

Call for proposals Network Development Towards Europe

National Taskforce of
Applied Research SIA

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1 Overview and introduction

This chapter provides a brief overview of this subsidy round (hereinafter referred to as 'round'), an introduction to this Call for Proposals and the background to this round.

1.1 Brief overview

Objective: The objective of the Network Development Towards Europe scheme is to enable researchers from universities of applied sciences to develop a European partnership. This partnership connects regional and national expertise with relevant European developments and forms a basis for sustainable future research collaboration. Funding can be requested for a project in which the network works together on an application for a European research grant.

Budget: The total grant ceiling for this grant round is €1,200,000. The maximum grant per project is €40,000. A maximum of 30 applications are expected to be awarded in this round.

Consortium and co-funding: In addition to the applicant, the consortium must 1 of at least: 2 knowledge institutions based abroad in different European countries, or 1 knowledge institution based abroad and 1 practice partner based abroad, both from different countries. The required own contribution and co-funding together must amount to at least 25% of the grant amount.

Submission deadline(s): The deadlines for submitting applications are 24 March 2026 (collection moment 1) before 14:00:00 CET and 29 September 2026 before 14:00:00 CEST (collection moment 2 and also closing date).

Procedure: All applications that are considered will be submitted to an assessment committee for a preliminary written advice. The committee will then hold an assessment meeting to reach a final assessment. Based on the discussion, the committee will draw up a written advise to the board of the SIA. The board of the SIA will decide whether to approve or reject the application based on the committee's recommendation.

Please read the entire document for the full terms and conditions.

1.2 Introduction

This Call for Proposals falls under the responsibility of the National Taskforce for Applied Research SIA (hereinafter referred to as SIA Taskforce). SIA Taskforce promotes the quality and impact of applied research at universities of applied sciences and is part of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

This Call for Proposals describes how the application process for the Network Development Towards Europe round is organized and consists of seven chapters. 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.

The SIA administrative body processes personal data received in accordance with [the NWO privacy statement](#).

1.3 Background

Universities of applied sciences play a crucial role in strengthening European knowledge and innovation ecosystems. These systems are essential for developing the Netherlands and Europe as knowledge economies and contributing to solving the urgent societal challenges we currently face. The levels at which these systems and challenges occur are intertwined: on the 1 hand, we see many social challenges of the same nature throughout Europe, while on the other hand, effectively addressing these challenges requires attention to the local and regional context. At the regional level, there is a need for research organisations that collaborate intensively with the changing professional field and are in constant contact with society. Universities of applied sciences are ideally placed to connect education, research and (regional) professional practice. Together, they can generate knowledge and innovations that contribute to solving social issues. By connecting professional practice with knowledge institutions, the practice-oriented research conducted by universities of applied sciences forms an important link in strengthening the relationship between knowledge and innovation ecosystems at the regional, national and European levels.

Promoting the participation of universities of applied sciences in the European knowledge and innovation ecosystem is therefore an important part of the movement to strengthen the connection between regional, national and European levels in order to tackle social challenges. This is in line with our strategic principles of promoting networking and stimulating high-quality research at universities of applied sciences with an impact on education and practice.

2 Objective

In this chapter, you can read more about the programme's objective, the objective of the scheme and the societal impact.

2.1 Objective of the programme

In June 2025, the board of SIA Taskforce formalized the Towards Europe pilot into a programme. The aim of the Towards Europe programme is to increase the participation of applied research groups from Dutch universities of applied sciences in European consortia that contribute to solutions for major societal challenges. This will ultimately lead to better applied research through knowledge sharing and talent development, more applied research due to the availability of more European funding, and greater impact because the effects will be visible simultaneously in the region, in the Netherlands and in other European regions and countries.

The role of SIA Taskforce is to encourage and finance universities of applied sciences to engage in European research collaboration(s) and to successfully apply for project funding in European programmes. The programme therefore focuses on sustainably encouraging universities of applied sciences that have (or are developing) ambitions to enter into future-proof research collaborations at European level. The programme focuses on researchers as well as policymakers, programme managers and grant advisors in order to professionalize, finance and position them.

In addition to the Network Development Towards Europe scheme, the SIA participates in European partnerships with earmarked funds for the participation of universities of applied sciences. SIA Taskforce also organizes meetings for stakeholders to stimulate knowledge sharing and networking.

