsible for reports on the project's progress. With a view to monitoring project progress, NWO may request interim reports on a project's content and finances, as well as an account of co-funding provided. More information about this will follow in the grant award letter.

Project closure

Upon completion of a project, final reports will be requested on both the content and finances of the project. The final amount of funding (and co-funding) will be determined after these final reports have been approved.

Annual reporting

Consortia will report annually about the progress of the research, amongst other things, as preparation for the annual meeting of the Advisory Committee (see 5.1.3). The project leader is responsible for these reports about the project in which both the substantive and financial progress must be reported upon. In this reporting, accountability for the co-funding provided must also be given. NWO will provide a template for the progress report.

Accountability and project completion

Upon completion of a project, NWO requests final substantive and financial reports. In the substantive report, the consortium presents (if an Impact Plan has been drawn up) the output achieved and, where applicable, the outcomes. After NWO has approved both reports, the final amount of the grant and co-funding is determined.

5.1.3 Programme activities

Several compulsory meetings will be held throughout the duration of the project.

In 2025, the kick-off of the research programme will take place during the final meeting of the National Action Plan on tackling sexually transgressive behaviour and sexual violence. This programme-level kick-off will be a public kick-off and will mark the start of the programme. Participants will come from within the project that has been approved, but it will also target relevant stakeholders and a wider audience.

There will be annual meetings. This will be communicated in a timely manner. During the first part of these meetings the progress of the project will be discussed. In addition, opportunities for further impact communication and activities will be considered. The second part of the meeting will be for the general public with relevant stakeholders to highlight and harvest the insights and outcomes (and impact, if available) of the projects. Furthermore, these meetings are intended to further increase interest in the research to promote the overall impact.

The closing event will take place in 2030. Depending on content and practical preconditions, this event will consist of two days or half-day sessions with two main activities. The first part will consist of a day (or half day) in which the projects come together to discuss and fine-tune conclusions, but particularly to identify shared conclusions. The second part of the meeting will be for the general public with relevant stakeholders to highlight and harvest the insights and outcomes (and impact, if available) of the projects and to further increase interest in the Call's themes to promote the overall impact.

5.1.4 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 must describe in the plan whether existing data will be used, or whether new data will be collected or generated, and how this 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](#).

5.1.5 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. Uploading in ISAAC is required before the project can start. The responsibility for arranging the consortium agreement lies with the applicant.

The model agreement that NWO makes available must be used and can be found on the funding page of this Call for proposals. This model agreement has been drawn up in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

5.1.6 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 \(nfu.nl\)](#)".

5.1.7 Supervisory committee

After the proposal has been awarded funding, a supervisory committee will be appointed. This supervisory committee will supervise and dispense advice to the project. More information on this committee will be provided in the award letter.

5.1.8 Open Access

As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration (2003) and a member of cOAlition 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 |](#).

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:

Ivana Pilipovic (program manager ZonMw): +31 070 391 60 62 / nwa-sgog@zonmw.nl

6.1.2 Technical questions about the web application MijnZonMw

For technical questions about the use of MijnZonMw, please contact the ZonMw helpdesk. Please read the manual first before consulting the helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 17:00 hours on +31 (0) 70 349 51 76. However, you can also submit your question by email to servicedesk@zonmw.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 Annex(es):

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 salary¹² 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 does not affect the level of the grant ceiling or the maximum amount of the grant awarded for each proposal. Both 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-making process about awarding or rejecting proposals is 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.

¹² 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.

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

Engineering Doctorate degree (EngD)

Funding for the appointment of a EngD can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for.

The appointment for a 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 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 budget module Knowledge utilisation

The aim of this budget module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research.¹³ 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.

¹³ In this budget module, the definition for “knowledge transfer” as used by the European Commission in the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (PbEU, 2014, C198) applies.

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 and 5.1.7).

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 NWO Country Correction Coefficients (CCC). 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 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 Projectmanagement

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 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 (from: [Knowledge and data center | KNMI](https://www.rivm.nl/rijkskennisinstellingen)) - Dutch only):<https://www.rivm.nl/rijkskennisinstellingen>

5. CBS – Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Statistics Netherlands)
6. CPB – Centraal Planbureau (Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)
7. KiM – Kennisinstituut voor Mobiliteitsbeleid (Netherlands Institute for Transport Policy Analysis)
8. KNMI – Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute)
9. NFI – Nederlands Forensisch Instituut (Netherlands Forensic Institute)
10. PBL – Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)
11. RCE – Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands)
12. RIVM – Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment)
13. RKD – Nederlands Instituut voor Kunstgeschiedenis (Netherlands Institute for Art History)
14. RWS – Rijkswaterstaat (Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management)
15. SCP – Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau (Netherlands Institute for Social Research)
16. WODC – Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum (Research and Documentation Centre)

Other public knowledge institutions (from: [Public Knowledge Organisations Netherlands | Rathenau Institute](https://www.rathenau.nl/)):

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

7.3 Condition 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;¹⁴
- 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;
- 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.

¹⁴ 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.

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).

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Dutch Research Council

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