Call for submission of project ideas

1. Antibiotic Resistance: Round 2
Keywords: Antibiotic resistance, One Health
Deadline: Tuesday April 4, 2017 2 p.m. CET
Posted on: Monday February 6, 2017

Submission of applications Applications must be submitted online, and in accordance with the guidelines, via ZonMw's ProjectNet system (in Dutch).

The closing date for applications is Tuesday April 4 2017, at 14.00 hrs CET.

2. Call for project ideas
This is a call for submission of project ideas dealing with antibiotic resistance. It is the second call within the programme 'Antibiotic Resistance'.

Only research within the following research areas is eligible for funding in this round:
   a. Mechanisms for acquiring and transmitting antibacterial resistance in different environments e.g., patients, hospitals, farms, nature, etc,.
   b. Appropriate (use of) diagnostics
   c. Optimising antibiotic dosage and prudent use

Note: Research on new targets and alternatives for antibiotics will NOT be funded in this round. NWO TTW (in Dutch) will be launching a new research programme on development of antibiotics and alternatives.

Projects that include social and behavioural sciences and/or contribute to a One Health approach will get a higher priority in this round (see 5.2.)

Why social and behavioural sciences?
We need to know which aspects of human behaviour contribute to or hinder reduction and/or prevention of antibiotic resistance.

Why One Health?
Veterinary and environmental aspects of antibiotic resistance might have an impact on public health. We need to know which interventions in these areas are useful and to what extent they can contribute to the reduction or prevention of antibiotic resistance.

3. Aim of the programme
The general Antibiotic Resistance programme funds research designed to help fight antibiotic resistance and/or identify points of action for the development of new antibiotics or interventions. The ambition is to reduce antibiotic resistance within five years following publication of project results. We think that applied research can best meet these expectations.

Note: The research area 'Mechanisms and targets for new antibiotics and alternatives to antibiotics' is NOT part of this second call for project ideas. (in Dutch)

For more background information on the general programme and the programme text, please see the programme site www.zonmw.nl/abr (in Dutch).

4. Conditions
4.1 Eligible candidates
The call is open to the partners described in the programme text. Behavioural and social scientists and scientists performing research in the veterinary/agricultural domain are explicitly invited to submit (integrated) project ideas.

The call is open to research institutions, hospitals with research facilities and other facilities with project ideas addressing antibacterial resistance issues. Collaboration is considered important, and will be taken into account when assessing the project ideas. Collaborations might involve researchers, policymakers, practitioners and end-users. Collaborations could also encompass human and animal health, public-private partnerships, national or international collaboration and collaboration between different research areas.

4.2 Sums available
The total ZonMw program budget is 16 million euros. Roughly 2.8 million euros will be available in this second round of the programme.

The maximum grant for this call will be €500,000 per project. ZonMw aims to evenly divide the available budget between five to six projects. Projects should last four years or less.

5. Assessment procedure

5.1. General project criteria

5.1.1. Relevance
General criteria for assessment of relevance are:

a. Contribution to aims and goals of the programme.
Does your project fit within the general and specific scope of the programme and of the second call?

b. Innovation and new insights
Does your project provide new knowledge that supports potential interventions? Does your project generate new insights or new approaches to antibiotic resistance issues? To what extent is your project innovative?

Note: Project ideas that have major overlap with existing research will not be eligible for funding. For your information, please see an overview of projects previously funded within the 'Priority Medicines AMR programme'(in Dutch), JPI AMR actions and www.zonmw.nl/abr (in Dutch)

c. Public and or scientific interest

Does your project meet public needs? Does your project address knowledge gaps? Can results of your project be used for tackling antibiotic resistance within five years following publication of the results?

d. Costs and benefits

Does your project strike a balance between effort, input and means on the one hand and (expected) results and impact on the other hand? What is the added value of your project in relation to public health? An included cost benefit analysis, where applicable, will be appreciated.

e. Attention to dissemination and implementation of a project's results Does your

project idea include a description on how project results will lead to successful dissemination and implementation strategies? The following questions will be considered in the evaluation:

   a. Is there an adequate strategy for the dissemination and implementation of results?
   b. Are stake-holders and/or (end-)user-groups well defined?
   c. Are such groups actively involved in the project?
   d. What specific activities are scheduled?
   e. Are the right people and/or groups involved in these activities?

f. Access to Data

Access to data and optimal usage of data is obligatory. Does your project idea or full proposal describe possibilities to make use of existing data or collections? When new data sets or collections of strains or samples will be built, does your project idea or full proposal describe how to make them accessible? Using existing infrastructures is considered preferable.

g. Participation

Involving all stakeholders in projects is highly encouraged. Stakeholders are not just groups who are professionally engaged in research or health care. We consider (potential) service users, end users and citizens as stakeholders. By 'involving' we mean consulting or collaboration in the project.

h. Attention to gender, culture, age, the patients' perspective (human as well as veterinary) and specific risk groups

Attention to diversity is crucial and included in the evaluation of a project's relevance. Please define why you do or do not give attention to these aspects in your project, and include references to support your opinion.

i. ICT and e-health

Where possible and appropriate ICT and e-Health are part of the ZonMw programmes and grant calls. A distinction can be made between research, development and implementation projects. If your project includes e-health or ICT aspects, please see the ICT and e-health page (in Dutch) on the ZonMw website. Here you can read what criteria must be met.
Note: More information on general criteria can be found on
http://www.zonmw.nl/en/newsand-funding/funding/relevance-criteria/.