2.2 Objective of the call

The aim of the Network Development Towards Europe call is to enable researchers at universities of applied sciences to develop European partnerships. This collaboration contributes to solving the urgent social challenges we face in Europe. This partnership connects regional and national expertise with relevant European developments and forms a basis for sustainable future research collaboration, for example in the form of an application for a European research grant. The activities within an ongoing project are therefore not focused on research activities, but on the development of a network between Dutch researchers and European partners.

Network development

Connecting to the European knowledge and innovation ecosystem requires collaboration with partners in Europe. Not only is collaboration within a European consortium a requirement for most European knowledge and innovation programmes, but such knowledge sharing is also a prerequisite for solving cross-border societal challenges. The application describes what kind of research network the researcher wants to build or join and what is needed to achieve this. In

addition, the application explains how this network connects with and builds on developments (policy/strategy) within the university of applied sciences and establishes links between regional, national and European research centers.

Connection between regional, national and European research priorities

In order to effectively fulfil its role as a link between regional, national and European levels, it is important that the university of applied sciences has the right expertise in-house and that support is guaranteed. The applicant therefore describes in the application how the intended network connects with and builds on existing initiatives and research/innovation agendas at these different levels.

Sustainability of the collaboration

The application procedures for European knowledge and innovation programmes are often lengthy and projects usually run for several years. The application must guarantee the long-term commitment of the relevant partners. It must also explain which European programmes the network intends to apply for.

2.3 Social impact of research

In the Netherlands, in Europe and worldwide, we face major challenges in areas such as biodiversity, energy transition and health. These challenges know no national boundaries. With the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the United Nations has drawn up a plan to tackle these challenges. This plan forms the basis of [the European research and innovation strategy for 2025-2028](#).

The Network Development Towards Europe scheme enables researchers to find solutions for the European dimensions within local, regional and national challenges. By combining their local and regional expertise with knowledge and developments from abroad, universities of applied sciences make a unique contribution to solving these major challenges.

3 Preparation and submission

This chapter contains information about preparing and submitting an application.

3.1 Timeline

3.1.1 Collection dates and first come, first served

This Call for Proposals works with collection moments. It is not possible to determine in advance how many applications will be submitted per collection moment. Therefore, it is not possible to specify a partial subsidy ceiling per collection moment. The budget remaining after the applications submitted during a collection period have been allocated is the partial subsidy ceiling for applications submitted during the next collection period. For each collection period, all applications that receive a positive assessment will be allocated until the subsidy ceiling is reached.

If the subsidy ceiling is reached before the submission deadline, the round will close at that point, i.e. before the submission deadline. The SIA will then no longer accept any applications. This decision will be published in the Government Gazette (*de Staatscourant*).

Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. All applications that receive a positive assessment will be prioritized in order of submission date and time. If the application immediately meets the conditions for submission (see section 3.5), the time of submission in ISAAC will determine the order of receipt. If you have had to amend the application to meet the conditions for submission, the time at which you submitted the complete and correct application in ISAAC will be considered the time of receipt. If the budget is insufficient, the applications with the highest priority will be allocated first, until the budget is exhausted.

In this round, there are 2 moments at which SIA Taskforce processes ('retrieves') all applications received in ISAAC up to that point.

The collection times are:

1. 24 March 2026 before 14:00:00 CET
2. 29 September 2026 before 14:00:00 CEST and also closing date.

3.1.2 Assessment procedure timeline

Below are the submission deadlines, including the timeline for the entire assessment procedure for this round. SIA Taskforce may deem it necessary to make adjustments to the timeline during the ongoing procedure. The applicant will be informed of any such adjustments.

The SIA will assess the applications against the formal conditions for submission (see section 3.5). If the application meets these conditions, it will be processed. Applications submitted after the submission deadline will not be processed by SIA Taskforce.

Deadline and timeline for processing applications

Online information meeting 15 December 2025 at 15:00 (information about registration will follow on the SIA website).

First collection date (24 March 2026 before 14:00:00 CET)

- March-April 2026: Assessment of conditions for submission
- April 2026: Assessment committee meeting
- May 2026: Decision by the board of SIA Taskforce
- June 2026: Announcement of the decision

Second collection date (29 September 2026 before 14:00:00 CEST, also closing date)

- October 2026: Assessment of conditions for submission
- October-November 2026: Meeting of the assessment committee
- December 2026: Decision by the board of SIA Taskforce
- December 2026: Announcement of the decision

3.2 Who can apply

Only publicly funded universities of applied sciences can submit an application. These are universities of applied sciences as referred to in Section 1.8 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW).

