Perspectief

A public private partnership programme of NWO Applied and Engineering Sciences connected to the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant

What is it?
The Perspectief Programme focuses on excellent technological scientific research in the context of the Top Sectors and the new missions and Key Enabling Technologies as defined in the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (2020). The main goal is to develop new technology that contributes to creating economic opportunities in these specified areas. The research should be performed by a medium sized public private partnership consortium. The evaluation criteria are scientific quality (50%) and utilisation perspective (50%). At least a 30% co-investment by companies or other organisations that benefit from the results is required.

Why is it of interest to me?
The research landscape in the Netherlands has changed. Large scale funding is focused towards building larger public private consortia. If you are a senior researcher working on a topic in the following areas: 1) energy transition and sustainability 2) agriculture, water, and food, 3) health and care, 4) security or on one of the 8 key enabling technologies: 1) chemical 2) digital 3) engineering and fabrication 4) photonics and light 5) advanced materials 6) quantum 7) life science 8) nano, and if you have a (starting) network with companies and other potential users, this call gives you the opportunity to build a solid collaborative research programme.

Who can apply?
Applications must be submitted by an official representative (main applicant) on behalf of a consortium. Eligible official representatives are:
- Researchers connected to a Dutch University, Medical Centre, NWO or KNAW institute, University of applied sciences or one of the NWO approved institutes
- This can be assistant, associate and/or full professors with a tenured position for the timeframe of the project or researchers with a proven tenure track appointment*. Zero hour and postdoctoral appointments are excluded.

Employees from TO2 institutes and universities of applied sciences are only eligible as co-applicants. Note that there are additional (re)submission rules:
1) a full proposal will be considered a maximum of two times. Submission elsewhere is permitted, but only one grant can be accepted.
2) An applicant can only be involved in two applications at the same time, of which one as main applicant.

How much funding can I expect?
NWO-TTW funds between 1.5 M€ and 4 M€ per programme proposal. This means that the total budget of the programme will be between 2.1 M€ and 5.7 M€, including 30% co-funding.

When can I apply?
The application process has four steps:
1) Register your initiative on the website before 22 October 2020 14:00. This is compulsory.
2) Send in a “request for assessment of suitability in Top Sectors policy” before 17 November 2020 14:00. This is compulsory.
3) Submit programme design, deadline 15 December 2020 14:00. This is compulsory.
4) Submit full proposal deadline 15 June 2021 14:00 upon invitation.

What is the duration of the programme?
The proposed research can have a run time of maximally 6 years.

What can be applied for?
Perspectief uses the standard NWO finance modules. There is also 5 months compensation available for replacement of the main- and co-applicants for programme management to be executed in the governance work package.

How do I apply?
In step 1, you need to submit your initiative via the Perspectief website. Before you can complete submission of a programme design you need to apply for a statement of suitability from the Topsector by e-mailing ttw-perspectief@nwo.nl. In step 3 and 4 you also submit the proposal form and required annexes by e-mailing to ttw-perspectief@nwo.nl.

*TTW defines a tenure track appointment as an appointment for experienced scientific researchers with prospects of permanent employment and a professorship in due course.
Frequently asked questions

How big should my consortium be?
The consortium should include at least 3 knowledge institutions as (co-)applicants, of which 2 are universities. There should also be a minimum of four users involved. A partner cannot fulfil a role as applicant and user. Users are preferably companies.

Is the 30% co-funding in cash or in kind?
For this call all co-funding can be in kind, because of Covid-19. This will be between 600 k€ and 1.7 M€, depending on the size of your programme. Not all users need to contribute.

What is the role of companies in the project?
The users and stakeholders are expected to play a role in defining the problem, the solution and therefore the content of the research programme. They also play a clear role in the route to impact, partners that cover the entire innovation chain should be involved. The co-funding contribution is a reflection of their interest in the programme.

What does an impact plan entail?
The impact plan is a new approach developed by NWO to help the consortium realise productive interactions with users and stakeholders and to achieve societal impact. It includes 4 elements: theory of change, impact pathway, strategic activities planning and a risk assessment.

What are the Perspectief indicators for?
The (potential) success of the Perspectief programme will be assessed quantitatively with a number of key performance indicators that are a measure of the interaction with companies, the commitment of the partners, and the expected increase in TRL level. This is also a reflection of the criteria for utilisation (50% of the evaluation).

How much work is the total application?
Developing the programme design is the crucial step of the application. Writing this is part will not be very time consuming. Most of your time will spend on; building of the consortium, translating your ideas into a joint vision, and coming to an agreement on the terms of the collaboration. Support letters need to be adhered in step 3 to vouch for this. Writing an impact plan is also new, and this might also consume a lot of time.

When do I need a data management plan?
In the proposal you include a data management section, which is an outline of the Data Management Plan (DMP). After the programme is awarded, you submit a DMP within 4 months. The programme cannot start before NWO has approved the DMP.

Should I choose option 1 or option 2 for structure of the programme?
Should I choose option 1 or option 2 for Intellectual Property Rights & Publications?
These questions are interrelated and the answers depend on the preference of both your Institute and your partners, as well as the nature of your project. It is best not to leave a decision on these terms of the collaboration until the last minute. With your IM and/or a Luris business developer you can discuss the consequences of the different scenarios as soon as you have an outline of the design programme (step 2). This will help you in shaping the project with your partners, managing expectations and getting the necessary support letters in step 3 on time. There are also long-term practical considerations for the execution of the project.

How is the proposal evaluated?
Step 1. The initiative will not be assessed.
Step 2. The ‘assessment of suitability by the Topsector’, which needs to be assessed and signed by the TKI bureau responsible for the theme or KET, is crucial for step 3.
Step 3. The programme design will be assessed by a multidisciplinary assessment committee. They will select programme designs and give feedback that you need to address in the full proposal.
Step 4. Full proposals will be reviewed by at least four (inter)national experts on the basis of the programme criteria. Next, you will have the opportunity to write a rebuttal. The same committee as in step 3 will rank the proposal based on the application, review reports, rebuttal and interview. The final decision will be made by the TTW Board.

When will I know the outcome of my proposal?
The programme design selection will come mid-March 2021, you will have 3 months to develop a full proposal. In Dec 2021 the final awards will be known.

More information on TTW Perspectief
NWO website: TTW Perspectief
Funding calendar staff portal: TTW Perspectief

Luris
Luris connects Leiden academics with the market and society at large, in order to make the most of their scientific knowledge. Our expertise is advising on proposal writing, negotiating with partners, rebuttals and preparing for interviews.

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