

Implementing EQUATOR Reporting Guidelines within a research funding context – The case of ZonMw

Keywords: public health research funding, responsible research practices, reporting guidelines, optimizing research quality, impact assessment, research programming, monitoring & evaluation

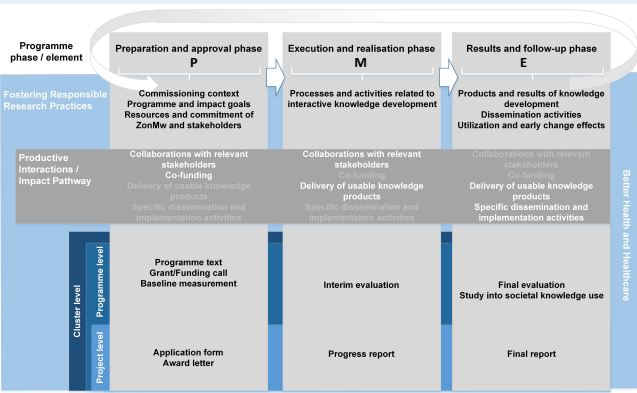
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ZonMw: Dutch Funding Agency for Health Research and Development, www.zonmw.eu

EQUATOR guidelines as a basis for ZonMw research programming

- Ensuring value in health research (EViR) and maximizing its societal impact demands responsible research practices (RRP).
- ZonMw fosters RRP by steering and assessing relevance and quality of its programs and projects.
- EQUATOR reporting guidelines contribute to research quality and are considered basis for systematic planning, monitoring & evaluation of research (PME cycle, figure 1).
- ZonMw builds a Reporting Checklist derived from EQUATOR reporting guidelines, that is being implemented in ZonMw's grant management procedures and system (figure 2).

Figure 1. ZonMw Impact Assessment Framework



Building the ZonMw Reporting Checklist

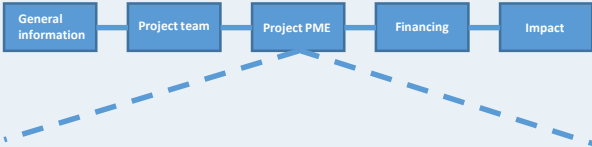
- We started with EQUATOR reporting guidelines for main study types, supplemented by StaRI (implementation research). Total amount of guidelines, n=15. See table below.
- We conducted comparative content analysis (including rearrangement), resulting in a greatest common denominator consisting of both standard and modular reporting elements.
- We completed the ZonMw Reporting Checklist by adding other RRP elements i.e. diversity/gender (SAGER), FAIR data management, Open Access, systematic reviews, recruitment & inclusion (see text in blue, figure 2B).

ZonMw Reporting Checklist: underlying reporting guidelines

Type of research	Reporting guideline
Systematic reviews	PRISMA
Study protocols	SPIRIT
Randomised trials	CONSORT
Observational studies	STROBE
Qualitative research	SRQR and COREQ
Quality improvement studies	SQUIRE
Case reports	CARE
Animal pre-clinical studies	ARRIVE
Clinical practice guidelines	AGREE and RIGHT
Diagnostic / prognostic studies	STARD / TRIPOD
Economic evaluations	CHEERS
Implementation research	StaRI

Figure 2. ZonMw Grant Management System (A) and ZonMw Reporting Checklist (B)

A. ZonMw Grant Management System (project file)



B. ZonMw Reporting Checklist

	Standard	Modular
Title and abstract Diversity / gender (SAGER)	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>
Introduction Systematic review Diversity / gender (SAGER)	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>
Methods Recruitment & inclusion Diversity / gender (SAGER)	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>
Data management FAIR data management	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>
Results Diversity / gender (SAGER)	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>
Discussion Systematic review Diversity / gender (SAGER)	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>
Other information Open Access	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>	<div>Checklist: Reporting Checklist & Results obtained from Current Networks</div>

Future steps

Piloting, automation and incorporation of datascience (Gartner-stadia)