The person submitting the application in ISAAC is deemed to be authorized to do so by the Executive Board of the applicant university college.

Each university college may submit a maximum of three applications in this round. There is no limit to the number of times a university college may participate as a consortium partner.

3.2.1 Additional conditions

3.2.1.1 Professor or senior researcher

The application must be prepared under the responsibility of a professor or senior researcher affiliated with the applicant university of applied sciences.

3.2.1.2 Consortium

In addition to the applicant, the consortium must consist of at least the following consortium partners:

- 2 knowledge institutions based abroad from different countries,

or

- 1 knowledge institution based abroad and 1 partner in the field based abroad, both from different countries.

The consortium partners confirm their participation in the consortium by signing the grant application form.

The knowledge institutions from abroad must be based in Member States of the European Union and/or countries associated with the Horizon Europe programme.

The countries associated with the Horizon [Europe](#) programme can be found on this website:

Partners in the field are defined as public organisations, SME entrepreneurs and umbrella and sector organisations. They must also be based in Member States of the European Union and/or countries associated with the Horizon Europe programme.

The consortium partners confirm their participation in the consortium by signing the grant application form.

The consortium partners are included in the budget. It is possible to allow other participants (such as large companies, etc.) to join the consortium as consortium partners, as long as the minimum requirements for the composition of the consortium are met. Parties that are not included in the budget but do contribute to the project can be indicated in the application form under 'other parties involved'.

3.3 What can be applied for

The total subsidy ceiling for this round is €1,200,000. The maximum subsidy that can be requested per project is €40,000. A maximum of 30 applications are expected to be approved in this round.

The applicant may claim costs for personnel and material. Costs of (partial) activities that have already been financed by other grants cannot be claimed. The grant may only be used to cover the costs of universities of applied sciences and the travel and accommodation costs of the consortium partners.

The available budget modules (including the maximum amounts) are listed below. Only include costs that are essential to the implementation of the project. The full terms and conditions and rates for these budget modules are set out in Chapter 7. All costs to be claimed are exclusive of VAT, unless it concerns non-recoverable VAT.

3.3.1 Personnel

Funding may be requested for salary costs of personnel contributing to the project. The amount depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the staff work.

A maximum of 10% of the total project costs may be claimed for project management.

3.3.1.1 Personnel from universities of applied sciences

It is possible to claim salary costs for staff at universities of applied sciences. For more information, see section 7.1.1.

3.3.1.2 Students

It is possible to employ students for the project if they are studying at a research organisation mentioned in section 3.2. The costs of this can be claimed within the project as material costs. There is no maximum number of students who can participate in the project. For more information, see section 7.1.2.

3.3.2 Material

Subsidies can be applied for to cover all project-specific material costs incurred by universities of applied sciences. A maximum of 50% of the subsidy amount for material costs can be

applied for to cover the hiring of third parties and the travel and accommodation expenses of foreign consortium partners. For more information, see section 7.2.

3.3.3 Additional financial conditions for consortium partners

3.3.3.1 Eligible costs of other consortium partners

The salary costs of consortium partners other than universities of applied sciences are not eligible for subsidy. These costs are considered co-funding. The applicant may, however, reimburse the partners' travel and accommodation costs with subsidy.

3.3.4 Own contributions and co-funding

The consortium partners contribute to the implementation of the project.

The applicant(s) for the project in question make a contribution of their own. The consortium partners provide co-funding. These consortium partners confirm their co-funding by signing the co-funding declaration in the grant application form. The Co-funding Scheme applies to this.

For co-funding in cash, it must also be indicated which costs of the project activities are being financed. Own contributions and co-funding in kind may be provided to cover the personnel and/or material input of the organisations involved.

The [Co-funding Regulation](#) applies to all co-funding.

3.3.4.1 Minimum required own contribution and co-funding

The required own contribution and co-funding together amount to at least 25% of the subsidy amount.

Calculation example:

For a requested subsidy of €40,000, the total project costs amount to at least

€50,000. The minimum own contribution and/or co-financing in this case is €10,000.