5.1.2. Quality

The general quality of the project idea and full proposal will be assessed by the programme committee using the following criteria:

    a. clarity, scope and originality of objective and research question or assignment,
    b. adequate theoretical/empirical arguments underpinning research question or assignment and strategy,
    c. adequate theoretical/empirical arguments underpinning intervention, d. feasibility.

5.2. Programme-specific criteria

These criteria are specific to the programme and will assist with prioritising proposals.

5.2.1. Priority

In this call, there will be special attention for:

    a. The contribution of social and behavioural sciences to the goals of the programme. Especially research relating to determinants or other social and behavioural aspects that hinder or facilitate interventions to reduce or prevent ABR.
    b. The contributions to the One Health goals of the programme. Does your project support prudent use of veterinary antibiotics in relation to public health risks?

5.2.2. National collaboration

Collaboration within projects is considered valuable.

    a. Given the One Health character of antibiotic resistance, collaboration between partners in the human, veterinary and environmental domains will get higher priority.
    b. Collaboration between different scientific areas (e.g. biomedical and social science, chemistry and biology) is encouraged.
    c. Is your project embedded in wider (regional) networks? The following key elements will be assessed:
        - Collaboration between municipal health services, health care providers, universities and/or knowledge centres.
        - Coherence at a national level
        - Interaction between research, education and practice
        - Research led by real life problems
        - Output (products and services) based on science and with a use in practice
    d. Public-private partnerships within your project.

Note: It is important to describe which collaboration partner is responsible for which specific tasks or work packages within your project. The concrete nature of the collaboration and its sustainability will be part of the evaluation of a project.

5.2.3. International research

How does your project relate to European and international research agendas and to international collaboration? How is international collaboration relevant for your proposed project? Are similar projects undertaken abroad and can your researchers link up or learn lessons from these projects? In particular, collaboration with partners in ´endemic´ countries in e.g. Eastern and Southern Europe may be of relevance.

Note: Project proposals should not have major overlap with any existing research projects. Project proposals may however link with existing projects that receive international funding. In that case, your proposal must be a logical next step, originating from, but very much independent of, the existing research project. You should elaborate on that in your project idea and full proposal.

5.3. Procedural criteria

a. All applications must be in English.
b. Project ideas must comply with the ZonMw grant terms and conditions, you can find these in the download section on the [Grant conditions and finances page](#). On the ZonMw website, you can find information on medical research ethics committee / Central Committee Animal Experiments ([METC / CCD](#)) (in Dutch) and the licenses under the [Population Screening Act, the animal testing transparency code and the biosecurity code](#) (in Dutch).
c. Reserve 5% of your project budget for dissemination and implementation. Be sure to include this in your itemized budget.
d. It is required to submit a sound budget with the project idea. There is a maximum funding of €500,000 per project. You should use the [current ZonMw formats](#) (in Dutch) for your budget.
e. It is not possible to send attachments with project ideas submitted online via [ProjectNet](#) (in Dutch).
f. Please suggest five foreign reviewers who can provide an independent assessment of feasibility and quality of the grant application in case of a positive assessment of your project idea. Please use the appendix "[Reviewer suggestions](#)".
g. When your project idea contains a social or behavioural science component, please indicate clearly what expertise is needed to assess your project.
h. It is required to submit your suggestions for reviewers so that they can be approached in a timely manner.
i. Please e-mail the completed appendix "Reviewer suggestions" to abr@zonmw.nl, no later than April 4, 2017.

Note: ZonMw is not obliged to follow your suggestions for reviewers.

5.4. Procedure and timetable

Please see the [ZonMw procedures brochure](#) for details of the procedures for assessing grant applications.

Timetable

Deadline for submission of project idea	April 4, 2017: 2 P.M. CET
Committee's recommendations received by	Mid-June, 2017
Deadline for submission of grant application	September 5, 2017: 2 P.M. CET
Reviewers' comments received by	October 9, 2017
Deadline for submission of rebuttal	October 23, 2017: noon

Decision	Mid-December 2017
Deadline for start of project	June 1, 2018

6. Further information

6.1. Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted online in accordance with our guidelines, using ZonMw's ProjectNet system. Applications must be in English.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday April 4, 2017, at 14.00 hrs CET.

- Submit your application
- Edit your application

6.2. TIPS

a. If you have never worked with ProjectNet before, you have to register first as a 'New user'. See the Guideline.
b. We recommend that, before submitting your application online, you print out a PDF of the application and check it for any irregularities. It may be that some characters (such as quotation marks) have not been converted properly. Particularly if you first drafted your application in MS Word and then copied into to ProjectNet. These errors can be corrected in ProjectNet.

6.3. Queries

If you have any questions concerning the procedure, please contact the secretary. For questions on the programme itself, contact either the programme assistant or programme officer:

Renata Zondervan, secretary: tel. +31 (0)70-349 5190
Kris Pelleboer, programme assistant: tel. +31 (0)70-349 5133
Linda van Gaalen, programme officer: tel. +31 (0)70- 349 5157
E-mail: abr@zonmw.nl
Website: www.zonmw.nl/abr (in Dutch)

6.4. Technical questions

If you experience any problems with ProjectNet, please contact the ZonMw helpdesk, available on working days between 08.00 and 17.00 on +31 70 349 5178 or by e-mail at projectnet@zonmw.nl. Please leave a telephone number in your e-mail so we can contact you.