The amount of the own contribution(s) and co-funding must be specified in the budget. Subsidies provided by NWO are not eligible as co-funding. Ineligible co-funding in kind is described in more detail in the [Co-funding Scheme](#).

3.3.4.2 Accountability for own contribution(s) and co-funding

In some cases (see section 7.4), SIA Taskforce allocates more subsidy for salary costs than requested, as a result of automatic indexation. This additional amount does not require any additional own contribution or co-funding.

The subsidy from SIA Taskforce never exceeds the subsidy allocated in the subsidy decision.

SIA Taskforce must be informed at all times of any problems with expected co-financing and own contributions. In addition to financial consequences for a project, SIA Taskforce may also require appropriate changes to a project in the form of a change request, so that the research can be continued to the best of its ability.

3.4 Preparing and submitting an application in ISAAC

The SIA works with the [ISAAC](#) system. Start your application in ISAAC in good time.

- Create an account or update your details if necessary if you already have an account.
- Download the application form and the 3 formats for attachments in ISAAC.
- Complete the application form.
- Complete the consortium partner form, including the co-funding statement. If there is more than 1 consortium partner, complete the consortium partner form as many times as necessary.
- Save the application form and consortium partner form(s) as a single PDF and submit it in ISAAC. Submit the attachments separately.
- In ISAAC, you must also fill in the requested information, including the public summary. The public summary should be 50-100 words long and written in a way that is accessible to a broad audience. SIA Taskforce may publish this summary in a news item about the allocation of the grant.

Provide the application with the following mandatory attachments by uploading them to ISAAC:

- project proposal (PDF)
- budget (Excel file)
- project participants form (Excel file)

For the appendices, only use the formats provided by SIA Taskforce. Appendices other than those mentioned above are not permitted.

The use of generative AI is not excluded when preparing your application, provided that this is done in a responsible manner. The guidelines can be found on the website ([NWO policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence \(GAI\) | NWO](#)). You can only submit your application via ISAAC. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC will not be considered.

The language of the application is Dutch or English. Within the application and assessment process, SIA Taskforce always corresponds in Dutch, even if you submit your application in English.

If you have any questions about ISAAC, please consult the ISAAC manual (which can be found via the 'help' button in ISAAC) or contact the ISAAC helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk is available Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on +31 (0) 70 34 40 600. You can also send an email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will receive a response within 2 working days.

[View the round and all documents in ISAAC.](#)

3.4.1 Advice on content alignment

Consider in good time whether the content of the application is consistent with the objective of the programme and/or scheme, as applications for this round must fit within the objective of the programme. If in doubt, please contact the programme and/or scheme contact person well in advance of the submission deadline. This person can advise on the substantive alignment of the application with this round. Applicants make the final decision themselves. For contact details, see Chapter 6.

3.4.2 Additional information about themes and policy lines

On the application form, we ask you to indicate which themes and policy lines your application relates to. This information helps us, among other things, to make policy choices. More information about this can be found on our [web page Information gathering and monitoring](#). The information you provide will not be taken into account in the assessment process.

3.4.2.1 Connection to 'Themes with impact' (VH) and Education sectors

The SIA Steering Committee would like to be informed about how the application relates to the research themes specified in [Practice-oriented research as a knowledge accelerator, Strategic research agenda for higher professional education 2022-2025](#) of the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences. On the application form, you should therefore indicate which themes from this research agenda the activities relate to.

In addition, SIA Taskforce would like to be informed about how the project relates to the education sectors.

3.4.2.2 Top sectors

Where applicable, SIA Taskforce would also like to know which top sector or top sectors your project relates to. More information about the top sectors can be found at topsectoren.nl.

3.4.2.3 Contribution to NWA

SIA Taskforce is actively committed to enabling universities of applied sciences to participate optimally in practice-oriented research within the various routes of the [National Science Agenda \(NWA\)](#). If applicable, please indicate in your application which NWA route the project is aligned with.

3.4.2.4 Contribution to Mission-driven Innovation Policy

SIA Taskforce wants to enable colleges and researchers at universities and other research organisations to make a valuable contribution to the [Mission-driven Innovation Policy](#), including through Network Development Towards Europe.

As the main applicant, you indicate on the application form which of the eight Knowledge and Innovation Agendas (KIAs) the project ties in with. In the project proposal, you substantiate how the project ties in with 1 or more KIAs.

More information about the KIAs can be found on the [webpage about the Top Sectors and the missions for the future](#) and in various documents from the KIAs Top Sectors:

- [1. Climate and Energy](#)
- [2. Circular Economy](#)
- [3. Agriculture, Water, Food](#)
- [4. Health and Care](#)
- [5. Safety](#)
- [6. Key Technologies](#)
- [7. Digitalisation](#)
- [8. Social Earnings Capacity](#)

3.4.2.5 Horizon Europe

SIA Taskforce would like to know which part of the Horizon Europe programme your project fits into.

3.4.2.6 EU Missions

SIA Taskforce would like to be informed about how the application relates to the EU Missions within the Horizon Europe programme.

3.4.2.7 Other European subsidy programmes

SIA Taskforce would like to know which other European subsidy programmes your project is linked to.

3.5 Conditions for submission

SIA Taskforce will assess applications based on the conditions below. Only applications that meet these conditions will be admitted to the assessment procedure.

Conditions:

- The application must be received before the deadline.
- The applicant meets the conditions set out in section 3.2.
- The application complies with the DORA guidelines as described in section 4.3.3.
- The application has been prepared using the forms made available in ISAAC.
- The application form and the required attachments have been completed correctly, completely and in accordance with the instructions, after a one-time request for additional information or changes, if necessary.
- The application has been submitted via the applicant's ISAAC account.
- The application has been drawn up in Dutch or English.
- The budget in the application has been drawn up in accordance with the conditions of this Call for proposals.
- The proposed project has a maximum duration of 12 months and will start no later than 3 months after the grant decision.

If the maximum number of 3 applications per university of applied sciences has been reached, the fourth and subsequent applications from that university of applied sciences will not be considered.

The application form may contain explanations, procedures and questions that are necessary to complete the form correctly.

3.5.1 Admissibility and administrative corrections

As soon as possible after the required documents have been submitted, the applicant will be notified whether SIA Taskforce will process the application. Please note that SIA Taskforce may contact the applicant within 2 weeks of the collection date to make any administrative corrections in order to (still) meet the conditions for submission. The applicant will be given 1 opportunity to make the corrections within a maximum of four working days. If the corrected documents are again found to be incomplete and/or incorrect, SIA Taskforce will not process the application. If the documents are correct and complete, SIA Taskforce will process the application and it will proceed to the assessment and decision process.

3.5.2 Communication from application to grant decision

SIA Taskforce will communicate with the following persons regarding the application, from submission to decision:

- SIA Taskforce will communicate with the applicant (submitter in ISAAC) about: assessment of submission conditions, subsidy decision.
- SIA Taskforce will communicate with the contact person specified in the application form about: notification message, subsidy decision.
- SIA Taskforce communicates with the Executive Board about: the subsidy decision.

4 Assessment

This chapter contains information about the application assessment procedure.

4.1 Criteria

The assessment is based on substantive assessment criteria and takes place after the application has been admitted to the assessment procedure.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Networking

The application will be assessed on the extent to which:

- the intended network and the objectives of the network are described clearly and convincingly. It is clear what the network wants to achieve and why; the composition of the network is clearly described and justified;
- the consortium partners play an active role in the implementation of the project and have demonstrable sufficient knowledge and quality to carry out the project. The intended contribution of each partner is clearly described.

2. Connection with regional, national and European research priorities

The application will be assessed on the extent to which:

- it describes and justifies which European programmes the network intends to submit to and how the network contributes to solving the urgent societal challenges we face in Europe and/or how the network increases competitiveness;
- the proposed network forms a link between the chosen research focus of the university of applied sciences, developments at regional and/or national level, and European themes for research and innovation;
- the proposal contains a clear overview of the intended impact of the collaboration on the university of applied sciences itself and the region after completion of the project.

3. Quality of the project plan

The application will be assessed on the extent to which:

- a clear, well-defined objective has been formulated for the project;
- the project activities are clearly set out, purposeful and achievable;
- the requested resources are proportionate to the nature of the project.

Each of the criteria is assessed by the assessment committee as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Each assessment criterion carries equal weight. To be included in the first come, first served prioritisation, an application must score satisfactorily on all criteria. Only applications with a positive assessment are eligible for subsidy.

4.2 Assessment procedure

The application assessment procedure consists of the following steps, in accordance with the timetable set out in section 3.1:

- written preliminary advice from the assessment committee
- meeting of the assessment committee
- decision-making

The board of SIA Taskforce has appointed an external, independent assessment committee for this round. Its members are drawn from the research community and the field, and have expertise in the subject area. The assessment committee's task is to assess the applications submitted on the basis of the assessment criteria. Each application is assessed on its own merits.

4.2.1 Preliminary advice from the assessment committee

The application is submitted to the assessment committee for comment. The preliminary advisors provide written, substantive and reasoned comments on the application. They formulate these comments on the basis of the assessment criteria (see section 4.1) and give the application a satisfactory or unsatisfactory mark for each assessment criterion.

4.2.2 Meeting of the assessment committee

The application and the written preliminary advice of the assessment committee serve as the starting point for the plenary discussion of the applications by the assessment committee. The members of the assessment committee make their assessment on the basis of the application, the written preliminary recommendations and the plenary discussion. The written preliminary recommendations serve as a guide for the final assessment, but the assessment committee does not necessarily adopt them in their entirety. The assessment committee will give a satisfactory or unsatisfactory mark for each criterion, which will lead to a final assessment for each application.

Following the discussion, the assessment committee draws up a written recommendation to the board of the SIA. The assessment is based on the assessment criteria. The application must score a satisfactory mark on each of the individual assessment criteria in order to be eligible for a grant. The recommendation is based on the assessment of the application, the order of receipt and the maximum available budget (subsidy ceiling) for this round. If an application receives a positive assessment and the subsidy ceiling has not yet been reached, the assessment committee will advise the board of the SIA to award the requested subsidy.

4.2.3 Decision-making

The board of SIA Taskforce assesses the procedure followed and the advice of the assessment committee. The board decides whether or not to award the grant based on the advice of the assessment committee. The applicant will then receive a letter by email informing them of the decision.

If the available budget is insufficient to approve all applications with a positive assessment, the order of receipt will be decisive. The principle of first come, first served will be applied.

4.3 Guidelines and frameworks for assessment

The following guidelines and frameworks apply during the assessment of your application.

4.3.1 Code of personal interests

The [NWO Code of Personal Interests](#) applies to all persons involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process and to all relevant employees of SIA Taskforce.

4.3.2 Policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence

The use of generative AI is completely excluded from the assessment of an application. More information about the policy on generative AI can be found on the website ([NWO policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence \(GAI\) | NWO](#)).

4.3.3 Diversity and inclusion

SIA Taskforce aims to foster an inclusive culture in which there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers based on cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age ([Diversity and inclusion | NWO](#)). SIA Taskforce offers members of assessment committees guidance on inclusive assessment in written assessments and at assessment committee meetings ([Inclusive assessment | NWO](#)).

4.3.4 Broad definition of scientific output (DORA)

When assessing the scientific track record of applicants, SIA Taskforce uses a broad definition of scientific output.

SIA Taskforce steering committee requests that assessment committee members do not base their assessment of applications on indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor or the h-index. These should not be mentioned in the application. However, in addition to publications, other scientific products may be mentioned, such as datasets, patents, software, code, etc.

This policy is based on the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment ([DORA | NWO](#)), signed by NWO. DORA is a global initiative that aims to improve the way research and researchers are assessed. DORA contains recommendations for research funders, research organisations, scientific journals and other parties.

DORA focuses on reducing the uncritical use of bibliometric indicators and eliminating unconscious bias in the assessment of research and researchers. DORA's overarching philosophy is that research should be assessed on its own merits and qualities, rather than on the basis of derived indicators, such as the journal in which the research is published.

5 After the award

This chapter sets out the conditions and obligations that apply after the grant has been awarded. This chapter is mainly relevant for applicants whose applications have been awarded.

5.1 Start of the project

The applicant is responsible for the implementation of the entire project and acts as the lead partner. SIA Taskforce coordinating body communicates with the applicant (submitter in ISAAC) about the project. This person is the formal point of contact during the process, unless the applicant submits a change via ISAAC.

The project applicant will receive an allocation letter on behalf of the board of SIA Taskforce.

5.1.1 Administrative actions in ISAAC

The applicant (submitter in ISAAC) can authorise others to perform administrative actions for their project in the ISAAC system. More information about the authorisation scheme can be found in [the ISAAC manual](#).

5.2 Monitoring and project management

During the course of the project, the lead partner will keep SIA Taskforce informed of progress. At the end of the project, the lead partner will share the results. The grant decision specifies how this will be done.

5.2.1 Meetings

SIA Taskforce coordinating body organises meetings that the lead partner must attend. The following meetings are planned for this round:

- April 2027: Project kick-off
- January 2028: Closing meeting

SIA Taskforce steering committee advises the lead partner to allocate a budget for participation in these meetings.

5.2.2 Changes to the project

If, during the course of the project, there are changes to the approved application and budget, the lead partner must submit these changes in advance to SIA Taskforce for approval using a change form in ISAAC.

5.3 Guidelines and frameworks for project implementation

Below are the guidelines and frameworks that apply to the implementation of the project.

5.3.1 Scientific integrity

Research must be conducted in accordance with the standards of the [Dutch Code of Conduct for Scientific Integrity](#). In the event of a (possible) violation of these standards, the coordinator

must immediately notify the SIA Coordination Group and submit all relevant documents to the SIA Coordination Group. Researchers can also submit a complaint to the Scientific Integrity Committee of their institution or to the [NWO Scientific Integrity Hotline](#).

The SIA Management Board attaches great importance to the scientific integrity of the research it funds and makes every effort to prevent and identify breaches of integrity. After all, research that lacks integrity can cause direct damage (e.g. to the environment or patients) and can undermine public confidence in science and trust between scientists.

5.3.2 Knowledge security

In the National Knowledge Security Guidelines, the Dutch knowledge sector (including NWO) and various parts of the government have laid down guidelines for those within research organisations who are involved in international collaboration and who have to weigh up opportunities and (security) risks. Self-regulation by the knowledge sector is central to the approach to knowledge security within the Netherlands.

NWO expects applicants to comply with the research organisation's knowledge security policy. If NWO receives indications that an application or awarded project entails knowledge security risks, NWO may request the applicant or project leader to provide insight into the risk mitigation measures.

In addition, NWO may decide to include further conditions in the grant letter to protect knowledge security.

The National Knowledge Security Guidelines can be found on the website of the British Government: [Home | Knowledge Security Desk](#).

5.3.3 Principles for socially responsible licensing

The project may generate knowledge that is suitable for application in society. When entering into agreements on the licensing and/or transfer of research results, the 10 principles for socially responsible licensing, which can be found on [the UMCNL website](#), must be taken into account.

5.3.4 Genetic resources and the Nagoya Protocol

Researchers must take the necessary actions with regard to the Nagoya Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol ensures the fair sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, including (traditional) knowledge about these resources (Access and Benefit Sharing; ABS). Researchers who use these resources (at home or abroad) must familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol ([ABS Focal Point - ABS Focal Point](#)).

5.3.5 Intellectual property

The policy of SIA Taskforce with regard to intellectual property (IP) can be found in the [NWO Subsidy Scheme](#).

5.4 Research results – Open Science

Open Science is a movement that advocates for more open and participatory research practices, in which publications, data, software and other forms of scientific information are shared at the earliest possible stage and made available for reuse.

Scientific publications about the project must be available [via Open Access](#) in accordance with the Open Access Policy Rule. The NWO website describes the options available for making various types of publications, such as scientific articles, books, book chapters and theses, available via Open Access. The NWO website also contains information about the application of licences. Any costs associated with Open Access publishing must be included in the application budget.

Does research funded by SIA Taskforce lead to a publication or other relevant research output? If so, the lead applicant must [name](#) SIA Taskforce [as the funder](#).

5.5 Completion

No later than 13 weeks after the end of the project, the lead applicant must submit a written final report on the content of the project. Failure to submit this report or to submit it on time may result in the grant being reclaimed.

5.6 Evaluation

SIA Taskforce may approach applicants/lead partners for an evaluation of the procedure and/or the research programme.

6 Contact

6.1 Questions about the financing of applications?

For more information, visit [SIA Taskforce | Financing website](#).

6.2 Questions about the content of this round?

The [web page](#) Towards Europe: Network Development on SIA Taskforce website contains the most recent information about this Call for Proposals. You will also find the programme manager's contact details here.

6.3 Technical questions about ISAAC?

For questions about ISAAC, please consult the ISAAC manual (accessible via the 'help' button in ISAAC). You can also contact the ISAAC helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk is available Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. CE(S)T on +31 (0) 70 34 40 600. You can also send your question by e-mail to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will receive a response within 2 working days.

7 Conditions and rates in budget modules

7.1 Personnel (as referred to in section 3.3.1)

7.1.1 Personnel of universities of applied sciences (as referred to in section 3.3.1.1)

Funding can be requested for personnel at universities of applied sciences. The rates are determined on the basis of the Government Rates Manual (HOT), table 2 under

2.2 'average total wage costs per salary scale', column 'Hourly rate for productive hours, excluding VAT'. The salary scale of the requested position determines the rate from the HOT table. This rate applies for the entire duration of the project.

7.1.2 Students (as referred to in section 3.3.1.2)

Students may be employed in the project. If the students contribute as part of their curriculum, the rate according to the usual internship allowance of the college or university applies.

If the students contribute as student assistants in addition to their studies, the rate according to the Government Rates Manual (HOT), table 2 under 2.2 'average total wage costs per salary scale', column 'Hourly rate for productive hours, excluding VAT', scale 1, applies.

7.2 Material (related to section 3.3.2)

Funding may be requested for all costs related to the project and its implementation, including consumables, the purchase of services, materials, small instruments, access to national and international facilities, software, and research resources that no longer have any economic value after use. Travel and accommodation expenses (national and international) for all persons working on the project, including foreign guest researchers, costs for the organisation of (international) workshops and symposia, costs for data management, publications, and costs in the context of *citizen science* are also covered by this module.

Travel expenses (national and international) will only be reimbursed on the basis of second class/economy class fares. For publications, the provisions in section 4.5 Research results - Open science apply. Costs for an audit report can only be claimed for institutions that are not subject to the OCW's education accountancy protocol, up to a maximum of €5,000 per audit report.

It is not permitted to claim costs for:

- organisational infrastructure and overheads, including a fully functional workplace, accommodation, office automation, personnel administration, commuting expenses, training, facilities, HR advice and occupational health and safety, documentary information provision and home working allowance;
- the use and maintenance of scientific infrastructure developed in-house;
- regular educational activities.

7.3 Valuation of co-funding

Co-funding in kind can be claimed in the form of wage costs and material costs. The same conditions as those set out in 7.2 apply to the claiming of material costs as co-funding.

7.3.1 Scientific personnel at a research organisation abroad (belonging to section 3.3.5.1)

Co-funding may be claimed for the salary costs of personnel employed by a foreign research organisation contributing to the project. To calculate the rates, use the UNL rates adjusted for the country correction coefficients. These rates are maximum rates. No personal *bench fee* is available.

7.3.2 Personnel from other organisations (as referred to in section 3.3.5.1)

In-kind co-funding can be claimed for the wage costs of staff from other Dutch and foreign organisations contributing to the project.

For organisations that use the Central Government Collective Labour Agreement or a comparable collective labour agreement (such as the collective labour agreements for higher professional education, senior secondary vocational education, secondary education and local authorities), the rates are determined on the basis of the Government Rates Manual (HOT), table 2 average total wage costs per salary scale, column 'Hourly rate for productive hours, excluding VAT'. The salary scale of the requested position determines the rate from the HOT table. This rate applies for the entire duration of the project.

For other organisations, the following salary scales from HOT table 2, columns productive hours, apply. Project support staff: scale 6. Junior (researcher): scale 10. Medior (researcher): scale 12. Senior (researcher): scale 13. Director: scale 16.

7.4 Indexation

The rate applicable at the time of the decision date shall apply. When awarding grants, SIA Taskforce will, if necessary, apply a one-off indexation of wage costs ex officio. The date on which the rates take effect shall be used for this purpose. If the date of publication of the rates is later than the effective date, the date of publication shall be used. The rates of the Universities of the Netherlands (UNL) generally take effect on 1 July, those of the Dutch Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU) on 1 August and those of the Government Rates Manual (HOT) on 1 January.

Ex officio indexation does not affect the subsidy ceiling and the maximum subsidy amount that can be applied for. The subsidy ceiling and the maximum subsidy amount that can be applied for remain unchanged during the assessment procedure. Upon allocation, indexation is applied to the subsidy amount.

Ex officio indexation has no consequences for the requirements for own contributions and/or co-funding, nor for the IP rights that may arise from the own contributions and/or co-financing.